

# *Annual Report* 2020



**US CHESS**  
FEDERATION



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## 2020 Annual Report

US CHESS FEDERATION

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### PHOTO CREDITS

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# MISSION

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



**US CHESS**  
FEDERATION



# VISION

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



**US CHESS**  
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# 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 under-represented segments of society -*
- Continuously improve internal operations and member services -*



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# CORE 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**  
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# Board

## 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 is inclusive, benefits education and rehabilitation, and promotes recreation and friendly competition.

US Chess represents the United States in the World 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 96,000 members during the past year, but membership is currently down due to COVID-19.

Every year, 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.

*Top row, left to right: Allen Priest, Hal Sprechman, Randy Bauer, Michael Hoffpauir, Mike Nietman.  
Bottom row, left to right: Ryan Velez, Chuck Unruh, Carol Meyer.*



### **PRESIDENT**

**Allen Priest**

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# *Reports*

*Annual  
Report* **2020**





## President's Report

**BY W. ALLEN PRIEST**

*US Chess President*

In my report last year, I talked about change. Throughout the 80-year history of US Chess, we have seen the organization change. But nothing prepared us for this year. What a change 2019-2020 has brought. None of us imagined a year ago what we would be facing today. The world as we knew it has been upended. We are forced to work in new ways, play in new ways, and think in new ways. All of that is hard. But in the difficulty, we find opportunity.

For the first time, US Chess was forced to cancel our spring national scholastic championships. We also were forced to cancel the U.S. Open, the annual members meeting, the annual Board of Delegates meeting, and delay the U.S. Championships, U.S. Junior, and U.S. Senior. Many of our affiliates have canceled or delayed major over-the-board (OTB) events. And many more small, local tournaments, school programs, and even club play have been put on hold.

*“Our team had to pivot hard into the online world.  
And we have.”*

This has forced US Chess to take bold steps to embrace online play. Over the years US Chess has struggled to find a place in the virtual world. Even as we have made extensive use of the web to disseminate information about ratings and events, we were not a strong online content provider and have had little presence in the world of online play. We knew we needed to be more involved, but the over-the-board world had us very busy. Then OTB stopped. Our team had to pivot hard into the online world. And we have.

US Chess is directly sponsoring regular online play. Some of those have been small general membership events. But we have also continued the state champion invitational events this year by moving them to an online play format. Even as we approach return to over-the-board play, online play will remain a part of US Chess. It not only gives us opportunities to do new things—it also allows us to reach out to the much larger pool of players who regularly play online, but rarely if ever consider OTB play.

We have expanded our rating of online play to include longer time control events. Those ratings are “platform agnostic.” Most online platforms have some sort of rating system. But US Chess ratings pull together performances from multiple platforms. And the US Chess ratings are built on the same basic structure as our highly regarded OTB ratings systems. This gives players an opportunity to compare performance regardless of the online platform used.

Fair play has always been a US Chess priority. Our rules, tournament director certification system, and ethics process are all part of encouraging and incentivizing fair play in US Chess events. Fair play is more of a challenge in online play. Each online platform has some system to try to ensure fair play. US Chess is working with all willing online play platforms to gain an understanding of their fair play systems, make suggestions where such would be helpful, and educate our directors and Ethics committee so the results of the various platforms' fair play processes can be incorporated into our ethics process. If we can work together to make sure players have a fair experience in online events it will benefit us all and will reduce the stigma regarding online play.





# Reports

It is a challenge, but it is an opportunity as well. We have the chance to make many more chess enthusiasts aware of US Chess. We can introduce those who have mainly played OTB to online play, and vice-versa. It is possible to come through this time with a much “larger tent” that pulls a more diverse set of chess players together. It is a matter of survival for US Chess right now. But it can lay the groundwork for a much greater future for the Federation.

While dealing with the virus and its issues has absorbed much of the energy of the US Chess team this year, it is not the only thing we have been doing. For several years we have been working on a project to completely overhaul our data systems. Through the efforts of Mike Nolan and others over the years, US Chess built an extensive database of member information, tournament results, ratings, and online content. We have developed various communication systems for members, affiliates, and others. It has been clear we needed to update this system and incorporate new programming and structure. It is a massive undertaking. We spent several years figuring out the right way to approach it. We started thinking simply in terms of our website, then realized we needed something much more extensive. Over the last two years we explored exactly what we needed. We determined an appropriate platform and issued a request for proposal to build that platform. Our contractor began gathering information last summer.

*“It is a challenge, but an opportunity as well.”*

Executive Director Carol Meyer has spearheaded this effort. Boyd Reed has been directly managing the project in addition to his Director of Events duties. Mike Nolan has worked with the contract development team to document and explain the intricacies of our current system and translate that into requirements for the new system. And the rest of the US Chess team has been actively involved with documenting processes, testing new systems, and assisting with working out bugs. It has been a monumental effort that is just now coming online. This first phase gives our team much-needed tools that make it easier for them to access our information. Both internal and external users of our systems are finding simpler ways to interact. While the virus uncertainties caused us to delay Phase II, finishing the project will let us realize the full potential of the changes we have begun. We appreciate the patience of the US Chess community as we continue to work out the bugs that plague new and large systems.

Together, this positions us well as we begin to understand the new normal. It is challenging, hard, and exciting all at once. You can help by partnering with us. Renew your membership, mention us to friends, help a child learn to play, and donate to the program initiatives of US Chess.

It has been an honor to serve as President of US Chess during the past two years. Thank you for your continued support. Here is to the next 80 years.

W. Allen Priest  
President

## US Chess on Twitch & YouTube!

During this “new normal,” join us as key staff members provide you with streaming and archived content you can use and enjoy at home.

**Jennifer Shahade, Pete Karagianis, Chris Bird & John Hartmann** can all be found at [twitch.tv/uschess](https://twitch.tv/uschess) and [youtube.com/uschessfederation](https://youtube.com/uschessfederation).

**JEN SHAHADE**  
**JOHN HARTMANN**

**PETE KARAGIANIS**  
**CHRIS BIRD**

**US Chess**  
**CL**  
**US Chess women**

**CLASS IS IN SESSION with JEN SHAHADE and OTHER GUESTS.**  
**CLASS in session**

**MORNING MEMBERSHIP EVENT WITH CHRIS BIRD, FIDE EVENTS MANAGER**

**LEVELLING UP WITH US CHESS**

Sign up, renew your membership, or make a donation at [uschess.org](https://uschess.org)



## Executive Director's Report

**BY CAROL MEYER**

*Executive Director*

Dear Friends:

I write this in mid-July while pondering when the pandemic will subside and how US Chess will remain robust during such unusual times. When I wrote last year's letter for the *2019 Annual Report*, never did I imagine the twist of fate that would befall our community and world. The coronavirus pandemic has been both a blessing and a curse, one that forced us to assess core operations and create new opportunities to thrive. I am grateful to our committed base of volunteers—including our Executive Board—and our dedicated staff who together have helped us navigate our current circumstances.

The pandemic notwithstanding, US Chess has much to celebrate in the midst of these previously unimaginable circumstances. Here are some highlights from the past year to demonstrate that US Chess is alive and well and is benefiting from your continued support.

### *Programs & Services*

Our talented staff continues to deliver programs and services, including some fresh additions to our lineup:

- I.** Last year, the US Chess Women's program received a grant from the Saint Louis Chess Club that provided grant opportunities for US Chess affiliates to deliver programs to support girls and women in their communities. In all, 11 affiliate programs were funded. As announced in early 2020, this grant program continues for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. When the pandemic hit, many of the programs for girls and women were moved online, even the ever-popular girls' club rooms found at US Chess National Events.
- II.** With support from member volunteers and staff, US Chess provided a series of free training webinars on a variety of timely topics for affiliates and tournament directors. In all, 487 members registered to participate in these offerings, demonstrating a need that had previously been unmet. US Chess plans to provide more training webinars in the year ahead.
- III.** With our members' insatiable hunger for rated play, US Chess has expanded its available ratings systems to include more options for online rated play. The Executive Board, in conjunction with the Ratings committee, developed a regular online rating that debuted in June 2020. The introduction of the online regular rating rounds out a full complement of US Chess ratings that are agnostic to the online chess server, providing flexibility to US Chess members for rated play. This summer, we will introduce a full set of online ratings Top 100 lists to complement the existing over-the-board lists. These ratings, together with Executive Board endorsements for fair play by reviewed online chess servers, provide more confidence that game integrity is upheld.
- IV.** With the addition of longer time controls for online rated play, US Chess has moved forward with running its own online events. From the "Morning Membership Events" to the "High School Senior Online Rapid" to the online Denker, Barber, Rockefeller, Haring, and Senior National Tournament of Champions, US Chess has successfully managed a pivot toward online play.





# Reports

## Executive Director's Report

### *Programs & Services (cont'd.)*

- V. US Chess also jumped into the streaming mix, leveraging Twitch and YouTube to deliver game commentary and educational offerings to our members and the public. Check out the weekly “TD Show” and the monthly “Levelling Up” offerings by US Chess staff. These shows join an existing body of other media produced by US Chess, including *Chess Life*, *Chess Life Kids*, *Chess Life Online*, weekly podcasts, and our social media offerings on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.
- VI. A couple of bright spots in our on-going efforts to professionalize US Chess were rooted in the volunteer work of two committees. The Accessibility and Special Circumstances committee released *US Chess Guidelines for Accessible Chess Events*. This publication provides guidance to organizers and tournament directors to “create increasingly accessible, inclusive, and fair environments for individuals of all abilities in all types of events.” The Clubs committee drafted a long-sought update to a *Guide to a Successful Chess Club*, assisting would-be and new chess clubs with basic information on getting started. The work of these two committees were an exceptional display of member volunteers sharing their expertise to improve the experience of other members.

### *Membership*

US Chess posted strong membership numbers, tracking ahead of the prior year until March 2020. With the cancellation of our three spring national scholastic events, membership sales slowed. As membership sales continue to be the major source of operating revenue for US Chess, a concerted effort was made to reduce expenses while revenue slowed during the spring months. This will be an ongoing focus for the coming year.

### *Fundraising*

US Chess had a breakout year in fundraising. With the release of our case for support, *Chess: A Game for Life*, US Chess received more individual gifts from our community and beyond than in any past year. At a time when diverse revenue streams are necessary to support our programs and operations, charitable gifts became a significant source of income during the past year, totaling more than \$1.2 million.

It is important to point out that gifts of all sizes from hundreds of people were received. We even benefited from one donor's initiative to hold an online charity chess tournament that benefited US Chess, “Blitzing COVID.” The tournament attracted 220 participants plus 15 chess celebrities and raised \$16,379.00 for our organization. We thank our community for their continued support of US Chess.

### *Membership IT Infrastructure Upgrade*

In the midst of all our other activities, US Chess was working on Phase I of its information systems upgrade. Launched in July 2020, the new system provides increased security and functionality for membership management, including enhanced ability for members to manage their own records. We have delayed the start of Phase II until after the pandemic subsides.

### *Looking Ahead*

Although chess is played in complete silence, it does not mean that chess is unsocial. In fact, I have come to appreciate just how social chess is. Our community has felt the loss of missed events in 2020—the three spring scholastic nationals, the U.S. Junior and Senior Opens, the U.S. Open and annual Delegates Meeting, and countless state and local events. We've missed the competition as well as the friendships made over the board—relationships that extend beyond the 64 squares. I think it is an understatement to say that we all grieve this loss of community. I hope that you are finding ways to enjoy the game and stay connected with others.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2020 and beyond, I wish you good health and look forward to the day when we can be safely together again.

