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## Advertising & Copy Deadline

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

**December 5 for the January issue;**  
**January 5 for February.**

**Submit all ads, donations, payments, changes of address and subscriptions to:**

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**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and 2014-2024 by Chess Journalists of America!**

## Front Cover

Erin Bian, the 2024 Washington State Women's Chess Champion. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

## Back Cover

Rekha Sagar (L) and Mary Hjort in front of a wall of binary digits at the Washington Women's Championship. 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:

**Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor**  
**1514 S. Longmont Ave.**  
**Boise, Idaho 83706-3732**  
or via e-mail to:  
[jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)

### Subscriptions / Premium Memberships

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*Washington residents please add sales tax.*

*Idaho residents see*

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

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<b>Adult</b>	1 year	\$ 17.50
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<b>Senior</b>	1 year	\$ 17.50
<b>Additional Family Members</b>	1 year	\$ 5.00

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		Rate
<b>U.S. addresses</b>	1 year	\$ 30.00
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<b>Canada</b>	1 year	\$ 40.00
<b>Foreign</b>	1 year	\$ 60.00

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## Remember to play in the 2024 Washington Class Championships

November 29-December 1, Redmond Marriott, 7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, Washington

### CORRESPONDENCE CHESS LEAGUE OF AMERICA

[WWW.SERVERCHESS.COM](http://WWW.SERVERCHESS.COM)

#### YOUR FIRST CHESS TOURNAMENT IS FREE!

- As a premium to new members, **join by December 31, 2024** and we will waive your entry fee for your first chess tournament with CCLA. Annual membership dues are only \$26 for mailed magazine or \$16 for electronic magazine delivery.
- Membership includes our quarterly magazine *The Chess Correspondent*, published since 1916.
- Members can play in any of our server or postal chess events in your own home at a pace that meets your busy lifestyle. Low entry fees for all of our chess events. Tournaments start every quarter and include annual club championships, class tournaments, team events and Grand Prix Prizes. All games are rated and played at the relaxed pace of 10 moves in 30 days.
- CCLA is America’s premier correspondence chess league since 1897 where you can play your best chess via a server with like-minded individuals at a pace compatible with modern busy careers and family obligations.
- **For a membership application or more information visit our website at [www.serverchess.com](http://www.serverchess.com) or send an email to [cclatreasurer22@gmail.com](mailto:cclatreasurer22@gmail.com).**

# Washington Winter Classic



**DECEMBER 21-22, 2024**

**HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE**

**625 116<sup>TH</sup> AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004**

*Highest finishing player in the Erigaisi Open and Vidit U1600 sections seeded into the Premier and Rising Stars sections, respectively, of the 2025 WA State Championship.*

**Format:** A five-round Swiss in two sections:

## **Erigaisi Open & Vidit U1600.**

In case of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, follow-up playoff games will determine the seed for the Premier or Rising Stars section of the 2025 Washington State Championship.

**Time Control:** G/90; +30 sec. increment.

**Schedule:** Sat @ 9 AM, 2 PM, 7 PM. Sun @ 10 AM, 3 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sun ~ 7 PM or asap.

Games that go long may request a late start for the next round.

**Prize Fund:** \$2,600 (based on 40 paid entries)

**Erigaisi Open:** 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: \$400, \$300, \$250.

1<sup>st</sup> U1900/U1700: \$200.

**Vidit U1600:** 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: \$200, \$150, \$125.

1<sup>st</sup> U1500/U1300: \$100; 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$100.

**Special Prizes** (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Senior Player (50+, by TPR): \$50, Best Dressed: \$20/day.

**Entry Fee:** \$125 by 12/14, \$150 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Players rated 1400-1599 in *both* USCF & NWSRS may play up into Erigaisi Open section for an additional \$60 fee. Maximum of 60 players – please register early to guarantee your spot.

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

**Rating:** US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Erigaisi Open section also FIDE Rated. Higher of December US Chess or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign rating used at TD discretion.

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration) (pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 12/20 @ 5pm**. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

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

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE,  
Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757

**Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)



# New Adventure Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 New Adventure Scholastic chess tournament was held on Sunday, September 22, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. The tournament was organized by WCF to provide continuity for scholastic chess players interested in getting some practice in September, a month with traditionally sparse tournament offerings since most after-school chess programs have yet to start. Due to Chinook hosting a language school on Saturdays, the roomy Clyde

Hill Middle School is only available on Sundays and holidays this season. The silver lining is that tournaments hosted at Chinook will avoid clashing with many other scholastic tournaments, most of which are hosted on Saturdays.

