

# CHESS LIFE

# Kids

December 2020 | USChess.org

## INVITATIONALS GO ONLINE!

Rockefeller winner Bryan Xie models the Haring, Rockefeller, and Barber first place medals.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

US Chess receives  
\$3 million gift from  
John D. Rockefeller V.



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This month: IM Anna Zatonskih

### In this issue

The scholastic invitationals went off the boards and over the internet this spring. WGM Jennifer Yu gives you the inside scoop on the Rockefeller, Barber, and Haring tournaments. Senior Direction of Communication Dan Lucas reports on a generous legacy gift from John D. Rockefeller V that creates new scholastic events and enhances existing ones. And join IM Anna Zatonskih in My First Move and Chess Adventures for an underwater escapade.

**This month's cover** features Bryan Xie, winner of the inaugural Rockefeller tournament, draped in the new first-place medals representing the Haring, Rockefeller, and Barber tournaments. See page five for a trivia question about Bryan's pose!



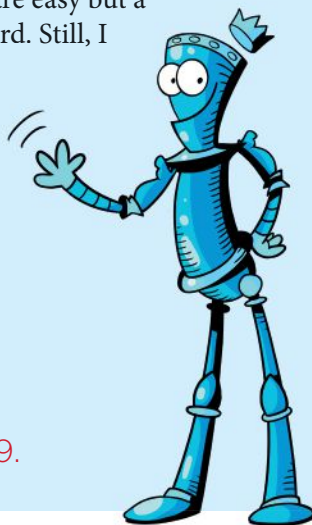
# CAN DO IT!

BY SIM JON EDWARDS  
10TH U.S. CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CHAMPION

This month let's look at queen sacrifices deep in the heart of your opponent's kingside. The queen sacrifice on f8 can be quite spectacular. Once again, the same rules apply. You should always look at such moves. They are forcing and tend to be easy to calculate. If they work, you will quickly win the game. Of course, if such moves do not work, please don't play them!

All of these are White to move to move and mate. They all involve Q(x)f8+, but not always on the first

move. Most are easy but a couple are hard. Still, I am confident that You Can Do It!



Solutions on page 19.

## QUIZ 3

WHITE TO PLAY



## QUIZ 4

WHITE TO PLAY



## QUIZ 5

WHITE TO PLAY



## QUIZ 1

WHITE TO PLAY



## QUIZ 2

WHITE TO PLAY



## QUIZ 6

WHITE TO PLAY



# IT'S YOUR MOVE!



## DID YOU CATCH THAT?

You'll find all sorts of fun facts tucked inside the pages of this month's Chess Life Kids. Let's test your knowledge! Answers on page 19.

1. Anna Zatonskih moved to the United States from which country?  
a) Russia                      c) Romania  
b) Ukraine                     d) Belarus
2. In the inaugural Rockefeller invitational tournament, only two players were internationally titled. They were:  
a) Brewington                c) Alexander Wang  
Hardaway and                and Bryan Xie  
Bryan Xie                      d) Brewington  
b) Alex Zhang and         Hardaway and  
Andrew Jiang                Jacob Chiang
3. Scott Escalera is only seven, but he's already competed in how many rated tournaments?  
a) 150                            c) 300  
b) 500                            d) 200
4. The new scholastic elementary invitational is named for which Rockefeller?  
a) John D.                      c) John D.  
Rockefeller V                 Rockefeller, Sr.  
b) John D.                      d) John D. "Jay"  
Rockefeller III                Rockefeller IV
5. Our cover pose may look familiar. It replicates a similar famous pose from many years ago. Who was the original model?  
a) Mark Spitz                 c) Alex Rodriguez  
b) Kobe Bryant               d) Peyton Manning
6. Who is John D. Rockefeller V?  
a) a chess dad                c) donor of \$3  
b) scholastic                 million legacy gift  
director for the                to US Chess  
Maryland Chess                d) all of the above  
Association
7. What surprised Anna Zatonskih about chess in the United States?  
a) there is no dress         c) the clocks are set  
code                             up differently  
b) people play up            d) there are so  
to four games a                many different  
day with long time         venues to play in  
controls
8. How many new tournament events have been created by the \$3 million legacy gift from John D. Rockefeller V?  
a) two                            c) four  
b) seven                         d) five

**AT 6,  
HE FLED  
NIGERIA.**

**AT 7,  
HE WAS  
HOMELESS.**

**AT 8,  
HE WAS A  
CHESS  
CHAMPION!**

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# CHESS KIDS

ACROSS THE

# BOARD



BY AL LAWRENCE

Celebrating *Chess Life Kids*  
from across the country.

## Scott Escalera

Oak Park, Illinois

Grandmaster Detective?

“I think I want to become a detective,” Scott said. He loves solving all kinds of puzzles.

Looking at the trophies in his chess room, you might guess that Scott has been playing in chess tournaments for a very long time. He has already won 136 chess trophies and medals! He’s competed in 200 official tournaments.

But Scott is only seven years old. He is one of America’s top-rated in his age group.

Scott is homeschooled by his father Ren, who began by giving Scott lessons in reading and writing. Then his dad started showing him how the chess pieces move because, “The game teaches so much about how to think, plan, and

Photo, this page: Scott won first place in the K-1 section of the US Chess/ChessKid Online Elementary Championship! Facing page, top: Scott meets some chess heroes. L to R: With GM Fabiano Caruana, WGM Tatev Abrahamyan, GM Lev Aronian, GM Robert Hess. Below, L to R: Scott with his parents, a roomful of trophies! Photos courtesy of subject.



organize,” Ren said. Scott was only 18 months old when he began to learn the game. “It took three months to teach him how the knight moves. After that, the other pieces were easy!”

“I like to travel,” Scott said. He has consistently finished in the top ten in his age group in national scholastic championships from Florida to California. At the famous Saint Louis Chess Club,

favorite is Bobby Fischer,” he said. He devotes two hours to chess each morning, playing several “rapid” tournaments on *Chess.com* and working chess puzzles. Then, after studying normal school subjects, he trains for another two hours in the evening with “Tito Coach,” his uncle Jaime Joshua Frias, who lives in the Philippines. The two use Skype for their online lessons.

Scott keeps physically active with soccer and basketball. And he loves



he’s met many of the game’s greats, including World Champion Magnus Carlsen. At home, he is the reigning Illinois first-grade champ.

In August, Scott won the K-1 section of the first-ever US Chess/ChessKid Online Elementary Championship, ahead of more than 500 competitors, winning all seven of his games. He even takes on all challengers at once, adults and kids alike, at shopping malls in “simuls” sponsored by the Illinois nonprofit Chess Vets, which honored Scott as its 2019 Player of the Year.

Scott trains hard. World chess champions past and present watch Scott from their pictures on his wall. “My



to read. His dad knows a parent can’t force a kid to want to win chess games.

“But if a kid has the passion for the game, a parent can nurture it.”

He may grow up to solve crimes, but Scott knows he also wants to become, “a super-grandmaster and play the best chessplayers in the world!”





# AVOID THE by Bruce Pandolfini TRAP!

## THE MULTIDIRECTIONAL QUEEN

This column teaches you openings by helping you learn to avoid opening traps. Set up your board and pieces and play through the game below. Have paper and pen by your side. When you reach a question, write down your answer. After you are done with all 10 questions, check your answers at the end of this column. Total your points and see how you did against the scoring scale at the end!

Obviously, the queen being such an important piece, you have to use it wisely. Bring it out too early and you can run into a lot of trouble fast. But indeed, it's also an awesome attacking force. By being able to threaten in all directions, it can give multiple threats fairly easily and quickly. The queen especially likes to take advantage of double attacks involving the enemy king. A prime checking line is the diagonal leading to the enemy king after the defender's f-pawn has moved (the h5-e8 and h4-e1 diagonals, respectively). Truly, a timely check at KR5 might just win an unsuspecting piece placed somewhere across the board.

### 1. e4

White starts with a straightforward king-pawn game, the most often seen opening move, particularly for newcomers.

