

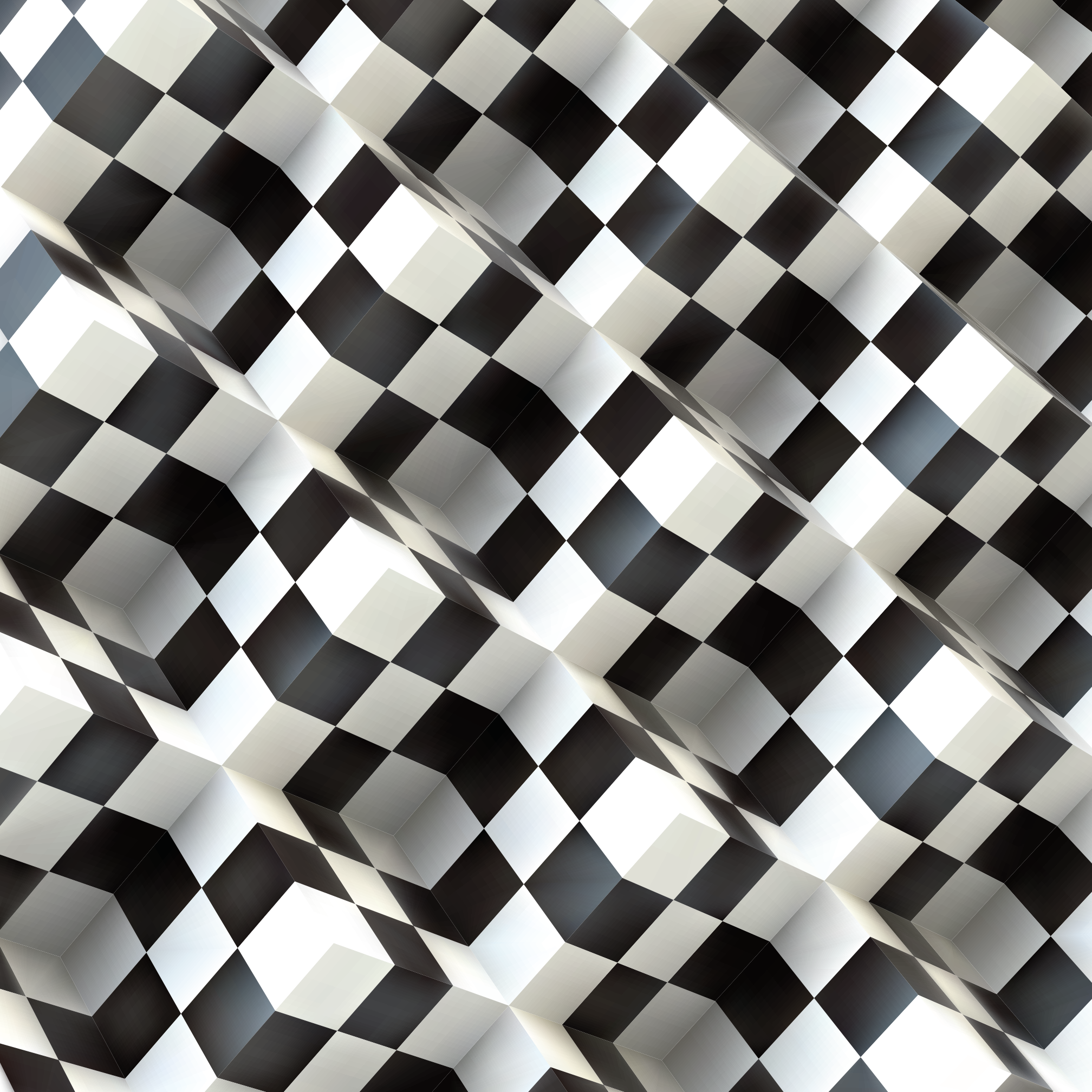
ANNUAL REPORT

2021



US CHESS
FEDERATION





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MISSION

Empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess.



VISION

Chess is recognized as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness and benefits education, rehabilitation, recreation, and friendly competition.

US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD

▶ The US Chess Federation (US Chess) is the official governing body and non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for chess players and chess supporters in the United States. Our mission is to empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess. Our vision is that chess is recognized as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness and benefits education, rehabilitation, recreation, and friendly competition.

US Chess represents the United States in the International Chess Federation (FIDE), connecting our members to chess players around the world. Founded in 1939 with the merger of the American Chess Federation and the National Chess Federation, US Chess peaked at more than 97,000 members during the past year, but membership is currently down due to COVID-19.

In normal years, US Chess sanctions and rates over 12,000 tournaments and over 800,000 games. We host over 50 national championships and award titles to both amateurs and professionals, ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens.

Photos (l-r): Hoffpauir, Bauer, Unruh, Velez, Day, Fong, Hater, Meyer.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Pivoting to Meet Challenges

 The 2020-21 business year saw US Chess confronting multiple challenges rooted in the nation's struggles with the COVID-19 pandemic. From my chair, your Executive Board (EB) and our Executive Director did a tremendous job keeping the ship afloat in troubled waters. We made solid financial decisions and demonstrated the flexibility essential to the organization's ability to pull through the pandemic ready to face 2021-22. The general theme of my message will focus on some things that went very well, and a few areas where we can continue to improve.

ONLINE PLAY

US Chess quickly adapted to the loss of over-the-board (OTB) events by assembling the "Online Play Task Force" (OPTF). Under the leadership of outgoing EB member Ryan Velez (KY), the OPTF authored a complete set of revised rules to govern online play (ONL). FIDE and the national federations of many countries watched in awe as the U.S. smartly moved ahead! You approved the OPTF's work at last year's Special Delegates Meeting in what US Chess published as "Chapter 10" of the *Official Rules of Chess*. Subsequently, many of you implemented Chapter 10 either by participating in ONL tournaments as players or by organizing/directing ONL events. As we have learned, the skills (and equipment) needed as a player, organizer, or Tournament Director for ONL events differ in many ways from those used in OTB tournaments. ONL events also introduced new considerations: identifying players opting to violate rules of fair play. To help thwart these activities, US Chess worked with multiple vendors to certify their Fair Play Methods. The US Chess Ratings Committee and several other US Chess members played key roles

in that process, lending their statistical and analytical expertise to "look under the hood" in detail to understand exactly what those vendors were doing to identify potential cheaters. Today our Competition Integrity Committee's charter includes the development of lessons and best practices for detecting and dealing with cheaters. Last year your Executive Board breathed new life into that committee, and I expect we will hear from them in the coming year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I compliment the Delegates for their approval last year of the new Nominating Committee. That group, under the able chairmanship of David Grimaud (SC), vetted the candidates who participated in this year's EB election. I can unequivocally state that your Executive Board was "hands-off" with this committee. In fact, we only interfaced with them when asked to do so by their chair. I recall, for example, when the committee initially formed, they asked several EB members (including myself) a battery of questions about service on the Executive Board — all part of the committee's process to better understand the role of the EB and to apply that knowledge in their role of reviewing potential EB candidates. I think the quality of the candidates for this year's election is a fine testament to the process you as Delegates helped put in place. In this regard, I think all of us owe a large measure of thanks to our Executive Director Carol Meyer, who made available to the Nominating Committee her deep knowledge and experience with non-profit organization governance. Nicely done to all of you on this very worthwhile initiative!

