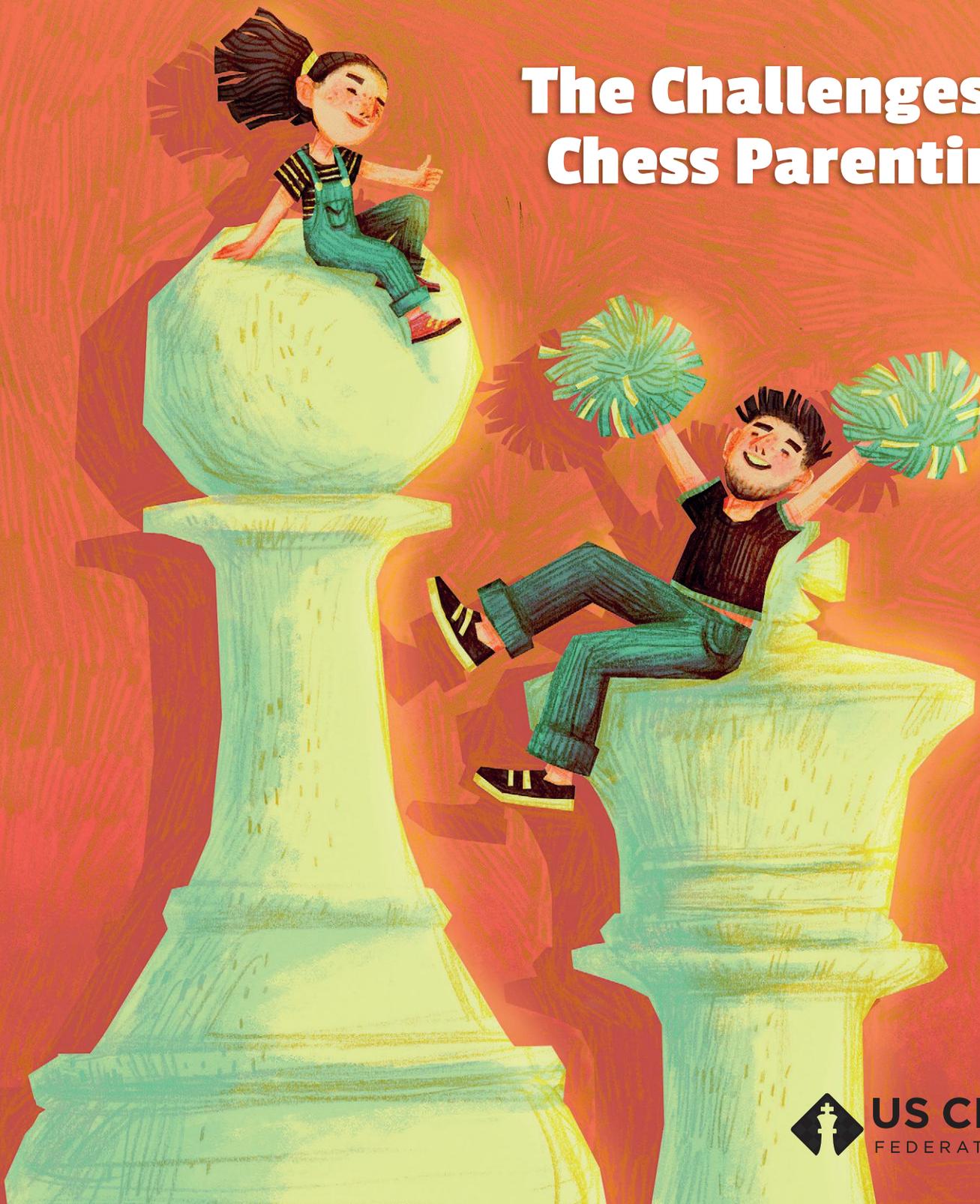


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December 2018 | USChess.org

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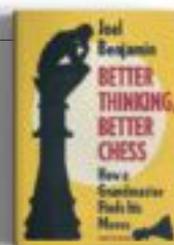
Perhaps the single greatest frustration for club level chess players is that time and again they see wins turn into draws or even losses. Lakdawala teaches how to efficiently exploit a development lead, capitalize on an attack, identify and convert favourable imbalances, accumulate strategic advantages and other tools to increase your conversion rate. His examples are compelling, his explanations are captivating and often funny.

**BETTER THINKING, BETTER CHESS**

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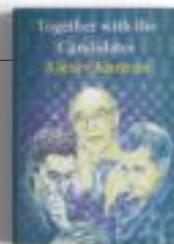
In this updated book, IM Raja Panjwani presents the Hyper Accelerated Dragon. He demonstrates from the second move a dynamic way to fight 1. e4. He covers all of White's main variations and sidelines and even the most critical 'Maroczy bind' gets a new treatment. Raja's book is recommended for all players that are eager to enter the critical lines in this exciting Sicilian.

**TOGETHER WITH THE CANDIDATES**

by Alexey Kuzmin

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This book is a presentation of the history of all the Candidates tournaments and matches, spanning from Budapest 1950 to Berlin 2018. It is also a book of tests and solutions, featuring hand selected game fragments from the various Candidates events. The tests vary widely in their degree of complexity, allowing a wide circle of readers to find the tests corresponding to their own chess level here.



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by Kevin Cripe

**B0142EU - \$24.95**

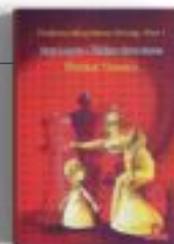
With twenty-five years' experience getting underprivileged kids to achieve beyond all expectations, Cripe now takes his holistic instructional methods to the chess arena. Designed for both chess novices and their coaches, The Learning Spiral sets out the theory, explains how it works, and then applies it with more than 400 positions for the student to solve.

**UNDERSTANDING BEFORE MOVING - RUY LOPEZ AND ITALIAN STRUCTURES**

by Herman Grooten

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**SICILIAN DEFENSE - CHELYABINSK VARIATION**

by Gennadi Timoshchenko

**B0116RE - \$34.95**

One of the most popular - and intriguing - variations of the Sicilian Defense is the so-called Chelyabinsk Variation. Known as the Sveshnikov Variation in the west, it is common at all levels. In this monumental work, the author, one of the creative founders of the entire line, puts the entire variation into both a personal and historical perspective and then examines the theory and practice of this line in great detail.

**CHESS INFORMANT - ISSUE #137**

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6:30 PM Round 4

**Sunday April 14**

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top 700 – 999, top U700, top 6 schools
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top 900 – 1199, top U900, top 6 schools
- Under 14** top 15 individuals  
top 1100 – 1399, top U1100, top 4 schools
- Under 16** top 8 individuals  
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# 2019

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See TLA section of this issue  
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(and teammates!).



# Chess Life

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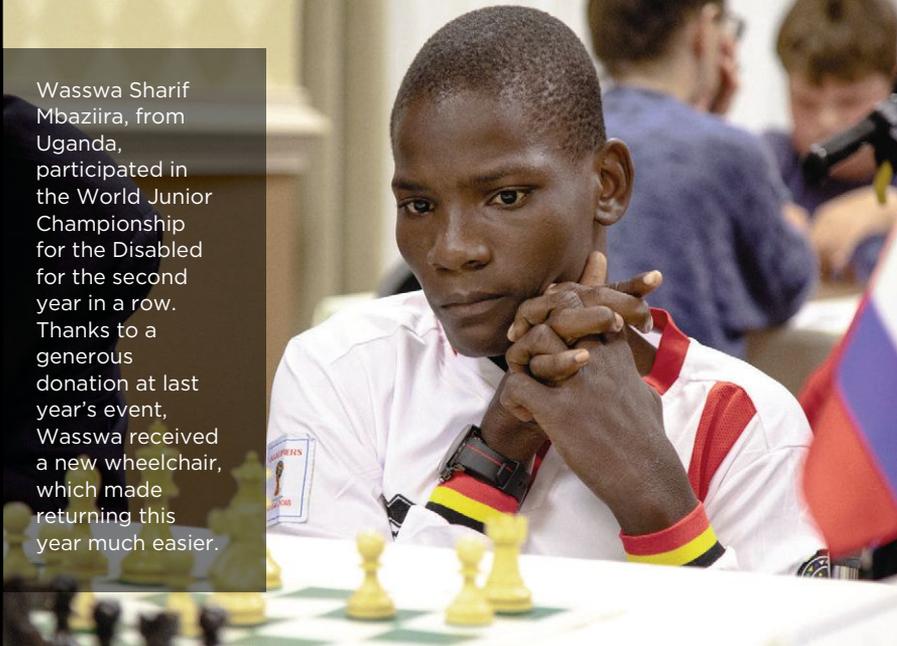
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#### ON THE COVER

Being a chess parent isn't for the faint of heart. Our cover art captures the delicate balance between parent and child as together they navigate the ups and downs of chess tournaments, study, and intense competition.

COVER ART BY CARLOTTA NOTARO

Wasswa Sharif Mbaziira, from Uganda, participated in the World Junior Championship for the Disabled for the second year in a row. Thanks to a generous donation at last year's event, Wasswa received a new wheelchair, which made returning this year much easier.



**24 INTERNATIONAL / ACCESS-ENABLED CHESS**  
**World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled**  
BY WIM/IO BEATRIZ MARINELLO  
Iliia Lipilin from Russia wins the championship with a perfect score.

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# CHESS LIFE ONLINE PREVIEW *December*



## LADIES KNIGHT PODCAST

Our latest US Chess podcast, Ladies Knight, features Jennifer Shahade in conversation with some of the most exciting personalities in the game. From women chess champions to the ladies behind the board, her monthly pod won't let us forget that the most powerful piece is the queen. Follow @USChessWomen on Instagram and Twitter for behind the scenes additions and bonus coverage.

*Photo by David Llada*



## NEW CHAMPIONS GOING TO DISNEY WORLD

Don't miss US Chess coverage of the K-12 Grade Championships, held in Orlando, Florida from December 14-16. Our coverage will include Twitter takeovers and *twitch.com/USChess* streaming of the critical rounds. Chime in using #K12ChessChamps.

## WE HAVE A HORSE IN THE GRAND CHESS TOUR FINAL

This year's Grand Chess Tour Final is in London from December 11-17, and US Chess has two horses in the four player race: GMs Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura. The two play in the semi-finals, as GMs Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Levon Aronian battle in the other bracket, so an American is guaranteed to wave his flag in the finals. Follow along on *grandchestour.org* and look for tactical highlights from Jen Shahade and Vanessa West on *uschess.org/clo*. *Photo courtesy of Lennart Ootes, Saint Louis Chess Club*



## A COLLEGE CHESS HOLIDAY

The Pan-American championships go down December 27-30 outside San Francisco. Follow our coverage with reports from Al Lawrence and social media takeovers from Vanessa Sun. Use #PanAmChessChamps to join the conversation. *Photo courtesy of Webster University*

## LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST!

In the December edition of Cover Stories, Senior Director of Strategic Communication Dan Lucas interviews Jennifer Vallens about her cover story on chess parenting. Senior Digital Editor Jennifer Shahade also discusses what is coming up in *Chess Life Online* at *uschess.org* and on our social media network. Find Cover Stories on iTunes, as well as on our website under the category "Podcast" on our *new.uschess.org/news/page*. And don't miss the "Best Question" contest sponsored by *USCFSales.com* and your chance to win a \$50 gift certificate! Send your questions to *letters@uschess.org*.



## CONTRIBUTORS

### JENNIFER VALLENS

(Cover Story) is the founder of OFF da ROOK Entertainment. She runs scholastic chess tournaments in southern California and promotes and markets various chess events, including organizing the Guinness World Record for Blindfold Chess in 2016.

### WIM/IO BEATRIZ MARINELLO

(Access Enabled) is a woman international master (WIM), FIDE trainer, and international organizer. Beatriz was the first woman to become president of US Chess and also was the first woman to become a vice president of the World Chess Federation (FIDE). Beatriz is known for her work in social and educational chess.

### GM ELSHAN MORADIABADI

(U.S. Masters) is an active coach and player residing in Durham, North Carolina. Originally from Iran, Elshan came to the U.S. for graduate school and to join Texas Tech's chess program. He won the 2017 US Chess Grand Prix and has won several tournaments, most notably the Washington International in 2016.

### MENACHEM WECKER

(Chess Sets and Conflict) is a Washington, D.C. reporter who has interviewed Mel Brooks about herring and has covered everything from Einstein's and Gandhi's footwear and the origins of museum taxidermies to events that endanger museums' collections and Zoroastrian dating.

### MATTHEW S. WILSON

(Ratings Inflation) is an economics professor at Truman State University. He tied for first in the 2002 Washington State Elementary Championship and has an expert rating. His chess and stats blog is *e4stat.blogspot.com*.

### EVAN RABIN

(First Moves, Tanzania) is the CEO of Premier Chess, a company that offers schools, companies, and individuals life lessons through chess. Before founding Premier Chess in 2017, Evan worked at Chess in the Schools, Oracle, Rapid7, and co-founded Pillar Sales, a sales outsourcing firm for SaaS startups. For more information on Premier Chess, visit *premierchess.com*.



# 2019 SPRING NATIONALS

## **2019 National High School (K-12) Championship**

March 15 - 17

Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Center  
1551 N. Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173

## **2019 National Junior High (K-9) Championship**

April 26 - 28

Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center  
1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051

## **2019 National Elementary (K-6) Championship**

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**US CHESS**

## LETTERS: ANDY SOLTIS SPARKS AN IQ-ELO DISCUSSION



THE SEPTEMBER COVER OF *CHESS LIFE*.

### OPPORTUNITY, STUDY, AND FOCUS

Having heard the IQ and chess debate for years on ICC, with most of the opinions being that IQ is not related to chess, I could not help but read Andy Soltis' "The IQ-Elo Connection" article this month (*September 2018 ~ed.*) with great interest. Having been a member of Mensa ("The High-IQ Society") and a US Chess master for decades, I have some definite opinions about this.

First, I believe that IQ is mostly a matter of how good your memory is: If you are born with a great memory, you can absorb more information, including chess patterns or even music. I made master in 1985 after studying hard for five years, and I peaked at 2298, before not really studying again since.

I can say from personal experience that IQ is certainly *very* helpful when it comes to chess, but it is not the most important thing. The single most important thing is desire for, and dedication to, the game. To really get good—and I have seen this in *every single one* of my numerous international master and grandmaster friends—you have to *live* chess. This is all they do for many years to get to that level, and their dedication seems more like an addiction. I fed my "addiction" for five years. It is not surprising that both [GM Anatoly]

Karpov and [GM Viktor] Korchnoi both wrote books titled *Chess is My Life*.

Next, you have to study the right things, possibly have a coach, and have increasingly better competition as you get better. Chess has really changed since circa 1990, and these changes have also made it easier to become much stronger (no, it is not just rating inflation). When I started, I had only books, and maybe three relatively "lower-level" masters who might show up at the local club from time to time. Hardly the smorgasbord of tools and competition we have today: Databases with more than six million games; engines that put a "world champion" on every home PC; the ability to play a grandmaster with a few clicks on ICC; and more norm tournaments than ever before. These tools make studying the right things easier and faster. All too often, I see beginners reading opening books when they really need to be focused on tactics and learning to calculate better. If you do not learn to calculate and see combinations well, you will never get better, even if you play 20 moves of perfect theory.

In the article, they seem to promote another false conception: That IQ and chess skill are related to education, when it is really education that is related to IQ. Ratmir Kholmov may have been a stevedore, but I suspect he was *the* sharpest stevedore on the docks, and that had fate brought him up the son of doctors, he easily could have ended up working in a hospital instead. I also have no doubt that Alan Turing and Bill Gates could have easily become masters if they had been willing to give up a career as a brilliant scientist, and about \$150B (including what he has given away), respectively.

Lastly, can we please do away with that oft-repeated fallacy that Fischer had a 180 IQ? To the best of my knowledge and research, he never took an IQ test, and to automatically bestow that lofty IQ upon him is foolish. While he was a "chess genius," I do not think he was close to that IQ, and there is just not enough information to support that assertion.

If you have an IQ of 80, you will probably never be a good player, but if you have an IQ of 140 (genius), you have the *opportunity* to be an excellent

player. While there are exceptions to every rule, virtually all of my international master and grandmaster friends that I mentioned above, if I had to garner a guess, would be geniuses if they took an IQ test. Becoming really good at chess is a combination of things, and if you take any one of them away, you probably will not be that good; but above all, hard work in life, no matter what you dedicate yourself to, is the key to success.

Kevin Cotreau  
via email

### OBSESSIVE DEVOTION

Andy Soltis pokes healthy-sized holes in Jonathan Levitt's suggested IQ-Elo rating relation. Too many exceptions exist to the proposed formula. Still, a critical issue is what constitutes "many years of intense effort." This should probably be taken to mean a concentration on chess which at least borders on the obsessive. This means more, I suspect, than the merely serious-but-casual devotion evinced by most tournament players.

Further, there is the element of natural talent for chess specifically, which probably does exist, apart from any more general intellectual faculty. It has been suggested that there are only three areas where the phenomenon of the child prodigy occurs: chess, music, and mathematics. Examples of these are plentiful, and to cite but one example of each: Reshevsky [chess], Mozart [music], Gauss [mathematics]. Maybe language prodigies also occur, but I can't recall reading about any literary or history or science prodigies.

It has also been argued that in order to achieve at a genuinely rarified level, e.g., Nobel Prize level in science, one needn't have a stellar IQ, just a very respectable one, plus phenomenal focus on what's important. And alas, we all know of one exceedingly famous chess player with a staggering IQ, who believed things that elementary logic should have enabled him to reject. My suspicion is that IQ contributes but is secondary to natural talent and obsessive devotion in determining ultimate chess potential.

Gary De Fotis  
via email

Send your letters to [letters@uschess.org](mailto:letters@uschess.org). Letters are subject to editing for style, length, and content.


**US CHESS  
MISSION**

# Empowering people through chess one move at a time.

## 2019 Samford Fellowship

The Frank P. Samford Jr. Chess Fellowship is pleased to announce its 33rd consecutive annual award. The Fellowship was created by the late Frank P. Samford, Jr. of Birmingham, Alabama, to advance the game he loved by identifying and assisting the most promising young chess masters in the United States.

Since its inception in 1987, the Samford has been successful in promoting the chess careers of more than two dozen young Americans, many of whom have gone on to become grandmasters, members of the U.S. Olympiad chess team, and United States chess champions. Four of the five members of the 2018 silver-medal winning U.S. Olympiad team were Samford Fellows.

This Fellowship is open to American chessplayers who are under the age of 25 at the start of the Fellowship, July 1, 2019, and have been permanent residents of the U.S. for at least one year prior to that date. Leadership of the Fellowship program is provided by Mr. Samford, Jr.'s son, Frank P. Samford III of Atlanta, Georgia, with the able help of Al Lawrence of the U.S. Chess Trust.

The 2019 Samford Chess Fellow will receive a monthly stipend for living expenses, training by leading chess coaches, chess books, computer equipment and other study materials, as well as opportunities to travel and compete in tournaments and matches at the highest levels. The value of the Fellowship (including stipend, training, study materials and tournament travel) has been increased to \$42,000 annually. It is given for a one-year term and can be extended for a second year by mutual consent.

The 2019 Samford Fellow will be selected by the Samford Chess Fellowship Committee ("Committee"), consisting of Frank P. Samford III, Grandmaster Yury Shulman, and International Master John Donaldson. Each applicant must be able to demonstrate talent, achievement and commitment to chess. He or she must be willing to make the effort required to become a leading grandmaster and possible challenger for the world chess championship. For further details and an application form write to:

John Donaldson, Secretary  
Samford Chess Fellowship  
1623½ Martin Luther King Junior Way  
Berkeley, CA 94709

Or: (510) 644-1285 and [imujd@aol.com](mailto:imujd@aol.com)

Completed applications for the 2019 Fellowship must be received no later than January 15, 2019. The Committee expects to announce the winner in April 2019. All decisions by the Committee will be final.

A new Fellow will be selected every year if qualified applicants can be found. It is expected that the Samford Fellowship will continue to produce very strong American chessplayers, some of whom will join the elite group of super grandmasters.

The Samford Fellowship seeks to replicate the excellence and achievement that marked the life of Frank P. Samford, Jr. Funding for this program is made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Virginia Donovan, widow of Mr. Samford Jr., and by Torchmark Corporation.

## 2019 Scholar-Chessplayer Award

If you are a high school junior or senior looking for scholarship money, read on!

If you are a current US Chess member, you are eligible to apply for a 2019 National Scholar-Chessplayer award if you:

- Played in at least 25 regular-rated US Chess or FIDE games during calendar year 2018. Games with a time control less than game-30/delay-5 do not count toward the 25 game requirement;
- Have shown outstanding achievement in academics and chess;
- Completed at least one year of chess-related community service since you started the ninth grade;
- Can articulate in an essay (of 500 words or less) how your being selected as a 2019 Scholar-Chessplayer enables you to further your education, improve your chess, and continue contributing to the chess community for the next five years of your life.

Five awards are available at \$1,500 each for a total of \$7,500 in scholarship money. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible. These scholarships, awarded annually by the U.S. Chess Trust and US Chess, recognize and encourage outstanding high school students who promote a positive image of chess.

Applications are available online through the scholastic page at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org) and will consist of ten documents, including a cover page, high school transcripts, SAT or ACT scores, evidence of having played at least 25 US Chess or FIDE rated games in 2018, list and description of chess accomplishments, examples of chess-related community service, letters of recommendation from a teacher and chess coach or tournament director, letter of support regarding chess-related community service, an essay, plus an optional photo. Complete application requirements can be found at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org). Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

Contact Susan Kantor, Scholastic Associate, at the US Chess Office, (931) 787-1234 x136 or email [skantor@uschess.org](mailto:skantor@uschess.org) with any questions. You can send your application either by email or postal carrier. If you use email, we must receive your application by Friday, February 8th, 2019. If you send your application by one of many available postal carriers, it must be postmarked by midnight on Friday, February 1, 2019.

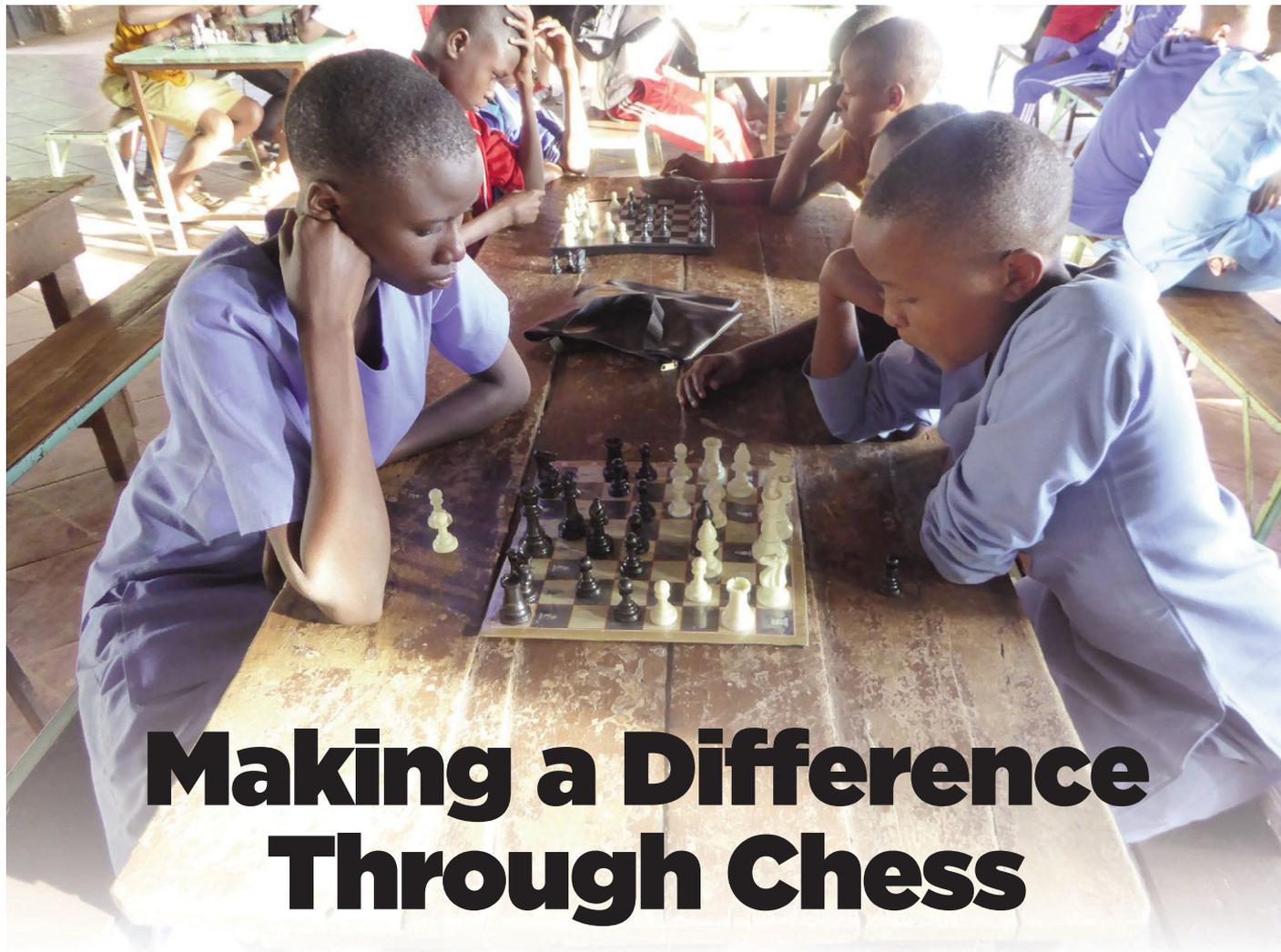
Send your completed application to:

US Chess Federation  
Attn: Susan Kantor  
P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967

or email Susan Kantor at [skantor@uschess.org](mailto:skantor@uschess.org)


**US CHESS  
VISION**

**Our vision is to enrich the lives of all persons  
and communities through increasing the play,  
study, and appreciation of the game of chess.**



# Making a Difference Through Chess

A group of volunteer instructors brings chess to the children of Tanzania.

Text and Photos By **EVAN RABIN**

In June 2018, as CEO of Premier Chess, I led four volunteer instructors—Kola Adayemi from New York, Jack Mo from Pittsburgh, Rohan Gupta from Washington D.C., and Luis Cuerdo from San Sebastian—to Tanzania to teach more than 80 students at the Royal School in Himo as part of Make a Difference Now (MAD), an organization that helps provide quality educational opportunities for vulnerable children. Make a Difference Now sponsors orphans, partners with schools, and has sent more than 15 alumni to colleges within Tanzania and abroad.

While in Tanzania, we provided students with educational means and spread global community and competition while developing our professional skills as chess teachers. With a base of 55 students plus an additional 30 coming in and out throughout the week, we always had a lot more than the five or six students Jack Mo sees at the Pennsylvania State University club! Unlike students who play chess for reasons such as their parents wanting them to get better, these kids were there because they saw chess as both fun and a valuable tool that could help them in

their studies and career. I tapped into this on day one and spoke about how chess could help them get into university and start a career. We used Phiona Mutesi, star of *Queen of Katwe* and a current Northwest University (WA) student, as an example.

When we arrived in Tanzania, the students had never seen chess pieces before. We began by explaining how chess is relatively easy to learn but hard to master. Our driver, Paul Njau, mentioned he had heard about chess but understood it was a very difficult game. By the end of the week, the students knew basic opening principles and had played in a tournament. They were ecstatic about having the chance to win a small trophy—an extra “Premier Chess Special Award” from our Grace Church School tournament. It was quite a contrast to tournaments in the U.S., where kids often are obsessed with winning gigantic shiny trophies; many of the kids who win their sections at the nationals receive awards that are bigger than themselves.

We were shocked how easy it was to teach. In our school programs in the U.S., we often spend a lot of time and energy getting students to

focus, be quiet, and not call out. In Tanzania, despite the large class size, the students required little-to-no classroom management. Janeth Evaristi, administrative assistant from Make a Difference Now, said these students participated in our program because they “were cooperative and loved the game,” unlike kids who might be distracted by classwork, test prep, and other extracurricular activities.

One student asked, “What is the most important thing to do in order to improve in chess?” Each instructor gave his own answer; however, the best one came from Paul, our driver, friend and honorary instructor: “It is important to learn from your mistakes. The first one you make is a learning experience. The second is an actual mistake.”

We made sure to create an internal chess culture at the school by talking about the many impacts chess can have. For instance, I described how I met Kola 15 years ago in Bryant Park and how he has become my good friend. Our greatest fear was that everything we taught would go out the window once we left; therefore, we tried to instill students with a strong passion for chess and a competitive drive. Our attempt was successful with at least one student: Eric said, “I will practice more on how to play chess as I would like to be the champion.” A day later, he won the tournament! Eric later gave a speech in which he explained how he would like to see chess grow in the school. Kola officially inaugurated him as the first Royal School Chess Club president. Eric was honored and did his presidential duty of carrying the equipment to the other building.



LEFT: GIRLS IN THE PROGRAM FOCUS ON LEARNING THE GAME. THIS PAGE: LUIS CUERDO, ONE OF THE VOLUNTEER TEACHERS, LEADS AN ENTHUSIASTIC CLASS.

We also used chess to help students build their critical thinking skills. One student, Norbert, said, “[Through] chess, I will be able to think faster in mathematics ... and other subjects.” MAD Director Theresa Grant said, “Chess will greatly help them with their studies, memorization, [and] strategy.”

We were surprised how strong the students’ grasp of English was. We needed to repeat a few statements for some of the younger kids, and they didn’t always understand our metaphors, but for the most part they comprehended everything. In contrast, when I played a tournament in Vietnam in 2010, I was unable to communicate with my opponents beyond “hello,” “goodbye,” and “good game.” Luis observed, “[Chess] is a very interesting tool to forward education and globalization; a child in Tanzania can play kids internationally.”

While the primary purpose of our trip was to teach and instill a chess culture in the school, I also focused on professional development—helping the volunteer teachers improve. I drew upon some of the lessons I’ve learned from Bruce Pandolfini, David MacEnulty, and other renowned chess teachers. The volunteers were a little shy and did not walk around enough or ask enough questions. When I asked Jack how he would improve his teaching in the future, he said he “would try to get more involved, ask more questions, and have them think critically to solve their own problems.”

We worked hard to build a drive for a global community and competition in Tanzania. When we left, Paul said, “Thank you ... for [teaching the] people of Kilimanjaro how to play [chess] ... it’s not going to die with you [leaving]. We are here to make sure it will stay and grow.”

We will teach a lot more when we go on our Second Annual Make a Difference Teaching in Africa trip July 11-19, 2019. Please visit [gomadnow.org/cause/make-a-difference-teaching-chess-in-africa/](http://gomadnow.org/cause/make-a-difference-teaching-chess-in-africa/) for more information. ♡

# FACES ACROSS THE BOARD

By AL LAWRENCE



## VERONIKA ZILAJEVA OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

### “Under the hoop and over the board”

Veronika missed most of her Westmoore High School Chess Club meetings because varsity basketball practice was a conflict—not to mention maintaining a 4.68 GPA. “My parents insisted there should be brain food and physical activity,” she said. Nevertheless, she put quite a caper on her high school chess career by winning clear first at the National Girls’ Tournament of Champions (NGTOC).

Untitled, Veronika had to outperform more than half a dozen girls with impressive chess abbreviations in front of their names. In the sixth and final round, she repulsed an all-or-nothing assault from top-ranked Thanh Thuy Tien Nguyen, as the Arizona woman international master charged hard for a share of first. But Veronika, her school’s best defender under the hoop, showed she had the same stuff over the chessboard.

“What’s great about chess,” she said, “is that it doesn’t matter how old you are, what race or gender you are, or what your rating is.” She doesn’t have a coach and didn’t have time in her busy senior year to train for the NGTOC. Fellow Oklahoman and US Chess Vice President of Finance Chuck Unruh, pictured above with Veronika, helped.

She started playing both chess and basketball in Riga, Latvia, the hometown she shares with world chess champion Mikhail Tal. She even represented Latvia in the World Youth Championship before her family moved to Oklahoma when she was 13.

Now Veronika will pursue a degree in civil engineering at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where the \$5,000 scholarship she earned at the NGTOC, donated by the Schiffrin family, will come in handy.

# KINGS and QUEENS in ST. LOUIS

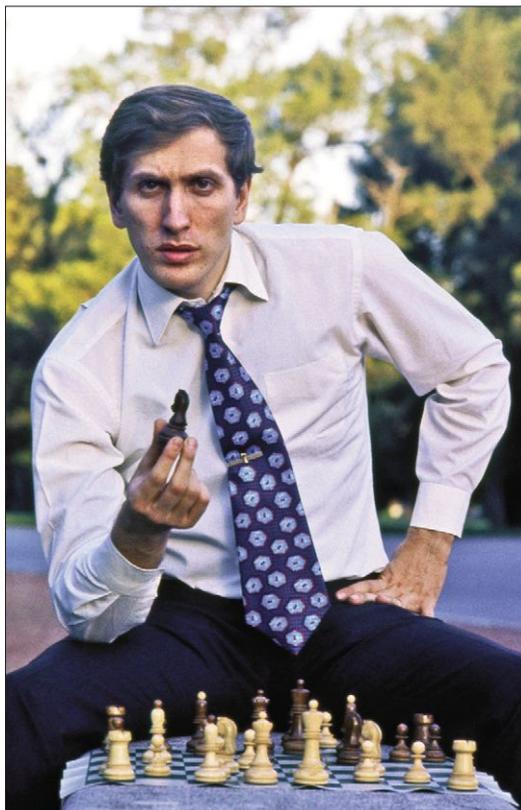


The World Chess Hall of Fame celebrates **Harry Benson**, renowned photojournalist and **Bobby Fischer** confidant.

**A**n exhibition celebrating the renowned photographs of Harry Benson CBE, *Harry Benson: Kings & Queens*, opened at the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) on Friday, October 5, 2018 and will be on display through March 24, 2019.

*Kings & Queens* showcases a collection of photography portraying chess luminaries such as world champions Robert “Bobby” Fischer and Boris Spassky, current top American chess players Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura, reigning world champion Magnus Carlsen, and newly-commissioned work from this summer’s 2018 Sinquefield Cup, an elite chess event featuring 10 of the strongest chess players in the world. Additional photographs of iconic figures round out the exhibition, including images of Sir Winston Churchill, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Queen Elizabeth II, Charles de Gaulle, Lyndon B. Johnson, Bobby and Jackie Kennedy, Barack Obama, Prince Philip, Ronald and Nancy Reagan, and Donald Trump, among others.

While the WCHOF exhibition is a legendary compilation of many images spanning Benson’s 60+ year career, chess aficionados will be particularly drawn to the rare, behind-the-scenes shots of infamously reclusive Bobby Fischer, who befriended the celebrated photographer when he covered Fischer’s world chess championship run in the 1970s. Solitude and silence grip the viewer in *Fischer Alone at Night in Buenos Aires*, which portrays Fischer sitting alone on a park bench in near darkness, bathed only in the faint glow of nearby streetlamps. In contrast, *Bobby Kissed by a Horse* offers a more revealing perspective, showing Fischer’s fondness for animals as a



horse affectionately nuzzles his face.

“[Bobby] was an amazing chess prodigy and the most extraordinarily complicated and fascinating person I have ever met,” Benson said. “And I feel privileged to have been one of the few he chose to let into his life.”

Benson has photographed every United States president from Eisenhower to Trump; he was feet away from Bobby Kennedy the night he was assassinated; in the room with Richard Nixon when he resigned; on the Meredith March with Martin Luther King, Jr.; and he was present when the Berlin Wall went up and when it came down. On January 1, 2009, Benson was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Benson was under contract to *LIFE* magazine from 1970 until it closed in 2000 and has worked for *The [London Sunday] Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Architectural Digest*, *Quest*, and *People* magazine.

“Since our first collaboration, the 2012 exhibition *Bobby Fischer: Icon Among Icons*, I’ve been excited about the possibility of working with Harry again,” chief curator Shannon Bailey said. “It is interesting to see how he captured the rivalry between 18

Sinquefield Cup competitors Fabiano Caruana and Magnus Carlsen, especially with the world chess champion title on the line this November.”

*Harry Benson: Kings & Queens* is generously supported by Emerson. Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

For more information, please visit the World Chess Hall of Fame at [www.worldchesshof.org](http://www.worldchesshof.org) or call (314) 367-9243 (WCHF). ♦

# WHAT MAKES A PRODIGY?

Chess, one of the few sports in which adults and children can play as equals, is a fertile ground for prodigies. While no two prodigies are exactly alike, they tend to share similar attributes and achievements. Here are some champions, either born or predominately raised in America, who showed early promise:

## PEAK FIDE RATING & TITLE:

### FABIANO CARUANA

2844, October 2014  
grandmaster, 14 years, 11 months, 20 days

### HIKARU NAKAMURA

2816, October 2015  
grandmaster, 15 years and 79 days

### BOBBY FISCHER

2785, July 1972  
grandmaster, 15 years, 6 months, 1 day

### PAUL MORPHY

2743, June 1859 (Chessmetrics guesstimate)  
unofficially proclaimed World Champion at age 21

### SAMUEL RESHEVSKY

2565, July 1972  
grandmaster, 39 years

### IRINA KRUSH

2502, October 2013  
grandmaster,  
30 years

### JOSH WAITZKIN

2480, July 1998  
international master,  
16 years

## EARLY MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP:

### HIKARU NAKAMURA

2001 U.S. Junior champion (age 13, youngest person to win since Bobby Fischer)

### BOBBY FISCHER

1957-58 U.S. champion (age 14, youngest-ever)

### IRINA KRUSH

1998 U.S. women's champion (age 14, youngest U.S. women's champion)

### FABIANO CARUANA

2007 Italian champion (age 15, youngest Italian champion)

### JOSH WAITZKIN

1993 U.S. Junior co-champion (age 16)

### PAUL MORPHY

1857 American Chess Congress champion (akin to U.S. Championship), won while waiting to be old enough to practice law

### SAMUEL RESHEVSKY

U.S. champion eight times (1936, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1946, 1957, 1969)

### FABIANO CARUANA

"discovered" at age five in an after-school program; defeated GM Aleksander Wojtkiewicz at age 10

### IRINA KRUSH

learned to play at age five; scored her first grandmaster norm at age 17

### BOBBY FISCHER

self-taught at age six; defeated IM Donald Byrne at age 13 in the "Game of the Century"

### JOSH WAITZKIN

witnessed a chess game in the park at age six; drew World Champion Garry Kasparov at a simultaneous exhibition at age 11

### PAUL MORPHY

had no formal training; learned to play by watching others; beat Hungarian master Johann Löwenthal 3-0 at age 12

### HIKARU NAKAMURA

learned to play at age five; defeated GM Arthur Bisguier at age 10, setting a record for youngest-ever to defeat a grandmaster (since broken)

### SAMUEL RESHEVSKY

learned the rules at the age four and was giving simultaneous exhibitions at age eight; defeated French champion IM David Janowski at age 10

# Our Annual Year-End Trivia Quiz

A world championship year deserves to end with a champion-centric trivia quiz.

By **GM ANDY SOLTIS**

WORLD CHAMPIONS AND WANNA-BE champions have contributed greatly to our treasure trove of interesting chess facts. So we'll start off our annual trivia quiz with questions about championship lore (answers are on page 69).

- The name of a past world championship challenger is derived from "elephant." In an interview in April he said, "While traveling to different countries around the world, by the way, I like to visit zoos and watch the elephants. Previously I collected elephants." Who is he?
    - Wilhelm Steinitz
    - Emanuel Lasker
    - Mikhail Botvinnik
    - Bobby Fischer
  - A world champion once declared that after 1. d4 Nf6 it was "a rather common mistake" to play the popular move 2. Nf3. Who was he?
    - Wilhelm Steinitz
    - Emanuel Lasker
    - Mikhail Botvinnik
    - Bobby Fischer
  - The tallest world champion was:
    - Max Euwe
    - Vasily Smyslov
    - Bobby Fischer
    - Vladimir Kramnik
  - Organizers of world championship matches are always trying to find ways to make money. For the 1993 title match in London they offered to transmit each move, by telex or fax, to paying fans. The fees depended on how quickly the moves were sent. They ranged from:
    - \$7.50 to \$60
    - \$75 to \$600
    - \$750 to \$6,000
    - \$7,500 to \$60,000
  - Movie director Milos Forman, who died in April, had several connections to world champions. These include:
    - Being praised by Magnus Carlsen after he played a good move against him in an exhibition game.
    - Amassing a collection of chairs used by the players in world championship matches.
    - Trying to get Fischer to play himself in a Forman-directed movie about the 1972 championship match.
    - Helping to organize a super-tournament in which three world champions played.
  - Magnus Carlsen passed up one of the big-money tournaments of 2018, "Your Next Move," held in Leuven, Belgium. Instead he:
    - Appeared as a runway model for G-Star Raw.
    - Served as a TV commentator for a Spain-Portugal soccer game in the World Cup.
    - Made a return "appearance" on "The Simpsons."
    - Starred in the TV show, "Norway's Got Talent!"
  - One world championship match was expected to last two months, so its organizers found financial backing for a match that long. But after two months and 30 games, neither player had the six victories needed to win the match. Then "the players were invited to finish the series or play another one" in another city. The match was:
    - Anatoly Karpov-Garry Kasparov in 1984-85
    - Jose Capablanca-Alexander Alekhine in 1927
    - Alexander Alekhine-Max Euwe in 1935
    - Anatoly Karpov-Viktor Korchnoi in 1978
- Now for some questions not necessarily related to world champions.
- In 2009, veteran trainer Yuriy Razuvaev predicted in Russia's national chess magazine a great future for a particular young player, who he said followed "the best traditions of the Soviet Chess School" and the legacy of world champion Mikhail Botvinnik. The player was:
    - Sergey Karjakin
    - Peter Svidler
    - Alexander Grischuk
    - Fabiano Caruana
  - An immortal player of the past was honored by his homeland this year when:
    - Tigran Petrosian's face appeared on Armenia's 200-dram banknote.
    - A ballet depicting Akiba Rubinstein's life was performed by the Polish national ballet company.
    - Mikhail Tal's longtime residence was declared a Latvian national shrine.
    - A new CD of Vasily Smyslov's operatic arias was released in Russia.
  - CHESS-4 was launched in March. It is:
    - A popular app for conducting bughouse games.
    - A website devoted to four-player chess games.
    - A NASA experiment that has nothing to do with chess.
    - FIDE's new rating system for four-minute games.

# Quiz for December

We've saved the trickiest quiz of the year for the last quiz of the year. It is based on what's been called the worst mistake you can make: Resigning when you have a winning position. In each of the following six diagrams a player wrongly gave up. Your job is to find the winning move that he should have played instead of resigning. This will usually mean a move that leads to a forced win of material—or to a forced checkmate. Solutions on page 69.

**PROBLEM I**  
GM Viktor Korchnoi  
IM Geert Van der Stricht



BLACK TO PLAY

**PROBLEM II**  
FM Joachim Sieglen  
FM Klaus Gawehns



BLACK TO PLAY

**PROBLEM III**  
Carlos Torre  
Frank Parker



WHITE TO PLAY

**PROBLEM IV**  
GM Igor Glek  
IM Vladimir Lazarev



BLACK TO PLAY

**PROBLEM V**  
GM Daniel Stellwagen  
GM Artur Yusupov



WHITE TO PLAY

**PROBLEM VI**  
IM Włodzimierz Schmidt  
Janusz Kwasniewski



BLACK TO PLAY

11. True or false, in this position—which comes from 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4—the innovation 5. Qe2 was credited to a 12-year-old boy. Who was he?



WHITE TO MOVE

12. In a famous match, one of the players was 5-foot-10 and the other was 6-foot-5. Who were they?

13. The correspondence game Gossage-Vardebedian is known for what?

- (a) An opening innovation on move 39.
- (b) A series of pawn promotions that left eight queens on the board.
- (c) Providing the basis for Woody Allen's first short story.
- (d) Being depicted in the latest theatrical version of the musical "Chess."

14. True or false: A woman once held the record as the most active U.S. player in a year.

15. A new academic study got a lot of media attention in May when it found that:

- (a) Grandmasters live longer than the general population, and about the same as Olympic medalists.
- (b) Near-sighted chess players generally have higher ratings than far-sighted players.
- (c) There is more cheating in contract bridge tournaments than in chess tournaments.
- (d) Thinking during a chess game burns up more calories than watching paint dry.

16. In June an Indian boy, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, became a grandmaster when he achieved the title at 12 years, 10 months and 13 days. Where does Bobby Fischer now stand on the list of youngest-ever grandmasters?

- (a) 14th
- (b) 24th
- (c) 34th
- (d) 44th

17. Playing on the Internet, he has had the username "Evermore." That's a tribute to Led Zeppelin's "The Battle of Evermore." Who is he?

18. Archaeologists reported in January that they had found one of the oldest known chess pieces—an 800-year-old knight, carved out of antler. They found it in:

- (a) India
- (b) Greenland
- (c) Spain
- (d) Sweden

19. In his LinkedIn profile he describes himself as a self-employed derivatives trader and a "grandmaster consultant." He is:

- (a) Patrick Wolff
- (b) Alexander Fishbein
- (c) Hikaru Nakamura
- (d) Yasser Seirawan

20. In a celebrated match, one of the players suspected his opponent was hypnotizing him. He wore dark sunglasses as a defense. He was:

- (a) Mikhail Botvinnik
- (b) Boris Spassky
- (c) Efim Bogoljubov
- (d) Pal Benko

And, finally:

21. In 1976 *Chess Life* asked readers to submit words ending in "mate." The longest list was provided by the trainer of a future world champion. How many words were on his list?

- (a) Nine
- (b) 19
- (c) 79
- (d) 193 ♠

# Akopian is Smiling

## The Pin—and the Discovered Attack!

By **GM LEV ALBURT**

ONE PROVEN WAY TO IMPROVE YOUR chess is to find a chess hero and to follow him: play his openings, analyze his games, watch his videos ...

The winner of this month's award, Larry Weston, did just that, and with impressive results. Writes Larry (*my further comments are in italics*):

Please accept my game for consideration and publication in *Chess Life* magazine. I recently restarted playing chess. I played a lot when I could while in the Navy and mostly in the San Francisco Bay area. I played about as much as I could at the time, but my career mainly took center stage.

My recent tournament activity has been in the local Little Rock, Arkansas area. I most recently played in the 2018 U.S. Senior Open in New Orleans and in the 2017 U.S. Senior Open in Minnesota.

My rating really dropped after a hiatus of not competing in tournaments. In 2017, when I started out my rating was at 1870. In July I played in the 2018 Arkansas State Championship and my rating dropped below 1800 to 1777, making me a "B" player after being a pretty hot "A" player in the early to mid-1980s. This was not a horrible moment. It was just plain old terrible. I had to do something.

Becoming a "B" player again motivated me to look at the way I had been playing and the mistakes I was making in giving games away. I got serious for two solid weeks and revisited the basics and winning ideas by watching videos and playing out minor piece mates and tactical ideas, etc. I even looked within myself for those human errors.

In the game I'm submitting, I applied these concepts and came out a winner over the 2018

Arkansas class "A" champion. I tied for first place in the tournament ahead of the class "A" state champion and gained over 50 rating points, regaining my class "A" status. My hard work paid off and I am thrilled.

Therefore, as I don't plan to become a "B" player again, I appreciate it if you consider my 1777 performance as qualifying for publication in your column. I always wanted to make *Chess Life* in some way and saw this as an opportunity.

### RUY LOPEZ (C78)

Larry H. Weston (1776)

Joseph Holmes (1947)

SWLRCC Summer QSS, Section "A" (2), Little Rock, Arkansas, 08.04.2018

**1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. d3**

*Sergey Karjakin (versus Magnus Carlsen, World Championship 2016) played 5. 0-0, preserving an option to play d2-d4 in one move.*

**5. ... b5 6. Bb3 Bc5 7. 0-0 d6 8. c3**

*Also possible: 8. a4, 8. Be3, and 8. Nc3.*

**8. ... Bb6**

*To pre-empt the tempo-winning d3-d4.*

**(see diagram top of next column)**

Black possibly wants continued pressure on f2 or Na5.

**9. Bg5**

Komodo gave this move as a second choice. It preferred 9. a4. I am playing an attacking player and I know he doesn't like backing up as he did with his bishop.

**9. ... h6**



Here he comes.

**10. Bh4 g5 11. Bg3**

Lashing out at my dark-square bishop leaves a lot of holes in his position that I may exploit. His f7 is backwards. The center is under pressure. Black has two undefended pieces, c6 and h8, and a gaping hole at d5.

*I think Larry overestimated his position.*

**11. ... Bg4**

The pin is a sham.

**12. Nbd2 Nh5**



In my calculations, I saw possible shock value in Nxe5 following captures at c6. My knight

could be forced to do some maneuvering, and I saw a knight haven at b4. I smelled blood and was ready to take some chances.

*Stronger was 12... Qd7, with advantage for Black.*

**13. Bd5 Qd7 14. Bxc6 Qxc6 15. Nxe5**



Shock value! The knight capture at e5 just threw a monkey wrench in his plan.

*The discovered attack! Since the object of the pin has diagonal powers just like the pinning piece, it allows White to counter strike with a discovered attack on the pinner.*

**15... Bxd1 16. Nxc6 Be2 17. Rfe1 Nxc3 18. hxg3 Bxd3**



I re-evaluated the position and saw his bishop pair against my knight pair and his queenside pawn majority. I held myself together.

My opponent probably was thinking he had a great game and was gonna roll me like dough. I did not panic. A great reminder came to my thoughts from a video—credit to GM Varuzhan Akobian and his sheepish smile—asking the question: “What do you do if your opponent has the bishop pair in the opening?” and his answer, with laughter, “You take one of them off.” Now I had my plan. See how to take one of those bad boys off. That knight haven became more useful that I had calculated. I recall also GM Akobian stating, “When you put your pieces on good squares good things happen.”

I should also credit the Saint Louis Chess Club for sponsoring such excellent GM Akobian videos for chess improvements. I think I just found my hero: GM Akobian.

**19. Nb4!**

Proves he can't keep the bishop pair.

*Even stronger—but more complex—was 19. b3, denying Black the c4-square.*

**19... Bc4 20. Nxc4! bxc4 21. Nd5**



Now he has doubled pawns with three pawn islands to defend in an endgame.

**21... Rb8**

*Stronger was 21... 0-0-0.*

**22. Re2**

Komodo says I had better moves here.

*I'd prefer a forceful 22. e5!*

**22... 0-0**

I was right, my opponent castles right into it.

*Black fell into a clever trap. After 22... Kd7!, White's advantage is miniscule.*

**23. Nf6+ Kg7 24. Nd7 h5**



Komodo actually recommended that Black play 24... h5 and White should scoot the king to f1 and then capture the f8-rook. To me that was all nonsense: I am not about to give into possible counterplay or even seem like I will allow the slightest possible counterplay along the f-file. So I took the other rook.

*All these moves—as well as 25. e5!—win easily.*

**25. Nxb8 Rxb8 26. Rd1**

Komodo evaluates that White is up a little over two pawns. After playing 26. Rd1 I am about to exploit d5 again. First with the bishop, second with the knight, and now with the rook.

**26... h4?**

Is he helping me now? Or does he think he still has a rook on h8?

**27. gxh4 [27. Rd5!—L.A.] 27... gxh4 28. Rd5 Kg6 29. Kh2 Bc5 30. f4! c6 31. Rg5+ Kh6 32. Rg4 Re8 33. Rxh4+ Kg7 34. g4 f6 35. Kg3 Kg6 36. Rh5 a5 37. Kf3**



The position I desired to have. My king now supports the strong kingside pawn phalanx, rooks are set and ready to invade the h-file, and Black is just waiting to see the killer blow.

**37... a4 38. f5+ Kg7 39. Reh2 Rg8 40. Rh7+ Kf8 41. R2h6, Black resigned. ♠**

*See the 2019 Buying Guide included with this issue for many of GM Lev Alburt's books, along with other instructive authors, and help turn your game up a notch! Also check out the gift book, Carlsen vs. Karjakin (by Lev Alburt and Jon Crumiller, special contributor Vladimir Kramnik, editor Dan Lucas), which has been chosen by Chess Journalists of America as their Book of the Year.*

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Make sure your game (or part of it) and your notes will be of interest to other readers. Writing skills are a plus, but instructiveness is a must! Do not send games with only a few notes, as they are of little instructive value and can't be used.

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# International Sensation

## Jennifer Yu dazzles at the 2018 Women's Chess Olympiad.

By **GM ROBERT HESS**

EVEN BEFORE THE 2018 WOMEN'S CHESS Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia, Jennifer Yu was a household name for American chess fans. During the Olympiad, she became an international sensation. Her willingness to try new openings allowed her to gain the upper hand in preparation, as her opponents could hardly expect the variations she'd play. The following game—which was played on the Olympiad's top board—was a one-sided affair.

### NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E20)

FM Jennifer Yu (FIDE 2268, USA)

IM Eesha Karavade (FIDE 2374, IND)

43rd Olympiad Women 2018 (6), Batumi, Georgia, 09.30.2018

#### 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. g3

Already a surprise that Karavade had no chance of anticipating.

