

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 45, #12

December 2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thanks to ALACBU

by Bill Schreiber, ALACBU President

By the time you get this edition of the Southern California Bridge News, the Orlando NABCs will have just about been completed. I hope that there are many ALACBU members who participate and do well so that I can list them in my column next month.

The Marina del Rey Regional was an artistic success. The only major complaints I heard were about the weather - at least two players said that as president I should be able to do something about it! The hotel staff was easy to work with and having a regional tournament on the Westside again after so many years away was awesome. Primarily because of competition from the World Championships in Philadelphia, our attendance was not quite as high as we had hoped for, but financially, we broke even.

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*



Orlando National Board Agenda Preview

by Rand Pinsky, District Director

Timing is everything. The due date for this article was November 15. The article will publish on December 1. The Board of Directors meeting will start on November 20. Therefore, whatever I write about what the board might do at our meeting will be history by the time the article will publish. Following are what I expect will be the highlights of our meeting.

District 23 GNT info on page 15

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Election of ACBL President: There are four very qualified candidates for president: Bill Arlinghaus from Michigan, Bill Cook from Mississippi, Craig Robinson from Pennsylvania, and Shirley Seals from Florida. No matter who wins this election, the ACBL will have an excellent representative as our president for 2011.

Election of Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee Chair: I am aware of three candidates for this position. They are Roger Smith, J. Willard Williams, and Rose Meltzer. I do know Roger and Rose and I look forward to meeting Willard before the board votes.

Bylaw Changes: There are some motions for consideration that will define qualifications for ACBL President and Chairman of the Board. One establishes a residency requirement for district-wide elected positions and another addresses unit voting power.

The board will consider motions dealing with slow play regulations and the use of Stop Cards. In Finance and Budget, we will be approving the 2011 budget. Also we will consider establishing a policy for issuing Stipends to Bridge Teachers in School.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

The Governance committee will consider a motion that I am sponsoring which asks for a review of the National Charity Committee as to its standing at all NABCs. Currently at each NABC there is a reception for all National Goodwill Committee members but no similar reception for National Charity Committee members. I think that there should be some equality as to how the league recognizes each committee.

Finally and most important, the board will consider a Succession Plan Framework. This is necessary as our current CEO, Jay Baum will be retiring in 2012 and the board wants to have a replacement for him in place by the end of next year.

It is a Different View From Dummy

This past month I had the pleasure of playing at the West Los Angeles Unit Halloween Individual game. There were 16 tables and everyone there had a great time. Also, with December comes the unit holiday parties. Kathy and I will try to attend as many as we can. As of now we will be attending the Antelope Valley – Santa Clarita game, the Pasadena San Gabriel game, and the San Fernando Valley game. We will continue to look at the schedule to see if there are any other games we can attend.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year.

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

Our next regional tournaments are the **Regional-At-Sea**, running from April 30 through May 6. Thereafter follows **Bridge Week**, at the Pasadena Hilton, which runs from Tuesday, June 28 through Thursday, July 7, a full 10 days with only one weekend.

Join the crowd as average daily attendance increased by more than 15% in 2010 as compared to 2009.

On a personal note, Diana and I are going to be grandparents again, thanks to daughter Robyn and son-in-law Matt.

On a further personal note, I wish to thank the West LA Unit for giving me the honor as Player of the Year for the unit. It certainly was not for the way I played bridge the last year, so it must have been for my activity in ALACBU. I could not have accomplished the strides we have made without support from the ALACBU Board of Directors and all of the volunteers on various committees. Thank you, one and all.

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Around the Units in District 23

Long Beach

unit website: www.acblunit557.org

club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

by Jon Yinger

Unit Game: Sunday, December 5
Potluck at 12:30, game at 1 p.m.

October 31 sectionally rated Halloween Game:

Overall results: 1st in A: Marcie Evans/Betty McClellan, 2nd Emma Trepiinski/Gary Paugh, 3rd Keith and Susan Hafen, 4th Charlotte and Steve Sturm, 5th Eugene White/Len Beck, and 6th Kimi Matsumoto/Mark Teaford. B flight overalls: 3rd Murat Veysoglu/Lisa Kuo, 4th Eddie Gruber/Diane Starbuck, 5th Peggy Waite/Janet Logan, and 6th Tsu Jan/David Hwang. C flight: 4th Mike and Karen McKittrick, 5th Diane and Cole Sachs. Congratulations to all!

November 7 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Joan Culbertson/Yas Takeda, 2nd Steve and Charlotte Sturm, 3rd Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu, 4th Sean Lui/Sankar Reddy, 5th Bee Kinman/Verna Burns, and 6th Cayce Blanchard/John Melis. B flight overalls: 4th April and John Berg, and 5th Carol Murakosi/Tom Ludwig. C flight: 3rd Hank and Fern Dunbar, 4th Sharon and Al Appel. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master game: 1/2 Maruxa Cargill/Lynn Danielson tied with Karen and Mike McKittrick, 3rd Monica Gettis/Tom Cotton, and 4th Sue Ayers/Lyn Perkins. And 3rd in B were Kay Hyland/Lynne Finley. Congratulations to you all!

70% games 9/15 through 10/15: There was only one 70% plus game at the LBBC during this period. Lois Abramson and Rich Wasser had a 71.99% game in the Friday evening game, November 5. Contrgatlutions!

