

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 49, #1

January 2013

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another Great Year with Bridge

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



As 2012 draws to a close, I think back upon the year and count the blessings in my life. Thankfully, both Roger and I have our health and can continue our nomadic bridge life. During this year we traveled to 18 regional tournaments and two Nationals in five states and

two provinces. We played with friends from Edmonton, Phoenix, Seattle, Northern California, Denver, San Diego, Orange County, Visalia, and Los Angeles. We traveled more than 27,000 miles and earned more than 1800 master points between us along the way. I know this life isn't for everyone, but I know bridge plays an important part in the lives of all of us. Whether it is going to the bridge club several times a week or traveling as we have, bridge provides us with friends and mental activity that keeps us sharp and alert, no matter our age.

Your tournament committee has worked hard to provide you with quality tournaments here in Los Angeles. Each of our tournament sites are in great

PRESIDENT *continued on page 16*

NAP Finals for D23 are set!

by Michael Marcucci

The District has held the NAP Semi's for this year and now players must gear up for the Finals at Beverly Hills in January. See our web site for the flyer and the qualifiers.

The pairs who finish in the top three for each flight will then be eligible for the Nationals in St Louis, the "Gateway to the West" at one time. Of the 800 qualifiers who came from our club games this summer, we had 125 play in the semi's at San Marino and San Fernando. Now that's a nice group, but where were the other 675

NAP *continued on page 2*

SF Board Wrap Up

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



The Fall NABC Board Meetings are always very long. As Treasurer of the ACBL, I am required to be there one week prior to the actual tournament as the Finance Committee meets on Saturday, the regular board meetings begin on Sunday and we end the meetings on

Wednesday, so board members who want to go home for Thanksgiving can leave on Wednesday. The NABC begins for real on Friday after Thanksgiving.

This year we had good news on our finances. It is projected that the League will have a net increase in assets of \$367,695 and it is projected that in 2013 we will have an increase of \$209,094. It is my estimate that we will not reach the \$367,000 increase as our table count for San Francisco was 600 tables less than what was estimated. Still we had a very good year. And with this net increase, there will be no increase in dues or sanction fees for 2013.

New Event for the Spring NABC.

The Board is always trying to develop new events that will enhance the national experience. Therefore, in St. Louis there will be a 10K Swiss Team event to be played the first Friday and Saturday of the NABC. The event will be limited to no player having over 10,000 masterpoints. Also, the awards will be gold and overall awards will offer 10 percent platinum with a cap of 10

DIRECTOR *continued on page 14*

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2013 Grand National Teams Location and Dates

<u>Flight</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Player Masterpoint Limits</u>
Open Flight	April 27-28	0-unlimited
Flight A	May 18-19	0-5000
Flight B	April 27-28	0-2000
Flight C	May 18-19	Non Life Master under 500

Masterpoint limits based on recorded points as of 9/1/2012

All Events

- Location: Barrington Bridge Club (310-966-4144)
- Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5, or 6 players
- Game Times are 10:00 and 3:00
- Players can enter more than 1 event (on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in Atlanta this summer
- Winning teams to receive partial refund of expenses for trip to the finals.
- Complete Conditions of Contest at the ALACBU website: www.acbldistrict23.org
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg (310-475-9784)
Or Bill Wickham (310-234-3238)

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NAP continued from page 1

players?

We have changed the game rules this year, for those who enjoy surprises. We cannot promise anything for next year, but for St Louis, the District will be adding to the cash prizes given to our finals winners. Of course, as in previous years, the 1st place pair in **each** flight receives \$1,400 for playing in the NABC. Our District will add to the ACBL awards for 2nd and 3rd this year, so that our 2nd place pair will receive a total of \$800 and the 3rd place pair will receive \$200. Now when your entry fees are already paid for the 2-day events in St Louis, that's not a bad deal! First on the agenda is for everyone to have a good time in Beverly Hills, so good luck to all our qualifiers who attend. You'll have hand records to review, and there will be snacks, as usual.

Southern California Bridge News

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

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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

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

The recently completed Palm Springs Regional was a wonderful event, huge turnout and excellent bridge... **for some.** Two of our players really did a splendid job, Ruth Baker and Tracy Boys not only scooped up some valuable gold points, but also led our local contingent in total points won! That is right, Ruth and Tracy were second in a bracketed/stratified team competition and did well in other events and tallied 13.01 points. Marlene Warren-Gasper, her husband Dave and Brad Ward were only able to garner 12.99 points at the Regional and our resident ex-world champion, John Swanson, could only post 12.86 points at the tournament. This blanket finish was interesting because none of the players competed in the same event, demonstrating that the ACBL has really achieved an outstanding format of competition **for all players** at these major events.

Our local clubs supported our Christmas party in fine fashion and many good comments were heard about the room decorations and food that was provided. All of your Unit Board thanks those that were able to attend and hopes to do even better next year. New leadership of the Unit was secured at the annual elections and the new folks staffing the various positions will be noted in next month's column.

The Lancaster Club continues to struggle financially, but Rand, Paula and Rita have truly forged a strong and loyal base of players and are certainly to be congratulated for their hard work this last year.

The highlight of the year for the struggling Lancaster venue was the Christmas Party and Basant Shah was in such a great Holiday spirit that he offered two \$25 gift cards, one to the winners of each direction in the eleven table Unit Game that concluded the party. Not surprisingly, he and Arif Shah won one of the directions. However, the winner of the other direction and **winner overall** was our amazing octogenarian Hansford Rowe and his lovely wife Mira.

