10-year old **Laurie Qiu**, winner of the u1900 section in the 2023 National Open, on her way to defeating **NM Brad Diller** in round one of the WIM Ruth Haring Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon.

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Ensuring Safe Play

Mechanics’ Institute’s mission is to create opportunities for people to enhance their lives. We value the rich diversity of our community and have adopted the following rules of conduct to provide for members who wish to use the Institute’s services and facilities, whether in person or online, without unnecessary and inappropriate interruptions or disturbances, to promote service of members’ interests by the Institute’s staff, to ensure the safety of members and staff, and to maintain the security of Mechanics’ Institute property.

Those are the opening lines of Mechanics' Institute's code of conduct. These words are the foundation for us to ensure a safe, accessible, and welcoming environment. An environment of safe play.

Chess - like many industries and areas of interest - is experiencing deep reflection and action towards safe play, addressing treatment of community members and in particular the treatment of and impact on women.

There are articles to read and opinions to consider, so I encourage folks to check out recent developments in the world of chess. More than that: talk to people you don't usually hear from and ask how to help. What have they experienced? How can I make our chess room safer? How can I step in when needed? What am I not aware of? Simply put: How can I make things better?

We here at Mechanics' Institute are working hard and on many levels to make things better in our chess room. We address inappropriate behavior as soon as it happens or when we're made aware. We discuss and review our code of conduct frequently and before every tournament. We establish expectations and consequences to maintain a safe space.

Is it perfect? No. Are we constantly improving? Yes.

We often discuss and are working on our understanding of intention, perception, and impact. My intention may have been one thing. Someone else's perception may be different. But it's the impact that matters. How our words, actions, or inactions impact others is vital to recognize and acknowledge.

We adapt and grow and change for the betterment of our community.

Everyday I see our community growing and connecting here at Mechanics' Institute, and it's thrilling to see our group "regulars" expand. I often post up in the chess room for periods of time. It's for a variety of reasons. It's to help out, certainly. I can greet visitors and new members, of course. I can pair folks up looking for casual games who might be unsure who to ask, sure.

It's also to be a visual presence for others. I am here. Women are here.

Read Mechanics' Institute's code of conduct here.

- Alyssa Stone, Mechanics’ Institute Senior Director of Programs and Community Engagement.
Recent Tournaments at Mechanics’ Institute

On July 8, Mechanics’ Institute hosted our monthly double-header of **Scholastic Swiss** in the morning, **Quads** in the afternoon.

The Quads had a great turnout of 70 players competing in 17 sections, with **Tony Kukavica** (2151) and **Abhishek Handigol** (2100) tying for 1st in the top Quad with 2 points each.

Complete results for the July Quads can be found [here](#).

The July Scholastic Swiss saw 29 players competing in two sections.

**Kepler McTiernan** (1078) scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1st place in the 500+ section, a full point ahead of **Abhijoy Mukherjee** (1005), **Dylan Wan** (727), and **Arfan Pasha** (540). Fifth place with 2 points went to **Viyaan Khurana** (981).

**Enzo Steiger** (unr.) also scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear 1st in the u500 section. Tying for 2nd through 5th places with 3 points apiece were **Aiden Liu** (475), **Anders Soli** (450), **Janavi Kumar** (unr.), and **Arshan Afshar** (unr.).

Both the July Quads and the July Scholastic Swiss were directed by Local TD **Arthur Liou**, assisted by Local TD **Michael Hsu**.

A very respectable 41 players showed up for the new **Full Day Quads** on July 22, despite the tournament being organized with very short notice. The time control of G/60+5 allowed for a more leisurely pace than the usual half-day G/30;d5.

The top Quad was won jointly between **Ivan Zhou** (1936) and **George Sanguinetti** (1900). Both players scored 2.5 points.

Complete results for the Full Day Quads can be found [here](#).

The Full Day Quads were directed by National Arbiter **Scott Mason**.

We had 82 participants competing in four sections turn out for the 22nd **Vladimir Paffnutieff Memorial** on July 29, named after one of Northern California’s top players from the 1930’s to the 1960’s.

**Rithwik Narendra** (1997) won the 2000+ section with an undefeated 3.5-.5 score, and **Abishek**
Handigol (2087) was clear 2nd with 3 points. Third place was split between Sasha Kagle (1939), Ranen Lardent (1925), and Daniel Videna (1913), all with 3 points.

The 1600-1999 section saw a three-way tie for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places between Michael Molodyk (1999), Achintya Rai (1745), and Kanwar Sethi (1636). All scored 3.5 points.

Shiv Sohal (1285) scored a perfect 4-0 and won the 1200-1599 section outright. Tying for 2nd and 3rd places with 3 points each were Louka Waharte (1473), Matthew Huber (1272), and Keyan Raahemifar (1063).

Ben Hung (843) also scored a perfect 4-0 to take clear first in the u1200 section. Jaeden Gunawan (unr.) was right behind in 2nd place with 3.5 points. Tying for third with 3 points apiece were Wythe Wang (841) and Kurtis Evan David (unr.).

Complete results for the 22nd Pafnutieff Memorial can be found [here](#).

The 22nd Pafnutieff Memorial was directed by Local TD Arthur Liou.

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The WIM Ruth Haring Memorial Tuesday Night Marathon kicked off on July 11 and runs until August 22. This seven-round FIDE-rated flagship event has been running continuously in different formats since 1972, making it the longest running weekly tournament held in the U.S. The current TNM has 107 participants competing in four sections, and is co-directed by National Arbiter Scott Mason and International Arbiter Judit Sztaray.

WIM Ruth Haring (1955-2018) represented the United States five times in the Chess Olympics and was a frequent contestant in the U.S. Women's Championship during the 1970's and 80's. Her many contributions to chess included a service of four years as President of the United States Chess Federation.

On July 31 we hosted a special edition of the Chess Cafe where Ruth's son Theo showed some of Ruth's games and talked about her life in chess (see below). The WIM Ruth Haring Memorial TNM is the first tournament the Mechanics’ Institute has named after a woman - more to come!

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**IM Elliott Winslow**

A selection of annotated games from rounds one through five of the WIM Ruth Haring TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow and the players. All the games from the current TNM can be found [here](#), and games from previous TNMs are in the Tournament Archive.
Not vying for first because of a couple rounds missed, but creating a sensation nonetheless, is Laurie Qiu. She beat master Brad Diller (returning to over-the-board tournament chess after decades away) in the first round, in a mostly mature positional win. Oh, she's ten years old.

8...Nbc6 9.a4 9.Bxf5 Nxf5 10.Qb3 Na5
9...Qd7 10.Na3 a6 11.c4 Bxd3 11...Bb4 was better giving me a slight edge. I played the capture quickly because I thought the knight was better than the bishop in the position.

13...dxc4 14.Nxc4 Rfe8 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.Qc4 h6 16...Rad8 17.Bg5
17.d5 Nce7 17...Nce5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Qd4
22...Nf4 23.Rad1 Rxe1+ 24.Bxe1 Rc2? This was an an instinctual move that I played without calculation. I saw this move in my earlier analysis and should have saw the straightforward rejoinder here that leads to an advantage for White. 25.Rd8+ Kh7 26.Rd7 Rxb2 27.Rxf7 Ne2+ 28.Kf1 Ned4 28...Nd6 29.Re7 Nf4 30.Rxg7+ Kxg7 31.Bc3+ Kh7 32.Bxb2

White is better and a pawn up]
29.Nxd4 Nxd4 30.Rd7 Ne6 31.Re7 Nd4 31...Nf4 32.Rxg7+ Kxg7 33.Bc3+ Kg6 34.Bxb2
32.Bc3 Rb1+ 33.Re1 Rxe1+ 34.Kxe1 Ne6 35.a5! This fixes the pawn structure and renders my extra queenside pawn useless. A remarkable move by a 10 year old. She saw this move after 23.Bc3. 35...Kg6 36.Ke2 Kf5 37.Ke3 g5 38.f3 Nf4?? This was a mistake if not blunder that rapidly led to a lost endgame. Not to make excuses, I was running out of gas and did not eat dinner or bring a snack. 38...h5 holds the position.
39.g4+ Ke6 40.Ke4 h5 41.gxh5 Nhx5 42.Be5 Nf6+ 43.Bxf6 Kxf6 44.h3 Ke6 45.f4 gxf4 46.Kxf4 1-0

