

State of the CJA

Thank you all for attending, either in person or online. This year we are fortunate enough to not only have CJA members from all across the country, thanks to being able to zoom our meeting.

I am going to do this slightly out of order. We three awards that we gave physical awards for and we are going to start with Chess Journalist of the Year. The Chess Journalist of the Year was GM Eishan Moradiabadi.

Now that GM Moradiabadi has received the award, lets move on to the rest of the awards. We had so many entries that if we went through them all we wouldn't do any thing else. There was a record number of entries, by far! There were over 250 and we had never had more than 200 before. This large growth came from the two big groups, USChess and ACM, entering a slightly larger group of states entering the awards, but mostly that the outreach group had some success getting a person here, a person there, and a few other people who would enter in a couple of categories.

I would still like to get chess.com to be more involved and I would like to get more Cramer Award entries, but on the whole I was quite pleased with the quantity. Now such a quantity, especially when there is so much need for CJA to help those trying to submit in all sorts of different ways comes with its own problems of course, but we will talk about changes for next years awards in a little bit.

For those of you who have missed the CJA the past year, let me catch you up. First, we have a journal! Much thanks to Mark Capron (Please applaud now)! Mark has done an excellent job with the help of Rachel Schechter. Of course most of us know Mark, former editor of Iowa's En Passant magazine. Rachel his assistant is unable to join us as she is moving to Minnesota. The two of them have put out three award winning issues of The Chess Journalist. Please email with Mark about articles you have or are interesting in writing. We won't take everything, but we are interested in good quality stuff that doesn't necessarily have a home elsewhere or can't be explored in as much depth. Jim Hollingsworth runs a US Armed Forces Event and Chess Life could give it a couple pages, but understandably couldn't give 10 pages, we on the other hand, could and did give it 10 or so pages. Mark Capron email is - mcapron243@mchsi.com

Another major change that occurred this past year is that we had Vasishta joins last year. He was a great help in helping to settle much of the chaos that we were having from the computer side, with heading off to UNC Chapel Hill he wanted to stepdown and so we asked Grayson Rorrer to join. For those unfamiliar with his work, he runs the website grandmaster2b.com . As I understand it his website runs on the same platform as ours, so we are looking forward to a seamless transition. If he is on, he will speak with us briefly if not and he gets home in time from another commitment, then he will speak to us briefly.

We have three committees that met this year.

The publishing committee was designed largely to get the journal back up and running and once we accomplished that we didn't meet again.

There was a committee that was working on doing some judging explanations to help judge a sense of what to exam, etc., and that committee has been having a problem that maybe we can help with. Last year they asked for someone who would be of help with social media/you tube categories, and I was never able to find someone. This group probably has an average age around 70 and they have a great deal of wisdom and experience but asking a committee of three people who don't use twitch, for instance, to advise judges on judging twitch, just doesn't make any sense. So we would really love to find a journalist with a lot of experience in that sort of journalism who could help that committee out.

The other committee is the outreach committee. Last year, without their being here, I appointed Sophia Rohde and Jim Hollingsworth without asking them. Both of them kindly did agree to serve. One did suggest I could end up suffering greatly if I ever did it to them again, but they both did agree to serve and have done a really wonderful job. We all come from different parts of the country, and we all have very busy lives and try hard to be very understanding of that. So we don't meet very often, but have been able to share a wide variety of ideas. Thanks in part to Scott's work we had several southeastern states send in work to the Cramer Awards that had not entered previously. Jim has this great contest that they promote with in the state of Texas to get entries, that are either Cramer Award entries or sometimes are entries for other categories. Sophia had a wonderful flyer she put out at the high school scholastic championships.

Frankly had we been more successful you might all have killed. (More on that momentarily.)

One more thing before we move on to the Awards and future activities. Last year, I went to a PFRA (Pro Football Researchers Association) meeting and McFarland's football editor was there and said a few words and gave everyone 20% off football books coupon sort of thing. Now, I don't know that we would appreciate such a thing for football books, but I thought it would be great to have them say a few words and give you all a similar sort of gift. Now, there were a few kinks in the system (huge gaming convention in Indianapolis and someone in the company getting married or something like that) in any case, they couldn't be here. However, they did pass on several things. First, while their main editor for chess books is Robert Franklin (rfranklin@mcfarlandpub.com) who started the company, sales and marketing issues/ideas are best handled by Karl-Heinz Roseman (KRoseman@mcfarlandpub.com). They also sent along the following from Mr. Roseman – "The coupon code is **GAMING22**, and it is good for a 25% discount on chess books (and any gaming-related title) thru the month of August."

