

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 52, #10

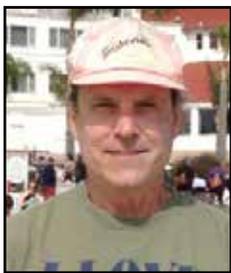
October 2016

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Bridging the Gap

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



Thanks to everyone who attended our Long Beach Hilton tournament. We had nothing but positive feedback from players and look forward to 2017 at the same location. As most know, we have no October tournament this year, so you may wonder what the District is up to

with a long layoff between tournaments.

We will be working on all the other things your Boad of Directors does besides arranging regionals. If we pull out the Org Chart (on the website), we see Education, ByLaws, Finances, NA Pairs, Grand National Teams, Web Site, STaCs, ABA, and the Bridge News. All of those are year-round functions for those individuals or committees. See the individuals noted if you are interested in helping out. All the units around Los Angeles work on many of the same subjects, and it is part of the District's function to tie those efforts together and coordinate between units so we learn from one another.

Education is a busy activity right now. Sharon Biederman in Long Beach has obtained a "Learn Bridge in a Day" license for 2016 and many units are conducting those workshops. Long Beach and South Bay are scheduled within days and a Beverly Hills series is close upon us. See the info for these three events right on the D23 website. John Ramos is also planning a series at a to-be-determined location later this year. Those work-

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## Washington DC Bridge

by Kevin Lane, District Director



*Bridge is a game  
and should be fun*

### Bridge on your smartphone?

People do crossword puzzles and Sudoku on smartphones. Why not

bridge?

Nowadays many ACBL newcomers don't come ready-made with bridge knowledge: they need to be taught the game from scratch. I see a bridge "app" for smartphones as an important step in keeping the general public knowledgeable about bridge and bridge-related games. Exposing the public to bridgetype games makes it easier to convert members to bridge when their lifestyle allows it.

The ACBL Education Foundation announced a technology contest to move in the direction of a bridge app. The contest is to write a program that is a prototype of a working bridge app. The prize is \$20K, possibly divided into multiple \$5K prizes. For those interested, details of the contest can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/acbleducationfoundationorg/home/contest>

### Charity Grants

It's my pleasure to announce additional charity grants to the ALACBU Scholarship Fund, Rainbow Services, WomenShelter of Long Beach, Single Mothers Outreach of Santa Clarita, and American Diabetes Association – Anand Kumar Diabetes Fund.

In a previous column I mentioned the first grant recipient, West Valley Food Pantry in Woodland Hills. All these organizations share two common threads: they are deserving charities, and they were chosen because a group of district or unit volunteers deemed their cause important.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 3*

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

shops are a continuing activity with all the participants and, hopefully, will lead to an influx of new players to all our clubs for practice of their new skills. I say that with a grain of salt because it is no secret that this game takes a long time to learn. Having fun along the way makes it tolerable for the impatient. I keep hearing that one of ACBL's main problems is keeping members after the first year of membership. Many players join for a while, then lose interest or are driven away by you-name-it. The burden falls on all of us to ensure positive experiences for these new players. Please think of that the next time you play a novice.

Organization ByLaws are a subject that doesn't come up very often. They are worth reviewing periodically to self-evaluate. A review of ours shows them to be out of date. Bob Kent will be conducting a review and submitting several mods to update the committee content for our 2016 organization rather than the 80's description there now. We'll try for better efficiency.

Speaking of the NAP, we had 57 Qual games this summer around LA and 1105 players qualified for the next round. C players should note that this is the **only** event in ACBL where gold points can be earned (in the

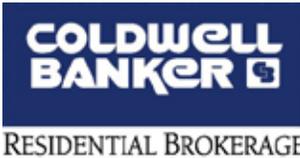
finals) against players with no more than 500 total MPs. See the flyers for the next round Semi's.

On the subject of tournaments, our next two are scheduled for the LAX Sheraton in Feb 17 and the Long Beach Hilton in Jul 17. Let me tell you that the average player would not believe the difficulty in constructing a schedule. We had the July 17 draft finished almost a month ago. Is it out yet? The Hilton is warming up the welcome wagon for us and we are still coordinating things with ACBL! We are also talking with the Glendale Hilton about October 17. Has anyone visited there lately? Nice place. We are working the proposal. If we can agree on something reasonable, there is no reason we can't give them repeat business year after year.

Besides worrying about tournament arrangements and writing columns, I actually try to play bridge once in a while. It is still humorous to sit down at a local tournament and have an opponent look at my badge and ask "Where is District 23 by the way?" It happened at Magic Mountain last weekend and I had to smile. Hopefully, my partner won't ask the same question any time soon. We have conventions to talk about!

There is another chance to support our District 22 friends in a couple of weeks in Ventura. See you there. Go District 23!

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**Looking for a Club?**

Check out

<https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

All clubs in Los Angeles are listed. You can look up all the game times, locations, and contact info.

## District 23 NAP – Next Stage

by Marcus Evans,  
D23 NAP Coordinator

After all the clubs reported results from this summer, we ended up with 1105 players qualifying for the District 23 NAP semifinals. The next stage is all scheduled now, with both flyers on the D23 web site along with a list of all the Qualifiers. Please check your name before coming to Long Beach. It is sad to turn someone away from a semi game because they forgot to qualify – and it does happen.

Some interesting statistics came out of the final list. We see that 99 players played and qualified in a NAP qual game at two or more different clubs! Eleven players played and qualified at three or more clubs! But no one beat Steve Mager this year, who played and qualified at four different clubs in LA.

