

On the Job September Edition

More best and worst:

Joe Urcis: Best job was as a lawyer handling general litigation and personal injury cases, then as a judge handling appeals for disability, unemployment and tax cases. Best job can become the worst job if your boss or supervisor makes your life miserable. Enough said.

Miriam Kelley: Best job was as a teacher which I did for 28 years. But when my husband, a principal, retired, I did too. I didn't want to dress for work when he got to sleep in.

Florence Cooper: One worst job was as community volunteer to pay for a traffic ticket. I was responsible for taking downtown drug users to the bathroom to collect

urine samples. Did that for one day. Another worst job was in London as secretary for an archbishop. He welcomed me by fondling me, also a one-day job. (Florence had more to share, but two were enough.)

Mony Barkol: When asked about his best or worst job, Mony replied "I can't talk about it" (several times!) which leaves us wondering: best or worst and secret? So, spy?

Pauline Standish: Best job was United Airlines Supervisor of Operations based in San Francisco which I did for five years.

Nancy Markley: I was a teacher for years, but I didn't like it. Instead, I gave back by being a volunteer for Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Junior League, American Heart Association, and PTA president.

Speaking of giving back, **Joanne Armenia** is collecting used eyeglasses for the Lions Club and has three bags full (as



the nursery rhyme goes). Why Lions Club? "Because I'm a nurse and look for solutions to problems. Plus, I have access to people with glasses." And **Eileen Braeman**, who collects aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and glass (although not as valuable for recycling) then donates the money to the Orange County Children's Hospital. Why them? "Because a friend's child is alive due to their care."

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FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM: LONGBEACHBRIDGE
WWW.ALLIANCEBRIDGECLUB



Status Changes

Regional Master

Ruby Life Master

Gold Life Master

Tracey Whitney

Colleen Gardner

Rosemary Ford

John Bakovic

Welcome New Member

Neal Kleiner



Colleen Gardner
Ruby Life Master



**Congratulations
to Eleth & Richard
Fields
58th Wedding
Anniversary**



John Bakovic
Gold Life Master



June Birthdays

Left to right: Miriam Kelley, Eleth Field, April Berg, Kay Tseng, and Carl Wolinsky



Tuba Notes from the Bored LBBC Needs Directors... and More of Them!

Long Beach Bridge Center, we run on three things: bidding boxes, caffeine, and the heroic efforts of our directors. Without directors, our games would resemble a charming neighborhood block party where everyone brought cards but no one remembered the rules. Boards would wander. Vulnerability would be determined by mood. And at least one table would be playing Board 7 for the third time because “it was a good one.”

Directors are the glue that holds our cheerful chaos together. They’re the ones who pickup snacks, arrive early to set up the room, place the BridgeMates, and perform the sacred ritual of “Why is this board

upside-down again?”, and clean up. They keep the movement flowing, the rulings fair, and the players smiling — or at least smiling eventually, once the ruling goes their way.

During the game, directors become multitasking magicians. They answer questions, settle disputes, and remind us that yes, you really do have to alert that bid. They walk into up to tables with the calm confidence of someone who has seen everything: revoked tricks, insufficient bids, claims made with a trump still out, and the ever-popular “I swear I had 13 cards when we started.”

But here’s the twist: we don’t just need directors — we need *more* people to become directors. Our current directors are wonderful, dedicated, and occasionally superhuman, but even superheroes need reinforcements. The club is growing, games are thriving, and the demand for knowledgeable, friendly directors is rising faster than a preempt on a shapely hand.

Becoming a director isn’t scary. You don’t need to memorize all 93 laws overnight or quote Law 73A in your sleep. You just need curiosity, patience, and a willingness to help keep the game running smoothly. The rest comes with help from other directors, training, practice, and the occasional

moment of thinking, “Did that really just happen?” (Yes. It did. And it will again.)

New directors bring fresh energy, new perspectives, and — let’s be honest — a little relief to the current crew. They help spread the workload, ensure we can run more games, and make it possible for the club to continue thriving. Plus, directing comes with perks: you learn the laws, you get to know everyone, free plays at LBBC, and the eternal gratitude of players who rely on you to keep the game fair and fun.

Imagine a future where we have a full roster of directors, each confident, trained, and ready to step in. Games start on time. Rulings are swift. Movements are smooth. And no one ever has to play Board 7 three times again.

So yes, the Long Beach Bridge Center needs directors — and we need you (or someone you know, or someone you can gently nudge) to consider becoming one. It’s rewarding, it’s important, and it keeps our beloved club running like the well-shuffled machine it deserves to be. The club will even pay for your class and test. Checkout https://www.acbl.org/portfolio/director-courses/?utm_source=copilot.com#director for more details or talk to any of the directors at the club.

by Leo Dittimore



Look What Happened When I Was Having Fun

In 2025 I attended my first bridge tournament since the beginning of COVID. My last event was on a team, with Nancy Toussaint, Tim Cole and Joyce Roberts to help Joyce get Life Master status. We heard the first rumors of the COVID pandemic as we walked out of the hotel.

I returned to playing in person at Long Beach Bridge Center in early 2025 when I was being called in to sub. Lillian Slater was very encouraging. As a result I renewed friendships with persons I had known almost 30 years ago. Both Betty Anne Houts and Tim Cole asked if I would like to play weekly. Later Fern Dunbar asked if she could call me when she needed a partner. Colleen Gardner asked if I was available.

