

**Kids Teach Kids at Lowell High**

**Meet Our New Board Members**

**Plans for Providence**

**C**ARDIOLOGY KIDZ GRADS Helen Chow, Gary Zheng, Joey Qi and Victorin Chen have reconstituted the Lowell Bridge Club with great success. With 35 members, they get at least four tables at each meeting.

Similar to how they learned bridge through the Cardology Kidz Club, they first focus on play. Members learn what trump is and to follow suit.

After they master the concept of taking tricks, they are introduced to bidding. The new players learn to evaluate the strength of their hands and work with their partner to compete to play in their strongest suits. At the next meeting, players are taught the exact logistics of each bid (e.g. 12+ points to open, opening 1M shows 5+, and so forth).

Players have been learning fast and well. Helen said, "I can tell many of them are interested in learning more, and it makes me proud and happy to hear them talk about bridge outside of the club. There are also a few who are so hooked onto the game that they can get competitive and passionately explain to their partner how they could have defeated



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**A** FEW YEARS AGO, the aging board of CBE, concerned with the future of the organization we built, agreed to put a priority on recruiting a new generation. Boy did we succeed!

It is time for our supporters to meet the young people who will continue to support the efforts of CBE. They will bring enthusiasm and new ideas to keep the game of bridge alive and well for several more decades. They are listed here in alphabetic order by last name.

**Chris Chen** has been our treasurer for several years. His natural frugality and academic background (UC Davis Applied Math) have served us exceptionally well.

Chris started playing bridge at Lowell High under the tutelage of the Reynolds, (mostly Jeannie, I'm told) attracted by an offer of extra credit in his AP European History class. Upon graduating, he was given a chance to play in the Youth Games in Toronto in 2011. Since then, Chris has been playing regularly and well. He's a favorite partner of many.

**Helen Chow** started playing at Cardology Kids on the first day we started in teaching Handz in 2016. Helen's younger siblings, Nathan and Chloe, have regularly followed their sister's lead. As noted in the article on the left, Helen's enthusiasm for the game inspired her to start



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**L**ife should have more experiences as thrilling and action-packed as watching young players compete in the Youth Games at an NABC Summer Tournament. Well, adults are not really allowed to watch (I guess they've seen parents at Little League games), but no one seems to have more fun between sessions than kids.

For the last two years of pandemic lockdown, there have been no Youth Games...no NABCs for anyone. There is, as a result, what economists call *pent-up demand*. Kids who participated in Las Vegas two years ago are chomping at the next deal to relive that great time.



CBE has identified eight players whom we are going to sponsor by providing subsidies for travel, lodging, and meals. The players and their families can find, on their own, the best flights and roommates. Players have been chosen based upon submitted applications. Those who have been most active in online play, have shown the most progress and interest, and have committed to include a coaching schedule in preparation for the games have been selected for the travel awards.

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**President's Letter** –William Zhu

I AM DELIGHTED to have the chance to serve as president of CBE, an organization that has meant a lot to me for the last decade. First I want to acknowledge and thank some of our board members that have recently retired or moved on: Jim Leuker, Lauren Friedman, Marion Robertson, Deborah Drysdale, and Liz Koh. They were a key part in growing our kids program to new heights, culminating in sending nearly 20 kids to the Las Vegas NABC in 2019. Their presence in the

organization will be dearly missed, including our esteemed president. Thus, the mantle of power has been thrust upon me in the most recent meeting, where the rest of the board made me pinky swear not to abuse it.

So while there have been a lot of recent changes, I want to assure our constituents that we have a lot of optimistic changes as well. We welcomed several young new board members Helen, Chris, Andrew, and Anant. We included bios for each of them in the newsletter. They have injected a fresh new perspective on how to keep CBE's mission alive, and have the energy to do it.

And finally, I want to emphasize that while there had been a lull in newsletters and outreach during the pandemic, CBE has never left. We have continued our kids program through lockdown by moving to online play. Helen in particular has been leading the training online as well as building the Lowell bridge club into a force, with up to five full tables this year.

We're also preparing a new summer kids program so don't be surprised if you see some young new faces in your next game, as well as sending kids to the next NABC in Providence. We have a lot of good stuff coming so stay tuned.

a contract together.”

In the future, the young teachers will encourage players to attend tournaments, including the Bay Area High School Championships hosted by SiVY (Silicon Valley Youth) in the spring. Within the club, they



plan on hosting an end-of-semester pairs tournament!

One young player is sharpening his skills for tournament play already. Joey Qi played with his father in the December holiday party unit game. Last month, two others, Keith Lin and Leo Susser, played at both the April and May Unit Games. Expect to see more at the Sectional in June.

