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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:

March 5 for the April issue;
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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

L-R: Washington Governor Bob Ferguson,
Northwest Chess Publisher Duane Polich,
Elaine Polich, Colleen Ferguson.

Photo credit: Nate Burgher Photography.

Back Cover

Outdoor night lights in Singapore with Sridhar Seshadri.

Photo courtesy of Sridhar Seshadri.

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.idahochessassociation.com/>

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U.S. addresses	1 year	\$ 30.00
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Governor’s Inaugural Ball

By Duane Polich

The event was billed as “One of Washington’s Most Anticipated Events,” a small intimate gathering of 3000 guests to add to my must-do list. That sounded like quite some chess tournament. Well not exactly; it was even better. It was the 2025 Washington State Governor’s Inaugural Ball held at the Capitol Building in Olympia on January 15th, the day that former two-time Washington State Chess Champion Robert Watson Ferguson was crowned as the State’s 24th Governor.

Having known Bob since the late 1970s, I knew that this was an event that I couldn’t miss even if I did have to buy a new suit for the “black tie” affair.

My wife, Elaine, decided to join me for the evening, and we arrived in Olympia a little after 6:00 PM, with the doors set to open at 7:00 PM. We were instructed to park in the Capitol’s employee parking lot, where they had shuttle service to the event site. When we arrived, the line was already forming in the tent-like structure they had established outside the Capitol. We had to

go through a security line manned by the Washington State Patrol and show them the tickets we had purchased to attend. The event was hosted by the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce. (<https://wastategovball.org/>) Inside the tents it was already getting crowded as the guests milled about sipping various beverages and sampling the hors d’oeuvres prepared by the culinary schools of several community colleges. Of course, everybody was dressed up for the occasion.

The main event with all the ceremonies was inside the Capitol Building, so Elaine and I began to wend our way through the crowds to go outside and up the steps. Inside, we could see the various offices of the Treasurer, Secretary of State, Lieutenant Governor, and Bob’s new digs, the Governor’s Office. The program got underway around 8:30 PM with a performance from The Squaxin Island Canoe Family honoring the rich Pacific Northwest Native culture followed by newly and re-elected State officials, before Bob, his wife Colleen, and twin children Jack and Katie. Bob gave a short speech,

having been sworn in earlier in the day. Elaine and I watched the ceremony, which was at the confluence of the stairs on the third floor, in the comfort of the Senate Chambers. There was a projector and screen with the TVW coverage on it. Later we stood in line to have pictures with the Governor and his wife; when Bob saw me in the line, he called out. We embraced and I presented to him a congratulatory card on behalf of the Washington Chess Federation and *Northwest Chess* magazine. In the card it said, “From the State Chess Champion to the Governor, that’s quite a move!” It will be good to have a supporter of chess in the State’s highest office. The evening wrapped up with dancing to music from three different bands throughout the venue.

WCF is planning to hold a “Governor’s Cup” chess tournament in Olympia this July during the LakeFair celebrations. With legislative support, perhaps chess could be recognized as the State’s official board game.

Anyone up for a speed chess event at the Governor’s Mansion?

Washington Spring Fling

RAPID SCHOLASTIC CUP

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Format

A 7-round G/25; +5 Swiss scholastic chess tournament in 3 sections:

Murzin Championship

Grischuk U1400

Dubov U800

Entry Fee

\$60 by 2/22, \$70 after.

Rounds

Rd 1.: 10am

Rd 2: 11:15am

Rd 3: 12:30pm

Lunch

Rd 4: 2:00pm

Rd 5: 3:15pm

Rd 6: 4:30pm

Rd 7: 5:45pm

Awards ~ 7pm or asap.

Late start available for games that go long.

Byes

Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before end of Rd 2.

Eligibility

Open to all chess players in grades K-12 as of the 2024-2025 school year. Out-of-state players welcome! Maximum of 30 players in each section and 75 players total. Please register early!

Prizes

Murzin Championship (Based on 25 paid entries)

1st \$200 + seed into Rising Stars section of 2026 WA State Championship.

2nd-5th: \$185, 170, 150, 110.

Grishuk U1400 (Based on 25 paid entries)

1st \$175 + seed into Prodigies section of 2026 WA State Championship.

2nd-5th: \$160, 145, 125, 85.

Dubov U800 (Based on 25 paid entries)

1st-5th: \$150, 135, 120, 100, 60.

