

# BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

Official Publication of Unit 191

September 2013

## BOARD SPLINTERS

*Philip Erlenbach, Unit President*

Time is fast approaching for our year-end holiday party and board elections. This year, as in every year, there are 4 board members whose terms expire. The unit is always looking for people who are willing to serve a 3 year term and who can offer their time and expertise to help our unit become better and more efficient. If you are one of those people, please contact **Joyce Jenzano, Jackie Marks, or Jim Bean**, members of the election committee, and let them know of your interest. The board meets the second Monday of every month for about an hour or so depending on the scope of the business that needs attention. Being a good board member is important because you'll need to be prepared to volunteer your time and services for the betterment of the 559 members of Unit 191.

I would also like to suggest that you get your reservations in early for the Bridge Gala on December 8th at the Rizzo Center because their space is limited. Last year because of the crowd, some people had to sit in an area away from the main group, so get your reservations in as early as you can.

From October 14th through the 18th, every game in our unit will be a special game which offers more points than usual. On Wednesday, there will be food at each game and special games for those players who have the highest average playing in at least 2 games that day. See the poster at the TBC for all the information. This is a great way to get those extra points for the year end Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races. Grab a partner and plan on playing in as many games as you can.

As always, good carding..... Phil

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| October 4-6    | Morganton NC Sectional  |
| October 10-13  | Raleigh NC Sectional  |
| October 15     | Mentoring game—1:00   |
| October 14-18— | <b>Special unit sponsored appreciation games all week in Unit 191</b> |
| October 25-27  | High Point NC Sectional   |
| November 1-3   | <b>Non-Life Master: Durham NC Sectional</b>                           |
| November 7-10  | Charlotte NC Sectional  |
| November 16    | Mentoring game—1:00   |
| December 8     | <b>Unit 191 Holiday Party</b>   |
| December 9-15  | D-7 STaC games  |

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## HOLIDAY GALA

At their first meeting following last year's holiday Gala, our new Board voted to celebrate its success by signing a contract with the Rizzo Center for 2013. Please mark your calendars for **11:30 am, Sunday, December 8**. It's time to find a partner, plan to register early and look forward to what we hope will be record attendance and we know will be stellar bridge! We can look forward to a delicious buffet luncheon held in the historic DuBose House and in the magnificent Meadowmont Room and a congenial time with our bridge world buddies. This will also be our last chance to vote for Board candidates during registration and our opportunity to learn the "State of our Unit" at our annual meeting which will conclude with election results.

Invitations will be coming out in early Nov. Let's see if we can top last year's attendance of 220+ guests playing 55 tables of bridge! Questions? Call Robin Marin at 919-489-2062 or Doris Elkin at 919-967-0905.

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Harrison Brooke, Membership Chair*

August treated Unit 191 kindly with the addition of 6 new ACBL members, 2 transfers in, offset by 2 transfers out, and 5 reinstated while only 4 were put on inactive status. Our official 09/01/13 membership total is 559 which is an increase of 7 (1.3%) over last month and up 4 (0.7%) from this time last year.

I'm pleased to add that at the Senior Center game on Friday, August 30, **Ruth Ann** and **Paul Schwenke** signed up 2 new ACBL members, **Linda Brezin**, and **Gail King**, whose applications didn't reach ACBL in time for my September report. They placed fourth in a field of 11 tables and returned on 09/06 to place above average. If I add these 2 to the reported 559, that brings us to 561 which matches the record we hit back in December.

Our 6 new members bring our total new member count for the first 8 months of the year to 21, which is a 40% increase over the 15 we had through the first 7 months. Those 6 are **Judy Agnew** of Durham, **Pam** and **John Caruso**, **Frances Gravely** and **Marylou Lofrese** all of Chapel Hill, and **Jean Stallings** of Durham. Our 2 transfer members are **Catherine Schwab** of Chapel Hill and **Janet Strope** of Fearington Village, both of whom come from Unit 195 in Western Michigan. Catherine's husband, **John Schwab**, transferred his membership two months ago. We extend a warm welcome to these players and hope they'll all take an active part in our games and programs.