I know McFarland does this sort thing and so I reached out to them, but if NIC or others do as well, I will certainly bring it to the organizations attention.

Awards Discussions:

First thank you all for being involved either in judging or entering material. We had a great turnout and I do want to highlight a few things:

- 1) We allow states to double list things for a variety of reasons and largely because they states really asked for it and don't have much content and we want to work with them as best and as much as we can. (Noted on 8/12 - At this point I am editing for clarity, etc. from our discussion at the meeting. These are not official minutes, so I see no harm in doing that for purposes of clarity, etc.) There are some concerns about the nonstate organizations using a piece both in print and online. This was discussed lightly and will undoubtedly be discussed in much more depth as we prepare for the 2023 awards.

- 2) There are parts of this job that require significant knowledge and experience, there are parts of this job that do not. I am quite capable and comfortable handling the first, whether that be a new organization looking to enter for the first time and in need of a little hand holding or that is USChess with some very technical question. Where I happen to be horrible is the data entry work. We used to never do things like post all the entries for people to see, and it is a time suck, but one that everyone loves, so I am in no way suggesting we get rid of it. I am suggesting we take some of our income from the awards and pay someone to do the data entry side of the work. Grayson is the most obvious choice given that he is the webmaster, but regardless, this is a change that needs to be made.
- 3) Along with this decision I end up sending out a billion emails and it is very time consuming, so next year we plan to put the google sheet (show sheet) with numbers instead of names. I will send you the google drive link and the number and you can see what categories you are responsible for. The problem is that we can't do scoring this way, because we don't judges to be swayed by how others scored. **SO, Grayson, will be involved in this project too, but he and I and anyone willing to help are trying to design a better system, for handling the receiving of scores, the information going to the certificate makers etc. Anyone who wants to help us out, please let me know.**
- 4) Speaking of certificates they have all been made and will be listed on the website in the air table like last year. It should be sometime today.
- 5) There was a bit of confusion with judges getting categories mixed up whether they were print or online. I believe we can solve this simply by numbering the categories so that is planned for next year.
- 6) Best Tournament will likely be split again, we have weeks of work in online reporting being judged against 6 page articles. We also have "local" tournaments entitled National Open – maybe a "National" event isn't so local. Also an event with more than half the population coming in from out of state, probably isn't really that "local."

Best art sometimes has one category with a lot more than a single piece of art, but likely won't be split, because most years there would be nothing in the Best Art – Multiple pictures category.

- 7) As is practice this will all be discussed in much more detail with anyone who wishes to participate in the discussion next February/March.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank, recognize and remember the Liebermans. I had the pleasure of working with them for about a decade, and though they didn't judge many categories, they always keenly interested in how the awards were run and for that matter how the CJA was run. And I just wanted to publicly thank them for their service.

Financials

Please note that this is missing entry payments (excused for now) from USChess and ACM. Between the two we will get roughly another 800 dollars. So, we made a little money for the year once that \$800 is added in.

Aug 1, 2021 Starting Balance	7054.87	
Expenses:	32.7	
Website costs	63.93	
Trophies	500	Estimate
Webmaster Fee	600	
Income:		
Memberships/Entries	987.55	
Aug 1, 2022 Ending Balance	6845.79	

Future Plans:

- 1) Continue the journal – please send Mark journal ideas.

