

# International

## Saint Louis Chess Campus



NICK DUNAEVSKY, OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF WORLD CHESS

# Fabi Wins!

For the first time since 1972, an American contends for the undisputed World Chess Championship

**BY MAURICE ASHLEY**  
Grandmaster, author, and  
commentator

American chess fans everywhere are cheering in the streets as their countryman Fabiano Caruana overcame the game's elite Grandmasters to win the recently concluded Candidates tournament in Berlin, Germany. In doing so he qualified to play World Champion Magnus Carlsen for his title in November 2018. It is the first time an American will compete for the crown in over two decades with the last victory for the United States coming in 1972 when Bobby Fischer

won an epic match against the Russian Boris Spassky in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Caruana, 25, who was born in Miami, raised in Park Slope, Brooklyn, and currently resides in Saint Louis, Missouri, had to recover from a potentially devastating loss in round 12 of the marathon 14-round event that took 18 days to complete. After a rest day to collect his nerves, the new challenger bounced back with two dominating victories to seal his place in history.

Asked how he got over the difficult loss, Caruana replied, "we watched a movie which was nice, because for

two hours I could just forget about chess, which is what I needed. *The Shape of Water*, which was excellent."

Caruana, who became a Grandmaster just shy of his 15th birthday, rose to prominence when he won the prestigious Sinquefeld Cup in 2014 with a performance that is hailed as one of the greatest individual results in the history of the sport. His perfect 7-0 start, which included a victory against the World Champion, catapulted him into the limelight with chess pundits predicting that he was clearly the rightful next challenger to the throne. However, in

2016 at the last Candidates match held in Moscow, he was dealt a crushing blow in the final round, killing all his hopes of winning the event. Two years later, he now sits atop all his rivals for a shot at the title.

"I know he deserves it," said his mother, Santina Caruana. "It was too stressful for me to follow the event, so I just didn't watch. I only found out yesterday that he was leading and for some reason we thought he had won. We had to suffer one more day, but he did it. My heart is pounding."

"He runs the show," added his father, Lou. "A long while

ago he asked for more and more control of his career, and now he is the boss. He has been on a long journey and it has paid off."

The family decided to relocate to Europe when young Fabiano was twelve so that he could play on the more competitive European circuit. He competed under his mother's Italian flag until 2015, when he decided to switch back to playing for his home country. He became U.S. Champion in 2016 and played 1st board for the U.S. team that won the Chess Olympiad later that year in Baku, Azerbaijan. This was the first

gold medal victory for an American team in 76 years. Now he will represent the U.S. as he fights for the title of the best chess player on the planet.

"We always knew we would come back," said Santina, "to win it for the U.S. It's just right to do it back home."

*Originally published on St. Louis Public Radio, March 2018*

## Universal Rating System™ Opens Doors for Global Chess

BY **GRAHAM JURGENSEN**  
Technical Director,  
Grand Chess Tour

January 2, 2017 may well prove to be a landmark day in chess history as it marked the launch date of the new Universal Rating System (URS™). This exciting new system is expected to make it much easier for chess players across the world to achieve an international chess rating.

Development of the new rating system was co-funded by the Saint Louis Chess Club and the Kasparov Chess Foundation. Its launch follows more than two years of research. The URS™ has already had a major impact on many of the world's top players as the January 2017 rating list heavily impacted the selection of the 2017 Grand Chess Tour wild cards.

The launch of the URS™ system represents a quantum leap in the way that chess ratings are calculated and is a completely new approach compared to the historical systems that have been in use since the late 1960s. It introduces the concept of a universal chess rating which is calculated by considering a player's results across all time controls.

The system recognizes that there is useful information about a player's strength in all games regardless of the time limit. As the speed of play increases, less importance is allocated to the game results while older games are also given less importance than more recent ones. All games played within the last six years are taken into account but players' ratings are simultaneously reassessed whenever a new rating list is generated. In this way, the

new ratings are always self-consistent and do not depend on any prior rating list.

