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THE SINQUEFIELD EFFECT
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SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB/LENNART OOTES

Chess Museum Moves to Saint Louis

Chief Curator Shannon Bailey reflects on curating chess,
with reflections from John McCrary.

BY SHANNON BAILEY
Chief Curator,
World Chess Hall of Fame

The United States Chess Federation (US Chess) founded the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) in 1986. 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. The institution contained a modest collection, including a book of chess openings signed by Bobby Fischer, the silver set earned by Paul Morphy at the 1857 First American Chess Congress, Edward Lasker's personal chess set, and cardboard plaques honoring Hall of Fame inductees.

In 1992, the U.S. Chess Trust purchased the museum and moved its contents to Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Chess Center. The focus of the

Hall of Fame under David Mehler shifted into chess education for youth, especially those from underserved areas in the D.C. area. From 1992 to 2001, the collection grew to include the World Team Chess Championship trophy won by the U.S. team in 1993, numerous chess sets and boards, and the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee plaques.

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

Due to the vibrancy of the chess scene in Saint Louis, Missouri, and the success and growing interna-

tional reputation of the Saint Louis Chess Club (which opened July 17, 2008), it was 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, Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, the founders of the Saint Louis Chess Club, provided funding to relocate the institution to Saint Louis.

Saint Louis' first Hall of Fame inductions were held on September 8, 2011. The Hall of Fame itself was opened to the public the next day, September 9th, in Saint Louis' bustling Central West End neighborhood, directly across the street from the Saint Louis Chess Club.

Housed in a renovated, historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned-business, the WCHOF is the permanent home of the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame. It also displays of artifacts from the

permanent collection alongside temporary exhibitions that highlight the great players, historic games, and cultural and artistic impact of chess. The WCHOF partners with the Saint Louis Chess Club to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national, and international audiences. The organization has welcomed over 78,000 visitors since it opened its doors.

It is an honor that this remarkable institution has found its home in Saint Louis. Many of the original founders and contributors are still very active in the growth of the World Chess Hall of Fame. One in particular, John McCrary, has always lent his expertise, and at times his personal objects, to the exhibitions here in Saint Louis.

McCrary, who is a past US Chess President, past President of the U.S. Chess Trust, and past Hall of

Fame Committee Chair, was asked about the transfer of the museum to Saint Louis. His reflections were striking. "When time came to move on, the Hall of Fame moved up! From a basement in New Windsor, to its own building in Saint Louis in the middle of America, and from being an occasional afterthought in the chess world, to an integral part of the synergy of a chess center that is bringing together the many elements of the world's best intellectual game into one place. Most importantly the World Chess Hall of Fame has achieved, and continues to achieve, its contributions to the many educational benefits of chess."



WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/AUSTIN FULLER

The Sound of Chess: A Musical Odyssey

BY BJORN RANHEIM
Music Director,
World Chess Hall of Fame

I often have to pinch myself to believe that I am fortunate enough to make my living as a professional cellist with the world-class St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Bringing life to the music of the greatest composers throughout history is an honor and privilege that I never take for granted. Each week I arrive at Powell Hall to rehearse and perform a different program of works painstakingly selected by conductors and artistic administrators, but which I have

had no personal part in choosing. You can then imagine what a thrill it is for me to serve as the Music Director for the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF), where I am entrusted with curating 18 concerts a year that span all genres and styles of music. Stepping back from my role as a performer to conceive of a cohesive concert series has allowed me to tap into a previously unused part of my musical brain in crafting meaningful experiences for our inquisitive and dedicated audiences. One downside of being an active performer is that my schedule often prevents me from attending

other concert events around the Saint Louis area. The biggest perk of my job with the WCHOF is that I get to take in all of the incredible concerts that we present as an active audience member, reveling in the talents of performers from across the musical spectrum. I am able to book musical groups for our Monthly Music Series that I admire and want to hear more of. With our Composers Spotlight Series, I select chamber music works by composers that are near and dear to my heart and then invite my friends and colleagues from the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra to perform them. While

