

Just Kibitizing

I had intended to write a “letter from the editor” to kick-off the introduction of the on-line limited version of the Kibitzer. The truth is, I wanted to complete an article about Walter Miller before I left for vacation, which led to an abbreviated first edition. It is my hope that we can bring back some of the human interest articles that many of you have missed when the publication of the Kibitzer was halted. Please understand, this will not be a resurrection of the newsletter we all loved. Eleanor Tauck and Marian Kelly – and after Eleanor’s death, just Marian -- did a tremendous job keeping us all informed of unit news. I would like to express my admiration and gratitude for the years of work they did. No way do I aspire to fill their shoes. Thank you, Marian, for doing such a great job for the unit for so many years.

What you can expect in the future will be:

- Approximately monthly profiles of club members
- Articles of general interest to bridge players written by me or submitted by members
- Occasional hand evaluations as submitted by members and replied to by others
- Perhaps questions about rules to be answered by directors
- Whatever else you request to read about and we are able to supply.

Alan Templeton has done an amazing job of keeping us informed via constant updates on the unit website. He has picked up the slack on a lot of the role that the Kibitzer used to fill. There is so much information on this website. I invite you to explore. Alan’s job is to provide the information on the website; our job is to read it!

Follow-up on last month: I wrote two articles: one titled “Thank you Directors” and one profiling “Walter Miller.”

- I received several positive comments about the Directors. It is nice to know that, while not always verbalized, our players do recognize the amazing job done every day by our directors and do appreciate them.
- Sadly, not long after the article about Walter was published on-line, he died. A number of people wrote about the fact that their first experience in duplicate bridge was with Walter. That his lectures and comfortable way of running the 49er group encouraged them to pursue duplicate bridge and feel comfortable. I’m glad we were able to acknowledge Walter’s contributions to the unit. Be sure to read the Palo Alto unit news in the District 21 Contract Bridge Forum (the monthly newspaper.) Carolyn Cheney, who writes the monthly article for us, is dedicating her column stories about Walter.
- Finally, several people wrote asking who wrote the articles. Although my name and email were listed for anyone to submit an idea, comment or complaint, I guess I didn’t sign the articles. In the future, unless otherwise indicated, the words and thoughts are mine.

So what’s up for this month?

- Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs winners for Unit 503 in 2016: A couple of you asked about the masterpoints races that are run by acbl each year. I have compiled a list of the top

scorers in each masterpoint bracket provided by acbl. If you go on-line to acbl.org you will actually see the top ten scorers in each bracket. Congratulations to all. An interesting side note: many players who play at our club all the time and we assume are member of our unit actually belong to Unit 507 (San Jose.) As I was compiling the list of top performers in our unit, I noticed several of our "unit friends" did well in the competition in San Jose as well. Congratulations to all of them ... and to everyone who competed, enjoyed and added to the game of bridge by your presence this year.

- This month's profile is about Fran Bennett– long-time member and co-librarian for the club. It takes so many people, each doing their own job, to make this unit work. Our club library is a wonderful resource for beginners and experts alike. To find out what is available, go on our website and click on the Education tab. In the pull-down menu you will see Library. You can search by your favorite author or look for books on specific subject. You'll also see a list of books that have been recently added to our library. So read Fran's profile, then go find a book in the library to read.
- Paul Davis submitted a story about a wonderful celebration at the bridge club last Friday, March 3. In honor of Claire Coleman's birthday and to thank her for her many years of service to the unit – everyone in the hall stopped bridge and sang *Happy Birthday* to Claire ... and then all enjoyed some wonderful cake. Thank you, Paul, for the article and great picture.

I do hope others feel moved to submit articles for publication. Please send them to: Judigentry.bridge@gmail.com . If you have an idea for a topic and don't want to write it yourself, please submit it anyway. I'm anxious to hear from you. Judi