

THANKSGIVING ISSUE

KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. L, Issue 12, December, 2012



Happy Thanksgiving to All!



HOLIDAY CHEER FOR UNIT MEMBERS

DINNER AND BRIDGE, FREE TO UNIT MEMBERS, DECEMBER 16

Holidays are a good time for celebrations! Come for good eats and great bridge on Sunday, December 16 at the Bridge Center. The party begins at noon with the presentation of the Unit Sportsmanship and Service awards and finally the most important event, a Unit stratified open and 199er pairs. The great eats come after the game with a dinner catered by Ming's.

This event is only open to Unit members and requires advance reservations. It is free, but please bring with you an

unwrapped toy or a gift certificate to donate to the Community Services Agency of Mountain View.

Make your reservation by Monday, December 10 on the Unit website or sign up on the list at the Bridge Center. If this is inconvenient, reserve with Keith Burnett, keithsr@gmail.com or phone (408) 867-5279. We will have space and food for 160 players. If the 160 limit is not reached by December 10, the Unit will open the game to non-Unit members for \$15.

PUT THE UNIT EDUCATION FUND ON YOUR GIFT LIST

The Palo Alto Unit Education Fund supports our Unit's Tuesday lecture series and the Unit library. Due to generous donations, the Education Fund enabled the Unit to purchase audio-visual equipment to augment the education experience for the lecture series, the Saturday Learning Game and both the Unit and privately taught classes at the Bridge Center. After this recent expense, the fund is low. You can help.

Please consider making a **tax-deductible** donation to support this fund. Make your check out to: **ACBL Educational Foundation** and note **Unit 503** on the memo line. Mail your contribution to: Palo Alto Unit 503, 432A Stierlin Rd. Mountain View, CA 94043 Attn: Mukund Thapa. You may also give your check to any Unit board member or game director.

Find the *Kibitzer* on the Unit's website, www.paloaltobridge.com

A BRIDGE CENTER FULL OF ACTIVITY

The players have joined in the bridge fun at the many Unit games during the past month. The October Unit game held on October 14 to honor the memory of Helga Solleder and sponsored by her friends attracted 21 tables. The highest scores went to Robin Booth and Donald Spaulding in A, B and to Carol Kemper and Stephanie Singer in C. Just a week later on October 21, the Unit hosted a Mentor-Mentee Game. Kathie Shaw and Merle Orelove organized this event for the special partnerships. In the 9 ½ table contest, the winners were Bev Benson and Stephen Lubeck in A, B and Alan Polish and Merle Orelove in C. On Monday, November 5, seven 199er teams played in a Swiss match with the team of Kate Horricks, Andrew Dentai, Devesh Goyal, Hedvig Fejerne winning in A and the team of Nancy Sabbag, Annie Green, Roger Jackman and Marcelo Gumucio winning in B.

All these were just a warm up for the annual Thanksgiving pot luck Unit game on November 11. At noon, the participants gathered for the turkey and

all the trimmings provided by the Unit, and the many other dishes and desserts provided by the players. After Roy Robinson announced the results of the Unit election, the bridge began. In the 22-1/2 table open flight, the overall winners were: A: Tahir Gokcen - Robert Madalena; B: Sigmund Malek - Franklin Gonzalez; and C: Michele Musy - Richard Recht. In the nine table 199er flight, the winners were: A, B: Salma Saeed - Amit Garg, C: Khalid Kazi - Raghu Murthy.

Of course, the Unit members owe lots of thanks for these successful and enjoyable events. Let's start with the directors: Will Watson, Claire Coleman and Margot Livenspargar and the Unit Game Chair, Keith Burnett. Everyone is especially grateful to Bev Nuding who cooked the turkeys and the trimmings. The others who helped with the pot luck dinner were turkey carvers Pete Nuding and Dennis Dzura and Paul Davis and Nancy Kehl, who were responsible for all the decorations, with Nancy donating the lovely bouquet. Thank you to all!

