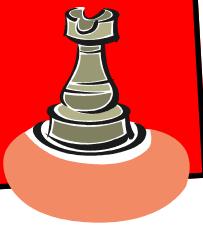


# OFF DA ROOK



Volume 1, Issue 1

Premiere Edition

**Conejo Valley Chess**  
News for kids

## Inside this issue:

Chess Facts	2
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The Thousand Oaks Chess Club which started as a home school beginning chess class has now morphed into an intergenerational chess club which meets every Monday evening from 6:00-8:45 pm, in the Black Sage Room of the Goebel Senior Center. On any Monday night you will find chess lovers from ages 6-86 playing chess.

The Thousand Oaks Chess Club welcomes all chess players of any age or skill level. As of now, it is free of charge casual play, but rated tournaments are being planned in the near future!

For more information, please contact Cindy Garcia at (805) 990-0136



*"Self-confidence is very important. If you don't think you can win, you will take cowardly decisions in the crucial moments, out of sheer respect for your opponent. You see the opportunity but also greater limitations than you should. I have always believed in what I do on the chessboard, even when I had no objective reason to. It is better to overestimate your prospects than underestimate them."*

- Magnus Carlsen

# Chess is cool

This newsletter has been written and edited by Jennifer Vallens.

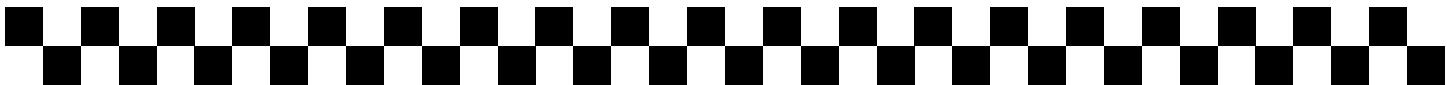
If you would like to submit articles, photos or other chess information for future editions, please contact me at:

[conejovalleychessmom@gmail.com](mailto:conejovalleychessmom@gmail.com)



*"Chess is life"*

-Bobby Fischer



Hi,

If you are reading this newsletter, chances are you already play chess or have an interest in learning to play chess. Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Jennifer Vallens. I am a chess mom living in the Conejo Valley area. My son, Evan started playing chess when he was 6 years old. His elementary school offered an afterschool enrichment program through Academic Chess. He is now 8 years old and is competing in tournaments around town.

My hope is that this chess newsletter will help create a larger interest in chess for kids in our area. And I am not a big fan of recreating the wheel. I want to provide a resource center for parents to help them find opportunities around town for kids to simply play chess.

Let me also tell you that this newsletter is completely voluntary. I am not affiliated with any group and have no motive other than providing information to parents and kids. I welcome any and all contributions. If you would like to submit photos, articles and club information....please contact me at:

[Conejovalleychessmom@gmail.com](mailto:Conejovalleychessmom@gmail.com)

Jennifer

Conejo Valley Chess Mom



This is me and my dog, Henry

These are my kids, Evan and Mason

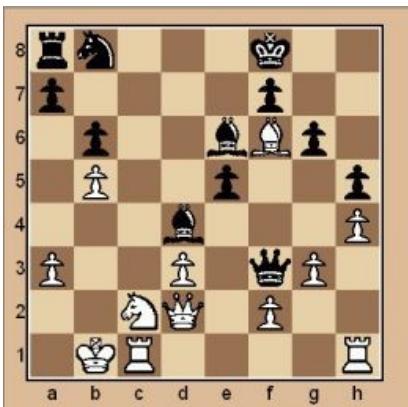
## CHESS FACTS

- Researchers think chess may have originated in India as a war game, chaturang, dating to as early as A.D. 600.
- Benjamin Franklin was a chess fanatic and wrote "The Morals of Chess" in 1750.
- Membership for the nation's overseer of chess competition, the U.S. Chess Federation, doubled when Bobby Fischer emerged in 1957 as the youngest U.S. champion at age 14.
- The second book ever printed in the English language was about chess!
- The longest chess game theoretically possible is 5,949 moves.
- Rookies or, players in their first year, are named after the Rook in Chess.
- The World Chess Federation (FIDE) is trying to make chess an official Olympic sport.
- Chess is often cited by psychologists as an effective way to improve memory function. Also allowing the mind to solve complex problems and work through ideas, it is no wonder that chess is recommended in the fight against Alzheimer's. Some contend that it can increase one's intelligence, though that is a more complex topic. The effects of chess on young individuals had led to chess being introduced in school districts and various countries. It has been shown to improve children's grades and other positive effects as well.



