



Antonis Loudaros, 65, of Jupiter, with some of his students on the Greene School Chess Team. PROVIDED

Still checking students, retired chess pioneer takes Greene School to top

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Special to Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

He taught and championed chess in Palm Beach County for 35 years, but the king piece of his career has come in retirement.

Antonis Loudaros of Jupiter, the founder of the chess program in Palm Beach public schools, retired in 2016 before coming back to coach at The Green School in West Palm Beach five years ago.

"The Greene School is the most phenomenal educational environment I

have ever experienced in over 10 states and over 35 years of an international teaching career," Loudaros said. "Parents, children, teachers, and coach shared the same vision, followed my plan, and the 'Amazing Twelve' performed above any high expectations."

The "Twelve" are a new team that saw eight out of 12 beginners go undefeated in local tournaments and place in statewide and national tournaments. The Greene School Chess Team finished second in Florida in two divisions: K1 and K5. And then fifth in the country in K-3.

Loudaros's goal is for The Greene

School to be the center of chess excellence in South Florida.

"I hope to create a Greene School Chess Grand Prix in 2022-23, competing at high level in district, regional, state, and national championships," he said. "I want to participate at Chess Super Nationals with elementary, middle, high school teams in 2025 and bring home a national trophy."

Loudaros taught chess in Palm Beach County for 35 years — the last 10 at Elbridge Gale Elementary. From 1987 to 2016, he organized all 30 county

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tournaments.

In coaching, he started with the kindergartners, teaching them math by adding the value of pieces together on their way to national rankings for their age group. Loudaros' students racked up trophies from local, state and national competitions.

The Athens, Greece, native grew up close to Olympic venues and has run with the torch five times. He keeps the torches in his home in Jupiter.

Loudaros has always taught his students that chess isn't about winning or losing. He said whenever you play a game, you either win or you learn a lesson.

According to Loudaros, the game of chess teaches students how to be creative and analytical, plus life skills such as diagnostic, problem-solving, patience, social skills and leadership.

"Life is about living, getting older, making better decisions, using your experience to know the value of happiness and time," he said. "Exactly like in a chess game."

Who is your hero?

Yiayia (grandmother) Magdalene. I learned by observing her how to deal with people, situations in life, pride, loyalty, work ethic, creativity, honesty, religion, family, and life values.

What is your favorite movie?

"Never on Sunday" with Melina Mercouri.

What are your hobbies?

Running, chess, soccer, traveling, Olympic torches/coins/memorabilia, and creating a time machine.

What do you do to get away or take a break?

Reading Jules Verne, Homer's epic poems, exercising, planning the next chess program. When you love something, it is pure joy to be engaging in that activity.

Favorite book and why?

Homer's "Odyssey." Life is like the 20 years King Odysseus/Ulysses spends in Troy and the adventures to return to his home/palace in Ithaca. The longer and more adventurous life becomes, the most exciting it is, because when someone reaches Ithaca, he/she reached the destination. There is nothing more than Ithaca promised you.

If you could meet any person in history, who would it be?

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Most cherished memory?

Traveling to European countries, South America, Hawaii, visiting seven national parks in USA, spending quality family time here in our family home in Athens, Greece.

Best advice you ever received?

I listen, I observe, I study people and situations but I am my own person and I seldom receive advice.