

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 54, #2

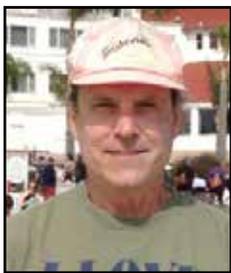
February 2018

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### District 23 Heroes

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



Every once in a while, a fellow player at a tournament will thank me for serving on the District Board. Sometimes those feelings come from having served themselves and they appreciate those folks who are serving now. It is actually always nice to hear that someone has looked at the District Org Chart and, first of all, recognizes that there are a lot of players who do serve in one function or another and who all are working on the issues and functions that will make D23 an enjoyable place to play bridge, now and in the future. But let me tell you that there is another group of players in our area that deserve even more thanks and may or may not be recognized for that. They are all our unit reporters in our nine LA units.

Clubs and units are the heart of the bridge community. Our everyday enjoyment of the game would not be possible without them. Think about that – what would you do if there were no clubs nearby? Playing around the kitchen table is fun but there are no MP awards and no hand records! The folks who take on the challenge of operating a club are the ones who we should thank just about every time we go there! Then there are your friendly unit volunteers who are concerned about your whole area and offer Unit Games and Sectionals to you. Hope you thank them also. The unit reporters are part of that group.

All the news that's fit to print and maybe a few jokes thrown in on the side. Your reporters collect all the news from your local area and write a monthly column in the SCBN for your entertainment and enjoyment. You'll probably see your name in there from time to time. They try to cover all the local game results, all parties and special events, anything upcoming for which you need a ticket, any engagements or marriages,

PRESIDENT continued on page 2

## REACH, Growth Goals

by Kevin Lane, District Director



*Bridge is a game  
and should be fun*

### REACH

Many of you may have noticed the upcoming "Regionals at Clubs" – aka REACH – event scheduled for early February.

This event is a byproduct of the increased level of energy and activity engendered by our new CEO Bahar Gidwani. As Bahar noted in the Bridge Bulletin, he aims to provide clubs with long-needed support.

The basics of REACH are for players to pay a small upfront fee plus normal club fees in order to compete in a regionally rated event against other pairs. A unique feature of this event that contrasts with STaCs – sectionals at clubs – is that a pair's performance is based on the strength of the club game.

So pairs that play in a tough club game might fair poorly in a STaC but will do relatively well in a REACH event.

Where does the REACH money go?

Several of you have asked where the REACH money goes. Importantly, some of the REACH money goes back to districts to compensate for potential lower attendance at regionals. The REACH program is actually run in highly cost-effective manner based on the generosity of volunteer efforts.

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trips to exotic places (hope Steve covers Gerri’s trip to the Galapagos), interesting bridge hand analyses, and/or yearly race winners. If anyone wants to advertise a special bridge event, they can let the reporter know and can expect it to be carefully explained in the next column. Notifying all of the upcoming Unit Game or special events at the local club is an invaluable help to folks who might have missed other flyers or notifications. Reading the column used to be a “must” read for all players. It was easy when it arrived in the mail. We are trying to make it as easy as possible for present day readers to remember it’s out and to access it on the web with as little effort as possible. Our idea was to send an email to each and every member of District 23 on the first of the month with a one-click url to the current issue. Believe it or not, ACBL is not cooperating with that idea. Has to do with the privacy rights of all your email addresses! Don’t quite know what our solution will be, but for right now, we just have to remember to access our website and click on “Bridge News.” It takes about three clicks on my computer!

Your faithful Reporters are: 551 – Tom Lill, 556 – Beth Morrin, 557 – Jon Yinger, 561 – Linda Silvey, 562 – Bob Shore, 568 – Steve Mager. These heroes and heroines have been faithfully writing all that unit news for many, many issues and months. They have recorded and publicized all their players’ accomplishments, all

their awards, all their celebrations, all their parties, all of their memories for everyone to share. All those players who make those things happen (they don’t happen by themselves) deserve to be recognized in writing.

What fun it was to read about the 1984 Election Party in Unit 559 and admire the players who won awards! That would not have been possible without their Unit Reporter, Roy Wilson, writing a wonderful column about it and recording that news for all to read. Present day players deserve the same recognition and the reporters above are making sure that happens. (I think Steve may have been writing the 568 column at about the same time as Roy!) The collection of the info and the writing of a monthly column is a labor of love for their unit. You can show each of our heroes how much you love them back by passing along all your newsy items to them each month.

Note that three Units – Glendale, Pasadena, and Downey are not represented. We need a volunteer in each of those areas to step forward and give those players the publicity that they deserve. Who knows about all the great parties in Downey except the folks who go?? If other players in the surrounding units knew about them, maybe the parties would be bigger! Who is hearing about the new game location in Glendale except locals? Some publicity in a column and some info on events would encourage more players, other than local, to attend. It is a shame that all that social media type news is being lost forever because it is not published and archived. You did know that anyone can read back issues of the SCBN from 2008 on, did you not? That’s a lot of news. Who remembers who won the LM Mini-McKenney award for Downey in 2009?? You can look it up – it’s right there on our D23 web site. Who remembers that award for Downey in 2017? No one, that’s who. Because it was not published!

Another interesting tidbit is that Unit 559 has a complete list of all their unit reporters going back to 1971. Still searching for 64-70. Twenty-three different members have written their columns over the years and are to be hugely thanked for all that labor. I would suggest that is a nice history project for the other units in D23. Show those previous reporters how much they are appreciated by recognizing them in writing. Catch me sometime if you wish to know more.

Next up for me is the Riverside tournament. So many tournaments – so little time! Hope to see you there. In the meantime, happy trails.

