

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bulgaria, physics, and a grandmother

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



What do a software engineer from Bulgaria, a physics major from Cal Tech and a 90-year-old great grandmother from Palmdale have in common? You're right! They all play bridge and love it.

Jerry Stamatov owns a software company in Sofia, Bulgaria. He has played bridge for more than 25 years and has represented his country twice in the Bermuda Bowl where his team placed third in both 1996 and 2000 and he placed 4th in the World Pairs in Philadelphia in 2010. Jerry and his partner, Dido Danailov, also from Sofia, play a precision type system with a lot of Meckwell gadgets, as do 90% of the bridge player in Bulgaria. Their team won 4 events in our Torrance Regional. Jerry was 18 when his country peacefully transitioned from Communism to democracy. He has an understanding wife and a young son who usually stay home while he travels for both business and bridge. If you would like to play bridge in Bulgaria, go to www.bridge.bg.

Rebecca Wernis, is a senior at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. Majoring in astrophysics, she plans to go to grad school next year and eventually do research in physics or environmental science. Though not yet a Life Master, Becca has already represented the United States in the Youth World Championships in China. She started playing bridge in high school where her chemistry teacher, Katherine Rehak, sponsored a bridge club. Becca and Katherine plan to play in the Nationals in San Francisco later this month. Becca's youth bridge partner is Marianna Linz, a grad student at MIT. They practice online at least once a week during the school year. Becca told me her favorite conventions are Smolen and Rainbow Gerber, because she likes the

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Jones and Bell Nominated to Goodwill Committee

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Every year I have the privilege of nominating two people to the Aileen Osofsky National Goodwill Committee. This year I have selected two very outstanding candidates.

John Jones has been playing bridge since 1974 while attending USC. He was named ACBL Master of the Year in 1977 and later made the finals of the Reisinger BAM. But it is his recent bridge activity that has led to his appointment.

John has been the coach for Caltech, UCLA, and UC Riverside in the intercollegiate championships. He has coached several students who have represented the USBF in international junior competition. John has taught bridge to his 9th grade class at the Elizabeth Learning Center and five of these students have recently won \$1,000 college scholarships from the ALACBU Scholarship Foundation. (Note: Tax Deductible donations are always welcome.)

John also is currently the chair of the District 23 Educational Committee and started, with considerable help from Adrienne Green and Carol Frank, the annual Los Angeles Scholastic game for bridge youth in Southern California. He also edits the Problem Solver's Panel for this newspaper.

Leo Bell has been playing bridge since 1981. In 2004, playing for the United States and partnering with Marshall Miles he won the World Championship Senior Teams in Istanbul, Turkey. Leo assists in editing

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2013 Grand National Teams Location and Dates

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

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

All Events

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

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the Problem Solver column in this newspaper (available at www.acbldistrict23.org)

In his earlier days, Leo taught bridge at the Wild Whist Bridge Club and has taught bridge at Santa Monica City Junior College and West Los Angeles Junior College.

NABC Fall San Francisco

Just as this report hits the newsstands, the Fall NABC will just be concluding. I will report on the motions and activities of the Board in my January report and the accomplishments of our district members. I hope that everyone who attends has a great experience.

Kathy and I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and best wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Until next month, you can reach me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net.

Southern California Bridge News

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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

The result of the political travails in Antelope Valley the past several weeks has been a severely decreased participation in games at the Lancaster club. Such a shame! However the Santa Clarita area has continued to thrive, so overall our Unit is doing well, albeit with a different mix of games and players, but the continued hard work of Kathy Swaine, Rita Vanatter and Paula Oliveras continues to prevail. These ladies are consistently great. They are able to secure splendid volunteers who help get the games going and generally help each of these wonderful clubs wherever they can..

The Instant Matchpoint game results from last month were not reported and I apologize for that error. Here are the results: East/West winners were Lola Messiha and Dan Spector followed closely by Rand Pinsky and John Swanson. The North/South winners were Hugh Bartlett and Marguerite Pinkers followed by Barb Shuping and Russ Buker. Congrats to all our participants from this great game IM game.

The Senior Center in Santa Clarita has been so gracious to our Bridge Community that we must offer a special thanks to them this holiday season.

The results from Paula Oliveras Monday afternoon Santa Clarita games are as follows: Basant-Shah and Jerry Burrill garnered **three** wins, the partnership of Fabian fang and Anita Walker claimed TWO fine wins. Susan Strasser-Albert Stock joined Carol Trenda-Gary Trenda and Hugh Bartlett-Nell Schanz, also in the winners circle. This game runs a Mitchell movement, so fewer partnerships collect wins vis-a-vis the outstanding games run in Castaic by Riata Vanatter which are usually conducted as Howell movements. More points for winning the game run with a Howell, but only one winner. Some folks like the Howell, others the Mitchell, where the movement produces a winner for each direction. a two winner outcome. This diversity seems to suit our players just fine. The results of the games from Rita Vanatter's Thursday morning games

in Castaic are: Bill Brodek and Hugh Bartlett winning **twice** and the partnerships of Lamont Johnson-Basant Shah, Mira Rowe-Albert Stock as well as Nell Schantz-Hansford Rowe also chalking up wins.

The big Tuesday night games run by Rand and Kathy at the Senior Center saw Dave Gasper-Brad Ward win **twice**. Rand Pinsky also chalked up two wins, one with Betty Pavey as his partner and the other with Carol Provost as his partner. The partnerships of Roshun Hadulla-Elene Friedman, Lamont Johnson-Markle Vandervort, Ed Berliner-Phyllis Seeder and Hugh Bartlett-Marguerite Pinkers also garnered wins in this very, very competitive game.

The Lancaster club saw the return of Linda young from her Montana home and the partnership she has with Russ Buker is really strong! They tallied **three** wins. Everyone else fought for a game win and the partnerships of Ron Oest-Sandi Oest, Brad Ward-Lola Messiha, Gloria Robinson-Louise Levin and Ginny Dudley-Brad Ward were able to pick up a win each.

The monthly Unit game was won by Eileen Engels and Rita Vanatter. Congratulations, ladies. See you all at the Unit Christmas Party December 1.