Special Prizes: (per section) Biggest Upset Win: \$10/rd., Best Dressed: \$10, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25.

Rating/Membership

Dual NWSRS + US Chess rated, with US Chess & WCF membership required in all sections.

Average of the February 27th NWSRS and US Chess regular rating will be used to determine section and pairings.



THE DETAILS

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

Online Registration:

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: Friday, Feb 28th @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Questions? Josh Sinanan,
WCF President,
206.769.3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com





Eastside Open



March 1-2, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE

Bellevue, WA 98004

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections: **Bellevue Open**, **Kirkland U1700**, and **Redmond U1200**.

Entry fee: \$100 by 2/22, \$120 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1500-1699 or 1000-1199 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Bellevue Open or Kirkland U1700, respectively. Free entry for players rated 2100+ USCF. Maximum of 100 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Arrival: 8-8:45am. Rounds: Sat @ 9am, 2pm, 7pm. Sun @ 10am, 3pm.
Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament: ~ 7pm or asap.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 30 minutes.

Rating: Dual NWSRS + US Chess Rated. Bellevue Open is also FIDE rated. Higher of current NWSRS or live US Chess rating as of Feb. 27th will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required; must be paid at the time of registration.

Prize Fund: \$5,000 based on 100 paid entries.

Bellevue Open: 1st-4th: \$450-\$350-\$250-\$200, 1st-2nd U2100: \$150-\$125, 1st-2nd U1900: \$150-\$125.

Kirkland U1700: 1st-4th: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$150, 1st-2nd U1500: \$125-\$100, 1st-2nd U1300: \$125-\$100.

Redmond U1200: 1st-4th: \$300-\$225-\$175-\$125, 1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U800: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Dressed: \$20/day.

Byes: Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

Registration: Online at 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 fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. **Registration + payment deadline: Fri, Feb. 28 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the Waitlist will be offered a spot.

Eastside Open Blitz Tournament: Sunday 7-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$25.

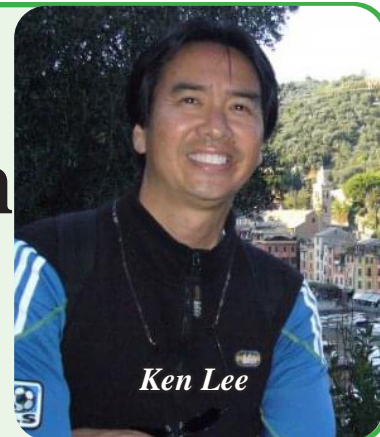
Format: A 7-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess Blitz rated. **TC:** G/4; +3.

On-site registration: 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30. Closing Ceremony ~ 8:45pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of March 2025 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund: \$500** (based on 40 pd. entries)

1st - 3rd: \$120-80-50, 1st U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/Unrated: \$30. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

Sage Advice From PNW Chess Coach Walter Guity



Ken Lee

“New City, Same
Passion, Chess is a
Journey.”

Ken Lee

Moving from the Bronx to Seattle when you're a high school freshman isn't easy. When you add growing up as a second-generation immigrant and speaking Spanish as your first language, the obstacles can feel overwhelming. Walter Guity utilized the life skills he learned from chess to carve out a lane for himself and his family. Now Walter owns and operates Sage Chess (<https://www.sagechess.com/>) and provides individual and group chess lessons to students throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Ken: When did you start playing chess?

Walter: I was in the sixth grade when my teacher noted that I displayed a talent in math, and he suggested I try chess. I took to the game immediately and I was hooked.

Ken: Did you have a lot of early success?

Walter: Actually, no. I remember going to my first tournament and losing every game. I went zero for five. Somehow, I didn't get discouraged, and I learned something new from all my games.

Ken: Who was your coach at that time?

Walter: I was living in the Bronx, New York at that time and my coach was IM Yury Lapshun. He was very encouraging and took the time to analyze all my games after that first tournament. A few tournaments later, I won first place. The contrast of those experiences was eye opening, and I instantly learned the value of losing.

Ken: What do you specifically mean by that?

Walter: Whether you're an adult or a child, it's so easy to get discouraged when you lose. If you reframe your mindset, you can gain a great deal of knowledge and confidence along the way. I learned that if you have the proper attitude, losing can create opportunities for amazing growth in your chess game and your personal life.

Ken: What was your chess life like in middle school?

