

FEBRUARY ISSUE



♥ Bring Your Love to the Game you Love ♥
Come to the Unit Pairs Game Sunday, February 10
and have a Happy Valentine's Day

Have you asked your partner, "Will you be My Valentine?" Make sure that you treat your partner as you would treat your Valentine with a pleasant attitude at the bridge table. Players will have an opportunity to celebrate their love for bridge at the Unit Open and 199er Pairs Game on Sunday, February 10. Wear your heart on your sleeve and bring a smile on your face. Is it possible to love something more than bridge? Yes, probably your sweet tooth will enjoy the special Valen-

tine snacks your Unit chairs, Bev Nuding and Nancy Kehl, will have ready for you.

The 199ers who like Swiss teams will be playing on Monday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m. There is an optional sign-up on the Unit web site. Unless the 49ers are playing, we are certain the 199ers will have spent Sunday updating their bridge skills, rather than cheering the Super Bowl teams.

'Twas the Season to Be Jolly

The Unit players had lots to cheer about at the annual Holiday Party featuring bridge and dinner on Sunday, December 16 at the Bridge Center. The efforts of Bev Nuding in taking reservations, contacting volunteers and making the catered dinner arrangements with Ming's assured an enjoyable event for all the players. Each player also brought holiday cheer to the community with a toy donation.

There were special holiday smiles on the faces of the players who scored victories in the 29-table open and the 10-table 199er flights. The top scores in the open game in A went to Harriel Shea and David Gambelin, in B to Polly Siegel and Ronald

Karr and in C to Elan Winkler and Jim Harris. Those with winning records in the 199ers went to Marge and Tom Chatfield first in A, B and C who tied with Lori Mirek and Ken Perlowski for first in A and B.

Of course, Bev Nuding had lots of elves to lend a hand with the party. Thanks go to director Will Watson, to Nancy Kehl for decorations, to Kevin O'Leary and Brian Samuels for toy delivery to the Mountain View Community Services and to those who stayed afterwards to help with clean-up: Nancy Kehl, Paul Davis, Kevin O'Leary and Elinor Tanck.

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

POLLY SIEGEL WINS GOING AWAY

Before the Unit Holiday party game, Polly Seigel and Sigmund Malek were in a virtual tie for the lead in the Winners Trophy Race with Franklin Gonzalez very close behind. But Polly surged to the front with 5.21 points earned in the December Unit game. For the non-Life Masters with under 300 points, Andrew Dentai had the highest total with 8.9 points and Devesh Goyal was second with a score of 5.7. Trophy

chair, Steve Barasch, has announced the standings for the 2012 Unit Winners Trophy for the most points scored in the 2012 Unit games: Poly Siegel-17.2 points, Sigmund Malek-12.2, Franklin Gonzalez-11.8, Tahir Gokcen-10.8, Andrew Dentai-8.9, Ron Karr-8.4, Betsy Steele-8.1, Henryk Szejnwald-7.1, Randy Ryals-6.4 and Marge Yates-6.4

LEARNING GAME ANNOUNCES NEW FORMAT

On Saturday, February 9, beginning at 9 a.m., the Learning Game will introduce the Celebrity Series with Jerry Helms featured via the Internet for the first of six sessions. He is one of the top bridge teachers in the world. His topic will cover "How to play in No Trump Contracts" in three sessions interspersed with three practice sessions, with mentors at each table.

The fee is \$50 for all six sessions or \$10 drop-in. To date, 37 players have enrolled. For more information contact Valerie Baldwin at unit503mentor@gmail.com or call 650-851-7810. Fliers with dates and further information are available at club games and on the web site.

ENTHUSIASTIC, HEART-WARMING SUPPORT FOR SECOND HARVEST AND FOR CHRISTMAS TOY DONATIONS

Our Unit showed generous support in 2012 for many hungry young people and seniors in our communities with its response to our Second Harvest food and cash drive: "Nothing Else Matters When You Are Hungry". At the Firecracker Sectional our Unit and San Mateo's Unit 498 together donated \$12,670 (including a 1/1 match) and nine barrels of food. Our Holiday campaign (without San Mateo) netted \$2,495 plus four barrels of food. Hearty thanks to every generous donor!

And let's not forget that mountain of toys that Kevin O'Leary and Brian Samuels delivered just down Stierlin to the Community Service Center after our big Holiday party. Those eight oversized bags stuffed full came from you kind people and will be enjoyed for many months by large numbers of area children. Good thing those guys have sturdy muscles!

