

Where Organized Chess in America Began

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Steve Immitt in Action in Albany.

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NEW YORK STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Looking for Hall of Famers II.

Last year's Annual Meeting asked for new ideas on how the New York State Chess Association inducts members into its Hall of Fame. So did this year's.

The meeting did elect one Hall of Famer for 2016: long-time player and *Empire Chess* editor Carrie Goldstein. Ms. Goldstein's husband should be on hand in Albany for the ceremony next year.

Other people floated at the meeting include 2014 New York State Champions and former World Champion Challenger GM Gata Kamsky, who has been a New Yorker ever since leaving the Soviet Union. Kamsky likely would have at this year's Championship except for a conflict with the FIDE Chess World Cup, for which he qualified and lost in the first round.

In addition to current players and organizers, it is NYSCA's desire to honor historical chess figures with strong ties to New York State Chess. GM Reuben Fine, New York State Champion (1941) and former World Championship Candidate-elect, is one choice from the past. Fine left chess in his 30's to have a distinguished "second career" in psychology.

Frank Marshall, former World Championship Challenger and founder of the Marshall Chess Club, is another. The Marshall, ironically is featured in the September 2015 issue of *Chess Life*. Marshall's legacy celebrates 100 years in 2015, and its roster of champions is a Who's Who of American Chess, including Reuben Fine.

Another past star considered is Anthony Santasiere, a master and New York State Champion who is the only person to win the title in four different decades: 1928, 1930, 1946 and 1956. Arthur Denker, whose name lives on today with the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, was also mentioned. Denker won the New York State title in 1938 and 1939.

The historical record is rich, and this will be a multi-year project. My personal picks not listed above would be Hermann Helms, 1925 Champion and long-time chess writer and publisher; John Collins, the 1952 Champion and a legendary organizer; and Fred Reinfeld, a chess player and writer who was New York Champion in 1931 and 1933, and whose chess books have been read by millions.

Each issue in the coming year will have an article related to the Hall of Fame. We want your ideas. Email or write us to have your say.

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Volume XXXVIII, Number 3 – Fall 2015

Cover: Steve Immitt, the head tournament director at the State Championship, starts the third round of the New York State Championship in Albany

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Please send articles and advertisements in camera-ready format for publication. (TIF file, Adobe Photoshop, 100 lines per inch). Chess games should be in ChessBase, with boards and positions in final form. Articles should be sent via e-mail, in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman font, size 11. **Deadline for the Winter issue is December 15, 2015**, although earlier submissions are appreciated, and will more easily guarantee a space in the next magazine.

Labor Day weekend in Albany IM Alex Ostrovskiy wins 137th New York State Championship

by Bill Townsend

The latest New York State Championship, the 137th (!), was held from September 4 to September 7 at the Albany Marriot on Wolf Road in Colonie. IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy was the clear winner with a 5-1 record: four wins and two draws. This is Ostrovskiy's second state title – he previously won it in 2010. At that time he was, at age 14, the youngest state champion ever. He came in third in 2010 behind GM Joel Benjamin (NJ) and IM Mark Esserman (MA). This year there will be no asterisk next to his name: he is state champion and sole tournament winner. Last year's winner, GM Gata Kamsky (Kamsky was at the FIDE Chess World Cup in Baku), was not on hand to defend his title, in fact the only grandmaster present was Massachusetts GM Alexander Ivanov, and he didn't have a good tournament: in spite of being the highest rated player by 150 points he lost a game to FM Rico Salimbatat in round two and he gave up two more draws to wind up tied for sixth with 4-2.

Second through fifth with 4½-1½ were Levy Rozman, Ethan Li, Christopher Chabris and FM Robert Sulman. Sixth through tenth with 4-2 were: GM Alexander Ivanov, IM Jay Bonin, FM David Brodsky, FM Rico Salimbatat and WIM Megan Lee. Eleventh through fifteenth with 3½-2½ were: FM Victor Plotkin, Mark Plotkin, Patrick Chi, Zachary Tanenbaum and Rahul Malayappan.

Battling on the top boards below:



The Under-2100 section was the biggest of the five sections with 59 players. It ended in a three way tie at 5-1 between Max Li, Brendan Lee and Jaime Palafox. This last named player was from Sinaloa on the west coast of Mexico, and since he left before the last game was finished the organizers had to mail him his prize check. Fourth through eighth with 4½-1½ were: Jeremy Berman, Harold Scott, Jacob Chen, WIM Dorothy Teasley and David Campbell. Next with 3½-2½ there was a huge logjam of 15 players. Ninth through 23rd were: Edward Frumkin, Michael Cavallo, Ernest Johnson, David Hater, Webster Kehoe, Ron Lohrman, Leonard Chipkin, Alan Kantor, WFM Martha Samadashvili, Yavasvi Hari, Alanna Katz, Kai Kronberg, Ethan Yung, Sarah Ascherman and John Phillips.

William Yen was the sole winner of the Under-1500 section with an undefeated 5½-½ score. In clear second place with 5-1 was Pranav Jayaganesh. Edward Murphy was all alone in third place with 4½-1½. Fourth through sixth with 4-2 were: Ansgarius Aylward, Ragulan Sivakumar and Sreenivas Alampalli. Seventh through twelfth with 3½-2½ were: Monroe Steindorf. Thomas Roddy, Varun Rao, Alexander Benis, Krishna Mutnuri and Thomas Dedona.

The Under-1200 section had another sole winner as Ram Kancharia scored 5½-½. Second and third were Anshu Nunemunthala and Waldemar Palaitis with 4½-1½. Fourth through twelfth with 4-2 were: Charles Bryant, Ryan Rogers, Caleb Meyer-Chabris, Dylan Costa, Meghana Kancharia, Steven Danko, Michael Inabinet, Suma Dendi and Nat Solomon. Thirteenth through sixteenth with 3½-2½ were: Daniel Babakhan, Prasanna Date, John Femia and Amit Goel.

The picture below says it all about the New York State Chess Association and our Championship.



As is that weren't enough there was a The New York State Blitz Championship tournament held on Friday night, a five-round, double-round affair. The winner with 9-1 was NM Levy Rozman. State champ IM Aleksandr Ostrovsky was second with 8-2. FM Rico Salimbogat was third with 7½-2½. GM Alexander Ivanov and Marijan Procyk tied for fourth with 6½-3½. Kai Kronberg was top player under 2000 with 6-4 and Benjamin Medina was second under 2000 with 5½-4½. William Yen was top player under 1800 with 4-5. Second and third Under-1800 were Robert Kratzat and Mark Dedona with 3-7.

There was also a Mixed Doubles prize for the best male-female two-player team in the tournament proper, regardless of section. There was a two team tie for first place between Polly Wright & FM Robert Sulman and Meghana Kancharla & Ram Kancharla. Both teams scored 9½ out of a possible 12. Two teams also tied for third and fourth places with 8½: Sarah Ascherman & IM Alex Ostrovskiy and Sandra Shur & GM Alexander Ivanov.

Overall 203 players competed in the five sections, down from 222 last year, but that total represented the highest turnout this century. This is the tenth year in a row that the state championship has been held at this site, making this the second-longest time the tournament was anchored in one city – from 1887 to 1915 the tournament was held in New York City. Yes, this tournament has been around that long.

The tournament was directed by Steve Immitt and Bill Goichberg, with help from Brenda Goichberg

and Sophia Rohde for the New York State Chess Association.

Bill Goichberg was honored by USCF for Distinguished Lifetime Organizational Achievement at their annual membership held concurrently to the US Open. Bill and his wife Brenda pose with the plaque at the tournament director's table in Albany.



A further note – the annual meeting of NYSCA was held at the tournament site on Sunday morning, and while a number of issues were discussed the two of most interest to New York tournament players involve two of NYSCA's signature events. The first is pretty obvious – the 2016 State Championship will again be held in Colonie. The second is that, for the foreseeable future, at least through 2018 – the State Scholastics will be held in Saratoga Springs. While the site for the scholastics is supposed to shift from Upstate to Downstate on alternating years, the plain fact is that it hasn't actually been that way for a while – it is very hard to find affordable venues that are big enough.

By making a commitment to hold the event in Saratoga, the organizers can get a better deal on the venues and hotel rooms as well as secure more space for the event, a win-win situation for everyone.

As the State Scholastics have been the largest tournament held in Upstate New York, the potential sites are limited, and securing the Saratoga City Center is the best option for the near-term. Attendance for the tournament has grown dramatically in recent years since being anchored in the Spa City.

Long-time NYSCA Secretary Phyllis Benjamin (right) keeps up the family tradition by playing.



Now, on to the games. At last year's event I got a mere 66 games, but this year's event, although not as well attended, yielded 110 games. I have no idea why this is so – did I place my scoresheet boxes more favorably? Who knows?

Here is the last round “money game” that gave Ostrovskiy this year's New York State title. It is a draw where not a lot happens, but that doesn't mean the players weren't trying. Three of the top four games in the Open were drawn, but none of them were the usual last round draw – five moves, a handshake and a sprint for the exit. All seemed hotly contested, and in one of them, one of the players was down to his last 18 seconds.

**NM Christopher Chabris (2248) –
IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy (2473) [B19]
Caro-Kann Defense
137th New York State Championship, round 6
Colonie, NY, Sept. 7, 2015**

1.e4 c6

Another of the mysteries of this event - the sheer number of Caro-Kann's I saw. Is 1.e4 c6 the new hipster beard of chess openings?

**2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6
7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bf4**
My chess computer thinks that White has a significant advantage here, but this is a main line position, played thousands of times.

11...Qa5+ 12.Bd2

White seems to be really resistant to playing c2–c3 here for some reason.

**12...Bb4 13.a3 Bxd2+ 14.Nxd2 Ngf6 15.0–0–0 0–0
16.Nc4 Qc7 17.Kb1 Rfd8 18.Qe2 c5 19.Rh4 Rac8**

**20.Ne3 Nb6 21.Ne4 Nxe4 22.Rxe4 c4 23.c3 Qc6
24.Ng4**

*24.d5! seems stronger, but the position begins to look drawish after 24...Nxd5 25.Rxc4 Qa6 26.Rdd4 Rxc4
27.Qxc4 Qxc4 28.Nxc4.*

24...Nd5

Neither side has much of an advantage, and since the game on board two was already a draw, agreeing to split the point would give Ostrovskiy clear first. ½–½

The new champion, IM Alexander Ostrovskiy (left), taking on David Brodsky



If you happened to ask IM Ostrovskiy what game he was proudest of, it would be this one, which just so happened to put him half a point ahead of the field with one round left to go. The new state champ fully annotated this game for Col. David Hater's article on the U.S. Chess website, but here is the game with my light notes. The article can be found at: <http://www.uschess.org/content/view/13190/141/>

**IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy (2473) –
FM Rico Salimbagat (2316) [C67] Ruy Lopez
137th New York State Championship, round 5
Colonie, NY, Sept. 7, 2015**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6

As Ostrovskiy pointed out in his notes, Salimbagat had played the Berlin against him during the blitz tournament two days previously.

4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8

With the Queens off, Black's not being able to castle is not such a big problem.

9.h3 h6 10.Rd1+ Ke8 11.Nc3 Be6 12.g4 Ne7 13.Nd4 h5!?

I'm not sure this rather aggressive move is best, but I certainly can't blame Black for wanting a more active position

14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Kg2 Ng6 16.f4 Be7 17.Be3 Rf8 18.Rf1 Rd8 19.a3 b6 20.Ne2?!

Oh, my chess computer definitely doesn't like this! Instead it prefers 20.Ne4 and White remains in control.

20...c5

The reason my computer didn't like 20.Ne2 is: 20...hgx4 21.hgx4 Bc5! 22.Bxc5?! bxc5 23.Kg3 Rd2 and although Black has tripled pawns he has a very active Rook.

21.Ng3 Nh4+ 22.Kg1 hgx4 23.hgx4 g5?!

Pushing a little too hard. A more patient move like 23...Rd5 seems to be called for.

24.f5 exf5 25.gxf5

This passed pawn duo is not good news for Black.

25...c4 26.f6! Bc5?!

Better is 26...Rd5 but Black is still losing after 27.fxe7 Rxf1+ 28.Rxf1 Rxe5 29.Kf2 Kxe7.

27.Bxc5 bxc5 28.e6

Even nastier is 28.Nh5 right away.

28...Rd2 29.Nh5 Rh8 30.Ng7+ Kf8 31.e7+ Kf7

32.e8Q+ Rxe8 33.Nxe8 g4

Just as unpleasant is 33...Kxe8 34.Rae1+ Kf8 35.f7.

34.Rf2 Nf3+ 35.Kg2 Rxf2+ 36.Kxf2 Kxe8 37.Kg3

Kf7 38.Kxg4 Ne5+ 39.Kf5 Nd7 40.Rf1 c3

If Black takes the pawn he loses his Knight 40...Nxf6 41.Ke5, etc.

41.bxc3 c4 42.Rf4 1-0

All that's left is for White to mop up, so Black resigns.

Here is the other game I have from the new state champion, from round two. In this game Black is better for the majority of the game, in spite of the fact that the last half of the game is a tactical melee.

Above: The new champion setting up for another win while other top boards get ready to play in the third round in the Championship.



NM Mark Plotkin (2316) –

**IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy (2473) [B11] Caro-Kann
137th New York State Championship, round 2
Colonie, NY, Sept. 5, 2015**

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e5 Ne4 5.d4 c5 6.dxc5 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Nc6 8.h3 e6 9.Bd3 Bxc5 10.0-0 h6 11.Bf4 f5 12.g4 g5 13.Bd2 0-0 14.Qe2 b6 15.Rae1 a6 16.h4?!

White has been flirting with the idea of opening up the Kingside, but now he pushes it a little too far. The game is very nearly even after 16.gxf5 exf5 17.Nd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Bxd4 19.Qh5.

16...fxg4 17.Nxg5

White must have had this in mind when he played his last move, but he simply doesn't get enough for the piece.

17...hxg5 18.Bxg5 Be7 19.Bh6?