we all play together on a regular basis within the orchestra, it is a rare treat to hear individual performers step up from the ranks and shine in the small group environment. There have been many concert highlights of my relatively short time with the WCHOF, but one of my favorites was a September 2017 event that allowed me to combine many of my strengths in creating a concert program entirely inspired by the game of chess. I was co-collaborator on one of the submissions chosen for the *Imagery of Chess: Saint Louis Artists* exhibition. I also curated a unique cul-

minating event for the exhibition, featuring myself and other musicians in world premiere performances of three new works by local composers. The works were created specifically for the event and inspired by the game of chess. It was such a thrill to shepherd the concept through from inception to completion and to witness the excited reactions of those in attendance. I truly feel like a kid in a candy shop in getting this special opportunity to create programs, build audiences and foster this burgeoning musical center of our community!

Clockwise from top, Monthly Music Series: The 442s, 2016; Composer Spotlight Series: Brahms, 2017; The Sound of Art, 2013.



WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/SARAH CARMODY



WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/AUSTIN FULLER

The Early Days of the Chess Club

BY BRADLEY BAILEY
Associate Professor,
Saint Louis University

I enjoy telling the story of my involvement in the early days of the Chess Club and the World Chess Hall of Fame because it required such an intricate series of coincidences that it stretches one's faith in destiny (or lack thereof) to believe that it came together the way it did. Shannon [Bailey, chief curator of the WCHOF] and I moved to Saint Louis from Texas in the summer of 2007 because I got a job at Saint Louis University. We had been in town less than a year before I was introduced to Susan Barrett, Rex Sinquefield's cultural attaché. Susan had the unenviable task of looking for someone locally who might have some knowledge of the arcane topic of the intersection of art and chess, and who could be involved in helping with some programming to coincide with the opening of the STLCC, which was soon to take place in July of 2008.

To this end, Susan had consulted with then-director of the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (and founding WCHOF board member) Paul Ha. Paul told her that it just so happened that a guy who wrote his dissertation on that very subject had just moved into town, and it was Shannon's husband! Susan soon came to see me present a lecture and apparently liked what she saw, as she immediately put me to the task of coming up with ideas regarding how to contribute to the upcoming opening of the Chess Club, and particularly in regard to the permanent video art installation by Diana Thater. I suggested that I do a quick presentation on the history of the interrelationship between art and chess, followed by a conversation with Diana, and Susan found this proposal more than agreeable. There were maybe 75 people there for the presentation and conver-

sation. I recall that I took the slim but potentially disastrous chance of losing the favor of the audience—the vast majority being either chess players, Saint Louisans, or both—from the get-go by informing them at the opening of the talk of a certain irony in opening such an ambitious chess club in Saint Louis. King Louis IX of France, our city's namesake, was a notoriously bad loser when it came to chess matches. He banned chess from the kingdom following his return from the Crusades, during which he was reputed to have thrown a chess set overboard during a post-defeat tantrum while sailing from Egypt to the Holy Land. Worse, and in true poor-sport fashion, he once proclaimed chess to be a “useless and boring game.” If memory serves it got a decent laugh, though video evidence may prove otherwise. The rest of the talk was well received, and the conversation with Diana was both enlightening and entertaining. Diana is a brilliant artist with a wonderfully witty sense of humor, and I wish that our paths crossed more often. For me, the presentation proved that there was content in art and chess, that the content was compelling and entertaining, and that there was an audience for it. All of these elements were crucial in the formulation of the first major event in Saint Louis that brought art and chess together less than a year later: the 2009 U.S. Championship, the first major tournament held at the STLCC, and the exhibition and book on the chess career of Marcel Duchamp at the Saint Louis University Museum of Art. That, of course, is a story for another time.

