

THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

APRIL, 2026

PRESIDENT'S NOTE FOR APRIL 2026

Welcome to April! Spring is at hand, with all that implies—holiday celebrations, pollen season, and Sectional Tournament planning season! We just enjoyed Unit 191 Brightleaf's Annual Awards Ceremony accompanied by a super tasty pot luck and championship game. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the event, including our host, **Henry Meguid**.

This month Morris and I want to highlight some of those who contribute so much for our benefit, often behind the scenes. Why? Because they deserve to be thanked for all they do, and because, we want to try to build a system to support them in the essential work they do for all of us. Nobody can do everything by themselves! Two essential functions (and there are more than that! -- more another month!) you might take a little bit for granted are:

1) Our Unit's communications program, which is made up of our Brightleaf web site overseen by Webmaster **Marc Goldberg**, and our monthly Alert! Newsletter you are reading now, lovingly tended by **Barbara Martin**, along with our weekly email notices and reminders managed by **Ann Fisher**. Their work coordinates closely with Marc's through regular collaboration. We have a lot to be thankful for!

2) A second essential ongoing effort in the Unit is our successful Mentor-Mentee program, the fruit of **Michael Lavine's** labors. This week we had 10 ½ tables in the Tier II game! That doesn't happen by chance. As you may know, either from participating or from observing each month's communications, for each Tier, the list of interested Mentees has to be matched to the volunteer Mentors, keeping track of

who's in town or away. Then there's the online Wednesday evening BBO Mentor-Mentee game with its own matchup coordinating, and then there's the volunteer instructors who add depth to all three arms of our Mentor-Mentee Program.

Here is where **YOU** come in! Beyond simply asking you to appreciate the volunteer expertise our fellow members offer us, we want to ask a couple of you to step up to help support these critical functions. Our unit is one of the smallest in our 14 Unit District, but as was shown at our Awards Ceremony today, we punch well above our weight in the quality of play and programming we offer our members. Clearly, it's no accident. But we cannot take what we have for granted. We need to recruit two willing persons to help these programs prosper and serve us reliably down the road. One to help with our Web presence as Associate Web Master. The other to help support Michael in running our Mentor-Mentee program.

That's Two Willing Persons! Among our talented membership, we know you are out there.

Marc and Suzie Goldberg moved to Durham from Harrisburg PA about 10 yrs ago and they immediately became involved in supporting Unit 191. In Harrisburg Marc was Training Coordinator and Webmaster. Suzie joined the Board as Treasurer and Marc began teaching, but.... noticing the web site to be in a state of disarray, Marc suggested to then-President Ed Fuller that the Unit adopt the Bridge Webs platform which had served Harrisburg well. Well, Marc has been Webmaster ever since. Many other clubs and Units use this platform. Marc and Ed developed a great working relationship until Ed passed last year, making the site an ongoing benefit to our community. Most important, Marc says he was not and is not

a techie expert. The role really requires an organized person comfortable with using computer files. We are looking for someone to share the following critical duties--our current system requires about an hour a week to keep up to date; keeping member rosters and rank/award status lists up to date; add and link documents to our library; send emails as needed; add mentoring discussions and lessons from the Mentor-Mentee Program; prepare the annual voting ballots and the results, and so on. There are ways the site could be improved based on the interests and talents of the person who volunteers.

Like Marc's job, Michael's is also a well oiled machine. Similarly, he would like to have help in maintaining the high standard of service the Mentor-Mentee Program has set for itself. Each year, Michael sends out a memo to the membership to assess who is interested to participate as Mentor or Mentee, or both. For each game in the program season, whether Tier I or Tier II as well as the Wednesday evening game on BBO, Michael sends a message to find out who is available/not available to play each month, matches participants without a partner. Beyond that, Michael coordinates the volunteer teachers, and comment writers. And as you know if you participate, there is a very much appreciated hospitality component to the live games.

