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(L-R): Megan Lee and Ignacio Perez winning the Master
section of the 2019 Washington Class Championships.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

On the back cover:

Selfie time. (L-R) Stephanie Velea, Monica Olaru, and
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Toasting the Host

(Poem written about the Samuel Clemons tournament held
December 1, 2019 in Eagle, Idaho)

By Glen O'Harra

First day of December, I made my way,
Away to Jef's manger, there chess to play.

Glad tidings proclaimed, tourney informal,
Nothing insane, just fun and normal.

When I arrived, through snow had burrowed,
Let out a sigh, it was joy to my world.

Wine from grapes, and two kinds of cheese,
Crackers and crepes, palates were pleased.

No stockings stuffed, the mantle was bare,
A table spread rough, with chessboards square.

A silent night, one could hear a pin drop,
With insight, players in thought.

Merry old gentlemen, some ladies too,
Through mental lens, positions did view.

Skewers and pins, from books they had read,
Visions of wins danced in their heads.

Chelsea and Hank on chairs were sitting',
Bill of some rank, was usually kibbitzin'.

From the roster, Jef showed my place
His foe first, frown creased his face.

I opened the game with the sturdy stonewall,
Of Fischer fame, would be brutal brawl.

He then attacked with his nimble knight,
My pawns pushed back, put horse to flight.

A piece held dear, his castle fell,
The end was near; he knew full well.

It was sad, his king was toast,
I felt bad beating the host.

Next game with Mike, my stomach queasy,
His moves are right, but rather sleazy.

It was tough fight, nip and tuck,
He took my knight, was out of luck.

His pieces precise squares did cover,
Gently and nice, tipped monarch over.

Played more games, some lost, some won,
No calling names, just having fun.

Kicked players rear, bid a hearty good night,
Threw car in gear, and pulled out of sight!

Samuel Clemens Tournament Game

By Alex Machin

Alex Machin –
Mike Presutti [E70]
Samuel Clemens Tournament
Eagle, ID (R3), December 1, 2019
[Alex Machin]

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.e4

Later Mike said that if I had played 3.Nc3 he would have played 3...c5 4.d5 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 f5 the Dzindzi Indian.

3...d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bd3

This is the first time I've ever played this system. I wanted to stay away from the mainline where Black attacks White's king.

5...Nc6 6.Nge2 a6 7.0-0 e5 8.d5 Nd4 9.h3

Next time I'll try 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Ne2 c5 11.Bg5 Even though Black has a protected passed-pawn, White's pawns are more mobile and can create threats with an eventual e5 or f5 break.

9...c5 10.Be3 h5 11.f4

11.Qd2? I must watch out for Black's tactics. 11...Bxh3! 12.gxh3 Nf3+ Game over!

11...Bg4

I thought for quite some time and decided I had a better position and didn't need to accept the piece. The computer may think taking the material is an easy choice but I decided to play what I was comfortable with.

12.fxe5 Bxe2 13.Nxe2 Ng4

After a long think, I found a specific line where I would sacrifice a piece back in exchange for an attack against his king.

14.hxg4 hxg4 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Qxg4 dxe3



Position after 16...dxe3

17.e6??

White should have played the crushing



Taken from outside the house looking in, all 12 players in the tournament can be seen in this shot. Photo credit: Jennifer Leifeste.

rook sacrifice when he is winning!
17.Rxf7!!

17...Be5

17...e2! A nice way of exploiting White's weak king. The dark squared bishop will come to d4 next.

18.Rxf7

White is not winning but clearly better after this move. 18.g3

18...Qh4

Black should have exploited my last inaccuracy with this idea. 18...Qb6 19.Be2 Bh2+ 20.Kf1 Qxb2 21.Rd1 Bg3 22.Kg1 Bh2+ 23.Kf1 Bg3 24.Kg1 When

the engine sees nothing better than to repeat. 24...0-0-0?? 25.e7+!

19.Qxh4 Rxh4

White needs to consolidate his position by activating his a1 rook and figuring out how to secure the king. After that, White can put pressure on Black by attacking the g6 pawn or create a passed pawn at the right moment.

20.Rb1 Bh2+ 21.Kf1 Rf4+ 22.Rxf4 Bxf4 23.Ke2 0-0-0 24.Rh1 Re8 25.Rh7 Bg5 26.Kf3 Rf8+ 27.Kg4 Bf6 28.b4 Re8 29.Rh6 Rg8 30.c5 Kc7 31.Rh7+ Rg7 32.Rxg7+ Bxg7 33.Kg5 Bd4 34.cxd6+ Kxd6 35.Kxg6 Ke7 36.a4 Bc3 37.b5 a5 38.Bc4 b6 39.d6+! Kxd6 40.Kf7 1-0

Chess Vignette “Abdul’s Story”

By Karen Schmidt

In the summer of 2016 I played a lot of casual chess at Westlake. I met a lot of very interesting people. All guys, of course...but of all ages, nationalities, and walks of life. One gentleman I played with several times was Abdul, originally from Somalia. He generally won our games, but sometimes when I was having an “on day” I could beat him.

We never talked much, beyond the usual “check” and “checkmate.” I could tell he had a sense of humor, though, because once in a while as we were playing a game, he would incline his head toward another player and make the spiral “crazy” sign with his index finger at his temple... I interpreted this silent communication to mean “Don’t play that guy. He’s a little crazy.” I always appreciated the discreet advice...although in truth, I have never really had a problem with crazy guys at Westlake. I have even played a few of them, and they have always been quite cordial to me.

One day Abdul told me that he had married an American woman named Karen(!), and that they had three children. That was about all I knew of his personal life, besides chess and being from Somalia.

This past summer of 2019, I was sitting at Westlake one day, getting ready to play, but I had not gotten out my chess board or dragged a cafe table over to where I was sitting yet. Abdul was there and was

enjoying a discreet beer in a paper bag on a sunny summer afternoon. We began chatting and out came a fascinating story of parts of his life.

He told me that when he graduated from high school in Somalia in 1974, his country was under the control of the Soviet Union. He and 19 other male graduates were conscripted into the Russian military and shipped off to Kiev, Ukraine, to be trained as Russian MIG fighter pilots.

Abdul spoke up in the USSR to Those In Control, and told them that he didn’t want to become a MIG fighter pilot. When they asked him what the hell he wanted to do, he told them he wanted to go home to Somalia, learn agriculture, and feed his people. This was not well received, and the Russians threw him in prison for six months. That is where Abdul learned to play chess.

My jaw had dropped a few times during this personal story. I was amazed and pleased to find Abdul in such a talkative and reflective mood. I waited for him to continue... thanking my lucky stars that we didn’t have a table set up between us. If we had, that would have been the beginning of chess games and the end of the life story.

After getting out of prison, Abdul had to wait a few weeks to get a passport back to Somalia. He had saved up some money, and through acquaintances, he instead took a train to Finland. There he made connections with someone in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He flew to Minneapolis. I had a little history lesson from him at this point. Apparently when

the USA was a young and growing country, no one settling here wanted to live in the Minnesota-Wisconsin area because of the extreme cold weather winter conditions. So the US government gave people free land (and probably a cow) to settle there. Most of the settlers were immigrants from Scandinavia...which is why that region is populated today with so many folks of Scandinavian descent.

Abdul and I somehow moved on to his other passion in life besides chess, another jaw-dropper: baking. When I expressed amazement and asked him what he liked to bake, he said “everything”: pies, cakes, breads, pastries. I asked him what his favorite cake is, to bake, and he told me carrot cake. I immediately suggested he please bake one and bring it down to Westlake for us to enjoy. He made the comment that cooking and baking are considered women’s work... but I reminded him that most of the famous chefs of the world are men.

I think we split two games that day, which I consider a win. I need to find him again to learn the rest of the story, about how he got from Minneapolis to Capitol Hill in Seattle. I will probably have to track him down playing chess in the Convention Center this winter, to get the rest of that story. He has my phone number but he hasn’t called me yet. Abdul, if you read this story please call me!

Abdul is just one of many very interesting people I have met through chess in Seattle. I am looking forward to sharing their stories with the *Northwest Chess* magazine readers in the coming months!



Randy (left), Abdul (right). Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

Oregon Chess News

By Frank Niro

Oregon Class Championships

The 2019 Oregon Class Championships were held on November 2-3 in Portland. Forty players competed in four sections. Nick Raptis won the Master-Expert Section with a 4.0/4 score, finishing a full point ahead of Joshua Grabinsky, Lennart Bjorksten and Zoey Tang. Raptis and Bjorksten entered the final round with perfect 3.0/3 scores and were paired on Board One. Raptis prevailed after a tense struggle to complete the only four-game sweep in the tournament. Ryan Lu and Austin Tang split the top prize in the Class A section with 3.5/4. Chris Burris (3.5/4) edged Kushal Tai by a half point to take Class B honors. Class C was won by Jon Strohhahn (3.5/4) over Cleveland Johnson and Moises Buckner (both players finished with 3.0/4). The event was directed by Michael Morris.

November Game/60

The monthly game-in-60 tournament at the Portland Chess Club featured 27 players in two sections. This was the last G/60 at the old location on SW 24th Avenue. As announced last month, PCC will be moving to new quarters at #2025 Lloyd Center Mall in Portland, Oregon. The Open Section was won by Nick Raptis, as he did in October, with 4.0/4. Radu Stancescu, Ishaan Rao and Jerrold Richards finished in a three-way tie for first place in the under-1650 section with 3.0/4. Mike Hasuike was the Chief TD.

Portland Chess Club Championship

The annual PCC Club Championship was won by Nick Raptis (4.5/5) by a half point over Steven Deeth (4.0/5). A newcomer to Oregon, Wilson Gibbons, held Raptis to a draw in the last round to join Jason Cigan, Lennart Bjorksten and Mike Janniro in a four-way tie for third place at 3.5/5. Twenty-four players competed in one section directed by Michael Morris.

Gibbons relocated to Oregon from Minnesota in September. He is a National Master and represented Minnesota

in the National Senior Tournament of Champions in Orlando, Florida, in August, where he finished tie for 14th place (3.5/6) along with Lennart Bjorksten, representing Oregon, and others. Gibbons and Bjorksten drew each other in round four of the National Senior. William Schill (4.0/6) was the Washington representative and Michael Presutti (2.0/6) represented Idaho in that prestigious event.

Class B player from North Portland wins \$100,000 playing Jeopardy!

Avi Gupta, a 2019 graduate of Catlin Gabel School in Portland and captain of the three-time Oregon High School team champions, was one of 15 teens selected from a pool of tens of thousands

of entrants to participate in the 2019 Teen Tournament on the popular television show, *Jeopardy!* He won his quarterfinal and semi-final matches as well as both rounds of the two-day final against players from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Miami, Florida, to earn the title of Champion and the \$100,000 first prize.

Gupta, currently rated 1608, has been an active member of the United States Chess Federation since playing in the National Elementary Championships in Nashville in 2007 in the K-1 section. His first OSGF tournament was in 2009 and his last USCF-rated tournament was the 2018 National High School Championship in Columbus, Ohio. Gupta credits his chess experience for helping to develop his analytical, problem-solving and competitive skills that were vital for his success on *Jeopardy!*

This fall, he began his collegiate career at Columbia University in New York City. Congratulations, Avi.



