Long Beach Bridge Center
The Friendliest Bridge Club

table talk

On the Job
October Edition

Another month of best and worst jobs and getting to know bridge players in other scenarios before they came to us at the Long Beach Bridge Club:

Carol Patrick: My best job was as a business owner, doing taxes as a CPA. My worst job was during college when I worked in a TV repair shop.

Don Wiberg: My worst job was when I was a junior in college and worked in construction as a carpenter's helper. I was responsible for nailing asbestos to the ceiling. It was messy and I went home covered in dust and fibers. I lasted one week.

Shefali Pandya: My best job was working for Toyota in Strategic Planning Management. It takes four years to develop a car, and future planning to predict what will be most sellable in five to eight years down the road (pun added by Author). My worst job was the 12 years at one job in order to get my green card. I couldn't leave, or I would have had to start all over again. And since I was a "captive employee," management chose not to pay much. It was crappy income.

Jill Rosenberg: My most interesting job was as a social worker in genetics counseling in the late '60's in Baltimore. Genetic testing of DNA to discern future health problems was just beginning, and it was fascinating.

Ellen Goodwin: Worst job was working for an aerospace firm doing accounting and filing. It was ghastly! I stayed for years in that position but was eventually promoted to executive secretary.

Kay Bailey: A job I loved and did for 20 years was as a Kitchen Designer. I worked with builders and provided amazing kitchens for Malibu homes. I loved working with people, making them happy.

John Benson: My best job was doing research for the National Cancer Institute where I worked for 20 years, primarily developing cancer vaccines. I worked with Bob Gallo who discovered the HIV virus and developed a vaccine for that.

It's amazing at how best jobs are so admirable. We play bridge with such smart people! In that vein, we are looking for one more month of best and worst, especially worst which tend to be funny. December will be geared to holidays and resolutions for the new year.

by Lyn Kraatz

4782 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
LONG BEACH, CA 90804
562.498.8113

EMAIL:manager@LongBeachBridge.com www.LongBeachBridge.com
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM: LONGBEACHBRIDGE
WWW.ALLIANCEBRIDGECLUB

September Birthdays

Left to right: Ralph Brunson and Wayne Otsuki

October Birthdays

Left to right: John Galligher, Jo Melis, Melanie Smith, Debbie Collins, Chris Halliwell

Status Changes

Club Master

Karen White

Sectional Master

Doris Fujii

Tracey Whitney

Regional Master

Debra Collins

Chris Halliwell

Advanced NABC Master

Rita van Lierop

Ruby Life Master

Linda Renkus

Linda Renkus

Ruby Life Master

Tuba Notes from the Bored

Unit 557 Wants You!

Unit 557 thrives because members step forward, bring their ideas, and help shape the future of our bridge community. As we approach December, it's time to invite dedicated players, volunteers, and emerging leaders to consider serving on the Unit 557 Board of Directors. This annual recruitment period is one of the most important moments in our governance cycle, and it's your chance to help guide the programs, policies, and spirit of our unit for the coming year.

Serving on the board is not just administrative work — it's an opportunity to strengthen the club culture, support directors, enhance member education, and ensure that Unit 557 continues to be one of the most welcoming and well-run units in Southern California. Board members help oversee monthly unit games, host Sectional tournaments, mentor new players, coordinate special events, and maintain the standards of fairness and hospitality that define our community. If you've ever had ideas for improving communication, expanding outreach, or enriching the player experience, this is the perfect avenue to bring those ideas to life.

The board meets monthly, with additional involvement during tournaments and special events. Members collaborate on planning, budgeting, recognition programs, and long-term strategy. You don't need prior board experience — just a willingness to contribute, listen, and work constructively with fellow volunteers. Many of our strongest board members began simply as players who wanted to give back. If you enjoy teamwork, problem-solving, and helping others succeed, you'll find board service both meaningful and energizing.

Candidates should be active members of Unit 557 in good standing and prepared to serve a two-year term beginning in January. Elections will be held in December, and the nominating committee is now accepting names of individuals interested in participating. Whether you're a long-time player or a newer member eager to get involved, your perspective is valuable. Our unit benefits most when the board reflects the diversity of experience, skill levels, and backgrounds within our membership.

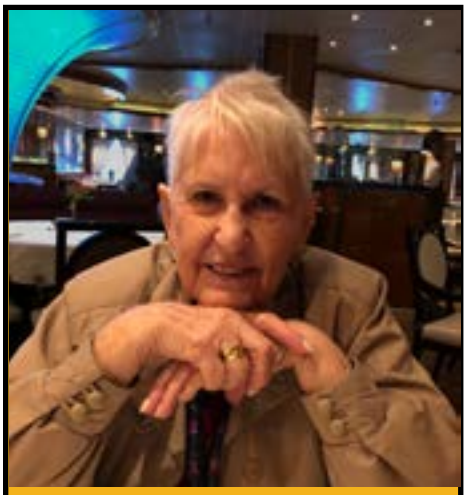
Talk to a current Board member, see the front room bulletin board for the list, to express interest. The committee will review all volunteers and prepare the slate for presentation during December's holiday party and election.

