

# Florida CHESS

FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

In this Issue:

Summer - August 20, 2022



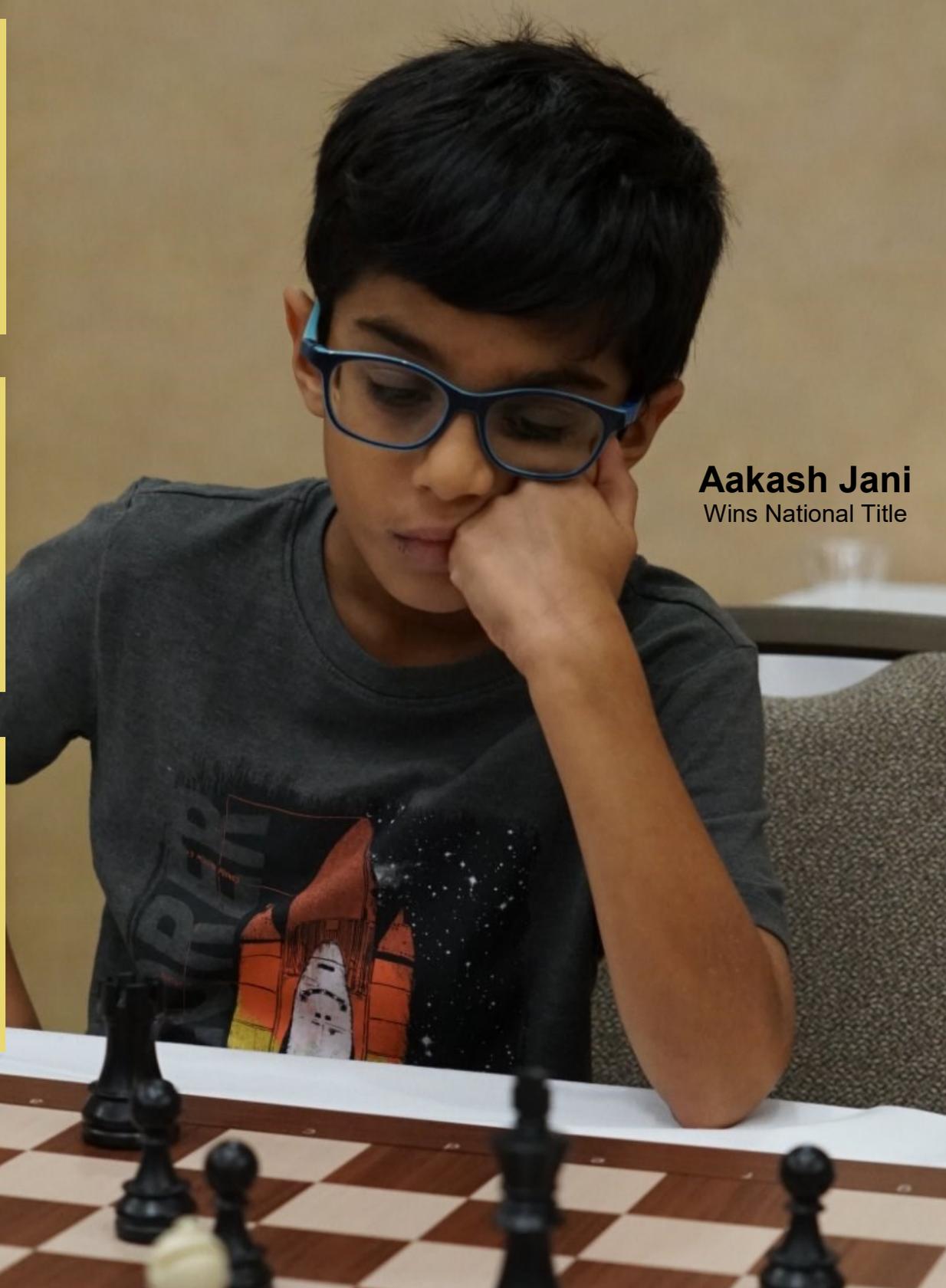
Daaim Shabazz receives  
Special Services Award  
from the USCF



2022 Space Coast Open  
Tournament Report



2022 Queen's Cup Challenge  
Champion - Grace Yang



**Aakash Jani**  
Wins National Title

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**USCF DELEGATES and ALTERNATES:**

**Delegates:**

Jon Haskel, Kevin Pryor, Bryan Tillis, and Daaim Shabazz

**Alternates:** Krista Alton, George Foote, Tim Gospodinov, and Tim Staley.

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**FCA Membership Dues**

*Send to the FCA (c/o Treasurer) or online (Memberships/Join FCA)*

Regular	—	\$20 (for two years)
Scholastic (under 20)	—	\$15 (for two years)
Club Affiliate	—	\$30 (for two years)
Family	—	\$30 (for two years)
Life	—	\$200 (10 times Regular Dues)

*Florida Chess Association (FCA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Florida. FCA is the official USCF affiliate for the state of Florida. FCA web site — <http://www.floridachess.org>*

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*The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Florida Chess Association, its Board, or anyone else.*

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**Book Reviewer** - Miguel Ararat  
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**Software** - Microsoft Publisher, ChessBase

## Editor Speaks



I requested chess news from affiliates and members this summer and I'm very happy to report that large numbers of you have responded. I'm very appreciative of your contributions as it enhances the publication on many levels. My next "Ask" will be to encourage our junior players to send in their stories, photos, and annotated games. Along with this flow of information comes the job of editing and choosing what makes it into the magazine. I even expanded our page count this month to 34 pages to accommodate additional content. More

content will be a "good problem" to have and again, I thank everyone across the state for their involvement.

Highlights this month include our cover story about Aakash Jani, the talented young player from Gainesville that recently won a National K-1 title. His parent's give us some insight on what it takes to support such an endeavor and how they balance family life with chess.

We interviewed Daaim Shabazz to learn more about the huge and consistent effort he has put in for the past 20 plus years publishing "The Chess Drum." It's an accomplishment that he was officially recognized for at the recent US Open of Chess. His USCF Special Services Award is well deserved and you can learn more about Daaim in our interview with him on page 6.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive *The Chess Club Project* by Jackie Kaufman (see page 30). Jackie tells us the interesting story of how she connected with the St. Petersburg Chess club to suggest an art project and how it all came together for an excellent result.

We also have coverage from tournaments around the state that include the Queen's Cup Challenge in Jacksonville, the Space Coast Open in Cocoa Beach, the Fischer Chess League Open and Grand Prix in Miami, the National Junior Chess Conference in Orlando and NM Bryan Tillis even puzzles us with some of his observations of Floridians at the CCC Norm Invitational in Charlotte, NC.

Finally, I would like to reflect briefly about our outgoing FCA President, Kevin Pryor. I have had a reasonably close view of his chess activities the past several years and I am amazed by both his efforts and results. He travels the city, the state, and the Nation to support the growth of Chess on all levels. He has purchased TD software and done TD training for new programs in Northeast Florida. He led fundraising efforts to secure special Braille boards and clocks for the Florida School for the Deaf & Blind. He volunteers at local schools to educate both students and teachers to touch on just a few activities. He also breathed life into a 100 year old Jacksonville chess club that no longer had a pulse and took it from zero to sixty in a time Mario Andretti would be proud of. He touches on his work for the FCA in his column right next to this one... At the state level he has inspired us by his work ethic using leadership by example. Lastly, he has represented our state well on the national stage and is currently a member of the USCF Executive Board and Vice President of the USCF. One of the Kings of chess "doers," Kevin continues make the right moves to enhance and grow the great game of chess and I thank him for his service to the chess community.

*George Foote*

Editor, floridaCHESS Magazine

## from the President's desk

Dear FCA members and friends,

This will be my final message as the current FCA President. We have come through what is likely one of the most difficult times in chess history and I am thankful that I was at the helm to support our state's recovery. We are now in very exciting times as we are experiencing a chess boom on so many fronts, OTB, online gaming, coaching, school clubs, endless videos, training programs and more. Just in Florida, we have had 4 new US Chess affiliates (61) and there are so many meet-up gatherings that I cannot keep up.



During my five years, we have elevated Florida to a level of nationally recognized importance. Today, more Floridians serve on US Chess committees than before and even I was elected the Executive Board last year. We currently have 500 FCA members versus 150 in 2018 and rank 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for US Chess memberships. Our strong overall numbers allowed Florida to have 6 delegates attend the national conference in 2019. In a great reversal, our finances are in surplus over the operating budget and we have excellent fiduciary controls in place.

Concerning leadership succession, we have continued to find and elect members who work for all chess players in our state, not just their own chessdoms. As a board, we increased the number of championship events for the first time in our near 80 year history. Our board continues to financially support our best players in order to send full delegations to National Tournament of Champion events during the US Open. Furthermore, we have a website that serves as a membership database, communication portal with an election polling function. This alone streamlined so many functions that were very tedious for an organization as large as ours.

As for me, I will tell you that I do not intend to go quietly into the night, but will keep working for chess at local, state and national levels. I hope to continue to focus on developing the Northwest and Panhandle region like I did for the Northeast. I care about the growth in Tallahassee, Pensacola and Panama City areas. Even my new hometown of Gainesville, which has an incredible level of scholastic chess players is sorely lacking a unifying presence for tournaments and broader chess culture. I hope to make a difference there while still helping where needed within the rest of the state. Also, as a US Chess Executive Board member, I will continue to recommend Floridians for service on boards, task teams and committees.

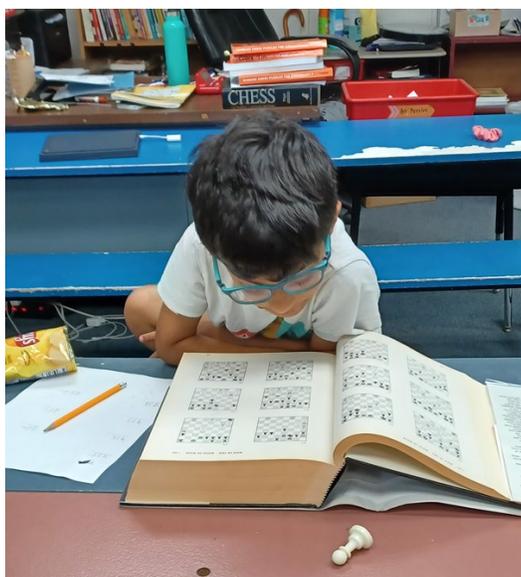
Finally, our board has continued to develop good people who are willing to subordinate their personal chess interests for the greater good of our state. I am confident in the leadership you are about to see with the upcoming change. I am sure you have seen the rise in functional activity from the board with most of them writing articles for our magazine, being TD's at championship events, and interacting with clubs and players regionally. Some have even become streamers. It is also no coincidence that several younger aged board members have been recruited too. Overall, I believe our board members are some of the best at what they do in the country. I thank them all for their service. Now, I also want to thank all the people of our state for embracing, helping, encouraging and support me during my time as President of the Florida Chess Association. Our state is lucky to have such a wonderful group of players, parents, Chess Doers and enthusiasts.

See you **OVER THE BOARD** soon,  
Kevin Pryor

## Cover Story— Aakash Jani, USCF K-1 National Champion



Receiving the K-1 First Place trophy at the USCF K-12 2022 Nationals. Columbus, Ohio.



Preparing for Nationals!



A Big Trophy for a big result.

### A Parent's Perspective

Aakash has been passionate about chess since Kindergarten. He is easy going and happy, but also competitive and unyielding. No matter how hopeless a chess position, he maintains composure and never gives up, hammering away until he finds a winning path.

We are blessed to be a part of Oak Hall School, which has a legacy of chess success spanning many decades at the highest levels of competition. Under the guidance of Coach Tim Tusing and Coach Kevin Sevilla, Aakash has climbed the ratings ladder to become a serious national and international competitor. He has found close and supportive friends in chess club, who are fantastic players that make him better by both beating him on a regular basis, and also consoling him when he experiences a difficult tournament defeat. The other parents in chess club at Oak Hall have also been wonderful through their support and kindness.

