By Randy Bauer  
Board of Directors, United States Chess Federation

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The RESURRECTION of AMERICAN CHESS

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Matt Dauphin  
GALLERY MANAGER  
OUTREACH & EVENTS  
ASSOCIATE CURATOR  

Shannon Bailey  
CHIEF CURATOR  

Kyle Weber  
Kareem Talhouni  
PR & MARKETING  

Jonathan Schrantz  
Ryan Chester  

SAINT LOUIS  
DEVELOPMENT  

Paige Pedersen  
Alexander Onischuk  
Garry Kasparov  
Robert Hess  
Akshat Chandra  
Randy Bauer  
Shannon Bailey  
Bradley Bailey  
Maurice Ashley  

Thank you to our editor for additional support.

The Chess Campus is on our minds. It has become an eagerly anticipated destination for chess enthusiasts, thinkers, and artists. The Chess Campus is a place where people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels can come together to enjoy it. But he also believed, that the chess games held, instilled self-discipline and strategic thinking in young minds.

In 1886, the city hosted a national and international tournament in Saint Louis, Illinois, which featured some of the world’s best chess players from around the globe. The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSL) is dedicated to advancing the game of chess on a local and international level. The Chess Club hosts the annual United States Chess Championship and the United States Women’s Chess Championship, which is partially held in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 2008, the city hosted the Saint Louis Chess Club, which was created to promote the game both on a local and international level. The Chess Club has become a place where people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels can come together to enjoy it. But he also believed, that the chess games held, instilled self-discipline and strategic thinking in young minds.

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Hans Berliner (1928-2016)  
U.S. Chess Hall of Fame

The impact of computers on modern chess cannot be understated. Today everyone from World Chess Champions to club players regularly use chess engines to study the game, and these engines and their programs have become a critical part of the modern chess environment. Robert Byrne, who passed away in 2017, was one of the first to see the potential of computers in chess. His legacy lives on through his contributions to the game, including a regular column for the Chess Review and his work as a chess journalist. His passing was a loss to the chess community, but his influence on the game continues to be felt.

Robert Byrne was a master of many different aspects of the game. His passion for chess was evident from a young age, and he went on to become one of the most accomplished chess players of his generation. He was a chess journalist and a prolific writer, including several books on the game. His influence on the chess community was significant, and his legacy lives on through his contributions to the game.

Robert Byrne was born in New York City in 1928 and began playing chess at an early age. He was a prodigy, winning the New York State Championship at the age of 13. He went on to become one of the most accomplished chess players of his generation, including a record of 11-0 and 9.5-1.5 in tournaments. His ability to shine in tournaments was accompanied by a tireless work to promote the game of chess. He was a tireless advocate for chess in schools and communities, and his efforts helped to grow the popularity of the game.

Robert Byrne was also a chess journalist, and his work in this field was highly regarded. He was a regular contributor to the Chess Review, and his writing was known for its clarity and insight. His columns often included a combination of analysis and personal anecdotes, and his writing was widely read and appreciated.

In addition to his work as a chess journalist, Robert Byrne was also a prolific chess player. He competed in many tournaments throughout his career, and his results were consistently impressive. His ability to perform at a high level in tournaments was accompanied by a personal commitment to the game of chess. He was a tireless advocate for the game, and his efforts helped to grow the popularity of chess in schools and communities.

In recognition of his contributions to the game of chess, Robert Byrne was inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in 2014. His legacy lives on through his contributions to the game, and his influence on the chess community will be felt for many years to come.

Arthur Bisguier (1932-2010)  
U.S. Chess Hall of Fame

One of the most famous and enduring figures in chess history, Arthur Bisguier was a master of the game. His playing career spanned several decades, and he was a chess journalist and a prolific writer. His influence on the chess community was significant, and his legacy lives on through his contributions to the game.

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Larry Evans (1932-2002)  
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Anita Levin (1923-2016)  
The Chess Review

Anita Levin was a master of the game. Her playing career spanned several decades, and she was a chess journalist and a prolific writer. Her influence on the chess community was significant, and her legacy lives on through her contributions to the game.

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Adonis Reddick (1970-2016)  
The Saint Louis Chess Club

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Jacek Tomczak (1966-2016)  
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U.S. Chess Championships

BY ALEX ONISHCHUK
Grandmaster

The 2009 U.S. Chess Championship in Saint Louis started a new era in American chess, and the Saint Louis Chess Club continues to do its best for its members and make the U.S. Chess Championship one of the most satisfying events in the world. The Club hosts the U.S. Chess Championship each year, but it does a lot more than that. The Club organizes a lot of events for scholastic and junior players. It runs GM and IM norm tournaments, and it provides support for our national teams. All this activity has motivated many players, including myself, to work harder on our chess. The U.S. Championship has, as a result, become a much stronger event in just a few years.

