

The Chess Journalist

Volume XLVIII

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CHESS JOURNALISTS OF AMERICA



This collection of books from roughly the first half of the 20th century were read by Bobby Fischer in his early years. From the collections of the World Chess Hall of Fame, Bill Nigro (son of Carmine Nigro, Fischer's first teacher), and the collection of Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield and Rex Sinquefield.

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Hello From the Editor

Wow!! What an experience this issue was! We have learned quite a bit and plan on having an article coming up in a future issue to describe copyright law in more detail.

My apologies for this issue coming out a few weeks later than expected. A few of these copyright issues, late submissions, and extra layers of proofreading contributed, but mostly I was busy with a few life events. The biggest one was that my daughter got married at the end of September. The wedding was fabulous and my speech seemed to go over well, as I made most of the crowd laugh, most importantly the bride and groom.

Gene Salomon is back for another article. To be honest, I get pretty excited when Gene asks if he can send me another article.

Assistant Editor Rachel Schechter has a new *Chess Keys* with more life lessons to be learned.

Joshua wrote a nice article about the World Chess Hall of Fame Exhibit. We want to thank Diane Dahl, Nicole Tessmer, Emily Allred, and Shannon Bailey who all helped proofread the article and/or helped with the copyright permissions on the photos.

Joshua also wrote up the 2022 CJA Awards and a review of the documentary film *Glory to the Queen*.

Jeffrey Roland has won so many CJA Awards for his work that I can't count them all. We get to know him better via an exclusive interview.

We received a good response from the award winners when we asked them a couple questions about the awards.

Thanks to US Chess *Chess Life*/CLO Editor John Hartmann and Publications Editor Melinda Matthews and Diane Dahl for proofreading this issue. All three seemed to complement each other and I believe this issue is much stronger because of this.

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Please consider sending in an article or idea for next issue, deadline 12/5/22.

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

—Mark Capron



Inspirational Quotes

Yes you can 'taste' the pawn in a way you can't a tempi.—Jonathan Rowson

A mistake repeated more than once is a decision.—Emily Morse

He who has a why to live can bear almost any how. —Nietzsche

The highest art of the chessplayer lies in not allowing your opponent to show you what he can do.—Garry Kasparov

If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere.—Frank Clark

Three Rules of Work: Out of clutter find simplicity; From discord find harmony; In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.
—@EinsteinDaily

2022 CJA Awards

By Joshua Anderson

This is the 2022 final report for the Chess Journalists of America Awards. Thanks to those who helped and those who entered. The report is designed to highlight the winners and give a little feel for the categories. Larger issues or questions raised during the past year will undoubtedly be discussed at various points moving forward but are outside the scope of this report. I look forward to engaging with all interested parties in the future. For now, please enjoy this report.

TOP THREE CATEGORIES (OPEN TO PRINT OR ONLINE)

As noted by others, the Top 3 had four this year, as we incorporated a “Best Overall Book” for publishers to be able to make use of as an award that can help with sales. While this was true for this year, more analysis will need to be done to see if it stays or fits better with the other book categories.

Chess Journalist of the Year (June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022)

Winner:	GM Elshan Moradiabadi
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Moradiabadi scored quite well this year with numerous fives. He continued a recent streak of US Chess writers winning the award.

Best Story of the Year

Winner:	The Miracles on Maryland Ave by Joe Posnanski
HM:	The Fischer Project by IM John Donaldson
HM	World Chess Championship by GM John Burke

Most years there was a dominant story in American chess. It might be something like COVID-19 that affected the world or something smaller like an American making the World Championship title match, but this year there really wasn't one. Posnanski, best known as a *Sports Illustrated* baseball up—and—coming writer, wrote a great piece about Dr. Jeanne and Rex Siquefield. IM John Donaldson's masterpiece on Bobby Fischer and up and coming author GM John Burke's work on the World Championship match both won honorable mentions, just a point short of tying for first.

Best Column

Winner:	Fishbein's Endgame Column Senior Endgame Moments If the Queens have been Traded...	GM Alex Fishbein
Winner:	Chess to Enjoy Death of Style and Home Field Disadvantage	GM Andy Soltis

GM Fishbein has won this award the last couple of years for his endgame work in *American Chess Magazine*. GM Soltis has won this award several times over the years and is approaching his 500th (!) column of *Chess to Enjoy* in *Chess Life*.

Best Book of the Year

Winner:	Smyslov, Bronstein, Geller, Taimanov and Averbakh By GM Andy Soltis from McFarland (mcfarlandbooks.com)
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The book category had been split when judges complained about trying to judge book categories that were too different. This past off season we had a publisher raise concerns about the split. So, this overarching category allows the publishers to have a title they can easily use in their promotion of the book. Last year GM Soltis' book on a set of Soviets had won Honorable Mention by losing out by a single point to Terekhov's book on Smyslov. This time GM Soltis regained a title he had earned previously.

BEST CHESS BOOK

Best Book – Instruction

Winner	Everyone's First Chess Book: Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers by FM Peter Giannatos
HM	The Smyslov Workbook: Improve your ability to find combinations, construct plans, and calculate long, forcing variations by IM Cyrus Lakdawala and FM Carsten Hansen

FM Ginnatos' fundamental tactics book edged out the Smyslov workbook, penned by prolific authors IM Lakdawala and FM Hansen, by the slimmest of margins.

Best Book – Other

Winner	Smyslov, Bronstein, Geller, Taimanov and Averbakh – McFarland (mcfarlandbooks.com) by GM Andy Soltis
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This well-researched book explored five of the upper-echelon Soviet players from the 1950s through the 1970s.

Best Self-Published Book

Winner	Mind. Art. Experience: Ten Years of Chess & Culture in Saint Louis by World Chess Hall of Fame
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This book, with its beautiful pictures, easily won with a rare perfect score.

BEST VISUAL ARTS

Best Photojournalism Article

Winner	The Fischer Project by IM John Donaldson/Ian Spanier
HM	Holly Heisman Memorial by Joshua Andersen

The Fischer Project won in a contest highlighting the two approaches to this category. Anderson just had snapshots on his phone, but they were extremely focused on this event. In one judge's opinion, the Donaldson photos were far better in quality and photographer technique but were less directly connected to the article in question.

Best Single Chess Photo

Winner	Annie tippy-toes to enter her score! by Yuan Ng
HM	Donaldson on staircase at Mechanics by Ian Spanier

This was the second year in a row that a picture from Texas won the award. We didn't know if Annie won her game, but she had won the appreciation and admiration of the judges.

Best Art

Winner	"Resolutions" (cover and opening spread) by Chandler Ellison
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This piece from *Chess Life Kids* was a playful spread and cover for the issue. *Mind Art Experience in Yellow* by World Chess Hall of Fame missed the Honorable Mention by one percentage point. *Cairns Cup*, by the Saint Louis Chess Club was not far behind.

Best Single Chess Magazine Cover

Winner	Chess Life, July 2021 by Ian Spanier
HM	ACM #25 HM by Vladimir Vuksan

Noted photographer Ian Spanier's cover shot of IM John Donaldson edged out the artistic version of GM Magnus Carlsen.

Best Cartoon

Winner	Chess Adventures with Wesley So by Val Bockhov
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Chess Life Kids has a cartoon that they put at the end of each issue. This year, the GM Wesley So's version beat out several non-US Chess comics.

BEST PRINT ARTICLES (OPEN ONLY TO PUBLICATIONS)

Best Regular Newspaper Column

Winner	Collateral Damage and D.C.'s Storied Role —Washington Times by David Sands
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Sands has one of the few newspaper chess columns left, and he continues to put out great articles as he has for about the last three decades.

Best Overall Magazine

Winner	Chess Life
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Chess Life and *American Chess Magazine* have battled over this award for the last several years. This year, *Chess Life* won the award.

Best Single Article of Local Interest

Winner	The Marshall Chess Club Today pp.26-29 by Noah Chasin
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The *ACM* issue focusing on Marshall was mostly historical in nature, but this article on today's Marshall won the award for Best Local Article.

Best Feature Article

Winner:	The Fischer Project by IM John Donaldson et al.
HM:	The Miracles on Maryland Ave by Joe Posnanski

Interestingly and not uncommonly, when articles are entered in Best Story and Best Feature Article, the same story does not always win. This was the case here where *The Fischer Project* edged out *The Miracles on Maryland Ave*.

Best Interview

Winner	Witness to Chess History - Anthony Saidy by Joseph Ponterotto
HM	A Star-Spangled Opera and Chess Success! by Pete Tamburro
HM	Abhi Mishra interview by John Hartmann

There is something about interview categories that routinely causes multiple award winners. This year Ponterotto's interview of long time player IM Anthony Saidy provided a unique view into 60 years of chess. Tamburro and Hartmann both won an honorable mention, Tamburro for his interview of FM Nathan Resika, Hartmann for his interview of GM Abhi Mishra.

Best Tournament Report National / International

Winner	Cool Hand Magnus by Sarunas Sulskis
Winner	The 2021 World Championship by Alex Yermolinsky

The key number for this category was 13. There were 13(!) entries and the two co-winners both scored 13 points. They also both dealt with the 2021 World Championship.

Best Tournament Report – State / Local

Winner	Viva Las Vegas! by JJ Lang
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This report on the National Open won the State/Local award and scored numerous fives.

Best Club Newsletter

Winner	Chess Advocate – Memphis Chess Club by Dwight Weaver (2 issues)
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This newsletter was in color and printed by the club. (They even sent pictures of printed copies, even though they didn't need to do that.)

Best Instructive Lesson

Winner	Aagaard's All-Round Chess Training by GM Jacob Aagaard
Winner	The Quasi-Outpost by GM Elshan Moradiabadi

This is another category that routinely draws numerous entries—Seven this year. The winners were two authors, one who has routinely done well, Aagaard, and a newer author, who was having himself quite the year.

Best Review

Winner	Fresh Leaves from the Bookshelf in Issue #22 pp. 94-97 by Carsten Hansen
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Best Review is always a battle between the in-depth review of one or two items and the reviewer who covers many items. This year the "many-item" reviewer won.

Best Analysis

Winner	Carlsen's 6th Sense – Nepo's Unpredictability by GM John Burke
HM	A Historic Game! GM Wesley So on Game Six of Carlsen – Nepomniachtchi by GM Wesley So

This year there were nine entries in Best Analysis and the two that scored awards were both focused on game six of the World Championships. GM Burke's work edged GM So's by a single point to win the award.

Best Historical Article

Winner	When Allies are Enemies at the Chessboard pp. 38-46 by Eduardo Bauzá Mercére
HM	Frank J. Marshall: A Century Ahead of his Time pp. 8-11 by GM Andy Soltis
HM	How it All Began: The Marshall Chess Club 1915-1944 pp. 20-25 by Pete Tamburro
HM	Bobby Fischer's Lost Game Scores by IM John Donaldson

This category had nine entries as well, many from regular judges of the awards, and some of the best historians in the country. In the end, Bauzá Mercére edged the much more famous historians GM Soltis, IM Donaldson, and Tamburro, all by a single point. His well-researched piece included footnotes, an unusual bonus for a chess magazine article.

Best Humorous Contribution

Winner	There is No Singing in Chess by Tom Langland (from <i>Humor in Chess</i> , produced by Dewain Barber)
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Langland (and really his wife, who is star of the piece) gave us this entertaining tale that had appeared in the Dewain Barber-produced series promoting humor in chess and raising money for the multitude of Denker/Barber type events for kids to attend before the U.S. Open.

Best Personal Narrative

Winner	A Remembrance-Glenn Arne Petersen by Pete Tamburro
Winner	Different Wavelengths by Mike Klein

This tie between two famous former CJOY authors was for very different pieces. One, by Klein, a sort of "middle-age questioning of life in and out of chess," while Tamburro remembers good friend and former *Chess Life* editor Glenn Arne Petersen.

BEST ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS AND FEATURES

Best Interview

Winner	Coming to America: An Interview with GM Vladimir Belous US Chess.org
Winner	Shankland Returns: Back on the Board, Back in the Club, Back in the Groove US Chess.org
HM	Cyrus Lakdawala and Carsten Hansen by FM Jim Eade
HM	George Mirjaniian by FM Jim Eade

In categories with three or four entries, there can often be very tight scoring—as none of the pieces stand out, usually because every thing is well done. In any case, that is what happened here with two US Chess pieces tying for first and the two Eade pieces both earning an honorable mention.

Best Feature Article

Winner	Alekhine's Life Lesson, and Chess After 65 pp 14-27 by NM J. Eugene Salomon
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This story of Salomon's chess playing after the age of 65, and how it was influenced by his time with Alekhine much earlier in life, won for feature article.

Best Podcast

Winner	Ladies Knight Chess Episodes 31 to 42 with WGM Jennifer Shahade
HM	The Chess Underground (podbean.com) Episodes 27 to 38 by NM Pete Karagianis
HM	One Move at a Time (podbean.com) Episodes 33 to 44 by Daniel Lucas

WGM Jennifer Shahade does not always win the podcast categories, but she, an avid poker player, would be the one to place your money on. She has bested Dan Lucas, Senior Director of Strategic Communication for US Chess, for a third time and by a single point each time. Lucas and fellow US Chess employee NM Pete Karagianis both won an honorable mention.

Best Single Podcast Episode

Winner	Ladies Knight episode 40, ft. Anastasiya Rakhmangulova with WGM Jennifer Shahade
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Here the scoring was more spread out, with WGM Shahade winning and no honorable mentions.

Best Tournament Report – National/International

Winner	Vachier-Lagrave Wins Three-Way Playoff: 2022 Superbet Chess Classic Romania, Day 9 Chess.com —like the USChess.org materials below this is a closely connected series with all the articles being listed on the page the link goes too.
HM	2021 FIDE World Championship US Chess.org – various authors

Over a decade ago, the idea of having a series of daily online tournament reports may have been imagined, but they were not yet fact. Even in the largest events, most had one report at summing up all the rounds or maybe a report at some rest day, and then a final report (matches were already being done a little differently.) It is now common for this style of report to dominate online reporting. The top three finishers here were all of that style with FM Carsten Hansen's work covering the Superbet Chess Classic, edging out US Chess's multi-author approach to the World Chess Championship.

Best Tournament Report – State/Local

Winner	Holly Heisman Memorial by Joshua Anderson
HM	In the Ring: Spring CCCSA IM Norm Invitational by Grayson Rorrer

This category had two very different types of entries, those highlighting an event tied tightly to a smallish community and those that are small but involve players from all over. For this year at least, the event with close communal ties won with Rorrer picking up an honorable mention for his extremely detailed analysis of his play in a 10 person round-robin held in North Carolina, but involving players from all over.

Best Club Newsletter

Winner	Chess Advocate by Editor & Publisher Dwight Weaver for Memphis Chess Club
HM	Denver Chess Club by JC MacNeil

The colorful *Chess Advocate* just edges MacNeil's *Denver Chess Club* online work, which won an Honorable Mention.

Best Instruction Lesson

Winner	IM Carissa Yip on the MEMORABLE MOVES behind her first US Women's Title! –
HM	Common Thought Process Errors by NM Dan Heisman
HM	Chess Keys: A Rook and a Quarter by Rachel Schechter

This is another category where the entries were extremely close in scoring. Yip's work focusing on her games from winning the Women's U.S. Championship edged out both *Common Thought Process Errors* (by noted instructor NM Dan Heisman) and the lesson by Rachel Schechter (editorial assistant for this publication). Heisman's second entry, *Finding Standard Opening Lines*, missed winning an Honorable Mention by a single point.

Best Analysis

Winner	Carlsen Wins Sixth Game of World Championship; So Annotates! US Chess.org
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This piece analyzes what will likely become known as one of the most famous games in a world championship match. Despite its length, 136 moves, it was quite thoroughly analyzed in all aspects by GM So.

Best Humorous Contribution

Winner	Chess in 2042 pp 44-45 by Bob Basalla
Winner	Mistaken Identity: Nepo Is Misidentified By Sports Channel by Ray Linville
HM	IT'S PERSONAL by David Emerling for <i>Chess Advocate</i>

This was another one of these categories where we have three out of four entries receiving an award and all (or most) are seen as being very close to equal. Here all three entries received at least one first place vote and at least one third place vote.

Best Historical Article

Winner	Bradley Beach 1929 Part I, Part II, and Part III by Thomas Shupe
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This unexpected and deeply researched piece on the Bradley Beach 1929 event won first place, receiving several first place votes from judges. Gene Salomon's *Alekhine's Life Lesson, and Chess After 65* piece missed out on an honorable mention by a single vote.

Best Personal Narrative

Winner	Alekhine's Life Lessons by Gene Salomon
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Gene Salomon's remarkable story about his experiences with his hero Alexander Alekhine did not win for Best Story of the Year (though it did receive some votes), but makes a very strong showing here, besting five other entries while earning several first place votes.

