

Unit 191 Bright Leaf Alert

Official Publication of Unit 191

February 2016

GOODWILL NOMINATIONS

Each year, the Unit 191 Board of Directors considers nominees to be honored as Goodwill Ambassadors and selects an individual whose name is also submitted for District nomination. The ACBL invites units to select a nominee to be so honored, stipulating "the ideal nominee is one who personifies high standards of goodwill, sportsmanship and volunteerism; who gives selflessly of his/her time to promote and enhance bridge; who exhibits good manners; and who strives to make the game nicer for all of us. This person has an exemplary demeanor at the bridge table—welcoming and friendly."

Individuals who have been recognized in the past by our unit as Goodwill Ambassadors are:

Mary Lou Johnson, Peggy Barbee, Harrison Brooke, Bob Boggs, Sue Torrey, John Torrey, JoAnne Vansuch, Maggie Lindquist, Darleen Bates, Linda Harris, Sigrid Olin and Robin Marin.

Others in our unit who have been recognized elsewhere as Goodwill Ambassadors include **Jay Bates, Judith Bloomer, Kay and Randy Joyce, Chris Moll, and Mike Sears.**

Please consider submitting the names of individuals in our unit who you feel are deserving of this recognition. It will be helpful to the committee to include specific comments in support of your nomination of such individuals. Nominations may be submitted to **Barbara Martin** (Bmartin1@mebtel.net), chair of the nominating committee. Other members of the committee are **Melanie Riva** and **Nancy Crow**. The committee will consider all nominations and present information and recommendations to the full Board of Directors for final selection of the 2015 nominee from this unit at its March meeting.

The deadline for submitting names and comments to the committee is February 15. Please direct any questions you may have to any of the committee members or to **Joyce Jenzano**, Unit President.

Submitted by Barbara Martin



UPCOMING CAROLINA DREAMIN' SECTIONAL

Get ready for some serious bridging beginning February 25th through the 28th for the unit's first calendar open Sectional and compete for prizes. This year we are going to start with something new, Thursday night Swiss teams, so be sure to get your teams lined up beforehand. **Linda Harris** and I are co-chairing the tournament and encourage everyone to bring their freshly prepared foods to continue our reputation for fine southern hospitality. If you aren't in the mood for cooking, our hospitality team, **Betsy Mebane, Carole Crotty** and **Nancy Crow** could sure use your help in the kitchen or whatever cash donations you can give us. Our partnership chairs, **Kay Gruninger** and **Nancy Crow** will be glad to set you up with a partner if you need one and if you can be a standby partner and/or pair for the tournament, please contact them. We are hoping the weather will hold up this year so that we can all enjoy our first unit tournament of 2016! Hope to see you there!

Jim Bean and Linda Harris

Tournament Co-Chairs

BARBARA SEAGRAM, ONE OF NORTH AMERICA'S LEADING BRIDGE TEACHERS AND AUTHORS IS COMING TO DURHAM!!!!!! See page 2 for details.

The Bridge Academy Hosts

Best-Selling Author and Teacher Barbara Seagram

Superstar teacher and best-selling author **BARBARA SEAGRAM** from Toronto, Ontario will present a bridge seminar – **“FOREPLAY AND END PLAY: STRIPPING CAN BE FUN”** – on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016**.

This is an excellent seminar to help players improve how they approach planning and playing a bridge hand.

Barbara Seagram Seminar: 9:30 – 12:00

Lunch: Noon

Unit 191 Sanctioned Open Game: 1:00 p.m.

\$75/Person

About Barbara Seagram:

Charismatic, energetic and entertaining, **Barbara Seagram** is one of North America's leading bridge teachers and authors.

She and her husband Alex Kornel are owners of the **Barbara Seagram School of Bridge, in Toronto, Ontario**. Teaching hundreds of students per year, they also coordinate and escort bridge trips and cruises around the world.

In 2012, the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) named Seagram as one of the most influential bridge personalities in the organization's 75-year history.

As an internationally acclaimed author, Seagram is the co-author of 24 published bridge books. Her best selling title **“25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know”** is currently in its 14th printing, has been translated into French, German, Japanese and Danish, and has been named the top selling bridge book of the last 50 years.

Her books **“Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand”** and **“Declarer Play – A Quizbook”** have also received the **Book of the Year** awards from the **American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA)**.