UNIT NEWS

Alpine BC - On Tuesday, January 29 at noon, the Alpine BC, as its name implies, will feature the highest level of competition with an Inter-club Championship for both the open and under 300 flights. Because San Jose and Santa Cruz clubs will play the same hands, the overall masterpoint awards will be quite high.

Doubleton Club - Bridge players will be able to earn extra masterpoints and show they care at a charity game for the Sandy hurricane relief fund on Wednesday January 23.

Board Meeting Change - The date of the Board meeting is now the first Thursday of the month. As usual, all members are welcome.

Learning Game - The February 2 session will conclude the Beverly Seagram's, "25 Conventions You should Know." The mentees will learn how to avoid troubles with doubles with a lesson on, "Responsive and Lead-directing Doubles." On Saturday, February 9, Jerry Helms will give the first workshop session on playing NT contracts. (See article on page 2.)

Defend Like a Pro - Debbie Rosenberg will offer her very popular class on defense again beginning at the end of January. See the website for details.

Unit Lectures - Sue Johnston will give guidance to players on "Leads, Signals and Tactics" for the next two sessions, scheduled on Tuesday, January 22 and February 12.

Big Games - Jim O'Neil and John Schoenbrun had a 70.24 game on Tuesday, December 11th. Then Harriet Shea and David Gambelin had a 70.14% game on December 28th.

Library - One of our favorite authors, Larry Cohen, has created a workbook called *Larry Teaches 2 Over 1 Game Forcing*. He feels that

this is a superior and easier system compared to "standard" bridge. For those of you anxious to learn this system, check this book out from our Unit library. The library has also acquired a recently published book, *It's All in the Game*, by Bob Ewen and Jeff Rubens. These authors bring us some of the funniest bridge stories every collected. According to bridgeworld.com, the bridge discussions are "top-notch."

Please return any overdue library books. If you want to take out a book, fill out the check-out slip that is located in one of the bookcases. There are four bookcases with the one on the far left a free exchange library. The top shelf of this bookcase often has duplicate bridge books that you are free to take and keep. The books in the other three bookcases can be borrowed for a month.

Updated Directory - In February, Barbara Shukov plans to distribute "The Palo Alto Members and Friends Directory," which will be free to all Unit members.

SYMPATHY

The Unit Board and members extend their condolences to the family and friends of Unit member Chuck McGorvin whose wife recently passed away and to Teddi Kridl, who is a frequent attendee at the Club. Her husband, Andy Kridl, a former Unit member, also passed away recently.

2012 UNIT MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

BY ELINOR TANCK

The membership is now 968, up by three in the annual October ACBL roster. This change differs significantly from the 7.1% membership increase reported for the October 2011 roster. The ACBL October 2012 QUIP reports the following information: In the last 12 months, the active membership increased 0.3%; the new membership gains were 6.4% and the member losses 5.8%. In all these categories, the Unit ranked 10th, among the 22 units in District 21. The report listed the average member age as 69 and the average years of ACBL membership at 16.

The large increase in the Unit's total masterpoints is the result of the transfer of Hamish Bennett into the Unit. Hamish's 25,446 points tops the list, followed by G. Venkatesh, Malcom McLaughlin, Hansa Narasimhan and Gary Macgregor. Randy Rhody is the member at the median and Hugh Dubb is closest to the average masterpoints.

Each October the ACBL issues a Unit membership Excel spreadsheet which is the source of the information in this article and the table below. Note the consistency in the percentage of the residency data.

	2012	2011	MP Total	2012	2011
Members	968	965			
Juniors (<20MP)	283	301	0-1	115	110
Life Masters	310	302	1-5	52	74
Highest MP	25,446	8265	5-10	49	48
Median MP	106	101	10-20	67	69
Average MP	576	516	20-50	96	86
Total MP	558,052	496,975	50-100	95	93
			100-300	146	149
Unit Residence	566 (59%)	565 (59%)	300-500	84	76
Santa Clara Unit	142 (15%)	140 (15%)	500-1000	113	118
San Mateo Unit	233 (24%)	238 (25%)	1-2.5K	98	94
Other D-21	18 (2%)	14 (1%)	2.5-5K	39	38
Outside D-21	6 (0.6%)	5 (0.5%)	5K+	14	10
Unlisted		3			

