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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 john.hartmann@uschess.org

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Chess Life Kids | Vol. 18, No. 2

CHESS LIFE Kids

4 CHESS STORIES “Every Game Means Something!”

BY AL LAWRENCE

7 CHESS ADVENTURES WIM Alice Lee

ART BY NICOLAS BARRIOS

8 IN SESSION The Value of (Un)Castling

BY JJ LANG

12 COVER STORY

BIG FUN AT THE K-12 GRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS

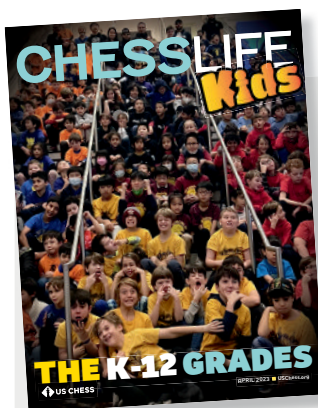
BY LAUREL ARONIAN

ANNOTATIONS BY FM SANDEEP SETHURAMAN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID LLADA

18 AVOID THE TRAP To Take or Not to Take

BY BRUCE PANDOLFINI



ON THE COVER

David Llada is the Chief Marketing and Communications Officer for FIDE, but he is also one of the world's best chess photographers. We were fortunate to have him shooting our K-12 Grade Championships, and the results — including our cover photo, which

features players from New York's Impact Coaching Network — are amazing. Thank you, David!

PHOTO: DAVID LLADA



“Every Game Means Something!”

BY AL LAWRENCE

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD WIM Alice Lee of Minnesota is out to smash an all-time American chess record. Since learning the game from her dad at only six years old, Alice has already set USA records, becoming a National Master (NM) at 10 and a Woman International Master (WIM) at 12. Along the way, she’s also won the world championship gold medal in three different World Youth divisions! But most people at her school don’t know about her chess achievements. She’s humble



about her success and likes being “under the radar.”

BIGGEST CHALLENGE SO FAR

She’s readying herself for a big step up — the overall International Master (IM) title. It’s the second-highest ranking in chess, behind only the Grandmaster (GM) title. There are fewer than 4,000 IMs of any age in the entire world. Fewer than 130 are females. Alice could become America’s youngest female ever to become an IM, breaking a record set by one of Alice’s chess heroes, IM Carissa Yip of Boston. Yip set the record at 16 years old, when she was about three years older than Alice is now.

To become an IM, a player must have a very high rating and earn three separate “norms,” earning each norm by winning lots of games in special tournaments that include those who have already earned their IMs. Alice is on a tear. Recently, she made her second IM norm, winning five games in a row against a tough field in

St. Louis and taking first place. Alice doesn’t set out to win every game and doesn’t pay attention to winning streaks. “Every game means something. I just play one game at a time and try to play my best chess, every game. It’s good to have respect for all your opponents.”

A “TAG-A-LONG” WHO LOST TO EVERYONE

Alice wasn’t always a champ. When she was in first grade, she started going to the school chess club as a “tag-a-long” with her brother, who was in 5th grade. “I lost to everyone,” she laughed, “hundreds of games.” But she kept playing and got better. “I didn’t have a real chess coach until I was rated around 1700, when I was seven years old.” She began working with GM Dmitry Gurevich. “He’s a really good coach. He helped me improve 500 points in a few years.”

The long, forced time-out caused by COVID-19 made it tough for young chess players to keep in

Left: Alice at the 2022 U.S. Women's Championship. Right: After an award-winning math competition.

practice. When tournaments started again, "I dropped 20 rating points. It took a few months for me to keep improving." She works on chess one to two hours every day and spends even more time preparing when an upcoming tournament is near. "Chess Tempo is a good online training site." Alice also likes *Chess.com's* Puzzle Rush. "It's fun. My coach sends me positions from games, and I look at them because they're interesting. But it's my mom who watches the webcasts of top tournaments."

Everyone in her family has earned a US Chess rating. But at first her mom and dad, both university professors, were surprised at Alice's success. "It seemed like her older brother Linden was the chess player, and Alice was just tagging along," her mom Vanessa said. "But by 10, she was competing with the top juniors." Linden, a chessmaster and Alice's biggest hero and booster, helped her analyze her games. Both Alice and Linden are math whizzes as well, winning competitions. He's now busy going to college at Yale. Mom and Dad travel with Alice to her tournaments but often have to take turns staying with her because of their busy teaching schedule.

"Chess is art," her mom said. "It requires new ways of figuring out how to solve a problem. It's fun for me to watch. Alice gets a lot of enjoyment from her games. Chess is a great tool to build character and find community."

IT TOOK LOTS OF HELP

The whole family is grateful to the



chess community. "We benefitted from the support of many, many people," Mom Vanessa said. "The chess community in Minnesota was fantastic." Alice agrees. "The Chess Castle of Minnesota provided a really good community that motivated me." Support from US Chess and the Saint Louis Chess Club was also crucial.

And this year, Alice was selected for a U.S. Chess Trust Samford Fellowship. "That support definitely helped me play in many more out-of-state tournaments that I wouldn't have been able to go to. It's also given me motivation to be recognized along with some of the other young Samford winners like Carissa Yip and [GM] Christopher Yoo."

Now, besides seeking titles, Alice works to encourage other young girls to play chess. "One of the barriers is that there aren't too many female players." She co-hosts with FM Mike Klein a *ChessKid.com* webcast called *Alice's Pawn Palace*. "It's watched by kids all over the world. Hopefully, it engages more people to play the game and enjoy it." And every week last fall, Alice taught about 30 young girls in a nonprofit program, "The Unruly Queens," led by WIM Ellen Wang.

As for her chess goals — "I'm hoping I can reach the level of some of my chess heroes. I'd like

to become an inspiration to young girls taking up chess, just like [WGM] Jennifer Shahade, [WGM] Jennifer Yu, Carissa Yip, and [IM] Annie Wang have been to me."

QUEEN'S GAMBIT, JANOWSKI VARIATION (D31)

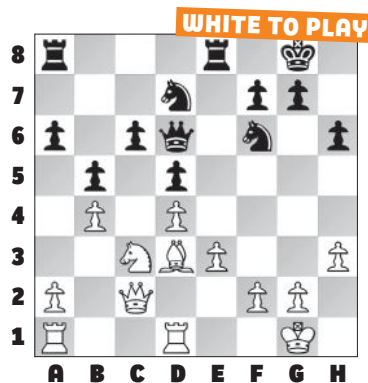
Caleb Denby (2310)

WIM Alice Lee (2405)

St. Louis IM Schiller Norm (8), St. Louis, 01.29.2023

Annotations by WIM Alice Lee

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 a6 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Nf3 c6 6. Bf4 Bd6 7. Bxd6 Qxd6 8. e3 Nf6 9. Bd3 0-0 10. Qc2 Bg4 11. Ne5 h6 12. Nxg4 Nxg4 13. h3 Nf6 14. 0-0 Nbd7 15. Rfd1 Rfe8 16. b4 b5!?

