

On the Job

We continue our exploration of bridge players' lives outside of bridge, asking them about first, worst (often the same), or best jobs.



Moyna Simon: Two worst jobs: assembly line of putting caps on toothpaste tubes. Brutally boring! And cracking eggs into a bucket for use in manufacturing cake mixes. The bucket was

then smelled to see if all eggs were fresh, not very high tech at that time!

Karen White: My best job was as a home health physical therapist for a neighbor who had been in a terrible car accident, smashing both legs. I worked with him for months until he could walk again. It was very rewarding!



Nancy Sheley: Worst job was my first job. Summers between the ages of 12 and 16, I picked strawberries for five cents a quart. I ate a lot of strawberries!

Joanne Armenia: My best job was as a go-go



dancer for two years while I put myself through nursing school.

Karen Efthvoulos: Worst job was as a waitress in a country diner. I got fired, not for accidentally pouring hot coffee in a customer's lap, but because I knew the manager was stealing money from the till to support his gambling habit.

Dan Frank: Best job was dyeing carpets at Georgia Tech because

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Status Changes

Sorry!
Report from ACBL has
been delayed. We'll
report next month.



LBCC BEST FACEBOOK POST CONTEST

Post to our Facebook page in May and you could win a fabulous prize.

What? You haven't joined our Facebook page! Well that is the first step. Open Facebook, search for Long Beach Bridge Center, then at the top click Groups. That will take you to our page. Now click Join. Yay! Post as often as you like.

The best post made in the month of May (as chosen by an esteemed panel*) will be awarded a generous prize**.

by Z Sweedyk

*Judging to be done by a random assortment of LBCC volunteers. Sadly, we cannot guarantee impartiality.

**First prize: Your very own, hard to come by, LBCC pencil! with the thingy that prevents it from rolling off the table.

Second prize: Same as first prize but sans the thingy.



April Birthdays

Left to right: Bill Brooks, Leo Dittimore, Ann Devlin,
Alan Flower, Joey DuRee, Al Lum, David Simon



Tuba Notes from the Bored

If bridge were judged solely on bidding accuracy or declarer brilliance, life at the table would be simple. But every seasoned player knows the real test of character arrives not with a finesse, not with a squeeze, but in that timeless interval between finishing a round and... waiting for the next boards to appear. This is where patience becomes a competitive skill all its own.

Some players use the pause as a moment of Zen. They sit back, fold their hands, and gaze serenely into the middle distance as if contemplating the deeper meaning of a takeout double. Others take the opportunity to review the previous hand, mentally replaying each trick with the intensity of a grandmaster analyzing a chess endgame. A

few even manage to look philosophical, as though the universe has personally entrusted them with the mysteries of tempo and carding.

Then there are the restless ones. You know the type. They tap their pencils, shuffle their bidding boxes, or perform the classic "lean and peek," hoping to spot the boards approaching from across the room. They're not impatient, of course — they're simply enthusiastic. Very enthusiastic. If enthusiasm made boards arrive faster, these players would have them delivered by drone.

Meanwhile, the boards themselves seem to operate on their own schedule. Sometimes they glide toward your table with the punctuality of a Swiss train. Other times they wander the room like tourists without a map. You can almost hear them thinking, "Was it North-South or East-West next? Ah well, let's take the scenic route."

But waiting has its charms. It's the perfect time to exchange a friendly word with partner and opponents— ideally something supportive like, "Nice defense on that last hand," rather than, "Why did you lead that?" It's a chance to stretch,

breathe, and remember that bridge is a social game, not a sprint. And occasionally, it's the moment when someone at the next table tells a story so good you forget you were waiting at all.

Of course, every club has its unofficial "board shepherd," the player who "gently" reminds the wandering table ahead that the rest of the room is, in fact, still alive. Their tone is always polite, but the message is clear: "We love you, but please send the boards now!"

In the end, waiting for the next boards is part of the rhythm of duplicate bridge. It's the quiet inhale before the next competitive exhale. It's the space where camaraderie grows, where tempers cool, and where even the most competitive players remember that patience is not just a virtue — it's a convention we all agree to play.

So the next time you find yourself waiting, take a moment to enjoy it. The boards will arrive soon enough, bringing fresh puzzles, new opportunities, and perhaps even a top. Until then, relax. Smile. Breathe. After all, in bridge as in life, a little patience goes a long way.

by Leo Dittimore



the policy at the time was just to throw dye into the dye bath and, when finished, to dump dye into the river. I set up a system to measure dyes so that colors were consistent and then a system for recycling also.



Deke Thomas: My worst job was as a door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesperson. I got a lot of "not interested." I lasted two weeks.

Jane Reid: My best job was a telephone switchboard operator.



a la Lily Tomlin, for Long Beach Edison and then for the Yacht Club. It was like a big toy! I once worked as intermediary between a yacht in danger and the Coast Guard. Very fun job!

We're certain that our instructors would list their best jobs as teaching eager bridge players the basics and the nuances. So, we didn't ask them for their best. Here's their worst:

Rob Preece: Worst job was as temporary inventory taker in a Sears store nursery department, responsible for counting cacti. "Ouch, ouch, ouch, ouch, ouch!"

Leo Dittmore: Worst job was a hospital orderly ... emptying bedpans, inserting catheters, and duty on the "meat wagon" which meant scraping people off the highway.

Hank Dunbar said he would write it up and send it in, so we're waiting to hear from him.

If you have given me a story and haven't seen it yet, it's because I either didn't write your name next to your story or I can't read my writing. We will continue to find great stories. You're all so interesting!

by Lyn Kraatz



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
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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.



Long Beach Unit 557



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

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

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

Rob Preece

Silver Points!

Free Parking

Free Snacks

Free Coffee

TOURNAMENT CHAIR

Lillian Slater

714-287-3184

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DIRECTOR

Sean Lui

ACBL Sanction# 2605377

*Stratification may be altered based on attendance



May 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 CLOSED	4 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank (8) 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	5 Club Championship 12:00 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	6 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 199r Game Dir:Leo	7 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	8 12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Alan	9 12:30 OPEN Director Chereene
17 Unit Team Game 12:30 Director Alan #L2605557B	11 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank (9) 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan	12 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank (9) 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	13 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo	14 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	15 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Alan	16 NLM SECTIONAL 10am Tournament 2:30p 12:30 Open Director: Sean
24 Unit Game 12:30 Open/NLM L2605557A	18 Stardust \$1 25% GOLD 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director Alan (back-gold+)	19 Stardust \$1 25% GOLD 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	20 Stardust \$1 25% GOLD 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir:Leo	21 Stardust \$1 25% GOLD 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	22 Stardust \$1 25% GOLD 12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Alan	23 Stardust \$1 25% GOLD 12:30 OPEN Director Chereene
25 MEMORIAL DAY UNIT Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 Sel Topics Rob	26 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game	27 Grass Roots Charity \$1 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game	28 Grass Roots Charity \$1 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game	29 Grass Roots Charity \$1 12:30 OPEN/NLM	30 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN	