

# BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

MARCH 2025

From your President:

Outside – the weather has been quite cold in 2025. Inside – bridge has been hot! I will start out noting that Unit 191 represented well at the Raleigh (Unit 119) sectional at the end of January. More than 60 unit members earned silver masterpoints that weekend. Our Unit members accounted for more than half of the players in multiple sessions! Way to go! We appreciate when Unit 119 players attend our tournaments and play in our games. I am sure that they feel the same. And - It is fun to challenge ourselves in larger games! The next local sectional tournament in our area will be held **May 16-18 (Greensboro)** followed by our own sectional on **July 10-13**. The next regional in our area is in **Richmond, May 19-23**. Put those dates on your calendars!

On Valentine's day, we celebrated with a unit-sponsored luncheon and Unit Championship game at Triangle Bridge Academy. With the help of many people, we had a wonderful party. It was fabulous to see so many people turn out for a day of fun and laughter. Congratulations to **Diane and Larry Henson, Mary Newman and Bonnie Cox** for their wins at that game. Many thanks to **Robin Marin, Ann Fisher, Katie Wilson and Audrey Crosby** for the fabulous lunch they prepared for us. Thanks to **Henry Meguid** for hosting our party and directing our game. We look forward to hosting more social events later in the spring!

Many unit members attended a unit workshop taught by **Ian Cloudsdale** designed to help players learn more about how to evaluate the value of particular hands and get to winning contracts. Ian introduced Marty Bergen's Hand Evaluation in a two session workshop and we were very pleased with the turnout. More than 25 players attended one or both sessions. Handouts about this workshop can be found on our Unit website ([www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf](http://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf)) in the mentoring program section. If you would like more workshops or classes, please tell us. Any board member will be happy to receive your request and share it with our planning committee. Many thanks to Ian Cloudsdale for all of his work preparing and presenting this first workshop.

In March, several of our Unit members will be attending Spring National tournament in Memphis to play in the North American Pairs competition after qualifying last fall. Good luck to **Randy Joyce, Marc Goldberg** and **Ian Cloudsdale** who will be representing Unit 191 and District 7 in that event.

The Unit 191 Board of Directors and others work hard to provide support and opportunities for all bridge clubs and players in our Unit. Please reach out and thank all volunteers for their efforts. Please include Alert newsletter editor **Barbara Martin**, website manager **Marc Goldberg**, mentoring program coordinator **Michael Lavine**, and club managers – **Henry Meguid, Diane Hale and John Torrey, and Jayne Bremer**. Special thank you to our Unit 191 Board—**President Deanna Larus, Mary Newman, Ira Mueller, Johanna**

**Karwowska, Ann Fisher, Phylliss Woody, Ray Boylan, Ian Cloudsdale, Ray Boylan, Eric Hamilton, Bill Ingram, and Michael Lavine.**

Hope to see you all at a bridge table soon! Remember to smile as it makes your partner play better!

**Deanna Larus**, Unit president





Ian Cloudsdale presented the first lesson on Bergen Hand Evaluation on Feb. 5. There were 28 bridge players who attended and it seemed everyone was captivated with the information. The second lesson featured statistics and explanations of how the system worked using common game results. If you missed these lessons, you have an opportunity to learn about them on the website.





# USING THE UNIT 191 WEBSITE

By Marc Goldberg

Unit 191 has a website- <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/>. Bridgewebs is a British web hosting company that focuses on the needs of bridge organizations, and hundreds of sites use their hosting world-wide. The email you received with news of this month's Alert was sent from the Unit 191 Bridgewebs account, and the Alert you are reading resides on our website, as well.

Bridgewebs also serves as the Unit 191 archive. You can read every Unit 191 Alert published back to 2009. All of the Board Meeting minutes and Treasurer Reports are stored there, as are photos and awards and other information. The home page summarizes upcoming events and provides links to clubs, the mentoring program, and the Bright Leaf Alert. Also featured are new members to the Unit and a shout-out to those who have achieved a new ACBL rank.

