



Youth Bridge Blast

SiVY
BRIDGE

2025 Annual Recap
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(incl. Casual Fridays, Local Tournaments, Bridge Camps)
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We are excited to bring you the [Silicon Valley Youth Bridge](#) 2025 Recap Newsletter!

Our SiVY players had a big year - we will cover all the exciting events our players participated in since our last newsletter (August 2024). **Some highlights include 7 local tournaments, SiVY's comeback in Battle of the Bay, and multiple national titles & international medals for our junior players!**

Looking Ahead for 2026

All the SiVY events covered in this newsletter will continue for 2026:

- We are continuing our [Casual Fridays](#) every Friday from ~6-8:30 pm. Stop by for some pizza and bridge fun!
- [Pizza Party Tournaments](#) are held every few months with a fun theme. 2026 schedule coming out soon!
- We will also host a [Summer Camp](#) similar to the last two years, with two consecutive weekend dates.

Coaches' Corner

THANK YOU to all of our volunteers (* indicates a junior volunteer):

- **SiVY committee:** Amber Lin, Kevin Rosenberg, Will Watson, Kai Eckert*, Debbie Rosenberg, Stephanie Youngquist, and Mukund Thapa
- **Volunteers:** Helen Chang, Sharon Chu*, Florin Constantin, Cornelius Duffie*, Vasisht Ganesh*, Brandon Ge*, Kayden Ge*, Xin Ge, Eugene Hung, Ed Lechner, Anant Rathi, Ken Rosenfeld, Olivia Schireson*, Weilong Shen*, Alan Templeton, David Wu*, Brent Xiao*, Jonathan Yue*, Brian Zhang*, Qiang Zhang, Bruce Zhu*

2025 was also a big year for SiVY's regular coaches:



Amber Lin was named [2025 ACBL Honorary Member of the Year](#) & played on the USA1 Women's team.



Coaches Amber Lin & Kevin Rosenberg had a bridge-themed wedding in Boston in September!



Kevin Rosenberg won 3 major National events - the Reisinger BAM (Fall '24), the Platinum Pairs (Spring '25) & the Spingold KO (Summer '25)



Kai Eckert's Youtube Channel "[Bridgin' with Kai](#)" released 250+ videos, hit 900+ subscribers, and collected 100K+ views!

Programs Recap

Casual Friday

Casual Friday is our main event... weekly supervised play with plenty of pizza and snacks! Since November 2023, we have been nonstop. In 2025, we held **47 events**, usually with around four tables of varying ages and levels.

Casual Fridays are held on Friday evenings. The schedule has evolved: typically there is a mini-lesson from 6-6:30pm, a team match from 6:30-8pm, and then an optional hour of casual bridge from 8-9pm. Many of the kids don't want to leave! Parents are also welcome to hang around and join in the fun. Many stay and watch the youth as they learn bridge skills, sometimes joining in, or get some work done on the other side of the club.

(See photos on the next page)

Pizza Party Tournaments

Since our last newsletter in August 2024, we've held 7 pizza party tournaments. These tournaments can be pairs or individual, but will always award masterpoints, trophies, and additional prizes. And of course, there is always fresh pizza and snacks to enjoy while playing!

Event	Winners	Photos	Results
10/13/24 "Halloween Party"	(1) Jayson & Kate Lee (2) Michael & Joseph Hoagland	Link	Link
12/14/24 "Winter Party"	Flight A: (1) Joseph Hoagland, (2) Michael Hoagland, (3) Kate Lee Flight B: (1) Mihai Constantin, (2) Bei Zhang (tie-break)	Link	Link
12/21/24 "Holiday Party (w/ Young Adults)"	(1) Rory Xiao, (2) Jonathan Yue, (3) Olivia Schireson	N/A	Link
3/29/25 "Easter Party"	Flight A: (1) Jeremy Zhang, (2) Kai Eckert, (3) Kevin Wei, (4) Demian Li Flight B: (1) Larry Wei, (2) Mihai Constantin	Link	Link
5/10/25 "Spring Party"	Flight A: (1) Michael Hoagland, (2) Kevin Wei, (3) Demian Li Flight B: (1) Beatriz Aldana, (2) Flora Ding, (3) Joseph Hoagland	Link	Link
11/8/25 "Fall Party" <i>Instant MP Individual</i>	Flight A: (1) Kate Lee, (2) Michael Hoagland, (3) Flora Ding Flight B: (1) Oscar Li, (2) Kurt Hoisie, (3) Mihai Constantin	Link	N/A*
12/13/25 "Winter Party" <i>Instant MP Individual</i>	Flight A: (1) Jayson Lee, (2) Michael Hoagland, (3) Joseph Hoagland Flight B: (1) Flora Ding, (2) Mihai Constantin	Link	N/A*

