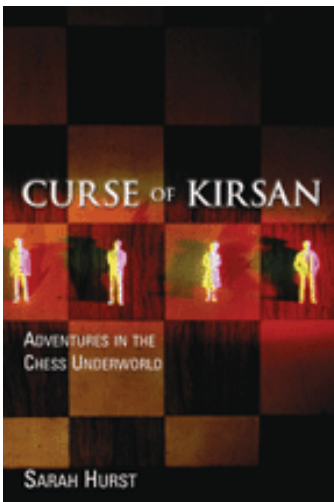




## COLUMNISTS

## Susan Polgar on Chess

Susan Polgar



*Curse of Kirsan*  
by Sarah Hurst

## Kasparov, Fischer, Nakamura and the Future of Chess

### Garry Kasparov

On March 10, 2005, at the conclusion of the Linares super-tournament, the world's number one player Garry Kasparov stunned the chess world by announcing his retirement after an illustrious 30-year career. Prior to the press conference, he stated:

*I would like to make a short statement before the press conference. It could come as a surprise to many of you. But before this tournament I made a conscious decision that Linares 2005 will be my last professional tournament, and today I played my last professional game.*

Additionally, he wrote in the Wall Street Journal on March 14, 2005:

*Thirty years ago at the Soviet Junior Championship I played my first major chess event at the national level. Twenty years ago in Moscow I became the youngest World Champion in history. Last week in Spain I played my final serious games of chess, winning the Linares super-tournament for the ninth time. After three decades as a professional chess player, the last two ranked No. 1, I have decided to retire from professional chess.*

*It's not common, in our age, for someone to retire while still at the top; but I'm a man who needs a goal, and who wants to make a difference. My accomplishments and contributions are for others to judge, but I feel that I am no longer playing an essential role in chess. With reclaiming the unified world championship out of reach due to political chaos in the chess world, I am reduced to unfulfilling repetition.*

*I have always set ambitious goals, and I have been lucky enough to attain most of them. I have achieved everything there is to achieve in the chess arena, arguably more than any other player in history. Meanwhile, there are other areas where I can still make a difference, where I can set new goals and find new channels for my energy. At the age of 41, I believe there is still much I can accomplish. My experiences in the chess world have provided me with an excellent foundation for these new challenges.*

Garry's retirement is certainly a big loss to the chess world. He is the last true link between old chess (Botvinnik, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Karpov, etc.) and new chess (Kramnik, Anand, Leko, Shirov, Topalov, etc.). What made him successful is his ability to combine the old chess knowledge with the modern computer technology to maintain the #1 position for 20 consecutive years, a feat that won't be duplicated any time soon. This combination has made him the most complete player of all time.

Garry has never been afraid to speak his mind and he was always willing to raise the bar in chess. His many memorable matches against Karpov, Deep Blue, Deep Junior and Deep Fritz, etc., have created incredible interest in chess worldwide. His book series *Garry Kasparov On My Great Predecessors* has become one of the most important chess works in recent times.

In addition to being a chess champion and world-class chess author, Garry is also very much involved in promoting chess to young players. He advocates the study of chess as a cognitive learning tool in curricular classes and after-school programs for elementary, middle and high schools, both in the public and private school sectors.

His involvement with the 2004 US Women's Olympiad Team helped us capture medals for the United States for the first time ever. Let me join the countless chess fans around the world in saying: "Thank you, Garry, for thirty years of magnificent chess!"

### **Bobby Fischer**

On March 24, 2005, Bobby Fischer was released from the East Japan Immigration Detention Center in Ushiku, north of Tokyo, after spending more than 9 months in detention. He was first detained by Narita immigration officers on July 13 when attempting to board JAL flight 745 to Manila. His U.S. passport was stamped *void* and he was put into the airport detention facilities as immigration case No. 20210.

Bobby Fischer's rise to prominence began at 560 Lincoln Place, Apt. Q, in Crown Heights, NY. He started with a plastic chess set that his sister gave him when he was 6. At the age of 7, Bobby joined the Brooklyn Chess Club, and was briefly taught by Mr. Carmine Nigro, who was the club's president at that time.