One of the nice features on the Unit 191 website is a Members Only section. This section is password protected and is available only to Unit 191 members. The purpose of the page is to allow members to contact other members to arrange bridge games, chat about bridge issues, or get together socially. It is easy to find a friend's phone number or email address- simply bring up the Unit 191 website, log on to the Members Only tab, and locate your friend's line to see their contact information (email address and phone number). As a reminder, this information is private and only for the personal use of Unit 191 members.

The information in the Members Only tab comes from ACBL. So, it is important that you keep the ACBL database current if you move or change your email address. Go to your listing in ACBL

(<https://www.acbl.org/>) and update information there.

If you have never logged on to the Members Only tab on the Unit 191 website, you will first have to establish a password. When you select Members Only, a box will come up asking for your email address or ACBL number. Enter that information and click on Set/Reset Password. Bridgewebs will then send you an email with a link to set your password. If you do not get the email. Check your Spam or Promotions folder to see if it is in there. If that does not work, contact the web team for assistance.

**Marc Goldberg**, [goldberg73@gmail.com](mailto:goldberg73@gmail.com) or  
**Ed Fuller**, [edwin.fuller@gmail.com](mailto:edwin.fuller@gmail.com).



P.S. A huge thank to Marc for keeping the website up to date, organized, and informational. If you have not checked it out recently, please do—you will be amazed at the volumes of information found on the site.

## ACBL Clubhouse: Bridge Base Online's Latest Plan to sup- port Local Clubs

The ACBL has created a new way to help players support their local bridge clubs when we choose to play online. It is called ACBL Clubhouse. All ACBL members are automatically members of the Clubhouse community. If you play in Clubhouse games, a portion of your entry fee is paid to your local clubs. There are more than 30 clubhouse pairs games offered daily on BBO at different masterpoint levels. The cost ranges from Free (for 0-20 masterpoint players) to \$6 (most games for players with over 250 masterpoints). Special events will be run through the clubhouse, offering players the opportunity to earn red, silver and gold masterpoints online.

Yes – The ACBL wants you to play in any ACBL game - period. Online or in person. If you ask me, playing in person is much more fun! So join us! Support your local club when you can! Hope to see you at a table soon!

## MISCELLANEOUS.....

Congratulations to **Reece and Liz Schuler**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in February. They will be going to England followed by a tour of Egypt to celebrate.

Sending well wishes to **Phylliss Woody**, who continues to recuperate from a fall she took in December.

**The time of the Tier I Mentor/Mentee game has changed. The game will now begin at 10:00—preceded by a lesson at 9:15. The change is effective with the March 25 game.**



**Hugon** has been giving lessons before the Tier II M/M games. Rather than use Henry's laser pointer, he chose to use a coat hanger ???!

**Only Hugon!!**

## Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee program

### By Michael Lavine, Program Coordinator

Unit 191 held a Tier II (higher level) Mentor/Mentee game on Tuesday, February 11th. There were six tables. Congratulations to **Mary Harley Kruter and Bev Craig** who finished first NS and **Larry Stanczyk and Eric Hamilton** who finished first EW. The game was preceded by a lesson from **Hugon Karwowski** on opening leads. He talked about Losing Trick Count, the Law of Total Tricks, and Bergen raises, among other topics. Notes from his lesson are posted on the mentoring program's website. **Michael Lavine** posted comments on the website about several hands from the game.

The Unit held a Tier I game on Tuesday, February 25. There were 8 tables. Congratulations to **Stewart Johnson and Barbara Bute**, first North/South and to **Anne Fisher and MaryHarley Kruter and Nick Kyser and Joanna Karwowska** who tied for first East/West. The game was preceded by a lesson from **Henry Meguid** on opening leads. Bill Ingram wrote comments on several hands from the game.

As always, you can find handouts from the lessons and discussions from the mentors by going to the **Unit 191** web site, following the link to **Mentoring Program** webpage, and looking at the **Learning** section there.

Tier I games are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 PM, preceded by a half-hour lesson from Henry Meguid starting at 9:15. Tier II games are held the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM, preceded by a half-hour lesson beginning at 9:15. The fee is \$12 per person, except that the Unit will subsidize \$5 of the fee for each mentor who is playing with a Unit mentee. That makes the fee \$19 per pair if the mentee is from the Unit. We encourage mentees to pay their mentors' fees.

