

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 51, #10

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Units are #1

by Mike Marcucci



It still surprises me that bridge players almost invariably know what the ACBL does for them, but many don't know what Units or Districts do for them. Of course, I'm talking about those players who don't even realize that they are in a group of players called a Unit or a District! Yes, that's right. I have talked to more than a few players that do not know they are in a Unit. They know about ACBL because they have that coveted ACBL Number on their player card and, if they go to tournaments, then they are asked for that number in order to play. They also receive that spiffy magazine at the beginning of the month with interesting articles to read.

As far as organizations go, our game did start with a battle between two factions. Culbertson lost out. Bill McKenney won the battle because he was the first to document the rules in a clear and understandable way which players liked and needed. When he started to organize a league, people listened and cooperated. The American Bridge League was operating for about six years before the ACBL came into being in 1936. Their deal with players included granting a "Unit" number to groups of 100 players or more who applied for membership in the parent organization. ACBL would then recognize and keep records on Masterpoints won. They were VERY hard to get in those early years. Winning 1 MP was cause for a large party.

By 1960, there were 21 Units in the LA area and they wanted to organize into a single group. Lew Mathe,

PRESIDENT *continued on page 3*

## CEO Report Highlights

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



The following are some of the highlights of the CEO Report that was presented to the Board in Chicago. I have supplemented it with additional information received from the CEO's September report.

Membership: Through the end of July, membership was at the highest level since 1997 at 168,208.

The Longest Day: The ACBL raised \$702,281 for the Alzheimer's Association. There were 140 clips in 114 outlets, in 84 cities for a total of 4.22 million daily impressions. The media coverage was strong and TLD continues to be the best opportunity for raising awareness of the game. (I would like to see our District make an united effort next year and maybe we can gain some television exposure for bridge in Los Angeles County.)

Resource Center & Tricks of the Trade: This is a great tool for clubs and our members. On average, approximately 100 unique members access the Resource Center daily. On average, 33 items are downloaded for use daily. If you have not explored this tool, I suggest you spend a few minutes and find out what materials are there for your use.

The Tricks of the Trade blog emails have an open rate of 42% and a click through rate of 18%. It is second in open and click through rates only to Rank Change Certificates.

ACBL Perks Program: Beginning in mid-October, the ACBL will be joining in a perks program power by Abenity. ACBL members will be offered discounts to local, national, and online vendors. Check the ACBL website for more information later this month.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 7*

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## Announcements

### Looking for a Club?

Did you know how easy it is to find a bridge game in LA? The following URL will bring you to a great ACBL page:

<https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

All 34 Clubs in Los Angeles are listed (including one new one that I didn't know about) and you can look up all the game times, locations, and contact info. Some of them even offer cookies - the good kind!

Go out and try them all. Wonder who holds the record for most club games in a week? Any claims?

- by Mike Marcucci

### North American Pairs Update

The first Semi at Long Beach is over. Many players still happy. Some sad. They can try again in

San Marino if they can play in a different flight.

We had 1,215 qualifiers this year. We always imagine what would happen if they all came to a semifinal. Where would we find the chairs? Who remembers Long Beach a few years ago? Plans to finish early this year did not work out when the sites schedule did not work. Still having the final in January. Looking at January 16 or 17, but we are not locked in yet. Come on over to San Marino on November 1. We have plenty of chairs. The flyer and the list of all qualifiers is on the District 23 website. Check out your name in lights. The prize is Reno next March. Always fun. See you there.

- by Mike Marcucci

### District 23 Fall Regional October 12-18

The leaves are falling and it's raining gold in Torrance. It's happening at the Marriott South Bay Hotel across from the Del Amo Shopping Center. The starting event is a free 299er two-hour bridge lesson at 10:30 followed by lunch and then a mini game. Call Jeff Grotenhuis at 310-600-4275 for reservations (required). There are 299er games every session plus speakers at 2:30 Tuesday thru Saturday.

Four days of Gold Rush Pairs, so rake in those gold points. Try a Side Game Series, if you play at least two sessions gold points are available.

Bracketed Knock-outs start Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Compact Knock-outs on Saturday. On Sunday Swiss Teams, Flight "A"/"Ax" and Bracketed "B". For the swift at heart there is the Fast Pairs.

Speakers in main playing area 2:45 Tuesday thru Saturday.

There will also be special entertainment! A Master Solvers Live panel with John Jones and Leo Bell as moderators. See if you agree with the expert panelists. It takes place Friday after the afternoon session in main playing area.

For partners and teammates call Diane Sachs at 562-981-4884 or email [dianesachs@yahoo.com](mailto:dianesachs@yahoo.com). Any other questions call Peter Benjamin at 720-6050 or email [honeydo@aol.com](mailto:honeydo@aol.com). See flyer posted in this Bridge News.

- by Candy Scott

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Carolyn 310-871-5051

Marion 310-721-7782

2444 Wilshire Blvd.

Santa Monica, CA 90403

DRE # 01074069 / 00413050

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410 Mill Creek Lane, San Gabriel, CA 91775 Phone: 626-281-2179

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

Editor/Designer.....Jennifer Einberg

Managing Editor.....Mike Marcucci

Contributing Editor.....John Jones

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PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

Helen Cale, Hugh Edwards, and our very own Cecil Cook were instrumental in forming ALACBU which exists today. It was a painful process involving shouting matches and lots of very impolite comments. I'd like to hear Cecil talk about this at one of our next Regionals.

We are down to nine Units today in LA. District 23 is ACBL's name for us. ALACBU is **our** name for ourselves, because we have our own set of bylaws written by those original 21 Units. What's the purpose of each organization?

In simplest terms, the first objective of all the Units and Districts is to promote the game of bridge in its local area. Anything and everything is encouraged. What is the most observable activity? Tournaments.

Here's a message to all players: Units work very hard to organize and conduct the "Unit Games" and Sectionals in your area. Please support them. It is the **only** way they generate funds to be able to conduct educational programs, conduct those special games like

Pro-Am's and Eight-is-Enough, and supply any prizes/benefits at games in addition to MPs. They also contribute to our scholarship programs which, so far, have aided 67 LA students attend the college of their choice.

Comparably, the District works very hard to organize and conduct the Regionals in LA. Please support them by attending and enjoying all the hospitality that is offered. Here's the good part: our next one is at the Torrance Marriott 12-18 October. Please come and enjoy the lessons, lectures, and new friends.

Units conduct Sectionals – silver points. Districts conduct Regionals – red and gold points. That's a big reason they exist.

Clubs are where most of us practice our games, try out those new systems with a favorite partner, and meet your local neighbors. Sectionals are where you practice all those new skills and meet a wider range of bridge neighbors. At a Regional, you just might sit down with Billy Miller in a game – what stories that will generate are for you to find out!

Hope to see you all in Torrance.

December 14-20, 2015

# Palm Springs Regional

Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa • 71333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage CA 92270 • 877 253-0041

Visit our Website: [PalmSpringsRegional.com](http://PalmSpringsRegional.com)

2015 Schedule Features

Tournament Now Begins Monday at 1:00 p.m.  
Gold Rush Pairs Tue-Wed-Thur-Fri & Sat  
New Knockouts begin every day except Sunday!  
Compact KOs on Monday and Saturday • IMP Pairs Friday  
Open Pairs: 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+  
Sun 0-2000 Bracketed Swiss: 1st/2nd/3rd each bracket pays Gold!

