

# Tri-Bridges Tribune

◆ May 2026

## TRI BRIDGES CHESS CLUB

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## Vivaash and Gal - National Section Champions!!! Introduction

Located in Exton, Pennsylvania, our club meets every Tuesday for friendly games, socializing, and skill-building. In addition to casual play, we host tournaments that give members the chance to compete, learn, and grow as players. We also offer instructional classes to help members expand their chess knowledge and deepen their understanding of the game.

My name is Azim Julkipli, and I am the editor of these monthly newsletters. Having been a proud member of the Tri Bridges Chess Club for many years, I've made lasting friendships and had the opportunity to volunteer within our wonderful community.

This newsletter is designed to keep our members connected and informed. Each issue will feature updates on local events, tournaments, and club news, along with puzzles, book recommendations, and annotated games. Our goal is to celebrate the achievements of our players and foster a welcoming environment that inspires both beginners and experienced players to continue their chess journey with enthusiasm.

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# Easter Weekend With Tribridges Chess Club

By Azim Julkipli and Joshua Anderson

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In 2013 when we started the club, we sometimes did not have any people show up. Within a year, we would have a few people play in tournaments. About three years in, we had players attend two separate tournaments. I remember it being a moment where I really felt that our club was growing. This Easter we had players celebrating success at both a CCA event, The Atlantic City Open and the World Chess Festival in Malvern. The following few pages will discuss both events played over the Easter weekend.

## Atlantic City

By Joshua Anderson

The Atlantic City Open is the newest in the long line of CCA attempts at finding a great Easter weekend tournament. For various reasons, the Easter holiday hasn't provided a home the way Thanksgiving is home to the National Chess Congress.

This iteration of the Easter tournament drew many of our club members down to the boardwalk. In typical Tri-Bridges form, it was a fairly large contingent, though a few stayed closer to home to play the Malvern event and a few had other activities. As is also common for the club, we had players in most every section. And finally, we had someone with an exceptionally excellent result.

There are players who we are pleased to see join us, but are not club regulars at this point. In the Open, Tariq Yue who has played in our building had a fabulous 6-3 result. In the Under 2200 section, Kritarth Acharya scored 2 points against a field mostly higher rated than him.

In the lower five sections we had far more players especially when we consider those who used to come regularly, but don't make it anymore. In the Under 2000 section, Tyler Wang scored 4.5 points, just a half point outside the money and Subhang Nettem had 4.0 points. In the Under 1800 section, Myra Nigam who used to play with us a bit, scored 5 and won \$400.00. In the Under 1600 section, Samika Nettem, who lost only to the winner of the event, won \$25.00. In the Under 1400 section, Riaan Gandhi won \$600.00 for second place, and James Zheng was a point back and won \$250.00. In the Under 1100 section, Lucas Liu, who comes up to play in our tournaments sometimes also won another \$250.00.

On the next page is a game played by a club member at Atlantic City:

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Amaya, Mr. John Fernando vs. Gandhi, Riaan

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. Nf3 O-O 5. e3 d6 6. Be2 Nbd7 7. O-O c5 8. d5 a6**

Preventing Nb5, and preparing a possible b5 in the future.

**9. a4 Ne8**

To play Ndf6 and Nc7, trying to activate my pieces on the light squares.

**10. Bd2 Ndf6 11. h3 Nc7 12. e4 e5**

Gaining control of the d5 and f5 squares.

**13. Be3 Nh5**

Preparing to bring the knight to f4 and also to play f5.

**14. Qd2 Bd7**

f5 was the better move, but I played this to prepare b5.

14... f5 15. exf5 gxf5 16. Bg5 Qe8 17. Nh4 Qf7 !6

**15. Bh6 Rb8 16. Bxg7 Kxg7**

Taking with my king because of an opportunity to put my knight on f4.

**17. Kh2**

My opponent played this to try and play g3 without hanging h3. However, it was too late to stop Nf4.

**17...Nf4 18. Bd1 g5**

Securing my knight on an outpost on f4.