Walter: I enjoyed competing in chess in middle school, and I was even able to go to a few national tournaments. I did relatively well but afterwards, my family moved to Seattle when I was a freshman in high school.

Ken: Wow, the transition from the Bronx to Seattle must have been challenging.

Walter: It was hard. Being from a Honduran family where Spanish was the dominant language and leaving the diversity of NYC for Seattle was quite a culture shock. We lived in Burien, and I attended Highline High School. I found my tribe, or rather I created my own tribe by starting the chess program at my high school.

Ken: How did you have the confidence to do that?

Walter: There wasn't a formal chess program at Highline High School, so I founded the first chess club there. Chess helped with the transition in high school because it gave me a sense of identity. I also played sports in school, but chess was really the place where I felt naturally gifted. That confidence helped me throughout middle school and my formative years in high school.

Ken: High school can be a very challenging time for young people.

Walter: Yes, there's so much going on inside and outside with a teenager. They are becoming connected to the world, to themselves, and to their families. They need that time to find their place.

Ken: If your high school was not part of the chess circuit at the time, how did you and your friends keep motivated to keep playing and learning?

Walter: It was casual. There were a lot of new players who wanted to learn how to play. We just kept going and eventually we were able to get funding for some boards and clocks. The process of running a club was very instructive.

Ken: What are your favorite chess books?

Walter: I always loved books with lots of puzzles like *More Chessercizes: Checkmate!* by Bruce Pandolfini.

But my all-time favorite chess book has been *My 60 Memorable Games* by Bobby Fischer. It's a classic because it's so rich with detail. The storytelling and commentary are so amazing. It's also hilarious reading Fischer's commentary, which is kind of unique for a chess book.

Ken: Coming from the Bronx, did you bring a certain style of play with you?

Walter: I think a certain type of aggressiveness and swagger comes with living and competing in the Bronx. Over there, you find out very quickly your place in the ecosystem. I always apply that sense of confidence when I sit across the board from anybody and feel like I have a chance of winning. It didn't matter their age or race. Being a minority, I often walk into spaces where I know that my community is not well represented. But inside, I tell myself that I belong just as much as the next person.

Ken: When did you first start coaching chess as a profession?

Walter: I was 20 years old, and I found out that Chess Wizards was looking for coaches. My hobby became a new source of income for me. Chess Wizards allowed me to travel and teach kids of different races and socioeconomic backgrounds. To me, it was a reminder of how far something will go if you plant the seed correctly into a child and let it grow.

Ken: What else propelled your chess coaching?

Walter: After a few years, the COVID pandemic happened, and I started teaching online. When I started teaching via Zoom, it became apparent that I could teach, manage classes, and coach on my own. I launched Sage Chess shortly thereafter: <https://www.sagechess.com/> I named my business Sage because it's another word for a wise person. I believe chess teaches us wisdom and allows us to apply it to our lives in very practical ways.

Ken: Your eldest daughter is also named Sage, yes?

Walter: That's right. That was something I wanted to pass on to her as well, an appreciation for wisdom. My daughters Sage (9) and Solange (5) both play chess, carrying on the family tradition.

Ken: What's something that distinguishes your style of coaching versus other programs?

Walter: One thing I see when many of my PNW students play in scholastic tournaments is that they want to win quickly and try to do a lot of tactical tricks. However, they often don't know how to properly finish a game. What I try to teach my students is not only how to gain an

advantage but also keep that advantage throughout the game. While it's nice to win quickly, when you play more experienced players you have to learn to play with endurance and accuracy. I try to separate myself by teaching my students good fundamentals throughout an entire game, not just short checkmates.

Ken: How do you sharpen your tool set and make sure you're staying ahead of your students?

Walter: I still play competitively myself so that keeps me sharp. More importantly, it also allows me to build empathy for my students. I know exactly what it feels like to be in a tournament. It's a mix of excitement, anxiety and self-doubt.

Ken: What else do you do to keep your coaching skills sharp?

Walter: I try to surround myself with players and coaches who are stronger than me. I ask them what kinds of things they are doing to develop their students, and we openly discuss what challenges we are facing as coaches. Learning and sharing with my peers is huge because I don't learn nearly as much sitting in front of a chess board by myself.

Ken: Is there a particular game from you or your students that you'd like to share?

Walter: Yes, here is one between two of my students who participated in the Sage x Wiiser Tournament in September. Here is that game.



