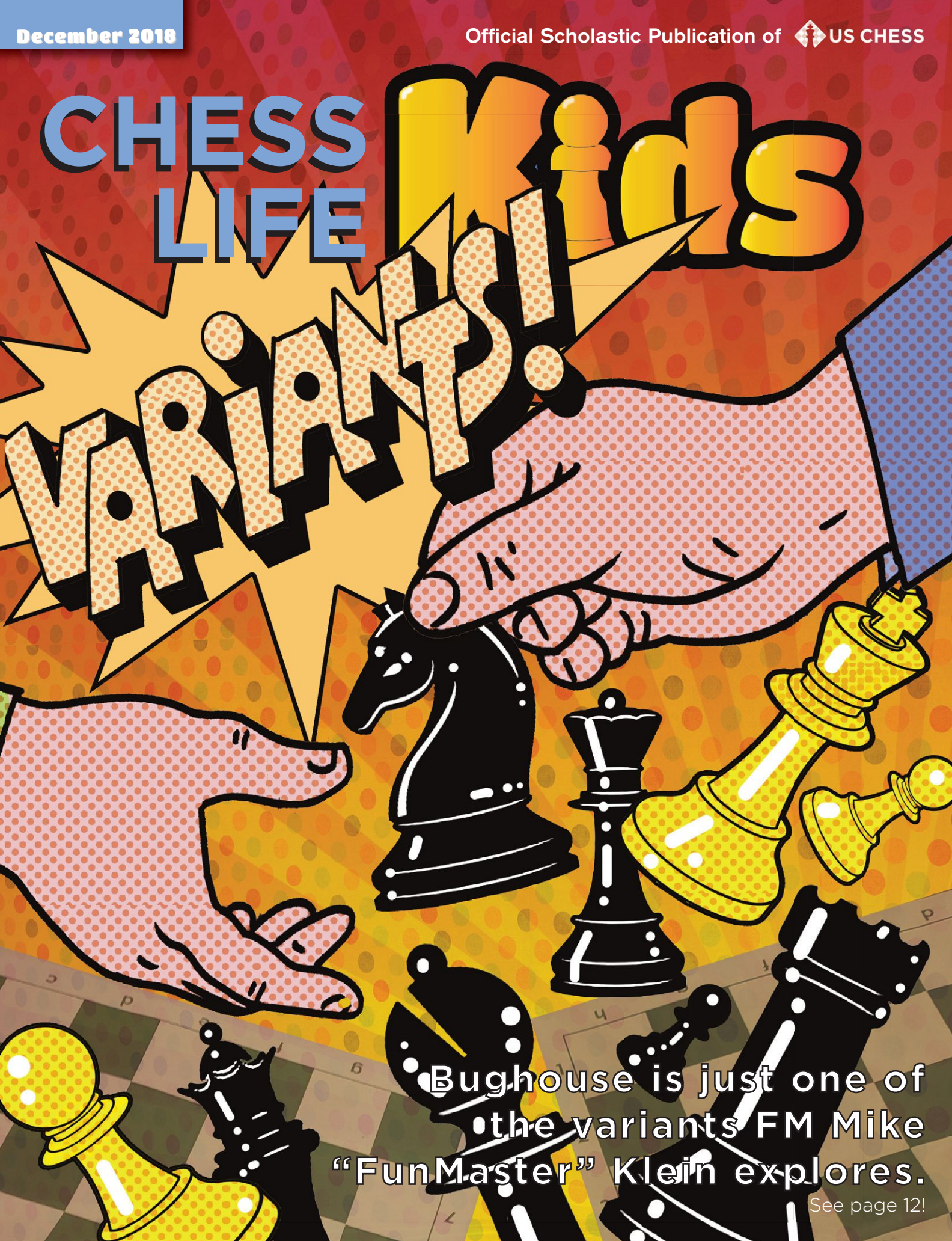
December 2018

Official Scholastic Publication of US CHESS

CHESS LIFE Kids

VARIANTS!



Bughouse is just one of the variants FM Mike "FunMaster" Klein explores.

See page 12!

Chess for Kids

at the Saint Louis Chess Club

Student memberships at the Saint Louis Chess Club start at just $10/month! Each week, there are a variety of kids' classes for any age or skill level, along with monthly tournaments for players of all ages. Continue your child's chess progress with a visit to the Saint Louis Chess Club today!

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Chess for Rookies:	Sundays @ 1:00pm
Chess for Knights:	Sundays @ 2:00pm

For more information on available classes, please contact the Chess Club.

Saint Louis
CHESS CLUB

Building Champions: In the Classroom and the Community

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US CHESS

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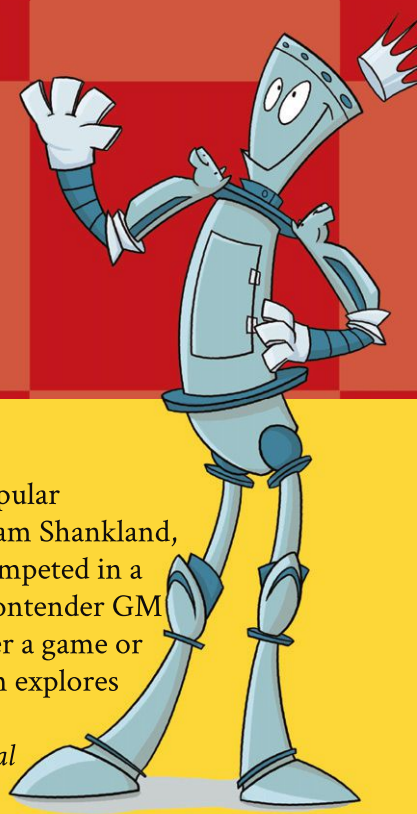

ON THE COVER

Chess variants are hitting the mainstream! Popular grandmasters Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, Sam Shankland, and the legendary Garry Kasparov recently competed in a Chess960 showdown. And world champion contender GM Fabiano Caruana has been known to relax over a game or two of bughouse. FM Mike "FunMaster" Klein explores the two most popular variants—Chess960 and bughouse—beginning on page 12. *Cover art: Val Bochkov.*

It's Your Move

You'll find all sorts of fun facts tucked inside the pages of this month's *Chess Life Kids.* See if you can find the answers to the questions at the right and figure out where the photo close-ups are hidden. Answers on page 22!

DID YOU CATCH THAT?

01 What do rooks love?

02 Who invented Chess960?

03 What is GM Ipatov's favorite first move as white?

04 What is Jon Edwards' title? Bonus: what does it mean?

05 What is the Dutch Defense?

06 What is the largest team chess tournament in the United States?

DID YOU SEE THAT?

Save the Date(s)!

Susan Polgar Foundation & Chess NYC™ present:

13TH ANNUAL SUSAN POLGAR FOUNDATION WORLD OPEN FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

$100,000+ in Scholarship and Chess Prizes!

Date: Friday-Monday, January 18-21
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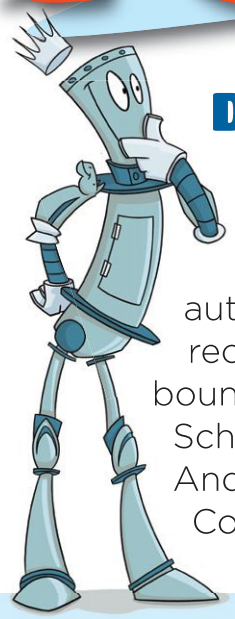
YOU CAN DO IT!

by SIM Jon Edwards
10th United States Correspondence Chess Champion



DID YOU KNOW?