OPPORTUNITIES

Looking ahead, the next US Chess business year will also see a continuation of the return to OTB play — just like we are doing at this U.S. Open. We have learned there are significant opportunities for online play to continue to thrive and fill new niches in US Chess. For



“The next US Chess business year will see a continuation of the return to OTB play.”

example, in the next year US Chess plans to integrate one or two new online events into the annual cycle of chess tournaments. We have no intent to have online events replace over-the-board events; rather, the objective is to leverage online play to increase participation in rated chess across the broader community of chess players in America. In a similar way, we envision online chess playing a new (and increased) role in education. There is a dimension of our beloved game that is far riper for exploration — that of using chess as a vehicle to enhance other learning. Imagine the learning that can occur when a school’s Spanish class plays online against a school in Spain or Mexico — with this week’s games played in Spanish and next week’s games played in English! Perhaps the talented youth in an inner-city school are given the chance to play on the national stage in an online event. In these examples it’s less about “the moves,” and far more about the cultural and mind-expanding experiences. This will be a major area of focus for US Chess in the coming year.

We should all thank Michael Khodarkovsky (NJ) for the great work he has done in the past several years as our Delegate to FIDE. Our relationship with FIDE has changed significantly. Former US Chess President Allen Priest (KY) also played an immense role in this transition. Today the relationship between US Chess and FIDE is professional and collaborative. Further, there are several US Chess members serving on key FIDE committees, helping ensure your interests as US Chess members are represented in those forums. I see this relationship only growing stronger.

I wish all of you the best in the coming year. I thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Executive Board and as President for the past year.

Mike Hoffpauir

President, US Chess

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Testing Our Mettle

▶ It has been almost two years since we were last together. I confess that the imminent return to in-person activity after being sidelined for more than a year comes with an uneasy mix of excitement and trepidation, albeit with a reassuring sense that we have put the worst of the pandemic behind us. Each day I feel gratitude for our healthcare workers, scientists, and fellow citizens who collectively took steps to help us outplay this formidable opponent known as coronavirus.

When the world as we knew it came to a screeching halt in March 2020, US Chess was poised for record membership and rated games numbers, as well as significant growth in our community among underrepresented players. But we made the best of unexpected opportunities and embraced what was given to us.

ADAPTING AND MOVING ONLINE

With support from our members, affiliates, Executive Board, and staff, US Chess took steps to keep rated play available. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and our corporate partners, we moved the annual invitational tournaments — U.S. Championships, U.S. Junior, U.S. Girls' Junior, U.S. Cadet, the Denker, Harding, Barber, Rockefeller, Senior (now Irwin) Tournaments of State Champions, and Weeramantry Blitz — online. With the U.S. Open canceled for the first time ever, the U.S. Championship Online Qualifier was held in its place, seeding winner GM Aleksandr Lenderman into the 2021 U.S. Championship. FIDE also embraced online play, staging — among many other events throughout the year — the first-ever Online Olympiad.



“... we made the best of unexpected opportunities and embraced what was given to us.”

US Chess used this opportunity to lead and learn with our members. We created professional development tools to teach new online skills and offered free seminars to share best practices — some of which came about through trial (and yes, error) — with our organizers, state affiliates, and directors. We developed partnerships with *Chess.com* and ICC (and later Lichess) after evaluating and endorsing these platforms’ fair play methodologies, thereby providing peace of mind about the integrity of US Chess-rated online games. We even launched a regular online rating system for those who prefer to play longer games. To provide meaningful playing opportunities for our youngest members, the Executive Board, our events team, and the Scholastic Council collaborated to ensure our tradition of national scholastic competition continued. To take the guesswork out of the guidance that previously governed online play, the Online Play Task Force proposed a new chapter to the *Official Rules of Chess*, which was adopted at last summer’s Special Delegates Meeting.

The Women and Girls program also launched several new online activities to keep connected during the pandemic. Guest speakers, adult chess lessons, a book club, and weekly instructional and social meet-ups all flourished under the leadership of Jennifer Shahade, the US Chess Women’s Program Director.

GOVERNANCE

Canceling the 2020 U.S. Open was unprecedented. Not only did we lose our flagship open event, but we also lost our annual governance meetings. The Executive Board quickly put forward an agenda for a Special Delegates Meeting that built on the work of the Delegate-appointed Governance Task Force and included other important topics. To support the Special Delegates Meeting, we held 11 advance workshops, offered at least six one-on-one technical sessions, and did a dry run prior to the official meeting.

The new policy creating a Nominating Committee triggered a second Special Delegates Meeting in which the Delegates elected six members to the Nominating Committee and the Executive Board appointed two. The newly-created committee was tasked with formalizing recruitment for Executive Board service. The committee quickly established its internal processes, inviting and vetting candidates, and making nominee recommendations in less than two months. In all, they qualified four candidates to stand for election.

Members of US Chess leadership also participated in the FIDE Online General Assembly in December 2020. That event was preceded by a week of Commission meetings, during which US Chess leadership took part in administrative and programmatic activities.

MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM LAUNCH

In the summer of 2019, US Chess contracted with Skvare, an IT development firm, to take the first steps toward modernizing our information technology infrastructure. While the initial Phase I grew to be larger than originally scoped, we made significant progress in providing flexible tools that allow members to manage their own information. The long-term goal of this update is to implement a sustainable, standards-based infrastructure that can be maintained by any number of firms on the market.


Future development will include moving the US Chess ratings server, developing a new events management system, and adding an app as well as a new website. We will soon begin to undertake additional discrete elements of the project. Ultimately, our goal is to retire the old systems as they are increasingly difficult to maintain.

