

# BRIGHT LEAF ALERT – MARCH 2024



## President's Corner

We just wrapped up another great sectional tournament. Thanks to all who contributed and participated. Deanna Larus, as always, did a spectacular job keeping everyone organized as chairman. Kudos to Mary Newman and Ira Mueller for organizing our hospitality offerings and helpers and a big thank you to our guaranteed partners- Eric Hamilton, Phylliss Woody, Bill Ingram and Barbara Bute. Please know that each contribution of food, money, or your time is greatly appreciated. The unit has been able to provide 3 sectional tournaments a year without a loss due to the generosity of our membership.

The unit board has selected two members to honor for their outstanding service to our bridge community. Marc Goldberg is instrumental in keeping our unit running smoothly and maintaining our website dutifully. We are pleased to honor Marc and for him to receive our unit's Goodwill Award. Accordingly, Marc will be nominated for the District 7 Goodwill Award. The unit board is also pleased to announce that Deanna Larus will receive our unit's Hall of Fame Award. Deanna is a steadfast proponent of bridge in the triangle area and is the energy that propels us onward. Congrats to Marc and Deanna! You can read more about their contributions in the articles below in this edition of the Alert.

The unit board welcomes new board member Michael Lavine. Michael is joining the board, as Karen Popovich devotes more time to a business venture. We appreciate Karen's time on the board and welcome Michael. Michael is currently serving as chairman of our Mentor Mentee program and is also spearheading an initiative to teach bridge to middle school students in our area.

The Spring Future Life Master Tournament, March 22- 24, sponsored by TBA is a great opportunity for non-life masters to win silver points, while also supporting the club.

See you at the table,  
Ann

## IN THIS ISSUE

[President's Corner](#)  
[March Game Schedule](#)  
[Unit 191 Hall of Fame Award](#)  
[Nomination for the District 7](#)  
[Goodwill Award](#)  
[Mentor Missives](#)  
[Mentor Game Notes](#)

# March 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

March 12

9:15 - Lesson

10:00 am - Unit Mentor/Mentee game

### Wednesday

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs

### Friday

March 1 – 8 – 15 - 29

12:30 pm Open and 499'er Game

March 22

10:00 am & 2:30 pm - **NLM Sectional**

### Saturday

March 2, 9, 30

9:30 am – Mini Lesson

10:00 am - 499er pairs **Guaranteed partner**

(Two and a half tables are needed to hold a 499'er game)

10:00 am - Stratified Open pairs / club game

March 16

10:00 am - 8 is Enough Swiss Team Game

March 23

10:00 am & 2:30 pm - NLM Sectional Games

### Sunday

March 24

10:00 am & TBD NLM Stratified Swiss Team Game

## Online Games

**Mondays at 7:00 PM VACB 105346 Open SE Carolina Triangle (Triangle Bridge)**

**Daily, various starting times (9:30 AM, 1:05 PM, 3:45 PM, 7:05 PM and 9:30 PM) VACB 248732 and VACB 244657 Knoxville SEBCC Alliance (The Triangle Bridge Academy)**

## Upcoming District 7 Bridge Events (click for flyer):

March 1-3 [Greensboro Sectional](#)

March 9-10 [GNT/NAP Charlotte](#)

March 22-24 Durham IN Sectional (see below)

April 6-7 [West Columbia SC District GNP/NAP finals](#)



April 13 [Hendersonville IN Sectional](#)

April 15-21 [Gatlinburg Regional](#)

April 26-28 [Morehead Sectional](#)



## Triangle Bridge Academy Spring Future Life Master Tournament March 22 - 24, 2024

Triangle Bridge Academy  
2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham, NC

### FRIDAY, MARCH 22

10 AM & 2:30 PM \*\* STRATIFIED PAIRS  
0 - 50 (0-10, 10-20, 20-50)  
0-NLM (0-100, 100-300, 300 - NLM < 750)

**\*\*FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
2:30 PM GAMES ARE  
REGIONALLY RATED FOR  
MORE SILVER POINTS!**

### SATURDAY, MARCH 23

10 AM & 2:30 PM \*\* STRATIFIED PAIRS  
0 - 50 (0-10, 10-20, 20-50)  
0-NLM (0-100, 100-300, 300 - NLM < 750)

*awarding all silver points!*

### SUNDAY, MARCH 24

10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED SWISS  
0-100, 100-300, 300 - NLM < 750

ENTRY FEE for Stratified Pairs on Friday and  
Saturday: \$13/PLAYER/GAME  
0-5 MP play for free!