Avi Gupta (left) with TV game show host, Alex Trebek, on the set of Jeopardy! The show aired on June 21, 26, 28 and 29, 2019. Photo courtesy of avigupta.us.

Follow-up: Aaron Grabinsky

Last month, we reported on Aaron Grabinsky's hot finish in the 2019 SPICE Cup, as he seeks to push his rating above the qualifying threshold for the FIDE International Master title. He followed that result with a solid performance in the IM section of the 2019 Saint Louis Invitational, a ten player round robin tournament held November 21-26. Grabinsky had a chance to win the event outright with a final round victory, but he lost a complicated endgame in round nine to finish in second place tie with 5.5/9. He followed up by playing in the very strong Thanksgiving Open at the same venue, where he defeated Grandmaster Benjamin Bok (FIDE 2636).

Following are a few of his games from the Saint Louis Invitational and one from the 2019 SPICE Cup. Ratings shown are FIDE classical ratings.

Aaron Grabinsky (2338) – Keaton Kiewra (2372) [A01]

St Louis Inv IM 2019

Saint Louis (R7), November 24, 2019

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Ne6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e4
5.Nd4 Bc5 6.Nxc6 dxc6 7.d3 Bf5 8.Be2
Qe7

8...Bb4+!?

9.d4 0-0-0 10.a3 h5 11.b4 Bd6 12.h3
Rh6

Black builds up for his big kingside attack. Meanwhile, White plans to exit stage left.

13.e4! Qe6 14.Qa4 Kb8 15.Nc3 Rg6
16.Bf1 Be7 17.0-0-0 a6 18.Kb1 Nd7
19.Qb3 b5

19...Nf6±



Position after 19...b5

20.d5! cxd5 21.cxb5

21.Nxd5±

21...Ne5 22.Ne2

22.Rxd5 Nd3 23.bxa6±

22...Nd3 23.Nd4 Qd7



Position after 23...Qd7

24.Nc6+

Stockfish prefers to wait on the fork, first opening some kingside lines and making the f5-bishop a liability. 24.g4! hxg4 25.Bxd3 exd3 26.hxg4 Bxg4 27.f3 Bh3 (27...Bf5 28.Rh5! Rf6 29.Rxf5 Rxf5 30.Nc6+ Kc8 31.Qa4+-) 28.Nc6+ Rxc6 29.bxc6 Qc8 30.b5+-; Another option is to go for a clean extra pawn: 24.bxa6 Rxa6 25.Nxf5 Qxf5 26.Rxd3 exd3 27.Bxd3 Qe6 28.Bxa6 Qxa6 29.Rc1±

24...Rxc6 25.bxc6 Qxc6 26.Bxd3 exd3
27.Rd2 Qc4 28.Qa4 Qb5 29.Qxb5+
axb5 30.Bd4 Kb7 31.Kb2 h4 32.Ra1
Rd6 33.Rc1 Rg6 34.Be5 c6

34...c5!? 35.bxc5 Rxg2 36.c6+ Kc8
37.Kb3 d4!?!∞

35.f3 Bg5 36.Bd4 Re6 37.Re1 g6 38.Kc3
Bf4 39.Ra2 Bb8 40.a4 Re8 41.Kd2 Bd6
42.Bc5 Bg3



Position after 42...Bg3

43.Rea1?

Allowing ...Be5 with tempo. Almost any other square on the back rank will do: 43.Rc1! Ra8 44.Rca1 Be5?? (44... bxa4 45.Rxa4 Rxa4 46.Rxa4 makes the white rook scary active.) 45.axb5 Bxa1 46.bxc6+ Kxc6 47.Rxa8 should be a straightforward win for White.

43...Be5 44.Rb1 Ra8 45.a5 Ka6

Now we enter a phase of not much going on. White can be satisfied with a material edge, at least according to point count math, while in fact neither player has

anything active to do. This continues until Black allows things to change — maybe he even thought he had winning chances — and White muscles through.

46.Re1 Re8 47.Ra3 Re6 48.Rb3 Bf6
49.Rbb1 Bg7 50.Rf1 Bh6 51.Rbe1 Bg5
52.Kc3 Bf6+ 53.Bd4 Be7 54.Rb1 Bg5
55.Kd2 Be7 56.Rfc1 Bf8 57.Rb3 Be7
58.Kd1 Kb7?!

58...Bf8 continues the piece shifting.

59.Rbc3

59.a6+!? Kxa6?? (59...Ka8) 60.Ra1+
Kb7 61.Rba3+- e.g. 61...Bxb4 (61...Bf6
62.Ra7+ Kb8 63.Ra8+ Kc7 64.R1a7+
Kd6 65.f4) 62.Ra7+ Kc8 63.Ra8+ Kd7
64.R1a7+ Kd6 65.Rd8#

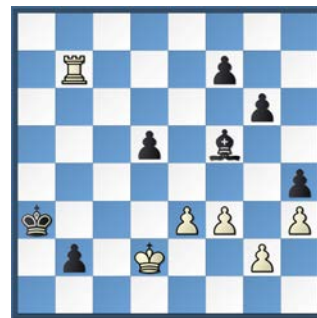
59...Bxb4 60.a6+ Kxa6 61.Rxc6+ Rxc6
62.Rxc6+ Ka5 63.Rc7 Ka4 64.Bb2 d2

64...d4!? 65.Bxd4 Be6 66.Bc3 Ba3
67.Ra7+ Kb3 Black keeps the more advanced d-pawn; it's very hard to see any real progress coming up for either player.

65.Bc3 Bxc3 66.Rxc3 b4 67.Rc7 b3
68.Ra7+ Kb4 69.Kxd2 b2

69...d4! 70.exd4 b2 71.Rb7+ Ka3 72.Kc3
b1N+ could transpose into the note to Black's move 71.

70.Rb7+ Ka3



Position after 70...Ka3

71.Kc3

71.e4! dxe4 72.Kc3 Ka4 73.f4 mops up.

71...b1N+

Perhaps the finesse 71...d4+! 72.exd4 b1N+ 73.Kc4 Nd2+ 74.Kc5 Nb3+ 75.Kd5 Bd3 is more challenging; in any case, it gets quite complicated. For example 76.Ke5 (76.Rxf7 Bf1∞) 76...Bf1 (76...Na5 77.Rxf7 Nc4+ is also a complex battle with decent drawing chances.) 77.d5 Bxg2 78.d6 Nc5 79.Rc7 Ne6 80.d7 (80.Rxf7 Bxh3 81.Ra7+ Kb4 82.d7 and, as in the rest of this note, it is not clear that White has any way to win.) 80... Bxh3 81.Kf6 (81.Rc8 Bf1 82.d8Q Nxd8 83.Rxd8 h3 84.Rh8 Kb4 and there are quite a number of bishop + two pawns vs rook + one pawn endings to evaluate. It's

probably objectively now a draw.) 81...
Bf5 82.Kxf7 h3 83.Ke7 h2 84.Rc1 Kb2
85.Rh1 Nd4 86.Rxh2+ Kc3 87.d8Q Nc6+
88.Ke8 Nxd8 89.Kxd8 Kd3

72.Kd4 Nd2 73.Rxf7 Kb2 74.Kxd5
Bd3 75.Rf4 Nf1 76.Kd4 Kc2 77.Rxh4
Kd2 78.e4 Ne1 79.g4 Nc2+ 80.Ke5 Ke3
81.Rh6 Nc1 82.Kf6 Nxf3 83.e5 Kf4
84.e6 g5 85.e7 Bb5 86.Rh8 Ng1 87.h4!
gxh4 88.g5 Nf3 89.g6 1-0

Aaron Grabinsky (2339) –
Spencer Lehmann (2223) [C00]
SPICE Cup Open 2019
Saint Louis (R7), October 26, 2019

1.e4 e6 2.f4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.c3
Bd7 6.Na3 Qb6 7.Nc2 Nh6 8.a3 f6 9.b4
fxe5 10.b5 Na5 11.Nxe5 0-0-0 12.d4
Nb3 13.Rb1 Nxc1 14.Rxc1 Bd6 15.Be2
Bxb5 16.0-0 Bxe5 17.fxe5 Bxe2 18.Qxe2
c4 19.Rb1 Qc7 20.Rb5 Kb8 21.Rfb1
Ka8 22.Ne3 Rd7 23.Qb2 Rb8 24.Qb4
b6 25.a4 Qc6 26.a5 Rdb7 27.Qa3 Rf7
28.axb6 Rbb7 29.Qa5 Qc8 30.Qa6 Nf5
31.Nxf5 Rxf5 32.bxa7 Rff7 33.h3 Rfc7
34.Rxb7 Rxb7 35.Kh2 Qd7 36.Rxb7
Qxb7 37.Qxe6 Qb2 38.Qxd5+ 1-0

Tom Polgar-Shutzman (2234) –
Aaron Grabinsky (2338) [E60]
St Louis Inv IM 2019
Saint Louis (R1), November 21, 2019

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.d4 g6 4.b3 Bg7
5.Bb2 0-0 6.g3 Nbd7 7.Bg2 Rb8 8.0-0
a6 9.Qc2 c6 10.e4 Qc7 11.Nbd2 c5 12.d5
b5 13.Rfe1 bxc4 14.Nxc4 Nb6 15.Nfd2
Nfd7 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Rad1 Nxc4
18.Nxc4 Nb6 19.Qc3+ Kg8 20.Nxb6
Qxb6 21.e5 Bg4 22.Rc1 Qb4 23.Qe3
Bd7 24.Qh6 Bf5 25.Re2 Qg4 26.Rd2
f6 27.Rc4 Qg5 28.Qxg5 fxe5 29.Ra4
Rb6 30.Bf1 Bc8 31.exd6 exd6 32.Re4
Bd7 33.Re7 Rf7 34.Rde2 a5 35.R2e4
Rb4 36.Bc4 Kf8 37.Rxf7+ Kxf7 38.g4
a4 39.Kg2 axb3 40.axb3 Rb8 41.h3
Kf6 42.Re2 Ra8 43.Kh2 Ra1 44.Kg2
h5 45.f3 Ra8 46.Kf2 h4 47.Kg2 Rd8
48.Kf2 Be8 49.Re6+ Kg7 50.Re7+ Bf7
51.Ra7 Kf6 52.Rb7 Bg8 53.Ra7 Ke5
54.Re7+ Kf6 55.Ra7 Re8 56.Ra2 Re7
57.Ra1 Bf7 58.Ra2 Rb7 59.Ra1 Ke5
60.Re1+ Kf6 61.Ra1 Rb8 62.Ra2 Re8
63.Ra1 Ke5 64.Ra2 Kd4 65.Ra1 Re7
66.Ra6 Rd7 67.Ra1 Rd8 68.Ra2 Bg8
69.Ra1 Re8 70.Ra6 Rd8 71.Ra1 Rf8
72.Ra2 Rb8 73.Ra6 Ke5 74.Ra1 Bf7
75.Re1+ Kf6 76.Ra1 Be8 77.Ra5 Ke5
78.Ra1 Bb5 79.Re1+ Kd4 80.Re4+ Kc3
81.Re3+ Kb4 82.Re6 Bxc4 83.bxc4 Rb6
84.Rxg6 Kxc4 85.Rxg5 Kd3 86.Rg8
Rb2+ 87.Kg1 c4 88.g5 c3 89.Rc8 c2
90.g6 Rb1+ 91.Kf2 c1Q 92.Rxc1 Rxc1
93.g7 Rc8 0-1

Julian Proleiko (2170) –
Aaron Grabinsky (2338) [E15]
St Louis Inv IM 2019
Saint Louis (R4), November 23, 2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6
5.Qc2 Bb7 6.Bg2 c5 7.d5 exd5 8.cxd5
Nxd5 9.0-0 Be7 10.Rd1 Nc6 11.Qa4 Nf6
12.Nh4 0-0 13.Nf5 a6 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bh4
Kh7 16.Nc3 g5 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.Bxd5
Bf6 19.Qe4 Qe8 20.Qg4 gxh4 21.Nd6
Qe5 22.f4 Qe3+ 23.Kh1 Rae8 24.Qf5+
Kg7 25.Qxd7 Nd4 26.Rxd4 Bxd5+
27.Rxd5 Qxe2 28.Nxe8+ Rxe8 29.Qh3
Bxb2 30.Rad1 Bd4 31.Qf1 Qxa2 32.Qf3
Qe2 33.Qxe2 Rxe2 34.Rd6 Re6 35.Rd7
h3 36.f5 Re2 37.Rf1 a5 38.f6+ Bxf6
39.Rd6 Re6 40.Rxe6 fxe6 41.Rb1 a4
42.Rxb6 a3 43.Ra6 Bb2 44.Kg1 0-1

Aaron Grabinsky's next competition will be playing for Webster University in the Pan-American Intercollegiate Championships December 27-30, 2019, in Charlotte, NC, immediately followed by the Charlotte Open at the same venue in early January.

