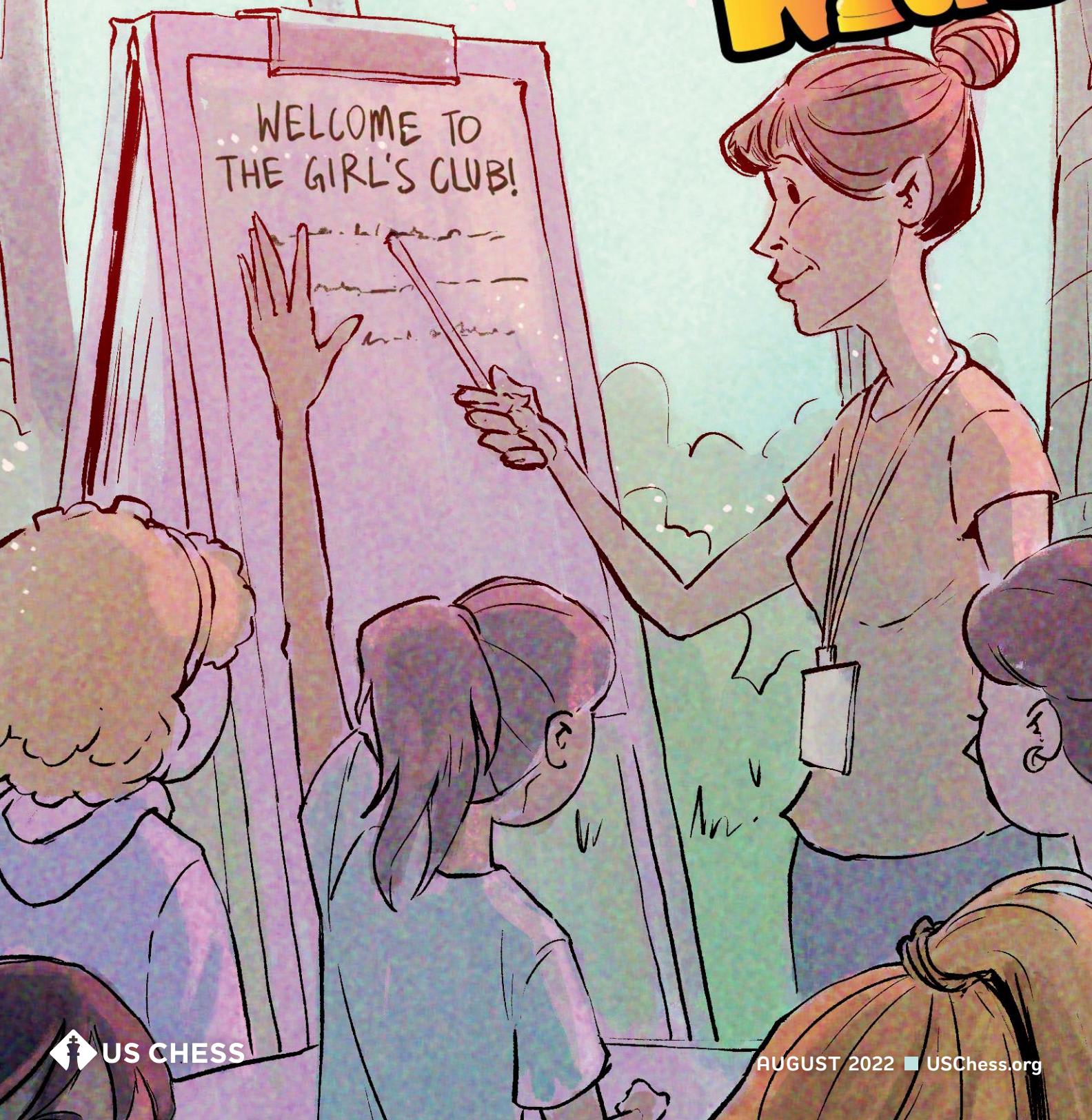


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Chess Life Kids provides a foundational interest in chess for beginning level pre-teens through the use of games, instruction, and human-interest stories. It is intended to be useful for Youth members, parents, and coaches. If interested in writing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

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Chess Life Kids | Vol. 17, No. 4

CHESSLIFE Kids

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BY JOHN HARTMANN

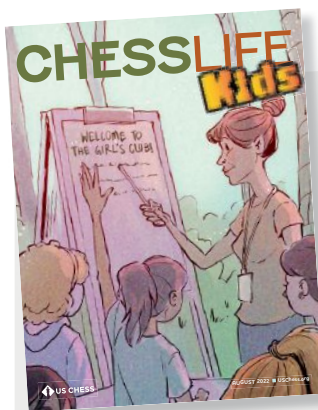
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ON THE COVER

This issue celebrates girls in chess! Our cover story, by Dr. Alexey Root, WIM, takes you inside the popular Girls Club that has become a fixture online and at national scholastic events. Team club ambassador Laurel Aronian gives the inside scoop on the international simul, "Judit Polgar vs The World." And

all of our regular columns highlight a stellar array of girls and women in chess. Art: Jui Talukder



Fast and Slow

Great chess by strong women in blitz and correspondence games

BY JOHN HARTMANN

IF YOU WERE following the 2022 FIDE Candidates Tournament, which just wrapped up in Madrid, Spain, you might have seen this game mentioned in the online coverage.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, TAIMANOV VARIATION (B48)

GM Judit Polgar

GM Magnus Carlsen

Madrid (blitz), 07.02.2022

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Be3 a6 7. Qd2 Nf6 8. 0-0-0 Be7 9. f3 b5 10. g4 Nxd4 11. Bxd4 Bb7 12. e5 Nxc4?!

Too greedy. Now White develops her pieces quickly. Better instead was 12. ... Nd5.

13. Rg1 Nh6 14. Bd3 Bf8 15. Be4 Rc8??

A horrible mistake. How did White punish the world champ for his error?

16. Bb6!

The point. If 16. ... Qxb6 17. Qxd7 mate — Black has to defend the d7-pawn or be checkmated. But there is no square for the queen where she can defend d7. (The

c8-square was available, but after Black's 15th move... not so much.) So the world champ has to give up material.

16. ... Bxe4 17. Bxc7 Bc6 18. Bd6 Nf5 19. Ne4, Black resigned.

Down a queen for a bishop and pawn, Carlsen laughed and stopped the clock.

It's not often that Magnus Carlsen is beaten so quickly, even in blitz games, where anything can happen.

But of course Judit Polgar isn't just *any* player. A grandmaster at the age of 15 — at the time, the youngest person in history to have earned the title — Polgar was the first woman to be a top-10 rated player in the world, and she was the highest-rated woman for over 15 years. She won dozens of tournaments against the world's best players before retiring from active play in 2014.

You probably already know a bit about Polgar, especially if you have already read this month's article, "Judit Polgar vs The World," by Laurel Aronian. And you probably know that Polgar excelled in all forms of the game, from blitz

chess to classical time-control games that took up to seven hours to finish.

Perhaps you didn't know that women also excel at correspondence chess, a much slower version of the game where moves are sent via postcard or special chess-specific websites. Two American women have earned international titles in correspondence play from the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF). The first to do so was Dr. Christine Rosenfield, who became a Ladies' International Master in 1990.

After graduating with honors from the University of Michigan in 1957 and earning a Ph.D. from the University of Alberta later on, Rosenfield first worked as a chemist, including a three-year stint in Brazil on a program with the United Nations. She then shifted careers, going back to school in the late 1970s, earning her medical degree, and working as a physician.

All the while Rosenfield was playing chess. As she told Alina Markowski, and as relayed by Alex Dunne in the November 1986 issue of *Chess Life*, chess by mail was a

life-saver when she was a doctor on call in rural towns.

“Evenings in a small town could be boring where one knows no one and must be available should the hospital call. But, six days a week the postman delivers chess moves! My opponents provide the entertainment for the evenings and make my unconventional lifestyle great fun.”

It turns out that the slower tempo of correspondence chess suited Rosenfield to a T. She was the first woman to play in an open U.S. Correspondence Championship, and she was the first board for our women’s teams in correspondence Olympiads. Perhaps her best result was finishing sixth in the 5th Women’s World Correspondence Championship.