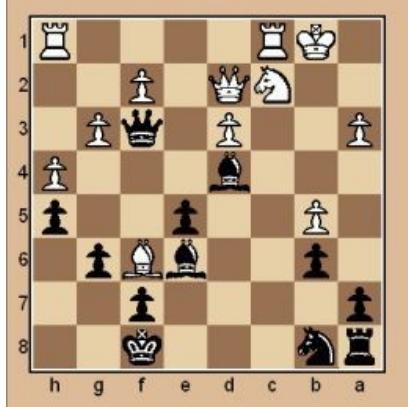
## Checkmate in Three Moves

(answers on page 4)



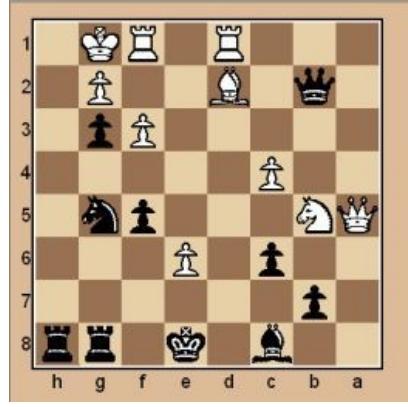
PUZZLE 1

(white to play)



PUZZLE 2

(black to play)



PUZZLE 3

(black to play)

### Who is Jack Cashman?

I met Jack two years ago at the Conejo Valley Chess Club in Newbury Park. Evan and his friends took a couple of classes from him. He has a passion for chess that is unmatched.

Jack learned to play chess at the age of 13. He has played hundreds of nationally rated tournaments and became ranked as an “Expert” chess player in 1971 and is currently ranked in the top 4% of players in the US.

Jack is the author of three chess books. He is an active member of the Ventura County Chess Club.

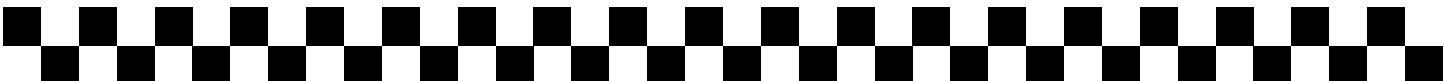
He has been a private tutor for students of all ages and is a chess instructor for Borchard Community Center, White Oak Elementary, Thousand Oaks Chinese School and the Sun Learning Center. I am happy to announce that he will now also be teaching a beginning chess class at Westlake Elementary.

Jack handles the AAUW Creative Arts Workshop summer chess camp in Camarillo. He was a chess Coach and Tournament Team member for the Chess Emporium in Phoenix, AZ. He is the Chess Camp Director for All Stars Athletics in Newbury Park. He has helped set up, run and / or supported chess programs at the Elementary, Middle, and High school levels. He is also certified as a Boy Scout Chess Merit Badge Counselor.

(see Q&A on Page 9)



**"When you  
see a good  
move wait—  
look for a  
better one."**  
-Emanuel  
Lasker



# Movie Night



April 23 at 6:30pm

The Calabasas library is having a free movie night and will be showing a chess movie about a 7 year old New York chess prodigy who was discovered in the 1980s.

200 Civic Center Way

Calabasas, CA 91302

## Ongoing Chess Events and Clubs:

### American Chess Academy

ACA offers group classes at Calabasas and Simi Valley locations Monday-Friday for kids 5-16 years. Visit [www.achessacademy.org](http://www.achessacademy.org) for more information. Contact: Jerry Yee (818) 915-5572.

### Camarillo Chess Club

Meets Sundays from 1-4pm at the Sportsman Restaurant located at 4426 Central Avenue in Camarillo. All levels and abilities welcome. Contact: Joseph Larievy (805) 415-7640.

### Conejo Valley Chess Club

Check website for tournament information and open chess hours. [Www.conejovalleychessclub.com](http://www.conejovalleychessclub.com)

### Conejo Valley Parks and Recreation

Newbury Park "Chess Challenge" at the Borchard Community Center. Meets Saturdays 2-4pm.

