



Table Talk

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Volunteer Profile



Renee Hoffman

Renee Hoffman does it all at the Long Beach Bridge club. She handles partnerships, teaches classes to introduce newer players to tournament play, mentors players on Monday nights, and serves as a board member of Unit 557 and ALACBU.

Renee was introduced to bridge at home, partnering with her grandmother against her parents. Through the years, she continued playing socially. When she retired in 2006, she decided to pursue the game more seriously and found Long Beach Bridge. At the time George Welsh and Irma were the club owners, they gave her information, and she started taking classes, initially with Bob Mault and later with George and Mark Teaford.

Events November 2020		
Online Schedule Daily Games		
ALLIANCE games are held at www.bridgebase.com .		
7:00 a.m.	\$7	0-299 Blue
7:00 a.m.	\$7	Open
7:30 a.m.	\$7	0-499 Green
8:30 a.m.	\$8	0-1000 Pink
10:00 a.m.	\$8	0-299 Blue
10:00 a.m.	\$8	Open
10:15 a.m.	\$8	0-99 Red
11:30 a.m.	\$8	0-1000 Pink
12:30 p.m.	\$8	0-299 Blue
1:00 p.m.	\$8	Open
2:45 p.m.	\$8	0-499 Green
4:00 p.m.	\$7	Open

Renee's advice to new and intermediate players is "read, take classes, and play as much as possible." She added, "Find partners who want the same things as you. Also, find a more experienced player who is willing to play with you and review hands to develop your game." Once the club reopens, Renee strongly recommends playing in the Monday night mentored games to accomplish this latter goal.

Renee's personal experience in finding compatible partners motivated her first volunteer experiences at the club. While

taking classes, she started playing in the Bridge Plus Wednesday night game where students could play duplicate but ask questions of the teacher. Renee recalled, "Bob was so welcoming and helpful in his advice. I felt very comfortable playing and learning in that environment." However, there was the problem of a partner since she was new and knew no one. During a game with her first partner, they were supposed to be playing Stayman when her partner announced, "I don't want to learn anything new." Renee did want to

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learn so that partnership had to be dissolved. Her next partner was the nicest person who had taken up bridge after years of playing Pinochle. As a result, her partner had a bad habit of putting her Ace on a trick that Renee had already won because, in Pinochle, one wants as many points as possible on a trick. Renee gently extricated herself from that partnership. Unfortunately, they both continued to play in the Wednesday night game, and this partner always greeted her with “you dumped me.”

As a result, Renee developed her philosophy of compatible partnerships, an extremely important part of duplicate bridge. First of all, she recommends starting a partnership by saying, “Well, let’s try playing together and see what we think.” That avoids a firm commitment and allows both of the partners to assess if and how it’s working—all without hurt feelings. Secondly, Renee believes it’s important to find partners who have the same goals as you. A person may want to take classes and apply what’s being learned, or may want to practice in order to compete in tournaments, or may want to socialize and enjoy the challenge of the game at a leisurely pace, or may just want to play because they know as much as they want to know.

Renee implemented a hands-on approach to establishing partnerships. She has played with as many as possible players in the club—87 to date! She assesses their experience level and determines their goals and expectations for duplicate bridge. That way she can better pair them with compatible partners. Renee has created many partnerships such as Ardie Laine and John Gallagher who still play once a

week. She is especially thankful for Fred Willbanks and Sylvia Karelyan who are very generous filling in whenever a partner is needed.

Renee currently has five regular Long Beach partners with whom she plays on BBO every day. Renee is the queen of BBO! She has always played online even before our safer-at-home sheltering began. She explained, “BBO is a valuable tool from the standpoint of practicing, learning, and having the convenience of being able to play with people from all over the world. One of the biggest benefits is watching your partner play the hands.” She volunteered to become the go-to person to help others transition to online duplicate bridge. Renee added, “I think BBO is a wonderful opportunity for people who have spouses with medical conditions to be able to play duplicate bridge even when they can’t come to a club.”

Renee indicated that she started slow but earned Life Master and Bronze Life Master at the same time at the 2013 Santa Clara Regional. She won her gold playing on a team with Sharon Biederman, Susan Bibby, Steve Ramos, and Peggy Sprague, a friend from elementary school. Renee recalled that “Peggy and I played lots of card games growing up, and she was always better. I thank all my amazing team

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Who is this little darling?

Our darling is second from the right. Go to our Facebook page - Long Beach Bridge for the answer.

Were you a cute kid? Of course you were! Be the next little darling. Send photos to: ardeaux1@gmail.com.



