

While waiting for the pandemic to subside over the past two years, many of us have delved into the cyber world. We've withstood tumultuous highs and lows, and now we can finally announce the return to face-to-face Unit games and the date for the annual Appreciation Party. Our plan is to host our first face-to-face game on **May 15** at the Soledad Club in co-occurrence with our annual Appreciation Party.

The theme of our annual San Diego Unit Appreciation Party is ***Bridge in Wonderland***, which is open to ALL our players in recognition of your patronage throughout the year. In previous years, we have hosted a Unit-subsidized annual event in appreciation of all our loyal players, featuring a gorgeous spread worthy of kings. Last year, we held a virtual event thanks to our resourceful team of volunteers.

Anyone who played in at least twenty of the Unit's Sunday virtual games in 2021 is eligible to attend the event for free: you will get a free play for the game, and we will cover your catered meal. The current list of eligible players is posted on the Unit's website, sandiegobridge.com.

This event will also recognize all 2019, 2020 and 2021 Unit Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners, as well as special rank promotion awards. Be sure to be there to receive your awards!

Our Unit's fundraising team is picking up steam for our annual *The Longest Day* fundraiser auction to benefit the Alzheimer's Association, where you can bid on top bridge players for a future online game of your choice. This year's event is scheduled for June 19. Bridge players have been the most giving and supportive group for the past ten years, and we admire your spirit and generosity. Let's keep going! Check sandiegobridge.com in the coming weeks for more details.

April is charity month for the clubs. Our Unit features three clubs hosting ACBL sanction games: San Diego Bridge Academy, San Diego Bridge Club, and Unit 539's own club. In addition, throughout the month, face-to-face clubs will be holding special games that will raise funds for the ACBL Charity Foundation, and bridge clubs will also have a chance to hold special games supporting charities in their own community. There are also upgraded masterpoint awards for players. Visit www.redwoodbridgeclub.org and www.sandiegobridgeclub.com for complete game schedules.

Our virtual games on BBO are still going strong, offering 18 board games on the first and third Sundays of each month. The virtual games average 25-30 tables to suit your skill level in the three stratifications (499er, 1499er, and Open). We're still offering a \$3 entry fee to those 1499ers who want to play in our San Diego Unit games.

Unit 539 is proud to welcome new member Frank Mittricker, as well as reinstated members Arthur Simpson and Barnie Wallace. Stop by and say "Hi" to Barnie and your fellow Board members, who will be volunteering at the Partnership Desk at the upcoming Pacific Southwest Regional. Welcome aboard, and we look forward to seeing you at future Unit 539 games!