A total of 126 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated in the inaugural New Adventure Scholastic, from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including eight from Somerset Elementary in Bellevue, the reigning Elementary

State Champions! Other schools bringing sizable contingents of players included Bellevue Children's Academy (six), Medina Elementary (six), Open Window School (five), Chestnut Hill Academy (three), Lakeridge Elementary (three), and Louisa Alcott Elementary (three).

There were numerous one- and two-man armies also participating, with many of their teammates opting to jump back into the chess pool later in the season. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. WCF Women's and Girl's Chess Director Chouchan Airapetian and her family ran the concessions and WCF photographer and chess mom Meiling Cheng took amazing photos and video footage throughout the day.

The five-round Swiss format featuring a time control of game in twenty-five minutes with a five-second increment, and all games began with a chess clock provided courtesy of WCF. All sections were dual NWSRS and US Chess rated to help players establish their "national" ratings and gain US Chess-rated experience in preparation for upcoming State and National competitions. For young players in grades K-3 in the U700 and U800 sections, chess notational was optional, but many decided to attempt it anyway! To ensure competitive balance for players of all ages and levels, the tournament was split into five sections: K-1 U700, 2-3 U900, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open.

Many thanks to the adventurous chess explorers who participated, twelve of whom were unrated and playing in their first ever chess tournament! Our vibrant chess community continues to thrive as we all begin new adventures and kick off a new scholastic chess season. Special congratulations to our Amazon gift card and chess medal winners:



*White is in Stalemate!  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

## New Adventure Scholastic Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section.

1st – 5th: \$60–55–50–45–40.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-1 U700	Edwin Niu	Ryan Zhang	Avyukt Goyal	Nolan Yin Pavel Sterba Siddharth Abimanyu Alden Liu	
2-3 U800	Yuwen Qu	Patrick ZhangLeo Gu		Eason Chen Vivienne Luo Bryan Li William Wright	
K-3 Open	Leonid Zandanov	Anyi Li	Jeremy Ge Eric Yu Richard Rogov Aria Ajay Rebecca Li		
4-8 U900	Elon TsayCyrus Kachachi		Ethan Lin	Shaurya Bhende Jingyuan Pan	
4-12 Open	Imai Maharaja Vishnu Mohan		Robert Michailov Rian Raja Isaac Friedenson Ian Gagnier		
<b>Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-3 Open and 4-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2024 SPFNO!</b>					

**Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player, best dressed, and biggest upset win.**

Section	Best Female Player	Best Dressed	Biggest Upset Win
K-1 U700	Rhea Sagar	Rhea Sagar	Nolan Yin
2-3 U800	Nazar Iakymenko	Evan Lin	Arjun Savaram
K-3 Open	Kaiyi Han	Atul Srinivasan	Janani Ranjith
4-8 U900	Victoria Wright	Sebastian Phillips-Acheson	Amalia Cauch-Miller
4-12 Open	Veronique Joseph	Yash Syal	Felix Y Chen



*Janani Ranjith.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



# Interview With Susan Polgar

Ken Lee



Ken Lee

**S**usan Polgar is a legend in the chess world. As a top player, coach, author, and creator of SPICE and the Susan Polgar Foundation, her intelligence, enthusiasm and love of the game have inspired millions.

**Ken:** Can you tell me how SPICE (Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence) <https://www.webster.edu/spice/index.php> came to be?

**Susan:** The idea for SPICE was born in 2005 when I visited Lubbock, Texas as part of my national tour after the success at the 2004 Olympiad in Calvia.

I had just won two gold and two silver medals including the team silver with the US team. I was invited to visit Texas Tech University by Dr. Hal Karlsson who was the faculty advisor for the chess club.

Dr Karlsson thought it would be great if we could create a chess program like UT Dallas and UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County).

**Ken:** What was the initial mission for SPICE?

**Susan:** In those days, most young chess players in the United States progressed from elementary, middle and high school with some small form of support from their chess community.

Once they got to university, however, there was no real outlet for students to simultaneously continue their chess and academic education.