Knockout Teams

Monday Charity Compact Knockout Teams.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Evening Knockout Teams Tue-Thur (3 sessions).....7:30 p.m.  
Tue-Wed Bracketed Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wed-Thur Bracketed Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Thur-Fri Bracketed Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Fri-Sat Bracketed Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday Compact Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Knockout Teams will not be Handicapped

Open Pairs Games

Monday Charity Pairs (part of side game series) single sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Tues-Wed-Thur & Sat Open Pairs 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Tues-Wed-Thur-Fri-Sat Gold Rush Pairs 0-750.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Friday IMP Pairs 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday Fast Open Pairs two sessions.....10:00 a.m. & TBA

**Tournament Manager:** Tom Shulman • 702 301-5856 [tomshulman@gmail.com](mailto:tomshulman@gmail.com)  
**Asst. Manager:** Scott Magged • email: [scott@solidgoldins.com](mailto:scott@solidgoldins.com)  
**Partnership Chair:** Darryl Hendershot • email: [darrylhen.darryl@aol.com](mailto:darrylhen.darryl@aol.com)  
**Online Partnership Desk:** [PalmSpringsRegional.com](http://PalmSpringsRegional.com)  
**Caddie Master:** Leslie Heid • email: [Lbridgeb@gmail.com](mailto:Lbridgeb@gmail.com)  
**Director:** Gary Zeiger • Sanction: R1512003

Swiss Teams

Monday Charity Swiss Teams single session..... 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday thru Saturday Swiss Teams single sessions.....3:00 p.m.  
Thursday-Friday Eve Swiss Teams double session.....7:30 p.m.  
Tue-Wed & Sat Eve Swiss Teams single sessions.....7:30 p.m.  
Sunday Swiss A: 0-3000/3000-5000/5000+ B: Bracketed 0-2000.10:00 a.m. & TBA

Side Game Series

Mornings, Tuesday through Saturday single sessions.....10:00 a.m.  
Afternoons, Monday Charity (1:00) Tue-Sat single sessions.....3:00 p.m.  
Evenings, Monday Charity (7:00) Tue-Sat single sessions.....7:30 p.m.

Maritha's I/N Bridge Boot Camp – Free!

Lectures & Ask the Experts Desk daily

0-5 MPs (ACBL members) play free on Monday!

Expert Guest Speakers Tues-Sat.....9:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.  
Monday 0-300 Charity Pairs single sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Tues-Sat 0-100 & 0-300 Pairs single sessions.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Largest in the West!

Tournament Highlights

♦ ACBL Presidents "Passing of The Gavel" Reception  
♥ KO Brackets 1 & 2 finals played behind Bidding Screens  
♦ Great Prizes & Giveaways ♦ Free Morning & Evening Coffee

Find Partners or Teammates at  
[PalmSpringsRegional.com](http://PalmSpringsRegional.com)

**Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa**  
71333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage CA 92270  
**Reservations:** 877 253-0041 • 760 328-5955 • Reserve by Nov. 28  
**Bridge Rates:** \$141\* • Free Wi-Fi & No Resort Fee for ACBL!  
*\*Special: stay five consecutive nights receive \$50 property credit!*  
Reserve online at [PalmSpringsRegional.com](http://PalmSpringsRegional.com)



# Los Angeles Regional Torrance, CA October 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2015

- GOLD RUSH PAIRS** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday!
- ♣ **New KO's** everyday but Thursday and Sunday, Swiss Teams!
  - ♥ **Star Speakers** - Tuesday through Saturday!
  - ♦ **299er** games twice a day!
  - ♣ **Daylight schedule** all week!



## Free 299'er Lesson & Lunch

Free two-hour bridge lesson on Monday Oct 12th from 10:30am to 12:30, followed by lite lunch and free mini 299er game at 1pm.

**Registration required!**  
Please call Jeff Grotenhuis  
310-600-4275

Regular 299er game at 3:15pm.

## Marriott South Bay Hotel

3635 Fashion Way Torrance, CA 90503  
**Reserve at 310-316-3636**

**Reserve early, rooms will sell out!**

- ♣ Room rate \$139 (please refer to ALACBU ATTENDEES Bridge Tournament)
- ♥ Reserve before Monday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 2015
- ♦ Self parking \$6.00 per day, Wi-Fi \$5.95 per day
- ♣ Card fees \$14 for paid members, \$18 for others.

## Need partner or team mates?

**Diane Sachs**  
dianesachs@yahoo.com  
or 562-981-4884



Tournament manager **Peter Benjamin** 310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com  
Director-in-Charge **Brian Russell** Sanction #1510044

# Los Angeles Regional Torrance, CA October 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2015

## Monday Oct 12<sup>th</sup>

**10:30 AM**  
**299er Free Lesson + Lunch followed by a mini game (reservation required)**  
AM Side Game Series 1 of 6  
First KO Session 1 of 4  
*Educational Foundation Stratified Charity Pairs 1 of 2*

**3:15 PM**  
Afternoon Side Game Series 1 of 6  
First KO Session 2 of 4  
*Educational Foundation Stratified Charity Pairs 2 of 2*  
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session  
299er Pairs Game

**7:30 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 1 of 5

## Tuesday Oct 13<sup>th</sup>

**10:30 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 2 of 6  
First KO Session 3 of 4  
Second KO Session 1 of 4  
*Frank Grant Memorial Open Pairs*  
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2  
299er Pairs Game

**3:15 PM**  
Afternoon Side Game Series 2 of 6  
First KO Session 4 of 4  
Second KO Session 2 of 4  
*Frank Grant Memorial Open Pairs*  
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 of 2  
299er Lecture (2:30) & Pairs Game  
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session

**7:30 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Stratified Swiss Session 1 of 2

## Wednesday Oct 14<sup>th</sup>

**10:30 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 3 of 6  
Second KO Session 3 of 4  
Wednesday Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2  
299er Pairs Game

**3:15 PM**  
Afternoon Side Game Series 3 of 6  
Second KO Session 4 of 4  
Wednesday Compact KO Sessions 3 & 4  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session  
299er Lecture (2:30PM) & Pairs Game

**7:30 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Stratified Swiss Session 2 of 2

## Thursday Oct 15<sup>th</sup>

**10:30 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 4 of 6  
Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+) 1 of 2  
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams  
[no player over 3000] 1 of 2  
*The Marvin Grabel Memorial Open Pairs*  
Session 1 of 2 (0-750/750-2000/2000+)  
299er Pairs Game

**3:15 PM**  
Afternoon Side Game Series 4 of 6  
Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+) 2 of 2  
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams  
[no player over 3000] 2 of 2  
*The Marvin Grabel Memorial Open Pairs*  
Session 2 of 2 (0-750/750-2000/2000+)  
299er Lecture (2:30PM) & Pairs Game

**7:30 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Stratified Swiss Session 1 of 2

## Friday Oct 16<sup>th</sup>

**10:30 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 5 of 6  
*Frank Jones Memorial Open Pairs*  
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Friday-Sat KO Session 1 of 4  
299er Pairs Game

**3:15 PM**  
Afternoon Side Game Series 5 of 6  
*Frank Jones Memorial Open Pairs*  
(0-1500/3000 /3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Friday-Sat KO Session 2 of 4  
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session  
299er Lecture (2:30PM) & Pairs Game

**7:30 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Stratified Swiss Session 2 of 2

## Saturday Oct 17<sup>th</sup>

**10:30 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 6 of 6  
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Friday-Sat KO Session 3 of 4  
Saturday Compact KO Session 1 & 2  
299er Pairs Game

**3:15 PM**  
Afternoon Side Game Series 6 of 6  
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Friday-Sat KO Session 4 of 4  
Saturday Compact KO Session 3 & 4  
299er Lecture (2:30PM) & Swiss Team  
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session

## Sunday Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

**10:30 AM & TBA**  
Flight A/X Swiss  
(0-5000/5000+) 2 sessions  
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams  
(no player over 3000) 2 sessions  
Stratified Fast Pairs  
(0-750/750-2000/2000+) 2 sessions

♥ **Stratified games:**  
0-750/750-2000/2000+

♣ **GOLDRUSH:**  
0-100/100-300/300-750  
0 (no player over 750 points)

♦ **Bracketed Flight B Swiss:**  
Bracketed by average points of team.  
- No player over 3000 points  
- 3 teams in each bracket earn gold!

♣ **KOs** may be handicapped, games will be stratified by average master points.

## Bridge Stories

*This recurring series in the Southern California Bridge News includes short bridge stories from District 23 players who earned a new rank last month.*

I play mostly at the Caltech bridge club; I've only played three tournaments with the intention of doing well. I made Junior Life Master at the Unit's yearly 8-is-enough game, playing with John Jones, which was a fantastic opportunity for someone who's only been playing for three years. The Caltech club has taught me the game, and I am very grateful for that.

A nice memory from the tournament was twice making a conservative judgment of a particular hand (I tend to be aggressive), winding up in 5SSS, and managing to 1) Make, and 2) Find the best line and a safety play for the 3-0 trump break, which happened to be the layout, winning 11 imps when the other table went down in slam. Winning the tourney was fun as well!