A serious mistake that allows Black to quash White's counterplay. Instead after 19.Qxg4 Bxg5 20.hxg5 Black has only a very small advantage.

19...Rf3! 20.Kh1 Bc5 21.Bg5 Qf8 22.Rg1 Nxe5 23.h5?

23.Qxe5? would be suicide: 23...Rh3+ 24.Kg2 Qxf2, mate; 23.Rg3 is better than the text but still losing for the first player.

23...Rh3+ 24.Kg2 Qf3+?!

24...Nf3! 25.Be3 Qd6 26.Kf1 Nh2+ 27.Kg2 Bxe3 and White can resign.

25.Kf1 Qxe2+

25...Rh1 is better, but Black is in no danger of losing this.

26.Rxe2 Nxd3

26...Nf3 is better than the text. In fact in the next few moves both players make second-best moves, but Black is winning throughout.

27.cxd3 Rxh5 28.Rxg4 Ra7 29.Bf6+ Kh7 30.d4

Bd6 31.f4 Rf7 32.Reg2 Bf8 33.Be5 Bd7 34.Rg8 Rxe5! 35.dxe5 Rxf4+ 36.Ke1 Bh6 37.Ra8 Re4+ 38.Kf1 Rf4+ 39.Kg1 Rf7 40.Rxa6 Be3+ 41.Kh1 Bc6 42.Rh2+? Kg6 0-1

In order to save his King White is going to have to start throwing away material, so he resigns instead.

Players competing for prize at the State Championship in Albany.



Here is the game played on board two in the final round, which gave Levy Rozman a share of second place. Initially Black had a very good position, but his pieces got stuck behind enemy lines and extracting them cost a pawn that he never was able to get back. Black was fighting a losing battle for the rest of the game, but strangely he resigned just when a cute little tactic became available. It's been said that nobody ever won a game by resigning, and the same is true about drawing a lost game.

**NM Levy Rozman (2376)
 NM Mark Plotkin (2316) [A16]
 137th New York State Championship, round 6
 Colonie, NY, Sept. 7, 2015**

1.c4 d6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 0-0 6.Rb1 c6 7.e4 Nbd7 8.f4

Like a good classical chess player White has occupied the center with pawns, but unfortunately this has made his position full of holes, which Black now exploits.

8...Qb6 9.Qe2 Ng4 10.Bd2

No, Black wasn't throwing away a Knight accidentally. 10.Qxg4? Bxc3+ 11.Kf1 Nf6 and Black is better.

10...Bd4?!

10...Nc5! and Black is close to winning: 11.Nh3 h5

12.Nd1 Qa6 13.Nc3 Bd4 and Black has a lot of pressure.

11.Nf3 Ne3 12.Bh3 e5?!

Black has over-committed his army. His best is now to ferry his pieces out with 12...Nc2+ 13.Kd1 Bxc3 14.Bxc3 Nb4 with a roughly even game.

13.Nxd4 exd4 14.Bxe3 dxe3

Black's advantage has evaporated and the pawn on e3 is a goner.

15.0-0 Qd4 16.Rfe1 Nc5 17.Bf1 Ne6 18.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 19.Rxe3 Nd4 20.Rc1 Be6 21.Bg2 b5 22.Ne2 Nxe2+ 23.Rxe2 Rfd8 24.Kf2 Rab8 25.cxb5 cxb5 26.b3 a5 27.d4 d5 28.e5

White is only a pawn ahead, but he has enough positional trumps to be close to winning.

28...a4 29.b4 Rbc8 30.Rec2 Rc4 31.Rxc4 bxc4 32.a3 h5 33.Bf3 Bg4 34.Bg2

This is a difficult position for Black to defend, not just because he is a pawn down. The fact that all his pawns are on light-colored squares means he has a position full of targets and a bad Bishop.) 34...Bf5 35.Ke3 Kf8 36.Kd2 Be6 37.Kc3 Rb8 38.Rb1 Rb5 39.Bf3 Bg4 40.Rf1 Ke7 41.Bxg4 hxg4 42.f5 g5 43.Rh1 Rb8 44.h4 Rh8

44...gxh4 45.Rxh4 Rg8 was not much better.

45.h5 Kf8 46.h6 f6 47.e6 Ke7 48.h7 Kd6 49.b5 1-0

Here Black resigned, which is a shame because he had the devilish shot 49...Rxh7!! and now 50.Rxh7?? Is stalemate! However if White just doesn't lose his cool he still wins: 50.Re1 Re7 51.Kb4 Rc7 52.b6 Rb7 53.Kb5 c3 54.Rc1 c2 55.Rxc2, etc.

New York State Chess Hall of Famer Joe Felber plays a young opponent at the State Championship. The age difference is not uncommon at this event.



Another last round game, this one featuring former state champ IM Jay Bonin, and a very odd-looking

Larsen's Opening.

Rudy Tia (2109) – IM Jay Bonin (2425) [A01]
Larsen's Opening
137th New York State Championship, round 6
Colonie, NY, Sept. 7, 2015

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Bg4 3.f3 Bh5 4.Nh3 f6

Not sure what to make of this opening.

5.Nf4 Bf7 6.d4 c5 7.e3 Nc6 8.Bb5

This gives Black some opportunities that he immediately takes advantage of. White maintains a small advantage after 8.dxc5 e5 9.Nd3 Bxc5 10.Nxc5 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 Qxc5.

8...Qa5+ 9.Nc3 cxd4 10.exd4 e5! 11.Nfe2 Bd6 12.0-0 Nge7 13.f4?!

White wants to do something about Black's strong center, but this allows Black to create a powerful passed pawn with 13...e4! Strangely, Black takes his sweet time making this move.

13...0-0 14.Bxc6 Nxc6 15.Kh1 Bh5 16.Qd3 Bxe2 17.Nxe2 e4 18.Qh3 f5

Black has a grip on the center and a space advantage. Of course he isn't quite winning, but against a player like IM Jay Bonin this is, at best, a difficult defense.

19.c3 Rf6 20.a4 Raf8 21.g3 Qa6!

Putting a finger on White's sore spot - his weak light-colored squares.

22.Nc1 Nd8 23.Qg2 Ne6 24.Qe2 Qc6 25.Qb5 g5 26.Ne2 gxf4 27.gxf4 a6 28.Qxc6 bxc6 29.Ba3 Bxa3 30.Rxa3 Rg6 31.c4?

Gives Black a weakness to jump on. Better was 31.b4.

31...Rb8 32.cxd5 cxd5 33.Nc3

Seems to give up the d4-pawn without a fight, but even worse is 33.Rd1 Rb4.

33...Nxd4 34.Nxd5 Kf7 35.Ne3 Ke6 36.Rd1 Rbg8 36...Rxb3?! does not win a pawn: 37.Rxb3 Nxb3 38.Rd5. However better than the text is: 36...Ne2 37.Rf1 Rbg8 38.Raa1 Ng3+! 39.hxg3 Rxg3 and Black is winning.

37.Ra2 Nf3 38.Raa1 Rh6 39.Ra2 Rc8 40.Nc4

While watching the game I was wondering why White didn't play 40.Rd6+! Kxd6 41.Nxf5+.

40...Rh4 41.Rd6+ Ke7 42.Rxa6?

Taking this loose pawn is the beginning of the end for White.

42...Rg8 43.Ra7+ Ke6 44.Ra6+ Kd5 45.Ne3+ Kd4 46.Nc2+

Better, but still losing is 46.Nxf5+ Kc3 47.Rc6+ Kxb3 48.Rc1.

46...Kc3 47.Rc6+ Kxb3 48.Ra3+ Kb2 49.Rxf3 exf3

50.Nd4 Rxf4 51.Rc2+ Kb1 52.Rd2 f2 53.Rd1+ Kb2 0-1

White is going to lose his knight, so he gives up: 53...Kb2 54.Rf1 Rxd4.

The skittles room was a hive of activity.



I don't usually get too many games from the Under-2100 section here, but this year I got quite a lot – nearly three-quarters of what I got from the Open Section. Strangely, just like in the Open section all the last round games on the top boards ended in hard-fought draws. Here is the more lively of the two “money games.” In fact, white probably should have won this one. Thanks to Brendan Lee for providing the scoresheet.

Harold Scott (2016) – Brendan Lee (1912) [D02]
137th New York State Championship
Under 2,100 section, round 6
Colonie, NY, Sept. 7, 2015

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.Ne5 Bf5 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.c4 e6 9.Qa4 Qd7 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nc3 Rb8 12.Rd1?!

Misses the strength of Black's next move. 12.b3 looks like a better idea.

12...Rb4 13.Qa6 Bc2 14.cxd5 exd5

14...Bxd1?! 15.dxc6 Qd6 16.Bf4 and White is better.

15.Bh3 Qb7 16.Qxb7 Rxb7 17.Rd2 Bg6 18.a3

In hindsight, considering the traction Black gets against White's backward b-pawn 18.b3 suggests itself.

18...Rb3 19.e3 Ke7 20.Bg2 Rhb8 21.Bf3 a5 22.Bd1 R3b7 23.Bc2 Ng4 24.Bxg6 hxg6 25.Na4 Bd6 26.Rc2 Kd7

26...Ne5! is a superior way to cover the c-pawn.

27.Bd2 Rb5 28.Rac1

White has managed to untangle himself, so the game is essentially equal.

28...Ne5 29.Bc3 Rc8 30.Kg2 f6 31.Bd4 Bc7 32.Bxe5?!

This trade only seems to help Black. The surest path to an advantage seems to be 32.Nc5+! Ke7 33.f4 Bd6 34.fxe5 fxe5 35.a4 with White still on top.

32...Bxe5 33.f4 Bb8 34.Nc3 Rb3?

A simple tactical oversight as the time control looms.

The game looks pretty even after 34...Rc5

35.Nxd5 Ba7 36.Nc3 Bxe3?

Black's goal was to even up material again, but this should be the losing move.

37.Rd1+ Kc7 38.Nd5+?

After 38.Rd3! White wins material.

38...Kb7 39.Nxe3?!

Another poor choice. 39.Ne7 Rc7 40.Nxg6 wins a pawn.

39...Rxe3 40.Rd7+ Rc7 41.Rd4 Rb3

Past the time control at move 40, the players decide to split the point. White has a tiny advantage, but not enough to realistically play for a win. 1/2-1/2.

NYSCA officers Phyllis Benjamin (left), Polly Wright (center) and Bill Goichberg (right) at the annual meeting.



Here is an interesting game from David Campbell against New York State Chess Hall of Famer and former NYSCA president Lenny Chipkin, who tied for fourth in the Under-2100 section. He also provided some notes, some of which I've included below.

Leonard Chipkin (2022) – David Campbell (1969)
[A40] Modern Defense
137th New York State Championship
Under 2100 section, round 5

Colonie, NY, Sept. 7, 2015

1.d4 g6 2.e3 Bg7 3.Nf3 d5 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 b6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Ne5 0-0 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.Nd2 Nbd7 10.f4 Ne4 11.Qf3 Nxd2 12.Bxd2 f6 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.f5 Qe8 15.dxc5 bxc5 16.fxg6?!

The pawn on f5 is so cramping I would try to maintain it. 16.Qg4 seems like the best way to do that.

16...hxg6 17.Qg3 f5 18.Qc7

White attempts to win a pawn, but Black has a witty refutation.

18...Qc6! 19.Qg3

White runs away because he realized that after 19.Qxe7? Bf6 his Queen is trapped.

19...e5

Black now has quite a fearsome pawn bulwark - the opening has not turned out well for White

20.c4?! e4 21.Be2?!

Here White's best chance is to go into a fairly long tactical variation: 21.cxd5 Qxd5 22.Be2 Qxd2 23.Bc4+ Bd5 24.Qe1 (Not 24.Rad1 Qxd1 25.Rxd1 Bxc4) 24...Qxe1 25.Bxd5+ Kh7 26.Raxe1 and after all that, White is only a little bit worse. But who could work out all that over the board?

21...d4! 22.Rab1 Qe6 23.Qc7

White tries the same maneuver he did back on move 18, and it doesn't work this time either. 23.b4 is more thematic, and a better idea.

23...Bc6 24.Qg3 Be5 25.Qg5 Qf6

25...d3 is best, but for some reason Black is resisting playing it.

26.Qxf6 Rxf6 27.b4 d3 28.Bd1 Rb8 29.b5 Bd7 30.Bb3 g5!

The game enters a new phase as White is looking at a pawn avalanche on the Kingside. White's last move may be a little suspect.

31.Rbe1 Rh6 32.g3 Kg7

Campbell: "This allows certain tactics on the a1-h8 diagonal. I thought 32...Kf7 was more accurate."

33.Rf2 Rbh8 34.Ref1?

Should be the losing move. White had to play 34.Rg2.

34...Kg6?

In time pressure Black misses 34...Bxg3! 35.Bc3+ Kg6 36.Bxh8 Bxf2+ 37.Rxf2 Rxh8 38.Bd1 Rh3 and Black is winning.

35.Rg2 Kf7 36.a4 Ke7 37.Bc1 f4 38.gxf4 gxf4 39.Rg5?

Best was 39.Rxf4.

39...Bf6 40.Rxc5 Rxh2

Even deadlier is 40...f3 41.Ba3 Ke8. The position is now wildly tactical and both players miss

improvements.

41.Rxf4 Rh1+ 42.Kg2 Rxc1

Better is 42...R8h2+ 43.Kg3 Re2 44.Rxe4+ Kd8.

43.Rxe4+ Kf8?

43...Kd8 is a safer place to hide the King.

44.Rf4 Bh3+ 45.Kh2?!

45.Kf3 has to be better.

45...Bf1+ 46.Kg3 Rg8+ 47.Kf2 Rg2+

It's tempting to keep hammering away with the checks, but better is the simple 47...Ke7 48.Rc7+ Kd8 49.Rxf6 Kxc7 with an easy win for Black.

48.Kf3 Rg6 49.Ke4 d2 50.Kf5 Bd3+ 51.Ke6 Rf1

52.Rxf1 Bxf1 53.Rc8+ Bd8+ 54.Ke5 Ke7 55.Bd1

Kd7 56.Rc5 Rg5+ 0-1

Black wins a whole rook, so White gives up.

