



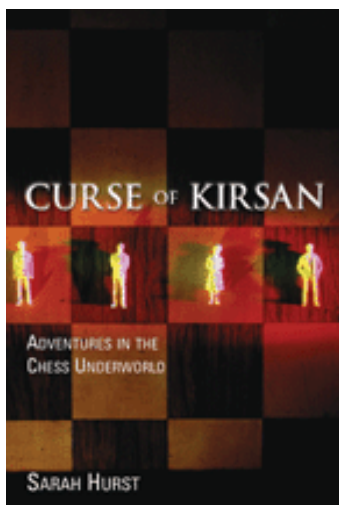
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COLUMNISTS

Susan Polgar on Chess

Susan Polgar



Curse of Kirsan
by Sarah Hurst

Clash of the Titans and Other Events

In the last few years, I have traveled to many different places throughout the United States to promote chess, from small towns to large metropolitan areas. The grassroots support for chess is rapidly growing and chess is on the verge of a major breakthrough. However, even with such incredible growth, it does not automatically translate into USCF memberships. More marketing and promotional efforts must be done for such a desirable outcome.

That brings me to the first segment of this month's column. It shows what can be done to boost chess in America with the right marketing, promotion, and support. I recently completed the Clash of Titans match against 7-time World Champion Anatoly Karpov. The idea of this match originated on February 15, 2004 during the last day of the special Oklahoma Chess Challenge Tournament (featuring all members of the 2004 US Women's Olympiad Training Program) in Stillwater, Oklahoma and organized by Mr. Frank Berry.

While the members of the team were playing, Dr. Mikhail Korenman (the director of the Karpov School of Chess in Lindsborg, Kansas) approached Paul Truong (my business manager) about a few ideas to help US Chess; since Paul's background is marketing. One thing lead to another and the idea of this match was developed.

They worked together over many months to make this wonderful project occur. Mikhail Korenman even got the state of Kansas and the city of Lindsborg involved. Everyone from the mayor, the chamber of commerce, and local businesses, lent a hand to put on a spectacular show, one of the best I have ever seen.



Anatoly Karpov and Susan Polgar head the Chess Parade

On the night before our monumental match, Anatoly Karpov and I were treated to a special reception at the home of Mr. Ronald Rolander, Mayor of the city of Lindsborg. Many other distinguished guests were also invited. On Saturday morning, September 18, 2004, the town of Lindsborg threw a magnificent King and Queen Chess parade, headed by Anatoly and me, followed GM Shulman, IM Charbonneau, IM Krush, and IM Zatonskih.

A few thousand people watched or participated in the parade and more than 200 enthusiastic youngsters and their parents marched down Main Street. When we reached Lindsborg City Hall we were greeted with warm cheers and roaring applause. It was truly a spectacle that will forever be a part of chess history. This was an incredible moment that I will remember for the rest of my life.

The Mayor welcomed us in an official opening ceremony immediately following the parade. Mikhail Korenman, Ralph Bowman (chairperson of the USCF Scholastic Council), Anatoly and I, all greeted and thanked the city for such incredible support. The fans remained enthusiastic the whole time, never missing a beat.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Anatoly and I posed for pictures with every participant of the Champions Cup tournament and their siblings, parents or coaches. Then we headed across the street to City Hall for an official press conference. The reporters asked many questions: how I started in chess, my plans as an ambassador for the game, how the first Karpov chess school in the US was opened in Lindsborg, and if Anatoly has plans to open more.

When asked what chess can do for young girls, I immediately took the opportunity to let the media know how great chess is. This is a very dear subject to me. Chess can help many young girls with self esteem and self confidence issues. And as we all know, research has proven that children who play chess do much better in school than the children who are not exposed to chess. It is so wonderful to see that legendary World Champions like Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov give so much of their time to promote chess for young people. The Kasparov Chess Foundation, the Karpov School of Chess, and the Susan Polgar Foundation have done many things to help youngsters and I am very

proud to be associated with these wonderful champions.

