



KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. XLIX, Issue 1, January, 2011

The Unit's sub-lease for the Bridge Center expires in August, 2011. Therefore, the Unit plans to move to a 5000 sq. ft. space at 2629 A, Terminal Blvd, the Dymond building next door. After the November BOD meeting Dymond properties requested financial responsibility information which Alan Templeton supplied and Dymond approved. The Unit will soon receive a proposed lease which the Executive Committee will review and refer to the BOD with recommendations. Hopefully, by the January BOD meeting, this will be complete and the Unit can then begin the permit process with the city of Mt. View to secure a conditional use permit to operate a Bridge Center. When approved, the Unit will need to obtain final building plans for the necessary improvements. Then, they will be submitted for review and approval by the Mt. View Building Dept. before the Unit can begin preparations for a move.

**Unit Prepares
for
Bridge Center
Move**

At its December 7 meeting, the new Board elected the following officers: President Sue Griswold, Vice President Mike Atherton, Secretary Terry Lancaster and Treasurer Beverly Nuding. The Unit members express their appreciation to those who served so well and are leaving the Board: Phyllis Gaffney, Eric Mayefsky, Grant Spaeth, Betsy Steele and Dave Wheeler.

**Sue Griswold
Takes the Lead**

From October 2009 through September 2010, the Unit gained 65 members, an increase of 7.8% compared to 37 members last year. The 7.8% increase is the largest gain since 1983. This 901 membership ties the highest year-end total for 1983 and 1985. The ACBL October QUIP reports the information which follows here and on p. 4. In the last 12 months, the active membership increased 7.8%, the new membership gains were 9.6% and the member losses 1.8%. In these three categories, the Unit ranked 3rd, 6th, and 3rd, respectively, among the 22 District units. The report listed the average member age as 68 and the average years of ACBL membership at 17.

**Unit Reaches
Membership
Milestone
by Elinor Tanck**

Gary MacGregor with 8047 has the most masterpoints; in second is Sherie Greenberg with 7982, followed by Hansa Narasimhan, Don Rothschild and Jim O'Neil. Marion Partney and Isha Thapa are the members at the median and Frederick Carlson is closest to the average masterpoints. For trivia fans, here is more info. The Unit has (cont. p.4)

Pot Luck Pairs Good Food, Wonderful Bridge!

The Sunday, November 21 event at the Bridge Center featured a good time for all with lots of dishes, turkey and competitive bridge. Perhaps, with so many pumpkin pie desserts, the Unit could have held a tasting contest! Special appreciation goes to Claire Coleman who not only directed the game but managed the pot luck with help from Roy and Julianne Robinson and Keith and Carol Burnett. Also, kudos to Rick and Lynn Guisti who catered the turkey and all the trimmings. And of course, the Unit extends thanks to all players who contributed to the pot luck so each could have his fill of delicious food.

After the feasting the players participated in a Unit Pairs contest. In the 18-table Open flight the top spots went to Tony Glynne and Barbara Sonsini in A, Barbara Luttrell and Bonnie Janzen in B and John and Susan Wachsman in C. The five table 99er flight saw Isha and Mukund Thapa score a victory in A and Bev Benson and Miriam Jacob in B.

Holiday Cheer on December 19

Unit members are getting ready for a Happy Holidays celebration to acknowledge a successful year for the Unit with a free bridge game and dinner set for 1 p.m. Sunday, December 19 at the Bridge Center. The event is a sell-out.

Eric Mayefsky, the Trophy chair, will present the Unit awards for Sportsmanship and Service. Roy Robinson, the unwrapped toy donation co-ordinator, announces that this year the toys will go to the Mountain View Community Center. Holiday sharing is an opportunity for us to take a break from our own hectic lives and experience the true meaning of the season by sharing and helping others in our community. Parents come to the Center and "shop" (at no charge) for new toys, games and clothing for their children (up to age 18). Our Holiday Sharing preserves the spirit of giving within families. Children are given gifts from their parents - not from the "local charity."