Best Overall Chess Website

Winner	US Chess Federation
HM	www.worldchesshof.org by World Chess Hall of Fame

US Chess was able to win this with a wide variety of news reports as well as tons of rating information, forms, etc. WCHOF did well and received an honorable mention.

Best Overall Website Small Organization (group of less than 500)

Winner	The Eade Foundation
HM	Grandmaster2B

The Eade Foundation, which supports a variety of chess programs throughout the globe, edged out Grayson Rorrer's Grandmaster2B site for victory in this category. Grandmaster2B won an Honorable Mention award.

Best Online Blog

Winner	Ray Linville Blog
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This year Ray bested two blogs run by owners of companies, Evan Rabin of Premier Chess and Chris Torres of Daily Chess Musings.

Best Educational Lesson

Winner	Episode Seven: A Night at the Opera by Chris Torres
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First-time entree Chris Torres won the award for the lessons from this classic game.

Best Online Review

Winner	Watson Book Review: Jones' Coffeehouse Repertoire US Chess.org by John Watson
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This review by US Chess' popular reviewer won the award.

Best Non-Instructive Chess Video

Winner	Marshall Chess Club–1950s–A Look Back
HM	Mind, Art, Experience: 10 Years of Chess & Culture in Saint Louis PREVIEW by World

This category had three extremely different pieces. A round-table discussion of days gone by with a group of talented players from the mid-20th century edging out a very professional 21st style piece.

Best Twitter Feed

Winner	Grand Chess Tour
HM	US Chess (@US Chess)
HM	NM Dan Heisman

As we will see later on, the WCHOF/SLCC won the three "social media categories." This was the closest one with NM Dan Heisman and US Chess earning honorable mentions.

Best Twitch Channel

Winner	Saint Louis Chess Club
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The Saint Louis Chess Club Twitch channel was particularly well-received and bested the US Chess Twitch channel.

Best Instagram Feed

Winner	Grand Chess Tour
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Submitted by WCHOF, the Grand Chess Tour Instagram feed won over US Chess.

Best Documentary

Winner	Lev Albut by Adam Whitaker
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Our first documentary, (we have several currently interested for next year), was won by this work examining the life of GM Lev Albut.

Best Tournament/Match Coverage (This may be a series of videos)

Winner	2022 Grand Chess Tour: Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland
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This category, envisioned to highlight all the video tournament coverage that is available these days, had a very solid entry from WCHOF.

Best Coverage by Mainstream Publication (FREE ENTRY!)

Winner	After four brain surgeries, Colorado teen continues to win at chess and inspire by
Winner	TIME for Kids TFK Goes to an All-Girls Chess Championship by Via Ryerson

This was the first time people used this category that is designed largely to help the CJA promote chess in mainstream publications. Both entries won an award (they were not competing against each other.)

JUNIOR (UNDER 20)

Moving forward, the Junior category will mirror the US Chess rules for description of a Junior. In other words, if the person is UNDER 21 at time of publication, then that piece may be entered. For this year, however, it was Under 20.

Best Print Article by a Junior

Winner	“A Triumph of Experience” by Grayson Rorrer
Winner	“Miss Tactics” by IM Carissa Yip
HM	“A Golden Ticket” by Grayson Rorrer

IM Yip’s report on her winning the U.S. Women’s Championship and Rorrer’s report on the U.S. Girls’ Junior tied for first in this category. Rorrer’s report on the U.S. Junior won an Honorable Mention.

Best Online Article by a Junior

Winner	TIME for Kids TFK Goes to an All-Girls Chess Championship by Via Ryerson
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While there were numerous print articles in the other two categories, this category was lightly entered—something of a surprise, given that one might expect the chess-playing youth to be more comfortable with digital media rather than print media. In any case, Via Ryerson’s piece on the All-Girls Chess Championship won her an award in this category.

Best Personal Narrative by a Junior

Winner	“Miss Tactics” by IM Carissa Yip
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IM Yip’s personal narrative was well received, tying for first in Best Print Article by a Junior and winning Best Personal Narrative by a considerable margin.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Unlike most years, all entries in Special Achievement won this year. As is usual with this popular category, we have a wide range of

items. *American Chess Magazine* used it to highlight their five years' of existence (an unusually long time for a national chess magazine), and to highlight their issue focusing on: Frank Marshall (no relation to Bette Marshall, one of our judges.) Our own organization used it to highlight our two community projects—"Chess after 2042" and the "Marshall Chess Club—1950s - A Look Back." The former was based on a Ross Nickel project that found new life after being forgotten about for several decades. Capron and Schechter took Nickel's original idea and, with some reworking and help from a variety of folks, produced "Chess after 2042," a strong and interesting piece of work.

The piece concerning the 1950 Marshall Group was put together by Tony Saily who had spoken with me during the 2020 Fischer round table about assembling a new round table of players who had played at the Marshall in the 1950s. We were able to do that, and although the conversation wandered through many topics (not all related to the 1950s Marshall), it was a fun piece to listen to and a great way to learn about the Marshall in the 1950s.

Abel Talamantez submitted a Mechanic's Institute Newsletter that had been a tremendously long time in coming. It was the 1000th (!!) newsletter for Mechanic's Institute (the club in San Francisco.) This letter made an effort to have columns and information reflective of many past events.

Winner	ACM Marshall Tribute Issue
Winner	The Fifth Anniversary (Josip Asik, Dusan Krunic, Jimmy Adams, Pete Tamburro) and
Winner	Marshall Chess Club – 1950s – A Look Back
Winner	1000th Newsletter from Mechanic's Institute
Winner	Chess After 2042

CRAMER AWARDS

These awards are named after noted American chess supporter Fred Cramer. There have been several iterations of the awards over the decades. These days, we use the awards to highlight the fine work done at the state level.

Most states that participate come back the following year and we hope to continue to grow state participation. States have also been inclined to take advantage of our offer to have two entries for free.

It has done well, but it hasn't brought us much in the way of new people, since the states usually use them for more exclusively state work (i.e. state magazine where numerous people are involved). Certainly, this makes sense but it is unfortunate in that it doesn't help our organization to attract individuals as much as we would like. How we solve this problem is unclear, but certainly I expect us to keep doing what we are doing, but hope to also augment/find/brainstorm some way to help the organization attract more individuals.

Best State Championship Report

Winner	Alabama State Championship Report by Scott Varagona in <i>Alabama Chess Antics</i>
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Varagona once again provides a nice report on the Alabama State Championship. Between this piece and his work on the history of the event, he is going to be quite a specialist on the state championship of Alabama.

Best Scholastic Coverage in State (may be multiple articles)

Winner	Florida Chess
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Florida is one of the more active states in the Cramer Awards and gets well deserved recognition for their piece with many photos.

Best Overall State Website

Winner	Texas Chess Association by Chris Wood
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This battle was between Texas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, and we look forward to other regions (besides just the southeastern region of the U.S.) joining them next year.

Best State Magazine/Newsletter – Print

Winner	Northwest Chess–12 issues
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See below for comments about *Northwest Chess*.

Though it did not score quite high enough to win an honorable mention, *Colorado Chess* was the clear second place in this category, producing four high quality issues.

Best State Magazine/Newsletter – Online

Winner	Northwest Chess–12 issues
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This year, as is common, *Northwest Chess* won for Best State Magazine. This magazine is edited by Jeff Roland and has won the award for so many years I have lost count. They produce a great magazine, but many of the groups that enter produce a great magazine. The difference is that *Northwest Chess* does it 12 times a year where most of the other entries only produce two, three, at most four issues a year.

Best Personal Narrative

Winner	Searching for Stuart Rachels by Scott Varagona–Alabama Chess Antics
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This fine article, detailing Varagona’s success at getting to play Rachels and losing to him, is an entertaining story of overcoming barriers to achieve one’s goal. Even if it doesn’t finish with a perfectly happy ending, it deserved to win the award, and brings our award nicely to a close.

Acknowledgements

Every year we have a few surprises, a few tears, and a lot of help. As always, the most important help that I get comes from my wife, who doesn’t get nearly the credit she deserves, so first, much thanks must be given to Brandy.

We had many groups participate this year including quite a few new ones. Thank you all for submitting such fine work.

This year, for the first time, the World Chess Hall of Fame and Saint Louis Chess Club had several people who lent a hand in judging. Just as we regularly receive help from US Chess, who has to avoid categories they are involved in, both of these organizations avoided works sent in by themselves or their “sibling” organization.

Finally, I would like to finish by thanking all the individuals involved in judging: Ram Singh, Vasishtha Tumuluri, Shawn Wang, Yajat Gupta, Peter Minear, Rodion Rubenchik, Matthew Bengtson, Eric Johnson, Dan Heisman, Dov Gorman, Anand Mishra, Al Lawrence, Pete Tamburro, David Sands, Mark Capron, Howard Goldowsky, Dan Lucas, Melinda Matthews, Mike Klein, Andy Soltis, John Donaldson, John Hartmann, Sean Manross, Rebecka Ratcliffe, Sophia Rhode, Anthony Gold, Eric Vigil, Jennifer Vallens, Todd Winkler, Ray Linville, Scott Varagona, Matt Traynor, Jim Hollingsworth, Anthony Saidy, Bette Marshall, Frank Brady, Stephen Dann, Emily Allred, Richard Pointer, Rebecca Buffington, Brian Flowers, Robert Shlyakhtenko, Ralph Bowman, Alexey Root, Ralph Dubisch, Leteef Street, Chris Torres, Eric Holcomb, Rachel Schechter, Abel Talamantez, Julie Rorrer, Grayson Rorrer, John Hilbert, Macauley Peterson, and Daniel Lona. [We could not do this without all of you.](#)



Two Former CJA Members Pass (Rachel Lieberman and Allan Savage)



Rachel Lieberman passed away on March 27 at the age of 77. Her husband, Myron, had passed only three months prior. The two were inseparable in life and now in death.

Photo from the US Chess Archives



FM Allan Savage passed away on May 15, 2022. Allan was a member of the CJA off and on for about 40 years. Allan was a prolific correspondence chess player and earned the IM title in 2000. World Champion Jon Edwards has created [Allan G. Savage’s Correspondence Chess Career: A Philatelic Look](#). Although Allan didn’t win he played in the World 3/4 Championship.

Photo from the Jon Edwards article (edited).

Some comments from our award winners on what it meant to them to win a CJA award:

At age 94, I feel proud with this distinguished award!...It was my story narrated with love and with the help of a real MASTER in EDITING (Diane Dahl) with whom I want to share the award! It is an honor for me and a testimonial to the memory of that Giant of Chess history and chess Journalism, Miguel Angel Nepomuceno, who insisted that I had a story of chess and chess in life that had to be told... As a new writer who did not really start writing articles for magazines until age 89...I could not believe it! THANKS for the honor...it encourages me to keep on writing!

-NM Gene Salomon

Even at age 72 I still have something to contribute; my Youtube channel is only 3 years old but with 300+ quality videos on chess instruction I hope that CJA recognition will help me reach more viewers.

-NM Dan Heisman

Winning a Chess Journalists of America award for the *1000th Mechanics' Institute Newsletter* is very special to me because the club newsletter, which was started by IM John Donaldson, is really a conduit between the club and community, and it helps bring people together not just as a source of information about chess, but as a social tool of expression and communication. The 1000th issue and all its contributors brought together decades of perspectives and stories at the Mechanics' Institute, and so it is very special to be recognized for it. Thank you to the Chess Journalists of America for the opportunity to be recognized and for recognizing the contributions of the chess community. It is a special thing for voices to be heard and valued, not just from those whose profession and talent is to write about happenings and events, but for the regular chess community itself to offer contributions and perspectives.

-Abel Talamantez

The Marshall C.C. tape of grizzled veterans reminiscing was my brainchild. I am 85, and this award is a tribute to memory.

-GM Anthony Saidy

I was deeply honored to receive the award for best print interview. I was particularly happy for IM Dr. Anthony Saidy, the interviewee. Dr. Saidy is so connected to the history of U.S. chess, from the pre Fischer-Lombardy era to the present; and he is still playing! As I think about it now, if not for Saidy, Fischer may not have ever made it to Reykjavik to face off against Spassky and change the trajectory of chess history. I was also surprised to receive the award because the honorable mention interviews conducted by Peter Tamburro and John Hartmann were exceptional. I also am a fairly recent newcomer to CJA and am not sure I have contributed enough to the field to earn such a prestigious award. I feel very happy and fortunate.

-Joseph G. Ponterotto

To be honest, I don't focus on awards, praise or even recognition when I am providing my time and efforts to Chess. I enjoy the game, I enjoy the people and I enjoy being part of something that I believe can bring value to others. Working with the contributors,

hearing ideas for improvement, etc. is far more important to me than any award. Is it nice to be recognized? Sure. But, to me, it primarily indicates that I am on the right track. Will it change my focus on what I produce? Not really. I'm going to produce the best periodical I can, regardless if there is an award involved or not. The sense of accomplishment for me is that I can go to the *Texas Knights* area of *TexasChess.org* and see that the issues that I created are available for consumption (or I can pick up a printed issue) and basically say to myself 'hey, I did that and it was appreciated by others'.

-Jeff French, *Texas Knights* editor

Winning the award was *high recognition* for the many hours of work invested that one does not often receive from the general reader.

-Dwight Weaver

It's nice to know that some segment of the chess community appreciates some of one's past work.

-Ross Nickel

It's very validating for me as a chess writer (and magazine editor) to know that my work in *Alabama Chess Antics* has won Cramer Awards for three years in a row.

-Scott Varagona

I've won CJA awards many years but this one is special. To win any award the same year as Joe Posnanski makes it more special.

-Mike Klein

Winning The Best Educational Lesson was significant to me for a number of reasons. As a chess coach, this is quite an honor considering how many other fine chess instructors I know in the United States teach about Paul Morphy's Night at the Opera. While I could have chosen a lesser known game for my lesson submission, the way in which I teach Paul Morphy's epic 1858 victory over Duke Karl II of Brunswick and Count Isouard at the Paris Opera House has been popular with my students for over two decades. I have shown the Opera House Game to nearly every class I teach and my coverage of this classic has definitely evolved because of their incredible questions. So for me, winning Best Educational Lesson with Morphy's Opera House Game is sharing this achievement with all of my students who helped shape my presentation of A Night at the Opera into the award winning lesson it is today.

-Chris Torres

The nomination surprised me. Winning shocked me. And humbled me. There are so *many* talented chess writers, podcasters, etc.; I'm honored to be in such an esteemed company. Winning, too, is inspirational. I've written three more Chess Key pieces; a fourth is on the back burner. Thank you.

-Rachel Schechter

It is always nice to receive recognition for projects you are passionate about. The Chess Underground has brought me great joy to produce and record. I am very thankful our Senior Director of

Strategic Communication, Dan Lucas, approached me with this opportunity back in 2019. Without it, I would have missed out on many opportunities to connect with chess players across their country and bring their story to the world. I think especially of my sit down with Garrett Scott, who we lost this year, and how meaningful that conversation was—and is—to me.

-NM Pete Karagianis

I've been writing about chess in newspapers, magazines and books since 1973. Along the way I've been awarded over 30 certificates and a couple of obelisks. I still get a kick out of getting them because the recognition by the CJA is the precious little we usually get from our writing. Yeah, you can write a book, but I'm always reminded of an article Andy Soltis wrote for us in *Atlantic Chess News* in the 70s: "Write a chess book and starve your way to fame."

You can hang the certificates on the wall, if your wife lets you, or use the award for your resume, or you can put them in a folder like I do. It's then nice for me to go back and remember some of the articles—like a family album. My chess family.

I encourage all the prize winners to volunteer to be judges. You learn a lot about what other people are writing about and how they do it. You should go through all the categories. And you help ease the CJA load on the judges, not to mention our seemingly tireless and overworked president and chief judge, Joshua.

Edward Winter wrote rather disparagingly about the CJA awards. He doesn't get it. From the time we got a colorful sticker on a first-grade homework assignment, Americans love being recognized—and, more especially, being appreciated.

For those who won one award, start looking around for other categories to write in. It might be the start of a personally rewarding experience! And you'll enjoy every single additional one.

-Pete Tamburro

It was a great honor for me to win the award for best historical article (online). I became a USCF Expert in 2020 and won a board prize in the DC Chess League, but receiving this award was my best chess achievement. Knowing that my fellow chess journalists admire and value my work continues to inspire me.

-Tom Shupe

What do these awards mean to the chess community?

Most people working for chess are not compensated. Occasional recognitions may even induce others to contribute.

-Ross Nickel

I don't think the chess community in large is familiar with CJA awards; I think CJA can do a better job on social media of making the public aware of their award-winning material. (For example) I have the Chess Tip of the Day on Twitter

www.twitter.com/danheisman

-NM Dan Heisman

In addition to granting recognition and creating a sense of camaraderie, these awards inspire the chess community to reach higher and perform better.