### 1. ... e5

Black responds with a double king-pawn defense. A popular asymmetrical response is 1. ... c5.

### 2. Nf3

This developing move gains time by attacking the black e-pawn. Less often seen is the Vienna Opening, 2. Nc3.

Q1) What's wrong with the developing move 2. Bd3? (10 points)

### 2. ... Nc6

Black solidifies the king-pawn. Both 2. ... d6 and 2. ... Nf6 are popular alternatives.

Q2) What two moves can White now play to pressure e5? (10 points)

### 3. Bb5

This signals the Ruy Lopez. White has other reasonable third moves, including Bc4, Nc3, and d4.

Q3) How does 3. Bb5 pressure e5? (10 points)

### 3. ... a6

Black puts the question to the bishop. White must decide whether to retreat the bishop to a4 or take the knight.

Q4) What's wrong with 4. Bc4 instead? (10 points)

### 4. Bxc6

White decides to save time and create doubled c-pawns. Maintaining the pressure by 4. Ba4 is quite common.

Q5) Should Black take back toward the center, 4. ... bxc6? (10 points)

### 4. ... dxc6

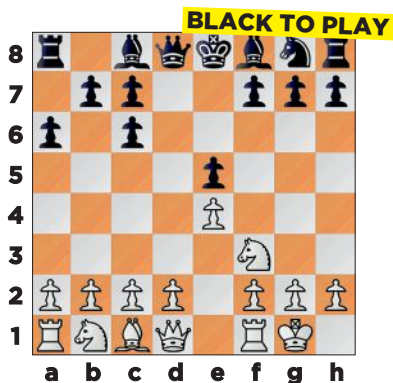
This opens the d-file for Black's queen.

Q6) Can White now win a pawn by 5. Nxe5? (10 points)



## 5. 0-0

White guards e4 indirectly by making e1 available to the king-rook. Moreover, Black must now defend his e-pawn.



### 5. ... f6

Black protects the e-pawn.

Q7) Which two diagonals are weakened by 5. ... f6? (10 points)

### 6. d4

White renews the pressure against e5. The threat is to win a pawn.

### 6. ... exd4

The best defense is often not to defend at all, but to trade off the attacked unit for the attacking one.

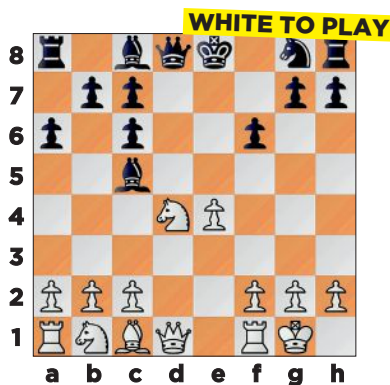
### 7. Nxd4

Q8) What's the main reason for 7. Nxd4 instead of 7. Qxd4? (10 points)

### 7. ... Bc5

Black develops with an apparent gain of time. Much better would have been 7. ... Bd6.

Q9) What's wrong with 7. ... Bc5? (10 points)



### 8. Qh5+

A double attack, taking advantage of the weakened e8-h5 diagonal. Black's king is seriously exposed.

### 8. ... g6

Moving the king doesn't help. It doesn't matter how Black responds. The c5-bishop is lost.

### 9. Qxc5

White captures the free bishop and defends the d4-knight. A piece up, with correct play, White has an easy win.

### 9. ... Black resigns



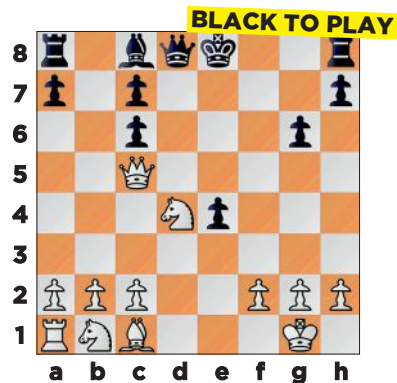
Black has lost a piece

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

## ILLUSTRATIVE GAME:

Bela Csatlos vs. Cathrine Ihionvien [C44], Hungary 2005

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4  
4. Bc4 d5 5. Bxd5 Nf6 6. Bxc6+  
bxc6 7. Nxd4 Nxe4 8. 0-0 Bc5 9.  
Re1 f5 10. Rxe4+ fxe4 11. Qh5+  
g6 12. Qxc5



FINAL POSITION IN THE ILLUSTRATIVE GAME

## ANSWERS

A1) It unnecessarily blocks White's d-pawn, slowing development.

A2) White could attack e5 directly by 3. d4 or indirectly by 3. Bb5.

A3) By capture or pin, the c6-knight's defense of e5 can become shaky.

A4) It's an Italian Game, but ... a7-a6 has been played for free.

A5) The move 4. ... dxc6 promotes faster development and avoids isolating the a-pawn.

A6) After 5. Nxe5, Black has the fork 5. ... Qd4, winning the pawn back.

A7) The move 5. ... f6 weakens the a2-g8 and e8-h5 diagonals.

A8) White wants to avoid a trade of queens.

A9) It loses a piece.

A10) Move seven. Certainly better was 7. ... Bd6.

## 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

# INVITATIONALS

go online

BY WGM JENNIFER YU

As the COVID-19 pandemic restricted travel and gatherings around the world, several annual chess tournaments were canceled or postponed. For most kids, that meant a summer filled with chess tournaments was looking less and less likely.

Growing up, playing in the scholastic national tournaments of champions was one of the highlights of my summers. These events are unique and special for several reasons. First, only one player represents each state per tournament, really emphasizing the “national” in the tournament name. Pre-pandemic, the opening ceremony called every player to the stage, where they received their state flag and a medal. It was always cool seeing kids from Alabama to Wyoming lined up waiting for their turn. Before each round, players set up their state flags at the board, almost making it feel like every state was fighting a battle. In fact—thanks to the combined team prize that went to the top scoring state—that feeling wasn’t far from the truth. One of my favorite parts was the annual pizza party, where players could make friends from all over the country while munching on delicious food. Although these parts were all impossible due to the pandemic, a massive organization effort by US Chess managed to save the most important part of these events—the chess!

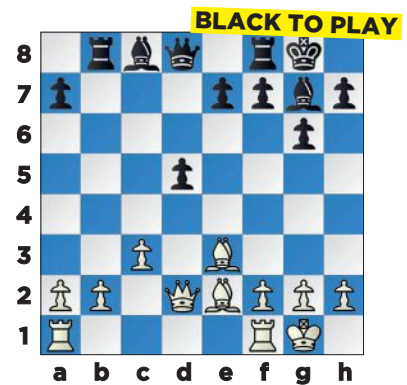
Each event was transferred online and played on *Chess.com* with a new time control of 70 minutes with

a 10 second increment. This year the John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions (“Rockefeller”) was introduced to the mix of events that included the WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions (“Haring”) and Dewain Barber National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions (“Barber”). The GM Arthur Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions (“Denker”) and National Tournament of Senior State Champions (“Seniors”) also took place but aren’t covered in this article. (For more on all five tournaments, see the October issue of *Chess Life*. ~ed.)

In the Rockefeller, the last round featured the ultimate matchup between the top two seeds and only titled players in the event, CMs Brewington Hardaway and Bryan Xie.

