Northwest Chess

September 2026

Northwest Chess

September 2026, Volume 80-09 Issue 944

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

USPS publication 422390

Published monthly by the *Northwest Chess* Board.
To see the games from this issue online click:

Issue Games Viewer

To see photos from this issue click:

Issue Photo Album

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to the Office of Record:

Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M
Redmond, WA 98052-5164

Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, Washington
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, jeffreyroland9@gmail.com
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, chesscoaching@gmail.com
Publisher: Duane Polich, publisher@nwchess.com
Business Manager: businessmanager@nwchess.com

Board Representatives

Aniruddha Barua, Alex Machin, Duane Polich,
Ralph Dubisch, Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan,
Wilson Gibbins, Jeff Price, Eric Holcomb.

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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:

September 5 for the October issue;
October 5 for November.

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

Business Manager
Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M
Redmond, WA 98052-5164

businessmanager@nwchess.com
https://www.nwchess.com

Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and 2014-2026 by Chess Journalists of America!

Front Cover

Garrett Reynolds at the Washington Open (Carlsen Rapid).

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover-A

Idaho Chess Federation President Jeff Price joined the *Northwest Chess* Board on August 9, 2026.

Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Back Cover-B

Elke Johnson at the 2026 Father's Day Open.

Photo credit: Manunthon Atikankhotchasee.

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.
editor@nwchess.com

Subscriptions / Premium Memberships *Individual residents of WA/OR only.* *Washington residents please add sales tax.* *Idaho residents see https://idahochess.net/*			**Rate**
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Chess Journalists of America Awards

by Ralph Dubisch

Northwest Chess is proud of our contributors and columnists! We submitted over 20 entries for the Chess Journalists of America (CJA) 2026 awards, and the results are in.

The magazine again won the Cramer awards for best state or regional publication in both print and online categories.

Wilson Gibbins took the Cramer award for best state championship coverage (Oregon Closed), in the April 2026 issue. Wilson also won the Cramer award for best state tournament report (Oregon Junior Championship), February 2026 issue. To complete his trifecta, Wilson won in the Print Articles, local and regional category, for his Oregon Open story, November 2025 issue.

Our own editor, Jeffrey Roland, also personally won three awards: Visual Arts, photo journalism, for his story on the ICA January Alchemist Coffee House Swiss tournament (March 2026 issue); the Cramer state magazine photo, "Old School," that appeared on the back cover of June 2025 issue; and the Cramer best photograph, "Tom Booth," from the Alchemist story mentioned above.

In the Online & Social Media category, The Chess Friends won the award for best humorous contribution, "Chess Smiles," April 2026 issue. Meiling Cheng got two honorable mentions, one for her picture of Siana Razmov being exuberant in front of the chess balloons (May 2026 issue), another for her shot of Sofia Michael at the Detective Cookie tournament back cover, July 2025 issue.

Finally, we submitted 60 pages of scholastic coverage, mostly written by Josh Sinanan, earning an honorable mention in the scholastic category under Cramer.

Nine wins, three honorable mentions. Not bad. Congratulations to everyone!

King County Open

September 12-13, 2026

Embassy Suites Bellevue

3225 158th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98008

Format: A 5-round Swiss in 4 sections: **Sammamish Open, Woodinville U1900, Snoqualmie U1500, Tukwila 1100**.

Entry fee: $120 by 9/5, $140 after. $60 play-up fee if rated 1000-1099, 1400-1499, or 1800-1899 USCF and playing up in Snoqualmie U1500, Woodinville U1900, or Sammamish Open, respectively. 50% discount for Seniors (50+) and free entry for chess royalty rated 2300+ USCF. Open to all junior + adult players. Maximum of 150 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Arrival: 9-9:45am. Rounds: Saturday: 10am, 2pm, 6pm. Sunday: 10am, 3pm.
King County Blitz: ~ 7pm or asap.

Time Control: G/75; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.

Rating: Dual USCF + NWSRS rated. Sammamish Open and Woodinville U1900 are also FIDE rated. September 2026 USCF rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of USCF and CFC ratings used for Canadian players. Other foreign ratings are used for players with no USCF rating, or at TD discretion.

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

Prize Fund: **$6,000** (based on 100 paid entries).

Sammamish Open: 1st–3rd: $500-400-300. 1st U2200/U2000: $200.
Woodinville U1900: 1st–3rd: $400-300-250. 1st U1800/U1600: $150.
Snoqualmie U1500: 1st– 3rd: $400-300-250. 1st U1400/U1200: $150.
Tukwila U1100: 1st–3rd: $350-250-200. 1st U1000/U800: $150. 1st Unrated: $150.

Special Prizes (per section):
Auburn Biggest Upset Win: $10/rd., Federal Way Best Female Player (by TPR): $50, Issaquah Best Senior Player (50+, by TPR): $50. Kent Best Dressed: $10/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 SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), cash, or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. **Registration + payment deadline: Fri, September 11 @ 5pm.**

King County Blitz: Sunday 7-9:30pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** $30. **Format:** A 7-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual USCF Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/5; +3. **On-site registration:** 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:20, 7:40, 8, 8:20, 8:40, 9pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9:30pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of September 2026 USCF Regular/Blitz rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund: $750** (based on 50 paid entries)
1st – 3rd: $150-125-100, 1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: $50. Biggest upset: $5/rd.

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

Our Brightest Chess Hours

The Chess Friends

The Man Benji, The Myth Sarang, and The Legend Vivi

Howdy! It's The Chess Friends!