-Rachel Schechter

I hear a lot of positive comments about what I have done, I believe it's appreciated. I know that since I had left, I have received a number of emails asking me to return (mainly because TK distribution slowed way down, where I was regularly producing an issue every other month). So, getting awards for periodicals that bring enjoyment to others probably provides a sense of belonging and unity to our Chess community. But, to be honest, it might be better to ask readers.

-Jeff French, Texas Knights editor

Once news of the award(s) becomes widely known, it helps make the publication more of a focal point for chess promotion.

-Dwight Weaver

It is wonderful to read/view the work of our peers and acknowledge their efforts. Very few chess journalists can earn a living at their craft, so to be acknowledged by one's peers is especially meaningful and rewarding. The CJA Awards also acknowledge such a wide variety of accomplishments; there are so many categories which allows for different members with different strengths and passions to be acknowledged. Actors have their Academy Awards, and it is nice that our craft receives national attention and is honored through the CJA Awards.

-Joseph G. Ponterotto

Many chess journalists at the local/state level will often toil in obscurity for their entire careers, so the Cramer Awards truly are wonderful. The unsung heroes of local chess literature are finally getting a chance to receive national recognition for their hard work.

-Scott Varagona

To writers and those producing content they are a nice way to be recognized. To the outside world, they are largely ignored I think.

-Mike Klein

There are so many people that quietly work to improve the chess community, but they rarely receive recognition for their contributions. With these awards, the Chess Journalists of America offers a chance to recognize these individuals and to let them know their contributions are valued. In doing this, the CJA is reenergizing the chess community's top creators while helping to inspire the next generation of chess journalism.

-Chris Torres

I think the CJA brings an important element to chess journalism. Not only do they serve as a review committee, but they also provide audiences with information about new works that they may not have otherwise discovered.

-NM Pete Karagianis

Any other comments about the awards you want to make?

There are a lot of awards now! When there were fewer they were more prestigious (and easier to judge!) 😊

-NM Dan Heisman

Far too much of the work falls on one man.

-GM Anthony Saidy

Before I started as *Texas Knights* Editor (the first time) in 2014 ... I had never heard of CJA. Again, Jim Hollingsworth introduced me. What surprises me about this is that I had been a member of the USCF (and Texas Chess Association) on and off (more on than off) since the early 1980s. And maybe it was because I didn't pay that close of attention to ads or articles about CJA (to be honest, don't know if there were any). But, what does this mean? I really don't know. But it did surprise to see how long CJA had been doing what it does, as long as it has, and I hadn't ever heard anything about it. Jim was telling me that some of the categories get very few submissions. I don't know if this is a communication (i.e. advertising) problem, a lack of interest problem, or some other phenomena. What I will say is when awards are available, people typically come after them.

-Jeff French, Texas Knights editor

The annual awards from *The Chess Journalists of America* highlight those who are promoting the *Royal Game* of chess.

-Dwight Weaver

I am amazed with the level of effort and time commitment that Joshua Anderson and his team devote to this process. It must be hundreds of hours each year given the number of awards, reviewers, and review and ranking process. We are fortunate for their leadership and very appreciative.

-Joseph G. Ponterotto

I like that the CJA has expanded its offerings to include various newer forms of media.

-Mike Klein

It's nice to see so much recognition for the digital mediums. I am glad CJA looks ever forwards to new horizons of Chess media.

-NM Pete Karagianis

Encouragement uplifts all of us.

-Rachel Schechter



Caruana Wins Chess 960 in St. Louis

By Mark Capron

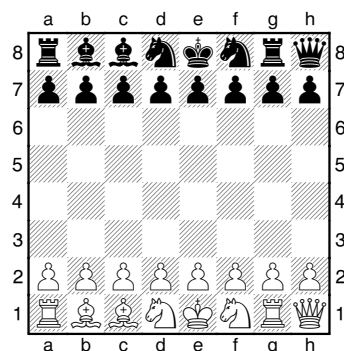
Fabiano Caruana and Alireza Firouzja tied for the Chess 960 title in St. Louis. Caruana won the Armageddon game after each player won a game in the tiebreakers. Chess 960 caught my attention a few years ago when I was able to follow along one of the tournaments held in St. Louis. Since that time I have had visions of directing an event, but COVID-19 has pushed back my plans. Maybe I will get one set up in 2023. In this year's event I wasn't able to watch the majority of it, but did catch a few rounds. I was really intrigued with the game Kasparov—Nakamura. Kasparov had his chances but in the end wasn't able to win it.

17. ♖f6 ♙e6 18. ♗e2 ♖c8 19. ♙c3 e4 20. f3 exf3 21. ♖×f3 ♗d8 22. ♗g3 ♙xf6 23. ♖×f6 ♖c7 24. ♖f2 ♖gg8 25. ♖×h7 ♗f8 26. ♖h6 ♖a8 27. ♖g1 ♗a5 28. ♗e2 ♗c4 29. ♙d3 ♖d7 30. ♖gh1 ♗g6 31. ♗f4 ♗×f4 32. exf4 ♗d6 33. ♖h8 ♗e4+ 34. ♙×e4 d×e4 35. ♖×g8 ♖×g8 36. ♖h8 ♖×h8 37. ♖×h8+ ♖a7 38. ♖e5 ♙d5 39. f5 b6 40. a4 a5 41. ♖e3 ♙b7 42. b3 ♖d8 43. f6 ♖c8 44. d5 ♖g4 45. ♙d4 ♖f3+ 46. ♖d2 ♖d3+ 47. ♖e1 ♖b1+ 48. ♖f2 ♖×b3 49. d6 ♖c2+ 50. ♖g3 e3 51. ♖×e3 ♖g2+ 52. ♖f4 ♖h2+ 53. ♖g3 ♖d2+ 54. ♖e5 ♖a2 55. ♖f4 ♖d5 56. ♖e3 ♖e4+ 57. ♖f2 ♖×d4+ 58. ♖f1 ♙e4 0-1

(2360) Kasparov, Garry (2812) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2768)

Champions Showdown: Chess 9LX 2022

Chess.com (2), 14.09.2022



1. g4 c6 2. c4 g5 3. h4 g×h4 4. ♖×h4 d5 5. c×d5 c×d5 6. ♗c3 e6 7. e3 ♗g6 8. ♖h5 ♗c6 9. g5 ♙d7 10. d4 a6 11. ♗h2 ♙d6 12. ♗g4 ♙e7 13. ♙d2 0-0 14. ♖h1 ♖g7 15. a3 ♖b8 16. ♙c2 e5

Rank	Name	Fed.	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
1	GM Firouzja, Alireza	FRA	2778	x	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	6.5
2	GM Caruana, Fabiano	USA	2758	½	x	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	6.5
3	GM Nepomniachtchi, Ian	FID	2792	0	1	x	0	½	1	1	½	1	1	6
4	GM Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar	AZE	2757	½	0	1	x	1	1	½	1	0	1	6
5	GM So, Wesley	USA	2771	0	0	½	0	x	1	½	½	1	1	4.5
6	GM Nakamura, Hikaru	USA	2768	½	0	0	0	0	x	½	1	1	1	4
7	GM Aronian, Levon	USA	2759	0	0	0	½	½	½	x	1	½	1	4
8	GM Dominguez Perez, Leinier	USA	2745	½	0	½	0	½	0	0	x	1	1	3.5
9	GM Svidler, Peter	FID	2683	½	1	0	1	0	0	½	0	x	½	3.5
10	GM Kasparov, Garry	CRO	2812	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	0.5

Perhaps this is the game that spurred Nakamura on? See page 20 for more details on what Nakamura accomplished in his next Chess 960 event!!

Jeffrey just finished his 119th consecutive month as editor (October 2022 issue) of the magazine *Northwest Chess*. *Northwest Chess* is produced monthly! The math is now easy... next issue will be his 120th issue, and he will have completed exactly ten years (and still going...!!!) Ten years is an amazing number considering it is monthly and has been the CJA winner of Best State Magazine/Newsletter both Online and in Print for so many years. Jeffrey says "now that I'm here, it almost seems easy, yet I can remember after my December 2012 issue, the level of difficulty of doing that, I thought at that time, that there was no way I could even even get to three issues!!! But here I am at 119 consecutive months (issues), still doing the impossible..."



2018 Washington Open in Lynnwood, Washington on May 28, 2018. Photo credit: Alex Machin.

Please tell us a bit about yourself and your family.

I'm single, born in 1962, lived in Boise, Idaho for all but three months of my life. I have a roommate, Alex Machin, who is also a chess player, in fact a very good one. However, we almost never play chess with each other; I have a German Shepherd dog who is now five years old and with whom I am very close.

I like to collect and organize things. I have lists about almost everything. Excel is my favorite software program, and I keep track of things like my DVD/Blu-Ray collection, my music library, and even all the issues of *Northwest Chess* (*Washington Chess Letter* and *Northwest Chess Letter*) as well as all the current issues I'm doing.

With ChessBase, I have a record of all my chess games, even going back to the first game I ever played. I guess I feel by recording all my chess game, somehow that makes them matter, and maybe I play better.

Since I was about 14 years old, I have been very much into photography as well. My grandmother was a great photographer, and I kind of naturally grew up with photography as a huge influence on my life. I like to preserve the best of today for tomorrow, I guess!

Did you go to college? If so what did you major in?

I briefly went to college right when I got out of high school. But the timing of that wasn't quite right. I was at that time not sure what I wanted to do, I was majoring in music, but I felt that I wasn't sure music was where I wanted to concentrate all my efforts, though all through high school, music was pretty much everything. I was in band, orchestra, I even joined a drum and bugle Corp right after high school. That was the summer of 1980, and the Corp was in Spokane, Washington, right after Mount St. Helens erupted and sent ash all over the place that hung around for months.

What do you do for a living now or did in the past?

My first job was a paper route for The Idaho Statesman, which I had from 1975 to 1980, probably taught me more about life than any other job. I had to deal with customers (and I was/am a shy guy), so to even come to the door to collect the money (back then the paperboy was basically his own business even collecting the money) took a lot of time. I had to have the discipline to wake up every morning at 4:00 AM without fail, no vacations, every single day even weekends. I had a lot of customers that had some very specific needs. One customer wanted me to honk a horn when I delivered the paper so they would know it was there. Others wanted it inside their screen door, and I basically had to give customized special attention and tender loving care to each customer. In fact, I never just threw the paper in someone's yard. Each delivery of each customer (on two paper routes I had), never ever did I ever throw it in the yard, it went on the doorstep, or in some special place they wanted. A few times I might end up with an extra paper (but since I counted them before I started, I knew I had missed somebody) so in my mind I walked through the whole route in my head, remembering every detail, oops, I just stepped in a hole, oh, the dog barked, I opened and shut that gate, etc., and once in my mind I figured it out, I knew where to deliver that paper. I went five years without a complaint. I learned to figure out my mistake before just waiting for the customer to complain.

Having the paper route from the time I was 13 years old really taught me responsibility and gave me skills that to this day are just a part of who I am. I can't imagine delivering papers without really paying attention and doing the best job I could do.

Later, I got various other jobs, like working in a Sandwich Shoppe, mowing lawns, typing freight bills for trucking companies. For 17 years I worked at a credit union, started as secretary because of my typing skills, but really took to the computer system and was soon very instrumental in running the back-office programs that made things work. Later, I went into the banking industry, running the IT for a bank, and learned a lot doing that as well.

Now, I caption phone calls for the hard of hearing (or even deaf), and I work from home. I also am editor of *Northwest Chess*, and I do that from home too.

How does chess fit in your life?

First, chess is a game. And because it's a game, it should be

enjoyed! If you aren't enjoying it, then you need to change something inside yourself so that you do, or else you can quit, I guess.

Back in high school, I had the opportunity with some fellow students in the band to visit and play music at this old folk's home. This experience profoundly affected me. For some reason I saw all these old people and wondered what I would be doing when I'm this old.

I remember asking myself, "What am I going to do for the rest of my life?" It's a serious question for a teenager to ask! I thought, I probably shouldn't do something athletic (although I was in great shape then), because when you're 30, you're washed up! (No offense to anyone... this was the mind of a teenager... I am 60 now, and I'm still not washed up!) I thought but maybe if I played chess, that would be something I could do socially for the rest of my life. Young and old alike, everyone can play chess every day of their lives if they want to! So, that's kind of what made me start to really give of myself to chess. So, visiting that place and playing my trumpet for the old people opened my mind to decide to play chess for the rest of my life.

What inspires you? What inspires you to write?

Mr. Hamm was my Social Studies teacher in the eighth grade. I raised my hand in class one day when the teacher asked if we had any questions (about a test we were about to take) and I said, "Mr. Hamm does spelling count?" In response, he came right up to me, and said very solidly and firmly, and he even grabbed me physically by the shoulders and totally had my attention and said, "Young man, let me tell you something, everything you do in life counts!" and that was a moment that changed my life forever. I got it! Message received and noted! I wonder if teachers out there know that there are sometimes moments that will change a kid for the better for the rest of their lives... because everything they teach also counts!

But this might be a good place to bring out the one thing that really inspires me in chess, and that is simply to record the games! I once bought a very cheap book from a budget bin in K-Mart back when I was just starting, and I recall a line from the book when describing the Immortal Game. It said, "This is the most brilliant game of which there is any record."

That line inspired me. And it was played in 1851 which to me was very ancient history!! I could, in the 20th century, experience what they did in the 1800's because the game was recorded! That fascinates me. It got me to thinking maybe if people recorded all their games another Immortal Game could be discovered... because that sentence from the book clearly leaves the doors open to the idea that other games might be even more brilliant, but there is no record.

So now there are two main aspects of chess I like. Number one, to experience the moment with the other player. Basically, it's kind of an intimate experience, two players who themselves aren't enemies, they play the battle on the board. The other player is someone you should be grateful for, who without them being there, you would have nothing. Who wants to play a game with themselves. So, I guess I like the way chess players experience the game so intimately. Hopefully one can find and make friends through chess. Most of my friends in chess are life-long friends.

And it's a way to record the game, and the record-keeper in me can keep track of it.

In 1982 when John Letterman became President of the Idaho Chess Association (ICA), he recognized the incredible achievements of Dick Vandenburg, who had produced an Idaho newsletter called *Idaho Chess Quarterly* (later named *Idaho Chess Bulletin*) which lasted from 1956 to about 1966, with some periodical one-page mailings done too, later through about 1980.

In 1981, I had bought a typewriter with money I had saved up from my paper route. One of the things I wanted to do with this new typewriter was to type up *all* the games from a chess tournament and produce my own tournament book!

I had not yet been elected to anything (later I became an officer in the ICA doing almost every job possible from 1984 to now almost non-stop!), but here, as a private citizen, just a person who had a typewriter and played chess (rated about 1600 I think at that point), I went to all the chess players in the tournament (I was 20-years old) and convinced them that if they gave me their games, I would type them up in a "tournament bulletin" and then to thank them for doing that, for giving me the opportunity to do this, I would share the fruits of this labor and for only 50 cents (which was no profit, it was only the cost of the photostat copies) I would give them all a book of all these games to keep for all time. Now keep in mind, at this time, nobody in the ICA collected score sheets, nobody cared! So, my asking to do this was kind of different and special. And I produced the book, gave it to everyone, it was totally free except the cost of the photocopies, but I made no profit.

Well, this caught the attention of the new ICA President John Letterman in 1982, and he came to me and T.W. Robinson and the three of us produced a 1982 newsletter called *Idaho Chess News*. So, I was an assistant or maybe it was contributing editor. This was to come out quarterly. Well, it wasn't too long before I was doing everything, and was the editor of this publication until I believe the last issue was in 1999.

Skipping ahead, when I became webmaster for the ICA which I did for ten years, during that time, I keyed in each and every game from every tournament played in the ICA using both score sheets and got complete comprehensive accurate records of all the games of the events during that ten-year period, again, for free! It sounds insane! But I found I could do two things at once, I could enter the games into ChessBase (PGN) (which is the dirty work nobody wants to do, but once it's done, you can do almost anything with that game), and I could while doing that listen to music, and it was quite relaxing to me. I found it very rewarding. But I doubt you could find anyone anywhere who would do that, I was/am unique! (But then, so too is everyone in their own way!)

Who is your favorite author? Favorite book?

IM John Donaldson is my favorite author. He writes about the kinds of things I like. He digs in and unearths history that might otherwise get lost. He knows all about *Northwest Chess*, and I think he understands that all of us in some way or other are part of history. He really investigates his subject and does a great deal of research. He does the world a service. The final product is always very high quality! I loved his two books on Akiva Rubinstein namely, *The Life & Games of Akiva Rubinstein: Volume 1: Uncrowned King* and *The Life & Games of Akiva Rubinstein: Volume 2: The Later Years* both by IM John Donaldson and IM Nikolay Minev.

