

# Southern California Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Zero Tolerance: Myth or Reality?

by Becky Clough



Peter Knee is the subject of my column this month. Peter should be familiar to most of you because he directs at local clubs and runs all our sectionals. He is also a fine bridge player.

Peter was born in Chicago. His family moved to California when Peter was 6 or 7 years old and settled in Westwood before moving to Canoga Park. He attended Bellagio Elementary School and Canoga Park High School. He then went to Berkeley, as Peter puts it, "long enough to flunk out." He enlisted in the army in 1962.

While in the army, Peter learned Vietnamese and Morse code. He was stationed in Okinawa and Vietnam where he had to jump out of airplanes. He finished his tour of duty back in the United States at the National Security Agency gathering intelligence for the United States government. He listened to tapes to determine whether they came from friends or enemies.

After his discharge from the army, Peter went to computer school to become a computer operator for IBM. Later he became a programmer and systems analyst for Telecredit where his boss was Sandy Rink.

Other jobs along the way included bartender, carpenter, and folk dancer. Peter taught and performed Greek folk dancing including performances at the Music Center downtown. One night after dancing, Peter's brother took him to the Epicurian, a coffee house on Sunset Boulevard. It was there that Peter watched some guys playing bridge. After watching a while, one of the guys suggested Peter read a book by Kaplan and Sheinwold. Peter wasn't a total beginner at that time. Years before, while at Berkeley, three people pulled him into a chair, handed him a hand and said, "It is your turn, you need 13 points to bid." Peter asked what a point was and went on from there.

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## Kantar Selected as 2014 Honorary Member of the Year

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



One of the proudest moments I have had as District Director was last month when I had the opportunity, along with ACBL President Phyllis Harlen, to call Eddie Kantar and inform him that he had been chosen to be 2014 Honorary Member of the Year. It was 11:00 a.m. in Providence

and 8:00 a.m. in Los Angeles when we made the call. We had thought about calling later in the day, but we wanted to make sure that he heard this news officially instead of through the grapevine. He answered the telephone, I identified myself, he said hello, and I could tell he had no idea why Phyllis and I were calling him early in the morning and completely out of the blue.

I will always remember his first comment when he was told of this honor. He said, in a cracking voice, "I have goose bumps all up and down my body." This confirmed my expectation that he deserved this recognition and award.

A few months earlier I had been contacted by the Honorary Member of the Year Committee to comment on the possible selection of Eddie for this award. They wanted to know what his involvement has been with bridge recently. I was able to tell them that every year for at least 10 years he has headlined a bridge fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis and each year he has raised substantial money for the cause. I also explained that when he does play bridge locally, he always is open

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In the early 1970's, Peter went to a tournament in Las Vegas at the Stardust. Not having a partner or a team, he went to the Partnership desk. He was paired up with Rodger Harbin. They teamed up with Sy Gordon and Irving Greisman for a Swiss event. On the last match of the event they were assigned to play at a table that was surrounded by kibitzers. They sat down to play against Gerber and Wolf. Though they lost as expected, they weren't blown out. Peter was hooked.

That night they didn't have enough money for a room, so they found a place to park and slept in the car. Awakened by an airplane noise, they realized they were on an airplane runway.

Peter first became interested in directing because he could add quickly. In the days before computers and Score Mates, all scores were entered by hand on a tally sheet and added up at the

end of the game. It usually took 30 – 60 minutes for the results to be posted after the game. He slowly transitioned to directing and was hired by the ACBL in 1992.

In his spare time, Peter was a tennis umpire from 1988 – 1996 thus, his email: umpire22@earthlink.net.

In the 1990's Peter felt it was time to find a wife and settle down. He tried answering some personal ads to no avail. So Peter decided to post one of his own. He wrote: *Nice guy seeking wife. Can be sarcastic. Collects stamps and jokers. If you can handle my baggage, write to me.*

Kelly did, and they married in Las Vegas in December, 2001 and moved to Canyon Country in 2003.

These days Peter can be found directing at Barrington or Bridge on the Boulevard. He also gives lessons and plays with clients. One of his favorite partners is Andy Vinnock.

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for questions and “instant lessons.” This award will be presented to Eddie at the Spring NABC in New Orleans.

Eddie was born in 1932 and inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 1996. He is one of the best known bridge writers in the world, having published more than 20 bridge books. He contributes on a regular basis to the Bridge Bulletin, the Bridge World and many foreign publications. He has two world championships to his credit plus 13 North American Championships. Kantar is a Grand Master in World Bridge Federation rankings and an ACBL Grand Life Master. His North American titles include wins in the Spingold Knockout Teams (three), the Reisinger B-A-M Teams (four), the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams (two) and the Grand National Teams (two).

A very interesting biography of Eddie can be found on the ACBL website.

Next month I will report on motions passed at the Providence Board Meetings.

Until then, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Kathy and I wish a healthy and prosperous new year to all for 2015.

I can always be reached at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net

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**Carolyn 310-871-5051**

**Marion 310-721-7782**

2444 Wilshire Blvd.

Santa Monica, CA 90403

DRE # 01074069 / 00413050

## Southern California Bridge News

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11033 Barman Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230 Phone: 310-836-1235 email

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

Editor/Designer.....Jennifer Einberg

Managing Editor.....Rebecca Clough

Contributing Editor.....John Jones

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## 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, as collected by Rand Pinsky*

It is a thrilling moment to become a Regional Master

I attribute this mainly to a partner. She is my girlfriend and she is an excellent player and very critical. The last time I made a mistake she said that if we were marrieds, she would divorce me .

The only complaint is have is when we play at the Barrington or Beverly Hills club, we are surrounded by experts, people with 1000's of points, teachers, and professionals . I don't think it's fair, we don't stand a chance-- they should be handicapped. When we play in a tournament, we have a better chance, i.e., we play in the 199ers

*Richard Amsterdam  
Regional Master*

I first began playing bridge in college at UCLA in the late 1960's. I played socially for many years until I discovered a very friendly Friday evening game at the Barrington Bridge Club, directed by Carl and Marie Dahl. It was there that I began accumulating my first masterpoints. When that game ended, and because I was an avid golfer and working, I rarely played at a bridge club.

Now that I am retired, I travel between the Barrington Bridge Club, the Beverly Hills Bridge Clubm and the 750 Club out in Woodland Hills. I have several partners. My day partner is Val Romoff and my night partner is Jerry Smith, who is someone I met when I played the Friday night Barrington game many years ago. He and his wife, Susan, and my husband Mitch and I have been friends since those Friday night games.



The picture is of the four of us at the Sheraton

Hotel in Amsterdam. We were awaiting our guide for the day. We sat in the lobby of the hotel playing until she arrived. On the ship we were on, we played every night. Practicing has been instrumental in helping me achieve the rank of NABC Master.

I wish the ACBL would have name badges for players for purchase. I see many players over and over and do not know their names.

