



THE FRIENDLIEST BRIDGE CLUB

# TABLE TALK

## MEET THE MASTERS



**Fern Dunbar**  
**Gold Life Master**

When Fern Dunbar reflects on her bridge career, she is amazed to think that she has evolved from a Long Beach Bridge newbie to bridge elder in 19 years! With 2,615.53 masterpoints to date, she is a Gold Life Master.

Fern and Hank were

introduced to party bridge in 2002 when a couple they knew started teaching them. She explained, "On weekends, we would have lunch together and continue playing bridge all day." Then they found the Long Beach Bridge Club and played in its NLM games. A breakthrough occurred in July 2003 at Long Beach Bridge Week, then a national tournament. Fern explained, "We played one day in the 0-5 free game and placed first! We still have the trophy they gave us. Then, we went to lunch and returned to play again in the afternoon and placed dead last!"

Fern was a K-5 speech therapist in Long Beach Unified for 26 years. Because class sizes were so big, she didn't want to be a classroom teacher, so she got her masters in Communicative Disorders at CSULB. Fern added, "I loved my job working with small groups of students, which was very rewarding.

I became a lead teacher of new speech therapists hired by the district, some straight out of college without specific training."

While they were still working, Fern and Hank played in Long Beach's Tuesday and Friday night dinner games with George Welsh cooking. They became motivated to achieve Life Master and started playing tournament Knockouts with another partnership of Kay Tseng and George Norman. Their team traveled all over including Las Vegas and the largest tournament in the United States in Gatlinburg, Kentucky.

Retiring in June 2006, a year after Hank, they had more time to play bridge. Fern still clearly remembers when they earned the last Gold points they needed, "It was December 2008 in Palm Springs. Hank became a Life Master at that time but I still

Continued on Page 2

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Junior Life Master

## Status Changes

Sherry Geller-Vogeli

Continued from Page 1

needed 18 black points. Hank was so excited that afterwards he bought drinks for everyone we knew in the bar."

Fern's favorite convention is Puppet Stayman. She clearly remembers "cracking up" at the table when she first heard Earl VanderVord alert it early in her duplicate career. She said, "I never imagined a convention would have such a funny name, but I like it because it provides a way to find a Major fit when opening 1NT with a 5-card major."

Fern's advice to newer players is, "Before I play to the FIRST trick, I need to count my winners and losers and make a plan. I think about the bidding and where the cards might be. I have more success when I do that and get in trouble when I don't. I wish we had had the classes we have right now when I first started. Long Beach players are lucky to have all this support to develop their bridge games." Today she plays with her regular partners, Rob Preece, John Galligher, Lavonne McQuilkin, and Carol Murokoshi. Fern, Lavonne, and

Carol have remained friends for 19 years!

Joining the unit board in 2009, Fern has served continuously. She is the Awards chairperson handling the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners and organizing the unit's December holiday party. Additionally, she maintains the whiteboard behind the directors' desk and runs the Supervised Play session on Tuesday with Hank or Rob.

Since they were both teachers, Fern and Hank traveled every summer from 1980 through retirement. Initially, they visited places in the United States in their RV but transitioned to international travel. Two of her favorite places were Bali and Thailand. She added, "Fortunately, we did Manchu Picchu when we were young enough to hike. Egypt was also a very interesting place to visit." Their home is filled with travel mementoes.

In addition to bridge, Fern enjoys spending relaxing weekends at their lakeside



home in Canyon Lake. They have a daughter and two grandsons. Dylan is studying programming for video games at UC Santa Cruz. Tristan took a leave from Stanford to play professional tennis, currently just returning to competition after a six-month ankle rehab.

Thanks, Fern, for all the encouragement and support you provide the Long Beach bridge community. Your experience and support epitomize why we "respect our elders" at the table.

by Lillian Slater

## WE WANT YOUR STORIES!



Tell us the tale of your path to Life Master. Are you celebrating

a milestone?

Send an email to Ardie at [ardeaux1@gmail.com](mailto:ardeaux1@gmail.com) or call/text at 562-254-0099

# Betty Wittereid on the Move Again



Betty Wittereid is a moving maven! Married to an Air Force colonel, she moved their household 32 times! After settling in Long Beach, she often said, "I'm not moving again." However, her son recently retired and bought a lakeside home in Arkansas and, after visiting him there, she found herself "in the mood to move" again and made her 33rd and final move to Hot Springs, Arkansas!

Betty announced her move to the club on October 7th and spent the next 18 days downsizing to fit in her new place, which is about half the size of her Signal Hill one. With her children's help, she gave some furniture and art to her kids, sold some, and packed the rest. She noted, "It's hard to minimize but was easy to give

away my silver since the kids are the ones who entertain today." Her new place is also a two bedroom because as she laughingly explained, "I need the closet space." And one can only imagine the delight of the women who discovered the treasures in the 15 trash bags of Chico clothes she donated.

Betty has only been settled in her new place for a couple of weeks. The movers' truck broke down en route so its arrival was delayed two weeks. At the time of this interview, her son had spent the day hanging paintings and trying to get her printer Wi-Fi connected to her new computer.

Of course, Betty has already started playing bridge! She plays two or three times a week and enjoys the Southern hospitality. She added, "The quality of the bridge is not as strong as in Long Beach but the people are nice." A member of the local bridge club bought a facility, remodeled it and gave it to the club so they were able to weather the pandemic. Averaging around 7 tables a game, they serve wine and announce a wine break near the end of game. Their recent Christmas party and potluck was also very nice. Twenty minutes away, there's another bridge club close to her son's home that she plans to eventually check out.