- 2) Would like to do more with the Oral History Project. We had the misfortune of losing not just the Liebermans, but a whole host of others and we were never able to get these from interesting subjects. Those that have been done sort of languish at WCHOF and we will be talking with them about that more in the next couple of weeks.
- 3) Dan Lucas has a plaque. To be honest I am a little behind on the information on this, but basically Dan has a plaque where we add names of Journalists, but I am a little vague on if it is a Hall of Fame type thing or a CJOY type thing. In any case, he suggested we revive the plaque and begin to add names once again to it. Certainly, I am in favor of this, and more information will come this year. (Noted on 8/12 – USChess has the plaque, packed because of the move. When it is unpacked we will take a closer look and try to see about adding some names as is appropriate.)
- 4) On our website, we have some categories that we are in the process of filling in – Distinguished Contributors to CJA, Famous Chess Journalists. We have begun the discussion on populating these, but don't have anything up, that will be rectified throughout the year.
- 5) Last year John Hartmann was nice enough to give a talk on house style. Though there were some differences of opinion, it was generally thought he did a nice job and there was discussion on him having someone connected with him do another. A few months ago, he contacted me about a piece I had written with an unusual back story, that he didn't think was very good and was interested in sort of deconstructing that as sort of the next example. I was perfectly fine with that as long as he explained that it was a rough he was working with. Either that didn't work for some reasons, or he has just been too busy with other stuff. (The backstory is that Mark was afraid an article was going to fall through at the last second and did I have anything like 8 pages long. I didn't but wanted to help, so I wrote this piece finding a "lost/unknown" game of a World Champion and it has sort of a panicky wild chaotic sort of tone and just sort of tells what I did. The other guy came through and my piece was not needed. But as a rough, I liked it, so I contact Andy Ansel and asked to interview

him. He said yes and we had a nice chat, during which he mentioned John was interested in doing a piece on him. SO, keeping everyone in the loop, I sent John over this piece and the zoom interview sort of thing, very much in rough draft form.) So now whether John / associate wants to reconstruct this or they want to talk about something entirely different, I don't know, and either is fine, but certainly we would enjoy having him back to speak about some issue in chess journalism. (Noted on 8/12 – At the meeting, John gave a good explanation and we do think we can work out a bit moving forward, with something, not the same, but similar.)

6) Our annual zoom meeting will be Sunday February 6. More specifics, such as time, zoom link, will come much later. (For those that are wondering why that date, it is about 6 months away and apparently there is some football game that is tremendously popular, usually for the commercials, and we don't want to compete with them.

7) Anyone have anything else they would like to add? (Noted on 8/12 – they didn't.)

Category/Awards	Score	Award
TOP THREE CATEGORIES (OPEN TO PRINT OR ONLINE) – 19		
Chess Journalist of the Year (June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022).		
Eishan Moradiabadi	22	Winner
Best Story of the Year		
“World Chess Championship” (John Burke)	12	HM
The Miracles on Maryland Ave. by Joe Posnanski	14	Winner
The Fischer Project by John Donaldson, et al.	12	HM
Best Column		
Alex Fishbein: “Senior Endgame Moments” and “If the Queens have been Traded...”	13	Winner
Andy Soltis: Chess to Enjoy – Death of Style and Home Field Disadvantage	13	Winner
BEST CHESS BOOK – 13		
Best Book of the Year		

Smyslov, Bronstein, Geller, Taimanov and Averbakh – McFarland (mcfarlandbooks.com)	23	Winner
Best Book – Instruction		
The Smyslov Workbook - Lakdawala, Cyrus, Hansen, Carsten:	19	HM
Everyone’s First Chess Book: Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers by Peter Giannotos	21	Winner
Best Book – Other		
Smyslov, Bronstein, Geller, Taimanov and Averbakh – McFarland (mcfarlandbooks.com)	23	Winner
Best Self-Published Book		
“Mind. Art. Experience: Ten Years of Chess & Culture in Saint Louis” by World Chess Hall of Fame	25	Winner
BEST VISUAL ARTS – 22		
Best Photojournalism Article		
Holly Heisman Memorial by Joshua Anderson	19	HM
The Fischer Project by John Donaldson/Ian Spanier	21	Winner
Best Single Chess Photo		
Annie tippy-toes to enter her score! (Yuan Ng)	19	Winner
Donaldson on staircase at Mechanics (Ian Spanier)	17	HM
Best Art		
“Resolutions” (cover and opening spread) – Chandler Ellison	14	Winner
Best Single Chess Magazine Cover		
ACM #25	15	HM
Chess Life, July 2021 – Ian Spanier	16	Winner
Best Cartoon		
Chess Adventures with Wesley So – Val Bockhov	22	Winner
BEST PRINT ARTICLES (OPEN ONLY TO PUBLICATIONS) - 79		
Best Regular Newspaper Column		
David Sands – Washington Times – Collateral Damage and D.C.’s Storied Role	Yes	Winner
Best Overall Magazine (these magazines will be provided to judges)		
Chess Life	23	Winner