Coach Walter congratulating his students after participating in the first Sage x Wiiser Quads. Photo courtesy of Walter Guity.

10.Qxd4 e5 11.Qxb4 Bf5 12.Nh4 Bxc2
13.Rac1 Be4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Qxe4 c5
16.Bd3 b6 17.Qxh7#

1-0

Ken: Walter, can you discuss the difference between what you can coach online vs over the board?

Walter: There are benefits to both over the board and online coaching. With OTB, I can teach students to move their pieces with intention and precision. If they move with confidence, their opponent will feel that energy. In over the board chess, there's so much more body language being conveyed vs online chess. Also, a larger emotional investment in over the board games versus online. Over the board players practice emotional regulation more than online players. The games last longer and take an emotional toll while online games tend to be fast and if you lose, you can play another game right away so there isn't much time for reflection.

Ken: What does the future hold for you and Sage Chess?

Walter: I want to be able to share the bit of talent that God has given me with the next generation and to instill a love of chess in them. I think chess can teach kids to grow, learn, and face all kinds of challenges in their lives. I also like to encourage my students to stick to their path when things get tough. For some students, chess and the victories come easily. For others, they have to build that resilience over time. I tell my students that whatever they have a passion for, stick with it. It worked for me, and it can work for you as well.

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**Sage Guity (526) –
Kenzo Wang (227)
[D00]**
Sage x Wiiser,
09.2024

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5
Bg4 5.e3 e6 6.Bd3
Bb4 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bxf6
gxf6 9.Be2 Nxd4



YOU'RE INVITED

Join us for a special fundraising gala on March 21st, 2025, dedicated to supporting and empowering girls in chess. This elegant evening will include a gourmet dinner, complimentary parking, and the Mercer Island High School orchestra to make the night truly memorable. The auction will feature Metropolitan Market gift cards, Victoria Secret baskets, wine selections, stunning paintings, chess lesson vouchers and more.

This gala is not just an event, but a celebration of the potential and talent of young female chess players. By attending, you'll be contributing to scholarships, training, and resources that help girls thrive in the game, building confidence and skill in a traditionally male-dominated field.



DATE: March 21st, 2025
TIME: 6:30pm to 9:30pm
TICKETS: \$125 (*18+ Only*)
LOCATION: Hilton Bellevue Hotel
300 112th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA



MyChessWorld.com

WA State Barber/Rockefeller

OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



CLASSICAL SECTIONS

K-5 Rockefeller Open (Qualifier for Rockefeller Closed Event)

6-8 Barber Open (Qualifier for Barber Closed Event)

A 4-round Swiss. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated; US Chess membership required. Time Control: G/60; +10. Late default: 30 minutes. Rounds: 9am, 12pm, 2:45pm, 5:30pm. Awards ~ 8pm or asap.

RAPID SECTIONS

K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, 4-8 U900, K-3 Open, 4-6 Open, 7-12 Open.

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9am, 10:30am, 11:45am, Lunch, 1:15pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

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.

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by March 16th, \$60 after. Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:
1st – 5th: \$90-80-70-60-50.

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:
1st – 5th: \$30-25-20-15-10.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first timers, best female player, and biggest upset win.

FOLLOW-UP INVITATIONAL EVENT

Top 6 finishing WA State residents in the K-5 Rockefeller Open and 6-8 Barber Open section (by MSCO tiebreaks) will qualify for the Rockefeller and Barber Closed Events on March 30 in Seattle. The other 6 spots in each closed event will be determined by rating. The winners of the closed (4-Round Swiss) events will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) and will be the WA State representatives at the National Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August.

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by

Credit/Debit/PayPal/Zelle/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 Sat., March 22nd @ 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the tournament.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2024-25 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

RATING

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

Questions?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President at 206.769.3757 or WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Detective Cookie

CHESS CLASSIC

SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH, 2025

RAINIER BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER

8825 RAINIER AVE S, SEATTLE, WA 98118



Format

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

K-1 U700

2-3 U800

K-3 Open

4-8 U900

4-12 Open

Schedule

Arrival: 8-8:45am

Rd. 1 - 9am

Rd. 2 - 10:30am

Rd. 3 - 11:45am

Lunch

Rd. 4 - 1:15pm

Rd. 5 - 2:30pm

Awards ~ 3:45pm

Eligibility

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2024-25 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

Entry Fee

\$40. Free for Detective Cookie Chess Club students. Scholarships available upon request. Max of 150 players; please register early.

