

On the Job

In February, we quoted Nancy Toussaint who said, "We're so much other than just bridge players." In that vein, players were asked for worst and best job stories, whether salaried or volunteered, and not bridge-adjacent. Thanks to the people who have found me to share their stories. Here are some more:

Eileen Braeman: Worst job was picking up trash along freeways for two years in the 60's when I needed a job. One perk was confiscating bottles and cans for recycling money.

Ron Lee: Best job: As a young attorney I was assigned to assist a new client, River Oaks Vineyard, out of a serious problem with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Able to get the client off with only a hand slap and thrilled with my results, I was rewarded with six cases of wine.

One 1980 bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon remains a keepsake.

Chris Halliwell: I tried to start a business



by taking in ironing. Unfortunately, I'm a terrible ironer! So, building a business with returning clients, referrals, and word of mouth didn't happen.

Jill Rosenberg: Best job: Worked as President of the Board of Non-profits, following the mission of the organization.

John Markovich: Worst job was as a paralegal. They treated me like dirt [Editor's note: He didn't say "dirt"] and

expected long hours, but I needed the money. It was a long two years.

Doris Fujii: Best job: I worked for five years on the first of its kind carbon capture and storage, involving pioneering teamwork and everyday challenges.

Terry Royce: Worst job was as a waitress after high school. I couldn't remember orders or who had ordered what.

Colleen Gardner: Best job was as an air hostess on TWA for six



continued on Page 2

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Status Changes

Junior Master

Patricia Frazier

NABC Master

Cherene Birkholz

Welcome New Members

Michael Markley

Nancy Markley

continued from Page 1

years. I was based in both Chicago and LA. I only flew domestically as I couldn't pass the French language test. But I loved that we flew above the clouds where the sun was always shining.



Patty Achele: Worst job ever was being a clown at children's birthday parties. I heard a lot of "You're not funny."

And speaking of "You're not funny": Lynda Montgomery had another favorite job she didn't want advertised, as a stand-up comedian on cruise ships. She dreads people asking her to say something funny. Sorry, Lynda, too good not to share.

We will continue next month with so many wonderful, amazing, and funny stories.

by Lyn Kraatz



March Birthdays

Left to right: Bill Keese, Betty Jackson, Nina Vora, Hashim Mahmood



Tuba Notes from the Bored

The Long Beach Bridge Center strives to be an example of what a community gathering place can be. From the moment a player walks through its doors, we ask that you greet them, not with intimidation or indifference, but with warmth, encouragement, and a desire to help them succeed. This culture of friendliness, patience, and kindness will not happen by accident — it can be built deliberately, sustained carefully, and must be protected intentionally.

Bridge is a game of extraordinary complexity. It rewards sharp thinking, memory, and strategic insight — qualities that can sometimes breed elitism or impatience in competitive environments. At the Long Beach Bridge Center we try to be

different. I hope you understand that every expert player was once a beginner, fumbling through bidding conventions and misreading the table. Our memory of that vulnerability creates empathy. When a newcomer hesitates over a bid or misplays a hand, the response at LBBC should not be a sigh or a sharp word, but a gentle explanation and a reassuring smile. An older player forgetting the contract can be gently corrected rather than given a lecture.

Patience is not passive — it is an active, practiced virtue. Directors handle rule disputes with calm authority, trying not to make players feel foolish for not knowing a regulation. Experienced members volunteer their time to teach, mentor, and partner with less seasoned players, asking nothing in return but the satisfaction of watching someone grow. This patience transforms what could be a steep, discouraging learning curve into an enjoyable journey.

Maintaining kindness within competition is the goal at LBBC. Bridge is a game where wins and losses are tallied, where masterpoints are earned, and where pride is naturally at stake. Yet it is possible to play to win while still treating opponents

and partners with dignity and respect. A compliment for a well-played hand, a gracious acknowledgment of defeat, a word of encouragement after a difficult session — these small acts accumulate into a culture that makes everyone feel valued, regardless of their skill level.

We must work together to continue setting this tone. Each of us can model the behavior they expect from others. Any behavior that undermines kindness — sharp criticism, dismissive attitudes, or poor sportsmanship — will be addressed promptly and respectfully. We will be regularly celebrating the club's values through newsletters, announcements, or simple recognition of members who exemplify them.

Most importantly, every member must see themselves as a guardian of this culture. Friendliness, patience, and kindness are not policies — they are choices made anew every single day, at every single table.

A competitive environment and a compassionate community are not opposites. They can, and beautifully do, coexist.

- Leo Dittmore





WE LOVE STUDENTS



Bridge 3 Alums in Supervised Play

At the completion of his Bridge 3 class, Hank Dunbar encouraged his alums to attend a mentor/mentee program on Tuesday March 24th as an introduction to supervised play. Organized by Debbie Collins, several alums took advantage of this offer and

were paired with eager mentors. Pictured here are two mentees with their mentors. Not pictured is Lynn Dawson, mentored by Sally Baker. Unfortunately, Lynn missed her picture, arriving at 9:29 for the 9:30 class. Two of the three alums did so well that they received points. Debbie plans to encourage future alums by visiting Hank's Bridge 3 class on its last day.



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.

Editor	A.K. Laine
Contributors	Leo Dittimore
	Fern Dunbar
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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.

Non-Life Master Spring Sectional



Saturday, May 16, 2026

Long Beach Bridge Club

4782 E. Pacific Coast Highway

(above Big 5 - enter in rear)

Card Fees

- Entry Fee \$14 / Session or \$25/Both Sessions
- Additional \$4 Per Session for Unpaid Member

10:00 a.m.

0-50 Pairs*

0-500 Pairs

Stratifications for 500'er Pairs

Stratified by pair average

- 0 - 100
- 101 - 300
- 301 - 500

2:30 p.m.

0-50 Pairs*

0-500 Pairs

Mini-Lesson 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.
Rob Preece

Players must be non-Life Masters and have 500 masterpoints or fewer.

Silver Points!

Free Parking

Free Snacks

Free Coffee

TOURNAMENT CHAIR

Lillian Slater
 714-287-3184
 lillians@gmail.com

DIRECTOR

Sean Lui

ACBL Sanction# 2605377

*Stratification may be altered based on attendance



April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 EASTER	6 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	7 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Cherene Rob/Fern	8 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Leo	9 12:30 OPEN Dir: Nancy	10 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir: Alan	11 12:30 OPEN Dir: Cherene
12 CLOSED	13 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	14 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Cherene Rob/Fern	15 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Leo	16 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN Dir: Nancy	17 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir: Alan	18 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN Dir: Steve
19 Club Championship 12:30 Team Dir: Alan	20 Unit Stac \$2 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	21 Unit Stac \$2 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Cherene Rob/Fern	22 Unit Stac \$2 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Leo	23 Unit Stac \$2 12:30 OPEN Dir: Nancy	24 Unit Stac \$2 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir: Alan	25 Unit Stac \$2 12:30 OPEN Dir: Cherene
26 12:30 UNIT GAME Dir: Sean	27 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank (7) 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	28 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Chuck Dan/Eam	29 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Leo	30 ACBL WIDE \$2 charity 12:30 OPEN Dir: Nancy		