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Ads and submissions must be received by the fifth of the month for the items to appear in the next issue:

June 5 for the July issue; July 5 for August.

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Front Cover

Newly-minted National Master Yiding Lu at the Harmon Memorial. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover

Selina Cheng with her new best friend at the Detective Cookie Chess Classic. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. Mail to:

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<https://www.idahocheessassociation.com/>

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Adult	1 year	\$ 30.00
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Junior	1 year	\$ 24.00
	<i>Age U/21 at expiration</i>	2 years \$ 43.00
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	<i>Age 65 or over</i>	3 years \$ 65.00
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Idaho Scholastic Chess Champion James Wei taken at the Idaho Scholastic Championship March 16, 2024. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Yiding Lu

(Washington's Newest National Master)

Ani Barua

Congratulations to Yiding Lu of Bellevue, Washington, who recently became Washington State's newest National Master! Yiding achieved a US Chess rating of 2227 as a result of winning Scheveningen Group three of the 1000GM April BonaFIDE and Scheveningen Tournament, held in San Jose, California, April 20-21, 2024.

Along the way, Yiding scored clutch wins against Cesar Zuluaga (2268), Diego Blandon (2228), Luis Rodi (2257), and Arturo Morales (2214).

Congratulations, Yiding!

**IM Luis Rodi (2257) –
Yiding Lu (2190) [C41]**
1000GM April BonaFIDE
and Scheveningen

San Jose, CA (R3), April 20, 2024
[Yiding Lu]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7
5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Re1 c6 8.a4 h6
9.h3 Re8 10.a5 Qc7 11.Ba2 Rb8 12.Be3
b5 13.axb6 axb6 14.d5 cxd5 15.Nxd5

Nxd5 16.Bxd5

16.Qxd5 Rf8 and White's queen becomes a target.

16...Nf6 17.Bb3 Bb7 18.Nd2?! d5!?

A standard reaction against a passive move. Now I instantly equalize and gain the initiative.

19.exd5 Bxd5

19...Nxd5 20.Qg4 I didn't like White's menacing white bishop.

20.Bxd5 Nxd5 21.Nf1 Rbd8 22.Qe2 f5!

Preparing a kingside invasion.

23.Bd2 Bc5 24.c4 Nf6 25.Be3 f4 26.Bxc5 Qxc5 27.Rad1 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 e4 29.b3

[Diagram top of next column.]

A critical moment. Now I thought my advantage was very great and around -2 but when I searched for ways to break through, I found nonconcrete ways.

29...Qg5

I decided to keep control. 29...f3? 30.gxf3 Qf5 31.fxe4 Qxh3 32.f3=



Position after 29.b3

30.Kh2 Re5?!

Bad move, but I could not find a good continuation. 30...Nh5! 31.Rd5 f3 32.gxf3 Qh4 33.fxe4 Nf4! 34.Qe3 Nxd5 35.cxd5 and White's pawns are rather fragile.

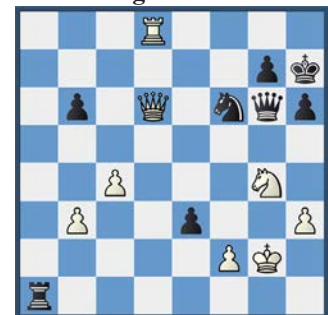
31.Rd4 Qf5 32.Kg1 f3

I realized that I needed to do something.

33.Qd1 Qg6 34.Rd8+ Kh7 35.Ne3 fxe4 36.Qd6 Ra5 37.Ng4

Now if you check the computer for the past moves, you can see we have made some pretty bad mistakes, but the reason I chose this game is for the following moves. By the way, we were going into time trouble, and it was becoming very complicated.

37...Ra1+ 38.Kxg2 e3!!



Position after 38...e3

I quickly calculated this and calculated it works out. Now this is a very complicated position and there are numerous variations that you can analyze on your own if you want, but I'll give you a basis summary.



Yiding Lu (R) at the San Jose event. Photo credit: Juan Cendejas.

39.Qe5

39.fxe3 Qe4+ 40.Kf2 Ra2+; 39.Qd4 Nxf4! 40.hxg4 e2! 41.Qxa1 Qxg4+-+; 39.Qe6 exf2 40.Kxf2 Nxf4+ 41.Qxg4 Qf6+

39...Nxf4! 40.Qxa1 Nxf2+

40...Ne5+ 41.Kf1 e2+ 42.Kxe2 Qe4+ 43.Kd2 Nf3+ 44.Kc1 Qe1+ 45.Kb2 I could not find a win.

