



Autumn Sectional Highlights

Tournament Chair Lillian Slater and the board of Unit 557 hosted the event, energizing players with muffins and fruit on Saturday morning, and bagels with cream cheese and fruit on Sunday. Board members and Ardie Laine baked for the afternoon snacks with



volunteered the graciously caddy for Sunday Swiss, wearing a signature caddy hat and cheerfully responding to "Caddy, please."

Saturday was the Pairs competition with 22 Open and 10 NLM tables in the morning and 18 Open with 6 NLM tables in the afternoon.



Nancy Imbery going above-and-beyond, creating over 12 dozen assorted cookies.

Sean Lui, director, was additionally celebrated for being one of District 22's 2024 Goodwill Inductees with cakes provided by Carolyn Byrnes. Lynda Montgomery



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Status Changes

Junior Master	Randy Schafer
Club Master	David Simon
Sectional Master	Ann Peacock
Silver Life Master	Camden Clair Parish
Diamond Life Master	John Petrie

Welcome Snow Bird Members

Henry Meurer	Judith Meurer
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Long Beach Bridge Center is Closed on Christmas



Sunday's Swiss teams competition saw 26 tables competing for Silver points.

Jeff Harris traveled from Santa Barbara to compete with his 93-year-old mother, Charlotte Harris of Mission Viejo. They placed second in Saturday's afternoon Pairs behind pro Mark Itabashi and his

partner Brian Gilbert.

Points were earned by 158 players and Mark Teaford award for the most points earned by a Unit 557 member in the sectional was won by our club manager, Chuck Laine, who edged out last year's winner, Kevin Lane. Chuck says, "none of that happened without my partner, Mel Fineberg." Fun fact, one of the winners of Sunday's team game, Doug Timmer from The 750 Club, was one of Chuck's first lunch time bridge partners in 1985.

by Lillian Slater



John Petrie
Diamond Life Master





November Birthdays

Jane Reid, Ed Piken, and Colleen Gardner

TABLE TALK

Editor A.K. Laine
Contributors Lyn Kraatz
Charles Laine
Lillian Slater
Melanie Smothers

Article Submissions
We welcome articles, ideas and photos pertaining to our club. We reserve the right to revise submissions. Contact A.K. at ardeaux1@gmail.com.

Hybrid Bridge - On-Line In-Person Sunday, 12 January



Win a Bridge Date with a Top Southern California Player*



Experience a face-to-face feel using an online format. Play in this special online bridge event at your favorite physical club. Four clubs - The 750



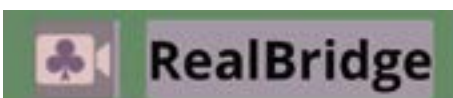
Club, Long Beach Bridge Center, Pasadena Bridge, and South Bay Bridge - will be quad-hosting this event. All players will be physically located at one of these clubs and playing bridge simultaneously. Partner in Pasadena and you in Long Beach - no problem. The game will be played on the Real Bridge. website.



Bring your own computer or tablet and headsets. (Headsets required if you want to hear your online partner/opponents.)



There will be four winners in open game and four winners in limited event plus two random players will also win. Join the fun and try out a new way to enjoy your favorite card game.



* Play an online session with one of the following: Ifti Baqai, Mitch Dunitz, Ellis Fiegenbaum, John Jones, Alex Kolesnik, Hemant Lall, Marjorie Micheline, Jill Myers, or Walt Schafer.

Year End Message from Club Manager



Our Long Beach Bridge Center continues loud and proud this year as evident in the aftermath of November's Long Beach Sectional. Table count exceeded expectation as we had to pull extra card tables out to meet demand. There are so many people to thank for their efforts to keep our Center humming all year, so I'll cite now:

Lillian and her team of board maker's: Melanie Smothers, John Galligher, David Simon, Lynda Montgomery and Hank Dunbar. Without their effort, we would shuffle-deal-play with no hand records, like the old days.

Our fabulous teachers and aides: Rob Preece, Hank Dunbar, Dalia Hernandez with Fern Dunbar, Melanie Smothers, and Lynda Montgomery keeping their classes running smoothly. I've counted 15 tables of students in Rob's Monday class...wow!