To prepare for the US National Scholastic Championships, Aakash used a typical plan- he played a lot of games (especially across the board), did a lot of puzzles, and learned a variety of openings. He also spent time outdoors everyday playing tennis or swimming, and got plenty of sleep. We also made sure he spent time with his friends and family. This left only a little time to watch TV and almost no time for video games, which was a tough sacrifice.

Aakash's one advantage is that his two older sisters, Meera and Sonam, are also fantastic chess players. At the US National Championship, they finished top 15 and top 30 in their respective sections. They helped introduce him to chess when he was young, and made it a natural part of his school and home activities.

One interesting thing about our trip to the US National Scholastic Championships- our flight bookings to Columbus kept getting canceled by the airlines in the weeks leading up to the tournament, and we eventually had to fly into Cincinnati, then drive to Columbus. Right after Aakash walked across the stage to receive the champion's trophy, we dashed straight to the car to get back to the Cincinnati airport. His trophy was as tall as him and the girls also had large trophies and medals, which created a spectacle at airport security and on the airplane. A unique and funny memory we will cherish for a long time.

He also finished in first place in the K1 section at Florida State Scholastic Championship in March 2022, and finished fourth at the Pan American Youth Chess Championship U8 section in Montevideo, Uruguay in June / July 2022.

**Manish & Bhumi Jani**

## Resent Results

He just finished first grade and is heading into second grade with the following recent accomplishments.

### March 2022 First Place / FCA State Champion in the k-1 section Orlando

**April 2022** To prepare for upcoming big events Aakash went to Nashville to play in the U1900 High School Championships and earned 3 victories.

### May 2022 First place/ National Champion at the USCF K-1 Elementary Nationals in Columbus

It was a 4 way tie for first place but Aakash beat top rated Rocky Wang(1686) to win on tie breakers

### June 2022 Fourth Place at the FIDE Pan American Youth Championship U8 section in Uruguay

### July 2022 First place in the North Florida Class C Championship 5 wins 0 loss

His current USCF rating is 1583



2022 K-1 State Champ with Coach Tim Tusing.



Time for a Blitz game with GM Ben Finegold.



Looking back... 2019 Nationals.



Pan American Jr Chess Championship. Uruguay 2022



Team Jani!



Celebrating with his sisters!

## Interview with Daaim Shabazz



Congratulations to FCA Board Member and Internationally recognized Chess Journalist Daaim Shabazz, for outstanding work on *The Chess Drum*, an online chess magazine and journal that chronicles the chess activities within the African Diaspora, serves as a vehicle for fostering a greater sense of community within the chess world, facilitates the sharing of ideas and knowledge and demonstrates the true universality of chess. The USCF recognized these efforts and contributions to the US Chess community with a Special Services award. Daaim received his award at a ceremony held during the recent US Open Championship in Rancho Mirage, California. We are very appreciative that Daaim spent some time with us to talk further about one of his favorite topics, Chess.

### **1. Can you share your "Chess Story" with us? (How you learned the game, your early influences, and so on)**

I grew up on the south side of Chicago, and at about age 13, I learned chess after seeing two boys in my neighborhood playing under a street lamp at night. I was amazed at how transfixed they were. The next day or so, I looked up "chess" in one of the sets of encyclopedias we had at the house, took out a cheap checker/chess set I had, and learned the moves. I joined the chess club in the middle of my sophomore year at Chicago Vocational High School (CVS) after beating a club member. The chess club had 100 members, and the school was considered a scholastic chess powerhouse in Chicago. I rose quickly through the ranks, and the summer before my senior, I studied 6-8 hours a day and played every chance I could get. Upon returning to school for my senior year, I quickly earned first board. That next spring, we won the city championship. My initial influences were Chicago master Marvin Dandridge, a dangerous tactical player. As far as studying, Anatoly Karpov was the first player I studied intensely. I loved the way his pieces were always coordinated and optimally placed. I also admired Judit Polgar during her playing days and Viswanathan Anand as one of the most distinguished world champions and ambassadors in chess history.



Daaim posing with the 1980 City Championship plaque in Chicago.

### **2. When did you come up with the concept of "The Chess Drum" and what challenges did you face when starting it?**

The concept evolved from the idea of building a network of Black players around the globe. During graduate school, I wrote a marketing plan for the idea of a network with a quarterly magazine. Years later, I finished grad school and took a post at Florida A&M. After Maurice Ashley became a Grandmaster in 1999, I brushed off the plan I had written nine years earlier and began creating a website. The challenge was developing a structure and creating consistency in terms of fresh content. Starting off, it amounts to a full-time effort. It remains a massive effort, and there are always technical issues you must face constantly.

**3. You have created a vast repository of chess information over the years, what are some of your favorite topics/coverages?**



Interviewing GM Levon Aronian in front of the St. Louis Chess Club (2017). Photo by Peter Doggers

I enjoy covering the Olympiad tournaments. I have covered them since 2002 and have attended six of them in various countries. I also enjoy writing stories about players who would not usually receive any media attention. These stories are fascinating and show that chess can be found under unique circumstances. The Wilbert Paige Memorial was of the most important in my 21 years. As far as international tournaments, Turin, Italy (2006) and Tromso, Norway (2014) were the most memorable. The Olympiad tournament has such an eclectic mix of cultures and nationalities. The passion for chess is genuinely global and no one country or region has a monopoly on its appreciation. I have visited the chess community in many countries. I particularly like doing stories where scholastic chess has contributed to the success of a player's career. I'm a product of scholastic chess, and I would like to believe it has helped me tremendously in my life.

**4. What has motivated you to write about chess all these years?**

I have said many times, that if The Chess Drum did not exist, it would need to be created. There is an unfortunate scenario in U.S. Chess where many underserved and underrepresented communities exist. I sought to highlight the accomplishments of the African Diaspora and provide a platform. While this segment is generally disengaged, there is a passion for chess, just as you have in other countries with long chess traditions. It all boils down to how chess is utilized.

In most cases, it is a non-professional activity because there is not enough financial incentive to justify the time and funds spent being a professional chess player. Unfortunately, much of the talent in underrepresented communities goes unrealized.



For almost twenty years now, The Chess Drum has been focusing on Black chess players and highlighting chess activities within the worldwide African Diaspora. An apt moment for the website's editor and driving force **DAAIM SHABAZZ** to look back as well as ahead.

**I**n the late 1980s, I was having a trouble that I never could figure out. A Chess Drum was born. The conversation moved onto Black chess players.

**When was the Black Drum and Drum?** The conceptual and conceptual about an 800 word question I had produced myself during the late Black chess players.

**From that point on, the question kept coming up. It was not until 2002 that I started writing for chess. At the time I was in Chicago. I had the 2002 African Diaspora. He told me he was originally from**

As Featured in *New in Chess* magazine. Jan. 2020

**5. Do you have any other chess thoughts or topics you would like to share with our readers?**



Journalists Row (L-R) Cathy Rogers, Daaim Shabazz, Mike Klein, Janis Nisii, Sabrina Chevannes. Photo by Dan Lucas

Chess is a wonderful activity, and there are many ways we can serve the community. You don't have to be a Grandmaster to have accomplished great things in chess. Most start as players but become tournament directors, policymakers, organizers, coaches, trainers, authors, and journalists. Some are chess parents who take on one of the roles mentioned above. Whatever your role in chess, stay involved. It will benefit you and your family in many ways and provide great entertainment, lifelong friends, and a sense of fulfillment.

Follow Daaim's continuing work at -

[WWW.THECHESSDRUM.NET](http://WWW.THECHESSDRUM.NET)

## The Queen's Cup Challenge – Jacksonville Chess Club: JAXCC.Org



2022 Champion  
Grace Yang

In May, the largest all female tournament resumed after a two-year stoppage due to the pandemic. The event drew 48 players with winners in three sections: Queen, Princess and Chess Moms. Like every champion before, our 2022 champion, Grace Yang, is from Gainesville, and she bested a field of twelve players in the championship section to win the cup. This year's tournament has more players from out of the JAX area than ever before and included our first 70-year participant, Edna Bowman, mother of former FCA President William Bowman.

Florida's best-attended all-women and girls event began with a chance encounter at the 2015 Sunshine Open with a girl around 15 years old. She was the highest-rated female I had ever met and seated next to me. I asked her what her friends thought about her being a good player. Her response surprised me. She said, "They don't know I'm a competitive chess player. They would probably think it was not cool." I thought to myself; she needs more chess-playing girlfriends. Once back in Jacksonville, I began talking to the handful of girls who our programs about an all-girls event. They loved the idea, but TDs around the state said such an event would be a money loser. I asked a few JAX area chess moms, and they were always willing to help. We planned a single-section event for girls and women. To set the event apart, we added lunch and free shirts. Chessmom, Carmen Rios, who ran her own business, offered to develop the artwork and to help at the event.

We reached out to every girl who had ever come to our little tournaments, and I hoped for ten players. We got nine, but the number did not matter. The learning did as the players loved being an event of this kind. I noticed they did not play Blitz chess between rounds like the boys always do. They talked instead. They got to know each other yet would seriously compete during every game. When asked if we should do it again, all said yes. This event was unique. True to prediction, it lost money, but it was still something worth doing.



The following year, we moved the event to the weekend before Mother's Day as a permanent slot and added a scholastic section. There was only a 50% increase in participants, but the event drew a player from out of state.

Over the years, The Queen's Cup Challenge has seen some of the state's best players participate. 2017 had Amy Xing, who represented our state at the Susan Polgar Invitational and US Chess' National Tournament of Champions. This year, our 2019 winner Jolie Huang was crowned Florida Girls champion and just completed at the NTOC in Palm Springs, CA.



Year	Champions Section	Princess Section	ChessMoms	Players
2016	Hanna Ciupe	Cayman Hogue	n/a	9
2017	Kira Caza	Regan Foote	n/a	14
2018	Jolie Huang	Anya Madsen	Rajashree Rajendran	52
2019	Amy Xing	Maanya Rao	Swapna Surabhi	40
2020	Covid	Covid	Covid	0
2021	Covid	Covid	Covid	0
2022	Grace Yang	Aleah Harre	Rajashree Rajendran	48

We look forward to continuing the tradition of hosting this innovative event in the future and seeing it continue to grow to 100 players.

