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The Linking Ring

AUGUST 2025



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FRONT AND BACK COVERS: STAGE PERFORMERS AT THE 2025 I.B.M. ANNUAL CONVENTION. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MESSING; DIGITAL ART AND LAYOUT BY REENA KAMBOJ.



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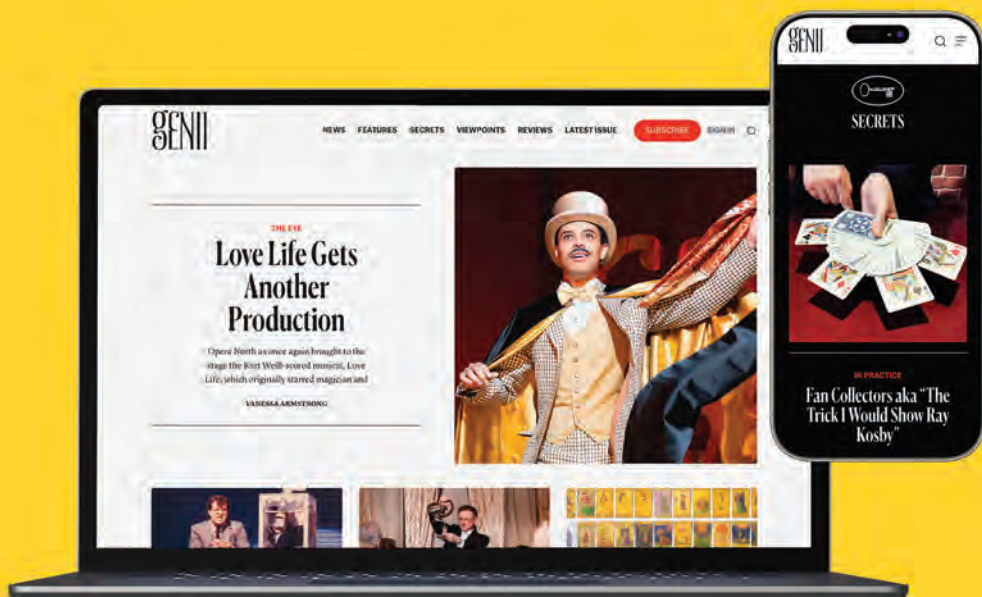
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Had a Brief Lapse in Your Membership? Consider the Reinstatement Option.

Over the years, some I.B.M. members have allowed their active membership status to lapse because their dues were not paid. Provided that the lapse of membership is relatively short, not exceeding three years, the person may have his or her membership status *reinstated*, provided that a full payment is first made for all back dues owed. A reinstatement restores the original membership, as though the lapse never occurred, and the member's "continuous membership" span is not interrupted. Therefore, a reinstated member does not lose his or her "credits" toward induction into the Order of Merlin, which requires twenty-five or more years of continuous membership. Note, however, that only one such reinstatement may ever be considered for the purpose of adjusting a member's Order of Merlin eligibility.

If you have had your membership status properly reinstated following a short period of inactivity as described above, then your "continuous membership" span is not considered to have been interrupted. And if you have had such a short lapse in your membership *at any time in the past*, you still may have those lost years (up to three) reinstated upon repayment of all back dues owed. You are encouraged to reinstate your lost years, especially if they may hasten your induction into the Order of Merlin.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact our International Executive Secretary, Sindie Richison at office@magician.org.

Feel the Power

of this, the second of three magical mechanisms created by Steve Dobson, the "Dai Vernon of the Pacific Northwest." Take a peek:



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Steve's **MATRIX with a BACKFIRE** sneaks up on the audience, and burns rubber. No extra coins or crazy gimmicks.

In **THE SPONGEBALL TRICK** you'll witness the strongest effects possible with sponge balls, machined together into a single, sleek, stunning piece of engineered excitement.

THE UNDERCOVER COPS, which is nothing less than a color-changing sandwich effect, powered by a transposition from Jennings' Visitor, built on a "cops and robbers" chassis.

And for those times when nothing else but raw deceptive power will do, Dobson designed **THE KING THING**, a simple, elegant mystery (two selections vanish from the table and appear in the deck) that leaves everyone in your rear view.

Innovators will be amazed by **FRANTIC LOCATION**, an impossible location effect with Dobson's inspired use of the Klondike shuffle gives this subtle mystery a dose of frenetic energy.

Performers will appreciate **DALEY REVISITED**, featuring new dual enhanced convincing displays, and a solid psychological sell. As a bonus, Steve adds his Triumph-based lead-in, with an insane cutting sequence in the middle.

We've included a vintage TV documentary piece called *Magic is my Business* in which Steve does magic and talks magic. Also incorporated are more interviews, in which Steve discusses the lessons he learned from Dai Vernon and Larry Jennings. And since this wouldn't be the Works without an abundance of extra features, we've included Steve's refinements on the *Erdnase color change*, the *Zarrow shuffle* and additional surprises.



From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

A firestorm of public criticism was unleashed against Elbert Hubbard, a prolific author and publisher, in the early years of the twentieth century. “Definitely lousy” and “The man is a fraud” were among hundreds of negative reviews hurled in his direction.

These blazing barbs came because of problems in his personal life, but also were reactions to his unconventional writings on religion, politics, and social issues. Hubbard, the founder of the Roycroft Shops in East Aurora, New York, made no apology for his ideas or shortcomings, nor did he strike back at his critics.

Turning lemons into lemonade, he collected the most outrageous of these criticisms and published them in his own magazine. *The Philistine* readers delighted in Hubbard’s apparent indifference to criticism, and his audience continued to grow.

Hubbard believed that some people try to gain satisfaction by belittling those who are doing what they wish they were doing themselves. Others are well intentioned but lack expertise, yet they are quick to castigate those who are in the trenches. A third group is trying to be genuinely helpful and may in fact spur others on to greater achievement.

“To escape criticism,” Hubbard wrote, “do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.” As I consider this motto from more than a century ago, it occurs to me that these three admonitions may be inverted to create a formula for achievement: Do something, say something, be something.

Down through the ages, those who aren’t doing anything have consistently claimed to

know better than those who have rolled up their sleeves and gone to work. As we take action on our most treasured ideals, it seems that we automatically open ourselves to disparaging remarks.

It’s common to blame access to the Internet, where anonymity is easy and half-truths proliferate without repercussions. Although technology has hastened the rate at which the uninformed may excoriate others, critical attitudes have existed for millennia – even before the time of Noah, whose neighbors declared him a crackpot.

We can resolve to set aside negative attitudes and start “Forging Ahead in Magic,”

to borrow the title of a classic book by John Booth. Perhaps it’s time to do something! We may practice that impossible-to-learn sleight and show the naysayers that it can be done, and that it can be done by us. It may also be time to say something. Our words may help our local Ring – or indeed

any organization – to rise above petty politics and focus on getting positive results.

The final step, according to Hubbard’s inverted formula, is to be something. From a lofty standpoint, this could mean developing character qualities that set us apart. On a more practical level, it could involve serving as a contributor, an officer, a volunteer.

If we follow this plan, will some people find fault with our actions? Absolutely. But as we proceed, let’s remember an ancient Arabic proverb that anticipated Hubbard’s epigram on escaping criticism: “The dogs bark but the caravan moves on.” Despite detractors who appear on the sidelines, yipping their hearts out, we will be moving forward, making a positive difference in the world.



President's Page

STEPHEN LEVINE



Wow, Houston! I hope you were one of the more than 325 attendees at the I.B.M. Convention in Houston, Texas. It was an amazing event! As co-chair, I know how much work our wonderful and dedicated group of volunteers performed.

Co-chair Oscar Muñoz and International Treasurer Chuck Arkin went above and beyond to put on a Convention for the ages. The three of us, along with the help of a terrific Convention Committee consisting of Simone Marron, Vincent Reres, Melody Muñoz, Rev. Tina Salvaneschi, Alex Zander, and Sindie Richison did a fabulous job of putting together an unforgettable event. Lady Sarah and Keith Fields coordinated the stage and close-up contests, which were outstanding and a real highlight of the Convention. These contests demonstrated how truly international the I.B.M. is, with contestants hailing from the Czech Republic, South Africa, Italy, Ukraine, People's Republic of China, and South Korea. The Open Mic night, also hosted by Lady Sarah and Keith Fields, showcased some of the participants from the Lance Burton Teen Seminar – truly rising stars in magic.

If you missed Houston or just want to relive some of the fun, you can read all about it in this issue. It's not too early to start planning to join us at the next I.B.M. Convention in St Louis, Missouri, scheduled for July 21–25, 2026. Prices will never be lower! Do it now.

This year we will continue to focus on the initiatives started by my immediate predecessor, Mike Dunagan. We are concentrating on continued improvements across four key areas: (1) Membership Growth; (2) Improved Ring Support and Relations; (3)

Increased Revenue Through Diversification; and (4) Improved Operational Efficiency.

There are many ways we could invest our resources, but these four goals play a direct role in ensuring we continue to deliver on I.B.M.'s mission to promote fellowship and the advancement of magic as an entertainment art.

We are continuing a variety of programs to help achieve these goals. We hold an I.B.M. Ring Leadership meeting over Zoom on the third Thursday of each month, where TVPs, Ring leaders, and members who simply want to be more involved have an opportunity to share success stories and receive advice on how to improve their local Ring experience and the I.B.M. overall.

Mark your calendars now for our second Zoom meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2025, where you'll have a chance to meet the I.B.M. leadership and committee chairs.

We are still working on the new I.B.M. website that will streamline content, add functionality and resources, and improve the user experience. Houston Convention attendees saw a beta version of the website and were able to seamlessly register for the 2026 Convention.

Our Life Member program continues to grow as we add more benefits. Current benefits for Life Members include the following: Convention registration at a greatly reduced rate, reserved seating at all Convention shows, and an invitation to the Presidential Reception at the Convention. Life Members will soon receive a beautifully bound edition of *Modern Magic*, and we will schedule private Zoom lectures for Life Members starting in the fall. Stay tuned for more benefits to be added.

(continued on page 13)



Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING



Edgar Heyl enjoyed researching details that most people would be satisfied to simply glance at before moving on to other topics. His thorough approach and superb insights made valuable contributions to the Magic Collector's Association newsletter. He held I.B.M. number 2586 and was a member of the Order of Merlin. Edgar followed in the footsteps of his father, a stage magician, but was more interested in sleight-of-hand effects. Before he passed away in 1993, he gave the world of magic many detailed articles and excellent reference materials on performing, collecting, and more. To learn more, turn to page 145.

We have also just added a new Life Member category: Associate Life Members. These allow your partner, spouse, or significant other to join at greatly reduced rates.

For those of you attending Magic Live, my wife Tina Salvaneschi (who also serves as I.B.M. Chaplain), and I will host an I.B.M. Presidential Lounge on Monday night, Tuesday afternoon, and Tuesday night in a suite at the Orleans. Please wear your I.B.M. pin and seek me out for an invitation to come and relax, have a snack, and jam with your fellow I.B.M. members. I will also present you with a special token of my appreciation.



A Linking Ring Book Test

By
David Garrard



As you probably know, the June 2025 issue of *The Linking Ring* was mistakenly printed with the April 2025 cover. This was an unfortunate error for our printer, but a gift to any I.B.M. member who receives the printed magazine *and* performs mentalism.

The result was two printed and bound *Linking Rings* with different covers, but identical content. With these sure-to-be collector's issues in hand, you are all set for a wonderfully easy book test.

Show the magazines and give a spectator on one side of the room a free choice of either. Hand the second magazine to a spectator on the opposite side of the room. Obviously, you do not want them comparing content. There are opportunities for comedy and humor here as you patter about the secretive nature of our official publications: "Don't read anything!" etc.

Take back the second magazine and ask the spectator to insert their finger anywhere they like as you riffle the pages. Open the book and ask them to call out the page num-

ber. As you do this, quickly glimpse the first and last words and sentences on the chosen page. Close the book and set it aside.

Ask the first spectator to turn to the page the second spectator has selected. Have them choose and concentrate on either the first or last sentence on the page – a page that will be identical to the one you glimpsed. Pretend to read their mind and reveal their thoughts in any way you choose.

If you need help following this and understanding what to do, my good friend Tommy Ellison told me Robert Baxt sells a nice routine based on this principle. Baxt's routine includes several subtle touches, and comes with two gimmicked books if you don't have the magazines. John Lepre also told me that Section 7 of Corinda's *13 Steps to Mentalism* includes an effect called "A Classic Swindler Magazine Test," which uses duplicate contents.

If nothing else, this might be fun to do at a Ring meeting!

The Ninety-sixth I.B.M. Annual Convention

THE STAGE SHOWS

Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria Hotel
Houston, Texas • USA

Reviewed by David Garrard

THE MAGIC OF THE SPELLBINDER (WALTER KING, JR.)

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.

The 2025 International Brotherhood of Magicians Convention shows began Wednesday evening with a One-Person Show presented by Walter King, Jr., also known as The Spellbinder. Walter opened with a dancing cane, followed by a dancing hank that changed into a dove in a way that was truly magical and took everyone by surprise. Excerpts from *Diary of a Black Magician* were interspersed with The Spellbinder's magic, giving us a bit of a biography on Walter and his magical journey. The show ended with the production

of a watermelon, following by a Balloon to Dove that Walter then split into two birds. A nice opening to our festivities!



Walter King, Jr. (The Spellbinder).





Walter King, Jr. (The Spellbinder).



GALA SHOW

The Zabrecky Hour

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 – 8:00 p.m.

Attendees knew they were in for something different based on the music and sound effects that were playing when we entered the showroom for The Zabrecky Hour. This suspicion was confirmed when Zabrecky circled the room several times on a bicycle before taking the stage. What followed was a wonderful, tongue-in-cheek experience with the supernatural, char-



Zabrecky.



Left: Zabrecky with Christian Manahl Right, from left: Paige Thompson, Liz Toonkel, Zabrecky.



Zabrecky with volunteer Cindy Lockeby.



acterized by clever and funny patter, and great timing.

Zabrecky took effects most magicians were familiar with and gave them a bizarre and highly entertaining touch. After an effect with paper dolls where the final doll in the string had two heads, Zabrecky said, "I've always been different." No one in the audience would disagree.

A number trick called "Moon Magic" resulted in the day's date. Zabrecky introduced a trick with a cup and three paper wads by saying, "If you are stupid, this next piece will scare you; if you are smart, it will make you happy."

The show featured a seventeen-second intermission and concluded with a dance number and diminishing cards. When Zabrecky rode off on his bike at the end of the show, he received a standing ovation from an appreciative audience.

GALA SHOW

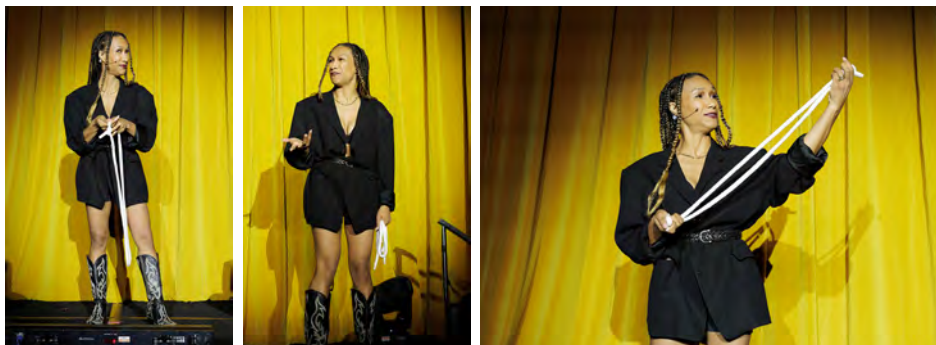
Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 8:00 p.m.

Marcus Eddie did a wonderful job as Master of Ceremonies for the Thursday evening Gala. Marcus did what an M.C. is supposed to do: perform quick bits (including a tie that tied itself and a nice rope routine) and keep the show moving.

First up was **Liz Toonkel**. Her act was hard to see from where I was seated, but she began by talking about animals and doing an effect with a goldfish. Her act concluded with the production of an alligator handbag that motored across the stage on its own four legs.

Danny Orleans opened his set with one of my favorite tricks of the entire convention. Danny called our attention to the big screens on either side of the stage, both of which were filled with a variety of logos and images. We were told to zero in on one image, then directed to make several additional moves that landed us on a different logo. Danny told us to lock in on the image. When we did, other images faded from the screen and everyone found themselves staring at the one remaining image – the one the entire audience had selected – the convention logo! Audience response was fantastic.

Danny is a seasoned pro, and it showed during his performance. He entertained



Top, from Left: Justin Powell with Landon. 2nd Row: Nicole Cardoza. 3rd Row: Marcus Eddie. Bottom: (Upper left) Danny Orleans with audience volunteer Dustin. Bottom: (Lower left) Danny Orleans with audience volunteer Scott.



Liz Toonkel.

with Slydini's famous "Flight of the Paper Balls," and also did a trick where he correctly guessed how many coins a spectator grabbed from a bowl. Danny concluded his set with a nice watch prediction.

Nicole Cardoza introduced us to her granddaddy's rope. Then she presented a very visual, multi-phase routine that culminated with a nice and surprising handling of "Professor's Nightmare."

Justin Purcell is as talented as he is unassuming. We saw Justin perform close-up later in the week, but he closed the Thursday evening Gala with a nice stage presentation. A "Miser's Dream" had Justin walking along the front row, plucking coins from the ears of spectators, including a huge coin for the finale. A very nice "20th Century Silks" routine was followed by a beautiful "Three Balls and Net." After showing a rising card effect with a comedy gong gag, Justin brought our Thursday evening show to a close with a fun birthday card/blanket prediction.