*Rochelle Blumenfeld  
NABC Master*



After retiring from a 23-year real estate career as a residential sales associate in the San Fernando Valley, I made a "bucket list" of things I wanted to do. One of my girlfriends said I should learn to play bridge, "otherwise someday you will be ignored in the retirement home."

Well, I had always wanted to learn the game and now I had the time to do it. After my first round of lessons at the Reseda Bridge Club I felt a little discouraged. Everything sounded like a foreign language to me.

I am very goal oriented so I regarded bridge as a real challenge. I was inspired by more lessons and so many friends that played bridge and enjoyed the game. Needless to say, I became addicted to the game and loved the challenges it presented. Initially I felt a little intimidated when I walked into the Reseda Bridge Club to play my first duplicate game. A group of us had started together with lessons. Our wonderful bridge teacher, the late Carol Lang, told us, "it was time to spread our wings."

When I began playing bridge, my sister-in-law told me one rule, "never trump your partner's ace!" As I played more, I realized that bridge rules should never be followed slavishly.

It was a thrilling experience when so many of us that started learning together achieved Life Master status! We were always so in awe of Life Masters never thinking, "We can do this!" I now play at the 750 Club and always look forward to enjoying bridge with my husband and many good friends.

*Ann Trygstad  
Life Master*

STORIES *continued on the next page*



## 1964-1972 Southern California Bridge News Copies Needed

Anyone who attended the recent LA Regional in Torrance may have noticed the large print-outs on the wall outside the playing area. These contained lots of information related to the history of District 23, some of it going back to 1935. This history is a work in progress and is in need of a favor from some unknown, kind bridge player in LA. We need issues of the District 23 Bridge News that are, so far, hard to find. The very first issue of the Bridge News was in June 1964. If anyone knows of the existence of any issues from #1 through December of 1972, we would like to borrow them for a short time as part of our history research. If you know of anyone who can help on this matter, please contact Mike Marcucci. 818 903-2471. Thanks from ALACBU.

### District 23 Rank Changes November 2014

#### Junior Master

Sandra Chereb, Judith Estes  
Peter Exline, Norman Futami  
Ed Janik, Lesly Kandel  
Mary Little, Michael Miyagi  
Bruce Walker, Pamela Walker

#### Club Master

Bonnie Blahut, Hsuehching Chang, Pamela Haskins  
Barbara Mintz, Carol Rutherford, William Snyder  
Sue Tewksbury, Phyllis Wolf

#### Sectional Master

Sheila Cottle, Dennis Forst  
George Kay, Carol Lopresti  
Betsy Nicassio, Betty Scharf, Virginia Teller

#### Regional Master

Richard Amsterdam, Barbara Haines,  
Misook Jung, Stephen Woelfer

#### NABC Master

John Berg Jr, Rochelle Blumenfeld, Gerry Gastelum

#### Bronze Master

Paul Endler, Jane Reid, Charles Shapiro

#### Silver Life Master

Margaret Enders

#### Diamond Life Master

Freddie Straus

## STORIES *continued from page 3*

It has been fun and exciting become a Bronze Life Master. But if I was going to try starting out now as a new member, I would not go to tournaments. It is too difficult to get to Life Master.

I also think after Silver Life Master (which I might try for) the ACBL should have other goals for people our age. I know a lot of people who stopped going to tournaments because no more goals are reachable. Don't forget, we are not young!

*Rochelle Lotto  
Bronze Life Master*

I don't think there is much of a story about how I accomplished reaching Bronze Life Master. My son and I rejoined the ACBL in 2000 at the NABC in Anaheim, as I recall.

We play together at a regional or NABC two or three times a year, mostly on weekends as he teaches high school math in Pleasanton, CA. The result of this schedule was that I accumulated all the colored points required for Life Master, but had very negligible required black points. It took about a year after my much younger sister retired and we started playing once a week at the Anaheim club, where a first place typically gained one MP.

Although I play mostly outside of Los Angeles County, I think District 23 has provided a very well run atmosphere of clubs and tournaments, and I'm happy to be a member of the district. Bridge has allowed me to meet and socialize with a great number of very nice individuals.

Hope to keep playing for most of the next couple of decades!

*Clint Gorsuch  
Bronze Life Master*

# Los Angeles Presidents' Day Regional Woodland Hills !

## WHAT ?

- ♠ **GOLD RUSH PAIRS** every day -Tuesday through Saturday !
- ♥ **New KO's** start every day - Monday through Saturday !
- ♦ **299er** games twice a day !
- ♣ **Daylight** schedule Saturday and Sunday!

## Need partner or team mates?

**Betty Jackson** 562-594-4420  
rjackson62777@roadrunner.com  
or try partnership desk at  
**LosAngelesRegional.com**

**Tournament manager Peter Benjamin**  
310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com  
**Director-in-Charge Brian Russell**  
Sanction number R1502030

## WHEN?

**Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> to  
Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

## WHERE?

### Warner Center Marriott

21850 Oxnard Street Woodland Hills CA 91367

**Reserve at 1 (800) 228-9290 or at  
LosAngelesRegional.com**

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

- ♠ Room rate \$134 (single or double)
- ♥ Reserve by Friday Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> 2015
- ♦ Overnight self parking \$10
- ♣ Card fees \$14 for paid members,  
\$18 for others.      10% discount in Breeze restaurant



### Monday, February, 16, 2015

**10:15 AM**  
299er Free Lesson  
**1:15 PM**  
Stratified Charity Pairs  
299er Pairs  
**7:00 PM**  
Charity PM Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 Session

### Tuesday February 17, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 1 of 5  
First AM Stratified Swiss Teams 1 of 2  
299er Game  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game  
**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Game

### Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 2 of 5  
First AM Stratified Swiss Teams 2 of 2  
299er Game  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Robert Chui memorial Open Pairs  
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 3  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game

### Wednesday, February 18, 2015 (continued)

**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Robert Chui memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/-3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 4  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 Session  
299er Game

### Thursday, February 19, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Second AM Stratified Swiss Teams 1 of 2  
299er Pairs  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Thursday Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 3  
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/-3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
Mark Shreiber GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game  
**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Thursday Compact KO Sessions 3 & 4  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 4  
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
Mark Shreiber GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Game

### Friday, February 20, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Second AM Swiss Teams 2 of 2  
299er Game  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game

### Friday, February 20, 2015 (continued)

**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Game

### Saturday, February 21, 2015

**Jill Myers day !**  
**10:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 3  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Saturday Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game  
**3:00 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 4  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Saturday Compact KO Sessions 3 & 4  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Swiss Teams 1 Session

### Sunday, February 22, 2015

**10:00 AM & TBA**  
Flight A/X Swiss Teams (0-5000/5000+)  
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (0-2000)  
Stratified Fast Pairs

**Stratified games: 0-750/750-2000/2000+**  
• **Open Games 0-1500/3000/3000+**  
(stratified by average points of pair or team)  
• **Gold Rush: 0-100/100-300/300-750**  
(stratified by average points of pair, no  
player can be over 750)  
• **Bracketed Flight B Swiss: 0-2000**  
(stratified by average points of team, no  
player can be over 2000)

# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

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

Our December Unit game was our annual Holiday Party, complete with a delicious catered turkey dinner and all the fixings. Results were as follows:

N/S

A1 B1	John Villalobos & David Rozzell
A2	Jack Futrell & Margery Gould
A3	Tim Lolli & Carolyn Cohen
A4	Hugh Bartlett & Tracy Boys
B2	Merry Bezvold & Art Chacanas
C1	Rufus Rhoades & Carol Provost

E/W

A1 B1	Gerry Belcher & Amr Elghamry
A2	Temo Arjani & Dominique Moore
A3 B2	Roshen Hadulla & Ruth Baker
A4 B3 C1	Kathy Bernick & Melanie Bartlett

There will be more news about the unit and the club next month.

