

CTPA – CHICAGO JEOPARDY

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By Judith Randall, CTPA Co-Secretary



Eleven CTPA-ers enjoyed a sociable evening playing “Chicago Jeopardy,” thanks to the hospitality and expertise of **Dennis McClendon CTG**. We gathered in the evening at his Dearborn Park condominium party room, bearing homemade and store bought foods, as well as wine, beer and spirits. Some also brought books to sell or swap. While a few books were sold or swapped, no one wanted any of the few Chicago history books I had brought.

Dennis revealed that for several years he has been preparing custom Jeopardy games for two different audiences. One is an annual gathering of Cartographers (where it is called Geodweeb Geopardy!) and the other (easier) Chicago-based game we played had been presented in the past to the South Loop Neighbors and the Chicago Landmarks Commission.

After an hour of socializing and helping Dennis hang a huge screen on which to project the Jeopardy game board from his old Apple computer, the donated prizes were reviewed, teams were identified and we began playing.

Dennis was a great game show host, who admitted he “channeled” the original Jeopardy game show host, Art Flemming, rather than the current host Alex Trebek. He began with the rules, reminding us to answer in question format.

The projected image was a perfect working replica of the Jeopardy game on TV! Dennis even had taped the show’s signature music and sounds. Participants enjoyed a regular Jeopardy round, a double Jeopardy round, both of which had “Daily Double” questions. At the end, teams had the chance to gamble all their winnings on one final Jeopardy question.



(If you do not know how Jeopardy is played, see: <http://gameshows.about.com/od/showprofiles/p/jeopardybio.htm>)

There were four teams of two and the competition was fierce! Each team would waive a colored paddle when prepared to answer. Of course most of us stumbled right away by not asking a question to “answer” the Jeopardy statement. Once reminded how to play the game, we raced to raise our paddles first (shouting as well) because some “questions” seemed so easy for us. Much laughter prevailed.

Barb Edmunds kept score and Donna Primas identified the team that responded quickest with the open outcry and color paddle raising system. At the end of the session, Donna also passed out inconsequential (silly) prizes which consisted of Lake Claremont press books donated by Greg Borzo and some “trinkets and trash” or “tsotchkes” Donna had accumulated from her promotions business.

When the final questions were answered and the scores tallied, **Greg Borzo** and **Patrick Steffes** were the toughest-to-stump, first place team! Congrats to them!

At the end of the night, all the participants seemed to look forward to another chance to play Chicago Jeopardy and enjoy a future shared evening of fun, casual entertainment—providing of course that Dennis can design an even more difficult version of Chicago Jeopardy so we can all play again!