Here is a fine game by Rosenfield from an tournament organized by the *Scottish Correspondence Chess Magazine*, marking the first time that an American woman had participated in an international invitational.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, SVESHNIKOV VARIATION (B33)

Tuende Hargitay (1880)

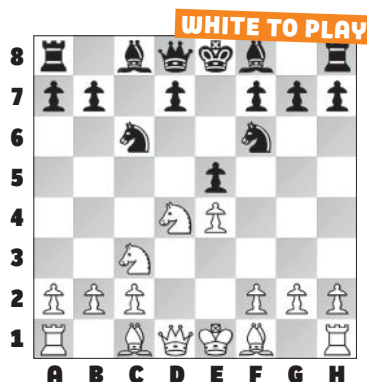
WIM Christine Rosenfield (2175)

Scotland Women’s Invitational (corr), 1993

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5

(see diagram top of next column)

This is the beginning of the Sveshnikov variation, named for a Russian grandmaster who made it popular almost 50 years ago. Black kicks the d4-knight out of the center, gaining space, but she



also leaves a big hole on her d5-square.

6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Na3 b5 9. Bxf6 gxf6 10. Nd5 Bg7

More popular today is 10. ... f5 immediately, putting pressure on the White center.

11. Qh5 Ne7 12. Ne3 f5

More active is 12. ... d5!? right away. If 13. exd5 f5! and the e- and f-pawns push down the board.

13. exf5 d5 14. Qg5 Rg8 15. 0-0-0

If White tries to win material with 15. f6, Black has time to save herself with 15. ... Ng6! when 16. fxfg7?? (16. Nxd5 Qxd5 17. fxfg7 Qe4+ is a draw by perpetual) drops the queen after 16. ... Qxg5.

15. ... d4 16. Bd3 Qd6!

Not 16. ... dxe3?, which loses the queen to the discovery beginning with 17. Bxb5+.

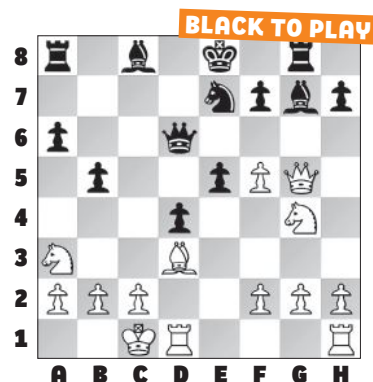
17. Ng4?

(see diagram top of next column)

This looks like a strong move, putting the knight on a safe square, and discouraging any ideas with ... h7-h5 followed by ... Bg7-h6, pinning the queen. But Black saw further:

17. ... h6!

In retrospect, the frightening-



looking 17. ... h5 18. f6 Bxg4 19. fxfg7 (with Bd3-h7 to come) is quite unclear after 19. ... f6! 20. Qh6 Bxd1 21. Rxd1.

18. Qh5

Now 18. Qd2 loses to 18. ... h5 with ... Bg7-h6 to come.

18. ... e4! 19. Be2

Grabbing the pawn falls to the double attack 19. Bxe4 Qf4+.

19. ... Bxf5

Black’s pieces are flowing to good squares, while White can only react. And those central pawns are scary!

20. Rhe1 d3!

Opening lines to the king.

21. Bxd3 Qb4!

Something must be done about the threat to the b2-square.

22. c3 Bxc3! 23. bxc3 Qxa3+ 24. Kb1 Bxg4, White resigned.

Correspondence chess is a lot of fun, whether it is played via postcard or website. US Chess offers both kinds of correspondence games. If you’re interested in finding out more, visit our website at new.uschess.org/correspondence-chess. Who knows? Perhaps you’ll be the next Judit Polgar, or the next Dr. Christine Rosenfield!



The Unpin

BY **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

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!

ONE OF THE five main tactics in chess is the pin. The pin is a line tactic. It's given by a queen, rook, or bishop along the line of attack. Usually, the pinned piece or pawn can't move off that line without exposing something to capture or exploitation. An absolute pin is one to the king. The pinned unit cannot legally move off the line of attack at all. A relative pin is one to another piece or key square. The pinned unit can legally move out of the pin, but there might be consequences. In the opening, players often create early pins to restrict the opponent. Thereafter, they hope to capitalize on the pin, pressuring, capturing, or profiting on associated weakness. Pins can be so attractive, players often give relative ones without much thought. Sometimes there is a surprising answer: an unpinning combination, also known as an "unpin." Suddenly, the pinned piece moves with devastating effect. This month's trap is a case in point.

1. e4 d5

This is the Center-Counter or Scandinavian Defense. Black aims for immediate counterplay.

2. exd5

Q1) Since it gains space, why not play 2. e5? (10 points)

Black has two typical responses here.

2. ... Qxd5

This is one of them. It brings the queen to the center for attack.

Q2) What is the main drawback to 2. ... Qxd5? (10 points)

Q3) Instead of 2. ... Qxd5, how else might Black continue? (10 points)

3. Nc3

White develops and gains time. Black must move the queen.

3. ... Qd8

Black retreats the queen to the home square.

Q4) Instead of retreating, how else could Black play? (10 points)

4. d4

White clears the way for the queen-bishop.

Q5) What useful move does 4. d4 deter Black from playing? (10 points)

4. ... Nc6

Black develops toward the center and supports a possible 5. ... e5.

5. Nf3

In turn, White develops toward the center and guards e5.

5. ... Bg4

Black tries to guard e5 by pinning the f3-knight to White's queen.

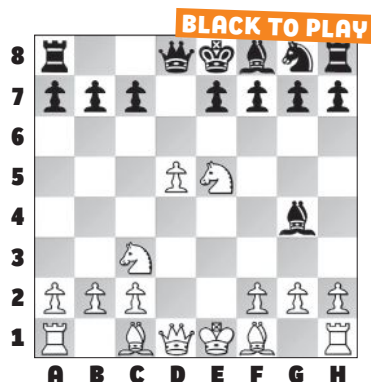
Q6) What kind of pin is 5. ... Bg4? (10 points)

6. d5
Black's c6-knight is threatened.

Q7) To avoid material loss, must Black move the c6-knight? (10 points)

6. ... Ne5
Black thinks this move is safe, since the f3-knight is pinned. But it's not an absolute pin to the king. It's a relative pin to the queen.

7. Nxe5
White gains a knight but exposes the queen to capture.



After 7. Nxe5

7. ... Bxd1
Naturally, Black's bishop snaps up the white queen. White has two ways to take the bishop back.

Q8) How should White take the d1-bishop? (10 points)

8. Bb5+

White's check is serious. To avoid 8. ... Qd7, Black must answer 8. ... c6.

8. ... c6 9. dxc6

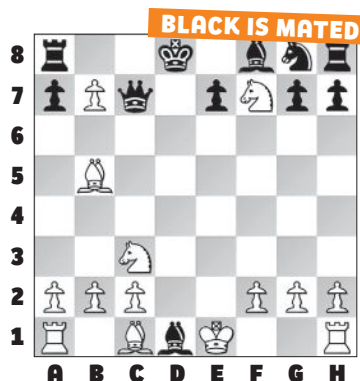
Q9) Can Black now save the bishop, say by playing 9 ... Bh5? (10 points)

9. ... Qc7
Black tries to clear d8 for the king's escape.

10. cxb7+
A crushing discovery.

10. ... Kd8
White could now play 11. b7xa8/Q+, which clearly wins. But even better is ...

11. Nxf7 mate!
This variation comes from an actual game played in Nuremberg in 1895 between Jacques Mieses and Johannes Ohquist.



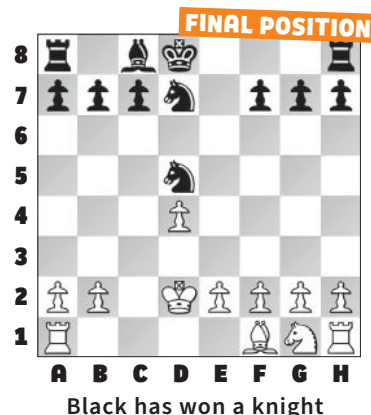
After 11. Nxf7 mate!

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

ILLUSTRATIVE GAME

Katarzyna Jacewicz vs. Julia Zapasnik
The 1998 Under-12 Girl's
Championship of Poland

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Nbd7 5. cxd5 exd5 6. Nxd5 Nxd5 7. Bxd8 Bb4+ 8. Qd2 Bxd2+ 9. Kxd2 Kxd8, White resigned.