Since 2011, Seagram has added dedicated humanitarian and philanthropist to her resume, raising funds to build a permanent school and sustain three others in Takeo province, Cambodia. To date, Seagram's philanthropic group efforts have resulted in the enrollment of more than 580 students. Her humanitarian goals now include access to medical care and clean water in the most remote villages. **At her request, Seagram's fee will be made in the form of a donation to these charitable efforts.**

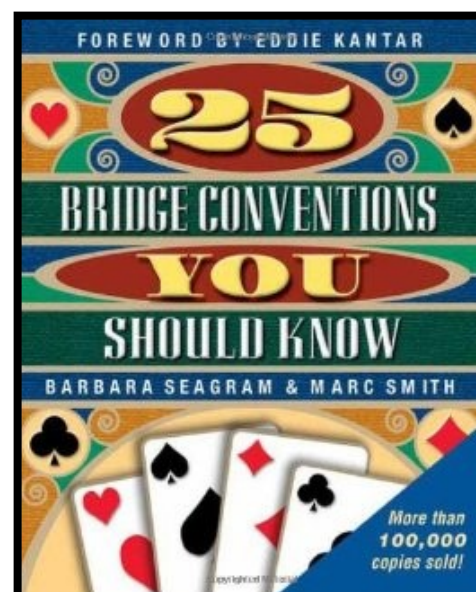
For more information or to register, please contact

The Bridge Academy: Henry@bridgeacademync.com | 919-724-6239.



**BARBARA
SEAGRAM**

**AUTHOR OF THIS
BRIDGE BEST SELLER**





Have fun, Play better

www.bridgeacademync.com

2016 WINTER/SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE

TWO OVER ONE GAME FORCE - THE NUTS & BOLTS

2/1 is more than just the first bid!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 23, 2016 (Four week class)

(Level - Advancing beginners & intermediate players)

In this four-week class, players will learn the six 2/1 GF auctions, the Forcing 1NT, the continuation bids, and the various systemic inferences like jumping in a 2/1 auction, responding 2♣ over 1♦, showing controls, and fast arrival.

9:30 am – 11:30 am: Tuesday, February 2 - February 23, 2016

Four classes: \$105.00 - includes "Larry Cohen Teaches Two over One" book.

Instructor: Henry Meguid ACBL Accredited Teacher & ABTA Master Teacher

Deadline: January 26.

Prerequisite - Knowledge of basic constructive and competitive bidding

Format - a lesson followed by playing and discussing 4-6 practice hands

Limit - 6 tables

ITDP1 - PART I

IMPROVE YOUR DECLARER PLAY | HOW TO PLAY A NT CONTRACT

Tired of not making your contract or don't know why you fail?

This two-part class is for you!

SATURDAY, MARCH 5 - MARCH 26, 2016 (Four week class)

(Level - Advancing beginners & intermediate players)

In this four-week class, players will learn how to count top winners, formulate and execute a plan using various techniques like promoting winners, hold up play, establishing a suit, keeping the danger hand off lead, counting, managing entries, winning the notrump race, and various types of finesses.

- **10 am – Noon: Saturday, March 5 - March 26, 2016**
- **Four Classes: \$105.00** - includes Barbara Seagram & David Bird "Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand" book
- **Instructor: Henry Meguid ACBL Accredited Teacher & ABTA Master Teacher**
- **Deadline: February 26.**

Prerequisite - Knowledge of basic constructive and competitive bidding

(continued)

Format - a lesson followed by playing and discussing 4-6 practice hands

Limit - 6 tables

ITDP2 – PART II

IMPROVE YOUR DECLARER PLAY – HOW TO PLAY A SUIT CONTRACT

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 - APRIL 30, 2016 (Four week class)

(Level - Advancing beginners & intermediate players)

In this four-week class, players will learn how to count losers, formulate and execute a plan using various techniques like promoting winners, ruffing losers, safety and hold up play, cross ruffing, establishing a side suit for discards, loser on loser play, managing entries, and maximizing your chances.

- **10 am – Noon: Saturday, April 9 - April 30, 2016**
- **Four Classes: \$105.00** - includes Barbara Seagram & David Bird "*Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand*" book. *(If you have already purchased the book in ITDP1, deduct \$19.95.)*
- **Instructor: Henry Meguid ACBL Accredited Teacher & ABTA Master Teacher**
- **Deadline: April 1.**

Prerequisite - Knowledge of basic constructive and competitive bidding

Format - a lesson followed by playing and discussing 4-6 practice hands

Limit - 6 tables

SPECIAL NOTICE:

- Sign up for all three courses and receive the **"Perpetual Student" Discount!**
- **Three Courses—includes 12 class sessions and books—for \$259.00.**

PLEASE REGISTER BY DEADLINES NOTED

Make check payable to: The Bridge Academy

2634 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd | Durham, NC 27707

For more information please contact Henry Meguid 919-724-6239

info@bridgeacademy.com

How Is Team Play Different?

By Randy Joyce

Novice bridge players frequently ask me to explain the difference between Pairs (your usual local duplicate) and Team games. One of the things that I stress is, that at Teams you always play to make your contract and don't worry too much about overtricks. At pairs play or board-a-match teams, where an overtrick is worth its weight in gold, at Swiss or Knockouts teams (scored by IMPS won or lost), it is merely one IMP. These one IMP gains or losses tend to even themselves out over time and should never get in the way of taking the safest line to make your contract.

Let me give you a graphic example from the latest New Year's Regional in Myrtle Beach.

