

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 46, #1

January 2011

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## Mike Shuman 1931-2010

Michael Shuman (1931-2010), a Grand Life Master and a titan of bridge with a life-time total of 26,180 masterpoints died.

Born in 1931 in Los Angeles, California, Mike grew up in a family where his parents and his older sister all played bridge, giving Mike the opportunity to learn at home at an early age. His sister became a Life Master before he did and taught him some of the finer points of declarer play, a part of the game where he excelled for the rest of his life.

Mike's partners have always said that declarer play was the best part of his game, but his clients will tell you he was an excellent teacher as well, and always a gentleman at the table. Once, at a sectional where Mike was playing with a client, his partner cashed an ace on the opening lead and then led a heart, which was void in the dummy. Mike had the ace and queen, but declarer was able to score the king. Mike's comment? "That might have been right, partner, but on this hand it

SHUMAN *continued on page 10*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Happy New Year

by *Bill Schreiber, ALACBU President*



With this start-of-the-year column, I usually concentrate on reporting the high finishers (5th or better in a National Event) in the most recent NABC, this last one held in late November in Orlando. However, it appears that most within our district either did not go to the tournament, or had their partners to blame for a poor performance. The only player who did finish highly from District 23 was Jill Meyers, who finished

2nd in the Sternberg Womens' B-A-M.

Upcoming regional tournaments sponsored by ALACBU are the Regional-At-Sea beginning April 30, and Bridge Week at the Pasadena Hilton beginning June 28 for 10 days. Also do not forget about the upcoming Grand National Teams, which also carry a regional rating.

I hope all of you had a Happy Hanukkah or a Merry Christmas or a Wonderful Kwanzaa. I also wish for you good health and good bridge in the New Year.

### District 23 GNT info on page 11

## Robots, Online Bridge, MP Awards, and Rank Changes

by *Rand Pinsky, District Director*



At our Orlando meetings last month, the board spent substantial time discussing the relationship of online bridge to face-to-face bridge competition. The discussions focused on the amount of masterpoints to award for online games and the application of online points towards masterpoint ranking and stratification. Your comments to me would be very helpful in assisting the board in formulating a policy on these issues.

Currently there are approximately 60,000 tables of online bridge each month. Most games consist of 12 board games with timed play. BridgeBase Online (BBO) also runs robot games with 7,500 tables of play each month as part of their 47,000 tables per month. Robot games are where each player in the game has a robot partner and robot opponents. It is like an individual game.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

Currently a maximum of 25 tables count towards overall masterpoint awards (0.1 per table) with overall awards for 12-17 table games at 80% regular games. Robot games award the same. One issue to discuss is if these games should award 80%. I solicit your comments if this is a proper ratio or if it should be the same, greater or less. Also, should robot games be treated the same as online games? Right now they award the same masterpoints as online games. Your comments please. Also, should the maximum number of tables be increased for point awards?

Rank advancement and stratification determination is also affected by online play. Currently no more than 1/3 of the total masterpoints required for rank advancement can be attributed to online masterpoints. Should this limit be kept the same, increased or decreased? Some people point out that the current ratio for rank advancement contradicts the stratification of players as currently all online points count towards

stratification. They argue that is not fair for all online points to count for strat determination, while only 1/3 of the online points count for rank change.

There are pros and cons of sanction online play. Pros include: more diversity for our players, more internet exposure, greater growth of bridge, more attraction to young players who live online, and easier access for people who cannot get to clubs. Cons include: possible lower attendance at our clubs and tournaments, the impression that fellow club players are winning too many masterpoints online, too fast advancements in the strats, the ease of cheating online, the impression that cheating takes place online, and the high number of online masterpoints some players amass.

The answers to these questions are not easy. There is a wide range of opinion on the Board of Directors as to which policies to adopt. What is known is that we need to set some final policy soon. I expect the board to make those decisions at our next board meeting in March. That is why I ask for your comments.



Mort Nagler at his 100th birthday party

It's a Different View From Dummy

This past month Kathy and I had the pleasure of attending the holiday parties of the Antelope Valley / Santa Clarita Unit and the Pasadena /San Gabriel Unit. Both were well attended and it appeared that everyone had a good time.

I also was able to attend the 100th birthday party of Mort Nagler who had a birthday celebrations held at each of the San Fernando Valley bridge clubs. I notified Horn Lake about the event, and they sent to Mort a giant birthday card which I had the honor of presenting to him.

Best wishes for a healthy 2011 and may all of us win lots of masterpoints.



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

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

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

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# Around the Units in District 23

**Glendale Verdugo**  
by Dorothy LaMaie

November was a difficult month for me, but fortunately, Sharon Wolf has provided lots news to report, aided and abetted by Pat Abby.

Saturday, January 8, 2011  
Glendale Verdugo Unit Game at 1:00 p.m.  
Buffet Lunch at 12:15 p.m.  
Board Meeting at 11 a.m.

The memorial for Calvin Smith at the Regency Bridge Club on October 17, was well attended. After the buffet luncheon, Pat Abby gave a brief summary of Calvin’s life, then others cited meaningful recollections. All proceeds from the day were donated to the American Diabetes Association. The bridge game results were as follows:

North/South

- A1 Elianna Ruppinn & Adam Meyerson
- A2 B1 Susan Rhoades & Dan Oakes
- A3 B2 Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
- A4 John Villalobos & Tony Scott

East/West

- A1 Bob Tayrien & Bud Bates
- A2 B1 Karen Alpert & Leon Alexander
- A3 Rhonda Platt & William Weingarden
- A4 Eva Seri & Ron Lifshutz

As for the November Unit game, the buffet lunch gave sustenance and the players responded with these winning results:

North/South

- A1 Carolyn Cohen & Tim Loli
- A2 Robert Wang & Frank Shih
- A3 Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel

- B1 Barbara McKissick & Art Chacanas
- B2 Pat Abby & Sharon Wolf
- B3 Susan Rhoades & Dan Oakes

East/West

- A1 Bob Tarien & Ron Lifshutz
- A2 Jacob Frankel & Herman Helber
- A3 Steve Licker & Bob Gish
- B1 Karen Alpert & Rufus Rhoades

Otherwise, performing well along the way, Robert Driskell & Brian Patrunch had yet another 70% game recently. Also Mike Doll & Steve Licker brought in a 71 percenter; apparently they are catching on to the Bob Gish system. Carol Frank and Dan Botoaca both have reached the 1,000 - MP Silver Certification level. Two new members have joined our unit: Arlene Aschmeyer and Rennie Tejada.