Big masterpoint awards: Big masterpoint awards for 1st overall in club games Oct 16 through Nov 15: On Oct 21 Sherri Held/Larry Topper won 3.97mp; Oct 25 Diane Sachs/Fern Dunbar won 4.67mp; and in the Halloween game Oct 31, Betty McClellan/Marcie

Evans won 3.83 mp. And on tying for 2nd overall Oct 25, Marcie Evans/Bev Shafer and Lois Perovich/Jerry Cassidy won 3.07mp. Congratulations to you all!

New members: We issue a warm welcome to new members Susan Bibby, John Galliger, Barbara Sell, and Nancy Smith, and transfers into our unit Pamela Cole, James Rodgers, and Margaret Rodgers. Welcome to you all!

Status changes: New NABC Master: Coocie Dampman; Junior Master: Pamela Cronn and Jane Okimato; Sectional Masters: Sally Gordy, Jerry Smith, Bonny Walsh, and Karen Watson; Regional Master: Anne Munchow; and new Gold Life Master: Betty Jackson. Congratulations to all!

Get well wishes to: Al Mastron, Diane Tomooka, Judy Lorber, and Merlin Hansen.

Leisure World bridge news by Gene Yaffee: There were no high games to report during the past month. At the Club Championship game in October the overall winners were 1st: Bea Kinman/Bill Linskey; and 2nd: John Biggs/Larry Slutsky. The next Club Championship game will be held on Thursday, December 9.

The annual Holiday Party and Dinner will be on Thursday, December 16, following the bridge game in Clubhouse #3. For more information and/or to sign up, call Ruth Kaller at 562-430-0316.

There are four duplicate games held every week, Monday and Thursday in Clubhouse #3 and Friday and Saturday in Clubhouse #1. The games start promptly at 12:30 p.m. and all players are asked to be at the clubhouses by 12:15 p.m. Leisure World is a gated community, therefore if you are planning to play in any of the games you need to make a reservation with Ruth Kaller 562-430-0316 so that your name will be turned in to security at the front gate.

Results of all games are posted on www.acblunit557.org. Click on "Leisure World Results" on the left-hand side.

Join the board: Elections to the board of directors of

District 23 presents...



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Accommodations are subject to availability. Alice Travel will be happy to arrange air travel as well as pre- and post-cruise hotel stays.

Tournament Chairman: Ellen Kent - 310-822-2021

*Our Regionals-At-Sea are so Popular...
 We're doing it again.*

Next spring we're setting sail for exotic ports along the Mexican Riviera, roundtrip from Los Angeles, aboard Princess Cruises' *Sapphire Princess*. Larry Cohen will be giving morning lectures and there are private events, lots of tournament play, and side games.

Event Schedule (subject to slight changes)

One-Session Pair Games every session.
299er Games, based on attendance.

	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	8:00 PM
Sat., April 30	9:00-10:00 AM-Daily Free Beginner Lesson with Ellen Kent Lesson/Analysis with Larry after all Two-Session Open Pair games at 4:30 P.M.			Registration Bracketed KO1 Round 1
Sun., May 1	Larry Cohen Lecture	Open Pairs 1st Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO1 Round 2
Mon., May 2	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO1 Round 3
Tues., May 3	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Open Pairs 1st Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 1
Wed., May 4	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 2
Thur., May 5	Larry Cohen Lecture	Open Pairs 1st Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 3
Fri., May 6	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	5:00 PM: Awards Program & Party

Flights: C-up to 500; B-500 to 1500; A-1500+

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Our bridge cruises book quickly!

ATU continued from page 3

Unit 557 are coming in December. If you are interested in serving, email Unit 557 President Diane Sachs: dianesachs@yahoo.com.

Message from our president: (This is a repeat for those who missed it last month). Since a new unit board will soon be elected, this is an opportunity to share with you some of what your unit does for you. Once a month we hold a unit game where we rent the club facilities, hire a director, sanction the game, and supply lunch. We also run a sectional, and this year we are doing it in partnership with the club. Every few years we publish a club directory which is available to all the members. At the annual awards meeting the unit gives out many free game cards, license plate holders and trophy recognition in the various masterpoint ranks. In addition we donate money to charity. Thank you for your support and we welcome suggestions for enhancing our unit.

Get the unit 557 newsletter via email: If you miss getting the newsletter by snail mail (it's been more than two years since the district quit mailing them out), you can have me send you a copy by email. Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

www.acblunit559.com

by Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

Unit Game - December 12
Arcadia Community Center

If you missed the November unit game, you missed a feast as well. Joann Sasaki was in charge of the food, and it was one of the best food offerings we have ever had. Thanks so much, Joann, for an outstanding job. First overall in flight A were Dominique Moore/Ann McClelland, and first place in B was a tie between Madhu Sudan/ Roland Pineda with Mike Doll/Patrick Cordillo. Madhu and Roland were also first in C. Congratulations to all of you. Our 50/50 drawing winner was Susan Rhoades. The other half of the 50/50 goes towards our scholarship fund, which helps out college bound students from our unit who are associated with bridge.

Christmas party tickets are going fast. The date is

Sunday, December 12, and the location is the Arcadia Community Center. Karen Arase is cooking the meal, and if you know anything about that, you want to be sure to be there. Tickets are on sale from any board member for \$35 apiece. Call me (Jan) if you can't find a board member. My number is: 355-2666. The menu is a choice between rib roast and salmon, and, of course, all the trimmings that go with them. My mouth is already watering. Please bring a \$10-\$20 gift for the raffle, and remember, our charity is the worthwhile Elizabeth House in Pasadena. Also, we have arranged a much quicker way to handle the raffle so we can keep things moving at a nice pace. There are two sessions; the Open Pairs begins at noon, not 1:00 p.m., like our regular unit games, followed by dinner and Swiss Teams.

