



## WE'RE READY! ALL SET TO LIGHT UP THE FIRECRACKER

The **Firecracker** Sectional is coming very soon. By now you are all aware that the dates have changed. Since the Convention Center is not available over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, this year's tournament dates are **Wednesday June 27 through Sunday July 1**. Conveniently located the same as last year, the Firecracker will be at the Santa Clara Convention Center and in the same rooms. All Unit members are encouraged to attend, especially all the new members. If you plan on staying at the adjacent Hilton for the special rate of \$109, reservations by May 26 are encouraged. For the past few years the Firecracker has been running with 1000 tables over the course of the five days, making it one of the largest sectionals in the United States. Let's continue the record for this year.

In order to give our beginning bridge players the opportunity to feel comfortable at a sectional tournament, there will be a 49er pairs game at every session. The schedule also includes open pairs games and 199er games every session, as well as Compact KO's every day but Sunday. On Sunday, a two session Swiss game is on the schedule.

The Wednesday and Thursday games will be at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to accommodate people who are working. The games on Friday and Saturday will be at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and on Sunday at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. with a no-host buffet available for lunch. A complete schedule is in this issue of the *Kibitzer*, in an ad in the *Contract Bridge Forum*, on the club web site and on posters at all the club games.

Again this year we will be sponsoring a collection for the Second Harvest Food Bank. See p. 3.

The committee is working hard to see that the Firecracker is another fun time for all, so plan to be there! We also need people to help with all parts of the tournament. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the heads of these committees: Carolyn Chaney, Partnerships [cchaney@sfsu.edu](mailto:cchaney@sfsu.edu); Allen Wolman, [allenwolman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allenwolman@sbcglobal.net), Set up and Take down ; Sioux Atkinson, Hospitality [Sioux@natureimages.com](mailto:Sioux@natureimages.com); and Josephine Ventura, Caddies [vent16@gmail.com](mailto:vent16@gmail.com).

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## PAIR UP FOR THE JUNE UNIT GAME

Tune up for the Firecracker at the Unit Stratified Pairs game on Sunday, June 24 at 1 p.m. at the Bridge Center. Bring along your favorite partner to practice your strategy and tweak the fine points in bidding and defensive play. This is a flighted event with open and 199er flights. It's a great time for good food, good friends, good competition, and good smiles!

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

## MISSING MEETING MYSTERY SOLVED

The by-laws specify that the Unit hold an annual Membership Meeting. The 2012 meeting was to be held at the Unit game on Sunday March 18. However, in the excitement of the first day in the new Center, it slipped through the cracks. The Unit has rescheduled the meeting for Sunday, June 24 at 1:00 p.m., prior to the Unit game. This meeting gives

Unit members the option for direct participation in the Unit's decision and policy making. Any member who wishes to place an item on the agenda must notify the Unit secretary, Margot Livenspargar, in advance by telephone at (760) 964-4296 or email [margotlive@aol.com](mailto:margotlive@aol.com). Please follow up any phone calls with a written note. She must receive all requests by June 15.

## 199ERS DO SWISS ON MONDAY NIGHT

The June Unit calendar will get underway with the 199er Monday Night Swiss on June 4 at 6:30 p.m. Optional sign-ups are available on the Unit web site.

Was it the STAC? Or perhaps the cheese? The Bridge Center drew a record 15 tables last

month for the Unit 199er Monday Night Swiss on May 7. The team first to the cheese was Ardourel-Suzanne Wingate-Carol Schwerer-Fred Schwerer. The players appreciate the director, Margot Livensparger, for her efforts with the large field.

## FIRECRACKER AIDS SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK



Help Second Harvest Food Bank's Share Your Lunch programs to feed our needy children in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Once again, we hope that

players at the Firecracker will show their generosity with food and cash donations.

Last year, \$5,849 cash and food donations of \$1,950 were collected. We have set a goal of a 50% increase!