The following 11 of our members advanced in rank during August:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Club Master      | <b>Jody Bartlett</b><br><b>Betty Jean</b>     |
| Sectional Master | <b>Chuck Kimpel</b><br><b>Dorothy McElwee</b> |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Regional Master      | <b>Ray McEntee</b>  |
| Advanced NABC Master | <b>Cliff Kaufman</b>  |
| Life Master          | <b>Paul Fantz</b><br><b>Phyllis Fuller</b><br><b>Sandra Manheimer</b> |
| Silver Life Master   | <b>Grada Arble</b>  |
| Gold Life Master     | <b>Ken Dye</b>  |

At the Charlotte Regional 2 of our members—**Anne Boyd** and **Sharon Crane**—got the final gold points they needed to become Life Masters in the Thursday two-session Golf Rush Pairs which had 77 tables. Anne and her partner, **Emily Durse** placed 4th overall and Sharon and partner **Mary Cole** were 3rd overall. Congratulations to all of you! That's quite an accomplishment.

At the Sectional Tournament in Wilmington held the first weekend in September, **Melanie Riva** attained the last 3 silver points she needed to become Life Master. At this time last year, we had only 3 new Life Masters. Adding Anne, Sharon, and Melanie, we have 14 this year. I take that as a very promising and encouraging sign!!

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## UNIT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

I urge every member to take a moment to review his/her listing on the website directory and report to me any necessary changes or corrections. Doing so by e-mail is preferred and using "Directory" as the subject is helpful. All too often when the telephone rings, I'm caught without a pencil or pad nearby and even when I have one or both I have a tendency to misplace a note.

*Harrison Brooke, Membership Chair*

# CHARLOTTE REGIONAL WINNERS

Our unit was well represented at the recent Regional Tournament in Charlotte. Many unit members attended the tournament and did well. The winners' list (20 points or more) include the following:

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| <b>Kay Joyce</b>          | 108.34 |
| <b>Randy Joyce</b>        | 105.24 |
| <b>Jacek Pszczola</b>     | 75.21  |
| <b>B. Wayne Stuart</b>    | 40.52  |
| <b>Rose Meltzer</b>       | 40.41  |
| <b>Ken Dye</b>            | 34.99  |
| <b>Joanna Pagano</b>      | 32.35  |
| <b>Julian Wachs</b>       | 29.72  |
| <b>Liz Wachs</b>          | 29.72  |
| <b>Jim Drake</b>          | 28.31  |
| <b>Kathy Newman</b>       | 26.18  |
| <b>Gale Meyer</b>         | 26.18  |
| <b>Annette Kronmiller</b> | 24.93  |
| <b>Thomas Kronmiller</b>  | 24.93  |
| <b>Frank Hund</b>         | 23.81  |
| <b>Deanna Larus</b>       | 22.43  |
| <b>Cliff Kaufman</b>      | 22.31  |
| <b>Jill Kaufman</b>       | 22.31  |
| <b>Paul Morrisette</b>    | 20.56  |
| <b>Donna Walther</b>      | 20.56  |

Congratulations to all who played and scored well at the tournament and special kudos to Sharon Crane and Anne Boyd who achieved their final gold points to become life masters!!

# FUTURE LIFE MASTER TOURNAMENT NOVEMBER 1-3, 2013

This popular tournament is being held at the TBC and is co-chaired by **Maggie Lindquist**—[mlindquist1@nc.rr.com](mailto:mlindquist1@nc.rr.com)—919-933-0008 and **Jim Bean**—919-428-3345—[vbean3557@aol.com](mailto:vbean3557@aol.com). Partnerships will be handled by **Linda Harris**—919-414-6716—[lharris166@nc.rr.com](mailto:lharris166@nc.rr.com).

The schedule is:

## Friday, November 1

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Stratified Pairs | 9:30 am |
| Guest speaker    | 2:00 pm |
| Stratified Pairs | 2:30 pm |

## Saturday, November 2

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Stratified Pairs    | 9:30 am |
| Guest speaker       | 2:00 pm |
| ***Stratified Pairs | 2:30 pm |

\*\*\*Saturday Afternoon Regional-rated game benefits Junior Bridge (\$1 extra)

## Sunday, November 3

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Play through with lunch included |          |
| Stratified Swiss Teams           | 10:00 am |
| Stratification                   |          |
| 0-100, 100-200, 200-NLM/500      |          |

This tournament is also an opportunity for those who have already achieved the rank of life master to assist in many ways. Food contributions and/or cash donations are always appreciated. Life masters may also volunteer to work in the kitchen, be a caddy for the Swiss team events, or help to clean up after each session. Please contact **Jim Bean** or **Maggie Lindquist** if you are available and wish to volunteer.