Archit Dasika would be in clear first with his characteristic quiet, "two results only" openings, sound positional play, and well-prepared attacks -- but for a rare blunder in Round 3 against Rishabh Gokhale (who was 3-1 but then left the tournament). Here's a typical example.
Slav, French, Petroff -- one problem Black has in these openings is White going for symmetry plus the move. Here at least Black has found some "imbalance" (have you Reassessed your Chess lately?), but it might be unwarranted? 10.Ne5+ Stockfish is blunt: "(+2.58)" Black has forgotten a basic or two, like development of the kingside, castling? 10...Rc8 11.0-0! h6?!  [ 11...e6?! The paradox: Black has his bishop outside of the pawn chain, but it can't get back in! 12.Nxb5! axb5 13.Qb3 simply wins the piece back (or worse). ]  
[ 13.Nxd5! smashes through: Nxb3 ( 13...Rxc1 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Bxb5+ axb5 16.Qxb5+ Rc6 White is momentarily down a rook and a knight! 17.d5 but totally winning. )  
14.Rxc8+ Bxc8 15.Nxb6 Bb7 16.axb3+- It's not "just a pawn (and doubled at that)": Black's king is pure liability. ]  
13...Qb7?!  
[ 13...g5 14.Bg3 Bg7± Black might actually castle, with the worst of it, but the game goes on... ]  
14.g4! Suddenly Black's game is critical. 14...Be6 15.Nd3 Nd7 16.Bf3! New problems loom. 16...f6  
17Nb4  
17...Nb6 18.e4 Still within the expiration date (but better fresh, i.e. last move!). 18...Bd7 Giving up (but no better)  
[ 23.d5!? ] 23...Bxc5 24.dxc5 Nbc4 

(Diagram)
25.\text{Rxe6 Kxe6} 26.\text{Qd5+ Ke7}

27.\text{Bd6+}
\begin{itemize}
\item [27.\text{Re1+! Kf8} 28.\text{Bd6+ Nxd6}]
\item [29.\text{Qxd6+ Kg8} 30.\text{Re7 wins the queen *and* mate follows shortly after.}]
\end{itemize}

27...\text{Nxd6} 28.\text{Qxd6+}
\begin{itemize}
\item [28.\text{Re1+! Kd8} 29.\text{Qxd6+ Qd7}]
\item [30.\text{Qb6+ is more certain}]
\end{itemize}

28...\text{Kf7} 29.\text{Bd5+ Kg6} 30.\text{Qe6! Kh7}

31.\text{Be4+ g6} 32.\text{Rd1}
\begin{itemize}
\item [32.\text{Nd5 Rhf8} 33.\text{Ne7}]
\end{itemize}

32...\text{Rc7} 33.\text{Nd5} \text{Rf7}
\begin{itemize}
\item [(Diagram)]
\end{itemize}

34.\text{Nxf6+ Kg7}
\begin{itemize}
\item [34...\text{Rxf6} 35.\text{Rd7+ picks off the queen and then the knight to boot.}]
\end{itemize}

35.\text{Nd7}
\begin{itemize}
\item [35.\text{Nh5+! gxh5} 36.\text{Qg6+ Kf8}]
\item [37.\text{Rd8+ Ke7} 38.\text{Qd6#}]
\end{itemize}

35...\text{Rh7} 36.\text{Qxg6+ Kh8} 37.\text{Nf6 Qb8}
38.\text{Nhx7}
1-0

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\hline
\text{E08} & \\
\text{Shrauger,Alex Hay} & 1996 \\
\text{Parsons,Stephen} & 1879 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\text{Ruth Haring mem TNM: 2000+ (1.8)}

\text{[Winslow,Elliott]}

For a change, let's highlight a few players. Alex Shrauger (the "Hay" is "Hayden," but the chess fed cuts names off arbitrarily...), has made some changes in his chess routine, playing a lot further than just the Berkeley Friday Night marathons (he was at the World Open!), taking lessons from Gadir Guseinov, and exhibiting even more confidence than usual. He started out strongly outplaying Parsons: 1.d4 \text{Nf6} 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Qc2 a6 8.Nbd2 Rb8
White has done well here, despite bypassing control of d4 (no c2-c3).

11...0-0 12.Bd3 Be6N

[ 12...Kh8 13.Nc2 Rg8 14.Ne3 Qf8
15.Ncd5 Bd8 16.0-0 Qg7 17.Qd2 Ne7 18.Nxe7 Bxe7 19.Kh1 Bd8
20.f4 Be6 21.f5 Bd7 22.Rf3 Bc6
23.Nd5 Qg5 24.Qc2 Rc8 25.Rg3 Qh4 26.Rh3 Qg5 27.Qf2 Bxd5
28.Rg3 Qh6 29.Rxg8+ Kxg8
30.exd5 e4 31.Bf1 e3 32.Qf3 Bb6
33.b4 Qh4 34.Rd1 Qf2 35.Qxf2 exf2
36.g3 Re8 37.Kg2 Re5 38.a4 Kf8
39.a5 Ba7 40.Rb1 Bd4 41.g4 h5
42.gxh5 Rxh5 43.h6 Rg5+ 44.Kf3 Rh5 45.Rc1 Kg8 46.h3 Kh7 47.Rb1
½-½ Brobakken,G (2250)-Lilleeng,A (2103) NOR-ch email ICCF email 2005 ]

13.0-0 Qd7 14.Nd5 Rad8 15.Nc2 f5?
Tied for first-second is Abishek Handigol, and that is after just taking a half-point bye in Round 5. He's been playing in the TNMs now for over ten years, expert strength; this time he seems to be rising. Here after a deceptive London opening he trips up Sasha Kagel in a scramble of a rook ending. Rook and seven pawns each: a special case worthy of someone like Karsten Mueller discussing it in some column or book.

16.Nb6!+ Qc7 17.exf5 Qxb6 18.Qg4+ Kh8 19.fxe6 fxe6?!


19. Qe3 Qxe3+ 20. fxe3 f6 21. 0-0-0
Bb7 22. Bf5 Rfd8 23. g4 Kf7 24. Rhf1
b5 25. Nxe5+ 1-0 Bluebaum, M (2669)-
Keymer, V (2700) ChessKid Cup Div 3
L Chess.com INT rapid 2023 (2.2)

8. Bd3 Qc7 9. Ndf3 Ne4 10. h4
Perhaps Abishek has "seen" this
Bluebaum game? :-)

10... f6
[10... cxd4 11. cxd4 (11. exd4? f6
Qb6 15. Qb1 e5+) 11... Nb4±]

11. Nxc6 Bxf4

12. exf4?! N
[Predecessor: 12. Ne7+ Qxe7 13. exf4
16. fxe5 fxe5 17. Ne2 Bd7 (17... e3!)
18. Qd5+ Kh8 19. Qxe4+ Bc6 20. Qg4
Rad8 21. 0-0 Rd2 22. b3 Qc5 23. b4
Qd5 ½-½ Janaszak, D (2334)-
Buchenau, F (2269) Titled Tuesday
intropical 19th Apr Late Chess.com
INT blitz 2022 (10)

12... bxc6 13. Qc1 cxd4 14. cxd4 Qa5+
15. Nd2 Nxd2
[15... f5!±=/]

16. Qxd2 Qb6?!
[16... Qxd2+=]

17. 0-0± Ba6 18. Bxa6 Qxa6 19. Rfe1
Rfe8 20. Qc3 Both sides have pawn
weaknesses; Black's are more
accessible. 20... Qb6
[20... Qc4! A surprising trade, but
Black should (maybe) hold the rook(s)
ending. 21. Qxc4 dxc4 22. Rac1
Rab8 23. Re2 Rb4]

21. Rac1 Rac8 22. b4

Kf7?! 23. Qc5?
[23. a3 +-]

23... Qxc5= 24. Rxc5 Ke7
[24... a5? 25. bxa5 (25. Rxa5 Ra8
26. Rxa8 There doesn't seem to be
any advantage elsewhere, either.
Rxa8 27. Re2 Ra4 28. Rb2 h5=)
25... Ke7 26. a6 Kd6±]

25. Rec1 Kd7 26. R1c3 Rc7 27. h5 Rb8
28. a3 Rb5 29. Kf1 Rxc5 30. Rxc5 Kd6
31. Ke2 Rb7 32. Ra5

(Diagram)

Matthew Ahearn looked to be running away with the under 1200 section with four straight wins, but a half point bye in Round 5, and also one in the last round (last round bye requests can't be retracted) might break that stride, with Romeo Nehme and Jack Conklin half a point behind. Here Ahearn looks in some trouble until a flurry of blows leaves him winning. 1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 The Falkbeer Counter Gambit 3.exd5 exf4!? "Declined." This has the computer's stamp of approval and removal, whereas
[3...e4 was the honorable play of romantic times.]
4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bc4?!
5.c4 Oh, just get greedy.
5...Nxd5 6.Bxd5?! Qxd5 7.Nc3 Qf5 8.0-0?
[ 8.d4 ]
8...Nc6 9.d4 Be6 10.d5 0-0-0+-
Black has the jump on White. 11.Qe2
Bxd5 12.Nxd5 Rxd5 13.c3 Bd6 14.b4
Qe6
[ 14...Qd3! ]
15.Qc2 g5