Pictured from left to right: Larry List, Bradley Bailey, Jennifer Shahade, and Francis Naumann at the lecture and book signing for *The Art of Chess*



PHOTOS SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB

Inductions to the Chess Halls of Fame



BY EMILY ALLRED
Associate Curator,
World Chess Hall of Fame

Since 2011, Saint Louis has hosted the induction ceremonies for the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame, honoring those who have contributed the most to the game as players, writers, promoters, and organizers. The 2011 inductions coincided with the opening of the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) in Saint Louis, which houses displays commemorating their accomplishments. Inductions have since been held during the opening ceremonies of the U.S. and U.S. Women's Chess Championships. There, inductees' legacies are celebrated before the best players in the United States, some of whom may become future



inductees themselves. Harold Winston, Executive Director of the U.S. Chess Trust, puts it well when he says that “the Hall of Fame Inductions in Saint Louis, which began during the Grand Opening ceremony of the World Chess Hall of Fame, have been exciting and dramatic and having an audience of the players in the U.S. and U.S. Women's Chess Championships makes the occasions even more memorable.” The 2011 inductions welcomed two players, Boris Gulko and Andy Soltis, to the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in light of their many achievements. Soltis, who earned praise for his accomplishments as a player as well as an author, is now in turn a member of the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame Committee, which nominates candidates for induction.



The Hall of Fame Committee consists of Harold Winston (Chairman), Joel Benjamin, Frank Camaratta, John Donaldson, John Hilbert, Al Lawrence, John McCrary, Sophia Rohde, Jennifer Shahade, and Andy Soltis. Their list of nominees is then sent to the U.S. Chess Trust for a vote on induction. This year, the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame is honoring 2006 U.S. Chess Champion Alex Onischuk, who is also competing in the 2018 U.S. Chess Championship, and Bill Goichberg, an innovative organizer of thousands of chess tournaments. The 2011 inductions also marked an important moment in the history of the WCHOF—the induction of Vera Menchik, the first Women's World Chess Champion and the first female member of the WCHOF. A number of other Women's World



Chess Champions and contenders have been commemorated since then, including 2018 inductee Kira Zvorykina. Representatives of the World Chess Federation (*Fédération Internationale des Échecs* or FIDE) select the inductees to the World Chess Hall of Fame. FIDE Vice President Beatriz Marinello said of this process: “My main involvement in the World Chess Hall of Fame has been about recognizing women and their legacies in chess. Why shouldn't women have their fair share of fame? As the first woman elected President of US Chess and the first woman to be elected Vice President of the World Chess Federation (FIDE), I am proud and happy that FIDE and national federations as well as other chess organizations are now committed to supporting



women and girls in the game.” “Women became active tournament chess players a few hundred years after men,” Marinello continued. “This is a relatively new field for us. The future is waiting for brilliant girls and women players to join and play beautiful chess games. It is my hope that girls and women of all backgrounds, not just a select few, are supported in their chess endeavors, not just in their games, but supported in chess as a career.”

The 2018 U.S. and World Chess Hall of Fame inductees, from left to right: FM Bill Goichberg, GM Alex Onischuk, GM Aron Nimzowitsch, Richard Réti, WGM Kira Zvorykina.

Club Installations Celebrate Inductees

BY EMILY ALLRED
Associate Curator,
World Chess Hall of Fame

On the Saint Louis Chess Campus, chess fans can learn about important moments in the game’s history as they watch many of the best American and international players compete in elite tournaments.

The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) has presented exhibitions at the Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC) since 2013. These installations celebrate important moments in chess history in a space where history is being made.

The first of these exhibitions occurred in connection with *Jacqueline Piatigorsky; Patron, Player, Pioneer* (October 25, 2013 – July 13, 2014), a show that spotlighted the first important archival donation that the WCHOF received at its Saint Louis location—the archives of 2014 U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Jacqueline Piatigorsky.

The donation contained a number of artifacts related to Piatigorsky’s achievements as a player as well as a promoter of the game who held important tournaments and organized scholastic chess activities. Many of her accomplishments in supporting the game are forerunners



Jacqueline Piatigorsky with the Winners of the 1963 Piatigorsky Cup Tournament, GMs Tigran Petrosian and Paul Keres. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of the family of Jacqueline Piatigorsky

of the activities occurring at the STLCC today. Coincidentally, the donation occurred as the STLCC was planning the first Sinquefield Cup, one of the strongest tournaments held in the United States since the 1966 Piatigorsky Cup, which included one World Chess Champion (Tigran Petrosian) and two future World Chess Champions (Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky).