SPFGI: Superb Party for Gnarly Individuals

Last month we reported on Cassandra Roshu's success at the 2019 SPF Girl's Invitational, where she won the prize for "Best Essay" and an upset prize for her draw against 2050 player Sara Herman in round one. Cassandra is a tenth-grader from Happy Valley, Oregon. This month, we will let Cassandra's words and games speak for themselves.

"What does SPFGI stand for? Technically, it stands for 'Susan Polgar Foundation Girls Invitational', which is the top and most prestigious girls' tournament in the world with approximately 300,000 dollars of budget for scholarships prizes, cash, and accommodations. However, it could also stand for 'Superb Party for Gnarly Individuals,' because of the wonderful experience Susan Polgar and her team provides for the girls and their families. Every time I get off of the plane from Oregon and step foot on Missouri ground, I feel exhilarated. The feeling stays consistently strong as I sit through an uncomfortable Uber to Webster University, where the tournament is sponsored. Although I have been participating

for four years, I am left with a feeling of curiosity and eagerness in finding out what I will encounter for the week to come.

If I were to ask my parents to play a blitz game with me they'd respond with, 'play what?' That being said, my twin brother and I are the only members in my family who are chess-oriented. Regardless of the fact that my parents are clueless of the subject, I was lucky enough to find a fatherly figure in my coach and family friend, Andrei Botez, who set me up with many opportunities on my path to success. In fact, I would have never been invited to the SPFGI tournament if it weren't for him, because Mr. Botez gave me the motivation and dedication to continue pursuing my chess career throughout elementary and middle school.

I come from a middle-class, European-American, and privileged family living in the suburbs. As a 15-year-old girl that has an abundant amount of resources and support, success has always been in sight. Being a female in the game, the only part of my life that I have been a minority in is chess. Walking into my local chess club for Saturday morning tournaments, I would be among the couple of girls in a sea of 30 males. Although I have never been discriminated against for my gender, I always felt a longing sense for a richer female chess community. It was only when I started playing in the SPFGI tournament that I realized I finally found the missing piece to my puzzle.

Upon having experienced the tournament for the first time, I was in awe to see that the event was unlike any I have ever been to before. When the participants were at the board and playing, it was as if the whole room was a chess game. The girls courageously held up their shields and swords as they fought in the life-or-death war; parents were anxious spectators watching the destruction from the sidelines, and arbiters were eagles that flew over the scene. It was a battle that everybody fought savagely to win, but when the games finished, the swords and shields dropped and smiles



(R) Cassandra Roshu accepts her prize for Best Essay at the 2019 SPFGI. Photo courtesy of Susan Polgar Foundation.

were passed around. Seeing foes instantly become friends showed me that the tournament is more than just a competition; it is the gathering of a very diverse group from around the world, with a lot to teach each other and one thing that ties their loving bond together: a passion for chess.

The most heartwarming feeling of belonging and community I encountered came at the beginning of the week on Sunday, June 23rd, with a seminar and training led by Susan Polgar, Paul Truong, and four SPFGI alumnae. As I listened to the alumnae discuss how chess had impacted their lives, I couldn't help but observe the amount of concentration that all of the girls directed towards the speakers. I

felt nearly blinded by the brilliant light of the next generation.

The week continued to be an enjoyable experience, with bonding moments and new friendships being made. In between rounds, I always looked forward to study sessions at Starbucks, evening Zumba lessons, and lunchtime hangouts. Webster University is a beautiful campus to spend the week in, but I also found myself exploring off campus. A wonderful way to de-stress from the day's games was to stroll through downtown St. Louis and visit the St. Louis Chess Club - the largest chess club in the country.

Alas, the week of playing in the chess capital of the nation could not last forever. Every

year at the commencement of the closing ceremony, I take a moment to reflect on my experience. My conclusion is always the same. Regardless of how heavy the pressure to win pushed down on my shoulders, the satisfaction of friendships and excitement made the weight bearable. I can without a doubt say that if it were not for the Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational tournament, I would not be part of this luminous community and my book of life would not be filled with all the pages of quality experience that it contains. I am only going into 10th grade, but I know that I will always have a special place in my heart for the 'Superb Party for Gnarly Individuals'."



Cassandra Roshu. Photo courtesy of Susan Polgar Foundation.

Sara Herman (2050) –
Cassandra Roshu (1508) [C66]
2019 SPFGI (R1), June 24, 2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 d6
5.Bb5 exd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7 7.0-0 Be7
8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.Nf5 0-0 10.Bg5 Re8
11.Qd4 Bd7 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.Nd5

Qxe4 14.Bxf6 Qxd4 15.Bxd4 Re4
16.Bc3 c6 17.Nb4 d5 18.Rfe1 Rae8
19.Rxe4 dxe4 20.a4 f5 21.a5 a6 22.Rd1
Re7 23.Bd4 Rf7 24.Na2 Be6 25.Nc3
Re7 26.Bc5 Re8 27.Ne2 h6 28.Nf4 Bc8
29.Rd6 Kf7 30.Bd4 g5 31.Nh5 Re6
32.Rd8 Re8 33.Rxe8 Kxe8 34.Kf1 Kf7

35.Ke2 f4 36.h4 Bg4+ 37.Kd2 Bxh5
38.hxg5 hxg5 39.Kc3 Ke6 40.Kc4 Kd6
41.Bc5+ Ke5 42.Bd4+ Kd6 43.Ba7
Ke5 44.Bb8+ Kf5 45.Kc5 Kg4 46.Kd6
e3 47.fxe3 fxe3 48.Ba7 e2 49.Bf2 Kf4
50.Kc7 Bf7 51.Kxb7 Bd5 52.Kxa6 Bxg2
53.Kb6 Be4 54.Kc5 Kf3 55.Be1 g4 56.a6
g3 57.Bxg3 Kxg3 58.a7 e1Q 59.a8Q
Qe3+ 60.Kd6 Qd4+ 61.Kc7 Qe5+
62.Kb6 Qxb2+ 63.Kc7 Qe5+ 64.Kb6
Qd4+ 1/2-1/2



Cassandra Roshu (left, black pieces) vs. Sara Herman, round 1, 2019 SPFGI.
Photo courtesy of Susan Polgar Foundation.

Andrea Botez (1920) –
Mai-Ha Nghiem (1394) [D02]
2019 SPFGI (R1), June 24, 2019

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 c5
5.c3 a6 6.Nbd2 Nc6 7.Bd3 h6 8.Ne5
Bd7 9.Ndf3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rc1 c4
12.Bb1 b5 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Ne5 Qb7
15.Qf3 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Ne4 17.Rfd1
Rfd8 18.Qh5 Bg5 19.Bxe4 Bxf4 20.Bb1
Bg5 21.f4 Be7 22.Rf1 Rf8 23.Rf3 Kh8
24.Rh3 Kg8 25.Qg4 Kh8 26.f5 Qd7
27.f6 Rg8 28.fxg7+ Rxg7 29.Rxh6+ Kg8
30.Qh5 Rh7 31.Rxh7 Bf6 32.exf6 Kf8
33.Rh8# 1-0



Andrea Botez of Oregon, deep in thought as she represents Canada in the 2019 SPFGI.
Photo courtesy of Susan Polgar Foundation.

**Skylar Hsu (1594) –
Cassandra Roshu (1508) [D02]**
2019 SPFGI (R3), June 25, 2019

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bf4 Bg4 4.e3 e6
5.Bb5 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.c3 0-0 8.h3
Bh5 9.Bd3 h6 10.Qc2 Bd6 11.g4 Bxf4
12.exf4 Bg6 13.Bxg6 fxe6 14.Qxg6 Qe8
15.Qc2 Nd7 16.0-0-0 Rxf4 17.Rde1
Qf7 18.g5 h5 19.Re3 Re8 20.Qb3 Nb6
21.Rhe1 Na5 22.Qb5 Nac4 23.Ne5
Nxe5 24.Rxe5 Rxf2 25.Qd3 Nd7 26.g6
Qf6 27.Rxd5 Nb6 28.Rxh5 Rg2 29.Rf1
Qxg6 30.Qxg6 Rxg6 31.h4 Nd5 32.Rg5
Rxx5 33.hxg5 Rf8 34.Re1 Nf4 35.Kc2
Rf5 36.Ne4 Nh3 37.Nc5 Nxx5 38.Nxb7
Kf7 39.b4 Nf3 40.Rh1 Kg8 41.Nc5 e5
42.Rd1 g5 43.d5 g4 44.Ne6 g3 45.Nxc7
g2 46.d6 Rf7 47.c4 Nd4+ 48.Kd3 Rf1
49.Rd2 g1Q 50.d7 Qg5 51.Rg2 Rf3+
52.Ke4 Re3+ 53.Kd5 Qxx2+ 54.Kc5
Qc6# 0-1

**Cassandra Roshu (1508) –
Sophie Velea (1806) [D37]**
2019 SPFGI (R4), June 26, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Bf4 Nf6
5.e3 0-0 6.Nf3 b6 7.Be2
7.cxd5 is common.
7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bb7 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.h3
10.Qe2 is sometimes played.
10...Re8 11.Rc1 e5 12.Be2 Nd5 13.Nxd5
Bxd5
13...exd5 is playable, leading to quite
different types of positions.

Northwest Chess

14.b3
14.Ba6 Ra8 15.Qe2±
14...cxd4 15.Qxd4 Bc5

Or 15...Bf6

16.Qd1

16.Qa4

16...Qe7 17.Be4

17.Ba6 Rcd8 18.Qe2

17...Nf6

17...Ba3!?

18.Bg5 Ba3 19.Rc2 Be4 20.Rd2 Bb4
21.Rd4 Bg6?!