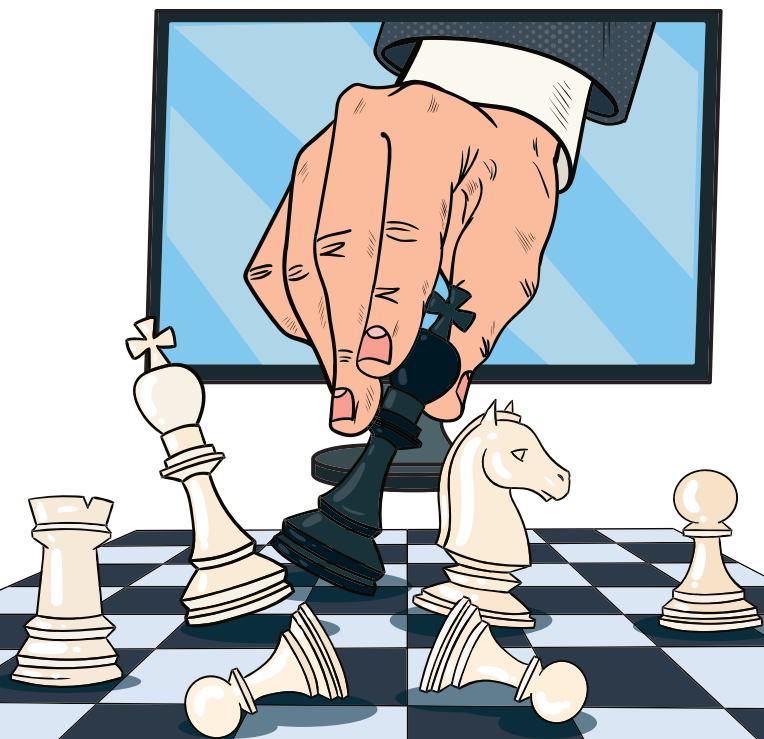
## TITLE ON THE LINE

CM Brewington Hardaway (2234)  
CM Bryan Xie (2102)  
2020 John D. Rockefeller  
III National Tournament of  
Elementary School State  
Champions (6), Chess.com,  
08.02.2020



13. ... Qa5

With a half point lead entering the game, Xie managed to win a



fascinating up and down positional game where he was put in multiple difficult situations by Hardaway.

**14. Rfd1 Rd8 15. a4**

A great move, preparing to expand the queenside with b2-b4 and gain more space.

The immediate 15. b4?! is not as precise because it allows 15. ... Qa3, which shows how important 15. a4 is! Now the white c3-pawn is weak and his queenside is stuck.

**15. ... Be6 16. b4**

Consistent with his last move, Hardaway expands on the queenside and attacks the black queen. The question is, does this weaken his c3-pawn?

**16. ... Qc7 17. Bd4**

Nope, not a problem! After the trade of the dark square bishops, the c3-pawn can easily be defended by a rook.

**17. ... Bxd4?!**

Better is 17. ... Bf5 preparing ... e7-e5 because it avoids the positional bind on the queenside that White achieved in the game.

**18. cxd4**

The correct capture, getting rid of the weak c3-pawn and preparing to infiltrate on the c-file.

**18. ... Bf5 19. Rac1 Qb7 20. b5 Bd7 21. Rc5 Rdc8 22. Rdc1**

Although material is even, Hardaway has a huge positional advantage due to his extra space on the queenside and because Black can't really move! Trading on c5 is never good for Black because the dxc5 recapture gives White a strong passed pawn.

**22. ... e6 23. Qa5**

A possible plan is 23. h4 to play on the kingside. Remember the principle of attacking two weaknesses! Black is tied down to the queenside so this is the perfect opportunity for White to create weaknesses on the kingside and go for the kill. 23. ... h5 24. Qg5 Kf8 25. Qe5 Kg8 26. Bxh5 and Black is in a lot of trouble.

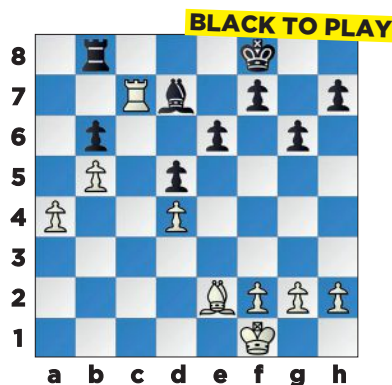
**23. ... Qb6 24. Qxb6?**

Although it looks like White can easily occupy the seventh rank after this trade, appearances are deceiving! This allows Black to trade off the white rooks, getting rid of White's advantage and entering an equal bishop endgame.

**24. ... axb6 25. Rc7 Kf8 26. Kf1**

The problem with 26. Rxd7?? Rxc1+ mating.

**26. ... Rxc7 27. Rxc7**



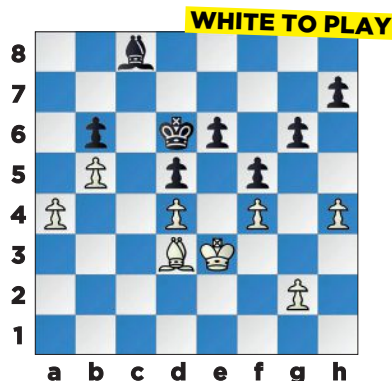
**27. ... Rc8!**

Trading off the last rook and freeing himself from the c-file lockdown.

**28. Rxc8+ Bxc8**

The engine declares this position to be equal, but two determined players and a national title on the line is a recipe for exciting complications! Although White's advantage has been minimized, it's still easier for him to play because he has the possibility of making an outside passed pawn on the queenside with a timely a4-a5 pawn-break and Black's pawns restrict his own bishop.

**29. Ke1 Ke7 30. Kd2 f6 31. f4 Kd6 32. Ke3 Bb7 33. h4 Bc8 34. Bd3 f5?!**



In same color bishops endgames, generally it's a good idea to avoid putting your pawns on the same color as your bishop because it will restrict your own bishop's movement and make it a possible target for your opponent's bishop. In this case, it prevents Black from playing any ... e6-e5-breaks forever, locking his bishop in. White can gain an advantage with timely pawn breaks, allowing his king to infiltrate.

Instead 34. ... e5 preparing e4 to create a passed pawn and restrict White's bishop maintained equality. Note the difference: although e4 is on the same color as Black's bishop, Black's bishop can comfortably move around it and it is securely protected by the d5 pawn.

**35. h5!**

Breaking down the black pawns!

**35. ... gxh5**

Now Black's kingside is shattered.

If 35. ... Ke7 36. h6, White can now play a cat and mouse game, slowly improving his position and playing this endgame forever. A possible way to play is transferring the white king to the queenside to create a passed pawn, and then returning back to the kingside once one of Black's pieces is tied down to stopping the passed pawn. The importance of h5-h6 is that a white king infiltration through h4-g5-f6 will now always be a threat.

**36. Kf2 h4**

After 36. ... Bd7 37. Kg3 Be8 38. Kh4 h6 39. Be2. White will get the pawn back and the king will infiltrate soon.

**37. Be2 Ke7 38. Bh5 Bd7 39. Kg1!**

White has all the time he needs! The king goes around to capture the pawn. This shows the beauty in White's position: Black is stuck.

**39. ... h3 40. g3?!**

Stronger was 40. gxh3. It is better for White to have a h-pawn instead of a g-pawn because it can be used for tempos and may become an

outside passer if White can capture Black's h-pawn. This just shows how complicated "simple" endgames are. For example, 40. ... Kd6 41. Kf2 Ke7 42. Ke3 Kd6 43. Kd3 Kc7 44. Kc3 Kd6 45. Kb4 Kc7 46. a5 Kb7 47. Bf7 h6 48. axb6 Kxb6 49. h4 Bc8 (49. ... Bxb5 50. Bxe6 winning). 50. Be8. Black is always in *zugzwang* because he now must allow White's king in or lose his e6-pawn.

**40. ... Kf6 41. Kh2 h6 42. Kxh3 Kg7 43. Kh4?!**

This heads toward the wrong direction. White cannot break through in the kingside and his only chance to convert the point is by bringing his king to the queenside to create a passer.

**43. ... Kf6 44. Be2 Be8 45. Bd3 Bd7 46. Be2 Be8 47. g4?**

This loses White's advantage because once the f5-square is open, Black may be the one infiltrating and winning pawns. From here things go wrong very quickly.

**47. ... fxe4 48. Kxe4 Bd7 49. Kh5?!**

This is technically still a draw, but now White is forced to find a tricky defense.

Instead 49. Kg3 easily holds because 49. ... Kf5 can always be met by 50. Bd3+.