My unit and district have been for the most part incredible. Marie Nimmrich, in particular, has been truly wonderful in helping me get acquainted with the San Marino club. The only non-positive interaction I've had, personally, in the district, was a very sweet woman informing me that I ought to stay at Caltech, and not come to the local club and bother them by playing "too well," which as an intermediate, left me feeling both proud of my play and a bit sad at its effect.

I'd love to receive the Bulletin. I've sent two emails and made a phone call, but they still can't get my address right! I'd also love to see transfer responses to ICCCL legalized, as they are clearly superior and omnipresent in Europe.

*Gabriel Foster, Junior Master*

After graduating from high school in early June, I found



that I had plenty of time on my hands until late September when I would start college at UC Irvine. About a month after my graduation, I realized that I needed something else to keep me busy besides a summer job, so I turned to learn-

ing the card game of contract bridge. This was my third attempt at learning the game. My father first tried to teach my brother and me bridge when we were really

young in elementary school and he tried again when I was a sophomore in high school, but the game's complexity and my lack of interest turned me away from the game. This time it was different because I was ready to dedicate myself to understanding and learning the card game of contract bridge.

To my surprise, it took me about two days for my father to teach me the bidding and basic play of the hand to play competitively in a club. The first time I played duplicate bridge in a club was with my father in the middle of July this year and it was a lot of fun. It took one round for me to get over my nerves and settle down and play good bridge. After playing 28 boards, my father and I were amazed to see that I actually won an entire master point at my first time playing bridge at a club. From there it was only uphill as I continued to gain experience and master points.

It was not until my 60 percent game placing second overall in my club in the first round of the North American Pairs Tournament that I became a Junior Master. I had an excellent time playing bridge, especially with my father, and it feels great to achieve this Junior Master Status for playing bridge for less than two months.

*Brandon Newberg, Junior Master*

My story is simple. As soon as I found Jeff Grotenhuis and his Agile Bridge Club classes, I was on my way. I had played as a child, so I knew the basics. Joining Jeff's classes helped me refresh my knowledge, and, importantly gave me a chance to play again.

*Cindy Lee Smet, Junior Master*

I started playing bridge while in college. I played for approximately two years. After graduation from law school I started work as an attorney. As my work schedule increased and my family grew, I found it impossible to find time to play bridge competitively. In 2013, I reduced my work schedule. In 2014 I found that I could dedicate appropriate time to relearn what skills I normally had in the early 1970s.

I enjoy playing bridge. For the past 12 to 15 months, I've played one to two times per week. I also attended a sectional tournament in Las Vegas Nevada this past summer.

*Jerry Rose, Sectional Master*

My father taught me to play bridge when I was →



about 12. I didn't play much until I served in the Peace Corps in Africa. There, I taught three other volunteers to play, and we would play all night on the weekends.

After Peace Corps my wife and I started playing party bridge with several of her work friends in San Diego. We got married and moved to Davis for graduate school. Shortly after our arrival there, we saw an ad for a tournament in Sacramento. We decided to try it, and when we got there we informed the director that we had never played duplicate before. He gave us a funny look, but put us in the novice game (under 20 points). We almost immediately got into trouble for sighing or hesitating or something like that. Sometime during the tournament someone suggested we play at a bridge club. We didn't know such clubs existed; we thought one only played duplicate at tournaments! It was an inter-

esting experience – we thought we were pretty good, and we came in dead last.

Over the next several years we played in Sacramento and one night a week in the tiny Davis club. The Davis club rarely had more than four or five tables, but we had the distinction of playing against two World Champions (Chip and Jan Martel, who played there two or three times a year to warm up against live bodies for the World Championships) and Helen Utegaard, a multiple National Champion. However, my favorite bridge story is that when we were 99ers we played in a Charity Pairs event and came to a table with several kibitzers. We messed up an auction and my partner passed me in 4NT when I was asking for aces. I ended up endplaying the pro (quite by accident of course) and making 4NT on time for a top. We found out later the pro was Mike Lawrence!

After I became employed in Anaheim, we played in Santa Ana for several years (where I eventually made Bronze Life Master) until my company relocated to Valencia. As we then had two small children, we essentially stopped playing for about 20 years. With kids grown, we are playing again, mostly online and at Rand Pinsky's club in Santa Clarita. We don't get to play at regionals as much as we would like because we are still employed, but certainly we are playing a lot more than we were. I do want to thank my regular partners Kathy Flynn (my wife of 35 years) and Bill Brodek for their support in the last couple of years. Also our teammates Tom Shudic and Elaine Moore for helping us win two team events at regionals this year, and Rand for his advice and encouragement.

*Robert McBroom*  
*Silver Life Master*

### District 23 Rank Changes August 2015

#### Junior Master

*Jeanette Avery, Robert Barmeyer*  
*Victoria Beck, Susan Briest*  
*Judi Brown, Florence Cooper*  
*Leslie Dean, Gabriel Foster*  
*Mimi Hanzel*  
*Christopher Hitchcock*  
*Patricia Jaeger, Peggy Lanigan*  
*Phyllis Licht, Phyllis Massing*  
*Brandon Newberg, Thomas Reiner*  
*Cindy Smet, Chia Hung Tang*  
*Rosalie Zalis*

#### Club Master

*Bonnie Black, Sadika Elewy*  
*Paul Goddard, Terry Hane*  
*Carl Hulick, Nancy Hulick*  
*Peter Koenig, Susan Koenig*  
*Ubaldo Marson, Mike Mintz*  
*Ruth Pash*  
*Pamela Risinger*

#### Sectional Master

*Carol Appel*  
*Harris Blumenthal*  
*John Gibson*  
*Carolyn Heyn*  
*Joanne Meyer*  
*Jerold Rose*  
*Mary Williams*  
*Sandra Young*

#### Regional Master

*Shoshana Blumenfeld*  
*Paula Nataf*  
*Sin Orensztstein*  
*Julie Osborne*  
*Shoreh Toufanian*

#### NABC Master

*Richard Halverstadt*  
*Herbert Rosenthal*  
*Sandra Spero*

#### Adv NABC Master

*Richard Bakovic*  
*Chihwen Chen*

#### Life Master

*Liang Fan*

#### Bronze Life Master

*Wayne Beagle*  
*Jill Goodman*  
*Mark Lavine*  
*Zachary Vedro*

#### Silver Life Master

*Phil Feldman*  
*Robert McBroom*

#### Gold Life Master

*Gerri Soffa Carlson*

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

### It's a Different View from Dummy

This past month I had the privilege to attend my fifth mentor-mentee game this year. The Beverly Hills Bridge Club had 15 tables in attendance on the Friday night before the West Los Angeles Sectional. I had the pleasure of playing with Leslie Brucker. If I had just played a little bit better, we could have won.

I also had the pleasure of playing the San Fernando Valley Unit game where I was able to present to Terry and Bill Morton, owners of the 750 Club, membership into the National Charity Committee for their efforts of raising over \$4500 for the ACBL "The Longest Day" fundraiser.

Finally, this month, is our Torrance Regional. I look forward to seeing you there.

As always I welcome your comments. You can reach me at [Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net).



Rand Pinsky, District Director awards ACBL National Charity Foundation membership to Terry Morton and Bill Morton, owners of the 750 Club for raising over \$4,500 for the ACBL program "The Longest Day."

## Los Angeles Regional

Torrance, CA October 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2015

**GOLD RUSH PAIRS** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday !

- ♠ **New KO's** everyday but Thursday and Sunday, Swiss Teams!
- ♥ **Star Speakers** -Tuesday through Saturday!
- ♦ **299er** games twice a day !
- ♣ **Daylight schedule** all week!

**Free 299'er Lesson & Lunch**

Free two-hour bridge lesson on Monday Oct 12th from 10:30am to 12:30, followed by lite lunch and free mini 299er game at 1pm.

Registration required !

Please call Jeff Grotenhuis  
310-600-4275

Regular 299er game at 3:15pm.

**Marriott South Bay Hotel**

3635 Fashion Way Torrance CA 90503

Reserve at 310-316-3636

**Reserve early, rooms will sell out!**

- ♠ Room rate \$139 (please refer to ALACBU ATTENDEES Bridge Tournament)
- ♥ Reserve before Monday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 2015
- ♦ Self parking \$6.00 per day, Wi-Fi \$5.95 per day
- ♣ Card fees \$14 for paid members, \$18 for others.