Warmest regards,

Carol B. Meyer  
Executive Director



## US Chess Financial Report, FY 2019-2020

**BY CHUCK UNRUH**

*Vice President of Finance*

The fiscal year was filled with the financially unexpected but also with the equally successful expanded mission. After an excellent financial start, pandemic surfaced as the new word in the US Chess fiscal fourth quarter outlook. For the first time in US Chess history, a pandemic posed an existential threat to over-the-board tournament chess. National events were canceled, and membership revenues sharply declined compared to prior periods. Chaos in one of the organization's primary membership purposes—rated play—did not become chaos for US Chess finances.

US Chess is financially more dynamic than in past years. US Chess Delegate leadership expanded the mission with a tax status change into a 501(c)(3) educational benefit corporation in 2014. This strategic change certainly took hold in this year. The financial results from donations, sponsorships, endowments, and bequests were multiples of those expected in the 2019-20 budget. For example, 2019-20 donations are \$225K while endowments in the TD Ameritrade investment account posted \$827K at year end. Chess enthusiasts across the nation were very generous to the mission in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

All sectors of the US Chess financial operations were in good standing until a once in one-hundred-year pandemic brought on a sudden stop in the economy. Many over-the-board tournaments were victims of the pandemic, including the spring national events, which had to be canceled. Membership and membership revenue are directly related to these events. Recent monthly reports indicate an approximate membership revenue decrease of 26% for an annualized shortfall estimated at \$500K for the upcoming year.

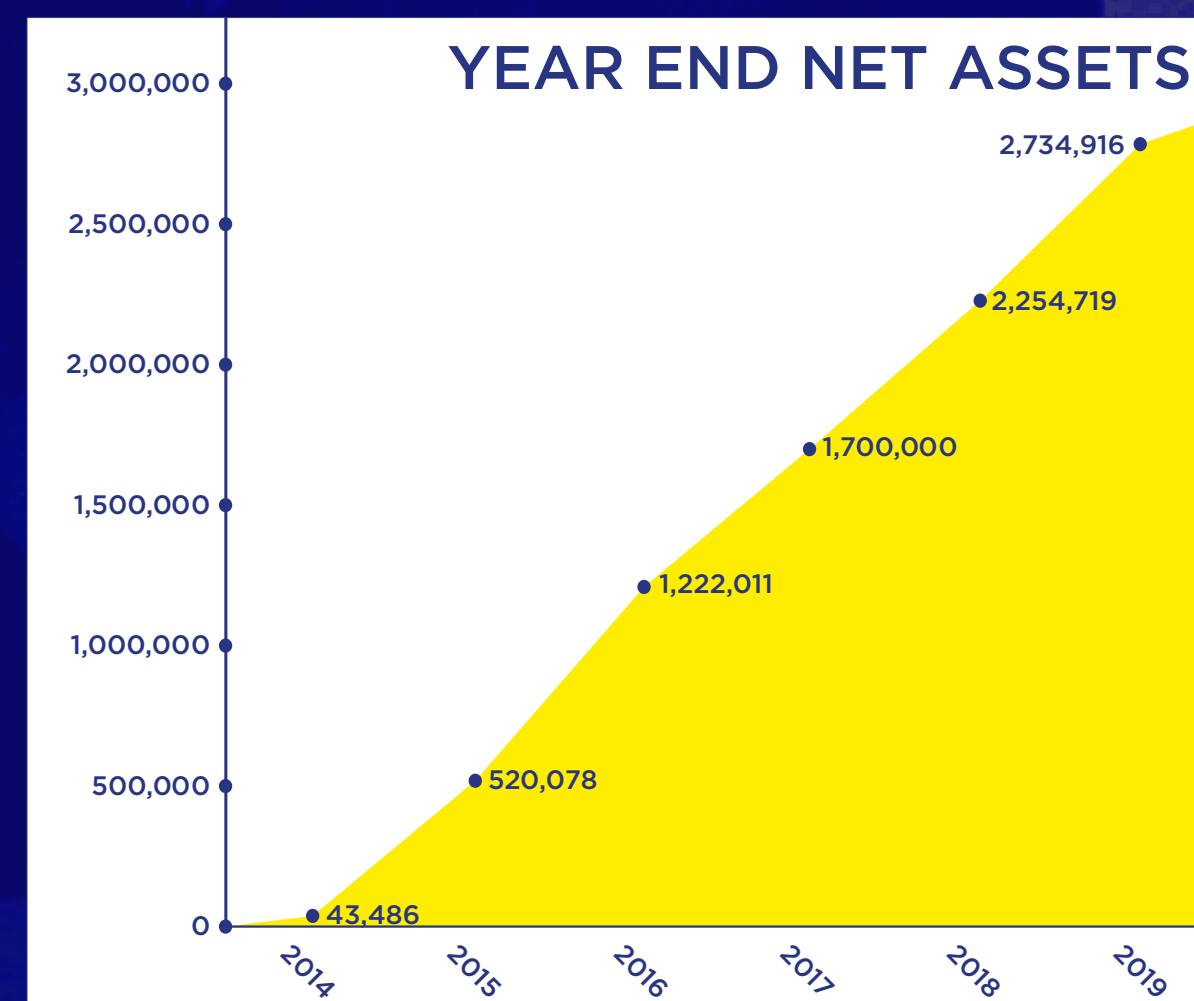
Last year, the Delegates and Executive Board approved a capital budget of over \$500K for Phase I of an IT upgrade. Operations accomplished Phase I and parts of Phase II since the 2019 Delegates Meeting. Leadership has since suspended the project to conserve operational cash into next fiscal year. Amazingly, the Phase I system upgrade was financed entirely from the savings in operational bank accounts. The use of operational funds means the reserve or rainy-day accounts are intact as US Chess faces a challenging 2020-21 fiscal year.

March 2020 was a historic test for our financial teams and investment strategies. Equity and credit markets went into freefall as the U.S. economy came to a sudden stop. US Chess suffered value losses in capital along with the market indexes. However, our portfolios held strong cash equivalent positions, healthcare equities, and bond substitutes that helped insulate them from significant long-term losses. Investments have become an important revenue center in the last three years. US Chess has investment portfolios of approximately \$2.8 million and a dividend stream in excess of \$50K per year.

Fiscal year 2019-20 is at the auditors. Surplus projections indicate a gain of over \$200K for the year. The US Chess net assets increased by \$480,197 during the year (see graph). US Chess is financially in a very solid position without outside debt. Meanwhile, fiscal year 2019-20 finished with a surplus even with expensing the costs of a Phase I information technology upgrade. Core financial metrics are very good.

The future is in the role of leadership turning a global pandemic into productive times for US Chess and its members. US Chess has the platform of experienced management and operations, volunteers with institutional knowledge, proactive leadership, generous sponsors, and financial good health. What more could we ask for—maybe a vaccine before next spring?

Chuck Unruh  
Vice President of Finance





# *Donors*

*Annual  
Report* **2020**





# Donors

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) non-profit organization and all donations to US Chess are tax deductible. If you would like to make a gift to US Chess or view a complete list of programs and funds to which you can designate your donation, please visit us at [www.uschess.org/donate](http://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.

## 2019-2020 FRIENDS OF US CHESS \$50+

Tatev Abrahamyan	Christopher Chabris	Chris Flanagan	Bryce Heinz	Ruifeng Li	Roy Nanovic	Russell Rice	Konstantina Sotirhos	Haibo Wu
Edward Addis	Minda Chen	Robert Florian	Doug Hendrix	Yicong Li	Ben Nethercot	Robert Richie	Douglas Southon	Lizhi Wu
<i>Anonymous</i>	Ryan Chen	Thomas Fogec	Lewis Henry	Zhi Li	Robert Newbold	Jacques Robichaud	Hal Sprechman	Dan Xiao
Michael Aigner	<i>Anonymous</i>	Sabina Foisor	Dean Herr	Albert Liang	Winston Ni	Fred and Debra Robison	Nikola Stojzin	Xiangjing Xu
Gregory Akers	Martin Clasby	James Fowler	Robert Hess	Richard Lindberg	Mike Nietman	Donald Rogers	Kevin Stokker	Shuguang Yan
Spencer Allen	Daniel Cohen	Kenneth Fricke	James Hodina	Jinfeng Liu	Michael Nikitin	Daniel Rohde	Frank Street	Leo Yang
George Ambrosio	Mark Collins	Samuel Friedland	Robert Hollenhorst	Jianling Liu	Frank Niro	Michael Rosenbaum	Edward Sullivan	Donald Yarbrow, Jr.
Constantine Ananiadis	Andrew Colville	Michael Fry	Randall Hough	John Locke	Peter Nixon	Alonzo Ross	Lyle Taylor	Jennifer Yu
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Rick Armagost	Thomas Crane	Gary Gai	Louis Huntington	Richard Lopresto	Robert Odenweller	Steven Ryals	Dr. B. L. Temple	Stuart Zaas
Alan Armentrout	Jonathan Crumiller	Zoran Gajic	Thomas Hupp	Bernard Lu	Terry O'Dwyer, Ph.D.	Britt Ryerson	Harmon Throneberry	Hongbiao Zeng
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# Donors

## 2019-2020 TRIBUTES

Daniel Cohen  
*In Memory of Jean Troendle*

Robert Dreilinger  
*In Memory of Shelby Lyman*

Helen Ellis  
*In Honor of Jennifer Shahade*

Francisco L. Guadalupe  
*In Memory of Jean Troendle*

Francisco L. Guadalupe  
*In Memory of Harry Sabine,  
Cumberland County Chess Club*

The Hammond Family  
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*In Honor of Liam Williams*

Teresa Schultz Jones  
*In Honor of Donald Schultz*

Michael Khodarkovsky  
*In Memory of Ruth Haring*

MaryAnne Magoon and Brian Haring  
*In Memory of Ruth Haring*

Russell Makofsky  
*In Honor of Impact Coaching Network*

Judy Mannarelli  
*In Honor of James Karagianis*

Parker Montgomery  
*In Honor of Joan DuBois and Judy Misner*

Edward Myers  
*In Honor of The Philadelphia  
Chess Society*

Rachel Sideman-Kurtz  
*In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah for  
Harrison Willens*

Dana Wiggins  
*In Memory of Bobby Wiggins*

Jaime Wynbrandt  
*In Honor of Luke Chao*

Stuart Zaas  
*In Memory of Don Zaas*

## LIFE BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

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Michael Belovesick

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Gregory Gliner

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Calvin Halsey

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David Kaplan

David M. Kochman

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Parker G. Montgomery

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Timothy Michael Sawyer

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Phil Trautmann



# Donors

## CUMULATIVE GIVING

### BRONZE \$1,000 - \$4,999

Robby Adamson	C. Martin Bradford	Anthony He	Carol Lenhardt	Terry O’Dwyer, Ph.D.	Henry J. Thompson	<i>Chess.com</i>
Dawn Bagley	Jonathan Crumiller	Jean Hoffman	Jennie Liu	Scott Parker	Phil Trautmann	<i>The Community Foundation of Greensboro</i>
Arthur Barlas	Edward & Diane Daley	David Hutchinson	Wade Maxwell	Ernest Schlich	Selden Trimble	<i>Creative Snacks Co., LLC</i>
Mark Bates	Kimberly Doo	Carol Jarecki	John McCrary	Michael Schulte	John Walton	<i>FIDE</i>
Randy Bauer	Michael Fry	Donald Johnson	Kenton McNall	Vilya Schuschel	<i>ABCO Automation, Inc.</i>	<i>The Unruh Family Trust</i>
Michael Belovesick	Sherlock Grigsby	Michael Khodarkovsky	Robert D. Messenger	Thomas R. Sloan	<i>Bank of North Carolina</i>	
Robert Borel	Francisco L. Guadalupe	David Lazarus	Robert Morris	Hal Sprechman	<i>The Cemala Foundation, Inc.</i>	