A gambit gone bad. 16.c4 Nxb4??
[Just 16...Rf5 keeps his head. 17.b5
Bc5+ 18.Kh1 Nb4 (or 18...Nd4-+)
19.Qb3 Rd8 when Black's knight is
not trapped at all. ]
17.cxd5 Nxc2 18.dxe6 Nxa1 19.Bb2±

And: White is on top! 19...fxe6?
[ 19...Rf8 20.Nxg5! fxe6! (20...Nc2
Kd7 23.Nd4 Rd5 24.Nf3± ]
20.Bxh8+- Woops! 20...Bc5+ 21.Bd4
Bxd4+ 22.Nxd4 e5 23.Rxa1 exd4
24.Rd1 c5 25.a4 Kc7 26.Kf2 Kd6
30.axb5 Kc5 31.Kc2 d3+ 32.Kc3
Kxb5 33.Re1 g4 34.Re5+ Ka4
35.Kxc4 d2 36.Rd5 h5 37.Rxd2 h4
38.Rd4 h3 39.gxh3 f3 40.hxg4 f2
41.Rf4 a5 42.Rxf2 Ka3 43.Rf3+ Ka2
44.Kb5
1-0

Winslow,Elliott 2182
Shrauger,Alex Hay 1996
Ruth Haring mem TNM: 2000+ (4.3)
[Winslow,Elliott]

This one was maybe a little less
convincing: White came out of the
opening with a clear plus, but at some
point lost purpose. Declining a draw was
a sort of fatal, the rest was downhill
(excuse my profuse annotations!): 1.d4
Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3

c4?! 15.a5?
[ 15.0-0± ]

15...Nc5
[ 15...b5 16.axb6 Nxb6 17.Bh6± ( 17.0-0± ) 17...Bxh6! 18.Qxh6 Qe7 19.0-0 Nfd7 20.Ncd1 ]

16.Be3?
[ 16.Bxc4!

A) 16...Ncxe4?? 17.Nfxe4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Qxc4

A1) 19.Nxd6!


A1b) 19...Qc5


A1b2) 20.Be7;

A2) 19.Bf4±;

A3) 19.Nf6+! Kh8 20.h4! h5! 21.g4!+–;

B) 16...b6! 17.axb6 Qxb6 18.b3 Nfd7 19.0-0 Ne5 20.Na4 Nxa4 21.Rxa4 f5± ]

16...Bd7?
[ 16...Nb3 17.Qc2 Nxa5± ]

17.Bxc4 Ncxe4 18.Nfxe4

18...Nxe4??
19.Nxe4 Qxc4 20.Kf2?
[ 20.b3!+ ]
20...Be5 21.Rc1 Qb5 22.f4 f5!?
23.fxe5
23...fxe4+ 24.Kg3! dxe5?!
[ 24...Rf5! 25.e6
 A) 25...Rxd5? 26.exd7 Rxd2 27.Rc8+
 A1) 27...Kg7 28.d8Q Rxc8 29.Qe7+! Kg8 ( 29...Kh8 30.Bxd2 ) 30.Qe6+ Kg7 31.Bxd2;
 A2) 27.Kf7 28.d8Q Rxc8 29.Qxc8 Rgx2+ 30.Kxg2 Qxb2+ 31.Bf2 Qxa3 32.Qxb7+ Kg8 33.Qxa6 Qf3+ 34.Kg1+-;
 B) 25...Bxe6! 26.dxe6 Qe5+
 27.Bf4 Rg5+ 28.Kf2 Rf8 29.g3 Rxf4+ 30.gxf4 e3+ 31.Qxe3 Qxb2+ 32.Kf1± (and on and on )
]
25.Bh6?! Misplacing the bishop, pushing the rook to a better square, weakening b6 -- although it does open up some possibilities for the rook on a3.
[ 25.Rc7! Rf7 26.h3 Rd8 27.Rac3 Qf1 28.Kh2 Bc6! 29.Rxf7 Kxf7 30.Rc1 Qf5 31.Qb4 Rxd5 32.Rc2 Rd3 33.Rf2 Rxe3± I *saw* craziness like this but couldn't believe it. Not that how it went was any better! ]
25...Rf7
[ 25...Rf6! and ...Rd6 ]
26.h3
[ 26.Re3!? b6 ( 26...Bf5 27.d6 Rd8 28.Bg5 ) 27.Rxe4 bxa5 28.Rxe5 Qb3+ 29.Re3 Qb4 30.Qxb4 axb4 31.Rc5!? Stockfish makes it +0.55 after Rf5 It's a totally arbitrary mess of an ending. ]
26...Rd8 27.Kh2? Around here my ability to find good moves shut down.
[ 27.Qg5 Re8 and I might as well go back, 28.Qd2 ]
[ 27.Rac3! Bf5 ( 27...Be6?? 28.dxe6;
33.Rb6! I couldn't imagine these positions working out, but Stockfish has White clearly better (+1.16/25 )
27...Bc6 28.d6 Rf5 and after I had thought for a few minutes, Shrauger offered a draw (!).
[ 28...Qd5!? ]
29.b4 He didn't win the pawn last move, maybe he won't this one? So I played on.
29...Qd5! Oh well. SF makes it "0.00".
30.Qxd5+ Bxd5 31.Rd1? Lame.
[ 31.Rc7! was the way forward, wherever it led. Rxd6 32.Rg7+ Kh8 33.Rc3
 A) 33...Bc6 34.Re7 Kg8 35.b5 axb5 36.a6± I certainly hadn't seen *this* idea. bxa6 37.Rg7+ Kh8 38.Rc7 Be8!? ( 38...Kg8 39.R3xc6 Rxc6 40.Rxc6 e3! 41.Bxe3 a5 )
 A1) 39.Rc8l Re6 40.R3c6 Re7 41.Rxa6
 (Diagram)
Black has some insignificant "(-0.21/24)" (Stockfish 16), but it's certainly uncomfortable to see danger on g2.

35.h4??

[It's no surprise I failed to see 35.Rg7! Kf6 (35...e3 36.Rxg6+ Kf5 37.Rxd6 Rxg2+ 38.Kh1 Bf3=) 36.Rg8! Bxg8 37.Rxd6+ Be6 38.Rd2=]

35...e3+ 36.Rxd5 Only try, but "keeping the game going" isn't a game plan.

36...Rxh5 37.Bxe3 Re2 38.Bg5 Rd7

39.Rh6 Kf5 40.Rh8 Re4?! Gives up a chunk of advantage, but not enough to toss the win.

[40...Rd3]

41.Rf8+ Kg4 42.Rf6 Kh5 43.Rb6 Rc4? Now it's getting closer!

[43...Re1]

44.Re6?

[44.b5! axb5 45.Rxb5 Re4!! +/- (borderline acc. to SF) with a hard-to-believe line: 46.Rb6 Kg4 47.Re6 Rg7 He *will* get his king over to help the e-pawn.]

44...Rd5 45.Rb6 Rb5 46.Re6 Rxb4

47.Kh3 Kg4 48.g3

Rxg5 There was never going to be any checkmate with Re8-h8. 49.hxg5 Kxg5

50.Re7 Kf6 51.Rc7 e4 52.Kg4 Re5

53.Rd7 Ke6 54.Rd8 Rxa5 55.Kf4 Ra4
56.g4 and a few more moves...
0-1

[Diagram]

bxa5 26.bxa5 Rxa5 27.Qe1 Rb5
33.Re1 Kh7 34.Re8 Kg6 35.Re1 Rc5 36.Qd8 Re5 37.Rc1 Re7
38.Qa8 Qf6 39.Qa4 f4 40.Qc2+ Kh6 41.Qf2 c5 42.Rd1 c4 43.Qc2 d5
44.Qf2 c3 45.Rxd5 c2 46.g4 c1Q+ 47.Kh2 hxg4 48.fxg4 Kh7 49.g5
Qf2 50.g6+ Kxg6 0-1 Jones,G (2679)-Naroditsky,D (2621) PRO
League Stage Chess.com INT rapid 2020 (7)
9...h6 10.Bh4 Re8 11.Qf3?! Bd4=

12.g4? A sort of delusional optimism. Castling one way or another comprises
the two best moves, on principle and specifically.
[ 12.0-0-0!? ]
[ 12.0-0!? ]
12...d5!? Certainly a clear plus, but it's
interesting that the computer prefers first
[ 12...Rb8! ]
[ and second 12...g5! 13.Bg3
and then d5! ]
13.0-0-0?
Rxb2 16.Ne4¿ Black is certainly
better, but the game isn't over. ]
13...Bxc3?

