

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 45, #2

February 2010

Published By ALACBU

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**October Regional**  
by *Bill Schreiber*  
ALACBU  
President

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** I am pleased to report that we have signed a contract with the Marina del Rey Hotel for our October Regional Tournament.

The dates for the tournament are October 12-17. The schedule is still being put together, but will include game times of 10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., and 7:45 p.m. Thanks to **Ellen Kent** for making the initial contact for the first regional we will have on the Westside during my tenure as president. Room rates are \$104 per night and there is **FREE PARKING**. The views of the marina from the playing areas are spectacular. And where would you rather be than in sunny California in mid-October?

Other upcoming tournaments are as follows:

Our Grand National Team event for Open Flight and Flight B will be held in late April, and the Swiss Team Sectional, which will include the Grand National Team event for Flights A and C in late May.

Bridge Week will again be held at the Pasadena Hilton from July 5-11. Highlights of Bridge Week will be the four-session Open Pairs

*PRESIDENT continued on page 2*



**Youth4Bridge.org**  
by *Rand Pinsky*  
District Director

**YOUTH4BRIDGE.ORG** is the ACBL's web site for all of our youth in ACBL Land. Please go this website and see all of the information that is contained there. I was inspired to write about bridge youth while playing last month when Kathy and I arrived at the table of **Kayla Gosnell**. Kayla, sitting north, was playing with Dion Coffin. After each hand, Kayla immediately reached for the bidding box to find the score to enter onto the traveler. At the end of the round I engaged her in conversation. Kayla is 11 years old and started playing bridge in September 2008. She was taught by her parents, Julia and Michael Gosnell, who just happened to be playing at the next table. The net result of our two rounds was that Kayla got better results against us than her parents.



told me that he learned bridge from his mother playing Honeymoon Bridge almost three years ago. His favorite book is Adventures in Duplicate Bridge. He tries to play at least once a week in the local junior game.

The enthusiasm of these two youngsters demonstrates the need to continue to teach bridge to our youth. ACBL has a wealth of information and teaching material for anyone interested in teaching bridge to youth. The information can be used to introduce a school to the benefits afforded to their students by learning bridge and there are lesson plans for teaching. I am aware of some of our efforts in the District but I think that we have the ability to do more. Anyone interested in participating in this type of program, please let me know and I will do anything I can to assist in establishing a youth teaching

*DIRECTOR continued on page 2*



A week later, Kathy and I squared off against **Kevin Shao**. Kevin, age 9, was playing with Jim Fu. Kevin

## Inside This Issue

Around the Units .....	page 3-9
District 23 NAOP Final Results .....	page 10
Glitter Gulch .....	page 7
Problem Solvers' Panel .....	page 11-15
Rank Changes .....	page 5

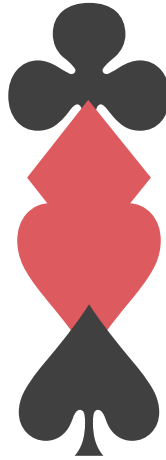
**PRESIDENT** *continued from page 1*

named for Mary Jane Ferrell, the four-session Swiss Teams named for **Marshall Miles**, and the Calcutta, named for **Alan LeBendig**, as well as the **Mark Schreiber** 299er Championship. Last year we had more than 1800 tables for our ten-day tournament. Come and enjoy the good times in Pasadena this year!

I am pleased to report that the recently held regional tournament, sponsored by the **Long Beach Unit**, turned a profit, both for the unit and the district. Kudos to Kevin Lane for a fine job of putting this tournament together.

Our next district board meeting will be held immediately after the unit game for the Pomona/Covina

Unit at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Glendora at approximately 3:00 p.m. on February 20. Come and see how your board operates, and come and play in the unit game, which starts at 11:00 a.m.

**DIRECTOR** *continued from page 1*

program. To help promote this project, I would like to highlight monthly, our youth players, youth teachers, and teaching programs in District 23. Please contact me at [pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net) with your information.

### Youth North American Bridge Championships

Mark your calendars for July 29-31. These are the dates for the Youth NABC. It will be held during the summer NABC in New Orleans and this year will be the third year we are holding this event. It would be great if our District could send some of our youth to participate in this event. Again, please contact me if you know of any of our youth who would like to participate.

### It Is A Different View From Dummy

Our new ACBL president, Richard DeMartino has announced his committee assignments for the year. I have been reappointed to be chairman of the GNT Credentials Committee and have been assigned the chairmanship of Special Events, which is a subcommittee of the Bridge Committee. Also, I have been made the vice chairman of the Appeal and Charges committee. My other assignments include Bridge, CEO Review, and Audit Committee and Bylaws/Compliance. It looks like a busy year.

That is all for now. Next month I will discuss the various motions that have been placed on our agenda for Reno.

Do not forget you can always reach me at [pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net).

