

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

D23 History - Part 1

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



There are many aspects to the game of bridge that we can enjoy. The competition itself, the feelings of a win, the new players that you meet, the satisfaction of a good partnership, the travels, the dining experiences(!), and the discussions at the bar are but a few. I also get a kick

out of the history of the game: the where, what, who, why, and how.

The partial result of my interest has been the articles that you see on the walls at our Regionals. The research has lagged lately because the source material has been unavailable. Efforts are in the works to get that material, never fear. Those many blank spots on the walls will be filled or you have my promise that the information just does not exist anymore and is lost forever. How sad that anything is lost forever.

The history of D23 is split into two periods – before 1956 and after 1956. Why is that true? Remember that ACBL started in 1936. Well, the reason is that ACBL did not pay much attention to anything west of the Mississippi before 1956. And that is one of the reasons our walls lack much information before 1956. Anyone who has been amazed by the amount of information we have on the walls after 1960 has also probably been amazed at how little we have before that date! It is not for a lack of trying, my friends.

There are four sources for that missing information that we have been trying to obtain. The three sources in print are the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (published since Aug 1935), the D23 Bridge News (published since Jun 1964), and the Western Conference Forum (published since January 1926). Thanks to Cecil Cook, we have obtained every edition of the D23 magazine since Jan 1972, and thanks to Tom Lill, Rae Murbach, Miriam Harrington, and Cecil Cook, we got to examine every

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

Report From Horn Lake

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun.

I just returned from my two-day orientation at ACBL headquarters along with two other new members of the Board of Directors. The ACBL headquarters is in Horn Lake, Mississippi where there was some rare snow during our visit. The headquarters building is quite impressive and shows only a few signs of the floods that damaged the building last August.

The headquarters visit was productive. The problems facing the ACBL are considerable, but the people leading our headquarters staff demonstrated a solid understanding of the challenges ahead. Headquarters in Mississippi is where more than 50 staff members work in the areas of finance, technology, marketing, education, Bridge Bulletin publishing, legal, NABC planning, and club/member support services.

The most eye-opening element of the visit was the serious problem created by players behaving poorly at our NABCs and regional tournaments. As I mentioned in last month's report, please encourage good behavior at tournaments. Bridge is a game and should be fun. As it is, there are some hotels that will not allow the ACBL to hold NABCs because of the poor behavior of, thankfully, a small portion of our membership.

I hope to see you at the LAX regional. Reach me at kland23@gmail.com

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ACBL President to Speak at Winter LAX Regional

New ACBL President Ken Monzingo will speak at the LAX Regional Saturday, February 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Monzingo, a member of District 22, is also a former District 23 photographer.

He is a Platinum Life Master.

What
do
you
think?

Send Letters to the Editor to:

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

edition of the ACBL magazine back to Jan 1954. 99% of the wall contents have come from those materials. What's left?

Tracey Yarbrow in the ACBL office in Horn Lake helped us with the 1935 – 1954 editions of the ACBL magazine, but still have 9 years of magazines to go. Thank you Tracey.

The 1964 – 1971 editions of the D23 magazine are proving elusive. Advertising to the Los Angeles bridge community has resulted in no response to date. We would hate to think that there are **no** editions left on anyone's shelves anywhere. Those editions would be a **gold mine** in filling in our history. If there is an old box in your garage, please check for that 60's era info and call me. I'll be at your doorstep before you hang up the phone.

The last printed possibility is

the WC Forum. Since LA belonged to the Pacific Bridge League before joining ACBL, our local stats are most likely in those early editions of the Forum (pre-1956). We are working with D22 to locate our second gold mine.

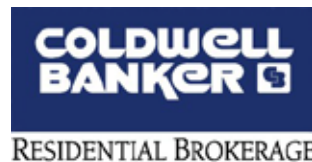
The fourth source of historical material is player files and notes from the old days. Unit records kept by presidents and secretaries, meeting minutes, sectional tournament records, etc. all furnish fill-in-the-blank information for our record. Last month, Barbara Nusbaum found an old binder on her shelf with original LA Regional tournament flyers back to 1972! Do you know what hotel rooms were going for in 1972? Not to mention game fees! If I've missed asking you if you have old D23 records in your garage, consider yourself asked.

In a few weeks, the hallways of the LAX Sheraton will be humming with bridge conversations over hot coffee. Hope all your partnership arrangements are made and your convention agreements all work! See you there.

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Looking for a Club?

Did you know how easy it is to find a bridge game in LA? This url brings 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

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District 23 NAP Winners Off to Reno

by Mike Marcucci

District 23 has completed this year's round of NAP competition and we have some happy winners to announce.

A1 Paul Markarian & Peter Knee

A2 Joe Viola & Bob Johnson

A3 Nancy Heck & Danny Kleinman

B1 Bruce Altshuler & William Chu

B2 Neal Kleiner & David Peim

B3 Alyssa Kennedy & Rick Turner

B4 Fred Upton & Steve Woelfer

C1 Alex Chen & Zu Ming Cheng

C2 Linda Nye & Alan Olschwang

C3 Rae Yan & Mike McGory

C4 Joerg & Andrew Rottenbacher

We nabbed almost everyone for pictures but Rae & Mike escaped.

ACBL changed the rules this year so that a fourth pair in Flights B and C would be invited to the NABC. First place in each flight carries a \$700 award from ACBL for each player and second place carries a \$300 each award. All invitees will get a chance to play for a national title in Reno. Please congratulate each of these fine players if you see them before the Reno NABC in March and wish them well.

There is a change of management for the D23 NAP process. Mike Marcucci has handled things for 10 years and has moved aside so that Marcus Evans can take over. We ask all the clubs to please cooperate with Marcus next year and keep things running smoothly for all our competing players. He serves cookies too.



A1 Paul Markarian & Peter Knee



A2 Joe Viola & Bob Johnson



A3 Nancy Heck & Danny Kleinman



B1 Bruce Altshuler & William Chu



B2 Neal Kleiner & David Peim



B3 Alyssa Kennedy & Rick Turner



B4 Fred Upton & Steve Woelfer



C1 Alex Chen & Zu Ming Cheng



C2 Linda Nye & Alan Olschwang



C4 Joerg & Andrew Rottenbacher

2015 District 23 Ace of Clubs Top 10

The Ace of Clubs is a certificate given to the players who earn the most master points in club games during the calendar year. Only black points are counted; points earned in STaCs and other special games paying "pigmented" points don't count. The ranking level you compete in is the one within which you started the year.

