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Summer 2016



Center for Bridge Education & Silicon Valley Youth Bridge Newsletter

President's Corner



Spring and Summer are very busy times for Youth Bridge!

In April we held the [second annual Bay Area High School Bridge Championship](#) at the Bayshore Bridge Club in Burlingame. Then in June the [3rd Annual SiVY Bridge Summer Camp](#) and trainings for the Youth North American Bridge Championships (YNABC) were held. In July the Firecracker Super Sectional had its Saturday Youth Day, along with several other games where our youth were well-represented.

All of these special events are in addition to closing out the after school programs for the year, hosting pizza parties, parent/child duplicates, and Casual Fridays - as well as holding a special Father's Day bridge game.

Welcome to Youth Bridge Blast, the newsletter for San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley Youth Bridge. It is published 3 times per year and sent to parents, kids, donors, volunteers, and those signed up to receive it.

3rd Annual SiVY Bridge Summer Camp

Silicon Valley Youth Bridge (SiVY Bridge) held its third bridge camp for young players June 20 through June 24. This year, campers included players aged 10 to 15 who have not played regularly in open duplicate games. The goal of the camp was to provide a casual and social atmosphere for introducing beginners to the game and offering more experienced players an opportunity to practice against their peers and learn new techniques.



Charlie Narasin's mother, a bridge player herself, said she has tried unsuccessfully to interest Charlie's two older siblings in the game. She was happy that Charlie came home from camp every day talking about bridge, especially on Thursday, which was her birthday. She said, "It was the best birthday present I could have gotten, to hear him talk about the bridge hands he played. He really seems to be getting into it."

Apparently he is—Charlie and his partner, Tiep Nguyen, finished first East-West in Strat A (for the more experienced players) in Friday's

This newsletter contains highlights of all these happenings.

Looking ahead, over the next 3 weeks there are several other exciting National and International youth bridge events coming up.

First, the Collegiate Bowl will be held this weekend in Washington DC, and \$20,000 in scholarships are at stake! Two of our SiVY mentors, Isha Thapa and Kevin Rosenberg, are members of the UC Berkeley team. Information on how to watch on vugraph and follow their progress is [here](#).

One week later, also in Washington DC, 24 SiVY sponsored players will compete for masterpoints and scholarships at the [Youth North American Bridge Championships \(YNABC\)](#). Their results will be available via [ACBL Live](#).

Last, but not least, during the first part of August, the [2016 World Youth Team Championships](#) will be held in Italy. Four SiVY youth will be representing the U.S in the event for under 16 year old players (Suzanne Campbell, Michael Hu, Rory Xiao, and Arthur Zhou), Isha Thapa is part of the team competing for the Rona Cup (under 26 year old women players), and Kevin Rosenberg is a member of the USA1 Patino Cup team (under 26 year old players) . [Check the USBF website](#) to see photos and the [World Bridge Federation website](#) to follow the progress of these events.

Thank you again to the dozens of volunteers who make the monthly events, the after school programs, the [mentor program](#), [Casual Friday](#), summer camp, and all our SiVY activities successful. Also a special thanks to those who donated in our annual fund-



tournament, with a 71% score. [Visit our website to see photos and read more](#) about Charlie and the other campers.

Charlie and partner Tiep celebrating their win at the end of camp tournament.

Firecracker Super Sectional Youth Day

Saturday July 2 was "Youth Day" at this year's Firecracker Sectional. The tournament featured a special 0-5 point beginner pair game, in which many SiVY youth competed. More than half of the 10 table first session were youth players and exactly half of the second session were kids.



It was especially fun to see several pairs who had just learned bridge during the prior week's summer camp come out to play, including Jamin Xie and Edward Han, who played both sessions and improved several percentage points in their second game.

Between sessions youth from the 0-5 and the other games were invited to enjoy lunch outside under the trees. About 35 young players participated in the pizza party, some discussing hands and others just enjoying spending time with their friends.