**For a Grand Slam in Real Estate, Call Your Own ACBL Members**

**Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier**  
Realtors

*Bringing You Tomorrow's Lifestyle Now*

Relocation, Negotiator, Seniors, E-pro Certified,  
Representing 1st Time Buyers and Sellers,  
Probate & Trust Transactions, Estate Properties,  
Clients with Complex Real Estate Matters and  
World-wide Executive Transfers

**COLDWELL**  
**BANKER**

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Carolyn ~ 310-442-6270  
Marion ~ 310-442-6198  
11900 W. Olympic Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

### Southern California Bridge News

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

16430 Ventura Blvd. suite 108, Encino, CA 91436 Phone: 562-492-6693

email [bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)

Editors/Designers..... Jennifer Einberg & Lisa Hasegawa  
Managing Editor..... William Schreiber  
Contributing Editor..... John Jones

Subscription Rates: \$12.00 per year, private; \$2.00 as portion of District 23 dues; \$3.00 Units outside District 23 if subscribed by entire unit. Copy deadlines: advertising and editorial material by 10th of month; unit columns by 15th of month. Classified ads are payable in advance and only for a 6-month period or more with no changes in content. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale-Verdugo by Dorothy LaMaie

**Unit Game - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 13  
12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch**

Barbara McKissick has to be our front and center focus for this month's column, because she finished the last decade in fine fettle: She and Vernon Thomas placed N/S A1 at our Christmas Party/Unit Game; then she and Art Chacanas were the only ones to "beat the house" (i.e. Tim Lolli and Dan Oakes) at Sherry Strube's farewell party; and the day after Christmas she and Karen Alpert scored a 1st - boom, boom, boom, just like that! Your aching back permitting, Barb, keep up the good work...

As for starting this new decade as no-slouch participators, we found a 70 percenter turned in by those stalwarts Tim Lolli/Dan Oakes, while Mike Doll/Steve Licker produced a whopping 78% game practicing the Bob Gish system, and as referenced below, Jake Frenkel/Herman Helber at the Pasadena Unit Game earned an A1 overall 74% result in our January Unit Game.

Gerry Belcher and wife Barbara had celebrated New Year's Eve rather formally a couple of times with dinner and dancing on the Queen Mary, so we thought that might be the venue for celebrating their first wedding anniversary. Instead, Hawaii beckoned and they responded; not to ignore the QM however, and for a similar romantic occasion on a different date - a friend's wedding!

Here's a bidding sequence for you: 1♥-pass-1♠-pass-1NT-pass-4NT-pass-pass-pass.

I was so intent on making a slam or even a grand, that I forgot to use the 4♣ ace asking Gerber convention. However, since partner has already shown weakness by the 1NT bid, why would I use 4NT as "quantitative"? It's worth a ponder, *n'est-ce pas*? And yes, we got a bottom.

Disappointment No. 2: I recently opened a can of Turkey Noodle Soup, and could find nary a noodle! Fortunately, the cupboard was not bare... Such transgression did not occur at our January Unit Game - we promised to feed you and we did; many thank you's to the providers of the buffet lunch goodies. As for game results, any left over holiday toasting libations can be used to credit the following gatherers of Master Points:

### North/South

A1			Carolyn Cohen/Melina Stevens
A2			Jack Futrell/Bob Tayrien
A3	B1		Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo
A4	B2		Pat Abbey/Sharon Wolf
		C1	Madelon Liebman/Carol Lessin

### East/West

A1			Jake Frenkel/Herman Helber
A2			Tim Lolli/Brad Beland
A3	B1	C1	Eva Seri/Lyle Wiedeman
A4	B2		Nancy Lyon/Betsy Josius

Now that your respective New Years have begun, we hope that lots of challenging bridge is on your "to do" lists. It's such a great game, even if your partner does forget the proper ace asking bids!?!

Take care everybody and continue to enjoy...

## Long Beach

unit website: [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
club website: [www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)  
by Jon Yinger

**January 10 unit game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 2nd John Mellis/Cory Hand, 3rd Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi, 4th Simon and Linda Cheng, 5th Dorothy Favre/Betty Jackson and 6th Hank and Fern Dunbar. Overall winners in the B flight included: 4th Kinm Wang/Chien-San Hun, 5th Keith and Susan Hafen, 6th Sue Sood/Kay Tseng. In

C Michelle Drayer/Jon Kaye were 2nd, Al and Sharon Appel 3rd and Kisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu 4th. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master game were: 1st in A: Karen and Mike McKittrick, 2nd: Monica Gettis/Claudette Barrack, 3rd: Doris Drew/Jinny Cartier, 4th: Melanie and Jerry Smith, 5th: Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid, and 6th: David Hwahe/Tsu Jan. Congratulations to all!

**70+% games 11/15 through 1/15:** There were no 70% games at the club over the past 30 days (second month in a row), but Jackie Hess/John Farr came close with their 69.70% in the Thursday afternoon game on January 14.

**Big master point awards:** 1st overall in club games Dec 16 through Jan 15: In the evening game Dec 16 John and Suzie Hand won 3.67mp; Dec 18 Lois Abramson/Irwin Bender won 6.17mp; Dec 28 Ralph Beazley/Walter Rothstein won 4.11mp; in the Unit Game Jan 10 Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger won 5.10mp; Jan 12 Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger won 4.23mp; Jan 14 John Farr/Jackie Hess won 3.25mp; Jan 15 Irwin Bender/Lois Abramson won 4.44mp. Big awards for 2nd overall: Dec 18 Doris and Dwayne James won 4.63mp; on Dec 28 Doris and Dwayne James were 2nd overall again winning 3.08mp; Jan 10 Cory Hand/John Mellis won 3.83mp; Jan 12 Betty McClellan/Bill Wilson won 3.17mp; Jan 15 Earl VanDerVord/Michael Daly won 3.33mp. Big awards for 3rd overall: Dec 18 Lisa Cheng/Jon Wong won 3.47mp. Congratulations to all!

**New members and new status:** We issue a warm welcome to new members Richard Barrack, Sharon Biederman, Pamela Cole, James Fieldhouse, and Brent Hardy. Status changes: Life Master: Judy Carter-Johnson; Junior Master: Robert Beckman; Club Masters: Joyce Henderson and Ron Yaffee; Sectional Master: Lynne Finley, Colleen Gardner, Jane Reid and Melanie Smith; Regional Masters: Renee Hoffman and David Jones. Congratulations to you all!!

