

Table Talk



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Volunteer Profile



Lillian Slater

Born and raised a West Virginia hillbilly, Lillian loved those beautiful Appalachian hills but always wanted to experience life beyond her rural state. Her first foray into life beyond West Virginia was attending Randolph-Macon Woman's College (RMWC) in Lynchburg, Virginia. She loved the education but alas—no men. Dating meant traveling to nearby men's colleges on blind dates for entire weekends! After two years, Lillian transferred to and graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in Sociology.

Lillian was introduced to bridge at RMWC. Taught by classmates, she spent hours sitting on dorm-room floors, learning

and playing. She's not sure about the quality of instruction, but it involved strong two bids, opening 4-card majors, and always leading the top of partner's bid suit—all habits she has had to unlearn. Over the next ten years, Lillian continued playing social bridge but laughingly added, "There was a lot of alcohol involved with those games so I doubt that I played good bridge."

Lillian's professional life involved many chapters. She was a social worker (a job she detested) for three months in West Virginia, an operating systems programmer

for Social Security Administration headquarters in Baltimore for three years, and—for 10 years at Hughes Aircraft in Fullerton—an operating systems programmer, a supervisor and then its first woman manager. At age 36, she had her "best but hardest job of all" for six years as a stay-at-home mom for her two children. Returning to work when her oldest entered kindergarten, she worked 28 years as a teacher in Garden Grove Unified School District, initially teaching all subjects in sixth grade followed by

Events February 2021

Online Schedule Daily Games

ALLIANCE games are held at www.bridgebase.com.

7:00 a.m.	\$7	0-299 Blue
7:00 a.m.	\$7	Open
7:30 a.m.	\$7	0-499 Green
8:30 a.m.	\$8	0-1000 Pink
9:45 a.m.	\$8	0-49 Red
10:00 a.m.	\$8	0-199 Lt. Blue
10:00 a.m.	\$7	Open
10:00 a.m.	\$8	0-399 Gray
11:30 a.m.	\$8	0-1000 Pink
12:30 p.m.	\$8	0-299 Blue
1:00 p.m.	\$7	Open
2:45 p.m.	\$8	0-499 Green
4:00 p.m.	\$7	0-199 Lt. Blue
4:00 p.m.	\$7	Open

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Lillian in a Promo Shot for Hughes Circa 1978

15 years as a 7th/8th-grade English teacher. One of her fellow teachers was none other than Judy Cook. Lillian said, "I loved teaching because I got to learn something new every day, and working with kids kept me young."

Luckily for Long Beach Bridge, Lillian retired in 2106 and found her way to the club a year later. Lessons updated her bridge game with Stayman, transfers, and the 2/1 system. She was immediately re-addicted—"relishing the challenge, the active participation, the fabulous teachers, and all the interesting and fun people at the club." After several months of play, someone told her about masterpoints, which ignited her competitive spirit and off she went. In her quest for Life Master, Lillian just polished off her required 75 silver points, is close to the required black points but still needs 11.56 gold! She added, "I look forward to the return of team games at tournaments to help me reach my goal."

Lillian's other passion is reading. As the oldest of six siblings, she didn't have her own room (let alone her own bed) until college. Reading was always the way to get privacy and solitary time. Today she's a member of two

book clubs and owns too many books to count. This editor can attest that Lillian is a great resource for lending and recommending books.

Two things people may not know about Lillian is that she is an est graduate and was a member of the first desegregated high school class in Charleston, West Virginia. She added, "I am so grateful to live and raise my children in such a diverse state as California."

Lillian has been a very active volunteer at Long Beach Bridge. She makes boards, is the Unit 557 secretary, serves as Unit Tournament Chair, is a district ALACBU board member, contributes to the District 23 monthly newsletter, and writes interesting articles for our humble Table Talk. Whew! We are so lucky to have Lillian as part of our bridge family and look forward to seeing her back at the club.

by Ardie Laine



Who is this little darling?

Go to our Facebook page - Long Beach Bridge for the answer.

Were you a cute kid? Of course you were! Be the next little darling. Send photos to: ardeaux1@gmail .com.



