

# Southern California Bridge News

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## Anten, Savage, Glick awarded national recognition Elizabeth House to receive charity grant

by Rand Pinsky  
District Director

Every year as district director I get the privilege of nominating individuals from our district for recognition for service to the ACBL. I am allowed to select two individuals for the National Goodwill Committee and two individuals for the National Charity Committee. This year's selections follow.

**Ellen Anten** is one of my 2009 selections for the Goodwill Committee. Ellen is a very active bridge player traveling to many regionals and sectionals each year plus attending all three North American Bridge Championships. No matter where she goes and how

well she performs, Ellen is always full of energy and enthusiasm. She can be found bouncing table to table and everyone seems to know her. She is always talking up bridge to whomever she meets. Ellen is the best example of what a "Bridge Ambassador" should be.

**Mike Savage** is my other 2009 selection for the Goodwill Committee. Mike has a passion for spreading his bridge knowledge to anyone who will listen. And Mike can back this up as he was a member of the first place 2005 NABC Senior Swiss Team. If you have ever been to any of our district regionals or sectionals

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

## NAOP Semi-Finals Set

by Mike Marcucci  
District 23 NAOP Coordinator

For the Reno 2010 NAOP crowd, the next step has been scheduled. See the flyer (on page 11) for details on the games - the first in October and the second in November. This will give everyone a choice of time and location for next stage qualifying.

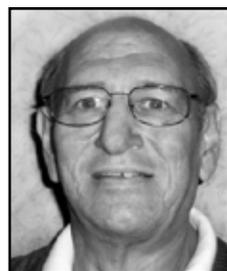
Call Mike Marcucci with questions at 818-903-2471.

Our D23 teams did an outstanding job at the Washington NABC this year and we wish our pairs the same success in Reno. Come join the fun at the semis. The finals will be on January 17, 2010.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Back to Pasadena

by Bill  
Schreiber  
ALACBU  
President

The contract has been signed and we are returning to Pasadena for Bridge Week. Due to hotel limitations, however, it will be a 7-day tournament starting on July 5 and running through July 11. Keep these dates in mind when planning your bridge for next summer. The summer NABC in New Orleans begins July 22 and is a great chance to practice. There will be more news on this tournament in the coming

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**DIRECTOR** *continued from page 1*

you can always find multi-colored handouts discussing simple conventions to very esoteric ones available for our taking. These are all written and produced by Mike. Also, if you get onto his email distribution list, he regularly sends out discussions about hands he has played in recent tournaments with very interesting analysis. For his continuing commitment to bridge, Mike is my other 2009 National Goodwill selection.

**Sedwyn and Sandy Glick** are my 2009 selections for the National Charity Committee. This wife-husband team has worked endlessly in raising money for the City of Hope and is constantly hosting fundraisers

for the organization. They also have found time to support our United States Military. They have lead a drive to collect decks of cards which they then bundle together and ship overseas for our military personal to use. They are truly deserving of National Charity recognition.

Discussing charity, each year as District Director, the ACBL National Charity Foundation allows me to award a \$1,000 grant to a charity of my choice. It has been my practice to pass this grant on to one of our units for presentation to that unit's charity. For 2009, the Pasadena San Gabriel Unit will be presenting their charity, The Elizabeth House, with this year's grant. The Elizabeth House is a women's shelter and has a

long history of helping hundreds of women and their children. We will be making the presentation shortly and expect the local press to cover the event. This way we can promote bridge to the local community and build a positive awareness about our game.

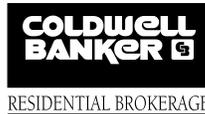
**It Is A Different View From Dummy**

I know that I was going to write about the new recorder guidelines, but I felt that Charity comes first. So, if space permits, I will discuss this next month. If you cannot wait until then, please email me at [pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net) and I will forward to you some resource material.

Till then, have a happy Halloween.

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Los Angeles, CA 90064

**PRESIDENT** *continued from page 1*

months with a new schedule. Come see what all the excitement of our return to Pasadena was about. There will be improved lighting in the International Ballroom.

Speaking about Pasadena... we made a profit in 2009. This reverses a trend of losses dating back a few years. It is all of our hope that if we continue to make profits, and that depends on attendance at our regionals, we can once again produce a paper that gets mailed to all the members of our district.

While I am on the subject of regionals, we have a short four-day regional, sponsored by the Long Beach Unit, coming up starting December 31... So if you aren't into football or parades, come to the tournament. Details are on our website, [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org).

We have a board meeting on October 10, so I will bring you more information in next month's column.

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# Around the Units in District 23

## Antelope Valley By Gin

These are busy times at Unit 556. Our sectional will be in progress as you read this. It begins Friday, October 2 with two sessions of open pairs. Saturday events include Compact Knockout and open pairs as well as novice games, if needed. All start times are 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The final event is a play-through double session Swiss Team on Sunday. Lunch will be served between sessions. Swiss Team start time is 10:30 a.m. with a half hour lunch break between sessions.

Saturday and Sunday events will be played in the large all-purpose room two doors down from our clubroom. It is much more spacious than our clubroom and can handle many more tables with more than ample room between tables. We are looking forward to seeing all returning players as well as meeting new players at our annual tournament. A special warm up charity game on October 1 will be played at 6:30, which will not involve any bidding. The dealer will play 2NT doubled. This game has become a tradition before our annual tournament and has proven itself to be a fun game testing your playing and defending skills.

An Eight is Enough Swiss Team event is scheduled on October 18. The format for this event is 1250+ masterpoints A players, 500.01 to 1249.99 masterpoints B players, and less than 500 master points C players. A players are rated 3, B players 2, and C players 1. The team total cannot exceed 8 and the event will be handicapped. This format provides a more level playing field for all players and any given team could emerge the winner.

Don Crozier and Willo Phillips were the north/south winners of the Instant Matchpoint game and Thomas and Barbara were the east/west winners at this event. Congratulations to both pairs for their wins, thus earning one gold masterpoint each.