New classes for beginners and intermediate start April 6. Register online at [www.crpdp.org](http://www.crpdp.org)

### Newbury Park Chess Clinics

Newbury Park Chess Clinics are being offered at All Stars Athletics on Wednesdays 4:30—5:30 for \$5 a session. NO pre-registration required. Contact: Jack Cashman at [rationality52@hotmail.com](mailto:rationality52@hotmail.com)

### Thousand Oaks Chess Club

Meets Mondays 6:00-8:45pm. Goebel Senior Center at 1385 E. Janss Road. Casual play. All ages welcome. Contact: Cindy Garcia (805) 990-0136.

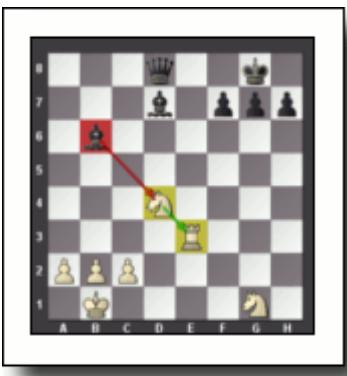
### Ventura County Chess Club

Meets Mondays at 7pm. Grace Lutheran Church, 6190 Telephone Road, Ventura. Contact: Norman Coats. Contact Phone: 805-701-0010. email: [picturethis6@verizon.net](mailto:picturethis6@verizon.net). Web Site: [www.vcchess.com](http://www.vcchess.com)

### West Valley Chess Club

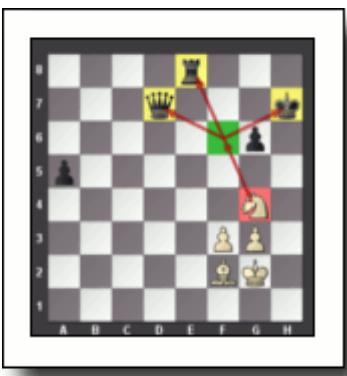
Meets Thursdays 6:30-10:30. 7353 Valley Circle Blvd., West Hills. Continuous rated tournaments, blitz, casual play. Contact Jerry Yee (818) 915-5572.

## On the Attack:



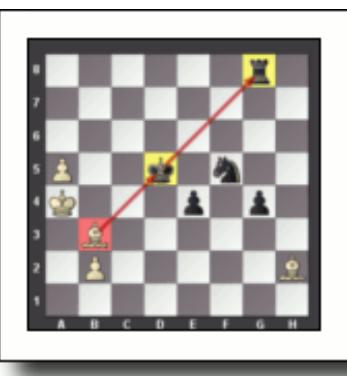
A **Pin Attack** happens when a single piece attacks an enemy piece. What gives the 'Pin' its name is that the enemy piece is stuck, protecting a more important piece, directly behind it.

The purpose of a **Pin Attack** is to keep the LESS-valuable Pawn or Piece on its square, to prevent it from moving while your Pawns &/or Pieces take advantage, either gaining a better position, or capturing enemy material (or BOTH), without the Pinned Pawn or Piece being able to attack your threat(s).



Another Chess Tactic is the **Fork Attack**, which also goes by another name - **The Double Attack** - and occurs when a single piece attacks two enemy pieces, at two different points at the same time.

The enemy pieces are spread out, loosely like the prongs of a Fork, hence the name "**Fork Attack**".



The aim of the **Skewer Attack** is to threaten a more-valuable piece into moving, so you can capture a less-valuable piece, which is in a direct line, behind the piece being attacked at the front.

**The main target of a Skewer Attack** is usually NOT the Piece at the front, but the Pawn or Piece behind - the one that's being shielded by the more-valuable Piece.

*Skewer Attacks* are performed by any of the three long-range pieces:

- Bishop
- Rook
- Queen

**Chessimo®**  
Improve your chess

Improve your game with CHESSIMO training software. "It's the best training software I have found for kids. Ten minutes a day is all you need." says Jerry Yee, ACA instructor.



Jerry Yee teaching a class in Calabasas.