Since 2013, the WCHOF has presented a new mini-exhibition at the Saint Louis Chess Club in connection with each of its third-floor history exhibitions, covering topics as diverse as chess during World War II, the legacy of Bobby Fischer, and colorful posters from Chess Olympiads. In some cases, the exhibitions have even included photography and artifacts related to more recent achievements at the STLCC, such as the photographs from the U.S. Women’s Chess Championships at the Club that were displayed in connection with *Her Turn: Revolutionary Women of Chess*.

In staging its current exhibition *The Sinquefield Effect: Resurgence of American Chess*, the WCHOF is bringing this effort full circle, celebrating the Club’s achievements alongside the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame, which honor the greatest national and international chess figures.



Major Donations: Preserving Chess History

BY NICOLE TESSMER
Registrar,
World Chess Hall of Fame

The World Chess Hall of Fame has received many important donations of artifacts since it opened in Saint Louis in 2011. These artifacts have related to the game’s best players as well as the art and culture of chess. Among the donations that have allowed us to tell new stories about American chess in our exhibitions are those related to U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductees Jacqueline Piatigorsky, Abraham Kupchik, Hans Berliner, Walter Browne, Isaac Kashdan, and Arthur Bisguier. Additionally, the Delucia Family Foundation donated effects related to World Chess Hall of Fame inductee Emanuel Lasker. IM John Donaldson, a chess historian and the Chess Director of the Mechanics’ Institute, has also been an especially prolific donor to the WCHOF, building its

collection of periodicals as well as numerous artifacts related to 20th-century chess. Art Laffer’s donated Hungarian chess set, one of the finest in the collection, has elevated the WCHOF’s chess set collection.

Joram Piatigorsky and Jephtha Drachman

- Donated objects related to the life of U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Jacqueline Piatigorsky.
- Objects include the Piatigorsky Cup; photos of Jacqueline Piatigorsky, Herman Steiner, and Samuel Reshevsky; books; scoresheets; and letters which have been featured in many exhibitions at the WCHOF.

Raquel Browne

- Donated objects related to the life of her husband, U.S. Hall of Fame inductee Walter Browne.
- Objects include photographs, medals, trophies, correspondence, Chess Olympiad materials, and a

chess set made by Robert Rudolph Hollendonner. His memorabilia has been featured in many shows at the WCHOF, and most recently in our first international exhibition in conjunction with the Grand Chess Tour.

Kathy Cella

- Donated photographs and letters related to U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Abraham Kupchik.

The Delucia Family Foundation

- Donated objects related to the life of World Chess Hall of Fame inductee Emanuel Lasker.
- Objects include original manuscripts and Lasker’s travel chess set, both of which were featured in *Open Files II*.

Carl Ebeling

- Donated objects related to the life of U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Hans Berliner.

Objects include photos, Chess Olympiad memorabilia, books, materials related to his correspondence chess career and the development of Hitech, and correspondence, some of which were featured in *Open Files*.

The Family of Curt and Rita Brasket

- Donated objects related to the life of FIDE Master Curt Brasket.
- Objects include periodicals, books, correspondence, and photographs.

The Family of Arthur Bisguier

- Donated many objects related to the life of U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Arthur Bisguier.
- Objects include chess sets, trophies, photographs, correspondence, and other memorabilia.
- One of his Staunton chess sets is featured in *The Staunton Standard: Evolution of the Modern Chess Set*.

Richard Kashdan

- Donated objects related to the life of his father, U.S. Chess Hall of Fame inductee Isaac Kashdan.
- Objects include photographs, letters, medals, and chess sets, some of which were featured in the exhibition *Global Moves: Americans in Chess Olympiads*.

IM John Donaldson

- Has made several large donations over the years to the WCHOF.
- He has helped to grow our research library by donating many newspaper articles, magazines from various chess publications from across the world, and books.
- He has also donated many photographs, medals, and other memorabilia related to chess tournaments across the world.

Jon Crumiller and GM Ray Keene

- Donated photos taken by photographer Barry

Martin, including one featured in *Open Files II*.

