

THANKSGIVING ISSUE

KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League Vol. LI, Issue II, December, 2014



Happy Thanksgiving to All!



ELINOR JOSEPHINE TANCK

SEPTEMBER 25, 1936—OCTOBER 24, 2014



Our bridge club lost a valued member on Friday, October 24, when Elinor Tanck passed away suddenly. Editor of the *Kibitzer*, Elinor knew all the history of our Unit and, on the rare occasion when she didn't remember a detail, she knew where to find it. For example,

during our negotiations for our new building, she located the original charter from among her reams and reams of historical documents. She knew every important date—for the elections process, membership meetings etc. and always ensured that we met

our deadlines. Elinor attended nearly all our Board meetings for 40 or 50 years; according to president Brian Samuels, she never missed a meeting in his two terms and she reminded the Board of major milestones and traditions during the year. She made sure not only that deadlines were met, our holiday party was scheduled, elections were announced in the *Kibitzer*, but she also handled a host of other details. Clearly, we have lost our irreplaceable Unit historian.

Our newsletter, first published in July of 1963, opened with a contest to name the new publication. The next month, *the Kibitzer* appeared. Elinor joined the staff as Associate Editor in May of 1972 and in October she published a bridge acrostic for the readers' pleasure. She became editor with the retirement of Jerry Smith in January of 1991.

Elinor became active in SiVY, our youth bridge program, and, it is said, she rarely said "no" to any-

Don't forget our Unit Potluck/Pairs game on Nov. 23. The Unit asks that according to your last name, you bring: A-F salad, G-L appetizer, L-R side dish, S-Z dessert. The Unit provides ham. And please do sign up on the website. Eats at noon, game at 1. We'll need cleanup help afterwards....please!

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

REMEMBERING ELINOR TANCK, CONT.

BY CAROLYN CHANEY



thing asked of her. She volunteered at youth events, always bringing fruit and vegetables (after researching where to find the best strawberries). She became the Program Operations Manager, keeping track of all the materials needed for youth bridge. On the day of her death, she

called Sue G., saying that she wasn't feeling well but that the kids' name tags were ready and under her door mat. As always, Elinor completed her responsibilities by the deadline.

Elinor will be remembered by her partners and friends in our Unit. Kathie Shaw is grateful for all the deals Elinor sent her from Vu-Bridge for use with youth, "but they helped my play, too." Gene Drew recalls her "so enthusiastic" and says she would faithfully read the bridge column in the N.Y.

Times and bring in unusual hands to share. Long-time (23 years!) partner, Carla Davis, remembers how Elinor grew into a steady and reliable player for whom bridge was her first love (with the *Kibitzer* and tennis tied for second place).

Elinor Tanck (the only person in the U.S. by that name according to search engines) was born in San Francisco and spent her early years in Bolinas. At age eight her family moved to Long Island, N.Y. She earned a Master's Degree in chemistry, had a career as a polymer chemist, and earned a patent for a polymer used in ink jet printing. After relocating back to the S.F. Peninsula, she was active in the Catholic Alumni Association, her church and the Los Altos Tennis Club. Elinor loved to travel and to get together with family and friends, including her sister, Margaret of Oakland, her brother Henry of New York and sister Dorothy of Mexico City.

Sue Griswold says, "She was an amazing person, and I don't think any of us can even begin to know in how many ways Unit 503 and her friends here will miss her."

DON'T MISS OUR UNIT HOLIDAY PARTY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

It's a tradition! Chef Chu will cater our Christmas party, delivering dinner to coincide with the (pairs) game's end. Before the game begins, we will pay a tribute to Elinor Tanck. The Board has voted to honor her annually at a game for some time to come. This is a Charity Pairs Game, which means the Unit will donate financially to the Second Harvest Food Bank and Community Service rather than requesting toy contributions from you. Don't forget to reserve a space — we'll need to know how many we're feeding. And cleanup help afterwards is gently requested. There's a \$12 fee for this game and if you need a partner, sign up anyway. See you there!

GREAT WESTERN HOLIDAY XXIII STAC IS AROUND THE CORNER

We'll have a super Happy Holiday the week of Monday, December 8 through Sunday, December 14 during the 23rd Holiday STAC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs). The STAC is a sectional tournament played simultaneously across Districts 17, 20, 21 (ours) and 22; we can win lots of SILVER points, because we are competing against many players, while playing in our home club comfort. STAC results with hand records are available nightly on our web site, paloalto.bridge.com and at Contract-BridgeForum.com by clicking on the STAC logo. All clubs will hold a STAC. Bring an extra \$1.50 to cover extra ACBL fees for the STAC games.

UNIT NEWS

Kibitzer on your Computer—it's better in color!

Receive your *Kibitzer* electronically by sending your email to kelly.marian@gmail.com and she will add your name to our distribution list.

Big Games (> 70%)—So many last month! 10/2, JCC, Joan Erickson-Judy Goodnow, 74%; 10/3, EZ Game, Sandra Merrill-Margie Greenwald, 72.7%; 10/07, Alpine, Merri Banks-Eugene Acton, 73.3%; 10/14, Alpine, Gertrude Duffie-Betty Robinson, 71.9%; 10/14, ViDBC, Phoebe Korn-Beverly Ginsberg, 70.0%; 10/21, ViDBC, Beverly Ginsberg-Laverne Welch, 71.1%; 10/22, Doubleton Club, Patrick Miller-Gregory Ciurczak, 70.2%; 10/25, ViDBC, Beverly Ginsberg-Belle Bestor, 73.7%; 10/28, ViDBC, Beverly Ginsberg-Phoebe Korn, 71.2%; Friday Night, Ronald Powell-Robin Booth, 71.3%.