#### 4. ... 0-0

White's position is superior after 4. ... c5 5. Nf3 Ne4 6. Qd3 cxd4 7. Nxd4 Qa5 8. Nb3 Nxc3 9. Bd2 Ne4 10. Qxe4 Bxd2+ 11. Nxd2 largely thanks the Catalan bishop heading to g2.

#### 5. Bg2 d5 6. Nf3 c5

Karjakin tried 6. ... dxc4 but could not withstand the pressure he faced. 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. Qa4 Bd7 9. Bg5 a5 10. Bxf6 Qxf6 11. a3 Bxc3 12. bxc3 Qd8 13. Qxc4 and Caruana went on to win at the 2018 Sinquefeld Cup.

#### 7. 0-0 dxc4

Perhaps more flexible for Black is 7. ... cxd4 8. Nxd4 dxc4 but the line needs further exploration. GM Levon Aronian quickly got in trouble

as black against GM Wesley So at the 2018 Saint Louis Blitz.

#### 8. dxc5 Nc6

Black is worse even if she swaps queens, since White is better developed and has stronger minor pieces. 8. ... Qxd1 9. Rxd1 already puts Black in a difficult position. For instance, the logical sequence 9. ... Nc6 10. Nd4 (Another promising option is going after the c4-pawn immediately with 10. Nd2) 10. ... Bd7 11. Bg5 Bxc5 12. Bxf6 gxf6 13. Nxc6 Bxc6 14. Bxc6 bxc6 15. Na4 with Rdc1 (typically Rac1 would be the move, but keeping both pairs of rooks on the board is to White's advantage) to follow is a fantastic endgame for White, who can apply pressure on Black's disconnected queenside pawns without risk.

#### 9. Qa4 Qe7



#### 10. Bg5

Jennifer shows impressive restraint and avoids simplifying her opponent's defensive task, not being tempted by an attractive tactic. Undermining the bishop's protection with 10. Ne5 was possible, though it would have allowed Karavade some queenside relief. 10. ... Bxc5

11. Nxc6 (Too adventurous is 11. Bxc6 bxc6 12. Bg5 [12. Qxc4 Nd5 13. Nxc6 Qd6 14. Ne4 Qxc6 15. Qxc5 Qa6 is not the type of pawn you want to be up, since Black seizes control of the long diagonal and a queen trade will almost certainly result in a draw due to bishops of opposite color.] 12. ... Qc7 13. Bxf6 gxf6 14. Nxc4 a5 when the trajectory of the game is not going White's way.) 11. ... bxc6 12. Bg5 Rb8 is becoming more of a mixed bag, especially compared to the game.

#### 10. ... h6

The desire to recapture on f6 with the queen is completely understandable, but this pawn push allowed Jennifer to obtain a one-sided advantage.

In hindsight, Black should have sought some counterplay with 10. ... Qxc5 11. Bxf6 gxf6 12. Ne4 Qe7 (Overly accommodating is 12. ... Qa5 13. Qxa5 Bxa5 14. Nxf6+ [The calm 14. Nfd2 is also in the spirit of the position. White is not blundering 14. ... f5 since 15. Nf6+ {Much worse is 15. Nc3? Bxc3 16. bxc3 Na5} 15. ... Kg7 16. Nh5+ Kh6 17. Nxc4 defends the piece by threatening to win an opposing one.] 14. ... Kg7 15. Ne4 with an easy game for White.) 13. a3 f5 and the messiness should be good for White, but it requires some serious acuity.

#### 11. Bxf6 Qxf6 12. Rac1

Evaluating the material imbalance that ensues after 12. Nd2 Bxc5 (12. ... Bxc3 13. Ne4 Qe5 14. bxc3 is horrible for Black. White protects all of her pawns and has gained new points of entry, while all weaknesses remain for Black.) 13. Bxc6 bxc6 14. Qxc6 Qe7 15. Qxa8 Bb7 16. Qxf8+ Qxf8 17. Nxc4 likely was not worth Jennifer's time. While White is of course preferred in such a position, how much better

is another question. Instead, Jennifer played quickly and confidently (and well!).

**12. ... Qe7 13. Nd4 Qxc5 14. Nxc6 bxc6 15. Ne4**

Similarly strong was 15. a3 Bxc3 (15. ... Ba5 16. Ne4 Qe5 17. Qxc6 Rb8 18. b4! when the pawn is immune to *en passant* since Rc5 would win the a5-bishop.) 16. Rxc3 Qe5 17. Qxc4 which is by no means yet lost for Black, but the impending endgame is not fun at all.

**15. ... Qa5 16. Qxa5 Bxa5 17. Rxc4**



This queenless ending deserves our attention. It's quite clear that Black will be unable to keep her c6-pawn. If capturing that pawn involves allowing Black to rid herself of her dormant light-square bishop for the enemy knight, then chances to hold seemingly improve thanks to the emergence of opposite-color bishops. Yet a draw is not ensured merely by their presence.

**17. ... Rb8**

If not for White winning two minors for a rook, 17. ... Ba6? would be a good move. However, it fails to 18. Ra4.

**18. b3 Rd8 19. Rxc6**

Ideally White would be able to wait before capturing on c6. That pawn is not going anywhere, so the pieces can be coordinated before taking it. However, it's not as if Black was planning to sit tight. 19. Rfc1 would be met by 19. ... Bb4, which does well to dominate the knight on e4 and allows Black to think about playing ... a7-a5 or ... Ba6. Then, White can continue with 20. Bf3 and enter a better version of the game continuation, thanks to the doubled rooks on the c-file.

**19. ... Bb7 20. Rc2 Bxe4**

Karavade had no interest in entering a pawn-down endgame with her bishop against Jennifer's knight. But this is a rushed move that hands White an extremely favorable version of a bishops of opposite color ending.

The move 20. ... Bb4 should have equalized, as the white knight is totally dominated and has no useful move, meaning ... f5 is an impending threat. 21. Rc7 (A huge blunder would have been 21. Nc5? Bxg2 22. Kxg2 Rdc8 and the best White can do is give back the pawn and enter

a worse rook and minor piece ending. [Not 22. ... Rbc8 which causes the bishop to lose its defender, and allows White to escape with 23. Rc4 Bxc5 24. Rfc1]) 21. ... Rdc8 22. Rfc1 Ba6 With the rooks coming off the board, there are no winning chances for White.

**21. Bxe4 Rbc8 22. Rfc1 Rxc2 23. Rxc2 Kf8 24. Bd3**



At this point, the Indian team was getting nervous. They entered the round with a substantial rating advantage on all four boards, but Irina Krush was outplaying Dronavalli Harika on board two. Jennifer had great winning chances, but needed to create a second weakness, namely the f7-square.

**24. ... Rd7**

It may not appear to change much, but 24. ... Bb4 25. Rc7 a5 allowed Black a more ideal defensive structure, one that is harder to break down.

**25. Rc8+ Ke7 26. Kg2 Rc7 27. Rb8 Bb6 28. a4 Rd7 29. Bb5 Rd4**

Black could have maintained the seventh rank defense 29. ... Rc7 but she undoubtedly was concerned about the queenside pawns advancing. Black is more or less forced to wait.

**30. Rb7+**

There was no reason to rush with 30. a5 Bxa5 31. Rb7+ Kf8 32. Rxa7 since White always can swap a-pawns in this manner.

**30. ... Kf8 31. Bc4 Rd2**

Nearing the time control and with the minutes waning, Karavade needed to take a more energetic approach. 31. ... g5 stops f2-f4 and prevents White from kicking the rook from its strong placement on d4. For instance, 32. e3 Rd2 and there's no longer 33. Kf3 because of 33. ... g4+.

**32. f4! g6 33. h3**

Without sufficient time to analyze the consequences, Jennifer rightly still did not wish to trade a-pawns. Here it would allow Black to enter the following rook ending: 33. b4 Rb2 34. b5 Rb4 35. a5 Bxa5 36. Rxa7 Rxc4 37. Rxa5; Preparation was needed before playing 33. g4 Rd1 34. f5 Rg1+ 35.

Kh3 h5! 36. fxg6 hxg4+ 37. Kh4 fxg6 where Black should hold.

**33. ... h5 34. g4 hxg4 35. hxg4 Rd4 36. Kf3 Rd1 37. Ke4**



**37. ... Rd4+**

After this move, Black is lost. Karavade was hanging in there because often she can go down a second pawn if it means that rooks would be traded. For example: Better was 37. ... Rd8 38. f5 (The idea 38. a5 is still available to force a clear passed pawn.) 38. ... exf5+ 39. gxf5 Re8+ 40. Kf4 Re7 41. Rxe7 Kxe7 42. fxg6 fxg6 43. Kg5 a5 is a drawn ending.

**38. Ke5 Rd1 39. f5 Bd4+ 40. Kf4 gxf5 41. gxf5 exf5**

With the bishop on d4 41. ... Rf1+ does not pick up the pawn thanks to 42. Ke4.

**42. Rxf7+ Ke8 43. Kxf5 a5**

Again the misplaced bishop causes Black to miss out on drawing chances, for 43. ... Rf1+ does not trade off the rooks due to 44. Ke4.

**44. Ke6 Bc5 45. Rc7 Rd6+ 46. Ke5 Ba3 47. Ra7 Bb4**



**48. Rb7**

Jennifer could have just snagged the third pawn and won easily. Instead, she found a more aesthetically pleasing conclusion to the game.

**48. ... Rh6 49. Rxb4! axb4 50. Kd5 Kd7 51. Kc5 Rh5+ 52. Bd5 Kc7 53. e4 Rg5 54. a5 Rg6 55. Kxb4, Black resigned.**

Jennifer had a successful Olympiad and deservedly earned her final international master norm and a bronze medal in Batumi. ♠

# 'Tis the Season

A round-up of books for giving and receiving this holiday season

By JOHN HARTMANN

**C**HESS PLAYERS ARE AN ECUMENICAL LOT. WHILE WE ALL worship at the altar of Caïssa, the goddess of chess first described by the Renaissance poet Marcus Hieronymus Vida in 1527, many of us also prostrate before other deities. With the holidays fast approaching, let me be the first to wish you a joyous season, however you may choose to celebrate it.

It's a good thing that we chess players are so open minded, since the only thing better than getting chess-related gifts this time of year is giving them! This month I want to look back at the year in books, picking out a few worthy titles that didn't make their way into my column. (My favorites among those

reviewed in the past year, for what it's worth, are *Timman's Titans: My World Chess Champions* by GM Jan Timman and *Applying Logic in Chess* by IM Erik Kislik.)

We'll begin with a rare beast in the world of chess publishing, the coffee-table book. And not just one, but two!

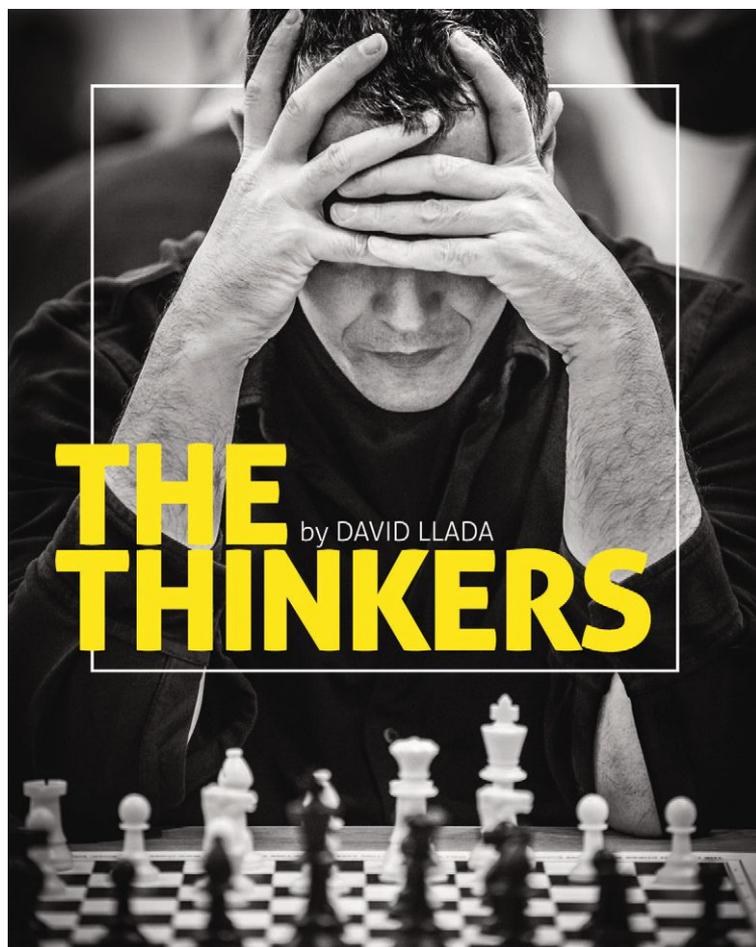
David Llada's *The Thinkers* is a sumptuous collection of 111 photographs of players from around the world. His subjects range from world champions to street hustlers, but the real focus of the work is the game itself, the struggle, and the *agon*. Anyone who loves our game will see themselves in this book, and non-initiates will come away with something of what it means to play it.

Llada includes a few mandatory shots: an intense, glaring Kasparov, a gaunt and haunted Grischuk, an Ivanchuk fully absorbed in the position in front of him. For me, however, it's the photos of the lesser known personalities, many taken at Olympiads and the ill-fated Millionaire Chess, that are most evocative. We encounter in Llada's portraits a chess world that is far more globalized and diverse than we might expect, and through his lens, perhaps we chess players might better understand our community and ourselves. Brilliant, brilliant stuff.

*The Thinkers* is a quintessential coffee-table book. Despite its heft and lavish production, I would argue that *The Sinquefield Cup: Celebrating Five Years: 2013-2017* is not a coffee-table book, not precisely. It is that, of course, with its dozens of documentary photographs and stunning layout. But more to the point, *The Sinquefield Cup* is a fitting documentary tribute to a tournament and a patron that together have fundamentally reshaped American chess.

This eponymous book tells the story of the origins of the Sinquefield Cup. Rex Sinquefield explains how he had to be talked into lending his name to the tournament, and Sunil Weeramantry describes his early diplomatic efforts on behalf of the Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC). STLCC broadcasters Yasser Seirawan (2013), Jennifer Shahade (2014), Alejandro Ramirez (2015), Tatev Abrahamyan (2016), and Maurice Ashley (2017) report on each of the tournament's first five years, including in-depth analysis and notes on key positions. An appendix contains player bios, crosstables, and complete sets of games for each tournament.

*The Sinquefield Cup* is a well-crafted homage to the elite chess on display in the Sinquefield Cup, and a worthy testament to the great work done by Sinquefield and the Saint Louis



**SCOTCH GAME (C45)**

Albert Hallgarten

Peter Romanovsky

Hauptturnier B, Mannheim 1914

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nxc6 bxc6 6. Bd3 d5 7. exd5 cxd5 8. O-O Be7 9. Nc3 O-O 10. b3 Bb7 11. Bb2 d4 12. Ne2 c5 13. Ng3 Qd5 14. f3 Bd6 15. Nf5 Rfe8 16. Nxd6 Qxd6 17. Qd2

**17. ... Nd5!**

“The start of a combination, amazing for its depth and length of calculation, in which already Black had to work out the consequences of his 24th move.” (Alekhine)

**18. Be4 Nf4! 19. Bxb7**

19. Rae1 Bxe4 20. Rxe4 Rxe4 21. fxe4 Ne6 with “good winning chances.”

**19. ... Re2 20. Qxf4**

After 20. Qd1? Rxc2+ 21. Kh1 Qh6 and Black mates.

**20. ... Qxf4 21. Bxa8 d3! 22. Bc3**

Romanovsky recommended 22. Kh1 but Alekhine writes that after 22. ... d2 White will have trouble defending against ... Qe3 and ... Re1. Modern engines show us that Romanovsky was probably right, with the amazing line (per Fiala) 23. Be4 Qe3 24. Bd3 Re1 25. Bc3 Rc1 and neither side can make any progress! Better is 22. ... Rxc2.

**22. ... Qe3+ 23. Kh1 d2! 24. Ba5 c4!! 25. bxc4**

If 25. Bxd2 Rxd2 (Also good for Black is 25. ... Qxd2 26. Rad1 Qa5) 26. bxc4 Rxc2 27. Bd5 (27. Rae1 Re2) 27. ... Qd2 28. f4 Rxa2 and Black is better.

**25. ... Qg5 26. g3? Qxa5**

The move 26. ... Qh5 leads to mate in eight.

**27. f4 Re1 28. Bf3 Qc3, White resigned.**

Chess Club. This is a book that deserves to be read by all fans of American chess.

Games collections always make good gifts for chess players. One of the most interesting is *Chess Duels 1893-1920: 260 Games Annotated by Alexander Alekhine*, out last year from the Czech publisher Moravian Chess. The book is, as one would expect from its title, a collection of games annotated by the fourth world champion.

*Chess Duels* uses multiple sources for Alekhine's annotations, including newspapers and chess journals in Russian and French. Many are from his own praxis, while more than a few are by other, lesser known players. And that's where the exceptional value of this book lies. A good number of the games in *Chess Duels* can be found elsewhere, most notably in Alekhine's own *My Best Games of Chess 1908-1923*. There are also dozens of gems played by half-forgotten masters of the past, many of which do not appear in Mega Database or other standard sources.

On the left is one such game from the ill-fated Mannheim 1914 tournament, featuring noted Russian player and theoretician Peter Romanovsky in a wonderful tactical display.

This year also saw the second printing of a games collection that had become very hard to find. *The Life & Games of Akiva Rubinstein, Volume 1: Uncrowned King* is the definitive treatment of the most important years (1882-1920) of Rubinstein's legendary career, but due to scarcity, it was only available on the internet at exorbitant prices.

Now, with this re-release, readers can once again enjoy the 492 Rubinstein games included in the book, many with notes collected by the editors John Donaldson and Nikolay Minev. Rubinstein is often cited as a player whose study will improve one's chess, and Boris Gelfand has repeatedly discussed the value of playing through his games. This new printing is great news for all chess fans, save those collectors who had hoped to fund their retirements through the sale of the first edition!

Improvement books are always welcome gifts, at least in the Hartmann house, and Robert Ris' *Crucial Chess Skills for the Club Player: Volume 1* was one of the year's best. Ris does an excellent job of focusing on three areas where most sub-2200 players might improve: endgames (chapters 1-4), tactics (chapters 5-6), and middlegame strategy (chapters 7-9). The three chapters on rook endgames are especially good.

Readers are not burdened with extensive analysis in *Crucial Chess Skills*. Instead they are treated to an appropriate and instructive mix of words and moves. Readers should also be aware, however, that much of the material in *Crucial Chess Skills* is recycled from his columns from the defunct *ChessVibes Magazine* and from

his various video products. There's nothing wrong with this practice, but if you have other Ris titles on your shelf, you might want to hint for something different.

Our final title this month, Mark Dvoretsky's *Chess Lessons: Solving Problems & Avoiding Mistakes*, is a sequel of sorts to *Dvoretsky's Analytical Manual*. The analysis is intense, and Dvoretsky holds nothing back in his presentation. But the real goal of *Chess Lessons*, as was the case with *Dvoretsky's Analytical Manual*, is education. All of the analysis works to illustrate how the best players think about chess and also about their thought processes.

Take the discussion of the game Lembit Oll-Julian Hodgson (Groningen, 1993). The notes stretch on for 11 pages (68-78), but there is a method to Dvoretsky's apparent madness, with helpful asides on candidate moves, opening analysis after Carlsen, and the principle of the worst piece working as signposts to lead us through the analytical thickets. Dvoretsky's study of Reuben Fine-George Shainswit (U.S. Championship, 1944) is excellent in its discussion (112-118) of the psychology of sacrifice, and his use of the position after Black's 28th move in training games with his students helps us understand how different players can approach the same problem to be solved.

*Chess Lessons* is not for the faint of heart, and it's probably best suited for experts and above who don't mind a little hard work. My only complaint about the book is its size. So much text is crammed into its 6x9 inch pages that it can be hard to read, and I suspect that making it oversized like *Dvoretsky's Analytical Manual* would have made the layout much clearer. ♠

*Llada, David. The Thinkers. New in Chess, 2018. ISBN Hardcover: 9781784830335. 208 pages. (Available from uscfsales.com, catalog number B0142QT, \$44.95)*

*Abrahamyan, Tatev; Ashley, Maurice; Ramirez, Alejandro; Seirawan, Yasser; Shahade, Jennifer. The Sinquefeld Cup: Celebrating Five Years 2013-2017. (Available from qboutique.com, \$50.00)*

*Alekhine, Alexander. Chess Duels 1893-1920: 260 Games Annotated by Alexander Alekhine. Moravian Chess, 2017. ISBN Hardcover: 978-80-7189-012-6. 452 pages. (Available from uscfsales.com, catalog number B0001MV, \$44.95)*

*Donaldson, John and Minev, Nikolay. The Life & Games of Akiva Rubinstein, Volume 1: Uncrowned King. Russell Enterprises, 2018. ISBN Paperback: 9781941270882. 408 pages. (Available from uscfsales.com, catalog number B0112RE, \$29.95)*

*Ris, Robert. Crucial Chess Skills for the Club Player: Volume 1. Thinkers Publishing, 2018. ISBN Paperback: 9789492510228. 240 pages. (Available from uscfsales.com, catalog number B0022TH, \$34.95)*

*Dvoretsky, Mark. Chess Lessons: Solving Problems & Avoiding Mistakes. Russell Enterprises, 2017. ISBN Paperback: ISBN: 978-1-941270-70-7. 274 pages. (Available from uscfsales.com, catalog number B0114RE, \$24.95)*

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TUESDAY	DECEMBER 11	2 PM	SEMI-FINALS CLASSIC GAME 1
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THURSDAY	DECEMBER 13	2 PM	SEMI-FINALS RAPID & BLITZ PLAYOFFS
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 14	-	REST DAY
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 15	2 PM	FINALS CLASSIC GAME 1
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 16	2 PM	FINALS CLASSIC GAME 2
MONDAY	DECEMBER 17	2 PM	FINALS RAPID & BLITZ PLAYOFFS

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ILIA LIPILIN OF RUSSIA, WITH A PERFECT SCORE, CLINCHED GOLD IN THE PENULTIMATE ROUND AT THIS YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

# World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled

**Ilia Lipilin** from Russia wins the championship with a perfect score.

By **WIM/IO BEATRIZ MARINELLO** Photos by **DORA MARTINEZ**

For the second year in a row, the United States hosted the World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled. The seven-round, round robin tournament, held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey from August 8-12, included players from the United States, Germany, Russia, and Uganda. Ilia Lipilin from Russia earned a perfect score of seven points

to win the championship.

Maksim Petrov of Russia took second place, helping the Russian team secure the gold medal. The official team coach for Russia, Svetlana Gerasimova, accepted the prize for the team with a heartfelt speech and a special thanks to the chairman of the FIDE Commission for the Disabled, GM Thomas Luther, and to this

author in my role as chief organizer.

Griffin McConnell, one of the top players in the United States, earned third place in the event; with his wins, he helped secure the silver medal for Team USA.

This game was played in round six between 2017 World Champion, FM Raphael Zimmer, and 2018 World Champion, Ilia Lipilin.

**TARRASCH DEFENSE (D34)**

Ilia Lipilin (FIDE 2017, RUS)  
 FM Raphael Zimmer (FIDE 2130, RUS)  
 2nd FIDE World Junior U20 Championship  
 for Players with Disabilities (6), Cherry Hill,  
 New Jersey, 08.12.2018

**1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. cxd5 exd5 4. Nc3 c5**

This move initiates the Tarrasch Defense. Black is willing to isolate the d5-pawn “Isolani” in exchange for active play.

**5. Nf3 Nc6 6. g3 Nf6 7. Bg2 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. b3 Ne4 10. Bb2 Bf6 11. Na4 b5**



Up to now the position is slightly better for White. However, 11. ... b5! creates complications for Black. Better moves are 11. ... Re8 or 11. ... b6.

**12. Nxc5 Nxc5 13. Rc1**

A simple and strong move: the rook takes over the open file, attacking both knights. Now White has a solid advantage.

**13. ... Nb4**

Worth considering is 13. ... Nxb3 14. Qxb3 Qb6.

**14. Rxc5 Be7**



This was an interesting moment—a move that required attention. The best possibility is actually 15. Ne5: being willing to sacrifice the Exchange for the creation of a passed pawn and opening the diagonal for the dark-square bishop. If 15. ... Bxc5 16. dxc5 f6 17. a3 fxe5 18. axb4 e4 19. Qd4 with a good position.

**15. Rc1 Nxa2 16. Ra1 Nb4 17. Ba3**

Another continuation is 17. Ne5 Bb7 18. Bh3

Bc8 19. Bg2 Bb7 20. Qd2 f6 21. Nd3 Nxd3 22. Qxd3 Qd7, Draw agreed (22) N. Spiridonov (2445)-D. Komljenovic (2395), Ruse 1984.

**17. ... Bf5 18. Ne5 Qb6 19. Rc1**

Why not win a pawn? 19. Bxb4 Bxb4 20. Bxd5 Rad8 21. e4 with a good game.

**19. ... Qb7 20. Rc3**

Better is 20. Bxb4 Bxb4 21. Nc6 Ba3 22. Rc3 a5 23. Bxd5!

**20. ... Rac8 21. Rxc8 Rxc8 22. Qd2 a5 23. Rc1 f6 24. Rxc8+ Qxc8 25. Nd3**



The turning point of the game: the position is now even, but Black has to make the correct choice by deciding what pieces to exchange and which endgame gives the best chances.

**25. ... Bxd3**

The losing move. In order to keep the game even, Black needed to play 25. ... Nxd3 26. Bxe7 Kf7 27. exd3 Kxe7 28. Bxd5 Bh3 29. Be4 b4. White is up a pawn, but he does not have a good pawn structure nor activity. This position is even!

**26. Bxb4 Bxb4 27. Bxd5+ Kf8 28. Qxd3 Qd7 29. Qe4 f5 30. Bc6**

Nice move, offering to go into a bishop of opposite color endgame with winning chances.

**30. ... Qf7 31. Qe5 g6 32. Bd5 Qd7 33. Qf6+ Ke8 34. Bc6, Black resigned.**

With this win Ilia won the tournament a round before the event was over. Nicely done!

GM Luther put his heart into this event. He spent time with the players and he was always willing to talk to parents, review games, and give advice to the event organizers. He discussed why holding a separate tournament for people with disabilities is so important. “We have chess tournaments divided by rating, nationality, age, gender, etc. So why not for players with disabilities? Here we have nice playing conditions that help players deal with the complexities of competition. We only have one of these events per year all over the world, leaving players with plenty of time to participate in all other events. In addition, this event helps us provide valuable

**PRANAV SHANKAR (USA)**

Pranav Shankar, who has autism, has a strong desire to continue training, competing, and improving through events like the World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled. “I liked everything about this tournament,” he said. “It provides support, not just for me, but also to others. I like the normal tournaments also, but ... this tournament is special. This tournament strives to help people [with disabilities] in many ways. In tournaments like this one, there will be supporters, but in others, we don’t know.”

Pranav even felt comfortable enough to share an experience he had at another tournament. He said he was separated from the other players because he was not quiet enough. But he soon ran into difficulties because he didn’t know if or when he could speak without fear of being forfeited. Pranav was happy to report that, despite the obstacles, he still went on to win his game.

Arthi Nagaraj, Pranav’s mother, added her thoughts: “Ideally, I would like Pranav to sit at the same table with the other players. Going to other tournaments I get nervous because at every tournament there is always somebody who has complained. We are kind of at the mercy of the tournament directors. If the tournament director is good, he tries to accommodate us. Otherwise sometimes he has to forfeit. In this event, I feel supported and understood.”

*Check out this month’s Junior Grand Prix standings on page 48, where Pranav is number five.*



PLAYERS FROM THE UNITED STATES, GERMANY, RUSSIA, AND UGANDA CONVERGED IN CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE SECOND EDITION OF THIS EVENT, ALONG WITH TOURNAMENT ORGANIZERS, SUPPORT STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS.

feedback to improve current FIDE regulations as they may apply to all other chess events. In this way we aim to protect the player, not only in this tournament, but in all of the other events they may wish to participate in.”

GM Luther added, “Players with disabilities face challenges in chess tournaments; this in turn may present a unique set of circumstances for organizers to take on. I know about this from the view of a player and an organizer. Right now, in the FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled, a player with autism participated (*see sidebar, page 25*). The special care from the arbiters and organizers made his participation a success story. We at FIDE are on a good way to improve on existing regulations. This is an ongoing process. Only a short time ago, FIDE regulations and guidelines were added to the FIDE handbook.”

It is important to encourage players with disabilities to speak out about the challenges they face, because real world experience provides the most insight. Such feedback is far more valuable and helpful than hypothetical discussions in a board room because it comes directly from the affected players. Once the discussions begin to focus on what truly matters to players with disabilities, it becomes easier to find solutions that actually make a difference.

## WORLD JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE DISABLED

### TEAM RESULTS:

This year the tournament had three qualifying teams: Team USA, Team Russia and Team Uganda (to qualify as a team, each country required a minimum of two players, with the highest two scores per team counting towards team points.)

Team Russia: Ilia Lipilin,  
Maksim Petrov

Team USA: Griffin McConnell,  
Pranav Shankar,  
Robert Eggleston

Team Uganda: Wasswa Sharif  
Mbaziira, John Denis Mwesigye

Parents of players with disabilities are all too aware of the challenges their children face. While parents may have different approaches in handling these challenges, one trait seems to be common among the parents: a strong will and a non-defeatist attitude. They are fighters—which is all the more reason why they should be supported.

To round off the tournament, players also participated in the Chess Masters Training Program—an educational component that aided in their training. Additionally, several masters provided game analysis for the players. This was a huge support for the players, as it shifted the focus from training to competing.

International Arbiter Carol Jarecki and FIDE Arbiter Martha Underwood were part of the strong team as well, which also included Martha’s daughter, Aiya Cancio, who returned this year to provide much-needed support for the players during their games.

Carol—the “Iron Chess Lady” who has a reputation for being straightforward, fair, and consistent—could be found taking Wasswa Sharif Mbaziira, a chessplayer from Uganda, out for a ride in his wheelchair between rounds. Meanwhile, Martha took some of the mothers shopping while the players attended the “master training” classes, giving the parents a welcome break.

## WORLD JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE DISABLED

### FINAL STANDINGS:

LIPILIN, Ilia (RUS), 7

PETROV, Maksim (RUS), 5½

MCCONNELL, Griffin (USA), 5

ZIMMER, Raphael (GER), 4

MWESIGYE, John Denis (UGA),  
2½

MBAZIIRA, Wasswa Sharif  
(UGA), 2½

SHANKAR, Pranav (USA), 1½

EGGLESTON, Robert (USA), 0

These were not the only instances in which someone reached out in unexpected ways. Player Raphael Zimmer (Germany) traveled to the tournament with his parents, sister, and brother. Soon Raphael's brother was wheeling Wasswa to and from his board as he rushed to arrive on time.

Thanks to a generous donation at last year's event, Wasswa received a new wheelchair, making his return this year far less challenging. Wasswa's newfound freedom to move about in his very own chair was wonderful to witness. He often could be found observing games at the International Mid Atlantic tournament, which was held at the same venue, or showing his support for players he met during the "master training."

This event not only offered players the opportunity to participate in a World Junior event; it also gave them a chance to make friends with others who may face similar challenges in tournament play. As the tournament came to an end, the players also provided feedback that will help others better prepare for this competition and will allow organizers to implement changes to the tournament and "master training"—making next year's edition an even more enriching and rewarding experience.

Winning a tournament is always a significant achievement, but in this chess tournament, every single participant was a champion.

Tournament organizers express their deepest



BY FINISHING IN THIRD PLACE AND WINNING BRONZE, GRIFFIN MC CONNELL (USA) HELPED SECURE THE SILVER MEDAL FOR TEAM USA.

appreciation to all who gave their time and energy: GM Thomas Luther, IA Carol Jarecki, FA Martha Underwood, Robert Katende, Julius Ssali, Hal Spreachman, Aiya Cancio, Christina Schweiss, Zbigniew Pilimon, Svetlana Gerasimova, Jim Eade, Dr. Leroy Dubeck, Steve Doyle, Michael Hoffpauir, and Anjelina Belakovskaia.

Also thank you to the generous contributions of our major sponsors: the US Chess Trust, The KIND Foundation, and the New Jersey Chess Federation. Thanks, too, to the FIDE Commission for the Disabled (DIS), US Chess, the Southern Arizona Chess Association, and all of the people who contributed in different ways.

And a very special thank you to the wonderful chess parents for the unending support they provide for their children.

As this event wrapped up, GM Thomas Luther and I already began discussing and planning for next year's event. Organizing this

event takes a lot of hard work, perseverance, vision and creativity. The main focus must be the players. We have already secured next year's date and venue; once again, it will be held at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-Cherry Hill hotel in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, from July 10-14, 2019. We look forward to seeing the players and hope that each country will bring a bigger team. Players and coaches—get ready!♠

*The FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled is an event for chess players with disabilities who are under 20 years old. While it is an individual open tournament, players from the same national federation can form a team. To qualify, each team must have at least two players; there is no maximum number of players on a team.*

*To learn more about the players, the event, or how to become involved, please visit the official website: [WorldJuniorChess.org](http://WorldJuniorChess.org).*

# The Victorious Eight

The 2018 U.S. Masters ended in an eight-way tie, with GM John Burke winning the Armageddon rapid playoff to claim the championship title.

By **GM ELSHAN MORADIABADI**

Since my immigration to the U.S. in 2012, I have observed a gradual improvement in the number of strong open tournaments available, although back then, only a handful of these tournaments—the World Open or Chicago Open, for example—offered norm chances to players seeking the opportunity to earn titles. These days, the U.S. hosts numerous invitational events, yet the number of open tournaments that also have norm-scoring chances remains about the same. This could be because organizing an open tournament and making it work is, in and of itself, a demanding task. To then enhance the tournament with norm-scoring chances, such as increasing the prize fund and ensuring the right number of invited players, requires organizers to possess two additional characteristics: a lot of passion and a strong work ethic.

Walter High, the organizer of the annual U.S. Masters chess championship, clearly possesses these characteristics as is evidenced by the event's growing popularity. (I'll admit to a personal bias before we read about the event: I like Walter very much and I live only a few miles away from him!)

The 2018 U.S. Masters took place from August 17-21 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Greensboro, North Carolina. This year's prize fund was increased to \$27,000, with first prize a juicy \$7,000 and the last (10th place) prize as high as \$1,000, giving a balanced incentive for everyone to fight till the end. Also, in order to offer optimal norm chances, the event had a US Chess rating cutoff of 2200.

The Swiss-style tournament attracted 88 players, with 66 titled players that included 28 grandmasters and 18 international masters. The 31 percent draw rate shows how tough this event was. The event started with the usual "hiccups" between some of the higher-rated players. The first victim was German GM Niclas Huschenbeth, who went down at the hands of young and talented FIDE Master, Hans Niemann. Niemann, in what turned out to be the tournament of his life (so far!), did something that very few can achieve in an open tournament these days: he ended up playing an all-grandmaster event! Others were a bit unlucky with their first-round pairings, such as GM Kamil Dragun, who was paired against underrated veteran GM Michael Rohde. Rohde, a regular contributor to *Chess Life Online*, saw a very solid result in this event.

Round two saw an upset on board one, where GM Magesh Panchanathan beat GM Jeffery Xiong in a long battle. In the third round, players with the white pieces dominated the top boards, as all those who ended up with full points had white. Going into the fourth round, only four players were unblemished, so it was reasonable to expect a sole



GM JOHN MICHAEL BURKE (LEFT) RECEIVES THE U.S. MASTERS CUP FROM TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER WALTER HIGH.

leader by the end of the round. Uzbekistani IM Djurabek Khamrakulov (many asked about his name's pronunciation), who currently resides in New York City, emerged as the sole leader with 4/4 after his opponent, Philippines' GM Julio Sadorra (currently a Dallas resident), succumbed to a tactical nuance.

Khamrakulov, who is a father of two daughters and who happened to be my tournament roommate, was fiercely determined and motivated throughout the event. He was seeking his last grandmaster norm to earn "the coveted title," and before the tournament started, he told me, "This is going to be my tournament." It seems that Caissa agreed with him!

Round five saw a miraculous save on board one by Khamrakulov, but the hero of the round was Hans Niemann, who played a very accurate game against University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) member, GM Andrey Stukopin from Russia, that showed the value of healthy moves in the opening.

In another interesting round five battle, GM Hovhannes Gabuzyan (another UTRGV team member who had just won the Washington International with a massive score), posted a nice grinding victory against seed number two, young GM Samuel Sevian.

**ENGLISH OPENING (A11)**

GM Hovhannes Gabuzyan (2687)

GM Samuel Sevian (2733)

U.S. Masters 2018 (5), Greensboro, North Carolina, 08.19.2018

**1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 Bg4 3. Bg2 e6 4. O-O Nf6 5. c4 c6 6. cxd5 Bxf3**

Sevian chooses the most solid continuation. Though, it is not really his style to play such technical positions.

**7. Bxf3 cxd5 8. d4 Nc6 9. b3 Be7 10. Bb2 O-O 11. Nc3 Rc8 12. e3 Rc7 13. Rc1 Qb8 14. Qd3 Rfc8 15. Rfd1 a6 16. Be2 Qa7 17. Qb1 Na5 18. Bd3 Nc6 19. Kg2 Nb8 20. Na4 Nbd7 21. Rxc7 Rxc7 22. Rc1**

White tries to get an endgame with a pair of bishops. The position is still equal but it is only White who can push for a win.

**22. ... Qb8 23. Rc2 Qc8 24. Rxc7 Qxc7 25. Qc2 Qxc2 26. Bxc2 Kf8****27. f3**

White is playing for e3-e4 to restrict the knights or open lines for bishops.

**27. ... g6**

Sadly, Black can only wait.

**28. Bc3 Ne8 29. Nb2 Nd6 30. a4 Ke8 31. g4?!**

A bit hasty; maybe e3-e4-e5 is better.

**31. ... Nb8 32. e4 Nc6 33. e5 Nc8 34. Nd3 Nb6?!**

Careless but not decisive.

Best was 34. ... b5! 35. axb5 axb5 36. f4 b4. (Just in time.) 37. Bb2 N8a7! 38. Kf3 Nb5 39. Ke3 Bh4 and Black is active enough to hold with comfort.

**35. f4 f5?!**

Sevian loses patience but it is really hard to just sit and wait.

**36. exf6 e.p. Bxf6 37. Ne5 Nxe5?!**

Now White should be winning with best play.

Correct was 37. ... Bxe5! 38. dxe5 (38. fxe5 looks better) 38. ... Kf7 39. a5 Nd7 40. b4 h6 41. Ba4 Ndb8 and Black intends to put the c6-knight on b5 and the other one on c6. Engines agree that Black should hold here.

**38. dxe5 Be7 39. Kg3 Nd7 40. h4 Kf7 41. h5 Bc5 42. b4 Bb6 43. a5!**

It is important to fix the pawns on the queenside on light squares.

**43. ... Bc7 44. Bd3**

The continuation 44. Kf3 Nb8 45. f5 was probably better. And after 45. ... Nc6 46. fxe6+ hxe6 47. Bxe6+ Kf8 48. Bc2 Nxe5+ 49. Kf4 Nf7+ 50. Ke3 White should be able to convert thanks to the passed pawns and pair of bishops.

**44. ... Nb8 45. Bd4 Nc6 46. Bc5 Kg7 47. Bc2 Bd8 48. Ba4 g5 49. h6+ Kf7 50. Bc2 gxf4+ 51. Kxf4 Kg8 52. g5 Ne7?**

A losing blunder but Black is close to losing anyway.

Even after 52. ... Be7 53. Bxe7 Nxe7 54. Bd1 Kf8 55. Bg4 Kf7 56. Bh5+ Kf8 57. Kf3 Nc6 58. Ke3 Nxe5 59. Kd4 Nd7 60. Bg4 Ke7 61. g6 Nf6 62. gxh7 Nxb7 63. Kc5 Nf6 64. Kb6 White's superior mobility prevails.

**53. Bd6 Ng6+ 54. Kg4 Kf7 55. Bb1 Kg8 56. Bd3 Kf7 57. Bc2 Kg8 58. Ba4 Nf8 59. Kh5 Kf7 60. Bxf8 Kxf8 61. g6 hxe6+ 62. Kxe6 Kg8 63. Bd7 Bc7 64. Bxe6+ Kf8 65. h7 Bxe5 66. Bxd5 Ke7 67. Bxb7 Bc3 68. Bxa6 Ke6 69. Bd3 Kd5 and Black resigned.**

Also in round five, Veteran GM Dmitry Gurevich showed blindfold chess king and U.S. Open champion GM Timur Gareyev that "there's many a good tune played on an old fiddle." Similar to Rohde, Gurevich posted a solid result in this event.

In round six Khamrakov and GM Vladimir Belous (also from UTRGV and the 2017 U.S. Masters champion) drew their games, while GMs Sergey Erenburg and Evgeny Postny also won their respective games to join the leaders. Top seed GM Jeffery Xiong, who was finding his way back to the top after his shocking second round loss, took advantage of GM Julio Sadorra's huge blunder to end up a half a point behind the leaders.

Round seven didn't affect the leaders too much as the top six boards ended in draws, while young IM Kevin Wang kept his non-losing streaks against his sixth grandmaster in a row. However, the lower boards saw some fireworks. After a half point in rounds 3-5, Gareyev decided that he had enough with contemporary chess theory and opted for 1. ... a5!!!! against his opponent's 1. c4, then 2. ... h5 against his opponent's 2. g3. Gareyev went on to win a very interesting game!

By round eight the battle for the first place had heated up. Not only players were fighting for the prize money, but there were two nice trophies at stake: The trophy for the first place winner, and the trophy for the best American

player, a new idea introduced by Walter High. On board two, Xiong completely outclassed Belous. Belous, who had half a point more than Xiong, opted for the Petroff (Russian) Defense, and Xiong chose a less common variation used by none other than GM Vishy Anand on a number of occasions. Belous opted out of theory almost instantly and chose to remain solid but passive. In the ensuing battle Xiong made the most out of his spatial advantage to post a nice and clear technical victory.

**PETROFF DEFENSE (C42)**

GM Jeffery Xiong (2726)

GM Vladimir Belous (2622)

U.S. Masters 2018 (8), Greensboro, North Carolina, 08.21.2018

**1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. d3 Nf6 6. d4!?**

Anand likes this move. Now if Black plays d5, we have an exchanged French position. It is not a surprise as Xiong had employed this line against GM Yaroslav Zherebukh in a closed event in St. Louis.

**6. ... Be7**

Here is Xiong's prior effort: 6. ... Bg4 7. Nc3 Be7 8. h3 Bh5 9. g4 Bg6 10. Nh4 Be4 11. Nxe4 Nxe4 12. Nf5 g6 13. Nxe7 Qxe7 14. Qe2 Nc6 15. Be3 O-O 16. O-O-O Nb4 17. Qc4 a5 18. a3 d5 19. Qb3 b6 20. Bg2 c5 21. dxc5 bxc5 22. Bxe4 c4 23. Qa4 Qxe4 24. Rhe1 Qe7 25. Kb1 Qb7 26. Bc5 Rfb8 27. Re7 Qc6 28. Qxc6 Nxc6 29. Rc7 Nd8 30. Rxd5 Ne6 31. Ra7 a4 32. Rxa8 Rxa8 33. Be3 1-0 (33) Xiong, Jeffery (2665)-Zherebukh, Yaroslav (2633), St. Louis 2018; And here is Vishy's game: 6. ... d5 7. Bd3 Be7 8. O-O O-O 9. Re1 Bg4 10. Bg5 Nbd7 11. Nbd2 Re8 12. c3 c6 13. Qc2 h6 14. Bf4 Nh5 15. Be5 Bg5 16. h3 Bxf3 17. Nxf3 Bf4 18. Bh7+ Kh8 19. Bxf4 Nxf4 20. Bf5 Qc7 21. Bxd7 Qxd7 22. Ne5 Qe6 23. Re3 Kg8 24. Rae1 Qc8 25. Nxf7 Rxe3 26. Rxe3 Kxf7 27. Rf3 Kg8 28. Rxf4 Qe6 29. Qf5 Re8 30. Qxe6+ Rxe6 31. Kf1 a5 32. Rf3 Rg6 33. a4 Rd6 34. Ke2 Rd8 35. Kd3 Rb8 36. Rf5 b5 37. axb5 Rxb5 38. Kc2 Rb7 39. f4 Rb8 40. g4 a4 41. Re5 Kf7 42. f5 Ra8 43. Re6 Rc8 44. Re5 Ra8 45. h4 a3 46. bxa3 Rxa3 47. Kb2 Ra8 48. g5 hxe5 49. hxe5 Rb8+ 50. Kc2 Rh8 51. Re6 Rh5 52. g6+ Kf8 53. f6 1-0 (53) Anand, Vishy (2794)-Hou, Yifan (2670), Douglas 2017.

**7. Bd3 Bg4 8. O-O**

Belous gives up space in order to avoid a theoretical battle.

**8. ... O-O 9. Re1 c5?!**

This seems to be a bit reckless. It is not easy to equalize this easily.

**10. h3 Bh5 11. d5!**

I was very surprised when the engines claimed White has a lot of advantage here. It is understandable that White is better thanks to his better development, but it seems Black's lack of space simply leads to direct initiative for White. For instance ...

**11. ... Nbd7**

The obvious 11. ... Nxd5?? loses to 12. g4 Bg6 13. Bxg6 and after 11. ... a6 12. c4 b5 13. cxb5 axb5 14. Bxb5 Black has zero activity for the sacrificed pawn.

**12. g4 Bg6 13. Nc3 Ne8**

A sad necessity.

**14. Qe2 Bf6**

The move 14. ... Ne5!? is an interesting try 15. Nxe5 dxe5 16. Bxg6 hxg6 17. Bf4 (17. Qxe5 Bf6) 17. ... exf4 18. Qxe7 Nd6. Black is definitely worse, but it is far from clear how White can break through here.

**15. Bxg6 hxg6 16. Ne4 Ne5 17. Nxe5?!**

The continuation 17. g5 Nxf3+ 18. Qxf3 Be5 19. c3 Nc7 20. Qd3 looks much more convincing to me. Now f2-f4 is a threat and in case of 20. ... f5 21. Nxc5 dxc5 22. Rxe5 Qd6 23. Bf4 White is winning.

**17. ... dxe5?**

Offers a never-ending advantage to White on a silver platter.

The followup 17. ... Bxe5 18. Nxc5 Nf6 19. Nd3 Re8 was a must.

**18. Be3 b6 19. d6!**

Accurate calculation.

**19. ... Nxd6 20. Rad1 Nxe4 21. Rxd8 Raxd8**



Black has enough material for the sacrificed queen but his problems would never end as the bishop on f6 is so passive and his pieces lack enough coordination.

**22. Qa6 Nd2**

The "solid" 22. ... Rd7?? loses to 23. Qa4.

**23. Qe2**

The continuation 23. Kg2 e4 24. Qxa7 Bxb2 25. Qxb6 Nf3 26. Rf1 Bd4 27. a4 may be winning for engines but it gives some

unnecessary counterplay to Black. Xiong's choice is more rational and practical.

**23. ... Ne4 24. Kg2 Ng5 25. h4 Ne6 26. g5 Be7 27. c3!**

Jeffery confines Black's pieces. Now he is going to create weaknesses on both sides of the board.

**27. ... Rfe8 28. Qg4 Bd6 29. Rh1 Nf8 30. a4!**

Once the position is opened up on both sides, the knight would have trouble showing much defensive power.

**30. ... Bc7 31. Rd1 Ne6 32. Rh1 Nf8 33. a5 bxa5 34. h5 Bd6 35. h6 Ne6 36. Qh4 Bf8 37. hxg7 Bxg7 38. Qh7+ Kf8 39. Ra1 Rd7**

An attempt at counterplay 39. ... Rb8 40. Rxa5 Rxb2 was a must again but Belous decided to remain passive.

**40. Rxa5 Rc8 41. Ra6 Nf4+ 42. Bxf4 exf4 43. Qh4 Kg8 44. Qxf4**

Now White is up material and Black has no counterplay. Xiong's technique was almost flawless for the rest of the game.

**44. ... Rb7 45. Qc4 Kh7 46. Qh4+ Kg8 47. Qc4 Kh7 48. b4 Bf8 49. f4 Rcc7 50. b5 Rd7 51. Kf3 Rb6 52. Qa4 Kg8 53. Qa2 Rd3+ 54. Kg4 Rd7 55. Kh4 Rdb7 56. Rxb6 Rxb6 57. f5 gxf5 58. Qxa7 Rxb5 59. g6 fxf6 60. Kg5 Rb2 61. Kf6 Kh8 62. Kf7 Bd6 63. Qa8+ Bb8 64. Qc6, Black resigned.**

After the eighth round, six players (!) were tied at the top. GM John Burke joined the leaders by defeating IM Kevin Wang, who was not at his best playing strength on the last day.

## CLOSED SICILIAN (B25)

IM Kevin Wang (2494)

GM John Michael Burke (2615)

U.S. Masters 2018 (8), Greensboro, North Carolina, 08.21.2018

**1. e4 c5**

In this game, the eventual champion showed what he is best at: tenacity and resilience. He didn't stop pushing until he exhausted all the resources and at the end his opponent succumbed to fatigue after playing seven grandmasters in a row!

**2. Ne2 Nf6 3. Nbc3 Nc6 4. g3 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. O-O O-O 7. d3 d6 8. h3 Rb8 9. f4 Nd7 10. Be3 b5 11. a3**

(See diagram top of next column)

This is where the story begins, a first deviation from well-known territories.

**11. ... a5 12. Qd2 b4 13. axb4 axb4 14. Nd1 Nd4 15. Bf2 e6**

The followup 15. ... Nxe2+ 16. Qxe2 Bb7 seems more appealing for Black.



**16. Nxd4 cxd4 17. b3 Nc5 18. Nb2 Bb7 19. Rfe1 f5 20. exf5 gxf5 21. Na4**

The line 21. Bxb7 Rxb7 22. Nc4 seems to give White good chances. It will be difficult for Black to manage all the weaknesses due to aggressive pawn pushes.

**21. ... Nxa4 22. Rxa4 Bxg2 23. Kxg2 e5 24. Re2 Qb6 25. Kh2 Rfe8 26. fxe5 dxe5 27. Qg5 Qg6 28. Qxg6 hxg6 29. g4**

Fine but unnecessary.

The continuation 29. Ra6 Kh7 30. Ra7 Kg8 31. Ra6 would have ensured a draw.

**29. ... e4!**

Now or never.

**30. gxf5 gxf5 31. Kg2 Rb6!**

Black activates his pieces.

**32. Ra5 Rf6 33. Rd5 e3 34. Be1 Rg6+ 35. Kf3 Rg1**

After 35. ... Be5 36. Rg2 Rxd2 37. Kxd2 Kf7 Black's pawns look very dangerous.

**36. Bxb4? Re6?**

Mutual blunder in time pressure.

Best was 36. ... Be5 37. Rg2+ Rxd2 38. Kxd2 Kf7 39. Be1 Ke6 40. Ra5 Rg8+ when Black would penetrate to the back rank with immense impact (otherwise ... f5-f4-f3). Black is winning here.

**37. Rd6??**

But this loses on the spot.

**37. ... Be5 38. Rd8+ Kf7 39. Rg2 Rxd2 40. Kxd2 Rg6+**

A faster way was 40. ... Rc6.

**41. Kf1 f4 42. Bc5 Rg3?**

An unbelievable move that may cost Black half a point.

Elegant and deadly was 42. ... Rc6 43. Bxd4 Rxc2 44. Bxe5 f3.

**43. Bxd4 Bxd4?**

Throws the win away.

The continuation 43. ... Ke7 44. Rd5 Bf6 was

Black's last way to the victory.

#### 44. Rxd4 f3 45. Rf4+ Kg6 46. Rg4+??

Returns the favor.

After 46. Re4 e2+ 47. Kf2 Rxh3 48. Re6+! (Important check!) 48. ... Kg5 49. Re5+ Kf4 50. Re4+ Kf5 51. Re3 Black cannot make any progress!

#### 46. ... Rxc4 47. hxc4 Kg5

Black will checkmate.

#### 48. c4 Kxc4 49. c5 Kg3 50. c6 e2+ 51. Ke1 Kg2, White resigned.

Also in round eight, Gabuzyan won an interesting game with the Sicilian against GM Alexander Shabalov to join the leaders.

In the dramatic final round, none of the players on the top three boards managed to win and clinch the title solely. Thus, the top three boards produced a six-way tie for first place. These six players were joined by two other players: GM Yuri Gonzalez Vidal, who won against Shabalov, while Gareyev played a very enterprising game against GM Kamil Dragun and won beautifully on the black side of the Arkhangelsk line of Ruy Lopez.

After tiebreaks were determined, GMs John Burke and Jeffery Xiong finished first and second, so they had to play an Armageddon rapid match for the two titles: U.S. Masters and best American player. In a close fight, Xiong kept a strong initiative for the most part in an isolated queen pawn middle game, but Burke showed a great deal of tenacity, something he had demonstrated in the entire event. He managed to hold to become the 2018 U.S. Masters chess champion.