When asked about the two Fischer Random chess games in support of our fellow World Champion Bobby Fischer, Anatoly said that Fischer had done so much for the chess world and he is a great champion. He thinks Fischer Random chess is quite interesting and that Bobby should be left alone to live out his life in peace. I agreed and we both felt that there are two sides to Bobby Fischer, and we should honor his great chess accomplishments.

After the press conference, Anatoly went back to his hotel room to rest while I went back outside to sign more autographs and talk to the fans. I wanted to reach out to as many people as possible and show them my appreciation for their wonderful support.



Karpov and Polgar face off over the board

At 5:00 PM, our first game began. I lost the coin toss made by the chief TD Ralph Bowman and Anatoly chose black in the first game. We played a total of 6 games. On the first day, we played two Rapid Chess games with a time control of 25 minutes with a 5 second increment. On the second day, we played a total of four games. At 1:00 PM, we played two Fischer Random games with the time control of 15 minute for each side. The last two games were Blitz chess. They were played at 4 PM with the time control of 5 minutes for each side.

There were about 800 spectators in the audience over both days. Nearly 100 people joined us for dinner at the Lindsborg Chess Café on Saturday evening. Michael Korenman thanked all parties involved with the match and I spoke on behalf of both Anatoly and I in thanking everyone for their support. I also told the audience some of my personal chess experiences with Anatoly over the years.

After two days of tough competition, the exciting and entertaining match ended in a 3-3 tie.

- ***Rapid Chess 25 + 5***
Game 1: Polgar $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Karpov
Game 2 Karpov 1-0 Polgar
- ***Fischer Random 15 + 0***
Game 3: Polgar 1 - 0 Karpov
Game 4: Karpov 1 - 0 Polgar
- ***Blitz Chess 5 + 0***

Game 5: Karpov $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Polgar

Game 6: Polgar 1 - 0 Karpov

Every game of the match was hard fought with no easy draws. In most cases, I pushed very hard to win by sacrificing material. In some games, I overextended and it backfired, but I fought hard until the last game. Even though I usually play a more positional game, I wanted to treat the fans to something thrilling. In the meantime, true to his incredible style, Anatoly played calmly through out the match. He deflected my attacks and tried to squeeze out small advantages and take advantage of any weakness.

In the end, the fans were treated to many wonderful and exciting games. We gave our all to the Clash of the Titans and the fans truly appreciated our efforts. We received a long standing ovation at the conclusion of each game and especially after the final game. This is something that has no equal in any other sport. Only in chess can a Battle of the Genders exist on an equal footing. It is not easy for women athletes in other sports to compete evenly against a male competitor. However, in chess many female players are now able to defeat male grandmasters in any given game.

This match was very interesting for me, even though I prepared hard, I did not know what to expect. I gave it my best and I felt very comfortable at the board. Approximately a year ago on September 20-21, 2003, I played two similar officially rated Battle of the Gender matches against two of the top American Grandmasters Boris Gulko and Alexander Stripunsky and I was lucky enough to win both matches.

As a thirty-something full time devoted mother to two young sons who works hard as a chess author and operates a full time chess center, I wanted to show the young girls of the next generation that they can do anything they put their minds to. There is no excuse for not achieving your goals. Nothing is out of reach. As I often say, there is nothing a woman can't do if she puts her spirit into it. I truly believe in that.

Following this event I returned to New York to continue my training for the upcoming chess Olympiad in Mallorca, Spain – my first Olympiad in ten years. I will play for the first time under the US flag. Our team will attempt to accomplish another difficult task, bringing home the first Olympiad medal for the United States women's team. In the meantime, Anatoly returned to Moscow to prepare for the upcoming super Russian Championship in November, which includes some of the strongest Russian players such as Kasparov, Kramnik, Morozevich, Grischuk, Svidler, Bareev, etc. But before that, he made a stop-over in Switzerland to attend the opening ceremony of the Kramnik – Leko match.

The Clash of the Titans match was reported on by the AP news and countless other chess news sources and publications from all over the world. An estimated 10 million people were exposed to the event through either the news media or the live broadcast on www.PlayChess.com (a proud official sponsor of the Clash of the Titans and the Susan Polgar Foundation). Other major sponsors were

ChessCafe.com, Excalibur Electronics, House of Staunton and World Chess Hall of Fame, as well as many individual donors. The entire list of donors can be seen on my website. This event was a true spectacle to promote US Chess at the highest level.

