

# **BRIGHT LEAF ALERT**

**Official Newsletter of ACBL Unit 191**

**January, 2022**

**Happy New Year! Unit 191 is ready! We are anticipating some special events in the coming months. Sectional and regional bridge tournaments have returned for vaccinated players. Games at our local clubs have been growing. We enjoyed celebrating our members' 2021 bridge success in mid-December and as I write I am anticipating a fun New Years' Eve celebration at Triangle Bridge Academy in a few days.**

**I encourage you to frequently check the Unit website for updates on all scheduled events.**

**<https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf>**

**Marc Goldberg does a wonderful job updating the website and making information available at your fingertips. You can also find contact information for all your Unit 191 friends there as well. Reach out and encourage your partners to return to face-2-face bridge.**

**Our mentoring program is in full swing now. Two games a month – one virtual and one in person. Find out more on the Unit website. BUT – WE NEED MENTORS! We have several novice players who have yet to find a permanent mentor for this year. Please consider giving a little of your time to help a newer player learn. Contact a member of our mentoring committee for more information.**

**All I want in 2022 is to spend more time with friends, more bridge games in person and the ability to see our friends' smiles and give hugs! I am looking forward to seeing you all!**

**Deanna Larus  
Unit 191 President**

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**January 4, 2022: Mentor/Mentee Game 12:30 PM — Triangle Bridge Academy**

**Januaty 21, 2022: Mentor/Mentee Game 7:00 PM — Online on BBO**

**February 17—20, 2022: Raleigh Bridge Unit Sectional Tournament (Sunday Swiss will be played at the Triangle Bridge Academy.)**

**March 3-6: Unit 191 March Gladness Sectional — Triangle Bridge Academy**

# Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee Program

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## **Contributions to Charity from the Mentoring Program**

All the mentee-mentor games during the last Mentoring Program year, September 2020 to August 2021, were online. The club owners, Chris Moll and Henry Meguid, returned **\$3** of each player's **online game fee** to Unit 191 for donation to a local charity. The funds were donated to the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina** to assist in this time of need during the pandemic.

**The total contributions for the 2020-2021 mentoring program year were \$1,608!** Thus far this program year, September 2021 to December 2021, we have donated another **\$438**.

Thank you, bridge players. You have made a difference!!

Ed Fuller, Beverly Craig, Barbara Bute, & Maggie Lindquist  
Unit 191 Mentoring Program Committee  
Donna Walther (Board Liaison)

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## **Come Play with Us in 2022!! As a Mentee or Mentor!**

The Unit 191 Mentoring Program closed out the tumultuous year of 2021 with **face-to-face mentee-mentor games** on **Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **December 7<sup>th</sup>**, and **online BBO mentee-mentor games** on **Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** and **December 17<sup>th</sup>**. **Thanks to all who came out to play.** The hands were challenging, the competition was excellent and tough, and all had a delightful time!

**Hearty congratulations** to the **face-to-face leaderboard** on **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**:

Michael Lavine & Deborah Reed, 1<sup>st</sup> overall with 60.50%  
Dixie Hapgood & Joyce Jenzano, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with 60.19%.  
Anna Stachon & Bev Craig, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with 54.17%.  
Nancy Garman & Eric Hamilton, 4<sup>th</sup> overall with 53.24%.

to the **online leaderboard** on **November 19<sup>th</sup>**:

Rich Schneider & Jim Rhew, 1<sup>st</sup> overall & 1<sup>st</sup> NS with 63.33%  
Pam Rush & John Rush, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall & 1<sup>st</sup> EW with 60.56%  
Dana Lange & Deanna Larus, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall & 2<sup>nd</sup> EW with 57.22%  
Dwight Smith & Paul Morrissette, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> overall & 2<sup>nd</sup> NS with 55.28%  
Gerri Stanczyk & Randy Poindexter, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> overall & 3<sup>rd</sup> EW with 55.28%  
Liz Schuler & Reece Schuler, 3<sup>rd</sup> overall & 3<sup>rd</sup> NS with 54.72%.

to the **face-to-face leaderboard** on **December 7<sup>th</sup>**:

Michael Lavine & Deborah Reed, 1<sup>st</sup> overall with 58.73%  
John Schachte & John A. Schachte, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with 56.35%.  
Nancy Garman & Eric Hamilton, 4<sup>th</sup> overall with 55.56%.

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Please **join us in 2022** for a **face-to-face mentee-mentor game at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4th** 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); and an **online mentee-mentor game at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** hosted by **Triangle Bridge on BBO (VACB252858)**.

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**Alice Hughley**

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The "Spotlight" is a new monthly feature of *The Alert*. The light will shine on a different member of our unit in each issue providing our readers with the opportunity to learn a bit more about that person. He or she will select someone to write about in the next issue.

