

# The Chess Journalist

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CHESS JOURNALISTS OF AMERICA



J. Eugene Salomon showing his chess pieces that former World Champion Alexander Alekhine played with in 1944 in Gijon, Spain.

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# Join the CJA!

The Chess Journalists of America is to encourage chess journalists, writers, editors, and publishers to exchange information and ideas for their mutual benefit; to promote the highest standards of ethics in chess journalism; to represent United States chess journalists in appropriate national and international bodies; to influence policies affecting the promotion of chess; for each and all of the purposes.

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Or Join via website: [www.chessjournalism.org](http://www.chessjournalism.org)

## Membership Dues:

Regular \$10 for 1 year  
Foreign \$15 for 1 year

## Hello From the Editor:

Hello, This second issue with me as editor will be put out on April 8, which happens to be my 54th trip around the Sun. I believe this is the longest document I have written/put together since my thesis back in graduate school. I did

have some help: Please welcome Rachel Schechter on board as assistant editor. There are some really great items in this issue. I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoyed putting it together.

In the lead article we meet Gene Salomon who shows us an amazing life through chess. Joshua Anderson gives us a glimpse into the Holly Heisman Memorial Tournament. Later we have a fun-filled look at what chess might be like in 2042. Lastly we take a very short look at "Battle Arrays" from times of yesteryear. In between you will find many other excellent articles and reviews.

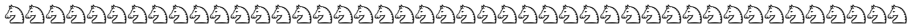


Inside you will find contributions from: Joshua Anderson, Rachel Schechter, Gene Saloman, Ed Tassinari, Ross Nickel, Bob Basalla, Jamaal Abdul-Amin, Dwight Weaver, and Mark Capron.

Photos by Joshua Anderson, Diane Dahl, Fun Fong, David Grimaud., US Chess Archives, and Jennifer Shahade.

Please send your comments, suggestions, or even better send me a story or idea for the next issue: [mcapron243@mchsi.com](mailto:mcapron243@mchsi.com)

—Mark Capron



“As a lyricist and prose writer, it is a rare thrill when I produce a line that not only endures, but continues to gather resonance over time.”

—Neil Peart

## Calling all Bibliophiles

What makes your Chess Library stand out?

I would like to start a regular column in the upcoming issues where we highlight your chess library. How did your library start? Why did you start it? When did you realize we need a “chessaholics” group, so we can admit we have an addiction.

**The Chess Journalists of America once again sends out a call for nominations for the annual Chess Journalists of America (CJA) awards.** The CJA awards recognize the best in all facets of chess journalism, both print and online. The best chess articles, columns, photojournalism, layout, and online writing are honored within their respective categories. Recognized annually by their peers, the public, and members of CJA, the prestigious awards showcase American works published in English between June 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022.

CJA is a not-for-profit organization that encourages and promotes chess journalism. Membership is open to everyone at an annual membership fee of \$10 (foreign membership is \$15 per year). Award winners will be presented with online certificates that can be printed and will be acknowledged in CJA's newsletter, *The Chess Journalist*, as well as a permanent listing on the CJA website and social media. CJA's Annual chess journalism awards are open to anyone. There is an entry fee of \$15 for the first entry (this includes membership or renewal to CJA) and an \$8 fee for each subsequent entry (unless otherwise noted.) State organizations may enter two entries in the Cramer Awards for free. Additional award details can be found online at <http://chessjournalism.org>. Interested parties can also contact CJA Awards Committee Chairman Joshua Anderson at [joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com](mailto:joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com).

Our CJA president Joshua Anderson will announce the awards first at the annual CJA meeting (during the U.S. Open), followed shortly by a complete listing on the CJA website.

Submissions must be made by **June 18, 2022**.

## **2022 Awards**

### **TOP THREE CATEGORIES (OPEN TO PRINT OR ONLINE) Chess Journalist of the Year (June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022)**

**Best Story of the Year**

**Best Column**

**Best Book of the Year**

### **BEST CHESS BOOK**

**Best Book – Instruction**

**Best Book – Other**

**Best Self-Published Book**

### **BEST VISUAL ARTS**

**Best Photojournalism Article**

**Best Single Chess Photo**

**Best Art**

**Best Single Chess Magazine Cover**

**Best Cartoon**

### **BEST PRINT ARTICLES (OPEN ONLY TO PUBLICATIONS)**

**Best Regular Newspaper Column**

**Best Overall Magazine**

**Best Single Article of Local Interest**

**Best Feature Article**

**Best Interview**

**Best Tournament Report National / International**

**Best Tournament Report – State / Local**  
**Best Club Newsletter**  
**Best Instructive Lesson**  
**Best Review**  
**Best Analysis**  
**Best Historical Article**  
**Best Humorous Contribution**  
**Best Personal Narrative**

#### **BEST ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS AND FEATURES**

**Best Interview**  
**Best Feature Article**  
**Best Podcast**  
**Best Single Podcast Episode**  
**Best Tournament Report – National/International**  
**Best Tournament Report – State/Local**  
**Best News**  
**Best Club Newsletter**  
**Best Instruction Lesson**  
**Best Analysis**  
**Best Humorous Contribution**  
**Best Historical Article**  
**Best Personal Narrative**  
**Best Overall Chess Website**  
**Best Overall Website Small Organization (group of less than 500)**  
**Best Online Blog**  
**Best Educational Lesson**  
**Best Online Review**  
**Best Non-Instructive Chess Video**  
**Best Twitter Feed**  
**Best Twitch Channel**  
**Best Instagram Feed**  
**Best Weekly Video Program**  
**Best Documentary**  
**Best Tournament/Match Coverage (This may be a series of videos)**  
**Best Coverage by Mainstream Publication (FREE ENTRY!)**

#### **JUNIOR (UNDER 20)**

**Best Print Article by a Junior**  
**Best Online Article by a Junior**  
**Best Personal Narrative by a Junior**

#### **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT**

#### **CRAMER AWARDS**

**Best State Championship Report**  
**Best State Tournament Coverage**  
**Best Scholastic Coverage in State (may be multiple articles)**  
**Best Overall State Website**  
**Best State Magazine/Newsletter – Print**  
**Best State Magazine/Newsletter – Online**  
**Best Personal Narrative**  
**Best Photograph**

# 2020 Chess Journalist of America Awards Report

By Joshua Anderson

No full CJA report was made in 2020 as we worked to repair the lost information of the website, dealt with Covid, and great personal loss of the President, when my stepfather, Dan Varner, who taught me to play chess, passed away. Fortunately for us, even with all the difficulties we faced, many people were still willing to judge the many strong entries that we received. As was the practice last year, the categories were essentially broken down into 8 distinct groups. They are Top Three, Chess Books, Visual Arts, Print News and Features, Online News and Features, Special Achievement, Junior Achievements, and Cramer Awards. Please note that as this is more than a year late, some of the “flavor” of the event, that is material that can not be captured purely by scores is lacking. My apologies on this front.

## Top Three

These categories are a combination of Chess Journalist of the Year and Best Story and Best Chess Column, with the latter two spanning both online and print entries.

**Chess Journalist of the Year** – John Hartmann was the only entry and was unanimously accepted. Please note that when there is one entry judges are asked to compare to the historical record of the category to express whether they believe the entry measures up. In this case, all 5 believed Hartmann deserved the award.

**Story of the Year** – There were entries, both from *Chess Life*. “80 Years of US Chess,” by Al Lawrence narrowly edged out “May I have the Envelope, Please,” by Jon Crumiller and Lev Albur, with the latter receiving an Honorable Mention.

**Column of the Year** – There were 10 entries in this category. Taking first was Alex Fishbein’s Endgame Column in *American Chess Magazine*. Al Lawrence’s *Chess Life* column “Faces Across the Board” received an Honorable Mention.

## Chess Books

The book category was very light in 2020, sometimes these things happen.

**Chess Book – Instructional** – There was only one entry and Cyrus Lakdawala won for the book *In the Zone: The Greatest Winning Streaks in Chess History*, published by New in Chess.

**Chess Book – Other** – This was Stuart Rachel’s autobiography – *The Best I Saw in Chess: Games, Stories and Instruction from an Alabama Prodigy Who Became U.S. Champion* also published by New in Chess.

**Self-Published** – *Humor in Chess* edited by Dewain Barber and Ralph E. Bowman is the first in a series of books designed to help raise money to help players from various states go to the various scholastic championships held before the U. S. Open.

## Visual Arts

This includes print and online entries and deal with such matters as Best Photo, Best Art, etc. Many of these categories had sole entries and the judges were asked to consider how these entries compared with past winners.

**Photojournalism Article** – “Cote d’Ivoire through a Newcomer’s Lense” by Maria Emelianova won this award. *Colorado Chess Informant’s* “Chess Landscaping” scored a solid second place but didn’t quite have enough points (80% of winner’s total) to earn an honorable mention. You can see this article at - [http://coloradochess.com/informant/January\\_2020.pdf](http://coloradochess.com/informant/January_2020.pdf).

**Single Chess Photo** – This was a photo of Jennnifer Yu, that appeared as the January, 2020 cover, *Chess Life*.

**Chess Art** – “Scholastic Nationals,” by James Oses from August 2019 *Chess Life* won this award.

**Single Magazine Cover** - This was won by Francesca Butler (creative director) and Patrick Morales Lee (artist) for a cover of the November, 2019, issue of *Chess Life*, reporting on the passing of Pal Benko.

**Cartoon** – “You Say Rad2, I Say R2-D2” developed by Dan Lucas and Matt Sattel and seen in the February 2020 issue of *Chess Life*.

## Best Print News and Features

This includes newspapers, various state magazines, *Chess Life* and *American Chess Magazine*.

**Best Regular Newspaper Column** – Bill Cornwall, a regular winner in the newspaper columns won in 2019.

**Best Single Article of Local Interest** – Patricio Robayo won for her piece in *The Sullivan County Democrat* entitled “Inside Sullivan: Chess in Sullivan County”.

**Overall Chess Magazine** – This year the award was won by *American Chess Magazine*.

**Feature Article** – “May I Have the Envelope, Please” by Jon Crumiller and Lev Albur, *Chess Life*, won over several other good articles.

**Interview** – Dusan Kronic’s interview of John Donaldson won first place (*American Chess Magazine* #14-15) and Maurice Ashley’s piece “Deep Dive” received an Honorable Mention, *Chess Life* 1/20.

**National/International Tournament Report** – Tatev Abrahamyan’s report “A Spectacular Finish,” *Chess Life* 10/19 just edged out “Isle of Man; Enter the Dragon,” by Michael Rohde for this award (*American Chess Magazine* #14-15). Rohde’s piece won an Honorable Mention.

**State/Local Tournament Report** – Bartek Maciega’s piece “Chess in Brunswick” (*American Chess Magazine* #14-15) beat out two other entries, with Alex Ipatov’s “Texas and Missouri” receiving an Honorable Mention (*American Chess Magazine* #16).

**Club Newsletter** – Chess Advocate created by Dwight Weaver and representing Memphis Chess Club won the award.

**Instructive Lesson** – This category had 11 entries with Alex Fishbein's "Top Ten Endgames of 2019," winning the award (*American Chess Magazine* #14-15).

**Review** – "Lessons Learned" by John Hartmann won this award, *Chess Life* 12/19.

**Humorous Contribution** – "Did This Man Save the 1972 World Championship?" by Menachem Wecker received full support and won the award, *Chess Life* 1/20.

**Personal Narrative** – This category often has extremely tight scores and this year was no different. "Remembering My Great Predecessors," by Joel Benjamin (*American Chess Magazine* #16) and "Excellence in the Face of Adversity" by Justin Sarkar (*American Chess Magazine* #14-15), who tied for the award, and both edged out "Dear Diaries" by Sam Shankland and Tatev Abrahamyan by a single point. "Dear Diaries" received an Honorable Mention, *Chess Life* 7/19.

**Analysis** – "2019 Opening Trends" by Ivan Sokolov carried the day with a resounding victory (*American Chess Magazine* #14-15).

**Historical Article** – This was also a very close competition with Al Lawrence's "80 Years of US Chess" and John Hartmann's "Lost & Found" both receiving the award and John Donaldson receiving an Honorable Mention for "The Magic Year of 1971" that can be found at - [http://nwchess.com/nwcmag/pdf/NWC\\_202006\\_Donaldson\\_article.pdf](http://nwchess.com/nwcmag/pdf/NWC_202006_Donaldson_article.pdf).

## **Best Online News and Features**

With ACM having no online component and chess.com not participating as an organization, most of these categories had 1 to 3 entries. We look forward to expanding entries in this section in the future.

**Overall Chess Website** – Uschess.org. There were numerous small organizations that were understandably very proud of their work but had no where near the content. So, starting in 2021, there was an additional category for smaller organizations.

**Chess Blog** – "Learning from Each Game," by Ray Linville won this category and the blog can be found at <https://www.chess.com/blog/raync910>.

**Chess Podcast** – "Ladies Knight" hosted by Jennifer Shahade bested the Dan Lucas hosted program "One Move at a Time" by a single point as Lucas's work won the Honorable Mention.

**Single Chess Podcast** – "Ladies Knight" still hosted by Shahade won for this category as well.

**Online Chess News** – Chess Life Online edited by John Hartmann won and received great support.

**Online State/Local Newsletter or Magazine** – *Chess Advocate*, a very eye-catching magazine from the Memphis Chess Club, won the award and the *Mechanics Institute Newsletter* from San Francisco won Hon-



orable Mention.

**Online Interview** – “GM Aagaard on the Candidates: Post Postponement” - [Aagaard on the Candidates - Post-Postponement | US Chess.org](#) - won this award.

**Online Feature Article** – “How the Beauty of Chess as Art Takes Many Forms” by Ray Linville at <https://www.chess.com/blog/raync910/how-the-beauty-of-chess-as-art-takes-many-forms> won the award.

**National/International Online Tournament Report** – Aagaard on the Candidates was a well-received single entry in this category and won the award.

**State/Local Online Tournament Report** – “The 2019 Denver Open” by John Watson - [The 2019 Denver Open | US Chess.org](#) - won this award.

**Online Instruction Lesson** – “Shlyakhtenko on Winning at Dreaming King” by Robert Shlyakhtenko - [Shlyakhtenko on Winning at Dreaming King | US Chess.org](#) – won this award.

**Online Analysis** – “Yip Annotates Thrilling World Women's Finale” by Jennifer Shahade and Carissa Yip won this award and can be viewed at - [Yip Annotates Thrilling World Women's Finale | US Chess.org](#).

**Humorous Contribution Online** – These contributions come in all shapes and sizes and this time a comic, found at - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/148mfUZWqsotHpWXNsNI0QfNBn98PsUYI/view?usp=sharing> p. 21 by Diego Delgado edged Eric Vigil's “The Five Barber Bishop Brouhaha” by Eric Vigil and found at - [The Five Barber Bishop Brouhaha | US Chess.org](#). This latter piece received an honorable mention.

**Historical Article Online** –Ray Linville’s piece on the Marshall Attack –Ray Linville’s piece on the Marshall Attack can be found at - [How The Marshall Attack Came To Prominence In An Earlier Pandemic - Chess.com](#) and earned an Honorable Mention in this category.

**Personal Narrative – Online** – “Time to Take Up Correspondence Chess?” is a piece by John Hartmann with much information from Michael Buss, about the perks of taking up correspondence chess during covid that won the award. It can be found at - [Time to Take Up Correspondence Chess? | US Chess.org](#)

**Educational Lesson – Online** – Ray Linville’s piece on explaining to adults how to teach children to play chess can be found at - <https://www.chesskid.com/chess-teaching> and won the award

**Non-instructive Chess Video** – “The Magic of Chess” – by USChess from their scholastic championships won this award and can be found at - [\(529\) The Magic of Chess - YouTube](#)

**Twitter Feed** – The US Chess twitter feed one this award. They can be followed at - [US Chess \(@USChess\) / Twitter](#).