As opposed to the Under-2100 section, I hardly got any games at all from the Under-1800 section, and none from any of the leading finishers. However this one caught my eye – an 80-move game that is four-fifths endgame. Although not perfectly played, it is an interesting example of how positional advantages and tactics work together to create a winning strategy.

Nicolas Dryansky (1415) – Ron Toifel (1651) [B38]

137th New York State Championship Sicilian

Under 1800 section, round 2

Colonie, NY, Sept. 5, 2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.c4 Bg7

6.Be3 d6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.a3

Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bd7 12.h3 Be6 13.Be3 Nd7 14.Qc2

Qc8 15.Nd5 Bxd5

Both sides are playing logically - but I don't think Black recognizes that he's moving toward giving White a Queenside majority - a situation that is unfavorable to him.

16.exd5 b5 17.Rac1 bxc4 18.Bxc4 Nb6 19.Ba2

Qxc2 20.Rxc2 Rec8 21.Rfc1 Rxc2 22.Rxc2 Rc8

23.Rxc8+ Nxc8 24.b4

In fact White has two significant advantages - the Bishop pair and a Queenside majority. Black should not have been in such a hurry to get to this endgame.

24...Bb2 25.a4 Bc3 26.b5 Ba5 27.Kf1 Kf8 28.f4 Ke8

29.Ke2 Kd7 30.Kd3 f6 31.g4 Kd8 32.Ke4 Kd7

33.Bb1 Be1 34.Ba2 Nb6

Looking at this position for a while I determined that a winning plan would be for White to aim for pawn breaks on both sides of the board, where his two Bishops will be much faster than Black's Bishop and Knight. If he plays carefully, winning opportunities will present themselves.

35.Bb3 Nc8 36.Kd3 Ba5 37.h4 Ke8

37...Be1 38.h5 does not improve things for Black.

38.Ke4 h6 39.h5 g5?!

39...f5+ was a better try.

40.Kf5 Kf7 41.Ke4 Ke8 42.Kf3 Kf7 43.Bc2 Nb6

44.Bg6+ Kf8 45.Ke4?

Notice I said "carefully" in the note to move 34. This move is an oversight that allows Black to win the a4-pawn. 45.fxc5 fxc5 46.Bc2 Nxd5 47.Bxa7 and White is still on top.

45...gxf4 46.Bxf4 Nxa4?

Black returns the favor. After 46...Kg7 the Kingside is secure and the a-pawn still falls.

47.Bxh6+ Kg8 48.Kf5 Bd8 49.Ke6 Nc5+ 50.Kf5 a6

51.bxa6 Nxa6 52.Ke4

52.Be8! Would limit the Knight's movement more, and it also sets a little trap: 52...Nc5? 53.Kg6! and Black will be mated in a couple moves.

52...Nc5+ 53.Kd4 Nd7 54.Bf5 Ne5 55.Ke3 Nf7

56.Bf4 Kg7 57.Kd4 Ng5 58.Kc4 Nf7 59.Kb5 Ne5

60.Be6 Nf3 61.Be3 Ng5 62.Bf5 Nf7 63.Kc6 Ne5+

64.Kb7 Nc4 65.Bc1 Ba5 66.h6+ Kh8 67.Kc6 Ne5+

68.Kb7 Nc4 69.g5?!

This doesn't seem like a good idea. I would play a move like 69.Be4 and try to get my King around to d8.

69...Bd2??

Alas, Black mixes up his move order, and so loses the game. After 69...fxg5 70.Bxg5 Bd2 71.Bxd2 Nxd2 he might be able to hold the draw.

70.Bxd2 Nxd2 71.g6!

These two passed pawns spell a speedy doom for Black.

71...Nb3 72.Kc7 Nd4 73.Be4 f5 74.Bd3 e5 75.Kxd6

e4 76.Bc4 e3 77.Ke5

It doesn't matter if White trades his Bishop for Black's e-pawn - one of his pawns will Queen before Black can bring his Knight around.

77...Nf3+ 78.Kxf5 e2 79.Bxe2 Nd4+ 80.Kf6 1-0

80.Kf6 Nxe2 81.Kf7 Nf4 82.g7+ and Black gets mated in a couple moves.

NYSCA's Labor Day tradition returns to Albany in 2016 for another round of excitement and to crown another champion, as NYSCA has done every year since 1878. It will be the 11th consecutive year that the New York State Championship has been held in Albany, and our 138th Championship. It's a tradition, as the next article shows, rich in strength and quality players.

New York State Champions: The Grandmasters

By Karl Heck

Twenty-four players that have been New York State Champions have been named Grandmasters by FIDE. As part of NYSCA's effort to be more inclusive in its Hall of Fame of past greats, as well as inform its membership and chess players throughout the State and beyond about New York's rich chess history, this article will include a brief summary of each Grandmaster, as well as two great players of the pre-FIDE era: former World Champion Jose Raul Capablanca (1910) and Frank Marshall (1900).

A companion piece will highlight other great New York champions that were not Grandmasters, but were icons of New York State chess over the decades.

The list of FIDE Grandmasters with their year or years of winning the New York State Championship is as follows: Grandmasters Carlos Torre (1924), Isaac Kashdan (1935, 1936), Arnold Denker (1938, 1939), Reuben Fine (1941), Larry Evans (1948), Hans Berliner (CCGM, 1953) William Lombardy (1954), Edmar Mednis (1955), Pal Benko (1961, 1962), Duncan Suttles (1964), Kenneth Rogoff (1972), Jonathan Tisdall (1973), Leonid Shamkovich (1976, 1977), Roman Dzindzichashvili (1980, 1990), Maxim Dlugy (1984), Joel Benjamin (1985-1987, 1990, 1992, 1995, 2000-2002), Robert Byrne (1987), Michael Rohde (1988, 1993-1994, 1996, 2002), John Fedorowicz (1991), Alexander Stripunsky (2002), Hikaru Nakamura (2004, 2007), Gata Kamsky (2006, 2014), Alex Lenderman (2008), Giorgi Kacheishvili (2009).

It should be noted that the title rules were changed after the 2002 Championship to require New York State residence in order to become the title-holders, which was not true for some of the earlier players. GM Alexander Ivanov of Massachusetts won the tournament in 2013. Alexander Stripunsky won the tournament as a New Jersey resident in 2012, and eight-time title-holder Joel Benjamin and Marc Esserman of Massachusetts won the tournament in 2010 without becoming titleholders.

Ildar Ibragimov of Connecticut and Alexander Ivavov tied for first in the tournament in 2007, though Hikaru Nakamura won the title by placing third in a very strong New York State Championship. Ibragimov and Benjamin won the tournament in 2006

with 5 ½ points while Teddy Coleman, the youngest champion at the time, won the title.

Jose Raul Capablanca: Somewhat surprisingly, the Cuban is the only former World Champion to hold the New York State title, which was his first major chess title. Capablanca won the 1910 event by going 4-0 in the knockout preliminaries, and then defeated longtime New York chess legend Charler Jaffe in a match, 2 ½-1/2 to win the title. Capablanca was World Champion from 1921-1927 and died on March 7, 1942 at the Manhattan Chess Club. Capa is pictured below.



Frank Marshall: Marshall won the 1900 New York State Championship at the beginning of his high-level career. Marshall founded the iconic New York City club that bears his name in 1915, and was US Champion from 1909 to 1936, a continuous record that still stands. Marshall also captained four US Gold Medal Chess Olympiad teams.

His "Shower of Gold" game is shown below:

Levitsky–Marshall, Breslau 1912: 1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.exd5 exd5 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Bg5 0-0 9.dxc5 Be6 10.Nd4 Bxc5 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Bg4 Qd6 13.Bh3 Rae8 14.Qd2 Bb4 15.Bxf6 Rxf6 16.Rad1 Qc5 17.Qe2 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qxc3 19.Rxd5 Nd4 20.Qh5 Ref8 21.Re5 Rh6 22.Qg5 Rxh3 23.Rc5 Qg3 0–1

Carlos Torre: The Mexican-born founder of the Torre Attack lived much of his life in New Orleans. Before a mental breakdown cut his career short, Torre

won the 1924 US Open and NYS Championships. Torre died in Mexico in 1978.

Isaac Kashdan: Known as “the little Capablanca,” Kashdan won the US Open twice and represented the US five times in the Chess Olympiad, winning nine medals and achieving the fourth-highest winning percentage in the Olympiad in history. Also was an International Arbiter and one of the founders of *Chess Review* magazine, as well as a VP with the USCF and an organizer of the series of Lone Pine chess tournaments in the 1970’s.

Arnold Denker: The namesake of the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the Dean of American Chess won the US Championship in 1945 and 1946. Denker also served on the Boards of USCF, the US Chess Trust and the American Chess Foundation. FIDE made him a Grandmaster in 1981.

Reuben Fine: Fine turned down a chance to play in the first FIDE Candidates over cheating concerns, and moved to a new career as a professor and psychologist of note. Fine wrote *Basic Chess Endings* and other chess books, and won five medals in the Chess Olympiad for the US. Fine also tied for first in the AVRO tournament of 1938, which was the strongest of its day.

Larry Evans: A long-running chess columnist and author of over 20 books, the Manhattan-born Evans also won or tied for first in the US Championship five times and the US Open four times. Known as “the American Korchnoi,” Evans won the 1948 Championship at age 16, at a time when teenagers winning this kind of event was unheard of.

Hans Berliner: The Berlin-born player (really) was a chess and computer star. Through his position as a computer science professor at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Berliner was a pioneer in computer chess. His 1953 New York State win was the first ever by a non-New Yorker. Berliner was a Correspondence Chess World Champion and Grandmaster, and an IM over-the-board. He currently lives in Florida.

William Lombardy: The Bronx-born former priest forever famous as Fischer’s second in the 1972 World Championship match, he is the only World Junior Champion to win his title with a perfect score. Lombardy was a member of seven US Olympiad teams.

Edmar Mednis: The acclaimed Latvian-born writer and player, Mednis came to the US after World War II and wrote 28 chess books and the popular “The Practical Endgame” column, which appeared for decades in *Chess Life* and later in state publications like *Empire Chess*. Mednis lived in Queens.

Pal Benko: The Hungarian-raised Benko defected to the US in 1958, and has been a US chess icon ever since. The former two-time World Championship candidate who gave up his Interzonal place to start Bobby Fischer’s 1972 run, Benko won eight US Open and has the Benko Gambit opening named for him. He has been a columnist in *Chess Life* since 1972, and is an International Master of Chess Composition.

Duncan Suttles: Though California-born, Suttles lived in Western Canada for most of his life, making his way east to win the 1964 New York Championship. Suttles is also a GM in correspondence chess, and tied for first in the 1973 US Open. He also played in the 1965-66 US Championship before assuming sole Canadian citizenship.

Kenneth Rogoff: The Rochester-born GM is known to many as an economic commentator on channels like CNBC. Current a Harvard economics professor, Rogoff was a chess star of the early 1970s who dropped out of high school to become a chess professional at 16. He later returned to school and received a Ph.D. from MIT.

Jonathan Tisdall: Born in Buffalo and raised in Syracuse, the Upstate chess star went on to become Norwegian chess champion in 1987, 1991 and 1995. He is a freelance journalist who has worked a number of major chess events for Reuters.

Leonid Shamkovich: One of the high-profile Soviet defectors of the 1970s, Shamkovich eventually came to Brooklyn and became a fixture in high-level tournaments, as well as writing *Sacrifice in Chess*, a classic of the time. Winning the New York title twice in his mid-50s, Shamkovich was one of the oldest New York champions.

Roman Dzindzichashvili Dzindzi, like Shamkovich, defected in the 1970’s and made New York City his home. A well-known games hustler, Dzindzi played blitz and cards for money between tournaments, and

coached GM Gata Kamsky and GM Eugene Perelshteyn as well as producing instructional books and videos. Dwindzi also won the US Chess Championship twice.

Maxim Dlugy: Soviet-born, Dlugy arrived in the US at age 11. He became World Junior Champion in 1985, and president of the USCF in 1990. He worked for many years as securities trader, Dlugy spent 2 ½ years in jail in Russia before being acquitted. Dlugy has returned to active play in recent years.

Joel Benjamin: The Brooklyn-born GM now only brought his parents into the NYSCA administration, he won the championship more times than any other player. He won all three National Scholastics as a junior, he also won the US Championship three times. Benjamin has also worked as a writer and consultant to IBM for its Deep Blue program.



Robert Byrne: Byrne won the New York Championship at age 59. A philosophy professor during the day for much of his early career, Byrne turned chess professional later in life with outstanding results. Byrne was a Candidate in 1974 and served as the chess columnist for the *New York Times* from 1972 to 2006. Byrne played for nine US Olympiad teams.

Michael Rohde: Rohde won the New York title five times, and the Manhattan player has had a long history of winning events in the Empire State. He won the 2007 US Open, was a previous National Junior High School Champion, and served for 15 years as the Game of the Month columnist for *Chess Life* magazine.

John Federowicz: The Fed was born in the Bronx,

and has represented the US in a variety of international venues. He has won the New York Open, US Open and the World Open, and captained the US Olympiad team twice. He also has written books and articles on chess.

Alexander Stripunsky: A chess professional born in the Ukraine, Stripunsky has won the tournament and title as a New York resident, and the tournament as a New Jersey resident. He is active as a coach as well.

Hikaru Nakamura: One of the top players in the world, the four-time US Chess Champion was raised and coached in White Plains by his father, FM Sunil Weeramantry. Nakamura is a former New York Scholastic Champion, and became a USCF Master at age 10, the youngest of all time when he did it. Nakamura will be a 2016 Candidate for the World Championship.

Gata Kamsky: Kamsky is a former World Championship Challenger who has twice won the New York Championship and served on the NYSCA Board. He is a five-time US Champion, and been in the World Championship Candidates Matches on five different occasions. Kamsky also has a law degree, and has been quite active in the state in recent years. He is shown below in the 2016 New York Championship.