If you read about chess what aspect draws you in most? history, openings, endings, biographies, etc?

I like history, tournament books, and game collections. My favorite player is Euwe. But recently after getting over some of the propagandist, I've come to see Botvinnik too as also someone who is as inspiring to me as Euwe. Karpov of course was absolutely one of my favorite players as well, possibly even my most favorite player.

Do you have a favorite chess book? If so, what?

When I first began to play chess, my mother bought me two books from the bookstore. So, I had two chess books only for a time. One was called *The 1000 Best Short Games of Chess* by Irving Chernev and the other one was the book *The World Chess Championship 1978: Karpov vs. Korchnoi* by GM Bent Larsen and GM Michael Stean.

The first book almost ruined me because it focused on a lot of very brilliant combinations; they thought nothing about sacrificing a queen and all kinds of material and all the games would end in like 20 moves or less beautifully and brilliantly of course, some even in under ten moves! Well, this is not the way the world works. Chess games can't always be like that!

But the book on the World Chess Championship 1978 was all new, cutting edge at the time with the latest chess theory, and was fascinating to me. This book showed great chess by the two greatest players at that time who were active, and there were a lot of games (the 32 games of that match, very well annotated by Bent Larsen plus all the previous encounters Karpov and Korchnoi had played up to that point unannotated). This book inspired me to play my best friend Paul Johnson and acquaintances in several chess matches between 1979 and early 1980. I played nine chess matches (one lasting as long as 17 games) before I ever even knew there was a chess club or any other people really who played chess. So, I played chess with Paul mainly because I didn't know anybody else played. But by playing my best friend exclusively for almost 100 games, the most wonderful thing happened. We both got kind of good! We taught each other by playing chess as a match.

There was a bookstore in downtown Boise (called Chapter House Book Store) that I would pass every day on my way home from my mile and a half walk from school to home, and there were some really nice chess books in that store. When I went there and bought one, my friend also had to buy the same book (and vice versa I had to buy the books he bought) because we were playing a chess match, and we needed to know what the other one was learning else we would be handicapped!) so the bookstore sold two of everything.

Is there a good story behind your becoming an editor?

I met Frank Niro (formerly Chief Executive at US Chess) at a coffee shop in Eagle, Idaho in 2011. He wanted to meet me, so I met with him there. There among other things, we discussed *Northwest Chess* because I had recently discovered it while trying to search some of the early Idaho chess history. So, I wondered if they had anything, then I discovered back issues back as far as 1947 (coincidentally the same year ICA began) and forward, and the more I saw in the old issues, the more I was inspired.

I told Frank I loved *Northwest Chess* and wondered if they could advertise an Idaho tournament. So, I wrote to them, and they did post it on their website! This was wonderful. Frank mentioned a rift between two old-time leaders of chess (Dick Vandenburg and Robert Karch) that had a falling out and that led to Idaho leaving *Northwest Chess* but nobody could remember why. I had remembered reading in the *Idaho Chess Quarterly/Bulletin* about how Robert Karch drove in his car all the way from Washington to Dick's new place in the North end in Boise in 1958, and they discussed the magazine and the *Northwest Chess* ratings and stuff, so at some point they seemed actually quite close. Anyway, Frank and I wondered why Idaho couldn't join *Northwest Chess* again since the ones who broke it up weren't even alive anymore.

I went to the *Northwest Chess* Annual Business meeting in Portland and spoke to the NWC Board and asked them if Idaho could be part of this, and they said yes. So, I was to write four pages of Idaho Chess News in every issue. This happened. But a funny thing happened. It wasn't long before they noticed how punctual I was, how I never missed the deadline, and they asked me if I would be editor. I was wowed and awed at the quality of the magazine and thought there was no way I could do it because I didn't know the software. Time went by and they asked again, and I again said no. Later, the third time they asked me, I weakened and said, okay, but you must have someone train me, then I'll do it!

So that's what happened. Frank Niro agreed to train me, and after four months, he turned it all over to me. That was December 2012, and I've done 119 issues since, my next issue will be my 120th and mark exactly ten years of issues.

When doing a Northwest Chess issue could you let us in on the procedure? Give us some insight into the magical transformation from someone's submittal to incorporation and editing to the final publication.

The process starts when the business manager sends an email to all the organizers/advertisers and me saying what ads go into the issue. Also, the number of pages is given, the size of the pages, the deadlines for the advertisers to commit to doing an ad (and a final date for the final ad to be done), the ads that are to go into the issue, and that if anyone has any other ads, they need to send those in. There could also be other information in this email.

I then take the previous month's issue, "save as" to get all the size and other formatting things. Basically, all I really care about at this point is page two, which has all the standard legal and credit information that doesn't change issue to issue. I delete all pages except the front and back cover, page two and page three (which has the table of contents). Then I add in 28 blank pages, so I have a very blank 32-page issue (modifying the footer to show the new month).

Then I get the submitter's material by going through my emails and start editing, usually in Microsoft Word. I read through it carefully, fixing things that aren't quite right to our style sheet, things like numbers "1 to 10" need to be spelled out "one to ten." Everything else is formatted uniformly. I sincerely try to make each issue the best I can make it. My job as editor is to take whatever I get and make it look as good as I can get it to look. I try to fix as much as possible so that when we proofread it later, there's not as much to fix. But we basically are proofing at all stages of the process all the time.

I have the most incredible games editor who does so much more than that for me. He's a former editor himself, and about my same age, and we hit it off great right at the start. I didn't expect to make such a super friend through the magazine. We complement each other's strengths and weaknesses so well, and we try ideas out. Each issue really is an opportunity, and we do try something new each issue, to make it just a little better. We must do it this way because we produce an issue each month, when one is finished the next one is time to start. It's never ending, going on and on. Who has time to get burnt out? We only have time to meet those print deadlines and then do it again!

Perhaps another insight I can provide is that it is possible for me to take a break after an issue is done before tackling the next one, but it's hard to do it that way. When you stop, take a week break to recover, I find it is hard to start the mojo back up again. It's better to just always keep going, never stop, never rest, keep doing issues with no break between. There is plenty to do all the time.

Some issues work well and are easy (these are rare!) but some are incredibly hard. I guess it depends how much you bite off and chew. I know that I feel good about each issue, at the time I'm doing it, it's what I'm doing, it's what is... it's now! I usually don't hold anything back either. If I can squeeze even more in, I try to! Even if I have nothing when it's done. Somehow, miraculously, the next month, you get more material once again... well, so far this is true. The first time I held nothing back, I worried that by doing that, the next month I would not be able to put anything in, but I tried it, and it worked!

Favorite quote?

"Where there's a will there's a way." I have found this to be a sound and true thing in life.

There's another quote I do like, my mom taught it to me my whole life... "You're as good as the best, but no better than the rest." I truly believe that!

Favorite food?

I like a nice medium steak with a baked potato cooked at home. But it's rare that I can afford that. But you asked for favorite.

Favorite type of music?

I have a very wide variety of likes in music. I like music from the 1930's forward, spanning every type of music imaginable! I don't think I could limit anything. When I'm in the mood, I can like anything.

Here is a link to *Northwest Chess*. Check out this award winning magazine

[Northwest Chess Magazine \(nwchess.com\)](http://nwchess.com)

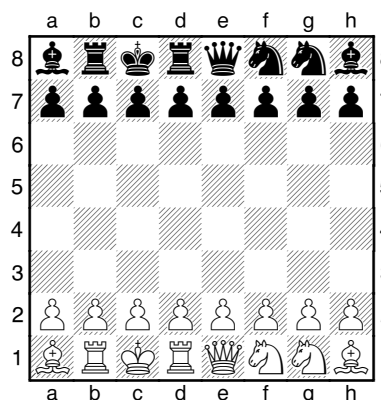
Nakamura Wins World 960 Championship!!

By Mark Capron

Hikaru Nakamura took home the title after a grueling schedule where he scored 13.5/20 including 3 out of 3 in the semi-finals. The only game Nakamura lost was in the finals against Nepomniachtchi. The event was held in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 25-30, 2022.

Nakamura had to defeat Ian Nepomniachtchi in an Armageddon after they tied the final match at 2-2.

H. Nakamura (2768) - I. Nepomniachtchi (2793)



1.b3 b6 2.e4 e5 3.g3 g6 4.f4 f5 5.fxe5 ♖xe5 6.exf5 ♖xh1 7.♙xc5 gxf5 8.♙c3 ♙c6 9.♘e3 ♗h5 10.♗f2 ♘h6 11.♘e2 ♘e6 12.♗f1 ♗b7 13.d4 ♘g4 14.♗xf5 ♗xf5 15.♘xf5 ♘xh2 16.♗e1 ♗f8 17.♘e3 ♙e4 18.d5 ♘g5 19.♘f4 ♗be8 20.♗b2 ♙f3 21.d6 c6 22.♘c4 ♘e4 23.♘e5 ♘xc3 24.♗xc3 ♙g4 25.♗e3 h5 26.♗be1 ♗xe5 27.♗xe5 ♘f3 28.♗e8 ♗f6 29.♗h1 ♗xd6 30.♗g8 ♗d2 31.♘xh5 ♙f5 32.♗c1 ♗h2 33.♘g7 ♙e4 34.♘e8 ♗h6 35.♗f8 d5 36.♗f6 ♗h3 37.♘d6+ ♗c7 38.♘xe4 ♘d4 44.♗h7+ ♗b6 45.♗ee7 ♗c5 46.♗d7 ♘f3 47.b4+ ♗c4 48.♗h5 1-0

The final standings were:

1. Hikaru Nakamura
2. Ian Nepomniachtchi
3. Magnus Carlsen
4. Nodirbek Abdusattorov
5. Vladimir Vedoseev
6. Wesley So
7. Matthias Blübaum
8. Hjörvar Steinn Grétarsson

Now is the time the boys will be separated from the men. It is the biggest decision you must be willing to make in your chess career. YOU MUST ADD GAMBITS TO YOUR OPENING SYSTEM (Note: I said ADD -NOT GIVE UP your basic system). You must play them, win with them, and lose with them. There is no substitute. Being a pawn down, you will have to dig into each position on each move. You will learn to use that extra space and tempo. You will develop that "killer instinct" and learn to handle open positions - being ready when that closed position will surely become open. Those that cannot stand to lose games and rating points because they are converting to gambit play ARE HOPELESS in my book. Do not cry with them when they are on "that chess hill they can't climb," and do not feel sorry when they start slipping backward. For with the stubbornness and cowardice, they did not play gambit and dug their own chess graves! —From Ken Smith's Chess Improvement course

World Chess Hall of Fame: 1972 Fischer/Spassky: The Match, Its Origin, and Influence

By Joshua Anderson

The World Chess Hall of Fame has spent years balancing art and chess. This balance, like beauty itself, is in the eye of the beholder. The beholders, in this case, are the talented and experienced curators—Shannon Bailey, head curator, and Emily Allred, curator. In this exhibit, chess is brought to the fore with Shannon stating, “This exhibition means so much to me! I enjoyed working on it maybe more than any other show I've done at the HOF.”

The museum has one large display space on each floor. To divide up the space and provide more surface area for pictures and ephemera, white walls were placed throughout the floor. The three-dimensional artifacts were usually placed in display boxes positioned around the dividing walls.

The museum's first floor is dedicated to the early years of Fischer, starting with his mother, Regina Wender Fischer (who graduated from Soldan High School in Saint Louis), and his father, Paul Nemenyi. It then moves swiftly through displays depicting his sister teaching him to play in his first chess events, and then to his time with John “Jack” Collins. In his introductory speech, John Donaldson highlighted the table and chairs where John “Jack” Collins and Fischer (along with many others) sat and learned to play (curated by Shannon Bailey and Emily Allred). This is part of the hall's collection and is by far the most striking display on the first floor, but there are several other noteworthy items.

The Sturgis Cup is also on display. This item, too often forgotten about, was “given” to the winner of the U.S. Open, starting in 1945 and continuing through 1966. The winner of the Open, (ties decided by tiebreaker), had his name engraved on the back. Unfortunately, due to placement, it is hard to see the back of the Cup. This speaks to a minor problem of the exhibit, which is that the other chess players of the era are too largely ignored. They should certainly not be the focus, but especially through the 50s and early 60s, Fischer did not exist in a vacuum. In another example, there is a fabulous map of Fischer's New York. It is a large display with about 30 places highlighted, and why they were important to Fischer. It would have been interesting to include other players of the era, along with brief descriptions of how they interacted with Fischer.

The second floor focuses on Fischer's run to the championship, mostly on his candidate and World Championship matches, but also on some of the other events of the mid-1960s. These include the 1966 Olympiad in Havana, Cuba, where an AP video clip plays behind a wooden chess table - one of approximately 100 tables made especially for the tournament by the Cubans. This one was later given to Fred Cramer, but it now belongs to the United States Chess Trust who lent it to the World Chess Hall of Fame.

As most of this floor showcases the run for the World Championship, it is not surprising that there is a replica of the table used for most of the World Championship games along with a selection of memorabilia, both from the chess world and from the popular press. Perhaps the most interesting of the ephemera is a collection put together by New

Zealander Robert Wade, of what were essentially opening books of Petrosian and Taimanov, containing notes and analysis designed to help Fischer prepare for each opponent. Some of Fischer's notes can be seen in the books. At this point, the exhibit includes additional video of some of the more well-known pieces, (Fischer with Dick Cavett, Fischer getting the key to the city of New York, etc.) on screens throughout the exhibit.

The third floor examines the post-match events, focusing on Fischer's influence, rather than on his behavior, over the last few decades of his life. The most interesting connection, according to Donaldson's opening comments, is the letters that Fischer wrote to Berliner, focusing on Berliner's work with computer chess. Fischer was one of the first, if not the first, of the world-class chess players to believe that one day computers would play a prominent role in chess, and be far stronger than any humans.

This section also provides a more thorough account of Spassky's post-1972 career than is usually seen in English. There are photos of Spassky from before and after the World Championship, a poster of the Spassky-Byrne match, and related items, including correspondence between the two former players.

Many of the artifacts belong to the Hall of Fame (some have been used before in exhibits), and many others were generously lent from the Sinquefields' private collection. There were a few additional pieces that were lent by individuals such as Maria Byrne (widow of Robert Byrne) and Irena Kavalek (widow of Lubomir Kavalek). There is also a collection of Spassky-related photos from an unnamed source, so it is quite possible that you will find some pieces used in previous exhibits.

There are no significant aspects of Fischer's life missing from the exhibit, though some video interviews with Dr. Tony Saidy, Aben Rudy, or others, such as those in Iceland, would have been a nice addition. They also might have incorporated more of the questions concerning how we balance Fischer's greatness as a chess player with his behavior as a human, since that influences how we, and society, have viewed him over the past half century.

Still, these are minor quibbles. This is not only an excellent display about Fischer, but it also provides some depth and understanding into the role of Boris Spassky, and how their match has altered chess ever since.

Author's disclosures:

The author helped Maria Byrne donate an item to the exhibit. He also has worked on a limited basis with the World Chess Hall of Fame on a variety of projects and hopes to do so again in the future.

The author also notes that due to his work on the Byrne book for McFarland, he is fortunate to have had experience working with Fischer documents. He hopes visitors to the exhibit appreciate seeing the original game scores and find

them as impressive as he did.

Additional author's note:

The Hall has a few items permanently on display. On the stairs from the second to the third floor, the Hall has a few reprints from 19th century newspapers and similar items highlighting the history of chess in St. Louis. All the materials that are permanently maintained for the World Chess Hall of Fame and the United States Chess Hall of Fame are displayed on the third floor. These include two excellent electronic touch-screen display boards that allow the viewer to see a brief history of the player (in both Halls), a few pictures, and a famous game.

All photos below reproduced with permission.



World Chess Hall of Fame, picture taken from across Maryland Avenue, in front of the Saint Louis Chess Club.



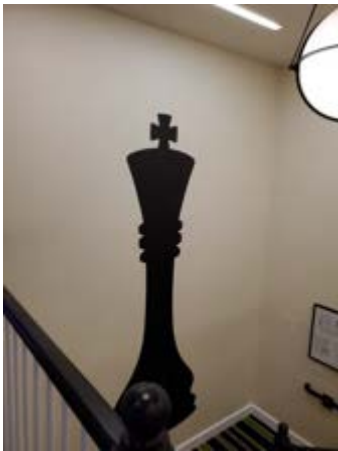
Two 1956 score sheets - Albert Jenkins (W) in a North Carolina vs. Log Cabin Chess Club match and J. D. Bacardi (B) in the 1956 U. S. Amateur Championship



One of the special boards built for the 1966 Havana Olympiad.