**We are pleased to introduce our Spotlight column by shining the light on Unit 191's newest Life Master, Alice Hughley. Alice achieved a double accomplishment by becoming a Life Master and a Bronze Life Master simultaneously when she partnered with Joseph Slievert in an online tournament in November.**

**Alice spent her childhood in Clinton, North Carolina, but probably feels like a native of the Triangle, having lived in Durham since 1980. She and her husband, Dr. Carey Hughley, were married on Christmas Day in 1966. They celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on the recent Yuletide holiday.**

**Her career in education included positions as a Reading Specialist and Guidance Counsellor as well as several assignments in School Administration. She retired in 2000 as the Assistant Principal of the West Millbrook Middle School in Wake County.**

**Alice had played Bridge socially for years and credits LaVerne and Harold Burch with introducing her to the world of duplicate about ten years ago. She is grateful to them for introducing her to this fascinating game.**

**"I started to play duplicate seriously after the tragic loss off my son, Carey III," she says. "I found that through grief counseling, Bible Study Fellowships and playing bridge, there was some relief from the void his loss created."**

**She says she has been fortunate to have learned from a long list of partners, teachers and mentors. We won't mention any names here out of fear of overlooking someone. You know who you are and how thankful Alice is.**

**She is also grateful to Chris Moll and Henry Meguid for giving her the opportunity to serve as the guaranteed partner for many of their games. Chris and Henry appreciate her willingness to do so as do all the players that she rescues from three and four board sit-outs!**

**We're certain that the entire membership of Unit 191 joins us in congratulating Alice on her hard earned accomplishment**

# The Unit 191 ALERT Panel

*The Unit 191 Alert Panel is another new addition to our monthly newsletter. The panel members are six of the top bridge players in our Unit. Readers are invited to submit bridge-related questions to the panel.*

*Panel members are Kay & Randy Joyce, Rose Meltzer, Chris Moll, Wayne Stuart, and John Torrey. If you have a question that you would like the panel to answer in a future issue, please submit it to paul@morrissette.com.*

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This month's question to the Unit 191 ALERT Panel is: ***There are many conventions for bidding after opponents open One No-Trump including Cappelletti. Don't, Hello, Meckwell, etc., etc. Which of these do you prefer to use? Please briefly explain why.***

***Kay Joyce responded for herself and Randy: "We play Meckwell against strong notrumps, and think that it works better than any of the many other conventions that we have tried. It focuses on identifying our major suits, if we have one, and the structure allows the opponents to disregard our bid (which is sometimes a good idea for us) while we communicate with partner. It is not intended to be played against a weak notrump, because we need to have a penalty double available. We play a simple, old convention, called Astro, against weak notrumps."***

***Rose Meltzer: Over opponents' 1NT, Nik and I use transfers for our suit; so if I bid 2D = H, 2H = S. The benefit is your partner now knows your suit and, if on lead knows just what to do. It also helps by putting the strong 1NT bidder on lead if we win the auction. 2C is both majors and double is penalty; 2S is 4S plus a longer minor (usually 6) and 2NT is 4H with a longer minor.***

***That being said, if I had to choose another convention I would pick Meckwell. It seems to give you the most options for different hands and includes one suiter, 2 suiters, majors and most of all, double for penalty!***

***Chris Moll: For most players, it can be quite an effort to remember different methods over strong and weak 1NT opening bids.***

***Simplest is Landy: 2C shows the majors, 2D, 2H, and 2S are natural, 2NT shows the minors, Double shows strong NT strength or better.***

***Better is Revised Cappelletti: 2C shows one minor or major/minor (respond 2D to find out what partner has). 2D shows both majors. 2H, 2S are natural. 2NT shows the minors. Double shows strong NT strength or better.***

***My favorite is HELLO: 2C shows diamonds or major/minor, 2D shows hearts, 2H shows the majors, 2S is natural, 2NT shows clubs, 3C shows the minors, 3D shows a very good hand with both majors. Double shows strong NT strength against weak NT and is penalty oriented against strong NT. Typical 2 suiters are 5-5 (many advanced play 5-4) and 1 suiter is 6 card suit (many advanced play 5 card suit). Other adjustments often occur when passed or in balance seat.***

***Last tip: Pay attention to vulnerability and watch your suit quality when you compete!***

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**Wayne Stuart: I prefer Landy. It works like this:**

**DBL - penalty**

**2C - majors (at least 5-4 either way)**

**2D - 5+ hearts**

**2H - 5+ spades**

**2S - 4S and 5+ minor**

**2NT - 4H and 5+ minor**

**3m - natural, wide ranging**

**Landy covers all the important hand types and allows us to find the longer major when we have both. It preserves a penalty double which is important because so many opponents are now playing weak NT openings. With Landy we can play the same system against both weak and strong NT and give my poor old memory a slight break. I've seen a number of disasters occur when one partner doesn't notice the opponent's NT range or when something like 13-16 comes up and one partner takes it as strong and the other takes it as weak.**