10000+			1000-2500			50-100		
1	Steve Mager	199.9	1	John Petrie	194.2	1	Sunny Lee	57.5
2	Steve Gross	135.3	2	Kay Tseng	144.7	2	Shoreh Toufanian	54.8
3	Ellen Anten	125.5	500-1000			3	Beverly McLeod	53.5
4	Rebecca Clough	100.9	1	Karen Schwartz	133.1	4	Loretto Russell	46.7
5	Pam Wittes	72.3	2	Joyce Henderson	118.8	5	Laura Gastelum	45.7
6	Roger Clough	53.1	3	Sherman Gao	113.2	6	Virginia Brewer	44.0
7	Gerry Bare	20.4	4	James Perkins	112.9	20-50		
8	Mitch Dunitz	11.9	300-500			1	Ray Primus	91.9
9	Ed Davis	7.2	1	Phil Calloway	98.9	2	Sin Orensztstein	67.9
7500-10000			2	Richard Bakovic	98.5	3	Joe Duke	42.3
1	Aram Bedros	289.5	3	Robert Bakovic	96.0	4	Hsuehching Chang	40.5
2	Andy Vinock	201.4	4	Bert Stock	94.9	5	Angela Peters	37.2
3	Gil Stinebaugh	155.7	5	John Tickner	82.7	6	Ralph Brunson	34.2
4	Peter Benjamin	81.2	6	Bill Raff	80.0	7	Mike McGory	34.1
5	Bruce Horiguchi	40.5	7	Mark Lavine	78.7	5-20		
6	Mike Savage	37.0	8	Gary Baxley	77.7	1	Alan Olschwang	65.4
7	Bill Sides	31.8	9	Dalia Hernandez	76.6	2	Jill Thesman	42.7
8	Jeff Goldsmith	14.8	10	Fran Every	70.8	3	Thomas Grove	33.4
9	Dr Sid Brownstein	12.0	200-300			4	Sadika Elewy	32.9
10	Alex Kolesnik	8.0	1	Daniel Strauss	77.2	5	Bruce Walker	31.7
5000-7500			2	Homa Nasseri	71.0	6	Linda Klebs	27.2
1	David Segal	193.4	3	Linda Silvey	69.6	7	E Ruttenberg	26.5
2	Rhoda Himmell	188.2	4	Dwight McCormick	67.9	8	Doni Sidell	23.8
3	Lewis Himmell	188.2	5	Steve Shanker	58.1	0-5		
4	Betty McClellan	161.9	100-200			1	Chihwen Chen	98.4
5	Viktor Anikovich	109.5	1	Lisa Karako	88.4	2	Michael Connell	31.4
6	Armand Szulc	105.4	2500-5000			3	Yoshie Bell	25.6
						4	John Hagman	25.3
						5	Glenn Hatfield	24.3
						6	Lynn Edelson	23.6
						7	Rhonda Rundle	23.0
						8	Bob Hardaway	21.0
						9	Marilyn Limbach	20.7
						10	Bob Culbert	19.6

2015 District 23 Mini-McKenney Top 10

Mini-McKenney medallions
are given to the players who earn the
most total master points in the year.
All points are counted.

10000+

1	Mitch Dunitz	1351.9
2	Steve Gross	1144.5
3	Ellen Anten	961.3
4	Rebecca Clough	658.1
5	Roger Clough	577.1
6	Steve Mager	557.6
7	Ed Davis	425.3
8	Jill Meyers	369.0
9	Pam Wittes	316.2

7500-10000

1	Bruce Horiguchi	598.2
2	Aram Bedros	539.3
3	Gil Stinebaugh	504.6
4	Alex Kolesnik	484.5
5	Peter Benjamin	473.6
6	Andy Vinock	421.3
7	Jeff Goldsmith	384.6
8	Mike Savage	217.0
9	Sid Brownstein	146.3

5000-7500

1	Viktor Anikovich	456.0
2	Iftikhar Baqai	372.4
3	Ellen Kent	360.3
4	David Segal	255.6

2500-5000

1	Bob Shore	570.0
2	Earl Van Der Vord	424.6
3	Mark Tang	409.8
4	Joe Viola	367.1
5	Dr Martin Blain	364.6
6	Connie Kang	362.9
7	Bob Kent	358.7
8	Danny Kleinman	349.0
9	Herman Helber	346.9
10	Ed Piken	330.6

1000-2500

1	Om Chokriwala	860.3
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2	John Petrie	475.3
3	Gerri Soffa Carlson	371.1
4	Kevin Lane	363.8
5	Dr Claude Le Feuvre	332.9
6	Steve Ramos	305.8
7	Michael Klemens	270.7

8	Sandra Carroll	248.9
9	Dr Robert Carroll	242.7

500-1000

1	Sherman Gao	542.3
2	Liang Fan	269.2
3	Dwight Hunt	234.7
4	Joyce Henderson	209.2
5	James Perkins	208.2
6	Roy Ladd	185.4
7	Chi-Chong Yu	172.3
8	Karen Schwartz	162.6
9	Kiyo Nagaishi	161.9
10	Judy Hyde	161.7

300-500

1	Paula Nataf	227.5
2	Bert Stock	222.0
3	Fran Every	211.4
4	Dalia Hernandez	153.0
5	Phil Calloway	149.9
6	Richard Bakovic	142.2
7	Robert Bakovic	137.0
8	Gary Baxley	125.8
9	Mark Lavine	119.5
10	John Tickner	116.3

200-300

1	Kiran Kumar	153.4
2	Steve Shanker	112.5
3	Daniel Strauss	105.8
4	Michael Piken	102.2
5	Hanan Mogharbel	97.8
6	Dwight McCormick	97.8
7	Linda Silvey	92.0

100-200

1	Barry Heller	191.5
2	Anand Kumar	141.8
3	Zu Ming Cheng	127.8
4	Rae Yan	117.6

5	Lisa Karako	111.7
6	Dennis Hill	107.2
7	Jeff Grotenhuis	102.1
8	Linda Nye	100.8
9	Carol Hanson	91.3

50-100

1	Beverly McLeod	98.8
2	Laura Gastelum	94.8
3	Shoreh Toufanian	87.9
4	Stephen Page	73.3
5	Sunny Lee	72.0
6	Saul Priefer	65.7
7	Tate Shafer	64.6
8	Virginia Brewer	64.1
9	Hanna Zhuang	62.2

20-50

1	Hsuehching Chang	118.0
2	Ray Primus	117.7
3	Sin Orensztein	102.2
4	Mike McGory	64.2
5	Jerold Rose	51.9
6	Ralph Brunson	50.8
7	Angela Peters	50.1
8	Tony Mirchandani	46.0

5-20

1	Alan Olschwang	103.3
2	Jill Thesman	57.4
3	Sadika Elewy	45.0
4	Thomas Grove	41.8
5	Bruce Walker	39.3
6	Doni Sidell	35.3

0-5

1*	Chihwen Chen	372.7
2	Yunnan Kan	41.5
3	Yoshie Bell	36.4
4	Alan Cohen	35.6
5	Mara Cohen	35.6
6	John Hagman	33.0
7	Michael Connell	32.8
8	Doug Carlson	28.5
9	Jackson Tsao	27.3
10	Marilyn Limbach	27.2

* ACBL National List



Los Angeles Regional at LAX

Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016



Free 299'er
Workshop & Lunch

Free two-hour bridge workshop and lesson on Monday Feb 15th from 10:30am to 12:30, followed by lite lunch.
Game at 1:15

Registration required
Please call Jeff Grotenhuis
310.600.4275
JeffGro@gmail.com

Four Points by Sheraton at LAX
9750 Airport Blvd., LA 90045

Reserve early, rooms will sell out!
1-800-529-4683

- ♥ Room rate \$126 (please refer to ALACBU ATTENDEES)
- ♥ Reserve before Monday, February 1st 2016
- ♥ Complimentary WiFi, access to 24 hour fitness center and swimming pool, and free airport shuttle
- ♥ Convenient transportation to Manhattan Beach shopping and restaurants
- ♥ Self parking \$10.00 per day
- ♥ Card fees \$14 for paid members, \$18 for others.




Need partner or team mates?

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

Tournament manager Peter Benjamin

310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com

Director-in-Charge McKenzie Meyers

Sanction #1602047



Los Angeles Regional at LAX

Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016



Monday Feb 15th

10:30 AM
Free 299er Workshop & Lunch
(reservation required)

1:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 1 of 6
Stratified Charity Pairs 1 of 2
(0-1500/3000/3000+)
299er Pairs Game

7:00 PM
PM Side Game Series 1 of 5
Stratified Charity Pairs 2 of 2
(0-1500/3000/3000+)

Thursday Feb 18th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 3 of 5
Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+) 1 of 2
Abe Lincoln KO 3 of 4
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams
(no player over 3000) 1 of 2
Pat Banks Memorial Open Pairs
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
Abe Lincoln KO 4 of 4
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
Pat Banks Memorial Open Pairs
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)
299er Swiss Team

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 4 of 5
299er Pairs Game

Tuesday Feb 16th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 1 of 5
George Washington KO 1 of 4
Rita Corwin Memorial Open Pairs
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
George Washington KO 2 of 4
Afternoon Side Game Series 2 of 6
Rita Corwin Memorial Open Pairs
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 2 of 5
299er Pairs Game

Friday Feb 19

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 4 of 5
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2
Teddy Roosevelt KO 1 of 4
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 5 of 6
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2
Teddy Roosevelt KO 2 of 4
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)
299er Pairs Game

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 5 of 5

Wednesday Feb 17th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 2 of 5
George Washington KO 3 of 4
Abe Lincoln KO 1 of 4
Wednesday Compact KO 1 & 2
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
George Washington KO 4 of 4
Abe Lincoln KO 2 of 4
Wednesday Compact KO 3 & 4
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)
299er Pairs Game

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 3 of 5

Saturday Feb 20

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 5 of 5
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2
Teddy Roosevelt KO 3 of 4
Saturday Compact KO 1 & 2
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 6 of 6
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2
Teddy Roosevelt KO 4 of 4
Saturday Compact KO 3 & 4
299er Pairs game
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)

♥ Strats determined by MP averages, but no player can exceed the event limit.