Awards

Trophies awarded to the top-finishing players in each section. Team trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections. Medals for first-timers, best female player, best dressed, and biggest upset win in each section.

Rating

NWSRS rated. Open sections also US Chess Rated. Higher of current NWSRS or April US Chess rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Registration

Register online at nwchess.com/onlineregistration

Pay by

Debit/Credit/PayPal/Zelle/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% preregistered, no on-site entries. **Registration + payment deadline April 5th @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Clocks

Chess clocks will be used from the start in the Open sections. Clocks not required for the U700, U800, and U900 sections, until a judge places one into unfinished games set for G/10; +5 after 35 minutes of play.

Questions?

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

2025 Western States Regional Chess Championship for Girls & Women



Format

A regional tournament open to all female chess players in three sections.

Megan Lee Championship

A 5-round, G/60; +30 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Tri-rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Rds.: Sat. @ OCA Seattle: 9am, 1pm, 5pm. Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 4:30pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Divya Deshmukh U1300

A 1-day, 5-round, G/40; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:45am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Carissa Yip U700

A 1-day, 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:30am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Prize Fund: \$2,500 (Guaranteed, thanks to generous grants and donations from US Chess & My Chess World.)

Championship:

1st - 3rd: \$400, \$260, \$180
1st U1800/U1600/U1400: \$60

U1300:

1st - 3rd: \$180, \$140, \$110
1st U1200/U1000/U800: \$60

U700:

1st - 3rd: \$140, \$110, \$80
1st U600/U400/U200/unrated: \$60

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$10/round
Best Dressed: \$10
Best Etiquette: \$10
Kindness & Spreading Joy: \$10
Best Mother/Daughter Team: \$20

Sat-Sun, April 12-13, 2025

Sat - Orlov Chess Academy - Seattle
7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Sun - Chinook Middle School
2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 4/5, \$60 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, and US Chess 2000+. Maximum of 30 players in Championship section and 150 players total, please register early.

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

Rating: Highest of April US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess membership required. Membership must be paid at the time of registration.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Registration and payment deadline: Fri. 4/11 @ 5pm.

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so please consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. Payment is also available via Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com).

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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation, c/o Orlov Chess Academy - 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.

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

Fun Side Events!

Workshop for Girls and Women: Sun @ 12-1pm.
Includes complementary pizza lunch!

FM Megan Lee Simul: Sun @ 2:15-3:45pm.
EF: \$25. Max 25 players, please register early.

Puzzle Solving Competition: Sun @ 4-4:30pm. EF: \$10.



US CHESS
women

Samantha Smith Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The inaugural Samantha Smith Scholastic chess tournament took place on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at Samantha Smith Elementary School in Sammamish. The event offered a rare Wednesday afternoon format due to weekend scheduling constraints at the school, with the first round beginning at 2:30 PM on Wednesday afternoon and subsequent rounds running every hour. Since Wednesday is an early release day for many Eastside schools, the schedule worked out well, since many of the attendees from the host Samamtha Smith team were already on site.

A strong showing of 100 scholastic chess players in grades K-7 participated in the event, with the majority hailing from the Sammamish/Issaquah area and schools on the Sammamish Plateau. The field was split across four sections parsed by grade and rating: K-3 U700, 4-6 U800, K-3 Open, and 4-12 Open. All games were dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, which helped players establish or update their local and national ratings in preparation for upcoming State and National competitions.

The Samantha Smith Elementary Chess Team, led by chess enthusiast and former ship captain Peter Zou, is one of the fastest growing chess programs in the State and is quickly establishing itself amongst Washington's strongest Elementary chess teams. The efficient and fast-paced structure of an afternoon tournament hosted on a weekday appealed to those with busy weekend schedules who might otherwise not have been able to attend. The afterschool start time made it easy and convenient for the Samantha Smith team, which comprised about 70% of the field, to attend. It remains to be seen if this model can be emulated successfully by other Elementary programs in the future.