**John Torrey: I have used the Astro convention for competing against opening 1NT for over 50 years; it is simple but effective. Astro has only two conventional overcalls: 2 Clubs shows hearts and a lower suit, and 2 Diamonds shows spades and some other suit (possibly hearts). 2 Heart and 2 Spade overcalls are natural one-suiters. After the artificial 2 Clubs or 2 Diamonds, the Advancer can bid the next higher suit when unable to support the known major; when the Overcaller's suits are touching, you stop at the 2-level.**

**A Newly-Legal System**

**Here's a system I came up with as I was preparing this article. It's similar to Suzman Transfers (where most overcalls are transfers), which I learned from Joanna Pagano. It extends a concept called Suction, where a bid shows either the next higher suit or the two suits higher than that. The 2-level bids are**

**Double: Clubs or hearts and a minor**

**2 Clubs: Diamonds or spades and a red suit**

**2 Diamonds: Hearts or spades-clubs**

**2 Hearts: Spades**

**2 Spades: Minors, maybe prefer clubs**

**2 NT: Minors, prefer diamonds**

**Suction handles touching-suits pairs; I've added the non-touching pairs (hearts-clubs and spades-diamonds) in a way that shows the minor in time to either have a two-level choice between suits, or (at least) know what the minor is. In the auction:**

**1NT - 2C - Pass - 2D - Pass - 2H**

**2H shows both majors; 2S would show spades and diamonds.**

**The system may look complex, but really most bids are close to the same, one suit higher or lower. The system finds major suit fits (unlike DONT), is about as safe as possible, and frequently puts the opening 1NT bidder on lead when we buy the contract. If I had to name it I might choose Outlaw, because it would not have been legal in the ACBL prior to the 2020 convention charts.**

The Unit 191 2022 Board of Directors posed for this photo before their first meeting:



(left to right) Chris Moll, Gail King, Mary Newman (Secretary), Barbara Bute, Ann Fisher (Vice-President), Deanna Laurus (President) , Ian Cloudsdale (Treasurer), Paul Morrissette, Eric Hamilton, Phyllis Woody, Karen Popovich (absent, Donna Wal-

### Unit 191 Membership Report

(Submitted by Phyllis Woody – Includes all transactions processed 10/31/21 to 12/1/21)

**562 Members**

**New Members**

Mary Howe	207 Carolina Farm Road	Pittsboro, N.C. 27312
Glenda Moser	3107 Cornwall Road	Durham, N.C. 27707
Susan Rohde	27 Kings Mount Court	Durham, N.C. 27713

**New Club Master**

Jeanne Gismondi

**New Life Master**

Alice Hughley

**New Bronze Life Masters**

Lori Birnbaum  
Alice Hughley

**New Ruby Life Masters**

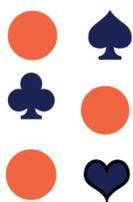
Irwin Kahn  
David Schreiber

**Transfers Out Of Unit**

Diana L. Eastwood	to Unit 119 North State
Tammy McDonald	to Unit 512 Somona Valley, California
Patricia Bohdoh	to Unit 253 Atlanta, Georgia
E.C. Bohdoh	to Unit 253 Atlanta, Georgia
Joy D, McKenzie Smith	to Unit 165 Tennessee

**Deceased**

Pearl Fuchs Schecter  
Diana B. London



Join us for  
**MARCH GLADNESS**  
March 3-6, 2022



Let's leave March Madness to the college hoopsters.  
Live, Face-to-Face Bridge at The Triangle Bridge Academy

Tournament Chair:  
Paul Morrisette  
919-403-3484  
paul@morrissette.com

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

All ACBL Covid-19  
protocols  
will be followed.

**Thursday, March 3**

**7:00 PM Open & 499'er Swiss Teams**

**Friday, March 4**

**10:00 AM Open & 499'er pairs**

**\* 2:30 PM Open & 499'er pairs**

**Saturday, March 5**

**10:00 AM A/X, B/C/D & 499'er pairs**

**\* 2:30 PM A/X, B/C/D & 499'er pairs**

\*Both 2:30 games will award regionally  
rated silver points

**Sunday, March 6**

**10:00 AM Open & 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

Nearby Lodging:  
La Quinta Inns & Suites  
4414 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd.  
Durham, NC (919) 401-9660



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

Check our website for updates; <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/>

**Editor's Note: This is my first attempt at producing The Alert. If you spot any errors or have any suggestions for improvement, please let me know. I will particularly welcome questions for submission to the Alert Panel. I can be reached via email at [paul@morrissette.com](mailto:paul@morrissette.com) or by phone at 919-403-3484.**