**Upcoming special events at the club:** Tuesday, February 2: Groundhog Day Game; Saturday, February 6: ACBL International Fund Game; February 7-13: Junior Fund Games; Sunday, February 14: Unit Game - non-life masters play for \$5; February 22 – 28: another week of Junior Fund Games. All special games: regular prices, extra points.

**Get well wishes to:** Betty Barton, Betse Straub, Ed Neuroth and Joy Rosenthal.

Get on the e-mail list for the newsletter: If you miss getting the newsletter by snail mail (it's been a year since the district quit mailing them out), you can have me send you a copy by e-mail. Send me your e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is [jyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

[www.darbonne.com/bridge/](http://www.darbonne.com/bridge/)

By Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

### Unit Game - January 31 San Marino Recreation Center

Well, although I wasn't here for the unit game, I understand the decade started off with a BANG! Amr Elghamry was in charge of the food, and he provided Subway sandwiches with Bernie Mateer stepping in to assist. She made a wonderful Waldorf salad, and the dessert consisted of four cakes. Sounds like that was a good thing since there were 25.5 tables. Quite amazing to be in charge of the food and to finish first overall in A (with a lot of help from Weezie Reich). Amr, that's not bad for your first-time effort as a new board member. First in flight B were Ruby Davis/La Donna Shatto, while Dave and Carol Schwartz were first in C.

Because Marie and Ron Nimmrich were on a cruise to Hawaii in January we had a director from the Pomona unit, Tom Lill, fill in as our director. I was off to Monterey and missed all the excitement, but I guess there was a problem with the pre-duplicated boards and they all had to be shuffled; since the scoring program was set up for the pre-dups and wasn't changed after the shuffle, the results were incorrectly scored across both sections. Fortunately, Roy Wilson graciously stepped in and was able to rectify things. So now there are official winners for the event and all is well. Some of you have asked how there can be an overall winner if the boards are not duplicated, and the answer is that the ACBL allows two sections to play different boards and then assign an overall award to the highest percentage game between the two sections.

We have some serious date changes to our calendar due to matters beyond our control. Because the Super Bowl is the first Sunday in February, our February game



## District 23 Rank Changes 12/1/09 - 12/31/09

### Junior Master (5 MPs)

George Alemshah  
Michel Brand  
Susan Cohen  
Kay Faguet  
Robert Feinberg  
Mary Goodwin  
Kayla Gosnell  
Carolyn Heyn  
Nancy Koss  
Richard Lowenstein  
Pamela Morton  
Deedy Nordyke  
Beverly Piecha  
Michael Shindler  
Martha Stephen  
Bonny Walsh  
Jerry Weissman  
Stephanie Young

### Club Master (20 MPs)

Philip Alfandary  
Nancie Barrier  
Jeanette Betts  
Sharon Fadem  
Bella Feniger  
Elaine Godin  
Xingping Kang  
David Lyons  
Bridget O'Sullivan  
Sunil Singh  
Jerome Smith  
Kathleen Tejeda  
Misty Weiss

### Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Lee Axelrod  
Elaine Dovgard  
Martin Keller  
Nancy Spelke  
Judith Wachtel  
Renee Wishengrad

### Regional Master (100 MPs)

Margie Hall  
Dennis Hollingworth  
Krystyna Hollingworth  
Aaron Jones  
Phyllis Selig-Kerns

### NABC Master (200 MPs)

Marianne David  
Beverly Goldner  
Marcia Lauffer-Rosner  
Clay Levine  
Joan Little  
Steven Little  
Donna Massman  
Steve Ramos  
Louise Sperr  
R Turner  
Stephen Weiner  
Marsha Winer

### Life Master (300 MPs)

Nourit Chowaiki  
Connie De Rosa  
Rosemary Ford  
Jill Goodman  
Trudi Graham  
Sally Karbelnig  
Pritzi Lembi  
Sofia Pineda  
Sue Ann Simon  
Annette Sincok  
Sherry Troeger

### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Gloria Anne Barrack  
Nourit Chowaiki  
Sue Fardette  
Angelika Hederer  
Richard Patterson  
Sofia Pineda  
Sherry Troeger

### Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Robert Shore  
Kathy Swaine

### Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Gary King  
Marlene Warren-Gasper

### Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Iftikhar Baqai

ATU continued from page 4

was held a bit early on Sunday, January 31. The Election Party, which was originally scheduled for March 14, has been changed to February 27 so as not to conflict with the Academy Awards and the Reno Nationals. Please note that this is a **Saturday** and the game will be held at the Elk's Lodge in Arcadia. Tickets are \$35 and will be available from board members soon. Easter will be on April 4, so our April unit game will be held March 28. We might get back on schedule by May, but don't count on it.

This is the time of year to select new board members. Two members are not returning next year so if you have an interest in serving, please let Jan Wickersham know immediately because a committee will be formed soon to find replacements. The returning members are Amr Elghamry, Mary Falvey, Sandra Franciscus, Mark Hartzell, Miriam Harrington, Marie Nimmrich, Peter Szecsi, Robert Wang and Jan Wickersham. Those leaving who have volunteered a great deal of time and effort on our behalf are Georgiana Bierman and Kim Horn. Thank you!

No one has had a 70% game at the San Marino Wednesday night game in a very long time, so the jackpot is now more than \$120. Also, the game has increased in attendance lately, which may be due to Jan Wickersham's lessons, which are held twice a week from 5-7 p.m. The lessons are free and a bit advanced, so if you are interested, bring your partner next time. (The schedule is usually posted on our website.)