### SILVER \$5,000 - \$9,999

Alexandra Botez

*The Nearing Charitable Trust*

*Stearns Financial Group*

*Susquehanna International Group, LLC*

*YMCA Greensboro, Inc.*

### GOLD \$10,000 - \$24,999

Dewain & Sue Barber

Donald & Judith Dean

Daniel Ginzburg

Michael Nietman

David H. Raymond

Ian Silverstone

Charles D. Unruh

*The VF Foundation*

### PLATINUM \$25,000 - \$49,999

David & Maureen Grimaud

Lin Johnson

*Kasparov Chess Foundation*

*US Chess Trust*

### PARTNERS \$50,000 - \$99,999

Richard & Barbara Schiffrin

### PATRONS CIRCLE \$100,000 - \$249,999

*Anonymous*

Dr. Herbert B. Jacklyn

*Two Sigma Investments, LLC*

### PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL \$250,000 - \$499,999

*Saint Louis Chess Club*

### FOUNDERS CLUB \$500,000 - \$999,999

*Anonymous* – Details to be announced

### 1939 SOCIETY \$1,000,000+



# COVID-19

*Annual  
Report* **2020**





## US Chess Responds to the Pandemic

*Normally our Annual Report sticks strictly to our fiscal year of June 1-May 31. However, COVID-19 has caused such a disruption to our normal operations and so much has happened since early March that we have included this special gallery section showing just some of the work that US Chess has accomplished during this “new normal” that is continuing well past the end of the last fiscal year.*

It all began with a letter to members from our Executive Director on March 25:



*Dear Friends in Chess:*

*During this time, unprecedented in all of our lives, I find myself seeking perspective in the disruption that has entered my personal and professional life. I write this from 41,000 feet, unexpectedly on my way to help my daughter drive 1,700 miles from a now-abbreviated internship. I hope each of you is well and able to receive the services and items you need to get through this time of social distancing and forced isolation. For those of us who regularly work from home, we too are adjusting to having our families in our midst during the business day. US Chess is committed to protecting the health and well-being of our players and those who support them in chess.*

*The decision to cancel our three scholastic spring national events was not easy. As I have learned, chess players live to compete, and US Chess national events are a highlight of a player’s chess year and sometimes their career. Such disruption is unavoidable under our present circumstances. We rely on trusted, authoritative sources to make our decisions. I will miss being part of the spring events but look forward to our summer invitationals, the U.S. Open, and the K-12 Grades in December.*

*US Chess is concerned about protecting its employees. While many of us routinely work from home, one third of our staff works in our Crossville, Tennessee headquarters. US Chess has shuttered its doors and required its entire team to work from home. This decision was made to protect our staff, while supporting their work to continue to deliver services to our members. During this time, you might experience delays in having your phone call or email answered, but please know we strive to provide excellent customer service to everyone who reaches out to us. For faster response, I encourage you to email the appropriate staff person whose contact info is on the US Chess staff page.*

*The US Chess Executive Board (EB) has been very active during this time. It has canceled its in-person meeting in Dallas, Texas and will be holding a series of virtual meetings during the month of May. It is also looking for ways to help you keep playing chess via US Chess online-rated events. The EB will be offering interim rules this week on how US Chess Certified Tournament Directors can run official US Chess online-rated events. While the disruption we are experiencing is temporary, its effect will be lasting. I hope you and your family remain healthy and can find the joy in having more time to spend together.*

*Warm regards,*


*Carol*



# COVID-19 Report

It quickly became clear that we needed to pivot towards online play. We beefed up our [online ratings system](#) and partnered with online platforms such as [Chess.com](#).





### Looking for a Game?

Connect with other US Chess Members and play online rated games with players across the United States.

[Join](#)

#### USCF Member Authentication

\* Required




Chess.com Username \*

Your answer

USCF ID # \*


Your answer

## How To Play In US Chess Online Rated Tournaments

 **CHESScom**   
Updated: Apr 21, 2020, 3:17 PM |  26 | [Chess.com Help](#)

In light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak, Chess.com is bringing your favorite over-the-board events online with the support of US Chess online ratings. [As a result of US Chess' Executive Board ruling](#), tournament directors across the country can now organize official online rated blitz and rapid events on Chess.com. After working closely with US Chess, Chess.com has prepared a secure infrastructure for organizers to run events, with the added protection of [our industry-leading cheat detection software](#).



 With much of 2020's tournament schedule now canceled, players of all strengths are looking for opportunities to play rated games online.



A series of special special matches took place exploring this brave new world of online events, including this one [with Ireland](#):



The banner features a background of the US and Irish flags with smoke effects. The text is centered and reads: "US CHESS vs. IRISH CHESS UNION" in large white letters, followed by "International Friendly Match of Nations" in a smaller, italicized font. At the bottom, a black box contains the date and time: "JUNE 27, 2020 | 1 P.M. EDT" and the website "Chess.com". Logos for the US Chess Federation and the Irish Chess Union are also present.

**US CHESS**  
vs.  
**IRISH CHESS UNION**

*International Friendly Match of Nations*

**JUNE 27, 2020 | 1 P.M. EDT**  
**Chess.com**



and this one [with Romania](#):

**US CHESS YOUTH**  
*vs.*  
**ROMANIA YOUTH**

*International Friendly Match of Nations*

**JULY 11, 2020 | 12 NOON EDT**  
**Playchess.com**

US CHESS  
FEDERATION

F.R.S.A.H.



Some of the events were fundraisers to assist US Chess during this difficult financial time. [Blitzing COVID](#) was the brainchild of Lin Johnson of American Intercultural Education (see our [Awards section](#), [Koltanowski Silver](#) award) that raised over \$16,000.

A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT US CHESS

# BLITZING COVID

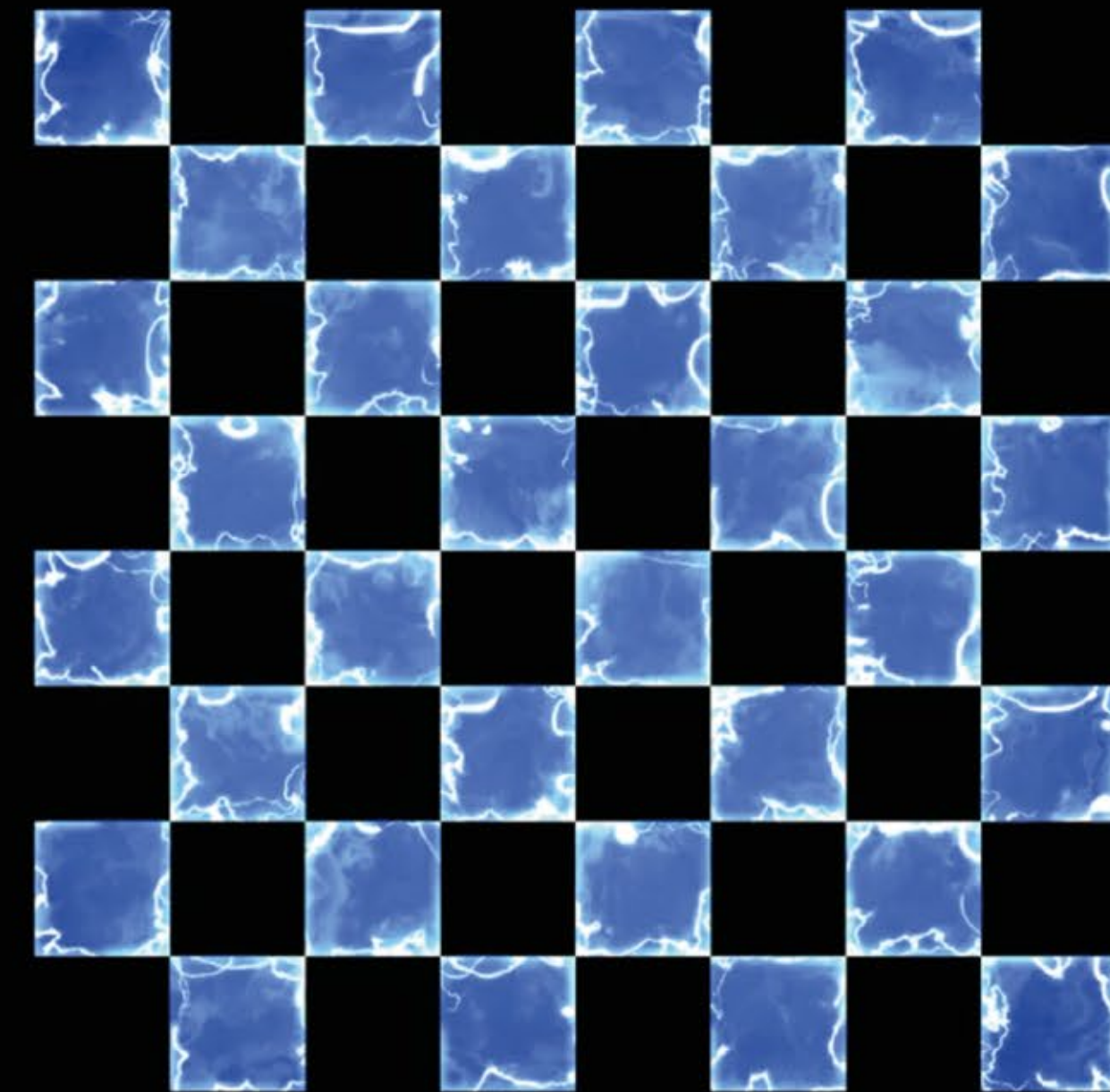
**Blitz & Rapid**  
ONLINE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 30TH

