

# THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIT 191

SEPTEMBER 2024

## President's Corner:



Dear Unit Members,

August has brought significant changes to our local bridge community.

Notably, The Triangle Bridge Academy has rearranged its space and has turned this transition into an opportunity to continue providing a lovely, light filled place for us to enjoy our game of bridge. Thank you to **Henry** and a team of volunteers who worked hard to make this change happen quickly and without much downtime. On Labor Day, the new space was successfully christened with a potluck and a Unit Championship Game.

Another notable change that accompanies the downsizing of space, is how and where Unit 191 will move forward with sectional tournaments. **Deanna Larus** has written an article for this edition of the Alert regarding the additional help we will

need. Please consider volunteering to help us have a successful fall tournament, November 7 – 10.

The Mentor Mentee Program is also seeing **Big Changes**. The Board and the Mentor/Mentee committee have been working hard to provide a two-tiered mentoring system for the 2024 – 2025 Mentee-Mentor Program. Details of the Tier I and Tier II games are included in this issue of the Alert as well. We still need mentors for the Tier II game.

The Raleigh Sectional is coming up! Carpooling is a great idea and can make the trip more enjoyable. Good luck to everyone playing in this local tournament.

A special thank you to **Barbara Martin** who is taking over as editor of The Alert.

See you at the table,

**Ann Fisher**, Unit 191 President



## TRIANGLE BRIDGE ACADEMY TAKES ON A NEW LOOK

The game on August 9 gave Unit 191 members an opportunity to enjoy the new arrangement of the room at the Triangle Bridge Academy. It's smaller, very cozy, but still spacious enough to give our unit a delightful room to enjoy the game we all love so much. Thanks to Henry and his gang of helpers who made the change in so short an amount of time. Everyone was pleasantly surprised to see the final rearrangement .

**Come check it  
out!!!**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### *New members:*

Lydia D. Eanes

Neil Evans Jr.

Martin F. Oppenheimer

### *Transfers into the unit:*

Alan K. Churchill

Jeff Kohler

### *New Achievments*

Jeff Olson—Sectional Master

Ernest Brooks—Regional Master

Mariee Walton—Ruby Life Master

Total Unit Members

489



## ♠ 2024-2025 Mentor-Mentee Program ♣

**The first Mentor-Mentee game will be on Tuesday, September 10 at 10:00 AM at TBA. This first game is for Tier II mentees and mentors.**

The Tier I Mentee-Mentor game will be on Tuesday, September 24 starting at 1:30 PM at TBA.

We are still looking for mentors. Contact Michael Lavine, [mlavine@umass.edu](mailto:mlavine@umass.edu) if you are interested in mentoring.

## BIG CHANGES — ALERT

Two tiers of mentor/mentee games

### WHY

First, a significant number of players in our unit are not comfortable playing in The Bridge Academy's open games. We would like gradually to increase the level at which they feel comfortable, so we will introduce a mentor/mentee game at a lower level than in previous years. Second, we have players who would like to be mentored but who have too many masterpoints (mp) to qualify as mentees under our previous structure. Therefore we will also introduce a mentor/mentee game at a higher level than in previous years. We hope to serve both groups of players.

### **TIER I — 250 mp mentees; 500 mp mentors**

Tier I is to help less experienced players develop their game. You can be a Tier I mentee if you have fewer than 250 masterpoints. You can be a Tier I mentor if you think you are qualified and have fewer than 500 mp.

### **TIER II — unlimited masterpoints**

Tier II is to help more experienced players develop their game. You can be a Tier II mentee with any number of mp. However, if you have fewer than 500 mp then you must also be willing to be a Tier I mentor. When we match Tier II mentees with mentors we will give priority to mentees with fewer than 500 mp. You can be a Tier II mentor if you think you are qualified and want to give back to the game.

### **SIGN UP**

If you would like to be a mentor or mentee, please let us know by email to **Michael Lavine**, [mlavine@umass.edu](mailto:mlavine@umass.edu).

We will match mentors with mentees or you may form your own mentor/mentee pairs. Games for Tier I mentors and mentees to play together will be the 4th Tuesday of each month, starting in **September 2024**, in-person at The Bridge Academy at **1:30 pm**. Games for Tier II mentors and mentees to play will be the 2nd Tuesday of each month, starting in **September 2024**, in-person at The Bridge Academy at **10:00 am**. You can play as often as you like; we hope you will play every month.