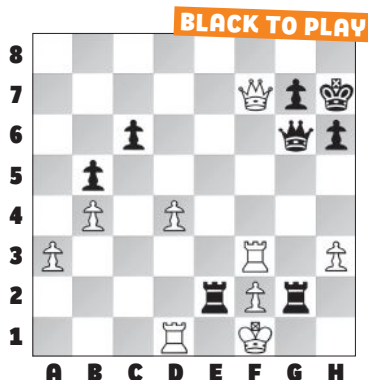


Black takes complete control over the c4-square, although now the c5-square is weak, and so is the backwards c6-pawn. Luckily, White doesn't have a good

immediate way to attack either, and a black knight on c4 would be very annoying for White.

17. e4 dxe4 18. Nxe4 Nxe4 19. Bxe4 Rac8 20. a3 Nb6 21. Bf5 Rcd8 22. Bd3 Qf6 23. Rac1 Re6 24. Qc5 Nd5 25. Bf1 Nf4 26. Rc3 Rd5 27. Qa7 Ne2+ 28. Bxe2 Rxe2 29. Rf3 Qe6
 I could have also tried 29. ... Rf5 but the position is equal after 30. Rxf5 Qxf5 31. Rf1 Qf6 32. Qxa6 Rd2.

30. Qxa6 Rg5 31. Qa8+ Kh7 32. Qb7 Qg6 33. Qxf7 Rxc2+ 34. Kf1??



I was hoping my opponent would play this move! It looks like White is slightly better, but now I have a combination.

Correct is 34. Kh1!, and after 34. ... Qxf7 35. Rxf7 Rgxf2 36. Rxf2 Rxf2 37. d5 cxd5 38. Rxd5 Rf3 39. Kg2 Rxa3 40. Rxb5 it should be a draw.

34. ... Rxf2+! 35. Rxf2

Here 35. Ke1 loses immediately to 35. ... Qe4+ 36. Re3 Qxe3 mate.

35. ... Rg1+ 36. Ke2 Qe4+! 37. Kd2 Qxd4+ 38. Ke2


If 38. Kc2 Qxd1+ 39. Kc3 (39. Kb2 gets mated faster) 39. ... Qc1+ 40. Kb3 Rg3+ 41. Rf3 Qd1+ and I win material.

38. ... Qxd1+ 39. Ke3 Rg3+ 40. Kf4 Qd6+ 41. Ke4 Qd3+ 42. Ke5 Re3+, White resigned. ♠




CHESS ADVENTURES

WITH WIM ALICE LEE



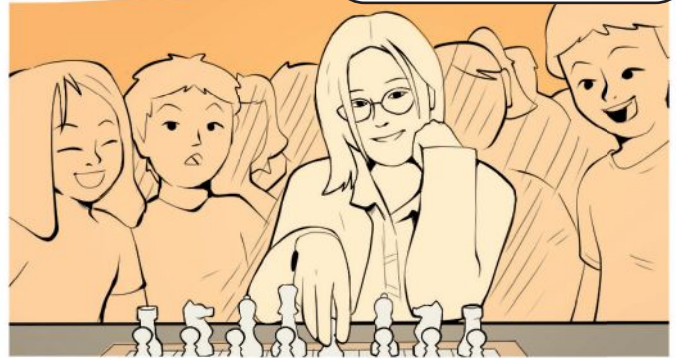
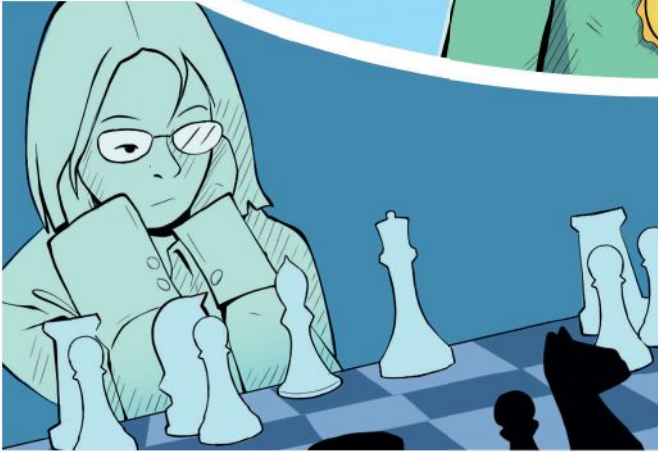
My dad taught me chess when I was six, but in the beginning I just “tagged along” at my brother’s chess club. I lost to everyone!



I started taking chess more seriously when I was seven. Then I started breaking records! I also won the gold medal in three different World Youth divisions!

Now I’m working toward becoming an IM. I already have two norms and need just one more!

It takes a community to make dreams come true. My family and chess community always have my back.



And now I try to give back, too, by encouraging other girls to play chess.

Art by Nicolas Barrios



The Value of (Un) Castling

BY JJ LANG

ONE OF THE first things we learn about the opening is that we should castle early. The reasoning is that both sides should be playing to develop toward the center. But wait, don't our kings start in the center? If we're going to play in the center, we should probably get our king out of the way and to safety.

In this game, we'll see White do just that. Black tries to show us that White castled too quickly, and goes on a kingside attack. From there, the fun begins!

The first lesson of this game is that you should always attempt to open lines against the enemy's king. Don't attack on the kingside "just because" — wait for them to castle. But the second lesson is that kings can still move. Before you start sacrificing in a kingside attack, you should ask whether the king has to stay put. The more closed the center is, the easier it is for the king to run away.

HIPPOTAMUS DEFENSE (B00)

GM Kateryna Lagno (2547)

GM Simon Williams (2464)

Titled Tuesday (Early), *Chess.com*, 08.09.2022

1. e4 e6 2. d4 b6 3. Bd3 Bb7 4. Nf3 d6 5. 0-0

Perfect development from the 2018 runner-up for the Women's World Championship. Now she can think about pushing her center pawns even more, opening the d- or e-file for her rooks.

5. ... Nd7 6. c4 g6 7. Bg5 Ne7 8. Nc3 h6 9. Be3 Bg7 10. Qd2

Even more great development. Lagno prepares a "battery" against the weak h6-pawn, making it more difficult for Black to castle kingside. But castling long will run into even more advanced pawns, meaning that there could be open lines in Black's future there too.

10. ... g5



Finally, the "Ginger GM" begins

pushing his flank pawns, as he is known to do. This time it is "Garry," and not his more famous brother "Harry the h-pawn," who is attempting to attack.

This is an interesting moment. If Black had already castled, the move ... g6-g5 would weaken his kingside. And if White hadn't castled, the threat of Garry and Harry running up the board would not bother her king at all. If only it was legal to "uncastle," I bet White would place her king back on e1 in a heartbeat!

11. h4!?

This move is, on the face of it, the exact opposite of a principled move. White is not developing a piece. Instead, she is allowing Black to open lines against her own king, and she is weakening squares around her king as well.

11. ... Ng6

Black was likely tempted to play 11. ... g4 but this plays into White's hands, as it actually closes down the kingside. After 12. Nh2 h5 13. Rae1 Ng6 14. g3 c5 15. Bg5 White is better because she still has flexibility to open the center (against the uncastled black

monarch) in a number of ways, but Harry has been stopped in his tracks.

If Black opened the g-file immediately with 11. ... gxh4 we would likely reach an “uncastling” scenario similar to the game after 12. Nxh4 Nc6 13. Nf3 Rg8 14. Rfe1 Nf8 15. Kf1 Ng6 16. Ke2.

12. hxg5 hxg5 13. Bxg5

White has won a pawn, but at what cost? Black now enjoys a fully open h-file for his rook and a half-open g-file to conduct the attack. Again, this would make much more sense if Lagno had not castled so early.

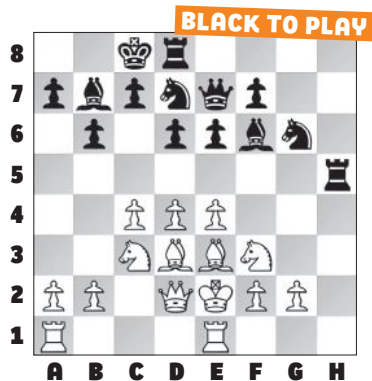
13. ... Bf6 14. Rfe1

This is a sneaky move. Usually, putting the rook behind an advanced pawn signals an intention to push the pawn. But here, it is more of a “snow plow” for the king’s path to safety.

14. ... Rh5 15. Be3 Qe7

Black’s intention is also clear: castle long, double up rooks on the open h-file, and profit.

16. Kf1 0-0-0 17. Ke2!



And just like that, White’s plan is clear: she wanted to uncastle!

17. ... Rdh8 18. Kd1

Now we can see the other key ingredient in White’s plan. If

Black had played a little bit more principled in the center, maybe the e- or d-files would be open. Or, at least, maybe he could open them now, before White can regroup. Instead, Lagno correctly assessed that the center was stable enough to allow this pilgrimage.

18. ... Kb8 19. Kc2 c5

If the king is going to camp out on the c-file, surely Black should open it. But we should note that even this half-open c-file is much less dangerous for White. First, Black’s rooks aren’t on the queenside. Second, White’s king can scoot further to the b- and a-files, instead of being stuck on the g- and h-files. Third, Black’s king is also on the queenside, meaning any opening of the board might blow back in Black’s face.

20. Be2 cxd4 21. Nxd4 Rc5 22. Ndb5 d5?!

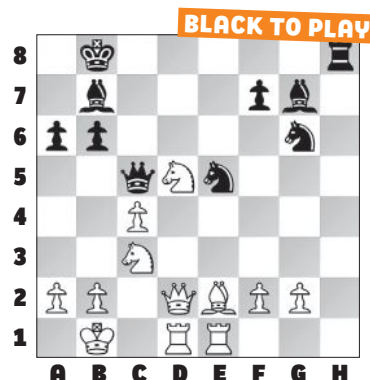
The passive 22. ... Rc6 runs into sadness after 23. Rad1 Rd8 24. Kb1! White is in no hurry to grab the d-pawn, especially if it means walking into a pin. Instead, she notes that both of her knights are near Black’s king and both of her bishops are pointed the right direction. Her attack, in other words, is now more terrifying than Black’s.

23. exd5!

Black was right that opening up the center was the best way to attack White’s king. Unfortunately, because he spent so long positioning his pieces to attack on the kingside, nobody is home to use the open center. White’s pieces, on the other hand, are very grateful for the opening of the central files.

23. ... exd5 24. Bxc5 Qxc5 25. Nxd5

Bg7 26. Rad1 a6 27. Nbc3 Nde5 28. Kb1



Show this position to your friends and ask them to guess which way White castled. They’ll look at you like you’re silly, and then you can say, “Want to make a bet on it?”

28. ... Nxc4 29. Bxc4 Qxc4 30. Nxb6

The black king looks a bit drafty!

30. ... Qc6 31. Qd6+ Qxd6 32. Rxd6 Bxg2 33. Rd7

Now, with queens off the board, White is up material and has two rooks who are about to use those open lines to penetrate Black’s fortress.

33. ... Ne5 34. Re7 Nc6 35. Rxf7

... and White went on to win on move 61.

What I like about this game is that White realized that her king wasn’t where she wanted it to be. But instead of “playing defensive” or going on a chaotic counterattack, she took a deep breath and asked, “Does my king have to stay here?” As it turns out, because her opponent had not fought to control the center, she was able to bravely forge a new path to safety. But if Black had spent more time fighting for the center early on, Harry and Garry wouldn’t have been able to create such a quick attack. Chess can be very hard! ♠



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at the K-12 Grade Championships!

BY **LAUREL ARONIAN**
ANNOTATIONS BY **FM SANDEEP SETHURAMAN**
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **DAVID LLADA**

EVERY DECEMBER, WHEN winter starts sinking in, I look forward to US Chess’ annual National K-12 Grade Championships — and this year was no exception. With a surge in activity that first exploded online, then carried forward over-the-board (OTB), 2022 was the year for chess to approach its pre-pandemic state.

A record-breaking 2,463 chess players clearly relished the excitement of reuniting over the board. US Chess Executive Director Carol Meyer was pleased: “The National K-12 Grade Championships brings the

chess community from across the United States together under one roof in the spirit of competition and camaraderie, and this year’s record-setting numbers show that there was a pent-up demand for a return of over-the-board chess.”

The super-sized tourney took place December 9-11 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. The event kicked off with a rousing welcome from FA Karen Pennock — US Chess’ first-ever female scholastic chief tournament director — in what appeared to be the largest ballroom in the tournament’s

history. It was also my biggest audience to date as I sang the National Anthem.

With 42 states represented, New York accounted for the most players — 939! — and took home 14 championship medals. The second-highest attendance came from Florida with 388 players. The competitors included titled champions who intended to claim their thrones, kindergarten newcomers, and hopeful underdogs who came to slay. World-class chess photographer David Llada from Spain was on hand to capture the action.

The Grade Nationals are different from the Spring Nationals because players only compete in their respective grades and rating sections. The seven-round Swiss tournament was played over three non-stop days, with a G/90+10 time control. Players’ average games took upwards of two-and-a-half hours each, potentially resulting in a weekend of 20+ hours of chess!

The champions who delivered their best were awarded substantial golden medals in celebration of their victories. Of the 13 sections, only first-grader Sriansh Katta and second-grader Alice Shen finished with seven clear wins. Nine sections had outright winners. Two grades finished with two-way ties. The ninth-grade section resulted in a three-way tie, and five players tied for first in the kindergarten section. Eric Chang Lui, who won the seventh-grade section, shared his experience. “Given the record number of attendees, the competition was fierce! It was also a great chance to see many of my chess friends from across the country.” Eighth-grade champ Brewington Hardaway added,

“Having the most participants ever makes me excited that more and more kids from different backgrounds can have the opportunity to learn and enjoy everything chess has to offer!”

Players who arrived on Thursday warmed up for the main tournament with lively bughouse and blitz events. Blitz was a high-octane atmosphere filled with wall-to-wall people. The new, shorter time control of G/3+2 added to the frenzied excitement. Eighth-grader Ananya Anaath agreed, telling this reporter that she “thought this new time control was much more exciting to play.” Ultimately 11th grader Brayan Angel Amaya secured the K-12 Blitz



Alice Shen

championship with an 11/12 score, while Kyle Zhuang, sixth grade, and Linxi Zhe, third grade, won the K-6 Blitz with 11 points each.

In contrast, “Bughouse was pretty small and very calm relative to blitz; it was a nice, more relaxed atmosphere for the kids between rounds,” according to Eve Eglehof, mom to first-grader Thomas. The team of FM Nico Werner Chasin, 10th grade, and FM Gus Huston, 11th grade, won bughouse with a 9/10 score. Special props to Chasin, who had a standout trifecta tourney: he finished as 11th-grade co-champion with IM Eddy Tian, won the bughouse with partner



Top: WGM Jennifer Shahade talks to some of the players in the Girls Club!