Best Single Article of Local Interest		
Chasin: The Marshall Chess Club Today pp.26-29	17	Winner
Best Feature Article		
The Miracles on Maryland Ave. by Joe Posnanski	13	HM
The Fischer Project – John Donaldson et al.	16	Winner
Best Interview		
Ponterotto: “Witness to Chess History” (Saidy)	16	Winner
Tamburro: “A Star-Spangled Opera and Chess Success!”	13	HM
Abhi Mishra interview – John Hartmann	13	HM
Best Tournament Report National / International		
Sarunas Sulskis: “Cool Hand Magnus”	13	Winner
The 2021 World Championship – Alex Yermolinsky	13	Winner
Best Tournament Report – State / Local		
Viva Las Vegas! – JJ Lang	20	Winner
Best Club Newsletter		
Chess Advocate – Memphis Chess Club by Dwight Weaver (2 issues)	Yes	Winner
Best Instructive Lesson		
Aagaard: Aagaard’s All-Round Chess Training	14	Winner
The Quasi-Outpost – Elshan Moradiabadi	14	Winner
Best Review		
Hansen: “Fresh Leaves from the Bookshelf” in Issue #22 pp. 94-97	21	Winner
Best Analysis		
John Burke: “Carlsen’s 6th Sense” and Nepo “A Historic Game!” GM Wesley So on Game Six of Carlsen – Nepomniachtchi – Wesley So	16	Winner
Best Historical Article		
Soltis: “Frank J. Marshall: A Century Ahead of his Time” pp. 8-11	15	HM
Tamburro: “How it All Began: The Marshall Chess Club 1915-1944,” pp. 20-25	10	HM
Bauza-Mercere: “When Allies are Enemies at the Chessboard” pp. 38-46	11	Winner
Donaldson: “Bobby Fischer’s Lost Game Scores”	10	HM
Best Humorous Contribution		

“There is no singing in Chess from Humor in Chess by Tom Langland	20	Winner
Best Personal Narrative		
Tamburro: “A Remembrance-Glenn Arne Petersen”	16	Winner
Different Wavelengths – Mike Klein	16	Winner

BEST ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS AND FEATURES - 90

Best Interview

Coming to America: An Interview with GM Vladimir Belous US Chess.org	15	Winner
Shankland Returns: Back on the Board, Back in the Club, Back in the Groove US Chess.org	15	Winner
Cyrus Lakdawala and Carsten Hansen with Jim Eade	12	HM
George Mirjaniian with Jim Eade	13	HM

Best Feature Article

Alekhine’s Life Lesson, and Chess After 65 (J. Eugene Salomon) (Pages 14-27)	23	Winner
--	----	--------

Best Podcast

The Chess Underground (podbean.com) – Pete Karagianis – Episodes 27 to 38	12	HM
Ladies Knight Chess – Jennifer Shahade – Episodes 31 to 42	13	Winner
One Move at a Time (podbean.com)– Daniel Lucas – Episodes 33 to 44	12	HM

Best Single Podcast Episode

Ladies Knight with Jen Shahade ft. Anastasiya Rakhmangulova LK040 – Ladies Knight Chess seen on Ladies Knight with Jen Shahade	20	Winner
--	----	--------

Best Tournament Report – National/International 2021 FIDE World Championship | US Chess.org – various authors

16 HM

Vachier-Lagrave Wins Three-Way Playoff: 2022 Superbet Chess Classic Romania, Day 9 – Chess.com– others listed on chess.com

18 Winner

Best Tournament Report – State/Local

In the Ring: Spring CCCSA IM Norm Invitational by Grayson Rorrer	17	HM
--	----	----

