

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 50, #2

February 2014

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Benjamin

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



Most of you know Peter Benjamin, the subject of this month's column. He is often seen promoting one of our tournaments, encouraging players to attend in addition to being a very good bridge player.

Peter was born in Brooklyn, New York prior to World War II. Soon after his father was drafted and sent to Italy, Peter was hospitalized with Polio. After a month in the hospital, the doctor recommended the family move west, so Peter, his mother and younger brother spent a week on a steam engine train to Arizona.

His mother thought it was too hot, so they returned to New York, but after Peter contacted mumps and chicken pox in a short period of time, the family returned to Arizona for good.

Peter has fond memories of his childhood in Phoenix. At that time, there were only 50,000 people in the Phoenix area. Peter and his family lived in an area where there were no telephones or paved roads and the iceman came in a horse drawn wagon. He walked several miles to and from school each day, uphill as he tells it, both ways.

His friends were a mixture of "white eyes" and Indians with whom he played football and baseball. One summer the kids cleared an empty lot so they could play baseball. Taking notice, the parents built a backstop. The owners of the field had planned to build an apartment complex on the lot but held off telling the kids, "as long as you play, you can stay." This lasted several years.

Peter still communicates regularly by email with some friends he went to first grade with and he is part of the reunion committee for their 60th high school reunion in 2017.

After high school, Peter tried to enlist in the service

PRESIDENT *continued on page 4*

Management Report

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



At the Phoenix NABC board meeting, Robert Hartman, our CEO presented his Management Report. I will focus on that report this month.

Membership

At the end of October 2013 ACBL membership stands at 167,912. This is a net gain of 1,504 additional members which is the highest gain in a single year since 1993.

Tournaments

Through October, Regional table count was down 6% with three fewer Regionals. Sectional table count was down 2% but STaCs were up 10%.

Atlanta NABC Review

Table count in Atlanta was 12,364 compared to the pre-tournament estimate of 12,500. The actual revenue over expenses was \$217,000 which was higher than projected. The post-NABC survey showed continued overall player satisfaction with over 85% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, "My overall experience with the Atlanta NABC was

DIRECTOR *continued on next page*

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2014 Grand National Teams Qualifying

2 sessions/day
Starts at 10 am

April 26-27: Flights A & C
Long Beach Bridge Center

May 3-4: Open and Flight B
Barrington Bridge Club

email:
howardeinberg@yahoo.com
for more information

DIRECTOR *continued from previous page*
excellent." As for the starting times of 10:00 and 3:00, the comments were equally divided between positive and negative comments.

Clubs & Membership Services

Zero Tolerance Management has developed a Zero Tolerance Workshop that debuted in Atlanta and was offered in Phoenix. The workshop is designed for Club Managers, Directors, and Owners to assist in how to deal with poor behavior at clubs. There will be articles in the Club managers newsletter and posters will be sent to all of the clubs in January.

Collegiate Championship Qualifying Game: The 2014 Collegiate Bridge Team

Championship will be held on Saturday February 15, 2014. It is a free online qualifying phase which will select the teams for the summer NABC in Las Vegas. Note: if any of our District 23 members are in college and want additional information, please contact me ASAP.

Club Tables Through September 2013: Face to face club table count was down 2.4% at 1,660,202 tables while online table count was 704,528 which is a 4.7% increase. Overall club table count is down by less than one half of one percent.

Other items of interest are that final drafts of the Youth Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy and the Substance Abuse Prevention Policy are almost completed, David White, a District 23 tournament director, has been hired to work as the internal programmer for the new ACBLscore+ project, and that the new ACBL Style Guide is complete and implementation at the corporate level has begun.

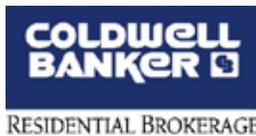
Finally, the Bridge Bulletin continues to be improved both in appearance and pages. Any comments you may have about the new look are welcomed.

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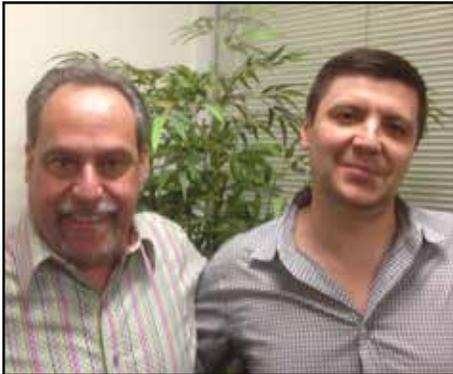
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It's a Different View from Dummy

I just got word that Phyllis Harlan, 2014 ACBL president, will be visiting our February Woodland Hills Regional. I hope everyone gets an opportunity to meet her. Phyllis and her husband Bill have become good friends and frequent teammates of Kathy and me during my term on the board. Until next time, you can always reach me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net

District 23 NAP Finals Finalized



Ed Piken and Viktor Anikovich



Ed Davis and Mitch Dunitz



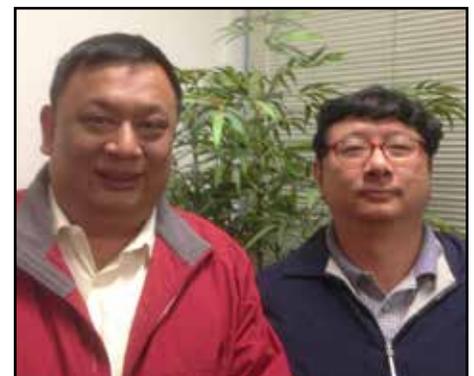
Bob Shore and Bruce Altshuler



Om Chokriwala and Neal Kleiner



Fred Upton and Steve Woelfler



Jeff Lang and Eric Tang

*by Mike Marcucci
D23 NAP Coordinator*

Our District ran the North American Pairs Finals at Barrington on January 12. We now have some happy folks headed to Dallas in March. In Flight A, Ed Piken and Viktor Anikovich put together 2 solid games to win by a margin of 3 full boards and took home 24 gold points in addition to \$700 each. Only slightly outdone, Ed Davis and Mitch Dunitz took 2nd place by 2 full boards over their nearest competition. A very close race for 3rd saw Bob and Ellen Kent beat out Shiu-Ming Huang and Amr Elghamry by half a point. That result was decided on the last board of the day. Heartbreak city.

