

Hello Chess Community,

October 2017 has been one of the most successful months for chess in decades. The month started with the first ever Chess Week in the City of Pittsburgh thanks to Pittsburgh City Government, specifically Councilmember Dan Gilman, District 8, and his staff. September was spent planning the week, and I want to take a moment and thank all of those who dedicated their time to help support chess in the city. This newsletter will recap Chess Week.

The week started off with a kickoff at the Ellis School and then a school series lecture at St. Edmund's Academy. One of the highlights of this event was QGCI chess students sharing their experiences in class and how it affected their day to day life. One student said, "Chess teaches me strategy and that actions have consequences." Similar school series lectures took place at Community Day School and Winchester Thurston. All of these experiences were wonderful, and I want to thank the schools for taking time out of the busy day to provide a platform for QGCI to discuss chess in Pittsburgh. Chess classes during the week conducted chess activities. These activities ranged from coloring pages to videos to building chess sets and to creating posters about why we love chess. The student's testaments to chess were wonderful. A common theme was how chess is a combination of fun and brain skills. On Friday, St. Edmund's Academy Students had the opportunity to tour Pittsburgh City Government and thank council members, staff, and the mayor's office for appreciating chess and creating a proclamation in honor of the game. The weekend was the 1st Annual Community Lawn Chess Event and Tournament in Pittsburgh. The event took place at Schenley Plaza. It highlighted for me how the Queen's Gambit Chess Institute has impacted Pittsburghers. We are so thankful for those who attended in support for this great game. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh sponsored *Let's Play Chess* days to end the week.

While October was full of chess activities and events, we continued to reach out and contact partners, create lesson plans, and build on our successes. I'm also happy to announce I have been named a new board member of the Pittsburgh Chess Club! This role will allow a youth voice on the board. Thank you all for your commitment to chess. We can't wait to share more exciting news in the near future!

*Ashley Lynn Priore*

Founder, President, CEO

The Queen's Gambit

Pittsburgh, PA