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

December Unit Game & Holiday Party
December 8, 2012

Lunch at noon, game at 1:00, \$15.00

Be sure to save Saturday, December 8 for our annual Holiday Party. A catered meal will consist of turkey, all the trimmings, and an obscene assortment of desserts . As usual, there will be a raffle of goodies and we will also be collecting bears for the Children's Court in Monterrey Park. This courthouse services all children in Los Angeles County, keeping them away from the courtroom for as long as possible. Older children receive books and the younger ones are given bears (like a security blanket). They are able to take →

the bears the home with them, so there is a constant replacement need.

Congratulations to new life masters Eva Seri and Temo Arjani.

Our column was inadvertently omitted from the November Bridge News, so we have two Unit Games to report on this month. The October Unit game included a luncheon of lasagna, garlic bread, and salads, along with pies and cakes for dessert. And then there was bridge, with the following results:

N/S

A1 B1 Karen Alpert & Rufus Rhoades
 A2 Phil Dessert & Steve Shanker
 A3 Carolyn Cohen & Tim Lolli
 A4 Susan Somogyi & Carol Diamant
 B2 Madelon Liebman & Helen Malzer

E/W

A1 B1 Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
 A2 Bob Tayrien & Martin Blain
 A3 Cathy Martin & Rae Murbach
 A4 Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
 B2 Ted Maki & Lorraine Adams
 C1 Adam Barron & Sharon Wolf

Our Unit Game on November 10 featured Honeybaked ham, scalloped potatoes, salads, and desserts. Results were as follows:

N/S

A1 Pat Abbey & Merry Besvold
 A2 Bernie Mateer & Peter Szecei
 A3 Herman Helber & Jake Frenkel
 A4 Art Chacacias & Mike Doll
 B1 Carol Lessin & Gloria Balfour

E/W

A1 Hugh Bartlett & Nell Schanz
 A2 B1 Alene Friedman & Lorraine Adams
 A3 Dick Banta & Sue Zeinoun
 A4 Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
 B2 C1 Betsy Josias & Nancy Lyon
 B3 Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
 C2 David Rozzell & Sharon Wolf

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

October 21 Unit Game (individual scores): 1st in A: John Melis, 2nd Bob Mault, tied for 3/4 Joan Tschirki/ and Jon Yinger, tied for 5/6 Jo Melis and John Berg. In the B flight Barbara Shortwell tied with Pamela Cole for 3/4, Cathy Bauer was 5th, Janet Logan was 6th. And in the C flight Fay Beckerman tied with Rob Preece for 3/4, Sally Fenton was 5th. It was a new experience for many of us. You played with one partner (random draw) for just one board, then switched. It seemed complicated at first, but by the second round it all just kind of worked out. Kudos to those on the Board who were willing to try something new, and to Brandon Sheumaker, who carried it out. And congratulations to the winners!!

70+% Games in open games October 16 through November 15: In the evening game Oct 26 Marcus Evans/George Thompson had 70.24%; Oct 27 Susan Hafen/John Melis had 74.50%; Oct 30 John Petrie/Dean Kaloudis had 69.91% (rounds off to 70%); and in the evening game Nov 6 Aaron Jones/Doug Kuschner had a stellar 78.65% game. Congratulations to all four pairs!!

Big Masterpoint Awards Big point awards for 1st, 2nd or 3rd in open pairs games October 16 through November 15: Oct 16 Gary King/Steve Mager were 1st winning 5.50mp, Mike Welsh/Bob Bacharach were 2nd winning 4.13mp, and Kim Wang/Eric Tang were 3rd winning 3.09mp. Oct 17 Kim Wang/Chien-San Hun were 1st winning 5.17mp, Irwin Bender/Betty Jackson were 2nd winning 3.88mp. Oct 18 Baum Harris/Gary Paugh were 1st winning 3.67mp. Oct 19 in the afternoon game Steve and Charlotte Sturm were 1st winning 6.50mp, Sara Wilson/Gilbert Stinebaugh were 2nd winning 4.88mp, and Mike Daley/Earl VanDerVord were 3rd winning 3.66mp. In the evening game Steve and Charlotte Sturm were 1st winning 4.00mp and Brandon Sheumaker/Mark Leonard were 2nd winning 3.00mp. Oct 31 Kim Wang/Cecil Cook were 1st winning 4.25mp and Loren Hilf/Baum Harris were 2nd winning 3.19mp. Nov 2 John Petrie/Gabrielle Sill were 1st winning 4.66mp and Jackie Harris/Steve Skinner were 2nd winning 3.50mp. Nov 5 Rich Wasser/Steve Skinner were 1st winning 3.47mp. Nov 6 Bob Mault/Jackie Hess were 1st winning 3.90mp. Nov 7 Betty Jackson/Irwin Bender were 1st winning 3.14mp. And Nov 8 Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein were 1st winning 3.03mp. Congratulations to all!

Long Beach Sectional November 9-11: First and second place over-all for the three-day tournament →

were Sankar Reddy winning 12.75mp and Mark Itabashi winning 12.65mp. Big master point winners from our unit were:

Aaron Jones - 12.46
 Mark Leonard - 9.51
 Renee Hoffman - 9.03
 Anne Munchow - 9.03
 John Petrie - 7.81
 Steve Skinner - 7.58
 Irwin Bender - 6.41
 Betty McClellan - 6.19
 Marcus Evans - 5.42
 Kiyo Nagaishi - 5.42
 Janet Logan - 4.99
 Susan Bibby - 4.81
 Sharon Biederman - 4.81
 Ralph Beazley - 4.72
 Kevin Lane - 4.52
 Carol Murakoshi - 4.45
 Keith Hafen - 4.35
 John Melis - 3.83
 Steve Ramos - 3.80
 Murat Veysoglu - 3.80
 Susan Hafen - 3.14
 Steve Rowe - 3.02

Congratulations to you all!!

New Member Monica Gettis. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes Junior Masters: Mary Jean Giotta, Peter Giotta, Warren Harris, Kathryn Moore; Club Master: Rhea Scharf; Sectional Master: Martin Lipman; Regional Masters: Usha Bansal, Monica Gettis, Bernie Hadelier; Life Masters: April Berg, William Smith; and new Bronze Life Master: April Berg. Congratulations you all!!

Get Well Wishes to Bea Bralliar and Mark Teaford.

