



It's SWISS TIME AGAIN MONDAY, JANUARY 6 & SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Let it snow! The skiers are ready and so are the bridge players. The Swiss are back. Attention 499ers! There's a Unit Swiss just for you on Monday, January 6 at 6 p.m. at the Bridge Center. Come for the fun of team play. You can sign up on the Unit website.

Sunday, January 19 at the Bridge Center starting at 1 p.m., the Unit Open and 199er Team game will feature a Swiss for everyone. Please sign up on the web site, but there also will be a list at the Bridge Center. You'll find dessert and other goodies, maybe even cheese to celebrate the return of the Swiss.

The winners in the 16 1/2 Unit Pairs game on Sunday, November 24 were: in A, Richard and Jody Williams; in B, Kevin Rosenberg-Gabrielle Sherman, Devesh Goyal-Reddy Raju (tie). The team of Scott Maa-Akiko Murakami-Wendy Benveniste-Virginia Wailes won over two other teams at the December 2 Monday Night Swiss. Thanks go to Will Watson for directing on Sunday and to Brian and Jan Samuels, who stepped in for Bob Horowitz, for fruit, desserts and snacks. Thanks also goes to another pinch hitter, Kevin O'Leary who directed the Monday Night Swiss.

UNIT NAMES SERVICE AND SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDEES

This year the Unit's annual awards for Service and Sportsmanship go to Valerie Baldwin and Kevin O'Leary respectively. The recognition is for qualities above and beyond their bridge playing skills. The member who receives the sportsmanship award is one who exhibits ethical, friendly and gracious manners at the bridge table, demonstrating that keen competition should be pleasurable; and exemplary conduct in serving the best interests of duplicate bridge and its

players. The service award is for a member who has given time, effort and dedication to the Unit's interests.

Steve Barasch announced the winners at the Unit Holiday Party on Sunday, December 15. The Unit thanks him and his committee, Marian Kelly and Sue Griswold, for the time and thought they gave in making their decisions.

FOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Hearty congratulations to our new Board members, Leslie Altick, James Harris, Kevin O'Leary and Jody Williams! There were a total of 49 valid ballots received in the election. At the Unit Game on November 24, election chair Roy Robinson announced the results and introduced the new members.

These enthusiastic new members replace our retiring regulars, Sue Barclay, Steve Barasch, Sue Griswold, Lee Haze and Margot Livenspargar, to whom the entire Unit extends heartfelt thanks for their loyal service.

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

GUPTA WINS BAZE SENIOR KO TEAMS

The team captained by Vinita Gupta took the lead at the halfway point of the Baze Senior Knock-out Teams at the recent Phoenix Nationals, then put the match away with a 57-1 third quarter on the way to a 156-81 victory over the Carolyn Lynch squad.

Vinita, of Woodside CA, played with Billy Miller, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Lew Stansby and Bart Bramley. With the win, Miller became a Grand Life Master.

Lynch's teammates were Mike Passell, Garey Hayden, Cezary Balicki and Adam Zmudzinski. Lynch won the first quarter 42-23, but Gupta, the original No. 3 seed, outscored Lynch 60-24 in the second set to grab an 83-66 lead. The big third quarter was too much for Lynch to overcome, although

the runners-up scored the first 24 IMPs of the final 16 boards before Gupta tacked on a late slam swing to put it out of reach.

Vinita's win was her first North American championship after only three years of playing what she describes as "serious tournament bridge."

She is the founder and was the head of Digital Link Corp. in Sunnyvale CA (Silicon Valley). She retired eight years ago and, with coaching and mentoring by Miller, has made her mark in high-level competition. Her team was second in the Senior KO last year in San Francisco.

Next on her agenda is "working hard toward bigger and better goals."

Reprinted from www.acbl.org

TIS THE SEASON

BY TODD MAKLER

YES, IT'S TRUE....WE RAN THIS LAST YEAR, BUT IT'S SO TIMELY...

I'm giving up bridge, tonight's my last night,
It's Amen to Stayman; I give up the fight.
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles
And I can't sleep at night for thinking of doubles.

My cards are all rotten and I have forgotten
Who's played and what's trumps and what's gone on
my right!

So for now it's all over - I'm off to the back wood
I'm bidding good-bye to Gerber and Blackwood.

I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.
So I'm giving up bridge - tonight's a bad night
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.

My partner's a dope and I'm losing all hope
And when he/she says "double", I know we're in
trouble.

My points are not high and I'm wondering why
He/she kept bidding right up to the sky.

We're in seven spades and all my hope fades
When surprise, surprise, the high bidding pays!
We're winning all tricks, the defenders feel sick,
And I have to admit my partner's a brick.

But I'm giving up bridge- tonight's my last night
Farewell to conventions - I give up the fight!
So I leave with few words but some that are true,
Bridge is a game—not for me , but for you!

So be kind to your partners and don't mind their
cheek
For it's only a game - Oh! Yes, I'll see you next
week!!!!!!

BRIDGE NEWS

Kudos Korner—Oops, it's not here? Michelle's column will, in the future, appear on the Unit website.