Last year in September, for the first time, *Northwest Chess* magazine published one of our blogs, *Our Darkest Chess Hours*, and since then, every month, we have been contributing our articles to the magazine. Can you believe it's been a full year?! It took a lot of brain-storming, dedication, and discipline, month after month, to write and submit our article on time, to be considered for the next issue! We are thankful for the opportunity to share our thoughts, and grateful to Editor Jeffrey Roland for giving us freedom to express our opinions and make silly jokes. We're also grateful to those who gave us support, friendly comments, and questions, and all of you who looked forward to reading The Chess Friends article every month. To all our dear readers, it means a ton to us to hear how much you like to open the magazine to find our article there! We learned so much, gained so many new experiences, and made new friends along the way. Onward to year two!

For this issue, to celebrate the one-year anniversary of *Northwest Chess* articles by The Chess Friends, we decided to echo our first ever published piece, and share *Our Brightest Chess Hours*! We hope they will remind you of your own chess memories and make your heart warm and your face as smiley as Peshka's!

The Legend Vivaan

Friendship and Service

As I was reflecting on my chess career, which spans more than half my life, there were so many moments that came to my mind as bright. While medals and trophies may be bright, literally, the moments that stood out most to me were rooted in friendship and service. I've

made so many friends through the chess world, and the chess world is truly my second home. While competing is fine, I love meeting people of all ages, sharing stories and experiences, and learning more together through the game we love so much. It doesn't matter whether it's in the Pacific Northwest, or anywhere in the world that chess takes us, it feels like home. One of the greatest highlights for me is that I get to have a fellow homeschooling chess friend, Siana, over every week, and we play chess, we analyze, we play lots of other games, and we have a blast!

In 2025, I won the adult Washington State Championship, Sensations Section, that came with a big prize fund, $225! A few weeks before, I learned about a new friend, Atlas, who suffers from chronic pancreatitis. Before the tournament began, both me and Sarang decided that any money we won would be donated to Mission Cure, committed to searching for a cure for pancreatitis. This motivated me to fight even harder over the chess board. Ultimately, we got to meet Atlas in person and CBS National News' David Begnaud carried a story on his *Dear David* segment that helped raise even more funds for Mission Cure and awareness for pancreatitis. We continue to donate all the money we receive through chess, whether it's from playing, writing, or coaching, to support causes we believe will make a positive difference in the world. With that in mind, let's turn it over to my big bro The Myth Sarang to share his brightest moments.

The Myth Sarang

Writing and Coaching

Like Vivaan said, competing is fine, and while I thoroughly enjoyed winning the U11 US Junior Open in 2024 among other titles, it's the sharing and giving back that matters the most to me. From the age of six, I wrote daily and journaled. At eight, I wrote my first book, *Do Brown Cows Make Chocolate Milk?: Family Experiences Around Child-Led Learning*, with my Dad, Mom, and little brother The Legend Vivaan. The experience of sharing my voice with people of all ages from all over the world totally changed my perspective on life.

Shortly thereafter, I got to writing even more with my buddy The Man Benji, and The Chess Friends were born. Since then, we've been blogging, writing articles for *Northwest Chess* magazine, and published one book, *Q&A Chess: Tournament Edition*, with another in the works (stay tuned!). Hearing stories from

so many about how our writing has helped them means the world to me. Meeting Benji weekly and sharing ideas and writing in a way that helps other kids and adults alike appreciate the chess world is super rewarding! After taking several college writing courses, I also started my own blog, *ProdigyStrats.com*, to help people get a glimpse into my world and hopefully help them in theirs, whether through chess, music, cooking, gaming, sports, travel, or yoga.

Coaching chess has been a major highlight for me this past year. I helped coach the King's High School Chess Team in their inaugural season and they got second at State Individual! More than that, all the players improved considerably, and I'm proud of the team chemistry I helped facilitate. I now have multiple private students and work with a free by-kids-for-kids chess school, which you can learn about at *PawnToQueenChessCoaching.com*. I've particularly enjoyed talking chess pedagogy with Coach Tim Moroney and other leaders in the Northwest Chess community and love designing new curriculum and helping fellow strong kid chess players into coaching as well. Now let's turn it over to my fellow author and dear friend The Man Benji to share his brightest chess moments.

The Man Benji

The Light of the Game

When I think of my brightest chess hours, I don't remember winning a tournament, gaining rating, or taking a trophy home. What comes to mind is the game itself. When I play chess, I enjoy thinking hard about a position and using all my brainpower to find brilliant and flashy moves. That is the source of chess light for me. Do you know those light bulb moments in your head? That's what I play for, even if the end result is losing a game. Experimenting and coming up with ideas, even if they end up being errors, is part of the process.

Like the second World Chess Champion Emanuel Lasker, who said, "Without error there can be no brilliancy," I think that *Yesterday's errors can become tomorrow's brilliancies, if you let them teach you*.

For example, I might be trying a new opening for the first time at a tournament. It might not work out well, which is understandable since it's new. So, I would play on, but lose more games with it. I could get disappointed, to put it mildly, and sink into a dark hour, thinking that it's the opening's fault, or worse, it's my fault! Or I could convert these unproductive thoughts into energy that powers me to study what went wrong in that line. Then, in the next tournament, I might get better results, and the feeling that your hard work has paid off will create another source of light.

Last year, when I wrote about my darkest chess hour, I described a disappointing performance at a tournament. What I didn't realize after that tournament, or even when writing about it a year later, is that it wasn't a dark hour, but a breaking point that fueled the light within. You know glow sticks, those little plastic tubes, that, when you bend them, you break the smaller glass container inside, then the two solutions mix and give off light in a process called chemiluminescence? My process is called *chess-luminescence*, but unlike the disposable glow sticks that last only a few hours, chess-luminescence keeps on shining!

The thing is, we have to create our own light; that way it shines the brightest. For me, learning chess and trying something new is what creates the light. It's now part of me, a must-have feature, like in creatures that shine their way in the darkest seas and oceans. (Fun fact, in 2008, Dr. Osamu Shimomura shared a Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work in bioluminescence, studying luminous jellyfish *Aequorea* right here in Washington, in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island!)

