

# About MACA

**The Massachusetts Chess Association** is an educational non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote chess in Massachusetts and represent the interest of chess players within the state to the governing body of chess in the United States, **The United States Chess Federation (USCF)**.

As part of its role as a state organization, MACA has programs in place to support the existing chess community as well as promote chess among schools and the general public. Highlights of these programs are:



## **Providing at least four major tournaments each year:**

Massachusetts Open (State Championship)  
Massachusetts Game/60 Championship  
Greater Boston Open  
Pillsbury Memorial



Running a scholastic program, which consists of a series of tournaments to determine the state's scholastic champions as well as "warm up" tournaments throughout the year. Free boards and sets are provided to schools and clubs through MACA's **Comeau and Living Memorial Chess Fund (LMCF)**.

Quarterly publication of the award winning *Chess Horizons*, a journal of regional, national and international chess news and features.

Promotion and development of chess in correctional institutions through our Prison Chess program.

We hope you will chose to join MACA and enjoy the benefits of membership while knowing that you are helping to promote chess throughout Massachusetts.

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES**

(Includes Subscription to Chess Horizons unless otherwise noted.)

*Adult: \$12.00; Life: \$175.00; Life (age 65 or older): \$100.00; Junior (under age 18): \$6.00.*

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# 2003 NorthEast Winter Getaway

Severine E. Wamala

## Tournament Summary

One unique feature of the Getaway tournaments is the emphasis on club performance. Tournament entrants identify themselves as a member of a local chess club and cash prizes are awarded to those clubs who scores the most points in the competition.

For the first time ever, after four tries, the legendary Boylston Chess Club (BCC) won the club competition with 41.5 points over the perennial front-runner the Metrowest chess club (MCC) in Natick, which came in second with 38.0 points. BCC won first place with only 13 entrants compared to MCC's 17.

That goes to tell you that more does not necessarily mean better. Also with a strong showing in third place was the Burlington Chess Club from Vermont which scored 26.5 points. The Burlington Chess Club entered 13 players despite a snowstorm and continues to be a force at each of the NorthEast Chess Getaways. Rhode Island Chess Club with 11.5 came in fourth and Billerica Chess Club with 9.0 came in fifth.

**In the open section**, GM Kudrin won clear first with 4.5 points. This is GM Kudrin's third Getaway winning first place. Coming in close second was GM Ibragimov with 4.0 points who is also a regular.

FM William Kelleher, Marc Esserman and Charles Riordan tied for third place with a respectable 3.5-1.5 score. Riordan and Esserman shared the top U2300 prizes. Honorable mention goes to youngster Jack Stolerman who came in clear fourth with 3-2 score.

**In the U2100 section**, three tied for top honors: Ruben Babayan, David Paulina and John Elmore. They each scored 4.5. Another three tied for second in the names of: Simon Nielson, Sherif Khater and Christopher Carnevale who scored 4 points each. Nielson and Carnevale shared the U1900 top honors.

**In the U1700 section**, Jeffery Levine got clear first with 4.5. Five shared second place with 4 points in the names of: Amrit Gupta, Martin Laine, Doug Ryan, Vern Clifford Rand and Paul Duperre. Bruce Stone and David Klegon scored 3.5 enough to claim the U1500 prizes.

**In the U1300 section**, Edes Cullen scored 4.5 points to win clear first. Tying for second were

Matthew Owen, Patrick Julianelle and Brien Lee. Chris Oliveri score 3 points to solely claim the top U1100 prize. Jason Gauthier and Catherine Levelle each scored 2.5 points good enough to share the top U900 honors.

## The Games

This was a last round game. Traditionally GMs take a quick draw to lock in prize money. However in this case Kudrin was a half-point ahead and a draw would give him a clear first. Yet a win would give GM Ibragimov clear first so they fought it out. The result was not a GM draw but a hard fought 4-hour 47-move draw.