1:00 PM EDT  
**BLITZ**

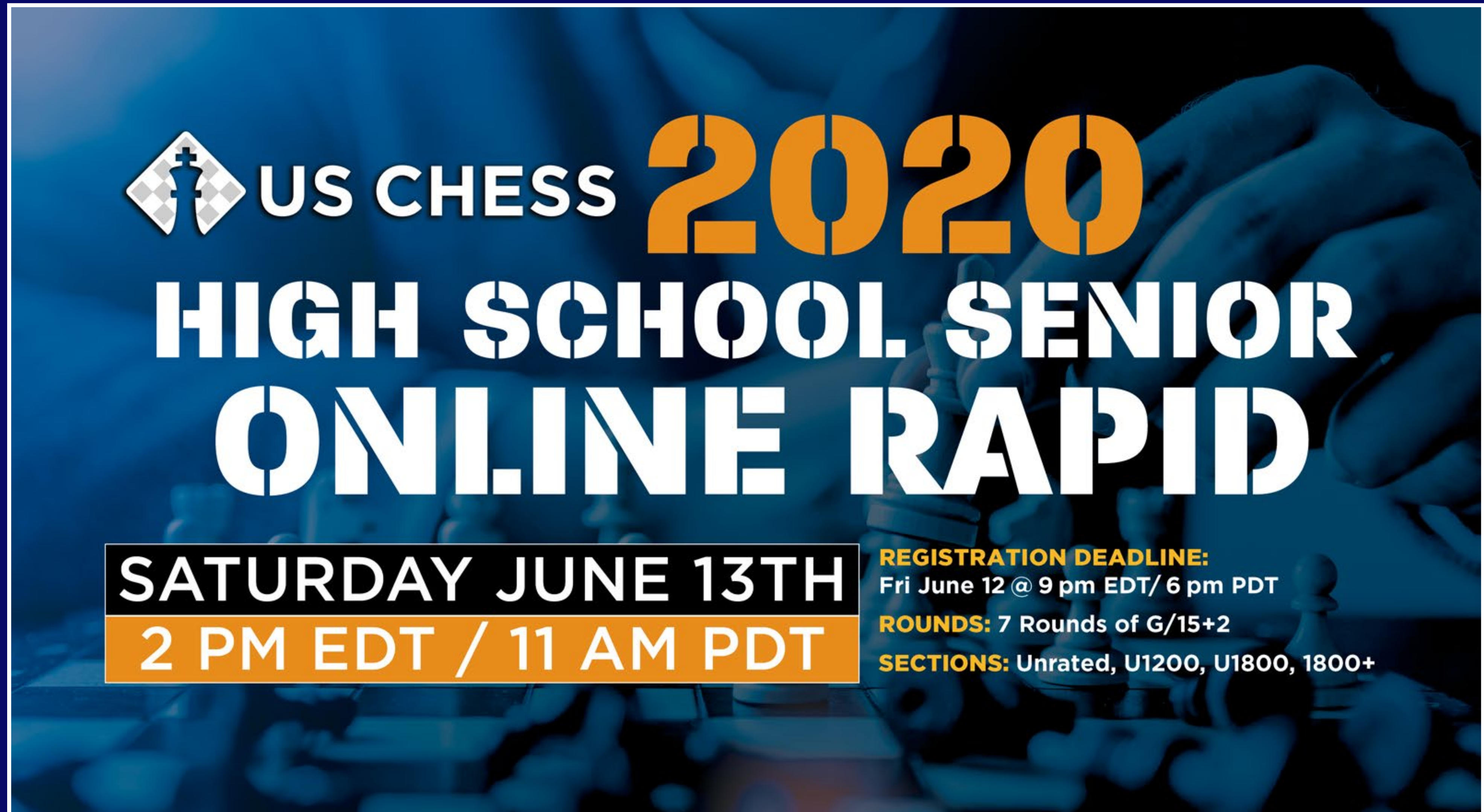
3:00 PM EDT  
**RAPID**


PRIZE FUND  
**\$1500**





With the cancellation of the spring scholastic nationals, US Chess wanted to do something for high school seniors who missed out on the final over-the-board event of their scholastic chess careers. [This event served as a dress rehearsal](#) of sorts, too, for online versions of the [U.S. Open premier invitationals](#), which eventually moved online, in part due to the [success of the High School event](#).

The poster features a blue-tinted background image of hands moving chess pieces on a board. The text is prominently displayed in white and orange. The US Chess logo, a diamond with a chess knight, is on the left. The year '2020' is in large orange font. The event title 'HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ONLINE RAPID' is in large white font. The date and time are in a black box with white text, and the registration details are in an orange box with white text.

 **US CHESS** **2020**  
**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR  
ONLINE RAPID**

**SATURDAY JUNE 13TH**  
**2 PM EDT / 11 AM PDT**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**  
Fri June 12 @ 9 pm EDT/ 6 pm PDT  
**ROUNDS:** 7 Rounds of G/15+2  
**SECTIONS:** Unrated, U1200, U1800, 1800+



# COVID-19 Report

All the events included streaming commentary utilizing our [twitch.tv/USChess](https://www.twitch.tv/USChess) channel.

The screenshot displays a live stream of a chess match. The top banner features the US Chess logo (a diamond with a chess piece) and the Romanian flag, followed by the text "US CHESS VS. ROMANIA" and "International Friendly Match of Nations". Below this, two video feeds show the players: NM Pete Karagianis on the left and NM William Aramil on the right. The match format is specified as "Three players in each age/gender group" for U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18, with a "Two Game Match 15+10". The main part of the screen shows a chessboard with a game in progress. The board is oriented with white at the bottom and black at the top. The player names "epoli-TheHappyFarmer" and "epoli-TheHappyFarmer" are visible at the top of the board. The board shows a complex position with various pieces. At the bottom, a video player interface shows a progress bar at 1:08:39 / 2:29:46 and standard playback controls.

**US CHESS VS. ROMANIA**  
*International Friendly Match of Nations*

NM Pete Karagianis

NM William Aramil

**MATCH FORMAT:**  
Three players in each age/gender group  
U10, U12, U14, U16, U18  
Two Game Match 15+10

0:14:22 0:13:39

epoli-TheHappyFarmer

1:08:39 / 2:29:46



Due to the increasing demand for online play, US Chess developed a series of [Morning Membership events](#), giving members more opportunity to play in a US Chess online blitz rated event.



**US CHESS**

**MORNING MEMBERSHIP EVENT**

WITH **CHRIS BIRD**,  
FIDE EVENTS MANAGER





3.0 flashDLG (1731) 3:54

ernesto032 (1822) 3:51

Game Morning Me... Play Tournaments

Stockfish.js 10

D53: Queen's Gambit Declined: Modern Variation, 4...Be7 5.Nf3

1.	d4	Nf6	4.0	1.3
2.	c4	e6	1.5	10.8
3.	Nc3	d5	1.2	10.9
4.	Bg5	Be7	5.2	3.2
5.	Nf3	c6	2.0	5.6
6.	e3	Nbd7	4.7	10.9
7.	Bf4	O-O	7.3	6.3
8.	Bd3	b6	1.7	2.7
9.	O-O	Bb7	5.7	1.4
10.	cx d5	Nxd5	1.9	5.4
11.	Nxd5	cx d5	5.6	10.1
12.	Rc1	Rc8	2.9	8.4
13.	Qa4	Rxc1	4.2	24.1
14.	Rxc1	a5	2.5	27.3
15.	Rc7	Bc8	4.0	4.4
16.	Qc2			45.9

Tournament Chat

DarkVoidII: He already got banned 😊  
I reported him after game.. and people got their rating back

drummerz: Of course.

flashDLG: I did the same thing

drummerz: He got 99 Accuracy in each game  
That's like stockfish

DarkVoidII: Yeah

drummerz: Ok

BirdIA: This is the final round, please come to [twitch.tv/uschess](#) once done for the live prize draw!

Sign up, renew your membership, or make a donation at **uschess.org**



With membership numbers in decline, US Chess initiated a membership drive that [focused on social media outreach](#).



# #GetUSChess

**JOIN/RENEW US CHESS NOW!**



All of our living [past presidents united in solidarity](#) with our membership efforts.

# A Call to Action!



with  
W. Allen Priest  
&  
Steve Doyle





Staff ramped up to create [new online programming](#).

## US Chess on Twitch & YouTube

During this “new normal,” join us as key staff members provide you with streaming and archived content you can use and enjoy at home.

**Jennifer Shahade, Pete Karagianis, Chris Bird, & John Hartmann** can all be found at [twitch.tv/uschess](https://twitch.tv/uschess) and [youtube.com/uschessfederation](https://youtube.com/uschessfederation).



JEN SHAHADE



JOHN HARTMANN



PETE KARAGIANIS



CHRIS BIRD





Women's Program Director Jennifer Shahade took the successful girls' club concept and [moved it online](#).



The graphic features a portrait of Jennifer Shahade on the left. To her right are the logos for 'US Chess women' and 'US Chess'. Below these logos, the text 'CLASS IS IN SESSION' is displayed in large white capital letters. Underneath that, 'with JEN SHAHADE' is written in a mix of white and pink script and bold fonts, followed by 'and OTHER GUESTS.' in white bold letters. At the bottom, the words 'CLASS in session' are shown, with 'CLASS' in white and 'in session' in pink script.

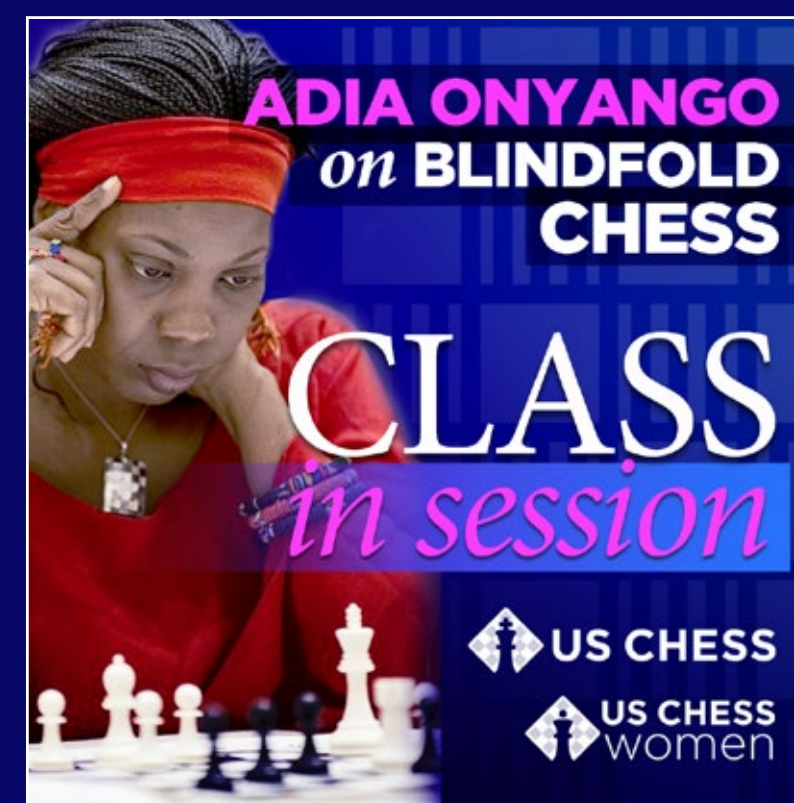
US Chess women US Chess

**CLASS IS IN SESSION**  
*with* **JEN SHAHADE**  
*and* **OTHER GUESTS.**

**CLASS** *in session*



# COVID-19 Report





Chess Life/Chess Life Online editor John Hartmann introduced his “[Levelling Up with US Chess](#)” program for beginning-level players.





## LEVELLING UP WITH US CHESS

Omidvar, Lara 790 — Anbu, Rajkumar 813 0-1

C50 BCF-chT5 U18 1920 (4NCL Online) (2) 23.04.2020 [Hartmann, John]



Sign up,  
renew your  
membership,  
or make a  
donation at  
**uschess.org**



John Hartmann  @hartmannchess 



We offered [Tournament Director and Organizer seminars](#), including some hosted by Executive Board member Mike Hoffpauir ...

U S C H E S S F E D E R A T I O N

---

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S  
**SEMINAR**

*- Pairings & Prizes -*

HOSTED BY  
**MIKE HOFFPAUIR, NTD, FA**

---

APRIL 16TH, 2020 AT 8 PM EST





...and [The TD Show](#) hosted by FIDE Events Manager Chris Bird.



**THE TD SHOW**

**The 50-move Rule**

NTD Chris Bird

NTD Mike Regan

 **US CHESS**

2:17 / 1:00:42

CC ⚙️ 📺 📱 📶 🔍



In preparation for our Special Delegates Meeting, we held a series of [Zoom training sessions and Town Hall meetings](#):

## Zoom and Robert's Rules: Application for Special Delegates' Meeting

July 16 Zoom Training





And finally, we highlighted the streaming boom on one of our [most dramatic Chess Life covers ever](#).



“Amazing to see fellow hard-working streamers **@alexandravbotez** **@itsandreabotez** **@lachesisq** **@Hans-MokeNiemann** **@polborta** **@JenShahade** **@IM\_Rosen** **@DanielRensch** **@photo-chess** **@carissayip7** **@Anna\_Chess** and so many more represented in such a creative way.”

—GM HIKARU NAKAMURA  
TWITTER







# Awards

*Annual  
Report* **2020**





# Awards

## Koltanowski - Gold

**FRANK P. SAMFORD III (GA)**

**SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB  
(DR. JEANNE AND REX SINQUEFIELD)  
(MO)**

**JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER V (MD)**

## Koltanowski - Silver

**NEW JERSEY STATE CHESS FEDERATION**

**AMERICAN INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION  
(LIN JOHNSON) (NC)**

**RICHARD AND BARBARA SCHIFFRIN (PA)**

**MAUREEN AND DAVID GRIMAUD (SC)**

The Koltanowski awards have been given since 1979 to those individuals and organizations who have made substantial financial contributions to US Chess, with the gold named for larger contributions. The award honors the late George Koltanowski, who devoted a great deal of his time, effort, and talent to popularizing chess and helping to raise money for chess.