Our next Unit Game is on January 10. Please join us.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

**November 23 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: John Bralliar/Lowell Andrews, 2nd Steve Clements/Phil Clayton, 3rd John Petrie/Alfred Lee, 4th Steve and Charlotte Sturm, 5th Beverly Shafer/Christine Frumen, 6th Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy. In the B flight

overall Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson were 2nd, Simon and Lina Cheng 3rd, Liang Fan/Xingping Kang 4th, Pat and Bob Adams 5th, Lois Perovich/Vince Vilker were 6th. In the C flight overall Kevin Lane/Rob Preece were 4th. And in the NLM section Gerry Gastelum/Nancy Raiche were 1st overall, Colleen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez 2nd. Congratulations to all!

**November 28 Unit-rated Black Friday Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley, 2nd Sean Lui/Kiyo Nagaishi, 3rd Sharon and Al Appel, 4th Kevin Lane/Robert Shore, 5th Fay Beckerman/Sherry Troeger, 6th Bob Mault/Phyllis Parker. In the B flight overall John and Cory Hand were 5th, Betty Witteried/Beverly Shafer were 6th. And in the C flight overall Bettyane Houts/Renee Hoffman were 1st, Sylvia Christensen/Robert Williams 2nd, John Berg/Ed Janik 3rd, Barbara Shuping/Bob Barmeyere 4th. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games:** In open games Oct 16 through Nov 15: Dec 1 Rich Wasser/Steve Skinner had 71.04%, in the evening game Dec 3 Aaron Jones/Phil Clayton had 75.38%, Dec 5 Cliff Goodrich/Kevin Lane had 70%, and Dec 13 Susan Hafen John Melis had 70.09%. In the NLM game Nov 17 Sandy Rathbun/Rae Yan had 74%, and in the evening NLM game Dec 1 Darlene Harrison/Bill Dilks had 75%. Congratulations to all six pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards:** Nov 16 through Dec 15: In the unit game Nov 23 John Bralliar/Lowell Andrews won 4.25mp for 1st, Phil Clayton/Steve Clements 3.19mp for 2nd. Nov 28 Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley won 3.54mp for 1st. Congratulations to all three pairs!

**Get Well Wishes:** Mary Thomas, Larry Slutsky and Jean Matz

**New Member:** Barbara Wallace. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New Junior Master: Ron Casey. New NABC Master: Joyce Shuford. New Bronze Life Master: Steven Alt. Congratulations to you all!

**Upcoming Events at the Club**

→



January 2-7: Junior Fund Week. There is an extra \$1.00 fee per session.

January 18: Unit Game. Dinner at 12:30, game at 1 p.m.

January 19: Martin Luther King Day unit-rated game. We will also honor the memory of Mark Teaford. Donations to the Prostate Cancer Foundation will be accepted and forwarded to the Foundation.

### News from Leisure World

*by Judy Carter-Johnson*

**Unit Rated Game:** November 17 (Clubhouse #3) overall winners: Dorothy Favre/Bud Parish 1 in A. Sue Fardette/Vince Remedios 2 in A, 1 in B. Sharon Baren/Joan Tschirki 3 in A. Betty Jackson/Dick Sands 4 in A. Simone Chottin/Fred Benedetti 5 in A, 2 in B. Diane Sachs/Rob Preece 6 in A. Claudette Barrack/Monica Gettis 3 in B, 1 in C. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 4 in B. Joan and Ted Wieber 5 in B. Lynn Danielson/Midge Dunagan 2 in C. Lottie Costar/Betty Sichel 3 in C. Thuan Gwynn/Cookie Pham 4 in C.

**Pro-Am Game:** November 24 (Clubhouse #3) overall winners: 1st Marilyn McClintock/Cookie Pham. 2nd Joan Wieber/Claudette Barrack. 3rd Bill Linskey/Lottie Kostar. 4th Verna Becker/Richard Stammerjohn. 5th Monica Gettis/Betty Sichel 6th Stan Blitz/Julie Cunningham. 7th Christine Frumen/Tadeusz Galardoes. 8th Bee Kinman/Bill Power. 9th Joe FioRica/Chuck Cutchshaw. 10th Rob Preece/Joyce Newton.

**Get Well Wishes:** To Larry Slutsky.

**Upcoming Club Championship Game:** Clubhouse #3 January 18.

**Upcoming Unit Rated Game:** Clubhouse #3 February 16.

Get the Unit 557 newsletter via email: Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is [jyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

Unit game

Sunday January 4, 2015 at 1:00 at San Marino

On December 14, Unit 559 had its Holiday Party at the Arcadia Community Center. Many thanks to the following, and to all the others who assisted in making

this such a great event: Karen Arase, Mary Falvey, Ann Raymond, Bernie Mateer, Sandra Franciscus, Miriam Harrington, Peter Szecsi and Michael Marcucci.

It was a two-session event. Congratulations to the winners of the Flight A pairs, 1st overall, Gerald Bare and John Jones, with Rae Murbach and Jack Futrell in second place. Flight B winners were Edward Hsi and Zu Ming Chena. Flight C, and 2nd in B, were Graetchn Torres and Mary Brow. Winners of the Flight A Swiss team were Shiu Ming Huang, Herman Helber, Dominique and Arthur Moore. Flight B: Willima Brodek Jr. Hugh Bartlett, Morris Jones, Patrick Cardullo. Flight C: Melanie Moran, Kathy Bernick, Ray Malki, Dea Toutoungy.

### STAC

The Western Conference STAC games in December were held at the Arcadia Bridge Center, with many of the clubs in Districts 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 participating.

Lulu Minter and Fredy Minter were second on Tuesday evening with a 70.37% game, earning 10.38 silver points. Jack Futrell and Rae Murbach were 2nd on Thursday with a 68.15% game, winning 12.23 points. Joe Viola and Gerry Geremia were 3rd on Friday evening with a 68.75 % game, winning 8.07 points. Amr Elgamry and Dominique Moore were 6th on Friday evening with a 67.86 % game, winning 3.41 points. How much difference just one percentage point makes!

### Upcoming Events

Arcadia Bridge Center: Beat the House – Friday January 23, 7:15 p.m., Winners and Losers Sunday-Sunday, January 25, 1:00.