There will be two vacancies on the board for this coming year. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please let a board member know. We will be saying goodbye to Robert Wang and Mark Hartzell. All other members will be returning.

A very nice game! Last month Peter Szecsi and Herman Helber had a terrific score of 76.90% at the Bridge Center. Congratulations to both of you.

Do you play the Michaels cuebid? It shows the two top suits after an opponent opens the bidding, right? How about the Unusual Notrump which shows the two lower unbid suits? Most players use these two conventions when they are in the overcall position, but how does one show a two-suited hand that doesn't fit either of those agreements? Suppose your RHO opens one diamond and you have 5-5 in spades and clubs. If you bid one of them you are going to hide the other, and if you have perhaps only 10-11 points you might not be able to easily bid both suits. Some players solve this problem with a Top and Bottom bid. Several ways of doing this are played but here's a popular method: A jump to the 3-level in a minor shows the bid minor and the top unbid suit. In the case where an opponent opens one diamond, you would jump to three clubs with both spades and clubs. One of the nicer features is that if your partner forgets, at least you will be playing in one of your long suits. If you and your partner decide you like this, you can also define the Michaels cuebid a little tighter, as it will always show specifically both top suits. I mention this because regular Michaels is a bit ambiguous when an opponent opens one spade because a cuebid of two spades shows hearts and one of the minors, but which minor is not known. That's

not a great problem, but if you adopt one of the Top and Bottom conventions then a Michaels cue bid over spades always shows specifically hearts and diamonds. There are other ways to show the top and bottom suits, but this one works pretty well. You do give up the preemptive bid of three of a minor, though. Some players prefer to give up the 15-17 point notrump overcall as a way to show two suits— Your choice. Oh, and you and your partner get to decide on the point-count range.

See you at the table.

Pomona-Covina

by Vic Sartor

Unit Game: Saturday, December 18
11:00 a.m., lunch served

As noted last month, this year's change of the unit game to the third Saturday of the month has made it difficult to get unit results in to the ALACBU publishers on an up-to-the-minute basis. Since their deadline usually falls a few days before our unit game is played, I'm often about a month behind. So if your big win doesn't show up in the first subsequent issue, you haven't been ignored. I'll try to make sure you get overdue recognition the following month.

Reinforcing that theme, we now have the results of the two-session October unit game (Our Pony Express rider got them to the editor just in time for this issue). The overall winners were Bill Papa/ Jim Griffin, who had a big 73% game in the first session and coasted to the win in the evening. Bud Robinson/ Sandy Jones were 2nd in Class A and 1st in B. Pat Radamaker/Clint Lew were 3rd in A and 2nd in B. Penny Barbieri/ Rosalie Roberts were 4th in A and 3rd in B. Dave and Susan Ruoff , Genise Hasan, and Helen Wang had section 2nds. Margie Hall, Ann Raymond, Lois Snowden, and Ray Malki took session firsts in Class C.

The November individual event was won by Helen Wang, followed by Al Lax, Karen McCarthy, and Roger Boyar. The next individual will be held Saturday, December 4. If you need directions to the game, contact Tom Lill at 909-627-8375.

In club results, the November club championship was won by Bill Papa/ Vic Sartor. Penny Barbieri/ Sandy Jones took first E/W. Clint Lew, Pat Radamaker, Charlotte

Capelle, Gayle Ginsburg, Jacquelyn Fehrenbach, Lynn Zonic, Jerry Androus, and Billie Steiner placed overall in Classes B and C.

Top club games of the month were 71% efforts by Genise Hasan/ Joe Unis and Ron Purkis/Ann McClelland. Other club winners were Helen Wang, Richard Patterson, Gayle Ginsburg, Lynne Parker, Ken Bloomenthal, Kurt Trieselmann, Pat Radamaker, Clint Lew, Gloria Balfour, Donald Naf, Dave Ruoff, Kathy Helber, and Herman Helber.

In travel notes, Penny and Gino Barbieri are still raving about the Larry Cohen bridge cruise they took to the Mexican Riviera. They're encouraging anyone who might be interested to sign up for the April cruise, which will be regionally rated. If you need red or gold points, this might be a fun way to make Life Master. Mike and Susan Emminger just got back from Hawaii, and intrepid world travelers Norma Appley and Albert Lax are off to Thailand in December. I'm planning to get my dog flea-dipped in Cucamonga.

For our hand of the month, you hold:

♠x ♥ Qxxxxx ♦Axx ♣10xx

The auction goes: 1♠ by partner, 2♣ by RHO, pass, 4♥! by partner, 5♣ by RHO!

Your bid?

Kerry Sartor found a nice 6♥ bid, appreciating the value of her diamond ace and inferring her partner couldn't have more than one club. She was right. Pard held: ♠AKQ10xx ♥AJ109xx ♦x ♣--.

Seven rolls, but six was enough for a good score. 'Til next time...

San Fernando Valley

by Fran Kern

Celebrations scheduled to mark Mort's 100th birthday: There will be TWO parties in honor of Mort Nagler's 100th birthday. The Bridge Academy bash is scheduled for Sunday, December 12 at noon. Mort has been one of the Bridge Academy's very loyal players for many years and he still plays a great game. There will also be an upgraded Club championship with extra points; and the newspaper will be doing a Human Interest story on this event. Food contributions and an RSVP would be appreciated.

