

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

NOVEMBER , 2021

Happy Halloween!

It has been wonderful to see so many of your faces again at Triangle Bridge Academy as we resume bridge games in person. Up next is our first sectional tournament since the pandemic started. We cancelled one on March 11, 2020 and are rebooting now 18 months later. In fact, this tournament will be one of the very first fully sanctioned sectionals in District 7. It will be held November 11-14, at Triangle Bridge Academy with both Open and 499 events each day. Proof of Covid vaccinations and face masks are required. So – Call your partner and grab your most comfortable mask and join us for a fun weekend of bridge. Please be aware that we will ask players to not eat while sitting at the playing tables. There will be designated food tables for such use. See more details in the flyer in your electronic mailbox or later in this edition of the Alert.

Also – Voting begins on November 1st for the 2022 Unit 191 Board of Directors. Step-by-step instructions for electronic voting are available in this Alert and posted on the Unit website. If you have difficulty or need assistance, please contact Ann Fisher at **(919) 417-7176** OR – if you prefer to vote on paper, ballots are available at Triangle Bridge Academy or one can be mailed to you directly. So get your votes recorded before November 23, 2021. We have excellent candidates and I look forward to working with them all!

Lastly, I want to thank Barbara Martin for serving as the Alert Editor for oh-so-many years. She is retiring from this commitment as of this issue of the Alert. She will be tough to replace. She gamely served as my “nudger” for the past two years. Her replacement will have tough shoes to fill. Thank you - Barbara!

Thought for the day!

“It's not enough to win the tricks that belong to you. Try also for some that belong to the opponents.” Alfred Sheinwold



Opener Jumps after a 2/1

By *Randy Joyce*

(It is not really too common)

1. Opener jumps to show a solid suit.

Example: 1 Spade P 2 Clubs P

3 Spades

This doesn't show any extra values, but promises a solid suit.

For our purposes, a solid suit requires at least AKQJxx or AKQTxxx. The suit must be this good because pesky partner sometimes has a void. Both of these suits will run an acceptable number of times opposite NONE in partner's hand.

Why do we need to show a solid suit? Partner seldom gets excited by singleton 2 in your suit, but has a really good hand.

This will allay his fears and let him know that the partnership has an appropriate trump suit.

2. Opener has a 4+ card fit for partner's 2/1 suit and a singleton somewhere. A jump promises at least 4 trumps, and the suit that he jumps in denotes the singleton. As I used to tell my classes, lots of times you do not have enough HCP on slam hands, but shortness opposite non-wasted values lets you get to slam with less than the recommended number of HCP. Be very careful of one auction! You open 1 of a major and partner bids 2 Diamonds. If you splinter in Clubs, you get beyond 3NT, which is frequently the best contract, if partner has values in your shortness.

3. The auction 1 Spade P 2 Hearts (Which shows 5+) P 3 Hearts shows extras. It is OK to splinter if you have a singleton, because that doesn't imply extras. It is just showing your singleton and 4 trumps. With a minimum, and 3 or 4 Hearts, BID 4 Hearts to tell partner that you have a DOG, no shortness and to bid on at his own risk.

4. 2/1 is a resource finding mechanism. You keep the auctions low until you find acceptable fits and shortness. Always use the principle, "The less you bid, the more you have."

Jumps are really not needed except in the noted examples.



This month's member in the spotlight is **Suzie Goldberg**. She is an accomplished bridge player and has served as Unit 191 Treasurer for the past five years.

Suzie and her husband, Marc, moved to Durham six years ago. They landed here after moving all around the country during Marc's Navy career. Along the way, Suzie raised three sons, became a Certified Public Accountant, and made many friends. According to Suzie, Durham is the last move- she is here to stay.



Playing games as a child, Suzie started bridge lessons in 2006 because her mother started taking lessons. She thought it might be a fun way to spend time with her mom. Suzie often traveled to sectional and regional tournaments with her friend and partner, Nancy Hoffman. She vividly remembers one game where they bid and made 7NT- always a special accomplishment, but especially one for newer players. In that same game, against their friends Joanne and Bob Williams, Bob passed Joanne's 2C opening bid, but that happened to be the only contract that could make. Very unusual. Both pairs finished first in their respective directions.