**49. ... Kf5 50. Kxh6 Kxf4 51. Kg7 e5**

Uh oh, things are starting to look bad for White. Black is about to create a passed pawn and his bishop is finally freed from the prison of his own pawns.

**52. dxe5?**

The only way to save the game is to lose the pawn on d4. At first this looks strange, but the reason is that White cannot allow Black's king to come back and defend the b6-pawn. 52. Kf6 exd4 53. Ke7 Ke3 54. Bd1 Bf5 55. Kd6 Bd3 56. Kc7 and it's still very complicated but White will be able to draw because of his own passed pawns after capturing on b6.

**52. ... Kxe5 53. Kf7 Kd6 54. Bd3 Kc5 55. Ke7 Bg4!**

The once trapped bishop becomes the hero! White's pawns cannot be defended.

**56. Kd8**

No better is 56. Bc2 d4 when White will need to sacrifice his bishop for the pawn soon.

**56. ... Bd1 57. a5 bxa5 58. Kc7 Bf3 59. b6 d4 60. Bf1 a4 61. Bd3 a3 62. Bb1 d3**

The pants method! White's bishop cannot stop both pawns.

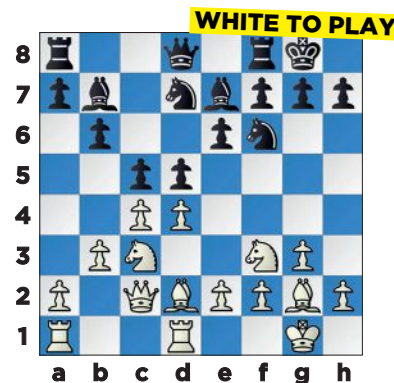
**63. Bxd3 a2 64. Be2 Ba8 65. b7 Bxb7 66. Kxb7 a1=Q 67. Ba6 Qg7+ 68. Kc8 Kc6 69. Kd8 Qd7, Mate.**

With this win, Bryan Xie became the clear winner of the section with 5½/6. Jacob Chiang and Kevin Su tied for second with 5/6.

IM Annie Wang comfortably held the lead in the Haring throughout the entire tournament, finishing with a dominating score of 6/6.

## DOMINATION

IM Annie Wang (2457)  
WFM Martha Samdashvili (2340)  
2020 WIM Ruth Haring National  
Tournament of Girls State  
Champions (6), Chess.com,  
07.26.2020



**12. cxd5 Nxd5 13. dxc5**

Another continuation is 13. Nxd5 Bxd5 14. e4 Bb7 15. d5 1/2–1/2 (33) Sivuk, V (2566)-Grachev, B (2652) New Delhi 2016

**13. ... Nxc5**

Exiting the opening phase of the game, both players need to decide



BRYAN XIE  
ROCKEFELLER WINNER



JASON LIANG  
BARBER CO-WINNER

where to place their pieces. Wang simplifies the position and uses pressure on the a1-h8 diagonal to try to weaken Black's center.

**14. Nxd5 Bxd5 15. Bc3 Qc8**

Dodging the annoying pin on the d-file.

**16. Qb2 f6 17. Bh3**

Now 18. Rxd5 is threatened.

**17. ... Qb7 18. Nd4 b5**

The idea behind this move is to force the bishop backwards with ... b5-b4.

**19. Nc2**

19. Bb4 is an odd-looking move that carries a punch. The threat is capturing on c5 and winning the e6 pawn. 19. ... Rfe8 (Something like 19. ... e5?? automatically loses to 20. Nf5! and Black's position falls apart.) 20. Qa3 (20. Bxc5 Bxc5 and the rook "discovers" a defense of the e6-pawn!) 20. ... Ne4 21. Bxe7 Rxe7 22. Qa5 a6 23. Rac1 and White has a pleasant position.

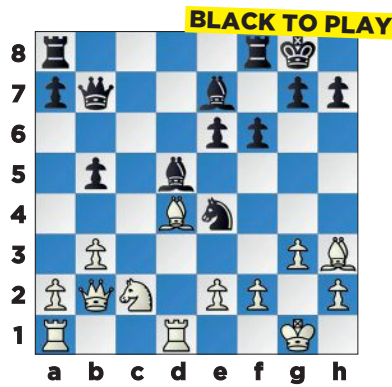
**19. ... Ne4 20. Bd4?!**

(see diagram top of next column)

The best way to prevent Black from winning the bishop pair is 20. Bb4.

**20. ... Ng5**

The move 20. ... e5! is annoying to deal with because 21. Be3 (21. Bc3 Bc5 22. Be1 Rad8. Black is happy here.) 21. ... b4 and suddenly Black seizes

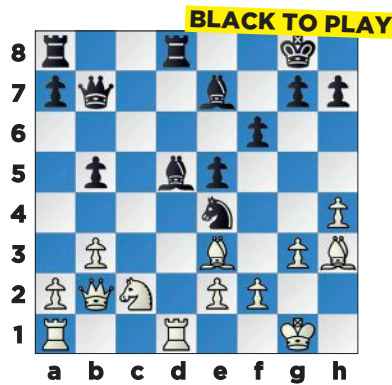


the queenside and White's pieces are all awkwardly placed. Black has a very comfortable positional advantage.

**21. Bf1 Rfd8 22. h4 Ne4 23. Bh3?!**

This allows ... e6-e5 again and this time Samadashvili seizes her chance!

**23. ... e5! 24. Be3**



**24. ... b4!**

Black's knight is ready to hop into c3 and become a major nuisance. Black's last two pawn moves

deharmonize White's pieces and it's not obvious where they should go.

**25. Ne1 Nc3 26. Rdc1 Qb5 27. Nd3 Bf7 28. Bf1 a5 29. Bd2 Ne4?!**

This seems like an automatic reaction, but Black's pieces are all better placed than White's so now is not the time to go backwards! Instead Samadashvili had an opportunity to take advantage of the lack of harmony between Wang's pieces.

Correct is 29. ... e4! winning material with 30. Nf4 g5! 31. Ng2 Nxe2+. It might look scary to willingly enter the f1 bishop's pin but after 32. Kh1 Qe5! Black escapes into a better endgame up by a pawn. 33. Qxe5 fxe5. Although the e-pawns are doubled, Black's real advantage comes from her more active pieces.

34. Rc2 Nd4. The knight is a monster.

**30. Be1 Rac8 31. Bh3**

A nice move kicking Black's rook off of the c-file.

**31. ... Rxc1 32. Rxc1 Rb8 33. Qc2 Qb6??**

Samadashvili threatens the g3 pawn but falls for

**34. Nxe5!**

Free pawn!

**34. ... fxe5**

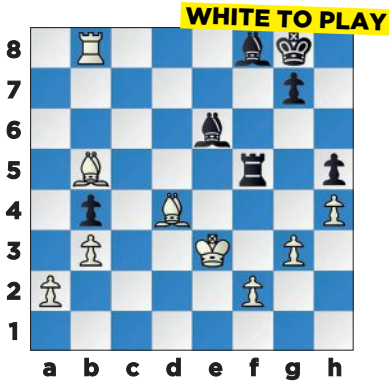
The persistent 34. ... Nxg3 fails because of 35. Nd7.



**34. Qxe4 Qd4 36. Qxd4 exd4**

With excellent technique, Wang flawlessly converts her advantage in the endgame.

- 37. Rc7 Bd8 38. Rd7 Bb6 39. Bd2 Bc5 40. Bf4 Re8 41. Rc7 Bf8 42. Kf1 a4 43. Bd7 Rd8 44. Bxa4 d3 45. exd3 Rxd3 46. Rc8 Be6 47. Rb8 Bg4 48. Bb5 Rd1+ 49. Kg2 Be6 50. Kf3 h5 51. Ke2 Rd4 52. Be3 Re4 53. Kd2 Re5 54. Bd4 Rd5 55. Ke3 Rf5**



Wang's pieces are all optimally placed. She is ready to kick Black's rook away from the defense of the f8-bishop.

