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## NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, [jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)

Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, [chesscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:chesscoaching@gmail.com)

Publisher: Duane Polich, [publisher@nwchess.com](mailto:publisher@nwchess.com)

Business Manager: [businessmanager@nwchess.com](mailto:businessmanager@nwchess.com)

## Board Representatives

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

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

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

[businessmanager@nwchess.com](mailto:businessmanager@nwchess.com)

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2014-2023 by Chess Journalists of America!**

## Front Cover

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

## Back Cover

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

## Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for  
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**Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor**

**1514 S. Longmont Ave.**

**Boise, Idaho 83706-3732**

or via e-mail to:

[jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)

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*Idaho Scholastic Chess Champion James Wei taken at the  
Idaho Scholastic Championship March 16, 2024. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

# Yiding Lu

## (Washington's Newest National Master)

Ani Barua

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

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

Congratulations, Yiding!

**IM Luis Rodi (2257) –  
Yiding Lu (2190) [C41]**

1000GM April BonaFIDE

and Scheveningen

San Jose, CA (R3), April 20, 2024

[Yiding Lu]

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

**Nxd5 16.Bxd5**

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

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

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

**19.exd5 Bxd5**

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

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

Preparing a kingside invasion.

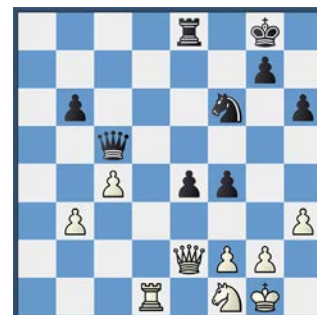
**23.Bd2 Bc5 24.c4 Nf6 25.Be3 f4 26.Bxc5  
Qxc5 27.Rad1 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 e4 29.b3**

[Diagram top of next column.]

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

**29...Qg5**

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



Position after 29.b3

**30.Kh2 Re5?!**

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

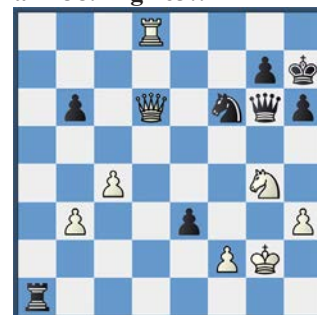
**31.Rd4 Qf5 32.Kg1 f3**

I realized that I needed to do something.

**33.Qd1 Qg6 34.Rd8+ Kh7 35.Ne3 fxe2  
36.Qd6 Ra5 37.Ng4**

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

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



Position after 38...e3

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



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



### 39.Qe5

39.fxe3 Qe4+ 40.Kf2 Ra2+; 39.Qd4 Nxg4! 40.hxg4 e2! 41.Qxa1 Qxg4+-+; 39.Qe6 exf2 40.Kxf2 Nxg4+ 41.Qxg4 Qf6+

### 39...Nxg4! 40.Qxa1 Nxf2+

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

### 41.Kf3

41.Kf1 Nxh3-+; 41.Kh2 Qf5 42.Qa8 (42.Qf1 Qf4+) 42...Qe5+ 43.Kg2 e2 44.Rh8+ Kg6 45.Qc6+ Kg5 was my thinking.

### 41...Qe4+ 42.Ke2

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

### 42...Nxh3-+ 43.Rf8 Nf4+ 44.Rxf4 Qxf4 45.Kd3 Qf2 46.Qb1 Qf5+

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

0-1



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

## WA Summer Bughouse Championship



**Saturday, June 15, 2024**

**Lakeside Upper School**

**14050 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125**

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

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

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

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

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

**Time Control:** G/5; +0.

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

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

Team Prizes (per section):  
1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$100-\$80-\$70.

Special Prizes (per section):

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

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

**Memberships:** No memberships  
required.

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

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

# Washington President's Cup

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Washington President's Cup was held at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle on February 24-25, 2024, just on the heels of the Washington State Championship.

The spacious venue, the Wright Community Center located in the heart of the vast Lakeside campus, attracted a record 84 participants from cities through the Pacific Northwest, including Spokane, Lake Stevens, Redmond, Bellevue, Sammamish, Bothell, Portland, Seattle, Camano Island, Mountlake Terrace, Kirkland, Brier, Shoreline, Fort Lewis, Edgewood, Renton, Duvall, Maple Valley, Lynnwood, Issaquah, Edmonds, Federal Way, Medina, and Camas.

The field was evenly split between the 42-player Washington 1600+ section and the 43-player Lincoln U1600 section. The five-round Swiss tournament over two days was hosted by the Washington

Chess Federation and directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua.

The star-studded Washington section featured four national masters—Aziz Degenbaev, Nikash Vemparala, Stephen Willy, and Aaryan Deshpande—as well as four experts—Ted Wang, Vidip Kona, Leonid Gavrysh, and Bertrand Wan, headlining the candidates in contention for a seat in oval chess office. After the dust settled, it was NM Degenbaev, a 19-year-old college student originally from Kyrgyzstan, and young expert Ted Wang, a fourth grader from Medina, who emerged victorious, each scoring an undefeated 4.5 points from five games.

The two co-champs drew their fourth-round game, setting up an exciting fifth round showdown between Wang against the undefeated front-runner Bertrand Wan, while Degenbaev took

on high school chess whiz Emerson Wong-Godfrey on board two. Skilful and deliberate play brought clutch final-round victories for both Degenbaev and Wang, while Wan had to settle for third place. Six presidential chess candidates shared fourth-sixth/first U2000/first U1800 honors a half-point back: Nikash Vemparala from Redmond, Vidip Kona from Redmond, Leonid Gavrysh from Brier, Ryan Ackerman from Spokane, Emerson Wong-Godfrey from Seattle, and Nihanth Tatikonda from Bothell.

Several special prizes were also up for grabs in the presidential contest. The biggest upset wins were awarded to Haituka Anandkumar (round one: 342 points), Karthik Bimod (round two: 242 points and round three: 291 points), Aaron Ren (round four: 218 points), and Nihanth Tatikonda (round five: 267 points). Shuyi Han of Bellevue won the best female player prize and Neevan R. Saddi claimed the biggest US Chess rating gain prize with a 56-point ascent!

The Lincoln U1600 section also saw fierce competition amongst the front-runners vying for higher office! In the end, only one candidate, Evan Cen from Bellevue, was selected for promotion, as he topped the field with a dominate 4.5 points from five games, conceding only a single draw to fellow east-sider Andrew Goupinets in the final round.

Four future presidential hopefuls landed in a tie for second-fourth/first U1400 with four points apiece: Andrew Goupinets from Bellevue, Kedar Venkatachalam from Redmond, Edgar Li from Bellevue, and Christian Jordan from Edgewood. Vivaan V. Wani from Bothell claimed the first U1200 prize for his efforts with an even 2.5 points.

Trevor Hollister from Fort Lewis won the best U1000 prize with 1.5 points. Chess dad Bharadwaj Janardhan from Sammamish threw his hat into the ring and



*Tournament Director Fred Kleist answers a question that came up in the game between Odbayar Yondon (L) and Aaryan Deshpande at the Washington President's Cup.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

won the Unrated prize with an impressive three points. The biggest upset wins were awarded to Jai Budhraj (round one: 296 points), Trevor Hollister (round two: 356 points), Vivaan V. Wani (round three: 515 points + round four: 327 points), and Aiden Zhu (round five: 157 points).

Renton chess lady Andra Marinescu won the best female player prize for her efforts and Newcastle’s Daniel Polonsky experienced the biggest US Chess rating gain with a solid 53-point increase. Congratulations to the winners on their successful chess campaigns!