Last month's little darling:
John Hagan



December Status Changes

Junior Master

Judy Martin

Silver Life Master

Vivian Kiley

Our Sympathies to the Families of



Martha Mary Schuster
1931 - 2021



Marty Lipman
1925 - 2021



Betty McClellan



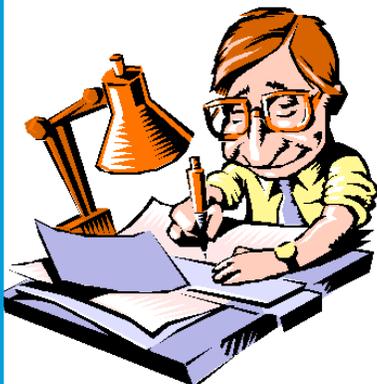
We hope you are all well and getting your vaccines or an appointment for the vaccine. I am hoping that people are vaccinated by about April. We will be watching closely to see when we can reopen the club. We are hoping it will be in sometime in April through July. Not yet sure when and it all depends on how many the virus is hitting. Stay tuned and we will let you know when we know.

Also, if you want to play online in the mean time, contact me and I'll help you either get online or in touch with someone else who can help you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Sharon Biederman, Manager
Long Beach Bridge Center

We want your stories!



Tell us the tale of your path to Life Master. What are you doing to survive the pandemic?

Send an email to Ardie at ardeaux1@gmail.com or call/text at 562-254-0099

Table Talk

Editor
Contributors

Ardie 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 Ardie at ardeaux1@gmail.com





John Hagman Gets a Kick Out of Bridge

John Hagman does things with flair. From his “kicks” to his clothes to his unique accessories, John does everything with color—including achieving Life Master last July!

Growing up, John was introduced to all kinds of card games while watching his parents play. John hung out nearby, always asking questions. Once he had mastered Canasta and Pinochle, he

convinced his parents to teach him bridge. John continued playing bridge throughout his college years at the University of Illinois at Champaign, even playing one session of duplicate.

Career and family afforded John less time to play bridge after college. Initially working for Neiman Marcus for 29 years in Chicago and Boston, he moved to California in 2007 to manage a store for Bailey Banks & Biddle, a famous company that designed the Great Seal of the United States and crafted military medals including the Silver Star and the Congressional Medal of Honor as well as class rings for West Point and Annapolis. John moved to San Francisco for the next 10 years, working at Saks Fifth Avenue. When John’s husband, Ken Gomez, took a job in So Cal in 2014, they moved here.

Working at high-end fashion stores, John had to dress the part, wearing coordinated cufflinks and watches, ties, and lapel pins. To make a statement, he adopted colorful ties, which transitioned to colorful shirts when he retired. Growing up, John’s family didn’t have a lot of money, so he was allowed one pair of shoes in the spring and another pair in the fall. John recalled, “One year I found TWO pairs of shoes that I really wanted but my dad couldn’t afford both. So, when I had the money, I got into buying and wearing colorful shoes.”

In the early 1980’s, John returned to bridge, playing online at Yahoo Bridge which scored rubber bridge and did not have the controls that exist in BBO. For example, a disrupter could sit at a table and bid 7NT and then leave.

In 2014, his online partner told

him to start playing bridge face-to-face in order to improve. So, John found Long Beach Bridge. He took lessons to “modernize” his game to 2/1, was partnered with Winnie Warga, and played in the NLM for several months. She encouraged him to move to the Open. With customary flair, John stayed in touch with Winnie, periodically taking her to lunch.

John started playing with Alan Olschwang and a lasting partnership was formed. They successfully earned over 12 gold points at a Long Beach Regional.

When the COVID lockdown came, John had earned all his needed gold and black points but was short on silver. During the first BBO silver tournament, he scored some but was still 0.8 short!” He earned that in the second BBO Silver tournament and became a Life Master.

John explained, “Of course I like the game of bridge but, even more, I like the social aspect, seeing and talking to people. I took lessons but learned more at the tables from players who gave me tips in a nice way.” Thad Mikols has become John’s mentor playing with him online and providing feedback “in a way that is constructive and helpful to me.”

Before COVID, John and his husband loved to socialize with friends and to travel, including visits to John’s son in Seattle and daughter in Chicago. John has a three-year-old granddaughter in Seattle but laughingly added, “However, I accepted no labels. I invented a new one, Dad’s dad.”

John will be forever grateful to Long Beach Bridge and the people at the club who welcomed him saying, “Come on in; we’re so glad you’re here.”

by Lillian Slater