Upcoming Events at the Club December 3 thru 9 Great Western Holiday STaC: hand records, extra points, \$11card fee. Dec 17: Inter-Club championship. Dec 23 Holiday Party-Unit Game--lunch 12:30, game at 1pm. Dec 25: Christmas day, club closed. Dec 31: New Year's Party Unit-rated game: extra points, regular prices.

News from Leisure World by Joan Tschiriki

Leisure World may not be so leisure! There is

talk of adding a Wednesday game at one or both of the clubs. Who Knew! Go Leisure World!

Our Board meeting Monday November 12 included a slate of volunteers. Joan Tschirki nomination chairman presented the names and the following are the new board members: Ted Wieber (re-elected), Jean Byers (re-elected), and Bud "Camden" Parish. We thank each of you for continuing to serve and making it possible for us to be a successful accredited Duplicate Bridge Club.

8 is Enough winners on October 18 team 6: Vince Remedios, Sue Fardette, Bob and Pat Turansick

Happy Birthday George Koch - 90 years young!

Long Beach Sectional In the side game on Sunday Verna Burns and Joan Tschirki came in 2nd

ACBL has new **youngest Life Master** - Zack Garrison achieved the title at the Lone Star Regional in Houston. He is 9 years and 2 months "old"

Could it be... the ACBL is 75 years old?

Call 800-274-2221 to order your New Official Encyclopedia call.

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

Continue to shuffle along!

Get the Unit 558 newsletter via email: Send your e-mail address to me at jjyinger1@gmail.com, and I'll put you on the list.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Chuck Cordaro

Ventura Regional

Congratulations to Margie Gould, who partnered with Dave Priest to win first overall in open pairs at the Ventura Regional. Also competing were Jan Wickersham, Arlene Johnson, Joani Mesias, Lynn Ryan, who joined Margie to celebrate Charo Holdo's birthday.

Phoenix Sectional

I also want to congratulate Bridgit O'Sullivan and Jeanette Jensen on their first-place finish in the 299ers.

→

Brad Pitt, Yo-Yo Ma, Alfred Kinsey, James Michener, and Ted Kennedy

This Summer I was playing against Julio Cervantes and Abby Triback and I mentioned I was leaving shortly for my cousin Jill’s wedding in New York. I also told them she had once dated Brad Pitt. Abby asked how they met and, since guys don’t know about these things, I said I would ask her mother, my Aunt Ramona, when I got back to New York.

Ramona said that this was back in the early 80s. My cousin Joe was the cinematographer on one of Pitt’s first movies, Johnny Suede, and he hired our cousin Jill as a production assistant. One day Pitt called and my aunt answered the phone. “I didn’t know who he was,” she recounted. “He said, ‘This is Brad Pitt. May I speak to Jill?’ I said ‘She’s not here,’ and we hung up.” Pitt never called back and the aunties feel that was the start of his downward spiral through Gwyneth Paltrow and Jennifer Aniston before he had to settle for Angelina Jolie.

On the plane back to Jill’s wedding, I was seated next to a couple from Cape Cod. I told them I once worked with a poet named Robert Allen who wrote a poem about Chappaquiddick. Robert lives in Altadena, where he now works at his day job of appraising and dealing in antiquarian books. Here’s the poem:

CHAPPAQUIDDICK

You wait here.
I’ll go for help.

I still don’t know how Teddy got away with that one. Down in Mexico there is a saying: “The law is a serpent that bites the unshod foot.” (Perhaps Ms. Kopechne’s parents would agree.)

I see on his resume that one of Allen’s clients asked him to appraise a collection of James Michener first editions. As a student I would do odd jobs for a Mrs. Michener. She told me her husband’s family had come over as servants to William Penn. She also said the Micheners had adopted the young James Michener and “allowed him to take the family name.” I thought “Yes, he took it and ran with it.” Both her sons became professors—one at Caltech, where they search worldwide for likely candidates and will leave a chair open for years until they find just the right person.

As a boy of 12, one son collected galls, those spongy little balls that grow in oak trees. Professor Alfred

Kinsey, an entomologist who was also studying them at the time (this was before he discovered girls) would correspond regularly with her son; Kinsey would start his letters with “Dear Dr. Michener,” which amused and pleased the boy’s mother.

Seated on the plane in front of us was a young woman with a cello. As we were deplaning I asked if she had to buy an extra seat for it. “Yes, that’s generally the way it works,” she said. “Should have planned ahead and taken up the piccolo,” I teased. She didn’t reply. Perhaps she’s grown weary of similar attempts at humor from jerks in airports. As I stepped off the plane, I saw her again, talking with Yo-Yo Ma.

Back at the Bridge Club

My partner and I were playing east-west against Bob Novell and Bob Verhoef (north and south respectively) and the bidding, went as follows:

	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣			
North	East	South	West	
	1♦	dbl	pass	
2♣	pass	4♥	(all pass)	

I was surprised Verhoef in south got to game so quickly, especially since my partner opened. His partner looked a little surprised, too, since he had no hearts. Our hands were as follows:

North	East	South	West
♠83	♠AJ7	♠KQT96	♠542
♥	♥J6	♥AKQT93	♥87542
♦AJ853	♦KQ92	♦7	♦T64
♣Q87653	♣KJ84	♣2	♣AT

Our opponents lost the two aces and club finesse, making their contract.

Mitch Popick

I am sorry to report the passing of Mitch last month. I last saw him at the dog park about 6 months ago, where I heard his distinct New York accent directed at a mutt that was trying to give his dog an Eliot Spitzer. Dave Lievsay, Mitch’s Wednesday night partner for about 10 years, tells me Mitch recently moved in with his son out in the Valley. For years I’d rotate over to his table and say, “How you doin’ Mitch?” And he would always respond, “Don’t ask.” It was nice knowing you, →

Mitch. Good job.

Dates to Remember

Art Gulbrandsen asked me to remind you that our holiday party will be held Sunday, December 9, at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for two sessions of bridge and dinner. You can buy them from our board members: Saundra Franciscus, Roy Wilson, Jan Wickersham, Nancy Nakanishi, Amr Elghamry, Peter Szecsi, Rae Murbach, Karen Arase, and Miriam Harrington.