Arcadia also offers beginning Bridge lessons - for Absolute Beginners, no bridge knowledge necessary. The first six lessons are free! Courses begin either: Thursday, January 15 at 7:30 p.m. or Saturday, January 17 at 10:30 a.m.

### You Gotta have a Plan!

Sometime around 1990, during the first year of my re-immersion into the world of bridge following a 25-year hiatus, I telephoned the New Jersey club at which I had been playing twice weekly, asking if they could find a partner for me that day. "Yes," Enid, the owner/ →

director said, “but get here early so you can go over a card with him. His name is Jules.” I had taken some classes with her so she was well aware of my level of competence, or incompetence, but nevertheless, I was nervous and apprehensive as I arrived at the club.

Until then, I had only played with an old friend or with people I had met at the club who then agreed to play with me. Today would be my first ‘arranged marriage.’ I arrived early, as directed, and Enid introduced me to Jules, my partner for the day. I was, to say the least, taken aback. To begin with, I knew he was one of the top players, not just at the club, but in the entire unit. I had seen him a few times at the club, and played against him once. He was probably 15-20 years older than me and looked it.

Unshaven, gravelly voice, he pointed to an empty table and croaked, “we gotta talk.” I must tell you I was terrified. Although I had fared quite well playing at the intermediate level before moving over to the open games, I was under no illusions about my level of play. Many bids and plays that had produced good results against weak opposition failed miserably against stronger opponents. And now I was to be playing with one of the ‘old pros.’ Our conversation was brief. “Lemme see your card,” he said, then, after a quick perusal, asked, “You like odd-even?” “Yeah” I answered. “OK, We’ll keep it simple... your card is fine.” and then he smiled and added, “And don’t be nervous. I don’t bite.”

The game began, and for a while proceeded uneventfully. We had a few good boards, some average ones and then, somehow, I overbid myself into an apparently illogical and impossible contract. I looked at the dummy... no help there. I had absolutely no idea of what to do, and played accordingly. Down 3, after which I heard the gravelly voice, “We have to talk.”

And this is what that fine player told me, 24 years ago: “You gotta have a plan! Even a lousy plan is better than no plan. You don’t have to stick with the plan, you can change it in the middle if there any surprises,... But...you always gotta have a plan!” That ‘old pro’s’ admonition, many years ago, has, when I have been disciplined and patient enough to adhere to it, stood me in good stead.

### **A Friend**

Bev and I arrived at our new home in Pasadena just one year ago, on December 13, 2013. We knew no one here, or, for that matter anyone in the Los Angeles area.

But we had bridge, and almost immediately, people adopted us. Within a couple of weeks Abby Triback graciously invited us to a gathering at her home, at which we first met Rita Corwin. Over the next few months, we got to know her and we became friends, real friends. One sensed immediately that she cared about you. She was a lovely, interesting, intelligent, warm-hearted and caring woman, who was a pleasure to spend time with. We soon formed a small group that regularly went to dinner together, met at occasional gatherings and, of course, we saw each other regularly at bridge. I never heard a word of complaint from her, though it was apparent that she had serious medical and mobility problems. Finally, her illnesses made it impossible to continue playing bridge. Nevertheless, she remained the same upbeat, cheerful, brave woman we had come to know. Each time we visited her during her final illness, we saw only her beautiful, smiling face, and heard nary a word of her problems. She even managed one more dinner outing with our little group. Our sweet Rita is gone now. She passed away peacefully some weeks ago. All of us who were privileged to know her will miss her dearly.

## **Pomona Covina by Tom Lill**

Pomona-Covina Unit  
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, January 17, 11:00 a.m.  
Individual – Saturday, January 3, LaVerne Site

Time to kick off the New Year. As we go to press, the assignment of officers in the Unit Board of Directors has not taken place – too many members absent from last month’s meeting – but we wish to welcome new Board Member Margie Hall, who replaces Charlotte Capelle.

The December Unit game has not yet taken place, either – drat those publishing deadlines. Anyway, you’ll get a full report next month. With any luck (on your part) it will be from a different author. Meanwhile, we hope you enjoyed the festivities at the game, and didn’t partake too freely of the punch (unless it was the unleaded variety ...)

The December Individual was won by Wendy →



Wanderman. Ann McClelland was second, Claudia Cochran third, and Donald Logsdon fourth. We wish to thank Lois Snowden for her gracious hosting of our monthly Individual, and Clint Lew for taking over when Lois can't.

Two promotions this month: Gayle Ginsburg is now a Sectional Master, and Charlotte Capelle is a Regional Master. Congratulations!

Congratulations are also in order to Claudia Cochran and Sherman Gao, who qualified for the District 23 North American Pairs finals, Claudia in flight C, Sherman in flight B. Meanwhile, Penny Barbieri and Yours Truly missed qualifying by ½ match point. Grumble mumble mutter.

The top game this month was a 67.9% effort by Ann McClelland and Ron Purkis. They picked a good time to do this – it was during the Western Conference STaC. Other first place finishers were Penny Barbieri, Vic Sartor, Hanan Mogharbel, Charlotte Capelle, Karen Olin, Lulu Minter, Fredy Minter, Mary Miller, Karen McCarthy, Walt Otto, Tom Lill, and Amr Elghamry.

Our hand-of-the-month is another exhibit from the Laurel and Hardy School of Bridge. Sitting North, in fourth seat, you pick up the following collection:

♠xx ♥x ♦AKJx ♣AJxxxx

LHO opens 1♥, partner comes in with 2♥ (Michaels), and RHO jams the auction with 4♥.

Unfortunately (or not, as it turns out), you've forgotten your agreement, and call 5♦! (Why not 5♣, no one will ever know, because North ain't talkin'.) This is doubled, of course, and becomes the final contract. Dummy comes down with:

♠KQxx ♥AT ♦QT ♣KQxxx

And, after the opening spade lead (again, no one knows where *that* came from!), the contract rolls home when diamonds turn out to be 4-3. Game on your 7-card fit when you have an 11-card fit in another suit. Tough way to get a top!

Quote for the month: "Advice is like castor oil, easy enough to give but dreadful uneasy to take." (Josh Billings)

Until next month ...

## San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

### Special Congratulations

New Life Master Achievements by Unit 561 players are: Ellen Carrier, Paul Endler, Rochelle Lotto, Merkie Rowan, and Ann Trygstad. Bronze LM's are: Ellen Carrier, Martin Hurwitz, Rochelle Lotto, and Merkie Rowan.

November "Top Ten" Masterpoints at The 750 Club were: Norman Bloomfield 5.97, Larry Kussin 5.55, Phil Calloway 5.34, Bill Raines 5.28, Jim Gardner 5.22, Gloria Malkin 5.07, Bunnie Roth 4.68, Paul Endler 4.55, Curt Darden 4.30, and Susan Raphael 4.26. Jim Lechner and Eva Seri achieved a 70.40% game.