♥ Open Events and side series are stratified 0-1500/3000/3000+

♥ Gold Rush Pairs award gold points to overall winners and 0 – 750 section tops; red points to 0 – 300.

♥ All KO's are bracketed, random draw and may be handicapped.

Sunday Feb 21st

10:00 AM & TBA, 7 seven-board matches with short lunch break:

A/X Swiss Teams (0-5000/5000+)

Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (0 – 3000), 8 teams per bracket; 3 in each bracket win gold

Stratified Fast Pairs - 2 sessions (0-750/750-3000/3000+)

Beach Cities Sectional a Success

The Beach Cities sectional the weekend of July 15-17 was a huge success.

At 147 tables over three days, this was one of the largest 299er sectionals in North America in 2015. Liang Fan directed marvelously. Thanks to the efforts of over 20 active volunteers, this tournament ended up in the black. Players had never seen nine table 49r games before. For tournament results go to www.agilebridgeclub.com.

Bridge was played and silver points were awarded in bunches, but the focus for the majority was on the party. Beach themed decorations welcomed players along with home baked goodies, goodie bags for newer players, guest speakers shown and even analyzed hands between sessions, and sandwiches were in ample supply. Most important of all, the congeniality of the local players made the outsiders feel welcome. There was one complaint, "Why did I pay money to play and not get any silver points?"

- by Jeff Grotenhuis,
Agile Bridge Club founder
www.agilebridgeclub.com
(310) 600-4275



Bridge Stories

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



Thank you for letting me know about my new bridge status. I am still so new to the bridge scene that I wouldn't be qualified to offer any ideas or suggestions.

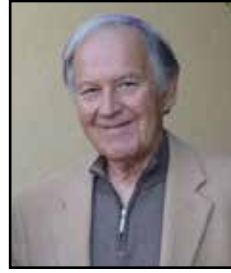
I used to play a lot of tennis but after an injury, I decided to learn bridge since it is something I have always wanted to do. Paula Oliveras was teaching classes at our local senior center in Newhall and it was very convenient for me to go to those lessons for which I am forever grateful. She started each class with an excellent lesson and then we practiced playing. That was a couple years ago and I am still there. My tournament experience is limited to a wonderful recent day at a Palmdale location.

*Jane Dietz
Junior Master*

I stopped playing bridge for 35 years after graduating from college. People in those days smoked too much and were too nasty at the table. I started playing again approximately four years ago. At that time, I had only 60 master points. Initially I had only one partner with whom I played 2 or 3 times a week in club games, mainly at the Barrington but occasionally in Beverly Hills. We also played in local sectional and regional tournaments where I got my red, gold and silver points. It was, and still is, hard to get points rapidly in the club games because of the many very fine local players, particularly at the Barrington. But those players for the most part are very nice and often have given me tips on to how to improve my game that I have appreciated very much. I really enjoy the game and now have two partners with whom I play twice a week.

*Ken Brooks
Life Master*

Approximately 6½ years ago I was considering semi-retiring and I wondered what I would do with the extra time available to me. My wife saw an ad for bridge lessons at Pierce College and signed me up. I was hesitant to attend as I had not played bridge for about 50



years but I thought "what do I have to lose?" This decision changed my way of life.

I met Bill and Terry Morton who ran the program and I was hooked. They later started the 750 Bridge Club and I started playing there.

The Mortons run an exemplary club, continue to teach and make everyone who participates comfortable. I have met many wonderful people at the 750 Bridge Club who taught and encouraged me to improve my game. Several players encouraged me to join them at bridge tournaments and after attending nine tournaments I was able to achieve Life Master Status. It has been and continues to be a great deal of fun for me.

*Larry Kussin
Life Master*



In the intellectual circles of the 1940's Bridge was a popular pastime. My parents played Bridge but argued over the game so I vowed not to learn it. But three friends needed a fourth and wanted me to join so I did. One of the three talked me into entering a Bridge

tournament at the Ambassador Hotel in the 60's. We entered the beginning section and were so bad people were actually helping us which is unheard of in a tournament.

I took a break from bridge while I raised three children. Several years ago I became a more serious Bridge player. I learned a lot from Bob Ashen, Herb Ehrmann and Richard Glicksman. I now play at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club six to eight times a week and still have time for my wonderful boyfriend, my children and grandchildren.

The game of Bridge is challenging which makes it so much fun. People of varying levels play at the Beverly Hills Club. For many it is a better pastime than being at home all afternoon.

It's a great game.

*Karen Schwartz
Silver Life Master*

I was able to achieve Sapphire Life Master in six and →



half years although I am not a great player. I would like to thank many of my partners and friends who provided invaluable help along the way.

I learned a little bridge in 1980's when I was in China. The system we played is "Natural." I had stopped playing bridge for many years until I found the wonderful "Bridge Base Online (BBO)" in 2007. I became addicted and just played for fun. On BBO, I saw the ad for the ACBL, but I did not know what it was. I was lucky to meet a good player, Fred Zhang, on BBO. His team later won a national championship in Flight A. It was Fred who pushed me to join ACBL and to learn many modern conventions. He is my bridge teacher who guided me in the right direction. .

My first tournament was the Pasadena regional in July 2009. I got some points in a 299ers game but failed badly in the open pairs. That experience prompted me to study more to improve myself. It was tough to find a suitable partner as a newcomer. The directors at Bridge Center in Arcadia, a famous educational center of beginners, introduced me to Fred Cragwick who had more than 2000 masterpoints at that time. We won many pair games before he moved to northern California. I remembered how happy I was to get first 2+ gold points in open pairs in the Long Beach Regional on New Years Day in 2010. In that year, my accumulation of masterpoints sped up since I met and played with some experienced players (Samuel Wang, William Ng, Alfred Lee, and many more). Winning some KO and Swiss team games and getting gold points became easier in the following years. With two great players, Eric Tang and Jeff Lang, as teammates, we won the GNT Flight C in 2011 and Flight B in 2013 in District 23. Those were big honors for me. I reached my primary goal, Life Master, in May 2011. The last required point was gained in my favorite club in Downey directed by Marcie Evans. Since then I have also had Chi-Chong Yu, Liang Fan, Chihwen Chen, Ernest Wong, Louis Shen, etc. as good partners or teammates. They helped me to reach a higher bridge level.

The Chinese say "if you like to be faster, walk by two legs." I have played ACBL speedball on BBO often since July 2009. I've earned nearly 1900 online masterpoints so far. My regular partner is Xiaolu Gu who lives in Shanghai. I could play with many good players in this country and in the world on BBO. The ACBL Robot game is interesting as well. It is an option path to improve declarer skill.

Bridge is a partnership game. Anyone who wants to be successful needs help, intelligence, and luck.