The first URS™ rating list was published on January 1, and was accompanied by the launch of an official website, which explains the new methodology in detail.

The rating algorithm was designed and developed by a research team which consisted of Maxime Rischard, J. Isaac Miller, Mark Glickman, and Jeff Sonas. This team conducted extensive testing before finalizing the rating algorithm and found that the URS™ consistently predicted game results better than the existing ELO system used by the World Chess Federation. The superior results were observed "on a consistent basis, from year to year, and across all three rating categories."



Another major draw-card of the URS™ rating system is that it will be free to use for any local organizers or chess federations that wish to make use of it. This is expected to be a major attraction as it will allow scholastic players and locally based

amateur players to quickly achieve a URS™ rating by simply playing in their local events.

*Originally published on St. Louis Public Radio, February 2017*

## Saint Louis, the Chess Olympiad, and World Team Championships



BY **JOHN DONALDSON**  
International Master and  
Chess Historian

Aside from the World Championship, no event is more important in the chess world than is the biannual Chess Olympiad. Held since 1927, this tournament now attract over 170 countries from around the world, with close to 1500 competitors competing in Open and Womens sections. On off years FIDE (*Fédération Internationale des Échecs*), the governing body for international chess, holds the World Team Championship where the top ten teams in the world compete against each other in an all-play-all format.

Since its founding in 2008, the Saint Louis Chess Club has played an important role in sending American teams to both of these competitions, held in a variety of locations from Tromsø, Norway, to Ningbo, China. The Saint Louis Chess Club has not only been a sponsor alongside US Chess and the Kasparov Chess Federation; it has hosted training camps and sent coaches to both the Olympiad and the World Team.

In a few cases the Saint Louis Chess Club has been the difference between the United States sending a team or staying home. With no other sponsors available, it stepped in at the last moment and flew Hikaru Nakamura, Alex Onischuk, Yury Shulman, Varuzhan Akobian,

Ray Robson, and Robert Hess to Bursa, Turkey, where they finished second in the 2009 World Team Championship. Nakamura and Onischuk led the way, winning individual gold on Boards One and Two.

A similar situation occurred in 2013 when the United States needed to qualify to compete in the World Team Championship. This required winning the Pan American Team Championship, an event the United States had never competed in. No money had been budgeted for it, but once again the Saint Louis Chess Club stepped in and provided the funding. It proved to be a good investment.

The team won the event held in Campinas, Brazil, ahead of top-seeded Cuba, even without the services of Hikaru Nakamura and Gata Kamsky, the top-two rated American players at the time. This led to the United States playing in the 2013 World Team Championship in Antalya, Turkey, where they finished fourth, just half a point from the bronze medals, and where they defeated the first place Russian team 3-1, thanks to wins by Hikaru Nakamura (over Vladimir Kramnik) and Ray Robson (over Nikita Vitiugov).

The United States team of Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, Sam Shankland, and Ray Robson finished first for the first time in forty years at the 2016 Chess Olympiad held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The team was once

again sponsored by US Chess, the Kasparov Chess Foundation, and the Saint Louis Chess Club. This backing was quite different from that of fellow contenders Russia, China, and Azerbaijan, all of whom were funded by their national governments.

The United States will attempt to repeat as Olympiad Champions this September in Batumi, Georgia. This feat, accomplished only once (Armenia in 2006 and 2008) this century, will not be easy, but the Saint Louis Chess Club will be helping the American players to do their best.

Clockwise from top left, Closing Ceremony at the 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan, Chess Olympiad; GM Aleksandr Lenderman, GM Hikaru Nakamura, IM John Donaldson, GM Sam Shankland, GM Ray Robson, GM Wesley So, GM Fabiano Caruana at the Closing Ceremony of the 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan, Chess Olympiad; Opening Ceremony at the 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan, Chess Olympiad



PHOTOS CHESS.COM/MIKE KLEIN

## GRAND CHESS TOUR

BY **GRAHAM JURGENSEN**  
Technical Director,  
Grand Chess Tour

When the first edition of the Sinquefield Cup was held in September 2013, it featured just four players. At the time, no one could have predicted the chain of events that would ultimately result in the creation of the Grand Chess Tour!