THE LATE GREAT SPOOK SHOW

Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 10:00 p.m.

Zabrecky returned to the stage after the Gala for **The Late Great Spook Show**. This presentation was more of a lecture on the history of spook show magic. As Zabrecky explained, spiritualism was on a roll back in the early 1900s with the Fox sisters, the Davenport brothers, and the medium Margery, just to name a few.

Magicians Thurston and Carter rolled with the public interest, producing their own spiritualist effects in their shows. Meanwhile, Houdini hated and railed against it all!

Beginning with the very first spook show – *El Wyn's Spook Party* – Zabrecky told how this savvy performer put together a theater show that preceded the showing of Universal's famous monster movies: *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, and the like. These shows were a tremendous success, and always included a blackout moment when the lights went out and a "monster" ventured into the audience to wreak havoc. The shows used relatively low-tech props, but were highly effective back in the day.

Zabrecky's informative and entertaining presentation included promotional show posters, and even a few film clips from spook shows.



Zabrecky.



Zabrecky.

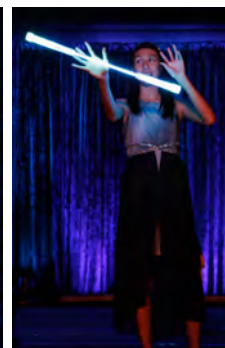
GRAND BANQUET SHOW

Friday, July 11, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

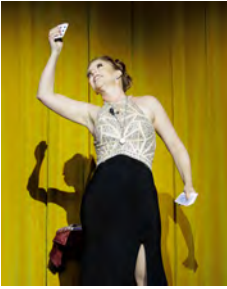
The Grand Banquet Show was a special offering for all who purchased tickets for the Grand Banquet special event. Joan Dukore served as Mistress of Ceremonies and did a fine job introducing the acts. Joan also performed magic for us, including a trick in which a selected card ended up in her mouth, as well as a handcuff escape that concluded with the production of a glass of wine from a bag.

First up was thirteen-year-old **Rachel Ling Gordon**, the youngest performer to ever appear on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*. Rachel was born with a childhood anxiety disorder that made it impossible for her to speak except in her own home.

Her set was titled “From Mute to Magic,” and began with a dancing light bar done to the hit show tune “This Is Me.” Next, Rachel used a deck of cards to tell her story, helping us understand that all dreams are possible. Her finale consisted of card manipulations, also accompanied



Top, from Left: Jared Kopf with Jeffrey Sobel; Rachel Ling Gordon. Bottom: Jared Kopf.



Joan Dukore; Joan Dukore with Todd Hertzberg and Allen Walters.

by “This Is Me.” She dedicated the trick to her brother. Rachel received a spontaneous standing ovation for her inspiring performance.

Jared Kopf closed the Grand Banquet Show. He brought three spectators on stage and had each choose and remember a card. He then revealed each selection in an amazing way. Spectator Jeff Sobel remained on stage and wrote down a secret fear on a small card. Holding the card in a closed fist, Jeff extended his arm. Jared pushed down on Jeff’s arm while Jeff tried to resist – symbolic of dealing with fear. Despite Jeff’s efforts, Kopf was able to control Jeff’s ability to resist and keep his arm straight.

Jared reminded us why the Egg Bag is a classic of magic by performing a beautiful, simple, straightforward, and extremely magical routine. His set closed with another classic, the linking rings, accompanied by an engaging story. Kopf also received a standing ovation as the Grand Banquet Show came to an end.

FRIDAY STAGE CHAMPIONSHIP GALA SHOW

Friday, July 11, 2025 – 8:00 p.m.

Jon Allen told me during lunch on Friday afternoon that he had never emceed a show before, but that evening he did a wonderful job managing the International Stage Championship Show. Since the show format was a contest, Jon was not allowed to make any comments while introducing the contestants. But as he told me at lunch, nobody said he couldn’t comment *afterwards*! And that’s exactly what he did, comically expressing indifference to each act. He also shared a few “jokes for magicians” generated by ChatGPT.

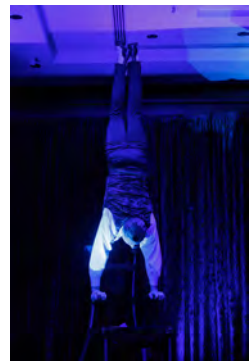
THE CONTESTANTS

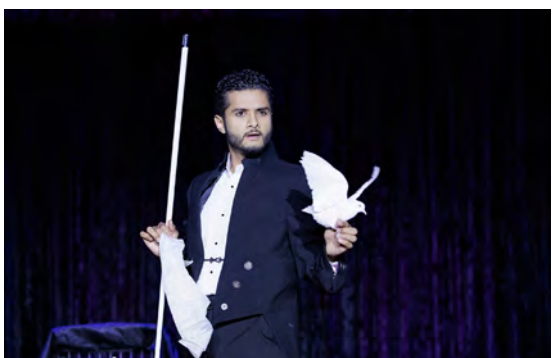
MagicCircusMax performed stylish card manipulations that mixed magic with hand stands, slow motion cartwheels, and a fire-and-confetti finale done with his feet.

Mark Phillips presented a nice “Professor’s Nightmare,” followed by the

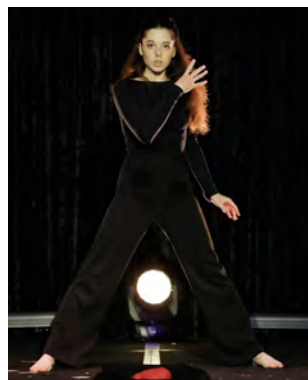
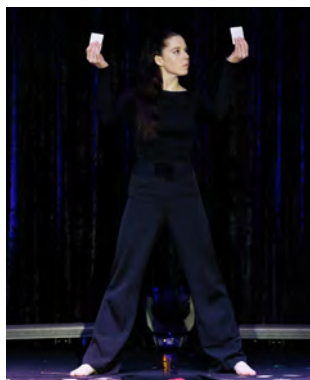
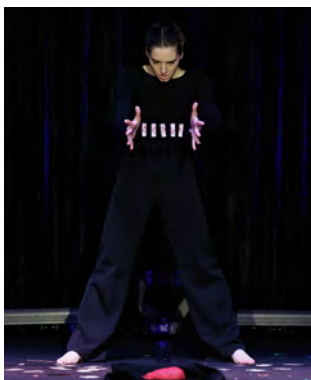


MagicCircusMax (Maxim Veronin).





*Left Column, from Top: Jon Allen; David Shao with Katie, and Grayson Smith
Center Column, from Top: Mark Phillips: Mark Phillips with Hy Penn; Lucio
Right Column, from Top: Mark Phillips; Lucio.*



Top: Golden Boy (Michael Dardant).
 2nd Row: Anna Weisova.
 3rd Row: Dokyun Kim.
 Bottom Row: Jon Allen.



Top Row: Anthony Rios. 2nd Row: Sean RaeVon Wilson. 3rd Row: Sean RaeVon Wilson; Diego Vargas. Bottom Row, from Left: Diego Vargas with Todd Hertzberg & Stan Konter; Diego Vargas with Keith Smith.



Sean RaeVon Wilson.

classic linking finger rings, using wedding bands borrowed from the audience.

The Magic of Lucio featured bird magic done to music that had a Spanish beat. His productions were well done and climaxed with a vanish of the cage of birds and the production of a full-sized Spanish guitar.

Anthony Rios used a clown nose to lead the audience into a dream sequence where children were asking to borrow a dollar to purchase a ticket to a magic show. He multiplied coins and manipulated cards before finally bringing the dream to a close by putting the clown nose back on and going back to sleep.

Dokyun Kim began by producing a red silk from a glass of liquid. From there it was on to multiplying balls (four in each hand) that changed into cards. The card productions and manipulations were well done in a slow, deliberate style. The cards instantly changed back into balls. The set ended with red silk changing back into liquid.

Golden Boy, aka Michael Dardant, performed a skit in which a golden statue came to life and performed all kinds of magic while interacting with the occasional spectator. All of the props – canes, flowers, confetti – were gold.

Anna Weisova danced and performed magic with cards in an act that almost had a martial arts feel to it. She also presented an effect using a white silk.

David Shao showcased his dry wit as he performed a routine with a coin and a marker, followed by a card trick in which a signed card ended up inside an oversized light switch.

At the conclusion of the contest portion of the evening, Jon Allen returned with several friends to entertain the audience while the judges deliberated. Jon presented a nice “Professor’s Nightmare” routine, followed by a trick that saw twenties change to ones and back, and then to “five worthless pieces of paper.”

Mark Wilson’s granddaughter, **Sean RaeVon**, was up next. She began with a silent act that featured silks, fans, butterflies, and snowstorm and razor blades. Sean closed her set with beautiful manipulations of illuminated hula hoops performed in the dark.

Diego Garcia closed the show with a fast-paced, energetic set that included card magic, a silk and card transposition, and a mental effect. For his finale, he produced two selected cards from a deck that had been shuffled and dropped into a paper bag.



Clockwise, from Left: Javi Benitez; Gaia Elisa Rossi; Javi Benitez with audience volunteers Erica and Michael.

GRAND FINALE MAGIC SHOW Saturday, July 12, 2025 – 8:00 p.m.

Liz Toonkel hosted Saturday night's Grand Finale show. Liz didn't do any magic but kept our eyes popping with her ever-changing costumes.

At age twenty-three, **Gaia Elisa Rossi** is the youngest Italian magic champion. This was her first performance in the United States. Gaia's act began with a robot that became a human as she discovered herself. A broken mirror produced silver shards that were manipulated like cards. The mirror frame transformed into two rings that were linked and unlinked. A final glance in the mirror transformed Gaia back into the robot.

Gaia returned for a second set later in the evening and entered carrying a balloon. After telling us about her secret place,

Gaia produced paper leaves and brightly colored cards. A spectator was invited on stage. A ring was borrowed and placed in a small pouch tied to the bottom of the balloon string. The ring vanished only to reappear across the stage.

If you look up the word "energy" in a dictionary, you might find a picture of **Javi Benitez**. He loves what he does and has a good time doing it.

A married couple was invited on stage and a long piece of thread stretched between them. With their help, Javi then broke the string into short pieces, pattering as he did about things that can happen to break up a relationship. The pieces were openly dropped on the table and rolled into a ball. Javi waved his hands over the pieces and restored the string. The specta-



Top, from Left: Liz Toonkel: Jon Allen with audience volunteer Joshua. Middle: Jon Allen.



tors kissed and returned to their seats with the string as a souvenir.

Next, Javi leaned into the camera and made a face – a call back from a bit in his lecture. In a tribute routine called “Requiem for Ascanio,” blank cards turned into jokers which then turned into queens. The backs changed colors, then the cards changed to aces, and finally back to blanks. Javi received a standing ovation – his second of the day.

British magician **Jon Allen** was up next and began with a wordless card trick using a giant flip chart. A spectator thought of a



card, then answered a series of questions as Jon paged through his chart. The last page read, “I have not opened my mouth during this entire trick.” At that point, the selected card appeared in Jon’s mouth.

Two spectators joined Jon on stage and participated in a nice Cards Across routine that featured a funny moment when one

*Left to right:
Gaia Elisa
Rossi; Jon
Allen.*





Dan Sperry.

of the helpers flubbed a simple subtraction question. The theme song of *The Pink Panther* accompanied the magic.

One spectator remained on stage, selected a card, and wrote a word on it. The cards were placed in an envelope and a knife was introduced. With the help of a little magic, Jon successfully stabbed the chosen card through the envelope.

Jon closed his set by talking about decisions. Small red-and-green paper sacks were placed on a table and the spectator was given a choice of which bag to crush. The choice was free although, as Jon pointed out, one of the bags looked like it had been crushed a lot. The choice was made: Jon's hand came down and the bag was crumpled. Then the second bag was lifted to reveal a very solid, wicked-looking spike!

Dan Sperry opened by swallowing a length of thread, then reproducing it from his eye. With that, we were off on a fast-paced performance, punctuated frequently by Dan's characteristic cry, "magic show!"

A couple was invited on stage. The lady took a seat and played the part of Priestess. Two long steel needles were introduced and examined by the gentleman. The Priestess was then blindfolded and asked to close her hands into fists and hold them up with her arms bent at the elbows. Dan proceeded to run both needles through her arms, allowing her a quick peek before yanking the needles out.

A fast "One Ball and One Cup" routine finished with a final load of Houdini's ashes. Dan showed us a trick from his childhood magic show. Then he swallowed and threaded razor blades before finishing with his signature "Lifesaver Through the Neck" finale.

A well-earned standing ovation brought Dan's act and the 2025 I.B.M. Convention to an end.

David Garrard recently completed a three-year term of office on the Executive Committee of the I.B.M. Board of Trustees. He is a frequent contributor to The Linking Ring. You may reach David by email at garrard@bellsouth.net.

Our Cover

2025 I.B.M.

CONTEST WINNERS

The International Gold Cups Close-up Contest

Adult Category

Award of Merit: Michael Dardant, USA

First Place: David Shao – People's Republic of China

People's Choice for Close-Up: Anja – South Africa

The Gold Cups were not awarded.

The International Gold Medal Stage Contest

Adult Category

Award of Merit: David Shao – People's Republic of China

1st Place: Maxim Voronin – USA

People's Choice for Stage: Dokyun Kim – South Korea

The Gold Medal was not awarded.

Karrell Fox Award for Comedic Excellence

David Shao – People's Republic of China



Left: From left: Jeff McBride, Lance Burton, Grayson Lockeby, and Gabriella Lester. Right: From left: Jeff McBride, Grayson Lockeby, Lance Burton, Adele Friel Rhindress Award winner Maxim Voronin, and Gabriella Lester.



Top, l to r: David Shao, Close-up Contest First Place. Michael Dardant: Close-up Contest Award of Merit. Anja Steyn: Close-up Contest People's Choice Award

Middle l to r: David Shao: Stage Contest Award of Merit. Maxim Voronin: Stage Contest First Place.



Bottom, l to r: David Shao: Karrell Fox Award for Comedic Excellence. Doykun Kim: Stage Contest People's Choice Award.

2025 LINKING RING *Awards*



The Bamman-Willmarth Trophy

Each year *The Linking Ring* presents awards for outstanding articles. All material published in *The Linking Ring* is contributed on a volunteer basis for the good of magic and the I.B.M.

We receive many excellent contributions, and it is difficult for the Linking Ring Awards Committee to narrow the winners down to a small number. In order to be published at all, the article must be outstanding, so the selection of material has already been through a rigorous process before it appears in print.

This year's recipients – for articles published between April 2024 and March 2025 – were announced by the Executive Editor at the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, July 10, at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria Hotel during the 2025 I.B.M. Annual Convention.

BAMMAN-WILLMARTH TROPHY

presented to
KENT CUMMINS
"Marketing Magic"
2015–2025

THE LINKING RING AWARD OF MERIT

Presented to
DAVID HAVERSAT
"The Canadian Houdini: William Harkness"
April 2024

JOE NOTARO
"The Search for the Holy Grail
of Houdini Handcuffs"
April 2024

JIM MAGUS
"Harold Lloyd and the Magician's
Coat Sequence"
September 2024

THE LINKING RING AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented to
DAN ALESSINI
"One-Man Parade"
September 2024

GARNET GARVEN
"Mathemagic Parade 2.0"
February 2025

LORRAINE MORAN
"An Interview with Ali Shadune"
March 2025

RICK HEATH
Outstanding Contributions to
The Linking Ring
2024–2025

ROY FIELD
Outstanding Contributions to
The Linking Ring

THOMAS HENRY
Outstanding Contributions to
The Linking Ring
2024–2025

Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



In 1973, Frank Garcia founded Frank Garcia Instruction, Inc. to provide high-quality education in magic and gambling, assembling a core team that included Arnold Freed (vice president), George Schindler (secretary), and Fred Ponger (treasurer). Operating from his apartment in New York City, Frank overcame the lack of a formal office, using hotels for early sessions and custom stationery to project professionalism.

Garcia told the Chicago Daily News in March 1975 that the school had graduated 450 students. The eight-week course, costing \$195.00, taught fundamentals in close-up, parlor, and stage magic. Each session explored sleight-of-hand techniques for close-up magic, audience engagement strategies for parlor magic, and fundamental principles of stage illusions.

Examining the reported financials reveals inconsistencies: 450 students at \$195.00 each should have generated \$87,750 in gross revenue (or \$637,650 adjusted for inflation). However, the tax return showed a gross income of less than \$3,000 and a net loss of \$6,500, indicating that either the reported enrollment was inflated or a significant portion of the tuition revenue went unreported, raising questions about the school's actual financial health and transparency.

Analyzing the numbers, the reported enrollment implied over thirty-five students per class in fewer than twenty-six eight-week sessions during less than two years of operation. Given the small team and the limited facilities – mainly an apartment and occasional hotel rooms – it would have been doubtful for the school to accommodate such large groups or run that many sessions. This mismatch between reported figures and operational capacity makes the enrollment numbers implausible.

Despite initial efforts, the lack of a strategic plan and suitable location limited student growth. Frank's focus on quick wins hindered long-term success.

This excerpt is from Joe Hernandez's soon-to-be released book *The Biography of Frank Garcia*. Joe is the author of many books, including *Magic Babylon*, *Houdini: The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*, *The Foolosophy of Conjuring*, and *Conjuring Wisdom*.