A Wintry Weather Wish! Swiss Teams

Make a New Year's resolution to drop in at the Bridge Center to check out the Swiss Teams. The 199ers teams will open the New Year on Monday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. with a Unit Swiss Teams. No advance sign-up is necessary.

The Swiss will hang around for the Unit Opens Swiss Teams on Sunday, January 23 at 1 p.m. This event does require an advance team sign-up at the Unit website or on the bulletin board at the Bridge Center, because more than ever, information is necessary to make sure the goody table has plentiful refreshments. Attention 99ers! We hope to have you come. If possible the Unit will hold a separate flight for players at this level. For information, contact the Bridge Center at (650) 940-1824.

The Monday Unit Swiss, limited to teams with an average master-point total under 200, drew 7 teams to the STAC on December 7. The team of Joe Buchanan, Joy Barrett, Shirley Streifer, Robert Bergey was the winner. Thanks go to the director Sue Johnston.

Art - The watercolors on display at the Bridge Center are the work of Steve Curl. The paintings are landscapes including Yosemite scenery and seascapes that inspired him during his hikes and travels. The artist states, "Watercolor behaves just like nature- fresh, spontaneous, and elemental in its simplicity."

Lectures - The lecture series will continue at the Bridge Center at 10 a.m. into 2011!. Winter Quarter Dates are 1/18, 2/1, 2/22, 3/8, and 3/22. Don't miss Frank Smoot's Jan.18 "You Need to Play Drury" lecture. Please consider a year-end donation to help fund this "free" lecture series. Details: alan.cummings@stanford.edu or our web site, paloaltobridge.com

Big GAME? - To make sure that your 70% and higher game gets noted in the Kibitzer, notify Marge Yates, the coordinator, at margery.yates@gmail.com, (650) 941-5199. She tells us that Pat and Robin Chambers had a 71.13% game on Nov. 15 at the JCC and that Sherie Greenberg and Malcolm McDowell reached 70.7% on Dec. 6.

2011 Firecracker - Chair Steve Barasch submitted the flyer for the for the Palo Alto Sectional at the December Board meeting. Please note that the Convention Center was unavailable for the July 4 weekend, so the Unit had to set a new date, July 13-17. The tournament schedule also has a new event, a 49er Pairs at every session.

Donation Appreciation - The Unit and Bridge Center are especially grateful to John Schwartz, the owner of the games at the JCC, who sent checks of \$300 from each of these games for the unrestricted use of the Unit and the Bridge Center.

Clean-Up - Linda Mattis has been cleaning, tidying and organizing things at the Bridge Center. Hopefully, we can reward her efforts by continuing to keep the stuff in good order.

Director...y - The Palo Alto Members and Friends 2011 Directory will issue in the spring and free to all Unit members. Just a reminder, if your name, phone or email has changed in the past year and you have not already done so or if you want to add your information, please let Lori Spaeth spaeth@sbcglobal.net or (650) 947-9370) know or complete the form at your local club before February 15.

Bridge Bits



NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members:

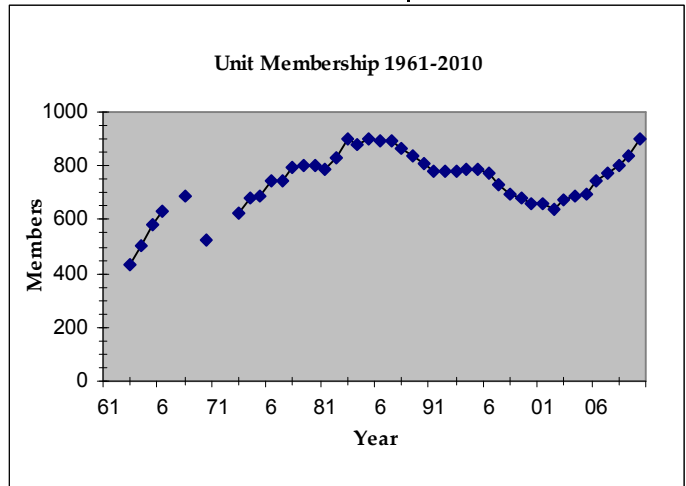
Gillian Barsley, Paul Barsley, Sue Bockmann, Paul Li, Joanne Matthews, Karen Moore, Marilyn Stallings, Charles Stonehill, Ann Trueheart, Alice Story, Helen Tseng and Jim Tseng.