	♠ QJ	
	♥ J	
	♦ Axxxx	
	♣ QTxxx	
♠ 9xx		♠ xxx
♥ KQTxxxx		♥ X
♦ J		♦ QTxxx
♣ 9x		♣ AKJx
	♠ AKT8x	
	♥ Axxx	
	♦ Kx	
	♣ xx	

The bidding at our table was short and sweet. Kay had one of her hearts in her diamonds (see, even the good players have an occasional lapse) and opened two hearts instead of three hearts. The auction proceeded P P, and South balanced with two spades, which ended the auction.

Kay led the diamond jack. Declarer had eight sure tricks via five spades, the ace of hearts, and the ace and king of diamonds. However, visions of overtricks loomed in South's mind. Declarer won the diamond lead with the ace and played the heart ace and trumped a heart. I showed out, and declarer knew that things were not splitting too well.

He now played a diamond to his king, and Kay trumped. Kay got out with the club nine, and I overtook it with the Jack to lead another big diamond. Declarer pitched his last club, and Kay pitched her last club. I now led a big club, and declarer trumped with the 8 of Spades, which Kay promptly over trumped with the 9! When Kay got out her last trump, Declarer's goose was cooked. Down one on a hand that was cold, if Declarer had only drawn trumps!

At our teammates' table, this was the last board, and West opened a normal three hearts. It went P P, and our teammate **Bill Wisdom** balanced with three spades. Bill's partner had a close decision, but what the heck, he raised to four spades. Bill huffed and puffed and huffed and puffed, after the heart king opening lead, but, alas, he could come to no more than nine tricks!

We were up one IMP when this last board was compared (a tie with -50 and +50), so we won the match by the thinnest of margins. If our declarer had claimed his eight tricks, we would have lost the match by three!

The lesson to be learned is that in a team game, you owe it to your teammates to play hands carefully to try to make your contract. At pairs, when you have only your partner and your conscience to answer to, you can freelance more in the play.

STAR RECRUITERS

From an article in the January ACBL magazine:

The ACBL is pleased to recognize those people who have recruited 100 new members in the past 12 months. Each has received a \$500 recruiting bonus.

Among those listed was **Mike Sears**, member of Unit 191 in the winter and a member of the local unit in Petoskey, Michigan during the summer.



Well done!!

DUKE COLLEGIATE TEAM

Christine Chai, unit 191 member and a student at Duke University, is putting together a team of students to participate in the collegiate bowl. The unit looks forward to having two teams from the area to participate in this event.



WINNERS AT THE

MYRTLE BEACH REGIONAL

Congratulations to **Kay and Randy Joyce** for an outstanding tournament at Myrtle Beach. The Joyces won 3 knockouts along with placing in other events. Kay amassed 169.63 (second overall total for the tournament) and Randy had 166.99.

Total attendance: 2348 tables.

1	170.95	Tom Rutledge, Charleston SC
2	169.63	Kay Joyce, Chapel Hill NC
3	169.63	Ellen Allen, Summerville SC
4	166.99	Randy Joyce, Chapel Hill NC
5	160.65	Bill Wisdom, Salisbury NC
6	154.04	Jerry Helms, Charlotte NC

Other unit members doing well were:

Linda Brezin—19.83

William McCartney—16.70

Skip and Melanie Riva—14.03

Paul and Janet Fantz—12.28



2015-2016 MENTOR/MENTEE GAME DATES

Please mark your calendars with the next scheduled Mentor/Mentee game dates:

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 @ 12:30PM (TBC)

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 @ 1:00PM (The Bridge Academy)

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 @ 12:30PM (TBC)

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 @ 1:00PM (The Bridge Academy)

Co-Chairs: Sharon Crane
(scbridge@earthlink.net)

Linda Harris
(lharris166@nc.rr.com)

The Bridge Academy Hosts A Festival with Audrey Grant

World renowned bridge educator, **Audrey Grant** conducted a **Bridge Festival** on Tuesday, **January 19** at **The Bridge Academy** in Durham. The event drew a crowd of 106 bridge enthusiasts from as far as California, Georgia, Maryland and Virginia; and in-state from Morehead City, Pinehurst, Raleigh, and Cary.

The two-part workshop, ***"The Playing Power of Two-Suited Hands and Its Impact on Hand Evaluation"*** gave players with a wide range of experience and skill the opportunity to learn the latest bridge techniques and to improve their bridge judgment.

Joining Audrey was her husband, world class player **David Lindop**. Asked what made the **Audrey Grant Bridge Festivals** so popular, Lindop didn't hesitate: "Mostly Audrey," he said, smiling. "And, of course, the materials. She has a long history of teaching—from the kindergarten classroom to university courses—it is her passion and her calling. Combined with her love of the game it is a winning combination."

Also at the Bridge Academy on Monday, **January 18, 14** teacher trainees attended Grant's ***"Better Bridge Teacher Accreditation Program."*** Presented by the program's director **Denise Hoffman**, they learned the newest developments in teaching methodology and Grant's most effective approaches.

"Audrey Grant has taught students and instructors around the world," said Henry Meguid, himself a Master Teacher of the American Bridge Teachers' Association. "We were extremely pleased to host her here at The Bridge Academy."

