



KIBITZER



Newsletter of Palo Alto Unit 503 of the American Contract Bridge League

December, 2015, January, 2016

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Our annual Christmas party is a potluck this year and will be on **Sunday, December 20!** It's a Swiss Team Unit Game and also an opportunity to provide Christmas cheer to some needy families. As is our tradition, we will be collecting unwrapped toy donations and Second Harvest food donations. There is no charge for the game; we just ask for your donations.

The Unit will provide the main dish, which is ham. Please bring a dish of your choice, hors d'oeuvres, salad/vegetable, starch/pasta/side dish, or dessert. Nancy Kehl is in charge and you can expect Nancy's famed festive decorations for a colorful holiday atmosphere.

The feasting begins at noon and the bridge playing with both open and 199er sections begins at one.

This is always a popular event, so it is essential that you make a reservation. Otherwise chances are high that you will be turned away; we can accommodate only 48 teams. Please make your reservation on the web site.



ATTENTION, NON-LIFE MASTERS

We are hosting a NLM Sectional at the Bridge Center on January 30-31, 2016. Lots of silver points will be available from pair games on both days and Swiss team games on the 31st. Our trusty Will will direct. We still need a few more volunteers to help. Electronic signups before January 27th are required.

Alan Cummings (650) 619-6664,
alan.cummings@stanford.edu is in charge. Find more details on our web site.

YOUR OPINION, PLEASE

This Kibitzer is being emailed to everyone on our Unit email list. Your Board would like to be able to stop printing the Kibitzer and let *everyone* read it electronically. They are asking for your opinion about this potential change. Vote at the front table or by email to davepuryear@gmail.com.

Late Flash! We're going ahead with a 5-day Firecracker at the Bridge Center and the IFES Hall, June 29 through July 3. We want this to be a huge success, so we need your support....please both play often and volunteer! Find more information on our web site soon.

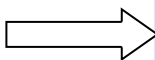
Unit Games: December Unit games are scheduled for Sunday, December 13 (pairs) and Sunday, December 20, both at 1:00 p.m. (See "Christmas Party", above.) As is customary, the pairs game will include a Mentor/Mentee section if enough pairs sign up. The Sunday game is a team game. Lunch precedes both games. No January Unit games are scheduled.

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

\$\$\$ AND MORE...

Thanks to everyone who gave input on budget decisions. We are happy to report that we have balanced the budget for 2016. We took three major steps to make this happen:

1. The feedback on having a pot luck for the Christmas party was so favorable that we decided to do it for both 2015 and 2016 for a savings of \$2800 per year. For 2015, Nancy Kehl will organize volunteers to provide side dishes and the Unit will provide the main course. Nancy does a terrific job and we hope you will give her a lot of support.
2. Valerie Baldwin has lined up a weekend with Barbara Seagram as our second guest speaker, which should contribute nicely to our bottom line. Valerie and Carolyn Chaney have organized or co-organized our special education events over the last several years. They do an enormous amount of work to make this happen.
3. We added conservative estimates of income that will be generated by two upcoming events at the Bridge Center: the NAP district finals January 24 and the NLM Sectional January 30-31. Thanks to Alan Cummings for coming up with the idea for the sectional and doing a great job of recruiting and organizing all of the volunteers who are helping with this.
4. Other financial news:
 - Your feedback helped us decide what to do with the youth discount and the directory. Several of you wanted to preserve the youth discount as did a majority of the club owners and your president. We will continue to give the discount, but only for students under 26. All of the feedback on the directory was to go digital. We will not publish a printed directory in 2016.
 - SiVY has volunteered to pay for use of the Bridge Center for its pizza parties, etc. Thank you!
 - We are gaining momentum on the Firecracker. Anne Keyser will chair the food committee and Tom Quinlan will help James Stuart-Smith with tournament planning. We're still looking for someone to take charge of parking because it looks like we'll need to



LECTURE SERIES

Our Education Fund needs \$4,000/year to fully fund our lecture series and book purchases. In October we sent out an email asking for contributions to fund operations in 2016. The response to that one mailing (\$2,200) was sufficient that the Board is going to commit to holding the full set of lectures in 2016.