The darkest chess hours are fleeting, but the brightest hours keep shining, illuminating our chess journey forward. Does that mean it's always daytime in chess? When do the chess lights turn off so we can get some rest? When we call it a knight!

Ha! We can't have a celebratory article without our critically acclaimed knee-slappers, can we? Here they are, sunny and bright edition!

What did the light bulb in Benji's head tell him during the chess game?

"Watt's up?"

***

Why does ice cream play chess only during the long days of summer?

Because when it's summer, anything is popsicle!

***

What did the sunscreen say to its opponent after losing the chess game?

"Please, don't rub it in."

***

How many chess players does it take to change a light bulb?

None, that's what TDs are for!

***

Why do light bulbs play chess?

To practice their brilliance.

***

Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends!

The Man Benji,

The Myth Sarang,

The Legend Vivaan

Cohosted by Eastside Oly Chess Club & WA Chess Federation

Washington State Governor's Cup

Saturday, September 19, 2026

The Rock Church - 1901 7th Ave SE, Olympia WA, 98501

Highest finishing WA resident in the Governor's Open seeded into the 2027 WA State Championship – Challengers section.

Format: A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Governor's Open and Thurston U1200.

Entry fee: $35 by 9/12, $40 after. Need-based scholarships available upon request. Maximum of 30 players per section and 50 players total. Please register early to guarantee your spot!

Schedule: At-site registration & check-in: 9:15-10:15am. Rounds (5): 10:30am, 12pm, lunch, 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: NWSRS rated. Governor's Open is also USCF rated. Higher of current NWSRS or September 2026 USCF regular rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess membership required for Governor's Open. No membership required for Thurston U1200.

Prizes: $700 (based on 50 paid entries)

Governor's Open: 1st: $200 + trophy, 2nd: $150, 3rd: $100. 1st U1700/U1500/U1300: $85.

Thurston U1200: Trophies for 1st – 5th Place, 1st U900/U700/U500/U300/Unrated.

Special Medal Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win, Best Female Player & Best Dressed.

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

Concessions: Coffee, tea, and water will be provided courtesy of Eastside Oly Chess Club. Pizza lunch from Wicked Pies Pizza will be available for purchase (cash only) on-site. A variety of snacks will be available for purchase throughout the day.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Online registration + payment deadline: Friday, September 18 @ 5pm.** At-site registration: 9:15-10:15am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation) or Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com).

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

PRECISION MASTERS SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON

19333 N CREEK PKWY S, BOTHELL WA-98011

FORMAT

A 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss tournament in five sections:

K-2 U700
3-5 U700
K-5 Open
6-12 U900
6-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd. 1 – 9:00am
Rd. 2 – 10:30am
Lunch
Rd. 3 – 12:30pm
Rd. 4 – 1:45pm
Rd. 5 – 3:00pm
Awards ~ 4:30pm

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2026-27 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE

$50 by 9/6, $60 after.
Room for 120 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Trophies for 3 points and above in each section.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player, best dressed, and biggest upset win. ***Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-5 Open and 6-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2026 SPFNO!***

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with **US Chess membership required in all sections**. Establish or update your national rating! Higher of current NWSRS or US Chess regular rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

CLOCKS + NOTATION

Chess clocks set to G/25; +5 will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for K-3 U700. All equipment is provided courtesy of MCC.

REGISTRATION

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by Zelle/Cash/Check.
100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri September 18 @ 5:00pm.
No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

PROCEDURE

Pairings will be posted in the hallway near the parent waiting area.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Questions?
Contact Rekha Sagar, MCC Founder,
Monroechessclubllc@gmail.com,
425-496-9160

43rd Annual Reno Western States Open

An American Classic and Heritage Event

Oct 2-4 or Oct 3-4, 2026, 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, F.I.D.E. Rated (2200 & above) EF: $194, (2000-2199) $250, (1999/below) $300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 9/4 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. 10/30: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only $30!-bring clock)

Thursday 10/1: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

Saturday 10/3: 3 - 4:30 pm - Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson (FREE)

♕♘♖♔♗♙ *Main Tournament* ♙♗♔♖♘♕

Registration: Thursday (10/1) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/2) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/3) 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 ● wackyykl@aol.com

Room Reservation: Call J Resort Reno, 1-866-386-7829, Group Reservation Code: Westernchess1026

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday $104.01, Friday-Saturday $138.06, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 9/18

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

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ENTRY FORM - 43rd Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - Oct 2-4 OR Oct 3-4, 2026

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 |

- - - - - - - 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
2-Day EF	$190	$190	$190	$190	$190	USCF Dues

FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

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

POSTMARK BY September 4, 2026. Add $11 after 9/4. Add $22 on site. Do not mail after 9/25 or email after 9/29. 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: $ _____

2026 Washington Father's Day Open

Josh Sinanan

The 2026 Washington Father's Day Open was held on Father's Day weekend, June 20-21, at Hotel 116 in Bellevue. Players traveling from multiple universes across the North American chess galaxy were represented in the two-day chess fest, including the cities of Bellevue, Redmond, Bothell, Portland, Sammamish, Woodinville, Newcastle, Vancouver (BC), Bremerton, Black Diamond, Everett, Tenino, Edmonds, Silver Spring (MD), Kenmore, Gig Harbor, Issaquah, Renton, Bellingham, Clyde Hill, Coquitlam, Coralville (IA), Beaverton, Olympia, Lynnwood, Lake Forest Park, Hillsboro, Kingston, Seattle, Lakewood, Kent, Ferndale, North Bend, Mercer Island, Buffalo Grove (IL), Hunts Point, Port Townsend, Medina, and University Place! NTD Jacob Mayer, WCF FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee, WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger, and Des Moines Chess Club Founder Matthew Duran directed the event, which attracted a robust turnout of 138 players in three sections: Yoda Open, Boba Fett U1700, and Chewbacca U1200. All three sections were triple rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE, much to the satisfaction of the many rising chess stars seeking to establish or improve their local, national, and international ratings. The flexible five-round G/90; +30 format, which featured three games on Saturday and two Sunday, appealed to players of all ages and levels.

