



KIBITZER

GRAND OPENING

New Bridge Center

GRAND OPENING PARTY, SUNDAY APRIL 29

Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. L, Issue 4, April 2012

WELCOME CELEBRATION FOR NEW CENTER

Yes, the long awaited and anticipated new Unit Bridge Center has arrived. There's no better way to show off our wonderful new home than to play and party. The date for this gala event is Sunday, April 29 with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and a Unit game with increased masterpoints at 1 p.m. All are welcome, but space is limited. Please sign up online (preferred) at www.paloaltobridge.com or on sign-up sheets at Unit game locations. The cost for both is \$8. There will be three separate sections: Open (Stratified), 299er (Stratified) and Just for Fun (not duplicate).

And there is much more: The festive décor will feature Big Apple Red with balloons and party goods to match our gorgeous new chairs. Each person will receive a commemorative gift to mark the occasion and there will be prizes for some lucky players.

Just to make sure you come to the right place: the Center address is 432A Stierlin Road, Mountain View, 94043. Exit 101 at Shoreline, go toward Mountain View and turn left at the Stierlin light.

BRIDGE CENTER FUND: ALMOST THERE!

Our Bridge Center Fund, established to cover both our needs and our wants in our wonderful new home, is still a little short of our \$35,000 goal. The Unit is buying tables, chairs, bidding boxes, kitchen equipment and improved lighting. We're also considering new entry doors, additional audio-video equipment, etc.....indeed we have quite an extensive list.

To date (March 14) we have collected or been pledged over \$28,000. If you'd like to contribute to your Bridge Center, please send your check, made payable to Unit 503, to our Treasurer:

Bev Nuding
3181 Melendy Drive
San Carlos, CA 94070

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

WHAT'S NEW AT THE DOUBLETON CLUB?

BY LORI SPAETH

Starting April 4, the Doubleton Club will have three separate games instead of two: Open - all are welcome; 499er - players may not have more than 499 masterpoints; and 99er - players may not have more than 99 masterpoints. In all three games, Sue Johnston and I encourage players who do not have a partner to email or call so that we can help set you up – advance notice appreciated.

We wanted to make the transition for our 199ers more attractive than immediately being thrown into the lion's den of our Open. We are very lucky that we have so many fine players in our Open game. The format for the Open and 499er game will be the same - 24 boards at 7 to 7.5 minutes/board which, as you know, we do our best to enforce. We start at 7:00 p.m. and try to finish between 10:00 and 10:15.

Our third section (0–99) will be mostly for players new to duplicate who have recently graduated from beginning bridge classes, or players who want to play in a more relaxed atmosphere. There will be a dedicated director. The format is much gentler. We will allow approximately 9 minutes so that newer players can ease into the duplicate format. Players with fewer than 20 masterpoints will be allowed to ask the director up to two bidding questions (before they make the bid) per evening – our version of "Phone a Friend." The director will also help newer players learn about table etiquette and the proprieties of the game. In order to make this 99er section work, we would like to have at least five tables on a regular basis, so we encourage you to coax your friends who have been reluctant to play duplicate to try it out. Reassure them that Sue and I will take good care of them

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The March report from the ACBL shows that the following players have moved up. Congratulations to all!

Junior Master	5 MP	Christine Herzog, Sheila Hochman, Nathaniel Munger, Howard Neff, Richard Stone , Marcia Thompson, Evan Porteus,
Club Master	20 MP	Paul Adriani, Paul Davis, Virginia Lyons, Ann Porteus
Sectional Master	50 MP	Hal Roey, Carolyn Taylor
Regional Master	100 MP	Bev Benson, Robert Bergey, Frances Green, Miriam Jacob
Life Master	300 MP	James Harris, Michele Musy, Gerald Patrick, Barbara Shukov
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Malcolm McLaughlin



NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Mary Cook, Michaela Haog, Chris Lopez, Issie Rabinovitch, Paula Robichaud, Lata Shah, Kevin Smith, Susan Huch and Mark Mongird.

UNIT NEWS

199ers Like Swiss— After a brief absence, the Monday Night Swiss is back on the calendar. The invite is out for teams with an average of under 200 masterpoints to play on Monday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. There is an optional sign-up on the Unit web page.