MEMBERS ELECT FIVE TO UNIT BOARD

Election Chair, Roy Robinson, announced the results of the November Unit election. The members elected are: Valerie Baldwin, Bob Horowitz, Todd Makler, Brian Samuels and James Stuart-Smith. They will join current members: Steve Barasch, Sue Barkley, Sue Griswold, Kevin O'Leary, Margot Livenspargar and Henryk Szejnwald to form the 2013 Board.

The entire Unit thanks those candidates who were not elected, Claire Coleman, Lee

Haze, Ron Kilgren, Ida Lee, Hansa Narasimhan and Jody Williams for their interest and enthusiasm. And we all thank the outgoing Board members: Keith Burnett, David Crosley, Bev Nuding and Allen Wolman. The Unit members cast 364 valid ballots, or about 37% of the Unit's active membership. The Unit owes a vote of thanks to Roy Robinson, the election chair and Steve Lubeck and Julianne Robinson who assisted in the election management and the counting of the ballots.

SERVICE AND SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE

Remember to offer suggestions by December 1 for the Unit Awards for Sportsmanship and Service to be presented at the Holiday Unit Game on December 16. Just go to the Unit website and scroll to the end of the Unit News on the home page and select "Year-end

Awards Recommendations." Name your choice and the reason you think the member is worthy of the honor. If you prefer, look for the suggestion box at the three game locations and use it to make your choice.

UNIT NEWS

Art - Steve Johnsen is exhibiting his photography at the Bridge Center. Currently on display are his works that include images of Africa, China and many California landscapes familiar to so many of us.

Firecracker - The Santa Clara Convention Center has confirmed our Firecracker reservation for Wednesday, June 26 through Sunday, June 30, 2013.

Lecture - Ron Karr will explain strategies for two types of games in his Tuesday December 11, 9 a.m. talk on "Pairs vs. Team Games: Differences in Bidding and Play."

Big Games—John Williams and George Paris had a 72.10% game at the JCC on 9/27. At the bridge center, Debbie Rosenberg and Polly Siegel had a 71.31% game on 10/18.

Learning Game - On Saturday, December 8, at 9 a.m. the attendees will get an introduction to "New Minor Forcing."

Library - The Unit Library has received a welcome donation of Marty Bergen's 28 booklets in his *Secrets to Winning Bridge Series*. Several of the booklets have supplementary materials posted on Marty Bergen's Web site. A few of the 28 titles are: "2/1 Game Forcing," "How to Defeat 3NT" and "What you Must Know About Cue-bids." One user mentioned that "they are absolutely the best designed bridge presentation that I have ever seen."

Oops! - The *Kibitzer* editors somehow think there are only six days in a week. For some unknown reason, the Sunday Afternoon BC slipped off the list in the November issue. Sorry about that.

Updated Directory The Palo Alto Members and Friends 2013 Directory will issue in the spring and is free to all Unit members. 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 Barbara Shukov know, 650-949-2410, bshukov@pacbell.net.

Doubleton Club - Jim O'Neil won first prize for his "Kathy Harper" costume at Lori & Sue's Doubleton Club Halloween Game party. Junko Funaki won in the 499er section for her wonderful Little Red Riding Hood costume. What's this below? A double at the Doubleton Club - a picture of Jim and the real thing.



PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The November ACBL report shows that the players identified below have moved up. Congratulations to all!

Club Master	20 MP	Bebe Hoppe, Carolyn Kendall Patricia Mitchell, Kathleen Quinn, C Swenson
Sectional Master	50 MP	Min Wells
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Stan Charney

DISCUSSION OF KING ASKS IN KEYCARD AUCTIONS

BY FRED CHASALOW

This hand was played at the Bayshore Bridge Club on September 6. It is a fine illustration of the use of a king asking bid after a Roman Key Card slam sequence.