Jedi masters GM Vladimir Belous of Woodinville and FM Stephen Willy of Sammamish topped the 54-player Yoda Open, each with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. Belous vanquished Jedi apprentices Vijayakumar (2247) and Jiang (2275) but was held to a draw in the fourth round by Lee (2333). Wild Willy won his first three games against elder Jiang (1492), Whale (2034), and Summerfield (2190), took a fourth-round half-point bye, and finished strong with a clutch win against Lee (2333) in the final round. Redmond "Red Leader" Harishkumar Karthikeyan earned third place honors, recovering well from a third-round loss against Jiang (2275) to vanquish Oregon TIE fighters Maokhampio (2014) and Saputra (2055) in the last two rounds. Six intergalactic gladiators joined the resistance and shared the fourth-place prize with 3.5 points apiece: FM Ryan Porter of Bellevue, NM Advaith Vijayakumar of Bothell, FM Brandon Jiang of Bellevue, Pranav K. Anoop of Bellevue, CM Rafael Palathingal of Bothell, and Luca Tessiore of Seattle. Coquitlam Commander CM Zachary Liu earned the first U2100 prize with an impressive "plus two" score. Six rising rebel leaders—Miles Kuipers of Bellevue, Anish Lodh of Coralville, Daniel Qian of Bellevue, Pratik Thorwe of Seattle, Yogi Saputra of Portland, and Lucas Maokhampio of Beaverton—split the second U2100 prize with three points apiece. Sammamish saber-twirler Odbayar Yondon collected the first U1900 prize with an impressive 3.5 points. A quadruplet of rookniks split the second U1900 prize with three points: Michael Lin of Sammamish, Vijay Nallappa of Redmond, Karl Reutter of Kent, and Yuntao Liu of Clyde Hill. Several players became one with the force and were recognized a special prize for the biggest upset win, Leia best female player, Han

Solo best dressed, Obi-Won best dad player, and Darth Vader best parent/child team. Winning the biggest upset win prizes were Jacob Rish-Brown (Round 1, 306 points), Vijay Nallappa (Round 2, 169 points), Yuntao Liu (Rounds 3+4, 338 points + 419 points, respectively), and Aarav B. Mohan (Round 5, 155 points). FM Megan Lee won the Best Female Prize with a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 2300, and Hitesh Khamesra earned the Best Dad Prize with a TPR of 1582. Ebullient ewoks Oliver He (Saturday) and Yash Syal (Sunday) were awarded the Best Dressed Prizes for their fleek ensembles. The Father/Son team of Hitesh/Nikhar Khamesra won the Best Parent/Child Prize with a combined average TPR of 1325.

In the Boba Fett U1700 section, a pair of chess bounty hunters, Krishang Gupta of Everett and Mikhail Lagzdin of Redmond, emerged victorious in the 54-player field, each with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. The two co-champions conquered their rivals in opposite orders, with Lagzdin taking a half-point bye in the first round and Gupta in the final round, while winning each of their other four games. The third/fourth/first+second U1600/first U1400 prizes were shared amongst five stormtroopers, each of whom scored four points from the five games: Moinuddin Mohammed of Sammamish, Liam Naughton of Edmonds, Kartika Kalakoti of Bellevue, Viet Nguyen of Redmond, and Oscar Preiner of Seattle. Woodinville chess wookie Rithvik Bharath collected the second U1400 prize a half-point back. Several special prizes were also awarded to those who helped good prevail over evil in the chess galaxy. Winning the biggest upset prizes for their underrated efforts were Rohan Karnik (Round one, 249 points), Oscar Preiner (Rounds two+three+five, 327 points + 433 points + 399 points, respectively), and Tejas Bharadwaj (Round four, 793 points). Eevie Tare of Portland took home the Best Female Prize thanks to her 1407 TPR. The well-dressed ladies Sharanya Pingale (Saturday) and Ishana Datta (Sunday) were recognized for their classy attire. Eastside chess rookie Kaushik Rajan was recognized as the Obi-Won Best Dad Player for thanks to his 1368 TPR.

In the modest 26-player Chewbacca U1200 section, Bellevue chess "padapawn" Sreeram M. Kakarlapudi was named champion with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. Kakarlapudi began strong, rattling off four consecutive victories against Shi (799), Yadav (899), Ponomarenko (665), and Lin (1088) before being held to a draw by Yin (893) in the final round. A quadruplet of X-Wing pilots in-training shared second/third/fourth/first U1000 honors a half-point back with four points apiece: Evan Lin of Seattle, Hsien-Kai Hsiao of Bellevue, Adrian Ponomarenko of Bellevue, and Vicky Yin of Bothell. Death Star destroyer George K. Joseph earned the second U1000 prize with a solid "plus two" score thanks to a clutch last-round upset victory against Jain (953).