My dream for SPICE was to create that outlet and opportunity for top young players, in the US and around the world, to be able to receive top notch education while enhancing their chess skills. I knew it would not be easy, but I believe in the quote from the famous movie Field of Dreams, "If I build it, they will come". And so we did. For the next 14 years at Texas Tech and Webster University, literally every student we had reached

their rating peaks because of SPICE.

But it was not easy. We had to start completely from scratch. We had to buy all new chess boards, sets and books. We started with just about half a dozen or so casual chess players.

**Ken:** What kind of progress did you have in those early years?

**Susan:** In the first year, we had an amateur team with club players. In the second year, we added one International Master. Through a lot of hard work, we finally built a division one team by our third year and made the Final Four for the first time, finishing third.

By year four and five, we became national champions, dethroning the unbeatable UTD and UMBC.

Then, unfortunately support for the program began to wane due to massive changes in the university administration. The university had new President, Provost, and Senior Vice Provost. Everyone who was involved in bringing us to Texas was no longer at their positions. The new brass did not understand the importance of SPICE and did not offer support.

**Ken:** How did you adapt to the change in circumstances?

**Susan:** When we informed the new administration at Texas Tech that if we do not receive proper support, our students could not even finish their degrees. They refused to budge. Then we asked for permission to speak to other universities to relocate SPICE. We were laughed at and told to go ahead, but expect no university to invest in an elite "chess" program. They were wrong. As soon as we started to initiate a nationwide search and looked for new opportunities

for our students, seven other universities immediately showed interests. We did our due diligence by visiting different campuses and met with the heads of these universities.

At the end, we selected Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri because we felt that it was the best fit and our students would have the most support. We moved the SPICE program there in 2012 and we continued where we left off at Texas Tech by dominating College Chess for years to come.

**Ken:** What was the transition like?

**Susan:** It was easier to make a transition than to start from scratch because most of the top players agreed to move to Webster. We were also fortunate because SPICE had already established an excellent reputation. On our A and B team, we had GMs Georg Meier (Germany), Anatoly Bykhovskiy (Israel), Andre Diamant (Brazil), Denes Boros (Hungary), and IM Vitaly Neimer (Israel) coming over from Texas Tech. At Webster University, we also immediately added GMs Ray Robson (USA, Wesley So (Philippines), Manuel Leon Hoyos (Mexico), and Fidel Corrales (Cuba).

Therefore, from day one at Webster, we had the number one ranked team in the nation, and we retained the number one ranking for ten consecutive years (under my leadership and they are still the number one ranked team today).

During my tenure at Webster, our students won more World Championships, National Championships, Olympiad Gold and Major Titles than ALL other chess programs in the US, COMBINED! What I am also very proud of is our students during these 14 years in Texas and St.

*"I like to say the only constant in life is change. Chess trains young people to make good choices in the game of life."*

Louis maintained an average GPA of 3.5 – 3.8/4 every semester while College Chess only requires a 2.0. I did not accept any student who was not committed to academic and chess excellence.

Eventually, I retired and left recommended the Director position and Head Coach to my former student: Vietnamese GM Liem Le. I'm very proud of what he has accomplished, and he's been an exemplary student and leader in the chess community.

**Ken:** What kind of programs does SPICE implement today?

**Susan:** As I mentioned earlier, in addition to being the number one ranked collegiate team in the nation for over 12 straight years and counting, we still have a lot of outreach programs to the community. We hosted many summer camps. Webster University became the first in the US to offer a Minor in Chess program.

[https://news.webster.edu/2022/chess\\_minor.php](https://news.webster.edu/2022/chess_minor.php)

**Ken:** You are one of the top chess coaches in the world. Have you identified attributes of great chess coaches and students?

**Susan:** I think it is crucial that coaches have a passion for the game and have 100% discipline. I also believe that they need to be flexible from student to student because I don't believe in a one-size-fits-all approach.

The best coaches have to be willing, ready and able to modify their approach based on the needs of the students. A great coach has to be passionate and dedicated.

I think the success of SPICE has always been that we treated our students like family. We did a lot of things together like celebrating holidays and birthdays. We went on team building activities like apple picking, escape room events, and hiking, etc.

**Ken:** What attributes do students need to be a great chess player?

**Susan:** First of all, great chess students must have passion and love for the game. But to consistently improve, they have to be coachable.

**Ken:** What do you specifically mean by that?

**Susan:** A coachable student is flexible and not adverse to changing habits. When a coach tells them to make adjustments, they should be open to change.