### December Happenings

A very successful Unit 561 **Holiday Party** was held on Sunday, December 7, at the Marriott Hotel in Woodland Hills. Over 125 bridge players actively participated in this event. Both an Open and a 299er game were played in the afternoon, followed by a banquet style dinner (with wine!), and an Open game was held in the evening. Winners in the sessions were as follows:

Afternoon 299er: NS – Lynn Heckler/Marsha Bocan (A1, B1), Daniel Strauss/Shoshana Blumenfeld (A2, B2); EW – Carol Bell/Harris Blumenthal (A1), Lilli Kalmenson/Sid Rosenbloom (A2, B1, C1).

Afternoon Open: NS – Om Chokriwala/Alyssa Kennedy (A1), Norman Bloomfield/Carol Bloomfield (B1), Greg Stewart/Nancy Klemens (C1); EW – Samy Antoun/Moheb Mansour (A1, B1), Gabe Rosenberg/Gary Baxley (A2, B2, C1).

Evening Open: NS – Gilbert Stinebaugh/Joan Rubin (A1), Rochelle Lotto/M.J. Jubelirer (B1), Beverly McLeod/Kousi Pathi (C1); EW – Om Chokriwala/Alyssa Kennedy (A1), Renee Wishengrad/Mark La Vine (A2, B1, C1).

**New Location for Bridge on the Boulevard:** 20841 Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills. The new bridge room is located at "KidzCity" on the West side of the Target Shopping Center at Ventura Blvd and De Soto Ave. Open games are on Monday (12 noon), Wednesday (11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.), Thursday (11 a.m.), and Friday (11 a.m.). A Monday novice game/instruction is at →

7:00 p.m. A Tuesday junior game is at the JCC. Call (818) 999-9131 for reservations and information.

**A Holiday Story:** On the weekend of Dec 13-14, the storage bins of the West Valley Food Pantry were broken into and all the toys intended for needy families during the holiday season were stolen by mean-spirited thugs. When their neighbor next door, The 750 CLUB, heard this news an immediate fund-raiser was started. 750 players opened their HEARTS, dug deep into their wallets (with SPADES), went past their DIAMONDS, and collected money to donate to the Pantry to help replace the missing toys. Thanks to the generosity of the 750 players, the efforts of the thieves were TRUMPED, and many children in the San Fernando Valley had merrier holidays!

### Future Events

A **Unit 561 Game** will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015, at The 750 Club in Woodland Hills. A catered lunch will be served beginning at noon followed by the presentation of awards to winners of the 2014 unit-wide “Mini-McKenney” and “Ace of Clubs” competitions. Both an Intermediate and an Open game will begin at 1:30 p.m.

January special events at The 750 Club include the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 19, with drawings for “Free Plays” at both the day and evening games.

## Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

### December 9 Santa Clarita Unit Game Results

First with 61%: Arif Shah – Gary Grey  
Second with 60%: Barbara Jones - Thomas Jones  
Third with 56%: Elaine Moore – Tom Shudic  
Fourth with 55%: Rita Vannatter – Bert Stock  
Fifth with 54%: Paul Gill – Roy Ladd

### December 19 Palmdale Unit Game Results

First with 61%: Rosalee McEntyre – Nora Fincher  
Second with 53%: Henry Roediger – Sharry Vida  
Third with 52%: Joanne Freatman – Beth Morrin

**Congratulations** to two New Club Masters: Paula Millar and Dan McGreevy.

### Upcoming Events

Unit 556's Annual Meeting and “After the Holidays – Holiday Party”: **Tuesday, January 13** at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita. This will be a Unit game and general membership meeting. A new board for 2015 will be selected.

We are sad to report the passing of long-time unit member, Bob Erb, on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Our condolences to family and friends.

Visit us on facebook for pictures from various tournaments and other activities. <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit556>

## 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, January 5, 11:30  
Club Championship: Wednesday, January 14, 11:30  
Club Championship: Saturday, January 24, 2:00  
Friday Night games on January 2 and 16

### Club Championships

The Club Championship at SBBC on December 1 was won by Fran Israel/Steve Ramos in Flight A and Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio in Flight B. On December 5 the Club Championship was captured by Dolores Nawa/Carole King in Flight A and Kim Wang/Rocky Williams in Flight B.

The December 1 Club Championship at Veterans Park was won by Luda Kaprenas/Elena Buker in both Flights A and B. On December 3 at Veterans Park David Cheshire/Bill McClean were on top in Flight A with Susan Hoose/Thomas Robinson leading Flight B and Luda Kaprenas/Elena Buker winning Flight C. At the Beach Cities Club Championship on December 5 Linda Klein/Robert Johnson led Flight A with Sumi Tokufuji/Yori Meredith on top in Flight B and Frankee Victor/Marilyn Daeshner ahead in Flight C. Also on December 5 at the Inglewood Beach Club Championship Joe Thomas/Roy Young led Flight A with Carl Muschnik/Jeff Grotenhuis winning Flight B and Lila and Don →

Levine ahead in Flight C.

5C Jeanette Betts/Mary Overby

### Team Winners

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

November 18 Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos  
 November 25: Dennis and Chrystyna Hollingworth, Beverly Narahara, Ernie Frank  
 December 9:: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

### Milestones

Sadly two unit members passed away this past month. They were Barbara Coe and Morris Lorber. Morris always was there when the club needed a fill in player. Personally he helped me out getting to and from the SBBC when I was handicapped by a banged up knee a few years ago.

Barbara was a very nice lady who played regularly at the SBBC and other local clubs. She was a life long Bridge player and an original member of the "Fearsome Foursome." They were a group of ladies who terrorized the bracketed KO's at District 23 Regionals a few years back. Apparently Barbara once told Mary Belle Hoenig that she accepted all game invitations. Sounds like some of my partners.

### TSB Overall Finishers in District 22/23 STACSTAC

Following are pairs that were overall finishers in games played at TSB unit clubs during the recent District 22/23 STAC.

#### Monday Morning, November 17, SBBC

2A Fran Israel/Robert Rothman  
 4A John Farr/Ed Barad  
 5/6A Lucy Gellner/Jeff Strutzel  
 5/6A Masae Kato/Ray Mack  
 1B Carol McCully/Cal Waller  
 2B Claire Hulett/Lutrell Long  
 4B 2C Nancy Collinge/Roberta Brown  
 5B Arlene Greengard/Tom Barna  
 3C Arthur Rue/Mahin Khadivi  
 4C Judith Tomic/Nancy Greunther

#### Mon Afternoon, Nov 17, 99ers, Agile Bridge Club

1A 1B 1C Tom Fisher/Tom Grove  
 2A 2B 2C Valerie Turner/Bonnie Okamoto  
 3A 3B 3C Elizabet Pringle/Sally Boardman  
 4A 4B Joe Duke/Linda MacKenzie  
 5A 5B 5C Marlene Downie/Leonard Yee

#### Monday Evening, November 17

2A 1B Arlene Greengard/Ernie Frank (SBBC)  
 6A 2B David Peim/ Neal Kleiner (VP)  
 5B Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio (SBBC)  
 2C Elena Buker/Luda Kaprenas (VP)  
 3C Virginia Brewer/Marilyn Daeshner (VP)  
 5C Judith and James Scott (VP)