With the past year now in the rearview mirror, I thank our members, sponsors, committees, Executive Board, volunteers, and staff for their patience and ongoing commitment to US Chess. The past year tested our mettle, yet amid so much uncertainty and disruption, we managed to come through the worst of the pandemic strong, energized, and eager to charge forward with our mission to *empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess.*

Carol B. Meyer
Executive Director

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE'S REPORT

Of Budgets, Pandemics, Generosity, and Guidance: The US Chess Unaudited Financial Results for 2020-21



The finances at the end of the third quarter of 2020-21 were a defining period for US Chess. A pandemic and its existential threat to over-the-board chess peaked in America. The probability of normal upcoming summer events and tournaments were encouraging signs that the over-the-board (OTB) chess community would emerge from its year-long hiatus.

By the end of January, US Chess was in the surplus column by approximately \$400,000, yet \$200,000 behind the previous year. Cash accounts and investments posted significant increases into the fiscal year end. Leadership, staff, committee volunteers, and the financial teams deserved a victory lap but continued their diligent Zoom work that had brought about a large third quarter surplus. (“Zoom” no longer has the same meaning from my childhood with so many board and committee meetings during the last year.)

The fourth quarter earnings shown in the internal financial reports surprised the most optimistic of us with a larger-than-expected surplus and excellent membership revenues. Although the 2020-21 budgeted was incorrect by almost a million dollars, the guidance of

the known was good, but the generosity of chess enthusiasts, operational cost controls, and excellent investment markets became the real story in the marked difference from the budget. Like the person with their head in the refrigerator and feet in the oven, on average we felt strangely comfortable financially during the pandemic year. Leadership was in unknown chess financial territory with uneven results between operational revenue shortfalls and unprecedented growth of restricted funds. Fortunately, the membership revenue, one of the most difficult parts of the budget forecasts in a pandemic, appears within a few points of guidance for a decrease year-over-year of 30%. Luck or skill, the actual year-end loss of approximately 30% of the membership revenue stream was the most optimistic forecast outcome at the beginning of the fiscal 2020-21 year.

LESSONS INTERNALIZED

In a year full of financial challenges, the end-of-the-year surplus is composed of several stories and realizations new to US Chess finance over the decades. The first observation was that chess membership revenues are resistant to economic downturns but not pandemics. Even so, the income statement supports the focus on operational cost controls through significant reductions in general and administrative costs. Some of the results are one-time events. For example, US Chess saved over \$250,000 when the pandemic prohibited the national OTB events and mission outreach programs.

Although the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was very helpful in maintaining the operational structure going forward, the program gains resolve in next year and are not part of this year's bottom line surplus. PPP worked for US Chess and helped the Federa-



**“By the end of January,
US Chess was in the
surplus column by
approximately \$400K.”**

tion stay the course during some dark financial times at the start of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Lastly, the heroes of my financial story are our chess enthusiast members, donors, and sponsors. The budget for last year wasn't close to actual results in a large part owing to the outpouring of financial contributions. Based on some soft numbers just in, contributions were a major factor in the year-end surplus. Leadership is very thankful for the membership's generosity and commitment to the mission!

The financial budget and guidance process are once again a focus for the start of the new fiscal year. A return to the normal mission is forecast for fiscal year 2021-22 with a slight bottom-line surplus. Phase II of the IT upgrade is included in the budget as part of the capital expenditures and is a serious investment with an estimated cost over \$300,000.

Fortunately, US Chess finances are very solid and can meet this necessary Phase II IT upgrade.

In short, fiscal 2020-21 was a remarkable financial year given the challenges of a once-in-100-years pandemic. Actual fiscal year numbers and the end of the quarter reports are posted on the US Chess website.

Chuck Unruh

Vice President of Finance

US CHESS DONORS

2020-2021

Due to space limitations, only donors of \$50 or more are listed from the most recent fiscal year. Every gift to US Chess plays an important role in continuing our mission to *“Empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess,”* and we are grateful for each and every donation. US Chess is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations to US Chess are tax deductible. If you would like to make a donation to US Chess, please visit us at www.uschess.org/donate. We also thank those who have donated to US Chess using payment methods offered through third-party chess events or various social media platforms. We regret being unable to recognize those donors individually.

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2020-2021

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In Honor of Alex Dunne
 Marvin & Ellen Winston
In Memory of Harold Winston
 Brian Yang
In Memory of Susan Kantor

GIFTS IN KIND

Scott Frank
 Uma Girkar
 Rusa Goletiani
 Mig Greengard
 Garry Kasparov
 FM Mike Klein/
chesskid.com
 John Leguizamo
 Beatriz Marinello
 Marcel Martinez
 Adia Onyango
 Nadya Ortiz
 Judit Polgar
 Hrtha Rajiv
 Cindy Tsai
 Ellen Wang
 Yuanling Yuan
 Juga of jugamusica.com
 Play Magnus Group

US Chess also thanks its many volunteers who tirelessly serve on committees and at events, as well as in various other capacities within the organization. Their commitment to US Chess and to the larger chess community is greatly appreciated.



AWARDS

Distinguished Service

W. Allen Priest

W. Allen Priest became a US Chess Delegate in 2007 and subsequently served on various committees, including finance, audit, bylaws, forums, and the Life Member Asset Trust. Elected to the Executive Board in 2011, Priest served as its President from 2018-2020, where he faced significant challenges that he met skillfully, bringing about lasting improvements for our organization.



Distinguished Service

Mike Nietman

Mike Nietman has served for many years in chess governance, including on the US Chess Executive Board from 2010-2020 and as a Delegate since 1987. He has also been devoted to scholastic chess and state organization. His quiet, positive work has brought about many accomplishments of great benefit to chess.

Distinguished Service

IA Kenneth Ballou (*posthumous*)

IA Kenneth Ballou was a regular Delegate to US Chess and served on six committees, acting as Chair for both the Elections Committee and the Rules Committee. Ken also served as the Parliamentarian at Delegates Meetings.



Outstanding Career Achievement

FM Alex Dunne

FM Alex Dunne has been a major voice in correspondence chess in the U.S. His contributions go back decades, to the time when “postal chess” served as many as 10,000 members at a time. From at least January 1983 he wrote one of the most popular *Chess Life* columns, “The Check is in the Mail.” He has also authored books on correspondence chess, including one that documents the history of the US Chess Absolute Correspondence Chess Championship.

Meritorious Services

Lauren Goodkind

Lauren Goodkind is recognized for her work in teaching, both to groups and individually, and for writing about chess, including a book of chess exercises. She gives her time to new and developing young players, and to underrepresented groups such as women, using chess as a means of improving self-esteem.