Brad Ward is making slow but satisfactory progress in his recovery from surgery. We miss Brad at our

games and wish him a complete recovery. Jack Dudley fought off a bout of congestive heart failure and now appears to be recovering well. It was a traumatic time, but all is well that ends well.

Because Unit 556 has seven scheduled games weekly, it is more prudent to recognize the monthly winners of these games, and therefore the Top Five is now history. Special games will be reported in detail elsewhere in this column. Sunday winners were Nora Fincher/Mary Ann Shaw with 68.06%. Tuesday at AVBC Brad Ward/Marlene posted the top score of 62.96. At Valencia Bridge Studio Rita Vanetter/Vibeke Gilbreath posted 62.98%. Wednesday night winners were Lola Messiha/Dave White with 66.67%. Thursday night Hal and Carol Underwood posted 66.68 at the Novice game. The Castaic Thursday morning game was won by Lamonte Johnson/Basant Shah with 66.3%. George MacDonald/Mary Stauf scored a 75.64% making them the top winners of the month. Unit games at AVBC are now being played the third Sunday of the month, consequently results are not available by press time.

### Club Championship 9/13

	A	B	C
Doris Thompson/Thelma Nelson	1	-	-
Sid Zalk/Nan Newland	2	1	-
Nora Fincher/Mary Ann Jones	3	2	-

### Club Championship 9/15

Nat Dent/Colin MacDougall	1	1	-
Dorrie Deston/Bob Hart	2	2	-
George Lewis/Don Crozier	3	3	-
Gin and Beth Morrin	4	-	-

### Club Championship 9/16

David Gasper/Lola Messiha	½	-	-
Mary Stauf/Thelma Nelson	½	-	-
Ron and Sandi Oest	3	1	-
May Abagi/Leah Levitt	4	2	-
J. Freatman/Mary Ellen Downs	-	-	1

A parting thought... Lack of respect is a major reason directors do not want to direct. Not the lack of respect to directors, but the lack of respect of players to each other.

Addendum: The parting thought is this writer's opinion based on experiences as a director.

## Glendale-Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

**Unit Game - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, October 10**

**12:15 p.m. buffet lunch**

**Board of Directors Meeting - 11:00 a.m.**

**Saturday, October 10**

MERRY BESVOLD - Yes, it's "writ large" for her multitasking so much of what it takes to produce our sectional tournament, not only during, but months before and many days after. Merry is quick to share such accolades, and we lead off with Karen Alpert, who doesn't "do mornings" very well but arrived early on all three days and left late. Betsy Josias and Nancy Lyon helped in "setting up" that big room, and Margaret Mataga was whirling during the downloading end of it all. She, Sharon Wolf, and Eva Seri "did" the brunch goodies, and Vita Press provided the home made chocolate peanut butter balls on Friday. Thanks also go to Pat Abbey for lending her shopping skills to the event.

Lest you think that it was only ladies who launched our sectional, we hasten to extend a special credit to Mike Marcucci of the Pasadena Unit for following through on our agreement with them concerning those excellent table coverings; most appreciated. As for what YOU did, we hope you can find your special credit in the following:

**Friday morning:** B-2 (overall) Dan Botoaca/Mike Abrams; B-3 (OA) Cathy Martin/Brad Beland; B-5 (OA) Merry Besvold/Pat Abbey; B-6 (OA) Louise Reich/Amr Elghamry; C-1 (OA) Sharon Wolf Art Chacacias; A-3 Susan Rhoades/Joe Viola; A-7 Esther Tapelband/Vita Press; B-3 Paul Gelb/Cliff Goodrich.

**Friday afternoon:** B-4 (OA) L. Reich/A. Elghamry; C-2 (OA) S. Wolf/A. Chacacias; B-3 E. Tapelband/Karen Alpert; B-4 Margaret 'Mataga/V. Vanderpool.

**Friday evening:** B-2 (OA) Amr Elghamry/Vern Vanderpool; C-2 Alene Friedman/Carol Bell. *Compact KOs:* 1<sup>st</sup> Rae/Jerry Murbach's team; 2<sup>nd</sup> Karen Arese,

Wayne Phillips, Miriam Harrington, and Jake Frenkel.

**Saturday morning:** A-1 (OA) S. Wolf/A. Chacacias; A-6 (OA) Lorraine Adams/Arnie Lier; B-4 (OA) Betsy Josias/Nancy Lyon; B-6 (OA) Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo; C-5 (OA) Zeke/Yosh Mataga; A-1 Charo Holdo/Jeanette Deverian; A-5 Cathy Martin/Diane Borgotti; B-2 Leon Alexander/Frank Rubin; B-3 L. Reich/Judy Barrow; C-2 Merry Besvold/Mike Marcucci; C-2 Sixten Ohman/Temo Arjeni.

**Saturday afternoon:** A-1 (OA) Phil Dessert/John Waken; A-5 (OA) Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo; B-3 (OA) Dan Botoaca/M. Adams; B-4 (OA) Karen Arase/Jake Frenkel; C-6 (OA) B. Josias/N. Lyon; A-3 Tim Lolli/Bill Holmquist; A-3 Ann Banta/Ron Moeckel; A-3 C. Martin/D. Borgatti; A-5 Jan Wickersham/Roy Wilson; B-2 P. Gelb/Cliff Goodrich; B-3 L. Reich/J Barrow; B-4 A. Elghamry/Mark Hartzell; C-2 Aline Friedman/Carol Bell. *Compact KO:* 3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Nason, John Villalobos, Brad Beland, and Dan Oakes.

**Sunday B/C/D Swiss Teams:** B-3 Zeke and Yosh Mataga, Dorothy LaMaie/Patrick Cardullo; B-4 Amr Elghamry, Mark Hartzell, Sandra Franciscus/Connie DeRosa; B-5 Karen Arase, Dan Lubesnik, Miriam Harrington/Jake Frenkel; C-4 Tracy Boys, Glenn Eddy, Elaine Moore/Sterrett Harper.