For your convenience, barrels will be placed in many local clubs beginning May 24<sup>th</sup>. Food and cash will also be collected at the tournament. Please do your part for our youth. Good nourishment is a cornerstone in our young peoples' lives to help them achieve their dreams. SHFB a 501C3 tax deductible organization. Cash donations will be acknowledged. Any questions, [alan.cummings@stanford.edu](mailto:alan.cummings@stanford.edu), 650-619-6664.

## UNIT NEWS

**Club Closing** - Marolyn Yancey, the owner of the Grand Slam BC, the Tuesday night game at the Bridge Center is discontinuing her game because participation has not met expectations.

**Art** - The newest exhibit at the Bridge Center is "Stonewater Photography." Linda Foote is showing a gallery expressing the beauty in nature with photographs of landscapes, ocean scapes, wild life, people and places. She hopes we will enjoy her quest of beauty through the viewing of her images. A reminder: the Unit receives a donation from the artist equal to 10% of the value of any purchase from the exhibits.

**Library** - One of our club members donated 5 mystery books to the library. They are: *The Unkindest Cut* by Honor Hartman (2008), *Deadly Endplay* by Ken Allan (2010), *Clubbed to Death* by Shirley Presberg (2008), *Double Elimination* by Jim Priebe (2007), and *The Devil's Tickets* by Gary M. Pomerantz (2009). This last one sounds particularly intriguing. From the NPR Web site: "A few weeks before the 1929 stock market crash, cosmetics salesman Jack Bennett overbid his hand, failed to finesse for the queen of spades and didn't make his contract. When Myrtle Bennett called her philandering husband a "bum bridge player," Jack smacked her across the face. Minutes later, she put two bullets in his back. The infamous "bridge murder" is the centerpiece of *The Devil's Tickets*, Gary Pomerantz's deliciously detailed and splendidly written account of the emergence of bridge as America's No. 1 pastime."

**Learning Game** - Come on Saturday, June 23 to get an introduction to Michael and his convention and find out about the mysterious Unusual Notrump. Get a head start with the information in Chapter 16.

**Lectures** - On June 6, at 9:45 a.m. Frank Smoot will help the players with "Competitive Auctions – Balancing/Reopening." This will be the last lecture until fall. The coordinator would appreciate feedback as to the appropriateness of the content and difficulty of this season's lectures – independent of the speaker's abilities. Contact Fred Schwerer (650) 856-7960 or [schwerer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schwerer@sbcglobal.net). The lectures are made possible through donations to the Education Fund.

### Remembering Norman Wang by Polly Tsu

On April 26, near the end of the morning game, our long time friend, Norman Neng-Ming Wang, collapsed. He was rushed to the hospital where he died of a massive cerebral hemorrhage a few hours later. Norman began to play bridge while a student at National Taiwan University. He was instrumental in creating the BTU, Bridge Club of Taiwan University, a recognized student team in many national and international tournaments in Taiwan. Many Palo Alto Chinese players including David Chang, Jim Tseng, May & James Wu, Boyer Chu, Y.Chen and Gary Yang knew him for many, many years. All of us were unquestionably aware that he was an excellent bridge player. More importantly, he was unfailingly courteous and gracious. We were all drawn to him for his gentle manners and good-natured personality. He was a truly kind and caring person - a gentleman. We will miss him as a friend and a life long bridge partner."

## WHAT FUN! PARTY, FEASTING, PRIZES AND BRIDGE TOO!!!

There was a full house on Sunday, April 29 to celebrate the grand opening of the Unit's beautiful new Bridge Center. Balloons and bouquets decked the Center and the IFES as players gathered to enjoy a festive lunch, numerous raffle prizes and bridge. During the lunch, President Sue Griswold presented gifts to those who were responsible for the opening of the new center. Recognized were the building committee of Mike Atherton, Alan Cummings and Alan Templeton; also, Dwayne Coleman who spent tons of his time working with the contractor and IFES. She also acknowledged Kevin O'Leary who organized the move and Bob Lawrence who worked with the city on permits.

