

WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME



ABOUT US

The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) is a nonprofit, collecting institution situated in the heart of Saint Louis. The WCHOF is the only institution of its kind and offers a variety of programming to explore the dynamic relationship between art and chess, including educational outreach initiatives that provide context and meaning to the game and its continued cultural impact.

Saint Louis has quickly become a national and international chess destination. The success of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis and the opening of the World Chess Hall of Fame brought international attention to the city of Saint Louis. The WCHOF is home to both the U.S. and World Halls of Fame, but its scope is not limited to the chess enthusiast. The World Chess Hall of Fame is an arts-based institution that presents innovative exhibitions of artistic and historical significance from nationally and internationally recognized artists and collectors.

Additionally, the World Chess Hall of Fame offers interpretive programs that provide unique and exciting ways to experience art, history, science, and sport through chess. Since its inception, chess has challenged artists and craftsmen to interpret the game through a variety of mediums resulting in chess sets of exceptional artistic skill and creativity. The WCHOF seeks to present the work of these craftsmen and artists while educating visitors about the game itself.

By enhancing public understanding and appreciation of art, history, science, and chess, the WCHOF will offer a unique experience while advancing the knowledge of the game. Our goal is to expand the cultural and intellectual opportunities in Saint Louis.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the World Chess Hall of Fame is to educate visitors, fans, players, and scholars by collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting the game of chess and its continuing cultural and artistic significance.

THE HALL OF FAME

The World Chess Hall of Fame is home to both the World and U.S. Halls of Fame. Located on the third floor of the WCHOF, the Hall of Fame honors World and U.S. inductees with a plaque listing their contributions to the game of chess and features rotating exhibitions from the permanent collection. The collection, including the Paul Morphy silver set, an early prototype of the Chess Challenger, and Bobby Fischer memorabilia, is dedicated to the history of chess and the accomplishments of the Hall of Fame inductees. As of May 2013, there are 19 members of the World Hall of Fame and 52 members of the U.S. Hall of Fame.

WORLD HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2013 Elizaveta Bykova Mikhail Chigorin Nona Gaprindashvili	2008 Siegbert Tarrasch	2003 Mikhail Botvinnik Tigran Petrosian Vasily Smyslov Boris Spassky Mikhail Tal	2001 Jose Capablanca Robert Fischer Emanuel Lasker Paul Morphy Wilhelm Steinitz
2011 Vera Menchik	2005 Garry Kasparov	2004 Alexander Alekhine Machgielis Euwe Anatoly Karpov	

U.S. HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2013 Gregory Kaidanov Mona May Karff	2007 Irving Chernev Jeremy Gaige	1997 Kenneth Harkness	1990 Hans Berliner
2012 Alex Yermolinsky	2006 Yasser Seirawan	1996 Fred Reinfeld	1989 Al Horowitz
2011 Boris Gulko Andrew Soltis	2004 Anatoly Lein Leonid Shamkovich	1995 Edmund Edmondson Jr.	1988 Arpad Elo Hermann Helms
2010 Diane Savereide Jackson Showalter Herman Steiner	2003 Lev Alburt Walter Browne Donald Byrne	1994 Arthur Bisguier Robert Byrne Larry Evans	1987 Sam Loyd Wilhelm Steinitz
2009 John Fedorowicz Burt Hochberg	2001 Lubomir Kavalek	1993 Pal Benko Victor Palciauskas	1986 Reuben Fine Robert Fischer Isaac Kashdan George Koltanowski Frank Marshall Paul Morphy Harry Pillsbury Samuel Reshevsky
2008 Joel Benjamin Larry Christiansen Nick de Firmian	2000 Edmar Mednis	1992 Arnold Denker Gisela Gresser George MacKenzie	
	1999 Benjamin Franklin	1991 John Collins Arthur Duke	
	1998 Milan Vukceвич		



OUR HISTORY

The World Chess Hall of Fame was created in 1986 by the United States Chess Federation. Originally known as the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame, the small museum opened in 1988 in the basement of the Federation's then headquarters in New Windsor, New York, and contained a modest collection including a book of chess openings signed by Bobby Fischer, the Paul Morphy silver set, and cardboard plaques honoring past grandmasters. In 1992, the U.S. Chess Trust purchased the museum and moved its contents to Washington D.C. From 1992 to 2001, the collection grew to include the World Chess Championship trophy won by the U.S. team in 1993, numerous chess sets and boards, and the U.S. and World Hall of Fame inductee plaques.