**19. Ne2 Qf6 20. Nxf4 Qxf4+ 21. Qxf4 gxf4**

This plants a strong pawn on f4, which makes the opponent's kingside weak, and prevents a potential pawn storm to attack my own king.

**22. g3 fxg3+ 23. fxg3 f5**

To make up for losing my f4 pawn.

**24. Bc2 f4 25. Rg1 Kh8 26. Raf1 b5 27. gxf4 Rxf4**

Bringing both my rooks into the attack using the f- and g-files.

**28. axb5 axb5 29. Ng5**

This knight could easily cause problems for me. It is looking at the f7 square, and could weaken e6, which is a strong square if my opponent is able to put a piece on it.

**29...Rbf8 30. Rxf4 Rxf4 31. Kg3 bxc4**

Capturing a free pawn, but h6 was a better option.

**31... h6 32. Nf3 bxc4 33. Nd2 Bb5 34. Ra1 Na6 35. Bd1 Nb4 36. Ra8+ Kg7 37. Rb8 Ba6 !1**

**32. Ra1 h6 33. Ra7 Nb5**

Turning my knight into a strong piece, heading for d4.

**34. Ne6 ?? Nxa7 35. Nxf4 exf4+ 36. Kxf4 Bxh3 37. e5 dxe5+ 38. Kxe5 Kg7 39. d6 Nc6+ 40. Kd5 Nb4+ 41. Kxc4 Nxc2 42. Kxc5 Be6 43. Kc6 h5 44. d7 Bxd7+ 45. Kxd7 h4 46. Kc6 h3**

And my opponent resigned.

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# The Malvern Chess Festival by Azim Julkipli



**Me (Azim) holding my two trophies: One for the Youth championship, and one for the puzzle tournament!**

The Malvern Chess Festival took place from May 3rd to May 5th. With a relatively small number of people (18 participants over 2 sections), the tournament created a quiet and calming environment the whole time. A few of our members received a place in the tournament. Pranav Srinivasan received first in the Over 1500 section, while Ridhan Venkatesan (the player spotlight of the last newsletter) got 3rd in the same section. In the merged U1500&U1000 section, Swanik Gandhe took home 3rd place.

A unique thing about this tournament was its puzzle tournament. On Saturday evening, a puzzle tournament was held to take place from 7:00 to 10:00 pm, testing both the tactical skill of the participants but also the persistence they had. Each participant received a sheet of around ten puzzles, and had to find the best continuation for if the position was White to move and if it was for Black to move.

The tournament also came with multiple connected events. For example, on the Friday before the main event the next day, there were a few events, such as the relatively highly attended warm-up tournament designed to get people ready for the weekend. There was also a blitz event on the same day allowing people to just have fun before the serious event the next day.

The weekend consisted of 4 different main events: the Adult Open, the Youth championship, the merged Saturday U600 and U300 section, and the Sunday merged U600 and U300 section. The Youth championship, however, was split into two sections; one Above 1500 and one below.

On Sunday, there was a nice little twist on Easter for the hotel itself, as it featured a person in an Easter Bunny costume with a basket of plastic eggs beside them. Our club members enjoyed playing around with the Easter Bunny, sometimes devising plans to take a few extra eggs than usual...

One unusual quirk for the tournament was that players did have to get on SwissSys to see the pairings of each round. Hopefully next time there will be a paper version of the pairings instead for easier access.

However, the tournament ended with a trophy for everyone that participated, probably because it was a small event with not too many participants. However, at least everyone went home with a few games to review, some mistakes to learn from, and a little bonus for everyone!

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# Exton Simul Games

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On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Bryan Smith played against 20 people in a simul. Here are three games from that simul played by our club members.

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, as I sat and prepared for the G.26, d3 PA State Tournament, Grandmaster Bryan Smith walked into our building. I do not know if my jaw actually dropped, but if anything was going to make it drop, a GM randomly walking in would do it.

Smith won the event 5-0 and gave us an opportunity to talk a bit. He had given a simultaneous exhibition (simul) a few days previous.