Players enjoyed a fabulous **gourmet lunch** of crusted salmon, orzo and winter salads, and pomegranate parfaits, prepared by chef extraordinaire **Robin Marin**, and assisted by **Holly Spencer** and **Audrey Crosby**.

Following Durham, Grant was off to hold Festivals in Seabrook Island, SC; San Marcos and Palm Desert, CA.



Henry Meguid, host of the event , with
Audrey Grant



Audrey Crosby, Holly Spencer and Robin
Marin prepared and served a delicious lunch



Group participants with Audrey Grant



AUDREY GRANT EVENT

Top—Ann Vaughn helped with registration; Betsy Mebane; Audrey and Phylliss Woody

Middle—Barbara Yowell and her tablemates enjoying the delicious lunch; Bill McCartney, Linda Brezin, Debbie and Irwin Kahn

Bottom—Audrey and husband, David Lintrop; Agnes Lee, who was here from California—to attend the teacher training workshop and attend the event

Check the Bridge Academy or Unit 191 website for more photos from the event—thanks to **Phylliss Woody** for the pictures.

The Good Ol' Days

Oh how we long for the good ol' days,
When the game we played was BRIDGE!
Bidding spades meant SPADES and hearts
meant HEARTS.
Thank goodness for the privilege!

Our cards listed Stayman and Blackwood.
No player was ever confused.
Thank goodness that's all we needed,
And thank goodness that's all we used.

We reached our solid games or slams
In four or five sound bids
By opening two of our strong suit -
The bridge we learned as kids.

Today they bid what they DON'T have.
Their partners do the same,
And ten conventions down the road....
Guess what? Wrong slam! Wrong game!

Today they open
one-notrump.
Eight to ten! Ten to
twelve! Headlong!
(Whoever heard of
a notrump
Showing all suits
stopped and
strong!)



Alert! Alert! And more
alerts!
Your questions they tend
to ignore
Or offer just the slightest
tip
That's all you get. No
more!

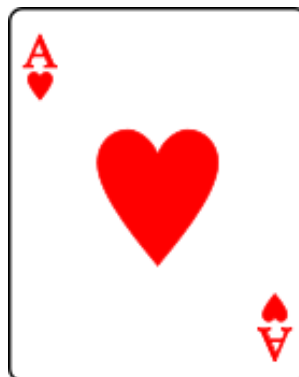
Precision bids! The Puppet bids!
The Drury bids, no less!
And Lebensohl, and Psych Controls!
Brozel and SOS!

But most abused—"I'M
ABOUT TO SKIP!
PLEASE WAIT!" (ten sec-
onds gap.)
Whatever the intention,
It wakes partner from his nap!



The subterfuge! Distortions!
That have warped our honored game!
Hop to it! But—don't call it BRIDGE!
Please find some other name.

Thanks to **Pearl Schechter** for sub-
mitting this article.



DID YOU KNOW....

that among the many bridge players in our unit we have a FANATICAL SWEEPSTAKER? **Debbie Sears** is that person! Debbie and husband, Mike, live in Petoskey, Michigan, but spend their winters in Durham, NC.

When asked how Debbie got started in sweepstaking, her response was:

"While vacationing in 2008, my husband and I met a couple playing duplicate bridge. We began to discuss our hobbies. She said that she did sweepstaking and asked if I might be interested. When I heard that she had won a Ford Mustang convertible, I was definitely interested. She was nice enough to give me a tutorial and suggested that I sign up for SWEEPSHEET. I immediately signed up and have never regretted making the investment. Besides winning prizes, this hobby has given me countless hours of enjoyment, not to mention the nice people I have met. I remember winning two prizes as a child...a space helmet from the local movie theatre and a television when a store was going out of business. It was thrilling! And I was hooked!"

Debbie commented that she has had several big wins. *"My biggest win was a \$13,000 snowmobile. Initially, my family chuckled when they heard of my new hobby, but as the wins started rolling in, the laughing subsided. My husband, Mike, won a trip to the American Idol finale the year Scotty McCreery won. Since the tickets were for the finale and not for the competition show the night before, we decided to see if there was any chance we could go to both shows. The nice gentleman at the Fox tent said it probably wouldn't happen, but told us to come back at show time and double-check. Sure enough, he had tickets waiting for us for both shows."*

While living in Chicago, I won the use of a company suite for 20 people at a Milwaukee Brewers



game. When I won the box for the Brewers game, one of the owners notified me of the win and commented that they really liked my decorated envelope. I had painted flowers growing in grass across the bottom of the envelope. I have won a jet ski, seven Big Green Eggs, \$1,000 from American Express, \$1,000 iTunes gift cards, \$2,500 in gift cards from Kmart and many smaller gift cards, a "Refresherator" from Coors Light, TV's, bikes, bathrobes, soccer balls, multiple NFL gift cards, sporting equipment, baking supplies, 2 X-Boxes, and of course, t-shirts, etc.

