

2012-02-19

## Our Doyens

Apart from [Yuri Averbakh](#) to whom - as a newcomer in the group of our doyens - we recently paid a tribute, our association can enumerate four additional members who stand in the 10th decade of their lives:

**Isaak Maxovich Linder**, Moscow, Russia  
(\*20 November 1920, Vienna)

Dr. Isaak M. Linder is widely known in the chess world as a distinguished historian and author of numerous books which have partly been published in German or English. You will find a short résumé of his work and activities (with additional pictures) in our former birthday greetings particularly from the years [2004](#) and [2005](#). Together with his son Vladimir I. Linder he contributed the chapter "Emanuel Lasker in Russia" to the large Lasker monograph (2009), and still in 2010 their two biographies *Emanuel Lasker: 2nd World Chess Champion* and *José Raúl Capablanca: 3rd World Chess Champion* (see [www.newinches.com/...](http://www.newinches.com/...)) were published in English.



Isaak Linder with his wife Nadetschja and son Vladimir. Photo approx. end of the fifties (Vladimir was born in 1953).



Isaak Linder

giving his talk at the II International von der Lasa Conference in Kórnik, 2007.

(Further photographs in our [Report from 2007](#))

**Kurt Landsberger**, Verona, NJ, USA

(\*28 December 1920, Prague)

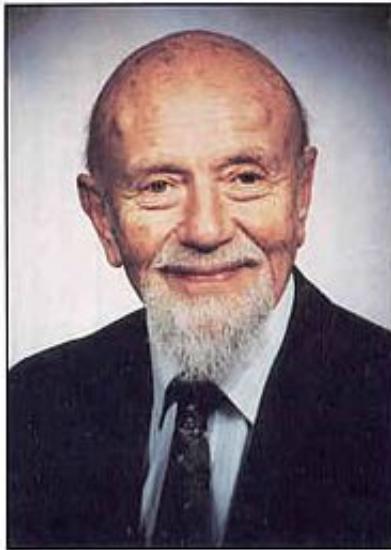
On the pages of this website we quite often come across Kurt Landsberger, the great-grandnephew of Steinitz and biographer of the first official world chess champion, and many a member has also met him personally - on the occasion of his various visits to Europe or his attendances at our general meetings (Forchheim 2004, New York 2007, Vienna 2010).

**Kurt Landsberger**, born in Prague and educated in Vienna, emigrated to the United States in 1939 with the advent of the Third Reich in Austria. After serving three years in the U.S. Army during World War II, Landsberger, with his wife Anny, used their life savings of \$400 to start a successful business manufacturing laboratory supplies and equipment for the elderly and physically handicapped.

The Landsbergers fund the Landsberger Holocaust Collections at the Verona and Pequannock Public Libraries in New Jersey. A past member and former chairman of the Verona Planning Board, Landsberger also founded the Save the Mountains Committee, which seeks to preserve the "hilltop," an area of approximately 300 pristine acres partly in Verona.

Kurt Landsberger's first book, *William Steinitz, Chess Champion*, a biography of the first chess master of the world (and one of Landsberger's ancestors), was published in 1993 by McFarland. A history of Verona, New Jersey, which was edited and partially researched by Landsberger, won first prize from the New Jersey Historic Societies in 1996.

Landsberger's weekly newspaper column appears in as many as ten Essex County, New Jersey, newspapers.



Short biography of Kurt

Landsberger (2003)

For further informations we refer to a number of own pages:

- Kurt Landsberger in the [Publications of our Members](#)
- Birthday greetings [2005](#), [2007](#), [2008](#), [2009](#) with additional links
- [Kurt Landsberger in Düsseldorf](#) (2007)
- [Kurt Landsberger Great-grandfather!](#) (2009)

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Kurt Landsberger with his wife Anny - wedding photo, 1943

(taken from Kurt Landberger's book *Prisoners of War at Camp Trinidad, Colorado 1943-1946* [2007], p.31)



Kurt Landsberger with Karl Kadletz at our general meeting in Vienna, 2010

**Alex Crisovan**, Pfäffikon, Switzerland  
(\*2 October 1919, Békéscsaba, Hungary)

Our Swiss veteran joined the KWA at the advanced age of 87 (i.e. 2006), his activities as author, journalist, player and official were addressed in our short tribute from [2008](#) (and the pages from 2006 + 2007 linked there), moreover you will find here an additional photo of him (in his prime). You may read up a more detailed short biography (with a photograph and a game) in Richard Forster's "Festschrift" *Schachgesellschaft Zürich 1809 bis 2009* (Zurich 2009), p. 245f.