[ 13...g5!
A) 14.Bg3 Bxc3 15.exd5 cxd5!
( 15...Be5 16.dxc6 Qe7 17.Bxe5
Qxe5 18.Rhe1 Qxe1+ ) 16.bxc3
Qe7+;
B) 14.e5!? Bxe5 15.Bg3 Bxc3
16.bxc3 Qe7 17.Rxe1! is, well, still
lost. ]
14.bxc3 g5

15.Bg3??
[ 15.e5! is surprisingly only a slight
advantage for Black after Nd7
( 15...Rxe5 16.Bg3= ) 16.Bg3 Nxe5
17.Bxe5 Rxe5¿ when after 18.Qg3
Qf6 ¿ White "finally" gets his
kingside play going... Qf4+! or not.
20.Qxf4 gxf4 ]
15...dxe4+ 16.Bxe4 Qe7!
Double attack. 17.Bxc6?!
Kg7! 20.Rhe1 Ba6+ ]

(Diagram)
In the 1600-1999 section there are *four* people tied for 1st. Here is one impressive attack with a flash finish by Karl Kingma when Wilson Wong and he were the only perfect scores after three rounds. Credit to Wilson for annotating this loss:  

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.f3 Bf5 5.c4 

[ 5.Bb5+ I should have looked to trade pieces since I was a pawn up; this would have given me good chances of surviving. Nbd7 6.c4 e6 7.dxe6 Bxe6 8.d5 Bf5 ]

5...e6 6.dxe6 Nc6

7.exf7+?!

[ 7.Be3 I Black has 3 developed pieces to my 0. I didn't imagine my opponent could keep my king in the center the way he later would with a rook sacrifice. ]

7...Kxf7 8.Be3?

[ 8.Ne2 Nb4 -0.31 9.Ng3 0.00 Nc2+ 10.Kf2 Nxd4 0.00 11.Be3 Nc2 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Nxf5 Nxa1 ]
The game could have continued like this and I would be worse but it's playable. My pieces are still underdeveloped here.

8...Bb4+! 9.Nc3 Re8! 10.Kf2?  
[ 10.Qd2 Nxd4 11.0-0-0 was a better continuation but probably losing: c5! (-1.64) ]

10...Rxe3!! (ecw to the end): The only move, but winning. 11.Kxe3 Bc2!!  
Not the only move, but definitely the best. 12.Qd2  
[ 12.Qxc2 Qxd4+ 13.Ke2 Re8+  
(Better even than 13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 Re8+ which is very much winning as well.) 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.fxe4 Rxe4+  
16.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 17.Kf2 Bc5+ 18.Kg3 Nd4 mate soon. ]

12...Ng4+!! And again: the only move to put the point away. 13.fxg4 Qg5+!  
14.Kf3 Qxd2 15.Nge2 Re8  
0-1
31. Qxc3 dxc3 32. Kf3 Bd4
½-½ Nyzhnyk, I (2638) - Le, Q (2715)
Saint Louis Spring-A 2019 (8)

10. h3 Bxf3 11. Bxf3 e5 12. d5 Nd4
13. Bg2 c5 14. Qd3 Qd7 15. a4 Rab8
16. Kh2 Nh5

White's difficulties objectively start only after this next move: 17. f4? N
[Predecessor: 17. a5 b5? 18. axb6?
(18. cxb5! axb5 19. b4!) 18...Rxb6
19. Ra2 Reb8 20. Rfa1 Nb3 21. Rf1
f5 22. Bf3 Nf6 23. Bg2 Nd4 24. Bc1
Nh5 25. Bf3 Nf6 26. Bg2 Rf8 27. Bd2
f4 28. Rfa1 Qc8 29. Ra3 fxg3+
30. fxg3 Nh5 31. Nd1 Qb7 32. Ba5
Rb3 33. Bc3 Rxa3 34. Rxa3 Bh6
35. Bd2 Bg7 36. Bc3 h6 37. Be1 g5
38. Qd2 Qc8 39. Qa5 Qd7 40. Qa4
Qe7 41. Nf2 Rb8 42. Nd3 g4 43. hxg4
Nh6 44. Qd1 Qd7 45. Rxa6 Nxe4+
46. Kg1 Ne3 0-1 Tugstumur,Y (2087) -
Ritviz,P (2260) World ol U16
Ulaanbaatar 2015 (9.4)

17... f5!? [17... exf4! is very strong: 18. gxf4
(18. Bxf4 b5) 18... Qe7]

(Diagram)

[19... b5!]
20. Bxe4 b5

21. axb5 axb5 22. b3 bxc4 23. bxc4
Nf6! 24. Bg2
[24. Bf3!]
24... Qb7
[24... Qf5!]
25. Ra3 Qb4+ 26. f5?! g5
[26... Nd7!+-]
27. Rf2 Qe1 28. Ra7?! Re3
[28... h5!+-]
29. Qc2?
[29. Nxe3 Qxf2 30. Nd1 Qe1]
31. Bf3\textsuperscript{+} but precarious! ] \\
29... Re5 \\
[ 29... d3! ] \\
30. Qa4 Rbe8 31. Rf1 Qd2 32. Qc6 Bf8 \\

Even this silly mini has a sort of entertainment to it. Mike knows his openings very well -- but when you slip up to a little tactic, and after those previous two demonstrations (which he was well aware of!), there was nothing left to do but save ink: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3?! The main lines are: 
[ the Rauzer, 6.Bg5 ] 
[ If you want to try to get into an English Attack sort of thing, the move order is 6.f3 ] 
6... Ng4! the "correct" response, after which Black has scored very well! 
7. Qd2?! 
[ The big line is 7.Bb5 Nxe3 8.fxe3 Bd7 9.0-0 e6 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.e5!? Be7! ] 
7... Nxe3 8.Qxe3 Qb6 Not bad, but no need; just get the dark square bishop going with a pawn move and get castled: 
[ 8...e6 ] 
[ 8...g6 ] 
9.0-0-0 e6 10.Bb5 

(Right Diagram)
There *is* a threat here... 10...Be7??  
[ 10...Bd7  11.Rhe1 Black's done okay here, but it's better development vs. two bishops, often a dynamic balance. ]

11.Nxc6 So she's won all three games she played, averaging 25 moves per game, against a master an expert and an A player. The pairing program approximation has her picking up 70(!) rating points, putting her at 2055. And there are two more rounds to come.

1-0


12...Rfd8

13.Qd3?N Is the difference between the best and the rest of us gaps in thinking like this? More their frequency (Carlsen is no stranger to slip-ups like this!). White just loses the c4-pawn; that's not
supposed to happen!


13...Ne5 George jumps at the opportunity. 14.Qe2 Nxc4

23.h3?
[23.a4 ]
23...Qf5?!
[23...Qb5! Trading queens on d3 with a knight recapture is just a whole lot better than on f5 taking back with the g-pawn. ]

24.Qxf5 gxf5

25.Nd4 f4 26.Nf5 Bf8 Black is still winning, but less so (that's what we get for looking at the numbers!) 27.Bb6 Rc2
[27...Rc8 ]
28.a4?
[28.Bd8! Ng6 29.Re1! Rxa2 ]
30. Nxe7+ Bxe7 31. Bxe7 Ra5
32. Bxd6 Rxd5 favors Black but there are problems on the path.

28...e6? endangering the win.
[ 28...Rd2 29. Rc1 Rxd5+- does rather get there first. ]

29. dxe6 fxe6 30. Nd4 Rc3
[ 30...Rb2! ]

31. Ba5! Rd3 32. Nxe6 Bh6
[ 32...Rxb3 is a bit of something. ]

XIIIIIIIIY
9-+-+-+-+p' 9-vL-zp-+-+& 9+p+-+-+-% 9-zP-+-zp-vl$ 9+-+-+P+P# 9-+RmK-+P+" 9+-+-tr-+-!

and now there's no advantage at all.