Yes, the Unit and the players have a winner with the new Center! The winning players in the 32 tables open flight were Geeske Joel and Debbie Rosenberg in A1, Lee Haze and Kevin O'Leary in B1 and Andrew Dentai and Mark Mongird in C1. Tops in the 19 table 299er went to David Puryear and Kathy Puryear in A1 and to Christina Kamra and Molly Raab in B1C1. There were also 13 tables of players who enjoyed bridge Just 4Fun.

So many to thank for this fabulous affair! First, there was the committee: Sue Griswold, Lori Spaeth, Kathy Harper, Betsy Rosenthal and, especially, Bev Nuding – TONS and TONS of kudos to her for getting ALL of the food, the gifts, and giveaways; then, our skilled and patient directors Will Watson and Claire Coleman and, finally, all those who lent a hand with so many things. Included in that list are: Alice Arnold, Loretta Baines, Valerie Baldwin, Paul Davis, Denis Dzura, Lynn Guisti, Lee Haze, Ed Hughot, Marolyn Imaoka-Yancey, Roger Jackman, Gloria Leitstein, Peter Nuding, Kevin O'Leary, Ron & Jolly Perkocha, David & IKathy Puryear, Mary Radin, Roy & Julianne Robinson, Jan & Brian Samuels, Harriel Shea, Merry Stephenson, Margery Yates and Aster Wu. Special mention goes to Nancy Kehl for the beautiful rose display and to Charlotte Carlson for the chocolate-covered strawberries. By the way, every 299er who helped also finished first, second, third or fourth in the bridge game!

Finally, on the next page, find the list of "Founders for the Future," whose donations made our wonderful Bridge Center possible.

### DONATION FUND USES

As you know, we have been thrilled with the donations that have come in to help with the move to the new Bridge Center. The Board used those donations, as well as money we had been raising for the move over the last few years, to make the Bridge Center a great home for us. Here are the primary ways we have spent the fund to date:

	<u>\$K</u>		<u>\$K</u>
Carpet	14.0	Construction	8.0
Other Flooring	6.0	Chairs	13.5
Upgraded Lighting	5.0	Repair of Old Chairs	2.1
Commercial Dishwasher	3.5	Other*	3.6
Commercial Refrigerator	4.0		
		Total Spent to Date	<b>\$59.6</b>

\*Sound system, Health Dept. & other fees, side tables, whiteboards, etc,

We were very lucky that according to the lease, IFES bore the bulk of the construction costs. And we are extremely grateful that Duane Coleman volunteered innumerable hours overseeing the construction costs like a hawk, saving both the Unit and the IFES many thousands of dollars.

## FOUNDERS FOR THE FUTURE - TOTAL DONATIONS \$36,350

### Grand Life Masters (\$5,000+)

Larry Mohr, An Enthusiastic Beginner

### Platinum Life Masters (\$1,000+)

Barbara Sonsini, Brian & Jan Samuels, Trina Bowman, Anonymous (2)

### Emerald Life Masters \$500+

Kathy Harper, Narita Gupta, Serl Zimmerman & Steve Lipson, Kathy Shaw, Jean Flocks, Ginny Strock, Judy Vadasz, Marge Yates, Anonymous (2)

### Diamond Life Masters (\$200+)

Lois Poole, Keith & Carol Burnett, Bob Horowitz, Hamish Bennett, George Paris, Dave Bernstein, Leslie Kelly, Mary & Tom Randolph, Joan Bower, Denise Pitch, Joe Foster, Gertrude Musey, Chuck Lane, Ron Karr, Reginald & Alice Rice, Anonymous (4)