West opened 1 D and raised 1 H to 2. East, with 21 hcp, could visualize a slam and bid 4NT as a key card asking bid. West confirmed the two missing keycards. East now bid 5NT. This bid confirms all 5 key cards with the heart queen and asks for specific kings. West is allowed to bid a grand slam if he visualizes sufficient tricks. This West hand is a minimum but does have the king of clubs and bids 6 C. This is a good example of specific kings as the response to the second asking bid. East would not be interested in a grand slam if West had the king of spades. When East knows that partner has the club king, he can count 12 tricks – 3 C, 3 D, 5 H and 1 S. East now bids 6 D. This bid implies a continuing interest in a grand slam and asks West about additional values. West knows that East should be able to visualize 12 tricks for his continued investigation. Knowing that East has the spade ace as one of his key cards, West recognizes that his singleton spade will develop the 13th trick by ruffing. West bids 7 H to complete the auction. This is a good example of using specific king responses to the king ask in keycard Blackwood.

No one vulnerable, Dealer, West

	98643			
	654			
	J763			
7		8		AT2
KJ83				AQT97
AT98				KQ
KT65				AQ2
		KQJ5		
		2		
		542		
		J9743		
W	N	E	S	
1D	P	1H	P	
2H	P	4NT	P	
5H	P	5NT	P	
6C	P	6D	P	
7H	P	P	P	

FIND MASTERPOINT GIVEAWAY AT HOLIDAY XXI STAC

Santa’s coming to town the week of Monday, December 3 through Sunday, December 10 for the 21st Holiday STAC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) played throughout the Western Conference. He brings to your local club a sack of extra masterpoints,

lots of them sparkling silver, to those who shine in these games that feature great competition. See the back page of the *Kibitzer* to find the lucky opportunities to win all these masterpoints. All clubs except The EZ Game will hold a STAC.

CHECK THE CLUB GAME SCHEDULE DURING NATIONALS

Many players and directors will be spending the days from Thursday, November 22 through Sunday December 2 at the Nationals in San Francisco. This has an impact on the games here in our Unit.

The following games **will be held** during the Nationals: Mon. Nov. 26 - Think Slam B.C., Monday Morn. BC; Tues. Nov. 27 - Tues. Noon BC; Wed. Nov.

28 - Wed. Aft 49er BC; Thurs. Nov. 29 - Thurs. Morn JCC BC; Fri. Nov. 30 - Friday Morning BC, & EZ bridge; Dec. 1 – One club; Dec. 2 - Sunday p.m. BC. The following club games **will not be held**: Thurs., Nov. 22 - all games; Fri., Nov. 23 - all games; all Bridge Center Games Tuesday - Thursday, Nov. 27 – 29 and Friday Night, Nov. 30.

PROFILE OF PAT AND ROBIN CHAMBERS

BY MARY VAN TAMELEN



What's the first thing most people do when they get married? Probably not what Pat and Robin Chambers did. They both went to work that day, then got married, and immediately after their wedding they went to a bridge game

at their local club.

They met at a bridge tournament in Dunsmuir, CA. Pat says she found Robin "under a deck of cards" and thought to herself that this man needs help. They started playing together, one thing led to another, and soon they were married *and* playing bridge.

Pat came to northern California from Minneapolis, Robin from the Isle of Wight. She was divorced with one son and living in Redding. Robin had majored in French at the University of Southampton. He lived in France for a while, then moved to Manitoba, Canada, went to Santa Barbara for a master's degree and was teaching French at Dunsmuir High School.

After their marriage in 1974, there were no teaching jobs available in Redding, so they moved here. Pat worked in the accounting department at Stanford Hospital, a job she held for 22 years. Robin worked as an office and credit manager for an electronics firm for several years, and then decided he'd "better do something with his life." So, in his words, in 1980 he "became a parasite" and spent the next seventeen years as a stockbroker, first with Merrill Lynch and then with Charles Schwab.

"We're lucky we have bridge," Pat says, referring to their retirement years. They play together frequently and don't fight—although they admit to "sometimes a little tension." There used to be a lot more: Robin would "get testy," Pat says; and Pat would get "pissed off," responds Robin. Yet, they acknowledge and praise each other's proficiencies. Robin comments that "Pat is an outstanding defender," and Pat acknowledges that "Robin is an excellent bidder."