For Flight B, Bob Shore and Bruce Altshuler repeated their win of last year. After placing 4th in St Louis, they have promised a round of drinks for the house if they win in Dallas. The 17 gold points and \$700 is some consolation in any event. 2nd place went to Om Chokriwala and Neal Kleiner who narrowly edged out Carol Frank & Judith Hasin-Brumshte by 1 match point. Ditto comment. The races for first place should be so close.

In Flight C, Fred Upton and Steve Woelfler also repeated as winners and have opened new bank accounts for their NAP winnings. Jeff Lang & Eric Tang took 2nd by 1 board over Jack and Nolan Chang who placed 3rd. Pictures of the folks who didn't run off too quickly!

The District is fortunate to again be able to supplement the ACBL awards to our 2nd and 3rd place winners by \$100 each. We are just able to afford this based on the size of our Semi-Final and Final games. If these games had a larger attendance, we would be able to afford even more, but for the time being, at least we are breaking even. Next year's competition will be for trips to New Orleans.

Very hearty congrats to all our players. These Semi and Final games are long days but we hope they are enjoyable for all. The scones and cupcakes baked by Candy Scott and Barbara Nusbaum certainly helped. Thanks to all.

During the next 15 years, Peter left bridge for a time to raise his family. Joclynn, his oldest, and her business partner own a successful corporation that works with children with special needs. The highly esteemed program features travel opportunities for children with special needs and their families. Joclynn has taken her families river rafting in Northern California, snorkeling in Hawaii, swimming with the dolphins in San Diego, skiing in Big Bear and this coming April she and her staff will accompany families to Tahiti and remain for a week to train Tahitians in how to work with children with special needs.

Stephanie, Peter's second daughter, also an entrepreneur, owns a company that offers CPR training and emergency equipment. Her company works closely with CERT, Culver City's emergency preparedness team.

Peter returned to bridge in the 1990's. Playing with Gene Freed, he won the Silver Ribbon Pairs event in 1995. Now he needs 1400 points to achieve the rank of Grand Life Master.

Today Peter is best known as our hardworking tournament manager. He participates in site selection and tournament scheduling and is a general errand boy, kept in line by his 'bridge wives,' Becky and Ellen. He works tirelessly promoting each tournament and would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it.

Thank you Peter.

District 23 Rank Changes December, 2013

Junior Master

Ann Ach
Don Adler
Andre Dimarco
Linda Gasset
Barbara Killebrew
Robert Kofnovec
Dixie Matte
Phyllis Wolf

Club Master

Rosemary Abrahamson
Mark Buchman
Faye Callen
Teri Cummings
Robert Eisenstein
Liang Fan
Linda Hedden
Barry Heller
John Hugunin
Julia Irzyk
George Koehm
Ruby Luke
Nancy Toussaint
Robert Williams

Sectional Master

Patricia Campuzano
Helen Cooksey
Shirley Eberle
Barbara Haines
Lilli Kalmenson
Anand Kumar
Tajie Major
Diana Menzer
Aggi Oschin
Sandy Rathbun
Evelyn Robinson
Susan Shane Schwab
Rae Yan

Regional Master

Richard Bakovic
Lee Hausner
Ruth Roe
Dan Spector

NABC Master

Colleen Bilas
Frances Every

Life Master

Donald Garner
Elaine Godin
Norman Imberman
Margie Lee
Fredy Minter

Bronze Life Master

Sharon Biederman
Joyce Henderson
Deborah Levinson
Carl Schiermeyer
Dennis Schmitz
Eva Seri

Silver Life Master

Gloria Feerst
Christine Frumen
Lamonte Johnson
Robert Malouf
Booth Tarkington

Gold Life Master

Roshen Hadulla
William Weingarden

Diamond Life Master

Bill Papa

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Paula Olivares

At the “After the Holidays - Holiday Party” at Valencia Bridge Studio a new board was elected: Paula Olivares - president, Ruth Baker - vice president, Bill Brodek - secretary, and Meressa Naftulin - treasurer. Other board members elected are: Basant Shah, Beth Morrin, Roy Ladd, Tracy Boys, and Rand Pinsky voting members. Onarita Pallenti was elected Sunshine Lady, a non-voting board position.

The upcoming Unit Games will be held on February 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Friendly Bridge Club and March 21 at 12:30 p.m. at the Joshua Tree Club.

The next Unit Board meeting will be held February 11, at 5:15 p.m. before the Valencia Bridge Studio game.

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

February, 8 2014
Board Meeting at 10:30
Lunch at 11:15, Unit Game at noon

As most of you have heard, after 40+ years in the same location, the Glendale Regency Bridge Club has lost its lease as of February 28, 2014. Apparently, the new owners of the building have plans to turn our space into an exercise room for the complex. A search for a new location for the club is underway. Hopefully, we’ll be able to report a new address in the March newsletter.

Meanwhile, games will continue as scheduled throughout the entire month of February. Please remember that all Saturday games, including Unit games, now begin at noon instead of 1:00.

As promised, this column includes results from last December’s Unit game, in addition to this January’s.