**Need partner or team mates?**

**Diane Sachs**

[dianesachs@yahoo.com](mailto:dianesachs@yahoo.com)

or 562-981-4884

Tournament manager **Peter Benjamin** 310-720-6050, [ahoneydo@aol.com](mailto:ahoneydo@aol.com)

Director-in-Charge **Brian Russell**      Sanction #1510044



# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Unit Game, October 10, 2015  
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

The Pat Abbey Regency Bridge Club will host Club Appreciation Pairs on Tuesday, October 13 and Thursday, October 15, from 12:00 to 3:30. These events pay 100% Sectional Rated Black Points. Card fees are \$9.

### September Unit Game

N/S

A1	Phil Dessert & Dominique Moore
A2	Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A3	Art Chacanas & Emily Moffat
A4 B1	Gloria Balfour & Katherine Cresto
B2 C1	Morris Jones & Tor Hylbom

E/W

A1 B1 C1	Temo Arjani & David Rozzell
A2 B2	Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
A3 B3 C2	Sharon Wolf & Steve Shanker
A4 B4 C3	Ann Raymond & Sandy Rucker
C4	Fay Chu & Kathy Bernick

Our next Unit game is on October 10. Please join us.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

[www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
[www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

**August 23 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Eddie Gruber/Diane Starbuck, 2nd Robert Shore/Kevin Lane, 3rd John Bralliar/Baum Harris, 4th Marcie Evans/Mary Kiechle, 5th Mike Welsh/Gaye Herrington. In the B flight overall: 3rd Barbara Shuping/Paul Pettler, 4th

Renee Alpert/Joan Kaye, 5th Phyllis Greenstein/Doreen Maes, 6th Kiyo Nagaishi/Renee Hoffman. In the C flight overall: 4th Penny Wentworth/Eva Mroz, 5th Janet Logan/Robert Bakovic. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games:** August 16 through September 15: In the evening game Aug 28 Earl VanDerVord/John Pettire had 70.54%. In the Monday evening unit team game Aug 30 Lynn Danielson/Cually Flower had 70.83%. In the open game Sept 2 Jo Daigle/Betty Witteried had 73.93%. Congratulations to all three pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards** August 16 through September 15: In the open game August 16 Xiaoxue Walker/Joseph Chaikin won 3.94mp for 1st. In the unit game August 23 Diane Starbuck/Eddie Gruber won 4.38mp for 1st, Kevin Lane/Robert Shore 3.29mp for 2nd. In the unit-rated Apple Pie Day game Aug 24 Mark Tang/Len Beck won 4.08mp for 1st, Shmuel Fisher/Ann Croul 3.06mp for 2nd. And in the open game Sept 5 Gloria Brown-Cook/Shirley Lee won 3.94 for 1st. Sept 15 Bob Rubin/Harry Sachs won 5.10mp for 1st, Steve Rowe/Betty McClellan 3.82mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all eight pairs!!

**Condolences** to Sherry Troeger whose husband Steve passed away last month and Colleen Gardner whose husband Dick passed away earlier this month. Our sympathy goes out to both of you.

**New Member:** Linda Lane. Welcome to the Club!

**Status Changes:** New Gold Life Master: Phil Schuster. Congratulations Phil!

### Upcoming Events at the Club

Sept 14-20 a week of Club Championship Games. Extra points, no extra charge.

Sept 20: Unit Game. Game starts at 1 pm. No lunch. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8.

Sept 27: If you qualified for the North American Pairs at the club level (the little Q after your name), you are eligible to play in the North American Pairs Semi-Final run by our District 23. There will be one more Semi-Final held in October at the Beverly Hills Bridge →



Club.

Oct 5-11: Club Appreciation Week Extra points and no extra fees.

Oct 25: Unit Game. Game starts at 1 pm/ No lunch. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8.

Oct 31: Unit-rated Halloween Game. Prizes will be awarded for best costumes.

### **News From Leisure World Bridge Club** *by Judy Carter-Johnson*

#### **Club Championship Games**

August 14 - Clubhouse #1 Sue Fardette and Marilyn McClintock 1 in A. Jeanette Estill/Fred Benedetti 2 in A. Barbara and Alan Olschwang 3 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Slutsky 4 in A. Marian Klinger/Howard Smith 5 in A, 2 in B. Jean Byer/Jaye Woodington 6 in A, 3 in B. Margaret and Don Williams 4 in B, 2 in C. Joan and Ted Wieber 5 in B. Ylia Ross/Shirley Tavlin 3 in C. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 4 in C.

September 10 Clubhouse #3 Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 1 in A, 1 in B. Fern and Hank Dunbar 2 in A. Fay Beckerman/Betty Jackson 3 in A. Joyce Henderson/Rob Preece 4 in A, 2 in B.

April Berg/Larry Topper 5/6 in A. Verna Becker and Christine Frumen 5/6 in A, 3 in B. Richard Sands/John Weiser 4 in B. Nancy Lichter and William Dewell 5 in B, 1 in C. Judy Carter-Johnson/Fred Benedetti 6 in B. Kar-Yee Nelson/Chie Wickham 2 in C. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 3 in C.

September 11 Clubhouse #1 Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Slutsky 1 in A. Jeanette Estill/Fred Benedetti 2 in A, 1 in B. Monica and Paul Honey 3 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Patricia and Bob Adams 4 in A. Verna Becker/Dorothy Favre 5 in A. Betty Scharf/Bill Robinson 3 in B, 2 in C. Judy Carter-Johnson/Monica Gettis 4 in B.

Congratulations: Wm (Howard) Smith, Joan Tschirki, and many of our non-resident guest layers including Diane Sachs, Joyce Henderson, Jane Reid, Peggy Spring, Verna Burns, etc etc. for doing very well at the Regional in Irvine.

Get Well - Get well wish to Ruth (Paddy) Kaller from all her friends. Hurry up and get back to the bridge table!

#### **Upcoming Games**

Club Championship Games: Clubhouse #3 , Nov

12, December 21. Clubhouse #1 Sept 19, October 2, October 10.

Unit Rated Games: Clubhouse #1 , October 24 , Nov 21. Clubhouse #3 October 12

## **Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley** *by Marty Weiss*

### **Upcoming Events**

559 Unit Game: Sunday, October 4, 1:00  
San Marino Community Center  
1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino

Arcadia Bridge Center  
Beat the House Night - Friday, October 23  
Winners and Losers - Sunday, October 25

### **Our Members Score!**

Congratulations to all of the winners- there were too many for us to list.

### **Chicago ACBL National Tournament**

At the August Nationals, Tom Reynolds (and team) won 40 points placing  $\frac{3}{4}$  in A in the Mini Spingold I KO Teams. John Jones (and team) won 75 points placing 2nd in A in the Truscott Seniors Swiss.

Other unit 559 winners were Michael Marcucci, Jan Wickersham, Richard Halverstadt, Joe Viola, Sophia Chang, Jack Chang, Andy Zhang, Lucy Zhang, Nolan Chang, and Robert Gish.

### **Unit Game**

Winners were: Flight A - Amr Elghamry and Herman Helber; Flight B - Hanna Zhuang and Gregory Tapia; and Flight C - Abby Triback and Sadika Elewy

### **Super Acceptance**

Some time ago, in an earlier column, I described the following 'super acceptance' methods for major suit transfers after a 1NT opening. It had been taught to me many years earlier by my then partner, Michel, who had learned and used the system while he played for the Turkish and Israeli international teams. Bev and →

I have been using it for many years, and now R. Wilson also plays it with me. It's simple, easily recognizable, and it often may open the door to games or slams that might otherwise not be bid.

When partner transfers you to a major after you have opened a 15-17 point 1NT, you bid 2NT if you hold 3 cards of that major and 17 points or 4 of that major and 16 pts. I refer to this bid as a 'semi-super acceptance'.

When, however, you have 4 of that major and 17 points, you cue bid your lowest biddable ace. That is the full 'super acceptance'... or, if you will, the 'Super-Duper' acceptance. Note, for example, on a transfer to hearts, with 17 points and 4 hearts, if you cue bid 3 clubs, partner now knows you have a big fit, with maximum count, plus the club ace. He also knows you do not have the spade ace. That is a great deal more useful information gained, at 2-3 steps lower than a jump to the three level of the major, the usual method used to show a super acceptance.

