

BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – AUGUST 2023



President's Corner:

Dear Unit Members,

August is North American Pairs month. Qualifying games start at the club level and then move on to the district level. District winners in 3 flights will represent the district at the North American Championships in the Spring of 2024. Come play!

The unit board is thrilled to report that our July Summer Sectional was a great success. We had an overall table count of 158 tables, compared to 112 at last summer's sectional. We are enormously grateful for the terrific leadership of this summer tournament and the fantastic, generous support of our unit members. Tournament co-chairmen Mary Newman and Ira Mueller knocked it out of the park with their attention to all the details, along with Deanna Larus who served as partnership chairman and who also imparts her infinite wisdom on "how to run a tournament" to the rest of us. The unit board also wants to thank Diane Saulsberry and Ian Cloudsdale for their always reliable and continuous contributions to our tournaments.

The Board and Mentor/Mentee committee are working on our program for 2023 – 2024. We are excited to announce that Michael Lavine has agreed to chair the Mentor/Mentee committee this year. Ed Fuller will remain in an advisory capacity as long as needed. Ed's contributions to our MM program are immeasurable. Much gratitude is being sent his way. More details for the MM program from Ed are included below.

Thanks again to all the unit members who gave of their time and \$\$ and brought wonderful goodies to be enjoyed by our tournament participants. Many people commented that the food was excellent, and the tournament well run. It was great to receive so many compliments. We hope this translates into a great turnout for the Fall Sectional in November!

Important notes: the Friday Open Game at the Triangle Bridge Academy will return to a 12:30 PM start time on August 4th, except for August 19th. On Friday August 19th, Patty Tucker will have a workshop entitled "How to Avoid Bidding Bad Slams" from 10 AM – 12:30 PM. The Open Game will begin at 1:30 PM. More info below.

See you at the table,
Ann

Upcoming Events at the Triangle Bridge Academy

How to Avoid Bidding Bad Slams. Stop bidding to the five-level, or higher, on hands that don't belong in slam. Grand Life Master Patty Tucker will be here to discuss Serious 3NT which allows you to explore slam at a level below game AND avoid bidding above game when you find that your hands are not well suited.

When: Friday, August 18, from 10-12:30 pm. The workshop is followed by a light lunch, a **duplicate game at 1:30 pm**, and a chance to win the raffle and play with Patty!

Cost: \$60 per person.

It includes workshop materials, lunch, and duplicate game fees.

[Download Flyer](#)

Have a friend looking to learn bridge, the most exciting card game in the world? Tell them to join us for **Learn to Play Bridge in a Day** with Grand Life Master Patty Tucker. This workshop is suitable for newcomers and is ideal for parents and grandparents to learn with their kids and grandkids.

When: Saturday, August 19, from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Cost: \$60 (early online registration) or \$75 at the door.

Includes instructional materials and lunch.

[Download Flyer](#)

Unit 191 Elections

Elections for the Unit 191 Board of Directors are coming up. Each year, four of the board member's positions are up for election. Please consider stepping into this leadership role. The Board welcomes new members who want to bring their energy, effort, and enthusiasm to the Board! If you would like to be considered as a candidate, please contact Bill Ingram or Karen Popovich and your name will be added to the list. The Board meets monthly and helps guide the Unit in providing bridge opportunities for players, growing membership, and promoting the game of bridge.

**REMOVING OPPONENT'S BIDDING SPACE
BY MATTHIAS HUBERSCHWILLER**

[Click here](#) for this month's VuBridge Quiz

Game Schedule

Triangle Bridge Academy

Monday

9:00 am -11:00 am - Play and Learn online.

[\(Click to register and pay\)](#)

12:30 pm - Stratified Open pairs

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm – Wine and Cheese social Bridge

[\(Click to register\)](#)

Tuesday

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Supervised Newcomers Duplicate game

[\(Click to register\)](#)

Wednesday

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Scheduled classes to be announced in
September

Thursday - the club is closed.

Friday

12:30 pm - Stratified Open pairs **note new time**

1:30-3:30 pm - Supervised Newcomers Duplicate game.

Guaranteed partner

Saturday

9:30 am - No mini lessons in August

10:00 am - 749er pairs (*registration no longer needed*)

Guaranteed partner email *If you need a partner

email unit191brightleaf@gmail.com (Two and a half tables are needed to hold a
749er game.)

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

Triangle Bridge Club

Online BBO open games: Monday and Wednesdays 7:00 pm.

Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee game:

No games in August

Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events (click for flyer):

August 11-13: [Winston-Salem Sectional](#)

August 28-September 3: [Charlotte Regional](#)

September 15-17: [Wilmington Sectional](#)

September 22-24: [Carthage Sectional](#)

September 28-October 1: [Raleigh Sectional](#)

Member Spotlight – Joanna Karwowska – Jeff Kimmel

Born in Poland and Joanna immigrated to the United States with her husband, Hugon (also a bridge player), to attend graduate school in Bloomington, Indiana before coming to Chapel Hill. During those years in graduate school, she initially learned to play bridge. Like many of

us, Joanna found that family and work required her to put bridge aside for many years except for an occasional social game.



More recently she decided to return to the game. Lessons, particularly the Barometer Games, from Henry Meguid, finding other players who were willing to partner with her, and participating in the mentee-mentor program enabled Joanna to further develop her skills.