December results

N/S	
A1	John Barrow & Karen Arase
A2	Hugh Barlett & Nell Schanz
A3	Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
A4	Pat Abbey & Merry Besvold
A5	Ann Banta & Lynn Ryan

E/W	
A1	Caroline Cohen & Tim Lolli
A2	Jack Futrell & Shiu-Ming Huang
A3	Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
A4 B1	Nancy Lyon & Betsy Josias
A5	Steve Licker & Richard Sands
B2	Bill Brodek & Melanie Bartlett

January’s results

N/S	
A1	Hugh Barlett & Nell Schanz
A2	Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A3	Margery Gould & Donna Davidson
A4	Caroline Cohen & Tim Lolli

E/W	
A1	Shiu-Ming Huang & Bill Papa
A2 B1	Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
A3	Roshen Hadulla & Bill Brodek
A4 B2	Leon Alexander & Adam Barron
B3 C1	Betsy Josias & Nancy Lyon
B4	David Rozzell & Sharon Wolf
C2	Cristi Kubo & Carol Ashhacher

Please join us on February 8 for our final Unit game at, and farewell to, our home for the last 40 years. We’re planning an exciting exit.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: www.acblunit557.org

club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

December 22 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Usha Bansal/Rob Preece, 2nd Mark Teaford/Kimi Matsumoto, 3rd John and Jo Melis, 4th Diane Starbuck/Eddie Gruber, 5th Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle, 6th Simon and Lena Cheng, 7th Bee Kinman/Verna Burns, 8th Fern and Hank Dunbar. In the B flight overall: 4th Eileen Nelson/Julie Cunningham, 5th Diane Sachs/Sue Fardette, 6th Renee Hoffman/Kiyo Nagaishi. In the C flight overall Eleth Fields/Linda White were 2nd. Results in the NLM section: 1st Pam Cronn/Nancy Toussaint, 2nd Ralph Brunson/Tim Panik, 3rd Mimi Strickler/Bert Nielsen, 4th Bill Dilks/Jerry Reid. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: December 16 through January 15: In open games Dec 30 Paul Pettler/Patricia Ann Jay had 71.25% and Jan 8 (evening) John and Jo Melis had 70.42%. In 199er games Jan 8 (afternoon) Rick Schaeffer/Martin Lipman had 70% and Jan 11 Donna

Kupfer/Carol Lopresti had 71.25%. Congratulations to all four pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards in open games December 16 through January 15: Dec 16 John Killian/Betti Harris won 4.00mp for 1st, Verna Baccus/Lorrie Schramm won 3.00mp for 2nd. Jan 7 Marcie Evans/Jon Yinger won 4.20mp for 1st. Jan 8 Bob Mault/Verna Baccus won 3.38mp for 1st. Jan 10 John Petrie/Gabrielle Sills won 4.90mp for 1st, Wei Pei/Steve Sturm won 3.68 for 2nd. Jan 13 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 3.36 for 1st. Jan 14 Paddy Jay/Paul Pettler won 3.79 for 1st. And Jan 15 Mark Teaford/Gary Paugh won 3.36 for 1st. Congratulations to all!

New Memeber: Ralph Brunson. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Sectional Masters: Peter Giotta, Gayl Knapp. New Regional Master: Shirley Knopf. New NABC Masters: Susan Bibby, Roy Tomooka, Karen Watson. Congratulations to you all!

Get Well Wishes to Mark Teaford →



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FREE PARKING

Monday, March 31
9:00 AM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
1:15 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tues KO Teams Rd 1 of 3
7:00 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tues KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Tuesday, April 1
9:00 AM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tues KO Teams Rd 3 of 3
1:15 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tues-Wed KO Teams Rd 1 of 3
7:00 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tues-Wed KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Wednesday, April 2
9:00 AM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tues-Wed KO Teams Rd 3 of 3
1:15 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thur KO Teams Rd 1 of 3
7:00 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thur KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Thursday, April 3
9:00 AM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thur KO Teams Rd 3 of 3
1:15 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
7:00 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams

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

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: 0-100/200/300**

*KO events may be handicapped

Thank you for not wearing fragrance

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Upcoming Events at the Club: Sunday Feb 2 Groundhog Day Unit Rated game. Feb 9-15 Junior fund Week, extra points, regular prices. Feb 16 Unit Game. Lunch at 12:30, game begins at 1 pm.

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Results: December 16-overall winners: Sue Fardette/Vince Remedios 1st in A and B. Joyce Henderson/Coleen Gardner 2nd in A and B. Simone Chottin/Fred Benedetti 3rd in A and B. Jeanette Estill/John Chang 4th in A and B. LaVonne McQuilkin/Janet Wagner 5th in A. Larry Slutsky/Bill Linskey 6th in A. Joan and Ted Wiber 5th in B. Thuan Gwynn/Cookie Pham 1st in C. Tied for 2nd in C: Jean Byer/George Koehm, Audrey Healy/Joyce Newton, and Bobbie and Brent Johanssen.

Congratulations to Betty Jackson on being nominated to be District 23's Goodwill Committee for 2014.

Rancho Mirage Regional: Joan Tschirki and Sharon Beran earned 9.27mp and 7.16mp, respectively. Our Thursday director Diane Sachs earned 8.90mp. Some of our regular guests had a great week: Joyce Henderson 15.45mp, Sharon Biederman 14.75mp, Melanie and Jerry Smith 14.17mp each, and Kiyu Nagaishsi 7.41mp. Congratulations to all.

Upcoming Club Championship Dates: Clubhouse #3, March 6. Clubhouse #1, Friday, April 11 and Saturday April 19.

Upcoming Unit Rated Games: Clubhouse #3, Thursday February 20.

If you have any news for next month's column, please email me at jc90740@gmail.com. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org.