Thanksgiving Food Drive—Chair Lothar Klatt reports that the Palo Alto Bridge Center players donated \$2925 plus one barrel of food for the Second Harvest Food Drive. We are very thankful to Lothar and to all of you who contributed allowing us to help so many disadvantaged folks.

BIG Games—Beverly Ginsberg and Laverne Welch had an incredible 78% game at the November 19 Vi DBC.

Lectures—On Tuesday, January 14 Cheryl Mandala, will give pointers on bridge improvement. On January 28, Lynn Yokel's subject is "Six Hands." She has designed them to challenge your ability to bid, interfere, preempt, select the right lead, plan and execute correct declarer play and or defense.

New Celebrity Series—features Ron Klinger who will give guidance on *Play of the Hand* including managing entries, ducking, etc. He is one of the world's leading authors and teachers. Because he is an Australian Grand Master, his programs will be presented via the internet. His first lecture is on January 18 with mentored play on January 25, 9:30-11:30 a.m. More details are available on flyers and on our website.

Mentors Needed! - We are delighted to have a large number of newer players but we need more mentors for them. Contact Chuck Lane (chucklane5@aol.com) or Pat Chambers, (650) 856-2101, if you'd be interested in becoming a mentor.

SiVY Bridge— The first nine programs are nearing the end of their first term offering lessons to aspiring players. On November 20, three of the programs held a MiniBridge tournament, giving the players a hint at what competitive play is like. The Gardner and Levin San Jose Boys and Girls Clubs and Los Gatos' RJ Fisher Middle School squared off enjoying a six table tournament, snacks, pizza, and prizes. The next event is the Holiday Party at 4 p.m. on December 20 at the Bridge Center. There will be a parent/child duplicate event on Friday, January 14 at 7:30

p.m. See siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org for more information.

DIRECTOR - If you've been thinking about becoming qualified to direct at clubs or on cruises, District 21 is offering a director's course (and director refresher course) prior to the March 3—9 tournament, on March 1 and 2. For more information email jmom380@yahoo.com . More details later.

2014 Firecracker -The dates are set for Wednesday-Sunday, June 25-30. For the latest info Chairman, James-Stuart Smith says look for the Palo Alto Firecracker Sectional flyer at the Monterey Regional in January.

Library—Our Unit library has acquired seven new books that are listed on the door of the bookcase. For *Winning Notrump Leads*, a book ranked third in Amazon's USA's Bridge Top 100 listing, David Bird and Taf Anthias spent over a year running computer simulations to determine why a particular lead worked better than others. Another new book is *Bridge at the Edge* by Boye Brogeland and David Bird. One of the world's best bridge players discusses bidding and card play, as well as his approach to the mental side of the game.

Director...y - The Palo Alto Members and Friends 2014 Directory, free to all Unit members, will issue in the spring. Make sure you are included and that your info is current. If changes are needed, contact Barbara Shukov, bshukov@pacbell.net, (650) 949-2410.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, Jan. 9

3:45 p.m. Bridge Center

Palo Alto Unit 503 Board

Leslie Altick, Valerie Baldwin, James Harris, Bob Horowitz, Todd Makler, Kevin O'Leary, Brian Samuels, James Stuart-Smith., Jody Williams

UNIT MEMBERSHIP ALMOST THERE

BY ELINOR TANCK

Our membership, at 989 as reported in the annual October ACBL roster, is inching toward the 1000 goal. This is an increase of 21, 2.2% above the 2012 membership. The ACBL October 2013 QUIP reports the following information: In the last 12 months, the active membership increased 2.2% and ranked 7 among 22 units in District 21; the new membership gains were 4.9%, ranked 16 and the member losses 3.1%, ranked 4. The report listed the average member age as 68 and the average years of ACBL membership at 16.

The members hold 563,099 total masterpoints. G. Vankatesh tops the list with 11,905, followed by Debbie Rosenberg, Hansa Narasimhan, Gary Macgregor and Jim O'Neil. Janice McCullough and Yumiko Kano are the members at the median and Barbara Varner is closest to the average in masterpoints.

Each October, the ACBL issues a Unit membership Excel spreadsheet which is the source of the information in this article and the tables at right. As in previous reports from the past several years, note the consistency in the percentage of the residency data.

Junior Master	5 MP	Carol Field, John Nicholson, Dave Wasmu
Club Master	20 MP	Leila Mattinger, Jerome Robertson
Sectional Master	50 MP	Theresa Iantosca, Peter Mork, Mary Savoie, Ann Trueheart
NABC Master	200 MP	Manda Thatte, Elan Winkler
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Carl Brunsting, Carolyn Chaney
Silver L.M.	1000 MP	Leslie Kelly

Unit Statistics	2013	2012
Number of Members	989	968
Number of Juniors <20 MP	261	283
Number of Life Masters	316	310
Highest MP total	11,905	35,446
Median MP Number	111	106
Average MP number	569	576
Total masterpoints	563,099	558,052

Members'	Residence	
Within Unit	573 (58%)	566 (59%)
In Santa Clara	145 (15%)	142 (15%)
In San Mateo	233 (24%)	233 (24%)
In Other D-21	25 (3%)	18 (2%)
Outside D-21	8 (1%)	6(0.6%)
Unlisted	3	3

Masterpoint MP Range	Statistics # of Members	
	2013	2012
1-5	69	52
5-10	38	49
10-20	53	67
20-50	112	96
50-100	103	95
100-300	156	146
300-500	82	84
500-1000	113	113
1K-2.5K	109	98
2.5K-5K	39	39
5K+	14	14

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The December ACBL report shows that the players identified at left have moved up. Congratulations to all!