**We don't have results online because we trialed a new tournament format called "instant MP individuals" (individual tournament where scores were MP-ed with a previous adult game) - we will add results for future games.*

(See photos on the next page)



Signing the guest book at the Casual Friday after Amber & Kevin's wedding



Reviewing a hand around Valentine's Day



SiVY players at the Santa Clara Regional



Flight A winners, Easter 2025 Pizza Party



Prizes of the Easter 2025 Pizza Party



SiVY players at the Monterey Regional



Flight B winners, Spring 2025 Pizza Party



A training match for older juniors prepping for the 2024 Atlanta SA Junior US Championships



Flight B winners, Fall 2025 Pizza Party



Competing during the Winter Pizza Party



All winners of the 2025 Winter Pizza Party



A summer Casual Friday

Summer Camp

This past summer, SiVY hosted its second double weekend summer camp on June 7-8 and June 14-15. This format made it more convenient to recruit volunteers and also allowed players to balance other summer activities. There were a total of 23 unique players.

The schedule was from 1-5:30pm both days and consisted of lessons, practice hands, worksheets, bridge games / activities, and a tournament for the majority of both Sundays. Lessons were sourced from SiVY volunteers, Debbie Rosenberg, the English Bridge Union's free mini-bridge series, and Patty Tucker's Jump Start series. All materials were shared with campers to take home and review. Huge shout-out to Will Watson for making ~400 hands!

You can find the results and hand records from Weekend #1 [here](#) and Weekend #2 [here](#). You can find photos [here](#).



Weekend #1, June 7-8



Weekend #2, June 14-15



Winter Camp

Six months later, SiVY held its second Winter Camp (held every odd-year) on **December 27-28**. There were 14 players who participated in a similar weekend to Summer Camp with lessons, bridge-related games, and a tournament on Sunday in the beautifully decorated Palo Alto Bridge Center.



2025 Battle of the Bay Tournament



The second annual **SiVY vs. CBE “Battle of the Bay” Tournament** was on Saturday, July 5th. [Center for Bridge Education \(CBE\)](#) is a sister organization to SiVY, teaching youth players in San Francisco. Last year, CBE won, but this year, the SiVY team came back with a decisive victory to claim the title. There was lots of pizza, laughs, and fun for all players!

You can find photos [here](#).

Overall: (1) SiVY - 68 VPs vs. (2) CBE - 12 VPs

Flight A Pairs	Flight B Pairs
1. Jayson & Kate - 34.8 IMPs	1. Flora & Mihai - 43.7 IMPs
2. Michael & Kevin - 28.9 IMPs	2. Larry & Oscar - 41.5 IMPs
3. Eddy & Peter - -6.3 IMPs	3. Tucker & Julia - 18.3 IMPs

National & International Youth Tournaments

US Junior Bridge Camp & Championships in Atlanta

The 2024 Sam Amer Junior U.S. Bridge Championships were held in late December in Atlanta. These trials select the teams who will represent the U.S. at the 2025 World Youth Bridge Teams Championships. The competition is sponsored by the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The trials were named after Sam Amer, who was a bridge professional in New York City and a beloved member of the bridge community. He was a former member of the USBF Junior program and represented the U.S. in the 2018 WYBTC. He was known for his incredible kindness towards others and his infectious passion for the game. Sam died in 2023 of an accidental fentanyl overdose. “Through collaboration with Sam’s family, we paid homage to Sam by celebrating ways to ‘be like Sam’ and promoted fentanyl awareness,” said Amber Lin, who coordinates the Online Junior Training Program.