I bring this to your attention again, because on Tuesday, August 25 at Arcadia, after I opened a 17 point 1NT, Bev bid 2♥, transferring me to spades and her opponent doubled (for a heart lead). I 'super accepted', by bidding 3♣.

Bev held ♠KTxxx ♥x ♦xxx ♣Kx. It was a total of 6 points with some additional distribution value because of the single heart, and, of course, her club king looked much better now that I'd shown the ace.

Her losing trick count was 7, opposite a maximum 1NT opener, She pondered a moment or two, then bid, and made, 4♠. When we scored the traveller, only one other pair had bid game.

## Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game: Sat, October 24, 10:00 a.m. and ~3:30 p.m.

Individual: Sat, October 3, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

Please note the somewhat-different starting times for our October Unit Game. It's the annual two-session championship, of course. It's a week late, because of the Torrance regional. We are starting a bit earlier in the day so we can get out after the second session at a reasonable hour. Of course, you don't have to play both sessions – play either or both, as you like. Note - You aren't eligible for overall awards when you play one session, you just get the session awards – just as in a regu-

lar unit game.

We are going to the Olive Garden for lunch/dinner between sessions. You must sign up in advance to attend the dinner – see Penny B. to sign up. By the way there is no Board meeting in October, but our annual Membership Meeting – where we elect the 2016 Board of Directors – takes place between sessions.

No unit game results to report this month, as the August game was just in time to meet our publishing deadline last month. Look for the September results next month.

The September Individual was won by Bob Kakade, followed by Paul Chrisney, Steve Mancini, Linda Tessier, and Richard Patterson. By the way, remember that the game site for the Individual tends to move around – it's a multi-site club. We had to relocate the game from Lois's home at nearly the last minute this month. So be sure to check with someone who might know, before planning to attend. Lois will usually know whether she is hosting the game or not.

The top game this month was a 79.12% steamroller by Bill Papa and Vic Sartor. Other winners: Richard Patterson, Gino Barbieri, Pat Radamaker, Barbara Killebrew, Suzanne Wojcik, Karen McCarthy, Don Logsdon, Roger Boyar, Harish Singh, Gabby Sill, Paul Chrisney, Evelyn Hubacker, Walt Otto, Penny Barbieri, Sandy Jones, Joe Unis, Claudia Cochran, Hanan Mogharbel, and Your Correspondent.

The following Unit members qualified for the North American Pairs semi-finals:

Linda Ananea - Flights A, B  
Norma Appley - Flights A, B, C  
Gino Barbieri - Flights A, B, C  
Penny Barbieri - Flights A, B  
Ken Bloomfield - Flights A, B, C  
Roger Boyar - Flights A, B  
Paul Chrisney - Flights A, B  
Claudia Cochran - Flights A, B, C  
Jacquelyn Fehrenbach Flights A, B, C  
Eileen Finlay - Flights A, B  
Timothy Finlay - Flights A, B  
Gayle Ginsburg - Flights A, B, C  
Roger Ginsburg - Flights A, B  
Margie Hall - Flights A, B  
Genise Hasan - Flights A, B  
Evelyn Hubacker - Flights A, B, C  
Sanford Jones - Flights A, B  
Bob Kakade - Flights A, B, C



Barbara Killebrew - Flights A, B, C  
 Albert Lax - Flights A, B, C  
 Clinton Lew - Flights A, B  
 Thomas Lill - Flights A, B  
 Chuck Lohr - Flights A, B  
 Karen McCarthy - Flights A, B  
 Hanan Mogharbel - Flights A, B, C  
 Walter Otto - Flights A, B  
 Bill Papa - Flight A  
 Richard Patterson - Flights A, B  
 Patricia Radamaker - Flights A, B  
 Vic Sartor - Flights A, B  
 Marida Slobko - Flights A, B, C  
 Herbert Stampfl - Flights A, B  
 Linda Tessier - Flights A, B  
 Kurt Trieselmann - Flights A, B, C  
 Joe Unis - Flights A, B  
 Suzanne Wojcik - Flights A, B

Qualifiers may play in the semi-finals in any flight for which you have qualified, and you do not need to play with the same partner you qualified with. Unfortunately, the first semi-final (in Long Beach) is already behind us, but the other semi-final is November 1, in San Marino, so make your plans now.

For our Halloween hand-of-the month, we have a “Chamber of Horrors” deal. With no one vulnerable, in third seat, you find yourself looking at your usual rock crusher: ♠987542 ♥T9752 ♦Q7 ♣--.

At least it has some shape, for what it’s worth. Partner opens 1♣ (oh, joy), RHO passes, and it’s over to you.

A lot depends on your agreements, of course. Playing 2/1 you can bid 1NT (forcing) and sign off in either major. Playing Stone Age (i.e., strong jump shifts), you can either pass or try 1♠ and hope you can slow the auction down when partner goes nuts. Playing weak jump shifts, 2♠ is probably right.

And what is the result? Have you made your choice? Read ‘em and weep...

Pass is going to get you a nice minus, because the opponents have 9 clubs between them and LHO does not have a hand worth re-opening. 2♠ is going to work very well (so will 2♥, for that matter), because partner holds: ♠ KJT ♥ KQJ ♦ AT72 ♣ 9863.

The ♠AQ are on your left, hearts and spades break reasonably, neither opponent has a ruff coming, and you make 10 tricks. Any idea how to get there?

Quote for the Month: “The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.” (Barry

Crane, but also attributed to Albert Einstein. Take your choice.)

Until next month ...

## San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Eighty enthusiastic bridge players participated in a very successful Unit 561 Game on Saturday, August 29, held at the 750 Club. Following a delicious catered Italian lunch, District 23 Director Rand Pinsky presented Bill and Terry Morton with Lifetime Memberships in the National Charity Committee of the ACBL. They each received a pin and an acclamation letter in recognition of their outstanding contributions to ACBL charity events. Their most recent accomplishment was their generosity and leadership in the Longest Day fund raising activity.

Winners in the Open Pairs game were as follows: NS – Armand Szulc – Glenna Szulc (A1), Rochelle Popowitz – Leonard Popowitz (A2, B1), Rochelle Lotto – Ellen Carrier (A3, B2), James Hawkins – Linda Silvey (B3), and Frank Nordyke – Deedy Nordyke (C1); EW – Joan Rubin – Om Chokriwala (A1), Martin Blain – Andrew Vinock (A2), Rhoda Weisler – Rick Weiss (A3), Jerry Shapiro – Sheila Singer (B1), Phil Calloway – Sandra Berman (B2), Herbert Zweig – Joyce Hart (B3), Audrey Hill – Elizabeth Beagle (C1), and Rhonda Rundle – Ray Primus (C2).

### Unit 561 Gala Holiday Bridge/Dinner

Get your Holiday Season off to a “Grand Slam” by attending the Gala Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party on Saturday, December 5, to be held at the 750 Club in Woodland Hills. An Open Pair Game will start at 1:00 p.m. in Taylor Hall (usual bridge room). The catered dinner will follow at approximately 5 p.m., in the Family Center on Rudnick Avenue. Don’t miss out on this yearly special event!

### Unit 561 Board Nominations

Unit 561 members who are interested in running for a two-year term on the 561 Board, beginning January 1, 2016, should contact Dennis Forst at [dforst123@gmail.com](mailto:dforst123@gmail.com) or sign up at the 750 Club. Nominations must be received by Monday, November 16. The →

Unit Board election will be held at the Unit 561 meeting at the December 5 Holiday Party.

### Special Congratulations

Steve Gross recently attained the rank of Platinum Life Master (25,000 masterpoints). On September 19, a celebratory dinner and bridge game were held in his honor at the Bridge Academy 2 in Thousand Oaks.

August Top Ten Masterpoints at the 750 Club were Fuad Khuri 10.20, Phil Calloway 9.13, Ray Primus 8.33, Shoshana Blumenfeld 8.30, Dan Strauss 7.57, Dwight Hunt 6.91, John Tickner 6.91, Linda Silvey 6.50, Michael Wiener 6.35, and Ron Stewart 6.31. 70% GAMES were achieved by Gary Baxley – Ray Primus 71.13%, Leona Frisch – Jerry Rose 70.81%, Sandra Berman – Phil Calloway, 70.58%, and Aramis Simion – Dan Strauss 70.02%.