Those facts are fun to recognize, but do not tell the whole story. Notice that we used the phrase “played and qualified at different clubs.” If someone played and qualified more than once at the same club, that would **not** show up on our list, because the club deletes multiple quals before sending in their list. We also cannot tell how many times a player played but did not qualify. In other words, Steve could have qualified a dozen times this year and we’ll never know. At least we can say thanks for his four!!

Look forward to hosting many of you in Long Beach and South Bay. We’ll wish you good luck as we serve the snacks.

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

## Turnover on the national ACBL board of directors

Though I have only been on the board for 8+ months I anticipate that by year end only 18 of the 25 district directors will have more seniority than me. This rapid change comes from a unique cluster of retirements and election upsets. In my view these board changes stem from the contrasting outlook for electronic bridge versus traditional “bricks and mortar” club and tournament bridge. Electronic bridge is thriving, as evidenced from the \$2 million BBO deal I noted in recent columns. It's too easy for district directors to think bridge is thriving when the bottom line looks good.

But the grass roots volunteers and club owners understand the very real struggles facing “bricks and mortar” club and tournament bridge. Although I'm a techie by background, I continue to advocate for a much more club-centric national board of directors. I simply see clubs as the most important engine for promoting bridge.

Reach me at [kland23@gmail.com](mailto:kland23@gmail.com)

District 23 on the web:  
<http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/>

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Sanction: 1880390

# District 23

*Kansas City - March 2017*



## **North American Pairs**

### **Semi-Final #1**

**9 Oct 2016, 11:00 AM**

**Long Beach Bridge Club  
4782 Pacific Coast Highway**

### **Semi-Final #2**

**30 Oct 2016, 11:00 AM**

**South Bay BC  
24100 Narbonne Ave, Lomita**

**2 Sessions with a break**

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

*Marcus Evans - 714 342-2822*

# Around the Units in District 23



## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

**August 21 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Steve Skinner/Jackie Hess, 2nd Colleen Bilas/Sean Lui, 3rd Jo and John Melis, 4th Mark Raggio/Sheryl Kohlhoff, 5th John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 6th Paul Pettler/Janet Logan. In the B flight overalls: 4th Peggy Waite/Hashim Mahmood, 5th Joyce Henderson/Pamela Cole, 6th Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth. In the C flight overalls: 1st John Hagman/Alan Olschwang, 2nd Bettyanne Houts/Nancy Toussaint, 3rd Lynn Johnson/Rosemary Ford. And in the NLM section Judy and Thomas Percer were 1st. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games:** Aug 16 through Sept 15: In the NLM game Aug 16 Bill Heck/Jim Werner had 73.13%. In the NLM Aug 20 Bill Heck/Jim Werner had 71.67%. In the evening game Aug 24 Mark Itabashi/Mitch Dunitz had 70.24%. In the NLM evening game Aug 29 Darlene Harrison/Lynn Danielson had 70.31%. In the open game Aug 31 George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord had 73.21%. In the evening game Sept 7 Jo Melis/Kay Tseng had 70%. In the NLM game Sept 13 Jim Werner/Bill Heck had 73.33%. And in the open game Sept 15 Shirley Carroll/Steve Mager had 71.63%. Congratulations all!

**Big Masterpoint Awards:** Aug 16 through Sept 15: In the unit game Aug 21 Steve Skinner/Jackie Hess won 4.08mp for 1st, Colleen Bilas/Sean Lui 3.06mp for 2nd. Sept 12 Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh won 3.65mp for 1st. Sept 13 Sherman Gao/Pei Chen won 5.25mp for 1st, Steve Mager/Ted Gibbs 3.94mp for 2nd. Sept 14 Bill Wilson/Bob Goodman won 3.65mp for 1st in the afternoon game and Mary Singer/George Derev-

janik won 3.35mp for 1st in the evening game. And in the open game Sept 15 Shirley Carroll/Steve Mager won 3.65mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

**New Members:** Allen Buchanan, Janice Gorham, Asya Kamsky, Linda Lane.

**Status Changes:** New Regional Master: William Heck

**Condolences** to the family and friends of Jo Daigle who passed away late last month.

**Get Well Wishes** to Eileen Nelson

### Upcoming Events at the Club

Sept 18-24: Club Championship Week. Extra points, regular prices.

Sept 19 Talk Like a Pirate Day. Extra points, regular prices.

Sept 22: Inter-Club Championship game. Big points to the winners if you rank nationally.

Sept 25: Unit Game at 1 pm. Card fees \$8. Players with points from 0 to 199 pay \$1.99.

Oct 3-9: Club Appreciation Week. Extra points, regular prices.

Oct 9: monthly LBBC team game.

Oct 14: ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game. Extra points. Card fee: \$13.

Oct 23: Unit Game 1pm. Card fees \$8. Players with points from 0 to 199 pay \$1.99.

Oct 24-30: Club Championship Week. Extra points, regular prices.

Oct 31: Unit-rated Halloween Game. Costume contest with special prizes. Regular prices.

### News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

*by Judy Carter-Johnson*

**Club Championship Sept 12:** Clubhouse #3: Lorna Wallace/Larry Topper 1 in A. Hanefi Erten/Arne Lier 2 in A, 1 in B. Cookie Pham/Ellen Kice 3 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Chie Wickham/Alan Olschwang 4 in A. 3 in B. Sue Boswell/Paul Chen 5 in A, 4 in B, 2 in C. →

Kathryn Moore/Dee Park 6 in A, 5 in B, 3 in C.