In addition, a great chess player has to learn to adjust quickly to changes as each game unfolds. That's one of the great life skills that chess really teaches us all.

I like to say the only constant in life is change. Every single move on the chess board can change the dynamic of the game. You need to realize how those changes affect the overall picture on the board and constantly adjust to those changes. Chess trains young people to



*Susan Polgar. Photo credit: Paul Truong.*



make good choices in the game of life.

The better players win—not because what they do is always right, but because they are able to adjust to the unique dynamics of the game, through the opening, middle and end game.

**Ken:** Can you give me a specific example of this?

**Susan:** Let's say you know very little about your opponent and they only start to show their cards in the opening. If you anticipated something else, you are going to be surprised.

In that case, you need to handle your emotions.

It also applies when you have to comfortably move back and forth from an offensive to a defensive position, or vice versa.

A good chess player has to learn to move from being in the driver's seat to, in a flash, being the underdog and defend patiently.

**Ken:** Any other attributes help contribute to being a great chess player?

**Susan:** Yes, I often talk about balance in life and in chess. A great chess player is decisive but in a balanced way.

They don't over think, but they are not impulsive. They don't play too fast or too slow. They are not too confident or afraid. Of course there are many more.

**Ken:** What's the current state of women in the chess community?

**Susan:** I grew up in an era when there were very few women playing chess and I had to overcome a lot of challenges just to play in open tournaments with men. I overcame many obstacles, including sexual harassment and abuse.

In 2002, I was approached by the executive director of the USCF, Frank Niro. He approached me because he noted that less than 1% of the nearly 100,000 members of USCF were female.

Frank was looking for ways to improve those numbers and we brainstormed a number of programs. Eventually, he helped me create the Susan Polgar Foundation. <https://susanpolgarfoundation.org/>

Originally, it was focused on promoting chess to girls, but over the years, it expanded to include boys as well. I am very proud that over the years my Foundation (through partners, donors, and supporters, etc.) has awarded over seven million dollars in scholarship and other prizes to young players.

By 2014, the numbers for female participation in chess have improved considerably.

The USCF now reports that female participation has increased to about 15%.

We still have a long way to go, but I'm very proud of that accomplishment.

**Ken:** How did the Susan Polgar Chess tournament come to Seattle?



*Susan Polgar. Photo credit: Paul Truong.*

**Susan:** About 20 years ago, the Susan Polgar tournament started in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Then it moved around the country over the years and we held the event in various different states.

Then Frank Niro introduced me to the nice folks at the Washington Chess Federation, including Joshua Sinanan. The Northwest had never hosted a National Youth championship prior to this. We felt that this needed to change and we did.

We've been very happy with the partnership.

**Ken:** I understand that you are working on a new book.

**Susan:** I have authored more than a dozen chess books over the years, but this book is completely different than anything I've done before.

This book is my life story and there are virtually no chess games or notations at all in the book.

The target audience for this book is not only young chess players and their parents but people who are interested in

an inspirational story about a young girl who overcame countless challenges in a male dominated field.

So, it's really not about chess. It's meant for the mainstream audience and will be published in 2025.

I'm very proud of this book and some people have encouraged me to eventually turn this into a feature film. But one thing a time.

**Ken:** Any final thoughts you'd like to share?

**Susan:** I have a very holistic approach to chess. I believe that when you're happy you become a better student and competitor. You can thrive in both academics AND in chess at the same time. The choice doesn't have to be binary.

It certainly has been the case with GM Liem Le. He was an outstanding student and he continued to grow as a chess player. He is now ranked 16th in the world while coaching the Webster University Chess Team full time.

It certainly was the case with Wesley So. When he came to Webster, he was ranked 99th in the world. Two and half years later, he was ranked in the top 10

and consistently stayed in the top 10 since.

We managed to open the doors to a lot of young talented chess players who are getting a more rounded lifestyle by living at the university and learning about different things.

This applies to academics but also to social skills as well. Most of our students are living independently away from their parents for the first time. We welcome everyone to check out Webster and see that you can work hard, play hard, and be successful in whatever endeavor you want to pursue.

**Ken:** For those students who are trying to improve their competitive chess game, what specific advice do you have for them on how to train, study, and work to get better between tournaments?

**Susan:** Analyze your games in depth and learn from your mistakes. Solve puzzles according to your level and calculation skill. Being sharp is essential to chess success at all levels. Naturally, opening preparation or endgame training, etc. are also important, especially at the more advanced levels.