If you or your partner are unable to attend a particular M/M game, please let us know in advance so we can find someone to take your place — either a mentor or mentee who would not otherwise have a partner. It's also a courtesy to your regular MM partner; no one likes to be stood up when they're expecting to play. Email Michael Lavine, [mlavine@umass.edu](mailto:mlavine@umass.edu), or any other member of the mentoring committee.

Finally, we encourage MM pairs to play in the Eight is Enough team game on the third Saturday of each month running from 10 AM to approximately 1 PM. If you and your MM partner would like to play, you can either form a team on your own or email Michael Lavine, [mlavine@umass.edu](mailto:mlavine@umass.edu), who will look for another pair to join with you to form a team.

To summarize:

1. We are running a **two-tiered** program this year. See the web site for details.
2. **Pairs who are not in the M/M program are invited to join the M/M game.** To join a Tier I game one player must have fewer than 250 masterpoints and the other must have fewer than 500. There is no limitation on pairs who want to join the Tier II game.
3. If and when you are unable to play, **please let us know**, so we can match your partner with someone else.
4. **Eight is Enough** is another good opportunity for MM pairs to play together.





Kudos to the board for hosting the lunch for our members on Valentine's Day!

Special thanks to **Deanna Larus**, our unit president, for the idea and making sure it happened.



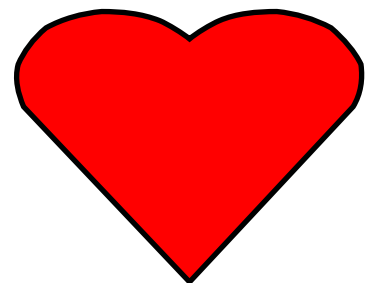
Thanks to **Robin Marin**, chef extraordinaire, and her crew—**Katie Wilson, Audrey Crosby, and Ann Fisher**, for a very delicious lunch on Valentine's Day! Everyone raved about the food and that dessert was sinful!!







Thanks to **Henry** for  
directing and  
hosting the game—  
16 tables!!!





## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT.....MARK KELLEHER

I have always liked games and puzzles—all types—card games, board games, crosswords, jigsaw puzzles, golf, baseball/softball etc. I think you get the picture. I am a reader—not of scholarly tomes (had enough of that in college) - but of lighter fare—science fiction, mysteries, detectives, spies, etc.

When we moved to Florida, I played golf, 3-4 times a week at my country club, had my own golf cart, and got to an 8 handicap. I still play the occasional round, but age has taken its toll. I no longer have a handicap, and I use the red tees (without embarrassment). I still own my cart—but now it is used for an occasional drive around our neighborhood and more frequently as a yard maintenance vehicle.

We have a dog—an Australian Labradoodle—his name is Pretzel—after the color. We spend a lot of time together—I throw tennis balls for his retrieval—and he supervises my work in the lot around our home. We ride around in my golf cart.

I grew up in Wethersfield, Connecticut, graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1968 and from NYU Law School in 1971. After passing the Connecticut Bar exam, I went to Fort Hood, Texas for my 2-year Army military obligation.

After discharge from the Army, I became an Administrative Judge in the Dallas Regional Office of the US Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB). Subsequently, I served as Regional Director for the Seattle and San Francisco Office of the MSPB, Deputy Executive Director of the MSPB, and Chief Legal Counsel for the Vice Chairman of the MSPB. I met my wife Mary Ann at the MSPB in Washington, DC, and we were married in 1987.

In 1995, I was appointed Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration in Montgomery, Alabama. I took

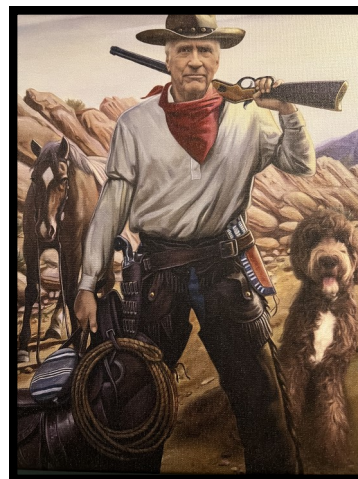
“early out retirement” when offered in 2000, and we moved to a gated golf course community (Lake Jovita) in Dade City, Florida where we spent the next 19 years.