**Get Well** wishes to Jaye Woodington, Jean Byer, Cole Sachs (husband of our Monday Director).

**70% games:** Joyce Henderson and Howard Smith had a 70.35% game on Sept 5.

**Irvine Regional:** Some of our members who scored points are: Stan Johnson, Louise Seifert, Howard Smith, and Joan Tschirki

**Reminder:** ACBL classifies Leisure World bridge games as “invitational” meaning non-resident guests must secure an advance reservations. Games are held on Monday/Thursday at clubhouse #3 at 12:15. For reservations call: Monday—Midge Dunagan (562) 594 9686 –Thursday—Cookie Pham (562) 431 6453. Phone number for clubhouse #3--Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner--After 12:00 noon: (562) 481 7368. Games are held on Friday/Saturday at clubhouse #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday—Jeanette Estill (714) 647 2609 –Saturday—Joan Tschirki-- (303) 805 2729.

Any news for next month’s column, please e mail me @ [jcj90740@gmail.com](mailto:jcj90740@gmail.com) results of all Leisure World games are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)



## Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game: Saturday, October 22, 10:00 and 3:30-ish  
Individual – Saturday, October 1, 9:30, La Verne Site

That’s right, our annual two-session championship game is upon us, so we will be starting the first session a bit earlier than usual, so that we can get home at a reasonable hour. (Or be on time for that Hot Date we have lined up – or whatever.) This year, we will be going to Sergio’s (Mexican Cuisine, in Glendora) between sessions for lunch/dinner. Play either session, or both, and join us for dinner (guests welcome), or not. One caveat: if you plan to join us at Sergio’s, **please** sign up no later than Tuesday, October 18, so we can get a head count. The bridge fee will be the \$7 for one session (either one), or \$12 for both sessions. We will be ordering off the menu at Sergio’s, so no advance payment is required – but we **do** need your attendance plans.

The September Unit game was won by Richard Patterson – Roger Boyar, in a real squeaker. Tying for second were Walter Otto – Clinton Lew and Tim Finlay – Eileen Finlay. Yours Truly – David Ochroch placed fourth, and Linda Tessier – Paul Chrisney rounded out the top five (and were first in C).

In the September Individual, Albert Lax took the top honors with a nice 69% game, topping Richard Patterson and Clint Lew (tied for second) by more than two boards. Darlene Sessions took third, and Yours Truly snuck into fifth place.

The October Individual will be a club appreciation game (no extra cost!) paying better master points. It’s also the final game in the annual Championship Series ... so if you think you have a chance to get your name on the plaque, give it a go. Who are the present leaders? Not tellin’ !!!

The top game this past month was a another scorcher – 75% by Roger Boyar. No partner, it was an Individual movement. In regular pairs games, the top score was 70.7% by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Other winners: Richard Patterson, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Clint Lew, Sandy Jones, Penny Barbieri, Walt Otto, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Linda Stuart, Linda Tessier, Susie Emminger, and Yours Truly.

In Board of Director news, it has been suggested that we join up with the Downey-Whitter Unit to hold a joint sectional. (No, so far as we know, marijuana won’t be one of the giveaways at the tournament.) Neither Unit has held one for quite a number of years. At September’s Board meeting, your Tournament Chairman (guess who?) was given the go-ahead to see what can be worked up. Looking at the tournament calendar, June or August of 2017 look like the most likely times. (Note – it takes a year, more or less, to organize a tournament, even a measly old Sectional.) **Your** input will be appreciated!

Only one “official” (meaning it showed up in the monthly member report) promotion this month: Paul Chrisney is a Regional Master. However, we have one major milestone to report: Claudia Cochran, playing in the Irvine Regional last month, got that last snippet of gold to qualify for Life Master. Way to go, Claudia. Claudia got that last bit of gold playing with Hanan Mogharbel, so Hanan is one step closer, too.

For this month’s Hand-of-the-Month, we present “Better Lucky than Good.” What do you bid if you hold the following hand: ♠AQxx ♥Q87xx ♦AKQ9 ♣-- →

and you hear your vulnerable partner overcall LHO's 1♣ opening with 1♥? Whether you fooled around with club cue bids or a splinter bid, used Exclusion Blackwood, or just blasted to 6♥, you should be ashamed not to force to slam. Probing for seven hearts is entirely reasonable. Most pairs didn't bid slam, however. A couple didn't even get to game. It seems that nobody else found the brilliant heart overcall with this rock crusher: ♠J8x ♥KJxxx ♦x ♣Jxxx. Go figure.

Quote for the Month: "You can observe a lot just by watching." (Yogi Berra)

Until next month ...



## Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

### Magic Mountain Sectional Results September 17-18

We had a great turnout with 26.5 tables on Saturday morning, 22 tables on Saturday afternoon, as well as 18 teams on Sunday. Thanks to all who attended, to Bill Brodek, tournament chair and to David White, our tournament director.

