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Chess Life Kids provides a foundational interest in chess for beginning level pre-teens through the use of games, instruction, and human-interest stories. It is intended to be useful for Youth members, parents, and coaches. If interested in writing for this publication, send a well-crafted query with writing samples to the editor at mmatthews@ uschess.org.

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This month: WGM Katerina Nemcova

In this issue

A new year is upon us, and one of your resolutions might be to get better at chess. But where to begin? Dr. Alexey Root, WIM, offers tips and resources that will jump-start your path to improvement. In a similar vein, Chess Stories introduces you to educational programs at the Saint Louis Chess Club that you can join — no matter where you live! FM Robert Shlyakhtenko reports on the North American Youth Chess Championships and includes a few puzzles to challenge you. And in My First Move and Chess Adventures, WGM Katerina Nemcova talks about teamwork and balancing chess with her studies.

This month's cover by Chandler Ellison portrays a wise mentor handing down knowledge to a questing student.

CHESS STORIES



Tune Up Your Game with Lessons from the



Why not improve your chess with lessons from the teachers at the famous Saint Louis Chess Club? You can even get instruction from one of its world-class grandmasters!

Group lessons for K-12 students are very affordable. The club wants to give everyone a chance to learn the game. For years, the club has provided in-person instruction to local schools with a team of well-prepared teachers. "Then, in March of 2020, most of the schools told us that COVID prevented in-person visits," Scholastic Manager

said. That didn't faze

Richard and his crew of 25. "Within about two weeks, we had our online programing set up."

You'll share an online class with perhaps a dozen other students and get three hours of daily instruction by choosing from six options. Pointer likes to explain the possibilities this way: "Imagine you walk into a school and there are six classrooms, each one with a teacher. And each *hour* you can decide which classroom to go in.



If you want to learn about strategic elements, or endgames, or openings — we have all those types of classes." Then Pointer almost laughs at his own punchline: "And, on top of that, every day you can get a grandmaster lesson from 6 to 7 p.m. central time!"

Group classes are offered every weekday. The cost for a *whole month* of non-GM classes is only \$30 a month per student. You can add the GM classes for just an additional \$15 a month! Sign up to be in a class with others from all over the U.S. Or ask your school club to arrange special group instruction to include only its students.

If one-on-one lessons are what you crave, the club offers that as well. Unlike the group program, which includes beginner to intermediate instruction, the one-on-one lessons can be personalized to all levels. Like the group program, it started as an in-club program but expanded to online during COVID-19. "When "The Queen's Gambit' Netflix series hit, we had to add instructors," Senior Chess Associate and Chess Instructor Nicholas Risko said. "We give lessons to people around the world."

Individual online instruction is only \$30 an hour. A "10 pack" of lessons is just \$240. Private lessons with a GM are \$100 an hour. Whether you choose group or individual lessons, as an online club student, you do not have to pay any additional dues.

Instructors use a curriculum developed with input from grandmasters. In just six months, one of Risko's students went from just knowing how the pieces move to an official US Chess rating of 1855!

Go online to www. saintlouischessclub/education to get started!

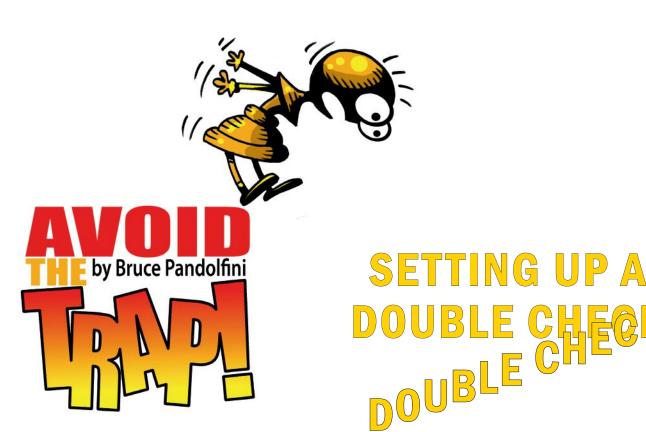
GM SO AND IM YIP WIN U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ST. LOUIS!

The Saint Louis Chess Club hosts some of the most important, top-level tournaments in the world. On the accompanying webcast, famous grandmasters like former U.S. Champ Yasser Seirawan and Maurice Ashley explain the on-board action. Following along online is free — and a great way to improve.

On October 19 at the club, GM Wesley So won the 2021 U.S. Chess Championship, which is open to both men and women who qualify. So began competing in chess tournaments at only nine years old and, in 2007, became a grandmaster at just 14. In a separate event held at the same time, 18-year-old IM Carissa Yip won the U.S. Women's Chess Championship. When she way only 10, Yip became the youngest female player ever to defeat a grandmaster. The top 12 players qualifying in each event played head-to-head match-ups, with one game per day.

You can still view the play-by-play by searching for "2021 US Chess Championship" on YouTube.





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!

Double check is perhaps the most awesome move in chess. The only way to get out of double check (if there is a way in the position at hand) is by moving the king. While double checks can be deadly, they seldom just happen. They usually have to be prepared. A typical way to set up a double check is with a preliminary queen sacrifice that must be accepted by the enemy king. The idea is to lure the enemy king to an exposed square on which two friendly pieces can then both give a check, one by moving and the other by discovery. The tactic tends to happen more in the middlegame, but it can suddenly pop up in the opening, too. This month's contest illustrates a case in point.

1. e4

A straightforward central advance. White's queen and king-bishop can now enter the game.

1. ... e6

The French Defense. This is a solid way for Black to answer 1. e4. It also releases the queen and king-bishop.

Q1) What move is Black preparing by 1. ... e6? (10 points)

2. d4

White now has more space and temporary control of the center.

Q2) To develop fully, how many pawns must White move? (10 points)

2. ... d5

Black directly attacks White's e-pawn.

Q3) How might 1. ... e6 and 2. ... d5 affect the c8-bishop? (10 points)

3. Nc3

White develops and defends the e-pawn.

Q4) What were three other reasonable answers to 2. ... d5? (10 points)

3. ... Bb4

This is the Winawer Defense, which is a popular continuation.

Q5) What does 3. ... Bb4 seemingly threaten? (10 points)

4. Bd2

This quiet move breaks the pin. But it doesn't stop Black from removing the defender by 4. ... Bxc3.

Q6) Does 4. ... Bxc3 win the white king-pawn? (10 points)

4. ... dxe4

Black takes the e-pawn anyway.

Q7) Can White safely take back 5. Nxe4? (10 points)



5. Qg4

White's queen issues a double attack. Both the e4-pawn and g-pawn are threatened.

5. ... Nf6

Black develops a piece, attacking White's queen, while adding protection to the e4-pawn.

6. Qxg7

The rook is now hanging, so Black saves it with a gain of time.

6. ... Rg8

Q8) Why is 6. ... Rg8 better than 6. ... Rf8? (10 points)

7. Qh6

White saves the queen. But his d-pawn remains under attack.

7. ... Qxd4

Black takes the d-pawn. In this complicated position, chances remain about equal.

8.0-0-0

Castling secures White's position and sets up possible discoveries.

Q9) How does White continue after 8. ... Qxf2? (10 points)

8. ... Ng4

This is aggressive, but probably safer was 8. ... Nbd7. It would overprotect the f6-square and close the d-file.

9. Qh4

White moves the queen to safety, while it now eyes the d8-square.

9. ... Qxf2

10. Qd8+!, Black resigned.

Ouch! After the forced 10. ... Kxd8, White mates with 11. Bg5+ (a double check) 11. ... Ke8 12. Rd8 mate.



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

ILLUSTRATIVE GAME:

O. Linder vs. Aleksandr Kruglikov Moscow 1965

1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e5 d4 4. exf6 dxc3 5. fxg7 cxd2+ 6. Bxd2 Bxg7 7. Qh5 Qd4 8. Nf3 Qxb2 9. Rd1 Qxc2 10. Qd5 c6 11. Qd8+. Black resigned.

It is mate after 11. ... Kxd8 12. Ba5+ (double check) 12. ... Ke8 13. Rd8 mate. Shades of Reti-Tarkatower, Vienna, 1910 — another great example!

(see diagram top of next column)

ANSWERS

- 1. With 1. ... e6, Black prepares the advance 2. ... d5.
- 2. Just two: d-pawn and e-pawn. All the pieces can then move.

Make sure to check your score!



FINAL POSITION IN THE ILLUSTRATIVE GAME

- 3. Those two pawn moves obstruct the movement of the bishop.
- 4. White could have reasonably played 3. e5, 3. exd5, or 3. Nd2.
- 5. It threatens the e4-pawn by pin and capture of the c3-knight.
- 6. No. After 5. Bxc3 dxe4, White has 6. Qg4, attacking e4 and g7.
- 7. No, since the move 5. Nxe4 loses a pawn to 5. ... Qxd4.
- 8. The move 6. ... Rf8 is passive and weak; 6. ... Rg8 attacks the white queen.
- 9. The answer would be 9. Nh3, developing with a gain of time.

10. On move 9, Black shouldn't have played 9. ... Qxf2. Better was 9. ... Nd7.

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

2021

U.S. PLAYERS DOMINATE THE NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH BY FM ROBERT SHLYAKHTENKO

In another sign of the return of over-the-board chess, the North American Youth Chess Championship (NAYCC) took place in Chicago from August 16-21. In ordinary times, this tournament is an annual competition open to players from the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Bahamas that cycles between the first three locations. Players from across the continent compete in 12 different sections, divided into Open and Girls U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18.

Most high-level junior tournaments are pressure-filled and are by invitation only. The NAYCC bears the distinction that all players, no matter their rating, are welcome to compete. This year the NAYCC hosted a record 400 players, most from out-of-state and many from out-of-country. For this reason, among many others, the event was a nice chance to spend some time with friends, and the organizers did a great job in ensuring a fun atmosphere for all.