By 2014, the tournament had already expanded to 6 players and it was suddenly the strongest tournament in the history of chess! Boasting a total prize fund of over \$300,000, the 2014 Sinquefield Cup saw a truly historic performance. GM Fabiano Caruana recorded an incredible run of seven straight wins on his way to securing the highest tournament performance rating in the history of chess!

The success of the 2014 tournament catapulted the city of Saint Louis to the center of global chess. The Saint Louis Chess Club was quickly recognized as a key institution and it deservedly served as the host venue for the official launch of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) in April 2015.

The first leg of the Tour took place early the following year and the annual Sinquefield Cup has been a cornerstone of the Tour ever since. GCT events have been held in locations as diverse as Stavanger, Paris, Leuven, and London, and the Tour has spectacularly achieved its primary purpose of providing more opportunities for elite players. The Tour has also attracted corporate sponsors like Vivendi, Canal+, and Colliers International as well as non-profit organisations such as "Your Next Move" in Belgium.

By involving Spectrum Studio's and employing only the best commentators in the world, the Tour has opened doors for both Internet and TV broadcasting. It has also introduced the concept of Pro-Am events, and there are always Tour events involving school children. With simultaneous exhibitions and photograph sessions, the world's

top players can share their experience and inspire the children to play and study chess.

The GCT prize pool has grown over the years and the participants now compete annually for a prize pool worth more than \$1 million. World Champion Magnus Carlsen was the deserving winner of the inaugural Tour in 2015 while GM Wesley So dominated the 2016 Sinquefield Cup on his way to securing overall victory in the 2016 Tour.

Magnus was back on the Tour in 2017 and narrowly edged out GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and GM Levon Aronian for overall honors. The 2017 Tour events in Saint Louis were especially memorable for other players and other reasons.

GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave secured what he considers to be the highlight of his career when he captured the 2017 Sinquefield Cup! He was followed to the winner's circle by GM Levon Aronian, who became the only player to secure two GCT Tour titles in Saint Louis, adding the 2017 Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz title to his previous triumph at the 2015 Sinquefield Cup.

Perhaps the greatest highlight in 2017 was the historic return to competitive chess of the legendary 13th World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov. Garry came out of retirement after an absence of 12 years to bravely fight against the best players of the modern game. He did this to promote the Grand Chess Tour, and millions of his worldwide fans found themselves captivated by every move and grimace as he battled over the board.

These incredible memories have all been created through the generosity of Dr. Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield who have been instrumental in founding and maintaining the direction of the Tour from the outset. They have gifted the chess world with many memorable moments as part of the chess legacy that they are still in the process of creating.



SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB/AUSTIN FULLER



SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB/LENNART GOTES

From top to bottom, 2017 Sinquefield Cup Winner Maxime Vachier-Lagrave; John Urschel challenges Rachel Lee during the 2017 Ultimate Moves Match.



## A Curator's Perspective: GRAND CHESS TOUR Art of Chess 2017

**BY EMILY ALLRED**  
Associate Curator,  
World Chess Hall of Fame

*Grand Chess Tour: Art of Chess 2017* is the World Chess Hall of Fame's (WCHOF) first traveling exhibition, created to accompany each of the stops on this year's Grand Chess Tour. Staging a show to accompany this elite circuit of chess competitions was a natural choice for us. Since 2013, the WCHOF has created mini-exhibitions of artifacts and photography during the Sinquefield Cup at our sister organization, the Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC), Kingside Diner, and the WCHOF itself.

For *Grand Chess Tour: Art of Chess 2017*, I had the great fortune to be part of a four-person team that traveled from June 19 to July 4 to install the exhibition at the Château d'Asnières in France and Leuven Town Hall in Belgium during the first two Grand Chess Tour events: Paris Grand Chess Tour and Your Next Move Grand Chess Tour. This team also included our Senior Gallery Attendant, Jesse Nenninger; our Exhibitions Manager, Nick Schleicher; and the newest member of our full-time staff, our Registrar, Nicole Tessmer.