ENTRY FEE for Sunday Swiss  
Teams is \$124/team and this  
fee includes lunch

TOURNAMENT AND PARTNERSHIP CHAIR

HENRY MEGUID

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NEARBY LODGING  
LA QUINTA INNS AND SUITES  
4414 DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL BLVD. DURHAM NC  
919-401-9660 \$100+/ NIGHT (includes breakfast)  
There is no group rate.



# Nomination for the District 7 Goodwill Award

## Marc Goldberg

*Nomination for the District 7 Goodwill Award is made to a unit member who selflessly gives their time to promote and enhance bridge and who demonstrates high standards of goodwill, sportsmanship, and volunteerism. This year we are happy to award this to Marc Goldberg.*



ACBL Unit 191 is proud to announce that the 2023 Goodwill Award is presented to Marc Goldberg. Marc has been a stalwart member of the local bridge community since relocating to North Carolina eight years ago. Here is a summary of Marc's substantial accomplishments to bridge in our area.

- Marc is an ACBL accredited bridge instructor. He has taught numerous bridge classes for intermediate level players in the Unit. At the bridge table, he often hears the comment, "I remember when you taught us how to do this in your class."
- Marc teaches the lesson before each Mentor-Mentee game. They are always well-received by both Mentees and Mentors. He focuses on presenting situations that will improve newer players' judgement.
- Marc is the webmaster for the Unit 191 website, <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/>. Several years ago, the Unit made the change to the Bridgewebs platform specifically designed for bridge organizations. Marc designed the layout and developed the content for the new site, and he works diligently to keep the information up to date. The ACBL Unit 191 Bright Leaf website is one of the best in the country.
- Marc provides the primary focus for communications within the Unit. He maintains the member database and both the Bridgewebs and Gmail email systems. Marc helps many Unit members when they have email or website difficulties. He frequently sends out information to Unit members and visitors with information on local tournaments, special events, and the monthly Unit 191 newsletter.
- Unit 191 has a long history, with records to prove it. Marc found that records were scattered everywhere- newsletters in someone's garage, board meeting minutes on someone else's computer, photos

everywhere. Marc gathered these records and consolidated all of them into cloud storage using the Unit's Google Drive account.

- Marc is a successful bridge player and enthusiast. He constantly learns and improves his skills and demonstrates the highest standards of sportsmanship and goodwill at the bridge table. He has won the Unit 191 Mini-McKenney for his category in each of the past four years. Marc has started to achieve greater success at local regional and NABC tournaments, having recently won the award for top master point winner (along with his partner, and spouse, Suzie) at a 2023 ACBL Regional-At-Sea tournament.

Marc has been a standout in the local bridge community, and Unit 191 is very pleased to enjoy the fruits of his selfless services. We are proud to have selected him as the Unit 191 Goodwill Award winner and strongly recommend his selection for the District 7 award level.

## Unit 191 Hall of Fame Award

### Deanna Laurus

*The Unit 191 Hall of Fame recognizes a unit member who has had a significant impact on the success and growth of the unit. This year we are happy to award this to Deanna Laurus.*



In 1999, I was introduced to the game of bridge by Jan McCallum and Helen Moon and my life changed. At first, it was social bridge with some dear Durham friends, Dana Lange, Debbie Blaylock, Jill Cunningham and Ruth Buchanan. Who knew what was to come?

A few years later, on the advice of my mother, I soon dove into the deep end and tried duplicate style bridge. I was hooked! Now 25 years later, you will still find me at a bridge table several days a week. My mother, my first tournament partner, and I would take bridge vacations and travel to play at regional tournaments – 7 days 3 sessions a day! So much fun! We worked together to become Life Masters, partnering at 2-3 regionals yearly until 2019.