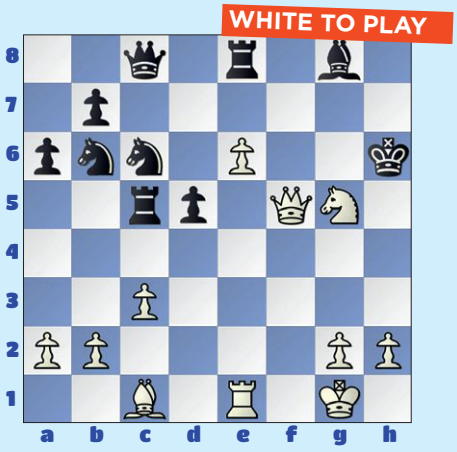
You Can Do It! columnist SIM Jon Edwards has been on a *Chess Life* cover and is the author of several books. He also recently started teaching college-bound students in the Chess in the Schools program in New York City. And he just qualified for the World Correspondence Chess final round!

Pieces and pawns can become monsters. Pawns increase in value as they approach promotion. Rooks love open files. Knights grow massively in strength when they reach the sixth rank. Bishops can dominate the board when there is no bishop on the other side to limit its movement. Even kings can become monsters in the endgame when they help pawns to advance or they control key squares.

In each puzzle, it is White to move and deliver mate in two. And in each puzzle, there's at least one chess monster aiding the checkmate.

QUIZ #1

WHITE TO PLAY



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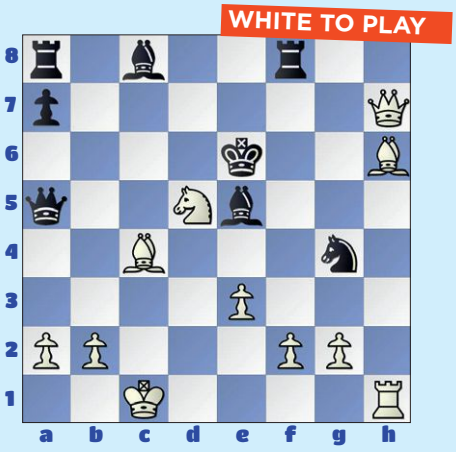

QUIZ #5

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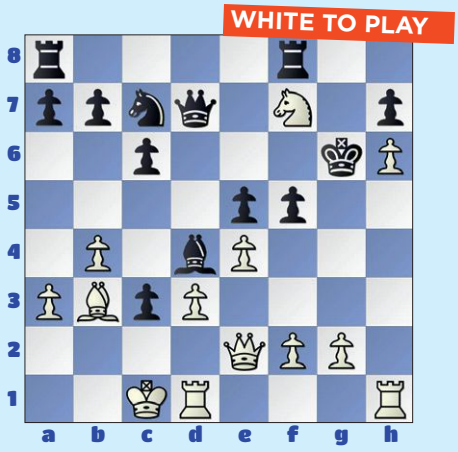

QUIZ #2

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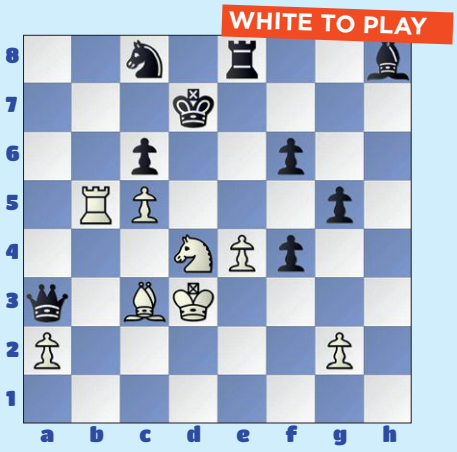

QUIZ #4

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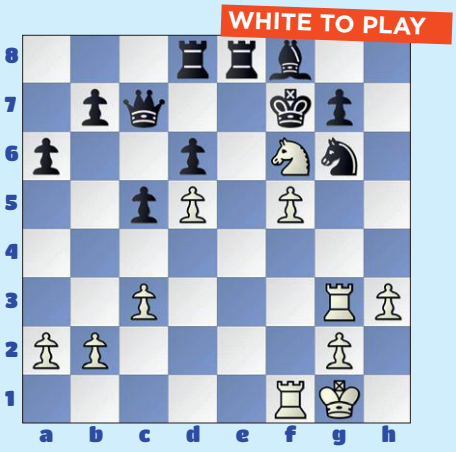

QUIZ #6

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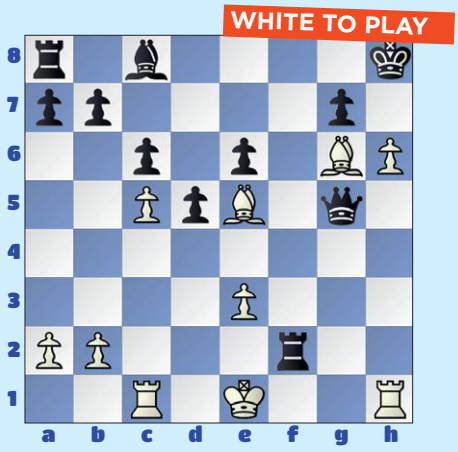


Please turn to page 22

Advertisement

Chess NYC Play n Go's™ Popping Up All Over NYC

Chess NYC's Play N Go™ events' impact on a kids' tournament play is beginning to "document."

These weekly Chess Leagues (along with inspirational prizes) also allow the occasional attendees to "drop-in" and play when they can. They provide a "sparring environment" and matches that "count" towards USCF Ratings in a Chess Tournament setting, and they're proving to be a brilliant approach to Championship preparation.

Director Michael Propper and Team provide pre-game training and the rationalization that improvement is a "win", even if it doesn't earn a "W", pointing out that these Meets are fun prep for the big events scheduled throughout the year prior to each meet.

Players are then "paired" with (3) like-skilled opponents and play USCF rated matches with each one.

Participants are challenged to play their best game and overcome familiar and increasingly stronger opponents over and over again during the scholastic seasons.
*Chess NYC focuses them on the City, State, National, Susan Polgar World Open, and Mayor's Cup competitions.

These events have been so successful that the upcoming season of Play N Go™ now includes (4) locations and the Organization is preparing for more!

Last year Chess NYC hosted both Play N Go™ Saturdays at PS 267 and Play N Go™ Sundays at PS 183 from 11am - 2pm. The two new locations are PS 126 on Tuesday nights at 5:30 pm and PS 87 on Friday nights at 6pm. If someone forgot to register ahead of time, no worries! They can drop in and register onsite! However, Chess NYC does tend to fill up during the school year, so in order to be guaranteed a seat, the earlier a person registers beforehand the better.

By remaining "short and sweet," Play N Go™ allows time for preparation and invaluable "post matches" game review by the Coaching Staff onhand. Chess NYC's "style" leaves the kids "fresh" and excited. Enjoying the game but not draining, participants have improved their play immeasurably! Many have doubled and tripled their ratings by capitalizing on Play N Go's™ weekly!

Parents are even able to watch the Chess play behind (waist high) barriers at the outskirts of the play arena. While not permitted to "speak or motion" (lest they be asked to leave), this gives parents the opportunity to observe play and provide support for their children as "Assistant Coaches", pointing out bad habits or potential for improvement in play based on the "arms length distance" they might witness during matches.