Not forgotten is Alex Crisovan's unexpected visit of our annual meeting in [La Tour-de-Peiltz \(2006\)](#) together with his spouse, here once again the [Group photo](#) from that event.



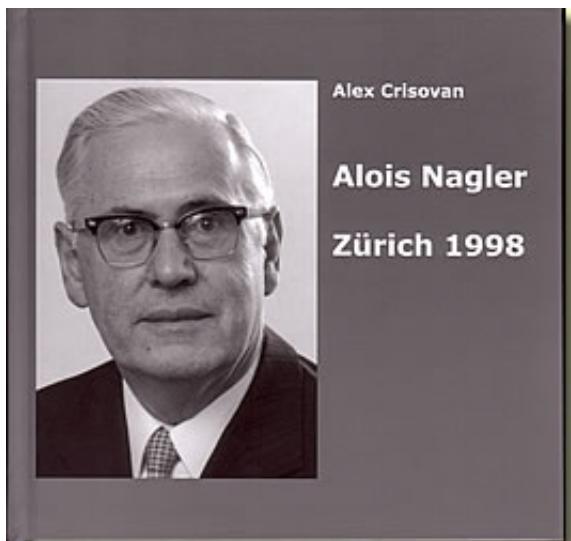
Alex Crisovan (approx. 1946)



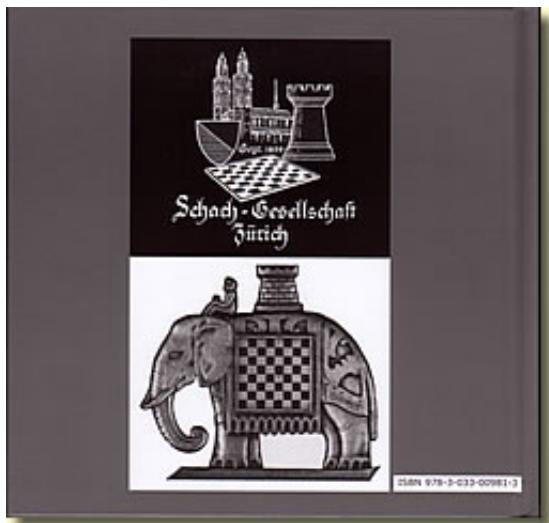
Alex Crisovan with Toni Prezioso at our annual meeting in La Tour-de-Peiltz, 2006

60 years later:

We also willingly remind of Alex Crisovan's last major publication, the beautiful book on Alois Nagler and the Nagler memorial tournament Zurich 1998:



— Commemorative volume and tournament book on the occasion of Alois Nagler's 100th birthday. Published 2007 by [Schachgesellschaft Zürich](#).



[Review](#) by Markus Angst in  
SSZ 3/2007, p.13 (PDF),

and a second review in  
[NZZ Online](#).

