



## UNIT HOLIDAY PARTY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

If you haven't signed up for the Unit Holiday Party and Game, hurry, hurry! Sign-ups are mandatory, and attendance is limited to the first 96 pairs (that's, hmmm, 192 players). You can sign up either at the Bridge Center or on our web site at: [paloalto-bridge.com/specialevents/unitgames](http://paloalto-bridge.com/specialevents/unitgames).

As we go to press, only a couple spots remain, as this annual event is very popular. There will be a waiting list but clearly, if you don't try to sign up you'll be turned away at the door.

The Unit Game, directed by Will Watson, will begin at 1 pm. As tradition holds, the game will be followed by a delicious catered dinner, this year by Chef Chu's Restaurant and will include vegetarian fare. Both game and dinner are FREE for Unit members and their guests. Actually, not entirely free: everyone is requested to bring a new unwrapped book, game or toy (or a bit of cash) for the Mountain View Community Services Agency. The biggest needs are: pajamas for ages 8-12 and teen gifts or gift cards (or, CASH). Everyone is also invited to bring a little something for Second Harvest Food Bank, either food items (no perishables or glass, please) or a bit more cash.

We have had an exceptional year at Unit 503, and we have many reasons to celebrate.

## THANK YOU FROM YOUR BOARD BY BRIAN SAMUELS

On behalf of your Unit's Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of our bridge players, Club Owners, Directors and teachers for the tremendous support you have given the Board and our club over the last two years.

Thanks to the hard work of our large number of volunteers, we have accomplished a great deal and our Unit's future is very bright. We all have a lot to be proud of:

- ◆ Our beautiful Bridge Center is very well maintained and is the envy of all the Bridge Clubs in the area.
- ◆ We have an excellent group of Club Owners and Directors and the majority of our club games are growing. Our Unit games are also growing and offer our players a special fun bridge experience. Not surprisingly, our monthly table counts continue to set new records.
- ◆ We have a superior group of teachers and our education programs are well run and well attended. We have had several, very successful special events, like Learn Bridge In A Day and Eddie Kantar, whom our members loved.

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Mark Your Calendars--- January Unit Games are: Pairs on Saturday, the 24th, and Swiss on Sunday, the 25th. In February, Unit Pairs will happen on Saturday, Feb. 7 and Swiss on Sunday, Feb. 8. March Pairs and Swiss will be on the 7th and the 8th, respectively.

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

## THE 2015 FIRECRACKER IS UNDER WAY



Greetings from your new Firecracker Co-chairs, Paul and Gillian (Gill) Barsley.

The planning of the 2015 Firecracker is

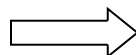
already underway – the venue and schedule are set. Note the new dates which are JUNE 10 – 14th 2015. Once again, we will be holding the tournament in the Santa Clara Convention Center and rooms at a special tournament rate will be available at the Hyatt Regency.

There will be 4 days of 2 session open pairs games, 2 days of bracketed Swiss games and daily single session pairs games. Lots of opportunities to win those coveted SILVER points!

Paul and I responded to a cry for help from the Board. The Firecracker was in need of co-chairs - without which it could not be held. Although the Firecracker could not happen without co-chairs to lead the tournament organization, it also cannot happen without YOUR help.

How can you help???? There are lots of opportunities!

- ⊙ The Hospitality and Partnerships tables will need volunteers to staff them.
- ⊙ Surprisingly (to us), the Santa Clara Convention Center does not set up the rooms for us. All those tables and chairs? They have to be set up and taken down by club volunteers. If you have time Wednesday morning, June 10th – we need your body to help with set-up. Likewise, on Sunday, June 14th in the afternoon to help take down. We are looking for someone to lead the Setup/Take down effort.
- ⊙ The Club supports the Second Harvest Food bank, both by collecting food and donations at the BC and at the Firecracker. We are looking for



## SiVY BRIDGE UPDATE

As 2014 draws to a close, SiVY Bridge (Silicon Valley Youth Bridge) is thrilled at how bridge has been received by the area youth! Having held tournaments and pizza parties, Parent-Child Duplicate events, the Bay Area's first ever Youth Summer Camp, and after school programs, the dedicated SiVY volunteers have introduced the game we love to hundreds of Bay Area kids ages 9 and up!

Our after school programs are currently being offered in eight elementary and middle schools, as well as our first ever High School club. Our plans for the new year include expanding our fledgling mentorship program, expanding our Summer Camp offering, holding the first ever Bay Area High School Championship, as well as continuing our popular Pizza Party Play (Bridge) events, Parent-Child Duplicates and Casual Fridays.

Please take a moment to visit [SiliconValleyYouthBridge.org](http://SiliconValleyYouthBridge.org) to see photos, read stories about events, donate, volunteer, and/or sign up for our newsletter - or like us on [Facebook.com/siliconvalleyyouthbridge](https://www.facebook.com/siliconvalleyyouthbridge) to receive regular updates about our progress.

## FIRECRACKER, CONT.

someone to chair this very important initiative during the Firecracker.

Please contact us if you can help out with any of the above activities.