**White: Ildar Ibragimov (2665)**

**Black: Sergey Kudrin**

[B20] North East Chess Getaway Lowell, (5), 09.02.2003

1.e4 c5 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 e5 7.Nc3 Nge7 8.0-0 exf4 9.Bxf4 h6 10.Nb5 Ne5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Be3 b6 13.Qd2 Be6 14.Rf2 Qd7 15.Nc3 h5 16.Bg5 0-0 17.Raf1 Kh7 18.h3 Ng8 19.g4 f6 20.Be3 hxg4 21.hxg4 Bxg4 22.Bf3 Bxf3 23.Rxf3 Ne7 24.Qh2+ Kg8 25.Bh6 Bxh6 26.Qxh6 Qg4+ 27.Kh2 Qg5 28.Qxg5 fxg5



GM Sergey Kudrin (left) and GM Ildar Ibragimov (right) face off at the Winter Getaway.

Photographer: Cortizas



29.Rxf8+ Rxf8 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8  
31.Nb5 Nc6 32.c3 Ke7 33.Kg3  
Nd8 34.Nxa7 Kd7 35.Nb5 Ne6  
36.Na3 Nf4 37.Nc4 b5 38.Nxe5+  
Ke6 39.d4 cxd4 40.cxd4 Ne2+  
41.Kg4 Nxd4 42.Nd3 Kf6 43.b3  
Nc6 44.a4 bxa4 45.bxa4 Na5  
46.e5+ Ke6 47.Kxg5 Nc6 1/2-1/2

Harvard graduate Charles Riordan (2206) had a tremendous result in Round One when he scored an upset draw with GM Ildar Ibragimov. I regard this as a great result for Charles.

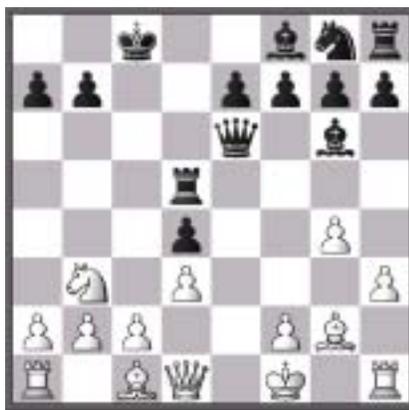
However, Riordan says he got lucky and commented: "I'm not saying this out of false modesty, he had three pretty clear wins to choose from (13.Bxd5, 14.g5, 16.Nxd4)".

**White: Ibragimov (2665)**

**Black: Riordan (2206)**

North East Chess Getaway  
Lowell (5), 08.02.2003

1.e4 c5 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5  
Qxd5 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bg2 Nd4  
7.Nbd2 Qe6+ 8.Kf1 O-O-O 9.h3  
Bh5 10.g4 Bg6 11.Nxd4 cxd4  
12.Nb3 Rd5



13.Qf3 Nf6 14.Bg5 Be4 15.dxe4  
Rxc7 16.e5 Qa6+ 17.Kg1 Rxe5  
18.Nxd4 e6 19.c4 Be7 20.Nb5 Rd8  
21.Kh2 Qb6 22.Rhd1 a6  
23.Rxd8+ Kxd8 24.Rd1+ Kc8  
25.Nc3 Qc7 26.Kh1 h5 27.gxh5  
Rf5 28.Qg3 Nxh5 29.Qxc7+ Kxc7  
30.Ne4 Nf6 31.Kg1 Nxe4 32.Bxe4  
Rf4 33.Bd3 1/2-1/2

Ibragimov, the #10 player in the country, rebounded to win second place in the tournament.

In the following Round 3 encounter, local player Bill Kelleher dispatched off the strong GM Alex Wojtkiewicz with the trusty Alapin. After this loss GM Wojtkiewicz withdrew from the tournament.

**White: William Kelleher (2460)**  
**Black: Alex Wojtkiewicz (2665)**  
North East Chess Getaway  
Lowell (5), 08.02.2003

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4  
Nf6 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 g6 7.Nc3  
Qd8 8.Bc4 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 b6  
11.Re1 Nc6 12.a3 Bb7 13.Bg5 Rc8  
14.Ba2 h6 15.Bh4 e6 16.Rc1 Ne7  
17.Bg3 Nf5 18.Be5 Bxf3 19.Qxf3  
Nxd4 20.Qb7 Nd7 21.Bxg7 Kxg7  
22.b4 Rc7 23.Qe4 Nf6 24.Qe5 Nc6  
25.Qe3 Ne7 26.Qe5 Qc8 27.Ne2  
Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Qa8 29.Rc7 Nc6