Here is what's happening at the Arcadia Bridge Center – they will be closed for Super Bowl Sunday, which is on February 7, and also on the afternoon of the unit Election Party, which will be on the 27th. The popular Winners/Losers Sunday is the 21st, and an open swiss game will be on the 28th. "Beat the House" night is Friday evening the 19th. (An easy way to win a free play, right?) A big game last month... Joerg and Jan Rottenbacher scored a 75.88% game at the Bridge Center. Congratulations!

Each year the ACBL keeps track of a unit's players to determine the winners of two races. The Mini-McKenney is for the player in each rank who wins the most masterpoints for the year while playing in any sanctioned event. The Ace of Clubs is a separate race that recognizes the player in each rank for the most masterpoints won only at club games. The results are

in, and can be found on the unit web site. The top three overall winners for Unit 559 were Jeff Fang, Roger Lee, and Jeff Goldsmith, all in separate ranks. The winners for all ranks will be honored at the Election Party at the end of February.

### Trumping and Ruffing

Does one trump or does one ruff? Is the term *to ruff* a slang term for the more proper term *to trump*? Nope. The word *ruff* is a verb and it means to play a trump card when a non-trump suit has been lead. Ruffing a trick, then, means to trump that trick, so it is synonymous with the verb *to trump*, although the generally accepted preference is *to ruff*.

As a noun, the two words are completely different and cannot be used interchangeably. When used as a noun, trumps are the suit that outranks all other suits in a particular contract and singularly, a trump is one of the 13 cards in a trump suit. A ruff, however, as a noun means simply *an act of ruffing*.

Thus, a player can give his partner a ruff, but cannot give him a trump. Also, you can say that a card is from a trump suit but it wouldn't be correct to refer to that suit as the ruff suit. Players may both *cross-ruff* and *cross-trump* and either is correct, but the preferred usage is *cross-ruff*. You will hear declarer call for a card from dummy as, "Play a trump, partner" but not "Play a ruff." A common phrase is *ruff and sluff*, but you never hear *trump and sluff*. (Hmm... maybe trump and dump?)

So. The word *ruff* is a perfectly proper word in the vocabulary of bridge. Use it freely.

See you at the table.

## Pomona-Covina

by Vic Sartor

Now that we've had a month to recover from the

**Unit Game Saturday - February 20**  
**Lunch at 11:00 a.m. - game follows**

holiday season, the unit is hoping to build on last year's attendance figures to make sure that bridge continues to thrive in our area. Roger Boyar's Friday morning game at LaFetra draws well, and the monthly unit game has seen a nice growth in the past few months. We still need to strengthen the LaFetra Tuesday morning and

Thursday evening games, however. The Thursday 7 p.m. game is the last remaining night game between San Bernardino and Arcadia, and we can't afford to lose it. So if you've been afraid to venture out after dark for fear of vampires or other things that go bump in the night, we can assure you that we haven't lost a single player in at least six months. Please come out and join the Thursday group. As a special added attraction, Tom Lill and Clint Lew provide a weekly comedy revue - a collection of their worst jokes. As an even bigger incentive, if you bring in a new player they promise NOT to entertain!

As far as the unit game goes, we have the results of the past two contests to report, as well as some interesting news about our upcoming February event. The December winners were Roger Boyar/Helen Wang. Walt Otto/Bill Papa tied for second and third with Genise Hasan/Denise Morgan, and Sue Rottner/

Rita Corwin tied Roy and Barbara McLeod for fourth and fifth. The January game was hotly contested. Hans Hehnke/Vic Sartor tied Lary Alba/Cordell Goode for first N/S and first overall. Kerry Sartor and Margaret Merritt were first E/W. Pat Radamaker/Clint Lew took first in Class B.

For February, we will be host to ALACBU President Bill Screiber and the ALACBU board of directors. After the game, they will all be wine and dine at the home of our "host and hostess with the mostest." Gino and Penny Barbieri.

In recent local table results, top game of the month was a 67.5% posted by Roger Boyar and Kurt Trieselmann. Other winners were Lary Alba, Dave Ruoff, Walt Otto, Joe Unis, Herman Helber, Kathy Helber, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, and Ken Bloomfield. Pat Radamaker had a hot week at the Palm Springs sectional, placing in several events. Lary Alba and Cordell Goode had a section first

# ♦♣ Las Vegas ♥♠ GLITTER GULCH SECTIONAL

**FOUR Days of KNOCKOUTS**  
**EIGHT Sessions of SWISS TEAMS!**  
**ELEVEN Sessions of 0-300 Games!**

**RIVIERA**  
HOTEL - CASINO - LAS VEGAS

2901 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas NV 89109  
Phone: 702 734-5110 or Toll Free 800 634-6753

**March 1-5, 2010**

## Monday, March 1

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, March 2

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams  
Final Rd.  
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, March 3

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams  
Final Rd.  
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, March 4

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams  
Final Rd.  
Bracketed Compact KOs  
1st session of 2  
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Board-A-Match Teams  
Bracketed Compact KOs  
Final Session

## Friday, March 5

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 will be sold at the director's discretion.)  
10:00 a.m. Stratified Swiss Teams  
(2-session play-through no break)  
Swiss Teams will finish by 5:00 p.m.  
*There will be a snack bar in the playing area all day Friday*

*All open stratified events are stratified by 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**

**Riviera Hotel & Casino  
Special Room Rates ~~\$89.00~~  
Reserve by February 5**

**www.LVsectional.com**

**Need a Partner?  
Need Teammates?  
Visit our online  
Partnership Desk at  
[www.LVsectional.com](http://www.LVsectional.com)**

**Director-in Charge:**  
Bill Michael  
**Tournament Co-chairs:**  
Tom Shulman 702 367-2057  
Barbara Dunkley 702 645-6841

**For further Information  
Email:**  
[Tom@LVsectional.com](mailto:Tom@LVsectional.com)  
or [bdunkley@cox.net](mailto:bdunkley@cox.net)  
Sanction # 50909033

**Now \$65.00**

at the same tournament.