Of course, there was also chess to be played. The top two sections — U18 Open and U18 Girls — are particularly significant because

This page: Alice Lee, NAYCC U18 Girls winner, at the 2021 U.S. Girls' Junior championship. Facing page: NAYCC U18 Open winner, Dimitar Mardov, receives his trophy.

the winners in those sections automatically receive the title of International Master (IM) or Woman International Master (WIM). Normally, earning one of these titles is a complicated affair. To become an IM, for example, you need to achieve an international (FIDE) rating of at least 2400, and perform above the IM level in three tournaments. Each such performance gives you an "IM norm" towards the title. First place in the NAYCC, while by no means easier, does avoid all that; you just get the title, with no questions asked.

The possibility of earning this prestigious title inspired two very young players — Dimitar Mardov

(born 2008)

and Alice

Both Mardov and Lee won their respective events, despite the huge age gap between themselves and their opponents! Let's take a look at how that happened. I think there were several

to participate in the U18 sections.

And they did not just participate.

key components to Dimitar's and Alice's success:

1. Not losing! This might sound obvious, but playing nine games without a couple of losses is actually quite hard to do. Both Dimitar and Alice finished with 7½ points out of 9. Dimitar won six games and drew three, losing none; Alice won an incredible seven games, drawing one, and losing one. In this nine-round event, with two games played each day, losing your concentration for even a moment can be disastrous; you have to play consistently well throughout the tournament.

2. Setting the pace. Dimitar started off by winning four games in a row, getting a clear advantage over the rest of the field. That gave him the breathing room to slow

> down later. On the other hand, Alice managed to win five games in a row at the end of the tournament,



THE 2021 NAYCC

August 16-21, 2021 | Chicago, Illinois | 403 players

OPEN:

U18: Dimitar Mardov, 7½/9; **U16:** Erick Zhao, 8/9; **U14:** Arthur Xu, 8½/9; **U12:** Tanitoluwa Adewumi, 8/9; **U10:** Marcel Podraza, Bobby Qian, 8/9; **U8:** Luke Hong, Ethan Guo, 7/9

GIRLS:

U18: Alice Lee, 7½/9; ; **U16:** Kelsey Liu, 8½/9; **U14:** Zoey Tang, 8½/9; **U12:** Omya Vidyarthi, 8½/9; **U10:** Olivia Laido, 8/9; **U8:** Irene Jiao Fei, 8½/9

For complete results and additional photos, visit *naycc2021.com*.

catapulting herself to first place when everyone else had already gotten tired. This brings me to our next point.

- **3. Saving your energy.** I don't know exactly how Dimitar and Alice relaxed between the games, but I'm sure that they weren't playing blitz, bullet, or bughouse, like many kids like to do. Imagine you were running a marathon the 26th mile needs to be comparable to the first one. It's the same in chess. Managing to play at the same level in round nine as in round one is extremely difficult; you need to rest, recuperate, and learn to maintain your strength until the end.
- 4. Recovering after a tough game. If you lose one game, it's easy to get unbalanced emotionally and proceed to lose more. After losing her third-round game, Alice must have realized that it was still early in the tournament and she still had winning chances. After drawing her next game, Alice went on the five-win streak that made her champion.

I asked Dimitar and Alice to each send me an example of their play

in this tournament. Both sent very instructive games from which there is a lot to learn, so set up a board and follow along!

SPOTTING THE MOVE

Dimitar Mardov (2377) Samrug Narayanan (2323) 2021 NAYCC U18 (8), Chicago, 08.20.2021



Black has set up a clever idea — if White captures the c6-pawn, Black will try to trap White's queen by playing ... Nc7-a8. Many players would stop looking at this point and play a different move as White, but Dimitar saw further:

34. Qxc6! Na8

This was Black's point. White's queen doesn't have a square to retreat to. Now, try to find White's next move.

Bad is 34. ... Nce8 35. Qxb6 when, as Dimitar notes, "White is simply up two pawns."

35. Qxd6!

A great move, sacrificing the queen but getting more than enough material for it. Spotting these kinds of moves can be difficult even for experienced players, as it's not easy to part with such an important piece as the queen.

35. ... Rxd6 36. Rxc8+ Kg7 37. Rxa8

Dimitar comments: "White has a rook and two knights for the queen and Black's king is very weak. White's idea to win the game will be Ng3-f5. As a result, the game ended in a few moves with White's victory."

By giving up a queen, Dimitar actually ended up with a material advantage — a rook and two knights are worth about 11 points, whether a queen is worth about nine — and Black's rook and queen are so badly placed that he is powerless to resist White's eventual

infiltration, so **Black**

soon resigned.

I also participated in the event, and while I didn't have my best tournament, I wanted to share the following position with you. When searching for tactics, we should always be aware of the following things: 1) Undefended or poorly defended pieces - we call these targets. 2) Tactical elements such as double attacks (forks), pins, etc., that are present in the position. In this case, there is a pin on the d5-knight, and both the knight and the h6pawn are targets. There is also the future possibility of a fork on the f6-square. Putting all this together...

SEARCHING FOR **TACTICS**

FM Robert Shlyakhtenko (2462)Jin Ashton (2222) NAYCC U18 (3), Chicago, 08.18.2021



14. Bxh6!

Winning a pawn and destroying the cover of Black's king.

14. ... Bxh6

An important point is 14. ... fxe4 15. Bg5! when White follows with d3xe4, winning the d5-knight.

15. Bxd5+ Kh7

The queen is lost after 15. ... Oxd5 16. Nf6+.

16. Bxc6 bxc6 17. Nc5

White is up a pawn and went on to win.

LOOKING FURTHER

Alice Lee (2215) Arya Kumar (2030) NAYCC U18 Girls (5), Chicago, 08.19.2021



White has a better position, mainly because of the bind of the queenside. Alice played...

21. Nb6

This puts the knight on an outpost square and preparing to make use of the open a-file.

21. ... Bf5 22. Bg3

Black is under some pressure — the b8-rook does not have much space.

22. ... Rxb6?

A mistake. Black does not get enough compensation for the Exchange.

The most natural move for Black is 22. ... Rb7, but it allows White to seize control of the a-file with 23. Ra8! Qe7 24. Rfa1 and White has a clearly better position. Note that Black cannot capture the e2-bishop due to the pin on the e8-rook. The best move was 22. ... Nd7!, counterattacking White's rook on a1 with the bishop on g7. Now the position is very unclear.

23. cxb6 Qxb6 24. Bf2

A good move. White wants to put the bishop on d4, where it defends many important dark squares.

24. ... d4!?

Black finds a good try to complicate the position. However, Alice looks further than her opponent and spots a clever refutation.

25. Bxd4! Rxe2

This was Black's idea the queen on d2 is overloaded. Now if White's queen captures the rook, Black could take the bishop on d4. Also, Bd4xb6 amounts to a trade of queens. In view of this, try to figure out what White should play.

26. Ra8+

A good start — Black's back-rank is weak.

26. ... Bf8

Now what?

27. Rxf8+!

This is the point of the tactic — White attracts the black king to the f8-square. **Black resigned** here, seeing that after 27. ... Kxf8 there follows 28. Qh6+, saving White's queen, and now 28. ... Ke7 29. Bxb6 is an elementary win for White.

Congratulations to both Dimitar and Alice on their great performances!

A short analysis:

FORCED MATE?

Stephen Willy (1355) Ryan Min (1679) 2021 NAYCC U12 (6), Chicago, 08.19.2021

In the game White played 17. Nf3-g1, giving up the g2-pawn, and lost a few moves later. But how should Black continue if White plays 17. Nf3-e1, as shown here.



17. ... Rxg2+!

Mate is forced.

18. Nxg2 Qxh3+ 19. Kg1 Qxg2 mate.

Another possibility was 19. ... Ne2 mate.

TACTICS & NAYCC

Challenge yourself with these puzzles by FM Robert Shlyakhtenko — developed from games played in the U12 section of the NAYCC — and hone your tactical skills.

UP A PIECE

Aaradhya Panda (1718) Sujay Sureshkumar (1375) 2021 NAYCC U12 (6), Chicago, 08.19.2021



23. Qf5! A fork on the bishop on d3 and the knight on c6. 23. ... Ne5 24. Rxe5! dxe5 25. Bxa8 White is up a piece and later won at move 72.

PASSED PAWN

Ronak Hiwale (1583) Sujay Sureshkumar (1375) 2021 NAYCC U12 (8), Chicago, 08.20.2021



31. Rxh6+! Deflection. **31.** ... Kg7! **Gxh6** Black had to play 31. ... Kg7! keeping the position roughly equal. **32.** Rxe5 Now Black is faced with the threat of Rh5. **32.** ... Rg5 **33.** Rxg5 Gxg5 **34.** Gh3+! Kg7 **35.** Rxg5 Gxg5 **34.** Gh3+! Kg7 **35.** Qxd7 and the passed d-pawn is very strong. White went on to win at move 50.