So, not to make a long message any longer, Morris and I, on behalf of the Unit 191 Board of Directors, are asking you to consider whether you might be that valuable person willing to help maintain and perhaps improve our already excellent programs:

We need a volunteer **Associate Web Master and an Assistant Lead of the Mentor Mentee Program**. If you think you might step up to contribute to the Unit that provides us the opportunity to enjoy the game we all love, please speak to Marc, or Michael, or Morris or me or any board member. We will all try to help you land in a place where you will be able to add value, and feel valued.

Thank you for considering our Unit's needs!

Morris and Ray, the CoP's



VOLUNTEER

It's not too early to begin planning for this year's summer sectional tournament which will be held on July 16-19. Every year, we hear about the incredible hospitality and food that is critical to the success of the tournament. And we have **Mary Newman and Ira Mueller** to thank for this. However, they cannot do it alone.

This is an early reminder that we will need your help that weekend to continue to make our hospitality a highlight of our sectional. You can help by bringing food, making a cash donation, and/or volunteering to take a shift in the kitchen. As you may recall, we had to cancel the tournament last summer because we didn't have enough volunteers. We will be starting to ask for volunteers starting in May. However, should you want to commit early (and that would be greatly appreciated), please email Mary (mnewman0529@gmail.com) to let her know the mornings or afternoons you would be available to help in the kitchen.

MEET OUR UNIT'S NEWEST LIFE MASTER

BARBARA BUTE

I started playing bridge in 2016, when my sister informed me that we were going to play in the National together, and that I had better go take some lessons. So I did. We did play in the nationals together (you can play for free when you have less than 5 points), and I came out of that experience with exactly the same number of points that I went in with. I also learned a few important lessons, like don't pass a Jacoby 2 NT bid, and don't leave in a take out double just because you're afraid to play the hand. It was humbling, but I was hooked.

The competition, the community and the developing partnerships are what I most enjoy about bridge. Every partner is a bit different, and it's an ongoing exercise in how to have a dialogue with someone who speaks a slightly different language than you do.

My sister has hung in there with me as a partner, despite my inept start, and we have played together regularly at the Daytona Regional and the Orlando Regional just about every year. She has tirelessly organized team games for us to play in, and these games are responsible for most of my gold points.

I am grateful to **Bill Rose**, who plays with me online every Tuesday night. We were at about the same point in our journey toward Life Master, when he said in the fall, "Let's just finish this off this year." We went to Pinehurst and got the last of his silver points, and we went to the Raleigh regional and finished off our gold points. We crossed the finish line pretty much together.

Thanks to **Bill Ingram**, who regularly invites

me to play, and **Becky Fuchs**, who gets me to come play at the Raleigh Bridge Club. Most of my silver points come from team games with **Bill Rose, Becky, and Brian Fuchs**.

Thanks to the many players who have played with me in the

mentor/mentee games, a format which I love; I have learned so much from so many mentoring partners. I miss you, Ed.

Thanks to my very first teacher, **Jeff Boak**, whose voice I often still hear in my head when I am getting ready to do something unwise ("Don't double distributional hands!") Thanks to **Chris Moll**, who always managed to tell me the thing I needed to hear most, and to **Henry**, who I have never played at a table with without learning something.

I'd like to thank in advance everyone who I'm going to play at a table with in the future, for not expecting me to be a whole different level of player now that I've achieved the Life Master rank. I'm aware every time I sit at a bridge table how much talent there is in our club, and how much more there is to learn.

This is a great game and I look forward to many more years of it.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This report contains all information transacted in Unit 191 from February 28—March 31, 2026. The unit has 456 members.

We welcome to our unit the following new members and transfers into the unit:

Cecily Hines

Bob Scott

Gayle Covey

Steven Devico

Congratulations to the following members who have attained a new ranking:

Junior Master

Laura Brooks

Gordon Lavin

Surya Naresh

Rachael Stephan

Club Master

Frank Gohs

Sectional Master

Judy Woody

Bronze Life Master

Marian Meyer

Silver Life Master

Bobbi Pinkerton

Gold Life Master

Andrea Roitman

Sapphire Life Master

Joanna Pagano

The Bright Leaf Alert is the official newsletter for Unit 191. If you have ideas for content, news about our members, or interesting bridge hands, please contact a board member or Barbara Martin.