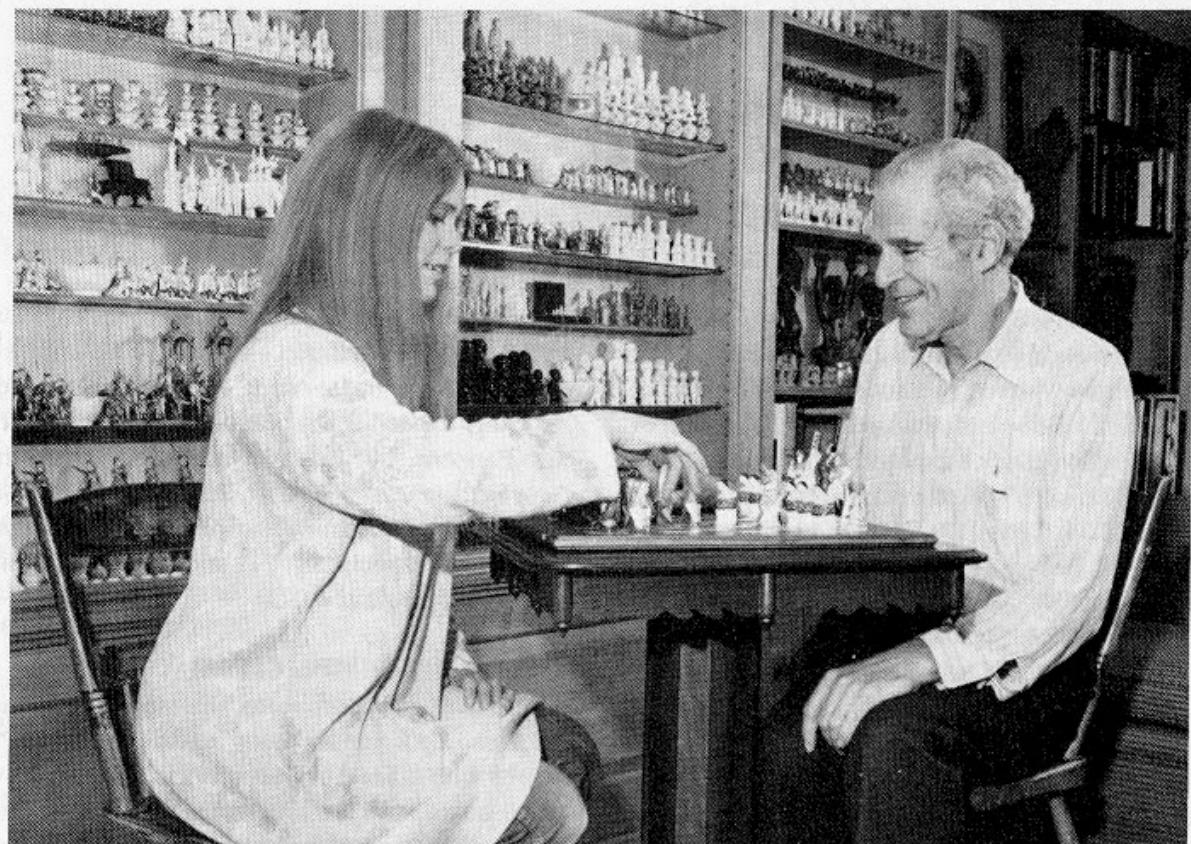
**Benjamin (Billy) F. Levene**, Bedford, NY, USA  
(\*16 February 1918, New York)

Our second doyen from the USA, the "resilient" dentist Dr. Benjamin Levene celebrated his 94th birthday

just a few days ago, on this our congratulations! We gladly heard from well-informed circles that he is still hale and hearty - and that too we wish him for the years to come.

In our birthday greetings from [2008](#) we had compiled some details by and about Dr. Levene, and also his visit of the KWA general meeting in [New York City \(2007\)](#) together with his spouse Hope was recorded on our pages. For further reading we offer two pdf files about the 13th CCI Convention in Boca Raton, Florida (2008) which he attended:

[The CCI-USA News, Vol. 2008 issue II](#) (8.6 MB) as well as an article from [Chess Life - July 2008](#) (p.22-25; 4.8 MB).



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DR. BENJAMIN LEVENE

Dr. Benjamin Levene, a chess expert and a noted collector of rare sets, watches his daughter, Terrilee, move her Knight in a game played at the former's home. The pieces on the board, which were made at the Lomonosov Porcelain Works in Leningrad, depict class warfare — with the worker-pawns wrapped in chains. Dr. Levene is a member of Chess Collectors International (C.C.I.). This group of chess collectors and players will hold its annual conference in London, England, May 15-19, 1986. Among the planned festivities will be an exhibition by such famous auction houses as Christie's and Phillips' of old and unique sets and a talk by Soviet GM Yuri Averbakh on the sets of the Moscow Chess Club. Those interested in attending should contact Dr. George Dean, C.C.I. President, 18900 West 10 Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan 48075.

[Dr. Levene with his daughter Terrilee \(Photo from middle of the eighties\)](#)



[Billy Levene at our general meeting in New York, 2007](#)

Ralf Binnewirtz, 19/02/2012