## MENTORING UPDATE

The Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee program is off to a great start. There are 39 M/M pairs. Mentees are reminded to get your \$4 vouchers from Linda soon as they will be void after 11/30/2013. We have set up 2 sanctioned games—**Tuesday, Oct. 15 and Tuesday, November 16**—both at 1:00. E-mail reminders will be coming soon.

*Sharon Crane and Linda Harris*

## NEWEST LIFE MASTERS

PAUL FANTZ—ANNE BOYD—SHARON CRANE—MELANIE RIVA

One of our newest life masters, **Paul Fantz**, who gained his required points at the summer Bright Leaf Tournament, says he achieved Life Master only because of his bridge partner and wife Janet. The pair play in clubs twice a week. Paul agreed to play in tournaments in order to help Janet get pigmented points to reach her Life Master goal. Only 44% of his points are black.

Paul's family played pinochle at family gatherings. He visited his grandmother each summer at ages 6-12 and learned to play bridge watching her play weekly in the ladies' group. He could ask questions after the hand was finished. Pinochle laid the foundation for bidding and strategy in taking tricks. He and Janet played bridge with each of their parents while dating and with them after marriage, as well as playing with his sister Judy and her husband Henry.

Paul is an educator and plant taxonomist (plant detective) at North Carolina State University. His activities include genealogy, reading mysteries, jigsaw puzzles, stamp collecting, NCSU football and basketball, Hurricane hockey, bowling, taxonomic research and bridge. He started and chaired a marathon bridge group for 32 years after he and Janet were invited to join a couple's monthly duplicate group, which was their first duplicate experience. They began club play actively the past four years, after retiring.

Paul enjoys bridge competition and fellowship. Each hand is like a mystery, spot the clue, avoid red herrings, and solve it for a positive score. He has many memorable hands, like bidding and making 7 spades in tournament compacts, only to learn the opponents at the other table bid and made 7 NT.

Achievement of Life Master is not obtained alone. Appreciation and thanks to Director **Marty Demko** for his lessons, to Directors **Jay and Darleen Bates** and the players at TBC and Middle Creek for positive criticism and advice, to the partners we picked up at tournament desks, and especially to my wife, **Janet Fantz**.

**Anne Boyd** started playing bridge in 1954 and enjoys the competition of the game. Her favorite partners are **Sally Satterfield, Emily Dursse, Lucy Terrell, Nancy Coey and Charlie Marshall**. Of those, **Emily Dursse** has helped her the most. Emily brought her through the 299ers by teaching her two-over-one, and helped get her final ten gold points at the Charlotte Regional just this month.

Anne has lived in this area since 1961. She has three grown children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren! She has no other hobbies except bridge—"I don't have time for them. I'm at TBC five days a week!"

**Sharon Crane** started playing bridge seriously about 8 years ago. The game provided great intellectual challenges and allowed her to meet others with similar interests. Initially there was no plan to become a Life Master and I did not follow my own point totals. Subsequently, she found that she had over 200 black points, and only then, did she consider a plan to achieve a status level in bridge. Never having been to a regional tournament, I had a long way to go. Five tournaments later, however, her goal of Life Master has been reached.

There have been many people who have helped her to learn better bridge play, starting with my first mentor, **Linda Hansell**, and later several others who have provided her with advice on better play, moves, and strategy. Once bitten with the serious bridge bug, she took several bridge courses (**Jerry Helms, Henry Meguid**, and others) that further refined my play and subsequent enjoyment of the game. Thanks also goes to my tournament partners, **Mary Cole** and **Connie Ellinwood**, without whom my final Life Master goal would not have been attained.

