

## **The Chess Master**

**Boris Privman (FCAS 1991)**

**1957-2021**

“Had the God of Actuaries [existed and] wanted to punish them for their pride, he’d start with the creation of multiple incompatible data formats,” said Boris Privman in a passage from the 1999 CAS Discussion Paper by Aleksey Popelyukhin called [“...Per Aspera: The Last Few Obstacles on the Way to Digital Paradise.”](#) Privman earned his living as a reserving actuary, but his favorite pastimes were being with family and playing chess. Privman was one of the busiest chess players in the U.S. Chess Federation. Perhaps his finest accomplishment was in the 2000 New York Open Chess Championship, where he scored 6-3 against four International Chess Federation (FIDE) grandmasters and three international masters, becoming a FIDE Master at age 43. (FIDE is the French acronym for Fédération Internationale des Échecs, which is also known as the World Chess Federation.) Following news of his death, his fellow chess players honored him with a memorial chess event. Born in Ukraine, he moved to Israel as a teenager and graduated from Tel Aviv University with a mathematics degree in 1981. Shortly after, he moved to the U.S. and became an actuary by the suggestion of another chess player. He began his career at the National Council on Compensation Insurance and later became managing actuary for the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance in the office of solvency regulation’s actuarial unit. Most recently, he was the supervising actuary for financial reporting for the New York State Insurance Fund. Privman’s survivors are his sister, Robin; sister-in-law, Marina; and six nieces and nephews.