## Special Achievement

**Robert Basil Long, RIP** – Award Granted for this remembrance piece

written by Pete Tamburro, Glenn Petersen, Andrew Martin, and Frank Brady that appeared in *American Chess Magazine* #16.

**Atlantic Chess News** – Honorable Mention was given to this annual edition of Atlantic Chess News, put out by Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein and Pete Tamburro.

## Best Junior Achievements

**Junior Chess Print Article** – John Burke received 2 awards in this category. “4 Steps That Changed the World,” in *American Chess Magazine* won the award and his “Not So Wide Yet Quite Deep,” in *American Chess Magazine* won Honorable Mention.

**Junior Chess Online Article** – Christopher Yoo won this award for “[Christopher Yoo Goes Online at Sunway Sitges](#)” and Jonathan Martinez won Honorable Mention for “[Tuscon’s Carlos Botero Wins 2019 Amateur West Championship](#)”

**Junior Personal Narrative** – This award was won by Carissa Yip for “Chess Adventures with WGM Carissa Yip” in *Chess Life Kids*.

## Cramer Awards

These awards are open only to state organizations.

**State Championship Report** – Scott Varagona’s “Nearly Killed on Cloud Nine: My 2019 Alabama State Championship” won in this category.

**Scholastic Coverage in State** – New York’s High School League coverage on [www.magnusleague.org](http://www.magnusleague.org) won in this category.

**State Magazine/Newsletter** – Print: *North West Chess*, edited by Jeff Roland, and found at [Northwest Chess Magazine \(nwchess.com\)](http://Northwest Chess Magazine (nwchess.com)) beat *Atlantic Chess News*, which won an Honorable Mention.

**State Magazine/Newsletter – Online:** *Colorado Chess Informant*, edited by Fred Spell and found at <http://www.coloradochess.com/informants.shtml> bested *North West Chess*, edited by Jeff Roland, and found at [Northwest Chess Magazine \(nwchess.com\)](http://Northwest Chess Magazine (nwchess.com)). The latter received the Honorable Mention.

**Personal Narrative** – John Brezina’s “2019 Sinquefield Cup Report,” edged Varagona’s state championship report, which received an honorable mention.

**Best State Chapter Website** – Montana’s – <http://www.montanachess.org> by Gary Solomon won by the slimmest of margins over [ChessMaine: News](#) by Daniel DeLuca, the latter earning an Honorable Mention.

**Chess Keys:**  
*Did Methusela Play Chess?*  
By Rachel A Schechter

2018. It's Illinois Scholastic Chess at its best: The K-8 State Championships at the Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Normal, IL, sponsored by the BNASC. 500+ players.

Saturday noon. I step into the hotel lobby. Chess electric: charging, surging, energies merging. The players, the parents, the coaches, directors, the vendors. It's the ultimate chess connect. I configure my way to the ICA booth, handshakes, good wishes, tiptoe through the Redbird Ballroom Chess Arena then back to the lobby and straight into—a *red oak spiral stairwell*.

A spiral stairwell. Polished red oak. What a surprise. A fascinating structure. Old world grandeur. I begin to climb, impressed, what breadth. Half-way up I meet a young chess player. He sits alone—quiet, crestfallen, gazing through one of the multi-faceted windows. I recall him from one of the chess camps.

"Jeremiah Jackson, right?"

A glum nod.

"Are you okay?"

"I lost my first two rounds—in record time," he says flatly.

"What happened?"

"Does it matter? I was 950 a month ago, 900 now. After this, who knows?"

I should just go home..."

"We could do a post-mortem in skittles—"

"I *hate* that expression!" Jeremiah jumps up. "Post-Mortem! Is the *game* dead? Am I dead?"

"It's just a term—post game analysis—"

"Then why don't they *call* it that?" He sits back down. Anxious, sad. "I should just go home..."

"Who're you here with?" I ask.

"My mom, my little brother, my dad's away on business. My grandfather always comes to my tournaments but—" His voice cracks.

"What is it, honey?" I ask gently.

"He—he hasn't been feeling well. He's in the hospital. He had surgery. Mom says he'll be home soon."

I rummage through my travel bag.

"How about an orange juice?" I say.

"Okay."

"Isn't this an interesting staircase?" I muse. "You don't see many spiral staircases like—"

"I *love* the wood," Jeremiah says, suddenly animated. "It's like my first chess set. Grandpa made it around

five years ago. He has a workshop in our garage. I helped him—even though I was just a kid at the time.”

I laugh:

“And who are you now—Methusela?”

“No, I’m 11. Who’s Methusela?”

“Reportedly, he lived longer than anyone in the world. 969 years.”

“Really?”

“Really. There may be other sages who lived longer, but he’s the one on record.”

Jeremiah nods:

“You think my grandpa knows about Methusela? My grandpa carved *all* our chess pieces. We scored the board, imprinted the ranks and files, stained everything. We call it Old Hickory—*after Andrew Jackson*—grandpa’s favorite president. Same name as grandpa. And *he* played chess, too.”

“Did your grandpa teach you how to play chess?”

“Yes. We play every day. Just before he went into the hospital, he promised we’d carve a few new pieces.” Jeremiah smiles. “My little sister Michelle painted two of the pawns blue.” He grows quiet. “Grandpa said we should make a new king, too...”

Tears catch my throat.

“Why—why do you think he said that?” Jeremiah asks.

I swallow the tears, force a smile:

“In case your sister paints the old one

blue?”

“Yeah,” Jeremiah nods, “She’s weird like that.”

I take a deep breath, make a judgment call.

“Why don’t you call your grandpa now?” I suggest.

“You think so?”

“Sure. He’s probably waiting to hear from you.”

“Oh—I don’t have my cell phone.”

“We can use mine. But let me check with your mother first. What’s her number?”

Jeremiah’s Mom is relieved, happy. I get Jeremiah’s grandfather on the line:

“Special call from the Illinois State Chess Championship...”

Jeremiah grabs the phone, runs up the spiral:

“Hi Grandpa—you ever hear of a guy named Methusela?”

He’s out of earshot. I look through the windows, reflecting, refracting... After a few minutes, Jeremiah bounds back, clearly uplifted.

“I told him about Methusela,” he grins. “And about my two losses.”

I pocket the phone.

“What did he say?”

“He said we’re no quitters. Win, lose, draw—but we don’t quit.”

“Smart man, your grandfather.”

Jeremiah gulps down the rest of the orange juice.

“Well, thanks, I have to warm up for my next round—”

“Wait,” I say, pulling out a paper chess grid. “Let me show you something.”

He sits back down.

“You see this stairwell?”

“Yeah.”

“You know what a spiral is?”

“A perfectly thrown pass into the end zone?”

I smile:

“That, too. But look at this chess grid...” I position my pen at point center and draw a spiral that traverses every square then continues off the board.

“Is it a map?” asks Jeremiah. “What does it mean?”

“It’s more like a **key**...”

“To what?”

“Infinity. It means...nothing ever really ends...chess...life...it just evolves. Yes, decisions are made, games are called, people move up and down, but it continues. It’s infinite...”

Jeremiah considers this.

“Is that how my grandpa talks with grandma even though she died before I was born?”

“Quite possibly,” I say.

Our eyes meet in a brief eternal clash—**that indelible moment when**

**youth grasps its first sad truth—and survives.** I give him the spiral chess grid.

“You think Methusela’s on the spiral?” Jeremiah asks, pocketing the grid.

“Yep, somewhere near the top.”

“You think he played chess?”

I smile.

“How do you think he lived so long? Checkers?”

Jeremiah hugs me, spies a few of his teammates in the lobby, waves:

“Wait up—wait for me!”

He flashes me a quick grin, races down the spiral.

I didn’t see Jeremiah Jackson again until the following day, late Sunday afternoon during the awards ceremony. Turns out he rallied to win three of his next four rounds to break even. I applaud as his team runs on stage to nab a trophy. This fine young man *and his grandfather Andrew* had clearly won the day.

.....

Names fictious....to protect our youth.



My Affiliate FB Treasure Chess photo

**ALEKHINE'S LIFE LESSON, AND CHESS AFTER 65**  
**(Dedicated to Pablo Moran)**  
By J. Eugene Salomon

**“Coincidence is God’s way of remaining anonymous “**  
**- Einstein**

My American readers who have never heard of Pablo Moran (or of Alekhine in Gijon, for that matter), may ask, what is the relevance of my short interaction with the World Champion? And furthermore, why do I dedicate this article to Pablo Moran? I feel linked to both men by multiple coincidences and my tribute to Pablo Moran comes at the end of the article.

### **Alekhine’s Life Lessons**

I always say that my life has been 93 years of coincidence intertwined with 80 years of passion for chess. During all those years, Alekhine’s advice did, more than once, influence critical decisions about sacrificing my love for chess for the sake of my career and my family.

My first meeting with Alekhine was in 1944. I was 15 years old, and a ‘gofer’ in the original Gijon Tournament that year, helping the organizers to make sure the chess pieces and the clocks were in place, etc. Knowing that I would be helping with the pieces, I begged my mother for a new chess set...and placed my new pieces on Alekhine’s board!



Showing my co-authors of [Forty Years of Friendship, 100 Games of Chess](#), Wayne Conover and Steve Pozarek the game I had played with Alekhine 70 years before...the Knight in my hand was for  $45...d3$  with a draw!

The World Champion played with my pieces in that tournament and remarkably enough, I'm looking at those pieces as I author this article. They have traveled with me for 78 years, from Gijon to Madrid to Havana to Brooklyn, NY to New Jersey to Florida and finally, back again to New Jersey.

In those days, my uncle Dr. Casimiro Rugarcia (a romantic poet and chess player), was Alekhine's physician in Gijon; and it was through him that I met my idol, the World Champion. I was privileged to meet Alekhine and play a memorable game against him; but most importantly, to receive his advice about chess and life: "Young man, chess is not something to which one should dedicate his whole life..."

His words impacted my life. They were the reason why, after retiring from a successful business career and having a family (4 children and seven grandchildren that make me incredibly proud), I decided to again pursue my true passion, chess, with the same intensity as I had done as a teenager.

In addition, the simultaneous game I played against him taught me a valuable lesson about the value of the Queen-Knight team as a formidable attacking tool. The lesson was valuable because I learned forever to always keep my Queen-knight team. Exchanging Queens with 45... ♖d3+ was a mistake. If I had played 45... ♘d3 it would have been a draw.

For many years while coaching high school teams or giving lectures here in the U.S, the subject of Q-N combinations and my story with Alekhine (both his game and his advice) were frequent topics.

## Alekhine, Alexander – Salomon, J. Eugene [C30]

Clock simultaneous (10 boards), 08.1944

Alekhine was not only the reigning World Champion at the time this game was played, he was also my idol. I had played over all of his games in awe. This game was published at the time, and the analysis was that the bishop-vs.-knight ending should be a draw. Computers today (as Alekhine did then) know better.

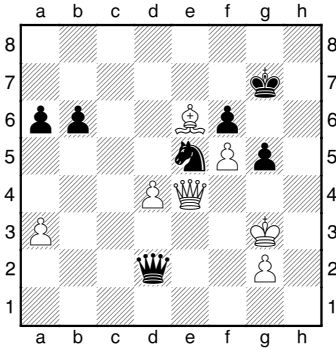
**1. e4 e5 2. ♘c4 ♘f6 3. d3 ♘c6 4. f4 d6 5. ♘f3 ♘e7 6. 0-0 ♘g4 7. c3 0-0 8. b4 exf4 9. ♘xf4 ♘e5 10. ♘b3 ♘g6 11. ♘e3 d5**

It was over seventy years ago, but I clearly remember that with the move 11...d5, I felt that I had just equalized.

**12. ♘bd2 dxe4 13. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 14. dxe4 ♖d6 15. ♘d4 ♘f6 16. ♖d2 ♖ad8 17. ♖ad1 ♖e7 18. ♖e3 ♘xd4 19. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 20. ♘xd4 a6 21. ♖g3 ♘c8 22. ♖e1 ♘e5 23. ♘f5 ♖f6 24. ♖f1 ♖h8 25. ♖e3 b6 26. h3 g6 27. ♖h6 ♖e8 28. ♘e3 ♖g7 29. ♖h4 g5 30. ♖g3 ♘e6 31. ♘f5 ♘xf5 32. exf5 f6 33. ♖d1 ♖e7 34. h4 h6 35. h×g5 h×g5 36. ♖e3 ♖d8 37. ♖d4 ♖g7 38. a3 ♖h8 39. ♘e6 ♖d8 40. ♖e4 c5 41. b×c5?! ♖×c5 42. ♖f1 ♖xd4 43. c×d4 ♖c1+ 44. ♖f2 ♖d2+ 45. ♖g3**

After 40 moves, the position was dead even, according to Fritz. By then, Alekhine was no longer walking from table to table. He was just sitting across the board from me, as he had already defeated his nine other opponents. The diagram shows the position where I lost the game with 45. ... ♖d3+?. This move was played out of

panic; I visualized White's 46. ♖b7+ and 47. ♕f7 with checkmate to follow. One should never panic in chess. White could ill afford to move his queen away, as he would be checkmated first! As *Fritz* demonstrates, 45. ... ♗d3 draws: 46. ♗d5 ♖h6 47. ♖h2 ♗f2 48. ♖e8 ♗g4+ 49. ♖h3 ♗f2+ etc.



45. ... ♗d3+?!

I could have drawn here with 45. ... ♗d3!!, keeping the powerful Queen and Knight tandem!

46. ♖×d3 ♗×d3 47. ♗c4 ♗e1 48. ♗×a6 ♗c2 49. ♖f3 ♗×d4+ 50. ♖e4 ♗c2 51. a4 ♖f7 52. ♗b7 ♖e7 53. ♖d3! ♗a3 54. ♖c3 ♖d6 55. ♗a6 ♗b1+ 56. ♖c2 ♗a3+ 57. ♖b2 b5 58. ♖×a3 b×a4 59. g4 ♖e5 60. ♖×a4 1-0

Many of my combinations over the years have involved the Q-N team. Here are three examples that come to mind:

My game against I.M Rogelio Ortega-Havana 1952:

**Ortega, Rogelio – Salomon, J. Eugene [E67]** Olympiad Qualifying

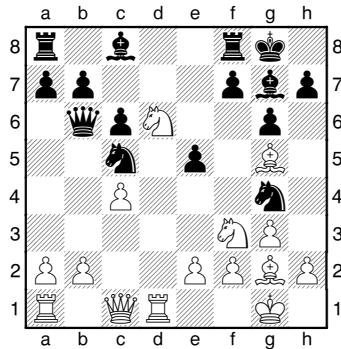
Tournament, 1952

IM Ortega was a leading player in Cuba in the late 1940s. This was an exciting game for me!

1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♗f3 ♗g7 4. g3 d6 5. ♗c3 ♗bd7 6. ♗g2 0-0 7. 0-0 e5 8. d×e5 d×e5 9. ♗e3 c6 10. ♖c1 ♗g4 11. ♗g5 ♖c7 12. ♗d1 ♖b6

Seemingly losing a tempo but starting a nice little combination.

13. ♗e4 ♗c5 14. ♗d6?



Falling for the trap!

14. ... ♗×f2! 15. ♖f1 (15. ♖×f2 ♗d3+ 16. ♖f1 ♖f2#; 15. ♖e1 e4! is winning according to *Fritz*, but not 15. ♖ ♗cd3? 16. c5! ♖b4 17. exd3 ♗×d3 18. ♖c2 ♗×e1 19. ♖×e1+/-) 15. ♖ ♗g4 16. ♖h1 e4 17. b4 ♗d3 18. exd3 exf3 19. ♗×f3 ♗f2+ 20. ♖×f2 ♖×f2 21. ♗g2 ♖d4 22. ♗×c8 ♖×a1 23. ♖×a1 ♗×a1 24. ♗d6 f6 25. ♗h6 ♖fe8!?