Lecture— Don't be an April Fool! Come to expand your bridge horizons. The lecture on Tuesday, April 3 at 9:30 will feature Frank Smoot's discussion "Entering the Competition after the Opponents Settle at the Two Level." And lecturer, Jim Leuker, will give advice on opening leads with "It's Your Lead" on Tuesday, April 17.

Learning Game— In April, the players will gain bridge skills for "Balancing" on Saturday, April 7 and will receive assistance with "Help Suit Game Tries" on April 28.

Website— Alan reports that in December we passed 750,000 visits to our great website..

Big Games – So many players are scoring 70% games lately that we've made an editorial decision to increase the percentage at which players receive recognition here to 72%. And to you directors.....we don't always catch those big scores, so please, if you have one at your game, let us know (see back page for emails).

Library— Are you a Marty Bergen fan? Our Unit library has acquired three more of his books. "More Declarer Play the Bergen Way" is a sequel to the 2005 bridge book of the year. "Marty Sez... Volume Two" and "Marty Sez... Volume Three" are filled with practical tips. Nancy Deal, a four-star bridge teacher, comments on Volume Two:

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

"As a player, I eagerly read (and reread) these tips to improve my game. As a teacher, I highly recommend Marty's latest book for everyone".



Thanks to These Worker Bees at our
New Center!

SYMPATHY

Recently the Unit lost several of its long-time members. The Unit officers and members extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Gersh Wheeler, Carolyn Lemm and Gene Van Deinse. We also extend our sympathy to Allen Wolman on the passing of his father.

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

REMEMBERING CAROLYN LEMM

BY STEVE LUBECK

It was a sad day when we learned that Carolyn Lemm passed away on February 27 in her Palo Alto home after a long bout with melanoma. While respecting her wishes to not have a formal memorial service or public obituary, many of us will remember her as a good friend, avid bridge partner and someone who willingly and cheerfully volunteered and assisted in many of our club functions. For the last four years, she was the “caddy master” at the Firecracker Sectional, recruiting and scheduling the young caddies; she participated in the mentor/mentee program and mentored at most of the “25 Conventions You Should Know” classes. Carolyn contributed four dozen new decks of cards to the Tuesday game at the Unity church and also handled the big job of replacing all the old cards with new ones.

Carolyn had several other lives. She was an accomplished tennis player who captained a team at the Palo Alto Tennis Club for many years and won many awards. She was a talented gardener of flowers and fruit trees and loved to take friends for a garden tour. She volunteered at Gamble Gardens in Palo Alto. She was an elementary school teacher most of her working career and was also a competitive ballroom dancer. As many of us did, she took up duplicate bridge after retirement and worked diligently to get to her life master goal which she achieved this past summer - a few of us celebrated with her with wine and hors d'oeuvres.

We will all miss Carolyn. She was a very nice person, and her poise and courage were an example for all of us.

MY FRIEND, GERSH. TWO TRIBUTES TO GERSH WHEELER

I have known Gersh Wheeler in a casual way since the late sixties when I began playing duplicate at Palo Alto. He was always friendly and kind and polite at the table. His favorite partner at that time was his wife, Hester, although he played with other people quite regularly. Sometime in the late 1990s he asked me to play a session with him. I was excited and nervous. His reputation as one of the best players in our Unit preceded him. Since that time until he quit being able to play bridge about 2 years ago, we played at the club almost weekly. He never criticized my play or my bidding. He sometimes made suggestions on better sequences or bids if I asked him. He was interested in many things: music, old movies, good food, and, of course, books. We spent lots of time discussing many subjects. I HAVE LOST A GOOD FRIEND but am very happy that I've known him well over the last 15 years or so — Maria Brabb

The Palo Alto Unit recently lost one of its earliest members. Both Gersh Wheeler and his wife Hester were avid bridge players and participated in the founding of the Unit when it was first organized. Prior to computers, the director issued masterpoints on little pink slips of paper. Gersh was more interest in finding endplays, squeezes and inventing useful conventions than saving points. Gersh also liked writing bridge articles for the *Kibitzer*, which were clear and to the point. He will be missed. — Carla Davis

IT SEEMS TO ME, BY GERSH

A FEW EXAMPLES OF GERSH WHEELER'S IDEAS AND HUMOR

Most players talk too much! This a "please" to ask you to keep quiet. By asking questions when you don't have to, you give the opponents a chance to describe their holdings to each other.

An opponent opens the bidding 2H. His partner bids 2NT. The opener alerts even though it is not necessary. Do not ask what the alert means. If you ask, he will tell you (and incidentally his partner) that he is going to show a feature or bid Ogust. It is always conceivable that they might forget what they are doing.

