

# CONTRACT BRIDGE

## Forum



Volume 86 Issue 8 - August 2011

### I/N Excitement at Orange County Regional

*Come play with us in Orange County!*

**September 5-11!**



Hyatt Irvine, Calif.

By John Jonas  
& Fran Schwartz  
Tournament Co-Chairs

Can you feel the excitement? I mean ... can you feel the excitement in the

air as we get ready for the Orange County Regional September 5-11 in Irvine? Let me tell you, we're planning a great week of bridge opportunities for all you players with up to – and including – 299 masterpoints. We can't wait, and we're sure neither can you. Registration is Monday, September 5, from 4:00-4:15 p.m.

To start the excitement, we will have a real treat: Margie Michelin, our newest Grand Life Master, will host a lesson from 4:15-6:00 p.m. If you've never been at a lesson by Margie, you really have to attend. She is clear, easy to understand and knows how to get the lesson across to her audience. Next we will have a reception with a light dinner from 6:00-7:10 p.m. We know you will need nourishment, because Margie will have gotten those brain cells working hard and they will need energy. A special 299er Charity Game follows at 7:30 p.m. – and the tab for the whole afternoon/evening program is just \$12.00!

Monday's activities are not just a one - night stand. We will continue the excitement with great free lessons each morning from 9:30-10:15 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday. On Tuesday, Hal Binder will present "Forcing, Invitational, or Non Forcing?" Hal has been teaching for many years at Dana Harbor Bridge Center (DHBC). Wednesday will have Judy Elbogen teaching us the "Best Convention over Opponents' Notrump Opening." Judy directs the games at Costa Mesa, and is involved in many aspects of the local bridge world.

For Thursday, it's Susan Benon teaching you about "Cue Bidding Your Way to Slam." Susan also has taught at DHBC for years, and is their director of instruction.

Moving on to Friday, we have Allen Golbert teaching us about "The Thirty Point Deck." Allen directs and teaches in Orange County, and I want to sit in on this lesson to find out why we're only counting 75% of the deck!

Finally, batting clean-up, the excitement continues on Saturday with Jay Helekar talking on "Endplays for Everyone." Jay is the Unit 541 club manager, a member of the winning GNT District 22 Team in Flight A, and has been teaching bridge in North Orange County since he was 18.

After all this excitement, you may need a rest; but please come out and join us to make this the best I/N Orange County Regional ever! I will take pre-registrations for the Monday I/N program at [jjlapher@gmail.com](mailto:jjlapher@gmail.com) or by phone at 949 542-4678. See you there.

And Fran wants to remind everyone making hotel reservations – don't wait 'til the last minute! The special bridge rate of \$119 single

(See Orange on page 16)

### The Prez Sez

By Jon Wright

President, District 22 Board of Directors



Currently I am in the process of making new websites for both Unit 539 and District 22, so a review of other bridge websites was in order. Perhaps the most interesting website was [www.bridgewinners.com](http://www.bridgewinners.com) Four youngish players – Jason Feldman, Eugene Hung, Steve Weinstein and Gavin Wolpert – have put together a very nice, informative website. Jason is a current District 22 member, and Eugene lived here during graduate school a few years ago.

They have included both polling and blogging into the website, which makes for interesting discussions. The site also has a community feature, so maybe it is the LinkedIn of bridge.

The feature that I recommend to all of you is a video by Gavin Wolpert. He and Joel Wooldridge won the 2011 Silodor Open Pairs at the Spring Nationals. In the video, Gavin takes you through card-by-card and bid-by-bid all of the hands they played on the final day, with a discussion of why they took the actions they did.

They were not a regular partnership, so their methods were fairly straightforward 2/1, which makes it easy for non-experts to follow and learn from their plays. There are a number of interesting articles on the website.