- 56. Bd3 Ra5 57. Bb6 Re5+ 58. Kf4 Rd5 59. Bc4 Rf5+ 60. Ke4 Rf6 61. Bd4 Rg6 62. Bc5, Black resigned.**

Annie's massive 6/6 score led the pack as WFM Martha Samadashvili, WIM Rochelle Wu, Yili Wen, and Gauri Menon all tied for second with 4½/6.

The Barber featured a strong and competitive field with multiple FMs and IMs. Entering the last round, FM Jason Liang had a half point lead with 5/5, but a final round draw allowed NM Evan Park to catch up.

**POSITIONAL ADVANTAGE**

Evan Park (2305)  
Bach Ngo (2222)  
2020 Dewain Barber National  
Tournament of Elementary  
School State Champions (6),  
Chess.com, 08.02.2020

**WHITE TO PLAY**



**17. Bc2 Bg6**

An interesting line is 17. ... Nxd2 18. Qxd2 (18. Bxd2? Nxd4) 18. ... Bb4 19. Bxh7+! Kxh7 20. Qc2+ fork! 20. ... Kg8 21. Ng5! Bg6 22. Qxc6 Bxe1 23. Rxe1 and White has more enough compensation for the Exchange with the extra pawn and piece activity.

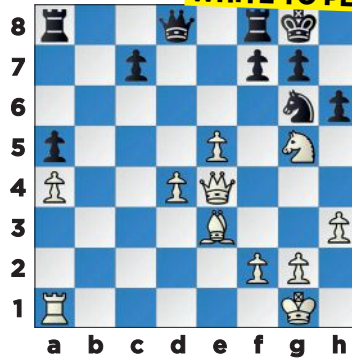
**18. Bf4 Bb4 19. Nxe4!**

A correct Exchange sacrifice. If White didn't seize this opportunity, he would be doomed to passivity. A recurring theme in all of the annotated games is piece activity.

For example, Black has an easy game after 19. Qc1 Rb8.

- 19. ... Bxe1 20. Qxe1 dxe4 21. Bxe4 Bxe4 22. Qxe4 Ne7 23. Ng5 Ng6 24. Be3 h6?**

**WHITE TO PLAY**



Understandably, Ngo attempts to kick the annoying white knight away. However, this pawn push also decreases one of the defenders of the g6 knight.

Better was 24. ... Qd7 when 25. h4 can be dealt with. 25. ... Rfd8 26. h5 Nf8 where the knight can retreat and defend the h7-pawn, maintaining the balance.

**25. Nxf7! Rxf7**

White also has the better of it after 25. ... Kxf7 26. Qf5+ Kg8 27. Qxg6.

**26. Qxg6**

Even though the material imbalance is around equal, Park has a massive positional advantage. His extra center pawns will create lots of trouble soon.

- 26. ... Rb8 27. Qc6 Rd7 28. Rc1 Qe7 29. Qc5**

Confidently trading into the endgame.

**29. ... Qxc5 30. Rxc5 Rbd8 31. f4**

No hurry in taking the a-pawn! Park prepares to push his center pawns.

The continuation 31. Rxa5 Rd5 32. Ra7 c5 33. dxc5 Rxe5 34. c6 Rc8 35. c7 is also winning as Black's rook is forever tied down to the defense of the monster c-pawn.

**31. ... Rxd4**

An attempt to hold the rook endgame, but White's center kingside pawn roller proves too strong.

Black cannot avoid the Exchange sacrifice for long, since after White's king enters (after 31. ... g6 32. Kf2 Kf7 33. Kf3), White's pawns will roll down the board.

- 32. Bxd4 Rxd4 33. f5 Rxa4 34. Rxc7 Rf4 35. g4 Re4 36. e6 a4 37. Kf2 Kf8 38. Kf3 Re1 39. Ra7 Ra1 40. Ra8+ Ke7 41. Rg8 a3 42. Rxg7+ Kf6 43. Ra7 a2 44. Kg2 Kg5 45. e7 Re1 46. Rxa2 Rxe7 47. Ra6 h5 48. Kf3 Rb7 49. Rg6+ Kh4 50. g5 Rb3+ 51. Kf4 Rb4+ 52. Ke5 Rb5+ 53. Ke6 Kxh3 54. f6 Kg4 55. Rg8 Rb6+ 56. Ke5 Rb5+ 57. Kd6 Rb6+ 58. Kc5 Rb7 59. g6 Kg5 60. f7, Black resigned.**

Evan Park and FM Jason Liang became Barber co-champions with 5½/6. IM Arthur Guo got clear third with 5/6.

GM Nicolas Checa and GM Alex Fishbein won the Denker and Seniors respectively, both with 5½/6.

Congratulations to all the winners and participants!



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# JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER V Donates \$3 Million TO CREATE NEW SCHOLASTIC EVENTS

*New national championships  
announced for K-1 and K-3 players*

By **DAN LUCAS**

What can three million dollars buy? You could buy the first issue of the Superman comic book. You could buy a fancy car. You could even buy certain private islands. You could invest it and earn more than \$100,000 in interest in just the first year! But in the case of US Chess, three million dollars is an investment in our future by John D. Rockefeller V, who has donated this money to create new national invitational championships and make the existing ones even better.

John D. Rockefeller V is a chess dad to his three kids, the Maryland Chess Association's Scholastic Director, and an active volunteer with US Chess. But he is also a member of one of the most historic families in America, one with a rich history of philanthropy (which means "the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes" ~*Google Dictionary*). Mr. Rockefeller V wanted to continue his family's legacy, and US Chess — and our scholastic players — are the ones who will benefit from his generosity. See the next page for the new events that are being created.

The money also will be used for the following:

- John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV Scholarship Fund, which will begin by 2030. This fund is named after Rockefeller's father, a former U.S. Senator who introduced a resolution in the Senate establishing National Chess Day. It will expand the amount of

scholarship money awarded to the top five players of each of the new and existing events.

- Sharon Percy Rockefeller State Invationals Books Fund, which will begin by 2021. This fund is named after Rockefeller's mother, who is in charge of the Washington, D.C. PBS TV station. This fund will provide a select group of chess books to all the participants of all the invitational events.

If you are wondering why some of these items have a deadline of 2030 instead of sometime sooner, it is because these events will all take place during the U.S. Open alongside the other established invitational events: the GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions, the Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions, and the WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions. Because the U.S. Open is organized many years in advance, it takes time to find the space to make room for all of the new players. With a little bit of luck, though, these events will begin in time for you to participate!







**JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III**  
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

This event started this year and is named after Rockefeller V's grandfather, who frequently played chess with the young Rockefeller V.



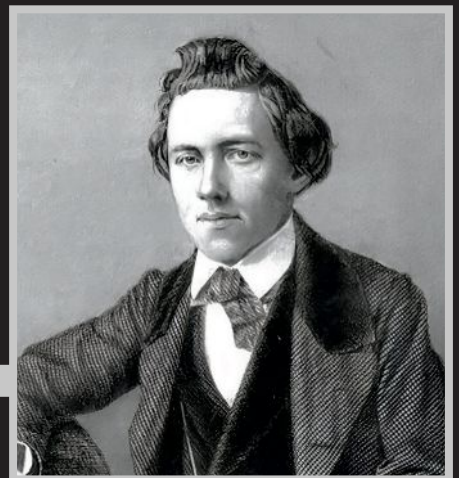
**GM MAURICE ASHLEY**  
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF K-3  
STATE CHAMPIONS

This event will begin by 2030. Ashley is the first African-American player to ever achieve the grandmaster title. Rockefeller V is attracted to Ashley's charisma and swagger when commenting on chess events. Ashley has devoted time, energy, and resources to promoting chess on the African continent.



**FM SUNIL WEERAMANTRY**  
NATIONAL BLITZ TOURNAMENT OF STATE  
CHAMPIONS

This event started this year. Weeramantry is stepdad to someone you probably know: GM Hikaru Nakamura! Weeramantry has been a chess coach for a long time, most notably at Hunter College Campus School, and is a good friend of Rockefeller V.