Our condolences go out belatedly to Hal Gordon and his family for the loss of one of his sons. Also, Merry Besvold’s husband passed away after a long illness; though not unexpected, it’s still a tough call. Another tough call was received by Pat Abby that her special bridge partner/ friend had suffered a stroke with a somewhat discouraging prognosis. She has been through so many serious setbacks— this is really a bummer.

Nancy Lyon gets the “farthest - flung” travel award with her recent trip to Australia and New Zealand. However, Leon Alexander and Tim Stocks were in the running with their 30-day round trip cruise down the west coasts of all three Americas. Temo Arjani limited his boating to the Mexican Riviera, while Diane and Rodger Thisdell opted for inland to Arizona. Gerry Belcher’s loyal attendance at USC football games suffered a lapse in the cross-town contender game due to a serious physical glitch; however his medical men got him up and running and flying to Hawaii with Barbara for any R&R that might be needed, and there’s lots of healing salt water in that ocean.

We were delighted to see that the long-term R&R

District 23 presents...



**April 30-May 7, 2011**  
**MEXICAN RIVIERA**  
**Roundtrip Los Angeles**  
**on Princess Cruises' Sapphire Princess**

**EARN GOLD POINTS • DAILY BRIDGE LECTURES WITH LARRY COHEN**

**Your Host, Larry Cohen**

Larry Cohen has won 26 National Championships and lectures worldwide. He's also the author of many books including the best-sellers *To Bid or Not to Bid* and *Following the LAW*. Two of his four interactive CDs were honored as "best CD of the year".



Larry's Regional at Sea lectures—cover fascinating topics for players of all levels—feature a VuGraph screen, enabling participants to see the hands being played.

*Our Regionals-At-Sea are so Popular... We're doing it again.*

Next spring we're setting sail for exotic ports along the Mexican Riviera, roundtrip from Los Angeles, aboard Princess Cruises' *Sapphire Princess*, Larry Cohen will be giving morning lectures and there are private events, lots of tournament play, and side games.

**Event Schedule** (subject to slight changes)

**One-Session Pair Games every session.**  
**299er Games, based on attendance.**

	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	8:00 PM
<b>Sat., April 30</b>	<b>9:00-10:00 AM-Daily Free Beginner Lesson with Ellen Kent</b>			Registration Bracketed KO1 Round 1
	<b>Lesson/Analysis with Larry after all Two-Session Open Pair games at 4:30 P.M.</b>			
<b>Sun., May 1</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Open Pairs 1st Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO1 Round 2
<b>Mon., May 2</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO1 Round 3
<b>Tues., May 3</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Open Pairs 1st Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 1
<b>Wed., May 4</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 2
<b>Thur., May 5</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Open Pairs 1st Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 3
<b>Fri., May 6</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	<b>5:00 PM:</b> Awards Program & Party

Flights: C-up to 500; B-500 to 1500; A-1500+

District 23 presents...  
 ACBL Sanctioned Regional

**From Just \$1293 pp**  
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**Daily Lectures with Larry**  
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Special cocktail party with Larry, and final awards ceremony too.

Accommodations are subject to availability. Alice Travel will be happy to arrange air travel as well as pre- and post-cruise hotel stays.

Tournament Chairman: Ellen Kent - 310-822-2021

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ATU *continued from page 3*

Melina Stevens suffered left her looking lovely as ever upon return to the Regency Club for some socializing during our Christmas party. She was only in the Kibitzing mode at this time, but enjoyed all the reacquaintancing, as did we. Everyone seemed to enjoy the catered turkey entree and trimmings, with veggies, salad, and desserts provided by board members. Betsy Josias and Nancy Lyon worked hard selling raffle tickets and the event went off enthusiastically. Our thanks to those who contributed prizes as well to the teddy bear bin for latter distribution at Children's Court.

Preliminary game results had a few glitches, so a rerun was done with the following results:

		North/South
A1		Marge Gould & Paul Gelb
A2		Carolyn Cohen & Tim Lori
A3/5		Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A3/5		Pat Abby & Sharon Wolf
A3/5		Phil Dessert & Dominique Moore
	B1	Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
	B2	Susan Rhoades & Dan Oakes
		East/West
A1	B1	Ester Tapelband & Bob Hogan
A2	B2	Art Chacantias & Dorothy La Maie
A3		San Wang & Xingjing Kang
A4		Hal Gordon & Dennis Tang
	B3	Leon Alexander & Tim Stocks

Congratulations to all of you. Please make a note that the January Unit game is fairly early in the month January 8. Take care everybody and Happy New Year!

## Long Beach

unit website: [www.aclubunit557.org](http://www.aclubunit557.org)

club website: [www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

by Jon Yinger

**December 5 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Steve and Charlotte Sturm, 2nd Sankar Reddy/Irwin Bender, 3rd Betty Jackson/Gloria Sedore, 4th Aaron Jones/Jerry Cassaday, 5th Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan, 6th Sharon and Al Appel. B flight overalls: 3rd Sherry Troeger/Fay Beckerman, 4th Carol Murakoshi/Tom Ludwig, 5th Carol Murakoshi/Tom Ludwig. Over-

all winners in the Non-Life Master game: 1st Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid, 2nd Steven Alt/Pamela Cole, 3rd Sunny Harper/Kiyo Nagaishi. Congratulations to you all!