Black has won a knight

For up-to-date chess news, check out **Chess Life Online** at uschess.org/clo on a regular basis.

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

ANSWERS:

A1) It cedes the initiative, which gives Black the next free move. **A2)** White can attack the queen with a gain of time by 3. Nc3. **A3)** Black could reasonably delay taking back by 2. ... Nf6. **A4)** Black could try 3. ... Qa5, keeping the queen in play. **A5)** It dissuades Black from playing 4. ... e5. **A6)** This is a relative pin. The f3-knight can legally move. **A7)** No, Black could first play 6. ... Bxf3. **A8)** White shouldn't take the bishop. There's a much better move. **A9)** It fails for several reasons, including 10. c7+ Qd7 11. Bxd7 mate. **A10)** Move six. Black could have played 6. ... Bxf3 or 6. ... Nb8.

JUDIT POLGAR -VS- THE WORLD

BY LAUREL ARONIAN

WE HAD MET with GM Garry Kasparov. We had met with “The Queens Gambit” star,

Anya Taylor-Joy, and its director, Scott Frank. The members of the US Chess Girls Club had had private Zoom meetings with so many of the greats and top chess influencers that it seemed impossible for Women’s Program Director WGM Jennifer Shahade to dream up anything more amazing.

It was stunning, then, when Shahade announced an upcoming “surprise event”: The Girls Club would participate in a worldwide simul, playing as one group taking on the chess legend, GM Judit

Polgar.

Polgar hosted her once-in-a-lifetime international exhibition, “Judit Polgar vs The World,” on March 20. The simul was held in and organized by the Hungary Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. In this ground-breaking global and integrated social event, millions of people virtually sat down to play against Polgar live. Participants included WGM Anna Rudolf, WFM Anna Cramling, and popular streamer Agadmator (Antonio Radic).

The US Chess Girls Club, together with their cross-cultural counterparts from Africa and South America, partnered with education initiatives Lighthouse Chess (Kenya) and Business Meets Chess & Kids (United States) in the

simul. WGM Sabina Foisor, WGM Nadya Ortiz, and WFM Alessia Santeramo also joined the Zoom to assist the nearly 100 members of the Girls Club in their epic battle. The eight (!) hour, 69-move game resulted in a victorious draw against Polgar, the highest-rated female player of all time!

During the simul, multitasking Shahade collaborated with her Girls Club, elite chess influencers, and titled guests while (simul) taneously providing her classic commentary throughout the match:

RUY LOPEZ [C88]

[jpvstheworld5](#)

[jenshahade](#)

Chess.com, 03.20.2022

Annotated by Jen Shahade



1. e4 e5

My favorite opening (and Judit Polgar's too!) is the Sicilian.

This was a hotly debated moment. It was ultimately up to the girls to break the tie. It pained me to play the move ... e7-e5, but I did it! And after the game [spoiler alert], who knows, I may do it again.

2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O 8. h3 Bb7 9. Nc3

The battle for the d5-square quickly begins.

9. ... d6 10. a4 Na5 11. Ba2 b4 12. Nd5 Nxd5 13. Bxd5 Bxd5 14. exd5 f5

An excellent move that I wouldn't have played on my own. Thanks to WGM Nadya Ortiz of Colombia for

suggesting it — and to the girls for voting for it!

15. d3 c6

We have to improve our misplaced knight on a5.

16. dxc6 Nxc6 17. c3 a5

According to Stockfish the move a5 was our first “mistake” of the game.

It weakens our b5-square. The move 17. ... Ra8-b8 achieves the same aim of bolstering b4, but without making a weakness.

18. Bd2 Rb8 19. Qb3+ Kh8 20. Qd5

Coaches often tell kids not to “get their queen out too early,” but if you can nestle your queen into a central square where it's unassailable, it can create devastating pressure. Thankfully,

the girls, led by Alessia and me, did not fail us.

20. ... Qb6 21. Bg5

There was much debate here! But eventually we agreed on this final choice: 21. ... Rb8-e8, which turns out to be a mistake.

21. ... Rbe8 22. Rac1 h6 23. Be3 Qa6 24. Qb5

We could not allow Judit to trade queens with 24. ... Qxb5 25. axb5 because of her stronger queenside structure.

24. ... Qa8 25. d4 Rb8 26. Qc4

Thanks to WGM Ortiz and the girls, who convinced me to play the great tension-keeping move, 26. ... Bf6!

26. ... Bf6! 27. dxe5 Nxe5



We were all so excited to get rid of our “bad knight” that we missed 27. ... dxe5, which may have given us the initiative. Never make captures super quickly; there are often nuances that require deeper thought.

28. Nxe5 dxe5 29. Bc5

We underestimated the danger. We thought that we could just pin the bishop.

29. ... Rfc8 30. cxb4 Rxb4

The computer thinks 30. ... axb4 is better; the active rook can become a tactical problem for US, too.

31. Qe6 Re8 32. Qxf5 Rxb2

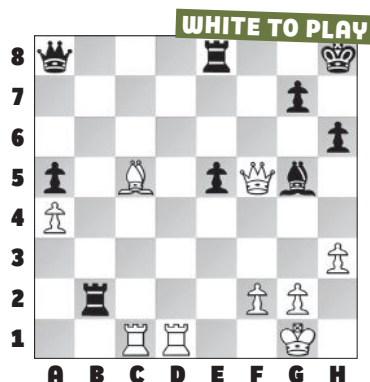
Collectively, we were worried about 32. Bc5-e3, threatening Be3xh6 here. Apparently we were right to be worried — and this is a rare moment in the game where Judit did not make the most of her chances.

33. Red1 Bg5!

(see diagram top of next column)

Great move, this stops 34. Be3.

34. Rc4 Qa6! 35. Qf7 Qe6 36. Qxe6



Rxe6 37. h4 Be7 38. Rd7 Bxc5 39. Rxc5 Rf6 40. Rc8+ Kh7

All these positions are 0.00.

41. Rcc7 Rg6 42. Ra7 Rb1+ 43. Kh2 Rb4 44. Rxa5 Rxh4+ 45. Kg1 e4 46. Re7 Rhg4 47. g3 Rf6

Skye and Kate, two young sisters from Lebanon, pointed out: Why not be even more active with ... Rg6-c6 or ... Rg6-d6? Absolutely correct! Luckily we are drawing.

48. Kg2 Rf3 49. Re8 Ra3 50. Kh3 Rf4 51. Kg2 Rg4 52. Kh3 Rf4

It was hour six, and we were sure Judit was going for three-move repetition. And then ...

53. Ra7

She rejected the DRAW OFFER! As Alessia pointed out, an elite Grandmaster will always go for the “best try.”

53. ... Rxf2 54. Ree7 Rff3 55. Rxc7+ Kh8 56. Rg4 e3 57. Re4 Kg8 58. Kg4 Rf7 59. Ra6 Rg7+ 60. Kh4 Ra1 61. Kh3 Ra3 62. g4 e2+ 63. Kh4 Ra1 64. Rxe2 Rh1+ 65. Kg3 Rg1+ 66. Rg2 Rxc2+ 67. Kxc2 Rxc4+ 68. Kh3 Rb4 69. Rxh6 Rxa4

And we erupted into cheers as Judit Polgar, the greatest female player of all time, offered us a DRAW! Special thanks to WGM Nadya Ortiz and to host Alessia Santeramo.

The excitement of facing a player as powerful as Judit Polgar is

indescribable: She’s a legend and a dream opponent. Gaining insight into how the WGMs and FMs who helped us get the draw calculate was perfectly summed up by Shahade: experiences that “couldn’t be taught in a book.”

The simul event also illustrated what talented youth and seasoned chess professionals can learn from each other. As a girl who attended a Montessori middle school, my classroom held students ranging from 9-12 years old in the same space. We were always teaching each other — we learned from both our younger and older peers. Similarly, the balance between beginner ambition and seasoned expertise boosted our belief in ourselves during the simul.

We were in tough positions multiple times throughout the game. Sometimes, only the fresh perspective of one of the girls helped us find the saving-grace calculation. Other times, wise advice from the elite WGMs and FMs kept us from making spontaneous, dubious moves and getting into risky positions against Polgar. We grounded each other as a group: instead of panicking in the trickiest positions, we figured a way out together.