**FLORIDA'S TOP PLAYERS**  
 ("Top 100" Current Player Lists)

Players 18 & Under		Age	Rating	GIRLS		OVERALL ACTIVE (8/202022)	
Nikhil Kumar	18	2442	Shama Yisrael	18	2073	GM FABIANO CARUANA	2854
Bach Ngo	14	2401	Alice Wu	14	1816	GM OLEXANDR BORTNYK	2678
Raghav Venkat	17	2341	Zoe Zelner	17	1746	GM JULIO BECERRA	2544
Brejesh Chakrabarti	12	2292	Jolie Huang	12	1725	IM DANIEL FERNANDEZ	2514
Nicolas Alejandro De La Colina	17	2244	Sisira S Yerrajennu	14	1692	ROBERT M PEREZ	2479
Naman Kumar	15	2205	Priya Anna Gutta	17	1687	FM JORGE LEON OQUENDO	2473
Marvin Gao	14	2171	Chloe Min	15	1622	GM RONALD W HENLEY	2456
Ronald Hernandez	15	2169	Maya Behura	15	1566	IM YUNIER LEYVA RIVERA	2434
Marvin Hernandez	14	2169	Hannah Ciupe	17	1526	EIGEN WANG	2404
Benjamin Chen	18	2164	Amelie Phung	15	1447	FM BACH NGO	2401
Antony Gospodinov	15	2133	Sophie Li	8	1431	IM BLAS J LUGO	2390
Vincent William Stone	16	2127	Shalam Yisrael	16	1409	FM DALTON PERRINE	2356
Aniket Shukla	14	2111	Elena Anastasia	11	1408	FM COREY BRYAN ACOR	2354
Vikram Rajmohan	14	2085	Jennifer Hoyos	16	1400	FM ALEXANDER ZELNER	2344
Abhiram Sai Pothuri	12	2080	Aarna Nitin Warekar	12	1366	FM MARK RITTER	2341
Shama Yisrael	18	2073	adel Abdulina	15	1333	RAGHAV VENKAT	2341
Andy Yang Jr.	16	2064	Varshini Venkat	14	1332	FM ALEX BARNETT	2331
William Wu	14	2031	Uliana Bereda	17	1310	SCOTT RAMER	2326
Robert David Drum	16	2031	Alexandra Phung	10	1267	ALBERTO HERNANDEZ	2314
Xavier Alvarez	18	2030	<b>SENIORS (60+)</b>			FM CESAR JOSE VALIDO BOUZA	2301
Keshav Singh	17	2030	ALEXANDER ZELNER	61	2344	BREJESH CHAKRABARTI	2292
Cannon Farragut	12	2029	DOUG R MCCLINTOCK	68	2288	FM DOUG R MC CLINTOCK	2288
Jason (Haohan) Shen	15	2028	PAUL H FIELDS	65	2264	FM ROBERTO A FERREIRO	2275
Advait Nair	13	2022	RASHID ZIATDINOV	63	2231	FM ARNALDO FERRAGUT	2274
Nicholas Michael Ricci	18	2014	STEVEN ANDREWS	64	2221	YAN MIELLIER	2273
Alan John Wang	18	2009	STEPHEN STOYKO	74	2215	TROY E DALY	2264
Maxwell Z Yang	10	2007	<b>WOMEN (CURRENT MEMBERS ACTIVE)</b>			NAT KELLEHER	2258
John Joseph Ligotti	16	2001	WFM AMELIA HERNANDEZ		2100	MARTIN HANSEN	2255
Nate Ziegler	12	1997	WFM VLADLENA CIUBARA		2089	NM BRYAN TILLIS	2250
Sritej Sai Sattaru	13	1990	SHAMA YISRAEL		1964	JACOB CHEN	2245
Arav Patel	13	1985	ALICE WU		1895	BRITT RYERSON	2245
Jayden Lang	14	1975	DR. VARINIA CABRERA		1766	NICOLAS DE LA COLINA	2244
Rohit Ramaswamy	18	1968	SISIRA S YERRAJENNU		1788	NICKOLAS ARTHUR MOORE	2238
Rion Okuno	13	1963	ZOE ZELNER		1738	GM RASHID ZIATDINOV	2231
Jose Gabriel Casares	15	1959	PRIYA ANNA GUTTA		1699	RYAN EDWARD HAMLEY	2224
Oscar Izzy Williams	11	1893	<b>TOP BLITZ</b>			STEVEN ANDREWS	2221
Santiago De Jesus Casares	12	1843	GM Fabiano Caruana		2853	JOSE ANTONIO AGUILAR	2221
Jerry Yao	13	1835	GM Olexandr Bortnyk		2678	JESSE D DAVIDSON	2220
Om Mishra	11	1682	GM Julio Becerra		2651	CARLOS GASTON ANDRETTA	2220
Ayush Roy	10	1645	<b>TOP QC</b>			CM ANTONIO ARENCIBIA	2219
Riyaan Datta	10	1632	GM Fabiano Caruana		2646	NICHOLAS ROSENTHAL	2218
Akeras Overlingas	9	1601	FM Jorge Leon Oquendo		2463	FM LUIS BARREDO	2212
Aakash Jani	7	1583	Robert M Perez		2381	NM THEODORE LUKE SLADE	2209
Winston Wu	8	1504				FM STEPHEN STOYKO	2205
Analaya Muneeppeerakul	10	1489				FM JAVIER ANTONIO TORRES	2204
Sophie Li	8	1431				MAKAI KRIENKE	2203
Henry Thomas	9	1351					
Yi Sha	7	1281					
Tanisha Saha	7	1262					
Ryan Ratliff	8	1248					
Damian Alexander	8	1200					
Chris Cui	7	1138					
Ian Mckee	8	1074					
Ishaan Bhowmick	8	1030					
Addisson Baumstark	7	1016					

CORRESPONDENCE	
KEITH RODRIQUEZ	2345
BORIS RATNER	2305
PAUL B OTT	2168
ALLEN WOOLLEN	1994

## Games from recent events by Miguel Ararat



**(123) Leon, Jorge (2474) - Slade, Theo (2208) [E94]**

2022 North Florida Class Jacksonville (3.1), 09.07.2022  
[Ararat, Miguel]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2**



**6...Nbd7** [6...e5 Allows the exchange variation that kills all the dynamic potential of the position. Nbd7 show that black wants a fight in the spirit of the Kings Indian. At high level white uses the exchange variation when a draw is an acceptable result, for example, to clinch first place or a classification. 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 Nbd7 1-0 (35) Jakovenko, D (2724)-Paragua, M (2565) Tromsoe 2013 CBM 156 [Szabo, Kr]]

**7.0-0 e5 8.d5** [8.Be3 is a popular alternative the following game is an example of white opportunities in this variation. 8...c6 9.d5 c5 10.Nd2 Kh8 1-

0 (47) So, W (2778) -Tabatabaei, M (2623) Berlin 2022]

**8...Nc5 9.Nd2 a5** [The main choice for player over 2400 elo. The a pawn secures the black knight on c5 and stops white plays on that side of the board.]

**10.b3 Bh6** [Black follows a standard idea in these positions and aims to exchange his potentially bad bishop. The game Kazilaris, N-Podgaets, M Dresden 1969 is a good example of the benefits and risk black runs after exchanging his Kings Indian bishop.]

**11.Qc2 Ne8** [11...c6 12.h3 Ne8 13.Nf3 Bxc1 14.Qxc1 cxd5 15.Qh6 d4 16.Ng5 Nf6 17.Nd5 Ncxe4 18.Nxf6+ Nxf6 19.Bd3 Re8 20.Be4 Re7 21.Rae1 Qf8 22.Qxf8+ Kxf8 23.f4 Kg7 24.Bd5 Bf5 25.g4 Bd3 26.Rf3 Nxd5 27.cxd5 e4 28.f5 exf3 29.Rxe7 Kf6 30.Rxf7+ Kxg5 31.f6 Be4 32.Kf2 Bxd5 33.h4+ Kxg4 0-1 (33) Kazilaris, N-Podgaets, M Dresden 1969]

**12.Re1 f5** [Black carries out the thematic pawn break and raises the level of sharpness in the game.]

**13.exf5** [White vacates the e4 square for a knight if black recaptures with the bishop.]

**13...Bxf5 14.Qd1** [White retreats his queen and black seizes the initiative.]

[14.Nde4]

**14...Qf6 15.Nf3 Bxc1 16.Rxc1 Ng7 17.Nd2 Bd3 18.f3 Qh4 19.Nb5** [19.Nb5 Nf5 20.Nf1™ Bxe2 21.Rxe2 c6]

**19...c6** [Black can prepare this pawn break as described in the variation above.]

**20.g3 Qe7 21.Nc3 Nf5 22.Nf1 Nd4** [The right move, but pursuing the wrong idea. After the exchange 22...Bxe2 Black storms white's defenses. In contrast, black goes for material and wins the exchange.]

[22...Bxe2 23.Nxe2 Qf6 24.Rc3 Nd4-+]

**23.Bxd3 Nxf3+ 24.Kh1 Nxe1 25.Be2!** [White finds this move and the nature of the game changes radically (as in a typical Kings Indian). White gets two minor pieces for the rook and time to regroup his forces. New game.]

**25...Rf2 26.Qxe1 Raf8**



**27.Nd1 R2f7 28.Nfe3 a4** [28...h5 29.Qxa5 h4 30.Qe1 e4 Black has compensation for the material because Bxd3 open the light squares for the black queen and allowing Nf2 give black a dangerous initiative against the white king.]

**29.bxa4 Ne4** [29...e4 30.Qd2 h5 31.a5 White gets play on the queenside and will divert some of the black forces to that part of the board. In consequence, black's kingside activity decreases and white king takes a break.]

**30.Rc2 Qd7 31.Kg1 h5 32.Bf1 cxd5 33.Bg2**



**33...Ng5** [33...Qxa4 34.Re2 Qa7 35.Bxe4 dxe4 White keeps his material advantage, but the position remains fluid with the white pieces far from the black king and unable to be fully coordinated. The result of the game remains open.]

**34.Nxd5** [34.Bxd5 Nf3+ 35.Bxf3 Rxf3 This is the computer recommendation, however, if white exchanges his bishop black can get drawing changes in an endgame against a pair of knights. Importantly, White has 3 weak pawns on the a8–h1 diagonal to protect. The bishop is the ideal piece to fulfill both duties. A good lesson from FM Oquendo and why following the chess engine blindly as well as your GPS can take you off a cliff...]

**34...Qxa4 35.N1e3** [White jumps at the opportunity and fully coordinate his pieces. White's knight are posted on good squares and white's position is better coordinated than three moves ago.]

**35...Nf3+ 36.Bxf3 Rxf3** [Black forces the exchange of the light square bishop, but the white pieces, particularly the knight are fully coordinated.]

**37.Rb2 Qd7 38.Qb1** [White uncoils, starts using his extra material and creates an outside pass pawn.]

**38...Qg7 39.Rxb7 R8f7 40.Rb6** [An instructive choice to refuse the exchange of rook. The white queen has more power with a rook on the board because can create more threats against black weak pawn and king.]

**40...h4 41.Rxd6 hgx3 42.Rxg6 gxh2+** [Black sets up a last trap.]

**43.Kh1** [43.Kg2? Qxg6+ 44.Qxg6+ Rg7 45.Qxg7+ Kxg7 46.Kxh2 Rf2+ 47.Kh3 Rxa2 Technically, black can sacrifice his rook for the white pawn and reach the two knights versus king endgame =.]

**43...Rf1+ 44.Nxf1 Rxf1+ 45.Qxf1** [Black loses his queen to the knight fork on e7. This game was a worthy and instructive battle between the top rated players in the tournament.]

1–0

**(122) Huang,Jolie (1665) - Wu,Alice (1895) [D30]**

2022 FL Girls Closed Championship St. Petersburg, FL (3.1)

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3** [A variation with the seal of approval of a 2800 rated player, Ding,L. The Chinese GM plays this variation regularly and at high level and he is the perfect player to follow.]

**4...e6** [4...Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 Be4 7.f3 Bg6 8.Qb3 1–0 (54) Ding,L (2812)-Mamedov,R (2701) Astana 2019]

**5.Bd3** [5.b3 is an alternative way to treat the opening. 5...Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bd6 (6...dxc4 7.bxc4 Does not work as in the game.) 7.Bb2 0–0 8.0–0 1/2–1/2 (41) So,W (2773) -Ding,L (2766) Wijk aan Zee 2016]

**5...dxc4 6.Bxc4 b5 7.Bd3 a6 8.0–0 Bb7 9.b3 c5=** [Black solves the problem of the light square bishop and equalizes. 1/2–1/2 (8) Mchedlishvili,M (2586)-Nisipeanu,L (2654) Jerusalem 2015]

**10.Bb2 Nbd7 11.Qe2 Be7 12.Nbd2 0–0 13.Rac1 Nd5 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 15...Rc8 16.f4?** [This move weakens



the a7–g1 diagonal and black has several ways to exploit it.]

[16.Ne4 c4 17.bxc4 bxc4 18.Bxc4 Nb6 Offers good prospects to white.]

**16...c4** [Wu finds the more energetic move in the position.]

**17.bxc4 Nxe3 18.Rf2** [18.Qxe3?? Bc5 Loses the queen.]

**18...Bc5** [18...Qb6 with the same idea than Bc5, but without providing a target to Nb3 as in the game. 19.h3 bxc4 20.Nxc4 Nxc4 21.Bxc4 Bh4 White collapses on the dark squares.]