## Long Beach Unit Game San Marino Bridge Club January 2, 2011

**70% Games Nov 16 through Dec 15:** Nov 16 Stanley Snyder/Lois Abramson had a 74.17% game. In the NLM game Nov 22 George Alemshah/Cooie Dampman had 70%. In the Nov 29 ACBL-wide charity game Gayle Grubb/Betty Williams were 1st over-all, with a 71% game. And in the evening game Dec 10 John and Jo Melis had a 72.22% game. Congratulations to you all!

**Big Masterpoint Awards:** Big masterpoint awards for 1st overall in club games Nov 16 through Dec 15: On Nov 16 Ralph Beazley/Walter Rothstein won 3.68mp; Nov 19 Verna Baccus/Betty McClellan tied with Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger, each winning 3.61mp; Nov 20 Sankar Reddy/Mark Tang won 3.03mp; and in the Dec 5 Unit Game Charlotte and Steve Sturm won 4.67mp. Sankar Reddy/Irwin Bender were 2nd over-all in the Unit Game winning 3.50mp. Congratulations to all!

**New Members:** It's official; Maruxa Cargill is now member of our unit. And welcome also to Charles Laine who transferred into our unit last month. Welcome to both of you!

**Status Changes:** New Junior Masters: Sylvia Kaprelyan, Hugh Linden and Audrey Linden; Sectional Masters: Sharon Biederman, Dale Blessing, Mihir Das and Judy Grieb; Regional Masters: Lynne Finley and Joyce Henderson; NABC Masters: Cooie Dampman and Norma Krueger; new Life Master: Michael Shaw, and new Silver Life Master: Charles Messall. Congratulations to all!

**Upcoming Events At The Club:** Friday Dec 17 12:00 Holiday Potluck. Sunday Dec 19 Holiday Party lunch served at 12:00, game at 1 pm. No game Friday Evening Dec 24. Club is closed Saturday Dec 25. Monday Dec 27 12:30 Inter-Club Championship game. Extra point; hand records.

**Get Well Wishes** to Al Mastron, Judy Lorber and Merlin Hansen.

**Condolences** to the family and friends of Diane

Tomooka who passed away earlier this month. A delightful lady; she will be missed.

**Leisure World:** There are 4 duplicate games held every week, Monday & Thursday in Clubhouse #3 and Friday & Saturday in Clubhouse #1. The games start promptly at 12:30 p.m. and all players are asked to be at the clubhouses by 12:15 p.m. Leisure World is a gated community, therefore if you are planning to play in any of the games you need to make a reservation with Ruth Kaller (430-0316) so that your name will be turned in to security at the front gate.

Results of all Leisure World games are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org) then click on "Leisure World Results" on left hand side.

**Your New Officers** will be chosen at the Unit 557 Board meeting January 3. I will announce them in the February newsletter.

**Get The Unit 557 Newsletter Via Email:** If you miss getting the newsletter by snail mail (it's been more than two years since the district quit mailing them out), you get the newsletter by -mail. 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 Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

The Christmas Party was truly a moment in time. Karen Arase had every detail planned to perfection from arrival to departure.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley Unit Game  
San Marino Bridge Club  
January 2, 2011

An army of elves arrived about 10:00 a.m. to help with the set up, and we even had some non-board members show up to give a hand.

Lois Miller and Susan Jones were wonderful help. In no time at all, the room had been transformed with the pizzazz that only Karen can create.

The center pieces were adorable.

I understand Sandra Franciscus was the worker bee that assembled them.

The decorations were set in the center of white linen tablecloths that reached to the floor and had an overlay of red organza to enhance the total effect.

Thank you!

To all the people who brought hors d'oeuvres, thank you. They were outstanding and kept us going until dinner arrived. Then, the elves came out again and served a sit-down dinner. Everyone had a name tag for the table with their order listed and Karen prepared it all. Connie De Rosa was a big help in the kitchen, along with Tony France, who also doubles as our caddy. He is going to culinary school and lent his talents to the production. We introduced some new ideas at the party this year. We offered a silent auction, and people with a minute or two on their hands could be found at the side tables, outbidding the former winner. We also offered two great chefs in our unit to be auctioned off to cook a meal in your home for eight people. Dominique Moore and Connie De Rosa were very popular in the live auction. There were bidding wars when Mike Marcucci auctioned off Joe Viola, John Jones and Peter Szecsi.

Thanks so much to everyone who made it a wonderful Christmas event. Another special moment on top of all the other special moments was the presentation by District 23 Director Rand Pinsky. Rand awarded Roy Wilson a life-time appointment to the National Goodwill Committee. It is quite an honor, and only given to players who have done outstanding work for bridge. Roy more than qualifies. And, by the way, when you receive your new directory, take a minute to thank him for the hours he put in to produce that. Once again, Roy, First Class. We had 25 tables in play and the winners were...

First in A were Paul Markarian and David Grainger. David lives in Bend, Oregon, and he stopped by on his way to the Palm Springs Regional. First in B and C were Sofia and Roland Pineda. In the Swiss, Paul and David along with John Jones and Leo Bell took the first place honors in A. Jeanne Dea, Robert Chiu, Peter Jager and Robert Reichman took first place in B, and Graetchen Torres, June Harwell, Lois Miller and Jim Erpenbach won in C. Congratulations to you all!

The full results are posted on our web site.

I'm always surprised when a good player makes an unexpected bid that is different than the generally accepted meaning of the call. What do you bid with this hand?

♠9 ♥AJT854 ♦KJT ♣964

Did you say 2♥?

Sure, if you are in first, second or third seat, but it's not the right call for fourth position. Most partnerships understand that an opening bid at the 2-level in the

pass-out seat is a full opening hand with a 6-card suit. The hand below would qualify for such an opening bid. Why preempt against passed opponents?

♠9 ♥AQJT85 ♦KJT ♣A64  
Third seat light, fourth seat good

See you at the table.

## Pomona-Covina by Vic Sartor

Almost exactly two years ago, a certain hapless schnook missed a unit board meeting and found himself committed to a two-year term as board president.