Art Laffer

- Donated an ornate Hungarian chess set that was featured in *Open Files II* as well as the pop-up exhibition at the Sinquefield Cup and the *PINNED! A Designer Chess Challenge* Unveiling at Windows on Washington.

Saint Louis Chess Club

- Has donated objects such as scoresheets, player cards, medals, trophies, photographs, and other various memorabilia in conjunction with the many tournaments that take place at the Saint Louis Chess Club.



● Tiffany & Co., Piatigorsky Cup Trophy, 1963. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of the family of Jacqueline Piatigorsky

● Photographer unknown, Hans Berliner, Date unknown. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Carl Ebeling

● Photographer unknown, Fritz Brieger with GM Samuel Reshevsky, GM Isaac Kashdan, IM Al Horowitz, GM Reuben Fine, and GM Frank Marshall at the 1937 Stockholm, Sweden, Chess Olympiad. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Richard Kashdan



● Robert Rudolph Hollendonner, Hollendonner Chessmen, 1978. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of Raquel Browne

● Hungary, Silver and Copper Enamel Chess Set and Board, Early 20th century. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of the Traci L. and Dr. Arthur B. Laffer family

● IM John Donaldson’s Team Gold Medal from the 2016 Baku, Azerbaijan, Chess Olympiad. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame, gift of John Donaldson



ARTIFACT PHOTOGRAPHY WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/MICHAEL DEFILIPPO

2013 Sinquefield Cup Chessmen by The House of Staunton

BY SHANNON BAILEY
Chief Curator,
World Chess Hall of Fame

In 2013, the Saint Louis Chess Club commissioned Frank Camaratta from the House of Staunton to create a unique chess set for the STLCC flagship event, The Sinquefield Cup. Camaratta made a total of 10 sets and they are now in the collection of Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, Randy Sinquefield, Katie Sinquefield, Luke Sinquefield, Magnus Carlsen, Hikaru Nakamura, Levon Aronian, Gata Kamsky, the Saint Louis Chess Club, and the World Chess Hall of Fame. The tournament took place September 9–15, 2013. The average FIDE rating for the field was 2797, making it the highest rated tournament to that date.

Frank was asked to describe his process and inspiration:

“The Sinquefield Cup Chessmen are actually a smaller version of the Imperial Collector. My very first House of Staunton chessmen design was the Collector Series. One day, while perusing a shop with my wife, I noticed a small statue of a unicorn. Something just lit up in my head. I took a picture of it and edited it in Photoshop by removing the horn. Voila, my next Knight design!

I carved a wooden model of the modified unicorn head and fit it onto the base of a Collector Series Knight. I then had the modified Collector chessmen scaled up in size to a six inch (Imperial-sized) King. The Imperial Collector was born!

A few years ago, Rex asked me if I could make a set of high quality chessmen that could be used on the DGT chessboard for the U.S. Chess Championships and his new Sinquefield Cup Tournament. He didn’t like the crop of DGT-enabled chessmen currently on the market. Since Rex had purchased one of my Imperial Collector sets and seemed to really like it, I suggested that we use that design for his championship events.

Another deficiency of all DGT-enabled chessmen is that they are unweighted, hence they are very light. In spite of warnings from the DGT engineering Department that it was impossible to add weight to the chessmen (because of interference with the embedded sensors), I told Rex that I had figured out a way to add significant ballast without interfering with the communication between the chessmen and the DGT chessboard.

My technique worked like a charm and, as they say, the rest is history.”



WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME / MICHAEL DEFILIPPO
The House of Staunton, 2013 Sinquefield Cup Chess Set and oversized knights.



Clockwise from top, Former World Champion Garry Kasparov with the Participants of the Match of the Millennials, July 2017; Mike Matheny, Chess Campus Spokesperson and Manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, visits the World Chess Hall of Fame, 2017; WGM Katerina Nemcova's Ladies' Knight Chess Class pose with the World's Largest Chess Piece and Garden Size Chess Set, 2017; World's Largest Chess Piece decorated as a Snowman for the Annual Central West End Window Walk, 2017.



