

A HISTORIC NIGHT!

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Silver Round Winners:

Arno Safran
Brent Usry
Chuck Goergen
Crissy Kuhl
Jerry Lipsky
JJ Engel
John Kolmar
Kathleen Wallis
Linda Amey
Linda Kolmar
Liz Goergen
Marion Engel
Peggy Bailey
Steve Kuhl
Typhany Nordeen
Willie Simon

The 2018 SJCSRACC holiday gathering was, in a word, HISTORIC! Thirty-one members and guests celebrated not only the holiday season, but also the awarding of a Life Membership to Mr. Arno Safran, in recognition of all his many contributions to our Club. Here is a recap of that fantastic evening.



L to R: Phyllis Hutto, Marion Engel, Typhany Nordeen, JJ Engel

Guest began arriving at The Red Pepper restaurant in Aiken, SC promptly at 6 p.m.

(they are a punctual set, these Club members!) Once all the guests had arrived President Steve Kuhl welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanks for the fellowship and the holiday season.

Following this, each attendee received an original work of origami by member Robbie Ogden. Robbie generously

folded crisp new one-dollar bills into several shapes – shirts, bow ties, hearts, sailboats and even a fighter jet! These were true works of art, and we are very thankful to Robbie for spending so much time making these party favors for the members who attended the celebration, they added a unique and personal touch to the party!



Robbie Ogden and several of his Origami creations



Arnold Miniman shares memories of Arno Safran

Next up was a very special recognition of Mr. Arno Safran, to thank him for all his contributions to the SJCSRACC. Following opening comments by Kuhl, special guest Mr. Arnold Miniman spoke of Arno. Mr. Miniman was in the same New Jersey coin clubs as Arno in the 1990s. Mr. Miniman spoke in glowing terms of Arno's demeanor, character, and contributions during those times. It was very clear from Miniman's remarks that New Jersey's loss was South

Carolina's gain! The audience was sincerely appreciative of Mr. Miniman's contributions – photos and background on Arno, his sharing of memories, and of course the time and expense he and his wife incurred to travel from the South Carolina coast to help us celebrate. Their presence made the evening extra special!

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As the ceremony continued, a slide show containing over 100 photos of Arno through the years was shown in the background for the audience to enjoy. This slide show contained reminders of the many events in which Arno has gifted us with his energy and knowledge - his awards, achievements, and articles; images of members past and present, and Club activities he was instrumental

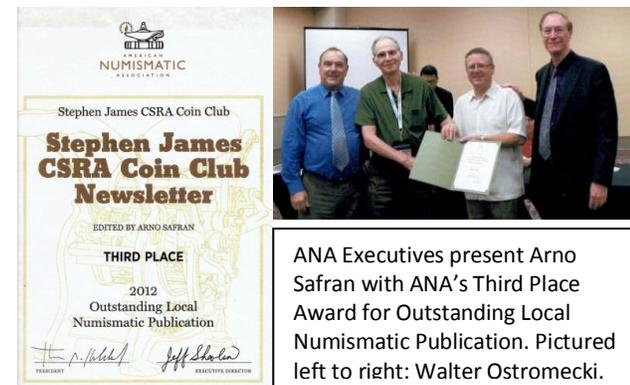
in. It was heart-warming to walk down this particular “memory lane”!

President Emeritus Willie Simon then provided comments reflecting on his first encounter with Arno back in 2001, just a few months after the Club’s founding. Willie expounded on Arno’s constant willingness to share his knowledge and experience with fellow Club members. Willie’s remarks concluded with his personal appreciation of all that Arno has done to help him grow as a numismatist.

Following this, President Kuhl showcased some of the many awards, accomplishments, and accolades that Arno has received through the years, such as being named Numismatist of the Year by both the Garden State Numismatic Association and the South Carolina Numismatic Association. As Editor of our Club’s newsletter Arno has won third place in the American Numismatic Association’s annual North American Outstanding Local Publication Contest four times – 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Steve continued his remarks by noting that the SJCSRACC is a small Club, and while it can’t compete with all the high tributes Arno has received, he noted the Club certainly



President Emeritus Willie Simon provides the audience with his recollections of Arno Safran.



ANA Executives present Arno Safran with ANA’s Third Place Award for Outstanding Local Numismatic Publication. Pictured left to right: Walter Ostromecki.

could express its heart-felt gratitude to him for all the love he has shared via his many programs and writings.

Some of Safran’s Accomplishments

- Concurrently President of two state numismatic organizations - The New Jersey Numismatic Society and The Garden State Numismatic Association
- President of the Watchung Hills (NJ) coin club and of the Ocean County (NJ) Coin Club.
- Vice-President of the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club.
- The American Numismatic Association’s prestigious Glen Smedley Memorial award
- New Jersey Numismatic Society’s highest honor - the Nettleship award.
- Numismatist of the Year for the Garden State Numismatic Association.
- South Carolina’s Numismatist of the Year.
- ANA’s Educational Award for his YN program on Hard Times Tokens.
- Six-time Top 3 finish in the ANA’s North American Local Club Publication contest.