## Presidential Blitz Championship

The Presidential Blitz Championship took place in the evening on Sunday, February 25 on the heels of the Washington President’s Cup at the same venue. Thirty players hailing from several

districts throughout Washington State were represented in the one-section, nine-round Single Swiss blitz event, from municipalities including Olympia, Seattle, Bellevue, Shoreline, Redmond, Duvall, Everett, Bothell, Kirkland, SeaTac, Federal Way, and Sammamish.

The event was directed by the dynamic duo of Senior TD Fred Kleist and floor chief Ani Barua. A diverse conglomeration of players of all ages and ratings ranging from unrated to Master were represented in the tournament, which ran just over three hours and took place in the “fireplace” room due to a few games from the main tournament running overtime.

The tournament was US Chess blitz rated, with a generous time control of G/5+3 for those still seeking to play high-quality games of chess despite being perpetually short of time.

National Master Aziz Degenbaev of Seattle topped the polls with an impressive 8.5 points from nine games, conceding only a single draw against Everett speed chess aficionado Vahe Muselimyan in the third round. Aziz finished with six straight wins, rattling off victories over NM Nikash Vemparala, NM Stephen Willy, and Expert Vidip Kona along the way. Overall, it was a profitable weekend for Aziz, who tied for first in the President’s Cup and won the Blitz event outright. Sammamish chess campaigner Stephen Willy captured second place honors a full point back with 7.5 points.

Everett chess speedster Vahe Muselimyan won the third place prize with seven points and kindly donated his winnings back to WCF. Greenlake chess guru Vijay Mohan claimed the first U2000 prize with a solid 5.5-point score.

Five chess congressmen shared the first U1800/first U1600/first U1400

Washington President's Cup: Washington 1600+											
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes	
1	1-2	NM Aziz Degenbaev	2227	W28	W32	W5	D2	W8	4.5	1st-2nd -> \$330	
2	1-2	Ted Wang	2069	W22	W29	W4	D1	W3	4.5	1st-2nd -> \$330	
3	3	Bertrand Wan	2039	W9	W30	W16	W15	L2	4	3rd -> \$240	
4	4-9	NM Nikash Vemparala	2220	W12	W7	L2	W18	D5	3.5	4th-6th / 1st U2000 / 1st U1800 -> \$93.33	
5	4-9	Vidip Kona	2060	W23	W20	L1	W12	D4	3.5	4th-6th / 1st U2000 / 1st U1800 -> \$93.33	
6	4-9	Leonid Gavrysh	2056	D35	W39	W27	L8	W21	3.5	4th-6th / 1st U2000 / 1st U1800 -> \$93.33	
7	4-9	Ryan Ackerman	1933	W40	L4	H---	W31	W25	3.5	4th-6th / 1st U2000 / 1st U1800 -> \$93.33	
8	4-9	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1919	H---	W25	W35	W6	L1	3.5	4th-6th / 1st U2000 / 1st U1800 -> \$93.33	
9	4-9	Nihanth Tatikonda	1695	L3	W28	D33	W34	W17*	3.5	4th-6th / 1st U2000 / 1st U1800 -> \$93.33 + Biggest Upset Win: rd#5 (267 pts)	
10	10-14	Nikhil Ramkumar	1829	D37	D14	D30	H---	W29	3		
11	10-14	Atharva Joshi	1827	L29	W40	W24	D16	D14	3		
12	10-14	Gabriel Razmov	1774	L4	W36	W32	L5	W31	3		
13	10-14	Odbayar Yondon	1754	L16	L31	W40	W32	W27	3		
14	10-14	Aaron Song Ren	1662	D34	D10	H---	W33*	D11	3	Biggest Upset Win: rd#4 (218 pts)	
15	15-26	NM Stephen Willy	2214	W21	D27	W34	L3	U---	2.5		
16	15-26	NM Aaryan Deshpande	2148	W13	W19	L3	D11	U---	2.5		
17	15-26	Jamie Zhu	1962	D39	D24	D18	W35	L9	2.5		
18	15-26	Siddharth Bhaskaran	1867	D25	W42	D17	L4	D24	2.5		
19	15-26	Darsh Verma	1834	W36	L16	D21	D29	D26	2.5		
20	15-26	Chad Boey	1784	W31	L5	D29	L25	W36	2.5		
21	15-26	Christos Boulis	1763	L15	W41	D19	W30	L6	2.5		
22	15-26	Ujwal Garine	1741	L2	L38	D41	W37	W35	2.5		
23	15-26	Jeffrey L'Heureux	1739	L5	L33	D36	W39	W34	2.5		
24	15-26	Shuyi Han	1664	H---	D17	L11	W28	D18	2.5	Best Female Player	
25	15-26	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1657	D18	L8	W37	W20	L7	2.5	Biggest USCF Rating Gain (56 pts)	
26	15-26	Cedric Davies	1654	H---	L34	W39	D27	D19	2.5		
27	27-31	Miles Kuipers	1836	W38	D15	L6	D26	L13	2		
28	27-31	Max Cao	1779	L1	L9	W42	L24	W40	2		
29	27-31	Miranda Meng	1552	W11	L2	D20	D19	L10	2		
30	27-31	Haituka Anandkumar	1538	W33*	L3	D10	L21	D32	2	Biggest Upset Win: rd#1 (342 pts)	
31	27-31	Karthik Bimod	1512	L20	W13*	W38*	L7	L12	2	Biggest Upset Win: rd#2 (242 pts) & rd#3 (291 pts)	
32	32-37	CM William Wachira	1957	W41	L1	L12	L13	D30	1.5		
33	32-37	Kevin J Murphy	1880	L30	W23	D9	L14	U---	1.5		
34	32-37	Jude Merritt	1876	D14	W26	L15	L9	L23	1.5		
35	32-37	Michael Lin	1711	D6	W37	L8	L17	L22	1.5		
36	32-37	Selina Cheng	1641	L19	L12	D23	W41	L20	1.5		
37	32-37	Iris Zhang	1614	D10	L35	L25	L22	W41	1.5		
38	38-40	Abhijit Mondal	1803	L27	W22	L31	U---	U---	1		
39	38-40	Rafael Palathingal	1678	D17	L6	L26	L23	H---	1		
40	38-40	Dann Merriman	1662	L7	L11	L13	B---	L28	1		
41	41-42	Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1667	L32	L21	D22	L36	L37	0.5		
42	41-42	Rhadean Rubaiyat	1555	H---	L18	L28	U---	U---	0.5		



prize with five points apiece: Chad Boey, Gabriel Razmov, Aarit Shah, Ziliang Ma, and Leonid Zandanov. Shoreline chess star Nathan Zhang won the first U1200 prize with four points and Bothell's Vishal Suram took home the Unrated prize with three points. Congratulations to the expeditious victors!

**Chad Boey (1784) –  
Miranda Meng (1552) [B12]**  
Washington President's Cup  
Seattle (R3), February 24, 2024  
[Miranda Meng]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 e6 5.Qg4 Qc7?! 6.Nf3 Qxc5

Now the black queen is in an awkward position. After 7.c3, Black needs to find a way to quickly activate their pieces.

**7.Bd3?!**  
This is an inaccuracy, missing the chance of c3.

7...Qb4+ 8.Qxb4 Bxb4+ 9.c3



Position after 9.c3

**9...Bc5**  
This move is a bit slower than ...Ba5 and ...Bc7 to move the bishop to the c7-square.

9...Ba5 would be a much faster attack than ...Bc7, with immediate chances of attacking the weak e5-pawn.