"This is the greatest concept we have ever come up with," lauded Company Director and Head Coach Michael Propper. "And we've just scratched the surface," he promised, adding that "kids need to feel good about themselves no matter win or lose, and Play N Go™ leads them down that path to success." He smiled and closed with "It's all good", as several Players approached him to brag about how they'd played this week.

www.CHESS NYC.com
"The most exciting game in the world without a ball"

For more information and registration, please visit www.chessnyc.com

Chess coach Rebecca overlooking junior Play n Go™ game
Photo by Shuhan Xie

Chess Kids Across the Board

By Al Lawrence

Celebrating Chess Life Kids *from across the country.*

Samuel Zhang

New Providence, New Jersey

Sam won the very first tournament he played in. "I felt excited!" he said. That was only 18 months ago, but now he's already in the top 50 of all 12-year-olds in the nation. How did he get so good so fast?

"My dad bought me a chess set for my ninth birthday, and I just got interested. My mom's friend taught me some basic ideas. It was fun for me to play and learn about it." He takes lessons, including master classes, at the International Chess

Academy, about an hour from his house. "I solve tactics online almost daily, and I study games and positions from books often. I watch chess videos, especially videos by Grandmaster Ben Finegold. Sometimes I play blitz on *chess.com*," Sam says.

Sam is a seventh grade student at New Providence Middle School in New Jersey. But he was born in Vancouver, Canada and moved to the United States with his family when he was 10, shortly after learning chess. Sam wants to become a chess master and eventually a grandmaster, the highest ranking in chess.

Sam likes a lot of other activities too. "I enjoy doing math, listening to music, and watching TV." And he's a very skillful musician. He plays in the first violin section for the New Jersey Youth Symphony's Phiharmonia. But he loves outdoor activities too. He plays tennis. This summer he went rafting with his family and friends at Lehigh River in Pennsylvania. They teamed up for a water-gun fight that was fun for everyone. Sam says that chess is like his other activities. "Daily practice is important if you want to improve. This applies to everything."

Sam has made a lot of good friends over the chess board. Last February, his friends made him captain of their team at the U.S. Amateur Team East, the biggest team chess tournament in the country, playing against

some of the best players in the nation. "We did well!" He always enjoys the competition, win or lose.

And despite how good he's become—and his goals to get even better—that's not the main reason he plays chess. "Playing for joy and friendship are what's important to me."

In addition to chess, Sam is active as a musician and he loves math. He also enjoys all sorts of outdoor sports!

Photos courtesy of subject.

AVOID THE TRAP! THE CORNERED ROOK

by Bruce Pandolfini

It can happen in so many ways, especially to Black. White seemingly offers a pawn, though not really. Black accepts the pawn, but doesn't give the pawn back, even though it would lead to an equal position. In its place, Black unreasonably plays for more. That is, he greedily decides to hold onto the pawn for dear life. The result can be tragic. Sometimes Black falls behind decisively in development. On other occasions, Black overextends the position. He makes unnecessary pawn moves and saddles himself with holes and a weakened structure. Real material loss is often the consequence. Let's look at a variation in the Queen's Gambit that illustrates this common idea.

1. d4

White now threatens to play 2. e2-e4.

Q1) What are the two most typical ways for Black to discourage 2. e2-e4? (10 points)

1. ... d5

Black sets up a double d-pawn defense. In addition to 1. ... Ng8-f6, Black could also have tried 1. ... f7-f5, the Dutch Defense. But this is more complicated and risky for newcomers.

2. c4

White plays the Queen's Gambit.

Q2) Is this a real gambit? (10 points)

2. ... dxc4

Black accepts the pawn. Usually this capture is made to reduce the tension in the center.

Q3) Why is 3. Ng1-f3 the most often seen move here? (10 points)?

3. e3

White aims to get the pawn immediately. A better continuation is 3. Ng1-f3. The pawn is not running away.

Q4) Does 3. Qd1-a4+ win back the pawn? (10 points)

3. ... b5

This is a very perilous advance. It doesn't build Black's game and is needlessly weakening. Besides, it doesn't achieve its aim.

Q5) What would have been a better move for Black to play? (10 points)

4. a4

White begins undermining operations against Black's attempted defense. Now 4. ... b5xa4 would leave Black's queenside in shambles. Meanwhile, 4. ... a7-a6 fails to 5. a4xb5, when the a6-pawn would then be pinned.

Q6) Would 4. b2-b3 be a better way to attack Black's structure? (10 points)

4. ... c6

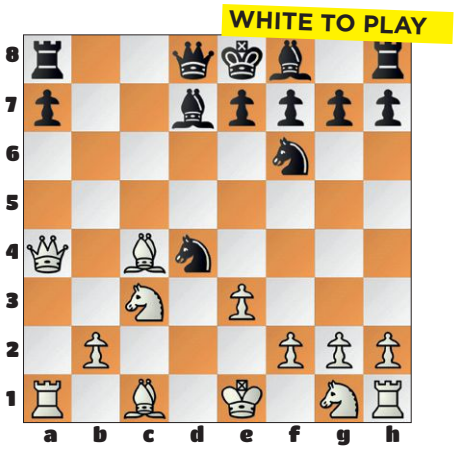
This avoids the problems of 4. ... a7-a6. But it neglects development, weakens Black's position further, and, in the end, simply fails at holding the pawn.

Q7) How could Black have minimized the threat to his queenside pawns after 4. a2-a4? (10 points)

5. axb5

Q8) Could Black stay even after 5. ... Bc8-e6 6. b5xc6 Nb8xc6 7.

Nb1-c3 Ng8-f6 8. Qd1-a4 Be6-d7 9. Bf1xc4 Nc6xd4? (10 points)



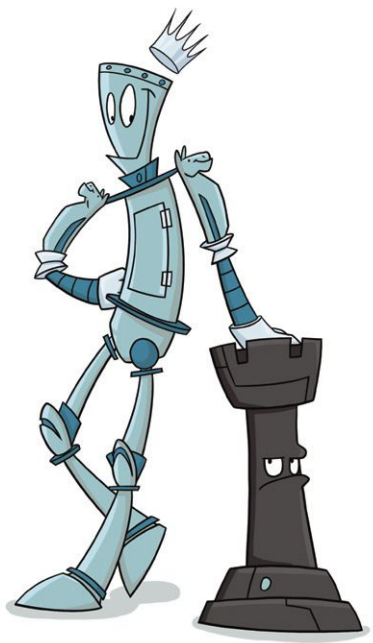
(After 9. ... Nc6xd4 in Question 8)

Back to the actual game.

5 ... cxb5?

(After 5. ... c6xb5?)

Black's 5. ... c6xb5 is a costly mistake.



Q9) How can White now win a decisive amount of material? (10 points)

6. Qf3

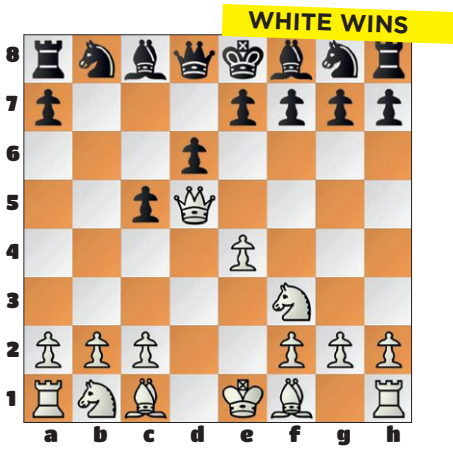
Black cannot avoid material loss. To save his rook, he must surrender either his b8-knight or his c8-bishop. Note, in this final position, Black is yet to move a piece. He's made nothing but pawn moves.

