



HOME

BOOK
REVIEWSBULLETIN
BOARDENDGAME
STUDIESSKITTLES
ROOMBOOKSTORE
& EMPORIUM

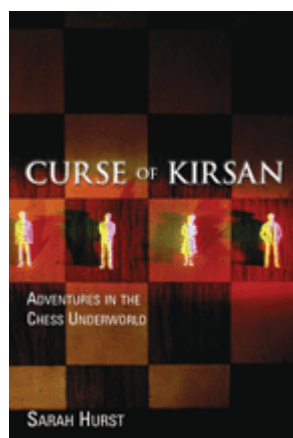
ChessCafe.com



COLUMNISTS

Susan Polgar on Chess

Susan Polgar



Curse of Kirsan
by Sarah Hurst

Chess in Paradise

My U.S. chess promotional tour continued on the beautiful island of Oahu, Hawaii at the end of March 2004. As I have always said, in order for chess to grow to the next level of popularity, corporate assistance would be needed. I am very happy to say that World Asia (www.WorldAsia.com) has agreed to help me with my initiatives to promote chess in the U.S. The first chess event staged by World Asia was the Children's Chess Challenge during the first annual Xentopia event (www.Xentopia.com) at the Hawaiian Hilton Village on Waikiki Beach. In addition, with the assistance of Mr. Randy Prothero and the Hawaii Chess Federation, extra events were scheduled to help boost chess in Hawaii.

My first activity in Hawaii was a visit to the famous Mililani Chess Club. When I arrived at the club I was warmly greeted by the club members. They presented my children and me with beautiful leis and gifts. The crowd was very enthusiastic. My activities at the club included a Q&A session followed by some exhibition blitz games with the local members.

The next event on the schedule was the Children's Chess Challenge. Fifty participants took part in this event, which was filmed by the camera crew of World Asia. This event could not have happened without the tremendous support from the President of the Hawaii Chess Federation Mr. Randy Prothero, House Representatives Guy Ontai (who is also the State Scholastic Coordinator) and David Pendleton, along with the many local chess parents and the young players themselves.



Susan Polgar with Representatives Ontai (left) and Pendleton (right)

Next on the calendar was a visit to the Kahuku School located on the North Shore. The Kahuku chess team is the 2003 State Scholastic Team Champion. The school principal who is a big supporter of chess kindly gave the team time off in the middle of the school day so they can participate in my simultaneous exhibition and lecture. The media was also present while we played chess on the four giants chess sets in the middle of the school. Right after these friendly games, I held a simultaneous

exhibition for the students followed by giving the team some chess tips for their next scholastic tournament. I was very pleased to see so much enthusiasm from the children. I was also so touched to see such support from the local community as well as the school.

On my next to the last day on the island, Mr. Prothero saved the best activity for last. I received an invitation to visit the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's Office as well as the House of Representatives. During their session, I was recognized on the House floor by Representative Guy Ontai and his colleagues. Then a short recess was called so the Representatives could meet me and participate in a photo shoot. I was also given a beautiful official certificate of appreciation by Representative Guy Ontai. I felt very honored by such warm and grand hospitality.



Susan Polgar with House Members

This was one of the most fantastic trips that I have taken to promote chess in America. Just about everything was perfect and of course it could not have happened without so much cooperation from World Asia, the Hawaii Chess Federation, and so many other people. I am looking forward to my return trip to paradise next year.

Immediately following the Hawaii tour was the National K-6 Championship in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Approximately 2,000 children participated in this National Championship. The event was very professionally and smoothly organized by Diane Reese. I had a number of events scheduled for the children.

We started off with a 60-board tandem simultaneous exhibition. FM Paul Truong, Captain of the 2004 US Women's Olympiad Team, and I had to work very hard to fend off these determined and dynamic children, but it was a fun challenge. We followed that up with a standing room only Q&A session for parents, coaches, and players. More than 100 people took part in this interactive and informative session aiming to motivate and guide the children toward the right road to chess improvement.

The next event was the game analysis session where the children showed me their games and I made suggestions on how to improve their play. A number of autograph and photograph sessions were also held during the entire tournament including at the Award Ceremony to accommodate all the participants. It was a lot of work but it was also fun. The best part of the tournament is to be able to see how much these children love chess and they are clearly the future of U.S. Chess. It was also wonderful to see so many dedicated parents and coaches supporting their kids. The full results can be found at <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2004/elem>.