Colleen then gave my number to Rebecca Ortega who was looking for a partner.

After playing with Rebecca a couple of times, she asked if I could play in a team event in a tournament with her and her husband as they needed silver points. But I didn't have a partner and last minute attempts to find one came away empty handed. Rebecca was persistent and contacted the woman in charge of the partnership desk. It was 7:30 p.m. the night before the tournament when Rebecca texted "We have a team and you have a partner!"

I was surprised that I was so excited that I would be playing in a tournament. I had thought those days were over. It brought back many memories of playing on the Queen Mary and at the annual Palm Springs regional for many years, the tournament in Ann Arbor Michigan where I became a Life Master and the ACBL National tournament in San Diego with Sherry Troeger, April Berg, and John Berg. And how we always celebrated with Johnny Walker Gold afterwards.

When I met my partner Stan he informed me he had forgone playing beach

volleyball to play in the tournament and had driven over fifty miles. We did fairly well and accomplished the goal of getting a "sliver" of silver points; 0.34 to be exact. Not bad out of about one hundred participants, including many top ranking players.

We immediately started planning on playing as a team again at the Long Beach Sectional in July and later the Orange County Sectional. I now could visualize my goal of making the next level of Life Master - I only had one hundred more points to go.

By the end of 2025 both Tim and Betty Anne had passed away. Ralph Brunson, another of Tim's partners, asked me to form a new partnership in Tim's memory and we began to play weekly. Two newer players, Mandy Moores and Margaret Bass, asked if I would mentor them to help them improve their game.

Shirley Knopf, another player I knew from 30 years ago, asked if I could play while her partner Ann Devlin was on vacation. Then, Ann asked me to play while Shirley was on vacation. Also, Howard invited me to play with him at the game in Leisure World. Gradually I was accumulating points

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LONG BEACH BRIDGE CENTER FALL 2026!

WWW.BRIDGEANDBEYOND.COM



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

Long Beach Bridge Center
Pacific Coast Hwy
Long Beach - CA

YOUR TEACHERS



John Ramos



Christopher Rivera

Bridge And Beyond is thrilled to announce its first ever
West Coast land event!

Two days of premier bridge instruction in the comfort of the Long
Beach Bridge Center. Enjoy classes, duplicate bridge, and Q&As
with our dynamic teaching team!

See page 2 for more details and we hope to see you in November!



CONTACT US:
INFO@BRIDGEANDBEYOND.COM





LONG
BEACH

BRIDGE

FALL
2026!

WWW.BRIDGEANDBEYOND.COM

EVENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

9:30AM	Breakfast
10:00AM - 12:00PM	Lesson
12:30PM - 3:30PM	Game Time
3:30PM - 4:00PM	Recap of Hands

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

10:00AM - 12:30PM	Lessons
12:30PM - 1:30PM	Lunch Break
1:30PM - 3:30PM	Lessons

LOCATION & PRICE

LONG BEACH BRIDGE CENTER

Long Beach Bridge
Center, 4782 Pacific
Coast Hwy, Long Beach,
CA 90804

\$400



Allison Rudary

Bridge And Beyond's
Travel Advisor
allison@largaytravel.com

CHECK OUT OUR LEARNING
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until one day I realized that I need less than 20 points to attain Ruby Life Master. All of a sudden it seemed within reach.

And then it happened! So many individuals made this possible and I hope I have thanked them all for their contributions. What a team effort!

by Rosemary Ford

Darlene Oliver: With her passion for animal



welfare, Darlene has served six years as Chairman of the Board for FACT, Food Animal Concerns Trust, a non-profit focused on catastrophic factory farming. Per Darlene, a handful of corporations control 99% of all farmed animals, and independent farmers have been disappearing, 400,000 farms since 2007. Abuse of animals isn't singular: illegal child labor is involved. FACT works directly with humane farmers, providing grants, scholarships, and tech support. To learn more, click on FACT.care.

We are interested in highlighting other Good Samaritans, but they won't come forward on their own. We're going to need references from what friends know. Hope to hear from you.

by Lyn Kraatz

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)

Editor

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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.

September 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge Hank (9) 9:30 199r Game Dir: Cherene Rob/Fern	2 UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir Leo # L2609557B	3 12:30 OPEN Dir Nancy	4 UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP 12:30 OPEN/NLM #L2609557C Dir Alan	5 12:30 OPEN Dir Steve	
	7 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Sel Topics Rob/Fern Dir Alan	8 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	9 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir Leo	11 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir Alan	12 12:30 OPEN Dir Cherene	
	14 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Sel Topics Rob/Fern Dir Alan	15 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	16 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN 12:30 NEW NLM GAME 9:30 199r Game Dir Leo	17 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN Lunch Included Dir Nancy	18 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir Alan	19 Club Championship 12:30 OPEN Dir Steve
20 ACBL Membership 12:30 Team game Director Alan	21 ACBL Membership 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Sel Topics Rob/Fern Dir Alan	22 ACBL Membership 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	23 ACBL Membership 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game Dir Leo	24 ACBL Membership 12:30 OPEN Dir Nancy	25 ACBL Membership 12:30 OPEN/NLM Dir Alan	26 ACBL Membership 12:30 OPEN Dir Cherene
27 12:30 Unit game L2609557A	28 ACBL Wide Silver Seniors 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob/Fern	29 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge Hank 9:30 199r Game	30 12:30 OPEN/NLM 9:30 199r Game			