# Monroe Winter Rapid Championship



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

MONROE COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER

276 SKY RIVER PKWY, MONROE, WA 98272

CO-HOSTED BY WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION AND MONROE CHESS CLUB

**Info/Entries:** Rekha Sagar, WCF VP, 425-496-9160, [Rekha4Chess@gmail.com](mailto:Rekha4Chess@gmail.com)

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).

Pay by

Debit/Credit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Registration and payment **deadline**

**Fri. Dec. 6** @ 5pm or register at-site.

**Eligibility:** Open to all juniors + adults.

**Schedule:** At-site registration:

Sat. 8:00-8:45am. Rds. @ 9am, 10:30am, Lunch, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3pm. Awards ~ 4:30pm

**WA State Elementary Qualifier!**

**Format:** A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss tournament in three sections. Sections with <6 players may be merged.

- **Chouchan Airapetian Championship**
- **Selina Cheng U1300**
- **Lois Ruff U700**

**Prizes:** \$1,500 for 60 paid entries.

**Airapetian:** \$200-150-100-75.

**Cheng:** \$150-100-80-60.

**Ruff:** \$150-100-80-60.

**Special Prizes (per section):**

Biggest Upset Win: \$5/rd., Best

Dressed: \$10, Best Female Player: \$10,

Best Senior Player: \$10,

Kindness/Spreading Joy: \$10.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 by 11/30, \$60 after. Seniors 65+ receive a \$25 discount. Monroe Chess Club Players receive 50% discount. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2000+. Players rated 1200+ & 600+ in both USCF & NWSRS may play up 1 section into the Airapetian & Cheng sections, respectively. Max of 90 players total and 30 players per section, please register early.

**Rating:** Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated. Highest of Dec. US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Memberships:** Current US Chess and WCF membership required, other states accepted. Membership must be paid at time of registration.

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

# Washington Junior Invitational

## CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

**December 21-22, 2024**

**Hotel 116 Bellevue**

625 116<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

### **Tri-Format:**

An invitation-only junior chess tournament in three sections:

**Caruana Closed:** A FIDE-rated, 6-player Round Robin. TC: G/90; +30.

**So Invitational:** A FIDE-rated, 5-round, G/90; +30 Swiss.

**Aronian Rising:** A 5-round, G/45; +15 Double Swiss.

Play 2 games – 1 as White and 1 as Black – against each opponent.

### **Entry Fee:**

\$125 by 12/14, \$150 after.

### **Rounds:**

Rd 1 – Sat. 9am

Rd 2 – Sat. 2pm

Rd 3 – Sat. 7pm

Rd 4 – Sun. 10am

Rd 5 – Sun. 3pm

Awards ~ Sun. 7pm or asap

Late start available for games that go long. If needed to break ties for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Caruana Closed and So Invitational sections, pairs of G/5; +2 blitz playoff games will be conducted on Sunday immediately after the last round.

### **Eligibility:**

Open to all WA Junior players under age 21 as of December 21, 2024. We will take the top 46 WA juniors based on the higher of December US Chess, FIDE, or current NWSRS rating who register and pay by the **deadline of Wed, December 18th**. Of those 46, the top 5 by rating, plus the previously seeded winner of the 2024 WA Junior Open, will qualify for the Caruana Closed section. The next 20 will qualify for the So Invitational section, and the next 20 will qualify for the Aronian Rising section.

### **Prizes:**

Caruana Closed (Guaranteed by WCF)

1<sup>st</sup> \$350 + seed into Championship section of 2025 WA State Championship. 2<sup>nd</sup> \$320, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$280.

So Invitational (Based on 20 paid entries)

1<sup>st</sup> \$250 + seed into Challengers section of 2025 WA State Championship.

2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>: \$235, 220, 200.

Aronian Rising (Based on 20 paid entries)

1<sup>st</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>: \$175, 160, 145, 130.

Special Prizes: (per section) Biggest Upset Win: \$15/rd., Best Dressed: \$10/day, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50.

### **Rating/Membership:**

Dual NWSRS + US Chess rated, Caruana Closed and So Invitational sections also FIDE rated. US Chess & WCF membership required in all sections.

### **Byes:**

No byes allowed in Caruana Closed. Up to 2 half-point byes available in So Invitational and Aronian Rising sections if requested before end of Rd 2.



