

Bay Area Chess Author Shoot Out

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Irving Chernev in front of Golden Gate Bridge

By Eric Hicks

The Bay Area has several noteworthy chess book authors in its ranks. In fact, I have heard we have more noteworthy chess authors per capita, than anywhere else in America (don't google me on that one).

Of the 5 authors, 3 of them have been the Cal Chess Journal editor. (Believe me a thankless job). It is proof hat once you write the journal every other month (in my case every 5 months) you can write anything–especially for a little money. I only dream that as a formal editor myself that the chess gods have destined me to someday join their illustrious ranks!

Check out this all-star list of prominent Bay Area chess authors and then cast your vote on the poll. And–most importantly–.support Bay Area chess

and buy these dudes– books!

FM Eric Schiller – The current Cal Chess editor and Cal Chess board member. I have heard him compared to the modern day Fred Reinfeld. Schiller would definitely count as the most prolific writer on this list (and probably in the nation)with over 100 books published. His books range from opening texts, game collections, tactical work outs, and even a rule book (Schiller was lead arbiter for world champion match). Modern books stores– chess sections are filled with his offerings with titles such as –Killer Chess Tactics.– In fact if you took all of Schiller–s chess books and piled them high, his pile would be higher than all the other chess authors on this list combined!

[SchillerLink](#)

Irving Chernov- Irving Chernov was a San Francisco resident who rose to chess fame when he wrote –Logical Chess– one of the most celebrated chess books of all time. Chernov had a rare gift of clearly laying it out for the beginning player. Actually it was Logical Chess that was my first book, and it generated for me an immediate interest and understanding in chess. Chernov was known to hang out in North Beach and test on local chess players positions he was planning for books. He dies in San Francisco in 1981

[Chernov Link](#)

Frisco Rosario- Frisco is former Cal Chess Journal editor who last year published his first book, –A First Book on Morphy.– This book uses the Rueben Fine principles to thoroughly annotate some select Morphy Games. Frisco is a celebrated instructor in the Success Chess program, and has been playing Bay Area chess since he was a youngster. He is an expert rated player.

[FRISCO LINK](#)

IM John Donaldson – One of John Donaldson–s most popular books –Legend on the Road– , tells the story of John–s hippy days cruising the nation in his vw bus with his friend Bob–oops wrong road–! I mean he wrote of being on the road with Bobby Fischer playing chess. John Donaldson is a respected chess historian who is now the manager of the Mechanics Chess Club in San Francisco and publisher of the famed Mechanic's Newsletter.

[Donaldson Link](#)

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Jim Eade – Jim Eade wrote only one book. But if you took the sales of his one book, Chess For Dummies, it would probably be more than all the books published by all others on the list combined. Jim Eade–s book sold over a quarter of a million copies making it one of the best selling chess books of all time. This is an excellent book filled with illustrations and does a great job at its purpose which is a first introduction to chess. Jim is one of the few who can claim he has made bookoo bucks off of writing chess books–! Jim is the former Cal Chess Journal editor and former Cal Chess President which proves that serving Cal Chess really can take you far!.

[Eade Link](#)



Bay Area Chess Activist Eric Schiller



A Young Frisco de Rosario



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