

**DEAR UNIT MEMBERS.**

This month we welcome new and returning members to the Unit 191 Board of Directors.

Beginning January 1, Ray Boylan, Morris Weinberger and Joanna Karwowska will join as new members. Michael Lavine and Mary Newman will be returning for additional 3-year terms. The unit is **especially grateful** to these individuals who give of their time to promote bridge in our area and serve on the board. During the past year, Janet Strope, Gail King and Karen Popovich have all retired from the board. We want to acknowledge their service to the bridge community and send them a hearty thank you!

The Unit's fall tournament was quite the success! Managing new logistics and a new location was challenging. Special thanks go to Deanna Larus, Mary Newman, Ian Cloudsdale, and Robin Marin, as well as many of you who stepped up to help/donate. Our guaranteed partners Eric Hamilton, Dwight Smith, and Karen Popovich were also integral parts of our tournament working and running smoothly for everyone. We are appreciative to Henry Meguid for the use of his tables from the club. Thank you! We had 136 tables altogether.

The unit is especially happy to report that we were able to hold a 5 team 0-750 Swiss team event on Sunday, along with 14 teams in the Open Swiss event.

The **Raleigh Winter Sectional Tournament** is coming up at the end of January. We encourage you to find partners and support our neighbors. The tournament runs Jan 30-Feb 2, 2025.

Our Mentor Mentee program is moving along, and the two-tiered program has been embraced by our membership. The unit board will be reviewing the program at the December 9th board meeting. If you have suggestions, please email me ([afisher9tk@gmail.com](mailto:afisher9tk@gmail.com)) or Michael Lavine ([mlavine@umass.edu](mailto:mlavine@umass.edu)), or give your thoughts to anyone on the MM committee (Bev Craig, Barbara Bute, Maggie Smith, Alison Bowes, Ed Fuller, Joan Roberts, and Morris Weinberger).

Many thanks to committee for all their hard work in putting this two-tiered system together and continuing to match up mentors and mentees. The unit is planning to hold a special game and lunch early in the new year. **Stay tuned for details!**

As we near the end of the year, I want to thank each of you for being part of our bridge community. I wish you a joyful holiday season filled with peace, love, and of course, plenty of great hands at the table! I look forward to seeing you in 2025.

SEE YOU AT THE TABLE.

**FINN**

## Online Games

Monday 7:00 PM

VACB 183376 Open SE Carolina Triangle (Triangle Bridge)

Various starting times daily (9:30 AM, 1:05 PM, 3:45 PM, 7:05 PM and 9:30 PM)

VACB 248732 and VACB 244657 Knoxville SEBCC

Alliance (Triangle Bridge Academy)

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

December 9-15 STaC at [Triangle Bridge Academy](#)

January 17-19 [Sandhills Sectional](#)

January 24-26 [Columbia Winter Sectional](#)

January 30-February 2 [Raleigh Winter Sectional Tournament](#)

### Membership Report (submitted by Phylliss Woody, Membership Chair)

(TOTAL MEMBERS:W 494)

### Welcome New Members:

Bruce Donath

Alan Robson

Bill Herdrich

Anirudh Jain

Dave Michelman

Seth L Tulsy

Transfers into the Unit:

Sara Line

New Rank Achievements:

Neil Evans Jr. Junior Master

Seth Tulsy Junior Master

Sue Atlas Junior Master

Darrienne Gant Junior Master

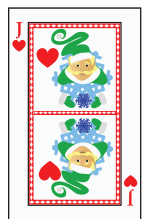
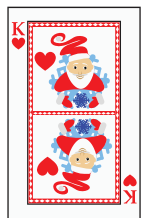
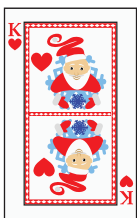
Catherine Leonardi Club Master