41.Kf3

41.Kf1 Nxf3-+; 41.Kh2 Qf5 42.Qa8 (42.Qf1 Qf4+) 42...Qe5+ 43.Kg2 e2 44.Rh8+ Kg6 45.Qc6+ Kg5 was my thinking.

41...Qe4+ 42.Ke2

Alas, the main line is not played. 42.Kg3 Nh1+ 43.Kh2 e2 44.Qe1 Qf4+ 45.Kg2 Ng3 46.Qb1+ Qe4+-+

42...Nxf3-+ 43.Rf8 Nf4+ 44.Rxf4 Qxf4 45.Kd3 Qf2 46.Qb1 Qf5+

Now I acknowledge that there are numerous flaws, but this was probably one of my most fun games that I've ever played.

0-1



*Yiding Lu contemplates his next move against David Zhou at the Harmon Memorial.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

WA Summer Bughouse Championship



Saturday, June 15, 2024

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

Contact: Josh Sinanan,
WCF President, 206-769-3757
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Online registration and payment
deadline 5pm on Friday, June 14, or else register at site.

Schedule: At-site registration:
Sat 5-5:45pm.

Rounds: Sat. 6 PM, 6:30, 7, 7:30,
8PM. Awards ~ 8:30 PM or asap.

Format: A 5-Round double Swiss in two sections: Mishra Open & Tang K-6 Scholastic.

Time Control: G/5; +0.

Entry Fee: \$25 if postmarked or online by 6/8, \$30 by 6/14, \$35 at-site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

Prize Fund: \$640 (based on 25 paid teams).

Team Prizes (per section):
1st - 3rd: \$100-\$80-\$70.

Special Prizes (per section):

Best Dressed: \$20, Biggest Upset Win: \$20,
Best Team Name: \$10, Sportsmanship: \$20.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

Memberships: No memberships required.

Rating: Unrated. Highest of current US Chess or NWSRS rating will be used to determine average team rating and pairings.

Rules: The tournament will follow current US Chess published bughouse rules, linked [here](#).

Interview With Bruce Pandolfini

Ken Lee



“Just because a computer can beat the best player in the world, doesn’t mean that interest in the game is going away.”

Let’s remember, chess is not an abstract, impersonal game. It’s a vibrant, human game.”

Bruce Pandolfini is a legend in the world of chess. Few individuals can claim to be a part of so many of the key inflection points in the history of chess. For over five decades, Pandolfini has touched the lives of millions of people around the world through his work as an author, coach, and film/tv consultant.

I had the opportunity to chat with Pandolfini from his apartment in New York via Zoom.

Ken: Bruce, do you see any particular patterns regarding the ebb and flow of the interest of chess over the decades?

Fischer vs Spassky

Pandolfini: Well, the Fischer-Spassky match in 1972 was probably the greatest spectacle in the history of chess.

I was working at the Strand Book Store in Manhattan, and I happened to meet a producer from WNET, a PBS affiliate. The station was assigned to cover the match.

The producer was buying a stack of chess books, and he started peppering me with questions about the game. I politely answered his questions.

He must have liked what I had to say, because the very next day he called me and asked me to be a TV commentator, assisting Shelby Lyman, for the Match of the Century.

Shelby was a strong chess master and one of the few chess coaches during those days earning a living at it.

I was only 24 years old at the time.

Even though I loved chess, I had absolutely NO experience doing commentary about chess or being on TV.

That serendipitous encounter turned out to be a defining moment in my life.

After the Fischer-Spassky match, I recall that membership at clubs such as the Marshall Chess Club and Manhattan Chess Club practically quadrupled.

But the surge in interest in chess was superficial. The frenzy centered around Fischer’s achievement and public attention. In the press, it was portrayed that Fischer was taking on the Soviet system, Henry Kissinger, and all that.

But it wasn’t as meaningful or long lasting because the excitement was based on Fischer and not the game of chess itself.

There’s no doubt that Fischer had a big impact on the game, but after he failed to defend his title against Karpov, interest in America surely waned.

Ken: What happened to those recordings of your commentary of those historic games from 1972?

Pandolfini: Unfortunately, almost all the footage was destroyed, mainly for insurance purposes. There are only bits and pieces here and there.

Scholastic Chess

I think a big boom in scholastic chess occurred after the release of Fred Waitzkin’s outstanding memoir in 1988, *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, and the subsequent release of the Paramount film in 1993.

You know, there always has been this trope that primarily old white men—possibly smoking cigars—played chess.

Well, *Searching for Bobby Fischer* shattered that myth and showed that not only kids were involved in chess, but, in fact, some of the best players in the world

were young people.

Searching for Bobby Fischer showed something else. That a kid could love chess and be entirely healthy in mind and body, even excelling at sports and athletics.