On behalf everyone involved, I would also like to thank the state of Kansas and the city of Lindsborg for their incredible support. A small city of 3,200 people like Lindsborg proved that for this special weekend, it was the chess capital of the world. And because of the incredible effort by the many people involved, 176 new USCF memberships were registered. In addition, many thanks to the chief TD Ralph Bowman who did an honorable job, the team of chess experts (GM Yury Shulman, IMs Pascal Charbonneau, Irina Krush and Anna Zatonskih), all the volunteers and supporters, all the participants of the Champions Cup and their parents and coaches, all the wonderful local residents and last but not least the Korenmans' who were incredible hosts to everyone.

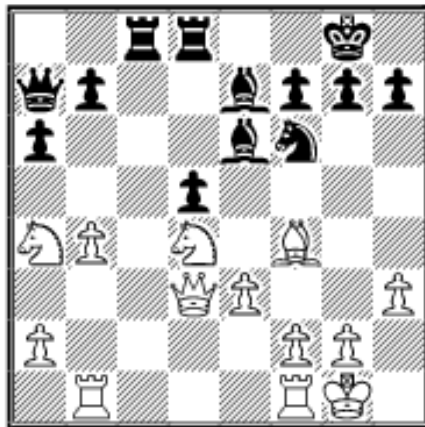


Here are the games from the Clash of the Titans – Battle of the Two World Champions match:

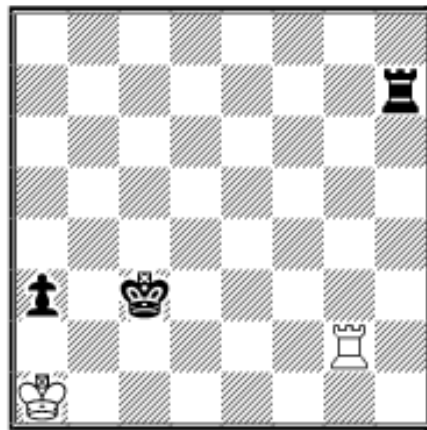
Susan Polgar – Anatoly Karpov

Clash of the Titans – Game 1, 19.09.2004 (Rapid G/25 +5) [D37]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0–0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 c5 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.0–0 a6 11.h3 Be6 12.Nd4 Qb6 13.Rb1 Rfd8 14.b4 Nxd3 15.Qxd3 Rac8 16.Na4 Qa7



17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.bxc5 Ne4 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Be5 Nxc5 21.Qd4 b6 22.Rfc1 Rc6 23.Rc3 Qf7 24.Rbc1 a5 25.Qg4 Rf8 26.Rf1 Rcc8 27.Bd4 Nd7 28.Rb3 Rc2 29.f4 Rxa2 30.f5 e5 31.Bxb6 d4 32.Rbb1 Nxb6 33.Rxb6 dxe3 34.Re1 Qxf5 35.Qxf5 Rxf5 36.Rxe3 Rg5 37.g3 After many more moves.
1/2–1/2