Southern California Bridge News

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 Phone: 626-281-2179  
 email [bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)

Editor/Designer..... Jennifer Einberg  
 Managing Editor..... Mike Marcucci  
 Contributing Editor..... John Jones

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# Pairs head to Philadelphia to represent District 23

*by Morris Jones*

The 2017-18 District 23 North American Pairs tournament is in the books, and winning pairs are making their plans to play at the Spring NABC against representatives from the other ACBL districts.

Here are the winners in this year's event.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated!

### Flight A

- 1 Edward Piken and Victor Anikovich
- 2 Robert Shore and Mark Leonard
- 3 Mitch Dunitz and Iftikar Baqai

### Flight B

- 1 R Turner and Alyssa Kennedy
- 2 Carol Frank and Sumit Daftuar
- 3 Patrick Cardullo and R Gerry Belcher
- 4 Yehudit Hasin-Brumshter and James Perkins

### Flight C

- 1 Jeff Grotenhuis and Wenjia Yan
- 2 Karraine Murray and Linda Lin
- 3 Shirley Knopf and Lynn Danielson
- 4 Judy Zucker and Lou Zucker



A1 Edward Piken



A2 Mark Leonard - Robert Shore



A3 Mitch Dunitz



B1 Rick Turner - Alyssa Kennedy



B2 Carol Frank - Sumit Daftuar



B3 R Gerry Belcher - Patrick Cardullo



B4 James Perkins - Y Hasin-Brumshten



C1 Wenjia Yan - Jeff Grotenhuis



C2 Linda Lin - Karraine Murray

# District 23 Grand National Teams

April 28-29 2018  
Long Beach Bridge Center

Open: Unlimited masterpoints  
Flight A: 0-6,000 masterpoints  
Flight B: 0-2,500 masterpoints  
Flight C: Non-life masters with less than 500 masterpoints

Masterpoint totals are as of September 6, 2017

*Save the date and choose your bracket!*

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

## Membership growth goals

The ACBL continues to promote membership growth goals which is a welcome change from pessimism of the past. Still, converting that optimism into realistic plans and programs is a challenge that will require cooperation and concerted work between the board of directors and ACBL management.

Still, I feel that membership growth is perhaps the most worthy goal we can pursue, and I'm pleased with the energy from ACBL leadership that is being spent on this issue.

## Local contributors

I'm pleased to see several pockets of energy in our district that are revitalizing bridge in LA county.

One of those energy sources is the Bridge Brigade charity which has assisted in bridge education and related efforts across multiple units in both District 23 and District 22. I'm pleased to announce that Bridge Brigade has won a grant to continue their successful bridge education work. I supported the Bridge Brigade grant application and will work to help ensure their proposed efforts are successful.

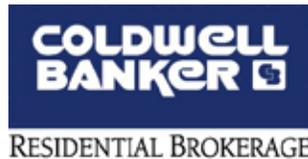
Next month I will elaborate on the work of not only Bridge Brigade but other D23 efforts to promote and sustain bridge.

Contact me at [klanded23@gmail.com](mailto:klanded23@gmail.com) to share your thoughts.

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## From the Director's Chair:

*by Jim Perkins*

"We misentered the score."

That's forgivable. I guess. But what was East/West doing? When you check the scores and approve them, the idea is that you check them first and then approve them. Of course, players are so anxious to see the results from the other tables that they simply punch the approve button in order to get to the juicy parts.

This is another reason to not show the scores on the bridgemates. My partner affirmatively does not want to know the scores as they display on the bridgemate. Her view is that a duplicate bridge session is not meant to be the kind of competition where participants know the score as the event progresses. Beyond that, showing the scores can lead to many sorts of things that are disruptive to the game-- gloating over a good result and making opponents feel bad, attacking partner for a bad result and making partner feel not good, discussing the results loudly to wonder how such results could have been attained and ruining the board for everyone that hears.

Last month, I wrote about the fact that players need to finish their rounds on time. Finishing on time is just being considerate of all the other players in the game. But entering the scores in the bridgemate and approv-

ing them is one area where you can take just a little extra time to make sure the entries are correct.

My partner and I once had a scoring error that affected our final standing. I must admit that I generally accept responsibility for approving scores for us as East/West, and I did this time too. The score was entered wrong and approved by me. We discovered it after we had left and gone home. We called the director to complain, but North/South claimed a lack of memory and that for the result to have been as claimed, South would have had to make an irrational play. That is exactly what had happened. But no relief. So partner and I now have a new procedure: North (our opponent) enters the scores, I approve them and we move to the next board, at the end of the round after I have approved the last board, I hand the bridgemate to partner and she pulls up all the scores for the round to make sure that I have done my job correctly.

Play with reasonable quickness but take an extra moment to make sure you score the game correctly. Nobody likes to deal with a scoring error, especially when it really counts so let's take a little care to make sure we get the scores in right in the first place.