Gene Mills Regional Master

Marian Corey Bronze Life Master

Linda Owen Ruby Life Master

Suzanne Goldberg Diamond Life Master



# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 12:30 PM <b>Unit Championship</b>	3 1:00– 4:00 PM Nuplicate Barometer	4 12:30 PM <b>Ed Foundation Game</b>	5 12:30 ABA pairs (private)	6 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	7 10:00 AM Stratified Open Game
8	9 12:30 PM <b>STAC Game (\$13)</b>	10 Mentor-Mentee T2 9:15 AM Lesson 10:00 AM Game	11 12:30 PM <b>STAC Game (\$13)</b>	12 12:30 ABA pairs (private)	13 12:30 PM <b>STAC Game (\$13)</b>	14 10:00 AM Stratified Open Game
15	16 12:30 PM <b>STARDUST GAME 25% GOLD (\$13)</b>	17 Mentor-Mentee T1 12:15 Lesson 1:00 PM Game <b>STARDUST GOLD (\$13)</b>	18 12:30 PM <b>STARDUST GAME 25% GOLD (\$13)</b>	19 12:30 ABA pairs (private)	20 12:30 PM <b>STARDUST GAME 25% GOLD (\$13)</b>	21 10:00 AM <b>8 Is Enough Swiss Teams -STARDUST GOLD (\$13)</b>
22	23 12:30 PM <b>Unit Championship</b>	24 1:00– 4:00 PM Nuplicate Barometer	25 Christmas Day <b>Club is closed</b>	26 <b>Club is closed</b>	27 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	28 10:00 AM Stratified Open Game
29	30 12:30 PM Stratified Open Game	31 <b>Club is closed</b>	1			



**D**EAR BRIDGE PLAYERS,

### Unit 191 Mentor/Mentee program

Unit 191 held a Tier II (higher level) Mentor/Mentee game on Tuesday, November 12th. Congratulations to Stanley Wilson and Henry Meguid who finished first North/South and Ann Fisher and Jim Cunningham who finished first East/West.

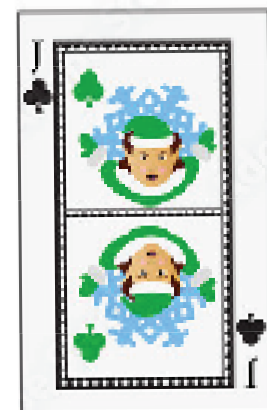
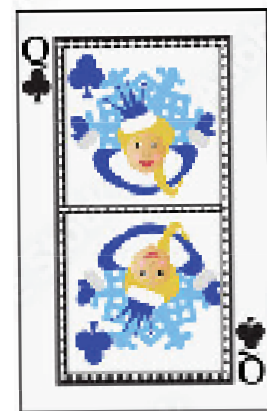
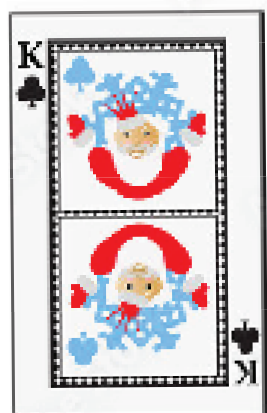
The game was preceded by a lesson from Michael Lavine on **Not Rebidding Five Card Suits**. Michael also wrote comments on several hands from the game. The Unit held a Tier I game on Tuesday, November 26. There were a full 8 tables. Congratulations to Joach Pleil and Catherine Garland, first North/South, and Martha Schulwitz and Stanley Wilson, first East/West.

The game was preceded by a lesson from Henry Meguid on **Preemptive Opening Bids**. Michael Lavine wrote comments on several hands from the game.

As always, you can find handouts from the lessons and discussions from the mentors by going to the **Unit 191** web site, following the link to **Mentoring Program** webpage, and looking at the **Learning** section there.

Tier I games will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM, preceded by a half-hour lesson from Henry Meguid starting at 12:15. Tier II games will be held the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM and will be preceded by a half-hour lesson beginning at 9:15. The fee is \$12 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 \$19 per pair if the mentee is from the Unit. We encourage mentees to pay their mentors' fees.

**EXCEPTION** The fourth Tuesday in December falls just prior to a big holiday when some people may not be able to play, so we will move the December game to the **third** Tuesday, **December 17**. We hope to see many of you there. If you or your partner are unable to attend a particular M/M game, please let us know in advance so we can find someone to take your place — either a mentor or mentee who would not otherwise have a partner. It's also a courtesy to your regular MM partner; no one likes to be stood up when they're expecting to play.