She says that her mentor, Jane Kiernan, “put up with my crazy bids and plays with infinite patience” and helped her move forward in applying Henry’s lessons. She continues to work on declarer play, occasionally adding a convention, and trying to pay attention to signaling. Although she is still challenged by all aspects of the game, she continues to have fun.

Most recently she drew a long-time friend and work colleague, Jeff Kimmel, back into the game. They have developed a successful partnership.

Jeff grew up in Pennsylvania and Ohio, then he and his wife, Susan, moved to Raleigh after college. They took bridge lessons as newlyweds with Fred Bertram, who introduced students to his Raleigh Vanderbilt Bridge Club. After only a few lessons and precious little play, Jeff and Susan “dropped in” at the club to play their first game of duplicate –an unsuspecting club championship game! They played at the Vanderbilt until moving to Durham. Jeff was then fortunate to partner with colleague Eric Hamilton and with Huron until a relocation to California triggered a 20 year hiatus from bridge. As Joanna returned to bridge, she asked Jeff to join her. They find that the dynamics of a bridge partnership fit their relationship well, as they have always challenged each other. Jeff added “Laughing at our many failures helps.”

Joanna says “Play with whom you enjoy playing. And with whom you have similar goals - to improve your game, to have fun, or to win. But you have to work on it to get better.” Joanna and Jeff choose to work on their game by analyzing and discussing both their successes and mistakes either in person or by email. She tries to put aside a bad result at the table, move on to the next hand, and do the best she can with it.

Regarding bridge and partnership development, Jeff adds “Regular play with patient, stronger partners who serve as mentors has been key. Playing against stronger opponents teaches both skills and humility. Now I find that post-mortem analysis using hand records, The Common Game results, and sometimes a bridge solver, such as <https://mirgo2.co.uk/bridgesolver/>, has helped me cement concepts and recognize patterns. Another bridge solver that others may find helpful, Deep Finesse, is for Windows only.

Both Joanna and Jeff enjoy the more personal interactions of Face-to-Face bridge: seeing familiar faces and having conversations before and after the game and sometimes between hands. She thinks people can “Enjoy the game, no matter how impossible it seems to master. It challenges your analytical skills, your memory and it humbles you. “Remember it is a game! Done right, bridge is fun and challenging at any level or format.”

Mentor/Mentee News

♠ **Want to step up your bridge game?** ♣

Are you a **Non-Life Master with under 500 masterpoints** who would like to improve your bridge skills and enhance your enjoyment of the game? Perhaps you have played against someone you would like to mentor you? If so, ask them to mentor you or let us match you with a mentor.



♥ **Want to give back?** ♦

Are you a **bridge player who would like to give back?** Think of the *mentors* who have helped you improve your bridge skills and enjoyment of the game. Perhaps you know someone who might be interested **in having a mentor?** Consider asking them or let us know you would like to be a mentor and we will match you with a mentee.

Play every card well,
Unit 191's Mentoring Committee
Michael Lavine (Chair), Beverly Craig, Ed Fuller, and Maggie Lindquist
Barbara Bute (Board Liaison)

♠ Come Play with Us in 2023-2024 ♣

♥ as a **Mentee** or **Mentor** ♦



Unit 191's **2023-2024 Mentoring Program** begins in **September**. Now is the time to form mentee-mentor partnerships for the fall. Current plans are to have two mentee-mentor games each month: an ***in-person game*** at 10:00 a.m. on the ***second Tuesday morning of each month*** and an ***online game*** at 7:00 p.m. on the ***fourth Tuesday evening of each month***. Plan to ***Come Play with Us*** on September 12th!

To facilitate matching mentees with a mentor and to assist mentors in knowing a mentee's bridge expectations, we ask mentees to fill out a "Mentee Sign-Up Form." Hyperlinks to the form are on the unit's **[Mentoring Program webpage](#)** or **Click Here: [for PDF format](#) or [for RTF format](#) or [for Word format](#).**

As the Mentoring Program Committee plans for next year's mentee-mentor program, we welcome **YOUR IDEAS** to enhance enjoyment, socialization, and enrichment. Please send us any ideas you have. We will compile all ideas and try our absolute best to incorporate them into our plans.

Please place your ideas and completed mentee sign-up forms in the Mentoring Program Folder at Triangle Bridge Academy or email them to us at <**brightleaf.mentee@gmail.com**>.

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Unit 191's Mentoring Committee
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ACBL Unit 191 Membership Report: (TOTAL MEMBERS-530)

Welcome new members

Jill Beachler
Laura Brooks
Janak Choksi
Ruth Greenfield
Stewart Johnson
Donna La

Congratulations

Thomas Barta, Club Master
Jeff Olson, Club Master
Stanley Wilson, Club Master
Karen Bordeaux, Junior Master
Louise Glantz, Junior Master

Peter Hendee, Junior Master
Anne Henkels, Junior Master
Catherine Leonardi, Junior Master
Shirley Mills, Junior Master
Diane Cutshaw, Sectional Master
Russell Schoudt, Advanced NABC Master
Cathy Simon, Advanced NABC Master
Liz Schuler, Life Master
Mary Newman, Silver Life Master

Phylliss Woody
Membership Chair

