

Happy birthday, America!



Helping us remember and putting us in a celebratory mood (if we're having a good bridge day) are the great decorations at the Bridge Center. We have Kay Tseng to thank for those.



Kay has been decorating the Bridge Center for seven years, having started it on her own since no one was doing it before her. She has accumulated decorations over the years, shopping on Amazon and at Dollar Tree and other thrift and vintage stores throughout Southern California, storing the decor in the closet near the top of the stairs. One new purchase was the desk banner "America Anniversary" which she bought on Amazon just for this 4th.

It must have taken her hours to decorate this time. Did she have help, especially on high-hung items? Hope so! We forgot to ask.

Kay doesn't decorate for all holidays, skips St. Patrick's Day which falls too close to Valentine's Day, Easter, and spring. The patriotic décor will remain for a while with perhaps a flutter with summer. We can expect autumn colors, Halloween and Thanksgiving after that. Is she reimbursed for her purchases? Sometimes. But she also buys items on her own. "That's my contribution to the Center."

Kay's actual contribution is making our motto "The Friendliest Bridge Club..." only too true. Thank you, Kay.

by Lyn Kraatz

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Status Changes

Sectional Master

Z Sweedyk

Silver Life Master

Charles Laine

Gold Life Master

Thad Mikols



Thad Mikols
Gold Life Master



June Birthdays

Left to right: Mony Barkolz, Cindy Barth, Steve Ramos,
John Kilmer



Charles Laine
Silver Life Master



Tuba Notes from the Bored

The Unwritten Rules We Keep Breaking: Annoyances at the Bridge Table

Bridge is a game of elegance — a contest of logic, partnership, and silent communication across a black table-top battlefield. Yet for all its sophistication, the bridge table remains a surprising incubator of petty irritations, social breaches, and maddening habits that test the patience of even the most composed players. Whether you play at a casual club game or a serious duplicate, you've almost certainly encountered the full taxonomy of table sins.

The Card Snapper

Few sounds are more grating than the sharp crack of a card being slapped onto the table. The card

snapper treats every trick like a personal declaration of war, punctuating each play with a percussive flourish that says, I have dominated this trick and I want everyone within six tables to know it. It is theatrical, it is unnecessary, and after the third snap in a row, it becomes genuinely difficult to concentrate. Cards are instruments (like a tuba), not weapons. They deserve to be placed — not hurled — onto the table.

The Post-Mortem Enthusiast

Every bridge player loves an autopsy. That's part of the game's charm. But there is a time and place, and that time is emphatically not during the hand still in progress at the neighboring table. The post-mortem enthusiast launches into breathless analysis the moment the last trick is taken — loudly, gesturally, sometimes with visual aids — while the pair to their left is still trying to work out a two-way finesse in silence. "I had six hearts to the AKQ and partner gave me a club!" is not information anyone at the next table needs right now. Save it for the lobby. Or at least lower your voice to a frequency that doesn't carry across the room.

The Hand Revealer

Closely related, and perhaps more offensive, is the player who actually shows their cards after

the hand ends — fanning them face-up on the table, replaying the whole deal blow by blow, while the next pair is settling in. This isn't just annoying; it's a genuine breach of duplicate ethics. Boards travel. Information travels. Keep your cards face-down and your insights to yourself until the round is well and truly over.

The Board Demander

Then there is the player who, the moment they finish a board, pivots theatrically in their chair to stare down the neighboring table. The sighing begins. The watch-checking follows. Eventually comes the stage whisper — "Are they almost done?" — and finally the direct appeal to the director, lodged after a delay of approximately ninety seconds. These players seem to have forgotten that bridge involves thinking, and thinking takes time. Patience is not merely a virtue at the bridge table; it is a basic obligation.

A Final Word

None of these offenders are villains. Most are simply unaware. The bridge table, at its best, is a place of courtesy and concentration — a small civilization with its own customs. Honoring those customs costs nothing and preserves the thing we all came for: the joy of the game itself.

by Leo Dittmore



A Word from the Editor

Lyn Kraatz has done a wonderful job interviewing people about their best/worst jobs. I like to provide some "music" to go with the "words" of the job descriptions. If an actual photo of the person is not available I search the internet for an appropriate image.



In the case of Judy Jones, I happened upon an associate of hers, Donna, and added that to the article. Below is an actual photo of Judy (middle) with her fellow VIP hostesses.



Judy also shared with me another photo of her hostessing days. This photo is of Judy, Janet Leigh and her two daughters -including Jaime Lee Curtis (far right.)



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.

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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 - FALL SECTIONAL

Email Reservations **REQUIRED**

- LongBeachSectional@gmail.com 34 Table Limit

November 14 & 15, 2026

Saturday Pairs

10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

\$15 card fee / session per person

credit card only

Stratifications

NLM*

* 0 -50

* 51- 200

* 201 - 499

Open*

* 0 - 1500

* 1501 -3000

* 3001+

*Stratification may be adjusted based on attendance.

Partnership Desk

Melinda Wilson
melindawilsonlaw@gmail.com
424-477-8744

Sunday Swiss Teams

10:00 a.m. with a lunch break

Must participate in both sessions -

\$30 card fee per person

credit card only

Team stratification based on players' masterpoint average

Special Hotel Rates

hotel **CURRENT**

\$99 +tax/night
reservations at hotelcurrent.com
Code: Bridge
562-597-1341

Tournament Chair

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

ACBL Director



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

Sanction # 2611348



Long Beach Bridge Center

4782 E. Pacific Coast Highway
(Above and behind Big 5, enter in the rear)

July 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 CLOSED 	6 North Am \$1 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics R Director Alan	7 North Am \$1 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank (1) 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	8 North Am \$1 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Director Leo	9 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	10 12:30 OPEN Director Leo	11 Silver Quest 33% silver GO 12:30 OPEN Director Cherene
12 CLOSED 	13 Silver Quest 33% silver GO 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Ro Director Leo	14 Silver Quest 33% silver GO 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	15 Silver Quest 33% silver GO 12:30 OPEN 12:30 NEW NLM GAME 9:30 199r Game Director Leo	16 Silver Quest 33% silver GO 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	17 Silver Quest 33% silver GO 12:30 OPEN Director Alan	18 Silver Quest 33% silver GO 12:30 OPEN Director Steve
19 UNIT Team Game Dir: Leo #L2607557A	20 District StAc \$2 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Ro Director Alan	21 District StAc \$2 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	22 District StAc \$2 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Director Leo	23 District StAc \$2 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	24 District StAc \$2 12:30 OPEN Director Alan	25 District StAc \$2 12:30 OPEN Director Cherene
26 Unit Game (District StAc) 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob	27 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 2 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob	28 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank 9:30 199r Game	29 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game	30 North Am \$1 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	31 North Am \$1 12:30 OPEN Director Alan	1 Aug North Am \$1 12:30 OPEN Director Steve