



Congratulations to the 2026 Unit 557 Board

Seated: Casey Stiers, Melinda Wilson

Front Row (Left to Right): Melanie Smothers, Debbie Collins, Cherene Birkholz,
Rita Vanlierop, Jenny Ernest, Chuck Laine, Fern Dunbar

Back Row: Leo Dittimore, Z Sweedyk, Glenn Barry, Lillian Slater,
Joey DuRee, Alan Olschwang

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Status Changes

Junior Master	Hemlata Lepkowski
	Karen White
Sectional Master	Daniel Collins
	Debra Collins
Regional Master	Ann Peacock
NABC Master	Glenn Barry
	Melinda Wilson
Ruby Life Master	Linda Stein

Welcome New Members

Diane Masseth-Jones	Jill Rosenberg
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Linda Stein
Ruby Life Master



December Birthdays

Left to right: Bill McClean, Fern Dunbar, Jon Yinger,
Linda Stein



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.



Tuba Notes from the Bored

★ Long Beach Bridge Center - 2025 Year-End Status Report

As we close out 2025, it's a joy to reflect on what an extraordinary year this has been for the Long Beach Bridge Center. Our success didn't happen by accident — it grew from the dedication, generosity, and spirit of the people who make this club a true community.



Appreciation for Our Board

Our Board provided steady leadership all year long, guiding policy, supporting growth, and ensuring that our club remains welcoming, fair, and well-run. Their behind-the-scenes work — from budgeting to governance to

long-range planning — gave us the foundation for a thriving year.



Gratitude to Our Members

To every member who played, volunteered, taught, mentored, or simply brought good energy to the table: thank you. Your enthusiasm keeps the club vibrant. Whether you joined us for a single game or played every week, you helped build the sense of community that defines the Long Beach Bridge Center.



Celebrating Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heartbeat of the club. They set up tables, prepare hospitality, run partnerships, decorate for parties, help new players feel at home, and jump in wherever needed. Their generosity of time and spirit made every event — from holiday parties to Sectionals — run smoothly and joyfully.



A Year of Accomplishments

2025 brought:

- Strong attendance across Open and Limited games
- A successful Sectional with robust tables and great sportsmanship
- Special events and

parties that brought our community together

- Teaching programs that welcomed new players into the game
- Countless individual achievements at the table

Each milestone reflects the collective effort of our board, members, and volunteers working together.



Looking Ahead to 2026

With this year's momentum, we step confidently into 2026 — ready for more bridge, more community, and more shared success. Thank you for making the Long Beach Bridge Center a place where people feel welcome, supported, and inspired to play their best.

by Leo Dittmore
Unit President

Editor
Contributors

A.K. Laine
Leo Dittmore
Joey DuRee
Colleen Gardner
Lyn Kraatz
Chuck Laine
Lillian Slater
Nancy Toussaint

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.



Another Great Year in the Books!

Thank you to all our Long Beach Bridge Center supporters. Everyone who plays in our sanctioned games contributes card fees that allow the club to thrive, and we are deeply grateful for that support.

Special thanks go to our outstanding, revenue-generating teaching team: **Rob Preece, Hank Dunbar, Leo Dittemore, Fern Dunbar**, and aides **Melanie Smothers** and **Lynda Montgomery**. Because of your dedication and hard work, we are able to make ends meet and continue growing.

As our student population increases, so does participation in our Open games. We are delighted to see more and more students graduating to the Open level—wonderful progress!

In the New Year, we will be replacing the worn-out

chairs in the Open game room. We hope everyone finds the new chairs comfortable and inviting.



Leo has already thanked our volunteers, but it bears repeating. Our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals:

Board Making:

John Galligher, Melanie Smothers, Lynda Montgomery, David Simon, Hank Dunbar, and Lillian Slater

Supply Ordering (and Treasurer extraordinaire):

Jenny Ernest

Keeping the Card Room Tidy

Fix-it team: Casey Stiers, John Kilmer, Leo Dittemore.

Tidying Support: Kiyo Nagaishi, Colleen Gardner, Bill McClean, Rita Van Lierop, and all those who help clean up after the games.

Keeping the Club Festive:

Kay Tseng, Melinda Wilson

Keeping Members

Informed:

Ardie Laine, Lillian Slater, Lyn Kraatz, Nancy Toussaint, Joey DuRee, and Rita Van Lierop

Thank you as well to our **Directors**, who presided over **480 games and 3,800 tables** this year.

We were fortunate to receive several generous donations this past year, including a notable gift made **in memory of Jerry Glenn**, for which we are very thankful.

Another well-deserved mention: **Congratulations to Cherene Birkholz** on advancing her credentials to become a **Sectional-level Director**.

Our financial position is strong, and we'd like to use that momentum to encourage more Saturday play—currently our lightest day. **For the first quarter of the New Year**, we invite players to join the Saturday Open game at **half price—just \$5 card fees**. We hope this boosts attendance and rewards our loyal Saturday regulars who so generously support the Bridge Center.

Let's keep the momentum going in the New Year.

See you at the table!

by Chuck Laine
Club Manager



Our Deepest Sympathies to the Family and Friends of



George Alemshah
1939 - 2025



Pat Donley



Attention Non Life Master Players

The NLM section on Fridays needs to have at least 6 and preferably 8 pairs. If you wish to participate in the NLM games, please be in the front bridge room by 12:15 p.m. The director needs to decide if there will be enough for two games or if it will be "one big happy family" Open game. *Even if you have pre-registered*, on game day you need to be present at 12:15 to be considered for a NLM game. The director needs time to reconfigure the setup so that the game can begin at 12:30. Thank you for your understanding.

by Nancy Toussaint
Director



John Petrie



WE WISH YOU A
happy new year
2026

Holiday Party Fun



David and Moyna Simon donated the turkey for our holiday party and, then, cooked it to perfection.



Renee Hoffman and Paul Pettler returned to the club to celebrate the holidays.



Friendship Star Quilt

Nancy Toussaint sewed a Friendship Star quilt to thank Kay Tseng for all her help at the club. Kay creatively decorates for each season as well as assists in game set up and collection of the money envelopes.

The Friendship Star quilt pattern gets its name from its historical use as a meaningful gift: friends would each make a block, often signing their names in the center, and present them to someone embarking on a long journey (like westward expansion), creating a comforting memory quilt symbolizing their bond. This tradition dates back to pioneer days, with the star representing guidance, support, and love, making it popular for charity quilts, block swaps, and memory quilts today.

Perhaps Nancy's quilt can also symbolize the many friendships will have made on our long bridge journeys.



New Year's Resolutions for 2026

Some people make resolutions for the new year. Some don't. Some resolutions are bridge related and some possibly bridge-adjacent. Here are a few:

Linda Ivers: play in at least one pickleball tournament

Fern Dunbar: stay healthy, and NO new body parts

Sally Baker: to take Hank's bridge 3 class, at least part of it

Marcia LeBeau: work out more

Fred Lerner: play better bridge

Sue Reininger: study bridge in order to break into the next level

Laura Breen: study my notes

Adair Paul: Yes, I make resolutions, but I don't tell so no one knows if I fail

Mony Barkol: lose weight; starve myself

Carolyn Byrnes: stop swearing

Margit Hillebrand: drink more water

Jo Melis: eat more and die fat and happy

John Yinger: eat less and die miserable

Jane Reid: concentrate and play more slowly, and to focus on enjoying the game rather than focusing on results

Elaine Montgomery: live another year and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of my heart transplant

Jim Keese: take golf lessons. I've been playing since I was six and have developed some terrible habits.

Dan Frank: earn to enjoy NT, and to set up a monthly Friday afternoon play to encourage intermediate players to play together in the afternoon games for a better chance to acquire points and perhaps even colored points.

And me: resolve not to get flu or food poisoning when I still have bridge players to interview! Sorry to those I didn't question. Happy New Year!

by Lyn Kraatz

January 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
4	5 CLUB Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank (1/9) 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Dir: Alan	6 CLUB Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank (1/9) 9:30 199r Game Dir: Chuck Rob/Fern	7 CLUB Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir: Leo	8 CLUB Championship 12:30 OPEN Dir: Alan	9 CLUB Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir: Nancy	10 CLUB Championship 12:30 OPEN Dir: Cherene
11	12 CLOSED 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Dir: Alan	13 ACBL WIDE \$1 JUNIOR FUND 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir: Chuck Rob/Fern	14 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir: Leo	15 12:30 OPEN Dir: Alan	16 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir: Nancy	17 \$5 SATURDAY 12:30 OPEN Dir: Steve
18 Team Club Championship 12:30 Teams Team Game Dir: Alan	19 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Dir: Alan	20 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir: Chuck Rob/Fern	21 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir: Leo	22 12:30 OPEN Dir: Alan	23 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir: Nancy	24 \$5 SATURDAY 12:30 OPEN Dir: Cherene
25 Unit Game 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir: Sean	26 UNIT \$2 STaC 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Dir: Alan #2602510	27 UNIT \$2 STaC 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir: Chuck Rob/Fern #	28 UNIT \$2 STaC 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir: Leo #2602510	29 UNIT \$2 STaC 12:30 OPEN Dir: Alan #2602510	30 UNIT \$2 STaC 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir: Nancy #2602510	31 UNIT \$2 STaC 12:30 OPEN Dir: Steve #2602510