33. Bc7
[ 33. Rb1 ]

33...b5 34. axb5 axb5 35. Ra1

35...Kf7 36. Nd8+ Kf6 37. Ra6 Bf8
[ 37...Ke7!= ]

38. Nb7 Nf7 39. b4?
[ 39. Nc5= ]

39...Ke7= White has gotten himself tangled up 40. Rc6?! Kd7= 41. Rc2 Be7?!
[ 41...Bg7! something is going to c3 with a win, depending on White's move. ]

42. Bb6 Bh4
[ 42... Bf6! ]

43. Kf1 Rd1+ 44. Ke2 Re1+! 45. Kd2

Be5?? Only two moves win here:
[ 50...Bg5+- ]
[ 50... Rd2+- ]

51. Rg7??
There are three players tied at 4-1 in the 1200-1599 section. Aradhana Arivoli is taking a bye for Round 6 so we can't see her battling then (leaving Sheng Jian and Sam Calvert to strive for clear first); so let's see her grind down Shiv Sohal in the ending:

WGM Alla Kushnir (1941–2013) was the second-strongest female chess player in the world from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s, losing three matches (1965, 1969 and 1972) for the Women's World Chess Championship to Nona Gaprindashvili—the last by only a single game. Kushnir won the Women's Championship of the Soviet Union in 1970 and represented the USSR in two Women's Chess Olympiads, winning team and individual gold in 1969 and 1972. She immigrated to Israel in 1973 and led her new homeland to victory in the 1976 Women's Chess Olympiad.

Kushnir was driven to San Francisco after Lone Pine by Mechanics’ Institute trustees Bob Burger and Guthrie McClain and gave a simul at the Mechanics’ Institute Chess Club in late April, 1975 (above).
We have great turnouts of 30+ folks at our Chess Socials. See you next month!

Mechanics' Institute Chess Coordinator FM Paul Whitehead gave a simul to both Mechanics' Institute Summer Camp participants and the visiting Sanger Chess Team on July 11.
Crosstable of the Pan-Pacific Blitz Championship held on March 15, 1991, directly following the Pan Pacific GM Tournament. Mikhail Tal “played for the gallery” in his final game against Walter Browne and lost, finishing in 2nd place. This was arguably the strongest blitz tournament held at the Mechanics’ Institute until the advent of the Ray Schutt Memorial Blitz Tournaments in the mid 2000’s.
Round three of the WIM Ruth Haring Memorial TNM, with 107 participants.

Max Wilkerson (1925-2009).
Chess Room Director from 1980 to 1996.

IM John Donaldson (1958-).
Chess Room Director from 1998 to 2018.

(Images courtesy: http://www.chessdryad.com/)
Joseph Anthony (Rugsy) Ruggiero (1946-2023)

My dear friend Rugsy passed away on June 27, 2023. A former housemate, and the husband of another lifelong friend, Pam Ruggiero, Rugsy was a regular at the Mechanics’ Institute, San Francisco coffee shops, and other Bay Area locales where chess was played in the 70's, 80's, and 90's.

I first met Rugsy at the 1978 U.S. Open in Phoenix, where we stayed up all night smoking cigarettes, drinking coffee, and talking up a storm with GM Anatoly Lein - I don’t think the three of us slept the entire event. Rugsy visited me when I lived in Virginia, driving down from Indianapolis, and I dare say risked his life by getting in the car while I gave my daughter Romily a driving lesson.

Truth to tell, there are so many stories and memories I have of this wonderful man I don’t know where to start or end. I can only say that I already miss him greatly - the world is a smaller place without him.

Rugsy worked as a sheetmetal worker and salesman. He was a freedom fighter, and worked for Martin Luther King in 1965. He fought for civil and voting rights his entire life.

Rugsy is survived by his wife of 38 years, Pamela Ford Ruggiero, daughter Juliana Maria Hendren-Ruggerio, son Andres Arturo Ruggiero, brothers Ronald Ruggiero and Steven Ruggerio, grandchildren Lyliana Maria Hendren, Andres Aquilina Ruggiero, Eli Aquilina Ruggiero, and Italo Aquilina Ruggerio, plus a large extended family.

Rest in peace my friend.

- Paul Whitehead.
Anthony P. Corrales (1969-2023)

Anthony Corrales, a key figure in the development of scholastic chess in the Bay Area and trainer of several top junior players, died this past July in San Francisco. He was 54 years old.

Born in Los Angeles, Anthony grew up in Orange County and attended Bosco Technical High School in Rosemead. There he was a member of the baseball team and began what would be a lifelong love of chess. During his formative years, Anthony was a regular at LaBate’s Chess Centre, but unlike most players gravitated towards teaching early on.

When the Mechanics’ Institute decided to host a Saturday class for kids and begin a scholastic outreach program in the early 2000s Anthony was a natural choice to head the program. Friendly and outgoing, he was able to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds which made him a successful teacher in a number of schools throughout the Bay Area, but it was as a private coach that he really made his mark.

Normally, one expects a coach to be stronger than the players they train and typically that is the case, but there are exceptions (Alexander Koblenz the trainer of Mikhail Tal and Viktor Kart who coached many top Ukrainian grandmasters, are two famous examples) and Anthony was one of them. What he lacked in rating he more than made up for in his enthusiasm for the game and ability to inspire students to study on their own. The latter gift is perhaps the most important quality a chess teacher can develop in a player and the number of young masters and experts he produced is a testament to Anthony’s success in this regard. His high point as a coach was helping Greg Young, seeded 7th out of 10 players in the 2011 U.S. Junior Closed, win the event by two points.

Anthony will be missed.

- John Donaldson

Anthony teaching at the Mechanic’s Institute.
Mechanics’ Institute awarded “Best Chess Club” by the Salon de la Fama del Ajedrez de América

On July 27, we were honored to be awarded the "Best Chess Club" by the Salon de la Fama del Ajedrez de América (American Chess Hall of Fame), headquartered in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. A contingent of South American (and one European) players who had just competed in a 1000GM Chess Charity tournament in San Jose visited the club to present the award, sign our guest book, and play some chess with our Summer Camp students.

Standing, left to right: FM Gustavo Maass Garza (Mexico), WIM Ingres P. Rivera (Chile), FM Fernando Sanchez Aller (Spain), Juan Rodolfo Cendejas (1000GM organizer), IM Luis Robi (Uruguay), Alyssa Stone (Mechanics’ Institute Senior Director of Programs and Community Engagement), IM Matias Perez Gormaz (Chile), Alex Robins (Chess Program Manager), FM Paul Whitehead (Chess Coordinator).
The Chess Scuttlebutt

Links to some of the news that make up our world.

Summer fun in Oregon with squirt guns and chess.

Local star GM Christopher Yoo wins the USCF award for Young Player of the Year.

GM Hans Niemann tops the 2023 Samford Awards.

Fritz wins the 2023 World Chess Software Championship.

It seems chess (and crossword puzzles) can ward off dementia.

Chess streamer Agdamator lands in hot water for promoting the notorious son of IM Emory Tate.

Continuing his dominance over famous sports figures, 12-year old Master Tani Adewumi crushes tennis superstar Roger Federer giving rook-odds.

It’s Kids vs. the Cops in this weekly chess brawl held in Virginia Beach...

...while the same face-off also occurs in Evanston, Illinois.

Outdoor chess is returning to San Francisco.

The Wholistic (sic) Wellness Chess Club meets at the Safety Harbor Public Library in Florida.

A touching prose/poem about chess from Teton Valley, Idaho.

An ad for Subway with ex-World Champion GM Vishy Anand is now a viral meme.

Carlsen and other top GM’s sign a letter in support of GM Vassily Ivanchuk’s participation in the FIDE World Cup.

A shout-out to women referees in boxing, softball, and chess.

In St. Louis: GM Abhimanyu Mishra wins the U.S. Junior Championship, FM Alice Lee wins the U.S. Girls Championship, and GM Melikset Khachaiyan wins the U.S. Senior Championship.

Armenian-born GM Levon Aronian does not feel safe playing in the World Cup, currently taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Mechanics’ Institute and our Scholastic Chess Program gets a shout-out on local TV.

GM Hikaru Nakamura marries WGM Atousa Pourkashiyan.

Carlsen’s coach weighs in on artificial intelligence, intuition, and chess.

Want to use cryptocurrency to bet on chess? Look here.

FIDE has a Chess for Refugees program that looks to participate in the 2024 Olympiad.

And FIDE’s “Girls Club Chess for Protection” program is growing.
Chess and tennis: Novak Djokovic inspires GM Gukesh D.

IM Sara Khadem is granted Spanish nationality after getting in trouble with Iranian authorities for removing her scarf during the 2022 World Rapid and Blitz Championships.

Are you into economics and Game Theory? Then use Zermelo’s, Nash Equilibrium and Prisoner’s Dilemma to win at chess.

Indian Grandmasters Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli on how to raise up women’s chess.

A shout-out for the greatest woman chess player ever, the incomparable Judit Polgar. Here is a review of the best traveling chess sets.

