

## **NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF MICHAEL PASCETTA**

On the last meeting of November, the club hosted its final honorary member event of 2017 in tribute to one of its long-time friends, Michael "Mike" Pascetta. Like many of our adult members, Mike started his chess career during his academic years, playing on his high school team in his home state of Massachusetts. Mike, however, was unable to remain competitive at the game while starting his professional career and raising his family. It would not be until many years later, around the time when Mike started coaching his son, Danny, when he made his return to the chess scene. It was also around that time, in 2007, when Mike joined the NBCC and was further introduced to the NBCC family through his friendship with USCF NM Derek Meredith. Being a member of this club has provided Mike with many opportunities to compete against stronger players, which he has earned many victories against, ultimately advancing his rankings in the club from class player to expert. In 2010, Mike took on his most significant role in the club as our president. His presidency came at a crucial time in NBCC history, with the recent relocation from the New Britain Quartette Club to the New Britain Assyrian Community Center. Over the next year, Mike and his fellow team of officers and tournament directors devoted their time and efforts continuing the club traditions established by prior administrations while incorporating new activities for the benefit and enjoyment of all. Because of increased responsibilities with his employer, Mike regrettably decided not to run for re-election as club president in 2011. Nevertheless, in 2013, Mike made his shining moment in NBCC history when he clinched the coveted title of Planet Earth Chess Champion. Unfortunately, Mike could not defend his title the following year! Even though Mike has not been able to commit to many club events in recent years, he has expressed a deep desire to be a regular tournament player once again. Like many people in our family, I have been fortunate to know Mike on a very personal level. Mike, who also is a lifetime USCF member, is truly one of the people in our social community with a big heart. We sincerely thank Mr. Pascetta for his service to the club and look forward to seeing him participate in our events in the decades to come. In the twenty-four player event, Jithu Sajeevan tied for first place with Joseph Bihlmeyer and Mark Bourque in the open section, and Robert Wooster won the U1600 section. Jithu and Robert each received trophies.