PHOTOS SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB / AUSTIN FULLER

Chess Campus THINKS BIG

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

What do a female giraffe, the Statue of Liberty’s fingernail, and chess have in common? If you guessed they are all similar in size to the Saint Louis Chess Campus’ giant chess piece, you’re no stranger to this larger-than-life landmark.

The Saint Louis Chess Club, in conjunction with the World Chess Hall of Fame, unveiled the 14-foot-6-inch behemoth as the “World’s Largest Chess Piece,” a title approved by Guinness World Records as the new record holder on May 7, 2012. The momentous occasion was one of several events kicking off the U.S. Chess Championships that year, along with a special proclamation designating Saint Louis’ “Gateway to Chess Day” by former Mayor Francis Slay.

Building the giant chess piece was no small feat, as you can imagine. Luckily, R.G. Ross, a Saint Louis-based construction company, was up for the large (mild pun intended) challenge:

“Figuring out how to cut all of the different shapes needed to build the piece was quite challenging,” said project manager, Ed Rhomberg. “The model piece was scanned by a 3D computer program, then magnified to the size desired in proper scale. That electronic file was then used to provide all of the necessary dimensions—angles, radii, etc.—used to make the individual sections or horizontal slices, if you will.”

Over the years, the giant chess piece has taken on quite a large personality of its own, attracting a king-sized compilation of paparazzi pictures and selfie stick shenanigans. Visitors from around the globe have shared shots of the piece wearing its oversized Saint Louis Cardinals jersey, lucky leprechaun top-hat and chic chessboard scarf.

Although Saint Louis temporarily gave way to a new world record holder in 2014, the vision and scope for the giant chess piece imagined by Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield would not be eclipsed. The Chess Campus recaptured the record with a brand-new, 20 foot tall African sapele mahogany king in April of 2018.

Hand-carved and sculpted—with grinding wheels, chainsaws, belt sanders, chisels, and various power tools—the oil-sealed Staunton piece is a precisely scaled version of the custom-made House of Staunton king designed for the 2013 Sinquefield Cup.

The giant king continues to greet enthusiasts and passers-by, and reminds all of us that hard work makes big dreams come true.

THE BENSON CONNECTION

BY SHANNON BAILEY
Chief Curator,
World Chess Hall of Fame

World-renowned photographer Harry Benson was the only person to have private access to Bobby Fischer during the entire 1972 World Chess Championship match in Reykjavik, Iceland. Benson captured intimate images of this time with Fischer and was the first person to deliver the news to Fischer that he had won the match!

Benson began photographing Fischer when on assignment for *LIFE* magazine in 1971. Sent to Buenos Aires, Argentina to cover the 1971 Candidates Tournament, Benson began to cultivate a relationship with Bobby, who was known for being notoriously camera-averse, guarded, and socially awkward. Fischer defeated Tigran Petrosian at the Candidates Tournament, qualifying him for the World Chess Championship match.

With this victory, Fischer not only continued his rise among chess players, but also became a pop-culture sensation. At the height of the Cold War, the media played up the impending battle between the American and the Russian Boris Spassky, the defending World Chess Champion. News outlets referred to the upcoming match as the “Match of the Century” and used headlines such as “Fischer vs. Spassky: A Major Struggle in the Cold War.”

During the 1972 World Chess Championship, Benson continued to cultivate a journalistic friendship with Fischer. The two spent many hours together during the nearly two months in Iceland, walking and talking night after night through the hills of the Icelandic countryside. Benson noted that the pressure on Fischer was enormous—it is known that Fischer received several phone calls from Henry Kissinger encouraging him to play the match when he

threatened not to. Noticing Fischer’s lack of social skills and recognizing his loneliness and isolation, Benson stated, “Bobby regarded the press as enemies, yet there had to be one friendly face in the enemy camp, and I figured it might as well be me.”

Harry Benson and his wife, Gigi, have been great friends to the Saint Louis Chess Campus. Benson was a huge part of the HBO documentary *Bobby Fischer Against the World* (2010) directed by Liz Garbus. Benson’s photographs were used throughout the film and his interviews helped to shape a sympathetic image of Bobby. The World Chess Hall of Fame partnered with Garbus to host the premier at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2010, and later that year both the New York and Saint Louis debuts.