And here is a review of the most expensive chess sets ever made.

Los Altos has a new and successful monthly chess meetup.

Russia’s chess brain-drain continues, as GM Vladimir Fedoseev now plays for Slovenia.

Can you guess how old the youngest FIDE rated player is?

Chess gets a huge boost in England, and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is challenged by former British Girl’s Champion Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor.

Arnold Schwarzenegger likes to play chess with his pet donkey, Lulu.

Legendary physicist Richard Feynman talks about chess and Nature.

Mechanics’ Institute Chess Coordinator FM Paul Whitehead gets an Honorable Mention from the Chess Journalists of America for “Chess at the Top.”

An open letter denouncing sexism and violence in the chess world is signed by more than 100 women (and counting) in the chess community, and the list is still growing.

In a bombshell blog post, Lichess breaks from the USCF and the Saint Louis Chess Club over the issue of violence and harassment of women in the chess world.

Grandmasters Andrew Tang and Alexey Sorokin tie for 1st in the 2023 U.S. Open.

With over 4 billion views on YouTube in 2023, chess content “explodes.”

GM Aleksander Matanovic, co-founder of the Chess Informant, has passed away.

GM Wesley So would rather be with his cats than play in the 2023 World Cup.

Finally, GM Ju Wenjun wins the Women’s World Championship.

Recent Games
A selection of games from around the world that have caught our attention, including all of the games from the Women’s World Championship Match between Ju Wenjun and Lei Tingjie.


1-0


(Diagram)


½-½

Bc5 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 a5 7.Bb3 0-0 
8.Re1 Ba7 9.h3 Be6 10.Bc2 h6 11.d4 
exd4 12.Nxd4 Bd7 13.Be3 Ne5 
17.a4 Qe7 18.Qe2 Rfd8 19.Red1 Bb8 
20.Qc4 b6 21.b4 axb4 22.Qxb4 Bd6 
23.b5 Bd7 24.Qc3 Be6 25.Nc4 Bxc4 
Be7 32.Rad1 Rxd5 33.Rxd5 Ra8 
34.Bd2 Kf8 35.Bc3 f6 36.Qb3 Qc8 
37.Qc4 Qe8 38.g3 Qc8 39.Kg2 Qe8 
40.h4 h5 41.Bd2 Rb8 42.f4 exf4 
43.Bxf4 Rb7 44.Qe2 g6 
45.e5 Qa8 46.Qf3 f5 47.Rd7 Ra7 
48.Qxa8+ Rxa8 49.e6 Rxa4 50.Rb7 
Ra8 51.Rxb6 c4 52.Rc6 Bd8 53.b6 
Ra2+ 54.Kf3 Rb2 55.Rc8 Rb3+ 
56.Ke2 Rxb6 57.Rxd8+ Ke7 58.Rc8 
Rxe6+ 59.Kd2 Re4 60.Kc3 Kf7 
61.Rxc4 Re8 62.Rc7+ Kf6 63.Bg5+ 
Ke5 64.Re7+ Rxe7 65.Bxe7 
1-0
Bxh4 20.Nd6 Qb6 21.Qe2 Rd8 22.Be3 Qc7 23.Qh5 Bg5 24.f4 g6 25.Qf3 Be7
26.c5 b6 27.b4 bxc5 28.bxc5 Rb8 29.g4 Qa5 30.Rf1 Qc3 31.Ne4 Qd3
32.Kg2 Rb2+ 33.Kf1 Qxa2 35.f5 exf5 36.gxf5 gf5 37.Qxf5 Qe6 38.Qxe6 fxe6 39.Rd7 Bh4 40.Kf1
Bxf2 41.Nxf2 a5 42.Ra7 Rb5 43.Nd3 Ng5 44.Ra6 Kf7 45.Rxc6 Rb3 46.Ke2
a4 47.Ra6 a3 48.Nf4 Rc3 49.c6 Ke7 50.Kd2 Rc4 51.Nd3 Kf7 52.Rxa3 Rxc6
59.Ng6+ Ke8 60.Kd4 Nb6 61.Re7+ Kd8 62.Rh7 Nd7 63.Rxh6 e5+ 64.Nxe5 Rxe5 65.Nxf7+

Kf8 38.g4 Rc5 39.Bf6 Be4 40.Kh2
Rb5 41.Re7 Rb6 42.h4 Rb3 43.Rxe6
Bf3 44.g5 Bg4 45.Re7 Bf5 46.Kg2
Bh3+ 47.Kg1 Bf5 48.h5 Rh3 49.h6
Rd3 50.Kh2 Rh3+ 51.Kg2 Rd3 52.f3
Rd7 53.Re5 Bc2 54.f4 Rd5 55.Re7
Bf5 56.Kf2 Rd2+ 57.Ke3 Rd6 58.Rc7
Rd3+ 59.Ke2 Rd5 60.Bc3 Ke8 61.Kf2
Kf8 62.Bb4+ Ke8 63.Re7+ Kd8 64.Rf7
Ke8 65.Rf8+ Kd7 66.Bc3 Bh6 67.Rg8
Rd6 68.Be5 Rd2+ 69.Kf3 Rd3+

½-½
Lei Tingjie 2554
Ju Wenjun 2564

WWCCM 2023 Chongqing (11.1) 21.07.23

11.Bb3 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.0-0 c6
14.Re1 Re8 15.Qd2 Re7 16.Qf4 Qd6
17.Rae1 Rae8 18.h4 h5 19.g3 g6
20.Qe2 a6 21.a5 Qd7 22.Nd2 Bg7
23.Qf3 f6 24.R4e2 Kh8 25.Nbd2 Qd8
29.Qxe2 Nf6 30.Qg2 Qh8 31.Kg2 Qg7
32.Kf1 Re6 33.Kg1 Kg7 34.Kh1 Rh8
35.Kd1

The final and decisive game of the 2023 Women's World Championship. 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.dxc5 e6 5.b4 a5 6.c3 axb4 7.cxb4 b6 8.Bb5+ Bd7
9.Bxd7+ Nxd7 10.a4 bxc5 11.b5 Qc7
15.Qc2 c4 16.Bc3 Nc5 17.a5 Nb3

e5? 23.Nf5 Bf8 24.Bxe5 Rxb5 25.g4
g6 26.Nd4 Rb2 27.Nb1 Bg7 28.Bxg7
Kxg7 29.Nc3 Ra5 30.Rd1 Rb6
31.Nde2 Rb3 32.Kg2 h6 33.Kf3 f6
34.Rc1 Kf7 35.Nf4 d4 36.exd4 g5
37.Nfe2 f5 38.gxf5 Rxf5+ 39.Kf3 g4
40.Nf4 Rb8 41.d5 Rf6 42.Rc2 Ra8
43.Nb5 Rb6 44.Nd4 Ra3+ 45.Ke4 c3
46.Nfe2 Rb2 47.Kd3 Rb1 48.Nxc3
Rh1 49.f3 gxf3 50.Nxf3 Rf1 51.Nd4
Ke7 52.Kc4 Rf4 53.Rb2 Rh4 54.Rb7+
Kf6 55.Rb2 Ra8 56.Kc5 Rh3 57.Ncb5
Re3 58.d6 Ke5 59.Nc6+ Ke4 60.d7
Rd3 61.Nd6+ Kf4 62.Rb8
1-0

(Diagram)
Black gave into temptation on her 8th move, when castling was indicated. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.c4 Qf6 8.Qb3 b5? 9.cxb5 Bxf3

1-0


(Diagram)
Black keeps white off-balance throughout in a brilliant effort by the young Indian star.  

(Diagram)

Carlsen cracks under pressure and is toppled by one of the top juniors.  

29. Re8+!!
1-0

Keymer, Vincent
Carlsen, Magnus
FIDE World Cup 2023 (4.1) 09.08.2023

Nc7? 37. Nd6+- g6 38. Nxb7 Rb1

(Diagram)
The Modern Gurgenidze A Counterpunching Repertoire for Black by Jaan Ehlvest (2023, 240 pages, $24.95)

The Scotch Game: A White Repertoire by Alexei Bezgodov and Vladimir Barsky (2023, 224 pages, $24.95)

Sherlock Holmes and the Mysteries of the Chess World by Lenny Cavallaro (2023, 256 pages, $24.95)

www.russell-enterprises.com

The late Georgian Grandmaster Bukhuti Gurgenidze (1933-2008) was a strong player who competed in nine Soviet Championships and trained a number of top female players (Nona Gaprindashvili, Maya Chiburdanidze, Nana Ioseliani, and Nana Alexandria), but he is best remembered for his contributions to opening theory. Among the lines that bear his name are: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 e5 6.b4; 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6 5 c4 Nf6 6 Nc3 d6 7 Be2 Nxd4 8 Qxd4 Bg7; 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 d5 5.e5 h5

The latter defense is the subject of former Candidate Jaan Ehlvest’s recent opening monograph. Among the important discoveries to be found in this book are that after 1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.h3 Black should play 5…Nf6 and not setups based on …Nh6 with …f7-f6. The Estonian Grandmaster believes Black is fine in the play after 5…Nf6 6.Bd3 dxe4 7.Nxe4 Nxe4 8.Bxe4 0-0 9.0-0 Nd7 followed by …c5.