I have played in all the U.S. Chess Championships in Saint Louis. The exceptional organization and fantastic atmosphere make the event very special. People travel to Saint Louis from every corner of America to watch the games, and it’s nice to see so many chess fans at the Chess Club. I always have friends that come to Saint Louis to support me during the U.S. Chess Championship. I also enjoy watching all the tournaments from Saint Louis. The students at Texas Tech follow all the major tournaments in Saint Louis on a big TV screen in my office.

In the past ten years I have spent so much time in Saint Louis that it feels like my second home. I have made thousands of chess moves at the Chess Club and I have walked every trail in Forest Park. One of my greatest memories in chess is our club’s hosting of the 2012 Chess Olympiad in Forest Park at the Saint Louis Chess Club’s headquarters.

I am very grateful to everyone who makes the U.S. Chess Championship and other events in Saint Louis so great, and I am looking forward to new tournaments at the Chess Club. Both as a player and a spectator.

U.S. Women’s Chess Championships

BY JENNIFER SMAHLE
Women Grandmaster, author, and commentator

In the stunning galleries of the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM), Anna Zatonskih buried her competitors in the Women’s Championship. Covered with a thick black scarf, Anna played her blindfold simultaneous exhibition, much to the delight of fans and fans, spellbound by the magnificent mental spectacle. The last man standing was tournament sponsor Rex Sinquefield, the president of the Saint Louis Chess Club. Rex resigned. Anna, after two hours, five victories, and zero losses could remove the scarf and see the light again.

The 2009 U.S. Women’s Chess Championship, at the time a stand-alone event, kicked off with a four-player round-robin with an almost traditional format, a serious challenge at CAM. In addition to Anna’s breathtaking strat, there was my own favorite, haji chess, glamour photos shows, and a group blindfold game.

The Women’s Championship was held for the first time in Saint Louis in 2009. Anna Zatonskih won the ten-player round- robin event with a magnificent 8-0-0, for a performance rating of 2545, the standard of a “Super Grandmaster.”

In 2010, the event returned to Saint Louis and Irina Krush nearly repeated Anna’s dominating performance, scoring 8-2-0 for a performance over 2400.

Starting in 2011, the tournament regulations were restructured with the U.S. Championship, an event that is open to all genders. 2011 was a special year for the U.S. Women’s Eight players were invited to play in a dramatic format that merged knockout style competition with round robin. Tanya Abrahamyan faced off against Irina Krush in the dramatic final, which went down to the wire, eventually ending with Irina Vanishing Championship.

In 2012, Anna won in a tight race, the results were spectacular. The results of the tournament were hotly debated. “I was losing and then she hung a rook.” The headlines are always劲ful and that was the most dramatic moment in any of them.” For the next three years, the Odessa born WGM Anna Zatonskih was crowned Women’s National Champion. This brings Krush a grand total of titles, and an incredible seven, with Irina holding the winner’s ceremonial clock four times in Saint Louis. She earned her very first at the age of 18 years old in Senior Girls and in Women’s National Championship.

Reflecting on a decade of top women’s chess in Saint Louis, Krush said, “It’s been wonderful to have such a stage for the U.S. Women’s Championship these past ten years in Saint Louis. The prestige of the event has grown dramatically with stronger players.”