The Valencia club winners this last month were dominated by three wins from Arif Shah-Roshun Hadulla. Not to be outdone, the partnerships of Basant Shah-Betty Pevy and Hugh Bartlett-Marguerite Pinkers posted two wins each. Jerry Burrill and Hansford Rowe grabbed the other available win.

Paula Oliveras club continues to grow and the winners last month were the partnerships of Paul Gill-Roy Laddas well as Carol Ashbacher-Rosemary Frankain, Nell Schanz-Roshun Hadulla. The partnerships of Jerry Burrill & Basant Shah and Nell Schanz-Hugh Bartlett won twice each!

Rita Vanatter continues to work hard to improve the player experience and her Castaic club growth is a reward for all her efforts! Winners in her games last month were Carol Ashbacher-Marianne Bakic, Hugh Bartlett-Bill Brodek, Aggi Oschin-Bill Brodek, Carol Ashbacher-Jerry Burrill and Albert Stock-Marguerite Pinkers. Carol Ashbacher seems to have not missed a beat after her long trip back to the Midwest, keep up your winning ways Carol.

The reduced slate of games at the Lancaster club were dominated by Russ Buker-Linda Young with Bob Hart- Onorita Pallanti and Erlene Dehass-George Lewis and Doris Thompson-Gloria Robinson also getting a win each. Our 91 year-old gift, Ms Onorita Pallanti will be getting her Life Master gold card presented to her next month at a special celebration at the Lancaster Club.

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Board Meeting and Unit Game
January 12, 2013
Lunch at noon, game at 1:00

Our holiday party included a catered luncheon of turkey and all the trimmings. We raised money for the domestic violence program and collected bears for →

the children's court. And then there was bridge, with the following results:

N/S	
A1	Pat Abbey & Merry Besvold
A2	Art Chacanas & Mike Doll
A3	Shiu-Ming Huang & Peter Szecsi
A4	Tim Lolli & Carolyn Cohen
A5	Phil Dessert & Steve Shanker
B1	Helen Malzer & Madelon Liebman
B2	Carol Lessin & Gloria Balfour

E/W	
A1 B1	Ted Maki & Lorraine Adams
A2 B2 C1	Glenn Durflinger & Temo Arjani
A3 B3	Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
A4	Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A5 B4 C2	Betsy Josias & Nancy Lyon

Our next Unit game, on January 12, will be a chili cook-off. Please join us.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: www.acblunit557.org
club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

November 18 Unit Game: 1st over-all in A: Steve Love/Walt Schafer, 2nd John and Jo Melis, 3rd Oliver Yildiz/Hanefi Erten, 4th Gloria Sedore/JoanTschirki, 5th Charlotte and Steve Sturm, 6th Bee Kinman/Verna Burns. In the B flight over-alls 4th were Larry and Sibyl Slutsky, 5th Sankar Reddy/John Petrie, 6th Usha Bansal/Rob Preece. And in the C flight over-alls Bill Rawlings/Jean Ingram were 2nd, Susan and Keith Hafen 3rd, Bob and Pat Adam 4th, Diane and Dennis Schmitz 5th. In the four-table NLM section there was a tie for 1st between Colleen Bilas/Linda Dillon and Dale Blessing/Elaine Dovgard. Congratulations to all!

November 23 Black Friday unit-rated game: 1st over-all in A: Murat Veysoglu/Lisa Kuo, 2nd Lois Abramson/Irwin Bender, 3rd Jean Ingram/Bill Rawlings, 4/5 there was a tie between Betty McClellan/Bev Shafer and Steve Love/Walt Schafer, and in 6th place Sue Foigelman/John Chang. In the B flight over-alls 4th were Bob Goldstein/Larry Topper, 5th Dick and Linda Stein, 6th Marcus Evans/Ralph Beazley. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games in open games November through December 15: Dec 8 Steve Mager/Mike Savage had 72.45%; Dec 12 Bob Mault/Verna Baccus had 71.31%. In NLM games Nov 20 Joan and Richard Buhl had 71.24%, Nov 26 Fred Willbanks/Roger Farmer had 74.09%, Dec 3 Charlene and Robin Garthwaite had 70.63%, and Dec 12 Ken Ritmire/Dennis Mitchell had 73%. Congratulations to all six pairs!!

Big Masterpoint Awards: Big point awards in open pairs games November 16 through December 15: In the Nov 18 unit game Walt Schafer/Steve Love won 4.53mp for 1st, John and Jo Melis won 3.40mp for 2nd. In the Black Friday unit-rated game Nov 23 Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu won 4.82mp for 1st, Lois Abramson/Irwin Bender won 3.62mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all four pairs!

New Members: Tad Gelardos, Delia Hernandez, Kersten Truelson. Transfers into our unit: Janet Gibbons and Thomas Gibbons. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: Junior Masters: Jennifer Macfarland, Cynthia Pinkerton; Sectional Master: Richard Schaeffer; NACB Masters: Renee Hoffman, Peggi Spring. And new Life Master: Joyce Henderson. Congratulations you all!!

Condolences to the families and friends of Mihir Das and Curtis Johnson both of whom passed away earlier this month.

Upcoming Events at the Club: January 6 thru 13 Club championship Week: extra points, regular prices. Jan 16 (evening): Inter-Club championship. Monday—Jan 21: MLK unit-rated game: extra points, regular prices. Jan 27 Unit Game--lunch 12:30, game at 1pm.

News from Leisure World by Sharon Beran

Leisure World is back on the map! With three 70+% games this month. Bee Kinman & Bill Linskey, Betty Jackson & Gloria Sedore, Sue Fardette and Vince Remedios, plus Sue and Vince also won our "8 is Enough" game.

