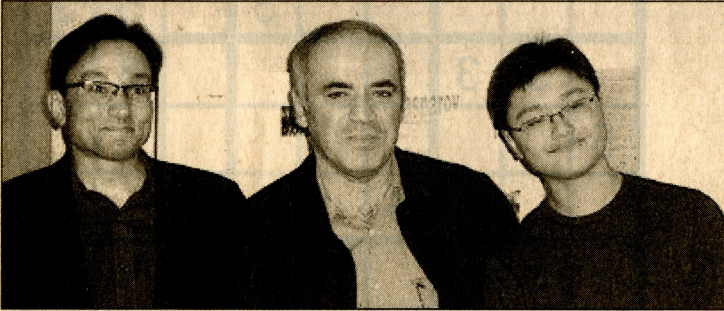


# World Champion meets local chess players



Gary with MSJE coach Nimish Shah and Shalin Shah

**SUBMITTED BY JOE LONSDALE**

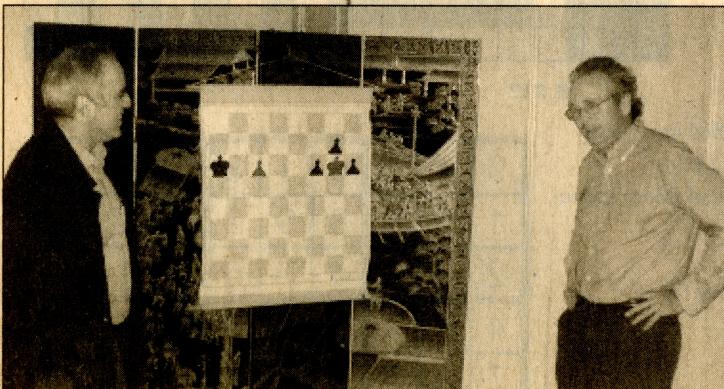
Jailed after an arrest at a pro-democracy rally in Russia, former World Chess Champion Gary Kasparov recently visited the Bay Area to promote free and open elections and the rule of law in his home country. Asked about the possibility of democracy in Russia, he expressed his belief that real democracy will eventually triumph.

During his visit, Gary and his wife Dasha Kasparov met with Mission San Jose Elementary School chess coach Joe Lonsdale, his sons Joseph, Jeffrey, and Jonathan, assistant coach Nimish Shah, chess master Richard Shorman, and a small group of former MSJE chess players.

The chess players that met with Gary were part of the Hopkins Junior High School Chess Team that recently won the Northern CA Championship. Armaan Kalyanpur, Shalin Shah, Alvin Kong, Eric Zhu, and Emily Zhu are all top scholastic chess players. Each of them has been part of numerous state championship chess teams.

Gary reviewed several chess games played by the students and showed a number of very interesting chess problems. He was very gracious and a great chess teacher.

The meeting was held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in SF.



Gary Kasparov showing a chess problem. White to move and draw. It looks impossible, but it can be done! This is now my favorite chess problem.