



SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY BRIDGE CENTER

**Newsletter
May 2025**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard Picheny

SPECIAL DAYS AT SOCBC

Pearlman Celebration -- On Monday, March 3rd we celebrated with Marshall Pearlman as he turned 95 years young. His 90th Birthday celebration had been sidelined by the Covid Pandemic, so being together for 95 was an extra joyous occasion. He may not be doing as many push-ups as he did in the past but hand him 13 cards and he can turn them into magic. Happy Birthday young man!

Welcome Back Day -- Thursday April 3rd

was welcome back day. We were glad to see the traveling Kelleys again. Karen and Colin had been jetting around and away from the club for many months.



Teresa McCord joined us too, playing with Sunny Foster face to face as a switch from online. But the guest of honor, also celebrating his April 5th birthday was Hal Binder.

Hal was one of our longtime exceptional teachers before health issues kept him at home during and following the pandemic. Many of us learned everything from Modified Bergen to Minorwood from Hal. Welcome back, and Happy Birthday Hal!



VOLUNTEERS

Trisha Silverberg is our vivacious, exuberant, tenacious Volunteer to recruit Volunteers. She is fired up and ready to recruit. See her report on page 4 of this newsletter.

ACE OF CLUBS & MINI-McKENNEY AWARDS

SOCBC presented medallions and certificates awards to our winners on Friday, April 11th at noon. We served light appetizers and dessert to those playing in our games

that afternoon and those receiving awards. We hope to see more of you celebrate with us next year.

The "Mini-McKenney" and "Ace of Clubs" awards are competitions that recognize bridge players who earn the most masterpoints during a calendar year, with the key distinction being that the Mini-McKenney focuses on overall masterpoints earned across all sanctioned events, while the Ace of Clubs specifically recognizes achievements in club-level games only; both awards are categorized by masterpoint level, meaning players compete within their respective skill brackets.

INTERESTING FACT???

FACT (???) -- All game directors have the same last name.

This is not a matter of coincidence, but rather a matter of courtesy and respect. How is it possible, you ask, that thousands of directors from countries around the world have the same last name. Same last name in different languages? Same last name in diverse cultures? You ask yourself, same last name despite having different fathers, how is that possible?

Finally, you ask, what is the last name common to all game directors? How does Picheny claim that all game directors have the same last name? when, at SOCBC, we have game directors named Rick Araujo, John Coulombe, Trudi Hanscom, John Jonas, Bob Levine, Susan Bristol, and even Richard Picheny. Has Picheny finally completely lost his mind?

Listen carefully when you are at SOCBC, other bridge clubs and bridge tournaments. When making a director call, the informed, courteous, respectful, bridge experts and others will always call, in a friendly voice: **DIRECTOR PLEASE**. Validating the fact that all game Directors have the same last name of Please. In fact??? All game directors also have the same first name

Continued on next page.

-- Director!.

Be courteous and maintain a friendly demeanor by calling in a nice tone-- Director Please.

Game Directors' Standing Rules

SOCBC's Board of Directors voted to increase Game Director's compensation and mileage reimbursement and has amended Section IV 4 of the Standing Rules as follows:

4. Director Compensation: Game Directors and Caddies are independent contractors and receive the following compensation:
 - a. \$120 fee for Directors regardless of movement.
 - b. Caddies will receive \$50 per session.
 - c. The foregoing compensation does not apply to Bridge Classes but does apply to EasyBridge games (see Section VI.2 below).
 - d. Directors will receive a distance-based allowance for directing related travel to and from the Club, which is more than 15 miles per one-way trip. Anyone traveling 50 or more miles gets reimbursed for two-way travel. Caddies do not receive the distance-based allowance. The rate of compensation will be 70 cents per mile, based on the IRS published rate.
 - e. The Director may not kibitz.
 - f. The Director may play in the limited Masterpoint games when the players would like the Director to fill in.
 - g. The Director may not play if there are 14 or more tables or two or more sections.
 - h. The Director may not play to make a half table.
 - i. The Director may not receive master points in pairs games.

Evening games and Saturday afternoon games are exceptions to the rules set forth in Sections 4g, 4h, and 4i.