Kumquats to all of you for maneuvering so successfully through those "computer dealt" hands. Lorraine Adams/Ted Maki did the same at a different event, registering a B-1 overall in a Stratified Pairs game at the Culver City Sectional.

Merry, Betsy, Nancy, and Margaret deserve gourmet mention for providing the baked ham, baked beans, salads, and desserts which gave sustenance to players at the September unit game. Some were sustained more than others in maneuvering through all those "human" (not particular "humane") dealt hands, as follows:

### North/South

A1		Carolyn Cohen/Melina Stevens
A2		John Villalobos/Karen Arese
A3	B1	Pat Abbey/Sherry Strube
	B2	Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo
	B4 (oa)	Madelon Liebman/Carol Lessin

### East/West

A1	B1	Harold Knowles/Zack Vedro
A2		Tim Lolli/Brad Beland

A3 Bob Gish/Steve Licker  
B2 Esther Tapelband/Bob Hogan

Congratulations to all of you. Now come back and defend your turf at the October UG on the 10th.

Betsy Josias' enthusiastic socializing was limited at the September UG due to an encased broken leg. She missed a few of her bridge dates at the club, but we were happy to see her, her determination and her baked beans (!) at our monthly event.

Take care everybody, and especially you, Betsy!

**Long Beach Unit**  
[www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
[www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)  
by Jon Yinger

### September 7 Labor Day championship game:

Overall results: 1<sup>st</sup> in A: Phyllis Parker/Aaron Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> Carol Murakoshi/Tom Ludwig, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cayce Blanchard/Sean Lui, 4<sup>th</sup> Kimi Matsumoto/Mark Teaford, three-way tie for 5/6/7 Betse Straub/Morris Lorber, Kay Tseng/John Melis and Bill Brooks/Kumar Jain. Overall winners in the B flight included: 5<sup>th</sup> Bob and Pat Adam, 6<sup>th</sup> Curtis and Lynn Johnson. Overall winners in C included: 3<sup>rd</sup> Dick and Linda Stein, 4<sup>th</sup> Skip Geneback/Arnold Maddox, 5<sup>th</sup> Diane and Dennis Schmitz. Congratulations to all!

**70+% games 8/15 through 9/15:** On Aug 16 Loren Hilf/Baum Harris had a 73.84% game. Aug 28 T S Chernuchin/Walter Rothstein had a 70.83% game, and in the evening game Subba Ravipudi/Mark Itabashi had a 73.08% game. In the Sept. 1 evening game John Melis/Cayce Blanchard had 69.68%. On Sept. 4 Bob Mault/Phyllis Parker had a 70.14% game, and in the NLM game Monica Gettis/Tom Cotton got 71.19%. On Sept. 7 Phyllis Parker/Aaron Jones had a 70.14% game. Congratulations to you all!

**Big master point awards:** Big point awards for 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in big games: Aug. 19 Baum Harris/Steve Skinner won 4.53mp for 1<sup>st</sup> overall, and Lucy Tredennick/Stephen Goldstein won 3.29mp for 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. In the Labor Day game Sept. 7 Aaron Jones/Phyllis Parker won 4.53mp for 1<sup>st</sup> overall, and Carol Murakoshi/Tom Ludwig won 3.40mp for 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. In the evening unit-game-rated instant matchpoint game Sept. 9 Sean Lui/Earl VanDerVord were 1<sup>st</sup> overall

winning 2.33 gold points. Congratulations to you all!

**New members and new status:** We issue a warm welcome to new members Yesenia Cabrera, Bernhard Madeler, Peggi Spring, and Robert Peace. *Status changes:* New Life Master: Sandy Bernard; Junior Master: Jeanne Bader; Club Master: Aaron Jones; NABC Master: Sherry Royce. Congratulations to you all!!

**Upcoming special events at the club:** Oct. 4-10: club appreciation games (extra points); Oct 12: membership games 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. (extra points). Oct. 14 National Desert Day game (unit-rated). A reminder: all Monday morning games are sectionally rated, pay extra points and include a very nice breakfast, all for \$10.

**Get well wishes to:** Joy Rosenthal, Christy Mangum, and Dann Habberfield.

**Help the columnist:** If I have missed an award or status change, please let me know. If you have any news items you would like to see in the column, my email is [jjyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jjyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

[www.darbonne.com/bridge/](http://www.darbonne.com/bridge/)

By Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

**Unit Game - October 4, San Marino Rec. Center**

Our Eight Is Enough game was another huge success. We had 18 tables and it was nice to see friends from other clubs joining us. Guess the word is getting out that it is a very fun event. First in A and B were Jeanne Dea, C.C. Fang, Robert Reichmann, and Tai Wong. First in C were Claudia Henry, Fred Cragwick, Tom Miyake, and Morris Jones. I believe that was a last-minute team put together by the able skill of Georgiana Bierman. Kim Horn and Georgiana were in charge of the event and they worked themselves overtime to make it a success. Thanks Kim and Georgiana for an outstanding job!

It would have helped, though, if players had let us know in advance if they were planning to come. I'll nag you about that when the time rolls around next year and it will be even more fun.