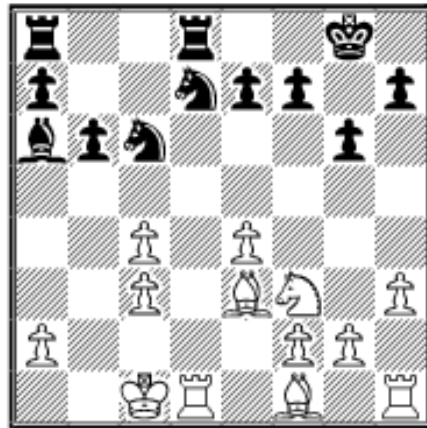


Final position of game 1

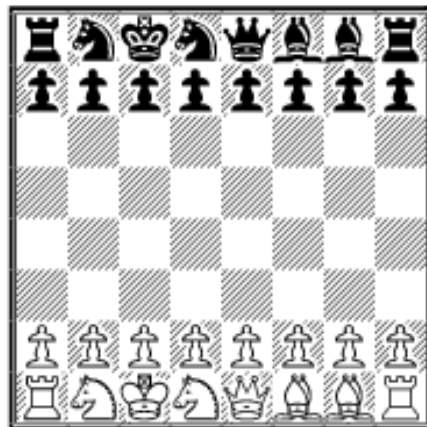
Anatoly Karpov – Susan Polgar

Clash of the Titans – Game 2, 18.09.2004 (Rapid G/25 +5)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0–0 6.Be3 c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bxc5 Nc6 10.Nf3 b6 11.Be3 Nd7 12.0–0–0 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Ba6



14.c5 Bxf1 15.Rhxf1 Nxc5 16.Bxc5 bxc5 17.Kc2 e6 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.Rb1 c4 20.Rb7 Rc8 21.g3 a5 22.a4 h6 23.Rb5 f5 24.Nd2 fxe4 25.Nxe4 Kg7 26.Rc5 Ne7 27.Rxa5 Nd5 28.Ra7+ Kg8 29.Ra6 Re8 30.a5 g5 31.Rc6 Ra8 32.a6 Kf7 33.Nc5 Ne7 34.Rxe6 Rc8 35.a7 Ra8 36.Ra6 Nc8 37.Rc6 Nxa7 38.Ra6 Ke7 39.Na4 Kf8 40.Nb2 Ke7 41.Nxc4 1–0



Susan Polgar – Anatoly Karpov

Clash of the Titans – Game 3, 19.09.2004
Fischer Random (15 0)

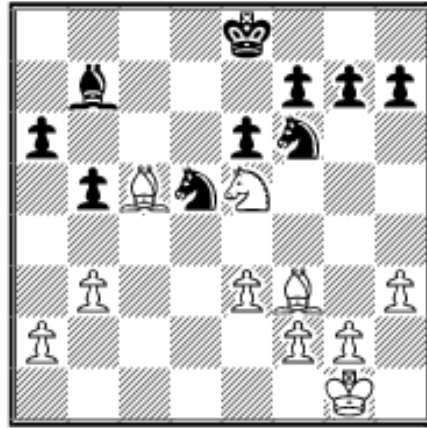
1.e4 e5 2.f3 f6 3.Nbc3 Bf7 4.Ne3 Ne6 5.Bc4 Bc5 6.Bxe6 Bxe6 7.Ned5 Bxg1 8.Qxg1 d6 9.d4 c6 10.dxe5 fxe5 11.Ne3 Qf7 12.0–0–0 Rd8 13.Qf2 Na6 14.Kb1 Nc7 15.Qg3 h6 16.a3 b5 17.Rd2 Rd7 18.Rhd1 0–0–0 19.Ne2 g5 20.h4 Qf6 21.hxg5 hxg5 22.Nc1 Kb7 23.Nd3 a5 24.Ng4 Bxg4 25.Qxg4 Ne6

26.Qf5 Qe7 27.c3 Kc7 28.Rh1 Rf8 29.Qg4 Nf4 30.Nxf4 gxf4 31.Rh6 Rf6 32.Rh8 Rf8 33.Rh5 etc. Black lost on time 1–0

Anatoly Karpov – Susan Polgar

Clash of the Titans – Game 5, 19.09.2004 (Blitz G/5) [D27]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0–0 a6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nbd2 Ke7 10.Be2 b6 11.b3 Bb7 12.Bb2 Nbd7 13.Rfd1 Rhd8 14.Ne1 Rac8 15.Nd3 Bd6 16.Nc4 Bc7 17.Ba3+ Ke8 18.Rac1 b5 19.Nd6+ Bxd6 20.Bxd6 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rc8 22.Rxc8+ Bxc8 23.Bf3 Kd8 24.Nb4 Nb6 25.Nc6+ Kd7 26.Bc5 Nbd5 27.Ne5+ Ke8 28.h3 Bb7