### North American Pair Game Results

The final North American Pair Qualifying Game was held at the 750 Club on Tuesday, August 25. Results in this morning pair game were: NS – Carol Stein – Estelle Baron 61.11%, Harold Kahn – John Soldano 58.33%; EW – Ron Stewart – Michael Wiener 62.50%, Brandon Newberg – Howard Newberg 60.83%.

### October Special Events at the 750 Club

“Club Appreciation Week” will be held October 12 – 16. The winners and those placing in all games will receive extra black points for their efforts. There will be no additional card fees.

On Friday, October 30, a “Hawaiian Halloween” will be celebrated. Plan to be “bewitching” in aloha clothes and enjoy special treats in honor of this occasion. The card fee will be \$5.00 for those who hang loose and go Hawaiian!

### Calendar

Monday, October 12 – Friday, October 16, Club Appreciation Week at the 750 Club.

Friday, October 30, Hawaiian Halloween Celebration at the 750 Club.

Monday, November 16, deadline to indicate an interest in serving on the Unit 561 Board, 2016-2017. See sign-up details listed above.

Tuesday, November 17, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night, starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Saturday, December 5, Unit 561 Holiday Bridge Party/Dinner. Please save the date!

## Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

### Magic Mountain Sectional Tournament

Unit 556 will hold its annual Sectional Tournament on Saturday, October 24 and Sunday October 25 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium, 19345 Avenue of the Oaks, in Santa Clarita. Game times on Saturday will be at 10:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. with single session, stratified open pair and stratified 299er pair events. The cost for Saturday sessions will be \$12 per session for ACBL members and \$15 for non-members. The game time on Sunday is at 10:00 a.m. for open and 299er Swiss Team events. We provide free refreshments on both days and lunch is included in the Sunday play-thru Swiss event (total cost for a team of four is \$116).

For more information, contact Bill Brodek (bbrodek@yahoo.com) or Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net). For partnership information contact Tracy Boys (abigquack@sbcglobal.net).

### New Member

Welcome to new ACBL member Les Spitz. Les started playing bridge for the first time in March of this year.

### Unit Game Results

Friendly Bridge Club on August 31

North/South Results: First place went to Barbara and Tom Jones with 56%. Second place: Paul Gill and Jackie Moor with 55%. Third place: Carol and Gary Tenda with 53%

East/West Results: First Place went to Roy Ladd and Bert Stock with 67.5%. Second Place: Joe Walters and Bob Brothers with 58%. Third Place: Paula Olivares and Bill Brodek with 55%. Fourth Place: Bob Kofnovec and Deick Greenberg with 50%



Joshua Tree Bridge Club on September 18

First Place: Russ Buker and George MacDonald with 70%. Second Place: Paul Reukauf and George Lewis with 58%. Third Place: Onorita Pallanti and Beth Morrin with 54%. Fourth Place: Henry Roediger and Sharry Vida with 50%

### Upcoming Events

Instant Matchpoint Game: Friday, October 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale. Cost will be \$10 and lunch will be provided.

Upcoming Unit Games: Thursday, November 5 in Castaic at 10:00 a.m., Monday December 7 at the Friendly Valley Bridge Club at 1:00 p.m., and Thursday, December 10 in Castaic.

## Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: [www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568](http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568)

SBBC: [www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc](http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc)

### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Monday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.  
Club Championship: Saturday: October 10, 2:30 p.m.  
Club Championship: Wed, October 21, 11:30 a.m.  
Friday Night game on October 2

### Club Championships

The August 18 North American Pairs Qualifier was led by Arlene Greengard/Gerri Carlson in Flights A and B. The North American Pairs Qualifier on August 31 saw Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott leading Flight A and Mark Raggio/Stam Greengard ahead in Flight B. The NLM Club Championship on September 10 was led by Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson in Flight A and Madge Weinstein/Myron Mitzenmacher in Flight B. On September 16 the Club Championship was led by Gerri Carlson/Jerome Drayton in Flight A with Beverly Narahara/Carole King winning Flights B and C.

There were several North American Pairs Qualifying games at other unit Clubs in August. On August 17 at Veterans Park Neal Kleiner/David Peim led Flights A and B with Laura Gastelum/Shirley Chang ahead in

Flight C. The NAOP Qualifier on August 19 at Veterans Park was led by Alyssa Kennedy/Rick Turner in Flights A and B with Joan Johnson/Carolyn Heyn leading Flight C. On August 21 at the Anderson Park afternoon game the NAOP Qualifier saw Linda Klein/Robert Johnson ahead in Flights A and B and Margi and Chick Thorsell on top in Flight C. The August 21 North American Qualifier evening game at Anderson Park was led by Joyce Nakasaki/Joe Thomas in Flights A and B with Kathy and Wally Miglin taking Flight C.

### Torrance Regional

The Torrance Regional will take place from Monday October 12 thru Sunday, October 18. During this period the South Bay Bridge Club will be closed from Tuesday, October 13 thru Sunday October 18.

### Team Winners

The following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night Swiss team games.

August 25: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

September 1: CVal Gamio, John Jones, Steve Ramos, John Brailliar

September 15: CVal Gamio, Luis Gamio, Carlos Pellegrini, John Jones

### Great Western STAC

The following is a list of pairs that placed in the overalls of games played in TSB Clubs during the recent Great Western STAC.

Monday Morning, August 17, SBBC

6A 4B	Betsy Amador/Harry Wessells
21A 13B	Claire Hulett/Luttrell Long
28B	Henry Crowder/Bob Bacharach

Monday Evening, August 17, Aux Pairs, SBBC

1A	Kim Wang/Ray Mack
2A 1B	Mark Raggio/Stam Greengard

Tuesday Morning, August 18, Aux Pairs SBBC

1A 1B	Arlene Greengard/Gerri Carlson
2A	Fran Israel/ Stam Greengard
3C	Nancy Collinge/Roberta Brown

## Wednesday Morning, August 19 SBBC

31/32A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott  
 23/25B Roberta Brown/Ernie Frank

## Thursday Morning, August 20, SBBC, 499er Pairs

6A 6B Gerry Ketz/Mike McGory  
 8A Jamila Malikyar/Edward Ruttenberg

## Friday Morning, August 21, Aux Pairs, SBBC

3A Jeff Strutzel/Shirley Chang  
 5/6B Robert Rothman/Stam Greengard  
 5/6B Bob Bacharach/Hank Sheehan

## Saturday Afternoon, August 22, SBBC

42A Mark Raggio/Fran Israel  
 19C Janice Scholler/Lina Ashar

**GUV Memorial Award**

Well an apology is in order. Last month I was wondering whether the person I thought was Frank Stewart was putting me on when he said he did not write the Bridge column in the LA Times. Well the guy I was talking to was actually Fred Stewart so I apologize for not being able to tell a Frank from a Fred.

Well maybe our esteemed director Mike Savage needs an eye check. He held a hand ♠QTx ♥KQ9xx ♦AJTx ♣x and heard his partner open 1♣. He responded 1♥ and pard bid 1♠. Mike tried 2♦ (Fourth Suit forcing) and pard bid 2♥. I think Mike's team was having a bad day so he went for the downs by bidding 4♣ (a splinter). Mike was astounded when he thought his 4♣ was followed by 3 passes. Somehow it was assumed that Mike passed. Turns out his LHO had doubled 4♣ so Mike wound up playing 4♣ Doubled in a 3-1 fit when he had the opportunity to retreat to a making 4♥. Needless to say this was big negative IMPs.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by Robert Shore

**ABA-ACBL Game  
 October 4 at Barrington  
 Food at noon, bridge at 1:00 p.m.**

**The Most Wonderful Time of the Year**

You thought it was Christmas, didn't you? Not in these parts. Around here, the most wonderful time of the year is the day we get to show the ABA that we can match their hospitality (and food). This year's ACBL version of the ABA-ACBL game will be held October 4 at Barrington. The food will start at noon, and if the locusts, er, bridge players I know are any indication, it will last until at least 12:05. Bridge will be a Unit Championship, and it will start at 1:00 p.m. I have it on good authority that the two-time defending champion will be back in an effort to make it a three-peat. Call Barrington to reserve your seat.