#### Saturday Morning 299er's

- 1 Angela Peters and D. Jones - 66.67%
- 2 Melanie Moran and Bridget O'Sullivan - 59.17%
- 3 Carol and Gary Trendera - 57.08%

#### Saturday Morning Stratified Open Pairs

- 1 Jeffrey Goldsmith and Paul Markarian - 68.68%
- 2 Om Chakriwala and Jill Thesman - 65%
- 3 Viktor Anikovich and Amedeo Ursini - 63.38%
- 4 Ellen Anten and Steve Gross - 63.36%
- 5 Stanford Holzberg and Aimee Deiter - 60/46%

#### Saturday Afternoon 299er's

- 1 Anita Walker and Jackie Moor - 59.17 %
- 2 Rosalee McEntyre and Phoebe Evans - 57.5%
- 3 Meressa Naftulin and Carol Provost - 56.67%

#### Saturday Afternoon Stratified Open Pairs

- 1 Joseph Viola and Amr Elgamry
- 2 Elaine Moore and Tom Shudic

- 3 Jeffrey Goldsmith and Paul Markarian
- 4 Robert Shore and Bruce Altschuler
- 5 Marel Bates and Joe Vacca

#### Alene Friedman Open Swiss Teams (18 teams) Sunday, September 18:

- 1 Ellen Anten, Steve Gross, Jeffrey Goldsmith and Paul Markarian
- 2 Mike Savage, Rebecca Clough, Roger Clough and Craig Kavin
- 3 Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten, James Perkins, Basant Shah, and Roshen Hadulla
- 4 Fourth: Hansford Rowe, Mike Marcucci, Donald Crum and Gilbert Stinebaugh
- 5 Fifth: Rosalee McEntyre, Sue Guzenske, Bernie Guzenski and Kay Aiken
- 6 Sixth: Bill Brodek, Robert McBroom, Kathy Flynn and Rand Pinsky

### Unit Game Results Monday, September 19 Friendly Bridge Club

#### North/South Winners

- 1 Carol Provost and Russ Buker - 63.65%
- 2 Tracy Boys and Gary Grey - 55.18%
- 3 Hansford Rowe and George MacDonald - 53.27%
- 4 Lamonte Johnson and Ted Maki - 52.08%

#### East/West Winners

- 1 Bert Stock and Roy Ladd - 68.75%
- 2 Carol and Gary Trendera - 56.13%
- 3 Paula Olivares and Mira Rowe - 55.06%
- 4 Vibeke Gilbreath and Ruth Baker - 53.45%

Unit Game on Thursday, October 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Castaic. Bring your own lunch. Ice cream and cake will be served to celebrate October birthdays.

ACBL's Instant Matchpoint Game will be held on Friday, October 14 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale at 12:30 p.m. One gold point will be awarded to section tops in each direction.

The next Board Meeting is Sunday, October 16 at 5:00 after the Unit Game (1:00 PM) in Palmdale at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club.

## New Mentor Program

Unit 556 and Friendly Bridge Club are offering a six-week mentor program for newer players. The program is designed to ease newer players (mentees) into the fun of competition and also to increase Unit membership and participation. It will benefit Mentors as well, enhancing their performance and encouraging their creativity.

**Mentee Requirements:** 50 or less masterpoints, membership in ACBL Unit 556, pay for half the Mentor's card fee (Unit 556 will pick up the other half), and available either Monday or Tuesday, 12:30-4:00.

**Mentor Requirements:** Willingness to work with beginning principles of the game, commit to six sessions, either Monday or Tuesday, 12:30-4:00.

**How the Program Works:** Prospective Mentees and Mentors should register with the Membership Coordinator. After the Mentee receives a Mentor, she/he will contact the mentor and arrange a schedule. When the six sessions are completed the Mentee will contact the coordinator. At that time the Mentor will receive two free-play cards, one funded by the Unit and one funded by Friendly Bridge.

Players interested in participating in this program should contact Paula Olivares at paula@pacbell.net.



## San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

### West Valley Food Pantry Receives ACBL Charity Grant

Last spring, Unit 561 was given the opportunity to nominate a non-profit organization in U561 to receive an ACBL Charity Grant. The U561 Board unanimously agreed to designate the West Valley Food Pantry (WVFP) to receive the \$5,000 grant. Kevin Lane, District 23 Director, facilitated this process.

On September 20, the grant check was received by the WVFP. These funds will be used to help feed more than 3,000 needy people each month in the southwest portion of the San Fernando Valley. Most staff members are volunteers who give generously of their time and all

are most grateful for this additional support from U561 and ACBL. The WVFP shares a building with The 750 Club at the Prince of Peace Church in Woodland Hills.

### December 3: Unit 561 Holiday Bridge/Dinner

Unit 561 will host a Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party on Saturday, December 3, at the 750 Club. An Open, Stratified Game will start at 2 p.m., followed by a festive dinner at approximately 5:45 p.m.

The cost per person is \$30 and includes both bridge and dinner. Due to limited seating, reservations are required via purchase of non-refundable tickets by November 29. Ticket sales will begin November 1 at the 750 Club, or by mail to Rochelle Lotto at 23679 Calabasas Rd., # 375, Calabasas, CA 91302. Note: There will be no on-site ticket sales on the day of this event.

### Unit 561 Board Nominations

Unit 561 members who are interested in running for the U561 Board, beginning January 1, 2017, should contact Dennis Forst at diforst123@gmail.com or sign up at the 750 Club. Self-nominations must be received by Tuesday, November 22. The Unit Board election will be held at the U561 meeting at the December 3 Holiday Party.

### Special Congratulations

This year's team from D23 won the Sheinwold Flight B Grand National Teams Championship last August, at the Summer NABC in Washington, D.C. Two team members were from Unit 561, San Fernando Valley. They were Om Chokriwala, Captain (Sherman Oaks) and Frederick Upton (Van Nuys). Other team members were Zheng Zhang (Arcadia), Jack Chang (San Gabriel), Nolan Chang (San Gabriel), and James Perkins (Los Angeles). Bravo to these excellent District 23 players who each received 70 Gold masterpoints for their outstanding efforts!

August Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were: Susan Raphael 12.88, Phil Calloway 8.15, Ron Malkin 7.45, Linda Silvey 7.06, Marty Hurwitz 6.88, Ray Primus 6.28, Mark LaVine 6.05, Barbara Levitt 6.03, Sheldon Levitt 6.03, and Gloria Malkin 5.88. The following achieved 70% games in August: Gary Baxley – Doug Beagle 72.92%, Barbara Levitt – Sheldon Levitt 70.56%, and Susan Raphael – Phil Calloway →

70.51%.

August Top Ten North American Pair Partners at The 750 Club were: Marty Hurwitz – Mike Wiener 9.58, Lenny Popowitz – Shelly Popowitz 9.07, Ron Malkin – Irv Klasky 6.38, Mark LaVine – A.D. Shaw 4.88, Cheri Bitar – Suzanne Peterson 4.08, Gloria Malkin – Ron Malkin 3.66, Bill Raff – John Tickner 3.59, Dick Berg – Larry Kussin 3.19, and Diana Mitchell – Marlene Brounstein 2.69.

### The 750 Club Future Events

The 750 Club will be closed on Monday, October 3 (Rosh Hashanah) and Wednesday, October 12 (Yom Kippur).

A four-session “Mini-Course on Bidding,” taught by Jim Gardner, will be offered on Wednesday afternoons, October 5 and 19, and November 2 and 9, from 3–5 p.m. Fee will be \$50. Contact jamesjgardnerjr@yahoo.com or thmorton@att.net for more information.

Club Appreciation Week will be held Monday – Friday, October 17 – 21. This is an opportunity to earn extra black points for no extra fee!

Celebrations will be held on Monday, October 31, at the “750’s Halloween House of Horrors and Haunted Cards.” Players who wear silly (unsanctioned?) shirts and/or humorous (hideous?) hats will be eligible to participate in the “Free-Play” drawings. Terrific and tempting tricky-treats will be available for tastings at lunchtime and before the night game. Reservations required for the 11 a.m. game. Contact thmorton@att.net. Be a wise owl, “give a hoot” and join the fun!

### Calendar

Monday, October 3 (Rosh Hashanah) and Wednesday, October 12 (Yom Kippur), The 750 Club will be closed.

Wednesdays, October 5 & 19, November 2 & 9, “Bidding Mini-Course”, The 750 Club, 3 - 5 p.m. See details above.

Monday, October 17, Unit 561 Board will meet, The 750 Club, 2:45 p.m.

Monday – Friday, October 17 – 21, Club Appreciation Week at The 750 Club.

Monday, October 31, Halloween celebrations held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Tuesday, November 1 – Tuesday, November 29, ticket sales for the Unit 561 Holiday Bridge and Dinner

Party. See details above.

Tuesday, November 15, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Tuesday, November 22, last day to submit self-nominations to serve on the 2017 Unit 561 Board. See details above.

Saturday, December 3, Unit 561 Election for 2017 Board Members, Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party, at The 750 Club. See details above.



## Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: [www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568](http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568)  
SBBC: [www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc](http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc)

### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Saturday, October 8, 2:30  
Club Championship: Monday, October 10, 6:30  
Club Championship: Wednesday, October 19, 11:30  
Friday Night games on October 7 and 21

### Club Championships

The Club Championship on September 12 saw Jean Futami/Kiyoko Ohtomo winning Flights A, B and C. The September 14 Championship was won by Stan Greengard/Cal Waller in Flights A and B with Nancy Schultz/Kathy Rudolph leading Flight C.

### Team Winners

August 23: Sharon Biederman, Steve Ramos, Gabriela Jackson, Ed Piken

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

September 13: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

September 20: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

**STAC Overall placers in TSB Unit Games**

Pairs that finished in the overalls of the recent Great Western STAC in games played at the South Bay Bridge Club are as follows.

	Monday Morning, August 22
8A	Gabriela Jackson/Masae Kato
	Monday Evening, August 22
17A 8B	Arlene Greengard/Ernie Frank
	Tuesday Morning, August 23
14A 7B	Regina Boll/Ernie Frank
21A	Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel
26A	Laura Gastelum/Ray Mack
	Wednesday Morning, August 23
13A	Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel
21A	Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott
14B	Laura Gastelum/Bob Bacharach
	Wednesday Evening, August 23
5A 1B	Janice Scholler/Mark Raggio
9A	Laura Gastelum/Ray Mack
	Friday Morning, August 24
13A	Gabriela Jackson/Sheryl Kohlhoff
45A 21B	Hank Sheehan/Bob Bacharach
29B	Cal Waller/Betsy Amador
	Saturday Morning, August 25
8A	Lucy Gellner/Sharon Biederman

**Milestones**

Sadly it is reported that Bernard Gee passed away recently. Bernard played at the SBBC regularly several years ago but had not been there in in awhile. Bernard will be remembered for his unique bidding style.

**Changes at the SBBC**

A recent decision has been made by the powers that be at the South Bay Bridge Club as to how the place will be run . Rather than try to explain it myself I would suggest picking up the handouts available at the club which explain it much better than I could.

**GUV Award**

Playing at the Long Beach Bridge Club a couple weeks ago I was working on my highest score of the year partnered with (Sweet) Shirley Carroll. Shirley had played very well that day so I knew she was due to give me reason to circle a C on my scorecard. C's stand for Carroll and are given out for something less than exemplary performance on a board.