TAKING ADVANTAGE

Aly Muhammad Hemani (807) Aayush Wadhwa (1533) 2021 NAYCC U12 (6), Chicago, 08.19.2021



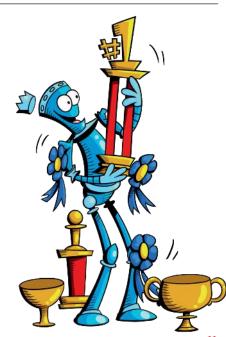
19. ... Ne4! Deflecting White's knight from the c3-square and taking advantage of the weak back-rank. 20. Nxe4 White didn't would have been desperate anyway. 20. ... Rd1+ 21. Bc1 Bxc1 22. g5 Allowing mate, but otherwise White would have been deadly discovered faced with a deadly discovered the control of the capacity of

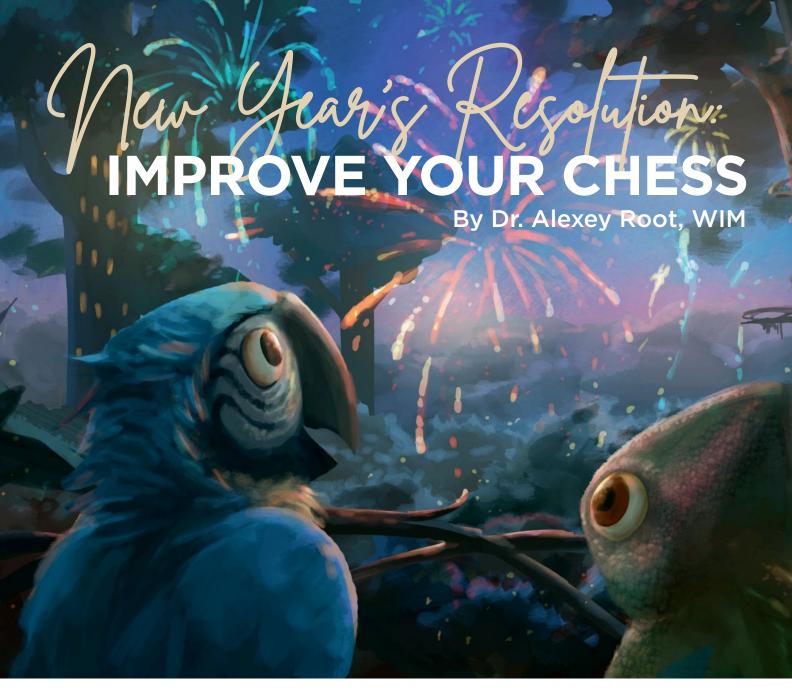
MORE PRESSURE!

Havish Sripada (1733) Stephen Willy (1355) 2021 NAYCC U12 (9), Chicago, 08.21.2021



16. Bxd5+! Kh8 After 16. ... cxd5 I7. Qxd5+ White nets two pawns. 17. Bf4 Qb6 18. h5 cxd5 19. hxg6 Qxg6 20. Qxd5 and White went on to win at move 58.





The new year is traditionally a time for resolutions, which are promises you make to yourself. Maybe one of your resolutions is to get better at chess. So if chess improvement is on your resolution list, here are some ideas on how to fire up your game in 2022.

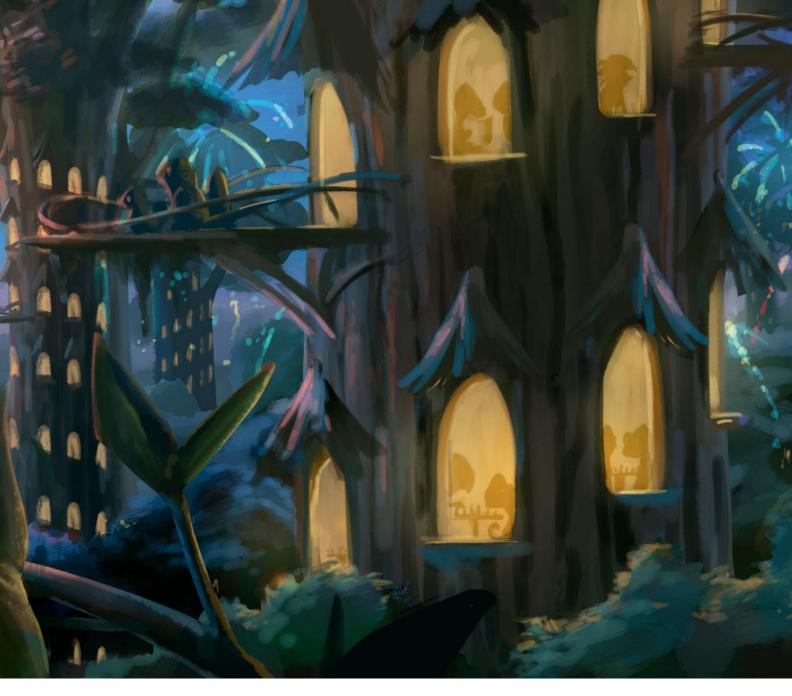
CHESS CLUBS

Historically, players improved by attending chess clubs. As the pandemic eases, in-person chess clubs are re-opening, so now is the time to check out your local club. Most clubs feature a mix of casual, non-rated chess and US Chess-rated tournaments. The website for US Chess (*www.uschess.org*) lets you search for a club near you.

If there is not a chess club near your home, maybe you can start your own! Perhaps a restaurant would be willing to host a club. Fridays and weekends are usually busy for restaurants, so choosing a weekday might be best for your club. One example of a successful, restaurant-based club is the Alliance Chess Club (http://www.facebook.com/AllianceChess) in Fort Worth, Texas. Run by the husband-and-wife team of Louis and Wendy Reed, the club meets once a week on Tuesdays at a La Madeleine

restaurant for a mix of casual and rated play. Since the chess club meets in a restaurant, chess players are encouraged to buy (and eat!) food during their casual games.

Libraries are great locations for chess clubs, too. The meeting space is free because libraries want visitors in their buildings. When I was a child, I attended the Lincoln Chess Club, which met on Wednesday nights at the Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln, Nebraska. I loved playing chess there. I also loved sitting in the stacks reading the *Lad*, *a Dog* series. Albert Payson Terhune's books may not have improved my chess, but meeting



my first chess coach, Loren Schmidt, at the library, did. Later, Schmidt became a FIDE master. By the mid-1970s, he was the highest-rated member of the Lincoln Chess Club.

CHESS COACHES

One-on-instruction is another path for improvement. But how do you find the right coach? If you observe high-rated chess players socializing and competing at your local chess club, you might approach one of them for chess lessons. Look for someone who explains chess concepts in a fun and understandable way.

Alternatively, US Chess has a

Certified Chess Coach List, and many of those coaches teach in person or online. Whoever you choose for inperson lessons, your parent or guardian should stay in the room with you and your chess coach. The same is true if you find an online coach. Safety first!

CHESS BOOKS

Chess books claiming they can improve your chess are everywhere, and it can be difficult deciding which ones are best for you. Two recently published chess books are specifically aimed at young players interested in improving. Everyone's First Chess Workbook: Fundamental Tactics and

Checkmates for Improvers by FM (FIDE Master) Peter Giannatos is for players rated under 1000 over-theboard or under 1300 online. It has 738 chess exercises. You write your answers to the right of each chess diagram. Tactics include forks, pins, and skewers, and checkmates include Boden's checkmate and the smothered checkmate. Each section's initial problems include hints, and each problem's solution is in the answer key. Giannatos' book ends with positions taken from the games of the World Chess Champions, which fits well with the next book, World Champion Chess for Juniors: Learn

READY FOR THE NEXT STEP? GET EQUIPPED!

The night before the 2021 FM (FIDE Master) Sunil Weeramantry National Blitz Tournament of State Champions, my husband, IM (International Master) Doug Root. realized that the chess clock he brought to New Jersey did not have an increment setting. The tournament's rules stated, "Players must bring a chess clock, and it should support time increment. US Chess does not plan to supply clocks to players. If neither player brings a clock to the board, then both players forfeit the round."

Doug was ready to leave the tournament site hotel and return to our home in Texas! To avoid his panic, your clock should allow for all US Chess time controls.

Chess boards and sets also must conform to tournament standards. Maybe you have a novelty chess set and board, such as one featuring Star Wars or Super Mario. While you can use those at home, tournament directors don't allow them. Purchase a Staunton design set with a king that is 9.5 centimeters or 3.75 inches tall. The light-colored chessmen should be white or cream and the dark-colored chessmen should be brown or black. The most common board is vinyl with white and green squares, but other contrasting light and dark colors, such as cream and

brown are fine too. Wooden boards and some other solid boards are okay too. Each square's sides should measure between five and six centimeters, or about two inches.

US Chess Sales can help you select a tournament-appropriate clock, set, and board. Unfortunately for Doug, the onsite US Chess Sales bookstore wasn't going to open until after the blitz tournament. I asked chess players gathered in the hotel's restaurant for help. Dora Martínez of the US Chess Trust loaned her clock. It brought good luck, as Doug finished third in the blitz and second in the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions. One of his prizes was a bookstore certificate, which was used to buy a new chess clock!

from the Greatest Players Ever, by GM (Grandmaster) Joel Benjamin.

Benjamin's book seems best suited for players who are slightly more advanced than Giannatos' target audience. He annotates champions' games, from opening to middlegame to endgame. Understanding entire games demands more diverse skills from the reader than solving tactical combinations. A checkmate from Gelfand-Kramnik (Berlin, 1996) 1996 appears in both Giannatos' and Benjamin's books, but Benjamin presents it at a higher difficulty level and with no explanatory text.

SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE (D45)

Boris Gelfand (2665) Vladimir Kramnik (2765) European Club Cup, Berlin (2), 06.09.1996

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 e6 5. e3 Nbd7 6. Qc2 Bd6 7. q4 Bb4 8, Bd2 Qe7 9, a3 Bxc3 10. Bxc3 b6 11. Bd3 Ba6 12. Qa4 dxc4 13. Qxa6 cxd3 14. Qxd3 0-0 15. g5 Nd5 16. Bd2 f5 17. 0-0-0 c5 18. Kb1 b5 19. Qxb5 Rab8 20. Qa5 Rb3 21, Ka2 Rfb8 22, Rb1 e5 23, Rhc1 Qe6 24. Ka1 exd4 25. Rxc5

Nxc5 26. Qxc5 Nc3 27. Nxd4



Benjamin's diagram is after 27. Nxd4. He does not say how long the solution is but indicates that it is Black to move.