PARKING

The leasing office has asked us to please be more conscientious about parking in our allowed areas. Our

allotted number of spots is based on the square footage of our suite. Because we drive so many cars compared to other businesses in our complex, we must park slightly further away. The leasing office and other tenants require that spaces be available for their customers. As a reminder, we are **NOT** to park in any spaces along the row directly in front of our entrance, or in the row across from our entrance. We are **NOT** to park on the side of the building directly across from us. We are not to park in the spaces directly in front of the leasing office or the businesses adjacent to the leasing office. You can park at the side of our building. You can park behind our building and across from there. You may park facing the cemetery. Handicapped parking is an exception if you have a valid handicapped permit. (see website map.)

FRIDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

Our Friday Night Bridge game is a lot of fun. We offer open games and social tables; both are and played in a relaxed duplicate format that awards masterpoints. There was an abundance of delicious heavy appetizers and wonderful desserts. The cost is \$10. You don't need a partner.

Please join us on Friday, May 9th for "Heavy Appetizers," desserts and Open and Social Bridge.

Lisa Buchner is leading the effort to make this game a success.

UNIT GAME

We will hold our May Unit Game on Sunday, May 18th. As usual we will be serving a wonderful brunch/lunch. Register early.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 0-20 GAME

Players with 0-20 masterpoints please play in our Wednesday Supervised Play game beginning at 12:30. Our goal is to provide the opportunity for you to practice with the benefit of more experienced players on hand to help answer your questions.

All players and students in the 0-20 range are welcome. The cost is \$10. If you can come with a partner, that will help, but if not, just show up and we will pair you with anyone else looking for a partner. In the event of an odd



MENTORING

The 0-20 Wednesday mentor group continues to improve as they practice what they have learned in the Monday, Tuesday and Friday morning games.

The last couple of weeks the mentors have had to fill in at tables and play so mentoring has been tricky but everyone has smiles and understanding. We always appreciate the mentors who give of their time each week and welcome more.

Please sign up at the front door. Thank you. *Peggy*

Peggy Dakin

LIBRARY REPORT

Our wonderful volunteer librarian, Gillian Jeffrey is away from the club for a while due to some health challenges. We wish her a speedy recovery, and in her absence, let's all help keep the library a great resource. Borrow any book that strikes your interest, that's what they are there for.

In the meantime, Jeff Rocklin has stepped up to share an overview of one of his favorite bridge books:

A New Approach to Play and Defense: 100 New Problems-In Matched Pairs-To Play Both Ways by Eddie Kantar.

Kantar starts by giving the reader 50 Play of the Hand problems, played by North/South - and then flip the page and he tells you how you might have made the contract, with "Key Lesson Pointers" for each hand.

He then gives you the same 50 hands, but from the point of view of the East/West defenders. Then flip the page and he tells you how you might have defeated the same hand which earlier, he had given you to play as declarer. The solutions come with "Key Defense Lesson Pointers."

He wrote two books like this, Volume One and Volume Two. This is an old book, but the lessons in it are excellent and timeless.



LEARNING BRIDGE

David Merenbach

Many of the lessons we learn (or need to learn) as beginning bridge players have little to do with bidding or playing cards. It is true in many new activities. When I think about learning a new game I remember learning golf more than bridge.

When I learned to play golf as a youth I was fortunate to learn from a highly renowned teaching pro. After my first two lessons I asked him, "what do I need to do to be a good golfer?" His answer surprised me. He said, "remember three things:

1. Be courteous
2. Keep up with the pace of play
3. Have fun.

If you do those three things you will be a GOOD golfer". I believe playing bridge we need to observe those same three rules.

1. Playing on pace makes the game more enjoyable for

everyone in the room.

2. Be courteous to both your partner and opponents. We should greet opponents when they join us at a table. If there are questions or disagreements, be civil and/or call the director. Treat your partner with respect whether they are playing well or not. Nothing is more uncomfortable for a partner or opponents when we lose patience with our partner.
3. Have fun! We all want to win, but in the end, bridge is a game. We are playing not working, that is already a win!

Footnote to the above golf story: the pro told me only after I was a "good golfer" for six months could I really focus on becoming a competitive golfer. Becoming a competitive bridge player can also take a long time, but you can be a good bridge player from day one.