Almost all 115 participants attended a two-day training camp prior to the trials, organized by Lin and Kevin Rosenberg and sponsored by the ACBL Educational Foundation, including two young players from the Mexican Bridge Federation and their mentor/coach. The camp included lessons, practice team matches, and fun activities like “Crazy Bridge,” where the rules were slightly modified (e.g., one revoke per hand allowed).

Read the full article from [March 2025 Bridge Bulletin here](#), including an article by SiVY’s own Kayden Ge

Many SiVY players participated and qualified for the World Championships in Italy (see next page for how they did).

Qualifiers from the US Bridge Championships:

- U26, 1st Place | Bruce Zhu, Michael Hu, Michael Xu
- U26, 2nd Place | Olivia Schireson, Brent Xiao, Cornelius Duffie, Stella Wan
- U21, 2nd Place | Kayden Ge, Brian Zhang, Brandon Ge
- U26 Women's, 3rd Place | Sharon Chu (SiVY Volunteer) placed
- U16, 2nd Place | Kate Lee
- U16, 3rd Place | Kevin Wei

Note that several additional players made the team through a selection process after the event was over.

You can find all tournament results [here](#). You can find photos of Team USA [here](#).



Youth World Championships in Italy

From July 11-17, right before the Philadelphia NABC, the city of Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy hosted the 19th World Youth Teams Championships. It takes place every 2 years and countries must qualify through Zonal competitions first - exactly like the Bermuda Bowl. District 21 (D21) includes all of Northern California. Many of our SiVY & broader D21 players competed in the tournament, all of them bringing home priceless memories, while some even brought back some medals. 17 out of 48 players in the junior categories were from D21!

D21 Participants & Medals

**Current and former SiVY players & volunteers*

- Under 26 USA2, Silver 🥈 Cornelius Duffie*, Olivia Schireson*, Brent Xiao*, Rory Xiao*
- Under 21 USA2, Silver 🥈 Charlie Chen*, Brandon Ge*, Kayden Ge*, Brian Zhang*
- Under 16 USA1, Silver 🥈 Andrew Chen*
- Under 26 USA1 - Michael Hu*, Michael Xu*, Bohan (Bruce) Zhu*
- Under 26W USA1 - Helen Chow
- Under 26W USA2 - Yi Chen (Jessie) Cai, Shao-heng (Sharon) Chu*
- Under 16 USA2 - Kate Lee*, Jayson Lee*, Kevin Wei* (with NPC Will Watson*)



U26 Silver Medalists



U21 Silver Medalists



Entire Team USA cohort at Opening Ceremony



*Kayden Ge (D21) & Brian Zhang (D2)
against fellow USA1 U21*



*U16 USA2 includes 3 SiVY regulars: Jayson
Lee, Kate Lee, & Kevin Wei & Coach Will
Watson*



*U26 USA1 including D21 players Bruce
Zhu, Michael Hu, & Michael Xu*

You can find all tournament results [here](#). You can find photos of Team USA [here](#).

Summer NABC in Philadelphia

We had ~40 junior players attend the Summer NABC! Special congrats to **Jayson & Kate Lee, who won the NABC Youth Open Pairs**, the premier national event for Under 21 players!

For the Youth NABC, we nearly doubled our numbers from last year's 13 to this year's 24 players. Thanks to the generous contributions of SiVY donors, Center for Bridge Education (CBE) donors, and District 21, we were able to provide travel stipends to those who applied. Thank you to all the coaches and parents who mentored and chaperoned younger players during the tournament.

