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THE STRONGEST-EVER CHESS TOURNAMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA
RICHARD ARONOW FOUNDATION INVITATIONAL
FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2002 TO SUNDAY JULY 21, 2002
AT FRANKLIN MERCANTILE CHESS CLUB, 1420 WALNUT STREET

The Richard Aronow Foundation Invitational Chess Tournament will be held at the Franklin Mercantile Chess Club at 1420 Walnut Street in Philadelphia. Players from the Philadelphia and New York areas will compete against internationally titled players, in hopes of attaining an "International Master Norm", leading to the title. Chess is an extremely competitive sport. In the entire world, there are only several hundred Grandmasters, approximately seventy of whom represent the U.S.A. The title of International Master is also highly coveted.

Four locally-based players: Grandmaster Gennadi Zaitshik, International Master Luis Chiong, and National Master Norman Rogers of Philadelphia, and National Master Mikhail Belorusev of Delaware County, will participate. Dr. Ira Lee Riddle is the International Arbiter. Participants overall will include ten masters, of whom three are internationally titled and four are foreign nationals. Grandmaster Yevgeniy Najer of Russia, with an international rating of 2598, who has rivaled the best of Europe, will be the top-rated participant. The average player rating of the tournament will be approximately 2400 according to the Federation International des Echecs ("FIDE") rating scale, making this the strongest-ever average rating of a tournament in Pennsylvania. Other participants include International Master Oladapo Adu and National Masters Yevgeniy Gershov, Stanislav Kriventsov, Yury Lapshun, and Bryan Smith.

The tournament will be open to the press and a very limited number of quiet spectators. The Franklin Mercantile Chess Club is located at 1420 Walnut Street on the Fourth Floor. Games will take place July 12 at 6 PM, July 13, 14, 20, and 21 at 10 AM and 5 PM. Rounds last approximately six hours each. Links to games and tournament information will be available on the Pennsylvania State Chess Federation website (www.pscfchess.org), as well as the London Chess Centre's online publication, The Week In Chess (<http://www.chess.co.uk/twic/twic.html>).

This chess tournament is 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. Richard was a lawyer in public service for 23 years, 18 of which were at The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, where he was Deputy Chief of the Legal Department. 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. Often, autism leads to severe mental retardation. Of the autistic people who are able to communicate, many say they experience severe gastrointestinal or neurological pain. 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

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