Josh Waitzkin, the central figure of the book and film, was exceptional at chess, and yet played all kinds of sports. Ben Kingsley portrayed me in the film. He did a very good job, but I’m a much better baseball player than he ever was.

Waitzkin went on to become a champion of Tui Shou (Pushing Hands), which is a discipline in Kung Fu.

The Queen’s Gambit

The Queen’s Gambit is another matter altogether.

I worked on the original manuscript as a consultant for Random House, starting in the summer of 1982.

I met with Walter Tevis, the novelist, and his editor, Anne Freedgood. They asked me to review the chess in the book. In that first meeting, I came up with the title, *The Queen’s Gambit*. I think it was the reason they hired me.

This book and film broke barriers because they highlighted something I knew all along. Specifically, that women could be just as competitive as men in chess.

The Queen’s Gambit premiered on Netflix in October 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We had no idea that so many people would be drawn to the series. I think it’s been streamed more than 65 million times, and it still continues to be a fan favorite.

It’s a great story, but also the actors played a huge part in the success of that series.



*Bruce Pandolfini (L) on the set of The Queen's Gambit with Anya Taylor-Joy.
Photo provided by Bruce Pandolfini.*

Anya Taylor-Joy was spectacular in portraying Beth Harmon.

As an actor portraying chess, you don't have to be great at the game. You just have to look like you are.

You can tell right away if someone has had significant experience playing chess simply by how assuredly they grab the pieces. I created the original 92 chess scenarios and was on set to teach the actors how to move the pieces like real chess players. Garry Kasparov joined the team early on, brought his great insight and brilliance to the project, and we were wonderfully backed up by two marvelous techs, Iepe Rubingh and John Paul Atkinson, both of whom should get a good deal more credit than they've been given.

The Rise of AI and the Internet

Certainly, the rise of AI and the internet have had a huge impact on chess.

These days, you can play chess any hour of the day and instantly find challenging opposition on websites like chess.com.

Also consequential has been the proliferation of chess school programs throughout the USA and the world. The number of new fans is staggering.

When you have all these youngsters learning the game, they are going to absorb ideas and methods of reasoning that should stay with them throughout their lives.

Ken: What about the state of chess books?

Pandolfini: When I was first getting into chess, it was said there were more books published on chess than all other games combined. If anything, even more chess books are being produced these days.

What's more, with the upsurge in self-publishing, the variety of chess books is growing even faster. With self-

publishing and digital books escalating, you can have all kinds of people with unique insights and creative ideas getting their work published.

I tell my students that with all these great tools to learn about chess, you now have excellent opportunities (paraphrasing Isaac Newton), to stand on "the shoulders of giants" by reading books about great historic games and studying classic works on chess strategy.

There are so many great chess books out there, but here's a list of some my favorites.

My 60 Memorable Games by Bobby Fischer

Great Moments in Chess by Fred Reinfeld

Self-Taught Chess by Milton Finkelstein

New Ideas in Chess by Larry Evans

Ken: What other key inflection points have there been in chess?

Pandolfini: One thing we shouldn't overlook was the major impact on chess interest ensuing from the Kasparov vs Deep Blue match of 1997. (Deep Blue was the IBM computer and program specifically designed to play chess.)

It was front page news.

Curiously, it was reported at the time, and wrongfully assumed, that computers had finally become better than the top human chess players. But that wasn't entirely true.

Kasparov did not play his best during the match. Even though he lost, he was still the superior player at that point. But the public didn't realize that.

Ken: What do you think about the rise of interest in chess among young people?

Pandolfini: These days, more young people are getting involved in chess than ever before, and the quality of play is ostensibly better than ever.

Think back to the late 1950s. Bobby Fischer received his Grandmaster title at the age of 15 years six months. That was an extraordinary thing, beating Boris Spassky's record by almost three years.

Since then, maybe fifty players have surpassed Fischer's record. Now what does that mean? Are they really better than Bobby Fischer?

Well, yes and no.

To be sure, the increase in ratings of the top players can't be dismissed. It must mean something.

But if you gave Fischer or Capablanca the tools we have today, I think their competitive drive would propel them to contend at even higher levels than they achieved in the past. In Capablanca's case, for example, he might not have given out so many draws summarily if he realized fifty plus years later his rating and ultimate standing in the chess community would be impacted by those thoughtless draws.

Ken: What do you think about the common tropes in film and TV of the chess community being eccentric or having poor social skills?

Pandolfini: I'm a chess consultant and so it's my job to be of service to the filmmakers. I try to do my job, being accurate on chess without interfering with their aesthetics.