A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

Magic and Politics

When in Rome, do as the Romans do. –Saint Ambrose

Politics: how hard it is to use this word with any precision. –Anonymous

On a sunny April afternoon in 2012, during one of my ten-day performance trips to the little-visited Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), I was ushered into my hotel's backroom and seated at a bare table across from three dark blue-suited gentlemen along with my host (Huk, Kim song), translator (Kyong, Kung yei), and close friend, the late Yuji Yasuda, (the Japanese name for An, Sung woo), whose generosity and hard work over many years made possible these visits since 2009.

The North Koreans' opening question, delivered with intense curiosity and attentive-

ness since they had never met an American, was easy to answer: "We don't know much about your people. Why are you so interested in us?"

Never wanting to enter a foreign country blind, or naive, I had come well-prepared, as I always do, by reading and viewing almost everything available on their history and culture – including John Everard's just-published *Only Beautiful, Please: A British Diplomat in North Korea*, in which he says the following:

"[T]he DPRK is a real country where real people live, whose lives revolve not around



North Korea's lead magician, Kim, Taek Song (center) after discussing a future people-to-people exchange with (from left) Yuji Yasuda, Dr. Jae Hwe Ku, Dale Salwak, and Ryan Salwak.

their country's nuclear policy or any other great international issue but around their families, their colleagues at work, and the thousand daily concerns that make up lives anywhere else in the world."

But reading books and watching videos and even talking with others who are deeply versed in another country is one thing. Being there, interacting, unveiling firsthand something about the human dimension of life, is quite another; and that's how I began my answer.

What started as a planned thirty-minute meeting extended to three hours. They had a lot to ask.

As always, whenever and wherever traveling internationally, I chose my words carefully, ever sensitive to the country's protocols and the need to show respect for my hosts in whose hands I find myself. (I think of Eugene Burdick and William J. Lederer's bestselling *The Ugly American* [1958], a slashing exposé of how not to behave while in Asia.) Most important, although like a lot of us I am fundamentally shaped by a political philosophy, I don't talk about it.

Toward the end, as chilled bottles of Taedonggang (Korean beer) arrived, out came hand-rolled cigarettes, and I showed some card tricks. They had relaxed. I had relaxed.

One said, "You're actually glad to be here," to which I responded, "I am *very* glad to be here." Another said: "I am aware of the tensions between our government and yours, and yet you dared to come." I left the meeting impressed by their friendliness and hospitality.

My central point is this: During international travels, most magicians rarely if ever talk about politics. As Marvyn Roy wisely urged on all of us, politics (like religion) is a private affair, better kept separate, with some obvious exceptions, from magic. This was his iron rule.

Commonsense says that as guests in a foreign land, we adapt to the customs and traditions of those who live in it, and try not to impose our own. We dress respectfully, understand the symbolism of the colors we wear (or do not wear) and the gestures we

make, never say anything that might embarrass or offend the hosts, and do a lot more listening than talking. We want to use magic to build bridges, however slight the results might be, not burn them.

There is a benefit to the United States beyond spreading the magic. It is the "soft power" that it gives our country when we show up displaying respect for the host nation and having cared enough to study it. This speaks well of America and Americans.



Marvyn Roy's iron rule: with obvious exceptions, keep magic separate from politics.

Marvyn knew from experience what most traveling magicians soon discover: Unless the occasion warrants it, bringing a political crusade into a new relationship or performance – possibly one of the worst forms of self-indulgence – risks misunderstanding and division. When that happens, those who hold contrary views will see us and our performance through a distorted lens, and this undermines the impact of our magic.

When people come to a show, they want to experience the only authentic response to art, pure pleasure, far away from the often-contentious scene they have left outside the theater. Even one person alarmed or offended is one too many. What's the point? (As Jerry Burgess reminded me, Neil Foster used to ask, "Which member of your audience do you wish to never want to see you perform again?")

This alertness to avoid anything controversial was certainly true for the always interesting, insouciantly hopeful Channing Pollock, whose uncanny instincts and far-sightedness were sharp, as he traveled throughout Europe with his marvelous magic. Anyone would be hard-pressed to find in his interviews or other exchanges or reviews a single, cringeworthy word.



André Kole, an unruffled model of discernment, performed in over eighty countries and met every challenge with “grace under pressure.”

True, too, for the nonpolitical André Kole, an unruffled model of discernment, who performed in over eighty countries and met every challenge, including numerous personal threats, with courage, with what Ernest Hemingway strikingly coined as “grace under pressure.”

“He coupled exceptional magic with an exceptional message,” said Jim Steinmeyer, “and he did it in a way that was tasteful, powerful, and graceful.”



Channing Pollock was always alert to avoid during interviews or other public exchanges anything controversial or cringeworthy.

Then we turn to Mark Wilson – in public unfailingly courteous and one of the least overtly political performers of his generation – whose childhood dream was fulfilled in 1980 when he along with Nani Darnell became the first magicians to visit the People’s Republic of China. They, too, didn’t go to judge but to learn and enjoy and beguile. They made friends everywhere. “Magic,” he said at the time, “is the focus.”



Mark Wilson’s childhood dream was fulfilled in 1980 when he along with Nani Darnell became the first magicians to visit the People’s Republic of China.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG WILSON

That remark has a fine ring to it and impresses me further every time I read it. Like music and art, magic can be a great leveler. For a short while, it brings people together and fosters empathy in spite of their differences which soon flicker and disappear.

On a diplomatic level, it has been said, magic is a fine and necessary art. It poses no threat. Here I am reminded of the time when nervous RKO studio heads dropped by the set of *Citizen Kane* unannounced, to check up on the controversial production's progress. Director and star Orson Welles distracted them quite leisurely with magic tricks. There is great civility there.

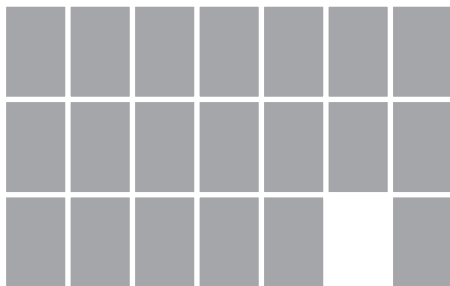
Will I return to North Korea? Yes, of course, when the opportunity presents itself, as I often communicate to my hosts, and I will continue to invite interested magicians, who have the temperament, to join me – on any day, at anytime – as I work toward bringing some of their magicians to America (we came very close to succeeding in 2012 and 2016). We have so much to learn, and to share.

When I return, I will carry with me the words of the country's former Ambassador to the U.N. and my good friend, Pak Song II: "You are always welcome to my country."

Dale Salwak continues to perform internationally while directing (since 1978) the Chavez Studio of Magic in southern California. Currently he is serving as an International Relations Officer for the I.B.M. Special thanks to Dr. Eliot A. Cohen, John E. McLaughlin, Dr. David Overly, Glenn Salwak, and Ryan Salwak (who accompanied him to North Korea in 2012), for valued input.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each month this series on showmanship will feature a short essay on the magical performer's art. We will alternate between the writings of Neil Foster and Dale Salwak, with added features by Benny and Marian Chavez. Send comments, questions, and appreciations to Dale Salwak at dsalwak@citruscollege.edu.

Missing Linking Rings?



If you are an I.B.M. member in the United States and have not received your issue by the 21st of the month, please contact the office for a replacement. If you are a member outside of the U.S. and have not received your issue by the 30th of the month, please contact the office for a replacement.

To receive a replacement copy of *The Linking Ring*, please contact the Headquarters Office by the required time. It is the responsibility of members to notify the Headquarters Office within 90 days of a missed issue in order to receive a replacement. If we do not receive your notification within the 90 days we will be unable to resend the missing issue/issues. To help keep the cost of membership fees down it is necessary to place a time limit on the resending of missed issues. Thank you for your help in controlling the cost of membership fees. The contact information for the Headquarters Office can be found on page four of each issue of *The Linking Ring*.

Youth Trivia Contest



August's question: *Who is believed to have been the first performer to escape from a straitjacket in full view of spectators?*

Answers must be postmarked by September 20, 2025.

May's question was: In 1920, a well-known touring illusionist initiated a lawsuit against another magician who was using the same name. *Who was the well-known illusionist, and what was the real name of the magician who was the target of the complaint?*

A number of enthusiastic Youth Members submitted guesses for the answer to this question. Unfortunately, none of those submissions was correct. This is what we were hoping you'd tell us.

The magician we know today as Maurice Raymond, "The Great Raymond," was born Maurice Francois Raymond Saunders in 1877, in Akron, Ohio, USA. He became interested in magic at a young age, possibly through an uncle who was a magician, but there's a bit of uncertainty as to how it happened. In fact, there's uncertainty about many of the things in his self-reported history.

We all recognize that it's not unusual to hear boastful statements from magicians about their shows that overstate their abilities or their history of achievement. Some of the claims that Maurice Raymond made regarding his beginnings in magic and its allied arts are difficult to prove. It's probably true that he accompanied his uncle, "Addison the Magician," on a performing tour to the Pacific coast of the United States. But his follow-on background in the circus, his experience in Vaudeville during his youth, his early triumphs in Europe ... many of the events and accomplishments that he described have not been found in historical records. The names of the circuses in which

he performed and the circumstances surrounding his participation changed, almost every time he was interviewed. Raymond claimed to have completed seven phenomenal world tours, but the first three quite possibly never happened. He certainly did, however, become one of the most entertaining magicians to grace the stage during his career. Many knowledgeable and experienced magicians who had the opportunity to witness a performance of The Great Raymond have raved about his stage presence, his connection with the audience, and his skill as a magician.



In his early shows, The Great Raymond would light his cigar using his first wife's fiery-red hair, to the delight of the audience.

The Great Raymond branded himself as “The Globe-Trotting Magician,” and he eventually became just that. While his first three world tours may have been fictional advertising fluff, he did eventually complete at least four such tours. He spent quite a significant portion of his career performing and globe-trotting outside of the United States. As a result, his name is not nearly as recognizable as Kellar, Thurston, or Blackstone.

His colorful stone-lithograph posters, while not as valuable and expensive today as Chung Ling Soo’s, Houdini’s, or Alexander Herrmann’s, are beautiful and highly collectible. The images usually featured an image of The Great Raymond in his earlier years, with his broad, handsome smile. Raymond was very involved in the design of each poster, and communicated with the artists about colors, layouts, and other details to make sure that the lithographs precisely matched his vision.

The magic show of The Great Raymond was polished perfection. The conjuror made his entrance in full evening attire, and was revealed either by a curtain or a flash of fire and smoke. He quickly produced bowls of fruit and tossed the pieces to the children in the audience. Coffee urns, torn tissues to hat, an egg bag, finger rings into nest of boxes, four or five live ducks, pigeon catching, silks, and ribbons followed. At some point, he brought out his “Shadow Pagoda,” presented as a haunted feature. There was a levitation, and a “Spirit Cabinet.” The climax of Raymond’s show was his version of the substitution trunk, performed with his beautiful wife. He advertised it as “Metempsychosis,” and it was engaging, hilarious, and lightning fast. Audiences adored him, and he became very well known in the countries where he toured.

However, Maurice Raymond had more than his share of rough spots over his lifetime.

In Seattle, Washington, in 1912, he had a problematic encounter with Cowboy Magician Del Adelphia. Thousands of dollars’ worth of Raymond’s props and equipment mysteriously vanished. Raymond’s contracts



A colorful, whimsical, three-sheet lithograph poster of Raymond, “The Globe Trotting Funmaker,” with a cartoonishly large head.



A lithograph poster depicting various moments in the show of The Great Raymond.

with his employees showed that his workers were highly paid. They all signed agreements to guarantee that they would not reveal any of his methods or secrets. Still, it was discovered that Adelpia had successfully bribed a couple of Raymond's assistants to steal the missing pieces of apparatus. It was eventually recovered, but the incident caused quite a bit of turmoil.

Also in 1912, Maurice Raymond's first wife, Luella Cross, decided to leave Raymond for his chief technical assistant, Henry Houston, over concerns of Raymond's fidelity.

In 1920, Maurice Raymond was on a short trip from Europe back to the US when he received news of another conjuror who had been performing in the northeast part of the US under the name "Maurice Raymond." *THE NERVE!* ... Raymond viewed this as criminal fraud, and as a personal assault on his reputation. He immediately directed his attorney to initiate a lawsuit against this deceitful imitator.

After a very brief investigation, the attorney reported back to his client and informed him that in this instance, a successful lawsuit would be unlikely. The other magician who had been performing under the name "Maurice Raymond," was actually named **"Maurice Raymond."**

In May of 1921, Maurice Raymond's entire show was totally destroyed by a fire in Springfield, Massachusetts. (Strangely and coincidentally, this was less than a month after Claude Alexander "The Man Who Knows" Conlin's show was completely wiped out in a fire at a theater in Iowa.) Raymond, however, was well-insured and was able to rebuild his show, although the time required and the associated loss of income was tremendous.

The year 1924 was a very happy year for Maurice Raymond ... he met a lovely young musician. Born Pearl Beatrice Gonser in 1901, she was half his age. The singer and harpist had changed her name to "Litzka" for show-biz purposes, and she was beautiful and talented. Maurice Raymond hired her and in 1926 he married her. For legal and

religious reasons, he married her again on a ship in January, 1927, and again a few months later in Paraguay. He married the **heck** out of Litzka!



Litzka developed her own magical segments and performed as "The Great Litzka," in addition to her musical pieces.



Litzka, on the far left, watches The Great Raymond climb out of the Substitution Trunk in their performance of "Metempsychosis."

Litzka became an integral part of Raymond's troupe. In addition to playing the role of magician's assistant, she was a featured part of the entire show. She changed into over three dozen costumes, was showcased as a concert harpist, and performed as a conjuror in her own magical segments.

Litzka performed with her husband in the show of The Great Raymond for more than twenty years, until he passed away, and she continued to perform long after that.

There's a lot of information on the life and magic of Maurice Raymond in books, including The Great Raymond: Entertainer of Kings, King of Entertainers by William Rauscher. There are also many pieces in back issues of periodicals including Tops, Genii, M-U-M, and The Linking Ring.

Maurice Raymond died in 1948. Pearl Litzka Raymond Gibson died in 1996.

If you sent in a response to this month's question, but you didn't send us the *correct* response, please, *keep trying!* These questions aren't written to be easily answered using Internet-based search engines like Google, Yahoo, or Bing. Bring your copy of *The Linking Ring* to your local Ring meeting and ask one of the older magicians to help you find the answer. Show the entire world how smart you are, get your name published in *The Linking Ring*, and win some great magic from one of our best brick-and-mortar magic shops. You'll love the prizes!

Hey there, Youth Members!

Do you think that you have a question that's suitable for the *I.B.M. Youth Trivia Contest*? Then please send your question and the answer, along with your name, age, membership number, telephone number, and address to:

I.B.M. Youth Trivia Quiz
c/o Don Greenberg
4450 Peace Valley Road
New Waterford, Ohio 44445 USA

Please make certain to include a few references. If we use your question, we'll send you either a Havahart® skunk trap or a really cool magic book – our choice.

See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 144 and mail your responses to the address above.

Answers must be postmarked by September 20, 2025.

Sign Up a New Member

Ask our Headquarters Office for some Membership Brochures and Application Forms (or visit www.magician.org) and sign up someone interested in magic. Show them a *Linking Ring*, invite them to a meeting, and tell them about our magic-filled Convention!

Joyce Ann Wiberg

September 19, 1936 – May 16, 2025

By Dale Salwak

Photos Courtesy of Don Wiberg

*What we once enjoyed and deeply loved, we can never lose,
for all that we love deeply becomes part of us. – Proverb*

*Her beauty so great
the sound of her voice
the magic of all magic
the fair lady named Joyce!*

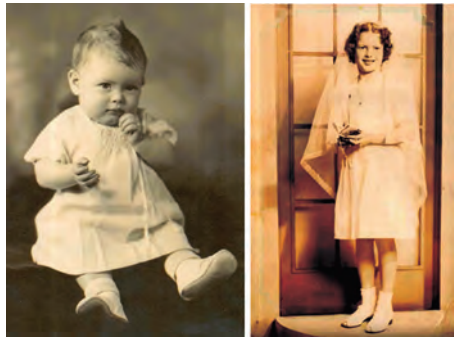
– Patrick Butler (on the occasion of the Wibergs’
fiftieth wedding anniversary)

Joyce Ann Wiberg (*née* Prendergast) – beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and very special friend to all of us in magic – passed away peacefully on May 16, 2025, at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, Illinois. She was eighty-eight.

In the following weeks, many who knew her well wrote of a deep and abiding commitment to both family and friends. As a model of compassion, generosity, and kindness, her warmth touched everyone she met. As a witty and reassuring presence who loved magic, she was a real force for sheer good. How blessed we are to have known her.

Joyce was born to Thomas J. (a plasterer specializing in decorative architectural plaster) and Edna McGuire Prendergast (a housewife) on September 19, 1936 in Chicago, the “Windy City” on Lake Michigan, a vibrant metropolis known for its stunning architecture, diverse neighborhoods, and thriving culture.

In part because of that special alchemy, there quickened in her a deep appreciation for education and the arts. After graduating from Gage Park High School, she continued her studies at the Chicago Teachers College, where she met her future husband (born a mere three months before Joyce and also bound to become a teacher), and later at Governors State University.



(l to r): Joyce was born September 19, 1936. • Joyce on the occasion of her Holy Communion (c. 1948).

The story of how she connected with Don – a story that he relates with keen delight – has the overt, enchanting elements of a fairy-tale. One day in November 1957 her brother, a freshman, was going horseback riding on a school holiday with a group of friends. He invited Don and introduced him to his sister: cute, he noticed, with freckles and red hair.