In social notes, Genise Hasan stopped by for a couple of weeks before heading out again - this time to Australia. Clint Lew spent most of last month commuting back and forth to New York to satisfy various family obligations, with a side trip to Las Vegas to finance his travels at the gaming tables.

For our hand of the month, try bidding this one. You hold: ♠AKQ9xx ♥xx ♦KJx ♣xx and open 1♠. Partner responds 2♥. You bid 2♠, and pard bids 3♦. Your bid? If you are smart enough to bid 3♥, you win a gold star (I wasn't). With that little bit of cooperation from you and some intelligent cue bidding, he may now manage to find your king of diamonds and get you to 7♥ or even 7NT. His hand is: ♠-- ♥AKQ10xx ♦AQ98x ♣Ax and you have 15 top tricks. 'Til next time...

## San Fernando Valley

by Fran Kern

**Upcoming unit events:** The San Fernando Valley Sectional is scheduled for April 2010.

Friday, April 16 games at The 750 Bridge Club at the Prince of Peace Church, 5700 Rundnick Ave, Woodland Hills. Games at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for Open Pairs, Junior Games, and Knockouts.

Saturday, April 17 Games at The Bridge Academy at 6733 Variel Ave., Canoga Park. Games at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for Open Pairs, Junior Games, and Knockouts.

Sunday, April 18 Games at The Bridge Academy. Games start at noon and are limited to Swiss Teams.

**The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for December:**  
*750 Bridge Club:* Ronald Malkin 5.44, Donald Rosen 5.26, Sam Antoun 4.89, Donald Witmeyer 4.27, Jim Lechner 4.20, Moheb Mansour 3.91, Paula Rosenfeld 3.85, Fleur Levine 3.85, Joyce Hart 3.61, and Ellen Sue Sarture 3.01.

*Bridge Academy 299 Game:* Marge Bulmer 6.38, Sam Antoun 4.53, Norman Berman 4.08, Sandy Berman 4.08, Jeri Herman 3.79, Merkie Rowan 3.75, Joan Farrar 3.06, Shirley Klein 2.78, Carol Winston 2.77, and Elynor Soble 2.61.

*Bridge Academy Open Game:* Gilbert Stinebaugh 20.37, Ellen Anten 15.32, Babak Shafil 14.11, Andrew Vinock 13.51, Leda Danzig 13.44, Marta Peltz 12.75,

William Carlson, Jr. 12.43, Armand Szulc 12.07, Dan Kosman 10.83, and Judith Rosenstiel 10.69.

There were no 70% Games for December.

**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](mailto: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

**Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club:**  
 Special events for the month of February have not yet been set up. Check with the SBBC website listed above to determine this schedule.

**Club Championships:** Winners in the A/X pairs at the Unit Christmas party on December 13 were Meredith and Ted Gibbs in Flight A and Kim Wang/Hank Sheehan in Flight X. The BCD game saw Elaine Bleiweis/Barbara Coe taking Flight B and Dolly and Bruce Weiner winning both Flights C and D. On January 11 the Club Championship was captured by Kim Wang/Lutrell Long in Flights A and B with Lorna Wallace/Ed Srenco leading Flight C. The Club Championship on January 15 was won by Jeff Strutzel/Andy Anderson in Flight A and Mark Raggio/MaryBelle Hoenig in Flight B.

**Team Winners:** On December 15 there was a tie for the top spot between the team of Krystyna and Dennis Hollingworth, Dolly and Bruce Weiner and the team of Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Ernie Frank, and Bernie Weinstein. The December 22 and 29 games were won by Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Maurice Suhre, and John J. McDermott. On January 5 Winnie Ninneman, Bruce Merchant, Freddie Spradlin, and Henry Crowder took the top spot. On January 12 the winning foursome was Bea and John Brailliar, Bruce Horiguchi, and Alfred Lee.

**Long Beach Regional Heroes and Heroines from TSB:** Bruce Horiguchi partnered with Subba Ravipundi won the New Years day Stratified Open Pairs. The team of Joanne and Cal Waller, Mark Raggio, and Ginny Blitzman captured second in the KO. Oh yes, John Jones was on the winning team in this KO as well as



the winning team in the A/X Swiss. The BCD Swiss was won by the foursome of Kim Wang, Lutrell Long, Steve Ramos, and Hank Sheehan in both Flights B and C. In this event Ron Carlson attained Life Master Status playing with Joanne and Cal Waller plus Gerri Carlson as the team finishing fourth overall in Flights B and C. The Flight BCD IMP pairs was captured by Luis Gamio playing with Tariq Latif in Flight B.

**Milestones:** Sadly one of our Junior players passed away suddenly this past month. Shirley Axtell was a regular at the Friday morning junior game. Shirley was known for the charity work she did in the South Bay.

**GUV Memorial Award:** Everybody has been behaving themselves this past month. Maybe I should give the award to my Tuesday night Swiss team which lost two straight weeks to of all teams the one captained by Bernie Weinstein.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by candy

Earle Ziskin's passing has touched so many of us, because we have truly lost a friend. Having been around the bridge world more than a little while, I don't remember a time in which Earle was not a part of this motley crew I call friends. I do know we stole him away from the poker tables and never gave him back. While having many sectional and regional wins, Earle owned the Ace of Clubs award.