### District 23 Rank Changes January 2018

#### Junior Master

Toshie Bergan, Jacky Glass  
Deanna Kean, Patricia Luehrs  
Richard McCurdy  
A (Peggy) Rahn  
Bonnie Shok, Lauren Silinsky

#### Club Master

Karen Harms, James O'Dowd  
Ron Patterson  
Ramani Ravikandan  
Tom Sessions, Doug Trussler

#### Sectional Master

Allan Baraz, Bob Becker  
Andrea Forman, Sam Lee  
Ron Melnick, Shelly Melnick  
Rami Razouk

#### Regional Master

Gayle Ginsburg  
Peter Koenig  
Susan Koenig  
Paul Reukauf  
A Shah

#### NABC Master

Xiao Lu Gu  
Merle Liebesman  
Jerold Rose, Stephen Rosen  
Ramesh Sawhney  
Alexander Wiles, Nazli Zahedi

#### Life Master

Laura Gastelum, Karraine Murray  
David Stern

#### Bronze Life Master

Gary Baxley, Jim Brunet  
Nolan Chang, Kenneth Okel  
Raymond Primus, William Raff

#### Silver Life Master

Alan Golden, Robert Preece

#### Ruby Life Master

Phyllis Kantar, Charles Morrin  
Paula Olivares

#### Gold Life Master

Rita Levin

#### Sapphire Life Master

Barbara Pinchuk

# 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)

**December 17 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Jo and John Melis, 2nd Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid, 3rd Renee Alpert/Joan Kaye, 4th Barbara and Alan Olschwang, 5th Usha Bansal/Rob Preece, 6th John Bralliar/Judith Jones. In the B flight overalls Lavonne McQuilken/Carol Murakoshi were 5th. In the C flight overalls Bettyanne House/Nancy Toussaint were 3rd, Ellen Kice/Sylvia Kaprelyan tied with Alan Flower/Dalia Hernandez for 4/5. And in the 199er section overalls: 1st Don Vallens/Dan Frank, 2nd Russ Gray/Paul Chen, 3rd Frank Varga/Maxine Barton-Bauman. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games** Dec 16 through Jan 15: In the NLM game Dec 29 Louise Sperr/Winnie Varga were 1st with 70.83%. In the evening game Dec 29 Peggy Waite/Wayne Rapp were 1st with 70%. And in the open game Jan 10 Kiyo Nagaishi/Wayne Rapp were 1st with 76.26%. Congratulations to all three pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards** Dec 16 through Jan 15: In the unit game Dec 17 Jo and John Melis were 1st winning 4.23mp, Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid were 2nd winning 3.17mp. Dec 21 Jackie Hess/Cory Hand were 1st winning 3.65mp. Dec 26 John Petrie/Jeanette Estill were 1st winning 5.06mp, Rich Wasser/Mike Welsh were 2nd winning 3.80mp. Dec 27 Betty Witteried/Bev Shafer were 1st winning 4.31mp, John Melis/Kay Tseng were 2nd winning 3.23mp, and in the evening game Larry Topper Lynn Danielson were 1st winning 3.00mp. Dec 28 Colleen Gardner/John Melis were 1st winning 3.94mp. Dec 29 Kay Tseng/Cory Hand were

1st winning 5.81mp, Mike and Karen McKittrick were 2nd winning 4.36mp, Joyce and Alan Olschwang were 3rd winning 3.27mp. Dec 30 Peggy Waite/Jon Yinger were 1st winning 3.90mp. Jan 1 Fern Dunbar/Nancy Toussaint were 1st winning 3.50mp. Jan 13 John Melis/Colleen Gardner were 1st winning 3.94mp. Congratulations to all!!

**New Club Members:** Robyn Michaeloff, James Michaeloff, Diana Parmeter, Melanie Smothers, Susan Vierregger. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New Junior Masters: Deann Huddleston, Carol Poto. New Club Masters: William Cray, Judith Hirsh, Katharine Seibert, Lillian Slater. New Sectional Master: Barbara Wallace. New Regional Master: Don Valens. Congratulations to all!

**Get Well Wishes** to Debra Skinner.

**Condolences** to Sylvia Kaprelyan whose husband passed away earlier this month.

### Upcoming Events at the Club

February 1 Bob Mault Day. Extra points, regular card fees. "Roast Bob" 11:30; lunch 11:50; game 12:30

February 3 ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game. Extra points, regular card fees.

February 7 eve, Feb 9 eve, Feb 10: Grass Roots Games. Extra points; \$10 card fees

February 13 Mardi Gras Game: lunch 11:45, game 12:30. Extra points, regular fees

February 14 Valentine's Day potluck. Lunch 11:45, game 12:30. Extra points, regular card fees

Feb 18 Sunday Swiss Teams

Feb 19-24 D22/23 STaC Week. Extra points, \$11 card fees

Feb 25 Unit Game. Card fee \$8. Only dessert served

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs  
by Judy Carter-Johnson

**Club Championship Game--** Clubhouse #1 — →

December 15: JoyceHenderson/Alan Olschwang 1 in A, 1 in B. Judith Jones/John Bralliar 2 in A. Fern Dunbar/Hanefi Erten 3 in A. Betty Jackson/Diane Sachs 4 in A. JudyCarter-Johnson/Mark Singer 5 in A, 2 in B. Verna Burns/Howard Smith 6 in A. Jack and Cooie Dampman 3 in B. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Russell Gray 2 in B, 2 in C. Chie Wickham/Alan Olschwang 3 in B. Barbara Harris/Jean Kato 4 in B. Cookie Pham/Paul Chen 5 in B, 1 in C. Verna Becker/Al Appel 6 in. Sylvia Kaprelyan/George Alemshah 2 in C. Marlene Mellroy/Ted Cooper 3 in C. Bea Aron/Tybie Becker 4 in C.

**Club Championship**--Clubhouse #3—January 11: Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 1 in A, 1 in B. George Alemshah/Martin Lipman 2 in A, 2 in B. Judith Jones/Al Appel tied with Paul Chen/Harshad Vora for 3/4 in A. Paul Chen/Harshad Vora 3 in B, 1 in C. Gene and Ron Yaffee 5 in A, 4 in B, 2 in C. Russell Gray/Fred Reker 5 in B, 3 in C. Winnie Warga/John Hagman 6 in B, 4 in C.