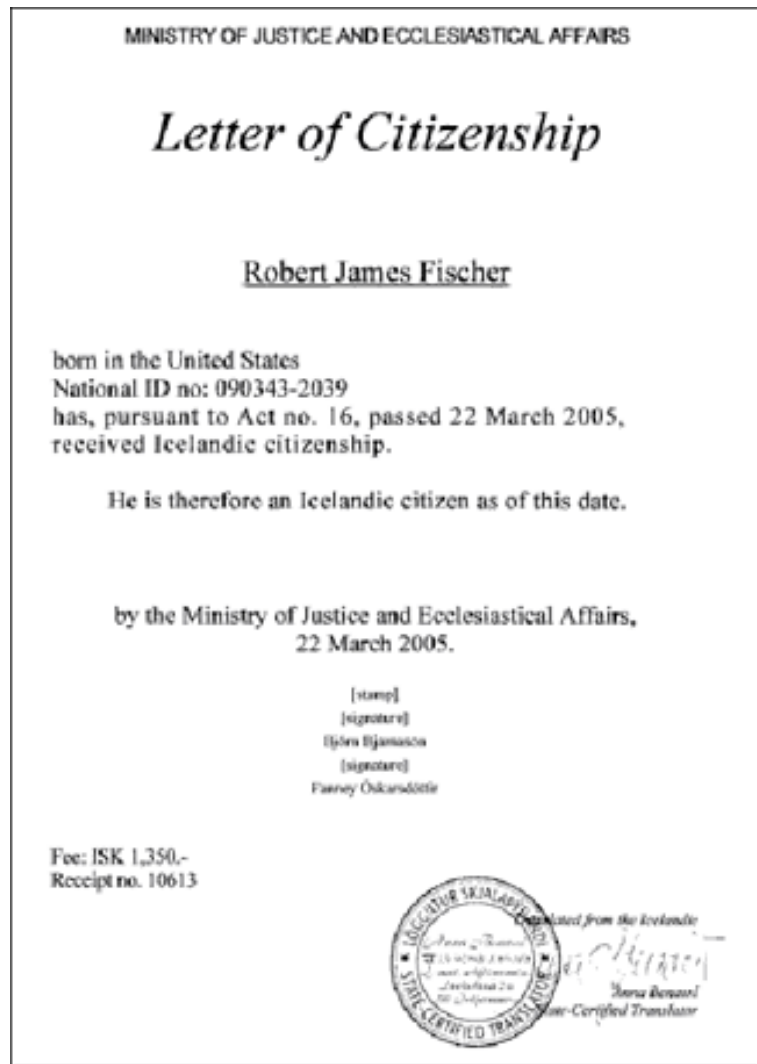
When Bobby was around 13 years old, his mother asked the legendary chess teacher and National Master John W. Collins to help him. Some of Mr. Collins' students included future grandmasters Robert Byrne and William Lombardy. Fischer spent a lot of time at Collins' apartment and some have said that Bobby considered him as a father figure.

Bobby's career is quite remarkable. He first won the U.S. Junior Championship at the age of 13. At the age of 14, he won the U.S. Championship. In 1958, the 15 year old Fischer became the youngest ever grandmaster, a record that stood for more than 30 years until my sister Judit eclipsed it by one month at the end of

1991.

In 1972, Bobby defeated Boris Spassky to become the 11<sup>th</sup> World Champion. In the candidates matches leading to the match of the century, Bobby scored an astounding 18½-2½ against Taimanov (6-0), Larsen (6-0) and Petrosian (6½-2½).

After disappearing from the chess world for 20 years, Bobby resurfaced in 1992 to play a second match against his old friend and foe Boris Spassky in Yugoslavia with a \$5 million prize fund. This was the beginning of his legal woes that led to his detainment in Japan until he was granted Icelandic citizenship.



I am glad that Bobby was able to travel to Iceland. I wish him the best and I hope he will be able to find internal peace and happiness. Even though I don't agree with many of the things that Bobby has said, he has the right to say them. When we live in a society which offers freedom of speech, this is one of the consequences that we must accept. Everyone can choose to accept or disregard what he says. However, Bobby was and will always be a chess player and one of the most recognized world champions in history and we should recognize and remember his genius at the chess board.

He has contributed many valuable ideas to chess, such as the Fischer clock and Fischer Random chess. I had the honor and pleasure to play many Fischer Random games with Bobby when he was living in Budapest. I truly enjoy playing Fischer Random chess and I even organize monthly Fischer Random tournaments at my own chess club. Both Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov stated their support of Fischer Random chess.

Below is one of Bobby's instructional games that I discussed in my brand new DVD series.

***Bobby Fischer – Tigran Petrosian***

Candidate Match (7), Buenos Aires, October 19, 1971

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.0-0 d5**



**8.c4! Nf6**

8...d4 9.e5; 8...dxe4 9.Bxe4; 8...dxc4 9.Bxc4.

**9.cxd5**

9.Nc3 d4 10.Ne2 e5 11.f4.

