

City Chess Champs

Highlights of the Fullerton City Scholastic Chess Tournament

by Pete Baron

The sixth annual Lions-sponsored Fullerton City Scholastic Chess Championship Tournament drew 52 students competing in eight sections.

High school participation was exceptionally low this year due to a combination of belated publicity at Troy and competition with various test activities at the high schools.

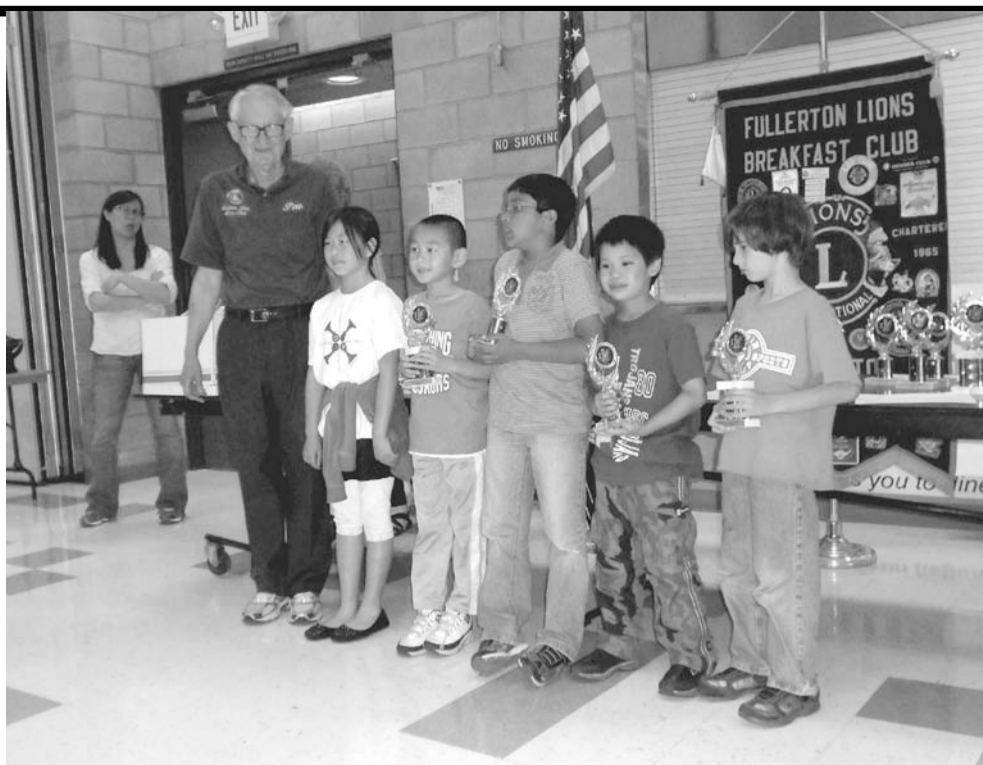
However, the chess youth movement overall is going strong: 26 of the 53 players were in grades four and under. This tournament differed from previous ones in that in addition to Laguna Road Elementary, which has always dominated in the past, six schools were represented by three or more players: Acacia (6), Hermosa Drive (6), Golden Hills (4) and Rolling Hills (3). Parks dominated the junior high school scene in terms of trophies (5 of 6).

Individually, Henry Tang (Acacia); Sujay Sheth; and Brandon Hendrie (Carden) dominated the 1st & 2nd and 3d grades, respectively. Yoshua Yoo (4th grade, Laguna Road) repeated as champ of

his grade for the third time, and his brother Aaron Yoo (Parks) is the 7th grade champ. As in the past three years, two young ladies dominated. Now in 6th grade: Sarah Young (Laguna Road) came in first, and Eeman Iqbal (Arborland Montessori) second. Large and competitive sections in 5th and 8th grade saw Elvin Aman edge out Ryaz Razi (both from Laguna Road), meaning that only the second time in the tournament's history there was no city champion from the Razi family (*I am sure a temporary state of affairs*).

The high school tournament was dominated by Andrew Kao, now a US Chess Federation expert with a rating of 2200 (*550 points higher than that of Lions chess activities coordinator and tournament director Pete Baron!*)