## UPCOMING TOURNAMENT INFORMATION



### **April 14, Sunday**

**The Beverly Hills Scholastic Chess Championship**

**3 Rated Sections:** Open, U900, U500: 5-SS, G/30.

**Unrated Sections:** Round Robin: Groups of 6 to 10 people

**Location:** Horace Mann School, 8701 Charleville Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90211

**Prizes:** Trophies to the top 3.

**Online Registration:** [www.bhchessclub.com](http://www.bhchessclub.com) or **Onsite Registration:** 8 am – 9 am. (Cash Only)

**Rounds:** 9, 10, 11, 1, and 2 pm

**Entrance Fee, Rated:** \$15 if registered by March 24, 2013

**Entrance Fee, Unrated:** \$10 if registered by March 24, 2013

**Web Site:** [www.bhchessclub.com](http://www.bhchessclub.com)

**Info:** Robert Minoofar 310-274-7873 or email us: [bhchessclub@hotmail.com](mailto:bhchessclub@hotmail.com)

### **April , 20, Saturday**

**All American Association Scholastic Chess Championship**

**5SS Swiss System:** everyone plays 5 games against players with approximately the same number of wins and losses after each round, G/30 (timers may be used which limit the total game time for each player to 30 minutes.)

**Site:** First Lutheran Church, 1300 East Colorado Blvd., Glendale, CA 91205

**5 Sections:** Unrated, K-3 Under 400, K-5 Under 700, K-8 Under 1000, K-12 Open

**Trophies:** Awarded to the top 10 players. There will be additional category prizes in all sections, including school teams.

**Rounds:** 10:00 a.m.; 11:15 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.; 1:45 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.

**Registration:** Early by mail: \$25 (no later than April 16th). \$35 onsite between 9-9:45am.

Make checks payable to AAA Chess Club and mail to: 5317 Virginia Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029

**Web Site:** [www.aaachessclub.com](http://www.aaachessclub.com)

**Info:** Nshan Keshishian (323) 578-0514. Email: [aaa.chessclub@gmail.com](mailto:aaa.chessclub@gmail.com)

### **April 27, Saturday**

**WPO Scholastics**

**5-SS, G/30.** Radisson LAX, 6225 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045 Open to gr. 12- below.

**In two sections:** Open: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U1200, top 2 Unrated. Grade 6/below U1000:

Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. Reg.: 8:30-9. Rds.: 9:30-11-12:15-1:45-3.

**EF:** \$20 if received by 04/01, \$25 door.

**Info:** [info@metrochessla.com](mailto:info@metrochessla.com) **On-line enter:** [www.metrochessla.com](http://www.metrochessla.com).

**Ent:** Metropolitan Chess, PO Box 25112, Los Angeles, CA 90025-0112.

### **May 19, Sunday**

**2013 Los Angeles Scholastic Spring Championships**

**5SS, G/30**

**Site:** Maple Park Community Center, 820 East Maple Street, Glendale, CA 91205

**5 Sections:** Unrated, K-3 Under 400, K-5 Under 700, K-8 Under 1000, K-12 Open

**Trophies:** 50 trophies will be awarded including Top 10 each section + bonus trophies!!

**Rounds:** 10:00 a.m.; 11:15 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.; 1:45 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.

**EF:** All sections: \$25 if received before May 16th. \$40 if received later or on site from 9:00

a.m. to 9:45 a.m. only. No telephone entries. After 9:45 a.m., entrees will be given a ½ point bye the first round. New players or those with expired US Chess Federation memberships

must also pay a fee on site.

**Advance Entries:** [www.westvalleychessclub.com](http://www.westvalleychessclub.com)

**Ent:** 411 N. Jackson St. Apt# 101. Glendale, CA 91206. Make checks payable to American Chess Academy.

**Info:** [www.achessacademy.org](http://www.achessacademy.org), [artmik@charter.net](mailto:artmik@charter.net) or 818.640.5974. Food & Beverage tickets for sale at event.



Evan Vallens and Vince Cimino take home trophies from the 2013 LA All Cities Chess tournament



*“These young guys are playing checkers. I am out here playing chess.”*

-Kobe Bryant



Jaden Nachimzon takes home a Jack Cashman original handmade trophy from the 2013 All Stars Athletics tournament



# Play chess by the beach



## International Chess Park

South of Muscle Beach along Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica's International Chess Park features permanent chess tables and a human-size chessboard. Spectators are always welcome; open tables are free for public use. Settle in and test your skills at one of the built-in chess tables, or watch intense rivalries among the regulars, including some master-level players.