PROFILE OF JACKIE BLAKE HOLMES

BY MARY VAN TAMELEN



We've all known her forever as Jackie Blake, but now she's become Jackie Holmes. The lucky groom is Fenwicke Holmes, a retired Brigadier General, who earned a Silver Cross for saving lives. Although "not *exactly* a honeymoon," they traveled in Europe in October.

Her new husband, whom she's known for ten years, is not a bridge

player, but Jackie's long connection with and enthusiasm for the game makes up for it. She's taught bridge for years, ten years on cruise ships and countless sessions in senior centers and night schools. She's even written a book about bridge, *Bridge at Your Fingertips*, which is in its third printing. Having sold more than 600 copies, many of its readers have gone on to become Life Masters. She's particularly proud of a chapter called "Don't," which she guarantees will make anyone a better player.

Jackie has played for money—and won. When she lived in Osaka, sailors on leave needed partners and with them she won a lot of tournaments. You wouldn't think it to look at this sweet lady, but she says she "loves to screw opponents."

Jackie was born in Shanghai. When she was four, her mother, who had lost a child, decided to move to the United States to the healthiest climate she could find. She chose Hollywood, so that's where Jackie grew up with fond memories of climbing walls and stealing loquats from Deanna Durbin's tree.

Jackie's mother was an avid bridge player, so it's not surprising Jackie took up bridge as a student at UCLA. Although she majored in art, she regrets to this day not taking education courses because Jackie feels she's a "born teacher."

However, the art led her to an interesting career as a brush painter. While living in Japan with her first husband, she studied brush painting with three different masters. Brush painting, which is done with single strokes of and no movement of the fingers, hand or wrist, is a difficult medium to master. Jackie taught it in the Bay Area for thirteen years and has even demonstrated the method on Channel 7, as well as giving a course on TV.

Her work, which includes art in all its forms and subjects, except portraits, has been shown in many venues, including three times at the Bridge Center.

While living in Japan, Jackie had three children, John, Jim, and Kathy. She also became the society editor of the *Japan Times*, the largest English-language newspaper in the Orient, including Hawaii. In that capacity, she interviewed many different people, including John Glenn and the king and queen of Thailand.

Her first marriage did not work out, however, and back in Hollywood, Jackie found herself a single mother with no money and was forced to work seven days and four nights every week. At that time, she says, she was really suffering from "low self-esteem, all mixed up, even engaged to two men at the same time." Fortunately, she married Julian Blake, a happy union that lasted ten years, until he died of Lou Gehrig's disease.

And now, as of September 18, she's entered another marriage. We wish her the very best.

NEWCOMERS

A warm welcome to new Palo Alto Unit 503 members: Armond Bigler, Connie Bowencamp, Nancy Critchfield, Dave Greenberg, Richard Provines and Rochelle Gutmann.

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
	EZ Bridge	<99 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
	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

- STAC, Monday, Dec. 16-Sunday, Dec. 22 at all clubs
- STAC Wed., Dec. 18 at 7 p.m., Doubleton BC, Sign-up required
- SiVY Pizza, Party, Play Bridge, Fri., Dec. 20 at 4 p.m., Bridge Center
- Club Champ., Tues. Dec. 31 at noon, Tues Noon BC
- Regional, Dec. 31-Jan. 5 at Hyatt Regency, Monterey
- Unit 499er Swiss Teams, Mon. Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Bridge Center
- SiVY Parent-Child Pairs, Fri. Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, January 11 at Janet Pomeroy Ctr., San Francisco
- Unit Lecture, Tues. January 14 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center
- Unit Open & 199er Swiss Teams, Sun. Jan. 19 at 1 p.m., Bridge Center
- Sectional, Saturday, January 25 at Christiansen Mid. Sch., Livermore
- Unit Lecture, Tues. January 28 at 9:30 a.m., Bridge Center

Club Closings

- Christmas Eve Dec. 24 – Alpine BC OPEN, Tuesday Noon BC closed
- Christmas Dec. 25 - Bridge 'n Brunch BC, Wed. Aft 99er BC, Doubleton BC

Seasons Greetings from the Kibitzer staff and contributors:

Elinor Tanck, Marian Kelly, Chris Veres Bunz, Lori Spaeth, Alan Templeton, John Hornback, Mary Ellen Barasch, Ed Barlow, Alan Cummings, Todd Makler, Michelle Musy, Roy Robinson, Debbie Rosenberg, Randy Ryals, Brian Samuels, Polly Siegel, Mukund Thapa and Mary Van Tamelen.

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
 John Williams (650) 254-1041

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

Unit 503 Web Address:
www.paloaltobridge.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