*Xingping (Connie) Kang
Sapphire Life Master*

D23 Rank Changes December 2015

Junior Master

Jane Dietz, Susan Gornel, Yunnan Kan
Judy Kascoutas, Joseph Merjan
Purshottam Tennarangam, Janet Warner

Club Master

Assad Amiri, Diana Campuzano
Linda Christopher, Janet Hettick
Edward Pelant

Sectional Master

Laurence Abramson, Edward Blahut
Mitchell Blumenfeld, George Davall
Rohini De Silva, Esq
Sadika Elewy, Stephen Griffith
Merle Liebesman, Betty Borden Miller
Kathy Miller, Joan Oliver
Valerie Turner, Connie Wang

Regional Master

Judy Freeman, Diana Menzer

NABC Master

Joan Abrams, Roberta Brown
Jacqueline Moor, Carolyn Verin

Adv NABC Master

Martin Lipman, Richard Schaeffer

Life Master

Michael Davoudian, Larry Kussin
Kenneth Okel

Bronze Life Master

Vibeke Gilbreath, Jean Kato
Bobbi Le Feuvre, Renee Wishengrad

Silver Life Master

Sharon Biederman, Fran Malina
Karen Schwartz

Ruby Life Master

Kathy Swaine, Calvin Waller

Gold Life Master

Bruce Gordon

Sapphire Life Master

Xingping Kang, Wayne Karson

Around the Units in District 23



Glendale Verdugo
by Sharon Wolf

Unit Game, February 13, 2016
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon



Long Beach
by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

Results of the January Unit game were as follows:

N/S

A1	John Villalobos & David Rozzell
A2 B1	Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
A3	Carol Frank & Claude Vogel
A4	Dick & Ann Banta
B2	Rufus Rhoades & Carol Provost
C1	Temo Arjani & Robert Novell

E/W

A1	Steve Licker & Bob Gish
A2	Amr Elghamry & Joseph Viola
A3	Bill Brodek & Paula Olivares
A4 B1	Adam Barron & Leon Alexander
B2	Norman Pine & Donna Davidson
B3	Sandy Rucker & Ann Raymond
C1	Betsy Josias & Nancy Lyon

Our next Unit game is on February 13. Please join us.



December 20 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Steve Sturm/Phil Hiestand, 2nd Jo and John Melis, 3rd Alan Flower/Jon Yinger, 4th Marcie Evans/Mary Kiechle, 5th Beverly Shafer/John Crabtree, 6th Steve Skinner/Jackie Hess. In the B flight overalls: 1st Rob Preece/Betty Jackson, 2nd Arne Lier/Ann Croul, 3rd Christine Frumen/Betty Witteried, 4th Bob Goodman/Dolores Backlund, 5th Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein. And in the C flight overalls: Sue Boswell/Sylvia Kaprelyan were 3rd, Joyce Hansen/Nancy Toussaint were 4th. Congratulations to all!

December 31 New Year's Eve Unit-rated Game: results: 1st in A: Chiye and Bruce Horiguchi, 2nd Dalia Hernandez/Joyce Henderson, 3rd Verna Baccus/Larry Slutsky, 4th Warren and Betti Harris, 5th Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin, 6th Melanie and Jerome Smith. In the B flight overalls: Steve Rowe/John Crabtree were 5th, Sherry Troeger/Judith Jones were 6th. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: December 16 through January 15: In the open game Friday evening Jan 1 John and Jo Melis had a 76% game. In the 299er game Jan 9 Virginia Brewer/Nancy Karnes had a 74.58% game. Congratulations to both pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards: December 16 through January 15: In the Unit Game Dec 20 Steve Skinner/Phil Hiestand won 3.79mp for 1st. Dec 27 Anand and Kiran Kumer won 3.91mp for 1st. Dec 28 Earl VanDerVord/Mike Daley won 5.25mp for 1st, Bob Goodman/Dolores Backlund 3.94mp for 2nd. Dec 29 Bob Rubin/Harry →

Sachs 6.38mp for 1st, George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord 4.79mp for 2nd, Steve Mager/Mary Ann Cole 3.59mp for 3rd. Dec 30 Steve Sturm/Subba Ravipudi won 5.06mp for 1st, Eileen Nelson/Jeanette Estill 3.80mp for 2nd. Dec 31 Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi won 4.08 mp for 1st, Joyce Henderson/Dalia Hernandez 3.06mp for 2nd. Jan 2 Marcie Evans/Betty McClellan won 4.69mp for 1st, Paul Pettler/Hashim Mahmood 3.52mp for 2nd. Jan 4 Betty McClellan/Jon Yinger won 3.94mp for 1st. Jan 5 Baum Harris/Lowell Andrews won 4.38mp for 1st, Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid 3.29mp for 2nd. Jan 6 Brandon Sheumaker/Joyce Henderson won 3.05mp for 1st. Jan 7 Earl VanDerVord/Len Beck won 3.06mp for 1st. Jan 8 Ted Gibbs/Mike Welsh won 5.25 mp for 1st, Kay Tseng/Jean Matz 3.04mp for 2nd. And Jan 9 Sean Lui/Earl VanDerVord won 3.35mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

Condolences to the family and friends of Nancy Cunningham who passed away earlier this month.

Get Well Wishes to Jo Daigle, Lois Perovich, Bob Mault and Larry Slutsky.

New Member: Paul Chen. Welcome to the Club!

Status Changes: New Club Masters: Don Vallens, Kersten Truelson. New Regional Masters: Sylvia Kaprelyan, Alan Olschwang. New Life Master: Jerome Smith. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club

January 24 Unit Game. Game begins at 1 p.m. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8.

January 25-31 District 22/23 STaC. Silver points. Card fees \$12.

February 6 International Fund Game. Extra points. Card fees \$12.

February 14 Unit-rated team game 1 p.m.

February 28 Unit Game. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8.

February 29 Unit-rated Leap Day game. 12:30 p.m. Extra points, regular card fees.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Unit Rated Game Dec 21 in clubhouse #3: Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein 1 in A. Bill Linskey/Larry Slutsky 2 in A. Fern Dunbar and Rob Preece 3 in A. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 4 in A, 1 in B. Christine Frumen/John Hagman 5 in A, 2 in B. Joan Tschirki/

Chie Wickham 6 in A. Joan and Ted Wieber 3 in B. Jeanette Estill/Walter Johnson 4 in B. Lynn Danielson/Midge Dunagan 5 in B. Bea Aron/Tybie Becker 6 in B. Paul Chen/Mark Singer 1 in C. Jean Byer/George Koehm 2 in C. Sue Boswell/Ron Yaffee 3 in C.

Club Championship Game Jan 11 in clubhouse #3: Joan Tschirki/Chie Wickham 1 in A. Christine Frumen/Bill Linskey 2 in A. Dorothy Favre/ Bud Parish 3 in A. Ylia and Ernie Ross 4 in A, 1 in B. Cooie Dampman/Fred Benedetti 5 in A, 2 in B. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 6 in A. Jeanette Estill/Simone Chottin 3 in B. Eileen Kotecki/Jaye Woodington 4 in B. Monica Gettis/Peggy Spring 5 in B. Michiko Sharp/Alan Olschwang 6 in B, 1 in C. Claudette and Richard Barrack 2 in C. Joyce Basch/Nancy Lichter 3 in C. Paul Chen/Mark Singer 4 in C.

Get Well Wishes - To Marilyn McClintock, Bob Mault. Welcome back to Sibyl Slutsky.

70% Games: On Jan 4 at Clubhouse #3 Joyce Henderson and Howard Smith had a very nice 74.20% game. On Jan 9 at Clubhouse #1 Verna Burns and Joan Tschirki had a 71.99% game

Congratulations: To Gene Yaffee on her retirement as Director at Leisure World Duplicate Bridge Club (Clubhouse #3) Gene has been a certified Director in Leisure World for over 24 years. For many years she directed at both Leisure World Bridge Club and Burning Tree Bridge Club (Clubhouse #1). She is also an accredited ACBL Bridge Teacher who for many years held classes in addition to directing one or two days per week. On Dec 28 she was honored with a post-game wine and cheese celebration. She will be missed as a Teacher and Director but we look forward to her playing bridge on Mondays as well as on Thursdays!!!!