At the Wild Whist Bridge Club Earle would start the day at work, but could usually get away to play an afternoon of bridge, followed by the after bridge O'Hell game, after a short break for dinner play the evening session of bridge and with very little encouragement, more O'Hell. When he retired, so did his tie. T-shirts and the morning O'Hell suited him much better.

When I was teaching at the Culver-Marina Bridge Club, unbeknownst to Earle, I would set him up. My students would tell me they couldn't play in the open game because Earle was playing there. I would tell them, "Oh he's easy. If you have a question, ask him and you'll get a good answer to your problem. Use him to your advantage." More than one of these students came back to tell me not only did he answer their questions, but the next time they came to his table he remembered

them and asked how they were doing. He promoted bridge without knowing it.

I am lucky enough to be one of many who played bridge with him, but there are those who got to play Standard Earle, Standard Armenian and Natural Modern with him. Beverly, Aram, Bill, Jill, and Marshall are missing him as a member of their family. While writing this I also learned of Lotte's passing. She became that special spark in his life. I hope his family is consoled by the fact of how much we loved and will miss Earle. May his memory be a blessing.

I just heard Bernie Ravitz, a long time member and friend in the bridge world, has died. He also started playing at the Whist. Our thoughts go out to his friends and family at this time.

A new board met and after welcoming Brana Hall to the board, we did "tag you're it" and elected the same people as officers. So Howard's still pres, Carolyn is vice pres, Fred is treasurer, and Jordan is secretary. Discussed unit events we want to run this year and "that's all folks."

People moving up the ACBL ladder were New Junior Masters: Mary Bell, Geoffrey Breskal, and Lois Rawitt; New Club Masters: Donald Goldman, Bennett Kerns, and Dorothy Lank; New Sectional Master: Frank Miller.

70% games were by Delia Juul-Dam/Brian Richardson and Adrienne Green/Michaele Drayer.

Club Championship at Beverly Hills included a special event in Ed Troth's memory. The winners were Sam Haveson/Guy Green. Other champs were Michael Brand/Toby Green, Bud Bates/Bob Shore, Ed Feldmann/Richard Weinberger. Barrington Club Champs were A: Rodger Harbin/Art Zail and B: Laura Waisler/Rhoda Weisler.

February has Valentine's Day (a Cupid little holiday) followed two days later by the start of Mardi Gras. So I want to see all of you strutting down the street with your heart on your sleeve and beads around your neck. So vous le vous to you until next month.

**News for the Bridge News?**

**Send your story to**

**[bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org)**

## District 23 North American Pairs Finals Results

*by Mike Marcucci*

On January 24, 2010 we played for the Flight A, B, and C NAOP awards at the Barrington Bridge Club. The races didn't seem close at half-time, but, just like the Red Sox - Yankees, no one rested until the final card was played. Congrats to all our players. We started with 733 qualifiers going into the semi-finals.

Here are our final results, all earning invitations to the NABC two-day events in Reno this March:

### Flight A

1. Guy Green, Viktor Anikovich
2. Paul Markarian, Victor Chernoff
3. Jordan Chodorow, Marjorie Michelin

### Flight B

1. David Kempe, Matt Klimesh
2. Robert Wang, Frank Shih
3. Hsi-Chun Liu, Zheng Zhang

### Flight C

1. Lisa Kuo, Murat Veysoglu
2. Neal Kleiner, Steve Ramos
3. Bob Verhoef, Bob Novell

We wish all the best of luck at the Nationals. Bring back more gold, folks, and have a great time along the way.



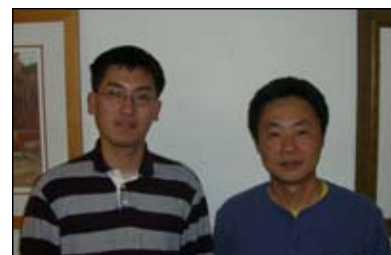
Guy Green & Victor Anikovich



David Kempe & Matt Klimesh



Robert Wang & Frank Smith



Hsi-Chun Liu & Zheng Zhang



Bob Verhoef & Bob Novell



Neal Kleiner & Steve Ramos



Lisa Kuo & Murat Veysoglu

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panel: Leo Bell, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Jon Wittes, Rick Roeder, and David Sacks

# 1

MPs  
EW vul

West	North	East	South
1♠	2NT	pass	3♠
pass	?		

You hold: ♠-- ♥J6 ♦J9872 ♣AT9542

What call do you make?

*I mistyped this problem. I intended North to bid 4♣, South 4♦, and then the problem. I'll use it later.*

**Bell:** 4♣. Bid my longer suit and await developments.

**Kantar:** 4♣. I'm not going to start out by doing anything insane like passing. Chances are partner is cuebidding (obviously with length), envisioning big things in one of the minors. Whatever he needs, I don't have it.

**Roeder:** 4♣. 3♠ should not be forcing to a 5-level contract. Pard can pass this. 3NT should show equal length in my suits – not an offer to play.

**Sacks:** 4♣. My partnerships have the agreement that Unusual NT bids show bad hands or very good hands

that can bid again over a simple response. I have an extra club, but still have a minimum hand. 4♣ may wrong side the contract, but what else can I do?

**Goldsmith:** 4♣. This is mostly about partnership expectations. Is this hand a minimum for a white on red Unusual 2NT? Or would I bid the same way with the ♣2 turned into the ♠2? More importantly, what does partner expect I'd do? My personal evaluation is that it's a minimum. The spade void is good, but it's a 7-loser hand. It's a pretty good 7-loser hand, so it is a good minimum.