We must keep in mind, the depicted art is cinema, not chess. Chess is just the leitmotif of a movie or tv show whose main theme may be about something else.

Of course, I don't want the producers of film to abuse the game of chess, placing pieces on idiotic squares and such. But for the most part, I've had the benefit of working with very intelligent movie and television people—artists who want to create the best productions possible at all levels.

That doesn't mean they always take my advice or give me credit. I've been involved in some productions where my advice was ignored and I didn't receive acknowledgement, such as my work on the 1995 film *Assassins*. They did, nonetheless, pay me a lot.

Of course, the sensational accounts about Bobby Fischer or Paul Morphy going mad have captured the public's imagination, but their stories are the exceptions. Chess is played by millions of people who are quite happy and functional, as most chess aficionados know.

Ken: What does it take for kids to be successful in chess?

Pandolfini: Well, I've said this before. There is no one quality that must stand out. But generally, for kids to be successful in chess, it would be great if they have two things going for them.

They would certainly profit from having both "the fighter instinct" and a real love for the game.

Studying chess is helpful, but playing it is more important. Kids should play and enjoy the experience fully.

I hate to see parents impose chess upon their kids, especially if they're doing it supposedly to help kids with their future school applications.

Parents who push their kids into chess because they think it will help them get into Harvard are instilling wrong values.

Ken: What is the current state of chess coaching?

Pandolfini: First, I'd like to distinguish between teaching and coaching. They are not the same. When you teach, you try to instill basic knowledge and skills. When you coach, you try to prepare and improve students for competition.

When I started, there weren't many chess teachers, and almost none of them were making a living. I became one of a handful of teachers in America making a living teaching and coaching chess.

Back in those days, the best chess teachers and coaches were largely intuitive.

Through the years, however, the leading American chess educators also became more scientific. They've adopted techniques from Russia and Europe. Of course, there are many more systematic and technical tools at our disposal now because of software and the internet.

So today the best chess coaches are the ones who are both artful and scientific.

I often recommend that, if you're studying chess just to learn more about it, and if you can afford it, try taking lessons from several different people.

You'll probably expand your horizons by getting different perspectives. It should be interesting to experience the little nuances and subtleties that distinguish each coach. If you can learn one or two things from a lesson, and have some fun doing it, then you've spent your time wisely.

Ken: What do you think about the rise of AI in chess specifically?

Pandolfini: People have been talking and debating the role of computers in chess for years. Some people have said that the ascendancy of AI, and the fact that some computers can beat Magnus Carlson, would dissuade the rest of us from playing chess.

That's just not the case. Before AI became a factor, could many chess players have beaten Kasparov or Fischer? I don't think so. But that didn't discourage most of us from playing.

Ken: How can our community of parents, coaches, and students contribute to the ongoing success of chess?

Pandolfini: If you love chess and want to be part of it and see it grow, just put it out there. Talk about chess wherever and whenever.

Form clubs. Make it part of school activities. Get it into the libraries. Show people that you love the game. You don't have to do much more than that.

Love chess and it will always love you back.



SEATTLE SUMMER KICKOFF

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

LAKESIDE UPPER SCHOOL: 14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125

CO-HOSTED BY WCF + CHESS MATES FOUNDATION

FORMAT:

A 5-Round G/25;
+5 Swiss
tournament in
four sections:

K-3 U800

K-3 Open

4-12 U1000

4-12 Open

SCHEDULE:

Rd. 1 - 9:00am

Rd. 2 - 10:30am

Rd. 3 - 11:45am

Lunch Time

Rd. 4 - 1:15pm

Rd. 5 - 2:30pm

Awards ~ 3:45pm

ENTRY FEE: \$45 before 6/8,

\$55 after. Maximum of 100
players. Scholarships available for
Chess Mates students.

AWARDS: Amazon Gift Card

Prizes awarded in each section:
1st - 5th: \$70-65-60-55-50. Medals
for first-timers, biggest upset win,
and best female player (by TPR).

RATING: NWSRS rated. Open
sections also US Chess rated, with
US Chess membership required.
Higher of current NWSRS and US
Chess Regular rating used to
determine section and pairings.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all
students in grades K-12 as of the
2023-24 school year. Out-of-state
players welcome!

REGISTRATION:

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.
100% preregistered, no on-site entries or
payments. Entry + payment **deadline**
June 14 @ 5pm. No registrations
accepted or refunds offered after the
deadline.

CLOCKS:

Chess clocks will be used from the
beginning in the Open sections. Clocks
not required for the U800 and U1000
sections, until a judge places one into
unfinished games after 35 minutes of
play.