Alex Lenderman: Lenderman emigrated to Brooklyn at age four from St. Petersburg, Russia, he is a former New York State Scholastic Champion as well as a State Champion. Lenderman won the 2008 USCF Grand Prix and the 2009 US Open, and is a regular players in tournaments in New York City

Giorgi Kacheishvili: The Georgian GM is a fixture at the Marshall Chess Club in New York City. He is a chess professional who works as a player and a coach in New York.

GM Gata Kamsky Wins New York International at Marshall Chess Club

by Frank Romano

Players came from all over the world to contest the 8th New York International held from July 15-19 at the Marshall Chess Club, but it was a hometown boy, GM Gata Kamsky, that took top honors. The former World Championship Challenger and 2014 New York State Champion won the 70-player top section outright with an undefeated 7-2 score.

Kamsky was the tournament's highest-rated player with a 2753 USCF rating entering the event, but it wasn't totally smooth sailing for him. He drew in the third round against New Jersey IM Dean Ippolito, and in round five drew Colombian GM Alder Escobar. However, the super-GM won and drew when others lost and moved to the top. Victories over Belarus GM Sergei Azarov and GM Michael Rohde were critical in propelling Kamsky to the top.

Four players tied for second with 6 ½ points: GM Zviad Izoria, GM Michael Rohde, FM Alexander Kalikshateyn and veteran FM Leif Pressman. Kalikshateyn's draw with Kamsky in the last round gave Kamsky the tournament win and Kalikshateyn an impressive tournament performance. The FM gained 47 rating points with an undefeated performance in the tournament, which is almost unheard of at the senior master level in one event.

Veteran FM Pressman went 6-2-1 in the tournament, but won his last three rounds to come back through the field and get to second place. Pressman regained Senior Master status with a 26-point rating gain in the event.

Four players tied for sixth with 6-3 scores: former NYS Scholastic Champion GM Robert Hess, Bulgarian IM Svetlin Mladenov, SM Igor Sorkin and SM John Burke. Hess lost in the last round to Izoria with a chance to tie Kamsky for the top spot. Hess beat Mladenov in the eighth round to keep him out of the big money.

While the New York International has long been organized by the Marshall Chess Club, the tournament was held this year in the club headquarters in order to honor the 100th anniversary of the world-famous club featured in the September

issue of *Chess Life* magazine.

The tournament directors for the New York International were Dr. Frank Brady and Oscar Garcia with assistance from the Marshall's normal staff of Bryan Quick, Jermaine Reid and Keith Espikns.

The New York International had a second weekend for its Under 2200 section, which was held at the Clun from July 23-26. Seventy-five players participated in the unusual "Reserve" section.

The winner of the event was Dutch WFM Anna-Maja Kazarian and longtime local player Dore Sheppard. Both players finished with 6-1 scores, drawing each other in the fifth round. Sheppard took a half-point bye in the third round, while Kazarian drew in the seventh and final round against junior player Wesley Wang, who finished clear third with 5 ½ points. They split \$5,000 for their efforts.

Four players tied for fourth with 5-2 scores: Jessica Regam, George Berg, Olumaseun Bisiriyu-Salam and Theyuan Fan. Regam and Bisiriyu-Salam drew in the last round while the other two players won to move into the tie. Somewhat surprisingly, no regularly-rated player became a Master as a result of this tournament, which is unusual in a tournament of this length and caliber.

Gregory Keener and Jermaine Reid directed this part of the tournament for the Marshall.

The New York International is likely to return to an out-of-club location in 2016, as while the Club has always be organized by the Marshall, the Club hosted it at the Club in order to celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2015. In 2016, that will no longer be the case, so the traditional venue should return.

The Grandmasters and great players who come to the tournament because it is the Marshall, and it is New York City, though will remain. There is no better venue in North America, and perhaps the world, for a true international tournament, and no club like the Marshall to run such an event. It's a truly unique experience on the chess calendar

Open Lines -- tidbits about the chess world by Karl Heck

- Ella Papanek won the Best Game Prize, one of three Scholastic Invitationals held in conjunction with the U.S. Open in Phoenix during early August. Her prize-winning effort is shown below.

National Girls Invitational, Phoenix 2015 Sicilian Defense

White: Ella Papanek **Black:** Kiana Harjiarbabi

1.e4 c5 2.d3 Nc6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 Nf6 6.OO Be7 7.h3 b6 8.c3 e5 9.f5 d5 10.Nbd2 d4 11.Nc4 dxc3 12.bxc3 Qc7 13.Qe1 Nd7 14.Qg3 g6 15.Ne3 Bf6 16.Nh2 Bg7 17.Nhg4 Qd6 18.f6 Bxf6 19.Nxf6+ Nxf6 20.Qf3 Nd7 21.Qxf7+ Kd8 22.Nd5 h6 23.Bxh6 Ba6 24.Bg7 Re8 25.Rf6 Nxf6 26.Bxf6+ Ne7 27.Bxe7+ Rxe7 28.Qf8+ 1-0

Papanek scored 4-2 in the event, and finished in a tie for 7th through 12th among the 46 participants in the National Girls Invitational Tournament.

Joshua Colas, New York's representative in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, also scored 4-2 and finished in a tie for 7th through 13th among the 46 players in that event.

Marcus Miyasaka, New York's representative in the Barber K-8 Championship, scored 3 1/2 -2 1/2 to tie for 15th through 18th place among the 50 players at the event. After getting off to a slow start, Miyasaka won his last two games to finish out with a plus score.

NYSCA provided financial support to assist all three representatives, and thanks the players and their parents for representing New York so well in these events.

- US Chess has rebranded with a new logo and front page for its website. The new logo is shown below, and USCF will be featuring US Chess branding moving forward. The new branding is more in line with other sports federations in the country. The website address remains www.uschess.org.



- The FIDE Chess World Cup featured 128 players, including nine Americans, played for \$1,600,000 and two spots in the World Chess Championship Candidates' Tournament. The tournament is being held between September 11 and October 5 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Among the nine Americans were four current and former New Yorkers: GM Hikaru Nakamura, GM Fabiano Caruana, GM Gata Kamsky and GM Samuel Sevian, the youngest player in the tournament at age 14.

Caruana and Nakamura have already qualified for the 2016 Candidates Tournament by virtue of their first and second place finishes in the 2014-15 FIDE Grand Prix, so the World Championship cycle will have a heavy New York presence in 2016. Viswanathan Anand has also qualified for the Candidates as the loser of the last World Championship match. The winner of the Candidates will play Norwegian GM Magnus Carlsen for the World Championship at a yet-to-be determined location which might be New York City.

Players are seeded by their FIDE rating. Three of the top five players in the World Cup are Americans: Nakamura, Caruana and GM Wesley So, who is seeded fifth. So recently switched to the US Chess Federation from the Phillipines

Sevian and Kamsky earned their spots with last-round results in the U.S. Championship giving the even scores in that event, which was the minimum required to earn a place in Baku.

Kamsky (seeded 47th) lost in the first round to GM Hrant Melkumyan (seede 82nd) of Armenia, 1/2 – 1 ½. The format is two-round mini-matches in the opening rounds, with tiebreaks at rapid speed if the first match is not decisive. Corning native Sevian, seeded 112th and playing in his first championship event, made it to the tiebreaker stage against hometown GM Teimour Radjabov (17), losing 3-1 after splitting the first two games.

Nakamura, a former New York State Champion and New York State Scholastic Champion who is seeded second in the World Cup, has made it to the round of 16. He is the only player to knock out a fellow American, beating California GM Sam Shankland in the second round in overtime, 2 ½- 1 ½, after sweeping out Zambian IM Richmond Phin in the first round. Nakamura had to work nine games in round three before eliminating Russian GM Ian Nepomniachtchi in the Armageddon game, 5-4. Nakamura defeated English Grandmaster Michael Adams in the fourth round before being eliminated by Ukrainian GM Pavel Eljanov in the quarterfinals, 1 ½ to ½.

World Cup, Baku 2015 King's Indian Defense

White: GM Ian Nepomniachtchi **Black:** GM Hikaru Nakamura

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nf3 OO 6.OO Nc6 7.Rb1 e5 8.b4 Be6 9.d3 h6 10.Nd2 Qc8 11.b5 Ne7 12.a4 Bh3 13.Bb2 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Kh7 15.Nf3 c5 16.bxc6 Qxc6 17.Qb3 g5 18.e4 Nd7 19.Ba3 b6 20.Qb5 Nc5 21.Rfd1 f5 22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.a5 Qf6 24.Ne1 f4 25.Rd2 Nc6 26.Nd5 Qd6 27.axb6 28.Qb2 Rab8 29.f3 h5 30.Nc2 g4 31.Rf1 Qg6 32.Rdf2 Rf7 33.Qc1 Bh6 34.Qd1 Rg8 35.fxg4 hxg4 36.gxf4 g3 37.hxg3 Qxg3+ 38.Kh1 Rg4 39.Rh2 Rh4 40.Qe2 Rxh2+ 41.Qxh2 Qxd3 42.Re1 exf4 43.Qh5 Ne5 44.Rg1 Qf3+ 45.Qxf3 Nxf3 46.Rd1 Ne5 47.Nxb6 f3 48.Kg1 Ng4 49.Nd5 Bf4 50.Nxf4 Rxf4 51.Rd7+ Kg6 52.Rd6+ Kg5 53.Rd5+ Kh4 54.Kf1 Kg3 55.Ne1 Ne3+ 56.Kg1 f2+ 0-1

Caruana, who recently returned to playing for the US after playing for Italy for almost a decade, is seeded third in the World Cup. Caruana swept out Tunisian IM Amir Zaibi (126) in the first round, 2-0, and then beat Azerbaijani GM Ruaf Mamedov (67) in the second round in regulation, 1 ½- ½. Caruana then beat Canadian GM Anton Kovalyov (94) in the third round, 1 ½- ½. Caruana lost to another Azerbaijani GM, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (19), 1 ½ to ½ in round four.

World Cup, Baku 2015 Sicilian Defense

White: GM Fabiano Caruana **Black:** GM Anton Kovalyov

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bc1 Nf6 8.f3 e5 9.Nb3 Be6 10.Be3 h5 11.Qd2 Nbd7 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 Qc7 14.c4 a5 15.a4 b6 16.Be2 g6 17.O-O Bg7 18.Rae1 O-O 19.h3 Rfe8 20.g4 Rab8 21.g5 Nh7 22.Qc2 Nc5 23.Nxc5 dxc5 24.Kg2 Qd8 25.h4 Rb7 26.Bd3 Nf8 27.Bf2 Rbe7 28.Bg3 Qd6 29.Re4 Nd7 30.Rfe1 Kf8 31.Qb3 Bh8 32.Qb5 Bg7 33.R4e3 Bh8 34.R1e2 Bg7 35.Be4 Rc8 36.Bc2 Ree8 37.Qb3 Red8 38.Re4 Re8 39.R4e3 Red8 40.Qc3 Kg8 41.Qe1 Rf8 42.Re4 f5 43.gxf6 Rxf6 44.Rxe5 Nxe5 45.Bxe5 Qf8 46.Bxf6 Qxf6 47.Qg3 Rf8 48.Bxg6 Qd4 49.b3 Qd1 50.Re7 Kh8 51.Bd3 Qd2+ 52.Kh3 Qb2 53.Be4 Qa1 54.Qg2 Rf4 55.Qg5 Rxe4 56.Qxh5+ Kg8 57.Rxe4 Qf1+ 58.Kg4 Qg2+ 59.Kf5 Qc2 60.Kg6 Qg2+ 61.Qg4 1-0

Full coverage of the World Cup is available on the Internet Chess Club and at www.chess24.com.

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NYSCA has approved a new way for affiliates and organizers of the New York State Championship and New York State Open to support us. Organizers that offer a significant entry fee discount for the NYSCA events as well as other tournaments that the organizer holds. The State Scholastic Championship, which is the largest funder of NYSCA, is unchanged by this change in membership criteria. It is worth noting that the traditional membership-required model remains in effect, and may be used by any organizer, as has been the case throughout NYSCA's history.

In 2015, membership at the State Championship and State Open will not be required, but members will be offered a \$7 discount on their entry fee to the event. Continental Chess Association (CCA) is also offering a \$5 discount at its other tournaments in New York, including the Long Island Open and Manhattan Open. It should be noted that CCA revived the New York State Open in May in Lake George, and the event has been a success for NYSCA. NYSCA is willing to work with any other organizer on other NYSCA events.

NYSCA wants to work with organizers to expand the discounts. Organizers that offer the discounts will have their events advertised in Empire Chess, posted on the NYSCA web site and advertised through NYSCA's facebook and twitter feeds. By accessing NYSCA's group of committed tournament chess players, the discounts in entry fee will more than pay for itself with increased entries and the ability to obtain entries from further away. NYSCA is also working on internet options for membership verification and purchase.

NYSCA is also looking for Board members. Elections are held in every odd-numbered year, and not only do Directors get to help NYSCA grow chess from Montauk to Niagara, they also have the opportunity to vote in USCF elections. There are elections in Upstate and Downstate New York. Please let us know if you would like to be on the next ballot.

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Draw Offers and Rating

by Neal Bellon (*info@lichessclub.com*)

For non-titled players, there are many philosophies and theories about accepting and offering draws. I want to focus specifically on draw offers with the idea of maintaining or increasing one's rating, rather than any aesthetic aspect of the game.

Before I share my own opinion on this matter, let's explore what some well-respected chess teachers and writers have said about this subject. Some, like IM Jeremy Silman, contend that amateur players should never offer a draw. From a growth standpoint, they argue that nothing will be learned if you accept a draw rather than play on. Psychologically and competitively, they feel that if you never accept a draw you will be a feared opponent who plays the game out to the bitter end.

GM John Emms, on the other hand, in his very intriguing book, *The Survival Guide to Competitive Chess*, states that "I remember a well-known grandmaster once saying that knowing when to offer a draw is a skill that can add a significant number of points to your rating." Think about how often we decline a draw offer, itching for the win, only to lose the game and drop rating points. For me - and I'm guessing it's the same for many of you - these are some of the most painful losses.