Get the Unit 557 newsletter via email: Send me your e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marie Nimmrich

Unit Game: 16 February 1:00 p.m.
San Marino Recreation Center

What is there about a new year that makes people feel celebratory and joyful? When you come down to it, time is just passing as if it were an ordinary day. What is it that brings out the fact that people shoot off firecrackers? Shoot off guns? Yell and scream as though they were chasing away the past and longing for a new start? And everyone has the feeling of happiness and prosperity being just around the corner. I think that is the answer: a new start; a clean slate; goodbye to all your troubles and your faults and your mistakes. Maybe this is a good thing. Maybe it is right for people to be optimistic and feel good about themselves one night, at least, out of the year. "And how does all this apply to our game of bridge?" you ask.

Take a penetrating look across the bridge table and you will see your friend and companion-- your partner. It is not too late to make a new start with the person who chooses you to share triumphs and errors. Here is the one to whom, when a mistake is made, you can say, "You did your best, partner." Isn't it time to make a new year's resolution toward your partner and demonstrate some appreciation?

And speaking of partners, our Pasadena San Gabriel Unit has a partner to whom we want to give thanks and praise. That partner is the Glendale Unit. They came to our aid during our annual Holiday Party and really showed how neighborly people can be. Many of their members supported the party and brought food, talent and playing skills. Our emcee was Patrick Cardullo from the Glendale Unit. We want to acknowledge our neighbors and thank them heartily for their support. And, of course, our own Karen Arase showed her talents for arranging the party and making the atmosphere decorative and cheerful. Karen is so artistic and has a plethora of ideas to make any event a special treat. Thanks also to our unit board members who were her assistants and indefatigable in their efforts to make everyone welcome. It was indeed a splendid party.

January Unit Game: Twenty (actually 19½) tables of players came to our January unit game. Amongst them were Carole and Frank Grant who brought delectable food for the luncheon. That started the proceedings on a salutary note. When the afternoon's entertainment ended, guess who emerged the victors? None other than Frank and Carole Grant. There is a message there. Second/third (tie) were Rae and Jerry Murbach tied with Lulu Minter and Bill Papa; fourth were a charming couple who recently moved here →

from New Jersey and we are lucky that they have joined our unit. They are Marty and Bev Weiss. I hope all you unit members will make them feel welcome.

New Members: A hearty welcome to our new members who came to our unit in January: Mimi Hanzel, Jonathan Hart, Ramona Hernandez and Matt Leung.

Board of Directors for Unit 559: Each year in March we host our annual Election Party for the purpose of (hopefully) electing a new slate of candidates for our unit board. Here is how it works. There are 12 board members, each elected for a two-year term. However, the terms are alternated yielding 6 elected board members each year. In the old days there was actually a real slate and people were given real pencils to mark their real ballots. This, regrettably, came to an end some years back and people who are on the board usually stay on the board indefinitely. So to call this party an "Election Party" is somewhat of a misnomer. What it really has become is our annual Membership Meeting. Board members are announced and awards given for performance throughout the preceding year. Anyway, you get the idea and it is a fun gathering. Board members already have tickets to sell and it is a good idea to purchase them early. The party will take place at the Arcadia Community Center (where the Holiday Party was held) on Sunday 2 March. Cost is the same: \$35.00 per ticket, which includes a pairs game, a dinner and a swiss team event.

Current board members who will continue to serve for another year are: Bernie Mateer, Frank Grant, Ann Raymond, Amr Elghamry and Karen Arase. There is a vacancy which will be filled at the party. Cliff Cates is no longer with the board and I heard a rumor that Mary Downey will take his place. She will be most excellent. Board members who are up for another term are: Peter Szecsi, Miriam Harrington, Mary Falvey, Mike Marcucci, Sandra Franciscus and Marie Nimmrich. Will they continue to serve our unit as faithfully as they have done? We shall discover this at the Election Party.

If **you** are interested in being on our Board of Directors, please see Peter Szecsi to get on the ballot. We are always looking for new faces and new talents.

Mike Marcucci is writing a history of Unit 559. You would be amazed at the material he has collected and the sources he has used to unearth all this prehistoric information. I have begged him for a preview of his material but no way is anyone allowed to see it until completion. It will be a great production, I am sure. He

has a list of unit members of whom he does not know the first names. Perhaps here is a place to appeal to anyone who happens to have known the people on the list. He is looking for first names: W. L. Antoine, Mrs. G. M. Beckwith, W. L. Byrne, J. S. Byrnes, C. V. Carter, B. J. Clougher, Major S. M. Cohee, Dr. W. G. Creamer, Ms. V. L. Dierker, Mrs. J. C. Elliot, C. C. Fitzgerald, N. Griffin, J. R. Hall, D. W. Hamblin, Mrs. F. J. Hillman, Mrs. C. F. Hodges, S. B. Hutchinson, R. G. Jones, R. N. Klein, H. E. Littler, L. G. MacKenzie, Mrs. M. Martin, C. H. McKenna, Mrs. W. E. Miller, G. T. Moore, R. C. Pender. More next month. There are two pages of first names for these people.

February Unit Game: PLEASE NOTE!!! Our next unit game will be Sunday February 16. The first Sunday is Super Bowl Sunday; the second Sunday we could not get the facility. So our unit game will be held on the third Sunday in February at the San Marino Recreation Center at 1:00 p.m. Come early for food.

Sorry to report the death of Peggy Brain, as sweet a bridge player as you could know.

Bob Malouf recently had heart surgery and we hope he is recuperating in a timely fashion. We miss you, Bob.

Nolan Chang is going to Turkey. Sorry I don't know details but it must be a world-wide bridge competition. We are so proud of you, Nolan, and wish you the very best.

