

GEORGE HIMES NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY

The next member who the club honored based on longevity was George Himes III, who recently rejoined our organization. George's history with chess started at a very young age with his father, Dennis, who is also a member of the club. Some of George's earliest memories of his father are over a chess board. George still remembers the first time when he beat his father with queen odds and the experience of accomplishment and pride that it gave him. George's father also used to take him to scholastic tournaments when he was very young and would hover over his games, having to repeatedly be warned for sharp intakes of breath when George was about to blunder, which was to say that George's love of chess can be traced entirely to his father's. While he has not always had the desire or the wherewithal to study the game in any serious fashion (it should be noted that George has taken several long hiatuses from chess when his interest or time was spent elsewhere), the raw beauty, logic, and complexity of the game forever drew him back to the chess board. And every time George re-entered the dance, the venue was always the NBCC – almost as much of a fixture in his chess memories as his fathers, from playing at the New Britain Quartette Club with the muted sounds of bar music and the clink of glasses in the background, to filing in with his chess equipment past the exiting Zumba class on South Street at the Assyrian Community Center, to our current location at the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection, the NBCC family has always been his home for chess, and he eagerly looks forward to many more years and many more memories made here. George joined our family in 2002 and, since then, has moved up the rating ladder, current residing in class A, nearing a rating of 1900. One of his most memorable club tournament victories was when he went undefeated in the Under 1600 section of the 2009 Oktoberfest Open Chess Championship. George, like his father, is a very personable and amiable person. And, also like his father, he is always willing to engage in post-mortem analysis with his opponents after his games. We are so thrilled and delighted that George has become a member of our thriving chess community once again. And we look forward to many more years of his presence at the club. Incidentally, George has expressed his desire to become a USCF tournament director in the near future. We hope that he can make this commitment to join the NBCC executive team. Thanks, George, for your willingness to volunteer and for your membership in our club. The George Himes Quick Chess Tournament was a four-round Swiss system event divided into two sections. Winning the open section was USCF NM Suhas Kodali. The U1600 section was won by Quinn Cotton, one of our new members.