The source of funding the gap in the Education Fund is still under discussion. In the meantime, contributions can be sent to Todd Makler (918 Clinton Road, Los Altos, Ca 94024). Checks should be made out to the Education Fund, Unit 503. Suggested amounts are \$25-\$50. Again it should be noted that the Board has committed to hold the full series of lectures in 2016 – but it would make our role easier if contributions are continued.

Note: The Education Fund is a separate entity from the unit. It raises money from member donations and pays for our Tuesday morning lecture series and library book purchases.



file a parking plan with the city and we need to start that soon.

- The budget includes funds for renting the back room. We may be able to use the room to ease the crowding we have for big games.

5. Other volunteer news:

Anne Keyser has agreed to take over the Mentor/Mentee program. Thank you, Anne. Carl and Jim are looking for someone to take over the lecture series. The Unit encourages players of all levels to step up and help out. If you're interested, talk to any board member or send mail to Jody Williams at jody@hamilton.com.

BIG GAMES!

We had **Big Games** (greater than 70%) September; 10th, Florence Yoshikawa - Tad Yoshikawa 70.14%; 16th, Bob Beaulieu - Marc Cervellino 77.78% and Luen-Jyh (James) Luo - Sadik Arf 71.55% ; 23rd, Dana Shelley - Philip Abrahamson 70.13%. In October, 9th, Neil Kapoor - Quan Nguyen 75.00%; 23rd, Ed Zuckerberg - Fred Chasalow 72.28%.

ENTRY FEE UNDER DISCUSSION

At its Monday, December 7 meeting your Board will be discussing raising the entry fee for 2016 **Unit Games** (not the regular daily games) from \$10 to \$12 in order to offset rising expenses. If this subject interests you, feel free to attend the Dec. 7 Board meeting or discuss it with a board member.

IN YOUR LIBRARY

If you puzzle over the most important card played on a hand, the opening lead, look no further than *Larry Teaches Opening Leads*. Cohen has written a short, concise book covering simple sequence leads to advanced topics like "Jack Denies." You will be amazed at how he can cover this topic so clearly in a book you can read in a day.

Our library continues to purchase Marty Bergen's pamphlets. There are 4 new ones: #37 - *Draw Trump, or NOT*, #38 - *2 Clubs: Open or Not?*, #39 - *Timing is Everything*, #40 - *Improve Your Bidding Judgment*.

In Sympathy

Unit officers and members extend their condolences to the family and friends of
99er Mary Mason
who passed away recently,

WE HAVE A BRAND NEW BOARD!

Six candidates have just been elected to two-year terms on the 2016 Unit 503 Board of Directors. Three are new Board members, Gill Barsley, Peggy Chen and Marolyn Imaoka. Hearty congratulations to you all! And three incumbents, Leslie Altick, Jim Harris and Jody Williams were elected to a second term...congratulations to them as well.

There were 77 valid ballots cast. Ten other ballots were invalid and not counted. Of the invalid ballots, five voted for more than six candidates, two were not signed and three were cast by voters not on the current membership roster. Here are the results: Leslie Altick and Marolyn Imaoka, 70 votes; Gill Barsley and Peggy Chen, 68 votes; Jody Williams, 67 votes; Jim Harris, 66 votes. Steve Lubeck (write in), 1 vote.

These six join three returning Board members, Paul Davis, Todd Makler, and David Puryear. Board officers for 2016 will be elected by the 2016 Board at its December 7th meeting, which will include the new Board members. Officers for 2016 will assume their responsibilities on January 1.

ANOTHER 99ER OPTION

Kevin & Paul have added a 99er section to the TGIF Friday game at 10:30 a.m. They need four tables of 99ers for a good movement; otherwise, they combine the 99ers and the 499ers into one section. And so....they encourage all you 99ers to take the plunge and join them on Friday mornings.