Only one word for this....WOW!

Changes to Friday's TGIF Game -Welcome to new co-owner Paul Davis, who will be partnering with Kevin O'Leary in the Non-Life Master and open games. When you see him wearing his "director-in-training" name badge give him a congratulatory salute. Until Paul gets his director's hat, John Schwartz will be helping out. Have no fear, Kevin continues to uphold Claire's tradition by bringing us a yummy lunch. And the EZ Bridge game is unchanged. Oh, and beware: TGIF will be closed the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Another Friday Game Change— Kevin is asking whether players who attend the Friday game would like to change the 10:30 start time to 11 or to noon or keep it as is. Let him know your preference (olearybridge@gmail.com).

February Classes—For Advanced Intermediate players, Frank Smoot will tackle Bidding (balancing, bidding over 1NT), Declarer play (squeezes, throw-ins, trump endings), and Defense (card combinations, win or duck?). If you are ready for the next step, join Frank on Thursday nights. Kathy Harper will be offering her Beginning and Basic Intermediate classes beginning in March. Sign up for any class paloaltobridge.com/education/classes/classes.html.

Score Sheet - Improve your game by recording your bidding, opening lead (after the bidding is

over) and score for each board. Compare your scores with others on our website and discuss the hands with partner. Alan Cummings created this score sheet and uses it regularly. Find it at paloalto-bridge.com/players/misc/miscellaneous/html.

Second Harvest Food Bank—Please help our Unit support this worthy local charity. The holidays are upon us; many members of our community have difficulty celebrating Thanksgiving/ Christmas/ Hanukkah because of a lack of food and/or funds. It's easy to help. Leave non-perishable foodstuffs in our barrels and/or donate with cash or a check. Thank you for being generous.

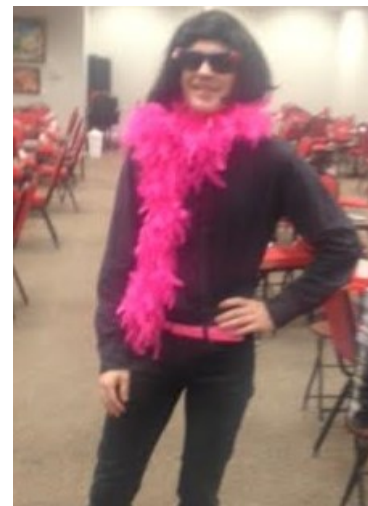
New Kibitzer Editor—Kudos to Carolyn Chaney, who has graciously offered to be the new co-editor of the *Kibitzer*. Carolyn will be contacting directors and others to solicit material for the *Kibitzer*.

Lost/Found - Lost a sweater or jacket? Be sure to check out the Lost & Found rack in the hall beside the kitchen. The word is that all will go to charity during the closure for the President's Day Regional.

Kantar Lecture a Huge Success - Thanks to Val Baldwin for organizing the fabulous event on Saturday 11/8 featuring Eddie Kantar. Kantar thrilled his audience of about 190 players with interesting bridge stories, problems to work out and amusing jokes such as: Helen Sobel, who owned bushels of masterpoints, always played with Charles Goren. When asked how it feels to be playing with an expert, she replied, "Ask Charlie." Stay tuned for info on our next celebrity lecture with Larry Cohen.

On Halloween—

Actually, this suave fellow attended the Friday game, not Lori and Sue's evening party. Nevertheless it's not quite a regulation bridge game outfit, don't you agree?



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 INFO
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
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
		<100, <500 MP	11:30 a.m.	Saunders	Bridge Center.
WED.	Bridge 'n Brunch	Open/Strat.	11:00 a.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
	Wed Aft. 99er	<100 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
	TGIF AM Bridge	Open/Strat./	10:30 a.m.	O'Leary, Davis,	Bridge Center
		NLM	10:30 a.m.	Schwartz	
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:30 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
	Friday Night Barometer <500 MP		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.	Will Watson	Bridge Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ◆ Unit lecture, Sue Johnston Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- ◆ Unit Pairs Game. Open/299er Unit Pairs, Sunday, Nov. 23. Pot-Luck at noon, Game at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- ◆ Unit Lecture, Jim Leuker, Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 9:30 a.m. , Bridge Center
- ◆ Great Western Holiday STAC XXIII, Monday, Dec. 8—Sunday, Dec. 14, all games
- ◆ NAP Pairs, Limited Masterpoints Game, Sunday, Dec. 14, Bridge Center
- ◆ SiVY Holiday Party, Pairs, Pizza, and Bridge, Friday, Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. Bridge Center
- ◆ Unit Holiday Party, Sunday, Dec. 21. Open and 299er Pairs game at 1 p.m., dinner from Chef Chu's at 4:00, Bridge Center
- ◆ At Walter's Unity Church Games Dec. 30 & 31, both **Club Championships**
- ◆ Sacramento Winter Sectional, Fri. Dec 5—Sun Dec. 7
- ◆ Monterey Clambake Regional, January 5—11, 2015

Club Closings

Wednesday, Nov. 26, Walter's Wednesday game and Doubleton Club

Thursday, Nov. 27 Thanksgiving, all games closed.

Friday, Nov. 28 – EZ Bridge, TGIF Bridge, Friday Night Barometer

Dec. 24, Walter's Wednesday game

Dec. 26, EZ Game and TGIF AM Bridge

Please Note: This may not be a complete list of holiday closings.

Check with your director to be sure.

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