Q10) What was the last place Black could have avoided the trap? (10 points)

ILLUSTRATIVE GAME:

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B53)
Paul Michel
Juan Traian Iliesco
Mar del Plata, 1943

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 b6 (better was 3. ... cxd4) **4. dxc5 bxc5?** (as bad as it is, Black has to play 4. ... dxc5) **5. Qd5, Black resigned.** Black must now lose a piece to save the rook at a8. Once again, too many queenside pawn moves do Black in.



(After 5. Qd5)

ANSWERS

A1) The two most usual ways for Black to discourage 2. e2-e4 are 1. ... Ng8-f6 or 1. ... d7-d5.

A2) No. If Black takes the pawn, 2. ... d5xc4, White can get it back.

A3) Besides developing a piece, 3. Ng1-f3 stops Black from playing a counter sacrifice, 3. ... e7-e5.

A4) It does, though not immediately, since Black has 3. ... Nb8-c6, attacking d4 for a second time. But White does eventually get it back.

A5) Much better would have been 3. ... Ng8-f6, giving the pawn back to get development and a securer position.

A6) No. After 4. ... c4xb3 5. Bf1xb5+ White would be answered by 5. ... c7-c6, and Black stays ahead by a pawn.

A7) Black could have replied 4. ... b5-b4, however White is still better. Nonetheless, Black's position would still be defensible.

A8) No, because White would then have 10. Bc4xf7+ Ke8xf7 11. Qa4xd4.

A9) The simple 6. Qd1-f3 leaves Black no good answer. The best Black would then have is to toss away a knight, 6. ... Nb8-c6 7. Qf3xc6+. Black could then save the rook by 7. ... Bc8-d7, but his game would still be lost.

A10) Black could have avoided the trap by trying 5. ... Bc8-e6. But better would have been 4. ... b5-b4, when it would still be a game.

How Did You Score?

The score is based on the US Chess rating system and is intended only as a fun way to monitor your progress each issue as you Avoid The Trap!

100: 1800+
90: 1600
80: 1400
70: 1200
60 or lower: 1000

960 BUGS ON MY CHESSBOARD?

By FM Mike "FunMaster" Klein

Chess is fun. You could play it for days on end (don't forget to eat!). But using those same 32 pieces, chess players have invented dozens of other variations of chess to make sure the game never gets stale.

Two of the most popular "variants" are Bughouse and Chess960. Yes, they are a bit silly, but they also allow for a different kind of creativity. Even the world's most elite grandmasters play and compete in both! In fact, Chess960 is sometimes called "Fischer Random Chess" since a certain world champion thought that he'd *improved* upon chess with his own game.

Let's learn a little bit about both games, how they might make you a better chess player, and a little bit of strategy too. After all, you're a games player, and no matter the game, you should always be looking for a dominant strategy.

BUGHOUSE

Bughouse might be the most popular variant, especially among kids. To play, you'll need four people and two complete chess sets. Bughouse is a partner game, where you play beside your partner, and you must be the opposite color. Why? When you capture a piece, you pass it to your partner, who can place it on the board! All the pieces remain important.

The game is wild, raucous, and can change in an instant. There are several variations on the rules, but here are the standard rules played online and in person. Yes, there are bughouse tournaments, and in fact, my partner and I were the very first National Junior High Bughouse Champions way back in 1992—bughouse competitions were so new then that the players had to vote on the rules before the tournament began!

To start: One player is white, the partner is black.

Most bughouse games are played with clocks, either three or five minutes per side. If you don't have a clock, then it's easier to "stall" or wait for a piece to become available.

Communication with your partner is allowed, but you may not make moves for her.

When it is your turn, you can either make a normal move on the board or place a piece that you've been given on an open square, except that pawns may not be placed on the first or last ranks. Only one piece per turn, and remember, only on an open square.

You may place a piece to give check or checkmate; both are allowed.

Promoted pawns can still turn into anything (besides a king), but if they get captured, they return to the other board as a pawn. So if playing in real life, just turn the pawn sideways and announce what you are promoting it to.

When one player is checkmated, both games end as it is the team that wins.

There are a few other minor rules, but those are the main ones you need to know to get going.

Now, here's some strategy to become a better player.

First, communication with your partner is key. The most common things to say involve exact pieces, like "Give me a knight!" or "Don't trade queens!" But there are other phrases top players use.

Are you attacking? Let her know that you need pieces. Is your king in danger? If you have more time than your partner's opponent, you can advise your partner to stop moving. That will stop the supply of pieces over to your board, or what GM Fabiano Caruana likes to call "flow" (yes, the top American player loves to play bughouse and he's pretty good!).

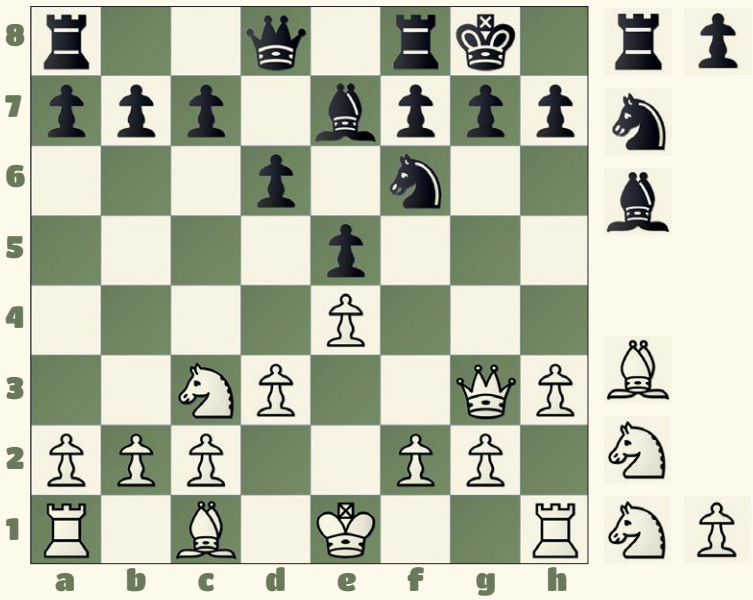
Second, different pieces have different values. Namely, rooks tend to go a little down in value since they can be blocked easily. Knights go way, way up in value since they can't be blocked. Think about it: If you drop a knight to give check, your opponent can't use any of the pieces in his hand to shield the king. It's also pretty common for a queen to be traded for two minor pieces.

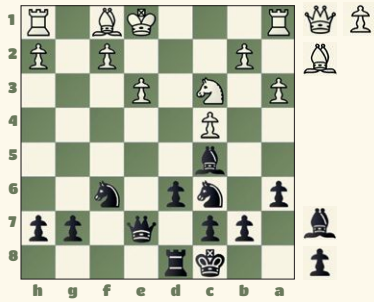
Another key concept is to maintain the initiative. If you keep dropping pieces with check, you control the action, and you often prevent your opponent from using his supply of pieces. This means sacrifices are much more common than in regular chess since all you have to do is mate your opponent before your partner might get in trouble. But be careful—if you sacrifice too much, those same pieces will be used against your partner on her board!