Meritorious Services

Richard Smouse

Over many years Richard Smouse has been involved in organizing and directing approximately 2,000 tournaments, including over 1,300 as Chief Tournament Director, and has been a major figure in Arizona chess.

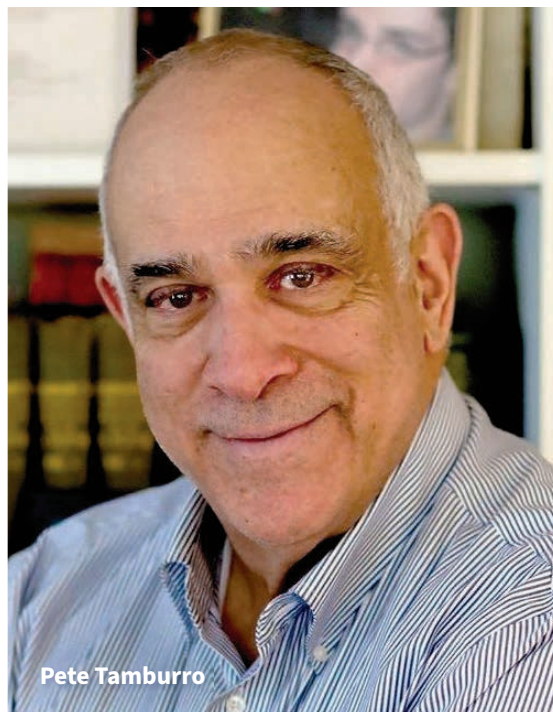




Special Services

Robert Franklin

As founder of McFarland Publications, Robert Franklin has helped to make possible the present golden age of chess biography and history. By encouraging and publishing high-quality works by renowned historians with new research, the cause of increasing the appreciation and knowledge of chess history has been greatly enhanced to the benefit of American players and future generations.



Special Services

Pete Tamburro

Pete Tamburro's years of outstanding work in chess journalism has contributed significantly to the appreciation of chess history as well as history in the making. He is the winner of 24 Chess Journalist of America awards, including Chess Journalist of the Year. He has written a puzzle column since 2006 for *arcamax.com*.



Frank J. Marshall

IM Stuart Rachels

IM Stuart Rachels has interacted positively with players, organizers, and writers in many ways, serving as an ambassador for US Chess. His recent acclaimed book, *The Best I Saw in Chess: Games, Stories and Instruction from an Alabama Prodigy Who Became U.S. Champion*, based partly on his personal experiences in chess, serves to preserve chess history of the 80s and 90s in a literate and entertaining way.

AWARDS

... [for] encouraging and publishing
high-quality works...

MCFARLAND PUBLICATIONS AND ROBERT FRANKLIN

... his transformative three-million-dollar gift ...

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER V



Koltanowski Award: Gold Saint Louis Chess Club

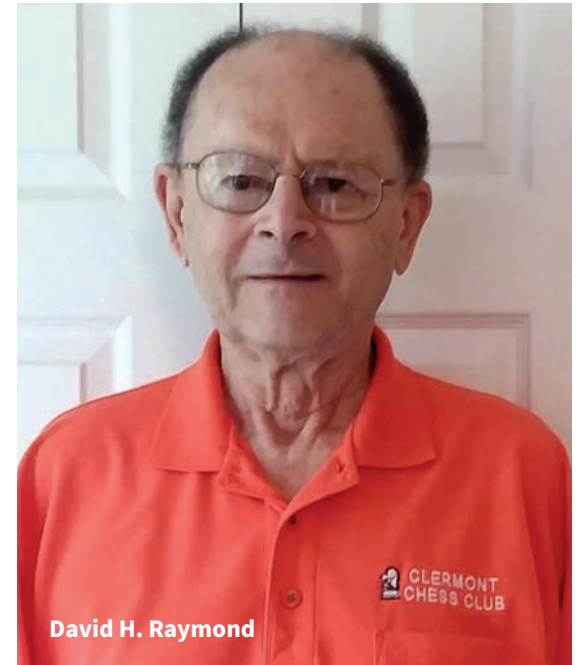
Since its founding in 2007, the Saint Louis Chess Club (SLCC) has been a supportive partner to US Chess. The SLCC hosts our flagship championships — U.S. Champion, U.S. Women's, U.S. Senior, U.S. Junior, and U.S. Girls' Junior — and funds many other worthwhile programs. In 2020, the SLCC provided generous financial support to the US Chess Women's Program and made a significant financial contribution to the 2020 Online Olympiad team.

Koltanowski Award: Gold John D. Rockefeller V

John D. Rockefeller V has made significant contributions to US Chess, both personally and financially. In 2020, his transformative three-million-dollar gift endowed four new US Chess national tournaments and enhanced existing ones. Rockefeller is an active volunteer for US Chess, serving as Chair of the Development Committee and Vice Chair of the Scholastic Council, and is also a chess dad and Scholastic Director of the Maryland Chess Association.



John D. Rockefeller V



David H. Raymond

Koltanowski Award: Silver David H. Raymond

David H. Raymond, a Life Member since the mid-1970s, made a generous financial contribution to US Chess to support our educational mission. He is particularly interested in bringing chess to the next generation, saying, "The thought process learned [through chess] — identify candidate moves, evaluate each, choose one — transfers very beneficially to non-chess decision-making."



FA Abel Talamantez

Organizer of the Year

FA Abel Talamantez

FA Abel Talamantez has met the challenges of the pandemic by being involved in organizing approximately 108 US Chess events since March 2020, including the Pan-American Intercollegiate Championship.

Grandmaster of the Year

GM Wesley So

GM Wesley So is the 2020 U.S. Champion and was first board with strong individual results on the 2020 U.S. FIDE Online Olympiad team. He was also a member of the U.S. second-place team in the 2020 FIDE Chess.com Nations Cup and had a variety of successes in online rapid play, including defeating Magnus Carlsen at the Skilling Open in a blitz playoff for the title.



GM Wesley So

AWARDS



GM Irina Krush

Woman Player of the Year

GM Irina Krush

GM Irina Krush is the 2020 U.S. Women's Champion, a title she has held eight times. Krush was a key member of the second-place 2020 FIDE Chess.com Nations Cup U.S. team, and was active throughout the pandemic in online events, including a popular guest appearance on US Chess' award-winning "Ladies Knight" podcast.

Outstanding Player

FM John A. Curdo

An 89-year-old Life Master, FM John Curdo has for decades been one of the top players in New England. He has played in many hundreds of US Chess tournaments since 1948, including 1,035 since 1991, and has won hundreds of tournaments. His rating peaked around 2500, and he won games against at least three Hall of Fame GMs.