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Rekha Sagar,
WCF Chief Tournament Director,
rekha4chess@gmail.com

St. Anne Celtic Challenge Spring 2024

By Josh Sinanan

The Spring 2024 edition of the St. Anne Celtic Challenge scholastic tournament took place on Sunday, March 17, at St. Anne School in the Queen Anne neighborhood of Seattle.

A smaller than expected showing of just 68 chess players in grades K-12 participated in the event, perhaps reflecting

the busy slate of March scholastic chess events in the Puget Sound region.

The field was split across five sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open. The St. Anne Celtic Challenge has become a popular tournament on the scholastic chess "circuit" for many, as it features an efficient, fast-paced schedule on a Sunday afternoon instead of the traditional day-long affair.

The tournament attracted players from throughout the region, including parts of Kirkland, Bothell, Seattle, Newcastle, Sammamish, Redmond, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, Shoreline, Bellevue, Fircrest, Olympia, University Place, Milton, and Medina.

The relaxed and congenial atmosphere encouraged many displays of

good sportsmanship and genuine kindness throughout the afternoon!

The expeditious pace of play made for several wild and entertaining encounters concocted by the diverse cast of characters taking part in the proceedings! The event was hosted by St. Anne School, organized by St. Anne Chess Coordinators Carlee Thorrington and Arlene Kelly, and directed by WCF President and St. Anne Chess Coach Josh Sinanan.

The tournament was held to honor the legacy of Coach Chris Hurley (1965-2020), who founded the St. Anne Chess Club and supported the St. Anne and Seattle Prep chess programs from 2013-2020.

Many thanks to the amazing chess families and volunteers who contributed to this fantastic event! Congratulations to the following winners:



Team Trophies			
Place	School	Players	Score
1st	St. Anne School	Mason Whittaker (439) 3.5, James Thorrington (735) 3.0, Joseph Santiago (237) 2.5, Liam Kelly (552) 2.0	11
2nd	Tambark Creek ES	Dhruv Bangard (837) 3.0, David Cijo Thomas (274) 3.0, Mukund Mavila (246) 3.0, Steven Luo (unr.) 2.0	11
3rd	Evergreen Primary ES	Alisa Rachiba (1177) 5.0, Erik Kotsinyan (255) 3.0, Robert Kotsinyan (256) 1.5	9.5
4th	Open Window School	Abigail Lew (870) 3.0, Jake Bravenboer (840) 3.0, Theodore Lew (400) 2.0	8
5th	Thurgood Marshall ES	Elliot Lin (533) 3.0, Evan Lin (245) 3.0, Ethan Lin (667) 2.0	8

Individual Trophies					
Place	K-1 U700	2-3 U700	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	4-12 Open
1st	Kaiyi Han	Owen Leneway	Alisa Rachiba	Suhaas Meka	Vladimir Fedorov
2nd	Kristina Velichko	Cameron Yorks	Kunal Jayadevan	Cristina Juarez-Caballero	Karsten Foltz
3rd	Akshay Gupta	Mukund Mavila	Abigail Lew	Ishayu Sinha	Vishnu Mohan
4th	Vihaan Nair	Sage Guity	Dhruv Bangard	Madhav Mavila	Vihaan Chaurasia
5th	Kiana Chauhan	Liam Zhen	Jake Bravenboer	Mason Whittaker	Ishan Nair
6th	Arjun Raman	David Cijo Thomas	Rhys Sorensen	Elliot Lin	Mikhail Kosau
7th	Evan Lin	Joseph Santiago	Sahan Katipally	Ishi Chaurasia	Advait Deepak
8th	Katya Esparza-Chen	Alicia Stuart		Riddhima Chauhan	Troy Chabot
9th	Erik Kotsinyan	Lucien Esparza-Chen		James Thorrington	Ved Dhameeja
10th	Elysia Esparza-Chen	Robert Kotsinyan		Rishan Katipally	Zara Zong

Lakeside Spring Fling

Josh Sinanan

The Lakeside Spring Fling chess tournament took place on Saturday, March 23 at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. Lakeside School, a prestigious private school located in North Seattle, attracts some of the strongest chess players and brightest minds in the region.

The Lakeside Chess Team recently won the 2024 High School State Team Championship a few weeks before the event. A modest turnout of 50 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competed across four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-2 U700, K-5 U900, K-12 U1100, and K-12 Open.

The centrally located venue made the tournament easily accessible to players

from throughout the area, including the cities of Bothell, Woodinville, Seattle, Bellevue, Mill Creek, Bainbridge Island, Seattle, Sammamish, Redmond, Edmond, Everett, Mountlake Terrace, Clyde Hill, Olympia, Yarrow Point, Snohomish, Kirkland, Shoreline, and Medina. In preparation for the Washington State Elementary State Championships in May, many players pulled out their best chess tricks and their finely tuned strategies to earn those magical three points required for state qualification.