Kevin and Paul are friendly directors who enforce the ACBL Zero Tolerance policy that does not allow rude or intimidating behavior by more expert players. They rarely have to pull out their sheriff badges because all games at the Bridge Center are competitive but friendly. An added bonus is the wonderful lunch they serve with fabulous desserts (which Paul makes!). You will normally finish by 2:30, before all the commute chaos and in time for a good start to the weekend.

MARGOT LIVENSPARGAR, OUR GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

BY JUDI GENTRY



Last year our Margot Livenspargar received District 21's Goodwill Ambassador award. Here's what was given to me as chairman of the Recognition Committee as criteria for the Goodwill Ambassador award, given by District 21. The Dis-

trict specifies that the recipient should be "someone who has helped promote bridge in several ways. It should be an individual who you would enjoy playing with or against at the bridge table. This person may have helped to increase your local membership or have made many contributions in the background but always in a friendly manner. Long time volunteers who are eternally cheerful would be great candidates."

Margot's life prepared her to be a Goodwill representative. As the daughter of a career military father and the wife of a military man, Margot was quite accustomed to picking up and moving to a new location. She had to learn the customs and behaviors of new places, make new friends, adapt to new environments and figure out how to instill goodwill around the world. Bridge was one of the tools for her to accomplish this task. When Margot graduated from high school, one of the things her father did to prepare her for college was to teach her bridge. What a gift that was for her – and ultimately for so many of us. She played a little when she was a student at Northwestern. When she married, she found that bridge helped her get to know the other spouses on whatever military base she was on at the time. In the 70s she discovered duplicate bridge while living in New Mexico. Then she learned that they were being transferred to Okinawa. She checked to see that there was a duplicate club there, but that they didn't have an instructor. She prepared herself by getting a director's certificate before leaving and ran bridge classes in the bridge club in Okinawa.

After living all over the world and in many US states, Palo Alto Bridge Club is lucky that Margot chose to settle in our area. She provides this club with much more than her bridge expertise. Margot really is a role model of how a bridge player should behave. She shows ultimate respect for her partners and opponents. At the table, she is thoughtful, calm and has a ready smile for others. Margot is not the kind of person who puts herself first or promotes her presence. She quietly, but quite strategically fills the gaps where something is needed. She has served as secretary of the board, directs special games and always supports other directors in their difficult task. For the past two years, since its inception, she has been an instructor and active advocate of SiVY Bridge (Silicon Valley Youth Bridge.) This program offers free after school bridge classes, clubs, events, and other opportunities for youth to play bridge and improve their skills. Margot teaches weekly classes in local schools for youth. She surely provides these young players with more than the basics. They have a wonderful role model of how to behave as a bridge player.

Margot is a citizen of the world. She has a trail of friends all over the planet, many in the bridge world. She now divides her time between the bay area, Apple Valley (where her daughter and 2 grandsons live) the Sacramento area (which is home to her son and great grandkids), and reunions with friends in various other locations. Palo Alto is fortunate she still calls our club home.

If there's an accident, don't just let it be. Please clean it up yourself or notify a director to help us keep the Bridge Center carpet and chairs looking sparkling clean.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS....

December 13 NAP Unit Qualifier: - This year we encourage eligible Unit 503 players to put this on their schedule because our Center is hosting the District Finals in January and February.

If you qualified for this NAP (North American Pairs) event during the summer at a club game, you are eligible to play in this event. The posted results show a "Q" by the pairs who have qualified. Both members of a pair qualify (or not) individually. You do not need to play with the same partner, but you do need to play with a partner who has also qualified. The results show three qualifying columns, corresponding to the three flights (A, B, and C). A pair can qualify by finishing in the top half of the field in their strata. A "C" pair can qualify for all three levels of play if they finish in the top half of all players, but a player must choose one level of competition for Unit Qualifying and the District Finals. Top District pairs receive a stipend toward expenses to compete at Nationals

The December 13 NAP Unit Qualifier is a two-session event being held on the same day as one of our regular Unit Games. The Unit Game is a single session with a limited section as well as an open section. Both games begin at 1p.m. on Sunday, December 13.

For those who are successful at the 12/13 Qualifier, the NAP District Finals are at our Bridge Center on January 23-24, 2016 for Flights A and C and on February 6, 2016 for Flight B.