Please check the Mini-McKinney: 0 - 5 Audrey Healy, & Jack Dampman. 20 - 50 Betty Scharf, & Ron Jaffee. 200 - 300 Cooie Dampman, Bob Turansick, Stan Blitz, & Howard Smith. 300 - 500 Aaron Jones, & Pat Turansick. 1000 - 2500 Larry Slutsky. 5000 - 7500 Doris James (deceased)

Ace of Clubs, Ted Wieber, Nhuong Phama and Julie Cunningham. Well done bridge buddies.

Holiday Parties Clubhouse 1, had nine tables, and a wonderful dinner. They also presented the new board for the coming year. Looking forward to the dinner in clubhouse 3, on Thursday of this month.

As we say, Keep on shuffling along!

Joan T'schirki, and her cub reporter Sharon Beran

For more information on Club events call Ruth Kaller, Club Manager, at 562/430-0316 or Ted Wieber, President, at 562/596-8661. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via email: Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jjyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Chuck Cordaro

Betty Middleton

This month we lost two of my favorite members—Betty Middletown and Walt Briggs. I especially miss Betty this time of year because she was my partner at a number of our unit Christmas parties. As I mentioned in an earlier column, there was a Middleton who signed our Declaration of Independence. Only one-third of the colonists wanted independence, one-third were loyal to King George, and one-third were neutral. The signers were considered traitors by the loyalists. Some had to be prodded to sign by Ben Franklin, who, in a fine example of gallows humor, reminded them that “We must all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall hang separately.”

Walt Briggs

I also enjoyed playing with Walt Briggs until those two vixens—Brenda Maroney and Mary Goodwin—stole him away from me. Walt had wonderful powers of concentration, which made up for my occasional bouts of old-timers disease. During one match Walt mentioned that Mary was taking the train back east. This prompted me to tell the following story, which Walt liked a lot:

Back in the 50's a salesman was traveling to an important meeting in Chicago. To be sure he made the sales meeting, he tipped the porter \$20 to wake him up when they got to Chicago. Upon waking up on the outskirts of New York, the angry salesman confronted the porter. “I could lose my job over this. I'm so mad I could spit!” “You think you're mad. You should see the guy I put off in Chicago,” said the porter.

Brenda became a good friend to Walt and looked

after him during the final months of his life. His friends were also grateful for a very nice memorial service Brenda held for him at the Bridge Center.

“For Him Who Hath Borne the Battle”

These are the words Abraham Lincoln used to pay tribute to Union troops in his second inaugural address. We also have Brenda to thank for her son, Kevin, who is now serving in Afghanistan. Only 1 to 2 percent of our population serves in the military, which is stretched thin. Kevin is now in his second tour. Thank you again, Brenda.

January Dates to Remember

Beginners lessons: Wednesday Jan 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Beat-the-House Night: Jan 18 at 7:15 p.m.

Winners and Losers Sunday: Jan 2 at 1:00 p.m.

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, January 19, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, January 5, 9:30 a.m.

New Location

And now, for something **completely different**.

Yes, it's true. After multiple years of keeping you all informed (more or less), Mr. Sartor has hung up his pen (keyboard?) and turned the reins back over to Yours Truly. Humbly, I will try to fill his shoes. However, keep in mind: I firmly believe that the shortest distance between two puns is a straightline.

The December board of directors' meeting saw the selection of the new officers for 2013. The usual Board policy is to select, as president, any member not present. However, we decided that would be a bit unfair to new Board member Linda Tessier, and in a rare burst of magnanimity, refrained. The new slate is: President, Tom Lill; Vice President, Clint Lew; Secretary, Richard Patterson; Treasurer, Penny Barbieri; Hospitality, Vic Sartor; Membership, Tom Lill; everything else, ad hoc. Yours Truly also remains as Special Games Coordinator, meaning mostly Unit games. Congratulations (?) to all, and thanks for serving. You are all appreciated, even if that appreciation isn't always expressed. →

The winners of the December unit game were Fredy and Lulu Minter, followed by Karen McCarthy - Karen Olin, with Vic Sartor - Hans Hehnke tying for third with Clint Lew - Pat Radamaker. Erika Moore - Judy Husted took the honors in flight C.

In the December individual, hosted by Lois Snowden as part of our game's relocation, the leaders were Bob Kakade, Paul Chrisney, Yours Truly, Erika Moore, and Ann McClelland. **Special Note:** the January game will be hosted by Penny Barbieri, in San Dimas. Directions will be sent out with the monthly Bridge Alert! e-mail. If you aren't on this list – and want to be – contact your Special Games Coordinator. (Pop Quiz: Who dat?)

Top masterpoint winners in local games were Clint Lew (6.75), Denise Morgan (4.79), Pat Radamaker (4.76), Fredy and Lulu Minter (4.72).

Our hand of the month is a slight departure from previous fare. It isn't a wild freak, or a powerhouse. You hold : ♠K98 ♥643 ♦K52 ♣J973. So what, you ask? That seems to be your average hand (the opponents always have all the high cards). Wait!

Your LHO opens 1♥, and with your side passing throughout, you are treated to this auction: 1♥ - 1♠, 3♠ - 4♠, 4NT (!) - 5♣, 6♠ - pass. You lead the ♣3, and dummy flops with ♠Q743 ♥AKJ85 ♦A64 ♣A.

Obviously, this is a defensive problem. Just as obviously, the contract can be beaten ... but will you beat it? There are two clues that it can be beaten: the peculiar auction (LHO made a limit bid, then drove to slam), and the fact that declarer went into the tank at the sight of dummy, and emerged with a pallor that makes Lord Voldemort look like George Hamilton.

