



— THE FRIENDLIEST BRIDGE CLUB —

TABLE TALK

MEET THE MASTERS



Jo Melis

When you see Jo Melis, you can't help but read her T-shirts. Not only are they clever, they reflect her sense of humor. With 3,335.94 masterpoints, Jo is a Gold Life Master and the 11th highest in our unit.

Jo started playing bridge in the early 1970's at Long Beach State College, adding, "not a university back then. I was in the Student Union and someone asked me if I knew how to hold cards. I haven't put them down since, which is a tad awkward when I

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EVENTS DECEMBER 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.

Junior Fund Games All Month Long
Extra Points - No Extra Card Fees

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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Junior Life Master

December Status Changes

Lynda Montgomery

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am showering."

Jo and her second husband, John Shadrack, were both new to bridge and, being gung ho, he found Long Beach Bridge where they started playing duplicate early in their bridge careers. Since then, she has played at the club at its every location—Skylinks, Lakewood, etc., and its current home. She explained, "I love both the social aspect of the game and trying to bid/play/defend a hand the best possible way. (Please note I did say "trying.") I love the whole idea of duplicate, where a lot of the element of luck is removed because the cards you get are not as important as how you play the cards you get." Those of us who play against her realize that her email/BBO name of jothebeast is well deserved!

In addition to mentoring multiple players, Jo taught the Monday night lesson for the mentor-mentee game. She added, "What I like best about teaching is what I learn from the students. I learn things when I study to prepare lessons, and I learn a lot from

the questions my students ask." After George Welsh left, she assumed teaching his Wednesday night class also. During the club's shutdown, Jo played face-to-face with two students from that class and with other partners on BBO.

Jo's advice to players is "Learn the basic bids: Stayman, transfers, a forcing raise system (usually Jacoby), a limit-raise system, negative doubles, and a way to ask for Aces. After that, focus on learning defense. Great declarer play and fancy bids can come later."

Her favorite convention is Znarknesor aka Reverse Rosenkranz. Znarknesor is a defensive bid when a partner overcalls and the LHO then bids. A raise of partner's suit shows support with one of the top three honors while a Double shows support but no top honor. She explained, "not only is it fun to say (try it), it lets me know whether or not it is safe to lead our suit."

In addition to bridge, Jo is a quilter and an unplanned collector. She used to crochet squares for afghans between rounds at the table but carpal tunnel has restricted her to

her beautiful quilting. She's even teaching April Berg how to quilt. Jo has collections of rubber ducks, dragons, and Gund plush animals she calls Snufflers but she laughingly pleaded, "Please, don't give me any more! I already have too many!"

Jo also keeps busy with her four children and nine grandchildren, most adopted. "When we get together, we have an international gathering with Chinese, Hispanic, black, and white."

Jo worked at Fluor and Bechtel for 11 years as a piping estimator, reading refinery blueprints and estimating the pipe needed for implementation. When she moved to Northrop-Grumman for the next 25 years, she started as an estimator but transitioned to programming in languages from COBOL, Fortran, Basic, and C+. She noted, "I really enjoyed programming" and even returned to school for her Masters in Applied Programming from Azusa Pacifica.

When you see her at the table, read her T-shirt and ask her to sing her theme song "Oh Lord, It's Hard to Be Humble When You're Perfect in Every Way."

by Lillian Slater



Road Trip to Palm Springs Regional



(Left) Lynn Danielson, Jane Reid, Colleen Gardner and Nancy Toussaint stopped off at Mission Inn on their way to Palm Springs.

(Bottom Left) Chuck Laine and Lillian Slater celebrated after achieving Life Master during Palm Springs Regional Thursday's Gold Rush.

(Bottom Right) "Goisha" Koziol (pictured) teamed with Carolyn Byrnes (pictured). Carolyn had an eventful week with a first in Open Side pairs earning her enough gold to become a Regional Life Master.



Year End Message

January is oft a time of reflection and resolutions. I would like to take the time to reflect and consider resolutions for our Long Beach Bridge Club.

In June many of us gleefully returned to face-to-face bridge and in-person education. COVID seemed to be receding and vaccines provided some protection. Table counts, though not at pre-pandemic levels, were encouraging. Face-to-face bridge is different. Reading opponents, less cheating, and a chance to interact with real people and have a laugh.

Then there's the remodel. The facility was cleaned and de-cluttered, the kitchen was streamlined, a full-size ice maker installed (no more hearing Paul Petler bang on bags of ice during games), handicap-height toilets installed, coffee maker hard-lined to water (no more pulling the water hose to the coffee maker), new flooring installed, fresh paint and countless other upgrades.

In 2021 we said goodbye to Martha Shuster, Marty Lipman, Betty McClellan, Bill Eddy, John Melis, Hanefi Erten, Phil Shuster, Peggy Waite, Phyllis Parker, Gerry Gastelum, Verna Baccus, Loren Hilf, Joe FioRica and others. We said hello to new members Joey DuRee, Dawn Shelley, Liz Musch, Lee Korich, Steve Murray, Dan Roberts, Timothy Treu, Monica Daley, Allan Lubitz, Richard Tafel, Sherry Palmer, Eileen Braeman, Thomas Zimmerman, Mintzi Bickel, and Marcia LeBeau.

Kudos to the crackerjack teaching team of Hank and Fern Dunbar, Dalia Hernandez, Al Lum, and Rob Preece. Thanks to Lillian Slater and John Gallagher for making boards, and we are grateful to our handymen, Paul Pettler and Chuck Laine. Thanks to Table Talk contributors Renee Hoffman, Nancy Toussaint, Jane Manson, Judy Jones, and, of course, Lillian Slater. A round of applause for Sharon who is doing a yeoman's job holding the bridge club together.

The big question is can and should Long Beach Bridge continue to operate? Our face-to-face table counts and on-line revenue to Long Beach Bridge is in decline. Cost cutting measures such as fewer bridge sessions, reduction in food, reduced pay to directors (the only paid workers aside from cleaning crew) may not be enough to sustain the club. The Long Beach Bridge board is renegotiating the lease. Sharon continues to competently manage the club but she needs help and a succession plan.

Here's some suggested New Year's resolutions:

1. Play more bridge at the club
2. Play on-line at Alliance or 99er Nite Club
3. Volunteer your time at Long Beach Bridge.
4. Encourage friends to learn bridge.
5. Donate money to Long Beach Bridge.
5. Include Long Beach Bridge in your will.

Happy and healthy new year to everyone. Let's make 2022 a great year for bridge.

by Ardie Laine

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Joe FioRica
Bronze Life Master
1931 - 2021

JANUARY CLASSES AND SUPERVISED PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

Bridge 1 - Through OLLI
Instructor: Hank Dunbar
Tuesdays, Jan 4 - Feb 22
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Bridge 2
Instructor: Hank Dunbar
Mondays, Jan 3 - Feb 21
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Lebensohl Convention
Instructor: Rob Preece
Mondays Jan 10, 17
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Supervised Play
Monday*, Tuesday and
Wednesdays
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
*No supervised play 10, 17

TABLE TALK

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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.