Lots of smaller wins have made me smile and I'm able to donate lots of goodies to local charities. I was very proud to be the grand prize winner in SWEEPSHEET's annual anniversary sweepstakes. My two sons live in other states, so I enter them in their local contests if the prize is something I'm sure they could use. My North Carolina son won an opportunity to shoot baskets for thirty seconds at a halftime of a UNC basketball game sponsored by Food Lion. He didn't get a chance to shoot the half-court shot for \$100,000, but he did manage to sink a 3-pointer at the buzzer to win \$2,500 in cash as

well as other prizes. Twice I have won VIP tickets and locker room tours for my aunt in Indianapolis to the Colts' football games. I won a chance for my son in St. Louis to run through a grocery store filling his cart with groceries in a two minute time limit. I have also won a 4-day trip to the Daytona 500 on a one entry text. My husband and I rode in the pace car at 140 miles an hour and were treated like royalty with tours and special seating. There is one win I'll never forget! When I was first getting started in this hobby, the SWEEPSHEET newsletter listed a sweeps which was giving away multiple sets of Pyrex dishes valued at \$40. I had avoided entering this one because the last thing I needed was more Pyrex. Finally, one night when I was all caught up with my entries and I was really looking for more things to enter, I entered the sweeps. This sweeps had been calling to me from the time I read it in the newsletter, and I had avoided entering because I just knew I was going to win. You guessed it! With just one entry, a set of Pyrex showed up on my doorstep.

When asked how much time she spends entering sweeps, Debbie answered, "Most days I spend about an hour. Depending on what is going on in my life at any one time, I may enter more or less. I keep in mind that this is a hobby and that it is really not a matter of life or death if I miss a day. I'll do snail mail entries while watching TV and do on-line and text entries at odd times during the day. Texts are my favorite.

In response to how many entries she sends in, Debbie said, "Normally I would send 10-15 mail-in entries for something I really want to win or think is winnable. I really look for the number of prizes being offered and how many types of entries there are. I like one entry and texting sweeps. I seem to win regularly with texting and I have won through Facebook, but not with Twitter. I also like sweeps where I can do mail-in and also enter online. What

is so nice about sweeping is that there is something for everyone! I intend to take up entering Pinterest and to start entering more Skill sweeps this year.

I asked Debbie about tips and suggestions for those who might want to take on this hobby.

"Listen to that little voice inside you. Sometimes I get a strong feeling I am going to win and am not a bit surprised when I am notified. Thrilled, but not surprised. When the SWEEPSHEET newsletter comes out, I print it off and go through it carefully looking for prizes that appeal to me or ones where the odds seems especially good. I used to enter most everything, but now I'm much more selective, leaving prizes I really don't particularly want for someone who would really enjoy them. I appreciate reading the posts in the newsletter regarding wins as I think it keeps everyone motivated.

P.S. Debbie still finds time to play bridge and just recently completed requirements to become a Silver Life Master — Congratulations!



AN OPENING BID QUESTION

You open up a nice looking hand and must decide to bid 1H or 1NT. For **Mike Lawrence**, it's not really a choice. If you have a 5-card major, you open that major. For **Max Hardy**, the best answer is "it depends". So, let's take a look at a few examples to see if we can find common ground and get some advice from a few other experts as well.

1. J4 AQJT2 K85 QJT

With a bad 14 HCP's and 7 losers, what to do? Some would give the hand another point for heart length. Still, you probably have a worthless Jack.

Votes? **Lawrence:** 1H **Hardy:** ?

First and foremost is the general principle about looking for your rebid regardless of opening choice. In general, Hardy favors the 1 NT opening so that you have a very good rebid. Also, if you don't play Puppet Stayman over 1NT openings, partner doesn't know if it's a 4- or 5-card suit when you respond to the Stayman inquiry.

Interested in learning what experts might do, I emailed **Larry Cohen**. He said he'd open 1NT. Although it's a bit unfair to argue against this opening when Larry can't enter the dialogue, I'd always open this hand 1H and rebid 2C. This is a bad 14 HCP-point hand with 5 "quacks". Subtract number of Aces and Tens from the Qs and Js and you might devalue this hand by one point.

2. J9 T8 AQJ43 AKQ7

Here's a nice hand with 17HCPs and only 5 losers. Again, what's your opening bid? Hardy and Lawrence would agree that 1NT describes your hand well...balanced (2-2-5-4) with the required range, and you have an easy 2D rebid. But others might shy away from a 1 NT opening with no stoppers in either major. Eddie Kantar favors a 1C opening, so I'm in good company opening 1C with the idea of showing a 2D reverse rebid. Yes, you've told a little fib about length but showing extra values here is more important.

3. K5 QJ9 KQ8653 AQ

Oooh! Puzzlement? Is this balanced? Both Hardy and Lawrence insist it is, despite the 6-card suit and 2 doubletons. So, do you open 1NT or 1D? This is a 6-loser hand. Does that make a difference in your vote? Maybe you have in mind to open the 1NT and then rebid

diamonds twice—if you have the opportunity. The alternative isn't so awful: open 1D and jump to 3D for your rebid. But you just can't help hoping partner has the diamond ace and the ace or queen of spades. But we don't bid on hopes and prayers, do we? Indeed, some openers might even rebid the spade suit to discourage left hand opponent's spade lead. Hmmm! Decision time: I'd open 1D with this hand and it feels good to now all three of these world-class bridge experts would do the same.