### Gold Life Masters (\$100+)

Bev Nuding, Dave Crosley, Fran Bennett, Kathleen Kelly, Randee Palmer, Vijesh V. Iyer, Charles Weiler, Diane Kelley, Sue Griswold, Susana & Irving Krulevitch, Vera Howard, Harriel Shea, Paul Adriani, Ginger Tanner, Adrienne Oliff, Jean Brandon, Margot Livenspargar, Don Lowry, K Ry Smith & Sue Smith, Steve Barasch, Joyce Sogg, Merle Orelove & Alan Polish, Annette Bialson, Bette Hirsch, Eugene & Barbara Kates, Bonnie Janzen, Lillian Dubinsky, Mary Maclellan, Grant & Lori Spaeth, Peter & Diane Dollinger, Jim O'Neill, Elinor Tanck, Garth & Maggie Wilson, Jim & Helen Tseng, Beth Cowell, Mary Linda Cook, Todd & Susan Mackler, Anonymous (4)

### Silver Life Masters (\$25+)

Ralf Singer, Alice Arnold, Barbara Shukov, Richard Pollak, Gabrielle Pani, Tim & Kip Kado, Cecile Naar, Euo Menezes, Drew & Lolly Donovan, John & Catherine Fisher, Dick & Carolyn Treakle, Kathryn Kranen, Connie Sue Kaupp, Helen Corbin, Fred Herzer, Jennifer Sheppard, Janice Nakao, Audrey Brodie, Shirley Cooper, Roger & Nancy Passal



# 2012 FIRECRACKER SECTIONAL



Palo Alto Unit 503

**DATE CHANGE June 27 – July 1, 2012**

**Santa Clara Convention Center  
5001 Great America Parkway**

## Wednesday, June 27

Compact Knockouts, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4  
Stratified Open Pairs, single session  
199er Pairs, single session  
49er Pairs, single session  
Stratified Swiss Teams

1:00 PM  
1:00 PM  
1:00 PM  
1:00 PM

7:00 PM  
7:00 PM  
7:00 PM  
7:00 PM  
7:00 PM

## Thursday, June 28

Compact Knockouts, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4  
Stratified Open Pairs, single session  
199er Pairs, single session  
49er Pairs, single session  
Stratified Swiss Teams

1:00 PM  
1:00 PM  
1:00 PM  
1:00 PM

7:00 PM  
7:00 PM  
7:00 PM  
7:00 PM  
7:00 PM

## Friday, June 29

Compact Knockouts, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4  
Stratified Open Pairs, single session  
199er Pairs, single session  
49er Pairs, single session  
Stratified Swiss Teams

10:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
10:00 AM

3:00 PM  
3:00 PM  
3:00 PM  
3:00 PM  
3:00 PM

## Saturday, June 30

Compact Knockouts, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4  
Stratified Open Pairs, single session  
199er Pairs, single session  
49er Pairs, single session  
Stratified Swiss Teams

10:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
10:00 AM

3:00 PM  
3:00 PM  
3:00 PM  
3:00 PM  
3:00 PM

## Sunday, July 1

Strati-Flighted Open Swiss, two sessions  
Stratified Open Pairs, single/double session  
199er Swiss Teams, two sessions  
49er Pairs, single session

10:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
10:00 AM

& TBA  
2:30 PM  
& TBA  
2:30 PM

**\$109 Special Rate**  
at the adjacent  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**  
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May 26, 2012

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<https://resweb.nasskey.com/go/pabr2012>

**Tournament Chairs**  
Steve Barasch  
(408) 732-6663  
Email: baraschl@ix.netcom.com,  
or  
Allen Wolman  
(650) 967-2220  
Email: allenwolman@sbcglobal.net

**Partnership**  
Carolyn Chaney  
650-400-4646  
cchaney@sfsu.edu

STRATIFIED EVENTS		STRATIFIED-FLIGHTED EVENTS			I/N EVENTS (as needed)				
A	2000+	A	3000+	B	1000-2000	D	100-200	G	5-20
B	500-2000	X	0-3000	C	500-1000	E	50-100	H	0-5
C	0-500			D	0-500	F	0-50		

**FEES: \$10 per session for paid ACBL members; \$11 for others**

# THE LADY IS A CHAMP

BY TODD MACKLER

She likes her bridge game and never comes late,  
 But gets too sleepy to start bridge at 8;  
 She'd never bother with partners she'd hate;  
 That's why the Lady is a Champ.