I asked him if he would be willing to give a simul for our club. Smith is a tall man and our downstairs wouldn't work, so we went to our Exton Hotel and



Conference Center and were able to arrange a space. Unfortunately, with Bryan heading west to play in an event (he finished 1<sup>st</sup> by the way), we had to meet on Monday night, the 20<sup>th</sup>. This led to a little bit lighter turnout than hoped, but we still had 20 players, ranging from 2 experts down to a young man who played his first event, the Scholastic Quick, on April 11<sup>th</sup>, Justin Migueis.

Smith was extremely generous in his "demands." Each player was allowed to choose whether they were white or black (most simuls the GM is white on all boards.) Smith also allowed anyone to enter and this included 2 experts. He allowed Subhang Nettem to join over an hour late, and he didn't complain when Subhang was the last one done. Finally, Smith allowed Justin to play a second game, and when Justin accidentally knocked over the board, Smith reset it - by memory!

## **Bryan Smith - Shivam Wagh**

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Nf3 Bd6 5. Bd3 Nc6 6. Bg5 f6 7. Qe2+ Nge7 8. Bd2 Bg4 9. Be3 Qd7 10. Nbd2 Nb4 11. a3 Nxd3+ 12. Qxd3 Bf5 13. Qc3 Bg6 14. Nb3 b6 15. O-O-O O-O 16. Rhg1 a5 17. g4 a4 18. Nbd2 c5 19. Nb1 Rfc8 20. Qd2 Be4 21. Qe2 Nc6 22. Nc3 Bg6 23. h4 cxd4 24. Bxd4 Bxa3 25. bxa3 Nxd4 26. Nxd4 Rxc3 27. h5 Bxc2 28. Nxc2 Re8 29. Qd2 Rec8 30. Qxd5+ Qxd5 31. Rxd5 Rxc2+ 32. Kb1 Rxf2 33. g5 f5 34. g6 h6 35. Rgd1 Re2 36. Rxf5 Rf8 37. Rb5 Re6 38. Rd4 Rf1+ 39. Kc2 Kf8 40. Rbd5 Rf3 41. Rd6 1/2-1/2

## **Bryan Smith - Justin Migueis**

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. O-O Bc5 5. Nxe5 Nxe5 6. d4 Bb6 7. dxe5 Nxe4 8. Qg4 O-O 9. Bh6 g6 10. Qxe4 Re8 11. Nc3 c6 12. Qf4 cxb5 13. Nd5 d6 14. Nf6+ Kh8 15. Nxe8 Qxe8 16. Qf6+ Kg8 17. Qg7#

## **Samika Nettem - Bryan Smith**

1. d4 Nf6 2. e3 g6 3. Bd3 Bg7 4. f4 O-O 5. Nf3 c5 6. c3 b6 7. O-O Bb7 8. Nbd2 Nc6 9. Qe1 Rc8 10. Qg3 d6 11. Ne4 Nxe4 12. Bxe4 Nxd4 13. Nxd4 Bxe4 14. Nf3 b5 15. a3 a5 16. Qe1 Qb6 17. Kh1 b4 18. axb4 axb4 19. cxb4 cxb4 20. Ra4 Rc2 21. Rxb4 Qc6 22. Rg1 Bxf3 0-1

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# The Exton Open

By Joshua Anderson

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"If someone had told me ten years ago that Tri-Bridges Chess Club would run a two - day hotel tournament, I never would have believed them," Vasishta Tumuluri said to me as he left the club a few months ago.

It is kind of hard to imagine us organizing such an event and it is Samika Nettem who deserves quite a bit of credit for everything including several improvements.

We started by adding a G/3 , d2 Friday night blitz to kick off the weekend. This event has \$500 in prizes and a slight twist introduced by Samika. We are letting you play at your blitz rating if you have one.

From there we decided on a guaranteed \$5000 prize fund, feeling that amount would be enough to draw a fair amount of interest, especially with the \$1000 first place prize in the Open. The last event had four sections but as Samika noted we had small sections and most people play up anyway. Thus, we decided on 2 sections, an Open and an Under 1600.