**Congratulations to Mini McKenney and Ace of Club Winners** - Long Beach Unit awards to Louise Seifert and Stan Johnson 20 - 50, Ellen Kice 50-100, Russell Gray and George Koehm 100-200, Sylvia Kaprelyan, Cookie Pham, Ted Wieber and Gene Yaffee 200-300, Howard Smith 500-1000, Marilyn McClintock and Sherry Troeger 1000- 1500, Betty Jackson 2500-3000, Bob Mault and Joan Tschirki 3500-5000. Mini McKenney Linda Nye 300-500, Ace of Clubs Fred Reker 500-1000, Sibyl Smith and Larry Slutsky 1500-2500.

**Get Well Wishes to:** Bill Robinson

**Welcome back** to Jane Gibbons and Midge Dunagan.

**Condolences** to the family Jean Byer. Jean was on the Clubhouse Board of Directors for many years.

Any news for next month's column, please e mail me at [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

In the January Unit game, Vic Sartor - Bill Papa were the leaders, edging our Fredy and Lulu Minter. In the third spot were Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson, and Gail Leroy - Steve Dorse placed fourth.

In the January Individual, Don Logsdon took the top spot. Steve Mancini was second, Paul Chrisney third, and Al Lax tied with Claudia Cochran for fourth. Our usual host, Lois, is still not quite recovered from her fall, and so Tom Lill will be hosting the February game.

This month, the battle for the top score was a runaway posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter: 73.7%. This easily outdistanced the 68.4% game by Herb Stampfl and Joe Unis. Not that 68.4% is anything to be embarrassed by ... Other winners: Richard Patterson, Kurt Triselmann, Clint Lew, Claudia Cochran, Harold and Sharon Eshelman, and Charly Kao.

One promotion to report this month. Hanan Mogharbel is now an Advanced NABC Master. For those of you asking, "what dat?" – it corresponds to the old requirements for Life Master, before the League changed the LM requirements to 500 masterpoints.

Rank updates from the Glendale Regional haven't been processed yet ... but attendance was rather disappointing, as you will have gathered from our District President's report. In our Unit, 11 players gathered 24.73 points. The biggest winner was Hanan, with 7.26 points. Second was Amr Elghamry, 4.48, then Steve Mancini, 3.84, and Bridget O'Sullivan, 1.88.

Our Unit will once again be participating in The Longest Day. This year, the summer solstice falls on Thursday, June 21. We will be holding games at 8:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus. Also, Roger plans to hold his regular Thursday evening game at La Fetra.

Our Hand of the Month is more amusing than instructive this month, even though the season of "ho-ho-ho" is well behind us. With no one vulnerable, RHO deals and bids 2♦, weak. We'll give you your partner's hands:

Pard: ♠A7 ♥K5 ♦72 ♣KQJT764

You: ♠QJT ♥AQ7 ♦K ♣A98532.

Nothing much of interest there, is there? You'd expect to reach (and make, if the preempter has the ♠K) 6♣. And that's what happened at two tables. One pair stopped at 5♣ (+420, a bottom); evidently Pard forgot to jump to 4♣ after your double. What makes this hand amusing is not only the 13-card club fit ("Now there's something you don't see every day, Chauncey"), but →

Unit Game – Saturday, February 17, 11:00 a.m.  
Individual – Saturday, February 3, 9:30 a.m., Chino

the fact that one pair reached 3NT (!), making 7 (!!!). Evidently RHO ducked the opening diamond lead, to drive out your stopper (!) and keep communications with partner open.

Quote for the Month: “If you can’t say anything nice to your partner, at least have the decency to be vague.” (Ron Klinger)

And the quote in the Hand-of-the-Month is a running gag from Rocky and Bullwinkle. You knew that! Didn’t you?

Until next month ...



**Santa Clarita-  
Antelope Valley  
by Beth Morrin**

Unit 556 held its annual meeting on January 16th and elected a new board for 2018. Paula Olivares will continue as president and the board members will be Ruth Baker, Tracy Boys, Gay Gipson, May Ho, Roy Ladd, Jan Ladd, Beth Morrin and Rand Pinsky. The Unit plans to continue our focus on sponsoring events for our beginning and intermediate players, subsidizing STaC games, and holding our sectional in September.

Congratulations to two of our members who advanced to the rank of Ruby Life Master: Paula Olivares and Charles Morrin.

Many of our members played in the Glendale Regional and had great results. Barbara and Tom Jones were first in C in the Wednesday Morning side game. In the Thursday Evening Swiss, David White’s team came in first in C. In the Saturday Afternoon Swiss, David White, Pat Larin, Tracy Boys and Ruth Baker were first in B. In the Sunday B/C/D Swiss, Tracy and Ruth teamed with Mike Marcucci and Keran Kumar to come in first. They were followed in second place by Kathy Swaine, Rand Pinsky, Roy Ladd, and Bert Stock.