Huston, and his school team, New York’s Columbia Grammar & Prep, also won their section.

It’s clear that there is a pent-up desire for tournament chess, and both team and individual participation increased in National Harbor. Last year, I was a member of the *only* Connecticut team; this year, our state had almost 30 registrants. Enormous squads from New York’s Impact Coaching Network and North Carolina’s Charlotte Chess Center — nearly 50 players strong! — traveled to the competition. A local Maryland team, Bravo Zulu Chess Academy,



So serious!

fielded 40 competitors! Bravo Zulu founder and coach Shaka Greene shared, “Our players felt really good because they were able to have the camaraderie of the team. Players from other cities, from other schools, would walk by, see us talking, and say, ‘Hey can we sit with you all?’ and that’s just a beautiful aspect of a national championship bringing in children from all over the country. We met new friends: kids from Chicago, Detroit, and Los Angeles that we’d never met before. Chess is an individual sport, but if you have a [team] we have a shared goal, a commonality. We can celebrate together and commiserate together; it makes the game easier and more fun. When players have teammates, they stay with the game longer.”

The Girls Club also creates a community. The club — hosted by US Chess Women’s Program Director WGM Jennifer Shahade, WGM Sabina Foisor, WIM Carolina Blanco, and coaches Krista and Arthur Alton — offered continuous, fun-filled educational programming for girls and their families. Women grandmaster simuls, a live human chess game, Spanish chess lessons, and a teen pizza party (hosted by yours



Brewington Hardaway

truly) were among some of the engaging activities offered. Girls Club attendee Ananya Anaath said, “I loved the increased activities in the girls’ room, where I socialized with my friends that I don’t get to meet up with very often.” WIM Carolina Blanco added, “I was delighted to see how the girls’ bonds of friendship and conversations about their experience were created there.”

Other side events included a 30-board simul, “Take-on-all-comers” blitz, and instructive lectures, all led by guest GM Elshan Moradiabadi. The insightful and energetic grandmaster explained, “When kids are engaged and share their passion for chess, it can help them develop a more profound love for the game and a sense of community.” Foisor and FM Gauri Shankar kept spectators dialed into the action with their live match analysis on US Chess and Twitch. The top two boards for the four high school sections were broadcast live on DGT boards, while grades two through eight had one DGT board per section. Foisor said, “I enjoyed seeing the lower-rated players competing for the top places. It shows, yet again, that rating is just a number. I was particularly impressed by the play of Toshinori Underwood, whose path in [grade] 10 was auspicious.”

Meanwhile, in the skittles room, players received on-the-spot reviews of their games by “Funmaster” Mike (Klein) and other Chessable masters. With all of these jam-packed offerings, the chess store was a welcome respite for attendees to browse for commemorative swag and score a signed copy of *Chess Queens* by on-site author WGM Jennifer Shahade.

To escape the chess action, families didn’t even have to leave the hotel. The Gaylord’s winter attractions included ice skating, a winter-themed scavenger hunt, ice bumper cars, and “Ice!”



Kyle Dong

an ice sculpture show highly recommended by WIM Carolina Blanco. Performances of “The Greatest Story Stage Show,” “Shine Light Show,” and “Cirque: Spirit of Christmas” ran daily outside the playing hall — how many chess tournaments have musicals between rounds? Outside the hotel, families and teams were able to arrange sightseeing trips around National Harbor and Washington D.C. Chess influencer extraordinaire Jonathan Corbblah (my first school coach) remarked that the “culturally eminent city gave attendees chances to visit landmarks and other enriching non-chess activities.”

No one can predict how off-the-charts next year’s Grade

Nationals will be. However, as Senior Director of Strategic Communication Dan Lucas noted, “The total attendance for 2022 was 2,463 when we only expected 1,800 — a combination of a great location with a pent-up demand as we emerged from COVID isolation.” So perhaps your best chess strategy would be to reserve your stay at the 2023 host hotel, the Hyatt Orlando Regency, now.

Thank you to US Chess and to all the coaches, parents, and guardians who brought their players to the best scholastic chess party of the year.

SANDEEP’S SELECTED GAMES

LONDON SYSTEM (D02)

Akeras Overlingas (2080)
 Kyle Dong (2048)
 4th Grade Ch (6), National Harbor,
 12.11.2022

1. d4 d5 2. Bf4 Bf5 3. e3 e6 4. Nf3 Bd6 5. Bg3 Ne7 6. Nbd2 0-0 7. c3 c5 8. Nh4 cxd4 9. exd4 Nbc6 10. Nxf5 Nxf5 11. Bd3 Re8

The game has progressed quite normally up to this point, but now



White gets a bit too aggressive for his own good.

12. Qf3 Rc8!? 13. 0-0

Not 13. Bxf5?! exf5+. White should already try to equalize with 13. Bxd6 Nxd6 14. 0-0 b5 15. a4 b4 16. Nb3 and Black has only a very slight edge.

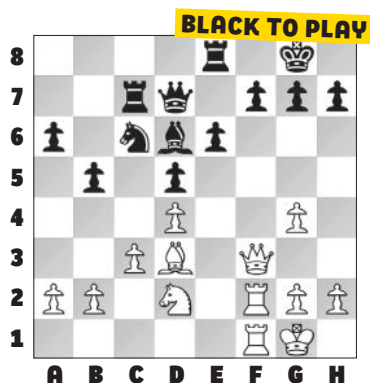
13. ... Nxc3 14. fxc3!?

Very creative, trying to open up the f-file. Unfortunately, Black has multiple options to thwart a direct attack.

14. ... Qd7 15. Rae1 a6 16. Rf2

Interesting was 16. Qg4!? with the idea of Nd2-f3-g5 and an attack.

16. ... b5 17. Ref1 Rc7 18. g4?!



The start of a misguided plan.

18. ... Qd8

Black should respond to a wing advance with 18. ... e5!, ripping apart the white center. If 19. Qxd5! (or 19. Bf5 Qd8 20. g5!, aiming at the h7-square) 19. ... exd4 White has to avoid 20. cxd4?! Bxh2+ and the game is over.

19. g3?!

Trying to stop ... Qd8-h4, but I think there were better ways to improve the position, including 19. Qh3.

19. ... Bf8! 20. Nb3 e5!



The time is ripe to strike in the center.

21. dxe5 Nxe5 22. Qd1 Nc4 23. Qb1?

White has to eliminate the strong knight with 23. Bxc4.

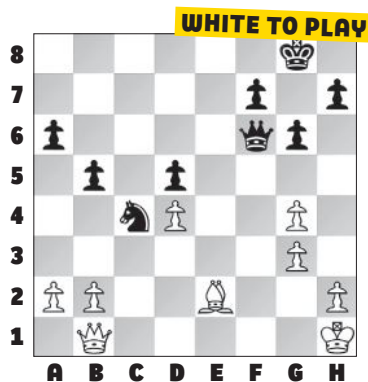
23. ... g6 24. Re1 Bh6!

Very nice, taking control of the vulnerable e3-square.

25. Rfe2 Rce7 26. Nd4 Be3+ 27. Kh1 Bxd4!

Simplifying into a knight versus bishop endgame.