MANAGER'S CORNER

Gail Schneider

We are growing!!! Our table count is getting better. Our friendliness and enjoyment of the game are two of the main reasons. Let's keep it up. Our lessons, beginner games and mentoring games are helping to bring in new players. Please remember to be extremely nice and friendly to our new players. Add words of encouragement and stories of your own mistakes while learning. This helps them not to get frustrated while trying new parts of the game. Errors in bidding and play should be stated gently after the hand is done, i.e., non-alerts of a conventional bid.

May is Grass Roots all month. The extra money that comes in comes back to the district and clubs. This helps with our specials and teaching.

We also have TWO weeks of all FOUR colors. Plus Stardust and STaC. Please watch the calendar and come have some fun and earn those points!

Our "8 is enough" is so much fun. Get a team together and join us. Also, our Pro-Am is great for reinforcing and learning. Please sign up in the room for that game.

Always remember: Don't come into the room if you are not feeling well.

See you at the tables.

SOCBC APRIL 2025 VOLUNTEERS

Trisha Silverberg, Volunteer Coordinator

We are only two months into our focused approach for recruiting club volunteers and we've filled almost all the open slots. You can't begin to know how grateful I am that so many of you have stepped up. Thank you so much!

The positions we have filled since the last publication are:

- Wednesday Mentor Game Leader- thank you *Peggy Dakin*
- Open Sectional Manager(s)-thank you *Eileen MacKenzie & Melinda Konopisos*
- D22 Connection Article- thank you *David Merenbach*
- Saturday Pizza Order/Pickup-thank you *Jim Faix & Dottie Hecht*
- Computer Hardware Guru-thank you *Jeff Oberholtzer*
- Unit Game Lunch Manager-thank you *Cynthia Gallaway*

A position we would like someone to step up and fill:

- 4th Sunday Swiss Game Pizza Order and Pick up

Did you know you can see all the volunteers and what they do in **three** places? The Bulletin Board, Website and Newsletter. If you want to reach out to anyone, contact information on the Club Roster is on the Website (ask a director for the password).

A special shout-out to *Betsy Hartley*; she has gone beyond the call of duty in maintaining our Bidding Boxes, they look great!

As always, thank you to all of you that help silently! Each person who takes on a lead role to fill a needed position recruits helpers so they can get the job done.

Please come see me if you want to talk about how you can help and get involved at our amazing Bridge Club.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless" Sherry Anderson



MAY SPECIALS AT SOCBC

May 1 - 3	Grass Roots Charity Games	\$12 per person (\$13 on Saturday)
May 5 - 10	Stardust Games - All four colors	\$12 per person (\$13 on Saturday)
May 12 - 17	Grass Roots Charity Games	\$12 per person
May 14	Eight-is-Enough	\$12 per person
May 18	Unit Game Lunch at 12 Noon, Game at 12:30 PM	\$13 per person
May 19 - 25	Royal \$TaC Games - All four colors	\$12 per person (\$13 on Saturday)
May 25	Swiss Teams	\$13 per person
May 26 - 30	Grass Roots Charity Games	\$12 per person
May 31	GNT Finals	No Open Game

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Susan Bristol Co-Chair, Membership

We presently have 458 members in our club. As we didn't have a newsletter last month, I'm including new additions and changes since last year. It's quite a list! We presently have 458 members in our club. See the end of this article for some interesting facts about our club.

We welcome back reinstated members:

- Dr. Niall Cullen
- Bonnie McCrae

We are pleased to welcome these ACBL members who have transferred to our Unit:

- Maureen Brongo
- Andrea French
- Eileen Mackenzie

Congratulations to the members moving up in the ranks. They are:

Junior Master

- Willem Degoede
- Linda Gottlieb
- Frances Gruben
- Peter Leyenaar
- Shirley J Read

Club Master

- Paul Kohls

Life Master

- Marcia Gahring

Silver Life Master

- Bonnie Myers

Emerald Life Master

- Susan Kissinger NOTE: She is one of only *five* in our club! Congratulations Susan!