**19.Nb3 Nxc4?!** [19...Ba7 20.c5 white closes the a7–g1 diagonal and creates a pass pawn.]

**20.Nxc5 Rxc5 21.Ba3** [white turns the tables on black on the dark squares. Chess does not forgets tactical mistakes.]

**21...Nxa3 22.Rxc5± Qd4 23.Rc1** After the dust settles white emerges



with a material advantage. It is instructive how white simplify the position in the next seven moves.]

**23...Rd8 24.Bc2 Rc8?!** [Black has a chance to exchange the knight for the white bishop and set a blockade on the light squares. This idea can be trace back to the games of Rubinstein. For example, Maroczy - Rubinstein, Karlsbad 1907.]

[24...Nxc2 25.Rxc2 Bd5]

**25.Rd1 Qc5 26.Be4** [26.Bxh7+ An interesting combination suggested by the chess engine Komodo 2 in the spirit of the Greek Gift sacrifice. The Rd7 fulfills the role of Ng5 in the standard Greek Gift sac and attack f7 to deliver a deadly blow to the black king. 26...Kxh7 27.Rd7 Rc7 (27...Bd5 28.Qh5+ Kg8 29.Qxf7+) 28.Qh5+ mate

in 2.]

**26...Bxe4 27.Qxe4 Nc4 28.Qd4 Qxd4 29.Rxd4** [The first step in white's plan to convert the advantage is over. The exchange of the queen and bishops decrease black's chance to generate counterplay.]

**29...Ne3 30.h3** [White restricts the black knight according to Steinitz's teachings and opens up a luft for the king to avoid any back rank "accidents"]

**30...h5 31.Rfd2 Rc1+ 32.Kf2 Nd5 33.g4 Rc3 34.R4d3 Rc4 35.Rd4 Rc3 36.Kg2 hxg4** [36...Ne3+ 37.Kf2 Nd5<sup>2</sup> Offers more resistance than 36...hxg4 since black wants to keep the game closed to decrease the mobility of the white rooks.]

**37.hxg4 Ne3+ 38.Kf3 Nc4+** [38...Nd5+ Does not work now because one of the white rooks gets access to an active post on a3. 39.R2d3 Rc2 40.Ra3]

**39.R2d3 Rc2**  
This complex endgame takes a



concrete nature and a direct attack on the white king is the best way to use the material advantage. White plays against the f7 pawn and the thematic back rank invasion. Black's only hope is to move his g pawn to defend f7 with her king.]

**40.a3** [Black now needs to find an only move to stay in the game, g5.]

[40.Rd8+ Kh7 41.R3d7 Kg6 42.Rf8 Rxa2 43.Rxf7]

**40...Ra2** [40...g5<sup>TM</sup> 41.Rd8+ Kg7 42.R3d7 Ra2°]

**41.Rd8+ Kh7 42.Ra8 a5 43.Ke4 a4** [43...Re2+ 44.Kf3 Ra2]

**44.Rh3+ Kg6 45.f5+** [White attacks the black king and the fate of the game rest on black's next move. Basic answer to a check are to capture, block or move. Moving the king keeps black in the game. In contrast, exf5 starts a forcing mating sequence and white wins.]

**45...exf5+** [45...Kg5 46.fxe6 fxe6 47.Rg8 Nd2+ 48.Kd4 Kxg4 49.Rh6f]

**46.gxf5+ Kg5 47.Rg3+ Kh4 48.Rxg7 Re2+ 49.Kd4 Rd2+ 50.Kc3**

1-0

**(124) Ronan,Spelman (1753) - Michael,Wong (1669) [E21]**  
Sourthen Open 2022 (5), 24.07.2022 [Ararat,Miguel]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2** [This in a new trend against the Nimzoindian, but not a new move.]

[4.e3 Rubinstein variation.; 4.Qc2 Capablanca variation.; 4.f3 Saemish variation.]

**4...b6 5.e3 Bb7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Bd3 Qe7 8.0-0 d6 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Nbd7 11.Nd2 a5** [After the exchange of his kingside bishop for the knight black uses his pawn to cover the dark squares. This a typical plan in this variation and black seems well prepared to face 4.Bd2.]

**12.e4** [#] A direct move that forces black to place pawn in the center. To demonstrate the dangers of surrendering central space see 12.Rfe8 that loses a piece.]

**12...e5** [12...Rfe8 13.e5 dxe5 14.dxe5]

**13.d5** [13.Bc2 exd4 14.Bxd4 Nc5 15.Qe2 a4 16.f4 (16.Rae1 Nb3)]

**13...Nc5 14.Bc2 a4** [The chess engine Komodo Dragon 2 suggests 15. Bb4 and 15.Qe2 to a depth of 31.After several minutes and a depth

of 32 the engine eventually considers 15.f4. Nevertheless, any human player with the bishop pair will play 15.f4 to open the a1-h8 diagonal or the f file. This part of the game caught my eye because black has a harmonious set up. Wong has a pair of good knights in a close position, an advance a pawn that stops any pawn breaks on that side of the board. In summary, black plays in the spirit of the chosen opening. White has the bishop pair and the pawn lever f4 to open up the position. The fight is on. It appears Wong has two answers to f4. Wong can set up a strong point on e5 with f6. Alternatively, black can play e5 takes f4 or allow f4 captures e5 and recapturing with a knight setting up a blockade on e5. Both plans look viable to me.]

**15.f4 Nfd7 16.Qg4** [An instructive move. White exploits the retreat of the black knight on f6 to activate his queen followed by the rook lift F1-f3 .Qg4 is an example of practical chess. Black jumps to the idea of setting up a blockade on e5 and putting pressure on the white pawn on e4 along the newly opened e file. Unfortunately, this strategic and desirable stroke failed tactically.]

**16...exf4** [16...f6 17.Rf3 exf4 18.Qxf4 Ne5

Nimzovich will love this position. **17.Qxg7#** [The game comes to a



sudden end. This game is a harsh reminder that strategic good moves must be tactically sound.]

1-0

## West Regional Report by Timotey Gospodinov W RVP

The last couple of months we have had a chess tournament almost every weekend in West Florida. Most of the tournaments are in Tampa, Sarasota, Sun City Center and of course Saint Petersburg. There are 3 types of tournaments -Quads, Swiss and Blitz chess tournaments. For more information about the tournaments at Sarasota you can visit the Manasota Chess Center website - [www.manasotachess.org/](http://www.manasotachess.org/). If you want to play in chess tournaments in Tampa visit the Alton chess academy website - <https://www.alton4chess.com/>. Contact Rick Antony for more information about chess tournaments in Sun City Center. Saint Petersburg Chess Club continues to run Swiss chess tournaments every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month and Quad tournaments every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. We added and one extra tournament every month with different time controls and sections. So, in total the Saint Petersburg Chess Club organizes at least 3 tournaments per month. We are Open 4 days per week. Every Friday and Tuesday from 6:00 pm, Saturday from 11 am, and Sunday from 2:00 pm for group chess lessons. For more information about chess at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club Visit our website <https://chessclubjoy.webs.com/>, call (727)776-5583, or send an email to [timotey\\_gospodinov@yahoo.com](mailto:timotey_gospodinov@yahoo.com).

The weekends when the Saint Petersburg Chess Club doesn't have a chess tournament, something else related to chess is organized. During June we had a Simul with **GM Vladimir Georgiev** and it was a big success. Close to 40 players participated, and all has a great time.



Simul with GM Vladimir Georgiev



Simul Participants with GM Vladimir Georgiev

Additionally, two weekends during July the Saint Petersburg Chess Club members participated in a special chess club project about creating a handmade chess set. **Local artist Jackie Kaufman** teaches the members of the club how to handmade chess pieces. Read more about Jackie's Project on **page 30**.



Tanisha Saha

Finally, I want to introduce one of the most talented Saint Petersburg Chess Club player. Her name is **Tanisha Saha**.

Tanisha started learning chess at age 4 from her Montessori School and it's now her dream to become a professional chess player. She started playing tournament a year before from St Petersburg chess club and slowly it became her 2<sup>nd</sup> home. She spends hours and hours in the club and playing chess with all the players. Her positive attitude towards the game, making her stronger chess player day by day.

She ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> at her age level (7 years) among all the girls across the nation by US Chess Federation. Her current USCF rating is 1364.

She recently played in Southern Open Chess tournament and got 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Mixed doubles with one of her coach, Lawrence Younker and individually tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place U1500 section.

## North West Regional Report

By Daaim Shabazz NW RVP

The panhandle of Florida has resumed activity and players are beginning to assemble once again.

### Tallahassee

In Tallahassee, Black Dog Cafe by Lake Ella is still the main spot for chess between 12-5pm. There are rough 10-20 players on Saturdays. National Master Jon Sanford and daughter Katja visited this past Saturday. Katja recently transferred to Sale High School and a chess club is starting there. The community is searching for venues for tournament play and hopes to relaunch chess as the "Capital City Chess Club."



Rocco Ferraro blitzing against NM Jon

### Pensacola

On National Chess Day (July 20th), Pensacola put this callout: "If you're feeling like crushing an opponent today, head over to The 5 Barrel and check out their giant floorchess game. The 5 Barrel is located at 121 South Palafox Pensacola, FL 32502



### Panama City

Panama City is still hosting their meetups a Books-a-Millon from 2-4 on Sundays. Club member Randy Wolfe recently participated at the Clarence Kalenian Classic in Dothan, Alabama on July 9th. The club announces new members and on July 25th, they had four new members. To contact the club send an email to [pcbchess@yahoo.com](mailto:pcbchess@yahoo.com)

## South Regional Report

By Jon Haskel S RVP

I recently had a very strange experience. Outside of "full" weekend tournaments, I do not remember every having played a tournament game at a chess club on a Friday night. My own chess club, prior to the pandemic, had been meeting on Friday nights for approximately 20 years, so I could never play a rated game, myself, on a Friday night. The 954 Chess Club, [954chess@gmail.com](mailto:954chess@gmail.com), has started meeting on Friday nights at the La Quinta in Coral Springs and this is where I actually got to play a rated game on a Friday night. My own chess club, the Boca Raton Chess Club, [jon@bocachess.com](mailto:jon@bocachess.com), is starting up its regular meetings for the first time since the start of the pandemic. We will now be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of most months at the Boca Raton downtown library.

I also had my first visit to the Chess Club Bobby Fischer, located near the Tamiami Trail in Miami. They run various chess tournaments and can be reached at [chessclubbobbyfischer@gmail.com](mailto:chessclubbobbyfischer@gmail.com).

Palm Beach Chess is continuing to run quad and rapid tournaments each month in northern Palm Beach County. The email address for more information is [nmbtilis@gmail.com](mailto:nmbtilis@gmail.com).

In Fort Lauderdale, the Fireman's Cove Chess Club is currently meeting on Wednesdays and Sundays at the Panera Bread on Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale. The club's email address is [FortLauderdaleChess@gmail.com](mailto:FortLauderdaleChess@gmail.com).

The South Miami Chess Club is continuing to run monthly tournaments at Evelyn Greer Park, 8200 SW 124th Street, Pinecrest, FL 33156. For more information send an email to [southmiamicc@gmail.com](mailto:southmiamicc@gmail.com).

Once again, the Boca Raton Chess Club will be running the South Florida Grand Prix (in its thirteenth year). This grand prix is for students only. These tournaments take place at the Franklin Academy in Cooper City. The Boca Raton Chess Club will also be resuming its Ramada Grand Prix at the Ramada Hotel in West Palm Beach. This grand prix will be also be for adults.