They gathered at the stable, chose their horses, and hit the trail. They had barely begun, however, when Joyce’s fidgety equine bucked, threw her, and took off. Little did Don know that the horse would be a partner in cementing this new relationship. Love happens when we are least expecting it.

Feeling a strong magnetic attraction, Don

unsurprisingly offered to share his saddle with the injured rider. The following day in school, wearing a cast on her arm, Joyce discovered affixed to her locker a fake newspaper headline that he had printed at Riley's Trick Shop, where he worked: JOYCE PRENDERGAST FALLS OFF BAR STOOL – BREAKS ARM.

To commemorate the day, he also composed for his English Literature class a poem entitled “Love At First Flight!”:

’Twas thereupon a bridle path,
where I found you lying.
The horse had stopped
and you did not and there you went a-flying.
Head over heels through the air,
the nasty horse did send . . .
’Twas lucky you landed where you did
and not on the other end.
For had you landed on that spot,
it would be a fateful thing
For instead of wearing your arm up high,
you’d be wearing your a - - in a sling!

“[P]eople are only influenced,” T.S. Eliot reminds us, “in the direction in which they already want to go.” Both listened to their heart and began to date. By degrees the romance blossomed, and two years later, on July 18, they were married. As for the poem, the crowning surprise: she had kept it and had it framed. It still hangs on their bedroom wall.



Joyce and Don were married on July 18, 1959.

Given the Wibergs' sunny outlook on life, I can't resist pausing to carry their fairytale-like connection one step further. All the way back to the Brothers Grimm and earlier, the archetypal “six” is often associated with love, harmony, and responsibility, particularly in family and domestic life.

It also represents nurturing, compassion, and a desire to create supportive and caring environments – all unwavering qualities we have come to appreciate in both Don and Joyce.

Consider that their parents lived *six* blocks away from each other, at practically the same house number: Joyce's parents at 6005 South Francisco, and Don's at 6000 South Talman. Their first apartment was at 6016 South California, which was exactly halfway between Francisco and Talman.

Was the recurrence of the number “six” in Don and Joyce's early experience merely coincidental, or fated? We can't be certain, of course, but given the outcome, I'm inclined to believe the latter as psychologically convincing.

“One loving spirit sets another on fire.” How well St. Augustine's words capture not only their sixty-five years marriage of sustained happiness but also the thirty-five years of Joyce's professional life as a tender teacher and shaper of young minds – first at Albert H. Brandt Elementary School, then Douglas A. McGugan Junior High School, and finally, Covington, all in Oak Lawn, Illinois' where (since 1962) the married couple lived for thirty-three years. They bought their first home on a handshake and a ten-dollar deposit with the receipt written on the back of an envelope.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Joyce was a woman of many talents and interests. One highlight is that on her seventy-fifth birthday, for example, she went skydiving from 14,000 feet while tethered to an experienced skydiver.

She was also an avid reader (more than 3,000 books since she began keeping a database), about which one dear friend wrote: “Probably half the books I've read came from her recommendations.” Books not



(l to r): For her 75th birthday Joyce went sky diving from 14,000 feet, tethered to an expert. • Joyce assisted Don with the *Mismade Lady*. They appeared several times on WGN-TV's *Bozo's Circus*.

only entertained and informed and fed the intellect, of course, but cultivated her sensibility so that she could trust the heart.

For more than three decades, drawing assiduously upon her multi-faceted life as educator along with her extraordinary organizational skills as hostess, she contributed tirelessly to the I.B.M.

She served with dignity and distinction as First Lady to International President Donald Wiberg (1984–85), organized the Past President Spouses' Luncheon, brought ceremonial order to the banquet protocol after Gladys Christenberry stepped aside, and for many years helped me when I was Entertainment Director to secure tickets and seating for special guests at the convention banquet.

As an assistant to her husband (who had taken the Chavez Studio of Magic home-study course) in his well-timed, eight- to ten-minute magic performances, she appeared in many illusions, including *Mismade Girl*, *Zig Zag*, *Sub Trunk*, and *Blade Box*.

They worked at various functions throughout the Chicago area including, like so many magicians, *Blue-Gold Banquets* and church suppers, and six times on the WGN-TV's *Bozo's Circus*. A number of theatrical agents also booked them for exclusive venues.

They even put together, with the originator's permission, their version of Tom Palmer's act after his book, *The Comedy Act of Tom Palmer* (1969), was published by the Ireland Magic Co. (later known as Magic,

Inc.), and featured it at many events including the 1975 I.B.M. Convention and Abbott's *Magic Get-Together*.

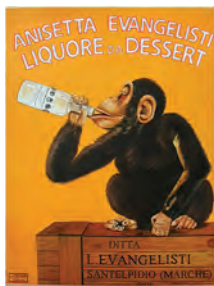
This is the act with an assistant who couldn't care less; the one in which everybody knows where the rabbit is except the magician (under his top hat); the one where smoke comes out of his collar; and on and on to the delight of the audience.

One summer Don talked his way into working for Mark Wilson's trade show company, *Magical Productions*; and this led to being hired as an on-stage assistant at several state fairs while Joyce helped backstage with the props and costumes.

Along with so many magical adventures, oil painting (originals and stunning copies of the classics) provided another creative outlet and source of contentment for Joyce, reflecting her beauty-making eye; and a curiosity about design and history drew her to architectural tours.



Joyce recreated in oil (approximately 30" x 24") an early Hieronymus Bosch painting (c. 1502) of *The Conjuror* (1985).



Joyce re-created in oil a small piece of advertising art (c. 1970). • Joyce painted in oil her grand-daughter Maghan's pet cat (c. 1976). • Joyce painted a picture of a pig guarding a cookie jar in the kitchen (1995).

After retiring from teaching and moving to Frankfort, Illinois, both Joyce and Don became enthusiastic, well-informed, and engaging volunteer docents (she later a director) for the Chicago Architecture Foundation, now the Chicago Architecture Center; and they conducted about thirty different tours of various city treasures, including the Palmer House, site of the Empire Room where many show business celebrities appeared. Upon retirement from that position, Joyce was awarded the prestigious title of Docent Emeritus.



Joyce and Don were together on "Chicago's First Lady" architectural tour along the Chicago River (c. 1994).

Joyce's love for traveling with her husband was another incredibly rewarding experience as they explored, with enthusiasm and open hearts, many regions including Spain, Morocco, France, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, China, Russia, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Hawaii. They also enjoyed cruising and journeyed extensively throughout the United States in their motor home.

Passionate, spirited, and accomplished, Joyce was, like her husband, a principled person of strength and insatiable curiosity, fully alive to the world – an idea worth savoring as I bring this remembrance to a close.



Joyce and Don posed with the great Voronin at the circus dinner theater Teatro ZinZanni (c. 1995).



Don and Joyce attended AbraCorndabra (c. 2022).

Survivors include her husband of sixty-five years, Donald; their children Kristen and Craig (and his wife Mary Beth); grandchildren Andrew and Maghan (and her husband Kyle Fleming); and great-granddaughter, Luna Josephine Fleming. She was predeceased by her brother, Thomas P. Prendergast.

On Saturday, June 7, funeral services were held at the Kurtz Memorial Chapel, Frankfort, Illinois. Internment will be private on a later date at Lakeside Cemetery, Colon, Michigan.



From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD

“They reckon that, given an infinite amount of time, a monkey striking the keys of a typewriter at random would eventually produce the complete works of Shakespeare. Now, what are the success criteria for that? I mean, wouldn’t it be terrible if you reached the end of *The Tempest* and found a typo in the final line ... or came across a play called *Romeo and Julie*.”

This is the style of humour of my good friend Nick Mohammed. Nick is now a celebrated television and film actor (including work for Aardman and Disney), international sitcom creator of *Intelligence* with David Schwimmer, script and novel writer, and guest on many popular shows, including the BAFTA Awards Ceremony, attended by royalty. All of this since he withdrew from PhD research into geophysics at Cambridge University in order to concentrate on showbiz! Nick, however, never forgets his roots in the junior section of the Northern Magic Circle or his first big break, performing in the cabaret at my dinner when I was president (!).

I recently caught up with Nick on his national tour of *Mr. Swallow – Show Pony*, in which he (or his alter-ego Mr. Swallow), presented a sort of light-hearted version of Derren Brown mentalism with several audience volunteers for mind-reading and the obligatory “call back” ending, linking predictions from throughout session. This involved predictions being written on the inside of a paper aeroplane, thrown around the audience, then revealed when it was unfolded. There was a hairy moment when it got caught on the lighting rig and could only be released by a member of the public leaning precariously from the balcony and poking it with a crutch. I imagine Nick had never anticipated needing an “out” for that one, but I suspect he will

now have a duplicate ready in the wings.



Nick Mohammed with Brian.

Another person I booked for a dinner when he was only twelve was Harry Moulding, who began his magic life in the junior section of my local society, the Modern Mystic League. He has just become only the second magician to win *Britain’s Got Talent*. There must be something in the air around this area of Lancashire, as we also produced Johnny Hart, the first Magic Circle Young Magician of the Year in 1961, and Ben Proos in the competition’s golden year of 2011.

This month, I’m including a picture of Jemma Tynan – someone who rarely appears because she is usually to be found behind the camera as the official photographer for the British Ring, plus many Northern Magic Circle events. She doesn’t always receive the credit she deserves. Jemma’s mum, Carol, stands in with the camera when necessary, and is also the registrations officer for Ring 25. Dad Rick is the treasurer, so it’s safe to say that the British Ring simply couldn’t function without the Tynan family.

Jemma was recently at work at the annual



Harry Moulding.



Jemma Tynan.



Carol and Rick Tynan.

British Ring Picnic, held in the Welsh seaside town of Llandudno which had proved so popular for our last convention. The day, all within the venue of Magic Bar Live (run by the equally magical Williams family – Chris, Claire, and children Harry and Emma) began with the two youngsters being joined by their friends Oliver Bell, Macauley Knight, and Max Simmonds in a Youth Show which brought a note of freshness – even to the Vanishing Bandana/Banana trick!

Royston (Roy Gilbert) had formulated another of his legendary quizzes, which entertained as well as stretched the brain, and Stuart Loughland (half of the Safire duo, with Libby) followed up with part two of his conversation with Rick Tynan which had begun at the last convention. He had plenty of hilarious stories left!

President Aidan Heritage was on hand to present a film collage of past presidents in performance in the History of Mystery slot, which I introduced. As one reviewer commented: “It was a welcome hour of nostalgia,

in which to see again many of those who have played such a significant part in making the British Ring what it is today.”

Paul Roberts, who had entertained at last year’s President’s Dinner, gave a lecture this time, covering everything from cuing the Electric Chairs to producing a chosen card from the posterior of Rocky Raccoon!

A day which had everything was rounded off with a one-man show from the award-winning local lad, Jay Gatling.



(l to r): Paul Roberts. • Jay Gatling.



(l to r): Picnic Venue: Magic Bar Live. • Stuart Loughland. • President Aidan Heritage.



Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

Ring 50 (Washington, DC) Capital Conjurors' End-of-Year Ceremony



Members of the Ring 50 Capital Conjurors, under the direction of Youth Activities Director Drew Owen, display their end of school year 2024-25 certificates of accomplishment before putting on their annual magic show at a special June meeting. Front row: Hugh Presley, Nora Heasley, Thomas Gelinas, Lawson Elligers, Dane Curren, Kareena Schiller. Back row: Owen Schroeder, Ekasha Shah, Nate Horn, Declan Bare, Charlie Presler, Maxum Louis. PHOTO BY LARRY LIPMAN

Ring 60 (Austin, Texas) Annual Picnic

On June 13, more than forty friends, family, and magicians gathered for our annual picnic at the home of Ring 60's President Trixie Bond and Mark Axford. The entire Ring is tremendously grateful to member Brooks Griffith and his family for hosting this annual picnic for twenty-nine years at their home on Lake Austin!

The picnic raffle featured many, many magic items (forty-five!) all donated by magician Scott Wells. The Ring expresses its great appreciation to Scott! We also

send our thanks for our live musical entertainment provided by Mark C. Wilson, Chris Walden, and Dee Anne Prince.

The dessert contest was once again a sweet hit this year! First prize went to the family of Carlos Santillan for a beautifully decorated and delicious two-layer cake, and second place went to the family of Tricia Heil Davis for a hand-crafted cookie cups and cake balls dessert.

The one-trick contest was emceed by Ring Vice President Brad Henderson, who

led off with magical mirror illusions. Larry Johnson was the first contestant who dazzled with his Do-Nothing Machine Pom-Pom Stick. Scott Wells mesmerized with mind reading, and TAOM President Bertil Fredstrom had an enthusiastic response to his engaging comedy animal mentalism routine. Glen Watkins was next on the bill with his splashy and well-executed floating rubber duck prediction. Final contestant Blake Bierds performed an entertaining and clever “Cups and Balls” routine. Emcee Brad Henderson closed out the contest by wowing the crowd with a riveting performance of the “Cursed Card.”

All of the performances were stellar, and judges awarded first place to Blake Bierds and second place to Bertil Fredstrom. We look forward to seeing everyone in person at this year’s TAOM convention in Austin over Labor Day weekend, September 2-6!

Tricia Heil Davis



From left to right: Emcee Brad Henderson, and contestants Bertil Fredstrom, Glen Watkins, Scott Wells, Larry Johnson, and Blake Bierds.

Submitting Ring Events

News of your Ring Events published in *The Linking Ring* lets magicians around the world know about your Ring’s activities and gives members international exposure.

How to submit news of your Ring’s special activities? Submit your article as a Microsoft Word document, and send photos as medium- to high-resolution jpegs. Please do not embed your photographs in a Word document. Attach them as separate jpegs or in a Zip or Stuffit file. Photos embedded in Word documents cannot be used. We recommend taking lots of pictures and submitting only your very best photos.

Special activities, such as shows, banquets, conventions, or community fundraising projects sponsored by your Ring are considered Ring Events and should be e-mailed to Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org. Type “Ring Event” as the e-mail subject.

Please note: Write-ups of your monthly Ring meetings are considered Ring Reports and should also be e-mailed to Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org.

Dreams Can Come True!

By Nelson Brookshire

Secretary of the Dr. William E. Spooner Ring 392
(Blowing Rock, North Carolina)

This is the story of how one young boy's dream of becoming a professional magician was accomplished with the help of North Carolina I.B.M. Ring 392. On May 18, 2025, twenty-two-year-old Fletcher Roberts of Boone, North Carolina, was elected as one of the youngest-ever presidents of any I.B.M. Ring.

The Dr. William E. Spooner I.B.M. Ring in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, will celebrate its tenth anniversary in July of this year. It was founded by Dr. Gerry Hayes on July 20, 2015, and exactly two months later, on September 20, 2015, Fletcher became a junior member. Over the next ten years, members saw his maturity, energy, leadership skills, and devotion to magic develop. "These are some of the reasons we supported his rise to Ring president," said Dr. Hayes.

Fletcher's magical journey began in early elementary school. His parents, Joanna and Doug Roberts, almost always saw him with a deck of cards in his tiny hands as he tried to learn various ways to develop his manipulation skills. His first foray into magic was a second-grade talent show where he performed a trick called "The Finger Chopper." He received an audience reaction that left him totally "hooked" on magic.

His interest in magic continued unabated until he learned about the local Ring. Fletcher's father wrote the Ring a poignant letter asking if Fletcher could become a member. It stated:

Dear Sirs,

I'm writing on behalf of my twelve-year-old son, Fletcher. Having begun showing an interest in magic a couple of years or more ago, I initially thought it would be a passing fad. However, in May of last year, I took him to the "Weekend of Wonder" in Asheville where, among having a fabulous time, his interest was fueled all the more. While there, we met a man who hosted a "magic club," and he invited my son to come. Unfortunately, Asheville's too far for me to take him. Since then, I've been searching for something like that closer to Boone.

I was delighted to see the article in the High Country Press. I'm not sure if younger kids were part of your target audience, but he would love to be a part of whatever get-together events you have. While we enjoy watching his latest tricks, I know he would grow so much interacting with others that are also performers rather than just his family as spectators.

Any information you can provide would be most appreciated. He truly loves magic.

— Letter from Doug Roberts to I.B.M. Ring 392, dated August 2, 2015

After reading this heartfelt letter, there was no way the Ring could refuse this request and welcomed the shy young Fletcher with open arms. Since the Ring meets in various area locations, his first meeting was at the home of Dr. Cato and Susan Holler in Marion, North Carolina. "This was a mind-



Fletcher Roberts, center, poses with past presidents (from l to r) Dr. Joe Mazzola, Nelson Brookshire, Dr. Cato Holler, and Dr. Gerry Hayes. Not pictured: Bruce McLaury.

blowing magical experience on its own. It was like another world! Everywhere I looked there was magic, including a working in-home performance stage and magic artifacts of all kinds. It was a truly magical place," he said.

Fletcher's mom typically drove him to monthly Ring meetings where he met Dr. Bill Spooner, Dr. Gerry Hayes, Dr. Cato Holler, Dr. Joe Mazzola, Bill, Dot and Bruce McLaury, Albert Lawson, T. J. Shimeld, and several other seasoned magicians and their wonderful spouses, some of whom were members as well. They took Fletcher under their wings and began mentoring and encouraging him. The members' many major contributions to magic and their more than four hundred years of combined experience in the conjuring arts did not in any way deter their accepting and adopting Fletcher into the fold. "They were extraordinary people and magicians who made me feel comfortable among them, and that I belonged. It was a dream come true!" said Fletcher.

Not only did Fletcher absorb wisdom and

knowledge from these magicians, but he also enjoyed trying new and innovative ways to present his ring, rope, card, and mentalism tricks at each monthly meeting. Although Fletcher admits that rope tricks are a favorite, he is equally adept at other areas of magic.