Ahead by two exchanges, Black can afford to return one to simplify the ending. White declines.

26. ♗f3 ♖e7 27. b5 ♖d8 28. c5 ♖×d6 29. c×d6



This time White can't refuse!

29. ... ♖d7 30. bxc6 bxc6 31. ♗xc6 ♗xd6 32. ♗b5 ♖f7 33. ♗c4+ ♖e8 34. ♗e3 ♗d4 35. ♗f4 ♖b6 36. ♖g2 ♗e5 37. ♗e3 ♖b7 38. h4 ♖d8

Waiting to reach the time control.

39. g4 ♖e8 40. ♖f3 ♖f8 41. ♖e4 ♖g7 42. ♖d5 h5 43. g×h5 g×h5 44. ♖e6?

With the two bishops and a centralized king, White is giving a tough fight. But here he should be thinking about defense with 44. ♗f2.

44. ... ♗g3 45. d4 ♖b1 46. ♖f5 ♗×h4 47. d5 ♗g3 48. ♗d4 ♗e5 (48. ... ♖b4!? 49. ♗×f6+ ♖f7 50. ♗b3 ♖f4+ wins a piece) 49. ♗×e5 f×e5 50. d6 ♖f8 51. ♖×e5 ♖e8 52. ♗d3 ♖g1 53. ♗c4 h4 54. a4 h3 55. d7+ ♖d8! 0-1

The game against Mitchel Klug Atlantic Open 1974:

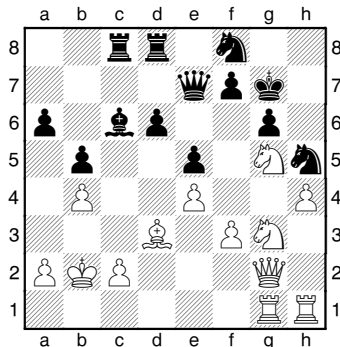
**Salomon, J. Eugene – Klug, Mitchell [B08]** Atlantic Open, 12.1974

This game offers an example of the power of a discovered check.

When I played this game, I clearly visualized 28. ♖f5++ when playing 21. ♗e2. I knew in my heart that Black would be unable to resist the temptation of 25. ... ♗f4 (the "I'll attack his queen, he will have to move it" syndrome that's at the root of so many combinations).

1. ♗f3 ♗f6 2. d4 g6 3. ♗f4 d6 4. ♗c3 ♗g7 5. e4 ♗bd7 6. ♖d2 0-0 7. ♗h6 e5 8. ♗×g7 ♖×g7 9. h4 h5 10.

0-0-0 ♖e7 11. d5 ♗c5 12. ♗g5 a6 13. b4!? ♗cd7 14. f3 ♖d8 15. ♗c4 b5 16. ♗d3 ♗b8 17. ♖b2 ♗b7 18. g4 ♗bd7 19. ♖dg1 ♖ac8 20. ♖g2 ♗f8 21. ♗e2 c5 22. d×c6 ♗×c6 23. g×h5 ♗×h5 24. ♗g3



Inviting the following move, which looks so natural and strong.

24. ... ♗f4?

Except that it loses! 24. ... ♗×g3 is necessary.

25. ♗f5+! g×f5

25... ♖f6 was the best, although it does not serve to prevent the loss of material... and it would also deprive us of a beautiful final finish.

26. ♗e6+ ♖f6 27. ♖g5+ ♖×e6 28. ♖×f5# 1-0

To conclude this section, here is the position of one of my favorite combinations highlighting the Queen-Knight coordination, in a game against the strong master, and my good friend, Eugene Shapiro.

**Salomon, J. Eugene – Shapiro, Eugene P. [A02]**  
 Westfield CC Championship, 05.1973

1. f4 ♖f6 2. ♗f3 c5 3. e3 ♗c6 4. b3 g6 5. ♖b2 ♖g7 6. ♖b5 0-0 7. 0-0 ♜b6 8. ♜e2 a6 9. ♖xc6 ♜xc6 10. d3 d6 11. e4 b5 12. ♗bd2 ♖b8 13. c4 ♖d7 14. ♗g5

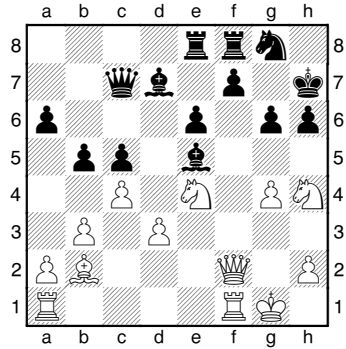
Inviting the weakening 14. ... h6.

14. ... h6 15. ♗gf3 ♖be8 16. ♗h4 e6 17. g4 (17. e5!? ♗h5 18. ♗e4+/-) 17... ♜h7 18. e5! (still good!) 18. ... ♗g8 19. ♗e4 dxe5 20. fxe5 ♜c7 21. ♜f2!?

21. ♗d6 was very tempting as it would win either the exchange or a pawn. However, I was concerned that 21. ... f5 might give Black counter chances.

Anyhow, I could not resist the temptation of a possible queen sacrifice!

21. ... ♖xe5?



22. ♜xf7+! ♖xf7 23. ♖xf7+ ♖g7 24. ♖xg7+ ♜h8 25. ♗xg6# 1-0



Gene, Joshua Anderson and Diane Dahl. Joshua and Diane helped Gene with aspects of this article.

## Chess after 65

My 80-year-long career as an amateur chess master is full of coincidences and anecdotes, but four of the most important, those nearest and dearest to my heart, are these:

### 1. **Playing against chess prodigies**

I was tremendously fortunate to have played against three Child Chess Prodigies GM Arturito Pomar (age 12) , GM Joel Benjamin (age 11) , and GM Gabriel Sargisian (age 12). When I played against Pomar in 1946, the age difference between us was only 3 years, but with Benjamin in 1972, I was 33 years older than him. By the time I played Sargisian in 1998, I was his senior at age 70 by an incredible 58 years! To follow the pattern of a prodigy every 26 years, I wonder who I will play in 2024? I hope I can find one willing to challenge me year after next- it would be wonderful to play again at age 95-96!

### 2. **Sharing team success and camaraderie**

I have had the privilege of being a member of several amazing teams--1943-4- Casino Team of Gijon- I went to play against our arch-rivals in Oviedo. I won my game and became a hero. -1946- Club Maudes, Madrid Champions (with F.J. Perez as first Board, Victor Queimadelos second, myself on third Board and Juan Manuel Fuentes fourth Board )-1952- Cubanaleco Chess Club- Havana Champions (I was again on third Board with Cuban super champion at the time, Juan Gonzalez as Board # 1 and Dr. Broderman as Board # 2). -Late1952- The Capablanca Chess Club Team (Havana) was invited to San Salvador (Central America) to play against a team from Guatemala and the Republic of El Salvador. My friend I.M. Eldis Cobo Arteaga was Board #1; Miguel Aleman Board 2; Spanish Master Rafael Saborido # 3, I was Board #4, and Rafael Baquedano #5.

After 16 years I returned to chess, and soon thereafter, resumed playing on teams,

-1970's- Westfield Chess Club Team- League Champions ( in New Jersey)

-2020- Toms River Chess Club, "Oldest Team in Town"

### 3. **There are two unique team performances in the U.S. Amateur Chess Team Tournament 40 years apart that warrant a special mention: Playing as a family team in 1980 ( "King Salomon and his 3 Knights") and again in 2020 as Captain of Toms River Chess Club's "Oldest Team in Town"**

In 1980, my oldest son, Gene (17), was attending Christian Brothers Academy who had just been New Jersey State High School Champions for two years. (This made me doubly proud, because I was the “Volunteer Coach” of their team.) My second son, Henry (13), was also a promising youngster, and our youngest son, Robbie (6) was, because of his age, the star of our team, “King Salomon and his 3 Knights”. I was as surprised as the reporter by the responses of little Robbie to the question in the interview:

Reporter : Robbie, I understand you like chess?

Reply ; Yep!

Reporter : I guess it is a game of concentration?

Reply : Yep!

Reporter : And Robbie, do you know what concentration is?

Reply : Yep! You sit on your hands and shut up

Many years later in 2012, Robbie's son, Ben, was in one of the chess teams at Columbia Prep taught by GM Michael Rohde, GM Joel Benjamin and Sophia Rohde. I was invited to give a presentation there about Chess and I chose my favorite subject: Alekhine's Life Lessons to Me. My audience was mainly in the 8 to 11 year old bracket, and they were interested throughout, but the one lesson they surely learned was their teammate's father's definition of 'chess concentration' : “You sit on your hands and shut-up” That was the loudest laugh of the afternoon.

Forty years later, in 2020, it was the 50th Anniversary of the U.S Chess Team Tournament, and the 54th year of life and success of my club, the Toms River Chess Club (in which I was quite active). Talking with Steve Shoshin (our club president), and Steve Doyle (organizer of the U.S Amateur Team), we thought that it would be nice to organize a celebration of 50 years of New Jersey Chess, highlighting both the Amateur Team Tournaments and the remarkable history of our club. So as always happens when you propose something...I was elected to organize the event. The plan was to have a videotaped panel discussion with me as the Moderator/Organizer:

I secured “my” keynote speaker, Steve Doyle- past President of the U.S.C.F, past V.P of FIDE, one of the first presidents of the Toms River Chess Club, and the organizer of the Team Tournament for the past 40 year. Then as panelists, I got commitments from Dr. Richard Lewis (a chess teacher for more than 30 years, including volunteer work in Africa to teach children with AIDS), Pete Tamburro (historian and chess author); our late friend Glen Petersen (a natural born chess organizer), and Leroy Dubeck, (treasurer of the Chess Foundation). Fortunately, Leroy thought that my initiative was very much in line with what the U.S.C.F was doing to improve historical records, and offered to finance the videotaping.

With all that arranged, I decided to return to playing chess after 20 years to celebrate New Jersey's history with my modest contribution- entering a team of old timers- "The Oldest Team in Town". Our ages ranged from 61 to 91, making the average age of our team 71 years old! All the players had to be over 60 years of age and have enough Team tournament experience. I am proud to say that I did not lose a game and won an award for being the oldest participant, at age 91 ..I selected two friends from the Westfield of the 1970's (FM Mark Pinto and Dr. Rich Lewis) and 2 recent friends from the Toms River Chess Club (Ed Knowles and Gregory Coats) (Sadly, before this wonderful celebration could take place, COVID came in and put the whole world in check. The idea is just waiting for better times ahead.)

4. **My interview in Madrid in 2017 with chess author/historian Miguel Angel Nepomuceno for his articles about me in the prestigious web magazine "Zenda":**

This interview was one of the most remarkable coincidences of my life. I learned during the interview that among the many things that Miguel and I shared was the same birthday 20 years apart, and the fact that Pablo "Pablito" Moran (my lifelong friend, and a good friend of his) had been the deciding factor in Nepomuceno's decision to become a journalist. In a way, one could say that this April 2017 conversation was the inspiration for this article and my subsequent book, making Pablito indirectly responsible for my becoming an author as well.

My readers may or may not believe me, but I know that both Pablito's and Alekhine's spirits were smiling during the 3-hour taped interview, as we talked at length about both of them and our inter-relation. You may read this wonderful interview in Miguel Angel's series of masterful articles: "From Alekhine to Kasparov: How to play blindfolded on the board of life". (link to the articles in Spanish):

[http://www.historiadelajedrezespanol.es/articulos/salomon\\_eng.htm](http://www.historiadelajedrezespanol.es/articulos/salomon_eng.htm)

**Articles by Miguel Angel Nepomuceno:**



Several months later, I received a letter from a distant cousin from Germany commenting on my biography!!...It seems that a bilingual lady in Peru had read the article and sent it to Kasparov, who knew me. He apparently decided to circulate the article among his social media followers (287,000 ?)...That's how my cousin learned about me :-)

I will leave the rest of the anecdotes and the "chess I played on the board of life" for a book. Today, after this brief trip down Memory Lane, I will conclude with the last hurrahs of my chess career, illustrated by 7 games played at age 68-70. I hope that this article may inspire some retired players who enjoyed competition in their younger years to come back and play. You may be surprised as to how enjoyable an experience it may be!

a) Game vs. I.M. John Watson—  
World Open 3/7/96

**L.M. Salomon, J. Eugene - I.M. Watson, John [E73]** World Open, 07.1996

1. d4 ♟f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♞c3 ♞g7 4. e4 d6 5. ♞e2 0-0 6. ♞g5 ♞a6 7. ♞d2 e5 8. d5 ♞e8 9. ♞d1 ♞h5 10. ♞xh5 g×h5 11. ♞h6 f5! 12. ♞xg7 ♞xg7 13. e×f5 ♞x×f5 14. ♞ge2 ♞g6 15. h4 ♞c5 16. 0-0 h6 17. b3 ♞g4

17. ... a5! or 17. ... ♞f7? deserved consideration. Winning the h-pawn is not that significant.

18. ♞e3 (18. f4!?) 18. ... ♞xh4 19. ♞g3+ ♞g4 20. f4 ♞xg3 21. ♞xg3 ♞d3 22. ♞f2 h4 23. ♞ge2 c6 24. f×e5 d×e5 25. ♞d1 ♞g6 26. d×c6 b×c6 27. ♞d6 ♞x×f2 28. ♞x×f2 ♞d3+ 29. ♞g1 c5 30. ♞d7+ ♞f6 31. ♞h2 ♞g5 32. ♞g1!= ♞f4?

Black has wasted his early advantage and now makes a mistake.

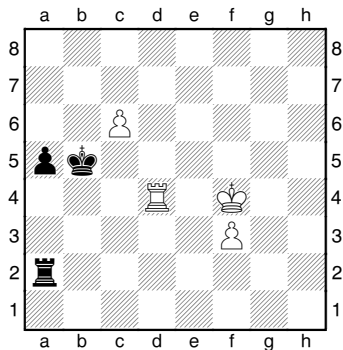
33. ♞f3+ ♞f6 34. ♞xh4

Regaining the pawn with a much better position.

34. ... ♞e8 35. ♞d6+ ♞f7 36. ♞e4 ♞e6 37. ♞d5 ♞c6 38. ♞x×e5 ♞d8?

38... ♞xe4 39. ♞xe4 ♞f6+/- . One can understand Black's desire to activate the rook. But now he is just lost.

39. ♞x×c5 ♞g5 40. ♞e2 ♞d4 41. ♞f2+ ♞e8 42. ♞f3 ♞x×f3+ 43. g×f3 ♞f7 44. ♞e4 ♞d3 45. ♞d2 ♞f6 46. ♞g3 ♞g5 47. ♞e2 h5 48. ♞e4+ ♞f5 49. ♞d2 ♞g5 50. ♞e5+ ♞f6 51. ♞xh5! ♞x×d2 52. ♞h6+ ♞e5 53. ♞x×c6 ♞x×a2 54. b4 a6 55. ♞b6 ♞d4 56. c5 ♞d5 57. ♞f4 a5 58. ♞d6+! ♞c4 59. c6 ♞x×b4 60. ♞d4+ ♞b5



Now there is only one move that wins for White!

61. ♞c4!

While it is true that 61. ♞c4 is a good move, what I was most proud about this game is that it was at move 58. ♞d6! when I visualized the entire sequence after 61. ♞c4! It would be almost forced up to the end with 65. ♞d6...