**Watch That Mailbox**

Invitations will go out this month for our annual Holiday Party, held once again at the beautiful Beverly Hills Country Club. This year's shindig will be November 22. As usual, the event will double as our Unit's annual membership meeting, so if there's anything that you feel absolutely must be discussed with the Unit's entire membership, please let a Board member know. We will also be announcing this year's winner of the West Los Angeles Volunteer of the Year and Player of the Year awards, so get your RSVPs back pronto.

**Happy News**

All too often, I have to use this space to report the sad news of a member of our community departing for that eternal bridge game where suits never break badly and endplays always work. So I'm glad to have much happier news to report this month. Loree and Peter Meyers have had an extended absence from our tables. I was delighted to see that they're back at it. And of course, Loree and Peter are also giving musical performances around town. Ask them about it the next time you see them. I'm sure they'll be delighted to give you the particulars.

In other news, there's been a changing of the guard at Beverly Hills. Richard Gliksman has taken the reins as the new club manager. Please be sure to offer him congratulations or condolences, as you deem appropriate.

**How Was the New Place?**

I'm glad you asked. We tried out Temple Akiba as our new venue for the annual Fall Sectional, after →



Barrington was kind enough to make its space available for the Saturday games when Temple Akiba proved to be unavailable for the day. The temperature-control issues that impacted our players' comfort at the old site were simply non-existent here. All indications were that our players had a great time, and I'm sure we'll be back there next year. I hope you'll give it a try, particularly those of you in other Units who have been kind enough to compliment my columns.

Our Unit's players simply dominated the tournament. Les Rawitt started things off by winning the Saturday morning A/X pairs event. Bryan Conley turned it into a winning streak by winning the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs game. Jackson Tsao won the Saturday afternoon 299er Pairs game. Howard Einberg extended the streak with a win in the Sunday morning Open Pairs game, while Barbara Nusbaum and Candy Scott kept it going by winning the Sunday afternoon Open Pairs game, as Al Franken took top honors in the Sunday afternoon 299er Pairs game. Nor did we neglect the team events, with Roger and Becky Clough claiming victory in the Sunday Compact Knockout Teams. Finishing a clean sweep for the home team, the team including your Humble Scribe and Mike Mikyska took the win in the Sunday Swiss. Although he won no events, Peter Benjamin picked up the most points at the tournament, cementing his leventy-seventh Jill Meyers Trophy.

There was more tournament action to report last month. In Chicago, David Pelka and Alan Daniels won their bracket of the Educational Foundation Knockout Teams, while Bruce Altshuler's team won its bracket of the first Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams event. Linda Rasmussen thought she could sneak a win by this reporter by traveling to Spokane to win the Sunday morning 299er Pairs game at their sectional. Down in Irvine, Joanne Minken-Levy won the Wednesday-Thursday Knockout Teams, while James Perkins, Connie Fishbach, and Donna Massman teamed to win another bracket of the same event. Andrea McNichol and Barbara Freeman won the Friday morning 299er Pairs game, while Alex Kolesnik recorded a weekend double-header, winning the Saturday Open Pairs and then the Sunday A/X Swiss.

In bowling, three strikes in a row is called a "turkey." So I guess we have to give Aram Bedros a "turkey award" for his performance in the Western Conference STAC. Aram won the Tuesday afternoon event playing with Art Zail and the Saturday afternoon game with Sheri Rivera. Aram capped the week with his third win

in the Sunday afternoon game. Given the size of the field, winning even one of these events is quite an accomplishment. Winning three in a week is simply otherworldly.

### **Welcome Mat**

This month's new members are William McKenna and Anthony Sanelli. Transferring from other units is Brian Schwedock. As always, I hope you'll give these players a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

### **Around the Clubs**

The Marina Club reports that Richard Vincent and Katherine Weisberg scored up a 70% game. As always, the Marina City Club holds its games Tuesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at 4333 Admiralty Way. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information or for a partner.

Barrington reports that Aram Bedros and Art Zail had a pair of 70% games. Art had yet another 70% game with George Wagner, which relegated to also-ran status the 70% game scored up on the same day in the same section by Richard Vincent and Terry McGough.

Topping 70% at Beverly Hills were Aram Bedros and Sheri Rivera (see above), Aram Bedros and Om Chokriwala (see above), Viktor Anikovich and Alan Schneider, Valerie Aron and David Segal, Rhoda and Lew Himmell. Club champions were Chuck Fonarow and Alan Wollman.

### **Climbing the Ladder**

A whole raft of players got rolling this month. Becoming Junior Masters are Andrea Forman, Sylvia Jones, Sam Lee, Patricia Moller, and Nancy Rosser. Jerome Katzman, Peter O'Keeffe, and Rhonda Rundle are now Club Masters. Barbara Federman, Tony Mirchandani, Beverly Sturman, and Jill Thesman have reached Sectional Master status, while David Duke, Stuart Hemple, Rand Macquiddy, Saul Prierer, and Susan Shane Schwab are now Regional Masters.

Jim Brunet and Mori Taylor have become Life Masters. Judy Hyde has reached Silver Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

Got news? Send it to me at [Bob78164@yahoo.com](mailto:Bob78164@yahoo.com).

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: David Chechelashvili, Ed Davis, Jeff Goldsmith, Rick Roeder,  
David Sacks and Bill Wickham

# 1

IMPs  
no vul

South	West	North	East
?	1♣	Pass	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥AKQ543 ♦JT98 ♣J2  
What call do you make?

*This is an old problem. It was originally presented by Steve Robinson. The original panel had a variety of responses: Pass, Double, 1♥, 2♥, 3♥, 4♥. The passers, 3♥ bidder (Kit Woolsey), and 4♥ bidder (Steve Robinson) were extremely worried about the opponents owning the spade suit. The 2♥ bidders were worried about spades also, but possibly to a lesser extent. How about this panel? Lots of 2♥ bidders here. Some are worried about spades also.*

**Goldsmith: 2♥.** Spades are a worry, but this hand is too good to pass.

**Sacks: 2♥.** Perhaps slightly light but great shape and may prevent spades from being introduced.

**Chechelashvili: 2♥.** Hopefully this will prevent LHO from showing four spades.

**Wickham: 2♥.** This seems aggressive, but it will help partner bid game with the right hand. If you bid only 1♥, partner will not visualize a 5½ loser hand. If LHO

has a big hand with clubs, his 3♣ bid will lose some meaning. And if the opponents find spades, there is a very good chance that partner has exactly four of them. Your best chance for a good score is to bid 2♥, but either of 3♥ or 4♥ might also work.

**Davis: 2♥.** Any minor suit finesses on. Will be unanimous, no?

*Five for five vote for 2♥. Will the last vote also be for 2♥?*

**Roeder: 1♥.** This is about a king light for 2♥. *[It is true that we expect more than an 11 HCP hand for an intermediate balancing jump. This hand is offensively worth more than it's HCP count by quite a bit though. The 6-4 distribution, the connected heart cards, and the diamond spots all point to the hand being worth significantly more than it's HCP value. The greater concern is spades. If 2♥ isn't enough to shut the opponents out, we may wish we bid 3♥ or 4♥.]*

## What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to:  
[bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)

2

IMPs  
NS vul

South

?

West

3♠

North

Dbl

East

Pass

You, South, hold: ♠K42 ♥Q43 ♦7 ♣KT8765

What call do you make?

*Pass, gamble 3NT, try 4♥ hoping for a Moysian fit, or bid some number of clubs. What's your poison?*

**Sacks: 5♣.** Interesting problem. Four possible answers: 1) 4♣ is too whimpy, 2) 5♣ is perhaps a victim to partner's strong 4-6 in the reds hand, 3) 3NT almost always will make when 5♣ makes and in some cases where 5♣ doesn't, 4) 4♥ playing from the right side and a technique cowboy's dream. 4♥ would have been my youthful choice, not sure if my older and wiser 5♣ (intending to equal level convert to 5♥ hoping for 5-5 in the reds) will work better. If I feel we are significant underdogs then I'll bid 3NT. If only partner had a pencil or fingers to indicate how many clubs or location of shortness. [LOL! Hey, no cheating in this column! These hands are frequently tough enough that we might want to, but it would be dumb to get thrown out of bridge for cheating on a panel answer!]

**Chechelashvili: 5♣.** I don't believe I have an intelligent way to invite to six. [I spoke to a former panelist that thought 4♣ was right. David finds no way to invite 6♣, but it doesn't look to me that we have the values to invite six in any case.]