Ehlvest not only examines the original Gurgenidze system (1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.e5 h5) but also the modern treatment with 5…Nh6. This is a complicated line, full of fight, that four-time US Champion Alex Shabalov (who wrote the foreword for this book) has used with success. Interestingly, depending on White’s development scheme, Black sometimes prefers to play with …d6 and …e5 rather than …c6 and …d5.

This book offers a complete Black repertoire including 1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 e5 against 1.d4, but note the author’s coverage here is not as detailed – this is primarily a book providing a fighting line against 1.e4 which is very much geared to practical play.

The Scotch Game: A White Repertoire by Alexei Bezgodov and Vladimir Barsky is likely the most detailed treatment of this solid and ancient opening line that Garry Kasparov resurrected. All lines of the Scotch are covered, even ones not likely to occur in master practice (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nxd4 5.Qxd4 Qf6. As the authors explain, “This book’s main purpose is to be read by people who play chess for fun, rather than for chess professionals.” Club level players (roughly 1400 to 2200) will appreciate this user-friendly approach. Note the Scotch Four Knights (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4) is not covered in this book.

*Sherlock Holmes and the Mysteries of the Chess World* by Lenny Cavallaro will not improve your chess but if you like chess and solving mysteries then this series of short stories will be your cup of tea.

The publisher’s blurb does a fine job of describing an original work without precedence in the chess world:

*Did Alekhine really succumb to a piece of meat that was stuck in his throat? And Paul Morphy passed after a walk on a hot New Orleans afternoon? What if the great Sherlock Holmes – and his successors – applied ironclad logic to these and other instances of Caissa’s conundrums? Might we be closer to sorting out the truth?*

You are invited to join Holmes, Watson, and their descendants as they focus their investigative skills on seven decidedly curious cases from the chess world. Premature deaths. Strange games and match results. And more...

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**Mechanics’ Institute Receives #startsmall Support**

We are proud to announce support in the amount of $50,000 for our Scholastic Chess Program for girls’ and young women's chess, by #startsmall, Jack Dorsey's philanthropic initiative. This grant will help provide new classes, camps, and opportunities for girls and women, enhance our professional development, and broaden our pool of chess coaches-- all with the aim toward gender equity and access for all youth players in the sport. [https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess](https://www.milibrary.org/chess/scholastic-chess)

Mechanics’ Institute Chess Coach **Marcie Yang** teaches students during Summer Camp.
Richard Hack

Tales from the Chess Café

Sharing Knowledge

The phrase Each One Teach One is an African proverb that originated in the United States during slavery when Africans were denied education. When someone learned how to read and write, it became their responsibility to teach someone else. The idea is to spread knowledge for the betterment of your community (Wikipedia). It has various roots and sources, including the above. I first saw it on a T-shirt worn by a musician in a documentary about community service during the summer in New York City.

Each One Teach One is visible downtown in a mural painted on the plywood covering the front of the old Spring Valley Water Company at 425 Mason, a few doors north of Geary St. The building served as the headquarters of the San Francisco Water Department from 1930 to 2003. I sometimes went there to pay my water bill in person. It was designed by Willis Polk and constructed in 1922. It was placed on the market in June 2007 with a list price of $5,600,000 and apparently is still available.

We share a lot of knowledge at the Mechanics’ Institute. The summer has been full of chess camps and classes in addition to tournaments, including a G/60 July Quads instead of the usual G/30. Most of our Chess Cafes have had at least one and a half times the usual number of guests.

On July 17, we watched a game by Merlin Mackley from an online tourney where every game had the same first four moves in the Semi-Slav Defense, and were reminded that Jay Whitehead went to L.A. in the ’70s to work with Michael Walder on the same Moscow Semi-Slav, where White plays Bg5, which takes Black’s knight on f6, and leaves the dark-square QB shut in by his own pawns. However, the light-square B is without a White counterpart and can develop on the long diagonal h8-a1.

“The first thing you think of is to attack such cramping moves,” said Paul. “The openings are a mixture of memorizing and principles. If you want to play a certain opening, play out 1,000-10,000 previous games with it to build muscle memory. But memorizing theory…” he said, trailing off, and in agreement Alexey Root shook her head at that endless and sometimes fruitless task. “Some Sicilians have lots of great lines,” said Mike Walder. “Some have only a few lines that you can learn and then play by general principles.” Paul soon added, “You can play the first four moves of the King’s Indian Attack against most anything, to get you set for a real chess game... Think outside the box and consider every move... Play the moves you know you’re going to play. That’s why we say knights before bishops. Bishops may have 3 or 4 squares to go to, so wait a bit before moving them. After two unprovoked trades: build up the position before trading your Nf3, e5 pawn, or Nd7. Not all trades are equal.” Mike, quoting a GM: “You have to have a good reason to make a trade.” Paul: “You have to achieve something, and with some bite.”

Grandmaster Michael Rohde moves into the camera eye and says hello. Sophia, a café regular, notes that it must be years since he and Paul have seen each other. Michael says hello and praises Paul’s teaching. Says it’s harder to teach adults than kids. Merlin: “Adults have consistency.” Sophia: “Kids
are more resilient and flexible and keep coming back for more. I’m on my way to another U.S. Chess meeting. Later I’m going to the U.S. Open in Grand Rapids.” Long Michigan’s second city, yet still just under 200,000 population, less than an hour from Lake Michigan beaches, and still known for its furniture industry. She recommends the Scotch Game to a player who is daunted by all the theory in the Italian and the Ruy Lopez. “Hans Niemann won a big prize, but only part of it. They keep giving it to the same people.”

Paul on Zane Chu’s game: “Only two serious mistakes in a carefully played game where neither player did much to rock the boat.” Then Tom’s game at Lichess Al Level 1. He’s playing two-hour games against a machine, and asked, “What do you think of playing computers instead of people?” Paul: “Think about shortening the time control and playing people. It can be difficult to transition from playing machines.” Another observer says, “That’s chess bots for you,” after Paul showed how the program is playing poorly on purpose: “The machine is committing suicide.”

On July 24, we watched one of Merlin’s games where he played 3....Qf6 in a Scotch. Paul said, “Always play the most flexible or most obvious move first.... Black has missed two chances to win a pawn against you.... 22. f4 would have made a 5-link pawn chain.” After we reject a set-up of one pair of rooks on e7-f7 and the other on e8-f8, Paul mused, “Black can actually defend all his pawns. It’s sad.” Mike: “Black is up two pieces on the queenside....This is a race.” Paul: “Very, very muddy.” And he noted good-humoredly that Mike was seeing all the mistakes I’m making.” After White leaves his pawn en-prise at h7 on move 45, he notes somberly, “Chess is like that. Very funny.” Mike adds, “Chess is a continuum. We say somebody is a good player, but not as good as the best in the world. Your average club player is very good.” We then look at a tough problem that is compared to Ray’s puzzle that nobody could solve. Paul asks for somebody to suggest a move. “How about offer a draw?” jokes Mike. Paul later on: “This problem is killing me.” Mike: “It’s a nice one.” Paul: “We’ve tried eight first moves, and no one can demonstrate a win.” In chat, Sophia sends everyone a message from the Blitz Society in the 6th Arrondissement of Paris. Later Paul notes that guests today also hail from London, St. Louis, New York, and Norway, and I also think about the vehicles west of here on Highway 1.

We watch Doug Root play Maxim Dlugy in the current U.S. Senior Championship. His f5 pawn advance on move 16, engaging with Black’s e6 and g6 pawns, provokes an exchange that opens up the kingside castled position to a strong attack, especially when White’s Qc1 sweeps up the h6 pawn. When White’s Pf5 advances to f6 nine moves later, the Bg7 is forced to take it and block his own pawn at f7 which is preventing second-rank defense by the Black queen or rook. White’s N goes to g5, threatening mate with Qh7 and Qf7; it can’t be taken or mate in 5 follows. Some moves later White has queen on f6 in front of that Black pawn still on f7, held by the king at e8. White’s rook controls the open d-file from d6, though the Black Qh5 eyes d8. White moves Nh7 at move 36, and Black resigns, unable to prevent Qh8 check (for the third time), and after the king moves to e7, mate with Qf8.