**9...cxd5 10.exd5 exd5**

10...Nxd5 11.Be4 Ra7 (11...Be7 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxd7+ Kxd7 15.Rd1)

12.Qd4 Rd7 13.Nc3; 10...Qxd5 11.Nc3 Qd7 12.Bg5 Be7 13.Qe2 Bb7 14.Rac1.

**11.Nc3**

Bobby spent 20 minutes on this move.

**11...Be7**

11...Be6 12.Qa4+ Nd7 13.Qc6 Be7 (13...d4 14.Ne2 Bc5 15.Nf4) 14.Nxd5 Rc8 15.Qb7.



**12.Qa4+! Qd7?**

12...Bd7 13.Qc2 (*13.Qd4 Be6 14.Bf4*)  
13...0-0 14.Be3.

**13.Re1!**

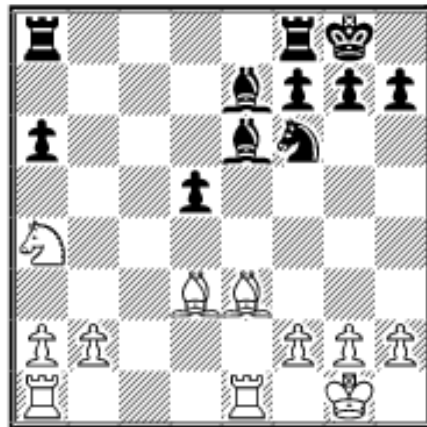
13.Bb5 axb5 14.Qxa8 0-0 15.Qa5 d4 16.Rd1  
(*16.Nxb5 Bb7 17.f3 Bc6 18.Na3 d3*) 16...Ng4  
17.Nxb5 Bh4 18.f3 Bf2+ 19.Kh1 Nxb2  
20.Nxd4 Nxf3 21.Be3 Bxe3 22.Nxf3.

**13...Qxa4**

13...Ra7 14.Qd4 0-0 15.Re5! (*15.Bg5*) 15...Bd6 16.Rg5 h6 17.Rxg7+! Kxg7  
18.Bxh6+ Kxh6 19.Qxf6+ Kh5 20.Be2+; 13...d4 14.Qxd7+ Bxd7 15.Ne2.

**14.Nxa4 Be6 15.Be3 0-0**

15...Nd7 16.Bd4 (*16.f4*) 16...0-0 17.f4 (*17.a3 a5 18.f4 g6*) 17...g6 18.Rac1  
(*18.g4 Rfb8 19.f5 Rb4 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Rxe6 Bf8*).



**16.Bc5!**

16.Nc5 a5 17.Bd4 Bxc5 18.Bxc5 is less  
advantageous than the game.

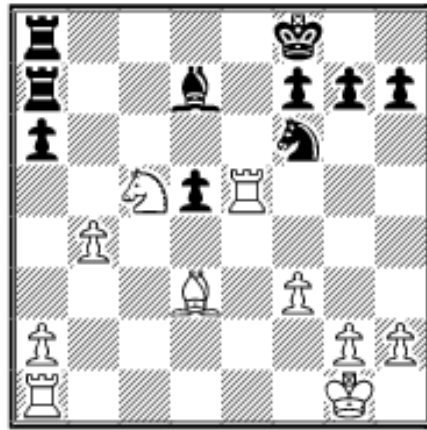
**16...Rfe8 17.Bxe7 Rxe7 18.b4! Kf8**

18...Rc7 19.Rac1; 18...a5 19.b5; 18...Rb8  
19.a3 Ra7 20.Nc5 Rb6 21.Rac1 Kf8 22.f4 g6  
23.Kf2.

**19.Nc5 Bc8 20.f3 Rea7?!**

20...Nd7 21.Rec1; 20...Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Ne8 (*21...Nd7 22.Rc1*) 22.Kf2 Nc7 23.a3  
h6 (*23...Nb5 24.Re5*) 24.f4.

**21.Re5! Bd7**



**22.Nxd7+!!**

A brilliant decision, masterfully transforming one kind of advantage into another.

**22...Rxd7 23.Rc1**

Threatening both Bxa6 and Rc6.

**23...Rd6**

23...g6 24.Rc6.

**24.Rc7 Nd7 25.Re2 g6**

25...Nb6 26.Ree7; 25...a5 26.bxa5; 25...Re8 26.Rxe8+ Kxe8 27.Ra7 Nb8 28.b5 (28.a4) 28...axb5 29.Bxb5+.

**26.Kf2 h5**

26...Re8 27.Rxe8+ Kxe8 28.Ra7 Rb6 29.a3 Nb8 30.Ke3; 26...Rb8 27.a3 a5 28.bxa5 Rb3 29.Rd2 Ne5 30.Be2 Rxa3 31.a6.

