

# A GAME FOR ALL AGES

**Pizza and bridge make a good combination.**

*By Dave Smith*

**T**wenty-two youngsters, ranging in age from 9 to 16, attended a bridge tournament in January at a regional tournament in Rye NY. Participating in the one-session game were youth from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The event was hosted by District 3.

Medals were awarded to the top four pairs: First-place winners were Niles Stanton and Numen Rubino. Abby Goldstein and Jeremy Costin finished in second place. In third place were Chynna Beaumont and Shanelle Whyte, and Louise Ehlers and Amber Yu Lin were fourth.

How did the event come about? District 3 Youth Bridge Coordinator Betty Cox reports:

ACBL Board Member Joan Gerard and District 3 President Glenda Calkins suggested that we hold a pizza party and bridge game for youth in order to promote interest and a fun experience for them. Unit 140 Board Member Barbara Clark and I decided that we would hold the event at the regional tournament in Rye NY on a day that schools were closed when most kids would be available to participate.

We advertised, contacted clubs in our District and reached out to bridge teachers.

We were thrilled with the turnout and response. Parents who attended seemed interested



▲ *Andrew Garrison plans his next bid.*



▲ *Louise Ehlers and Amber Yu Lin won medals for fourth place.*



◀ *Drew McNamara looks at the dummy and considers his defense.*

and excited about the event. The participants socialized, yet took bridge seriously. Many adult bridge players contributed to help make the event successful.

After the game, the youth were given hand records to share and discuss with their friends as they enjoyed their pizza. All youngsters received a tee shirt donated by ACBL, and medals were awarded.

We plan to host a similar event at the tournament in Parsippany NJ this summer.

Next time, we plan to get the parents involved by offering a bridge seminar for them before the game.

You can see more of the photos from this event at the District 3 web site here: [www.bridge-district3.org/rye/rye11/youthB.htm](http://www.bridge-district3.org/rye/rye11/youthB.htm). □

*Photos by Mike McNamara*