Though Samika had played in the event last year, she had been her usual helpful self with the scholastics which were run by first time TD Nikki Khmelnitsky. Due to the repetitive nature of the events, she and I worked out 2 events with different time controls and mostly different sections. In this case, we decided on a Saturday G/25, d5 from 10 to 2 with sections of Under 1200, Under 600, and Under 300. Then on Sunday we have a G/40, d5 from 10 to about 5.

One perk to ending so early on Saturday, is that we get to have our first puzzle competition. I originally suggested a sort of sped up version of what was done at the World Chess Festival which was very quiet and very focused on each person doing their own work. Samika wisely and kindly suggested that this was an extremely poor idea. Honestly, I am not quite sure how kind she was, but she refrained from calling me an idiot, though I probably would have deserved that. She suggested a quick and fast competition that would eliminate more and more people until we had a final match to determine the champion of the puzzle competition. Over the last few weeks, Samika, Azim, and myself have worked together to create what we believe will be an exciting, interesting, and fun event!

Can you solve these  
sample puzzles?

Both of these two  
puzzles are sample  
positions of the ones  
that will be shown at  
the Exton Puzzle  
competition! Have fun!

Solutions on page 10



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# The Exton Open Flyer

By Akhil Kapalavayi

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**TRI-BRIDGES CHESS CLUB PRESENTS**

**SECOND  
EXTON OPEN**

**Entry fee:  
\$100**

**prizes worth  
\$5000**

**MAY 16-17 9AM- 6PM**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**JOSHUAMILTONANDERSON@GMAIL.COM**  
**484-948-5692**

**EXTON HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, EXTON PA 19341**



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# Chess Master in History

By Azim Julkipli

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Before Morphy, people considered this chess master one of the greatest chess players of his time, and one of his games, the Immortal Game, serves as a great example of the romantic style of play. Who was this man who actually started out his career not as a chess player but as a mathematician? Find out in the article below:

Adolf Anderssen was born in 1818 in Wrocław, a city in Poland. He stayed there almost all of his life, and he never married. When he was 29 years old he graduated, and soon he became a professor of mathematics. At this time, playing chess was only a hobby. He had yet to discover his true potential in the game.

He first entered the chess world in 1842 when he published a set of 60 chess problems. As he continued to produce puzzles for publications, he got more attention, especially from a group of elite players known as the "Berlin Pleiades". His progress in his chess skill was slow because he did not have much time or money to dedicate to chess, but he could put up good fights against stronger players. He also became the author of a chess magazine titled "Deutsche Schachzeitung" and stayed as the author for a number of years.



After a game in which Anderssen drew a match with a strong player, they invited him to the London tournament in 1851. He hesitated until the tournament organizer proposed to pay for his expenses if he did not win. Anderssen accepted this offer and later won the knockout tournament, receiving a prize of 500 euros, though he only took two-thirds of it because of an agreement made with Jozsef Szen. When the two learned they would play each other, they agreed for the loser to get  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the winner's prize fund if they won the tournament.

However, for a short time starting from 1858, another player came into view: Paul Morphy (also the first person for the Chess Master in History). Anderssen knew how to attack, but Paul Morphy understood the when and how parts of attacking more than him. Morphy dominated the chess world, but after he retired, Anderssen came back into the picture.

Anderssen played two significant games during this time period: the Evergreen game, where he sacrificed a queen and a minor piece, and the more famous Immortal game, where Anderssen sacrificed not only his queen, but two rooks and a bishop as well, ending the game in a spectacular bishop checkmate.

In 1866, he lost a game to the rising Wilhelm Steinitz (future chess master in history?) However, after that match, Anderssen studied chess more intensely. He practiced endgames and positional play, receiving great recognition in tournaments and getting ahead of some strong players before his later years and death in 1879.

Anderssen's play was characterized by his aggressive style of play, trying to attack his opponent's king.