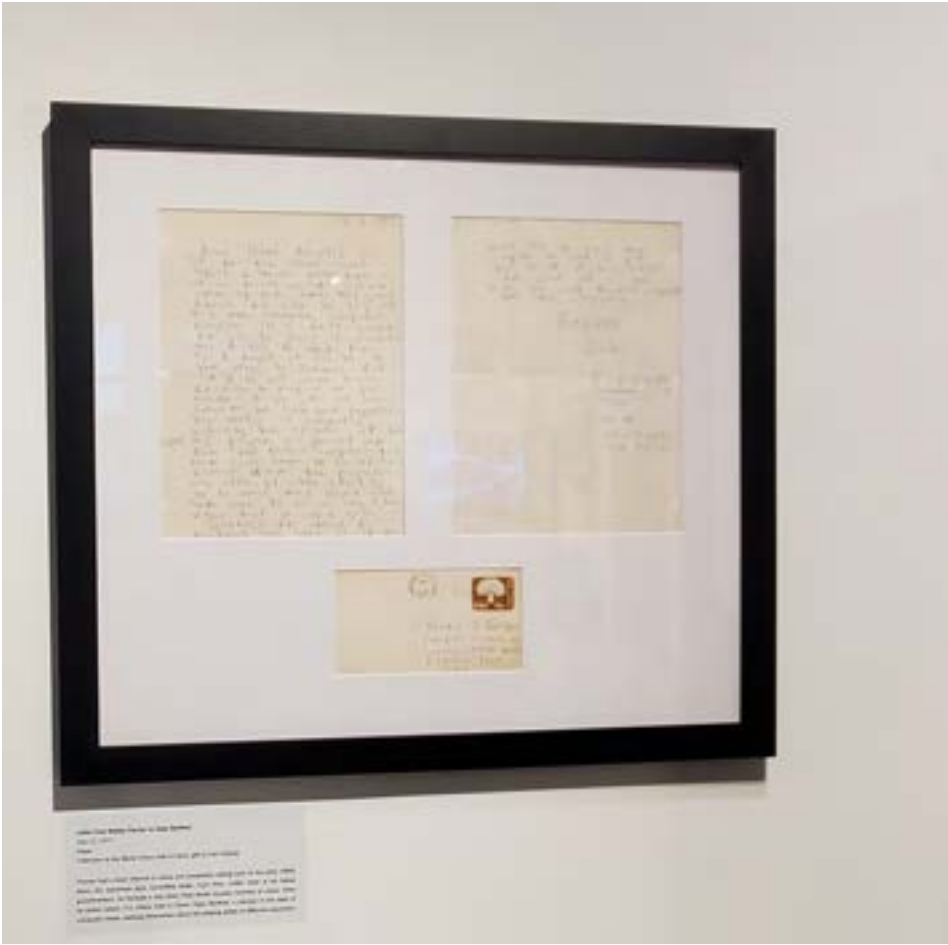
Photograph of Bobby Fischer. Used with permission @ Harry Benson
 Bette Marshall realizing that in the photo she is the one right behind Fischer as he exits the plane.



Above: Many Spassky—related items in front of the electronic boards that allow visitors to see pictures and games of all members of the U.S. and World Chess Hall of Fame.
 Left top: Stencil of a king in the stairwell of the World Chess Hall of Fame.
 Left bottom: One of numerous wall signs helping to contextualize the many artifacts.



Poster, book, and wire photo of the 1992 Fischer v Spassky rematch. Laurel wreath photo on the right reproduced with permission.



Letter from Bobby Fischer to Dr. Hans Berliner.



Advertisement for Fischer's famous 1964 cross country simul tour.



Bobby on the Dick Cavett Show. Reproduced here with permission.



Text sign highlighting all of Fischer's 1971 achievements. Next to it is a First Day Cover from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Anatoly Karpov is a noted collector of stamps. I wonder if he has this one?



Above: John Donaldson, Emily Allred, and Rex Sinquefield at the opening ceremony of the Fischer Exhibition, now on-going at the World Chess Hall of Fame. Bottom Left: World's largest chess piece.



Chess Keys:

The Backward Pawn
by Rachel A Schechter

Gangly, he is, all tall arms and sprawled legs, lip-twisted, limp-wristed, shy, unapplied, everywhere eyes. Peter Woodhouse. I look at his mother Janice.

"I'll pay you anything you want," she pleads, in a tight, tired voice, "If you can get my son to focus on the chessboard for an hour, even 30 minutes. *Anything.*"

I smile and pat her shoulder; she bursts into tears that seem long overdue.

"I—I'm sorry," she sniffs, "I've tried everything I know for Peter. Countless teachers. Social Workers. Psychologists. I—this is so embarrassing."

"Why don't you tell me about Peter?" I say kindly. "And please, sit down, my next class doesn't arrive for an hour."

She takes a chair, takes a deep breath:

"He's 13. Severe, well, yes, severe ADHD, that's what all the tests say. I've home-schooled him since Covid—but the isolation was terrible. I mean, his overall intelligence is good. Fifth, sixth grade levels. *He just can't focus, he just can't concentrate—on anything.* Plus, he's slightly autistic—can't bear to be touched. Do you think you can help him?"

I smile and nod, swallow a bit of skepticism. My experience with ADHD and Autism is very limited but the research indicates that chess can strengthen students' patience, focus, perseverance, action/consequence reasoning, and creative and analytical skills.

"Of course, we can help him, Janice. That's what we do here at Treasure Chess." I gesture to our slogan on a wall: "*We build confidence, character, and community...one student at a time.*" I leaf through his IEP. Math good, verbal good. "Is he violent with other kids?"

"He's a lamb," Janice smiles, "Covers his head, rocks, and cries if anyone yells."

"Food allergies?"

"None."

"What's this about his 'lack of control'?"

Janice clears her throat, assured Peter is out of earshot, and leans toward me:

"Whenever he gets a little nervous, he'll tell you he has to go to the bathroom."

"And how often is that?"

Her shoulders slump:

"Every ten minutes..."

"He urinates every ten minutes?"

"No, that's the thing. *He doesn't.* He just leaves the room, goes to the boys' room, washes his hands, and returns a few minutes later. Occasionally, he goes."

"That's odd..." I muse.

"*Is it too odd?*" Will that disqualify him?" Hands to her head.

"No, no," I say, always up for a challenge, "He can start with my fifth/sixth grade group."

"Thank you, Miss Rachel, thank you so much! What about the cost? Just name it."

I can hear my accountant: "Charge her double, triple, you have debts. You wonder why?!"

I study mother and son discreetly: clothes threadbare, disheveled hair, shoes cracked and torn, Peter oblivious and clearly forlorn, and Janice's eyes, worn, so worn. Quick hand to the top button of her coat.

"My husband lost his job during Covid, but things are better now, I..."

I sigh. Covid devastated all of us. The entire world was still reeling. Fortunately, I'd been able to lock into a spacious storefront and set up shop. As the owner was a chess buff, the rent was negligible. Kids couldn't wait to get back onto the board. I had more students than chess pieces.

"Whatever you can afford, whatever you're comfortable with," I say, handing her a class brochure.

"Oh, but I want to—"

I open my hands:

"Look, we've *all* known hard times. You're *not* alone. Prices are in the brochure. And we also offer chess scholarships."

Janice composes herself. "Do you really think chess can help him?" I look to Peter again—he's curious and disinterested—touching the boards, the pieces, studying the ceiling, the floor. I smile, half-shrug.

"I promise I'll do everything I can. The game can work wonders."

"When can Peter—?"

"Tomorrow. 4:00. No equipment necessary."

Janice points to a large, gilded pirates' treasure chess on the floor:

"What's that?"

"Oh," I laugh, "Pirates, treasure, you know, we throw money into it and donate to local charities. Students select the charities."

"What a great idea—"

We shake hands.

"See you and Peter tomorrow, then."

.....

Treasure Chess is a multi-media chess workshop divvied into three areas: board-building & chess art, film/books/computers

and, gameplay and instruction.

The chess space I chose for Peter was in the gameplay area. The less distraction, the better, I thought. If that didn't work, I could shift him about, experimenting until I found the right tactics, the best combination.

Shifting? Experimenting? Turned out to be non-issues.

Peter Woodhouse took a seat—the same seat—in the very back of the room and didn't budge from it (excepting several bathroom trips) for 3 weeks, 6 classes. There were 7 other students in this 8-week class. Though a few of them were friendly, inviting Peter to sit and play, he spoke to no one, looked away, shied away, squirmed. Sat alone in the back of the classroom, same seat, same desk, never altering his position. I was reminded of someone, something—but couldn't quite place it, latch onto it.

During the 4th week, toward the end of the class, two students, Miranda Wright and Lexie Dallas tugged on my sleeve:

"Peter smells bad, Miss Rachel. Can you do something?"

"Okay girls, why don't you move to the other side of the room? I'll handle it."

I force a smile and walk over to Peter. He rarely spoke to me either, just hello and goodbye. I stop short, look down. Oops. He hadn't made it to the bathroom—there was a small but smelly pool of urine under his chair. Two other students start snickering. Soon all the youngsters are laughing. My heart wrenches.

Peter looks down at the urine, then at me; our eyes meet for the first time.

"You know, Peter, it's no big deal, it's—"

He jumps to his feet—irate—and bangs his fist on the chess board in front of him.

"This f%\$*&^g game makes no f@#%\$^g sense!" he yells. "I was so busy trying to play these pawns, I didn't realize I had to go to the f%\$^#@g bathroom!?"

The class is non-plussed. It's the first time he's spoken. I look at the pieces on the board and nod. Progress. This is progress.

"Which pawns were you working with?" I ask casually.

He picks up the chess board and slaps it on the table, scattering the few remaining pieces. Parents begin to appear at the door.

"Time to regroup, clean-up, count the pieces," I say to the class. "You too, Peter."

"I—I'm not sure where they all go," he mumbles, dejected.

I hold out a box. He picks up the pieces, 7 of them—seems he was trying to solve a puzzle. 4 pawns, a knight, a rook, and a king. Likely a smothered mate.

"Is this all of them?" he asks.

"Uh, I don't know," I lie.

He waves his arms, agitated:

"There was a horse, a castle, a bunch of pawns and a King...I don't see the King—"

I smile and open my hand:

"Is this it?"

"Hey—yeah—that's it, that's the King."

I hand it to him while I chat with and wave to departing students and parents.

"Okay, time to close up shop," I tell Peter, "Put the King in the box."

Peter rolls the King from left hand to right.

"Are you sure?"

"Sure about what?"

"Um, about putting the King in with the other pieces? He should be separate. The King is royal, the King has the gold, the King is—"

I touch his shoulder; he doesn't flinch; we are nearly eye level.

"At the end of the day, the Pawn and King go into the same box," I tell him. "***This is a key concept in chess.***"

"Always?"

"Yes, always."

Slowly, deliberately, he places the king atop the box. I close the lid.

"But how can that *be*?" he moans. "The king is powerful—the pawn is just—what does it mean?"

I shrug, secretly delighted with turn of events, this conversation.

"What do *you* think it means?"

"I'll have to think about that," he nods. He lifts his hand to his mom who's waiting patiently at the door. "Well, see you next class."

.....

And so, he did. Peter Woodhouse. And the class after that. And so on. A new young man. Reborn. Becoming, yes, a chess student. No, he still didn't talk much with the other youngsters and still moved away if they got too close, but he was "present" at the board, listening, digesting, moving pieces, offering an occasional answer or insight. That he lost every game decisively didn't phase him.

Miranda smiles: "You know, Peter can be pretty nice sometimes, Miss Rachel."

I smile too, nodding, watching his play—then freeze. That's it! It's the *pawns*—his *pawns*. They're all backwards. They rarely advance from the 2nd or 7th rank. His opponents pick them off like pieces of popcorn. *The backward pawn*. Peter Woodhouse *is* the backward pawn. In every aspect. Off and on the board. I steady myself against a desk. Geez.

"Why don't you move your pawns, Peter?" asks his opponent, Grady Gomez, a sharp young chess player. "They're your foot soldiers, your infantry guys."

Peter sits back, digs his chin into his shoulder, shakes his head. Grady shrugs and proceeds to capture 3 of the backward pawns with his rook. Two moves later, checkmate. Grady extends his hand; Peter offers a thumbs up, then withdraws. Grady grins and

moves to another game. I sit across from Peter:

"You know," I say casually, "Grady's right. You *should* move your pawns—activate them, exchange them, get them into the game—you never know, you might even—"

Peter shakes his head:

"I can't move them—I—I don't want to," he mutters. Then: "What are the other kids writing down into those pads?"

"Uh, notation, chess notation. It's algebraic. They record their moves."

"Why?"

"So they can reset and replay their games—review them, determine what they did right and wrong, analyze, learn, improve. Would you like to learn it?" He nods. I look about, walk around. "Miranda—say, Miranda, have you finished your game with Oscar?" She and Oscar Varna are the top 2 players.

"Piece of cake," she yawns, grimacing at Oscar.

"Sportsmanship, Miranda, sportsmanship." I put my hand on her shoulder.

"Would you like to teach Peter algebraic notation?"

Miranda looks away from a computer screen, surprised, then looks at Peter, doubtful. "I was going to study a Kasparov-Polgar game," she says.

"Another time? He'd like to learn, and he seems to like you."

Miranda rolls her eyes, sighs:

"Okay, but—how do you suggest I teach him? Does he even understand the grid?"

"Just sit across from him. You play white, name the move, explain the abbreviations, how to record it, then he plays black... About 10 moves."

"But he doesn't move his pawns—"

"I know—just do the best you can, honey."

Miranda and Peter set to work together, I play skittles and blitz with the other students. Time passes quickly and slowly. This—one of the best inexplicable aspects of chess. Parents converse outside the classroom. Reluctantly, the students pull their eyes from their boards and ready to leave. I gently take Miranda aside:

"How'd Peter do with the notation?"

She nods, slipping into her jacket:

"Okay, he seemed to understand it. But he moved only two pawns—"

Again, I had that feeling of trying to latch onto something—something.

"Which pawns? Do you remember?"

She checks the notation:

"e7 and d7."

Latched! It's the Sicilian. One of the countless variations. Maybe the Sveshnikov? I wasn't certain.

"Thanks very much, Miranda."

I smile at Peter—he is always the last student to leave. First to arrive, last to leave.

"Did you enjoy learning chess notation?" I ask.

He nods yes, then dumps all the pieces into a chess bag but leaves both kings outside the pouch.

"What's that about?" I laugh.

"The Kings and pawns do not belong in the same box," he says decisively, brushing past me toward his anxious, waiting mother.

"You know, a pawn can promote and—"

He spins back around:

"A pawn *can never* become a King. *Never.*"

I reset his board. Two kings, starting position, pawns on the 2nd and 7th ranks:

"These pawns," I say gently, "when you don't advance them, they become 'backwards'—backward pawns—"

"So what?" he snarls. "What's wrong with being *backwards*? Not everybody is cool and smart, you know."

Heart to my throat.

"Yes, we're all a little weird," I say, moving the pawns forward, "but the backward pawns get captured a lot and feel very lonely." I could see the tears well in his eyes. "*But these pawns don't have to remain backwards, they can advance, do a lot of good things, join the rest of the pieces, join the rest of the world, make friends...*"

Nervous, shaking, Peter throws all the pawns into the chess bag then grabs the kings and places them on the highest bookshelf in the classroom. Turns to me, trembling, blinking back tears:

"The King and the pawn will *NEVER* belong in the same box," he says again.

I turn away quickly, feeling my own tears well, aching, yet afraid to hug this pained young soul. Then he is at my side.

"Miss Rachel—can I—can I leave those Kings on the top shelf? Just—just leave them there? I mean—you won't put them away, will you? You won't put them with the rest of the pieces?"

I swallow my tears and allow myself a brief hug; he doesn't resist.

"No son, never."

.....

It's mid-December, last class of the semester. Peter had vastly improved over the past few weeks, playing more games, smiling occasionally, making many fewer bathroom excursions. That he hadn't learned how to win didn't seem to discomfit him. And though he continued to retain his back row seat, he'd actually begun to advance a few pawns—none past the fifth rank—but I knew **this was key to developing his character, his future.**

I'd ordered pizza and vita-waters to mark the occasion of our last class, even though most of the students would return after

the winter break. Lexie switches on *Billboard Pop*. “Mozart goes just so far,” she laughs. We all laugh. A handful of students dance around. I calculate some final stats.

“By the by,” I lean into Miranda, “Although you tied in the W/L/D column, you topped Oscar by 2 points overall.”

“What? Are you sure?” she shrieks happily.

“Quite sure,” I nod. She turns to run toward him; I hold her arm. “But if you gloat over this young lady, I’ll deduct 3 points for poor sportsmanship, understand?”

“Yes, Miss Rachel, I understand.”