Robin has studied and analyzed his bidding system

and has written a 150 page text, including quizzes. Currently, on an alternating basis, the two of them are mentoring Vera Howard and Ginger Tanner.

Outside of bridge Pat and Robin are proud of Pat's son Steve, a musician who plays guitar and keyboard with the revival of the Credence Clearwater Revisited group. Pat and Robin are also the godparents and frequent caretakers of Bosco, a schnauzer who belongs to Chuck Lane. "Sharing is the very best way to have a dog," they say, "you can go to tournaments and are not tied down, yet have all the joy."

The Chambers do like to travel, especially to tournaments. They feel they are so lucky to live in this area with such a "great caliber club, with such fine players." Pat and Robin are prime examples, often coming in on top.

The day they were married they must have been somewhat distracted—they only came in second!

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Sue Griswold, President
David Crosley, Vice-President
Margot Livenspargar, Secretary
Beverly Nuding, Treasurer
Valerie Baldwin, Steve Barasch,
Sue Barkley, Keith Burnett, Kevin O'Leary,
Henryk Szejnwald, Allen Wolman

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 4 at 3:45 p.m. at the
Bridge Center
All are invited to attend.

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Iris Brest, William Dalton, Gerry Patkay, Rita Sitko, Dena Fisher, Cornelia Hornstein, Henry Hornstein, Reddy Raju, K V Rao, Humphrey Sun and Kate Walters.

All games take place at our Bridge Center, 432A Stierlin Road Mountain View 94043, unless otherwise noted.

DAY	BRIDGE CLUB	TYPE	TIME	DIRECTOR(S)	PLACE/ OTHER I NFO
MON	Monday Morning	Open/Strat.	11.30 a.m.	John Schwartz	Bridge Center reservations necessary. Website or
	Monday Morning	<100,<500	11.30 a.m.	John Schwartz	Bridge Center signup123.com/jsbridge
	Mon. Think Slam BC	<100,<300,Open	12:30 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
TUES	Tuesday Noon BC	<100,<300,Open	12:00 p.m.	Walter Miller	Unity Church, YES Rm, 3391 Middlefield Rd, PA
	Alpine BC	Open/Strat/	12:00 p.m.	O'Leary/Watson/	Bridge Center
	Alpine BC	299er		Saunders	
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
	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	Bridge Center
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	< 499 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	Bridge Center
THUR	Thursday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, PA
	Thurs. Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
	Thurs. Afternoon 49er		12.00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
FRI	The EZ Game	<30 M.P.	9:00 a.m.	John Williams	Bridge Center
	Friday Morning BC	Open/Strat.	10:30 a.m.	Claire Coleman	Bridge Center
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
SAT	One Club	Open/Strat.	12:00 p.m.	John Prior	Bridge Center
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	Bridge Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sectional, Friday, Nov.16 at Holy Redeemer Ctr, Oakland
- San Francisco NABC, Wednesday, Nov.22-Sunday, Dec. 2 , Marriott Hotel
- STAC, Monday, Dec. 3-Sunday, Dec. 9 at all clubs
- STAC Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. Doubleton BC, Sign-up required
- Class-Learning Game, Sat., Dec. 8 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Lecture, Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, Dec. 14 at Community Ctr., Orangevale
- Unit Holiday Party, Sunday, Dec. 16 at noon, Bridge Center, Reservations required; attendees must be members of the Palo Alto Unit.
- Club Championship, Tuesday, Dec. 18 at noon, Unity Church.
- Club Championship, Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 1 p.m., Unity Church
- Club Championship, Monday, Dec. 31 at 12:30 p.m. Unity Church

Club Closings

Wednesday Nov. 21 - Doubleton BC

Christmas Eve, both Monday games are closed. Christmas Dec. 25 Alpine BC,
Tuesday Noon BC

During SF Nationals—see article on p. 4

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 Prue Saunders (650) 464-3969
 John Schwartz (650) 324-2424
 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731
 John Williams (650) 254-1041

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