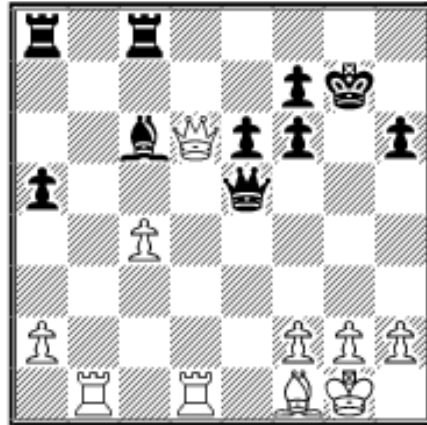
Karpov offered a draw. 1/2–1/2

Susan Polgar – Anatoly Karpov

Clash of the Titans – Game 6, 19.09.2004
(Blitz G/5) [D47]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Be2 a6 9.e4 b4 10.e5 bxc3 11.exf6 Nxf6 12.bxc3 Bd6 13.0–0 0–0 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bh4 c5 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Qa4 Be7 18.Ne5 Qc7 19.Nc6 Bb7 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Rab1 Rfc8 22.c4 Bc6 23.Qb3 a5 24.Rfd1 Qc5 25.Bxf6 gxf6 26.Qg3+ Kf8 27.Qf4 Qg5 28.Qd6+ Kg7 29.Bf1 Qe5 (see next diagram)

Black lost on time. 1–0



Governor Pataki and Chess in New York

On Wednesday, September 29, 2004, I was invited to meet New York Governor George E. Pataki at the Governor's Office in Manhattan along with Michael Khodarkovsky and Paul Truong. Unfortunately, none of the members of the Women's Olympiad Team were able to attend because of schedule conflicts. The Governor was extremely busy meeting one group after another, but he made special time to meet with us.

The Governor has Hungarian ancestry and his grandparents immigrated to the United States in 1956. As an 11-year old boy, he recalls watching the unfolding events of the Hungarian Revolution with his father. This dramatic experience was the first in a long chain of events that helped shape his philosophy on the role of government. Occasionally, the Governor and I conversed in Hungarian. He first learned chess from his father when he was a young boy and stated that he knew of me since I was 4 years old when I won the Budapest Girl's under 11 Championship with the perfect 10-0 score. He complimented me on my work to

promote chess among young people in the United States.

I was very surprised that the Governor knew so much about my chess career and the Susan Polgar Foundation; he was also very familiar with the Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls. He said that he was very happy and proud when he learned that I sponsor this tournament for girls. The Governor said that he thinks the event is a great idea and he agrees that chess is a wonderful game that can really help children. He told me to call him personally if he could be of any help with my chess projects.



Susan Polgar and Governor Pataki

I presented Governor Pataki with a 2004-2005 U.S. Women's Olympiad Calendar as well as a Hungarian book about my sisters and me. I believe it can be a big boost for chess in New York as well as across America to have this kind of support. Before departing, the Governor wished the 2004 US Women's Olympiad Team all the best and said that he hopes the team can bring home the Gold for the United States.

Live Chess in Central Park

I recently received an invitation from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to join grandmaster Lev Alburt in a Live Chess event at Central Park on Saturday, October 2, 2004. I immediately accepted because it is a pleasure and honor for me to compete against Lev, a prolific chess author and one of the nicest grandmasters you could ever meet.

Our event was part of the 4th Annual Chess-in-the-Parks Rapid Open. More than 450 participants attended this wonderful event, and even though it looked like it would rain all day, the weather was cooperative. There were thousands of other spectators surrounding the chess tournament, which was a complete success and I hope that the city will continue to support chess for many years to come.



At around 1 PM, the players took a break to engage in the live chess event. Lev and I would play a 15 minute game and after each move, a human chess piece would make the same move on a giant board. I lost the coin toss made by the event organizer Ed Feldman and Lev chose white. Below is our very interesting game:

Lev Alburt - Susan Polgar

New York Central Park, October 2, 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 dxc4

The game has transposed to a Queen's Gambit Accepted.

4.Nc3 e6 Also 4...a6 and 4...c5 are common.

5.Qa4+ More ambitious is 5.e4.

5...Nbd7 6.e4 c5 Another possible continuation is 6...a6.

