

# Table Talk



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## Meet the Masters



**Walt Schafer**

Walt Schafer has earned the most masterpoints of anyone in our Unit 557—11,823.66 to date, double the amount of the next closest member. During his bridge career to date, Walt has achieved Grand Life Master while winning three National Championships and one World Championship. Walt said, “I just try to be the best I can and appreciate the beauty of the game.”

Walt has always been a card player, competing in Hearts, Pinochle and Spades with friends and family. Then, right before high school, he and his friends were introduced to bridge by his best friend’s mom, and they played through graduation. When Walt got to college, he discovered organized bridge and

### Events April 2021

Online Schedule Daily Games

ALLIANCE games are held at [www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com).

7:00 a.m.	\$7	0-299 Blue
7: a.m.	\$7	0-199 Lt. Blue (M)
7:00 a.m.	\$7	Open
7:30 a.m.	\$7	0-499 Green
8:30 a.m.	\$7	0-1000 Pink
9:45 a.m.	\$8	0-49 Red
10:00 a.m.	\$8	0-199 Lt. Blue
10:00 a.m.	\$7	Open
10:00 a.m.	\$8	0-399 Gray
11:30 a.m.	\$8	0-1000 Pink
12:30 p.m.	\$8	0-299 Blue
1:00 p.m.	\$7	Open
2:45 p.m.	\$7	0-499 Green
4:00 p.m.	\$7	0-199 Lt. Blue (M)

**SWISS TEAMS**

10:00 Saturday	- 20 Boards	7 min \$7
1:00 Sunday	- 20 Boards	7 min \$7

started studying bridge books to improve his game.

Walt explained, “Then the arc of my bridge career changed in 1987 when I was recruited to trade options at the downtown Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE).” This was a period when someone had discovered that good bridge players made good options traders. The industry had tried chess players with little success, Backgammon players with some success, but great success with bridge players. Walt found himself working with many of the top

bridge players in the United States. Wanting to learn from them, he organized a bridge game right after work where everyone would play with each other for \$5/IMP. Walt received world class “lessons” at the bridge table playing with and against accomplished players such as the 23-time North American champion and 2001 ACBL Player of the Year, Ralph Katz, and the nine-time North American champion Howard Weinstein.

At CBOE, Walt clerked for Bart Bramley, winner of 15 North



## February Status Changes

**Club Master**

**Linda Leventhal**

**Sectional Master**

**Jan Van Lierop**

**Silver LM**

**Rita L. Van Lierop**

**Colleen K. Gardner**

**Ruby LM**

**Linda Renkus**

**Sharon Biederman**

## Who is this little darling?

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.



**Colleen Gardner**



**Linda Renkus**

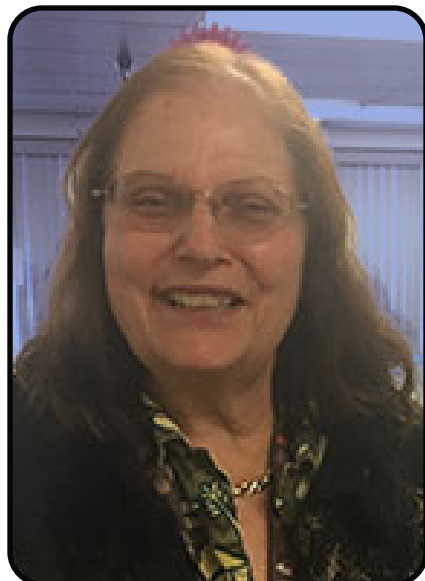


Last month's  
little darling:  
Dalia  
Hernandez



playing with clients at Nationals  
was much more lucrative.”

Walt discovered he was good at  
poker too and started playing it  
for a living. In 2003, he decided to  
locate to Los Angeles because it is  
the poker capital of the world. Walt  
emphasized that he plays poker as  
a skill, not to gamble. The photo  
accompanying this article is from  
the 2006 World Series of Poker  
\$10,000 buy-in, no-limit Texas



**Sharon Biederman**

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American championships and  
the 1997 ACBL Player of the  
Year. They talked bridge at every  
opportunity. Walt added, “Bart and  
I hardly ever partnered together  
but, having discussed bridge so  
much, he asked me to play as his  
partner on a team at the 1997  
Dallas Nationals. We won.”

Walt never intended to become  
a professional bridge player. He  
said, “I never desired to live out  
of a suitcase.” Over time, people  
approached him so he ended up  
becoming a paid expert. “One year  
I played 28 club games per month  
which I really enjoyed. However,

Continued on page 4

March 2021 **table talk**

## Our Sympathies to the Family and Friends of



Hanefi Erten  
1950 – 2021

Born in Turkey where he worked as a policeman, Hanefi emigrated to the United States on July 4, 1993. Bob Mault brought him to the bridge club, and they remained close. Hanefi played weekly at Leisure World as well as in the monthly Unit games. His regular partners were Oliver Yildiz and Hashim Mahmood, plus he mentored various people over the years including Fern Dunbar and Carolyn Byrnes.