There was also a great youth representation in the other games throughout the tournament. Of particular note was the 99er game at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, where both directions were won by Youth/Junior pairs: Nathan and Natalie Huang with a 62% game and Daniel Sonner and Lucas Huang with nearly 56%.

An interesting statistic was recently calculated by our SiVY Program Manager, Michael Bodell: **in 2015 about 15% of the masterpoints won by Youth in all of ACBL were players from SiVY.** Based on the turnout at the Firecracker, it's easy to see how this is possible.

raising drive. As a non-profit, all volunteer organization, we only exist because so many of you give generously of your time and resources.

Debbie Rosenberg

Upcoming Events

August 14 (Sunday)

Pizza Party Play Bridge

FREE

5:30 - 8:30 PM at the [Bridge Center](#) in Mountain View

August 21 (Sunday)

Parent/Child Duplicate

1:00 - 4:00 PM at the [Bridge Center](#) in Mountain View

September 11 (Sunday)

Pizza Party Play Bridge

FREE

5:00 - 8:00 PM at the [Bridge Center](#) in Mountain View

[2016 Event Information](#)

[See photos from youth day](#) and take a look at [all the Firecracker Results](#) online.

Thank you to Donors and Volunteers

Around the anniversary of its founding each year, SiVY has held both an annual fundraising drive to ensure available funding and an event to say thank you to the volunteers who have worked so hard in the prior 12 months.



This year the [Bridge Winners community teamed with us](#) to raise the money needed to continue the program. We were awed and humbled by the response, which exceeded our goal of \$30,000 in less than three weeks. If you have not yet read [Steve Weinstein's excellent article](#) about his experience with the SiVY kids at the recent Silicon Valley Sectional, please take a look. Thank you Bridge Winners Community and all donors!



Equally important to its success is the community of volunteers who give generously of their time as teachers, table helpers, mentors, administrators, etc. At the Unit 503 Unit Game in June, 90 volunteers

active in the program in our third year were invited to enjoy an afternoon of bridge, a champagne toast, cake, and a prize drawing as a thank you from SiVY. [See photos from the volunteer event here.](#)

The only way to develop the next generation of bridge players is to come together as a community and teach this great game to the young people in our lives. Once again, THANK YOU to the many bridge players who have contributed time and money to this effort since SiVY was founded in 2013.

Special Father's Day Parent-Child Duplicate

Sixteen tables of Parent-Child and Grandparent-Child pairs came out for the special Fathers Day game co-sponsored by Unit 503 and SiVY Bridge, breaking previous attendance records.



The "parents" in the 32 pairs were represented by 18 fathers, 10 mothers, 3 grandfathers, and 1 grandmother. The "children" spanned a wide range of ages and levels, starting with 7 year-old Kayden Ge, playing in his first duplicate tournament, going up to three non-Juniors (older than 25). In between there were many pre-teens and teens, as well as a few

young adults who still qualify as juniors.

Sixteen-year old Cornelius Duffie is a SiVY regular. He, his sister Claire, three grandparents, and his dad, have all participated in previous Parent-Child games. When it happened that neither dad nor grandparents were available for this game, Cornelius persuaded his mom to give duplicate a try. Elizabeth Schwerer had played just a little bridge at home before this, and came in first place E-W in Section B.

[Read about some of the special family moments of the day](#) and see more [photos](#) on our website.

Special thanks to tournament director Will Watson for preparing lunch, and providing another fantastic tournament experience for the players

Silicon Valley Youth Bridge



Our Mission: To promote academic excellence in the areas of math, critical thinking and logic, to foster positive social interactions and teamwork, and to provide an opportunity for a lifetime of learning, enjoyment and community by inspiring the next generation of bridge players.

Web site: SiliconValleyYouthBridge.org

Facebook: Facebook.com/SiliconValleyYouthBridge

Center for Bridge Education

Web site: Center4Bridge.org



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