7.d5! exd5 8.e5



8...b5!

This is an improvement over 8...d4 which I played in 1994 against Vladimir Kramnik (Monaco rapid). But my opponent found a brilliant way to continue the attack and got a winning position after 9.Bxc4 dxc3 10.exf6 Qxf6 11.Bg5 Qg6 (After 11...Qc6 12.0-0-0!! Qxa4 13.Rhe1+ leads to a win: 13...Be7 14.Rxe7+ Kf8 15.Rxf7+ Kg8 16.Rfxd7+ Qxc4 17.Rd8+ Kf7 18.Ne5+) 12.0-0 f6 13.Rad1 c2 14.Rd2 fxg5 15.Ne5 Qf5

16.Nxd7 Bxd7 17.Rxd7 Qxd7 18.Bb5 and the rest should be easy although I managed to drag things out until move 118!

9.Qxb5 After 9.Nxb5 Ne4 Black is fine.

9...Rb8 With the pawn sacrifice Black gains time to activate the rook.

10.Qa4 d4 An important counterattack on the white knight.

11.exf6 Black is better after 11.Nb5 Nd5 12.Bxc4 N5b6.

11...dxc3 12.Bxc4! A nice move! **12...Rb4!**



The right move! If 12...cxb2? White has a winning combination with 13.Bxf7+! Kxf7 14.Ng5+ Kxf6 (14...Kg6 15.Qe4+) 15.Qc6+! Kf5 16.Qe6 checkmate!

13.Qd1 The other interesting option was 13.Qc2 Nxf6 14.b3! Be6 15.0-0 (15.Bxe6 Re4+) 15...Bxc4 16.bxc4 Be7 as the Miles-Karpov (Biel 1990) game continued, with a balanced position.

13...gxf6 Of course 13...Rxc4 was not possible because of the fork with 14.Qe2+; and White has the advantage after 13...Qxf6 14.Bg5 Qd6 15.Qe2+ Be7 16.Rd1 Rxb2 17.Qe3 or 13...Nxf6 14.Bxf7+ Ke7 15.Qxd8+ Kxd8 16.bxc3.

14.b3 To protect the bishop on c4 as well defend against cxb2.

14...Ne5 The black king is stuck in the middle so it is desirable for Black to try to trade pieces and especially queens.

15.Qxd8+ Kxd8 16.Nxe5 fxe5



Now that the fireworks are over, all White needs to do to is win a pawn back.

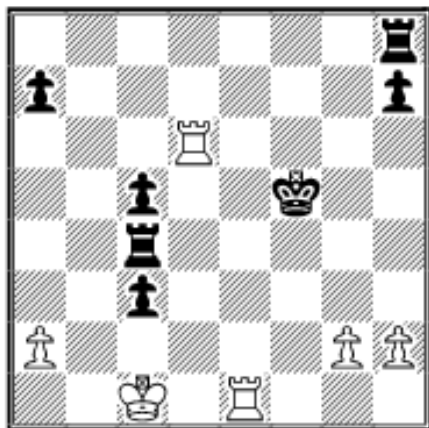
17.Bg5+ Probably more precise than 17.Bxf7.

17...Be7 18.0-0-0+ Ke8 19.Bxe7 Kxe7 20.Rhe1 f6

21.f4 Using the pin along the e-file. Also after 21.Kc2 Be6 the position is equal.

21...Be6 22.fxe5 Bxc4 23.exf6+ Kxf6 24.bxc4 Rxc4 Black is still a pawn up, but that advantage is only symbolic.

25.Rd6+ Kf5 26.Rd5+ Kf6 27.Rd6+ Kf5



And I offered a draw, which was accepted immediately. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Mr. Benepe, the Commissioner of NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, arrived at around 2:30 PM to speak to the participants and the spectators. He encouraged young players to stay in chess and enjoy the beauty of the game. As I mentioned earlier, chess is booming and more and more people are recognizing this fact. It is wonderful to see so much support for

chess. Thank you, Ed Feldman for organizing this wonderful event and special thanks to the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation for sponsoring it.



Benepe, Polgar, Alburt, & Feldman

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



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