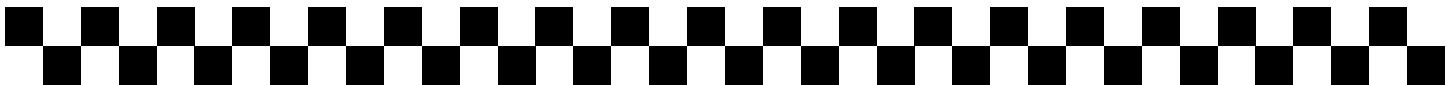
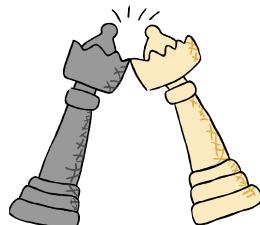
*"When the chess game is over, the pawn and the king go back to the same box."*



## Chess Word Scramble

GKIN	IHKNGT	CEHROSSBDA
EUTPARC	RMTEOOP	GTMAIB
TATSYREG	DAINOAGL	TIWEH
UQENE	APNW	ACKBL
CCHKE	SCIIERCAF	IINDA
KNAR	SHESC	MGAE
OHBIPS	OKRO	NEPCRIILP
CHTMKEEAC	CSCATTI	LSRUE
IFLE	AQSURE	NBCMONITAIO

Answers on page 10



## CHESS ETIQUETTE

As with all things, there are unwritten social rules that we must abide. Chess is no exception. I am not talking about tournament rules. I am referring to casual play.

**Shake Hands:** Not all players agree, but it is customary that before a game takes play, the players shake hands and introduce themselves or say "good game".

**Touch Move:** You do touch a piece until you are certain you want to move it. If a piece needs to be adjusted for some reason (such as being placed between squares), say aloud "I adjust" before manipulating the piece so that there is no confusion of your intent.

**Talking:** If you are playing with a childhood friend or relative, the rules may be relaxed somewhat, but generally you do not make comments during a move or distract your opponent with chit chat.

**Calling Check:** Often new players are excited to call check as they think they have accomplished a feat in the game. Check is part of the game and not necessarily an indication of an edge. A player should be aware when they are in check, but if they for some reason attempt an illegal move, a simple pointing out of the check suffices.

**Take Backs:** It is generally never accepted to offer or ask for a take back of a move. But often when starting out as a brand new player, a coach or better player in a casual game may allow this.

**The End:** It is considered extremely rude to gloat about your win or to sulk after a loss. The accepted and proper thing to do is to shake your opponents hand again and say "good game" or "thank you for the game" or something to this effect. Often times, players will go over their games together.

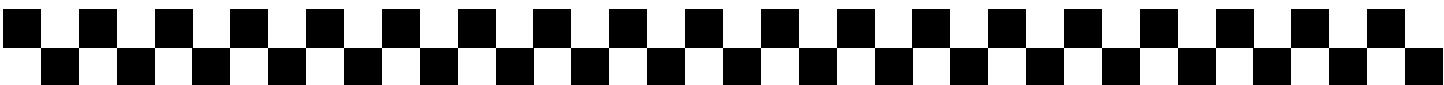
**Clocks and Notation:** Clocks and notation are always used in tournament play, but are optional in casual play and agreed on at the start of a game. If using a clock, remember to **ALWAYS** hit your clock after you move your piece. It is also expected that you will hit your clock and notate with the same hand that you move your pieces with.



Socrates Inonog during a group lesson

### Looking for a chess coach?

Socrates Inonog is available for lessons on Sundays. Socrates has been a chess coach for 10 years. He was an instructor with Academic Chess for 3 years and instructor with the Newport Beach Chess Club for 2 years. Some of his games can be viewed at Chessbase megadatabase and at chess.com (search handle sinonog). For pricing and more details, please contact him at [sinonog@aol.com](mailto:sinonog@aol.com) or (310) 936-3699.



## Q & A WITH JACK CASHMAN

**How long have you been playing chess?** 54 years (since 1959)

**What is your highest rating?** 2003 (18 years ago, 1996 41 years ago)

**Do you still compete in tournaments?** No, but I do occasionally play rated games.

**How did you get interested in chess?** Junior high school, summer break, my older brother taught me.

**Besides your love of chess, do you have any other hobbies or interests?** Cooking, gardening, writing, badminton, listening to music.

