

It's July, and we're kicking off the second half of the year with Unit games, exciting updates, and plenty of chances to play bridge!

First up is *The Longest Day*. We're thrilled to share that our Longest Day fundraiser, benefiting the Alzheimer's Association, raised an incredible \$23,540, surpassing our goal by \$3,540. This remarkable achievement makes our Unit the top fundraising team in San Diego for the fifth consecutive year. Thank you to everyone who contributed by donating, bidding in the Pro Auction, or playing in our TLD Unit game last month. Special thanks go to this year's coordinators, Sam Madison and Sarah Granby from the Alzheimer's Association, and their dedicated team of volunteers for organizing such a successful event.

Our Unit celebrated The Longest Day on Father's Day by hosting 19 tables across two sections, with many players showing their support by wearing purple. For the past nine years, Judy Rimer has generously dedicated her time and talent to our fundraiser, creating beautiful, knitted items. One year, she crafted a jungle animal totem that sold for hundreds of dollars—you must see the picture to truly appreciate the artistry. In previous years, she made shawls, decorative flip-flops, beaded necklaces, and bridge-themed earrings. This year, with help from Dee Wilms, Judy created 28 hand-knitted dolls, which were available with a \$25 donation. Her contributions have become a meaningful part of our Longest Day tradition, and many look forward to seeing what she creates each year.

Another highlight of the fundraiser was Phyllis Yates' original paintings, which were once again a crowd favorite and a key contributor to the event's success. On the competitive front, Sam Jordan and Yoko Jordan captured first place in the Open Pairs with a 59.78% score, while Landis Fox and Natexa Verbugge topped the 699er game with a 57.60% finish. The Unit game also featured several delicious entrées, a festive cake, and a lively atmosphere, making it a joyful and memorable day in support of a great cause.

Since the D22 Connection will not be published in August, we want to highlight some bridge events you won't want to miss.

The joint Summer Sectional, co-hosted by the San Diego and La Jolla Units, will be held at the Soledad Club on Friday, August 2, and Saturday, August 3. Friday includes three pairs games, with start times at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday will feature Swiss Team events, with single-session pairs games available for those not playing teams. Combo lunches will be available for \$10 during the midday break.

If you need a partner, please email [Bridget Poizner](#) or [Selby Winkler](#), and they will be happy to assist you.

Seating is limited to the first 40 tables, so we encourage you to make early reservations to secure your spot. To reserve, please email [Lamya Agelidis](#) with your name, your partner's name, game type, session day and time, and your lunch preference. For full event details, please refer to the flyer on page [insert page number].

In addition to the Summer Sectional, we will host our regularly scheduled Unit games on July 20 and August 3. The North American Pairs (NAP) Qualifier will be held on August

17, and our Unit will host the fifth Sunday Unit game on August 31. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the Unit's [website](#).

All Unit games offer a light-catered lunch at 12:30 p.m., followed by bridge at 1:00 p.m., with a mini-lesson offered beforehand. If you want to join the 699er game, please contact Bridget. We're happy to see a steady rise in the number of tables for our limited games.

**Finally, some sad news — our bridge community has lost a true pillar.**

John Lagodimos passed away on Friday, July 11, and he will be deeply missed. An ACBL-certified bridge teacher and director, John, made lasting contributions to the game: he served on the Unit board, co-owned several local bridge clubs with Kathie Angione, and tirelessly recruited new players.

Together with Kathie, he graciously hosted annual New Year's and Fourth of July bridge parties at their home, creating cherished traditions for many. In recognition of their contributions, John and Kathie were honored as D22 Goodwill recipients in 2016.

John will be remembered for his warm smile, sharp mind, signature sport coat, perfectly pressed long-sleeved shirt, and deep love of the game. He was not only a great bridge player (Diamond Life Master -6161 mps) but also a gracious and kind presence at the table.

He touched many lives, and his absence will be felt throughout the community. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his partner, Kathie Angione—or, as John would say, *“the love of his life.”*