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game Sat., Dec. 8, 11:00 a.m.
(please note: not usual 3rd Saturday)

I want to start this column by emphasizing the date listed above for this month's unit game. Because of a conflicting event on Dec. 15, the unit game has been moved up a week to Dec. 8. If you show up on the usual date, you may be attending a wedding or a bar mitzah.

As predicted last month, the unit board for next year consists of all the usual suspects: Clint Lew, Penny Barbieri, Roger Boyar, Richard Patterson, Tom Lill, Charlotte Capelle, Denise Morgan, Vic Sartor—and one surprise volunteer, Linda Tessier. It has not yet been decided who will be shanghaied to serve as unit president. The victim's name will be released by the time of the January meeting.

Turning from politics to bridge results, our news desk has the winners of both the October and November unit games (The Florida and Arizona returns finally came in and Karl Rove finally conceded Ohio.)

The overall winners of the two-session October event were Pat Radamaker and Clint Lew, followed by Tom Lill and Herb Stampfl, Eric Tan and Amr Elghamry, and Rosalie Roberts and Penny Barbieri. Section winners included Radamaker-Lew, Peter Szecsi-Bernardine Mateer, and Dave and Susan Ruoff. Margaret Merritt and Kerry Sartor took class C honors.

The winners of the November game were Hans Hehnke and Vic Sartor, Georgiana Batuello and Michael Horn, Susan and Dave Ruoff, and Lary Alba and Cordell Goode were second through fourth overall. Margie Hall and Ann Raymond won class C. Al Lax and

Roger Boyar tied for first in the November individual, followed by Clint Lew, Penny Barbieri, Paul Chrisney, and Richard Patterson.

Several local players picked up points at recent sectionals and regionals.

Claudia Cochrane and Kiran Kumar did well in several 299er events, while Tom Lill, Clint Lew, and Kathy Helber placed in a couple of knockouts.

Penny Barbieri topped local MP winners at the recent Torrance tournament with 14.00.

Top club game of the month was a 71% by Pat Radamaker and Clint Lew. Point leaders for the month were Lew (11.93), Radamaker (8.6), Vic Sartor (8.41), Richard Patterson (7.8), Dave Ruoff (6.96), Kurt Trieselmann (6.46), Susan Ruoff (4.92), Tom Lill (4.66), Ken Bloomfield (4.32), and Kathy Helber (4.06). Other winners included Roger Boyar, Fred Minter, Lulu Minter, Karen McCarthy, Mary Miller, Ken Bloomfield, Lary Alba, Charlotte Capelle, Billie Steiner, Cordell Goode, Genise Hasan, and Walt Otto.

Our hand of the month illustrates the fact that even if you're a "keep it simple, stupid" advocate, there are situations where having a few sophisticated bidding tools may be essential if you want to get the best possible result. As exhibit A, look at this hand dealt in a recent club game.

Rather than your usual 6 HCP, you hold: ♠AKxx
♥AT9 ♦AKQJ ♣Ax

Assuming you have a bid to show a balanced 24-26 HCP, how do you proceed after partner shows 5+ hearts? You might want to check with your favorite pard to see if you have an asking bid for the queen of trump. You could also see if he plays any form of the grand slam force. A fair number of players seem to be just guessing in situations like these. Only two of eight pairs reached the cold 7NT when holding these cards. Pard held six hearts to the KQJ. Would you get to the grand? Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

We had a great turnout for our October 20th Unit Game. The day was a great success with good bridge, good food, and good friends. Unit Games are a great way for players from the Bridge Academy and the 750 Club to enjoy each other. We look forward to several →

Unit Games in 2013. Stay tuned for details.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners
for September 2012

750 Bridge Club: Linda Silvey 11.53, Ron Malkin 11.22, Margie Bulmer 8.81, Jim Lechner 8.13, Helen Malzer 8.02, Jim Hoose 7.01, Bunnie Roth 6.99, Dick Wiggins 6.49, Eva Seri 6.30, Larry Gordon 6.13.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Masterpoints: Deborah Levinson 6.62, Ron Stewart 4.61, Phillip Calloway 4.15, John Van Egmond 2.87, Jacqueline Bibicoff 1.90, Shirley Horowitz 1.62, Phyllis Hall 1.62, John Tickner 1.61, Richard Ruby 1.57, Jerry Shapiro 1.41.

Bridge Academy Open Masterpoints: Dick Lum 12.60, Dovid Crum 11.33, Carol Diamant 10.66, Gary Frans 9.34, Allan Palansky 8.90, Leila Greenfield 8.48, Leda Danzig 7.51, Seymour Zemlyn 7.41, Joan Rubin 6.97, Deborah Levinson 6.62.

70% Games for October: Deedee & Frank Nordyke 77%, Bob Soll & Gabe Rosenberg 71.72%.

In Memoriam

Unit members mourn the loss of Lettie Odney who passed away on November 4 after a long bout with cancer. Lettie played bridge for many years at the Bridge Academy and she also played at the 750 Club on Wednesdays. We extend condolences to Lettie's husband Doug and to her many friends.

Column News: Make certain that your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com.

Torrance-South Bay
by Steve Mager

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Western Conference STAC: Monday, December 3-8
Unit Christmas Party: (tentative) Sun, Dec 9, 1:00 p.m.
Club Championship: Tuesday, December 11, 11:30 a.m.
Club Championship: Monday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Friday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.
Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening
Friday Night games on December 7 and 21

Team Winners

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

October 16: Gaye Herrington, John Farr, Steve Ramos, John J. McDermott
October 30: Barbara Shortwell, Bruce Merchant, Henry Crowder, Booth Tarkington
November 6: Barbara Shortwell, Henry Crowder, Bruce Merchant, Keith Davidson
November 13: Krystyna and Dennis Hollingworth, Dolly and Bruce Weiner

Torrance Regional Winners

Our unit had the home field advantage at the recent Torrance Regional and a number of unit members took full advantage of it. The unit members who won first overall in various categories are so numerous I don't have room to include all the details but will include as many names as I recognized in the result sheets. I apologize if I left anyone out.

In the Monday afternoon charity game to open the tournament Betsy Amador/Harry Wessells won both Flights A and B with Michael and Lorraine Kammerman leading Flight C. In the evening charity game Gary King/Gene White captured Flight A with Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio taking Flight B and Elaine Godin/Casey Stiers on top in Flight C.