### OPEN CATALAN (E05)

GM Jeffery Xiong (2726)

GM John Michael Burke (2615)

U.S. Masters 2018 (Tiebreaker), Greensboro, North Carolina, 08.21.2018

Xiong has five minutes time advantage but he needs to win this game to achieve the title.

#### 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 3. c4 e6 4. g3

Jeffery is known to be an avid Catalan player.

#### 4. ... Be7 5. Bg2 O-O 6. O-O dxc4 7. Qc2 a6 8. a4

Jeffery follows his game against Wesley So from the U.S. Championship.

#### 8. ... Bd7 9. Qxc4 Bc6 10. Bg5 Bd5

Burke deviates and follows the most popular line.

That game versus So continued with 10. ... h6 11. Bxf6 Bxf6 12. Rd1 a5 13. Nc3 Bd5 14. Qb5 Ra6 15. Nxd5 exd5 16. Ne5 c6 17. Qxb7 Rb6 18. Qa7 Be7 19. Nd3 Ra6 20. Qb7 Rb6 21. Qa7 Ra6 22. Qb7 Rb6, Draw agreed (22) Xiong, Jeffery (2665)-So, Wesley (2786), St. Louis 2018.

#### 11. Qc2 Be4 12. Qc4 Bd5

Repetition? Anytime!

#### 13. Qd3 c5 14. dxc5 Nbd7 15. Nc3 Nxc5 16. Qe3 Nfe4?



This is a poor novelty.

This line 16. ... Qb6!? is at least one of the safest choices Black has in this line. 17. a5 Qb4 18. Nxd5 Nxd5 19. Qa3 Bxg5 20. Qxb4 Nxb4 21. Nxg5 Rab8 22. Ra3 b6 23. Rc1 Nd7 24. Ne4 bxa5 25. Rxa5 Rfc8 26. Rc3 Nf6 27. Rxc8+ Rxc8 28. Nc5 g6 29. e3 Rd8 30. Ra4 Nd3 31. Nxd3 Rxd3 32. Bf1 Rb3 33. Ra2 a5 34. Bc4 Rb4 35. b3 Ne4 36. Rxa5, Draw agreed (34) Beliavsky, Alexander (2630) -Lysyj, Igor (2617), Al-Ain 2012.

#### 17. Bxe7 Qxe7 18. Nxd5 exd5 19. Rfd1

Now White has a simple target and the five minutes advantage would start to become an important factor.

#### 19. ... Rfd8 20. Nd4 Qf6 21. b4 Ne6 22. Rac1 Rac8? 23. Nxe6?

The continuation 23. Rxc8 Rxc8 24. Bxe4 dxe4 25. Qxe4 Nxd4 26. Rxd4 g6 27. Rd7 looks totally winning for White. This seems to be the closest Xiong was to a victory in this game.

#### 23. ... Qxe6 24. Bf3 h6 25. Kg2 Re8 26. h4 Rxc1 27. Rxc1 Qd7 28. Qd4 Qd6 29. Rd1 Qe7 30. Rd3 Nf6 31. Re3

The followup 31. Rc3 Ne4 32. Rc2 maintains the pressure and time advantage.

#### 31. ... Qd7 32. Rxe8+

This wins material but may turn out to be a bad practical decision as it overly simplifies matters for Black and makes his defensive task much easier.

#### 32. ... Qxe8 33. Bxd5 Qd7 34. e4 Nxd5 35. Qxd5 Qxa4 36. Qxb7 Qc2 37. Qa8+ Kh7 38. Qd5 Kg8 39. g4 Qe2 40. Kg3 Qe1 41. Qa8+ Kh7 42. Qxa6 Qc3+ 43. Kg2 Qxb4 44. Qd3 Qe7

The position should be a draw but Black has a lot of practical difficulties to overcome. Burke shows a great deal of resistance and saves the day!

#### 45. Kg3 Qc7+ 46. Kg2 Qe7 47. Kg3 Qc7+ 48. e5+ Kg8 49. Qd5 Qc3+ 50. Kg2 Qc8 51. Qe4 Qe6 52. Kg3 Qb3+ 53. Qf3 Qe6 54. Qc3 Qd5

The line 54. ... h5 55. gxh5 Qf5 was a simple way to make a draw.

#### 55. Qc8+ Kh7 56. Qf5+ Kg8 57. Qc8+ Kh7 58. Qc2+ Kg8 59. Qe2 Qb3+ 60. f3 Qe6 61. Qe4 Qb6 62. Qe1 Qd4 63. g5 hxg5 64. hxg5 Qd8 65. Qe3 Qe7 66. Qf4 Qc5 67. Kh3 Qg1 68. Qh2 Qxg5 69. Qg3 Qxg3+ 70. Kxg3, Draw agreed.

What a great achievement for Burke! He won the title with resilience and hard work over the board. We will be hearing a lot about this young man in the near future. ♠

*To read more about the tournament, and for additional games analyses, check out GM Michael Rohde's Chess Life Online articles, which can be found at [new.uschess.org/news/gm-rohde-2018-us-masters/](http://new.uschess.org/news/gm-rohde-2018-us-masters/) and <https://new.uschess.org/news/usmastersupdate/>.*

## At A Glance

## 2018 U.S. Masters

Date: August 17-21, 2018 | Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, Greensboro, North Carolina | 88 players | Top Finishers: 1st-8th, 6½: John Michael Burke, Jeffery Xiong, Evgeny Postny, Djurabek Khamrakov, Yuri Gonzalez Vidal, Sergey Erenburg, Timur Gareyev, Hovhannes Gabuzyan; 9th-16th, 6: Alonso Zapata, Sergei Azarov, Samuel Sevian, Niclas Huschenbeth, Vladimir Belous, Aleksandr Lenderman, Michael W. Brown, Magesh Chandran Panchanathan. | Chief Tournament Director: L. Thad Rogers. **Find complete results and standings here: [chessstream.com/US-Masters-and-North-Carolina-Open/PairingAndStanding.aspx](https://chessstream.com/US-Masters-and-North-Carolina-Open/PairingAndStanding.aspx).**

# Chess Sets & Conflict

For centuries, chess sets have done double-duty as political and religious symbols.

By MENACHEM WECKER



**H**is arm resting on a pillow and propping up his head, a turbaned Muslim man ponders a chess position. The player's Christian opponent, his back to the absurdly oversized game, consults an Arabic text, which a third man, clad in red robes and headdress, holds upon his lap. The contrast between the religious backgrounds plays well off of the game, in which one person necessarily spars intellectually with the other. And this 13th-century illumination, which comes from Alfonso X the Wise's *Book of Chess, Dice and Tables*, is one of countless works that underscore the ways metaphorical chess battles have been mapped out over historical conflicts between nations and faith groups.

Among some of the most artistically-important sets over the centuries are chess pieces that pit Europeans against Moors, Christians against Muslims, and opponents in some of history's most famous and notorious battles. "This was the era of the crusades, and there was much enmity between Christendom and the Islamic world," said Colin Mackenzie, Chinese art curator at the Art Institute of Chicago and curator of the 2004 exhibit, "Asian Games: The Art of Contest." Illuminations like that of the Alfonso manuscript indicate that "there was cultural interaction between the two groups, which we know from other activities as well," he said.

Baltimore artist Gianni Toso, whose family has blown Murano glass in Italy for 700 years, has made glass chess sets with pieces depicting the Jewish Maccabees opposite Hellenists, Franciscan monks versus Chassidic Jews, and other conflicting communities. In a set in the collection of New York's Corning Museum of Glass, one king is a rabbi and the other is a Roman Catholic bishop. All of the Jewish pawns wear prayer shawls, and each carries accessories, from a menorah to the Ten Commandments to a prayer book, to other ritual objects. One, who carries a knife and a baby, is even a *mohel*, a professional circumciser. In the back row, the equivalent of bishops carry Torah scrolls; the knights blow shofars; the rooks hold the willow branch and citrus fruit associated with the Tabernacles holiday; and the queen lights the Sabbath candles. On the Catholic side, the pawns, who have

PHOTO: TOP, MENACHEM WECKER; ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF MUSEUMS



TOP AND BOTTOM: EXAMPLES OF BALTIMORE ARTIST GIANNI TOSO'S INTRICATE GLASS CHESS SETS. AT TOP, A SET FROM TOSO'S HOME COLLECTION; AT BOTTOM, A POPULAR SET FROM 1981 ON DISPLAY AT THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS IN NEW YORK.

LEFT: "BUZURJMIHR MASTERS THE GAME OF CHESS," FOLIO FROM A SHAHNAME (BOOK OF KINGS), ABU'L QASIM FIRDAUSI (935-1020), C. 1330-40, ATTRIBUTED TO IRAN (METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART); MIDDLE RIGHT: QUEEN CHESS PIECE, 13TH CENTURY, SCANDINAVIAN, WHALE IVORY (METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART). LOWER RIGHT: QUEEN CHESS PIECE, 12TH CENTURY, SPANISH, WALRUS IVORY (WALTERS ART MUSEUM).

monastic haircuts called tonsures, carry candles, and the other pieces variously carry incense, crosses (with added diagonals, which create starburst patterns), and candles.

On the one hand, the two sides could hardly be more different in their dress, sacred objects, and worldviews, and the gulf between them on the chessboard seems insurmountable. Toso “uses the metaphor of the game of chess to comment, with humor and tolerance, on the often-controversial topic of religion,” the Corning museum website notes. The set has been a crowd favorite since it went on view, and it is among the collection’s most-commented upon pieces, according to Susie Silbert, the museum’s modern and contemporary glass curator.

Asked about his own glass chess sets over a conversation at his dining room table, Toso told *Chess Life* that conflict didn’t inspire his sets. Rather than pitting one side against another, he sees the views as contrasting. “It’s not white against the black. It’s not black against the white. It’s not the Spanish against Asia. That is wrong from my point of view,” he said. “‘Against’ is already the beginning of destroying something.” Toso, an Orthodox Jew who has told the *Baltimore Sun* that he sees God as the original glass blower, emphasized the playful side of his sets, rather than their capacity to divide. “When I was making the chess sets, I was laughing myself,” he said.

The way Toso thinks about the content of his chess pieces may appeal well to modern sensibilities, which prioritize diversity and common ground over difference. But that’s not always the way artists and, more importantly, their patrons, have conceived of chess objects. Starting in the Renaissance, chess pieces not only reflected their milieus—warts and all—but also were forms upon societies’ projected deeply-held beliefs and convictions. And they also said a lot about how different societies relaxed and staved boredom off in different eras and cultures.

## A GAME THAT TRANSCENDS BORDERS

In his 1527 poem, “The Game of Chess,” Italian humanist and bishop Marco Girolamo Vida wrote of chess pieces as wooden armies fighting mock battles. “I think that sentiment is reflected by the imagery on chessboards produced during that time period, in particular the prevalence of decorations of chivalric military activities like jousting and sword fighting,” said Kelli Wood, assistant professor of art history at University of Michigan. “In medieval and Renaissance Europe, chess was an allegory for life and its many conflicts—political, social, and perhaps most commonly, the seemingly disparate realms of love and war,” added Wood, a specialist in the visual culture of Renaissance games.

In the Renaissance, people understood games to have dual, intertwined purposes, according to Wood. They provided a competitive system and created an image of the world, as did medieval playing cards, which represented the roles of kings, queens, and other privileged members of European society. “What was special about chess was the way the gridded board imagined an infinite space, an apparatus for organizing a microcosm of society’s conflicting forces into the manageable construct of the game, an ordered representation of reality,” Wood said.

Chess sets transcended borders in the way that perhaps only a game could which originated in India and subsequently came to Europe via the Islamic world. The materials of chessboards and pieces speak to the development of those global trade roots, according to Wood. Cheaper, wooden boards have long been lost, and only some of the most expensive Renaissance chessboards, created for the most wealthy and powerful, have survived. Workshops produced the pieces of ivory, crystal, silver, and gold for wealthy—often noble—collectors, and Indian artists made mother-of-pearl shells and tropical hardwoods, which 16th century Portuguese traders considered exotic, for export to the West.

“These chessboards were ideal gifts for ambassadors to bring across long distances of an expanding globe not only because of their material opulence,” Wood said, “but also precisely because they were seen as

microcosms of political and military systems and reflective of their owner’s intelligence, as chess was a strategic mathematical game.” There are a few powerful refrains, which emerge in many stories but whose historicity is often dubious at best, of medieval and Renaissance figures playing chess with their lives on the line while kings or princes looked on or participating in matches where a king has put his daughter’s hand in marriage up as a wager on a chess game. Those stories suggest not only that the intellectual prowess of a player emerges in the game, but that winning a chess match might also reveal a player’s moral or otherwise intrinsic worth.

## SIMULATED MEDIEVAL BATTLES

When Barbara Drake Boehm, senior curator at The Met Cloisters, considers both the hundreds of chess sets and pieces in the Met’s collection and chess holdings in other collections, she cautions that medieval sets don’t differentiate types of figures. “This is not a function of the Middle Ages, and that’s maybe kind of remarkable in itself,” she said. “We don’t see Christians versus Muslims in chess sets of the medieval period. The way that one side is distinguished from the other is usually by the color or the material of the chess pieces, but not by nationality, costume, or recognizable us-versus-them kinds of things.”

In the Middle Ages, soldiers played chess in their downtime between battles, but even then it wouldn’t have been enemies facing each other. “When you’re not on the battlefield, you go back to your camp and you play chess, so I guess in a certain sense you might think that you’re simulating a match against your opponent,” she said. “But the person you’re playing with is in fact your comrade.” In his 2007 book, *The Immortal Game: A History of Chess*, David Shenk records that French historian Robert de St. Remi reported in the early 12th century that First Crusade participants “relied on chess as one of their chief diversions between battles.”

There was humor in that mode of entertainment. “It was a rich irony that, in the midst of a real war against the Muslims, the Christian Crusaders relaxed by playing a war game that Muslim culture had nurtured and delivered to them,” Shenk wrote.

The early sets that medieval players would have used might be red versus white, or jasper against crystal, but not black versus white, according to Boehm. “I cannot think of a medieval piece where a distinction is made between sides of the board based on opposing cultures, or opposing religions, or even opposing nations,” she said. And, she added, there was a “healthy respect for the chess opponent, remembering that our chessboards grow out of Arabic and Persian tradition.”

## EVOLVING FORMS AND FIGURES

It’s all too easy for today’s players to line up their chess pieces and to assume that everything from the rules to the number of squares on the board to the names of the pieces has remained constant since the start. That’s not the case at all, and in their evolutions, the pieces themselves have also responded to the worldviews of the times. Chess was “huge” in the Middle ages, and most people would have known about the game, although there were different dialects before it became standardized, according to Boehm.

“The elephant in Persian and Arabic chessboards turns into the bishop in the medieval chessboard,” she said. “The bishops are doing battle alongside the king, and that was, of course, in fact the case in real life.” Today’s queen pieces were previously viziers, advisers to Muslim rulers, which stood alongside the king in Islamic and Persian sets. In 12th century Europe, viziers became queens. “Her role becomes increasingly important over time,” Boehm said.

The Met owns a 13th century, whale ivory Scandinavian queen, who rides a horse to battle surrounded by smaller figures. The queen is the second in a U.S. museum collection; the Walters Art Museum in



GIANNI TOSO IN HIS HOME, WHERE DOZENS OF HIS CHESS PIECES ARE ON DISPLAY.

Baltimore has an older but less elaborate one. “We were pretty excited,” Boehm said of the Met’s 2012 purchase. “Frankly, she’s not the highest-quality one, but she’s really quite rare.” Writing in a 2016 blog post on the Met’s website, Boehm noted the queen’s “attentive eagerness” and the frenzy of her entourage. “This is not a royal army but a curious group,” she wrote of the smaller figures, one of which wears a crown, while others seek the queen’s aid. One, behind the horse, appears to cling for dear life. “For both the medieval chess player and the artist, the time had come to let a woman take the reins,” Boehm wrote.

A good deal of exoticism surrounded chess in medieval Europe. There are stories of Jewish and Persian men coming to town from foreign lands with chess expertise, Boehm said, and just as grandmasters sometimes play blindfolded today, there are tales of great chess players competing blind in the Middle Ages.

As long as no gambling was involved, the church was tolerant of chess playing, and there may have even been a sense of pride that Christians took in appropriating Islamic chess pieces, either during the reconquest of Spain or when a knight took fine Islamic pieces, particularly made of rock crystal, and then those objects would find their way into a church, as was the case in the pulpit of Henry II at Aachen. “I think you can read from that that there’s a kind of appreciation slash envy for the refinement of those boards,” Boehm said.

### CONFLICT IN MORE RECENT CHESS SETS

For the most part, Islamic chess sets are abstract, but Indian pieces, which were intended for export to Great Britain, occasionally show Hindu armies battling Islamic ones, says the Art Institute of Chicago’s Mackenzie. “I think that chess sets that pit armies of different ethnicities should be seen in the historical context in which they were produced,” he said.

The most impressive sets that Mackenzie has seen are 19th-century Indian ones intended for British export. “They include veritable armies, complete with elephants bearing cannons and sometimes architectural features (the castles), beautifully carved in ivory,” he said. But the two greatest, he said, are much older: the British Museum’s 12th-century Lewis Chessmen and the Charlemagne set at Paris’ Bibliothèque nationale, which dates from the end of the 11th century.

A late 18th century, French set which Christie’s sold in March 2013, pits white Europeans against red Moors, while another two sets, which Christie’s sold that same year and the next, pit George III and Queen Charlotte against the Chinese emperor and empress. Others the auction house has sold in the past decade include 18th and 19th century sets that contrast Prussian king William I and wife Augusta against Napoleon III and wife Eugénie, the French against the Moors, two carved-ivory Russian sets of the Turks against the Romans, and the Europeans against the Africans. A late 19th century, silver-and-black German chess set made of cast-iron, which Sotheby’s sold in 2010, is modeled on the Thirty Years’ War, with Sweden’s Gustavus Adolphus and Ferdinand II, the Holy Roman Emperor, as the kings.

Chess Forum, a store in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village, sells modern chess sets—prices range from three to low four figures each—which pit just about every yin against every yang: aliens and humans, Union and Confederate soldiers, cats and dogs, crusaders and Moors, Spanish and indigenous American figures involved in America’s “discovery,” and the good and evil sides of Lord of the Rings and Super Mario Bros. “You might have traveled back to the future,” Chess Forum’s website states. That’s a pretty good description of what happens when one considers the range of historical chess sets, which were both of their eras and also tapped into the timeless contours of what is no less fundamental than what is at stake in conflicts and differences of opinion of just about every sort. ♠

# THE CHALLENGES OF Chess Parenting

How do you help your children reach their potential without damaging their self-confidence—or yours?

By **JENNIFER VALLENS** | Art by **CARLOTTA NOTARO**

It's not easy being a chess parent. It all started the day I picked up my six-and-a-half-year-old son from an afterschool chess class. "I won a chess set because I beat the teacher!" A few days later, he won first place in his first Academic Chess tournament. I will never forget how I felt when one of the chess instructors said to me, "Your kid has talent."

I always knew my child was special, but to hear it said back to me from someone else filled my heart and yes, my ego, with pride.

I quickly found out that not only does my child have a talent for chess, but so do a great many other children. And so the competition began.

I didn't consider myself in competition as a chess mom until I attended my first US Chess-rated tournament. I felt the first stirrings of concern when we arrived at the hall and immediately noticed a crowd swarming a sheet of paper that was tacked to a bulletin board. Anxious, I fought my way to the board and discovered it listed the pairings. My son and I scurried through rows of chess tables to find

the correct board number and I scrambled to help him get situated. As I looked across the table, I locked eyes with a smirking 10-year-old whose icy stare first pierced me, and then my son. His parent stood behind him, calm as a cucumber, setting the clock and proudly snapping the child's photo. Under the camera's gaze, his wicked smile morphed into an ear-to-ear grin.

I gave my son a kiss on the cheek, wished him good luck (as a new chess parent, little did I know that saying good luck to a chess player is actually considered bad luck!), and backed away from the board. All I could hear was the muffled sounds of the tournament director making some type of announcement mixed with the chatter of adult voices and the rustling of pieces being set up. As I moved away, I was rounded up and herded out the door with the rest of the cattle, leaving my young child to fend for himself. It felt like I was feeding him to the wolves.

I found an empty spot and sat cross-legged

on the hideous carpeted floor in the hotel's hallway to wait. I had brought a book with me and tried to distract myself with my phone, but the pit in my stomach remained. I crossed my fingers, hoping my son would come out the double doors with a smile on his face.

I waited ... and waited ... and waited. I hoped the game was not over too quickly because that would mean someone smoked the other and god forbid my child was the one left in the dust.

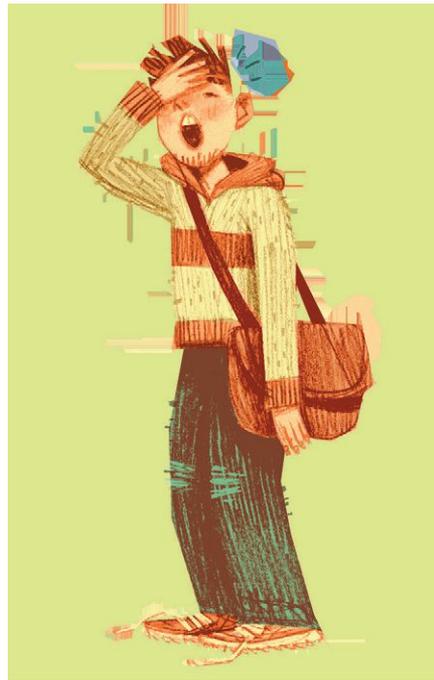
As I perused the hotel lobby, I sensed controlled chaos. The waiting parents all passed the time differently. Some were laughing, some biting nails, one was knitting. Others chatted familiarly while their other children ran amok. The steady buzz of competing voices became almost calming. I thought to myself, "So these are chess parents. Soon they will become my people."

Fast forward to present: After attending countless tournaments and having organized 13 of my own, I've gotten to know my tribe pretty well. I've noticed that chess parents tend to fall into a few distinct categories:



### The Second Coach

The parent who think she's a coach. She tells her child what to study, how to play, and why he lost. Many do not even play chess themselves.



### The Hot Mess

The parent who comes late to every round, forgets his child's chess set, has to borrow a clock, and doesn't know what a pairing or a rating is.



### Helicopter Parent

The parent whose face is smashed up to the door/window of a scholastic tournament. This parent is always complaining and challenging the tournament director about pairings and tiebreaks.



### The Pressure Cooker

The parent who puts so much pressure on his child to perform that the child no longer wants to play but is forced to.



### Annoying Cheerleader

The parent who is overly enthusiastic. This parent high fives everyone and tells her child that it doesn't matter if she wins or loses. Ummm, your child just spent up to four hours trying to win a game and you tell her it doesn't matter?!



### The Prepared

The parent who comes with a chair and who might even have her own internet hotspot. Usually one or two siblings are in tow, each toting their own iPad. This parent often carries Tupperware containers filled with healthy snacks and always has an extra clock or set to borrow.



### Delusional Parent

The parent who thinks his kid is the next grandmaster.



### The Social Butterfly

The parent who seems to know everyone, chats with all the other parents, and knows each player by name.

I am not sure which one I am. To be honest, I see a little of myself in all of them.

Traveling to chess tournaments became a way for me to bond with my child. I shared in my son's victories and also in his defeats. I spent quality time with him—just the two of us—laughing, taking walks, and swimming in hotel pools. One of my biggest joys became watching my son as he and other kids sat cross-legged on the floor, laughing out loud while manically playing bughouse.

I began to see the same parents at the various events, and we quickly became friends without ever being formally introduced to one another. We discussed everything chess: coaches, ratings, the next tournament. I quickly learned that, while we all had the best of intentions, some parents put the game and winning before their child. I started to notice how parents reacted at the end of each round. Some parents would gently give their child a hug; I could not figure out if the child had won or lost their round. Then there were those parents who couldn't wait to utter the words, "Did you win?" I would hear disappointment in the parent's tone and see shame on the child's face right before the child would break out in tears or try to run away. These parents, instead of consoling their child, would disapprovingly interrogate the child about why they lost. I began to question if chess tournaments were, in fact, good for my child.

A chess parent, it seems, is not much different from the average "stage mom" or "soccer dad." The main difference I see is that if your child does poorly in a performance, you can blame the judge. If your child plays poorly on the field, you can blame the coach, the referee, even the weather. But, if your child performs poorly while playing chess, well, there is no one else to "blame."

According to US Chess, the primary age when most children begin playing chess is between six and eight years old. They drop off at around age 13 or high school level. The assumption is that they develop other interests—dating, basketball, college prep—or hit a ratings plateau, but my guess is that parents play a key role in whether their child continues to love the game or not.

In many of the interviews I conducted with elite chess players, nine out of 10 attributed their success to one or both of their parents for supporting them in their chess activities. But how does one support a child in chess?

There are many teachable moments in chess. Tournaments provide opportunities to grow personally along with your child. Unfortunately for some parents, tournaments become all about winning.

The more competitive parents I have met are heavily invested, personally and financially, in the progress of their chess-playing children. Often they spend hundreds of dollars on chess coaches and training. I have met parents who have hired grandmasters to coach their children who have not even reached 1000 in rating.

At one tournament I attended, I witnessed a high-level chess player, only about eight-years-old, who, for whatever reason, played an awful game. His loss—while significant based on his rating—did not justify the inexcusable way his father verbally mistreated him after the game. The boy's father ripped up his son's scoresheet, grabbed his son by the face, and berated him in front of others, shouting, "How could you blunder and lose that game?" The boy's mother appeared fearful of her husband's outrage and sadly did not come to her son's aid. Thankfully, another male parent stepped in, got in this man's face, and stood up for the boy. I still can recall the look of shame on the boy's face and it brings me to tears to this day.

I believe every parent wants the best for his child. Yet millions of parents unknowingly sabotage their child's chances for success. I am no different. When Millionaire Chess came about, my son's rating was close to 1600. If he gained just a few more points prior to the ratings cutoff date, he would have to jump to the next (higher) section and therefore lessen his chances of winning big money. What to do? I

consulted two grandmasters, both of whom told me not to think about ratings; my son should play in the tournament without concern over his section. But the lure of big dollars was too intoxicating. I allowed my son to completely stop playing in tournaments just to maintain his rating.

However, at the Millionaire tournament, the pressure to perform became so great that my son ended up losing over 100 points. He not only lost rating points, but he sadly lost his confidence as well.

So how do you help your child reach their potential while also building their self-confidence? Some parents will do whatever they can to give their child the competitive edge—even resorting to manipulating the system. I have heard stories of parents who hold their child back a grade in school to give them a developmental advantage in academics. The same applies to chess: one parent I know boastfully shared that she homeschools her two children so she can enroll them in lower sections in scholastic chess tournaments. Parents also have been known to intentionally groom their child in chess but never register them to play in rated tournaments. Because the child does not have a rating, he can "play down" in the unrated section at national scholastic events. With his true playing strength under-represented, the child wins trophies and accolades.

"Playing up" can be just as seductive as playing down. Because a rating is the measure of performance in chess, a higher rating becomes the carrot motivating many parents to register their child to play up. Unfortunately, playing for rating instead of playing your best chess can create an impossible situation that can lead to low self esteem and depression for the player.

Playing up may make sense when you are 300 points away from the next rating category and you want to be challenged by stronger players, but there are kids who are 1000-level players playing in 1600 sections with no intention or expectation to win.

We experienced the negative consequences of playing up in 2015, when my son played board four on the NorCal Amateur Team West team. He was nine at the time and played someone rated 2000. My son ended up winning the round—my guess is that he intimidated his opponent simply by his age—and this upset gave him an inflated rating, but also an inflated ego. His team ended up winning the tournament and was featured on the May 2015 cover of *Chess Life* magazine.

As a parent, I was thrilled with his success and recognition. Little did I know his success at this event would cause us to overestimate his playing strength, which would, in turn, lower his self-esteem and perpetuate a lack of confidence.

My son started playing up in all of his tournaments. He enjoyed the game, not necessarily because he was playing well, but because there was no pressure to perform. A loss was expected. If he managed to win a game, it was celebrated as a major upset and he was hailed as a superstar. But once he started playing in his appropriate section at scholastic tournaments—where he now was the top seed due to his inflated rating—he started losing to much lower-rated players. Losing round after round and tournament after tournament sent him into a downward spiral and caused so much anxiety that he no longer wanted to play chess.

According to chess coach and tournament director Jerry Yee, this issue of losing to lower-rated players and wanting to quit chess is common and tends to begin once a child reaches the top 100 lists for their age category. He begins to see a shift in the parents' involvement in their child's chess "careers" (we are talking about children as young as five and six!). These "lists" are the beginning of ratings pressure for the young player because they create a measure of comparison for a parent. Some parents get swept up with keeping their child on top and will resort to all sorts of tactics to do so.

As a chess parent, I was torn. My son no longer wanted to play in tournaments. He had so much anxiety. I did not know what to do.

Should I force him to play tournaments to overcome his anxiety? Should I let him quit chess knowing how much he loves the game? How could I get him to reclaim his passion for chess? It was heartbreaking to see my son suffer anxiety from an activity that originally brought him so much joy. I didn't want to pressure him, but I also didn't want to encourage quitting when things get tough.

Elliott Neff, national master and founder of Chess4Life, explains that ratings can be highly motivational in setting goals, but he advises setting goals no higher than 300 points above your current rating. He explains that setting the goal too high can be frustrating for players if it becomes unattainable.

Neff also believes that if your child is rated below 1600, there is no need to be concerned with her opponents' rating. He points out that one of two things tend to happen: "You're paired with a lower-rated player and that can lead to overconfidence. The problem is that the lower-ranked player may actually be stronger than the rating implies. The other issue is playing against a higher-ranked player, which can often lead to low self confidence, assuming a losing outcome, and, in turn, not putting forth 100 percent effort. It is simply much better to play each game the best you can."

"Never look at your opponents as 'ratings' because a rating is simply a record of past achievement. It does not define what is going to happen. People play chess, not ratings," advises Claudia Munoz, women's candidate master and president of the Texas Tech Knight Raiders chess club.

It isn't just the child who is pre-occupied with ratings. Unfortunately, parents sometimes put added pressure on their child to perform.

I asked my son what makes a good chess parent. His response? Parents who do not ask why they lost after a defeat. He named Gabrielle Eidelman's mom and Alex Costello's dad as great examples of good chess parents because they don't play chess at all and they don't hover over the board.

Speaking of hovering, the helicopter parents I mentioned before are those who are overly concerned about their children and do not give their children room to make their own mistakes and grow. These parents literally hover over their child, ready to swoop in and rescue them at the slightest sign of discomfort.

After speaking with several scholastic chess organizers, I found that the most common complaint from tournament directors is about these helicopter parents who always question the pairings, rulings and tie-breaks, and who constantly claim unfair practices. These parents tend to be the ones who shield their child from any possible disappointment and complain that their child should receive a trophy simply for participating. In my opinion, this is doing the child a disservice. Children need to learn how to take responsibility for their wins and their losses. They also need to learn how to advocate for themselves. Further, parents who step in and question others in front of their child take the focus off his game. This will undoubtedly affect their performance.

Saving our children from pain is something all parents want to do, but teaching our children how to tolerate distress is important to their emotional development. But the question then becomes: How much should we push? Finding the balance is not an easy task for any parent.

Sometimes taking a break from the pressures of competitive chess can be the best thing for a child.

After a disappointing bout of losses in a string of tournaments when she was 13, Claudia Munoz was left emotionally drained. Her father recounted her experience and wrote, "The pressure had built up and it was time to release it. I told her that if she never played chess again, I would continue to love her since my love for her was not conditional to a chess rating or to her playing the sport.

"Her tears were of happiness because she never thought I would say those words. I told her that I was disconnecting her from chess until she was emotionally ready to return to the game. She then finished a

commitment that she had in the Game 45/45 league where she won her two games and that was it since then."

Claudia engaged in other hobbies such as drawing. Eventually, she decided to come back to chess on her own and ended up receiving a scholarship to Texas Tech, where she now plays for their chess team.

Had Claudia's father insisted she continue competing in chess when she was 13, it might have created lasting emotional damage on her self esteem.

My approach with my son has been the same. I decided to take his lead and let him tell me when he was ready to play again. We began approaching tournaments as an opportunity to travel together and have fun. The focus was no longer on the chess tournament, but rather on playing good games. He has told me that he has played better chess because of it.

GM Yasser Seirawan believes "many players, especially younger players, quit chess not because they no longer enjoy playing, but because there is so much emphasis on studying and memorization that they can't afford the time to keep up with those few players who do study intensely. For kids, chess becomes too much like school."

Here's the takeaway: If your kid is self-motivated and lives and breathes chess, this will be evident and there will never be a need to push your child to study.

Magnus Carlsen's father Henrik says, "Don't push your kids into anything."

Henrik shared that he taught Magnus to play chess at five, but it wasn't until Magnus was eight that he showed interest of his own in chess. The decision to quit his studies and focus solely on chess was Magnus' and he was 16 at the time. Chess always came first for Magnus; Henrik and his wife never had to push him to train.

I know parents just like me have the best of intentions for their child. But sometimes, parents simply put their children under so much pressure to perform well that their children suffer serious consequences.

You may wonder why parents are not allowed in the playing hall of scholastic chess tournaments. It's because there's proof that children are distracted when their parents are in the room. Every tournament director I interviewed reported the number one challenge with running tournaments are parents questioning the tournament director decisions—and not just questioning, but arguing, fighting, demanding, and threatening—often in front of their children at the board.

As a scholastic tournament organizer myself, I can feel an immediate calm replace the nervous energy as soon as the parents leave the room.

Parents can cause an extreme amount of stress and anxiety prior to a game. Parents have been known for making comments purposely to intimidate their child's opponent. Sadly, what that parent is doing is teaching his child that he needs to resort to these tactics because his own ability may not be up to par.

As harmful as it is to intimidate an opponent before the game, the biggest mistake you can make as a parent is to punish your child for a loss by withdrawing emotionally from them. When a parent reminds her child how much time and money they are spending on lessons or becomes angry or distant after a loss of a round, a child begins to feel responsible for the emotional and financial security for the parent.

We as parents try to read our child's face to know if a thumbs up or down is in order. Will there be tears? Will there be fits of anger? Will we be celebrating? From what I have seen, a win usually elicits a sense of pride which is difficult for a child to hide; a loss, however, sometimes can be harder to tell.

I have seen parents meet their child after a loss with a roll of the eyes, a hand raised in disbelief, and an impatient, "SOOOO ...?" before launching into a public tongue-lashing filled with questions about why he lost. And so the shaming begins.

So how should we respond when our child comes out the doors

## Parent Perspective: Checkmated by a Third-Grader

*Adrian Roberts' children, Aston and Brielle, attend Success Academy (SA) Charter School in New York City, where they both participate in the school's chess club. Adrian recently blogged about his experiences as a chess parent, which we excerpt here:*

It's safe to say my family loves the game of chess. Whether my son Aston is challenging an adult chess player at Washington Square Park, or my daughter is asking me to review her opening moves after a tournament game, chess is often the focus of our free time. My kids are learning so much through [Success Academy Charter School's] chess program—and so am I!

I first learned how to play chess as a child growing up in Jamaica. But until Aston and Brielle enrolled at Success Academy Hell's Kitchen, I didn't know much about the tactics, strategy, patience, and effort that goes into any successful chess game. It's been so much fun to learn chess alongside my kids. Together as a family, we read chess books, spend time in local chess hubs like the Marshall Club and the Chess Forum—and practice our skills through fun puzzles and games. Aston and I love playing against one another—when he beat me for the first time last year, it was a bittersweet moment—I

was sad to lose, but so happy to see how far he'd come! Now, I look forward to the day my younger daughter Brielle will beat me.

Chess is an intense intellectual battle, and kids take losses personally. When my kids lose, I always encourage them to think about the next game and how they can prepare to do better next time. Success Academy's great coaches do the same. Many of our chess teachers, including [Robert] Lazorchak, are seasoned chess competitors themselves—though some even came from the legal or financial world to bring their passion for chess to scholars like Brielle and Aston.

Every day, I see the impact that playing chess has on my children. They're enthusiastic puzzle-solvers and the skills they're learning carry over to their schoolwork. Aston tends to be more diligent and careful when he plays chess than he is with his homework. When he rushes through his math work, I encourage him to slow down and remind him to carefully consider each step of the problem. Chess teaches and rewards patience, so we try and bring these lessons into their homework, too.

I love the impact SA's chess program has had on our kids and on us as a family, and I love sharing this passion with other families. Thanks to many mobile apps—and chessboards set up at many NYC parks—you can play chess outside, on the subway, or during a rainy day at home.

*Excerpt courtesy of Success Academy. Visit [successacademies.org/education-blog-post/parent-perspective-checkmated-by-a-third-grader-the-life-of-a-success-academy-chess-dad/](http://successacademies.org/education-blog-post/parent-perspective-checkmated-by-a-third-grader-the-life-of-a-success-academy-chess-dad/) for the full blog.*

after playing a grueling chess match? What I have learned from being a tournament organizer is that it is essential to know your child. You need to know whether your child needs a hug or some space. Either way, keep your mouth shut and just be there for them while they process their feelings.

Kids cannot be expected to behave in a mature manner. After a disappointment such as losing, acting out by crying or having a tantrum is developmentally appropriate for a child; in fact, what is not developmentally appropriate is the expectation for a small child to sit still and problem solve for four hours!

A good parent behaves in a mature manner and models good sportsmanship. Eswaran Ramalingam recounted a hard lesson he learned at the Pan Ams in Peru when his daughter was just under 12. His daughter, Women's International Master Ashritha Eswaran, had the black pieces and had brought a Chronos clock to use. Her opponent's parent argued that the Chronos clock was not approved by the tournament organizer and the players needed to use the tournament-approved clock. An argument ensued between Eswaran and the other parent in front of the kids. Ashritha ended up losing the game, which Eswaran now believes was due to the distraction prior to the round. Eswaran insists that children should not be exposed to what is happening behind the scenes. Their only focus and concern should be to play their best.

Some of the children I spoke to asked parents to please not give last-minute advice right before a round like, "Remember to castle." That is so annoying! And worse is when your dad tells you what you should have done differently in your game!"

At the 2013 SuperNationals V in Nashville, a free seminar was offered to address "how to be a good sports parent and coach." SuperNationals usually host more than 5,000 children from states across the country. Many organizers have mentioned doing similar workshops in the future.

Being a chess parent may be challenging, but it is also extremely rewarding. For me, the best part about being a chess parent is bonding

with my child and being part of the chess community. Watching my child progress and mature is certainly a highlight for me. Even though there is frustration with the waiting and uncertainty and wanting to save my child from heartache and disappointment, the joy of seeing him problem solve and build his self confidence is priceless.

Chess parents face so many questions: What tournaments should my child play in? What section? How often should she be studying? What openings should he be studying? Is blitz going to be bad for his long game? Should he get exercise or rest during rounds or should he analyze games between rounds? Or maybe she should figure out who her next round opponent is so she can study up on their play? Does my child need a coach? Should I let him stay up and play in late-night blitz during a tournament?

While I can't answer these questions for you—and I certainly grapple with some of them myself—I do know the ways you can support your child include:

### **FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY.**

Buy your child a chessboard, sign up for a [chesskid.com](http://chesskid.com) or [chess.com](http://chess.com) account, borrow chess books from the library, start a chess club, find local tournaments, enroll in a chess class, find other chess families—and play!

### **FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S LEAD.**

If she is destined to reach the top in chess, she will be self-motivated. You will never need to push her to study.

### **LEAVE THE COACHING TO THE COACH.**

If you do hire a coach, let him do his job, so you can do yours—parent your child.

As challenging as it is to be a chess parent, I would not trade the experience for the world!♠

# Is Your Opponent Underrated?

A statistical look at how geographic location affects ratings

By **MATTHEW S. WILSON**

I lived in Washington state when I started playing tournament chess. For the most part, I would compete against the same pool of local players. But some of the Washington players would make the trip to big tournaments in Reno, Nevada or southern California. They often performed really well there and gained lots of rating points. Were Washington players underrated?

Then we hosted the 2012 U.S. Open in Vancouver, Washington. In *Northwest Chess*, the tournament report notes, “Of the 294 Northwest players in the main event, 60 of those with established ratings gained 30 or more points in the tournament, 47 gained more than 50 points, and 21 players climbed more than 100 points.”

But when I moved to Missouri, I didn’t notice any rating inflation or deflation at all. A 2000 player in the Midwest seemed to be about the same as a 2000 player from Seattle. Was the rating deflation just a myth? I compiled results from more than 20,000 games in order to find out. A statistical test revealed that some states are significantly underrated relative to others.

## HOW DOES RATING INFLATION OR DEFLATION OCCUR IN A STATE?

Suppose that everyone’s opponents came from all over the country. Then, in theory, the rating system would be self-correcting. Ratings in one state would not be inflated compared to other states. Why would that be true? Consider someone who happens to be 50 points overrated. They will have to play games with opponents who are underrated or correctly rated. They won’t be able to live up to that inflated rating, so it will fall until it matches their true strength. In that environment, rating inflation or deflation wouldn’t last for very long.

But most of us *don’t* play a representative mix of opponents from all over the country. It’s easier and cheaper to stick to local tournaments. We see the same familiar faces there. If, for some reason, everyone in a state or region were overrated, and we only played in local tournaments, then the ratings would not adjust. Suppose that your rating is inflated by 50 points, but all of your opponents’ ratings are also inflated by 50 points. There is no reason to expect your rating to fall. It’s just as hard for you to maintain your inflated rating as it is for your opponents to maintain theirs.

Under the old Elo system, rating deflation can occur when players improve. The only way for one player to gain points was for another player to lose points. Thus, if a junior raises his game, his opponents will lose rating points to him. A stable player will shed points if his

opponents are improving—that’s deflation.<sup>1</sup>

Rapidly rising players are often juniors. If they are spread out across the country unequally, some areas could experience more deflation than others. Ratings in those states will fall out of alignment with the rest of the country. For instance, this could be a factor in Missouri, where the Saint Louis Chess Club is located. Helping kids get better at chess is very much a part of their mission, which is great, but it can lead to rating deflation in the region.

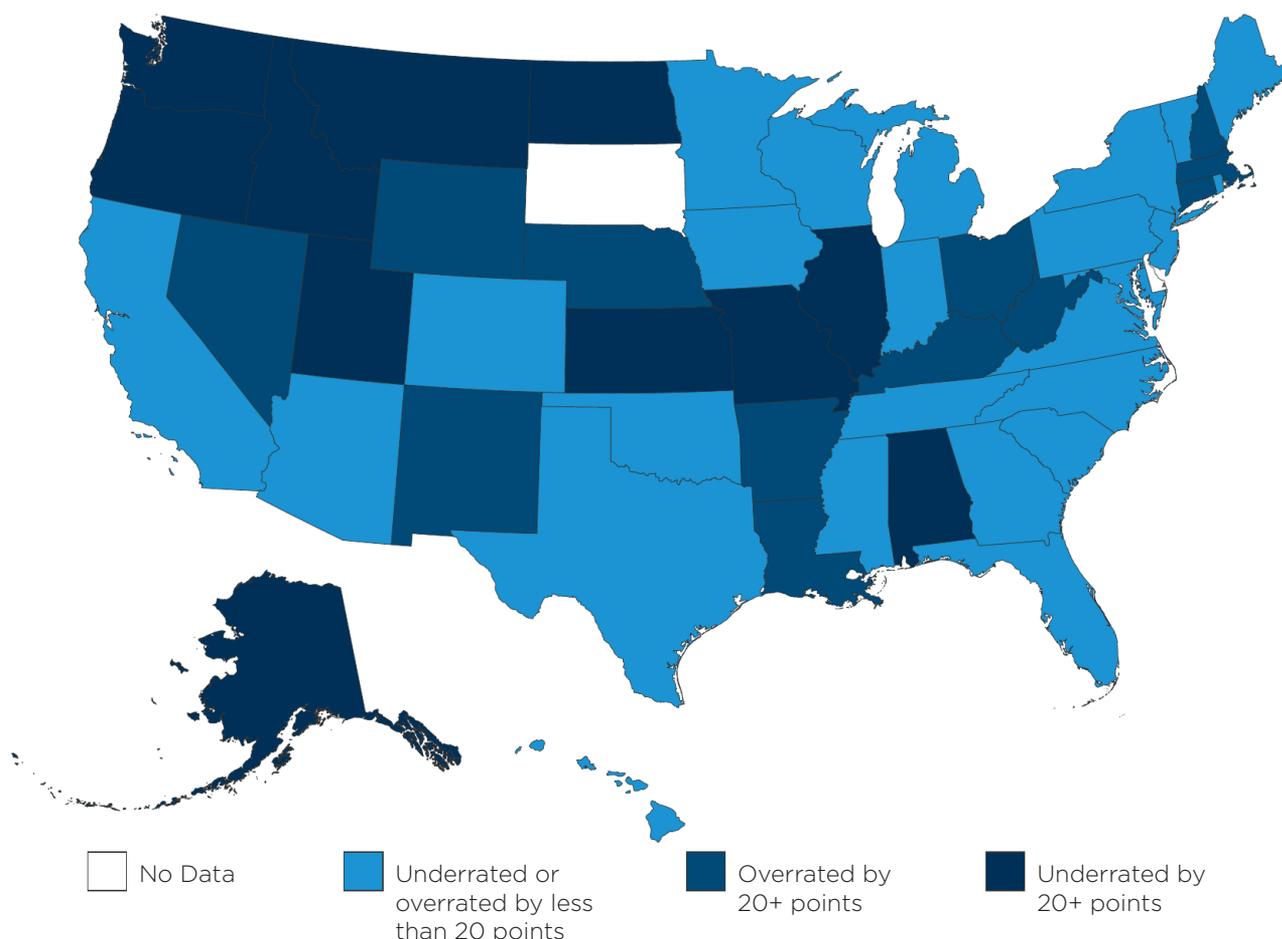
Players on their rating floors can create inflation. In my experience, most players on their floors are overrated. When you beat a floored 1600, you gain points but they lose nothing. Thus, the average rating in the region can rise even if the players aren’t progressing. However, with the right mix of floored players and rising stars, the inflation from the rating floors can offset the deflation from improving juniors. But not every state is guaranteed to have this ideal combination.

## HOW DO WE KNOW IF THERE IS RATING INFLATION IN A STATE?

If you’re in an overrated state, then your local opponents will also be overrated. Those results don’t tell us anything about inflation or deflation. Instead, we have to look for events that attract players from different parts of the country. If Missourians really are underrated, then they should do better in national tournaments when they compete against players from overrated states. They should shine in events such as the World Open and the U.S. Open. I gathered data from more than 100 sections of 30 major tournaments over the last year.<sup>2</sup> Typically, I dropped the top and bottom sections from the sample, since outliers can cause problems. Games involving provisionally rated players were excluded, since those ratings might not be reliable. This left me with 20,000+ games.

A key ingredient in the rating system is the expected score formula. For instance, the expected score for a 1700-rated player against a 1500 is roughly 0.75. So if they played a four-game match, our best guess is that the 1700 would win by 3-1. The expected score formula provides us with a prediction for every game in the sample. Can I improve upon these predictions if I also know which state the players are from? If the answer is no, then there is no rating inflation or deflation across the country. If the answer is yes, that’s a different story. If the statistical model predicts that Missourians will outperform their ratings, then there is evidence that ratings in Missouri are deflated.

The results were clear: the statistical test soundly rejected the claim



that only ratings matter<sup>2</sup>. You get significantly better predictions if you also take into account the state the player is from and the state their opponent is from. It turned out that Washington players are underrated by about 35 points relative to the national average. Thus, facing an 1800 in Washington is like playing an average 1835.

### CONSEQUENCES OF RATING INFLATION AND DEFLATION

It's never easy to become a national master, but if you're trying to do it in a state like Illinois or Kansas, you encounter extra difficulties. Players from overrated states are going to face an uphill battle if they are competing for the class prizes in a national tournament. That's because a 1580 from an overrated state is not as strong as a 1580 in the rest of the country. But in closed tournaments, where players are selected on the basis of rating, the state you come from can be the difference between getting an invitation and getting excluded.

What can be done about this? One approach would be to adjust the ratings. For instance, ratings in Utah are deflated by about 26 points. So if we give 26 points to every Utah player, then the problem vanishes. However, there is one issue. While this approach may work well for the larger states, there is less data—and therefore more uncertainty—about the players in smaller states. Since there are lots of games from New York and Texas players, I can pin down those estimates precisely. On the other end of the spectrum, the results for Wyoming are based on just six games. They had a bad tournament, so the model's best guess is that they are more than 100 points overrated. But there is so much

uncertainty about this tiny sample that Wyoming players could actually be underrated. If the ratings were to be adjusted, I would recommend that we only do it for states in which there is enough data to be confident.

### POST SCRIPT: WHAT ABOUT RATING INFLATION OVER TIME?

This is a much harder question to address. If I want to know if Oregonians are overrated relative to Georgians, I can just watch their games against each other. But if I want to know if a 2100 today is the same as a 2100 in 1990, I have no way to arrange a match between them.

Some have suggested comparing the players' moves to the computer's. If competitors from one era played more accurately than modern players with the same ratings, is that evidence of rating inflation? I'm not so sure. There would have to be some way to account for the complexity of the position, and it is not clear how that should be done. Without this correction, the system will be biased in favor of positional players. That's because they aim for positions in which humans don't blunder as much. They will look more accurate, but they could still lose a head-to-head match with an aggressive player who gets them out of their comfort zone. Until there is a way to address this issue, I do not know how to assess if there has been rating inflation over time. Please don't ask me who would win in a Carlsen versus Fischer match. ♠

<sup>1</sup> Fortunately, US Chess is aware of this issue and there are features of the US Chess rating system—such as the bonus factor—designed to combat deflation.

<sup>2</sup> See my blog ([e4stat.blogspot.com/2018/06/methodology.html](http://e4stat.blogspot.com/2018/06/methodology.html)) for a complete list and more details about the methodology

# Another One of Those Bronstein Moves

A strong player—who should have become world champion and didn't—uses a “surprise move” on his opponent.

By **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

DAVID BRONSTEIN (1924-2006) WAS ONE of the strongest players who should have become world champion and didn't. This is evident from his 1951 title match with Mikhail Botvinnik. It ended in a 12-12 tie. But careful play at points would have put the Ukrainian-born grandmaster on top at the end. Besides being a brilliant chess writer, one of the most illuminating of all time, Bronstein is also remembered for some of his “surprise moves,” which seemed to come down from chess heaven ingeniously. Such is the case with this month's game against Efim Geller (Black), played in the USSR Championship of 1961. After a serious tussle for advantage, Bronstein ended with a true Bronsteinian bolt from the blue.

## NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE, SÄMISCH VARIATION (E27)

GM David Bronstein

GM Efim Geller

USSR Championship (1), Moscow, Russia  
01.10.1961

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. a3 Bxc3+



Now ensure that the above position is set up on your chessboard. As you play through the

remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White's next move only after trying to guess it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also awarded for second-best moves, and there may be bonus points—or deductions—for other moves and variations. Note that \*\* means that White's move is on the next line.\*\*

5. **bxc3** **Par Score 4**

Here we see a typical Nimzo-Indian motif: Black has surrendered the king-bishop to instill doubled c-pawns. More of the battle will center around a potential white advance with e2-e4.

5. ... **O-0**

Black has completed his kingside development and secured his king. He will soon direct his efforts against White's weakened queenside.\*\*

6. **f3** **Par Score 6**

Given the propitious opportunity, White will indeed play e2-e4. But Black has no intention of allowing that.

6. ... **d5**

Geller stops e2-e4, even though it enables White to rid himself of the doubled c-pawn. With White's king still in the center and his kingside remaining undeveloped, Black has achieved at least an equal game.\*\*

7. **cxd5** **Par Score 6**

Naturally, White is willing to exchange off his doubled pawn. In effecting this trade, however, White enables Black to open up for the c8-bishop.

7. ... **exd5**

Black takes back with the e-pawn so that the square e4 is still under his control. In addition, Black now has a half-open e-file that can be used to afflict the uncastled white king.\*\*

8. **e3** **Par Score 6**

Unable to go two squares with the e-pawn, White settles for one. He must start to get out his kingside forces, especially if he wants to castle. But we are talking about the creative David Bronstein, so let's see.

8. ... **Bf5**

Often, Black's queen-bishop is consigned to inferior posts. But here the bishop reigns somewhat imperiously on the b1-h7 diagonal.\*\*

9. **Ne2** **Par Score 6**

Bronstein steps carefully. He doesn't want to exchange off his king-bishop for Black's queen-bishop by 9. Bf1-d3. Yet he did have the option of playing 9. g4. He wisely didn't because after 9. g4?, Black has a gainful sacrifice, 9. ... Nxg4!. And if 10. fxc4, there would have followed 10. ... Qh4+ 11. Kd2 Be4 12. Nf3 Qf2+, regaining the knight netting a pawn (*1 bonus point*). Add *1 bonus point* more if you saw that 11. Ke2 is a blunder leading to 11. ... Bxg4+ 12. Nf3 Bxf3+ 13. Kxf3 Qh5+, pilfering White's queen.