Celebration of Mort's 100th birthday continues on Tuesday, December 14 at the 750 Club where the game will begin at 11:00 am. Lunch and cake will be provided for all well-wishers under the sponsorship of Bill and Terry Morton, Frank Pinkus, and David Friedman. Please call or email reservations to 818-313-9711 or ttmorton@att.net.

Holiday party: The unit's holiday party will be held on Sunday, December 19. The Warner Center Marriott will again be the location. The Marriott is located at 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills 818-887-4800. Tickets include two sessions of junior and open games, beginning at 1:00 p.m., as well as self-parking, snacks, and dinner. Holiday party tickets are available from current board members. Advance tickets are \$35.00 and tickets purchased at the door, if available, will be \$45. We anticipate a capacity crowd and recommend early ticket purchase. Once again, special thanks to Gloria Malkin for arranging a wonderful party package.

Board member elections: Signup sheets are posted at the Bridge Academy and the 750 Club for candidate

names. Candidates need to make their names available by December 1. At the beginning of December absentee ballots will be available from current board members. Each absentee ballot will be sealed in an envelope with the voter's signature across the flap. Voting for new board members will conclude with the absentee ballots being opened and counted with ballots from the attendees at the holiday party. Your organizational skills and innovated ideas can well serve the unit's future success.

750 Bridge Club News: The 750 Club players were encouraged to wear red, white, and blue attire on November 11 to honor all of our Veterans. Mark your calendars for another Club Championship Week scheduled for November 15 -18.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for October: 750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 8.08, Paul Endler 4.44, Gloria Malkin 4.39, Jody Lombardo 4.18, Bob Williams 4.09, Larry Kussin 3.90, Barbara Parsons 3.86, Robert Glasser 3.29, Jim Lechner 3.19, Mil Sidell 3.16, and Philip Swan 3.06.



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Monday, February 7

1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 1 of 3

7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Tuesday, February 8

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd

1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd 1 of 3

7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Non-smoking Tournament
with Hospitality Breaks

Wednesday, February 9

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd

1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 1 of 3

7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Thursday, February 10

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Final Rd

1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams

7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Board-A-Match Teams

Friday, February 11

10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Stratified Fast Pairs
(finish by 4:15 p.m.) (This is a 2-session event, but single session entries may be sold at the Director's discretion.)

10:00 a.m. & TBD Stratified Swiss Teams (2-sessions)
Swiss Teams will finish by 5:15 p.m.

All stratified events are stratified by the average masterpoints of the team or pair.

Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750
I/N: 0-20/50/100/200/300

CARD FEES: \$10.00 per session/per player for dues paying ACBL members
\$11.00 per session/per player for all others

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LAS VEGAS

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game: Allan Palansky 8.75, Larry Gordon 7.88, Carol Stein 6.55, Wayne (Doug) Beagle 4.55, Ron Stewart 4.23, Norman Bloomfield 3.48, Leona Frisch 3.44, Helene Fierman 3.44, Diane Weinstein 2.51, and David Weinstein 2.51.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Armand Szulc 18.46, Gary Frans 13.98, Leila Greenfield 12.33, William Carlson, Jr. 12.22, Leda Danzig 11.08, Joan Rubin 11.00, Seymour Zemlyn 10.50, J. Raymond Bush 10.16, Marel Bates 9.35, and Noel Purkin 9.26.

70% Games for September: Congratulations to two Bridge Academy pairs with a 70% or better game. Those pairs are Gilbert Stinebaugh/William Carlson, Jr. 74.07 and Joan Rubin/Gary Frans, 70.49.

In memoriam: We always hope to be able to omit the “in memoriam” section of the unit news. However, that is not the case this month as we again mourn the recent loss of another player. Eric Heilman passed away on November 6. Eric will be remembered as a kind, gentle soul who could play a tough game of bridge. He will be missed as a friend, competitor, and a warm human being. Unit members send condolences to Eric’s daughter and longtime companion, Sandy Schlanger.

Column news: Make sure your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com.

Torrance-South Bay

unit website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568>

SBBC website:

<http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>
by Steve Mager

Western Conference STaC: December 6 - 12

Unit Christmas Party: Sunday, December 12

Lunch 12:30 p.m., Game 1:30 p.m.

Reservations Required

There will be other Club Championships this month, however, no schedule had yet been received when this column was written. Check the above website for updates.

Club Championships: On November 10 the Club Championship was won by Richard Cheng/Fran Israel in Flight A with Elaine Bleiweiss/Barbara Coe leading

Flights B and C.

Club Appreciation Championships: There were four Club Appreciation games in October at the Veterans Park and Anderson Park venues in our unit. At Veterans Park on October 20 the winners were Margaret Enders/William Baxter in Flight A, with Shinko Mauritz/Iku Kawahara leading Flight B, and Shaheem Rahimtoola/Christine Uriu ahead in Flight C. On October 22 at Anderson Park the Afternoon game was won by James Hieatt/Nathaniel Trembath, while the evening game was captured by Bill Simmons/Jack Tsu. The October 25 game at Veterans Park was led by Larry Harris/Jeff Strutzel in Flight A and Joseph Nyomarkey/Joan Lightfoot in Flight B.

Team Winners: Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games.