If you've ever wondered how decisions are made, how events come together, or how our unit maintains its high standards, this is your chance to be part of the process. Board service is a rewarding way to deepen your connection to the game, support fellow players, and help shape the future of Unit 557. We encourage every member to consider stepping forward.

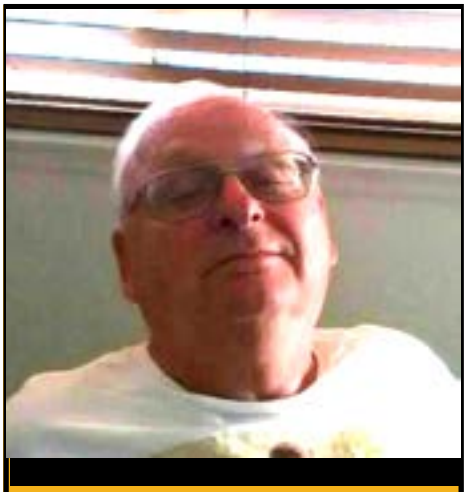
If you're ready to participate more fully in our bridge community, now is the moment. Your voice, your ideas, and your leadership can make a real difference.

by Leo Dittemore

Our Deepest Sympathies to the Family and Friends of



Betty Jackson



John Hand

Dick Stein

Third (?) Mentor/Mentee Program Celebrating Graduation from Hank's Bridge 3 Class

The question mark is because the first two programs barely made a ripple. After completing Hank Dunbar's Bridge 3 Class, one can forget bridge, retake the class, or NEXT STEP by joining one of the two supervised play groups on Tuesday and Wednesday. In that vein, Hank encourages his graduates to attend the next Tuesday's supervised play where volunteers have offered to mentor the alums.

The first mentor/mentee program more than a year ago had four or five alums. , One even found a permanent partner, surprising her mentor with her complete bridge knowledge. Good job, Hank!

We think the second mentor/mentee program had one alum venturing into supervised play. Did it happen? Are we who frequent supervised play so scary that alums are afraid to enter in? Something had to be done.

Debbie Collins and Z Sweedyk volunteered to advance the program by speaking to the graduating class. Those of us in Tuesday's supervised group saw Debbie with her clipboard and decided to help. Soon dozens from supervised play pushed into Hank's class, telling our stories of how friendly we are and how helpful the instructors are. We may have been a might overwhelming because the class looked at us like deer caught in headlights.

But the next Tuesday, twenty of his alums came to Tuesday's play. It was so overpowering with five additional tables that Fern Dunbar decided to have a Play for Free day. Would the experience provide success? And yes, it did! The following Tuesday, of the 20 who had been mentored, nine joined the ranks of the Tuesday group. Welcome!

by Lyn Kraatz

Editor A.K. Laine
Contributors Leo Dittemore
Lyn Kraatz
Lillian Slater

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 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!

BRIDGE and beyond

CONTACT US:
INFO@BRIDGEANDBEYOND.COM

LTR TRAVEL LLC

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

CHECK OUT OUR LEARNING CENTER FOR CLASSES, EVENTS AND EVERYTHING BRIDGE: WWW.BRIDGEANDBEYOND.COM

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

BRIDGE and beyond

CONTACT US:
INFO@BRIDGEANDBEYOND.COM

LTR TRAVEL LLC

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.

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

Partnership Desk

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

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

UNIT 557 ACBL

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

OCTOBER 2026

Long Beach Bridge Center
The Friendliest Bridge Club since 1986

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	2 12:30 OPEN/NLM Director Cherene	3 12:30 OPEN Director Steve
4 CLOSED	5 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank (1) 9:30 Sel Topics Ro Director tba	6 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank (1) 9:30 199'r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	7 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199'r Game Dir Leo	8 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	9 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN Director Cherene	10 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN Director Cherene
11 Club Appreciation 12:30 Team Game Director tba	12 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director tba	13 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank 9:30 199'r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	14 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199'r Game Dir Leo	15 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	16 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN Director Cherene	17 Club Appreciation 12:30 OPEN Director Steve
18 Club Appreciation 12:30 Unit Game Director Sean	19 District STaC 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3Hank 9:30 Sel Topics Rob Director tba	20 District STaC 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank 9:30 199'r Game Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	21 District STaC 12:30 OPEN/NLM 12:30 NLM Game 9:30 199'r Ga lunch included Dir Leo	22 District STaC 12:30 OPEN Director Nancy	23 District STaC 12:30 OPEN Director Cherene	24 District STaC 12:30 OPEN Director Cherene
25 NAP District Finals 10:00am	26 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 3 Hank (4) 9:30 Sel Topics Rob	27 12:30 OPEN 9:30 Bridge 1 Hank (4) 9:30 199'r Game	28 12:30 OPEN 9:30 199'r Game	29 12:30 OPEN	30 Unit Championship 12:30 Party N	31 12:30 OPEN