



Center for Bridge Education Newsletter - Summer 2023

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The CBE kids display their hard-earned trophies at the Youth NABC in Chicago.  
Front row, left to right: Nolan Balocki, Jayson Lee, Katherine Lee, Chloe Chow, Keith Lin  
Back row, left to right: Andrew Eidelhoch, Nathan Chow, Kyle Lin, Gary Zeng, Joey Qi, Eddy Qi,  
Nancy Yu, Leo Susser, William Zhu (CBE coach)

# CBE Kids in Chicago Youth NABC

Thanks to your generous support, CBE sponsored trips for thirteen emerging youth bridge superstars to the youth North American Bridge Championship (NABC) in Chicago in mid-July 2023. As they did last summer, the youths demonstrated their bridge prowess, distinguishing themselves from the field and garnering multiple trophies!

Among their multiple achievements, four pairs of CBE kids made it to the finals of the two-session National Youth Open Pairs event on Friday, July 21, 2023: Andrew Eidelhoch and Joey Qi, Gary Zeng and Nancy Yu, Kyle Lin and Keith Lin, and Katherine (Kate) Lee and Jayson Lee. Andrew and Joey came in 8th overall, and Gary and Nancy came in 9th overall, garnering 2.64 and 2.38 gold points, respectively! Kyle and Keith were 3rd in B overall, winning 2.07 red points, and newcomers Kate and Jayson Lee (ages 11 and 9, respectively) were 4th in B overall, adding a cool 1.55 red points to their burgeoning MP piggy banks! (See <https://live.acbl.org/event/NABC232/21YP/2/recap>)



Youth NABC Open Pairs: 3rd in B and 11th overall:  
Keith Lin and Kyle Lin

CBE youths also performed skillfully in the Youth NABC swiss team event held on Saturday, July 22, 2023. The fearsome foursome of Keith Lin, Andrew Eidelhoch, Joey Qi, and Kyle Lin captured a fourth place finish out of 18 teams, while the four musketeers Leo Susser, Gary Zeng, Nancy Yu, and Eddy Qi placed ninth. The quintet of siblings Jayson Lee and Katherine (Kate) Lee, and Chloe Chow, Nathan Chow, and Helen Chow gained distinction by not only finishing fifteenth, but also managing not to kill each other (or even visibly fight) in the process! Well done to these marvelous marauders! (See <https://live.acbl.org/event/NABC232/22YT/1/summary>)

Prior to those headline events, the juniors participated in a Thursday afternoon Swiss Teams, at which the smiling siblings of Jayson Lee, Kate Lee, Chloe Chow, and Nathan Chow demonstrated their skills by placing second, coming home with impressive trophies to boot!

We're very proud of all our CBE juniors for representing us so well in Chicago, at and away from the table! The ACBL even noticed our CBE contingent and wrote a small piece about us in the daily bulletin (See <https://cdn.acbl.org/nabc/2023/02/bulletins/db9.pdf>)



*Thursday afternoon Youth Swiss, 2nd overall:*

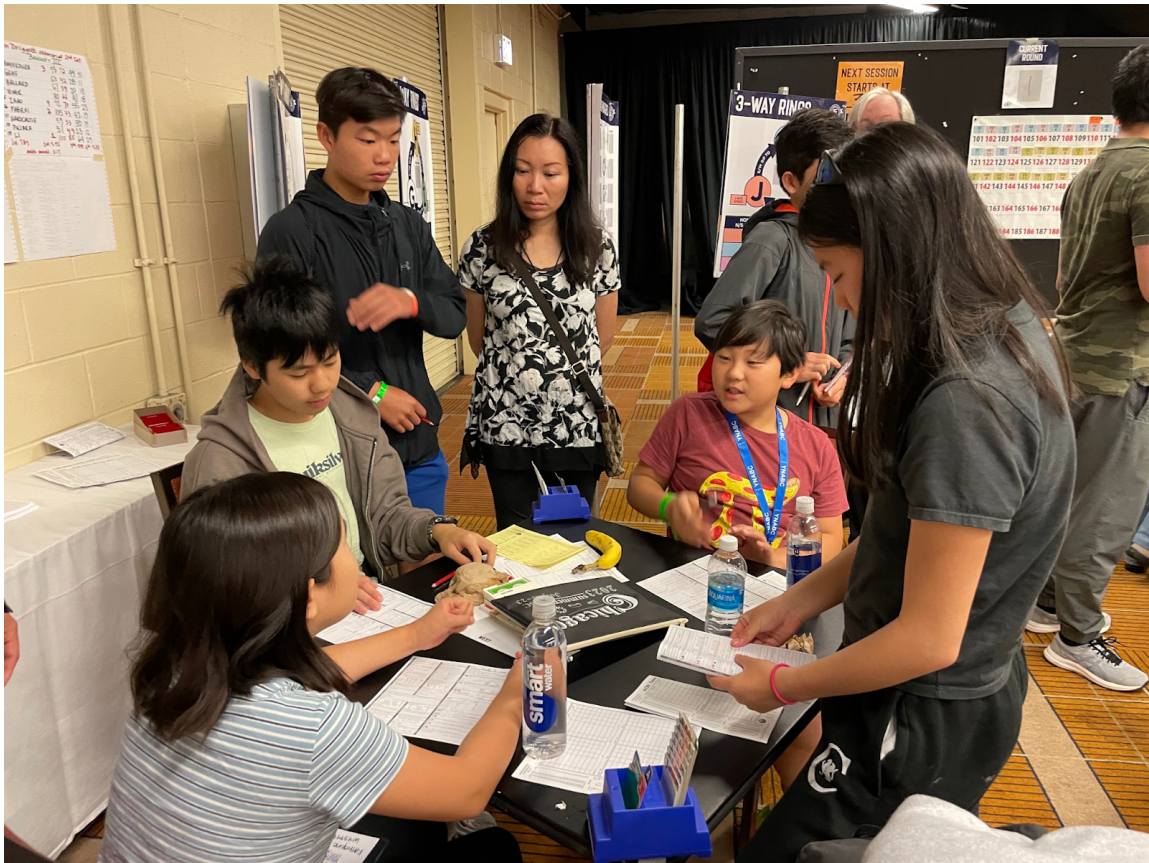
*Katherine Lee, Jayson Lee, Chloe Chow, and Nathan Chow*