21...Rfd8

22.Ne5 Bc3 23.Rd7! Qc5 24.Bxf6 gxf6
25.Nxx6 hxx6 26.Qd3! Be5?

26...Kg7 27.Bxe6 Rc7 28.Rxc7 Qxc7
29.Rc1 fxe6 30.Rxc3±; 26...Qe5 27.f4
Qf5 28.Qxc3 b5 29.Rfd1±

27.Bxe6 Rc7?

27...Qc2 28.Qd5! fxe6 (28...Rc7
29.Bxf7+-) 29.Qxe6+ Kh8 30.Qe7+-

28.Qxx6+ Kh8 29.Qh6+ Kg8 30.Bxf7+
Rxf7 31.Qg6+ Kh8 32.Rxf7

Or 32.Qh5+ Kg7 33.Qxf7+ Kh6 34.Qg7+
Kh5 35.g4+ Kh4 36.Qh6#

1-0

**Zoey Tang (2023) –
Michelle Hua (1746) [D91]**
2019 SPFGI (R5), June 26, 2019

January 2020

1.d4 d5 2.Bg5 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.c4
c6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.Bd3 Nc6
9.a3 h6 10.Bh4 b6 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Qc2
Qd7 13.Rac1 Rac8 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 15.b4
a6 16.Qb1 b5 17.Qb3 Ne8 18.a4 Na7
19.axb5 axb5 20.Ra1 Bc6 21.Ra5 Rb8
22.Rda1 Nc8 23.Bg3 Rb6 24.Be5 Nf6
25.Qc2 Nd6 26.Ra7 Qe6 27.Qe2 Rc8
28.h3 Nc4 29.Bxc4 bxc4 30.Qb2 Nd7
31.Bxx7 Kxx7 32.e4 Nf6 33.exd5 Nxd5
34.Nxd5 Bxd5 35.Re1 Qd6 36.Rexe7
Rxb4 37.Qc2 Rcb8 38.Ne5 Rb1+
39.Kh2 R1b7 40.Rexb7 Rxb7 41.Rxb7
Bxb7 42.Qxc4 Bd5 43.Qd3 Qf6 44.Qe3
Qd6 45.g3 Qe6 46.Qf4 g5 47.Qc1 Qf5
48.Qe3 Qb1 49.Nf3 Bxf3 50.Qxf3 Qb6
51.d5 Qd4 52.Qf5 Qb6 53.Kg2 Qd6
54.Qf3 Qd7 55.Qc3+ f6 56.Qc6 Qd8
57.d6 Kf8 58.Qc7 Ke8 59.Qxd8+ Kxd8
60.Kf3 Kd7 61.Ke4 Kxd6 62.Kf5 Ke7
63.Kg6 Ke6 64.Kxx6 Kf5 65.Kg7 Ke5
66.h4 gxh4 67.gxx4 f5 68.h5 f4 69.h6
Ke4 70.h7 Kf3 71.h8Q Kxf2 72.Qh2+
Ke3 73.Qg1+ Ke2 74.Qg2+ Ke3 75.Qf1
f3 76.Kf6 1-0

**Amy Lei (1954) –
Zoey Tang (2023) [D31]**
2019 SPFGI (R6), June 27, 2019

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4
Bb4 6.Bd2 a5 7.e3 b5 8.axb5 Bxc3 9.Bxc3
cxb5 10.b3 Bb7 11.bxc4 b4 12.Bb2
Nf6 13.Be2 0-0 14.0-0 Nbd7 15.Qb3
Qe7 16.Rfd1 Rfe8 17.Nd2 Nb6 18.c5
Bd5 19.Qd3 Nbd7 20.Qc2 Bc6 21.Bf3
h6 22.Bxc6 Rxc6 23.Qa4 Rca6 24.Nc4
Nd5 25.g3 N7f6 26.f3 Nh5 27.e4 Nc7
28.Kg2 f5 29.Re1 Qg5 30.Bc1 f4 31.g4
Nf6 32.h4 Qxh4 33.Bxf4 Nxx4 34.fxx4
Qxx4+ 35.Bg3 Rf8 36.Ne5 Qg5 37.Re2
h5 38.Rh1 Rf4 39.Nf3 Qg4 40.Rf2 e5
41.Rh4 Qg6 42.Kh2 Rxh4+ 43.Nxx4 Qg4
44.dxe5 Kh7 45.Rf4 Qe2+ 46.Kh3 Ne6
47.Rf2 Ng5+ 48.Kh2 Qg4 49.Rg2 Qh3+
50.Kg1 Nxe4 51.Qc2 Qg4 52.Bf2 Qf4
53.Ng6 Rxx6 54.Rxx6 Kxx6 55.c6 Qg4+
56.Kf1 b3 57.Qb1 Qf4 58.Qb2 Qxf2+
59.Qxf2 Nxf2 60.c7 b2 61.c8Q b1Q+
62.Kg2 Qe4+ 63.Kf1 Qd3+ 64.Ke1 Qe3+
65.Kf1 Qh3+ 0-1

Oregon City Chess Club

For those players who, like this author,
were not aware that the Oregon City-West
Linn Chess Club has changed names and
location (and went looking for the club
at the Oregon City Senior Center), I am
happy to report that the club is alive and
well. The club now meets at the Singer
Hill Café, a boutique coffee shop with

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*McLoughlin Promenade, overlooking the Willamette River near Oregon City Chess Club.
Photo credit: Frank Niro.*

quiche, soup, pastries and finger foods in the historic McLaughlin neighborhood just across from the fire station at 623 7th Street, Oregon City. One of my favorite walking trails, known as the McLoughlin Promenade, overlooks the Willamette River and is located nearby. The chess club is run by Brian Berger and Carl Koontz, who took over after the passing of club founder, Ralph Hall, in 2011. The club's name is, fittingly, The Oregon City/Singer Hill Chess Club. Hours are Sundays from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Chess players of all levels are welcome. Come for a walk, a snack and some chess. A great way to share a Sunday afternoon with friends!

Nick Raptis Simul January 29

If you are interested in a chance to play against FIDE Master Nick Raptis in more posh surroundings than your average chess tournament, you are invited come to the dining room of the Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, on January 29, 2020. The event is a fundraiser for an organization called "Friends of French Prairie," whose mission is to protect farmland and quality of life in the lower Willamette Valley region. FM Raptis will give a lecture on how to be a better chess player. The lecture

spectator tickets, make a donation or to find out more information, please contact Wayne Richards at rich4748@outlook.com, or call his cell (503) 516-7879. If you plan to attend, remember that the site is a upscale country club. You may want to dress accordingly. The address is 32020 Charbonneau Drive, Wilsonville, OR, 97070.

See you all at the Neil Dale Memorial (formerly the Gresham Open) in January, Oregon's first event in the 2020 NWC Grand Prix.

Portland Chess Club

The Portland Chess Club was founded in 1911, and ever since then, it's played host to numerous world champions and national chess tournaments. In its early days, the club hosted U.S. chess champion Frank Marshall for two simultaneous exhibitions; those events sparked other elite players such as Jose Capablanca, Alexander Alekhine, and Emanuel Lasker to follow suit and visit the club for their own chess simul.

Over the years, champion chess players such as Grandmaster Arthur Dake emerged from the club. In addition to playing on U.S. Olympic teams, Dake was crowned Marshall Chess Club Champion in 1931 and defeated Alekhine, then the reigning World Champion, in 1932. Dake was inducted into the Chess Hall of Fame in 1991. The Portland Chess Club has also organized various events and tournaments that have become cornerstones of chess in the Northwest even up until today.



Portland Chess Club sign. Photo credit: Frank Niro.



Portland Chess Club in 1914.



Portland Chess Club in 2014.



*Portland Chess Club at the old site on SW 24th Avenue. December 17, 2019 saw the last time PCC met at this venue.
Photo credit: Frank Niro.*



2020 SCHEDULE

Quality chess since 1911

Casual Play, USCF Rated Events, Unrated Events, Blitz Events, Matches, and Club Championships

JANUARY

4-5th Neil Dale Memorial Open
7th Tuesday Quads
19th Sunday Quads
25th Game in 60
25th PCC Annual Meeting

APRIL

4-5th GM Arthur Dake Memorial Open
7th Tuesday Quads
18th Game in 60
19th Sunday Quads
24-26th Oregon Senior Open

JULY

7th Tuesday Quads
11-12th Rose City Sectionals
19th Sunday Quads
25th Game in 60

OCTOBER

6, 13, 20, 27th Portland Chess Club
Championship
10-11th National Chess Day-Portland Fall
Open
18th Sunday Quads
31st Game in 60

FEBRUARY

4th Tuesday Quads
8-9th Portland Amateur Championship
8-9th & 15-17th Oregon Closed (Championship
and Challengers)
23rd Sunday Quads
29th Game in 60

MAY

2-3rd Penguin Extravaganza
5th Tuesday Quads
17th Sunday Quads
30th Game in 60

AUGUST

1-2nd TBD (two-day tournament)
4th Tuesday Quads Begin
16th Sunday Quads
29th Game in 60

NOVEMBER

7-8th Oregon Class Championships
10th Tuesday Quads
15th Sunday Quads
21st Game in 60

MARCH

3rd Tuesday Quads
7-8th Portland Spring Open
22nd Sunday Quads
28th Game in 60

JUNE

2nd Tuesday Quads Begin
6-7th Portland Summer Open
14th Sunday Quads
20th Portland Rapid and Blitz Championships
27th Game in 60

SEPTEMBER

1st Tuesday Quads
5-7th 70th Annual Oregon Open
20th Sunday Quads
26th Game in 60
29th Portland Chess Club Championship

DECEMBER

1st Tuesday Quads
5-6th Portland Winter Open
13th Sunday Quads
19th Game in 60

Portland Chess Club (PCC) is a non-profit

Address: 2025 Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon 97232
Email: email@pdxchess.org
Website: <http://pdxchess.org>
Telephone: 1(503) 246-2978

A proud Affiliate (A5017947) of:





4th Annual Neil Dale Memorial Open: January 4-5, 2020

Location: Portland Chess Center, 2025 Lloyd Center, Portland, OR 97232

Format: 5-round Swiss in one section. Official US Chess regular ratings are generally used. Unofficial ratings based on at least four games generally used for those with no official rating. One half point bye is available if requested before round one. Players may start in round 2 with a half point bye in round 1.

Time Control: Round 1: G/60;d10; rounds 2-5: G/120;d10. Bring a digital clock. Some digital clocks are provided at this tournament but please do not always rely on the club to provide a digital clock (boards, pieces, notation sheets, and pens/pencils are provided). Clocks without delay capability are set for the same base time.

Schedule: On-site registration runs from 9-9:45am. The rounds are scheduled for 10am, 12:45pm, and 5:30pm on Saturday and 10am and 2:45pm on Sunday. Rounds 2, 3 and 5 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round.

Entry Fee: \$55, \$45 for PCC members. Pay with cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club.

Rated: US Chess regular rated. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. The OSCF is currently offering discounted regular memberships for any player under age 21.

OCF Membership: Players from Oregon are required to have state membership and this can be purchased during registration. Annual rates are \$10 for adults, \$5 for juniors (those under the age of 19 at expiration of their membership), and \$15 for families (good for all those in the same household). A \$2 tournament membership which is good just for a single tournament is also available. Note: OCF membership no longer includes a subscription to the *Northwest Chess* magazine. Separate NWC annual subscriptions may be purchased at the tournament, but are not required.