Unit Membership Data, from p. 1

seven players with the last name of Smith, 24 players with a first name of John and 19 with a Barbara first name.

Each October the ACBL issues a Unit membership Excel spreadsheet, which is the source of the information in this article and the table at the right.. (Note: The author has made adjustments in masterpoint totals and rankings to reflect the ACBL's grandfathering policy.) The table to the right compares the masterpoint distribution and other information for members from analysis of the ACBL data. Note the consistency of the percent who reside in the San Mateo and Santa Clara Units.

	2010	2009	Number of MP	2010	2009
Members	901	836			
Juniors (<20MP)	251	218	0-1	114	75
Life Masters	288	280	1-5	44	50
Highest MP	8,047	7,660	5-10	93	35
Median MP	105	110	10-20	94	58
Average MP	535	544	20-50	99	98
Total MP	481,739	454,429	50-100	93	82
			100-300	47	129
Unit Residence	534 (59%)	511 (61%)	300-500	74	67
Santa Clara Unit	130 (14%)	115 (14%)	500-1000	104	109
San Mateo Unit	211 (23%)	182 (22%)	1-2.5K	91	88
Other D-21	16 (2%)	19 (2%)	2.5-5K	40	36
Outside D-21	7 (1%)	6 (1%)	5K+	8	9
Unlisted	3	3			



Newcomer Games

- Monday morning (<50 & <200)
- Tuesday evening (Begin./Intermed.)
- Wednesday afternoon (<50)
- Wednesday evening (<200)
- Friday morning (<30)

Junior Master	5 MP	Bette Hirsch, Mary Mason, Betty Robison
Club Master	20 MP	Sundri Alim, Vijesh Iyer, Helen LaRash, John Moore
Regional Master	100 MP	Zizhuo Wang
NABC Master	200 MP	Susan Stiege
Life Master	300 MP	Valerie Baldwin, Polly Siegel
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Carol Clements, George Paris, John Wachsman
Silver Life Master	1 K MP	Ronald Karr

Player Advancements

The ACBL December report shows that the players named at the left have moved up. Congratulations!

All About **PAT McFERREN**

By **Mary Van Tamelen**

Her T-shirt reads, "There's nothing wrong with me that a ride on a horse won't cure." Since 1959 her horses, Yancy, Mother, Jackie, Bud, etc and for the last five years, Frank, have been her passion. But now at 87, with a broken leg and later an arm and a night in the garage unable to move (the cleaning woman rescued her the next morning), an operation, and stays in the hospital and the Sequoias behind her, and with constant caregivers, Pat's no longer riding.

She's still her perky self, however, playing bridge and enjoying the social aspects of it. She's done more than her share in helping our Unit, serving on the Board for several years and once as president. *That* was during our move into our present building—when she had to decide immediately to make the bathrooms handicapped-accessible. There was no money—it had all been spent—but Pat told them unilaterally to go ahead. Eventually, the money materialized; "God bless Barbara Sonsini," Pat says.

Pat was born in Chicago, not because her parents lived there, but because there was no hospital in the little town, Hoopeston, that she's from. She went to a boarding school, Monticello, (founded by a man who

believed that "if you educate a man you only educate the man, but if you educate a woman, you educate a family"). Then she studied chemistry at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, which led to her long career with the Kodak Company.