Our September unit game has to go down in history as one of our most elegant luncheons. Karen Arase provided the chicken teriyaki and rice, and Norma Simpson and Sandra Franciscus provided all the other

## District 23 Rank Changes 8/1/09 - 8/31/09

### Junior Master (5 MPs)

Edwin Bernstein  
Susan Burnett  
Sophia Chang  
Pamela Cole  
Joyce Henderson  
Joseph Hooker  
Dorothy Lank  
Betty Borden Miller  
Anne-Lise Scott  
Julie Tan  
Maureen Wiggins

### Club Master (20 MPs)

Nancy Coker  
Malka Fogel  
Yohsuke Fukami  
Sandra Nagler  
Betty Scharf  
Roman Sydorak  
Janet Thornber  
Norma Varellas

### Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Joan Abrams  
Margaret Flowers  
Linda Garfinkel  
Dan Garner  
Peggy Graue  
Aaron Jones  
Miriam Kelley  
Paul Langerman  
Susan Levinson  
Karen McKittrick  
Carol Ramseyer

### Regional Master (100 MPs)

Donald Crozier  
Richard Gliksman  
Stephen Massman  
Yolanda Medina  
Elaine Roth  
Harriet Smuckler  
Robert Verhoef  
Lorna Wallace

### NABC Master (200 MPs)

Debora Stein

### Life Master (300 MPs)

Norman Bloomfield  
Sue Rottner  
Margaret Yeh

### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Norman Bloomfield  
Beverly Narahara  
Margaret Yeh

### Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Patrick Cardullo

### Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Joanne Minken-Levy

wonderful goodies. Not only was the food delicious, but the presentation... down to the elegant ice tea dispenser. Way to go ladies!!!! C.C. Fang continues to show us what an outstanding player he is, as he and his son, Jeff, took the first place honors. They were followed by Markle Vandervort and Susan Jones (welcome back from your vacation in New Jersey) who were first in B, and Sandy Rucker and Beverly Scholes who won the top spot in flight C. Peter Szecsi took home the money though, as he won the 50/50 raffle, so congratulations, Peter!

Please save the date of December 13 for our annual holiday party. It will once again be held at the Arcadia Community Center and tickets will go on sale at the October unit game. You can purchase yours from any board member. We are keeping the cost at \$35 per person, even though the cost to the unit is more than that.

Amr Elghamry went to the regional in Irvine and came home a Life Master. I guess those hard-learned lessons from his partners were worth it, eh? Good thing you paid attention, Amr, and congratulations. Another huge success was accomplished by the team of Bob Johnson, Mike Gosnell, Joe Viola, and Gerry Geremia who won the top bracket in the knockouts, beating out expert level players such as the Marshall Miles team.

September was a special month for Joe Viola in another way as well – he became a Gold Life Master, going over 2,500 masterpoints at a local sectional. That's the top 3% of the entire ACBL membership! (The next 2,500 won't be as difficult, Joe.)

Here's a problem hand that Margie Gould sent me... What would you open if you held this hand?

♠ AQ ♥ 875432 ♦ AK ♣ AK5

It's not a problem with a Forcing Club System, the method I prefer, so I don't have an answer as to the correct opening bid playing either Standard or 2/1. As a matter of interest, I would like to hear your thoughts on it. (With a strong club system it's an automatic 1♣ opening bid and show the hearts later.)

Do you play encoded discards when defending? Many players use odd/even discards to let their partner know what suit they would like to attack. It works like this: An odd discard such as the 3, 5, 7, or 9 tells partner to please lead the same suit. Notice this eliminates the

need to throw a high card which might be wasteful. When you discard an even card such as the 2, 4, 8, or 10 it becomes a signal saying, "Don't lead this suit, partner, but look at the size of as a suit-preference signal." The 2 or 4 indicate a preference for the lower of the other two suits while the 8 or 10 show preference for the higher of the remaining two suits. (The 6 is not considered a signal card and carries no information.)

A different signaling method is called Laventhal, where any suit you discard is negative. That is, it tells partner not to lead the suit regardless of the size of the card being played. The size is important though, as it is a suit-preference signal similar to the even cards with odd/even discards. In the World of Bridge there are other many encoded discard systems as well, but here's the little known part – **you can only do it once, at the first discard**. The ACBL has a regulation against using more than one encoded discard signal during the play of the hand, but few players are aware of it.

See you at the table!

## Pomona-Covina Unit

by Vic Sartor

**Unit Game: Saturday, October 17**

**two sessions: 11:00 a.m. & approx. 4:00 p.m.**

**Dinner served between sessions**

Last month I was able to turn travel reporter and list the various globetrotting exploits of our peripatetic unit members, allowing me to disguise a slow summer news month with social notes. That was good for at least a couple of column inches and avoided a big blank space where this column was supposed to be. This month I don't even have any good personal interest items to fall back on. Nobody seems to have gone anywhere interesting and we haven't had an axe murder or a juicy sex scandal in months.

There is one big event coming up this month that should grab all unit members' attention, however. Our annual two-session unit tournament and election dinner will be held Saturday, October 17.

The first session will begin at 11:00 a.m. At the end of that session, attendees will be served a delicious Italian dinner prepared by our own master chef, Gino Barbieri. There will also be the election of new unit board members for 2010. Anyone interested in serving on the board is urged to contact me, Penny Barbieri, Tom Lill,

or any other current board member. The pay is lousy, but if you'd really like to serve we might be able to pay for low-cost psychiatric help. The second session will begin shortly after the election, probably around 4:00. You can play two sessions of bridge and still be home tucked snugly in bed by 8:00. If you can only play one session, we'd still love to see you. Start setting up the date with your favorite partner now. The price hasn't been set as of my column deadline, but it's always a bargain, so come out and enjoy a great meal and some good bridge.

In bridge results, the August unit

game was won by Denise Morgan/Genise Hasan, followed by Hans Hehnke/Vic Sartor, and Cordell Goode/Lary Alba. The September individual was won by Lynne Parker, followed by Karen McCarthy, Milt Kalikman, and Maria Marvosh.

Top Game of the month was a nice 72.6% effort by Clint Lew/Walt Otto. Clint was on a hot streak, racking up six wins for the month. Other winners included Norma Appley, Albert Lax, Donald Naf, Richard Patterson, John Tyner, Pat Radamaker, Tom Lill, Kurt Trieselmann, Paule Ford, Sandy Jones, Roger Boyar, Joe Unis, Lynne

Parker, Fred Minter, Lulu Minter, Sue Rotner, and Milt Kalikman.