Finally, many thanks to James Stuart-Smith who successfully chaired the tournament in 2013 and 2014 and for all his efforts and help in getting us up to speed as we move towards a successful Firecracker 2015.

Best regards (and don't forget all those tables and chairs )

Gill ("Jill") and Paul Barsley

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## UNIT NEWS

**Big November Games** - Michael Hu - Linzhi Hu 77.98% on the 2nd, John Schoebrun-Jim O'Neil 70.09% on the 4th...just making our cut., Marion Krause - Nancy Anderson 71.18% on the 12th, Joelle and Ronald Perkocha 70.24% on the 13th,

**Shout Out for Volunteers** –The Mentor/Mentee program is just one of the many Unit opportunities to learn and enjoy the game of Bridge. This is a call for both mentors and mentees. Mentors should hold at least 300 Master Points, should commit to play at least monthly with your mentee, should spend time after a game discussing hands. Mentees should possess at least 20 Master Points and be willing to ask good questions, listen carefully, and accept constructive criticism gracefully. It would be helpful if potential mentees would provide a brief profile. Please contact Alan Cummings for more information and/or to volunteer for either of these worthy positions. Find him at [Alan.cummings@stanford.edu](mailto:Alan.cummings@stanford.edu), (650) 619-6664. Let's all work together to make the program a highlight of Unit 503's commitment to educational programs for all members.

Junior Master	5 MP	Linda Elman, Terri Goldman, Ying Liu, Sandra Merrill, Mike Wyman, , Richard Provines, Marian Smith
Club Master	20 MP	Joan Erickson, Nancy Soltau, Joelle Burnell, Jana Cushman, Marsha Thompson, Hai Zhu
Sectional Master	50 MP	George Hopkins, Mary Hopkins
Regional Master	100 MP	Merri Banks, William Dalton, Mary Driscoll, William Epperly, Virginia Lyons
NABC Master	200 MP	Donald Cohn, Peter Dollinger, Nathaniel Munger
Bronze Life Master	500 MP	Beverly Bernhardt, Pei Sun,
Diamond Life Master	5000 MP	Rich Williams

**Become a Life Saver....Better Than a Life Master!** - Our Unit has recently acquired an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and other materials for a first aid program, and it now wishes to make Red Cross training available at no cost to Unit members who play at the Bridge Center at least once a week. In many cases, the minutes between the onset of a medical emergency and the arrival of emergency medical personnel after a 911 call are a critical time that can make the difference between a full recovery for the sufferer and something less. Early intervention can sometimes save a life.

The course consists of 2.5 hours of online study and 2 hours of in-class skills training, the latter to be held at the Bridge Center on Tuesday evenings. Here is a description from the Red Cross website:

The Adult First Aid/CPR/AED course incorporates the latest science and teaches students to recognize and care for a variety of first aid emergencies such as burns, cuts, scrapes, sudden illnesses, head, neck, back injuries, heat and cold emergencies and how to respond to breathing and cardiac emergencies for victims about 12 years and older. Successful students will receive a certificate for Adult First Aid/CPR/AED valid for two years. This course combines online learning and a classroom skills session. Online learning must be completed prior to attending the classroom session. Details will be included via email once you register. This course will not work in Google Chrome.

To register for this free course or simply to learn more, email [jgprior@mindspring.com](mailto:jgprior@mindspring.com).

**Remembering Elinor Tanck** - At its December meeting, the Board decided to honor Elinor, who passed away in October, annually, beginning with the February Unit game on Sunday, February 8.

### PLAYER ADVANCEMENTS

The October and November ACBL reports show that the players identified at the left have moved up. Congratulations to all!

## UNIT 503 LIBRARY

By ALAN CUMMINGS

The Unit library opened in September, 2008, thanks to funding from donations to the Unit 503 Education Fund from the ACBL Educational Foundation. Donna Armstrong took charge to get things underway. Books donated by the ACBL and unit members were catalogued and displayed in new cabinets, a simple check out procedure established, and publicized on the website. Donna, unfortunately, passed away and Fran Bennett and Valerie Baldwin stepped in and are doing an outstanding job.

The library now has 738 books and 36 pamphlets (Marty Bergen). Donations continue and Fran purchases books by popular bridge experts and previews them in the *Kibitzer*.

The Unit owes a warm debt of gratitude to Fran and Val for their untiring and dedicated efforts to provide this valuable resource to Unit members and friends. Our hearty thanks to them both.

## THE DEUCE, BY LEE HAZE

In our favorite game the deuce is the lowest card in all four suits; this lowly card often seems to be insignificant. In hand evaluation, the deuce is rarely noticed and becomes of importance only as an extra point added for suit length. However, sometimes the deuce provides clues that the wise declarer and/or defender carefully observes. These clues may come from the appearance of the deuce, or for its FAILURE to appear. That failure can be an indicator of who has it and may signal a path chosen in the play of the hand by declarer. The opposite is also true; its appearance in which trick it was played on and by whom may provide information.