Last month's little darling:
Mary
Guzzetta



Ruth Padway “Paddy” Kaller

1922 –September 13, 2020

Life Master
Director

Ruth “Paddy” Kaller passed in Ojai, California. Our condolences to the family of Paddy Kaller.

Unit 557 Masterpoint Races

As of October 6, 2020

Mini-McKenney

Overall	Jackie Hess	148.05
	Lillian Slater	127.12
	John Melis	125.51
0-5	Darrel Manson	21.36
	Jane Manson	20.45
	Yvonne Kroneberger	17.87
5-20	Linda Lane	45.93
	Jan Van Lierop	26.41
	Rita Van Lierop	25.93
20-50	Melanie Smothers	87.51
	Rick Gonser	11.78
	Beth Mary Byrne	11.51
50-100	Ted Dowe	69.45
	Carolyn Byrnes	50.96
	Judith Cook	35.62
100-200	Ardis Laine	81.89
	Sandra Schlosser	74.00
	Charles Laine	49.47
200-300	Lillian Slater	127.12
	Kathleen Pecarovich	27.49
	Ellen Kice	17.66
300-500	Linda Dillon	24.86
	Timothy Cole	20.99
	John Hagman	20.99
500-1000	Robert Bakovic	01.69
	John Galligher	76.64
	Colleen Gardner	59.18
1000-1500	Thomas Felice	61.20
	Dalia Hernandez	59.63
	Alan Olschwang	47.76
1500-2500	Paul Pettler	65.97
	Judith Jones	55.82
	John Hand	47.77
2500-3500	Cliff Goodrich	104.46
	Kay Tseng	104.06
	Jo Melis	80.08
2500-5000	Jackie Hess	163.01
	John Petrie	47.08
	Bill McClean	42.92
5000-7500	John Melis	125.51
	Mark Leonard	86.34
	Mark Tang	75.74

Ace of Clubs

Overall	Jackie Hess	155.54
	John Melis	113.65
	Lillian Slater	109.58
0-5	Darrel Manson	21.36
	Jane Manson	20.45
	Yvonne Kroneberger	17.87
5-20	Linda Lane	38.26
	Jan Van Lierop	26.41
	Rita Van Lierop	25.93
20-50	Melanie Smothers	73.81
	Rick Gonser	11.78
	Beth Mary Byrne	8.94
50-100	Ted Dowe	66.70
	Carolyn Byrnes	41.88
	Judith Cook	31.83
100-200	Ardis Laine	67.43
	Sandra Schlosser	49.48
	Barbara Wallace	47.01
200-300	Lillian Slater	109.58
	Kathleen Pecarovich	27.49
	Ellen Kice	17.66
300-500	Linda Dillon	23.80
	Russell Gray	14.17
	Timothy Cole	12.90
500-1000	Robert Bakovic	86.17
	John Galligher	60.73
	Susan Bibby	50.26
1000-1500	Sharon Biederman	46.71
	Dalia Hernandez	45.02
	Thomas Felice	44.68
1500-2500	Paul Pettler	49.04
	John Hand	47.05
	Judith Jones	44.82
2500-3500	Kay Tseng	92.63
	Cliff Goodrich	84.68
	Jo Melis	73.71
2500-5000	Jackie Hess	155.54
	John Petrie	32.58
	Bill McClean	28.80
5000-7500	John Melis	113.65
	Mark Leonard	76.84
	Mark Tang	25.98



Liv's Guide Dog graduation with Renee and Annette

members for helping me earn my gold.” Then, in 2019, Renee became a Gold Life Master on July 7, at the Long Beach Regional playing with her fabulous team members: Kiyo Nagaishi, Wayne Rapp, and Betty Witteried.

Renee also developed a class on how to navigate tournaments. She teaches players how to read the schedule, how to select events for success, and how to play team games. She added, “These are all the things I wish somebody would have told me early on.”

And, of course, if you’ve ever received one of Renee’s cards written on behalf of the unit, you would be impressed! Their personalization and thoughtfulness are legendary!

As involved and busy as Renee is at the club, she was the same while working. She has had several careers, first teaching junior high science in Tennessee. In California, she ventured into the emerging world of data processing where she trained to be a COBOL programmer for

the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and worked there fulltime while attending law school. After graduating and passing the Bar Exam, Renee worked on criminal appellate cases while maintaining her full-time job at SMUD and transitioning into the Rate area where she and her staff prepared cost-of-service studies and developed proposed electric rates for Board approval. After 14 years at SMUD, Renee moved to Southern California and worked for the City of Anaheim’s Utilities department until her retirement, creating official statements for the sale of municipal bonds while also designing water and electric rate structures.