For our hand of the month, we have one of the most dangerous weapons in the bridge player's arsenal: the SOS redouble. I long ago adopted a really chicken rule--unless it's super obvious, we only redouble for rescue. It may not be optimum, but it saves wear and tear on the nerves. However our unfortunate protagonist was made of braver stuff. After his pard made a negative double of a spade overcall for the minors, he arrived at 4♥ and was doubled. His pard, holding a minor freak, redoubled for rescue. After a long tank, he shrugged and passed. The result--down 4, vulnerable, minus 1600. Five of a minor would probably been off 1 or 2. We cowards may not teach our doublers a lesson for their effrontery, but we do live to fight again. 'Til next time...

## San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

**Unit events and news:** There will be an election in December for new board members. If you are interested in running for the board, please put your name on the form at the Bridge Academy or at the 750 Bridge Club. According to the by-laws for Unit 561, you must be a member in good standing of the ACBL, have no financial interest in a bridge club affiliated with ACBL, and only one member of a family may serve as an officer at any given time.

**Upcoming unit events:** Holiday Party is scheduled for December 6 at the Marriott Hotel in Woodland Hills. Elections for the new board will be held at the Holiday Party.

## Antelope Valley/Santa Clarita October 2,3,4, 2009 Sectional Tournament

AV Bridge Club

858 Jackman Street

Lancaster, CA

Friday and Saturday

Open Pairs

10:30 am and 3:30pm



Saturday

Compact KO

10:30 am and 3:30 PM

Sunday

Double Session Swiss Teams

10:30 AM and TBA

Play through lunch \$7.00

**Partnerships: Joanne 661 943 6754**

**Hotel Information: Sandi 661 272 9780**

**E-mail: nga1071295@aol.com**

All sessions stratified: A: 1500+ B: 500-1500 C: 0-500

Entry fee \$10.00 per person, per session

\$11 Non ACBL members and unpaid Life Masters

DIRECTIONS: Northbound-Freeway 14 exit Avenue I, right to 10 Street West (4th light), right to Jackman, left on Jackman (1st light), right into first driveway. Southbound-Freeway 14 exit Avenue I, left to 10th Street West (5th light), right to Jackman, left on Jackman (1st light), right into first driveway.

Director: Peter Knee

Smoking Breaks

Zero Tolerance Observed

Host Unit 556

ACBL Sanction S0910080

Co-chairs: Gin Dudley and Sandi Oest

**The top ten masterpoint winners for August: 750 Bridge Club:** Ron Malkin 13.19, Gloria Malkin 8.56, Joyce Hart 5.22, Jimmie Swan 4.30, Carol Bloomfield 4.26, Norm Blumfield 4.26, Herb Zweig 4.13, Samy Antoun 3.75, Fleur Levine 3.51, Paula Rosenfeld 3.51.

*Bridge Academy 299 Game:* Jim Gardner 4.82, Renee Dorret 3.94, Harriet Smuckler 3.61, Joan Farrar 3.55, Marge Bulmer 3.31, Michael Klemens 3.22, Lyn Heckler 3.19, Sheila Singer 2.83, Rita Hersh 2.79, Dave Posley 2.79.

*Bridge Academy Open Game:* Gilbert Stinebaugh 24.07, Andy Vinock 21.06, Leda Danzig 16.20, Dan Kosman 15.28, Marta Peltz 14.94, Armand Szulc 14.82, Gary Frans 14.24, Joan Rubin 14.23, Tammy Purkin 14.17, Robert Rice 12.30.

**70% Games for August:** Bill Taylor/Bill Morton 71.63 and Marta Peltz/Andrew Vinock 72.22.

**Column news:** Make sure 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

Unit Website:

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

SBBC Website:

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

**Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club:** Club Championship: Monday, October 12, 11:30 a.m. NLM Club Championship: Thursday, October 15, 10:30 a.m. NLM Club Championship: Wednesday, October 21, 6:30 p.m. Club Championship/Anniversary Party: Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.

**Club Championships:** The August 20 Club Championship was captured by Mary Ann Coyle/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Betsy Amador/Robert Rothman on top in Flight B. The North American Open Pair qualifier was won by Gerri Carlson/C. M. Meaux in Flight A with Mark Raggio/Stanley Greengard leading Flight B, and Joanna Jones-Reed/William Lurie on top in Flight C. The September 4 Club Championship was won by Allen Hamburger/Ron Murray in Flights A and B.

**Team Winners:** The August 18 handicapped Swiss was won by the quartet of Steve Ramos, Ed Piken, Marty

Cooper, and Maurice Lorber. The Western Conference STaC team game on August 25 was captured by Winnie Ninneman, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, and Bronck Felczer. The September 1 leaders were Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, and Bronck Felczer. The September 8 game winners were Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Mark Raggio, and Charles LaFranchi. The September 15 game was won by the foursome of Marie Willis, Carol McCully, Ed Barad, and Mark Raggio.

**Great Western STaC Overall finishers at TSB Clubs:** The following lists overall finishers in games played at Torrance South Bay clubs during the recent district 22/23 STaC.

### Wednesday Evening, August 26, NLM Pairs, SBBC

1A	1B	1C	Karen and Mike McKittrick
2A	2B		Jean and Harold Brunner

### Thursday Morning, July 23, NLM Pairs, SBBC

3A			James Blaha/Tom Barna
5A	3B	1C	Karen and Mike McKittrick
6A	4B		George Stinson/Setsuko Miyasaka
	6B		Neal Hudson/Sandra Wilson
		2C	Dorothy and Peter Joseph

### Friday Morning, July 24, SBBC

2A			Dick Cheng/John Farr
4A			Dean Kaloudis/John J. McDermott

**TSB Unit Winners at Irvine Regional:** The TSB Unit produced a few overall winners at the recent Irvine Regional. Lorna Wallace and Karen Tucker led Flight C in the Tuesday Morning 299 pairs. Ron Carlson and Marty Cooper led flight C in the Thursday afternoon side game. Overall winners in the Sunday BCD Swiss Teams included Lutrell Long, Ed Srenco and Steve Ramos on the winning team in Flights B and C.