Ready? The play goes ♣A, low trump to the ace, run the diamond queen, lead the diamond jack which you cover (won in dummy), the top two hearts, declarer pitching two diamonds, ruff a diamond, ruff a club, ruff a heart, ruff a club, ruff a heart, ... Well? Have you beaten this thing? Or do you report a slam swing to your teammates, who were sensible to stop in game? The position now is: you are left with ♠K9 ♣J, dummy has ♠Q ♥J, and it is you to play. Partner has unhelpfully followed suit all the way.

There are two trumps unaccounted for. If declarer has them both, he's brought off this <1% slam. If not ... you must overtrump trump with the king and lead your last trump. Declarer is stuck in dummy with a losing heart – partner must have the queen, since no one else has it.

A simple exercise in counting – that's all!

In parting, here's a great quote from the famed critic, George S. Kaufman:

"I'd like a review of the bidding ... with all the original inflections."

TTFN!

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

The Unit sponsored Holiday Party, at the Warner Center Marriott on December 9th, was a huge success. The event featured two sessions of bridge and dinner for a very happy crowd of bridge players.

Board President Mike Fierman recently welcomed new and continuing Board members who plan to have an active calendar of events for the Unit. Continuing Board members are Hospitality Chair Marge Romans, Sunshine Chair Marge Bulmer, and Moe Mansour who keeps us in ice and wine for our Unit's events. Om Chorkliawalal now fills the office of Vice President, Nancy Klemens takes over the position of Secretary, Treasurer Yvonne Sterkin will monitor our finances, and Deborah Levinson will be the Bridge News Editor. New names on the Board also include that of Rochello Lotto, Alene Friedman, Frank Nordyke, and Phil Jones who will be a real asset to group.

Board President Mike Fierman gave a hearty hank you to "retiring" Board Members Doug Beagle, Bill Raines, Fran Kern, Sara Wilson and Gerry Cogan. He also gave a special thank you to Club owners Terry, Bill, Sheila, and Freddi for their continuing support of the Unit.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners, November 2012

750 Bridge Club: Bob Williams 7.82, Susan Raphael 7.33, Jody Lombardo 7.30, Gloria Feerst 7.09, Rochelle Lotto 6.98, Elaine Roth 6.88, Ron Malkin 6.52, Jim Lechner 6.47, Don Rosen 6.33, Joan Marks 6.17

Bridge Academy Under 750 Masterpoints: Diane Weinstein 1.95, David Weinstein 1.95, John Van Egmond 1.79, James Fu 1.58, Martin Hurwitz 1.37, Anne Hurwitz 1.37, Paul Fuson 1.31, John Tickner 1.13, Ruth Fleisher 1.12, Marilyn Gaims 1.12

District 23 Winter Regional Revised Schedule



February 18-24, 2013

Where: Warner Center Marriott

Address: 21800 Oxnard Street

Woodland Hills CA 91367

818-887-4800

\$129 guaranteed until January 31, 2013

Parking: \$6.00 self park day/\$9.00 overnight
\$17.00 valet

Tournament Manager

Peter Benjamin

310-720-6050

Partnerships

Betty Jackson

562-594-4420 before 2/18/13

626-665-0596 after 2/18/13

Sanction #R1302041

Stratified Open Events

A: 2000+

B: 750 - 2000

C: 0 - 750

Stratified/Gold Rush Events

A: 3000+

X: 0 - 3000

B: 500 - 750

C: 300 - 500

D: 0 - 300

No averaging in Gold Rush Pairs

299er Events

D: 200 - 300

E: 100 - 200

F: 50 - 100

G: 0 - 50

Entry Fees

\$13 per session (all events)

\$15 unpaid or non ACBL members

Juniors and 0-5 play FREE

Juniors 22-25: \$9.00 per session

Bridge Academy Open Masterpoints: Deborah Levinson 9.08, Sheila Bozin 8.13, Gary Frans 7.85, Seymour Zemlyn 7.03, Armand Szulc 6.27, Harvey Witt 6.23, Robert Rice 5.66, Tom Wylie 5.61, Dick Lum 5.37, Marel Bates 5.00.

Column News: Make certain that your news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by emailing Deborah Levinson at dlevinson@acesupms.com

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568
SBBC: www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Wednesday, January 9, 11:30
NLM Club Championship: Thursday, January 17, 10:30
Club Championship: Saturday, January 19, 3:00
Club Championship, Friday, January 25, 11:30
Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening
Friday Night games on January 4 and 18

Club Championships

The Non Life Master Club Championship on November 20 resulted in a Flight A tie between Jamila Malikyar/Ralph Vidal and Arlene Greengard/Gerri Carlson with Jamila and Ralph also winning Flights B and C. At the December 9 Unit Christmas party Carol McCully/Ed Barad topped the Flight A game. In the BCD game Pat Berg and Kathy Rudolph topped Flight B while Chris and Dave Larsen led both Flights C and D.

Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games at the South Bay Bridge Club.

November 20: John Farr, Steve Ramos, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott
November 27: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
December 4: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

December 11: Fran Israel, CVal Gamio, Mark Raggio, Bob Rothman
December 18: MaryAnn Coyle, CVal Gamio, John Farr, John J. McDermott

San Francisco NABC Unit Heroes

At the recent NABC in San Francisco CVal Gamio was on a team which placed sixth in the Women's BAM Teams. CVal also placed in the overalls of the 0-5000 Blue Ribbon Pairs. Gerri Carlson lied about her age, picked up a partner and finished in the overalls of the nationally ranked Super Senior pairs.

