

TABLE TALK

MEET THE MASTERS



Joan Tschirki

Joan Tschirki loves life and Duplicate Bridge! There was joy in her voice as she recounted her bridge adventures over the years. Joan's email address, jsurekey@gmail.com, provides the code to pronouncing her last name, i.e., "Sure-key."

Living in Spencer, Iowa, Joan met Joanie Andersen who introduced her to duplicate bridge and became her bridge mentor. In 1960, Joan and her regular partner attended their first tournament, a local sectional, where they came in first. She added, "From that moment, I was hooked!"

Joan also recalls the exact

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EVENTS NOVEMBER 2021

Face-to-Face Games

Monday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Tuesday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	0-99	\$5
Wednesday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Thursday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Friday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10
Saturday	12:30 p.m.	Open*	\$10

* NLM games possible, if enough players participate.

STaC Week: 8 - 13 November

Club-Championship Rated Games 15 - 27 November

Club closed on Thanksgiving

BBO VIRTUAL GAMES

All-Western – 99ers "Nite Club" Monday-Thursday

**Competitive/ACBL Virtual Clubs, Search for VACB905265.
Select 0-99 or 0-20 All-Western 99er NiteClub.**

- 6:20 p.m. 19ers.
- 6:30 p.m. 99ers. (0-20 players are welcome too!)
- 8:00ish Zoom "Post-Mortem" for both games



Alliance Bridge Club schedule available at
www.alliancebridgeclub.com

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CHEERS TO THE BRIDGE BRIGADE TEACHERS



My husband, Darrel, and I have been taking classes at Long Beach Bridge since 2019. We were party bridge players earlier in our marriage but had not played in many years. Upon retirement we knew we'd need to relearn bridge basics to fit into current thinking. We started with Bridge 1 taught by Sharon Biederman in April 2019, followed by Bridge 2, and then Bridge 3, Beginning Card Play with Hank Dunbar, followed by Bridge 3B – Special Bids in January 2020. And, somewhere along there, we also fit in one of Rob Preece's Defense classes.

After a year and five classes, we were feeling somewhat confident and thought we had the basics down pat. But bridge is a funny game with complicated rules. Just when you think you have something mastered (like "Respond with a 4-card major over partner's minor opener"), then you find out the more complex subtleties, such as "You must have 5 cards to bid Spades

after a 1H overcall by RHO." That fine point could never be covered in Bridge 1 or 2 as there were already too many rules to learn. I think the best tool I got from Sharon was to make brief notes on bidding basics on 4x6" cards (which she generously supplied), and then to

rewrite them every few months to reinforce the learning and add or clarify any new facts learned. These notes served me well when we were pushed to playing bridge online due to COVID.

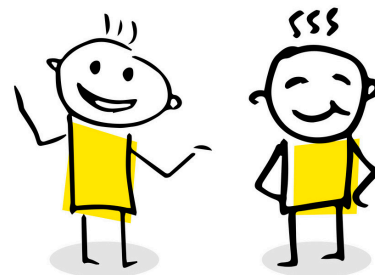
Additional training in that first year came through regular attendance at Supervised Play, usually with Hank and Fern on Tuesdays, as well as a few fun Friday plays with John Jones who taught us to Preempt! Preempt! Preempt! During the year of COVID, we sent many challenging sample hands from BBO to Hank and Fern who always provided a good response, albeit sometimes contradictory! They also supported Supervised Play online starting in the fall of 2020. But Darrel and I were happy when LBBC opened again in June 2021, and we could return and see friendly eyes at least (no smiles since masks were required after the first session). We have enjoyed learning even more techniques with Rob's Advancing Player

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WHO IS THIS LITTLE DARLING?

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: Melanie Smothers



Need a Partner?

Let Susan Bibby and Colleen Gardner help you. Email them at susanbibby@gmail.com or novcol@me.com (Colleen.)

TABLE TALK

Editor	Ardie Laine
Contributors	Jane Manson 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.