27. ... Rxb2

Benjamin gives the solution as: 27. ... Rxb2! 28. Rxb2 Qa2+ which is where Grandmaster Boris Gelfand resigned. However, the position is not checkmate and some readers may not see what the black player, future World Champion Vladimir Kramnik, would have done next.

28. Rxb2

Giannatos gives the diagram after 28. Rxb2 and offers the following hint: "CONCEPTS USED Arabian Checkmate." He provides spaces for a black move, a white move, and a final black move. Readers write those moves, which go all the way to checkmate.

28. ... Qa2+

The answer in Giannatos' book is: 28. ... Qa2+, forcing the rook on b2 out of the way of the rook on b8. 29. Rxa2 Rb1 mate.

CHESS WEBSITES

Chess websites can help you improve, too. Two popular ones are lichess.org and Chess.com, which has a version for kids (*Chesskid.com*). They offer articles, videos, chess problems, and opportunities to play chess games against other people or computers.

A less well-known website is Chess Girls DC (https://chessempowersgirls. org/), which includes advice, podcasts, and book reviews by chess-playing girls. On that website, WIM (Woman International Master) Akshita Gorti advises, "A very crucial part of improving in chess is to always analyze your games. ... Analyzing the games helps identify the mistakes and most importantly helps you to not repeat the same mistakes in another game."

And be sure to make this critical move: always include a parent or a trusted adult in your online activities.



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

Many years ago, I reached the following position with Black to play. Any movement by Black's knight will deliver a discovered check from Black's queen.



Many of Black's moves look wonderful here, but I knew that one of Black's moves was going to better than the rest. In the end, I played ... Nd5+ followed by ... Nxc3, and White resigned immediately.

In honor of that game, I have assembled six positions that all involved discovered checks. They are not easy, but I know that You Can Do It!

This is my last column for CLK. Hopefully, I will be back from time to time with something to say. Please say hello if you see me at a tournament!

Solutions on page 18.













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, 2021 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. Please refer to the Tournament Life Announcement section in Chess Life for more information.

Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT

World Amateur Team & U.S. Team East

FEBRUARY 19-21, 2022, NEW JERSEY

6SS, 40/2, SD/30 delay 5. Parsippany Hilton 1 Hilton Ct., Parsippany,N.J. 07054. Chess Rate valid until 1/17/22. 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—2022 January Rating list) must be under 2200. Teams rated over 2000 average no more than 1000 points between board 3 and 4. No more two GMs on a team. Online registration opens Dec 1st. **EF:** \$225 online only by 1/31/22 ALL-\$260 after.—all teams, any changes at site 525 charge. ENTRY MAXIMUM IS 312 TEAMS. Enter early! Online entries at official web-site www.njscforg. 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-non educational), Top Coaches (educational), Top team all female, 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. **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 ROOMS! Chess rates expire 1/17/2022 Rates \$126 (single double) \$126 (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: esdoyle@aoi com. Masks will be required during play until further no-

Grand Prix

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

7th annual Empire State Open DECEMBER 26-28 OR 27-28, NEW YORK

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

SSS, 40/80, SD/30 +30 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany 12205. Free parking, wireless & airport shuttle, restaurants nearby. \$5000 guaranteed prizes; 4 sections. Open: Open to all. \$700-400-200, top USCF U2100/Unr \$300-150. FIDE. Under 2000: \$500-250-150, top U1800/Unr \$300-150. FIDE. Under 1700: \$400-200-100, top U1500 (no unr) \$240-120. Under 1400: \$200-100-60, top U1200 (no unr) \$120-60. Unrated prize limit \$100 in U1400, \$200 U1700. Mixed doubles: \$200-100 to best male/female team combined score among all sections. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 12/27. Top 3 sections EF: \$88 at chessaction.com by 12/23, 3-439 \$39, 3-day \$92 mailed by 12/15, \$100 at site or online until 1 hour before round 1. NYSCA members, online entry \$5 less (may join with entry). U1400 Section EF: all \$20 less than above. No checks at site, credit cards OK. GMs, IMs & WGMs: \$80 from prize. All: Re-entry \$40; no Open to Open. Unofficial or Online Regular suschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. If Online Regular rating is \$50 or more points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$150. Special 1 yr USCF with magazine

if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 or \$20. **3-day reg. ends** 12/26 6 pm, rds. 12/26 7, 12/27 11 & 5, 12/28 10 & 3:30. **2-day reg. ends** 12/27 10 am, rds 12/27 11, 2 & 5, 12/28 10 & 3:30. **Bye:** all, limit 2; must commit before d c **1.RE:** 100-100, reserve by 12/12, link at chessevents.us (recommended) or call 518-458-8444. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. **Questions:** www.chesstour.com, Director@Chess.US. **Prizes not Calimed** at site paid by PayPal or Zelle (may take a few weeks). **Refunds:** \$15 service charge. **Entries posted** at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). **Blitz tmt.** 12/28 9:30 pm, reg. ends 9:15 pm. **Bring set, board,** clock if possible- none supplied.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • REGIONALS

New York State Junior Championship (out of state welcome)

DECEMBER 29-30, NEW YORK

6SS, G/60 d10, Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany 12205. Free parking, wireless, & airport shuttle, restaurants nearby. Top NYS player each Championship section is NYS champion. In 8 sections: **Junior Championship** & Junior Under 1500: Open to all born after 12/29/00. Under 16 Championship & Under 16 Under 1200: Open to all born after 12/29/05. **Under 13 Champion-ship & Under 13 Under 1000:** Open to all born after 12/29/08. **Under 10 Championship & Under 10 Under 800:** Open to all born after 12/29/11. **EF:** \$68 at *chessac*tion.com by 12/15, \$78 online by 12/28, \$90 online or at site by 9 am 12/29. May be limited to the first 300 entries. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Plaques to top 5 each section, top U1800, U1600 (Jr Champ), U1300, U1100, U900, Unr (Jr U1500), U1600, U1400 (U16 Champ), U1000, U800, U600, Unr (U16 U1200), U1400, U1200 (U13 Champ), U800, U600, U400, Unr (U13 U1000), U1200, U1000 (U10 Champ), U600, U400, U300, Unr (U10 U800). Free entry prizes (good for 2022 CCA non-scholastic tournaments which have all prizes guaranteed, including online events): **Championship sections** 1/1-6/15 to 1st,, 1/1-4/15 2nd, 1/1-3/15 3rd & 4th. **Under sections** 1/1-5/15 1st, 1/1-3/15 2nd, 1/1-2/15 3rd & 4th. Bonus to NY residents scoring 6-0: 2 additional months of free entry. Unofficial or Online Regular *uschess.org* ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. If Online Regular rating is 50 or more points over section maximum, not eligible for free entry prizes. **Special 1 yr USCF** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at *chessaction.com*, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or at site, \$27 or \$20. Reg.. ends 12/29 9 am, rds. 12/29 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 12/30 9:00, 12:00, 3:00. **Awards** 5:30. **Bye:** all, limit 2; must commit before rd 2. **HR:** \$100-100, reserve by 12/12, link at *chessevents*. *us* (recommended) or call 518-458-8444. **Ent:** *chessac*tion.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Questions: www.chesstour.com. Director@ Chess.US. Please claim plaques at site. Refunds: \$15 service charge. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

10th annual Boston Chess Congress JANUARY 7-9 OR 8-9, MASSACHUSETTS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

5SS, 40/80, SD/30 +30 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10), Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor, 101 Harborside Dr, Boston MA 02128. Free parking, free airport shuttle, \$12,000 guaranteeed prizes. 6 sections. Premier (2000/over): \$1200-600-400, (lear/tiebreak 1st \$100 bonus, top USCF U2300 \$500-250. FIDE. Under 2100: \$1000-500-300. FIDE. Under 1900: \$1000-500-300. Under 1700: \$900-500-300. Under 1500: \$800-400-300. Under 1250: \$400-200-150. Prize limits: 1) Unrated limit \$100 in U1250, \$200 U1500, \$300 U1700. 2) If Online Regular official rating is more than 50 points over section or prize maximum, prize limit \$200. Mixed doubles: best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$800-400-200. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register at site (no extra fee) by 2 pm 1/8. Top 5 sections EF: \$88 at chessaction.com by 1/5, 3-day \$93, 2-day \$93! fcheck mailed by 12/26, \$100 at site, or online until 2 hrs before rd 1. GMs \$80 from prize. U1250 Section EF: All \$40 less than above. ain All: Online EF \$5 less to MACA members;

join/renew at masschess.org. Re-entry \$50 (no Premier to Premier). No checks at site, credit cards OK. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unr. Special 1 year USCF dues if paid with entry: online at chesstour.com. Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 & \$20. 3-Day Schedule: Reg. Fri to 6 pm. Rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 8, 5 un 10 & 3:30. 2-Day Schedule: Reg. Sat to 10 am. Rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. 1/2-pt byes available all rds, limit 2, must commit before rd. 2. HR: \$109-109-134, link at chesstour. com or 617-568-1234, request chess rate, reserve by 12/24 or may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633. Ent: chessocition.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: chesstour.com, Director@Chess.US. Entries posted at www.chessociton.com (click "entry list" after entering). Blitz Sat. 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15.

