

YOUR INVITATION
for the
CHESS COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL
WESTERN HEMISPHERE CONFERENCE
Saint Louis, Missouri, USA
July 6-9, 2023

You are hereby cordially invited to attend the Western Hemisphere Conference of Chess Collectors International, to be held in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA, from July 6th through the 9th, 2023.

We have an exciting program planned for you. Saint Louis is the permanent home of the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF), and the fabled Saint Louis Chess Club. For those of us used to small, dingy chess clubs, stepping into the St. Louis club feels like arriving in the Promised Land. Along with the chess-themed Kingside Diner (which actually has three locations in the St. Louis area), this part of the upscale Central West End neighborhood is referred to as the “chess campus.”

The most important links for these fine institutions are as follows:

World Chess Hall of Fame: <https://worldchesshof.org>

Saint Louis Chess Club: <https://saintlouischessclub.org>

The Kingside Diner: <https://kingsidediner.com/cwe/>

This summer, our conference will include:

- Visits to two exhibitions at the World Chess Hall of Fame: *Sound Moves: Where Music Meet Chess*; and *T.S. Elliot: A Game of Chess*
- Lectures on chess-related topics
- A simultaneous exhibition (grandmaster TBA)
- A chess auction at nearby Link Auction Galleries
- A special reception at the Hall of Fame, lunches, and a gala dinner
- An optional theatrical outing to enjoy *Chess* (the musical) in the grand outdoor Muny Theater (the Municipal Opera Theater) in nearby Forest Park
- Priceless opportunities to meet and connect with like-minded collectors, and learn about chess topics you may never have thought of before!

YOUR ORGANIZERS:

Tom Gallegos: livinginthepast@comcast.net

Luann Woneis: l.woneis@comcast.net

Please feel free to contact either of us at any time with any questions, comments or concerns you may have about the conference. **Conference registration deadline is June 1, 2023.**

HOTEL INFORMATION: Our conference hotel will be the Chase Park Plaza (owned and operated by Royal Sonesta), located a short walk from the Chess Campus at 212 N. Kingshighway Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108. Our special Chess Rate is \$169 plus tax per night. There is no breakfast included with the rate. However, there are restaurants in the hotel and along the route to the World Chess Hall of Fame (2 blocks away). This rate is good up to 3 days before and/or 3 days after the conference. We will also likely bring in donuts and muffins to snack on during the lectures.

For this meeting, we have a dedicated travel agency, ChiChi Travel, that works directly with the World Chess Hall of Fame, and this is how we are getting the special rate. Please make your hotel reservations through their travel manager, Kelly Toal, via e-mail: ktoal@chichillc.com or by phone at 314-678-0500. You will need to provide your arrival & departure dates, name, and credit card number with expiration date to book the room.

Please mention Chess Collectors International to receive the special rate. Our block of rooms is fairly small, so **please book your hotel room well in advance of June 1, 2023!**

AUCTION INFORMATION: We will hold a chess auction on Saturday July 8th at 10:00 am. The auctioneer will be Link Auction Galleries, which is housed in a lovely 1902 church building at 5000 Washington Place, St. Louis, MO 63108. This is a pleasant six-block walk from the Chase Park Plaza (a bus or shuttles will also be available). Our group will be bidding live and in person, but there will also be internet competition via Invaluable.com and Liveauctioneers.com. Prior to the auction there will be viewing hours. Susan Kime, the head of Link Auction Galleries, is a well-known and respected fine art and antiques appraiser/auctioneer with over twenty years of experience in the St. Louis area. She has been a featured appraiser for PBS Antiques Roadshow since 2011, and she will be coordinating our auction personally.

CONSIGNMENT INFORMATION: If you have quality chess sets, boards, books, clocks, ephemera or other chess-related items you wish to sell at auction, you will need to make your consignment and shipping arrangements directly with Link Auction Galleries. Please contact them via e-mail at susan@linkauctiongalleries.com, or by phone, at 314-454-6525. **The deadline for consignments is June 1, 2023.**

ABOUT THE MUSICAL, *CHESS*: A dynamic drama centered around the world chess championship; mirroring the 1980s Cold War tensions of the USA vs. Soviet Russia. The dazzling and beautiful pop rock score became a worldwide smash, including the hit single “One Night in Bangkok.” *Cheess* makes its move to St. Louis and on to the Muny stage for the first time. (The Muny is currently in its 105th season.) Produced in partnership with the Saint Louis Chess Club and the World Chess Hall of Fame. Note: This is an outdoor, warm weather, casual venue.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS TRAVELING TO THE USA:

Citizens of Canada and Bermuda traveling to the United States generally do not require a nonimmigrant visa for tourist travel. For travelers from many other countries, if you do not already have a valid visa for travel to the USA, you may no longer need one (provided you are arriving by air or sea, not over land through Canada or Mexico). For most European countries, a

few British Commonwealth countries, and several other nations around the world, there is now something called the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), for which you can apply through the new Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). Make your ESTA application as soon as you know your travel plans. Do not wait until the last possible minute to apply for your ESTA waiver. (The last possible minutes is defined as 72 hours before your flight. You could still do it then, but this would be cutting it close, with little to no time for recovery if something goes wrong!)

For more information on travel to the US: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>

For information specifically about the ESTA program and to apply online, go to the following US Government link: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>

Did you know?

In 2014, the U.S. Senate declared Saint Louis the
Chess Capital of the United States!

(From the kingsidediner.com)

**Chess Collectors International
WESTERN HEMISPHERE CONFERENCE
St. Louis, Missouri, USA, July 6-9, 2023**

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the form below and mail it along with your check for US \$185 per person for members and their guests or US \$285 per person if also attending the optional theater evening. **Register by no later than June 1, 2023.** (Please print clearly and legibly):

Your Name

Name(s) of your guests or additional attendees

Circle here if you are a vegetarian or vegan. (Circle one)

OPTIONAL THEATER EXCURSION, *Chess* the musical, at the famed MUNY outdoor theater in Forest Park, July 7, 2023. We will leave the Chase at 5:30 pm. (Walkable, just over a mile, but some form of bus transportation to be provided.) Includes a backstage tour and dinner at the MUNY before the show. (Curtain: 8:15 pm.) Additional cost: \$100 per person. Will you attend? (Write in number of persons.)

Yes _____ No _____

Will you play in the simul?

Yes _____ No _____

Your email address for confirmation and subsequent notifications: _____

Please make your check payable to **Chess Collectors International**. Mail the check and your completed form to:

Chess Collectors International
6352 Utica Street
Arvada, Colorado 80003-1470
USA

We can also accept payment via PayPal using chesscollectorsintl@comcast.net

Our non-USA members have the option of paying the registration fee in cash during check-in at the meeting, if they choose. (Our CCI conference check-in desk will be open from 1:00 – 5:00 pm on Thursday, July 6th.)

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!
Chess Collectors International

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Thursday, July 6th:

1:00 to 5:00 Registration in the Chase Park Plaza lobby (our conference hotel)
5:30 to 7:30 Reception with drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the WCHOF 3rd Floor
(Courtesy of the World Chess Hall of Fame)
7:30 Informal dinner for anyone still hungry (not included in conference fee)

Friday, July 7th:

9:00 to 12:30 Morning lectures at WCHOF 3rd Floor
12:30 to 2:00 Lunch (included with the conference fee)
2:30 to 4:45 Viewing of two exhibitions at WCHOF:
Sound Moves: Where Music Meet Chess
T.S. Elliot: A Game of Chess

OPTIONAL Evening of Chess Theater (separate fee, \$100 per person)

5:45 Bus departs Chase Park Plaza for The MUNY at Forest Park
6:15 Backstage tour
6:45 Dinner in Culver Pavilion
8:15 Curtain time. *Chess*, the musical
(Bus returns to the Chase Park Plaza at the conclusion of the play)

Saturday, July 8th:

9:00 to 10:00 Auction preview at Link Auction Galleries (and for a few days prior)
10:00 to 1:00 Chess Auction at Link Auction Galleries
1:00 Lunch will be brought in if the auction is still going on, or informally sourced in the neighborhood (included)
2:00 to 6:00 Simultaneous Exhibition, WCHOF 3rd Floor
7:00 to 10:00 Gala Dinner at Chase Park Plaza (included)

Sunday, July 9th:

9:00 Informal farewell breakfast at hotel (not included)

Opportunity to visit (on your own, before or after the conference) local attractions such as the St. Louis Cathedral, the National Blues Museum, St. Louis Art Museum, History Museum, Cahokia Mounds Historic Site, the Botanical Gardens, Trolley Tours, the St. Louis Zoo, the Mercantile Library, other Lewis & Clark sites such as the Lewis & Clark Historic Site in nearby Illinois, the Lewis & Clark Boathouse & Museum in St. Charles, etc.

CHANGES POSSIBLE!