October 19: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer, Jim Dutton

October 26: Bronek Felczer, David Peim, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton

November 2: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer, Jim Dutton

November 9: Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Winnie Ninneman, Charles LaFranchi

November 16: Gabriela Jackson, Mark Raggio, Carol McCully, Ed Barad

Milestones: One of our junior players, Dorothy Easley passed away during the past month. I’m sure all in the unit wish to express condolences to her family.

GUV Memorial Award: Perhaps a rocket scientist should get the GUV Award this month. At least a rocket scientist turned director. On the first day of the Long Beach Sectional prior to starting a compact KO, said director told us he used to be a rocket scientist. This didn’t impress me too much since I once had a job checking whether rocket scientists did the right thing. They almost always did but on occasion were capable of really screwing up

To prove my point our team started playing against four ladies from the TSB unit who gave us the “how did we get stuck playing you guys?” look. After two boards I was giving them the same look since I was sure we were already down 10 IMPs. But the rocket

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scientist saved us. He came up and said we had been placed at the wrong table and should actually be playing in a different bracket. I could have kissed him.

So we started our first match anew against another team and managed to win. Next we played a round robin and won both matches and were happy to be in the semi final except... when I looked at the recap sheet our team wasn't listed as one of the semi-finalists. Whether it was our own fault or that of the director I do not know, but it turned out we had been stuck in a round robin with two teams that were playing a consolation after the first round. When we came back from lunch however, we were listed as semi-finalists.

The euphoria from at last being recognized as a semi-finalist was short lived. Partner and I played the next match as if we were already celebrating victory and figured out a way to lose. Couldn't blame the rocket-scientist-turned-director for that one. Maybe I'm the rocket scientist deserving of the GUV award.

Na Zdrowie

West L.A. by candy

You know it's holiday time when:

- #1 The unit column makes no sense, lacks grammar and punctuation due to "I'm too old to multi-task."
- #2 Days are shorter and the "to-do list" is longer.
- #3 Adult trick or treating is called Christmas carolling. Sing a couple verses and people invite you in for eggnog. You can even pretend you're walking around for the exercise.
- #4 Turkey, ham, lamb, potato latkes and everything in between starts at the unit party with a buffet brunch and ends on New Years Day with couch potatoes, nachos, guacamole, and chicken wings. It reminds you of the old commercial "I can't believe I ate the whole thing."
- #5 You're watching "The Sound of Music" and your eyes still tear up when you hear Edelweiss.

The Unit party had more than a "Few of your Favorite Things." Thanks to Brana Hall, Caroline Taff, and

Marcia Fisher. Winners will be announced next month along with the Player of the Year and the Volunteer of the Year. In between all the planning Caroline and Brana with Ed Feldmann and Nancy Heck found time to win the KO's in Ventura!

Jack Golden, a driving force behind the Beverly Hills Bridge Club, died last month. When he became ill and had to retire off the Club Board they needed more than one person to do all the things he did. He was missed then and is missed by many now. While partners, friends, and acquaintances fondly remember him, our thoughts go out to Lane.

Unlike the "Lonely Goatherd" Mario Mory's misstep took him off the slopes and into Phylliss' care. Phylliss is encouraging him to forget the goats, and get back to bridge.

Our "Climb Every Mountain" moment is brought to you by Laurie Rubin, who made Life Master. As easy as "Do-Re-Mi," these people have been climbing the scales. Junior Master: Genevive Kyle and Peter Page; Club Master: Robert Feinberg, Herb Garfinkle, and Seymore Stoll; Regional Master: Lunsford Laverty and Herbert Rosenthal; NABC Master: William Inglis and Stephen Massman; Bronze LM: Sharon Aronson and Aaron Craig; Gold LM: Sam Namer; and Diamond LM: Lew Himmell. I think you're supposed to celebrate that last milestone by buying your wife a diamond (I'm trying, Rhoda).

Fred Mautner/Victor Anikovich, Betsy Lutz/Don Krauss, Shirley Kotler/Becky Clough, Brian Richardson/Zalman Perelman, and George Wagner/Steve Yaffe were caught humming "I've Got Confidence" during their 70% games. Byron Ziman must have been feeling like he was walking on water during his cruise when he had an 82.5% game.

There was "Something Good" for Vera Mandell who won the Halloween Individual. While Vera did it alone, the following people had partners to help them win Club Championships. BHBC: Sam Haveson/Dave Segal, Ed Feldmann/Rahim Israel, Barrington; A: David Licht/Sue Ann Simon, Marshall Cherkas/Pedar Fredrikson, Rhoda and Lew Himmell, Aram Bedros/Art Zail, Cyma Aronow/Art Zail, George Wagner/Steve Yaffe, and Irwin Sobel/Howard Wallach; B: Charles Jurgens/Lunsford Laverty, Donna Eastman/John Opdyke, Claris Miles/Fred Feigenson, Charles Jurgens/(the person

District 23 Rank Changes 10/1/10 - 10/31/10

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Bob Becker
Joan Davidson
Charlene Hartman
David Johnson
Emily Johnson
Sylvia Kaprelyan
Audrey Linden
Hugh Linden
Ray Malki
Muncie Marder
Debbi Powell
Linda Raines
Howard Rosen
Linda Silvey
Sheila West

Club Master (20 MPs)

Geoffrey Breskal
Bonnie Butler
Carol Hanson
Marilyn Levin
Corinne Macpherson
Stephen Mueller
James Pruitt
Norma Reynolds
Zanda Leah Schirn
Julie Tan
Mary Walsten
F. Gordon Whitehead