**Unit Game Results**

Thursday, January 11th in Castaic

- 1 Ted Maki and Kathy Swaine - 61.57%
- 2 Viviane Dinehart and Aggi Oschin - 57.41%
- 3 Tom Day and Meressa Naftulin - 56.48%
- 4 Lamonte Johnson and Richard Stark - 53.70%

- Tuesday January 16th in Santa Clarita
- 1 Elaine Moore and Bert Stock - 60.36%
  - 2 Betty Pavey and Rita VanNatter - 56.65%
  - 3 Ted Maki and Lamonte Johnson - 54.74%

**Upcoming STaC Games**

Monday, March 19 at 12:30 in Santa Clarita

Tuesday, March 20 at 6:45 in Santa Clarita

Thursday, March 22 at 10:00 AM in Castaic

Friday, March 21 at 12:30 in Palmdale

Sunday, March 23 at 12:30 in Palmdale

Next Board meeting: TBA as a conference call



**San Fernando  
Valley  
by Linda Silvey**

**March 3: Unit 561 Awards Luncheon/Game**

A Unit 561 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 3, at the 750 Club. The catered lunch will be served buffet style at noon, followed by the presentation of awards, and then an Open, Stratified game at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$13 and reservations are required. A sign-up sheet will be available at The 750 Club in February or email Marcia Broderick at [mm16227@aol.com](mailto:mm16227@aol.com) (by February 28) for reservations/partnerships

**Special Congratulations**

December Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ray Primus 16.77, Tony Mirchandani 9.42, Michael Wiener 8.08, Betty Andelson 6.94, Martin Hurwitz 6.94, Renee Wishengrad 6.94, Ravnesh Amar 6.59, Jerry Goodman 6.11, Rochelle Lotto 5.89, and Gary Baxley 5.66. Rochelle Lotto – Ellen Carrier achieved a 70% game with a score of 70.95%.

**The 750 Club News and February Special Events**

Some snowbirds and a southeastern seabird have been migrating to Woodland Hills! Recent visitors, who received a warm welcome at The 750 Club, have in- →

cluded players from the states of Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana, and New York.

During the week of February 5-9, The 750 Club will be participating in ACBL's "Regional Event at Club House". Players can earn gold points as well as black points by signing by February 2 with ACBL.

Celebration of Valentine's Day will be held on Wednesday, February 14, with a drawing for free plays. Drawings for free plays will also take place on Monday, February 19, at both the day and night games in celebration of Presidents' Day. Club Championship Week will be held Monday – Friday, February 12-16. Extra black points will be awarded for no additional fees.

A special Memorial Game will be held on Saturday, February 24, in celebration of the life of Bill Taylor. The free game will begin at 12:30 p.m. with the usual bridge beverages and snacks provided in the afternoon. Please reserve ahead of time by contacting Terry Morton at [thmorton@att.net](mailto:thmorton@att.net).

### Calendar

Monday-Friday, February 5-9, Gold points available at The 750 Club through ACBL's REACH program. See details above.

Wednesday, February 7, U561 Board Meeting, The 750 Club, 2:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday, February 12-16, Club Championship Week at The 750 Club.

Wednesday, February 14, Valentine's Day will be celebrated at The 750 Club.

Monday, February 19, Presidents' Day will be celebrated at The 750 Club.

Saturday, February 24, Bill Taylor Memorial Game will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Saturday, March 3, Unit 561 Mini-McKenney-Ace of Club Awards Luncheon and Game, noon, The 750 Club, Woodland Hills

Tuesday, March 20, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact [nrklemens@aol.com](mailto:nrklemens@aol.com) or (818) 609-1071.

Friday-Saturday, May 4-5, U561 San Fernando Valley Sectional, at The 750 Club, Woodland Hills



## Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: [www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568](http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568)

SBBC: [www.southbaybridgeclub.com](http://www.southbaybridgeclub.com)

### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Unit Game: Friday, February 2, 11:30 a.m.

ACBL International Fund Game: Sat, Feb 3

ACBL Charity Game: Tuesday, Feb 13, 11:30 a.m.

District 22/23 STAC: Monday Feb 19-24

### Club Championships

The Club Championships at the SBBC that were listed in previous editions of this column were not scored as such. This being the case no winners for these dates will be listed here. There was a Club game not previously listed as a Club Championship that was scored as such. This is shown below.

On Friday November 10 the Club Championship was led by Gaye Herringtpn/Wayne Otsuki in Flight A while Betsy Amador/Cal Waller led Flight B and Gerry Gastelum/Nancy Raiche topped Flight C.

### Team Winners

December 19: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronck Felczer

January 2: CVal Bamio, Luis Gamio, Fran Israel, Mike Savage

January 9: Ed Barad, CVal Gamio, Wayne Otsuki, Mike Savage

January 16: Carol Mason, Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, J.J. McDermott

### TSB Masterpoint Leaders in 2017

Following are names of players who led their Masterpoint categories for the Torrance South Bay Unit during 2017. There may be few minor adjustments when point totals are finalized. Leaders in both the Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs categories are listed. →

	Mini McKenney	Ace of Clubs
0-5	Jack Stewart 25	Jack Stewart 19
5-20	Kiyohisa Wakabayashi 31	Kiyohisa Wakabayashi 25
20-50	Corneliu Dabija 46	Corneliu Dajiba 27
50-100	John Janus 90	John Janus 49
100-200	Kathy Soltwedell 71	Kathy Soltwedell 51
200-300	Hsuehching Chang 150	Virginia Brewer 62
300-500	Laura Gastelum 201	Laura Gastelum 74
500-1000	Elaine Godin 122	Elaine Godin 78
1000-1500	Mike Welsh 154	Mike Welsh 119
1500-2500	Steve Ramos 284	Stan Greengard 95
2500-3500	Gerri Soffa Carlson 289	Kim Wang 114
3500-5000	Ed Piken 261	Fran Israel 119
5000-7500	Alfred Lee 336	Jeff Strutzel 64
>10000	Bruce Horiguchi 663	John J. McDermott 202

Unit Heroes at Glendale Regional

The TSB unit had a few first overall winners at the recent Regional in Glendale. Neal Kleiner and David Peim won the Thursday afternoon Side game. Elaine Godin and Lutrell Long were on a team winning the Bracket 3 Compact KO on Saturday. Ed and Michael Piken were first overall in the Sunday Fast Pairs game.

