



WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME

WORLD CHESS
HALL OF FAME

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the World Chess Hall of Fame

IS TO EDUCATE

Visitors, Fans, Players, and Scholars

BY COLLECTING, PRESERVING,
EXHIBITING
& INTERPRETING
The Game of Chess and its Continuing

*Cultural
and Artistic
Significance.*

ABOUT US

The World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) is a nonprofit, collecting institution situated in the heart of Saint Louis. The WCHOF is the only institution of its kind and offers a variety of programming to explore the dynamic relationship between art and chess, including educational outreach initiatives that provide context and meaning to the game and its continued educational impact.

Saint Louis has quickly become a national and international chess destination. The success of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis and the opening of the World Chess Hall of Fame brought international attention to the city of Saint Louis. The WCHOF is home to both the U.S. and World Halls of Fame, but its scope is not limited to the chess enthusiast. The World Chess Hall of Fame is an arts-based institution that presents innovative exhibitions of artistic and historical significance from nationally and internationally recognized artists and collectors.

In addition, the World Chess Hall of Fame offers interpretive programs that provide unique and exciting ways to experience art, history, science, and sport through chess. Since its inception, chess has challenged artists and craftsmen to interpret the game through a variety of mediums resulting in chess sets of exceptional artistic skill and creativity. The WCHOF seeks to present the work of these craftsmen and artists while educating visitors on the game itself.

By enhancing public understanding and appreciation of art, history, science, and chess, the WCHOF will offer a unique experience while advancing the understanding of the game. Our goal is to expand the cultural and intellectual opportunities in Saint Louis.

THE HALL OF FAME

The World Chess Hall of Fame is home to both the World and U.S. Halls of Fame. Located on the third floor of the WCHOF, the Hall of Fame honors World and U.S. inductees with a plaque listing their contributions to the game of chess and features rotating exhibitions from the permanent collection. The collection, including the Paul Morphy silver set, an early prototype of the Chess Challenger, and Bobby Fischer memorabilia, is dedicated to the history of chess and the accomplishments of the Halls of Fame inductees.

WORLD HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2011

Vera Menchik

2008

Siegbert Tarrasch

2005

Garry Kasparov

2004

Anatoly Karpov
Alexander Alekhine
Machgielis "Max" Euwe

2003

Boris Spassky
Mikhail Tal
Vasily Smyslov
Tigran Petrosian
Mikhail Botvinnik

2001

Robert Fischer
Jose Capablanca
Paul Morphy
Emanuel Lasker
Vassily Smyslov

U.S. HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2011

Boris Gulko, Andy Soltis

2010

Diane Savereide
Hermann Steiner
Jackson Showalter

2009

Burt Hochberg
John Fedorowicz

2008

Joel Benjamin
Larry Christiansen
Nick de Firmian

2007

Irving Chernev
Jeremy Gaige

2006

Yasser Seirawan

2004

Anatoly Lein
Leonid Shamkovich

2003

Lev Alburt
Walter Browne
Donald Byrne

2001

Lubomir Kavalek

2000

Edmar Mednis

1999

Benjamin Franklin

1998

Dr. Milan Vukcevich

1997

Kenneth Harkness

1996

Fred Reinfeld

1995

Ed Edmonson Jr.

1994

Arthur Bisguier
Robert Byrne
Larry Evans

1993

Pal Benko
Victor Palciauskas

1992

Arnold Denker
Gisela Gresser
George Mackenzie

1991

Arthur Dake
John Collins

1990

Hans Berliner

1989

Al Horowitz

1988

Arpad Elo
Hermann Helms

1987

Sam Loyd
Wilhelm Steinitz

1986

Reuben Fine
Robert Fischer
Isaac Kashdan
George Koltanowski
Frank Marshall
Paul Morphy
Harry Pillsbury
Sammy Reshevsky

OUR HISTORY

The World Chess Hall of Fame was created in 1986 by the United States Chess Federation. Originally known as the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame, the small museum opened in 1988 in the basement of the Federation's then headquarters in New Windsor, New York, and contained a modest collection including a book of chess openings signed by Bobby Fischer, the Paul Morphy silver set, and cardboard plaques honoring past grandmasters. In 1992, the U.S. Chess Trust purchased the museum and moved its contents to Washington D.C. From 1992 to 2001, the collection grew to include the World Chess Championship trophy won by the U.S. team in 1993, numerous chess sets and boards, and the U.S. and World Hall of Fame inductee plaques.

In 2001, the institution moved into a new facility at the Excalibur Electronics headquarters in Miami, Florida and was renamed the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum. The museum continued collecting chess sets, books, tournament memorabilia, advertisements, photographs, furniture, medals, trophies, and journals until it closed in 2009.

Due to the vibrancy of Saint Louis and the success and growing international reputation of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, it was then proposed that the contents of the Miami institution be moved to Saint Louis. Realizing the potential to provide area youth with a vital educational resource, Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield provided seed funding to relocate the institution to Saint Louis.

The World Chess Hall of Fame opened September 9, 2011 directly across the street from the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis in the bustling Central West End neighborhood. The World Chess Hall of Fame is housed in a former historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned business and features the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame, displays of artifacts from the permanent collection, and temporary exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games, and rich cultural history of chess. The WCHOF partners with the Chess Club and Scholastic Center to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national, and international audiences.

THE HISTORY OF CHESS IN SAINT LOUIS

The success of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis and the opening of the World Chess Hall of Fame have received international attention from the chess community, making Saint Louis the premiere chess destination worldwide. In fact, the U.S. Chess Federation named Saint Louis "Chess City of the Year" in 2009 and 2011. The city of Saint Louis, however, is not without a lengthy chess heritage.

In 1886, Saint Louis hosted a segment of the first World Chess Championship, which culminated with Wilhelm Steinitz defeating Johannes Zukertort to become the first world champion. Benjamin Foster, a Saint Louis resident and the editor of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* chess column, published *Chancellor Chess: or the New Game of Chess* three years later in 1889. His book introduced a chess piece called a "chancellor" and an additional pawn to an enlarged board. Although his proposal was ultimately rebuffed, it nonetheless received considerable attention from the chess community.

The 1904 World's Fair drew national and international visitors to Saint Louis. It also served as an occasion to hold the Seventh Annual Chess Congress in the city. Frank J. Marshall, founder of the Marshall Chess Club in New York City, was named tournament champion. Saint Louis resident and founder of the St. Louis Chess Club, Max Judd, was awarded second prize.

Another Saint Louis chess notable was Mrs. Eveline Allen Burgess, named Woman's Champion of the United States in 1907. Samuel Burgess, husband of Eveline, was also actively involved in the local chess community. He served as the vice president and later president of the St. Louis Chess Club, of which Eveline was an honorary member. Eveline was also an active member of the West End Chess Club while Samuel served as its president.

From the 1940s through the 1970s, Robert Steinmeyer was Missouri's premiere chess talent, consistently winning the St. Louis District Championship. During that time, Saint Louis repeatedly drew grandmasters to the city for simultaneous exhibitions. Through the 1960s and 1970s, Reuben Fine, Larry Evans, Victor Korchnoi, and Tigran Petrosian were among those visiting Saint Louis to challenge Steinmeyer and other local chess players.

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis opened its doors in 2008 and shortly thereafter became the new home for U.S. Championship Chess. A logical outgrowth of the success of the club, the World Chess Hall of Fame opened in 2011. More than a century after the World Championship match in 1886, Saint Louis has again caught the worldwide attention of the chess community and continues to celebrate the game with innovative programming and exhibitions.