

NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF GARY CARUSO

On December 6, the club hosted its final member tournament of 2016 in tribute to Gary Caruso. Gary's worldwide chess career started long before he became a member. Gary's first major tournament experience was playing in the 1962 U.S. Open Chess Championship. Later in the decade, in his tour of the U.S. Army, he took the opportunity to participate in a few small European tournaments, including Nuremberg in 1968 and Munich in 1969. On his return to the U.S., Mr. Caruso lived in New York City, where he would spend every Friday and Saturday night at Rossolimo's Chess Studio in Greenwich Village. Gary, a solid class A player, competed in the 1st World Open Chess Championship in 1973, defeating a 2475 master. He moved to Hartford in 1990 and joined the club two years later. Around the turn of the century, Gary took a long hiatus from the game. We were sad to see him leave but are glad that he has returned to our family, which he did a few years ago. Currently, Gary ranks 42 on the USCF's list of top seniors over 65 and is one of most active senior members in our chess community. Mr. Caruso's greatest NBCC tournament result was placing third in the championship event in 1996. Throughout the 1990s, Gary often competed in many of the club's simultaneous chess exhibitions. Two of his most memorable games were his victories against prominent masters Danny Kopec and David Lees. As part of the planning for his event, Gary was given the opportunity, like the last few members who were honored by the club, to determine the time control. He choose a quick speed of G/8, d/3. In addition, Gary made an extremely nice gesture by offering \$100 to the first-place winner if four or more masters competed in his special tournament. In spite of the fact that we fell short of this condition, Gary still honored his gracious offer of \$100, which was proudly presented to club expert David Herscovici, who clinched the top spot in a strong field of masters and class players. As a wonderful act of generosity, David donated half of his prize to the club. Gary truly enjoys being a part of the NBCC. He is a wonderful person who possesses such enormous warmth and kindness to everyone, and we are incredibly delighted and grateful to have him as part of our family once again.