🎃 October is here, bringing a full calendar of games, lessons, and plenty of treats at the bridge table.

This October is a little extra special. We have five Saturdays, Halloween falls on a Saturday, and as Halloween night rolls into November 1, we turn the clocks back and gain an extra hour.

Whether you are sharpening your bridge skills, welcoming newer players, or simply enjoying good company, there are plenty of ways to enjoy bridge this month. And with Halloween just around the corner, remember to take all your tricks... and maybe a few of theirs!

Our October 18 Unit Game at the Soledad Club will feature our annual Tribute Trophy Game. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., followed by bridge at 1:00 p.m.

Before play begins, we will take a few moments to remember bridge friends who have passed away during the past year, with an opportunity for anyone who wishes to share a few words. This will be a special membership game with extra masterpoints available, and the overall winners of each game will have their names engraved on our newly updated Tribute Trophy, which will be on display that day.

Our November 15 Unit Game at the Soledad Club will once again benefit Dr. Ray Sachs' Medical Missions, continuing an annual fundraising tradition that has become meaningful to our bridge community. For many years, Dr. Sachs has organized medical teams that travel to underserved countries to provide orthopedic surgery to patients who may not otherwise have access to this level of care. Ray and his team members pay their own airfare, lodging, and meals, and they also purchase and transport the plates, screws, and other medical supplies needed for the surgeries.

Ray is expected to have just returned from his latest mission, and we look forward to hearing some of his stories firsthand. If you plan to attend, please preregister by emailing Lamya at lamya.agelidis@gmail.com.

Those who would like to make an additional contribution may donate directly through the Advance "Bridge Players Supporting Global Surgical Missions" page. Scroll down to the "San Diego Bridge Players Donate Here" link to ensure your contribution is designated for Ray's medical missions.

As we head into the final months of the year, save the dates for our remaining Unit games: November 1, November 15, December 6, and December 20. All will be held at the Soledad Club. Please check the Unit website for schedules, results, and additional information.

Players of all levels who need a partner, including those interested in joining the 699er game, may email Bridget in advance at bridgefun1430@gmail.com. Bridget is also helping newer players build confidence at the table through supervised play sessions on Tuesdays at the Soledad Club from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., with assistance from Judy Laxer. The sessions have been drawing three to four tables each week and provide a relaxed, supportive setting to practice, ask questions, and gain experience. The cost is $5 per player, and new participants are always welcome.

Preparations are also well underway for the 2026 Fall NABC, coming to San Diego November 26 through December 6 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. All Unit 539 board members are volunteering in support of the tournament, with several on the local planning committee and Lamya serving as chair. We are especially excited to welcome players from across North America back to San Diego for the first NABC in our city in nine years.

Now is the time to start organizing your partnerships, teams, and the events you would like to play. For the full schedule and tournament information, visit the official 2026 San Diego Fall NABC page.

Around our local bridge clubs, there is plenty happening this month, including schedule updates, special games, and opportunities to play.

At San Diego Bridge Club, the Tuesday 10:30 a.m. Pairs Game at Adams Avenue continues this month. There will be no team game in October. Visit the club's website for current schedules, sign-ups, and additional information.

At Redwood Bridge Club, Friday mornings now include a 9:30 a.m. Open Pairs Game alongside the 1750 and Newcomer games. Swiss Teams continue on the first Friday of each month, with preregistration requested as participation grows. Newcomer duplicate and supervised play also continue on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Visit the club's website for schedules, registration, and additional information.

We hope to see you at the tables. Until then, stay spooky!