As Assistant Curator, my role before the exhibition traveled was to assist in the selection of artifacts and artworks to display as well as developing label text in English, French, and Dutch for each of the pieces on view. However, during the trip to Paris and Leuven, I also got to help out with assembling displays and installing artwork and artifacts.

My favorite of these "other duties as assigned" was being a gallery attendant in our temporary exhibition spaces, which allowed me to inform about our institution and artifacts with visitors. Each of the pieces included in *Grand Chess Tour: Art of Chess 2017* has been displayed in Saint Louis as part of a past or current exhibition or installation. For most of our European visitors, it was their first opportunity to see historic treasures like Bobby Fischer's Red Book from the collection of Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield or the silver service presented to Paul Morphy for his victory in the 1857 American Chess Congress.

It was such a pleasure to talk to our visitors at each of the tournament venues and hear new perspectives on artifacts that we are so familiar with as

well as their own stories about their connections to the game. Two of my favorite visitors were a woman and her five-year-old son who visited two days during the Leuven installation. She said that not only had her son taught himself to play chess, but he had also taught her! His favorite piece in the show was well-liked among many of our youngest visitors—the simple *Asterix* and *Caesar's Gift* chess set. Borrowed from our 2017 exhibition *POW! Capturing Superheroes, Chess & Comics*.

It was also very exciting to see our artifacts exhibited in new venues. In Asnières-sur-Seine, we set up the exhibition in the Château d'Asnières, a castle built from 1750–1752 and recently restored. The beautiful castle served not only as the setting for our exhibition but also hosted a number of other activities for people watching video of the Paris Grand Chess Tour. One of these was a youth chess tournament that took place on the lawn outside.

The second venue, Leuven Town Hall, was also historic. Restored following damage during World Wars I and II, the Town Hall was originally constructed in the 15th century. The facade was changed during the 19th century to add sculptures of prominent local citizens, which the city's tourism website refers to as its "hall of fame."

When we visited the M-Museum in Leuven, we learned that the town hall had once hosted a collection of artifacts related to local history that later evolved into the museum. It was interesting to learn that we were far from the first to present an exhibition there. In Leuven, we shared space with spectators listening to commentary by Grandmasters Maurice Ashley and Nigel Short and the tournament itself took place upstairs.

Of course, the World Chess Hall of Fame team also spent time seeing historic sites and museums when we were not working. While visiting the Musée National Gustave Moreau, we even noticed a chess set! Can you guess what we spotted about the setup of the set? Members of the World Chess Hall of Fame staff will travel again later this year to present the exhibition during the London Chess Classic, but we will first be setting it up again in Saint Louis for the Sinquefield Cup and the Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz.

## WCHOF Exhibits in Europe on Grand Chess Tour: A Trip of Firsts

**BY NICK SCHLEICHER**  
Exhibitions Manager,  
World Chess Hall of Fame

The *Grand Chess Tour: Art of Chess 2017* traveling exhibition was the first overseas traveling exhibition for the World Chess Hall of Fame as well as my first time traveling abroad. With stops in Paris, France, and Leuven, Belgium, this trip was filled with many new and exciting learning experiences!

When traveling an exhibition to a non-museum location, the Exhibitions Manager has many considerations that need to be addressed beyond the choice of artifacts for display. What displays, for example, will house the artifacts? What are the display location conditions and accessibility to the building when delivering large crates? What is the usable display space in the exhibition and can it accommodate our displays? What tools will we need to bring in the event of any unexpected problems? Can the location store our empty crates during the life of the exhibition without intruding on public space?

## Chess Collection Goes on the Road

**BY NICOLE TESSMER**  
Registrar,  
World Chess Hall of Fame

I was both nervous and excited as I arrived in Paris for the first time in ten years. I had just stepped into the position of Registrar a few months prior, and this was the first time I would be traveling for work.