**27.f4!**

27.Ke3 Ne5.

**27...h4?!**

27...Nb6 28.Ree7 Rf6 29.g3 Rd8; 27...Rb8 28.a3 Rbb6.

**28.Kf3 f5?! 29.Ke3 d4+?!**

29...Nf6 30.Kd4 Ne4 31.Rec2.

**30.Kd2**

The threat is Bc4, Kd3 and Re6.

**30...Nb6**

30...Kf7 31.Bc4+ Kf6 32.a3; 30...a5 31.bxa5 (31.b5 Nf6 32.Bc4 Ne4+ 33.Kd3 Rb8 34.g4) 31...Rxa5 32.Rc8+ Kg7 33.Bc4 Kf6 34.Rce8 Nc5 35.Rf8+ Kg7 36.Rf7+ Kh6 37.Ree7.

**31.Ree7 Nd5 32.Rf7+ Ke8 33.Rb7 Nxb4?**

33...Rb6 34.Rxb6 Nxb6 35.Rg7; 33...Rb8 34.Ra7 Nf6 (34...Ra8 35.Rxa8+ Kxf7 36.Bc4; 34...Nxf4 35.Rh7 Ne6 36.Bc4) 35.a3 Rbb6 36.Bc2; 33...Nxf4 34.Bc4 Nd5 (34...g5 35.Rg7 Rf6 36.Rg8+ Rf8 37.Bf7+) 35.Rh7.

### **34.Bc4 (planning Rh7) 1-0**

#### **Hikaru Nakamura**

Nearly four years ago, I invited a number of young talented U.S. players such as Irina Krush, Greg Shahade, Eugene Perelshteyn, Dmitry Schneider and Hikaru Nakamura to participate in the 2001 Mayor's Cup, a tournament I organized. Hikaru did not have a particularly good tournament, but that summer he steamrolled to become the youngest American grandmaster, beating Bobby Fischer's record.

Since then, Hikaru has continued to improve rapidly. At the end of 2004, he made the top 100 list of best players in the world. In June 2004, Hikaru made it all the way into the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the World Championship, where he was finally eliminated by super GM Adams of England.

In December 2004, Hikaru became the *youngest player since Bobby Fischer* to win the US Championship, defeating GM Stripunsky to win the play-off, the title, and a cool \$25,000 prize. In the 2005 Foxwood Open, Hikaru scored 7 out of 8 to win clear first with victories over GMs Shabalov, Stripunsky, Smirin, and Becerra. On April 1, 2005, Hikaru broke through the top 50 at number 43 in the world.

I recently had a chance to play an [exhibition game](#) against Hikaru at the Millennium Chess Festival on February 26, 2005 and we both produced some very exciting chess for the audience. During our game, he never once backed off; even with Black, he chose to play very aggressively.

Hikaru is undoubtedly the most talented American player since Bobby Fischer. The good news is he still has plenty of room to grow. The next few years will prove critical for this young man. The road will be much harder for him now with the extra media and fan attention. In order to beat the elite, he needs to remain focused and dedicated with his training. I wish him the best and I expect to see many amazing results from Hikaru in the future.

#### **Future Chess Events**

Chess is a great game and it has great potential. But to bring chess to the next level of popularity, we have to be willing to try new things. Rather than sitting back and waiting to be at the mercy of the chess politicians, many players and organizers decided to develop things on their own.

One of the big events in the U.S. in 2005 is the HB Global Chess Challenge coming up in May. In the Supnationals taking place from April 8-10, 2005, Anatoly Karpov, Yasser Seirawan, Hikaru Nakamura, Jennifer Shahade and I will be present to promote chess to our youngsters. 6,000 children are expected to attend along with their parents and coaches to compete for the top national

scholastic honors.

In the first weekend of June, I will be in Salt Lake City, Utah for a special promotional appearance. In the second weekend of June, my sisters and I will appear together for the first time in over 10 years to promote chess at the National Open / Las Vegas International Chess Festival. I am also scheduled to do an all-girls' chess camp in Atlanta in June and a long distance match between the U.S. Team (playing out of the Polgar Chess Center) with GMs Onischuk, Gulko, Stripunsky, and me; versus the Russian team (St. Petersburg) with a possible line up of GMs Svidler, Sakaehev, Alekseev, and Khalifman.

The Susan Polgar National Invitational Event in Phoenix, Arizona in August 2005 is expected to be a big success and many states are now holding girls' qualifying events because of the Polgar Tournament.