30.Qxe6 Nd8 31.Qc4 b5 32.Qd4  
a5 33.Nc3 Nc6 34.Qc5 axb4  
35.axb4 Nd8 36.Ra7 Qb8 37.Nxb5  
Qf4 38.Nd6 Qd2 39.b5 h5 40.Qe5  
Qb4 41.Kh2 h4 42.f3 1-0

### A Word of Thanks

The 2003 NorthEast Chess Winter Getaway is history and many thanks are due to all of you who are committed to the tournament. You braved the snowstorm, you came, and you played. Without you the Getaway would not have been held.

I appreciate all the positive comments you give me and I take very seriously all your suggestions and criticism. I am here to serve the chess community, so please let me know in what way I can improve your chess experience.

From the attendance list 80% of each Getaway participants are regular attendees and that gives me a lot of encouragement. If you have not attended one, please do and see why players keep coming back.



Photographer: Cortizas

**Mark Kaprielian at the Getaway.**

**The next Weekend Getaway is May 2-4, 2003.**

# Massachusetts Goes to Atlanta

**Maryanne Reilly**

It's early Saturday morning and the lobby of the Atlanta Hilton is rife with kids munching doughnuts and surveying their first skittles game of the day. Business people pick their way gingerly through the maze of chessboards as six elevators unleash dozens more kids with each sliding door.

In the restaurant, the choice of nutrients mimics the analysis of candidate moves. "Can I see the size of the bagel?" one father demands of a surprised waitress. "How about the omelet, how many eggs?" "Remember what Alekhine said," a boy reminds his mother as he reaches for the maple syrup. "A brain without sugar is not a brain."

It's the 2002 National Scholastic K-12 Grade Chess Championship, and a record breaking 2100 players have gathered to battle each other over the board and enjoy the special camaraderie devotees of the game frequently discover. BB&N 7th grader Gabe Frieden spots some compatriots from Massachusetts and wails, by way of greeting, "I'm playing an expert!" Not to worry, Gabe; this is what you're here for, to face the strongest scholastic competition in the country. But Gabe is worried. "What's Lou Mercuri's room number," he asks, raking his hand through his tousled hair. "There's a line in the Sicilian I need to ask him about..." and he wanders off, toward the overworked elevators.

The three-day tournament started on December's Friday the 13th, when a fitting collusion of rain and wind delayed many a plane and anxious young player. Players came from as far away as Hawaii and Vancouver, and some simply drove. "We decided to come at the last minute," one woman told a stranger in the bookstore. "And I'm so glad we did because if I'd gone to work as usual I wouldn't have discovered that fire in the basement and who knows, the whole house could've burned down."

There's an argument for taking in a long chess weekend once in a while.

It's 10 am, and the crowd has moved, amoeba-like, from the lobby and restaurant to the two ballrooms where the games will be played. After the necessary and sometimes unnecessary announcements ("Who is Dexter anyway?" an impatient player mutters, as a self-described 'chess mom' delivers an impassioned plea for this television character to play chess), hands are shaken, first moves made, clocks pressed.

In the 4th grade section, Drew Cottrill hands Ezekial Silverstein a postcard of Oklahoma. "That's my home state," he says. "It's for you." Pam Cottrill started this tradition four years ago, after Drew's first tournament. "I saw some kids giving pins, little tokens of their home state and I thought it was a really nice thing to do."

Ezekial agrees. "It was really nice. I thought Drew was a kid I could really like. I won that game, not because I played so well, but because he blundered. I almost felt bad about it."

Over in the 7th grade section, Gabe Frieden's earlier uneasiness was proving prescient. His game against Sarkis Agaian, rated 2030, was playing out exactly along the line Gabe had asked his coach about earlier that morning. "It was amazing," Lou Mercuri admits, "to see the identical position you worked out in advance show up on the board in 15 moves. Of course, Gabe is a strong enough player to take the reins from there. And he did."

Did he ever. He not only won that game, he won his next two as well, all against players with much higher ratings than Gabe's then current rating of 1459. As a chess parent noted, Gabe jumped an entire class in one day in Atlanta.