With her penchant for card games and her mathematical and analytical background, Suzie's bridge talent progressed rapidly. She is a Gold Life Master and has won the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards numerous times. She has taken advantage of the Covid Virtual game world by substituting for clubs that needed a player to complete a pair and by reuniting with friends living in distant cities.

Suzie has made lasting contributions to the financial health of Unit 191. She transitioned the financial records to Quickbooks and developed financial reports that provided detail and analysis. She formalized the process of accounting for the thousands of dollars of cash received at unit sectional tournaments and developed meaningful reports for the board to review.

While bridge is Suzie's major interest, she is also active in a local Pickleball club where she has earned gold and silver medals in competition. She also enjoys Mahjong and is an avid reader.

♠♥ Come Play with Us in November! As a Mentee or Mentor! ♦♣

Two mentee-mentor games were held in **October**. The first was a first **face-to-face mentee-mentor game** on **Tuesday, October 5th**, at **Triangle Bridge Academy**. The second was an **online BBO mentee-mentor game**, hosted by **Triangle Bridge**, on **Friday, October 15th**. *Thanks to all who came out to play.* The hands were challenging, the competition was excellent and tough—witness the tightly bunched scores in the face-to-face game—and all had a delightful time!

Hearty congratulations to the **face-to-face leaderboard** on **October 5th**:

- John A. Schachte & John Schachte**, 1st overall & 1st NS with 58.75%
- Anna Stachon & Ed Fuller**, 2nd overall & 1st EW with 56.25%.
- Bev Craig & Kathy Newman**, 3rd/4th overall & 2nd/3rd EW with 53.13%.
- Barbara Bute & Maggie Lindquist**, 3rd/4th overall & 2nd/3rd EW with 53.13%.
- Sherrill Kruse & Ian Cloudsdale**, 5th overall & 2nd NS with 51.25%.
- Ralph Balzac & Bill Ingram**, 6th overall & 3rd NS with 49.38%.

and to the **online leaderboard** on **October 15th**:

- Jill Koury & Janet Dence**, 1st overall & 1st NS with 61.01%
- Gerri Stanczyk & John Sommer**, 2nd overall & 1st EW with 58.04%
- Bev Craig & Ed Fuller**, 3rd overall & 2nd EW with 56.25%.
- Catherine Garland & Bob Dunas**, 4th overall & 2nd NS with 55.95%.
- Pam Rush & John Rush**, 5th overall & 3rd NS with 54.76%.
- Larry Stanczyk & Nancy Sparks**, 6th overall & 3rd EW with 53.87%.

We gave back to the local community in this time of need, donating **\$3** of each player's **online game fee**, or **\$108**, to the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina**.

Please join us

- for a **face-to-face mentee-mentor game** at **12:30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, November 2nd**, at **Triangle Bridge Academy**, 2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd., Suite 102, Durham, NC (the game will be preceded by a 20-minute lesson at 12:00 noon), or
- for an **online mentee-mentor game** at **7:00 p.m.** on **Friday, November 19th** hosted by **Triangle Bridge on BBO (VACB252858)**, or
- **for both games.**

Let us know if you would like to play and need a mentor.

♠♥ Want to give back? **Be a Mentor! We Need You!** ♦♣

Play every card well,

Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Barbara Bute, & Maggie Lindquist

Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee

Donna Walther (Board Liaison)

IT IS TIME TO VOTE FOR UNIT 191 BOARD DIRECTORS!



We Want You To Vote!

The slate of candidates from the Unit 191's Nomination Committee is posted on the unit's website: https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/BL_Alert_2021-10-Special.pdf

Unit 191's Nomination/Election Committee offers two ways to vote:

- **Online ballot** in the **Members Only** section of the unit website (see instructions below).
- **Paper ballot** from **Ann Fisher** from November 1st to 15th. Call **(919) 417-7176**.

Vote for up to four of the candidates for the Unit 191 Board Directors. **Ballots with more than 4 choices are invalid.** Voting from **November 1st to November 22nd**. Paper ballots must be **received by November 22nd**.

Please **VOTE!**



Instructions for accessing the Unit 191 online ballot and voting online:

- Go to the unit website at <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/>
- Select **Members Only** from the tabs on the left-hand side of the home page.
- Enter your ACBL Number or Email or Name.
- Enter your password.

If this is the first time that you have used "Members Only", click [Set/Reset Password].