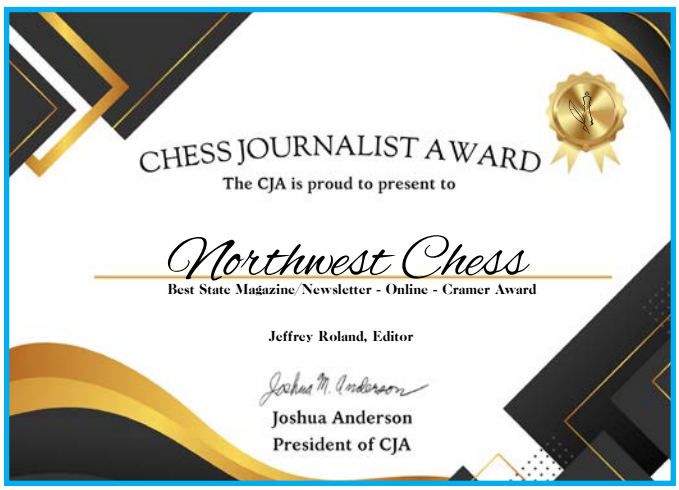
Two Endor residents of the Bothell forest moon—Srivatsa Kondapi and Pi Nouveau—shared the first+second U800 prizes with three points apiece. Several special prize winners could be seen celebrating in the Bright Tree Village high above the forest floor. Capturing the Biggest Upset Wins were Pi Nouveau (Rounds one + three + four, 422 points + 744 points + 492 points, respectively), Luke Shi (Round two, 392 points), and Anthony Sofronas (Round five, 450 points). Jedi princess Vicky Yin added to her royal winnings by taking home the Leia Best Female Player prize with a TPR of 1073. Light saber wielders Elke Johnson (Saturday) and Vicky Yin (Sunday) were awarded the Best Dressed prizes for their stylish efforts. Hsien-Kai Hsiao, the father of Aaron Hsiao, won the Obi-Wan Best Dad Player prize with a TPR of 1092. The Hsiao family was also honored as the Darth Vader Best Parent/Child team with an average TPR of 1144.

Congratulations to the winners!

Father's Day Blitz

The Father's Day Blitz tournament took place on the evening of Father's Day Sunday, June 21, shortly after the conclusion of the main tournament. The 49-player field consisted of a diverse mix of dads, future dads, moms, daughters, and sons. The nine-round Single Swiss tournament lasted around two and a half hours and featured players with ratings ranging from unrated to grandmaster, many of whom were keen on establishing or updating their FIDE and USCF blitz ratings. The hypersonic G/3; +2 time control made for several interesting clashes and wild time scrambles, some of which can be found on WCF's YouTube channel.

Power chess couple GM Vladimir Belous of Woodinville and FM Megan Lee of Bellevue shared first + second place honors, each with 7.5 points from nine games. Belous recovered well from a third-round loss against Fletcher (2012)



to set up sixth-round clash with Lee, which ended peacefully. Lee started off red-hot with five consecutive wins against Das (1544), Mohan (1623), Qian (1849), Karthikeyan (1862), and Willy (2161) before drawing against Belous. Lee's seventh-round loss against dark horse Anoop (1922) allowed Belous to catch up, after which the duo won their last two games to share the tile. Bellevue chess Mandalorian Pranav K. Anoop captured third place honors a half-point back, losing only to GM Belous and FM Willy. Redmond chess illuminator Imai Maharaja captured the first U2000 prize with an impressive six points thanks to clutch wins against Willy (2161) and Qian (1849) in the sixth and seventh rounds, respectively.

Seattle star-destroyer Ziliang Ma earned the first U1700 prize a half-point back thanks to his clutch final-round draw against the deified Gadde (1439). Young chess legionnaire Michael Makienko of Lynnwood earned the first U1400 prize after recovering well from a round start and winning his final four games in a row! Redmond chess rooknik Tejas Bharadwaj won the first U1100 prize with a solid four-point score. Former California resident and newcomer Matt Wan, who now lives in Tukwila, refused the temptation of the Dark Side and won the first unrated prize with four points thanks to victories against womp rats Avula (1265), Barua (1310), Das (1544), and Bharath (1370)!

Many thanks to the players who came out and competed in these fun events!

Waterland City Open

Matityahu Ben-Ha'av

The 2026 Waterland City Open, presented with the generosity of Edward Jones Financial Advisor Doug Myers, featured some of the area's top players, such as 2025 State Champion FM Ryan Porter and recent PNW transplant GM Vladimir Belous. There was also a solid showing of rising young stars finishing near the top of the field, like NM Advaith Vijayakumar (recent winner of the 2026 Emerald City Open), Harishkumar Karthikeyan, Jeffrey Wei, Leonardo Wang, and Lucas Maokhampio. Des Moines Chess Club's first classical tournament was also a family affair with father/son duo Chris and Gabriel Pleasants, the Rish-Brown Brothers, and the Maokhampio siblings (one in each section). On July 11th and 12th 51 players converged on Des Moines—The Waterland City—for the inaugural five-round event. Spread across three sections—Open, U1700, and U1300—the field included a range of players, from those competing in their first rated event up to Grandmaster, and from first grade to senior citizen. After a weekend of fierce competition GM Vladimir Belous proved unbeatable, finishing in a clear first place with 4.5/5 (+4-0=1) relinquishing only .5 point to Jeffrey Wei in a round two draw. Other top competitors Porter and Vijayakumar were also held to draws in round two by Leonardo Wang and Alex Chow, respectively. Sunday's final rounds proved the biggest challenge for Belous as he had to go through Vijayakumar in round four and Porter in round five, scoring wins in both to secure the victory.

The U1700 section was dominated by rising young talent Brenden Keane, who cruised to clear first with 4.0/5 (+4-1=0) scoring wins over veterans Allen Hall, and Anthony Lamb. Only second-place finisher Chris Pleasants was able to score against him in the final round. After his tremendous showing in Des Moines, Keane followed it up with another first-place finish in the U1700 section of the Eastgate Cup the following weekend, July 18-19.

Newcomers Brandon Aviado and Lars Hosea, both playing in their first

Open winner GM Vladimir Belous.
Photo credit: Heather Duran.

rated over-the-board tournament, lead the U1300 section with 4.5/5 (+4-0=1) and 4.0/5 (+4-1=0) respectively, taking first and second place.