While many states send many more kids to the Nationals than Massachusetts, New York for example, sent 259 players and Host State Georgia fielded 539, compared to only 19 from Massachusetts, a casual survey suggests that Massachusetts send quality rather than quantity. As chess parent Tim Oliveri observed, "If you look into the tournament room two hours after each round has begun, you will invariably find that the kids from MA are still playing. And they get great results; every one of them ended the tournament with a plus score, with more than one of them going 5 and 1. There are serious scholastic chess players in New England. They give the kids from other parts of the country some of their toughest competition."

Steve Frymer, a traveling coach for many of the young players, agrees. "The bottom line is that chess is a very difficult game. These kids give it their best shot, and go home with lots of material to review." Not that Steve will wait that long; whenever a scorebook is available, he can be found poring over it, with or without the player there to analyze with him. He will return more than one scorebook in the morning, newly festooned with question marks and exclamation points, maybe a pizza smudge here and there.

Playing 6 rounds of chess at G/90 makes down time valuable, and the MA kids took advantage of every minute, with hallway handball, rooftop basketball, the never-TOO-much-of-a-surprise birthday party and, depending on view and speed, elevator riding. Some bold souls even venture outside the hotel. Ezekial and his father, Ross, toured the Coca-Cola factory, where they sampled litchi nut cola; they also ate at Benihana's and visited the Martin Luther King Memorial. Admittedly, this is unusual. Ross shrugs. "I don't play chess."

Those parents who do play chess, or at least like to watch, were thwarted by the 4th round, when the TD



announced all adults would be banned from the room (which spurred a rather too vigorous cheer from the young players). Those virtually unable to keep themselves out of a room where chess is being played found innovative reasons to enter that rarefied atmosphere. Chess Coach Lou Mercuri, for example, had several students playing and developed a scorching thirst that apparently only tournament room water could quench. Others delivered snacks to their charges on a remarkably consistent basis. Still others relied on the tried and true method of attaching themselves to glass panels in the doorway, as if by suction cup, just in case they might be able to infer something about the way their child's game is going from a glimpse at the back of their head.

When Sunday evening rolls around, the kids are tired but happy. They are still playing chess; blitz, bughouse, name it, but the pressure is off and the relief in the air is palpable. Now they can relax and talk about their favorite games, as well as their heartbreakers. This is first grader Michael Oliveri's first national tournament, and he was in his element, hanging out with his big brother Chris, a seasoned nationals player, and Chris' long time chess buddies, Jason Stoll and Reilly Nathans. Michael played in the smaller ballroom, in the k - 2 section. "I was really happy when a lot of the games were over early," Michael confides. "Then it got quiet and I could concentrate. Some of those kids," he slaps his forehead, "were doing mate in four!"

In the lobby the victorious Sage Schools team lounge while waiting for their bus to take them to the airport (see sidebar). "I checkmated my last opponent in 7 moves," Sara Itani reports happily. A.J. Rice had one opponent who coughed "every 5 to 10 seconds! It was really distracting. But I won anyway." Jonathan Poggi had one game that tested his tenacity. "In one game I hung a piece but came back to win

it! I never gave up." Second grader Andrew Wang ended his tournament with 5.5 points, taking 4th place in his section. "I think my favorite game," he muses, "was when I played the French Defense. Exchange variation. I castled queenside, attacked kingside, got two pawns on the 7th and CRUSHED him."

Upstairs, in Steve Frymer's room, a.k.a. 'the chess club' Zeke Silverstein is eating pizza and showing everyone his postcard from Oklahoma. "I'm going to bring postcards next year, to give to my opponents." His father raises an eyebrow. Zeke's parents were hesitant about bringing him to a National Championship, worried that with his 896 rating, he would lose games and feel discouraged. But his first win was against an opponent rated a good 200 points higher than him, and Zeke ended the tournament with 3.5 points. Did he feel discouraged? "Nah," Zeke says, "I feel underrated."

*Notes by Mercuri*

**White: Reilly Nathans (1405)**

**Black: Abou Allie (1179)**

2002 National Grade Championship (6) Atlanta, Georgia

**1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. Nc3 c6**

Rarely played and probably inferior, 3...Nc6 and 3...Bc5 are most common.