Western Conference STAC Unit Overall Placers

The following lists pairs from games played at the South Bay Bridge Club who placed in the overalls of the recent Western Conference STAC.

		Monday Morning, December 3
10A	3B	Betsy Amador/Harry Wessells
		Monday Evening, December 3
6A		Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott
		Tuesday Morning, December 4, Aux Pairs
2A	2B	Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan
		Wednesday Morning, December 5
	16B	Gloria Brown-Cook/Lutrell Long
		Thursday Morning, December 6, NLM Pairs
4A		Fred Swinth/Bob Svensrud
6A		Tom Barna/James Blaha
	5B	Jeanette Betts/Gerry Ketz
	6C	Madge Weinstein
		Myron Mitzenmacher
		Friday Morning, December 7
10A		Fran Israel/Richard Cheng
	14B	Dolores Nawa/Carole King
		Friday Morning, December 7, 99er Pairs
3A	3B	Kathleen Pecarovich
		Marilyn Henshel
4A	4B	Russell LeFevre/Richard Hargrove
5/6A5/6B		Valerie Turner/Mike Sulman
5/6A5/6B		Carolyn Woo/Ed Bucklin

2/4C Gen Dunford/Gail Capers

Friday Evening, December 7, Aux Pairs

3A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott

Saturday Afternoon, December 8, Aux Pairs

4A Fran Israel/Ray Mack

5C Chris Freeland/Dorothy Laird

GUV Memorial Award

On the very first board of a session at the San Francisco NABC my partner held ♠KJxxx ♥xx ♦x ♣Kxxxx. I opened: 1♥ and my LHO bid 1NT. Pard chose to pass and 1NT was the final contract. She chose to lead her fourth best spade. Wrong!! This lead supplied an entry to dummy and declarer was on her way to making 3 when a heart or club lead would hold her to one. Before the hand was over a director ran up to the table and said forget about the board and that we should go sit at another table. So instead of a near bottom we could start anew. I cannot remember the circumstances but later in the same session the same director made another ruling in our favor. For the first time in my life I wanted to kiss a director.

At the Rancho Mirage Regional our erstwhile director Mike Savage and my partner in a KO event made what had to be close to the worst decision ever made in deciding what to do as declarer after his RHO led out of turn. We wound up in 4♠, a reasonable contract which was doomed to failure with all finesses losing and trumps 4-1. His RHO lay down the ♦A out of turn and Mike chose the option of LHO not leading a diamond. Holding KJ tight of diamonds I remarked at the time it might be a bad decision after the opening lead was made. It certainly was as Mike went down 3 for a push on the board. The holder of the ♦A also held the Queen. If he had accepted the diamond lead it was only down one Vulnerable and a 5-IMP gain. Even his RHO contributed the comment, "If your RHO is too stupid to know who is on lead, he probably is too stupid to make the right lead."

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

The San Francisco Treat

When a unit member wins a national title, my lead writes itself. At the San Francisco Nationals, Reese Milner came, saw, and conquered, leading his team to victory in the Keohane North American Swiss Teams. This was Reese's third national title, and caps a year in which he also won the World Transnational Teams.

Reese's national victory was the most prominent, but other unit members also found the winner's circle in San Francisco. Wednesday was a particularly good day for our Unit. It saw Jeri Berger win the Zip Knockout Teams, while Phil Feldman and John Thomas Kelly each won their bracket of the Flight B Swiss. Your Humble Scribe won his bracket of the Rainy Day Knockout Teams event, while Joseph Lieberman took top honors in the Friday afternoon 49er Pairs game. Mike Savage didn't make it to San Francisco, but he did continue his winning ways with a victory in the alliterative Sunday Swiss at the Sun City Sectional.

Holiday Cheer

Led by the "BCD" team of Brana Hall, Carolyn Taff, and "Darling" Marcia Fisher, our annual Holiday Party at the Beverly Hills Country Club was a wonderful event. The company was wonderful, the food sublime, and the decorations were festive. If you attended the party and enjoyed it, please be sure to say a word directly to Brana, Carolyn, or Marcia.

Those of you who attended the party saw quite a floor show when we handed out the Unit's annual awards. If you still have a hard-copy dictionary, open it to the word "surprise." You'll see a picture there. It's a picture of Marcia Fisher's face when she was announced as the winner of this year's Volunteer of the Year Award. I have known Marcia's work as the volunteer liaison between our Board and the Beverly Hills Bridge Club, so I can personally attest to her energy, humor, and effectiveness. Marcia was introduced by last year's winner and her regular Wednesday night partner, Betsy Lutz.

This was my first year as President of the Unit, so this was the first time I had the honor of introducing the West Los Angeles Player of the Year. And →

in my inaugural effort, I was particularly please to present the award to Candy Scott. Candy has been my colleague on the Board since I joined it, and was my predecessor in this space. She has long been the Board's intellectual and creative engine, serving as a continual font of promotional ideas for Unit events. And at the table, of course, Candy consistently escapes with far more than her fair share of the available matchpoints. Congratulations to our winners, Candy and Marcia.

Departure

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Sue Frishberg. I understand that Sue passed just before Thanksgiving after an illness. I hope those of you who knew and admired Sue (or her jewelry or nail treatments) had the opportunity to attend the memorial ceremony for her hosted shortly before Christmas at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club.

The Crystal Ball

The Unit (with the inestimable help of Player of the Year Candy Scott) has begun planning its events for

2013. First on the calendar will be Unit Games in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday. Dr. King's actual birthday was January 15, and the holiday this year will be celebrated January 21. Thus, we have scheduled games Tuesday night, the 15th, and Monday afternoon, the 21st, in the hope of making the games available to working stiffers who normally can't play during the day. By the way, these games straddle Sunday's District Final for the North American Open Pairs, where those remaining in the event will compete for the chance at a trip to the Spring Nationals in St. Louis.