28. cxd4 Rxe2 29. Rxe2 Rxe2 30. Bxe2 Qf6



There is a notable difference in king safety, and White has plenty of weaknesses in his camp.

31. b3 Ne3!

Forward! The knight dominates the pathetic bishop.

32. Qe1 Qxd4 33. Bf3 Qd3 34. h4 d4 35. Qc1

More stubborn was 35. Kg1 but after 35. ... Qc3 36. Qe2 h6 37. Kf2 Kg7 Black should convert smoothly.

35. ... Qc3 36. Qg1 Qd2 37. a4 b4 38. h5 Qc2 39. g5 Qxb3 40. h6 Qd3 41. g4 Qf1

Simplest. The rest is a matter of technique.

42. Qxf1 Nxf1 43. Kg2 Nd2 44. Bd1 b3 45. Kf2 b2 46. Bc2 b1=Q 47. Bxb1 Nxb1 48. Ke2 Nc3+ 49. Kd3 Nxa4 50. Kxd4 a5 51. Kc4 Nb6+ 52. Kb5 a4 53. Kb4 Nd5+ 54. Kxa4 Ne3 55. Kb4 Nxc4 56. Kc5 Nh2 57. Kd5 Nf3 58. Ke4 Nxc4+ 59. Kf4 f6 60. Kg4 Nf7 61. Kf4 Nxh6 62. Kg3 g5 63. Kf3 Kf7 64. Kg3 f5 65. Kf3 f4 66. Ke4 Ke6 67. Kf3 Kf5 68. Kg2 g4 69. Kf2 g3+ 70. Kf3 Nf7 71. Kg2 Kg4 72. Kf1 f3 73. Kg1 h5 74. Kf1 h4 75. Kg1 h3 76. Kf1 h2 77. Ke1 h1=Q+ 78. Kd2 g2 79. Kc3 g1=Q 80. Kb4 Qc1 81. Kb3 Qh8 82. Kb4 Qhb2+ 83. Ka4 Qca1, mate.

SLAV DEFENSE (D46)

Alice Shen (1627)

Aakash Jani (1704)

2nd Grade Ch (6), National Harbor, 12.11.2022

1. d4 d5 2. e3 Nf6 3. Bd3

The Colle System is a bit rare nowadays, but it is a solid weapon.

3. ... c6 4. Nf3 e6?!

No need to close down the light-squared bishop so early.

5. 0-0 Bd6 6. c4 0-0 7. Nc3 Nbd7 8. e4 dxe4 9. Nxe4 Nxe4 10. Bxe4

Now White has a significant space advantage.

10. ... f5?!

Weakening. After the natural



FM Nico Chasin

10. ... Nf6 11. Bc2 Black must break in the center with 11. ... c5.

11. Bc2 Nf6 12. Re1 h6 13. Bb3?!
The bishop can easily get stuck behind the c4-pawn.



13. ... Bb4?
Black's dark-squared bishop is the most vital piece in his camp; trading it off is a serious error. Instead I'd prefer 13. ... b6! to fight White's obvious plan of 14. c5 bxc5 15. Qc2 cxd4 16. Qxf5 Kh8 and Black is fine.

14. Bd2 Bxd2 15. Qxd2 Ne4 16. Qe3 c5 17. d5?

A serious positional error, burying White's bishop and getting rid of Black's biggest weaknesses. After 17. dxc5 Qe7 18. Bc2 Qxc5 19. Bxe4 Qxe3 20. Rxe3 fxe4 21. Rxe4 White is up a pawn with a better position.

17. ... Re8 18. Rad1!?
Strong, taking control of the center.

18. ... Qf6?!
The only try was 18. ... exd5!. Play continues 19. Rxd5 (19. cxd5? would lose all of the advantage after 19. ... Qd6! blockading the pawn) 19. ... Qf6 20. Rxc5 Bd7 21. Rc7 and White's pieces are much better than Black's.

19. Nd2 exd5?
Now this is a mistake, as White can go after the undefended e8-rook.

20. cxd5 Bd7 21. Nxe4 Rxe4 22. Qxc5 Rg4?
The final error. I think Black's best chance was 22. ... Rxe1+ 23. Rxe1 Rc8 24. d6+ Kh7 25. Qd5 when White is cruising but Black has chances to complicate the position.

Bottom: Early moments in the key final round matchup between Arjun Soni (right) and Andrew Jiang (left).

23. d6+ Kh7 24. Bd5 Rf8 25. Re7?! Rc8 26. Qe3?



26. ... f4??
Missing his last chance. The amazing 26. ... Rd4!! would have almost equalized! After 27. Rxd4 Qxd4 28. h3! (creating *luft*) 28. ... Qxd5 29. Rxd7 Qc6 30. Rf7 Qxd6 Black is almost OK.

27. Qe2
White finishes the game nicely.

27. ... Bf5 28. d7 Rd8 29. Be6 Bxe6 30. Qxe6 Qg5 31. Qe4+ Kh8 32. Re8+ Rxe8 33. dxe8=Q, mate.

GIUOCO PIANO (C54)

Arjun Soni (2006)
Andrew Jiang (2182)
6th Grade Ch (7), National Harbor,
12.11.2022

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 d6 6. 0-0 a6 7. Bb3 Ba7 8. Nbd2 0-0 9. Bc2 Ne7



A thematic idea.

10. h3 Ng6 11. Re1!?

White might have considered 11. d4 immediately here, and on the next few moves.

11. ... h6 12. Nf1 Re8 13. Be3 c5 14. a4 d5!

Jiang doesn't miss his chance!

15. c4?

A serious positional error. More solid was 15. Ng3 Be6 16. a5 fixing the a6- and b7-pawns. Another idea is 15. Bc1!? Be6 16. Ne3, when the idea of 15. Bc1 is revealed.

15. ... d4

Black just gets too much space.

16. Bd2 Be6?

A bit careless, but to be fair, the correct 16. ... a5! is difficult to see, shutting down both the queenside and the c2-bishop forever, and leaving time to start kingside operations. Also interesting was 16. ... Re6!? 17. a5 b5!.

17. a5! Bb8 18. Ba4

Now the bishop is out, and Black will have trouble expanding on the queenside.

18. ... Rf8 19. b4!? Bd6 20. bxc5

Bxc5 21. Qb3?!

The wrong way, as there are no chances on the queenside.

Naturally 21. Ng3 was best, bringing the knight to the kingside, while also OK was 21. N3h2 with the idea of Nh2-g4.

21. ... Rb8 22. Qc2?!

A clear loss of tempo, and it's not clear that the queen is good on c2.

22. ... Nh5 23. Ng3 Nhf4!

The best move.



24. Bxf4?!

Black replaces the knight, while White will miss his bishop. Of course 24. Nxe5?? Nxh3+ 25. gxh3 Nxe5 is terrible, but the lesser evil was 24. Nf5! Qf6 25. Rab1 Rfd8 26. g3 Nxh3+ 27. Kg2 Bxf5 28. exf5 Qxf5 29. Qd1 and White has hopes of a blockade on the light-squares.

24. ... Nxf4 25. Qd2 Qf6 26. Nh2? b5!

Bottom: GM Elshan Moradiabadi stares down Albert Gao. Right: FA Karen Pennock keeps order.



