



## THREE UNIT GAMES IN OCTOBER!

### To Honor Helga Solleder October 14.

Friends and the family of Helga Solleder will sponsor the Unit Pairs game in her memory on Sunday, October 14 at 1 p.m. They will cover entry fees for up to 45 tables of players. Please pre-register for the open and 199er sections on the Unit website or on the list posted at the Bridge Center by Friday, October 12.

Come join Helga's friends and family in the game that she enjoyed so much.

### Monday 199er Swiss October 1

The 199ers will be playing Swiss Teams at 6:30 p.m. on October 1 at the Bridge Center. Players may list full or partial teams on the Unit web site. Winners in the eight-team September 10 match were: A1, Barbara Hansen-Carolyn Taylor-Wendy Benveniste-Helen LaRash, B1, Roger Jackman-Annie Green-Gillian Barsley-Paul Barsley.

### Mentor/Mentees Pairs Event October 21

All mentor/mentee pairs are invited to play in the October 21 Unit Game at 1 p.m. Mentor/mentee partnerships are featured and will have their own game to test their bidding, defense and play of the hand skills. All mentor/mentee pairs must be part of the Unit Mentor/Mentee program. Mentees should have no more than 300 master-points. There will also be a regular Sunday afternoon non-Unit pairs game for other players.

We ask that every partnership please sign up on the website or on the Bridge Center list as early as possible to help us plan for the number of tables needed. Stratification scoring will give every pair an opportunity to earn points. We look forward to a good turnout to show what you have learned this past year. Contact the coordinators Kathie Shaw at [bandkshaw@aol.com](mailto:bandkshaw@aol.com) or (650) 854-7443 or Merle Orelove [Merleor@comcast.net](mailto:Merleor@comcast.net), (650) 326-1788, for further information.

## NAP (NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS) GAMES

The two-session North American Pairs (NAP) Unit Qualification Final is set for Sunday, September 23 at the Bridge Center at 1:15 p.m. and tbd.

No sign-ups are needed, but pre-qualification at a club game is required for entry. There will also be a regular Sunday Afternoon BC game at 1 p.m. for those not playing in the NAP.

Find the *Kibitzer* on the Unit's website, [www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com)

## BE SURE TO VOTE

In the past, board elections have been uncontested affairs, with the same number of candidates as there were open slots. Not this year, so you will want to give thoughtful consideration to the choices and make sure to vote. *Kibitzer* editors are formatting the candidates' bios and the Unit photographer, Roy Robinson, is taking the photos. The November *Kibitzer* will feature the candidates' photos and bios along with the ballot and voting instructions. As this *Kibitzer* goes to press, the eleven nominees for five two-year terms on the 2013 Unit Board are: Valerie Baldwin (incumbent), Claire Coleman, Lee Haze, Bob Horowitz, Ron Kilgren, Ida Lee, Todd Makler, Hansa

Narasimhan, Brian Samuels, James Stuart-Smith and Jody Williams.

Additional nominations may be made by written submission of an eligible nominee's name, supported by the identifiable signature of the prospective candidate and not fewer than ten (10) Unit members in good standing; these petitions must be forwarded to the Unit Secretary by September 30. There is to be no limit on the number of such petitions. Be ready to cast your vote when the ballot boxes appear on October 22 at the three game locations. Election chair, Roy Robinson, will announce the results at the Pot Luck game, Sunday, November 11.

## VOLUNTEERS *STILL* NEEDED AT THE NATIONALS

We're halfway to our goal of 40 volunteers for Sunday, November 25. ! Thank you to all who have signed up. One time slot that has very few volunteers, and we need many, is the 6:30-7:30 p.m. slot. Other time slots that need to be filled are 9-10, 12-1, and 2-3 (I/N games). If you plan to play that day, you will be released in time to make the game. We need folks from all levels of play. If you can serve

more than one hour that day, we can use you. And if you can give an hour or so on other days, please let me know and I will pass it on. On the front page of our website, [paloaltobridge.com](http://paloaltobridge.com), look at the "Unit" column on the right, click on info and sign up today. Questions??? Can't get on the web? Email Margot Livenspargar at [margotlive@aol.com](mailto:margotlive@aol.com) or call her at (760) 964-2496.

### SYMPATHY

Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Unit members Helga Solleder and Rose Husain who recently passed away.

### NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: David Aston, M Suzanne Band, David Beggs, Janet Dekker, Glenn Ishikawa, Chieni Liao and Lisa Merenbach.

## UNIT NEWS

**Help, Please!** - The Board is looking for someone who is willing to create and update an event calendar which will include everything going on in the Unit. Please volunteer with Sue Griswold, sue\_g@sbcglobal.net.

**Monday Think Slam** - Come to the Unity Church every Monday at 12:30 p.m. to play in Walter Miller's brand new game. The strats are <100, <300 and open.