Since there is much interest locally in bridge for kids, [Editor's Note: See the article by Joan Maden on this page], I also looked at bridge websites directed towards that group. One named Bridge Teachers for Youth, [www.btfy.org](http://www.btfy.org), has a 290 page document called "Bridge: A Path to Math and Much More." It is a formal teaching document complete with lesson plans.

Another website, [www.bridge4kids.org](http://www.bridge4kids.org), publishes a monthly newsletter. A third site, [www.fifthchair.org](http://www.fifthchair.org), has a number of lessons, some of them advanced. It is run by a non-profit foundation that seems oriented towards the Internet. [Bridgewinners.com](http://Bridgewinners.com) also has a video of a symposium held during the 2011 Gatlinburg Regional. The symposium featured a number of people interested in bridge for youth and the interchange between the participants often brings out problems or successes that occurred in the past.

Another interesting site is [www.bridgeblogging.com](http://www.bridgeblogging.com) They collect recent articles and other things about bridge. They have a RSS feed so that you can get the news brought directly to your computer. They also have their own ratings of other bridge sites around the world. From these ratings I found a site called [www.bridgehands.com](http://www.bridgehands.com). They seem to have a mixture of free lessons and some requiring a purchase.

A site of most interest to system and gadget addicts is [www.clairebridge.com](http://www.clairebridge.com) Another site with seemingly endless conventions is [dannykleinman.com](http://dannykleinman.com) More bridge links can be found on the district website, [www.acbldistrict22.com/link.htm](http://www.acbldistrict22.com/link.htm)

**Upcoming events:** The ever popular San Diego Sectional will be held on August 5-7, at the new location of Adventures in Bridge. See the website [acbldistrict22.com/539](http://acbldistrict22.com/539) for a map and a schedule of events.

The Great Western Summer STAC is August 22-28, the Orange County Regional is September 5-11, and further in the future is the Ventura Regional, October 24-30. Put those on your calendars!

### Young People Play Bridge in San Ysidro!



By Joan Maden  
Coronado, Calif.

After one year as Education Liaison for San Diego Unit 539 of the ACBL, I have been evaluating the progress we have made in our unit to introduce bridge to young people. Results have been mixed, but – as the smiling faces of the 33

children in this picture will attest – we have been able to make some inroads into the problem of getting school authorities interested in making bridge an adjunct to the teaching process of youngsters, even down to the elementary school level.

The pictured class is from the GATE class at Sunset Elementary School in San Ysidro. My group

of volunteers (Carolyn Crabtree, Tom and Pam Kibler, Ken Maden and myself, along with occasional help from one or two others), were very fortunate to get the full support of the School Board, District Superintendent, Principal and teachers of that school, and we have run a program there for the past school year.

We had a great time, with lots of fun for all, culminating in a modular "tournament," after which the kids were presented with their own individual certificates of participation by the District Superintendent.

In order that the students could play more hands, we also ran an after-school club, which was attended by about a dozen players. In this environment we were able to give a lot more individual instruction.

It seems to me that the school classroom is the best way to get students involved initially, partici-

pating in bridge activities as a part of the year's curriculum.

Our goals for the next year involve expansion: Ken and I plan to do a presentation outlining the academic value of the Sunset program ... and of the game of bridge in general ... at a meeting of the County School Boards before classes start again in the fall. We will continue the program at Sunset School, and will hope to have some students proficient enough to take part in a junior section during the San Diego Regional in April, and again at the unit's Non-Life Master tournament next May.

We invite an exchange of ideas, and solicit the help and support of anyone who would like to become involved with this program. Call us at 619 437-8177.

I am very grateful for the support of the unit and of the ACBL, and particularly the other teachers and the many volunteers who are helping in this uplifting project.

### D22 Forum Deadlines

The D22 Forum deadline for articles and ads is the 5th of the preceding month.

All ads must be prepaid, made payable to D22 ACBL c/o Patrick Page  
P.O. Box 1212  
Morongo Valley CA 92256  
Please e-mail all ads (after prepayment) & all copy to:  
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