Behind the scenes infrastructure such as supplies ordering, lights, table trays,

ice machine maintenance, appliance fixes, plumbing, A/C, elevator issues, and IT trouble shooting are addressed by Jenny Ernest, yours truly, Casey Stiers, John Kilmer, Leo Dittemore and Rita Van Lierop. Man, there's always something to fix/repair/replace/order/ignore on a daily basis!

Our director's make it possible to offer Masterpoints in ACBL-sanctioned bridge games. Alan Flower, Leo Dittemore, Nancy Toussaint, Jo Melis and Steve Rowe who-post retirement-graciously fills in when needed. Cherene Birkholz really stepped up this past year, earned her director's credentials, hit the ground running and directs a Saturday game for us. She also enthusiastically fills in when needed.

And speaking of fill-ins, thank you to those of you who answer the call when we need to complete a table. Super fill-ins include Fred Willbanks, Lynda

Mongomery, Sylvia Kaprelyan, and others.

Our Bridge Center team also consists of:

Joey Duree	Calendar
Nancy Imbery	Hospitality
Kay Tseng	Decorations
Kiyo Nagaishi	Bidding Boxes
Colleen Gardner	Laundry
Rita Van Lierop	Website
Ardie Laine	Table Talk
Lillian Slater	Table Talk
Lyn Kraatz	Table Talk
Bill McClean	Ice Tea!

A big thank you to Jenny Ernest, our Treasurer, for balancing our books every month, doing our taxes, and (worth mentioning again) ordering club supplies- a huge job. She is an invaluable member of our board.

As represented on our banner, our bridge community is strong: Board members, volunteers and players, continue to make it possible to have a place to play the game we all love, Bridge!

by Charles Laine



Our Sympathies to the Family and Friends of



Brad Abajian



Duncan holds virtual games 7 days a week.

All Regular Games \$5
Special Games \$6 or \$7

This is the direct link to those games: [CLICK HERE](#) (after clicking the link, save to your favorites). Part of the proceeds go to LBBC.



Bridge Players are Really Nice People!

This is probably old news for some of you. But many of us were buried in political news when this story first came out (thissummer) and have been avoiding news since then (KABC, Nov. 13th). And it's worth recapping.

Elaine Montgomery, 87-year-old bridge player and Huntington Beach landlord, was instrumental in helping her upstairs tenant, Brian Blackman, save himself from addiction and despair. In Brian's own words, "I was broken, beaten, emotionally, spiritually, mentally, physically, going through a hard time." But Elaine's incredible sense of humor, friendship, and morning check-ins have resulted in an amazing three-year friendship and Brian's 300 days sober.

This may be old news but sharing good news is always special.

by Lyn Kraatz



LET'S GET THIS
Party

STARTED



Holiday Potluck

BRING A DISH/DESSERT TO SHARE
AND/OR MAKE A DONATION TO THE
WOMEN'S SHELTER

BONUS FUN: RAGTIME RALPH WILL
BE ENTERTAINING!

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 Team Club Championship 12:30 game Director Alan	2 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1/Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	3 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2/Hank (9) 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	4 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck/Leo	5 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN Director Alan	6 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM Monthly Birthdays Director Nancy	7 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN Director Steve	
8	9	10 \$ Intl. Fund	11	12	13	14	
<i>Palm Springs Regional Tournament</i>							
Sanction # L2412557B	12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1/Hank (9) 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director (tbd)	12:30 OPEN 9:30 Hank Tournament 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 tbd Dir:Steve	12:30 OPEN Director Steve	12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	12:30 OPEN Director Cherene	
15 Unit Championship Holiday Director Sean	16 Stardust 25% Gold 75%Black 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Hank Tournament 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Chuck	17 Stardust 25% Gold 75%Black 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Hank Tournament 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	18 Stardust 25% Gold 75%Black 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck/Leo	19 Stardust 25% Gold 75%Black 12:30 OPEN Director Leo	20 Stardust 25% Gold 75%Black 12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	21 Stardust 25% Gold 75%Black 12:30 OPEN Director Jo	
22	23	24	25 HAPPY CHRISTMAS 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	26	27	28	
	12:30 OPEN 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern	12:30 OPEN Director Alan	12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Nancy	12:30 OPEN Director Cherene	
29	30	31 LONG ON THE NEW YEAR! 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo Rob/Fern					