Susan Polgar with scholastic teams and coaches Sunil Weeramantry (above) and Joel Benjamin (below)



I will also be attending the National High School (K-12) Chess Championship from April 16-18, 2004 in Dallas, Texas and the National Junior High (K-9) Chess Championship from May 7-9, 2004 in Tucson, Arizona to support scholastic chess.

Recent Events

On March 21, 2004, the new Polgar Chess Center had its second Grand Opening. As the first Grand Opening on March 7 was on a Jewish Holiday, some players could not attend and requested an alternative date.

Another big turn out took place and once again a blitz tournament was held. This time, the much stronger field included 5 GMs, 2 WGMs, 1 IM and many other strong masters. After all the smoke cleared, GM Yudasin (8/9) came out on top by a full point ahead the second place finisher GM Stripunsky (7/9). The next three spots (3rd-5th) were occupied by GMs Yury Shulman, Alek Wojtkiewicz, and Boris Gulko with 6/9.

Canadian Champion IM Charbonneau had to leave a little early; therefore, he was not in contention. The top finishers among women were Anna Zatonskih (5.5/9) followed by Rusa Goletiani (4.5/9). It sure was an exciting event and I hope many more strong blitz tournaments like this will be held in the near future in addition to many scholastic and various time-control tournaments.

The Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls and the National All-Girls Chess Championships

I am very happy with the progress of the first annual Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls in August 2004, a program that was created through the assistance and support of Mr. Frank Niro, Dwain Barber, Paul Truong, as well as the

previous USCF Executive Board. The response and support I received from parents and coaches across the country was phenomenal and greater than I had anticipated. Many parents and coaches have approached me at various chess events or via e-mail to inform me that their daughters / students had either made it or were still trying very hard to earn a spot for the tournament. They take this tournament very seriously.

It is about time that we do something to encourage more young girls to get involved and/or stay in chess. This was the main idea for the tournament and many other initiatives and goals of the Susan Polgar Foundation (a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization). I wanted to create excitement and motivation for young girls to play chess and stay in chess. The possibility of winning a 4-year scholarship from the University of Texas in Dallas and other cash scholarships is just the beginning. The Susan Polgar Foundation will continue to do a lot more in the near future to promote scholastic chess, especially for young girls in this country.

The first annual All-Girls National Chess Championships, organized by the Kasparov Chess Foundation will take place from May 14-16, 2004 in Chicago, Illinois. I am very excited to see a great champion like Garry Kasparov helping U.S. scholastic chess, especially for girls. I fully support the All-Girls National Chess Championships. I am also very happy to be a part of this inaugural event as I will give a simultaneous exhibition and participate in other activities as well. I hope that the tournament will be a big success and together with the Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls, they will give a big boost to the future of Women's Chess in America.

2004 U.S. Women's Olympiad

The 2004 U.S. Women's Olympiad started out with a bang in early 2003. This program was specifically designed to help raise the level of Women's Chess in America. The first original group consists of some of our top and most promising young players. Many additional groups are planned to help the younger women players, all at no cost to the participants.

Unfortunately, things did not go as smoothly in 2004 due to so much resistance from some of the chess politicians and selfish players outside of this program. In spite of all the severe obstacles, the Kasparov Chess Foundation and the Susan Polgar Foundation are still committed to make a difference.

A recent statement made by the USCF President Beatriz Marinello about the 2004 Women's Olympiad and 2004 US Women's Championship can be found at: <http://www.uschess.org/uswomenschampionshipstatementEB.php>. The current executive board has worked hard to try to solve some of the problems created due to the 2004 US Championship not being held in a timely manner, as well as the severe ambiguity of the current USCF rules and regulations. Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan, Mr. Erik Anderson (AF4C), Mr. Michael Khodarkovsky (KCF) and USCF ED Bill Goichberg also worked closely with the executive board to come up with a resolution in regards to these issues. Thank you all for your admirable efforts.

Paul Truong assisted Susan Polgar in the preparation of this column. Susan Polgar is available for chess instruction. For more information, visit the Polgar Chess Center, 97-09 64th Road, Rego Park, NY 11374 (Tel: 718-897-4600) or email: PolgarChessInc@aol.com



[\[ChessCafe.com Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#) [\[Bulletin Board\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

Copyright 2004 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

"**The Chess Cafe®**" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.