9. ... **Nbd7**

To be sure, Black didn't want to block his c-pawn with 9. ... Nb8-c6. By moving the c-pawn, whether one or two squares, Black's queen gets possible passage to the queenside.\*\*

10. **Nf4** **Par Score 6**

Accept *full credit* for 10. Ng3, gaining a tempo on the bishop. By placing the knight on f4 instead of g3, White has different targets in mind.

## ABCs of Chess

These problems are all related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, **Black is to move**. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 69.

**December Exercise:** In trying to form plans, it's natural to start with pawn structure. The layout of pawns will not only tell us which squares might be weak and which might be strong. It will also indicate which forces should be kept and which should be traded off. Whenever analyzing middlegame positions, take special note of what strong players do with bishops and knights. As you regularly examine what they do here, you should come away with a greater understanding of where to place pawns to be in harmony with your minor pieces. And this should favorably impact your overall play.

**PROBLEM I**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM II**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM III**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM IV**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM V**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM VI**  
Mating net



10. ... **c5**

Geller, a terrific attacking player, tries to grasp the initiative with his superior development.\*\*

11. **Bd3** **Par Score 6**

Bronstein decides to neutralize Black's aggressive bishop after all. Meanwhile, he is now prepared to castle.

11. ... **Bxd3**

Generally, exchanging queen-bishop for king-bishop in similar positions connotes a triumph for Black.\*\*

12. **Qxd3** **Par Score 6**

White takes back, developing the queen. He is not afraid of 12. ... c5-c4, which would kill the tension in the center. Afterward, White would be more able to advance his e-pawn at the proper moment, since there would be no inhibiting counterattack against White's d4-pawn.

12. ... **Re8**

Placing a black rook at e8 was to be expected. The rook acquires mobility and it hinders White in the plan of advancing the e-pawn. The position definitely favors Black. How and when is Bronstein going to turn things around?\*\*

13. **O-O** **Par Score 6**

It's time to castle, and White does so.

13. ... **Rc8**

And now Black activates his queen-rook. Only the black queen remains on its original square. That situation will soon change.\*\*

14. **Rb1** **Par Score 6**

With Black's light-square bishop no longer assailing b1, White seizes the open b-file. Black has some decisions to make.

14. ... **Qa5**

Geller decided to play for the attack. He might have considered the shielding move, 14. ... Nb6, with the eventual aim of coming into c4 (or maybe a4).\*\*

15. **Rxb7** **Par Score 6**

Bronstein "pigs out," and gains a pawn. It will soon be clear that Black doesn't get enough for his pawn.

15. ... **Nb6**

The knight moves into a more active position. A curious feature is that the seventh rank is now more open to White's rook.\*\*

16. **g4** **Par Score 7**

A pronged assault! Bronstein is beginning to look more like Bronstein.

16. ... **h6**

Geller feels obliged to stop g4-g5. But it may be too late.\*\*

17. **h4** **Par Score 7**

It's warfare on two fronts. Black's queenside attack must measure its spurs against White's kingside ambitions.

17. ... **cxd4**

The c-file is opened and Black's rook has entry points into White's camp. But that's not likely to stop Bronstein.\*\*

18. **g5** **Par Score 7**

It's one attack against the other. Whose attack will come first? Nevertheless, White might simply have played 18. c3xd4.

18. ... **dxe3**

Perhaps Geller had analyzed the line 19. Bxe3 Rxc3, thinking he was better. But that's not where this position is going.\*\*

19. **gxf6** **Par Score 6**

Is Bronstein up a piece? Yes! Give yourself **1 bonus point** if you had analyzed 19. ... Qxc3 20. Rxf7! and saw that White comes out ahead.

19. ... **Rxc3**

Geller should have figured on another one of those Bronstein moves.\*\*

20. **Qg6!** **Par Score 9**

Bronstein is threatening mate at g7. Unbelievably, if 20. ... fxg6, then White mates with 21. Rxg7+ Kh8 (or 21. ... Kf8) 22. Nxf6 mate! Add **1 bonus point** if you found this ahead of time.

20. ... **Black resigned.♠**

See scoring box on page 69.

# The Olympiad Express

Even when the logic is flawless, the smallest imprecision in execution bears calamitous consequences.

By **GM DANIEL NARODITSKY**

RECENTLY, IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT several parallels can be drawn between the U.S. Olympiad team and the starting lineup of my favorite basketball team, the Golden State Warriors. In the past few years, both entities broke out of an extended slump and mounted a furious ascent to the top of their respective fields. I will leave the task of comparing specific players to you, my dear reader, though I firmly encourage you to pair Stephen Curry with an enigmatic lookalike who is known only by the initials F.C.

At the 2018 Olympiad, the United States came within a hair's breadth of repeating their magisterial performance in Khanty-Mansiysk. A few tough breaks, coupled with an unfortunate loss against Poland, enabled the Chinese squad to squeeze by with a favorable tiebreak. Still, no one in their right mind can call silver medal a failure, especially if the U.S. completes the medal sandwich with a gold in 2020.

Predictably, the Olympiad supplied a basinful of tremendously instructive and entertaining endgame battles. One of them, brought to us by the aforementioned F.C.—who played the game in a cloak to avoid being seen—is too fun to pass up.

## THERE WAS NOTHING AND THEN IT EXPLODED

GM Fabiano Caruana (FIDE 2827, USA)  
GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov  
(FIDE 2820, AZE)  
43rd World Chess Olympiad 2018 (8),  
Batumi, Georgia, 10.02.2018

(see diagram top of next column)

If the players agreed to a draw in this position, no one—and I mean no one—would bat an eye.



AFTER 42. ... hxg6

Material is equal, the pawns are immobile, and both kings are so weak that neither side can mount any sustained pressure against the opposing monarch.

However, there is a reason why Fabiano Caruana paid a visit to London in November, and it wasn't to ride a double-decker tour bus. As lifeless as this position seems, there is one last ember left in the fire. If White can mobilize his rook via d4, he will be only one move away from creating massive threats along the h-file. The immediate 43. Rd4 is not possible due to the check on e1, so Fabi decides to give his monarch a chance at redemption.

### 43. Kf1!

To me, the most elegant moves are those that can be explained through crystal-clear logic. All of a sudden, a concrete threat—Rd4—has materialized out of thin air. Not one to panic, Mamedyarov makes an astute observation in his own right: Rd4 can be met with ... Re4, intercepting the rook and inviting a transition into an utterly drawn queen endgame. A check on the eighth rank is similarly interposed with ... Re8. Unwilling to compromise

his defensive construction, Mamedyarov decides on a healthy waiting move:

### 43. ... Re6?



His logic was flawless, but, as often happens at the highest level, the smallest imprecision in execution bears calamitous consequences. The problem with this move is that the weakness of the eighth rank will cost Mamedyarov dearly, since ... Re8 comes with the additional problem of abandoning the c4-pawn. The only way to truly maintain the integrity of Black's defensive mechanism was 43. ... a5!, which should not strike you as a mindless computer move. White is in a kind of *Zugzwang*: he has plenty of ways to bide time, but no further way to make progress:

1. 44. Rd4 Re4 holds the fort. After 45. Rxe4 fxe4 there is no way to exploit Black's isolated pawns, e.g. 46. Qg5 a4 47. Ke1 Kf7 48. Ke2 Qb7 and the queen's activity ensures a comfortable draw.
2. 44. Qh4, as was played in the game, no longer makes as much sense. Black responds with 44. ... Kg7, and White has nothing better than 45. Rd4 Re4.

## Practicum

Each month GM Naroditsky will present two problems taken from actual games that illustrate the theme of this month's column. Your task is to find the best line of play. Problem I should be solveable by a player at roughly a 1500 rating and Problem II by a player roughly at a 2000 rating.

See the solutions on page 69.

### PROBLEM I: 1500 LEVEL

GM Sam Shankland (2722)  
GM Jordan Van Foreest (2624)  
43rd World Chess Olympiad 2018



WHITE TO MOVE

### PROBLEM II: 2000 LEVEL

GM Luka Paichadze (2564)  
GM Parham Maghsoodloo (2649)  
43rd World Chess Olympiad 2018



WHITE TO MOVE

3. 44. Qf4?? has the noblest of intentions, but would be a terrible error. The reason for this has been left as an exercise to the reader.

#### 44. Qh4!

This is the move that Mamedyarov overlooked. Having done its job on h6, the queen removes itself to a more dominant post, where it eyes the c4-pawn and reinforces the d8-square. It transpires that 44. ... Kg7, which seemingly takes the sting out of 45. Rd8, actually does no such thing: 45. ... Re8 46. Rxe8 Qxe8 and White picks up the pawn on c4, with a completely winning queen ending. Note the difference: after 43. ... a5 44. Qh4 Kg7 45. Rd8 would have made no sense. The devil, as always, is in the detail.

#### 44. ... Re8

An unfortunate necessity.

#### 45. Rd4!

Fabiano pounces on his opportunity, ganging up on the c4-pawn. Already, the Azeri juggernaut is in dire straits.

#### 45. ... Rc8?

I challenge you to find a single human that would not make this move within a few seconds. To his credit, Mamedyarov spent eight minutes, a clear indication that he had, by this point, realized the full extent of his difficulties. The problem with this move is that it abandons all hopes of active counterplay, thereby giving White *carte blanche* on the kingside. The correct move was 45. ... a5, which—unlike its move 43 twin—does fall under the category of “mindless computer move.” The main point, it seems to me, is that after 46. Rxc4?! Qb7 White no longer has 47. b4 on account of 47. ... a4. White is therefore best advised to jump-start the attack with 46. g4, and following 46. ... fxg4 47. Rxg4 (47. Qxg4?? Qh1+ 48. Qg1 Re1+ picks up the queen) 47. ... Qd6 48. Rd4 Qe5 49. Rxc4 White has excellent winning chances (approximately .7 according to Stockfish). From a human perspective, this position is

virtually impossible to defend, since Black will have to display all sorts of queen gymnastics *ad infinitum* just to stay alive.

#### 46. Qh6!

Straightforward and terribly powerful. The queen's toggling action between h4 and h6 leaves quite the pleasant impression.

#### 46. ... Qe6 47. Rh4 Kf7 48. Qh7+?!

One can hardly blame Fabi for delivering this check, but it actually gives Black a sliver of life. The switchback maneuver 48. Qd2! would have instantly decided the game, as Black simply cannot deal with the litany of threats. The most human defense seems to be 48. ... Rg8, and after 49. Qd4 Rg7 (to stop Rh7+) 50. Rh8 g5 51. Rd8 Black is utterly busted.

#### 48. ... Kf6 49. Rd4

The power of heavy pieces on full display. Even though material is equal, it appears that White is playing with more pieces!

#### 49. ... Qe7



Mamedyarov returns the favor. His chance to extend the game lay in 49. ... Re8, which would have compelled White to satisfy himself with an extra pawn after 50. Qh4+ Kg7 51. Rxc4. This is a similar position to the one discussed in the note to Black's 45th move; from a practical perspective, I doubt that a human—even Magnus—would be able to survive for more than a few moves.

#### 50. Qh6!

Back to home base! When trying to make sense of positions like these, it is important to understand that the decisiveness of White's advantage does not lie in any immediate threats. The threats will come in due course; Black is so passive and paralyzed that the indefensibility of his king is rendered permanent.

#### 50. ... Kf7 51. Qd2 Rc7 52. Rh4

Another pleasing switcharoo, though 52. Rd8! was an even more straightforward win.

#### 52. ... Kf6

The last chance to prolong the agony was 52. ... Rd7, after which the simplest is 53. Rh7+ Kg8 54. Qxd7 Qxh7 55. Qc8+, with a familiar queen ending that offers little in the way of hope for Black.

#### 53. Qd4+ Qe5 54. Qb6+ Kg7 55. Qb8!

Crushing. The queen has patiently wormed its way to the eighth rank, and now it is time to reap the rewards.

#### 55. ... Kf6 56. Qh8+ Ke6 57. Qg8+ Kf6 58. Rd4!

Razor-sharp precision! The rook swings around to the eighth rank to deliver the final blow.

#### 58. ... Qe7 59. Rd8 Kg5 60. f4+ Kh5 61. Rd2 Qg7 62. Rh2+ Kg4 63. Kg2!

The last finesse. In fact, the banal 63. Qd5 also did the job, but why not end the game in style? The queen is obviously untouchable due to Rh4 mate.

#### 63. ... g5 64. Qe8!, Black resigned.

A phenomenal effort by Caruana. Together with Sam Shankland's victory over Rauf Mamedov, the United States was able to nullify Teimour Radjabov's impressive effort against Wesley So and triumph over the monstrous Azeri team. ♠

## 2018 US CHESS GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

	NAME	STATE	PTS.
1	<b>GM FIDEL CORRALES JIMENEZ</b>	<b>MO</b>	<b>288.31</b>
2	GM ILLIA NYZHNYK	MO	220.80
3	GM ALEKSANDR LENDERMAN	NY	211.01
4	GM TIMUR GAREYEV	KS	202.32
5	GM SERGEY ERENBURG	PA	185.75
6	GM ALEX SHIMANOV	MO	181.75
7	GM SAMUEL SEVIAN	MA	179.97
8	GM ALEXANDER SHABALOV	PA	176.14
9	GM ALEXANDER FISHBEIN	NJ	131.09
10	GM ANDREY STUKOPIN	TX	124.12
11	IM JOHN DANIEL BRYANT	CA	120.15
12	GM AWONDER LIANG	WI	113.18
13	GM RUIFENG LI	TX	111.38
14	GM ANTON KOVALYOV	TX	102.70
15	IM JAY RICHARD BONIN	NY	101.36

## 2018 AWARDS

**\$12,500**  
**IN CASH PRIZES!**

**FIRST PRIZE: \$5,000!**

2nd: \$2,500 | 3rd: \$1,000

4th: \$900 | 5th: \$800

6th: \$700 | 7th: \$600

8th: \$500 | 9th: \$300

10th: \$200

*The Grand Prix point totals reflect all rated event information as of October 25, 2018 for the 2018 Grand Prix.*

## 2018 US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

The top prize for 2018 is a *Chess.com* one-year Diamond membership valued at \$100, a *Chess.com* gear/merchandise package valued at \$100, a US Chess award, free entry into the 2019 U.S. Open, and \$1,000 of expense money from US Chess to offset the trip. For the top five players on the overall list and to each state winner, *Chess.com* also awards a choice of a one-year *ChessKid.com* gold membership (valued at \$50/annually) or a one-year *Chess.com* Gold membership (valued at \$40/annually). US Chess gratefully acknowledges the participation of *Chess.com*!

Name	State	Pts.	State Leaders	State	Pts.	State Leaders	State	Pts.
GANGAVARAPU, SREEKAR	IL	10648	KACZANOWSKI, AIDAN P	IN	4916	NARKEERAN, MADHAVAN	PA	6380
KUNAMNENI, MEGHANA	MA	10139	MOERLIEN, PUWIT SKY	KS	3768	VAIJAEPPAY, VAISHNAVI	RI	3274
PHAM, LINDA	IL	9192	SHAWKAT, SAIF	KY	5128	HELPERICH, LUCAS TYLER	SC	1830
FAN, JERRY	NY	8628	MAYEUX, BENJAMIN THOMAS	LA	4094	TAO, ARTHUR	SD	1366
SHANKAR, PRANAV	NJ	8004	HAN, HENRY YU-FENG	MA	5062	VAZQUEZ MACCARINI, DANI	TERR	972
<b>State Leaders</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Pts.</b>	GUO, ANDREW	MD	5621	ZHAO, ERIC	TN	4483
BRUNI, XAVIER	AL	3115	KALLOR, DENNIS	ME	3888	OBEROI, SHELEV	TX	7435
BJORK, LUKE D	AR	1992	SONG, JUSTIN	MI	6943	RAY, UJAN	UT	4007
REMPE, JONAS JAKOB RAZA	AZ	5542	KONEZNY, STUART	MN	3758	TAY, BRIAN	VA	6640
KOLAY, ALEX	CA-N	5253	ZHOU, CELINA	MO	7036	COLLINS, ALEXANDER	VT	2943
ANDRANIGIAN, RAFI	CA-S	5471	GRIFFIN, GABRIEL	MS	4697	CHANG, EDDIE	WA	4739
BHAVIKATTI, NEIL	CO	2517	WALTHALL, THOMAS KASEY	MT	3850	PHIPPS, DANIEL	WI	5582
SU, JASMINE ZHIXIN	CT	4918	DURBHA, ANTARA	NC	6628	ELLIS, ANYA	WV	2182
STEINER, ADAMSON	DC	6095	KOLLI, SAI	NE	3158	MARES, ISAIAH	WY	501
LUO, TERRY	DE	6672	TIRUVEEDHULA, SUHAVI	NH	2899			
WU, DERRICK K	FL	4448	SURALIK, DIANA SOPHIA	NJ	6511			
MYDUKUR, AMIT	GA	6446	LUO, DANIEL	NM	2190			
CHEN, MARK Y A	HI	4669	BAO, CHRIS	NV	2559			
LODH, ANJALI	IA	5251	YU, SICHENG	NY	7678			
SHEPARD, RIVER CHARLES	ID	2975	SONI, ARJUN GORAKH	OH	6558			
BAMMIDI, RAHUL	IL	7640	BARNES, MAXWELL	OK	3276			
			SOIFFER, DUNCAN SMITH	OR	4126			

Official standings for events received and processed by October 23, 2018.





# National Events

*Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events*

## *See TLA in this issue for details*

- 2018 K-12 Grade Championships December 14-16 • Orlando, Florida
- 2018 Pan-American Intercollegiate December 27-30 • Burlingame, California
- 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South February 8-10 or 9-10 • Kissimmee, Florida
- 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - North February 15-17 or 16-17 • Schaumburg, Illinois
- 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - East February 16-18 • Parsippany, New Jersey
- 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - West February 16-18 or 17-18 • Santa Clara, California
- 2019 All-Girls National Championships April 12-14 • Chicago, Illinois
- 2019 U.S. Women's Open June 11-12 • Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2019 National Open June 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 or 15-16 • Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2019 U.S. Senior Open June 28-30 • Naperville, Illinois
- 2019 U.S. Junior Open June 28-30 • Naperville, Illinois

## *FUTURE EVENTS (Watch for details)*

- 2019 National High School (K-12) Championship March 15-17 • Schaumburg, Illinois
- 2019 National Junior High School (K-9) Championships April 26-28 • Grapevine, Texas
- 2019 National Elementary School (K-6) Championships May 10-12 • Nashville, Tennessee
- 2019 U.S. Cadet (Invitational) Championship June 20-23 • Milpitas, California
- 2019 U.S. Game/10 Championship July 26 • Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2019 U.S. Game/30 Championship July 27 • Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2019 U.S. Game/60 Championship July 28 • Charlotte, North Carolina
- 120th annual (2019) U.S. Open August 3-11 • Orlando, Florida
- 2019 U.S. Class Championships September 27-29 • Santa Clara, California
- 2019 K-12 Grade Championships December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida
- 2020 National High School (K-12) Championship April 3-5 • Memphis, Tennessee
- 2020 National Junior High School (K-9) Championships April 24-26 • Jacksonville, Florida
- 2020 National Elementary School (K-6) Championships May 8-10 • Nashville, Tennessee
- 121st annual (2020) U.S. Open August 8-16 • Saint Charles, Missouri
- 2020 K-12 Grade Championships December 11-13 • Orlando, Florida
- 2021 SuperNationals VII May 7-9 • Nashville, Tennessee
- 122nd annual (2021) U.S. Open July 31-August 8 • Cherry Hill, New Jersey
- 2021 K-12 Grade Championships December 3-5 • Orlando, Florida
- 2022 National High School (K-12) Championship April 8-10 • Memphis, Tennessee
- 2022 National Junior High School (K-9) Championships April 29-May 1 • Grapevine, Texas
- 2022 National Elementary School (K-6) Championships May 13-15 • Columbus, Ohio
- 123rd annual (2022) U.S. Open July 29-August 7 • Rancho Mirage, California
- 2022 K-12 Grade Championships December 9-11 • National Harbor, Maryland
- 2023 National Elementary School (K-6) Championships May 12-14 • Baltimore, Maryland

## Bids

Note: Organizers previously awarded options for US Chess National Events must still submit proposals (including sample budgets) for their events.

### **OVERDUE BIDS**

Please contact the National Office if you are interested in bidding for a National Event. US Chess recommends that bids be submitted according to the following schedule. However, bids may be considered prior to these dates. US Chess reserves the right to decline all bids and organize the event itself.

**For our expanded list of national events available for bid, see: [www.uschess.org/content/view/12116/705/](http://www.uschess.org/content/view/12116/705/).**

### **RATING SUPPLEMENTS**

Rating supplements will be updated EACH MONTH on the US Chess website, and each monthly rating supplement will be used for all tournaments beginning in that month, unless otherwise announced in *Chess Life*. The US Chess website at [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org) also frequently lists unofficial ratings. The purpose of unofficial ratings is to inform you of your progress; however, most tournaments do not use them for pairing or prize purposes. If you would otherwise be unrated, organizers may use your unofficial rating at their discretion, even without advance publicity of such a policy.

### **NOTE**

The TLA pages "Information for Organizers, TDs, and Affiliates" and "Information for Players" can now be found online at [main.uschess.org/go/tlainfo](http://main.uschess.org/go/tlainfo).

### **PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS HEALTH AND BENEFITS FUND**

Many Grand Prix tournament organizers will contribute \$1 per player to the Professional Health & Benefits Fund. All Grand Prix tournaments which participate in this program are entitled to be promoted to the next higher Grand Prix category—for example, a six-point tournament would become a 10-point (Enhanced) tournament. Points in the top category are promoted 50%.

### **ATTENTION AFFILIATES**

US Chess has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide US Chess affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately \$265 per year for a \$1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to [www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html](http://www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html). For event insurance, please go to [www.rvnuccio.com](http://www.rvnuccio.com).

The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of US Chess members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither US Chess nor *Chess Life* warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. *Chess Life* will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

Effective with TLAs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments: 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least \$150. 2) No more than one prize under \$100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control noting increment or time delay even if delay is zero (d0).

US Chess Junior Grand Prix: A Junior Grand Prix event must have four or more rounds with a time control greater than 65 min. Please see: [www.uschess.org/data/page/JGP-Rules.php](http://www.uschess.org/data/page/JGP-Rules.php) for complete Rules.

SUBMISSIONS: E-mail your TLA to: [tlas@uschess.org](mailto:tlas@uschess.org) (Joan DuBois). For a deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information check [www.uschess.org/go/tlainfo](http://www.uschess.org/go/tlainfo) and "Advertising" at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org). Payment can be done online through the TD/Affiliate area or sent to: US Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

Note: US Chess Junior Grand Prix events do not have to necessarily be Scholastic or Youth tournaments. They do, however, have to have the required number of rounds and time control in order for scholastic and youth players to gain JGP points for prizes. For more information, please see the JGP rules at <http://www.uschess.org/datapage/JGP-Rules.php>.

## Nationals

US Chess Junior Grand Prix  
**DEC. 14-16, FLORIDA**

### 2018 NATIONAL K-12 GRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS

75S, G/90 d5. Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Dr., Orlando, FL. Guest rooms can be booked, NLT 11/19/2018, by calling (866) 996-6338 or (407) 996-6338, mention "US Chess". **HR:** \$125 Single/Quad (fees and applicable taxes not included). **13 Sections.** Play only in your grade section - No "playing up" allowed. December Rating Supplement will be used. Only one 1/2-point bye available, any round except Round 7, if requested prior to the start of Rd. 1. Team score = total of top three (minimum two) finishers from each school per grade. First place individual and team, including ties, will be the National Champion for their grade. **Schedule:** Opening ceremony Fri. 12:45 PM. Rds.: Fri. 1 PM - 6 PM, Sat. 10 AM - 2 PM - 6 PM, Sun. 9 AM - 1 PM. Awards Ceremony: Sun., approx. 5 PM. Special round times for K-1 sections: Fri. 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM, Sat. 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM, Sun. 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM. K-1 Awards Ceremony: Sun. approx. 4:30 PM. **EF:** \$60/participant postmarked or online by 11/26, \$80 postmarked or online by 12/3, \$95 by 12/13, \$100 on site; \$10.00 extra for all phone registrations; \$30 fee for roster or section changes after 12/6 or any onsite changes. Onsite registration Thurs. 9 AM to 9 PM & Fri. 8 AM to 11 AM. Players who register or change sections after 11 AM on Friday will receive a 1/2-point bye for Rd. 1. **Awards:** Trophies to top individuals & top teams in each grade. Every player receives a commemorative medal! Full list of trophies on tournament info page. **Side Events: Bughouse:** Thurs. 11 AM. Reg. onsite only Thurs. 9-10 AM, \$25/team. **Blitz:** K-6 and K-12, G/5 d0, Thurs. 5 PM. Reg. onsite until 4 PM. **Blitz EF:** \$20 by 11/26, \$25 after or at site. **Blitz Awards:** Trophies in K-6 and K-12 sections. Full list of trophies on tournament info page. **Bughouse Awards:** Top 5 Teams.

Team Rooms are limited. Contact Pete Karagianis at 931-200-9477 or by email: [pkaragianis@uschess.org](mailto:pkaragianis@uschess.org). **General Questions:** Susan Kantor at 931.787.1234 ext.136. **Entries:** U.S. Chess Federation, Attn.: 2018 K-12 Championship, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557 or online at <https://secure2.uschess.org/webstore/tournament.php>. **See website for additional information** about the event, advance entries, awards, team rooms, meetings, updates, corrections, and registration forms, <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2018/k12/>

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### DEC. 27-30, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

### 2018 PAN-AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Hyatt Regency SFO, 1333 Bayshore Hwy., Burlingame, CA 94010. 6SS, G/90+30inc FIDE-rated. Format: intercollegiate team-tournament format: 4-player team with up to 2 alternates. **Eligibility:** Open to university, college, community college and technical college teams from North, South, or Central America including Caribbean. Teams must supply a letter from their universities stating that the players meet eligibility requirements. For more details on eligibility visit [www.collegechess.org](http://www.collegechess.org) or email by 12/1/18 to start the eligibility process. Chess boards, pieces, clocks will be provided. **Entry Fee:** \$229 per team by 12/1/18, +\$50 after. Online: [www.bayareachess.com/my/panam](http://www.bayareachess.com/my/panam). By mail: 2050 Concourse Drive #42, San Jose, CA 95131, make check payable to BayAreaChess. **Prizes:** Plaques to Top 5 teams, Top Division II, III, IV, V, International, Community College, All-Female Teams, Top Individual Boards and other special prizes. Details on webpage. **Schedule:** Onsite reg: 12/27 10a-3p; Coach meeting 4-4:30p; Opening ceremony: 4:30-6p; Rounds: 12/27 6p; 12/28 10a, 5p; 12/29 10a, 5p; 12/30: 9a; Award ceremony: 3p; College Chess Committee meeting: 12/29 3-4p; Rooms @Hyatt Regency SFO: \$115 + tax&fee; call 888-421-1442 or book.paskey.com/go/PanAm2018 **Info:** [www.bayareachess.com/panam](http://www.bayareachess.com/panam) **Questions:** ask@bayareachess.com or 408-409-6596

to organizer Dr. Judit Sztaray. Participants are encouraged to stay and play at Bay Area International & Amateur, Jan 1-7, 2019. <http://sfinternationalchess.com.W>.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, FLORIDA

### 2019 U.S. AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP - SOUTH

5SS, G/120 d5 (2-day Option Rd. 1 G/60 d5). Ramada Gateway, 7470 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy., Kissimmee, FL 34747. 4-player teams (with one optional alternate). **Minutes away from Disney, Universal, etc. February temperature mid-70's. Two sections** (each paired separately & with their own prizes). Team average (4 highest ratings - January Supplement) must be under 2200 for Open section & under 1500 for U1500 section. Winning team in Open section qualifies for National playoff online. **EF:** Per player: \$54 by 2/3, \$64 later. **SPECIAL EF:** Team (one entry must be made for all players) \$190 by 2/3, \$220 later (any team changes \$10). Teams from outside Florida will receive \$25 off team entry fee. Scholastic teams (same school) receive \$10 off team entry fee. **PRIZES:** Top 1st-3rd place teams & Top Boards 1-4 in each section; Top teams: Open section: U2000 & U1800; U1500 section: Top U1300 & U1000. Also in Open section: Top Senior team (all 50 & above as of 2/8), Top College team (same school). Also in U1500 section: Top Female team, Top High School team (same school), Top Middle School team (same school, grades 6-8), Top Elementary School team (same school). **Schedule:** 3-day: 1st Rd. Fri. 7:30, 2-Day 1st Rd. Sat. 10; Rds. 2-5 Sat. 1:30, 6:45, Sun. 9:30, 2:45. **HR:** Inn rooms: \$57 until cut-off date, Tower rooms: \$72 until cut-off date, Reservations can be made by calling 800-327-9170 (mention "chess tournament" for these special group rates). Free parking, Internet, refrigerator (Tower rooms also include a microwave), and transportation to Disney, Universal and other attractions. Group guests also receive 10% off at Hotel food facilities. **Ent:** Boca Raton Chess Club, 2385 NW Executive Ctr. Dr., Ste. 100, Boca Raton, FL 33431. **Online entry & addl info:** [www.bocachess.com](http://www.bocachess.com), 561-302-4377.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### FEB. 15-17 OR 16-17, ILLINOIS

### 2019 U.S. AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP - NORTH

**Open:** 5SS, G/90+30/increment, 2-day: rd.1-2 G/60 d5. Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173. 847-605-1234, \$100.00 chess rate single-double-triple-quad until 2/4/19, Free WiFi included with Room! Please reserve early. Open to 4 player teams with one optional alternate. **Team average (4 highest ratings - January Rating List) must be under 2200.** **EF:** 3-day \$160, per team if received USPS or online 6 PM by February 1st, \$180 if received USPS or on-line 6 PM by Feb. 9, \$200 on-line until Feb. 15 6 PM and at door. Individuals wishing to play (note: we can guarantee you will play, but won't guarantee which schedule or the ratings of your team), send \$50 and request to be put on a team by USPS and on-line by 2/10 6 PM, \$60 thereafter. Team changes on site or after 2/15 6 PM \$20. **Check out official website [www.chessweekend.com](http://www.chessweekend.com) for more info and complete prize list.** **Prizes:** Awards to top 3 teams, top teams with average rating u1900, u1600, u1300, and U1000. Winning team qualifies for national play-offs. Awards for Best Team Name, best team composed of juniors (high school and younger), Top College team, Top HS team, Top Senior team (50 and over), Top Mixed doubles team, Best costume or theme. Prizes to top score on each board. Prizes are Amazon gift cards. **Rounds: 3-day:** onsite registration/check-in 5:30-6:30pm, rds.: 7pm, 10:00am & 4:00pm, 10:00am & 3:30pm. **2-day:** on-site registration/check-in from 8:00-9:30am, rds. 10:00am & 1:00pm then merge with 3-day. **Midwest Blitz Championship on Saturday night,** \$550 b/30 entries, \$25 by 2/13 USPS or on-line, \$30 at site. First round 8 PM, 2 games with each opponent, 5 rounds, see [www.chessweekend.com](http://www.chessweekend.com) for details. **All: Register at [www.kingregistration.com](http://www.kingregistration.com) after 11/15/18.** Checks made payable to and sent to: ChessWeekend, 21694 Doud Ct., Frankfort, IL 60423. Please include team's name and roster (plus ID#), captain's email and phone number, and desired schedule. **Info:** [www.chessweekend.com](http://www.chessweekend.com), glenn@chessweekend.com no phone calls please. Boards and Sets will be provided, please bring clocks.

### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### FEB. 16-18, NEW JERSEY

### WORLD AMATEUR TEAM & 2019 U.S. TEAM EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

6SS, 40/2, SD/30 delay 5. Parsippany Hilton 1 Hilton Ct., Parsippany, NJ 07054. **Chess Rate valid until 1/17. Reserve early 973-267-7373 or 1-800-HILTONS.** Morris/Essex train to Morris Plains 1.5 miles. Open to 4-player teams with one optional alternate. Team average (4 highest ratings—2019 January Rating list) must be under 2200. **EF:** \$199 postmarked by 2/5/19. ALL-\$240 after or at door.—all teams, any changes at site \$25 charge. **ENTRY MAXIMUM IS 325 TEAMS. Enter early!** Check out official website [www.njscf.org](http://www.njscf.org). **Prizes:** 1-5th Place teams, plaque and 4 digital clocks; Top Team (**Denis Barry Award**) U2100, 2000, 1900, 1800, 1700, 1600, 1500, 1400, 1300, 1200, 1000 each plaque and 4 Digital Clocks; Top college team (same school) 4 Digital Clocks & plaque; Top HS team (grades 9-12 same school), Top Middle School (grades 5-9 same school), Top Elementary School (grades K-6 same school), Top 2 Scholastic Teams (mixed schools only) (**Collins Award**), Mixed Doubles (2 males, 2 females-no alternates), Seniors (all players over age 50), Military, each plaque & 4 Digital Clocks to top team; Company Team (same employer), Family (4 family members), State teams—CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY (**Benjamin Award**), PA, VA, each plaque top team; Special Plaque: **Top Future team**, (all players under age 10), **Top Military College**, **Top Parent/Child** (2 pairs, one parent, one child), **Best Player 1-4 and top alternate**, All 6-0 scores each Digital clock. Biggest Individual upset each round Engraved Cross pen; Entry fee refunded to team with Best "Chess related" name, Sunday night—Best "Chess Related costumes or gimmick"—1st-gourmet dinner for four. 2nd—Gourmet dinner for 4. **Reg. 9-12 Sat 2/16: Rds. 1-7:30, 11-6, 9-3:30. Surprises and special give-aways each round.** Sunday night—Bughouse \$20 per team. Cash prizes. **HR:** Parsippany Hilton **NEWLY RENOVATED!** NEW LIGHTS! HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING! Chess rates expire 1/17/2019. Rates \$123(Single, Double) \$125 (Triple, Quad) 2nd hotel attached to Hilton \$130 per night (Single-Double) \$132 (Triple, Quad)—Hampton Inn—includes breakfast each day. For help forming teams and more information contact: [noreenchess@gmail.com](mailto:noreenchess@gmail.com).

## TOURNAMENT LIFE: ABBREVIATIONS & TERMS

All tournaments are non-smoking with no computers allowed unless otherwise advertised.

- BLZ:** Blitz rated.
- QC:** Quick Chess events.
- \$\$Gtd:** Guaranteed prizes.
- \$\$b/x:** Based-on prizes, x = number of entries needed to payfull prize fund. At least 50% of the advertised prize fund of \$501 or more must be awarded.
- Bye:** Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take 1/2-point byes instead. For example, Bye 1-3 means 1/2-point byes are available in Rounds 1 through 3.
- CC:** Chess club.
- dx:** Time delay, x = number of seconds.
- +xx:** Time increment, xx = number of seconds added after each move.
- EF:** Entry fee.
- Ent:** Where to mail entries.
- FIDE:** Results submitted to FIDE for possible rating.
- G/:** Game in. For instance, G/75 means each side has 75 minutes for the entire game.
- GPP:** Grand Prix Points available.
- HR:** Hotel rates. For example, 60-65-70-75 means \$60 single, \$65 twin, \$70/3 in room, \$75/4 in room.
- JGP:** Junior Grand Prix.
- Memb. req'd:** Membership required; cost follows. Usually refers to state affiliate.
- Open:** A section open to all. Often has very strong players, but some eligible for lower sections can play for the learning experience.
- Quad:** 4-player round robin sections; similar strength players.
- RBO:** Rated Beginner's Open.
- Rds:** Rounds; scheduled game times follow. For example, 11-5, 9-3 means games begin 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. on the first day, 9 a.m. & 3 p.m. on the second day.
- Reg:** Registration at site.
- RR:** Round robin (preceded by number of rounds).
- SD/:** Sudden-death time control (time for rest of game follows). For example, 30/90, SD/1 means each player must make 30 moves in 90 minutes, then complete the rest of the game in an hour.
- SS:** Swiss-System pairings (preceded by number of rounds).
- Unr:** Unrated.
- W:** Site is accessible to wheelchairs.
- WEB:** Tournaments that will use a player's online rating.

Chks payable to **NJSCF**, mail by 2/05/19 to: **NJSCF, 17 Stonehenge Road, Morristown, NJ 07960.** (Include Team name, Captain, players full names, USCF Expiration, ID numbers and ratings in board order). No team can include more than two GM's. Include SASE for confirmation if wanted, No registered or certified mail accepted. W.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix FEB. 16-18 OR 17-18, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN 2019 (35TH ANNUAL) U.S. AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP - WEST**

**Scholastic on Feb. 16 only, Blitz on Feb 18 only.** Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Pkwy. Free Parking! **Teams:** Four-player teams plus optional alternate, average rating of four highest must be under 2200, difference between ratings of board 3 & 4 must be less than 1000. January 2018 Supplement, CCA min, & TD discretion used to place players accurately. **Main Event Prizes:** Special 4 commemorative clocks and team trophy to the team for Top 3 overall teams, top team U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400, and U1200. Trophies to all players of the top "Female" team, top "College" team, top "High School" team, top "Elementary School" team, top "Club" team, and top "Family" team. Clocks to top scorer on each board (1-4), trophy to top reserve as well as second and third scorers on each board (1-4). Gift certificates for best 3 team names. **Main Event EF:** \$299/team or \$79/player by 2/10. 2/11-15: \$20 extra per player or \$80 per team & Onsite. A change fee equal to the late fee will apply for any changes, other than by requests within 3 days of the tournament. **3-day Sched:** Onsite Registration @ Sat 9-10a, Round Times @ Sat & Sun 11a 4:30p, Mon 10a 3:30p. Time Control: 40/120 SD/30 d5. **2-day Sched:** Onsite Registration @ Sun 8:30a, Round Times @ Sun 9a 11:30a 2p 4:30p; Mon 10a 3:30p. Time Control: G/61 d5 in Rounds 1-3, 40/120 SD/30 d5 in Rounds 4-6 (merge in Round 4 with 3-day schedule). **Info/flyer:** http://www.BayAreaChess.com/usatw. **Scholastic Event Prizes:** Trophies to each player in Top 3 teams overall, Top U2100 team, U900 team, U600 team, U300 team. Trophies to top "Girls" team, top "School" team, and top "Club" team. Trophies to top two scorers on each board (1-4). Commemorative medals to all others. **Scholastic Event EF:** \$179/team or \$49/player by 2/11. 2/12-17: \$15 extra per player or \$60 per team & Onsite. **Sched:** Onsite Registration: Sat 8-9a | Games @ Sat 10a 11:30a 1p 2:20p 3:40p. **Info/flyer:** http://www.BayAreaChess.com/usatw. **Blitz Event:** Registration Mon 6-7pm, Rounds 7:30-9:30pm. EF: \$14, \$16 onsite. 75% of entry fees returned as prizes. **Contact:** Organized by Judit Zstary. Directed by Tom Langland, John McCumiskey, and others. Sponsored by Bay Area Chess. Online entry at http://www.BayAreaChess.com/my/usatw or mail to Bay Area Chess, 2050 Concourse Drive #42, San Jose, CA 95131. For questions or help in forming teams email ask@BayAreaChess.com. W.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix**

**APR. 12-14, ILLINOIS**  
**2019 ALL-GIRLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS PRESENTED BY THE KASPAROV CHESS FOUNDATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE RENAISSANCE KNIGHTS CHESS FOUNDATION & US CHESS**

**Any player that achieves a perfect 6-0 score or wins the first place trophy, in each age category, qualifies to represent the USA at the 2019 World Cadets (U/8, U10, U12) / World Youth (U/14, U16, U18) Championships** 6SS, G/90 d5. Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2233 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Chicago, IL 60616. (free WI-FI). **6 Sections/Trophies: Age as of 1/1/2019 Under 8** top 15 individuals, top 500 – 799, top U500, top 6 schools, **Under 10** top 16 individuals, top 700 – 999, top U700, top 6 schools, **Under 12** top 16 individuals, top 900 – 1199, top U900, top 6 schools, **Under 14** top 12 individuals, top 1100 – 1399, top U1100, top 4 schools, **Under 16** top 8 individuals, Top 1300 – 1599, top U1300, top 3 schools, **Under 18** top 8 individuals, Top 1500 – 1799, top U1500, top 3 schools, (top 3 players added for team scores). **EF:** \$65 mail/online by 3/11 \$85 by 4/1, \$95 after. Do not mail after 4/5. \$20 fee for roster or section changes after 4/5. \$10 fee for refunds. **Onsite Registration** Fri 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Sat 7:30 - 8:30 AM. **Opening Ceremony:** Fri 2:30pm. **Rounds:** Rd 1 – Fri 3:00pm Rounds 2-4 – Sat 10:00am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm; Rounds 5-6 – Sun 9:00am & 1:00pm. **Awards:** 5:00pm. **Bye:** One 1/2 point bye available for any round, except round 6, if requested at least 2 hours before the start of the round 1. **Side Events: Bughouse Tournament** – Fri. 11:00 am, EF \$35/team. **Blitz Tournament** – Fri. 7pm, GM5, EF \$25 by 4/5, \$30 after or on site. **HR:** single - quad \$165 Reservations: (888) 421-1442. Reserve early rate may increase / sell out. **Entries:** online/info at: www.rnknight.org/allgirls or mail to RKnights, attn: All-Girls, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065, include name, section, rating, USCF ID#, date of birth, grade, school name city & state.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix**

**JUNE 11-12, NEVADA**  
**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)**  
**2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN**

5SS, G/90, +30. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas 89109. **\$33,500 Guaranteed Prize Fund.** \$1000-600-400, U2000 \$350-200, U1800 \$250-150, U1600 \$200-100, U1400 \$150-100. **EF:** \$99 by 5/23, \$125 later. **REG.:** 8:30-9 a.m. **RDS.:** 9:30-2:30-7, 9:30-2:00. Half point bye available in any round (limit 1). **HR:** \$69 (\$95 Friday and Saturday nights) (800) 732-7117 ask for the **CHESS** rates. This event kicks off the **LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL** on Tuesday before the **National Open**. **ENT:** Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925 or online at [www.VegasChess-Festival.com](http://www.VegasChess-Festival.com). FIDE. W.

**An American Classic! A Heritage Event!**

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix**

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, NEVADA**  
**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 300 (ENHANCED)**  
**2019 NATIONAL OPEN**

**Open Section June 12-16:** 9-SS, 40/90, SD/30, +30. GM & IM norms possible. **Under Sections June 13-16, 14-16 or 15-16:** 7-SS, 40/90, SD/30, +30 (3-day rounds 1-2 G/60, +10, 2-day rounds 1-4 G/30, +5). **Beginners Section June 14, 15, and 16:** 6-SS G/30, +5. Westgate Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas 89109. **\$100,000 Guaranteed**

**Prize Fund** will not be reduced! In 8 sections, top 2 FIDE rated. **Open:** \$8,000-4,000-2,000-1,000-600-500-400-300-200-100. Top 2500 \$2,500, top 2400 \$2,400. **Extra \$2,500** divided among GMs, WGMs and foreign IMs winning less than \$250 and playing 9 rounds. The winner of the Open section also receives a replica of the Edmondson Cup. **Under 2300:** \$6,000-3,000-1,500-750-400-350-300-250-250-250. **Under 2100:** \$6,000-3,000-1,500-750-400-350-300-250-250-250. **Under 1900:** \$5,000-2,500-1,250-600-350-300-250-250-250. **Under 1700:** \$4,000-2,000-1,000-500-300-250-250-250-250. **Under 1500:** 3000-1500-700-350-300-250-250-250-250-250. **Under 1300:** \$2000-1,000-500-300-250-250-250, top under 1000 (no provisional) \$900. Provisonally rated players may not win an amount greater than 40% of top prize in any under section; balance goes to next player(s) in line. **Beginners** (unrated or provisionally rated under 1300): 3 schedules with 6 rounds per day \$200-125-75 each day plus \$300 overall (best 2 results). Unrated players may play only in Beginners or Open Section. **Plus-Score Bonus:** (\$12,000 guaranteed) in addition to any other prizes, every player with a plus score wins a \$50 gift certificate. Plus score certificates will be awarded on site only. **Mixed Doubles:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$1,500-750-350-250-150. Average rating below 2200, teammates may play in different sections, only rounds 1-7 count for Open Section or best day for Beginners. **The Freddie:** Players age 14 and under are eligible for best game prizes including the Freddie Award and \$400 in cash prizes (donated by Fred Gruenberg). CCA minimum ratings or other ratings may be used if higher than US Chess June Supplement. **EF:** Open: \$239 by 4/30, \$259 by 6/11, \$280 later. \$125 more for players rated below 2200. GM, WGM & foreign IM free. \$80 less for IM, WIM, foreign FM/WFM. Under sections: \$239 by 4/30, \$259 by 6/11, \$280 later. **Beginners:** \$125 1 day, \$189 2 days, \$229 3 days. \$30 more after 6/11. All: Early Bird Loyalty discount \$40 less for players who have played in 2 of the last 10 National Opens and enter before 1/31. Senior over 65 \$40 less by 6/11. **Open Reg:** 5-6 p.m. Wednesday. **Rds.:** 7:30, 1-7:30, 11-5:30, 10-4:30, 10-4:30. 4-day schedule: **Reg.:** 2-6 p.m. Thursday. **Rds.:** 7:30, 11-5:30, 10-4:30, 10-4:30. 3-day schedule: **Reg.:** 8:30-9:30 a.m. Friday. **Rds.** 10:30-1:30 then merge with 4-day in round 3 at 5:30. 2-day schedule: **Reg.:** 8:30-9 a.m. Saturday. **Rds.:** 9:30-11-2:30 then merge with 4-day in round 5 at 4:30. Half point byes available in rounds 1-7; Sunday byes must be requested before the start of round 2 and may not be cancelled. Chess sets and boards provided for tournament play only, not for skillies. Please bring digital chess clocks! **The LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL** features the National Open, the U.S. Women's Open, the International Youth Championship, and other events. **Many free extras and surprises! Free parking. Free raffles** with great prizes. **Free GM Lectures. Free GM analysis** of your games. **Free Daily Bulletins. Grandmaster Simuls and Chess Camp** for all ages on Thursday. **U.S. Women's Open** Tuesday and Wednesday. **Walter Browne Memorial Blitz** Saturday 10:30 p.m. **Youth Tournaments** Friday, Saturday & Sunday. **Blitz** Sectionals Friday & Sunday. **Poker Tournament** Monday Morning. **Don't be shut out** - make your reservations early and be sure to ask for the **CHESS group (SVC9-9)** rates — \$69 single or double (\$95 Friday and Saturday nights) guarantees a premium room with new furniture, refrigerator, flat screen TV and more. The resort fee including access to the Fitness Center, free WI-FI, and more is substantially discounted for our group. **Cutoff for special hotel rate is May 23; after that rates will increase significantly and there may not be any rooms available.** (800) 732-7117 or [www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com). **ENT:** Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925, online at [www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com). **Info:** (702) 930-9550 and leave a message. FIDE. W.

**JUNE 28-30, ILLINOIS**

**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 40**

**2019 U.S. SENIOR OPEN**

6SS, G/90+30, must be 50 years old by June 28. North Central College, Harold and Eva White Activities Center ("WAC"), 325 E. Benton Ave., Naperville, IL 60540. \$55 chess rate dorm single, \$100 double; \$145 triple by 5/31, \$10 more per person thereafter. (No taxes/tips for dorm rooms) see [www.cavemanchess.com/events](http://www.cavemanchess.com/events) for info on nearby hotels (23 within 2.5 miles). Reserve early! June supplement. **EF:** \$100 rec'd by USPS or online by 12/31 7:00 p.m. CT; \$110 rec'd by USPS or online by May 31, 7:00 p.m. CT; \$120 rec'd by USPS or online until June 14, 7:00 p.m. CT; \$130 rec'd by USPS or online until June 27, 7:00 p.m. CT & at door. [www.cavemanchess.com](http://www.cavemanchess.com) for more info & complete details. **Prizes:** \$8,000 b/100 paid entries; \$1,500; \$1,000; \$700; \$500; \$2400: \$500-\$300; U2200: \$400-\$200; U2000: \$400-\$200; U1800: \$400-\$200; U1600: \$300-\$150; U1400: \$300-\$150; U1200: \$300-\$150; U1000: \$200-\$150; Unrated eligible for overall or U1200 prizes only. Plaque to top in each age group: 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75+. Players may win both cash & age awards. One Bye 1-6, must commit by end of rd. 2. **Reg.:** 11-12:30. **Rds.:** Fri 1:00pm & 6:00pm; Sat 9:30am & 3:00pm; Sun 8:30am & 2:00pm. **Side events:** Thu eve, GM Simul, GM Lecture, Saturday Blitz after R4. See website for details & more possible events. (Possible spouse events, possible awards dinner after Rd. 6, possible meal plan) Free WiFi on campus. **Caveman Chess Camp** 6/23-28; adult-only camp sections available, see website for details. **Ent:** Caveman Chess, LLC, 27 Morris St., Park Ridge, IL 60068, see online form, or send name, address, phone, email and birthdate, or online at [www.cavemanchess.com](http://www.cavemanchess.com); Checks payable to: Caveman Chess, LLC. **Info:** [www.cavemanchess.com](http://www.cavemanchess.com); No checks after 6/14. 847-430-6798. Caveman Chess provides sets, boards; please bring clocks. See website for terms & conditions.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix**

**JUNE 28-30, ILLINOIS**

**2019 U.S. JUNIOR OPEN**

6SS, G/90+30. North Central College, Wentz Science Center—Ratio Hall, 125 S. Loomis St., Naperville, IL 60540. \$55 chess rate dorm single, \$100 double; \$145 triple by 5/31, \$10 more per person thereafter. (No taxes/tips for dorm rooms) see [www.cavemanchess.com/events](http://www.cavemanchess.com/events) for info on nearby hotels (23 within 2.5 miles). Reserve early! June supplement. **EF:** \$60 rec'd by USPS or online by 12/31 7:00 p.m. CT; \$70 rec'd by USPS or online by May 31, 7:00 p.m. CT; \$80 rec'd by USPS or online until June 14, 7:00 p.m. CT; \$95 rec'd by USPS or online until June 27, 7:00 p.m. CT & at door. **Sections (based on age as of 1/1/19):** U21, U15, U11, U8, [www.cavemanchess.com/events](http://www.cavemanchess.com/events) for more info and complete details. **Prizes:** U21: \$300 plus, for firstmost only, if eligible, entry in the 2020 U.S. Jr. Closed Championship including \$200 cash; plaques to top 5 overall; & to top age

18, 17, 16, 15, U15; U15 plaques to top 10 overall, top age 14, 13, 12, 11, U11; U11 plaques to top 10 overall, & to top age 10, 9, 8, U8; U8 plaques to top 10 overall, plaques to top age 7, 6, U6. **Team prizes:** Plaques to top 3 school teams in each section, top 3 scores count as team score. One Bye 1-6, must commit by end of rd. 2. **Reg.:** 11-12:30. **Rds.:** Fri 1:00pm & 6:00pm; Sat 9:30am & 3:00pm; Sun 8:30am & 2:00pm. Side events: Thu eve, GM Simul, GM Lecture, Saturday Blitz after R4. See website for details & more possible events. (Possible adult event, possible meal plan.) Free WiFi on campus. **Caveman Chess Camp** 6/23-28; premier camp see website for details. **Ent:** Caveman Chess, LLC, 27 Morris St., Park Ridge, IL 60068, see online form, or send name, address, phone, email and birthdate, or online at [www.cavemanchess.com](http://www.cavemanchess.com); Checks payable to: Caveman Chess, LLC. No checks after 6/14. **Info:** [www.cavemanchess.com](http://www.cavemanchess.com). 847-430-6798. Caveman Chess provides sets, boards; please bring clocks. See website for terms and conditions.