Renee is active in many things. She loves reading Cosy mysteries, a type that isn’t too gruesome and has a cast of regular characters that the reader can like. Agatha Christie and M.C. Beaton are two of her favorite authors. Beaton’s detectives, Agatha Raisin and Hamis Macbeth, are old friends of Renee’s. Each Sunday she completes the LA and New York Times crossword puzzles in ink. She is also a charity knitter for women in Interval House, creating handmade scarves for them.

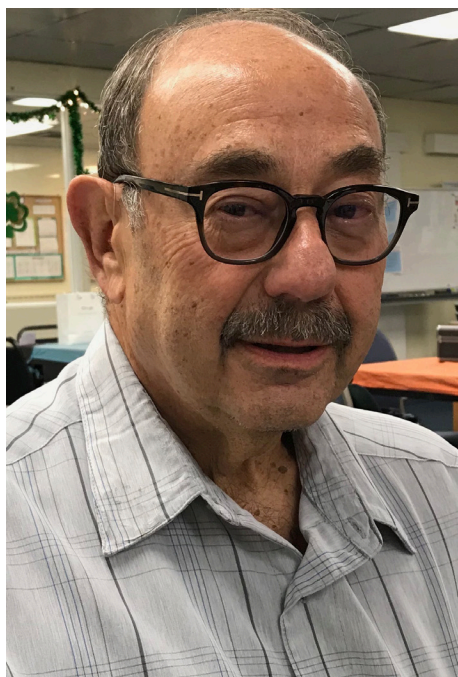
Renee’s greatest love, however, has been raising puppies that become service dogs. She initially trained dogs for Canine Companions for Independence, an organization that provides service dogs to people with disabilities other than blindness. Unfortunately, her first two puppies were “career changed,” released from the program because of health issues. The first, Peter, developed hip dysplasia and the second, Bess, had ichthyosis, a genetic skin disorder. Renee promptly adopted them and had them certified by Delta Society to become therapy dogs.

She then took them to visit patients in Miller Children’s Hospital. The third puppy she raised, Berry, was “career changed” for being fearful and was adopted by someone else.

Renee then transitioned to raising puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind which had a stronger breeding program resulting in more likelihood of success. Renee raised each puppy for a year for housebreaking, learning basic commands, and becoming socialized. Then her puppy went back to the Guide Dog headquarters for health screenings and professional training to work with the blind. When asked if it was hard to give up a puppy she had raised for a year, she explained, “I get to attend their graduations and meet the people to whom they’ve been assigned. These people are so thankful and thrilled that it makes it easier to give up my charge. Also, at graduation, I can leave with another puppy to raise.” The three puppies Renee raised for Guide Dogs for the Blind—Liv, Melanie, and Lava—were healthy and graduated to become service dogs.

This gift to others has recently come full circle to Renee. The first guide dog she raised was a black Labrador named Liv. Renee would bring Liv to the club when she was playing bridge in the back room. Liv would try to grab the cards from the bidding boxes and, while lying under the bridge table, try to lick the feet of people in sandals. Now 13 years old, Liv is retired and Renee has adopted her so she’s back home again!

Until we can again play bridge at the club, remember Renee is only a phone call away to help you get started playing on BBO. Thanks, Renee, for your example and all you do to help us become better players and better people! by Lillian Slater



Alan Olschwang

Not only is he an outstanding bridge player and a Ruby Life Master, Alan Olschwang is an expert in word play. One of Alan's earliest memories of his father involves him lying on the couch completing a crossword puzzle in ink. With this as his inspiration, Alan himself started solving crossword puzzles at an early age.

Then, in 1994, while still working as a general counsel, Alan started thinking about retirement and what he could do to keep himself busy and challenged. Having mastered the completion of crossword puzzles, he decided that it would be fun to try creating them! He started doing so all by hand, using paper and drawing lines on it in ink. Of course, when he made a mistake, he would then have to start over. At that time there were one or two magazines that accepted handwritten puzzles.

Then, in 1995, Alan was traveling when an attorney acquaintance on the same flight saw him making a puzzle and asked him what he was doing. A few weeks later Alan received a software program from

LBBC Player is Puzzle Master

this man, a rudimentary program to use to create puzzles. Alan didn't even own a computer at the time, but he went out and bought one. The rest is history. With his company's permission, Alan continued creating and submitting crossword puzzles and then took this talent into his retirement in 2008. Over time he branched out into all different kinds of word puzzles.

Alan's puzzles have been published in many places, most the recently the Sunday, October 25, 2020, Los Angeles Time. For non-puzzle aficionados, the Sunday puzzle is the most prestigious one to get accepted—and the most difficult to complete. Having puzzles accepted for Sunday publication has been one of his goals! The New York Times crossword puzzle is the elite of its field. Alan is proud that he's had 10 puzzles published there, and one of them was even a prestigious Sunday one. His crossword puzzles also appear in the Bridge Bulletin any time the editor has an extra page to fill.