You can learn more about the program at [https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoq/bw.cgi?club=unit191brightleaf&pid=display\\_page11](https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoq/bw.cgi?club=unit191brightleaf&pid=display_page11), a page that will be updated later for 2024/25.

Michael Lavine, [mlavine@umass.edu](mailto:mlavine@umass.edu)

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Tier I**

- < 250 mp mentees
- < 500 mp mentors
- 4th Tuesday every month at 1:30

#### **Tier II**

- unlimited mp for mentees and mentors
- mentees with under 500 mp will be Tier I mentors
- 2nd Tuesday every month at 10:00
- pre-game lesson at 9:15

## Sectional Tournament News!

Since the spring of 2010, Unit 191 has been privileged to have full time private clubs available to host our Unit Sectional Tournaments. Thanks to **Jay Bates, Darleen Boone, Chris Moll and Henry Meguid**, hosting sectionals was fairly easy when we could use their facilities and equipment. Now that the Triangle Bridge Academy has downsized, we no longer have that convenience. The board hopes to continue hosting 2-3 sectionals per year but we will need much more help from you to be successful.

First up is our fall tournament – November 7-10<sup>th</sup>. We have signed a contract to host this sectional at the Old Murphy School. This Shared Visions Retreat Venue is located off Cornwallis Road about 10 minutes northwest of Triangle Bridge Academy. To do this, we will need extra volunteers to help transport tables and equipment and to help us set up/tear down the playing room on Thursday and Sunday. We will also need many more hospitality volunteers as we will need to sell lunches each day. So- I would like to gather a team of volunteers in September to help us plan. We need:

1. Help Ian transport tables and set up playing room on Thursday afternoon.

2. Help fold up tables and chairs and help return tables to TBA on Sunday night.
3. Clean up volunteers each afternoon including trash removal.
4. Hospitality help each day except Thursday—especially in the mornings!
5. We will offer our traditional coffee, snacks and goodies but we will also need to make sandwiches in the morning to put out on a lunch buffet each day.
6. Need someone to sell lunch tickets each day immediately following the morning sessions.
7. Guaranteed partners for Friday and Saturday. While we don't guarantee partners for the Swiss team games, if you are available to fill in a team, please let us know.

If you can help in one of these areas, please email me [deanna@elarus.com](mailto:deanna@elarus.com) your preference. I hope to have our volunteer team in place by mid-October.

The success of the event depends on you!

**Playing in the tournament!**

**Volunteering!**

**Thank you for contributing!!**

**Deanna Larus, Tournament Chair**

## September 2024

*All F2F events are held at:*

*Triangle Bridge Academy (TBA)*

*2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham, NC*

*Make note that TBA will be closed on Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28 due to the Raleigh Sectional.*

### **Monday—September 9**

**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM** Join TBA online on Mondays from 9 -11 am. Play and discuss 8-10 boards on Zoom and Shark Bridge (Guaranteed partner) [Click to register](#)

**12:30 PM** Stratified Open (Sept. 9, 16, 23)

**6:30 PM – 8:30 PM** Wine and Cheese Social Bridge. [Click to register](#) (Guaranteed partner)

### **Tuesday—September 10**

**9:15 AM** Mini lesson prior to MM Game (Sept. 9)

**10:00 AM** Mentee-Mentor Game (Tier II, Sept. 9)

**1:30 PM – 3:30 PM** Nuplicate Barometer Game (Sept. 17)

**1:30 PM** Mentee-Mentor Game (Tier I, (Sept. 24)

### **Wednesday—September 11**

**12:30 PM** Stratified Open (Sept. 11,18,25)

### **Friday—September 13**

**12:30 PM** Stratified Open (Sept. 13, 20)

### **Saturday—September 14**

**10:00 AM** Stratified Open (Sept. 14)

**10:00 AM** Eight is Enough Swiss Team Game (Sept. 21)

## UNIT 191 BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Fisher, President

Barbara Bute

Gail King

Mary Newman

Michael Lavine

Bill Ingram

Ira Mueller

Phylliss Woody

Deanna Larus

Eric Hamilton

Ian Cloudsdale

This issue starts the “second go-around” for me as editor. It isn’t a daunting job—and made much easier with the help of our members. If you have ideas, cartoons, jokes, unusual bridge hands, news about fellow bridge players, concerns, suggestions, or just anything you think unit members would enjoy reading—please send my way. To quote—“It takes a village” - and with everyone’s help, together we can keep the tradition of **THE BRIGHT ALERT** alive and well.

Barbara Martin, Editor

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