Outstanding Team Achievement

U.S. Team in FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities: Coach Lior Lapid

The U.S. team in the FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities finished tied for 10-18th out of 60 teams, despite being ranked 39th pre-event. Team members were Michael Aigner, Griffin McConnell, Pranav Shankar, Jessica Lauser, Oskar Zoffer, and Nguyen Tran. Coach Lior Lapid says, "Serving as captain and coach of Team USA in the FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities was, and will always remain, one of the most meaningful, memorable, and magical experiences of my life."

"Serving as captain ... was one of the most meaningful, memorable, and magical experiences of my life."

-LIOR LAPID



Lior Lapid

Committee of the Year

Nominating Committee:
Chair David Grimaud

Newly created by the US Chess Delegates in August 2020, the Nominating Committee quickly invited prospective candidates to express their interest in serving and established its internal processes, vetted candidates, and made recommendations about nominees. The Committee completed its work in less than two months and qualified four candidates in total.



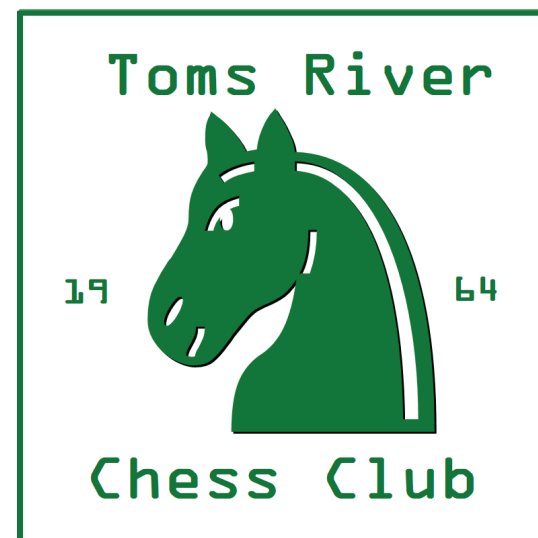
... he truly loves teaching students of all ages and levels.

KIMBERLY DOO ABOUT BRUCE PANDOLFINI



Chess College of the Year UC Berkeley

Some highlights from this active school: Winner of the Amateur Team West; top places achieved at the Pan American Intercollegiate Championship; second place in the College Chess League; eighth place in the World University Rapids; and 11th place in the World University Blitz. Additionally, the school supported chess for women by appointing two female co-presidents of the club and by organizing a chess teaching course for university credit.



Club of the Year Toms River Chess Club

The Toms River Chess Club in New Jersey has contributed to US Chess history by hosting such grandmasters as Mikhail Botvinnik, Mikhail Tal, Tigran Petrosian, Victor Korchnoi, Anatoly Karpov, and Boris Spassky, as well as hundreds of other titled players. People such as Frank Camaratta, Carol Jarecki, and a young Steve Doyle all passed through their doors. During COVID-19 they went online and joined with a local college to create an environment for chess to continue in New Jersey.

AWARDS

Tournament Director of the Year

FA Joseph Yun (*posthumous*)

FA Joseph Yun was the Chief Tournament Director for hundreds of tournaments in Northeast Ohio and Columbus, including dozens of Ohio championships. He was frequently asked by US Chess and the Continental Chess Association to work at their most important events. Joe was a long-time board member of the Ohio Chess Association and was President of the Ohio Scholastic Chess Association.

Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement

IO Franc Guadalupe

IO Franc Guadalupe made major contributions to chess at the national level for many years, including holding the positions of National Events Director and Interim Executive Director for US Chess. He served as an arbiter for the U.S. Championships and as organizer for major scholastic tournaments. He served as FIDE Zonal President and was Deputy Chief Arbiter for the 2016 World Chess Championship.



IO Franc Guadalupe



Bruce Pandolfini

Dan Heisman Award for Excellence in Chess Instruction

Bruce Pandolfini

From Kimberly Doo: "There is no one I know or have heard of that has imparted more chess knowledge to so many students and contributed so much to the chess community as Bruce [Pandolfini] has in his 50 years of teaching chess. I believe that Bruce's teaching/coaching resume is unrivaled by any other chess teacher. He is passionate about chess and is a chess teacher who truly loves teaching students of all ages and levels."



Danny Rohde

Scholastic Service Award: Individual

Danny Rohde

Danny Rohde provided technical coordination for the Internet Chess Club (ICC) during the pandemic, organized town halls, developed players' confidence in the integrity of major online tournaments, and helped write rules for online play. He is Event Manager for the Greater New York Scholastic Chess Championships, Scholastic Coordinator of the New York State Chess Association, and is a member of US Chess' Scholastic Council.

Scholastic Service Award: Organization

Internet Chess Club (ICC)

During the pandemic, the Internet Chess Club provided key strategic capabilities and tournament operations for organizers to run major scholastic tournaments such as the Greater New York Scholastic Chess Championships Online, several state championships, and US Chess' National Online Scholastic Chess Championships (NOSCC).



Joan DuBois

Accessibility and Special Circumstances Person of the Year

Joan DuBois

Joan Dubois has a decades-long track record of support for ALL chess players. She has been a driving force with the Blind Chess tournaments, has helped with the registration and requests for accommodations at other tournaments, and has aided chess players as well as tournament directors and organizers.

AWARDS



VALUES

EDUCATION

We promote the transformative power of chess for lifelong personal growth.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

We endeavor to be responsive, adaptive, and proactive in providing services to our customers.

EXCELLENCE

We strive to be the best we can be as an organization and in service to the game.

INTEGRITY

We honor, preserve, and promote fair play.

INCLUSION

We believe everyone has a seat at the chess table.

LOVE OF THE GAME

We embrace chess as a historic and iconic game, and we celebrate its history, growth, and evolution in our activities and services.

US CHESS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



US Chess sanctions over 50 national championships in a normal year. Here is this year's distinguished list, with many events not listed due to COVID-19 cancellations.