Very nicely played! Black's rook is

prevented from getting behind the pawn.

61. ...♖h2 62. ♖c1 ♖h8 63. c7 ♖c8  
64. ♗e5 a4 65. ♗d6 1-0

One of my best positional games with a nice ending. It was a great feeling – at age 68 I could still beat a strong International Master... once in a while!

b) Game vs. Russian Master Yefim Treger (1997-National Chess Congress)

**L.M. Salomon, J. Eugene – F.M. Treger, Yefim [E73]**  
National Chess Congress, 11.1997

1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♗c3 ♖g7 4. e4 d6 5. ♗e2 O-O 6. ♗g5 ♗a6 7. ♗d2 e5 8. d5 ♗c5 9. f3 a5 10. g4 h6 11. ♗c3 h5 12. h3 ♗h7?! (12...a4!?) 13. h4 ♗f6

This might be OK if white had played 14. g5. But White can simply allow Black to capture the h-pawn, as it opens lines to Black's king.

14. O-O-O! ♗xh4 15. g×h5 g5

Black keeps the lines closed, at least temporarily, but is left with a weakened position.

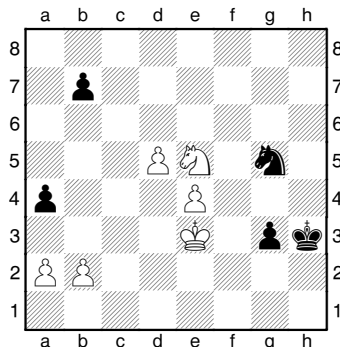
16. ♗h3 ♗h8 17. ♖dg1+- ♖g8 18. ♗f2 ♗xf2 19. ♗xf2 f6 20. ♗xc5 dxc5 21. ♗f1 ♖a6 22. ♗h3 ♗xh3 23. ♖xh3 ♗d7 24. ♗h2 a4 25. ♖hg3 ♖b6 26. ♗f2 ♖b4 27. ♗xc5 ♗d6 28. ♗xd6 cxd6 29. ♗b5 ♖xc4+ 30. ♗b1 ♖d8 31. ♖c1 ♖xc1+ 32. ♗xc1 ♗g7 33. ♖g2 ♗h6 34. ♖c2 ♖d7

Black has defended well, and much of White's advantage has dissipated.

35. ♖c7 ♖xc7+ 36. ♗xc7 f5 37. ♗e8 fxe4 38. fxe4 ♗xh5 39. ♗d2 ♗g4

The straightforward 40...g4 was better.

40. ♗e3 ♗h3 41. ♗xd6 g4 42. ♗f7 g3 43. ♗xe5 ♗g5?



(43. ... g2 44. ♗f3 ♗f6 45. ♗g1+ ♗h2 46. ♗e2 ♗h5 47. d6 ♗g3 48. d7 ♗xe2 49. d8♗ g1♗+ 50. ♗e2 ♗g2+ is a probable draw)

44. ♗g6! ♗g4 45. ♗f4 ♗f7 46. b3 a3 47. ♗e2 b6 48. ♗g1 ♗e5 49. d6 ♗d7

Black seems lost in any event, but this makes White's task easier.

50. ♗f3 g2 51. e5 ♗f5 52. ♗f2 ♗e6 53. ♗xg2 ♗c5 54. b4 ♗d3 55. b5 ♗b4 56. ♗d4+ ♗d7 57. ♗f3 ♗xa2 58. ♗c2 ♗c3 59. ♗xa3 ♗e6 60. ♗e3 ♗d5+ 61. ♗e4 ♗c3+ 62. ♗d4 ♗e2+ 63. ♗e3 ♗c3 64. ♗d3 ♗d5 65. ♗d4 ♗f4 66. ♗c4 ♗e2+ 67. ♗d3 ♗f4+ 68. ♗e4 ♗d5 69. ♗d4 ♗f4 70. ♗xb6 ♗e2+ 71. ♗c4 ♗g1 72. d7 ♗e7 73. e6 ♗f3 74. ♗d5 ♗g5 75. ♗c8+ ♗d8 76. ♗d6 ♗xe6 77. ♗xe6 1-0

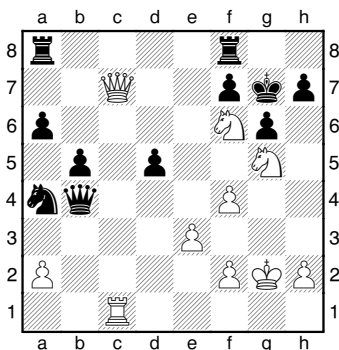
A very well played ending!

c) AGAINST F.M. Lenar Murzin—  
WORLD OPEN 1998

**Salomon, J. Eugene – Murzan, Lenar [E05]** World Open, 06.1998

This game was published by Steve Doyle and Pete Tamburro in the Newark *Star-Ledger*. I loved their closing comment: "This game is a joyous celebration of original attacking chess. Bravo!"

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. ♖f3 ♗e7 5. ♗g2 0-0 6. 0-0 dxc4 7. ♖a4 a6 8. ♖xc4 b5 9. ♖c2 ♗b7 10. ♗f4 ♗d6 11. ♖bd2 ♖bd7 12. ♖g5!? ♗xf4 13. gxf4 ♗xg2 14. ♖xg2 c5 15. dxc5 ♖xc5 16. ♗fd1 ♖e7 17. b4! ♖a4 18. ♖de4 g6 19. ♗ac1 ♖d5 20. e3 ♖xb4?! 21. ♗xd5! exd5 22. ♖f6+ ♖g7 23. ♖c7!



♖e6+ is threatened. The knight on f6 cannot be captured because of 24. ♖e5#.

23. ...♖b2 24. ♖xd5 ♗ac8 25. ♖e7 ♗xc1? 26. ♖e6+ ♖h6 27. ♖g5# 1-0

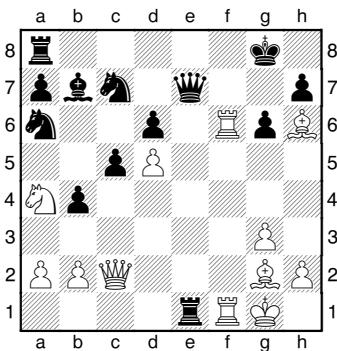
Even though computer analysis (*Fritz*) may show a couple of errors here and there, I'm still proud of the basic combinational concept of this game. Sometimes computers find mistakes where human minds see only beauty!!

d) Game vs Gabriel Sargissian  
(World Champion –12 years old)

**Salomon, J. Eugene – Sargissian, Gabriel [A62]** V Linares Open, 01.1998

My opponent in this game was the World Under-14 Champion at the time. He has since become a grandmaster with a rating well up in the 2600 range.

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. g3 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. ♖c3 g6 7. ♖f3 ♗g7 8. ♗g2 0-0 9. 0-0 ♖a6 10. ♖d2 ♖c7 11. ♖c4 ♖fe8 12. e4 b5 13. ♖a5 b4 14. ♖c6 ♖d7 15. ♖a4 ♖a6 16. ♖c2 f6 17. f4 ♖ec7 18. ♗e3 ♗e8 19. e5?! fxe5 20. fxe5 ♗xe5 21. ♖xe5 ♗xe5 22. ♗h6 ♗b7 23. ♗f6 ♖e7 24. ♗af1 ♗e1?



The rook on f1 may be pinned, but it still participates in the attack, allowing the following beautiful shot.

25. ♗xg6+!! hxg6 26. ♖xg6+ ♖h8 27. ♗g5 ♗xf1+ 28. ♖xf1 ♗g8 29. ♗f6+ ♗g7 30. ♖h6+ ♖g8 31. ♗xe7 ♗xe7 32. ♖g6+ ♖h8 33. ♖f6+ ♗g7 34. ♖xd6 1-0

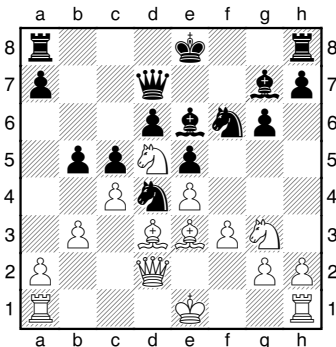
This combination was published in *Chess Informant* 71, page 356.



e) Game vs F.M. Victor Pupols at the National Open in 1995

**Salomon, J. Eugene - Pupols, Viktors (2240) [A42]**  
National Open Las Vegas (6), 1995

1.d4 g6 2.c4 ♘g7 3.♗c3 d6 4.e4 ♗c6 5.d5 ♗d4 6.♙e3 c5 7.♗d2 e5 8.d×e6 f×e6 9.♗ge2 e5 10.♗g3 ♙e6 11.♙d3 ♗f6 12.♗d5 ♗d7 13.f3 b5 14.b3



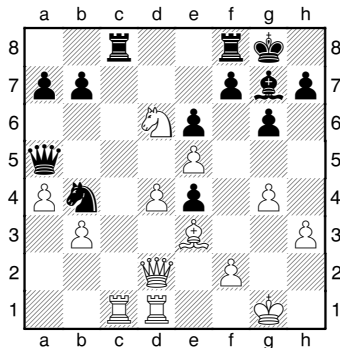
14. ... ♗×d5 15.e×d5 ♙f5 16.♙×d4 ♙×d3 17.♗×d3 b×c4 18.b×c4 c×d4 19.♗e4 0-0 20.0-0 ♖ac8 21.♖ab1 ♙h6 22.♖b4 ♗c7 23.♖fb1 ♙e3+ 24.♗f1 a5 25.♖a4 ♗d7 26.♖×a5 ♖×f3+ 27.g×f3 ♗h3+ 28.♗e2 ♗g2+ 29.♗d1 ♗×f3+ 30.♗c2 ♗g2+ 31.♗b3 ♖b8+ 32.♖b5 ♖a8 33.♖b2 ♗h1 34.♖b1 ♗×h2 35.a3 ♗h3 36.♖d1 ♗g7 37.♖b7+ ♗h6 38.a4 ♗g2 39.♗c2 ♗h3 1-0

f) Game vs. L.M. Jerry Hanken at theWorld Open in 1997

**Salomon, J. Eugene - Hanken, Jerome B [B20]**  
World Open Philadelphia, 04.07.1997

1.d4 g6 2.g3 ♙g7 3.♙g2 c5 4.c3 ♗f6

5.e4 c×d4 6.c×d4 0-0 7.♗c3 d6 8.♗ge2 ♗c6 9.0-0 ♙d7 10.h3 ♗b6 11.b3 ♖ad8 12.♙e3 ♗a6 13.♖c1 ♗b4 14.♗d2 ♙b5 15.♗×b5 ♗×b5 16.♗c3 ♗a6 17.♖fd1± ♖c8 18.g4 e6 19.a4 ♗a5 20.♗b5 d5 21.e5 ♗e4 22.♙×e4 d×e4 23.♗d6



White has completely outplayed Black and has a winning position.

23...♖×c1 24.♖×c1 ♗c6 25.♗×a5 ♗×a5 26.b4 ♗c6 27.b5 ♗e7

Or 27...♗a5 28.♗×e4 a6 29.b6 ♖b8 30.♖c7 and White dominates.

28.♖c7 ♗d5 29.♖×b7 ♖a8 30.♖×f7 ♗c3 31.♖c7 ♗×a4 32.♖c8+

Simplifying makes sense, but Black is so helpless that White could continue with 32. ♗×e4 and 33. ♗c5 without risk.

32...♖×c8 33.♗×c8 ♙f8 34.♗×a7 ♗f7 35.d5 e×d5 36.b6 ♗c5 37.♗b5 ♗b7 38.♗c7 ♗e7 39.♙g5+ ♗d7 40.e6+ ♗c6

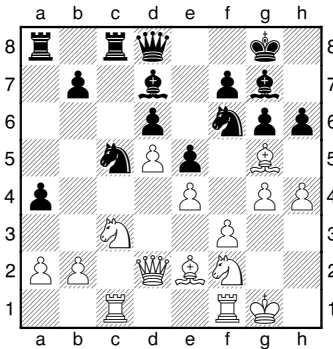
40...♗d6 41.♙f6 ♗c5 might have offered a little more resistance, but after 42.g5 White just brings up his King. The pawn on e6 is immune because if 42...♗×e6? 43.♙e5+! is a pretty win for White!

41.e7 ♖×e7 42.♗×e7 d4 43.♗f6 d3  
 44.♗g5 ♜×b6 45.♘d5+ ♜c5 46.♘f6  
 ♘d6 47.♞f1 h5 48.g×h5 g×h5  
 49.♞e1 1-0

g) Game vs. N.M. Norman Rogers at  
 the World Open in 1997

**Salomon, J. Eugene - Rogers,  
 Norman [E73]**  
 World Open Philadelphia, 07.1997

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6  
 5.♗e2 0-0 6.♗g5 c6 7.♞d2 ♘bd7  
 8.g4 e5 9.d5 ♘c5 10.f3 c×d5 11.c×d5  
 a5 12.h4 a4 13.♘h3 ♗d7 14.♘f2  
 ♞a5 15.♘cd1 ♞c7 16.♞c1 ♞fc8  
 17.0-0 ♞d8 18.♘c3 h6?!



19.♗e3

Fritz sees no reason why White can't  
 take the pawn on h6.

19...♘e8 20.♞g2 h5 21.♞h1 h×g4  
 22.f×g4 f5 23.g×f5 g×f5 24.♗g5

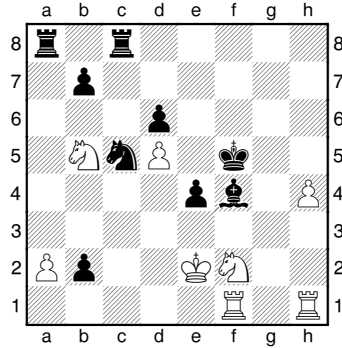
24.e×f5!? with a big advantage for  
 White.

24...♘f6 25.♗×f6 ♞×f6 26.♞g5  
 ♞f7 27.♞×f6+ ♞×f6 28.e×f5 ♗×f5  
 29.♗g4 ♗h6 30.♞cf1 ♗f4 31.♗×f5

♞×f5 32.♞f3 a3 33.♘b5?!

33.♘ce4=

33...e4+ 34.♞e2 a×b2+-



35.♘h3 ♘d3

35...♞xa2! 36.♞×f4+ ♞e5 37.♞e3 ♞a1  
 38.♞hf1 threatening ♞f5 mate!  
 38...♞×f1 39.♞×f1 ♘a4 40.♞d2 e3+ wins.

36.♘×f4 ♘×f4+ 37.♞e3 ♞a3+?!

37... ♞e5!

38.♘×a3 ♞c3+ 39.♞d2 ♞×a3  
 40.♞c2 ♞×a2 41.h5 ♞e5

41...e3!?

42.h6 ♞a8 43.h7 ♘×d5 44.♞×b2  
 ♞h8 45.♞h5+ ♞e6 46.♞h6+ ♞e5  
 47.♞h5+ ♞e6 48.♞h6+ ♞e7

48...♞e5 49.♞f7 e3 50.♞c2 ♞d4  
 51.♞h4+ ♞c5 52.♞×b7+-

49.♞g1 e3 50.♞c2 ♘f6 51.♞g7+

An exciting combinational game and  
 ending!

1-0

## Dedication to Pablo Moran

This article is dedicated to the memory of my best chess-friend ever, the prolific chess author Pablo "Pablito" Moran, with whom I shared Alekhine's life in our town of Gijon, Spain, in 1944 when "the Genius" was the central figure in the birth of the Gijon International Tournaments. For me, the two men are inextricably linked.