Early the next day we headed to the Château d'Asnières where the exhibition would take place. Once the truck with our artwork arrived, we were ready to get started. We spent the next several hours getting ready for the World Chess Hall of Fame's (WCHOF) first international exhibition.

The first things I noticed was how warm the Château was. Paris was unusually hot and humid for that time of year, thoroughly reminiscent of Saint Louis in the summer. As the temperature continued to climb throughout the day, my concern for the artifacts grew. I carefully monitored the temperature and humidity within the vitrines. To my amazement, I was able to create a stable microclimate within the vitrines over the next few hours, putting my mind at ease.

The next stop on the Grand Chess Tour was Leuven, Belgium, a quiet, little college town. This was a welcome change of pace from the non-stop action of Paris, and I was eager to get started installing the show in a new location.

We decided to set up a smaller version for the simul that would take place with grandmasters and the local

I sourced some incredible traveling display cases through Gaylord Archival for this exhibition. These display cases come unassembled with assembly taking roughly 10–15 minutes per case. Once each exhibition concludes, the cases can then be fully disassembled for flat storage and shipping, including the UV protective plexiglas bonnets! This saved a lot of shipping space for the six additional crates we had containing the artifacts and tools. We only needed one truck when transporting the crates from location to location.

While in the exhibition spaces, I was able to create a simple 3D rendering of each space using SketchUp, so we will have greater ability to plan the layout of each exhibition before our return visits. This further reduces the chances of any issues arising during installation.

With these hurdles behind us, we put ourselves in a very comfortable position to take on any installation challenges that come our way while traveling future exhibitions abroad!

## Building an Exhibit: Experiences Traveling a Chess Exhibition

**BY JESSE NENNINGER**  
Senior Gallery Attendant,  
World Chess Hall of Fame

From June 20th to July 4th, 2017, I was honored to help with the first international pop-up exhibit by the World Chess Hall of Fame. I was excited for the opportunity to work in two amazing places. The Château d'Asnières in Paris, France, and The Leuven Stadhuis in Leuven, Belgium.

I assisted the Exhibition Manager in preparation for this trip by helping to determine what tools, and supplies would be needed, and ensuring that all the needed supplies would be on hand. We had to anticipate for the unpacking of artifacts, the

The French Federation had many events on the grounds of the Château that drew people in and added a celebratory feeling to the event. On Saturday, there was a children's tournament which had 200 participants playing on top of boxes outside the building. The children visited the exhibit between rounds and seemed particularly interested in the *Asterix* set, which was currently featured in the *POW! Capturing Superheroes, Chess & Comics* show at the World Chess Hall of Fame. There were also two French national tournaments on Sunday, in addition to the Grand Chess Tour: the Women's Cup, and the French Cup.



PHOTOS WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/LENNART OOTES

assembly of the displays, as well as any other issues that may arise. Since we were working in a foreign country, it was vital to have these supplies, so we made sure that we had many redundancies. As things turned out, none of those redundancies were needed.

Because the facilities themselves just as much artifacts as the pieces we brought, mindfulness was an absolute necessity as we walked the cases and artifacts into the space. In both facilities, we were fortunate enough to easily store our crates inside, but on one occasion our lack of proficiency in spoken French nearly cost us! We interrupted a group of French Chess Federation staff who were carrying supplies out of the Château at the same time we were moving a crate inside. None of us were able to explain what we were planning to do, outside of gesturing at each other and around the room which created some confusion. That, fortunately, was only time the language barrier was a problem during this exhibit.

After the tournament was over in Leuven, we began to take the exhibit down and crate all the supplies and artifacts. I was proud to have been a part of a successful pop-up exhibit, and proud to be connected with the Grand Chess Tour. While there, I enjoyed making connections with the many visitors. Some were familiar with the World Chess Hall of Fame but had not been able to visit, while others were just being introduced to the Museum for the first time. For me, it was a very gratifying experience.