While the event drew from primarily a Sammamish/Issaquah base, players from the following cities represented

in the five-round Swiss tournament: Sammamish, Gig Harbor, Redmond, Bellevue, and Seattle. The event was hosted by Samantha Smith Chess Club, organized by Captain Peter Zou, and directed by WCF Vice President

Rekha Sagar with assistance from Alex Byelashov and Michael Shapiro. Many thanks to the amazing chess families and volunteers who contributed to this fantastic event! Congratulations to the trophy winners:

Samantha Smith Scholastic Prizes

Section Prizes: Trophies

Section	K-3 U700	4-6 U800	K-3 Open	4-12 Open
1st Place	Henry Bogomolov	Vihaan Gaddam	Jeremy Ge	Peng-Ruei Pan
2nd Place	Pradhyun Sai Battala	Derek Xu	Easton Ren	Eugene Chou
3rd Place	Akash Phadnis	Maya Burmistrov	Emma Ge	Seojoon Oh
4th Place	Aaron Liu	Parth Anant Sundaram	Sofia Byelashova	Alex Ye
5th Place	Adwik De	Eric Peng	Suchir Iyer	Armin Puranik
6th Place	Stavya Sharma	Anay Sane	Aakash Bysani	Darya Byelashova
7th Place	Ananya Sreshta Devavarapu	Saanvi Phaneesh	Eason Chen	Shashwat Pranav Iyer
8th Place	Jeremy Li	Samay Sajeeth	Jiyong Ruan	Jinhan Zou
9th Place	Lucas Deng	Arjun Kini	Advit Goel	Neil Upasani
10th Place	Maitri Vatsan	Akshay Sharma	Peng-Yu Pan	Vidyuth Nandakiran

Team Prizes: Trophies will be awarded to the top four players from the top five finishing teams (top four scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections.

Place	Team (School)	Team Score (pts)
1st	Samantha Smith Elementary	19
2nd	Christa McAuliffe Elementary	14
3rd	Somerset Elementary	7.5
4th	Discover Elementary	7.5
5th	Sunny Hills Elementary	7

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-3 U700	Ananya Sreshta Devavarapu		Ruiping Xu (314 pts)
4-6 U800	Maya Burmistrov		Parth Anant Sundaram (208 pts)
K-3 Open	Sofia Byelashova		Aakash Bysani (315 pts)
4-12 Open	Darya Byelashova		Shravan Gokul (293 pts)

WA Spring Mini-Teams

CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Chinook Middle School - 2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



FORMAT: A 5-round, Team (3-player) Swiss-paired tournament in four sections: **K-3, 4-6, 7-12,** and **Parents/Friends.** K-12 players may play up into higher grade sections and the Parents/Friends section is for post-high school players only. See "Scoring" and "Procedure" below for more information.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all students registered in grades K-12 and their parents/friends. Players are allowed to form their own 3-player teams, or else the TD will compose additional teams from the remaining individuals. Teams will be counted in the group of the oldest (by grade) player.

SCHEDULE: Arrival: 8:00- 8:45am. Rounds at 9:00am, 10:30am, 11:45am, lunch, 1:15pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

TIME CONTROL: G/25; +5. Late default: 15 minutes.

ENTRY FEE: \$50 (per player) by 4/6, \$60 after. Room for 150 players.

RATING/MEMBERSHIPS: Dual NWSRS & US Chess rated; US Chess membership required. Higher of US Chess Regular April supplement, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings. Unrated players will count as follows for avg team rating: K-3: 175, 4-6: 500, 7-12: 950, Parents/Friends: 1300.

AWARDS: Amazon Gift Cards awarded to each player from the top-finishing teams in each section:
K-3: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1st U700 avg: \$40.
4-6: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1st U800 avg: \$40
7-12: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1st U900 avg: \$40.
Parents/Friends: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1st U1000 avg: \$40

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first timers, best all-female team, and biggest upset win (by avg team rating). Highest-finishing team with all members from the same school: \$30. Best parent + child team (as scored by total number of points): \$30.

PROCEDURE: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Each round, a Team vs Team pairing will be announced, each Team's Board 1, 2, and 3 will play the other respective team's Board 1, 2, 3. Please contact Organizer Siva Sankrithi (sivas108@gmail.com) for any pre-determined teams. Team information will be kept on a spreadsheet [HERE](#).

THE DETAILS: **Online Registration:** NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/Zelle/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. To register your team, please fill out the [Team Registration Form](#). Any **team member requests** must be received by Siva (either via the above form or email) by 5:00pm **Friday Apr. 11, no exceptions.** Players who register in the final 24 hours, along with those who have not registered a team, will be placed on a composed team. **100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri., April 11 @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the tournament.