**GUV Memorial Award:** I guess I will have to claim the award for myself this month. On the last day of the recent Irvine Regional I played with Luis Gamio in the Fast Pairs. When buying the entry we were given a ticket to be used for picking up a free lunch between sessions. After the first session I couldn't remember where I had put my lunch ticket. I hurriedly emptied my pockets of keys, wallet, cell phone and whatever on a table that had been used for partnerships during the tourney. Eureka! I found the lunch ticket, so I quickly refilled my pockets. When doing so I noticed that I was picking up a pair of eyeglasses that were not mine. So I placed them back on

the table. What I didn't notice at the time was that I had picked up a set of keys that also were not mine. In fact, I didn't notice that I had done this until the following day. Like stupid. Apparently I had picked up the keys of whoever ran arranging partnerships. Thankfully I was able to contact the partnership lady and arrange to return her keys.

I guess the moral of the story is don't leave your keys lying around when dummies like me are roaming around losing and finding things.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by candy

Starting this month with the winner of the Jill Meyers Trophy: Margie Michelin, who led for both halves. Alyssa Kennedy/Rick Turner did the come-from-behind approach to win the Mary Jane Farrell Award.

Pair winners at the WLA Sectional were A: Jill Richmond, Jordan Chodorow, Mike Savage, Ed Barad, Lou and Gloria Levy, Cecil Cook, and Jim MacDonald; B: Randy Hammock (2), Gary Moore, Brian Egan, Sally Aminoff, Maria Pendergast, Karen Schwartz, Vera Mandell, Danny Kleinman, and Sally Karbelnig; C: Michael Shaw, Bill Rogers, Rick Turner, Alyssa Kennedy, Kelly Lightner, and Daria Buddyk. KOs and A Swiss: Ellen and Bob Kent, and Margie Michelin playing with two Steves (Sturm and Cannell).

Thanks to all those who played and those who worked to make a successful tournament. The two Petes (Benjamin and Knee) and Dave White kept the circus of players moving, and Barbara Nusbaum, Beverly Cook (awesome brownies), Ellen Kent (incredible things come out of her oven), and myself, who kept them fed.

A special note of thanks to Sandy Einberg, who not only is our unit's First Lady and keeps Howard in line, but when I need freezer space she's there for me. She also keeps our "stuff" in her shed. I called her to find out what we had and what we needed to buy, and on

the hottest day of the year, she went out to the shed. Sandy may not have appeared at the tournament, but we couldn't do it without her.

Elections for the unit board are coming up. Signups are at the clubs for those willing to give something back to a game we love. Get your name in before October 20. We need fresh blood to help plan the sectionals, proams, parties, and to promote bridge. Winners will be announced at the holiday party.

Speaking of the holiday party, it will be December 13 at the Kayne Eras Center, same place as our sectional, from 11:00 (appetizers) to 5:00 (end of bridge game). In between we will have music from the Westside Voices, dancing led by Margie, brunch, announcement of the Player of the Year, and of course, BRIDGE. This year's theme is Black & White, so take out your top hat, we're "Putting on the Ritz." (Knowing this crowd, it's probably closer to a Ritz Cracker.)

My get well soon group includes Nell Schaeffer, Meril Graf, Fred Mautner, Sylvia Senders, and Diana Schreiber. "Doc" Candy recommends getting back to the bridge table as soon as possible. Diana, living in the Valley, kick up your feet and rest until it's cooler.

Barrington reports Club Champs were A: Scott Kurman/Michael Nash, Gary King/Don Krauss, Paul Gelb/Paul Smith; B: Judy and Lou Zucker, Wallis Annenberg/Brian Reynolds; C: Shel Rips/Berry Wilkinson; 79%er: Sheri Rivera/Aram Bedros, Hans Kraepelien/Michael Nash (2), Ellen Anton/Becky Clough, and Kay Faguet/Jackie Hatfield.

The October unit game will be on Friday afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The scariest thing about Halloween is that the year is almost over. Non-Californians think that because the leaves don't change here we don't know the seasons change. When the Candy Kisses change to brown, rust and gold, it's fall. They use a rake and we have a chocolate fetish. So as I sign off this month, go for the chocolate.

[www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)



**District 23**  
**RENO - HERE WE COME!**



 **North American Pairs** 

**Semi-Final #1**

**11 Oct 09, 11:00 AM**

**San Fernando Bridge Academy  
6733 Variel Ave, Canoga Park**

**Semi-Final #2**

**22 Nov 09, 11:00 AM**

**Long Beach Bridge Center  
4782 PCH, Long Beach**

**2 Sessions with a break**

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

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panel: Billy Eisenberg, Jeff Goldsmith, Adam Meyerson, David Sacks,  
Michael Shuster, Jon Wittes, and Bill Wickham

This month's problems are all problems from the World Transnational Teams Championships in Sao Paulo, Brazil in September. I played with Valerie Gamio of Argentina/USA, and our teammates were Miguel Reygadas and Nancy Lira of Mexico.

All problems are IMPs

# 1

All Vul

West	North	East	South
1♠	5♦	?	

You hold: ♠A6 ♥AQJT5 ♦--- ♣KT9864

What call do you make?

**Goldsmith:** 5NT. I have been stamped into slam before and even made it some of the time.

**Sacks:** 5NT. The bidding sounds like a pick-up game on BridgeBase. I can double, showing cards and willingness for partner to bid with some shape, but partner will pass most of the time. 5NT shows two places to play, so it is better than double.

**Wittes:** 5NT. This is a big hand with a takeout for the two unbid suits, not the grand slam force in spades. We could be cold for a grand, but determining that is just too tough after this start.

**Meyerson:** 5NT. Asks partner to pick a slam. Hopefully partner bids his second suit if he has one or rebids spades with 6 or more.

**Wickham:** 5NT. 5NT is the only way to get partner to pick a slam in a rounded suit.

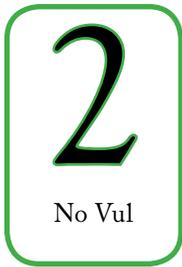
**Eisenberg:** 5NT. Shows the two unbid suits.