## Grand Prix

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix**

**DEC. 7-9, NEW YORK**

**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 80**

**1ST MANHATTAN INTERNATIONAL CHESS OPEN**

5-SS, G/90 +30. OPEN, 6 SS all other sections. Stewart Hotel, 371 7th Ave., New York, NY, 10001. Open section FIDE rated. **\$21,000 GTD: OPEN** \$2000+trophy-1000-500-250-150, clear first \$200 U2300 FIDE: \$300-150, **U2100:** \$1,400+tr - \$700 - \$350 - \$200; U1950: \$300-\$150. **U1800:** \$1,300+tr - \$650 - \$350 - \$200; U1650: \$300-\$150. **U1500:** \$1,200+tr - \$600 - \$300 - \$150; U1350: \$300-\$150. **U1200:** \$1,100+tr - \$550 - \$300 - \$150; U1000: 7 trophies + medals top 7. \$800 random prizes give away! Brilliance Prize: \$100; Scholastic team prizes (3 players per team from any sections and any schools, average rating 1600 or under). The teams need to be created before round 2.1st place: \$400; 3rd place: \$200; 2nd place: \$300; 4th place: \$100; In sections U2100 – U1200: 3rd personal scholastic trophies in each section; **OPEN EF:** \$149 by 10/26; \$169 by 11/19; \$189 by 12/06; \$200 on site. GMs: free, \$100 deducted from prize; IM and WGM: \$100; Re-entry: \$100. EF: U2100; U1800; U1500; U1200; U1000; EF: \$149 by 11/12; \$169 by 12/06; \$180 on site. U1000: \$50 by 11/19; \$55 by 12/06; \$60 on site. Scholastic: \$1005 **Rds. Open:** 5SS, FIDE rated 3 days: Fri: 7pm; Sat & Sun: 9am & 1:30pm (G/90+30); 2 days: Sat: 9am & 11:15am (G/55 d10) 1:30pm; Sun: 9am; 1:30pm (G/90+30). **All other sections (U/2100; U1800; U1500; U1200; U1000) 6 games Regular:** Sat & Sun: 10am & 12:30pm; 3pm (G/55 d10); **Special:** Sat: 6pm; 7:15pm (G/25 d5); Sun: 9am (G/25 d5); 10am; 12:30; 3pm (G/55 d10). **Scholastic (16 y.o. and younger, 1 day option):** first 2 rounds 2 byes then Sat: 9am (G/25 d5); 10am; 12:30; 3pm (G/55 d10) Byes: 1 bye is ok for Open section, but need to commit before rd. 3. All other sections 2 byes are ok, commit before rd. 3. **Side tournaments:** Friday, Dec 7: Rapid U2000, 4SS, G/25 d5; EF: \$40; \$20 (main tournament participants). Schedule: 6pm; 7:15; 8:30; 9:45pm Prizes: \$300 - \$150 - \$100 - \$50; U1800: \$100; U1500: \$50 Saturday, Dec 8: Rapid, 4SS, G/25 d5. EF: \$40; \$20 (main tournament participants). Schedule: 6pm; 7:15; 8:30; 9:45pm. Players can join round 3 from main tournament 2 day special schedule, but need to register to rapid before round **pr \$600** - \$300 - \$150; U2100: \$100; U1800: \$80; U1500: \$50. Sunday, Dec 9: Blitz, 7 SS, G/3+2. EF: \$40; \$20 (main schedule: 6:30pm - 6:45 - 7:00 - 7:15 - 7:30 - 7:45 - 8:00. Prizes: \$400 - \$200 - \$100; U2100: \$100; U1800: \$60. Register: [www.uschesstour.com](http://www.uschesstour.com), [info@uschesstour.com](mailto:info@uschesstour.com). Mailed entries: payable to USA Chess Tour, Murray Hill Station, PO Box 61, New York, NY 10156.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix**

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, MARYLAND**

**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 30**

**1ST ANNUAL OLD LINE OPEN**

5SS, 40/90, SD/30 + 30+ incr, (Rnd. 1 G/90 + 30+ incr) (2-day schedule: rds. 1-2 G/45 + 30+incr) U1300 2-day & U1000 G/45 d5 (rds. 1-2 G/45 d5), U1300 3-day option rds. 1.82 G/90 d5. Rockville Hilton, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. \$5 based on score. 7 sections: Championship (min. rating of 2000) FIDE rated: 5.0 = \$1600, 4.5 = \$800, 4.0 = \$450, 3.5 = \$175, 3.0 = \$50 [min \$1500 payout, top score group raised if less than \$1500]. U2200 (min. rating of 1800) FIDE rated: 5.0 = \$1500, 4.5 = \$700, 4.0 = \$350, 3.5 = \$150, 3.0 = \$40. U2000: 5.0 = \$1200, 4.5 = \$650, 4.0 = \$325, 3.5 = \$125. U1800: 5.0 = \$1200, 4.5 = \$600, 4.0 = \$300, 3.5 = \$100. U1600: 5.0 = \$1000, 4.5 = \$500, 4.0 = \$250, 3.5 = \$100. U1300: 5.0 = \$500, 4.5 = \$250, 4.0 = \$125, 3.5 = \$50. U1000 (no adult UNR): 5.0 = \$250, 4.5 = \$125, 4.0 = \$50, 3.5 = \$20. Trophies to top 10 and U1800 in U1000. **If no 5-0 in section, then sole 1st @ 4.5 or shared 1st at lower score receive bonus (added to score prize)** - Championship: \$300; U2200 \$200, U2000 \$150, U1800 & U1600: \$100; U1300 & U1000: \$50. Unrated limited to \$100 in U1000, \$200 in U1300, and \$400 in U1600. **Sets, boards and clocks provided in all sections. Optionally, pairings can be texted/mailed to your phone. Free Sunday morning continental breakfast for players.** Free parking for day guests. EF: \$109 by 11/23, \$114 by 12/4, & \$119 online only by 12/6, \$130 later. Special EF: \$55 less for U1000, \$35 less for U1300, GMS free, IMs \$45 off EF. HR: \$99, (\$5 EF discount, if staying at hotel using the group rate). Rooms may not be avail after 11/23. 3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 7pm, Rds Fri 8, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 9:30 & 3:30. 2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 10am rds. 11, 2:15 & 6, Sun 9:30 & 3:30. U1300 & U1000 schedule Reg. ends Sat 10am rds. 11, 12:45 & 3:00, Sun 9:30 & 12:45. U1300 3-day schedule Reg. ends Fri 7pm, rds. Fri 8, Sat 11 & 3:00, Sun 9:30 & 12:45. Ent: MCA, 1827 Thornton Ridge Rd., Towson, MD 21204. Detailed rules, more information and registration at <http://odlineopen.com>.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix**

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, NEW JERSEY**

**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)**

**2018 GARDEN STATE OPEN**

(Sponsored by ChessRegister.com) 5SS, Premier section (FIDE-rated) G/90+30 sec incr., **All other sections but U1100** G/120 d5, U1100 section G/90 d5 (2-day Option all sections Rd. 1 G/60 d5). Hyatt Regency, 3 Speedwell Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960. **\$11,100** b/200 paid entries, 60% min. Gtd. **Premier:** \$1250/Trophy-700-600-500, U2300 \$400. **U2100:** \$1000/Trophy-600-500, U1800: \$1000, U1600-500, U1500

\$400. **U1500:**\$1000/Trophy-600-500, U1350/Unr. \$400. **U1100:** Trophies for 1st to 5th & 1st U900, 1st U700, Medals to all others. **Top Senior Prize** (among all cash prize sections, must be at least 55 on Dec. 7) \$200. Unr. may enter U1500 or U1100 only. In U1500, Unr. only eligible for Unr. prize. Min. USCF or FIDE rating of 1900 required for premier section. **EF:** \$99 by Dec. 4, \$10 more later, \$15 more on-site, G/MS & IMs free (\$99 deducted from prize). **U1100 sections:** \$44 by Dec. 4, \$10 more later, \$15 more on-site. Re-entry cash prize sections \$49. **Reg.:** Ends 1/2 hr before 1st rd. **Rds.:** **3-Day** 1st Rd. Fri. 7:30; **2-Day** 1st Rd. Sat 10; 2nd Rd. Sat. 1:15; 3rd Rd. **all sections but U1100** 6:30, 3rd Rd. **U1100** 5:45; 4th Rd. Sun. 9:30; 5th Rd. **all sections but U1100** 2:30, 5th Rd. **U1100** 1:45. With incr. Premier section start times could be delayed. 2 1/2 pt. byes, if req'd before rd. 2. **HR:** \$139 includes Internet & refrigerator, free day self-parking, discounted overnight parking, 973-647-1234. **Ent:** Boca Raton Chess Club, 2385 NW Executive Ctr. Dr., Ste. 100, Boca Raton, FL 33431. \$10 service charge for refunds. **Online entry & addl info:** www.bocachess.com, 561-302-4377.

**DEC. 8, ARIZONA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

**UNITY GRAND PRIZ DECEMBER 2018**

5 round Swiss at Unity Chess Club, 1660 S. Alma School Rd. #207, Mesa, AZ 85210. Time Control: G/55; +5 Round Times: 9am, 11:10am, 1:40pm, 3:50pm, 6pm; **EF:** \$50 by November 28th, \$60 by December 7th, \$70 onsite. GM/WGM/IM/WIM/FM/WFM: Free Entry. Sections: Open (1900 and up), Reserve (1500-1899), Booster (1000-1499), Bishop (under 1000); Prizes: Open: \$800-400-200 Reserve, Booster, and Bishop: 1st-Laptop, 2nd-Tablet, 3rd-Kindle (If two players are tied for 1st, a playoff will be held to determine the first and second place winners). Check in and registration: 8:15am-8:45am. Byes: Half point byes OK all rounds, limit 2, must commit before round 2. Zero point byes are available in any round if requested at least one hour before the start of the desired round. Boards and sets provided, please bring your own clock. December USCF rating Supplement will be used. USCF membership required. Prizes are 100% guaranteed. \$1400 guaranteed! **ENT:** (602)326-2727 www.unitychess.com. **INFO:** Pedram Atoufi, info@unitychess.com. www.unitychess.com

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**DEC. 14-16 OR 15-16, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

**GM DANIEL NARODITSKY CHAMPIONSHIP**

"New Milpitas" 372 Turquoise St., Milpitas, CA 95035. Park Free. 5SS, G/90 + 30 2-day rds. 1-2 G/61 d5. **Prizes:** 5,000 b/90 (60% guar). 3 sects: **2000+** (FIDE): \$1,000-500-200, u2300: 250-125-100. **1600-1999 (FIDE):** \$700-300-100, u1800: 200-100, **u1600:** \$700-300-100 u1400: 125-100, u1200: 100. Unr max \$100 exc Open. Dec 18 Supp & TD disc. **Reg.:** F 6:30-6:45p & Sa 9:30-9:45a. **Rds.:** F 7p, Sa 10a, 3p Su 10a 2:30p. (2-day Sa 10a 12:30 & merge). **EF:** 99, Econ EF: 79 w 50% prz, after 12/7 + 20. **Playup** + 25. G/MS/IMs: \$0 by 12/1 (prize - EF). **Info:** http://BayAreaChess.com/champs.

**DEC. 15, PENNSYLVANIA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 10

**11TH ANNUAL DAVID ELLIOTT MEMORIAL CUP**

5-SS, G/30 d5. St. Luke's Church, 417 N. 7th St., Allentown, PA 18102. Park in the lot — enter thru the red gate. 2 Sections, **OPEN:** \$750 \$\$\$GD. **EF:** \$30, U1800/UNR \$25, 2400 + free, 2500+ free plus gtd \$25 expense stipend (must play all rounds/paid at end). Prizes (increased again this year): \$400 1st + Elliott Cup, \$150 2nd, Top 2099-1800 \$100, Top U1800 \$100. **RESERVE (U1600/UNR):** \$200 \$\$\$GD. **EF:** \$20, U1200/UNR \$15. Prizes (increased this year): \$150 1st + Reserve Trophy, Top U1200 \$50 + award **Both Sections:** Registration 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM, opening ceremony 11 AM. Rounds 11:15-1:30 2:45-4:5-15. **Playoff** for trophies (if needed) 6:30 PM. Lunch break (meet/greet Elliott family) included after round 1. Visit from SANTA CLAUS prior to round 2. Players may request one halfpoint bye — none for last round. No draws by agreement under 15 moves. Games for top boards collected for possible publication. No advance entries. Org: Eric C. Johnson. **Questions:** 484-547-6103. USCF-rated events every Saturday — see www.freewebs.com/allentowncentricitychessclub

**DEC. 15-16, SOUTH CAROLINA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 10

**10TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA SENIOR OPEN 2018**

Ages 50+, born before 01/01/1969. 4SS, G/90, +30. Accelerated pairings possible. Hampton Inn, 255 Congaree Rd., Greenville, SC 29607, 864-516-2400; http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com. **HR:** \$110 by 24Nov18; block may fill sooner. **EF:** \$50 if rec'd by 12/13; \$60 at site. Re-entry \$25 **Bye:** Once per player, any round, must commit before round 2. USCF, SCCA membership required. Other states OK. **1 Open section. Prizes:** \$250-150-100; U1600: \$100-75. Trophy to top SC player & top SC U1600. **Schedule:** Reg ends 10:30am on 12/15. **Rds.** Sat 11 & 5; Sun 9 & 3. **Info:** Greenville Chess Club, c/o Gene Nix, 119 Northcliff Way, Greenville, SC 29617 (eenixjr@yahoo.com); 864-905-2406. Checks to Greenville Chess Club.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**DEC. 15-16, MISSOURI**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 30

**2018 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (FIDE RATED)**

4SS, G/90 + 30 second increment. Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108. Free entries for G/MS and IMs. **EF:** \$60, \$50 if registered by 12/11 and annual member of CCSSCL. Two Sections: Championship (FIDE Rated) & Class Player Championship (U2000). **Prize Fund:** \$3,500 UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED! **Championship:** \$1,000-\$500-\$300 Under 2250: \$200-\$100 Biggest Upset: \$50. **Class Player Championship:** \$500-\$250-\$200 U1600: \$150-\$100-\$75-\$50 Biggest Upset: \$25. **Reg.:** 10:00-11:30. **Rounds:** Sat: 12:00, 5:00. Sun: 12:00, 5:00. One 1/2 point by available in any round if declared before round 2. Winner of both sections will have name engraved on Club Championship Trophy that is displayed in Club year round. **Ent:** 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108, or online at saintlouischessclub.org **Info:** 314-361-CHESS, info@saintlouischessclub.org.

**DEC. 15-16, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 6

**2018 BRONSTEIN MEMORIAL**

(A sponsored event) 1 open Section. 6SS, G/60 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. **EF:** \$75; \$55 LACC members; No prizes 1/2, spouses/siblings 1/2, new members 1/2. **Reg.:** Sat 10-11:45. **Rds.:** 12, 2, 4 pm each day. **Byes:** Up to three 1/2-point byes. Last Rd. bye before Rd. 5. **1-Day option I:** Play 1 day- no 1/2 pt byes- 1/2 EF. **1-Day option II:** Play 1 day & get three 1/2 pt byes- Full EF. **Prizes:** \$51,500 (b/45) \$750 Gtd. 1st-3rd \$400-200-100 U2000: \$100. U1800: \$200-100-\$50; U1600: \$100-50; U1400: \$100-50; U1200: Book prize. Best attack: \$25; Biggest upset: \$25. 3 door raffles to players playing both days. **Info:** (310) 795-5710; Mick@LACheSSClub.com or www.LACheSSClub.com. **Parking:** Free on streets, BoA, or basement. Use Pirq app for a free tourney.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**DEC. 16, NEW JERSEY**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

**DR. DAVID OSTFELD MEMORIAL ICA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**

4SS, G/61 d5. Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. Open to All Ages With Rating above 1400. **Prize Fund (\$5b/40):** 1st - 3rd \$300, \$250, \$200, U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600 each \$100 Best Under 13 Years Old \$75, Best Over 55 Years Old \$75. Reg ends at 9 AM. Only one 1/2-point bye allowed, if requested before the start of round two. **EF:** Adv (pmk. By Dec. 11th) \$45, AT Site \$50. G/MS Free Entry. For info, call 201.797-0330, email chessdirector@icaj.net or visit icaj.net. Prize Fund Will Not Be Reduced Below 70%. **Rds.:** 9:30 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:15 PM, 4:30 PM. Enter online at https://icaj.jumbula.com/#/ica\_tournaments or mail information to Diana Tulman, 28 Canterbury Lane, New Milford, NJ 07646. Make checks payable to International Chess Academy. W.

**DEC. 18, NEW YORK**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 10

**MARSHALL MASTERS**

4-SS, G/25 d5. Open to players rated 2000+. FIDE Rapid rated. **\$1,100 GTD:** \$400-200; top U2400, U2300, U2200: \$150; Biggest upset: \$50.

**EF:** \$30; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. **Rds.:** 7-8-15-9-30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, NORTH CAROLINA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

**2018 CHARLOTTE OPEN**

7SS, G/120 d5 (3-day option, rds. 1-2 G/75 d5). Hilton University Place Charlotte, 8629 JM Keynes Dr., Charlotte, NC. **\$17,500 guaranteed prize fund** in 5 sections. **Championship** (1900+): \$2400-1200-800, top U2300 \$500-300, top U2150 \$500. **FIDE Under 2000** \$1600-800-400-200. **Under 1800** \$1600-800-400-200. **Under 1600** \$1600-800-400-200. **Under 1400** \$1200-600-300-200, top U1200 \$300, top U1000 \$200. Unrateds must enter U1400 and are eligible for place prizes. Must be 1900+ to play Championship. **EF:** \$145 online at www.charlottechesscenter.org or mailed to CCCSA, 1800 Camden Rd, Ste 108, Charlotte, NC 28203 by 12/13, \$165 after or on-site. GM/IM free, \$120 from site. Re-entry \$50, No Champ to Champ. \$10 EF discount if staying at Hilton until room block expires, up to 2 discounts per room. **Hotel:** \$101, free parking, free wifi, reserve early! **4-day schedule:** Reg Thurs 5-6:15pm, rds. Thu 7pm, Fri 12 & 6, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 10 & 3. **3-day:** rds. 1-2 G/75 d5, Reg Fri 8am-9am, rds. Fri 10am, 2pm, then merge. **Byes:** Up to 3 half points byes available, commit before round 3. **Chess sets provided, bring clocks.** Co-organized by the Charlotte Chess Center and Carolinas Chess Initiative. Info/reg: www.charlottechesscenter.org, grant@charlottechesscenter.org.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**DEC. 22-23, TEXAS**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

**DCC FIDE OPEN XII**

5SS, G/90 inc 30. Dallas Chess Club, 200 S. Cottonwood Dr. #C, Richardson, TX 75080. Two sections: Open and Reserve. **Open:** \$8875G. FIDE and US Chess rated but uses FIDE rules. Use US Chess ratings and rules for pairings and for awarding prizes. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. Note that Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play. Note that USA Players with no FIDE ID must disclose their DOB and email address. \$\$ \$500-\$250-\$125. **EF:** 2400 + \$125, 2000-2399 \$90, 1600 -1999 \$99, U1600 \$125, Senior/Birthday during tournament/Additional Family Member \$55. Dallas Chess Club membership required or pay \$20 non-member fee. Small Minimum prize to the First three GM/IM's who apply. GM/IM must play all rounds to get minimum prize (entry fee may be deducted from prize). **Reserve:** Open to players rated below 2000 USCF. This section is not Fide Rated but is US Chess rated and uses US Chess rules. **EF:** \$40. 10\$ non Dallas Chess Club membership fee. The Reserve give back 10% in prizes and if at least 8 paid entries and if there is a clear winner, then that winner receives free entry to next DCC Fide Open. In the reserve section, Tournament reserves the right to use Fide rules on electronic devices and on starting White's clock at start of a round and to use FIDE pairing rules. Also clocks will be set to 'halt at end'. Both: **Reg.:** Saturday from 9:45-10:15 am. **Rds.:** Sat 10:45 am-3:10pm-7:16pm, Sun 9:45 am-2:10pm. One half point Bye allowed if requested before end of round 2 and before getting full point bye. Withdrawals and zero point last round byes are not eligible for prizes. Note that house players (if required) must pay \$5 per round and be US Chess members. **ENT:** Make/mail Checks payable to Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719. Info: 214-632-9000. FIDE.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**DEC. 22-23, WISCONSIN**

US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 20

**2018 NORTH CENTRAL OPEN**

4SS, G/90 + 30sec, 3 Sections: Open, U1900 & U1200 (accelerated pairings may be used). Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 S. 13th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221, 414-764-5300 (Mention chess tournament for

# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTORS!

US Chess Benefactor Members as of October 22, 2018:

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- Robert E. Hux
- In Memory Of: David Kaplan
- David Kochman
- David Lazarus
- Andrew Lerner
- Christopher Lewis
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- Thomas N. Thrush
- Harold Torrance
- Charles Unruh
- John Walton
- Bill Witmer
- Edward Wycoff
- Brian Yang

the \$80 rate; one or two beds with free WiFi and parking!). **EF:** \$70-All Sections by December 11, \$80 by December 21, \$90 at site. **\$\$:** (b/100) Open (\$2,500) \$1,000-\$600-\$300, top U2400/Unr \$200, top U2200 \$200, top U2000 \$200 U1900 (\$1,100): \$500-300, top U1700 \$150, top U1500 \$150 U1200 (\$900): \$400-\$200, top U1000 \$150, top U800 \$150. **BLITZ** (Sat at 8:00pm) (3 min + 2 sec increment): 5 double rounds (accelerated pairings may be used) **EF:** \$40 Prizes (b/40): \$1,000 (1st, 2nd, and class prizes). **ON SITE REGISTRATION:** 12/22 9:30am-10:15am Round Times: Sat 12/22 11:00am & 4:00pm; Sun 12/23 10:00am & 3:30pm. **ENTRIES TO:** Wisconsin Chess Academy, 1280 Greenway Terrace, Apt. 1, Brookfield, WI 53005 (Do not mail checks after December 15th) or via PayPal to abetanel@hotmail.com

**A State Championship Event!**

**DEC. 22-23, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

**NEW HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

4SS, 40/90, SD/30 + 30 Sec. Increment. Courtyard Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, 700 Huse Road, Manchester, NH 03103. DOB MUST be included with entry. Open to players born Dec 28 1968. **EF:** \$52 postmarked by 17 Dec. \$57 at site. **Membr. Req:** \$8 NHCA Membership required for rated NH residents. **OSA. \$SGT:** \$300-200. 50-54 \$100, 55-59 \$100, 60-64 \$100, 65-69 \$100, 70-74 \$100, 75+ \$100. Ages as of 23 Dec. \$100 bonus and plaque to top New Hampshire resident. **Reg.:** 9-9:45. **Rds.:** 10-4, 10-4. One 1/2 point bye rounds 1-3. **ENT:** Alex Relyea, 49 Technology Dr. #89, Bedford, NH 03110. **INFORMATION:** Alex Relyea email relyea@operamail.com, www.relyeacchess.com. **HR: \$109 by 20 November, 603-641-4900, mention Relyea Chess Tournament. W.**

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**DEC. 26-30, LOUISIANA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

**NEW ORLEANS OPEN**

7SS, (Open Sect: G/90 I30 with 4-day schedule only; Other Sects.: G/120 d5 with 3 or 4 day schedule available. Open Sect is FIDE rated using FIDE rules. No Entry Fee for GMs, WGMs, IMs and WIMs (EF will NOT be deducted from winnings). **SIDE EVENTS:** Wed., 12/26: Scholastic (K-12) Tour; Bug-house Tour; and Blitz Tour. (Bughouse & Blitz open to all). Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Dr., Kenner, LA 70062 (504-469-5000, ext. 2); Complimentary parking for all tournament attendees; Free Airport Shuttle; Free In-Room Internet; Hot breakfast buffet tickets discounted to \$15 including tax and tip (usually \$19.95 without tax and tip). Main Event Thurs./Fri./Sat./Sun., Dec. 27-30: 3 Sects. with Class **PRIZES:** \$6,000 b/140 full-pd. ent. **OPEN:** \$1000 + plaque-800-500; top U2000: \$400-200; **U1800:** \$600 + plaque-400-250; top U1600: \$200-100; **U1400/Unr\*:** \$600 + plaque-400-250; top U1200: \$200-100. \*Unrated players may win 50% of the prize fund unless playing in the Open Sect. where they must pay full EF and are eligible for full prize fund. Plaque winners determined by USCF-recommended computer tiebreaks. **1/2-pt. Byes:** U1800 and U1400/Unr Sects. may take up to three 1/2-pt. byes for any round; Open Sect. may take up to three 1/2-pt. byes in any round except the last round due to FIDE restrictions – if you need a bye in the last round it will be a 0-pt. bye; must commit to or rescind Byes before the start of Rd. 4 in all Sects. **Reg. for 4-day Schedule:** Wed. 5-9pm or Thurs. 8:30-9:30am; **Rds.** Thurs. 10-6; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10. **Reg. for 3-day Schedule:** Thurs. 5-9pm or Fri. 8-8:30am; (Rds. 1-3 are G/60 d5); (Fri. 9-12-3-6; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10. Schedules merge at Rd. 4 when all games (Rds. 4-7 in the U1800 and U1400/Unr) become G/120 d5. **EF:** \$75 by 12/15, \$85 by 12/20, \$100 thereafter and at site. **Unr.** (in U1400/Unr) and **Jrs.** (in U1400): \$55 by 12/15, \$65 by 12/20, \$80 thereafter and at site. **Re-Entry Fee:** \$35, avail. up to start of Rd. 4 in U1800 and U1400 only (no Re-Entry in Open Section). 3 Re-entries or 2 Jr. entries count as one additional entry for prize fund.

**CAJUN BOUNTY:** Defeat the top ranked player in the Open Sect. and win free entry to our next tournament! **FREE GIFT** to oldest player and to player who travels farthest to Main Event! **Scholastic Event: NEW ORLEANS OPEN SCHOLASTIC INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS, Wed. 12/26, 9am;** (K-12 day only - not a team event) Reg. 12/26, 7:45-8:30am: Open to all K-12 individual players; 4SS, G/30 d5. Sects: OPEN, U900, U500/Unr. Rd. 1 at 9am – other rds. will immed. follow. **Prizes:** Trophies to top 5 individuals in each section (no team awards). All non-top winners receive a souvenir chess medal. USCF-recommended computer tiebreaks will decide trophy and medal placements for winners of all schol. sections. **EF for Schol. Tour:** \$20 by 12/15, \$25 by 12/20, \$30 thereafter and at site. **NEW ORLEANS OPEN BUGHOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP, Wed. 12/26, 4pm:** 5SS, G/5 d0, **Reg.** 2:30-3:30pm, **EF for Bughouse:** \$20 per team. Trophies to top 3 teams. **NEW ORLEANS OPEN BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP, Wed. 12/26, 8pm,** (USCF-rated using Regular ratings for pairing). Open to All. 9SS, G/5 d0; sections determined by number of players. **Reg.** Wed. until 7:45pm. **Prizes:** 70% of EFs returned as cash prizes. **EF for Blitz:** \$20. **Hotel Rate:** \$99, Hilton New Orleans Airport, 504-469-5000, ext. 2, mention New Orleans Open tourn. and reserve by Dec. 10th to receive chess rate, which is available 2 days pre-tournament and 1-day post tournament. Free Airport Shuttle - Free Hotel Parking - Free in-room Internet! **ENT:** More detailed info, Online registration and printable entry form at [www.cajunchess.com](http://www.cajunchess.com) click on "Tournaments" or mail entry form to Cajun Chess, 12405 Hillary Step Dr., Olive Branch, MS 38654. **Info or Phone Ent:** 504-208-9596 or 504-905-2971. **Email:** cajunchess@yahoo.com. Major credit cards accepted (no checks at site). FIDE.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**DEC. 26-30, WASHINGTON**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20

**WASHINGTON WINTER CHESS CLASSIC**

9SS, 40/90, SD/30, +30. FIDE Rated. 2 Sections: Open & Reserve (U1800). Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th St., Seattle, WA 98133. \$66,000/b60. **Open:** \$750-600-500-400, U2200 \$300, U2000 \$300, U1800 \$300, Top Female \$125, Top Senior 50+ \$125. **Reserve:** \$500-400-350-300, U1600 \$200, U1400 \$200, U1200 \$200, U1000 \$200, Top Female \$125, Top Senior 50+ \$125. 5 Female and 5 Senior 50+ minimum required per section for those prizes to be awarded. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. **EF:** Open \$260, Reserve \$210 by 12/23. Deduct \$50 if postmarked or online by 12/16. Add \$50 if below 1600 playing in Open Section. No at site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, 2400 +. **Rds.:** Wed. 6pm, Thurs. 10am &

5pm, Fri. 10am & 5pm, Sat. 10am & 5pm, Sun. 10am & 5pm. **Bye:** limit 2, request before end of Rd. 2. **Membr. Req:** \$30 (\$24 juniors, \$12 tournament). **OSA. ENT:** Checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Jacob Mayer, 9502 44th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115-2610. **Info:** victormayer@yahoo.com, 206-697-5625. **Enter online:** www.nwchess.com/onlineeregistration. W.

**An American Classic!**

**A Heritage Event!**

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, NEVADA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

**28TH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN OPEN**

**Open Section, Dec 26-30:** 9SS, 40/2, SD/30 d10. GM & IM norms possible. **Other sections, Dec 26-29 or 27-29:** 7SS, 40/2, SD/30 d10 (3-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). **Bally's Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd. S, Las Vegas, NV 89103. \$120,000 guaranteed prizes.** In 7 sections. **Open:** \$1000-5000-2500-1200-1000-800-600-500-400-400, clear winner or 1st on tiebreak bonus \$200, top FIDE Under 2400/Unr \$2400-1200. FIDE rated, GM & IM norms possible. **Under 2300:** \$7000-4000-2000-1200-800-600-500-500-400-400. **Under 2100:** \$7000-4000- 2000-1200-800-600-500-400-400. **Under 1900:** \$7000-4000-2000-1200-800-600-500-400-400. **Under 1700:** \$6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400. **Under 1500:** \$5000-2500-1300-1000-700-600-500-400-300-300. **Under 1250:** \$3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300, top Under 1000 (no unr) \$1000-500. No separate U1000 section; under 1000 in U1250 play for both U1250 and U1000 prizes; receive larger if winning both. **Prize limits:** 1) Unrated limit \$500 in U1250, \$1000 U1500, \$1300 U1700, \$1600 U1900, \$2000 U2100. 2) Under 26 games played as of Dec 2018 list may not win over \$1500 U1250, \$3000 U1500 or U1700. Games rated too late for Dec 2018 list not counted. 3) If post-event rating posted 12/20/17-12/20/18 was more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$2000. 4) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$2000-1000-500-300-200. Only rounds 1-7 of Open Section counted. Team must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) by 3 pm 12/27; prize limits do not apply to doubles. **Top 6 sections EF:** Online at chessaction.com: \$245 by 9/15, \$275 by 12/23. Mailed by 12/15: 5-day \$280, 4-day \$279, 3-day \$278. Do not mail entry after 12/15. Online 12/24 to 2 hours before round 1, or at site 12/26 to 1 hour before round 1: \$300. **Open Section EF \$100 more** to US players if not USCF or FIDE rated 2200/over. **Under 1250 Section EF:** All \$120 less than above. **Seniors 65/over in U1500/over:** All \$120 less than above. **Re-entry \$120;** not available in Open Section. **GM, foreign IM/WGM/WIM in Open Section:** Free; minimum prize \$250 if playing all 9 games with no byes; \$200 EF deducted from prize (cannot lower prize to under \$250). **US IM/WGM, foreign FM/WFM in Open Section:** Entry fees \$100 less than above. **All:** No checks at site, credit cards OK. Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **5-day reg.** ends 12/26 10 am, rds. 12/26-28 11 & 6, 12/29 10 & 4:30, 12/30 10 am. **4-day reg.** ends 12/26 5 pm, rds. 12/26 6 pm, 12/27-28 11 & 6, 12/29 10 & 4:30. **3-day reg.** ends 12/27 10 am, rds. 12/27 11, 2:30 & 6, 12/28 11 & 6, 12/29 10 & 4:30. **Byes:** all, limit 4, limit 2 in last 4 rounds; Open must commit before rd. 3, others before rd. 4. **HR:** \$99-99, 800-833-3308, 702-739-4111, rate may increase or chess block sell out before all/115. Free parking if guest room at Bally's. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633. **Ratings:** December FIDE used in Open, December official USCF in others. For foreign players in U2300 & below, see [www.chess-tour.com/foreignratings.htm](http://www.chess-tour.com/foreignratings.htm); highest of multiple ratings usually used. Players who fail to disclose foreign or FIDE ratings may be expelled. **Special rules:** CCA electronic devices rules used; see [www.chesstour.com/devices.htm](http://www.chesstour.com/devices.htm). **Blitz 12/29 10 pm.** **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577 (DirectorAtChess.us, [www.chesstour.com](http://www.chesstour.com), 347-201-2269). \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (Click on "entry list" after entry).

**A Heritage Event!**

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**DEC. 27-29 OR 28-29, NEW YORK**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

**37TH ANNUAL EMPIRE CITY OPEN**

6SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-3 G/40 d10). Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Ave. (32nd-33rd St., across from Penn Station), New York 10001. FOOD NOT PURCHASED FROM THE HOTEL IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE HOTEL. **\$15,000 guaranteed prize fund.** In 6 sections. **Major (1800+):** \$1500-800-500-300, clear/tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top U2300 \$600-300. **Under 2000:** \$1000-500-300-200. **Under 1900:** \$1000-500-300-200. **Under 1800:** \$1000-500-300-200. **Under 1500:** \$900-500-300-200. **Under 1200:**

\$800-500-300-200. **Unrated limits:** U1200 \$200, U1500 \$300, U1700 \$400, U1900 \$600. **Mixed doubles:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$600-400-200. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register before both begin rd 2. **Top 6 sections EF:** \$118 online at [www.chessaction.com](http://www.chessaction.com) by 12/24, 3-day \$123, 2-day \$122 mailed by 12/17, all \$140 at site, or online until 2 hrs before rd 1. GMS \$100 from prize. **Alt:** Re-entry \$50 (no Major to Major). Online EF \$5 less to NYSCA members; \$12 NYSCA dues may be paid with EF. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **3-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Thu 10 am. Rds. Thu 11 & 5, Fri 11 & 5, Sat 10 & 3:30. **2-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 9 am. Rds. Fri 10, 12:15, 2:30 & 5, Sat 10 & 3:30. **Half point byes** available all rounds, limit 2 byes, Major must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 4. **HR:** Upgraded Penn 5000 rooms \$189-199, regular rooms \$169-179, plus required \$200/night facility fee for both, reserve at chess-tour.com or call 1-800-223-8585 or 212-736-5000, reserve by 12/5 or rate may increase. Facility fee includes breakfast, wireless, use of Bally's Total Fitness next door to hotel. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. **Questions:** chess-tour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Blitz tournament** 12/28 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

**A Heritage Event!**

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**DEC. 27-30, 28-30, 27, 29, OR 30, VIRGINIA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

**45TH ANNUAL EASTERN OPEN**

**5 Sections: Open, U2200, U1900, U1600, & U1300 Sections (7-Rd SS in 4- or 3-days); Over \$15,000 prize fund! Over 50 cash prizes awarded!** **Class prizes for section! Side Events: Scholastic Tourney (4-Rd SS on 12/27), Blitz Tourney (5-Rd Dbl Swiss on 12/27), New! Partay On Open (4-Rd SS on 12/29), New! Team Tourney (4-Rd SS on 12/30).** **Open:** \$2,000-1,000-500-250; U2350: \$750-350-200. FIDE Rated. Open section prizes guaranteed. Other section prizes based on 40 paid entries for each section. **Under 2200:** \$1,000-500-250-125; U2050: \$450-225. **Under 1900:** \$1,000-500-250-125; U1750: \$450-225. **Under 1600:** \$800-450-250-125; U1450: \$400-200. **Under 1300:** \$700-350-200-125; U1150: \$250-125; U1000: \$200-100. UR max: \$300 in U1900; \$100 in U1600, U1300. **Special Prizes:** Best Fighting Spirit/Best Played Game: \$200-100. Brillancy: \$100-50. Opening Innovation: \$100-50. Selected winning games, positions, and openings must be annotated and will be submitted for publication in Chess Life. Upset: For U1600 & U1300: \$25 book credit prize for rds. 1-6, 4-day schedule only; max 2 prizes per player. **Byes:** 1/2-pt byes available for any round, but Rds. 5-7 must commit before rd. 4. Limit 2 byes for prizes. **Reentry:** \$75 and limited to rounds 1-4. **Equipment:** Please bring. **Open Section Rules:** FIDE Rules used, with US Chess 1-hr lateness/default rule in effect. 4-day schedule only & no re-entries. If no US or FIDE rating, contact TD at [gv07@yahoo.com](mailto:gv07@yahoo.com). **4-day Schedule (7 rds. 12/27-12/30) for Open, U2200, U1900, U1600, & U1300:** Rd. 1: 12/27 at 6 pm; Rds. 2-3, 4-5: 12/28 - 12/29 at 11 am & 5:30 pm. Rds. 6-7: 12/30 at 10 am & 4:30 pm. **On-Site Reg:** 12/27 at 4-5:30 pm. **TC:** 40/120, SD/30 d10. **3-day Schedule (7 rds. 12/28-12/30) for U2200, U1900, U1600, & U1300:** Rds. 1-3: 12/28 at 5, 7, 9 pm. Join 4-day in Rd. 4. **On-Site Reg:** 12/28: 4-4:45 pm. **TC:** G/45 d10. **Location:** Westin Hotel, Tyson's Corner, VA (at I-495 and Rte. 7 E. Shuttle to Metro & Tysons) **HR:** Amazing, only \$89!! To reserve online, go to [easternopenchess.com](http://easternopenchess.com) or call (800) 937-8461 or (703) 893-1340 by 12/20 request Eastern Open chess rate. **Pkg:** Free parking! Shuttle bus to Tyson's Corner and Metro. **Entries:** If postmarked or **ONLINE** by Dec 19: Open: \$130; U2200: \$110; U1900: \$115; U1600: \$110; U1300: \$100, if U1000 or UR: \$75. Entries after 12/19: \$25 more. Online entries \$5 more. \$10 service charge for refunds. December 2018 Rating List used. **Please make checks or money orders payable to** Eastern Open. Mail entries to Tom Beckman, 3731 Kanawha St. NW, Washington, DC 20015-1809. For entry, [easternopenchess.com](mailto:easternopenchess.com) or for questions, [tombekman@00rcn.com](mailto:tombekman@00rcn.com). Open section: GMS: free entry, but \$130 deducted from prize; IMs: \$65 advance entry, but \$65 deducted; FMs: \$90 advance entry, but \$40 deducted. **Side Events: EO Scholastic Tourney (12/27, 10 am-6 pm): 4 rd, 3 sections:** K-12 Open, K-8 U1000, K-5 U700. **Schedule:** 10 am, 12, 2, 4 pm. **On-Site Reg:** 9-9:45 pm. **TC:** G/45 d10. **Prizes:** \$100-50, many trophies, medals, certs, & book prizes. **EF:** Advance: \$35; late/on-site: \$45. **EO Blitz Championship:** (12/27, 1-4 pm): 5-rd Dbl Swiss, 1 section. **On-Site Reg:** 12-12:45 pm. **TC:** G/5 d0. **Prizes:** \$800 based on 40 paid entries: 1st/2nd: \$250-125-50; U2100: \$150-75; U1800: \$100-50. **EF:** Advance: \$35; late/on-site: \$45. **Free Lecture:** 12/27 at 4-5:30 pm. **Partay On Open:** (12/29, 10 am-8 pm) 4 rd, 1 section. **On-Site Reg:** 9-9:45 am. **Schedule:**

37th annual  
**EMPIRE CITY OPEN - 6 rounds**  
December 27-29 or 28-29, Hotel Pennsylvania, NYC  
**\$15,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES**

For full details see "Grand Prix" in this issue.

10 am, 12:30, 3, 6 pm. **TC:** G/60 d10. **Prizes:** \$1,400 in cash prizes based on 40 paid entries: 1st/2nd/3rd: \$300-200-100, U2100: \$250-125; U1800: \$200-100; U1600: \$100-50. **EF:** Advance \$50; late/on-site \$65. **EO Team Tourney:** (12/30, 10 am-8 pm): 4 rd, 1 section, 3-person teams. **On-Site Reg:** 9-9:45 am. **Schedule:** 10 am, 12:30, 3, 6 pm. **TC:** G/60 d10. **Prizes:** Based on match points. \$1,950 in cash prizes based on 21 paid team entries. Premier (max avg rating 2199): \$500-\$250; U1900 (max avg rating): \$350-\$175; U1600 (max avg rating): \$250-\$125, and Scholastic: \$200-\$100. **EF:** Advance: \$125; late/on-site: \$150. **Note:** G/pts corrected to 120 Enhanced from what appeared in Nov CL issue.

#### DEC. 28, NEW YORK

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### MARSHALL \$500 FIDE BLITZ (BLZ)

9-SS, G/3 +2. FIDE Blitz rated. USCF regular rating used for pairings & prizes. **\$500 GTD:** \$200-100; U2400/unr, U2200, U2000, U1800: \$50. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMS Free. **Rds.:** Begin at 7pm and continue ASAP. Max three byes; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, GEORGIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

#### 48TH ANNUAL ATLANTA OPEN

5-SS, Interactive College of Technology, 5227 New Peachtree Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341. **\$5,000 b/100, \$3000 guaranteed.** 6 sections. **Master/Expert (FIDE-rated):** Open to USCF or FIDE-rated 2000 and above. \$500-300-200; Under 2000, \$400-200-100. **Class "A":** Open to 1800 thru 1999. \$400-200-100. **Class "B":** Open to 1600 thru 1799. \$400-200-100. **Class "C":** Open to 1400 thru 1599. \$400-200-100. **Class "D":** Open to 1200 thru 1399 or Unrated. \$350-150-100. **Class "E":** Open to Under 1200 or Unrated. \$350-150-100. **Class "F":** thru "A" rated players may elect to "play up" in the next higher section — The "USCF Ratings Supplement" used to determine a player's "official published rating" for competition will be the same as the month in which the tournament begins. **Entry Fee:** \$74 (3-Day), \$73 (2-Day) — if rec'd by Dec. 27; \$79 at site. (W)IGMs, (W)IMs Free (\$60 deducted from any cash prizes won). Unrated: \$35. **Re-Entry:** \$40 (not available in Master/Expert Section). **3-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 7:00. Rds. Fri 7:30; Sat 2:30 & 7:30; Sun 10:00 & 3:30. **2-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10:00. Rds. Sat 10:30, then merges with 3-Day Schedule. **Time controls:** Master/Expert: 40/90, SD/30, d10. Other sections: G/120 d5. All sections: 2-day Schedule, Rd. 1 G/90 d5. **½-Pt. Byes:** Available any round (limit two) — must request 1/2-Pt. Byes before Round One commences (no changes afterwards). **Players Must Bring Sets, Boards, and Clocks** — None Are Supplied By The Tournament Promoters. **Entries and Information:** americanchesspromotions.com, (478) 973 - 9389. PHONE CALLS ONLY AFTER DEC. 27 — no e-mails or TEXT messages, please.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, OHIO

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30

#### 2018 CLEVELAND HOLIDAY OPEN

5 Rounds, 40/100 SD 30 d10, 2-day Rounds 1&2 G/60 d10. At Hilton Garden Inn, 700 Beta Dr., Mayfield, OH 44143. Hotel rate \$119 night, up to 4 per room, 440-646-1777, Free parking. **Prize fund \$8,000 b/120 paid. Open Section (FIDE RATED):** \$1200-\$800-\$400 (TOP 3 GUARANTEED), top U2300/Unrated \$360-\$180. **U-2100, U1800, U1500:** Each: \$800-\$400-\$160. **U-1200:** \$500-\$320-\$160. Unrated may win no more than half of any prizes except in Open Section. **EF:** \$99 by 12/25, \$110 after or at site. Free to GMs, IMs & WGMs, no prize deduction. **Re-entry:** \$40, not available in Open Section. Register online at www.progresswithchess.org. **3-day Schedule:** Registration Ends Fri 7:00pm. Rounds: Friday 7:30pm, Saturday 10-4:30 Sunday 9-3. **2-day Schedule:** Registration ends 9:30am. Rounds: Saturday 10-1:30, then merge with 3-day. **All:** Half point byes OK limit 1, must commit before Rd. 2. **Contact:** Michael Joelson, 216-321-7000, mdjoel-son@progresswithchess.org

#### DEC. 29, NEVADA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

#### NORTH AMERICAN OPEN BLITZ (BLZ)

5SS, G/5 d0. double round, 10 games, Ballys Casino Resort (see North American Open). **\$3000 guaranteed prizes.** In 2 sections. **Open:** \$500-300-200, U2300/unr \$230-120, U2100/unr \$220-110. **Under 1900/Unr:** \$400-200-100, U1700 \$220-110, U1500 \$140-70, U1300 \$80. **EF** (at site only, no checks): \$40 by 7 pm 12/29, \$50 after 7 pm 12/29. GMS free; \$40 deducted from prize. **Reg.** ends 9:30 pm, **rds.** 10 pm, 10:45, 11:15, 11:45, 12:15. **Bye:** 1. Blitz rated, but higher of regular or blitz used for pairings & prizes. \$20 service charge for refunds.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### DEC. 29-30, NEW JERSEY

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30

#### SOUTH JERSEY OPEN - DR. LEROY DUBECK CUP

\$5,000 guaranteed 5 rounds, Time control G/90 d5. Crowne Plaza Philadelphia Cherry Hill, 2349 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002, across from Garden State Park — 5 miles from Philadelphia City Center. In 3 section: **Open Section:** \$1000-500-300, top Under 2100 \$300-100. **Under 1900 Section:** \$550-400-200, top Under 1700 \$250. **Under 1500 Section:** \$500-300-200, top Under 1200 \$200. Special prizes \$100 each for best parent/child and siblings scores. **Entry Fee:** Online \$85 by 12/15 \$95 by 12/27, \$105 at site. 10% "siblings" cashback, 20% "parent/child" cashback. GMS, IMs free; \$100 deducted from prize. Re-entry - \$50. **Registration:** www.snjchess.com/register. **Schedule:** Reg ends Saturday 9:45 pm, rds. Sat 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm, Sun 10 am, 2 pm. **All:** Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd. 2. **Hotel rates:** \$109 — "Chess Rate", 1-856-382-6120; reserve by 12/15. **Ratings:** November official USCF rating list. **Contact:** dgorman@darsemail.com, (703) 989-6867.

#### DEC. 29-30, NEW JERSEY

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

#### 2018 NJ SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - OFFICIAL NISCF TOURNAMENT \$1,000 GUARANTEED

5 rounds, Time control G/90 d5. Crowne Plaza Philadelphia Cherry Hill, 2349 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002, across from Garden State Park — 5 miles from Philadelphia City Center. NJ resident with highest score in the Open section represents New Jersey at the National Senior Tournament during the U.S. Open. **Eligibility:** Must be 50 or older on December 1, 2018. **In 2 sections:** Open Section and Reserve (Under 1750 or unrated). **Schedule:** Reg ends Saturday 9:45 pm, rds. Sat 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm Sun 10 am, 2 pm. **Prizes:** \$1,000 guaranteed. **Open Section:** \$400 - 200. **Reserve (Under 1800) Section:** \$300 - 100. **Entry Fee:** Online \$65 by 12/15, \$75 by 12/27, \$85 at site \$10 discount for SNJCC members Free entry to GMS, WGMs, IMs, WIMs, FMs, WFMs. **All:** Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd. 2. **Hotel rates:** \$109 — "Chess Rate", 1-856-382-6120; reserve by 12/15. **Ratings:** November official USCF rating list. **Contact:** dgorman@darsemail.com, (703) 989-6867. **Registration:** www.njscf.org/register

#### DEC. 30-31, TEXAS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10 (ENHANCED)

#### 2018, YEAR END INSANITY

10 Rd. G/30 d5. 2-SS (Play white and black against each opponent), Dallas Chess Club, 200 S. Cottonwood Dr, #C, Richardson, TX 75080. **EF:** \$40. \$25 Junior/Senior/Hcap/Birthday during tournament. Limited number of House players welcome for \$2 per game. Dallas Chess Club membership required or pay \$10 non member fee. **\$5GTD:** \$200-100. Class prizes (if any) depends on entries. Note that if few entries, two 5 round 2-SS may be substituted for the 10 Rd 2-SS. If so, the prizes will be determined by adding up bot 5 RD 2-SS. **Reg.:** 12/31 at 5pm — 5:45 pm. **Rds.:** Round 1 at 6:05 pm rest ASAP with hour breaks at around 12:30 am, 7:30 am and 12:30 pm. 4 points of 1/2 point Byes allowed. Byes for round 9 and 10 must be requested before round 6. **ENT:** Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. **INFO:** Barbara Swafford, 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com. www.dallaschess.com.

#### DEC. 30-JAN. 1, NEW YORK

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15

#### NEW YEAR'S RIDICULOUSNESS INSANE PERSON CHAMPIONSHIP!

15-SS, G/25 d5. GMS Free, \$39 reduced from prizes. **\$1,540 GTD:** \$443-241-111-54-3, U2221: \$139, U1948: \$137, U1628: \$117. Idiocy Prize: \$132 to player scoring best in tournament with 1. g4 and/or 1. ... g5. Mixed Double Prize: Best male/female 2-player team combined score (register at entry; ave. U2200): \$129-34. **EF:** \$45; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMS Free. **Rds.:** 12-1:15-2:30-4:15-5:30pm each day. Max 5 byes, request at entry. Proper attire appreciated. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

#### JAN. 1, NORTH CAROLINA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### 2019 TICKS

Triangle Chess Center, 5920 S. Miami Blvd. Ste. 203, Morrisville, NC 27560. 6-SS Game in 2019 seconds (33:39) d/5. **Prizes:** \$1,000 b/54 paid entries. \$600 GTD. \$250 (\$200 GTD) - \$150 (\$100 GTD) - \$100 - \$50 / 2ndQ, 3rdQ,

## 28th annual NORTH AMERICAN OPEN

### Dec 26-30, 26-29 or 27-29, Las Vegas - GM & IM norms possible!

### \$120,000 PRIZE FUND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED!

**Open Section:** 9 rounds, Dec 26-30, 40/2, SD/30, d10.

**Other sections:** 7 rounds, Dec 26-29, 40/2, SD/30, d10 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60, d10).

**At Bally's Casino Resort,** 3645 Las Vegas Blvd So, Las Vegas NV 89103. Free parking for guests.

**In 7 sections.** Open Section uses December FIDE ratings, other sections December official USCF ratings.

**Open Section:** \$10000-5000-2500-1200-1000-800-600-500-400-400, clear/tiebreak win \$200 bonus, top FIDE U2400/Unr \$2400-1200. FIDE rated, 200 GPP.

**Under 2300:** \$7000-4000-2000-1200-800-600-500-500-400-400.

**Under 2100:** \$7000-4000-2000-1200-800-600-500-500-400-400.

**Under 1900:** \$7000-4000-2000-1200-800-600-500-500-400-400.

**Under 1700:** \$6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-500-400-400.

**Under 1500:** \$5000-2500-1300-1000-700-600-500-400-300-300.

**Under 1250:** \$3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300, top Under 1000 (no unr) \$1000-500.

**Prize limits:** If under 26 games as of Dec 2018 official, U1250 \$1500, U1500 or U1700 \$3000. Unr in U1250 \$500, U1500 \$1000, U1700 \$1300, U1900 \$1600, U2100 \$2000. If post-event rating posted 12/20/17-12/20/18 was more than 30 pts over section maximum, limit \$2000.

**Mixed doubles prizes:** \$2000-1000-500-300-200. Male/female, any sections, must average under 2200. Open, only rds 1-7 count. Reg. by 3 pm 12/27 (no extra fee).

**Top 6 sections entry fee:** \$275 by 12/23, \$300 until 2 hours before rd 1 or at site until 1 hour before. Open \$100 more if not FIDE or USCF 2200/over or foreign. See Chess Life or chesstour.com fir mailed entry.

**Special entry fee:** all in U1250 or Senior 65/over in U1500/up, \$120 less. Re-entry (no Open) \$120.

**GM, foreign IM/WGM/WIM** in Open free, \$200 from prize.

**US IM/WGM & foreign FM/WFM** in Open, \$100 less.

**No check** at site; credit card OK.

**Special USCF dues** if paid with entry: see chesstour.com or TLA.

**5-day late reg.** ends 12/26 10 am, rds 12/26-28 11 & 6, 12/29 10 & 4:30, 12/30 10 am.

**4-day late reg.** ends 12/26 5 pm, rounds 12/26 6 pm, 12/27-28 11 & 6, 12/29 10 am & 4:30 pm.

**3-day late reg.** ends 12/27 10 am, rounds 12/27 11, 2:30 & 6, 12/28 11 & 6, 12/29 10 & 4:30.

**1/2-pt byes** OK all, limit 4 (limit 2 in last 4 rds). Open must commit before rd 3, other before rd 4.

**Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied. USCF mem. required.

**Unofficial uschess.org** ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

**Special room rate at Bally's** \$99 single or twin. Reserve now at 800-833-3308 or 702-739-4111. Rooms may sell out about Nov 15.