Prizes: Regular prizes: \$1000 based on 40 paid entries (adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players, \$500 is guaranteed). 1st-\$225, 2nd-\$175, 1st U2100-\$140, 1st U1900-\$130, 1st U1700-\$120, 1st U1500-\$110, 1st U1300-\$100. Unrated players are eligible for all of the regular prizes. Each player is eligible to win only one regular prize. Upset bonus prize (the player with an established rating who beats a higher rated player by the largest rating difference)-\$50 guaranteed. Prizes are combined and split if there is a tie based on formula outlined in the USCF rulebook.

Qualifiers: This tournament is a qualifier for the Challengers section of the 2021 Oregon Closed and qualifier for the 2020 OSCF State Championship.

Notes: 1) This tournament uses the rules from the 7th edition of the US Chess rulebook.
2) While this tournament is open to scholastic players, it's only recommended for mature scholastic players who are capable of playing in a serious tournament against adults.

Washington Class Championships

By Josh Sinanan

Chess is not chess without the queen. When the queen comes out to play, she is a feared piece for her deadly attacks, tremendous range, and superior mobility. Likewise, female chess players—the “Queens” of tournament chess—are not to be underestimated or trifled with, as many of their beleaguered opponents can tell you. Not taking your opponent (or their queen for that matter!) seriously is one of the biggest mistakes a chess player can make.

Queen power was on full display during the 2019 Washington Class Championships, a class tournament in seven class sections organized by the Washington Chess Federation. Chess players from all walks of life sought asylum from the holiday hustle and bustle at the “Lynnwood Chess Embassy” during an especially chilly Thanksgiving weekend that saw temperatures dip below freezing. A strong attendance of just over 170 players took part, with most players concentrated in the lower rating classes and nearly half of all participants opting to “play up” a section in search of stronger competition. The tournament was organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan and Tournament Coordinator Jacob Mayer. Senior Tournament Directors Fred Kleist and Gary Dorfner directed the main event with assistance



*The playing hall during the Thanksgiving Scholastic.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.*

from WCF Treasurer Robert Allen and new WCF Arbiter Rekha Sagar.

Female chess warriors fought their way to victory in four of the seven class sections. WIM Megan Lee (2274-2278—4.5/6) and WFM Chouchan Airapetian (2030-2041—4.5/6) topped the Master and Expert sections, respectively, while Emma Li (1128-1401—6.0/6) and Sarah

Lawrence (1146-1295—6.0/6) won every game in the Class D and Class E sections, respectively. Other notable performances by female players included: WFM Anne-Marie Velea (2079-2100—3.5/6), Sophie Velea (1842-1846—2.5/6), Stephanie Velea (1703-1729—3.5/6), Kate Jiang (1695-1715—3.0/6), Mary Kuhner (1794-1811—4.5/6), Melina Li (1684-1702—4.0/6), Sophie Szeto (1452-1490—3.0/6), Catherine Smith (1500-1522—3.5/6), Varnika Jammalamadaka (1258-1268—4.0/6), Iris Zhang (1194-1331—5.0/6), Jamie Zhu (965-1085—4.0/6), Lydia Xiong (916-960—3.5/6), Avni Murarka (907-909—2.5/6), Suya Metzmaker (686-733—3.5/6), and Shuyi Han (436-544—2.5/6). Now onto the detailed results from each section.

WIM Megan Lee of Bellevue and FM Ignacio Perez (2225-2230—4.5/6) of Seattle tied for first place in the 16-player Master section. Canadian Master Neil Doknjas (2017-2067—4.0/6) and Nicholas Whale (2015-2069—4.0/6) finished half-a-point back to share equal third and first U2300 honors. Aryan Deshpande (2156-2145—3.0/6) and Thanh Nguyen (2069-2070—3.0/6) finished on an even score to split the second U2300 prize.

WFM Chouchan Airapetian of Mercer Island won the 15-player Expert section with an undefeated score despite only playing three actual games! A chasing



*(L) Surya Gorantla vs Chouchan Airapetian and other 2-day section players.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.*



(L) Rishi Lakshminarayanan vs Angela Agaian during the Thanksgiving Scholastic.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

pack of four players tied for second place only a half-point back: Jason Williamson (2051-2055—4.0/6) of Nanaimo, B.C.; Paul Bartron (2045-2055—4.0/6) of Tacoma; Advait Vijayakumar (1981-1988—4.0/6) of Bothell; and Isaac Vega (2031-2047—4.0/6) of Beaverton, Oregon.

In the 17-player Class A section, Surya Gorantla (1786-1884—5.5/6) of Redmond claimed first place honors despite playing up a class! Young Alex Gross (1803-1844—4.5/6) of Seattle finished in clear second place a half-point back. Five players from far and wide rounded out the prize winners by finishing on a plus one score: Brent Baxter (1866-1862—3.5/6) of Olympia; Michael Hosford (1877-1883—3.5/6) of Portland; Paul Leblanc (1826-1837—3.5/6) of Victoria, B.C.; Erik Liu (1774-1773—3.5/6) of Bellevue; and Daniel Qian (1756-1776—3.5/6) of Issaquah.

Anand Gupta (1720-1816—5.5/6) of Sammamish emerged victorious in the 32-player Class B section. Marysville's Frank Fagundes (1600-1727—5.0/6) won clear second place a half-point back. Mary Kuhner (1794-1811—4.5/6) of Seattle and Nathan Liu (1583-1647—4.5/6) of Issaquah shared third place honors. Two players, Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet (1596-1645—4.0/6) of Sherwood, Oregon, and Ani Barua (1477-1594—4.0/6) of Seattle, split the second place U1700 prize. Sophie

Szeto (1452-1490—3.0/6) of Seattle won the Top Female prize.

The rating favorite and top seed Ralph Anthony (1603-1677—5.5/6) of Mukilteo prevailed in the 23-player Class C section. A full-point back tied for second place were Jeffrey L'Heureux (1544-1610—4.5/6) of Seattle and

Charith Sunku (1521-1579—4.5/6) of Sammamish. Jack Christy (1400-1470—4.0/6) of Anacortes captured first place U1500 honors. A trio of players shared the second place U1500 award just half-a-point back: Dave Juchau (1552-1547—3.5/6) of Seattle; Pasha Kuznetsov (1435-1461—3.5/6) of Newcastle; and Keshav Beegala (1408-1439—3.5/6) of Bothell.

The 29-player Class D section featured one of the tournament's only two perfect scores: Emma Li (1128-1401—6.0/6) of Redmond. Iris Zhang (1194-1331—5.0/6) finished in clear second place a full-point back, losing only to Emma. Five players shared third place honors: Johan Karukayil (1323-1314—4.0/6) of Redmond; Fred Conley (1296-1316—4.0/6) of Chuglak, Alaska; Varnika Jammalamadaka (1258-1268—4.0/6) of Redmond; Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1284-1337—4.0/6) of Redmond; and Troy Zhang (1032-1149—4.0/6) of Bellevue. Young Michelle Zhang (1284-1236—3.0/6) was awarded the Top Female prize.

The traditionally large Class E section lived up to its reputation by attracting a whopping 41 players, mostly male juniors. However, it was an adult woman, Sarah Lawrence (1146-1295—6.0/6) of Duvall, who dominated the field and taught the young whippersnappers a lesson or two! Five players finished tied for second place on a plus 2 score: William Jiang (1149-1138—4.0/6) of Richmond, B.C.; Hansol O'Brien (1131-1155—4.0/6) of Renton; Garam O'Brien (1116-1110—4.0/6) of



(L) Pasha Kuznetsov vs Michael Rabadan.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.



*Duane Polich.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.*



*Thanksgiving Scholastic players during the first round.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.*

Renton; Tanush Bhatia (1088-1085—4.0/6) of Sammamish; and Nugen Tran (997-1011—4.0/6) of Auburn. Lucas Ma (1104-1059—3.5/6) captured first U1000 honors. Yakima's Jeremy Wohl (unrated-1345P6—5.0/6), played in his first-ever rated chess tournament and took home the Unrated prize.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Thanksgiving Scholastic

By Josh Sinanan

WCF Tournament Coordinator Jacob Mayer ran the Thanksgiving Scholastic on Black Friday, November 29, which attracted a record 150 players in five sections. He was assisted by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, new WCF arbiter Rekha Sagar, and volunteers Abhay Sankar and Adam Race. A generous number of trophies were awarded to players across all five sections. Here are some of the winners:

K-3 Open:

1st Charlotte Westover, 5.0

=2nd-5th Aaron Guo, Dann Merriman, Nathan Qiu, Viet Nguyen, 4.0

=6th-7th Lucas Liu, Erik Hu, 3.5

K-3 U800:

1st Ronan Mettler, 5.0

=2nd-5th Abhinav Ampalam, Sachin Chandra, William Kang, Akhil Kotipalli 4.0

6th Monish Potturu, 3.5

4-6 Open:

=1st Jerryl Tong, Julian Mohmand-Borkowski, 4.5

=3rd-8th Owen Scollon, Kai Marcelais, Bradshaw Asher, Aleksander Mohmand-Borkowski, Daniel Meyerzon, William Wang 4.0

=9th-11th Gavin Shi, Rahul Peesa, Samarth Appalabattula, 3.5

4-6 U900:

1st Kiran Pan, 5.0

=3rd-5th Leo Saloranta, Aalay Shah, Neel Khilnani, 4.0

7-12 Open:

1st Thabit Ahmed, 4.5

=2nd-3rd Joshua Lewis-Sandy, Drew Bunch, 4.0

4th Rishi Lakshminarayanan, 3.5



Medina Elementary School players pose with their 2nd place trophy.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Chess Workshop for Women and Girls

The inaugural Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, led by WFM Chouchan Airapetian, WCF's newly appointed Director of Women's and Girls' Chess, took place on Friday evening in the board room adjacent to the TD office.

A strong turnout of about 15 girls attended the workshop and enjoyed some complimentary Pagliacci pizza while discussing how to support and grow chess for women and girls in the Pacific Northwest.

Valuable Q&A led by special guest speakers WIM Megan Lee and WFM Minda Chen helped the girls to understand what it takes to become an iconic female chess competitor.

Washington Class Blitz

By Josh Sinanan

National Master Kyle Haining of Lake Forest Park won the 16-player Washington Class Blitz tournament with eight points from ten games. The blitz tournament, a traditional side-event was held late Saturday evening in the skittles room under the direction of Jacob Mayer

and Gary Dorfner.

Two players shared second-place honors a half-point behind Haining: Cuban speed chess wizard Ignacio Perez of Capitol Hill and soon-to-be master Aryan Deshpande of Sammamish. Lorenzo Patton Jr, also from Sammamish, claimed first U2000 honors with six points. Garrett Atkinson of Lynnwood and Shiv Mehrotra of Bellevue captured the combined first U1700/first U1400/Unrated prize with 5.5 points apiece.

Now onto the games...