SCORING: Standings based on Team Points. Each team receives 1 Team Point for winning a match (i.e., scoring 2.0 points or more across all three players), while the team losing the match gets 0 Team Points for that round. If a match is drawn (i.e., each team scores 1.5 points), both teams receive 0.5 Team Points. If needed to break ties in the final standings, total Board Points will be used (i.e., the total of the team members' individual scores).

QUESTIONS?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757,

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Organizer: Siva Sankrithi, sivas108@gmail.com

Co-hosted by Western WA University & WA Chess Federation



Bellingham Open



Saturday, April 19, 2025

Western WA University – Viking Union Building: Multipurpose Room
516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

Highest finishing WA resident in the Whatcom Open seeded into the 2026 WA State Championship – Challengers section.

Format: A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Whatcom Open and Fairhaven U1700.

Entry fee: \$35 by 4/12, \$40 after. Free entry for WWU students. Need-based scholarships are available upon request. Maximum of 150 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: At-site registration & check-in: 9:15-10:15am. Rounds (5): 10:30am, 12pm, 2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 6:30pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/30; +10 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

Rating: Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of current NWSRS or April 2025 US Chess Regular Rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess membership required.

Prize Fund: \$1,400 (based on 80 paid entries)

Whatcom Open: 1st – 3rd: \$240-\$180-\$120. 1st U1900/U1800/U1700: \$50

Fairhaven U1700: 1st – 3rd: \$140-\$100-\$80, 1st U1500/U1300/U1100/U900: \$50, 1st Unrated: \$50

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset Win: \$25, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed: \$20.

Byes: Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Online registration + payment deadline: Fri, April 18 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the waitlist will be offered a spot. At-site registration: 9:15-10:15am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", SettleKing, Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (@WACHess).

Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

12th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open

Apr 18-20 or Apr 19-20, 2025, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess
150 GPP (Enhanced)

\$27,500!! (b/275)

\$17,000!! (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated
OPEN Section

NEW LOCATION: J Resort Casino Hotel, 345 N. Arlington Avenue, Reno, NV 89501

Downtown Reno, formerly Sands Regency Casino Hotel

6 Rd Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2, Game/1 - d5 ♦ (Open Section) 40/2, Game/55 - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5

Open Section (2200 & above) EF: \$194, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 3/21 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

Open Section \$2,000 - 1,000 - 900 - 800 - 700 - 600 - 500, (2399/below) \$1,000 - \$500, (2299/below) \$1,000 - \$500 (If there is a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

Section Expert (2000-2199) EF: \$194 (2-day EF: \$190) \$2,000-1,000-500-300-200

Section "A" (1800-1999) EF: \$193 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,800-900-500-300-200

Section "B" (1600-1799) EF: \$192 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,700-800-400-300-200

Section "C" (1400-1599) EF: \$191 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,500-700-400-300-200

Section "D/Under" (1399-below) EF: \$180 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$400-200-100

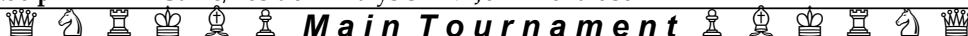
Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.

Wed. 4/16: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

Thursday 4/17: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

7:30 pm - GM Enrico Sevillano Simul (\$20); Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$25 - 80% of entries = Prize Fund

Saturday 4/19: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

 **Main Tournament**

Registration: Thursday (4/17) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/18) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (4/19) 9 - 10 am.

Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9 am - 4 pm (2-day Schedule) Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6 pm

For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel, (H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackykl@aol.com

Room Reservation: Call J Resort Reno, 1-866-386-7829, Group Reservation Code: CHESS 2025

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$104.01, Friday-Saturday \$138.06, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 4/9

For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: www.renochess.org

ENTRY FORM - 12th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - Apr 18-20 OR Apr 19-20, 2025

Mail to: WEIKEL CHESS LLC, 6578 Valley Wood Drive, Reno NV 89523

PRINT Name _____ Phone# _____ USCF Rating _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USCF ID# _____ Exp. Date _____ All pre-registered players check in at TD desk on arrival.