The event was co-hosted by Lakeside Chess and Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar with assistance

from WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov. Lakeside co-captain NM Eric Zhang was on-site analyzing tournament games and taking on all-comers in time-odds blitz!

Wonderful photos were taken throughout the day by photographers extraordinaire Valentin Razmov and Rekha Sagar. Lakeside chess team co-captain Sophie Szeto and her family ran the concessions table, which was conveniently located between the playing room and parent waiting area in the spacious Wright Community Center.

We hope to establish the Lakeside Spring Fling as an annual tradition and make it even bigger and better in the years to come! Congratulations to the winners:

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-2 U700	Emma Ge=\$75	Janani Ranjith=\$50 Louis Liu=\$50 Andy Sang=\$50 Ari Hasson=\$50			
K-5 U900	Nate Guzman=\$75	Charles Du=\$65	Ayaansh Agrawal=\$55	Ishayu Sinha=\$16 Vivienne Luo=\$16 Eshvin Garhwal=\$16 Jethro Xia=\$16 Saahan Chadha=\$16	
K-12 U1100	Pranav Reddy Annapureddy=\$75	Raimi Bell=\$60 Liam Healey=\$60		Evan Liu=\$27 Zara Zong=\$27 Killian Bates=\$27	
K-12 Open	Leonid Zandanov=\$75	Soham Sharma=\$65	Sambuddha Sekhar Das=\$34 Peter Luo=\$34 Isaac Friedenson=\$34 Eliot Amalo=\$34		

Section	Best Female Player (by TPR)	Biggest Upset Win
K-2 U700	Rhea Prasad	Janani Ranjith
K-5 U900	Siana Razmov	Aarav Gowda
K-12 U1100	Zara Zong	Rishab Mitra
K-12 Open	N/A	Kaushik Vanavada

Second Annual Detective Cookie Chess Classic

Josh Sinanan

The second annual Detective Cookie Chess Classic took place on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at the Rainier Beach Community Center in Seattle. An impressive turnout of 121 players came out for the event, which spanned grades K-12 and featured five sections separated by grade level and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open.

The Rainier Beach Community Center, located in south Seattle, made the tournament easily accessible to players from the south end, though many others also traveled significant distances to attend the unique event. Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin was onsite throughout the day and enlisted the Seattle Police Department to provide a free hot-dog lunch for all attendees, as well as a visit by Police officers on horseback! Several keen observers noted their L-shaped movements as they left the community center for their next appointment!

The event kicked off with opening remarks from two local sheriffs as well as the Seattle Chief of Police, Adrian Diaz, who delivered inspiring speeches and offered words of wisdom to the budding chess players in attendance. Though primary comprised by south Seattle based folk, several others attended from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Seattle, Snohomish, Sammamish, Bothell, Duvall, Gig Harbor, Mercer Island, Redmond, Bellevue, Lake Stevens, Renton, Shoreline, Olympia, and Kent.

The event was hosted as a collaborative effort between the Detective Cookie Chess Club, the Seattle Police Department, and Washington Chess Federation. Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin and WCF President Josh Sinanan served as co-organizers, with WCF Chief Tournament Director Rekha Sagar running the pairings.

Wonderful photos and video footage were taken throughout the day by photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng! Volunteer judges circulating throughout the playing room included Samantha Smith Chess Club Coach Peter Zou, Selam Tekle, Selina Cheng, Larry Greenawalt, Nihanth Tatikonda, and Nicole Bates-Callaghan.

The Seattle Police Department ran the concessions booth, which was conveniently located adjacent to the parent waiting area in the multi-purpose room.

Many thanks to the team of amazing volunteers and community center staff that made this fantastic event possible. Keep an eye out for next year’s Detective Cookie Chess Classic, which will no doubt continue to be one of the chess season’s most special events! Congratulations to the winners:

Individual Winners

Place	K-1 U700	2-3 U800	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	4-12 Open
1st	Sofia Byelashova	Leonard Bach Hoang	Jinhan Zou	Aarav Kukreja	Brook Ayalew
2nd	Henry Bogomolov	Seojoon Oh	Noble Schasteen	Aran Mahadevan	Joshua Pantea
3rd	Evan Lin	Luke Xiao	Gabriel Pleasants	Sri Jayraj Sampathi Rao	Vishnu Mohan
4th	Aria Ajay	Liam Zhen	Leonid Zandanov	Zion Pantea	Ziliang Ma
5th	Marina Zhang	Charan Prasanna	Darya Byelashova	Juan David Hernandez	Oliver Tam
6th	Kheiron Chin	Eugene Chou	Ren Wadhvani	Pepper Aker	Jackson Miller
7th	Atlas Bigelow	Eric Wong	Kruti Thanikonda	Bryant Shi	Hongren Zhen
8th	Vikaat Siva	Parth Anant Sundaram	Dhruv Bangard	Aarush Shah	Emmett Bates-Callaghan
9th	Dilraj Malhotra	Jai Kaviyaranan	Armin Puranik	Elliot Lin	Sai Srithan Tunuguntla
10th	Lucas Pang	Mathew Tan	Eric Tsen	Lachlan Curnutt	Jasper Wu