**Blitz tournament** 12/29 10 pm. \$3000 GUARANTEED! Enter by 7 pm 12/29 for lowest fee.

**Entry:** chessection.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessection.com (click "entry list" after entering).



uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 yr USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry** (no Major to Major) \$70. **4-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 11 am, rds. Sat 12, 3 & 6, Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule (no Major Section):** Reg. ends Sun 9 am, rds. Sun 10-12-2-3:45-6, Mon 10 & 3:30. **Bye:** all, limit 3, Major must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 4. **HR:** \$107-107-107-107, 1-800-SONESTA, 215-561-7500, request Continental Chess rate, reserve by 1/4 or rate may increase. **Parking:** Chess rate at Sonesta approx. \$20/day (half of normal rate). 1540 Spring St., 12 minutes walk, is about \$7/day Sat & Sun, \$20 other days. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD#D657633 or reserve through chesstour.com. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Questions: DirectorAtChess.US, www.chesstour.com, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Blitz tournament** Sun 10 pm, enter by 9:45 pm.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN**

**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 150 (ENHANCED)**

**10TH ANNUAL GOLDEN STATE OPEN**

7SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (3-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10, 2-day option except in Major Section, rds. 1-4 G/30 d10). Crowne Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Dr., Concord, CA 94520 (free BART shuttle often available). **Prizes \$25,000 unconditionally guaranteed.** In 5 sections. **Major**, open to 1800/up. \$3000-1500-700-500-300, clear or tiebreak winner \$100, top U2300 \$1000-500. **FIDE. Under 2100:** \$1700-900-500-300-200, top U1900 \$800-400. **Under 1800:** \$1700-900-500-300-200, top U1600 \$600-300. **Under 1500:** \$1400-700-400-300-200, top U1300 \$400-200. **Under 1200:** \$1000-500-400-300-200, top U1000 \$200-100. **Unrated prize limits:** U1200 \$200, U1500 \$350, U1800 \$500. **Mixed doubles:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$1000-500-300. **Must average under 2200;** may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2. **Top 4 sections EF:** \$138 online at chessaction.com by 1/16, 4-day \$144, 3-day \$143, 2-day \$142 mailed by 1/9, all \$160 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. **GMs \$120 from prize. U1200 Section EF:** \$30 less than top 4 sections entry fee. **All:** Special 1 yr USCF with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry** (no Major to Major) \$60. Online EF \$5 less to CalChess members. **4-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30. **3-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Sat 11 am, rds. Sat 12, 3 & 6, Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Sun 9 am, rds. Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30. No 2-day Major Section. **Byes:** OK all, limit 2; Major must commit before rd. 3, others before rd. 4. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Foreign player ratings:** See chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm. **HR:** \$117-117-127, 877-286-8389, 925-825-7700, reserve by 1/4 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 249,

Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Questions: chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Bring set, board, clock if possible; none supplied. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Sun 10 pm, enter by 9:45 pm.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 18-21 OR 19-21, MARYLAND**

**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 30**

**CHESAPEAKE OPEN**

7SS, 40/90, SD/30 + 30" incr. (Rnd. 1 G/90 + 30" incr) (3-day schedule: rds. 1-2 G/45 + 30"incr); U1250 & U1000 G/90 d5 (rds. 1&2 G/45 d5) (U1250 4-day schedule all rds. G/90 d5) (U1000 2-day schedule, rds. 1-4 G/30 d5) Rockville Hilton, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. **SB**Based on score. 7 sections: Championship (min. rating of 2000) FIDE: 7.0 = \$2200, 6.5 = \$1600, 6.0 = \$1100, 5.5 = \$700, 5.0 = \$350, 4.5 = \$125, 4.0 = \$50 [min \$1500 payout, top score group raised if less than \$1500]. U2100 (FIDE: min rating 1700) = 7.0 = \$2100, 6.5 = \$1400, 6.0 = \$1000, 5.5 = \$600, 5.0 = \$300, 4.5 = \$100, 4.0 = \$30. U1900: 7.0 = \$2000, 6.5 = \$1300, 6.0 = \$800, 5.5 = \$500, 5.0 = \$275, 4.5 = \$100. U1700: 7.0 = \$2000, 6.5 = \$1200, 6.0 = \$750, 5.5 = \$450, 5.0 = \$225, 4.5 = \$100. U1500: 7.0 = \$1800, 6.5 = \$1000, 6.0 = \$600, 5.5 = \$400, 5.0 = \$200, 4.5 = \$80. U1250: 7.0 = \$1200, 6.5 = \$700, 6.0 = \$350, 5.5 = \$225, 5.0 = \$120, 4.5 = \$50. U1000 (no adult unr): 7.0 = \$500, 6.5 = \$325, 6.0 = \$175, 5.5 = \$100, 5.0 = \$55, 4.5 = \$30. Trophies to top 10 & top U800 in U1000. **Additional prizes to clear 1st place, if no 7.0 in section (added to score prize) -** Championship: \$400; U2100 \$300, U1900 \$250, U1700 & U1500: \$200; U1250 \$150, U1000 \$50. Unrated may not win over \$100 in U1000, \$200 U1250, or \$400 in U1500. **Sets and clocks provided in all sections. Optionally, pairings can be texted to your phone. Free Monday morning continental breakfast for players.** Free parking for day guests. EF: \$119 by 1/4, \$124 by 1/15, and \$129 online only by 1/17, \$140 later. Special EFs: \$40 less for U1250, \$60 less for U1000; GMs free, \$50 deducted from prize; IMs \$45 less, \$20 deducted from prize. HR: \$99, (\$5 EF discount if staying at hotel @ group rate). Rooms may not be avail after 1/4. **4-day schedule (Champ-U1500):** Reg. ends Fri 7 pm, rds. Fri 8, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 9:30 & 3:30. **3-day schedule (Champ-U1500):** Reg. ends Sat 10am rds. 11, 2:15 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 9:30 & 3:30. **U1250 4-day schedule** Reg. ends Fri 7 pm, rds. Fri 8, Sat 11 & 3:00, Sun 11 & 3, Mon 9:30 & 12:45 **U1250 & U1000 3-day schedule** Reg. ends Sat 9am rds. 11, 1, & 3:00, Sun 11:30:00, Mon 9:30 & 12:45. **U1000 2-day schedule:** reg ends Sun 9am rds. Sun 10, 11:15, 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, Mon 9:30 & 12:45. Ent: Michael Regan, 1827 Thornton Ridge Rd., Towson, MD 21204. Detailed rules, more information and registration at http://thechesapeakeopen.com.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 19-21 OR 20-21, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)**

**5TH ANNUAL DREAMING KING OPEN**

6-SS, 5 Sections, G/100, +30 (2-day schedule rds. 1 - 3 are G/45 d5). Marriott San Diego Airport/Liberty Station, 2592 Laning Rd., San Diego, CA 92106 (www.marriott.com/sanal). **\$13,000 Guaranteed prize fund.** **Prizes: Open Section:** \$1,800-1,300-900-600-400-200, U2300 \$800-500.

**U2100, U1900, U1700 Sections**, all \$800-500-300-200, **U1500 Section:** \$300-200, BU1300 \$300-150, BU1100 \$100, Book Prize for Best Unr in each section. Plus Best Game Prize: \$50. Jan. official rating list will be used. Fines: \$5 for cell phone violations and possible \$25 for forfeits at TD discretion. **Reg.: 3-day:** 8:30 - 9:30 AM on Sat, **2-day:** 8 - 9 AM on Sunday. **Rds.: 3 day:** 10 AM & 4 PM all 3 days. **2-day:** 9:30 AM, 11:30, 1:30 PM & 4:00 PM (merged) on Sunday, then 10 AM & 4 PM on Monday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday). **EF:** \$90 if received by 11/30/18 (Early Bird Special), or \$100 between 12/01/18 and 1/10/19, \$120 after 1/10/19 and \$140 late registration at door on 1/19/19. No credit cards at door, checks or cash only. Special rate of only \$75 if U1500 or unrated. GMs, WGMs, IMs and WIMs all play for free, but \$100 deducted from any prize winnings. Re-entry from 3-day to 2-day: \$75, for players rated U2300 only. This event will NOT be FIDE rated, sorry. SCCF membership req'd (\$18 Adult, \$13 Jr, or \$3 for Jr w/o mag) for all So Cal residents. Two byes allowed, but must be requested at least 1 hour before rd. and last round byes must be requested before Rd. 3 & are irrevocable. Jan. rating list used. **Ent:** SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego, CA 92112 or enter online at www.scchess.com. For more info call Chuck Ensey at (858) 432-8006, or email me at chucnglo@aol.com. **Hotel Rates:** book online or call 619-221-1900, Special rate of \$135 if booked by 12/15, but rates will rise and rooms will sell out at this small hotel so please book early.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 19-21 OR 20-21, NEW YORK**

**US CHESS GRAND PRIZ POINTS: 80**

**1ST MANHATTAN CLASSICAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP**

5-SS, G/90 +30 OPEN, 6 SS all other sections. Stewart hotel, 371 7th Ave., New York, NY 10001. Open section FIDE rated. **\$21,000 GTD: OPEN** \$2000 + trophy-1000-500-250-150, clear first \$200 U2300 FIDE: \$300-150, **U2100:** \$1,400 + tr - \$700 - \$350 - \$200; U1950: \$300-\$150 **U1800:** \$1,300 + tr - \$650 - \$350 - \$200; U1650: \$300-\$150 **U1500:** \$1,200 + tr - \$600 - \$300 - \$150; U1350: \$300-\$150 **U1200:** \$1,100 + tr - \$550 - \$300 - \$150; U1000: 7 trophies + medals top 7. \$800 random prizes give away! Brilliancy Prize: \$100; Scholastic team prizes (3 players per team from any sections and any schools, average rating 1600 or under). The teams need to be created before round 2. 1st place: \$400; 3rd place: \$200; 2nd place: \$300; 4th place: \$100; In sections U2100 - U1200: 3 first personal scholastic trophies in each section; **OPEN EF:** \$149 by 11/18; \$169 by 12/26; \$189 by 01/18; \$200 on site. GMs: free, \$100 deducted from prize; IM and WGM: \$100; Re-entry: \$100. EF U2100; U1800; U1500; U1200; U1000; EF: \$149 by 12/22; \$165 by 01/18; \$180 on site. U1000: \$50 by 12/29; \$55 by 01/18; \$60 on site. Scholastic: \$100. **Rds.: Open:** SSS, FIDE rated 3 days: Fri: 7pm; Sat & Sun: 9am & 1:30pm (G/90 +30); 2 days: Sat: 9am & 11:15am (G/55 d10) 1:30pm; Sun: 9am: 1:30pm (G/90 +30). **All other sections (U2100; U1800; U1500; U1200; U1000) 6 games Regular:** Sat & Sun: 10am & 12:30pm; 3pm (G/55 d10). **Special:** Sat: 6pm; 7:15pm (G/25 d5); Sun: 9am (G/25 d5); 10am; 12:30; 3pm (G/55 d10). **Scholastic (16 y.o. and younger, 1 day option):** first 2 rounds 2 byes and then Sun: 9am (G/25 d5); 10am; 12:30; 3pm (G/55 d10). Byes: 1 bye is ok for Open section, but need to commit before rd. 3. All other sections 2 byes are ok, commit before rd. 3. **Side tournaments:** Friday, Jan 19: Rapid U2000, 4SS, G/25

# 51st annual LIBERTY BELL OPEN

## January 18-21, 19-21 or 20-21, 2019 - Martin Luther King weekend

### \$20,000 prize fund based on 320 entries, \$15,000 minimum guaranteed

#### 7-round Swiss at Sonesta Hotel, Philadelphia - projected prizes raised each year since 2006!

**7-SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10** (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10; 2-day, rds 1-4 G/30 d10). All merge & compete for same prizes. NO 2-DAY MAJOR SECTION.

**At Sonesta Hotel**, 1800 Market St, Philadelphia PA 19103.

**Prizes \$20,000** based on 320 paid entries, minimum \$15,000 (75% each prize) guaranteed. GMs/IMs, re-entries, and U1250 Section count 70%. Each of the last 13 years we drew over the 320 projection, and projected prizes were raised to over \$20,000! In 6 sections:

**Major** (1800/up): \$2000-1200-600-400-300, clear/tiebreak 1st \$100 bonus, U2300 \$1000-500. FIDE, 100 GPP.

**U2100:** \$1200-600-400-300-200.

**U1900:** \$1200-600-400-300-200.

**U1700:** \$1000-500-400-300-200.

**U1500:** \$1000-500-400-300-200.

**U1250:** \$700-400-300-200-100.

**Unrated prize limits:** \$100 in U1250, \$200 U1500 or \$300 U1700.

**Mixed Doubles:** best male/female 2-player combined score among all sections: \$1000-600-400. Must average under 2200; same section not required; enter at site before both begin rd 2.

**Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated.

**Top 5 sections entry fee:** \$108 online at chessaction.com by 1/16, 4-day \$114, 3-day \$113, 2-day \$112 mailed by 1/9, \$130 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before rd 1.

**Under 1250 Section entry fee:** All \$30 less than top 5 sections.

**GMs and IMs free;** \$80 from prize.

**Re-entry** (no Major to Major): \$70.

**Special USCF dues** with magazine if paid online with entry: Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15.

**All:** USCF memb. required. Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied.

**No cellphone possession** during play allowed (in bag near table OK).

**4-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds Fri. 7 pm, Sat 12 & 6, Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30.

**3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 11 am, rds. Sat 12, 3 & 6, Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30.

**2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sun 9 am, rds. Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30. No 2-day Major Section.

**Half point byes** OK all, limit 3; Major must commit before rd 2, others before rd 4.

**Hotel rates:** \$107 1-4/room, 1-800-766-3782, 215-561-7500, reserve by 1/4.

**Parking:** Sonesta chess rate about \$20/day. 1540 Spring St, 12 minutes walk, about \$7 Sat/Sun, \$20 others.

**Entry:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering).

**Blitz tmt** Sun 10 pm, enter by 9:45.

d5; EF: \$40; \$20 (main tournament participants). Schedule: 6pm; 7:15; 8:30; 9:45pm. Prizes: \$300 - \$150 - \$100 - \$50; U1800: \$100; U1500: \$50. Saturday, Jan 20: Rapid, 4SS, G/25 d5. EF: \$40; \$20 (main tournament participants). Schedule: 6pm; 7:15; 8:30; 9:45pm. Players can join round 3 from main tournament 2 day special schedule, but need to be register to rapid before round **pr** \$600 - \$300 - \$150; U2100: \$100; U1800: \$80; U1500: \$50. Sunday, Jan 21: Blitz, 7 SS, G/3+2. EF: \$40; \$20 (main Schedule: 6:30pm - 6:45 - 7:00 - 7:15 - 7:30 - 7:45 - 8:00. Prizes: \$400 - \$200 - \$100; U2100: \$100; U1800: \$60. Register: [www.uschesstour.com](http://www.uschesstour.com), [info@uschesstour.com](mailto:info@uschesstour.com). Mailed entries: payable to USA Chess Tour, Murray Hill Station, PO Box 61, New York, NY 10156.

#### JAN. 25, NEW YORK

US CHESS GRAND PRX POINTS: 6

#### MARSHALL \$500 FIDE BLITZ (BLZ)

7-SS, G/3 +2. FIDE Blitz rated. USCF regular rating used for pairings & prizes. **\$500 GTD:** \$200-100; U2400/unr, U2200, U2000, U1800: \$50. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMs Free. **Rds.:** Begin at 7pm and continue ASAP. Max three bytes; request at entry. **Register Online:** [www.marshallchessclub.org/register](http://www.marshallchessclub.org/register).

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix

JAN. 25-27 OR 26-27, OHIO

US CHESS GRAND PRX POINTS: 50

#### 2019 CARDINAL OPEN (OPEN SECTION FIDE RATED)

5SS, 40/110 SD 30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/75 d10 schedules merge starting round 3 for all sections). Embassy Suites Columbus Airport, 2886 Airport Dr., Columbus. Hotel Rate: \$109 per night Reservations at: <http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/C/CMHATES-CHS-20190125/index.html> Prizes \$15,000 based on 200 paid entries in 5 sections: **Open** \$2000 - \$1500 - \$750 - \$500 Top U2300 \$500 - \$350 **U2100** \$1400 - \$700 - \$300 - \$200 Top **U1800** \$1400 - \$700 - \$300 - \$200 **U1500** \$1000 - \$600 - \$300 - \$200 **U1200** \$1000 - \$600 - \$300 - \$200 Unrated players and provisional rated players only qualify for 25% of any prize in all sections except Open, balance goes to next player in line. **Entry Fee:** Online - \$100 by January 20 after that EF is \$110 (OCA Membership Required for Ohio Players), Mail - \$105 by January 20, 2018 after that EF is \$110, On-site EF \$110. All: No checks at site credit cards are ok (CC Fees will be paid by registrant). **Re-Entry** all sections - \$40. **GM & IM** free entry if you preregister before early registration deadline. **3-day Schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6:30pm, rds. Fri 7pm, Sat 10am & 5pm, Sun 9am & 3pm. **2-day Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 9:30am, rds. Sat 10am, 1:30pm, & 5pm, Sun 9am & 3pm. **Byes:** all sections, limit 1 - 1/2 point bye, no last round bye, all byes must commit before round 2. **Side Event:** Sat 10pm Blitz (G/3 inc2) (USCF Rated) 9 rounds entry fee \$20, 80% entries = prize fund. **Entry or more information:** <http://buckeyechess.com> or mail to: Buckeye Chess Club, 3180 Wild Dunes Court, Pickerington, OH 43147. **Questions: Mr. Kelly M. Bloomfield - Bloomfield.40@gmail.com or 614-668-5588.**

#### A Heritage Event!

US Chess Junior Grand Prix

#### JAN. 25-27 OR 26-27, ARIZONA

US CHESS GRAND PRX POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)

#### TUCSON OPEN AND SCHOLASTICS

Tucson Woman's Club, 6245 E. Bellevue St., Tucson, AZ 85712, 520-296-3142. Food vendor at playing site. **SECTIONS: Premier (1900+), U1900, U1500, & U1100.** Two separate scholastic tournaments (K-6/U800) held the same weekend more info at [sazchess.org](http://sazchess.org). **SCHEDULE: Premier & U1900 (3-day)** 5/SS, 40/90 SD/30 + 30 inc. Reg: 1/25 5:30-6:30 PM; Rds: 7, 10-5, 9:30-3:30. **(2-day)** 5/SS, Rds: 1-2 G/60 + 30 inc. Rds: 3-5 40/90 SD/30 + 30 inc. Reg: 1/26 8:30-9:30 AM; Rds: 10-1:30-5, 9:30-3:30. **U1500 & U1100 (2-day only)** 5/SS, G/90 d5. Reg: 1/26 8:30-9:30 AM; Rds: 10-1:30-5, 9:30-1. **PRIZES: Premier** (\$Gtd): \$750 + Plaque-500-250; \$5b/4 Top X, U2000 \$150 each; \$50 SACA gift certificate to Top Jr. U18, Sr. 50+; **U1900** (\$5b/36): \$300-150; \$5b/4 Top B, U1600 \$100 each; \$25 SACA gift certificate to Top Unr., Jr. U14, Sr. 50+; **U1500** (\$5b/36): \$200-100; \$5b/4 Top D, U1200 \$50 each; **U1100** Trophy to 1st + \$50 SACA gift certificate, Trophy to 2nd - 5th Place, U800/Unr. **EF:** GM, IM, FM, WGM, WIM, WFM FREE! USCF 2200+ entry fee returned if schedule completed. **Premier (1900+):** \$80 (add \$30 if 1700-1899); **U1900:** \$60 (add \$20 if U1500); **U1500:** \$50 (add \$20 if U1100); **U1100:** \$40. **Early Bird:** \$10 off by 12/25 (\$5 off for Scholastic). **LATE FEE:** Additional \$10 if entry received after 1/17, \$20 after 1/24. **ALL:** 1/2 pt. byes all rounds but must be requested prior to start of Round 2 (max 2). **Re-entries:** \$60 Premier, \$40 U1900, \$30 U1500, \$20 U1100. **HR:** Sonesta ES Suites, 6477 East Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85710 (8-minute walk to site). \$99 up to 2 per room (+ \$10 ea. for 3-4), \$139 up to 6 in 2BR suite. Breakfast included in these rates! 520-721-0991. Book by 1/4/2019, after that rates will be on a space available basis. Ask for chess tournament rate. **Info:** Martha Underwood, 520-990-6765, email: [information@sazchess.org](mailto:information@sazchess.org). **Ent:** Events 4Chess.com; postal registration available (checks payable to SACA) if postmarked by 1/18 to SACA, Attn: 2019 Tucson Open, PO Box 40663, Tucson, AZ 85717. W.

#### A Heritage Event!

US Chess Junior Grand Prix

JAN. 25-27, NORTH CAROLINA

US CHESS GRAND PRX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)

#### LAND OF THE SKY XXXII

5SS, 40/120,SD/30 d5 (U12 is G/90 d5). Crowne Plaza Resort Asheville, One Resort Dr., Asheville, NC 28806. Weekend before Super Bowl. \$10,000 b/175 fully paid, \$7,500 gtd. Prizes guaranteed 75% across all sections, increased if attendance exceeds projection. **Open (FIDE-rated):** \$1050-525-350-225-175. U2300 \$350-200. **Asheville (FIDE-rated, Under 2200):** \$700-350. 1999-1900, 1899-1800, U1800 \$350-200 each; Unrated: \$100. **Buncombe (Under 1700):** \$700-350. 1599-1500, 1499-1400, 1399-1300, Under 1300 \$350-200 each; Unrated: \$100. **U12 (Under 1200):** \$350-175. U900: \$175-100 Unrated: \$100. Biggest Upsets in Tmnt: \$50-25. **EF (Open, Asheville, Buncombe):** \$84 by 1/19. GMs/IMs free (\$94 deducted from prize). **EF: (U12):** \$42 by 1/19. **"No-prize" EF for under age 18 in Asheville, Buncombe, U12:** \$21 (no discounts). **Unrated EF in Asheville, Buncombe, U12:** \$21 (no discounts, eligible for unrated prize only). **ALL:** On-site entries \$10 more. Discounts (pre-reg or on-site, one per player):

\$10 off for players new to Land of the Sky, 2nd family member, or Under 18. Add \$42 to play in a section more than 200 points above your rating, 1 section max. **Rds:** 1st rd. either Fri 7pm or Sat 9am (G/90 d5), then Sat 10am - 7pm, Sun 9am - 3pm. One 1/2 pt bye avail rds. 1-4, declare by rd. 2. **BLITZ:** Sat 10 am EF: \$20. 100% of entry fees paid in prizes. **HR:** \$103 dbl. Reserve early at 828-254-3211 or 800-733-3211 and mention tournament. **INFO:** Wilder Wadford, [wadford48@gmail.com](mailto:wadford48@gmail.com) 828-645-4215, fax: 828-645-4216 **ENT:** WWW, PO Box 1123, Weaverville, NC 28787 See link at [www.nchess.org](http://www.nchess.org) for possible online registration.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 1-3 OR 2-3, FLORIDA

US CHESS GRAND PRX POINTS: 20

#### CENTRAL FLORIDA 2019 WINTER OPEN

Avanti Palms Resort and Conference Center, 6515 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819. **\$10,000 b/150 (Schol=1/2) 60% Guaranteed!** 5 Rounds at G/120 d5 (2-day: Rounds 1&2 G/60 d5) time controls. **6 sections:** Prizes\*: **Premier:** \$1000-500-400-200. **Senior-55+:** \$400-200, Over 65 \$100, Over 70 \$100. **NOTE: Senior-55+ is a separate section only for 55+ of all ratings. Under 2000:** \$900-500-300-200. **Under 1700:** \$900-500-300-200. **Under 1400:** \$800-400-200-100. **Schol U1200:** \$400-200, Under 1000 \$100, U800 \$100. Rated players may play up one section only. \*Unrateds limited to \$100 unless Place prize in Premier or Senior. **EF:** \$100 by Jan 15, \$110 later; plus \$10 if paid on-site, \$50 less to students in U1200 section. **CFCC member discount:** \$10 (\$5 for Jr/Sr memb). **Byes:** 1/2-pt must commit before Round 2 paired (max 2). **Reg:** ends 1/2-hour before 1st round. **2-day:** Rnds 1&2 Sat (G/60 d5) 11am & 2pm. Rnd 3 Sat (G/120 d5) 5pm, Rnds 4&5 Sun (G/120 d5) 11am & 3:30pm. **3-day:** All Rnds G/120 d5, Fri 7pm, Sat 11am & 5pm, Sun 11am & 3:30pm. **SIDE EVENTS:** Saturday night Blitz, Mixed-Pair prizes, Lectures Sat & Sun @ 9:30am. **HR: \$95 includes free parking and WiFi.** Call 407-996-0900, or 866-994-3157. **Reserve by Jan 9th** as rooms may sell-out by then; 1 Night Early Departure fee. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/feb2019hotel>; Non-Registered Guests: Free Parking and in-out for all. **ENT:** CFCC, 95 Orense Way, Oviedo, FL 32765; Or online at: <http://onlineregistration.cc>; scroll down to Central Florida Chess Club event, or by "Vendor—Filter—Search"; Entry Quick Link is <https://onlineregistration.cc/CFCC/CFCL19>. **EF must be received by 6am Feb 1** or paid on-site @ \$10 extra. **INFO:** 407-629-6946 or [www.centralflchess.org](http://www.centralflchess.org); After 4pm Feb 1, call Hotel 407-996-0900 and ask for Chess Office or (407) 670-9304 or (321) 297-7087 for onsite cells.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, TEXAS

US CHESS GRAND PRX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

#### 10TH ANNUAL SOUTHWEST CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

9SS (Master Section), 7SS (other sections), DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centrepark Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76155. Free parking, free airport shuttle. **5-day schedule,** Feb 14-18: Master Section only, GM & IM norms possible, 40/2, SD/30 d10. **4-day schedule,** Feb 15-18: Expert through Class E, 40/2, SD/30 d10. **3-day schedule:** Expert through Class E, Feb 16-18, rds 1-2 G/60 d10, then merges with 4-day. **2-day schedule:** Class

## 1st Manhattan Classical Chess Championship

(Sponsored by USA Chess Tour)

Jan 19-21 or Jan 20-21 2019

at Stewart Hotel, 371 7th Ave, New York, NY 10001

**\$21,000 prize fund GUARANTEED**

#### Schedule:

**Open:** 5SS, FIDE rated

**3 days:** Fri: 7pm; Sat & Sun: 9am & 1:30pm (G/90+30);

**2 days:** Sat: 9am & 11:15am (G/55, d.10) 1:30pm; Sun: 9am; 1:30pm (G/90+30).

All other sections (U2100; U1800; U1500; U1200; U1000) 6 games;

#### 3 options:

**Regular:** Sat & Sun: 10am & 12:30pm; 3pm (G/55, d.10);

**Special:** Sat: 6pm; 7:15pm (G/25, d.5); Sun: 9am (G/25, d.5); 10am; 12:30; 3pm (G/55, d.10).

**Scholastic** (16 y.o. and younger, 1 day option): first 2 rounds 2 byes and then Sun: 9am (G/25, d.5); 10am; 12:30; 3pm (G/55, d.10).

#### Entry fee:

**OPEN EF:** \$149 by 11/18; \$169 by 12/26; \$189 by 01/18; \$200 on site.

**GMs:** free, \$100 deducted from prize;

**IM and WGM:** \$100; Re-entry: \$100.

**U2100; U1800; U1500; U1200; U1000;** EF: \$149 by 12/22; \$165 by 01/18; \$180 on site. **U1000:** \$50 by 12/29; \$55 by 01/18; \$60 on site. **Scholastic:** \$100 2 byes are ok, commit before rd. 3.

#### Prizes:

**Open** \$2,000 + trophy - \$1,000 - \$500 - \$250 - \$150, clear first \$200; **U2300:** \$300-\$150.

1 bye is ok for Open section, but need to commit before rd. 3

**U2100:** \$1,400+tr - \$700 - \$350 - \$200; Class prize

**U1950:** \$300-\$150

**U1800:** \$1,300+tr - \$650 - \$350 - \$200;

Class prize **U1650:** \$300-\$150

**U1500:** \$1,200+tr - \$600 - \$300 - \$150;

Class prize **U1350:** \$300-\$150

**U1200:** \$1,100+tr - \$550 - \$300 - \$150;

**U1000:** 7 trophies + medals top 7.

**\$800 random prizes give away!**

#### SPECIAL PRIZES:

**Brilliance Prize: \$100;**

**Scholastic team prizes** (3 players per team from any sections and any schools, average rating 1600 or under). The teams need to be created before round 2.

**1st place:** \$400; **3rd place:** \$200;

**2nd place:** \$300; **4th place:** \$100;

In sections **U2100 - U1200:** 3 first personal scholastic trophies in each section;

\$20 service charge for any refunds.

**Hotel rates:** 15% discount from a regular rate, use code: wework

**BOARDS AND CLOCKS ARE PROVIDED!**

B through E, Feb 17-18, rds. 1-4 G/30 d10, then merges with others. **\$33,000 prize fund** unconditionally guaranteed. **FIDE ratings** used in Master Section, USCF February official in others. **In 7 sections;** rated players may play up one section. **Master (2200/Unr):** \$3000-2000-1200-800-600-500-400-400, clear or tiebreak winner \$200, top FIDE U2300/Unr \$1800-900, FIDE. **Expert (2000-2199):** \$2000-1000-500-300-200. **Class A (1800-1999/Unr):** \$2000-1000-500-300-200. **Class B (1600-1799/Unr):** \$2000-1000-500-300-200. **Class C (1400-1599/Unr):** \$1700-900-500-300-200. **Class D (1200-1399/Unr):** \$800-400-300-200-100. **Class E (Under 1200/Unr):** \$800-400-300-200-100. **Unrated** may enter A through E, with maximum prize E \$100, D \$200, C \$300, B \$400, A \$600. **Mixed doubles:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$1000-600-400. Team must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; only rounds 1-7 in Master Section count towards doubles; prize limits do not apply to doubles. **Master Section EF:** \$228 online at chessaction.com by 2/13, \$250 at site by 2/14 6 pm or online by 2/14 5 pm. GMs & foreign IMs/WGMs \$200 less (\$200 deducted from prize), US IMs/WGMs & FIDE rated foreign players \$100 less (\$100 deducted from prize). **Minimum prizes:** \$600 to first 8 foreign GMs who enter online by 1/14 and play all 9 games with no byes; \$300 to other GMs (including US) who enter online by 1/14 and play all 9 games with no byes. EF deducted cannot lower prize to below the minimum. **Expert, A, B, C sections EF:** \$158 online at chessaction.com by 2/13, \$180 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. **Class D or E Section EF:** All \$80 less than Expert to Class C EF. **Re-entry** (no Master to Master) \$60. **All:** Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **5-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds Thu 7, Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15. **4-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15. **3-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15. **2-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Sun 9 am, rds. Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15. **Byes:** OK all including last rd, limit 2; Master must commit before rd. 3, others before rd. 4. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Foreign player ratings** (Expert & below): See <http://www.chess-tour.com/foreignratings.htm>. **Electronic devices rules:** See [www.chess-tour.com/devices.htm](http://www.chess-tour.com/devices.htm). Leave your phone in your hotel room, your car, home, or in a bag near your table. **HR:** \$103-103, 817-358-1700, reserve by 1/29 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. **Questions:** chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Bring set, board, clock if possible;** none supplied. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Blitz tournament** Sun 10:30 pm, enter by 10:15 pm.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix**

**FEB. 16-18 OR 17-18, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

**SAN DIEGO OPEN**

6-SS, 6 Sections, 40/120, SD/30 d10; 2-day schedule rounds 1 - 3 are G/40 d10, then merges with 3 day for round 4 at 4:30 PM Sunday. Crown

**CONTINENTAL CHESS SCHEDULE**

More details at [chess-tour.com](http://chess-tour.com). For late news, hotel availability, lectures, results, games, etc, sign up for free CCA Newsletter at [chesscalendar.com](http://chesscalendar.com) or [chess-tour.com](http://chess-tour.com).

Most tournaments have alternate schedules with less or more days than below.

**Asterisk** means full details in this issue otherwise, see future issues or chess-tour.com.

**Events in red offer FIDE norm chances.**

- 12/26-30: North American Open, Las Vegas NV\*
- 12/27-29: Empire City Open, New York NY\*
- 1/4-6: Boston Chess Congress, Boston MA\*
- 1/18-21: Golden State Open, Concord CA\*
- 1/18-21: Liberty Bell Open, Philadelphia PA\*
- 2/14-18: Southwest Class, Fort Worth TX\*
- 2/22-24: Geo Washington Open, Falls Church VA\*
- 3/1-3: Western Class, Van Nuys CA\*
- 3/9-10: NY State Scholastics, Saratoga Springs\*
- 3/15-17: Southern Class, Orlando FL\*
- 3/22-24: Mid-America Open, Saint Louis MO\*
- 4/5-7: Eastern Class Champs, Sturbridge MA\*
- 4/17-21: Foxwoods Open, Mashantucket CT\*
- 5/17-19: New York State Open, Lake George NY
- 5/23-27: Chicago Open, Wheeling IL\*
- 6/7-9: Northeast Open, Stamford CT
- 6/14-16: Continental Class, Falls Church VA
- 6/21-23: Pittsburgh Open, Pittsburgh PA
- 6/27-7/1: Philadelphia International, Phila PA
- 6/28-30: Philadelphia Open, Philadelphia PA
- 7/3-7: World Open, Philadelphia PA
- 7/19-21: Chicago Class, Wheeling IL
- 7/19-21: Pacific Coast Open, Van Nuys CA
- 7/26-28: Bradley Open, Windsor Locks CT
- 8/9-11: Cleveland Open, Cleveland OH
- 8/14-18: Continental Open, Sturbridge MA
- 8/23-25: Atlantic Open, Falls Church VA
- 8/23-25: Indianapolis Open, Indianapolis IN

For later events, see [chess-tour.com](http://chess-tour.com).

Plaza Hotel San Diego Mission Valley, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. Open Section slow games are FIDE rated. **\$512,000 Guaranteed prize fund.** **Prizes: Open Section:** \$1,600-1,200-700-500-300, plus U2300 \$600-400. **U2000, U2000, U1800 Sections,** all: \$700-500-200-100. **U1600 Section:** \$600-400-200; **U1400 Section:** \$500-200, plus BU1200 \$300-100, Book Prize for Best Unrated in each section, but no cash prize for unrated. Provisionally rated players can only win 50% of stated prizes. Feb official rating list will be used. Cell phone violations: \$5 fine, and possible loss of game! **Reg. 3-day:** 9-10:30 AM on Sat, **2-day:** 8 - 9 AM on Sunday. **Rds. 3 day:** 11 AM & 5 PM on Sat, 10 AM & 4:30 PM on Sunday and 9 AM & 3 PM on Monday. **2-day:** 9:30 AM, 11:45, 2 PM & then 4:30 PM on Sunday, 9 AM & 3 PM on Monday (Presidents' Day). **EF:** \$90 if received by 12/31/18 (Early Bird Special), or \$100 1/01/19 - 1/30/19, \$120 2/01/19 - 2/15/19 and \$140 late registration at door on 2/16/19. No credit cards at door, checks or cash only. Special rate of only \$75 if U1400 or unrated. GMs, WGMs, IMs and WIMs all play for free, but \$100 deducted from any prize winnings. Re-entry all free from 3-day to 2-day is \$75, for players rated U2300 only. SCCF membership req'd (\$18 Adult, \$13 Jr, or \$3 for Jr w/o mag) for all So Calif. residents. Two byes allowed, but must be requested at least 1 hour before the round; last round byes must be requested before Rd. 3. **Ent:** SDCC, PO Box 120162, San Diego, CA 92112 or enter online at [www.schess.com](http://www.schess.com). For more info call Chuck Ensey at (858) 432-8006, or email me at [chuckngo@aol.com](mailto:chuckngo@aol.com) **Hotel Rates:** book online or call 619-297-1101, Special rate of \$140 if booked by 12/15/18, but rates may rise and rooms sell out after this so please book early.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**FEB. 22-24 OR 23-24, VIRGINIA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

**4TH ANNUAL GEORGE WASHINGTON OPEN**

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Westin Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike (VA-7), Falls Church, VA 22043 (from the east, take I-66W to VA-7, from other directions, take I-495 to VA-7). Free parking, free shuttle to Tysons Corner Center and Metro. 25 minutes drive from Washington. **\$15,000 guaranteed prizes.** In 5 sections. **Major:** Open to 1800/above. \$1800-900-500-300, clear/tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top Under 2300 \$600-300. **Under 2100:** \$1200-600-300-200, top U1900 (no unr) \$600-300. **Under 1800:** \$1200-600-300-200, top U1600 (no unr) \$500-250. **Under 1500:** \$1000-500-250-150, top U1300 (no unr) \$400-200. **Under 1200:** \$600-300-150-100. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$400-200. Team must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 2/23. **Unrated** may enter any section, with prize limit U1800 \$400, U1500 \$200, U1200 \$100; balance goes to next player(s) in line. **Top 4 sections EF:** \$108 at chessaction.com by 2/20, 3-day \$113, 2-day \$112 if check mailed by 2/13, all \$120 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. GMs, IMs & WGMs free in Major; \$100 from prize. **Under 1200 Section EF:** all \$40 less than top 4 sections EF. **Re-entry \$50,** not available in Major. **No checks at site,** credit cards OK. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **3-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, Rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, Rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **Half point byes** available all rounds, limit 2 byes, Major must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **Electronic devices rules:** See [www.chess-tour.com/devices.htm](http://www.chess-tour.com/devices.htm). Leave your phone in your hotel room, your car, home, or in a bag near your table. **HR:** \$109-109, 1-866-716-8108, reserve by 2/8 or rate may increase, chess block may sell out before 2/8. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Questions:** chess-tour.com, chess-tour.info, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

**A Heritage Event!**

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 1-3 OR 2-3, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

**26TH ANNUAL WESTERN CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406. Parking \$8/day, \$12 including overnight. Flyaway bus from LAX to Van Nuys about \$10 each way; free shuttle to bus and train station. Free wireless, indoor pool, gym, hot tubs; restaurants within walking distance. **\$20,000 guaranteed prizes.** 7 sections. **Master (over 2199):** \$2000-1000-500-300, clear or tiebreak winner \$100 bonus, top U2300 \$800-400. **FIDE. Expert (2000-2199):** \$1500-700-400-200. **Class A (1800-1999):** \$1500-700-400-200. **Class B (1600-1799/Unr):** \$1500-700-400-200. **Class C (1400-1599/Unr):** \$1200-600-300-200. **Class D (1200-1399/Unr):** \$1000-500-300-200. **Class E (Under 1200/Unr):** \$600-300-200-100. **Rated players** may play up one section. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Prize limits:** Unrated may not win over \$100 in E, \$200 D, \$300 C or \$400 B. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$500-300-200. Team must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register at site (no extra fee) by 2 pm 3/2, prize limits do not apply to mixed doubles. **Top 6 sections EF:** \$123 online at chessaction.com by 2/27, 3-day \$128, 2-day \$127 mailed by 2/20, \$140 online until 2 hours before rd. 1 or at site. **Class E EF:** all \$50 less than top 6 sections EF. **Online EF \$5 less** to SCCF members; join/renew at [schess.com](http://schess.com). **GMS free:** \$120 deducted from prize. **No checks** at site; credit cards OK. **All:** Special 1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com. Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. Re-entry (except Master) \$60. **3-day schedule:** Reg. Fri to 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg. Sat to 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **Byes:** OK all rds, limit 2; Master must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **Electronic devices rules:** See [www.chess-tour.com/devices.htm](http://www.chess-tour.com/devices.htm). Please leave your phone in your hotel room, your car, home, or in a bag near your table. **HR:** \$119-119, 818-997-7676, reserve by 2/18 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. **Questions:** chess-tour.com, 347-201-2269, DirectorAtChess.US. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental

Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Blitz tournament** Saturday 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix! A State Championship Event!**

**MAR. 9-10, DELAWARE**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20

**DELAWARE STATE OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Hilton, Christiana Hotel, 100 Continental Dr., Newark, DE 19713 (off I-95). Ask for the special price to reserve room for the chess tournament. 302-454-1500. TC: G/90 d5. **Open:** \$600, \$300, \$150, U2200 \$150, U2000 \$150, U1800 \$150, **U1600** \$400, \$250, \$150, U1400 \$140, U1200 \$140, U1000 \$140. **Special DE Resident Prizes:** Delaware State Champion: Crystal Trophy + Free entry in next year's event, Delaware State Woman's Champion: Trophy + Free entry in next year's event (may be in U1600 or open section based on performance), Top DE U1600 Trophy. Top DE Junior under age 19 Trophy. **Reg.:** Advanced reg: Delaware Chess Association, 2400 N Broom St., Apt. 203, Wilmington, DE 19802. 302-893-9519. TD: William Trueman. On-site Reg: 8am - 9am. **EF:** Free entry to GM's and IM's (\$50 deducted from prizes), \$70 by 3/04, \$75 at the site. **Rds:** Sat, 10, 2, 6, Sun, 9, 1, **Half point Byes:** 2 available. **\$ prizes** b/40 in each section. **Email:** [trueman56@gmail.com](mailto:trueman56@gmail.com)

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, FLORIDA**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

**17TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Wyndham Orlando Resort, 8001 International Dr., Orlando 32819. Free parking. **Prizes \$17,000 guaranteed.** In 7 sections. **Master (2200/Unr):** \$1600-800-400-300, clear or tiebreak winner \$100 bonus. **FIDE. Expert (2000-2199):** \$1200-700-400-200. **Class A (1800-1999):** \$1200-700-400-200. **Class B (1600-1799):** \$1200-700-400-200. **Class C (1400-1599):** \$1000-500-300-200. **Class D (1200-1399):** \$1000-500-300-200. **Class E (Under 1200):** \$600-400-200-100. **Rated players** may play up one section. **Unrated** may enter A through E, but may not win over \$100 in E, \$200 D, \$300 C or \$500 B. **Mixed doubles:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$500-300-200. Team must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register at site (no extra fee) by 2 pm 3/16. **Top 6 sections EF:** \$118 online at chessaction.com by 3/13, 3-day \$123, 2-day \$122 mailed by 3/6, \$130 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before rd. 1. GMs, IMs & WGMs free; \$100 deducted from prize. **Class E EF:** all \$30 less than above. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry \$60;** not available in Master Section. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **All:** Half point byes OK all, limit 2, Master must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR:** \$130-130-130-130 (no resort fee), includes resort fee benefits (free wireless & entertainment in room, use of fitness center, etc.) 1-800-421-8001, 407-351-2420; reserve by 3/1 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chess-tour.com. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Questions:** DirectorAtChess.US, chess-tour.com, chess-tour.info, 347-201-2269. Entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, MISSOURI**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

**23RD ANNUAL MID-AMERICA OPEN**

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Clayton Plaza Hotel St. Louis-Clayton, 7750 Carondelet Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105 (I-64 W/US 40-W Exit 32B, 1.2 miles north on Hanley Rd). Free parking. **\$20,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES.** In 6 sections: **Major:** Open to 1800/over. \$2000-1000-600-400, clear winner or 1st on tiebreak \$100 bonus, top U2300 \$800-400. **FIDE. Under 2100:** \$1500-700-500-300. **Under 1900:** \$1500-700-500-300. **Under 1700:** \$1400-700-500-300. **Under 1500:** \$1200-600-400-300. **Under 1250:** \$900-500-300-200. **Prize limits:** Unrated may not win over \$150 in U1250, \$300 U1500, or \$500 U1700. **Mixed doubles:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$800-400-200. Team must average under 2200, may play in different sections, register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 3/23. **Top 6 sections EF:** \$113 at chessaction.com by 3/20, 3-day \$118, 2-day \$117 mailed by 3/13, \$130 online until 2 hours before round 1 or at site. GMs \$100 from prize. **U1250 Section EF:** all \$20 less than above. **Online EF \$3 less** to MCA members. **No checks at site,** credit cards OK. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 yr USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry \$60;** not available in Major Section. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **Byes:** OK all, limit 2; Major must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR:** \$105-108-113-118, includes free full hot buffet breakfast. 888-303-1746, 314-726-5400, request chess rate, reserve by 3/8 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chess-tour.com. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. **Questions:** DirectorAtChess.US, chess-tour.com, chess-tour.info, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Saturday 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 30-31, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN**

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15

**2019 NORTH BAY CHESS FESTIVAL BY NOVATO CHECKMATES**

Novato Downtown Recreation Center, 950 7th St., Novato, CA 94945. FREE parking! Novato Checkmates club members - discounted entry

feels! **Sat, Mar 30 only: Rising Star** PK-12; 3xG/30 d5 - non rated, Onsite Reg.: 9-9:30a, Rounds 10a-1p; EF: \$10/\$5(memb) **Kids Quads:** PK-12; 3xG/30 d5, Trophies: players w + score. Sched: Regrd. Check-in: 1:30-2p. Games: 2:30-5p. EF: \$20/\$15(memb) **Simultaneous Exhibition:** 20-boards simul, Onsite reg: 5-5:30p, Simul starts 6p, EF \$15/10(memb). **March 30-31 (2-day): 1st Novato Open Prizes:** \$3500/6100. **Open (2000+, FIDE):** \$1000-500-200 u2200 (\$200-100-50); **AB (1600-1999):** \$500-200-100 u1800; \$100-50. **CDEU (u1600):** \$300-100-50 u1400; \$50. **March 2019 Suppl, CCMcin & TD disc. Open/FIDE-2-day:** ASS G/90+30inc Reg.: 9:30-9:45a. **Rds:** Sat 10a, 2p, Sun 11a, 3p. **AB/CDEU G/61 d5 Reg.:** 8:30-8:45a. **Rds:** Sun: 9a, 11:30a, 2p, 4:30p. **EF:**\$45/\$35(memb). After 3/26 +15, playcup +15, re-entry: \$20, GMs/IMs - \$0 by 3/23. **Info:** <http://www.novatocheckmates.org>. Special disc rooms at Novato Courtyard Marriott, to reserve call 415-883-8950. W.

### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, MASSACHUSETTS

#### US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

#### 28TH ANNUAL EASTERN CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

5SS, 4Q/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Host Hotel at Cedar Lake, 366 Main St., Sturbridge, MA 01566 (I-84 Exit 3, near I-90). Free parking. **\$\$\$20,000 guaranteed prizes.** In 7 sections: **Master** (2200/up): \$2000-1000-500-300, clear winner or 1st on tiebreak \$100 bonus, top U2300 \$800-400. **FIDE** (2000-2199): \$1500-700-400-300. **Class A** (1800-1999/Unr): \$1500-700-400-300. **Class B** (1600-1799/Unr): \$1500-700-400-300. **Class C** (1400-1599/Unr): \$1300-700-400-300. **Class D** (1200-1399/Unr): \$700-400-200-100. **Class E** (Under 1200/Unr): \$600-300-200-100. **Rated players** may play up one section. **Prize limits:** Unrated may not win over \$100 in E, \$200 D, \$300 C or \$400 B. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$600-300. Team must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 4/6. **Top 5 sections EF:** \$115 online at chessaction.com by 4/3, 3-day \$118, 2-day \$117 mailed by 3/26, \$130 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. GMs \$100 from prize. **Class D or E EF:** All \$50 less than top 5 sections EF. **No checks** at site, credit cards OK. **Online EF** \$5 less to MACA members; may join/renew at masschess.org. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 yr USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry** \$60; not available in Master Section. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **Byes:** OK all, limit 2; Master must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR:** \$99-99-109, 800-582-3232, 508-347-7393, request chess rate, reserve by 3/22 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. **Questions:** Director@Chess.us, chesstour.com, chesstour.info, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entry). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

#### An American Classic!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 17-21, 18-21 OR 19-21, CONNECTICUT

#### US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

#### 13TH ANNUAL FOXWOODS OPEN

**Open Section, Apr 17-21:** 9SS, 4Q/2, SD/30 d10. FIDE rated, GM & IM norms possible. **Other Sections, Apr 18-21 or 19-21:** 7SS, 4Q/2, SD/30, d10 (3-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). **Foxwoods Resort** Casino & Hotel, Rt 2, Mashantucket, CT 06339 (I-95 to Exit 92 to Rt 2 West, or I-395 to Exit 85 to Rt 164 to Rt 2 East). Free parking, 45 miles from T.F. Green Airport (Providence, RI), 14 miles from Groton/New London Airport; for shuttle from New London Amtrak station call 1-800-USA-RAIL. Bus transportation: 1-888-BUS2FOX. Free shuttle to Mashantucket Pequot Museum, largest Native American museum in USA. **Prizes \$100,000** based on 650 entries (seniors, re-entries, GMs, IMs, WGMs, foreign FIDE & U1100 Section count as half entries), else proportional, minimum \$75,000 (75% of each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections: **Open:** \$10000-5000-2500-1500-1000-700-600-500-400-400, clear/tiebreak winner \$200 bonus, FIDE 2250-2399 \$3000-1500, FIDE Under 2250/Unr \$3000-1500. **Under 2200/Unr, Under 2000/Unr, Under 1800:** each \$5000-3000-1600-1000-700-600-500-400-300-300. Unrated prize limit in 2000, \$2000. **Under 1600:** \$4000-2000-1300-900-600-500-400-300-300. **Under 1400:** \$3000-1800-1000-800-600-500-400-400-300-300. **Under 1100/Unr:** \$1500-800-600-500-400-300-300-200-200-200; unrated limit \$400. **Mixed Doubles:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$1200-800-600-400-200. In Open Section, only first 7 rounds counted toward mixed doubles. Team must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2. **Prize limits:** 1) Players with under 26 lifetime games rated as of April 2019 official rating may not win over \$800 in U1100, \$1500 U1400, \$2500 U1600 or U1800. Games rated too late for April 2019 list not counted. 2) Unrated prize limit \$2000 in U2000, \$400 in U1100. 3) If any post-event rating posted 4/15/18-4/15/19 was more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$1500. 4) Balance of limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **EF:** \$208 online at chessaction.com by 2/11, \$228 online by 4/16, all \$250 at site. Mailed EF \$215 by 2/11, \$225 by 4/8, do not mail after 4/8. **Open Section EF \$100 more** to US players not USCF or FIDE rated 2200/over. **GMs, foreign IMs/WGMs in Open:** \$180 less (\$200 deducted from prize), US IMs/WGMs & FIDE rated foreign players \$100 less (\$100 deducted from prize). EF deduction cannot lower prize to below the minimum. **Minimum prize guarantees** in Open to players who enter online by 4/3 and play all 9 games with no byes: US GM \$300, foreign GM \$700 (limited to first 8 to enter, others \$400), foreign IM/WGM \$400 (limited to first 8 to enter), foreign FM/WIM \$300. **Under 1100 Section EF:** all \$100 less. **Seniors 65/over in U1400 to U2200:** All EF \$100 less. **CSCA members:** online EF \$4 less. **No checks** at site; credit cards OK. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry:** \$100, no

re-entry from Open Section to Open Section. **5-day schedule (Open Section):** Reg. ends Wed 6 pm, rds. Wed, 7 pm, Thu 12 & 7, Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. **4-day schedule (no Open):** Reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds. Thu 7 pm, Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. **3-day schedule (no Open):** Reg. ends Fri 10 am, rds. Fri 11, 2:30 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:15. **4-day & 3-day** merge & compete for same prizes. **Byes:** all including rd. 9; limit 4 (limit 2 in last 4 rds), Open must commit before rd. 3, others before rd. 4. **Bring sets, boards, clocks** if possible- none supplied. **HR:** Grand Pequot Tower (tournament site, very luxurious): Friday & Saturday \$205, other days \$149. **Fox Tower** (formerly MGM Grand, 5-7 minute walk from tournament in connected building): Friday & Saturday \$175, other days \$119. **Two Trees Inn** (15-20 minute walk from tournament, free shuttle), Friday & Saturday \$145, other days \$99. For all, \$4.95 resort fee, includes high speed wired internet, fitness center, pool, spa, in room coffee & tea, etc. 1-800-FOXWOOD or use link at chesstour.com, reserve by 4/4 or rate may increase. **Car rentals:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633 or reserve car online at chesstour.com. **Foreign player ratings:** see [www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm](http://www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm). **Electronic devices rules:** See [www.chesstour.com/devices.htm](http://www.chesstour.com/devices.htm). Please leave your phone in your hotel room, your car, home, or in a bag near your table. **Ratings:** FIDE ratings used in Open, April USCF official in other sections. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. **Questions:** Director@chess.us, chesstour.com, chesstour.info, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). Blitz tournament Sat. 10:30 pm, reg. By 10 pm.

#### APR. 20, CONNECTICUT

#### US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

#### FOXWOODS BLITZ (BLZ)

5SS, G/5 d0, double round, 10 games. **Foxwoods Resort** Casino & Hotel (see Foxwoods Open). **\$2000 guaranteed prizes:** \$400-250-150, 2000-2199 \$200-100, U2000/Unr \$200-100, U1800 \$180-90, U1600 \$150-80, U1300 \$100. **EF:** \$40 by 7 pm 4/20, \$50 by 10 pm 4/20. GMs free; \$40 from prize. Enter at site only, no checks. **Reg.:** ends 10 pm, rds. 10:30, 11, 11:30, 12, 12:30. 1 bye allowed (1 point out of 2), must give notice before rd. 2. Blitz rated, but higher of regular or blitz used for pairings & prizes. \$20 service charge for refunds.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAY 4, MAINE

#### US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### DOWNEAST OPEN

Bonny Eagle Middle School, 92 Sokokis Trail, Buxton, ME. A Maine Chess Player of the Year Event! Maine Chess Association membership required. **4SS in three sections:** OPEN and U1500 G/60 d10; U1000 G/45 d5. **EF:** EF Open \$50 by 5/3, \$55 at door; U1550 \$35/\$40; U1000 \$15/\$20. **Prizes based on 25 entries:** OPEN \$350/\$250/\$150/U1700 \$75; U1550 \$245/\$175/\$105/U1300 \$50; U1000 trophies for top 3. **Reg.:** 8-9 AM, OPEN and U1550 rounds at 9:10, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00; U1000 rounds at 9:10, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00. **Contact:** Michael Dudley at mainchesspresident@gmail.com to preregister!