Blogs originally published on [worldchesshof.org](http://worldchesshof.org), July 2017.



Opposite, from top to bottom: Exhibition team—from left to right: Nicole Tessmer, Emily Allred, Jesse Nenninger, and Nick Schleicher—at the Château d'Asnières, Paris, 2017; Jesse Nenninger, and Nick Schleicher pose with garden-size chess pieces at the Château d'Asnières, Paris, 2017.

● Ball, Black, & Co. and Eoff & Sheppard, *Paul Morphy Silver Service*, 1857. Collection of the U.S. Chess Trust

● Leuven Town Hall exhibit space, 2017.

● Naylor Brothers, *Hamilton-Russell Cup*, 1927. Collection of the *Fédération Internationale des Échecs*

● Château d'Asnières exhibit space, 2017.

● Olympia, London exhibition space, 2017.

● Emil Pott, Manufactured by Tiffany & Co., *Tiffany & Co. Silver Chess Set and Board*, c 1970s. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Bernice and Floyd Sarisohn



PHOTOS WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/LENNART OOTES

# Why Fortune 500 Companies Should (and Do) Support Chess In Saint Louis

**BY LAUREN STEWART**  
Development Manager,  
Saint Louis Chess Campus

dreams to our city's most valuable resource, our students.

It turns out that Saint Louis' philanthropic game is strong. Companies understand the value of investing now for a better future, and the Chess Club's Fortune 500 supporters continue to grow. Ameren, Edward Jones, Emerson, Graybar, and the Monsanto Fund are among this growing list of sponsors.

Implementing chess in classrooms throughout the city of Saint Louis has given educators a holistic way of teaching while inspiring cognitive thinking, teaching patience and sportsmanship. All these traits are highly valued by Fortune 500 companies. Investing in our future leaders has long-term benefits for both students and companies, on and off the board. Together the Saint Louis Chess Club and our supporters are building a better future for our beloved city!



Community Day Event at Koch Elementary.

SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB/AUSTIN FULLER

# THE WORLD IS WATCHING: Saint Louis Chess Club Dominates YouTube



SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB/ERIC ROSEN

**BY BRIAN FLOWERS**  
Marketing Communications  
Coordinator, World Chess  
Hall of Fame

from celebrated Grandmasters and colleagues, the STLCC boasts the best chess tournament coverage around the globe. Fan-favorite commentators like GM Yasser Seirawan, WGM Jennifer Shahade, and GM Maurice Ashley keeping viewers on the edge of their seats, move by move and play by play.

Following the STLCC coverage of the 2018 Candidates Tournament, YouTube user @bwgole commented: "This [channel] is easily the best out there for chess. Analysis on all the moves, looked at other elements of the tournament. Interviews with key chess figures. This is the gold standard..."

The reach and impact of the STLCC's tournament broadcasts have penetrated audiences in all corners of the world. Coverage of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT), a circuit of international

events including the Sinquefield Cup and Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz, is a testament of how this channel engages the masses. In fact, GCT live views alone jumped to 2.6 million in 2017—almost triple the number from the previous year.

In a world where YouTube is available, quite literally, at our fingertips, whether in the privacy of our homes or on the bus to work, the Saint Louis Chess Club helps keep us connected to chess. All we have to do is press play.

## Saint Louis Chess Club Media Impressions

**2009**  
• 2009 U.S. Championships: 3,200,000

**2010**  
• 2010 U.S. Women's & Junior Closed Championships: 24,626,802  
• 2010 U.S. Chess Championship: approx. 12M

**2011**  
• 2011 U.S. & U.S. Women's Championships: 44,000,000  
• 2011 Junior Closed Championships: 4,066,058

**2014**  
• 2014 U.S. & U.S. Women's Championships: 152,092,967  
• 2014 Senate Resolution: 45,371,073  
• 2014 Chess Caucus: 31,793,978  
• 2014 Junior Closed Championship: 2,681,851  
• 2014 Congressional Tournament: 36,697,563  
• 2014 Sinquefield Cup: 607,264,019