Among the conspirators who engineered this coup was a gentleman known for his repertoire of really bad jokes (the aforementioned presidency being one of his worst examples). Well, the gods have wreaked revenge. It seems the subject of our discussion decided to

vacation in Hawaii last month, missing the November meeting. Would you believe that the main topic of that little conclave was the selection of unit officers for 2011? I'd like all of you to join me in congratulating our new unit president— Clint Lew.

Pomona Covina Unit Game  
Saturday, January 15, 2011  
11 a.m.

Other incoming officers are: Vice President - Roger Boyar, Treasurer - Penny Barbieri, Secretary - Richard Patterson, Newsletter/Publicity - Vic Sartor, Hospitality - Lynne Parker and Margaret Merritt, Membership - Tom Lill. Newly elected at-large members are Charlotte Capelle and Gayle Ginsberg.

The November unit game was won by Hans Hehnke and Vito Sartori with a 74.6% result. That was also the top game of the month. Lary Alba and Cordell Goode won their direction and finished 2nd overall. Penny

# February 7-11, 2011 Monday to Friday

## Las Vegas

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<p><b>Monday, February 7</b></p> <p>1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 1 of 3</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 2 of 3</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, February 9</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 1 of 3</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 2 of 3</p>	<p><b>Friday, February 11</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. &amp; 1:30 p.m. Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 4:15 p.m.) (This is a 2-session event, but single session entries may be sold at the Director's discretion.)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. &amp; TBD Stratified Swiss Teams (2-sessions) Swiss Teams will finish by 5:15 p.m.</p> <p><i>All stratified events are stratified by the average masterpoints of the team or pair.</i></p> <p>Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750 1/N: 0-20/50/100/200/300</p> <p><b>CARD FEES: \$10.00 per session/per player for dues paying ACBL members \$11.00 per session/per player for all others</b></p> <p><i>Thank you for not wearing Fragrance</i></p> <p><b>Bally's Las Vegas Hotel &amp; Casino</b> 3645 Las Vegas Boulevard South Las Vegas, NV 89109-4307</p>	<p><b>Need a Partner? Need Teammates?</b> Visit our online Partnership Desk at <a href="http://www.LVsectional.com">www.LVsectional.com</a></p> <p>Director-in Charge: Bill Michael Tournament Co-chairs: Barbara Dunkley Tom Shulman 702 301-5856 Tom@LVsectional.com</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, February 8</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Final Rd</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd 1 of 3</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd 2 of 3</p> <p><b>Non-smoking Tournament with Hospitality Breaks</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday, February 10</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Final Rd</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Board-A-Match Teams</p>		<p><b>Bally's Room Rate</b> Sunday \$89/night <b>Monday thru Thursday \$49</b> Friday \$99/night Reserve by January 18 "Mention American Contract Bridge"</p>

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Sanction S1102046

Barbieri and Rosalie Roberts were first in class B and 3rd overall. Kerry Sartor and Margaret Merritt won class C and took 4th overall.

The monthly individual was won by Bob Kakade with a 68.7% game. He was followed by Clint Lew, Roger Boyar, Karen McCarthy, Gloria Balfour, and Carolyn Moyers.

Club winners included Karen McCarthy, Karen Olin, Roger Boyar, Lonnie Lautenschlager, Bill Papa, Gianluca Fleres, Herman Helber, Kathy Helber, Susan Wojcik, Mary Miller, Milt Kalilman, Gloria Balfour, Pat Radamaker, and Clint Lew.

Our hand of the month is a nice test of bidding judgement. You hold the following 6-6 monster: ♠--♥x ♦KQJT54 ♣AKJT65

Your partner opens 1♠! Over 2♦ he bids 2♥. Over 3♣ he bids 3♥. Your move. Do you push to a minor suit slam, forcing pard to choose one of your suits? Do you chicken out at 3NT? Do you aim for 6NT? I have to admit I let my enthusiasm get the best of me when I held this hand, forcing my partner into a doomed 6♦. He might have held the ♦A and the ♣Q, but of course he didn't. His three tiny spots in the minors weren't of any use, and with clubs 5-1 I actually managed to go down 3. I had lots of company in the negative column. If you chickened out at 3NT or 4♦ (both probably down 1), you win the kewpie doll.

Since this column will appear after the start of the new year, I'll sign off with the hope that you had a good holiday season and that your 2011 will be happy and prosperous. 'Til next time...

## San Fernando Valley

by Fran Kern

**Upcoming Unit Events:** The Bridge Academy will begin the New Year with a Holiday Party on January 2, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. For details of this event contact the Bridge Academy located at 6733 Variel Avenue, Canoga Park, telephone 818-999-9131.

**A Month of Celebration.** December is the month of celebration as The Bridge Academy and the 750 Bridge Club each hosted celebrations to mark Mort Nagler's 100th birthday. Mort has been a loyal player for many years, he still plays a great game, and we all wish him continued good health and winning bridge.

**Time For Action.** The Los Angeles Times has discontinued the bridge column which was a favorite of

many unit players. If you are one of the disappointed or outraged readers at this change, you are urged to voice your complaint by contacting the readers' representative at 877-554-4000 to express your feelings.

**750 Bridge Club News.** The 750 Club players celebrated Veteran's Day on November 11 by wearing red, white, and blue attire to honor all of our veterans. There were a number of players who are veterans and Podi Rosenfeld brought her late husband's military medals to display for those in attendance.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for November

**750 Bridge Club:** Ron Malkin 13.02, Jim Gardner 10.56, Don Rosen 9.68, Larry Kussin 8.30, Gloria Malkin 8.03, Jim Lechner 6.44, Norm Bloomfield 6.14, Phil Swan 5.94, Bob Williams 4.71, Elaine Roth 4.68, Dick Wiggins 4.68.

**Bridge Academy Under 750 Game:** There were some close results for the November Masterpoint Leaders where the top ten with Under 750 points included Allan Palansky 4.47, Larry Gordon 4.01, Jerry Shapiro 3.17, Ellen Carrier 3.04, Joan Farrar 3.02, Rochelle Lotto 2.42, Bill Raines 2.41, Wayne (Doug) Beagle 2.41, Harriet Smuckler 2.29, and Annette Cohen 2.29.