Locally, my first duplicate partner was Sharon Crane. We played around my teaching schedule at UNC often finding a game 2-3 times a week. Then I began taking classes from Chris Moll, Henry Meguid and others working to develop my bridge skills and improve my game. I have had the pleasure of learning this game while playing with some fabulous partners.



In December 2015 when the Hall of Fame Award was first created, I was playing regularly with Peggy Barbee. Peggy was one of the first honored with this award that year for her lifelong contributions to our unit, having served as one of the founders of duplicate bridge in Durham and Chapel Hill, serving on the board as club manager and director of the Durham Bridge Club since the early 1960s. A true icon in the Durham bridge scene. Me? I was just beginning my journey – not yet a Life Master.

Soon, I began attending more travel tournaments teaming mostly with Paul Morrisette, Kathy Newman, Gail Meyer, Grada Arble and Ian Cloudsdale. I love the social aspect of these tournaments and the challenge of the game. Oh, how things changed!

In March 2017, I was asked to fill a vacant position on the Unit 191 Board of Directors and my volunteer work for Unit 191 began. I have served on the Unit Board for 8 years since, serving as membership chair, Holiday gala chair, Vice President, then President for three years and more recently as sectional tournament chair. I became a club director and fill in when available to help our clubs run. I am still happy to help when I can!

I have learned so much about the ACBL and the game of bridge from others. Henry Meguid, Darleen Boone, Jay Bates, Peggy Barbee, John Torrey, Ed Fuller and Chris Moll all contribute to my understanding of the game as a player, director, and unit board member. I am grateful for their guidance. I am thankful for all my patient partners, Diane Bastian, Carol Grizzard, Bill Ingram, Suzie Goldberg, Barbara Martin and Ed Fuller and many others who are willing to play with me. Special thanks go to Ian Cloudsdale, my primary bridge partner these days, who challenges me to continue to develop my bridge skills while keeping me laughing at the table!

I never imagined in December 2015 when we honored my then partner, Peggy Barbee, that I would follow in her footsteps and be inducted into the Unit 191 Hall of Fame. What a journey it has been! I am so thankful for all my bridge friends and the opportunity to play the game that I love! I look forward to more bridge games with you all in the days and years to come.

Thank you for this recognition!  
Deanna Larus

## **Membership Report**

(TOTAL MEMBERS 524, up 7 from last month)

### **Welcome new members:**

Maher Khoury  
Forrest McElroy  
Robert Weber

## **Congratulations:**

Catherine Pleil - Club Master  
Michael Lavine - NABC Master  
Cathy Simon - Life Master,  
Carol Wilcox - Silver Life Master  
Martin Causley - Gold Life Master

**SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS** to Randy Joyce. 30,000 Master Points

Phylliss Woody  
Membership Chair

## **Mentor Missives**

Dear Bridge Players,

Unit 191 held a Mentor/Mentee game on Tuesday, February 13. Preceding the game was a lesson by Marc Goldberg on Advanced Stayman and Jacoby Transfers. To see the notes: [CLICK HERE](#).

We had 7 tables. Congratulations to Ed Fuller and Barbara Bute who placed first North-South and to Michael Lavine and Marian Corey who placed first East-West. And many thanks to all who brought snacks to share. Let's continue that tradition.

Michael Lavine wrote comments on several interesting hands, which you can find below and on the Unit's web site under the Mentoring Program tab: [CLICK HERE](#).

In March the mentor/mentee game will be on Tuesday, March 12, at The Bridge Academy at 10:00 a.m. Please come. The fee is \$11 per person, except that the Unit will subsidize \$5 of the fee for each mentor who is playing with a Unit mentee. That makes the fee \$17 per pair, for pairs where the mentee is from the Unit. We encourage mentees to pay their mentors' fees. Preceding the game, we'll have a lesson by Marc Goldberg on Advanced Declarer Techniques: Playing in a Moysian Fit. Following the game, we invite mentors and mentees to stay for discussion of interesting boards. There may be an MM game on the fifth Saturday in March. Stay tuned.

The M/M program has two new features this year.