Participants

Under 21:

- Anson Wong¹
- Arthur Hung¹
- Beatrice Hung¹
- Brandon Ge²
- Brian Zhang²
- Demian Li¹
- Eddy Qi
- Ethan Wu¹
- Flora Ding¹
- Jayson Lee
- Joseph Hoagland
- Clayton Kaneko
- Kaitlyn Kuang¹
- Kaitlyn Wong¹
- Kate Lee
- Kayden Ge¹¹
- Keith Lin
- Kevin Wei
- Kristyn Wong¹
- Kurt Hoisie¹
- Kyle Lin
- Larry Wei
- Liya Li¹
- Michael Hoagland
- Olivia Schireson²
- Samuel Kuang¹
- Zhouxiong "Bei" Wu¹

Collegiate Players:

- UC Berkeley: Zhenling Wang, Mihir Singhal, Weichen Tang, Jonathan Yue
- UC Davis: Rory Xiao, Maxwell Burns, Aniket Mondal¹, Keri Bjorgum¹, Haoqing Chen¹
- Amherst³: Michael Xu, Hank Hsu, Michael Zheng
- Georgia Tech³: Vasisht Ganesh
- San Diego State³: Kai Eckert

¹First time NABC participants

²More advanced U21 players eligible to play YNABC but only played more advanced events

³These players live in D21 but attend school elsewhere, recently graduated, or attend remotely

Results in Premier National Events



Jayson & Kate Lee won the Youth Open Pairs



UC Berkeley took home 2nd Place in the Collegiate Bridge Bowl

Youth NABC:

- Baron Barclay National Youth Open Pairs
 - 1st Place: Jayson Lee & Kate Lee (\$2,000 Scholarship for the pair)
 - 4th Place: Michael Hoagland

Collegiates:

- Collegiate Bridgebowl Championship
 - 2nd Place: UC Berkeley (Zhenling Wang, Mihir Singhal, Weichen Tang, Jonathan Yue, Ethan Xie) (\$5,000 for the team)

Youth Players in Open NABC Events:

- Roth Open Swiss:
 - 11th: Olivia Schireson
- NABC+ Open Pairs:
 - 16th: Kai Eckert
- Wernher Open Pairs:
 - 20th: Brian Zhang & Kayden Ge



CBE juniors & mentors



SiVY juniors & mentors



D21 players bridge and win trophies with friends from other parts of North America.



Following the afternoon game, CBE hosted its annual **Douglas Keller Memorial Dinner** with 50+ members from SiVY and CBE and family members in attendance—doubling our attendance from last year! After dinner, many youth participated in “Crazy Bridge”—a fun tournament with twists on the classic rules of bridge hosted by Adam Kaplan for ages 35 & under.



Fall NABC in San Francisco

The Fall NABC happened to be in San Francisco this year, which only happens once every six years!



In the top row, juniors enjoy a pasta dinner and games at the ACBL Educational Foundation Junior Night.

In the bottom row: On the left, SiVY Players get a photo with ACBL Executive Director Bronia Jenkins while playing. In the center and right, SiVY players enjoy another night of crazy bridge with other juniors.

Player's Perspective #1: Jayson Lee



“How would you describe your summer in one word?”

“That’s easy, bridge.”

From The World Youth Bridge Team Championships (WYBTC) held in Salsomaggiore (July 12th–17th), to the YNABC (and summer NABC) held in Philadelphia, my whole summer revolved around bridge, specifically youth bridge. This month of bridge all began in Atlanta, where I qualified in the trials for the U16 USA Team 2.

The WYBTC was held in Salsomaggiore, Italy, a small town about two hours south of Milan. For eight long days, the town was overfilled with youth bridge players from around the world. My partner, who also happened to be my sister, Kate Lee, and I played hundreds of hands against players from India, Thailand, England, Norway, Israel, and more. Unfortunately, we didn’t qualify during the round robin event. It took a little while for our team to get it together, but we did much better during the BAM, placing 5th (hopefully next time we can even medal!).

One of the most memorable things about Italy was that the players from the USA teams all lived in one hotel and we ate our meals together. Seeing familiar faces and friends every day who had a common interest and bridge goals took this experience to another level. Sitting at a round table eating amazing pasta and pizza with people you may or may not know, making new friends, and talking about boards was something I really looked forward to when coming back from the event each day. Without this, I would say that the event would be, without a doubt, 10 times different.