Although partnership agreements can alter this, the opening lead of a deuce generally indicates a four card suit. Awareness of this clue can be helpful to both declarer (who wants to know how many of those spades or clubs, etc. the leader has) and to leader's partner (who wants to help by unblocking or overtaking where necessary). When partner leads a small card (say the four) and the deuce fails to appear on the trick, this may be an indication that partner holds the deuce and is leading fourth best from five. A wily declarer holding the deuce may hold onto it, hoping to mislead the defense.

Beginning players regard the deuce as the first available discard (outside of trump) because of its lack of trick taking value. However, the discard of the deuce may offer clues about partner's holdings, depending upon the partnership's defensive signals; for example the deuce might say, "lead this again, pard" (upside down signals) or possibly, "I don't like this suit, but please lead the lower ranking suit" (odd-even signals).

I personally am ALWAYS interested in knowing the location and treatment of all the deuces. Of course the deuces in your hand or dummy eliminate your need to know, but the failure to appear of remaining deuces begins to be more important to declarer and defenders as the hand is played out. While it always is the lowest suited card in play its value increases as a long card or as a still available trump. As declarer, to keep open communication between hand and dummy, it sometimes helps to hide the deuce from yourself, by tucking it in with higher cards. This keeps you from discarding it inadvertently, when it might be needed later as transportation to the tray in dummy.

So we see the little deuce, once thought to have little value, has a role to play.



## NOVEMBER POT LUCK UNIT GAME A BIG SUCCESS!

Everyone appreciated the efforts of all the volunteers who helped our Pot Luck Holiday party be such a success.

Thanks to Dave and Kathy Puryear, Eileen Zefting, Sue and Ralph Griffen, Al and Lindsay Huggins, Paul Davis, Nancy Kehl and Jim Harris for helping with the setup. Also, to Jody Williams, Neal Strand, Alan Cummings, Don Cohn, Buz Battle, Rosemarie Sammon and Isabel Shaw for the cleanup.

Thank you to Nancy Kehl for the beautiful Thanksgiving decoration in our entryway. Thanks to Jim Harris and Beverly Nuding for cooking the hams.

Winners in the two N/S sections were Ranesh Bhambhra and Sona Bhambhra and Kevin Mayville/Mie Thiemmedh. Of the E/W pairs, Josephine Ventura and Martha Keller came in first overall, with 63%. Prue Saunders and Trina Bowman were first in their section. In the 299er section, Wendy Benveniste and Debbie Weinstein took the N/S honors, and Marcy Tivol and Brian Huggin the E/W.

**Congratulations, Much Success, and  
Good Luck to Our New President**

**JODY WILLIAMS**

**AND WE WISH YOU LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS**

IN 2015

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Friday, January 2  
3:00 p.m. Bridge Center  
All are welcome to attend.

## FROM THE BOARD...CONT FROM P. 1.

- ◆ We've dramatically improved the financial management of our Unit by installing a new financial infrastructure, including annual budgets and a set of monthly financial reports, all of which are readily available to every member of our Unit. We've also created a Finance and Investment Committee to work with the Treasurer to oversee all of our Unit's financial activities.
- ◆ The administration of our Unit has been strengthened with new Bylaws and documented policies.
- ◆ All of this has led to exceptional financial execution and we will end the year with a cash surplus.

On January 1 responsibility for leading our Unit will be turned over to a new Board. I know that those Board members will do a great job and each of them will be working very hard to continue to bring you a top quality bridge experience. Please give them as much support as you have given to those of us on your current Board.

The Unit continues to need volunteers. Please get involved and volunteer to help out somewhere in our Unit. Speak with any Board member. A special Thank You to all of our current volunteers who make our Unit so successful.

Happy Holidays to you and your family and best wishes for a new year that brings you health, happiness and a whole new level of fun with bridge.

Brian

For Your Unit 503 Board of Directors

### Palo Alto Unit 503 Board as of Jan 1....

Jody Williams, President  
Leslie Altick, Vice President  
Todd Makler, Treasurer  
David Puryear, Secretary  
Paul Davis, James Harris, Kevin O'Leary,

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

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Club Championships, At Walter's Unity Church Games Dec. 30 & 31.
- ◆ Sacramento Winter Sectional, Fri. Dec 5—Sun Dec. 7
- ◆ Club Championship and New Years Eve party! Doubleton Club, Wednesday, December 31, (Sign up—could be cancelled if insufficient interest.)
- ◆ San Francisco Sectional, Sat./Sun, Jan 3 & 4. Janet Pomeroy Ctr., S.F.
- ◆ Monterey Clambake Regional, January 5—11, 2015
- ◆ Lecture by Debbie Rosenberg, Tuesday, Jan 13, 9:30 a.m. Bridge Center
- ◆ Unit Game, Pairs, Saturday, Jan 24, 12:00 p.m., Bridge Center
- ◆ Unit Game, Swiss Teams, Sunday, Jan. 25, 1:00 p.m., Bridge Center
- ◆ D 21 Presidents' Day Regional, February 10—16, Hyatt Regency. Burlingame

### Club Closings

**Dec. 24, Walter's Wednesday game and Doubleton Club**

**All Clubs will be closed on Christmas day.**

**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.**

### Club Contacts

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Will Watson (408) 614-8881

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