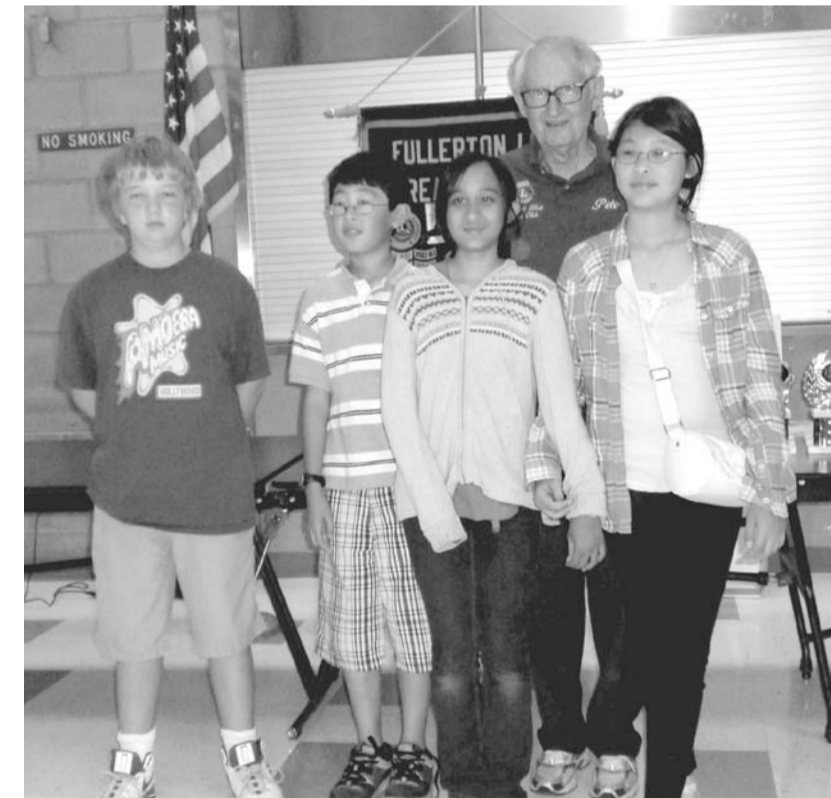
The Lions will continue to sponsor chess activities during summer with a weekly workshop every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 5 pm in the community room of Banco Popular, 1701 N. Euclid. All players are welcome to attend for free play, instructions and puzzles to sharpen their games.



Above - 1st and 2nd grade players: Abigail Lee; 1st place 1st grade Henry Tang; 1st place 2nd grade Sujay Sheth; 2nd place Garret Fan and Mile Brusckhe . Not pictured are Aaron Samaco and Nicolas Reed



At Left - 3rd grade players: Irfan Iqbal; 1st place Brandon Hendrie; Riley Dao, Eli Woolcott, Isaac Lee, Colin Kang, Kainoa Kukahiko, Brianne Hanamoto, David Castillo



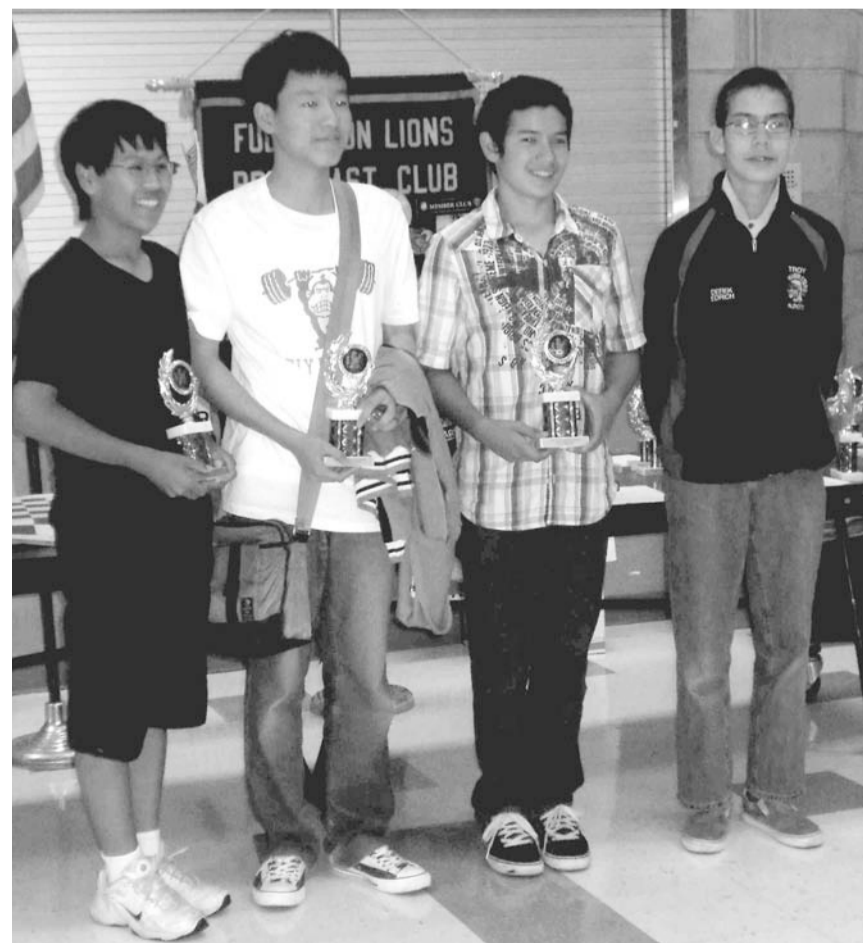
At Left - 6th grade players: Jared Chester (3rd), Brian Tamura, Eeman Iqbal (2nd), and 6th grade champ Sarah Young



Above- 4th grade players: Bryant Chung; Shaan Sheth; 1st place Joshua Yoo; Patrick Tan; Joshua Miller; and Nathan Chen. Not pictured are Daniel Jeong and Nicolas Cruz.



Above: 7th grade players: Malvika Sheth; 1st place Aaron Yoo, and 2nd place Tariq Razi



Above - High school players: 2nd place Kyle Mori; 1st place Andrew Kao, Carlos Suazo (top 9th grader), Derek Eldrich

At Right - 8th grade players: 2nd place Nathaniel Chang; 1st place Brian Loh; Justin Yoo, Nicole Nguyen; 4th place Jamaal Yacoub; Therese Obara; 3rd place William Chwa; missing Ryan Ha, and Shaheer Islam