# Northeast Regional Report

By Ray Ratliff NE RVP

## A game, a passion and one player's way of giving back to his community



Recently, I had the pleasure of sitting down and getting to know one of NE Florida's next generation elite chess players and understand how, as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, he was able to establish a chess club in his school. Agrim Kumar began his chess journey at the age of 6. Like many other kids, Agrim's parents showed him how the pieces move and he was instantly captivated by the magic of the game. He was able to continue learning and playing at his elementary school chess club. This opportunity to play in a club made a very significant impact on Agrim. He remembers finishing 1<sup>st</sup> place in one of his first tournaments around the age of 7 and the feeling of being very good at something that he really loved stayed with him.



Now at the age of 13, that magic is still very alive! Unlike his elementary school, James Weldon Johnson middle school did

not have a chess club. Until last year, that is, when as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, Agrim saw an opportunity to bring the game that had done so much for him and share it with anyone at his school that wanted to learn. He established the JWJMS Chess Club and has been building it and volunteering his time to coach students for over a year now. He enjoys and appreciates the support the club gives him and the players as they learn and improve. His goal is to eventually form a school team to compete in chess tournaments around Florida and Nationally. Based on what I know about Agrim, I'm sure that will happen!

What can we learn as a chess community from Agrim's journey? First and foremost; you can do anything that you set your mind to. It could be finding a checkmate after dropping your queen on move eight or starting your own chess club when the school you attend doesn't have one. If you can't find a chess club in your area you can feel confident knowing that with enough motivation and determination, you can start your own!



If you are interested in starting your own chess club, there are tools online to get you started:

[https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/guide-to-a-successful-chess-club-09.03.2021\\_1.pdf](https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/guide-to-a-successful-chess-club-09.03.2021_1.pdf)

I believe it is best put by Agrim's parting words of advice; "Find people that are interested, start it and it will grow!"

Thank you Agrim Kumar for taking the time to speak with me and starting a chess club that will impact the lives of a countless number of students for years to come. Good move!

# Central Regional Report

By Mike Moschos

**The Central Florida Chess Club** is run by president Larry Storch, vice president Kevin Sibbitt and chief td Steve Vigil. We put on three large hotel tournaments per year; the Winter Open in January, the Sunshine Open which took place last month (see writeup [CFCC 2022 Sunshine Open Concludes with FM Corey Acor Winning Clear 1st Place! — Central Florida Chess Club \(centralflchess.org\)](#)) and the Autumn Open which will take place on September 16-18 at the Lake Buena Vista Holiday Inn. In addition, the CFCC holds online rapid events every other Saturday on [chess.com](#). These are four round tournaments at g/15 (2 second increments) and offer \$250.00 in prize money. Please see our website [www.centralflchess.org](#) for details.

The club provides lessons and grants scholarships to deserving students and maintains a calendar of events for all Central Florida chess clubs.

## The Villages Chess Club ( TVCC)

The chess club will be travelling to Gainesville, Florida on September 24<sup>th</sup> to play the Gator Chess Club in a team match. TVCC appreciates the effort by Derek Zhang of UF for hosting the match. There is approximately an average age difference between the two teams of 50 years. Quoting Simon Williams “The beauty of **chess** is it can be whatever you want it to be. It transcends language, age, race, religion, politics, gender, and socioeconomic background. Whatever your circumstances, anyone can enjoy a good fight to the death over the **chess** board.”

Upcoming events as organized by TVCC :

The Villages Simultaneous Display featuring Theo Slade (Life Master) on 08/27/2022

The Paul Leggett Central Florida Pawn Storm tournament will be on 10/22/22 at The Lady Lake Library , each year we will name the event after people that contribute to the growth and quality of chess in Lake County. In 2021 it was named after Connor Eickelman.

**2022 Florida Senior Open Chess Championship was held in The Villages at the Laurel Manor Recreational Center on 5/21-5/22. The event was hosted/sponsored by the Florida Chess Association and The Villages Recreation group.**

The top finisher in the tournament was Anthony Nichols a resident of Michigan, Constantine Xanthos of Florida was awarded the title of Florida Senior Open Champion.

1   ANTHONY THOMAS NICHOLS	4.5
2   CONSTANTINE XANTHOS	4.0
3   ALAN P SCHALK	3.5
4   ANDY CATLIN	3.5
5   MICHAEL A DAMEY	3.0
6   PAUL LEGGETT	3.0

In addition to 2022 Florida Senior Open Chess Championship on the same date and location The Villages May 2022 QUADs were played including 9 four-player Round-Robin games.

The winners included:

QUAD 1: Arav Patel, Jason Shen  
QUAD 2: Neel Sahai, Robert Wagner, Srijan Ganta  
QUAD 3: Frank Pan  
QUAD 4: Carliteau Leger  
QUAD 5: Prajit Manivannan  
QUAD 6: Dean Johnson  
QUAD 7: Adam Fernandez  
QUAD 8: Celine Chen  
QUAD 9: Michael O'Connor



Constantine Xanthos and Sam Sokhanvari

# Gareyev Wins Space Coast Open and Blitz

By Life Master Theo Slade

(108) Nair, Advait (2011) - Leyva Rivera, Yunier (2421) [B67]

Space Coast Open (2), 23.04.2022

[Slade, Theo]

It was great to see the **Space Coast Open** return after three years, this time in a new hotel. It's interesting to play at different venues and I liked this one; there were nice places to walk nearby. I was very pleased to see that there were six live boards which can be followed live online and most importantly give me plenty of material for this report. :) Going into the Master/Expert Section, the top seed was GM Timur Gareyev (2653), who gave a simultaneous display before the tournament and a lecture Saturday morning. None of the other entrants were 2300+ and there were no surprises on Friday night as Gareyev defeated his much lower rated opponent. I was in the 3-day schedule too so when I arrived for round 2 on Saturday, I saw that IM Yunier Leyva Rivera (2421) had entered but taken a bye in round 1. From the outset, it looked like it would be a race between these two top seeds. In Leyva Rivera's first game, he played the Classical Sicilian, his young opponent grabbed the backward d6-pawn, and they arrived at the following position.



It's well known that Black is fine in these types of positions with the Bishop pair and the Queens traded and indeed if Black plays slowly the computer even gives him an advantage. But Yunier played in the very best way. How would you play with Black?]

**16...b4!** [is clearly positionally desirable, but doesn't this hang the a6-pawn?]

**17.Bxa6 Ke7** [counterattacks White's d6-Rook while defending the c8-Rook. This King move is easy to miss.]

**18.Rhd1 bxc3 19.Bxc8 Rxc8 20.b3** [Black eventually won, but if he had found]

[20..R6d4 was the best defense and while two Bishops are equivalent to a Rook and two pawns, the Bishops are incredibly strong here and White's extra pawns aren't very scary on their starting squares.]

**20...Bxe4!** [, he would have been completely winning. It may look like White has counterplay with his doubled Rooks but this is a mirage.]

**21.Rd7+ Ke8 22.fxe6 fxe6**

**0-1**

(110) Yisrael, Shama (1964) - Krienke, Makaio (2219) [D35]

Space Coast Open (4), 24.04.2022

[Slade, Theo]

The penultimate round saw prizewinner Shama Yisrael paired with NM Makaio Krienke.]

**20.Rac1 Qb6** [Yisrael does something very hard here; admitting her mistake. Psychologically it's very tough to move a piece back where it came from but it may be the best move in that moment, which is the case here.]

**21.Ra1!** [is the only move not to be worse.]

**21...Bf8 22.Ned4 Ne4 23.Rxa5 Qxa5 24.Rc1** [wins the battle for the only open file. Open files are like commodities; the less of them there are, the more valuable they are, so this is a big advantage for White.]

**24...Nc5** [Surprisingly the losing move. What would you play here?]

**25.Bh7+! Kh8 26.Qf5** [Shama wastes no time launching her pieces at



Makaio's King. White is already winning!]

**26...Qd8** [Shama's next move took me aback when I saw it for the first time. White to play and crash through!]

**27.Ng5!!** [moves her Knight to an unoccupied square, en prise to two pieces, but it smashes through!]

**27...Qxg5** [27...hxg5 28.Qh3 g6 (28...Bd6 29.Bg6+ Kg8 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Nf5 with mate in a couple. Beautiful.) 29.Bxg6+ Kg7 30.Qh7+ Kf6 31.Qxf7+ Ke5 Everything wins.]

**28.Qxf7** [threatens mate on g8 and Black's Rook.]

**28...Kxh7 29.Qxe8** [Black still has more material but White isn't done yet; she's forking Black's Bishops on the back rank! Game over.]

1-0

**(111) Markovic,Goran (2062) - Hamley,Ryan (2225) [B07]**

Space Coast Open (5), 24.04.2022

[Slade,Theo]

Anyone who has played Goran Markovic knows how quickly and aggressively he moves. When paired against him, you want the time control to be as long as possible! I knew this would be a tough game for NM Ryan Hamley with Black, but he handled it well.]

**18...Qc7** [White is better with more space and the two Bishops but Goran makes an unfortunate move.]

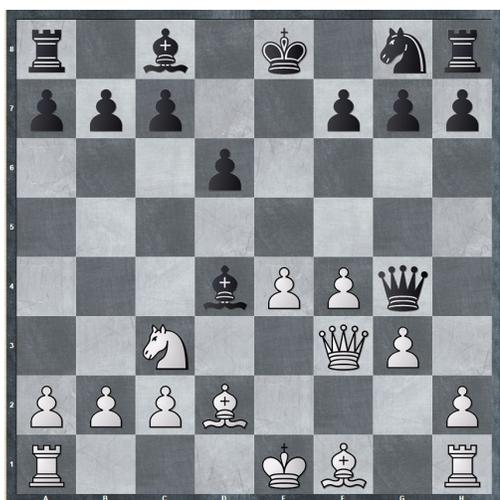
**19.Ne3** [The first time I got up from my last round to look at the other games, I walked over to this board and this happened to be the position. However, I saw but Ryan's hand already hovering over the board so I saw the tactic he was about to play. Are you as fast as a Master?]

**19...Nxe4!** [Black is threatening a royal family fork on g3 and creates a discovered attack on the g5-Bishop.]

**20.Bxe4** [20.Bxe7 Ng3+]

**20...Bxg5 21.Nf5 Rad8** [As they say in Russia, Black has an extra pawn but the better position. Ryan went on to win the game and \$360. Mel Goss also won his last round and the same amount.]

0-1



**(112) Valido Bouza,Cesar (2265) - Yisrael,Shama (1964) [C46]**

Space Coast Open (5), 24.04.2022

[Slade,Theo]

The last game of this report sees two of its stars face in the money round. Does White want Queens on the board?]

**11.Qd3** [Of course not! White has more space and better piece activity which will lead to much better attacking chances. White is already winning.]

**11...Bxc3 12.Bxc3 f6 13.Be2 Qe6 14.Bh5+** [does nothing for White's position but Black is forced to greatly worsen her position. This kind of disruptive move is typical of strong players, who deeply appreciate the position.]

**14...g6 15.Bf3 Ne7 16.0-0-0 0-0** [There's opposite side castling which means a race... But there's only one participant.]

**17.h4! Qxa2** [Pawn down but who's counting?]

**18.h5** [Black's King is very weak because it has few defenders, her pawn cover has been compromised, and g6 is a hook.]

**18...Be6 19.hxg6** [Shama tried]

**19...d5** [but after]

[19...hxg6 20.f5 exploits the hook on g6 again and because Black's Bishop is hit, this forces lines open. 20...gxf5 21.Qe3 Black's King stands no chance now that the h-file is open too.]