Holly Heisman Memorial by Joshua Anderson Best News	20	Winner
Best Club Newsletter Denver Chess Club (JC MacNeil)	19	HM
Chess Advocate (by Editor & Publisher Dwight Weaver for Memphis Chess Club)	21	Winner
Best Instruction Lesson (783) IM Carissa Yip on the MEMORABLE MOVES behind her first US Women's Title! – YouTube	16	Winner
Common Thought Process Errors – NM Dan Heisman	14	HM
Chess Keys: A Rook and a Quarter by Rachel Schechter	13	HM
Best Analysis Carlsen Wins Sixth Game of World Championship; So Annotates! US Chess.org	Yes	Winner
Best Humorous Contribution Chess in 2042 (Bob Basalla) (Pages 44-45)	17	Winner
IT'S PERSONAL by David Emerling for Chess Advocate	16	HM
Mistaken Identity: Nepo Is Misidentified By Sports Channel – Ray Linville	17	Winner
Best Historical Article Bradley Beach 1929 by Thomas Shupe – Part I, Part II, and Part III	20	Winner
Best Personal Narrative Alekhine's Life Lessons by Gene Salomon	22	Winner
Best Overall Chess Website US Chess Federation	20	Winner
www.worldchesshof.org by World Chess Hall of Fame	17	HM
Best Overall Website Small Organization (group of less than 500) Grandmaster2B	17	HM
The Eade Foundation	19	Winner
Best Online Blog Ray Linville Blog	20	Winner
Best Educational Lesson		

Episode Seven: A Night at the Opera by Chris Torres	18	Winner
Best Online Review		
Watson Book Review: Jones' Coffeehouse Repertoire US Chess.org by John Watson	Yes	Winner
Best Non-Instructive Chess Video		
"Mind, Art, Experience: 10 Years of Chess & Culture in Saint Louis PREVIEW" by World Chess Hall of Fame	18	HM
Marshall Chess Club – 1950s – A Look Back	20	Winner
Best Twitter Feed		
Best Twitter Feed – Grand Chess Tour	18	Winner
Dan Heisman	17	HM
Best Twitch Channel		
Saint Louis Chess Club	25	Winner
Best Instagram Feed		
Best Instagram Feed – Grand Chess Tour	23	Winner
Best Weekly Video Program		
Best Documentary		
Lev Alburt by Adam Whitaker	Yes	Winner
Best Tournament/Match Coverage (This may be a series of videos)		
2022 Grand Chess Tour: Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland	Yes	Winner
Best Coverage by Mainstream Publication (FREE ENTRY!)		
After four brain surgeries, Colorado teen continues to win at chess and inspire (Tayler Shaw)	Yes	Winner
TIME for Kids TFK Goes to an All-Girls Chess Championship – by Via Ryerson	Yes	Winner
JUNIOR (UNDER 20) – 13		
Best Print Article by a Junior		
Grayson Rorrer: "A Triumph of Experience"	11	Winner
Carissa Yip: "Miss Tactics"	11	Winner
Best Online Article by a Junior		
TIME for Kids TFK Goes to an All-Girls Chess Championship by Via Ryerson	Yes	Winner
Best Personal Narrative by a Junior		

Carissa Yip: "Miss Tactics"	20	Winner
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT – 5		
ACM Marshall Tribute Issue (Will be sent to judges)	Yes	Winner
"The Fifth Anniversary" (Josip Asik, Dusan Krunic, Jimmy Adams, Pete Tamburro) and Editor's Letter	Yes	Winner
Marshall Chess Club – 1950s – A Look Back	Yes	Winner
1000th Newsletter from Mechanic's Institute	Yes	Winner
Chess After 2042	Yes	Winner
CRAMER AWARDS – 14		
Best State Championship Report		
Alabama State Championship Report – Scott Varagona in Alabama Chess Antics	Yes	Winner
Best State Tournament Coverage		
Best Scholastic Coverage in State (may be multiple articles)		
Florida Chess	Yes	Winner
Best Overall State Website		
Texas Chess Association (Chris Wood)	18	Winner
Best State Magazine/Newsletter – Print		
Northwest Chess – 12 issues	20	Winner
Best State Magazine/Newsletter – Online		
Northwest Chess – 12 issues	20	Winner
Best Personal Narrative		
Searching for Stuart Rachels by Scott Varagona – Alabama Chess Antics	Yes	Winner