**Bridge Academy Open Game:** Armand Szulc 18.60, Andy Vinock 17.86, Gilbert Stinebaugh 15.49, Gary Frans 12.90, Mary Dougherty 11.37, Marta Peltz 11.04, Donald Crum 10.66, Leda Danzig 9.26, Ellen Anten 8.44, Seymour Zemlyn 8.35.

**70% Games for November.** Following Thanksgiving Andy Vinock and Martin Blain turned in a 71.53% game that was the highest percentage game of the month and the only game over 70%. Congratulations!

**In Memoriam.** We mourn the loss of Harvey Greenberg and extend condolences to his family and friends. Harvey was a competitive bridge player and a genuinely nice human being. He enjoyed the social aspects of bridge and contributed to the fun with a fine sense of humor.

**Column News:** Make sure that your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at [fkern818@aol.com](mailto:fkern818@aol.com)



## Torrance-South Bay

unit website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568>

SBBC website:

<http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>  
by Steve Mager

### Upcoming Events at TSB Unit Clubs

No Club Championships have yet been scheduled for the South Bay Bridge Club in January. If any are scheduled check out the above website.

### Club Championships

The Non LM Club Championship at SBBC on November 18 was won by Beebe Moorehead/Marianne David in Flights A and B with Loretta Russel/Carol Hansen taking Flight C. The unit Christmas party on December 12 saw Mary Ann Coyle/Bo Bogema leading Flight A with Bernie and Beth Weinstein taking Flight X. The BCD pairs was captured by Joanna Wallis/Booth Tarkington in Flight B with Jean and Harold Brunner leading Flight C and Elaine Godin/Sandy Stewart on top in Flight D.

The Club Championship at Anderson Park on December 10 was captured by Barbara Shortwell and Joyce Nakasaki.

### Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games.

November 23: Bronek Felczer, Jim Dutton, Luis Gamio, Steve Ramos

November 30: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer, Jim Dutton

December 7 (STAC): MaryAnn Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

### TSB Overall finishers in Western Conference STAC

The following summarizes overall finishers in games at the South Bay Bridge Club during the recent Western Conference STAC.

Monday Morning, December 6, SBBC

2A Ted Gibbs/Gary King  
15A Andy Anderson/Dean Kaloudis  
18A Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott

Wednesday Morning, December 8, SBBC

22A 10B Ernie Frank/Dolores Nawa

Thursday Morning, December 9, SBBC, NLM Pairs

4A 3B Yokuyo Sheehy/Elaine Godin

5A Marsha Winer/Kathy Rudolph

6A 4B Bob Svensrud/Fred Swinth

4C Jamila Malikyar/Ralph Vidal

Thursday Evening, December 9, SBBC

3C Neal Kleiner/David Peim

Friday Morning, December 10, SBBC

15A 6B 4C Edith Watanabe/Bernard Gee

### GUV Memorial Award

The biggest number I ever got was plus 2800. Gabriela Jackson told me about an unnamed married couple who matched that during a recent club game. If I got the story right, the cause of this number was a rather imaginative bidding sequence that backfired.

Husband held a distribution of 0-5-2-6. Wife opened 2♠ and the opponent bid 3♦ on husbands right. Husband really wanted to play in one of his suits and decided the best way to do this was to bid 3♠. This got doubled and when it got back around to husband he tried redouble intending to have wife run and bid her best holding in the unbid suits. Unfortunately wife didn't get the message and, as we said, she went for 2800.

I kind of like my own personal 2800 story a little better. It happened at the old TRW/Aerospace Friday night game many years ago. I was playing with the late Bernie Katz who in those days was known for his abuse of the unusual no-trump convention. I held: ♠AJTxxx ♥KJTxx ♦x ♣x against another married couple and heard Bernie pass. Husband opened 1♠ and wife tried 1NT. I saw Bernie warming up to bid and knowing of his past abuses of unusual no-trump said a silent prayer that he would be easy on me with a 2NT bid. But no, Bernie leapt to 4NT. I could sense that the wife in my LHO seat really was hungry for a piece of this. But husband saved us with a 5♥ bid. I couldn't resist doubling and wife who was breathing fire now decided to punish hubby by redoubling. The rest was history as I got my once in a lifetime plus 2800. If wife had gotten a chance to double us, I think the result would have been minus 2800 instead.

Na Zdrowie

*ATU continued from page 9*

## West L.A. by candy

It's time for my yearly bridge Top Ten, but because it's 2011, I'll add one more.

**11.** Be prepared for the post mortem. When partner asks "where did you find that bid, play etc.?" Have a book and page number ready, neither have to really exist (probably better if they don't)

**10.** Lily Aminoff and Movie Ursini have never gone down 1100, smart puppies.

**9.** Directors with a sense of humor putting out table markers for a room full of players who are charter members of "See America Unintentionally."

**8.** Compliment partner on how well they played the 3-3 fit.

**7.** Invitations are not forcing to game, unless you're playing with Barbara Nusbaum.

**6.** Opponents slow... Heavy sighs are a waste of breathe— try a mirror and see if they're still breathing.

**5.** All you handicappers out there, who can get to NT first? Rahim Israel, Art Zail, Cecil Cook, Vic Chernoff, partner or the LOL to your right?

**4.** Fashionably late; Guy Green, Nick Martino and myself, early birds; have no clue, never been there or done that.

**3.** Haven't been carded for a while, go to Danny Kleinman's table.

**2.** There's a reason Clough rhymes with rough and tough. That's permanent police tape around their table and the body outlines should warn you that behind those nice smiles are not the yellow brick road.

**And number 1.....** Invent a convention in middle of an auction and see if partner likes it.

*ATU continued on page 11*

*SHUMAN continued from page 1*

wasn't our best defense."

Mike became a professional bridge player in the 1960's after playing with and learning from the stars of the game.

In those years he played with many of the best of the day, certainly too many to mention, but Mike spoke fondly of learning from Al Roth, the inventor of both the negative double and the forcing 1NT. International star Erik Paulsen and women's champion Trudi Nugit were also favorite partners with whom he had many bridge successes.