Sharon was born in Houston Texas, where she graduated high school, then on to the University of Texas where she majored in math,

resulting in a career in computer programming. Then she met her husband of 46 years in Houston while he was in medical school. In 1972, they moved to Durham for her husband to finish his medical specialty training at Duke. They decided to stay in Durham because it is such a diverse town.

**Melanie Riva** achieved the rank of Life Master at the Sectional Tournament in Wilmington the second weekend in September.

Melanie's journey into the duplicate bridge world began in 1976. For seven years, she played in smoke filled rooms and unstratified games. Her basic bridge skills were taught by a dear friend, Ann Zwack. She rejoined the ACBL in February, 2012. Since then she has been mentored by everyone at the Triangle Bridge Club. I give thanks to all of you, especially **Barbara Martin**. My main partner in this journey has been my husband, Skip.

We moved to Chapel Hill in 2011 and every day still seems like a vacation. She is a retired cardiovascular and orthopedic operating room nurse. Skip and I have three children, six grandchildren and two very loyal furry friends.

Besides trying to figure out this very complex game, I love to read and knit. (Editor's note: Melanie makes nearly all her sweaters and shawls and they are exquisite!) Thanks again to all of you for helping me reach this goal!

**Kay Murray** achieved the rank of life master in May. Following is a bio from the District Bulletin:

*Kay has been an attorney, professor, and librarian. She was introduced to bridge at the age of 5 living on a farm. About 12 years ago, she began playing duplicate in Chapel Hill and made Life Master recently at the Richmond regional. She says, "Having reached the age of 80, any accomplishment of an intellectual nature is gratifying."*

**Congratulations!**

## TBC NEWS

*Submitted by Darleen Bates*

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! A celebration was held at Triangle Bridge Club on Saturday afternoon, September 14, to say thanks to all the friends of TBC who donated funds towards the purchase of the electronic scoring devices, the Bridgemates. Thirteen tables showed up for the \$3 game fee. The dedications for the Bridgemates range from:

- ***"donated by"***
- ***"in memory of"***
- ***"in honor of family and friends who love and loved to play bridge"***
- ***"who were wonderful teachers and mentors"***
- ***"who do a lot for bridge today"***

Dusting of GOLD points for Swiss games in October. 499er Swiss Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 1st; open evening Swiss on Oct. 9th, 21st, and 24th; also the afternoon of Oct. 19th and the morning of Oct. 26th. Come with a partner to these Swiss games and teammates are guaranteed.

Instant Matchpoint on October 2, 2013—7:00—partner guaranteed. ONE GOLD POINT AVAILABLE. One gold point for the winning N/S pair and one gold point for the winning E/W pair. A book with hand analysis is also part of the event. There must be at least 5 tables for the Instant Matchpoint scoring.

# THE ADVENTURES OF DUKE AND CAROLINE

## SOMETIMES SLOW IS NOT BETTER

Caroline had really looked forward to the Monday game at the TBC; she wanted to have a chance to play up against the better players. Unfortunately, she was E/W and stuck moving behind Laggardly Larry, the slowest player in the club, which somewhat spoiled the afternoon.

From Round 1, Larry and his partner got further and further behind each round. When the first break was called, Larry played through it and still did not catch up. It was very unnerving to Caroline to start each round with 3-5 minutes of her allotted time already gone.

What if she had a really hard hand and needed to think a while? The director hovered at Larry's table and admonished him to speed up, but to no avail.

When Caroline finally arrived at the RGG's table, she was fit to be tied. Larry had even slowed them down, and everyone knew that they were the fastest pair in the room. She asked Mr. RGG what could be done.

"Well, Honey," he replied, "some people are just slow. They walk slowly, they talk slowly, and for heaven's sake, they play bridge slowly. It is more a function of disorganization than any real thought being devoted to the particular board on their table. They are out more for the social aspects of the game than the actual card play."

"What can we do to try to speed things up?" Caroline implored.

"One thing that would help," said Mr. RGG, "is for people who are habitually tardy to realize that their slowness affects not only them, but many other people in the game. When they finish a board, there should be no discussion of what might have happened with a different lead or if a better contract was available. The time for discussing these issues is after the game. The TBC has state of

the art hand records and recaps so that players can actually see the cards for the boards in question.