#### Tuesday Morning, November 18, SBBC

1A Stanley Greengard/Ray Mack  
 3A 2B Gerri Carlson/Arlene Greengard  
 5B 2C Robert Newsome/Thomas Robinson  
 4C Charlotte Lewin/Mahin Khadivi

#### Tuesday Morning, November 18, 499er Pairs, SBBC

1A Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson  
 2A Toshiko Saito/Christine Uriu  
 3A Kathy Keller/George Davall

#### Tues Afternoon, November 18, 199er Pairs, Agile BC

1A Sylvia Christensen/Mary Williams  
 2A 1B George Kay/Mike McGory  
 3A William Evans/Sally Rathbun  
 4A 2B Kathy Soltwedell/Mari Jacobsen  
 5A Stephen Kiser/Rae Yan  
 6A Edward Bucklin/Carol Woo  
 3B Kathy Miller/Sheila Cottle  
 4B John and Carol Hugunin

#### Tues Afternoon, Nov 18, 99er Pairs, Agile Bridge Club

1A Marlene Rubin/Douglas Campbell  
 2A Freda Main/Madge London  
 3A 1B Barbara Fuller/Susan Miller  
 4A 2B 1C Andy DiMarco/Gordon Hull  
 5A 3B 2C Marcia O'Connor/Betz Salmont  
 4B 3C Jeanette Avery/Herta Schultz  
 5B Betty Gifford/Beverly Young

#### Wednesday Morning, November 19, SBBC

3A Carol McCully/Ed Barad

→



Wednesday Afternoon, November 19, Veterans Park

- 12A Bill McClean/David Cheshire  
 14A 3B 2C Anne Andres/Jeanette Betts  
 5C Paula Hall/Myron Leister  
 7C Mary Overby/Jeff Grotenhuis

6C Carl Muchnick/Jeff Grotenhuis (IBBC)

### GUV Memorial Award

Despite going all the way to the Providence NABC and having my worst tourney of the year there, I couldn't come up with a good GUV story. My sister and a dozen or so other relatives did treat me to a nice 25th birthday dinner (I do lie a little, especially while bidding). I did get two very good scores in the last round of the Senior Mixed which cost a well known local Pro first overall in the event but it was more his partners fault than any brilliance on our part.

This being the case, I decided Lucy Gellner was about due for a GUV Award but am forced to recycle a story from 15 years ago. Playing against me she held an 11-card trump fit with partner missing the King. I followed low from Kx when she led toward the AQJ. She asked me whether it was right to finesse or play for the drop. I offered that odds favored playing for the drop (Well it is 52% to 48%). So of course she got suspicious and hooked, handing us a very bad result. After the hand she claimed she misheard me and thought I said the finesse was right. But I'm not buying that story Lucy. I know I was the victim of your intuitive female reverse psychology.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Games

January 8 at 12:30 p.m.

January 19 at 12:30 p.m.

### A Hearty Party

Thanks as always to everyone who joined us and helped to make our annual Holiday Party such a rousing success. Thanks particularly go to our redoubtable Party Committee: Carolyn Taff, Brana Hall, and Marcia Fisher. By now they have this down to a science so it all looks effortless, but those of us privileged to look behind the scenes know just how much work each of them puts into the event year after year.

This year's West Los Angeles Player of the Year Award went to Ellen Anten, and the Volunteer of the Year was Peter Benjamin. Anyone who knows either →

Thursday Morning, November 20, 499er Pairs, SBBC

- 1A 1B Nancy Guenther/Judith Tomic  
 2A 2B Madge Weinstein/Myron Mitzenmacher  
 3A 3B Tajie Major/Ellen Tarlow  
 4A 4B Marlene Felix/Kathy Shinkle  
 5A Tom Barna/James Blaha  
 6A Suzanne Kuuskmäe/Shahem Rahimtoola  
 5B Loretto Russell/Mary Gillett

Friday Morning, November 21, SBBC

- 3A Bob Bacharach/Hank Sheehan  
 5/7A Dolores Nawa/Carole King  
 5/7A Al Blinder/Stamley Greengard

Fri Morning, Nov 21, 199er Pairs, Agile Bridge Club

- 1A Sandy Rathbun/Rae Yan  
 2A Nancy Carnes/Barbara Laier  
 3A 1B Rose Marie Tashima/Betsy Nicassio  
 4A 2B 1C Bob Culbert/Jim Morrow  
 5A 3B 2C George Kay/Norma Nicholson  
 6A 4B 3C Ed and Bonnie Blahut  
 5B Lake Kinney/John Glovka  
 6B 4C Kathy Soltwedell/Mari Jacobson  
 5C Linda MacKenzie/Ann Turner  
 6C Fred Roach/Jim Boehnlein

Fri Morning, Nov 21, Novice Pairs, Agile Bridge Club

- 1A 1B 1C Bridget Dugan/Marilyn Harper  
 2A 2B 2C Janet DeLand/Lee Hansen  
 3A 3B Margaret Bass/Patricia Hammond

Friday Afternoon, November 21, Beach Cities BC

- 9A 3B 1C Patricia Wells/Lee Sagendorf  
 7B Florence Niwa/Thomas Hirata  
 10B William Baxter/Margaret Enders

Friday Evening, November 21

- 1A 1B 1C Pearl Karon/Katherine Weisberg (IBBC)  
 2A Fran Israel/Jack Tsu (SBBC)  
 3A 2B Jeanne Tamaki/David Cheshire (IBBC)  
 5A 4B Joe Thomas/Lee Sagendorf (IBBC)  
 4C Jean and Norman Futami (SBBC)  
 5C Judith Tomic/Nancy Guenther (SBBC)

of these players knows just how much they have given to the game over the years. Also recognized at the event for their efforts in attracting players to the game and retaining them were Jeff Grotenhuis and Candy Scott. Peter, playing with Tom Lesser, was the top scorer at the bridge game, while Anne Bank and Judy Rosenberg won the 299er section. We look forward to having you join us next year!

### Transitions

The last month presented a number of transitions to report. First, and saddest, the illness that forced Donna Castor to step down from the Board proved too much for her to overcome. Donna passed away shortly before Thanksgiving. Our condolences to Donna's friends and family.

I've often thought to myself that I have no idea how the Beverly Hills Club would get through the day without Rick Turner's steady hand at the helm. Starting with the new year, though, we're all going to find out. Rick has stepped down as the Club's manager. The Club's Board has selected Alan Wollman as Rick's successor. Maybe now Rick will have the opportunity to play some more STACs.

Finally, after many years as the Unit's Tournament Coordinator, responsible for obtaining sanctions to our Unit Games and compiling the results for ACBL, Sam Haveson has decided to turn over the reins. Our newest Board member, Cyma Aronow, has agreed to fill that role for us. Thanks, Sam, for all of your work over the years.