4. 843 AKQJ8 KQ8 76

Now what? Great suit and 15HCPs. 1NT or 1H? You do have stoppers in diamonds, but none for the black suits. What to do? If this hand is passed out after my 1NT opening, I am already looking for the exit. So, I'll open 1H and rebid hearts. Hardy, Kantar and Lawrence recommend the same.

In Summary

Guiding principles are often hard to come by, but if we think of them only as guides to thinking and

and never as rules, we can come up with a few helpful ways to evaluate hands. All of this applies only to strong NT hands (good 14 to bad 18).

*First, open 1NT with a good 15 HCPs hand and either a 4-card or 5-card major. Your goal is to find a "golden fit" in a major, and you want to communicate values to partner at the lowest possible level. You'll never be able to do that unless you open that NT.

*Second, with a great 5-card major suit and 14-16 HCPs concentrated in 2 suits, especially without stoppers in 2 suits, open the major, not 1NT.

*Third, evaluate playability of the hand. With good spots to accompany your top honors, you may do quite well in NT. Give yourself an extra point if you've got an A or two, 3 tens and fewer than 2 quacks.

*Fourth, with a flat hand (any 4-3-3-3 combo), the odds favor a 1NT opening because of few ruffing opportunities and the unpleasant business of rebidding a 3-card suit. See the *Bridge Winners* article (<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/1nt-opening-bid-with-a-5-card-major/>).

There's a lot to consider here.

Finally, there is a fun NT Calculator with accompanying analysis on www.Bridgebums.com. Check it out [at http://www.bridgebum.com/calculator.php](http://www.bridgebum.com/calculator.php)

Written by Dave Streifford

The Bridge Academy's 2016 New Year's Bridge Extravaganza

0-500 Future Life MASTER Sectional

On Saturday and Sunday, **January 16** & 17, **The Bridge Academy** presented the

2016 New Year's Bridge Extravaganza / 0-500 Future Life MASTER Sectional.

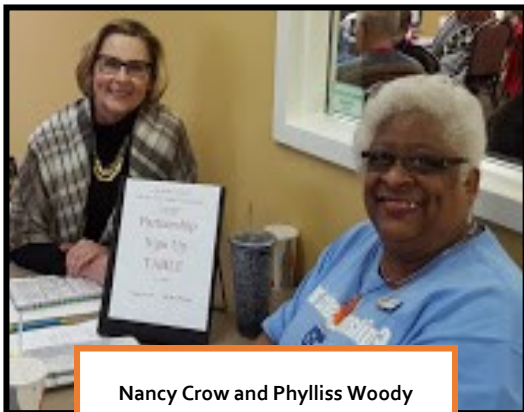
Attendance was outstanding with 77 tables, a 40+ percent increase over the May event.

Henry Meguid served as tournament chair, with **Nancy Crow** and **Phylliss Woody** as partnership co-chairs, and **Ann Vaughn** as Hospitality Chair.

A mini-lesson about how to improve your partnership defense was held between **Saturday's** morning and afternoon sessions.

A big thank you to **Ann Vaughan** for preparing the delicious lunch of spicy Asian pasta and spinach salad. Thanks also to **Holly Spencer** and **everyone** who contributed the yummy medley of deserts, fruit, and sandwiches.

A special thank you goes to **Ruth Ann Schwenke** for directing, **Deanna Larus** for assisting with directing on **Sunday**, and **Diane Saulsberry**, our caddy extraordinaire.



Nancy Crow and Phylliss Woody
Partnership Chairs



Ann Vaughan and Holly
Spencer—Hospitality Chairs



Henry Meguid, Host
and Chairman of the
tournament



Glen and Sharon Whitehouse and teammates finished
second in the Swiss teams

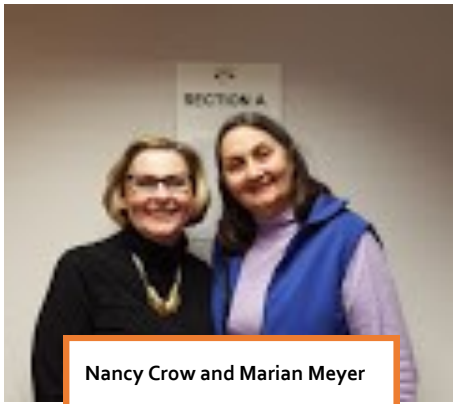


The 2016 New Year's Bridge

Extravaganza!