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date when she became a Life Master—January 19, 1991, which she remembers as 1/19/91, during a regional tournament at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. The funny thing was that, two years prior in Albuquerque, she and her partner earned 7.5 gold, making her a Life Master—or so she thought. She and her friends celebrated the big achievement, only to later discover that she was 0.22 masterpoints short. For the next two years, Joan went back to college and didn't play bridge. Then, she and a partner competed in Colorado Springs and "saw our names at the top of our section," earning 10 gold points and her Life Master rank! Today she has 4,538.7 masterpoints and ranks eighth highest in the unit.

Joan played in Arizona a lot. Once she arrived at the partnership desk and there was a threesome needing a fourth. She explained, "My partner was a first-year player with 130 points who wanted to be Rookie of the Year. I played with him, and we earned 20 points together. Later he asked me to play with him in Reno. I did and, 35 points later, we sent him over the top—231 points for Rookie of the Year! We played together many times after that."

Another time during the San Francisco Nationals, an opponent asked her to play with him on a Knockout team. They hooked up with another

couple, the man of which had over 600 points but only a dozen gold. Joan recalled, "We won the first two rounds, and he became a Life Master! For the second half of the Knockout, my partner had to go to the hospital so I had to find another partner. I did, and we won the next two rounds, winning the event and earning 35 gold points."

Joan's advice to new players is, "If you don't enjoy the game, get out. Have a good attitude and treat your partners well. I've always been good-natured and have fun playing bridge!" Joan acknowledged, however, "In high competitive situations, I have to work hard to control my 'bridge personality' as I do want to win."

Joan traveled all over the country and once to Canada. Her most memorable tournament was at the largest one in the U.S.—Gatlinburg, Tennessee. At a Reno tournament, Mike M. had asked her to join a team to compete in Gatlinburg. She agreed and the team won 75 gold points!

Reading is an escape for her and she enjoys Kristin Hannah's books and a good mystery. Additionally, she keeps herself busy playing Words with Friends, attending the theatre, and spending time with her seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She added, "We are a very close family so I get my Dominoes in." She also enjoys "movies, driving my golf cart, music, and LIFE!"

Having just returned to face-to-face bridge for her second game, Joan can be found at a bridge table at Leisure World. We hope to see her at the Long Beach club when our unit games resume, or maybe even before. She added, "I'm looking for partners, so ask me to play. I need to finish getting my Diamond Life Master. Call me at 562-386-6093 and leave a message with your name and number. I am still shuffling along!" Thank you, Joan, for sharing your enthusiasm for life and your love of the game of bridge!

by Lillian Slater



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Workshops. Plus we're taking advantage of learning new conventions with Dalia Hernandez.

Sometimes we play well—and sometimes we play poorly—but no matter what, we have a good time and have made new friends. And the new NLM game that started on Friday afternoons is really fun, even if we came in last this week. I just wanted to acknowledge our gracious and knowledgeable teachers who so generously provide encouragement and patience. We are so grateful for your support. If you're a new player, take advantage of all the classes and supervised play that you can. They are really valuable!

By Jane Manson

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF



Loren Hilf
Sapphire Life Master

June 24, 1932
– October 18, 2021

Long Beach Bridge club has lost a key figure in its history. Loren owned the club for over ten years and was sole owner for six or seven. Many people don't realize how much money he put into the club as he modestly noted, "It was not a winning proposition."

Five years ago, Loren donated the club to the Long Beach bridge community, accompanied by a financial donation to ensure its continuing success. This enabled the club to transition to a nonprofit, operated by volunteers and paying only its operating costs and the games' directors.

Loren's smile, his deliberate play, and his love of reviewing the hands will be missed at our bridge tables, but his legacy lives on!



Unit 557 News

The 2019 and 2020 unit awards for the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners have been transferred to club games. These Free Plays can be redeemed for a game at Long Beach Bridge until the unit resumes its monthly games (forecasted to be January 2022). Plaques at the club have already been updated. Check the Long Beach Bridge website to verify your win. Congratulations to all!



October Status Changes

Junior Master

Club Master

Regional Master

NABC Master

Bronze Life Master

Judy Strauss

Eric Kaplan

Frances Gross

Thomas Cox

Julia Weinstein

Joyce Roberts



Joyce Roberts
Bronze Life Master