

## **NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH HRICKO**

The week after the Oktoberfest event, the NBCC held its fourth and final tributary event of the year for one of its veteran members and friends, Joe Hricko. More popularly known as "HR," Joe has belonged to our family for nearly a decade. Joe is a very jovial and cordial man who enjoys playing with members of all ages and skill levels. Prior to joining the club, Joe was quite active with the Southbury Chess Club. Once this club disbanded, he found a new home at the NBCC. Joe has consistently maintained a class A rating for years, peaking at expert level at 2007 in 2013. It is truly evident that Joe has a solid command of the chess board when he faces his friends for a serious match. However, "HR" does relish the faster time-controlled events that the club offers and enjoys these rapid games just as much as the classical, slower tournaments. One of Joe's most memorable tournament wins was taking home first place in the Robert Kozlowski Quick Chess Tournament, going undefeated in the four-round event. Joe has told me on many occasions that this victory was a true honor. He often thanks members like me and many others for being so warm and welcoming to him. Beyond the club, Joe does still play in a few Continental Chess events and is an infrequent visitor to the Friday casual games night at Barnes and Noble. "HR" also enjoyed the spirit of playing with fellow teammates at USATE years ago. Even though Joe is a busy with life today, we eagerly anticipate that he will be more active in the NBCC in the years to come. We certainly miss his gentle personality, kind disposition, and sociable nature. In the five-round Joe Hricko Quick Chess Tournament, USCF NM Derek Meredith won the open section. Elizabeth Smith and Samuel Sirag tied for first place in the U1700 section.