*Photos, left to right: John D. Rockefeller V, Dr. Jeanne Sinquefield, Rex Sinquefield, David and Maureen Grimaud, Richard and Barbara Schiffrin. Not pictured: Frank P. Samford III.*



[www.aieducation.org](http://www.aieducation.org)





# Awards

## Distinguished Service



### FM SUNIL WEERAMANTRY (NY)

*A pioneer in scholastic chess instruction*

FM Sunil Weeramantry is a pioneer in the field of curricular chess instruction. In 1979, he developed one of the nation's first comprehensive chess programs at Manhattan's Hunter College Campus Schools, a leading laboratory school for talented and gifted students. This program has evolved to the point where chess is now embedded in the main curriculum for all students in kindergarten through fifth grade. During the 10-year period when the school offered pre-kindergarten, Weeramantry also taught chess weekly to more than 500 four-year-olds.

Over the years, US Chess has benefited from Weeramantry's many contributions to all areas of governance, as well as from his important work in teaching young players and in promoting scholastic chess. He is a prolific author of chess literature that has focused on young learners as well as on those who teach young learners.

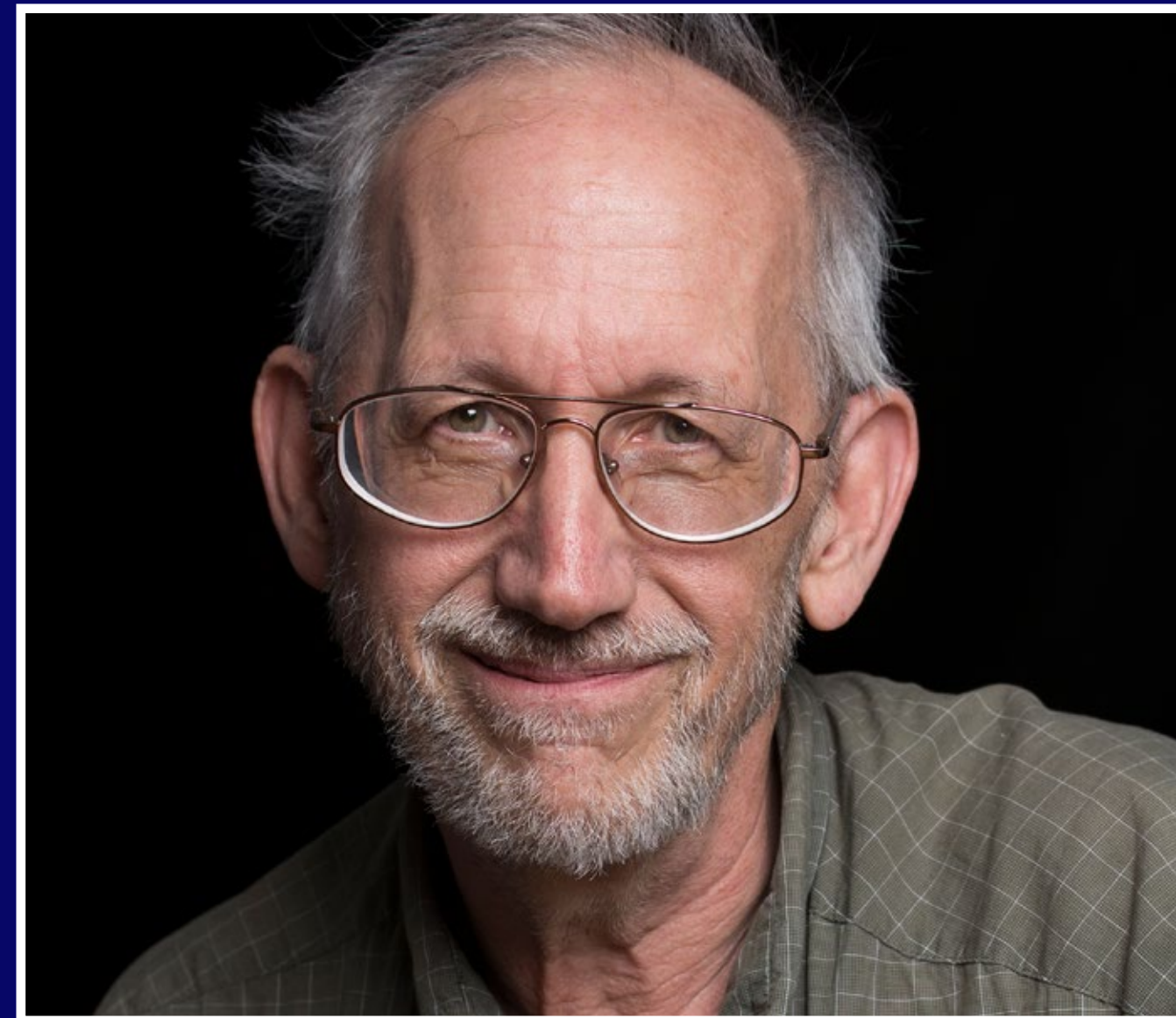
## Outstanding Career Achievement



### BRUCE PANDOLFINI (NY)

*America's most experienced chess coach*

Bruce Pandolfini has taught chess to children and adults for decades through private lessons, lectures, and important organizational work for all ages. Co-founder of Chess in the Schools, Bruce has published more than 30 books on chess, including *Solitaire Chess*, based on his long-running *Chess Life* column. As a coach and trainer, Pandolfini has possibly conducted more chess sessions than anyone in the world; by the summer of 2015 he had given an estimated 25,000 private and group lessons. Pandolfini gained a bit of notoriety when Ben Kingsley portrayed him in the 1993 film *Searching for Bobby Fischer*.



### IM JOHN WATSON (NE)

*"Explore the rich history and literature of the game."*

John Watson has, through his innovative writings in a number of books and media presentations, significantly advanced the modern understanding of chess theory. He is active in promoting the growth of chess talent through coaching promising players.

Watson writes, "Don't forget to explore the rich history and literature of the game. Many of the most interesting and insightful players I have met share a passion for chess history. Also, my experiences with teaching young players over the years have been very rewarding; I recommend teaching chess to anyone who wants to refresh his or her perspective on the game."

"Writing about chess has been my most consistent interest. Apart from over 25 books, I have written scores of magazine articles, book reviews, and online columns over the years. More than anything else, this has been my main motivation for keeping involved, even in the years when I was working full time in another profession. Players of all strengths can write meaningfully about chess, and most will find it an enriching experience."



# Awards

## Meritorious Services



**PAUL COVINGTON (CO)**

*“Doing something” for chess in all 50 states*

Paul Covington has served multiple terms as the Colorado State Chess Association president and has held other state offices as well, using those positions to network effectively with other volunteers to produce many innovative achievements. He contributed to the creation of new tournaments such as senior and class events, and blitz and bughouse competitions. He has raised funds to support scholastic memberships and has worked to improve the state's scholastic tournaments. Covington also has helped promote women's and girls' chess, and he worked to bring the 2021 FIDE Junior World Championship for Disabled Youth to Denver. He is active on the US Chess Clubs committee.

Covington writes, “Play chess for the pure joy of playing, not for ratings! I achieved the goal of ‘doing something’ chess in all 50 states in 2018. My dear wife and I traveled the U.S. in 2013 visiting 38 states east of Colorado. Meeting chess lovers all over the country has been and continues to be one of life's greatest pleasures. I encourage everyone to take that epic journey.”



**EDWARD BAUR (MO)**

*Building chess in Missouri*

Edward Baur has been a major contributor to scholastic chess and other chess activities in Missouri for 40 years. He was nominated for this award by officers of the Missouri Chess Association, who sent a detailed description of his numerous contributions that include: 1) building up the Gateway Chess League, which is one of the longest-running scholastic chess programs in the U.S. and has introduced tens of thousands to chess over the 40 years in which Baur has been actively involved; 2) directing and organizing the Missouri state scholastic championship tournament, growing it from 41 to 600 players; 3) creating and publishing an entire chess curriculum that was used to develop and maintain an active high-school program; 4) being active in running state-wide adult tournaments for a number of years; and 5) serving as president of the Missouri Chess Association, as well as holding several other state offices, including editor of the state publication.



**THOMAS BRAUNLICH (OK)**

*“Consider chess as a lifetime hobby.”*

Thomas Braunlich, a long-time volunteer in Oklahoma chess, is a noted chess journalist who has maintained a quarterly Oklahoma chess magazine for many years. A Life Master who readily shares his knowledge and experience through lectures and other means, Braunlich also has worked as a tournament director for 159 events.

Braunlich's most memorable chess experience was organizing the 2008 U.S. Championship, where he got to know many of the country's greatest players while working with a shoestring budget. Thomas writes, “Consider chess as a lifetime hobby, not just something you do in school and leave behind. If you treat chess as a lifetime sport, its joys and educational benefits persist throughout your whole life.”



# Awards

## Meritorious Services



**JANELLE LOSOFF (NV)**

*“Chess is timeless. Learn, do, and pass the torch.”*

Janelle Losoff has led the way in the important work of accommodating the special needs and circumstances that affect many players. In doing so, Losoff has expanded the ways in which US Chess approaches its overall social mission. Losoff writes, “Chess has always been my focus. Be true to yourself and your passions. Develop your game, but also help others develop theirs. Grandmasters get a lot of glory, but TDs and organizers make tournaments and matches happen. Learn to support the game on as many levels and in as many roles as you can. Give credit for your wins to your teachers and coaches. Thank the TDs, organizers, and support staff. Thank your families, too, for giving you room to pursue this passion. Chess is timeless. Learn, do, and pass the torch.

“I have been a chairman for both the Women’s committee and the Accessibility and Special Circumstances committee and won Committee of the Year Awards in both for 2016 and 2018. I am a person with disabilities, an altruist, and a life-long social activist. Life is not a zero-sum game for me. I try for a winning combination for us all. If life is better for others because I was here, that is enough for me.”



**JEFFREY ASHTON (TX)**

*Providing useful educational experiences*

Jeffrey Ashton’s work with the Panda Chess Academy in Houston was thoroughly described in the February 2020 *Chess Life*. Ashton founded the academy in 2008 and has provided useful educational experiences through chess for students from ages five-18 ever since. Recently, Ashton expanded the academy’s activities to include adults and networking with college programs. He has been an extremely active tournament director, having worked 4,298 events.



**WALTER M. HIGH (NC)**

*“Study the parts of the game where you know you are weak.”*

Walter M. High has been the very successful organizer of the U.S. Masters and other major events in North Carolina. He has directed over 200 events and has been the vice president of the North Carolina Chess Association twice: 2009-2012 and since 2018. Walter advises, “Study the parts of the game where you know you are weak, not the parts that you like to study.” High began playing at age 57 after “spending too many hours out in the hallway while my kids played inside! I figured, ‘How hard could this be?’ I quickly found out!”

*“Learn to support the game on as many levels and in as many roles as you can.” —JANELLE LOSOFF*



# Awards

## Special Services



**MARK WELLS (NM)**

*“Chess is fundamental in building a strong, analytical, and creative mind.”*

Mark Wells was a major early pioneer in programming computers to play chess. He was one of the more prominent members of a Los Alamos team that arguably became the first group to put a chess-playing program into a computer and have it successfully play against human opponents. Wells’ achievement has been recognized in published histories of computer chess, and it produced one of the first articles on computer chess to appear in chess literature. Unlike some other pioneers in computer chess, Wells remained active in US Chess as a Life Member, winning his state championship and teaching chess to inmates. Although this Special Services Award is posthumous, it is a much-merited and overdue recognition of the pioneering contribution made by this member to the chess world.