#### An American Classic!

#### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, ILLINOIS

#### US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

#### 28TH ANNUAL CHICAGO OPEN

**Open Section, May 23-27:** 9SS, 4Q/2, SD/30 d10, GM & IM norms possible, FIDE rated. **Other Sections, May 24-27, 25-27 or 26-27:** 7SS, 4Q/2, SD/30 d10 (3-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10; 2-day option, rds. 1-4 G/30 d10). **Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel**, 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090 (from Chicago, I-294 north to US-45 north; from Milwaukee, I-94 east to Lake Cook Rd to US-45 south). Free parking. **Free lectures and analysis of your games** by GM John Fedorowicz. **\$100,000 guaranteed prize fund.** In 8 sections (unrated allowed only in Open, U2300, U2100 or U1000). **Open:** Open to players who are rated 2200/over by USCF or FIDE or pay \$100 extra. \$10000-5000-2500-1300-1000-800-600-500-400-400, clear or tiebreak winner bonus \$300, top FIDE Under 2400/Unr \$2000-1000. FIDE rated, GM and IM norms possible. **Under 2300:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 2100:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300; unrated limit \$1000. **Under 1900:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 1700:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 1500:** \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300-300. **Under 1300:** \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300-300. **Under 1000:** \$1000-500-300-200-200-150-150-100-100-100; unrated limit \$200, trophies to first 10, top U800, U600, Unrated. **Prize limits:** 1) If any post-event rating posted 5/21/18-5/21/19 was more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$1500. 2) Players with under 26 lifetime games rated as of May 2019 official list cannot win over \$500 in U1000, \$1000 U1300, \$1500 U1500, \$2000 U1700, or \$2500 U1900. 3) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$2000-1000-500-400-300. For Open Section, only rounds 1-7 counted toward mixed doubles. Team must average under 2200; may play in different sections; register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teams including an unrated limited to \$500. **Open through U1300 entry fee:** \$207 online at chessaction.com by 3/19, \$227 by 5/22, 5-day \$215, 4-day \$214, 3-day \$213, 2-day \$212 mailed by 3/19, all \$20 more mailed by 5/11. All \$250 online until 2 hours before round 1 or at site until 1 hour before round 1. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Do not mail entry after 5/11. **Open EF for titled players:** GMs free; \$200 deducted from prize. IMs/WGMs \$100, also \$100 deducted from prize. **EF \$100 less** to seniors age 65/over, except U1000 Section. **Under 1000 Section EF:** \$67 online at chessaction.com by 5/22, 4-day \$74, 3-day \$73, 2-day \$72 mailed by 5/11, all \$90 online until 2 hours before round 1 or at site until 1 hour before round 1. **No checks** at site, credit cards OK. **Online EF** \$5 less to ICA members; join at il-chess.org. An ICA Tour Event. **Special 1 yr US Chess dues** with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry:** \$100, no Open to Open. **5-day schedule** (Open only): Reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds. Thu 7 pm, Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 4:15. **4-day schedule** (U2300 to U1500): Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat

11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15. **3-day schedule** (U2300 to U1500): Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15. **2-day schedule** (U2300 to U1500): Reg. ends Sun 9 am, rds. Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15. **Under 1300 & Under 1000 schedules:** Same as U2300 to U1500 (4-day, 3-day, 2-day options), except last round Mon is 3:15. **4-day, 3-day & 2-day** schedules merge & compete for same prizes. **Byes:** OK all, limit 4 (limit 2 in last 4 rds), Open must commit before rd. 3, others before rd. 4. **Hotel rates:** \$113-113-113-113, 800-937-8461, 847-777-6500, reserve by 5/9 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. **Foreign player ratings:** See [www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm](http://www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm). **US player ratings:** May official ratings used; FIDE ratings used for Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special rules:** Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by Director. See also chesstour.com/devices.htm. **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. **Questions:** chesstour.com, chesstour.info, Director@Chess.us, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Entries** posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entry). **Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied.

#### JUNE 11-12, NEVADA

#### US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)

#### 2019 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

See Nationals.

#### JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, NEVADA

#### US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 300 (ENHANCED)

#### 2019 NATIONAL OPEN

See Nationals.

#### JUNE 28-30, ILLINOIS

#### US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 40

#### 2019 U.S. SENIOR OPEN

See Nationals.

## Regional

### ALABAMA

#### DEC. 26-30, New Orleans Open (LA)

See Grand Prix.

#### DEC. 27, 16th Annual Georgia Chess Festival Time-Control Open (GA)

See Georgia.

#### DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 48th Annual Atlanta Open (GA)

See Grand Prix.

#### JAN. 19-20, 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Classes (All Ages)" Championships (GA)

See Georgia.

#### FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South (FL)

See Nationals.

#### MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)

See Grand Prix.

#### MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)

See Grand Prix.

### ARIZONA

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### Tuesday Night Open

4 or 5 round, USCF rated tournament; ROUND TIMES: 7:00pm One game every Tuesday of the month: Time Control: 40/120, SD/60 d5. **PRIZES:** 1st Place and Class Prizes based on number of entries; ENTRY FEE: \$45; TO REGISTER: chessemporium.com, call 602-482-4867. SITE: 7000 E. Shea Blvd., Suite H-1910, Scottsdale, AZ 85254.

#### DEC. 8, Unity Grand Prix December 2018

See Grand Prix.

#### DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 28th annual North American Open (NV)

See Grand Prix.

#### DEC. 29, North American Open Blitz (BLZ) (NV)

See Grand Prix.

#### JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 10th annual Golden State Open (CA-N)

See Grand Prix.

#### JAN. 25-27 OR 26-27, Tucson Open and Scholastics

See Grand Prix.

#### FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)

See Grand Prix.

#### MAR. 1-3 OR 2-3, 26th annual Western Class Championships (CA-S)

See Grand Prix.

#### JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See Nationals.

#### JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)

See Nationals.

### ARKANSAS

#### DEC. 26-30, New Orleans Open (LA)

See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**

See Grand Prix.

**CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN**

*A State Championship Event!*

**DEC. 8-9, 2018 CalChess State Grade Level Championship**

Alameda Fairground, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566. Park free **Trophies:** Top 15 players w + score (all in K, 3 in Gr9-12) & Top 5 teams and Top 5 clubs in each section K-8 (Top 3 in Gr 9-12). Medals to others.13 sect based on grade (K-12). **Reg.:** Sa 8-8:30a. **K-3:** 5SS, G/30 d5, Sa 9a 11a 1p 2:30p 4:15p. **4-12:** 6SS, G/60 d5 Sa/Su 9a 12p 3p. **Blitz:** 8xG/5 d0 Sa 6:30-8:30p, 3 sects (K-3, 4-6, 7-12). **EF:** by 11/30 K-3 \$49, 4-12 \$62, 12/1-12/6 + \$20, 12/7&onsite + \$40. **Blitz \$14.** USCF & CalChess Mem reqd. Dec 18 Supp. Info: [www.bayareachess.com/grades](http://www.bayareachess.com/grades). W.

**DEC. 14-16 OR 15-16, GM Daniel Naroditsky Championship**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 15, Bay Area Foster City Swiss (PK-12; 4SS, G/30 d5)**

**\*\*New Offering**

Foster City Courtyard Marriott, 550 Shell Blvd., 94404. **Trophies:** players w + score. **Sched:** 9-9:15a. **Games:** 9:30a - 1:30p. **EF:** 34, 42 after 12/10. Info: <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**DEC. 15, Bay Area Foster City Quads (PK-12; 3xG/30 d5) \*\*New Offering**

Foster City Courtyard Marriott, 550 Shell Blvd., 94404. **Trophies:** Players w + score. **Sched:** Reqr Check-in 1:30-2p. **Games:** 2:15-5p. **EF:** 29, 44 after 12/10 Info: <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**DEC. 16, Bay Area San Ramon Swiss (PK-12; 4SS, G/30 d5)**

Courtyard Marriott, 18090 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583. **Trophies:** players w + score. **Sched:** 9-9:15a. **Games:** 9:30a - 1:30p. **EF:** 34, 42 after 12/11. Info: <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**DEC. 16, Bay Area San Ramon Quads (PK-12; 3xG/30 d5)**

Courtyard Marriott, 18090 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583. **Trophies:** Players w + score. **Sched:** Reqr Check-in 1:30-2p. **Games:** 2:15-5p. **EF:** 29, 44 after 12/11 Info: <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**DEC. 22, Bay Area Cupertino Swiss (PK-12; 4SS, G/30 d5)**

Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino, CA 95014. **Trophies:** players w + score. **Sched:** 9-9:15a. **Games:** 9:30a - 1:30p. **EF:** 34, 42 after 12/17. Info: <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**DEC. 22, Bay Area Cupertino Quads (PK-12; 3xG/30 d5)**

Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino, CA 95014. **Trophies:** Players w + score. **Sched:** Reqr Check-in 1:30-2p. **Games:** 2:15-5p. **EF:** 29, 44 after 12/17 Info: <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**DEC. 23, Palo Alto LuperSwiss90 (3SS, G/90 d5)**

Crowne Plaza Palo Alto, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306. **Prizes:** \$1,300 b/50. 60% guar. 1900+: \$200-100-100, u2000 50-50. 1500- 1899: \$200-100, u1600 50-50, u1500: \$200-100, u1200 50-50. Dec 18 Supp & TD disc. **Reg.:** 8:30-8:45. **Rds.:** 9-1-4:30. **EF:** 49, Econ 39 w 1/2 prz. after 12/17+20, playup+20, GMs/TMs - \$0 by 12/7. Info: [BayAreaChess.com/grandprix](http://BayAreaChess.com/grandprix). W.

**DEC. 23, Elite Quads for 1600+ (3RR, G/90 d5)**

2050 Concourse Drive #42, San Jose, CA 95131. Min USCF 1600 required to enter. **Prizes:** \$100/quad b/20 & more, otherwise \$80/quad. Current rating & TD disc. **Reg.:** 8:30-8:45a. Mandatory check-in at 8:50a, Rds. 9a & rolling schedule. **EF:** 40 after 12/20+15, GMs/TMs - \$0 by 11/20. Info: <http://BayAreaChess.com/elitequads>. W.

**DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 28th annual North American Open (NV)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27-30, 2018 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship**

See Nationals.

**DEC. 29, North American Open Blitz (BLZ) (NV)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 1-7, Bay Area International & Amateur**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 6, New Year Youth Championship**

5SS, G/30 d5. SFO Hyatt Regency, 1333 Bayshore Hwy., Burlingame, CA 94010. Room \$109. **Prizes:** Top 10 w/plus score in ea sec, Top 10 schools & clubs (combined). **5 Secs:** 900-1199, 600-899, 300-599, u300. **Sched:** Re: 9-9:30. **Games:** 10-11:30-1-2:30-3:40. **EF:** 49, after 1/2 +15, Playup +10. Jan 19 Supp. Rfnd fee 15. **Info/Flyer/Reg:** <http://BayAreaChess.com/nykids>. E: ask@BayAreaChess.com. T: 408.409.6596. W.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 10th annual Golden State Open**

See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 16-18 OR 17-18, 2019 (35th Annual) U.S. Amateur Team Championship - West**

See Nationals.

**MAR. 1-3 OR 2-3, 26th annual Western Class Championships (CA-S)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 30-31, 2019 North Bay Chess Festival by Novato Checkmates**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

**THE LOS ANGELES CHESS CLUB**

The Most Active Club on the West Coast! (310) 795-5710. \* **LACC:** [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com); **VCC:** [www.ValleyChessClub.com](http://www.ValleyChessClub.com); **Contact:** [Mick@LAChessClub.com](mailto:Mick@LAChessClub.com); **Saturday & Sundays:** 10 am-9 pm (Beginner/Novice & Intermediate classes + 3 Tournaments each day - Details on our web site. **Tuesdays:** 7:30-9:30 pm (Advance lecture). 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025. (4 blocks W of 405, SW corner of Santa Monica & Butler \* 2nd Floor - above Javan Restaurant) **Group Classes \* Tournaments \* Private (1:1) Lessons.** Note our monthly major tournaments. Also, we have the best **Weekly BLITZ** tournament on Saturday nights at 6:30 pm!!

**DEC. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, LACC FIDE Blitz \$300 (BLZ)**

4 separate events- 7DSS, G/3+2" FIDE & USCF rated (Blitz,14 Games). FIDE & USCF rated. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. **EF:** \$20 (extra \$10 non-LACC mbrs). No prizes 1/2 **EF.** **Reg.:** 6-6:30 pm. Register at [LAChessClub.com](http://LAChessClub.com) and receive a free gift. **Rds.:** 6:30 and ASAP thereafter. **Prizes: \$530 Gtd.** \$100-50; U1800, U1600, U1400 \$50 cash & books. **GMs free. Parking:** Free on streets & BoA. **Info:** 310/795-5710 or [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com). Use Pirq app for a free tourney.

**DEC. 1, 8, 22, 29, LACC Saturday G/60**

4 separate events- 1 open section, 6SS, G/60 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. **EF:** \$30/ (\$20 LACC memb; No prizes 1/2 **EF**). **Reg.:** 11-12 noon. **Rds.:** 12, 2, 4 pm each day. **Prizes:** 1/2 collections. **Parking:** Free at BoA, streets, & basement. **Info:** 310/795-5710 or [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com). Use Pirq app for a free tourney.

**DEC. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, Every Saturday & Sunday Chess 4 Juniors**

10 separate events- 5SS, G/30 d0. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd. & Butler, LA, 90025, 2nd fl. 4 blocks West of 405. **EF:** \$30 (\$20 LACC memb, No prize 1/2 **EF**, siblings 1/2, Free new LACC members). **Reg.:** 12-1 pm. **Rds.:** 1pm & asap; done by 4. **FREE BUGHOUSE** afterwards; **Prizes:** Trophies & medals; All players receive prizes! **Parking:** Free on streets & BoA. Free healthy refreshments. **Info:** (310) 795-5710 or [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com) or [Mick@LAChessClub.com](mailto:Mick@LAChessClub.com).

**DEC. 1, 8, 22, 29, LACC - Sat Nite Blitzathon G/5 (BLZ)**

4 separate events- 7DSS, G/5 d0 (Blitz,14 Games). 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, 90025, 2nd fl. 4 blks W of 405. **EF:** \$20 (\$15 LACC memb). No prize 1/2 **EF.** **Reg.:** 6-6:30 pm. Register at [LAChessClub.com](http://LAChessClub.com) and receive a free gift. **Rds.:** 6:30, 6:55, 7:20, 7:45, 8:10, 8:35, 9 pm. **Prizes:** 1/2 collections. **Parking:** Free on streets & BoA. **Info:** 310/795-5710 or [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com). Use Pirq app for a free tourney.

**DEC. 2, 9, 23, 30, LACC Sunday G/60**

4 separate events- 1 open section, 6SS, G/60 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. **EF:** \$30/ (\$20 LACC memb; No prizes 1/2 **EF**).

**10th annual GOLDEN STATE OPEN**

**Jan 18-21, 19-21 or 20-21, Martin Luther King weekend, Concord, CA**

**7 ROUNDS, \$25,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES!**

**7 rounds, 40/100, SD/30 d10** (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60, d10; 2-day option except Major Section, rds 1-4 G/30, d10).

**Crowne Plaza**, 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord CA 94520 (I-680 to Exit 52). Free parking. Free BART shuttle often available.

**In 7 sections.**

**Major** (1800/up): \$3000-1500-700-500-300, clear/tiebreak win \$100, top U2300 \$1000-500. FIDE rated, 150 GPP.

**Under 2100:** \$1700-900-500-300-200, top U1900 \$800-400.

**Under 1800:** \$1700-900-500-300-200, top U1600 \$600-300.

**Under 1500:** \$1400-700-400-300-200, top U1300 \$400-200.

**Under 1200:** \$1000-500-400-300-200, top U1000 \$200-100.

**Mixed doubles:** \$1000-500-300. See TLA or chesstour.com.

**Unrated prize limits:** U1200 \$200, U1500 \$350, U1800 \$500.

**Top 4 sections entry fee:**

\$138 online at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 1/16, 4-day \$144, 3-day \$143, 2-day \$142 if mailed by 1/9, all \$160 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1.

**Under 1200 Section entry fee:** \$30 less than top 4 sections entry fee.

**All:** Online entry \$5 less to CalChess members. No checks at site; credit cards OK. Re-entry \$60 (no Major to Major).

**Special 1 year USCF dues** with paper magazine if paid with entry: online at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com), Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. US Chess membership required.

**January official** USCF ratings used; unofficial [uschess.org](http://uschess.org) ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

**4-day reg** ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 12 noon & 6 pm, Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30.

**3-day reg** ends Sat 11 am, rds Sat 12 noon, 3 pm & 6 pm, Sun 12 noon & 6 pm, Mon 10 & 3:30.

**2-day reg** ends Sun 9 am, rds Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30. No 2-day Major Section.

**Byes:** OK all, limit 2, Major must commit before rd 3, other before rd 4.

**Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied.

**Hotel rates:** \$117-117-127, 877-286-8389, 925-825-7700, reserve by 1/4 or may increase.

**Entry:** [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Entries posted at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) (click "entry list" after entering). \$15 charge for refunds.

**Blitz tournament** Sun 10 pm, enter by 9:45 pm, entry fee \$20.

**Reg.:** 11-12 noon, **Rds.:** 12, 2, 4 pm each day. **Prizes:** 1/2 collections. **Parking:** Free at BoA, streets, & basement. **Info:** 310/795-5710 or [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com). Use Pirq app for a free tourney.

**DEC. 15-16, 2018 Bronstein Memorial**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 28th annual North American Open (NV)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29, North American Open Blitz (BLZ) (NV)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 14-16, 2019 Keres Memorial FIDE**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 10th annual Golden State Open (CA-N)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 19-21 OR 20-21, 5th Annual Dreaming King Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 16-18 OR 17-18, San Diego Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 1-3 OR 2-3, 26th annual Western Class Championships**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

## COLORADO

**DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 28th annual North American Open (NV)**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

## CONNECTICUT

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 2018 Garden State Open (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27-29 OR 28-29, 37th annual Empire City Open (NY)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 7th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5 OR 6 OR 5-6, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 33rd Annual Greater NY Scholastic Championships - Since 1966, USCF's Longest-Running Scholastic! (NY)**  
See New York.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 51st annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)**  
See New York.

**APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, 28th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**APR. 17-21, 18-21 OR 19-21, 13th Annual Foxwoods Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**APR. 20, Foxwoods Blitz (BLZ)**  
See Grand Prix.

## DELAWARE

**DEC. 29-30, South Jersey Open - Dr. Leroy Dubeck Cup (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29-30, 2018 NJ Senior State Championship - Official NJSCF Tournament \$1,000 guaranteed (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5 OR 6 OR 5-6, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 53rd Annual Greater NY Scholastic Championships - Since 1966, USCF's Longest-Running Scholastic! (NY)**  
See New York.

**JAN. 12-13, Dewey Beach Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 51st annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 16, Kasparov Chess Foundation Presents 10th Annual Greater Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Chess Championship (MD)**  
See Maryland.

**MAR. 9-10, Delaware State Open Chess Championship**  
See Grand Prix.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**DEC. 27-30, 28-30, 27, 29, OR 30, 45th Annual Eastern Open (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 16, Kasparov Chess Foundation Presents 10th Annual Greater Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Chess Championship (MD)**  
See Maryland.

**FEB. 22-24 OR 23-24, 4th annual George Washington Open (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

## FLORIDA

### Boca Raton Chess Club

Friday night tournament games, one game a week for 4 weeks. [www.bocachess.com](http://www.bocachess.com), 561-302-4377.

### The Stormont Kings Chess Center in Miami, FL

We have a beautiful office with multiple rooms located in the Kendall/Falls/Pinecrest Area. We offer Private and Group Lessons, Homeschool Activities, Tournaments, Camps, Family Game Nights, Parents Night Out, Casual Chess Play TSK Rated and more! Chess Sets and equipment for sale. Complimentary Bottled Water, Ample Parking, Comfortable Waiting Room with legos, and other activities for siblings while waiting. Located at 8353 SW 124 St, Suite 201-A, Miami, FL 33156. Contact Chris Stormont, Phone: 786-303-2437, E-mail: [chris@stormontkingschess.com](mailto:chris@stormontkingschess.com), Web: [www.StormontKingsChess.com](http://www.StormontKingsChess.com)

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 2018 Garden State Open (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 14-16, 2018 National K-12 Grade Championships**  
See Nationals.

**DEC. 15, Cagan Crossing Community Library 5-SS (or Round Robin), G/40 d5.** Cagan Crossings Library, 16729 Cagan Oaks Blvd., Clermont, FL. Off of U.S. Hwy 27/S.R. 25. Across Hwy from Lowes; Diagonally across from Walmart. Bring set and clock if possible. **ENTRY FEE:** \$20 mailed or brought to library. Make checks payable to: "FRIENDS OF CAGAN CROSSINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY". \$25 cash at door. GM fees waived. Seniors (65+), Juniors ≤16 years old, and USCF members with conditional ratings, \$10.00 or \$15.00 at door. Two sections divided at 1200 USCF rating. USCF membership & confirmed ID# required. Unrated (free) tournament being run concurrently, no membership or ID requirements. **PRIZES:** Guaranteed \$100/50/25 after 10 full-pay registrations pro-rated. Prizes then increase by \$40/20/10 after every 5 full-pay registrations. Chess trophies for winners of both tournaments. Junior player with best record in free tournament offered paid USCF membership. 9AM - 5PM. Arrive by 8:45 to register. **CONTACT:** Library #352-243-1840 for general info. **CONTACT:** Herb Pilgrim Cell: 352-396-1006 OR [librarychessclub@yahoo.com](mailto:librarychessclub@yahoo.com) for specifics.

**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, 2018 Charlotte Open (NC)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 26-30, New Orleans Open (LA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27, 16th Annual Georgia Chess Festival Time-Control Open (GA)**  
See Georgia.

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 48th Annual Atlanta Open (GA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 5th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 19-20, 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Classes (All Ages)" Championships (GA)**  
See Georgia.

**FEB. 1-3 OR 2-3, Central Florida 2019 Winter Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South**  
See Nationals.

**MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Southern Class Championships**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix.

## GEORGIA

**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, 2018 Charlotte Open (NC)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 26, 2018 Georgia Chess Festival Scholastics** 4-SS, Interactive College of Technology, 5227 New Peachtree Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341. 3 sections. **Middle School (K-8):** Trophies to Top Five Places; Highest Placed Unrated; Highest Placed Female. **Elementary (K-6):** Trophies to Top Five Places; Highest Placed Unrated; Highest Placed Female. **Primary (K-3):** Trophies to Top Five Places; Highest Placed Unrated; Highest Placed Female. **All:** Participants who do not win a trophy will receive a Participation Medal. Sections may be combined at the discretion of the Chief TD. **Entry Fee:** \$29, if rec'd by Dec. 25; \$33 at site. **Schedule:** Reg. ends 10:30am. Rds. 11:00am, 12:30am, 2:00pm, & 3:30pm. **Time Control:** G/30 d5. **Bring Set, Board, and Clock** - None Are Supplied By The Tournament Promoters. **Entries and Info:** [americanchesspromotions.com](http://americanchesspromotions.com), (478) 973 - 9389. PHONE CALLS ONLY AFTER DEC. 25 - no e-mails or TEXT messages, please.

**DEC. 26-30, New Orleans Open (LA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27, 16th Annual Georgia Chess Festival Time-Control Open** 4-SS, Interactive College of Technology, 5227 New Peachtree Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341. **\$1,000 b/45, \$600 guaranteed.** 2 sections. **Championship:** Open to All. \$250-\$150; Top 1800 - 2199, 1600 - 1799, 1400 - 1599, Under 1400: Each \$150. **Amateur:** Trophies to Top Seven Places; Top Two Places Each, 800 - 999 and Under 800; Highest Placed Each, Unrated and Female. **Entry fee (Championship):** \$30 if received by Dec. 26; \$35 at site. **Entry fee (Amateur):** \$25 if received by Dec. 26; \$30 at site. **Schedule:** Reg. ends 10:00am; Rounds 10:45am, 12:15pm, 2:15pm, & 4:45pm. **Time controls:** Rd. 1, G/30 d5; Rd. 2, G/45 d5; Rd. 3, G/60 d5; Rd. 4, G/75 d5. **1/2-Pt. Byes:** Available all rounds (limit one), must request before Rd. 1 (no changes afterwards). **Bring Set, Board, and Clock** - None Are Supplied By The Tournament Promoters. **Entries and Info:** [americanchesspromotions.com](http://americanchesspromotions.com), (478) 973 - 9389. PHONE CALLS ONLY AFTER DEC. 26 - no e-mails or TEXT messages, please.

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 48th Annual Atlanta Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 5th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 19, 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholastics Championships**

4-SS, Interactive College of Technology, 5227 New Peachtree Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341. 3 sections. **Middle School** (Open to players in grades K thru 8). **Elementary School** (Open to players in grades K thru 6). **Primary School** (Open to players in grades K thru 3). **PRIZES (each class):** Trophies to Top Five Places; Highest Placed Unrated; Highest Placed Female. **All:** Participants who do not win a trophy will receive a Participation Medal. Sections may be combined at the discretion of the Chief TD with all prizes awarded as advertised. **Entry Fee:** \$29, if rec'd by 18-JAN; \$33 at site. **Schedule:** Registration ends 11:00am. Rounds: 11:30am, 1:00am, 2:30pm, 4:00pm. **Time Control:** G/30 d10. **1/2-Pt. Byes:** Available any round (limit one) - must request 1/2-Pt. Byes before Round One (no changes afterwards). **Bring Set, Board, and Clock** - None Are Supplied By The Tournament Promoters. **Entries and Info:** [americanchesspromotions.com](http://americanchesspromotions.com), (478) 973 - 9389. PHONE CALLS ONLY AFTER 18-JAN - no e-mails or TEXT messages, please.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**JAN. 19-20, 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Classes (All Ages)" Championships**

5-SS, Interactive College of Technology, 5227 New Peachtree Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341. **\$3,500 b/70, \$2000 guaranteed.** 4 sections. **"SENIOR" Class:** Open to players born in 1969 or earlier. **"JUNIOR" Class:** Open to players born in 1970 thru 1984. **"SOPHOMORE" Class:** Open to players born in 1985 thru 1999. **"FRESHMAN" Class:** Open to players born in 2000 or later. **PRIZES (each class):** 1st - \$350 & "Class Championship" Plaque; 2nd - \$175; 1st Under 1800 and 1st Under 1500, each \$175. All Players Age 18 And Older Must Present Picture-ID With Birth Year At Registration/Check-In. The "USCF Ratings Supplement" used to determine a player's "official published rating" for competition will be the same as the month in which the tournament begins. **Entry Fee:** \$55 if rec'd by 18-JAN; \$60 at site. Unrated: \$30. **Schedule:** Registration ends SAT 10:00am. Rounds: SAT 10:30am, 3:00pm, 7:30pm; SUN 10:00am, 3:30pm. **Time controls:** G/90 d30. **1/2-Pt. Byes:** Available any round (limit two) - must request 1/2-Pt. Byes before Round One (no changes afterwards). **Players Must Bring Sets, Boards, and Clocks** - None Are Supplied By The Tournament Promoters. **Entries and Information:** [americanchesspromotions.com](http://americanchesspromotions.com), (478) 973 - 9389. PHONE CALLS ONLY AFTER 18-JAN - no e-mails or TEXT messages, please.

**FEB. 1-3 OR 2-3, Central Florida 2019 Winter Open (FL)**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South (FL)**  
See Nationals.

**MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)**  
See Grand Prix.

## HAWAII

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

## IDAHO

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

## ILLINOIS

**DEC. 22-23, 2018 North Central Open (WI)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5-6, Tim Just Winter Open XXXVI**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 15-17 OR 16-17, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - North**

See Nationals.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**  
See Grand Prix.

**APR. 12-14, 2019 All-Girls National Championships** presented by the Kasparov Chess Foundation in association with the Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation & US Chess  
See Nationals.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 28-30, 2019 U.S. Senior Open**  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 28-30, 2019 U.S. Junior Open**  
See Nationals.

## INDIANA

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 2018 Cleveland Holiday Open (OH)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5-6, Tim Just Winter Open XXXVI (IL)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix.

## IOWA

**DEC. 22-23, 2018 North Central Open (WI)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 3, Anti Hunger Games VI**  
2 sections: Open, RBO. **Time Control:** Open G/45 d5, RBO G/30 d5. **Location:** Christ the King Lutheran Church, 325 Melrose Ave., Iowa City, IA 52246. **Prizes:** Medals 1st thru 3rd, Open, 1st through 5th, RBO. **Reg.:** 15 min before round 1. **Rds.:** Open 10:00am, 12:30pm then ASAP RBO 10:00am, 12:00noon, then ASAP. **EF:** \$10 all sections. **ENT:** Eric Vigil, 445 Galway Dr., Iowa City, IA 52246. [evigil@gmail.com](mailto:evigil@gmail.com), 319-621-3116. **Special Info:** All proceeds above costs go to the Johnson County Crisis Center to feed the homeless. Bring a Can if you Can.

**JAN. 5-6, Tim Just Winter Open XXXVI (IL)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix.

## KANSAS

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix.

## KENTUCKY

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 2018 Cleveland Holiday Open (OH)**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 23, Black History Month Chess Classic: 2nd Annual Battle of the Kings & Queens**  
1228 East Breckinridge St., Louisville, KY 40204. **Entry fee:** \$15.00 Registration time starts at 10 a.m. Ends at 10:45 a.m. This is a fundraising tournament for the Kuumba Academy chess program. Affordable con-

cessions. Free parking. Cash prize raffles. **Conditions:** K/12 open rated. Everyone must be a United States Chess Federation member, G/30. No time delay. Quads, round robin, 3 rounds. First place winner receives a medal. Trophies available for the top 4 performing teams. <http://www.the.westlouisvillechessclub.com> for more information. Or contact [urban-louisvillechess@yahoo.com](mailto:urban-louisvillechess@yahoo.com).

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix.

## LOUISIANA

**DEC. 26-30, New Orleans Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South (FL)**  
See Nationals.

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)**  
See Grand Prix.

## MAINE

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 7th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, 28th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 4, Downeast Open**  
See Grand Prix.

## MARYLAND

### MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS

MD Chess runs scholastic tournaments 2 Saturdays per month from September through June & open tournaments 2 Saturdays or weekends per month throughout the year. Visit [www.MDChess.org](http://www.MDChess.org) to find tournament announcements, tutors, coaches, & camps; register online for tournaments; & subscribe to scholastic and/or open e-newsletters. MD scholastic players who compete in the Varsity section (exclusively for players rated 1600+) of a MD-Sweet-16 Qualifier can qualify for the \$45,000 scholarship to UMBC awarded annually. The University of Maryland, Baltimore County's chess team is a perennial top-10 contender for the national championship.

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 1st Annual Old Line Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 2018 Garden State Open (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, 2018 Charlotte Open (NC)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27-30, 28-30, 27, 29, OR 30, 45th Annual Eastern Open (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29-30, South Jersey Open - Dr. Leroy Dubeck Cup (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29-30, 2018 NJ Senior State Championship - Official NJSCF Tournament \$1,000 guaranteed (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 12-13, Dewey Beach Open (DE)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 51st annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21 OR 19-21, Chesapeake Open**  
See Grand Prix.

## FEB. 16, Kasparov Chess Foundation Presents 10th Annual Greater Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Chess Championship

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute & Western High School, 1400 W. Cold Spring Ln., Baltimore, MD 21209. Open to all K-12 players from anywhere. **5 Sections. Championship:** 1500+, K-12, 4SS, G/45 d5, Rds.: 9:30-11:30-1:30-3:30. **1000-1499:** 1000-1499, K-12, 5SS, G/35 d5, Rds.: 9:30-11:12:30-2:30. **U1000 HS & MS:** under 1000 or unr, 6-12, 5SS, G/30 d5, Rds.: 9:30-10:45-12:15-2:30. **500-999 K-5:** 500-999, K-5, 5SS, G/30 d5, Rds.: 9:30-10:45-12:15-2:30. **U500 K-5:** under 500 or unr, K-5, 5SS, G/25 d5, Rds.: 9:30-10:30-11:30-12:30-1:30. **Trophies** per section: top 25% of individuals; top 40% of teams. **EF:** \$30 through 02:12; \$45 through 02:14; \$60 by 8 AM, 02:16 (half-point bye possible in Rd. 1); \$80, 8-9 AM, 02:16 (on site; if space available; half-point bye likely in Rd. 1). Provided: sets, boards, scoresheets, & pencils. Bring chess clock. Food available for purchase. **Register:** [www.mdchess.com](http://www.mdchess.com). **Contact Email:** [tournaments@mdchess.com](mailto:tournaments@mdchess.com).

**FEB. 22-24 OR 23-24, 4th annual George Washington Open (VA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 9-10, Delaware State Open Chess Championship (DE)**  
See Grand Prix.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 2018 Garden State Open (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Reggie Boone Memorial**  
5SS, G/100 d5. Wachusett CC, McKay Complex, Room C159, Fitchburg State University, 67 Rindge Rd., Fitchburg, MA 01420. **EF:** \$20 annual club dues or \$1 per game. **Reg.:** 6:30-7 p.m. **Rds.:** 7:15 p.m. each Wed. **Byes:** 1-4, limit two. **Prizes:** chess books to 1st-2nd, top U1800, U1600, U1400. **Info:** George Mirijanian, 176 Oak Hill Rd., Fitchburg, MA 01420, [miriling2@aol.com](mailto:miriling2@aol.com), 978-345-5011. **Website:** [www.wachusettchess.org](http://www.wachusettchess.org). **WEB:** 1/2. Free parking, cafe facilities, skittles. W.

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 7th annual Boston Chess Congress**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5, 28th Mid-Winter Classic**  
3SS, G/90 d5. Florence Congregational Church, 130 Pine St., Florence, MA 01063. **EF:** \$30 on-site; \$25 if postmarked by 12/31/2018; WMCA \$2 discount; UNR: FREE. USCF membership required. **\$5500b/30 paying entries:** Open: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$75; U1800: 1st \$100, 2nd \$50; U1400: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25; Top Unrated \$50. Please bring set and clock. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:15 Saturday 1/5/2019. **Rds.:** 9:30am, 1:15pm, 4:30. Limit of one 1/2 point bye, specify round with entry. **ENT:** WMCA c/o Ed Kostreba, 45 Fairview, Palmer, MA 01069. **INFO:** Ron Gist (413)695-7689, [RonGist@ComCast.net](mailto:RonGist@ComCast.net). W.

**JAN. 5, Westford January Blitz (BLZ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5-6, Westford January Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5 OR 6 OR 5-6, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 53rd Annual Greater NY Scholastic Championships - Since 1966, USCF's Longest-Running Scholastic! (NY)**  
See New York.

**MAR. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)**  
See New York.

**APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, 28th annual Eastern Class Championships**  
See Grand Prix.

**APR. 17-21, 18-21 OR 19-21, 13th Annual Foxwoods Open (CT)**  
See Grand Prix.

## MICHIGAN

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 2018 Cleveland Holiday Open (OH)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 12-13, 2019 Michigan Master/Expert & Class Championships**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix.

## MINNESOTA

**DEC. 22-23, 2018 North Central Open (WI)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**  
See Grand Prix.

## MISSISSIPPI

**DEC. 26-30, New Orleans Open (LA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South (FL)**  
See Nationals.

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)**  
See Grand Prix.

# 7th annual BOSTON CHESS CONGRESS January 4-6 or 5-6, Hyatt Boston Harbor

**\$109 room rates, free parking, free airport shuttle  
\$12,000 projected prizes, \$8,000 minimum guaranteed**

For full details see "Grand Prix" in this issue.

**MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)**

See Grand Prix.

**MISSOURI****Knights of the Chess Table Chess Club**Edward Jones YMCA - All skill levels welcome, play casual chess and make friends. For club info, address and play schedule go to <https://knightssofthechestable.com/>**Wednesday Monthly Marathon**The Kansas City Chess Club, 2 S. Water St., Liberty, MO 64068. 2 Games Per Week (8-10 Games Per Month) G/30 d5 7PM Free Parking! Free Coffee and Snacks! **EF:** \$5 per week. Flyer at: [www.kansascitychessclub.com](http://www.kansascitychessclub.com).**DEC. 12, Knights of the Chess Table Chess Club**Wednesday - Game 30 d0, 3 Rounds SS. **EF:** \$2.00. **Reg.:** 6:00, Rds.: 6:15, 7:15, 8:15. No Prize Fund. Edward Jones YMCA, 12521 Marine Ave., St. Louis, MO 63146. **For more info:** 314 966 4985 or <https://knightssofthechestable.com>. Wheelchair Access, Refreshments Available, Unrated and Beginner Players Welcome. If possible, players should bring set, board and clock. USCF Membership Required.**DEC. 15-16, 2018 Club Championship (FIDE Rated)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 26, Knights of the Chess Table Chess Club**Wednesday - Game 30 d0, 3 Rounds SS. **EF:** \$2.00. **Reg.:** 6:00, Rds.: 6:15, 7:15, 8:15. No Prize Fund. Edward Jones YMCA, 12521 Marine Ave., St. Louis, MO 63146. **For more info:** 314 966 4985 or <https://knightssofthechestable.com>. Wheelchair Access, Refreshments Available, Unrated and Beginner Players Welcome. If possible, players should bring set, board and clock. USCF Membership Required.**JAN. 19, The 2019 Kansas City Chess Club Championship**Liberty United Methodist Church, 1001 Sunset Ave., Liberty, MO 64068. \$1200 in Prizes! 4SS, G/60 d5. **EF:** \$27 at Reg4Chess.com. \$35 onsite. **Reg.:** 8:30AM. Rd. 1 9:30AM. USCF & KCCA Memb Reg. **Info:** Ken at [kchess@gmail.com](mailto:kchess@gmail.com). See flyer at [kansascitychessclub.com](http://kansascitychessclub.com). Free Entry For ALL New and Unrated Players USCF Players!**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**NEBRASKA****MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**NEVADA****DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 28th annual North American Open**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29, North American Open Blitz (BLZ)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 10th annual Golden State Open (CA-N)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open**

See Nationals.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE****DEC. 22-23, New Hampshire Senior Championship**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 7th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, 28th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**NEW JERSEY****DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 1st Annual Old Line Open (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 2018 Garden State Open**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 15 (NOT DECEMBER 8), 99th Central Jersey Chess Tournament**Princeton Academy, 1128 Great Road, Princeton. 3 rated sections - Open, U1000, U600 - each K-12, 4 rounds, G/25 d5. 2 unrated sections - Intermediate (K-8), Beginners (K-8); 4 rounds. Trophies to 1st-3rd & top team per section, medals to all! \$35 pre-reg online by 12/13. \$45 on-site 1:15-1:45. Round 1 begins at 2:00pm. Register online: [www.njchess.com](http://www.njchess.com). Info: Grant Oen, [newjerseychess@gmail.com](mailto:newjerseychess@gmail.com)**DEC. 16, Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Championship in 5 sections**4SS. Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. All players with 2.5 points or more will receive a trophy! USCF Memb Req'd For Sections 3, 4 AND 5. For info, call 201-797-0330, email [chessdirector@icanj.net](mailto:chessdirector@icanj.net) or visit [icanj.net](http://icanj.net). ADV EF (pmk by Dec. 11th) \$35 At Site \$40 Reg ends 1/2 hr before 1st rd. Late entrants will receive a 1/2 pt bye for rd. 1. In 5 Sections: **Section 1 Junior Novice (not USCF rated):** Open to unr players K thru 2nd grade. Rds.: First Round 10:15 AM then ASAP. **Section 2 Novice (not USCF rated):** Open to unr players K thru 4th grade. Rds.: First Round 10:00 AM then ASAP. **Section 3 G/45 d5 U800:** Open to players rated below 800 and unrated players K thru 12th grade. Rds.: 9:45 AM, 11:30, 1:15, 3:00 PM. **Section 4 G/45 d5 U1200:** Open to players rated below 1200 and unrated players K thru 12th grade. Rds.: 9:45 AM, 11:30, 1:15, 3:00 PM. **Section 5 G/60 d5 U1400:** Open to All Ages rated below 1400 or unrated. Rds.: 9:30 AM, 11:45, 2:00, 4:30 PM. Enter online at [https://ica.jumbula.com/#/ica\\_tournaments](https://ica.jumbula.com/#/ica_tournaments) or mail checks to Diana Tulman, 28 Canterbury Ln., New Milford, NJ 07646. Make checks payable to International Chess Academy. W.**DEC. 16, Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA U1600 Championship**4SS, G/60 d5. Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. Open to all ages with rating below 1600. **Prize Fund (\$\$ b/25):** 1st - 3rd \$200, \$150, \$100, TU1400 \$50, TU1200 \$50, Call 201-797-0330, email [chessdirector@icanj.net](mailto:chessdirector@icanj.net) or visit [icanj.net](http://icanj.net) for more info. ADV EF (pmk by Dec. 11th) \$40. At Site \$45 Reg ends 1/2 hr before 1st rd. Late entrants will receive a 1/2 pt bye for rd. 1. **Rds.:** 9:30 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM. Enter online at [https://ica.jumbula.com/#/ica\\_tournaments](https://ica.jumbula.com/#/ica_tournaments) or mail to Diana Tulman, 28 Canterbury Lane, New Milford, NJ 07646. Make checks payable to International Chess Academy. W.**DEC. 16, Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Open Championship**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 16, Westfield G/50 Quads****New 12:15 start time!** 3-RR. G/45 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes:** \$60 to first in each section. **Register:** 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. **Rounds:** 12:15, 2:10, 4:05 p.m. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldchessclub@gmail.com), [www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html](http://www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html) **Note:** No tournament on 12/23.**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, 2018 Charlotte Open (NC)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27-29 OR 28-29, 37th annual Empire City Open (NY)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29, Hamilton Chess Club Quads**3RR, 40/80 15/30 15/30 d0. Full K. McManimon Hall, 320 Scully Ave., Hamilton Twp., NJ 08610. Quads open to all. **EF:** \$10. **Prizes:** \$25 per Quad. **Reg.:** 9-10:30am. **Rds.:** 10:30am-1:30pm-4:30pm. OSA. More information: [hamiltonchessclub.com](http://hamiltonchessclub.com) or 609-758-2326 leave message or text 609-351-2437. W.**DEC. 29-30, South Jersey Open - Dr. Leroy Dubeck Cup**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29-30, 2018 NJ Senior State Championship - Official NJSCF Tournament \$1,000 guaranteed**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 30, Westfield G/50 Octos****New 12:15 start time!** 3-SS. G/45 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes per 8-player section:** \$60-40-20. **Register:** 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. **Rounds:** 12:15, 2:10, 4:05 p.m. **Byes:** 1 allowed. Any round. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldchessclub@gmail.com), [www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html](http://www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html)**DEC. 31, New Year's Eve Blitz (BLZ)**354 Rock Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 (Education building, 2nd floor). Rounds start at 1:00pm, registration ends at 12:30pm. In three sections. Open: 9SS, G/5 d0. **Entry fee:** \$25 (\$30 onsite). **Prizes (b/o 90 - all entries):** \$200-\$100-\$50, Top U2000 \$50, Top U1800, \$50. Under 1600: 9SS, G/5 d0. **Entry fee:** \$25 (\$30 onsite). **Prizes (b/o 90 - all entries):** \$200-\$100-\$50, \$50 each to top U1400, U1200, U1000, U800. Unrated: 9SS, G/5 d0. **Entry fee:** \$15 (\$20 onsite). Surprise prizes to winners!**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 7th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5 OR 6 OR 5-6, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 53rd Annual Greater NY Scholastic Championships - Since 1966, USCF's Longest-Running Scholastic! (NY)**

See New York.

**JAN. 6, Westfield G/50 Quads****New 12:15 start time!** 3-RR. G/45 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes:** \$60 to first in each section. **Register:** 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. **Rounds:** 12:15, 2:10, 4:05 p.m. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldchessclub@gmail.com), [www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html](http://www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html)**JAN. 12, Princeton Day School**650 The Great Road. Plaques to top 3 school teams under 1000, top 8 in each section under 1000, and to top 3 in each section over 1000. Medals to all players. **MORNING SECTIONS:** 3 rds. G/55 d5, Sections for OVER 1000 rated players begin at 10:15 and must preregister: NEAR MASTERS (players K-12 OVER 1400), FUTURE MASTERS (players K-12 1200-1400), CLOSED (K-12 1000-1200). **AFTERNOON SECTIONS:** 4 rds. G/25 d5, Beginning at 12 noon (round times will be accelerated if possible): OPEN (Players K-12 U-1000), RESERVE (K-12 U-800), NOVICE II (K-8 U-600), NOVICE I (unrated K-8), K-1 (unrated), NO SCORE K-1 (novice). Pre-registration online, \$35 pay at the door. Info and online registration at <https://www.pds.org/school-life/chess-tournaments> On-site 11-12 noon \$45. Inquiries to Bonnie Waitzkin at [chesscoach2@gmail.com](mailto:chesscoach2@gmail.com).**JAN. 12-13, Dewey Beach Open (DE)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 13, Westfield G/50 Quads****New 12:15 start time!** 3-RR. G/45 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes:** \$60 to first in each section.**Register:** 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. **Rounds:** 12:15, 2:10, 4:05 p.m. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldchessclub@gmail.com), [www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html](http://www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html)**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 51st annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21 OR 19-21, Chesapeake Open (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 20, Westfield Winter Scholastic****New 12:15 start time!** Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. K-12. **3 Sections:** Open, U1250, U750. Open: 3-SS. G/40 d5. **Rounds:** 12:15, 2:00, 3:45 p.m. U1250 & U750: 4-SS. G/25 d5. **Rounds:** 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00 p.m. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes:** Trophies to Top 5 in each section. Tiebreaks used. See USCF Rule 34E. **Register:** 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldchessclub@gmail.com), <http://www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html>**JAN. 20, Westfield G/75****New event & time!** 2-SS, accelerated. G/70 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$5. **Prizes:** None. **Register:** 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. **Rounds:** 12:15, 3:00 p.m. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldchessclub@gmail.com), <http://www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html> **Notes:** Participation limited to adults (any rating) & L750+.**JAN. 27, Westfield G/50 Quads****New 12:15 start time!** 3-RR. G/45 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes:** \$60 to first in each section. **Register:** 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. **Rounds:** 12:15, 2:10, 4:05 p.m. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldchessclub@gmail.com), [www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html](http://www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html)**FEB. 3, Westfield Super Sunday Quads****Special 10:35 a.m. start time!** 3-RR. G/40 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes:** \$60 to first in each section. **Register:** 10:00-10:30 a.m. **Rounds:** 12:15, 2:10, 4:05 p.m. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldchessclub@gmail.com), [www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html](http://www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html)**FEB. 10, Thomas Elberling Memorial Quads****New 12:15 start time!** 3-RR. G/45 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$30, \$20 members. **Prizes:** \$60 to first in each section. **Register:** 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. **Rounds:** 12:15, 2:10, 4:05 p.m. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldchessclub@gmail.com), [www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html](http://www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html)**FEB. 16-18, World Amateur Team & 2019 U.S. Team East Championship**

See Nationals.

**FEB. 22-24 OR 23-24, 4th annual George Washington Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**A State Championship Event!****FEB. 24, New Jersey State Elementary Championship** 5SS, G/30 d5. Brookdale College, 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft, NJ 07738. Student Life Center, use Parking Lot #7 or #6; 5 minutes from Garden State Parkway exit 109. 2 Sections: Elementary (K-6) & Primary (K-3). **All:** Trophies to top 15 individuals, top 5 teams. Elementary & Primary: Top 5 in each grade. **Rds.:** 10 am then ASAP. Top 4 scores constitute the team score for Elementary; top 3 for Primary. **EF:** \$35 before 2/17, \$50 at site. USCF memb. req'd. **Reg.:** 8-9:00am After 9:00am 1/2 point bye for round 1. **Info:** 732 259-3881. **Ent:** Hal Sprechman, 66 Cromwell Ln., Jackson, NJ 08527 or online by Feb 23 at [www.NJSCF.org](http://www.NJSCF.org). Entries must include name, grade, school, section, date of birth, USCF ID and expiration date, mailing address, email address, phone number and entry fee. Checks made out to NJSCF.**A State Championship Event!****FEB. 24, New Jersey Junior High School Championship** 5SS, G/30 d5. Brookdale College, 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft, NJ 07738. Student Life Center, use Parking Lot #7 or #6; 5 minutes from Garden State Parkway exit 109. Section: JHS (K-9). **All:** Trophies to top 15 individuals, top 5 teams. **Rds.:** 10am then ASAP. Top 4 scores constitute team score. **EF:** \$35 before 2/17, \$50 at site. USCF memb. req'd. **Reg.:** 8-9:00 am. After 9:00 am, half-point bye for round one. **Info:** 732-259 3881 [halsprechman@gmail.com](mailto:halsprechman@gmail.com). **Ent:** Hal Sprechman, 66 Cromwell Ln., Jackson, NJ 08527 or online by Feb 23 at [www.NJSCF.org](http://www.NJSCF.org). Entries must include name, grade, school, date of birth, USCF ID #, & expiration date, mailing address, phone number & entry fee. Checks made out to NJSCF.**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****A State Championship Event!****MAR. 2-3, New Jersey High School Championship** 5SS, G/60 d10. Union County Vocational - Technical High School, 1776 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. **VARSITY (9-12):** 5 player team with one alternate allowed, coaches set order by strength, order must not be changed. Team average based on 5 highest ratings. Trophies to: top 10 Teams, top three players on boards 1-5. **EF:** \$150/team before 2/27/19. \$165 on site. **JUNIOR VARSITY (9-12):** 4 player team with one alternate allowed. Team average based on 4 highest ratings. Trophies to: top 10 teams, top 3 players boards 1-4. **EF:** \$120/team before 2/27/19, \$130 on site. **BOOSTER (K-12):** Top 4 individual players from each school constitute a team. Trophies to: top 10 players. Top 3 schools. **EF:** \$30 before 2/27/19, \$35 on site. **ALL ABOVE SECTIONS** USCF memb. required. **Rds.:** Sat 10, 12:45, 3:15; Sun 10, 12:45. **REG.:** on site 8-9:30am after 9:30 - 1/2 point bye for round 1. Please bring clocks and sets. **REG:** JIM MULLANAPHY, 98 Baird Rd., Millstone Twp., NJ 08535. Entries must include: name, grade, school, USCF ID # and expiration date for players; coaches need to supply: mailing address, email address, phone #. Checks made out to: NJSCF. **SIDE EVENT: MAR 3, SUNDAY, Boy Scout/Girl Scout/Non-Rated Section (K-12):** 5SS, G/15 d5. USCF Membership **Not required for this section only!** **EF:** \$20, registration 9:00 to 9:45. First Round 10am, other rounds ASAP. Limited number of Clocks and Sets available, if you have equipment please bring it. **REG.:** Same as above. Entries must include: name, age, address, phone # and Troop/Pack affiliation if any. **Online entries accepted at: WWW.NJSCF.org** until 10pm, 2/28/19. **QUESTIONS???** Contact: [Jmull@aol.com](mailto:Jmull@aol.com), 732-610-1357.

**MAR. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)**  
See New York.

**MAR. 9-10, Delaware State Open Chess Championship (DE)**  
See Grand Prix.

**APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, 28th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**APR. 17-21, 18-21 OR 19-21, 13th Annual Foxwoods Open (CT)**  
See Grand Prix.