1. Pairs who are not in the M/M program are invited to join the M/M game provided at least one member of the pair meets the qualifications to be a mentee: being a non-Life Master with fewer than 500 masterpoints.
2. After the Tuesday games, mentors and mentees are invited to stay after the game to discuss a few interesting hands as a group. Mentors will take questions from mentees or, in the absence of questions, will share a few learning points from the boards that were played. Please bring food to share. After the Saturday games mentors and mentees are invited to reconvene at Foster's Market for lunch and discussion.

The mentor/mentee committee,  
Michael Lavine (chair)  
Barbara Bute (board liaison)  
Beverly Craig  
Ed Fuller  
Margaret Lindquist

## Mentor Game Notes

Comments from Michael Lavine on the Unit 191 February 13 mentor/mentee game.

### Board 4. West deals. Both vulnerable.

North

♠ T975

♥ 862

♦ 53

♣ K752

West

♠ AJ4

♥ KJT

♦ QJ94

♣ JT4

East

♠ 3

♥ AQ7543

♦ AK8

♣ A63

South

♠ KQ862

♥ 9

♦ T762

♣ Q98



Board 4 saw about half the EW pairs stop in four hearts and the other half reach six hearts. As you can see, there are 12 easy tricks, so six hearts is a good contract. How should EW know to bid it?

I expect the bidding to start 1D-1H; 1N at almost every table. Now East has to evaluate whether to settle for game or to explore slam. East has 17 HCP opposite a maximum of 14HCP from West, so a first assessment might be that EW should settle for game. In that case East can just bid 4H, counting on West to have at least two hearts for the 1NT bid. However, a second assessment might compare the actual West hand with this one –

S:543      H:AQ73      D:AK8      C:A63 –

in which two small hearts have been replaced by two small spades. The two hands have the same HCP, but the actual hand is much more powerful than the hypothetical hand because the long heart suit is likely to produce one or two extra tricks. Further, the hand's honors outside its long suit are all aces and kings, which are sure to be useful, as opposed to quacks (queens and jacks) which might not produce tricks.

So, in my opinion, the actual East hand is strong enough to investigate slam. How can East do that? There is no heart bid that shows this strength. Perhaps the best possibility is to bid 2C, New Minor Forcing. On this hand West will support hearts. Now that East knows about the heart support slam seems even more likely, especially with East's excellent control of all suits, and East could just bid 6H or could go through 4NT, RKCB, first.

The pairs who bid the slam were rewarded on this hand. You might think that East was lucky to find the spade Ace opposite East's singleton spade. It's true that an ace opposite a singleton makes for a good fit and that EW were lucky in this regard. However, this slam is a laydown for 12 top tricks. If West had had the spade King instead of the Ace then the slam would depend on the location of the spade Ace (lead up to the spade king for the potential 12th trick) and would still be worth bidding. And if West did not have either the spade Ace or King then there would be compensating values elsewhere and EW might not need a spade trick. In my opinion, the Easts who investigated slam did a good job of hand evaluation, appreciating the value of their long hearts and outside prime (aces and kings) values.

## Board 12. West deals. NS vulnerable.

North

♠ AKJ94

♥ 7542

♦ —

♣ KT94

West

♠ 653

♥ QT9

♦ KQJ62

♣ J5

East

♠ —

♥ AKJ

♦ A9874

♣ Q7632

South

♠ QT872

♥ 863

♦ T53

♣ A8

Board 12 has points of interest in both bidding and play. I expect West to pass and North to open 1S at almost every table. Though N has only 11 HCP, the good distribution adds value to the hand, which meets both the Rule of 20 and the Suggestion of 22. The Rule of 20 says to open 1 of a suit if your HCP plus the length of your two longest suits is at least 20. See. [https://www.bridgebum.com/rule\\_of\\_20.php](https://www.bridgebum.com/rule_of_20.php) The Suggestion of 22 is simply the Rule of 20 plus the additional requirement that your hand contain at least two quick tricks.

After North opens, East has a decision: is East's hand good enough to bid and, if so, what should E bid? East certainly has enough points for a two-level overcall, but the suits are not as robust as one would like for an overcall. The choices are between Pass, Double, 2NT (Unusual) and 2D. Of those four calls I like Pass the least and think it is clearly inferior to DBL.