### Looking Ahead

Lots of exciting bridge to look forward to this month. First, the North American Pairs District Final will take place at Barrington on January 18. The winning pairs in each flight will receive a subsidy to support their trip to the National Finals this March in New Orleans. In a change from previous years, the top four pairs in Flights B and C will have the right to represent the District, though it's not yet clear whether funds will be available to support the trip of the fourth-place pair. If you qualified this fall, I hope you're making plans to be at Barrington. If not, I hope you're making your plans for next year's event.

As always, Candy Scott has put her fertile mind to work devising themes for Unit Games. On January

8, we'll hold a Unit Game in honor of Elvis Presley's birthday. Then we'll use the celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday on January 19 as an occasion for a second Unit Game this month. These are both Unit-wide championships, with sessions at both Beverly Hills and Barrington. I hope you have the opportunity to play.

### Stacking the Decks

The last month saw both the District 23 STAC and the Great Western STAC, and our Unit more than made its present felt in both events. In the District 23 STAC, Joel Schiff won the Wednesday evening game. Katherine Weisberg won the Friday evening game, and Peter Benjamin paired with Mike Mikyska to win the Saturday afternoon event. Moving on to the Great Western STAC, Peter Benjamin struck again, this time pairing up with Aram Bedros to win the Monday evening event. Aram made his a double, winning again on Wednesday evening.

Some of our members made the trip to Providence and came home with victories. Phil Feldman won his bracket of the first Friday/Saturday evening Knockout Teams event. John Herriot also entered the winners circle, topping his bracket of the Sunday-Monday Knockout Teams event. Mike Mikyska won the F. Fisher Stratified Open Pairs Game.

In sectional action, we turn first to the Palm Desert Sectional. Our Unit claimed ownership of the Friday Compact Knockout Teams event, with Leslie Mikyska teaming with Bob and Sandy Carroll to win the event while Alan and Sherie Schneider teamed with Lidia and Mauricio Epelbaum to win their bracket of the event. Finally, we move to the Sun City Sectional, where Mike Savage continued his march toward bridge immortality with a tie for first in the Sunday Stratified A/X Swiss.

### Welcome Mat

We have two and a half tables of new Unit members to report this month. Joining the ACBL are Dilshad Ahmad, Ron Bloom, Kathy Cahalan, Lawrence Morse, Joseph Sessa, and Jackson Tsao. Transferring into our Unit were Pat Bessone, Brenda Siegler, Janet Treisman, and Miriam Wyan. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Mark Bartusek, Mitch Dunitz, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Jill Meyers, and John Swanson

# 1

IMPs  
EW vul

South	West	North	East
1♥ ?	2♣	2♦	3♣

You, South, hold: ♠-- ♥KJ743 ♦AJT73 ♣QT9  
What call do you make?

*We will start with the panelists who would like to make a natural bid in some number of diamonds.*

**Kantar: 3♦.** I hope I'm not this cowardly on the rest of the problems. The spade division is interesting. It is possible my partner is 5-6 in spades and diamonds or else one of the opponents has five spades. If my partner has four spades, he must have a good hand intending to bid spades next. He did not make a negative double, and a jump to 4♦ might over excite him. So, what does it all mean? It means I still don't know what to bid.

**Meyers: 4♦.** If 3♦ were forcing I would bid only 3♦. If partner bids 4♥ I will make one try and bid 4♠, or 4NT (whichever is a cue bid in the bidding methods).

**Bartusek: 5♦.** I certainly don't want to give EW room to figure out that they have a massive fit in spades. Whether partner is coming in hearts or not, 5♦ should allow partner to handle the rest of the auction reasonably well.

*Now let's hear from the 4♠ bidders. Note that they don't completely agree on the meaning of 4♠.*

**Swanson: 4♠.** This seems like an improbable collection of cards to hold on this auction. An immediate 4♠ bid

shows short spades and diamond slam interest. I don't think I can do better than that.

**Goldsmith: 4♠.** Isn't that a splinter raise of diamonds, which is what I have? If partner has a club control and some working key cards, he'll make a slam try, and I'll go. It seems if partner probably is 5-6, since I can't imagine the opponents' having nine spades. If so, he'll need to have a rounded suit ace, something like ♠QJxxx ♥A ♦KQxxxx ♣x. He'll bid key card with that.

**Dunitz: 4♠.** I will play my vulnerable opponents for a nine card club fit and trot out Exclusion Keycard Blackwood.

*That's two votes for 4♠ being a splinter bid of 4♠ and one vote for 4♠ being Exclusion Keycard Blackwood (Blackwood not counting the ♠A). My rules for when a jump is a splinter versus Exclusion is to treat single jumps as splinters and double jumps as Exclusion if shortness in the suit has not already been shown. Thus, my methods would make 4♠ a splinter, which seems an on target bid on the actual hand. If partner has the ♥A, the ♦K, and a club control s/he'll bid the slam. Some layouts with partner's having short hearts or the ♥Q also work if clubs are completely controlled.*

## What do you think?

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



2

IMPs  
EW vul

South	West	North	East
Pass ?	1♠	Dbl	Pass Rdbl

You South hold:

♠QT8 ♥A8642 ♦98542 ♣--

What call do you make?

*All the panelists think that the other side will make some number of spades and that it is best to do some preparation for what will come next. Let's look at their tactics.*

*Some will get a cheap 2♥ bid in and then probably get their diamonds in.*

**Goldsmith: 2♥.** East probably has a 3-card limit raise, which means partner will tend to have two spades. If so, he'll need extras or no values in clubs to make a game, so I'll take the low road, expecting to bid 3♦ next round.

**Meyers: 2♥,** and then I will bid again.

**Bartusek: 3♥.** Preemptive, even though I have a little too much defense for this bid. This guarantees five or more hearts and a distributional hand. I'm not averse to defending 3♠ if East backs in with that bid, and partner lets it go. This might also shut out East-West if their spade fit is 6-2 [Good point!]

**Dunitz: 3♥.** The opponents have announced that it is their hand. Still, I have a hand with decent playing strength, and it must be right to take away bidding space.

**Kantar: 3♥.** I play this as preemptive, but this time I can't get myself to bid 2♥. Also, I like the idea of taking a level away from the opponents on this one.

**Swanson: 4♥.** Naturally, the opponents bid spades with lots of clubs and bid clubs with lots of spades. I'm bidding a heart game and will double should one of the opponents try 4♠.

*The tactics differ a little, but they are all thinking ahead. Planning ahead in auctions is one area where experts are significantly better than are average players. I'm with the 2♥ bidders here in that I can then get diamonds in. If the opponents try 4♠, I'll get the double card on the table.*

## District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying

Barrington Bridge Club

April 11-12: Flight A and Flight C  
April 25-26: Open Flight and Flight B

The complete Conditions of Contest can be found on the District 23 website: [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)  
More information will appear in the February Southern California Bridge News  
. Direct any questions to [howardeinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:howardeinberg@yahoo.com)

3

IMPs  
EW vul

South	West	North	East
1♠ ?	3♥*	4♦	Pass

\* weak

You, South, hold: ♠AKQT4 ♥6 ♦Q3 ♣T7652  
What call do you make?