2016 U.S. Women’s Championship

Over 1200 players competed in the 2016 U.S. Women’s Championships. 12-year-old Carissa Yip defeated the legendary Irina Krush in the 2016 U.S. Women’s Championship. In the broadcast booth, we knew that as strong and experienced our top two female players were, someone would eventually break Anna and Irina’s stranglehold, not only in one game, but for the whole Championship. In 2016, Nazi Paikidze, 22 at the time, prevailed in an inspiring performance. This was indeed a championship bout that inspired Irina Krush in the final round, and played a brilliant game with the black pieces. After realizing that she won her first U.S. Women’s Championship, Paikidze covered her face with red nails, but for the whole Championship. 12-year-old Carissa Yip defeated the legendary Irina Krush in the 2016 U.S. Women’s Championship. In the broadcast booth, we knew that as strong and experienced our top two female players were, someone would eventually break Anna and Irina’s stranglehold, not only in one game, but for the whole Championship. In 2016, Nazi Paikidze, 22 at the time, prevailed in an inspiring performance. This was indeed a championship bout that inspired Irina Krush in the final round, and played a brilliant game with the black pieces. After realizing that she won her first U.S. Women’s Championship, Paikidze covered her face with red nails, but for the whole Championship. 12-year-old Carissa Yip defeated the legendary Irina Krush in the 2016 U.S. Women’s Championship. In the broadcast booth, we knew that as strong and experienced our top two female players were, someone would eventually break Anna and Irina’s stranglehold, not only in one game, but for the whole Championship. In 2016, Nazi Paikidze, 22 at the time, prevailed in an inspiring performance. This was indeed a championship bout that inspired Irina Krush in the final round, and played a brilliant game with the black pieces. After realizing that she won her first U.S. Women’s Championship, Paikidze covered her face with red nails, but for the whole Championship. 12-year-old Carissa Yip defeated the legendary Irina Krush in the 2016 U.S. Women’s Championship. In the broadcast booth, we knew that as strong and experienced our top two female players were, someone would eventually break Anna and Irina’s stranglehold, not only in one game, but for the whole Championship. In 2016, Nazi Paikidze, 22 at the time, prevailed in an inspiring performance. This was indeed a championship bout that inspired Irina Krush in the final round, and played a brilliant game with the black pieces. After realizing that she won her first U.S. Women’s Championship, Paikidze covered her face with red nails, but for the whole Championship. 12-year-old Carissa Yip defeated the legendary Irina Krush in the 2016 U.S. Women’s Championship.
The U.S. Junior Chess Championship has long been one of the most exciting chess events in the country. The invite-only tournament has served as a platform for young and ambitious juniors to display their prowess while fighting for the coveted title of U.S. Junior Champion. A strong performance in this tournament is a good indicator of future success, as many past winners went on to become Grandmasters. As many past winners went on to become Grandmasters. Even the great Bobby Fischer tested his mettle in this tournament, winning in 1956 with a score of 8.5/10. The evolution of this tournament over the years has been fascinating to follow, and something I’d like to take a closer look at.

For many years the U.S. Junior Championship led a nomadic life, as each year the city and venue changed. Enterprising local organizers did their best to seek sponsorship and organize a professionally conducted tournament. As the STLCU grew greatly on the success of the previous organizers and worked hard to elevate the Championship profile. The tournament also benefited from the meteoric rise of the chess vibe in Saint Louis. At its new home, the Junior Championship acquired the publicity and marquee status that was not always visible earlier.

In talking with GM Varuhan Akobian, who won the 2002 edition, he related to me how the conditions have changed since he played in the U.S. Junior. “It has much more prestigious and the tournament has a greater prize fund,” he said, and he laughed as he tried to recall whether there were even monetary prizes when he won the tournament! In addition to the much improved prize fund, the publicity and playing conditions of the Junior Championship have never been better. The games are now played on stylish wooden electronic boards and are broadcast online.

There is a live commentary team at the Club’s studio that covers the tournament and post-game interviews. But to me, the greatest reward of winning the U.S. Junior is earning an automatic qualification to the U.S. Championship, a tournament that was added during the Championship’s tenures at the Club. From the U.S. Junior event in 2015 in my very first appearance and had the honor of participating in the 2015 U.S. Junior Championship. Saint Louis, as the nation’s chess capital, has become the proving grounds for future top chess players, and it is only fitting that the U.S. Junior Championship found its permanent residence here.

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In 2013, Annie Wang broke Irima Kruiss’s record for the young- est female chess master in history. Annie was 11, and as The New Times pointed out, she broke a record older than she was. Less than a year later, Carissa Yip broke the same record. On the international stage, and in the same year, Jennifer Yu became the first American girl to win gold at a World Youth Championship since 1987. Do you sense a pattern? The top girls in American chess are becoming stronger with no sign of slowing down.

Many all-girls tournament helped to foster this incredible new generation of female talent. Among them: the National Girls Tournament of Champions, the All-Girls Nationals, and the Susan Polgar Girls’ Invitational. All-girl events may be controversial, but their track record in the U.S., as well as the social benefits, are indisputable.

A crown is in the new fast of formidable girls’ championships in the U.S. Girls’ Junior Championship, founded in 1949 in New York. Then, U.S. Chess President Ruth Haring said, “The int Junior Girls Closed is even stronger than U.S. Women’s Championships in the 70s and early 80s.”

Emily Nguyen took clear first with 6.5/9. To New Hampshire, where Emily Nguyen took clear first with 6.5/9. The biggest prize of all was a ticket to the 2018 U.S. Women’s Championship. Emily Nguyen was thrilled to see her nearest rival. She agreed with Emily about the location. “In my opinion, the Saint Louis Chess Club is the best place to have a chess tournament. The chess club has a unique atmosphere and I loved playing conditions and I loved it. The only other thing I wish is that the Saint Louis Chess Club has a more permanent abode at STLCC. The last edition of the U.S. Junior before it transi...