**On the next page, you can see Anderssen's most famous game in his life which shows his attacking style: the Immortal game.**

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# The Immortal Game, 1851

## Adolf Anderssen vs. Lionel Kieseritzky

**1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Qh4+**

Kieseritzky breaks a relatively basic principle: Don't bring your queen out early in the game. This game is a good example of this idea, as you will soon see.

**4.Kf1 b5 5.Bxb5 Nf6 6.Nf3 Qh6 7.d3 Nh5 8.Nh4 Qg5 9.Nf5 c6 10.g4 Nf6 11.Rg1**

Anderssen sacrifices his first of four pieces, the bishop.

**cxb5 12.h4 Qg6 13.h5 Qg5 14.Qf3 Ng8 15.Bxf4 Qf6 16.Nc3**

Anderssen has been chasing Black's queen, constantly winning tempi and developing his pieces while Black is forced to retreat. On this move, White has 4 pieces developed (5 if you count the rook on g1) while Black has his lonely and easily provoked queen as his only developed piece.

**Bc5 17.Nd5 Qxb2 18.Bd6 Bxg1**



Anderssen has just given up his rook and may lose the second rook soon as well. This position is completely lost for White *materialwise*. However, for his two pieces, White has 4 pieces near the center, and conveniently place around Black's vulnerable king. It should be no surprise what White's plan is with this large army.

**19. e5 Qxa1+**

Anderssen's third piece is lost. He must finish the game now or he will soon be overwhelmed by Black's material advantage

**20. Ke2 Na6 21.Nxg7+ Kd8 22.Qf6+**

And Anderssen gives away his fourth and final piece, the queen, in order to secure the result

**Nxf6 23.Be7# 1-0** And the game ends with Anderssen's Queen, two rooks, and his bishop gone for a 9 checkmate delivered in a beautiful minor piece checkmate.

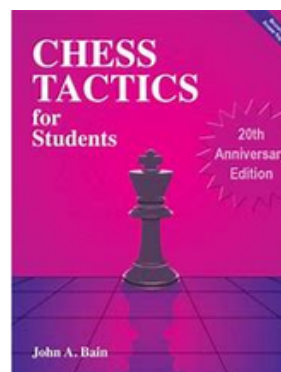
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## Player Spotlight

Hi, my name is Riaan Gandhe, and I'm currently in 7th grade. I started playing chess after watching videos by GothamChess, which got me really interested in the game. At first, I just played casually with friends at school and with my family. During one family vacation, I even managed to beat my granddad, who's the oldest in my family, which was a big moment for me! Being the youngest, that win gave me a lot of confidence and made me want to try chess more seriously. That's when I came to Tri-Bridges for my first tournament. I met Josh there, and he suggested I start in the U500 section instead of jumping straight into the open section. I didn't really understand why, but after my very first game, I definitely did! I realized how much I still had to learn. Since then, Josh has been an amazing mentor, guiding me and helping me grow in chess. What really stood out to me was how easy it was to talk to him; it always felt natural, like I belonged there. He also introduced me to so many players, and over time I've made friends I know I'll have for a long time.

What I love most about Tri-Bridges is how welcoming everyone is. I've now played in over 35 tournaments there, and no matter if I win or lose, I always look forward to coming back. It's not just a place to compete; it's a place where people genuinely enjoy chess and being around each other, which makes it really special. For Atlantic City, I did nothing too different just for that tournament, but I've been consistently working on improving my game. Recently, I've focused more on positional play and used the The Woodpecker Method to sharpen my tactics. I think the most important thing for tournament preparation is staying consistent: practice regularly, review your games, and keep learning from both wins and losses. I felt thrilled with my result at Atlantic City. Finishing in second place with a score of 6 out of 7 was an amazing feeling, especially after all the effort I've put in. Winning \$600 was also pretty cool; turns out chess can sometimes pay off in more ways than one!