On the very last board I held ♠AJT9xx ♥KQJ ♦A ♣Kxx. I opened a spade in fourth seat, Shirley bid a 1NT and I wasn't too sure what to do. I tried an absolute game forcing 3♣ bid. Well, I got my chance to put a C on the card. Shirley passed my 3♣ bid holding ♠x ♥xxxxx ♦KQxx ♣Qxx.

Playing 3-3 fits is always a challenge especially when the trumps aren't all that good. However other things on this hand aren't so good either. Most declarers went down in the more sane contracts of 4♥ and 3NT. I thrashed around and eventually got out for down 1. Miraculously this was worth a near average score and our high score wasn't damaged too much. Besides it would be no fun in a game with Shirley if I couldn't put a circled C on my scorecard once in awhile.

Na Zdrowie



West LA  
by Robert Shore

**Unit Games**

October 10 (afternoon and evening), 28, 29, 30, 31

**Watch This Space**

I understand we're going to have big news next month, but I haven't yet received the official word, so we'll start this month's report with our annual Labor Day Weekend Sectional. Many thanks to the Barington Bridge Club for hosting us. Winners of the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams event were the team including Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten, Bruce Altshuler, and Jim Perkins. Peter Benjamin's team won the Sunday Swiss. This year's Jill Meyers Trophy went to Jim Perkins, and the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy was taken →

by Tate Shafer.

Pete Benjamin had some other victories as well. He went to the Scottsdale Regional and came home with wins in the Agave Knockout Teams and the Cholla Knockout Teams. In other tournament action, the Irvine Regional saw Marion Tumen and Peggy Levin win their bracket of the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event. Basant Shah and Les Rawitt won their bracket of the Thursday Bracketed Swiss. Rick Turner and Alyssa Kennedy added to their collection of wins by taking first in the Sunday Fast Pairs.

Switching to sectional action, your Humble Scribe teamed up with Mike Savage at the Pasadena Sectional to win the Saturday Compact Knockout, and then the two of us teamed with Roger and Becky Clough to win the Sunday A/X Swiss.

### **Tired of Politics?**

By the time this sees print, nominations for the Unit Board will have closed. If an election is necessary, you'll find your ballot in the same envelope as your invitation to the Unit Party, which will be held on Sunday, November 20. We're at a great new location this year, so I hope you'll save the date.

### **Looking Ahead**

We'll have a bunch of Unit Games this month. There will be a Unit-Wide Championship at Beverly Hills and Barrington, beginning 12:30 p.m. on October 10. That evening at 7:15 p.m., another Unit Championship will be held at Beverly Hills. Then, we'll hold a whole weekend of Unit Championships over Halloween weekend, with another Unit-Wide Championship on October 28. Unit Championships at Beverly Hills at 1:00 p.m. October 29 and 30, and yet another Unit-Wide Championship at Barrington and Beverly Hills on October 31. Winners at the August 28 Unit Championship were Joan Rubin and Om Chokriwala.

### **Point, Counterpoint**

Last month I wrote up a victory for my preferred style with big two-suiters. This month's hand shows that my approach is not without risk. As the dealer all red at matchpoints, I held:

♠AKJ108 ♥AK9653 ♦-- ♣A9

I opened 1♥, LHO overcalled 2♦, partner passed, and RHO gently raised to 3♦. I showed a strong hand by bidding 3♠, and bought it there.

The opening lead was a diamond and dummy came down with: ♠964 ♥-- ♦J96 ♣Q1076543

Can't blame partner for not moving. My hand didn't have to be that good. But two heart ruffs brought home the entire heart suit and spades broke 3-2 (with Qxx off side), so I lost only a club and a diamond to make 5. Fortunately, this turned out to be an average board, even though the game is a heavy favorite to make.

### **Welcome Mat**

Frequent Beverly Hills players Ilan and Lucille Rothstein have joined the ACBL in our Unit, as has Stephen Meadow. Transferring from other Units are Karen Abate, Mary Clinton, Firoza Cooper, Sandra and Stuart Gray, Yeny Karakeonian, Yi Ouyang, and Brian Schwedock. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

### **Around the Clubs**

Hitting 70% games at Barrington last month were Steve Yaffe and Aram Bedros along with Charles Kelly and John Stodyk. Your Humble Scribe paired with Mike Savage for a 70% game at Beverly Hills, as did Rhoda and Lew Himmell and Aram Bedros and Wayne Karson.

As always, the Marina City Club holds its games Tuesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at 4333 Admiralty Way. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information or for a partner.

### **Climbing the Ladder**

Kathy Preisler is our Unit's newest Junior Master. Reaching Club Master are Andrea Forman, Irwin Jaeger, and Susan Morse-Lebow. Walter Bodlander and Lynn Harvey have become Sectional Masters and Andrea Pruitt is now a Regional Master.