Special Prize Winners

	K-1 U700	2-3 U800	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	4-12 Open
Best Female Player	Jasmine Karaca	Amelia Too	Amy Zhang	Tejal Guruswamy	N/A
Best Dressed	Sofia Byelashova, Rhea Prasad	Sophia Michael	Darya Byelashova	Sebastian Littlefield-Davis	Emmett Bates-Callaghan
Biggest Upset Win	Thomas Westover	Vaibhav Venkatesan	Gabriel Pleasants	Eric Peng	Bryan Hurd

Top-Finishing Teams			
Place	School	Team Players	Team Score
1st	Detective Cookie Chess Club	Brook Ayalew (1594) 4.5	16.5
		Joshua Pantea (1364) 4.0	
		Noble Schasteen (1146) 4.0	
		Zion Pantea (775) 4.0	
		Bryant Shi (669) 4.0	
		Liam Zhen (584) 4.0	
		Juan David Hernandez (428) 4.0	
		Ziliang Ma (1447) 3.5	
		Jackson Miller (1320) 3.0	
		Hongren Zhen (1023) 3.0	
		Ren Wadhvani (842) 3.0	
		Emery Spearman (786) 3.0	
		Harvey Erickson (620) 3.0	
		Eric Wong (566) 3.0	
		Joseph Adane (194) 2.5	
		Sophia Michael (440) 2.0	
		Ray Ouyang (253) 2.0	
		Aurelio Diaz (100) 2.0	
		Asaph Chan (unr.) 2.0	
		Sidney Phok (unr.) 2.0	
		Sir Vontre Route-Brooks (213) 1.5	
		Andy Yu (unr.) 1.5	
		Kevin Yu (unr.) 1.5	
		Jinyi Zhao (400) 1.0	
		Biniyam Adane (361) 1.0	
		Jarack Bao (unr.) 1.0	
		Lincoln Macdougall (unr.) 1.0	
Winston Phok (unr.) 1.0			
Tom Zylbersztajn (unr.) 1.0			
Tea Timmons (100) 0.5			
Bijan Parks (136) 0.0			
Braxton Henry (unr.) 0.0			
Yihong Wu (unr.) 0.0			
2nd	Samantha Smith Elementary	Jinhan Zou (1061) 4.5	16.5
		Sri Jayraj Sampathi Rao (804) 4.0	
		Seojoon Oh (772) 4.0	
		Henry Bogomolov (580) 4.0	
		Eugene Chou (784) 3.5	
		Marina Zhang (391) 3.5	
		Jai Kaviyaran (391) 3.0	
		Parth Anant Sundaram (378) 3.0	
		Eric Peng (349) 3.0	
		Vaibhav Venkatesan (141) 3.0	
		Mason Kang (350) 2.5	
		Armin Puranik (1026) 2.0	
		Samarth Ramasubramanian (307) 2.0	
		Avyaan Seth (unr.) 2.0	
		Kalena Kang (unr.) 1.5	
Ava Stojisavljevic (145) 1.0			
3rd	Thurgood Marshall Elementary	Pepper Aker (492) 4.0	15
		Evan Lin (334) 4.0	
		Gabriel Pleasants (989) 3.5	
		Oliver Tam (665) 3.5	
		Ethan Lin (638) 3.0	
		Elliot Lin (626) 3.0	
		Mathew Tan (469) 3.0	
		Amelia Too (327) 3.0	
		Sebastian Littlefield-Davis (523) 2.5	
		Khai Tang (424) 2.0	
4th	Somerset Elementary	Aarav Kukreja (561) 5.0	9
		Arwen Zhang (744) 3.0	
		Amy Zhang (816) 1.0	
5th	Aki Kurose Middle School	Lachlan Curnutt (494) 3.0	7
		Kaleb Say (530) 1.5	
		August Dutton (unr.) 1.5	
		Jared Mansfield (309) 1.0	
		Aishaniqua Looney (153) 1.0	
Hugo Trump (100) 1.0			