**Roeder: 3NT.** Looks like it's about a trick light for 5♣. Having the third spade is quite helpful for hold up purposes. 4♥ could be right but a ruff could be lurking in a suit contract.

**Davis: 3NT.** A big vulnerable bonus if we make and probably easier than 5♣.

**Goldsmith: 3NT.** 5♣ could be right versus ♠x ♥AKxx ♦Jxxx ♣QJxx, but nine tricks are a lot easier than 11. For example, partner could have ♠Qx ♥AKxx ♦KJxx ♣Qxx or ♠xx ♥AKxx ♦KJxx ♣AQx.

**Wickham: 3NT.** 3NT could be a disaster or the only making game. If you can make 5♣, 3NT will also make some of that time. 4♥, especially by South, might be the best game if partner has excellent hearts. Your biggest score might be found in 3♠ doubled. A 4♣ bid is so pathetic I could not even consider that. So 3NT is my choice, even though I am afraid it might get buried. Often the opponents will build my ninth trick on the opening lead.

*3NT appears to have the best shot to bring home a game. 4♥ is very creative and might be right, but both 3NT and 4♥ could lose control. However, I'm with the 3NT bidders. It's worth the risk.*

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3

IMPs  
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
?		3♣	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠Q854 ♥A954 ♦KQJ75 ♣--  
What call do you make?

*What a headache! Partner could have ♠xx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣AKQJxx, and partner's hand could be stranded in No Trump. Or partner could have ♠Jx ♥KQ ♦Ax ♣QJxxxxx and 3NT could be a piece of cake.*

**Chechelashvili:** 3NT. What else at IMPs?

**Wickham:** 3NT. Making 3NT re-

quires taking nine tricks before the opponents take five. If partner has the ♦Ax and two other quick tricks, 3NT will probably score. Otherwise, you will need to be lucky to make game. Although 2♣ definitely defines a minimum, 2♥ is game forcing, so the 3♣ bid could also be the most descriptive bid for a maximum minimum. What should partner bid with ♠Jx ♥Kx ♦Ax

♣AJT9xxx? The bottom line is that you made a game forcing bid when you already knew that a major fit did not exist, and you have to answer to at least three partners, and you only have to make 3NT about half of the time to show a profit, so now is not the time for a deep view. **Roeder:** 3NT. Nothing appeals. Since two hearts created a game force, I am stuck bidding even though pass could easily be right. This awkward auction argues for 2NT on the previous round. Strongly!

**Davis:** Pass. However, 3NT if I had QJ8x in spades.

**Goldsmith:** Pass. Partner is expecting me to bid again, but this might well be our last plus.

*I'm with the passers. Even if we can get to partner's hand we may not make. However, in the modern world where 1♦ followed by 2♥ creates a game force, maybe starting with 1♥ is best.*

**Sacks:** Pass. I would have perhaps downgraded to begin with and responded 1♥. I created the game force (2♥) and now I have rescinded it as there is no reason to think that partner would have bid any differently if I had started with 1♥ and then bid 2♦.



# District 23

Reno - March 2016





## North American Pairs

### Semi-Final #1

27 Sept '15, 11:00 AM

Long Beach Bridge Club  
4782 Pacific Coast Highway

### Semi-Final #2

1 Nov '15, 11:00 AM

San Marino Comm. Center  
1800 Huntington Dr.

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks ☉ Sodas ☉ Coffee ☉ Gold/Red Points

Mike Marcucci - 818 903-2471

4

MPs  
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♠ ?	Pass	1♦ 2♣	Pass Pass

You, South, hold: ♠AQ876 HHKQ952 ♦T93 ♣--  
What call do you make?

*A significant part of this problem is what 3♥ means in this auction. If 3♥ is an invitational 5-5 then that is a very reasonable auction. I play 3♥ as an invitational 5-5 in partnerships which have discussed it. If 3♥ is a splinter or something else, then we need to go another route. Is 2♥ game forcing? Forcing to game is a small overbid but buys us room to explore the best game. A conservative 2♦ call ensures a plus score.*

**Chechelashvili: 2♦.**

**Goldsmith: 2NT.** I like to play that 3♥ shows this hand, but that's not mainstream. Maybe partner will bid out his pattern.

**Wickham: 3♥.** Obviously it would be nice to play 2♥ as natural and not forcing here, but that is a specialized agreement not used by everyone, and 2♥ would likely be understood as 4th suit game forcing. In some partnerships, 2♠ over 1♦ would show 5+ spades, 4+ hearts and invitational values. Sadly for you, none of these agreements are in place. If you have workable agreements, then 3♥ showing both majors invitational and not forcing is your most descriptive action. If you have any doubt about the interpretation of your 3♥ bid, your best chance is to bid a non-forcing 2♦ and hope that partner bids again. You will be able to bid the correct game after your partner's next bid, if a bid other than pass comes forth.

**Davis: 3♥.** I play this is an invitational 5-5. I would bid 2♥ and then 3♥ if I wanted to show a forcing 5-5.

**Roeder: 2♥.** This complicated hand will need a couple more bids to unwind. Rebidding hearts then perhaps showing diamond tolerance on my 4th call is the current plan.

**Sacks: 2♥.** I don't really think there is another choice unless you play 3♥ as 5-5 hand.

*I'm with the 2♥ bidders here. Go slow. Find the best strain. Hope you score up a game. It could be 3NT, 4♥, 4♠ or 5♦, but some game rates to score up.*

Los Angeles Regional Torrance, CA October 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2015

5

MPs  
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♠ ?	Pass	1NT	2♥

You, South, hold: ♠AKQ543 ♥void  
♦KQJ43 ♣Q2  
What call do you make?

**Sacks: 3♦.** Shows plenty of extras. I guess that 4♦ might be another choice, but not for me.

**Chechelashvili: 3♦.** I should be able to make another call to show extras, if not, then I probably belong in 3♦ (if not lower).

**Roeder: 3♦.** A takeout double caters to small windows: not having a game or collecting 500+ if partner sits. Your offense to defense ratio is quite high. Spades can later be rebid if need be. You will know more if LHO raises hearts.

*Yes, takeout doubles over forcing NT responses are expert standard and have been for almost 30 years. Would double accomplish much on this hand? It looks as though it paints the wrong picture: more high cards and less distribution. This hand has such powerful trick taking potential that I reject both double and 3♦. The choice is between 4♦ and a matchpoint oriented 4♠. 4♦ is more flexible than 4♠ and doesn't preclude a 4♠ contract. I like 4♦.*

**Wickham: 4♦.** Clearly you want to bid a game with a three loser hand, and 3♦ would show a decent hand but would not be forcing. A 3♠ bid risks missing game, and a 4♠ bid risks missing a diamond slam. A 3♥ cue bid encourages a preemptive 4♥ bid on your left. Your best chance to help partner be involved is an immediate 4♦ bid. You may then reach 6♦ opposite ♠x ♥xxxx ♦Axxx ♣Kxxx or another similar holding.

**Davis: 4♦.** 4♠ could be better at MP but it just seems like 4♦ is the right bid. 4♦ does not preclude partner bidding 4♠ with an uninspiring hand such as ♠xx ♥Kxxx ♦xxx ♣Kxxx.

**Goldsmith: 4♦.** 3♦ isn't forcing, and I have play for 4♠ versus a 4333 zero-count, so I have to drive to game. It could be right to bid 4♠, but then partner will have ♠x ♥xxxx ♦Axxxx ♣Kxx.

## Next Month's Problems

### South: What call do you make?

#### 1. IMPs EW vul

South	West	North	East
		1♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠AT72 ♥J6 ♦T742 ♣K42

#### 2. IMPs all vul

South	West	North	East
		Pass	Pass
1♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠KQJ9 ♥AK ♦JT865 ♣A9

#### 3. MPs no vul

South	West	North	East
	2♠	3♥	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠J4 ♥7 ♦AQ764 ♣A9753

#### 4. IMPs all vul

South	West	North	East
			3♥
Dbl	4♥	4♠	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠KQ8 ♥ - ♦AK9862 ♣K763

#### 5. MPs no vul

South	West	North	East
			1♥
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
?			

\* = Forcing NT

You hold: ♠AQJ6 ♥QT82 ♦QT4 ♣72

5a. Would you have overcalled 1♠?

5b. Would you double 4♥?