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Sharon Biederman
Dale Blessing
Mihir Das
Judy Grieb
Joseph Hooker
Larry Kussin
Marjorie Lipson
Ryan Wessels

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Diane Bishop
Paula Boland
J Brunet
Lynne Finley
Nick Gao
Joyce Henderson
Marsha Kerns
Marie Lynch
Rachel Simon
Casey Stiers
Amedeo Ursini

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Cooie Dampman
Diane Elliott
Norma Krueger
Douglas Kuschner
Karen McKittrick
David Peim
Sandra Rucker
Yokuko Sheehy
Carol Sherman
Lorna Wallace

Life Master (300 MPs)

Ronnie Berland
Rose Kaufmann
Alyssa Kennedy
Gerson Rapfogel
Robert Riechmann Jr
Michael Shaw
Kris Sommer
Debora Stein
Richard Stevenson
Manny Weintraub

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Harold Kahn
William Simmons
Richard Stevenson
Carolyn Taff
Manny Weintraub

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Dan Botoaca
Carol Frank
Joyce Lelah
Anita Levine
Charles Messall II
R Pietropaolo
Gerson Rapfogel

Emerald Life Master (7500 MPs)

Peter Benjamin

ATU continued from page 9

whose name I typed most in this column) Lunsford Lavery; C: Joan and Steve Little, Judy and Lou Zucker, Eleanor and Clay Levine, and Sam Litovsky/Steiner Twaiten.

“So Long, Farewell, Au revoir, Auf wiedersehen, goodbye, adieu to you and you and you.” until next year when I’ll find out if I’m voted off the column committee. Chances are better that we’ll have a White Christmas in LA.

www.
acbldistrict23.
org

Some of the Winners from
the Los Angeles
Fall Regional
October 12-17, 2010
in Marina Del Rey



Penny Barbieri
New Life Master



Wednesday Ketch 1 Session Swiss Teams
Mark Itabashi, Peter Benjamin, Gerald Bae,
and Steve Love (not pictured)



Tuesday-Wednesday Evening Compact KO
Steve Gorss, Ellen Anten, Rebecca & Roger Clough



Sunday Swiss Teams, Strata B
Mike Marcucci, Gitta Earll, Amr Elghamry, Don Botoaca



Tuesday Open Pairs, Overall
Mark Itabashi, Steve Love



Wednesday Open Pairs
Bill Haskitt, Gary King



Thursday-Friday Fiji Way KO Teams, Bkt 1, OA
Bill Hall, John Wright, Ellen & Bob Kent



Sunday Swiss Teams, OA
Mark Itabashi, Subba Ravipudi, Mike Savage, Gerald Bae



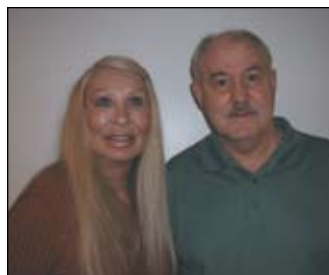
Who's that team? If you can help us identify the winners in this picture,
please call John Killian at 562-592-2716!



**Wednesday Evening Side Game
Stratus A**
John Killian, Pamela Cole



**Friday IMP Pairs
Overall**
Bill Schreiber, Gary King



**Saturday Afternoon
Side Game, 1st, Strata B, EW**
Pamela Cole, Steve Alt



Wed Bali Way Compact KO
Jay and Linda Tipton
Jim and Gale Senter (not pictured)

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: David Chechelashvili, Billy Eisenberg, Roger Lee, Adam Meyerson, Marshall Miles, David Sacks, Michael Shuster, Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
EW vul

S	W	N	E
2♥	3♣	5♥	dbl
pass	?		

You, West, hold:
 ♠Q93 ♥A ♦K65 ♣AK8762
 What call do you make?

The main question is whether pass by partner is forcing. If it is, then partner's double is discouraging and can be made on a yarborough. If pass isn't forcing, then double shows values. Sacks and Shuster assume double is forcing. Lee answered as if pass were non-forcing, but later sent me an email to the effect that several experts he had consulted played it forcing. Eric Kokish, a great theorist, is a long-time proponent of forcing passes here, but the expert world has been slow to adopt his philosophy. I personally think pass should be forcing, but don't think the majority of experts agree.

Shuster: Pass. My hand is completely normal for 3♣. The only evidence that I should continue the auction is that LHO seems to think we have a slam, but that is not necessarily the case. For example, he might have bad spades and good defense against clubs and be trying to cause us to lose the spade fit. Since the 5♥ bid created a forcing auction for our side, partner's double indicates a fairly strong opinion, and I am not about to overrule him.

Sacks: Pass. I think a pass by partner should be forcing versus a clear advanced save bid like 5♥. I play the double as cards "outside of hearts."

Treating double as strong and pass as negative in forcing pass situations was once common. However

current expert practice (which I believe to be superior) is that pass is encouraging while double is discouraging.

Eisenberg: Pass. I'd pass, unless double is defined as card showing.

Chechelashvili: Pass. Partner can easily have just two aces. Why would I not want to defend?

Miles: Pass. 5NT is my second choice, but I have no assurance of making a slam or even a game at this level.

Lee: 5NT. Maybe we're cold for six of something, maybe they'll save in 6♥, or maybe 5♥ was only down 1 so we only lose 5 IMPs when I'm wrong.