Unit members who were first overall one or more times in various flights of the side game series during the week included George Norman, Bea and John Brailliar, Neil Kleiner, Alfred Lee, SaraDoktor, Nancy Collinge, Mike Welsh, Lorna Wallace, Gerri Carlson, Georgeann Dorn and Joan Johnson,

Those finishing in the top spots one or more times in various Flights of 49er and 299er games included Jeff Grotenhuis, Nancy Guenther, Judy Tomic, Joyce Klossner, Roberta Brown, Elizabeth Biggins, Madge Weinstein, Myron Mitzenmacher and Richard Bakovic,

Members of winning teams in single session Swiss games in various Flights included Alfred Lee, Bob Bacharach, Henry Crowder, Joanne and Cal Waller.

In two session pair games unit members who →

came through big time were as follows. In the Tuesday A/B pairs LornaWallace/Mike Welsh won Flight B while in the Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs Linda and Bill Lama led the way. The Wednesday Open Pairs saw Ruth&i Ann Poppa/Robert Fieselman leading Flights B and C. In the Saturday A/B pairs the leaders were Joyce Nakasaki/Joe Thomas in Flight B.

Bruce Horiguchi had a big tournament being on the winning team in Bracket 1 of both the Witches KO Teams and the Saturday compact KO teams. Alfred Lee was on the winning team of the Jack O Lantern KO Teams Bracket 2.

Milestones

Sadly it is reported that Dr. Al Corwin passed away recently. I believe Al was a Doctor of Opthamology. As well as being a bridge player, Al completed dozens of marathon races over the years including the Boston Marathon three times. When I got to know him at the bridge table we discovered our common bond of distance running. We used to look up old results of local marathons to see where we finished relative to each other. Usually we were quite close, even though Al had a fair number of years on me. Of course there was a bit of mild teasing after it was uncovered who beat who in a particular marathon. Al continued to play bridge regularly even after he was confined to a wheelchair. His pleasant demeanor at the table will be missed by all.

GUV Memorial Award

Swiss teams became a regular event at bridge tournaments in 1969. I must have played in a million of them since then. In two session Swiss events I was on teams that even managed to win all their matches on rare occasions. However I never was on a team that lost all of their matches... until Sunday at the Torrance Regional in the Flight A Swiss event. With teammates who will go unnamed, we finished a perfect 0-7 and I am sure comfortably last underall. Drop by the Tuesday night Swiss at the South Bay Bridge club and I will point out who my teammates were on this perfecto team. Maybe I am losing it.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

The Returns Are In

I hope you voted in the Unit Board elections, because this was a race in which every vote truly made a difference. The Nominations and Elections Committee has completed its canvass of the returns. We welcome back to the Unit Board its reelected members: Peter Benjamin, Karen Byrd, Brana Hall, David Raphael, Candy Scott, Bob Shore, and Carolyn Taff. We also welcome Jeri Berger, who returns to the Board after an extended absence. We'd like to thank everyone who served or showed an interest in serving, and we remind you that vacancies are not uncommon. Who better to fill a vacancy than those who have already put their name forward?

'Tis the Season

I hope by now you've accepted your invitation to the annual Unit Holiday Party, being held again at the Beverly Hills Country Club. This year's party, which features sectionally rated bridge, will be December 9, and the organizers — Marcia Fisher, Brana Hall, and Carolyn Taff — always do a tremendous job. And in addition to wonderful company, great food, and an afternoon of bridge, you'll also be the first on your block to learn will succeed Betsy Lutz and Rand Pinsky as this year's West Los Angeles Volunteer of the Year and West Los Angeles Player of the Year, respectively. If you haven't yet sent in your acceptance, never fear: we'll still make room for you. But please do send it in as soon as possible so that the facility knows how many people to expect.

By the way, for those used to approaching the Country Club along Motor Avenue from the north, please be aware that there is now a Farmer's Market held Sunday mornings at the corner of Motor and Pico. We suspect the market is in the large parking lot there, but I didn't manage to eyeball the setup before my column deadline so it's possible that the street is blocked, or at least congested. If so, you might want to use an alternate route. Leave yourself a little extra time if you're coming from that direction.

As I mentioned in last month's column, we are aware that the difficulty in controlling temperature has dissuaded a number of members from going to the Kayne Eras Center for our sectional tournaments. We've appointed a committee, led by Tournament Chairman Peter Benjamin, to search for an alternative site. If you have any ideas, please speak to any member of the Board. And if you'd like to help us find a new site, we'd love your participation.

Decisions, Decisions (Redux)

Remember last month's bidding problem? All red at matchpoints you hold:

♠KT854 ♥972 ♦J ♣KQT4

Partner opens 1♠ in second seat, and the opponents are silent. What do you bid?

Partner elected to bid 4♠ with this hand. That proved not to be the winning call. I held ♠AQJ62 ♥AKQ6 ♦Q52 ♣A and feared that partner's shape was 5-1-4-3- or 5-1-3-4, in which case even the 5-level might be too high.

So I passed, and we were the only pair in the room who languished in game.

Torrance (and Other) Toppers

Ordinarily I don't take the space to mention the winners of one-session events at regionals, but occasionally a performance demands an exception. Our very own Herb and Annette Wolas teamed with Seymour Stoll and Alain Fleurot to win the Tuesday evening Swiss at the Torrance Regional. One of the opposing teams had maybe 40,000 master points among them. The third team in the event had about 20,000 points, yet our heroes prevailed against that formidable competition. Congratulations on a thrilling victory.

Of course, that was by no means the only time our Unit brought home the laurel wreath from Torrance. John Ramos won both the Witches' Knockout Teams and the Saturday Compact Knockout, while Marion Tumen, Rita Levin, and Farideh Sigari made it a clean sweep for our Unit in the Witches' Knockout by winning their bracket. Bill Rogers added to his victory collection in the Tuesday Open Pairs game, while Gerry Bare and →



LAS VEGAS
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Monday to Friday

February 25-March 1, 2013

Flamingo Hotel

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Monday, February 25

- 9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
- 1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd. 1 of 3
- 7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd. 2 of 3

Tuesday, February 26

- 9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Final Rd.
- 1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd. 1 of 3
- 7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd. 2 of 3

**Non-smoking Tournament
with Hospitality Breaks**

Wednesday, February 27

- 9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd.
- 1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd. 1 of 3
- 7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd. 2 of 3

Thursday, February 28

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

Friday, March 1

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

All stratified events are stratified by the average masterpoints of the team or pair.

Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750
I/N: 0-20/50/100/200/300

CARD FEES: \$10.00 per session/per player for dues paying ACBL members
\$11.00 per session/per player for all others

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Peter Benjamin won the Wednesday Open Pairs game. Wednesday evening saw Marlene Felix and Sue Hunter claim victory in the 299er game. Alan Daniels and David Pelka won their bracket in the Ghostly Knockout Teams event, while Rachel Simon and Anne Kaplan won the Thursday Gold Rush Pairs. Finally, Robert Kent picked up a win in the Friday Open Pairs game.

Our Unit shined in other venues as well. Jordan Chodorow and Harvey Katz won the Flight A North American Open Pairs district semifinal, and David Kempe won the Flight B semifinal. Joel Schiff and Bill Rogers won their bracket of the Carpinteria Compact Knockout Teams event at the Ventura Regional and Pam Wittes won the Fast Pairs event.

Lucky or Good?

Two hands from the Torrance Regional, both played at IMPs, reminded me of how large a role luck plays in our favorite game. In the first, you open 1♥ and get a 1♠ overcall on your left. Partner raises and RHO bids 2♠. You end the auction with 4♥. The opening lead, unsurprisingly, is a spade, and you are faced with the following problem:

Dummy: ♠J6 ♥J85 ♦T862 ♣AT52
Declarer: ♠AQ7 ♥AK632 ♦54 ♣KQ8

After the favorable opening lead, I decided to take out a little insurance against 4-1 hearts, so at trick 2 I led a heart toward the jack. It held. I led a spade back to the ace, ruffed a spade, and drew two more rounds of trump, discovering that LHO did in fact start with QTxx of hearts. I ended up losing 2 diamonds and a heart to make the hand. After the same auction and opening lead at the other table, my counterpart banged down two top hearts, and now had no way to avoid four red-suit losers. That swing proved to be the difference in our Compact KO match.

Why do I call this an example of luck? Because my play was clearly wrong and my counterpart's play was clearly right. If LHO has four hearts to go with his five spades, he has only four minor suit cards. If he rises with the heart queen and started with two or fewer diamonds, I can't avoid an uppercut in diamonds. If he has 3 diamonds and a club, he returns his club and now I can't ruff the spade, unblock the heart jack, and get back to my hand to finish drawing trump without conceding a club ruff for the setting trick. And if he has

a club void, he can get two club ruffs from his partner.

In the second hand, I played 4♥ after the following auction: 1♦-1♠-Dbl-3♠, 4♥. LHO started the defense with two high spades. This was the hand:

Dummy: ♠QJ ♥AJ96 ♦T653 ♣T86
Declarer: ♠9 ♥Q854 ♦AKQ7 ♣KJ74

I ruffed the second spade in my hand, of course, and started to reach for my remaining low trump when it occurred to me to wonder what would happen if RHO were dealt the stiff 10. I realized that in that case I'd be unable to unblock the trump suit to pick up LHO's 7-spot. I lead the trump 8 to the jack and was gratified when the 10 did fall on my right. I led a club to the jack and ace and LHO got out with a second club to the 9 and king. I was able to pick up the trump suit (dummy's 96 gave me a finessing position against LHO's 7) and ended up bringing the contract home, losing a spade and 2 clubs. This was a nice game, as our teammates found a cheap save in 4♠.

Why do I call this hand lucky? Because my play was inaccurate. I should have led the ♥Q, not the 8, to preserve the chance of picking up KTx(x) onside. And I should have led the club 10 from dummy, so that (after the queen covers) the 9 would be trapped by a club return.

Around the Clubs

Many of the usual suspects excelled at the clubs this month. Beverly Hills club championships were claimed by Frank Schiller and David Raphael, Fran Malina and Michael Billow, Chuck Fonarow and Marshall Wengrow, and Jeri Berger and Art Cohen. Racking up 70% games were Betsy Lutz and Guy Green, Eddie Feldmann and Brian Richardson (warming up for the Super Senior Pairs in San Francisco), Phyllis and Mario Mory, and (ringing this particular bell twice) Rhoda and Lew Himmell. Adding 70% games at Barrington were Aram Bedros and Art Zail (twice each), and Sandy and Robert Carroll, while Aram Bedros added another pair of 70% games at Cyma's game, playing with Robert Levy and Wayne Karson, and Karen Byrd and Brana Hall hit the mark as well.

Climbing the Ladder



District 23
St. Louis - Here We Come



North American Pairs



D23 Finals

20 JAN 2013, 11:00 AM

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

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks ☉ Sodas ☉ Coffee ☉ Gold/Red Points

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerald Bare, Mark Bartusek, Leo Bell, Mr. Mealymouth, David Sacks, Mike Shuster, John Swanson, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
NS vul

East	South	West	North
1♣	pass	pass	dbl
pass	?		

You, South, hold: ♠K8 ♥KT64 ♦K9 ♣KJ764
What call do you make?

One panelist wants to start this set with a plus score.

Bell: Pass. If I could be sure game or slam would make, I'd bid 3NT or 4♥. I'll take the sure 300 or 500 and apologize to teammates if we lose IMPs. Yes, I know we could miss a slam if partner has the perfect hand, but reaching it might be difficult anyway.

Some try what they think is the most likely game.

Sacks: 3NT. Perhaps only "worth" 2NT, or some contorted auction to show hearts and NT values. However, after following recent world and national championship trends, this hand must upgrade to about 15+ points. Opposite partner's 10 plus, we should be able to locate almost all the cards at trick one and find our way to nine tricks.

Shuster: 3NT. I choose to not defend at this vulnerability, since it rates to be a struggle to get more than a 300 point set (even when LHO runs, which he will). So, the choice is between judging whether the danger of a club ruff and trump promotion is greater than the danger of the defenders' sneak-attack in a pointed suit. Since LHO won't have a late entry, and any potential sneak-attack suit rates to block for the opponents, I judge the trump danger to be greater.

Other panelists cuebid to select between 3NT and 4♥.

Bare: 2♣. Tough set, the club spots aren't great, so I'll try for 4♥ or 3NT.