Beverly Goldner has become a Bronze Life Master. Bryan Conley has reached Ruby Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

D23 Rank Changes  
August 2016

Junior Master

Patricia Baker  
Glen Drogen  
Anita Miller  
Peggy Morgan  
Margaret Reitzel  
Ray Stribling  
Kiyohisa Wakabayashi  
Nili Weingart

Club Master

Harold Avent  
Sandra Chereb  
Fay Chu  
Dabija Corneliu  
Diane Corwin  
Larry Feldman  
Michael Greer  
Robert Hildreth  
Donna Marovich  
I Patel  
Frank Roig  
A Shah  
Amelia Thomas

Sectional Master

Sandy Abouaf  
Ranchhodbh Bhakta  
Douglas Carlson  
Heather Ho  
Tom Keese  
Donald Logsdon  
Morton Shatzkin  
Greg Stewart  
Jan Toppel

Regional Master

Marlene Brounstein  
Robert Eisenstein  
Marilyn Ewing  
M Kakade  
Irving Klasky  
Donna Kupfer  
Y Meredith  
Zorina Pelant  
Nancy Toussaint

NABC Master

Mary Brow

Life Master

Barry Heller  
Kiran Kumar

Bronze Life Master

Alex Chen  
Laurie Rubin

Silver Life Master

Garth Greene  
Richard Patterson

Ruby Life Master

Richard Gliksman

Gold Life Master

William Brodek Jr

Grand Life Master

Peter Benjamin

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Leo Bell, David Sacks, Mike Shuster, John Swanson, and Jon Wittes

# 1

IMPs  
no vul

South	West	North	East
Pass ?	1♠	2♣	1♥ 2♠*

\* shows 4 spades

You, South, hold: ♠AT2 ♥KJ8763 ♦A72 ♣6

What call do you make?

**Wittes: 3NT.** Should be our best chance at a game. Partner probably has at most three major suit cards. He should have six or seven very good clubs and an outside card, since he didn't bid an unusual 2NT and didn't preempt in clubs.

**Swanson: 3♣.** 2NT is reasonable. I would expect partner to remove to 3♣ with a broken suit. Double could work well but I'm not up for the gamble.

**Bare: 3♣.** Partner is short in both majors, and he should have good clubs. *[This looks weird to raise with only one club, but partner must have good clubs. This might be best.]*

**Shuster: 2NT.** I expect partner to bid 3♣ next (which I will pass.) What is partner's shape? He has at most two spades and two hearts, but that minimum shape would leave LHO with 4-0 in the majors! More likely, LHO is 4=1=5=3. RHO is 4=5=2=2 or 4=5=3=1. That makes partner either 2=1=4=6 or 2=1=3=7. So it appears the opponents won't have a source of tricks, but we might. Neither opponent rates to hold four clubs, and they won't be able to score a fifth spade. Those are all positive for 3NT, but it isn't enough. I need partner to have sufficient values that we can establish and run the clubs before they cash five tricks. Partner

won't often have enough strength to raise to 3NT, but if he does, we rate to make it.

By the way, even if 2NT isn't expressly agreed as forcing here, it is forcing as a practical matter. If partner has strength, he will raise. If he is weak, he will always have long enough clubs to remove to 3♣. *[I agree. He'll raise to 3NT, signoff in 3♣, or possibly make a move towards 5♣, but virtually never pass.]*

**Bell: Pass.** If the auction continues, I may well enter the fray, but it's premature at this point. *[The sneaky dog quietly lies in the weeds waiting to get all the food. I can see him salivating; "Just one more bid, please one more bid and I'll go red!"]*

*Yet another brave soul!*

**Sacks: Pass.** I will bring axe if they bid again (unlikely), but it's just a bit too rich to double them not vulnerable at IMPs at the two level. *[Is double here really penalty?]*

*I like double. Surely partner won't play me for a spade stack and should know I have hearts. If partner infers short clubs, a heart stack, good controls and good defense, I'm very close to the mark.*

2

IMPs  
no vul

South

1♣  
?

West

2♦

North

2♥

East

5♦

You, South, hold:

♠AKT8 ♥7 ♦75 ♣AK9853

2a) Is pass forcing?

2b) What's your call?

*This is a tough problem, and hinges on whether pass is forcing.*

**Bare:** a) No.

b) Double.

**Shuster:** a) No, but it should be. *[He means double isn't forcing in expert standard, but it should be. This problem is another commercial for 2/1 in competition creating a force if the opponents bid (especially if they preempt).]* A two over one in comp does not establish ownership of the hand, so does not create forcing pass auctions. However, I prefer to agree that if 4th hand jumps to 4♠ or higher, it does create a forcing pass situation. As a practical matter, 4th hand does not jump like this expecting to make, so we should have our best tools available to judge the 5-level.

**b) Double.** I have short hearts and two diamonds. Yes, partner rates to hold no more than one diamond, but that isn't guaranteed. However, even when I catch my guy with a stiff diamond, he is not guaranteed to hold club support. So, given equal vulnerability, I'll just take my number rather than risk a hopeless 6♣ contract.

**Swanson:** a) Yes, in my system, because 2♥ is a game force.

**b) Double.** With short hearts, I don't see the problem. Pass would indicate a willingness to play 5♥; it is not a club slam try.

**Wittes:** a) Yes. Pass would surely be forcing if we were vulnerable. It probably should be forcing non-vulnerable as well, since even though 2♥ isn't 100% game forcing in competition, it still should show at least an invitational hand. The opponents are at the five level in an auction where we definitely have the

preponderance of high cards.

**b) Double.** This is a very tough problem, and once again shows how preempts are so difficult to defend against at a high level. Partner almost surely has a stiff or void diamond. If he has a solid heart suit or a club fit, we probably have a slam. I have so many controls in the black suits, it's going to be difficult for partner to carry on with some type of minimum opening bid. On the other hand, slam is no guarantee, and we should surely get 5♦ doubled for at least 500, very possibly 800 or 1100, even if the opponents have some distribution. So even if a double is wrong, we will still lose very little, if anything, against our possible slam. However, if a slam is not making, bidding on could be very costly. Also, if partner has a diamond void, and a good hand for either hearts or clubs, he can still bid over the double.