In addition, during the evenings, my peers hung out in the hotel’s common room playing cards with each other. We played 50 hands during the day and we would play another 30 just for fun in the evening. All of these moments made the WYBTC one of the most memorable experiences for me. I think it helped build the USA youth bridge community indefinitely, and I will always remember 2025 Worlds as an amazing event that was full of fun and laughter (and lots of mosquitoes!).

After the long eight-day WYBTC, I headed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for Round 2. Kate and I played many events including the Young 0–3K pairs, the Wernher Open Pairs, Top Flight Swiss, Open Pairs, and the YNABC. Overall, the event was a blast. I enjoyed the breakfasts and light snacks, particularly the little Philly cheesesteaks, and we played okay throughout the week. But personally, the highlight of Philly was the YNABC.

First, this was the biggest YNABC event since COVID—there were over 150 juniors at the event and it was great to see so many kids playing bridge. I started a bridge club at my middle school this past year to share my love of the game with my classmates. Not to deter anyone, but making lessons and making sure my six regular students come back to the club twice a week was no easy task—if anything, it was incredibly difficult. Going back to the YNABC, I think it is a great event that helps support bridge specifically for youth.

Second, Kate and I won the YNABC’s Baron Barclay National Open Youth Pairs! During the 5-minute period when the directors were finalizing the results, my heart sank and rose probably 20 times. Kate and I were doing well and we were leading going into the last round, and the directors almost “knew we won.” However, I fell victim to last-board/round-syndrome (sorry partner!) and we had two rock bottoms on the last boards.

One of the directors at the tournament, Carolyn Pinto, said something like, “You guys did so well! You really have grown over the past few years!” This was great news until we heard the other director (Jesse Laird) say the words

that made my heart skip a beat. The words, and I quote, were “I believe we have a new leader.” I was stunned, shocked, and literally frozen. Did I completely ruin it and did my last-board-syndrome throw away my victory? Is this it? Did my partner and I just lose because I was playing too fast? I was so shocked that I couldn’t even move.

After a moment of silence, I heard the gentle words from Carolyn: “That must hurt. No tears, no tears. Oh my, you guys played so good though.” I felt like all life had been extinguished from me. I sat in a chair and began to regret everything and anything I did in this event. Then the winners started to be announced by Stephanie Threlkeld and they received their trophies from Shaneka Cunningham.

As the Youth event winners started to receive their awards, the only thing I was thinking about was how I threw away the game. I then heard the words that I knew would cement my failure to win an event that was literally in my grasp. Stephanie announced the 3rd and 2nd place winners... but our names weren’t called. Then I went into a trance that seemed like 10 minutes but was probably only a second. It was like all hope and life came anew in my body. All my thoughts of despair changed into glistening thoughts of hope. It was like a miracle happened, like I saw 1000 shooting stars all at once. I came back to life to hear the words that would—and still have—changed my life: “The winners of AB and C are Jayson and Kate Lee!”

I was so happy that even the joy kids get when they get presents from Santa pales in comparison to my happiness and euphoria during that moment. We accepted the trophies and walked away from the ACBL backdrop with glee and smiles wider than the ones kids drew on the faces of stick figures. We won by 0.4 match points—a slim margin!

To conclude, I just want to say that I am thankful to all the mentors who have supported and helped me become a better bridge player—starting at BridgeWhiz to the hours upon hours playing at Center for Bridge Education and Silicon Valley Youth Bridge. I couldn’t have been at Worlds or won the Youth Open Pairs without them—or received a blue ribbon in my ACBL profile! So finally, if someone asked me to describe my summer in one word, it would truly just be the word: BRIDGE.

Player’s Perspective #2: Michael Hoagland



My name is Michael Hoagland, an 11th-grade student who has been playing bridge for four years. I will be writing about my recent NABC experience in San Francisco.