"Another thing that would speed up play is for very slow pairs to move to the next table, greet their opponents with 'Hello' and get about the business of taking their hands from the boards and getting ready to bid. Some pairs want to catch up on the goings on of children and who is in the hospital. If there is enough time, discuss these things at the break or after the game. We are all here to play cards. While at the table, this should be our only concern."

"Lastly, don't get in such a sweat if your opponents are occasionally late. It is just a game, though an intense one, and should be treated as such. If Larry gets later and later and later, let the director know and hopefully a penalty will help to move him along more quickly. Do not make your plays hastily and haphazardly because Larry made you late coming to the table. Everyone knows that it wasn't your fault that you were late".

"I have been playing bridge a long time and bids and plays are more familiar to me than most people. That being said, I still have a few ornery hands each session. I take my time on these hands since I know that overall I am a very quick player. Don't worry about occasions when you too are a little slow. We all know that you play quickly and ethically. These are traits that everyone should aspire to."

Caroline felt a little better about things, but she was still irked that a few people could be so insensitive to their fellow players. She wanted to voice her opinion to that effect, when she saw that the round have been called, and Larry was moving right on time. Had he heard her discussion with Mr. RGG? She sure hoped so, and she looked forward to speedier days in the future.

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Continued on next page.....

**Caroline**.....Smart, vivacious, trusting, founded her own company at the age of 25, now retired at 50 and seeking new challenges, wants to learn to play bridge the right way, both technically and ethically

**Duke**.....Rich, cavalier, devil-may-care; made his money the old fashioned way, he inherited it; sees bridge as a social outlet, not above bending the rules to advance his status

**The McAdoos**.....Elderly couple from the 299er group

**Buzz and Jim**.....College students

**The RGG's**.....Expert players who gave and expected the best you had to offer at the table

Over the course of many weeks, other characters will be introduced to our little drama. Any relation to real life persons will be purely coincidental.

*Submitted by Randy Joyce and Sandy McCay*

## **HISTORY OF THE UNIT 191 FUTURE LIFE MASTER TOURNAMENT**

*Written by Paul Schwenke*

Way back in 2001, **Paul Schwenke**, who was then Membership Chairman on the unit board, along with some other members of the board became concerned that while more than 75% of the unit's membership were not Life Masters, there was only one event—the 199er game on Tuesday afternoon at the Bridge Center—that specifically catered to this group. In an effort to hopefully build Unit Membership, the board and other individuals initiated and helped organize a number of games and new activities directed toward novice and intermediate players. These included a new Non-Life Master game on Saturday mornings directed by **Paul and Ruth Ann Schwenke** and a Thursday morning 99er game directed by **Glenn and Do-reen Marek** at the old Bridge Center.

For a couple of years, **Paul, Ruth Ann, Bob Crawford, and Bob Lenkeit** organized and ran a weekend Land Cruise at Emerald Isle in the spring that was well attended, well received, as well as profitable. Paul and Ruth Ann also started and ran a new Mentoring Program and a number of folks have helped to keep this program going as it has grown in popularity over the years.

Lastly, beginning in 2002, the Board, on amazingly fast timing, obtained approval and started a new Non-Life Master tournament. Unfortunately, the only location available was the American Legion in Chapel Hill. While the tournament was a success and turned a profit in its first year, it nearly drove its first chairpersons, **Mary Jo Doherty and Jackie Beecher** insane due to a less than cooperative and congenial legionnaire commander and the building's sanitary conditions that required a regiment of Molly Maids to make it semi-usable. Also while it did make for easy comparisons of bridge hands between rounds, some of the folks were less than thrilled with the "open seating" commodes.

After two years at the American Legion, the Board was able to move all the sectionals to the Milestones Meeting Facility at Northgate Mall. This was a huge improvement until a couple years later when the owner went bankrupt and skipped town with our deposit. Oh well—back to the drawing board.

Fortunately for the last few years, we have been blessed with a couple of super locations at the Chapel Hill Seymour Center and most recently, the TBC. Most importantly a terrific group of folks have given a bunch of their time to plan, organize and successfully run these events for the past 12 years. Below is a chronology of all the Future Life Master Tournaments since 2002 including all the Tournament and Food Chairs that our aging memories have been able to identify. (If you believe anything is in error or have an addition, please let Barbara Martin know for the record.)