## NEW MEXICO

**DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 28th annual North American Open (NV)**  
See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

## NEW YORK

**OCT. 21, NOV. 18, DEC. 9, JAN. 27, MAR. 3, MAY 5, 6th Annual Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League!**  
**Columbia Grammar and Prep. High School Cafeteria, 36 W. 93rd St. (bet. Central Park West & Columbus Ave., near 96th St. subways), NYC. 12-SS, G/60 d10, open to grades 7-12 born after 5/5/99. 3 sections: 1. Premier (over 1799 and special invitees), 2. Under 1800, 3. Under 1200. Plaques to top 3 each section. May be limited to 60 players each date. Individual free entry prizes: free entry to 2 specified Continental Chess tmts. thru 12/31/19 to 1st each section. Team prizes: free entry to 1 CCA tmt. thru 12/31/19 to the 4-top-scoring players from same school across all 3 sections, plaques to top 3 overall team scores, limit 2 teams per school. Mixed Doubles (2-player male/female team, avg. rating U2200, may be in different sections and from different schools, must sign-up by 1/27) Bonus Prize: free entry to 1 CCA tmt. thru 12/31/19 to 1st Mixed Doubles team, chess sets to top 3 overall Mixed Doubles. Free entries courtesy of Continental Chess and are valid for CCA tmts. with 100% guaranteed prizes; see www.magnusleague.org, www.chess-center.cc or www.chesstour.com for details and restrictions. Rds.: 10 am-12:45 pm (earlier if feasible) each date. Ent: www.magnusleague.org. All: Each date's games submitted for rating prior to next date's games. Players must re-confirm before each date; official USCF rating list in**

effect on each date used for that date (unofficial ratings usually used if otherwise unrated or if requesting to play in Premier). Unr. may enter section 2 or 3 (or Premier by TD permission). Limit 6 bytes (2 bytes max. rds. 9-12), commit by Jan. 27 (by May 3 for players with minus scores). Teammate pairings avoided but possible. Ties for free entries decided by tiebreak except playoff May 5 between top 2 on tiebreak (may be fast game). See www.magnusleague.org for rules and special situations. Special Bonus Points and/or prizes may be awarded each date! Bring clocks! Info: director@magnusleague.org, chesscentr@gmail.com, online entry thru 6 pm the day before each date at: www.magnusleague.org. Reg. on-site by 9:30 am. School purchase orders: Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553. W.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**DEC. 4-6, Marshall PREMIER**  
5-SS, G/90 +30. Two Sections: FIDE: FIDE Rated. Only open to players with a current published rating 2000+ (USCF or FIDE); NO exceptions. Limited to 34 players. \$1,750 GTD: \$1,000-500. U2300: \$250. EF: \$100; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$50 Mbr + service fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) First 5 GMs Free. U2000: Limited to 40 players. (\$1,000 b/40): \$500-200; U1750: \$150, U1500: \$150. EF: \$50; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: Fri. 7pm, Sat. & Sun. 12:30 & 5:30pm. Max two byes; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 7-9, 1st Manhattan International Chess Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 1st Annual Old Line Open (MD)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 2018 Garden State Open (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 15, Marshall U1900 Morning Action**  
4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1700: \$75. EF: \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. Max one bye; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 15, Marshall G/50 Open**  
4-SS, G/45 d5. (\$325 b/25): U2100: \$75. EF: \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMs Free. Rds.: 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 16, Marshall Rated Beginner (3 Rounds)**  
3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. EF: \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. No byes. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 16, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1600)**  
4-SS, G/45 d5. Two Sections: Open: (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U2000: \$75. U1600: (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1400: \$75. EF: \$20; Non-MCC

Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMs Free. Rds.: 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 18, Marshall Masters**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 20, Marshall Thursday Action**  
4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. EF: \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMs Free. Rds.: 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, 2018 Charlotte Open (NC)**  
See Grand Prix.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**DEC. 20, 27, JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, Marshall Thursday Open**  
6-SS, G/90 +30. (\$600 b/25): \$250-150-75; U1900: \$125. EF: \$40; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMs Free. Rds.: 7pm each Thurs. Max two byes; request by Rd. 4. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 21, Marshall Quick Chess (QC)**  
6-SS, G/10 +3. (\$250 b/25): \$125-75; U1700: \$50. EF: \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMs Free. Rds.: 7-7:30-8:00-8:45-9:15-9:45pm. Max two byes; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**DEC. 21-23, Marshall Monthly U2400**  
5-SS, G/90 +30. Open to players rated below 2400 USCF. \$1,000 GTD: \$500-200; U2100: \$150; U1800: \$150. EF: \$50; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: Fri. 7pm, Sat. & Sun. 12:30 & 5:30pm. Max two byes; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 22, Marshall G/50 (U1700)**  
4-SS, G/45 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1500: \$75. EF: \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 23, Marshall Rated Beginner**  
3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. EF: \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) Rds.: Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. No byes. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 27, Marshall Thursday Action**  
4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. EF: \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMs Free. Rds.: 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. Register Online: www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

# GOLD & SILVER AFFILIATES

**GOLD** Any affiliate that has submitted at least 50 US Chess memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Gold Affiliate. Gold Affiliates are honored in a special list in larger type in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and website. Gold Affiliation costs \$350 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract \$3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation, or \$20 for each month remaining on their Silver Affiliation. By paying an annual payment of \$500 (instead of \$350), Gold Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.

**SILVER** Any affiliate that has submitted at least 25 US Chess memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Silver Affiliate. These affiliates will be recognized in a special list in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, state, and choice of either phone number, e-mail address, or website. Silver Affiliation costs \$150 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract \$3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation. Alternatively, for an annual payment of \$250.00 (instead of \$150), the requirement for a minimum number of US Chess members will be waived.

Berkeley Chess School (CA)  
www.berkeleychessschool.org

Dallas Chess Club (TX)  
www.dallaschess.com

En Passant Chess Club (TX)  
td\_edg@tuc.com

Evangel Chess Club (AL)  
www.evangelchurch.me

Foot Hill Chess Club (CA)  
wade\_tavorn@khsd.k12.ca.us

Jersey Shore HS Chess League (NJ)  
shoreschessleague@yahoo.com

Little House of Chess, Inc. (NY)  
littlehouseofchess.com

Los Angeles Chess Club (CA)  
www.LAChessClub.com

Michigan Chess Association (MI)  
www.michess.org

Oklahoma Chess Foundation (OK)  
www.OCFchess.org

Rochester Chess Center (NY)  
http://www.chessset.com

Sparta Chess Club (NJ)  
www.spartachessclub.org

Success Chess School (CA)  
www.successchess.com

Bay Area Chess  
2050 Concourse Drive #42  
San Jose, CA 95131  
408-409-6596  
ask@bayareachess.com  
www.bayareachess.com

Cajun Chess  
12405 Hillary Step Drive  
Olive Branch, MS 38654  
504-208-9596  
cajunchess@yahoo.com  
www.cajunchess.com

Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis  
4657 Maryland Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314-361-CHESS  
info@saintlouischessclub.org  
www.saintlouischessclub.org

ChessNYC.com  
Michael Propper  
P.O. Box 189, 1710 1st Avenue  
New York, NY 10128  
212-475-8130  
info@chessnyc.com  
www.chessnyc.com

Continental Chess Association  
P.O. Box 8482  
Pelham, NY 10803  
director@chessus  
www.chesstour.com

Marshall Chess Club  
23 West 10th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
212-477-3716  
admin@marshallchessclub.org  
www.marshallchessclub.org

PaperClip Pairings  
c/o Remy Ferrari  
4 Jalapa Court  
Brownsville, TX 78526  
956-621-0377  
rferrari@bisd.us

San Diego Chess Club  
2225 Sixth Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-752-4377  
chucnglo@aol.com  
www.sandiegochessclub.org

**DEC. 27-29 OR 28-29, 37th annual Empire City Open**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 28, Marshall \$500 FIDE Blitz (BLZ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1800)**  
4-SS, G/45 d5. Two Sections: **Open:** (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U2200: \$75. **U1800:** (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1600: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. **Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**DEC. 29-30, South Jersey Open - Dr. Leroy Dubeck Cup (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29-30, 2018 NJ Senior State Championship - Official NJSCF Tournament \$1,000 guaranteed (NJ)**  
See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 30-JAN. 1, New Year's Ridiculousness Insane Person Championship!**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Community Chess Club of Rochester Wed Night Chess!**

Note: 1 game rated per night, G/80 d5. Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-442-2430. **EF:** \$5, CCCC members \$3. **Reg.:** 6:30-7:20 pm. **Rd.:** 7:30pm. www.rochesterchessclub.org.

**JAN. 3, Marshall Guaranteed Action!**  
4-SS, G/25 d5. **\$350 GTD:** \$125-75; U2200, U1900: \$75. **EF:** \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) G/MS Free. **Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 10th Long Island CC Winter Open**  
5SS, G/90 d5. United Methodist Church, 470 East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. **Open to all. \$(b/20 pd. ent.):** \$110-90. Top U-2000, U-1500/unr. \$60 ea. **EF:** \$35. Non-LICC members +\$10. UNRATED FREE! **Reg.:** 6-45 - 7:15 PM, no adv. ent., **Rds.:** 7:30 PM ea. Thursday. 2 byes 1-5. **Info:** www.lichessclub.com.

**JAN. 4, 5th Annual Greater NY Scholastics Friday Night Blitz! (BLZ)**  
4SS, G/5 d0, double-round, 8 games. NY Marriott At Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St., Brooklyn (see Greater NY Scholastics: 1/5-6). **EF:** \$30, parents, alumni & those with Greater NY Scholastics \$20. Trophies: top 3, Top U1800, U1500/Unr. Reg. on-site 6-6:45 pm. **Rds.:** 7-7:30-8-8:30 pm. Bye OK rd. 1. Blitz-rated, but higher of regular or blitz rating used for pairings, prizes. W.

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 7th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 5th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 4, 11, 18, 25, Queens CC January Open**

4-SS, Game/90 d5. All Saints Lutheran Church, 164-02 Goethals Ave., Jamaica, NY 11432. **EF:** \$35, QCC \$25. **\$250 GTD** — \$150, \$100 — Other Prizes Per Entries. — Up to Two 1/2 pt. Byes Permitted - Request Prior to Round 3. **REG.:** 7PM- 7:30PM. **RDS.:** 7:45PM each Friday. Mail advance entries by 12/21/2018. **ENT:** Joseph J. Felber; 76 Union Avenue; Apt. 1-W, Amityville, NY 11701- 3033 — Tel. (516) 214- 5232.

**JAN. 5, TRM132**

at Albany HS, 700 Washington Ave., Albany 12203. **Free.** Pre-register early www.chesstrm.org (required) 4/SS, G/30 d5. Rd. 1 at 10:00.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 5 OR 6 OR 5-6, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 53rd Annual Greater NY Scholastic Championships - Since 1966, USCF's Longest-Running Scholastic!**

**Beautiful hotel site: NY Marriott Hotel At Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams Street (near Borough Hall), Brooklyn, NY. Nearby subway stations: Jay Street Metrotech (A, C, F & R trains), Borough Hall (2, 3, 4 & 5 trains). Hotel policy prohibits food not purchased from hotel in meeting areas! Online entries at www.gnyscc.com: 1-Day Sections: \$65 thru 12/21/18, \$75 12/22-28, \$85 12/29/18-1/3/19; Championship Sections, \$75 thru 12/21/18, \$85 12/22-12/28, \$95 12/29/18-1/3/19. Help available for group entries of 5/more: webmaster@gnyscc.com; online fees are only valid using our website. For mail entries see www.gnyscc.com or www.chesscenter.cc. On-site entry fee: \$110 the day before your game (starting 8 pm 1/4), \$120 on day of event until 1 hour before game. May be limited to 1,500 players (also limited to smaller number of players on each day!) Entries may be subject to waiting list. In 14 sections! Each section has its own age, grade and rating requirements (Championship sections open to all who are under grade and age limits; unrated allowed all sections). The 5 Championship sections are each 2 days (High School Championship, Junior High Championship, Elementary Championship, Primary Championship and K1 Championship): 6-SS, G/60 d10. **Rounds:** 10 am-1-4 pm Sat; 9 am-12-2:45 pm Sun. Awards ceremonies about 5:30 pm Sun. The 9 non-Championship sections are each 1-day, 5-SS, G/30 d5. **Playing on Saturday are:** High School Under 1900, High School Under 1200, Elementary Under 1500, Elementary Under 1100, Elementary Under 700: 10 am-12-1:30-3-4:30 pm, Awards about 6 pm. **Playing on Sunday with earlier starting times are:** Junior High Under 1300, Primary Under 1000, Primary Under 600 and K1 Under 400: 9-11 am-12:30-2-3:30 pm Sun. Awards about 5 pm. Both K-1 sections open to grade 1/below born after 1/6/11. All 3 Primary sections open to grades 3/below born after 1/6/09. All 4 Elementary sections open to grades 6/below born after 1/6/06. Both Junior High sections open to grades 9/below born after 1/6/03. All 3 High School sections open to grades 12/below born after 1/6/99. Trophies to top 15 in each Championship and all Elementary, Primary and K1 sections; top 10 in other sections, top 3 U1500 in High School U1900, Top 3 U900/Unr in High School U1200 and Junior High U1300; Top 3 U1300 in Elementary U1500; top 3 U900 in Elementary U1100; top 3 U800 in Primary U1000; top 3 Unr. in Elementary U700, Primary U600 and**

K1 U400. Trophies also to top 6 teams each section (top 4 scores from same school = team, all on team must attend same school: no combined teams, even if one school "feeds" another). **Grade plaques:** top 3 Kindergartners in each K1 section, top 3 scorers below 7th Grade in Junior High U1300, Top 3 below 9th grade in High School U1200 (you can win both plaque + trophy). All players scoring 4 or more (5 or more in Championship) who don't win a trophy receive a medal! Speed playoff for 5-0 or 6-0. **Individual free entry prizes** (each Championship section): **Free entry to specified Continental Chess tournaments** thru 12/31/19 to 1st, thru 9/30 to 2nd, thru 8/20 to 3rd, thru 6/20 to 4th. **Individual free entry prizes** (each non-Championship section): Free entry to specified Continental Chess tmts. thru 11/15/19 to 1st, thru 8/20 to 2nd, thru 6/20 to 3rd, thru 4/25 to 4th. **Team free entry prizes:** free entry to specified CCA tmts. thru 8/20/19 to 1st team, thru 6/20 to 2nd team each section! Free entries courtesy of Kasparov Chess Foundation and are valid for Continental Chess tmts. with 100% unconditionally guaranteed prize funds. Free entries do not include NYS Scholastics in Saratoga. See www.chesscenter.cc or www.gnyscc.com or www.chesstour.com for complete details and restrictions. **High School Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes** (best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all 3 High School sections after 5 rounds): chess sets to 1st 5 **Mixed Doubles teams;** free entry to specified CCA tmts. thru 8/20/19 to 1st team, thru 6/20 to 2nd, thru 4/15 to 3rd. Team average must be U2200; Mixed Doubles teammates may play in different sections and may attend different schools; teams must register on-site (no extra charge!) before rd. 3; teammate pairings avoided but possible. **All:** January 2019 official ratings used, except unofficial ratings at uschess.org usually used if otherwise unrated. TD reserves right to assign estimated ratings to players with non-USCF ratings or unrated. All substitutions from advance entry list charged late fee. Section switches subject to \$10 extra charge per player thru 12/28, \$20 extra later. \$15 service charge for each player refund. TD reserves right to reassign sections for advance entries with incorrect or unclear registrations. Limit 2 byes, commit before rd. 3. **Important: Code of Conduct at www.gnyscc.com and www.chesscenter.cc applies to players, parents, coaches and spectators.** HR \$174, call 877-303-0104 or 718-246-7000 by 12/17 (rooms may sell out early), mention chess. Help with entries, parking, etc.: www.gnyscc.com **Questions:** director@gnyscc.com or 347-201-2269 (leave message but email is better; on Jan 5-6 also call 718-246-7000). **Team rooms: teamrooms@gnyscc.com.** Sets provided by Little House of Chess— **bring clocks!** W, **Info:** www.gnyscc.com. **School purchase orders: Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553.**

**JAN. 5, 12, 19, 26, Rochester Chess Center Saturday Tournaments!**

3-SS, G/60 d5. Rochester CC, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-442-2430. Prizes based on entries. **EF:** \$15, RCC members \$13. \$2 less for HS and Pre-HS. **Reg.:** 1-1:45 pm. **Rds.:** 2-4-6. One bye available, request at entry. www.ny chess.org. **Also,** Youth tournament, G/30 d5, every Saturday morning 10am-1pm, trophies and prizes. **EF:** \$5.

# CHECK OUT US CHESS CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS!

## 2018 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

US CHESS  
71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL

**\$800 FIRST PRIZE**

(PLUS TITLE OF US CHESS GOLDEN KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

**2ND PLACE \$500 • 3RD \$300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE \$100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: \$25**

These US Chess Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all US Chess members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those US Chess members with an APO or FPO address. US Chess members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to US Chess Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength: **Class A:** 1800-1999 (very strong); **Class B:** 1600-1799 (strong); **Class C:** 1400-1599 (intermediate); **Class D:** 1399 and below (beginner level). **Note:** Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

## 2018 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship

US CHESS  
15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**\$800 FIRST PRIZE**

(PLUS TITLE OF US CHESS ELECTRONIC KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

**2ND PLACE \$500 • 3RD \$300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE \$100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: \$25**

These US Chess Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all US Chess members with e-mail access. Your US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player is ten. **Note:** Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

**TO ENTER: 800-903-USCF(8723) OR FAX 931-787-1200 OR ONLINE AT WWW.USCHESS.ORG**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ US CHESS ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
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To pay with credit card please call US Chess.

Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated.  
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### Correspondence Chess Matches (two players)

TWO OR SIX-GAME OPTIONS. ENTRY FEE: \$5.

WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY

Four-player, double round-robin with rating-level (0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+) pairings. 1st-place winner receives a trophy.

ENTRY FEE: \$10.

VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas.

ENTRY FEE: \$25.

JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENTS

Four-player, double round-robin with rating-level (0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+) pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st-place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate.

ENTRY FEE: \$7.

### Email Rated Events (need email access)

LIGHTNING MATCH

Two players with two or six-game option.

ENTRY FEE: \$5.

SWIFT QUADS

Four-player, double round-robin format. 1st-place prize US Chess CC entry credit of \$30. Rating-levels 0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+.

ENTRY FEE: \$10.

WALTER MUIR E-QUADS (WEBSEVER CHESS)

Four-player, double round-robin webserver format tournament with class-level pairings. 1st-place receives a certificate.

ENTRY FEE: \$7.

### Please check event(s) selected.

**NOTE:** Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Walter Muir E-Quads & Electronic Knights, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

**JAN. 6, Marshall Rated Beginner**

3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. **EF:** \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. No byes. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 7, 14, 79th Nassau Action**

See Grand Prix.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 7, 14, 21, 28, FEB. 4, 11, Marshall FIDE Monday/U1800**  
6-SS, G/90 +30. Two Sections: **Open:** Open to all players 1600+. FIDE Rated. (\$600 b/25) \$200-150-100; U2000: \$100-50. **U1800:** (\$600 b/25) \$200-150-100; U1500: \$100-50. **EF:** \$40; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7pm each Mon. Max two byes; request by Rd. 4. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 9, 16, 23, 30, FEB. 6, Marshall Weekly Wednesday**  
6-SS, G/90 +30. Two Sections: **U2000:** (\$600 b/25) \$250-150-100; U1700: \$100. **U1400:** (\$600 b/25) \$250-150-100; U1100: \$100. **EF:** \$40; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** 7pm each Wed. Max two byes; request by Rd. 4. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 10, Marshall Thursday Action**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. **EF:** \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 11, Marshall Friday Night Blitz (BLZ)**

9-SS, G/3 +2. USCF regular rating used for pairings & prizes. (\$500 b/35): \$200-100; U2400/Unr, U2200, U2000, U1800: \$50. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** Begin at 7pm and continue ASAP. Max three byes; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 12, Marshall U1900 Morning Action**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1700: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 12, Marshall G/50 Open**

4-SS, G/45 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U2100: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 13, Marshall Rated Beginner (3 Rounds)**

3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. **EF:** \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. No byes. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 13, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1600)**

4-SS, G/45 d5. Two Sections: **Open:** (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U2000: \$75. **U1600:** (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 13, "Think & Do"**

at Riverbank State Park, 145th St. & Riverside Dr., NYC 10025. **Free.** Pre-register early www.chessstr.org/NYC/ (required) 4/SS, G/30 d5. Check-in by 9:30 to play round 1.

**JAN. 15, Marshall Masters**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 17, Marshall Thursday Action**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. **EF:** \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 18, Marshall 3rd Friday Quads - NEW**

3-RR, G/25 d5. Registration ends at 6:30pm sharp. \$50 prize to each winner. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30pm. No byes allowed; \$25 Forfeit fee charged for dropping out before the completion of the tournament. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 18-20, Marshall Monthly U2400**  
5-SS, G/90 +30. Open to players rated below 2400 USCF. **\$1,000 GTD:** \$500-200; U2100: \$150; U1800: \$150. **EF:** \$50; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Fri, 7pm, Sat. & Sun. 12:30 & 5:30pm. Max two byes; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 51st annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21 OR 19-21, Chesapeake Open (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 19, Marshall G/50 (U1700)**

4-SS, G/45 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1500: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 19-21 OR 20-21, 1st Manhattan Classical Chess Championship**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 20, Marshall Rated Beginner**

3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. **EF:** \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. No byes. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 21, MLK Day Action!**

6-SS, G/25 d5. (\$225 b/25): \$200-100; U2300, U2000, U1700: \$75. **EF:** \$30; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 11am-12:15-1:30-3:00-4:15-5:30pm. Max two byes; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 24, Marshall Thursday Action**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. **EF:** \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 25, Marshall \$500 FIDE Blitz (BLZ)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 25-27, Marshall Senior Classic**

5-SS, G/90 +30. Open to players age 50+; 40 player max. **\$1,500 GTD:** \$500-250; U2200: \$250; U2000: \$250; Top scoring player age 65+ : \$250. **EF:** \$50; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Fri, 7pm, Sat. & Sun. 12:30 & 5:30pm. Max two byes; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 26, Marshall G/50 Open**

4-SS, G/45 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U2100: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 27, Marshall G/50 Open**

4-SS, G/45 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U2100: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**JAN. 31, Marshall Thursday Action**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. **EF:** \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**JAN. 31, FEB. 7, 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, Marshall Thursday Open**  
6-SS, G/90 +30. (\$600 b/25): \$250-150-75; U1900: \$125. **EF:** \$40; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7pm each Thurs. Max two byes; request by Rd. 4. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**FEB. 1-3, Marshall PREMIER**

5-SS, G/90 +30. Two Sections: **FIDE:** FIDE Rated. Only open to players with a current published rating 2000+ (USCF or FIDE); No exceptions. Limited to 34 players. **\$1,750 GTD:** \$1,000-500. U2300: \$250. **EF:** \$100; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$50 Mbr + service fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) First 5 **GMS Free. U2000:** Limited to 40 players. (**\$1,000 b/40:**) \$500-200; U1750: \$150, U1500: \$150. **EF:** \$50; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Fri, 7pm, Sat. & Sun. 12:30 & 5:30pm. Max two byes; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 3, Marshall Rated Beginner**

3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. **EF:** \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. No byes. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 7, Marshall Guaranteed Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. **\$350 GTD:** \$125-75; U2200, U1900: \$75. **EF:** \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 8, Marshall Friday Night Blitz (BLZ)**

9-SS, G/3 +2. USCF regular rating used for pairings & prizes. (\$500 b/35): \$200-100; U2400/Unr, U2200, U2000, U1800: \$50. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** Begin at 7pm and continue ASAP. Max three byes; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 9, Marshall U1900 Morning Action**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1700: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 9, Marshall G/50 Open**

4-SS, G/45 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U2100: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 10, Marshall Rated Beginner (3 Rounds)**

3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. **EF:** \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. No byes. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 10, Marshall G/50 (Open & U1600)**

4-SS, G/45 d5. Two Sections: **Open:** (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U2000: \$75. **U1600:** (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before

Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**FEB. 13, 20, 27, MAR. 6, 13, 20, Marshall Weekly Wednesday**  
6-SS, G/90 +30. Two Sections: **U2000:** (\$600 b/25) \$250-150-100; U1700: \$100. **U1400:** (\$600 b/25) \$250-150-100; U1100: \$100. **EF:** \$40; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** 7pm each Wed. Max two byes; request by Rd. 4. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 14, Marshall Thursday Action**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$400 b/25): \$150-75; U2200, U1900: \$75; Biggest upset: \$25. **EF:** \$25; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 15, Marshall 3rd Friday Quads - NEW**

3-RR, G/25 d5. Registration ends at 6:30pm sharp. \$50 prize to each winner. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7-8:15-9:30pm. No byes allowed; \$25 Forfeit fee charged for dropping out before the completion of the tournament. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**FEB. 15-17, Marshall Monthly U2400**

5-SS, G/90 +30. Open to players rated below 2400 USCF. **\$1,000 GTD:** \$500-200; U2100: \$150; U1800: \$150. **EF:** \$50; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Fri, 7pm, Sat. & Sun. 12:30 & 5:30pm. Max two byes; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 16, Marshall G/50 (U1700)**

4-SS, G/45 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100; U1500: \$75. **EF:** \$20; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** 12-2-4-6pm. Max one bye; request at entry. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 17, Marshall Rated Beginner**

3-SS, G/25 d5. Only open to players without a rating or rated U1200. (\$225 b/25): \$150-75. **EF:** \$15; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **Rds.:** Begin at 9am & continue ASAP. No byes. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**FEB. 18, 25, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 25, Marshall FIDE Monday/U1800**  
6-SS, G/90 +30. Two Sections: **Open:** Open to all players 1600+. FIDE Rated. (\$600 b/25) \$200-150-100; U2000: \$100-50. **U1800:** (\$600 b/25) \$200-150-100; U1500: \$100-50. **EF:** \$40; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) **GMS Free. Rds.:** 7pm each Mon. Max two byes; request by Rd. 4. **Register Online:** www.marshallchessclub.org/register.

**FEB. 22-24 OR 23-24, 4th annual George Washington Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

*An American Classic!  
A Heritage Event!*

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!  
A State Championship Event!**

**MAR. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state weekend)**

6SS, G/60 d10, open to grades K-12; top NYS player & team each section are NY champions. In 14 sections. **High School Sections** at Courtyard by Marriott, 11 Excelsior Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (2/5 mile from Saratoga Hilton). **Other 11 sections** at Saratoga Hilton and adjacent Saratoga City Center (connected by indoor walkway), 534 Broadway (1-87 Exit 13-N, 4 miles north on US 9), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Sections at Hilton/City Center are limited to a total of 1100 players, sections at Marriott 300 players. **Team prizes** based on top 4 scores from same school; no combined school teams allowed even if one school "feeds" another. Teams of 2 or 3 allowed, but are at a disadvantage. **Online entry fee at chessaction.com, all sections:** \$69 by 2/14, \$79 2/15-3/1, \$90 3/2 to 3/8. **EF at site,** all sections **100. HS Championship** (all K-12 born after 9/1/99): **EF** \$75.30 mailed by 2/14. Top NYS grade 9-12 qualifiers for Denker Tournament of HS Champions. **K-12 Under 1800/Unr:** **EF** \$75.20 mailed by 2/14. **K-12 Under 1200/Unr:** **EF** \$75.10 mailed by 2/14. **JHS Championship (all K-9):** **EF** \$75 mailed by 2/14. Top NYS grade K-8 born after 9/1/03 qualifies for Barber tournament of K-8 Champions. **K-8 Under 1600/Unr:** **EF** \$74.90 mailed by 2/14. **K-8 Under 900/Unr:** **EF** \$74.80 mailed by 2/14. **Elementary Championship** (all K-6): **EF** \$74.70 mailed by 2/14. **K-6 Under 1400/Unr:** **EF** \$74.60 mailed by 2/14. **K-6 Under 1000/Unr:** **EF** \$74.50 mailed by 2/14. **K-6 Under 600/Unr:** **EF** \$74.40 mailed by 2/14. **Primary Championship** (all K-3): **EF** \$74 mailed by 2/14. **K-3 Under 800/Unr:** **EF** \$73.90 mailed by 2/14. **K-1 Championship** (all K-1): **EF** \$73.80 mailed by 2/14. **K-1 Under 400/Unr:** **EF** \$73.70 mailed by 2/14. **Postmarked 2/15-26:** All **EF** \$10 more. Do not mail entry after 2/26. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or paid at site, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Trophies** to top 10 players & top 7 teams each section, top 2 unrated in U1200, U900, U800, U600 & U400, and top 2 each U1900, U1700 (HS), U1600, U1400 (HS U1800), U1000, U800, U600 (HS U1200), U1800, U1600, U1400 (JHS), U1400, U1200, U1000 (MS U1600), U700, U500, U300 (MS U900), U1700, U1500 (Elem), U1200, U1000 (K-6 U1400), U800, U700 (K-6 U1000), U500, U400, U300 (Elem U600), U1400, U1200, U1000 (Primary), U600, U500, U400, U300 (Primary U800), U800, U600, U400 (K-3), U300, U200 (K-1 U400). Speed playoff if perfect score tie. **Free entry** to NY State Championship, Labor Day weekend 2019 (Albany), to top player each section, if not already qualified for free entry from another event. **Mixed doubles prizes**(chess sets) for three HS sections combined; no extra fee; enter at Marriott by Sat 2 pm. **Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2, 5, Sun 9, 12, 3. **Awards** 5:30 pm. **Half**

**point byes** OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd. 2. **HR:** \$143-143 at Hilton, two nights minimum, 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, or use link at chesstour.com. Backup hotel: Courtyard by Marriott, two nights minimum, \$135-135, 866-210-9325 or use link at chesstour.com. 7 days notice required to cancel room reservations at Hilton; first night at Courtyard is nonrefundable, 48 hours notice required to cancel other nights. Free parking at both. Each is likely to sell out about 3 months before the tournament, but may again have availability in the final week before the event due to late cancellations. For backup hotels see chesstour.com. **Special car rentals:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633. **Online entry:** www.chessaction.com. **Mail entry:** Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Include name, rating, USCF ID, USCF expiration (non-members include dues), section, school, grade, birth date, address of each player. Checks payable to Continental Chess. **\$15 per player** service charge for refunds. **\$10 extra to switch** sections, all substitutions from advance list charged \$90. **Questions:** director@chess.us, 347-201-2269 (leave message, email is better). **Bring clock** if possible- none supplied. **Bring set & board** for HS sections; set & board supplied for other sections, but not for skilltes. **March official ratings used** (except unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated). TD reserves right to assign estimated rating to players with non-USCF ratings. **Electronic devices rules:** see <http://chesstour.com/devices.htm>; players are not allowed to possess cellphones during play.

**MAR. 10, NY State Scholastics Parents & Friends Tournament** 4SS, G/30 d5. Saratoga Hilton & adjacent Saratoga City Center, 534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. **EF:** \$30; \$10 less to NY Scholastics parents, friends, coaches, alumni. Trophies to top 3. **Reg.:** Sun 9:30-10:15 am, rds. 10:30-12:1:30-3. Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied.

**APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, 28th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)** See Grand Prix.

**APR. 17-21, 18-21 OR 19-21, 13th Annual Foxwoods Open (CT)** See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)** See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)** See Nationals.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Marion Monthly (1st, 2nd) Tuesday Free Rated Game Nights Open** 2-SS, G/60 d0. Marion Senior Center (next to YMCA), 100 Spaulding Rd., Marion, NC 28752. **EF:** \$0, **Reg.:** 5:15. **Rnds:** 5:30. **Prizes:** \$0. USCF membership required. Section/s based on number of entries. Side Event: Match play is welcome. **Info:** email dgmyers1234@gmail.com

**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, 2018 Charlotte Open** See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27, 16th Annual Georgia Chess Festival Time-Control Open (GA)** See Georgia.

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 48th Annual Atlanta Open (GA)** See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 1, 2019 Ticks** See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 19-20, 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Classes (All Ages)" Championships (GA)** See Georgia.

**JAN. 25-27, Land of the Sky XXXII** See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South (FL)** See Nationals.

**MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)** See Grand Prix.

## NORTH DAKOTA

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)** See Grand Prix.

## OHIO

**DEC. 15, House of Chess Challenge #14** 4SS, G/45 d5. House Of Chess, 4954 Great Northern Mall, North Olmsted, OH 44070. **EF:** \$30, **Sections:** Open, U2000, U1600, U1200. **Registration:** Online at thehouseofchess.com or 12-1:pm at site. **Rds.:** 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00. **Prizes:** \$975 b/50. **Open:** \$250, \$125. **U2000:** \$150, \$75. **U1600:** \$150, \$75. **U1200:** \$100, U1000 \$50, Sections may be merged if low number in sections. **Info:** Contact Lary Rust, 216-926-9502 or info@thehouseofchess.com.

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 2018 Cleveland Holiday Open** See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 25-27 OR 26-27, 2019 Cardinal Open (Open Section FIDE Rated)** See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)** See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)** See Grand Prix.

## OKLAHOMA

**DEC. 26-30, New Orleans Open (LA)** See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)** See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)** See Grand Prix.

## OREGON

**DEC. 16, Portland Chess Club Sunday Quads** PCC, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR 97219. The live regular ratings are usually used. G/50;inc15. **EF:** 15, 5 discount for PCC members and each extra family member in the same household, free entry if it's your first US Chess rated tournament (must pay for US Chess membership). US Chess membership required. **Prizes:** discounted entries, books, and bonus trophy or medal for scholastics. **Reg.:** 9-9:45am. **Rd.:** 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm. See more info. and rule variations used at pdxchess.org.

**DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 28th annual North American Open (NV)** See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 10th annual Golden State Open (CA-N)** See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)** See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)** See Nationals.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Chaturanga Chess Club** Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Hatboro, PA. Visit <http://www.chaturangachessclub.org/> or email [chaturanga@verizon.net](mailto:chaturanga@verizon.net).

**North Penn Chess Club** Main & Richardson, Lansdale, PA. See [www.northpennchessclub.org](http://www.northpennchessclub.org) for schedules & info or 215-699-8418.

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 1st Annual Old Line Open (MD)** See Grand Prix.

# 10th annual Southwest Class Championships

## Feb 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 or 17-18 (Presidents weekend), Fort Worth, Texas

### \$33,000 guaranteed prizes, GM & IM norms possible, 200 GPP!

**Master Section:** 9 rounds, Feb 14-18. **Expert, Class A:** 7 rounds, Feb 15-18 or 16-18. **B, C, D or E:** 7 rounds, Feb 15-18, 16-18 or 17-18. **All merge,** play for same prizes. **Time control** 40/2, SD/30 d10 (3-day rds 1-2 G/60 d10, 2-day rds 1-4 G/30 d10).

**DFW Airport Marriott South,** 4151 Centreport Blvd, Fort Worth TX 76155, Free parking, free airport shuttle.

**7 sections;** rated players may play up one section. Unr may enter A-E.

**Master** (USCF 2200/up): \$3000-2000-1200-800-600-500-400-400, clear/tiebreak 1st \$200, FIDE U2300/Unr \$1800-900. FIDE rated.

**Expert** (USCF 2000-2199), **Class A** (1800-1999), **Class B** (1600-1799): each \$2000-1000-500-300-200.

**Class C** (1400-1599), \$1700-900-500-300-200.

**Class D** (1200-1399), **Class E** (Under 1200): \$800-400-300-200-100.

**Unrated prize limit:** E \$100, D \$200, C \$300, B \$400, A \$600.

**Mixed doubles** (see TLA): \$1000-600-400. Master Section, rds 1-7 only.

**Master Section entry fee:** \$228 at chessaction.com by 2/13, \$250 at site. GM minimums, titled/foreign entry, mail entry: see TLA or chesstour.com.

**Expert to C entry fee:** \$158 at chessaction.com by 2/14, \$180 at site, or online to 2 hours before rd 1.

**Class D or E sections:** All fees \$80 less than Expert to Class C.

**Re-entry** (except Master): \$60.

**No checks** at site, credit cards OK.

**Special USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: see chesstour.com or TLA. US Chess membership required.

**Cellphone possession** during play not allowed (in bag near table OK).

**5-day schedule:** Reg. ends Thu 6 pm, Thu 7, Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15.

**4-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, Rds Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15.

**3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15.

**2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sun 9 am, rds. Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:15.

**Half point byes** OK all, limit 2; Master must commit before rd 3, others before rd 4.

**All:** Bring clock, set, board if possible- none supplied. Unofficial rating usually used if otherwise unr.

**Hotel rates:** \$103-103, 817-358-1700 or use link at chesstour.com, reserve by 1/29 or rate may increase.

**Entry:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds.

**Questions:** Director@Chess.US, [www.chesstour.com](http://www.chesstour.com), 347-201-2269.

**Entries** posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

**Blitz tournament** Sun. 10:30 pm.

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 2018 Garden State Open (NJ)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 15, 11th Annual David Elliott Memorial Cup**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, 2018 Charlotte Open (NC)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27-29 OR 28-29, 37th annual Empire City Open (NY)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 2018 Cleveland Holiday Open (OH)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29-30, South Jersey Open - Dr. Leroy Dubeck Cup (NJ)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29-30, 2018 NJ Senior State Championship - Official NJSCF Tournament \$1,000 guaranteed (NJ)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 5th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5, LVCA K-12 Chess Championships**

5-SS, G/30 d5. **EF:** \$35, \$45 CASH ONLY after 12/29/18 AT SITE. **Trophies** to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Top U1400, U1200, U1000, U800, U600, U400, UNR, \$15-\$20 in Random Prizes to every player. **Rds.:** 11:00am then ASAP. **Reg.:** Ends 10:45am. **Site:** College Hill Moravian Church, 72 W. Laurel St., Bethlehem, PA 18018. **Ent:** Bruce Davis, 1208 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18018, 484-866-3045. **Email:** bdavis@lehighvalleychessclub.org. **Info:** www.lehighvalleychessclub.org/.

**JAN. 5, W. Chester 1st Sat Quads**

Our 30th year! 3RR, Game/80 d5. 2nd Presbyterian Church, 114 S. Walnut St., West Chester, PA. **EF:** \$20; \$40, \$50 for 3-0. **Reg.:** 9am. **Rds.:** 9:40, 1:00, 4:00. **Info:** WCCC1975@gmail.com

**JAN. 5 OR 6 OR 5-6, Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 53rd Annual Greater NY Scholastic Championships - Since 1966, USCF's Longest-Running Scholastic! (NY)**

See New York.

**JAN. 12, MasterMinds CC Swiss/Quads**

Esperanza Academy, 421 W. Bristol St., Phila., PA 19140. **Quads:** 3RR, G/85 d5. **EF:** \$30 cash; winner \$100. **Reg. ends 9AM.** **Rds.:** 9:30, 1, 4. **Scholastic:** 4SS K-12 Open, K-8 U1100, K-6 U800, K-3 U500 G/40 d5, EF \$10 rec'd by Thurs. before, \$25 on site. **Reg. ends 9AM.** **Rd. 1 10AM** then asap. **Mail Ent:** payable to MasterMinds CC, 36 E. Horlter St., Philadelphia, PA 19119. **Info:** mastermindschess.org or brad@mastermindschess.org.

**JAN. 12-13, Dewey Beach Open (DE)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 51st annual Liberty Bell Open**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21 OR 19-21, Chesapeake Open (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 31, Chaturanga Winter Quick Chess (QC)**

3-RR or SS, G/19 +10. Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 151 W. County Line Rd., Hatboro 19040. **Prizes:** Quads: First place \$20; Swiss: First place 50% of total EF, second place 25%. **EF:** Chaturanga CC members \$7, non-members \$10. **Reg.:** 7:20-7:40pm. **Rds.:** 7:45-8:45-9:45pm. **Byes:** limit 1, any round, request last-round bye before Round 2 starts. **Ent/Info:** Stan Ward, text (215) 285-2593, stanwc21@gmail.com. W.

**FEB. 16, Kasparov Chess Foundation Presents 10th Annual Greater Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Chess Championship (MD)**

See Maryland.

**FEB. 22-24 OR 23-24, 4th annual George Washington Open (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)**

See New York.

**MAR. 9-10, Delaware State Open Chess Championship (DE)**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, 28th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**RHODE ISLAND**

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 7th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, 28th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 17-21, 18-21 OR 19-21, 13th Annual Foxwoods Open (CT)**

See Grand Prix.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**DEC. 15-16, 10th Annual South Carolina Senior Open 2018**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, 2018 Charlotte Open (NC)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27, 16th Annual Georgia Chess Festival Time-Control Open (GA)**

See Georgia.

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 48th Annual Atlanta Open (GA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 19-20, 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Classes (All Ages)" Championships (GA)**

See Georgia.

**FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South (FL)**

See Nationals.

**MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)**

See Grand Prix.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**TENNESSEE**

**DEC. 26-30, New Orleans Open (LA)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27, 16th Annual Georgia Chess Festival Time-Control Open (GA)**

See Georgia.

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 48th Annual Atlanta Open (GA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 4-6, 4th Annual Smoky Mountain Chess Tournament**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 19-20, 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Classes (All Ages)" Championships (GA)**

See Georgia.

**MAR. 15-17 OR 16-17, 17th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**TEXAS**

**DEC. 22-23, DCC FIDE Open XII**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 28th annual North American Open (NV)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 26-30, New Orleans Open (LA)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 30-31, 2018, Year End Insanity**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 9th Annual Austin Chess Club Championship**

See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 1-3 OR 2-3, Central Florida 2019 Winter Open (FL)**

See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 8-10 OR 9-10, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South (FL)**

See Nationals.

**FEB. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 OR 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**UTAH**

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 10th annual Golden State Open (CA-N)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**VERMONT**

**JAN. 4-6 OR 5-6, 7th annual Boston Chess Congress (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)**

See New York.

**APR. 5-7 OR 6-7, 28th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**VIRGINIA**

**DEC. 7-9 OR 8-9, 1st Annual Old Line Open (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 20-23 OR 21-23, 2018 Charlotte Open (NC)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 27-30, 28-30, 27, 29, OR 30, 45th Annual Eastern Open**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29-30, South Jersey Open - Dr. Leroy Dubeck Cup (NJ)**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 29-30, 2018 NJ Senior State Championship - Official NJSCF Tournament \$1,000 guaranteed (NJ)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 51st annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21 OR 19-21, Chesapeake Open (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**FEB. 16, Kasparov Chess Foundation Presents 10th Annual Greater Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Chess Championship (MD)**

See Maryland.

**FEB. 22-24 OR 23-24, 4th annual George Washington Open**

See Grand Prix.

**WASHINGTON**

**DEC. 26-30, Washington Winter Chess Classic**

See Grand Prix.

**DEC. 26-30, 26-29 OR 27-29, 28th annual North American Open (NV)**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 10th annual Golden State Open (CA-N)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 11-12, 2019 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 12-16, 13-16, 14-16 OR 15-16, 2019 National Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**WEST VIRGINIA**

**DEC. 28-30 OR 29-30, 2018 Cleveland Holiday Open (OH)**

See Grand Prix.

**WISCONSIN**

**DEC. 22-23, 2018 North Central Open**

See Grand Prix.

**JAN. 5-6, Tim Just Winter Open XXXVI (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

*A Heritage Event!*

*US Chess Junior Grand Prix!*

**JAN. 26-27, 54th Northeastern Open**  
Hilton Garden Inn, 1355 W. 20th St., Oshkosh, WI 54901. **HR:** \$90 920-966-1300 (Mention Chess-Reserve Early). In 3 Sections, **Open:** 5SS, 35/90, SD/60 d5, EF: \$40 by 1/22; \$47 at site. \$\$b/40: \$250-175, 1900-\$135, 1800-\$125, 1700-\$115, 1600-\$105, U1600-\$95. **Rds.:** 10-2:30-7:30; 10-3. **Reserve (U1500):** 5SS, 35/90, SD/60 d5, Open to U1500. **EF:** \$25 by 1/22; \$32 on site. \$\$b/20: \$70-50, 1200: \$40; U1200-\$40. **Rds.:** 10-2:30-7:30; 10-3. **Novice (U1000):** 6SS, G/60 d5, Open to U1000. **EF:** \$15 by 1/22; \$22 at site. **Prizes:** Trophies to 1st-5th. **Rds.:** 10-1:30-6:30; 10-1. **ALL: Reg:** 1/26 - 8:45-9:30 am. One 1/2-point bye any Rd. Full-pt bye to 2100+ in Rd.1 if requested before Late Reg ends. Checks payable to Mike Nietman. **ENT:** Mike Nietman-Organizer, 2 Boca Grande Way, Madison, WI 53719, 608-467-8510 (before 1/25). **INFO:** mike.nietman@charter.net. Online Registration at <https://onlineregistration.cc.wi>.

**MAR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open (MO)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 28th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**WARNING!**

The use of a cell phone in the tournament room is prohibited! at most tournaments! If your cell phone rings in a room with games in progress, you could be severely penalized, maybe even forfeited!

**TURN IT OFF!**

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### \* CHESS-PLAYER SCHOLARS \*

in top 10% of high school class with USCF > 2000 and SAT (math + critical reading + writing) > 2150 for possible college scholarships to UMBC. Prof. Alan Sherman, Dept. of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County, 21250. [sherman@umbc.edu](mailto:sherman@umbc.edu)

# Solutions

## PAGE 14-15 / TRIVIA ANSWERS

**1. Boris Gelfand. 2. d.** In the October 1963 *Chess Life* he said White was wrong to deny himself the possibility of playing best variations of the King's Indian and Gruenfeld Defense. **3. d.** He is 6-foot-four. **4. d. 5. All are true.** "Not bad, not bad at all," Carlsen said of the 2007 game mentioned in a. Forman helped in the early stages of planning Montreal 1979, the tournament in d. **6. b. 7. b,** according to an Associated Press account. The proposal to shift the match to New York was declined and Alekhine scored his sixth victory in the 34th game. **8. d. 9. a. 10. c.** It is the Colorado high-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph. **11. True.** Paul Morphy played just before his 13th birthday. **12. Garry Kasparov and Deep Blue. 13. c. 14. True.** Greta Olson of Los Angeles played 166 rated games in 1965, according to the January 1966 *Chess Life*. **15. a.** A 30-year-old grandmaster has a life expectancy of about 53 more years, compared with 46 years for the general population. **16. d. 17. Fabiano Caruana. 18. d. 19. c. 20. d.** In his 1934 World Championship match with Alekhine, Benko wore dark glasses in a Candidates tournament when playing Mikhail Tal. **21. d.** The list was submitted by programming pioneer Ken Thompson, designer of the computer world champion Belle. Among the words on the list were "acclimate," "amalgamate," "antepenultimate," "approximate," and "automate."

## PAGE 15 / QUIZ FOR DECEMBER

**PROBLEM I. Plovdiv 2003:** Black saw 36. ... fxb6 37. Qxh6 mate but not 36. ... Nxe5!. He would get a winning material edge after 37. dxe5 fxb6 or 37. Rxe6 Nxd3! followed by ... fxe6 or ... Nf4+. **PROBLEM II. Bad Godesberg 1994:** 29. ... Qb1+ 30. Kg2 Qh1+! 31. Kxh1 Bf3+ 32. Kg1 Rd1+ mates. Or 31. Kh3 Qf1+ 32. Kh4 g5+. **PROBLEM III. Simultaneous exhibition, New York 1924:** White resigned in view of 30. f7?? Rc1+. But he would safely queen after 30. Rd6! cxd6 31. f7. Or 30. ... Rxd6 31. g8=Q+ Rd8 (or 31. ... Kd7 32. Qg7+! Kc6 33. Qg2+ followed by Qxd2) 32. Qxd8+! Kxd8 33. f7. **PROBLEM IV. Porto San Giorgio 1997:** Black saw 43. ... Kxf8 44. Bc5+ Re7 45. Bxe7+ but not 45. ... Ke8!, when the endgame is won after 46. Qxe4 dxe4. **PROBLEM V. Amsterdam 2006:** 38. Rae1! Qf4+ 39. Kg1+, e.g. 39. ... Kg7 40. Qb7+ Kf6 41. Rf1 Rc1 42. Kg2 **PROBLEM VI. Polish Championship, Lublin 1969:** 41. ... Qh3+ 42. Kg1 Rf1+! 43. Qxf1 Bxd4+ 44. Rf2 Qxg3+ 45. Bg2 Bb7.

## PAGE 45 / ABCS OF CHESS

**PROBLEM I. Mating net:** Black mates with 1. ... Qb3!. If 2. cxb3, then 2. ... Rxb2+ and mate next. **PROBLEM II. Mating net:** Black wins with 1. ... Qxh2+ 2. Kxh2 Rh7 mate. **PROBLEM III. Mating net:** It is mate by 1.

... Nh3+ 2. gxh3 Qg3 mate. **PROBLEM IV. Mating net:** Black opens the seventh rank with 1. ... Qxh3+ 2. gxh3 Rh2 mate. **PROBLEM V. Mating net:** Mate in 3 happens: 1. ... Qa1+ 2. Kc2 Ba4+ 3. b3 Bxb3 mate. **PROBLEM VI. Mating net:** Black mates with 1. ... Rxf3+ 2. gxf3 Bh3 mate.

## TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

Total Score	Approx. Rating
95+	2400+
81-94	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

## PAGE 47 / PRACTICUM

**PROBLEM I.** Van Foreest has just played his bishop from c3 to b2, setting a "trap." **38. Bxb2!** And Sam "falls for it!" Of course, the joke is on Black. **38. ... Nc4+ 39. Ke2 Nxb2 40. Bb3!** This is the move Van Foreest evidently overlooked. The knight is trapped, since ... Nc4 will be met with Bxc4 followed by Kd2-c3-xc4, with a winning pawn endgame. **40. ... b6 41. Kd2 h6 42. Kc3 Nxa4+ 43. Bxa4 Kf8 44. Kd3 Ke7 45. Ke3 Kf8 46. Kf4 Kg7, and Black resigned** on move 51. **PROBLEM II.** It appears that Black is on the cusp of a victory, but the wily Georgian grandmaster uncorks a fantastic drawing sequence: **58. Rb1!!** Threatening mate! If 58. ... Ke4, 59. Re1+ picks up the bishop. **58. ... Rc7 59. Rf1!** Switching to the other side! Again, mate is threatened, and again, 59. ... Kc4 fails to a skewer—this time Rc1+. **59. ... Re7, Draw agreed.** After 60. Rb1, Black has no choice but to repeat.

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# MY BEST MOVE

## Steven Zierk

### Newly-minted grandmaster

**W**hen I sat down across the board from GM Loek Van Wely, I was a 16-year-old 2300 who had never beaten a grandmaster. I had earned a couple draws in difficult endgames, but that was the extent of my success.

The game against Van Wely took a very different turn. Knowing he had an enormous advantage, I decided I would do whatever it took to take the game into unfamiliar territory. While I succeeded in this, my position after move four cannot be recommended by any other metric.

However, there is hidden venom in almost every position, and it took only a single slow move to give Black the counterplay he needed—a move where the weakness is hard to spot. On move 13 I finally spotted how to exploit the weak points in White's apparently solid structure. From that point onward, it was a very different game. I was down a piece, but Van Wely's king was stuck in the center, and his positional expertise would be of little use.

This game was an eye-opener. Most players facing a grandmaster will retreat into a shell and play as solidly as possible. But this is what the stronger player wants; they quickly reach a secure position and usually, the stronger player wins.

This lesson has been worth countless rating points to me: When playing a stronger player, give them something to be afraid of.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUBJECT

*When playing a stronger player, give them something to be afraid of.*

#### QUEEN'S FIANCHETTO DEFENSE (A50)

GM Loek Van Wely (2733)

FM Steven Zierk (2333)

27th Western States (2), Reno, Nevada, 10.23.2009

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 b6 3. Nc3 Bb7 4. f3 e6?

Giving too much. 4. ... d5 was advisable.

5. e4 d5 6. cxd5 exd5 7. e5 Nfd7 8. f4 c5 9. Nf3 Nc6 10. Be3 cxd4 11. Nxd4 Bc5 12. g3?

Too slow, though not easy to punish. White should press with 12. Bb5 Nxd4 13. Bxd4.

12. ... O-O 13. Bg2

(see diagram next column)

Here I had a long think. If White succeeds in castling, followed by Qd2 and Rad1, Black has no play in the position and his drawing



hopes are slim to none. White's position is a little flimsy, if only for a moment. **My Best Move** brings Black's position to life.

13. ... Qe8! 14. Qd2

The try 14. Bf2 is the machine's choice, but 14. ... Bxd4! 15. Bxd4 f6 16. Bxd5+ Kh8 17. e6 Rd8 gives Black plenty of fight.

14. ... Ndx5 15. fxe5 Nxe5 16. Qe2 Ba6

17. Qxa6 Nc4 18. Nf5 Nxe3 19. Nxe3 Qxe3+ 20. Kd1?

Perhaps Van Wely missed my next move. But even after the best 20. Qe2 Qg5, White faces a difficult defensive task.

20. ... b5! 21. Qxb5 Rab8 22. Qe2 Qd4+ 23. Kc2 Rfe8 24. Qf1 Rxb2+

Wins, but 24. ... Ba3! is crushing. 25. bxa3 Re3 26. Nd1 Rc8+ 27. Kb1 Re1! wins elegantly.

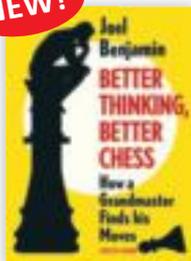
25. Kxb2 Qd2+ 26. Kb1?

His best defense is (but will only slow the inevitable result) 26. Kb3 Rb8+ 27. Nb5 Qb4+ 28. Kc2 Rxb5 and and even 29. Qxb5 will not slow the attack. The opposite colored bishops are devastating for the defender.

26. ... Rb8+ 27. Nb5 Bd4, White resigned.

Mate is inevitable. ♠

**NEW!**



### Better Thinking, Better Chess

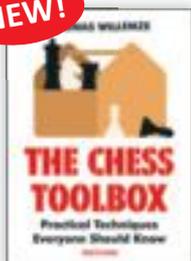
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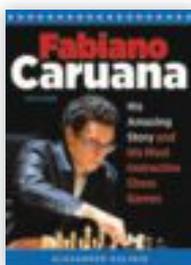
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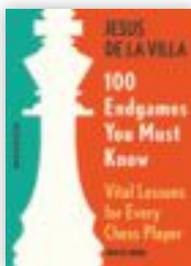
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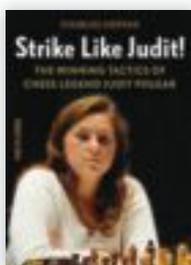
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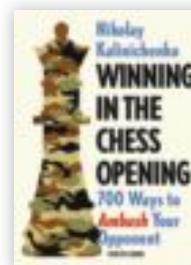
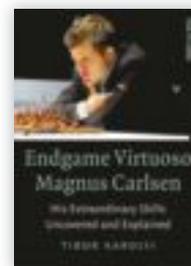
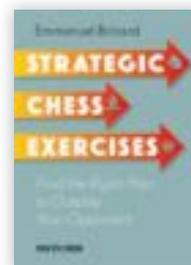
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