

We are one of the (I'm guessing) few Rings that meet during the summer months. The turnout can be somewhat light during the summer, but in July, we had a good crowd. The Magic Shop, a staple in the Long Island magic scene for the past 39 years is closing. Ring 244 decided to honor The Magic Shop owner, Phil Piacentini, with a night of recognition and appreciation. IBM Territorial Vice President and past Ring 244 President Bill White presented Phil with a beautiful plaque acknowledging his many years of service and commitment to Long Island magicians.

Phil started in a shopping mall in a 10' by 10' area with just one showcase way back in 1973. Over the years, he expanded into the area's largest magic and Halloween costume shop. It served as a great place for magicians to congregate and show magic to each other. A great way to learn that, in my opinion, is lost on the current generation. In fact, back in the 1970's when I first discovered magic when I was twenty-something years old, it was Phil who taught me the paddle move. This is also the shop where Criss Angel got his start.

So, after Bill presented Phil with the plaque, Phil began to regale the crowd with some very funny stories about events that took place in the shop during its many years. Then many audience members, including Bill White, Scott Interrante, Tony Hassini, Harry Mandel and Kevin Rhodehouse each grabbed the microphone and took a turn to tell their own stories and reminisce. The evening was a very nice nostalgic trip down memory lane and covered a lot of magic history on Long Island.

Hey Phil, on behalf of Ring 244, Godspeed and good luck in your future endeavors in Philadelphia. You will be missed.

**Bill Krupskas**