Benson had a solo exhibition: *BOBBY FISCHER: Icon Among Icons* in 2012 at the World Chess Hall of Fame. In 2014, Benson photographed the players of the Sinquefield Cup including World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen and now-World Chess Championship challenger, Fabiano Caruana.

Once again, the World Chess Hall of Fame will show Harry’s work with previously unseen photographs of Fischer alongside the photos he took in Saint Louis in 2014. It has been an honor getting to know Harry more and more over the years and hear the legendary tales of Fischer who Benson has said is “the most eccentric and most fascinating person I have ever photographed.”

From top, *Fischer vs. Spassky, Game One, Iceland, 1972*. Collection of Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield; Fabiano Caruana plays Black against Levon Aronian during Round 9 of the 2014 Sinquefield Cup. Collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame.



PHOTOS © HARRY BENSON

WORLDWIDE GAME HELPS DRIVE SAINT LOUIS’ TRAVEL & TOURISM INDUSTRY

BY KATHLEEN M. RATCLIFFE
President, Explore St. Louis

One of world’s most famous games has found a home in Saint Louis with the opening of the Saint Louis Chess Club in 2008. From hosting regional, national and international events, and through the leadership and vision of Rex Sinquefield, the Chess Campus has become a mainstay of the thriving Central West End neighborhood and a global destination for enthusiasts of the game.

More than 25 million visitors come to Saint Louis for leisure, conventions, meetings and business travel each year. Those visitors spend over \$5.3 billion and help to generate 88,000 jobs for area residents. While they may come here for a variety of reasons, one of the key elements that makes Saint Louis a destination of choice is the region’s diverse and plentiful cultural attractions and offerings. This

includes the continued growth of the Saint Louis Chess Club and World Chess Hall of Fame.

With prestigious tournaments like the U.S. Chess Championships, U.S. Women’s Chess Championships, U.S. Junior Championships, U.S. Girls’ Junior Championships, as well as the venue’s signature event, the Sinquefield Cup, the Chess Club has shone a global spotlight on Saint Louis. In addition to offering fans a front row seat for these tournaments, the events are simulcast online for worldwide audiences. Viewers can check out the live action along with play-by-play analysis from some of the game’s most trusted experts.

Explore St. Louis uses their ongoing partnership with the Club during these broadcasts to offer viewers commercials and information promoting Saint Louis as a travel destination. While chess fans may be logging in to watch a world-class match, the commercial spots help educate them on the diversity and



Spectators watching the 2017 Ultimate Moves Match.

wealth of cultural and entertainment offerings in the region.

Each tournament brings new economic activity and worldwide publicity to Saint Louis. The fans and players also add to an already vibrant neighborhood, with a growing mix of cultures and languages from around the globe.

The tournaments and the Chess Club’s robust calendar of program-

ming drives visitation to the Central West End neighborhood, the World Chess Hall of Fame and Kingside Diner. The Club’s community outreach with chess players in schools and after-school organizations has helped to elevate and amplify the region’s focus on education, one that is spurring impressive local growth in technology, scientific research, and innovation.

The notoriety of the Saint Louis area as a destination for chess—alongside the famous cultural attractions and innovative food and beverage scene—has exploded because of the investments made in Saint Louis with the Saint Louis Chess Club and the World Chess Hall of Fame. Well done Dr. and Mr. Sinquefield!

Exhibitions

2011–2018

OUT OF THE BOX: ARTISTS PLAY CHESS
9/9/2011–2/12/2012

CHESS MASTERPIECES: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DR. GEORGE AND VIVIAN DEAN COLLECTION
9/9/2011–2/12/2012

U.S. AND WORLD CHESS HALLS OF FAME AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION
9/9/2011–2/12/2012