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

7th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open

JANUARY 7-9 OR 8-9, 2022, FLORIDA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED)

Sponsored by ChessRegister.com. SSS, Premier section (FIDE-rated), All sections but U1150 G/90+30 sec. incr., U1150 section G/90/36 (1st round 2-day schedule, only, all sections, G/60/36). Ist round 2-day schedule, only, all sections, G/60/36 (1st round 2-day schedule, only, all sections, G/60/36). Embassy Suites Hotel, 10450 Corkscrew Commons Drive, Estero, FL 33928. S10,000 b/140 paid entries, 80% min. Gdt. Premier: S1500/Trophy-500-400, U1300 300. U1300 300. U1450: S1000/Trophy-500-400, U1300 300. U1450: S1000/Trophy-500-400, U1300/Unr. S300. U1450: S1000/Trophy-500-400, U1300/Unr. S300. U1450: Trophies for 1st ord, 1st U900, 1st U700/Unr., Medals to all others. Unr. may enter U1450 or U1150 only. Unr. only eligible for Unr. prizes. Min. USCF or FIDE rating of 1850 required for premier section. Prizes. EF: All but U1150 S125 by January 2, \$30 more later, \$20 more on-site, GMS & IMs free (\$125 deducted from prize). U1150 section \$40 by January 2, \$5 more later, \$10 more on-site. Online entry closes at \$5 p.m. on 1/7. Re-entry cash prize sections \$60. Reg.: Ends 1/2 hr before 1st rd. Rds.: 3-Day 1st Rd. Fri. 7:30; 2-Day 1st Rd. S41 (2) 2nd Rd. Sat. 1:15; 3rd Rd. all sections but U1150 6:30, 3rd Rd. U1150 5:45; 4th Rd. Sun. 9:30, 5th Rd. all sections but U1150 2:30. 5th Rd. U1150 1:45. 2 1/2 pt. byes, if reqd before rd. 2. HR: \$159 with complimentary hot breakfast, inghtly evening reception, Internet, refrigerator & microwave, free parking for all. Call 239-949-4222. Ent: Boca Raton Chess Club, 7050 W. Palmetto Park RD, #15-550, Boca Raton, FL 33433. \$10 service charge for refunds. Online entry, online hotel reservations & add*linfo: www.bocachess.com. 561-302-4377.

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Tim Just Winter Open XXXVIII JANUARY 8-9, 2022, ILLINOIS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, 1800 E Golf Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173. \$100 room rate until 12/15. 2 Sections — Open (FIDE Rated) and Reserve (Under 1800). \$4,600 in prizes. Register at https://www kingregistration.com/event/winteropen22. **OPEN SECTION PRIZE:** \$750 — \$350 — \$250 — \$150, Under 2200: \$300 - \$150, Under 2000: \$300 - \$125, FIDE 2200: 3300 — 3123. Filler Rated! Unrateds qualify for top prizes only. **RESERVE UNDER 1800 PRIZES:** \$700 — \$300 — \$200 — \$125, Under 1600: \$225 — \$150, Under 1400: \$200 — \$100, Under 1200: \$150 — \$75. Unrateds qualify for top prizes only. ENTRY FEES: \$75 online by 12/31, \$85 online by 1/7, \$90 after that or onsite. Onsite entries after 8:30am receive ½-point bye for round 1. \$15 extra to play up from Reserve into Open section. **1/2 point** byes OK all rounds, must commit by end of round 2 (maximum 2). TIME CONTROLS AND PLAYING **SCHEDULE:** G/90;+30 second increment. Saturday 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, Sunday 10:00am, 3:00pm. Boards, sets, and clocks provided. 2022 Winter Scho-lastic Saturday January 8th. WINTER SCHOLASTIC ENTRY FEES: \$25 online by 12/31, \$30 online by 1/7, \$35 day of or onsite. Onsite entries after 11:30am receive ½-point bye for round 1. US Chess member-ship required. **Rounds:** 12:00, then ASAP subsequent rounds WINTER SCHOLASTIC SECTIONS: UNDER 1200 & UNDER 700. **5 Rounds** at G/25;d5. **TROPHIES** to ton 10 in each section. Participation award to all players. Open to players age 18 and under. See

https://www.kingregistration.com/event/winterschol22 for details. **Organizer:** King Registration. **Email:** bill@kingregistration.com. **Phone:** 773-317-8347. **Website:** https://www.kingregistration.com.

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

54th annual Liberty Bell OpenJANUARY 14-17, 15-17, OR 16-17, PENNSYLVANIA

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

7SS, 40/80, SD/30 +30 (3 day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10, 2-day option in U2100 & below, rds 1-4 G/30 d10). **Son**esta Hotel, 1800 Market St, Philadelphia 19103. Prizes \$20,000 based on 320 paid entries (re-entries, GMs/ IMs & U1200 section count 70%), else proportional, except min. 75% each prize guaranteed. Since 2006, this tournament has been held 15 times, with \$20,000 prizes based on 320 paid entries, and 14 of these has drawn over 320, causing prizes to be raised in proportion to over the \$20,000 projection. 6 sections. **Major** (1900/up): \$2000-1200-600-400-300, clear/tiebreak 1st \$100 bonus, top U2300 \$1000-500. FIDE. **Under** 2100: \$1200-600-400-300-200. FIDE. **Under 1900:** \$1200-600-400-300-200. **Under 1700:** \$1000-500-400-300-200. **Under 1500:** \$1000-500-400-300-200. **Under 1200:** \$700-400-300-200-100. **Prize limits:** 1) Unrated may not win over \$100 in U1200, \$200 U1500, \$300 U1700 or \$400 U1900. 2) If Online Regular official rating is more than 50 points over section or prize maximum, limit \$300. Mixed doubles: best male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$1000-600-400. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register (no extra fee) before both begin round 2. **Top 5 sections EF:** \$113 online at *ches*saction.com by 1/12, 4-day \$119, 3-day \$118, 2-day \$117 if check mailed by 1/3, \$130 (no check, credit card OK) at site, or online to 1 hour before rd 1. GMs/IMs \$90 from prize. **U1200 Section EF:** All \$30 less than top 5 sections. **Special 1 yr USCF dues** with magazine paid with entry: At *chessaction.com*, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or at site, \$45, \$27 & \$20. Re-entry (no Major to Major) \$60. 4-day schedule: Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds Fri 7 pm, Sat/Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 11 am, rds. Sat 12, 3 & 6, Sun 12 & 6, Mon 10 & 3:30. **2-day schedule** (no Major): Reg. ends Sun. 9 am, rds Sun 10-12-2-3:45-6, Mon 10-3:30. **Byes:** all, limit 2, must commit before rd 3. Unofficial or Regular Online ratings usually used if otherwise unrated, or to qualify for Major (see peakrating.us). Foreign player ratings: see foreign-ratings.com. HR: \$112-112, 1-800-\$ONESTA, 215-561-7500, request Continental Chess rate, reserve by 12/31 or may increase. Parking: Chess rate at Sonesta approx. \$24/day (half normal rate). 1540 Spring St, 12 minutes walk, about \$9/day Sat & Sun, \$25 other days. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD D657633 or chesstour.com. Ent: chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Questions: Director@Chess.US, www.chesstour.com, www. chesstour.info. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after en try). Blitz tournament Sun. 10 pm, enter by 9:45 pm.

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX REGIONAL • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

13th annual Southwest Class Championships

FEBRUARY 17-21, 18-21, 19-21 OR 20-21, 2022. TEXAS

US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

9SS (Master Section), 7SS (others), DPW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Blvd, Fort Worth TX 76155. Free parking, free airport shuttle. 5-day schedule, Feb 17-21: Master Section only, FIDE rated, GM & IM norms possible, 40/90, 5D/30, +30. 4-day schedule, Feb 18-21: Expert through Class E, 40/90, 51/30, +30. 3-day schedule: Expert through Class E, 64/90, 51/30, +30. 3-day schedule: Expert through Class E, Feb 19-21, rds 1-2 G/60 d10, then merges with 4day. 2-day schedule: Class D or E, Feb 20-21, rds. 1-4 G/30 d10, then merges with others. \$32,000 prize fund unconditionally guaranteed. FIDE ratings used in Master Section, JUSCF Pebruary official in others. In 7 sections: Master (2100/up): \$3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-300, clear or tiebreak winner \$200, top FIDE U300/Uhr \$18000-900. Expert [1900-2199] \$2000-1000-500-300-200. FIDE. Class A [1700-1999] Unr): \$2000-1000-500-300-200. FIDE. Class B [1500-1799/Unr): \$2000-1000-500-300-200. Class C (1300-1599)

Unr): \$1600-800-500-300-200 Class D (1100-1399/Unr): \$800-400-300-200-100. **Class E** (Under 1200/Unr): \$800-400-300-200-100. **Unrated** may enter A through E, with maximum prize E \$100, D \$200, C \$300, B \$400, A \$500. Mixed doubles: male/female 2-player team combined score among all sections: \$1000-600-400. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register (no extra fee) before both begin rd 2; only rds 1-7 in Master count towards doubles; prize limits do not apply. Master Section EF: \$238 at chessaction.com by 2/16, \$260 at site or online by 2/17 6 pm. GMs & foreign IMs/WGMs \$200 less (\$200 deducted from prize), US IMs/WGMs & FIDE rated foreign \$100 less (\$100 deducted from prize). Minimum prizes: \$500 to foreign GMs who enter online by 2/3 & play all 9 games with no byes; \$250 to US GMs who enter online by 2/3 & play all 9 games with no byes. EF deduction cannot lower prize to below the minimum. **Expert, A, B, C sections EF:** \$168 online at chessaction. com by 2/16, \$190 at site or online until 1 hour before rd

1. Class D or E Section EF: All \$70 less than Expert to Class C EF. **Re-entry** (no Master to Master) \$80. **Special**1 yr USCF dues with magazine if paid online with entry: see *chessaction.com.* **5-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds Thu 7, Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30. **4-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30. **3-day** schedule: Late reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30. **2-day schedule:** Late reg. ends Sun 9 am, rds Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30. Byes: OK all, limit 2; must commit before rd 3. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. If Online Regular rating is 100/more points over prize maximum, prize limit \$400. Foreign player ratings (Expert & below): See *foreignratings.com*. **Electronic devices rules:** See *devicerules.com*. Leave phone in hotel room, car, home, or a bag near your table. HR: \$106-106, use link at chessevents.us or 817-358-1700, reserve by 2/1 or rate may increase. **Prizes not claimed** at site paid by Zelle or PayPal (may take a few weeks). **Car** rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. Ent: Director@chess.us. Mailed entry (all \$10 more, mail by 2/5, include section & schedule): Continental Chess. Box 249. Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Questions: chesstour.com, director@chess.us. Refunds, \$15 service charge. Bring set, board, clock if possible; none supplied. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entry). Blitz tournament Sun 10:30 pm, enter by 10:15 pm.