**PAUL MORPHY**  
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF K-1  
STATE CHAMPIONS

This event will begin by 2030. Morphy was America's first world champion (unofficially) from 1858-1860.

**READ MORE ABOUT IT**

There is a longer article about this, written for adults, in the December issue of *Chess Life*, available in a digital edition by clicking on the "Chess Life" link at [uschess.org](https://kids.kiddle.co/Rockefeller_family). Learn about the Rockefeller family: [https://kids.kiddle.co/Rockefeller\\_family](https://kids.kiddle.co/Rockefeller_family). *Great Moves: Learning Chess through History, from Lucena to Morphy* by FM Sunil Weeramanty is one of the books in the book fund.

# TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Board authorizes a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through December 31, 2020 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "XXXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "XXXX in Projected prizes based on ## players", where ## represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

## Nationals

HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

### 2021 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - West (Online Event)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021-SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021

Scholastic side event on Jan 31, 2021 via [chesskid.com](http://chesskid.com). US Chess online rated event affecting player's US Chess online regular rating. Players must have current US Chess membership. Teams: Four-player teams, average rating of four highest must be under 2200, difference between ratings of board 3 & 4 must be less than 1000. January 2021 Supplement OTB or ONL rating, whichever is the higher; CCA min. & TD discretion used to place players accurately. Player's account on chess.com must be current and in good standing. Two sections (1800+, u1800) based on team average rating. Time Control: 6SS, G/60-10. Schedule: 1800+ Sat/Sun: 9a, 1p, 4p, u1800: Sat/Sun: 9:15a, 1:15p, 4:15p. Prizes: Commemorative plaques and clocks for Top 3 teams in each section. Commemorative medals to Top scorer of each board (1-4 & reserve), 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. Free online tournament entry to the Top 3 best team names. Scholastic side event on Sunday, Jan 31, 2021 via [chesskid.com](http://chesskid.com). Player's account on chess.com must be current and in good standing. Time Control: 5SS, G/20-10. Teams: average rating must be under 1400. Schedule: Sun 9:30a, 11a, 12:30p, 2p, 3:30p. Prizes: Commemorative trophies to Top 5 teams. Registration: online via [millibary.org/usatw](http://millibary.org/usatw), registration closes Friday, 1/29 @ 6PM. Absolutely no same day registration accepted. Main Event EF: \$160/team or \$40/player by 1/23. 1/24-29: \$20 extra per player or \$40 per team. A change fee equal to the late fee will apply for any changes, other than bye requests. Scholastic EF: \$30/player, \$120/team by 1/25. Contact: Organized by Abel Talamantez and Judit Sztaray. Chief TD: John Cumiskey. For questions or help in forming teams email [chessroom@millibary.org](mailto:chessroom@millibary.org).

HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

### World Amateur Team & 2021 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - East (Online Event)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

50TH Anniversary, since 1971! 6SS, game 60 delay 10 seconds. Open to 4-player teams-no alternate. Team average (4 highest ratings—2021 January Rating list) must be under 2200. Teams rated over 2000 average no more than 1000 points between board 3 & 4. The higher of online or USCF will be used as of January 2021. Touchdown page at ICC for rules and info on allowed advance practice: <https://play.chessclub.com/usate>. EF: \$160 postmarked by 1/25/2021 After ALL-\$200 all teams, No Entries after 2/10/21. Check out official website [www.njsct.org](http://www.njsct.org). Prizes: 1-5th Place teams, Engraved wooden anniversary chess set leather box; Top Team (Denis Barry Award) U2100, 2000, 1900, 1800, 1700, 1600, 1500, 1400, 1000 each 4 Engraved Wooden anniversary sets leather box; Top college team (same school) 4 Digital Clocks & 4 heavy weighted plastic Hastings chess sets in engraved leather bags. 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 Scholastic team (Collins Award), Mixed Doubles (2 males, 2 females), Seniors (all players over age 50), each 4 Digital Clocks to top coach; Company team (same employer-no educational), Top Coaches (educational), Top team all female, Family (4 family members), each 4 heavy weighted plastic sets in engraved bags. State teams—CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY (Benjamin Award), PA, VA, each plaque top team; Special Plaques: Top Future team, (all players under age 10), Top Military College, Top Parent/Child (2 pairs, one parent, one child), Best Player 1-4 All 6-0 scores each Digital Clock. Entry fee refunded to team with Best "Chess related" name, -- Best "Chess Related costumes or gimmick"—entry refunded. Sat 2/13 Rds. 10-2-7, Sun 9-1-6. Surprises and special give-aways!! Two days only! Grandmaster commentary. Same hysterical event with great chess!! Best pajama prize, Best masks award, team with best slippers. For help forming teams and more information contact: [norechess@gmail.com](mailto:norechess@gmail.com) or [esdoye@aol.com](mailto:esdoye@aol.com). Chks payable to NJSCT, mail by 1/25/21 to: NJSCT, 17 Stonehenge Road, Morris-town, 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 GMs. Include SASE for confirmation if wanted. No registered or certified mail accepted.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

### 2021 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - North (Online Event)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Online provider TBA. Open: 6SS, G/60-inc. 10. Open to 4 player teams, no alternates. Team average (Higher of regular rating and online regular rating from Jan 2021 Rating List used) must be under 2200. EF: \$160 per team if received USPS or online by 6pm Feb. 5, \$180 if received USPS or online by 6pm Feb. 12. \$200 online until 6pm Feb. 19. Individuals wishing to play send \$50 received by USPS or on-line by 6pm Feb. 15, \$60 by 6pm Feb. 18, and request to be put on a team. (Note: we guarantee you will play but can't guarantee which board you will play or the ratings of your team). See [www.chessweekend.com](http://www.chessweekend.com) for more info, team rules and categories, complete prize list, and online fair play rules. Prizes: Winning team qualifies for national play-offs. Awards to top 3 teams, top teams u2000, u1800, u1600, u1300, u1000, top college team, top HS team, top junior team (HS and under), top K-8 team, top mixed doubles team (2 men and 2 women), top female team, top senior team (all 50 & over), best team name, best costume or theme, best streamer, and top individual score each board. Prizes: are online bookstore credit or Amazon gift cards. Rounds: Saturday 10:00am, 1:15pm, 4:30pm; Sunday 10:00am, 1:15pm, 4:30pm. Register after 12/15/20 at: [www.chessweekend.com](http://www.chessweekend.com). Checks made payable and sent to: Chess Weekend, 21694 Doud Ct., Frankfurt, IL 60423; include team's name and roster (plus ID#), captain's email and phone number. Info: [www.chessweekend.com](http://www.chessweekend.com), [glenn@chessweekend.com](mailto:glenn@chessweekend.com).

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

### 2021 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South (Online Event)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

One Section, 6SS, G/60-inc. 10. Open to 4-player teams, No Alternates. Team average (All 4 Team Members - Jan 2021 Rating List) must be under 2200. US Chess rated. Higher of Regular US Chess rating or Online Regular US Chess rating used. EF: \$160 per team if received online by Feb. 12, \$180 if received online by Feb. 19, \$200 online after Feb. 19. No entries accepted after 12 noon (Central Time) Feb. 26. See <https://www.kingregistration.com/tournaments> for more info, team rules, complete prize list, and online fair play rules. PRIZES: Winning team qualifies for national play-offs. Awards to Top 3 teams, top teams U2000, U1800, U1600, U1300, U1000, Top College Team, Top K-12 Team, Top Mixed Doubles Team (2 male and 2 female), Top Senior Team (all 50 & over), Top All-Female Team, Top Military Team (active or retired Armed Forces members), and Top Individual Score each Board, 1 - 4. All members of team finishing in First Place overall get Champion's Plaque. Each member of top three teams gets commemorative clock. All members of winning teams of other categories get US Chess Sales Gift Certificate and commemorative medal. See tournament website for additional details. ROUNDS (Central Time): Saturday 10:00am, 1:15pm and 4:30pm; Sunday 10:00am, 1:15pm and 4:30pm. Register at <https://www.kingregistration.com/tournaments> (Texas Chess Association). Mailed Entries: Entry fee determined by postmark and must be mailed (postmarked) NLT Feb. 20. Checks payable to Texas Chess Association. Include team's name, team members and US Chess IDs, and Team Captain's name, email address and phone number. Mail to: Franc Guadalupe (TCA President), 305 Willow Pointe Drive, League City, TX 77573. For more information, please email [flguadalupe@aol.com](mailto:flguadalupe@aol.com) or [renategarcia1@gmail.com](mailto:renategarcia1@gmail.com).