Do you ever wonder what ranks make up our club. Here is the latest data from ACBL:

- Rookie – 5
- Junior Master - >5
- Club Master - >20
- Sectional Master - >50
- Regional Master - >100
- NABC Master - >200
- Advanced NABC Master – 12
- Life Master – 18
- Bronze Life Master – 40
- Silver Life Master – 32
- Ruby Life Master – 26
- Gold Life Master – 16
- Sapphire Life Master – 11
- Diamond Life Master – 3
- Emerald Life Master – 5
- Platinum Life Master - 5
- Grand Life Master – 1

There's no way to calculate how many people haven't yet reached Rookie, but there only are 157 members who are Life Master and above. The strength and future of our club are the advancing members. I encourage everyone to get to know these wonderful players and let's all play nice. They are the future of the club.



MARCIA HOLLAND

Sharon Donoff

I am sad to report that Marcia Holland passed away on Saturday, April 19th in Florida. She had advanced vascular dementia and had fallen numerous times. Her son Brian, two granddaughters and niece were with her at the time.

Marcia was a physical therapist specializing in Hand Therapy. When she retired, she became very interested in Bridge, taking many classes at the Dana Harbor Center site. She and I, along with numerous other partners, traveled to many tournaments in search of the coveted "Life Master Award". She and Tom Snooks moved to Arizona where she remained until Tom died. She then moved to Florida to be near her son and two granddaughters. Aside from Bridge, Marcia was a very talented underwater photographer. She regularly traveled around the world capturing the beauty of the ocean while scuba diving. Her photos were exquisite.

Rest in Peace Marcia.



CLASS SCHEDULES

Janie Matlaf is our Education Chairperson. Contact her at jmatlaf@gmail.com for all questions relating to courses and schedules. Refer to the website for our course timetables.



MONDAY MORNINGS: BEGINNING BRIDGE - 9:00AM - 11:30AM - STARTING MAY 12.

Our new students who began March 3rd for Part 1 will be finishing their 10 weeks on May 5th. We hope they will all continue for Part 2, starting May 12, for another 10 weeks. Our trio of teachers includes Bob Levine, Susie Mays, and David Merenbach, and they are supported by our Monday volunteer Ross Anderson. All 0-20 welcome, Fee \$10. Contact Janie at jmatlaf@gmail.com for more details.



TUESDAY MORNINGS: 0-20 SUPERVISED PLAY WITH MINI-LESSON

Tuesday Mornings 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Our Tuesday morning team teaching trio consists of Linda Ryder, Dae Leckie and John Jonas. They will focus on helping new players get a solid foundation in the basics. Watch our weekly Sunday morning emails to see the topic of the week for their mini-lessons or check the calendar on our website.



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS: 0-20 MP SUPERVISED PLAY 12:30-4:00PM

This should be the first step for all our beginners. You may bring your notes, ask your questions, and start practicing in a stress-free environment. Come with or without a partner, and no reservation is required.

Plan to stay for 12 to 15 boards, which can run until approximately 4 PM. Late arrival makes it challenging for us to arrange the table movement and partnerships, so try to be there with time to spare. This is a learning game where you can practice with volunteer mentors at the tables. Masterpoints are awarded to the top scorers.

Game fee: \$10.

THURSDAY MORNINGS: BIG HANDS & SLAMS. with Gary Waldron. 9:30 - 11:30 AM

This 6 week series will conclude May 1. Each class stands alone, so attend any or all that you can. Sign up at the club or reply to Gary at lagunajhawk@icloud.com



THURSDAY MORNINGS: DEFENSE with Bob Levine. 9:30 - 11:30 AM - Starting May 22

Half of our time at the bridge tables is spent defending. Good defense is critical to success at bridge, and something every one of us needs to work on. Join Bob to get some great insight into how you can improve your defense.

Better yet, bring your favorite partner(s) and learn together.

- Making a defensive plan
- Opening leads - against No Trump, against a suit contract
- Third hand play
- Second hand play
- Defensive Signals
- Developing defensive tricks
- Interfering with Declarer

Class fee: \$100 for EIGHT classes if prepaid - or \$15 per class

Sign up at the club or with Bob: rslevine@cox.net



FRIDAY MORNINGS: FOR NEW PLAYERS (0-200 MPs) 9:00 ~ 11:45 AM

Thanks to all our loyal Friday morning students. You continue to show up each and every week. Trudi and I thank you for your dedication to our game. We appreciate your support.