Note: After you click [Set/Reset Password], you will get a prompt to **Send Set Password Email**.

BridgeWebs will then send you an email with a link to reset your password. If you do not see the email in your Inbox, check your Spam folder.

Note: This is a *unique personal password* that you create *just* for the Unit 191 website. It is **not** your ACBL password for MyACBL on acbl.org.

- Across the top of the **Members Only** page you will see a number of tabs.
[For instance, the **Member List** tab is the current Unit 191 online directory.]
- Select the **Unit 191 Director Ballot** tab (currently on the far right).
- Vote for your candidates from the ballot. Write-in candidates are acceptable. Vote for **up to four** candidates. Ballots with **more than 4 choices** are **invalid**.
- Click **Cast Ballot** at the bottom of the ballot to cast your vote.
- You're done. Thank you!

If you have any questions or difficulties in the online voting? Contact Ed Fuller at [<edwin.fuller@gmail.com>](mailto:edwin.fuller@gmail.com) or (301) 906-1667.

IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!!!!

We hope that you will join us as we return to tournament bridge on November 11-14, 2021 in Durham, NC. Our sectional tournament will follow all ACBL and local safety guidelines. Proof of vaccine and masks are required to participate. Let's have fun! Please contact one of our tournament chairmen if you have questions.



Bright Leaf Unit 191 Fall Sectional November 11-14, 2021



Tournament Chair
Henry Meguid (919) 724-6239

Tournament Co-Chair
Chris Moll (504) 495-7485

All Events:

Triangle Bridge Academy
2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd
Durham, NC (919) 808-8068

Partnership Requests:

Ray McEntee
(984) 220-6467
rmcentee2@gmail.com

Nearby Lodging:

La Quinta Inns & Suites
4414 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd
Durham (919) 401-9680



Thursday, November 11

7:00 pm Open and 499'er Swiss Teams

Friday, November 12

10:00 am Open & 499'er pairs
*2:30pm Open & 499'er pairs

Saturday, November 13

10:00 am A/X, B/C/D & 499'er pairs
*2:30pm A/X, B/C/D & 499'er pairs
Both 2:30 games award extra regionally rated silver points

Sunday, November 14

10:00 am & TBD Open and 499'er Swiss Teams
(stratification based on team MP average)
Play through with lunch included

Open Stratification:

0-1000, 1000-3000, 3000+
A/X 0-5000, 5000+
B/C/D 0-1000, 1000-2000, 2000-3000

499'er Stratification:

0-100, 100-300, 300-500

All ACBL COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

MEET THE CANDIDATES.....

MARY NEWMAN



My name is Mary Newman and I am a candidate for the Unit 191 Board. I am a Washington, DC, native and selected Duke University for my undergraduate experience, not realizing that Duke and Durham would become a lifelong decision as well. I learned to play “dorm bridge” the spring semester of my freshman year in 1969 and have been playing ever since. I took up duplicate more seriously in 2004 the week after I retired from Duke. Two cute anecdotes that I have never forgotten:

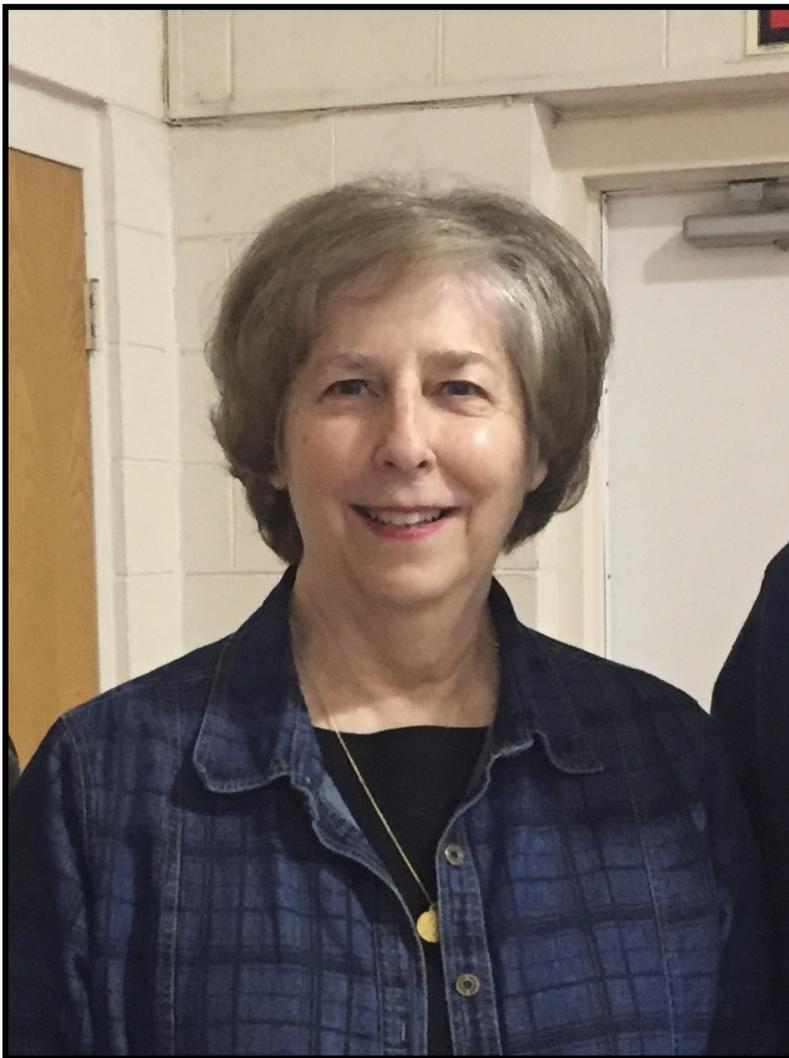
- 1) During that spring of 1969 sitting on the floor of the dorm, I was the dealer, and after shuffling and cutting, I dealt (honestly) myself a 34 point hand. Being a newbie, 1 NT bids were the highest bids I had been taught up to that point, so I opened 1 NT, followed by three passes, and everybody threw their cards in. I was shocked and was told that they didn’t play one-bids, even 1 NT.
- 2) The other was a phone call I received from my daughter when she was a Duke student taking a psychology course. She told me to keep playing bridge as she had just learned in her class that it was one of the single best things we could do to keep aging minds sharp. Heretofore, both of my daughters were very annoyed when I kept trying to teach them the very best game around. So merrily, I play bridge with you all and spades when I get together with my family. I would consider myself honored to represent your interests on the Unit Board. This is an especially trying time for many small businesses, and we will need to think creatively and proactively to make sure that the clubs within Unit 191 remain viable. It is my hope that I would be an asset to the board.

GAIL KING

My husband and I both have lived in Durham our entire lives. From a very young age I remember playing cards with my family and friends. We played a lot of Canasta, Rook, and Rummy games. When I went to college, my suite mates would not play cards with me until I let them teach me bridge. I was immediately addicted and when anyone wants to know what my major was, I always say "Bridge". I will admit I am a college drop-out (my father always blamed my playing Bridge for that) and went to work at UNC-CH until I retired after 39 years.

I continued to play "social" bridge until 2015 when a friend asked me to try Duplicate. After a couple of sessions, it was apparent we didn't know what our opponents were bidding. I started taking classes and have continued taking classes until this day. I think we are so fortunate in this area to have the best Bridge teachers. I love the game of Bridge because one never gets bored-frustrated yes-but never bored. The game is always evolving. I have met so many wonderful people with many becoming good friends. My brain has received much needed exercise and my nerves at times have been tested. As a matter of fact, once playing online when you could maybe say (okay yell) out loud what you are thinking, my husband quietly came in the room and placed a heart monitor on my desk! He has said that he wished he had a hobby that he enjoyed as much I enjoy Bridge.

Bridge and this Unit has become a large part of my life and I want to support and do whatever I can to help this great game and our Unit continue to grow.



BARBARA BUTE

I started playing bridge under duress. My sister Judy made me do it. As kids we had frittered away many summers by the pool playing Spades and Hearts, but I had always been intimidated by the obscure language of Bridge bidding, and shied away from the game. But a few years ago, my sister proclaimed that we were going to play bridge together in the Nationals in Washington, D.C. and that I'd better be ready, and besides, if you have less than 5 points, you can play for free in the Nationals! Since she's my big sister, I always try to live up to her expectations. I didn't want to humiliate myself, even for free, so I found myself some bridge lessons, forced myself to find a partner or two, and did my best to wrap my head around making bids that had nothing to do with what you actually thought you could make. Then we went to Washington and played in the Nationals, where I was more or less humiliated by not understanding inverted minors or Jacoby 2NT (you really shouldn't pass that). But by then...I was hooked.