Meyerson: 5NT. This asks partner to pick a slam. This stands a very good chance of getting us to the best spot at the six-level, and my hand is good enough to think I can make it. Pass could be right, of course (basically a guaranteed plus), but we must have a fit somewhere, and slam seems odds-on.

Wittes: 5NT. I'm usually an advocate of staying fixed when fixed, but at this vulnerability, partner must have values for the double. His expected heart holding is two small, so his values are probably useful. I think 5NT means I have a flexible hand. Partner can now place the contract.

I faced this problem at the table. 5♥ goes down four tricks for +800. 5NT will get partner to bid 6♣ for +1430. I made a goofy 5♠ bid, because I thought LHO was trying to preempt us out of a slam. Partner held ♠AJT8xx ♥Kx ♦Axx ♣xx, and passed 5♠. The spade finesse lost, but we still made 6 to score +680. I told my partner I was nominating him for the wimp of the year award for passing 5♠. 6♣ fails by two tricks because clubs break 4-1.

2

IMPs
EW vul

S	W	N	E
2♥	dbl	4♥	?

You, East, hold:
 ♠9752 ♥63 ♦K ♣AKQ973
 What call do you make?

Chechelashvili: 4♠.

Wittes: 5♣. This would be a tougher problem at matchpoints, where 4♠ could be right, but at IMPs, I'm just going to bid my suit. It's possible 5♣ could be making when 4♠ is going down. Give partner something like ♠AJxx ♥xx ♦AQJx ♣Jxx, and 5♣ is cold, while 4♠ is going down. Partner may have only three spades.

Miles: 5♣. I think 5♣ is as likely to make as 4♠, and there is a good chance of a slam. Wouldn't partner raise with ♠AKx ♥--- ♦AQxxxx ♣JTxx?

Lee: 5♣. I have enough to hope to make it, and 4♠ rates to be really bad opposite only three-card spade support.

Eisenberg: 5♣. Double would be responsive.

Meyerson: 5♣. I have extras and a great suit. I think we are much more likely to make 5♣ than 4♠. I could try a responsive double, but partner will often pass it at this level, and we are not taking many tricks on defense. (We should beat 4♥ a trick or two, but not enough to compensate for our red game.)

Shuster: 5♣. I'd love to have lebensohl available here so that bidding shows a slam try, but without it I must guess. We could have two fast heart losers, or, much more likely, a fast heart and a slow spade. The duplication of spade length is a big red flag, so I put on the brakes. Anyone who bids 4♠ deserves to catch ♠AQJ ♥x ♦AJxx ♣Jxxxx.

Sacks: 6♣. I'll bid what I think we might make. We are not getting much versus 4♥ if they have 10 hearts.

My teammates had a much easier time of it without any opposing bidding. My RHO held this hand. He bid 4♠, and his partner raised to 6♠ holding ♠AKJx ♥x ♦AQJx ♣JTxx. 6♠ failed on a bad trump split, but 6♣ was cold.

3

MPs
EW vul

S	W	N	E
1♠	dbl	2♠	pass
3♠	?		

You, West, hold:
 ♠AQ5 ♥Q84 ♦AKQ ♣KQ87
 What call do you make?

Chechelashvili: Pass. I'll try to collect a plus score. Could it be wrong? Certainly! Partner can easily have ♠x ♥Jxxxxx ♦xxx ♣Jxx, but he can also have ♠xx ♥xxxxx ♦xxxx ♣xxx. At IMPs, I would bid 3NT.

Lee: 3NT. Any action could result in a ridiculous score, so I'm going to make the bid with the big upside.

Eisenberg: 3NT. This could be unanimous. [*You've made better predictions!*]

Miles: Double. Partner is not likely to hold an ace, and even if he does (especially if it is hearts) it probably won't be enough to make 3NT. Partner might be able to bid 4♥ with ♥JTxxx and the ♣J. I would pass with ♠xx ♥Jxx ♦xxxx ♣Jxxx.

Shuster: Pass. +100 still beats -100, right?

Meyerson: Pass. Painful, but beating 3♠ seems likely and any other action is likely to produce a minus score. I think partner has nothing. A second double would be extras (not penalty), and partner will remove it

Sacks: Pass. I cannot believe I am passing, but which 5-point hand (I cannot expect even that) will make 3NT a good contract? (I won't double because I think we can't make anything at the 4-level.)

Wittes: Pass! If the opponents are to be believed, and there is nothing to indicate otherwise, partner should have at most one or two points. Unless partner has five or six hearts, there should be no play for game, and even then, 4♥ may be no lock, so defending 3♠ may be our last chance for a plus score.

Steve Mager gave me this problem. He doubled and saw his partner bid 4♥ and go down two, although the hand might have been made if declarer guesses everything perfectly.



South	West	North	East
2♠	dbl	pass	2NT (Lebensohl)
pass	?		

You, West, hold: ♠-- ♥AKQJT ♦AK8642 ♣AJ

- a) Do you agree with your double?
b) What now?

A major issue is whether the partnership plays Leaping Michaels (sometimes called Roman Jumps). In Leaping Michaels, a jump to 4 of a minor (in this case 4♦) over a weak two-bid shows at least 5-5 in the bid minor and the unbid major. It shows a very strong hand, either completely forcing, or almost forcing depending on the exact partnership agreement.

Chechelashvili: a) Don't agree. Why not 3♠, or 4♦ (if forcing)? b) 3♠. I'll follow with 4♥ after partner's likely 4♣.