**Saturday Bridge Bargain** -The fee for the Saturday noon One Club game is only \$7. until the end of October and that includes a very nice lunch prior to the start of the noon game. Check it out!

**This is a No No!** - The Board is aware of a few recent instances in which our Unit Directory has been used for commercial purposes, contrary to the Unit policy that states, "These lists are not to be shared with any third parties. No information from these lists may be published on a web site, bulletin board or on similar resources without the express written permission of the ACBL member whose name is identified. Violation of these rules may subject the violating party to discipline or sanctions under ACBL Rules and Regulations."

**Lecture** - The Unit series continues on October 9 with Don Rothschild speaking on "The Captain Principle: Who's in Charge Here?" On October 23, Frank Smoot will give instructions on "Slippery Defense Holdings: Mid-Hand Decisions."

**Mentor-Mentee** - At the Learning Game on Saturday, October 6, discover Lebensohl for use after interference after an opening 1NT bid. The October 20 topic will be announced later.

**Library News** - Our library has two new books: Audrey Grant's *The Impact of Opening Leads Against Notrump Contracts* and the newly published *The Contested Auction* by Roy Hughes. The Grant book

is a good summary discussion of maxims for opening leads along with guidelines for handling entries. The Hughes book, for advanced players, discusses every type of contested auction, recommending useful methods and agreements from which the reader can select.

**Appreciation** - All clubs may hold a Club Appreciation Pair Game and a Club Appreciation Swiss Teams Event during the month of October. For pair games, the awards will be sectional-rated black points; for teams the awards will be 5% gold for winners, the rest will be sectional-rated black. The Doubleton Club will hold an appreciation pairs game on Wednesday, October 10. We expect other clubs to schedule similar games.

**Director!** - The Unit encourages interested members to participate in the ACBL Club and Cruise Director Course at the San Francisco Fall NABC on Monday, November 19—Wednesday 21, the three days before the start of play at the tournament. The details are: 1-10 p.m. Monday with dinner break, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday with lunch and dinner breaks, 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday followed by lunch break and testing. The cost is \$50. After passing the test, the Unit will offer opportunities for practice in club games and mentorship with the Unit's directors. Pre-register online by November 12 at [www.acbl.org/CDC](http://www.acbl.org/CDC), or contact Joyce Stone at 662-253-3138, or send an e-mail to [director-courses@acbl.org](mailto:director-courses@acbl.org).

**August Unit Game Winners**—Here are the results for the latest Unit Pairs held on August 12. First place went to Prudence Saunders-Fung Bao in A, Polly Siegel-Kevin Rosenberg in B and Agnes Lee-Richard Yu in C.

## THEY WON!



Here's the number 1 knockout team in their bracket on August 29 at the All Western Championships. Don't they look pleased with themselves? Who wouldn't be, with 10.87 gold points each? You're looking at (l to r) Denise Pitsch, Andrew Lin, Diana Lowe and Nate Munger.

NEXT BOARD MEETING  
 Tuesday, October 2 at 3:45 p.m. at  
 the Bridge Center

**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

## PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

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

Junior Master	5 MP	Judy Anderson, Diane Feldman, Mary Jane Finch, Pak-Hin Lee, Mary Maclellan, Jane Matheson, Xuancheng Shao, Richard Thomson
Club Master	20 MP	Stephen Aker, Leslie Altick, Roxanne Hetzel
Sectional Master	50 MP	Jo Palermo
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Clifton Fay, Chuck Lane, Polly Siegel

**HELPERS NEEDED!**

At my Class  
 "Conventions You Need to Play"  
 (Negative Doubles, Cue Bids, Michaels, Preempts, DON'T, Help Suit Game Tries, Stayman, Jacoby)  
 Tuesdays, 9:15 to 11:15  
 Oct. 2, 16, 30; Nov. 13, 20; Dec. 4, 18;  
 Jan. 15, 29, Feb. 5, 19.  
 Helpers receive one free play per class.  
 Kathy Harper, kharper100@aol.com



## A WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT WALTER U.

BY JO PALERMO



The strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” stream through the room. All eyes turn away from the Director toward the back of the room. In full graduation regalia, black gown and tasseled mortar-

board, the gentleman graduate walks solemnly forward. It is an August afternoon at the Unity Church in Palo Alto, the site of Walter Miller’s 49er Bridge game. Marcelo Gumucio, the graduate, has earned 50 masterpoints; this marks his final game with the 49er group. Marcelo’s friends erupt in good natured laughter both amused at the performance and appreciative of Marcelo’s ingenuity. Director Walter greets the graduate and turns the tassel. Applause greets Marcelo as he opens his gown to reveal a unique tee shirt attesting to his graduation from “Walter U.”