Welcome: To Philippe Varda will be Directing the Monday games while Diane Sachs will continue directing the Thursday games at Clubhouse #3.

Congratulations to the following Ace of Clubs Winners:

0-5:	Louse Seifert, Stan Johnson and Bill Power
5-20:	Ellen Kice, Dick Stammerjohn and Audrey Healy
50-100:	George Koehm
100-200:	Sylvia Kaprelyan and Betty Sharf
200-300:	Ted Wieber and Jean Byer
300-500:	Winnie Warga, Joan Wieber and Midge Dunagan
500-1000:	Howard Smith and Judy Carter-Johnson →

2500-5000: Bob Mault

Upcoming Club Championship Games: Clubhouse #3: March 17, Clubhouse #1 January 23.

Unit Rated Games: Clubhouse #3 February 11
Clubhouse #1 April 15

Any news for next month's column, please email me @jcj90740@gmail.com results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pasadena- San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

Upcoming Events

Aracadi Bridge Center

Beat the House Night, Friday, February 26 7:15

Winners and Losers, Sunday, February 28 1:00

There is no unit game in February

Election Luncheon

March 6, 2016.

Unit Games

We had 13 tables. Thanks to Marie for directing, and thanks to the Gulbrandsen's for opening the Arcadia Bridge Center on New Year's Eve. Thanks for all the food contributions. From the Sweet Tooth Weiss: It was like being in a bakery; the desserts were outstanding! And so were the dinner contributions. The winners were:

January 3

A and B: Karen Arase and John Barrow

C: Robert Novell and Robert Verhoef

New Year's Eve

A: Roselyn Teukolsky and Saul Teukolsky

B: Nona Stokes and Ramona Hernandez

C: Robert Balluff and Vera Balluff

Another Poem

*Bev and Marty came to Pasadena
The poor things didn't know a soul
Where they used to play everyone was meaner
Than a varmint that's been roused from its hole.*

*They'd just moved in- were barely here a week,
They hadn't even time to stock their fridge
When they turned on their computers, so to seek
The place they'll play their first game of bridge*

*Arcadia Tuesday evening was the venue
Nine tables full of folks they'd never met
They'd no idea of what was on the menu
But they'd see what kind of evening they would get.*

*They sat north-south at table number two
And got in trouble almost from the start
When played they passed the boards like they're supposed to do
Oh-Oh...that's not allowed by Diane and Art.*

*But soon another pair came to their table
The guy was bearded and he wore a hat.
The woman wore a smile that would enable
A mouse to start a friendship with a cat.*

*With a pair like that, no one could be crabby
They were invited to a party at their home.
Of course that pair was Julio and Abby
And they're the reason I've composed this special poem.*

*Because of them so many more embraced us.
Dennis, Rita, Bernie, Peter, Cathy, Bill and Roy,
Such good fortune that has placed us
Among such fine new friends. Oh Boy!*

*Laurie, Robert, Jimmy, Jerry, Rae, Marie
God Forbid that I should leave a person out
Gitta, Sadika, Harold, Herman, Karen....let me see???
Well, if I missed you please you mustn't pout.*

A Shakespearian sonnet consists of a number of lines (usually 12) in iambic pentameter, followed by a rhyming couplet. I have occasionally departed from iambic pentameter, but here comes the rhyming couplet

*With this scrawl our 'columnisting' comes to its end.
And to you all our deep affection we send.*



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game

Saturday, February 13, 11:00 a.m.

Individual

Saturday, February 6, 9:30 a.m.

La Verne Site

Our Unit game this month is advanced by one week so that we don't conflict with the District 23 Regional which is February 15-21.

In December's Unit Game, Karen Olin - Karen McCarthy edged out Vic Sartor - Gino Barbieri (by a single match point), who in turn edged out Penny Barbieri - Ann McClelland by one match point. Margie Hall - Linda Ananea and Clint Lew - Walt Otto rounded out the top 5.

In the January Individual, Claudia Cochran took the top spot. Clint Lew was second, followed by Steve Mancini. Gino Barbieri and Sofi Kasubhai tied for the fourth spot.

A correction to last month's news: we wish to welcome Darlene Sessions to our Board of Directors. She will be taking over the Secretary's duties.

The top game this month was 67.04%, turned in by Clint Lew and Linda Tessier. Other winners: Claudia Cochran, Roger Boyar, Walt Otto, Penny Barbieri, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa (finally back from Greece), Fredy Minter, Sandy Jones, Don Logsdon, Karen McCarthy, and Richard Patterson.

There is a whole stink-pot full of promotions this month, mostly due to the fact that the ACBL has created two new ranks: Ruby Life Master (1500 points) and Sapphire Life Master (3500 points). The new Ruby Life Masters are Barbara Baeskens, Sherman Gao, Randy Howard, D Lionel O'Young, and Shariq Raza. In the new Sapphire class are Larry Bolls, Jack Chao, and Ann McClelland. Your Correspondent has reached the Bronze LM category, a triumph of persistence over ability.

Presumably, the two new ranks will result in two new brackets in the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenny

races; stay tuned for developments. Final results for these two races will be released by the League in mid-to-late February.

Early notice: the Unit has once again signed up to hold games on the Longest Day. This year it falls on Monday, June 20. Games will be held at the Knights of Columbus. The game schedule is not set, but no doubt we will hold a morning and an afternoon session at least, and possibly a second afternoon session (for the die-hard players).

This month we have another "what now?" deal for you. You are the dealer, only your side is vulnerable, and you pick up this nice 3-loser collection:

♠A43 ♥AK32 ♦-- ♣AKQ854

You might open 2♣, but that could lead to some awkwardness later on (since your primary suit is clubs, and you have those four hearts to work with). So let's say you open just 1♣. LHO passes, partner responds 1♦ (of course!), and somewhat unexpectedly, RHO doubles (takeout). You reverse to 2♥, the opponents have nothing further to say, and partner persists with 3♦ (of course). You are not playing Ingberman (or anything else that will help, for that matter), but you surely want to be in game. Which game? Place your bets ...

Ready? Actually, unless the opponents are very kind to you, you can't make any game. Partner's hand is: ♠652 ♥J86 ♦KQJ6432 ♣--, hearts are 5-1, and clubs are 5-1 the other way. Diamonds are 3-3, so if a low diamond is led, (or ace and another), you can make 12 tricks with diamonds as trumps. Most likely you will get a spade lead (RHO has KT98 and LHO has QJ7) no matter which of you declares. The rest is left as an exercise for the student. If you have a way to stop in 3♦ (or maybe 4♦), my hat is off to you.

Quote for the Month: "You will never 'find' time for anything. If you want time you must make it." (Charles Buxton)

Until next month ...





San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

2016 Unit 561 Officers and Board of Directors

Unit 561 is pleased to announce the 2016 Officers and Board of Directors, as follows: Dennis Hill – President, Dennis Forst – Vice-President, Nancy Klemens – Secretary, Phil Jones – Treasurer. Other Board members are Larry Abramson, Ellen Anten, M.J. Jubelirer, Harold Kahn, Elaine Keyes, and Rochelle Lotto. Ex-Officio Board members include Doug Beagle - Past-President, Margie Bulmer – Special Projects, and Linda Silvey – Newsletter.

March 5: Unit 561 Awards Lunch/Games

A Unit 561 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 5, at the 750 Club. The catered lunch will be served buffet style at 12noon, followed by the presentation of awards, and then Intermediate/Open games at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$12 and reservations are required. A sign-up sheet is available at the 750 Club or email M. J. Jubelirer at mjjubelirer@att.net (by March 2) for reservations/partnerships.

April 1-2: San Fernando Valley Sectional

Unit 561 will host a San Fernando Valley Sectional Tournament on Friday - Saturday, April 1 -2, at the 750 Club in Woodland Hills. Limited MP Pairs, Fri, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Stratified Open Pairs, Fri and Sat, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Fees will be ACBL members \$12, Non-members \$15. Swiss Teams, Sat, 10 a.m., fee of \$112/Team (which includes lunch).

