

Center for Bridge Education



Teaching us to hold hands

Cardology Kidz Show Their Winning Ways

CBE sent sixteen young people to the Youth NABC (North American Bridge Championship) in Las Vegas this year. That is more than double the number of students that we have sent in the past. The kids ranged in age from 7 to 17. More than 200 kids from around the world at-

Nolan Balocki and Eddy Qi started off with a bang, turning in a 69% to take first overall in all three flights of the first session of Cardrhook pairs. They are flight C players who prevailed over the A's, winning 2.6 mp's. In the same event Eric Guan, Anthony Guan, Nancy Yu,



The cardology kidz team (Nathan Susser, Collin Richie and Nolan Balocki missing.)

and Joey Qi tied for 4/5 in A, 3/4 in B, and 2/3 in C with a 67%. In the afternoon, Nancy and Joey turned in a 62% for 4th in B and 3rd in C. Eric and Anthony earned 5th in C. The next morning, Eric and Anthony led the pack with a 68%

tended.

While fun was the highest priority, several of our kids distinguished themselves at the table.

to take 1st in all three flights.

Nancy and Joey were 3rd in A and 2nd in B (Continued on Page 2)

Doug Keller Gift Helps CBE's Teaching Mission

Generous Douglas Keller helped teach bridge at Lowell High School because he thought that keeping our great game alive with new young players was very important. Doug passed away in 2017, but he made sure that his legacy will continue to attract younger players by leaving \$50,000 to the Center for Bridge Edu-



cation in his will. Doug also endowed a bench at the Strybing Arboretum in Golden

Gate Park where many of his bridge friends, family members, and friends from afar gathered to celebrate his life on a sunny day this year. At that memorial, Doug's niece presented the check to CBE Treasurer Lauren Friedman.

One way CBE will celebrate Doug's life is by sponsoring a "Doug Keller Kidz Dinner" (continued on page 2)

President's Letter by Jim Leuker



Our kids may have had summer off from school, but they sure didn't stop playing bridge. Sixteen of them headed to Las Vegas in late July to compete in the Youth NABC. This was by far the largest contingent we've sent to the YNABC. How did they do? Very well! Even those who didn't bring home a trophy had the great experience of competing against young people from other parts of the country. They will have great memories of the experience. (See story above.)

We're gearing up for the new school year. We will return to a few middle and elementary schools. We're also investigating starting high school programs at Lowell and St. Ignatius. These two excellent academic schools could turn out great competitors at the bridge table.

Cardology Kidz is a busy place every Saturday afternoon at Davies Medical Center starting at 4 p.m. Drop in some time, South Tower, Level B (for bridge at 12:15 followed by the kids) and get to see 30 or 40 kids and a few adults having a ball playing Handz and bridge. We'd be happy to show you how to help them learn and play.

We have a few special events coming up. In October there will be a screening of "Double Dummy," a film about bridge, being shown at Stonestown. We'll be offering pizza to entice our CBE kids to attend. We hope many bridge players will bring their non-bridge-playing friends to see it. There will be Junior Day at the SF 2019 Fall NABC at the Marriott Marquis on November 30. A party will take place between the afternoon and evening sessions for young players from here and elsewhere.

Don't forget to invite your bridge playing friends to join CBE as a member and a contributor. We count on our members to help us continue our teaching programs.

Winning Ways (continued from page 1)



Winners with trophies

with a 64%. We guess they earned enough points the previous day to no longer qualify in C. Nolan and Eddy took 4th in C.

In the afternoon, Eric and Anthony were 2nd in A and B and 1st in C with a whopping 78%. Four of our kids, Nathan Susser, Collin Richie, Helen Chow, and Nathan Chow braved the youth open pairs. On Friday



Dads, Bart and Joe, played together while their sons, Nolan and Eddy, played

they didn't qualify for the play through, but in the consolation Helen and Nathan took 6th in A and 2nd in B with a very respectable 60%.

On the final morning, Nolan and Eddy again showed their prowess, taking 6th in B and 2nd in C, while Toby Lee and Edmund Tso tied for 3/4 in C. That afternoon, Nancy and Joey turned in a 71%

to win the A and B strats.

Not to be outdone, even the parents got involved. Bart Balocki (Nolan's dad) and Joe Qi (Eddy's dad) have been learning the game at Cardology Kidz along with their children. They played in a couple of I/N games and scratched. Jane Jian (Edmund Tso's mom), who learned the game in China before immigrating to the US, played with Sarah Eidelhoch (Andrew's mom) and had some mp's come their way.

But all was not seriousness. William Zhu hosted the annual Doug Keller dinner (See article page 1) for the kids, who were happy to spend some time with each other away from their parents. They went to a Mexican restaurant where the younger kids immediately went to work



Finding fun away from the table

coloring their menus. Even though the restaurant was Mexican, most of the kids ordered chicken nuggets and fries. After dinner the kids played Mafia, a mystery-oriented party game, and then some even stayed up to play in the midnight game.

At the same time the parents had dinner to themselves, getting a break from the responsibilities of looking out for the kids. Hui and Joe Qi treated Deborah Drysdale to a fancy Chinese dinner at a high-end restaurant. The previous night all the parents took Deborah, William, and Edmund out for a fabulous dinner at the Paris buffet.

The kids had a lot of fun outside of bridge. They frolicked in the pool, rode the Ferris wheel (at a neighboring hotel) and just had fun hanging out together.

Keller (continued from page 1)

during the summer Youth NABC each year for CBE participants as well as for CBE alums. CBE is carefully considering other ways to thank Doug. We'd love to be able to rent a space to use to teach and to sublet to local club managers but the economic realities of San Francisco are such that it would take several gifts of this size to achieve that. Perhaps some of you reading this might consider doing something similar to what Doug did and help make this wish a reality.

Chen and Team Win GNT

Chris Chen, an alum of our Lowell High School teaching program, was on the winning GNT C team in Las Vegas, along with teammates Qucheng Gong, Jakob Karstens, and Andrew Sinclair. In the final they beat the other team District 21 sent. Twenty-seven teams from the various districts entered the event with larger districts allowed to send two teams. A couple of districts did not send a flight C team. To qualify in flight C, players must be non-life masters with less than 500 points.

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