## Online

### 9th Annual Boston Chess Congress

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021-SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

6-SS, G/75-10, at Internet Chess Club. \$500 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 4 sections. Major Section: Open to 1900/over. \$600-400-200-150, top U2200 \$300-150, top Massachusetts resident \$100 bonus. Under 2000/Unr Section: \$400-280-150-

100, U1800 (no Unr) \$240-120. Under 1700/Unr Section: \$340-200-120-80, top U1500 (no Unr) \$180-90, unrated limit \$150. Under 1400/Unr Section: \$280-150-100-60, U1200 (no Unr) \$140-70; unrated limit \$80. Entry fee \$83 at chessaction.com by 12:30; \$100 by 11:30 am EST 1/2, must take round 1 bye after 9 pm EST 1/1. Regional EF discount: \$20 less to New England residents. GMs \$60 from prize. Log into [playcca.com](http://playcca.com) 30 minutes before game. Rounds begin EST 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm each day. Half point byes: Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. Online Regular rated (will not affect OTB ratings). Online Regular ratings used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

### NY State Girls Championship Friday Night Blitz — On Internet Chess Club!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021

8-SS, G/3-2. Online entries at [www.chessgirls.win](http://www.chessgirls.win): \$30 thru 1/7, \$40 until 4 pm EST 1/8, \$10 less to parents, alumni and those with NY State Girls Championship, Jan. 9-10. Active ICC account required (no additional charge) to play (includes 2-month ICC membership). Plaques: top 3, Top U1800, U1500/Unr. Round 1 begins: 7 pm EST, other rounds ASAP (should finish by 10 pm EST). Must be on Zoom to be eligible for prizes. Prizes not official until after fair-play review of games is completed (may take about 3 weeks before prizes are then mailed out). Online Blitz rated (will not affect OTB ratings), but Jan. 2021 official online regular ratings used for pairings and prize eligibility (OTB regular ratings used if no online regular rating), except unofficial ratings at uschess.org usually used if otherwise unrated. TD reserves right to assign estimated ratings to players with non-USCF ratings. Substitutions from advance entry list charged late fee. Section switches subject to \$20 extra charge per player after 1/7 (no switches on game day). \$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. Players must stay logged into ICC when round starts in order to be paired! Info on logging into ICC, setting up free ICC accounts, using Zoom, etc. [www.chessgirls.win](http://www.chessgirls.win). Questions: [director@chessgirls.win](mailto:director@chessgirls.win) (or 347-201-2269; leave message, email is much better). School purchase orders payable to: Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

### 5th Annual NY State Girls Championship at Internet Chess Club!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021-SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021

Presented to you by Little House of Chess and Chess Center of New York, open to all girls born after 1/10/01 in US and Canada, out of state welcome. Online entries at [www.chessgirls.win](http://www.chessgirls.win) (2-Day Championship sections): \$68 thru 12/31/20, \$85 by 6 pm EST 1/7; (1-Day sections): \$63 thru 12/31/20, \$80 by 6 pm EST 1/7. All sections: \$100 after 6 pm EST 1/7/21. Entries after 3 pm EST 1/8 may be required to take bye(s) and must already have activated their ICC account. Entries may not be accepted less than 8 hours before game. Entries may be subject to waiting list. Active ICC account required (no additional charge) to play (includes 2-month ICC membership). In 8 sections. Each section has its own age, (grade) and rating requirements (Championship sections open to all who are under age (and grade) limits; unrated allowed all sections). Playing both days are: Open Championship, open to all girls born after 1/10/01 (top NYS K-12 girl qualifies for 2021 National Girls Tournament of Champions), K-6 Championship and K-3 Championship: each is a 6-SS, G/60, +10, Rounds begin 10 am-1-4 pm EST each day. The 5 non-Championship sections and the K-1 Section are each 1-day, 5-SS, G/30, +5. Playing on Saturday are K-9 Under 1000, K-3 Under 600. Rounds begin Sat. 10 am-12-2-4-6 pm EST. Playing on Sunday with earlier starting times are K-12 Under 1200, K-6 Under 800, K-1 Championship: Rounds begin Sun. 9-11 am-1-3-5 pm EST. K-1 is open to grades 1/below born after 1/10/13. Both K-3 sections open to grades 3/below born after 1/10/11. Both K-6 sections open to grades 6/below born after 1/10/08. K-12 Under 1200 section open to grades 12/below born after 1/10/01. K-9 Under 1000 section open to grades 9/below born after 1/10/05. Plaques to top 8 each section and top 2 Unr. in each 1-day section. Grade medals: top 3 scorers K/below in K-1 section, top 3 below 9th Grade in K-12 U1200, top 3 below 7th Grade in K-9 U1000, top 3 below 4th grade in K-6 U800, and top 3 below 2nd grade in K-3 U600 (you can win both plaque + medal). All players scoring 4 or more (5 or more in 2-day sections) who don't win a plaque receive a medal! Playoff for 5-0 or 6-0 (after fair-play review is completed), may be fast game. Plaques also to top 4 teams each section (top 3 scorers from same school - team, all on team must attend same school: no

combined teams, even if one school "feeds" another). Individual free entry prizes (in each 2-Day Championship section): Free entry to 3 specified Continental Chess tournaments thru 12/31/21 to 1st, 2 free entries to 2nd, 1 free to 3rd & 4th! One free entry to 1st & 2nd in each 1-Day section! Free entries courtesy of Continental Chess and are valid for CCA non-scholastic tournaments. See [www.chessour.com](http://www.chessour.com) for complete details and restrictions. All: Out-of-state eligible for free entry prizes in Championship Sections, players only in NY, CT, NJ, MA, PA, VT, OH or QC eligible for free entry prizes in non-Championship sections; top NYS player and team each section are NY Champions. All players in Championship Sections must be visible on Zoom with side/rear camera angle. Zoom also required for prize eligibility in non-Championship sections. Prizes not official until after fair-play review of games is completed (may take about 3 weeks before prizes are then mailed out). Online Regular rated (will not affect OTB ratings), Jan. 2021 official online regular ratings used for pairings, section & prize eligibility (OTB regular ratings used if no online regular rating), except unofficial ratings at uschess.org usually used if otherwise unrated. TD reserves right to assign estimated ratings to players with non-USCF ratings. Substitutions from advance entry list charged late fee. Section switches subject to \$20 extra charge per player after 1/7 (no switches on game day). \$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. Players must stay logged into ICC when round starts in order to be paired! Info on logging into ICC, setting up free ICC accounts, using Zoom, etc. [www.chessgirls.win](http://www.chessgirls.win). Questions: [director@chessgirls.win](mailto:director@chessgirls.win) (or 347-201-2269; leave message, email is much better). School purchase orders payable to: Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553.