U.S. Women's Champion
GM Irina Krush

U.S. Champion
GM Wesley So



U.S. Girls' Junior Champion
IM Carissa Yip

US CHESS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



U.S. Senior Champion
GM Joel Benjamin



U.S. Junior Champion
GM John Burke



**Pan-Am
Intercollegiate
Team**
Webster University
Team A



Pan-Am Intercollegiate Individual
GM Andrew Tang
Princeton University



U.S. Cadet
IM Christopher Yoo



Seniors Invitational (50+)
GM Alex Fishbein

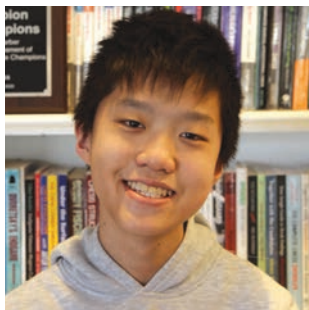


Denker: HS (9-12)
GM Nicolas Checa



Haring: Girls (K-12)

IM Annie Wang



Barber: MS (6-8)

Evan Park (L), FM Jason Liang (R)



Rockefeller: ES (K-5)

Bryan Xie

U.S. Class Championships

Master: GM Hans Niemann, FM Eugene Yanayt **Expert:** Guy Cardwell **Class A:** Andrew Bledsoe **Class B:** Samuel He **Class C:** Anantha Kumar, Siddarth Kurup **Class D:** Cole Frankenhoff **Class E and under:** Ethan Shaffer, Daks Dudipala, Jr.

U.S. Armed Forces Championship

Andrew Peraino, Navy

Weeramantry: Blitz

2200+: GM Nicolas Checa **1600-2199:** Sandeep Sethuraman, Ryan Amburgy
U1600: Kyle Ching

National Open

GM Dariusz Swiercz, GM Timur Gareyev, GM D Gukesh

U.S. Blind

Jessica Lauser

U.S. Amateur Team Events

East: The Secret Square (GM Mackenzie Molner, Jason Lu, Sean Finn, Ed Knesevitch) **North:** “a happy jubilant pawn” (WGM Jennifer Yu, FM Dache Lin, FM Guannan Song, Maggie Luo) **South:** Narein’s Disciples (Raghav Venkat, Nicolas Alejandro de la Colina, Sharvesh Deviprasath, Rohun Trakru) **West:** UC Berkeley B (FM Rayan Taghizadeh, Arjun Bharat, Christopher Pan, Nathan Fong)
National Playoff winners: South: Narein’s Disciples

Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls

Priyanka Nutakki

National Junior Congress

6 & Under: Ethan Guo **8 & Under:** Vedant Talwalkar, Allen Yang **10 & Under:** Omya Vidyarthi, Andrew Guo **12 & Under:** Aghila Nachiappan **14 & Under:** Hersh Singh **20/18/16 & Under:** Arun Dixit (20 & Under), Anika Rajaram (18 & Under), Arul Viswanathan (16 & Under)

US CHESS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

AUS CHESS TIMELINE NOTABLE EVENTS in 2020-2021

In this COVID-19 year, US Chess showed that we can be nimble in pivoting to meet the needs of our members as well as the chess community across the country. This was especially true as we embraced online play and its supporting infrastructure. Over these next pages, our timeline gallery celebrates the many highlights from a year that was otherwise filled with anguish for so many.



 **JUNE 2020**

US CHESS ANNOUNCES ONLINE REGULAR RATING SYSTEM

With demand for online play increasing, the US Chess Executive Board, in conjunction with the Ratings Committee, authorizes the creation of a regular rating system for online games of 30 minutes or more.

▲ JUNE 2020



US CHESS ANNOUNCES ONLINE PROGRAM GRANTS FUNDED BY SAINT LOUIS PARTNERSHIP

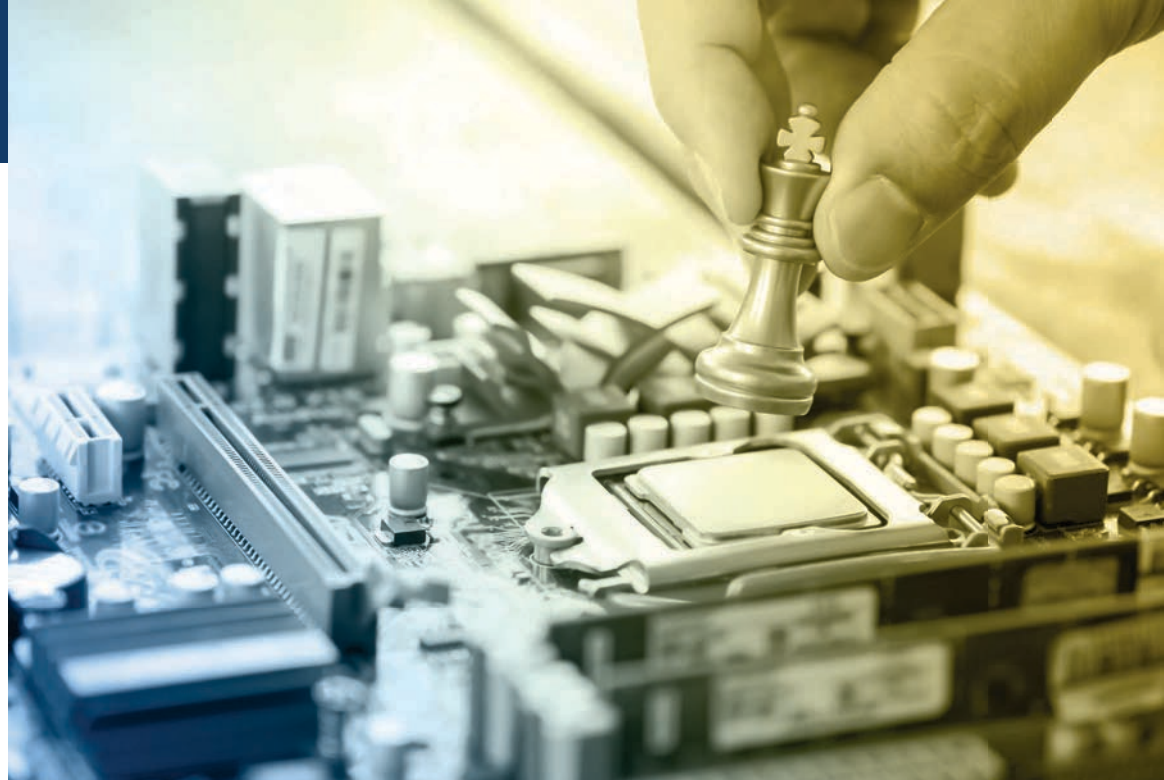
US Chess Women announces online program stipends to support efforts to educate, retain, and promote women and girls in chess. These stipends are supported by our partnership with the Saint Louis Chess Club, which renewed their generous grant award to speed up the growth of women and girls in chess.

▲ JUNE 2020

THE HERBERT B. JACKLYN FUND CREATED

US Chess receives a bequest to support the continued development of chess players between the age of 18 and 21. The endowed fund is named the Herbert B. Jacklyn Fund.