I watch her casually saunter over to Oscar then turn my attention to the final tallies. Because I promote an “I Win & I Learn” agenda, each student merits a chess achievement award. Best puzzle %, Best game analyses, High Knight’s Tour, Best Tournament Performance, blitz, rapid, artistic endeavors, whatever works for a particular group. I tap my pencil next to Peter’s name and sigh.

Suddenly—an outburst, a ruckus. I look up sharply. Oscar and Miranda are chin to chin, arguing against the bookshelves.

“Whaddya mean you won by 2 points?!” snaps Oscar. We went 8 and 8, no draws!”

“Miss Rachel said it was an *overall score*. And you know I gave you that last game, Oscar, you *know* it.”

Oscar is embarrassed:

“Please, keep your voice down.” Other students circle them. “You’re causing a scene.”

“*I’m causing a scene? I’m causing a scene! We’re going to settle this right here and now, dude. Set up a board.*”

“Fine by me!”

I clap my hands loudly:

“Oscar. Miranda. What’s the problem?”

They look at me innocently:

“No problem, Miss Rachel. Everything’s fine.”

I look back down at Peter’s numbers, keeping a wary eye on Oscar and Miranda. They’re setting game clocks. Most of the equipment was stored away. The other students look around. Grady finds a chess bag. They set the board. Another student, Kiernan Wang grabs a notation pad.

“Wait,” says Grady. “There aren’t any kings in this bag. Where are the kings?”

“Hey!” says Kiernan, “Look on top of the bookcase. The kings! There they are!”

Peter Woodhouse jumps to his feet. Oscar and Miranda scramble for chairs, lean them against the bookcase, climb up, and grab at the kings. But the bookcases are too tall, the kings too high, the youngsters too short, the chairs, wobbly.

“STOP!” I yell. “Stop grabbing at the kings—you might dislodge them, you—”

But it’s too late. The center bookcase teeters—in another minute it will tumble forward crashing onto the children. Miranda screams and covers her head. Oscar turns white. All the other students step back. I lunge forward but stumble. Disaster, I

think wildly, disaster—when suddenly, like a bat out of hell, Peter Woodhouse flies across the room, pushes Miranda and Oscar aside, and throws himself against the bookcase—holding it, pushing it backwards, steadying it, steady, steady... Done. Safe. Disaster averted.

A split second. An instant that changes lives. Nobody moved. Nobody breathed. Quietly, Peter holds out the kings. Miranda throws her arms about his neck: “Saved me, you *saved* me!” Oscar clasps his hand: “What can we say, dude? How can we *thank* you?” The other students surround them. Peter smiles, basking in the moment. I bask too. The Sveshnikov variation of the Sicilian. Damn. Talk about a dangerous defense.

Then: backslapping, acting out, more music, more pizza, laughter. Peter sits casually amid the desks, tapping his feet, smiling.

“What about your game?” I say to Oscar and Miranda.

They look away, abashed.

“Oh, we were going to play one last game for highest overall score,” says Oscar, “But actually, Miranda—”

“Actually,” Miranda smoothly intervenes, “I’d forgotten about the 3 points I lost for sportsmanship and Oscar topped me by 1 point. Congratulations, Oscar.”

Oscar blushes and smiles:

“Miranda—you don’t have to—”

But Miranda leads the applause. I post all the student chess achievement awards on the bulletin board. They surround the announcement.

“What about Peter?” asks Grady. “What did Peter win?”

“Yeah—what did Peter win?” chime the students.

I look at Peter—our eyes meet—and in that meeting we both know that what he’d won was *beyond* words, *beyond* the moment—that **it was the key to the concept that would carry him into the future**. And carry him well.

“I left that space blank,” I say to the class, “What do you think?”

This prompts a heated discussion.

“Oh—I know!” says Lexie, scrawling on a name tag sticker then affixing it to Peter’s shirt: TREASURE CHESS CLASS HERO. Peter blushes and tries to slip away but the class surrounds and applauds.

Parents appear at the doors bringing with them a light refreshing snow. The high-spirited mood is contagious. Several minutes later I’m alone with Peter in the classroom while his mom waits outside. He is shyly jubilant. I hold out my hands.

“Well, young man, or should I say *HERO*, what would you like to do with these kings?”

“At the end of the day, the Pawn and the King go into the same box,” he says. “I finally understand. A key concept in chess.”

“In life...” I muse.

Suddenly, he hugs me:

“I love you, Miss Rachel.”

I clear my throat:

“Don’t forget to show your mother your Chess Hero badge...”

He laughs, flashes the badge to his mother, and runs past her.

“Chess Hero?” Janice smiles, happy tears, “What—does it mean? What should we do?”

I open my palms, throw my hands to the skies.

“Sign him up for next term,” I laugh, “And have a great winter break.”

.....

Three days later I sit in the classroom, in my office, steeping tea. A knock on the door. I open it to an impeccably dressed, distinguished older man.

“May I help you?”

“Are you Miss Rachel?”

“Yes, I’m Rachel Schechter,” I smile, “please come in.”

He enters, doffs his hat and gloves, looks around, looks impressed.

“Please allow me to introduce myself,” he says warmly, “I’m Gerald Woodhouse, Peter’s grandfather.”

“Oh,” I say surprised, “Please sit down. Cup of tea?”

“If it’s no trouble.”

“No trouble at all. Just brewed a fresh pot.”

I pour the tea and set a plate of fresh ginger cookies and strawberries before him. A sudden thought alarms. I touch my throat:

“Is—is Peter alright?”

“Oh yes, he’s fine, sorry if I startled you, he...” Gerald Woodhouse straightens up; I sense a military bearing. “Peter is better than ever, frankly—better than any of us dared hope for. He’s my only grandson and before he took your class—during that awful time of Covid, we’d nearly given up on him. But now—” Gerald leans forward, “Well, my daughter Janice and I can’t believe it. He’s a different person, changed, in every sense for the better. *And we owe it all to you, Miss Rachel.*”

“Oh no, Peter did most of the work, he—”

“That’s not what I heard,” Gerald Woodhouse says quietly. “And that’s why I’m here. What did my daughter pay you for his sessions?”

“Um, I never disclose clients’ financial arrangements—”

“Of course, I understand.” He points to the Pirate’s Treasure Chest on the floor.

“And the money you collect in the treasure chest is used for charities?”

“—and scholarships and equipment, yes, various chess sundries.”

He takes out his checkbook, writes a check, and hands it to me. I whistle, could hear my accountant celebrating. “That’s a lot of zeroes,” I say, “You sure you want to do this?”

Gerald Woodhouse stands and nods.

“For what you did for my grandson Peter? I wish I could do more. In fact, I’m hoping you’ll accept yearly donations.”

I could see my accountant turning somersaults.

“That’s very kind and generous, Mr. Woodhouse.”

He drops the check into the Treasure Chest.

“I’m a military man, Miss Rachel—”

“I thought so—Navy?”

“Air Force. Anyway, it was Peter’s birthday yesterday and I decided to gift him with the military chess set my father gave me. It’s, well, it’s rather special—very expensive, hand-carved, we keep the pieces separate, each to its own berth, but Peter wouldn’t accept this practice, adamantly claiming that *at the end of the day the king and the pawn go into the same box*. Do you know what he’s talking about?

I sigh and smile.

“More tea, Mr. Woodhouse?”

Fin

.....

Caveat

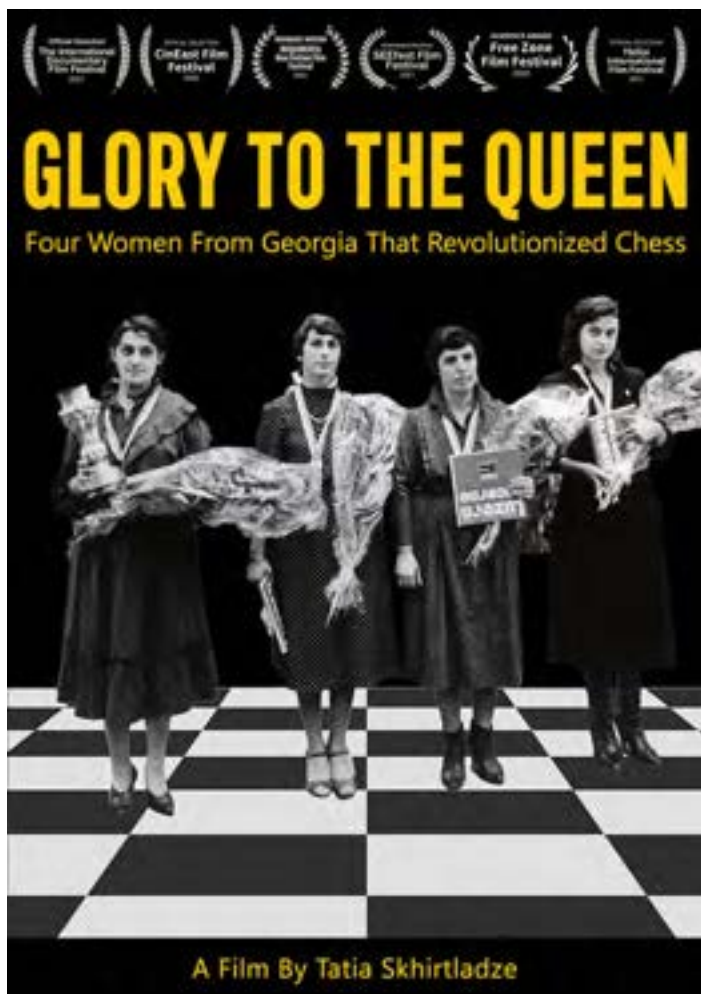
Yes, the bookcase could have fallen, the treasure chest could have been stolen, Peter Woodhouse could have regressed. But as Chess Educators we know that this remarkable game can bring out the best in us; and our children, our future, are the best in us.

My Affiliate FB Treasure Chess photo



Glory to the Queen—A 21st Century version of The Three Musketeers

Review by Joshua Anderson



Few will confuse four Georgian women of retirement age with the three Musketeers, but the four stars of the documentary “Glory to the Queen” have much in common with the famed Dumas characters. Though the parallels are by no means perfect, we can find similarities between both groups’ sense of duty, love of something greater than themselves, and comradeship.

Just as Dumas introduces the characters separately before bringing them all together, the film also starts with each lady being given some screen time to show a bit about herself. Nona Gaprindashvili’s strong competitive drive comes across whether she is playing chess, talking soccer, or playing billiards. An opening scene has her playing in a Senior Women’s Championship, which she asserts causes her to live longer due to the positive emotions she experi-

ences, stating, “This (chess) is my world.” Alexandria talks honestly about the difficulties of being a chess player and having a family, and how a true balance of the two (at least for her) is impossible. She also talks about the necessity of balancing energy and health. Chiburdanidze, who is interested in medicine and home remedies, seems truly overwhelmed with emotion as she opens up about her school and seeing the excitement of all the young children. Ioseliani laments the great pressure put on small children especially those competing for World Championships in categories as young as Under 8, as she gleefully spends time with her granddaughter and visits family upon her return to Georgia..



Just as Dumas presents the Musketeers through their adventures, we see the four women through various battles

¹Please note that I am in no way a French Literature specialist, and my knowledge of, and experience with, Alexandre Dumas’ characters are more from American movies than from reading the entire series of Dumas’ work.

(mostly in one-on-one matches). However, the four are also shown receiving their medals for their domination of the 1982 Olympiad. We begin to see more interactions between them, and more tournaments are mentioned as the film progresses. Events where they play each other or that are key team events are highlighted. There is old footage of simul and World Championship matches mixed in with the four women interacting or remembering various events, like Nona talking about Lone Pine 1977 where she made a Grandmaster norm thanks to games like her victory over James Tarjan. At another point, Alexandria and Ioseliani are speaking about Ioseliani breaking Fischer's record of 13 straight victories. (In fact, Fischer's record is 20, but for some reason the Georgians/Soviets did not seem to count the 7 last rounds of the Interzonal tournament that started the streak.)

Just as Dumas developed characters that have a love of country, each of his characters also has a love or strong interest of their own. For our heroines, this is also true: for Gaprindashvili, that was the party and the state (Soviet Union); for Chiburdanidze, it was her religion; for Alexandria, it is her family and opposition to the state; and for Ioseliani, family is key. These other interests, however, took a back seat to working as a team for the country, Alexandria several times acting as team captain. Initially several of the women (sometimes all) worked to bring home the Olympiad gold for the Soviet Union, and then later they did the same for the country of Georgia.

Dumas uses history to pay respect to, but also comment on, the past and government by showing how the people interacted with the king of France. In several of the looks back at the Soviet Union, the film does not comment on the state per se, but on the rather ridiculous way it portrayed female chess players, (i.e. filming Gaprindashvili as a happy homemaker cooking in the kitchen, when in fact she cannot cook), while also looking back and pointing to the overall ridiculousness of the time. The film also shows the cultural effect of this on women by giving many (perhaps too many) examples of women who are named after these champions. They run the gamut of professions from housewives to chess players, and range in age from 20s through their 40s.

Both groups of characters are shown through an

“outsider’s lens.” Dumas does this in part simply by being the author, while the film provides a storyteller- Milunka Lazarevic. Lazarevic (who played on 6 Olympiad teams for Yugoslavia, and knew all four women), acts as the storyteller, providing a little bit of a framework and some background for each of the documentary’s “queens”.

As a historical work, it suggests, rather than provides, hard concrete answers, but also entices the viewer to research more on their own. The most obvious question, why 4 such extremely strong women came from the state of Georgia in the Soviet Union, is answered with both cultural and concrete explanations. (Spoiler alert—there is a history of strong women in Georgia, and a chess set is a traditional dowry gift.) After becoming World Champion, Chiburdanidze speaks highly about the regional chess school and chess focus within the country, giving credit for the quality of both to Gaprindashvili. There is also clearly an attempt

Nana Alexandria	
◆	2-time World Vice-Champion (1975-1978, 1981-1984)
◆	World Champions Match Chiburdanidze-Alexandria (1981) - the only equal match (8:8) in the history of women's chess!
◆	Participant of 8 World Championship Candidates' cycles (1966 - 1988)
◆	Winner of the European countries Champions' Cup (1970)
◆	6-time winner of the World Chess Olympiads (1969, 1974, 1980, 1982, 1986)
◆	Captain of the World Chess Olympiad winner Georgian women's team (1992, 1994, 1996)
◆	FIDE Central Committee member (1994-1998)
◆	Chairperson, FIDE Committee on Women's Chess (1986-2002)
◆	Chairperson, international Grandmasters' Association (GMA) Women's Council (1989-1991)
◆	President, Chess Club NTN winner of the European Club Cup - 2004, 2005
◆	National Ambassador on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play in the Council of Europe

to show how the game has changed from a room full of male spectators watching the two women play for the title, to matches where both men and women came to cheer them on.

There are a few minor drawbacks. Occasionally other characters enter into discussions with the four Queens, and the viewer is left wondering who they are, and why they are included. At the dinner celebrating Gaprindashvili's 80th birthday party, there are three stars and a fourth lady who is clearly known and welcomed to the party... but the audience has no idea who she is. Also, occasionally,

stories are simply hinted at, but not fully developed. For



Nana 1986, Switzerland: The Biel International Chess Festival

instance, in one discussion, Alexandria asks Ioselini if she still remembers when Kasparov came to their hotel in Malta. They both laugh, and then move on to other topics of conversation. This is perhaps understandable as the focus was supposed to be on the four Georgian women, but the viewer is left wondering, What did Kasparov say? What did he do?

As an artistic piece, the documentary is entertaining, even uplifting. It was the artist's energy for this project that allowed the four women (none of whom had any interest in the project at first), to agree to do the work and in the end, enjoy the process. This is clearly seen in the final scene of the film which shows the four women arriving at their destination, de-boarding a train and walking off together, ready for their next adventure. While it's true that the four rarely get to work all together, we are left with a heartwarming image of four women who, in part because their lives have been so tightly woven together, have already accomplished so much, and will continue to accomplish even more in the future.

The film can be rented or bought at Google Play, YouTube, Apple TV, Amazon, Dafilms.com (rented only) or Vimeo On Demand.

On Vimeo on demand "Glory" can be seen with 10 different subtitles: English, Spanish, Georgian, Russian, Turkish, Croatian, Portuguese, German, Chinese, and Arabic.

Tatia Skhirtladze

Photo is by Jerzy Palacz, one of the DOPs of the film.

In the background we see the facade of Nona Gaprindashvili Chess Palace with crowns, only chess palace in the world which is named after a female chess player.



Nana 1970, Vrnjačka Banja, Yugoslavia, European Countries (or Nations) Champions' cup.