## Regionals

← NORTH CAROLINA

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (postponed from July 15-19) Note Hotel change

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020

An official FIDE Continental Championship offering IM, FM, WIM, WFM direct FIDE titles and GM, IM, WGM, WIM norms for winners! The 2019 North American Junior was held in Charlotte and had a record 77 players. Two sections—Open U20 and Girls U20 (girls may enter either section), 9 rounds, G/90 inc/30, USCF and FIDE-rated, FIDE norms and titles available. Venue: Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel, 8629 JM Keynes Rd., Charlotte, NC 28262. Hotel: \$109/night (single/double), free breakfast, free 3-mile shuttle, free internet, free parking, fridge/microwave in every room. \$15 discount off tournament entry fee if staying at official hotel. Open to all players from USA, Canada, and Mexico who are under 20 (19 & younger) as of 1/1/2020 (born 2000 or after). This is a completely open event for those who meet the age and eligibility requirements. Awards: Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals to top 3 in each section (on tiebreaks if necessary). Gold medalists win Personal Rights status at 2021 North American Junior and Pan-Am Junior Championships. Direct FIDE titles: Open section—Gold medal = IM title and GM norm; if tie for first, top 3 on tiebreaks receive IM title, gold medalist also earns GM norm. Silver = FM title and IM norm. Bronze = FM title and IM norm. Girls section—Gold = WIM title and WGM norm; if tie for first, top 3 on tiebreaks receive WIM title, gold medalist also earns WGM norm. Silver = WFM title and WIM norm. Bronze = WFM title and WIM norm. Schedule: suggested arrival Friday 12/18. Players meeting 12/19 12:30pm, Rounds Sat 1pm, 7pm, Sun 12pm, 6pm, Mon 12pm, 6pm, Tues 12pm, 6pm, Wed 10am. Registration: Players should register directly with the organizers online, it is not necessary to go through the federation. Entry Fee: \$260 paid online at [www.charlottchesscenter.org/najunior](http://www.charlottchesscenter.org/najunior) until 11/20, \$280 until 12/10, \$300 until 12/18. No registration after 12/18. \$15 off EF if staying at official hotel. Refunds before 11/20 subject to 5% service fee. No refunds for withdrawals after 11/20. No half-point byes, only zero-point byes. All equipment provided! This event takes place at the same time as the U.S. G/10, G/30, G/60 Championships ([www.charlottchesscenter.org/usblitzrapid](http://www.charlottchesscenter.org/usblitzrapid)). FIDE Rules, December FIDE ratings used for pairings, USCF and FIDE-rated, all players must have US Chess membership. Organizer: CharlotteChessCenter, contact: [grant@charlottchesscenter.org](mailto:grant@charlottchesscenter.org). Info, detailed regulations, registration: [www.charlottchesscenter.org/najunior](http://www.charlottchesscenter.org/najunior).

# ANSWERS

## PAGE 4/YOU CAN DO IT!

Solution #1: 1. Qxf8+ Kxf8 2. Rb8 mate

Solution #2: 1. Qxf8+ Kxf8 2. Re8 mate

Solution #3: 1. Qxf8+ Kxf8 2. Rh8 mate

Solution #4: 1. Qf8+ Rxf8 2. f7 mate

Solution #5: 1. Qf8+ Kxf8 2. Rd8 mate

Solution #6: 1. Bxg7+ Nxc7 2. Qf8+ Rxf8 3. Rxf8 mate

## PAGE 5/IT'S YOUR MOVE!

1. b) Ukraine

IM Anna Zatonskih won the Ukrainian Women's Chess Championship in 2001. She represented Ukraine in two Chess Olympiads and in two European Team Championships.

2. a) Brewington Hardaway and Bryan Xie

Both Hardaway and Xie are FIDE Candidate Masters. To earn this title, the player must achieve a 2200 FIDE rating.

3. d) 200

Not only has Escalara played in 200 tournaments, he's also the co-champion of the K-1(B) section of the inaugural US Chess/ChessKid Online Elementary Championship.

4. b) John D. Rockefeller III

Rockefeller III was the paternal grandfather of John D. Rockefeller V and was a renowned philanthropist (someone who helps good causes by donating time and money).

5. a) Mark Spitz

Spitz posed for this iconic photo in 1972 after winning seven Olympic gold medals for swimming. The photo by Terry O'Neill was used to make a poster that sold more than one million copies, becoming the most popular portrait of any athlete at the time.

6. d) all of the above

Rockefeller V is a multi-faceted person who also holds a Ph.D. in American Literature from Johns Hopkins University.

7. b) people play up to four games a day with long time controls

Zatonskih also says that wishing opponents good luck before the game was a new (and sweet) tradition for her.

8. c) four

In addition to the four tournaments geared toward scholastics, Rockefeller also pledged full funding to the newly-named John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions.

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# MY FIRST MOVE



IM ANNA ZATONSKIH  
FOUR-TIME U.S. WOMEN'S  
CHAMPION

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

## LEARNING CHESS

I learned the rules of chess when I was around four or five. Both my parents are chess players and chess has always been around in our life.

## CHESS FOREVER

I knew “This was it!” around age 13. I already was a good chess player, but I always had many interests besides chess. Then I had minor surgery and could not play sports, so I concentrated all my energy on chess. After that, there was no longer any question that chess would play a main role in my life.

## AMERICAN CHESS VS. UKRAINIAN CHESS

The chess culture is definitely different in the U.S. When I moved to Ohio from the Ukraine in 2002, I was surprised that people play up to four games a day with long time controls. Also, chess players have to bring their own pieces to many tournaments.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAINT LOUIS CHESS CAMPUS.

## THE CHESS HERO'S CHESS HEROES

I don't have one particular hero. I admire people for certain skills. I liked [Bobby] Fischer, [Garry] Kasparov and [Anatoly] Karpov as well as the Polgar sisters when I was growing up.

Pia Cramling is my hero for playing great chess for so many years. I admire Ketevan Arakhamia for becoming a grandmaster around age 40. Monika



Photos: right, Anna with her first major trophy, in 1994. Photo courtesy of subject; below, Anna, a certified scuba diver, once played an underwater chess game! See Chess Adventures for the full story. Photo: Barry Brown

Socko has my respect for being a dedicated mom who plays chess on such a high level.

The list is not complete of course. Every champion brings something special to the game and to my heart.

## FAVORITE OPENINGS

Someone showed me the French Defense when I was rated around 1000 and I began playing it very successfully.

Since then I've tried many different openings as Black, but the French Defense has always been in my main repertoire. Even my husband started playing the French Defense because of me.

## FAVORITE CHESS BOOKS

As a child, I enjoyed the old Soviet tactics book from the author [Sergey] Ivashchenko. I've also read

all the [Mark] Dvoretsky books and learned a lot from them!

## PROUDEST CHESS MOMENT

Several moments stand out: first, when the American women's team took silver and bronze medals at the Chess Olympiads in Calvia (2004) and Dresden (2008), respectively! Second, winning the U.S. Women's Championship in St. Louis in 2009 with the result of 8½ out of 9.

## MY BEST ADVICE

I asked the world-famous chess coach Mark Dvoretsky: what is the defining trait of a champion?

I took his advice to heart: You have to learn to recover quickly from losses and negativity. Every world class player this ability—it is the trademark of a champion!

It is okay to be upset, but you have to find a way to recover and give it your best next time.

This advice will help in your life, too!



# CHESS ADVENTURES

with  
IM Anna  
Zatonskih



I played three tournaments in Curaçao and learned to scuba dive there.



In 2008 I played an underwater chess game in the Sea Aquarium in Curaçao.



The game lasted less than an hour and was one of my favorite chess experiences!

It was so exciting to play with fish swimming around



and sting rays crossing the chess board!

The arbiter wore a swimsuit—and a jacket and tie! We even had a chess clock!



ART BY VAL BOCHKOV



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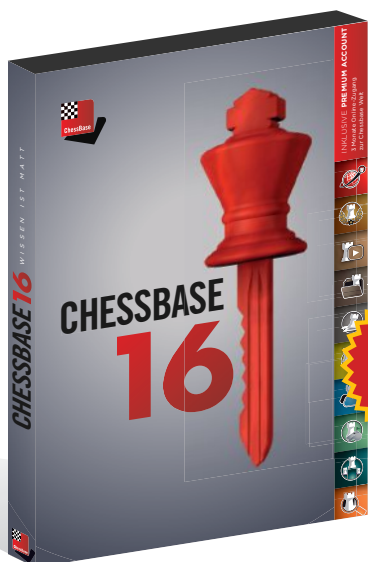
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