Around the Clubs

Not many club championships in light of the Nationals this month. Chuck Fonarow and Marshall Wengrow won the club championship at Beverly Hills, while 70% games were recorded by Bonnie Sakamoto and John Wong, Chuck Fonarow and Sam Haveson, Chuck Fonarow (again) and Sam Namer, Fred Mautner and Viktor Anikovich, and Rahim Israel and Lou Papp.

Barrington squeezed in some more events. Club

West LA *continued on page 15*



LAS VEGAS GLITTER GULCH SECTIONAL

Monday to Friday

February 25-March 1, 2013

Flamingo Hotel

3555 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas NV 89109 ♠ Phone: 888 902-9929

Monday, February 25

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
1:15 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 26

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Final Rd.
1:15 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 27

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd.
1:15 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 28

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Final Rd.
1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams

Friday, March 1

9:30 a.m. & (approx.) 1:00 p.m.
Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by
3:45 p.m.) (This is a 2-session event, but
single session entries may be sold at the
director's discretion.)
9:30 a.m. & TBD Stratified Swiss Teams
(2-sessions) (finish by 4:45 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

3555 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas, NV 89109



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\$115/Fri

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District 23 Rank Changes October and November, 2012

Junior Master

Jerry Athans, Doris Beaman
Graham Berry, Victoria Boore
Mary Ann Carr, Carl Chang
Karen Comegys, Sheila Cottle
Anne Doublier, Arthur Hammarlund
Susan Hammarlund, Don Hopf
Carole Hugunin, Dorthy John
Anne Kaplan, Herbert Katz
Carol Katzman, Judy Kott
Kiran Kumar, Tim Lee
Jane Light, Marlene Louter
Jennifer Macfarland, Ann Nemerouf
Zorina Pelant, Cynthia Pinkerton
Joanne Puleo, Carol Reukauf
Paul Reukauf, Phillip Rohlin
Mariann Satin, Mary Ellen Schubel
Rena Slomovic, Dona Stevens
George Tien, Doug Trussler
Chun Wu Wang, Hanna Zhuang

Club Master

Robert Chapman, Jeanette Christy
Shari Elias, Gayle Ginsburg
Carolyn Gore, Nancy Guenther
Carolyn Heitmann, John Heitmann
George Henderson, Constance Iacopino
Larry Kong, Doreen Lewin
Alan Marks, Chris Meier
Homa Nasser, Joyce Pratch
Nancy Raiche, Marleme Rubin
Toshiko Saito, Irwin Salk
Susan Shane Schwab, Kathleen Shinkle
Barbara York

Sectional Master

Leslie Brucker, Barbara Cohen
Kay Faguet, Marlene Felix
Gerry Gastelum, Dale Johnson
Dick Johnson, Leon Lewin
James Robinson, Val Romoff
Lynn Sager, Richard Schaeffer
Aramis Simion, Dustin Stout
Judith Tomic, Carol Trenda

Regional Master

James Hawkins, Dorothy Joseph
Peter Joseph, Marilyn Landau
Andrea McNichol, Fred Swinth

NABC Master

Michael Abeles, Ruth Baker
Nancie Barrier, Diane Bishop
Paul Endler, Robert Fieselman
Renee Hoffman, Michael Keston
Roy Ladd, Elliott Marshall
Henry Roediger, Merkie Rowan
Brenda Schonfeld, Peggi Spring
Thomas Stephenson, Christine Uriu

Adv NABC Master (300 MPs)

Om Chokriwala

Life Master

Barry Cooper, Joyce Henderson
Linda Henson, William Lama
Onarita Pallanti, Lorna Wallace

Bronze Life Master

Harold Goodman, Linda Henson
Lisa Kuo, William Lama
Onarita Pallanti, B Petrunich
Sue Rottner, John Stokdyk
Zheng Zhang

Silver Life Master

Eileen Geisser
Luis Gamio-Klapic
Linda Klein
Sandra Satlin

Gold Life Master

Grace Conde
Maria Pendergast
Rand Pinsky

Emerald Life Master

Aram Bedros
B Horiguchi



District 23
St. Louis - HERE WE COME



North American Pairs



D23 Finals

20 JAN 2013, 11:00 AM

**Beverly Hills Bridge Club
325 S. La Cienega Blvd**

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks ☉ Sodas ☉ Coffee ☉ Gold/Red Points

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Mitch Dunitz

Panelists: Wafik Abdou, Sid Brownstein, Ed Davis, Chris Larsen, Paul Maier,
Rick Roeder, John Swanson, David Weiss and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
NS vul

West	North	East	South
1NT	pass	2♦	pass
2♥	pass	pass	?

You, South, hold: ♠AT9x ♥Txx ♦Qx ♣AKxx
What call do you make?

Brownstein: Pass. 2♠ is my second choice. If responder has 5 - 7 HCP and says double, we may be in big trouble with no sure fit.

Weiss: Pass. Bidding is a leap into the unknown in a situation where the opponents have exchanged enough information to make a wrong decision expensive for me. If partner has spades, or perhaps if he has clubs, I should double. If he has only diamonds, I should go quietly. My pattern suggests the latter is more likely.

These are cogent, rational arguments. But coming from a maniacal bidder who pushes me around online, David, you've lost touch with your inner bidding soul.

Swanson: Pass. Maybe the next time I won't be vulnerable.