While both sides make a compelling argument, I tend to side with the Emms camp. I do hate draws and always want the full point, but I've made some very strategic draw offers (or accepted an offer) that worked out very well, especially against equal or higher rated opponents. One of the great things about playing a higher rated opponent is that you have "draw odds." That is, a win OR a draw will gain you rating points. Offering a draw also puts pressure on the opponent which may cause him to slip up. When a draw is denied, that person is basically saying, "I can win this game because I'm better than you and/or my position is better," and now he has to prove it.

My own view is an edit of Emms' statement: "Always sit down to play intent on winning, but knowing when to offer *or accept* a draw is a skill that can add a significant number of points to your rating." For example, if I have a worse position against a higher-rated player who's in time pressure,

there's a good chance he'll accept my draw offer or offer one himself. Conversely, if my position is better against an equal or lower-rated player, he may accept my draw offer in time pressure and I can minimize the damage. Of course it won't always work out for me, but many times it does. Furthermore, the idea of "playing the game out" because you won't learn anything is absurd. There are generally plenty of instructional positions and ideas up to the point where the draw was agreed. My overriding belief is that a strategy of *never* offering or accepting a draw is misguided.

Speaking of draws, below is a highly instructional game played at the Long Island Chess Club with excellent annotations from Jay Kleinman:

Chinkel, John (1454) - Kleinman, Jay (1868) [D00]
Long Island Chess Club March Open East Meadow (3), 12.03.2015

1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 c5 4.c3 Qc7 5.h3

5 f4 was used by Chajes to draw against Capablanca in 1911.

5...a6

Silly, considering my next move.

6.Nd2 Bd7

If I was playing this, why play ...a6 before? Beats me.

7.Ngf3 Nc6 8.0-0 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Qxe5 11.Nf3 Qh5 12.Nh2 Qe5 13.f4?

Weakening e3 unnecessarily.

13...Qc7 14.Qf3 Bd6 15.b3 0-0-0 16.Bd2 Rde8 17.Rfe1 Ne4 18.Bxe4 Rxe4

Fritz prefers 18.. dxe4 with a larger advantage for Black. I wouldn't think to relieve White of his backward pawn, but computers don't care about dogma.

19.Nf1?

19 c4! takes advantage of Black's method of recapturing on e4. Black would have just a slight edge then.

19...g5?

19...Re6! 20.Qxd5 Bc6 and Black has more than enough activity for the pawn.

20.Ng3

20.c4=

20...g4?

20.. Re6! maintains Black's advantage.
21.hxg4 Re7?
 21.. Re6 is equal. Now White has an edge.
22.e4?
 22 c4+=
22...dxe4 23.Nxe4 Bc6 24.Nxd6+ Qxd6 25.Qf2 Rd7
26.Rad1 Rhd8?
 26...Qg6=
27.Re2?
 27.Be3! just leaves White on top.
27...f5 28.g5 Be4 29.Rde1 Qc6
 29.. h6 gives Black a strong attack.
30.Be3 b6?
 I had to get away from defense and go all in on offense with 30.. h6! Hard to do, though, when one's king appears to be in danger.
31.b4 h6?
 Finally playing ..h6, but now it's too late. 31.. Rc7, a very passive but necessary defensive posture, was needed.
32.bxc5 b5 33.Bd4 hxg5 34.Bf6??
 Chinkel nearly bluffed me here. I started to panic seeing that I couldn't hold the g5 pawn and couldn't put a Rook on the h-file. Further, I couldn't simplify with 34.. Rd1 either. Then I spotted the fly in the ointment.
34...Qxf6

Chinkel now started cursing to himself (though loud enough for people to hear), but quickly composed himself.
35.fxg5 Qxc3 36.Re3 Qxc5 37.R1e2 Rd1+ 38.Kh2 Rh8+
 Should win, but 38.. Qd6+ is mate in 3. I was extremely short on time here and about an hour behind Chinkel!
39.Kg3 Rg8 40.Qf4
 For the life of me I couldn't find a knockout here and with time quickly counting down, I traded Queens.
40...Qc7 41.Qxc7+ Kxc7 42.Rc3+ Kb6 43.Kf4 Rf1+ 44.Ke5 Rxc5 45.Rd2 Bxc2?
 Grabbing one pawn too many. While Black is still winning, this makes the task a whole lot harder.
46.Rd6+ Ka5??
 Returning the extra piece was the only way to win! [46...Ka7!! 47.Rd7+ Bb7 48.Rcc7 Kb6 49.Rxb7+ Ka5 or 49.. Kc5 and Black is out of the perpetual.]
47.Ra3+ Kb4 48.Rb3+ Ka5
 A good example of the benefits of not panicking and keeping composure after a blunder! There was a huge time discrepancy at the end, with Chinkel having 53:58 left while I had just 4:21 remaining. 1/2-1/2

New York State Chess Association, Inc.

2014-15 Treasurer's Report and Adopted Budget

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
Editor Salary	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,900
Magazine Contributors	\$ 750	\$ 460	\$ 750
Printing/Mailing Magazine	\$1,700	\$1,986.51	\$1,800
Plaques	\$ 165	\$ 0	\$ 165
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 75	\$ 67.10	\$ 75
Secretary's Expenses	\$ 125	\$ 128	\$ 125
USCF Membership	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40
Invitational Championships	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 1,200
Webmaster	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 360
Total Expenditures	\$5,815	\$5,641.61	\$6,415

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
Advertising	\$ 200	\$ 0	\$ 200
Membership/Tournaments	\$5,925	\$6,396	\$6,400
Interest Income	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Revenues	\$6,125	\$6,396	\$6,600

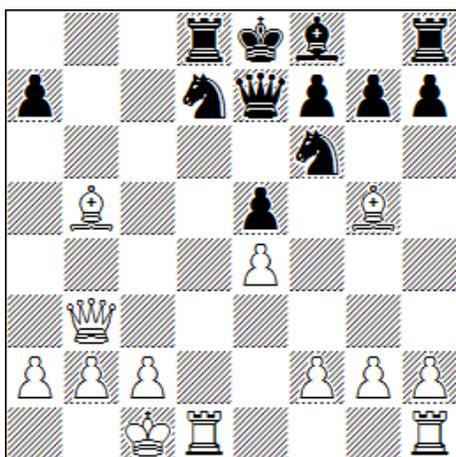
Assets of the New York State Chess Association, Inc. (8/31/15)

Operations Balance	\$7,077.85
Alan Benjamin Builders Fund	\$2,542.12
Total Assets 8/31/15	\$9,619.97

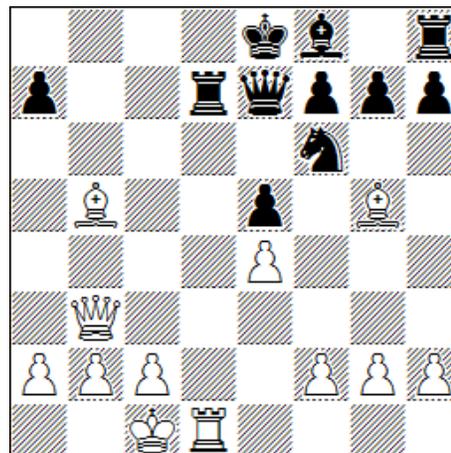
Inactive Pieces: the Positional Column

by Zachary Calderon

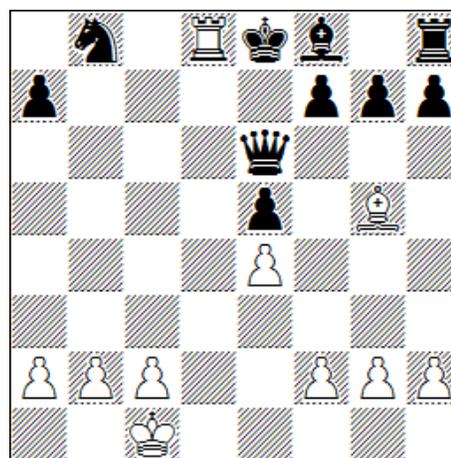
. I remember playing blitz online this one time and I found myself down the exchange. I remember trying to compensate for my material deficit by making every single one of my pieces more active. I then remember thinking to myself, why don't I do this all the time? It is a simple concept, and yet I don't think that we as chess players do it often enough. I want to start this article by looking at a classic, possibly slightly (to say the least) overused example.



Most of us should recognize this position from the famous Opera House game, played by the first unofficial world champion Paul Morphy. Morphy has sacrificed a piece to get to this position. He has Black completely tied up. Every piece of Morphy's is working - except one. The Rook on h1 is completely inactive. If we were to take away that rook from h1, White's position would be no different, correct? He would still have four attackers trained on the Black King. The King is surrounded by two Knights, a Rook, and a Queen. I am not including the Bishop, since it lends no noticeable defense to Black's King. If anything it makes Black's defensive task more difficult, as the King cannot flee to f8 if need be. White is attacking with a Rook, two Bishops, and a Queen. Granted the Queen provides no immediate threat to Black, but she is more than ready to go into position. The point is, Black has four defenders, while White has four attackers. Morphy turns this position from 4-4 in his favor to 4-3 in his favor, by activating his inactive Rook on h1. Here he played the move **1. Rxd7! Rxd7 2. Rd1**



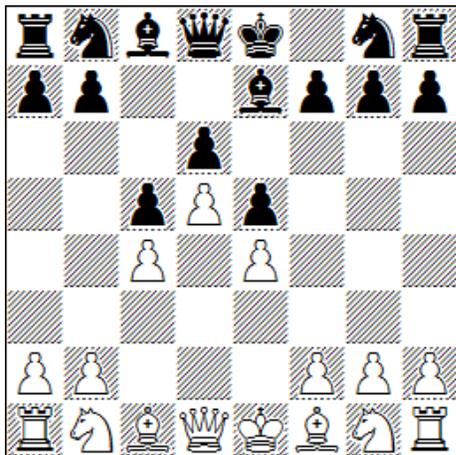
Now what happened? Morphy still has his Rook, two Bishops and Queen attacking, but Black is down a Knight. Now we can say that all of Morphy's pieces are active. The game continued **2...Qe6**. This move unpins the f6 Knight and offers Morphy a trade of Queens. **3. Bxd7+ Nxd7 4. Qb8+!!** Morphy sacrifices his Queen to open the fatal file to the King. **4...Nxb8 5. Rd8#**.



Using his last two pieces, Morphy finishes off the game. Of course this game is exceptionally beautiful in its execution and style, but it offers a few practical lessons as well. The one I love to take away, and the one I use with my students, is activating inactive pieces. Morphy is able to activate all of his pieces, and chip away at Black's defense at the same time.

The next example comes from an opening known as the Old Benoni or the Czech Benoni. It is,

technically, an Old Benoni move order that will nine times out of ten transpose into a Czech Benoni. Our next position is reached after **1. d4 c5 2. d5 e5 3. c4 d6 4. e4 Be7**



Here, White has a choice. **5. Nf3** is the main move, when after 5...Nf6 we transpose back into a mainline Czech Benoni. However, this move order gives White the opportunity to go wrong. As a general rule in the opening, your good Bishop is the one that is *not* on the same color as your pawns. This means that, in theory, White's good bishop is his dark-squared Bishop on c1, and his bad Bishop is his light-squared Bishop on f1. Likewise, Black's bad Bishop currently resides at e7, while his "good" Bishop (I use that term loosely due to the closed nature of the game) still rests at c8.

If White continues with the natural looking move 5. Nc3?, Black can help alleviate his position by playing 5...Bg5!, forcing the exchange of his bad Bishop for White's good Bishop. In truth, there is no way for Black to activate his e7 Bishop. When you cannot activate an inactive piece, it is best to try to exchange it, preferably for an active (or potentially active) good piece of your opponents.

In closing, remember that piece activity is very important. The initiative revolves around it, gambits revolve around it, there is almost nothing in chess that will not link back to piece activity in the end. Activate inactive pieces, and if you cannot activate it, don't let it sit around and do nothing. If you're a general of an army and you have a soldier who drinks lemonade all day and does nothing, are you going to just let him hang around and use up space and resources that could be better used for more responsible pieces? I certainly wouldn't.

Below: IM Manuel Aaron plays in a simultaneous exhibition at the East Greenbush Chess Community on August 22nd. Mr. Aaron, India's first IM and the grandfather of former NYS Scholastic Champion Deepak Aaron, also gave a lecture. The nine-time Indian Chess Champion went 22-1-2 in the exhibition. Over 100 people attended (photo: Bill Matters)



Preito Upsets with Second Straight Win in Watertown by Don Klug

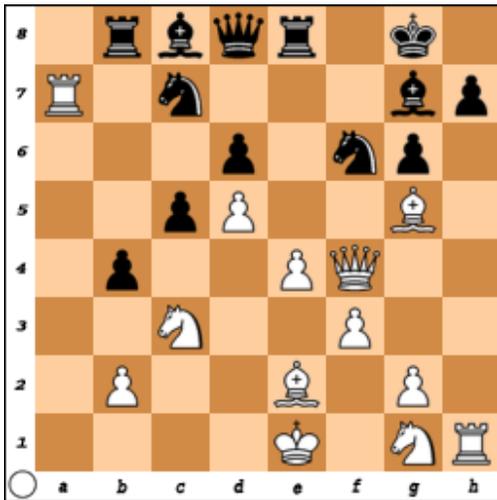
Adolfo Prieto won for the second time this summer over perennial club champion Dr. David Kistler in the Watertown Chess Club's Summer Classic. Mr. Prieto had defeated Dr. Kistler to win the Class Championship in June, ending a winless streak to Dr. Kistler that dated to 2009. Unfortunately, the second upset win did not provide the Summer Classic Title for Mr. Prieto, as he suffered an upset loss to class "B" player Robert Kratzat and a draw to Don Klug.