Her first work was in Chicago with "V-mail," whereby letters to soldiers were photographed and the light-weight film sent overseas. Then she worked with color processing in Rochester, and soon became "The Kodachrome expert." She was sent to the Olympics in Calgary and Seoul to develop Kodachrome for the press. She moved to California in the late 40s, lived in San Francisco for six years, then down to Palo Alto when the Kodak lab moved. She continued with Kodak as a consultant after retirement.

Pat played Bridge as a kid—and Hearts, and Poker, and Canasta as well. "There wasn't much else to do in Hoopeston." In Palo Alto, a neighbor started her on duplicate, in the days when you "couldn't see for the smoke."

She's traveled all over the world—how many other people do you know who've been to Hyderabad in India and Sana'a in Yemen? But today her travel is limited and local, including daily visits to her horse, her hobby and her passion, in the Stanford Barn.

Library News

This month, the news highlights *The Play of the Hand at Contract Bridge* by Louis H. Watson, 1971. Here is a quote which is typical of many readers' reactions to this book, "Every accomplished bridge player has a copy of this book, but don't expect them to lend it to you. This is the oldest and most comprehensive guide to understanding the cards. There is a wealth of information on suit combinations, basic strategies, and other principles of declarer play. You won't be able to read it in a weekend, or even a month, so plan to take it slowly and study each chapter carefully. A best seller for over 65 years."

Do you ever forget to pick up a *Kibitzer*? Is some of the news old by the time you get to it? You can receive a color edition of the *Kibitzer* as soon as it is available, via your computer. Send your e-mail address to Kelly.marian@gmail.com and we'll add you to our list.

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Sue Griswold, President
 Mike Atherton, Vice-President
 Beverly Nuding, Treasurer
 Terry Lancaster, Secretary
 Steve Barasch, Valerie Baldwin,
 Keith Burnett, Davis Crosley, Lu Isaacs,
 John Mattis, Allen Wolman

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 11, at 3:45 p.m.
 Bridge Center

All games take place at 2639A Terminal Blvd., Mountain View 94043 unless otherwise noted.

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/OTHER INFO
MON	Bridge Mix	Open/<2K	11:00 a.m.	Coleman/Prior	
	Monday Morning JCC	Open/<50,200	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, P.A.
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Alpine BC	Open/<1K	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	
	Just For Fun	Begin./Inter.	7:00 p.m.	Solna/Omer	No master points given. Call Solna at (408) 685-5323
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sue Johnston	
	Wed Aft. 49er	<50 M.P.	1:00 p.m	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	<200 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	
THUR	Thursday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, PA
	Thur. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	John & Linda Mattis	
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	Marolyn Imaoka Yancey	
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.	10:30 a.m.	Claire Coleman	
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Will Watson	
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	John Prior	
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat.	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Regional, Monday, January 3-9 at Hyatt Monterey
- 199er Swiss Teams, Monday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, January 15 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr, San Francisco
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, January 18 at 10 a.m. Bridge Center. Frank Smoot on "You Need to Learn to Play Drury."
- Unit Swiss Teams, Open and 99er, Sunday, January 23 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, January 29 at Hart Middle School, Pleasanton
- Firecracker...New Dates....Wednesday, July 13-Sunday, July 17.

Club Closings

- Christmas Eve, Friday Dec.24: Friday Morn. BC, Friday Night Barometer
- Christmas: Saturday, Dec. 25: One Club

HAPPY



HOLIDAYS

Seasons Greetings from the Kibitzer staff and contributors: Elinor Tanck, Marian Kelly, Lori Spaeth, Alan Templeton, John Hornback, Mary Ellen Barasch, Sioux Atkinson, Carolyn Chaney, Mary Van Tamelen, Gersh Wheeler, Alan Cummings, Roy Robinson, Eric Mayefsky, Mary Ann Berg, Leslie Kelly, Sherie Greenberg and Marge Yates.

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