

I.B.M. Ring # 59 Secretary's Report for Banquet on 12/3/2012

Officer Induction & Rare Jim Sisti Performance!

Officer Induction

On this unseasonably warm December evening, a crowd of over 20 veteran and newer members and guests gathered to witness the induction of the 2013 slate of officers for Ring59 at the now familiar site of the Trumbull Public Library. Past President and current Treasurer Jim Lang started us off with a full buffet spread. This was followed by an array of gourmet cheesecakes that measured higher in variety than my available number of fingers to count them.

Past Secretary/President and Master of Ceremonies extraordinaire Joe Lantiere then inducted the new slate of officers, comprised of CJ May (President), Andy Charney (Vice President), Jim Lang (Treasurer), Dan Hovey (Historian), Keith Zalinger (Secretary/Scribe), and Ron Zimmer (Sergeant-at-arms, not present). The induction ceremony concluded with a fitting speech given by CJ, which paid tribute to Joe Lantiere and Jim Sisti, who had opened the gates of magic to him quite a few years ago. This monologue proved the perfect segue into...

Jim Sisti's Corporate Show

Past Ring59 president Jim Sisti honored the assembled party with a presentation of his corporate show: a mix of magic, mental magic, and mentalism. After an introduction by CJ, and a very humorous anecdote about intros by Jim Sisti himself, the set started off with audience members examining a bag, 4 white marbles, and 1 black marble. With said marbles mixed by a separate volunteer, Jim was able to pick out three participants holding a white marble, and singling out the black marble between the final two holdouts, with the black marble-bearing culprit being none other than the deviously devious Charles Walker.

Shifting next into a discussion about the recent growth of the game of poker, Mr. Sisti then selected two people from the audience: one an avid poker player and the other a complete novice. The plot was further embellished with mention of gambler's superstition, and the addition of a Russian Nesting doll to aid the novice contestant. With poker-playing maven Andy choosing not only his own cards but those of his opponent, he nevertheless lost the hand with a full-house to a Royal Flush in spades....with the exact outcome and hands written on a prediction inside the Nesting dolls to boot!

This was followed by a display of a single column newspaper article. Said article was cut at a position of a volunteer's choosing and allowed to fall to the floor. The volunteer picked up the article and silently read the first few lines, thinking of a single word. Jim divined the correct word, and followed the one-punch with number two: the first line was contained within a sealed envelope on display during the entire piece!

Up next was a gameshow-esque performance with a participant choosing a jumbo-sized card from a displayed set, hoping to win one of several prizes including \$50,000 cash, a \$25,000 trip to London & Paris, a Jeep Cherokee, and a Cabin Cruiser. As cards (and prizes) that were not

chosen were systematically eliminated, our intrepid volunteer did not sit down empty-handed, as the remaining prize was a plush teddy-bear.

The final piece was 1 giant roofing nail held straight up in the middle of a single block of wood. It and 3 similar blocks of wood were placed in paper bags, giving Jim an initial 25% chance of impaling his hand when it came time for him to slam his hand down. To further complicate matters, the bags were *chosen by the audience*. We are happy to report there were no injuries, save a room full of magicians becoming mentally fried in the process

With lots of humorous anecdotes interspersed between pieces, Jim delivered what could have possibly been the greatest value in Magic for all of 2012, especially in regards to Ring59.