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • REGIONAL • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

7th annual George Washington Open

FEBRUARY 25-27 OR 26-27, 2022, VIRGINIA US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

5SS, 40/80, SD/30, +30 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10). Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191 (21 miles from Washington). Free parking, free shuttle to Metro subway & Reston Town Center. \$\$16,000 Stuttle to Metro Subway & Reston Town Center, \$33,0,000 guaranteed. In 5 sections, Major: Open to 1900/above (see peakrating.us), \$2000-1000-600-400, clear/tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top USCF Under 2300 \$600-300. FIDE. Under 2200: \$1300-700-400-200, top U1900 (no unr) \$600-400. 300. FIDE Under 1800: \$1200-600-300-200, top U1600 (no unr) \$500-250. **Under 1500:** \$1000-500-250-150, top U1300 (no unr) \$400-200. **Under 1200:** \$600-400-200-150. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player combined score among all sections: \$400-200. Must average under 2200; may play different sections; register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 2/26. Ptze limits: Unrated in U1200 \$100, U1500 \$200, U1800 \$400. If Online Regu lar rating is more than 100 points over prize maximum, limit \$200. **Top 4 sections EF:** \$113 at *chessaction.com* by 2/23, 3-day \$118, 2-day \$117 if check mailed by 2/15, all \$130 (no check, credit card OK) at site or online until 1 hour before rd 1. GMs, IMs & WGMs in Major; \$100 from prize. **Under 1200 Section EF:** all \$40 less than top 4 sections. Re-entry \$50, no Major to Major. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Unofficial web ratings usualat site, Credit cards on. Undertial web ratings usual-by used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid online with entry: see chessaction. com. 3-Day Schedule: Reg. to Fri 6 pm. Rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. 2-Day Schedule: Reg. to Sat 10 am. Rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:30. **Half point byes** available all rds, limit 2 byes, must commit before rd. 2. **Electronic** devices rules: See devicerules.com. Prizes not claimed at site paid by Zelle or PayPal (may take a few weeks). **HR:**To be announced, link at *chessevents.us* or 703-620-9000, reserve by 2/4 or rate may increase. **Ent:** *chessaction. com* or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. Refunds, \$15 service charge. Questions: chesstour.com, chesstour.info, Director@Chess.U.S. Entries posted at chessaction.com (click "entry list" after entering). Blitz tournament \$at 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • STATE CHMAPIONSHIP EVENT • REGIONAL • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

54th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome)

MARCH 12-13, 2022, NEW YORK

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 GIty 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: \$82 by 2/18, \$92 2/19-3/4, \$100 3/5 to 3/11. **EF at site**, all sections \$120. **HS Cham**pionship (all K-12): EF \$85.30 mailed by 2/18. Top NYS grade 9-12 born 9/1/03 or after qualifies for Denker Tournament of HS Champions. **K-12 Under 1800/Unr:** EF \$85.20 mailed by 2/18. **K-12 Under 1200/Unr:** EF \$85.10 mailed by 2/18. **Middle School Championship** (all K-8): EF \$85 mailed by 2/18. Top NYS grade 6-8 born 9/1/07 or after qualifies for Barber tournament of K-8 Champions. K-8 Under 1600/Unr: EF \$84.90 mailed by 2/18. K-8 Under 900/Unr: EF \$84.80 mailed by 2/18. Elementary Championship (all K-5): EF \$84.70 mailed by 2/18. Top NYS player born 9/1/10 or after qualifies for Rockefeller tournament of K-5 Champions. K-5 Under 1400/Unr: EF \$84.60 mailed by 2/18. **K-5 Under 1000/Unr:** EF \$84.50 mailed by 2/18. **K-5 Under 600/Unr:** EF \$84.40 mailed by 2/18. **Primary Championship** (all K-3): EF \$84.30 mailed by 2/18. **K-3 Under 800/Unr:** EF: \$84.20 mailed by 2/18. **K-1 Championship** (all K-1): EF \$84.10 mailed by 2/18. **K-1 Under 400/Unr:** EF \$84 mailed by 2/18. Postmarked 2/19-28: All EF \$10 more. Do not mail entry after 2/28. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid online with entry: see chessaction.com. **Trophies** to top 10 players & top 7 teams each section, top 2 unrated in U1200, U900, U800, U600 & U400, top 2 each 10300, 10700 (HS), U1600, U1400 (HS U1800), U1000, U1900, U1700 (HS), U1600, U1400, U1500, U1600, U1 U800, U700 (Flem U1000), U500, U400, U300 (Flem U600), U1400, U1200, U1000 (K-3), U600, U500, U400, U300 (K-3 U800), U800, U600, U400 (K-1), U300, U200 (K-1 U400). Speed playoff if perfect score tie. **Free entry prizes** to CCA non-youth tournaments with 100% guaranteed prizes (except World Open & Foxwoods): Championship sections 6 months 1st, 4 months 2nd, 3 months 3rd. Other sections 4 months 1st, 3 months 2nd, 2 months 3rd. World Open & Foxwoods (if during prize period), \$100 off EF. 2 months bonus free entry to NY players with 6-0 scores. Mixed doubles prizes (chess sets) for three HS sections combined: no extra fee; enter at Marriott by Sat Sections Contained, no extar lee, either at Aminotty 9 sar 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:** \$158-158 at Hilton, two nights minimum, 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, or use link at *chessevents.us.* \$149-149 at Courtyard by Marriott, two nights minimum, use link at *chessevents.us* or 866-210-9325. 7 days notice required to cancel room reservations at Hilton, 14 days at Courtyard. Free parking at both. Each may sell out about December, but could have availability much later due to late cancellations. For back-up hotels see *chessevents.us*. **Special car rentals:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633. **\$15 per player** service charge for refunds. **\$20 extra to switch sections,** all substitutions from advance list charged \$120, no section switching or substitutions after 9 am 3/12. Questions: director@chess.us. Bring clock if possible- none sup plied. **Bring set & board** for HS sections- supplied for other sections, but not for skittles. **March official rat**ings used (except unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated). TD reserves right to assign estimated rating to players with non-USCF or online ratings. **Electronic devices rules:** Electronic scorekeeping devices not allowed. See also www.devicerules.com: players may not possess cellphones during play but may store them in bag under table. Online entry: www.chessactient in bag under table. Offine entry: www.tressor-tion.com. Mail entry: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 1257T. 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.

Online

USCF-Rated Online Scholastic Tournaments Every Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2021

Scholastic Tournaments Every Wednesday Online at *lichess.org*. **6 pm Eastern Time** (5 pm CT, 4 pm MT, or 3 pm PT). USCF-Online Regular Rated. **Time control**: game-in-25 minutes with a 5-second increment. **Three rounds**. Games are rated under the USCF-online-regular-rating system. **How to Register or View More Information**: View our online tournaments calendar on our website: *https://www.dmvchess.com/onlinetournaments*. The registration links for each upcoming week's events are always posted on Monday. The format for our weekly events does not change from week to week. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to DMV Chess at 703-415-6600 or *tournaments@dmvchess.com.*

USCF-Rated Online Scholastic Tournaments Every Saturday SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 - FRIDAY,

DECEMBER 31, 2021

Scholastic Tournaments Every Saturday Online at *lichess.org.* **2 pm Eastern Time** (1 pm CT, 12 pm/

noon MT, or 11 am PT).USCF-Online Regular Rated. Time control: game-in-25 minutes with a 5-second increment. Four rounds. Games are rated under the USCF-online-regular-rating system. Four sections divided based on grade. 12 Trophies awarded (three in each section). How to Register or View More Information: View our online tournaments calendar on our website: https://www.dnvchess.com/onlinetournaments. The registration links for each upcoming week's events are always posted on Monday. The format for our weekly events does not change from week to week. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to DMV Chess at 703-415-6600 or tournaments/admytess com.

North American Action

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021

5-SS, G/30+10, at Internet Chess Club, \$5000 guaran teed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes; see ccazoom.com. \$150 prize limit if no Zoom side/rear camera angle.. In 4 sections. **Major Section:** Open to 1900/over. \$700-400-200-150, top U2200 \$300-150. 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 \$85 at chessaction.com by 12/17; \$100 by 9 am PST 12/19. New players (first CCA event on ICC) en ter by 12/17 or risk not being paired for round 1. **EF dis- count: \$30 less** if playing in North American Open. GMs \$80 from prize. **Log into** *playcca.com* 30 minutes before game. **Rounds begin** PST 10 am, 12 noon, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm. **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. Ent: Chessaction.com. Questions: support@

Regional

ARIZONA

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

♦ CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 18, 2021

North American Action

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

JANUARY 14-17, 15-17, OR 16-17, 2022

13th annual Golden State Open (CA-N)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

♦ CONNECTICUT

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC) See North Carolina

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

SEPTEMBER 19-DECEMBER 31, 2021

The Tysons Corner Weekly Scholastic Tournament - In Person Every Sunday (VA)

↔ FLORIDA

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC) See North Carolina

♦ GEORGIA

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC) See North Carolina

JANUARY 7-9 OR 8-9, 2022

7th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)

See Grand Prix or www.bocachess.com.