And, yes, the Jaguar finally passed the smog check! Her daughter and son-in-law drove

it to Big Bear one weekend and, after being in the colder weather, it passed! Betty sold it and plans to remain carless in her new home. Her building offers rides as needed, her son is nearby, and friendly bridge partners pick her up for the games. Her place also organizes bus trips to the theater or other events nearby or even to Little Rock, an hour away.

Betty added, "I've never lived near my son so that will be a fun experience. Peter and Ruth have been so supportive during my move. I miss my Long Beach bridge friends and Leslie, Matt, and the boys but I still think I made the right decision. Leslie calls me every day to make sure I'm adjusting and happy."

Betty, we miss you as well! Enjoy your new experiences and your bridge games but do keep in touch!

by Lillian Slater

## TABLE TALK

Editor	Ardie Laine
Contributors	Lillian Slater Mary Singer

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.

Our  
Sympathies  
to the Friends  
and Family of



George Derevjanik

**BBO VIRTUAL GAMES**

All-Western - Districts 17, 19, 21, 22, 23

Monday-Thursday 6:30 p.m.

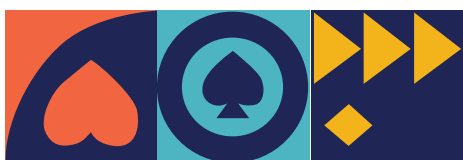
99ers NiteClub - VACB905265

199s NiteClub - VACV277640

BBO Competitive/ACBL Virtual Clubs



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A festive graphic for a holiday party. It features a string of colorful Christmas lights at the top. The text "HOLIDAY PARTY" is written in large, bold, orange letters. Below it, "Sunday, December 18" is written in blue, and "Details coming soon" is written in blue. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a menorah, a Santa Claus head, and a menorah.



Congratulations to Mel Fineberg (seconded from the left) and his team who finished first in Las Vegas Regional Tuesday Bracketed Round Robin Team event. Mel and his team walked away with 14.47 gold points!



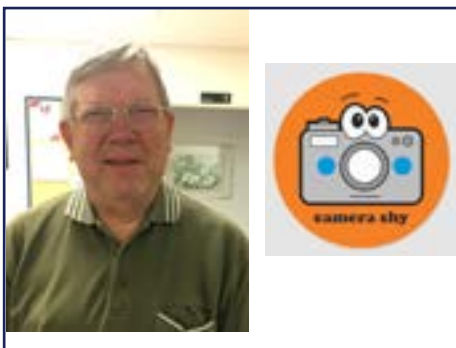
# Unit 557 Return to F2F Sectional Tournament a Success!



Thank you to tournament volunteers, Hank Dunbar, Fern Dunbar, Dalia Hernandez, Leo Dittmore, Melanie Smothers, Lillian Slater, Ardie Laine, and Rob Preece.



Jackie Hess and Cory Hand scored a 73.38% game to place first in the morning session in a field of 10 tables. Kim Wang and Wenjia Yan placed first in E-W. In a field of 7 tables in the afternoon session, Cory and Jackie again placed first in N-S while Ed Piken and his son Michael were first in E-W.



In the morning NLM section, Leo Dittmore and Mony Bokal were first in a field of five tables.









In the NLM afternoon session, Nancy Imbery and Joey DuRee were first with eight tables.



Fourteen teams competed in Sunday's Swiss. Every team earned some silver. The team of Ed Piken, Rai Osborne, Michael Piken and Mark Leonard (not shown), won first place.



# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower	<b>2</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> <b>NLM</b> Director: Nancy Toussaint	<b>3</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe
<b>4</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe	<b>5</b> <b>Royal StaC</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank Dunbar	<b>6</b> <b>Royal StaC</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Chuck Laine Bridge 2 Hank Dunbar 9:30 Supervised Play Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	<b>7</b> <b>Royal StaC</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe  9:30 Supervised Play Sharon Biederman	<b>8</b> <b>Royal StaC</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower	<b>9</b> <b>Royal StaC</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> <b>NLM</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Royal StaC</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe
<b>11</b> <b>Royal StaC</b> Closed pending finding director	<b>12</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank Dunbar 9:30 Supervised Play Rob Preece	<b>13</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Chuck Laine 9:30 Supervised Play Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	<b>14</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 Supervised Play Sharon Biederman	<b>15</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower	<b>16</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> <b>NLM</b> Director: Nancy Toussaint	<b>17</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 
<b>18</b> <b>12:30 Unit</b>  <b>Game and</b> <b>Holiday Party</b>	<b>19</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower 9:30 Supervised Play Rob Preece	<b>20</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Chuck Laine 9:30 Supervised Play Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	<b>21</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 Supervised Play Sharon Biederman	<b>22</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower	<b>23</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> <b>NLM</b> Director: Nancy Toussaint	<b>24</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe
<b>25</b>  <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower  9:30 Supervised Play Rob Preece	<b>27</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Chuck Laine 9:30 Supervised Play Rob Preece/ Fern Dunbar	<b>28</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 9:30 Supervised Play Sharon Biederman	<b>29</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Alan Flower	<b>30</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> <b>NLM</b> Director: Nancy Toussaint	<b>31</b> <b>12:30 Open</b> Director: Steve Rowe 