The to-be legends of the chess world worked together with the champions of the field — a killer combination that led us to our triumphant draw. I’m endlessly grateful to be part of the Girls Club (and can’t wait to see who shows up next!)

Find Laurel:
Chess.com: MountainLaurelA
Youtube: MountainLaurelA
Lichess.org: Laurel-A-IsTaken



JUDIT POLGAR FACTS

Born in Budapest on
JULY 23, 1976

Won her **FIRST**
international tournament
in New York at **AGE 9**
and was featured in
The New York Times.

Defeated a **GM**
for the first time at
AGE 11

Became a
**WORLD YOUTH
CHAMPION** at **AGE 12**
and then **14,**
both times in the Open
sections

Earned the **GM** title
in **1991** at **AGE 15,**
the youngest at the time

Has **DEFEATED**
11 **WORLD
CHAMPIONS**
— including Boris Spassky,
Anatoly Karpov, Garry
Kasparov, Viswanathan
Anand, and Magnus
Carlsen — at international
competitions

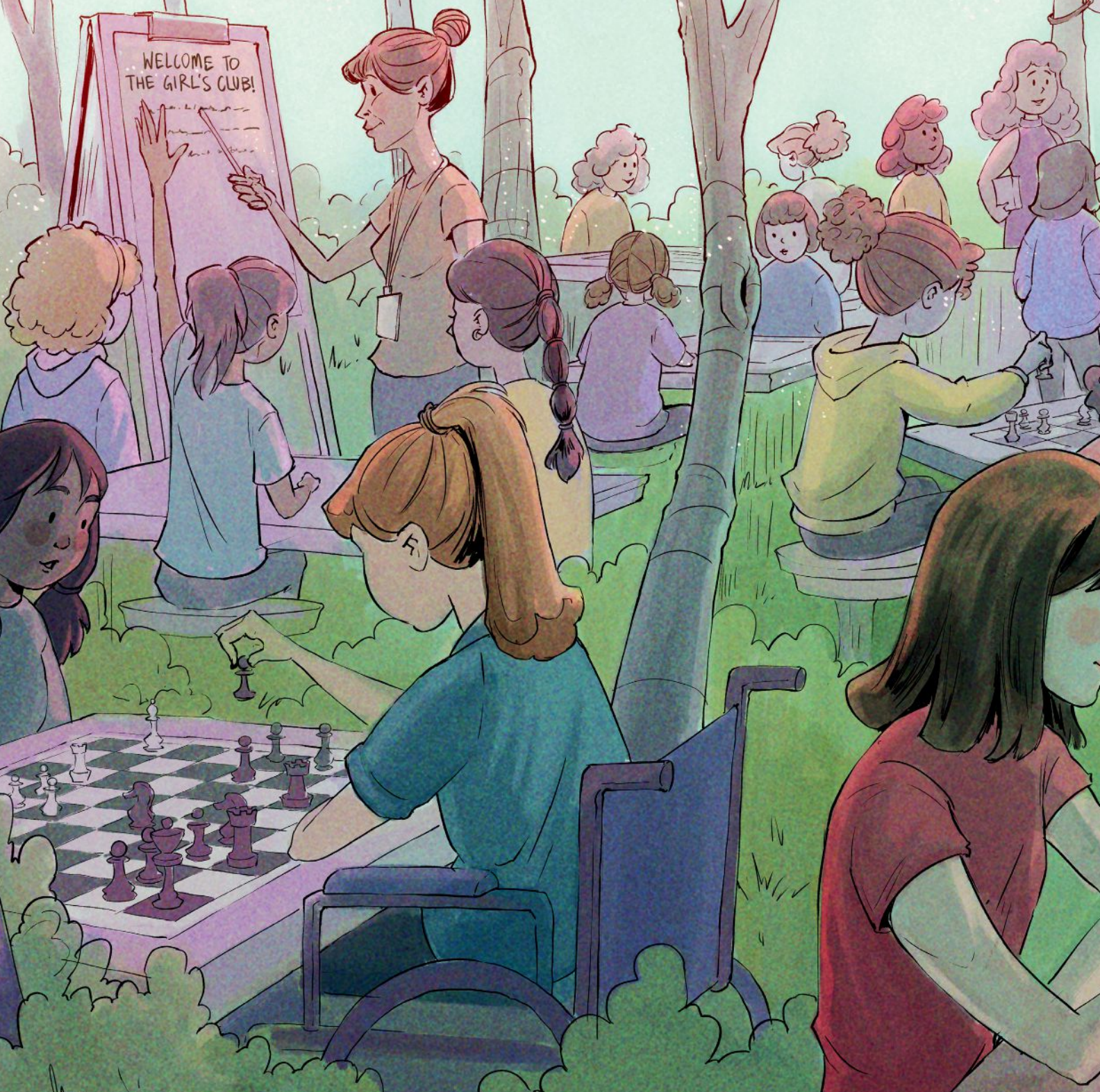


RETIRED as an active professional chess player
after the **2014** Chess Olympiad in Tromsø

Currently focuses on promoting chess internationally,
refining educational programs, writing books, and
overseeing the **JUDIT POLGAR CHESS
FOUNDATION**, which she established in 2012

Welcome to the

BY DR. ALEXEY ROOT, WIM



GIRLS CLUB!

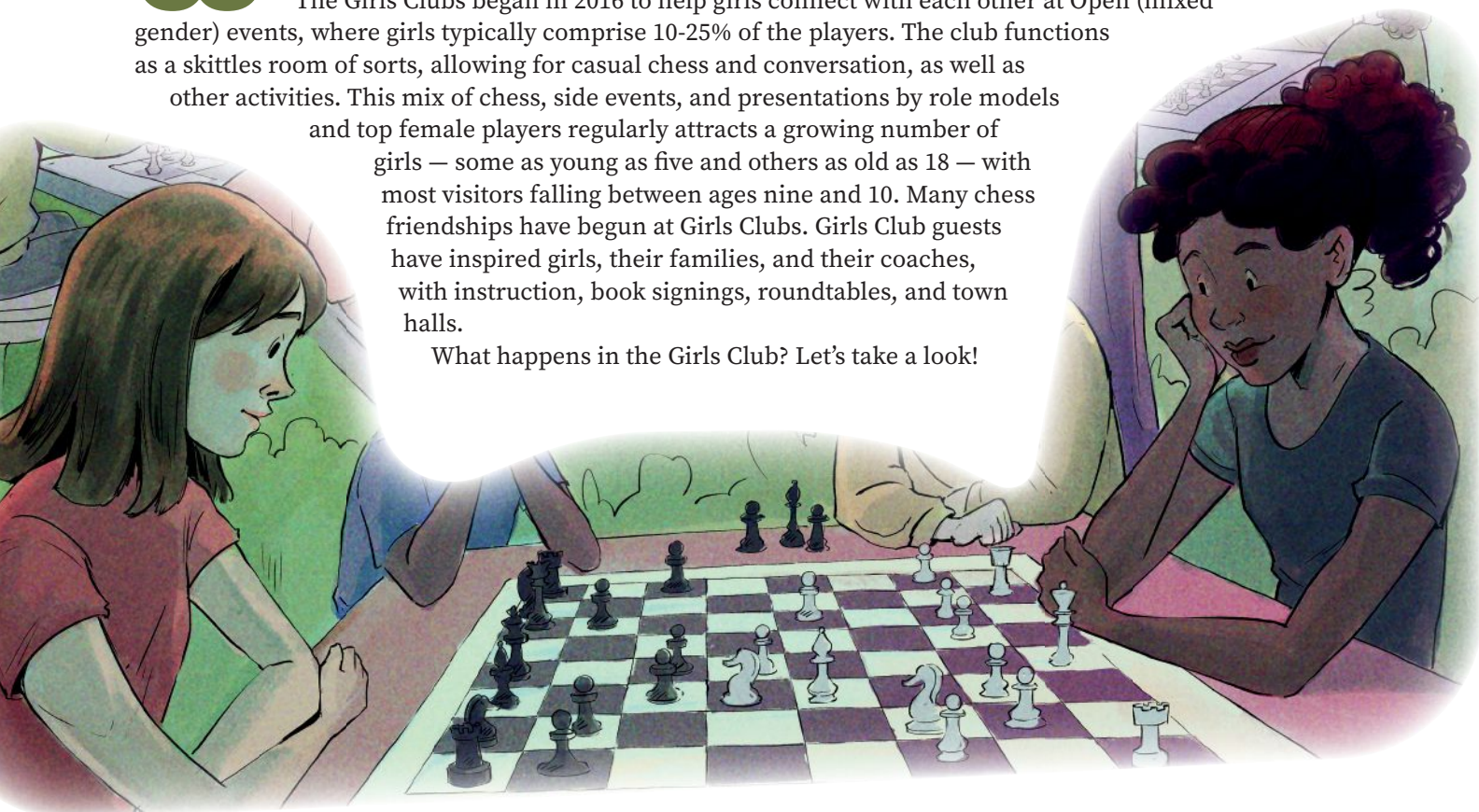
ART BY JUI TALUKDER



WHAT DO GARRY Kasparov, Judit Polgar, Irina Krush, and Phiona Mutesi have in common? Of course, they are all top-level chess players. But another interesting fact unites them: They have all been guests of the Girls Club, an initiative of US Chess Women.