Guard f7 (or f2)! I can't say this enough. Allowing your opponent to take there and draw your king into the open often proves too dangerous. Also, don't push your f-pawn! In ChessKid videos I usually say, "You can't push your f-pawn without my written permission," but in bughouse I basically never give permission!

The most important tip, and the one that the top bughouse players know well, is to play fast! If you get ahead on the clock lots of good things happen. You can wait for your

BUGHOUSE DIAGRAMS





You are playing white on the larger board on the left. The pieces beside the board are the captured pieces. How can you force checkmate, remembering to use the captured pieces available to you and giving check every turn so Black can't use his army? Solution on page 22.

Here GM Levon Aronian (right, front), who is credited as one of the strongest bughouse players, plays a round with GMs Fabiano Caruana (left, front), Maxim Dlugy (left, back), and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (right, back). Photo by Mike Klein.

partner to give you the piece you want, you can stall to give your partner a chance to win on his board, and you can also simply win the game on time. This won't be easy at first, but as you improve, speed wins!

So does bughouse make you a better chess player? Many coaches have mixed feelings, but I can say you will master lots of uncommon checkmating patterns that you may not come across as much in "one-board" chess!

CHESS960

Why do they call it Chess960? Well, if you randomly set up your back row pieces, but still keep the bishops on different colors and the king somewhere between the rooks, there are 960 different possibilities! One of them you are certainly aware of—the starting position of chess. Usually that one doesn't get chosen, so it is really "Chess959."

To begin a game, you can randomly set up your pieces on the back row (some clocks can actually pick the position for you, or an online game would do this automatically). The other player would mirror your setup. So if you begin BRNNQKRB, then your opponent would also have those same pieces on the same files. Pawns remain unchanged on the second and seventh ranks.

You then play just like regular chess, with the only exception being some funny castling rules, which can be a little hard to understand at first. Basically, your king and rook will always end up on the same squares as they would in a normal game. So, Kc1/Rd1 if castling "queenside" or Kg1/Rf1 if castling "kingside."

Just like in regular chess, the landing squares for the king and rook must be empty, and there also cannot be any pieces in between the king and rook. The king and rook must be making their first moves, and the king may not move through check. This actually means that if your king begins on b1 and your rooks on a1 and e1, to castle to the right, your king would fly all the way to g1 and your e1-rook would move to the *right* to f1. Weird! Or, your king could scoot only one square to the right to land on c1, while your a1-rook would hop over him to d1.

(see diagrams below)

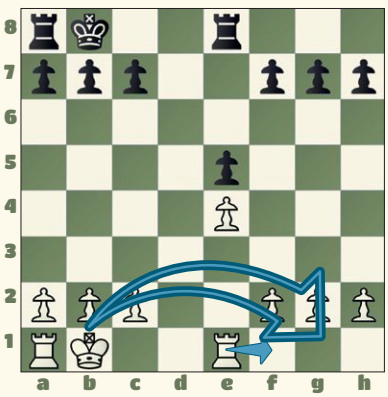
So why did Bobby Fischer propose this game? Simple—studying openings is useless. You know how masters can play 20 or 30 moves of "book"? Well, there's no such thing in Chess960. Pretty much every game is an unexplored kingdom of newness and some grandmasters think more creativity is possible.

Fischer is not the only great player to enjoy this break from opening theory. Both World Champion GM Magnus Carlsen and former World Champion GM Garry Kasparov have played in Chess960 events this year. Bughouse is already a side event at all of the national scholastic championships, so who knows, maybe a Chess960 national championship will come soon.

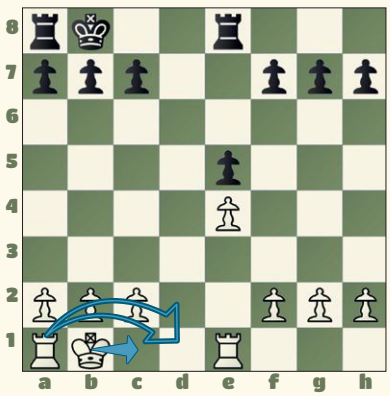
Chess variants are fun and challenging, so grab your friends and start playing!

CHESS960 DIAGRAMS

The arrows show the castling rules.



White castles to the right (in regular chess, "kingside" although in this Chess960 game the king didn't start on that side!)



White castles to the left side of the board, even though his king moves to the right!

INDIA'S YOUNGEST PATENT HOLDER

Hridayeshwar Singh Bhati invented a six-player chess variant at age nine with his father's assistance. "I wanted all my friends to play chess at one time, so I asked my father to buy me another chessboard for this purpose. He said no such chessboard was available, so I conceived the idea for developing such chessboard," Hridayeshwar said.

Hridayeshwar's six-player variant is played on a circular board with 228 black and white "squares" (spaces), and 12 red squares. He earned a patent for his invention in 2012, making him the youngest patent-holder in India at the time. In 2013, Hridayeshwar also received patents for inventing 12- and 60-player versions of his game. Collectively, his boards are capable of 100 distinct variations!

Hridayeshwar suffers from a rare genetic disease, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and is confined to a wheelchair. He credits his passion for invention to British physicist Stephen Hawking: "I want to be like Hawking, who became a famous scientist despite suffering from motor neuron disease." Hridayeshwar has also invented a ramp system that enables easy access to vehicles for people with disabilities.

Find full details on Hridayeshwar's inventions and how to play all of his variants at his website: *http://hridayeshwarsinghbhati.com/*.

Hridayeshwar with several of his chess variant boards. Photo: Sarower Sigh Bhati, Wikimedia Commons

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.
GANGAVARAPU, SREEKAR	IL	10648
KUNAMNENI, MEGHANA	MA	10139
PHAM, LINDA	IL	9192
FAN, JERRY	NY	8628
SHANKAR, PRANAV	NJ	8004

State Leaders	State	Pts.
BRUNI, XAVIER	AL	3115
BJORK, LUKE D	AR	1992
REMPE, JONAS JAKOB RAZA	AZ	5542
KOLAY, ALEX	CA-N	5253
ANDRANIGIAN, RAFI	CA-S	5471
BHAVIKATTI, NEIL	CO	2517
SU, JASMINE ZHIXIN	CT	4918
STEINER, ADAMSON	DC	6095
LUO, TERRY	DE	6672
WU, DERRICK K	FL	4448
MYDUKUR, AMIT	GA	6446
CHEN, MARK Y A	HI	4669
LODH, ANJALI	IA	5251
SHEPARD, RIVER CHARLES	ID	2975
BAMMIDI, RAHUL	IL	7640

State Leaders	State	Pts.
KACZANOWSKI, AIDAN P	IN	4916
MOERLIEN, PUWIT SKY	KS	3768
SHAWKAT, SAIF	KY	5128
MAYEUX, BENJAMIN THOMAS	LA	4094
HAN, HENRY YU-FENG	MA	5062
GUO, ANDREW	MD	5621
KALLOR, DENNIS	ME	3888
SONG, JUSTIN	MI	6943
KONEZNY, STUART	MN	3758
ZHOU, CELINA	MO	7036
GRIFFIN, GABRIEL	MS	4697
WALTHALL, THOMAS KASEY	MT	3850
DURBHA, ANTARA	NC	6628
KOLLI, SAI	NE	3158
TIRUVEEDHULA, SUHAVI	NH	2899
SURALIK, DIANA SOPHIA	NJ	6511
LUO, DANIEL	NM	2190
BAO, CHRIS	NV	2559
YU, SICHENG	NY	7678
SONI, ARJUN GORAKH	OH	6558
BARNES, MAXWELL	OK	3276
SOIFFER, DUNCAN SMITH	OR	4126