His daughter Marciella writes, “Mark’s most memorable moment was likely writing his early chess-playing programs for the MANIAC I computer in the late 1950s. My father would say that chess is fundamental in building a strong, analytical, and creative mind. Mark would be thrilled, honored, and humbled by this award.”



**JONATHAN CRUMILLER (NJ)**

*“Fight hard and have confidence in yourself, regardless of the current position!”*

Jonathan Crumiller brings to US Chess his top-level expertise in the history and evaluation of chess sets and other artifacts in many ways, including lectures and articles in *Chess Life* and elsewhere, enhancing the educational part of our mission. He has been active for many years in both over-the-board and correspondence play, achieving a master title in both forms of chess.

Crumiller writes, “Fight hard and have confidence in yourself, regardless of the current position! I’ve been active within the chess world as a collector, author, and aficionado, but along the way I’ve had several official roles, including U.S. Official in Chess Collectors International (CCI) and a judge for Chess Journalists of America (CJA). I am also a collector of antique chess sets, boards, and publications. I have had three exhibitions at the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis: *Prized & Played* (2013), *Encore!* (2015), and *The Staunton Standard* (2015; co-exhibition). I co-authored (with GM Lev Alburt) the book *Carlsen vs. Karjakin World Chess Championship New York 2016*, which won the 2016 CJA Instructional Book of the Year award. Chess is a lifelong affair, and I hope to have many years of chess enjoyment ahead!”

## Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement



**TODD J. BARRE (IL)**

*“We need to encourage our young people to get involved to promote our game.”*

Todd J. Barre has been the chief tournament director numerous times for the Midwest/U.S. Masters in Chicago organized by Helen Warren in the 1990s, as well as a frequent floor tournament director for the National Open in Las Vegas. In the Illinois Chess Association, Barre has been treasurer and operator of a chess events and news telephone “hotline” (“known as ChessPhone—hi-tech in those days!”) for 17 years. He has been a long-time US Chess delegate representing Illinois and has served as chair of the US Chess Finance committee and member of TDCC (where he was responsible for grading ANTD and NTD examinations). Todd launched the Timothy Christian Schools (K-12 in Elmhurst, IL) Chess Club and served as its advisor and coach for seven years.

Tood writes, “When I was a (precocious?) high-school freshman, I ‘complained’ to my coach that I didn’t like the format of our club tournament. He suggested, ‘Then why don’t you come up with a better idea and then run it!’ My TD career was born! We need to encourage our young people to get involved to promote our game.”



# Awards

## Accessibility & Special Circumstances



### ABEL TALAMANTEZ (CA-N)

*Leading the way towards accessibility*

Abel Talamantez, the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club director, was nominated by Judit Sztaray, also of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club. In her recommendation, Sztaray notes that Talamantez regularly hosts several people with special circumstances at the club. She describes a completely blind player who attends on Tuesday nights and how Talamantez makes sure the player is sitting at a table that has enough room for his Braille set, that his opponents understand the way he plays chess, and that he offers boards with numbers/letters so the opponent has an easier time announcing than the standard club boards. Sztaray continues, "I am proud to say [the Mechanics' is] leading the way to being an accessible, inclusive, and safe place for everyone to play chess."

Talamantez says that there is joy and fun in chess at all levels, and that the enthusiasm can be found regardless of how far you want to take your chess. "Don't focus on achieving a certain goal as the be-all and end-all of chess learning. It can be an enjoyable lifelong activity," he advises.

## Chess City of Year



### NEW YORK, NEW YORK

*Winners, leaders, and trail blazers*

From the storied Marshall Chess Club to the outdoor tables in Washington Square Park, chess in New York City offers something for everyone—small club events, large weekend chess tournaments, getting hustled in the park, or simply playing a casual game over lunch. It is no surprise, then, that New York City is one of US Chess' most solid membership bases and source of various types of chess professionals. New York's scholastic chess programs dominate the national scene with perennial team and individual national championships. They also are leaders in bringing chess into the classroom to aid in teaching foundational concepts. New York City has many historic chess locations such as the Chess House in Central Park (photo) and iconic portrayals of the game in film such as *Searching for Bobby Fischer* and *Brooklyn Castle*.

## Chess Club of Year



### SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB

*A tournament every Saturday*

The San Diego Chess Club runs a tournament every Saturday, a one-day event they have hosted since 1998. They now have over 900 Gambito Opens, as they are known, in the books, and are looking forward to number 1,000. Their website [sandiegochessclub.com](http://sandiegochessclub.com) will provide details of when they will begin operations again after COVID-19.



# Awards

## Chess College of the Year



### TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY (TX)

*Making community outreach a top priority*

Texas Tech University was recommended for this award by the College Chess Committee. In addition to its strong chess program—as evidenced by the team’s historic 6-0 score at the 2019 Pan-American Intercollegiate Championships—Texas Tech has made community outreach a top priority. They have helped create after-school chess programs, and they organize two chess camps and six scholastic tournaments (with 120-150 entrants in each) annually. They also coordinated with a museum in producing an exhibit featuring the benefits of chess.

## Frank J. Marshall Award



### FM AVIV FRIEDMAN (NJ)

*“A globetrotting chess coach/consultant/lecturer.”*

FM Aviv Friedman is described in the February 2020 *Chess Life* as a “globetrotting chess coach/consultant/lecturer”...who for more than two decades has been leading/coaching for the U.S. youth teams in world events. Aviv has enjoyed covering elite chess events as a correspondent and serving as a head of delegation or coach. He served on the scholastic council several terms over the years. Aviv writes, “Chess is a game one can enjoy as an absolute beginner to 2900 and anywhere in between—at different levels. The more you learn, the more fun it gets. Play a lot, go over your games (even painful ones), and learn from your mistakes.”

## Committee of the Year



### SCHOLASTIC COMMITTEE

*Setting the table for our youngest members*

Executive Board member Mike Nietman nominated the Scholastic committee, led by the Scholastic Council, to be selected as the 2020 US Chess Committee of the Year. Nietman says, “The Council led numerous projects involving several sub-committees,” and cites the Council’s annual review of the Scholastic Regulations, which led to amendments to the ratings section (using ratings from other systems for pairings and prize purposes). He lists other committee accomplishments that include reviewing the eligibility of players transferring schools; modifying the sections at the National Junior High (after thorough analysis); requiring paper scoresheets at all national scholastic events (for younger players, the committee even developed a scoresheet with pictures on it); and revamping the prizes at the national scholastics.

Nietman continues, “The committee also led a project to revamp the Scholar Chess Player application submission process. Another task had them review the international youth event requirement process. They’ve started to review the Chess Coach Certification program. Lastly, with the current conditions, they’ve worked on organizing an online event for high school seniors.”

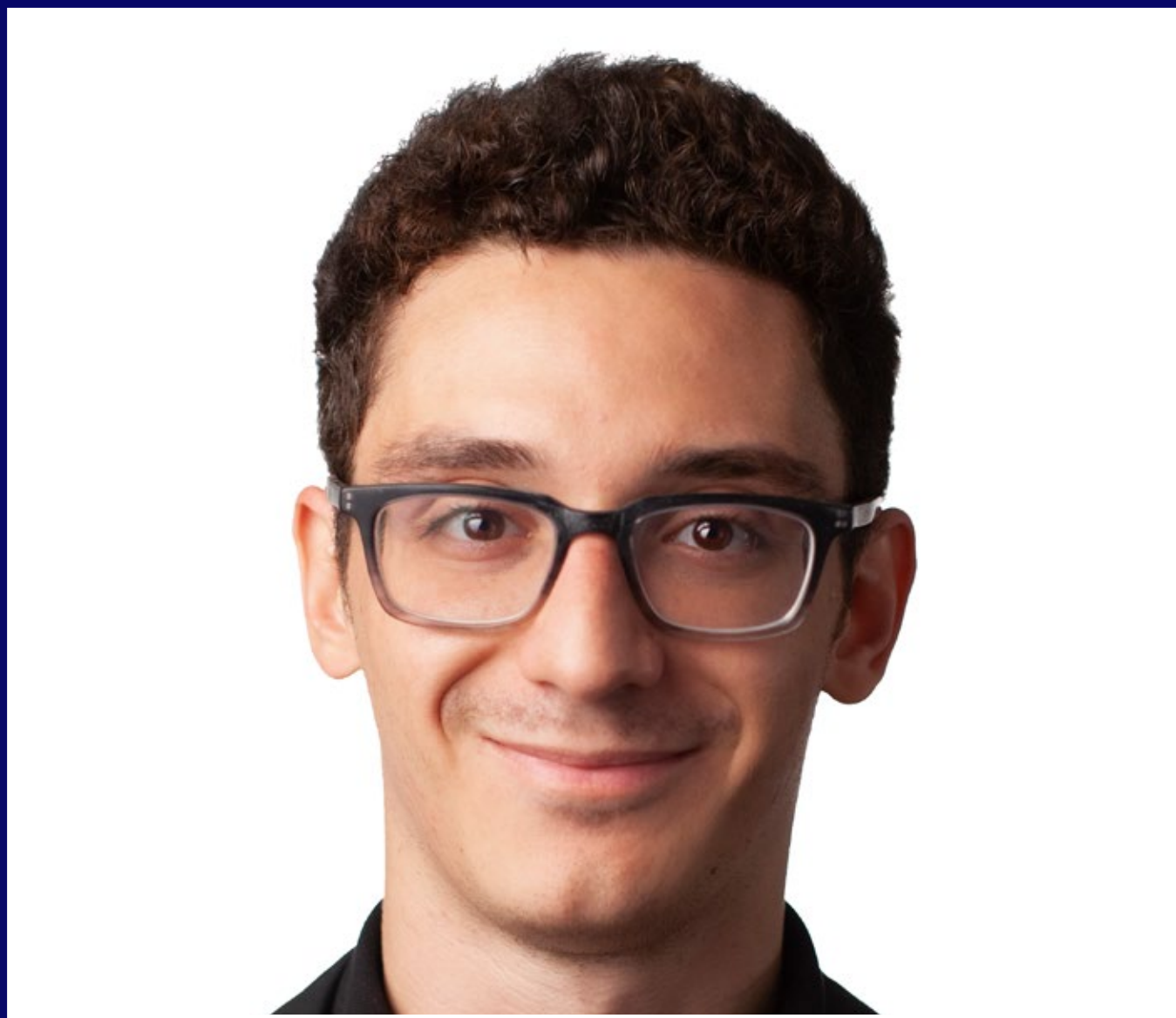
*“The more you learn, the more fun [chess] gets.”*

—FM AVIV FRIEDMAN



# Awards

## Grandmaster of the Year



**GM FABIANO CARUANA (MO)**

*Continuing world-class performances*

GM Fabiano Caruana has shown, through his world-class performances—including his recent record accomplishment at the Tata Steel Masters' Tournament (two points ahead of Magnus Carlsen, and ahead of other world-class GMs)—to be deserving of the US Chess Grandmaster of the Year award.

## Honorary Chess Mate



**MAXINE BRADY (NY)**

*Active support over many years*

Maxine Brady's active support over many years made it possible for Dr. Frank Brady to achieve the pivotal accomplishments that were vital to the early growth of US Chess. Her steady support has continued through the decades, helping Dr. Brady make significant contributions to chess culture in the United States.