Dr. Jacklyn wanted young chess players to continue enjoying and competing in chess as they entered adulthood. It was a game he loved his entire life, and he didn't want people to lose interest or stop playing as they entered adulthood.



▲ JULY 2020

MAJOR MEMBERSHIP DATABASE INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

This new database is crucial to the future ability of US Chess to provide up-to-date information, services, and communication to its members while also reducing the amount of staff time required to maintain both our systems and accurate financial and donor records. It will also allow us to modernize and unify the various areas of our website going forward.

▲ JULY | AUGUST 2020

US CHESS PREMIER INVITATIONALS TAKE PLACE ON CHESS.COM

The U.S. Open premier invitational events for state champions of all ages, which normally take place in conjunction with the U.S. Open, are held in an online format on *Chess.com*.



Players from around the U.S. will gather on **Chess.com** for the **Barber Tournament of Middle School State Champions**, the **Rockefeller Tournament of Elementary School State Champions**, and the conclusion of the **Seniors** event.

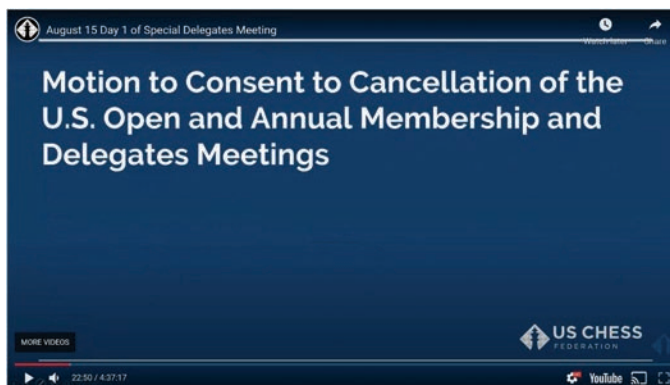


AUGUST 2020

U.S./KENYA GIRLS WORKSHOP FEATURES CONFIDENCE & CHESS LESSONS

US Chess Women kicks off a series of classes with Chess Meets Business Meets Kids and the Lighthouse Chess Club in Kenya to present a cross-cultural program that introduces girls in Kenya to those in the United States through chess.

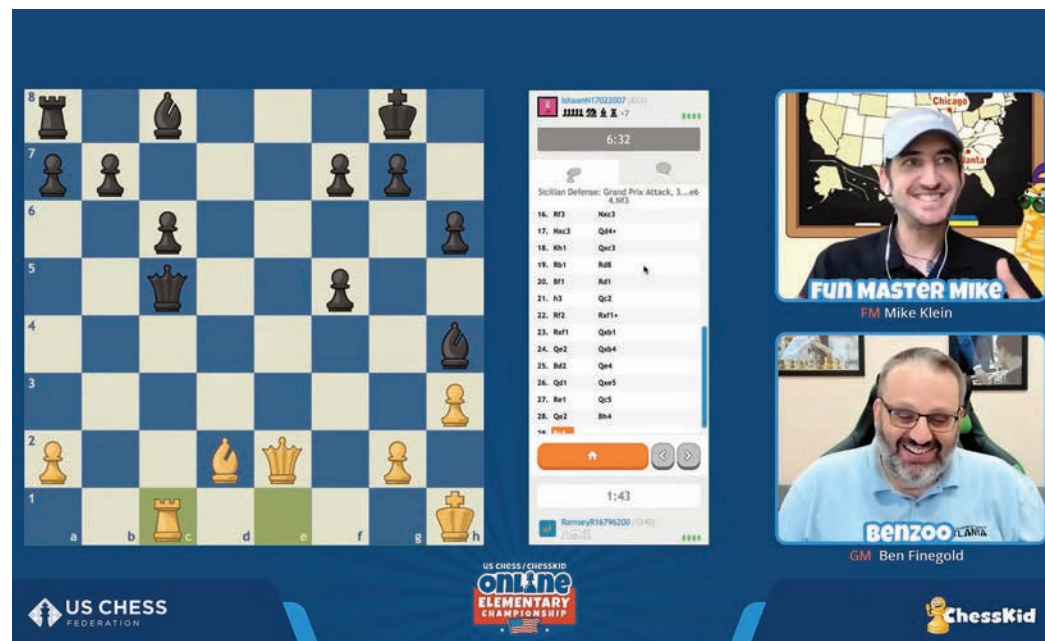
AUGUST 2020



SPECIAL DELEGATES MEETING HELD ONLINE

Due to the cancellation of the U.S. Open and the associated Delegates Meeting, US Chess holds a Special Delegates Meeting online. To support the meeting, we hold 11 advance workshops and offer multiple one-on-one technical sessions.

AUGUST 2020



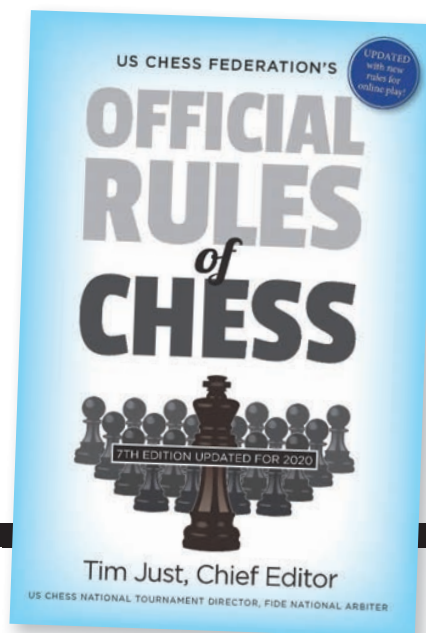
US CHESS / CHESSKID ONLINE ELEMENTARY CHAMPIONSHIP HELD

Over 2,100 players from across the country compete online in this replacement event for the canceled spring national championships. At stake are bragging rights, rating points, and unique prizes — including replica U.S. Team jerseys, group lessons with top grandmaster coaches, and top-20 plaques to the place winners.

SEPTEMBER 2020

US CHESS RULE BOOK UPDATED WITH ONLINE CHESS RULES

Following the adoption at the August 2020 Special Delegates Meeting of the newly written Chapter 10: "Rules for Online Tournaments and Matches," US Chess updates both the print version and Kindle versions of the *US Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess, 7th Edition*.





OCTOBER 2020

THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT RELEASED BY NETFLIX

On October 23, Netflix releases the limited series, “The Queen’s Gambit,” creating a mainstream interest in chess not seen since Fischer’s world championship victory in 1972.