### **THE DETAILS**

**Procedure:** Pairings and standings posted near the playing area before each round.

#### **Online Registration:**

[nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://nwchess.com/onlineregistration)

(pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing), or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. **Registration and payment deadline: Wednesday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Questions? Josh Sinanan,

WCF President,

206.769.3757,

[WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)





# Washington Junior Open

## CHESS TOURNAMENT

Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 20, 2025

Interlake High School

16245 NE 24<sup>th</sup> St. Bellevue, WA 98008



### CLASSICAL SECTIONS

#### Open 1500+, Rising U1500

A 4-round G/50; +5 Swiss in two sections. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Players rated 1400+ may play up into Open section for an additional \$20. Rounds: 9:15am, 11:15am, Lunch Time, 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Awards ~ 5:45pm. Armageddon playoff if needed to break tie for 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Open section immediately following the last round: G/10 white, G/8 black with draw odds.

### RAPID SECTIONS

#### K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, 4-6 U900, 7-12 U1000, K-3 Open, 4-12 Open

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in six sections. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, Lunch Time, 12:45pm, 2:15pm, 3:45pm. Awards ~ 5:15pm.

### ALL SECTIONS

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for K-1 U700 and 2-3 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

### ELIGIBILITY

Open to all juniors under age 21 years of age as of the tournament date. Out-of-state players welcome!

**ENTRY FEE** \$50 by Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, \$60 after. Room for 320 players.

### AWARDS

**Section Prizes:** Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:  
1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45-\$40-\$35-\$30-\$25-\$20.

**Team Prizes:** Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections:  
1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: \$30-\$25-\$20-\$15-\$10.

**Special Prizes (per section):** Medals for first-time players, best female player (by TPR), best dressed, and biggest upset win.

### RATING

Highest of January US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

**WA State Elementary Qualifier!**

### THE DETAILS

#### Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)  
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Jan 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

**Highest finishing WA resident in the Open section seeds into the Closed section of the 2025 WA Junior Invitational.**

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship on April 26, 2025, in Tacoma. Players scoring 2.5+ points in the 4-round sections or 3.0+ points in the 5-round sections will qualify for the Championship sections of State.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

**Questions?** Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757  
[washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)

# Bobby Ferguson Games

(Being Former Washington State Chess Champion and the Governor-Elect of the State of Washington has generated interest in his old games!)

**Bill Phipps –  
Bobby Ferguson (2215) [B40]**  
*Northwest Chess* January op  
Seattle, January 1983  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 e6 4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 Bb4**

Bob likes trick openings. He was known to play the unsound line 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nd4? with Black in scholastic tournaments, hoping to spring the trap 4.Nxe5?? Qg5!, forking e5 and g2. If you don't know this line, the classic ending goes 5.Nxf7? Qxg2 6.Rf1 Qxe4+ 7.Be2 Nf3#.

The normal 5...d6 is often met with 6.g4. 5...Nc6 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5 a6 9.Na3 b5 is the mainline Sveshnikov.

**6.e5 Ne4**

6...Nd5 is played more often here.

**7.Qg4 Qa5?!**

7...Nxc3 8.Qxg7 Rf8 9.a3! Nb5+ 10.axb4 Nxd4 11.Bg5! (11.Bh6 Qe7 12.Bd3± is also possible.) 11...Qb6 12.Bh6 Qxb4+ 13.c3 Nf5 (13...Qe7 seems to be materially losing: 14.cxd4 Nc6 (14...Qb4+ 15.Ke2 Qxb2+ 16.Ke3 Qb4 17.Bd3 Nc6 18.Ra4! Qe7 19.Rb1 f5 20.exf6 Qxf6 21.Qxf8+ Qxf8 22.Bxf8 Kxf8 23.Bxh7+-) 15.Rd1 and White will eventually take the exchange on f8.) 14.cxb4 N×g7 15.Bxg7 Rg8 16.Bf6 and White has the bishop-pair and a bind, in a decidedly odd position.

**8.Qxg7 Bxc3+ 9.Ke2?**

9.bxc3! Qxc3+ 10.Ke2 Qxd4 11.Qxh8+ Ke7 12.Be3 Qxa1 (12...Qc3 13.Kf3! The king is a fighting piece.) 13.Bh6+-

**9...Bxd4?**

At this point the objective continuation to the game might have been 9...Rf8 10.bxc3 Nxc3+ 11.Kd3 (11.Ke1 Ne4+ 12.Ke2 Nc3+, or something similar, flirts with a threefold repetition.) 11...Nc6 12.Bh6 Nxe5+ 13.Kd2 Ne4+ 14.Ke2 likely leading to a repetition, if nobody can dig out a win from all the mud. (14.