Vladimir Belous (2557) –
Advaith Vijayakumar (2242) [D61]
Waterland City Open
Des Moines, WA (R4), July 12, 2026
[Matityahu Ben-Ha'av]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nc3 0-0 6.e3! Nbd7 7.Qc2! h6 8.Bh4 c6 9.Rd1 b6 10.Be2 Bb7 11.0-0 Nh7

11...dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nd5 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Bd3 Nf6

12.Bxe7? Qxe7 13.Ne5 Nhf6 14.f4 dxc4 15.Bxc4 Nxe5 16.fxe5 Nd5 17.Qd3

17.Nxd5

17...Nxc3 18.bxc3 c5 19.Bb3 Qg5 20.Rf2 Rad8 21.Bc2 f5

Position after 21...f5

21...g6 22.Bb3 cxd4 23.cxd4 Rd7 24.Qe2 Rc8 25.Rdf1 Qh5 26.Qb5 Bc6 27.Qd3 Qg4 28.Bd1 Qg5 29.Bf3 h5

22.exf6 Rxf6

22...gxf6 23.Qh7#

23.h4 Qg3

23...Qxh4 24.Qh7+ Kf7 (24...Kf8 25.Rxf6+ gxf6 *(25...Qxf6 26.Rf1 Qxf1+ 27.Kxf1)* 26.Bg6) 25.Bg6+ Ke7 26.Qxg7+ Kd6 27.Qxf6

24.Qh7+?? Kf7 25.Bg6+ Qxg6

25...Kf8 26.Rxf6+ gxf6 *(26...Ke7 27.Qxg7+ Kd6)* 27.Qf7#; 25...Ke7 26.Qxg7+

26.Rxf6+ Qxf6 27.Rf1 cxd4 28.Rxf6+ Kxf6 29.cxd4 Bc6 30.h5 Be8 31.Qg8 Rc8 32.Qf8+ Kg5 33.Qxg7+ Kxh5 34.Qe5+ Kh4 35.g3+

35.Qf6+ Kh5 36.Qxe6

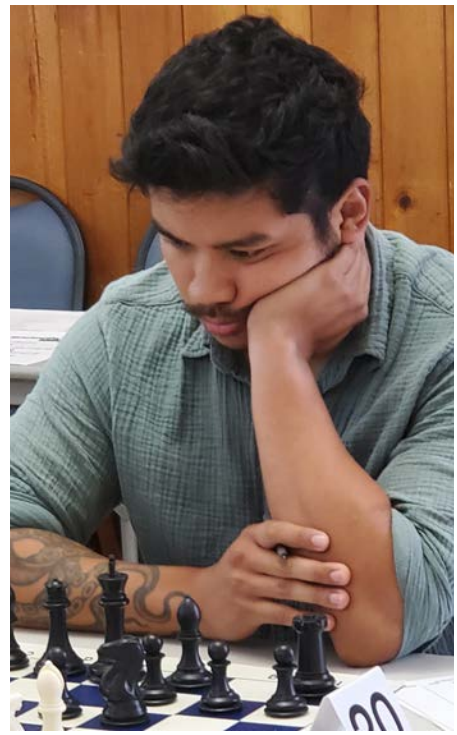
35...Kh3

35...Kg4

36.Qxe6+

1–0

U1700 winner Brenden Keane.
Photo credit: Heather Duran.



U1300 winner Brandon Aviado.
Photo credit: Heather Duran.

WASHINGTON Class Championships

Fri–Sun, November 27-29, 2026

Embassy Suites Seattle North/Lynnwood

20610 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA 98036

Format: A 6-round Swiss tournament in 8 class sections.

Schedule: 3–day or 2–day option; up to 2 byes available.

Rating: Dual rated – USCF & NWSRS; top 4 sections also FIDE rated.

Fun Side Events:

- Adult Swiss (Classical TC)
- Thanksgiving Scholastic
- Women's & Girls' Workshop
- Puzzle Solving Competition
- Carlsen Rapid
- Fischer Chess960 Rapid
- "Knight-Time" Blitz
- And More...

Online Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Washington Women's Championship

SAT-SUN, OCTOBER 17-18, 2026
HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE
625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest Finishing WA Resident in the Polgar section becomes WA State Women's Champion and is seeded into 2027 WA State Championship, Invitational section. If there's a tie for 1st place, G/90 playoff games will be played later in the year.

Format: A Swiss-style tournament in four sections. Sections with <6 players may be merged.

Polgar Championship: A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Tri-rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE. Rounds: Saturday: 9:30am, 2pm, 6:30pm. Sunday: 10am, 3pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Wenjun U1300: A 6-Round G/75; +10 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Dual NWSRS + USCF rated. Rounds: Saturday: 9:30am, 1pm, 4:30pm. Sunday: 10am, 1:30pm, 5pm. Awards + **Workshop for Women & Girls** ~ 8pm.

Yip U700: A 1-day, 5-Round G/25; +5 Swiss. Dual NWSRS + USCF rated. Rounds: Sunday: 10am, 11am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 3:45pm.

Botez Casual: A 1-day, 4-Round G/30; +10 Swiss. Open to players unrated – 999. Unrated; no memberships are required. Rounds: Saturday: 11am, 1pm, 2:30pm, 4pm. Awards ~ 5:30pm.

Rating: October 2026 USCF rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of USCF and CFC ratings used for Canadian players. Other foreign ratings are used for players with no USCF rating, or at TD discretion.

Entry Fee: Polgar/Wenjun sections: $60 by 10/10, $70 after. Yip/Botez sections: $40 by 10/10, $50 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFMs, or Chess Queens rated 2000+ USCF. Players rated 600+ and 1200+ USCF may play up one section into the Wenjun and Polgar sections, respectively. Maximum of 50 players total and 25 players per section, please register early.

Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Registration + payment deadline Fri. 10/16 @ 5pm.**

Eligibility: Open to all female chess players. Out-of-state players welcome!

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership required for Polgar, Wenjun, and Yip sections; other states accepted. Membership must be paid at time of registration. No membership required for the Botez section.