**20.gxh7+** It's all over; Valido Bouza won the game to win \$900. Going into the last round, Gareyev was in the sole lead, half a point ahead of Yunier and a point clear of the rest so a draw would guarantee 1st outright. However, he was finally paired with the second seed as Black. The suspense was short-lived though, as the players on board 1 agreed a quick draw, which meant that the Blindfold King repeated as Space Coast Open winner, taking home \$1, 600 and a trophy. Yunier had to settle for half the money. Alex Malekan, NM Elijah Logozar, and Andrew Guo won \$192 each. In the Class A section, Abror Kurbanov only needed a draw in the last round to secure outright 1st and that was exactly what he got: 4.5/5, which was enough for \$960. Carlos Rivas, Olivia Laido, and Maxwell Yang each won \$294. The Class B Section had a 5-way tie for first! Om Mishra, Ayush Maddikonda, Oscar Williams, Ibrahim Yuksel, and Robert Wagner each won \$336. Kirin Reiter won the Class C Section and \$800. There was a 6-way tie for 2nd: Sam Sharf, Matthew Laido, Sergio Lopez, Joe Libretto, Rithwik Hedge, and my student Ivan Goponenko each won \$134. Jonathan Chapman and Akeras Overlingas tied for first in the Class D Section, winning \$560. Lian Foster, Owen Castillo, and Matthew Romano tied for 3rd, each taking home \$134. Gabriel Miranda had the only perfect score, winning the Class E Section and \$640. Davey Ward had \$360, Ceejay Jacobs, Tommy Ledbetter, and my former student Arham Shah \$334, Darius Overlingas \$200, and the very sweet Vanessa Bajo \$160. Advait Kadam won the K-3 trophy. Gareyev was perfect in the Blitz, going 8-0 with two wins over Makaio and Logozar each. Yunier, Makaio, Josh Harrison, and Vincent Stone tied for 2nd on 6/8. One result which stood out to me was Sritej Sattaru, who used to come to a chess club that I ran, beat Yunier in one game! Sritej is very dangerous in blitz. Personally I love playing the Space Coast Open because it's FIDE rated and although I didn't win a prize, I did gain 14 FIDE rating points so I came away with something. I look forward to the next one!



IM Yunier Leyva Rivera and GM Timur Gareyev during their last round game.

Photo: Theo Slade

Photos provided by Theo Slade & Peter Dyson— Find more at [SpaceCoastChessFoundation.org](http://SpaceCoastChessFoundation.org)



FM Cesar Valido Bouza



From left to right: NM Brejesh Chakrabarti, Peter Dyson, Life Master Theo Slade, Leovel Barbon, NM Makaio Krienke, NM Mel Goss, and Andrew Guo



NM Brejesh Chakrabarti



Vincent Stone



GM Timur Gareyev



Darius Overlingas, Ceejay Jacobes, Arham Shah, Gabriel Miranda



Abror Kubranov and Carlos Rivas



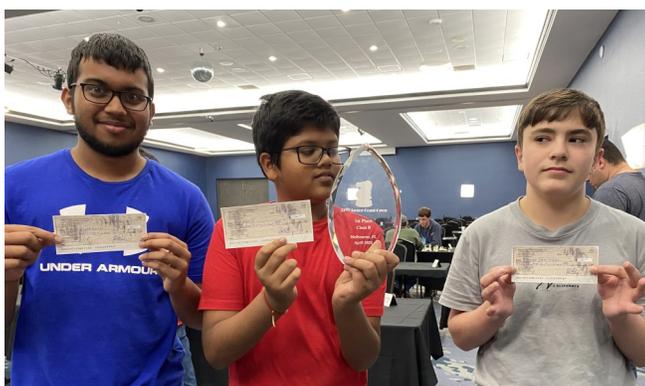
Davey Ward



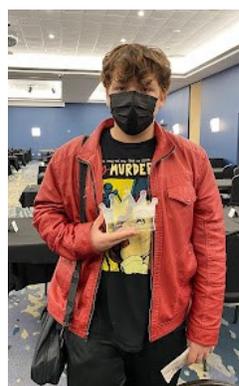
Alex Malekan



Jonathan Chapman and Akeras Overlingas



Ayush Maddikonda, Om Mishhra, & Ibrahim Selim Yuksel



Tommy Ledbetter



Olivia Laido

# 2022 National Junior Chess Congress

By Steve Lampkin



The 2022 National Junior Chess Congress was held June 30 – July 3, 2022 at the Renaissance Hotel Orlando. FCA affiliate Hanley Chess Academy sponsored the event. Joe Hanley started running tournaments in Orlando several years ago offering scholarships for students. This year is the first of 3 National Junior Chess Congresses scheduled for Florida. Mr. Hanley believes in offering opportunities for all players, beginners as well as experienced, so he offered many side events at this year's NJCC. Friday had a non-rated beginners' tournament, a 3-section scholastic warm up tournament, and a well-attended Blitz tournament, with 58 players in 2 sections.

In addition to the NJCC on Saturday, an adult tournament and an unrated scholastic tournament were also offered, along with a puzzle solving competition on Saturday night. On Sunday, in addition to the final 2 rounds of the NJCC, there was a U/750 rated tournament that attracted 37 players.

Mr. Hanley continued with the scholarship tradition by having a Top 100 invitational that awarded \$600 in scholarships. This is a tournament that is dear to Joe's heart he believes students making the top 100 list do not receive enough recognition. He had 14 students register allowing for 2 sections. The upper section was won by Nate Ziegler with Om Mishra placing 2<sup>nd</sup>. The lower section saw Ian McKee in first with Maria Leboeuf 2<sup>nd</sup>. Next year the top 100 invitational will again be held in Orlando and is a great opportunity for Florida students to win scholarships. Scholarship awards will be expanded with more entries.

Friday night saw a 10 round Blitz tournament with 58 players competing in 2 sections, Open and U/1200. The U/1200 section was won by Nicolae State-Ungureanu scoring 9 out of 10 and tying for 2<sup>nd</sup> with 7.5 Victor Okpiavbe, Kim Vasilyeu, and Vivan Praskash. The open section had 10 players with Hersh Singh placing 1<sup>st</sup> with a score of 9.5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aradh Kaur, with a score of 8.0 and a clear 3<sup>rd</sup> with 5.5 Bryan Smart. Sunday saw 37 players competing in a rated U/750 scholastic tournament with Zachary Smith taking first with a perfect 5.0 score. 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place with a score of 4.0 were Octavian Barcelo, Donovan Gee, David Lobo, Ashwinth Gopinath, and Jackson Blouet.

The National Junior Chess Congress saw 102 players compete in 7 sections. Wining the first-place trophy in the Under 18 section was Aiden Sullivan with Bryan Smart second and Alison Solik 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Under 16 section, Hersh Singh won the first-place trophy with Grace Deng 2<sup>nd</sup> and Triyakshari Venkataraja 3<sup>rd</sup>. The under 14 section had Om Misha 1<sup>st</sup>, Aradh Kaur 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lily Deng 3<sup>rd</sup>. Under 12 section had Lingaadyakssh Venkataraja 1<sup>st</sup>, Brandon Leyte-Vidal 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tyson Dalal 3<sup>rd</sup>. Under 10 section had Shiva Karthik 1<sup>st</sup>, Ronak Shergil 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Hrehann Waghmode 3<sup>rd</sup>. Under 8 section Ishaan Jain 1<sup>st</sup>, Stanley Deng 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Klim Vasilyeu 3<sup>rd</sup>. And the under 6 section had co-champions with Owen Li taking the first-place trophy on tie-breaks and Lillian Han 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Aaryan Bhandari 3<sup>rd</sup>.



There were several teams that competed in various sections. The under 14 section saw Chess Whiz Kids Academy from Jamacia place first, with Academy Prep Center of Lakeland placing second only a ½ point behind. Coach Steve Abrahams is doing a great job of building a strong program at Academy Prep



in Lakeland and picked up the second-place trophy for his work. The under 12 section saw Chess Wiz Academy take first place again as in the Under 10 section. The under 6 section was again won by the Chess Whiz Academy; they have a strong program in Jamacia and we hope to see them return again next year.

The tournament was a success, with a very nice hotel that provided plenty of space making for a comfortable playing environment. Plenty of activities were provided to keep the players active for the entire weekend. The tournament had players from 19 different states along with 25 players from Jamacia who played in many of the events. Florida players should put next year's event on their calendar now so that they do not miss the opportunities provided by this event. The 2023 National Junior Chess Congress is scheduled for July 13-16 at the Renaissance Orlando at Sea World hotel. For more information go to [www.hanleychessacademy.com](http://www.hanleychessacademy.com)

# New Affiliate Club – Miramar Chess Club

By Roberto Montanez – Miramar Chess Club Founder



Back in November 2021, I made the decision to start playing chess on a consistent basis. Like many of you, I got bitten by the chess bug thanks to the Netflix hit show, “The Queen’s Gambit.” The show sparked some fond memories of playing as a child. My father taught me and I enjoyed all of the strategy that’s involved in the game. However, like many young chess players, I stopped playing after a while.

For most of 2021, I began playing online chess on and off. Then as the year was coming to an end, I made a resolution to not only start playing, but also to work on improving.

As 2022 began, I wanted to start playing **over-the-board (OTB)**, but I could not find any places to play.

I was looking for a location close to the Miramar area however my search results were slim. I continued to play online but I wanted to experience the real deal. Playing OTB requires a different skill set. It’s different from playing online. My goal was also to participate in tournaments, but in order to do that, OTB practice is necessary.

As a result, I decided to move forward with setting a Meetup page for the **Miramar Chess Club (MCC)**. The initial interest in the club was lukewarm. I purchased two tournament size boards and a digital clock for the club. I was all in.

I have to admit, I was a bit skeptical and wondered if it was going to work out. I enlisted my wife to tag along with me for the first session. I figured that at least, I wouldn’t be the only person in front of a chess board. Lucky for me, we had one person who showed up. That first session consisted of two players which included me.

As each week progressed, more and more players began to consistently show up. Since then, we continue to grow and connect with new people with different skill levels.

I has become exactly what I envisioned for the chess club. My desire was to create a place where the community can connect; A place where we can all learn and grow as chess players. This is the reason why we welcome anyone who plays, used to play or just wants to learn. Our club is free because we want to serve everyone.

We continue to receive great reviews and testimonials from our members. For example, this google review from M. Pena:

*“I totally recommend Miramar Chess Club to anyone truly interested in chess. Overall it is a great gathering for all different kinds of players from beginners to the pro ones!!! Everyone is very kind and welcoming. If you are a novice, look for Roberto and Pedro, they are extremely patient when introducing you to chess. They will guide you by explaining step-by-step your options when moving your game pieces as you learn to play.”*

Today, our chess club is an official **US Chess Federation (USCF) Affiliate and a Florida Chess Affiliate**. We are constantly evolving to serve our club. We just concluded a FREE unrated tournament for our members. We are also doing monthly online tournaments. Our plans are to begin hosting rated tournaments in the upcoming months.

Our club motto is to “Play, Learn, Grow!” That is why I would like to extend an invitation to you to join us on this amazing journey in the South Florida area.

The **Miramar Chess Club** meets every Wednesday and Thursday. We welcome all levels. For more details, visit our website [MiramarChessClub.com](http://MiramarChessClub.com).