The Girls Clubs began in 2016 to help girls connect with each other at Open (mixed gender) events, where girls typically comprise 10-25% of the players. The club functions as a skittles room of sorts, allowing for casual chess and conversation, as well as other activities. This mix of chess, side events, and presentations by role models and top female players regularly attracts a growing number of girls — some as young as five and others as old as 18 — with most visitors falling between ages nine and 10. Many chess friendships have begun at Girls Clubs. Girls Club guests have inspired girls, their families, and their coaches, with instruction, book signings, roundtables, and town halls.

What happens in the Girls Club? Let's take a look!



SPECIAL GUESTS

Special guests have been integral to the Girls Club, even more so once the pandemic struck. After moving online during the pandemic, the Girls Club hosted 100 events in 2020 and 2021. In November 2020, the 13th world champion, GM Garry Kasparov, spoke to the club about his consulting work on “The Queen’s Gambit,” a Netflix series that fueled a chess boom. GM Judit Polgar joined the Girls Club in June 2021 for a Q+A session. Later, in March 2022, Polgar invited the club to participate in her groundbreaking online chess simul, “Judit Polgar vs the World,” in which she challenged

10 teams around the globe. Led by Women’s Program Director WGM Jennifer Shahade, with help from the Lighthouse Chess Club in Mombasa, Kenya, the Girls Club held Polgar to a draw! (read more about the event on page 8.) Another guest, the Queen of Katwe, Phiona Mutesi, shared her favorite Olympiad win — a game that showed how knights sometimes overpower bishops. And these are only a few of the visitors who have been on the club’s star-studded roster.

With the pandemic easing, the Girls Club returned in-person to the 2021 K-12 Grades National Championships and at all three 2022 spring scholastic nationals.

INSTRUCTION

A main draw to the Girls Club is the number of top women chess players who provide instruction. At the 2022 National Elementary Girls Club, held in Columbus, Ohio, Shahade showed a win by the ninth women’s world champion, GM Zhu Chen. Girls also received a history lesson: After passing out stickers from the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, which was celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX, Shahade explained that Title IX guaranteed “the prohibition of sex discrimination (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity) in any education program or

activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

The Girls Club welcomes all female players, along with their families and coaches. That means boys and men sometimes attend as well. When WIM Emily Nguyen asked for volunteers to show their games at the 2022 National Middle School Girls Club, in Grapevine, Texas, seventh-grader Jake Thomas Dillman-Cavazos was the first to raise his hand. Jake is a student of Ray Martinez, who coaches the Brownsville Royal Knights Success Team.



KING'S INDIAN ATTACK [A04]

Jake Thomas Dillman-Cavazos (1134)
Mario Mora (793)
2022 Nat'l MS Champ., 04.30.2022

1. Nf3 Nc6 2. g3 e5 3. d3 Bc5 4. Bg2 Nf6 5. Nbd2 0-0 6. 0-0 d6 7. e4 Bg4 8. h3 Bxf3 9. Nxf3 Nh5

Threatening ... Nh5xg3 since the f2-pawn is pinned and White would not be able to recapture.

10. Kh1 h6 11. Nh2

Finding a threat from the white queen to the black knight on h5.

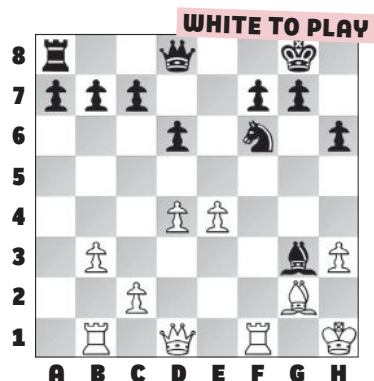
11. ... Nf6 12. f4 Re8 13. fxe5 Rxe5 14. b3 Bd4 15. Rb1 Nb4 16. Bd2 Nxa2 17. Nf3 Nc3 18. Bxc3 Bxc3 19. Nxe5 Bxe5 20. d4 Bxg3

(see diagram top of next column)

Nguyen asked, “White wants to play several moves of a plan: e4-e5 (driving the knight off the f-file), Qd1-f3, and Qf3xf7. What’s the right order for executing the plan?”

21. e5?

The right order is 21. Qf3! Bh4 22. e5 Nh7 23. Qxf7+



24. Bxb7 and White is winning. Stockfish, a computer engine, thinks White is the equivalent of seven pawns ahead.

21. ... Nd7

Black misses a chance to stay in the game!

Better was 21. ... dxe5 22. dxe5 Bxe5 23. Bxb7 Qxd1 24. Rbxd1 and the position is only slightly worse for Black.

22. Bxb7 Rb8 23. Bd5 Kh8 24. Qg4 Bh4 25. Rxf7 dxe5 26. Qxg7 mate.

BOOK SIGNINGS

At the 2022 National High School Girls Club, in Memphis, Tennessee, Renate Garcia purchased Shahade’s *Chess Queens: The True Story of a Chess Champion and the Greatest Female Players of All Time*. Garcia’s daughter, Anneliese, was playing her round during the book signing.



“Anneliese sent me to the Girls Club to make sure she got a signed copy,” Garcia said. “Anneliese loves to read and has a collection of books by women chess players that she holds very dear to her heart. She thinks she may want to write a book about her time at the board since the age of four.”

CONTENT ROUNDTABLE

Writing books is one of many ways to create chess content. But, at the 2022 National High School Girls Club, girls met role models who are shaping new ways in which chess is experienced. Twitch streamer WFM Devina Devagharan said, “Epiphany Peters, Karen Boyd, Luciana Morales, and I talked about how we make a living through chess. We stream, coach, and create chess content. We answered questions regarding those topics and talked about what we do.”

Peters is a Twitch chess streamer and an amateur pianist. Boyd is married to GM Ben Finegold, and their Twitch streams often feature Boyd solving chess puzzles or showing her chess games. WIM Luciana Morales was the first Peruvian woman to qualify for the Women’s

World Championship. Currently, she provides instruction all over the world through the online tool, Chessable Classroom.

Devagharan started streaming chess during the pandemic. She said, “Playing casually online and connecting with people led me back into coaching and studying in addition to streaming. I love helping others through teaching, and one of my greatest joys is seeing people learn, enjoy, and improve at the game to reach their goals.”