## FUTURE LIFE MASTER STATISTICS

| YEAR | TABLE COUNT | LOCATION              | HOSPITALITY                | CHAIRPERSONS                      |
|------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2002 | N/A         | AMERICAN LEGION       | JACKIE BEECHER             | MARY JO DOHERTY                   |
| 2003 | N/A         | AMERICAN LEGION       | RUTH ANN SCHWENKE          | PAUL AND RUTH ANN SCHWENKE        |
| 2004 | 138         | MILESTONES            | RUTH ANN SCHWENKE          | PAUL AND RUTH ANN SCHWENKE        |
| 2005 | 124.5       | MILESTONES            |                            | JAN WALKER / NANCY STUART         |
| 2006 | 149         | MILESTONES            | MARY ELLEN PASQUALE        | NANCY STUART/ LIZ MCGUFFEY        |
| 2007 | 137         | SEYMOUR SENIOR CENTER | SIGRID OLIN                | LIZ MCGUFFEY/ KAY GRUNINGER       |
| 2008 | 120         | SEYMOUR               | PATSY WHITEHURST           | KAY GRUNINGER/ JIM BEAN           |
| 2009 | 125         | SEYMOUR               | KAY RICHARDSON             | PAUL MORRIS-SETTE/ JIM BEAN       |
| 2010 | 137         | TBC                   | K. RICHARDSON/ GRADA ARBLE | PAUL MORRIS-SETTE/ KEN DYE        |
| 2011 | 138.5       | TBC                   | BETSY MEBANE/ GRADA ARBLE  | KEN DYE/ MARTY DEMKO              |
| 2012 | 137.5       | TBC                   | DOROTHEA WILSON            | PAUL MORRIS-SETTE/ DAVE SCHREIBER |

The next time you are playing with or against any of these folks, please also take a moment to thank them for all the work they have put into organizing not only the Future Life Master Tournament but also all the other events that have made Unit 191 a special place for novice and intermediate players to learn and enjoy duplicate bridge. Also don't be reluctant to volunteer for events as that is the only way we will be able to keep them going in the future.

P.S. A huge thank you to **Paul and Ruth Ann Schwenke**—it was their idea in 2002 for the NLF Tournament and they worked hard to make it happen. Good job, Paul, for getting all the statistics and putting this article together.



The 2013 FLM Tournament is being chaired by **Jim Bean and Maggie Lindquist** with **Joyce Jenzano and Carol Schachner** in charge of Hospitality. It would be terrific if all records were broken for this popular tournament being held at the TBC November 1-3.

## LINDA HARRIS

Everyone agrees that Linda Harris is Unit 191's sweetheart, but it's not clear that everyone knows that everything she does is on a volunteer basis. Jay and Darleen agree that the Triangle Bridge Club could not exist without Linda, whether she's acting as a guaranteed partner, setting up coffee, sweeping the floor, or even cleaning the bathrooms. Whenever they try to pay her, the check ends up "lost" or in Darleen's purse. Linda says, I'm just bartering, trading manual labor for anything I can learn about bridge.

Prior to playing bridge, Linda regularly played whist, bridge's forerunner, in a raucous setting with a lot of junk bidding until a friend passed along a brochure announcing five free lessons of EasyBridge! at Bob Boggs' Bridge Center. Linda found bridge to be more challenging than whist as she learned that "you have to actually know what your bid means and you have to be quiet." And Linda was hooked.

Although Linda recalls many interesting bridge hands, she will never forget playing with George



Bloomer. Even with 30,000+ master points and a sometimes gruff exterior, George "treated me nice," Linda recalls, even when she passed his splinter bid of four diamonds over her one heart opener. "But I thought he had a lot of diamonds and I had four." They did score some master points that day and George complimented her for good defense and suggested that if she would learn 2/1, it would help her game.

Without hesitation when asked her proudest moment, Linda said it was seeing her daughter graduate from NCSU with a degree in biomedical engineering and a minor in genetics. This day happened when Linda was a single parent, having been divorced for 20 years. That daughter now works as a scientist for the Merck Durham

Plant that manufactures vaccines. Linda became emotional when she said if something happened to her, "she won't have to struggle like I did and she can make it on her own."