State Leaders	State	Pts.
NARKEERAN, MADHAVAN	PA	6380
VAIJAEEPAY, VAISHNAVI	RI	3274
HELFERICH, LUCAS TYLER	SC	1830
TAO, ARTHUR	SD	1366
VAZQUEZ MACCARINI, DANI	TERR	972
ZHAO, ERIC	TN	4483
OBEROI, SHELEV	TX	7435
RAY, UJAN	UT	4007
TAY, BRIAN	VA	6640
COLLINS, ALEXANDER	VT	2943
CHANG, EDDIE	WA	4739
PHIPPS, DANIEL	WI	5582
ELLIS, ANYA	WV	2182
MARES, ISAIAH	WY	501

ChessKid

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

Tournament Life Announcements

DECEMBER 15 THROUGH FEBRUARY 14

Scholastic Members:
As a service to you, we are listing upcoming National US Chess rated events, and requested events of possible interest to you. You can always log in to *www.uschess.org*, and click on "Clubs & Tournaments." Then click on "Upcoming Tournaments" for a complete listing of upcoming rated events and details. As always, you can check out the TLA section of *Chess Life*.

Organizers and Tournament Directors:
If you would like your tournament listed here in *Chess Life Kids* for February 2019 (events to be held after February 14), the deadline for submitting your announcements is December 10th. The deadline for the April 2019 issue is February 10th. The processing fee is $1.00 per line for the first eight lines, $2.00 for every line thereafter. Send your announcements to Joan DuBois, *tla@uschess.org*. **Display advertising is also available.** Advertising rates are posted on the US Chess website, *www.uschess.org*, or you may email: *tla@uschess.org* for complete details.

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 pay full 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 ½-point byes instead. For example, Bye 1-3 means ½-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 ecach 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.

NATIONALS

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!
Dec. 14-16, Florida
2018 National K-12 Grade Championships
7SS, 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. **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, www.uschess.org/tournaments/2018/k12/

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, 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 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 for details. **All: Register at 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, 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**. **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 okay) (***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***. 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 bye 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 8-8:30a, 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:** www.BayAreaChess.com/usatw. **Scholastic Event Prizes:** Trophies to each player in Top 3 teams overall, Top u1200 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:** www.BayAreaChess.com/usatws. **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 Sztaray. Directed by Tom Langland, John McCumiskey, and others. Sponsored by Bay Area Chess. Online entry at 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, U/12) / World Youth (U/14, U/16, U/18) 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, G5,d0, 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.rknights.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 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 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 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 events, 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; Checks payable to: Caveman Chess, LLC. No checks after 6/14. **Info:** 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 or 8-9, New Jersey
US Chess Grand Prix 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:** $1200/Trophy-700-600-500, U2300 $400. **U2100:** $1000/Trophy-600-500, U1950 $400. **U1800:** $1000/Trophy-600-500, U1650 $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, GMs & IMs free ($99 deducted from prize). **U1100 section**$44 by Dec. 4, $10 more later, $15 more onsite. 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.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!
Dec. 14-16 or 15-16, California, Northern
US Chess Grand Prix 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. GMs/IMs- $0 by 12/1 (prize - EF). **Info:** http://BayAreaChess.com/champs.

A Heritage Event!
US Chess Junior Grand Prix!
Dec. 27-30, 28-30, 27, 29, or 30, Virginia
US Chess Grand Prix Points: 140 (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; $150 in U1600, U1300. **Special Prizes!** Best Fighting Spirit/Best Played Game: $200-100. Brilliancy: $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. **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. **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 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: $120; 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 or for questions, tombeckman@rcn.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:** 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.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!
Jan. 4-6, Tennessee
US Chess Grand Prix Points: 20 (Enhanced)
4th Annual Smoky Mountain Chess Tournament
Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa, 2525 DreamMore Way, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863. $$GTD $3500. Hotel: Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa, 2525 DreamMore Way, Pigeon Forge, TX 800-365-5996 $79.00 + tax per room. (Use PROMO CODE - SMCT) or book online at dollywoodsdreammoreresort.com (Under Special Codes enter Group Code 190103CHES) Valid Until 12/4/2018. (Room rate good for Thursday - Sunday only). In 3 Sections, **Open:** 5SS, G/120 d5, **$$GTD:** $600-200. Expert, A and Below - $300, $100. **Amateur:** 5SS, G/90 d5, Open to U1800. **$$GTD:** $300-100. C, D and Below - $300, $100. **Novice:** 5SS, G/90 d5, Open to U1200. **$$GTD:** $150-100. F, G and Below - $150, $50 Unrated - $100 $50 (unrated eligible for unrated prize only). **ALL: EF:** $30.00 if mailed by December 24, 2018 $40.00 later and at site. **Memb. Req'd:** TCA $10.00, Tennessee residents only. One 1/2 point bye available for any round if requested before registration ends. **ENT:** Harry Sabine, PO Box 381, Crossville, TN 38557, www. cumberlandcountychess.org/tournament. **INFO:** Harry Sabine (931) 484- 9593 or (931) 261-8440, hdsabine@citlink.net. www.tnchess.us. **Other Prizes - over $2000 in door prizes furnished by Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa that include Dollywood Tickets, Dixie Stampede Tickets and DreamMore Resort and Spa Gift Certificates!** W.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!
Feb. 1-3 or 2-3, Florida
US Chess Grand Prix Points: 20
Central Florida 2019 Winter Open
Avanti Palms Resort and Conference Center, 6515 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819. **$10,000 b/150 (Schol=½) 60% Guaranteed!** 5 Rounds at G/120 d5 (2-day: Rounds 1&2 G/60 d5) time controls. **6 sections:** Prizes*: **Premie**r: $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**: ½-pt must commit before Round 2 paired (max 2). **Reg**: ends ½-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; 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!
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 fees! **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: Reqrd. 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**: Prize: $3500/b100. **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, CCCmin & TD disc. **Open/FIDE-2-day:** 4SS 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, playup +15, re-entry: $20, GMs/IMs - $0 by 3/23. **Info: www.novatocheckmates.org.** Special disc rooms at Novato Courtyard Marriott, to reserve call 415-883-8950. W.

REGIONAL

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. 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:** Reqrd 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:** Reqrd 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:** Reqrd Check-in 1:30-2p. Games: 2:15-5p. **EF:** 29, 44 after 12/17 Info: http://BayAreaChess.com/signature. W.

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:** Reg. 9-9:30. Games 10-11:30-1-2:20-3:40. **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 *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

Feb. 16-18 or 17-18, 2019 (35th Annual) U.S. Amateur Team Championship - West
See Nationals.

Mar. 30-31, 2019 North Bay Chess Festival by Novato Checkmates
See Grand Prix.

California, Southern

The Los Angeles Chess Club
The Most Active Club on the West Coast! (310) 795-5710. * LACC: www.LAChessClub.com; VCC: www.ValleyChessClub.com; Contact: 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, 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 orMick@LAChessClub.com.*

Mar. 1-3 or 2-3, 26th annual Western Class Championships
See *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

Connecticut

Mar. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)
See New York.

Apr. 17-21, 18-21 or 19-21, 13th Annual Foxwoods Open
See *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

Delaware

Feb. 16, Kasparov Chess Foundation Presents 10th Annual Greater Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Chess Championship (MD)
See Maryland.