## Organizer of the Year



**JAY STALLINGS (CA-S)**

*"Enjoy chess in whichever way works for you."*

Jay Stallings has organized innovative special events for women and girls, thereby advancing one of the goals of US Chess in reaching underserved populations. He has been president of the Southern California Chess Federation, co-chair of the Scholastic Council, and currently serves on the Scholastic committee, the Development committee, and others. Stallings says, "Enjoy chess in whichever way works for you. Play at the club, online, against an app, in a tournament. Study with books or videos and/or with a friend. Learn the colorful history of the game. Teach someone how to play. Oh, and look at the games of Mikhail Tal—you will be amazed! I have been a faithful member of US Chess since 1975. I owe my successes to the dedicated coaches, organizers, and supporters, but mainly to my dad, my chess friends, and my students who push me to be my best every day. Thank you to all who support the growth of chess."

*"I owe my successes to the dedicated coaches, organizers, and supporters, but mainly to my dad, my chess friends, and my students who push me to be my best every day."*

—JAY STALLINGS



# Awards

## Outstanding Team Performance



### 2019 WORLD CADET TEAM

*Making the U.S. proud*

At the most recent World Cadet Championships, held in China in August 2019, the U.S. team won two gold medals, two bronze medals, and the team silver medal behind Russia and ahead of China. Despite missing several top players due to schedule conflicts, they defeated the reigning Olympiad/world team China and finished equal fourth in the standings.

## Scholastic Services: INDIVIDUAL



### CHRISTINA SCHWEISS (VA)

*Building her own "Field of Dreams"*

Christina Schweiss founded the Hampton Roads Chess Association (HRCA), which was recognized as the Chess Club of the Year in 2017. She has been a pioneer in the home school movement in Virginia and was an active member of the Scholastic Council subcommittee that helped revise the scholastic regulations governing the participation of home school groups in national scholastic championships. "If there are no opportunities for scholastic players to train and compete where you live, make it happen," she advises. "Be patient, be persistent, be passionate, and constantly evolve to meet the needs of your players as they grow in numbers and strength. Be a leader and care about and know every kid in your organization by name and where they are in their chess development. Your passion will light a fire for chess that will last a lifetime for your players." Schweiss cites a favorite quote from the movie *Field of Dreams*: "If you build it, they will come."

## Scholastic Services: ORGANIZATION



### THE RENAISSANCE KNIGHTS CHESS FOUNDATION (IL)

*Follow your heart and just do it.*

The Renaissance Knights, a non-profit organization that promotes chess activity across diverse communities in Chicago, was instrumental in sponsoring some 200 students to the 2019 National High School (K-12) Championship in Schaumburg, Illinois. Over the past several years, the Renaissance Knights also has organized the KCF All-Girls National Chess Championship, which has grown from modest beginnings to attracting close to 500 participants. The driving force behind these many successes is the husband/wife team of David and Sheila Heiser.

Since 2005, Renaissance Knights has impacted the lives of over 50,000 students. Their thriving partnership with Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Police Department has made a difference in the lives of thousands of students from over one hundred schools through after-school Academic Chess Clubs, the Chicago Cops & Kids Chess Initiative, and their local, regional, national, and international tournaments.



# Awards

## Outstanding Player Achievement



**VIKTORS PUPOLS (WA)**

*A half-century of achievement*

Viktors Pupols has been actively playing chess for more than a half-century. This past year, at age 86, Pupols played more than 100 games and beat two IMs, notable achievements for players his age.



**GM DMITRY GUREVICH (IL)**

*60 game wins in 22 U.S. Championships*

GM Dmitry Gurevich has played in and for US Chess since his arrival in the U.S. decades ago. He has won or tied for first in four U.S. Opens and has represented the U.S. in Interzonal and World Team championship play. He has finished first or tied for first in seven National Opens. He has played in 22 U.S. Championships, with 60 wins and 110 draws; all of these totals rank among the highest numbers achieved by participants.



**IM MICHAEL BROOKS (MO)**

*A frequent state champion*

IM Michael Brooks competed in the 1990 and 2009 U.S. Championships and achieved a rating of 2630. He won the North American Open with wins over two GMs. He achieved outstanding results in the Midwest Masters and has been a frequent winner of the Missouri state championship.

*“Don’t focus on achieving a certain goal as the be-all and end-all of chess learning.  
It can be an enjoyable lifelong activity.”*

—ABEL TALAMANTEZ



# Awards

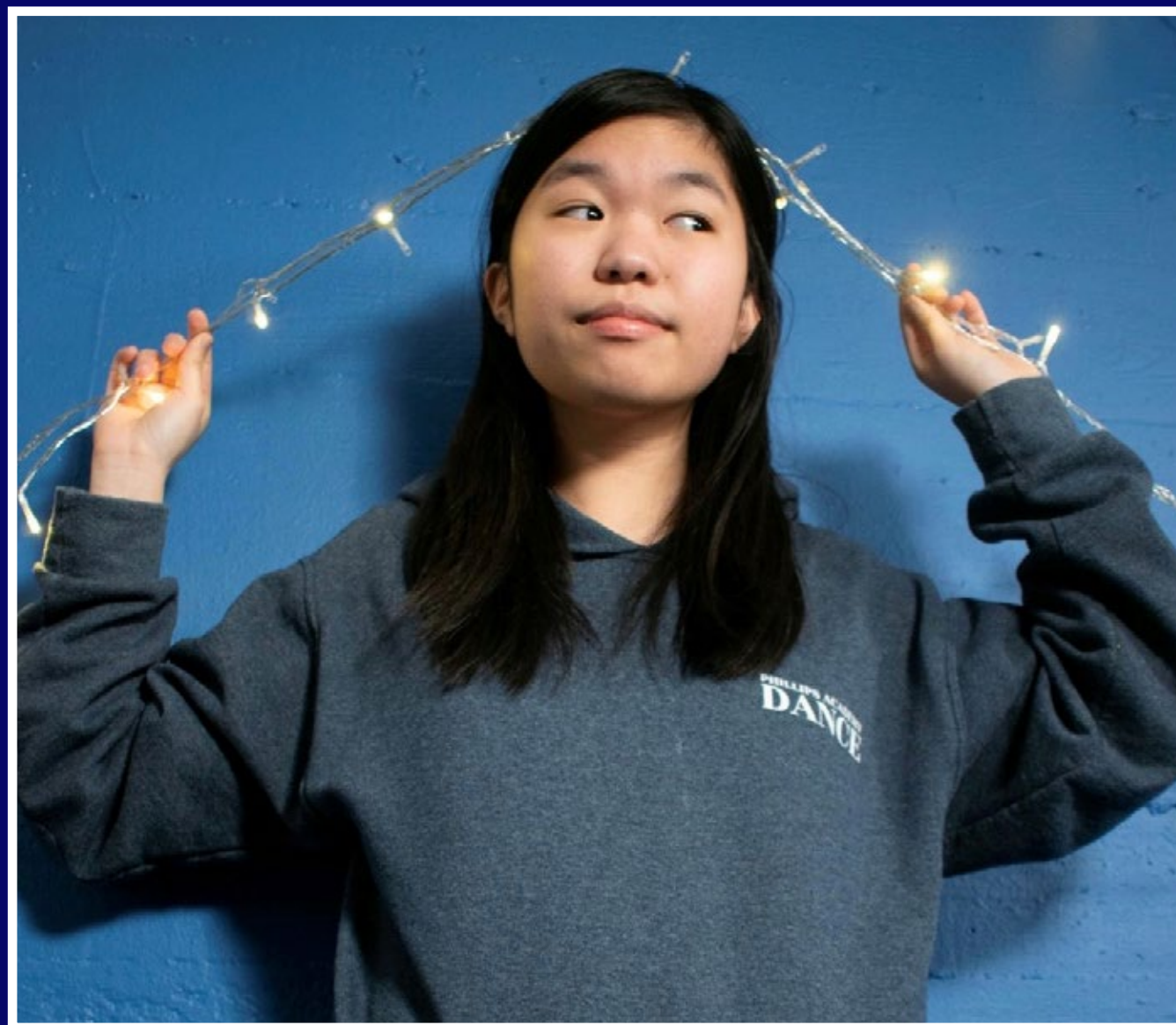
## Tournament Director of the Year



**FA GLENN PANNER (IL)**

Glenn Panner was recommended by the Tournament Director Certification Committee. He was also awarded the Organizer of the Year in 2018.

## Woman Chess Player of the Year



**IM CARISSA YIP (MA)**

*The youngest female IM in U.S. history*

IM Carissa Yip fulfilled her final IM norm this year, thus becoming the youngest U.S. female IM in history. She is the third-ranked female player in US Chess, with a significant rating gain in the last year. Her results during the past year have included wins over players ranked among the top in the world.

## The COVID-19 Year Awards

US Chess is disconcerted that we couldn't provide a luncheon to our deserving 2020 Awards winners due to the cancellation of the U.S. Open. Please know that you are deeply appreciated by our organization for all that you do for chess. *(The photos below are just a small selection from our 2019 luncheon.)*



*“Chess is a game one can enjoy as an absolute beginner, to 2900, and anywhere in between—at different levels. Play a lot, go over your games (even painful ones), and learn from your mistakes.”*

—FM AVIV FRIEDMAN



# *Champs*

*Annual  
Report* **2020**





# 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. Open**  
Illia Nyzhnyk



**National Tournament of Senior State Champions**  
Shelby Getz



**Pan-American Intercollegiate**  
Texas Tech A

**U.S. G/15 Championship**  
J. Timothy Sage

**U.S. Masters**

[For photos, see our CLO report here.](#)

Sergei Azarov, Isan Reynaldo Ortiz Suarez, Lazaro Bruzon Batista, Daniel Naroditsky, Elshan Moradiabadi, Praveen Balakrishnan, Steven Zierk, Hovhannes Babuzyan, Bartlomiej Macieja

**U.S. Class Championships**

**Master:** Francesco Rambaldi, Prasanna Rao, Balaji Daggupati; **Expert:** Pranav Sairam, Phillip Seitzer, Ashley Pang; **Class A:** Ashik Uzzaman; **Class B:** Li Li, Ryan Tiong; **Class C:** Jason Chen; **Class D:** Brian Fong; **Class E and under:** Serkan Sofuoglu