Other learning opportunities came by way of magic conventions his parents took him to until he was old enough to drive. There, he met and learned from some of the top magicians from around the world. Fletcher says that although the lectures and shows were typically outstanding, he equally enjoyed informal lobby sessions with others as they shared their experiences and insights into the world of magic. He also immersed himself in books, videos, magic shops, new friendships, and the internet. Anywhere there was something helpful, Fletcher sought it out.

As his skills developed, birthday parties and other special opportunities allowed him to continue polishing his skills, and at age sixteen he was offered summer work as a magician at Tweetsie Railroad, a Blowing Rock, North Carolina, tourist attraction. He

also sometimes worked as a cowboy there, which helped him develop voice projection skills. His high energy and winning personality began to show more and more, and it was transformative! It was during his time at Tweetsie he made the decision to become a full-time professional magician.

For the last three years, Fletcher has worked during the summer tourist season as a street magician in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Fletcher said, "This is challenging work because the unexpected happens frequently, requiring me to think on my feet and adapt to a wide variety of situations." He has also worked at the Land of Oz, a theme park located at Beech Mountain, North Carolina, where he was required to learn dancing. This, too, added a dimension of movement so necessary for effective stage presence and performance. These opportunities helped him develop the humor aspect of his magic presentation, too. Fletcher has found that appropriately timed humor can keep the crowd engaged and also provide the "distraction" that's so critical to a successful trick. Occasionally he, like all magicians, encounters someone who doesn't like magic for various reasons. He's learned that this is the time to show understanding of their point of view and move on to the people who do enjoy the magical arts.

When not in Gatlinburg, Fletcher fills his time sharing his magic at restaurants, libraries, parties, and YMCAs, and sometimes when performing shows with other magicians. "I still get the same feeling I did when I performed 'The Finger Chopper' in elementary school. I hope I never lose that feeling of excitement and joy," he said.

According to his parents, he has already accumulated many magic props to the extent that his father once said, laughingly, "One day I hope to have our own house again!" Not only do Doug and Joanna recognize the value of their support for Fletcher's dream, but they have also learned some magic themselves, though they do not assist in his performances.

What sets Fletcher apart from other people who have a passing interest in magic? His drive, ambition, hard work, the joy of entertaining, the love of magic, and keeping

his eye on his goals. The fact that he stands 6'5" tall and sports a handlebar mustache doesn't hurt, either! He says that giving someone who may be having a bad day a moment of wonder and amazement is very fulfilling for him.

Fletcher also possesses the gift of storytelling. He weaves these "sometimes true" stories into his performances, making his magic even more mysterious and enjoyable. "When you share a story people can relate to, it energizes and focuses your audience. Ghost stories are a favorite topic, especially during the Halloween season regardless of the audience," he says.

When asked what group of people he most enjoys performing for, he quickly points to young children first, and teenagers – who initially resist being involved in his show – as second. "Teenagers can be a different type of audience because they are typically self-conscious and sometimes give the impression they think they are 'too cool' to be part of a magic show," Fletcher said. "However, once they realize I'm not going to embarrass them, they typically relax and enjoy the experience."

Fletcher has also performed for those who are deaf, blind, non-English speaking, or disabled. "Some very effective magic can overcome many barriers because not all magic requires verbiage or physical abilities on the part of the spectator. These situations demand creativity and the ability to adapt quickly and be the highlight of a magician's and the spectator's day. This gives the person experiencing the magic something to remember and share with others," Fletcher mused.

Fletcher credits his magic family in Ring 392 as the people who have influenced and helped him the most in achieving his dream of being a professional magician. Today he continues to hone his skills and look for bigger, more challenging opportunities to share his magic. The fact that people are automatically drawn to his looks, personality, and magic makes him one of the most promising young magicians anywhere.

The future looks bright for both Fletcher and the magical arts – abracadabra!

Magic and

Memories

David Ginn



My Graduating Girls

For more than forty years I have employed teenagers to help me in the mail order business, as well as perform in my shows when practical.

Most of these helpers were girls. Why? Because when boys turn sixteen and get driver's licenses, they want to go to work at McDonald's, Burger King, or Chick-fil-A.

Most of the kids who have worked for me in my home business are children of parents Lynne and I know from church or the neighborhood. They worked for me during the high school years, then they left for college, jobs, marriage, and families.

One of my "oldest" employees and friends is Sarah Mitchell Stallsmith, who started helping me when she was twelve. We packed orders together, took pictures of products, and sent out newsletters to sell things.



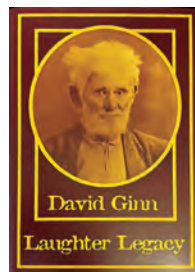
Sarah Stallsmith with the Acrobatic Silks trick.

Later in college, Sarah returned home one spring and spent the entire month of May inputting 1,300 jokes, gags, and lines into my computer while I was out doing school shows. These things came from Gene Gordon's lifelong comedy notebooks, handwritten over forty years. Once all the lines were in place, I divided them into chapters and Sarah organized them day by day. The result was *Laughter Legacy*, my hardback book of more than a thousand things to say during live performances. *Laughter Legacy* would not exist without that once-a-kid helper who is now married with three daughters out of college and working real jobs!

I could tell you stories about all the kids who worked for me and all the laughs we had together.

For example, while packing M-bags for a convention in Norway in the 1990s, our friend Karen lost her high school senior ring valued at \$350. We searched all over and never found it. Three months later, as Lynne, Autumn, and I started to pack up our convention booth in Oslo, something tumbled out of a box and rolled under the table. Autumn crawled under and discovered a high school senior ring marked Parkview High School 1995.

That night, I called Karen in Atlanta from our Oslo hotel room. "Karen, guess what I



The cover of David's Laughter Legacy book of go-to patter, phrases, and stories to say during performances.

have on my little finger? It says Parkview High School 1995 on it and has a red stone.” As you can guess, Karen was thrilled to learn we found her ring. It had traveled inside both a book box and a canvas M-bag all the way to Norway.

Sometimes I took one or two teens with me in the summer to do library shows. To justify their pay, I usually took products they could package in the car. One summer our friend Brittany went with me, and she decided to package Color Changing Shoelaces on the back seat.



Brittany Scroggs and David with the Jumbo McCombal Deck.

That’s when I got stopped for speeding in Winder, Georgia. After rolling down my window and giving the police officer my driver’s license, I told him we were on the way to do a magic show at his local library.

He acted puzzled since the passenger seat was empty.

“Do you have someone in the vehicle with you?” he asked.

“Yes, sir,” I replied. “She’s in the back seat. There is also a live rabbit in the far back. Brittany, say hello to the officer.” She leaned forward and said hi, waving her hand.

“Young lady, what are you doing back there?” the policeman asked. “Are you alright?”

“Yes, I am fine,” Brittany told him. “I’m packaging these Color Changing Shoelaces for the mail order business.”

I am sure it sounded like a joke to him, but it was the truth. So I said: “Would you like to see the rabbit? His name is Harry.”

He shook his head and said, “I think I will

believe you. So, you two, please slow down in my town, and have fun making fun for the library kids. Now, Mr. Ginn, stick out your hand.”

Without questioning him, I put my hand out the window.

That’s when he gently spanked the back of my hand with his.

“Consider that a warning,” he said. “Now get going to the library.”

I thanked him sincerely and promised never to speed in Winder again, a promise I’ve never broken. I guess Brittany being there prevented him from writing me a ticket!

Working in the mail order business for more than fifty years, I have almost never bought boxes to ship things. Instead, we *scrounge* boxes. That means we save them, get them from friends and family, and simply pick them up here, there, and anywhere. Often these boxes have labels on them to wherever they were last shipped. I have repeatedly instructed my teen helpers to check all over the boxes to cover up or remove any pre-existing labels. Most of the time, they have done this. But every once in a while ...

Back in the 1990s, I got a call from my dad Frank Ginn, who lived about seventy miles away on the other side of Atlanta.

“David, did you recently send a package to Fran Flynn in Worcester, Massachusetts?”

“How did you know that?” I asked.

“Because it’s in my hand as we speak.”

My helpers had failed to remove or cover up the previous label, which was to Frank Ginn in Dallas, Georgia. So of course the postal people read *his* label instead of the one to Fran Flynn.

The solution was easy enough: Dad covered the label and mailed it to Fran the next day from the Dallas post office. Of course, I had to tell all my helpers the story – *for the next ten years* – to keep making a point. Cover up those old labels!

Twenty-five years ago we always did our mail order business on Monday afternoons. That was because I performed school shows Tuesday through Friday, usually two schools each day. My teen helpers got out of high

school (a mile away) at 2:05 p.m., so we'd be packing orders before 2:30 p.m. on a good day. Occasionally, I'd have a Wednesday morning show nearby, come home, unload and reload for the next day, eat lunch, and relax doing office work.

One week during the fall, dozens of orders appeared in the mail Tuesday, with more arriving Wednesday morning. I'm talking about maybe thirty orders!

That was good, of course, but they would have to wait until the following Monday to pack and ship. Of course, late Tuesday afternoon or night, Lynne and I processed the orders, made labels, and prepared them for packing. I did some more after lunch on Wednesday, but that was where it stopped.

Then the garage doorbell rang, and I went downstairs to see who it was. There stood two of my girls – Crystal and Christina – with big smiles on their faces.



*Crystal Jennings and Christina Brown, age 17, holding *Enlightened Magicians* book that featured David Ginn.*

"Hey, David," said Crystal, "we got out of school early today, so we went to lunch, and while at lunch, we said to each other, 'I wonder if David Ginn has anything for us to do?' So do you?"

You could have knocked me over with a feather!

"Do you feel like packing thirty mail orders?" I asked.

They replied *yes* simultaneously, and the three of us spent the next three hours filling every one of those orders. I have never forgotten their kindness that day by showing up uninvited.

Here is what happened before Crystal and Christina came to work for me. In August

1993, seven of my girl helpers – plus my secretary and assistant Jeannie Walters – gathered at our house for a goodbye party. Several of them were leaving for college, several more were already in college, and only one was still in high school to help me for the next two years: Jamie Price.



Jamie Price with a giant orange sponge ball.



*Black-and-white photo of Karen Price and David with the *Sponge Ball to Rabbit* effect.*

Four months later when they were home for Christmas break, I managed to get them all together one last time to appear in my video tape *Magic They Love to See*.

But for the goodbye party, thanks to the popularity of *Life's Little Instruction Book*, I wrote a one-time publication just for them. I titled it *Aloha Advice for Traveling Graduates*, a seven-page booklet detailing both serious and funny things I wanted them to know. It was

my version of saying a big thank you to each of them for helping me with my mail order business and live shows. Because of the church connection we also shared, we were like family.

Here are some of the seventy-two pieces of advice I gave these girls, with occasional explanations.

1. Life is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift to God.
2. Sit on the front row if you want good grades.
3. Don't share lipstick. (Once I had several teen girl assistants who did. One had a cold sore on her lip. A week later, they all did.)
4. Learn from your mistakes. Try not to make the same ones twice.
5. Drive the speed limit.
6. Don't trust one clock to wake you up. Set two clocks!
7. Discover your talent, develop it, and use it.
8. Finish school *before* you get married. (They all did.)
9. View a tough or difficult professor as a *character*.
10. Keep lists.
11. Always bring something to do, like a book to read or pen and paper to write down thoughts. You never know when you'll get stuck somewhere – in traffic, at the doctor's office or laundromat – and need something to do.
12. Call your brother or sister.
13. The time for fun is after the work is done. (I told helpers this for twenty years, but we always had fun working.)
14. You'll never get drunk if you don't drink alcohol.
15. If we have anything at Ginnville you need for school, just ask and we'll ship it to you.
16. Brush and floss at least twice a day, much more if you are Adrienne. (She did it six or seven times a day.) Remember, if you are true to your teeth, they will never be false to you. (Thank you, Sammy Smith.)

17. Pay attention to detail, as you should have learned in the mail order magic business.
18. Winners never quit, and quitters never win.
19. Before shaking the ketchup bottle, check to see if the cap is on tight. The same goes for saltshakers in restaurants.
20. A groan is as good as a laugh to a deaf elephant.
21. Turtles never run. Ants never quit. And God never fails.

The last three numbers I suggested the girls all pray: pray for each other, pray for the Ginns, and finally, *pray for Jamie*, who would be the only one left working for me.

I was joking, of course, because Jamie and I worked well together the next two years. In fact, Jamie did one Christmas show with me in December that year. During the first half of the show, she wore a red dress which went along with my black tux with red bowtie and cummerbund.

About twenty minutes into the show I performed the Measle Bag trick, a variation of Spotty. Black-and-white photos nearby show me with lots of hair doing the Measle Bag. When I ended the trick, Jamie came from backstage wearing her sister Karen's red-and-white polka dot dress that exactly matched one side of the Measle Bag.



David with his Measle Bag.

"And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the story of my Measle Bag" I said, as Jamie walked on to take the bag and handkerchiefs. Then I did a quick double-take upon seeing

her red polka dot dress, and everyone laughed.



Jamie in a polka dot dress, from David's Partly Unpublished book.

Over my fifty-five-year mail order career, which ran parallel to my magic performance career, I have had more than forty teenage kids help me fill thousands of orders. In June 1996, days after I returned from a convention in Tyrol, Italy, I had some forty-five to fifty orders to package, label, and ship. That Saturday morning, four kids appeared at my house. We worked until lunchtime, took a break to eat wonderful food my wife Lynne prepared, then finished up the orders by 3 p.m. We loaded my minivan and on Monday morning, my secretary and I took everything to the post office.

That was one version of the same story told over and over again. I have always remained thankful to the parents who let them, and to the teens themselves who helped me do what I wanted and needed to do to spread the fun of magic to others.



Group photo of David's girl workers from the cover of his VHS tape Magic They Love to See. From l to r: (back row) Sarah Mitchell, Karen Price, Allison Redmond, David Ginn, Holly Thomas, and Jeannie Walters. (Kneeling) Adrienne Redmond, Mary Thomas, and Autumn Ginn. Not pictured: Jamie Price, who was in Baltimore at the time.



Marketing Magic

KENT CUMMINS

Entrepreneurial Entertainers

“An entrepreneur is someone who has a vision for something and a want to create.”

– David Karp, founder of Tumblr

What Is an Entrepreneur?

An entrepreneur is a person who organizes and operates a business or businesses, taking on greater-than-normal financial risks in order to do so. Those of us who choose to make our living as magicians, jugglers, mentalists, balloon twisters, clowns, singers, dancers, musicians, or any other form of variety entertainers, definitely fit this definition. We are all entrepreneurial entertainers.

It is often the financial risk that makes us hesitate. It is easier if you have a partner with “a real job,” or an inheritance, or substantial life savings – or if you win the lottery! (Or really like living in your car.)

Last month, I talked about eponymous entrepreneurs, especially those of us in the magic business. These are people whose name becomes the name of the business. We remember their names.

How Does One Become an Entrepreneur?

The most important characteristics of being an entrepreneur include passion, adaptability, a strong work ethic, resilience, and the ability to learn from mistakes. Developing essential skills like communication, problem-solving, and financial literacy is also crucial for success. Additionally, building a strong network and understanding your target audience are vital for growth.

If you want to become a successful entre-

preneur, the first thing to consider is to define and understand your goals. Do you want to make more money? Are you looking for job security? Do you want to be your own boss? Do you want to spend the rest of your life doing what you love?



Making More Money

Can you make more money as an entrepreneur? Absolutely! Michael Dell and David Copperfield both became billionaires. But is entrepreneurship the best way to make more money? It depends on many factors: your ideas, your abilities, the economy, and just plain luck. Most new businesses fail within the first few years. More potential entrepreneurs lose money than make money.

Having Job Security

If you work for a big (or small) company, you might get fired for multiple reasons, many of them not under your control.

As an entrepreneur, you know you won't get fired, but you may not be able to keep the business afloat. For most of us, "working for the man" (or woman) is probably more secure than working for ourselves.

Do You Want to Be Your Own Boss?

I once told someone, "I love my job, but my boss is impossible to please!" Yeah, I was my own boss. But it was unlikely that I would get fired!

Doing What You Love

It has been said that if you spend your time doing what you love, you will never work a day in your life. It's a clever quip, and it has an element of truth, but that doesn't mean it will be easy.

I have read books and blogs insisting that if you do what you love, the money will follow. That is sometimes true, but not necessarily.

I am reminded of my friend Fred Scott Donaldson, "The Great Scott," who – when asked by someone if they should become a full-time professional magician – always said, "No!" He explained it was difficult to make a living as an entertainer, and you should only do it if you "had to." It requires passion and persistence to succeed.

Are You a "Solopreneur"?

The term "solopreneur" is thought to have originated in the early 1990s, with the publication of Terri Lonier's book *Working Solo*. While the word "entrepreneur" has a longer history dating back to the early 1800s, "solopreneur" specifically denotes an individual building and managing a business on their own. Most of us are solopreneurs, but it doesn't mean we're necessarily a one-man band!

My wife Margot began as my beautiful assistant and then took over the bookkeeping. Our daughter, Carolyn, served as my beautiful assistant after Margot retired from

the stage, and now helps me with planning and implementing special events. Our granddaughter, "The Amazing Adele," performed with me for nearly a decade.

But we are not a corporation, a partnership, or even an LLC. My business name, "Magic Hotline," was just "Individual/Sole Proprietor" on my tax forms. At our core, most of us are solopreneurs.