In 2001, the institution moved into a new, multi-million dollar facility at the Excalibur Electronics headquarters in Miami, Florida, and was renamed the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum. The Museum continued collecting chess sets, books, tournament memorabilia, advertisements, photographs, furniture, medals, trophies, and journals until it closed in 2009.

Due to the vibrancy of Saint Louis and the success and growing international reputation of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, it was then proposed that the contents of the Miami institution be moved to Saint Louis. Realizing the potential to provide area youth with a vital educational resource, Jeanne and Rex Sinquefeld provided seed funding to relocate the institution to Saint Louis.

The World Chess Hall of Fame opened September 9, 2011, in Saint Louis' bustling Central West End neighborhood, directly across the street from the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. The World Chess Hall of Fame is housed in a former historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned business and features the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame, displays of artifacts from the permanent collection, and temporary exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games, and rich cultural history of chess. The WCHOF partners with the Chess Club and Scholastic Center to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national, and international audiences.

HISTORY OF CHESS IN SAINT LOUIS

The success of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis and the opening of the World Chess Hall of Fame have received international attention from the chess community, making Saint Louis the premiere chess destination worldwide. In fact, the U.S. Chess Federation named Saint Louis "Chess City of the Year" in 2009 and 2011. The city of Saint Louis, however, is not without a lengthy chess heritage.

In 1886, Saint Louis hosted a segment of the first World Chess Championship, which culminated with Wilhelm Steinitz defeating Johannes Zuckertort to become the first world champion. Benjamin Foster, a Saint Louis resident and the editor of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* chess column, published *Chancellor Chess: or the New Game of Chess* three years later in 1889. His book introduced a chess piece called a "chancellor" and an additional pawn to an enlarged board. Although his proposal was ultimately rebuffed, it nonetheless received considerable attention from the chess community.

The 1904 World's Fair drew national and international visitors to Saint Louis. It also served as an occasion to hold the Seventh Annual Chess Congress in the city. Frank J. Marshall, founder of the Marshall Chess Club in New York City, was named tournament champion. Saint Louis resident and founder of the St. Louis Chess Club, Max Judd, was awarded second prize.

Another Saint Louis chess notable was Mrs. Eveline Allen Burgess, named Woman's Champion of the United States in 1907. Samuel Burgess, husband of Eveline, was also actively involved in the local chess community. He served as the vice president and later president of the St. Louis Chess Club, of which Eveline was an honorary member. Eveline was also an active member of the West End Chess Club while Samuel served as its president.

From the 1940s through the 1970s, Robert Steinmeyer was Missouri's premiere chess talent, consistently winning the St. Louis District Championship. During that time, Saint Louis repeatedly drew grandmasters to the city for simultaneous exhibitions. Through the 1960s and 1970s, Reuben Fine, Larry Evans, Victor Korchnoi and Tigran Petrosian were among those visiting Saint Louis to challenge Steinmeyer and other local chess players.

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis opened its doors in 2008 and shortly thereafter became the new home for U.S. Championship Chess. A logical outgrowth of the success of the club, the World Chess Hall of Fame opened in 2011. More than a century after the World Championship match in 1886, Saint Louis has again caught the attention of the international chess community and continues to celebrate the game through the innovative programming and exhibitions at the WCHOF.



Exhibitions curated and organized by the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Special thanks to the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis; Kelly Brown, Cleveland Public Library; Daniel Lucas, United States Chess Federation; United States Chess Trust; and World Chess Federation.

Related programming and a downloadable pdf of this brochure can be found at www.worldchesshof.org.

WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME

Director: Susan Barrett
4652 Maryland Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63108
(314) 367-WCHF (9243)

Copyright World Chess Hall of Fame
Design by Paige Pedersen
Printed on Recycled Paper

Facebook – World Chess Hall of Fame
Twitter – @WorldChessHOF
Instagram – WorldChessHOF
Flickr – www.flickr.com/photos/worldchesshof

Images courtesy of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, United States Chess Federation, Cleveland Public Library, and World Chess Hall of Fame.

*Cover Image: Sarah Carmody
Back Cover Image: David Ulmer*

WORLD CHESS

HALL OF FAME