GUV AWARD

I was not able to come up with a worthy GUV Award story this month. I promise to do better next month  
Na Zdrowie



West LA  
by Robert Shore

November Warm-Up

Everyone knows, of course, that there's an election scheduled for this coming November. What may be less well known is that our very own Unit Board just completed its annual elections for this year's slate of officers. This year's victims are your Humble Scribe as President, Howard Einberg as Vice President, Lee Hausner as Secretary, and returning fan favorite Roger Clough as Treasurer. This reporter would like to publicly thank his predecessor, as well as the other recently retired occupants of Unit offic-

es, for the many hours of volunteer work they devoted to their positions.

The Board continues to have a number of vacancies, with yet another one soon scheduled to occur as Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten moves up north this month. Some potential volunteers have started to emerge from the woodwork, but nothing is certain until it actually happens. So if you'd like to be involved in making decisions that affect the whole Unit, and possibly even our entire District, please step up and volunteer. The rewards aren't monetary. But they're very real.

Going, Going, . . . .

Speaking of decisions that may impact the entire District, at last month's meeting your Unit Board may have made one of those. As you may know, the Southern California Bridge News (this paper that you're reading right now) is entirely funded by voluntary contributions from the Units. It has been, that is, until now. At our January meeting, the Board voted to immediately end our Unit's contribution toward this endeavor. Our Unit is the largest in the District, so the likely result of the Unit's decision, unless that decision is changed, is that the Bridge News will no longer be financially viable in any form. Even if the paper continues, it's entirely possible the powers-that-be will decide this column is no longer appropriate for inclusion. So stay tuned.

New Events

The offerings at our local clubs continue to evolve. Beverly Hills has now terminated its Thursday evening team game, but in its place it will begin to offer a 99er →

Pairs game. An innovation the Club is trying will start the game later (to allow more time to avoid traffic), and also to end the game by 9:45. We'll find out whether this effort to grow the game is a success.

In the meantime, across the freeway at Barrington, Jim Perkins has organized the West Los Angeles Spring Bridge League. It will play two Thursday evenings a month using a league format with each team expected to play throughout the "regular season." After three sessions of Swiss in each flight (open and 0-1500), the top two teams by victory points will play a knockout match for the league title, while the next two teams play their own match for third place. This game is enjoying a Unit sanction so, as an extended team championship, it will offer master points on the full sectional scale. Jim is excited about the number of teams who have already expressed an intent to play in each flight. The league starts February 15. Come see what it's like.

#### Thinking of a Green Christmas

The District tried an innovation of its own over the holidays, taking over the old Reno slot and holding a regional in Glendale between Christmas and New Year's. Those who attended had a great time (and discovered that I really am as loud as I seem), but unfortunately not enough people came to see for themselves. It's unlikely that we will be able to give this tournament a second try in the foreseeable future. We did have some winners to report though. Alex Kolesnik won the Wednesday Open Pairs, and Alyssa Kennedy and Rick Turner won their bracket of the Saturday Compact Knockout

Teams.

#### The Sounds of Philadelphia

The District has completed this year's North American Pairs competition and eleven pairs in three flights have qualified to play the national finals this spring in Philadelphia. Some of those pairs will even enjoy a nice check from ACBL (supplemented by the District) to help defray their expenses. Leading the Flight A field at the District Finals was Viktor Anikovich, while Alyssa Kennedy and Rick Turner topped all comers in Flight B. Good luck to all our participants.

#### Around the Clubs

Beverly Hills club champions this month were Peter Benjamin and Rob Perlsweig, Farideh Sigari and Sam Namer, Richard Stevenson and Ludwig Uri, and Judy Levi and Alan Wollman. No club championships to report from Barrington.

Hitting 70% at Barrington were Pam Wittes and Thomas Racciatti, Wayne Karson and Art Zail, and Adrienne Green and David Bohnett. Some near misses at Beverly Hills, but no one rang that particular bell last month.

Your Humble Scribe is still working on a way to obtain news about new members of our Unit and rank promotions. I'm still hoping for a solution in time for next month's column (if there is one).

Got news? Send it to me at [Bob78164@yahoo.com](mailto:Bob78164@yahoo.com).

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# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Jill Meyers and Michael Shuster

1

IMPs  
no vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠J2 ♥AQT876 ♦KJ3 ♣K4  
What call do you make?

*A significant part of this problem is interpreting the 2♣ bid. I was not the originator of this problem. If I had originated the problem, I would ask what South's rebid should be after North advances 1♠. I had rejected the problem previously because of that difficulty, but chose it this month. (Maybe I'm running out of good material. Send me your problem hands!) I think 2♣ should be natural. If 2♣ is a cuebid, does this hand merit one?*

**Meyers: 3♥.** I don't have enough to bid game in my own hand, and I already cuebid.

**Shuster: 4♥** (Assuming I bid 2♦ and not 2♣). I'm willing to give up on 3NT as we'll never be able to accurately judge when that is best anyway. I'm also willing to give up on slam, as even the most optimistic constructions for North do not yield cold slams. ♠Axxx ♥KJx ♦xx ♣AQxx [many players would cuebid instead of advancing 1♠ with that hand] is an example of a stone cold max with no wastage, and we are still on a diamond guess. The main alternative is 3NT, which "should" offer partner a choice between 3NT and 4♥ (otherwise you'd have bid 3NT last time around.) But 4♥ should be fine and doesn't risk an accident.

**Dunitz: 4♥.** Slam requires perfect cards. If I bid 3♣ will partner have any idea that I want hearts to be

trump? The auction is ugly.