Linda credits **Jay** and **Darleen** with teaching her how to run a bridge game. Linda was interested in becoming a Director more than three years ago. At that time, Bob Boggs told her, "Hell, if you can read, you can pass that damn test." Linda quoted him in a bass voice that was eerily like Bob himself speaking those words. So she took the test, passed, and she's probably the only person in the ACBL to become a certified Club Director with only 5 master points. Of course, now she has more than ten times those early five points.

Linda was born in Philadelphia, the first child in a family with six brothers and three sisters. The family moved to Bellhaven on the eastern North Carolina shore after her father, a longshoreman, died in a work accident. Her mother died when Linda was only 18 years old and rearing the family fell to Linda. She is still mildly annoyed that her siblings still consider her the mother figure. Incredibly during her

late teens, Linda attended Pitt Community College and East Carolina University. In Greenville, she worked for Burroughs Wellcome, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, based in Great Britain and the Research Triangle Park. Linda worked in database management conducting clinical trials. She relocated to RTP and assisted with clinical trials for AZT, the first drug for the treatment of AIDS. Burroughs Wellcome merged with Glaxo and the company later became GlaxoSmithKline. Linda retired three years ago, but retirement hardly slows her down. Volunteering keeps her busy and she continues to oversee the care of a disabled brother.

Outside the bridge world, Linda enjoys gardening and listening to music—almost any kind of music except rap. She enjoys soft mellow music, jazz, and country music “that always tells a story.” She counts Charlie Wilson and John Legend among her favorite singers and she will see both of these artists at the DPAC this fall. She is a volunteer extraordinaire—at the Carolina Theatre, DPAC, and, of course, TBC.

This year and last, Linda and Sharon Crane have co-coordinated Unit 191’s successful Mentor Mentee program, organizing special games and events, using a voucher system, and encouraging Directors to donate free games to winning M/M pairs. Linda recalls three special mentors who have inspired her. When individual schedules did not allow for club games, **Kay Richardson** set up weekly Monday games in her home. **Jim Bean** and **Paul Kobrin** added “no sugar-coating to their mentoring,” required homework, and often followed up via e-mail to clarify sticky points. This year Linda was hand-selected by **Chris Moll** as his only mentee. She is grateful to all of her mentors who have shared their time and expertise.

And Unit 191 is grateful to Linda, whose smiling face always brightens the sometimes dour bridge world. Her generosity and spirit are an inspiration to all and her natural ability to make every person feel special is indeed a talent. Thank you, Linda, for being you.

*Written by Liz McGuffey*

## **A SPECIAL WEEK IN OUR UNIT—OCTOBER 14-18**

All the games in our unit will be special games during the week of October 14-18. On Wednesday, three clubs are pooling their resources and providing food between the games with the first game beginning at 9:30, the second at 1:00, and the third game of the day starting at 6:00. Prizes will be given to the persons playing in at least two session—even not with the same partner—who achieve the highest percentage. Please look carefully at the poster at the TBC. Get a partner now and don’t miss this opportunity to get lots of points and socialize with your bridge friends between sessions.

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The Unit 191 Board consists of the following members:

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Philip Erlenbach</b> | President      |
| <b>Ken Dye</b>          | Vice-President |
| <b>Pat Bodoh</b>        | Secretary      |
| <b>Paul Kobrin</b>      | Treasurer      |
| <b>Jim Bean</b>         |                |
| <b>Maggie Lindquist</b> |                |
| <b>Jackie Marks</b>     |                |
| <b>Joyce Jenzano</b>    |                |
| <b>Carol Schachner</b>  |                |
| <b>Randy Joyce</b>      |                |
| <b>Harrison Brooke</b>  |                |
| <b>Ingrid Toschlog</b>  |                |

If you have ideas to make the unit better, don’t hesitate to contact any one of the board members. Or maybe—simply thank them for serving.

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The deadline for the October Alert will be **Friday, October 18**. Please plan to submit articles no later than that date—earlier is always better.

Barbara Martin, Editor