Other long-time favorites were bridge professionals Gene Simpson and Hamish Bennett, and for these last several years his best partner and very good friend has been Jeff Goldsmith.

In 1978 he met and married Kerri Sanborn, a great bridge player in her own right. Both Mike and Kerri loved horse racing and with a small group of friends owned Don't Read My Lips, a filly that won more than \$250,000 and eventually sold for that amount. The marriage ended in 1990 and shortly after that he met Ann Walsh, his life-partner until the end.

Although he had a long list of bridge accomplishments Mike was particularly proud that he and his teammates twice won the prestigious Truscott Senior Swiss National Teams Championship. The first time was in 2000 and the second was in 2004. The contenders in the final of four sessions were the best in the world and many of them world champions.

The following year, in 2005 at the ACBL Fall Championships, Mike played against Alan Truscott and ruffed his partner's ace so he could lead a trump, a devastating play that set the contract. His play was the talk of the tournament and the next day Truscott recognized Mike's ability and fine play in his New York Times Bridge column.

At the start of his bridge career Mike worked for Tom Stoddard and was the ghost writer for Stoddard's columns which appeared in the Los Angeles Times. Those were the days when bridge in the Los Angeles area was separate from the ACBL. Mike also wrote various articles for Bridge World Magazine and in 1963 was the author of a series of well-received essays on trump squeeze plays.

Michael Shuman will be remembered as one of the old-time Titans of Bridge.

*-- by Roy Wilson*

ATU continued from page 10

The person honored as the Player of the Year was Bill Schreiber, our ALACBU President. Talk about a thankless job herding cats. Bridge players are known for being unique characters. An ALACBU Board Meeting is a room full of personalities and Bill is in charge. Coming from a family of bridge players, you'd think he knew better. In this country we give the Medal of Honor for bravery above and beyond the call of duty. The unit doesn't have one of those cute medals, so the next best is the Player of the Year.

Barbara Nusbaum was voted the Volunteer of the Year. Barbara worked as Caddy Master for so many years that Bill was a teenager when she met him. If you're interested in the history of this district, ask Barbara. She has done so much, it's hard to remember

them all when you're indulging in her brownies and egg salad. Whenever I need help, I call on Barbara. I'm one of her biggest fans!

Howard Einberg gave a special award to Adam Meyerson for his work with UCLA students. I've gone to UCLA and given blood. Adam goes to UCLA and gets blood for bridge.

For those who last year made the resolution to become Life Master before 2011, YOU DID IT! Ronnie Berland, Rose Kaufmann, Alyssa Kennedy, Gerson Rapfogel, Robert Reichmann, Kris Sommer, Debra Stein, Richard Stevenson, Manny Weintraub. Those starting the New Year with higher goals are ... Junior Master Bob Becker, Howard Rosen, Club Master Geoffrey Breskal, Bonnie Butler, Marilyn Levin, James Pruitt, Zanda Schirn Sectional Master Joseph

ATU continued on page 15

## 2011 District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying

<b>Flight</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Player Masterpoint Limits</b>
Open Flight	February 12-13	0-unlimited
Flight A	March 5-6	0-5000
Flight B	February 12-13	0-2000
Flight C	March 5-6	Non Life Master under 500

Location of all events:  
 Barrington Bridge Club  
 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025  
 310-966-4144

For all the above events:

- Masterpoint limits based on recorded points as of 9/1/2010
- Game Times: 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM
- Swiss qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5, or 6 players
- Players can enter more than one event (each on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in Toronto this summer
- Winning teams to receive partial refund of expenses for trip to the finals.
- For Complete Conditions of Contest see the ALACBU website at [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg 310-475-9784 or Bill Wickham 310-234-3238

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

Panelists are: Leo Bell, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Mark Itabashi, John Jones, Eddie Kantar, Tim Lolli, Jill Meyers, and John Swanson.

*This month's column is dedicated to the memory of Mike Shuman.*

*Mike was a frequent panelist in this column. He was a Grand Life Master and had more than 26,000 masterpoints. A professional bridge teacher, he was knowledgeable about the development of bridge as well as in tune with modern bridge theory.*

# 1

IMPs  
NS vul

South	West	North	East
?			

You, South, hold: ♠K765 ♥987543 ♦A5 ♣A

What call do you make?

**Lolli: 1♥.** In my opinion, this is automatic.

**Dunitz: 1♥.** By the way, have I ever mentioned how much I like Flannery? I'm happy to use it with a 4-6 minimum. I won't pass and back in; it will be too hard for partner to envision my hand.

**Bell: 2♦ (Flannery).** My agreement with most partners is that a sixth heart is acceptable for Flannery if the heart suit isn't good and the hand isn't a maximum, so this hand is suitable. If Flannery is not available, I'd just open 1♥.

**Davis: 1♥.** Pass is reasonable with ♠Kxxx ♥xxxxx ♦Ax ♣Ax, but it is not close with the actual hand.

**Swanson: 1♥.** Is this a promotion for Flannery?

**Itabashi: 1♥.** It's better to bid early than late. Good partners respond 1♠.

**Kantar: 1♥.** I'm not passing this hand.

**Jones: 1♥.** The obvious question is whether this qualifies as an opening bid. The heart suit is poor, it contains only 11 HCP, and eight of the HCP are in short suits. On the other hand, the 6-4 shape adds

significantly to its playing strength, and the aces and king provide nice controls, so it is a clear but minimum opener. It would be nice to be able to open Flannery. Notice that game is decent opposite either ♠Ax ♥Axx ♦xxxx ♣xxxx or ♠Axxxx ♥x ♦xxxx ♣xxx.