**4. d3**

4. d4! exploits black's last move. Then 4...d5 5. exd5 cxd5 6. Bb5+ nets a pawn or 4...exd4 5. Qxd4 leaves white in full control of the center.

**4...d5 5. Bb3**

More aggressive is 5. exd5 cxd5 6. Bb5+ Nc6 7. Nf3 Bd6 8. Bg5 and white is better.

**5...dxe4 6. dxe4 Qxd1+ 7. Kxd1 Bc5**

7...Bb4 is met by 8. Nge2 0-0 9. f3 Rd8+ 10. Ke1 Na6 11.Be3 Nc5 12. Rd1 with an equal game.

**8. f3 h6**

Not really necessary, Black could play 8...0-0 9. Bg5 Ncd7 with an almost equal game.

**9. Nge2 0-0 10. Bd2 Rd8 11. Ke1**



Reilly has stabilized the position and the control of the key squares becomes critical. I suspect white is a little better in spite of his misplaced king.

**11...b6**

11...Na6 12. Rd1 Nc7 13. Ng3 Be6 is simpler and better.

**12. Rd1 Bb7**

12...Ba6 limits White's options.

**13. Ng3! Bd4 14. Nf5 c5?**

A lot better was 14...Na6 with the idea of 15...Nc5 and 16...a5. As played, white gets a firm grip on the d5-square.

**15. Ne7+ Kf8 16. Ned5 Nbd7**

16...Nxd5 17. Bxd5 Bxd5 18. Nxd5 Bxb2 19. Rb1 favors white.

**17. Nc7 Rac8 18. N7b5!**

A nice maneuver forcing black to concede some material.

**18...a6**

18...c4!? was worth trying.

**19. Nd6 Rc7 20. Bxf7 Nb8 21. Nxb7 Rxb7 22. Bg6!**

White rightly sidesteps 22 Bb3 b5 with plenty of counterplay.

**22...Bxc3 23. Bxc3 Rxd1+ 24. Kxd1 Rd7+ 25. Ke2 Nc6 26. Rd1**

Reilly has carefully exploited his advantages and stands much better.

It is my belief that luck is something you have to work for and that you also have to deserve. If you don't work at the board, if you resign when you have a bad position, nothing will ever happen.

Peter Svidler

Black cannot avoid another exchange of pieces.

**26...Nd4+ 27. Bxd4 cxd4 28. c3!? Rd6**

It was better to play 28...dxc3 29. Rxd7 Nxd7 30. bxc3 with some chances to hold the draw.

**29. f4! Ng4**

29...exf4 30. e5! Re6 31. cxd4 Nd5 32. Be4 is also hopeless.

**30. Bh5 Ne3 31. fxe5! Nxd1 32. exd6 Nxb2 33. cxd4 b5 34. e5 Nc4 35. Kd3 Na3 36. e6 Nc4 37. e7+ Kg8 38. e8=Q+ Kh7 39. Bg6#**

A well played endgame by Reilly who showed a lot of poise when faced with the difficult task of rearranging his pieces and exploiting his opponent's errors.

**White: Jason Stoll**

**Black: Emily Francis (891)**

2002 National Grade Championship (6) Atlanta, Georgia

**1.e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5!**

Jason just loves to play against the French Defense. He sets up and supports the d4-e5 pawn chain and attacks big time on the kingside.

**3...c5 4. Be3**

Simpler to play is 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Bd3 known as the Milner-Barry Gambit.

**4...Qb6! 5. b3 Nd7**

5...Nc6 pressuring the center was stronger. Now Jason achieves a smooth development and an open f-file to work with.

**6. Nf3 Ne7 7. Nc3 Nf5 8. Be2!**



Well played. This bishop will have a future in the attack on black's king position. Black's best move is now 8...cd4 with equal chances.

**8...Nxe3? 9. fxe3 Be7 10. 0-0 0-0 11. Qe1!**

Jason wisely repositions his queen to g3 where it exerts pressure on black's g7 square.

**11...a6 12. Rd1 Re8?**

Removing the f7-defender looks wrong. Better is 12...f6 or 12...f5!?