*Ke3!? Qc3+ 15.Bd3 Ng4+ 16.Kxe4∞, one line continuing 16...f5+ 17.Nxf5 exf5+ 18.Kf4 Qd2+ 19.Kg3 Qxh6 20.Rae1+ Kd8 21.Qe7+ Kc7 22.Qc5+ Kb8 23.h3 f4+ 24.Kf3, and it still seems unclear to me.)*

**10.Qxh8+ Ke7**



*Position after 10...Ke7*

**11.Qxc8?!**

11.Bh6! Qd8 (11...Bxe5 12.Qf8+ Kf6 13.h4 The black king has serious issues.) 12.Qxh7 Bxe5 13.Qxe4 and Black lacks compensation for exchange and pawn.

**11...Nc6!**

Dr. Minev would be proud. *Take My Rooks!*

**12.Qxa8 Qxe5 13.f4 Qh5+ 14.Kd3 Nf2+  
15.Kc4 Qd5#**

A very flashy miniature!

**0-1**

**Alexey Rudolph –  
Bobby Ferguson [B20]**  
*Northwest Chess* April op  
Seattle, April, 1979  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.g3 Nf6 2.d3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.e4 d6  
5.Ne2 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nd2 Rb8 8.f4 Ng4  
9.Nf3 h5 10.c3 e6 11.h3 Nh6 12.d4 b6  
13.d5 exd5 14.Qxd5 Bb7 15.Rd1??**

Missing the threat. White must retreat the queen to... well, almost anywhere. 15.Qd1±

**15...Nd4! 16.Qc4 d5! 17.exd5 Bxd5  
18.Qd3 Bxf3 19.cxd4**

19.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 20.Kf2 (20.Qxf3?? Qxd1+-) 20...Qxd3 21.Rxd3 Nh2 22.Kg2 N2g4 23.hxg4 hxg4±; 19.Qe3+ Kf8 20.cxd4 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 Nf5♣

**19...Bxd4+??**

19...Bxg2 20.Kxg2 0-0♣

**20.Be3??**

20.Nxd4 Bxd1 21.Qe3+ Qe7 22.Nc6! Qxe3+ 23.Bxe3± It's easy to go wrong in these complications.

**20...Bxe2 21.Qxe2 0-0 22.Bxd4 cxd4  
23.g4?!**

23.Be4 Re8 24.Qd3 Qd7♣

**23...hxg4 24.hxg4 Re8 25.Qd3**

25.Qf3 Re3 26.Qxe3 dxe3 27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.Re1 N×g4 looks winning for Black as well.

**25...N×g4 26.Qxd4**



*Position after 26.Qxd4*

**26...Qxd4+**

Black missed an opportunity to win instantly here with a classic tactic. 26...Re1+!! 27.Bf1 (27.Rxe1 Qxd4+) 27...Qxd4+ 28.Rxd4 Rxa1+-

**27.Rxd4 Rbd8 28.Rad1 Rxd4 29.Rxd4  
Re1+ 30.Bf1 Ra1 31.Re4 Rxa2 32.Bh3  
Nf6 33.Re2 Nd5 34.Rf2 Ne3 35.b3 Rxf2  
36.Kxf2 Nc2 37.Bf1 Nd4 38.Bc4 Kf8  
39.Ke3 Nf5+ 40.Ke4 Nd6+**

**0-1**

# WASHINGTON PRESIDENT'S CUP



SAT-SUN, JAN 25-26, 2025

BLAKELEY HALL

2550 NE PARK DR., ISSAQUAH, WA 98029

**Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open section seeded into the 2026 Washington State Championship – Invitational section.**

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

**Washington (1600+):** NWSRS, US Chess & FIDE Tri-Rated.

**Jefferson U1600:** NWSRS & US Chess Dual-Rated.

**Schedule:** Saturday 10 AM, 1 PM, 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3:30 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sunday ~ 8pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

**Time Control:** Rd. 1: G/60; +15. Rds. 2-5: 40/100, SD/30, +15. Late default: 60 min.

**Prize Fund:** \$3,500 (based on 100 paid entries)

**Washington:** 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: \$450-375-300-225-150-125.  
1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800: \$100

**Jefferson:** 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: \$325-250-175-125.  
1<sup>st</sup> U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100; 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$70

**Special Prizes** (per section): **Biggest Upset Win:** \$10/round, **Best Female Player** (by TPR): \$25, **Best Dressed:** \$20/day, **Best Senior Players** (50+ & 65+, by TPR): \$25, **Biggest USCF Rating Gain:** \$25, **Best Annotated game:** \$25. Minimum of 3 qualifying players per section for best female/senior player to be awarded.