A US CHESS TIMELINE

OCTOBER 2020

FIVE MAJOR U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD ONLINE

All five of US Chess’ major national tournaments — showcasing the past, present, and future of American chess — are hosted by the Saint Louis Chess Club and are held online: The U.S. Championship, Women’s, Senior, Junior, and Girls’ Junior Championships.



NOVEMBER 2020

TEAM USA SHOCKS THE CHESS WORLD IN FIRST EVER ONLINE FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Team USA’s players hail from across the country and range in age from nine to 46 years old. Despite being ranked 39th as the event begins, the team finishes in the top 10.



NOVEMBER 2020

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER V DONATES \$3 MILLION TO US CHESS

John D. Rockefeller V donates three million dollars to our organization, the largest single gift ever presented to US Chess in our 81-year history. The donation creates four events, enhances three existing events, renames one, adds to the scholarship funds for the scholastic events, and creates a book fund to further strengthen the invitationals. The endowments ensure the tournaments will be run and the funds will be awarded in perpetuity.



DECEMBER 2020



K-12 SHOWDOWN REPLACES CANCELED K-12 GRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Despite “learning curve” problems that affect the K-5 section, US Chess continues to make the pivot from our bread-and-butter over-the-board events to make online events available for our scholastic players.

JANUARY 2021

SUPERNATIONALS VII CANCELED

In one of the worst pandemic blows of all to US Chess, SuperNationals VII, with over 5,000 expected competitors, has to be canceled.



FEBRUARY 2021

SUPER GM LEVON ARONIAN ANNOUNCES HE WILL REPRESENT THE USA

The Saint Louis Chess Club announces that GM Levon Aronian of Armenia will relocate to St. Louis, Missouri and represent the USA in future competitions.



A US CHESS TIMELINE

▲ MARCH 2021

THE 2021 NATIONAL ONLINE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The NOSCC is created as a replacement event for SuperNationals VII. It features two Qualification Weekends, with a total of six divisions, and a Championship Weekend, with top finishers from each section meeting to determine a national individual champion in that division.

▲ APRIL 2021



CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT RESTARTS

After being suspended in March 2020 due to the pandemic, and in a sign the world is reopening, the Candidates Tournament resumes with American GM Fabiano Caruana only one point out of the lead. In the end, GM Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia emerges as the world championship challenger later this year to GM Magnus Carlsen.

▲ MAY 2021



US CHESS ANNOUNCES U.S. OPEN TO BE HELD

With more and more Americans vaccinated and the lifting of government restrictions, US Chess is able to announce that the U.S. Open and the associated invitational events and governance meetings will be held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.



GOALS

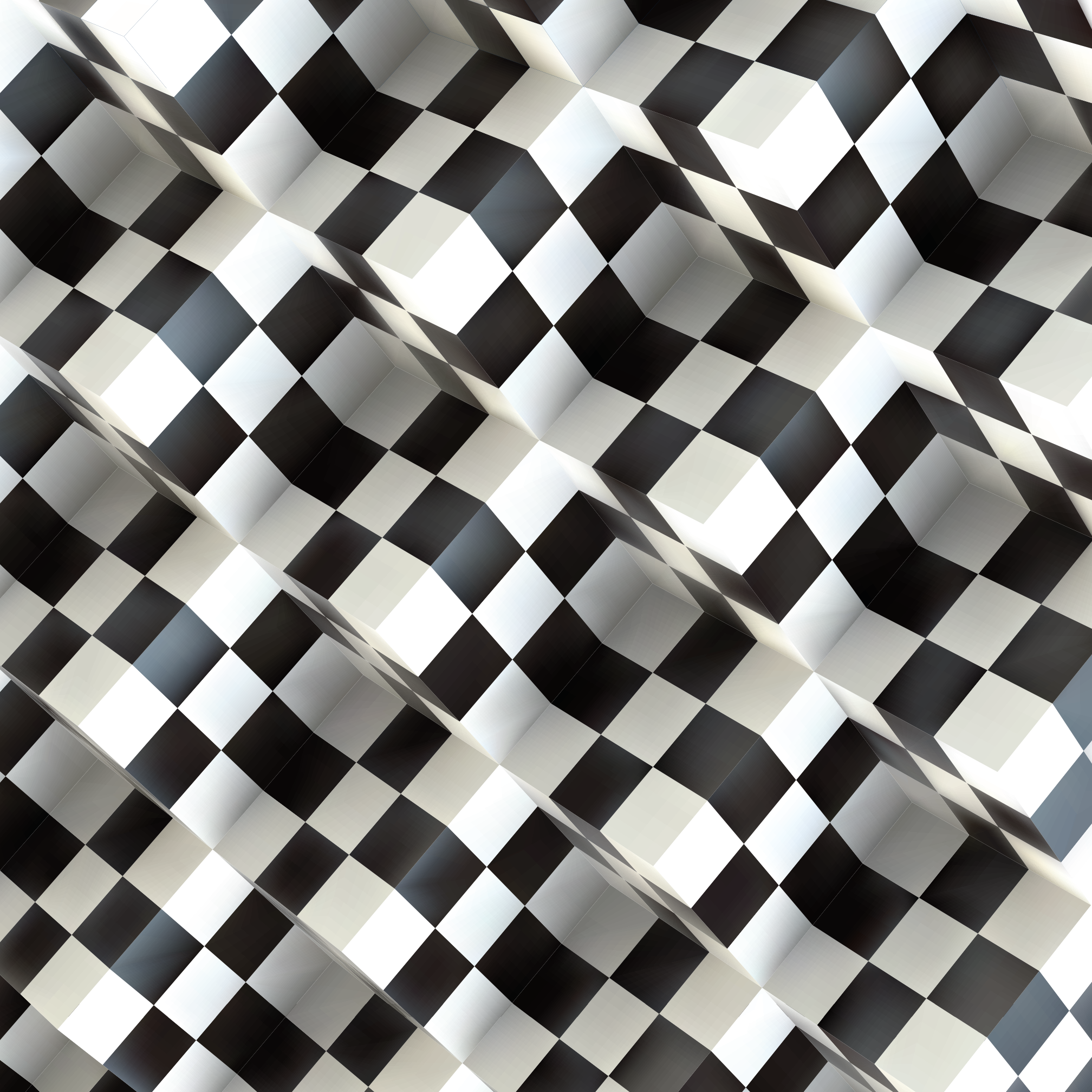
Increase the use of chess in education

Expand the social, recreational, and rehabilitative applications of chess

Develop the depth and breadth of our partnerships

Use chess to increase opportunities for underrepresented segments of society

Continuously improve internal operations and member services





US CHESS
FEDERATION