

Our December meeting is our traditional holiday show where the members invite their families and friends to gather and share a little holiday magic with us. This year our host for the evening was Harry Mandel (no relation to Howie). Before the show started, we swore in our newly elected officers, including our new president Bill White. Our outgoing president, Chris Ward, received a plaque recognizing leadership over the past two years. We paid tribute to our departed ring members by reading the list of names followed by a moment of silence. Our host started the evening's performances with a vanishing silk routine. Don Engstrand followed first with a card effect, and then took advantage of the Harry Potter craze by performing a book test with one of the volumes. Harry then performed a nice six card repeat and then brought Kevin Rhodehouse into the fray. Kevin took a seat at a table and performed Jim Swain's chop cup routine which climaxes with the production of three baseballs. Harry performed a sword through neck illusion on one of our junior ring members followed by a torn and restored card with the use of a mini dove pan. Next on the bill was Wayne Haarhaus who did a fantastic job of incorporating the holiday theme in all his effects. First Wayne performed Miser's Dream (maybe tonight should it be called Scrooge's dream) and then he performed Wrong Way. That's the trick where you have big pictures of arrows and his patter was that of trying to find Santa Claus. He found Santa and all the kids breathed a big sigh of relief. Next, Wayne demonstrated Daryl's acrobatic knots using ropes made from Santa's beard and his clothes dryer lint! Wayne finished up with a signed borrowed bill appearing in a nest of Santas! Harry took over the rest of the evening first by jabbing fifteen daggers in one of our junior members head (Murder Inc.) followed by the brassiere trick. Harry performed a funny version of Houdini's rope tie and then Needle through Balloon. Much to the delight of the crowd, Harry closed the show with the chair levitation of one of our younger guests. It was a Kodak moment that she will never forget! By the time you read this, you all should be well on your way to obtaining a Valentine's Day gift for that special someone in your life.