What's Wrong with Entrepreneurs

I have read statistics indicating about one fourth of all entrepreneurial start-ups fail the first year. For restaurants, the figure is even higher, as much as 60%! And for star-struck wannabe entertainers, actual stardom is such a small percentage that one wonders why anybody even tries. (Focus on that fast food job and you can become a manager!)

The joke is, "What is the difference between a magician and a pizza?" The sad answer is, "A pizza can feed a family of four!" So, why does anyone become an entrepreneur?

Typically, it's because they have a love (and perhaps talent or skill) for something. For example, people who love preparing and serving food might want to open a restaurant. People who love exercise might want to open a gym or spa. People who love entertaining might want to become full-time professional entertainers.

And these people probably know a lot about food preparation and serving, or exercise, or entertainment. We want to share this love with others.

But in order to operate a successful, profitable business, you also need bookkeeping, financial management, tax accounting, sales, marketing, human resources, and more. And most of the magicians I know *love* performing magic – but *hate* bookkeeping, financial management, tax accounting, sales, marketing, human resources, and the rest. The same thing is true of cooks who open restaurants and exercise experts who open gyms and spas.

If you want to have a successful business, you need to find and effectively utilize these other resources.

I Love Being an Entrepreneur!

My first “business” was a backyard circus when I was a fourth grader living in my hometown of Del Rio, Texas. I knew how to perform certain circus skills (magic, puppetry, tumbling, clowning), and I loved marketing (yeah, even in elementary school!). My mom made the costumes and my dad helped me learn bookkeeping. My little brother Carter wore a clown costume. Our pet bulldog Cleo was the “wild animal.” It was a very small circus, to be sure, and it didn’t need a lot of business support.

By the time I was a student at Baton Rouge Junior High (“Go Bullpups!”) in Louisiana, I was selling myself as a magician. By the time I was a student at Baton Rouge High School (“Go Bulldogs!”), I had added juggling to my magic shows. I also played piano in a rock ‘n’ roll band. By the time I was an undergraduate at Louisiana State University (“Geaux Tigers!”), I was doing these things to help me pay my way through college.

I was what Gene Anderson calls a “Part-Time Pro.” (I was already what I now call an “Entrepreneurial Entertainer,” even if only part time.) My mom continued to help me with costumes, my dad continued teaching me about spreadsheets and accounting, and my brother helped build props while becoming the other half of the “Bungling Jugglers.” And of course, I became interested in girls. After all, I needed a beautiful assistant!

Entrepreneurs Incorporated

Can you grok being an entrepreneur? By the time I started college at LSU, I had several friends who also loved being entrepreneurs. One of them had read a science fiction story by Robert Heinlein called “We Also Walk Dogs,” about a company that would perform any service required for an appropriate fee. The concept inspired us! While in college, we could make money doing lots of different things for many different people. We called ourselves “Entrepreneurs Incorporated.”

We even tried to incorporate (one of us was in law school) only to discover there was already a Louisiana corporation by that name. By then, we had started investing in very

small business projects throughout Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas, so we combined those states' abbreviations (GA, ALA, LA, TEX) and incorporated in Louisiana under the name "Galatex, Inc."



We owned apartments and real estate, bought blood plasma, and provided technical consulting and entertainment services. We started the Louisiana Radio Network. My dad and brother started a small furniture factory in Alabama. Eventually, we opened a chain of sandwich shops and a cabaret theatre in Austin, Texas. We even did pet grooming, but I don't think we ever got paid to walk dogs.

The Entrepreneurs Association

Once I left the United States Army active duty and moved back to Austin to run our chain of sandwich shops, I also became active in the Entrepreneurs Association (EA), which later changed its name to the Business Success Center.

I was a frequent speaker at EA events, often talking about the same marketing principles that have informed this column for magicians.

[illegible]

How to Be a Successful Entrepreneur

First, let's define "success." David Copperfield has become a billionaire and almost everyone knows his name. He has been called a "G.O.A.T." (Greatest Of All Time), although there are those of us who might think Houdini still deserves that appellation. Regardless, I would consider him wildly successful, and I hope he does, too!

But most of us reading *The Linking Ring* do not aspire to that level of success. For nearly forty years, I felt completely successful as a part-time pro. I loved magic, was active in magic organizations, and often got paid to perform. (I also had a great family life.)

Then in 1985, I studied *What Color is Your Parachute*, a book (and today a website) by Richard Nelson Bolles. I realized I wanted to become a full-time professional magician, juggler, author, teacher, consultant, and speaker. I guess I wanted to be a "Full-Time Kent Cummins!"

I was asked during a recent interview when I knew my business was a success. It was during the first year my business was profitable, when I began taking in more money than I was spending. (Remember: I am married to a bookkeeper.) I didn't aspire to be a millionaire, I just wanted to support my family doing what I love.

So, what are *your* goals?

Teaching and Business

During my last year at Louisiana State University, I remember standing on the quadrangle with my friends, Reggie Keogh and John Schexnaydre, talking about the future. Reggie wanted to become a successful lawyer in Baton Rouge. John wanted to work in technology (which looked very different in 1965!). I remember saying I wanted to be a magician, but I didn't think I could make a living doing that, so I didn't know what I would do. I also remember saying, "There are two things I do *not* want to do: business and teaching!"

While in the army, I learned to love business and teaching, which together have become a major part of my success. I even got the army to send me to the University of

Texas ("Hook 'em Horns!") to get my Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.

In addition to serving as CEO of Galatex, Inc., I have started and sold three different businesses:

- The SamWitch Shops, operated from 1971 to 1986 before being sold



- Fantastic Magic Camp, operated from 1993 to 2009 before being sold



- Magic Hotline, operated from 1986 to 2025 before being sold



I've had the pleasure of teaching business courses at half a dozen universities and dozens of seminars and workshops around the world. It turns out I love both teaching *and* business, and I'm a lifelong entrepreneur. We are not so smart at age twenty-two!

The Bottom Line

I love being an entrepreneurial entertainer! Share *your* stories and ideas: kent@kentcummins.com.

Do you love magic? Me, too! Listen to "Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center" at www.fantasticmagiccenter.com.



Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

Celebrate!

Celebrations breed healthy clubs! Prospering clubs celebrate the big things, the little things, the fun things, and even a few imaginary things. Your club has a reason to celebrate today. Trust me, it's there!

Here's the thought behind this concept. Daily life can be difficult. We can choose to either allow our members to share the same dull meetings or to inject some extra joy into their lives. You hold the power to bring this spirit of celebration into every club encounter.

Countless studies report that celebrations are beneficial to our mental and physical well-being. The simplest celebrations create an aura of optimism, promote a positive mindset, increase self-worth, and reduce stress.

These celebrations don't need to be big parties or social gatherings. They're about creating upbeat and positive experiences at our club meetings and side events, and moments that offer the spirit of recognition and unity for our members. Celebrations release dopamine into our brains, a natural stimulant affecting our mental reward system. They create a healthy unifying bond among our members. Consider these celebratory opportunities.

Birthdays. Birthdays are standard fare, yet it is surprising how many clubs completely ignore this opportunity. Simply recognizing member birthdays during our meetings makes a huge impact. Create memorable moments with a simple cake or treat for those special milestone birthdays.

Personal milestones. Where do we begin? Celebrate weddings, anniversaries, new babies, graduations, college-bound members, promotions, new homes, and more. This list is endless! Celebrate military members who are about to transfer to a new assignment or those who have just returned from overseas. Recognize members who have opened a new business. Do you have an author or artist in your club? Celebrate the release of their newest work!

Member milestones. Celebrate the one-year, five-year, and continuing milestone anniversaries of your members' joining dates. What about a ceremonial induction celebration for a member joining the I.B.M.? Your club secretary can easily record and track these significant dates. Create a Member Spotlight to recognize and share the accomplishments of a different member each month. Help the owner of your local magic shop or performance venue celebrate the anniversary of their grand opening! Celebrate the release of a new commercial effect, show, or personal appearance. Recognize those members receiving national awards or citations for their work with magic.

Holiday celebrations. Plan meeting themes and decorations around the various seasons and holidays. Plan a magic-themed White Elephant gift exchange for Christmas. Invite a member to explain and share the joys of Hannukah or Kwanza. Host a themed Halloween costume party or séance. Organize a magic-themed Easter

“egg” hunt or plot a search for the leprechaun’s pot o’ gold. Invite members to create magical routines based on the founding fathers or our flag for Independence Day. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with sombrero and sarape magic. Honor our veterans on Veteran’s Day. Plan a holiday-themed club banquet for the sheer fun of it.

Historical events. Celebrate the birthdays of famous magicians with brief biographic lectures. Share the historical contributions of our magical predecessors such as Houdini’s reported spy craft and Jasper Maskelyne’s warfare wizardry. Don’t overlook Richard Potter, the first documented American-born magician or German immigrant Joseph Broome, credited with posting America’s earliest-known advertisement for a performing magician in New York City in 1734. Ask a local librarian or historian to help you research local performance venues hosting famous nineteenth and twentieth-century magicians and other magic-related events in local history.

Magic-free events. Offer opportunities for members and their families to share non-magical interests. Consider hosting board game nights, murder mystery dinners, costume parties, karaoke nights, and trivia nights. Establish a book club sharing insights and effects gleaned from a different magic text each month. Enjoy a group picnic in the park, day at the beach, or backyard barbeque. Offer classes on juggling, improv, stand-up comedy, acting, and dancing. Plan a club outing to a local pro sport or theater event. Arrange a casual happy hour gathering at a local bar or restaurant for members to mingle and connect. Ask your closest theme or amusement park guest service rep to help you organize a “Day of Magic” celebration. This list goes on!

Celebrate the community. Organize a just-for-fun strolling showcase at a local park or venue. Visit a senior community center. Support a fundraiser for a cherished local charity. Team up with a local charity to create a showcase with food, clothing, or toy donations as the cost of admission.

Host a neighborhood block party or outdoor magic-themed movie event. Team up with a local coffee house or brewery with a comedy or talent open mic event. Does your community have a historic magic, circus, or other entertainment connection? Organize a club-sponsored tour.

For no real reason at all. Don’t have anything to celebrate? Put your creativity to work and invent a reason! Make a big deal out of something that is completely inconsequential. With the right creative angle, anything can serve as a reason to celebrate! Did your city just open a new park? Cover the park with buskers! First snowfall of winter? Offer a “Day of Strolling Magic” celebration to your local children’s museum or favorite park. Invite club and community families to a club-sponsored snowman competition, sledding party, or snowball fight! Live near a beach? Sponsor an amateur sandcastle competition!

The anatomy of a celebration. You may be thinking, “This sounds expensive!” All it costs is a little imagination, creativity, and teamwork to make celebrations fun, memorable, and affordable. Frequency and energy are more important than elaborate displays. Find a reason to celebrate every month. Treat each celebration as an infusion of energy and joy! Inspire creativity by inviting member families to submit their own ideas!

We can always weave a little more joy and excitement into our club’s routines. Little moments. Big moments. Simple gifts. Elaborate gifts. Moments of recognition and affirmation. You’ve got this! C’mon, let’s celebrate!

Skip Way has served our magic youth as a member of the Youth Committee since 2007. He is the Director of Magic Youth Raleigh, the I.B.M. Youth program sponsored by the Lee-Snavely I.B.M. Ring 199 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Skip welcomes your comments and inquiries via IBMYouth@magician.org.



Conjurer's Foolosophy

JOE HERNANDEZ

I've learned, and find it intriguing, that while many individuals may logically grapple with the concept of impossibility, on an emotional level there's a deep-seated longing to embrace the extraordinary and the unattainable. This emotional pull often drives people to seek out narratives and experiences that actively challenge the boundaries of reality, offering them a temporary escape from the constraints of their daily lives and a journey into the realms of hope and possibility. Conjuring is a means to this end.

I've learned that magicians allow themselves to be only as good as they think they deserve to be.

I've learned that having a woman "pick a card" always makes me feel good.

I've learned that it's best to look prosperous if you seek high compensation.

I've learned that it's tough to go back to working as an assistant after you've been a solo performer.

I've learned that mistakes can serve as invaluable teachers in our journey of growth and self-improvement, especially in our performance. Each misstep offers a unique opportunity to reflect on what went wrong, understand the reasons behind it, and gain insights that can guide better decisions in the future. This process of reflection empowers us, giving us the control to learn and grow from our errors. Embracing my errors has allowed me to cultivate resilience and adaptability, transforming challenges into lessons that shape my character and perspective.

I've learned that the more comfortable you become with your skills, the less you will grow.

I've learned that you must remain childlike to become an adult magician.

I've learned that magic theory is not the same as the theory of magic, at least in theory.

I've learned that I tend to talk when I notice my silence.

I've learned that life is a series of risks and challenges, each moment filled with uncertainty. It's the very nature of life, an inevitable part of our journey. Yet, I've also understood that these challenges are not to be feared but embraced. The alternative, a life of inaction, offers no opportunity for growth, connection, or true fulfillment. So, instead of fearing the unknown, we should accept it as an inevitable part of life's journey.

I've learned that a mirror has no eyes but sees what you see.

I've learned that one must be prepared to perform for as long as possible but stop after three tricks.

I've learned that magic grows out of a collision between the free play of imagination, which creates illusions, and the disillusionment of reality.

This excerpt is from Joe Hernandez's book *The Foolosophy of Conjuring*. Joe is the author of many books, including *Magic Babylon*, *Houdini: The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*, *Phonetastic*, *Houdini's Reflections*, and *Conjuring Wisdom Volumes I & II*. Visit www.conjurerswisdom.com or www.booksbyjoe.com.



When teaching students, I like to share the secrets of the Si Stebbins stack. This is good for two reasons:

1. Very little memory work is involved.
2. A novice can dazzle their friends with the stack, then shuffle the deck and move into other routines.

The stack allows for some excellent magic.

August is the time of the year when you want to reach out to schools and libraries about offering classes as an after-school program. Create a flyer and compile a mailing list. Our *Linking Ring* magazine is packed with marketing tips, so take a moment to read them.

EFFECT: ACAAN Ask your helper to name any suit. Let's say they pick hearts. Now ask them to think of any card between ace and king. If they think of a picture card, jack is 11, queen is 12, and king is 13. Let them know this effect requires some math, so they should consider a number they can work with. (This tends to get them to use a smaller number, making the math easier.) Once they have settled on a number, ask them to double it and then double it again.

For example, let's say they're thinking of the Six of Hearts. $6 \times 2 = 12 \times 2 = 24$. All you need to do is ask them for the sum. Taking the deck face up, you begin to deal off twenty-three cards, then stop. Ask them what card they're thinking of. They will say Six of Hearts. Now show that the twenty-

fourth card is indeed the Six of Hearts. This all works due to the Si Stebbins stack.

MODUS OPERANDI: If you do not know the stack, take a full deck and start by placing the Six of Clubs face up on the table. Now, add cards by threes and use the CHASED system: clubs, hearts, spades, and diamonds. So, Six of Clubs, Nine of Hearts, Queen of Spades, and Two of Diamonds until you end at the Three of Diamonds. To begin, you take out the deck of cards and cut it as you're asking them to think of a suit. As you spread through the face-up cards, cut the King of Hearts and all the cards above it to the top. Ask them about their suit; if it is not a heart, say, "I will place one card in a particular position in the deck." Look for the king, which matches the suit they mention, and cut all the cards above it to the top of the deck. Now ask them to think of a value ace to king. Once they have the value, ask them to double it and double it again. Ask for the sum and hold the cards face up, count off one less than the number they told you. Stop and ask them for the card, then show them the next card is their card, right at the number they created.

The wonderful thing is the stack does everything for you. Play with it and teach it in your next class.

Until next time,

Bob Durante
bobdurante55@gmail.com



International Brotherhood of Magicians Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting Mr. Mike Dunagan



**July 10, 2025
Houston, TX – 11:15 a.m. (CDT)**

Call to Order

The Annual Business Meeting of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (I.B.M.) was held on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at the Royal Sonesta Galeria Houston. The meeting was called to order by International President Mr. Mike Dunagan at 11:17 a.m. (CDT). International Secretary, Ms. Simone Marron, was present to record the Minutes, and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual Business Meeting

The Minutes from the 2024 Annual Business Meeting were approved by unanimous consent, and the Minutes Approval Committee was discharged from its duties.

Roll Call

The following members were in attendance:

- Board members – Mr. Mike Dunagan, Mr. Stephen Levine, Mr. Jason Michaels, Ms. Simone Marron, Mr. Charles Arkin, Mr. Keith Fields, Mr. David Garrard, Mr. Jeff Sobel, Mr. Scott Cantrell, Mr. Matt Stanley, Mr. Mike Woodward, Mr. Mike Stratman, Mr. Rolando Santos, Mr. William Evans, and Mr. Oscar Muñoz.
- Non-Board members and guests included: Executive Editor of *The Linking Ring*, Mr. Sammy Smith, Executive Secretary Mrs. Sindie Richison, and Legal Advisor Mr. Timothy Vient. The names of other guests in attendance were recorded separately.

Appointment of a Minutes Approval Committee

International President Mr. Mike Dunagan appointed Mr. Jason Michaels, Mr. Keith Fields, and Mr. Charles Arkin to the Minutes Approval Committee.

Adoption of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda which was then adopted by unanimous consent.

- Revision of Mission Statement – Keith Fields (Old Business)
- Awards of Recognition – Mike Dunagan (New Business)

Reports of International Officers

Officers and Committee Chairs in attendance were asked to give a brief summary of their reports that appeared in the Big Book of Reports for the benefit of the members present at the meeting.

International President – Mr. Mike Dunagan. Mr. Mike Dunagan stated what a spectacular experience he has had as International President, and he is very appreciative for having served.