Dr. Kistler won the Summer Classic RR for the sixth time in seven years with a score of 5-1. Still, the Prieto victory over Dr. Kistler was well played as it was brought about by a deep and spectacular combination that won Dr. Kistler's queen. The win also allowed Mr. Prieto (16-5=4) to maintain a one game lead in the club standings over Dr. Kistler (16-7=2). The game follows:

Prieto, Adolfo (1882) - Kistler, David (2070) [A65] King's Indian Defense

WCC 2015 Summer Classic Watertown, NY
August 11, 2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0
6.Bg5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Qd2 exd5 9.cxd5 Re8 10.f3 Na6
11.Qf4 Nc7 12.h4! a6 13.a4 Rb8 14.h5! b5 15.hxg6
fxg6 16.axb5 axb5 17.Ra7 b4?



Looks to be a natural move for Black, but this allows White a spectacular and deep tactical combination that wins the Black Queen. [The better choice is ... 17...Rb7 18.Rxb7 Bxb7 19.Qh4 b4 20.Nb5 (20.Bxf6 fails for White because... 20...Qxf6 21.Qxh7+ or (21.Qxf6 Bxf6 22.Nd1 ...and White no longer has an

attack.) 21...Kf7 22.Qh4 Qxh4+ 23.Rxh4 and 23...bxc3 wins the Knight.

18.Nb5 Nxb5 19.Rxg7+ Kxg7 20.Bxf6+ Qxf6
21.Rxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qxf6 Ba6 23.Bxb5 Bxb5
24.Qxd6 Rbc8 25.Nh3 Bd3 26.Ng5+ Kh6 27.Nf7+
Kg7 28.Ne5 Rxe5

Forced because 28...Bb5 29.Qxg6+ Kf8 30.Qf7#.

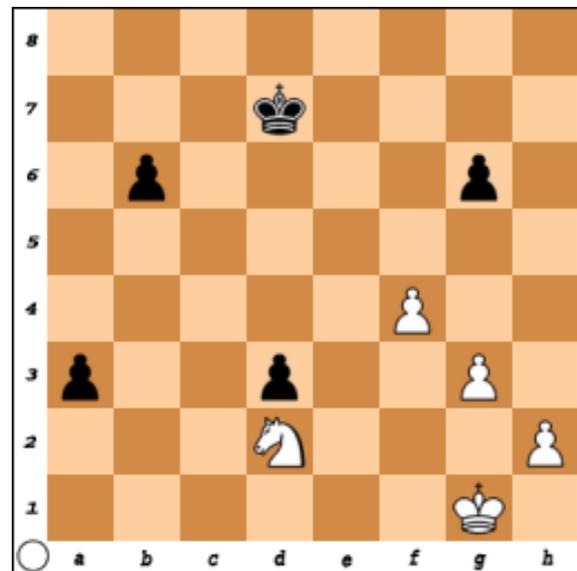
29.Qxe5+

The game is now over, but Black continues to fight to the bitter end.

29...Kh6 30.Qe7 Bc2 31.d6 Ba4 32.d7 Bxd7
33.Qxd7 Ra8 34.e5 c4 35.Qb7 Ra1+ 36.Kd2 b3
37.e6 Rb1 38.Kc3 Rc1+ 39.Kd4 Rc2 40.e7 c3
41.e8/Q cxb2 42.Qe3+ g5 43.Qe6+ 1-0

KRATZAT UPSETS PRIETO!

The game in the fourth round of the Watertown Summer Classic reached this position.



In this position, Mr. Prieto playing White moved 58. g4??., allowing 58...a2, and now the Knight cannot stop both the 'a' and the 'd' pawns. White must bring over the King to manage the Black 'd' pawn, allowing the Knight to deal with the 'a' pawn. Mr. Prieto was at the very end of the game-90 time control, with just seconds left. The winning line is 58. Kf2 a2 59. Nb3 Kc6 60. Ke3 Kd5 61. Kxd3 and Black cannot stop the White Kingside pawns from Queening, effectively ending the game.

Fried Liver Attack Analysis

by Richard Moody Jr.

The Two Knights' Defense is one of the oldest, most complicated and sharpest in chess. Here is one of the favorite continuations at the class level, the Fried Liver Attack the object of study by theoreticians for over 500 years. Since no high-level tests of my innovations exist, in order to test key innovations in the Fried Liver, I relied on practical results against Deep Fritz 14.

White immediately goes after the f7 square in the opening. Black can meet the threat with the dangerous attempt to regain the pawn after **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5! d5 5.exd5 Nxd5?! 6.Nxf7!**

FM Dan Heisman in Chess Life has pretty much ruled out the Lolli as a rapid winning attempt for White after 6.d4 Nxd4! 7.c3 b5 8.cxd5 (Bd3 h6 9.Nxf7! [an idea of Nils-Hero on line---Qh5 hxg5! 10.Qxh8 = Heisman] Kxf7 10.cxd4 exd4 11.O-O Rb8! = to +/- 11...a6?! 12.a4 Be6 13.Re1 Nf6 14.Nd2 c5 15.Nf3 Bd5 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Bxb5 Qa5 18.Bf1! Qb4 19.Bd3 +/-] Qxd5 9.f3! [cxd4? Qxg2 = Heisman] c5 10.cxd4 cxd4 (Here we see what Zachary Calderon mentioned in his last Empire Chess article on material imbalances. Black has only two pawns for the piece but is close to equality here) 11.Nc3 Qc4 12.Ne2 +/-; Black threatens ...f5 with a big pawn center---with two pawns for the piece and a big center, Black has good practical chances to draw.

6...Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 8.Nc3 Ncb4

In ascending order the worst choice for White is 9.a3? or 9.Qe4?! [Black has easy equality with minor winning chance. 9.Bb3 [Unlike the other variations there is a wide envelope of positions where White has three pawns for the piece and the game here

9.O-O +/-

9...c6

Black anchors the Knight and can play Na6/Nac7 in some variations.

10. d4 Qf6

10...Kd6 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Rfe1 +/-; 10...Kd7 11.a3 Nxc3 12.axb4 Nd5 13.Bxd5 cxd5 14.Ra5 +/-

*One popular choice is 10...Nxc2? This leads to a forced win by White: 11.Qe4! Nxd4 12.Bf4 Bd6 13.Bxe5! Bxe5 14.f4 Nf5 15.fxe5 g6 16.g4! Rf8 17.gxf5 Rxf5 18.Nxd5 cxd5 19.Rad1 Rxf1+ 20.Kxf1 Qf8+ 21.Ke2 dxc4 22.Rd6+ +/-; Kd6 is the old main line of Estrin; Jon Edwards in Chess Life recommends 11.Ne4+ Kc7 12.c3 Na6 13.Bxa6 bxa6 14.dxe5 +/-) **11. Qd1!!** (Nils-Hero suggested this is a recommended by Stockfish---Qe2 = e.g. 11...Ke7 12.Ne4 Qg6 13.c3 Bf5 14.f3 Na6 15.dxe5 Kf7! [Houdini 3 Pro recommends Ke8 but Deep Fritz 14 has a simpler pathway to equality] 16.Ng5+ Kg8 17.g4 Bc8 18.f4 b5 19.f5 Qe8 20.Bxd5 cxd5 21.e6 h6 22.Nf7 Rh7 23.b4 Bb7 24.Bf4 d4! 25.cxd4 Qc6 =*

11...exd4

11...Ke7 12.Re1 +/-

12. Ne4 Qf5

12...Qg6---Nils-Hero after a dozen extremely complicated moves wound up with four pawns for the piece and slight advantage White.

13. c3 dxc3 14. bxc3 Kd7 15. Re1 b5 16. Bb3 Kc7

Black has to give back the piece; if 16...Na6 17.a4 +/-
17. cxb4 Bxb4 18. Bd2 Rd8 19. Rc1 a5?! 20. a4! Bxd2 21.Qxd2 b4 22. Qd4! +/-

Black has three options here, but his King position is too loose to equalize, 22...Ra6, 22...g6, 22...Rd7. Black loses at least two pawns in all variations. If 22...Ra6? 23.Qxg7+ Kb8 24.Rcd1 Rf8?! [Qg6 25.Qd4 +/-] 25.Qd4 Qf4 26.Ne4 Qc7 27.Qc5 Rd8 28.Qxa5 Ra6 29.Qc5 Ra5 30.Qc1 +/-.

22...Rd7 23. Rc5 g6 24. Rec1

Fritz decided to sac two pawns to reach an inferior endgame.

24...Nc3?!

It is too easy for White to meet this combination, so it is dubious on a practical level.

25. Nxc3 Rxd4 26. Nb5+ Kb7 27. Rxf5 Rd7 28. Rfc5 cxb5 29. Rxb5+ Ka7 30. Rxa5+ Ba6

At this point I was a clear pawn to the good but had no idea how to win the endgame and only drew so I turned over the endgame to Deep Fritz 14 and had it play both sides of the position. It showed how to convert White's advantage effortlessly.

31.h3!

I played h4 here.

Kb7 32.Re5 Rad8 33.a5!

Fritz shows the winning plan; it creates threats on both sides of the board and ties up Black defensively.

33...Bd3 34.f3 Rc7 35.Rxc7+ Kxc7 36.Kf2 Kc6 37.Ke3 Bf1 38.Ba4+ Kd6 39.Rg5 Rb8 40.Bb3 Re8+ 41.Kd4 Rf8 42.Bd5 Rc8 43.h4 Rc2 44.Bg8 Rd2+ 45.Ke3 Re2+ 46.Kf4 Re7 47.g4 Rc7 48.Ke3 Bc4 49.Bxc4 Rxc4 50.h5 Rc3+ 51.Ke2 gxh5 52.Rxh5 Rc7 53.Rb5 Rc2+ 54.Ke3 Rc3+ 55.Kf4 Rc4+ 56.Kg3 Kc6 57.Rb8 Kc7 58.Rb6 Rc5 59.Rxb4 Rxa5 60.f4 Kc6 61.g5 Ra7 62.Kg4 Kc5 63.Rb1 Kd6 64.Rh1 Kc5 65.f5 Kd6 66.Kh5 Ke5 67.f6 Kd5 68.Kh6 Rf7 69.Re1 Kd6 70.Re7 +-

Thus, after 9.O-O, the Fried Liver appears to be +/-; apparently 5...Nxd5 doesn't quite equalize. There are many pitfalls and White has good losing chances with inexact play e.g.

9.a3? Nxc2+ 10. Kd1 Nxa1 11. Nxd5

11.Bxd5+ Kd7 12.Qg4+ Kd6 -+.

11..Qh4!

White is busted.

12.Nxc7+ Kd7 13. Qf7+ Qe7 14. Qxe7+ Bxe7 15. Nxa8 Kd6! 16. d4 Bf5! 17.dxe5+ Kc5

Now we see the problem with 9.a3; Black just picks up a piece for two pawns with an active King in the endgame. Black exchanged b-pawns, won the White a-pawn and Queened his a-pawn. 0-1:67

Black's position in the 9.Qe4 variation is too easy to play; against an average opponent, I would have played on, but forcing the draw seemed the safest bet. Winning an endgame of two minor pieces versus Rook and pawn is almost impossible against an engine. Once I decided where I wanted to place Black's pieces my game is easy. How can White do anything better; if he doesn't plant the Knight on f6 what other strategy does he have? Surely exchanging Rooks on the f-file is a losing strategy.

9.Qe4 c6 10. a3 Na6 11. d4 Nac7 12. Bf4 Kf7 13. Bxe5 Be6 14. O-O Bd6 15. f4 Bxe5 16. fxe5+ Kg8 17. Qf3

No better is 17.Bxd5 cxd5 18.Qf4 Qe7 19.Qe3 g6 20.Qh6 Qg7 21.Qe3 Qe7 22.Qh6 Qe3 =

17...g6 18. Bxd5 cxd5 19. Ne2 Kg7 20. Qg3 Rf8 21. Nf4 Bf5 22. Rf2 Ne6 23. Nh5+ Kh8 24. Nf6 Rxf6 25. exf6 Qxf6 26. Re1 Qxd4 27. c3 Qb6 28. Qe5+ Kg8 29. Qxd5 Rd8 30. Qe5 Rd2 31. Ree2 Rxe2 32. Qxe2 h5 33.h3 Ng5 34. Qe7 Ne4 35. Qe8+ Kg7 36. Qe7+ Kg8 37. Qe8+ Kg7 38. Qe7+ Kg8 39. Qe8+ 1/2-1/2

White always gets his three pawns for the piece in the 9.Bb3 variation. Whether that is good for a plus is unclear. Even if White gets three connected passed pawns on the Kingside, his winning chances are minimal. With best play we believe the position is equal. Moody-Deep Fritz 14

9.Bb3

This is almost a novelty i.e. not in *ECO, MCO* or *BCO*; White defends c2 prior to playing a3.

9...c6 10.a3 Na6 11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.d4 Be7?!

12...exd4? 13.Bf4 +/-: Kd6 [Nils-Hero] 13.Qxd5+ Kc7 14.Qxe5+ Qd6 15.Bf4 =)

13.c4!

An idea of Nils-Hero on line---O-O Rf8 14.Qg3 Rf5! 15.Qxg7 Bf6 16.Qxh7 Qh8 17.Qxh8 Bxh8 18.dxe5 Rxe5 19.Be3 b6 20.Rad1 Bb7 =.

13...Kd7 14.Qxd5+ Ke8 15.Qxe5 Kf8 16.O-O Bf6 17.Qg3 Qxd4 18.c5?! Qg4 19.Bf4 Qxg3 20.fxg3 Ke7 21.Rad1 Be6 22.Rfe1 Nxc5 23.Bxe6 Nxe6 24.Rd6 Rhd8 25.Rdx6+ Kf7 =

October 10 is National Chess Day!

Where will you be playing?

Check our tournament pages, www.nysca.net and our Facebook page for information on tournaments and events – National Chess Day and any other day!

Mid-Hudson Valley Chess Vassar-Chadwick Chess Club

By Dr. Craig Fisher

The VASSAR SPRING QUICK SWISS was played in April with 10 players, found Eric Horsboll (2008) scoring 3.5 points out of a possible 4 to win the Spring Quick Swiss tournament. Archie Dore (unr) scored 3 points to win the ‘Booster Section’ while Mike Mendez (1649) won the biggest upset prize with a win over expert Ernie Johnson (2040).