We welcome news from The Ferring-ton Club, The Governors' Club, and Roxboro. Please let us know what's happening at your clubs—all clubs within our unit.

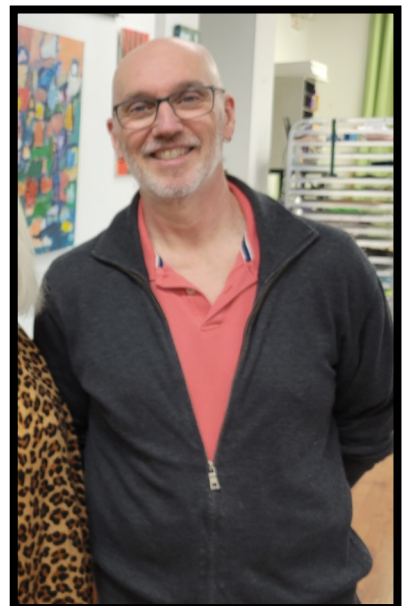
Together, we can make the unit newsletter interesting and informative.





Unit 191's Co-President, **Ray Boylan**, recently had a New Artist Opening show at the Fusion Gallery in Durham. Several bridge players and friends were there to enjoy the evening, which showcased Ray's paintings. If you missed the opening night, take a stroll in downtown Durham and go to Fusion Gallery to view Ray's artwork and other wonderful work of local artists.

Since retirement, Ray has taken lessons and pursued his love of painting. Congratulations Ray, for sharing your talent. And a huge thank you for (co) heading up the board for Unit 191!!!





Dear Bridge Players,

Unit 191's bridge mentoring program continued in March. The program sponsors games in person, at Triangle Bridge Academy, and online, on BBO. The in-person games have two tiers. Tier I is for mentees with fewer than 250 masterpoints playing with mentors who have fewer than 500 masterpoints. Tier II is for mentees with fewer than 500 masterpoints; mentors are unlimited.

Refreshments are provided by a crew of volunteers — **Ray Boylan, Ann Fisher, Martha Schulwitz, and Maggie Smith** — to whom we offer our appreciation. They are always looking for more volunteers. Please email one of them if you can help.

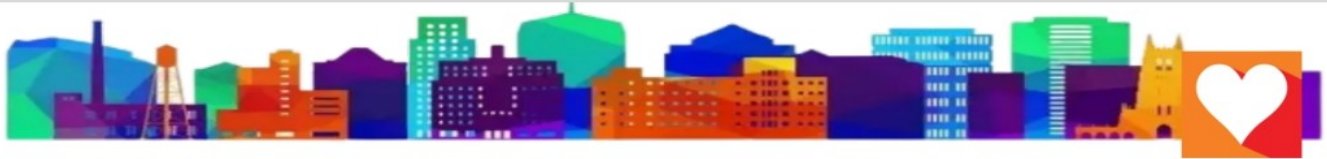
Tier I plays on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10 AM, preceded by an optional lesson from **Henry Meguid** at 9:15. On March 24 Henry talked about opener's rebid and gave several examples showing various possibilities. The game had 8 tables. The game was quite close with four pairs — **Bill Chappell/Martha Schulwitz, Henry Meguid/Gary Bann, Larry Stanczyk/Carrie Dailey, and Dave Michelman/Stewart Johnson** all finishing with 55-60%. Congratulations to all eight players.

Tier II plays on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 AM, preceded by an optional lesson at 9:15 given by a rotating set of advanced players. The game on March 10 was preceded by a lesson from **Ian Cloudsdale** on advanced responses when partner opens 1

notrump. There were five-and-a-half tables. The game was very close, with all pairs scoring between 41% and 57%.