International President-Elect – Mr. Stephen Levine. Mr. Levine reported that the future five Convention dates and locations are in the Convention program. Mr. Mike Dunagan has done a great job with the monthly leadership Zooms. Mr. Levine is very excited about the new website and the coming year.

International Vice President – Mr. Jason Michaels. Mr. Michaels had an exciting year. Being Chairman of the Marketing Committee took up much of his time. He has been involved in general decision making, leadership continuity calls and brainstorming.

International Treasurer – Mr. Charles Arkin. Mr. Arkin has now served on the Board for eleven years. He has been working on the budget and just had the updated rolling three-year budget approved with some great cost saving initiatives. He has also been working on the Youth Scholarship program which rolled out last November and has already received about two hundred donations.

International Secretary – Ms. Simone Marron. Ms. Marron continues to work with the office, members, and Board Members. She also continues to update the website, and serve on the Convention Committee, including booking of Convention dealers as well as working on the administration of the Lance Burton Teen Seminar.

Reports of Committees & Cost Centers

Convention – Mr. Oscar Muñoz & Mr. Stephen Levine. Mr. Muñoz has decided not to step down as Convention chair and will take this position again in St. Louis.

Executive Editor of *The Linking Ring* – Mr. Sammy Smith. Mr. Smith reported that Steve Schlanger, Ring Report Editor proofread and edited 547,000 words in the last year and has processed over five million words in the last ten years. Mr. Schlanger would like someone to take over as Ring Report Editor in the fall. Mr. Smith also recognized Ron Sylvester, Broken Wand Editor, who has also written cover stories.

Head Office International Executive Secretary – Mrs. Sindie Richison. Mrs. Richison reported that she has been collaborating with the Website Committee. She also renegotiated a new lease for the office and a significantly reduced rate with the internet provider, which included a new router. Mrs. Richison thanked the members and the Board for attending.

Endowment & Development Fund – Mr. Bill Evans, Mr. Rolando Santos, & Mr. Shawn Farquhar. Mr. Evans reported that the EDF gave ten thousand dollars to the I.B.M. for the lecture series. They also arranged for the I.B.M. members to be able to watch *Lost in the Shuffle* online. Mr. Santos stated that the 1882 book *Modern Magic* with the 1891 cover was published to gift to Life Members with the remainder being donated to the I.B.M.

Membership Committee – Mr. Oscar Muñoz. Mr. Muñoz reported that membership numbers are doing good, and he hopes to see them getting even better.

Sick & Convalescent Committee – Jim Short. Mr. Short reported that notices are coming in at the expected rate, and he is responding to all, and sending out condolence messages when necessary. Mr. Short thanked fellow committee members Kevin Carney and Joe M. Turner, as well as Mr. Tony Dunn, Mrs. Sindie Richison and Ms. Simone Marron. He is now on the Board of Lisa Menna's Cause to Wonder which ties in nicely.

TVP/Ring Counselor – Mr. Jeff Sobel. Mr. Sobel reported that the engagement rate was 32 percent last July and is now 72 percent. Mr. Sobel is looking to engage more internationally, and it is

at 56 percent currently. Monthly Ring Leadership Zoom calls should include anyone wanting involvement in the organization, and not just Ring Leaders. Volunteers are always needed and there are benefits to volunteering as this year a one-hundred-dollar rebate on Convention registration was offered for TVP's and Ring Presidents.

Long Range Planning – Mr. Jeff Sobel. Mr. Sobel stated that many organizations struggle with succession planning. A smooth handoff of senior roles is essential. At the midyear meeting, the Board executed a brainstorming session focusing on Ring relations and revenue growth, and have now started implementing the ideas that were captured.

Awards Committee – Ms. Melody Muñoz. Oscar Muñoz reported that all awards that were needed were ordered and kept within budget.

Life Member Committee – Mike Woodward. Mr. Woodward reported that the program continues to grow, and that twenty new life members have joined since last year giving a total of two hundred and twenty-six life members. Life members receive priority seating at Convention shows and will now receive a copy of the new *Modern Magic* book. The first live Zoom event will be coming up soon for life members.

Marketing Committee – Mr. Jason Michaels. Mr. Michaels reported that this is a committee that takes action and gets things done. The goal of the committee is communications with members and the outside world, and to improve our branding, and support our Convention. This is being done through our e-Newsletter which is put together by Mr. Michaels and Ms. Simone Marron, and through the Ambassador of Magic program led by Mr. David Garrard. The Convention has been supported through the newsletter, social media and ads by our entire committee and Mr. Ryan Pilling and Ms. Tiffany Sauvage.

The new virtual lecture series was led by Mr. Scott Cantrell, and Mr. Ryan Pilling's lecture had 500 registrations and 350 unique attendees. Lead magnet funnels and list building are continuing.

Mr. Jim Driscoll and Mr. Matt Stanley are leading up Publicity and PR efforts, and they created press releases which the local TV station ran, which helped with Convention show ticket sales.

In February the I.B.M. podcasts were released with Jason Michaels, Scott Cantrell and Ben Young. As of June 20th, the YouTube page had 737 views with 86.2 hours of viewing time, and the audio had 1,083 downloads, which doesn't include streaming. Ms. Meadow Perry, Ms. Simone Marron, and Mr. Jason Michaels have all assisted on social media. Marketing has also supported Ring 2100.

Publishing Committee – Mr. Scott Cantrell. Mr. Cantrell thanked his committee members Mr. Shawn Farquhar, Mr. Sammy Smith, and Mr. Mike Dunagan, with Mr. Rolando Santos as a consultant. The Publishing Committee is grateful to the EDF for the donation of books. Their mission is to spread the art of magic throughout the world. After completing a survey, it was decided that the next book would be a tribute to Ian Adair. Mr. Cantrell thanked Mr. Sammy Smith for his contribution.

Technology Transformation Committee – Mr. Eric Schuster. Mr. Schuster reported that the new website will be fresh, modern, clean, and mobile friendly. It will be easy to navigate on a centralized cloud-based platform. Most manual tasks will be automated with data and insight at our fingertips. This will help with future growth. It is hoped that the new website will be ready to launch in the fall. The pages on the new website to pre-order *Modern Magic*, and to register for the 2026 Annual Convention are ready now. Mr. Keith Fields, Mr. Scott Cantrell, Mr. Jason Michaels, Ms. Simone Marron, Mrs. Sindie Richison, and Mr. Mike Dunagan have all been instrumental in making this happen.

Youth Committee – Keith Fields. Mr. Fields reported that he is excited by all he has heard and is proud to be a part of it. Mr. Fields looks forward to seeing the monthly Zoom call with teens moving forward, which will start in September.

Diversity & Inclusion – Dwight Redman. Mr. Redman has nothing new to report but stated that the I.B.M. is a fair and welcoming organization to everybody.

Grievance Committee – Mr. Bill Evans. Mr. Evans reported that happily he has nothing to report.

Legal Advisor – Timothy Vient. Mr. Vient stated that he took over as Legal Advisor in February, and is honored to be in this position, and hopes to continue.

Necrology Service

The necrology service and breaking of the wand ceremony was carried out by Mr. Rolando Santos, Mr. Bill Evans, and I.B.M. Chaplain Rev. Tina Salvaneschi, to memorialize the members we lost during the previous year.

The Linking Ring Awards – Mr. Sammy Smith

This year's recipients for articles published between April 2024 and March 2025 were as follows:

BAMMAN-WILLMARTH TROPHY

KENT CUMMINS
"Marketing Magic"
2015–2025

THE LINKING RING AWARD OF MERIT

DAVID HAVERSAT
"The Canadian Houdini: William Harkness"
April 2024

JOE NOTARO
"The Search for the Holy Grail of Houdini Handcuffs"
April 2024

JIM MAGUS
"Harold Lloyd and the Magician's Coat Sequence"
September 2024

THE LINKING RING AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

DAN ALESSINI
"One-Man Parade"
September 2024

GARNET GARVEN
"Mathemagic Parade 2.0"
February 2025

LORRAINE MORAN
"An Interview with Ali Shadune"
March 2025

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO *THE LINKING RING*

RICK HEATH

Outstanding Contributions to
The Linking Ring
2024–2025

ROY FIELD

Outstanding Contributions to
The Linking Ring
2024–2025

THOMAS HENRY

Outstanding Contributions to *The Linking Ring*
2024–2025

Old Business

Further to the motion being passed by the Board of Trustees at the midyear meeting, Mr. Keith Fields proposed a change to the Mission Statement in the Bylaws with the following motion:

MOTION:

That the existing:

Article II MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Sec. 1. The mission of the organization shall be to promote fellowship and the advancement of magic as an entertainment art through premier publications, quality Conventions, an international structure, and progressive leadership.

Sec. 2. To accomplish this mission, the following objectives are established:

- A. Organize and associate those interested in the art of magic and its advancement without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;
- B. Advance the ethics of the magical fraternity by adopting a Code of Ethics;
- C. Publish a magazine;
- D. Hold an Annual Convention;
- E. Encourage humane treatment of animals used in magic presentations;
- F. Oppose public exposures of the principles of the art of magic; and
- G. Protect the magic creations of authors and inventors.

Be replaced with the following:

Article II MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Sec. 1. The Mission of the I.B.M. is to foster a global community of magic enthusiasts and professionals, celebrating the art of magic as a dynamic form of entertainment. Through innovative publications, exceptional events, and visionary leadership, the I.B.M. aims to inspire creativity, elevate standards, and cultivate a welcoming environment to all.

Sec. 2. To achieve our mission, we are committed to:

- A. Bringing together and embracing everyone passionate about the art of magic every day.
- B. Supporting high ethical standards in the magical community through a Code of Ethics.
- C. Delivering world-class publications that inform and inspire.
- D. Hosting an Annual Convention to connect, educate and showcase the art of magic.

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Award of Recognition. Mr. Mike Dunagan presented the honorary life membership to Mr. Mike Stratman.

The Medallion of Honor will be presented at the gala show this evening to Mr. Rolando Santos. This is the first time this honor has been presented in ten years.

Order of Merlin Presentations – Mr. David Garrard. Order of Merlin presentations were made to all new Order of Merlin members, as well as those achieving a new tier.

Installation of Officers:

The installation of officers was conducted by International President Mr. Mike Dunagan.

International President:	Mr. Stephen Levine
International President Elect:	Mr. Jason Michaels
International Vice President:	Mr. Keith Fields
International Treasurer:	Mr. Charles Arkin
International Secretary:	Ms. Simone Marron
Executive Committee:	Mr. Eric Schuster 2025-2028
Executive Committee:	Mr. Vincent Reres 2025-2028

There being no further business to come before the members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the International President, Mr. Mike Dunagan adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m. (CDT) by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Simone Marron
I.B.M. International Secretary

Moving?

Please notify the I.B.M. Headquarters Office at least four to six weeks before you move. By notifying the office ahead of time you will receive *The Linking Ring* at your new address and avoid paying a five-dollar per issue charge to resend the missed issue to your new address. This charge is merely what it costs the I.B.M. to resend an issue, which includes the USPS charge for sending the cover of the misdirected magazine back to us, plus the cost of resending the issue to your new address. This does not include the cost of the extra issues or the office staff's time. Plan ahead and save the extra cost for all of us – and get your issues of *The Linking Ring* coming to your new address right away. Please see page four of every issue of *The Linking Ring* for the contact information for the Headquarters Office.



Sick and Convalescent

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Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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Phil Perkins, The Springs of Lady Lake, 620 Griffin Ave., Lady Lake, FL 32159

William Prioretto, RNC at greater Pittsburgh, 890 Weatherwood Lane,
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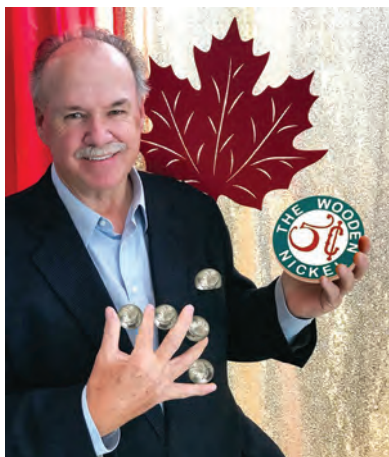
Collis Roach III, 106 Hunter Ct., Macon, GA 31210-2164

Chuck Welch, 4855 N. Loudon Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401



Garnet Garven *One-Man Parade*

Written by Garnet Garven • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen



Self-Working Coin Magic

There are two motivations for this Parade. First, I've been exploring the many self-working magic publications by the late, great Karl Fulves. We lost him in February 2023 at the age of eighty-four, but his magic lives on. This Parade is a bit of a tribute to him. In particular, I reference his *Self-Working Coin Magic* book.

The second source of motivation was the following. I had a couple of elder magic friends tell me they no longer do coin magic because they have lost hand and finger dexterity. I quickly (but erroneously) claimed there are plenty of self-working coin effects that do not use gimmicked coins or sleight of hand. I urged them not to abandon

coin magic just because of aging hands and pointed to the Karl Fulves coin book.

But I was wrong! Most of these coin effects require some sleights and coin manipulation. However, I had a few self-working effects in my repertoire that I collected over the years. I also searched high and low in the magic literature to locate effects that I've been able to adapt to coin magic, but there weren't many. So, I have ten effects I want to share as a thematic parade.

As part of this Parade, I want to challenge our *The Linking Ring* readership to share other self-working, ungimmicked, no-sleight coin effects. If I receive enough suggestions, I will curate a future Parade of these shared routines.

This is my fourth One-Man Parade. My first had a Valentine's Day theme and was published in the February 2023 edition, winning a 2023 Linking Ring Award. My second Parade was published in the November 2023 edition with a focus on mathemagic, which also won a 2024 Linking Ring Award. My third Parade was a follow-on called "Mathemagic 2.0" and was published in the February 2025 edition of *The Linking Ring*.

To my dry-handed, aging magician compeers with their warm hearts and sharp minds, I say "pick a coin, any coin, and enjoy. To my collaborators, I.B.M. members Warren Morse

of Los Angeles, Lisa Krol of Canada, Dr. Rolf Häcker of Germany, and Gunnar Kr. Sigurjonsson of Iceland, thank you for your reviews, supportive feedback, and assistance. To my other magic friends, too many to name, thank you for your input and friendship.

Garnet Garven is a retired business school professor and longtime dean. A devoted lifelong hobbyist, his magic has appeared in *The Linking Ring*, *M-U-M*, and *VANISH* magazines. He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (I.B.M.), the Society of American Magicians (SAM), The Magic Circle (MMC), Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques (FISM), and is the immediate past president of the Palm Springs Magicians Club (Ring 291). He resides in Canada but spends winters in Palm Springs, California.

Goldilocks's Coins

EFFECT: This simple coin routine employs the old nineteenth-century English fairy tale *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. With the magician's back turned, a spectator secretly takes a coin from a porridge bowl containing five marked coins. After the fairy tale is told, the spectator's coin is returned and the coins are mixed. The magician turns around and the spectator's selected coin is identified.

SET-UP: Any assortment of coins can be used, but I suggest quarters. In advance, mark the coins with a black Sharpie marker as shown (Fig. 1). As an option, the coins can be placed in a shallow bowl that resembles a porridge bowl in furtherance of the Goldilocks theme.



Fig. 1

METHOD: This is an old but very effective coin prediction effect. It uses the ambient room temperature of coins. Metal feels cold because it conducts heat extremely well. Since room temperature is lower than your body temperature, the metal coins will feel cold, but the held coin

will quickly absorb the heat from one's skin, making it feel warm. When the spectator selects and holds a coin for thirty or more seconds, the spectator's body temperature warms the coin. When touching each of the coins, the magician can easily identify which coin was selected and held by the spectator as it is warmer than the rest.

WORKING AND PERFORMANCE: Phase One

The magician begins, "I am going to show you how magic can be used in crime detection. I think we all know the nineteenth-century English fairy tale of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, where Goldilocks illegally enters a home and tastes the porridge. It's the standard fairy tale of break and enter, burglary, trespassing, and home invasion. My lawyer friends tell me because the door was unlocked, the offense would only be charged as a misdemeanor rather than a felony."

The magician continues, "As exhibit one, I have one of the actual porridge bowls from the crime scene. There might also be another crime committed of 'dine and dash.' This Goldilocks gal is at risk of becoming a career criminal. In the bowl are five coins labelled with the initials of the crime victims. I will explain this later."

The magician explains that the forest rangers, as the local authorities in the area, believe one of the five bears was the guilty party who left the cottage door unlocked. The magician says, "We need the help of someone in the audience to solve this crime." Tilt the bowl, so the coins are visible

to the audience and the spectator or dump the coins into your hand and noisily drop them back into the bowl. Place the bowl on a table-top. Try to minimize handling the coins.

The magician continues, "As you can see, all the coins have the initials of the victims on one side. I will place these face up so they can be identified. We have Papa Bear, the man of the household. He, of course, claims no responsibility for anything. He is quite bearish, and says he has not spoken to Mama Bear in months because he did not want to interrupt her! Then there was Mama Bear, a homemaker and the one that was really in charge. Never mess with a mother bear. Baby Bear is an only child or an 'only bear,' nicknamed Cubby. But there were two additional visitors I will explain later."

The magician continues, "I am going to turn these coins with the marks face down. Because justice is blind, I am also going to turn my back. After I do, I would like you to select one coin and hold it tightly between your thumb and index finger, so that the marking cannot be seen. Do you have any questions? Ready to begin? Great."

Phase Two

The magician says, "Okay, my back is turned away and I cannot see what you are doing. Please remove one of the face-down coins without looking at the marked side and hold it tightly in your hand so that neither you nor anyone else can see your selection. I am going to turn around now." Note: The following patter provides the necessary time for the selected coin to absorb the spectator's body temperature.