Whatever call East chooses, South will want to raise spades, but to what level? On this hand, NS can make four spades, but if South's clubs and diamonds were reversed, then four spades would likely go down. After South's spade raise, West will want to bid diamonds, but to what level? The answer isn't clear and may depend on which call East chose. With all the distribution around the table there will likely be some close decisions at high levels. In our game, 3 NS pairs played in spades, 2 EW pairs played in

notrump, 3 EW pairs played in diamonds, and one EW pair played in clubs. I don't know how EW ended up in either notrump or clubs.

Of the pairs in diamonds, two made 11 tricks but one made only 10 tricks. It looks like the opening lead will be a spade and East will ruff. At that point West will have more diamonds than East and declarer should think of West as the master hand. The hearts are solid and there are two unavoidable club losers, so the main question is what to do about West's three spades. Should EW try to establish clubs for spade discards or should EW try to ruff three spades in the East hand?

To me it looks easier to ruff spades in East. So I think the play should go:

Trick 1 — spade ruff in East

Trick 2 — small diamond to West, exposing the 3-0 diamond break.

Now EW cannot afford to pull trump because they won't have enough trump in East to ruff all West's spades, so

Trick 3 — spade ruff in East

Trick 4 — small diamond to West

Trick 5 — spade ruffed with East's Ace

Trick 6 — heart Jack to West's Queen

Trick 7 — pull trump and concede two clubs.

That line will yield 5 diamonds in West, 3 spade ruffs in East, and 3 hearts, for a total of 11 tricks.

### Board 15. South deals. NS vulnerable.

North

♠ J6

♥ A972

♦ 75

♣ AKT74

West

♠ 53

♥ K85

♦ AQJ8

♣ J962

East

♠ QT9

♥ J64

♦ K9432

♣ 83

South

♠ AK8742

♥ QT3

♦ T6

♣ Q5

Board 15 also has points of interest in both bidding and play. The first point is whether South should open 1S or 2S. South is a little light in HCP for 1S, especially because the two queens are unsupported so might not pull their weight on offense. On the other hand, South does satisfy the Rule of 20 and Suggestion of 22, and South does have an easy rebid of 2S. So some Souths might open 1S and others might open 2S.

I don't think this hand is too strong to open a vulnerable 2S, but I do think it's too strong for a nonvulnerable 2S. If S opens 2S then North has to decide whether to try for game. It's close, but all of North's values rate to be useful, and North might be able to contribute a ruff or establish some club tricks, so there might be 10 tricks available.

If North makes a game try by bidding 2NT, South will show a maximum and North will continue to game. On the other hand, if South opens 1S then the bidding might go 1S-1N; 2S-? and again North will realize that all the hand's values are working, so will likely continue to 4S. In our game every South played in spades: three played 2S; one played 3S; and five played 4S. They made either 8, 9, 10, or 11 tricks.

It looks to me that South should recognize that the best chance for extra tricks is to establish clubs, so the plan should be to take two rounds of spades and leave the queen outstanding. Then play three rounds of clubs and see whether they break 3-3. If they do, then South will win 5 spades, 5 clubs, and the heart Ace, for 11 tricks. If clubs break 4-2 then South will ruff the fourth club and make only 10 tricks.

One key point is that South should leave the spade queen outstanding before playing clubs. If South plays a third trump and lets the opponents win the queen, then EW might be able to play hearts and knock out the heart Ace, dummy's entry, before the clubs are established. South must retain the heart ace in dummy before establishing clubs.

A second key point is that South should allow for the possibility that clubs are more likely to split 4-2 than 3-3. So South should play club Queen, club Ace, and ruff the third round of clubs. Instead, if South plays the club King on the third round then East might be able to ruff it and lead a heart through the queen. Then EW will be able to knock out dummy's entry before the clubs are established. A better play is to ruff the third round, then knock out the spade Queen. South might lose two diamonds but still retain dummy's heart Ace as an entry to the remaining clubs on which to pitch South's losing hearts.