



Volunteer Profile



Rita Vanlierop

Whether making a reservation to play at the club, checking game results, or verifying calendared club activities, you are using the website faithfully updated by Rita Vanlierop.

Rita (and her husband Jan) are newcomers to Long Beach Bridge, arriving here just two years ago. Retiring in June 2017, Rita and her identical twin sister Mary decided to learn something new and they picked bridge. They took Hank and Fern's introductory class, and Rita was hooked. She realized this was a challenge that would appeal to Jan whom she then recruited. Now he's hooked too! Mary, on the other hand, decided to play Mah Jongg three or four days a week.

Table Talk

March 2020

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Special Events – March 2020

Monday-Sunday, 2-8

STaC

\$1 extra, Silver Points

Monday, 2

Pro-Am, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, 15

**Team Game
Sean Lui directing**

Monday, 16

**Birthday Monday
March babies play for \$5**

Tuesday, 17

**St. Patrick's Day
Corned Beef & Cabbage, \$5**

Saturday, 21

Steve's Picnic Lunch

Sunday, 22

**Unit Game
\$8, Desserts**

Tuesday, 31

ACBL-Wide Charity Game

Rita likes how bridge “keeps the brain active” while providing “enjoyable social aspects.” She’s especially pleased that this is the first hobby she and Jan have enjoyed doing together. Rita’s bridge goal is to continue to improve. She proudly “complains” that Jan is improving faster than she is, but both are improving by taking classes and dedicating more time at the table.

Rita’s volunteer work on the website comes easy to her because it’s “like my own work.” Rita developed Financial Analytics software for IBM, and then worked as an independent contractor her last three years before retirement. An avid rower, Rita owned her own

boat and went out three to five days per week depending on the weather. Having sold her boat last year, today Rita takes any rowing opportunity offered by others.

Rita redesigned the website for the Long Beach Rowing Association so, after becoming ensconced in Long Beach Bridge, she offered to help here. Dalia quickly, and gratefully, accepted and gave full website responsibility to Rita. Thanks to Rita, it has a more polished look and up-to-date information including unit board members and monthly minutes, as well as links to other bridge information. Rita also joined

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March 2020 **table talk**

February Status Changes

New Member

Judy K Martin

Junior Master

Herb Glazeroff

Chia C Yao

Club Master

Estelle Byrnes

Patricia J Donley

Dr Freda H Otto

John F Tholen

Regional Life Master

Jerry D Reid

NABC Life Master

Ardie Laine

Life Master

Joyce Roberts

Bronze Life Master

Linda Nye

Ruby Life Master

Pamela K Cole

Diamond Life Master

Verna M Baccus

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Unit 557's Board of Directors in October last year.

The Vanlierop family is international! Rita is originally Canadian while Jan is Dutch. They met in Israel but have lived in the United States the last 40 years. Their two children are naturalized citizens, having been born in Canada while Jan was getting his PhD at the University of Toronto and Rita was starting her MBA there (finishing at Saint Mary's University in Nova Scotia). Rita delights in her three granddaughters, two in Arizona and one just two blocks away. Rita has "Americanized" her last name into one word while Jan uses the traditional Van Lierop Dutch spelling.

While changes in technology can be frustrating to "digital-immigrant" Baby Boomers, Rita is continually working to improve the access and information available on Long Beach Bridge's website. Thanks for all your hard work and for keeping us technologically current, Rita!

By Lillian Slater



**Diamond Life Master
Verna Baccus**

Verna has been playing since 1961 and self-identified "bridge addict." Verna was very active in Unit 557 serving as president and preparing food for unit games. She admits she is a stickler for the rules. She insists opponents have a completed convention card and admonishes them for touching cards before the declarer has called for the card. Congratulations, Verna!



**New Life Master
Joyce Roberts**

FYI: ACBL Laws of Duplicate Bridge 66 A

So long as his side has not led or played to the next trick, declarer or either defender may, until he has turned his own card face down on the table, require that all cards just played to the trick be faced.