**10.0-0 Ne7 11.Nbd2 Nbc6?!**

This move causes b4 to be a bigger threat than before. Instead, Black should try 11...Nd7 to keep following the plan of attacking the vulnerable e5-pawn.

**12.b4 Bb6 13.b5 Nb8?**

This wastes a lot of time for Black. 13...Na5 makes the knight more useful.

**14.Ba3**

After pushing the b-pawn, White forced Blacks pieces back where they started and has chances of c4, making it a tough position for Black to play.

**14...Nd7 15.Nb3 Bc7 16.Rfe1 b6 17.Rac1 Bd8?**

Washington President's Cup: Lincoln U1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total Pts	Prize
1	1	Evan Cen	1564	W28	W26	W15	W12	D2	4.5	1st -> \$260
2	2-5	Andrew Goupinets	1576	W27	W4	W14	H---	D1	4	2nd-4th / U1400 -> \$130
3	2-5	Kedar Venkatachalam	1525	L29	W32	W28	W23	W8	4	2nd-4th / U1400 -> \$130
4	2-5	Edgar Li	1396	W40	L2	W37	W31	W12	4	2nd-4th / U1400 -> \$130
5	2-5	Christian Jordan	1350	W21	L12	W42	W16	W18	4	2nd-4th / U1400 -> \$130
6	6-10	Benjamin Frederick	1512	L31	W36	W29	W26	D10	3.5	
7	6-10	Yuchen Zhou	1477	W39	L23	W30	H---	W22	3.5	
8	6-10	Andra Marinescu	1434	H---	W24	W17	W9	L3	3.5	Best Female Player
9	6-10	Viraj Dhawan	1430	W34	W38	H---	L8	W23	3.5	
10	6-10	Oliver He	1393	W41	W11	L12	W14	D6	3.5	
11	11-21	Andy Chen	1564	W22	L10	D20	W33	D15	3	
12	11-21	Terrick Evin	1519	W30	W5	W10	L1	L4	3	
13	11-21	Advait Krishnan	1484	L20	W43	D22	D24	W30	3	
14	11-21	Allen Chang	1483	W35	W19	L2	L10	W31	3	
15	11-21	Rian Raja	1475	W32	W29	L1	H---	D11	3	
16	11-21	Samarth Bharadwaj	1461	W43	D20	D23	L5	W32	3	
17	11-21	Kanav Shah	1453	W36	D31	L8	W20	H---	3	
18	11-21	James Hamlett	1438	W33	H---	D31	W19	L5	3	
19	11-21	Soham Sharma	1350	W42	L14	W38	L18	W34	3	
20	11-21	Aiden Zhu	1203	W13	D16	D11	L17	W26*	3	Biggest Upset Win: rd#5 (157 pts)
21	11-21	Bharadwaj Janardhan	unr.	L5	W39	L26	W36	W29	3	1st Unrated -> \$56
22	22-24	Daniel Polonsky	1339	L11	W34	D13	W28	L7	2.5	Biggest USCF Rating Gain (53 pts)
23	22-24	Jai Budhraj	1259	W25*	W7	D16	L3	L9	2.5	Biggest Upset Win: rd#1 (296 pts)
24	22-24	Vivaan Vikram Wani	829	H---	L8	W27*	D13*	D33	2.5	1st U1200 -> \$80 + Biggest Upset Win: rd#3 (515 pts) + rd#4 (327 pts)
25	25-34	Rhadean Rubaiyat	1555	L23	U---	H---	D27	W40	2	
26	25-34	Kshitij Narkhede	1360	W37	L1	W21	L6	L20	2	
27	25-34	Vishnu Mohan	1344	L2	D33	L24	D25	W42	2	
28	25-34	Arnav Bablani	1272	L1	W40	L3	L22	W41	2	
29	25-34	Arihant Chaudhuri	1255	W3	L15	L6	W41	L21	2	
30	25-34	Chen Yuan	1248	L12	W41	L7	W42	L13	2	
31	25-34	Abhiram Nerella	1229	W6	D17	D18	L4	L14	2	
32	25-34	Alexander Alvarado	1171	L15	L3	W40	W37	L16	2	
33	25-34	Liam Britt	1119	L18	D27	W35	L11	D24	2	
34	25-34	Skandha Raj	1113	L9	L22	W43	W38	L19	2	
35	35-38	Harvey Wang	1191	L14	L37	L33	W43	D38	1.5	
36	35-38	Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1130	L17	L6	W39	L21	D37	1.5	
37	35-38	Trevor Hollister	835	L26	W35*	L4	L32	D36	1.5	1st U1000 -> \$80 + Biggest Upset Win: rd#2 (356 pts)
38	35-38	Naaditha Nawagamudewage	unr.	B---	L9	L19	L34	D35	1.5	
39	39-42	Agnivesh Chaudhuri	1173	L7	L21	L36	L40	W43	1	
40	39-42	Aaron Zhang	1036	L4	L28	L32	W39	L25	1	
41	39-42	Hengsheen Wang	1001	L10	L30	B---	L29	L28	1	
42	39-42	Inura Nawagamudewage	unr.	L19	B---	L5	L30	L27	1	
43	43	Kirian Villanueva	1135	L16	L13	L34	L35	L39	0	



This makes the position for Black more defensive. 17...Ng6 gives more chances for Black on the kingside, with an idea of playing ...Rh5 after 18.Bxg6 hxg6.

#### 18.Nbd4?

This is a mistake, missing the chance of c4!, once again smashing through the position. 18.c4! Opening up the queenside and making it difficult for Black to move.

18...Nc5 19.Bb1 Bb7 20.c4 Rc8 21.h4 0-0



Position after 21...0-0

#### 22.Re3?

This move allows Black to active their pieces with a tempo.

22...dxc4 23.Rxc4 Nd5 24.Re1 Be7 25.Ne2 Rfd8 26.Rg4 h5 27.Rg3 Nd3 28.Bxe7 Nxe7 29.Bxd3 Rxd3 30.Nf4 Ra3 31.Nxh5 Nf5 32.Rg4 Bxf3 33.gxf3 Rxf3?!

Although ...Rxf3 is more natural, ...Rxa2 is better because of the pawn structure Black makes, making more chances.

#### 34.Rd1 Rh3

Although a draw was agreed here, Black might have a chance of Nxh4 if Rd7 was played. Making a threat to checkmate on the back rank. If 35.Rd7 Nxh4 36.Rxg7+ Kh8 Threating checkmate.

1/2-1/2

**Cedric Davies (1654) –  
Rafael Palathingal (1678) [C46]**  
Washington President's Cup  
Seattle (R3), February 24, 2024  
[Cedric Davies]

#### 1.e4 e5

My opponent in this game is in grade four, so about nine-ten years old. Impressively high rating and play for someone so young. Chess truly is a game for any age.

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.Nxe5 Nxe5 5.d4 Bxd4

More common and better is 5...Bd6 6.dxe5 Bxe5

6.Qxd4± d6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.Bg5±

The pin is quite difficult for Black to deal with.

8...h6 9.Bh4 0-0 10.Nd5

Puts immediate pressure on f6. Although objectively better was 0-0-0.

10...Be6

10...g5 11.Bg3 Nxd5 12.Qxd5 Re8

11.f4

11.Nxf6+ gxf6 12.f4

11...c5 12.Nxf6+ gxf6+-

I thought that ...gxf6 was forced, forgetting his could take with the queen because of the c-pawn attack on my own. The computer says this line is better for Black then the game continuation 12...Qxf6 13.Bxf6 cxd4 14.fxe5 gxf6 15.exf6+-

13.Qd2

Eyeing h6, but Qc3 eyeing f6 was probably better.