The online game is new this year and is for mentees with fewer than 500 masterpoints. The mentees play together in pairs at 7PM on the third Wednesday of each month. After the game, a panel of advanced players write comments on all the boards, which are then circulated to the mentees. Many thanks to the panel members for volunteering their time and expertise: **Glen Anderson, John Cobb, Mary Jo Dunnebacke, Eric Hamilton, and Michael Lavine**. The March game was on the 18th and had three tables. Congratulations to **Janet Broughton and Mike Sauter** who won with a score of 61% for finishing first. Some of the games also have post-game analyses by a panel of experienced players. You can find them under the Mentoring Program tab on the Unit 191 website. You can find the hands by going to the ACBL website and following the links ACBL → Results → Live for Clubs and then searching for either Triangle Bridge Academy (Tuesday F2F games) or Triangle Bridge Club (Wednesday BBO games).

If you would like to join any of these groups, please email **Michael Lavine**.



Unit 191 and the Raleigh Bridge Club are hosting a Summer Sectional

July 16- 19, 2026

**Governor's Village,
40115 Moring*
Chapel Hill, NC 27517**

**(*additional space in adjacent room has been
added to accommodate more tables)**

THURSDAY, July 16
7 PM STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS

FRIDAY, July 17
10 AM & 2:30 PM * STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER
10 AM 499'er PAIRS

SATURDAY, July 18
10 AM & 2:30 PM* STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER PAIRS
10 AM 499'er PAIRS

SUNDAY, July 19
10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED OPEN AND 749'ER SWISS TEAMS
PLAY THROUGH WITH LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
10 AM 499'er SINGLE SESSION SWISS TEAM GAME

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

**Stratification & bracketing for all
games by average pair/team
masterpoints.**

Open Stratification:
0-1500, 1500 - 3500, 3500+

499'er Stratification
0-199, 200 - 299, 300- 499

749'er Stratification:
0-300, 300-500, 500-750

**ENTRY FEE: \$14/PLAYER/GAME
0-10 MP play for free!**

TOURNAMENT CHAIR
Deanna Larus deanna@elarus.com
(919)656-9666

PARTNERSHIP CO-CHAIRS
Ann Fisher afisher9tk@gmail.com
(919)417-7176
Barbara Hudson bhudsonbridge@gmail.com
919-413-7677



NEARBY LODGING
COURTYARD MARRIOTT CHAPEL HILL
100 MARRIOTT WAY, Chapel HILL, NC 27517
919-883-0700
There is no group rate.



The unit hosted an awards' ceremony on March 27. 11 1/2 tables competed for points in the championship game—after a delightful potluck lunch.

Top photo—Mini-McKenney winners who were in attendance and the bottom photo is a group of the Ace of Clubs winners who were present. Congratulations to all unit winners in both groups!

A complete listing of all unit winners may be found on the website—or in last month's Alert!



APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			9:30 AM Nuplicate Barometer 12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13)	12 PM Private ABA Game	9 – 11:30 AM Intro to Bridge 12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13)	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	9-11 Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13) 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer	9:30 AM Nuplicate Barometer 12:30 PM Unit Championship Game (\$12)	12 PM Private ABA Game	12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13)	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	9-11 Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13) 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	9:15 AM MM Tier II Lesson 10 AM MM Tier II Game	9:30 AM Nuplicate Barometer 12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13) 7 PM Online BBO MM	9 AM Limited Game (<750mps) 12 PM Private ABA Game	12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13)	10 AM Eight is Enough Swiss Team Game
20	21	22	23	24	24	25
	9-11 Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13) 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	1-4 PM Barometer Game	9:30 AM Nuplicate Barometer 12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13)	12 PM Private ABA Game	12:30 PM Unit Championship Game (\$12)	
26	27	28	29	30		
	9-11 Play and Learn Online 12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13) 6:30 – 8:30 Social Bridge	9:15 AM MM Tier I Lesson 10 AM MM Tier I Game	9:30 AM Nuplicate Barometer 12:30 PM Charity Club Championship Game (\$13)	12 PM Private ABA Game		