**Entry Fee:** \$70 by 1/18, \$80 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. Players rated 1400+ (in both NWSRS + USCF) and wishing to play up into the Washington section may register for an extra \$40 play-up fee. 100 players max – please sign up early!

**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 and NWSRS Rated. Washington section is also FIDE Rated. Higher of January US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Registration:** Online at:  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).

(pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 1/24 @ 5pm.**

*In case of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, a future follow-up playoff match will determine the seed for the Invitational section of the 2026 Washington State Championship.*

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Washington Chess Federation - c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757

**Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)



# TOURNAMENTS



## Venue

**7212 Woodlawn Ave NE**

**Seattle, WA 98115**

Info & events calendar

[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)

Entries & inquiries

SCC Tournament Director

same address as above

– or –

[contact@seattlechess.club](mailto:contact@seattlechess.club)

## **Entry fees**

We accept Paypal, cash and check for tournament entry fees. No credit cards, sorry.

Paypal: <https://paypal.me/seattlechess>.

## **December 14**

**Format:** 3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating.  
**Time Control:** Game/100 + 15 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$15 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins 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.

## **December Quads**

## **December 29**

**Format:** 4-round Swiss. **Time Control:** Game/50 + 10 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$25 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prize fund:** sum of \$14/entry. **Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup> (35% of prize fund), 2<sup>nd</sup> (27%), bottom half (by rating) 1<sup>st</sup> (22%), 2<sup>nd</sup> (16%). **Registration:** 10:45-11:15am. **Rounds:** 11:30am, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30pm. **Byes:** 1 half-point, commit at registration. US Chess membership req'd.

## **December Tornado**

## **December 6, 13, 20, 27**

See below.

## **Chess City Swiss**

## **January 11-12**

*Save the dates!* A 5-round Swiss with projected prize fund of \$750+. Check our events calendar for details and possible alternate venue (when posted).

## **Seattle City Championship**



## ~ SCC Friday Nights ~

One U.S. Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm. **TC:** 40 moves in 90 mins. w/10 sec. increment, followed by sudden death 60 mins. w/10 sec. increment. Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round!

*Chess City Swiss*

*Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27*

*January Thaw*

*Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24*

*Fifth Friday G15 (multiple rounds)*

*Jan. 31*

*Cabin Fever*

*Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28*

# **PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC**

## CHESS TOURNAMENT



President's Day Monday, February 17, 2025  
Chinook Middle School  
2001 98<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

### FORMAT

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in 7 sections:

**Kindergarten**  
**1-2 U700**  
**3-4 U800**  
**5-12 U1000**  
**1-3 Open**  
**4-6 Open**  
**7-12 Open**

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for Kindergarten, 1-2 U700 and 3-4 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

### SCHEDULE

Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, Lunch Time, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm. Awards presentation ~ 4:30pm or asap.

### ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

### ENTRY FEE

\$50 by Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, \$60 after. Room for 250 players.

### AWARDS

**Section Prizes:** Amazon e-gift cards awarded in each section:  
1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>: \$70-65-60-55-50.

**Team Prizes:** Plaques awarded to: The top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections. The team that brings the most players across all sections wins an exclusive lesson with NM & WCF President Josh Sinanan.

**Special Prizes (per section):** Medals for first-time players, best female player (by TPR), best dressed, best sportsmanship, and biggest upset win.

### RATING

Higher of US Chess February regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

### THE DETAILS

#### Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)  
Pay by  
Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Feb. 16th @ 5:00pm.** Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

#### WA State Elementary Qualifier!

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship on April 26, 2025, in Tacoma. Players scoring 3.0+ points will qualify for the Championship sections of State.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

**Questions?** Rekha Sagar, WCF Vice President: [rekha4chess@gmail.com](mailto:rekha4chess@gmail.com)



