



## Bright Leaf Alert- April 2022

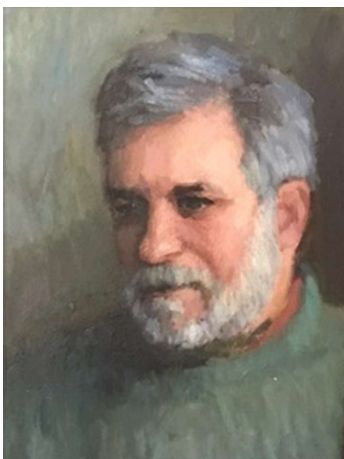
Action is picking up in Unit 191. Now that masks are optional and COVID presence is down, attendance at club games is growing. Color me happy! Now if our Future Life Masters would return in mass, Triangle Bridge Academy will happily offer two sections for each game – an Open section and a Limited section. We are making plans for some special opportunities for non-Life Master players in the coming months – starting with Triangle Bridge Academy's FLM sectional next week – April 7-10<sup>th</sup>. All players below the rank of Life Master are invited to compete in pairs events and a Sunday swiss game with Silver masterpoints up for grabs. Details provided at the end of this newsletter. Simultaneously, Triangle Bridge Academy will separately run its regularly scheduled Open games.

Also this month, all ACBL games will be Charity games meaning more masterpoints for us all. We are all hoping to see games with 10+ tables each day! Join us!

Thanks to all who came and played at our Spring Sectional last month. Given that it was the third sectional in our area in three weeks, attendance was expectedly down a bit as compared to our fall sectional. Thanks for the Tournament committee – Gail King, Ann Fisher, Ian Cloudsdale, Ray McEntee, Diane Saulsberry and Chris Moll for all of their hard work to bring this opportunity to you. A fun time was had by all.

Unit 191 is looking for someone to serve as editor of our monthly newsletter. This job requires just a few hours of your time each month, collecting information and preparing the document to be posted on the Unit website and sent by email to our members. If you are interested and willing, please seek a Unit Board member to discuss further. Thank you in advance.

## Player Spotlight- Michael Lavine



Michael Lavine comes from a bridge playing family. Michael's great-uncle was Sam Rabinowitz, a well-known player in Trenton, NJ who wrote the bridge column for the Trenton Times. Michael's uncle Herb Lavine is one of the top money bridge players in New York City and was featured several times in the New York Times bridge columns. Herb's cousin Marty Rabinowitz is an active tournament player and participated in the Bridge Bulletin's Bidding Box in January of 2018.

As a youth Michael learned bridge from his parents. He played some – not very well he now realizes – into his thirties when he left the game and pursued a career as a statistician. Michael taught statistics at Duke University for twenty years, then UMass Amherst for ten years. After he retired from UMass he moved back to Durham and joined the Army Research Office where he directed ARO's program for probability and statistics until his second retirement, in 2020. It was then that he again took up bridge and started playing at the Triangle Bridge Academy. Michael would like to thank Henry Meguid and Chris Moll for helping him get started there and for finding partners who matched his level in the game.

Without a job to occupy his time and thoughts, Michael started studying and playing bridge more intensively. He likes bridge for its complexity and teamwork and enjoys feeling that he is increasing his mastery of the game, even though he will tell you he still needs to count better and more consistently. His three favorite bridge web sites are Richard Pavlicek's advanced lessons at <http://rpbridge.net>, bridgebum's descriptions of conventions at <https://www.bridgebum.com>, and Larry Cohen's articles at <https://www.larryco.com>.

Michael's wife, Louise, is an accomplished painter. Her portrait of him accompanies this article.

# Mentoring Program News

The next **Unit 191 face-to-face Mentee-Mentor game** is **next Tuesday afternoon, April 5<sup>th</sup>**, at **12:30 p.m.**

♠ ♥ *Let us know if you are planning to play* ♦ ♣

The game will be 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.

Triangle Bridge Academy's *requirements for in-person play*:

- Show *proof of full vaccination*.
- *Wearing a mask* is NOW *optional*.
- Sign a **COVID liability release form**.

Mentees are encouraged to pay their Mentor's game fee in appreciation of the time, efforts, and knowledge they share. The game fee is \$11 per player for the face-to-face games. Unit 191 will subsidize \$5 of the mentor's fee for **Unit 191 mentees** playing in the face-to-face mentee-mentor games.

*\* If you would like to play and need a mentor, let us know.*

Play every card well,  
Ed Fuller

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following members who advanced in rank in the last month.

New Junior Master – **Pam Caruso**

New Advanced NABC Master – **Marian Meyer, Tony Meyer, Lori Scanga**

New Life Masters – **Renee Getz and Sandra Irby**

New Silver Life Masters – **Allen Feigenbaum**

New Gold Life Masters – **Sally Foushee**

And last, but not least, congratulations to **Chris Moll** for becoming a **Grand Life Master** at the National Tournament in Reno, Nevada. Chris won the Silver Ribbon pairs at the NABC, playing with Russell Samuel of Coram, NY in a first-time partnership! Such a rare achievement! Please congratulate him when you see him.

# TRIANGLE BRIDGE ACADEMY



Spring Future Life Master Sectional  
April 7 - 10, 2022

Triangle Bridge Academy (919) 908-8068  
2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd Durham, NC 27707

**Thurs**  
**04/07**

7:00 pm  
Stratified Pairs: 0-NLM  
(0-100,100-300,300-NLM<750)

**Fri**  
**04/08**

10:00 am & 2:30pm \*\* (Regionally-rated)  
Stratified Pairs  
0-50 (0-10, 10-20, 20-50)  
0-NLM (0-100,100-300,300-NLM<750)

**Sat**  
**04/09**

10:00 am & 2:30pm \*\* (Regionally-rated)  
Stratified Pairs  
0-50 (0-10, 10-20, 20-50)  
0-NLM (0-100,100-300,300-NLM<750)

**Sun**  
**04/10**

10:00 am & TBD  
Stratified Swiss  
(0-100,100-300,300-NLM<750)  
Plan to pre-order or bring lunch

Tournament & Partnership Chair: Chris Moll 504-495-7485  
Lodging: LaQuinta Inns 4414 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd 919-401-9680

All ACBL covid protocols will be followed