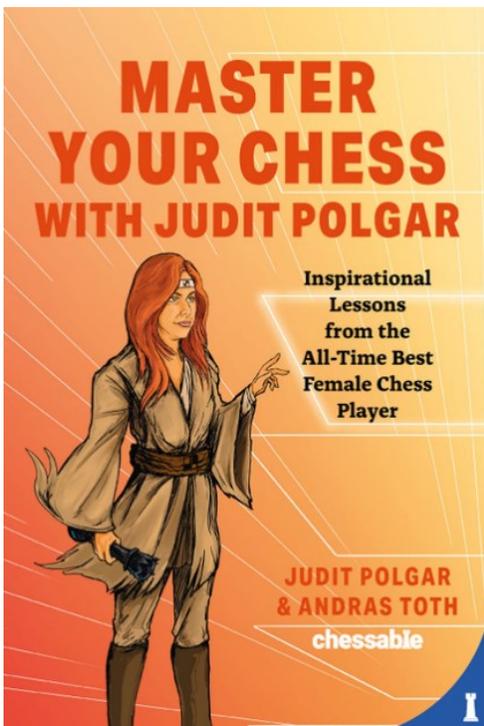
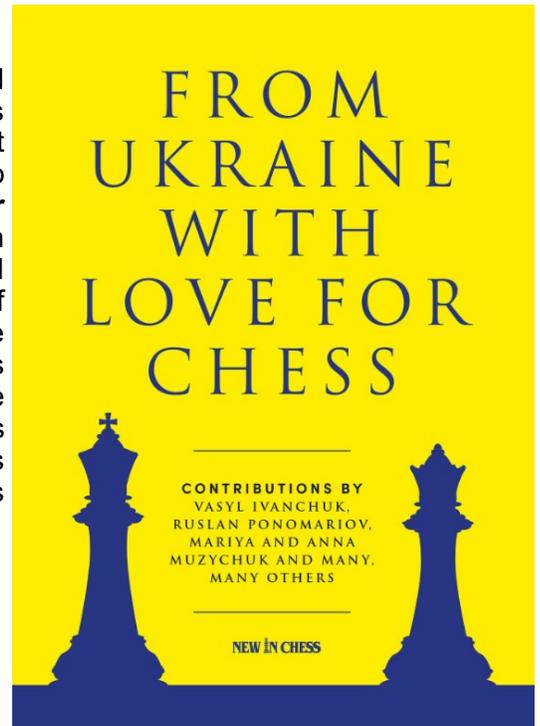
# Book Review

by Miguel Ararat



In this issue of **floridaCHESS magazine**, I'm going to review four books, titled, *From Ukraine with Love for Chess*, *Master your Chess with Judit Polgar*, *Endgame Strategy* and *Understanding Pawn Endgames*.

The war in Ukraine is having a terrible impact on Ukraine and Ukrainian chess players want to help. Several chess players including former world chess champion Ruslan Ponomarev put together the book **From Ukraine with Love for Chess** to help raise money for charities in Ukraine. **From Ukraine with Love for Chess** features a selection of games from the best Ukrainian chess masters, including a secret match between Mihail Tal and Romanishin played in 1976. The book also contains a selection of the artistic works of the best Ukrainian chess composers. I feel the games and the chess compositions connect with their readers through the beauty, accuracy in executing an idea or the unexpected turn of events. **From Ukraine with Love for Chess** is a treasure trove of beautiful chess creations from different periods in time, full of creativity, passion and love for chess by Ukraine's best masters.



**Master your chess with Judit Polgar** by Judit Polgar & IM Andras Toth is a blue print to learn the right topics to master the basics of chess. To accomplish this goal the authors selected and presented the material in ten chapters, that include opening principles, calculation technique, positional concepts and of course tactics. In my opinion there are no better authors to write about the topics listed above. Andras Toth was the author of *Chessable* in 2021 and he is well known for his ability to teach the basics of the game to club players. Judit Polgar is the strongest chess player of all time, with an active and aggressive approach to chess. Any chess player will love to learn to calculate following Polgar's recommendations. **Master your chess with Judit Polgar** gives you opportunity to learn how to calculate from one of the best attackers. Do not let this opportunity pass by.

MIKHAIL SHERESHEVSKY

# Endgame Strategy



Expanded and  
Revised Edition of  
a Chess Classic

NEW IN CHESS

**Endgame Strategy the Revised and Expanded Edition of a Chess Classic** by Mikhail Shereshevsky is a welcome addition to the endgame literature. For decades, **Endgame Strategy** has been a must-read for aspiring chess players and coaches. The author covers the phase of the game that is right after the middlegame and before reaching a theoretical endgame position. This part of the game is challenging to most players because, there is no mapped path to follow. This edition of **Endgame Strategy** has recent material from the games of elite players. Above all, the book is larger than the previous edition, but the amount of variations in each example is not overwhelming. Why is it necessary for an amateur chess player to read this book? Amateur chess players misuse calculation as the only tool to play every phase of a chess game. **Endgame Strategy** helps amateur chess players to extend their core endgame knowledge and develop their intuition. The primary value of this book is that the amateur player adds more tools, in addition to calculation to play strategic endgames more efficiently. Consequently, the practical and theoretical gap in the amateur toolbox shrinks. This new acquired skill gives the amateur a chance to play strategic endgames in equal terms against more experience players.

**Understanding Pawn Endgames** by Ukrainian IM and chess trainer Valentin Bogdanov helps chess aficionados to gain critical knowledge in pure pawn endgames. It is worth noting that games with only the king and pawns are the first contact of a beginner with chess. However as the student becomes more proficient, the study of tactics and opening becomes the dominant factors in the player's education and training routines. Consequently, the player begins to avoid endgames, especially pure pawn endgames. Lack of knowledge drives the player to take an unreasonable level of risk to win in the middlegame and his/her practical results suffer. Fortunately, **Understanding Pawn Endgames** comes to the rescue. Bogdanov and the translator Graham Burgess, put together a well-written book that can help amateurs play better pawn endgames in a relative short period of time. The author explains each topic in a clear, concise and educative way. Hence, the size of the book is relatively small and the chess player is not intimidated (compared to existing monographs on pawn endings). Whether you struggle with or love pawn endgames it is time to read **Understanding Pawn Endgames** and improve your chess results.



Valentin  
Bogdanov

A leading Ukrainian trainer explains  
fundamental endgame principles  
and why players make mistakes



## Chess Club Bobby Fischer by FIDE Master J.A. Torres



FIDE Master J.A. Torres

### GM JULIO BECERRA WINS FISCHER CHESS LEAGUE OPEN III

April 29th-May 1st

The Fischer Chess League Open III, again, took place from April 29th -May 1st, at the Chess Club "Bobby Fischer", Miami, Florida. It was again a strong tournament with the participation of 34 players!. In each new event of the Fischer Chess League the enthusiasm continues growing, and in this III edition, new talents were presented. Once again nine-time Champion from Florida, GM Julio Becerra was the winner. IM Yunier Leyva and the young prodigy, NM Brejesh Chakrabarti with 4 also finished tied, but the tiebreaker went in favor of Becerra!.



GM Julio Becerra

FM Roberto Álvarez Ferreiro, FM Cesar Válido, IM Pedro Rodríguez, Sai Sattaru and Rion Okuno finished tied for 4th to 8th place. Okuno continues to get great results!



Rion Okuno



The enthusiasm continues to grow



IM Pedro Rodriguez

*Many children participated in this event including Akeras Overlingas, Maswell Z Yang, Soham Patel, Arav Patel, Andy Wu and Alice Wu. After finished Open III GM Becerra continues his dominance, and accumulated 40 points, follow by IM Yunier Leyva with 39.*

### FM ROBERTO ALVAREZ WINS OPEN IV ON TIEBREAKS. IM YUNIER LEYVA IS THE GRAND PRIX WINNER. GM BECERRA WAS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE

May 27th-29th

Former Florida Senior Champion 2021 FM Roberto Alvarez and IM Yunier Leyva shared first place with 4 points, but on tie-breaks Alvarez was declared the Champion. FM Cesar Valido, NM Brejesh Chakrabarti, CM Renato C. Dominguez and the new star Santiago de Jesus Casares, they were tied with 3.5 points. Unfortunately, GM Julio Becerra, leader of the Grand Prix FCL ended up accumulating 40 points, by not being able to participate in the Open IV; an opportunity for Leyva who finished second, and obtained 13 points, enough to be declared the absolute winner by accumulating a total of 52 points. The tournament staff, Chief TD A. Ferragut & Chief International Arbiter Gerardo Anaya and CPU Adm. Roger Orellana with Diego Ferragut Assistant, was held on May 27th-29th, at the Bobby Fischer Chess Club in the City of Miami.



FM Roberto Alvarez Champion Open IV



The Brothers Casares qualified to the FCL Final 2022



NM Jorge L. Diaz vs. Daniel Valdez



TD Arnaldo Ferragut hands award to Bnejsh Chakrabarti



Roger Orellana and Diego Ferragut run admin.



Chief I.A. Gerardo Anaya & IM Yunier Leyva Rivera

	PLAYERS	ELO	FLAG	OPEN I	OPEN II	OPEN III	OPEN IV	PT
1	IM YUNIER LEYVA	2437		15	11	13	13	52
2	FM CESAR VALIDO	2293		5	13	11	12	41
3	GM JULIO BECERRA	2546		13	12	15	==	40
4	NM BREJESH CHAKRABARTI	2289		12	7	12	9	40
5	FM ROBERTO ALVAREZ	2301		8	10	2	15	33
6	FM JAVIER TORRES	2200		11	9	4	==	24
7	IM PEDRO RODRIGUEZ	2248		9	==	7	==	16
8	GM HOLDEN HERNANDEZ	2551		==	15	==	==	15
9	JOSE GABRIEL CASARES	1973		3	2	3	4	12
10	RION OKUNO	1963		1	==	9	2	12
11	SANTIAGO DE J CASARES	1855		1	0	==	11	12
12	JORGE L DIAZ CASTANET	2000		0	2	2	7	11
13	RENATO C DOMINGUEZ	1907		==	2	0	8	10
14	ORLANDO MEILAN	1941		2	1	1	5	9
15	NM GASTON ANDRETTA	2218		==	8	==	==	8
16	OTIS WILSON	2100		2	5	0	1	8
17	MIKHAIL ZLOTNIKOV	2200		4	2	0	==	6
18	MELAKAH YISRAEL	2030		2	4	==	==	6

# 28th Charlotte Chess Center (CCC) Norm Invitational

By NM Bryan Tillis

There were a total of 40 players including the top rated 11-year-old in the country, 4 GMs, 12 IMs, and 12 FM's. Together they represent 18 different states and 11 different countries. Though we had no Florida players make norms there were some interesting moments in their games.



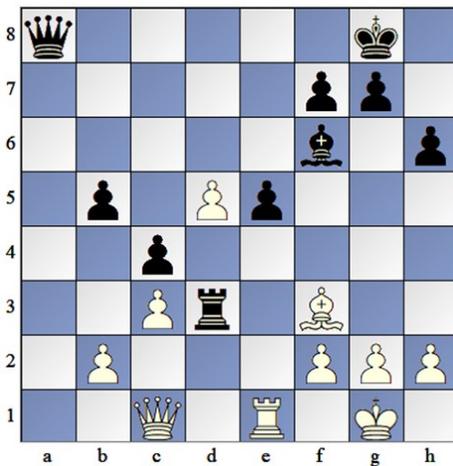
GM Julio Becerra



IM Yunier Leyva Rivera

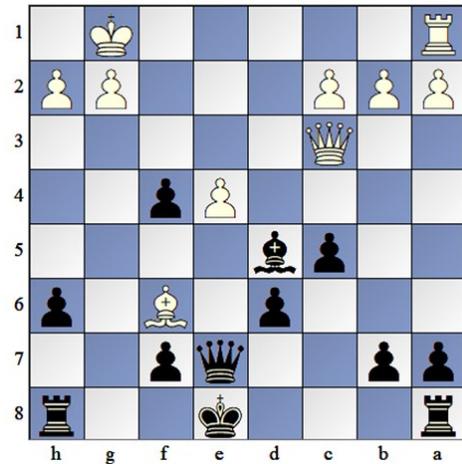


NM Raghav Venkat

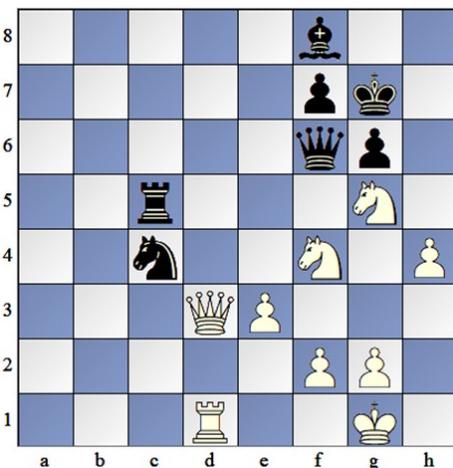


#1 White to move

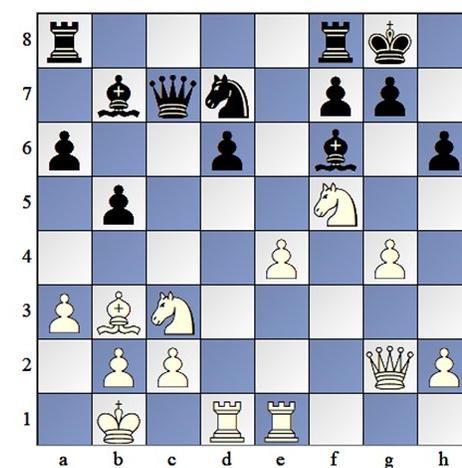
Chess Problems  
Answers on the  
following page



#2 Black to Move



#3 White to move



#4 White to move



We had a few Florida Chess players protecting their ratings or hunting norms in Charlotte.