I came to see later that there are much gentler and friendlier ways to get new players into the game. I participated in the mentor/mentee games, and then joined the mentor/mentee committee. I came to appreciate how much time and energy it takes, from many volunteers, for our bridge community to function as smoothly and efficiently as it does. While it's nice to just show up and enjoy the fruits of other people's efforts, I believe in giving back to those things which bring us joy. So that's why I'm putting my name in the ring for ACBL Board representative. Thanks, Sis.

In my non-bridge life, I am a grandmother, a practicing collaborative family law attorney, I play the saxophone in a community jazz band, and I enjoy scuba diving and underwater photography. I am in the process of being adopted by our wild and whacky foster dog, who is rapidly becoming a "foster fail".

ROSE MELTZER

I would be honored to be on the Unit 191 board and will work very hard to keep up the dignity and honor of bridge for the entire community. I was president of the unit board in Westchester, New York, District 3, and then on the District 3 board so I do have extensive experience in the tournament bridge operations.



LORI SCANGA

I would like to thank the ACBL Unit 191 Nominating Committee for the invitation to run for the Board. It is a great honor to be nominated by such an outstanding group of friends and players.

My history of playing bridge began when my older brothers and sisters taught me how to play. I played intermittently in college, but then I did not play much during my working life. I started to think about playing again, but the social bridge opportunities were not there anymore. I began to search for bridge clubs and I was fortunate to find the Triangle Bridge Club. The first time I showed up “off the street” (with zero masterpoints and no partner), I was warmly welcomed, Valerie Roberts played with me in the open game, and I was hooked. I joined ACBL that day in 2016.

I fell in love with duplicate bridge because I’m naturally competitive and I’m good at math. I find duplicate bridge to be fascinating, challenging, and addictive! I have also noticed social and health benefits from playing bridge. I have made so many friends along the way and playing bridge feels like yoga for my brain. I have learned a tremendous amount about the play of the game from my directors, teachers, partners, and mentors. I have realized that there is so much more to bridge than the play of the cards. My goals if elected would be to help build the membership of Unit 191, to give to new players and members the opportunities that were given to me, and to contribute personally to the unit and ACBL. I welcome the opportunity to learn and contribute to the business and organizational aspects of the game as a Board member.



KAREN POPOVICH

As a young girl, I remember watching my granddad and his friends sit around the kitchen table playing Pinochle on long summer nights. I suppose that's where my fascination for competitive card play began. Much later, as an adult, a dear friend of mine, who played Goren bridge with her husband, invited me to take a 6-week bridge class through Durham Academy Nights. We learned Audrey Grant's strategy and, because we needed a fourth player, I bribed my then 13-year-old son with a \$20 bill to read Audrey's book so he could partner with her husband. Thereafter, many a summer night was spent sitting around *my* kitchen table *losing* rubber bridge to my son!

I first dabbled seriously in duplicate bridge about 4 years ago on an extended stay visit to Portland, Oregon to visit my daughter. On a whim, I contacted the local bridge club and asked to play. My partner, Elsie, who was much more experienced than me, kindly showed me the ropes. Despite my lack of bridge convention knowledge and my exuberance to jump to game, we played well together, and she encouraged me to seek out a club in NC when I returned home. The rest is history, so to speak.

Duplicate bridge is the perfect blend of strategy and skill, thought and discourse, competition and camaraderie, entertainment and vocation. I find it to be very mindful. When I am at the table, the distractions of my day are gone. I focus on the moment in front of me: each bid, each card and, perhaps, each cookie I eat from the snack table! Where else do I willingly give up my phone and connection to the outside world?

I feel fortunate to be part of a bridge club that feels like family. I welcome the opportunity to give back to the organization that has mentored me in spirit and play over the past few years. As a physician and mother of three, I believe I can contribute a strong sense of managerial skills, cooperation and problem solving.

That said, I believe my biggest asset as a board member would be my enthusiasm for this game and my love of meeting and encouraging people to play. Young, old, beginner or expert, there's always a seat at the table!