Hmmm, the other half of the fabled Weiss-Swanson partnership has temporarily lost his aggressive bidding mojo, too.

Larsen: Pass. Boring, I'm sure. Maybe conservative, but neither this problem, nor Chris Larsen, are ever boring.

Roeder: Pass. If you are sorely tempted to bid on this hand, I would suggest giving partner a primer on pre-balancing to help ensure you don't consider losing your mind and risking 500 against a partial. The 3rd heart screams caution.

I find it delicious to want to bid when the over-bidders are chastising me for bidding.

Wittes: Double. Partner is likely to have somewhere between 6 and 10 HCP, and we are likely to have a fit, especially when partner has a doubleton heart.

Maier: Double. But **only** if **double** guarantees **exactly** four spades.

Mr. Maier, for those of you who remember him, lives in a different solar system. Still, the stars usually line up well for him in the bidding arena.

Abdou: Double. But I will pull in my horns opposite some aggressive loons.

I'm waiting to see those horns pulled in.

Davis: Double at MPs, not at IMPs.

Perlmutter: 2♠. There is a 6 IMP margin for a double part score swing.

This hand is going to turn into a sad story at the bar if you catch Partner with 2-2-(5-4) pattern and play in your 4-2 fit. Why not make it a happy story at the bar and double? Partner is a huge favorite not to bid 3♦ and will probably have six of them if he does.

2

IMPs
NS vul

I force you to double in Problem 1.

Your partner jumps to 3♠.
Would you raise?**Perlmutter: 4♠.** Absolutely! I can't have much more without having acted over the direct transfer.*Good point.***Abdou: 4♠.** I will raise 3♠ to 4♠. Furthermore, I will hate myself if we miss a vulnerable game.*Both comments are correct.***Planet Maier: 4♠.** KJ of spades, a doubleton heart, a diamond card and the club jack or queen should give us an excellent shot.**Wittes: Pass.** I have reasonable values for my vulnerable balance, but I don't have enough to warrant carrying on.**Weiss, Roeder (similarly): Pass,** I'm so happy to

have found a good spot! I'm already ahead of the cowards who passed 2♥.

Davis: 4♠. This is not too close as I think partner has a singleton heart for the jump and I have sufficient working high cards.*Exactly!!! What kind of hand has partner got? Five reasonable spades, and two working outside cards or five reasonable spades, 1½ working cards and heart shortness. Any less and he would bid only 2♠. You wouldn't risk turning a plus score into a minus score at the table without either of these and neither would your partner. I empathize with the notion that you've already won IMPs by balancing, but for gosh shakes, it's time to reel in the Big Kahuna and collect your game bonus! The actual hand was: ♠KJxxx ♥x ♦Kxxx ♣Qxx.*DIRECTOR continued from page 1

platinum points.

Donald Mamula was elected ACBL president for the 2013 year. Don is the representative from District 19 which covers Alaska, Washington State, and British Columbia.

Other motions that were passed included a Masterpoint Removal Sanctions to compliment certain Conduct and Ethical violations of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations, a revised Investment Policy, and approval of the Summer 2014 Youth NABC to be held in Las Vegas.

One final motion that was approved now requires that anyone who is a current club manager for a club running ACBL sanctioned games must be an ACBL member in good standing with all service fees and dues paid. Also, any director must be an ACBL member in good standing with all service fees and dues paid to be eligible to direct an ACBL sanctioned game.

It's a Different View from Dummy

As the holiday season winds down, Kathy and I were able to attend the Antelope Valley /Santa Clarita Unit party as well as the West Los Angeles Unit party. The WLA party was a first for us as we are usually away at the Fall NABC. We also plan to attend the Long Beach Unit party on December 23 (as of this writing on December 17).

Woodland Hills Regional in February

Do not forget our Woodland Hills Regional. With a great location in the San Fernando Valley surrounded by many fine restaurants and two malls, it should be a wonderful bridge experience.

You can reach me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net.



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

2♦ was an artificial game force. You, South, hold:

♠Ax ♥KQJx ♦J9xx ♣QJx

What call do you make?

Wittes: 3NT. Seems pretty normal to me. I would be a little worried without the ♦9. If Partner has some 5=3=1=4 13 count, 4♥ or 4♠ could be right, but anytime partner has a doubleton diamond, 3NT should play just fine.

That bloody ♦9 seduced me at the table.

Perlmutter: 3NT. There may be some merit to 3♥, but such soft values in the minors suggest 3NT may be better.

But 3♥ doesn't have to lead to 4♥. It is merely a suggestion of an alternate strain.

Swanson, Larsen (similarly): 3NT. I suppose 3♥ is possible to highlight the concentrated values, but it would not occur to me unless this was presented as a problem.

You both need to let the Maier side of your brain occasionally take over.

Maier, Brownstein (similarly): 3♥. Suggesting the Moysian if partner has a stiff diamond.

You are wise ObiWon, not a demand, merely a suggestion.

Abdou: 3♥. I need to emphasize my chunky four card heart suit. If partner has diamond shortness, the nine of diamonds may not be enough to save us. Give partner ♠KQxxx ♥Axx ♦x ♣Kxxx.

Bingo!

Weiss, Davis (similarly): 3♥. I have a maximum hand and excellent hearts. It's barely possible that we belong in a heart slam. Partner might have ♠KQxxx ♥Axx ♦x ♣AKxx. Can 3♥ cost?

Partner held ♠Kxxxx, ♥Axx, ♦x, ♣AKxx. I woodenly bid 3NT at the table. Ron Smith had no problem leading a diamond from KTxxx to skewer 3NT.