There are fun things to do in Charlotte during tournaments like the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

**Problem 1:** Raghav Venkat - Pedro Rodriguez Rivera: **23...h6 24.Be4** Best, where is the rook going? **24...Bg5 25.Qa1 Qd8 26.Bxd3** [White wins the exchange and eventually the game. **1-0**

**Problem 2:** Raghav Venkat - Gus Huston: **17.Qc3 Qxe4?!**

[17...Qd7 This is good but the main game continuation is arguably stronger in a practical game. 18.Bxh8 Bxe4 19.Re1 Qf5 Full credit if you spotted this full line.]

**18.Re1 Rg8 19.Rxe4+ Bxe4** Black has full compensation for the queen and stands better. Black went on to win this game. **0-1**

**Problem 3:** Yunier Leyva Rivera - Oluwaseun Bisiriyu-Salam: **28...Nc4?! 29.Nh5+** The offer of the knight can't be accepted and it can't be refused! Black resigned at this point in the main game. **29...gxh5 30.Qh7# 1-0**

**Problem 4:** Julio Becerra - Liran Zhou: **19...Bf6?? 20.g5 hxg5 21.h4 g4 22.Qxg4** You get full credit for solving this far. We will continue showing the main game as it is instructive. **22...Ne5 23.Qg3 Kh8 24.Rxd6** The position begins to fall apart for the second player. **24...Rg8 25.Qe3 Ng4 26.Qe2 Rgd8 27.Qxg4 Rxd6 28.Qh5+ Kg8 29.Nxd6 1-0**

**Editor's note:** NM Tillis also provides more coverage of the Norm Invitational at:

<https://new.uschess.org/news/monsters-and-hunters-halftime-ccc-summer-2022-gmim-norm-invitational>



# The Chess Club Project

by Jackie Kaufman

I was teaching a new workshop at The Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks on mold making and pewter casting small sculptures in pewter – and one of my students said that this would be a good process to create individual chess pieces. I gave it some thought and I was up for the challenge.

I did not want to create the chess pieces for myself, but maybe I could get a group of chess players, possibly at a local school that had a chess club to participate in this project. The members could make their own individual chess pieces out of pewter, and learn the whole creative process.

I mentioned this to a few people and someone said “Did you know there is a local Chess Club in St. Petersburg next to the shuffleboard courts?” What!!! I’d never heard of this club, and it turned out I was not the only one.



The St. Petersburg Chess Club is a hidden gem close to downtown St. Pete. They have been operating in the same location longer than any other chess club in the United States, 91 years – yes that is right, since 1931 in the same building. When you walk into their building, the history of the club is on the walls in photos. It is an oasis for local chess players to meet, play chess, participate in tournaments and get lessons, at least 3 times a week. It is an active club run for the past 12 years by its president and guiding force, Timotey Gospodinov.

When I first met Timotey and told him my idea for chess pieces, he was a little skeptical, but he soon realized it would be a great activity for members. The more time I spent at the club the more I became enamored of the group. I saw that people of all ages from 7-90 just stroll through the doors on a Friday night to play a quick game of chess. They all have something in common, their love for chess. You can hear small conversations going on, or sometimes they play in complete silence. On Saturdays they hold tournaments for more serious play and on Sundays are lessons for beginners.



I knew I had found my group. I needed to get the word out about chess and this club in the St. Petersburg area.

Everything fell in place when I was lucky enough to receive a grant for this project from Creative Pinellas, The National Endowment of The Arts and the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

The Chess Club Project started on June 26 with a 2-day workshop on Mold Making and Pewter Casting that 9 club members participated in. Each member designed one of the pieces for the chess board in their own vision using small toys that we cut up for fun and interesting looks. The participants were ages 7 to 63 years old. They learned the whole process, and in the future might be able to create their own trophies for the club. The board will be made by a local artist and the goal will be to have an eye popping art chess board that will attract attention and be on display at various locations for a couple of months at the end of this year. This display will include information about chess and the club.



The first location will be at The Morean Arts Center in St. Petersburg starting in September to highlight American Chess Day on September 1. We hope this project will showcase this local club and all the wonderful benefits learning and playing chess have. Did I mention the benefits of chess? Chess builds confidence, improves memory, elevates creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, helps you focus, exercises the brain, helps you remain calm under pressure, brings people together, improves reading skills, teaches planning and foresight, increases strategy skills, prevents dementia and so much more.

Follow our journey on this project and visit The St. Petersburg Chess Club at 540 4th Ave. N. in downtown St. Petersburg or call 727-776-5583 for more information.

# Photo Gallery

## Florida Senior Open Championship 2022



Constantine Xanthos Vs.  
Paul Leggett



Leo Bonnell vs.  
Alan Schalk



Anthony Nichols and Andy  
Catlin



Kevin Pryor and  
Constantine Xanthos

### Chess for Charity Jax



### ScholasticChess.org Home School Summer Series #3



### Manasota Chess Center Celebrates their 1 Year Anniversary!



### CHES COACHES

#### Professional - Level V

Mark Ritter

#### National - Level IV

Tania Kranich-Ritter

Tim Tusing

Miguel Ararat

Thomas Mikolyzk

Lawrence Goodall

#### FIDE Instructor License

Miguel Ararat

NM Bryan Tillis

### Light on the Right

## CHES PEACE

by Tony  
Sullivan



"Maybe you need to concede that you are just a pawn in the grand scheme of things!"

### Floridians with USCF Roles:

#### Executive Board:

Kevin Pryor, Vice President

#### Committees:

- Audit: Jon Haskel, Chair
- Barber K-8: Jon Haskel, Co-chair
- College Chess: Jon Haskel, Member
- College Chess: Matt Kolcz, Member
- Endowment Fund Investment: Peter Dyson, Member
- Finance: Jon Haskel, Member
- FIDE Events: Jon Haskel, Member
- National State Invitationals: Jon Haskel, Chair
- Scholastics: George Foote, Elizabeth Tejada & NM Bryan Tillis, Members
- Senior: Jon Haskel, Member
- E.B. Nominations Committee: Daaim Shabazz
- States & Affiliates: NM Bryan Tillis, Member
- Life Member Asset Trust: Peter Dyson, Member
- Reserve Fund & PPHB Investment: Peter Dyson, Member

#### Other Organizations

ACP : American Chess Promotions	(478)973-9389
BRCC: Boca Raton Chess Club	(561)302-4377
CACC: Castle Chess Camp	(404)314-3142
CCA : Continental Chess Association	(914)496-9658
CFCC : Central Florida Chess Club	(407)312-6237
CFCJ : Chess for Charity Jax	(904)677-1445
FSCL : Florida Scholastic Chess League	(786)444-2467
HCA : Hanley Chess Academy	(714)925-3195
JAXCC: The Jacksonville Chess Club	(904)607-9111
VILLC: The Villages Chess	(407)497-2261
KCF : Kasparov Chess Foundation	(773)844-0701
MCC : Manasota Chess Center	(941)313-5589
OCC : Orlando Chess Club	(407)721-4262
OCG : Orlando Chess & Game Center	(407)248-0818
PBC : Palm Beach Chess	nmbtillis@gmail.com
SCO : ScholasticChess.Org	(904)304-1639
SCF : Space Coast Chess Foundation	(321)431-3060
TCC : Tallahassee Chess Club	(850)345-7838
USCF : US Chess Federation	(800)903-8723
VCCC : Volusia County Chess Club	(386)316-3700

### TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

#### National TDs

Jon Haskel  
Harvey Lerman  
Anthony Coddell  
Ervin Sedlock

#### Associate National TDs

Stephen Lampkin  
Charles Hatherill

#### Senior TDs

Michael Hutsko  
Kevin Pryor  
Paul Tomaino  
Steven Vigil  
NM Bryan Tillis

### FIDE ACCEPTED \*

#### International Organizer & Arbiter

Jon Haskel

#### International Coordinator

Elizabeth Tejada

#### National Arbiter

Harvey Lerman  
Stephen Lampkin  
NM Bryan Tillis

#### National Instructor

Miguel Ararat

\* Active and USCF certified

# CHESS CALENDAR

Florida Chess Tournaments Clearing House  
clearinghouse@FloridaChess.org

Date	Event	Location	Contact
<b>2022</b>			
Sept 3-5	Harvey Lerman State Championship	4431 PGA Boulevard Palm Beach Gardens, FL	PBC
Sept 10	Academy Prep Grand Prix 1	Academy Prep Center of Lakeland	APCL
Sept 24	Fall Fracas	1100 Rockledge Blvd, Rockledge, FL	SCF
Sept 24	First Coast Fall Open	Pablo Creek Regional Library (Jacksonville)	CFCJ
Oct 15	Jacksonville City Championship	11083 Nurseryfields Dr., Jacksonville, FL	Jaxcc
Oct 24	Paul Leggett Central FL Pawn Storm	225 W. Guava St. / Lady Lake, FL	VILLC
Nov 11-13	20th Annual Turkey Bowl	Boca Raton Chess Club	BRCC
Nov 19	Gator Chess Club Blitz Championship	University of Florida Reitz Union	GCC
Nov 20	November Super Swiss	3501 South Tamiami Trail, Suite #306	MCC

\*Additional Tournament info at FloridaChess.org and ChessRegister.com

## FCA Florida 2022 Affiliates

Academy Prep Center of Lakeland
Alton Academy 4 Chess
B & B Chess Club
Boca Raton Chess Club
Bortnik's School of Chess LLC
Capablanca Chess Academy
Chess Club Bobby Fischer
Chess Club Joy
CHESS 4 US Club
CHESS4LESS
Chess For Charity Jax
Chessregister.com
Chess with Cochez
Christian Chess Fellowship
Code Ninjas of Ponte Vedra
Florida Scholastic Chess League
Jacksonville Chess Club
Hanley Chess Academy
Manasota Chess Center of Sarasota
Miramar Chess Club
Oak Hall School Chess Club
Ocala Chess Club

Palm Beach Chess
Paradise Chess Club
ScholasticChess.Org
Space Coast Chess Foundation, Inc.
South Shore Chess Club
Statz Chess Academy of Tampa
The Stormont Kings Chess Program
The Villages Chess Club
South Ocala Chess Club
Statz Chess Academy
Strong Chess of Tampa
SW Florida Chess Club
Venetian Bay Chess Academy
Villages Chess Club
Volusia County Chess Club
Varina Cabrera
Scott Campbell
Richard Francis
Shang Shu Jiang
Maggie O'Hara
Zahina Porto (affiliate)
Michael Sheroff

4th Quarter (Fall) – Articles and Photos Due October 30, Publishing Date November 20

**Organizers: Please contact the clearing house when scheduling a tournament.**

Florida Chess Association, Inc.  
14260 Newberry Rd. #236  
Newberry, FL 32669

# 2022 Harvey Lerman Florida State Chess Championship



**Grand Prix, State Championship Event**  
**Saturday, September 3, 2022 - Monday, September 5, 2022**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel**  
4431 PGA Boulevard  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
United States