Hashim said, "I met Hanefi at the club and we were friends for over 20 years. I worked at Chevron and, at one point, I got him a job as a cashier at a Chevron station.

Hanefi was selfless, would help his friends, and would do anything to please. He was a loud person but he would listen to me." Hashim would bring Hanefi to and from the club adding that "he respected and appreciated me." During the shelter-at-home period, Hashim played with him three times a week online.

Carolyn added, "They harvested Hanefi's corneas so two people who were blind can now see. This is relevant to his personality as he had little but was always trying to help other people and do what he could."

by Lillian Slater

## April Bridge Classes



**Bridge 2:** Through Bridge Brigade:  
Starts Monday, 6 April.  
See [longbeachbridge.com](http://longbeachbridge.com) for details.

\$40 payable to Sharon Biederman



**Bridge 1:** Through OLLI.  
Starts Tuesday, 6 April

See <https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-health-human-services/osher-lifelong-learning-institute-home> for details

Table Talk has become the Long Beach Bridge's replacement of the director's white board during the pandemic. Our white board communicated illnesses, deaths and memorial plans for our members. Many of us are saddened that we can not mourn together. We encourage anyone who would like to share memories about our departed friend to pass them along so we can all read. Send an email to Ardie at [ardeaux1@gmail.com](mailto:ardeaux1@gmail.com) or call/text at 562-254-0099

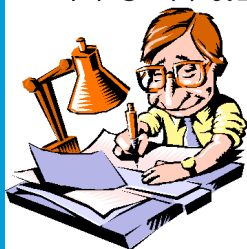
### Table Talk

Editor	Ardie Laine
Contributors	Renee Hoffman
	Jenny Ernst
	Rob Preece
	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](mailto:ardeaux1@gmail.com)

## We want your stories!



Tell us the tale of your path to Life Master. What are you doing to survive the pandemic? Send an email to Ardie at [ardeaux1@gmail.com](mailto:ardeaux1@gmail.com) or call/text at 562-254-0099



# Say Hello to...



Joey DuRee

Joey DuRee received her ACBL card on March 9, 2019—a week before the club was forced to close. Her friend, Nancy Imbery, was “looking for a partner” and recruited her into bridge. Joey explained, “It was an easy sell. My parents played bridge and loved it. I was always intrigued by the game but never learned.” Starting in July 2018, Joey took the Bridge 1, 2, 3 classes and played at the club a few times. She added, “I was having fun and can’t wait to get back to the club.” In the interim, she and Nancy have been playing on BBO and taking some online lessons with the Sagamore Bridge Club in New York.

A self-proclaimed “gym rat,” Joey enjoys working out and, when her gym had to close, she joined the YMCA for its outdoor exercise classes. When not playing bridge, Joey does volunteer work with charities around Long Beach including the Assistance League and the Grand Prix Foundation.

by Lillian Slater



Judy Martin

Judy and Dave Martin relocated from the Seattle area to Long Beach in order to be closer to their daughter and her family. Many years ago, Judy started playing bridge with a PTA group. She recently joined Long Beach Bridge to learn the modern way to play bridge.

She’s already started, participating in some of Dalia Hernandez’s online tutoring groups, and playing on BBO with Rita Vanlierop. In addition to bridge, Judy enjoys long distance walking, golfing and creating art in oil, watercolors, and acrylics.

by Jenny Ernst

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Hold ‘Em event. Walt added, “I was 104th out of 8,993. It was the largest sporting event in history with \$89 million in prize money, all put up by the participants.”

For years Walt had jokingly told people, “Work is a 4-letter word.” Right before the shutdown, he took his first job in years, playing \$25-\$50 Hold ‘Em at the Hustler Casino. They came to him with an offer that included health insurance



Timothy Treu

Timothy Treu has been playing at Long Beach Bridge for 8 or 9 years but he recently joined ACBL to make sure he gets his points... and then everything shut down although he doesn’t claim responsibility for that. He’s visually impaired so you’ll recognize him... and is concerned that his visual limitations make him less welcome (so welcome him).

When he’s not playing bridge, Timothy is teaching himself to play guitar.

by Rob Preece

and a 401K. On his first night of work, he recalled, “It was great. No one talked to me all night. All I had to do was play poker.” Walt believes the adage he has often heard, “Bridge is a card game played by people. Poker is a people game played with cards.”

Walt’s advice to bridge players is “Read books to learn. Poker books are generally horrible but bridge books are usually good with excellent hand examples to study.”

by Lillian Slater