**Meyers: 1♥.** I don't love my suit quality, but I would rather open 1♥ than introduce this suit later.

*First, an apology to the panel and readers. I meant the hand to be ♠K765 ♥98754 ♦A5 ♣A3. I was curious to see how many would have an opening bid. But this hand has similar elements. I generally do not play Flannery, but it has always been my personal point of view that Flannery should be a hand with a concentration of values in the majors. I seem to be in a distinct minority in that view of Flannery. That said, if you do open this hand with 1♥, what do you rebid over a forcing NT? It is just wonderful to bid and rebid a suit of such internal heft, but that would be your only option. If perchance left hand opponent ends up declaring, what honor doubleton heart can partner avoid leading? Several panelists note that they would not want to come into the auction after passing. If one comes in after passing, partner will at least know (at this vul) that there is a quirk to your hand since you did not open a weak two bid or 1♥.*

2

IMPs  
NS vul

S	W	N	E
?			

You, South, hold:  
 ♠KT94 ♥KT9754 ♦A5 ♣7  
 What call do you make?

3

IMPs  
NS vul

S	W	N	E
1♥	pass	1NT*	pass
?			

\* forcing

You, South, hold:  
 ♠KQT ♥AKQ87 ♦7 ♣A985  
 What call do you make?

**Meyers: 1♥.** I have a decent six-card suit and good distribution. This is worth an opening bid.

**Lolli: 1♥.** I hate to be repetitive, but in my opinion, this is automatic.

**Bell: 2♦ (Flannery).** The heart suit is still not great, and the hand is definitely not a maximum. Again, without Flannery I'd open 1♥.

**Davis: 1♥.** Are you running out of problems? This is a better hand than the first one.

**Itabashi: 1♥.** Same as last problem, but I obviously feel a little better about rebidding 2♥ over a 1NT response.

**Kantar: 1♥.** I'm not passing this hand.

**Swanson: 1♥.** I am eager to see if my hand gets weaker in Problem Three.

**Dunitz: 1♥.** I still like Flannery.

**Jones: 1♥.** I like this hand better than #1 because of the major suit spot cards. Again the offensive strength of the hand makes it a clear opening bid.

*Another problem that apparently is not much of a problem. I find this hand to be so much more clearly an opening bid than hand one that I would make a game try over a raise to 2♥. In fact in a long imp match, it may well be proper strategy to just bid 4♥ over a simple raise.*

**Swanson: 3♣.** The quality of the honors is such that I am comfortable forcing to game.

**Meyers: 2♣.** Not enough to jump shift---if partner passes we don't belong in game, and if partner bids, I will bid again.

**Itabashi: 3♣.** A slight overbid, but I like it better than 2♣, which seems like too much of an underbid. If partner passes 2♣, there is a good chance we will miss a game.

**Davis: 3♣.** Close but I think this hand is too good to bid 2♣ (and wrong to bid 2NT). The vulnerability, the ♠10, the possibility of five heart tricks opposite two small, and the general quickness of our tricks in notrump argue for 3♣. They will probably lead spades against 3NT, and that will set up our ninth or our eighth and ninth tricks immediately.

**Kantar: 3♣.** A close call but this is more than an 18-point hand. Besides, I plan to rebid 3NT over 3♦, 3♠ over 3♥ and 4♥ over 4♣ which says that I can play hearts opposite a small doubleton. *[Jones, Panel Editor – Most players rebid 4♥ in this sequence to show hearts are playable opposite a void and that clubs might be a short suit just to force].*

**Dunitz: 2♣.** I'm quite comfortable with this. I'll bid 2♣ over 2♦ or 2♥, 2NT over 2♦, or 3♠ over 3♣. It's a great hand for Gazzilli. (2♣ is either artificial with 16+ HCP or a typical forcing NT response.)

**Bell: 2♣.** Even though this is an underbid, I don't want to force to game unless I find a good fit. 2♣ caters to any rebid by partner except pass, and even then 2♣ may well be our best spot.

## District 23 Rank Changes 11/1/10 - 11/30/10

MITCH DUNITZ, of Sherman Oaks has advanced to the rank of Grand Life Master, a rank that requires 10,000 masterpoints and a win in a NABC+ event. Mitch won the 2001 Grand National Teams (Championship Flight) and has been second four times in other major events. He owns a company that focuses on the acquisition of real estate investments in our Southern California area.

### Junior Master (5 MPs)

June Collins-Cowgill  
Helen Cooksey  
Park Cowgill  
Karen Dow  
Irene Ghassemieh  
Pamela Haskins  
Tor Hylbom  
Gayle Knapp  
Joseph Lieberman  
Donna Moody  
Linda Nye

### Club Master (20 MPs)

Bobbie Albanese  
Georgeann Dorn  
Marilyn Pecsok  
Carol Trenda

### Sectional master (50 MPs)

Susan Hoose  
Kiyo Nagaishi  
Robert Newsome  
Carroll Robinson  
Patricia Serio  
Theodore Wieber

### Regional Master (100 MPs)

Temo Arjani  
Julia Ann Cunningham  
Paul Gill  
Eileen Miech

### NABC Master (200 MPs)

Pamela Cole

### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Bee-De Lim

### Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Gerri Soffa Carlson

### Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Donald Crum

PSP #3 *continued from page 13*

**Lolli: 3♣.** A slight overbid, but I have prime values. We might even have a club fit.

**Jones: 2♣.** This is very close between 2♣, 2♠, and 3♣. 2NT is not unreasonable, either. 3♣ is completely game forcing in my partnerships, and this hand doesn't produce game opposite all responses. 2♣ allows me to rebid 2♠ if partner rebids either 2♦ or 2♥.

*I find this problem interesting. From my soapbox, I am always critical of light jumpshift rebids over a INT response. There is just too much pressure on responder after that bid because the jumpshift to three of a minor encompasses so many hands. It encompasses several forcing spade rebids where the minor is not a real suit (i.e. ♠Axx ♥AKJ98xx ♦x*

*♣AQ, or similar) where you want to keep options available as you can envision a slam opposite a 3-card limit raise. The problem would be even more acute, if opener had opened 1♠ and jumpshifted to 3♣. It is not that you do not have the "values" for a jump shift, rather it is the thought that a jump-shift may end up obstructing getting to the right strain. It is not entirely clear when it is right for responder to support clubs when holding a stiff heart.*

*Since it is possible to miss a game by bidding 2♣, I thought some of the panel might consider 2♠ which still leaves the possibility of getting to hearts, NT or clubs while leaving the path to forcing to game. If partner shows a weak diamond signoff over 2♠ (if that is among your methods), It is not that clear that you still want to treat this hand as a game force, and if partner shows anything else you can bid on accordingly.*





South	West	North	East
?		1♣	1♥

You, South, hold: ♠KQ864 ♥765 ♦A98 ♣Q4  
 You say: “What’s the problem”?