I joined the ACBL when I was at Fort Hood. My most memorable bridge moment came when my teammates and I won the 1981 Texas Fall Regional Open Teams event. In the final round, we played a team of 4 pros captained by Jim Jacoby. Talk about being excited!

In Florida, Mary Ann and I started a real estate brokerage business and between that and golf I didn't have time for bridge and let my ACBL membership lapse. Near the end of our stay in Florida, however, my interest in bridge rekindled and I rejoined the ACBL.

We moved to Pittsboro in 2019. Our two daughters married West Point graduates. When they retired, they moved to Chatham County so the die was cast. We were going to become North Carolinians to be close to our children and four grandchildren.

When we moved here, I contacted Maggie Lindquist and she was kind enough to play with me and introduce me to others in Unit 191. I am grateful to have met all of you and look forward to playing with you.





# Triangle Bridge Academy Schedule

## MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 9-11 Learn and Play Online <i>12:30 Unit Championship</i> 6:30-8:30 Social Bridge	4 <i>1-4</i> <i>Nuplicate</i> <i>Barometer</i>	5 9:30-Intro to Bridge Class 12:30 Open game	6 12:30 ABA Game (members only)	7 12:30 Open Game	8
9	10 9-11 Learn and Play Online <i>12:30 - Open Game</i> 6:30-8:30 Social Bridge	11 MMTier 2 9:15 Lesson 10:00 Game	12 9:30-Intro to Bridge Class 12:30 Open game	13 12:30 ABA Game (members only)	14 12:30 Open Game	15 <i>10:00</i> <i>Swiss Teams - 8 Is Enough</i>
16	17 9-11 Learn and Play Online <i>12:30 - Open Game</i> 6:30-8:30 Social Bridge	18 <i>1-4</i> <i>Nuplicate</i> <i>Barometer</i>	19 9:30-Intro to Bridge Class 12:30 Open game	20 12:30 ABA Game (members only)	21 12:30 Open Game	22
23	24 9-11 Learn and Play Online <i>12:30 - Open Game</i> 6:30-8:30 Social Bridge	25 MM Tier 1 Lesson at 9:15 Game at 10:00 <i>1-4 Nuplicate Barometer</i>	26 9:30-Intro to Bridge Class 12:30 Open game	27 12:30 ABA Game (members only)	28 12:30 Open Game	29
30	31 9-11 Learn and Play Online <i>12:30 - Open Game</i> 6:30-8:30 Social Bridge					

**Please note the time change for the Mentor/Mentee Tier 1 Game. On March 25, the game will be at 10:00 preceded by a lesson at 9:15.**

## A C B L UNIT 191 R E P O R T

Includes all transactions processed 1/31/25 through 3/01/25

**TOTAL MEMBERS – 475**

### NEW MEMBERS

**Joanne Dunn— Sandra Lehrman - David Moser— Robert Thomas**

### TRANSFERRED INTO UNIT

**Lifeng Luo**

### TRANSFERRED OUT OF UNIT

**Jim Rankin**

### NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

**Stewart Johnson**

**Gloria Marwell**

**Gerry Quinnan Jr**

**Harry Schuler**

### NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

**Alison Bowes**

### NEW CLUB MASTER

**Neil Evans Jr**

### NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

**Max Creamer**

### NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

**Peter Adler**

### NEW NABC MASTERS

**Kenneth Bann**

**Regina Bann**

Submitted by Phylliss Woody, Membership Chair

March 2025

Unit 191 members please check the Directory on our unit website (unit191bridge.org) and report to me ([pwoody@unc.edu](mailto:pwoody@unc.edu), (919) 612-7711) any changes or corrections that need to be made. Please remember Contact information in this directory is provided as a courtesy to Unit 191 members. **Unauthorized use of this information is forbidden.**