**Wittes:** 4♠. I'll bite. Although I have a minimum hand for the auction, I have a sixth club and a spade void, so whatever partner has in mind, I'm cooperating. LHO didn't peep, and opener took no further action, so partner must have an awfully good hand.

Want to place an ad in the Southern California Bridge News?

email: [bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)

full page (7.5x10) \$100

medium-v (3.6 x 6) \$40

small (3.6 x 2.75) \$20

large (7.5 x 6) \$60

medium-h (7.5 x 3) \$40

2

IMPs  
all vul

West	North	East	South
1♥ ?	pass	1♠	pass

You hold: ♠A ♥AT97542 ♦A8 ♣A75

What call do you make?

*This hand is from Eli Borok's money IMP game. The Hall of Fame player who held the hand bid 3♥. His counterpart bid 4♥.*

**Goldsmith:** 3♥. Switch my black suits, and I'd have to make up a semi-artificial force. Yes, I missed a game vs. ♠xxxx ♥xx ♦xxx ♣KQxx, but I missed bupkis vs. ♠KQxx ♥xx ♦xxx ♣xxxx.

**Sacks:** 3♥. I might consider an Al Roth "waiting for something good" 2♣, if I was certain that partner would only pass with zero or one hearts. The hand

is worth more than 3♥, but all other bids have greater flaws.

**Bell:** 4♥. What's the problem? Even if partner has a heart void, I'll still make if hearts split and partner has two kings.

**Kantar:** 4♥. I'm looking at close to nine tricks in my own hand. This hand is better than some of the 2♣ openers I have seen.

*PSP continued on next page*

## 2010 Grand National Teams Location and Dates

Flight	Dates	Player Masterpoint Limits
Open Flight	April 24-25	0-unlimited
Flight A	May 22-23	0-5000
Flight B	April 24-25	0-2000
Flight C	May 22-23	Non Life Master under 500

Masterpoint limits based on recorded points as of 9/1/2009

### All Events:

- Take place at the San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy (818) 999-9131  
6733 Variel, Canoga Park 91303
- Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5 or 6 players
- Game Times: 10:30 a.m. and TBA
- Players can enter more than 1 event (on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in New Orleans 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](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg (310) 475-9784 or Bill Wickham (310) 234-3238



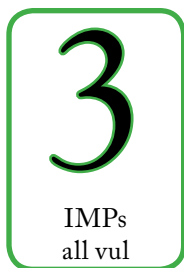
*PSP continued from previous page*

**Roeder:** 4♥. Any other bid has too many warts. Bidding only 3♥s with seven pieces and four bullets?! Jump shifting to 3♣ is OK on values, due to the aces, but only makes sense if you plan to pass pard's 3NT response or to raise pard's 3♠ rebid to 4♠ – however, suppressing a seven-card major is a position deeper than Lake Tahoe. Eric Kokish and his acolytes may plump for 2♣, but how do you “catch up” even assuming that pard does not give you indigestion by

passing?

**Wittes:** 3♣. Too good for 3♥. Although my suit quality is not too good, I have a seventh heart and all the bullets.

*I like 3♣, as do some experts I've given the problem to who are not on this panel. 3♣ is more flexible than 4♥.*



West	North	East	South
1♦	pass	1♠	pass
2♦	pass	?	

You hold: ♠AKT52 ♥876 ♦-- ♣A9863

What call do you make?

**Roeder:** 3♣. This may propel us to minus territory on a misfit but I can not afford to yet give up on a vulnerable game at IMPs. Regular partnerships should discuss whether a 3♦ response over 3♣ is game forcing.

**Bell:** 3♣. Some play that 2♥ here is artificial and creates a game force. Even if playing that, I still think it's right to show the five-card club suit. A tougher problem will arise when partner rebids 3♦.

*How many clubs does 3♣ show? Zero is possible in some partnerships. How far does 3♣ force? I believe many experts play 3♦ forcing after 3♣.*

**Sacks:** 2♥. 2♥ is the cheapest force and allows us to play a part score if partner bids 2♠, 2NT or 3♦. I will raise 3♥ or 3♣ to game. 3♣ would be a more descriptive bid, but absolutely force to game.

**Goldsmith:** Pass. Misfit, misfit, ah-ooh-gah.

**Kantar:** Pass. Spare me from playing with someone who requires four spades to raise 1♠ to 2♠.

*Amen, Brother Eddie! Supporting partner's major with three-card support is often preferable to rebidding a minor suit.*

**Wittes:** Pass. I probably won't get much agreement for this answer, but I believe when you're on a huge misfit, you should stay as low as possible. Give partner a typical minimum like ♠xx ♥Axx ♦AKJxxx ♣xx, and 2♦ is probably about the extent of the hand. If partner had three spades, I expect a raise rather than a 2♦ rebid most of the time.

*Amen to you too, Brother Jon!*

*This hand comes from the Senior KO championships in San Diego. My opponents had this auction and missed game. My teammates did better after a far different start. My teammates were critical of the player who held the given hand and elected to pass. I had sympathy for the pass and still do. Perhaps Sacks' 2♥ bid is a reasonable compromise.*



4

MPs  
NS vul

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	1♥	2♣
3♥*	pass	pass	?

\*weak raise

You hold: ♠KT ♥9 ♦AT94 ♣AQT952

What call do you make?

**Roeder:** 3NT. This bid shows secondary diamonds and is not to play. Pard does not have to be the sharpest tool to look at his heart length and figure this out. Pass is out because pard is marked with some strength. Double is flawed - if pard jumps to 4♠ on a mediocre 5-bagger, you won't be happy.