Paul noted the recent passing of a Bay Area chess player, a native of Boston (and graduate of Boston Latin, Springfield College, and S.F. State University), Joseph Antonio “Rugsy” Ruggiero, whose second marriage was to Pam Ford, another local player. Elliott and Paul went to Antioch on July 15 to pay their respects.
Our current Tuesday Night Marathon tournament (July 11-August 22) is named for WIM Ruth Haring, and on July 31 our meeting honored her, featuring a presentation by her son Theo Biyiasis, who brought lots of photos and games to show us. He is also the son of Peter Biyiasis, who was British Columbia chess champion four times and twice champion of all Canada. I looked up Theo's rating and found it at 1955 in one place and 2155 in another. Paul showed photos first. “This is how I remember Ruth, in the late ’70s at Paul Masson in Saratoga and Lone Pine.” Alexey Root told us how she knew her at the U.S. Women’s in 1981 and Vancouver the same year, won by Pia Cramling. “Ruth played me at both of those. She was better than I. I looked up to her. Beautiful, glam, well-spoken…. I do remember some opponents who were distracting, but she was well-mannered. Rachel Crotto beat her in a game I used for my book.”

In chat, Alexey posted this from her book *U.S. Women’s Chess Champions, 1937-2020* (McFarland, 2022): “While Ruth Inez Orton was the name on the handwritten score sheet, Orton later went by her maiden last name of Haring. She competed in six U.S. Women’s Championships, with three second-place finishes. After 23 years of managing projects for IBM, Lockheed, TRW, and eBay, Haring served as US Chess President from 2011 to 2016. The annual WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions is in memory of Haring, who died in 2018.”

Theo was asked, “Did she teach you?” He replied, “She did. I played both of them. As a GM, my dad was more gentle. She beat me ruthlessly. She would always set out to crush me. I swindled her a couple of times.” He showed a bad mistake he made that caused her to demand, “How can you not know your king and pawn endings?” He says he got even with her later. The sixth game he showed was a Haring win. “This guy was so upset, he took forever to resign.” Paul: “Are a lot of men bad sports?” I believe Alexey noted that it has improved; also that: “The tournament circuit has a lot of kids. Once when I came to the board, a 7-year-old boy said, ’You can’t be my opponent.’”

Both Ruth and Theo’s dad played Fischer while living at Jimmy Buff’s apartment here on Third Avenue. Bobby was visiting for a while and looked through a box of her score sheets and pointed out some possible improvements in her play. Theo: “The feedback there was world-class.” Paul: “Fischer’s memory was phenomenal. He remembered every game he ever played, even in simul.” With 4:47 left, Theo still had three more games. There was a tournament in Greece she won in 1980 and annotated for a newspaper. He showed us a large framed clipping of her article, and we watched the game Miolski-Haring, published in the December 1981 *Chess Life and Review*, under the headline “In the Arena,” which, Elliott noted, was written by Ruth. Paul: “I like the way chess.com keeps giving question marks to good moves.” During some analysis, Elliott commented in his inimitable way, “You are squareless.” When the game was out of reach, her opponent suggested they split the point. Someone said, “Bad etiquette to ask for a draw when you’re losing.”

Her favorite book was the two-volume *My Best Games* by Alekhine. We watched a contest between Ruth and Alexey from 40 years ago. When Alexey as Black pushed a pawn to b4, Ruth played f4, and eventually opened up the kingside and won.

Theo played the last game he was able to get in and ended with a good story. I believe he actually called it an “anticdote,” which could be a hybrid or just a felicitous slip of the tongue. In later years she
entered a tournament in which she was not a high seed. Someone close to her said, “You’re probably going to win a few, but lose a lot more.” To which Ruth replied, “I win, I lose - I have fun either way.”

Editor’s note:

The Chess Cafe meets online (Zoom) and was started during the Pandemic. The topic is chess and the chess-playing community, with people of all ages and skills participating. The Chess Cafe is free and open to all. You can join the conversation by registering [here](#).

I would like to share some recent comments we’ve received:

“Hi Paul, This is Zane’s mom - I just wanted to let you know that Zane is really enjoying The Chess Cafe with all the ‘older people’. He likes to hear the game reviews and chess chat from the scope of people he would not otherwise encounter. Many thanks for hosting it. Valerie.”

And:

“Hi Paul, Really enjoyed yesterday’s cafe. Seeing you analyze three games for players at widely different levels—and meet them right where they needed to be met, without condescension—was really instructive. How exciting to see someone teaching chess well! Best, Chris.”
A New Puzzle in the Library

Every week or so Mechanics’ Institute's Head of Technical Services, Steven Dunlap, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.

From Play Winning Chess (2003), by Yasser Seirawan.
Anon. vs Goetz, Strassburg 1880. Steven says this is an excellent example of under-promotion, and we couldn’t agree more: 1…gxh1=N is mate!

Seeking Scholastic Chess Coaches

Are you interested in joining the team at Mechanics’ Institute? The Institute is currently seeking Scholastic Chess Instructors for the upcoming school year. Qualified candidates should have a foundational knowledge of chess and should be familiar with or willing to learn chess instructional techniques. Candidates should also have a basic foundation in classroom management and conflict resolution strategies, particularly working with children. This is an in-person position and candidates must be able to commute to schools in San Francisco. If you’re interested follow the link below or reach out to our Chess Program Manager, Alex Robins, at arobins@milibrary.org.

Employment Opportunities | Mechanics' Institute (milibrary.org)
Tony’s Teasers

1. S. Loyd, 1888.
White mates in 3 moves.

2. S. Loyd, 1859.
White mates in 6 moves.
Tournaments, Classes, and Events

Mechanics’ Institute offers a wide range of chess tournaments, classes, and special events. Our offerings include a monthly Chess Social, free classes for women and Mechanics’ Institute members, an online Chess Café, chess camps for adults and children, and much more.

You can find a list of ongoing and upcoming tournaments here.

Offerings for adults and advanced players can be found here.
Information about scholastic events, camps, and programming can be found here.

Play chess in the oldest club in the United States!
Solutions

Tony's Teasers

1. S. Loyd, 1888. 1.Re2! Nxe2 (1...Nf3 2.Kxf3 Kg1 3.Re1#. Or 1...Nh3+ 2.Kg3 Ng1 - otherwise 3.Re1# - 3.Rxh2#) 2.Nf5! and 3.Ng3#.

2. S. Loyd, 1859. 1.Nf3 Be1 (1...gxh2 2.g4#. Any other bishop move allows 2.hxg3 and 3.g4#) 2.Nxe1 Kh4 (2...gxh3 3.Nf3 h1=Q 4.g4#) 3.h3! Kh5 (3...h5 4.Nf3#) 4.Nd3! Kh4 5.Nf4! h5 6.Ng6#.

Contact Us

The Mechanics’ Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA. Our phone number is (415) 393-0110.

We welcome any feedback, articles, or "Letter to the Editor" piece. Submit yours today at chessroom@milibrary.org

With more than 3,000 books and periodicals, Mechanics’ Institute boasts one of the largest chess book collections in the U.S.

You can now access our newsletter directly from the chess home page! https://www.milibrary.org/chess
2023 Sizzling Summer Blitz!
USCF & FIDE rated 3+2

- Tuesday -
August 29, 2023
7:00pm - 9:00pm

5-round double game
3+2 Blitz Tournament
Prize Fund: $540
(b/60 paid entries)

Entry Fee:
$20 for Members
$30 for Non-Members

*Masks are optional in the chess room*

Blitz is back at the Mechanics' Institute!
We are hosting a 5-round double game Open Swiss System - players will play TWO games in one round against the same opponent with alternating colors.
Maximum score for the tournament is 10 points.
Time Control: 3+2 (3 minutes + 2 second increment).
Rounds start at 7:00pm, and
the estimated end of the event is 9:00pm.
Prize Fund: $540 - based on 60 paid entries.
1st Place: $200
2nd Place: $125
3rd Place: $90
Best under 1800: $75 - Best under 1300: $50

Register at milibrary.org/chess

Questions? Email to chessroom@milibrary.org

Dont let your time run out!
Celebrate your finest victories, and learn from heart-wrenching defeats. The key to success in chess lies in understanding our own games. How do I determine my path forward? Where did I go wrong? Why wasn't that the best move and what could I have done instead?

Ideal for TNM and club players who want to improve their game and perhaps get a few plans in place for their next match. Students will be expected to send .pgns or bring in scoresheets to the class for analysis.

chessroom@milibrary.org

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