

Center for Bridge

The Newsletter of Nonprofit Duplicate Bridge Education



President's Corner

Looking forward to playing with students again.

Retire?

Jeff Reynolds may retire from teaching, but he won't let the bridge club retire.

Another Young Star

Eleven year old plays at Lowell when he can't make club at his school.

Summer Program

CBE takes on the challenge of working with Parks and Rec to bring a large group of new players to the game.

William Zhu

Thanks CBE for instilling a passion in life and for the opportunity to play in Philadelphia.

District 21

Another contribution from District 21 jump starts our summer program.

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Edited by Jen Fong, Lauren Friedman, and Deborah Murphy

President's Corner

CBE HAS COME FULL CIRCLE AGAIN! It was 7 years ago when I earned my first red masterpoints by competing in the Fall NABC in San Francisco. My partner? A student at Mission High School, where I was the Assistant Principal. Mission High School was CBE's first school program. Now with the Fall NABC back in San Francisco, I am hoping to play with some of our students again. As the only CBE Board member with fewer than 20 MP's, I can play in the



Newcomer/Intermediate games with our students.

This year, I may play with a student as young as 8 years old. CBE has come a long way teaching at not only the high school level, but also middle and elementary.

At the last NABC, the program at Mission High School had only been several weeks old and there were only high schoolers in the program. This time, some of our students will have been part of the Bridge Club for a couple of years and they span the age spectrum from 8 to 18. The students may have participated in a small duplicate game organized by CBE. The Fall NABC provides an opportunity for the students to play against other Newcomers, though maybe not other young players. It's also a chance to show our youth just how big bridge is in the United States and that our tournaments attract players from throughout the world.

Competition beware! Many of our students are quite skilled but do not have the experience playing duplicate bridge. I plan to rely on them to carry our partnership! Hope to see you at the table too! ♠

Another Young Star

HE LOOKS AT HIS CARDS one by one and then confidently places his bid on the table. Then one notices that he is sitting on a stool so that he will be as high above the table as the others. How old is he? "Ten," he responds, "but I will be eleven soon." So, what is he doing playing at the Lowell High School bridge club?

Collin Ritchie participated in the bridge club at St. Stephen last year, but when he found he had a conflict with the proposed time at St. Stephen this year, looked for another venue. His mother contacted CBE. After checking with Jeff and Genie Reynolds, CBE arranged for Collin to play at Lowell. St. Stephen was not Collin's first exposure to bridge. "My grandparents play about three times per week." And he has been playing with them for five years. He likes to play cards and started playing with his grandfather when he was four years old. He participated in William Zhu's summer class this past summer. (See article page 2).



But don't think bridge is his only interest. At 4:30 sharp, he says he has to go. Soccer practice has already started. As soon as his dad arrives he is out the door. Soccer is his favorite sport, but he also likes basketball and baseball. He watched the Giants play in the World Series and was very excited that they won. Collin has two younger sisters. He tried to teach the older one to play, but she didn't like it. Maybe the four year old will take after him.

When asked if he liked playing at Lowell he said yes, because they are better players than the St. Stephen kids. He sits quietly thinking even when the others clown around a little.

Unfortunately, he was not declarer during the hour this reporter observed. But he was not shy about showing his stuff.

He picked up this hand:

- ♠ J932
- ♥ KJ732
- ♦ K3
- ♣ A3

The bidding:

Jesse	Donte	Hubert	Collin
P	1C	P	1H
2D	2S	P	4S
P	P	P	

Donte made the 4S when the QH was onside. By the way, his RHO, Hubert Situ, was a 2010 CBE representative at the Youth NABC.

On another hand, his partner opened 1D and Collin found himself on lead against 2S. With hardly a moment's hesitation, he led the 10D. Isn't that what good partners do? ♣

Retire? Not When It Comes to Bridge

FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, Jeff and Genie Reynolds ran the bridge club at Lowell High School. When Jeff retired from teaching, CBE thought we would need to find a new teacher. Not true. Jeff and Genie return to Lowell every Tuesday afternoon. When they arrive the kids greet them enthusiastically. Genie bakes almost every week and



the kids love the baked goods. They have built the Lowell program up to four to six tables every week and produced some excellent players. ♠

Summer Programs Take Off

IN SUMMER, 2011 William Zhu and Eric Groves gave a series of fifteen bridge lessons to five elementary school students from CAIS and St. Stephen. The lessons were held at the homes of some of the students.

Eric and William started with random deals. They taught them the basics of opening and responding and even a few conventions like stayman, Jacoby transfers and take out doubles. They made lesson plans based on interesting deals that came up. They taught defensive play. Their goal was to instill deductive reasoning at the bridge table. These skills will help the students in all aspects of their life. We want the students to think and analyze and not memorize rules.

They taught the youngsters about forming a plan. They weren't too worried about it, however, because many of the kids often were reluctant to play when they had to decide how to handle the cards on defense.

CBE plans to follow up with a much larger program this coming summer with hopefully the same instructors. We are currently in discussions with the Parks and Recreation Department for a space to host the summer bridge program. We are also hoping to get listed in the summer catalogue. Most parents go to that catalogue to plan for their children's



summer activities.