Wittes: 2♣. Very close to a pass, but I think it is probably unlikely we will get them for 800 against our vulnerable game, so I will try for 3NT or 4♥, either of which is a likely make. It is closer to a pass at IMPS than matchpoints, as 500 against our 600 or 620 is not that big a difference, especially taking into account possible bad breaks and partner is in the balancing seat.

Mealymouth: 2♣. Even if I can make 3♣, that's not enough for a penalty pass when vul against not. If partner replies in hearts, we'll play in 4♥; otherwise, in 3NT. Without four strong hearts, I won't bid them first.

Some panelists cuebid to try to find hearts, but aren't forcing to game if they don't find the heart fit.

Swanson: 2♣. If partner bids hearts, I'll bid game; if he bids diamonds, I will bid 2NT, expecting him to continue, unless he is sub-minimum.

Bartusek: 2♣. Partner can balance with some 9 or 10 HCP hands, so I have to be careful. If partner bids 2♥, then we're in game; partner's 2♠ bid will fetch 2NT by me. My two doubletons make me lean towards suit play despite my club stoppers.

Partner is undoubtedly short in clubs for his balancing double. Forcing to game may be punishing partner for a light balance. Taking the money by passing makes some sense.

2

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♦	3♠	dbl	pass
?			

You South, hold:

♠J75 ♥T54 ♦AKJ5 ♣K92

What call do you make?

The panelists complained a little about the light opening bid. Most of the panel would not open a 4-3-3-3 12 HCP hand. I didn't want to alter the problem since I didn't design it. If I had designed it, I would upgrade the ♥T to the ♥J.

Some try an exasperated pass, hoping partner has enough defense to beat it.

Wittes: Pass. What a tough problem! If partner has a random 2=4=3=4 invitational or better hand, this is probably the winning action, as we will probably collect 200 or 500 against a probable part score. However, -730 is not out of the question, especially if RHO has a couple of well-placed heart honors. In the long haul, I think pass is most likely to net us a plus score.

Bare: Pass. It's close between pass and 3NT. Any bid could turn sour on this hand.

Bartusek: Pass. Seems like the normal thing to do. If LHO were non-vul, I might try 3NT, but I'm afraid he might have a good suit vulnerable.

Mealy-mouth: Pass. Something is happening, but you don't know what it is, do you, Mister Jones? *[Readers have asked who Mr. Mealy-mouth is; maybe he is really Bob Dylan?]* Living up to my moniker, I'll waffle. Everything depends on my partnership agreements, of which I have three with different sets of partners. With most, I play (A) Negative Doubles through 2♠ (as on the ACBL Yellow Card); with many others, I play (B) Negative Doubles through 3♠ (as in Bridge World Standard; with a few I play (C) Negative Doubles through 3♦ (a Compromise). So: (A) or (C), pass and drool. (B), pass. A Negative Doubler should

be prepared for a penalty pass at the three-level when opener has a balanced sub-minimum. *[So Mealy-mouth knows his ABCs; will his pass be successful?]*

Sacks: Pass. What else am I supposed to do with this piece of cheese that I should have passed in the first place?

Shuster: Pass. I suppose 3NT is possible, but even if they don't run spades, we haven't taken 9 tricks yet.

One panelist tries 3NT, and points out that even if there isn't a spade stopper that the suit might block.

Swanson: 3NT. At matchpoints I would pass expecting to defeat 3♠ most of the time. At IMPs I would roll the dice with 3NT. I don't want to pay out an occasional 730 when nine minor suit tricks may be available. We might not even need a traditional spade stopper, should partner hold two little and RHO a singleton honor.

Another panelist hopes that hearts are playable.

Bell: 4♥. Someone obviously put a gun to my head and made me open this piece of doggie doo. The only other really logical choices are 4♦ (hoping partner has a fit) or pass (hoping partner has some defensive tricks). Any guess here could be spectacularly wrong, but I just can't bring myself to pass 3♠ doubled with no trump tricks. Hopefully, partner has five or more hearts.

John Mohan constructed this problem; he thinks that pass is best. I'm inclined to agree with the pass, but pass, 3NT, 4♣, 4♦ or 4♥ might work best on this nightmare layout.



West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	pass	?

You, South, hold:

♠7 ♥A ♦AKJ9653 ♣K963

What call do you make?

How to handle a hand that wants to bid diamonds when 2♦, 3♦ and 4♦ aren't natural. One panelist hopes the opponents reopen.

Mealy-mouth: Pass. The time to bid diamonds has not yet come. I won't cuebid 2♦, lest a misguided partner think it shows heart support. I won't jump to 3♦, lest we're playing it as a limit raise. I won't bid 4♦, which partner will surely take as a splinter. I won't bid 5♦, as I may not be able to make it, and (shudder!) partner may think I intend it as Exclusion Roman Key-Card Blackwood. [5♦ shouldn't be Exclusion RKC, since trumps haven't been established yet.] 2♦ followed by 5♦ should be Exclusion RKC. Pass is almost forcing on West, as undoubtedly the opponents play Negative Doubles at least through 1♥ and believe in "opener's duty to reopen," a necessary selling point some 55 years ago when Al ("if I can get by this round ...") Roth set about convincing the stick-in-the-muds of that era to abandon low-level penalty doubles. But speaking of Negative Doubles, why hasn't East made one? Are the opponents still marching with their spades to the bog?

One panelist cuebids and hopes things will work well.

Wittes: 2♦. This set must be straight out of Bridge in the Menagerie. I'm still not sure what I'll do on subsequent rounds, but this hand is too good not to start with 2♦.

All other panelists bid some number of NT.

Sacks: 1NT. Yuck! This is the lesser of bad bids.

Unless partner does something interesting, this just does not feel like a game going hand on this misfit.

Swanson: 1NT. I have no experience to rely on, and bridge literature doesn't waste paper with advice on what action to take in such an unlikely situation. I suppose that, using Transfer Advances, I could bid 2♣ and play the surprise pass card when partner bids 2♦. [The way I play Transfer Advances, 2♣ is the last natural bid before the transfers begin at two of the opponent's suit.] As it is, I will keep the auction going, holding both high cards and diamonds in reserve.

Bare: 2NT. No bid looks very good, but where is the spade suit?

