

## **Dark Rituals Mark the New Year at IBM Ring 59**

On Monday November 7th friends and members of IBM Ring 59 celebrated a full year with banquet, reflection and rituals in the dark. We followed our wondrous banquet with our officer installation ceremony. President CJ May noted that the best magic was right here in the room: the support and camaraderie of all present and those members who were not in attendance. He reviewed the very full year in review and all it entailed. Over the year members Bryan Lizotte and Matias Letelier each offered workshops for members on thumb tips and false cuts respectively. Events organizer Gale Alexander brought in Eric DeCamps for an amazing lecture full of trickery as well as expert presentation. Former vice-president Jim Lang produced two shows for the Ring: a spring show at the Fairfield Playhouse and the now annual benefit show for the Trumbull Public Library, our meeting location. Jim also oversaw catering, dining set up and site logistics for the evening's guest, séance performer Steve Gibson.

Just recently completed was Ring 59's 5th Annual Magic Week New Haven celebration. Ring members performed at libraries, private venues and a bookstore. The final event of Magic Week was a brief talk, presentation on Yale Press' recently published Houdini: Art & Magic and performances. Gale Alexander and Matias Letelier finished the Houdini event with Metamorphosis and a unique version of the straightjacket escape.

Following CJ May's accounting of the Ring's activities most attendees moved to the curtained and darkened stage. A few, with no taste for dark rites of a supernatural nature, left for safer quarters. Those who stayed experienced the magic of Steve Gibson's séance performance. Using lighting, story, prop and very New England plot twists, Steve created an increasingly unnerving atmosphere of a most eerie sort. All present enjoyed this trip to the dark side to encounter something scarier than a ghost....the ghost of a witch.

IBM Ring 59 meets at the Trumbull Public Library in south central Connecticut on the 1st Monday of the month. Meetings are moved back one week if the normal meeting time falls on a holiday.

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