In the past several months, other satisfied bridge players have “graduated” from Walter’s 1 p.m. Wednesday game. Among them, Joanne Jacobs, Patricia Jarman, Agnes Lee and Jo Palermo recall the unique format that Walter offers each afternoon. First, Walter asks if anyone is attending for the first time. If a hand is raised, Walter requests that the person announce his or her name; each individual is welcomed with a round of applause. Walter continues by asking if anyone is present for the second time or the last time. After the director assures the group that they are “the nicest, friendliest bridge players in the world,” a 20 minute lesson opens the session, followed by four rounds of duplicate bridge. As the final board of the cycle begins, Walter exhorts his players to get up, walk around, avoid blood clots,

meet new players and enjoy a snack! As a result, most participants socialize with one another, discover new friends and, more important, make arrangements to develop new partnerships at bridge. Following the break, additional boards are played, briefly discussed and passed on to the next table.

In relative obscurity, Walter Miller has been the director of the 49er game for many years. Supporting the value of zero tolerance, Walter emphasizes the practice of excellent decorum at his games, encouraging his nicest, friendliest N/S players to “welcome to our table” their rotating opponents. To some, this seems a juvenile practice, but in Marcelo Gumucio’s words, “If you go to a tournament and N/S says ‘welcome to our table’, you can bet they have been trained by Walter.” Gumucio continues: “I call it Walter U. because I learned more than just how to bid a hand. I learned valuable things, such as, bridge etiquette and how to fill out a convention card.” To enhance his continuum of lessons, Miller wrote and published his own book, *Duplicate Winning Bridge*. The lesson of the week is based on a chapter in the text.

Although achieving one’s first 50 masterpoints is a bridge milestone, for some leaving Walter’s group can be bittersweet. As Marcelo noted, in most games when a director’s expertise is required, people will sternly call “DIRECTOR!!!” At Wednesday’s game, “people’s call for the director is ‘Director Dear’...” So when Marcelo prepared for his departure from the game, he decided to create a special moment. “I like to have fun,” said Marcelo. “In most instances, a name is called, the person stands up and sits down; I wanted this to be special.”

Those present on the August afternoon when Marcelo Gumucio graduated will forever recall a unique moment, an appreciative director and the applause and laughter the gesture received. Says Gumucio, speaking for many, “Thank you, Walter, for being my mentor and hundred of others like me.”

*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	<500,<100	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
	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club	< 99 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.	Marolyn Yancey	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

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Unit Lecture, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- Club championship, Thursday, Sept. 20 at 11 a.m., Thursday Morning JCC BC
- Class-Learning game, Saturday, Sept. 22 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- NAP Unit Final (two sessions), Sept. 23 at 1:15 p.m. and tba, Bridge Center
- Club championship, Monday, Sept. 24 at 11:30 a.m., Monday Morning BC
- Unit Lecture, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, Sept. 29 at Senior Center, Gilroy
- 199er Unit Swiss Teams, Monday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Class-Learning game, Friday, Oct. 6 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, Oct. 6 at Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa
- Unit Lecture, Tuesday, Oct. 9, 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- Club Appreciation Game, Oct.10 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC (Sign-up required)
- Sectional, Thursday, Oct. 11 at Plaza Conv. Ctr, Carson City, NV
- Helga Solleder Unit Open and 199er Pairs, Sunday, Oct 14. at 1 p.m., Bridge Center (Sign-up required)
- Class-Learning game, Friday, Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, Oct. 20 at Harbor HS, Santa Cruz
- Unit Mentor/Mentee game, Sun. Oct. 21 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Lecture, Tuesday, Oct. 23, 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Friday, Oct. 26 at West Valley College, Saratoga

### Club Contacts

Gabriella Bowling (650) 941-8398  
 Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917  
 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929  
 Kevin O'Leary (650) 279-0005  
 John Prior (408) 745-0380  
 Prue Saunders (650) 464-3969  
 John Schwartz (650) 324-2424  
 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987  
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731  
 Marolyn Yancey (408) 828-9222

Unit Contact: Claire Coleman  
 (650) 368-5917 or e-mail  
[unit503@paloaltobridge.com](mailto:unit503@paloaltobridge.com)

**Unit 503 Web Address:**  
[www.paloaltobridge.com](http://www.paloaltobridge.com)

**Bridge Center Phone: (650) 940-1824**  
 District 21 Hotline: (888) 292-4612  
 Dist. 21 Website: [www.d21acbl.com](http://www.d21acbl.com)

### Kibitzer Editorial Staff

Elinor Tanck (408) 738-2511  
 e-mail: [tancke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tancke@sbcglobal.net)  
 Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896  
 e-mail: [kelly.marian@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.marian@gmail.com)  
 Chris Veres Bunz, graphic artist