FM William Fisher (2450) won the Vassar 3 Round May Swiss with a perfect score of 3 – 0. George Oliveras (1623) won the Booster section and Will Karafellis (1285) won the biggest upset by drawing with Richard Whearty (1573).

The Vassar Summer Solstice, played from June 1 through 22, was also won by FM William Fisher (2451) who had an impressive 4 – 0 score. Richard Whearty (1573) won the Booster section while Will Karafellis (1299) won the biggest upset prize with a win over Richard Whearty.

The Vassar Independence Month tourney had nine players and was won by (guess who?) William Fisher (2460) with another perfect score of 3 – 0. Mike Mendez (1569) won the Booster section and Richard Whearty (1540) won the biggest upset with a win over Hernan Salazar (1779P).

We finished the summer 2015 with The DOG DAYS of SUMMER Swiss played in August with 10 players. Will Fisher (2464) won his fourth tournament of the summer with a perfect 3.0 score. Brandon Wang (1927) won the Booster section.

This summer we tried extra prizes as can be seen by trophies for the biggest upset and to winners of a booster section. However, our turnouts in the summer stayed flat at 9 -10 players. This was a little discouraging as we had 33 players in our 37th annual Dutchess County Championship back in March. This September we are starting our own Grand Prix series of tournaments that will run from September until March. Players will earn a point for every game they play (except Blitz). If they lose they get the 1 point, if they draw they get two points and if they win they get 3 points for that game. The winner will get his or her name on a perpetual plaque called the Vassar-Chadwick Grand Prix. If anyone wants to send new ideas to us, we would be more than happy to entertain them. Thanks, Craig.Fisher@Marist.edu.

Minutes of the New York State Chess Association Board Meeting Sunday, September 6, 2015 – Albany Marriott

Members present: Dorothy Teasley, Phyllis Benjamin (Secretary), Ed Frumkin, Bill Goichberg (President), Sneenivaj Alampalli, Joseph Felber, Harold Stenzel, Sophia Rohde, Karl Heck Treasurer), Polly Wright (Vice-President), Bill Townsend, Brenda Goichberg, David Antonucci, Thomas Jaffry, Ronald Lohrman, Ken Evans, Lenny Chipkin, Steve Immitt, David S. Miller, Alan Kantor, Bill Matters, Ernie Johnson and Charles M. Bryant

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Goichberg and he called on Karl Heck to give the Treasurer’s report which is printed elsewhere in the magazine (page 20),. Our surplus of over \$700 for the current fiscal year is due to the large revenue (\$6 per player) that the 937-player turnout at the State scholastic tournament yielded.

Two points were clarified: members who join at the state championship this year will still be members at the start of next year’s tournament, and since our organization is 501-C3, all donations made to NYSCA are tax-deductible.

Bill reported that he has signed a three-year contract for the State Scholastics with the hotel in Saratoga, and

arranged for a second hotel as well so that if necessary 1,800 children could be accommodated next year for the second weekend in March 2016 (March 12-13). Ideally, the coaches would appreciate it if the tournament could be conducted in one playing room or hotel.

Harold Stenzel commented that the coaches were unhappy that they often had two sections to supervise in two different buildings. Hopefully these new arrangements will improve this situation. Sophia Rohde suggested that a feedback questionnaire be distributed to these coaches at the conclusion of next year's tournament in order to correct issues that are causing problems, along with holding a meeting including Board members at the State Scholastics. Players who enter our tournaments do not have to join the NYSCA instead the organizers pay a fee per player, which is currently \$6. It was discussed, but not approved in the meeting, to raise it \$1 or \$2.

We discussed holding other scholastic tournaments, such as the K-12, etc, and these are open for bidding.

Phyllis Benjamin reported that there was a poor turnout of ballots for the election of NYSCA officers and board members. The results are as follows:

President -Bill Goichberg, Vice President -Polly Wright, Treasurer -- Karl Heck

Upstate Board members elected: Bill Goichberg, Brenda Goichberg, Karl Heck, Shelby Lohrman, Ron Lohrman and Bill Townsend. (There was one write-in: Ken Fisher who was not elected.)

Downstate Board members elected: Phyllis Benjamin, Joseph Felber, Ed Frumkin, Polly Wright, Steve Immitt, Dolly Teasley, Sophia Rohde, Harold Stenzel, Lenny Chipkin, Margarita Lanides, Sunil Weeramantry, and Dr, Frank Brady. (There was one write-in: Virginia Hoffman who was not elected)

Several of these candidates are not current members of NYSCA and should send their dues to Phyllis Benjamin to be reinstated. An observation concerning the lack of youth members on our Board led to a lengthy discussion. A suggestion was made to conduct a meeting at the state scholastics to try to recruit potential members. It was mentioned that Make the Right Move in the Capital Region has such a representative. US Chess has also been moving in that way.

A motion was passed to appoint Sophia Rohde to liaison with the scholastic and educational community to ascertain their concerns. She could also try to locate a candidate for a junior liaison position.

A motion to select representatives to the USCF Delegate Assembly resulted in the appointment of Upstater Harold Scott, Steve Immitt, Shelby Lohrman and Downstater Bill and Brenda Goichberg, Polly Wright, Phyllis Benjamin, Sophia Rohde, Sunil Weeramantry, Carol Jarecki, and Joe Felber. (Ed Frumkin and Dolly Teasley, alternates)

A committee will determine the inductees into the Hall of Fame for 2016. Several names were suggested, both current members and early champions. Criteria will be determined for the selection process.

Future NYSCA tournaments that have been scheduled are:

The State Scholastic in Saratoga on March 12, and 13, 2016

NY State Open in May

NYS Championship in Albany over Labor Day weekend 2016.

Empire State Open in NYC in December, 2015.

Central NY Open, Syracuse, Oct 17 and 18, 2015

Marchand Open TBD in Rochester at the Strong Museum of Play. There will be a \$10 discount for NYSCA members. GM Kamsky will play.

The Quick and Action, Seniors and Women's tournaments have not been scheduled. If anyone would like to organize one of these, please contact Bill Goichberg.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Upcoming NYSCA-Sponsored and Major Tournaments

EVERY THURSDAY Marshall Thursday Action

4-SS, G/25 d5. \$325 b/28: \$100-75-50. U2200, U1900: \$50. EF: \$40, MCC Mbrs. \$20. Rds.: 7-8:15-9:30-10:45. Limit two byes; request by rd. 2. marshallchessclub.org 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

OCT 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28 Rochester Chess Center Saturday Tournaments!

3-SS, G/60 d5. Rochester CC, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. 585-442-2430. Prizes based on entries. **EF:** \$15, RCC members \$13. \$2 less for HS and Pre-HS. **Reg.:** 1-1:45 pm. **Rds.:** 2-4-6. One bye available, request at entry. www.nychess.org. **Also**, Youth tournament, G/30 d5, every Saturday morning 10am-1pm, trophies and prizes. EF: \$5.

OCT. 3 Gemini Chess Tournament. 4-SS, G/50 Hampton Inn, 660 Commack Road, Commack, NY 11725. EF \$45, \$40 in advance. Registration: 8:00-9:45, first round at 9 a.m.. Contact Jason Qian: qianqs@yahoo.com.

Tuesday Night Quads – Brooklyn Strategist

Brooklyn Strategist, 333 Court St., Brooklyn, NY. G/25 d5. Every Tuesday night 7 p.m. **EF:** \$20. 1 bye available. **Prizes:** 1st, 2nd, Under 1800 - approximately 60% payout. Food & drink available onsite. **Contact:** 718-576-3035.

US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

OCT. 8, 15, 22, 29, NOV. 5 5th Long Island CC Fall Open

5SS, G/90 d5. United Methodist Church, 470 East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. **Open to all. \$(b/20 pd. ent.):** \$100-80. Top U-2000, U-1500/unr. \$50 ea. **EF(cash only):** \$35. Non-LICC members +\$10. UNRATED FREE! **Reg.:** 7:15 – 7:30 PM, no adv. ent., **Rds.:** 7:30 PM ea. Thursday. 2 byes 1-5. Skittles rm. **Info:** www.lichessclub.com.

OCT. 20, NOV. 17, DEC. 15 Marshall Masters at the Marshall Chess Club. 4-SS, G/25 d/5. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. Open to players rated over 2000 plus all players scoring a plus score at any MCC Open or Under 2300 event since the last Masters. EF: \$40, members \$20, GMs \$10 (returned on completion of tournament). \$500 Guaranteed 170-130-100. Top Under 2300 \$100. Special prize for biggest upset. Reg.: 6:15-6:45. Rounds.: 7-8:15-9:30-10:45 p.m. Limit two byes.

US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

OCT. 3 20th Annual Arkport Open

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

4SS, Rds. 1 & 2 G/60 d5, Rds. 3 & 4 G/90 d5. Arkport Village Hall, 6 Park Ave., Arkport, NY 14807. **\$GTD:** \$200 - 100, **\$B/25:** U1800 and U1600 each \$100 – 50. **EF:** \$30 cash at site. **Reg.:** 9-9:45 a.m., 10/3/15., **Rds.:** 10, 12, 2:15, 5:30. **Director:** Ronald Lohrman. **Info:** 607 661 4295. **Ent:** F. K. Harris, 1 Northridge Dr., Arkport, NY 14807.

US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

OCT. 10 Jefferson County Championship & Open Chess Tournament - National Chess Day

4 -SS, G/75 d5, Half pt. bye 1-3. Sponsored by Watertown Chess Club, see web site at www.watertownchessclub.com. **Loc:** American Red Cross, 2nd floor Conference Rm., 203 N. Hamilton St., Watertown, NY 13601. A United States Chess Federation Event, US Chess membership required. **\$125 Prize fund b/12** total paid entries. \$75-\$25, class \$25. Reg.: 8:30-9:20 AM, **Rds.:** 9:30 AM, 12:15, 3:00 and 5:30 PM. **EF:** \$25 (\$22 for WCC members), send to Don Klug, 518 Sherman St., Watertown, NY 13601. D. Klug 315-785-8800.

US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

OCT. 17-18 2nd annual Central New York Open

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)

5SS, G/90 d10. Hall of Languages, Syracuse University, S. Crouse Ave., Syracuse 13210. **\$2500 guaranteed** prize fund. In 3 sections. **Open:**\$500-300-200, top U2100/Unr \$210. **Under 1900:** \$300-150-70, top U1700 (no unr) \$160. **Under 1500:** \$200-100-50, top U1300 (no unr) \$110. **Unrated** may not win over \$150 in U1500. **Mixed doubles:** \$150 bonus to best male/female combined score among all sections. Team average must be under 2200; may play in different sections; teams must register by 2 pm 10/17. **College team prizes:** Plaques to first 3 teams based on top 3 scorers from school among all sections. **Top 2 sections EF:** \$68 online at chessaction.com by 10/14, \$75 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 10/12, \$72 if check mailed by 10/8, \$80 at site, or online until 2 hours before game. Online entry \$5 less to NYSCA members (may join with entry). **U1500 Section EF:** all \$20 less than above. **No checks** at site, credit cards OK. **GMs, IMs & WGMs** free, \$70 deducted from prize. Re-entry \$40; not available in Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. **Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds. Sat 10, 2 & 6, Sun 10 & 2. **Bye:** all, limit 2; must commit before rd. 2. **HR:** See www.chesstour.com/cnyo15.htm. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com(online entries posted instantly).

US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

NOV. 14 Inaugural Seneca Lake Open

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

Geneva Events Center, 35 Lakefront Dr., Geneva, NY 14456. 4 Round Swiss, G/60 d5 first 2 rds and G/90 d5 last 2 rds. **3 Sections:** Open, U1800, U1200. **EF:** \$40 all sections, \$25 youth under 18, Add \$5 at door. \$1000 Guaranteed. **Open:** 250, 150, 100; **U1800:** 150, 100, 50; **U1200:** 100, 60, 40. **Rds.:** 10, 12, 2:15, 5:30. Entries to Jonathan Porschet, 191 White Springs Rd., Geneva, NY 14456. Checks to Geneva Chess. Questions: jporschet@gmail.com/.

NOV. 29: 63rd Binghamton Open

4-SS, G/65 d5. **Prizes:** \$300 b/24. **Open-**\$100-\$60-\$30; **Reserve-**\$50-\$40-\$20 (U1700). **Trophies:** 1-3 Reserve section. **Advance Entry: EF's Reduced!** Open-\$20 Reserve-\$15 (U1700) \$5 more on site-cash only on site. **Schedule:** Registration on site 8:45-9:15 AM. **Rounds:** 9:30-12Noon-2:30-4:45. **Free** chess set & board to all new players under 18 years of age. **Mail Entry:** checks payable to: "Cordisco's Corner Store", 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 772-8782, cordiscos@stny.rr.com.

A HERITAGE EVENT!

US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

DEC. 11-13, 18-20 99th Annual Edward Lasker Memorial/MCC Championship!

9-SS, 40/90, SD/30 +30. Open to MCC Members and Non-members rated 2200+ US Chess or FIDE, FIDE Title Holders, & Qualifiers from the Marshall Amateur Championship Dec 4-6. FIDE ratings used for pairings and prizes. FIDE rated. **Prizes \$7,500** unconditionally guaranteed! \$3000-1500-1000, U2400 FIDE: \$1000-500, U2300 FIDE: \$500. Title of "2015 Marshall Chess Club Champion" goes to highest-scoring MCC Member. **Entry Fee:** \$200. GMs/Foreign IMs: Free. Local IMs: \$150. \$25 less for MCC members. \$25 more if received 12/11. (Foreign players who play all 9 rounds receive \$75.) **Schedule:** Fri 12/11: 7pm, Sat 12/12: 12 & 6pm, Sun 12/13, 12 & 6pm, Fri 12/18: 7pm, Sat 12/19: 12 & 6pm, Sun 12/20: 12pm. **Byes:** 2 byes available, must commit before round 3; limit 1 bye in rounds 8-9. FIDE GM/IM Norms possible; must play all rounds. **Registration:** Call MCC with credit card, mail check, or online. **Limited to 70 players!** Register early!www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

A HERITAGE EVENT!