13...Ng6 14.Bf2 f5

Black stops f5, for now...

15.g4!

A great move to force my own f5-pawn push.

15...fxe4 16.f5 e3?!

Black gives the pawn back in order to gain a tempo.

17.Qxe3 Bd5 18.Rg1

Thinking ahead to when my queen is on h6 and Black plays ...f6 to stop my own f6. Then I will have the chance to open the g-file with g5.

18...Re8 19.Qxh6 Qe7?



Position after 19...Qe7

Black creates his own counter mate threat. But the threat is rather empty on account

of my next move. 19...Qf6 20.Be3 Qg7 21.Kf2 Ne5 22.Qxg7+ Kxg7 23.Rad1 Bc4 24.Bxc4 Nxc4 25.Bc1+-

20.0-0-0!

A great move! Sidestepping the mate threat and daring Black to take the bishop. Of course, Black can't, because doing so deprives the defense of his queen.

20...Qf6

20...Qxe2?? 21.f6 and mate on g7 is unstoppable. An interesting position. Black has hanging pieces on g6 and d5. White's bishop is hanging on e2. And if he takes the knight on g6, he opens up his defenseless bishop on f2. I improve the tactics of the position by removing my bishop from attack and add his rook to the number of black hanging pieces.

21.Bb5 Re4

Looks like Black wants to play ...Rb4, forking an attack on the bishop with a mate threat on b2.

22.fxg6

Recognizing the b2-mate threat as toothless, I decide to cash-in.

22...Qxf2 23.Rgfl



Position after 23.Rgfl

Objectively better is to skewer the black king along the back rank to capture the rook on a8. I decide against this for the more practical forced liquidation into a piece-up ending that avoids any black counterplay.

23...Qe3+ 24.Qxe3 Rxe3 25.Rxd5 fxg6 26.Rxd6

The ending is easily winning for White. Black decides to play on till mate, perhaps pinning his hopes on a stalemate.

26...Rh3 27.Rxg6+ Kh7 28.Rg5 b6 29.Bd3+ Kh6 30.Rg6+ Kh7 31.Rxb6+ Rxd3

For a brief second my heart skipped a beat. I thought I'd made a mistake, losing a piece. I hadn't looked at the rook

capture. Thankfully, White has a saving check.

32.Rb7+ Kg6 33.cxd3 c4 34.d4 c3 35.bxc3 Rc8 36.Kc2 a5 37.h3 a4 38.d5 Rd8 39.c4 a3 40.Kb3 Rd6 41.Kxa3 Kg5 42.Kb4 Kh4 43.Rf3 Ra6 44.a4 Rg6 45.Rh7+ Rh6

45...Kg5 46.Rh5#

46.Rxh6+ Kg5 47.Rh5+ Kg6

Black is stubbornly not resigning. The easiest mate seems to be to make a queen.

48.d6 Kg7 49.d7 Kg6 50.d8Q Kg7 51.Qg5#

1-0

**Miles Kuipers (1836) –  
Cedric Davies (1654) [A03]**  
Washington President's Cup  
Seattle (R4), February 25, 2024  
[Cedric Davies]

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.b3 Nc6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.0-0 g6

I decided to challenge White's dark-squared bishop on the long diagonal rather than develop it to e7.

7.Bb2 Bg7 8.d3 0-0 9.Bxc6

I was surprised he choice this moment to trade his bishop when it wasn't forced.

9...Bxc6 10.Nbd2 b5

Gaining space.

11.Ne5 Qc7 12.g4

The g4-pawn becomes a target and Black gains a small initiative.

12...Bd7

Preserving the bishop along the open h1-a8 diagonal with ...Bb7 was a strong alternative and preferred by the computer.

13.d4 Qc8

Aiming more pressure at g4. 13...c4 Threatening to win with c3 14.Nxd7 Qxd7

14.Nxd7

14.h3

14...Nxd7 15.c3 c4

15...a5 aiming for a4 16.Rc1 a4 17.b4 a3 18.Ba1

16.bxc4= bxc4 17.Ba3 Qa6

I employ an interesting queen maneuver, daring White to take on e7.

18.Bb4 Qe6

Black fights for the initiative.

19.Qf3 a5

19...f5 Black needs to play ...f5 to prevent White from playing it 20.h3



Position after 19...a5

20.Ba3

20.f5 Qf6 21.Ba3±

20...f5=

I had been planning ...Nf6, when I realized what a threat f5 was, and so I played it myself.

21.gxf5

21.g5

21...gxf5 22.Kh1

The game focus now shifts to the newly opened g-file.

22...Kh8 23.Rg1 Bf6 24.Rg3 Rg8 25.Rh3?!

I thought White would play this move, as the attack on h7 looks too tempting. However, it is easily defended, so this diversion from the open g-file seems to me to be a poor choice by White. Perhaps White was tempting me to play ...Rg7, because of his planned knight sac, as in the game.

25...Rg7 26.Nxc4?

A surprise! At first it looks like White wins a clear pawn, but not so fast...

26...Qc6!+



Position after 26...Qc6

The counter attack on the c3-pawn is devastating. Suddenly the position comes alive with tactics.

27.Ne5 Bxe5 28.fxe5 Qxc3 29.Rf1 Qxa3 30.Qxd5 Nb6

Deflection.

31.Qb7 Rag8!



Position after 31...Rag8

32.Qxb6

White needs to regain the piece, but this leads to a mating attack. Unfortunately, I saw one specific mating sequence that I miscalculated. And because this was my focus, I missed the real winning move (twice).

32...Qxa2 33.Rg3 Rgx3

33...Qd5+! leads to forced mate 34.Kg1 Rgx3+ 35.hxg3 Rgx3+ 36.Kf2 Qg2+ 37.Ke1 Rxe3+ 38.Kd1 Qxf1+ 39.Kd2 Qf2+ 40.Kd1 Re1#

34.hxg3 Rgx3 35.Qb8+ Rg8

Here I had planned ...Kg7 and with no more checks, after ...Qb7 to defend g2, I would have ...Rh3+ leading to mate. What I now realized was that Rg1 pins my rook so that Rh3+ is impossible. I was quite disappointed I had miscalculated, and then found what I thought would lead to a winning rook ending and so bailed into that, missing another win 35...Kg7 36.Rg1

36.Qb7 Qe2?

36...Qe6 with the simple threat of ...Qh6 mate. I once read that retreating moves are some of the hardest moves for humans to see. Here I missed the simple idea of retreating with my queen in order to swing it to the h-file 37.Qg2 Qh6+ 38.Kg1 Qxe3+ 39.Rf2 Rgx2+ 40.Kxg2 Qxd4 winning.

37.Qf3 Qxf3+ 38.Rxf3 e6

When I played the move 36...Qe2, I evaluated this as a winning rook ending for Black. I figured with the two outside



passed pawns it would be too difficult for White to stop. But it's not so easy. White creates his own passed pawn with his central pawn majority.

**39.Rf2 a4 40.Ra2 Ra8 41.Ra3**

Smart to hold the pawn a step back.

**41...Kg7 42.Kg2 Kg6 43.Kf3 Kg5 44.e4**

White gets his pawn majority rolling.

**44...fxe4+ 45.Kxe4 h5?**

Black should prevent d5 with 45...Ra5!