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

WA State Scholastic Chess Championships Qualifier!

Prize Fund: $1,300 (based on 50 paid entries)

Polgar Championship: 1st-2nd: $150-100. 1st U1800/U1600/U1400: $75.

Wenjun U1300: 1st-2nd: $80-60. 1st U1200/U1000/U800: $50.

Yip U700: 1st-2nd: $50-40. 1st U600/U400/U200/Unrated: $30.

Botez Casual: 1st-3rd: $50-40-30.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: $5/round, Best Dressed: $5/day, Best Etiquette: $5, Fair Play/Kindness/Spreading Joy: $5/day, Best Mother/Daughter Team (by avg TPR, across sections): $15.

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

WASHINGTON CHALLENGERS CUP

SAT-SUN, OCTOBER 17-18, 2026

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing Washington residents in the Gukesh + Pragg sections seeded into the 2027 Washington State Championship + Rising Stars sections, respectively.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections:

Gukesh Open, Pragg U1800, Sarin U1400.

In case of a tie for 1st place, a future playoff match will determine the seed for the Championship or Rising Stars section of the 2027 Washington State Championship.

Schedule: Saturday 9:30 AM, 2 PM, 6:30 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3 PM. Blitz Tournament: ~7pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 1 hour.

Prize Fund: $6,000 (based on 100 paid entries)

Gukesh Open: 1st–4th: $650–550–450–350.
1st U2100/U1900: $300.

Pragg U1800: 1st–4th: $400–350–300–250.
1st U1700/U1500: $200.

Sarin U1400: 1st–4th: $400–350–300–250.
1st U1300/U1100: $200; 1st Unrated: $150.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: $10/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): $50, Best Senior Player (50+, by TPR): $50, Best Dressed: $20/day.

Entry Fee: $120 by 10/10, $140 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs and all chess Challengers rated 2300+ USCF. $60 play-up fee if rated 1300-1399 or 1700-1799 USCF and playing in Pragg U1800 or Gukesh Open, respectively. Maximum of 150 players; please register early.

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

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

Rating: Dual USCF + NWSRS rated. Gukesh Open and Pragg U1800 are also FIDE rated. October 2026 USCF rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of USCF and CFC ratings used for Canadian players. Other foreign ratings are used for players with no USCF rating, or at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), cash, or write a check to Washington Chess Federation.
Registration + payment deadline: Fri, 10/16 @ 5pm.

Challengers Cup Blitz: Sunday 7-9:30pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** $30. **Format:** A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual USCF Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/3; +2. **On-site registration:** 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9:15pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of October 2026 USCF Regular/Blitz rating used to determine pairings and prizes.
Prize Fund: $750 (based on 50 paid entries)
1st – 3rd: $150-125-100, 1st Unrated: $40, Biggest upset: $5/rd. 1st U2200/U1800/U1400/U1000: $75.

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

20th Annual SPICE Cup Open

November 4-9, 2026

Hilton Bellevue

A US Chess Grand Prix Event

Co-hosted by the Susan Polgar Foundation and the WA Chess Federation.

A 9-round, dual USCF and FIDE-rated Swiss. One section; minimum rating 2000 FIDE or 2200 USCF required.

Entry fee:

- GMs: Free entry.
- Foreign IMs: $245 by 9/4, $345 by 10/4, $445 after.
- US Flag IMs: $345 by 9/4, $445 by 10/4, $545 after.
- Foreign FIDE-rated players (2000+): $445 by 9/4, $545 by 10/4, $645 after.
- US players 2200+ FIDE: $795 by 9/4, $895 by 10/4, $995 after.
- US players 2000-2199 FIDE: $995 by 9/4, $1,095 by 10/4, $1,195 after.

Schedule:

Wednesday 11/4: Arrival & Check-in – 3:00-4:30 PM, Rd. 1 – 5:00 PM.
Thursday 11/5: Rd. 2 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 3 – 4:00 PM.
Friday 11/6: Rd. 4 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 5 – 4:00 PM.
Saturday 11/7: Rd. 6 – 11:00 AM.
Saturday 11/7: SPICE Cup Blitz Championship (9SS, G/3; +2, FIDE + USCF Blitz rated) – 7:00 PM.
Sunday 11/8: Rd. 7 – 11:00 AM
Sunday 11/8: SPICE Cup Rapid Championship (5SS, G/15; +5, FIDE Rapid + USCF Quick rated) – 5:00 PM.
Monday 11/9: Rd. 8 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 9 – 4:00 PM, Closing Ceremony – 8:00 PM or ASAP.

Prize Fund: $12,500 Guaranteed! GM, IM, WGM, and WIM norms are possible.

1st – 3rd: $5000-3000-2000, Top U2450: $500-250, Top U2300: $500-250.
Special Prizes (which can be won in addition to a place or class prize)**:**
Top Female: $500, Top Senior (50+): $500, Brilliancy Prize: $100.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.

Byes: Players may request up to two half-point byes in rounds 1-7 if announced by the start of the tournament. Zero-point byes are available for any round.

Rating: Dual USCF and FIDE rated. November 2026 FIDE ratings will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Memberships: A current US Chess membership is required at the time of the tournament.

Hotel: Hilton Bellevue: 300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004. $239 for a King room or 2 Queens. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event day parking. Discounted overnight parking of $20 per vehicle per night. Many restaurants are within 1-2 miles of the hotel. For online hotel reservations, use the **booking link**. Group Code: CHESRL. For phone reservations, call 425-455-1300 and reference the 2026 SPICE Cup. Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 14, 2026**.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration or send registration form and payment to: Washington Chess Federation, 4174 148th Avenue NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, Washington 98052. Limited space available; please register early. Registration will stay open until capacity is reached or by the **deadline of 11/3** at 12:00 PM PT. Partial refunds (less PayPal fees + $20 processing fee) are available until the registration deadline.