I dedicate this article to Pablito because I sense his inspiration whenever I write about Alekhine, or about chess. The root of our friendship transcends the chess frontiers and goes to our life as teenagers, sharing our Cuban heritage, our life's philosophy and "our" Parque de Begona and Casino de la Union de los Gremios in Gijon. Pablito was also my "successor" at the Club Maudes in Madrid when I left Spain for Havana in November 1947!

Pablito and I participated in the 1947 IV Gijon International together...and our friendship continued for life. Alekhine inspired Pablito to author a beautiful book, [La Agonía de un Genio \(A. Alekhine: Agony of a Chess Genius](#), McFarland Publishing), and the game I played against the World Champion in 1944 (in a 10-board simultaneous exhibition with time control) was commented on by Pablo in that book.

In addition to the pieces with which Alekhine played in 1944, on the desk to my right are several books that Pablito dedicated to me during some of the many times that we met in Spain over the years.

I will never forget his book about Bobby Fischer...It was June of 1972, and he had just published it. I was on vacation in Gijon and he autographed it for me: *"A Eugenio Salomon, un amigo como no hay otro, como prueba de cariño, de afecto y como agradecimiento por lo mucho que me ayudó para escribir el presente libro. Y como prueba de que jamás le olvida el autor"*. ("To Eugene Salomon, a friend like no other. To show my love and affection, and with thanks for how much you helped me in writing this book, and as proof that the author never forgot you.")

I know that wherever Pablito's spirit is today, there will be a smile of satisfaction. The last time we saw each other was in 1993, just two years before his death. At his invitation, I flew from New York to spend a few days in his Oviedo apartment while playing an international tournament. My mediocre results in the event were insignificant when compared with the joy of visiting with old friends and family, and it's about time for me to say THANKS for the memories, Pablito!

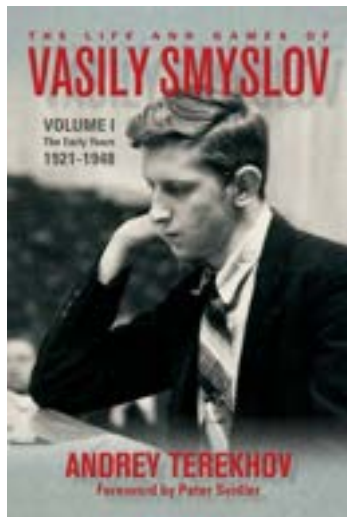
The purpose of human life and the sense of happiness is to give the maximum what the man is able to give. – Alexander Alekhine

## So Similar, So Different Review By Joshua Anderson

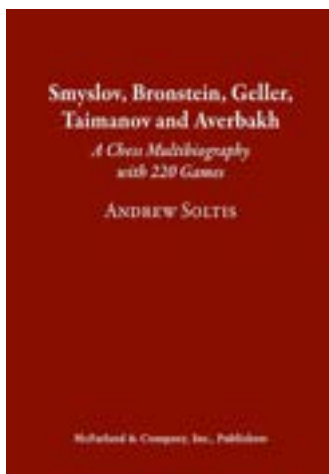
I have spent the last 9 years, with many significant interruptions, working on a biography of the Byrne brothers. It has been an immensely wonderful experience and it also has caused me to swear off any future biographies. I have also become fairly convinced that I can recognize a good biography when I see one.

Two books that are definitely good ones are Soltis's [Smyslov, Bronstein, Geller, Taimanov and Averbakh – McFarland \(mcfarlandbooks.com\)](#) and Andrej Terekhov's [The Life and Games of Vasily Smyslov — Russell Enterprises \(russell-enterprises.com\)](#). The substantial similarities of these two books are in both form and substance. That said, there are some noteworthy differences as well.

The subjects covered are hardly a surprise - both authors list them in the titles. For Terekhov that meant Smyslov's life from



1948", but Terekhov is through the first 14 years of Smyslov's life in 7 pages. Soltis "explored the interlocking careers of five men with a focus on the prime years when



they might have become champion."(Soltis, p.1) This starts in the 1930s, though none of these players would be beating Alexander Alekhine or Max Euwe (the two World Champions in the 1930s) in a match. Starting at the end of the war would have been too abrupt to give the reader any sense of how anyone had gotten to this point. Soltis continues through about the 1972 match, paying as much attention to his subjects' later life as Terekhov paid to Smyslov's early life. This difference in foci causes there to be little similarity in the content despite both literally have the word Smyslov in their title.

It turns out that both books are a game collection with extremely well researched connective tissue. In both cases, this is because they make great use of Russian language sources. Now, I will be honest, I don't read Russian, I know how to look through a Russian source for the word Byrne, but that is pretty much it. Terekhov made a point of thanking Yury Fominykh, who was the heir of all Smyslov's substantial personal papers. As somebody who has been fortunate enough to have complete access to the work of my subjects, Robert and Donald Byrne, I can tell you how tremendously helpful this is. However, since individuals rarely thoroughly document their lives with the idea of a biog-

rapher coming along later, this can often lead to having incomplete or sometimes too much information. Soltis did not have such access to personal papers, but his bibliography is replete with the Soviet era, Russian language sources.

In many ways, the connective tissue similarities end there. The Smyslov focused book divides the games by alternating a chapter of text (sometimes with game snippets) with a chapter of games (they are only numbered new at the section with text.) The text of these chapters routinely has many block quotations. Some readers really like block quotations feeling that they provide an intimate look at a certain time and place. While this can be true, it can also be frustrating if the narrative has too many "voices." Also, there can sometimes be legal problems concerning copyright and such.

Like much of the books, the games are handled quite differently as well. The Terekhov book has only 49 full games; it seems more because of the numerous partials in the chapters that are primarily text. Terekhov annotates the games thoroughly in separate chapters and there is about 200 pages of text for those 49 games, meaning each was thoroughly annotated. The games chosen by Soltis are not as thoroughly annotated, though a few, such as the Botvinnik - Bronstein 17th game from 1951, goes on for 2 1/2 pages. Soltis incorporated both the games and

game snippets (of which there are numerous) into the flow of the text and the text reads quite well without the games.

Both authors include a few photos and Terekhov makes use of round robin result tables. The photos in both books tend toward being dark. This has a lot to do with the sources that the authors and publishers must work with. Even with the dark photos, they provide a nice view of their subjects and give a little visualization to the events. Terekhov also produces a few nice result tables. It is nice to have these as they can help explain why people play what they play, but in a book like Soltis' it would have been impossible to include many of them and his style in his last few books has been not to include any at all.

In about the third grade I was taught that a biography is a book covering the complete life of an individual. If you must stick with this definition both books are lacking, but only an idiot would be that dogmatic. Everyone else, or almost any reader out there, should find both of these books to be a great read that will allow the reader to better understand the key individuals and the time in which they live.

Author's note: While I have not had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Terekhov, I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Soltis for several years.

"I have frequently stated that I regard chess as an art form, where creativity prevails over other factors."

-- **Vasily Smyslov**

"It so often happens that, after sacrificing a pawn, a player aims not to obtain the initiative for it, but to regain sacrificed material."

-- **Efim Geller**

"The most powerful weapon in Chess is to have the next move."

— **David Bronstein**

# Holly Heisman Memorial Tournament

By Joshua Anderson

## History:

Please note that this beginning comes from my imperfect memory:

“Friday?” I could almost see the look on Dan Heisman’s face when he heard me say I wanted to run the Holly Heisman Memorial Tournament on Friday. Admittedly, Friday during the day wasn’t the normal time to run a tournament, but I believed it could work. Heisman, who has always been quite helpful and understanding, gave some thought. We would correspond about it for a little while and decided to go for it. After all, we had survived a flood, having the tournament be homeless just months before it was to run, and of course Covid, so what is a Friday?

It isn’t always a chaotic and crazy event of course, but since I played in 2008, it has had its fair share of excitement. On August 3, 2008, I played in my first event in almost 11 years. Playing in this charity event raising money to support the Holly Heisman Memorial Fund, set up by Dan Heisman in memory of his former wife and to help women in need. Only, I was quite broke and so was not able to donate anything. I told myself that I would donate the next year when I hoped to have some funds. Before the next event however, Ira Lee Riddle (likely well known to our long-time members as a person who held every leadership position in the CJA) passed away. He had helped run the 2008 event and now I was being asked to run the 2009 event. This was my first event that wasn’t either very small or a scholastic. Nervous, I still appreciated the faith in my abilities.

Over the next couple of years, the event went very smoothly on the first Sunday of August. Then one year, 2011 I think, it rained and rained and rained. Voluminous sheets of water fell from the sky and ran down the wall of the building. The INSIDE wall of the building. Not all the walls of the building, but amazingly enough, it was an inside wall with seemingly no connection to the outside. We had Lake Chess in middle right side of the room. Our rows went something like this:

Row 1 – Boards 1 to 7  
Row 2 – Boards 8 – 13  
Row 3 – Boards 14 – 16  
Row 4 – Boards 17 – 19  
Row 5 – Boards 20 – 25  
Row 6 – Boards 26 – 33

Starting in 2015, when I became President of the CJA, Heisman was great and let us move the event around a little bit since it was difficult for me to run the CJA meeting in some far off city and be home and running the event usually 2 days later. A few years ago, the site we had traditionally used had a change in leadership and became much more expensive. Since we are a charity event and trying to raise money, that was a huge problem. A school offered to let us come in and use the facility, which we did. The following year they forgot to tell us that we couldn’t come back. Fortunately, Dov Gorman, who often judges for the CJA, hosted the event at his South Jersey Innovation Center.

Then there was Covid and so in 2020, we went virtual, and this brings us to 2021. We were trying to figure out if we should run the event in person and where, and when we decided to run the event in person on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, it would be in the West Whiteland Township building. (Finally, a benefit to my being elected a Township Supervisor for West Whiteland Township. Not really, the HHM supports a charity so our township would allow us the use of the building.)

Having made this decision, three things now happened:

- 1) I started contacting a wide variety of organizations for the donations, almost all generously responding with all sorts of gifts. They ranged from free tournament entrees, to chess.com and ICC.com memberships, and to beautiful Staunton chess sets from the House of Staunton. The final list of donors was: Shining Knights Chess, Main Line Speech, Allentown Center City Chess Club, Masterminds Chess Club, PSCF, Dr. Bob Benjamin, ASAP, Brandy Anderson, IM Igor Khmelnitsky, Joshua Anderson/Tri-Bridges Chess Club, John Bain, [www.chessclub.com](http://www.chessclub.com), ICC, Pete Tamburro, Russell Enterprises, Inc., IM Tom Bartell/Main Line Chess and Games, Leteef Street/CPA Chess, FM Dov Gorman, Anand Mishra, House of Staunton, Dan Heisman Learning Center on Chess.com, Mike Leahy (Chess Opening Wizard), Eric Johnson/Allentown Center City Club, and Ross Nickels.
- 2) Many of our regulars began to reach out and not all could make Friday, though many could. Plus, nearby Main Line Chess and Games strongly promoted the event to help bring out some of the nearby youngsters who hadn't been to the event pre-Covid.
- 3) Omicron hit!

Conveniently, the township had already upgraded their circulation equipment. On top of that, we had a variety of players who were experienced with taking precautions and understood the value of masks, etc. One regular explained that he could not attend as it was his daughter's birthday. I said he was welcome to bring her and her friends, but sadly they had other plans. There were plenty of people who were uncomfortable playing, but some of them even donated to this worthy cause. Still in our three sections we got 57 players and raised over \$1000 (final numbers are announced quarterly and with many donations online, this number will certainly grow.)

## **The Play is the Thing**

The event has 3 sections – Open, Under 1500, and K-8 Under 900. We have had these three sections for as long as I have been involved. They routinely have worked well for us and again this year there was a nice size group for each section.

Routinely this event is held somewhere near the end of summer/early fall and so we usually have a few kids that have attended Shining Knights (another local chess company) or some other groups camps. Here, at the end of the year, we had fewer new players, though with so many kids playing on chess.com for months or even years with few events, we had plenty of “upsets”, many of which were not upsets if chess.com ratings were used. The winner of the section, Louis Zhang was a perfect example of this. He was rated 583 in USChess, but I knew his chess.com rating was about 1500 since he routinely participated in the Mid Atlantic Chess League that Dov Gorman and Anand Mishra had started shortly before Covid. This excellent league had given many children a chance to play semi-serious, semi-slow G/60 + increment games over the course of Covid. Needless to say, I was not surprised when Zhang scored a perfect 4-

0. As mentioned, many kids from Main Line Chess and Games came out and performed well with regulars Allen Wang and Jingyi Lu coming in second and third, both with a 3.5 – 0.5 result.

The Under 1500 is always an interesting mix of youth and um, shall we say, experienced players. The extreme example of this being in 2012 when Shawn Wang won the section as a seven-year-old. This year the top four places were achieved by teenagers – or younger. Michael Haas won the section 4.5 – 0.5 (the top 2 sections have 5 rounds), Colin Reiland went 4 – 1, followed by Daniel Goldovsky and eight-year-old Peter Goldberg who both scored 3.5 – 1.5 to tie for third – fourth. Another eight-year-old, Paul Ke Ma scored 3, as did the parents of several teenagers in the top section – Chandrakanth Kollipara and Howard S. Serota.

One of my favorite things about running this event is getting to see young players who started in the other sections work their way up and do well in the Open section. This year, Matthew J. O'Brien, hardly an old man, but no longer a teenager won the event with 4.5 – 0.5. He bested Kevin Chen by half a point. These two players used the event as a warm up of sorts. After they left this event they went to the Lebanon Valley Chess Club's New Year's Eve event – the 27<sup>th</sup> Rausch New Year's Eve event, with O'Brien winning 1<sup>st</sup>, 7-0, and Chen 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5-2. Shawn Wang, who 9 years previous had won the Under 1500 (I might be letting a little too much pride in my former student show through), came in 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3.5. He was tied by Joe Mucerino who went to high school with me (30+ years ago!) and who won 4<sup>th</sup> on tiebreaks. Teenager Adam Serota, whose dad won prizes in the Under 1500, teenager Micah Dubnoff, who bested his dad in the Open section, and Anand Mishra, whose daughters are older than the teenagers he tied with, came in 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> each with 3 points.

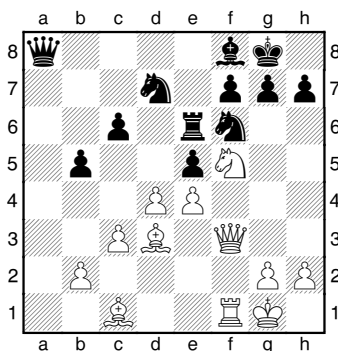
When all was said in done, we raised well over \$1000, gave out about \$4500 in donated prizes, and found a wonderful way to finish off the year.