(#Diagram-analysis after 45...Ra5)

Play might continue 46.Kd3 h5 47.Kc3 Kf4 48.Kc4 h4 49.Kb4 Rd5+ and Black's advantage is decisive. Looks like I not only missed the win in the middle

game, but I also missed it in the ending as well.

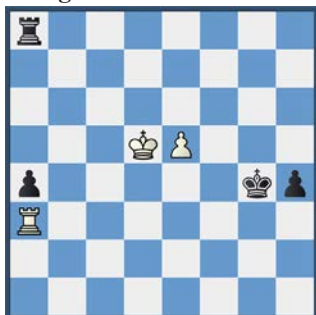
**46.d5=**

Now the position is equal.

**46...exd5+ 47.Kxd5 Kf5**

I thought this was a clever move to gain a tempo. I threaten Ra5+.

**48.Rf3+ Kg4 49.Ra3 h4**



Position after 49...h4

I wasn't evaluating correctly. I still thought here that I had good winning chances.

**50.e6 h3 51.e7 h2 52.Ra1 a3 53.Kd6**

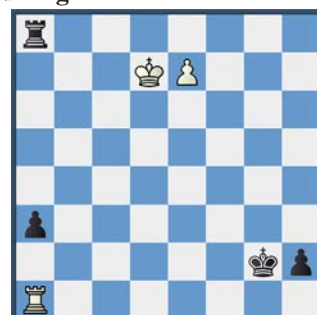
And Black can't win. Pushing the a-pawn doesn't work and bringing the king to

support the h-pawn runs into an unending series of lateral checks.

**53...Kg3**

...a2 only works if White's pawn isn't so far advanced 53...a2 54.Kd7 h1Q (Or 54...Kg3 55.e8Q Rxe8 56.Kxe8 Kg2 57.Rxa2+ Kg1 58.Rxh2 Kxh2 draw) 55.Rxh1 a1Q?? 56.Rxa1 Rxa1 57.e8Q+-

**54.Kd7 Kg2**



Position after 54...Kg2

Draw offered and accepted. Hard fought game (4.5 hours) against an opponent 200 points higher-rated than me. I had the edge most of the game, disappointing that I missed multiple winning moves.

½-½

## Seattle Father's Day Open

**Sunday, June 16, 2024**

**Lakeside Upper School**

**14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125**



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

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).  
Online registration and payment  
**deadline @ 5pm on Saturday,**  
**June 15,** or else register at site.

### **Schedule:**

At-site registration: Sun. 8-8:45am.  
Rounds: 9am, 10:30am, Lunch  
Time, 12:30pm, 2pm, 3:30pm.  
Awards ~ 5pm or asap.

**Format:** A 5-Round Swiss in two sections:  
Vader Open & Skywalker U1400.

**Time Control:** G/25; +10 sec. increment.

**Prize Fund:** \$1,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

Vader: 1st-3rd: \$210-160-120.

1st U1800/U1600: \$70

Skywalker: 1st-3rd: \$170-130-90.

1st U1200/U1000: \$70. 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$70.

### Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$25, Best Female Player (by  
TPR): \$25, Best Dad (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed:  
\$10. Best Father/Son Team: \$50 (by avg. TPR)

**Eligibility:** Open to all junior + adult players.

**Entry Fee:** \$45 if postmarked or online by 6/9, \$55 by  
6/15, \$60 at-site. \$25 play-up fee if rated under 1400  
and playing in Vader section. Free entry for Jedis  
rated 2000+. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

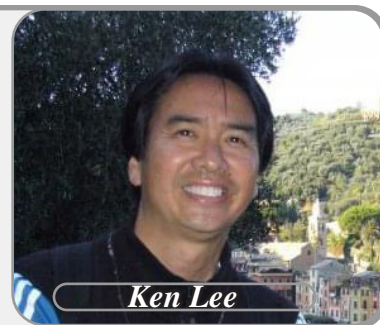
**Byes:** Two half-point byes available. If interested,  
request before end of round 2.

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

**Rating:** Dual NWSRS + US Chess Rated. Highest of  
June US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating will  
be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

# Interview With Bruce Pandolfini

Ken Lee



Ken Lee

*"Just because a computer can beat the best player in the world, doesn't mean that interest in the game is going away."*

*Let's remember, chess is not an abstract, impersonal game. It's a vibrant, human game."*

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

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

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

## Fischer vs Spassky

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

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

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

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

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

I was only 24 years old at the time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Scholastic Chess

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

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

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

were young people.

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

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

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

## The Queen's Gambit

*The Queen's Gambit* is another matter altogether.

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

Anya Taylor-Joy was spectacular in portraying Beth Harmon.

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

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

## The Rise of AI and the Internet

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

Northwest Chess

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

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

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

**Ken:** What about the state of chess books?

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

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

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

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

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

*My 60 Memorable Games* by Bobby Fischer

*Great Moments in Chess* by Fred Reinfeld

*Self-Taught Chess* by Milton Finkelstein

*New Ideas in Chess* by Larry Evans

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

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

It was front page news.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Well, yes and no.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ken:** What is the current state of chess coaching?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Love chess and it will always love you back.





# SEATTLE SUMMER KICKOFF

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

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

CO-HOSTED BY WCF + CHESS MATES FOUNDATION

## *FORMAT:*

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

**K-3 U800**

**K-3 Open**

**4-12 U1000**

**4-12 Open**

## *SCHEDULE:*

Rd. 1 - 9:00am

Rd. 2 - 10:30am

Rd. 3 - 11:45am

Lunch Time

Rd. 4 - 1:15pm

Rd. 5 - 2:30pm

Awards ~ 3:45pm

## *ENTRY FEE:*

\$45 before 6/8,  
\$55 after. Maximum of 100  
players. Scholarships available for  
Chess Mates students.

## *AWARDS:*

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

## *RATING:*

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

## *ELIGIBILITY:*

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

## *REGISTRATION:*

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

## *CLOCKS:*

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

## *QUESTIONS?*

Contact: Rekha Sagar,  
WCF Chief Tournament Director,  
[rekha4chess@gmail.com](mailto:rekha4chess@gmail.com)

# 2024 Harmon Memorial

(Lu and Foltenyi Top)

Josh Sinanan

To honor the legacy of Clark Harmon (1942-2007), a prominent chess player and organizer in the Pacific Northwest, the Washington and Oregon Chess Federations alternate hosting the annual Harmon Memorial, with Washington hosting in even years and Oregon in odd years.

The 2024 edition was held at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle on March 2-3 in the spacious Wright Community Center. The tournament was directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. The event was run as a five-round Swiss

tournament over two days, with a tri-rated Open section (NWSRS, US Chess & FIDE) and a dual-rated Reserve U1700 section (NWSRS & US Chess).

Newly minted National Master Yiding Lu of Bellevue won the 20-player Open section with an impressive four wins and one draw from five rounds, winning against experts David Zhou and Leonid Gavrysh along the way before settling for a draw against young chess wizard Ted Wang in the final round.

Wang finished in second place a half-point back with an undefeated four-point score. Three chess musketeers shared third-fifth place honors a with

3.5 points apiece: NM Stephen Willy of Sammamish, David Zhou of Seattle, and Leonid Gavrysh of Brier. Three players tied for sixth/first U2100/U1900 with three points on a “plus one” score: Erkan Chabuk, Valentin Razmov, and Miles Kuipers.