(L-R) Chief Lowe, Detective Cookie, and Sheriff Cole-Tindale show off their chess bling during the opening ceremony of the Detective Cookie Chess Classic. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



WCF President Josh Sinanan resolves a dispute in the K-1 U700 section. The young man is desperately trying to get his queen back, which is being held captive by the young lady! Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



A young player contemplates his next move at the Detective Cookie Chess Classic. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



WCF President Josh Sinanan (center) coordinated with WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar to run the Detective Cookie Chess Classic, with assistance from Rekha's daughter Rhea Prasad (L). Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



King County Sheriff Patti Cole-Tindale (L) plays a friendly game with Chief Lowe of the Redmond Police Department at the start of the Detective Cookie Chess Classic. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



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Jackson Miller (L) vs. Aaron Zhang during the first round of the Detective Cookie Chess Classic. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Detective Cookie (L) gives an encouraging high five to one of her students. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Detective Cookie (L) visits with young competitor Sofia Byelashova and her father Alex during the Detective Cookie Chess Classic. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Chief Tournament Director Rekha Sagar poses in front of the trophies at the Detective Cookie Chess Classic. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



For several students from Detective Cookie's Chess Club, including this young man, it was their first-ever chess tournament. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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TOURNAMENTS



Venue

7212 Woodlawn Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Info – events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

Addresses for entries

SCC Tournament Director

same address as above

– or –

contact@seattlechess.club

June 2

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** Game/50 + 10sec. inc. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 day membership for non-SCC). **Prize fund:** sum of \$10/entry. **Prizes:** 1st (35% of prize fund), 2nd (27%), bottom half (by rating) 1st (22%), 2nd (16%). **Registration:** 10:45-11:15am. **Rounds:** 11:30am, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30pm. **Byes:** 1 half-pt., commit at reg. US Chess membership req'd.

Sunday Tornado

June 15

Format: 3-RR. 4-player sections by close rating. **TC:** Game/100 + 15sec. inc. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 day membership for non-SCC). **Prizes:** free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Registration:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2:15 & 6:30pm. **Byes:** 0. US Chess membership req'd.

Saturday Quads

June 7, 14, 21, 28

Monthly 4-rd Swiss, 1 game each Fri. @ 8pm. **TC:** 40/90, then 30/60. SCC members free, others \$5 each Fri. Drop in for any round.

It's Summertime

July 13-14

At Lakeside Upper School, Seattle, in partnership with WCF. See ad elsewhere in this issue and on our website!

Seattle Seafair Open

*Wednesdays are for
casual play. It's free!
Come anytime 7-11pm.*

EMERALD CITY OPEN

JUNE 22 - 23, 2024

A 5-round Swiss with time control of Game/90 with 30-sec. increment.

Prize fund: \$510 based on 24 paid entries, 3 per prize group.

FIRST	\$150	SECOND	\$100	U1800	\$70
U1600	\$60	U1400	\$50	U1200/UNR	\$40
BIGGEST UPSET WIN, RDS 1-4			\$10		

Entry fees by 6/18: SCC members \$34, others \$46. After 6/18: \$45 and \$58. Unrated – free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF memberships.

Registration: 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** Saturday 10am, 2:30 & 7pm; Sunday 11am & 3:30pm.

Byes: 2 half-point byes available. Commit at registration for Sunday rounds.

Sign up by emailing contact@seattlechess.club. US Chess & WCF memberships required.

Seattle Seafair Open



JULY 13-14, 2024

LAKESIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125



Co-hosted by Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation.

Format: A 5-round, US Chess Rated Swiss in one section.

Schedule: Saturday 9 AM, 1 PM, 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sunday ~ 7 PM or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/90; +10. Late default: 60 min.

Prize Fund: \$4,000 (based on 100 paid entries)

1st-6th: \$600-500-400-350-300-250.

1st U2100/U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/U900: \$160

1st Unrated: \$160

Special Prizes: **Biggest Upset Win:** \$20/round, **Best Female Player** (by TPR): 1st \$40, 2nd 20, **Best Dressed:** \$20/day, **Best Senior Players** (50+, by TPR): 1st \$40, 2nd \$20, **Best Annotated game:** 1st \$40, 2nd \$20. Minimum of 3 qualifying players required per section in contention for each best female/senior prize to be awarded.

Entry Fee: \$80 by 7/6, \$90 after. \$10 discount for SCC members. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. Maximum of 150 players – please register early to reserve your spot.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

Rating: US Chess Rated. US Chess July 2024 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Registration and payment deadline: **Fri. 7/12 @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Payment also available via Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WACHess).

Questions?

Josh Sinanan, WCF President,
206-769-3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