**Sacks:** a) Yes. It should be forcing. If my red suits were reversed, I would pass.

**b) Double:** The only slam we may have is in clubs (if partner has both majors he should start with negative double). We have four primes but no known fit. A singleton diamond from partner is not guaranteed.

**Bell:** a) Yes. When opponents are clearly preempting, pass should be forcing at the four level and higher.

**b) Double.** I think pass should imply some fit with partner or a hand where I can bid my suit after partner's action.

*My personal preference is that forcing passes are established by invitational auctions, especially when they preempt, so for me this would be a forcing pass. If pass here is forcing, I still think I would double. Hands with a stiff diamond and solid hearts or a club fit may produce 12 twelve tricks, but partner isn't through.*

3

IMPs  
no vul

S	W	N	E
	1♦	2NT	P
3♣	P	3♦	P
3NT	P	4♥	P
?			

You, South, hold:  
 ♠K654 ♥T2 ♦K742 ♣Q83  
 What call do you make?

**Bare: 6♣.** May not be cold for 6♣, but should at least have a play.

**Shuster: Pass.** Partner is bidding to make and knows we have at most a doubleton heart. One cover card is not enough to look for slam.

**Wittes: Pass.** Partner should have six very good hearts and five good clubs, and probably a diamond void. My kings are not very well located, so we rate to have two losers.

**Bell: Pass.** Partner shows a very good hand with at least six hearts. The ♠Q is my only working card. I don't think that's enough to bid more.

**Sack: Pass.** And pass the Advil.

**Swanson: Pass.** I have already denied as many as three hearts, so partner is prepared to play opposite a doubleton.

*My kings are not well placed. Marshall Miles used to argue that hands that bid Unusual NT or Michaels and then voluntarily bid again could not have the major longer than the minor. If that agreement is in place, then I like correcting to 5♣. If partner has ♠xx ♥AKJxx ♦void ♣AKJxxx, then 5♣ will play better than 4♥ if it runs into control issues.*

4

IMPs  
all vul

S	W	N	E
			1♦
P	P	1♥	P
2♦	P	2♥	P
?			

You, South, hold:  
 ♠T72 ♥AQ5 ♦AT2 ♣A862  
 What call do you make?

**Bell: 4♥.** Just in case it makes.

**Shuster: 3NT.** Partner can pull with enough shape. Even if we are off the spade suit, neither opponent rates to hold five of them, and we could easily have the rest.

**Wittes: 3♥.** I don't want to punish partner for balancing, but my good trumps and controls surely warrant one more try.

**Bare: 3♥.** I could hardly be better after passing.

**Swanson: 3♣.** A game in notrump is worth a shot. I prefer the contract be played from partner's side, so I'll try 3♣. (A cue bid followed by a new suit is forcing.)

**Sacks: 2NT.** I might have bid 2NT last time. East is unlikely to have four spades as he/she would have bid one spade over 1♥ on most hands, I'm thus less likely to get a spade lead.

*I think any further action on this hand is flirting with danger. If partner has something like ♠Kxx ♥KJxxx ♦xxx ♣Jx, even 2♥ isn't cold. I want partner to protect aggressively, so I won't hang him. If I were going to make one further try, 2NT seems best.*

5

IMPs  
NS vul

S	W	N	E
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:  
 ♠AQJ ♥AJT ♦3 ♣AKT742  
 What call do you make?

**Bare: 2♦.** First priority is to ascertain if partner has five hearts. Second priority is finding out about a club fit.

**Bell: 2♦.** This should show a very good hand without heart support.

**Sacks: 2♦.** Rarely do I pass up the opportunity to bid a three-card suit, but here I have an easy force.

**Swanson: 2♦.** This cue bid is always based on a long suit. It is better to slightly overbid that misbid.

**Shuster: 3♦.** This shows short diamonds and a good hand. 2♦ doesn't accomplish much, as it would be a forced choice with ♠AKJ ♥Qx ♦xxx ♣AKJxx. I'll wind up spending the next two rounds of the auction trying to clarify my hand, probably without much success. I'd rather let partner know I have short diamonds, heart support and interest in bigger things.

**Wittes: 3♦.** This should show a very good hand with three hearts and imply a long good club suit (if I had four hearts, I would be bidding 4♦). Slam is not out of the question, though the overcall behind me would tend to favor any missing cards being poorly placed for us.

*I think 2♦ would be the consensus expert bid. However, I prefer the 3♦ call with the singleton diamond. It's a thoughtful way of getting across a description of the hand.*

Next Month's Problems  
 What call do you make?

1. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
1♥	2♣	2♥	?

You hold: ♠QT976 ♥K8 ♦A4 ♣QT863

2. IMPs, EW vul

S	W	N	E
		P	P
2♣	P	2♦*	P
?			

\* Waiting, shows at least an ace, king, or two queens

You hold: ♠A3 ♥K86 ♦AQ ♣AKQ976

3. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
P	P	1♠	2♦
?			

You hold: ♠JT64 ♥AKT987 ♦9 ♣74

3a) Do you agree with the initial pass?

3b) What now?

3c) If LHO bids 5♦ and partner passes, is that a forcing pass?

4. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1NT*	P
2♥	P	?	

\* semi forcing

You hold: ♠Q9 ♥-- ♦QJ754 ♣AQ8432

5. IMPs, EW vul

S	W	N	E
♠	P	2♥	P
?			

You hold: ♠AK97653 ♥863 ♦A2 ♣A

District 23 on the web:  
<http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/>