Students show their hands at bridge at Atlanta conference

By Carolyn Bredosky Special to My Life

Over the Fourth of July weekend, four students from Lamplighter Montessori School attended the first Youth - North American Bridge Conference in Atlanta. The Lamplighter students have been playing bridge after school since last September. They are the only school-affiliated youth bridge players in Memphis at this time. The students range form fourth- through sixth- graders.



Students from Lamplighter Montessori School recently attended the first Youth - North American Bridge Conference in Atlanta. Pictured are (from left) Eric Rodriguez, Brianna Boone, Piper Ziebarth and Nassem Youself, along with their teacher Carolyn Bredosky.

This past spring, after learning about the Youth Bridge Conference, the Lamplighter youth began a weekly ice cream fundraiser that was highly supported by the Lamplighter families.

The Tennessee Bridge Association, Unit 144 also did fundraising for the students presenting them with \$900 to help defray costs of attending the conference. With the help of these generous contributions the students, their families and their teacher attended the four-day event.

The Bridge players from Unit 144 also helped the students by providing them with free lessons and extra practice times. At the Youth Bridge Conference there were students representing more than 20 states, some from as far away as Hawaii. There were also students from Canada that attended.

The Lamplighter students brought home four first-place trophies from the Youth – North American Bridge Conference. They played in the Newcomer Games and took first place overall for one of the single sessions.

The Lamplighter students enjoyed the experience of the Youth Bridge Conference including playing Bridge with other students, playing with all levels of players and learning to play bridge as a Swiss Team. The students are looking forward to attending next year's conference in Washington, D.C.

In the meanwhile, the group continues to play at the M.A. Lightman Bridge Club and at Bert Ferguson Community Center in Cordova.

Carolyn Bredosky is a teacher at the Lamplighter Montessori School.