Bartusek: 2NT. Seems right on strength. The auction will just spiral out of control if you cuebid 2♦. 2♦ followed by 3♦ will be a Western Cue. It's an impossible hand to bid, but after the 2NT call my follow-up diamond bids will be natural.

Bell: 3NT. What else?

Shuster: 3NT. This is obviously an awkward hand, but I'm down to hoping that spades are adequately stopped or otherwise blocked. I don't have a natural advance in diamonds, and bidding clubs, even if forcing, isn't going to accomplish anything. Imagine partner raises to 3♣; what then? Partner won't have a diamond stop to bid NT himself.

I'd try 1NT hoping someone would bid and I could then bid diamonds naturally. This is a deliberate underbid.

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to: bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org



South	West	North	East
1♣	1♠	pass	pass
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠AQ94 ♥7 ♦Q6 ♣AKJT73
 What call do you make?

One panelist bids 3♣, about what the hand is worth.

LHO another shot at the auction.

Bell: 3♣. If partner makes a move I'll bid 3NT.

Mealymouth: Pass. None but the lonely heart can know my sorrow ... for the poor opponents who are in the wrong suit and will go minus instead of plus. I fear to act facing a passing partner when I have a singleton in an unbid major.

All other panelists pass, most of them focusing on the ramifications of how the heart suit lies.

Shuster: Pass. This hand is really all about hearts. If partner doesn't have at least four hearts, the opponents probably can make 4♥. But if he does, then the lack of a negative double makes game our way very unlikely. Rather than risk -620, it must be better to try to get a plus score here, as our defensive prospects are rather promising with potential club ruffs and/or trump promotions coming in partner's hand.

Sacks: Pass. Partner did not bid over 1♠! Bidding on this hand is begging for the auction to continue 2♥ by West, pass, 4♥ by East. Yes, it might be our hand in clubs. but more likely 1♠ is our best spot to score some IMPs.

Bare: Pass. Partner couldn't make a negative double. I am afraid of hearts so I pass.

Swanson: Pass. I think it more like that they have a game in a red suit than we do in clubs or notrump. This seems as good a place as any to try for a plus score.

Wittes: Pass. Partner didn't have enough to make a negative double, and I'm looking at a stiff heart. I'm a believer! The opponents have a better place to play than 1♠.

I held this hand in an individual game that was being scored in both matchpoints and IMPs. I passed, but my first reaction was to try 3NT. Pass was a winner on the actual hand, because partner had a weak hand with hearts and had judged well not to make a marginal Negative Double holding three spades. The opponents belonged in diamonds.

Bartusek: Pass. It seems very unlikely that we have a game, but the opponents might be cold for 4♥ if I give

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

name.

Onorita Pallanti became a Life Master in Torrance. She needed gold points which she won in style by winning a flight B knock out. Almost 91 years of age, Onorita drove herself from Palmdale to Torrance for the regional, scarring the heck out of her daughter. Onorita

told me she plays five or six times a week at the Jackman Street Club, the Joshua Club, the country club and in home games. Her favorite partner is Earline Dehaase, but she enjoyed playing with Eleth Fields in Torrance and will play again with her team again in San Francisco. Onorita married her husband in 1941 and was a riveter during the war while he was in the armed services.

Now a widow, Onorita lives with her daughter and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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District 23 news:

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East	South	West	North
3♦	?		

You, South, hold:
 ♠KQT5 ♥AKQJT9 ♦-- ♣AK5
 What call do you make?

We certainly have a great hand, but how to best describe it?

Wittes: Double. I'll bid 4♦ over anything partner bids, looking seriously for a small or even possibly a grand slam. If partner has a pass over the double, we are likely to get this for more than a small slam.

Sacks: Double. A cuebid shows a strong two suiter. 4♥ precludes a black suit slam.

Swanson: 4♦, to be followed by 6♥. Hopefully, this is not a variation of the Mississippi hearts hand.

The Mississippi Hearts Hand is a setup hand from the days of Whist. A player held ♠AKQ ♥AKQJT9 ♦void ♣AKQJ. He bid 7♥, only to find himself doubled with the opening leader holding ♠void ♥8765432 ♦AKQJT9 ♣void. The 7♥ bidder was only able to take his 6 trump tricks.

Bare: 4♦. Over 4♠ I bid 6♥. No way to really describe this hand.

Bartusek: 4♦. Initially showing a major 2-suiter (although it could theoretically be a different 2-suiter). Over 4♠ I will RKC and suggest playing 5♥ (extra heart length) if partner shows 0 controls. Over a 1-control 5♦ call I will jump to 6♥ and strongly consider bidding 7♠ if partner corrects to 6♠. I wonder if some people will try a hazardous 5♦ "Exclusion Blackwood" initially? Thereafter, I don't see a way to properly describe your respective suit lengths to reach the best contract. Note: I am afraid partner will pass a takeout double with some 3=2=4=4 hand with ♦JTxx.

Mealy-mouth: 4♦, then 6♥ over partner's expected 4♠ reply. Even your mother should know what to do after

that.

I think my mother would have passed regardless of what she held. Mother didn't like artificial bids, you'd be lucky if she didn't pass 4♦.

Shuster: 4♦. I'm driving to at least 6♥, but won't risk partner's passing a takeout double along the way. I'll probably bid 6♥ next, but this gives partner the option to convert to spades with a real suit, which could solve a late club loser.

Bell: 5♦. This shows a big hand with a diamond void. Over 5♠, I'll bid 6♥ which should propel us to a grand if partner has something like Axxxx xx xxx xxx. The real problem is if partner bids 5♥, but I'll take my chances and raise.

If Leo is correct that the jump to 5♦ shows a void, this must be the right sequence.

Roger Clough sent me this problem. His wife Becky held this hand. She bid an immediate 6♥. Roger, holding the ♠A and the ♦A, raised to 7♥ which made for an excellent score. Have a good hand? Send it to me at johndjones44@yahoo.com.

West LA continued from page 11

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Elaine Abramson and Ira Thierer, while Doug Campbell, Tam Lachoff, Hasse Nyborg, and Beverly Sturman are now Club Masters. Ravnesh Amar, Jaclyn Hatfield, Margaret Kahn, and Ilene Nathan all have reached Sectional Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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