Special Congratulations

December Top Ten Masterpoints at the 750 Club were Ray Primus 10.28, Susan Raphael 10.19, Phil Calloway 9.12, Carol Bell 8.97, Curt Darden 8.73, Linda Silvey 8.63, Ronald Malkin 8.08, Charles Shapiro 7.50, Daniel Strauss 7.44, and Gloria Feerst 7.37. 70% Games

were achieved by Phil Calloway – Susan Raphael 71.12%, Fuad Khuri – Susan Raphael 70.83%, Vera Mandell – Merkie Rowan 70.24%, and Bill Morton – Amal Murad 70.23%.

February Special Events at the 750 Club

Celebrations of Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day will be held Monday, February 15, with drawings for free plays at both the day and night games.

Monday – Friday, February 15-19 will be Club Championship Week. Extra black points awarded for no extra fees.

Calendar

Monday, February 15, Celebrations of Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day at the 750 Club. Drawings for free plays.

Monday – Friday, February 15-19 will be Club Championship at the 750 Club.

Wednesday, March 2, U561 Board meeting, 2:45 p.m., at the 750 Club.

Saturday, March 5, Unit 561 Awards Lunch/Games, at the 750 Club. See details above.

Tuesday, March 15, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Friday, April 1 – Saturday, April 2, San Fernando Valley Sectional, at the 750 Club in Woodland Hills. See details above.



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

We are continuing to profile some of our Inspirational Players in Unit 556. This month we will feature Onorita Pallanti:

Onorita Pallanti has been playing bridge in Antelope Valley and at tournaments for over 25 years. Onorita did not start playing bridge until she retired and moved from California to Arizona for several years. She was born and raised in Chicago where she met →

her husband. They got married when she was 18 but when World War II started, her husband joined the military and was sent overseas. She spent most of the war years working as a riveter for Douglas Aircraft in Chicago. After moving back to California from Arizona, she became more interested in bridge and started playing in all the bridge games she could find—tournaments, club games, social games—she just wanted to play bridge. She currently holds the rank of Bronze Life Master and served on the board of Unit 556 for many years. Onorita turned 94 in December and still plays in several games every week.

Unit 556 held its annual “After the Holidays” Party and general membership meeting on January 12. The board for 2016 and officers were selected. They are: President: Paula Olivares; Vice President: Roy Ladd; Secretary: Bill Brodek; Treasurer: Ruth Baker; Members-at-Large: Rand Pinsky, Tracy Boys, Mira Rowe, Hansford Rowe, and Beth Morrin

January 12 Unit Game Results

- 1 Elaine Moore and Tom Shudic - 65.3%
- 2 Bruce Bloch and Paul Mostman - 62.8%
- 3 Robert McBroom and Bill Brodek - 60.4%
- 4 Charles Morrin and Beth Morrin - 57.4%
- 5 Ron Oest and Sandi Oest - 57.0%
- 6 Donna Davidson and Scott Davidson - 55.7%

Upcoming Events

Unit Game and Awards Luncheon at Joshua Tree Bridge Club on Sunday, March 6th at 12:30 p.m.



Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

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

LA Regional SBBC Closure

During the District 23 Regional February 15-21 the South Bay Bridge Club will be closed except for the morning session on Monday, February 15.

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Swiss Team Club Championship: Tues, Feb 9, 7 p.m.
NJM Club Championship: Thurs, Feb 11, 10:30 a.m.
Club Championship: Wed, Feb 24, 6:30 p.m.
Club Championship: Fri, Feb 26, 11:30 a.m.
Friday Night game on February 5

Club Championships

The Club Championship on January 6 was captured by Lucy Gellner/John Farr in Flight A with Roberta Brown/Al Blinder taking Flight B.

The Club Championship on January 4 at Veterans Park was won by James and Judith Scott in Flights A and B. On January 6 the Veterans Park Club Championship was led by Virginia Brewer/Bill Malcolm in Flights A and B with Sally and Chris Earnest on top in Flight C. The afternoon Club Championship on January 8 was won by Florence Niwa/Bill Malcolm in Flight A with Barbara and Peter Chen taking Flight B. The evening game on January 8 at Anderson Park saw Paul Sachs/Paul Marjoram winning Flights A, B and C.

Team Winners

December 22: Mary Ann Coyle, Gerri Carlson, John Farr, John J. McDermott

December 29: Tie Fran Israel, Gerri Carlson, Luis Gamio, Mike Savage and Sharon Biederman, John Jones, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

January 12: Sharon Biederman, John Jones, Ed Barad, Cal Waller

Congrats

A belated congratulations to CVal Gamio who finished 3rd overall in the nationally rated Senior Mixed Pairs at the recent Denver Fall NABC. She was playing with Miguel Reygadas from Mexico and missed the top spot by a scant 5 Matchpoints. CVal said they played perfectly and there was nowhere they could have picked up that elusive 5 points.

Also congrats to Jeff Grotenhuis who put on one of the largest ACBL Intermediate/Novice Sectionals this January in Hermosa Beach. It took place at the Kiwanis Club only a block from where I live. I believe the attendance was between 150-200 tables which is quite →

large for any District 23 Sectional.

GUV Award

I heard a story second hand from the SBBC Tuesday night team game. John Jones was playing with Sharon Biederman. John opened a weak 2♦ bid but Sharon thought they were playing Flannery showing an opening hand with 4♠ and 5♥. Sharon went blasting off to 6♥. The story had a happy ending as 6♥ made. I'm sure the opponents were thrilled with the result.

Na Zdrowie



West LA
by Robert Shore

Upcoming Unit Games

February 8, Unit Wide at 12:30 p.m., Marina at 7:15
February 29, Unit Wide at 12:30 p.m.

Free at Last, Free at Last

After four interminable years (I won't say for whom), I finally located a Board member even slower at ducking than I was. The Board had its annual election meeting last month, and a new slate of officers has taken the reins. Our new President is Jordan (the Cruciverbalist) Chodorow. The offices of Vice President and Treasurer remain in the hands of Karen Byrd and Roger Clough, respectively. Succeeding Jordan as Unit Secretary is Candy Scott. Don't forget to offer them congratulations or condolences, as you see fit.

Baubles, Bangles, and Beads

Looks like I'll have more opportunities to get life masters' names into the column, as the ACBL has added more ranks. From now on, reaching 1500 points (with some colored point requirements) will make you a Ruby Life Master. Get up to 3500 points (with the requisite colored points) and you're a Sapphire Life Master. I'll be adding those ranks to Climbing the Ladder starting with next month's column.

No Hanging Chads Here

The Beverly Hills Bridge Club is holding an election. By the time this sees print, nominations will have closed and ballots will be distributed to choose four members of the Club's Board of Governors for two-year terms. If you're a member of ACBL residing anywhere in District 23, and you've played at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club at least 15 times in the last year, you are (according to the freshly revised bylaws) a member entitled to vote, so you should expect to receive a ballot in the mail.

A piece of Beverly Hills bridge history recently left us. Lane Golden, one of the founders of the Beverly Hills Bridge Club, recently passed away. It's been many years since I've seen Lane at the table, but I remember her as always a force to be reckoned with. Our condolences to her family and friends.

From the Desert to the Sea

As usual, many of our Unit members enjoyed success at the recently concluded Palm Springs Regional. Zorina and Ed Pelant won the Wednesday morning 99er Pairs game. Michael Abeles and Barbara Federman won their bracket of the Thursday-Friday Knock-out Teams event. Susan and Daniel Gornel took the top prize in the Saturday Gold Rush Pairs event. Rita and Peggy Levin teamed with Joan Abrams and Sandy Satlin to win their bracket of the Friday-Saturday Knock-out Teams event. Leaving the desert and moving to the Dana Harbor Sectional, Mike Savage tied for first in the Sunday A/X Swiss.