0-500 Non-Life Master Sectional

held at The Bridge Academy



Nancy Crow and Marian Meyer
Overall winners Sat. morning



Susan Korn and Jennifer
Sawyer—Section winners



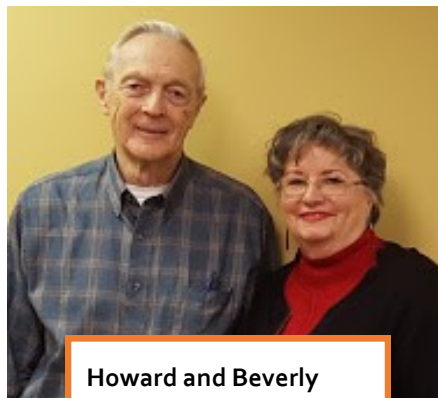
Udo and Linda Koopman—Section Winner



Phyllis Woody and Rita
Musante



Eloise Fontaine and Josh
Geigerman—Overall Sat.



Howard and Beverly
Craig—Section winners

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
THE WINNERS AND THANK
YOU TO ALL WHO PLAYED IN
THE TOURNAMENT!
SPECIAL THANKS TO PHYLLISS
WOODY FOR THE PHOTOS!**



Kathy Baer— 1/4 of the team—second
overall in the Swiss



Swiss winners—Karen Shimchock, Jui
Wana, Kailynn Sprinkle, Christine Chai

Membership Report

Linda Harris, Membership Chair

During the month of Dec., the following occurred:

Total Membership for December 2015	609
New	3
Transfer In	1
Transfer Out	1
Deceased	
Snowbird In	
Snowbird Out	
Future Life Masters inactive	4
Future Life Masters reinstated	
Life Masters Unpaid	
Life Masters reinstated	

We welcome to our Unit family three (3) new ACBL members-- **Nancy Leroy, Sherri Stuewer, and Carol Whisnant** all of Chapel Hill. In addition one (1) player transferred in **Peggy Nielsen** from unit 119 of Cary.

We bid a warm welcome to these players and look forward to having them as part of our bridge family.

Unit 191 Members:

You may be aware that new ranks of Ruby and Sapphire Life Master were created by the ACBL Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2016. These rules apply to you if you joined the ACBL after January 1, 2010 or reinstated your membership after that date. *A member who became a Life Master prior to January 1, 1990 will be exempt from the pigmented point requirements for this rank. Each player who has attained the rank of Life Master as of December 31, 2011, will not have to fulfill the pigmented point requirements for their next rank advancement. After attaining their first rank after January 1, 2012, all players will be required to fulfill the pigmented point requirements for subsequent rank advancement (this also applies to the new ranks added in 2015). For example, a current Silver life Master on December 31, 2011 would retain the current requirements for Gold Life Master, would not have any pigmented requirements for Ruby Life Master, but would need to fulfill the new

requirements for Sapphire and Diamond Life Master.

Ruby Life Master: A Life Master with 1500 (at least 300 silver, red, gold or platinum)

Sapphire Life Master: A Life Master with 3500 (at least 700 silver, red, gold or platinum of which at least 350 must be gold or platinum)

Advancing in rank (54) during the month of December were:

RANKS	December 2015
Club Master	Judy Cosler
	Earnestine Goods
	Ava Nackman
Sectional Master	Beth Wilkins
Life Master	Clay Hamner
Bronze Master	Clay Hamner
	Katie Wilson
Ruby Master	(40)
Sapphire Master	(7)

We're very proud of the achievements of all the above!!!

Unit 191 members please check the Directory on our unit website (unit191bridge.org) and report to me 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.

February Triangle Bridge News and Schedule

What a great start to the New Year! Thanks to all of you who supported youth bridge by playing in the 32 Junior Fund events held in January.

We kicked off two **NEW** classes:

- Introduction to Two Over One Game Force nine-week class started on Jan 8th being taught by Valerie Roberts on Friday mornings 9:30am – noon.
Vjroberts3@gmail.com
- **Chris Moll** is starting a series of classes beginning January 26th on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30am. The first class will be “Play of the Cards” (1/26, 2/2, 2/16, 2/23 and 3/8) and the first two lessons will focus on Declarer Play and the next two lessons will concentrate on Defensive Play of the cards and the fifth lesson will be a General Review and Concepts. 5 lessons \$99.00. Pre-registration requested as class will be limited to 24 people. If you do not wish to attend all 5 lessons, you may drop in for \$25/session. Please make checks payable to Triangle Bridge and there will be an envelope at the director’s station. This class is not designed for players who are new to bridge. For questions or additional information, please contact Tammy at tammy26bridge@aol.com or (504) 452-0220.

We started two **NEW** games:

- Beginning January 21st, on Thursday afternoons starting at 12:30pm, we are running a 0-300 game concurrent with the open game
- Starting January 15th, on Friday mornings from 10:00am – 12:30pm, there is a 0-5 teaching game to help newcomers during the bidding and play.
jeff.boak@gmail.com

February starts off with the first full week of STAC games where you can earn **SILVER** points (Feb 1st – 6th).

On Saturday afternoon, February 6th at 1:30pm we are holding an ACBL-wide International Fund Game in addition to our regularly scheduled Saturday 9:30am morning game.

The monthly 8 is Enough is on Sunday, February 7th at 2:00pm. Please contact **Darleen** dar_boone@hotmail.com if you need partners by 2:00pm Saturday.