**Davis:** I’ll double transferring to spades and then bid 2♥ to show an invitational hand or better with five or more spades.

**Bell:** 1♠. OK, I’ll bite... what’s the problem? Given some transfer tool where I can have partner bid spades might be ideal, but most people don’t have that available. Playing those, a double could show 4+ spades which gives us the chance of partner’s bidding spades. That might protect a heart honor, for example, ♠Axx ♥Kx ♦Kxx ♣Kxxxx.

**Lolli:** 1♠. What else am I supposed to do?

**Dunitz:** 1♠. I’ll bite! What’s the problem?

**Meyers:** What’s the problem? I bid 1♠, although modern methods have me doubling (4 or more spades) so that we can right side it.

**Swanson:** You might ask, “what’s the problem?” Using my favorite methods, I double to show spades. A 1♠ response shows fewer than four spades. There are at least two versions of this. In one, double shows four or more spades. In the other, double shows four or five spades, and 2♥ is used to show six or more. It is

almost as difficult to stay abreast of new bidding ideas as it is to know what iPad applications are available.

**Itabashi:** 1♠. The problem obviously comes later.

**Kantar:** What’s the problem? If anyone doesn’t bid 1♠, someone, maybe me, is losing it.

**Jones:** 1♠. This looks automatic.

*The problem is that, in all probability, the wrong hand will be declaring a spade contract. Several years ago, playing with an original Walsh player who wanted me to bid 1♠ over 1♥ in this sequence, reserving double for hands with values to bid but lacking 4 spades and the cards to force to game, I observed it could almost never be right for this hand to be declaring spades. At best, there is no difference who declares but much more often it is clearly wrong to expose opening bidder’s heart holding to lefty’s lead. I thus have played variations of flip flopping bids over a 1♥ overcall. Except for Chip Martel, most of the top-level experts I brought this up to gave me bemused looks and ignored my view. I am glad to see that a few members of our esteemed panel have realized the folly of the “automatic” one spade bid.*

ATU continued from page 11

Hooker, Ryan Wessels Regional Master Diane Bishop, J Brunet, Marsha Kerns, Rachel Simon NABC Master Carol Sherman Bronze LM Richard Stevenson Carolyn Taff, Manny Weintraub Silver LM Joyce Lelah, Anita Levine, Gerson Rapfogel Emerald LM Peter Benjamin. Rhoda Himmell becoming a Diamond LM somehow slipped through the cracks, so Lew you owe Rhoda two diamonds.

70%ers were Norman Avrech & Ed Barad, Don Krauss & Paul Smith, Matthew Bergen & Sandra Kaiser, Nelly Gordon & Maria Pendergast, Taffi Saltzman &

Pam Boyer, Hans Kraepelien & Michael Nash, Steve Gross & Ellen Anten, Lou Papp & Allan Chapman, Jeri Berger & Art Cohen, Richard Gliksman & Marshall Wengrow, Joyce Lelah & Zalman Perelman, David Segal & Valerie Aron. Club Champs last month were Jeri Berger & Art Cohen and Robert Martin & John Stokdyk.

I’m writing this December 15, so there’s a cup of eggnog with my name on it somewhere around here. Now I’ve found my cup, here’s to next years finesses, high card points too numerous to count, and what I wish for every year... PEACE.

Shalom y’all.



South	West	North	East
1♣	1♠	dbl	3♣
?			

You, South, hold:  
 ♠73 ♥85 ♦AT9 ♣AKQJ93  
 What call do you make?

**Davis: 4♣.** No other bid comes to mind unless I want to gamble on 3NT. I don't.

fewer than four hearts. (Ideally, I would like to have three.) I don't want to blow by 3NT by bidding 4♣.

**Kantar: Double.** Granted, partner won't know whether I am looking for a spade stop, whether I have four hearts with long clubs, four diamonds with longer clubs, or a 1-3-4-5 pattern. The bottom line is that if I land on my feet with all this ambiguity, I will feel very lucky.

**Bell: 4♣.** I think the only other choice is double, which should show extra values with no clear bid. With so much concentration in clubs, I don't want to suggest another playable spot. Double, of course, gives partner the chance to bid 3NT, but I'm betting that with nine spades out against us, that's not likely to happen.

**Jones: 4♣.** The opponents have done well. I'm forced to make a significant guess. If I guess to bid 4♣, then I have gone past a possible game in 3NT. If I pass, then I may be allowing the opponents to make 3♠ while my side can make 4♣. I need one more heart to double. Matchpoints is a game of making the choice that will work most often, and 4♣ is right opposite many routine negative doubles such as ♠xx ♥KQxxx ♦Kxxx ♣xx.

**Lolli: 4♣.** If it makes 3NT, I will pay off.

**Itabashi: 4♣.** I don't like any options, which indicates this is a good problem. I would like to have three hearts and a better hand to double.

**Swanson: Double.** In some partnerships, this is asking for a stopper. In others it simply shows values and denies four hearts.

*First, let me mention that on the vast majority of the hands that we make something at the four level, partner will bid again if I pass. I think Eddie, John S and Jill have the right idea. Double shows a good hand, it is not penalty. I have always felt that responder's first inclination should be to bid three NT with a spade stopper. At least with this loose agreement, we will not go past our only making game. As Mark points out, this hand is a little light for a competitive double, but we have aces and tricks, so I think that double will be, in the long run, a clear winner.*

**Dunitz: 4♣.** A little stretchhhhhhhhhhh....

**Meyers: Double.** This shows the values to bid but

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Send letters to the editor to:

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