There are lots of opportunities to earn Glitter Points in May. ACBL will sometimes add special games after this column is written. We always want to offer you the extra and colored points when they are offered. For the latest Friday morning calendar, you can always check our website and look under the Calendar tab.

Here's the schedule for May:

- 5/2/25 - Jacoby NT. Responding to partner's opening one of a major, you have an opening hand yourself, and you might have slam. How do you find out?
- 5/9/25 - Stardust Game - Glitter Points, 25% Gold.
- 5/16/25 - Cuebids. Your partner opens the bidding, the opponents overcall and get in the way. How do you show your partner you have a limit raise or better?
- 5/23/25 - Royal STaC - Come and earn all colors - 25% black 25% silver, 25% red and 25% gold.
- 5/30/25 - Stardust Game - 25% Gold

Why do you need Silver, Red, or Gold points? In your quest for rank advancement, you will need certain amounts of the various color points to move to the next level. How great you can earn some of these points at the club! Traditionally, the only place they could be earned was at Sectional, Regional and National Tournaments.

The lesson starts at 9 AM, followed by a game. No partner needed. We guarantee you will play. This is a very fun and friendly group. The more you play, the more comfortable you will become with the bidding and the play of the hand. Contact Susan Bristol at bristolsg949@gmail.com or Trudi Hanscom at t.hanscom@live.com for more information.

THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Richard Picheny	<i>rpicheny@gmail.com</i>
Vice President/Facilities Manager	John Jonas	<i>jllapher@gmail.com</i>
Secretary	Maggie Briskie	<i>maggiebrisk@cox.net</i>
Treasurer/Volunteer Coordinator	Trisha Silverberg	<i>trisha333@cox.net</i>
Membership	Susan Bristol	<i>bristolsg949@gmail.com</i>
Member at Large	Steve Rounds	<i>srounds@cox.net</i>
NLM Liaison	Patricia Jennings	<i>triciadjennings@aol.com</i>

GAME DIRECTORS

Gail Schneider Club Manager/Head of Directors	516 314-1896	<i>calgal1516@gmail.com</i>
Rick Araujo	949 249-7782	<i>rickaraujo@hotmail.com</i>
Susan Bristol	949 300-4454	<i>bristolsg949@gmail.com</i>
John Colombe	760 716-5896	<i>gemodaddyret@gmail.com</i>
Trudi Hanscom	949 498-4363	<i>t.hanscom@live.com</i>
John Jonas	908 327-4376	<i>jllapher@gmail.com</i>
Bob Levine	949 637-0022	<i>rslevine@cox.net</i>
Richard Picheny	949 295-0545	<i>rpicheny@gmail.com</i>

BEHIND THE SCENES

Education	Janie Matlaf
Newsletter	Peter Redwood, Janie Matlaf
Circulation & Publicity	Janie Matlaf
Banking	Victor Fitzsimmons
Website/Calendar	Jeremy Chao
Partnerships	Joyce Potter
Recorder	Gary Waldren
Ethics and Auditor	Greg Hanson
Purchasing Food & Provisions	Kathy Rocheleau
Unit Game Lunch Manager	Cynthia Gallaway
Mentor Game	Peggy Dakin
NLM Sectional Manager	Joyce Potter
Open Sectional Manager	Eileen MacKenzie, Melinda Konopisos
Computer Hardware Guru	Jeff Oberholtzer
Rain or Shine	Odile Gendreau
Annual Holiday Party	Frances Krause, Maggie Briskie
Pro Am Manager	John Jonas
Librarian	Gillian Jeffery
Bridge and Printer Supplies	Trisha Silverberg
Bidding Box Organizer	Betsy Hartley
Holiday Decorations	Winifred Jacob
D22 Connection Article	David Merenbach
Saturday Pizza Order and Pick up	Jim Faix, Dottie Hecht
4th Sunday Swiss Game Pizza Order and Pick-up	Open Position-please!

Note 1: Each person leading likely has many helpers and we acknowledge them too! thank you, thank you, thank you!

Note 2: If you want to reach out to someone, and don't have their contact information, it is available on the website. If you don't know the password all you need to do is ask a director.