Below are many of the games that are mentioned or highlighted in the film (sans commentary):

Game 1:

Aulikki Ristoja (1551) - Nona Gaprindashvili (2294) [A40] (9). European Championship Senior 65+, Rhodes, Greece, April 14, 2019

1. d4 g6 2. ♘f4 ♙g7 3. ♚c3 d6 4. e3 ♚d7 5. ♙c4 e6 6. ♚f3 ♚e7 7. ♙b3 b6 8. O-O ♙b7 9. ♖e2 O-O 10. ♗ad1 a6 11. e4 h6 12. ♗fe1 ♖h7 13. ♙g3 ♖e8 14. ♚b1 ♚f6 15. e5 ♚h5 16. e×d6 ♚×g3 17. h×g3 c×d6 18. c3 b5 19. ♚bd2 ♖d8 20. ♙c2 ♖b6 21. ♚h4 a5 22. ♚f1 b4 23. g4 ♗ac8 24. ♖d2 ♙f6 25. ♚f3 ♙×f3 26. g×f3 b×c3 27. b×c3 ♖c6 28. ♗c1 ♖×f3 29. ♚h2 ♖h3 30. ♙e4 ♙g5 31. f4 ♖g3+ 32. ♖g2 ♙×f4 33. ♖×g3 ♙×g3 34. ♗e2 ♗c7 35. ♗ec2 ♗fc8 36. ♖g2 ♙f4 37. ♗f1 e5 38. ♚f3 ♖g7 39. d×e5 d×e5 40. ♗d1 f5 41. g×f5 g×f5 42. ♙d5 ♗d8 43. c4 ♗×d5 44. ♗×d5 ♚×d5 45. ♗e2 ♚e3+ 46. ♖h3 ♖f6 0-1

Game 2:

Nana Alexandria (2295) - Maia Chiburdanidze (2425) [E15] (16). World Women's Championship, Tbilisi, USSR, September 7, 1981 (event date)

1. d4 e6 2. c4 ♚f6 3. ♚f3 b6 4. g3 ♙a6 5. ♚bd2 ♙b4 6.

♖b3 ♗e7 7. ♙g2 ♘b7 8. O-O ♘d2 9. ♘d2 O-O 10. ♖ad1 d6 11. ♘c1 ♘bd7 12. ♗a3 c5 13. ♖fe1 ♖fc8 14. d5 e×d5 15. ♘h4 ♗e6 16. c×d5 ♘d5 17. e4 ♘a2 18. ♘f5 ♖e8 19. ♘d6 ♖e7 20. e5 ♖f8 21. e×f6 ♗e1+ 22. ♖×e1 ♖×e1+ 23. ♘f1 ♘e6 24. ♗c3 ♘e5 25. ♗g2 ♘d5+ 26. f3 ♘f3 27. ♗f2 ♖e6 28. f×g7 ♖d8 29. ♘f5 ♘e5 30. h3 ♘e4 31. ♘h6+ ♗×g7 32. ♘g4 f6 33. ♘e5 ♖×e5 34. ♘f4 ♖e7 35. ♘c4 ♖d1 36. g4 ♗g6 37. h4 h5 38. g×h5+ ♗f5 39. ♘h2 {time} 1-0

Game 3:

Milunka Lazarevic - Corry Vreeken [B96] (8)
2nd Women's Olympiad, Split, Yugoslavia, September 30, 1963

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 c×d4 4. ♘d4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♘g5 e6 7. f4 b5 8. e5 d×e5 9. f×e5 ♗c7 10. e×f6 ♗e5+ 11. ♘e2 ♗×g5 12. O-O ♖a7 13. ♗d3 ♖d7 14. ♘e4 ♗e5 15. c3 ♘b7 16. ♗g3 ♗×g3 17. ♘×g3 g×f6 18. ♘h5 ♘e7 19. ♘×f6+ ♘×f6 20. ♖×f6 ♖g8 21. ♖f2 ♘c6 22. ♘b3 ♖d5 23. ♘f3 ♖dg5 24. a4 ♘d8 25. ♘×b7 ♘×b7 26. a×b5 a×b5 27. ♖a8+ ♘d8 28. ♖d2 ♗e7 29. ♘a5 ♖d5 30. ♖×d5 e×d5 31. ♖b8 ♖g5 32. ♖×b5 ♘e6 33. ♘4 ♗d6 34. c×d5 ♖×d5 35. ♘c4+ ♗c6 36. ♖×d5 ♗×d5 37. ♘e3+ ♗e4 38. ♗f2 ♘c5 39. ♘d1 ♘d3+ 40. ♗g3 ♘e1 41. ♘f2+ ♗d4 42. ♘h3 ♘d3 43. ♘g5 ♘×b2 44. ♘×f7 ♘d3 45. ♘g5 h5 46. ♗h4 ♗e3 47. g3 ♗f2 48. g4 h×g4 49. ♗×g4 ♗e3 50. h4 ♘f4 51. ♗f5 ♘h5 52. ♘e6 ♗f3 53. ♗g5 ♘g3 54. ♘c5 ♗g2 55. ♗g4 ♗f2 56. ♘d3+ ♗g2 57. ♘f4+ ♗f2 58. ♘h5 ♘e2 59. ♘g7 ♘g3 60. ♘f5 ♘e4 61. ♗f4 ♘f6 62. ♗g5 ♘h7+ 63. ♗g6 ♘f8+ 64. ♗f7 ♘d7 65. h5 ♘e5+ 66. ♗f6 ♘g4+ 67. ♗g5 ♗f3 68. ♘h6 ♘f2 69. ♘f5 ♘h3+ 70. ♗f6 ♗g4 71. ♘6 ♘g5 72. ♗g6 ♘e6 73. ♘e3+ ♗h4 74. ♗f6 ♘f8 75. ♗f7 ♗h5 76. ♘g4 ♘h7 77. ♗g7 ♘g5 78. ♘f6+ ♗h4 79. ♘e4 ♘e6+ 80. ♗g8 ♘f4 81. h7 ♘g6 82. ♗g7 ♗h5 83. ♘f6+ 1-0

Game 4

Nona Gaprindashvili (2430) - Leonid Shamkovich (2485) [B42] (7). Lone Pine Open - Louis D. Statham Masters, Lone Pine, California, USA, March 27, 1977

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 c×d4 4. ♘d4 a6 5. ♘d3 ♘f6 6. O-O d6 7. f4 ♘e7 8. ♗h1 ♘bd7 9. ♘d2 ♗c7 10. ♘2f3 O-O 11. ♗e2 ♘c5 12. e5 ♘d3 13. ♗×d3 d×e5 14. f×e5 ♘d7 15. ♘f4 b5 16. ♖ae1 ♘c5 17. ♗e3 ♘b7 18. ♘g5 ♗d7 19. ♖d1 ♗d5 20. ♘df3 ♗×a2 21. b4 ♘×g5 22. ♘×g5 ♗×c2 23. ♗h3 h6 24. b×c5 h×g5 25. ♘×g5 ♗g6 26. ♘e7 ♖fe8 27. ♘d6 ♘e4 28. ♖f4 ♘f5 29. ♗f3 ♗h6 30. ♖f1 a5 31. c6 b4 32. c7 ♗g6 33. ♖c1 ♖ac8 34. ♖a1 ♘c2 35. ♖×a5 b3 36. ♖b5 ♗h6 37. h3 ♗g6 38. ♗h2 ♗g5 39. ♖×f7 ♘e4 40. ♖×g7+ ♗×g7 41. ♗×e4 ♗f5 42. ♗e3 ♗f7 43. ♖b4 b2 44. ♖×b2 ♗g7 45. ♖f2 ♗h5 46. ♖f4 ♖h8 47. ♗g3+ 1-0

Game 5:

Nana Alexandria (2340) - Nana Ioseliani (2240) [D61] (4)
Women's Interzonal - 04b, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September 28, 1979

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 ♘e7 5. ♘g5 O-O 6. e3 ♘bd7 7. ♗c2 c6 8. O-O-O b6 9. c×d5 e×d5 10. ♘d3 ♘b7 11. ♘e5 h6 12. h4 c5 13. ♘f5 ♖e8 14. ♘d7 ♘d7 15. ♘×e7 ♖×e7 16. g4 c×d4 17. e×d4 ♘f8 18. ♗b1 ♘c8 19. ♘d5 ♗×d5 20. ♘×c8 ♘e6 21. ♘×e6 ♖×e6 22. ♖h3 ♖ae8 23. ♗f5 ♖e5 24. ♗f3 ♖e4 25. g5 h5 26. ♖hh1 ♖d8 27. a3 ♖×d4 28. ♖×d4 ♗×d4 29. ♗a1 ♗d5 30. ♗×d5 ♖×d5 31. ♖e1 ♖f5 32. ♖e2 ♖f4 33. b4 ♖×h4 34. ♖e8+ ♗h7 35. ♖e7 ♖f4 36. ♖×a7 h4 0-1

Game 6:

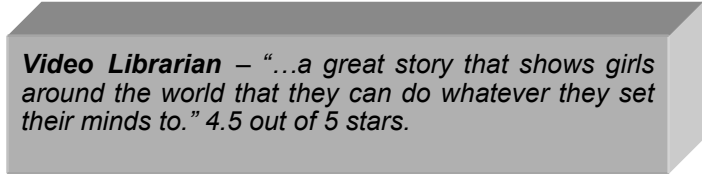
Nana Alexandria (2295) - Nana Ioseliani (2345) [A45] (8)
Woman's Candidates Final, Tbilisi, Soviet Union, January, 1981

1. d4 c5 2. d×c5 ♘f6 3. ♘c3 e6 4. e4 ♘c6 5. ♘e3 ♗a5 6. f3 ♘×c5 7. ♘×c5 ♗×c5 8. ♗d2 O-O 9. O-O-O d5 10. e×d5 e×d5 11. ♘ge2 ♖d8 12. ♘d4 ♘d7 13. ♘e2 ♖ac8 14. ♘4 ♘a5 15. ♘b3 ♘×b3+ 16. a×b3 ♗a5 17. ♗b1 ♗c5 18. g5 ♘e8 19. ♗×d5 ♗e3 20. ♘c4 ♘e6 21. ♗×d8 ♖×d8 22. ♖×d8 ♘×c4 23. b×c4 ♗f8 24. ♖hd1 ♗×g5 25. ♖b8 ♗g2 26. ♖e1 g6 27. ♖×e8+ ♗g7 28. b3 ♗×f3 29. ♗b2 h5 30. ♖e7 ♗h3 31. ♖b×b7 ♗×h2 32. ♘e4 ♗h6 33. c5 ♗g2 34. c6 1-0

Game 7:

Maia Chiburdanidze (2340) - Nona Gaprindashvili (2425) [B08] (15). Women's World Championship, Pitsunda, Soviet Union, 1978

1. e4 d6 2. d4 ♘f6 3. ♘c3 g6 4. ♘f3 ♘g7 5. ♘e2 c6 6. O-O O-O 7. a4 ♘bd7 8. a5 ♗c7 9. h3 ♖d8 10. ♘e3 ♘f8 11. ♗d2 ♘d7 12. ♖fd1 ♘e8 13. b4 e5 14. d×e5 d×e5 15. ♗e1 ♖×d1 16. ♖×d1 ♘e6 17. ♘c4 ♗e7 18. ♘×e6 ♗×e6 19. ♘c5 ♘d7 20. ♘d6 f6 21. ♗e2 ♘f8 22. ♘×f8 ♘×f8 23. ♘d2 ♗e7 24. ♗c4+ ♘f7 25. ♗c5 ♗×c5 26. b×c5 ♖d8 27. ♗f1 ♖d4 28. ♗e1 ♘e6 29. ♘b3 ♖c4 30. ♗d2 ♘f4 31. a6 b×a6 32. ♖a1 ♘×g2 33. ♖×a6 ♘e8 34. ♖×a7 h5 35. ♖b7 ♘f4 36. f3 ♗f8 37. h4 ♘e6 38. ♘d1 ♘×c5 39. ♘×c5 ♖×c5 40. ♘e3 ♖a5 41. ♖c7 ♖a8 42. ♘c4 ♖a4 43. ♘e3 ♖d4+ 44. ♗e2 ♖d6 45. c4 ♖d8 46. c5 ♖d4 47. ♗e1 ♖d7 48. ♖×d7 ♘×d7 49. ♘c4 ♗e7 50. ♗f2 ♘e6 51. ♘d6 g5 52. ♗g3 ♗d7 53. ♘b7 ♘b3 54. h×g5 f×g5 55. ♘a5 ♘d1 56. ♘c4 ♗e6 57. ♗f2 ♗f6 58. ♘a5 ♘a4 59. ♘c4 ♘b5 60. ♘d6 ♘a6 61. ♘e8+ ♗g6 62. ♘d6 ♘d3 63. ♗e3 ♘c2 64. ♘c4 ♗f6 65. ♗f2 ♘a4 66. ♘b6 ♘d1 67. ♘d7+ ♗e6 68. ♘b8 ♘a4 69. ♘a6 ♘b5 70. ♘b4 ♗f6 71. ♗g3 ♗g6 72. ♘c2 h4+ 73. ♗g2 g4 74. ♘e3 g×f3+ 75. ♗×f3 ♗g5 76. ♘d1 ♘c4 77. ♘f2 ♘f1 78. ♘h1 ♘h3 79. ♘f2 ♘e6 80. ♘d3 ♘g4+ 81. ♗f2 ♗f6 82. ♘b2 ♘d7 83. ♗f3 h3 84. ♗g3 ♗e7 85. ♘d3 ♗f6 86. ♘b4 ♗e7 87. ♘d3 ♗e6 88. ♗×h3 ♘e8 89. ♗g3 ♘g6 90. ♗f3 ♘h5+ 91. ♗e3 ♘d1 92. ♘b4 ♘a4 93. ♘d3 ♘b5 94. ♘e1 1/2-1/2





1982 Luzern Olympiad



Train station, Tbilisi

PLAYING BLINDFOLDED ON THE BOARD OF LIFE

(Excerpts from my book)

By Eugene Salomon with Javier Cordero, co-author
As translated and edited by Diane Dahl

My family's forthcoming book is dedicated to the memory of my father, Robert Salomon Schwarz (1895-1968) who inspired my life with his commitment to human solidarity. It is also dedicated to my forever friend, Miguel Angel Nepomuceno Salcedo (1947-2022), who inspired me to become a writer... at age 89!... so that I could describe in depth what he found to be an inspirational family story. The book "*Jugando en el tablero de la vida*" (published in Spain this past April), focused on my achievements as a nationally-ranked chess player in both Spain and Cuba, and highlighted my unforgettable interactions with world chess champion Alexander Alekhine.



Just three months after publishing my book in Spain, I was deeply saddened by the passing of dear Miguel, who had repeatedly told me that my family's story had to be shared. As memorable and satisfying as my accomplishments on the chessboard were, they pale in comparison to the intense love I feel for my family and friends, and the pride I feel about my business achievements. Miguel's passing compelled me to relate my family's saga as he had urged at our first memorable meeting in 2017, by refocusing the book from a "chess book" to a "family and life book." My chess life is still well-

represented in the English edition, but the emphasis is now on the adventures, challenges, strength, and resilience of my family in the face of multiple global conflicts. The significant chess events are still told within the narrative of my life, and all my chess writings and games (including selected games played by my friends) are included as Appendices.

When Miguel Angel initially contacted me in late 2016, interested in an interview for a series of articles in his chess column at the prestigious web magazine "Zenda/libros", I could not understand how a giant of journalism in Spain such as him could have an interest in someone who was a complete unknown in the firmament of chess stars around the world. After our first meeting in Madrid which lasted several hours, I had a clear understanding of his reasons: He had obviously read my book, *40 Years of Friendship 100 Games of Chess*, and my father's memoirs, and knew how Pablo Moran and I had witnessed the agony of Alekhine's final years. As a serious journalist and historian (of chess and music, but also keenly interested in Spanish Civil War history), Miguel thought that the story of my father and our family's survival during those tumultuous times had to be shared.

In his comments about Alekhine's advice to me, Miguel shared some corroborating historical evidence from an interview of Alekhine by Juan Fernandez Rua, noted author and chess player (and close family friend):

"Dear Eugenio, before leaving for the hospital, I didn't want to forget to thank you for your words, and add some other words by Alekhine that cor-

roborate what he told you that day on the Calle Corrida when you were a youngster. It is, from a human standpoint, the best interview that Alekhine has ever given, besides being written by my dear friend Fernandez Rua, who told me so many things about "The Colossus". Alekhine, in July of 1944, said:

'The best part of my life occurred between two world wars that devastated Europe. They both ruined me, but with one difference: at the end of the first, I was 26 years old, and had an unbridled enthusiasm that I no longer possess. If I someday write my memoirs (which is very possible), people will find out that chess was a secondary factor in my life. It allowed me to hold onto and pursue an ambition, while at the same time, convincing me of the futility of ambition. Nowadays, I continue to play chess because it keeps my mind occupied, and keeps me away from the obsessions and memories.'

