



District Dispatches

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Houpei Wei, Unit 500



My bridge way

On December 10, 2019, I flew from Wuhan, China to the United States. Soon after, COVID-19 broke out and Wuhan was locked down. I lost the opportunity to return and refunded my flight ticket.

Local schools in the United States also switched to online classes. All the old rules of life were broken, and we entered a state of confusion.

ACBL had a person like Uday, who brought bridge activities into the BBO system in a short period of time. My withering immediately met with nectar. I started to learn to play bridge online, my mood improved, and my confidence in life became much stronger. With such a start, I couldn't stop, and bridge became an important part of my life.

During the terrible years of the pandemic, I not only played bridge myself, but also taught my grandson to play bridge. The photo of my grandson Kevin Wei playing bridge next to the Christmas tree was published by the Bridge Bulletin, which greatly increased his enthusiasm for learning.

To this day, he has made great progress in the children's competition in Toronto and will go to Atlanta this winter to compete for the National Bridge U16 Team. Under the leadership of his brother, his younger brother Larry Wei has also been learning bridge for two years. Every Friday night, he participates in the leisure learning activities of the Silicon Valley Youth Bridge Center.

I am of course happy to have obtained the NABC Master status, but seeing that my two grandsons like to play bridge and have made great progress, I am even happier as a grandfather.

With a low pension, I spent some money on bridge, so I was reluctant to part with it. My two grandsons also spent some money on bridge competitions, even though they only charged half the price. Parents are always reluctant to part with their money. But if you compare the costs carefully, the cost of learning any other hobby, including tuition and tool purchases, is even higher. Only by comparison can we make judgments.

Children always have to have some hobbies, and retired elderly people always have to have something to rely on in life. My two grandsons and I chose bridge, and we have no regrets.

In the early days when I took my grandsons to play bridge, their parents thought it was a waste of time and worried that they would affect their studies. However, when their academic performance not only did not deteriorate but improved, and their bridge competitions entered the level of competing to become members of the national U16 group, the parents of both children changed their minds, from opposition to silence to personally driving them to participate in bridge activities. I introduced my grandchildren to bridge, which made them happier. Their participation gave me more opportunities to play and study bridge.





D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

Now I have not only made many bridge friends, but my English level has greatly improved through activities. In addition, Chinese people who have recently come to the United States have also entered the club, the competition venue, and the happiness circle, health circle, and longevity circle under my leadership and accompaniment.

I thank ACBL for its meticulous care for bridge members and its perfect online and offline event organization.