This applies whenever an opponent alerts. Unless you intend to bid, do not give your opponents a chance to describe what they are going to do. After the bidding is over, you can al-

ways ask for an explanation of any bid. Even after the opening lead, at your first turn to play, you can ask for explanations of your opponents' bids.

Even if there seems to be no chance of a misunderstanding, don't ask. A common situation is where one opponents bids 4NT (Blackwood) and the other bids 5D. Do not ask whether they are playing 1430 or 3014. They might have forgotten! or possibly, they never even discussed it.

Possible sources of error are many. Players frequently forget inverted minors, fourth suit forcing, support doubles, responses to Blackwood 5NT and many others. Don't help them remember. Incidentally, it is improper to alert everything in the hope that our opponent's questions will help you remember.

About eighty years ago there was a popular song which supposedly made fun of grammar. The opening words were:

If I could have knew
What I ought to have knew,
I'd never had did what I done.

You are in a 3NT contract. You will need to win some club tricks to make your contract. Dummy has Q72 and your club holding is K8653. How do you proceed?

First, from the bidding or lack of it try to guess which opponent has the club Ace. Assume that you think your left hand opponent has it. Your first club play should be through the one who holds the Ace. So you lead the club 3, your opponent plays a small club and Dummy's Queen wins the trick. Now you know where the Ace is. So play a small card from Dummy and a small card from your hand. This is called an *obligatory finesse*. Obviously, if you play the King on the sec-

ond trick, it would lose to the Ace. Your only hope is that the Ace is now singleton and must be played on your small cards.

The *obligatory finesse* loses nothing, if the Ace does not fall on your small cards, you are bound to lose two tricks. Anyway, the finesse gives you an extra chance.

A similar situation occurs when Declarer holds five cards to the Queen and Dummy has three to the Jack. Lead a small card to the Jack which loses to the Ace. Now, when you regain the lead, play a small card from Dummy and a small card from Declarer's hand and this is the *obligatory finesse*. You hope that the King is now singleton.

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	Bridge Mix	Open/<2K	11:00 a.m.	Coleman/Prior	Bridge Center
	Monday Morning JCC	Open/Strat.	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, P.A.
	Monday Morning JCC	<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/Strat	12:00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
	Grand Slam Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Marolyn Yancey	Bridge Center
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Sue Johnston	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	Lori & Sue's Dblton Club < 99 M.P		7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston	Bridge Center
	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
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
SUN	Sunday Afternoon BC	Open/Strat	1:00 p.m.	Coleman/Watson	Bridge Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

- * Cue-Bid Raises & Mentee game, Sat., Mar. 24 at 9 a.m., PA Unit Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Saturday, March 24 at Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa
- * Club champ., Sunday March 25 at 1:00 p.m., PA Unit Bridge Center
- * Club champ., Tuesday, March 27 at noon, Alpine BC
- * Club champ., Wednesday, March 28 at 7 p.m. Doubleton Club
- * Club champ., Thursday, March 29 at noon, Thurs. Afternoon BC
- * Club champ., Friday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m., Friday Night Barometer BC
- * Unit lecture, Tuesday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- * Balancing and Mentee game, Sat. , April 7 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Wednesday, April 11, Nugget Hotel, Sparks, NV
- * Sectional, Friday, April 13, Muir Middle Sch, San Jose
- * Unit lecture, Tuesday, April 17 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- * Sectional, Saturday, April 21 at Catholic HS, Kentfield
- * Sectional, Saturday, April 28 at Centre Plaza, Modesto
- * Help Suit Game Tries and Mentee game, Sat. April 28 at 9 a.m. Bridge Center
- * Sunday, April 29 Unit Bridge Center Grand Opening: Lunch 11:30, Bridge 1 p.m., (Sign-up required)

Club Contacts

Gabriella Bowling (650) 941-8398
 Claire Coleman (650) 368-5917
 Sue Johnston (510) 505-0275
 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929
 John Prior (408) 745-0380
 John Schwartz (650) 324-2424
 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731
 Marolyn Yancey (408) 532-6437

Unit Contact: Claire Coleman
 (650) 368-5917 or e-mail
unit503@paltoalbridge.com

Unit 503 Web Address:
www.paltoalbridge.com

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

Kibitzer Editorial Staff

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