

## **NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF LAURENT LAFOSSE**

The club's first honoree tournament of 2019 was held for Laurent "Larry" Lafosse. Larry joined our community when our club was still holding meetings at the New Britain Quartette Club back in 2008, but he started playing chess as a youngster in France. When he arrived in the USA, Larry received Fred Reinfeld's book for Christmas, which he read and tried to emulate the sacrifices of the old masters. He remembers that his opponents got scared when he sacrificed his queen and bishop. Larry took a decade hiatus from chess, and after his break, he attended George Koltanowski's lectures at the Mechanics Institute in San Francisco and actively returned to the chess scene. When he moved to Connecticut, he was so thrilled to join the NBCC family, where he made numerous friendships. He first saw tournament action at the club in the 2008 New Britain Summer Open Chess Championship. Larry has participated in 140 tournaments, either at the club or beyond, in just a span of a decade. An amateur player, Larry reached an all-time high rating of 1382 in 2013. But like many of our class players, Larry's performance far exceeds his rating. For many years, Larry spoke to me about volunteering for the club. Well, in 2016, he became a certified club tournament director. He has a solid command of the USCF rules. Today, with only a few years of experience under his belt, he is directing the club championship solo and has been training other members to utilize Swisssys. Talk about initiative! In 2018, he was voted to serve as NBCC secretary, a position that I know he will carry out his duties in a professional manner. On a lighter note, Mr. Lafosse, who really enjoys his new club responsibilities, is a very warm and welcoming person. He is a down-to-earth person who is highly respected throughout our growing community, and we eagerly look forward to having Laurent continue playing a supportive role in club management in the years to come. No entry fee was charged for Laurent's event, thus no prizes were awarded. USCF NM Derek Meredith won the tournament. Thanks to Suhas Kodali, our newest TD, for directing.