Although Alan does this as a labor of love, in his 25 ½ years of creating puzzles, he has earned enough to cover his bridge fees. Of course, given the labor-intensive effort to make them, he figures that he has averaged less than minimum wage for his efforts. One of the strangest things that happened to him was on a United Airlines flight. The pilot came out of the cockpit, puzzle in hand, and said, "You're my favorite puzzle writer. Would you autograph this for me?" Alan was embarrassed but, of course, he did.

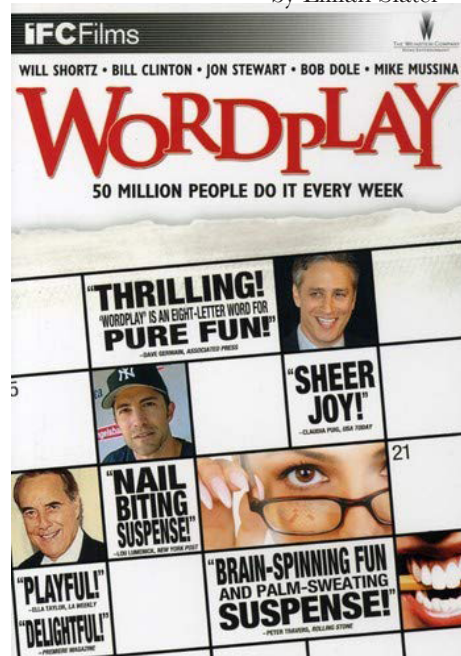
Once a year, there is an American Crossword Puzzle Tournament that Alan attended for four years during

the 1990's. He became acquainted with Rich Norris, the LA Times puzzle editor, who turned out to also love playing bridge. At one tournament, he and Alan spent an evening discussing bridge.

The world of puzzles is quite extensive. Penny Press publishes books of variety puzzles, and many of Alan's appear there. There's also a Daily Pop app where some of Alan's puzzles can be found. The book *Wordplay* by Will Shortz, the New York Times puzzle editor, further illuminates this world. The 2006 *Wordplay* documentary features Shortz, other noted crossword constructors and solvers, and some celebrities. Alan even has a "cameo" in this documentary, appearing behind a theme-dressed person at the tournament who was often featured in the film.

So, grab your pen, or pencil for novices like me, and tackle one of Alan's many puzzles. When we're back at the club, he may even autograph it for you. It's exciting to know a key contributor in this field!

by Lillian Slater



November Bridge Classes

Bridge 3: Through Bridge Brigade. Eight Tuesdays October 6th -November 24th, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Send \$40 to

Sharon Biederman
1708 Bayou Way
Seal Beach, CA 90740

No additional online fees.

Zoom ID: 965-9407-5902

Counting: One day lesson through Bridge Brigade. Monday, November 23th, 9:30 a.m.-noon.
Zoom ID: 805-662-2086, Instructor: Rob



Bridge 1: Through OLLI. Eight Mondays October 5th - November 23rd, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Note: OLLI catalogue says 10:00 start.

Sign up for [OLLI](#)

Register for [Class](#)

Course Description

For new players and players who played previously. Learn to play bridge the modern way. Topics include opening a major, opening a minor, no trump, Stayman, transfers, opening leads, attitude, carding, 1 NT Forcing and 2 over 1. Lessons will be given using Zoom. Hands will be played using Bridge Base Online. \$6 for the eight week session.

Zoom ID: 926-1211-9766, Instructor: Hank



September Status Changes

Club Master

Yvonne Kroneberger

Regional Master

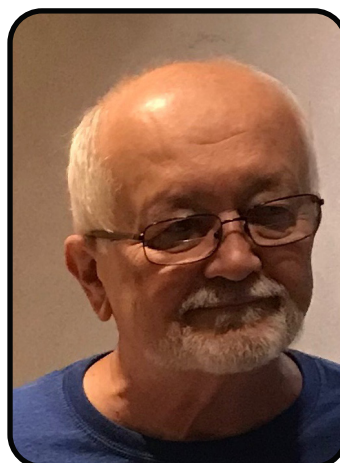
Vincent Vilker

Bronze Life Master

William Dilks

Silver Life Master

Susan Bibby



Bill Dilks
Bronze Life Master



Susan Bibby
Silver Life Master



Ron McClintock passed away in late October. Services arrangement were pending at the time of publishing. Our sympathies to the family and friends of Ron McClintock.

Table Talk

Editor

Ardie Laine

Contributors

Renee Hoffman

Lillian Slater

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