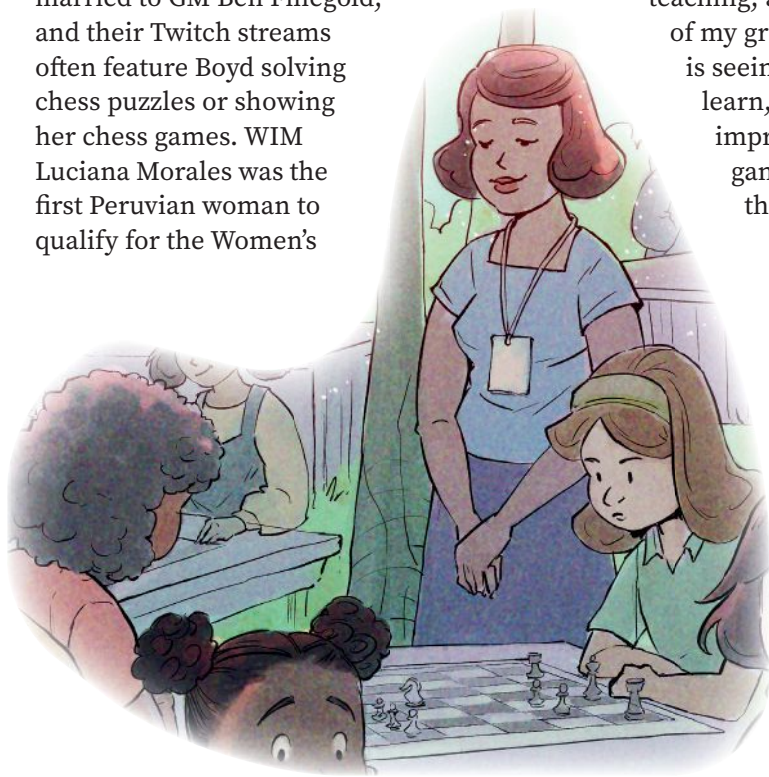


TOWN HALL

At the 2022 National Elementary, a “town hall” panel featured Shahade, volunteers Krista Alton (with Arthur Alton cheering her on!) and Kala Kanapathy-Bagley, US Chess Executive Director Carol Meyer, and US Chess Scholastic Council Member Danny Rohde. Shahade said, “We discussed how to make chess more fun for kids who are on the edge of the ‘dropout zone’ at age 12+, ways to encourage your school to bring chess into the classroom, and how you can benefit from chess beyond just becoming a great player.”

GET INVOLVED

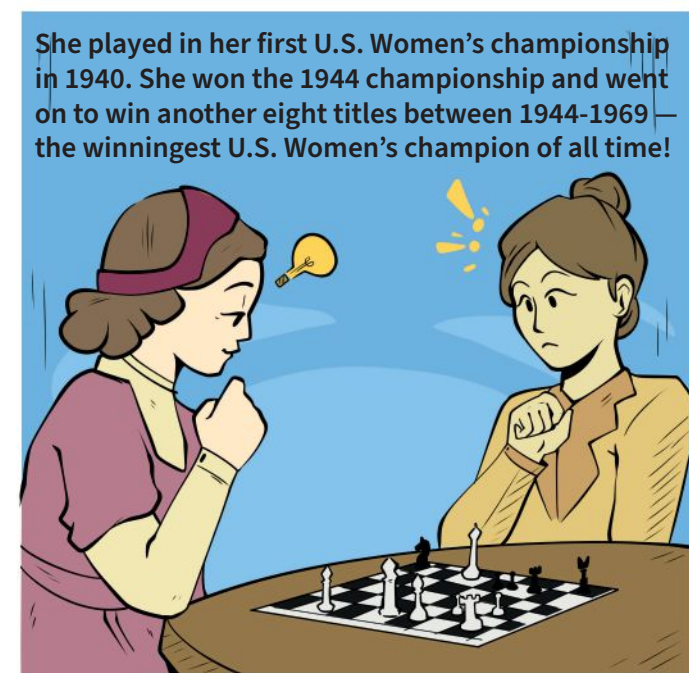
Don’t want to miss the next Girls Club, or looking for additional opportunities focused on girls and women? There are plenty of ways to learn more. Shahade said, “Stay posted on our Women’s Initiative on our women’s news page, as well as on our Event page, which lists upcoming women’s and girls tournaments, camps and events. You can also find us on Twitter, Instagram, and subscribe to our award-winning podcast, Ladies Knight.”



CHESS ADVENTURES

WITH GISELA GRESSER

Gisela was in her 30s when she taught herself to play chess during a cruise from France to New York.



She played in her first U.S. Women's championship in 1940. She won the 1944 championship and went on to win another eight titles between 1944-1969—the winningest U.S. Women's champion of all time!

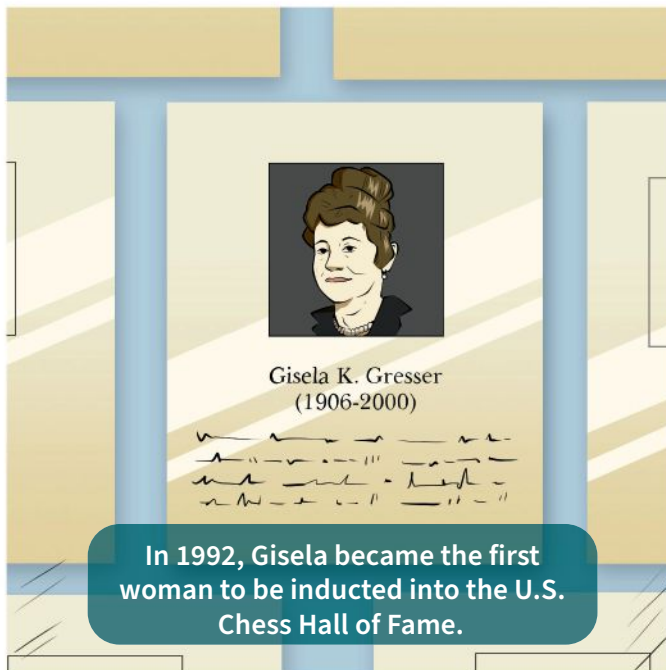


Gisela became the first woman to achieve the national master title.

She also was among the first three women in the United States to achieve the Woman International Master title.



Along with Mona May Karff, Gisela represented the U.S. at the first Women's World Championship held after World War II.



In 1992, Gisela became the first woman to be inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame.

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 August 31, 2022 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.

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

122nd Annual United States Open Chess Championship

JULY 30-AUGUST 7, CALIFORNIA

Event site: Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa Address: 71333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 Overall prize fund: \$50,000 GP Points: 300 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Boyd Reed Email: nationalevents@uschess.org Phone: 931-787-1234 Website: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2022/usopen> TLA ID: 33031

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix continues in 2022. For information visit new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program.

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 Oran Quirell Memorial

AUGUST 13, TENNESSEE

Event site: Memphis Chess Club Address: 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 Overall prize fund: \$2,020 GP Points: 6 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Memphis Chess Club Email: info@memphischessclub.com Phone: 731-868-5755 Website: <http://www.memphischessclub.com/> TLA ID: 34281

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

12th annual Central California Open

AUGUST 19-21, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

Event site: Doubletree Hotel Address: 2233 Ventura St, Fresno CA 93710 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 33310

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

54th annual Atlantic Open

AUGUST 26-28, VIRGINIA

Event site: Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport Address: 2799 Richmond Highway, Arlington VA 22202 Overall prize fund: \$30,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 33304

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

17th annual Indianapolis Open

AUGUST 26-28, INDIANA

Event site: Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport Address: 8910 Hatfield Drive, Indianapolis IN 46241 Overall prize fund: \$14,000 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 33669

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

2022 Las Vegas Open

AUGUST 26-28, NEVADA

Event site: Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel & Casino Address: 3555 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas NV 89109 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: vegaschess@gmail.com Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com> TLA ID: 34049

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

144th annual New York State Championship

SEPTEMBER 2-5, NEW YORK

Event site: Albany Marriott Address: 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205 Overall prize fund: \$18,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental

Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 33610

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

30th annual Midwest Class Championships

OCTOBER 7-9, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel Address: 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 33973

GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Downtown Memphis National Chess Day!

OCTOBER 8, TENNESSEE

Event site: Memphis Chess Club Address: 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 Overall prize fund: \$1,980 GP Points: 6 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Memphis Chess Club Email: info@memphischessclub.com Phone: 731-868-5755 Website: <https://www.memphischessclub.com/> TLA ID: 34284

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

39th Annual Reno Western States Open

OCTOBER 14-16, NEVADA

Event site: Sands Regency Hotel/Casino Address: 345 N. Arlington Ave. Reno, NV 89501 Overall prize fund: \$27,500 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Jerry Weikel Email: wackyyl@aol.com Phone: 775-747-1405 Website: <http://www.renochess.org> TLA ID: 34274

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

8th annual Central New York Open

OCTOBER 21-23, NEW YORK

Event site: Quality Inn and Suites Fairgrounds Address: 100 Farrell Road, Syracuse, NY 13209 Overall prize fund: \$5,000 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 34188

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

26th annual Eastern Chess Congress

OCTOBER 28-30, NEW JERSEY

Event site: Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village Address: 201 Village Blvd, Princeton, NJ 08540 Overall prize fund: \$25,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 33992

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

76th Peter P. Lahde TN Open and State Championship!