While discussing my memories and what I told him about the Spanish Civil War in relation to Spanish philosopher Ortega y Gasset's assertion, "Man is himself plus his circumstances," Miguel replied to me: "Your memories are my circumstances-thanks to them, I have learned so much that I never knew."

Miguel then honored me with a series of 5 biographical articles which detailed my life in Spain and Cuba from 1928-1960 in his well-read blog, "*Ajedrez y literatura*" (Chess and Literature) on the Zenda website (<https://www.zendalibros.com/blogs/ajedrez-y-literatura/>), under the title, "*Eugenio Salomón Rugarcía: De Alekhine a Kasparov, o cómo jugar a la ciega en el tablero de la vida*" (Eugene Salomon Rugarcía: From Alekhine to Kasparov, or How to Play Blindfolded on the Board of Life.) As Miguel's articles referred to me: "The protagonist of this story is not a Grand Master, although has defeated some of them... neither is he a professional player... Eugenio Salomon Rugarcía is an authentic self-made man." I am grateful and incredibly proud of those words.

Unfortunately, in 2018, Miguel started having health problems, but still wanted to finish the sixth and final installment in the series, about my 60 years in the U.S., and asked me to help him. In one of our many, many emails about our lives, memories, and the final article for Zenda, he had asked me to provide more details about certain eras of my life, and we were working on the 1960s and early 70s. I wrote about the first few years in Brooklyn, my work promotion, the family's move to New Jersey, my

return to chess in the New Jersey Open after 16 years' hiatus and joining the Westfield NJ Chess Club.

I also told him about having been one of the founding members of the club at "Windows on the World" in the early 70s, a restaurant open to the public at night but a private club during the day. It was located on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. I had witnessed the construction of the Twin Towers for years during my daily commute to Wall Street. and, on my way to a business meeting the morning of 9/11/2001, I watched those same towers fall. Aside from the horrific tragedy of 9/11, he thought my stories were "magnificent," and told me, "I will put (these anecdotes) in order and adjust them, and it will be stupendous ...your daily life. Yes, there is stupendous chess, but there are not always anecdotes like your story of the World Trade Center- even though it is (more than) 30 years old, it still belongs here." It was a rare privilege to have shared with Miguel the writing of the last chapter and I still hope to complete and publish it in his honor, for all that he has honored me.

Today, because my life and my chess have both had the blessing of wonderful friends, I will finish this article with my selection of six friends' games which represent remarkable moments of my 80-year chess passion. There is one game from Pablo Moran (a friend for life since the early 1940's), and another from Miguel (a forever friend since 2017). There is also one game each from both co-authors of our book "40 Years of Friendship—100 Games of Chess"—U.S players Steve Pozarek (past New Jersey Open Champion), and Wayne Conover (past member of a U.S Olympic Team in Correspondence Chess). Finally, I have included one game each from two friends from my days in the early 1970s at the Westfield Club- Dr. Richard Lewis (chess teacher and retired dentist), and FIDE Master Mark Pinto (who used to attend my seminars as a youngster). They both volunteered to be my teammates when, at age 90, I decided to play the U.S Amateur Team Tournament. I was the captain of "The Oldest Team in Town," (median age of the team—71), sponsored by the Toms River Chess Club.

Since Miguel was the one who inspired me to begin writing, in his memory, here is the link to the articles written after I met him in 2017. (English translation is available on the page)

<http://www.historiadelaedrecespanol.es/articulos/salomon.htm>

I hope that my readers enjoy the stories, and that my articles may be the first step towards more cooperation in chess journalism between Spain and the U.S. I know that my co-author, Javier Cordero, a great chess historian, would be happy to cooperate with me.

Finally, in another of the many coincidences of my life, I am finishing this article on the birthday Miguel and I shared, September 29, 2022—today I celebrate 94 years on the planet, and Miguel would have been 75. I am certain that his spirit, wherever it may be, is smiling.

Morán, Pablo - Franco, Eduardo

International Tournament Gijón (11) 11.08.1955

1. e4 c5 2. d3 c6 3. d4 cxd4 4. dxd4 f6 5. c3 d6 6. g5 e6 7. d2 e7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. f4 e5 10. f3 g4 11. h3 exf3 12. gxf3 d4 13. fe5 de5 14. f4! a5 15. fe5 f3



16. exf6 dxd2 17. fx e7 dxf1? 18. exf8+ e8xf8 19. f4!? g3 20. h1g1 dxe4 21. dxe4 a2?? 22. d6+ g8 23. xg7+!! h8 24. g8+!! 1-0

Nepomuceno, Miguel Ángel - Raupp, Thomas Badalona Open, 1980

This attacking symphony got the attention of Mikhail Tal himself, who sent it to Sylvian Zinser, director of the magazine *Europe Echecs*. The game was published with Miguel Angel's comments, and some commentary that Tal added. The ex-World Champion commented that he had decided to send it because he marveled at the energy with which it was played, reminding him of some of his own games. 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 c6 5. f3 b6 6. d3 cxd4 7. cxd4 d7 8. 0-0 dxd4 9. dxd4 e4 10. c3 a6 11. f3 e5 12. f4 e6 13. g3 e8 14. fe1 c6 15. h4 f6 16. e5 d7 17. f4 h6



18. e6+ fe6 19. g6+ e7 20. d6+ e6 21. h5 d6 22. g6+ e5 23. g3+ e6 24. g6+ e5 25. e1+ e4 26. c2 b4 27. e6 e5 28. a4+ e5 29. e2+ e5 30. a3 e4 31. g4 e1 32. b4+ e4 33. a4+ e4 34. e3 e4 35. e4 h1 d4 36. f3 h8 37. b3+ e5 38. b2 b5 39. g1 e3 40. e3 f3 41. a3+ e6 42. d6+ e5 43. c7+ b6 44. c4+ 1-0

Denker, Arnold Sheldon - Conover, Wayne (by Wayne)

US Open, Somerset 08.1986

My first win against a GM! After 20...Na2, the road to victory was straightforward.

1. d4 f5 Fifty-seven years before this game was played, Denker won a brilliancy as a 15 year-old against the Dutch Defense. Of course, at that time the Leningrad Dutch was unknown! 2. f3 f6 3. g3 g6 4. g2 g7 5. 0-0 0-0 6. c4 d6 7. c3 c6 8. c2 c7 9. d5 cxd5 10. cxd5 e4 11. d2 e6 12. ac1 dxd2 13. xd2 a5 14. e3 e8 15. d4 b6 16. fd1 d7 Bet-

ter than grabbing the pawn with 16...♖xb2. 17. ♖d2 ♖ac8 18. ♖c2 A classical player like Denker must have thought that he had the better of this position, but in reality Black's chances are equal. 18. ...♖c4 19. ♖b3? White's 18th move wasn't that good, but the 19th is a blunder, as Black quickly demonstrates. 19. ...♖b4 20. ♖cc1 ♖xa2 21. ♖xa2 ♖xb3 22. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 23. ♖c3 ♖xc3 24. bxc3 a5 25. ♖a1 a4 26. ♖a3 b5 27. h4 ♖c5 28. ♖a2 ♖b8 29. h5 b4 30. cxb4 ♖xb4 31. ♖h2 ♖b2 32. hxg6 hxg6



33.f4 ♖xa2 This wins simply and clearly, so there is no need to look for something better. But the following variation featuring a beautiful queen maneuver by Black and a futile "echo" queen maneuver by White would have provided a spectacular finish: (33...♖h8+ 34. ♖g1 ♖d4+ 35. ♖h2 [35. ♖f1 ♖b2 36. ♖a1 ♖b6 is crushing] 35. ...♖f7 36. e3 ♖d1 37. ♖a1 ♖b1 38. ♖h8 [38. ♖d4 ♖h5+ 39. ♖h3 ♖e2+ 40. ♖g2 ♖b2 wins the queen and soon the rook] 38. ...♖g1+ 39. ♖h3 ♖h1+ 40. ♖xh1 ♖xh1+ 41. ♖g2 ♖xh8+ 34. ♖xa2 ♖b3 35. ♖f3 a3 36. ♖g2 ♖b5 37. ♖f2 ♖c4 threatening 38. ...♖xf3+ 38. ♖e1 Not really a blunder because 38. ♖a1 a2 39. ♖xa2 ♖xf3+ wins a piece. And if White doesn't play 39. ♖xa2, then 39. ...♖b1 wins immediately. Note the helplessness of White's light-squared bishop throughout. 38. ...♖b1+ 0-1

Pozarek, Steve - Dubeck, Leroy (by Steve)

US Amateur Chess Team Tournament, New Jersey 02.1985

This game was played in the first round of the event. I had my dad and my uncle playing on the team – the first time the three of us had ever played together!

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♖e2 e5 7. ♖b3 ♖e7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. a4 ♖e6 10. f4 ♖c7 11. f5 ♖c4 12. ♖e3 ♖bd7 13. a5 b5 14. axb6 ♖xb6 15. ♖h1 ♖fc8 16. ♖xb6 ♖xb6 17. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 18. ♖e2 ♖b4 Dubeck has always been consistent with his openings, and the Najdorf Sicilian is one of his favorites. Of course Fischer played this line. 19. ♖a2 ♖d8 Geller—Fischer (Curacao 1962) reached this position with a slightly different move order and continued 19. ...♖b7 20. ♖a5 ♖c7 21. ♖d5 ♖xd5 22. exd5 ♖b5, with an eventual draw. An analyst named Porreca had published some improvements for White in this line that Jim West had refuted in an article in the local NJ chess magazine. At the time of this game, I knew all that analysis but have long since forgotten it. Anyway, Dubeck varied here. It makes sense to activate the dark-squared bishop on the g1-a7 diagonal...but will it be missed on the kingside? 20. ♖d2 (20. ♖fa1±) 20. ...♖c6 *por supuesto que no* 20. ...♖xb2 21. ♖c4+ 21. ♖f3 a5 22. b3 ♖c7 23. ♖d3 ♖f8?! (23. ...a4!? 24. bxa4 ♖b6) 24. ♖d5! ♖xd5 25. exd5 ♖b7 26. ♖h3 ♖xd5 I believe both players were in time trouble here. With this move Dubeck offered a draw. On at least two prior occasions, I had accepted draws with him after having good positions. I probably surprised him by refusing here. 27. c4 ♖d4 28. ♖xh7 ♖ab8?



The decisive error. With 28...♖b6 is at least equal for Black. 29. ♖f6!! Perhaps the prettiest, most powerful move I have ever played. Black is immediately lost. 29. ...♖e8 (29. ♖ gxf6 30. ♖h5! and immediate mate can only be stopped by 30. ♖ ♖g1+ 31. ♖xg1 ♖b6+ and then ♖b7) 30. fxg7 ♖e7 31. ♖h8 ♖b6 32. ♖f1 Of course not. 32. .g8=♖?? ♖g1++ 32. ...♖g4 33. ♖xb8 ♖xg7 34. ♖b7+ ♖e6 35. ♖f3 ♖c5 36. ♖h3+ f5 37. ♖xg7 After this good start, I ended up going 6-0 in the tournament. 1-0

Dlugy, Maxim - Lewis, Richard
Simultaneous, Kenilworth 1990

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e5 4. ♖c3 d6 5. e4 ♖e7 6. ♖d3 0-0 7. ♖ge2 ♖bd7 8. f3 ♖e8 9. ♖e3 ♖f8 10. ♖d2 ♖g6 11. g3 a6 12. h4 ♖h5 13. 0-0-0 b5 14. cxb5 axb5 15. ♖xb5 ♖d7 16. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 17. g4 ♖hf4 18. h5 ♖xe2+ 19. ♖xe2 ♖f4 20. ♖d2 ♖g5 21. ♖b1 ♖eb8 22. ♖h2 c4 23. ♖a1 h6 24. ♖b1 ♖b7 25. ♖hh1 ♖a6 26. ♖xf4



26. ...♖xa2+ 0-1

Anderson, Renard - Pinto, Mark
Palo Alto 1991

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 a6 5. ♖d3 ♖c7 6. 0-0 b6 7. ♖h1 ♖b7 8. c4 ♖f6 9. ♖c3 ♖c6 10. ♖xc6 dxc6 11. f4 h5 12. e5 ♖g4 13. ♖e1 ♖d8 14. ♖e2 ♖b4 15. ♖g3 ♖xc3 16. ♖xc3 c5 17. ♖g3 g6 18. ♖xg4 hxg4 19. ♖e3

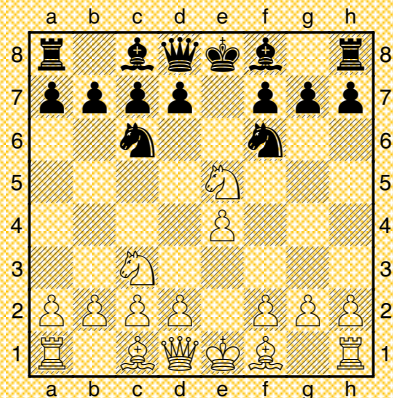


19. ... ♖h3 20. ♖e1 g3 21. ♖g1 ♖e7 22. ♖f3 ♖xf3 23. gxg3 ♖h4 24. ♖e2 ♖xf4 25. ♖g2 ♖h5 26. ♖e1 ♖d2 27. ♖e4 ♖xg2 28. ♖xf4 ♖xb2 0-1

Oddities and Peculiarities

The Halloween Gambit is an opening the was described as: "Many players are shocked, the way they would be frightened by a Halloween mask, when they are mentally prepared for a boring Four Knight's, and then they are faced with Nxe5" —Steffen Jakob¹

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♞c6 3.♞c3 ♟f6 4.♞×e5?!



The Halloween Gambit also goes by the name of the Leipzig Gambit or the Müller–Schulze Gambit. My database has about 200 games featuring this opening (and probably many more). Most of the games were played by players rated below 2300, however there were a few games by 2500+ players such as:

Klepaczka, Tomasz (2240) - Bulski, Krzysztof (2549) [C47]

EU-ch rapid Warsaw (3), 15.12.2012

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♞c6 3.♞c3 ♟f6 4.♞×e5 ♞×e5 5.d4 ♞c6 6.d5 ♞e5 7.f4 ♟g6 8.e5 ♟g8 9.d6 c×d6 10.e×d6 ♟b6 11.♞b5 ♟d8 12.♟f3 ♞×d6 13.♞e3 ♞c5 14.♞×c5 ♟×c5 15.0-0-0 ♟h6 16.♞d6 ♟c7 17.♞c4 ♟f5 18.♞×f5 ♟×f5 19.♟d4 d6 20.♟hd1 ♞d7 21.g4 ♟×g4 22.♟d5 ♟ad8 23.♟×d6+ ♟c8 24.♞×f7 ♟f3 25.♟c4+ ♞c6 26.♞e6+ ♟d7 27.♞×d7+ 1-0

Polok, Kacper (2228) - Ragger, Markus (2651) [C47]

EU-ch blitz Wroclaw (2), 19.12.2014

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♞c6 3.♞c3 ♟f6 4.♞×e5 ♞×e5 5.d4 ♟g6 6.e5 ♞b4 7.e×f6 ♟×f6 8.♞c4 0-0 9.0-0 ♞×c3 10.b×c3 d6 11.♟b1 b6 12.♞d5 ♟b8 13.♟e1 ♞d7 14.♟d3 a5 15.♟g3 ♟fe8 16.♞g5 ♟f5 17.h4 ♟×d5 0-1

Go, Benjamin (2175) - Ernst, Sipke (2554) [C47]

Hoogeveen Unive op 16th Hoogeveen (1), 19.10.2012

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♞c6 3.♞c3 ♟f6 4.♞×e5 ♞×e5 5.d4 ♟g6 6.e5 ♞b4 7.e×f6 ♟×f6 8.g3 ♟c6 9.d5 ♞×c3+ 10.b×c3 ♟×c3+ 11.♞d2 ♟e5+ 12.♞e2 0-0 13.0-0 d6 14.♞f3 ♞f5 15.♟b1 b6 16.♟b4 ♟fe8 17.g4 ♞d7 18.♟e1 ♟f6 19.♞e4 ♟h4 20.g5 a5 21.♟c4 ♞e5 22.♟d4 ♟g4 23.♟f3 ♟×h2+ 24.♟f1 ♞e5 25.♟b3 a4 26.♟b4 ♞h3+ 27.♟e2 ♞g4+ 28.♟e3 ♟h3+ 29.♟f4 ♟g6+ 30.♞×g6 ♟f3# 0-1

So next time your opponent wants to take you down 4 Knights Lane, you might be able to switch them to "Elm Street," and if you've done your homework, you might catch that pumpkin full of candy and mate them.



1. Krabbé, Tim "A Breeze in the Sleepy 4-Knights Game". March 2000. Chess Café.



John "Jack" Collins' living room furniture. He worked with many students on these chairs, including Bobby Fischer.