In between, there were some Unit championships closer to home. Aram Bedros and Art Zail won the December 22 Unit-wide game. Wayne Karson and Gil Stinebaugh were victorious on New Year's Eve. Pete Benjamin and Peter Knee inaugurated Barrington's new Thursday night game by winning the Unit Championship held January 14, while the team of Myrna Blaufarb, Jeff Goldsmith, Alex Kolesnik, and your Humble Scribe won the Unit Team Championship that evening at Beverly Hills.

Offense and Defense

A couple of examples of very nice technique from a recent game at the club. White against red in third →

seat at matchpoints, your partner opens 1♥ and RHO jumps to 2♠. You hold ♠K843 ♥K ♦QJ975 ♣KJ5. Not wanting to miss the party, you trot out 3♦. Partner bids 3♠ and your spade stopper looks pretty safe so you bid 3NT. Then partner, not in on the joke, bids 4♦. You don't have any aces to cue bid so you try 5♦. After long thought, partner raises to 6♦ and that's the final contract: 1♥ (2♠) 3♦, 3♠-3NT, 4♦-5♦, 6♦-Pass.

The opening lead is the ♠9 and this is what you see:

Dummy: ♠-- ♥J7632 ♦AK8642 ♣A9

Declarer: ♠K843 ♥K ♦QJ975 ♣KJ5

The auction may not have been elegant, but this is a pretty good slam. If diamonds are 1-1, you can just trump 4 hearts in your hand. If hearts are 4-3, you'll be able to set up dummy's long heart with only 3 ruffs. If nothing good happens in the red suits, you've got the club hook to fall back on. But as Joe Viola demonstrated, even if the red suits don't behave, you probably won't need the club hook.

After ruffing trick 1 on the table, Joe led a heart to the King and Ace. Back came another spade, ruffed again. Joe ruffed a heart, led a trump to dummy and discovered that both outstanding trumps were on his left when RHO threw a club. Joe took a second heart ruff, RHO showing out, pitching a spade. Joe returned to dummy with a second trump (RHO discarding a second club), ruffed a third heart (RHO discarding a second spade), and trumped a third spade on dummy. At this point, assuming the 2♠ bidder started life with 6♠, the hand is cold. Joe just cashed dummy's last trump. RHO threw another club, so Joe discarded the ♠K. LHO couldn't afford to discard a heart, so he also threw a club. At this point, with three cards left RHO still had a spade and LHO still had a heart, so neither of them could keep 3 clubs. Joe just cashed the ♣AK, secure in the knowledge that no matter who held the ♣Q, it was coming down. Making the diamond slam was a cold top.

The second hand is an example of how defense can work when you really trust your partner. Red against white at matchpoints the dealer opens 2♥ on your right, and plays it there. You lead the ♦A and see the following:

Dummy: ♠K72 ♥9 ♦QJ943 ♣AJ86

You: ♠943 ♥K764 ♦AK108 ♣102

Playing upside down signals, partner follows with the 7 and declarer plays the 6. Partner's spot is the highest one out there, so he doesn't have a doubleton. He might have a singleton, but it has to be right to attack dummy's entry by leading the ♣10. Declarer wins the A, partner plays the 7 and declarer the 5. Declarer pulls the 9 of trump from dummy, partner covers with the 10, declarer tries the Q and you win the K.

There are two lower clubs you still can't see so partner was probably discouraging. His cards must be in spades so you shift to the ♠9. You get a surprise when partner wins the Ace and declarer follows with the Q. It looks like there's no future in spades after all. Partner then cashes the ♣Q, declarer following with the 3, and then the K, declarer following again with the 4. What do you play on partner's club?

Declarer must be fooling around. If partner had 6 spades to the AJ10 and the ♣KQ, he would have balanced over 2♥. That means declarer has 6 hearts, 3 clubs, and at least 2 spades, so no more than 2 diamonds. Partner's signal had to be from three diamonds, so declarer's out of diamonds. On the other hand, if you've been watching the heart spots carefully, you'll notice you've got an uppercut position if partner leads the last club. Trusting partner to understand my intent, I discarded the ♦K. Partner led a fourth club, declarer ruffed with the 8, and in the fullness of time my ♥7 scored the setting trick.

Welcome Mat

The usual raft of new members joined our Unit this month. We welcome Mary Allwright, John Danhakl, Bradford Edgerton, Nancy Hamada, and Stanley Korenman to the ACBL. Moving into our Unit is Warren Orloff. As always, please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

The usual suspects dominated Barrington's club championships last month, with Aram Bedros pairing with Art Zail and Peter Knee partnering Wayne Karson for wins. Hitting 70% at Barrington were Basant Shah-Jim Perkins, Aram Bedros-Art Zail, Bill Schreiber-Barbara Hamman, and Pete Benjamin-Steve Mager.

A trio of club championships at Beverly Hills last month. Winners were Ellen Anten-Steve Gross, Herb Ehrmann-Phyllis Kantar, and Marty Blain playing with

WEST LA *continued on page 19*

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Tim Lolli, and Rick Roeder

1

MPs
NS vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠72 ♥AJ852 ♦86 ♣KJ94

What call do you make?

We have enough that there should be a game in the cards. But which game is best? 3NT, 4♥, and 5♦ are all still possible.

Our first panelist declines to enter the "which game is best" contest, and says "Monty, I'll keep what I have, a plus score in 3♦."

Roeder: Pass. Good philosophy in matchpoints: when in doubt, do all in your power to preserve a plus. My pointed suit holdings are dismal and partner is unlikely to have more than two hearts.

Our next panelist tries to discern the correct meaning of 3♠.

Bartusek: 3♠. I have no agreements with partners as to what 3♠ and 3NT show regarding black suit stoppers. Since partner's 3♦ bid is more likely, in general, to have club length / stoppers than spade length / stoppers (no 1♠ bid), I believe that the primary focus should be spade stoppers when attempting to reach 3NT. *[Club stoppers are still necessary to make 3NT.]* Thus, I would assume that 3NT guarantees a spade stopper while 3♠ asks for one. *[The problem*

with Mark's argument is mostly that there is no real standard here. My system notes with Mark are longer than those in any of my other partnerships, but this isn't discussed. Most pairs play undiscussed auctions as natural if possible, which would make 3♠ a spade stopper. Mark's reasoning is reasonable, but inventing agreements in the middle of an auction isn't safe].

The rest of the panel tries 3♥. 3♥ normally shows a six-card suit, but in this case, it appears to be the best available bid.

Goldsmith: 3♥. I have enough for game, but no spade stopper, so what else can I bid below 3NT?

Kantar: 3♥. Giving partner a chance to bid 3♠. He must want to get to 3NT as much as I do.

Lolli: 3♥. Although it overstates my heart suit, I think I have to leave 3NT in the picture. If partner bids 4♥ on honor and one, so be it.

Bare: 3♥. This allows for finding a heart fit or bidding 3NT with a spade stopper.

Los Angeles Regional at LAX

Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016

2

IMPs
NS vul

South

Pass
?

West

1♦
1NT

North

Dbl
2♥

East

1♥
Pass

You, South, hold: ♠J54 ♥A65 ♦QJT65 ♣76
What call do you make?

What does this 2♥ mean? Is it natural?

Bartusek: 3NT. Why did I make such a silly pass on the first round when it is clear to bid 1NT. I assume that partner has a very strong hand with a heart suit (did East psych?). I am stuck guessing now after my previous bidding blunder. *[The pass on the previous round was indeed quite strange. 1NT there looks obvious to me also. However, this hand came from an east coast tournament many years ago, and the expert holding this hand did pass at the table. I accepted the problem as it was given to me, and I asked the panel not to abstain. Several panelists spotted the problem, so Mark speaks for all of them.]* Thus, I will guess 3NT rather than raising hearts, since my diamond honors will probably be wasted in a heart contract, and we should have sufficient HCPs to make 3NT.