This tantalizing document has reached its conclusion. And so, until next time

Pax vobiscum

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, February 15, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, Feb 1, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne site

We start of this month with the somewhat-delayed results of the December Unit game. Top honors went to Amr Elghamry - Shiu-Ming Huang with their 64% effort. Next in line were Vic Sartor - Hans Hehnke, Cordell Goode - Genise Hasan, Rand Pinsky - Penny Barbieri, and a tie for fifth place by Eileen Finlay - Timothy Finlay and James Griffin Jr - Bill Papa. →

This game was also host to our annual Christmas celebration. The nuclear-powered punch flowed freely, leading to some... interesting... scores. (This was of course the Regular blend. The Unleaded wasn't nearly as popular. Can't think why.)

The January Individual was captured by Roger Boyar, with Clint Lew and Your Correspondent close behind Linda Tessier took first place honors in flight B. The January Unit game was won by Amr Elghamry - Shiu-Ming Huang, with Ann Raymond - Margie Hall in second place, followed by Bill Papa - James Griffin Jr, Clinton Lew - Patricia Radamaker, and Anand Kumar - Kiran Kumar (who also took first in flight C).

Promotions this month

Ray Malki to Sectional Master
Susie Emminger to Bronze Life Master

The top game this month was 69.3% by Fredy and Lu Minter, just edging out a couple of 68+% efforts by Walt Otto – Richard Patterson, and Bill Papa – Vic Sartor. With the return to a full post-holiday schedule, there were a lot of winners this month: Denise Morgan, Hans Hehnke, Amr Elghamry, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, Gino Barbieri, Larry Clark, Ann McClelland, Ron Purkis, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Tom Lill, Penny Barbieri, Barbara Killebrew, Karen McCarthy, and Suzanne Wojcik.

La Fetra celebrated the new year with a bang, hand-of-the-month wise. At the very first session of 2014, the following hands all came up in a **single round**. We will present them without (much) comment, for your amusement and possible edification.

Second in hand, with only your side vulnerable, you pick up this rock nice hand:

♠-- ♥A32 ♦AK2 ♣AKQ6432

Whether you would have opened 2♣ (playing Standard, of course) will never be known, because RHO opens in front of you! That leaves not much for the other two players. Various ugly contracts were reached at all tables. I say “ugly” because this gem is what partner is looking at:

♠J87653 ♥T964 ♦973 ♣--

No one can make anything. Top score in your direction was ... hold your breath ... -500. Scores your way went from that all the way to -1100. Easy game,

Bridge.

On the very next deal, this collection showed up (this time it's your opponents with the freak):

♠-- ♥97 ♦AQ98432 ♣KT73

facing

♠JT98 ♥AK5 ♦T765 ♣AQ

Well, these hands at least fit fairly well. Too bad they aren't your cards.

The third board:

♠AQ ♥AKJT874 ♦Q ♣A92

facing

♠KJT62 ♥6 ♦K532 ♣T83

And of course, nothing breaks, so you can't make anything.

Finally, the last board of the round:

♠AJ9 ♥AKQJT92 ♦-- ♣A64

facing

♠52 ♥73 ♦KQT92 ♣T732

Nice major suit holding, but oh, those minors ...

Let's recap: four 7-card suits, one 6-carder, and three voids in four deals. (The odds of any one hand having a void are about 20-1 against.) All these boards were hand-dealt. And you complain about the weird computer-dealt hands at the tournaments!!!

Quote for the month: “Never try to teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time, and it annoys the pig.” (Robert A. Heinlein)

Until next month ...

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

Club Championship: Friday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.
Club Swiss Team Championship: Tues, Feb 11, 7 p.m.
NLM Club Championship: Thurs, Feb 13, 10:30 a.m.
Handicapped Swiss Teams, Tuesday Nights \$2/player
Friday Night games on February 7 and 21

Gerri Carlson and Arlene Greengard will continue with free Bridge lessons at the South Bay Bridge Club. They are conducting lessons on Thursday evenings →

from 6:30 PM to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 9:30 AM to 11:30 a.m.

Club Championships

The January 8 Club Championship was led by Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Sandra Satlin/John Campbell winning Flight B and Booth Tarkington/Robert Van Lone ahead in Flight C. On January 13 the Club Championship was won by Gaye Herrington/Lucy Gellner in Flight A, Marty Cooper/Charles LaFranchi in Flight B and Stan Greengard/Glen Musicer in Flight C. The Club Appreciation Championship on January 15 was headed by John Brailliar/Robert Rothman in Flight A with Harry Wessells/Ed Srenco ahead in Flight B.

At Veterans Park Park the December 16 Club Championship resulted in a tie for Flight A honors between James and Judith Scott plus Frankie Victor/Marilyn Daeschner who also took Flight B honors. On December 18 the Veterans Park Club Championship was won by Patricia Berg/Pam Gudish in Flights A and B with Susan Hoose/Virginia Brewer taking Flight C honors.

At Anderson Park the December 20 Championship was led by Ron Srenco/Neil Kleiner in Flight A with Robert Johnson/Linda Klein winning Flight B and James Hieatt/Myron Leister on top in Flight C.

Team Winners

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

December 17: John Brailliar, Wayne Otsuki, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

January 7: CVal Gamio, Carole Mason, Jim Dutton, Bronck FELCzer

January 14: John Brailliar, John Jones, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

Agile Bridge Club News

Here is some recent news received from the Hermosa Beach Agile Bridge Club.

Jeff Grotenhuis' Agile Bridge Club located in Hermosa Beach has been in a duel recently with the Redondo Beach Club for the largest sanctioned game in the beach cities. In October, the Tuesday 12:15pm 199r

Hermosa Beach game reached 19 tables. The average table count for October in Hermosa Beach was higher than the count at the Wednesday 12:30pm open game at the Redondo Beach Veterans Center. This was the first time in at least eight years that Redondo Beach did not have the largest sanctioned game in the Beach Cities. Not taking the news lightly, Redondo Beach took back the title of largest game in November.