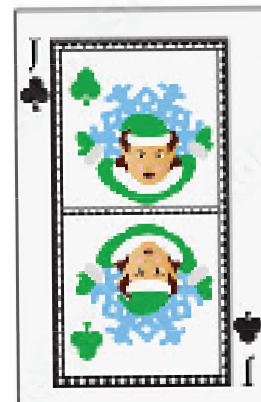
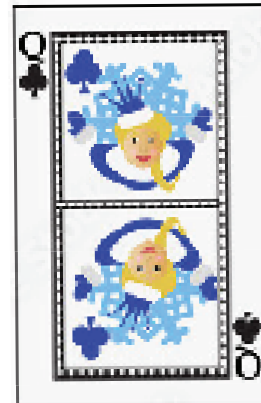
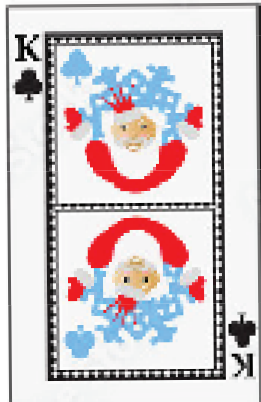


Email Michael Lavine, [mlavine@umass.edu](mailto:mlavine@umass.edu), or any other member of the mentoring committee.

Finally, we encourage MM pairs to play in the Eight is Enough team game on the third Saturday of each month running from 10 AM to approximately 1 PM. If you and your MM partner would like to play, you can either form a team on your own or email Michael Lavine, [mlavine@umass.edu](mailto:mlavine@umass.edu), who will look for another pair to join with you to form a team.

**To summarize:**

1. We are running a **two-tiered** program this year. See above for details.
2. **Pairs who are not in the M/M program are invited to join the M/M game.** To join a Tier I game one player must have fewer than 250 masterpoints and the other must have fewer than 500.
3. After the Tier II games, mentors and mentees are invited to meet at **Foster's Market** for lunch and discussion.
4. If and when you are unable to play, **please let us know**, so we can match your partner with someone else.
5. **Eight is Enough** is another good opportunity for MM pairs to play together.



**LET THE GAMES BEGIN**

# Could a Regional at Sea be in Your Future?

By Marc Goldberg

Many of us go to Regional bridge tournaments because we like the competition, and many of us go to Regional tournaments because we require Gold points on our way to future ACBL ranks. Attending a Regional at Sea is one of the best kept secrets in the ACBL.

Actually, Regionals at Sea are not so secret anymore- they are widely advertised in the monthly ACBL Bridge Bulletin. The secret is how much fun they are.

Instead of attending a Regional tournament at a hotel in a host city, the entire event is held on a cruise ship. It is still a full-fledged Regional tournament with Gold points offered in open events and in Gold Rush events. The cruise is normally for a week to ten days to some interesting place in the world. When you are not playing bridge, the ship offers many onboard options to fill your time- workout rooms, casinos, entertainment, games, pools and hot tubs, and many more.

Regionals at Sea offer pairs games as well as team games (Swiss and Knockouts). The schedule has games in the morning, afternoon, and evening- usually 18 boards for the game. There are guaranteed partners for all games. Regionals at Sea are hosted by a nationally known bridge educator who provides fabulous lessons each morning and hand analysis after the games.

Are Regionals at Sea expensive? Some are- they are offered on luxury ships and river cruise options. But some are very reasonable, sailing on Royal Caribbean ships. The price of the cruise includes all accommodations, all bridge fees, all meals, and all gratuities. Compare that to a week's stay at a hotel in a large city, paying for each bridge game, and meals, and you will find that a Regional at Sea is comparable.

Regionals at Sea are administered by Alice Travel and always include a nationally known host. The cruise itinerary includes stops in some awesome locations, and you can choose- bridge or beach today? The hosts include well-known bridge celebrities such as Larry Cohen, Robert Todd, Michael Berkowitz, and others. ACBL is beginning to expand tournament opportunities to include Sectionals at Sea.