Ignacio Perez (2225) – Nicholas Whale (2015) [B33]
Washington Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA
(R2), November 29, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.c4

Three other, more popular, lines: 12.0-0 Bxd5 (12...Bg7 13.Qh5 f4 14.c4) 13.exd5 Ne7 14.c3 Bg7 15.Qh5 e4 16.Bc2; 12.Qh5 Rg8 13.g3 Rg5 14.Qd1 Bxd5 15.exd5 Ne7 16.c3; 12.c3 Bg7 13.Qh5 (13.Nxb5 axb5 14.Bxb5 Bd7 15.exf5 0-0 16.0-0) 13...0-0 14.0-0 (14.exf5 Bxd5 15.f6 e4 16.fxg7 Re8 17.Be2 Re5 18.Qh6 b4) 14...f4 15.Rfd1 Rb8 16.Nc2

12...b4

Theory says 12...Qa5+ 13.Kf1 fxe4 (13...Bxd5 is, for some reason, slightly more popular.) 14.Bxe4 and now 14...Rc8 looks plausible. (14...Bg7 has been seen a few times.)

13.Qa4 Bd7 14.Nxb4?

Uh oh. 14.Nc2±

14...Nxb4 15.Qxb4



Position after 15.Qxb4

15...d5 16.Qc3 d4 17.Qd2 Bc6 18.0-0

18.f3 fxe4 (18...Qh4+ 19.g3 Qh3∞) 19.fxe4 Bxe4 20.0-0 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 Bg7∞; 18.exf5 Bxa3 19.bxa3 e4 is even more obscure.

18...fxe4 19.Qe2

A couple other sacrificial lines worth examining: 19.Rae1 exd3 20.Rxe5+; 19.Bxe4 Bxe4 20.Rae1 Bf5 21.Qf4 Be6 22.Qxe5. Black certainly has resources in all of these.

19...Bxa3 20.bxa3 exd3 21.Qxe5+ Kd7 22.Qxd4+ Kc8 23.Qc5 Qf6 24.Rab1 Rg8 25.f3 Kd7 26.Rbd1



Position after 26.Rbd1

26...Rxc2+! 27.Kh1 Rxc2+ 0-1

Odysseus Rodriguez (1551) – Harrison Keyser (1488) [A52]
Washington Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA
(R1), November 29, 2019
[Odysseus Rodriguez]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5

Budapest Gambit

3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.e6!?

I'm out of book already folks! So excuse me as this was my only remedy. And I remember the ode: 'when accepting a gambit, accept it with an idea to give back later' I had forgotten this line by book and didn't know the next book line move. I did remember that trying to hold the pawn is good for Black and bad for White.

5...Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Qf6

Black is threatening a double attack on Knight-c3

7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.Qd5+!! Kf8

Almost forced. ...Ke8 is bad due to Qh5+, but can't recapture knight-g4 right away because the double attack on knight-c3 ...Ke7 leads to a winning pin Bg5 ...queen-e6; knight-g5+ winning fork.

9.Bd2 Ne7 10.Qh5

Time remaining: 46 mins. **10...d6** Time: 41 mins.

11.a3 Bc5 12.e3 a5? 13.Bd3!

Preventing development of Bf5

13...Bf5



Position after 13...Bf5

Black seeks exchanges. It was here I wasn't too worried of Black pawn-g6 as I would seek exchanges on Qh4.

14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.Qxf5+

Time: 28 min

15...Nxf5

Time: 28 min.

16.0-0?

Uh-oh. Did I just castle into a combination?

16...Ke7 17.Nd5+!

With tempo and guarding e3.

17...Kd7 18.h3 Ngh6 19.b4

Opening the file to activate the Rooks.

19...axb4 20.axb4

Time: 25 min.

20...c6

Time: 20 min.

21.bxc5 cxd5 22.cxd5 dxc5 23.Bc3

Now White can exchange both rooks on the a-file.

23...Rxa1 24.Rxa1 Rg8?

Poor choice...

25.e4

Time: 21 minutes

25...Ne7

Time: 15 mins 31 secs.

26.Ne5+ Kc7 27.Kf1

It's time to the king in and stop those pawns...

27...g6 28.Ke2 Rf8 29.Nc4

It was here I was threatening a fork. But I noted that pawn-b5 doesn't work due to Rook-a7+, and White can have the initiative. 30...b4 31. Ra7+...Kb8; 32. RxNe7...bxc4; and White is better 31. Ra7+...Kc8/Kd8; 32. Ra8+...; And White picks up the rook.

29...Nf7

Black bringing in the knight from the grim rim.

30.Ra5

Time 14 min 15 secs.

30...Nd6

Time: 10 min 39 secs.

31.Rxc5+ Kd7 32.Nb6+

Here I thought it was better to keep pieces on the board. This Blockades the pawn-b7 and prevents Black's rook from a8/c8.

32...Ke8 33.f3 Kf7 34.Rc7



Position after 34.Rc7

Pinning.

34...Nb5!

Good move! I didn't see this coming.

35.Rxe7+ Kxe7 36.Bb4+ Nd6 37.e5 Kd8 38.Bxd6 Rg8 39.Ke3 g5 40.Ke4 g4 41.hxg4 h5 42.gxh5 Rxd2 43.e6 Rb2 44.Nd7 Ra2 45.Nf6

Time remaining: 6 min 47 secs.

45...b5

Time: 4 min 26 secs.

46.e7+ Kc8 47.e8Q+ Kb7 48.Qxb5+ Ka7 49.Bc7 Rc2 50.Qb6+ Ka8 51.Qb8# 1-0

Megan Lee (2274) –
Anne-Marie Velea (2079) [B23]
Washington Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R5), December 1, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Bc4 g6 5.Nge2 Bg7 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Qf3 e6

The standard defense here is 7...Nh6 8.Ne2 0-0 9.c3 dxc3 10.dxc3 d6 11.h3±; Less usual: 7...Nf6 8.e5 dxc3 9.dxc3 (9.exf6?! cxd2+ 10.Bxd2 Bxf6∞) 9...Qc7 10.exf6 Bxf6 11.Bb3 0-0 12.0-0±

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(L) Harrison Keyser vs Odysseus Rodriguez.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

8.Nb5 Be5



Position after 8...Be5

8...d5!? 9.Qg3 (9.exd5 a6 10.dxe6 fxe6
11.Na3 Nf6∞) 9...dxc4 10.Nc7+ Kd7
11.Nxa8 Ne7 12.b3!?

9.Qd3 Qb6 10.c3 dxc3?!

10...Ne7±

11.dxc3 a6 12.Be3 Qc6 13.f4 axb5

13...Bb8 14.Nd4 Qc7 15.Bb3±

14.Bxb5 Bxc3+

14...Qd6 15.fxe5 Qxd3 16.Bxd3

15.bxc3 Qc7 16.Bd4 f6 17.0-0 Kf7
18.a4 Ne7 19.Bxf6! Kxf6 20.Qd4+ e5
21.fxe5+ Kg5 22.Qe3+ Kh5 23.Be2+
Kh4 24.Qg3# 1-0

Pasha Kuznetsov (1435) –
Odysseus Rodriguez (1551) [B17]
Washington Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA
(R2), November 29, 2019
[Odysseus Rodriguez]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7
5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Ng3 Nb6 7.Bb3 Bg4 8.Nf3
e6 9.c3 Qc7 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3

Time Remainder: 45 mins 42 secs.

11...Bd6

Time 46 mins 30 secs.

12.Bg5 Nbd7 13.0-0 h6 14.Bd2

It was here and a few moves before that I was planning of O-O-O, with a plan of imbalances to make the game intriguing.

14...0-0 15.Rae1 Rfe8 16.Re2

Time: 37 mins 31 secs

16...c5

Time: 32 min 12 secs.

17.dxc5 Bxc5 18.Rfe1 Qb6

Protecting the e6 square three times while it's attack three times. It was here where White thought for a while and used a good chunk.

19.Ne4 Nxe4 20.Rxe4 Nf6 21.R4e2

Time: 24 min 50 secs. And I too used a great deal of my time on the next move

21...Rad8?

I was seeking counter play. Time: 18 min 28 secs.



Position after 21...Rad8

22.Bxh6!

Ouch! Boy did this make me cringe in my seat. White played it fast.

22...Bf8 23.Bg5 Be7 24.Ba4 Nd7 25.Be3

Time: 12 min 10 secs

25...Qa6

Seeking trades doesn't work out for Black. Be7-c5 and the White Queen captures pawn-b7 with the initiative. Time: 12 min 8 secs.

26.Bb3 Bf6 27.Rd2

This allows Black to gain tempos.

27...Ne5

Tempo.

28.Qg3 Rxd2 29.Bxd2 Rd8

Tempo

30.Bc1

Time: 5 min 33 secs.

30...Nd3

Time: 6 mins. 10s.

31.Rd1 Nxc1 32.Rxc1 Qe2!!

Black Queen invades!

33.Rc2

Less than 5 mins remaining White quit recording moves.

33...Qe1+

Here too Black's time <5mins I quit recording as well.

34.Kh2

This is all from memory.

34...Be5 35.f4 Qxg3+ 36.Kxg3 Bc7

And here I can't recall what we played.

37.Kf3 Kf8 38.Ke4 Ke7 39.Rf2

Here we played it out...But moves 39 are wrong I believe. White developed a passer on the c-file and h-files but they were both guarded. We exchange rooks somewhere. And I had a pawn dual Pawn-e5 & Pawn-f5 that I kept intact and didn't dare move them. I won his Pawn-f4 somehow. I offered a draw but white refused. And we played 'til White and I calculated he couldn't promote his passers on c7 and h4/h5 not sure which square it was on. opposite colored bishops. The pawn dual acted as buffer and prevented White from infiltrating. To me it reduced a lot of calculating.

39...a6 1/2-1/2

Thiruvasagam Thirunavukkar (1532) – Odysseus Rodriguez (1551)

[B13]

Washington Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA
(R4), November 30, 2019
[Odysseus Rodriguez]

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Bb5 a6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.c3 e6 8.Bf4 Be7 9.Nbd2 Nf6 10.0-0

Time remaining: 1hr 43 mins

10...0-0

Time: 1hr 43min

11.Ne5 Bb7

And here I erred. I gave myself the French Bishop.

12.Re1 c5 13.Nb3 cxd4



Position after 13...cxd4

14.Nxd4

It was here I noted that White has a very strong force. Even, Nxf7...Rxf7; Nxe6 with the initiative.

14...Rc8 15.Qb3 Ba8 16.Bg5 Nd7??!

Ne4 can be played....

17.Nxd7 Qxd7 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Re3 Rfe8 20.Qd1

time: 1hr 10 min

20...Qd7

Here was poor choice... time: 59 mins

21.Qg4

Now Qg4 prevents Pawn-e5. f5 is now playable...

21...Bb7 22.Rae1 Rcd8

Pawn-f5 is still playable.

23.f4 Bc8?? 24.f5

It was here I thought I could still defend...

24...exf5

losing.

25.Nxf5 g6 26.Qd4 f6 27.Qxf6

Black resigns.

1-0

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(L) Michael Rabadan vs Joey Devaney.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

**Dave Juchau (1552) –
Ralph Anthony (1603) [B21]**
Washington Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R5), December 1, 2019
[Ralph Anthony]

1.e4 d6

Aiming for a Pirc...

2.f4

but my opponent transposes me into the Rat defense.

2...c5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bb5 a6

4...Bd7 is usually played here. However, I don't mind trading the knight for the light squared bishop. The resultant doubled c-pawns are not a liability. They support and add to Black's center pawn mass.