LEE HAZE

JOINS UNIT BOARD

Due to increased work demands and having started a new company, Henryk Szejnwald has decided to resign from our Board of Directors. We thank Henryk for his service to our Unit. According to Article VIII, (F) of our By-Laws, whenever there is a vacancy on the Board, the Board shall select a replacement to serve out the remainder of the vacated Board Member's term. The Board decided to select the new Board member from among those who volunteered to run for the Board in our recent election. Accordingly, the Board has chosen Lee Haze to serve out the last year of Henryk's term. Lee has enthusiastically accepted this new responsibility and will attend the next Board meeting. Please welcome Lee to the Board.

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Brian Samuels, President
 Valerie Baldwin, Vice-President
 Margot Livenspargar, Secretary
 Todd Makler, Treasurer
 Steve Barasch, Sue Barkley, Sue Griswold, Lee Haze, Bob Horowitz, Kevin O'Leary, James Stuart-Smith

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 7 at 4:00 p.m. at the
 Bridge Center
 All are invited to attend.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ Beginning Thursday, February 21 and
 ★ lasting twelve weeks from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
 ★an Intermediate One class focuses on
 ★ both bidding and play of the hand. Instruc-
 ★ tor is our own Frank Smoot.
 ★ Subjects covered include Opener’s Rebid,
 ★ Opener’s Third Bid, Overcalls, Takeout Dou-
 ★ bles, Preemptive Bidding, Negative Doubles,
 ★ Notrump Play Technique, Suit Play Tech-
 ★ nique, Card Combinations, Odds, Notrump
 ★ Leads and Strategy, Suit Leads and Strategy.
 ★ Whew! All of that for just \$200.
 ★ Run, don’t walk, to contact Lori at
 ★ lespaeth@gmail.com or (650) 906-3987. Or,
 ★ you can sign up online at our web site.
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

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

Junior Master	5 MP	William Dalton, James Lipe, Chris Lopez, Kate Walters
Club Master	20 MP	Donald Cohn, Joanne Matthews, Lori Mirek, Ken Pelowski, Ann Trueheart, Norman Rosenstock, Hide Tanigami, Judy Tanigami
Regional Master	100 MP	Diane Weissman
NABC Master	200 MP	Carol-Ann Ackerman, Dan Thatte
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Dori Foster, James Harris, Barbara Shukov

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Marjorie Chatfield, Peter Coebergh, Jeffery Grotenhuis, Roy Grady, Anne Hannigan, Barbara Jones, Philip Lowe, Manuela Marani, Annette Rappleyea, Jerome Robertson, David Torin, Helga Usher & Dave Wasmuth.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Wayne was talking to a doctor about his bridge partner. "Doctor, I think my bridge partner is deaf because she never hears my bid and I always have to repeat things. Can you help her?"

"Well," the doctor replied, "the next time you play bridge, bid normally. If she doesn't reply, say it louder and louder. Keep doing this so that we'll get an idea about the severity of her deafness."

Sure enough, the next time they played bridge, Wayne did exactly as instructed. He started off saying "One Spade." Hearing no response, he said it louder "ONE SPADE." Still no reply. And again "**ONE SPADE!**" Fed up, he screamed at the top of his voice "**SHERYL! I'M BIDDING ONE SPADE!!!**"

Sheryl picked up a pen and wrote down, "For the fourth time, One No Trump."

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

- 199er Unit Swiss Teams Mon. Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Lecture, Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 9:45 a.m., Bridge Center
- Charity Game, Wednesday, Jan 23 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC
- Sectional, Saturday, Jan. 26 at Alameda Co Fairgrds, Pleasanton
- Unit Swiss Teams, Open and 199er, Jan. 27 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Interclub Championship, Tuesday, Jan. 29 at noon, Alpine BC
- Learning Game, Saturday, Feb. 2 at 9 a.m., Bridge Center
- 199er Swiss Teams, Monday, Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Thursday, Feb.7 at Bridge Center, Fresno
- Learning Game starts Saturday, Feb 9 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Pairs, Open and 199er, Sunday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. Bridge Center
- Unit lecture, Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 9:45 p.m., Bridge Center
- Regional, Tuesday, Feb.12 at Double Tree Hotel, Sacramento
- Sectional, Saturday, Feb. 23 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr, San Francisco

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