**2015**  
• 2015 U.S. & U.S. Women's Championships: 594,719,707  
• 2015 Grand Chess Tour: 195,066,040  
• 2015 Fabiano Caruana Federation Change: 99,775,155  
• 2015 Junior Closed Championship: 39,054,862  
• 2015 Sinquefield Cup: 633,012,091  
• 2015 Ascension Partnership: 144,489,255

**2016**  
• 2016 U.S. & U.S. Women's Championships: 1,125,411,657  
• 2016 Junior Closed Championship: 57,112,084  
• 2016 Sinquefield Cup: 668,372,255  
• 2016 Other Coverage: 10,529,781

**2017**  
• 2017 U.S. & U.S. Women's Championships: 1,031,731,246  
• 2017 Junior Closed Championship: 174,897,450  
• 2017 Sinquefield Cup: 1,000,940,691  
• 2017 Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz: 1,071,754,896  
• 2017 Other Coverage: 222,813,087

# Awards & Accolades, Facts & Figures 2007-2018



SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB/AUSTIN FULLER

The Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC) was founded in 2007 and opened its doors in July of 2008. It is a not-for-profit organization that is committed to promoting the game of chess both locally and nationally, with a specific focus on bringing the benefits of chess to Saint Louis area schoolchildren.

On Monday, May 5, 2014, the United States Senate passed a resolution that officially recognizes Saint Louis as the Chess Capital of the United States.

Located in the historic Central West End District of Saint Louis, the STLCC is a three-level, 6,000-square-foot community center featuring a classroom, library and world-class tournament playing hall.

The Chess Club is widely recognized as the premier chess facility in the nation and one of the best in the world.

The Chess Club has established a partnership with the Kasparov Chess Foundation to seek out the top young chess players in the country and offer them intensive instruction.

The Chess Club's scholastic outreach brings chess to thousands of students in more than 100 different classrooms and community centers across the greater Saint Louis area.

The Chess Club is open 7 days per week, 12 hours per day and offers kids classes, adult beginner classes and intermediate classes free for members on a weekly basis.

The Chess Club currently boasts more than 1,000 active members and has more than 100 tournaments on the schedule for 2018.

Membership is remarkably affordable at just \$10/month or \$50/year for students and \$15/month or \$100/year for adults. Family memberships are just \$150/year.

Saint Louis has hosted the U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship each of the past 10 years (2009-2018) and the U.S. Junior Championship (2010-2018). These are the three most prestigious, invite-only chess tournaments in the United States. The U.S. Girls' Junior Championship was hosted in Saint Louis for the first time in 2017, and will return in July 2018.

In addition to the Chess Club's affordable student rates, it offers summer camps, field trips, private lessons, and free classes in an effort to make the game accessible to all students.

The Chess Club always has a full-time Resident Grandmaster on staff. This rotation of the country's top players is an invaluable resource for our members. These top players give private lessons and present special lectures, free for members, multiple times per week. They also present a free kids' class on Sundays. No other chess club in the U.S. has a full-time Resident Grandmaster.



SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB/LENNART OOTES

From top to bottom, Round 1 of the 2017 Sinquefield Cup; Rachel Lee at the 2017 Ultimate Moves Match.

Finally, the United States Chess Federation (US Chess) has recognized both the Chess Club and the city for their extraordinary accomplishments with the following awards:

In 2009 and 2011, US Chess awarded Saint Louis the title of "Chess City of the Year."

In 2010, the STLCC was named "Chess Club of the Year."

In 2009 and 2010, Executive Director Tony Rich won "Organizer of the Year." The 2014 award was given to the STLCC, as a whole.

From 2009-2013, and once again in 2016, Club founder Rex Sinquefield has won the George Koltanowski Award, given to the person who does the most to further chess in the U.S. each year.

In 2012 and 2013, club founder Jeanne Sinquefield also was awarded the George Koltanowski Award for her work in establishing the Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge for Chess.



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