We think we will be able to attract a large number of kids to learn bridge. The challenge we have always had with summer programs is getting the word out. Hopefully this will solve the problem and give us a resource efficient way to bring a large number of new young players to the game. Fortunately, District 21 has helped us out financially as this effort will be more expensive.

Watch your future newsletters to find out how this progresses.

A footnote—William returned from Philadelphia playing a modern version of Precision, a system he had previously never played. ♠

CBE Stars Shine in Philadelphia

CBE SPONSORED CHRIS CHEN, Brandon Wong, and William Zhu at the summer NABC last July. Chris and Brandon, Galileo High School students in 2011-12, represented CBE at the Youth NABC. CBE also provided financial assistance to Edmund Wu

and Samuel Kuang to attend another NABC. CBE graduate Kendrick Chow also attended. These six young players distinguished themselves in many events.

Leading the pack were Chris, Brandon, and William who took first in the B strat of the Youth NABC teams. Against a field of non-juniors, Chris and Brandon tied for fifth in the National 199er Pairs, missing first by less than 2%. Edmund, Kendrick, William, and Samuel tied for fifth in the Mini-Spangold II along with team captain Jane McLaughlin. These are just a few of the highlights.

Our young stars won knockouts, won a side Swiss, and scratched over and over. While most of these young players will not be eligible for the Youth NABC next year, Brandon is still in high school and we are looking for great things to come. We have new young players who hope to join him in Atlanta.

You can help more young players shine by donating to the Center for Bridge Education. Check out the article below to help. ♠

William Says Thanks

Dear CBE donors, members, and whomever else it may concern,

Thank you for sponsoring me to attend the Nationals at Philadelphia. I'm addicted to bridge now and it will always follow me for the rest of my life. Dammit!

I hope I can convince you that sending me was not a complete misallocation of funds. I'll have you know that I

1. Won a bracketed 2-day KO with Richard Bellerose, Kurt Poci, and Kendrick Chow
2. Made the quarter finals of the micro Spangold with Samuel Kuang, Edmund Wu, Jane McLaughlin, and Kendrick Chow
3. 1st in the Youth Open Pairs flight B with Nolan Chang
4. Won a 1-session 299er swiss with Chris Chen, Brandon Wong, and Nolan Chang (oh, and 4th in the Youth Open Teams as well).

As you can see, all the time and money did produce a decent bridge player. I'm too old to keep going on these trips, but I sincerely hope CBE continues to develop and send kids to nationals. us lucky few should be a few of many.

Sincerely,
William Zhu

District 21 Helps Again

DISTRICT 21 HAS AGAIN provided financial help to CBE. In 2008, the District awarded us \$1,000 to help pay for our programs. This past September, they gave us an additional \$2,500.

Earlier this year, the District announced they would provide \$5,000 to support bridge teaching for young people. Bill Corliss, the District's education director, informed us about the program. CBE prepared a grant application for what we hope will be a large summer 2013 teaching program. We were thrilled when the District decided to split the money between us and Reno. Reno also has a robust youth bridge program. 😊

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Visit our web site for credit card donations ♡

You Can Help Too

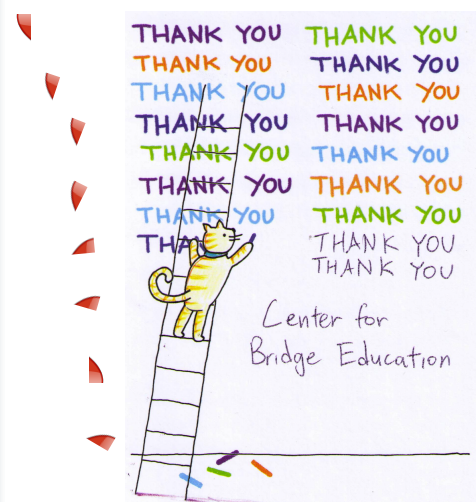
YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS make our programs possible. Give the gift of bridge to San Francisco youth. You still have time to get a tax deduction for 2012.

We accept both credit cards and checks. Please visit our website at www.center4bridge.org Click on donate, click on the donate icon, and then fill in the form. It's easy and only takes a minute of your time.

You can mail a check if you prefer.

Please encourage your friends to join too.

Everyone's donation can have a big impact when combined. Help keep the game we love alive by passing it along to the next generation.



Bellerose Resigns

Richard Bellerose, one of the original founders of CBE has resigned from the board. His presence will be greatly missed. Not only was he a founder, but he was the visionary who guided the direction of the organization for many years. He was the person who saw the potential of getting kids to play in high school and also was the one who transitioned them to playing in clubs and tournaments.

Richard was also the primary editor of the newsletter. Replacing him as editor is Deborah Murphy who modestly says "I have no idea what I am doing, but I will get something out. I hope I can come close to the standards Richard set."

While Richard has left the board, he still remains active with youth bridge, coaching kids frequently. The board thanks Richard for his many years of leadership. ♡