**Shuster:** 6♣. We might have a grand if we can figure out the correct strain, but we'll never be able to bid one intelligently. I doubt many partnerships have a well defined agreement about what 5NT means here - when partner prefers hearts, whether partner can

choose spades or whether it is GSF in spades. Clubs rates to be our best and safest trump suit, so I will take a practical shot at what I think we will make.

*Our panel is pretty much in agreement with 5NT, and I agree. 1♠ and 5♦ were bid at almost every table, so most of the competitors were faced with this problem. This board came on the last hand of a swingy, brutal set of boards, so the players may have been influenced by what happened so far at their table. They selected a variety of calls: 5♥, 5♠, 5NT, 6♣, 6♦, double and even pass (apparently forcing). At my table, I was the 5♦ bidder. My screen-mate doubled for down 2 and +500. My teammate, echoing Shuster's thoughts, believed 5NT to be the best bid, but tried a practical 6♣, scoring +1370. Partner had ♠QJ9872 ♥K8 ♦T3 ♣AQJ, so a small slam is cold in spades, hearts, or clubs. The 5NT bidders will get to 6♣ making. I didn't realize it when I selected the problems, but the first four of this month's problems came from the same 10-board match.*

**Correction:** Due to an editing error, an extra line was printed with Question 5 of last month's Problem Solvers Panel. It was a bidding problem, not a lead question. Therefore the text, "What do you lead?" should have read "What call do you make?" The SCBN regrets the error.



West	North	East	South
pass	pass	1♥	2♣
pass	pass	dbl	4♣
?			

You hold: ♠J8642 ♥Q6 ♦J64 ♣KT2

What call do you make?

*A couple of panelists would have preferred an initial negative double.*

**Shuster:** Pass. You will probably get some complaints about the lack of an initial negative double, a borderline decision (I would have doubled). Partner, obviously very short in clubs, doesn't need extra values to reopen, so bidding 4♣ now would be awful. My one trump trick is not enough to double them - especially since West's auction shows a hand too good to bid 4♣ initially. For all I know they are about to bid 5♣ and make it.

**Meyerson:** Pass. I would've doubled 2♣ at first turn. Now this problem is quite difficult because partner's double does not really show extras (just pattern). I'll pass and hope partner doubles again with a real moose.

*Some panelists are waiting for another double from partner to bid 4♣.*

**Eisenberg:** Pass. This becomes harder when partner doubles again. I would then bid 4♣.

**Wickham:** Pass. Thinking about any action here is an overbid. If partner has a decent hand for 4♣, he will double again. If he doesn't act again, 5♣ may make.

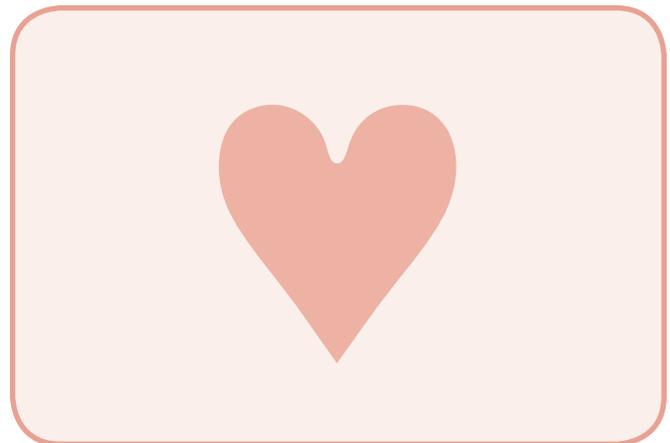
**Sacks:** Pass. Nothing has convinced me that partner's minimum reopening double will produce a game. Has partner shown any extras yet? The suits will be breaking badly. If partner doubles again, I will have something to think about.

*Some panelists like their defensive chances and wave the red card.*

**Goldsmith:** Double. This looks like 300, so even if we make 4♣, that's not a big loss. Note that partner should not have a minimum; versus a passed hand, reopening doubles should show some values, because the chance that partner has a penalty pass goes way down. Obviously, I'm leading hearts so that I can get a trump promotion for my ♣10. If declarer ruffs the first trick, I've been minus 510 before. I think I have to double, because there's a good chance we have a game, I just don't know where.

**Wittes:** Double. The ♣10 is huge. There is a good chance I will get it promoted for plus 800. Even though the ♥Q may be a great card for partner with a lot of my values in the opponent's suit, double looks like the best action in the long run.

*I accidentally changed the problem from reality in two respects. The ♦J was originally the ♦10, and West actually raised to 3♣. Therefore partner had shown extra values. I tried 4♣, and made it when partner produced ♠KQT7 ♥AK843 ♦K92 ♣9. On the problem I sent out, I am with the doublers, but my estimate is closer to +300 than to +800.*



3

EW Vul

West	North	East	South
pass	1♥	dbl	3♥
3♠	5♣	?	

You hold: ♠AKQ♥K2♦KQJT84♣32

What call do you make?

**3♥ was weak.** *Your screen mate does not speak much of your language, but describes 5♣ as “natural.” Feel free to speak up if you object to the double.*

*I would have started with 2♦, getting my strong suit mentioned. Two panelists agree with me.*

**Shuster:** 5♦. Never bidding diamonds with this hand is not my idea of good bridge (why not start with 2♦?). Partner will show up with some cover cards, since he obviously doesn't have any strength in his suit.

**Sacks:** 5♠. I don't double originally, and now I don't have any reason to think that their five-level contract is going down. Opener has at least 11 rounded cards. Any contract we play should be from partner's side. Give partner ♠JTxxx♥xx♦Axxx♣Kx, and we will probably be safe in 5♠ from his side. But take away the ♠J, and diamonds are safer. If South leaps out of his seat to double, I will think about running to 6♦.