## Games, Games, Games

**O'Brien, Matthew (2278) - Bartell, Thomas (2505) [B12]** Holly Heisman Memorial Exton (4), 31.12.2021  
*[O'Brien, Matthew]*

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 dxe4 4.fxe4 e5 5.ϣf3 ϣg4 6.c3 ϣd7 7.ϣd3 ϣgf6 8.0-0 ϣd6 9.ϣa3 with the idea of ϣc4. 9...b5 10.ϣc2 with the idea of ϣe3-ϣf5. 10...0-0 11.ϣe3 ϣe8 11...ϣh5 would have set me some problems as 12.ϣf5 is met by 12...ϣc7 and ...ϣh5-g6xf5 is one option as well as targeting my soft central pawns via ...ϣe8 and ...ϣb6 when Black has their share of chances. 12.ϣxg4 ϣxg4 13.a4 a6 14.axb5 axb5 15.ϣxa8 ϣxa8 16.ϣh4 ϣgf6 17.ϣf5 ϣf8 18.ϣf3 White has very harmonious piece development, I felt

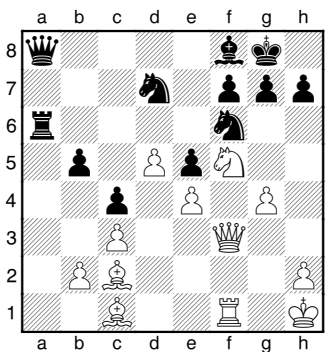
that I had won the opening battle, although Black is also fine. 18...ϣe6



Gives me my first problem to solve, as ...ϣe8 and ...xd4 is coming when my e4 pawn falls. 19.ϣc2 19.g4 ϣxg4 20.ϣxg4?! (20.d5 leads to complications 20...ϣg6 (20...cxd5 21.exd5 ϣc5+ (21...e4

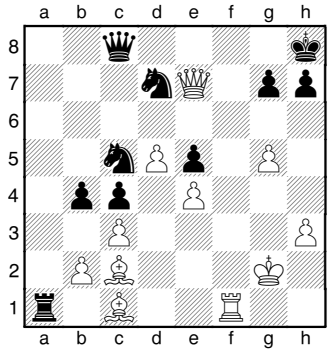


22.♙e4 ♘ge5) ) 20...♖g6 gives Black counterchances 21.♙g5 is a mess 21...♗f6 (21...h6) **19...c5!?** Now 19...♙e8 is met by 20.♙b3 and ♙e6 next; 19...exd4! would have set me some problems 20.cxd4 (20.♗xd4 ♖e8) 20...c5 21.d5 the difference now Black can use the b8–h2 diagonal and the e5 square as well as target the e4 pawn (21.e5 ♗xf3 22.gxf3 ♗d5 23.♙e4 (23.f4 g6 24.♗e3 ♗xe3 25.♙xe3 cxd4 26.♙xd4 ♙c5 Black has no problems here) 23...♗b6 (23...♗b4 24.f4) 24.f4 g6 Black is fine here as well) 21...♖e8 22.♖g3 ♖h8 23.♖c7 (23.♗d6 ♙xd6 24.♗xd6 ♙a2 (24...♙a5) ) **20.d5 ♖a6 21.♖h1** the remainder of the game was fun for me. 21.g4 ♗xg4 22.♗e7+ a cheeky option although my king looks airy too (22.♗xg4 ♖g6) 22...♙xe7 23.♗xf7+ ♖h8 24.♗xe7 ♖g6 25.♖h1 ♗gf6 26.♙d3 c4 27.♙e2 White is better here but the game goes on after 27...♙a7 (27...♙c8) **21...c4** 21...h5!? preventing my next is a cute option gaining space and eventually intending to play ...g6. **22.g4**



♗c5?? This loses instantly. An uncharacteristic blunder from Tom, but he was low on time at this point, whereas I had 10 more minutes than him, maybe more. I felt it was a pity as the game is a well played, balanced game to this point, although he had to solve many more small problems at many moments earlier in the game. 22...h6! we both saw the key line here 23.h4 slow moves may be met by ...♖a1, ...♙a5 and ...b4 with some counterplay for Black 23...♙e8 (23...♗h7 24.♗xh6+ g6 25.♗xf7+ ♖h8 26.♗xd7)

24.g5 (24.♖g2 I wanted to play this to get ♖h1 next however 24...♗xg4 (24...♗h7 25.♖h1 and eventually to push g5 is the ideal setup) 25.♗xg4 ♖g6 26.♙g5 f6 27.d6 fxg5 28.h5 ♖f6 Black is fine 29.b3 (29.♖d1 ♖f7 30.b3 ♗f6) 29...♙xd6 30.bxc4 ♙c5 31.cxb5 ♖f8 ...♗f6 is coming next) 24...♗h7 with the point of (24...hxg5 25.hxg5 ♗h7) 25.♙e3 not taking on h6 is my instinct however Black gets interesting play after (25.gxh6!? g6 we correctly thought Black had good play here 26.♖g2 ♖h8 27.♗g3 (27.♗g7!? ♙xg7 (27...♙e7 28.♙h2 ♖f6 also looks sensible, my knight looks suspicious) 28.hxg7+ ♖g8 (28...♖xg7?! 29.h5) 29.♙h6 (29.h5 gxh5) 29...♙d8 Black is fine) 27...♗df6 Black has good play for the pawn, should not be worse here) 25...hxg5 (25...g6 26.♗xh6+ ♙xh6 27.gxh6 ♖f6) 26.hxg5 g6 27.♙h3 is a mess. **23.g5 ♗fd7 24.♗e7+** This is what Black missed and the game is strangely practically over. **24...♙xe7 25.♗xf7+ ♖h8 26.♗xe7** Black has back rank problems, g7 is a target and the knights are not on stable squares and White is up a pawn. I am amazed SF14 gives +7 here for White, computers are so strong these days. **26...♖a1 27.♖g2 ♙c8 28.h3** Challenging Black to find a constructive move. **28...b4??** This expedites my task.



28...♖g8 is the computer suggestion 29.♙e3 (29.h4 ♙c8 30.♖g3 ♙g8 (30...♗d3?! 31.♗xd7) 31.h5 h5-h6 is coming if the queen moves away and if 31...♖a8 32.♙e3 threatening to take on c5 and e5 minimum) 29...♙xf1 30.♖xf1 ♙c8 31.♙e2 I can take on c5 and e5 whenever I want and

certainly is the way I would have played as Black will find no counterplay or joy whatsoever. **29.cxb4 d3 30. Qxd3** Forces a won endgame. **30. ♖xd7** this wins a piece of course **30... ♖g8** I saw this but I did not want worry about a pawn on d3 or the knight on d3 so I went for an endgame where I will win 100% of the time (**30... ♖f4+ 31. ♖xf4 ♖xd7 32. ♖f8#**) **30... cxd3 31. ♖xd7** This is what Black missed. **31... ♖xc1 31... ♖xd7 32. ♖f8# 32. ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 33. ♖d1 ♖g8 34. ♖xd3 ♖f7 35. ♖b3 ♖b8 36. b5** Black had seen enough and thus resigned. I enjoyed this game very much. Of course I was fortunate that I did not have more problems to solve as mentioned at a few moments. **36. b5 ♖g6 37. h4 ♖h5 38. ♖g3 h6 39. gxh6 gxh6 40. b6 ♖xb6 41. ♖f3** unfortunately this is still resignable for Black (**41. ♖xb6** Stalemate! This was a really beautiful trick I would have tried, although of course Black would have to resign anyway after **♖f3**.) **1-0**

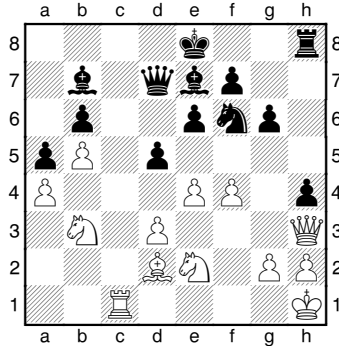
**Author's note: This game can be found at - [HHM Round 4 annotated game by MJO • lichess.org](https://www.hhm.com/round/4/annotated-game-by-mjo-lichess.org)**

**Wang, Shawn (2146) - Chen, Kevin (2038) [B42]** Holly Heisman (3), 31.12.2021 [Wang, Shawn]

I was late to the game so I started with 20 minutes compared to his 25.

**1. e4 c5 2. d3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. dxd4 a6 5. Qd3 ♖c7 6. ♖e2 6. dxc3 ♖f6 7. 0-0 d6 8. f4 dxd7 9. ♖h1 ♖e7 10. ♖e2 6... d6 7. 0-0 d6 8. d3 ♖e7 9. a4 9. ♖h1 9... b6 10. f4 dxd7 11. Qd2 Qb7 12. ♖ae1 h5** I do not think this move was that good but I was not sure what to play. I think **d5** is good for Black because it clears up the d7 square for the knight on f6. **12... dxc5 13. b4 dxd3 14. cxd3 0-0. 13. ♖h1 13. h3 h4 13... h4 14. ♖f3** Not the best move but I was low on time and was not sure how to play in this position. **14... ♖c8 15. ♖h3 dxc5 16. b4 dxd3 17. cxd3** Now I am comfortable with my position because the h4 pawn is a weakness and I can play on the c-file. **17... ♖d7 17... d5 18. e5 ♖xb4**

**19. exf6 ♖xc3 20. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 21. fxg7 18. b5 a5 19. ♖c1 g6 20. dce2 ♖c5 20... e5 21. ♖xd7+ dxd7 22. ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 23. dxc6** Black has counterplay with **dxc5. 21. dxb3 ♖xc1 22. ♖xc1 d5**



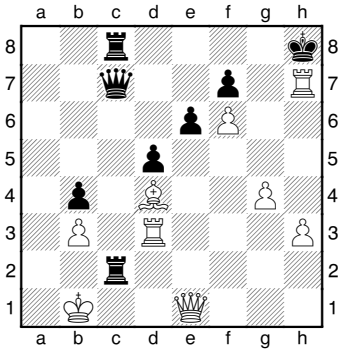
Now I think I am completely winning after **e5**. I have control of the c-file. The **b6** pawn is a weakness. I can look to move my knight to **c6** and my Queen to **f2**. **23. e5 d5 24. Qe3 Qd8 25. dxd4 ♖f8 26. dxc6 ♖g7 27. ♖g4 27. ♖f3 27... h3 28. g3 Qc7 29. ♖f3 ♖f8 30. ♖f2 ♖xc6 31. ♖xc6 g5 32. ♖xb6** Here I have one second left. **32... ♖b8 32... ♖xb6 33. ♖xb6 33. ♖c5+ 33. f5 exf5 34. dxc5 33... ♖g7 34. fxg5 ♖xe5 35. ♖e3 ♖c3 35... ♖b2 36. dxc5 ♖e7 37. ♖c7 36. ♖xc3 ♖e8 37. Qd4+ ♖g8 38. ♖e5 f6 39. gxh6 ♖f7 40. ♖c7 ♖g6 41. f7+ 1-0**

**Wang, Shawn (2143) - O'Brien, Matthew (2278) [B81]** Holly Heisman (5), 31.12.2021 [Wang, Shawn]

**1. e4 c5 2. d3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. dxd4 d6 5. dxc3 a6 6. h3 e6 7. g4 ♖e7 8. ♖g2 0-0 9. ♖e3 dxc6 10. ♖d2 dxd4 11. ♖xd4 dxd7 12. 0-0-0 b5 13. f4 13. e5 d5 14. ♖e3 b4 15. dxe2 a5 16. ♖b1 13... b4 14. dxe2 a5 15. e5 d5 16. ♖b1 a4 17. dxc1 dxb6 18. f5 dxc4 19. ♖f2 Qh4 20. ♖f3 ♖h8 20... ♖g5** My Queen is in an awkward position. If I move it to **d3**, **e2**, or **f1**, Black can play **Qa6**. **21. f6 gxh6 22. exf6 ♖e8 23. Qf1 Qa6 24. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 25. ♖f4 ♖g8 26. dxd3 ♖xd3 27. ♖xd3 ♖c8 28. ♖h2 ♖c4 29. b3 axb3 30. axb3 ♖c6 31. ♖e2 ♖a5 32. ♖e5 ♖c7 32... ♖a8 33. ♖h6** I am winning here but I have little time.

33...♖g6 34.♗h4 ♖xc2 35.♗e1 ♖g8  
36.♖h5 36...♖xe6 36...♖c8 37.♖xh7+?

44.♖d1 44...♖e2 45.♗d2 e5 46.♗xb4+  
♗e6 47.g5 e4 48.♖g3 d4  
0-1



**Bartell, Thomas J (2488) - Mucerino, Joseph J Jr (2106) [D30]** Holly Heisman (3), 31.12.2021

{Bartell was the co-Pennsylvania State Champion.} 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. ♖f3 c6 4. e3 ♗d7 5. b3 ♗gf6 6. ♗bd2 ♗d6 7. ♗b2 O-O 8. ♗d3 b6 9. O-O ♗b7 10. ♗e5 c5 11. f4 ♗c7 12. ♗c2 ♖ac8 13. ♖ac1 ♖fd8 14. ♗df3 h6 15. f5 ♗f8 16. fxe6 ♗xe6 17. cxd5 ♗xd5 18. ♗d2 ♗e7 19. e4 ♗df4 20. d5 ♗xd3 21. ♗xd3 ♗f4 22. ♗d2 ♗g6 23. ♗xg6 fxg6 24. ♗c3 ♗f4 25. ♖ce1 ♖d7 26. a4 c4 27. ♗d4 cxb3 28. ♗xb3 ♗d6 29. ♗b5 ♗xh2+ 30. ♗h1 ♗g3 31. ♖e3 ♗h4 32. d6+ ♗h7 33. ♖h3 ♗xe4 34. ♖xh2 ♖c2 35. ♗c3 ♗d3 36. ♖d1 ♗xg2+ 0-1

I miscalculated. I thought after all the checks, his king would have to play c6, where then I could trade off the queens and take on c2. I forgot about the d6 square. 37...♗xh7 38.♗h4+ ♗g8 39.♗g5+ ♗f8 40.♗g7+ ♗e8 41.♗g8+ ♗d7 42.♗xf7+ ♗d6 42...♗c6 43.♗xc7+ ♗xc7 44.♗xc2 43.♗xc7+ ♖8xc7 44.♗e3



The Open and Under 1500 section of the event with a few of the K-8 Under 900 section participants in the bottom right corner.



Assistant Alec Khmel'nitsky walks by as Joe Mucerino plays Tom Bartell and Kevin Chen plays Shawn Wang. In the bottom left corner event winner Matt O'Brien plays Adam Serota.



Under 1500 and K-8 Under 900 sections.



Open and Under 1500 sections. Standing are assistants Alec Khmel'nitsky and Karthik Murugan.



**Upper Left:** Amogh Killipara v. Anand Mishra

**Upper Right:** Ethan Yu Wang v Dylan Yuan, Nikolas Rein v. Jake Liang, Wen Ma in upper left corner and many prizes in upper right.



**Left:** Jingyi Lu v. Kristin Goldovsky

## Chess Festival 1998

By Edward Tassinari

A "Chess Festival" in the United States? And smack in the middle of the country, far from the New York and California foci of chess-playing activity? Well, why not? When chess is on the menu a handful of zealots/chessnuts might just travel and put their money down (a little under \$100 dollars to participate) to enjoy the feast. That was the thinking of Bob Long, major domo of Chessco (a mail order business offering chess literature, equipment, and software) and Thinkers Press (an iconoclastic publishing house with an eclectic variety of chess books and pamphlets from authors both well-known and unknown, but all with a unique passion for their subject matter). Affable, gregarious, a bit of a maverick in the U.S. chess circles, Long had kicked around the idea of a chess gathering with a variety of speakers, book displays and special events for some time in the pages of his bi-monthly periodical, Chess Horizons. A few months ago, a tentative schedule of speakers and events was published. When I saw that I couldn't resist, it was time for a trek to the Midwest to meet this guy and his staff and hopefully enjoy a long weekend of chesstalk and chess activity with other similarly inclined folks in a relaxing setting.

So that was it --- mix in a small but enthusiastic gathering of chess devotees from as far away as California and Maine (one diehard having driven 21 straight hours to make it), Bobby Fischer's former bowling coach (who just happened to be a top-flight IGM and former U.S. Champion), several world class correspondence players, a Bulgarian IM with wins over Korchnoi, Szabo and Uhlmann, among others, who could have been a double for the late actor Edward G. Robinson, two special guests including a former Australian champion and his brother-in-law, a former New Zealand junior champion and a world class correspondence player in his own right and a constant stream of speakers and informative presentations on every-

thing from the world's great chess libraries to the intricacies of the Hedgehog pawn structure to reminiscences about chess greats, near-greats, and just plain chessnuts like the rest of us. Set the arrangements over a three night, two day week-end schedule at the spacious Holiday Inn, just a few minutes from the airport in friendly laid-back Moline, Illinois. And, presto! You have the ingredients of a chess festival, thanks to the efforts of Long and his hard-working staff.