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To that end, Steve and Secretary Jim Mullaney presented several tokens of appreciation to Arno - reminders of our gratefulness and recognition of his leadership and contributions. First Arno was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Life Membership in the Club. He is only the fourth person to receive this distinction, and he joins the ranks with Dr. Tony Chibbaro and Jim and Helen Barry. The elegant certificate and holder plaque were designed and assembled by Club Secretary Jim Mullaney.



Arno Safran and Steve Kuhl



Secretary Jim Mullaney and President Steve Kuhl Present Certificate of Honorary Life Membership to Arno Safran

Next Arno was presented with two numismatic items chosen especially for him, and which melded his musical talent with his numismatic interests. Perhaps you are not aware that in addition to his numismatic excellence, Arno is an award-winning musical composer and was a faculty member of the music department at Trenton State College, which is now known as The College of New Jersey.

You may recall that Arno once brought in a medal honoring Jean Sibelius for the Show and Tell portion of a Club meeting. For those of you who might not be familiar with this name, Sibelius was a Finnish composer

and violinist and he is widely recognized as his country's greatest composer. He is also one of Arno's favorite musicians, and in recognition of this the Club gave Arno two items from Finland commemorating Sibelius: A 1986 100 Maarka Note and a 1999 100 Maarka silver coin with an excerpt from the musical score of Finlandia depicted on the reverse.



With these tokens presented, the audience provided a resounding and well-deserved round of applause for our very own Numismatist Extraordinaire, Mr. Arno Safran!! This was a very special moment for the SJCSRACC, and was well-deserved of Arno!

Following the completion of the recognition ceremony the attendees were served their meals, which was a choice one of the following entrees: Cobb Salad; half-pound Burger; Herb Roasted Chicken; Mahi Mahi or a Hanger steak. The food prepared by The Red Pepper was excellent and the service provided by KD and Aubrie was well-done! During the course of the meal, Club Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Sproull began drawing for gifts. Sixteen members of the Club were the lucky winners of silver rounds – American Silver Eagles, Canadian Maple Leafs, and



Jim Sproull holding winning token for Silver Round

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Britannias from the United Kingdom – all provided by Secretary Mullaney. For those that did not win one of the silver coins, consolation gifts were provided through the efforts of Club Vice President Pat James. Pat obtained a number of waffle coins – coins which were intentionally defaced by the US Mint to prevent their release to circulation because of serious minting errors. Pat provided some information regarding an emerging collectible market for waffle coins, noting these types of coins are increasing in value. One special “Belgian Waffle” was given to President Kuhl.



Steve Kuhl with his “Belgian Waffle”



Willie Simon ventures his guess at the nickel jar, while John Attaway looks on and Jim Mullaney cogitates on his entry.

Also courtesy of Pat James was the traditional nickel “guess jar”. Pat brought a jar full of nickels, and attendees were allowed one guess each as to how many were in the jar. The winner would be the person who came closest to the actual number without going over (Price Is Right™ rules!) This year’s winner was John Kolmar, who guessed the exact amount – 157 nickels! For his prognostication skills John walked away with \$7.85!

Another tradition of these gatherings is the 50-50 drawing,

where the winner gets half the pool of cash and the rest goes to the Club treasury. Having sold tickets all evening, Club Treasurer Chuck Goergen oversaw the selection of the winning ticket, assisted by member Jerry Lipsky. The lucky winner was Walt Kubilius – he won \$45!



Treasurer Chuck Goergen (L) watches as Jerry Lipsky verifies Walt Kubilius’ winning 50-50 ticket



Elf Crissy Kuhl

This holiday dinner was a truly historic occasion, and an excellent time was had by all. This event could not have been so successful had it not been for the help of Club’s Officers Pat James, Jim Mullaney, Jim Sproull, and Chuck Goergen. Special thanks are also due to member Crissy Kuhl, who performed and documented all the comparative market research of possible venues, which was used by the Club’s Board to down select to the Red Pepper restaurant. She also completed the logistics and coordination with the restaurant’s staff in order to hold the event, and she even developed the order form used by the members to reserve their meals. We are grateful to

Crissy for her contributions to this wonderful event! Hopefully you were able to attend this extraordinary evening, and in reading this article it brings to you fond memories of that. If you were unable to attend this year, we missed you and hope you are able to make next year’s celebration!

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L to R: Linda & David Amey, Ken Bailey, Marion Engel, Steve Kuhl



L to R: Walt Kubilius, Willie Simon, Brent Usry, Sally Lipsky, Pat James, Marion Engel, Jim Sproull, Glenn Sanders



Bow Tie Origami from Robbie Ogden



Sally and Jerry Lipsky



Crissy and Steve Kuhl



Marion Engel and Liz Goergen



Arno Safran and Arnold Miniman



Marion Margaret Sproull with prize