MARCEL DZAMA: THE END GAME
3/9/2012–8/12/2012

BOBBY FISCHER: ICON AMONG ICONS, PHOTOGRAPHS BY HARRY BENSON CBE
3/9/2012–10/7/2012

U.S. AND WORLD CHESS HALLS OF FAME AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION, PART II
3/9/2012–10/7/2012

SCREWED MOVES
9/13/2012–2/10/2013

EVERYBODY’S GAME: CHESS IN POPULAR CULTURE
10/18/2012–4/14/2013

POWER IN CHECK: CHESS AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
10/18/2012–4/21/2013

BILL SMITH: BEYOND THE HUMANITIES
3/7/2013–8/25/2013

PRIZED AND PLAYED: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JON CRUMILLER COLLECTION
5/3/2013–9/15/2013

A QUEEN WITHIN: ADORNED ARCHETYPES, FASHION & CHESS
10/19/2013–4/19/2014

JACQUELINE PIATIGORSKY: PATRON, PLAYER, PIONEER
10/25/2013–7/13/2014

CAGE & KAINO: PIECES AND PERFORMANCES
5/8/2014–9/21/2014

STRATEGY BY DESIGN: GAMES BY MICHAEL GRAVES
5/8/2014–9/28/2014

A MEMORABLE LIFE: A GLIMPSE INTO THE COMPLEX MIND OF BOBBY FISCHER
7/24/2014–6/7/2015

LIVING LIKE KINGS: THE UNEXPECTED COLLISION OF CHESS AND HIP HOP CULTURE
10/9/2014–4/26/2015

MARCEL DZAMA: MISCHIEF MAKES A MOVE
5/14/2015–10/18/2015

ENCORE! IVORY CHESS TREASURES FROM THE JON CRUMILLER COLLECTION
5/14/2015–10/18/2015

BATTLE ON THE BOARD: CHESS DURING WORLD WAR II
6/25/2015–1/17/2016

LADIES’ KNIGHT: A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE ON CHESS
10/29/2015–5/1/2016

KINGS, QUEENS & CASTLES
10/31/2015–9/11/2016

HER TURN: REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN OF CHESS
2/4/2016–9/04/2016

TOM HACKNEY: CORRESPONDING SQUARES: PAINTING THE CHESS GAMES OF MARCEL DUCHAMP
5/19/2016–9/11/2016

DESIGNING CHESSMEN: A TASTE OF THE IMAGERY OF CHESS
9/29/2016–3/12/2017

ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MINERAL: NATURAL SPLENDORS FROM THE CHESS COLLECTION OF DR. GEORGE & VIVIAN DEAN
9/29/2016–3/12/2017

OPEN FILES: CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF COLLECTING
9/29/2016–4/15/2017

THE IMAGERY OF CHESS: SAINT LOUIS ARTISTS
3/23/2017–9/24/2017

POW! CAPTURING SUPERHEROES, CHESS & COMICS
3/23/2017–9/17/2017

OPEN FILES II: CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF COLLECTING
4/27/2017–10/29/2017

VICTOR VASARELY: CALCULATED COMPOSITIONS
10/6/2017–3/25/2018

PINNED! A DESIGNER CHESS CHALLENGE
10/6/2017–3/25/2018

GLOBAL MOVES: AMERICANS IN CHESS OLYMPIADS
11/10/2017–3/31/2018

PAINTED PIECES: ART CHESS FROM PURLING LONDON
4/12/2018–9/16/2018

THE STAUNTON STANDARD: EVOLUTION OF THE MODERN CHESS SET
4/12/2018–9/16/2018

THE SINQUEFIELD EFFECT: THE RESURGENCE OF AMERICAN CHESS
4/12/2018–2/24/2019



WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/SARAH CARMODY

Contemporary artist Glenn Kaino plays World Champion Magnus Carlsen during Kaino's performance art piece: *The Burning Boards*, 2014.



WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/MICHAEL DEFILIPPO

President George Washington's Chess Set, as seen in *Power in Check: Chess and the American Presidency*, 2013.



WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/MICHAEL DEFILIPPO

Prized and Played: Highlights from the Jon Crumiller Collection, 2013.



WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME/AUSTIN FULLER

Chief Curator Shannon Bailey gives remarks at the opening reception of *Ladies Knight: A Female Perspective on Chess*, 2016.