OCTOBER 28-30, TENNESSEE

Event site: Memphis Chess Club Address: 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 Overall

prize fund: \$5,775 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Memphis Chess Club Email: info@memphischessclub.com Phone: 731-868-5755 Website: <https://www.memphischessclub.com/> TLA ID: 34280

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

17th annual Los Angeles Open

NOVEMBER 4-6, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Hilton Orange County Airport Address: 18800 Macarthur Blvd, Irvine CA 92612 Overall prize fund: \$15,000 GP Points: 80 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 34349

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

31st annual Kings Island Open

NOVEMBER 11-13, OHIO

Event site: Embassy Suites Cincinnati NE Address: 4554 Lake Forest Drive, Blue Ash OH 45242 Overall prize fund: \$25,000 GP Points: 150 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 34170

PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

53rd annual National Chess Congress

NOVEMBER 25-27, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Loews Hotel Address: 1200 Market St, Philadelphia PA 19107 Overall prize fund: \$45,000 GP Points: 200 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 34207

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

32nd annual North American Open

DECEMBER 26-30, NEVADA

Event site: Bally's Casino Resort Address: 3645 Las Vegas Blvd. S, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: \$125,000 GP Points: 300 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: 347-201-2269 leave message including email address Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 34320

Online

Weekly Online USCF-Rated Tournaments By DMV Chess

THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022

Event site: Online Address: lichess.org Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: DMV Chess Email: tournaments@dmvchess.com Phone: 703-415-6600 Website: <https://www.dmvchess.com/online/tournaments> TLA ID: 33569

Online Summers Camps By DMV Chess Every Week in the Summer

THROUGH AUGUST 12, 2022

Event site: Online Address: lichess.org Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N

PLEASE NOTE

DEADLINE FOR PRINT TLA SUBMISSIONS

TLAs appearing in *Chess Life Kids* must be uploaded online on the 10th, two months prior to the issue cover date in which the ad is to appear. (For example, October TLAs must be uploaded no later than August 10th.) TLAs uploaded past this deadline cannot be published without special approval by US Chess.

Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N
Organizer: DMV Chess **Email:** camps@dmvchess.com
Phone: 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/camps-overview> **TLA ID:** 32981

Online Scholastic Tournaments Every Wednesday WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS

Event site: Online **Address:** lichess.org **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N
Handicap accessible: Y **Residency restriction:** N
Organizer: DMV Chess **Email:** tournaments@dmvchess.com
Phone: 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/scholastic-tournaments> **TLA ID:** 30042

Online Scholastic Tournaments Every Saturday WEEKLY ON SATURDAYS

Event site: Online **Address:** lichess.org **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N
Handicap accessible: Y **Residency restriction:** N
Organizer: DMV Chess **Email:** tournaments@dmvchess.com
Phone: 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/scholastic-tournaments> **TLA ID:** 30043

Online Open Tournaments Every Sunday WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS

Event site: Online **Address:** lichess.org **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N
Handicap accessible: Y **Residency restriction:** N
Organizer: DMV Chess **Email:** tournaments@dmvchess.com
Phone: 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/scholastic-tournaments> **TLA ID:** 30044

Climb the Rating Ladder Weekly Courses with USCF Rated Online Games

THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022

Event site: Online **Address:** lichess.org **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N
Handicap accessible: Y **Residency restriction:** N
Organizer: DMV Chess **Email:** courses@dmvchess.com
Phone: 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/> **TLA ID:** 30600

Climb the Rating Ladder with GM Angel Arribas Lopez: 1100 to 1600 - Online Course for Serious Students

THROUGH DECEMBER 25, 2022

Event site: Online **Address:** lichess.org **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N
Handicap accessible: N **Residency restriction:** N
Organizer: DMV Chess **Email:** courses@dmvchess.com
Phone: 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/courses-register/climb-the-rating-ladder-1100-1600-fridays> **TLA ID:** 32556

Regional

ALABAMA

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

AUGUST 13, 2022

2022 Oran Quintrell Memorial (TN)

See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2022

2022 Memphis Open and City Championship Qualifier (TN)

See Tennessee.

OCTOBER 8, 2022

Downtown Memphis National Chess Day! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

76th Peter P. Lahde TN Open and State Championship! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

ARKANSAS

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

AUGUST 13, 2022

2022 Oran Quintrell Memorial (TN)

See Grand Prix. september 10-11, 2022

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2022

2022 Memphis Open and City Championship Qualifier (TN)

See Tennessee.

OCTOBER 8, 2022

Downtown Memphis National Chess Day! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

76th Peter P. Lahde TN Open and State Championship! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 19-21, 2022

12th annual Central California Open(CA-N)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

AUGUST 13, 2022

2022 Oran Quintrell Memorial (TN)

See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2022

2022 Memphis Open and City Championship Qualifier (TN)

See Tennessee.

OCTOBER 8, 2022

Downtown Memphis National Chess Day! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

76th Peter P. Lahde TN Open and State Championship! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB)

Maryland Chess runs 21+ annual K-12 tournaments every other Saturday from September through June & 12+ annual 1-day or multi-day open tournaments for adults & K-12 players on weekends. See www.MDChess.org for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, signup for K-12 & open e-newsletters, lists of coaches & clubs, camp announcements, & news. K-12 MD players who compete in the Varsity section (for players rated 1600+) of 1 of 8+ annual MD-Sweet-16 Qualifiers can qualify for the \$48,000+ scholarship to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County awarded annually. UMBG is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

AUGUST 13, 2022

2022 Oran Quintrell Memorial (TN)

See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2022

2022 Memphis Open and City Championship Qualifier (TN)

See Tennessee.

OCTOBER 8, 2022

Downtown Memphis National Chess Day! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

76th Peter P. Lahde TN Open and State Championship! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

MISSOURI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

AUGUST 13, 2022

2022 Oran Quintrell Memorial (TN)

See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2022

2022 Memphis Open and City Championship Qualifier (TN)

See Tennessee.

OCTOBER 8, 2022

Downtown Memphis National Chess Day! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

76th Peter P. Lahde TN Open and State Championship! (TN)

See Grand Prix.

NEVADA

AUGUST 19-21, 2022

12th annual Central California Open(CA-N)

See Grand Prix or chessevents.us.

NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2022

New Jersey Scholastic K-8 Championship

Event site: Hyatt Morristown **Address:** 3 Speedwell Plaza, Morristown, NJ 07960 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Hal Sprechman **Email:** halsprechman@gmail.com **Phone:** 732 259-3881 **Website:** <http://njscf.org> **TLA ID:** 33990

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

2022 New Jersey Grade School Championship

Event site: Brookdale Community College - Student Life Center **Address:** Lot #7, Arena Drive, Lincroft, NJ 07738 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** Y **Organizer:** NJSCF **Email:** tournaments.njscf@gmail.com **Phone:** n/a **Website:** <http://njscf.org> **TLA ID:** 34331

TENNESSEE

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club

Event site: Memphis Chess Club **Address:** 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 3810 **Over-**

all prize fund: n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N
Handicap accessible: Y **Residency restriction:** N
Organizer: Memphis Chess Club **Email:** info@memphischessclub.com **Phone:** 731.868.755 **Web-**
site: <https://www.memphischessclub.com/> **TLA**
ID: 32334

VIRGINIA

The Tysons Corner Weekly Scholastic Tournament - In Person Every Sunday

THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022

Event site: The Westin Tysons Corner **Address:** 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** josh@dmvchess.com **Phone:** 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/inpersontournaments> **TLA ID:** 31467

Tyson's Corner Weekly Action Tournaments - Every Sunday In Person

THROUGH DECEMBER 25, 2022

Event site: The Westin Tysons Corner **Address:** 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** DMV Chess **Email:** josh@dmvchess.com **Phone:** 703-415-6600 **Website:** <https://www.dmvchess.com/inpersontournaments> **TLA ID:** 33763

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2022

84th Virginia Closed Chess Championships

Event site: Hilton Garden Inn - Innsbrook **Address:** 4050 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060 **Overall prize fund:** \$5,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** Y **Organizer:** Michael Hoffpauir **Email:** mhoffpauir@aol.com **Phone:** (757)846-4805 **Website:** <http://www.vachess.org> **TLA ID:** 34478

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Girls Who Play “Up”!