**What do you think it takes to make someone a better chess player?** Chess knowledge and good thinking; and psychological maturity.

**The kids are playing variations of**

**classic chess (bughouse and blitz). In your opinion, does playing this kind of rapid fire games, help or hurt your game of chess?** They may be fun but do not do much to help improve one's playing ability.

**What are your favorite openings with white/black? Which openings do you not like?** King Fianchetto type openings (both as white and black). Don't care for gambits much.

**How often do you study chess (analyze games, read books or solve chess puzzles)?** All the time.

**What part of the game do you think is most important to study (opening, middle or endgame)?** The Endgame, but if you do not study the other two, you will never get there.

**Do you prefer bishops or knights?**

It depends. I read a whole 200 page book on this subject and the verdict is still out. I do think a bishop is more valuable and that the two bishops is a tangible advantage. But a Grandmaster say in blitz chess having a knight vs a bishop is worth a pawn.

**Do you have any additional tips or advice for someone new to chess?** Enjoy chess in all its aspects (not just competitive chess) and remember that the journey is more valuable than the destination. Remember to always try your best and that winning or losing the game you are currently playing is relatively insignificant compared to what will happen in all your other games you will play in the future.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

KING	KNIGHT	CHESSBOARD
CAPTURE	PROMOTE	GAMBIT
STRATEGY	DIAGONAL	WHITE
QUEEN	PAWN	BLACK
CHECK	SACRIFICE	INDIA
RANK	CHESS	GAME
BISHOP	ROOK	PRINCIPLE
CHECKMATE	TACTICS	RULES
FILE	SQUARE	COMBINATION

*Every Chess master  
was once a beginner."*

**-Chernev**

### Answer to Mate in 3 Chess Puzzle #1

The answer is for white to play Qh6 check. Black's best move to to play Ke8. White then plays Qh8 check and after black plays Kd7, white mates with Qd8.

### Answer to Mate in 3 Chess Puzzle #2

The answer is for black to play Ba2 check. White is forced to play Kxa2 and black follows with Qd5 check and after white plays Kb1, black checkmates with Qb3.

### Answer to Mate in 3 Chess Puzzle #2

The answer is for black to play Rh1 check. White is forced to play Kxh1. Black then plays Qh8 check and after white plays Kg1, black checkmates with Qh2.



The American Chess Academy (ACA) has two locations (Simi Valley and Calabasas) and offers group chess classes Monday thru Friday to kids ages 5 to 16. For schedules and tuition information, please contact Jerry Yee at (818) 915-5572, email him at [jyee6@socal.rr.com](mailto:jyee6@socal.rr.com) or visit [www.achessacademy.org](http://www.achessacademy.org)

## Chess Online

[www.chess.com](http://www.chess.com)  
[www.chesscube.com](http://www.chesscube.com)  
[www.chessknot.com](http://www.chessknot.com)  
[www.chessbase.com](http://www.chessbase.com)  
[www.chesgames.com](http://www.chesgames.com)  
[www.chessclub.com](http://www.chessclub.com)  
[www.chessmagnetschool.com](http://www.chessmagnetschool.com)  
[www.chesskid.com](http://www.chesskid.com)  
[www.chesskids.com](http://www.chesskids.com)  
[www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)  
[www.fide.com](http://www.fide.com)  
[www.sccchess.com](http://www.sccchess.com)  
[www.chessimo.com](http://www.chessimo.com)

### Battlefield of Life

I make this pledge to you alone,  
that I shall serve your royal throne.

My silver sword, I gladly wield.  
Squares eight times eight the battlefield.

With knights upon their mighty steed  
the front line pawns have vowed to bleed  
and neither Queen shall ever yield.  
Squares eight times eight the battlefield.

The castle walls protect our back  
and Bishops plan for their attack;  
a master plan that is concealed.  
Squares eight times eight the battlefield.

For chess is but a game of life  
and I your Queen, a loving wife  
shall guard my liege and raise my shield.  
Squares eight times eight the battlefield.

*by Amera M. Andersen*



Academic Chess offers enrichment programs in school, summer camps and Friday night tournaments. For more information, visit their website at [www.academicchess.com/](http://www.academicchess.com/) (888) 44-CHESS Email: [info@academicchess.com](mailto:info@academicchess.com)