Eric Liu

Thematic and strong, this pawn push works to open a second front for Black's pieces to become active.

27. axb6 e.p.

Out of the question was 27. cxb5? axb5 28. Bd1 b4.

27. ... Rxb6 28. Reb1 Rfb8 29. Rxb6 Rxb6 30. Bc2 Bb4 31. Qd1 a5!
Anchoring the queenside.

32. Ng4 Qg5 33. Nh2 h5! 34. Nf3 Qf6 35. Ba4 h4 36. Nf1 Bxh3
The rest is a massacre.

37. gxh3 Qg6+ 38. Ng3 hxg3 39. Nh4 gxf2+ 40. Kh2 Qg5 41. Qg4 Qxg4 42. hxg4 Rh6 43. Kg3 Be1, White resigned. ♠





To Take or Not to Take

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!

CHESS IS A funny game (you can stop laughing now). From our very first lessons, we are presented opposing principles and contradictory advice. We are told, for example, to take our time. Along the same lines, we should be careful and patient. Curiously, we are also instructed not to waste time on the clock. Somehow, we have to move slowly, but not too slow. In similar fashion, it's drummed into us that if something of ours is taken, we should take back. But clearly there are times to delay taking back, or not to take at all, especially when opponents fail to play an obvious recapture, allowing us to continue taking before we get taken back. At such instances, we should be on red alert. Why would the opponent do that? Sure, it might be just a matter of losing focus and blundering. But maybe not. Perhaps we're being set up. This month's offering is a case in point, showing how excessive greed can backfire tragically.

1. d4

One of the two most popular pawn advances to begin a game. The other typical pawn move is 1. e4.

Q1) Why not play 1. d3 instead, just to be safe? (10 points)

1. ... f5

The Dutch Defense. It's not seen that often, but it's certainly playable.

Q2) What upcoming move for White does 1. ... f5 fight against? (10 points)

Q3) What is the main drawback to 1. ... f5? (10 points)

2. e4

This is the Staunton Gambit, named after English stalwart Howard Staunton (1810-1874). White gambits a pawn, hoping to mount a kingside attack.

Q4) Why does White think 2.

e4 is potentially justified? (10 points)

2. ... fxe4

Black completes the fianchetto. The plan is to pressure the White center, hoping to force it into weakening advances.

Q5) Instead of 2. ... fxe4, would 2. ... g6 have been satisfactory? (10 points)

3. f3

White makes it a true gambit. Black can now keep the pawn for sure.

Q6) What does White hope to gain by 3. f3? (10 points)

3. ... exf3

Black decides to stay up a pawn, figuring defense is still possible.

Q7) If not 3. ... exf3, what other logical move did Black have? (10 points)

4. Bd3

This looks like a blunder. Instead of taking back on f3, it seems to allow a devastating capture.

Q8) After 4. Bd3, what is a safer move for Black to play? (10 points)

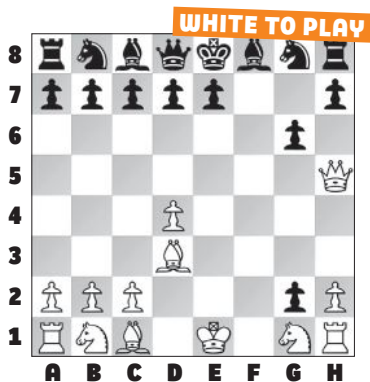
Q9) If 4. ... fxg2, how does White save the h1-rook? (10 points)



4. ... fxg2
Black gets greedy.

5. Qh5+
Exploiting the h5-e8 diagonal.

5. ... g6



This is Black's only move.

6. Bxg6+
Now we see the point of 4. Bd3, hoping for a shot at g6. And yes, to be cute, White can also play 6. Qxg6+, but let's avoid "cute."

6. ... hxg6 7. Qxg6, mate.

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



ILLUSTRATIVE GAME

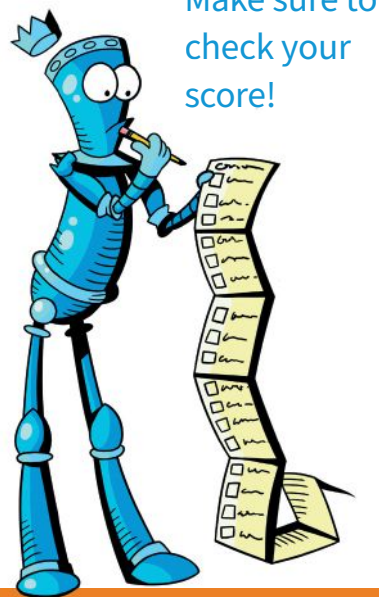
"NN" (No name)

Dumont
Paris, 1802

1. f4 e5 2. fxe5 d6 3. exd6 Bxd6 4. g3 Qg5 5. Nf3 Qxg3+ 6. hxg3 Bxg3, mate. ♖



ANSWERS:
A1) That move is safe, but passive. More active is 1. d4. A2) Black wants to stop 2. e4. A3) It weakens the h5-e8 diagonal, exposing the black king. A4) For two reasons: 1. ... f5 is weakening, and it's not a developing move. A5) No way. After 3. exf5, taking back, 3. ... gxf5, allows 4. Qh5 mate. A6) After 3. ... exf3 4. Nxf3, better development and a half open f-file. A7) Black had the developing move, 3. ... Nf6, protecting the e-pawn. A8) Black would be safer, and remain up a pawn, after 4. ... Nf6. A9) White doesn't have to save it, since Black never gets to take it. A10) Move four. Black might have tried 4. ... Nf6 or even 4. ... f2+.



Make sure to check your score!

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

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 April 30, 2023 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 • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2023 National Middle School (K-8) Championships

APRIL 21-23 2023, TEXAS

Event site: Kalahari Resorts & Conventions Address: 3001 Kalahari Drive, Round Rock TX 78665 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Boyd Reed Email: nationalevents@uschess.org Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2023/ms> TLA ID: 36212

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2023 KCF All-Girls National Championship

APRIL 28-30, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Historic Palmer House Hotel Address: 17 East Monroe St, Chicago, IL 60603 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: David Heiser Email: david.heiser@renaissanceknights.org Phone: n/a Website: <http://allgirls.rknights.org/> TLA ID: 35478

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2023 National Elementary (K-6) Championships

MAY 12-14, 2023, MARYLAND

Event site: Baltimore Convention Center Address: 1 West Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21201 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Boyd Reed Email: nationalevents@uschess.org Phone: n/a Website: <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2023/elem> TLA ID: 36637

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

2023 National Open

JUNE 14-18, 2023, NEVADA

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall

prize fund: \$100,000 GP Points: 200 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: 35980

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2023 U.S. Women's Open

JUNE 14-15, 2023, NEVADA

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino Address: 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall prize fund: \$3,500 GP Points: 50 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: 35981

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix continues in 2023. For information visit new.uschess.org/us-chess-grand-prix-program.