We are hosting five GNT Swiss team events, including one on Friday afternoon at 1:15pm on February 12th. Please come with a partner – team mates are guaranteed.

The club will not hold regularly scheduled games from Thursday evening February 25th through Sunday, February 28th due to the sectional.

We are happy to see many new faces joining us and as always we appreciate those who continue to support Triangle Bridge during this transition phase. Thanks to all of you players.

Tammy and Chris

Wednesday and Saturday Morning Open Games
Start at 9:30am

Friday Morning 0-5 Pairs Game Start at 10:00am

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday Afternoon Games
Start at 12:30pm

Wednesday Afternoon Games Start at 1:00pm

Friday Afternoon Game Start at 1:15pm

TBC FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

February 2016

Unit Game	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Charity ACBL		1	2	3	4	5	6
GNT Swiss				Morning		0-5 Pairs	Morning
ACBL-wide							
International		Open & 0-50	Open & 0-500	Afternoon	Open & 0-300	Open & 0-50 Pairs	Open Game at 1:30pm
Fund Game		Evening	Play & review	GNT Swiss	Play & review		
STAC							
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				Morning		0-5 Pairs	Morning
8 is Enough at 2:00pm		Open & 0-50	Open & 0-500	Afternoon	Open & 0-300	0-50 Pairs & GNT Swiss	
		GNT Swiss	Play & review	Evening	Play & review		
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Morning		0-5 Pairs	Morning
		Open & 0-50	Mentor / Mentee, Open & 0-500	Afternoon	Open & 0-300	Open & 0-50	
		Evening	Play & review	GNT Swiss	Play & review		
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Open & 0-50	Open & 0-500	Morning	Open & 0-300	Durham Sectional	Durham Sectional
		GNT Swiss	Play & review	Afternoon	Durham Sectional		
				Evening			
	28	29					
Durham Sectional		Open & 0-50					
		Evening					

The next page contains the list of the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners in Unit 191 through the third quarter. The final standings will be announced in February after ACBL processes all the results from club games and tournaments.

The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney standings below cover the third quarter of calendar year 2015 and show the total ACBL master points recorded for the individuals listed. Each individual is shown for the master point range (not the rank) in which he/she stood as of 01/01/15. Since then, many of those listed have advanced to the next range. The Ace of Clubs points are those won at the club level only and include those won at clubs in Unit 191 as well as those won at other ACBL-sanctioned clubs. The Mini-McKenney points are those won in all ACBL-sanctioned events.

ACE OF CLUBS		MASTER POINT RANGE	MINI - McKEN-NEY	
Beverly Craig	11.60	0 - 5	Judy Cosler	15.54
Judy Cosler	9.61		Beverly Craig	13.02
Alice Parsons	8.73		Howard Craig	12.23
Marian Meyer	16.57	5 - 20	Marian Meyer	20.52
Jo Bays	14.22		Charles Meyers	18.26
Trenna Corey	13.15		Jo Bays	17.96
David Hamill	26.06	20 - 50	David Hamill	56.34
Phyllis Alexander	20.62		Phyllis Alexander	34.22
Charlotte Davis	19.31		Susan Korn	22.57
Linda Brezin	45.72	50 - 100	Linda Brezin	58.57
Page Thomas III	37.28		Page Thomas III	51.85
Jennie Robinson	30.59		Bill McCartney	46.41
Larry Kupper	76.30	100 - 200	Ben Kompa	151.55
Nancy Crow	60.47		Xiyuan Ge	142.78
Richard Cole	56.08		Larry Kupper	92.63
Linda Owen	36.39	200 - 300	Linda Owen	73.66
Ian Cloudsdale	32.52		Ian Cloudsdale	41.73
Robin Marin	29.86		Keith Adams	39.05
Betsy Mebane	68.02	300 - 500	Betsy Mebane	108.99
Barry Buehler	55.12		Paul Fantz	72.52
Paul Fantz	54.59		Barry Buehler	71.65
Melanie Riva	154.11	500 - 1,000	Melanie Riva	205.39
Skip Riva	142.96		Skip Riva	200.26
Andrea Roitman	112.28		Andrea Roitman	136.27
Tom Roberg	197.88	1,000 - 2,500	Tom Roberg	291.50
Jim Bean	129.16		Jim Bean	167.61
Barbara Martin	101.04		Kathy Newman	165.55
Mort Stromberg	183.62	2,500 - 5,000	Ken Dye	226.38
Ken Dye	150.06		Mort Stromberg	221.40
Howard Su	110.95		Howard Su	181.14
Irene Adams	136.25	5,000 - 7,500	Josef Blass	440.38
Wayne Stuart III	28.09		Wayne Stuart III	208.74
Peggy Barbee	14.33		Irene Adams	162.57
George Bloomer	230.96	10,000+	Jacek Pszczola	1176.71
Kay Joyce	145.65		Kay Joyce	910.30
Randy Joyce	72.75		Randy Joyce	836.19