*The 4♦ bid is unlimited, and therefore 100% forcing. There isn't an obvious bid here. The first issue is the merit of rebidding the strong five card spade suit versus supporting diamonds with honor doubleton. If this were a matchpoint problem, there might have been even a stronger vote for rebidding the spades. The second issue is whether 4♥ shows a heart control for slam, or a Last Train type of bid, making the only bid that allows partner to select the strain between spades and diamonds.*

*The general rule is to establish the strain before looking for slam which would argue for 4♥ being a choice of games (see Goldsmith). However, many partnerships don't play Last Train, and even if they do, this may not be an obvious application of the principle (see Bartusek). The third issue is if 4♥ is slamish, is this hand good enough?*

**Swanson: 4♠.** It is doubtful that partner holds as many as three spades because after his 4♦ bid he will not be able to show support

without venturing past game. My spades are good enough that I am willing to risk a 5-2 fit. An immediate 5♦ has merit.

**Dunitz: 5♦.** 4♠ at matchpoints, but 5♦ here.

**Meyers: 4♥.** I need to show the heart control; partner could easily have ♦AKJxxx and the ♣A.

**Kantar 4♥.** I can just hear Hamman telling me: "Edwin, I never have the hand you want me to have so stop bidding so much." Maybe this time I have it. My second choice was 5♦, and we haven't gone past that yet.

**Goldsmith: 4♥.** With most partners, I play this as a choice of games. If partner thinks I'm slamming in diamonds, it's only a mild overbid.

**Bartusek: 5♦.** Preempts work! There is no good bid with my hand, and 5♦ seems the least of evils. 5♣ seems too much on such a crappy suit (with a good 4-card Club suit partner might have made a negative double initially). I disagree with the concept that 4♥ is a choice-of-games punt in this auction because 4♥ is the "only" slam try bid available.



## "Fabulous" LAS VEGAS SECTIONAL

**March 23-27, 2015**  
**Monday to Friday**

**Tournament Co-chairs:**

Jane Rubin (janee1212@aol.com), Bruce Rubin (brr32196@aol.com)

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4

IMPs  
no vul

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	3♦	4♦	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠6 ♥KT87652 ♦962 ♣T6  
What call do you make?

*What in the world is partner doing? My initial feeling was that the two hands partner couldn't handle with a straightforward natural bid were a super strong single suiter or a strong spade – club hand that wanted to play spades unless partner significantly preferred clubs. Let's see what the panel thinks partner has.*

**Bartusek: 4♠.** Partner's bid shows a very good 4♠ rebid, announces that it's our hand, and sets up a forcing situation if the opponents compete further (partner is probably 7=2=1=3 or 7=1=1=4). 4♥ is not to play in this situation but would be a cue bid. Admittedly,

partner could have a "perfecto" for 6♥, but it is impossible to figure that out.

**Swanson: 4♥.** Partner's call is a self-splinter; I will be surprised to hear anything but 4♠ next. My hand has sufficient heart length and a high heart honor so that I will not be embarrassed if partner does not make the expected 4♠ call.

**Goldsmith: 5♥.** Partner should have something like ♠AKJxxxx ♥Qx ♦void ♣Axx, or maybe something a tad more flexible. Since partners rarely have exactly what we want, I'll cut him some slack. If a low club is a heart, I

hope he'll raise.

**Meyers: 5♥.** Since I didn't make a negative double hopefully partner will play me for lots of hearts and not much else.

**Kantar: 5♥.** Waiting to hear why this can't possibly be right.

**Dunitz: 4♥.**

*I have never heard an auction like this at the table. If it is certain that partner has the strong spade hand, then Bartusek must be correct that signing off in 4♠ looks best.*

West LA *continued from page 13*

### Around the Clubs

Website problems have curtailed our reporter's ability to identify top games and winners from Beverly Hills, so our apologies if we fail to report your achievement this month. Scoring up a trio of 70% games were Aram Bedros, once with Peter Benjamin and twice with Om Chokriwala. Also hitting the benchmark were Alan Schneider and Viktor Anikovich.

Club champions last month at Barrington were Sally Karbelnig and Danny Kleinman and Bill Schreiber and Sid Brownstein. Hitting 70% were Bill Schreiber, Steve Cohen, Pete Benjamin, and Joyce Meyer.

### Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Carol and Jerry Muchin and Steve Reitzfeld. Welcome to the addiction. Lila Levine and Sin Orenshtein are now Club Masters, while Bob Eisenstein, Linda Rasmussen, and Brenda Rosin have reached Sectional Master status. Marsha Bocan and Fuad Khuri are now regional masters, and James Perkins is now an Advanced NABC Master.

Michael Abeles, Ellen Carrier, Eileen Miech, and Tom Webb are our Unit's newest Life Masters, with Ellen Carrier achieving Bronze Life Master status. Cathy Shpall is now a Silver Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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



5

IMPs  
EW vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠A76542 ♥K73 ♦AK98 ♣--  
What call do you make?

**Swanson:** Pass. Hope we make game.

**Bartusek:** Pass. WTP? *[What's The Problem, a phrase the late Al Roth used to use when he thought*

*a Bridge World problem was too easy.]* Sure, partner could have a perfect fit, but there are a ton of hands where we aren't even safe at the 5 level!

**Dunitz:** 5♣. Do we have more than one way to bid 4♠? *[Several of my partnerships use 3NT as a good 4♠ bid. That would help some here.]* I could be in jeopardy at the 5 level opposite some of my own 4♠ bids. Still, I don't need a lot for slam, and I would make a try. But which try? I'm inclined to bid 5♣ to see if partner can cue either red suit.

*I think Mitch has hit the nail on the head with his question of which slam try is best. I think an argument could be made in favor of 5♣, 5♦, 5♥, and even 5♠ if 5♠ is not extending the preempt.*

**Kantar** 5♥. Well, if 5♥ wasn't right on the last problem, maybe it is on this one.

**Meyers:** 6♠, the scientific approach.

**Goldsmith:** 6♠. Opposite ♠Kxxxx ♥xx ♦void ♣Qxxxxx, we have reasonable play for slam, and that's not exactly a fitter. I can't bid less, and partner won't have two key cards, so seven is unlikely.

*If we are going to bid 6♠ regardless of what partner has, maybe we should bid 4NT on the way. This might camouflage our void.*



**District 23**

**New Orleans - HERE WE COME**



NEW ORLEANS  
**SPRING**  
NABC  
**2015**  
BRIDGE AND ALL THAT JAZZ  
CRESCENT-CITY

**North American Pairs**

**D23 Finals**

**18 JAN 2015, 11:00 AM**

**Barrington Bridge Club**  
**11514 Santa Monica Blvd**

**2 Sessions with a break**

**Snacks ☉ Sodas ☉ Coffee ☉ Gold/Red Points**