

## **REMEMBERING DR. JOSEPH PLATZ**

For many years now, the club has hosted annual events to recognize prominent players in our chess community who have passed on. This year's event paid tribute to one of the greatest chess professionals and luminaries in our region during the mid-20th century, Dr. Joseph Platz. Prior to residing in Connecticut, Dr. Platz had already built an impressive chess resume, earning the Cologne Chess Championship in 1926 and the Hannover Chess Championship in 1931. He received his training from his mentor, Dr. Emanuel Lasker, a world chess champion, and they became close friends. When he moved to the United States, Dr. Platz won the Western Massachusetts & Connecticut Valley Open Chess Championship fourteen times, won the Connecticut Chess Championship three times, and tied for the New England Chess Championship four times. He also won many tournaments in the New York City region. Dr. Platz ultimately earned USCF Master Emeritus status for his amazing tournament performances. He was also greatly involved as president of the Hartford Chess Club for many years during the 1950s and 1960s. Toward the end of his chess career, he wrote his memoirs. It was around that time when he gave a simultaneous chess exhibition at our club. On that May evening in 1979, twenty-two players took on the master, the result being 13.5 wins for the master and 8.5 for his opponents. There is an extensive amount of history on Dr. Platz on the internet, and I encourage you to check it out. Suffice it to say, Dr. Platz was a highly respected person in our chess community and one of the most accomplished chess players of all-time.