↔ IDAHO

WEEKLY ON SUNDAY AND SATURDAY, START-ING FROM SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

Chandra Alexis Chess Club

The Chandra Alexis Chess Club is open Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., for lessons, games and tournaments. The club offers weekly 4 RD/SS USCF/FIDE rated and scholastic team tournaments. We are located at 7337 W. Northview Street, Suite 4, Boise, ID 83704. Suite 4 is the Blue Pencil White Pawn office. As seating is limited to 12 players, all tournaments are invitational. Check chandraalexischess-club.org for registration information. Contact USCF Senior TD/FIDE National Arbiter for the U.S., George Lundy, 208-375-1211 evenings.

ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

JANUARY 7-9 OR 8-9, 2022

7th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)

See Grand Prix or www.bocachess.com.

JANUARY 8-9, 2022

Tim Just Winter Open XXXVIII (IL)
See Grand Prix.

♦ INDIANA

JANUARY 8-9, 2022

Tim Just Winter Open XXXVIII (IL)
See Grand Prix.

♠ MARYLAND

SEPTEMBER 18-DECEMBER 31, 2021

In-Person Tournaments for Both Adults and Children in Baltimore by DMV Chess (MD)

DMV Chess runs frequent USCF-rated tournaments in Baltimore at The BWI Sheraton Hotel. Check the in-person tournaments calendar on dmvchess.com for exact dates of upcoming events. Events include scholastic tournaments, open action tournaments, and open blitz tournaments! HOW TO REGISTER OR VIEW MORE INFORMATION: Registration links are posted online on our website: https://www.dmvchess.com/inpersontournaments. CONTACT: For questions, please email us at josh@dm-vchess.com or call us at 703-609-0499. Address: 1100 Old Elkridge Landing Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090.

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

♦ MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

DECEMBER 28, 2021

New York State Under 13 Action Championship (out of state welcome)

See New York or chessevents.us.

DECEMBER 29-30, 2021

New York State Junior Championships (out of state welcome).

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JANUARY 7-9 OR 8-9, 2022

Boston Chess Congress (MA) See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MARCH 12-13, 2022

54th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome)(NY)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

♠ MISSOURI

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

♠ NEVADA

DECEMBER 18, 2021

North American Action

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

♠ NEW JERSEY

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

JANUARY 14-17, 15-17, OR 16-17, 2022

54th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

FEBRUARY 19-21, 2022

World Amateur Team & U.S. Team East (NJ)

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

New Jersey Junior High Championship

A State Championship Event! Feb. 27, New Jersey Ju-nior High School Championship 5SS, G/25 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:** \$40 before 2/22, \$55 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, *halsprech*man@gmail.com. Ent: Hal Sprechman, 15 Reigate Ln, Manchester NJ 08759 or online by 9:00pm, Feb 25 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.

MARCH 12-13, 2022

54th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome)(NY)

NEW YORK

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

DECEMBER 26-28 OR 27-28, 2021

Empire State Open (NY)

DECEMBER 28, 2021

New York State Under 13 Action

Championship (out of state welcome)

State Championship event. 5SS, G/30 d10, Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany 12205. Free parking, wireless, & airport shuttle, restaurants nearby. Open to all born after 12/28/08. Top NYS player in Championship is state Under 13 Action champion. In 2 sections, Championship and Under 1000; EF: \$48 at chessaction.com by 12/23, \$60 online or at site by 9 am 12/28. **No checks** at site, credit cards OK. **Plaques to top 5 each section,** top U1400, U1200 (Championship), U800, U600, U400, Unr (U1000). **Unofficial or Online Regular** *uschess.* org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special** 1 yr USCF with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Young Adult \$25, Youth \$18. Mailed or at site, \$27 or \$20. **Reg. ends** 12/28 9 am, **rds**. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00. **Awards** 7:30. **Bye:** all, limit 2; must commit before rd 2. **HR:** \$100-100, reserve by 12/12, link at chessevents.us or call 518-458-8444. Ent: ches tion.com or Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. Questions: www.chesstour.com, Dire Chess.US. Please claim plaques at site. Refunds: \$15 service charge. **Entries posted** at *chessaction.com* (click "entry list" after entering). **Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied.

DECEMBER 29-30, 2021

New York State Junior Championships (out of state welcome).

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

JANUARY 7-9 OR 8-9, 2022

7th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)

JANUARY 14-17, 15-17, OR 16-17, 2022 54th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

MARCH 12-13, 2022

54th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome)(NY)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us

NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

2021 North American Junior (U20) Championships An official FIDE Continental Championship offering IM.

FM, WIM, WFM FIDE titles and GM, IM, WGM, WIM norms for winners! 2020 North American Junior, held in Charlotte, had a record 95 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 Dr., Charlotte, NC 28262. **Hotel:** \$105/ night (single/double), free internet, free parking, many restaurants and shops in walking distance. Eligibility: Open to all players from USA, Canada, and Mexico who are under 20 (19 & amp; younger) as of 1/1/2021 (born 2001 or after). This is a completely open event for those who meet the age and eligibility requirements. **Awards/** Direct FIDE Titles: Medals to top 3 in each section (on tiebreaks if necessary). 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 medal = FM title and IM norm. Bronze medal = FM title and IM norm. Girls section - Gold medal = WIM title and WGM norm; if tie for first, top 3 on tiebreaks receive WIM title, gold medalist also earns WGM norm. Silver medal = WFM title and WIM norm. Bronze medal = WFM title and WIM norm. **Schedule:** suggested arrival Sat-urday 12/18. Players meeting (required) Sunday 12/19 11:30am, Rounds Sunday 12/19-Wed 12/22 each 12pm

and 6pm. Round 9 Thu 12/23, 11am. Registration: Players should register directly with the organizers online at www.charlottechesscenter.org/najunior. Entry Fee: \$260 by 11/20, \$280 between 11/21-12/10, \$300 between 12/11–18, no registration after 12/18. Refunds will incur 5% service fee. **No half-point byes.** All equipment provided! FIDE Rules, December FIDE ratings used for pairings. **COVID Policy** – will be posted on website by 11/15 based on CDC and local guidelines at the time. **Or- ganizer:** Charlotte Chess Center, **contact:** *grant@char*lottechesscenter.org. Info, invitation, regulations, registration: www.charlottechesscenter.org/najunior.

♠ PENNSYLVANIA

SEPTEMBER 18-DECEMBER 31, 2021

In-Person Tournaments for Both Adults and Children in Philadelphia by DMV Chess (PA)

DMV Chess runs semi-regular USCF-rated tournaments in Philadelphia at The Warwick Hotel. Check the in-person tournaments calendar on *dmvchess.com* for exact dates of upcoming events. Events include scholastic tournaments, open action tournaments, and open blitz tournaments! HOW TO REGISTER OR VIEW MORE INFORMATION: Registration links are posted online on our website: https://www.dmvchess. com/inpersontournaments. CONTACT: For questions. please email us at josh@dmvchess.com or call us at 703-609-0499. Address: 1701 Locust Street, Philadel-

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

JANUARY 7-9 OR 8-9, 2022

7th Annual Gulf Coast New Year's Open (FL)

See Grand Prix or www.bocachess.com.

JANUARY 14-17, 15-17, OR 16-17, 2022

54th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA) See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

SOUTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC) See North Carolina.

◆ TEXAS

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

FEBRUARY 17-21, 2022

13th annual Southwest Class Championships (TX)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us

VIRGINIA

SEPTEMBER 19-DECEMBER 31, 2021

The Tysons Corner Weekly Scholastic Tournament - In Person Every Sunday (VA)
Location: Westin Hotel on 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls

Church, VA 22043, 4 round Swiss tournar

regular and quick rated. Time control: Game in 25 minutes with a 5-second delay. Every Sunday, 10:00 am to approximately 2:00 pm. Entry fee: \$35 on or before Wednesday, \$40 on or before Saturday, \$45 on Sunday (on-site registration is allowed, registration for round one closes at 9:45 am on Sunday). Participants are not required to play all rounds. Please inform the tournament director if you plan to show up late or leave early. **Three Sections: K-3, K-5, and K-8.** PRIZES: Trophies to the top three in each section! We will have enough chess sets for all players. If you would like to use a clock, please bring one. For questions, please email us at josh@dmvchess.com or call us at 703-609-0499. HOW TO REGISTER: Registration links are posted online on our website: https://www.

SEPTEMBER 19-DECEMBER 31, 2021

Tysons Corner Weekly Action and Blitz Tournaments - Every Sunday In Person (VA)

Location: The Westin Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043. Every Sunday at 3 pm (Action) and 12:30 pm (Blitz). **3 PM ACTION TOUR**-NAMENT INFORMATION: 4 round Swiss tournament. USCF regular and quick rated. Time control: Game in 30 minutes with a 5-second delay. Every Sunday, 3 pm to approximately 7:30 pm. **Entry fee:** \$30 on or before Wednesday, \$35 on or before Saturday, \$40 on Sunday (on-site registration is allowed, registration for round one closes at 2:45 pm on Sunday). **Two Sec**tions: Open and Under 1500. Prizes: \$100 for 1st in Open; \$50 for 1st in U1500. We will have enough chess sets for all players, but clocks will not be provided for sets no an players, but clocks, will not be provided no veryone. If you have a clock, please bring one. For questions, please email us at /osh@dnvchess.com or call us at 703-609-0499. 12:30 PM BLITZ TOURNAMENT INFORMATION: 5 round double Swiss tournament. ment (10 total rated blitz games). **USCF blitz rated. Time control:** Game in 5 minutes with no delay or increment. Every Sunday, 12:30 pm to approximately 2:30 pm. **Entry fee:** \$20 if also signed up for action. If only playing blitz then \$30 on or before Wednesday, \$35 on or before Saturday, \$40 on Sunday (on-site registration is allowed, registration for round one closes at 12:15 pm on Sunday). **One section. Prizes:** \$100 for 1st. We will have enough chess sets for all players, but clocks will not be provided for everyone. If you have a clock, please bring one. For questions, please email is at iosh@dmvchess.com or call us at 703-609-0499. HOW TO REGISTER: Registration links are posted on

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

JANUARY 14-17, 15-17, OR 16-17, 2022

54th annual Liberty Bell Open (PA)

FEBRUARY 25-27 OR 26-27, 2022

7th annual George Washington Open (VA)

See Grand Prix or chessevents us

♠ WASHINGTON

DECEMBER 19-23, 2021

North American Junior (U20) Championships (NC)

♦ WISCONSIN

Tim Just Winter Open XXXVIII (IL)

ANSWERS

PAGE 16/YOU CAN DO IT!