*Lunch time between sessions at the Youth NABC*



*A pizza nostalgia from Chicago Youth NABC after the two-session National Youth Open Pairs event*



*Teamwork at its best – Siblings without Quibblings – Sunday Round Robin Team Game*

## Street Taco Saturdays

Since the pandemic hit, it has been difficult to have regular in-person events where the kids could gather, play, and learn. Last year CBE started hosting casual bridge meetups on Saturdays at Street Taco, a restaurant in Mission Bay, to give the kids an opportunity to play bridge in person during the school year in a fun, non-competitive way. The events had great feedback and turnout, so this summer we committed to making the Street Taco meetup a weekly Saturday occurrence, to great effect! The weekly turnout has consistently been at least two full tables, with two to three mentors kibitzing and providing feedback to the players.



*Taco 'bout some tasty bridge!*

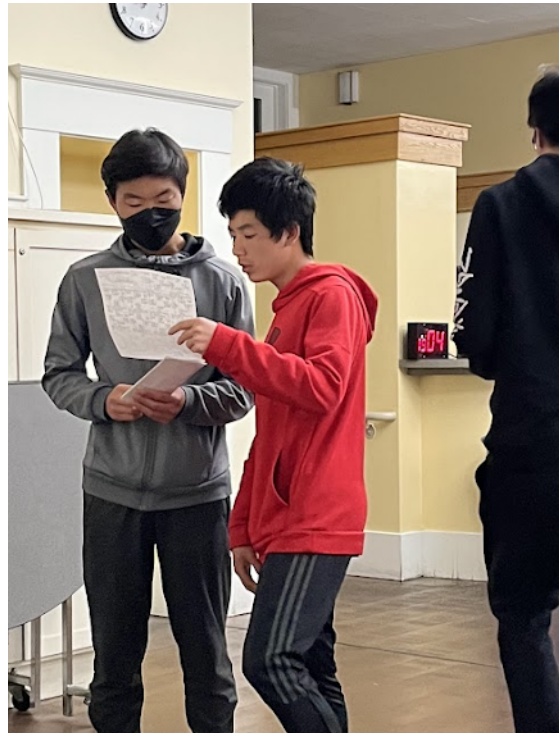
The kids can ask for help during the hands and we teach card techniques and bidding conventions as they come up. Players of all ages and skill levels are welcome with this teach-as-we-go style. Most importantly, the kids can talk and joke around as they play. Remember, the most important thing we teach is that bridge is fun!

## Youths Invade QuickTricks

In addition to our weekly Saturday Street Taco event, every Monday this summer we have invited the kids to compete at the premier face-to-face bridge club in town, [QuickTricks](#), which holds weekly games in the Castro. The kids have performed skillfully, fitting right in with the more experienced players and impressing everyone with their maturity and composure. The QuickTricks veterans are excited to have youthful and enthusiastic players in their midst and the kids have benefited from playing against strong competition. In addition to graciously accepting some constructive suggestions at the table (only when solicited, of course), the kids have enjoyed going to "Gyro Xpress" after the games and poring over the hand records with their CBE mentors, Board members William Zhu, Chris Chen, Anant Rathi and occasionally Dan Kroll. You know what they say - a handful of garlic fries helps the hand analysis go down, in a most delightful way!



*Kids do battle at the QuickTricks 499er Pairs Game*



*A brief postmortem - featuring Keith and Kyle - before heading to the group postmortem at Gyro Xpress*



## CBE Board Members Teach EasyBridge

Board members William Zhu, Chris Chen, and Anant Rathi volunteered to teach this summer's edition of EasyBridge, the adult beginners' class hosted by QuickTricks. The three of them developed a ten session lesson plan from scratch, complete with lectures, handouts, and premade boards. In those ten weeks the students went from beginners who might not even have known the rules to playing an eight-board team match and comparing results.

Now some of our graduates have caught the bridge bug. After the class ended for the summer, they made it down to the QuickTricks newcomer game to play every week. There will be another EasyBridge class starting in October, headed by veteran teachers Bob Schwab and Anne Derbes. Though the class is already full, aspiring students may contact [Kim Fanady](#) at QuickTricks to be added to the waitlist.



## Our Mission

The Center for Bridge Education has been promoting the game of Bridge in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2007. We have dedicated mentors who volunteer their time to teach bridge to youths, whether in person, online and/or by encouraging and assisting high school bridge clubs. One of our current programs is hosting the “Street Taco Saturday” weekly meetup where kids from all over the Bay Area come to learn and play bridge, eat tacos and have fun. Another is fostering and organizing the youths’ attendance each week at QuickTricks, a preeminent SF bridge club, and discussing the hands with them afterwards. Both programs help prepare the kids for the Youth NABC at the ACBL summer nationals and stimulate them to continue their bridge education in other ways, including by starting or joining bridge clubs at their high schools and colleges, as some of our youths have gone on to do.

## CBE Thanks You

CBE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates entirely on donations and volunteer hours. If you are interested in supporting our mission, click below to donate through our website. If you'd like to donate another way, contact us at [cbesfmain@gmail.com](mailto:cbesfmain@gmail.com) or through our website.

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