In December, Jeff Grotenhuis along with his three teammates from Manhattan Beach: Ruth Ann Poppa, Elaine Godin and Robert Fieselman won Division 7 of the Indian Wells Knock Outs at the Palm Springs Regional. It was team captain Ruth Ann Poppa's first KO victory in 43 years!

Having taught bridge to over 300 players in two years, Jeff Grotenhuis will start anew on January 13. Beginning and returning players will be welcomed with 4 Weeks of Free Classes. Lessons will be held Mondays from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club 2515 Valley Drive. No partner is required. Sign up by emailing or calling Jeff Grotenhuis 310-600-4275, jeffgro@gmail.com. To learn more visit www.agilebridgeclub.com.

Milestones

Sadly our unit lost two of its members this past month. We all offer our condolences to Jean Brunner whose husband and ofttimes Bridge partner Hal Brunner recently passed away. It also has been reported that Robert Svensrud, who often played in the Tuesday night team game also passed away this month. Our condolences to his family.

Great Western STAC

Listed in the following are pairs who placed in the overalls during the gigantic Great Western STAC in games played at the South Bay Bridge Club.

- Monday Morning, December 16
- 2A John Brailliar/John Mohan
- Wednesday Morning, December 18
- 3A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott
- 5A Lucy Gellner/John Farr
- 7A Ray Mack/Fran Israel
- 10C Mike Welsh/Norm Imberman

Thursday Morning 499ers, December 19
 1A 1B 1C Tajie Major/Ellen Tarlow
 5A Beebe Morehead/Marianne David
 6B Al Zirkes/Rae Yan

His last name is Hamman.

Na Zdrowie

Friday Morning 99er, December 20
 4/5A 3/4B Richard Hargrove/Russell LeFevre
 4/5A 3/4B Rae Yan/Sandy Rathbun

Friday Evening Aux Pairs, December 20
 4A Gabriela Jackson/Mark Raggio

Saturday Afternoon, Aux Pairs, December 21
 3A 3B 1C Norm Imberman/Mike Welsh

GUV Memorial Award

Everybody has been too good this month so I have been forced to go back to a long ago GUV Award. Long time partner of mine, Dick Cheng, hasn't been seen as often as we would like around the South Bay Bridge Club recently. We all hope he will pick up his attendance. I have included the following about the first time I ever came up against Dick a long time ago.

Unit Trivia - History Lesson

Memories of a unit sectional tournament more years ago than I would like to admit to brings back not-so-fond memories of my first encounter with Dick Cheng, who was then a rising star in the local Bridge world. I think his Bridge career was put on hold for 35 years or so shortly after this tournament when he did something foolish and married a non Bridge playing lady.

Back then sectionals often had two session open pairs where the first session was qualifying for a final (or consolation if things didn't go so well). My partner (who has since faded into bridge obscurity) and I were beginners playing in a tough event like this for the very first time. We surprised ourselves and managed to qualify for the final against the big boys with little to spare. We got kicked around pretty bad in the final and Dick helped contribute to it.

I was declaring one notrump and Dick took a shot in the dark on opening lead and hit partners suit, the only lead that can set me. After the hand was over I had to endure listening to Dick chortle "I hit, I hit." Dick's partner at the time did not fade into bridge obscurity.

West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Games: February 7, 26, March 24

And the Award Goes to . . .

We'll start this month's column by recognizing our Unit's Mini McKenney winners. This award goes to the player in each Unit, each District, and in the ACBL, who wins the most masterpoints in his or her category in a year. This year's top rookie was Paula Nataf. Sue Hunter led the way among Junior Masters, and Homa Nasserli was the Unit's top Club Master. Lee Hausner led all Sectional Masters, Jerry Goodman topped the field among Regional Masters, and Jim Brunet picked up the award among NABC Masters.

The best performance among "ordinary" Life Masters was turned in by Jodie Rachmil. Bill Rogers took the award among Bronze Life Masters and your Humble Scribe got the win among Silver Life Masters. Viktor Anikovich headed the field among Gold Life Masters, Reese Milner took top honors among Diamond Life Masters, and Aram Bedros was the winning Emerald Life Master. Our top-performing Grand Life Master was Becky Clough.

A Good Cause

I hope you were one of the players at the 16 tables who turned out For Cyma's Charity Game in memory of her late husband, Jerry. The word is that the event raised a boatload of money for Alzheimer's research. This was a wonderful sendoff for Cyma, who has informed this reporter that she is shutting down her game as of the end of January. First overall at the game went to Ellen Anten and Steve Gross. I have fond memories of Cyma's Game, as it's where I made my return to bridge after a seven-year hiatus imposed by the start of my legal career. We look forward to seeing more of Cyma at the table.

Barrington is resuming its Saturday games. Show up at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, and not only will you find food, but the price of the game includes a hot lunch. →

I, for one, found the food quite tasty, and of course any day spent playing bridge is a good one. Check it out. You'll be glad you did. Meanwhile, of course, Beverly Hills is continuing its lecture series before its evening games on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

A Little Business

As you may recall, the members of our Unit Board were reelected unanimously when it was determined that they'd scared off all of the competition. We selected officers for the coming year. This reporter was again honored with the opportunity to serve as Unit President. Karen Byrd will be our Vice President, Roger Clough continues to serve as our Treasurer (a position he accepted after Fred Mautner passed), and Jordan Chodorow is still our Secretary. We thank all of our volunteers, both on and off the Board, for all of their contributions to the events we so enjoy.

Calm Before the Storm?