## Resignations



Two founding members who have generously given financial support and personal time to CBE board for more more than 15 years each have decided to step down, after seeing how five younger players have stepped up to take responsibility.

Lauren Friedman served as Treasurer and Newsletter publisher decided that the time has come to fully retire and spend well-earned quality time with Lee, her partner and spouse for many decades. Lauren has many bridge partners with whom she enjoys top level competition at venues from clubs to NABCs.

Lauren was the leader who secured our 501(c)3 status with the IRS at a time when this designation was thought impossible to acquire. She found a law firm to handle the application pro bono and worked with the firm to draft bylaws. Without the tax status, it is unclear as to how we might have survived the first few years.

Jim's stellar reputation as a bridge teacher gave him an insight into the challenging role of volunteers working within schools to explain the rules of a game where so few participants have any clear concept of the purpose of learning bridge. Years of patience and smiling encouragement have brought many retirees and youths into the bridge community.

We are very fortunate to have had broth of these individuals who brought leadership and temperament to the local task of creating interest in the game of bridge.

a club at Lowell High School, where she will graduate this month. By coincidence, we think, Helen is not only going to play bridge in Providence, but she will be attending her first choice college there in the fall—Brown University.



**Anant Rathi** is our newest board member. Anant grew up in Austin, Texas where he learned to play bridge with his family at a very young age. After being a bridge caddy for several years, Anant started playing duplicate as a high school senior and has never looked back. After moving to the Bay Area in 2016, he has been a reliable supporter of younger players with his calm demeanor at the table and supportive advice. Anant has shown a willingness to take on many of the chores within CBE, such as future editions of this very newsletter.



**Andrew Sinclair** learned to play bridge in 2014 at the UC Berkeley bridge club as a college senior. He has an extensive history with card and board games but finds that the partnership aspect of bridge makes it most compelling. As a CBE board member he hopes to be able to help spread a love for bridge in order to keep it a thriving game that enriches peoples' lives.



**William Zhu**, our first young recruit to serve on the board of CBE, was originally one of the students CBE sent to Toronto back in 2011 along with Chris Chen. Since then he has gone to nearly every summer NABC since, regularly playing in open events. He participated in the USBF junior program, culminating in representing the USA in the World Youth Teams Championships in 2014 at Istanbul and 2018 in Shanghai.

Players who frequented the Cardology games at Davies Campus of Sutter Health may know William as a calm, prepared director of our games there. He currently works as a software engineer at Google. He is very excited to lead CBE through the new year and beyond.

**Deborah Murphy**, our secretary and organizational overseer, and **Richard Bellerose**, the last remaining founding member and first president of CBE, are comfortably sitting back and offering occasional, unnecessary advice to the extraordinary young people who have always made us proud of their skills and accomplishments. We hope our supporters will agree that the Center for Bridge Education is in good hands (silly pun intended).

Several volunteers are committing their time to work with the students over the next two months. Some will play in face-to-face games at the Sunset Club and Quicktricks. Others will play at the Unit games in May and July and the Sectional in June. We are hoping that both events will include a limited section for those not playing with an experienced LM.

At the end of the event, on Saturday, July 23, CBE will hold a junior dinner, which may be sponsored by a supporter or supporting organization 🍷. These post-game events give the participants a chance to talk about the contest and relive moments, such as meeting Bill Gates or Eddy Kantar, both took pictures with our players in past NABCs. Watch for our next newsletter in August that will feature the youth experiences in Providence.

## Slam Bidding

In a recent team game, Lowell High School Junior Joey Qi (West) opened this 19-point monster with a cautious 1C, but when his dad bid 1D, suggesting either no major (most likely) or a good rebid, Joey did not fool around to get to game.

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0		0		6NT West	

Dad liked his seven-solid, helping tricks so he made a modest raise to 6NT! Without the heart lead, Joey needed only find the queen of spades. With the heart lead, 1470 was cold.

This is the sort of instinctive bidding that we love to see. East did not add his 14 points with partner's 17 (minimum) but instead saw that "If my 14 points can take 7 tricks, you can do the rest."

Many of us learned bridge from playing with parents. Joey's dad, Joe, learned to play at the same time as his son at Cardology Kids. They both, with the younger son, Eddy, will be in Providence in July!



## Donations

We always need money.

Zelle: [chrischen.cbe@gmail.com](mailto:chrischen.cbe@gmail.com)

Paypal: [donations@center4bridge.org](mailto:donations@center4bridge.org)

Send checks to Center for Bridge Education

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Many thanks to all who have supported our organization and those who intend to help us continue! 🌞