**Goldsmith:** 5♦. Then 5♠ over 5♥. I'm taking a red versus white save, because I don't think we can beat 5♥ and we are down one in 5♦ or 5♠.

**Wittes:** 5♦. Partner bid 3♠ freely vulnerable with a

terrible suit. I think it's best to show a big diamond hand. Since this is IMPs, even if we belong in spades, diamonds should make the same number of tricks and just in case partner felt compelled to bid with a scattered 9 count and xxx of spades, diamonds might be a far safer place to play.

**Wickham:** 5♠. A red on white save at a high level? This might make or keep them from bidding slam. I'm clueless. Why would I be better placed if I had overcalled 2♦?

**Eisenberg:** Double. When pass isn't forcing, double should show a good hand.

**Meyerson:** Pass. It seems unlikely that we can make anything at the five-level given my round suit holdings, whereas the opponents might be making if North is as distributional as he sounds. The vulnerability does not favor sacrificing.

*I was the 5♣ bidder. I held ♠43♥AQJ96♦6♣KQ975 and was trying to give the opponents a 5-level decision. 5♥ would have been down two, but my Polish screen-mate, faced with this problem, tried 5♠, which was down one.*

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4

NS Vul

West	North	East	South
3♦	?		

You hold: ♠AK6 ♥A4 ♦96 ♣AJ9864

What call do you make?

*I was faced with this problem and hated it. I reluctantly tried 4♣. Some panelists are with me.*

**Eisenberg:** 4♣. Without any confidence.

**Goldsmith:** 4♣. Yech! You can't even give me a fourth spade so I can bid a Marshall 3♠? 3-6 is too much canape. So the choice is between 3NT and 4♣. 4♣ is a nothing bid, but 3NT with the lead's coming through partner is insane. 4♣ it is. If I were in the balancing seat, I'd try 3NT.

*Marshall Miles has long been an advocate of overcalling strong four-card major suits with a longer minor in reserve. The spades are only three-long though, probably not enough for even Marshall (though he would think of it).*

*Two panelists think 4♣ is a good bid.*

**Meyerson:** 4♣... seems to describe this hand nicely. By the way, 4NT over such a 4♣ call should definitely be to play (slam tries go through 4♦). I agree. The various other options (double, 3NT, pass) might work out, but seem like masterminding.

**Wittes:** 4♣. We will lose on the hands where partner might have bid 3NT over a double, but 4♣ is a good description of the hand, and eliminates the awkwardness of what to do over 3♦ Double Pass 4♥. I think a 3♥ response is even more problematic than 4♥.

*Some panelists try doubling, hoping their partner doesn't bid hearts.*

**Shuster:** Double. 4♣ would take us beyond 3NT. When my opponents do this, they always seem to get away with it.

**Wickham:** Double. Easier with our buddy Marshall

who will pass or bid 3NT. If partner forces us to choose a major, at least the tap will come in the short hand.

*We see a second reference to the imitable Marshall Miles on the same problem? This time the Marshall reference is because Marshall frequently bids 3NT with far less of a stopper than most of us expect. Singleton queens and doubleton 9s sometimes look like stoppers to the great ACBL Hall of Famer. He also passes converting takeout doubles to penalty with less in their suit than his partners would sometimes like. This time, with four quick tricks, that's what we want to happen.*

**Sacks:** Pass - reluctantly! I wish I had a 3♥ western cue bid for diamonds. If partner cannot act in balancing seat, then the worse we will do is lose a partscore swing that we could probably not stop at anyway.

*When I selected this problem, I thought pass was the only winning answer. However, a closer look at the problem leads me to believe even pass isn't good enough, as 3♦ will probably make. The best the defense can do is to make declarer risk down two in an effort to make. But if he tries to make it (likely), he's home.*

*Partner held ♠Q8542 ♥T62 ♦QT3 ♣K2 on the actual hand. She passed, but I had to play carefully for down one. Yes, 3♠ makes, but even if you bid 3♠ (OK, so I thought about it too), partner will raise. Doublers might get to 3♠, or even 3NT from partner's side. 3NT from partner's side will make if the opening leader selects any diamond from his AKJ8542 holding, but is down on any non-diamond lead.*





South	West	North	East
3♣	pass	3♦	pass
3♥	pass	3NT	pass
pass	pass		

You hold: ♠J94 ♥QT6 ♦874 ♣AJ86

North and South are not a regular partnership. They are playing together because a teammate is sick. They are both good players. The 3♦ bid was very slow (about three minutes).

Which card do you lead?

**Eisenberg:** ♥10. Second choice is ♥Q.

superior.

**Goldsmith:** ♥Q. Wouldn't it be nice if declarer had a stiff ♥J?

**Wickham:** ♥Q=100, ♥10=90, other=0. WTP?

**Shuster:** ♥Q. Since nothing is particularly attractive, I'll try to make the bulletin, simultaneously unblocking hearts and knocking out declarer's entry. This may well stop them from scoring any club tricks. North's auction implies heart weakness. If hearts are Jxx in North and A/Kxx in declarer's hand, I still have the ♣A to lead them again.

*The panel likes leading a high heart. I tried the ♥Q at the table. Hearts were 3334 with the preemptor holding J9x, partner AKx, and declarer 8xxx. Oddly, I had given declarer a tempo to setting up the long heart which was his only possible ninth trick. My counterpart lead a spade which worked because partner held six small ones and it knocked out one of declarer's three stoppers. Shifting to a spade leaves the defenders a tempo behind. The reason I used this hand as a problem is that my partner commented later that if she had AKxx of hearts, she would have doubled. I thought possibly I should have given more weight to partner's pass over the 3♥ bid.*

**Meyerson:** ♥Q. This auction suggests that RHO may have weak hearts and wanted help in that suit before trying 3NT. My flat shape and weak diamond holding suggest an aggressive lead here.

**Sacks:** ♥Q. This feels right, though ♥10 might be

*Thank your unit columnist by sending them news.  
See you next month!*