Fewer winners than usual to report this month. My guess is that everyone is saving their energy for our Unit's usual domination of the Woodland Hills Regional. Rhoda and Lew Himmell won the Monday afternoon session of the Great Western STAC, and Mike Savage went down to Dana Point and won the Saturday Open Pairs event. In the North American Open Pairs, Viktor Anikovich was the top-qualifying Flight A pair, while your Humble Scribe and Bruce Altshuler eked out a win in Flight B. We look forward to a strong performance from all of our District's pairs in Dallas.

Any Excuse Will Do

Our next Unit Game will be a Unit-Wide Championship held February 7, the first full day of the 2014 Winter Olympics. Try wearing some red, white, or blue (or your national colors, if you hail from somewhere else) to commemorate the occasion. We'll do it again on February 26, as National Pistachio Day marks your occasion to go a little nutty. And definitely don't miss our March Unit-Wide Championship on

March 24, which (I'm informed) celebrates National Chocolate-Covered Raisins Day.

Welcome Mat

Quite a few new members to report and welcome this month. Langdon Faust, Jerrold and Judith Felsenthal, Jill Richling-Thesma, and Phyllis Wold have all joined the ACBL, and we look forward to seeing them at the table. Rose Boot has finally made her move to our Unit official — also transferring in are John and Sheila Bray. Please be sure to welcome these players when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Last month's club champions at Barrington were Art Zail and Wallis Annenberg, Robert Levy and Sally Aminoff, and Roger Clough and Richard Vincent. Scoring up 70% games were Elizabeth Bown, Karen Comegys, Hans Kraepelien, Michael Nash, Aram Bedros, and Art Zail.

Beverly Hills club champions over the last month were Joyce Lelah and Alan Wollman, Anna Corea and Kurt Fritz, Lew and Rhoda Himmell (twice), Nancy Heck and Danny Kleinman, and Pat Bessone and Sherman Gao. Hitting the 70% mark were Lew and Rhoda Himmell, Donna Massman and Viktor Anikovich, and Joyce Lelah and Lou Papp.

Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Sandra Goldman, Joyce Powell, Helene Winkler, and Sandra Young. Making the leap to Club Master are Karen Gidwitz, Zorina Pelant, and Miles Rubin. Moving up to Sectional Master are Jeannette Christy, Tam Lachoff, and Anne-Lise Scott.

Marion Tumen is now a Bronze Life Master. Colin Gordon has reached Silver Life Master and Unit Recorder Gene White is now a Diamond Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

LA Regional | Woodland Hills, CA | February 17-23, 2014

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

Panelists: Jeff Goldsmith, John Jones, Mr. Mealy-mouth, John Swanson and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
EW vul

South	West	North	East
?	1♥	3♣	5NT

You South hold: ♠ -- ♥9762 ♦T85 ♣AT8643
What call do you make?

GOLDSMITH: 7♣. We probably only go for 500 in 7♣ versus their grand slam. How to get to play in 7♣? If West has the club void, nothing will work, as he'll make some forcing pass or cue bid, and East will bid a grand. If West has the club, an immediate 7♣ gives us a decent chance for a good result. *[Jeff assumed 5NT was "pick a slam." But with only one suit bid, most would play that it asks partner to bid 7♥ with 2 of the top 3 honors].* Should I show my void? West will double and someone will bid 7♠. How about psyching a void I don't have (6♦)? A clever West might pass to let East play the hand, but psyching might work. I'll be prosaic and bid 7♣, hoping that their problem is hard enough. Mine sure is. If East bids 7♥, I'll have another problem, which I ought to solve before bidding 7♣, but I've written more than enough already.

JONES: 6♠. What a fun hand! A spade lead from partner will obviously beat 7♥. If RHO declares 7♣, I will lead a heart (whether partner doubles or not), and expect partner to ruff. 7NT is already wrong sided with me on opening lead. I'll double and likely take the first seven tricks against 7NT. If I wind up on lead against 7♦, I'll again lead a heart for partner to ruff. 7♣ is not going down more than three tricks. I think the best the opponents can do at this point is to NOT double 6♠ and let me play there undoubled down 12

for minus 600.

MR. MEALY-MOUTH: 7♣. This will be a profitable save if they double, and at the same time, avoid warning them of the Lightner Double I shall make if they bid 7♥ (partner will Lightner-double if East then guesses to run to 7♠).

SWANSON: 7♣. West is certain to bid 7♥ which I will double for a spade lead. That is, if East is planning to play in hearts rather than spades.

WITTES: 6♠. Seems clear cut. I'm going to take the 7♣ dive against 6♥, and I want a spade lead against 7♥. I hope partner has the good sense not to bid 7♣ over 7♥ (LOL).

Rarely is bridge so close to poker as it is on this hand. Do you bluff, raise the pot or stand pat? It seems like 7♣ is only going down 3 or 4 tricks versus the opponents' sure small slam. Should they bid 7♥, you can double and hope partner leads a spade rather than a diamond. Should they bid 7♠, you can lead a heart and hope partner can ruff. There is no guarantee – East may have something like ♠AKQJTxx ♥KJx ♦Axx ♣-- and intend to play 7♠ all along.

2

MPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♥	pass	3♠	pass
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠9 ♥AJ96543 ♦AQ ♣QT7

What call do you make?

GOLDSMITH: 4♠. The ♠9 may be a good card. I figure partner has something like ♠KQ108xx ♥x ♦Kxx ♣Kxx. Game isn't cold, but it's good enough.

JONES: 3NT. This is a tough problem. It's fairly easy to come up with layouts where our best contract is either 3♠, 3NT, 4♥, or 4♠. 3NT has the advantage that that partner is still in the picture. He will be somewhat reluctant to pass 3NT. *[I don't see why partner wouldn't accept your decision]* If he bids again he will be right. I would love to see a simulation on this problem.