**13. Qg3 Nf8 14. Ng5!**  
Intending to meet 14...f6 with 15. exf6 Bxf6 16. Rxf6!! gxf6 17. Nxe6+ Ng6 18. Nc5! with a winning position. After 14...h6? black's position just falls apart.

**14...h6? 15. Nf7 cd4 16. ed4 Qb4 17. Nxe6+ Kh7 18. Bd3+!**

A pretty finish, 18...Kxh6 19. Rxf8! Qxd4+ 20. Kh1 Rxf8 21. Qg6 mate!

**18...Kh8 19. Rf7 Bf6 20. exf6 1-0**

Jason's favorite game from the Nationals and a good example of his attacking style.

### Hikaru Nakamura breaks Fischer's record

15-year-old Hikaru Nakamura from White Plains, New York broke Bobby Fischer's 1958 record to become the youngest American grandmaster ever. He earned his final GM norm at the Bermuda International Chess Festival, and since he has a rating of 2520 the title is certain.

At the age of nine he became America's youngest National Master and at 11 years of age he was the youngest player in the world to beat a grandmaster in serious tournament game.

Nakamura earned his third and final GM norm at the Bermuda International Invitational GM 'B' tournament, where he also scored his first norm. He scored 7.5-3.5 to finish in clear second place in.

**White: Nakamura, H (2520)**

**Black: Berg, E (2527)**

[C18] Bermuda (8), 02.02.2003

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Qg4 f5 8.Qg3 Ne7 9.Qxg7 Rg8 10.Qxh7 cxd4 11.Kd1 Bd7 12.Qh5+ Kd8 13.Nf3 Qxc3 14.Ra2 Nbc6 15.Rb2 Kc7 16.Rb5 a6 17.Bb2 axb5 18.Bxc3 dxc3 19.Bxb5 Rxa3 20.Ke2 Rxc2 21.Rb1 Ra2 22.Kf1 Rg4 23.Bd3 Rb2 24.Rc1 Nb4 25.Qh6 Nxd3 26.cxd3 d4 27.h3 Ng8 28.Qf8 Rf4 29.Qd6+ Kd8 30.Kg2 Ne7 31.Ra1 Nc8 32.Qf8+ Kc7 33.Kg3 Rxf3+ 34.Kxf3 Rd2 35.Ra8 Rxd3+ 36.Kf4 Rxh3 37.Rxc8+ Bxc8 38.Qd6# 1-0**

**White: Mulyar, M (2446)**

**Black: Nakamura, H (2520)**

[B80] Bermuda (11), 05.02.2003

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.Qf3 Nbd7 8.Be2 Qc7 9.0-0-0 b5 10.a3 Bb7 11.Bg5 Rc8 12.Bd3 Be7 13.Qg3 Qd8 14.Bd2 Ne5 15.Kb1 0-0 16.h4 Nfd7 17.Bg5 Rxc3 18.bxc3 Nb6 19.Bc1 Na4 20.Ne2 Qc7 21.f4 Nd7 22.Qe3 Bf6 23.Bd2 Rc8 24.g4 d5 25.e5 Be7 26.Bc1 d4 27.cxd4 Bxh1 28.Rxh1 b4 29.Qe4 g6 30.Ka2 bxa3 31.f5 Rb8 32.c4 Ndc5 33.dxc5 Nxc5 34.Qf3 Qxe5 35.Bxa3 Nxd3 36.Qxd3 Bxa3 37.Nc3 Qa5 38.Qc2 Rb2+ 39.Qxb2 Bxb2+ 40.Kxb2 Qb4+ 0-1**

### Two Sage School Teams Win National Titles

Some of the biggest smiles in Atlanta were on the faces of the Sage School teammates, as each of the two teams took first place in their grade levels. Sage's 7<sup>th</sup> grade team, comprising A.J. Rice, Jonathan Poggi, Bennet Pellows and Sara Itani, successfully defended their national crown for the second year. Sage's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team, composed of Andrew Wang, Chris Poggi, Jack Rice and Aaron Klein, found itself in a tight race for first with the New York's top seeded Hunter College. In an exciting final round, the Sage team clinched the title. Sage's sole participating kindergartner, Clara Wang, scored 4 out of 6 points and won 10<sup>th</sup> place in her section, suggesting that Sage's prodigious chess success will continue for many more years.