Lee: a) No, I bid 4♦, showing diamonds and hearts. Even if I played it was just nearly forcing, it seems worth it in order to describe my hand before they preempt us. b) 4♦. I would go through 3♠ with a huge diamond one-suiter, so I should have a huge hand with hearts and diamonds.

Miles: a) Yes. b) 3♠. I plan to bid 4♣ next round unless partner bids 4♣, in which case I will bid 4♦.

Shuster: a) Maybe. Don't I play Leaping Michaels? If not, then I'd double. Otherwise I'd bid 4♦ and bid again. b) 3♠. I hate not having bid a suit naturally at either of my first two turns when I have two suits I want to suggest, but I can't risk partner's passing 3♦, 3♥, or 4♥ (my second choice). We have a possible grand slam opposite, for example, ♠Jxxxx ♥xx ♦Qx ♣Kxxx. Since responder did not raise, partner is likely to have four or five spades. I must try to bring diamonds into the picture.

Meyerson: a) I bid 4♦ (Leaping Michaels) if playing that convention (and playing it as forcing, which I normally do). Assuming we do not, double is OK. b) I'll try 3♠ and follow with 4♦ if partner tries 3NT or 4♣. A direct 3♦ or 3♥ shows extras but is non-forcing. Maybe I'll get lucky, and partner will bid 4♦ or 4♥ over 3♠.

Sacks: a) No. I think bidding 4NT (ostensibly minors

but will correct to 6♦) is better. b) 3♠ for lack of anything better.

Wittes: a) No. As most good players do, I play Leaping Michaels, so 4♦ shows a big hand with diamonds and hearts. The only problem is if partner has a yarborough with three diamonds and two hearts, he may pass. If partner bids 4♥, I will bid 5♣ followed by 5♠. If partner bids 5♦, I will bid 6♣ which must be a grand slam try with first round spade control. Another problem with an initial double is occasionally partner may have a weak hand with four or five spades and pass, and we are cold for a slam. b) If I had chosen to double, and I do have sympathy for that choice, over 2NT, I would bid 5♠. If partner bids 6♣, I bid 6♦, which should show a huge hand with diamonds and hearts. If partner bids 6♦ or 6♥ over my 5♠, I will bid the grand and take my chances.

Eisenberg: a) Acceptable. b) 3♠.

I personally agree with Mr. Lee, who would bid 4♦ whether it was completely forcing or not. I have had the agreement that Leaping Michaels was not quite forcing in several partnerships for about 10 years. The specific agreement I have is that to pass partner must have 2 or less in my minor, and less (0 or 1) in my major, without any tricks. I have only had partner pass Leaping Michaels once. That occurred in the 2007 South American Pairs Championships. I held a similar hand and hoped partner wouldn't pass. She held ♠Qxxx ♥x ♦xx ♣Qxxxxx and over 2♠-4♦-pass. She tortured me by taking a full two minutes to pull the pass card out of the box, with me rooting the whole time for some bid, any bid! The hand was extremely foul, and any game was getting doubled. Down two was an absolute top across the field. I'll stick to my agreement that Leaping Michaels is almost forcing. Thanks to Ron Carlson for the problem.



S	W	N	E
1♠	pass	pass	4♥
4♠	5♥	pass	pass
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠AQJT864 ♥-- ♦Q♣AJT75
 What call do you make?

♣Qxxx.

Shuster: 5♠. It's my turn, isn't it?

Meyerson: 5♠. It's not that likely I am beating 5♥ opposite a partner who couldn't bid over 1♠. It's possible that opponents can make 6♥, but first they have to bid it, and then they have to make it (despite my two aces and assorted other cards).

Eisenberg: 5♠. When in doubt, bid one more.

Sacks: 5♠. Good trick taking 7-5 hands do not defend.

Wittes: 5♠. The old adage is the five-level belongs to the opponents, but it doesn't apply to 7-5 hands..

Some of the panelists may have been influenced by my sending out this problem with eight spades (not seven), although most of them assumed that the pattern was 7-0-1-5.

Chechelashvili: 5♠.

Lee: 5♠, seems really automatic. I didn't show anywhere near this much distribution, and the vulnerability is right, too.

Miles: Double. I think I should have bid 5♣ last round, in which case I would bid 5♠ over 5♥. But if I bid 5♠ now, partner will not know there is an alternate contract. That way I would have two chances of making game. Partner might hold ♠x ♥xx ♦Jxxxxx

I held this hand at the table. I passed partially because I inaccurately assumed I might have some chance to beat 5♠. My decision was right, but for the wrong reason. 5♥ makes, but there is a very bad spade break, and declarer will get tapped out, getting only seven tricks for down 4 and -800. The panel has convinced me that 5♠ is the percentage action.

2011 District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying

Flight	Dates	Player Masterpoint Limits
Open Flight	February 12-13	0-unlimited
Flight A	March 5-6	0-5000
Flight B	February 12-13	0-2000
Flight C	March 5-6	Non Life Master under 500

For all the above events:

- Masterpoint limits based on recorded points as of 9/1/2010
- Locations and starting times TBD
- Swiss qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5, or 6 players
- Players can enter more than one event (each on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in Toronto this summer
- Winning teams to receive partial refund of expenses for trip to the finals.
- For Complete Conditions of Contest see the ALACBU website at www.acbldistrict23.org
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg 310-475-9784 or Bill Wickham 310-234-3238