5.Bxc6+

Also with this bishop gone my king will rest a lot easier.

5...bxc6

Ah, am starting to fall sleep already!

6.Nc3 d5

Stockfish doesn't like this.

7.e5

Or this.

7...Nh6

Clamping down on the white kingside squares. From here the knight supports f4, prevents the immediate g4 and has the options of posting up on g4, f5 or f7.

8.0-0

Too bad, for White, that his light-squared bishop... is missing.

8...e6 9.Ne2

Another "Slowkowski" from White. Here I missed the opportunity to play c4. I

would continue to miss that opportunity. LOL.

Bishops and rooks yearn for space so Black's Q-side pawns need to expand down the board. Instead was thinking "need to get the dark-squared bishop out and get castled first." But that was the wrong idea since White's game is developing so slowly; I should have just played ...c4 immediately.

9...Be7 10.c3

Another slow-rolling move that comes with the disadvantage of blocking in White's own bishop.

10...0-0

Black again misses the opportunity to play ...c4.

11.h3 a5

Making way for Black's light-squared

bishop, which has the opportunity to become a beast since White has no light-squared bishop to oppose it.

12.d3 Ba6



Position after 12...Ba6

“A place for every piece and every piece in its place!” Cool, I like it.

13.g4 Kh8

Turns out this was unnecessary... but it doesn't hurt to be careful. Since White's attack is so slow and predictable, Black has plenty of time to be leisurely.

14.b3 Qc7 15.Ng5 Ng8 16.h4 h6

Black didn't need to do this as the white knight is almost useless here. It should actually be called back home by its master for reassignment to more important duties. Shame on Black for wasting time in kicking it back to its stables!

17.Nf3 c4

Finally! Black wakes up (a little). All these slow moves are putting me to sleep.

18.d4

18.bxc4, trading towards the center, was advisable for White here.

18...cxb3 19.axb3 c5

Chipping away at those queenside pawns makes life better for the black bishop and heavy pieces. Aside from castling and two bishop moves, all other moves by White have been by knights and pawns.

20.Rf2 Bxe2 21.Rxe2 cxd4 22.cxd4 Qc3

This move surprised my opponent. I had

been planning it several moves prior to actually playing it here.

23.Rea2

23.Be3 was also playable for White. As the board opens up, the advantage swings more and more towards Black.

23...Rfb8 24.Rb1 a4 25.Rc2 Qa5

Leaving b4 for the bishop.

26.Bd2 Bb4

Throwing away the initiative by not instead playing 26...Qb5. Guess I'd been fixating too much on getting the bishop to b4. But have no fear — a far bigger mistake is on its way!

27.bxa4 Qxa4

With several pawns exchanged, several pieces facing each other more or less directly, and a partially exposed king lurking to the side, we must now keep a keen eye out for tactics.

28.Rcb2 Qxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Bxd2 30.Rxb8

Miracles do indeed happen.

30...Be3+

White resigned on the spot, as a piece and a pawn will be lost.

0-1

Girls And Women's Workshop

By Angela Agaian

Megan Lee and Minda Chen, the two guest speakers, made an exceptional impact on attendees. While both were waiting for their next round, they openly shared strategies on how to improve chess skills to the young females and their parents.

Minda Chen's second-grade scholastic team was good experience, yet at her first national scholastic chess event she lost many games. She was sad

and wanted to play better chess. Later she played in the Washington Women's Championship, Chicago all-girls tournament, and many more tournaments with the high-ranked players.

“What is your favorite thing in Chess,” asked Charlotte.

Megan answered chess is endless. You can balance yourself with monthly girls events that give you psychological support and confidence. Get coaching with proper theories and games. Playing in girls and women's tournaments are not enough. As you improve playing in girls-only events is not enough.

Megan traveled to many tournament when she was six years old. Keep playing. she said, “Hang in there and go to the next round, next game, and next tournament.”

Minda Chen added, “My suggestion to the young players is to improve your chess, have two coaches.” Online coaches may be cheaper and convenient.

How old do you need to be to study in chess? Megan shared, “You know when you are ready and when you are interested in chess.”

Next, learn from your games, learn from your mistakes.


Both guest speakers suggested to “be consistent in studying in chess, a little each day is a good idea.”

“It depends how much homework you have, but I always liked to go to girls' camps,” shared Minda.

Megan think Jeffrey Xiong is a hard-working player, and her brother Michael Lee is rated almost 2700. Minda's favorite chess icons are Anna Zatonskih, Irina Krush, Judit Polgar. She also liked Alex Grischuk.

Special thank you to Josh Sinanan for supporting and organizing the first Women and Girls' Workshop in Washington State!

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*Chouchan Airapetian leads Women's and Girl's Workshop.
Photo Credit: Courtesy of WCF.*

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Reserve: 1st \$300, 2nd \$225, 3rd 175, 1st U1400 \$150, 1st U1200/Unrated \$150.

Entry Fee: \$60 if postmarked or online by 02/09, \$70 after 02/09 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, US Chess National Masters. \$40 play up fee if U1600 playing in Open section.

Registration: Saturday 9:00 - 9:45 AM.

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 6:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 4:30 PM.

Byes: Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required, other states accepted. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 6. US Chess Junior Grand Prix event. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

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

Mail To: Jacob Mayer, 9502 44th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115-2610. **Phone:** (206) 697-5625.

Email: jacob.mayerchess@gmail.com.

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration.

The 2019 Glen Buckendorf / Buz Eddy Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator (mevjr54@outlook.com)

These are not the final standings. At this writing, there are three events yet to be held in the month of December, one in Boise and two in Seattle. All are events that do not carry multipliers, so the potential number of points is small. In spite of that, there are many cash positions still in play. In Idaho, the Western Idaho Open in Boise could still impact first place in Class D and second place in classes B, C, D, and E and under. Of course, by the time you read this, it will be too late, so I hope you attended and played well. In Washington first place is still up for grabs in the Expert Class (0.5 margin!) and Class C, while second is open in Expert, A, C, and D and under. Ralph Anthony took over as the overall leader in Washington after November's events, but if he doesn't play in December while Stephen Buck does, this position could flip back.

Since this is the first issue of 2020, my first question is "Why don't I have a flying car yet?" Your first question might be, "Where can I go to get some Grand Prix points right off the bat?" Yours is the better question. For that, I have an answer. Three events are currently on the calendar for January, all in Seattle. The usual Seattle Chess Club Quads and Tornado accompany the Seattle City Championship, January 17-19, with a based-on prize fund of \$1010 and a 2x multiplier. In February, there is the Washington Challengers' Cup in Seattle and the Dave Collyer Memorial in Spokane. Both carry a 3x multiplier. I presume the SCC will continue their monthly Quads and Tornado, but at this writing, the dates are not posted.

There also seems to be the prospect of Oregon rejoining the program. No events are scheduled to be in the Grand Prix yet, and I do not know how serious a prospect this is, but I hope to know more before January actually gets here. As a gesture of good faith, the Neil Dale Memorial tournament January 4-5 has been designated a Grand Prix by virtue of the full-page ad in this issue. Keep an eye on the calendar on the Northwest Chess website for any developments in this regard.

If anyone has a suggestion for a person to be honored in 2020, please send your suggestions to myself or Eric Holcomb. Two suggestions have been made and I plan to discuss those and any additional suggestions in my January column. The standings below are current through December 6.

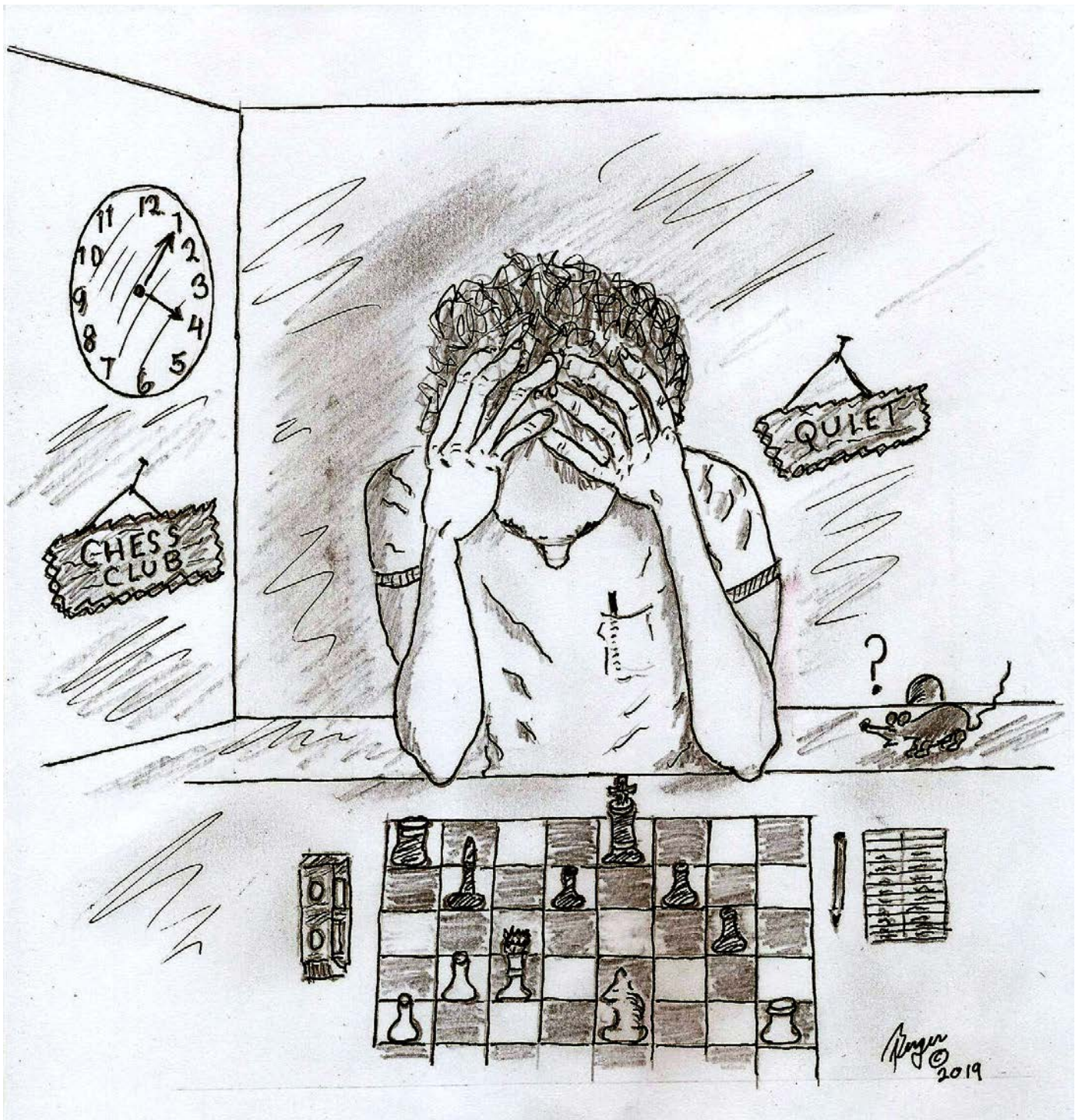
2019 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Washington			Other Places						
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.			
			Masters									
			1	Pupols	Viktors	176.0	1	Truelson	Joseph	MN	78.0	
			2	Perez	Ignacio	138.0	2	Raptis	Nick	OR	19.5	
			3	Sinanan	Joshua C	91.5	3	Donaldson	W John	CA	18.0	
			4	Lee	Megan	58.5	4	Cigan	Jason D	OR	16.5	
			5	Schill	William J	53.5						
M/X/Class A			Experts									
1	Cambareri	Michael E	47.5	1	Casey	Garrett W	123.5	1	Nair	Roshen S	OR	69.0
2	Geyman	Jonathan P	34.5	2	Whale	Nicholas M	123.0	2	Moore	Michael	CAN	54.0
3	Kircher	Caleb P	16.5	3	Frantz	Joseph K	115.0	3	Huang	Patrick W	HI	42.0
4	Wei	James	16.0	4	Mahajan	Rushaan	114.0	3		Four tied at		36.0
5	Bodie	Brad	15.0	5	Anand	Vignesh	110.0					