The opening session, a Friday evening pizza party, brought together the 20 or so participants (some of whom brought their wives and girlfriends), together with former Australian champion John Purdy, his brother-in-law Frank Hutchings (then playing in a semifinal section of the World Correspondence Championship), and Massachusetts chemistry professor Ralph Tykodi, whose absorbing interest in the chess writings of Cecil Purdy and assiduous efforts to collect complete runs of Purdy's wonderful chess magazines (Australian Chess Review, Check! and Chess World) led to his contacting Long with the idea of reprinting much of this material in book format. Recently, Thinkers Press published revised algebraic editions of two fine, but little known books on Purdy that originally appeared in the early 1980s and having acquired the rights to reproduce the entirety of Purdy's chess legacy, we can expect more to follow. Purdy's writings were once praised by Bobby Fischer, a recommendation that speaks for itself.

John Purdy and Frank Hutchings shared their personal reminiscences of Cecil Purdy, John's father. They spoke of his often difficult efforts to make ends meet, but never failing to turn out a quality chess journal, albeit sometimes late; of his friendly rivalry with Hungarian expatriate IM Lajos Steiner for supremacy in Australian chess, and Purdy's occasional conflicts with the Australian Chess Federation. In

1955, John Purdy visited Great Britain, played in three tournaments including the British Championship and later that year represented Australia in the World Junior Championship in Antwerp, Belgium, won by Spassky ahead of Mednis and Portisch.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the chance to meet fellow chess enthusiasts. For those who sought skittles and speed chess, a room was set aside for them, but the setting was more popular for the showing of chess-flavored episodes of "Colombo", "The Prisoner" and an early 1980 documentary by IM Camille Coudari that featured footage from the 1981 Karpov-Korchnoi World Championship match in Merano, with fascinating snippets of Fischer, Timman, Larsen, Ljubojevic and others such as the late Reuben Fine talking about his impressions of Alekhine on and off the board. On Saturday evening, Dr. Nikolai Minev gave a wonderful, discursive talk on his chess career, the importance of independent study in order to improve in chess, and his multifaceted chess writings. As a medical professional in his native Bulgaria, he was a true chess amateur, but a very strong one, with the IM title and one leg toward the IGM title. Along the way, he trained the Greek national team in 1978, commented on Fischer – Spassky I in 1972, and, when political pressures intensified, emigrated to the United States with his wife, although he did not know a word of English at the time. With a popular monthly column in Inside Chess and several books to his credit, he has made a name for himself in U.S. Chess.

The Saturday session also featured Allan Savage (a master in both OTB and correspondence play) who lectured on the world's great chess collections and libraries. Allan also spoke on his ongoing research into the chess career of the artist Marcel Duchamp; he has gathered about 100 Duchamp games, many hitherto unpublished, and hopes to finish his work in the near future. 10<sup>th</sup> U.S. Correspondence champion Jon Edwards spoke with the intensity and enthusiasm of the true be-

liever on the benefits of the Hedgehog pawn structure, which paid him handsome dividends in winning that title. I missed national tournament director Tim Just's lecture on the rule book, instead imbibing some Edwards wisdom as he demonstrated some Hedgehog theory in the skittles room.

On Sunday, IGM Lubomir Kavalek took on twelve players in a simultaneous that generated considerable local media coverage. Kavalek had lectured on Saturday on a variety of subjects, ranging from his official designation as Bobby Fischer's bowling coach (so attained during the 1972 Spassky match when Bobby was looking for someone to bowl a few games in the middle of a lengthy Icelandic summer night; although not a bowler, Lubosh volunteered for the task, by the time of the concluding banquet terminating the match his official entrance badge to that function was so titled), to his training Nigel Short and Yasser Seirawan in the Candidates matches to his work with the World team in their 1984 match against the Soviet Union. Kavalek is a genuinely likeable fellow, a wonderful raconteur, low-key, likes a few beers, follows pro hockey and pro basketball, and has a dry sense of humor. Before the simul began, he asked if anyone was going to play the French Defense, in honor of Minev, who had just written a revised edition of his book on that opening. When I raised my hand in affirmation, he took a potato chip from John Purdy's box lunch and placed it carefully on the square e6! While we considered our moves, he demonstrated some nifty endgames, which gave us a bit more thinking time. Not that it mattered. Despite taking on the likes of Purdy, Hutchings and a number of USCF rated masters and candidate masters, the grandmaster scored a 12-0 "picket fence" as Cecil Purdy would have termed it.

John Purdy was the first to turn down his king. I was sitting to his right and managed a few quick glances as his Scheveningen Sicilian bit the dust against Kavalek's Keres Attack. Both castled

queenside and John's game caved in when his piece sac failed to break his opponent's defenses. Dave Kent, a California master, GO expert, getting back into competitive chess after an absence of several decades, essayed a Center Counter, gained a pawn, declined several other pawn offers, but fell in the endgame. My Winawer French (4. ... Qd7) gave me a decent middle game but I rushed things with an untimely queen side pawn advance instead of the solid positional treatment that position demanded. I had to offload a pawn and in a Queen and Rook endgame impatiently sacrificed another pawn. An unstoppable rook pawn ended things at move 41. Frank Hutchings also played a Winawer and developed a powerful attack against Kavalek's castled king but somehow lost the thread and the game.

After the simul about ten of us including Kavalek, Purdy, Hutchings, Edwards and myself got a tour of the Thinkers Press establishment in Davenport, Iowa, about a 20 minute drive from Moline, across the Mississippi River, gaining some insights into what it takes to run a multifaceted operation successfully. For the bibliophiles and chess book collectors, the excursion was a treat as we perused Long's extensive collection. He is constantly acquiring additional holdings and his antiquarian catalogues boast some rare and obscure items, e.g. Emanuel Lasker's philosophical-economic treatise The Community of the Future, the original tournament book of Prague, 1943 (a decisive Alekhine triumph with a score of 17-2, two and a half points ahead of Keres) and a little pamphlet featuring the games of A.W. Fox, the youngest participant and last survivor of the legendary Cambridge Springs 1904 tournament who died in 1964.

We ate that evening at an all-you-can-eat cafeteria (fine food and plenty of it for \$8). The anecdotes related at that venue and those told during the festival generally were priceless, some hilarious, a few were tragic (John Purdy recounting the tragic demise of the chess playing Kellners of

Australia, husband and wife). One story tells of Swedish IGM Stahlberg, upon returning to his hotel room after a night of celebration during the 1964 Chess Olympiad in Tel Aviv, passed out on his bed after drawing a bath, unfortunately leaving the tub faucets emprise, which produced a flood in his bathroom and one floor below. Kavalek regaled us with tales of playing Sammy Reshevsky in the early 1970s U.S. Chess Championships, being greeted by Sammy's singing while Lubosh was thinking in one instance. Upon relating his plight to Arthur Bisguier, Kavalek was advised to sing back. In the famous Poisoned Pawn Sicilian, Kavalek-Fischer, Sousse 1967, Fischer kept requesting more and stronger light at the board. The game ended in a draw, with Bobby missing a win. Later that evening, Kavalek and his father encountered Fischer while walking through the town and Bobby proceeded to demonstrate to them his missed win under a dim streetlight. Another great Kavalek story described how a 25 year estrangement began between Czech masters Karel Opocensky and Emil Richter. During a wartime tournament, first prize was a succulent goose. Opocensky was leading by 1.5 points with two rounds remaining and prevailed upon the tournament director to part with first prize, which Opocensky, after due preparation, proceeded to enjoy with some friends. Naturally, he then lost his final two games, Richter won his and finished first, only to discover that his prize had been devoured. Jon Edwards had some cautionary tales of hosting a world class grandmaster at his home for a few days (in this case David Bronstein). At one stage, Edwards invited a master-strength chess friend to meet Bronstein who proceeded in lieu of demonstrating one of his classic victories, to "teach" them the basics of chess.

The cafeteria closed at 8PM and we returned to our hotel for some good-byes, then Kavalek, Edwards and I repaired to the hotel lounge to watch Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls finish off the Utah Jazz with the inevitable Jordan heroics in the final minute. Then it was time to close



down the lounge (a popular setting for a few of the festival participants, including the writer). A thoroughly enjoyable gathering of chess aficionados had ended all too soon. Although he had hoped for a much larger turnout, Bob Long said he would consider another such event in the year 2000. Hats off to him and his friendly, professional staff for organizing and running this one.



Bob Long, 9/16/1945 —1/7/2020

#### Postscript

Lubomir Kavalek, after a distinguished career as a world caliber grandmaster, writer, chess columnist, trainer and organizer passed away in 2021. Nikolai Minev, John Purdy and Frank Hutchings have also died. In the January 2021 issue, *Chess Life* reported that Bob Long had been murdered in a home invasion and robbed at his home. May they all rest in peace.



"I don't regret that the ride has to be over, but rather feel grateful for the miles I have traveled, for the sights along the way, and to be exactly where I am."

—*Neil Peart*

"Be willing and unafraid to write badly, because often the bad stuff clears the way for good, or forms a base on which to build something better."

— *Jennifer Egan*

## Chess in 2042

*Ross Nickel had written a piece for Chess Life when Glenn Petersen (born 7/23/1949—8/16/2021) edited the magazine (1990-2000, 2003, and 2005-2006). An editorial change happened and Nickel's piece, a humorous look at what chess would be like in 2010, never made it to print. For fun we decided to use this piece as well as invite our readers to submit a thought or two on what chess will be like in 2042. Our assistant editor, Rachel Schechter and I have adjusted Ross's article so it is a bit more 2042 instead of 2010 and helped organize the readers submissions into what you will see below. If anyone would like to keep this subject going please send in more submissions. We had fun with these. -Ed.*

### Chess After ~~2010~~ 2042

by Ross Nickel

After calling the National Psychics Hotline numerous times regarding the status of my love life, I was surprised to learn that I had accumulated several hours of bonus time, which had to be used before the month's end. Having resolved my romantic problems, I decided to spend the bonus time to learn about the future of my favorite game ... chess. Specifically, I was curious about the state of chess play in the year 2042, which is when I expect to be free of obligations to actively play again. I was unprepared for the answer; neither the nature nor the magnitude of the changes predicted, were on my immediate agenda. Here are the details:

As expected, the impact of computers will be revolutionary. Chess boards will have a chip that will activate a clock, record the moves, beep after an illegal move is made and buzz upon stalemate, checkmate, draw by repetition of moves or via the 50-move rule. With the discovery of selective intermittent magnetism, chess pieces will be able to be set up automatically.

These special pieces are simply dumped on the AI board and a button is pushed. Magazine analysis will no longer be done by mere humans. By accessing all games of a particular player, every weakness will be brought to light. Comments will appear like "X handles their QN better than their KN" or "X should stay in the middle game as they are 150 rating points weaker than his opponent in R&B endings."

Needless to say, the world champion and all the strongest players will be computers. The top tournaments will consist of these computers plugged into each other. Because of advances in reducing calculating time, these events will be completed in just one day. Oddly enough, in games between machines whose ratings approach 3500, Black wins most often.

This is not to say that chess among humans will suffer, quite the contrary. The popularity of the game will soar. Why? There will be an influx of corporate money from two sources. First, after tobacco smoking becomes illegal outside of government clinics, tobacco companies will push their only unregu-

lated product: chewing tobacco. This money will underwrite major chess tournaments throughout the US. Prize money will jump to rival amounts awarded in tennis and golf. Cuspidors and free plugs of chew will be made available at adult playing tables and opens nationwide. Then, when beer advertising is banned on US radio and television, more money will be freed up for chess. Chess magazines will contain beer ads almost every other page. Tourney announcements will contain the designation D or ND drinking or non-drinking for adult events.

Meanwhile, research will document that the most effective way to ensure that children succeed in school is to have them play chess. After school programs will proliferate, aided by the United Fund and other charities. Eventually, chess becomes an art. Chess becomes a standard part of most school curricula from kindergarten to high school. In the latter, the chess team is supported as a major sport replete with cheerleaders. Scoreboards will light up as they do when a home run is hit in baseball or when a home team player Queens a pawn.

This trend will continue up on through the colleges. Chess minors will exist in many elementary education, physical education and history departments. Many universities will offer chess majors taught by a staff of grandmasters. College chess teams will become popular and alumni contributions will stimulate a highly competitive atmosphere. Unfortunately, scandals will erupt when pay offs lead to thrown games at the Pan Am. Followed by move shaving in the Big 10 conference. Move shaving occurs

when a stronger player carries a weaker one until so many moves have been made. Las Vegas will publish odds on rated grandmaster games and a common betting method is the over/under in moves played.

Prison chess will also flourish. In fact, in one penitentiary in Ohio a riot will ensue over a chronic shortage of chess sets. A national prison rating system will be developed. Many released inmates will habituate tournaments, which in turn will increase petty crimes at these sites, necessitating the presence of a security officer. A rule change will appear in prison chess, resulting in a variant which appeals to many new players everywhere; namely, Checkmate is abolished and replaced with the actual capturing of the king.

As the chess-educated children get older, the game enters into their social life. Chess clubs replace singles bars as pickup places. Computerized dating services will require specifying ones chess rating. Advice columns will sometimes cover endgame positions. Astrology charts will offer opening variations based on the horoscope. Psychoanalysis will include a careful consideration of the patient's playing style. Hallmark will market a line of chess Christmas cards. The first one that appears will show Santa Claus holding a bag of toys, becoming absorbed in a chess position while on his way back up the chimney. On the negative side, the vast sums collected at future tournaments will attract the mob to attempt a highly publicized robbery. Armored car cash pickups at the end of registration will be the norm.

Meanwhile, the spread of Ultra High Definition TV makes chess a popular spectator sport. Grandmasters will capture the public's imagination. Some will appear in well-known advertisements. Others will have cameo roles in movies. Playboy will have a special edition on Women, GMs and IMs, replete with a centerfold. Chess Life will institute a gossip column about famous chess personalities. Topps will manufacture cards of grandmasters as they have with baseball players to include chewing tobacco and later bubble gum packages. The cards will give the age, height, weight, opening preferences, tournament record and GM title date on one side and an action photo on the other. Country clubs will have on staff, a chessmaster or expert, just like they employ a golf pro.

The populist two term U.S. President to be elected in 2040 is an avid chess fan. His winning position against the Secretary of State will be broadcast on TV network news. Chess will acquire a minor role in national politics. This will stem from a debate on the style of chess pieces that should be adopted. Some radicals in the Democratic Party will believe we should be using current technical advancements, namely holograms for play between humans. On the other hand, reactionaries in the Republican Party will advocate returning to pre-Staunton patterns.

Postal chess will become prohibitively expensive as letter and postcard mailing costs soar, and email chess will be tried and bypassed. Server chess took hold and replaces all other forms of correspondence chess.

Unfortunately, the psychic reading on chess was cut short at this point. Most of my accumulated bonus time was exhausted and several more romantic dilemmas suddenly took priority. However, I now bravely look forward to the future world of chess.

## 2042 As envisioned by Bob Basalla

Let's be honest. Most predictions of the future are wrong. The world is far too complex for mere mortals to hit prognostication bullseyes very often. (*Just think about any weather predictions! -Ed*) This is true even for a limited topic forecast such as the game of chess. To make predictions one typically extrapolates current (2022 in this case) trends as if they will continue forever; or conversely, one assumes certain large contingency factors (i.e., "stuff" happens) will come into play (such as a pandemic or a war). The factors often chosen in relation to learning a moral lesson for *our* time. History combines past, present, and future trends plus contingencies big and small, and as such, the future cannot be readily foretold.

