



16th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys

Bellevue, WA
October 2-3, 2021



SPFNO 2021

By SPFNO Organizers | November 8, 2021

Bellevue, WA – The 16th Annual Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls and Boys was held in-person at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue October 2-3, 2021. This marked the first time that the Pacific Northwest has hosted a national-caliber chess tournament since the 2012 US Open in Vancouver, WA. The Susan Polgar Foundation and Washington Chess Federation collaborated to host the SPFNO in-person this year, after running the event virtually via chess.com last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SPF Founder GM Susan Polgar and her husband Paul Truong travelled all the way to Seattle from Europe, where they are now enjoying their retirement, especially for the event! WCF President Josh Sinanan orchestrated the weekend's busy slate of activities, which included a Parents and Coaches Seminar, Girls Workshop, 25-board GM Susan Polgar Simul, Private Breakfast with Susan and Paul, Book Signing, Puzzle Solving Competition, and Blitz Championship! An all-star staff of local tournament directors including Ben Radin, Jacob Mayer, Rekha Sagar, and Vijay Sankaran ran the 1-day and 2-day Championship sections. 2020 WA State Champion WIM Megan Lee made a special appearance on Saturday in which she reviewed and analyzed games submitted by the players, attended the Girls Workshop, and played blitz chess against all-comers (she went undefeated!), just before leaving to play in the U.S. Women's Championship in St. Louis! The event ran smoothly throughout the weekend largely due to the efforts of the dedicated tournament staff and volunteers, including Eddie Chang, Ani Barua, Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin, Larry Greenawalt, Karen Schmidt, Tom Polgar-Shutzman, Leeam Polgar-Shutzman, Duane Polich, Meling Cheng, Chouchan Airapetian, Angela Agaian, and Valentin Razmov. On Sunday October 3, Bellevue Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis made a special visit to the tournament in which he welcomed the players to the city of Bellevue and wished the players good luck with their chess!

The main tournament attracted a total of 247 players competing across 11 sections split between a 1-day, 5-round schedule and a 2-day, 6-round schedule for the most serious players. This year's field consisted almost entirely of Washington players, with only a handful from other states: 4 from California, 2 from Idaho, 2 from Oregon, and 1 from Georgia. The organizers were quite pleased with the nearly 250-player turnout under the circumstances and are optimistic about growing the event in future years! The 2-day Championship sections, which featured both Open and Girls divisions, attracted several strong local players, including IM-elect Shunkai Peng, NM Rushaan Mahajan, NM Daniel Shubin, WFM Anne-Marie Velea, CM Vignesh Anand, and CM Owen Xuan. On the line in both the Open K-12 and Girls K-12 Championship

sections were scholarships to Webster University, each valued at over \$50,000! Special congratulations to the following 2021 SPFNO winners!

1-day and 2-day section Champions:

K-1 U800: **Romi Milner**

2-3 U800: **Mike Tie, Vyan Gupta, and William Ma**

K-3 Open: **Odbayar Yondon and Vincent Liu**

4-8 U900: **Shritan Pothini**

4-8 Open: **Eric Chang and Amelia Day**

9-12 Open: **Alan Ardeleanu**

Girls K-5: **Michelle Zhang**

Girls K-12: **Anne-Marie Velea** – *Webster University scholarship winner!*

Open K-5: **Ted Wang**

Open K-8: **Owen Xuan and Yiding Lu**

Open K-12: **Rushaan Mahajan and Shunkai Peng** – *Webster University scholarship winner!*

Team Standings (Top 4 score from the same school counted for team score)

Place	Name	Score
1st	Medina Elementary School	18
	Michelle Zhang, Girls K-5	6
	Ted Wang, Open K-5	5
	Sanjay Urali, 4-8 Open	4
	Michael Xiong, Open K-5	3
	Aaron Zhang, Open K-5	3
2nd	Bellevue Children's Academy	15
	Alan Ardeleanu, 9-12 Open	5
	Michael Lin, Open K-5	3.5
	Nikash Vemparala, Open K-12	3.5
	Vihaan Jammalamadaka, Open K-12	3
	Stas Black, 2-3 U800	3

	Daniel Yun, K-1 U800	3
3rd	Einstein Elementary School	15
	Ayaan Kang, 4-8 Open	4
	Arnav Gadde, K-3 Open	4
	Rajas Shah, K-3 Open	3.5
	Paras Shah, Open K-8	3.5
	Gabriel Veiga, Open K-5	2.5
4th	Odle Middle School	13.5
	Ryan Min, K-8 Open	4
	Nikita Chopra, K-8 Open	3.5
	Skylor Chan, K-8 Open	3
	Sonia Devaraju, Girls K-12	3
	Pranav Kokati, 4-8 Open	3
5th	Somerset Elementary School	13
	Owen Xu, Open K-5	4.5
	Lucas Liu, Open K-5	4
	Lucas Zheng, Open K-5	2.5
	Raymond Davenport, 4-8 Open	2

Polgar Blitz Championship:

K-5 Blitz: **Samuel Cha, Ted Shi, and Owen Xu**

6-12 Blitz: **Vidip Kona**

Susan Polgar Simul:

Final Score: GM Susan Polgar 21.5 – Simul Players 3.5

Duration: 5 hours!

Wins achieved by **Erin Bian** (1893) and **Owen Xu** (1663). Draws achieved by **Shunkai Peng** (2439), **Valentin Razmov** (1986), and **Greg Prentice** (1737).

Puzzle Solving Competition:

35 brave contestants were given a maximum of 30 minutes to solve 20 checkmates puzzles. Scoring was based on speed, accuracy, and completeness.

	Place	Puzzle Solver	Score	
1000+	1st	Daniel Shubin	20	first to finish (~10 min)
	2nd	Edward Li	20	
	3rd	Yiding Lu	20	
	4th	Nikash Vemparala	20	
	5th	Vihaan Jammalamadaka	20	
U1000				
	1st	Romi Milner	15.5	
	2nd	Siddharth Bhaskaran	14	
	3rd	Oliver Wakeman	10	
	4th	Kevin Zhang	8	
	5th	Jai Budraja	6	

Congratulations to all players and chess families who contributed to the 2021 SPFNO. We look forward to making this event even bigger and better in the coming years!

About SPFNO

The prestigious annual Susan Polgar National Open Championship for Girls and Boys (SPFNO) was created in 2006 and is sponsored by the Susan Polgar Foundation (SPF) to give more opportunities to young chess players. The event rotates throughout the United States and will be co-hosted by the Susan Polgar Foundation and Washington Chess Federation from 2020-2023. For more information, please visit: <http://www.spfno.com/>

About Susan Polgar Foundation

The Susan Polgar Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by charitable donations. The Foundation was established by GM Susan Polgar – the Winner of 4 Women’s World Chess Championships, 12 Olympic Medals (5 Gold, 4 Silver, 3 Bronze), and the first woman in history to break the gender barrier in chess. Since the foundation was started back in 2002, many events have blossomed and become the benchmark events for young girls and boys across North America.

Contact

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