GRAND PRIX

2nd Annual Harry Sabine Spring Open

APRIL 15, 2023, TENNESSEE

Event site: Cumberland County Community Complex Address: 1398 Livingston Road, Crossville, TN 38555 Overall prize fund: \$1,700 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Cumberland County Chess Club Email: cumberlandcountyChessclub@gmail.com Phone: (931) 200-9038 Website: <http://www.cumberlandcountyChessclub.org> TLA ID: 37248

GRAND PRIX

31st Massachusetts G/60 Championship

APRIL 30, 2023, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center Address: 219 Littleton Rd., Westford MA 01886 Overall prize fund: \$3,000 GP Points: 15 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Massachusetts Chess Association Email: info@masschess.org Phone: 603-891-2484 Website: <http://www.masschess.org> TLA ID: 36715

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2023 DFW FIDE 3

MAY 5-7, 2023, TEXAS

Event site: Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North Address: 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, TX 75063 Overall prize fund: \$760 GP Points: 20 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Luis Salinas Email: infofordcc@gmail.com Phone: 2146329000 Website: <http://dallaschess.com> TLA ID: 37194

GRAND PRIX

2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open

MAY 5-7, 2023, WYOMING

Event site: Sheridan Wyoming Ramada Plaza Address: 1809 Sugarland Drive, Sheridan, WY 82801 Overall prize fund: \$7,575 GP Points: 100 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Brian Kuehl Email: admin@sherdanchess.com Phone: 202-679-6779 Website: <http://www.SheridanChess.com> TLA ID: 37145

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

3rd annual Niagara Falls Open

MAY 5-7, 2023, NEW YORK

Event site: Sheraton Niagara Falls Address: 300 3rd St, Niagara Falls NY 14303 Overall prize fund: \$10,000 GP Points: 80 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36018

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

28th Space Coast Open

MAY 20, 2023, SOUTH CAROLINA

Event site: Radisson Resort at the Port Address: 8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920 Overall prize fund: \$20,000 GP Points: 80 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Jon Haskel Email: jon@bocachess.com Phone: 561-302-4377 Website: <http://www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen> TLA ID: 37280

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

10th Cherry Blossom Classic

MAY 24-29, 2023, VIRGINIA

Event site: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Address: 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166 Overall prize fund: \$26,000 GP Points: 200 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Anand Dommalapati Email: cbc2023@capitalareachess.com Phone: 703-627-5314 Website: <https://www.cherryblossomchess.com> TLA ID: 36829

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

32nd annual Chicago Open

MAY 25-29, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel Address: 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling IL 60090 Overall prize fund: \$100,000 GP Points: 200 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35929

GRAND PRIX

IM Danny Kopec Memorial Grand Prix

MAY 26-JUNE 16 (WEEKLY), NEW YORK

Event site: Christ Lutheran Church Address: 57 Spooner St., Floral Park, NY 11001 Overall prize fund: \$40 GP Points: 6 FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N

Residency restriction: N Organizer: Queens Chess Club Email: queenschessclub@gmail.com Phone: 718-514-7130 Website: <http://www.queens-chess.com> TLA ID: 37112

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

78th Annual Texas State and Amateur

MAY 26-29, 2023, TEXAS

Event site: Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North Address: 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, TX 75063 Overall prize fund: \$2,200 GP Points: 50 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Luis Salinas Email: infofordcc@gmail.com Phone: 213-632-9000 Website: <http://dallaschess.com> TLA ID: 37211

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

91st Massachusetts Open

MAY 27-29, 2023, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center Address: 219 Littleton Road, Westford MA 01886 Overall prize fund: \$7,500 GP Points: 50 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Massachusetts Chess Association Email: info@masschess.org Phone: 603-891-2484 Website: <http://www.masschess.org> TLA ID: 37251

AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX

44th Annual Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic

MAY 27-29, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel Address: 7277 Vanalje Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Overall prize fund: \$17,000 GP Points: 80 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Southern California Chess Federation Email: gregg5075@earthlink.net Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.schess.com> TLA ID: 36711

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

16th annual Continental Chess Cleveland Open

JUNE 9-11, 2023, OHIO

Event site: Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport Address: 7230 Engle Road, Middleburg Heights OH 44130 Overall prize fund: \$15,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36424

GRAND PRIX

CFCC 2023 Sunshine Open & Scholastic

JUNE 16-18, 2023, FLORIDA

Event site: Holiday Inn at Lake Buena Vista Address: 13351 State Road 535 Orlando, Florida, 32821 Overall prize fund: \$8,500 GP Points: 30 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Larry Storch Email: larrystorch88@gmail.com Phone: n/a Website: <https://www.centralchess.org> TLA ID: 37199

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

9th annual Continental Class Championships

JUNE 16-18, 2023, VIRGINIA

Event site: Sheraton Reston Hotel Address: 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191 Overall prize fund: \$22,000 GP Points: 120 FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: director@chess.us Website: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 37066

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.

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship
JUNE 17, 2023, NEVADA

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino **Address:** 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 **Overall prize fund:** \$3,600 **GP Points:** 30 **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:** 35998

AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

17th annual Philadelphia Open
JUNE 23-25, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** \$15,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 35977

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

16th annual Philadelphia International
JUNE 24-28, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** \$20,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 35939

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

12th annual World Open Women's Championship
JUNE 29-30, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** \$2,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 36017

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

12th annual World Open Game/7 Blitz
JUNE 30, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** \$1,500 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 36038

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

51st annual World Open, top 6 sections
JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** \$208,000 **GP Points:** 300 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 36019

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

53rd annual Continental Open
JULY 13-16, 2023, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel **Address:** 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough MA 01752 **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:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 36814

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

16th annual Chicago Class
JULY 14-16, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090

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:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 36839

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

27th annual Pacific Coast Open
JULY 21-23, 2023, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel **Address:** Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys CA 91406 **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:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 37297

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

24th annual Pittsburgh Open
JULY 21-23, 2023, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Doubletree Green Tree **Address:** 500 Mansfield Ave (near I-376 Exit 67), Pittsburgh PA 15205 **Overall prize fund:** \$13,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 37298

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

31st annual Southern Open
JULY 28-30, 2023, FLORIDA

Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort **Address:** Wyndham Orlando Resort, 8001 International Drive, Orlando 32819 **Overall prize fund:** \$20,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** director@chess.us **Phone:** director@chess.us **Website:** http://www.chessevents.us **TLA ID:** 37301

Regional

ALABAMA

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

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
 See Tennessee.

ARKANSAS

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

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
 See Tennessee.

CALIFORNIA

MAY 27, 2023

MDC Scholastics
Event site: Airtel Plaza Hotel **Address:** 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91406 **Overall prize fund:** Trophies **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Southern California Chess Federation **Email:** Gregg5075@earthlink.net **Phone:** n/a **Website:** https://www.sccchess.com **TLA ID:** 36712

COLORADO

MAY 5-7, 2023

2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)
 See Grand Prix.

CONNECTICUT

MAY 19-21, 2023

28th Space Coast Open (FL)
 See Grand Prix or www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen.

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 See Grand Prix.

DELAWARE

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 See Grand Prix.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

APRIL 29, 2023

2023 Booker T Washington & Julius Rosenwald 529 College Saving Plan Scholastic Chess Classic

Event site: Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton/Chevy Chase Pavilion **Address:** 4300 Military Road NW, Washington, DC 20015 **Overall prize fund:** \$1,050 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Malik F Johnson **Email:** iconchess@aol.com **Phone:** 202-557-8266 **Website:** https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/2425 **TLA ID:** 37188

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 See Grand Prix.

FLORIDA

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 See Grand Prix.