WLA continued from page 10

champions in November were Sheri Rivera and Aram Bedros, Aram Bedros and Paul Smith, and Connie Fishbach and Art Zail. Picking up 70% games were Aram Bedros and Art Zail (two each), Jill Richmond, Steven Yaffe, Sylvia Shallon, and Marshall Rose. Carolyn Taff and Ed Feldman scored up a 70% game at Cyma's Game.

Climbing the Ladder

Lots of new players this month. Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Karen Comegys, Anne Kaplan, Judy

Kott, Zorina Pelant, Phillip Rohlin, Rena Slomovic, and Doug Trussler, while Doreen Lewin, Irwin Salk, and Susan Shane Schwab all take the step to Club Master. Barbara Cohen, Leon Lewin, and Val Romoff are now Sectional Masters, and Nancie Barrier, Michael Keston, and Brenda Schonfeld have advanced to NABC Master.

John Stokdyk is now a Bronze Life Master. Linda Klein and Sandra Satlin have reached Silver Life Master. And Aram Bedros is our Unit's newest Emerald Life Master.

Got news? Send it to me at Bob78164@yahoo.com.

4

IMPs
all vul

North	East	South	West
pass	pass	?	

You, South, hold:

♠Kxx ♥QJx ♦KQxx ♣Axx

What call do you make?

Wittes: 1NT. However, with 4-3-3-3 distribution and no texture, and partner being a passed hand, I certainly wouldn't quarrel with opening 1♦. 1NT allows me to play the hand opposite a weak hand with a 5-card major.

The last point is a good one, but all those other points suggest a downgrade.

Larsen: 1NT. This may be unwise.

Swanson: 1NT. Obvious isn't it?

Weiss: 1NT. This feels like a sucker's answer, as I have exactly what I am supposed to have.

It's time to dispense with Goren high card counting.

Roeder: 1NT. The correct technical bid in all forms other than vulnerable at IMPs is to deem your spotless 4-3-3-3 as not worthy of being a 15 count. And baby, it is barely in the suburbs of 14+. If you choose to open 1♦, I bow down to the disciplined purist in you.

He knows 1NT is wrong, but can't help himself, just a guy who can't say no.

Brownstein: 1NT. I would not think twice.

Ouch!

Davis: 1NT. This hand is barely within my range, but I don't see any reason to deviate from what the field is likely to do.

Ouch!

Perlmutter: 1NT. But I know Dick Ryder would open 1♦ because this hand is so soft.

*Yes, my dear old friend Dick Ryder, (a devout rubber bridge player) would have downgraded this hand because he liked money. **Everyone knows this hand stinks, but no one seems willing to pull the trigger.***

Wait, there is help on the way.

Abdou: 1♦. Tempted to open 1NT, but I will open 1♦.

Thank you, brother! And now, here comes Mariano Rivera.

Maier: 1♣. If we have a game, partner will get us there once we bid again. If we have **no** game and open 1NT, partner will get us to a lot of those also.

Love the downgrade, but the Kool-aid didn't get me to open the shorter minor.

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

hotels with excellent lighting, and with many nearby restaurants. The Woodland Hills Marriott is the home of our February tournament and the Long Beach Westin will hold our July tournament. In October we return to the Torrance Marriott. Those of you who attended that

tournament this past year know what a great site it is. As our attendance grows, we will offer games on both the 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and the 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. schedules. Mark your calendars and join us for each of these tournaments in 2013.

Another unique opportunity for bridge is happening May 2-5, 2013. Eddie Kantar is hosting a four-

day Bridge Retreat in Arrowhead, California. Not only is Eddie a well known author and teacher, but also an excellent and humorous speaker. With good bridge, great food and charming sleeping quarters, this event can't help but be successful. For more information, contact Fern and Bob Seizer at bseizer@sbcglossal.net or 310 277-7050.



East	South	West	North
pass	1♣	1♦	3♠*
pass	?		

* 3♠ is a weak jump shift, promising a seven card suit

You, South, hold:

♠x ♥AKJTx ♦x ♣AKJT8x

What call do you make?

Maier: Pass. It's too easy to defend 4♠.

Wittes: Pass. We rate to have one or two spade losers and two or three diamond losers.

Fair enough, counting losers can't be a bad thing.

Davis: Pass. ♠KQJxxxx and out is a reasonable expectation. So is ♠KJTxxxx ♥Qxx ♦xx ♣x, but it is against the odds that the 3♠ bidder will have the queen in one of my suits. At IMPs, it is reasonable to try 4♥ expecting partner to pass with three hearts and a hole in the spade suit and to otherwise bid 4♠.

Weiss: Pass. If Partner has the prototype ♠KQJxxxx ♥xx ♦xx ♣xx, 3♠ is as good as anything. It doesn't pay to hope for a perfect hand, which he would need for either 4♥ or 5♣.

Exactly! Repeat after me, don't play partner to have

the perfect hand. Not now, not ever! OK, maybe once a year.

Swanson: Pass. We are more likely to take 9 tricks in spades than 10 in hearts or 11 in clubs.

Brownstein, Abdou and Larsen (similarly): 4♥. I can't bring myself to pass. Partner might have something besides a long spade suit. This hand has a truck load of playing strength.

Roeder: 4♥. Impossible to get this hand right.

Bah, Humbug.

Perlmutter: 4♠. Partner should have six trump tricks.

Partner's actual hand ♠JTxxxxxx ♥x ♦Qxx ♣x.

Congratulations to the 2013 District 23 Scholarship Fund Winners



Abraham Rico



Tracy Toscano



Diana Rendon



Renata Figueroa



Aracely Lopez