

Sad news for us bridge addicts...the club will be CLOSED the Wednesday before, Thursday, November 24 and the Friday after Thanksgiving. Oh, you didn't plan to come down after eating yourself silly? Well, then you won't be disappointed. But don't be let down by missing the annual festive holiday party on December 18. The pairs game (with Open, 499er and 99er sections) is free to members, and the Unit will provide the turkey/ham. You just need to **sign up now**, and come with your pard, a potluck dish to share, and an unwrapped toy (or cash) for the Mountain View Community Services Agency (and/or some nonperishable food for Second Harvest). We'll be eating at 11:30 and playing at 12:30.

Our free lecture series continues: On December 6 we welcome Raad Bunni, director and teacher at Unit 498, at his first guest gig at our club, teaching Defender's Cooperation. All are welcome.

We had quite a bit going on in October, including the fun challenge match between Palo Alto and Unit 507, which was won by Unit 503 this year. There will be a rotating plaque to commemorate this exciting event...planned again for October 7 & 8, 2017, so mark your calendar. And if you participated this year, Jim Harris would like some feedback: jmharris@pacbell.net

We also held our Non-Life-Master Sectional, which Alan Cummings described as "a demonstration of the Unit's commitment to newer players." Special thanks to Will Watson, Marolyn Imaoka and Lori Spaeth for directing. Plans are already underway for next year's NLM on May 6-7.

I heard from several players about their favorite or funny moments:

"Hmmm, probably the funniest thing happened on Saturday morning. Out of 24 hands, I had no opening hands, and only 3 hands of 10-11 HCP. We declared 5 times, while our opponents declared 19 times. We managed to win, so I guess my defense is improving" :)

From a woman 4'11" tall: "Four out of eight of our opponent teams were under age 17 and 3 pairs come up to my chest... and they killed us! We loved them because they were cute but we groaned every time they appeared."

Yes, our youth players keep getting better and better. At the SiVY pizza party at the Silicon Valley Fall Sectional, 44 youth players attended and 37 competed in the tournament. Nine youth pairs and three parent-child pairs competed in the Newcomer event; Carey Chang and Jerry Xia were first of all the youth pairs, and Carey became Junior Master (with 5 mps). David Zheng, a Lynbrook HS freshman who started to play bridge about a year ago, won the 21-table Open Pairs with his mentor Li-Chung Chen. 2016 Youth NABC winners Kevin Huang and Brent Xiao played the open morning side game, and placed first overall out of 19 pairs, with over 63%. Twins Natalie and Nathan

Huang, freshmen at Los Altos HS who have been playing for two years, earned a section top in the Silver Rush pairs. Congratulations to all!