JUNE 16-18, 2023

CFCC 2023 Sunshine Open & Scholastic (FL)

See Grand Prix.

GEORGIA

MAY 19-21, 2023

28th Space Coast Open (FL)
 See Grand Prix or www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen.

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 See Grand Prix.

KANSAS

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 See Grand Prix.

IDAHO

MAY 5-7, 2023

2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)
 See Grand Prix.

ILLINOIS

MAY 19-21, 2023

28th Space Coast Open (FL)
 See Grand Prix or www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen.

XXXIII Pan-American Youth Chess Festival

AUGUST 12-18, 2023, ILLINOIS

Event site: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place **Address:** 2233 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Chicago, IL 60616 **Overall prize fund:** Direct FIDE titles and norms **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** David Heiser **Email:** david.heiser@renaissanceknights.org **Phone:** n/a **Website:** https://panamyouth2023.com/ **TLA ID:** 36757

KENTUCKY

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

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
 See Tennessee.

MAINE

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 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, sign up 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. UMBC is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 See Grand Prix.

MASSACHUSETTS

APRIL 30, 2023

31st Massachusetts G/60 Championship (MA)

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 See Grand Prix.

MAY 27-29, 2023

91st Massachusetts Open (MA)
 See Grand Prix.

MICHIGAN

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
 See Grand Prix.

MISSISSIPPI

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

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
 See Tennessee.

MISSOURI

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

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
 See Tennessee.

MONTANA

MAY 5-7, 2023

2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)
 See Grand Prix.

NEBRASKA

MAY 5-7, 2023

2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)
 See Grand Prix.

NEVADA

JUNE 16, 2023

Youth Trophy Tournament

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino **Address:** 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 **Overall prize fund:** Trophies **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Vegas Chess Festivals **Email:** vegaschess@gmail.com **Phone:** 702-930-9550 **Website:** https://vegaschessfestival.com **TLA ID:** 36001

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 17-19, 2023

2023 Las Vegas International Youth Championship

Event site: Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino **Address:** 3700 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89103 **Overall**

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.

prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Vegas Chess Festivals Email: vegaschess@gmail.com Phone: 702-930-9550 Website: <https://vegaschessfestival.com> TLA ID: 36000.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

NEW JERSEY

MAY 19-21, 2023

28th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen.

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

NEW YORK

MAY 19-21, 2023

28th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen.

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

NORTH CAROLINA

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

OHIO

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

OREGON

MAY 5-7, 2023

2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

PENNSYLVANIA

North Penn Chess Club
Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. See www.northpennchessclub.org for schedules & info or 215-699-8418

HERITAGE EVENT • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

APRIL 15, 2023

62nd Annual Golden Triangle Open
Event site: Pittsburgh Chess Club Address: 5869 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Overall prize fund: \$1,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Pittsburgh Chess Club Email: director@pittsburghchessclub.org Phone: 412-421-1881 Website: <https://pittsburghchessclub.org/> TLA ID: 36721

MAY 19-21, 2023

28th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/spacecoastopen.

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 23-25, 2023

51st annual World Open, lower sections
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Overall prize fund: \$17,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36030

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 26-28, 2023

2nd annual World Open Amateur
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$3,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: Y Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35957

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 26-27, 2023

15th annual World Open Under 13 Championship
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 35994

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • REGIONALS

JUNE 28-29, 2023

World Open Junior Championship
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: \$5,000 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36031

REGIONALS

JUNE 29, 2023

10th annual World Open Action
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Address: 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 Overall prize fund: see TLA GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Continental Chess Association Email: director@chess.us Phone: <http://www.chessevents.us> TLA ID: 36036

RHODE ISLAND

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

SOUTH CAROLINA

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

SOUTH DAKOTA

MAY 5-7, 2023

2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

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 38103 Overall 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: 731-8685755 Website: <https://www.memphischessclub.com/> TLA ID: 32334

APRIL 15, 2023

2nd Annual Harry Sabine Spring Open Chess Tournament (TN)
See Grand Prix.

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

TEXAS

FEBRUARY 2, 2023-ONGOING, THURSDAYS

Creative 101 Weekly Quick

Event site: n/a Address: 308 W Washington Dr, San Angelo, TX 76903 Overall prize fund: n/a GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: Y Residency restriction: N Organizer: Chase Ross, Concho Chess Academy Email: concho.chess@gmail.com Phone: 925-918-2275 Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/75037344925702> TLA ID: 36958

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

VERMONT

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

VIRGINIA

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

WEST VIRGINIA

MAY 24-29, 2023

10th Cherry Blossom Classic (VA)
See Grand Prix.

WISCONSIN

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

APRIL 22, 2023

2023 Wisconsin Rapid and Blitz State Championships

Event site: Doga Church Address: 2700 Novation Parkway, Madison, WI 53713 Overall prize fund: \$1,300 GP Points: n/a FIDE Rated: N Handicap accessible: N Residency restriction: N Organizer: Mike Nietman Email: mike.nietman@charter.net Phone: 16084678510 Website: <https://www.wischess.org/> TLA ID: 37187

WYOMING

MAY 5-7, 2023

2023 Sheridan Wyoming FIDE Open (WY)

See Grand Prix.

Chess Life KIDS (USPS 023-567, ISSN: 1932-5894) is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December of every year by US Chess, 333 S. 18th Street, Suite 210, St. Louis, MO 63103. Periodical postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri, and additional mailing offices.

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WASHINGTON, DC
March 31-April 2, 2023
NATIONAL High School CHAMPIONSHIP
(K-12)

BALTIMORE, MD • May 12-14, 2023
NATIONAL Elementary CHAMPIONSHIP
(K-6)

ROUND ROCK, TX • April 21-23, 2023
NATIONAL Middle School CHAMPIONSHIP
(K-8)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CAVEMAN SUMMER CHESS Festival



JULY 16-23, 2023

Location: Elmhurst University, Elmhurst, IL (15 minutes from O'Hare, just west of Chicago)

CAMPS WITHIN THE CAMP JULY 16-21

- ✓ Master Class- GM instr only [Already two entrants: Arthur Xu 2250, Natalie Wisniowski 2150]
- ✓ Classes for players from 5 to 85, fundamental and advanced, separated by age and strength
- ✓ Family and chaperone registrations to accompany young campers



Add'l invited
instructors - TBD soon

Top Women:

GM Krush, WIM Root PhD, WGM Yu

Top Men:

GM's Lenderman, Novikov, Mitkov

Camp Director:

FM, FT Kevin Bachler

Co-Director: Deb Socha

TOURNAMENTS JULY 21-23

- ✓ US Senior Open (Nat'l champ!)
- ✓ Caveman Medior Open
- ✓ US Junior Open (Nat'l champ!)
- ✓ US Blind (Nat'l champ!)
- ✓ Caveman Beginner Open (7/22)
- ✓ Registration on www.kingregistration.com

Tournaments and camps for players of all ages and strengths in a Family Friendly environment with side events for non-players



GM Kaidanov



GM Yermolinsky



GM Shulman



GM Goldin



GM Gurevich



GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



Also: dinner theater, shopping excursions, fitness classes

Information and Registration: www.cavemanchess.com Email: contact@cavemanchess.com



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Chess Dad Classic T-Shirt



T-GMOVR
Game Over T-Shirt



T-CDCBD
Chess Dad Chess Board T-Shirt

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