Solution #1: 1. Nf7 Kg8 2. Qh8 mate

Solution #2: 1. Nf6+ Kf8 2. Re8 mate

Solution #3: 1. Nd6+ Kd8 2. Qe8+ Rxe8 3. Nf7 mate

Solution #4: 1. ... Nf2+ 2. Ke1 Nd3+

3. Kd1 [3. Kf1 Qf2 mate] 3. ... Qe1+ 4. Nxe1 Nf2 mate

Solution #5: 1. ... Nxf3+ 2. Kf1 Bd3+ 3. Oxd3 Re1 mate

Solution #6: 1. Nc7+ Kd8 2. Nce6+ Ke8 3. Qd8 mate

Ziggurat3DChess.com **Available on Steam and Oculus Rift**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

出

SPRING SCHOLASTIC NATIONALS

2022 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) CHAMPIONSHIP

APRIL 8-10

Sheraton Memphis Downtown Hotel MEMPHIS Tennessee 2022 NATIONAL

MIDDLE SCHOOL (K-8)

CHAMPIONSHIP

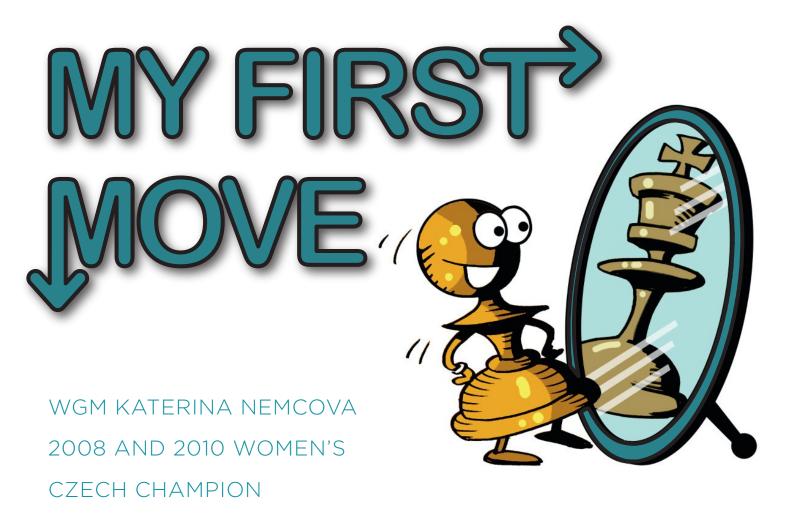
APRIL 29-MAY 1

Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center GRAPEVINE Tennessee 2022 NATIONAL ELEMENTARY (K-6) CHAMPIONSHIP

MAY 13-15

Greater Columbus
Convention Center
COLUMBUS
Ohio

U.S. Postal Service. Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (required by 39 U.S.C. 3685). 1. Title of publication: Chess Life Kids. 2. Publication number: 023-567. 3. Date of filing: September 30, 2021. 4. Frequency of issue: Bi-monthly. 5. No. of issues published annually: 6. 6. Annual subscription price: \$37. 7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication (street, city, county, state, and ZIP code) (Not printers): P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555 8. Complete mailing address of the headquarters of general business office of the publisher (Not printers); PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555. 9. Full names/complete mailing addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor (this item must not be blank). Publisher (name/complete mailing address): Carol Meyer, US Chess, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555. Editor (name/complete mailing address): Melinda Matthews P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555. Managing Editor (name and complete mailing address): same as above. 10. Owner. (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately there under the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other incorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Do not leave blank.): United States Chess Federation, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555. 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; (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 2021. 15. Extent and nature of circulation. (a) Total number copies printed (net press run): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 6,289; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 5,728. (b) Paid and/or requested circulation: (1) Paid/requested outside-county mail subscriptions: average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 5,674; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 5,041. (2) Paid in-county subscriptions (include advertisers' proof copies/exchange copies): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 0; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 0. (3) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales (not mailed): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 0; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 0. (4) Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS (e.g. First Class Mail): average number copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 58; actual number copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 65. 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A FAMILY ENDEAVOR

I grew up in a big family where everyone plays chess. I have six siblings (five sisters and one brother) and we all started playing chess by throwing pieces around and making up our own chess rules! I don't recall learning to play chess the same way I don't recall learning to walk. My parents say I picked up on proper rules when I was about three years old. I played my first tournament when I was five.

GETTING BACK TO THE BOARD FOR THE 2021 U.S. WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

After being away from tournament games for over three years, I'd forgotten how cool over-the-board chess can be. I admit that at the start of my first game against IM Anna Zatonskih, I felt a little awkward and nervous. I was making sure that I played legal moves and wasn't hanging pieces — things I would normally not even consider — but luckily this weird feeling disappeared



quickly. All-in-all, playing in the U.S. Women's Championship again was a fantastic experience. (*Katerina was at the top of the leaderboard for the first six rounds and finished tied for fourth place.* ~ed.)

INFLUENCES

I didn't have many opportunities to learn about chess history or personalities when I was growing up. YouTube and Twitch didn't exist yet, and only a few chess books were available in the Czech language. So my early heroes were people outside the chess world, such as Czech soccer icon Petr Čech. However, when I started traveling to international events, I began to like GM Veselin Topalov, as his chess style was similar to mine. These days, I think GM Magnus Carlsen is a cool guy and a really fantastic chess ambassador.

FAVORITE OPENINGS

I was a very aggressive player as a kid. I loved to attack and sacrifice! My favorite openings were the King's Gambit and the Smith-Morra Gambit for White, and the Dragon Sicilian for Black. You could also find me playing the Scotch Gambit and Latvian Gambit — they were fun! Now I am a little more chill. I enjoy playing the London Opening for White and all kinds of less popular Sicilians for Black.

MEMORABLE BOOKS

My first chess book was Aron Nimzovich's *My System* and, truthfully, it was a real struggle to finish it because the analyses were quite advanced for me. After I moved to the U.S., I found tons of attractive books and read a lot of them! One of my favorites is *Move First*, *Think Later* by IM Willy Hendriks. I can also recommend *Play like a Girl* by WGM Jennifer Shahade.

WHEN THE STARS ALIGN

Winning the 2008 European Chess Championships for Girls U18 was





a big moment for me. Winning any tournament is really hard because one needs to play great chess, make almost no mistakes, keep up good energy for all the rounds, and also have a bit of luck. All the stars need to align! I was quite pleased that I pulled that one off.

HANDLING SETBACKS

When you play chess for a long time, you encounter a lot of disappointments. One such moment for me was the 2007 World Youth Championship for Girls U18. I was leading with eight points out of nine, but then scored only a half a point in the last two rounds, lost the lead, and finished second.

My takeaway is that disappointments are part of life. They remind us

Above: Katerina with her six siblings, all of whom play chess. Left: Katerina as a child in Czechoslovakia, where she grew up. She began playing chess at age three — not long after this photo was taken!

that we are imperfect, but they also motivate us to grow and do better.

CHESS GOALS

I have put my chess goals on hold for now, as I am about to finish my doctoral studies and school is my priority. But I am an IM-elect and one of my future goals is to get that title. I would also love to get back on the U.S. Women's Olympiad team.

MY BEST ADVICE

Enjoy chess to its fullest! Join a chess club, travel to tournaments, make new friends, play online... have fun! And remember: no player is smarter than you. Believe in yourself, work hard, learn from your losses, and you're on the road to accomplish your goals.

This is the final My First Move column. Look for an exciting new column in February!

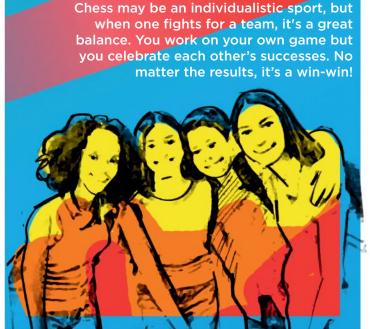


I grew up in a large family with six siblings. All of us play chess, so I was used to a team dynamic.

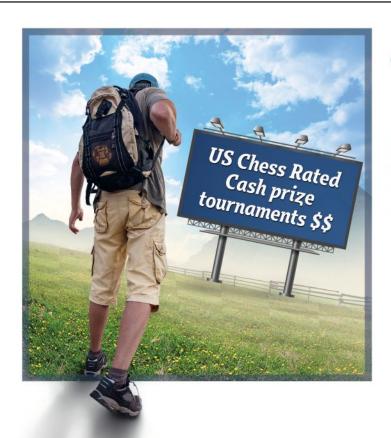








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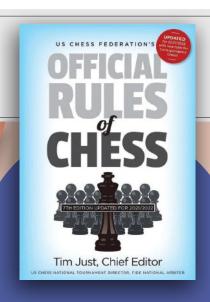
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