District of Columbia

Feb. 16, Kasparov Chess Foundation Presents 10th Annual Greater Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Chess Championship (MD)
See Maryland.

Florida

Boca Raton Chess Club
Friday night tournament games, one game a week for 4 weeks. 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, Web: www.StormontKingsChess.com

Dec. 14-16, 2018 National K-12 Grade Championships
See Nationals.

Jan. 4-6 or 5-6, 5th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open
See *Chess Life* or *www.bocachess.com.*

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 *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

Georgia

Jan. 4-6 or 5-6, 5th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)
See *Chess Life* or *www.bocachess.com.*

Feb. 16, 2019 Atlanta Winter Congress Scholastics
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. Sections may be combined at the discretion of the Chief TD with all prizes awarded as advertised. **All:** Participants who do not win a trophy will receive a Participation Medal. **Entry Fee:** $29, if rec'd by 15-FEB; $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, (478) 973 – 9389. PHONE CALLS ONLY AFTER 15-FEB – no e-mails or TEXT messages, please.

Mar. 17, 2019 Boris Kogan Memorial Scholastics
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. Sections may be combined at the discretion of the Chief TD with all prizes awarded as advertised. **All:** Participants who do not win a trophy will receive a Participation Medal. **Entry Fee:** $29, if rec'd by 16-MAR; $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, (478) 973 – 9389. PHONE CALLS ONLY AFTER 16-MAR – no e-mails or TEXT messages, please.

Illinois

Feb. 15-17 or 16-17, 2019 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - North
See Nationals.

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 *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

June 28-30, 2019 U.S. Junior Open
See Nationals.

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 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.

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.: 9:30-11-12:30-2-3:30. **U1000 HS & MS:** under 1000 or unr, 6-12, 5SS, G/30 d5, Rds.: 9:30-10:45-12-1:15-2:30. **500-999 K-5:** 500-999, K-5, 5SS, G/30 d5, Rds.: 9:30-10:45-12-1:15-2:30. **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. **Contact Email:** tournaments@mdchess.com.

Massachusetts

Jan. 4-6 or 5-6, 7th annual Boston Chess Congress
See *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

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 *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

Missouri

Mar. 22-24 or 23-24, 23rd annual Mid-America Open
See *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

Nevada

Dec. 26-30, 26-29 or 27-29, 28th annual North American Open
See *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

New Jersey

Dec. 7-9 or 8-9, 2018 Garden State Open
See Grand Prix.

Dec. 8, Princeton Charter School
TOURNAMENT LOCATION: Princeton Charter School at:100 Bunn Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540. TIME CONTROL: G/30 d0; Swiss to 4 rounds. SECTIONS: Open above 1000; U1000; U700; U300/Unrated. (sections will be combined. Awards will be given to the top 3 in each section) **Parental Supervision Required**: The parents or another adult must be designated to supervise the student player between rounds. **Schedule (**will be accelerated if possible) **First Round:** 12:01 PM. **Second Round:** ASAP. **Third Round:** ASAP. **Fourth Round:** ASAP. **Award Ceremony**: ASAP (4:05 the latest). Schedule will be accelerated if possible. **(*) Online Registration $30 Only if register one week before: www.ChessKidsNY.com/PCSChessProgram. htm.** ***(*) Fee will increase automatically to $35 if register later.*** **On site registration the date of the event:** $40 from 11:45 am to 12:00 noon. **Information:** email to Miguel Iniguez at: migini@gmail. com ***Results will be posted online the same day of the event!***

Jan. 19, Princeton Charter School
TOURNAMENT LOCATION: Princeton Charter School at:100 Bunn Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540. TIME CONTROL: G/30 d0; Swiss to 4 rounds. SECTIONS: Open above 1000; U1000; U700; U300/Unrated. (sections will be combined. Awards will be given to the top 3 in each section) **Parental Supervision Required**: The parents or another adult must be designated to supervise the student player between rounds. **Schedule (**will be accelerated if possible) **First Round:** 12:01 PM. **Second Round:** ASAP. **Third Round:** ASAP. **Fourth Round:** ASAP. **Award Ceremony**: ASAP (4:05 the latest). Schedule will be accelerated if possible. **(*) Online Registration $30 Only if register one week before: www.ChessKidsNY.com/PCSChessProgram. htm.** ***(*) Fee will increase automatically to $35 if register later.*** **On site registration the date of the event:** $40 from 11:45 am to 12:00 noon. **Information:** email to Miguel Iniguez at: migini@gmail. com ***Results will be posted online the same day of the event!***

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, www.westfieldchessclub.org/Events.html

Feb. 16-18, World Amateur Team & 2019 U.S. Team East Championship
See Nationals.

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. 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. **ENT:** Hal Sprechman, 66 Cromwell Ln., Jackson, NJ 08527 or online by Feb 23 at 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. Entrees 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, SUNDA**Y, **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 entrees accepted at: WWW. NJSCF.org** until 10pm, 2/28/19. QUESTIONS?? Contact: Jmull@aol.com, 732-610-1357.

Mar. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)
See New York.

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.chesscenter.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 reconfirm 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 byes (2 byes 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.

Dec. 27-29 or 28-29, 37th annual Empire City Open
See *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.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, 5th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)
See *Chess Life* or *www.bocachess.com.*

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 unrateds. 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. 19-20, Susan Polgar World Open 2019

Susan Polgar World Open Robert Wagner Middle School, 220 E. 76th St., New York, NY 10021. The prestigious annual Susan Polgar World Open Championship for Girls and Boys (SPFWO) was created in 2006 and is sponsored by the Susan Polgar Foundation (SPF) and Chess NYC affording young Chess players in the United States and around the world an outstanding opportunity to compete and develop their game. In 2 Sections, **Kindergarten through Eighth Tournament:** 5SS, G/25 d5, K-8 tournament on Saturday, January 19. **Ninth Through Twelfth Tournament:** 5SS, G/45 d5, 9-12 tournament Saturday, January 19 and Sunday, January 20. **ALL: EF:** $99 for Main Event until 11/1/18; $118 by 1/7/19; $154 after 1/7/19. $100,000+ in Trophies, Prizes, and Scholarships. **ENT:** Register Online: https://www.chessnyc.com/spfwo.com/. **INFO:** info@chessnyc.com.

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 welcome)

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 (I-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 qualifies 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-1), 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 skittles. **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.

Pennsylvania

Jan. 4-6 or 5-6, 5th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)
See *Chess Life* or *www.bocachess.com.*

Jan. 18-21, 19-21 or 20-21, 51st annual Liberty Bell Open
See *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

Feb. 16, Kasparov Chess Foundation Presents 10th Annual Greater Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Chess Championship (MD)
See Maryland.

Mar. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)
See New York.

Tennessee

Jan. 4-6, 4th Annual Smoky Mountain Chess Tournament
See Grand Prix.

Texas

Feb. 14-18, 15-18, 16-18 or 17-18, 10th annual Southwest Class Championships
See *Chess Life* or *www.chesstour.com.*

Vermont

Mar. 9-10, 52nd annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)
See New York.

Virginia

Dec. 27-30, 28-30, 27, 29, or 30, 45th Annual Eastern Open
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 Chess Life or www.chesstour.com.