**New Bronze Life Master
Linda Nye**



**New Ruby Master
Pamela Cole**

February Birthdays



Marcie Evans

The bridge community was saddened to hear that on February 1, 2020, at the age of 86 Marcelita Evans passed away. With sparkle on her cap and a twinkle in her eye, Marcie was always a fierce competitor and the consummate bridge ambassador.



Left to right. Ralph Rivera, Joyce Henderson, Hank Dunbar, Madge Weinstein, John Petrie, Roselyn Teukolsky



Doreen Maes

Doreen Kay Maes, 76, born on September 22, 1943, in McVille, ND, United States, passed away February 21, 2020. Our deepest sympathies to the Maes family.



The 4:15 Friday night game celebrated Valentine's Day with a party. Nine of the 21 attendees wore red---the Ladies in Red are blowing kisses to all. For every 2 Hearts and 4 Hearts contract bid and made, the declarer put their name into a bowl for drawings. A 6 Hearts bowl was also available but, alas, that bowl was empty. Names were drawn after the dinner break and at the end of the game. Winners picked from an assortment of white elephant gifts supplied by Nancy Toussaint and Virginia Brewer. To add to the festivities, there were extra beverages and sweets for the dinner break to add to the festivities. Top scoring pair, Mary Singer and George Derejvanik, received a free game card coupon compliments of director and party hostess Nancy.



Ready.....Set.....Play!

By Nancy Aasen Toussaint

Baseball players are known for having certain rituals or superstitions that they do before going up to bat. It may be wearing a favorite pair of socks, hitting the base three times with their bat, touching their arm in several places. Whatever it is, they think it helps them in their batting. Do bridge players also have certain procedures that are followed before starting a game?

Some things may be purely habit but other practices may be rooted in science. If you think it helps your game, you might as well do it! The operative word here is **THINK**. With all the variables in bridge it would probably be impossible to prove any of these things actually improves your game. The saying goes, "He who make the least mistakes, wins." Here are a few examples. Which are superstitions and which may have some validity?

1. Wearing a certain pair of socks or piece of jewelry
2. Drinking a cup of coffee or Coke for a caffeine "wake me up"
3. Shaking out your fingers, hands, and arms to relax
4. Saying "good luck" to the entire table
5. Tapping your head several times to get more blood flowing up there

6. Taking three deep breathes to relax (In-2-3-4, Hold, Out-2-3-4-5-6)
7. Going over your convention card with your partner no matter how often or seldom you play with that partner
8. Playing a few practice hands on-line before coming to the game
9. Closing your eyes and visualizing a good (maybe 7NT?) hand
10. Chewing gum (especially in the afternoon of an all-day Swiss game)
11. Doing a few bends and stretches in the parking lot before coming in
12. Having a lucky penny or some other talisman in your pocket
13. Touching your arm in three places like baseball player Garciaparra did (just kidding!)
14. Offering up a quick prayer
15. Always playing East/West (or always North/South)
16. Eating (or not eating) before a game

Can you think of others? Are there other practices you do? Please drop me a quick email: nancydance@aol.com and I will compile them for Ready.....Set.....Play, Part 2 in a future Table Talk. I promise to keep you anonymous, if you want.

Master Point Races Explained

ACBL gives official recognition to the winners (who are ACBL members) of the most masterpoints in a calendar year in several different categories. Master Point races are the cumulative points within that year. Your category (Junior Master, Life Master, etc.) is established on January of that year. On-line "colorless" points are not included in the race.

Ace of Clubs

Recognition is given to players through the rank of Grand Life Master who earn the most masterpoints in club games during the calendar year. Most people think of this as black points.

Mini-McKenney

Recognition is given to players in each masterpoint category who win the most masterpoints during the calendar year.

2019 winners will be recognized at the April 2020 Unit Game.



Table Talk

Table Talk is distributed monthly. It is emailed to members of Long Beach Bridge with paper copies available at the club.

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Article Submissions

We welcome articles, ideas, and photos pertaining to our club. We reserve the right to revise submissions. Contact Ardie at ardeaux1@gmail.com