**Goldsmith: 3♥.** I'll guess 3♥. Can partner have as much as ♠Kxxxx ♥Kx ♦Qxx ♣Qxx? [This example doesn't make 4♥ a good contract, but 3NT by South looks reasonable.] I think so. I think 2♣ is natural.

**Davis 3♥.** Close between pass and 3♥. Partner won't have more than something like ♠AKxxx ♥xx ♦Qxx ♣xxx for his non-forcing 2♥ bid, but that would be enough to make game pretty good. I need partner to have something more than his minimum to bid a game. If his something extra is in clubs, he may bid 3NT, which I will pass. Although my hand is balanced, I will likely have to lose the lead too often to suggest notrump myself. I would bid 2NT over 2♥ if my minors were reversed.

**Kantar: 3♥.** I'm not sure what 2♣ means; a strong spade raise? a second suit? Anyway, I sort of like my hand and am beginning to feel like a coward.

*The panel wasn't sold on the 2♣ bid either. Regardless of what 2♣ means, they range from thinking this hand is barely a 3♥ bid, to thinking 4♥ is best. I'm a 3♥ bidder. My ♣Kx isn't enough to bid 3NT, but if partner can bid 3NT, I will pass.*

2

IMPs  
NS vul

South	West	North	East
2♥ ?	Pass	1NT 2♠	Pass Pass

You, South, hold: ♠JT943 ♥Q2 ♦97654 ♣A  
What call do you make?

*Again, the panel wasn't in agreement with the auction up to this point. Many of them point out that Stayman, followed by 2♠ over a 2♦ response, is commonly played as a light invite with five spades, and this hand fits that description. I agree that is the most common treatment for the non-competitive sequence: 1NT - 2♣, 2♦ - 2♠, but there are other possible agreements. I strongly prefer that auction to be a signoff. I get to use the sequence on hands like ♠Jxxxx ♥KQTx ♦xx ♣xx or ♠QJ9xx ♥Qxxxx ♦x ♣xx. Further, for pairs who use 2NT over 1NT as not natural (a transfer to diamonds or a puppet to 3♣), the sequence 1NT - 2♣, 2♥ - 2♠, shows exactly four spades. I was given this problem by an East Coast expert. I don't know what his preferred agreement about Stayman followed by 2♠ is, but he thought 3♠ was the best bid. Partner didn't super accept, so I think any further try is too rich. I think 3♠ is preferable to 2NT if you are going to bid again.*

**Meyers: 2NT** This is a crapshoot depending on if the hands fit. I will bid 2NT but only because we are vul at IMPs – I think in a vacuum it is right to pass.

**Shuster: Pass.** An optimist will note the possibility of either suit being established with the ♥Q or ♦9 as a late entry and visions of a vulnerable game. However, my partners are more likely to have 14 than 16 when they open a 15-17 NT, and despite good spade texture, I probably lack a late entry. [My partners are far more likely to have 16 than 14 when they open a 15 - 17

NT, and I'm still not sold on acting again.] There is no safety in inviting, as undertricks are in the 100s (the odds for bidding close vulnerable games go down considerably when they might be set multiple tricks.) I would have preferred to start with Stayman on this hand type, with the agreement that Stayman followed by 2♠ shows a light, distributional invite.

**Kantar: Pass.** Again feeling a little cowardly, but partner had several ways of showing a stronger spade hand than 2♠.

**Goldsmith: Pass.** This is why most play 2♣, then 2♠ is invitational. 2♠ is almost certainly a better contract than 2NT, and the hand is a marginal invite. Even red at IMPs, I think bidding 2♥ then 2NT rates to go minus so often that it's a poor risk. But an invite which ends at 2♠ is fine; we preserve the likely plus in 2♠, avoid a silly 2NT or 3NT contract, and get to game when we have a fit.

**Davis: Pass.** With my high cards in my short suits, I don't think this hand is worth inviting game even though we are vulnerable at IMPs. However, if my cards were in my suits (♠JT9xx ♥xx ♦AQxxx ♣x) I would force to game with 3♦.

**Dunitz: 3♠.** I would have bid 2♣ over 1NT, and then 2♠ over 2♦ or 2♥, which would show an invitation, distributional hand. Forced to transfer instead, I would bid 3♠.

3

IMPs  
NS vul

South	West	North	East
1♣	2♠	Dbl	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠AJ ♥AJ5 ♦75 ♣Q97654  
What call do you make?

*Partner has doubled twice. The first double is negative and the second double is more high cards. His minimum is something just under an opening bid. At MPs there would undoubtedly be greater sentiment to pass. At IMPs passing is tougher. Or maybe it's not. Is it Eddie?*

**Meyers: 4♣.** if partner does have ♠10xx or more I can't see making 3NT, even if partner had the ♣AK I would need another quick trick.

**Kantar: Pass.** I'm visualizing ♠xx ♥KQxx ♦AKxxx ♣xx. How far off was I? *[I don't know the actual hand. Why do you have to be off at all?]*

**Shuster: 4♣.** Partner doesn't hold five hearts, and with no ready source of tricks a 4-3 fit is an experiment in terror. Partner rates to hold close to an opening bid with spade shortness. With my excellent controls and extra club length, it is tempting to take a stab at 5♣ myself, but I choose to leave that decision to partner. If partner holds magic: ♠x ♥Kxxx ♦AKxx ♣Jxxx, I hope he'll find a raise. We might be comparing with 3NT -300 at the other table, even when we are making 5♣.