Kantar: 3♥. I am in a quandry. If partner's hearts are that good why didn't he double 1NT? He is on lead, after all. To spite this guy, who I'm not playing with any more, I am raising to 3♥.

Lolli: 3♥. Partner has hearts and a good hand. I think East or West is trying obfuscate the situation, so I be-

lieve partner.

I was convinced that 4♥ was clearly best until I had a phone conversation with Tim. 3♥ is more flexible if partner didn't intend 2♥ as natural. I'm still a 4♥ bidder but I think it's close and partner will bid 4♥ over 3♥ much of the time anyway.

Roeder: 4♥. There was no silicone in partner's 2♥ call – very natural!! I could hardly have more. If I did not have so many diamonds, the 1♥ bid would be suspect. As it is, I believe we have enough to make even with four hearts on my right. Any missing black suit honors rate to be well placed.

Bare: 4♥. A hand too strong to overcall hearts will either be cold for 4♥ or at least have a good play.

Goldsmith: 4♥. Partner tends to have a 5-loser hand here, and I have two probable cover cards, plus the ♠J which is likely to be useful. Imagine partner has ♠KQx ♥KQT9xx ♦x ♣Axx. Game is pretty good, and partner will be better than that, though not necessarily with nearly so good a mesh.

WEST LA continued from page 17

your Humble Scribe. Bruce Altshuler topped the 70% mark twice, playing once with your Humble Scribe and once with William Chu. Also hitting that standard were Lou Papp and Chuck Fonarow.

Climbing the Ladder

Carol Mann and Susan Morse-Lebow are our Unit's newest Junior Masters. Bob Weingarten moved up to Club Master, while Brenda Berland, Frank Neiman, and Fred Roach are now Sectional Masters. Stephen Kiser, Nancy Koss, and Herb Wolas have reached Regional Master status.

Jim Perkins is now a Bronze Life Master. A whole host of players — far too many to list — have now been designated as Ruby Life Masters or Sapphire Life Masters. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

3

MPs
no vul

South

1♥
3♥
?

West

2♣
Pass

North

2♠
4♦

East

Pass
Pass

You, South, hold: ♠-- ♥AJT943 ♦T76 ♣A543
What call do you make?

The opening is indicative of the modern style of opening with good offense and controls, ignoring HCP if a major suit hand looks like it has good potential. Partner bidding in our void made us want to rethink the opening bid, but the 4♦ call brings life to the hand. How

much does the 4♦ bid improve our hand?

Goldsmith: 5♣. One round ago I was hugely regretting opening. Now I have a slam drive, and a grand slam try. [Wow! That is a huge reevaluation!]

Bartusek: 5♦. I assume that partner has exactly five spades since he didn't rebid a game forcing 3♠, and that partner can't be 5-6 in the pointed suits because he didn't start with 2♦. Thus, he is probably 5=0=5=3 or 5=1=5=2 (unless he is making an advance cue bid prior to supporting hearts). Most of his normal 5=1=4=3 and 5=2=4=2 hands would either bid 4♥ or 5♥. After opening this poor excuse for an opening bid, I really think cue bidding 5♣ is too aggressive (I don't have a diamond honor). Of course, if you have a partnership agreement that 4NT is a mildly forward-going 5♦ raise, then perhaps you could bid this.

Bare: 5♦. This "could" be a great dummy.

Kantar: 5♦. 4♦ must be forcing, and I have a good dummy for diamonds if they promise not to lead a trump.

Roeder: 5♦. My hand has some great features, but my weak trump holding precludes 5♣. I hope the opponents do not lead a trump.

Lolli: 5♦. Hope we make it.

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2016**

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May 1

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Location: Long Beach Bridge Center . 4782 Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach . Ca

For more information contact Grand National Team Coordinators:

Howard Einberg
Janet Logan

howardeinberg@yahoo.com
janlogan99@gmail.com

4

IMPs
NS vul

South

West

North

East

?

1♥

Pass

You, South, hold: ♠KJ96543 ♥AJ54 ♦-- ♣65
What call do you make?

There are many ways to raise hearts, so there are approaches to this hand. The panel unanimously tries 1♠ before supporting hearts. I'm surprised the vote was unanimous, but I agree 1♠ is the best approach. Let's hear from the panel.

Kantar: 1♠. Can't wait for the panel to tell me why this can't possibly be right. [He's still waiting. Everyone liked 1♠.]

Roeder: 1♠. Superficially, a 4♦ splinter looks good and is certainly acceptable, but it has two drawbacks. For slam, we will want partner to upgrade strongly with a spade honor and downgrade if not. Also, some purists claim that a game forcing splinter promises controls in the other two suits (I am not a purist). Last, more folks raise responder's major suit response on 3-card support these days. Would it not be heaven to find that out in the unlikely event that partner has three spades via either a raise or a support double? As I send in these responses from the Honolulu regional, heaven feels close at hand.

Bare: 1♠. I suppose the problem is to shut out a minor suit save, but I don't think a 4♦ bid will necessarily do that. We can be cold for 7♥ or 6♥ without a club lead.

Goldsmith: 1♠. I'm missing the problem. No direct heart raise looks right. Spades could easily be better than hearts, and why not describe my hand in case partner is strong? I suppose I ought to be worried about their competing in a minor, but if I bid 4♥, won't partner have some boring hand like ♠Axxx ♥KQxxxx ♦xx ♣Ax?

Lolli: 1♠. I can always jump in hearts somewhere along the way, and I don't want to suppress a seven card suit.

Bartusek: 1♠. WTP? [What's the problem – an old Al Roth comment] Any decent slam contract will almost assuredly need a partial spade fit. We'll probably end up in 4♥ though.

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Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016

5

MPs
all vul

S	W	N	E
?	1♠	Pass	2♠

You, South, hold:
 ♠2 ♥AK543 ♦AJ543 ♣65
 What call do you make?

Bare: 3♥. This hand is not strong enough to cue bid even though it would be great to give partner a choice.

Roeder: Double. Red at matchpoints, 3♥ is a touch too unilateral for me. We will not be playing clubs! 2NT would be a two-suiter, but I have enough defense to double if partner has interest in penalizing some amount of spades.

Most of the panel opts for showing both suits with a 2NT bid. I am sure they are hoping the auction doesn't continue 3♠ by West, 4♣ by partner. In that case, we can struggle to find our fit at the four level.

Goldsmith: 2NT. Partnership agreements are relevant here, but I think without discussion, 2NT is diamonds and another, and double is 3-suited. With clubs and hearts, you guess.

Kantar: 2NT. Unusual. This looks right, partner must allow for a red two-suiter.

Bartusek: 2NT. Not good enough to make a 3♠ Michaels bid, and I don't believe it is safe to double and try an equal-level conversion with this hand, since partner may get too excited with club length. 2NT should show two suits (usually minors, but this pattern is allowed).

Lolli: 2NT. I believe it to be more efficacious to use 2NT as two places to play rather than a size showing point count call. I can't double and remove 3♣ to 3♦ because the hand isn't good enough.

Next Month's Problems

South: What call do you make?

1. IMPs no vul

South	West	North	East
		1♣	2♠
Dbl	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠A ♥AKQ5 ♦KJ9854 ♣A5

2. IMPs no vul

South	West	North	East
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Dbl	Rdbl*	2♣
?			

* 3-card spade support

You hold: ♠AQT54 ♥A95 ♦A7543 ♣--

3. MP all vul

South	West	North	East
		1♠	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠QT95 ♥A ♦AKJ954 ♣JT

4. IMPs no vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♦*	Pass
?			

* Splinter, spade raise with 0 or 1 diamonds

You hold: ♠AKQJ5 ♥J5 ♦Q754 ♣Q5

5. IMPs all vul

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

You hold: ♠ QT98762 ♥Q54 ♦AKQ ♣--