Miscellaneous: Limited free hotel accommodation available for GMs. Players receiving conditions may not take any byes without express permission from the organizer. All equipment is provided. Anti-cheating measures will be strictly enforced.

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

TOURNAMENTS

venue & mail

7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115

info & events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

club & tournament inquiries

contact@seattlechess.club

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

September 4, 11, 18, 25 (Fri.) — **Autumn Leaves**

One U.S. Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm. **Time control:** 40 moves in 90 minutes w/10sec. increment, then sudden death 60 minutes w/10sec. increment. SCC members free, $5/night others. Play in any or all rounds! **Sign up** at contact@seattlechess.club. **Venue:** Seattle Chess Club, 28 players max.

September 5-7 (Sat.-Mon.) — **SCC Masters Open**

6-round Swiss in 1 section, USCF & FIDE rated. Minimum USCF 2000 rating required, with limited exceptions. **Time Control:** Game/90 + 30sec. inc. **Prize fund:** $2,100 guaranteed. Details and registration info at https://nwchess.com/calendar/2026%20SCC%20Masters%20Open.pdf

September 7 (Mon.) — **FIDE Bonus Blitz**

7-round Single Swiss in 1 section. FIDE & USCF rated. Open to players of all ratings. **TC:** G/3+2. **Prize fund:** $300 guaranteed. Starts after Masters Open (above) approx. 8pm. Details & reg. on Masters Open flyer above.

September 12 (Sat.) — **September Quads**

3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating. **Time control:** Game/85 + 10-sec. increment. **Entry fee:** $15 (+ $20 day membership for non-SCC). Prepayment required. **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Check-in:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2pm, 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! **Venue:** TBA. US Chess rated, US Chess membership req'd. **Sign up:** https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ .

September 26-27 — **Seattle Fall Open**

See below.

Coming up:

- **Autumn Adult Weekend** – October 10-11; tentative, 2B confirmed
- **October Quads** – October 24; tentative, 2B confirmed

SEATTLE FALL OPEN

SEPTEMBER 26 – 27, 2026

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A 5-round Swiss in 2 sections – Open and U1600 – with time control of Game/90 with 10-second increment

Prize fund: $2,500 based on 60 paid entries, 3 per prize group

OPEN: 1st $660 2nd $430 U1900 $240 U1750 $160
U1600: 1st $435 2nd $240 U1400 $145 U1200/unr $110

Biggest upset win in each section, rds 1-4 $10 each

- **Entry fee** by 9/20: SCC members $70, others $100. After 9/20 add $10. Must be paid within 72 hours of registering or face withdrawal!
- **Play up fee:** If USCF rating under 1500, $25 for SCC members, $35 others to play in Open section.
- **Check in:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm Saturday, 10:30am & 2:30pm Sunday
- **Venue:** Seattle University, Pigott Building, Room 304-305 (3rd level), 901 12th Avenue, Seattle 98122
- **Byes:** 2 half-point byes available. Commit before round 2 for Sunday rounds.
- **Max 80 seats.** Register at http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Sign up early!
- US Chess rated. Current US Chess membership required.
- See flyer for important info re waitlist, refund and tax policies.

Co-hosted by Susan Polgar Foundation & Washington Chess Federation

21st Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys

Saturday-Sunday, November 7-8, 2026

Hilton Bellevue: 300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Info: spfno.com **Register**: ChessReg.com
Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com
Phone: 206-769-3757

2–day Championship sections

K–5 Open **K–5 Girls**

K–8 Open **K–8 Girls**

K–12 Open **K–12 Girls**

Format: A 5-Round, G/60; +30 Swiss. Dual NWSRS + USCF rated.
K-12 sections are also FIDE rated.

Rounds: Sat: 10am, 1:30pm. Sun: 10am, 1:30pm, 5pm. Awards ~ Sun 8:30pm.

1–day Scholastic sections (Sat-only)

K–1 U700 **K–3 Open**

2–3 U700 **4–6 Open**

4–6 U700 **7–12 Open**

Format: A 5-Round, G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS rated. Open sections are also USCF rated.

Rounds: Sat: 9am, 10:45am, 12:15pm, 1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ~ 4:30pm.

All Sections: Trophies awarded to top-scoring individuals and teams. Medals for first–time players who do not earn a trophy. Higher of November USCF or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

Hotel Rates: Hilton Bellevue for $179 (1 King/2 Queen) per night, address above. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event day parking. Many restaurants within 1–2 miles from hotel. Phone: 425.455.1300, request SPFNO room block. Group Code: CHESCI. Booking link for online hotel reservations. Cut–off date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 14, 2026**.

Entry Fees: (by Oct. 7 | Oct. 8 – 31 | Nov. 1 or after)

- **2-Day Championship sections** EF: $99 | $129 | $159
- **1-Day Scholastic sections (Sat-only)** EF: $65 | $80 | $105

Registration & Payment: Registration and payment deadline Fri 11/6 @ 5pm at ChessReg.com (pay by credit/debit/PayPal).

Fun Side Events!

Parents and Coaches Seminar: Sat @ 10:15-11:15am.

SPFNO Girls Workshop: Sat @ 11:30-12pm.

GM Susan Polgar Book Sale & Signing: Sat @ 2-3pm & Sun @ 11am-12pm.

All-Comers Blitz with FM Megan Lee: Sat @ 3:15-4:30pm.

SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition: Sat @ 5:30-6pm.
EF: $25 by 11/1, $40 after.

SPFNO Blitz Championship: Sat @ 6:30-9pm.
EF: $35 by 11/1, $50 after.

GM Susan Polgar Simul: Sun @ 1-4pm.
EF: $75 by 11/1, $100 after. Max 20 players.

Special Offer: Stay two nights or more in the Hilton Bellevue and receive one free entry into the main tournament!

MANIFEST IT