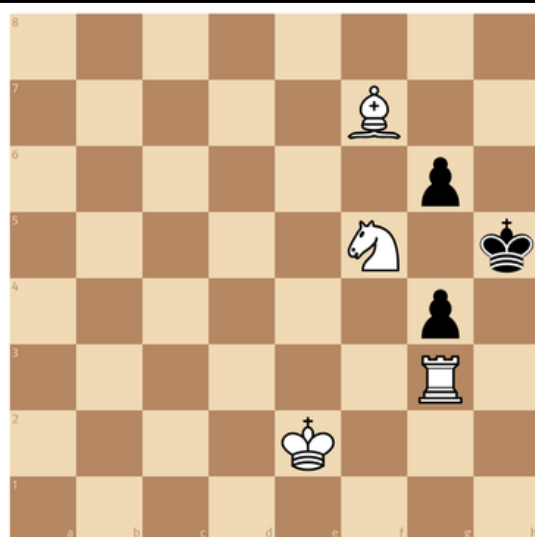
## Short Book Recommendation



I would like to review the book "Chess Tactics For Students" by John Bain. The book is about tactics for beginners and it features tactics from pins to 3 move checkmates. I like the fact that the book that the tactics give me a wide sense of what is going to happen in games. I would recommend this book to kids that rated 400-800 which will help these kids get better a lot.

Written By:  
Swanik Gandhe

Note: John Bain routinely donates these books and some smaller more beginner books to the Holly Heisman Memorial Tournament. This event will likely be held on October 3, 2026, at the Exton Hotel and Conference Center, when we will also celebrate my first day as a 52 year old with an evening blitz event, and the Autumn Open the next day.



Place a white pawn anywhere on the board in a way so that there is no way for black to avoid a mate in 2, starting with White to move. **Solution on page 6**

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# UPCOMING EVENTS!

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One of the best ways to improve at chess isn't just by studying countless books—it's by playing real games! Our upcoming club events offer great opportunities to put your skills into practice, challenge new opponents, and learn from every match. Remember, practice may not make you perfect, but it definitely makes you better! Here's what's coming up at the Tri Bridges Chess Club.

## [ECE #127 – Saturday Tournament](#)

Date and time: Saturday, May 9 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Sections: U1400, U1000, U600  
Time Control: G25 d5

## [Annual PTA Tournament](#) - Mother's Day Event **\*Flyer on next page\***

Date and time: Sunday, May 10 @ 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sections: Under 500, Under 1000, Open.  
Time Control: G25 d5

## [\\$500 Exton Open Blitz](#)

Date and time: Friday, May 15 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
Sections: Open, U1250  
Time Control: G3 d

## [Second Exton Open – \\$5,000 GUARANTEED](#)

Date and time: Saturday, May 16 @ 9:00 am - Sunday, May 17 @ 6:00 pm  
Sections: Open, U1600  
Time Control: G90 d10

## [Exton Open – Scholastic Saturday](#)

Date and time: Saturday, May 16 @ 10:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Sections: U1200, U600, U300  
Time Control: G25 d5

## [Puzzle Competition](#)

Date and time: Saturday, May 16 @ 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
Sections: U1200, U600

## [Exton Open – Scholastic Sunday](#)

Date and time: Sunday, May 17 @ 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sections: U1200, U800, U500  
Time Control: 40 d5

## [ECE #128 – Friday Night Tournament](#)

Date and time: Friday, May 29 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Sections: Open, U900, U600, U300  
Time Control: G25 d5

## [ECE #129 – \\$250 Sunday Game Hour](#)

Date and time: Sunday, May 31 @ 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sections: Open, U1400, U600  
Time Control: Open & U1400 are G60/d5; U600 is G25/d5

# The PTA Mother's Day Flyer

By PTA

## PTA Chess Tournament WITH JOSH

<https://tinyurl.com/PTACHESS2026>

Happy Mother's Day! Mothers are welcome for a little but lovely treat!

Registration \$10 (Pay at the event)

**MAY 10 SUNDAY 10-5 PM**

**Location: TRI BRIDGES CHESS CLUB**  
666 Exton Cmns Exton, PA 19341  
Championship Rated - Under 1200 & Under 900; Unrated K-8 & 9-12 with adults

PHILADELPHIA TELANGANA ASSOCIATION



Philadelphia Telangana Association (PTA)