Several special prizes were also awarded to the best female and senior players, biggest US Chess rating points gain, and biggest upset in each round. The Open section winners were LM Viktors Pupols of Kingston (best senior), WFM Manunthon Atikankhotchasee of Seattle (best female), Neevan Reddy Saddi of Issaquah (biggest US Chess rating gain). The best upset winners included Leonardo Wang (round one), Leonid Gavrysh (round two), Nikhil Ramkumar (round three), Vijay Nallappa (round four), and Manunthon Atikankhotchasee (round five).

In the modest ten-player Reserve U1700 section, one player, Alex Foltenyi of Redmond, emerged the clear winner with 4.5 points and faced all the top six finishers along the way, conceding only a single draw to his father Vilmos in the second round. Zoe Xu of Bellevue recovered well from her first-round loss against Alex and won her last four games to finish in second place a half-point back. Nirmalya Routray of Sammamish and Vilmos Foltenyi of Redmond tied for third place with three points apiece.

The first U1500 prize was shared between young Oliver He of Sammamish and Hana Mullen of Vashon. First grader Skandha Raj from the Evergreen School in Shoreline captured the first U1300 prize with two points. Sambuddha Sekhar Das of Sammamish scored the biggest US Chess rating gain with an eight-point climb.

The biggest upset wins were achieved by Hana Mullen (round one), Alex Foltenyi (rounds three and four), and Zoe Xu (round five).



*David Zhou (L) opts for a solid Catalan against his young opponent, Max Cao, during the first round of the Harmon Memorial. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

David Zhou (2080) –  
Yiding Lu (2171) [E06]

Harmon Memorial  
Seattle (R3), March 2, 2024  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Be7  
5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 c6

A solid alternative to the standard Catalan  
6...dxc4.

7.Qc2 b6 8.Nbd2 c5

8...c5 is actually engine approved. In  
human practice, 8...Bb7 is both the  
most played and most successful, with  
rough equality. After 9.e4 Na6!? reaches  
somewhat unusual positions.

9.cxd5 exd5 10.e4

White blows open the center, hoping  
to freeze the black pawns and perhaps  
activate that g2-bishop on the long  
diagonal. It is possible to throw in  
10.dxc5 bxc5 first, then hit the center  
with 11.e4, which could transpose to  
the game after 11...Nc6, but avoids at  
least one potentially unpleasant side line  
mentioned below.; Completely different  
play would come from 10.Ne5, going  
for piece activity. White is completely  
unworried about 10...cxd4 11.Nb3 with  
nice squares in the center for knights.

10...Nc6 11.dxc5 bxc5

Stockfish suggests the tempo gain  
against the f1-rook, 11...Ba6, and after

12.Re1 Bxc5! drawing attention to the  
underdefended pawn on f2.

12.a3 Ba6 13.Re1 d4

13...dxe4 will definitely leave Black with  
a weak c-pawn, but there tends to be  
dynamic compensation. 14.Qa4 (14.Nxe4  
Bd3 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6) 14...Qb6 (14...exf3  
15.Qxc6 fxg2 16.Qxa6) 15.Nxe4 Bb5  
16.Qc2 Rad8 and Black's activity feels  
quite sufficient to balance any small  
structural defects.

14.Qa4

White also has interesting choices here.  
14.e5 Nd5 15.e6!?!; 14.Nc4

14...Qb6

14...Bb7!?

15.e5! Bb5 16.Qb3 Ne8



Position after 16...Ne8

17.Nc4

17.e6!?! plans a4 and Ne5 to exploit the  
long diagonal. For example, 17...Nd6  
18.exf7+ Rxf7 19.a4 Ba6 20.Qxb6 axb6  
21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.Bxa8, although Black  
can perhaps still drum up some kind of

counterplay with 22...Nd3. Here 23.Re6!±  
suggests the complications continue.

17...Bxc4 18.Qxc4 Na5

18...Nc7 first to connect the rooks.

19.Qc2

19.Qa4 looks a more aggressive placement:  
19...Nb3 (19...Nc7 20.b4! cxb4 21.axb4  
21.Nxd4!? Qxd4?? 22.Be3+-) 21...Bxb4  
22.Bd2! White is down a pawn, but the  
awkward arrangement of black pieces  
means trouble.) 20.Nd2! Nxa1 21.Bxa8±

19...Rd8

19...Nb3 20.Rb1 Nc7 21.Nd2 Rab8±

20.Bg5

20.b4! cxb4 21.axb4 Bxb4 22.Rb1 Qc5  
23.Qxc5 Bxc5 and again Black has an  
extra pawn, but the engine strongly prefers  
White. One line: 24.Bd2 Nc4 25.Bg5 f6  
26.exf6 gxf6 27.Bh6 Rf7 28.Bh3 Na3  
29.Rb3 Ng7 30.Rc1. Harmony. The black  
knights are particularly problematic here.

20...Bxg5 21.Nxg5 d3! 22.Qc3 Nc7?!

22...d2; 22...c4

23.b4! Nb7 24.bxc5

24.Reb1

24...Nxc5 25.Rab1 Na4

25...Nb5!?

26.Qc4 Qa5?

26...Rd4!±

27.Qe4

27.Be4! h6 28.Nxf7! Rxf7 29.Bg6 Nd5  
30.Bxf7+ Kxf7 31.e6+ Kg8 32.Qxd3

Harmon Memorial: Open											
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total pts	Prizes	
1	1	CM Yiding Lu	2171	W10	W14	W4	W5	D2	4.5	1st	
2	2	Ted Wang	2069	W11	W17	D3	W7	D1	4	2nd	
3	3-5	NM Stephen Willy	2216	W8	D5	D2	H---	W11	3.5	Tied 3rd-5th	
4	3-5	David Zhou	2080	W19	W7	L1	W13	D8	3.5	Tied 3rd-5th	
5	3-5	Leonid Gavrysh	2056	W20	D3*	W16	L1	W12	3.5	Tied 3rd-5th + Biggest Upset Win (rd#2: 80 pts)	
6	6-8	Erkan Chabuk	1867	L16	W15	H---	D9	W17	3	Tied 6th / 1st U2100 / 1st U1900	
7	6-8	Valentin Razmov	1861	W13	L4	W17	L2	W18	3	Tied 6th / 1st U2100 / 1st U1900	
8	6-8	Miles Kuipers	1836	L3	D11	W20	W16	D4	3	Tied 6th / 1st U2100 / 1st U1900	
9	9-13	LM Viktors Pupols	2200	D15	D16	D18	D6	D13	2.5	Best Senior Player	
10	9-13	Rafael Palathingal	1781	L1	D20	L11	B---	W19	2.5		
11	9-13	Gabriel Razmov	1774	L2	D8	W10	W14	L3	2.5		
12	9-13	Vijay Nallappa	1713	L14	W19	D15	W18*	L5	2.5	Biggest Upset Win (rd#4: 116 pts)	
13	9-13	WFM Manunthon Atikankhotchasee	1686	L7	B---	W14	L4	D9*	2.5	Best Female Player + Biggest Upset Win (rd#5: 257 pts)	
14	14-17	Jude Merritt	1876	W12	L1	L13	L11	B---	2		
15	14-17	Leonardo Wang	1785	D9*	L6	D12	D19	D16	2	Biggest Upset Win (rd#1: 207 pts)	
16	14-17	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1699	W6	D9	L5	L8	D15	2	Biggest USCF Rating Gain	
17	14-17	Haituka Anandkumar	1651	B---	L2	L7	W20	L6	2		
18	18-19	Nikhil Ramkumar	1829	H---	H---	D9*	L12	L7	1.5	Biggest Upset Win (rd#3: 186 pts)	
19	18-19	Max Cao	1779	L4	L12	B---	D15	L10	1.5		
20	20	Nihanth Tatikonda	1714	L5	D10	L8	L17	U---	0.5		



when rook plus two dangerous pawns should overpower two uncoordinated knights.

