

Contact: Amanda Weinberg  
Phone: 610-565-1023  
E-mail: [aweinb@aol.com](mailto:aweinb@aol.com)

**THE STRONGEST-EVER CHESS TOURNAMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA**  
**RICHARD ARONOW FOUNDATION INVITATIONAL COMPLETED**  
**THREE PLAYERS OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL MASTER NORMS**

A suspense-filled evening on Sunday, July 21, 2002 saw the completion of the Richard Aronow Foundation Invitational Tournament, which was held at the Franklin Mercantile Chess Club in Center City, Philadelphia, from July 12 to July 21. The final game completed was the decisive one, in which the first prizewinner, Grandmaster Gennady Zaitchik of Georgia, competed with Grandmaster Yevgeny Najer of Russia for the top prize of \$1000. Najer and National Master Yury Lapshun tied for second and third place, and won \$250 each. International Master Luis Chiong of the Philippines won a \$150 "brilliance" prize for his performance against International Master Oladapo Adu of Nigeria, by decision of the Tournament Committee. National Masters Yevgeny Gershov and Bryan Smith split a \$150 "best endgame" prize for their match, by decision of President Richard Costigan of the Franklin Mercantile Chess Club.

Three participants: National Masters Mikhail Belorusov and Stanislav Kriventsov of Pennsylvania, and Yury Lapshun of New York, obtained norms which must precede a nomination for the title of International Master by the international chess organization, the Federation International des Echecs ("FIDE"). Kriventsov and Lapshun each obtained their third and final requisite norm, and will likely be nominated as International Masters when FIDE convenes in October.

This tournament was organized to serve two purposes: 1. to promote high-level, invitational chess tournaments in the U.S., and 2. to publicize the Richard Aronow Foundation and the need for research on autism. This chess tournament was named in memory of Richard Aronow, and on behalf of the Richard Aronow Foundation, Inc. (whose application for charitable status in New Jersey and New York is pending). Richard died tragically in the World Trade Center attack. He left behind an autistic son, William, who is now 5 years old, and his wife Laura Weinberg. A devoted father and husband, Richard wanted to heal his son and establish a school for autistic children.

To honor Richard's dreams, the Foundation supports education and medical research for autistic people. Autism is a condition that affects a person's ability to communicate. That autism is a biological disorder is widely accepted, but its causes remain uncertain, and medical treatments are few and largely undocumented. The best treatment available for this biological problem is, ironically, intensive and early education, which rewires the neurological system to compensate for some of the deficits in autism. The Foundation is working to establish the Richard Aronow School which, in alliance with Columbia University professors, will be a premier research institution and educate autistic people from ages 2 to 21. The Foundation will also team with Cure Autism Now to fund medical research.

For more information regarding the Richard Aronow Foundation or to contribute, you may contact Laura Weinberg at 123 Airmount Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430 or by email at

[findlaur@optonline.net](mailto:findlaur@optonline.net).

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