**Kantar:** 3NT. I'm showing this distribution, but I'm certainly minimum.

*3NT is not natural, because partner hasn't bid. If Eddie could make nine tricks opposite a partner with no values, he would not have started with a non-forcing 2♣ overcall. Eddie is showing clubs and diamonds with about a two-card difference in the suit lengths (normally either 6-4 or 7-5).*

**Sacks:** Double. I barely have enough to double. I will bid 4♣ if partner bids 3♠, but I will pass 4♠. 3NT is not clearly long clubs with secondary diamonds. I might want to bid 3NT natural if I held AKJTxxx of clubs with Kx in hearts.

**Bell:** Double. I usually prefer to make the most flexible bid. If partner bids 3♠, I can retreat to 4♣, and partner will know I have clubs and diamonds. If partner passes 3♥ doubled I'll be happy because I have plenty of defense.

*Nice lead problem if partner passes.*

**Goldsmith:** Double. WTP? Make a low diamond the ♠J and it's textbook.

**Wittes:** Double. Not the ideal distribution and certainly a little light in high cards, but selling to 3♥ doesn't seem right. If partner has four spades and two clubs, I expect to hear 4♣ rather than 3♠, as I surely don't have four spades, because I didn't double the first time.

*I altered a problem from an old Bridge Bulletin based on a question I had been asked. It looks as though I made the hand a little stronger than I intended. I had hoped for pass, 3NT, 4♣ and double all to be discussed.*

From the  
**Barry Crane Top 500**  
updated 11/6/10

Rank	Player	Location	Points				
1	Jeff Meckstroth	Tampa FL	3,188.58	9	Chris Compton	Dallas TX	1,814.26
2	Eric Rodwell	Clearwater Bch FL	3,009.32	10	Eddie Wold	Houston TX	1,793.62
3	Mike Passell	Las Vegas NV	2,069.44	11	Chris Moll	Raleigh NC	1,788.14
4	Garey Hayden	Tucson AZ	2,051.58	12	Marc Jacobus	Las Vegas NV	1,723.87
5	Jacek Pszczola	Chapel Hill NC	2,050.68	13	Geoff Hampson	Las Vegas NV	1,692.10
6	Gary Cohler	Miami FL	1,942.31	14	G Gard Hays	Veradale WA	1,602.20
7	Michael Seamon	Dania FL	1,928.40	15	Robert Todd	Tallahassee FL	1,508.85
8	Jacob Morgan	Madison WI	1,849.97	16	Matt Granovetter	Cincinnati OH	1,501.43
				17	David Berkowitz	Boca Raton FL	1,495.67
				18	Bruce Ferguson	Palm Springs CA	1,476.36
				19	Mark Itabashi	Murrieta CA	1,473.70
				20	Barry Harper	Regina SK	1,461.81
				21	Robert Levin	Lake Ariel PA	1,458.58
				22	Sheila Gabay	Newton MA	1,398.00



West      North      East      South

1♣                  ?

You hold: ♠AQT763 ♥J9762 ♦J ♣Q

What call do you make?

*We have six good spades, five mediocre hearts, rather average strength, and no clear direction. We can bid Michaels directly to announce both majors, bid 1♣ with room to introduce hearts later, or preempt in spades with 2♠, 3♠, or 4♠ possible.*

**Sacks:** 1♣. I would bid Michaels if I had five and six hearts. I like 1♣ considering where my HCP are located.

**Roeder:** 1♣. Anything could work, including a high spade preempt. On many auctions, I will plan to introduce hearts later, hoping for a profitable save. A minor flaw with Michaels is that pard will bid hearts with equal length in the two suits. Matchpoints and the vulnerability give you the luxury of being able to make a second bid later to better clarify major suit lengths.

**Kantar:** 1♣. When there is no good answer to a bidding problem, bid your longest suit. Not original. Straight from the pen of Edgar Kaplan.

**Bell:** 1♣. Even though a Michaels cue bid is available, my suits are different in both size and strength. I want to emphasize spades and hope to show the side suit later.

**Goldsmith:** 4♠. "White on red at matchpoints" to a bridge player is as a red flag is to a bull.

**Wittes:** 2♣. I know my spades are significantly superior to my hearts, but I want to keep hearts in play. Occasionally, partner is dealt a stiff spade and four hearts.

*I like 3♠ – It takes up room from the opponents and having five hearts makes it very tough for East to make a negative double. 3♠ is significantly safer than 4♠ (much tougher to double) and far more preemptive than 1♣. I do risk missing some games that the 4♠ bidders can't miss and the 1♣ bidders will likely reach.*

[www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)

## Problems For March

1. no vul, IMPs

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
1NT*	dbl**	2♦***	pass
2♥	dbl	pass	?
*11-14 HCP			
**penalty double			
***transfer to hearts			

You hold: ♠Q642 ♥J986 ♦854 ♣Q7

What call do you make?

2. both vul, IMPs

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♣	pass	1♥	pass
2♥	pass		

You hold: ♠762 ♥KJ82 ♦AKJ43 ♣6?

What call do you make?

3. NS vul, IMPs

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
pass	pass	1♠	2♥
?			

You hold: ♠Q8 ♥84 ♦A7652 ♣KQ42

What call do you make?

4. both vul, MPs

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
2♣	pass	3♣	pass
3♠	pass	?	

You hold:

♠-- ♥762 ♦K85 ♣KQJ10863

What call do you make?

5. both vul, IMPs

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
pass	1♥	pass	1♠*
*Kaplan Interchange			
1♠ shows a 1NT response			
and 1NT shows spades			

You hold: ♠Q72 ♥AKQJ954 ♦8 ♣95

What call do you make?