Doesn't like crap games, or bingo, or darts;  
 Won't go to Frisco for shopping with carts;  
 Will bid to game in no trump or hearts;  
 That's why the Lady is a Champ.

She'll have no bridge games with sharpies and frauds,  
 And won't go to Bridge Club in Lincolns or Fords;  
 Won't play with people who don't count their cards;  
 That's why the Lady is a Champ.

She'll take the bold brave try for the game  
 Bridge without shame,  
 5 clubs, no flubs,  
 Counts all her cards by sun or by lamp;  
 That's why the Lady is a Champ.

JCC on Monday, the seating is fine;  
 Fridays at Bridge Club, the game starts at 9;  
 Wednesdays at Unity will still let her dine;  
 That's why the Lady is a Champ.

She likes conventions that aren't a fake  
 She thinks finesses are a piece of cake;  
 She plays at Unity and stays wide awake;  
 That's why the Lady is a Champ.

She likes the green felt under her cards,  
 She can not lose.  
 She's great, that's fate,  
 A new club master is now her new state;  
 That's why the Lady is a Champ.

**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, June 5 at 3:45 p.m. at the  
 Bridge Center

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Vera Baum, Diane Boyden, Robert Boyden, Carolle Carter, Nelson Chi, Carol Crites, Natalie Elefant, Lela Hunter, Karen Johnston, Pak-Hin Lee, Raghu Murthy, Xuancheng Shao, Cathy Spieker, Lois Cardinal, Michael Harrison, Charles Jameson, Elizabeth Lagorce and Kathryn Papermaster.

## PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

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

Junior Master	5 MP	Patricia Berkley, Leonard Friedman, Kathryn Kranen, Renee Koury, Beth Lyon
Club Master	20 MP	JoAnne Robertson, Michael Chin, Ruby Chow, Carol Clewans
Sectional Master	50 MP	Sue Bockmann, Patricia Jarman, Warren Goodnow, Marleen Zwiers
NABC Master	200 MP	Minnette Diamond
Life Master	300 MP	Lynn Giusti
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Han-Yu Chang
Silver Life Master	1000 MP	Florence Yoshikawa

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	TBD	TBD	11:00 a.m.	TBD	Bridge Center
	TBD	Open/Strat.	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	see www.paloaltobridge.com.
	Monday Morning JCC	<50,<200	11.00 a.m.	John Schwartz	see www.paloaltobridge.com
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
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
	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
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

- \* Sectional, Friday, May 18 at Bridge Ctr. ,Monterey
- \* NLM/500 Sectional, May 19 at Bridge-4-Fun, Reno
- \* Sectional, Friday, May 25 at Elks Lodge, Walnut Creek
- \* Regional, Monday, May 28 at Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento
- \* Unit Lecture, Tuesday, May 29 at 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- \* 199er Unit Swiss teams, Monday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- \* Club Champ., Wednesday, June 6 at 11 a.m., Bridge 'n Brunch
- \* Club Champ., upgraded Wed, June 6 at 7 p.m. Doubleton BC **sign-up required**
- \* Sectional, Saturday, June 9 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr., San Francisco
- \* Unit lecture, Tuesday, June 12 at 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- \* Sectional, Friday, June 15 at Holy Redeemer Ctr, Oakland
- \* Lecture and Mentee game, Sat. June 23 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- \* Membership meeting, Sunday, June 24 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- \* Unit Open and 299er pairs, Sunday, June 24 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center

### PALO ALTO FIRECRACKER SECTIONAL

**Wednesday June 27-Sunday July 1, Convention Center, Santa Clara**

#### Club Contacts

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 Walter Miller (510) 839-5929  
 John Prior (408) 745-0380  
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 Lori Spaeth (650) 906-3987  
 Will Watson (650) 804-1731

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[unit503@paloaltobridge.com](mailto:unit503@paloaltobridge.com)

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

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