BY AL LAWRENCE

RENE FEI AND Iris Mou are two of the best players for their ages in the world. They prove it by “playing up” — entering tournaments and facing tougher competition than they have to — and winning against higher-rated players, regardless of age or gender.

IRENE FEI, WORLD’S TOP RATED

“Aren’t you in the wrong seat?”

Irene sat in front of the top board at the official 2022 World School Chess Championship, waiting for the first-round game to start. The parents of her opponent, a young boy, thought she was mixed up about where to sit. After all, this was the Under 9 championship section, where it’s unusual to find a girl playing. And there she was sitting on board one!

Irene wasn’t mixed up. She had flown with her parents from their home in Ames, Iowa, to Panama

City, Panama, to compete in the FIDE championship. (see sidebar, “Do You Know the Alphabet?”) She could have played in the girls’ section. Instead, she entered the overall championship. Since April, Irene has reigned as number one on the monthly rating list for girls under nine in FIDE. She tops the rating of her closest competitor by more than 100 points!

The tournament’s worldwide webcast followed her games throughout, allowing others to prepare for her openings. But it didn’t matter. In a field dominated by boys, she won the championship without losing a game!

Left: Irene deep in calculations; right, on the podium after winning the 2022 FIDE World School Chess Championship, Under 9.



Irene learned chess by accident. “I went to a random after-school class when I was six,” she remembered. Although there is no longer an after-school program, her teachers announce Irene’s chessboard victories, so fellow students know she’s a world chess champ. She liked the strategy of the game from the start. And she loves springing a trap!

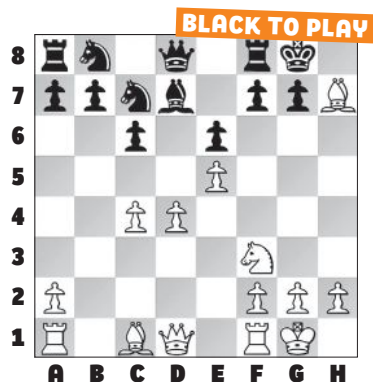
In the one below, Irene just sacrificed her bishop. What happens if her opponent takes it? (See solution at the the end of this article!)

SACRIFICE!

Irene Fei (1628)

J.S. Aucay (unr)

2022 FIDE World School Chess Championship (2), 06.12.2022



Position after 12. Bxh7+

Irene’s goal is to make 1800 ELO to gain the WCM title. Getting that good is a special challenge when you don’t live near a chess center like New York, Chicago, St. Louis, or San Francisco. There are no top players near her to learn from. Irene studies chess by Zoom with a coach who lives in China. They speak together in Mandarin, China’s main language.

She also plays and studies online at *Chess.com* and *lichess.org*. Her parents both have busy jobs. But

two or three weekends a month, they drive her 100-200 miles for tournaments out of state. They do that because they know Irene loves chess and because the game helps her build skills for life. “It’s better than watching TV for two hours! I’m so bored with that,” she laughs. Besides chess, Irene has many interests. She likes all the traveling and staying in hotels. “I like to check out the hotel swimming pools!” She draws, plays piano, and loves reading about animals.

Irene won the Iowa qualifying tournament to play in the John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary State Champions during the U.S. Open Championship. She’ll travel to the Rancho Mirage resort in California in August with the other state champions, where she could qualify to represent the U.S. in the World Cadet Championship.

In the fourth round of the World School Chess Championship, Irene squared off against another

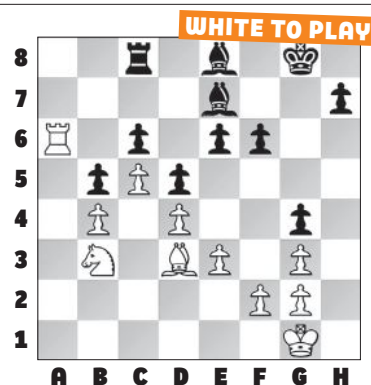
promising young American. She had set a trap. How does she spring it? (See solution at the the end of this article!)

SETTING A TRAP

Irene Fei (1628)

Tarik Yue (1385)

2022 FIDE World School Chess Championship (4), 06.13.2022



Position after 27. ... g4

IRIS MOU, ALL-GIRLS CHAMPION

Iris Mou is already a US Chess national master. She’s also a FIDE



The winning Dalton team (l to r): Chess Director Beatriz Marinello, Lauren Nam, Langley Beaudoin, Julia Miyasaka, Iris Mou, and US Chess Women’s co-chair, Adia Onyango

Woman Candidate Master. She lives in New York City, where she often plays against some of the city's best at the famous Marshall Chess Club.

Just 13 years old, she's used to playing anyone of any age — and winning. She did this again at the KCF All-Girls National Chess Championship last April in Chicago, where she “played up” to the top age group.

The annual event is divided into six age groups. Iris could have competed in the Under 14 section, but she wanted to support her older Dalton School teammates in their quest for the overall team championship. So she played in the top section, joining more than 50 experienced competitors as old as 17 from all over the nation. Yet Iris finished ahead of all her rivals, winning five games and drawing one. Her championship score provided important help to her school team. Dalton collected the most points and won the team championship!

“The Dalton School is very proud of its chess program and continued successes,” Dalton

Chess Director WIM Beatriz Marinello said. “Iris is an exceptional chessplayer and student. She's a team player. She showed her talent, discipline, and dedication.”

Here's a move from the All-Girls. How does Iris finalize the win? (See solution below.)

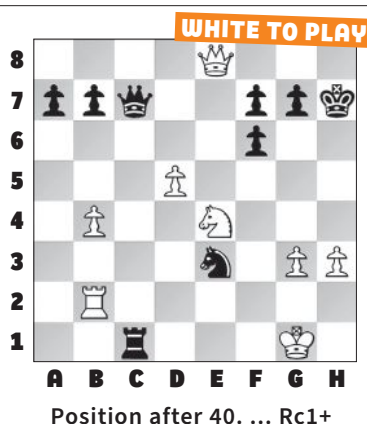
ROOK “GIFT”

Arya Kumar (2057)

Iris Mou (2172)

KCF All-Girls National Chess

Championship, U18 (6), 04.24. 2022



The Kasparov Chess Foundation,

celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, founded the All-Girls Championship in 2004. “We’re proud to continue to run the All-Girls Championship in association with the Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation of Chicago and US Chess,” KCF’s President Michael Khodarkovsky said. The event determines who will represent the USA in the World Youth and World Cadet championships. Its improved format helps the USA to be competitive in these world championships by sending representatives accustomed to competing in the proper age groups. Many other U.S. events are divided by grades, not ages.

Next year’s All-Girls Championship will be held April 28-30 at the Palmer House hotel in Chicago, where the event began 18 years ago. Are you up for a challenge?

DO YOU KNOW THE ALPHABET?

Quiz your chess friends on these abbreviations!

“FIDE” stands for the **International Chess Federation**. Its name in French is “Fédération Internationale des Échecs.” (The last word means “chess.”)

How about “ELO,” the name of FIDE’s chess rating system? Even many grandmasters don’t know that those three letters don’t stand for anything! The American **Arpad Elo** helped create the first accurate chess rating system. So it’s named in his honor.

“WCM” stands for **Woman Candidate Master**, the official rank just below Woman FIDE Master.

comes out a rook ahead.
Mou played 41. ... Nd1+. Black
Rc1+ 41. Kf2, but resigned after
checkmated! Kumar chose 40. ...
loses his own rook gets and gets
Rh1+!! After 42. Kxh1 Qc1+, White
the beautiful rook “gift” 41. ...
plays 41. Kh2, then Black unwraps
won. **3. KUMAR V. MOU** If White
Black’s pawns in the endgame and
enemy lines. She mopped up
Irene’s rook infiltrates behind
is pinned and can’t be protected!
... Kxh7 29. Ra7!, Black’s bishop
Irene uncorks 28. Bxh7+!. After 28.
vulnerable position. **2. FEI V. YUE**
leaves Black’s king in a hopelessly
Kg6, either 14. Qc2+ or 14. Qg4
his queen to avoid mate. If 13. ...
Qh5!, when Black has to give up
13. Ng5+! And if 13. ... Kg8, 14.
1. FEI V. AUCAL If 12. ... Kxh7

SNOITUTOS



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