With the NABC coming to San Francisco, my dad decided to take my brother and me to our first fall NABC (I had previously attended summer NABCs in Toronto and Philadelphia). We spent Thanksgiving playing bridge, starting on Thursday when I played two sessions of the 299er with my brother Joseph, earning 2.25 master points.

On Friday, my brother played with his friend, so I joined a team of UC Davis students for the bracketed teams event. Our team fought hard, finishing 6th out of 9th, earning 0.68 red master points. I enjoyed filling in for a team down a player and connected well with my partner. That evening, we played another session in the side pairs. I felt I played terribly, yet we still earned 1.55 red master points and finished in 4th place.

From that session, one particular slam hand felt makable, but I ended up going down, even though I could have made it double dummy. The hand was:

Dir: N		5
Vul: N-S	♠ KQ9874	
	♥ 6	
9	♦ J95	
19 10	♣ QJ6	
2		
♠ AJ6	♠ 5	
♥ AJ752	♥ K94	
♦ AKQ3	♦ 4	
♣ 10	♣ AK987542	
	♠ 1032	
	♥ Q1083	
	♦ 108762	
	♣ 3	

Double Dummy Makes

NS: ♠1♦3♥1♣5NT1
EW: 6♣3♦6♥2♠4/5NT

We were E/W, and the bidding opened 2♠ by North, my partner (east) doubled, I believe south might have bid 3♠, and now I was deciding what to do with my hand. I was thinking if I bid 4♥, my partner might pass and we would miss out on slam. My hand looked good enough for slam opposite my partner's opening count, so I decided 6♥ was the best bid to do here. My partner laughed, and when he laid down his hand, I understood why.

Coach's comment: East should bid 3♣; this hand is not good enough for a power double (needs a good 18+ HCP or equivalent).

It went K♠ lead won in my hand, and a ruff on the board. After a while of thinking, I played the A♣, and then the K♣, hoping to find clubs were 2-2, then playing 2 rounds of trump, and leaving one trump out while I run my clubs. After finding out clubs were 3-1 by a heart ruff by the 3, I overruffed with the 5♥, and ruffed a diamond in dummy after playing the ace, but then realized I probably wasn't going

to be making the contract after this, and that solidified after finding out the hearts were 4-1. I gave up a spade and heart trick, going down one.

My partner later told me that I should slow down in the bidding. 6♣ would have ended up being an easy slam to make if we ended up there. After analyzing it on GIB (double dummy play), one potential line of play I could have done includes taking the spade with the ace, ruffing in dummy, playing a diamond to the ace, ruffing another spade, winning the ace of clubs, ruffing a club in my hand, playing the king and queen of diamonds, ruffing the 3 with the king in dummy, and ruffing a small club in my hand. The end position would be West holding the AJ7 of hearts, North with the Q9 of spades and 6 of hearts, Dummy with 3 clubs, and South with QT8 of hearts. It would involve me having to play the 7♥, and when won by either card by south, they would be end played regardless.

We continued playing Saturday, Sunday, and came back the next weekend after a week of school. In total, I gained about 13.51 red masterpoints. Overall, being able to go to an NABC that was close enough during Thanksgiving break week was very fun, and I am glad of being able to put up good results against people from around the country within my master point range

Player's Perspective #3: Liya Li



Hi my name is Liya. I began playing bridge because my dad suggested for me to do it. But I quickly realized that it was fun. Thanks to an app called Tricky Bridge. I started winning games and went to Casual Friday playing bridge with other people.

I went to Philadelphia because I wanted to go to a big tournament and it was a huge tournament. It would be my first competition of that size. I felt very excited and nervous—I didn't know what would happen when we got there. My partner hadn't arrived yet. So I had to wait. Soon I figured out that playing bridge is more fun than walking around sightseeing. One deal our opponents were in 5 clubs X vulnerable and guess what! They went down 3. Another hand was 3 heart XX by my partner and it was making-it was fun! Overall I did not get any trophies or anything but whatever. Going to Philadelphia was amazing. I hope I'll get a chance to do it again. I look forward to going to the 2026 tournament and qualify for the US team.