Larry Cohen returns - On May 21-22, 2016, Larry Cohen will return to our Center for two more seminars. Topics will be announced well in advance and sign-ups will begin in the spring. Last year his seminars were a huge success.

Barbara Seagram visits - On September 24-25, 2016, Barbara Seagram, popular author of many bridge books, will present two seminars. Her topics will be announced in advance and sign-ups will begin in the summer.

NEWCOMERS

A hearty welcome to our recent new members: Parsa Bakhtary, Don Barkley, Chris Chang, Shirley Chang, Peggy Chen, Bruce Douglas, Michele Goldman, Nancy Parsons, Jacob Plachta, Olivia Schireson, Dale Storm, Qinqin Wan, Maggie Zhao.

PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The September and October ACBL reports show that the players identified below have moved up. Congratulations to all!

Junior Master	5 MP	Britt D'Arezzo, Samuel Erickson, Charles Gray, Brenda Hatton, Charlotte Munger, Larry Orr, Suzanne Schauwecker, Sudhir Vermani, Joshua Wang, Kathy Wheeler
Club Master	20 MP	Francis Cano, Shirley Chang, Nancy Critchfield, Marcus Edholm, Kerry Fanwick, Richard Geno, Leika Kejriwal, David Merenbach, Sridevi Padmakumar, Richard L Provines, Anna Reuter, Matthew Shi, Daniel Sonner, Edward Yang.
Sectional Master	50 MP	Yumi Kobayashi, Jayne Lipe, Ava Norman, Evan Porteus, Max Schireson,
Regional Master	100 MP	Marjorie Chatfield
NABC Master	200 MP	William Bailey
Life Master	300 MP	Susan Barkley, Omer Barnir, Curt Englehard, Carolyn Taylor
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Gloria Darke
Platinum Life Master	10000 MP	Gary Macgregor

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
	Doubleton Club	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Spaeth/Johnston/	Bridge Center
	Doubleton Club	< 499 M.P.	7:00 p.m.	Imaoka	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.	John Williams	Bridge Center
	TGIF AM Bridge	Open/Strat./	10:30 a.m.	O'Leary, Davis,	Bridge Center
		<100, <500	10:30 a.m.		
	Friday Night Barometer	Open/Strat.	7:00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
	Friday Night Barometer	<500 MP	7:00 p.m.	Will Watson	Bridge Center
SAT	Only Unit Games				Bridge Center
SUN	Only Unit Games				Bridge Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

- * Friday, Dec. 4—Sunday, Dec. 6, Sacramento Winter Sectional, Orangevale, CA
- * Monday, Dec 7—Sunday, Dec 13, Great Western Holiday STAC Games
- * Monday, Dec. 7 (note date change)- 3:45, Board Meeting.
- * Sunday, Dec. 13—NAP Unit Qualifier for those who qualified during the summer.
- * Monday, Dec. 14—Sunday, Dec. 20, Palm Springs Regional
- * Saturday, Dec. 19— 12:30, SiVY Pizza and Bridge event. Bridge Center.
- * Sunday, Dec. 20—Unit Holiday Party and Pot Luck. Details on p. 1.
- * Wednesday, Dec. 30— 7:00 p.m. Club Championship at Doubleton Club.
- * Monday, Jan. 4—Sun., Jan 10, Monterey Clambake Regional, Monterey, CA
- * Saturday, Jan. 16 + Sunday, Jan 17, San Francisco Sectional, Janet Pomeroy Center.
- * Tuesday, Jan. 19—9:30, Frank Smoot Lecture
- * Sat./Sun., Jan 23, 24. North American Pairs finals. Bridge Center.
- * Sat./Sun, Jan 30, 31. Our own Non-Life Master Sectional. Details and sign-ups on our web site.
- * Sat/Sun., May 21, 22. Larry Cohen returns to the Bridge Center.
- * Wed.-Sun., June 29—July 3 **FIRECRACKER**, Bridge Center.
- * Sat/Sun., Sept. 24, 25. Barbara Seagram seminar.

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