**Goldsmith: 4♣.** Let's give partner ♠xx ♥KQ10x ♦Axxx ♣KJx. 5♣ is much better than 4♥. Or give partner ♠xx ♥KQ10x ♦KQxxx ♣Kx. No game is any good; 4♣ is probably only down one. They are probably down one or so, so passing is too risky. How well we do on offense really depends on partner's clubs, so let's emphasize them. It's possible that partner really, really, wants me to bid 3NT (♠xx ♥Kxxx ♦QJ10x ♣AKx), but when he doesn't have the ♣AK, 3NT seems unlikely to make.

**Davis: 4♣.** With my long suit requiring substantial help from partner to run, and having probably only a single spade stopper between us, 4♣ looks like a better call than pass or 3NT. If partner had game forcing values with a five-card heart suit he would have bid 2♥, so it sounds like partner has a balanced or semi-balanced hand with 10+ HCP. Maybe knowing I have a long club suit will enable partner to bid a game, e.g., ♠xx ♥KQxx ♦Axxx ♣ATx.

**Dunitz: 5♣.** I'll bid four and a half clubs. OK, make it 5♣.



South	West	North	East
?	3♣	3♦	Pass

You, South, hold:  
 ♠Q865 ♥QT86 ♦AK5 ♣T2  
 What call do you make?

*No stopper? No problem! Eddie reminds us that the late Marshall Miles (the former moderator of this column) would have bid 3NT (in complete tempo).*

**Meyers: 3♥.** I'm hoping partner can bid 3♠ or 3NT.

**Kantar: 3NT.** Not to worry, Marshall will have the clubs stopped.

**Shuster: 3NT.** Maybe partner has a club honor; it isn't like he has a lot of diamond honors. Even when we have no stopper, they might try a sneak attack or the suit could block. Maybe at MPs pass is wiser, but games stolen are thrice as much fun as games earned, so I'll play the thief.

**Goldsmith: 3NT.** There was no raise, and it was a white 3♣ opening, so why not take a shot at the highest-scoring contract?

**Dunitz: 3NT.** This call can win so many ways. Part-

ner may have a club stopper, the clubs may block even if we don't have a stopper, and they may lead something else.

**Davis 3NT.** Partner's diamond suit is not very strong, so he is more likely than usual to have a six- or seven-card suit. If my RHO had three clubs he might have raised clubs. This leads me to think 3NT is our most likely game. A confident 3NT bid by me might get LHO holding ♣AQJxxx to try to find his partner's entry to lead through my assumed club king.

*This hand occurred in a club game. I was the 3♣ bidder. The player who got this problem is not an expert, but he is a very strong club player. He passed in tempo and I was shocked. I thought his hand was way too strong to pass. Only Jill mentioned 3♥, but I think even that is better than passing. His partner had the ♣A on the actual deal, and it made 12 tricks in diamonds and 10 tricks in NT.*

5

IMPs  
NS vul

South	West	North	East
Dbl (Clubs) ?	1♥ (Precision 11-15) 5♥ (no agreement)	Pass Pass	3♣ (Bergen, 4♥, 6-9) Pass

You, South, hold: ♠KJ85 ♥J ♦A5 ♣AK8765  
What call do you make?

*This time I was the player who had the problem. Jay Tipton was the 5♥ bidder. I'll start with two panelists who know the hand. Jeff Goldsmith knows the hand because he was at the other table. He had a great result on the board. He played 4♥ undoubled, down two. If I am not mistaken, Jeff's partner Paul Markarian raised 1♥ to 4♥, which ended the auction without my hand ever bidding. I would have acted over that auction. Ed Davis knows the hand because I gave it to Leo Bell and him at a fantasy football auction a few days later.*

**Meyers: Dbl**, this is takeout with equity to protect.

**Goldsmith: Dbl.** I have no idea who can make what, but West thinks we can make something, so I'll show some signs of life with the best hand at the table. The normal agreement of a double of a mixed raise is takeout. Double's being clubs was good for this hand. *[The world is split on whether a double of a Bergen mixed raise shows the bid suit, or a good takeout of their major. I have different agreements in different partnerships. Here, I was playing with Rick Roeder and the double showed clubs.]*

**Davis: Dbl.** This is an unusual bid by LHO since he might reasonably expect to be able to make 4♥, but nothing higher, given that he did not have a strong 1♣ opening. It feels like LHO's 5♥ bid might have been the winner as I would have been able to bid 4♠ if he had bid 4♥. I expect partner to play me for a strong

3=1=3=6 type of hand for my double of 5♥, and he will only pull the double with sufficient distribution. Shuster: Dbl. The opponents have used their methods to put us under tremendous pressure. LHO is trying to save. RHO might still have defense. If partner passes, -650 is a live possibility, but I have too much hand just to give up here.

**Kantar: Dbl.** My first double was for takeout, and so was my second.

**Dunitz: Pass.**

*I chose 5♠ at the table; Leo Bell said he would have bid 5♠. It went all pass, and Rick put down ♠A7xx ♥x ♦JT9xx ♣Jxx. Jay lead a high heart, saw his partner Linda Tipton play low. Jay shifted to the ♣9, covered with dummy's ♣J, Linda's ♣Q and won by my ♣A. I lead the ♠8 (to unblock the suit), and a spade to my jack, which won, with both opponents following. I collected the ♠Q with my ♠K. I needed a dummy entry to finesse against the ♣T in case the ♣9 had been singleton. To get to dummy, I lead my last trump to dummy's last trump. Scary! If I misread the club situation the entire heart suit would run, and I might be down about 5. The ♣T came up when I lead the club from the dummy and I made 5 for plus 650. Reflecting on the bid leads me to realize that way too many things had to go right. 5♠ was too aggressive. Double is best.*