**27...g6 28.Qh4 h5 29.Nxf7! d2! 30.Red1 Rd7 31.Nh6+ Kg7**

31...Kh8 32.Ng4 Rdf7 33.Nf6± (or 33.Be4±)



Position after 31...Kg7

**32.Bc6??**

32.Bh3! Qc5 33.Nf5+!! gxf5 34.Qg5+ Kh8 35.Bxf5 and White's piece sacrifice has opened up the black king. 35...Rg7 36.Qxh5+ Kg8 37.Rxd2, but it isn't the four pawns for the piece that wins for White; it's the coming rook lift heading toward the h-file. The best defense the engine can offer is 37...Nc3 38.Rb4 N3d5 39.Rc2 (39.Rh4 Rxf5 40.Qxf5 Qc1+ 41.Kg2 Qxd2 42.Qc8+ Kf7 43.Qd7+ Kg8! is only a draw.) 39...Qe7 40.Rg4 Rxg4 41.Qxg4+ Qg7 42.Qxg7+ Kxg7 43.Be4—and now it really is the four pawns.

**32...Qc5! 33.Qxa4**

33.Bxd7 Qxf2+ 34.Kh1 Qf3+! (34...Nc3? 35.Rxd2! Qf3+ (35...Qxd2?? 36.Qe7+ Kxh6 37.Qxf8+ Kh7 and Stockfish points out that even better than 38.Rf1+- is (38.Be6!! with the point 38...Nxe6 39.Rb7+.) 36.Rg2! Nxb1 37.Nf5+! Rxf5 38.Bxf5 and Black should take the draw.) 35.Kg1 Nc3 36.Rxd2 Qe3+ 37.Kh1 Kxh6!+-

**33...Rd4! 34.Qb3 Qxc6 35.Qe3 Ne6 36.Rxd2 Rf3 37.Qe2**

White's knight remains trapped on the kingside. 37.Rc2 Qd5 38.Qc1 Rb3 (If Black lacks precision with, for example 38...Rfd3, White can pounce: 39.Rc7+! Nxc7 40.Nf5+! gxf5 41.Qg5+ with at least a perpetual check.) 39.Rcb2 Rc4 and White's best appears to be the ending 40.Qxc4 Qxc4 41.Rxb3 Nd4 42.Re3 Ne2+ 43.Kg2±.

**37...Qe4?**

37...Ng5! 38.Rxd4 Nh3+ 39.Kf1 Rxf2+ 40.Qxf2 Nxf2 should win for Black.; Also 37...Rc3 keeps the pressure.

**38.Qxe4 Rxe4 39.Rb8**

39.Kg2 Rf8 40.Nf5+ Rxf5 41.Rb7+ Rf7 42.Rxf7+ Kxf7 43.Rd7+ Kg8 44.Rxa7 Rxe5 45.a4 offers good practical chances to hold the ending.

**39...Kxh6**



Position after 39...Kxh6

**40.Rd7**

40.Kg2 Rf7 41.f4± It is extremely difficult to evaluate and create plans in these positions.

**40...Rxe5**

40...Re2 41.h4 Nf8 makes it tough to find something useful for White.

**41.h4**

41.Re8 Nf8 42.Rxe5 Nxd7 43.Ra5 An outside passed a-pawn makes the ending much more difficult for the black knight.; White could remove the a-pawn directly,

but double-rook endings seem to increase Black's winning chances. 41.Rxa7 Re2 42.Re7 Kg5± (Not 42...Rxf2?? 43.h4! when the threat of mate on h8 forces Black to repeat checks for the draw. (Trying to tactic off the piece, however, is a fatal error. 43.Rxe6?? Rg2+ 44.Kf1 Ref2+ 45.Ke1 Ra2 46.Kf1 Rxh2 47.Kg1 Rag2+ 48.Kf1 Rgx3-+))

**41...Nf8! 42.Rd2 Ref5 43.a4 Ra3 44.Rd4**

44.Rb7 Rxa4 should be winning for Black, with the passed pawn working in the other direction.

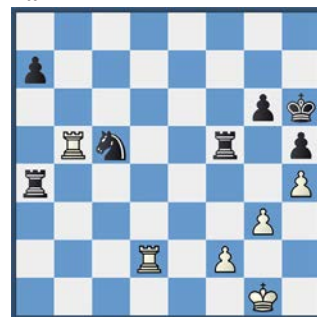
**44...Ne6**

44...Ra1+ 45.Kg2 Ra2 46.Rf4 Rxf4 47.gxf4 Ne6+-

**45.Rd2 Nc5 46.Rb5**

46.Rh8+ Kg7 47.Rc8 Nd3 48.Kg2 Rf7 49.Re8 holds on for a little while, but doesn't change the outcome.

**46...Rxa4+-**



Position after 46...Rxa4

Black is winning. The scoresheet says things go a bit crazy in the last few moves, so we can leave off annotating here.

A fantastic battle by both players.

**47.Rd7 Ra1+ 48.Kg2 Ra2 49.g4 hgx4 50.Kg3 Raxf2 51.Rxc5 R2f3+ 52.Kxg4 R5f4#**

**0-1**

## Harmon Memorial: Reserve U1700

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1	Alex Foltenyi	1167	W2	D4	W3*	W5*	W6	4.5	1st + Biggest Upset Win (rd#3: 450 pts, rd#4: 409 pts)
2	2	Zoe Xu	1463	L1	W8	W10	W6	W5*	4	2nd + Biggest Upset Win (rd#5: 113 pts)
3	3-4	Nirmalya Routray	1617	L7	W10	L1	W4	W9	3	Tied 3rd-4th
4	3-4	Vilmos Foltenyi	1328	W8	D1	D5	L3	W7	3	Tied 3rd-4th
5	5	Andrew Goupinets	1576	W9	W7	D4	L1	L2	2.5	
6	6-8	Oliver He	1420	L10	W9	W7	L2	L1	2	Tied 1st U1500
7	6-8	Hana Mullen	1315	W3*	L5	L6	W8	L4	2	Tied 1st U1500 + Biggest Upset Win (rd#1: 302 pts)
8	6-8	Skandha Raj	1113	L4	L2	W9	L7	W10	2	1st U1300
9	9-10	Arihant Chaudhuri	1255	L5	L6	L8	W10	L3	1	
10	9-10	Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1130	W6	L3	L2	L9	L8	1	Biggest USCF Rating Gain



*The top boards of the open section during the second round of the Harmon Memorial. On board one, Stephen Willy (L) faces off against Leonid Gavrysh, as Neevan Reddy Saddi looks on. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



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 President

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 washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com  
 wachess.com







*Arihant Chaudhuri (L) vs Andrew Goupinets while Alex Foltenyi (R) takes on Zoe Xu on the adjacent board.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

## Seattle Father's Day Blitz

**Sunday, June 16, 2024**

**Lakeside Upper School**

**14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125**



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

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).  
Online registration and payment  
**deadline @ 5pm on Saturday,  
June 15**, or else register at site.

**Schedule:** At-site registration:  
Sun. 5-5:45pm.  
Rounds: 6 PM, 6:20, 6:40, 7, 7:20,  
7:40, 8. Awards ~ 8:30PM

**Format:** A 7-Round single Swiss in one  
section.

**Time Control:** G/5; +3 sec. increment.

**Entry Fee:** \$25 if postmarked or online by  
6/9, \$30 by 6/15, \$40 at-site. Free entry for  
GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

**Prize Fund:** \$550 (based on 25 paid entries).

1<sup>st</sup> \$110, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$60. 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$50.