US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

DEC. 26-28 OR 27-28 34th annual Empire City Open

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

6SS, 40/110, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-3 G/40 d10). Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Ave. (32nd-33rd St., across from Penn Station), New York 10001. **\$13,000 guaranteed prize fund.** In 6 sections. **Open:** \$1200-600-

300-200, clear or tiebreak win \$50 bonus, top Under 2300/Unr \$500-250. **Under 2200:** \$1000-500-250-125, top U2000/Unr \$500-250. **Under 1900:** \$1000-500-250-125, top U1700 (no unr) \$400-200. **Under 1600:** \$800-400-200-100, top U1400 (no unr) \$300-150. **Under 1300:** \$500-250-125-75, top U1100 (no unr) \$200-100. **Under 1000:** \$200-100-60-40, trophies to first 5, top Under 800, Under 600, Under 400, Unrated. **Unrated** may not win over \$100 in U1000, \$200 in U1300, \$350 U1600, or \$500 U1900. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$600-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible. **Top 4 sections EF:** \$105 online at www.chessaction.com by 12/24, \$115 phoned by 12/22 (406-896-2038, no questions), 3-day \$113, 2-day \$112 if check mailed by 12/17, all \$120 at site, or online until 2 hours before rd. 1. GMs free; \$90 from prize. **Under 1300 Section EF:** All \$30 less than top 4 sections EF. **Under 1000 Section EF:** All \$60 less than top 4 sections EF. **All:** Re-entry \$50, not available in Open. Online EF \$5 less to NYSCA members; \$12 NYSCA dues may be paid with entry fee. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$30, Young Adult \$20, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$30, Scholastic \$20. **3-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am. Rds. Sat 11 & 5, Sun 11 & 5, Mon 10 & 3:30. **2-Day Schedule:** Reg. ends Sun 9 am. Rds. Sun 10, 12:15, 2:30 & 5, Mon 10 & 3:30. **Half point byes** available all rounds, limit 2 byes, Open must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 4. **HR:** \$159-169-179 plus required \$15/night facility fee, 1-800-223-8585, 212-736-5000, reserve by 12/7 (earlier is better) or rate will increase, ask for Continental Chess Association rate. Facility fee includes high speed wireless in room, unlimited local & long distance calling, and unlimited use of Ballys Total Fitness located next door to the hotel. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. **Questions:** chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at www.chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Sunday 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

JAN. 1 Marshall New Year's Ridiculousness Insane Person Championship!

10-SS, G/25 d5. **\$1,317 Gtd:** \$546-219-17-2-1, U2237: \$173, U1926: \$154, U1624: \$121. "Brilliancy Prize?!": \$84 to the player scoring best overall in games where they open 1.g4 or 1...g5. (Bonus Prize: "Shoot the Moon": \$179 to the player who draws all 10 games; only 1 prize!) **EF:** \$79, MCC Mbrs \$48. GMs Free, \$23 reduced from prizes. (Re-entry: \$31.) **Reg.:** 10:15-10:45am. **Rds.:** 11am-12:15-1:30-3:00-4:15-5:30-7:00-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. 4 byes available, request at entry. Proper attire appreciated. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

AN AMERICAN CLASSIC!

A HERITAGE EVENT!

US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX!

JAN. 9 OR 10 OR 9-10 Kasparov Chess Foundation presents the 50th Annual Greater NY Scholastic Championships - Since 1966, US Chess Longest-Running Scholastic!

Beautiful hotel site: NY Marriott Hotel At Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams Street (near Borough Hall), Brooklyn, NY. Nearby subway stations: Jay Street Metrotech (A, C, F & R trains), Hoyt Street (2 & 3 trains), Borough Hall (4 & 5 trains), Court Street (R train). **HR**\$149, call 877-513-6305 or 718-246-7000 by 12/18 (rooms may sell out early), mention chess. **In 14 sections!** Each section has its own age, grade and rating requirements (Championship sections open to all who are under grade and age limits). The **5 Championship sections** are each **2 days**, 6-SS, G/60 d/10, Rounds 10 am-1-4 pm Sat-Sun. Awards ceremonies about 6:30 pm Sun. The **9 non-Championship sections** are each 1-day, G/30 d10: Junior High Under 1000, Primary Under 1000, Primary Under 500, and K-1 Under 400 are **Saturday:** 10 am-12:1:30-3-4:30 pm; Awards ceremonies about 6 pm. High School Under 1900, High School Under 1200, Elementary Under 1400, Elementary Under 1000 and Elementary Under 600 are **Sunday:** 10 am-12:1:30-3-4:30 pm, Awards ceremonies about 6 pm. **All 3 Primary sections** open to grades 3/below born after 1/9/06. **1. Primary Championship** (Sat-Sun), EF \$58.30 postmarked by 12/18/15. **2. Primary Under 1000** (Sat), EF \$58.20 postmarked by 12/18/15. **3. Primary Under 500** (Sat), EF \$58.10 postmarked by 12/18/15. **Both K-1 sections** open to grade 1/below born after 1/9/08. **4. K-1 Championship** (Sat-Sun), EF \$59.30 postmarked by 12/18/15. **5. K-1 Under 400** (Sat), EF \$59.20 postmarked by 12/18/15. **Both Junior High sections** open to grades 9/below born after 1/9/00. **6. JHS Championship** (Sat-Sun), EF \$56.30 postmarked by

12/18/15. **7. JHS Under 1000** (Sat), EF \$56.20 postmarked by 12/18/15. **All 4 Elementary sections** open to grades 6/below born after 1/9/03. **8. Elementary Championship** (Sat-Sun), EF \$57.40 postmarked by 12/18/15. **9. Elementary Under 1400** (Sun), EF \$57.30 postmarked by 12/18/15. **9. Elementary Under 1000** (Sun), EF \$57.20 postmarked by 12/18/15. **11. Elementary Under 600** (Sun), EF \$57.10 postmarked by 12/18/15. **All 3 High School sections** open to grades 12/below born after 1/9/96. **12. High School Championship** (Sat-Sun), EF \$55.30 postmarked by 12/18/15. **13. High School Under 1900** (Sun), EF \$55.20 postmarked by 12/18/15. **14. High School Under 1200** (Sun), EF \$55.10 postmarked by 12/18/15. **Trophies** each section to Top 12, top 3 Unrateds and Top 6 teams (top 4 scores from same school = team, all on team must attend same school: no combined teams, even if one school “feeds” another). In High School U1200, plaques also to top 2 each grade: 7-9. In Junior High U1000, plaques also to top 2 each grade: 4-6. In K-1 Championship, plaques also to top 6 K/below (you can win both plaque + trophy). All players scoring 4 or more (5 or more in Championship) who *don't* win a trophy receive a medal! Speed playoff for 5-0 or 6-0. **Individual free entry prizes** (each *Championship* section): **Free entry** to *specified* Continental Chess tournaments thru 1/20/17 to 1st, thru 10/10/16 to 2nd, thru 8/25 to 3rd, thru 6/15 to 4th. **Individual free entry prizes** (each *non-Championship* section): Free entry to specified Continental Chess tmts. thru 12/1/16 to 1st, thru 8/25 to 2nd, thru 6/15 to 3rd, thru 4/25 to 4th. **Team free entry prizes:** free entry to specified CCA tmts. thru 8/25/16 to 1st team, thru 6/15 to 2nd team each section! Free entries courtesy of Continental Chess and are valid for CCA tmts. with 100% unconditionally guaranteed prize funds. Free entries do not include NYS Scholastics in Saratoga. See www.chesscenter.cc or www.gnyscc.com or www.chesstour.com for complete details and restrictions. **High School Mixed Doubles** (best male/female 2-player “team” combined score among all **3 High School** sections after 5 rounds) **Bonus Prizes:** free entry to specified CCA tmts. thru 8/25/16 to 1st team, thru 6/15 to 2nd. Team average must be under 2200; Mixed Doubles teammates may play in different sections and may attend different schools; teams must register on-site (no extra charge!) before rd. 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible. **All:** January 2016 official ratings used, except unofficial ratings at uschess.org usually used *if otherwise* unrated. TD reserves right to assign estimated ratings to players with non-USCF ratings. **EFs \$10 extra per player** postmarked 12/19-26. **Entries \$5 less per player if 4 or more from same school in SAME ENVELOPE! Mailed entries:** list name, rating, ID# (non-USCF members enclose dues), school, grade, DOB, address, (**specify section!**). Checks to: **Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553.** If necessary to confirm receipt, enclose SASE. **No mail postmarked after 12/26/15!** All substitutions from advance entry list charged late fee. Switching sections subject to \$15 extra charge. \$15 service charge for each player refund. TD reserves right to reassign sections for advance entries with incorrect or unclear registrations. Limit 2 byes (limit 3 in Championship), commit before rd. 3. **Phone entries:** \$74 by credit card thru 1/4: 406-896-2191 (24 hours: entries only, no questions), no phone entries after 1/4. **Online entries at www.gnyscc.com:** \$55 thru 12/26/15, \$65 12/27-1/4, \$75 1/5-1/7. **Online team entry discounts** thru 1/4 only, no team discounts by phone or at site. **On-site entry fee:** \$85 until 8:30 am, \$100 after 8:30 am; after 9 am you risk not playing rd. 1. Good luck attempting to change entries after 9am. Help with parking: <http://nyc.bestparking.com/neighborhoods/downtown-brooklyn-parking> and <https://www.parkingpanda.com/brooklyn-parking> **Questions, team rooms:** chesscentr@gmail.com, littlehouseofchess@gmail.com or **347-201-2269** (leave message, email is better). Jan 9-10 only: **718-246-7000.** Sets provided by Little House of Chess-- **bring clocks!** W. **Info:** www.chesscenter.cc, www.gnyscc.com. **Note:** Only Championship Sections qualify for US Chess Junior Grand Prix.

MAR 12-13, 2016: 49th New York State Scholastic Championship, Saratoga Springs. See back cover for further information.

www.nysca.net -- your source for New York State Chess Information. Now on Twitter at @nystatechess

A Heritage Event! US Chess Junior Grand Prix!
49th annual NEW YORK STATE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
(out of state welcome) MARCH 12-13, 2016

(Note change: all sections play G/60, d10 both days and start at same times)

6-round Swiss System, G/60, d10, open to grades K-12; top NYS player & team in each section are NY champions. In 10 sections.

High School & Junior High Championships at Courtyard by Marriott, 11 Excelsior Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (2/5 mile from Saratoga Hilton). Other sections at Saratoga Hilton, 534 Broadway (I-87 Exit 13-N, 4 miles north on US 9), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. **Team prizes** based on top four scores from same school; no combined school teams allowed even if one school “feeds” another. Teams of 2 or 3 players allowed, but are at a disadvantage.

Online entry fee at chessaction.com, all sections: \$44 by 2/19, \$54 2/20-3/5, \$60 3/6 to 3/11.

Entry fee at site, all sections: \$70.

High School Championship, open to grades K-12 born after 9/1/96. Entry fee \$48.20 mailed by 2/19. Top NYS Grade 9-12 qualifies for Denker Tournament of HS Champions in Indianapolis and \$400 NYSCA stipend), top NYS grade K-12 Girl qualifies for National Girls Invitational Tournament and \$400 NYSCA stipend.

High School Reserve, open to K-12 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$48 mailed by 2/19.

Junior High Championship, open to all in grades K-9 . EF \$47.90 mailed by 2/19. Top NYS grade K-8 born after 9/1/00 qualifies for Barber tournament of K-8 Champions and \$400 NYSCA stipend.

Middle School Reserve, open to K-8 under 1000 or unrated. EF \$47.80 mailed by 2/19.

Elementary Championship, open to all in grades K-6. EF \$47.60 mailed by 2/19.

Elementary Intermediate, open to grades K-6 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$47.50 mailed by 2/19.

Elementary Reserve, open to grades K-5 under 800 or unrated. EF \$47.40 mailed by 2/19.

Primary Championship, open to grades K-3. EF \$47.30 mailed by 2/19.

Primary Reserve, open to grades K-3 under 600 or unrated. EF: \$47.20 mailed by 2/19.

K-1 Championship, open to grades K-1. EF \$47.10 mailed by 2/19.

Postmarked 2/20-3/2: All EF \$10 more. Do not mail entry after 3/2.

Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or paid at site, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17.

Trophies to top 15 players and top 7 teams each section, top 3 unrated in K-1 and each Reserve section, and top U1600, U1400, U1200 (HS), U900, U700 (HS Reserve & Elem Intermediate), U1400, U1200, U1000 (JHS), U700, U500 (MS Reserve), U1300, U1100 (Elem), U500, U300 (Elem Reserve), U500 (Primary), U200 (Primary Reserve, K-1). Speed playoff if perfect score tie.

Free entry to NY State Championship, Labor Day weekend 2016 (Albany), to top player each section, if not already qualified for free entry from another event.

Schedule: *Late registration ends Sat 10 am (not necessary for advance entrants), rounds begin Saturday 11 am, 2 pm and 5 pm, Sunday 9 am, 12 noon and 3 pm, awards Sunday 5:30 pm.*

Half point byes OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd 2.

Hotel rates: \$129-129 at either hotel, Courtyard 866-210-9325, Hilton 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, two nights minimum, reserve by 2/6 or rate may increase; hotels often sell out a few months before the deadline. Free parking at Courtyard; free parking for overnight guests at Hilton. 7 days notice required for room cancellation.

Special car rentals: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633. **Online entry:** www.chessaction.com.

Mail entry: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills, NY 12577. Include name, rating, US Chess ID, USCF expiration (non-members enclose dues), section, school, grade, birth date, address of each player. Checks payable to Continental Chess.

\$15 per player service charge for refunds. **\$10 extra to switch** sections, all substitutions from advance list charged \$70. **Questions:** DirectorAtChess.US (At = @), 347-201-2260. **Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied. **March official ratings used** (except unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated). Director reserves right to assign estimated rating to players with non-USCF rating.