Mere reality, however, does not deter prophets such as myself from boldly setting out the inevitable arc of history. Please indulge me as I lay out not one, but several possible and oft' integrated scenarios for the Royal Game's future.

\*\*

### Scenario #1

In terms of rules, the game remains just as it is now, as it has been for decades on end. It is enjoyed worldwide, with practitioners on every continent. Casual play and formal competitions occur in person or online, just as today. It is only certain obstinate Westerners that continue to derisively refer to the game as Chinese Chess.

\*\*

### Scenario #2

All official play now happens exclusively online. Tournaments employ a randomized Chess 960 system for organizing the back ranks before each game to discourage preparation. Even so, e-treatises such as "Winning from Position 786" still remain popular and lucrative for the writers. New pieces can be substituted for the traditional ones whenever the games be-

come too hackneyed. Time controls range from a 10 second side blitz to “Long Chess” stretched out to a leisurely three minutes. Any more time than that inevitably invites cheating, especially from those with temple implant computer ports accessing Alpha 7+ Ultra. Grandmaster titles are awarded to those who have either accumulated 100 sanctioned wins or had prevailed in at least seven official games in a row. Consequently, in 2042 there are nearly fourteen million GMs in the world and rapidly rising. Still, the PC advocates at FIDE (or its future equivalent) find this situation far too elitist and non-inclusive; they push for 50 wins or five game win streaks, respectively, as more equitable benchmarks.

\*\*

### Scenario #3

Chess has been relegated to children's game status (think Tic-Tac-Toe in our era), replaced by various quantum competitions favored by the dominant life forms: interconnected cyborg conglomerations. Only pure humans, a vanishingly small minority of the populace, still indulge in it, to the tolerant amusement of their betters. (Oh, I'm sorry. This is a prediction for chess in 2142. My error.)

\*\*

### Scenario #4

Orwell's Big Brother finally arrived, a scant few decades off from his 1984 prognostication. The chief twist he missed is that Big Brother turns out to have a Little Sister. Both are chess fanatics. As such, all strati of society must either learn chess in state reeducation camps or play at least three monitored games a day. Failure to do so incurs loss of job, traveling privileges and other punishments decided at the whim of local Caissic Compliance Officers. All games are saved in a massive database to be scrutinized by psychologists for unconscious reactionary thoughts. Those that cannot rise to a specific minimum level of chess competence are inducted to fight in the continuing wars against the

remaining pockets of chess resistant peoples on earth. The fact that few return from these wars is wonderful incentive for everyone to study, study, study. As per Orwell's forecast, the future is fixed; it is the past that keeps changing. The 2042 version of The Truth records Big Brother and his Little Sister as World Chess Champions for the past several decades. But the whole social edifice may soon come down as Little Sister has taken up poker and a teetering Big Brother has yet to provide for his succession. After all, for most of 2042 I will be 86 years old.

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

—Abraham Lincoln.

### THE CHESSICAL INQUIRER

If your local supermarket does not yet have this popular tabloid (“Space Aliens Infiltrate the Top Echelons of FIDE,” “Two Headed Man Plays Chess with Himself,” “Madonna Gives her Advice on Flank Openings”) you can subscribe: \$42.50 for 26 issues.

### A CHESS PLAYER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY by A. Lien.

Grandmaster Anatoly Lien gives his grand tour, under the auspices of the Intergalactic Chess Federation, of all areas of interest, ranging from the Squares of Pegasus to sneaky Klingon methods of mating with only two knights to the real secret of UFOs (Unidentified Fianchettoed Objects) to the current status of the Milky Way vs. Andromeda Galaxy Correspondence Match begun 11 million years ago (and just concluding the third move of play). An extra appended section deals with the research and development of a black hole chess set. 360 pages. Price: \$34.95, more if mailed beyond Mars.

## 2042 CHESS (ON THE EDGE)

By Jamaal Abdul-Alim  
2013 Chess Journalist of the Year

The first *Interplanetary Chess Tournament* will take place in spring 2042 between early Mars immigrants and chess players back home on earth. Our chess station on the Moon will mediate major decisions. All games will be played on separate AI boards operated by players on each planet. Each player will move *only* his/her pieces. AI will move the opposition pieces. The traditional black and white colors will be replaced with rustic red and oceanic blue pieces—neither of which will be granted the permanent first move privilege. *That* privilege will alternate.

Transformations abound. Bishops will be represented as rockets to maintain overall shape and form. Knights will be represented by rovers well-suited to complex maneuvers. Rooks will be represented as tall cylindrical columns. Pawns will become astronauts with space helmets to retain their spheric domes. Each King will be a mission control center and the Queens will be space stations, capable of traversing the entire board.

Each tournament player will have a view cam and audio feed which will be broadcast continuously to assure tournament directors and spectators no cheating can occur. (And because testing our new interplanetary chess equipment is very cool!)

As more planets are colonized and more tournaments are held, The International Chess Federation will advance to become *The Interplanetary Chess Federation*. And the “world champion” title will take second place to “galactic champion” title. International Masters to Galaxy Masters, etc. All championship game moves will be transmitted via AI radio signal to the furthest reaches of the galaxy in search of more intelligent life—life that might be capable of generating an intelligent response to 1. e4.

## Reuters Greece CHESS 2042

Playfully submitted,  
Rachel Schechter

*2042 Reuters Greece:* Reportedly, a fierce band of Amazonian warriors (yes, very prime) stormed Thessaloniki and took over the Greek Chess Federation at sword point. They will allow only 9 Queens’ Boards to be played. Nothing else. Scores of opponents who tried to reason with the ladies were slayed on the spot.

Finally, Zeus himself had to intervene. After congratulating the women on their remarkable victory, lavishing them with laurels, and filling their coffers with gold, he said: “I speak for all of Greece when I say we bow to your unprecedented feat of Olympic proportion. It will be recorded for all time.”

Then he shrugged and smiled: “But you know as well as I that without a King on the board there can be no game...”

The Amazons conferred and reluctantly agreed to let *one* man onto their 9 Queens’ Board. By all accounts, the man was so happy he refused to leave the board. The ladies were delighted. So they invited another man, then another, and another... *Reuters Greece* now reports Dionysian spirits are flowing, Pan pipes are smoking, and all of Greece is partying.

Chess buffs have dubbed it “The Amazonian Variation” of the Queen’s Gambit. As you might imagine, all flights to Greece must be booked 2 years in advance and cleared through Pegasus Travel.

The past is your lesson. The present is your gift. The future is your motivation.

—Anonymous

## Berserk Chess

By Dwight Weaver

Chess Clocks? Given the increasing popularity of 5-minute sudden death events and playing bullet chess at weekly meetings we anticipate chess clocks of the future will have a let's go "berserk" function. Something like this:



And since this is only the beginning, we heartily invite you to send us your visions of Chess 2042.

Oh yeah...Joshua says "I finally finished the Byrne book!"

Chess continues to advance over time, so the players of the future will inevitably surpass me in their quality of play, assuming the rules and regulations allow them to play serious chess. But it will likely be a long time before anyone spends 20 consecutive years on top as I did.

—Garry Kasparov

## In Memoriam: Myron Lieberman, 1941-2021

Jointly Released in Sadness by US Chess and the US Chess Trust  
Reprinted with permission by the Chess Journalists of America

Anyone who has attended a U.S. Open since 1974 has seen a couple—always together—walking from meeting to meeting in matching tee shirts that often sported the logos of past Opens. Gradually over the years, quick, sure strides between workshops became more cautious, and eventually a walker appeared in front of Myron. But neither their judgment nor their dedication to US Chess ever lost a step.



*Rachel and Myron Lieberman at the 2016 U.S. Open in Indianapolis, Indiana wearing their traditional matching tee shirts. Also with them are Michelle Martinez (left) and Dr. Martha Underwood. Photo courtesy of Fun Fong.*



*Rachel and Myron Lieberman at the 2009 U.S. Open in Indianapolis, Indiana, wearing matching US Chess Trust tee shirts. Photo courtesy of David Grimaud.*

“Between the two of us, we’ve given over 100 years to chess,” Myron said in an interview in 2015. They donated both hard work and funding. Music was another passion, particularly the Arizona Music Hall of Fame, which they likewise supported. It’s impossible to write about Myron, even on his passing, without including Rachel. And Myron would want it that way.

### Love at first dance



*The Liebermans at the 2003 U.S. Open. US Chess archival photo.*

For the first 20 years of his life, Myron lived in Los Angeles, California. Then he moved to Arizona. The two met in the fall of 1962 at an Arizona State University football after-game dance. “I went looking for a boyfriend,” Rachel once admitted with a laugh, recalling her 18-year-old self. Myron, however, stopped by on his way home to North Phoenix simply to outwait the traffic snarl. It was love at first dance. Ever after, they were together. *Really together.* “We’ve tried to share our lives, not just share a room,” Myron said.

Because the gift of life on Earth is finite, there is an inevitable end to even the greatest partnerships. Myron died Christmas Eve, 2021.



## A lifetime of helping others

“One of the deepest bonds that made Myron and Rachel such a legendary team was a shared commitment to helping people,” Al Lawrence said. Lawrence worked with Myron and then Rachel when they were members of the Policy Board (now the Executive Board) of US Chess and he was executive director. Later, as managing director of the US Chess Trust, Lawrence again worked alongside Myron. “Right up to his final days, his focus was on helping others. Chess was one of the ways he knew lives could be changed. So he gave thousands and thousands of hours to chess on local, state, and national levels.”

Lieberman started organizing and directing chess tournaments as president of his high school chess club in 1957. He played correspondence games with a transfer student from Germany after that student returned to Europe. During the 1960s, Myron was an active member of the Organization of Western Chessmen. This was his introduction to US Chess and organized chess. He organized a match by teletype between Motorola facilities in Phoenix and Scotland. Myron saw what chess had done for many children written off by others. That was a pivotal factor in his decision to volunteer for advocacy of the value of chess.

### Six decades of service to US Chess

Long the primary organizer and tournament director (TD) in central Arizona, for 25 years, Lieberman was president of the Arizona Chess Association, which later became the Arizona Chess Federation, Inc. He organized or directed many Arizona state chess championships during this time. He was chief assistant TD at the Statham tournaments in Lone Pine, California, from 1976 to 1981, and Myron wrote the chapter on history and statistics in *The Best of Lone Pine* by Grefe and Waterman. He organized the U.S. Open in 1978 in Phoenix and other national tournaments in the following two decades, while holding special events for the Phoenix Chess Club.

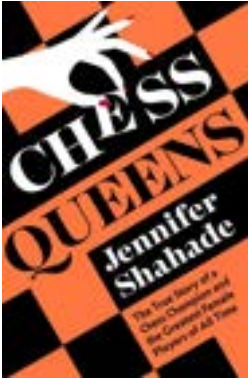


*Myron Lieberman (left) with former US Chess Presidents Harold Winston (center) and Don Schultz in an undated photo. US Chess archival photo*

The current president of US Chess, Mike Hoffpauir, recalls, “I first met Myron Lieberman and his beloved Rachel about 2008 when I became a Delegate for the Virginia State Chapter and attended my first Delegates Meeting. I observed him carefully when he spoke (which was frequently), noting his deep knowledge of US Chess By-laws, business practices, and ‘chess politics.’ Later I learned he was a former US Chess Secretary and Vice President. I immediately developed a deep respect for his considerable knowledge and actually came to rely on it, from time-to-time, when I needed more context on a US Chess issue. The entire US Chess community is saddened by his loss, but his legacy lives on in the structure and activities of our organization. Rest in peace, Myron, and thank you for all you have done.”

Myron earned the titles of US Chess National Tournament Director and FIDE International Arbiter. He served as US Chess national Secretary (1978-81), Treasurer (1981-84), and Vice President (1984-87). At the time of his death, he also served as Secretary of the US Chess Trust and as US Chess Delegate at Large, as well as chair of the US Chess Outreach Committee.

Truly, Myron Lieberman never stopped giving.



## CHESS QUEENS

The True Story of a Chess Champion and the Greatest Female Players of All Time

**Jennifer Shahade**

**Out in the US on  
June 14**

**For fans of *The Queen's Gambit*: the true story of a US Woman Grandmaster travelling the world to compete in the male-dominated world of competitive chess, with the most famous players of all time.**

**Jennifer Shahade** is an Olympic chess champion, a Woman Grandmaster, poker pro, speaker and author. She is a two-time United States women's chess champion and was the first female to win the US Junior Open. She hosts two award-winning podcasts, The Poker GRID and Ladies Knight. Jennifer works to bring more women, girls and gender minorities into the game through programmes like US Chess Women, the Madwoman's Book Club, and a cross-cultural chess club with girls from all the world, from Kenya to Colombia. She is an ambassador for PokerStars and Poker Power, and a board member of the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Her previous books include *Chess Bitch* and *Play Like a Girl!* @JenShahade



**Chess Queens is a fascinating journey into the exhilarating world of chess and an essential book for all the aspiring chess queens of today.**

Jennifer Shahade, a two-time US women's chess champion, spent her teens and twenties travelling the world playing chess. Tournaments have taken her from Istanbul to Moscow, and introduced her to players from Zambia to China. In this ultra male- dominated sport, Jennifer found shocking sexism, as well as an incredible history of the top female players that has often been ignored. But she also found friendships, feminism and hope.

Through her own story as well as in-depth profiles of pioneers of the game, Jennifer invites us into the extremely competitive world of chess. She shows us the rivalry and the camaraderie; the ecstatic highs and the excruciating losses; the glamour and the hard work. She describes the coach who told her that her period will affect her standard of play, and gives us thrilling blow-by-blow accounts of the matches that made history.

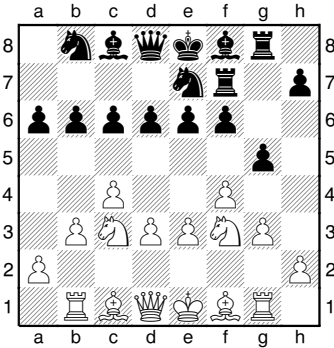
Intertwined with Jennifer's own story are those of the top female players from around the world. We meet the famous Polgar sisters, the three Hungarian girls who were all child prodigies; we meet the glamorous jet setters who travel the world partying, and the players who escaped war-torn countries to become champions against the odds



Since 2020 – thanks to both the popularity of *The Queen's Gambit* and the global series of lockdowns – there has been a huge wave of interest in chess, particularly from young women and girls. The show was watched by **62 million households** in the first 28 days after its release, more than any previous Netflix scripted limited series. As a result, retailers reported **year-on-year growth of 1,100% for chess sets.**

## Oddities and Peculiarities

By Mark Capron



White: Al-Mujannah

Black: As-Sayyala

This position stood out to me from the first time I saw it on the *Myers Openings Bulletin* Volume 1, Number 2, December 1979 front cover. The

diagram is not actually a position from any specific game as much as it displays the “battle arrays” that players would set up (mostly ignoring their opponent until they reached the position they strived for) back before 970 A.D.

The Mujannah set up has made many appearances in the literature since then, for example in 1140, 1257, 1370, 1446, 1487 and finally in 1503. Remember that the rules of today (Pawn advances 2 squares on first move, amongst other changes) have been in place since about 1485!

Some players employing versions of the Mujannah in more recent times have been: NM Hugh Myers, Saint-Amant, Laroche, Lombardy, Bilek, Golombek and Torre to name a few.

The Birds Opening or the Larsen Opening have good chances of leading to similar white pawn structures.

Much more information on this can be found if you look for it.



Vahini Sadhu Venkata v. Ratan Konda and Blake Goldstein v. Allen Everett Wang from the Holly Heisman Memorial tournament.