MR. MEALY MOUTH: Pass. My hearts are too weak for 4♥, my hand is too weak for 3NT, and I'd want the spade queen to raise to 4♠.

SWANSON: Pass. I suppose I could pretend it is IMPs and take a shot at 4♥, but the best chance for a plus score is to pass 3♠ and hope partner's spade suit doesn't have many holes. I will put in an advertisement for using a 2♠ response to 1♥ (or one of a minor) as invitational so I don't have to go set in 3♠ so often.

WITTES: 4♠. I'm playing partner for a very good suit, probably 7 cards, and little else. We may need a diamond finesse or a trump break to make, but worth the risk.

At IMP's, bidding a game seems right, though it's not clear which one is best. At matchpoints, however, there is less motivation to bid game than there is to achieve a plus score. I'm for going low on this hand and passing 3♠.

3

IMPs
EW vul

South	West	North	East
		pass	1♠
pass	1NT	2♣	2♥
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠QT8542 ♥A3 ♦AK32 ♣A

What call do you make?

GOLDSMITH: DBL. This shows a penalty double of spades with tolerance for hearts. I don't know that 2♥ is going down, but passing seems too cowardly when their primary source of tricks may be endplaying me in spades.

JONES: DBL. Are the backs of the cards all the same color? Looking at what the other players have shown, there shouldn't be nearly this much left for me. I doubt that doubling will be met by three consecutive green cards. I'm going to guess that partner will bid 3♣ *[why would partner ever pull when they haven't promised much of anything?]*, which I will pass. But if I am on lead against 2♥X, I'll lead the trump ace and probably follow that with the ♣A and then my second heart.

MR. MEALY MOUTH: Pass. The auction isn't over (West may be about to raise or take a spade preference) *[dream on Mr. M!]*, so despite my spade stack, I won't double until the opponents appear to have finished bidding. I've seen too many high cards ruffed off and too many contracts make on fit.

SWANSON: 3♣. I would prefer to defer my call until after West bids. As the rules don't provide for that and I am unwilling to defend 2♥ in the blind, I'll risk 3♣.

WITTES: 3♣. Partner must have a good 6-card club suit and little else. By raising clubs, the opponents might also get too high in hearts, thinking their length in clubs means partner is short. The only thing that bothers me a little is why didn't partner open 3♣ at this vulnerability?

It's certainly possible that partner didn't open 3♣ because he also has 4 hearts. In that case, the opponents are mired in bidding quickstand if I start doubling. On the other hand, will partner ever pull with ♠x ♥xx ♦Qxx ♣KJT9xxx? Yes, partner could have opened 3♣, but can you blame her for bidding now?

4

MPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
		1♠	pass
2♣	pass	2♥	pass
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠64 ♥AK4 ♦65 ♣AQT874
 What call do you make?

5

IMPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
	1♣	pass	pass
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠-- ♥AQJT4 ♦KJT9763 ♣K
 2NT shows 19-21 balanced
 What call do you make?

GOLDSMITH: 3♣. The only easy one of the set. Yes, a 4-3 heart fit might be best, but there's lots of room between 3♣ and 4♥ to find one if we need to, and unlike Marshall, I'm not willing to commit to hearts immediately.

JONES: 3♣. The only alternative is 3♥, but that will get partner to overestimate my trump length. My clubs are reasonable, so I'll rebid them. This would be a bigger headache before the days of 2/1 game forcing. If partner bids 3♦ or 3♥, I'll support hearts.

MR. MEALYMOUTH: 3♣. Depends on system. An automatic 3♦ playing old fashioned Standard American, an automatic 3♣ playing 2/1.

SWANSON: 3♣. These cards provide a temptation to bid 3♥, likely heading to a 4-3 heart game. The club ten keeps me on the straight path, going with the field. If partner holds the doubleton jack, notrump is apt to provide not only a better play for game, but a higher scoring one.

WITTES: 3♣ (if playing 2/1). If not, I guess I have to bid 3♦, though I don't like it.

It seems to me that the panelists are not envisioning partner's problem after a 3♣ rebid. What can he/she do with ♠AKxxx ♥QJxx ♦Qxx ♣x other than bid 3NT which would seem to be a very poor contract whereas 4♥ has much better play?

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

GOLDSMITH: 5♦. Who knows? 5♦ may be cold or it may be a good save versus 4♠ or a stupid contract versus ♠KQ10x ♥Kxxx ♦x ♣xxxx. If West is 6-5 (or 5-5) in the blacks, I've done the right thing. If he's 18-19 balanced, I can still catch ♠Jxxxx ♥Kxx ♦Qx ♣xxx. With 13 spades missing, I suspect West's hand is mostly black cards, so let's put on some pressure.

JONES: 1♦. Why make some exotic or misdescriptive bid here? With the other 3 players having 25 black cards between them, someone ALWAYS bids. I will bid 3♥ or 4♥ on the next round. Partner should then have a decent view of my hand.

MR. MEALYMOUTH: 1♦. Then hearts, more hearts and more diamonds, if necessary. Yes, I expect about three more turns if I take it slow. *[Optimistic Mr. M that the 13 spades out there will remain silent.]*

SWANSON: 1♦. The breaks will have to be really ugly for this to be set.

WITTES: 2♦. Should be intermediate. If the auction is kept alive (hopefully), I will bid and rebid hearts.

I'm surprised that no panelist suggested 3♦. That would make it much more difficult for West to bid again with an intermediate 6-5 or 5-5 type hand.

Thanks to this month's panelists. Please come out to the Woodland Hills Regional (Feb. 17-23) where our panelists would be happy to discuss these hands with you.