There will be a very special event from January 14 to 21, 2006: "Chess Moves," a Geek Cruise to the Caribbean (British Virgin Islands, US Virgin Islands, the Bahamas and Fort Lauderdale, FL)!

For this particular sailing, there are 2½ "sea days." That means there will be 20 hours of daytime lectures delivered by the grandmaster faculty while the ship is sailing between ports. When the ship is docked, everyone is on vacation. In the evenings "Chess Moves" will host an informal blitz competition and everyone will have a chance to either play chess or get some private time with a master or grandmaster. Joining me will be 3-time National Champion Joel Benjamin and 4-time National Champion Larry Christiansen and others. For more information about the chess cruise, please check out [www.GeekCruises.com/chess](http://www.GeekCruises.com/chess).

I am currently in Corpus Christi, Texas. I was invited here to promote chess for kids, especially girls. When I arrived, Coach DeLeon picked me up at the airport with a driver in one of those long stretch limos!

When I arrived in the hotel, a group of about 25-30 people (kids, city officials, sponsors, fans, TV folks) were waiting at the lobby. They made me feel very special and the town officials even proclaimed April 1<sup>st</sup> as Susan Polgar Day!

I gave a brief television interview and quickly checked into my room to freshen up; it was a beautiful large bay view suite. After lunch, my hosts Mr. & Mrs. DeLeon showed me around Corpus Christi, which is home to an important army/navy base. We visited the Texas State Aquarium and watched a dolphin show! After the sight-seeing tour, I had a little time to get ready for the evening.

At around 6pm, I was signing autographs and posing for pictures for about 45 minutes in front of the Ballroom. At about 7pm, I started the lecture, which was followed by a simul. There were close to 100 people present. The organizer had a raffle for twelve lucky winners to play against me in the simul. Another prize was a private lesson with me on the following day.



After the simul, there was a small dinner reception with Mexican-style food and a special Chocolate fondue. When I returned to the room, I found a nice cheese and fruit plate. It was royal treatment all the way through. These parents, coaches, organizers understand the importance of chess for young people and they are doing everything they can to promote the game to their youngsters. I am happy and honored to be a small part of chess development here and I hope to be back next year. I know many other cities across the country are doing the same for their youngsters. I promise to do my part to help make a difference for chess.

One thing I must say is that I am disappointed with our mainstream media. When our Women's Olympiad Team made history by capturing the first ever Olympiad Silver and Gold medals, there was absolutely no coverage of it. This was a monumental event that can change the future of millions of kids in this country, but it was not considered newsworthy. There has been very limited chess coverage on TV. Conversely, ESPN and all the other major media in this country were very quick to cover Bobby Fischer's problems in Japan and his trip to Iceland. Jeremy Schapp of ESPN even went to Iceland to interview Bobby only to be insulted by him.

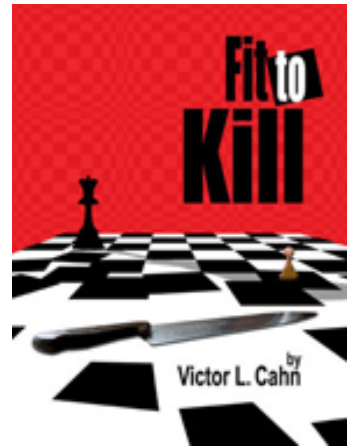
What message are we giving our children? Are we telling our kids that something wonderful like chess, a mind sport that can help them develop vital and necessary skills for school and life is not so important? Are we telling them that they have to say or do controversial things to be recognized by the media? I hope not. I hope the media can wake up and understand how important and helpful chess is for young children and that it should be taught to every child in America.

We televise spelling bees, fishing, billiards, and poker. Why not chess? The most popular game in the world is something that can help our children to open their minds to absorb the essential information to do well in school and in life.



**Fit to Kill**

Susan Polgar has joined the off Broadway play Fit to Kill as their Chess Consultant. The show will open on April 11, 2005 at the Clurman Theatre located at 410 West 42nd Street in New York City. Fit to Kill, a witty and elegant new play in the tradition of Sleuth and Deathtrap, is a suspense-thriller about strategy, deception, and betrayal. Adrian, a charming but self-indulgent chess master, lives a life of luxury thanks to his marriage to Janice, an older, but still sexy and vibrant woman who has made her fortune as the CEO of an exercise empire. When Amy, a young reporter with an agenda of her own, starts asking too many questions, a whirlwind of deadly schemes ensues, leading to a series of twists and surprises that will keep audiences guessing until the final seconds.



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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, 103-10 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375 (Tel: 718-897-4600) or email: [PolgarChessInc@aol.com](mailto:PolgarChessInc@aol.com)

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