**U.S. Armed Forces Championship**  
Eigen Wang

**U.S. Junior Chess Congress**

**20/18/16**

**& Under:** Arun Dixit

**14 & Under:** Shreyas Nayak

**12 & Under:** Aghilan Nachiappan

**10 & Under:** Omya Vidhyarthi, Andrew Guo

**8 & Under:** Vedant Talwalkar, Allen Yang

**6 & Under:** Ethan Guo

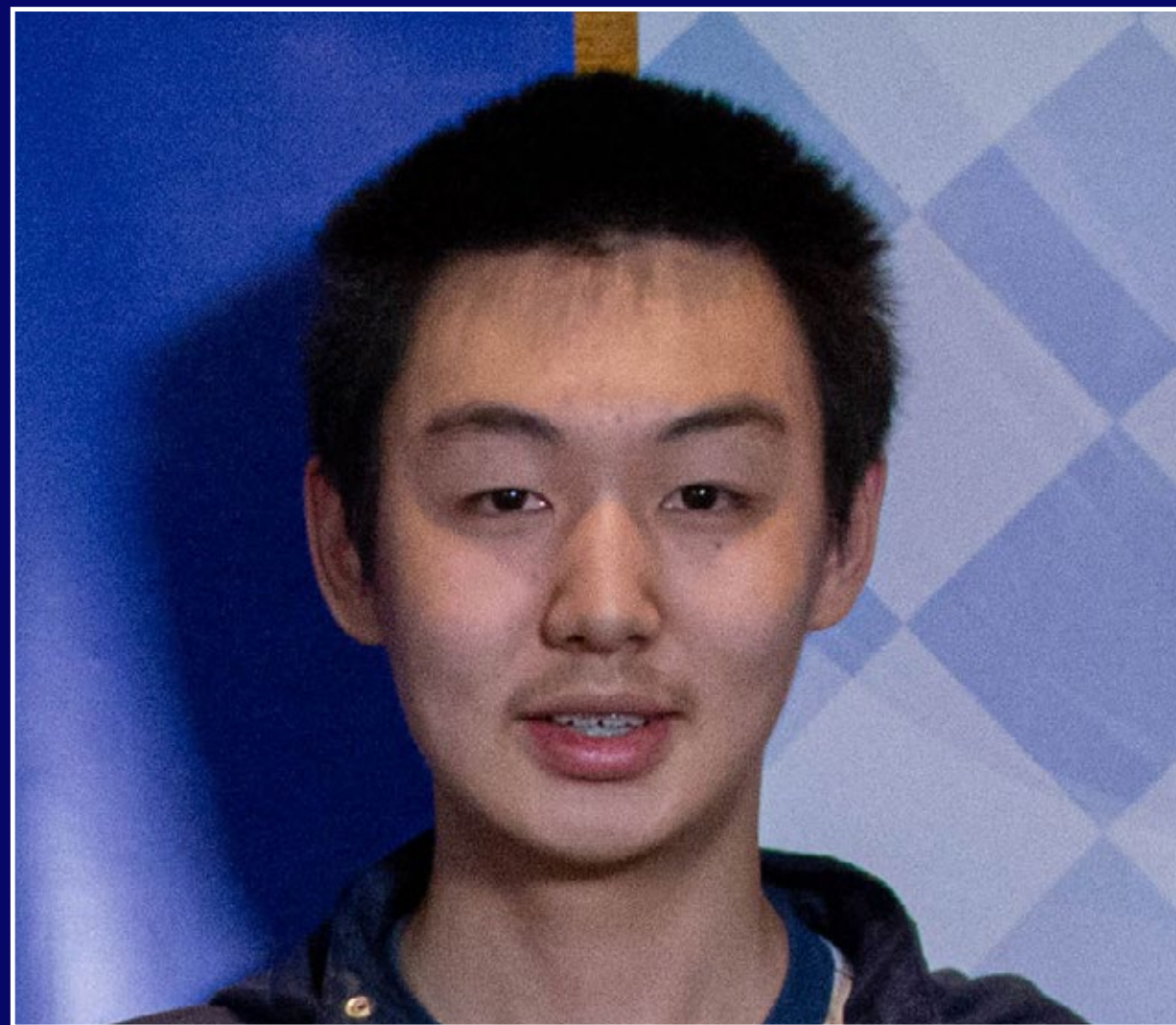


# NATIONAL Champions



**Denker Tournament of High School Champions**

Bryce Tiglon



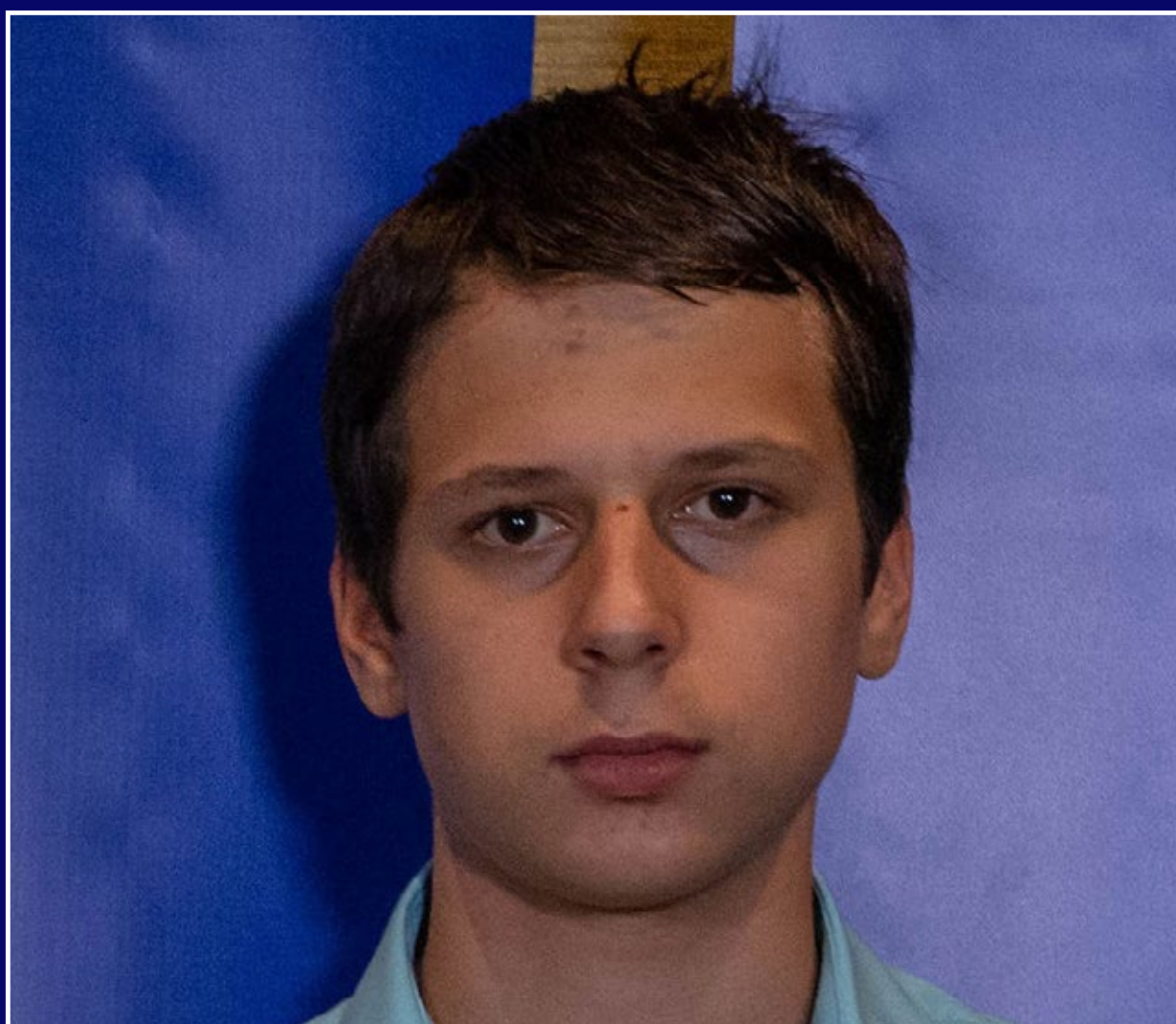
**Denker Tournament of High School Champions**

Ben Li



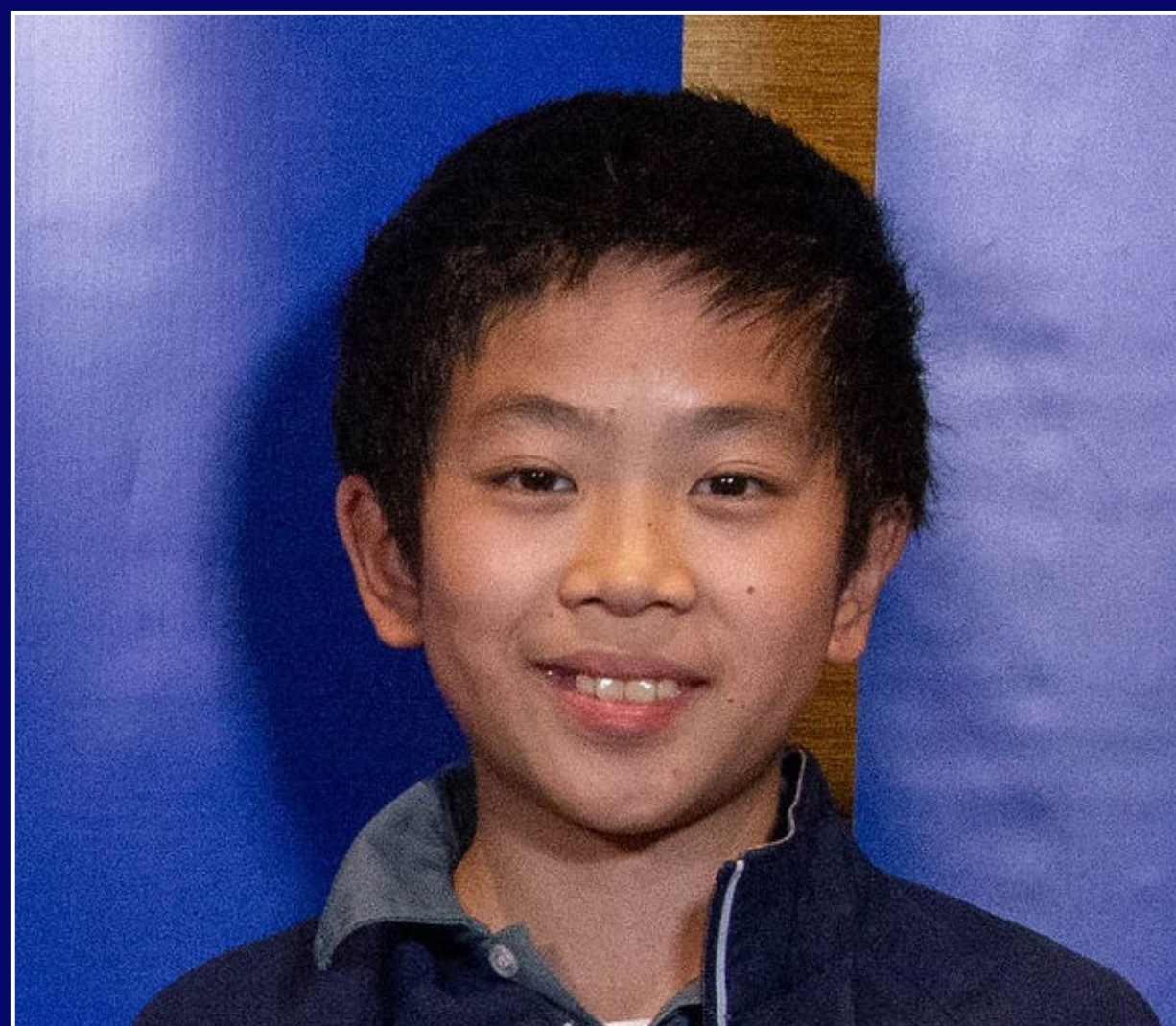
**Denker Tournament of High School Champions**

Emily Nguyen



**Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions**

Robert Shlyakhtenko



**Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions**

Jason Wang



**Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions**

Martha Samadashvili



National K-12 Grade Championships (Individual)

For photos, please see our CLO report here.

K: Lucas Yang	4th: Yuvraj Rudra Chennareddy	9th: Raghav Venkat
1st: Mason Jin Li, Jeremy Tao	5th: Erick Zhao	10th: Elton Cao
2nd: Michael Xiao, Leo Yang, Eden You	6th: Bach Ngo	11th: Hans Niemann
3rd: Rohan Rajaram, Andrew Jiang	7th: Wyatt Pak	12th: Ansh Milinkumar Shah
	8th: Nathaniel Shuman	

National K-12 Grade Championships (Team)

For photos, please see our CLO report here.

K: The Speyer Legacy School (NY)	4th: The Speyer Legacy School (NY)	8th: Dalton School (NY)
1st: Dalton School (NY)	5th: Joseph A. Williams Elementary School (FL)	9th: Hunter College Campus School (NY)
2nd: Hunter College Elementary School (NY)	6th: Lincoln Middle School (FL), Westglade Middle School (FL)	10th: Jericho High School (NY)
3rd: NEST+m School (NY)	7th: I.S. 318 (NY)	11th: Newark Academy (NJ)
		12th: Edgemont High School (NY)

For photos, please see our CLO report here.



# *Thank You*

*to all our members, donors, supporters & staff who have enabled  
US Chess to keep going through difficult times this year.*

*We appreciate all you do.*

**#GetUSChess!**