

2018 Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Inductee:

Eduard Zelkind

Eduard (Ed) Zelkind is a 6-time Minnesota State Champion who has also trained many of Minnesota top youth chess players over the last three decades. Ed and his family immigrated to the United States from Russia in 1980. Before coming to the US Ed reached the level of Candidate Master in the ultra-competitive Russian chess system and also competed for the Belarus State Championship 5 times. Ed also coached chess professionally in Russia, and several of his students went on to become GMs and IMs.

Chess was a life-giving source for Ed. He learned the game from his older brother. He first met his wife Natalya when they were both children playing chess at the Pioneer Palace in Minsk. After leaving Ecolab's employment in 1987 chess teaching again became Ed's full-time vocation as he worked with Brian Ribnick's Metcalf Teams, Russ Erickson's Zachary Lane Teams, and the School District's Chess Master in Residence Program. Ed also conducted private lessons with great young players such as Sean Nagle, John Bartholomew, Jamie Wheat, Victor Feldberg, Tony Patterson, Matthew Jensen, and his own son Mike Zelkind.

Ed is also famous for the 6 Minnesota State Championships he won between 1982 and 1991. Ed dominated the Minnesota chess scene during this decade, adding his name to the list of prestigious Minnesota players who have had both the talent and tenacity to dominate for extended periods of time. For example, George Barnes (1931-1951), Curt Brasket (1957-1975), Ed Zelkind (1982-1991), Victor Adler (1998-2008), and Sean Nagle (2009-2016). These 5 amazing chess masters have won an astonishing 60% of the State Championships over the last 9 decades!!

Ed Zelkind is an incredible chess player and coach and it was the great fortune of Minnesota Chess for his family to have selected our state as their new home when they immigrated from Russia in 1980.