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (circle)

1	2	3	4	5	6
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----- OPEN SECTION ----- EXPERT "A" "B" "C" "D/Under" UNRATED

GM/IM • Masters • 2000-2199 • 1999-Below 2000-2199 1800-1999 1600-1799 1400-1599 1399-Below Free With

3-Day EF	Free •	\$194 •	\$250 •	\$300	\$194	\$193	\$192	\$191	\$180	USCF Dues
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2-Day EF	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	USCF Dues
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FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thu. Simul GM Sevillano
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- \$20 Discount - Sr 65+ Age _____

POSTMARK BY March 21, 2025. Add \$11 after 3/21. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 4/11 or email after 4/15. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS LLC or provide credit card info and signature. \$7 service charge on credit card entries. Visa Master Card Am.Ex
Name on Credit Card _____
Expiration Date _____ ZIP Code _____
Credit Card# _____ CVV Code _____
Signature _____

- Check Enclosed
- Charge My Card

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____

TOURNAMENTS



Venue

7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115

[info & events calendar](#)
www.seattlechess.club
[entries & inquiries](#)

SCC Tournament Director
same address as above
– or –

contact@seattlechess.club

March 9

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:** 1st (35% of prize fund), 2nd (27%), bottom half (by rating) 1st (22%), 2nd (16%). **Registration:** 9:45-10:15am. **Rounds:** 10:30am, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30pm. **Byes:** 1 half-pt., commit at registration. US Chess membership req'd.

March Tornado

March 22-23

See below.

Seattle Spring Open

March 7, 14, 21, 28

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

March Winds

Entry fees
We accept Paypal, cash and check for
tournament entry fees. No credit cards.
Paypal: <https://paypal.me/seattlechess>.

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

SEATTLE SPRING OPEN

March 22 - 23, 2025

A 5-round Swiss in 2 sections – Open & Reserve (U1600)
with time control Game/90 + 10 second increment

Prize fund: \$1,500 based on 40 paid entries & 4 per prize group

OPEN: 1st \$400 2nd \$260 U1900 \$150 U1750 \$90

RESERVE: 1st \$250 2nd \$140 U1400 \$110 U1200 \$70 unr \$30

- ✦ **Entry fees:** SCC & Seattle U. CC members \$65, others \$80. After 3/17 add \$10.
- ✦ **Registration:** 9-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm Saturday, 10:30am & 2:30pm Sunday
- ✦ **Venue:** Seattle University, Sinegal Bldg., Room 100-110, 12th Ave. & E. Marion St. (southwest corner), Seattle 98122.
- ✦ **Byes:** 2 half-point byes available. Commit at registration for Sunday rounds.
- ✦ **Max 60 seats.** Sign up at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>. US Chess membership required.

Washington Girls Championship



MAY 17-18, 2025

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - GREENLAKE
7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Championship section receives the title of Washington State Girls Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2025 [Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions](#), held concurrently with the US Open in early August.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections:

- **Elena Donaldson Championship:** A 2-day (Saturday-Sunday), 5-round G/90; +10 Swiss tournament. Open to all girls desiring to play for the title of WA State Girls Champion. Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sun. 10am, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 6:30pm. A tie for first place in the Championship section will be resolved later in the year by two G/90 playoff games.
- **Katerina Rohonyan U1400:** A 1-day (Saturday only), 4-round, G/40; +10 Swiss tournament. Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 11am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Awards ~ 5:30pm.
- **Naomi Bashkansky U800:** A 1-day (Sunday only), 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss tournament. NWSRS rated; US Chess unrated, no US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sun. 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

Eligibility: Open to all girls in grades K-12 as of the 2024-25 school year. Out-of-state players welcome! Players must be under the age of 19 as of Sept 1, 2025.

Rating: Higher of current NWSRS or US Chess May supplement rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

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

Entry Fees: Donaldson Championship: \$50 by May 10, \$60 after. Rohonyan U1400/Bashkansky U800: \$25 by May 10, \$30 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or US Chess 2000+. Maximum of 32 players total & maximum of 20 players in a section - please register early to secure your spot.

Registration: Online registration available at 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. **Registration + payment deadline is Friday, May 16 by 5pm.** No registrations or payments will be accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster, and spots will be offered to players on the waitlist.

Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards prizes awarded in each section (based on 30 paid entries).

Elena Donaldson Championship: 1st - 3rd: \$120, \$90, \$60, 4th - Chess book.

Katerina Rohonyan U1400: 1st - 3rd: \$60, \$45, \$30, 4th - Chess book.

Naomi Bashkansky U800: 1st - 3rd: \$60, \$45, \$30, 4th - Chess book.

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset - Medal, Best Dressed - \$10, Kindness + Spreading Joy - \$10.

Questions? Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