1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$50

**Special Prizes:** Best Dad (by TPR): \$25, Best  
Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed:  
\$20, Biggest Upset Win: \$5/rd.

**Eligibility:** Open to all junior + adult players.

**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. Memberships must be paid at  
time of registration.

**Rating:** US Chess Blitz Rated. Highest of  
June 2024 US Chess Blitz, US Chess Regular,  
or current NWSRS rating will be used to  
determine pairings and prizes.





*Nihanth Tatikonda (L) vs Miles Kuipers during round three of the Harmon Memorial.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



# Vancouver Open

July 20 - 21, 2024

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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation, c/o Orlov Chess Academy-

4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

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

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

**Site:** Hampton Inn & Suites, 315 SE Olympia Drive, Vancouver, WA 98684. (360) 891-3000.

**HR:** \$169 Standard King/Double Queen Room. Cut-off date July 6, 2024. Book online [here](https://www.hamptoninn.com).

**Format:** A 5-round, US Chess Rated Swiss in two sections: Lewis Open and Clark U1700. Maximum of 70 players, please register early.

**Time Control:** Rd. 1: G/60; +10,  
Rds. 2-5: 40/120, SD/30; +10.

**Prize Fund:** \$2,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

**Lewis Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$400, 300, 200.  
1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800: \$120

**Clark U1700:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$300, 200, 150.  
1<sup>st</sup> U1600/U1400/U1200: \$120, 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$90.

**Special Prizes (per section):** Biggest Upset win: \$25,  
Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed:  
\$15/day (may not win repeatedly).

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

**Entry Fee:** \$75 if postmarked or online by 7/13, \$85 after or at site. \$35 play-up fee if rated U1700 and playing in Open. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

**At-site registration:** Saturday 9 - 9:30 AM.

**Rounds:** Saturday 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 6 PM  
Sunday 10 AM, 3:30 PM.

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

**Memberships:** US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA membership are required, other states accepted.

# 2024 Washington State Barber And Rockefeller Open

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Washington Barber + Rockefeller Qualifier chess tournament was held on Saturday, March 16, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. A robust turnout of 191 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 took part in the event from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Bothell, Woodinville, Redmond, Sammamish, Bellevue, Seattle, Kirkland, Mill Creek, Stanwood, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, Medina, Monroe, Clyde Hill, Auburn, Duvall, Yarrow Point, Newcastle, University Place, Olympia, Bellingham, Tumwater, Fall City, and Camas!

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, paired by

WCF Vice President Rekha Sagar, and directed by chief floor TD Ani Barua with assistance from Vijay Sankaran and Sloan Setiadikurnia.

Amazing photos and videos were taken throughout the day by Meiling Cheng. Local face painter [Gabby Carrillo](#) was on site for several hours offering her colorful and artistic face painting services. WCF Women and Girls Chess Director Chouchan Airapetian was on-site coordinating the concessions and offering game review and analysis to help train the rising chess stars!

The Swiss tournament was split into seven sections parsed by grade level and rating to provide an adequate challenge for players of all ages and levels: K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, K-8 U1100, K-8 U1500, 4-12 U1000, 4-12 Open, K-5 Rockefeller Open, and 6-8 Barber Open. The K-8 U1100 section and K-8 U1500 were added to provide more opportunities for Middle School players who might not have been able to make it over to Kennewick for the Washington State Elementary and Middle School State Championships this year.

The top finishing Washington state residents in the K-5 Rockefeller Open and 6-8 Barber Open section (by tiebreaks) qualified for the Rockefeller

and Barber Closed Events on April 6 in Redmond. The winners of the 12-player closed (four-round Swiss) events will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) and will be the Washington state representatives at the National Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who contributed to this amazing event!

## Individual Champions:

Section	Champion(s)
K-1 U700	<a href="#">Yuwen Qu</a>
2-3 U800	<a href="#">Luke Xiao</a> <a href="#">Siana Razmov</a> <a href="#">Thavan Vigneshwaran</a>
K-3 Open	<a href="#">Sambuddha Sekhar Das</a>
K-8 U1100	<a href="#">Stas Black</a>
K-8 U1500	<a href="#">Jeffrey Chien</a>
4-12 U1000	<a href="#">Varun Nadupalli</a>
4-12 Open	<a href="#">Ziqian Gao</a>
K-5 Rockefeller Open	<a href="#">Odbayar Yondon</a>
6-8 Barber Open	<a href="#">Vihaan Jammalamadaka</a>

## Top-finishing Teams:

Team Place	Team Name (School)	Team Score (pts)
1st	<a href="#">Somerset Elementary</a>	15
2nd	<a href="#">Rosa Parks Elementary</a>	13.875
3rd	<a href="#">Samantha Smith Elementary</a>	13.5
4th	<a href="#">Overlake School</a>	12.625
5th	<a href="#">Open Window</a>	12.5

## Special Prize Winners:

Section	Best Female Player (by TPR)	Biggest Upset Win
K-1 U700	<a href="#">Ishka Gupta</a>	<a href="#">Andy Sang</a>
2-3 U800	<a href="#">Navika Koul</a>	<a href="#">Thavan Vigneshwaran</a>
K-3 Open	<a href="#">Alice Li</a>	<a href="#">Natalie Xu</a>
K-8 U1100	<a href="#">Clora Huang</a>	<a href="#">Ishan Kedarisetty</a>
K-8 U1500	N/A	<a href="#">Rahul Mitra</a>
4-12 U1000	<a href="#">Tejal Guruswamy</a>	<a href="#">Shriniketh Namburi</a>
4-12 Open	N/A	<a href="#">Peter Luo</a>
K-5 Rockefeller Open	<a href="#">Lakshana Anand</a>	<a href="#">Aditya Karri</a>
6-8 Barber Open	<a href="#">Selina Cheng</a>	<a href="#">Rian Raja</a>



A lady receives an encouraging first bump from her little sibling at the Washington Barber and Rockefeller Open.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.





*WCF chief tournament director Rekha Sagar resolves an issue in a game between two junior players where White attempted the Scholar's Mate.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

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# St. Anne Celtic Challenge Spring 2024

By Josh Sinanan

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

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

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

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

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

The relaxed and congenial atmosphere encouraged many displays of

good sportsmanship and genuine kindness throughout the afternoon!

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

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

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



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

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

# Lakeside Spring Fling

Josh Sinanan

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

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

The centrally located venue made the tournament easily accessible to players

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Second Annual Detective Cookie Chess Classic

Josh Sinanan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Individual Winners

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

## Special Prize Winners

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

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# TOURNAMENTS



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Info – events calendar

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

Addresses for entries

SCC Tournament Director  
same address as above

– or –

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

## June 2

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

## June 15

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

## June 7, 14, 21, 28

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

## July 13-14

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

## Sunday Tornado

## Saturday Quads

## It's Summertime

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# EMERALD CITY OPEN JUNE 22 - 23, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sign up by emailing [contact@seattlechess.club](mailto:contact@seattlechess.club). US Chess & WCF memberships required.

# Seattle Seafair Open



**JULY 13-14, 2024**

**LAKESIDE UPPER SCHOOL**

**14050 1<sup>ST</sup> AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125**



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

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

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

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

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

1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: \$600-500-400-350-300-250.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$160

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

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

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

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

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

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)  
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

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

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

## **Questions?**

Josh Sinanan, WCF President,  
206-769-3757,  
[WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)