Idaho			Washington			Other Places									
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.						
Class B			Class A												
1	Herr	Griffin G	39.0	1	Vijayakumar	Advaith	134.5	1	Vega	Isaac	OR	97.5			
2	Daigle	Adrian P	18.0	2	Kaelin	Alex	107.0	2	Sripada	Havish	OR	75.0			
3	Martonick	Nick	15.0	3	Chang	Eddie	101.5	3	Pitre	H G	CA	60.0			
3	Roland	Jeffrey T	15.0	4	Kuhner	Mary K	100.0	4	Murray	David E	OR	45.0			
5	Derryberry	Dewayne R	14.5	Kurungod			5	Anoop	Pranav	91.5	5	Hosford	Michael J	OR	39.0
Class C			Class B												
1	Porth	Adam	27.5	1	Anthony	Ralph J	194.0	1	Kodrapu	Ishaan K	OR	51.0			
2	Ang	Ching-E N	19.0	2	Buck	Stephen J	186.0	2	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	OR	46.5			
3	Leifeste	Bryce	15.5	3	Lainson	Silas	149.5	3	Lykins	Pace	OR	36.0			
4	Price	Joshua J	15.0	4	Gupta	Anand	145.0	4	Qu	Jayden	CAN	33.0			
5	Three tied at		11.0	5	Li	Edward	117.0	5	Jiang	Kate Y	CAN	30.0			
Class D			Class C												
1	Belew	Finn C	16.5	1	Varner	Murlin E	114.5	1	Yang	Arnold T	OR	81.0			
2	Shepard	River C	15.5	2	Johar	Mudit	108.0	2	Morrissey	Patrick W	OR	39.0			
3	Glass	Evan M	14.0	3	Chen	Angela Z	107.5	3	Lykins	Chad	OR	30.0			
4	Bodie	Arlene	10.5	4	Christy	John P	106.0	4	Mok	Gillian	CAN	24.0			
4	Merry	William A F	10.5	5	Liu	Austin	102.5	5	Buckner	Moises H	OR	15.0			
Class E and Below			Class D And Below												
1	Su	Darren	19.5	1	Ruff	Lois A	147.0	1	Sripada	Anisha	OR	79.5			
2	Porth	Darwin A	14.5	2	Li	Emma	123.5	2	Yang	Arthur T	OR	60.0			
3	Van Law	Quentin	14.0	3	Karukayil	Johan	121.0	3	Sripathi	Prajna	OR	39.0			
4	Daigle	Micah J	12.0	4	Tatikonda	Ninanth	102.0	4	Conley	Fred	AK	36.0			
4	Sherwood	Jax L	12.0	5	Zhang	Michelle	100.0	4	Jiang	William J	CAN	36.0			

Overall Leaders, by State

1	Cambareri	Michael E	47.5	1	Anthony	Ralph J	194.0	<p>There are no prizes for players residing outside of the Northwest Chess area.</p> <p>This information is presented here so our readers can see that we do draw from other states and those players are contributing to our Grand Prix prize fund.</p>		
2	Herr	Griffin G	39.0	2	Buck	Stephen J	186.0			
3	Geyman	Jonathan P	34.5	3	Pupols	Viktors	176.0			
4	Porth	Adam	27.5	4	Lainson	Silas	149.5			
5	Su	Darren	19.5	5	Ruff	Lois A	147.0			
6	Ang	Ching-E N	19.0	6	Gupta	Anand	145.0			
7	Daigle	Adrian P	18.0	7	Perez	Ignacio	138.0			
8	Belew	Finn C	16.5	8	Vijayakumar	Advaith	134.5			
8	Kircher	Caleb P	16.5	9	Casey	Garrett W	123.5			
10	Wei	James	16.0	9	Li	Emma	123.5			
11	Leifeste	Bryce	15.5	11	Whale	Nicholas M	123.0			
11	Shepard	River C	15.5	12	Karukayil	Johan	121.0			



ONLY TWO THINGS KEPT FELIX FROM IMPROVING HIS 20-YEAR RATING AVERAGE OF 1200—TALENT, AND A LACK OF AWARENESS THAT HE HAD NONE.



PNW CHESS CENTER
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<https://www.uschesshub.com/Organizers/Details/A6051987>

PNWCC
Website



NEW

All PNWCC Events will be registered through USChess Hub – <https://www.uschesshub.com/>
a Website created and maintained by Xuhao He and FM Anthon He



Friday Night Events

Dates	Description	Rounds and Fees
1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28	G45 Duel/G15+2 Rapids/Fischer Random Chess (Chess960)/G3+2 Blitz	2/4/3/7

Scholastic and Beginner Event

Dates	Description	Rounds
Jan 26	Transformers G45;d5	4
Feb 29	Transformers G45;d5	4

One-Day Tournament

Dates	Description	Rounds
Jan 25	G60 – Adults and USCF 2000+ play for free	4
Feb 23	G60 – Adults and USCF 2000+ play for free	4

PNWCC Monthly USCF Open

Dates	Description	Rounds
Jan 11-12	6-round G90;d10	6
Feb 1 -2	6-round G90;d10	6

PNWCC FIDE Tournaments

Dates	Theme	Featured GM's	Rounds
Jan 1 – Jan 5	GM Norm Invitational	10 Player Invitational Round Robin	9
Jan 17 – Jan 20	PNWCC FIDE Open - MLK	3+ GM's	7

Tournament dates and details are subject to changes. Visit our website for most recent updates.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address
 2150 N 107 St, B85
 Seattle WA 98133

Infoline
 206-417-5405

seattlechess.club
 kleistcf@aol.com

Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168



The SCC online registration system is now open at www.seattlechess.club.

WCF @ the SCC
 Presidents' Cup Feb. 15-16

Jan 4; Feb 1, 29 **Saturday Quads**
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for next quad. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA, NS, NC.

Jan 5 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 1/1, \$16 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** SCC membership. **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Jan 26, Feb 23 **Sunday Tornado**
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA, NS, NC.

Wednesdays are for casual play, from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Seattle City Championship

January 17-19 or January 18-19

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60; d5 (Two-day schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1010 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

<i>Championship</i>	
First	\$250
Second	\$150
Expert	\$100
Class A	\$80

EF: \$45 (SCC mem.—\$35, \$40—mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/15 \$53 (\$41, \$46) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free.

<i>Reserve (U1800)</i>	
First	\$140
Second	\$90
Class C	\$70
Class D	\$60
Class E & Under	\$50
Unrated	\$20

EF: \$36 (SCC mem.—\$26, \$31—mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/15, \$4 (\$35, \$40) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF.

Both Sections: Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.

Reg.: Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10am@ G/60;d5)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 2 (Sun. rds, commit at reg.). **Misc.:** US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2020 Northwest Grand Prix event.

Pacific Northwest Chess Center events see page 29. Seattle Chess Club events see page 30.

♣ **Jan 4-5** 4th Annual Neil Dale Memorial, **Portland, OR**. Full-Page Ad page 15.

Jan 18 ICA MLK Blitz Championship, **Boise, ID**. 8SS (2 games per round), Time Control: G/5; d0. Section: Open. Site: Engineering Consultants Inc (ECI), 303 S Federal Way, Boise, ID 83705. US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req. OSA. EF: \$30 per player. Discount for online advance registration (encouraged!) closes 9 pm MST on 1/17. Same day registration \$40 (online or at site). On-site registration (discouraged, but allowed) at 1 pm. Rd Times: 2 pm continuous until 7 pm. 1/2 pt bye Rds 1-5 only. 1st rd must notify TD before rd is paired, all others before rd 2 is paired. \$\$ (based on 30) 1st - 3rd place Overall plaques and top scholastic. Details: idahocheessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahocheessassociation.com, (208) 488-0676.

♣ **Feb 15-16** Washington President's Cup, Seattle, WA. Half-Page Ad page 25.

♣ **Feb 15-17** Idaho Closed State Chess Championship, **Boise, ID**. 6SS, Time Control: 30/120; d5, SD/60; d5. Section: Open. Site: The Riverside Hotel, 2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise, ID 83714. Registration: Idaho residents only. ICA & US Chess memberships required. Entry Fee: \$30 per player. Discount for online advance registration (encouraged!) closes 9 pm MST on 2/14. Same day registration \$40 (online or at site). Over 80, IMs, FMs, GMs free. Check-in: 9-9:30 2/15. Rd Times: 2/15 10 am, 5 pm, 2/16 8 am, 5 pm, 2/17 8 am, 3 pm. Business meeting 3 pm 2/16. 1/2 pt bye Rds 1-5 only. Maximum 1-half point bye, Rounds 1-5, commit before round is paired. 0-point bye round 6. Prizes: Overall: 1, 2, 3. Classes: X, A, B, C, D, E (includes F & below), Unrated, plus Top Junior, Senior, and Woman. Details: idahocheessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahocheessassociation.com, (208) 631-5357.

Feb 21 IM John Donaldson Simul and Lecture, Spokane, WA. Site: Kress Gallery, River Park Square, 808 West Main, Spokane. Lecture at 6 p.m., Donaldson Simul starts at 6:45 p.m. Fee: \$10 per board (bring your own equipment). Blitz Tournament: 2:30-3:00 registration at Kress Gallery (2nd level River Park Square). Blitz event will end by 6:00. Format depending upon entries.

♣ **Feb 22-23** The 28th Dave Collyer Memorial, **Millwood, WA**. Location: Millwood Presbyterian Church Community Center, 3223 N. Marguerite, Millwood, WA. I-90 Exit 287; north on Argonne Road to light at Euclid; turn left, two blocks. Format: A computer-paired, five-round Swiss System event. Registration: Sat. 9:30-10:30. Rounds: 11-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. Time control: Round 1: G/90,d5; Rounds 2-5: G/115,d5. Entry fee: \$28 if received by 2/20, \$35 at the door; under 19 \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted (pay at door). All registrants must check in by 10:40 unless a first-round bye was granted. \$1,800 GUARANTEED prize fund. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One 1/2-point bye available if requested by end of prior round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round. PRIZES: First \$350, Second \$225, Third \$125. Class Prizes: Top Expert \$100; \$100 first, \$70 second each in A, B, C, D, and E/unrated. Jim Waugh Biggest Upset prizes: \$100 and \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. For information please call (509) 270-1772. Check website for updates: www.spokanechessclub.org.

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