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(11) Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities (if there are none, so state): none. (12) For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates section 423.12, DMM only). The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and tax exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (check one): þ has not changed during preceding 12 months; ¨ has changed during preceding 12 months. (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.) (13) Publication Name: Chess Life Kids. (14) Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: August 2018. (15) Extent and nature of circulation. (a) Total number copies printed (net press run): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 9,427; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 9,274. 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(h) Total (sum of 15f and 15g) average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 9,427; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 9,274. (i) Percent paid. 15c divided by 15f × 100), per cent on average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 100; per cent on actual no. copies of single issue published nearest filing date, 100. 16. Electronic Copy Circulation. (a.) Requested and Paid Electronic Copies, average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 3; Number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 2. (b.) Total Requested and Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a), 8,778. Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing date, 8,510. (c.) Total Requested Copy Distribution (Line 15f) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a), 8,778; Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing date, 8,510. (d.) Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100) 100%; per cent on Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing date, 100%. I certify that 50% of all distributed copies (electronic and print) are legitimate requests or paid copies. 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership. Publication of this statement will be printed in the December 2018 issue of this publication. 18. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete (signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner): Judy Misner (sig.), Business Manager. P.S. Form 3526-R, July 2014.

My First Move

GM ALEXANDER IPATOV

2012 World U-20 Junior Champion and Saint Louis University chess team captain

In this column, we feature advice from your chess heroes and explore what shaped their development when they were Chess Life Kids *like you!*

HOW IT BEGAN

I learned chess rules from my father at the age of four. Two years later, my mom brought me to the local chess club in Lviv, Ukraine, and that's when my professional chess career took off. Intellectual curiosity, competitiveness, and fairness made me fall in love with the game. Unlike some other sports, what happens on the board depends on you and only you. There is no room for chance or other extraneous factors that might influence the result. Hard work usually pays off in the end.

A COMMUNITY-MINDED TEAM LEADER

As captain of the Saint Louis University chess team, my immediate goal is to help our team win the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship in San Francisco in December (we came in second last year) and then the Final Four in March. Besides competing professionally, I'm also active in St. Louis' local chess community. I've helped run a number of scholastic events to spread chess in the area. Many scientific papers confirm that chess positively influences children's learning at school, so I am eager to help promote scholastic chess whenever I can.

Alex intently watches a game between Ukrainian GMs Oleg Romanishin and Andrei Volokitin.

ON LIVING AND STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES

I have a unique opportunity to bring my chess to a new level in the United States, thanks to the wonderful conditions provided by the Saint Louis Chess Club and Saint Louis University. For instance, current World Champion Magnus Carlsen played in St. Louis in August. The following month, none other than Garry Kasparov came here to compete! The second-highest player in the world and the world champion challenger Fabiano Caruana resides here, within a one-minute drive from the Saint Louis University campus. There is truly no other place in the world that can provide such conditions at this moment.

PROUDEST CHESS MOMENT TO DATE

I would likely name my 2012 victory at the World U-20 Junior Chess Championship in Athens. The tournament was very strong: in the six-year period following my win, three players from the tournament have already become two-time Olympic gold medalists: GM Ding Liren (currently ranked fourth in the world), GM Yu Yangyi (currently 12th) and GM Wei Yi (currently 26th).

FAVORITE OPENINGS

When I was a child, my coach Viktor Scherbakov taught me classical openings first. With white pieces, I've always been a 1. d4 player. As Black, I played Queen's Gambit Declined against 1. d4 and Petroff against 1. e4. Nowadays, I tend to play more aggressive and offbeat lines. Against 1. d4 I usually opt for the Grünfeld, 1. ... d6 or 1. ... g6 2. c4 Bg7 3. Nc3 e6, whereas after 1. e4 I favor fully playable sidelines in the Ruy Lopez or, once again, may play 1. ... d6 or 1. ... g6 if I need to play for a win. Lastly, I've played a number of games with 1. ... b6 as well.

FAVORITE BOOKS

As a child, I was really fascinated by the games collection of Alexander Alekhine with his own annotations. Apart from that, I loved the works of GMs Mikhail Botvinnik, David Bronstein, Garry Kasparov, and IM Mark Dvoretsky. Yuri Razuvaev's book, where he covered GM Akiba Rubinstein's positional masterpieces, largely influenced me as well.

ON BECOMING AN AUTHOR

I am working on my own book—I want to share my chess philosophy with the chess world. I believe that most players and coaches spend too much time studying mainstream opening theory and often neglect other aspects of chess, such as endgame technique and key must-know positions or typical pawn structures and corresponding plans. As a result, they become computer-dependent individuals who cannot think on their own and who always check the engines. In my book, I will argue about the validity of this approach and I also will share individual and earlier unpublished analyses on offbeat openings to show that they can be successfully played.

MY BEST CHESS ADVICE

Study classical games, typical pawn structures, middlegame plans, endgame technique and positions, solve tactics and studies instead of memorizing opening lines. Analyze your games, especially the ones that you lost! And don't get discouraged if things don't go your way. Keep trying! I missed my first grandmaster norm five times by half a point. I was very disappointed but never gave up. Good luck!

Alex at the Ukrainian U-10 Chess Championship (circa 2002 or 2003).

Alex today, on the campus of Saint Louis University, where he captains the chess team.

All photos courtesy of subject

Answers

YOU CAN DO IT!

Solution #1: 1. Nf7+ Kg7 2. Bh6#

Solution #2: 1. Rb7+ Kd8 2. Nxc6#

Solution #3: 1. Qe7+ Kf5 2. Bd3#

Solution #4: 1. fxg6+ Ke7 2. Re3#

Solution #5: 1. Qh5+ Kf6 2. Qg5#

Solution #6: 1. hxg7+ Kg8 2. Rh8#

960 BUGS

1. Qxg7+ Kxg7 2. N@f5+ Kg6 (If 2. ... Kg8 then 3. N@h6+ Kh8 4. B@g7# or P@g7#) 3. N@h4+ Kh5 4. P@g4+ Nxg4 6. hxg4+ Kxg4 7. B@f3#. Note how every move is either a knight check, or placing a piece directly beside the king, so Black never had a chance to use his captured pieces to block! This is key in bughouse.

IT'S YOUR MOVE

Did you catch that?

1. Open files, page 6
2. Bobby Fischer, page 14
3. 1. d4, page 21
4. SIM; senior international master, meaning the player has one grandmaster norm, page 6
5. Black plays f5 as a response to 1. d4. It offers some interesting attacks in the middlegame but weakens Black's kingside, page 10
6. U.S. Amateur Team East, page 9

Did you see that?

1. Sam's hat, page 9
2. Center of board, page 15
3. D in CHESSBOARD, page 12
4. Top of chess king, front cover
5. bottom of Macau Tower, this page

Art by Val Bochkov

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6-SS, G/90,d5

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2:30 PM Opening Ceremony
3:00 PM Round 1

Saturday April 13
10:00 AM Round 2
2:30 PM Round 3
6:30 PM Round 4

Sunday April 14
9:00 AM Round 5
1:00 PM Round 6
5:00 PM Awards Ceremony

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SIDE EVENTS
Bughouse Tournament
Fri. April 12 11:00 AM
Entry fee: $35 per team

Blitz Tournament (G/5,d0)
Fri. April 12 7:00 PM
Entry fee: $25 4/1, $30 after/on-site.

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Age as of 1/1/2019
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top 500 – 799, top U500, top 6 schools
Under 10 top 15 individuals
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
top 1300 – 1599, top U1300, top 3 schools
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