The magician recounts, "The original version of the Goldilocks tale tells of an impudent old woman who enters the forest home of three bachelor bears, not a family at all, while they are away for a walk in the forest. She eats some of their porridge, sits down on one of their chairs, breaks it, and sleeps in one of their beds. When the three bears return and discover her, she wakes up, jumps out of the window, and is never seen again."

The magician continues, "The second version replaces the old woman with a young, naive, blonde-haired girl named Goldilocks, and the third and by far best-known version replaces the bachelor trio with a family of three bears. There was Papa Bear, Mama Bear, and Baby Bear. But, like with most crime stories, we have learned that there is often 'fake news' involved. There were actually five occupants of the residence at the time of this home invasion. Visiting from Jellystone was Baby Bear's cousin 'Boo-Boo' and Papa Bear's nephew 'Smokey.' By the way, did you know that Smokey the Bear's middle name is actually 'The'? But I digress."

The magician says, "There are five coins with initials on each coin. I am going to turn my back again. When I do, I want you for the first time to look at the initial on your coin, show the audience, return the coin to the bowl, and give the bowl a shake to mix the coins. It does not matter if any of the coins are face up or face down at this point. Okay, are you done? Great."

THE REVEAL: With all five coins in the bowl, pick up and examine each coin. This needs to be done without delay. As you hold each coin between your thumb and index finger, it should be very easy to identify four cold coins and one warm coin – the spectator's coin.

Pick up each coin in any order, show the initial and announce the ownership of the coin. The magician says, "The first coin is marked M and belongs to Mama Bear." Give it a sniff and announce that you do not smell any porridge. Set the coin on the table. Complete this for the balance of the coins, holding the coin close to your eye, close to your ear, etc., until you have located the warmer coin. Set it aside and complete checking all the coins. The magician picks up the warm coin previously placed on the table and announces the spectator's coin. The magician says, "It's time to 'bare all,' as I believe you have correctly identified the guilty bear that left the cottage door unlocked. It was the [selection] bear."

Double-Deuce Coins

EFFECT: This is an impromptu, no-set-up routine that can be performed on stage or close-up in a coffee shop. A series of five numbers is created using the minting dates of coins and dollar bill serial numbers. The numbers are totaled and match the magician's written prediction.

METHOD: This is an old mathematical effect I've adapted using the minting dates of a quarter, dime, and nickel, together with the serial numbers on some paper bills, to create and match a predicted five-digit number. The earliest applied magic reference I could find using this method was seventy-three years ago in *The Linking Ring*: Walter Essman, *The Linking Ring*, Volume 32, Number 7, September 1952, pp. 64-65. One of the limitations of the original effect is that the spectator needs to use numbers with the same number of digits (three, four, or five) and the number cannot begin with a 0 or 9. Using the dates of coins solves this wrinkle and offers a logic for the routine (**Fig. 1**).



I call this routine “Double-Deuce Coins” because of the clever method used to obtain the predicted number. It just seems too easy. When the spectator tells you the date of their first coin – the quarter – you calculate the prediction. You subtract 2 from the date and place 2 in front of the result. Take away a deuce and “add” a deuce. For example, if the date on the quarter is 2018, take away 2 (which equals 2016), and place an additional number 2 in front of the date. The predicted number will be 22,016. It works every time.

You will see in the performance later that when five sets of numbers are added, they always total the prediction. This is completed before anyone realizes the routine has even begun.

WORKING AND PERFORMANCE:

There are two performance approaches. One can borrow actual coins from the audience or use imaginary coins. The patter below is for a combined approach. Any country's coin currency can be substituted and the patter adapted.

Step 1 – Get Ready Secret

The magician says, “Does anyone have a quarter coin I can borrow?” The first person to offer a coin is now your new assistant! The magician continues, “Thank you very much. Would you be kind enough to assist me? That way you can keep an eye on your coin. Thank you again. I hope you have better eyesight than I do, but can you read the date on your coin.” If they say 2018, for example, remember the date and make some small talk with the spectator. For example, ask their name, where they are from, and if have they ever been a magician's assistant before. This provides a time delay and disguises the fact that you already know the date on the quarter.

The magician announces, “I am going to make a prediction.” On stage I use two small whiteboards or clipboards. In close-up, you can use coffee shop napkins, business cards or slips of paper. The magician continues, “I am going to write a prediction on this clipboard.” Look upward in a pondering way and then say something like “Okay, I think I've got it – yes, I am pretty sure.” In large print, write the prediction number 22,016. Turn the clipboard face down on a side table so no one sees your prediction.

The magician asks the spectator, “Do you still have your quarter? What was the date again? 2018. Please take this clipboard and write in large print the date of your quarter.”

Step 2 – Dime Date

The magician says, “I should have asked you before, but do you also have a dime? If not, no problem, it's hard to see the date on a dime anyway.” Note, even if they

have a dime, say, “That’s okay, let’s try something more difficult.” The magician continues, “Let’s make this demonstration more interesting. Imagine you are holding a shiny dime. Pretend to hold the coin at eye level and have a spectator do the same.” Next, the magician says, “I think you are looking at the wrong side. Turn your coin over to the heads side. That’s better. You should see a portrait. Do you see it? Who is it? Is it Franklin D. Roosevelt?” The spectator confirms that it is. The magician continues, “Maybe the D in his name stands for ‘dime?’ Just kidding, of course. He was the thirty-second president of the United States. Next to the words ‘In God We Trust’ there should be a date. What date do you see? Before you answer, I will let you use a past date or you could even use a future date, like 2045 or 2132. Your choice – after all, it’s your dime.”

This method can use any date or four-digit number. The magician says, “You want to use a future date. 2245 you say (for example). You have a very good imagination. I wonder if they will still be making dimes in the year 2245. On your clipboard, please write the date of your imaginary dime below the date of your real quarter.”

Step 3 – Forced Third Number

The third and fifth dates or numbers are provided by the magician. In the regular mathematic demonstration of the effect, the instructor simply creates the number with no real explanation. The spectator creates three numbers and the instructor creates two numbers. Not very magical.

Most of the random coins provided from your audience will likely be dated 2000 or greater. There may be some coins from the 1990s, 1980s, or 1970s. To create the magician’s numbers, the key number 9999 is used. For 1900 dated coins, you will need numbers such as 1, 8, or 9. With coins dated 2000 or newer you will need the numbers 8 and 9. Of course other numbers will also be needed.

My solution is to use the serial numbers

on a couple of dollar bills. Having eight-numbered serial numbers increases the likelihood of finding a required number. Below is an example of a bill with lots of needed numbers (**Fig. 2**). If you require the number 1, point to the four 1s in the corners of the bill. The number 2 appears in four places, indicating where the bill was printed. There is even a small date of the bill series in the lower right side. In this sample bill, the actual serial number contains the numbers 0, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9. The only numbers missing are 3 and 7. Once you find another dollar bill with those numbers, you will have all the possibilities covered (1, 2, 3, and 7). Keep these bills for future performances – they are valuable!



The magician says, “Now it’s my turn. I don’t have an imagination like you or the eyesight, so I am going to create a number with the help of the serial numbers from some dollar bills with a print size I can actually read.” Retrieve the two bills from your pocket and hand them to your spectator. Exchange the bills with the spectator for their clipboard and marker.

2018 Spectator’s quarter date.

2245 Spectator’s imagined dime date.

7754 Magician’s number supposedly from paper bill serial numbers.

Note: 2245 and 7754 must total 9999. Below the dime date just write the number that adds to 9 (**Fig. 3**).

Holding the spectator’s clipboard and with marker in hand, the magician says (for this example), “Do you have any 7s? Okay, great. How about a 4 and a 5?” Write the number 7754 below the other numbers and return the clipboard and marker. Retrieve

Fig. 3

1 st Coin Line One	2,018	spectator's real quarter date
2 nd Coin Line Two	2,245	spectator's imaginary dime date
3 rd Coin Line Three	7,754	magician's forced serial numbers
	9,999	make lines 2 and 3 numbers add to 9
4 th Coin Line Four	1,982	spectator's real nickel date
5 th Coin Line Five	8,017	magician's second forced number
	9,999	make lines 4 and 5 numbers add to 9
Sum of Five Numbers	22,016	(add 2,018+2,245+7,754+ 1,982+8,017) note – the 9,999 are not written

the bills or leave them with the spectator to be used again for the last number.

Step 4 – Nickel Date

The magician says, “We now have three numbers. Let’s get back to reality and use a real coin this time. We have used a quarter and a dime. Let’s use a nickel or even a penny.” Use the spectator’s coin or the coin of another member of the audience. The magician says, “The date on your nickel is 1982 (for example). That’s an older coin. Please write that date below your column of numbers.”

Step 5 – Last Number

The magician says, “There were more numbers on those dollar bill serial numbers and they were easier to read.” Again, retrieve the spectator’s clipboard and marker. You now need the number 8017. Follow the same approach. Write the final number and draw a summation line below the fifth number.

2018	Spectator's quarter date.
2245	Spectator's imagined dime date.
7754	Magician's number supposedly from paper bill serial numbers.
1982	Spectator's nickel date.
8017	Magician's second number supposedly from paper bill serial numbers

Again, as in Step 3, 1982 and 8017 must add up to 9999 (**Fig. 3**).

$2018 + 2245 + 7754 + 1982 + 8017 = 22,016$, the same as the prediction.

Step 6 – The Reveal

Have the spectator show the audience the clipboard with the five numbers. The magician says, “You know what you do when you have a list of numbers? You add them up, of course!” While the spectator is adding, recap for the audience the random-

ness of the number selections. It may also be helpful for your spectator to have the assistance of someone from the audience with a calculator to assist as a checker.

The magician says, “Have you got a total? Great.” Glance at the number to make sure it’s correct. If not, have them double-check the addition. The magician concludes, “At the beginning of this demonstration, I wrote a prediction on this other clipboard. Please show both clipboards to the audience. A perfect match!”

Lucky Wooden Nickel

EFFECT: This routine can be performed in person, over the telephone, or on your favorite video conference platform. Using a spectator’s two nickel coins, the spectator selects one of the four digits in the date of each coin as their secret numbers. After a few calculations, the magician reveals the spectator’s secret numbers.

METHOD: The method behind this routine is from the field of recreational mathematics. There are a multitude of puzzles and arithmetic demonstrations where numbers are doubled, added, multiplied, and subtracted to result in a prediction of some sort. These math-based demonstrations will be familiar to many magicians. The limitation of most of these exercises is that there is often no logic as to why numbers were doubled or why other mathematical operations were performed, and so these demonstrations offer reduced performance value.

I have adapted this routine to use the value and minting dates of coins. The mathematics require doubling, the addition of five, and the multiplication of five, so using two nickels provides a logic to the performance. The minting dates on the coins also support using coins. The steps supporting the performance are presented below (Fig. 1).



WORKING AND PERFORMANCE:

The magician says, "When I got into magic, I told my family and friends that I wanted to find 'fame and fortune.' While I have achieved some notoriety in magic, the fortune part has been more elusive, maybe even illusive! My parents warned me that I would not have 'two nickels to rub together.' But here they are, so who's laughing now!"

Display two nickels, held between your thumb and index fingers while making a noise rubbing them together. The magician continues, "You are probably wondering if one of these is the first nickel I ever earned. Not sure, but I do have the first wooden nickel I ever received!" Return your nickels to your pocket.

Show the wooden nickel (Fig. 2a). The magician continues, "I was just a kid when I received this so-called coin. The fact that it was oversized, made from wood, and looked hand printed should have raised suspicion. But what did I know way back

then. I still believed in the Easter Bunny!"

Note: The back of the wooden nickel (Fig. 2b) will be used by the magician to write the spectator's secret numbers for the reveal. Also, note that the 9 – 4 reveal numbers are written as 4 – 9, so the orientation of numbers is the same when displayed to the audience by the magician and spectator for the finale.



Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b

You can design your wooden nickel any way you wish. I use three-inch wooden discs that can be sourced from craft stores. I use the image in Figure 2a, printed and pasted on a wooden disc. Other images can be found from sources online. Alternatively, black and brown markers can be used for the lettering. Leave the back of the disc blank to allow for the number reveal (Fig. 2b). To repeat the routine, use sandpaper to remove the markings from the back of the nickel or glue another wooden disc over the markings. You are ready to perform again.

Now, follow the seven steps below.

Step 1 – Assign the Coins

Have a spectator produce two of their own nickels. The magician says, "On the heads side of the coin, please locate the four-digit date on the first nickel and secretly select one of the digits. Turn the nickel over to the tail side and, using this Sharpie marker, write your secret number in large print. Do not let anyone see this. Do the same for the second nickel." Note that in this example, I have used the last digit in the dates, but any single digit in the date can be used, even zero.

The magician says, "Assign one nickel to me and one to yourself. Decide which nickel and number you wish to assign to

me. Place that nickel in your left front pocket. Do the same for your nickel and place that coin in your right front pocket.” If needed, you could provide your spectator with a small calculator.

Step 2 – Double the Trouble

The magician continues, “I hope you remember the nickel and number you assigned to me? The coin in your left front pocket. Since we are using two coins, take the number on the coin in your left pocket and double the number. For example, if the number was 9, you would double it to make a new number of 18.”

Step 3 – Add a Nickel

The magician says, “Take the sum of the new number and, since we are using a nickel, which is worth five cents, add 5.” ($18 + 5 = 23$)

Step 4 – Multiply by the Value of the Nickel

The magician says, “Since we just added the value of the nickel, let’s multiply this time. Take the total, after you doubled it, and add 5, which comes to 23. Then multiply it by the value of the nickel, which is 5. ($23 \times 5 = 115$)

Step 5 – Enter Second Nickel

The magician says, “Let’s get your coin into the game – the coin in your front right pocket. If you need to check the coin, please do so. Add the secret number on your coin to this running number.” ($115 + 4 = 119$)

“Tell everyone what number you have. You have 119. Hmm, that does not mean anything to me. Does it mean anything to you? Let’s recap. We doubled the value of the nickels, that’s 5 and 5. We then added 5 and multiplied by 5, so that’s 5 and 5 and 5 and 5, and that makes 20. Please subtract 20 from this number (99). Still does not ring a bell.”

Retrieve the wooden nickel with the back side facing the magician and a Sharpie marker, poised as if preparing to write.

Step 6 – Secret Subtraction

Secretly subtract the number 5 from the last total. ($99 - 5 = 94$)

Note: The secret number of your nickel will be 9 and the number on the spectator’s nickel will be 4. ($9 - 4$). Using the Sharpie marker, write the $9 - 4$ in reverse as $4 - 9$ so when shown to the audience, the orientation of the numbers will be the same as the spectator’s (Fig. 2b).

Step 7 – Wooden Nickel Reveal

The magician says, “At the beginning of this demonstration, I showed you my wooden nickel. I have written on the back of this wooden nickel what I believe is the secret number on my nickel, the one from your left front pocket. I have also written down the secret number of your nickel, the one in your front right pocket. Please remove both coins and hold these up so the audience can see your secret numbers.

The magician says, “A 9 for my coin and a 4 for your coin.” Display the wooden nickel to reveal the matching numbers. The magician concludes, “A perfect match! Baseball Hall of Famer Yogi Berra said ‘a nickel ain’t worth a dime anymore,’ but I think this wooden nickel may be more valuable than I thought. It is now my lucky wooden nickel.”

Odd Coin Out

EFFECT: This is an audience participation routine that can be performed with a large or small group. I have used this as a group facilitator for a team-building exercise. It could also be used by a master of ceremonies or guest speaker. There are several patterns that can be created to accompany this effect. This is a mathematical formula surrounded by a presentation that does all the work for you.

Each member of the audience has four coins – a quarter, a dime, a nickel, and a penny. Participants secretly select one of the coins and follow a series of instructions in which the coins are truly mixed and flipped. The participants lay their coins on their open palm to reveal that their selected coin is the only coin different from the rest. Their selected coin will be heads up while all the other coins will be tails up, or vice versa.

Another interpretation plays on the old song from Sesame Street, “One of These Things is Not Like the Other.”

METHOD: There are not many card effects that can be adapted for coins. Almost all card methods that involve mixing cards face up and face down can trace their origins to the creative principles of Robert “Bob” Hummer. An effect called “Baby Hummer” was published by *The Linking Ring* in December 1967 by Charles Hudson. He was the editor of the *The Linking Ring*’s “Card Corner” column for decades. He took Hummer’s sixteen-card effect and reduced it to just four cards, applying the CATO principle (Cut and Turn Over). My adaption is from Reinhard Müller’s routine “Baby Boom,” which appeared in Steve Beam’s *Semi-Automatic Card Tricks*, Vol 12, pp. 179-180, 2020 Trapdoor Productions. With the card routine, the face-up cards tend to flash. I think the method and performance is more effective and entertaining using my coin adaptation.

WORKING AND PERFORMANCE: I have included two presentation patters. The first is for a general audience and uses an “opposites attract” storyline. The second is for an audience of magicians with a tongue-in-cheek patter on “oddballs.”

General Audience Patter: This can be done as a “do as I do” routine if you wish to memorize the script. Or the magician can simply read the instructions to the audience as they follow along (Fig. 1). The magician says, “It is now time for some group participation. Have you ever heard the saying, ‘opposites attract’? For decades, psychologists and sociologists have suggested there is solid research evidence that opposites attract. But is this true? Let’s find out if you are ‘attractive’ or ‘unattractive,’ so to speak.”

Note: It’s likely that not everyone in the audience will have these four coins with them. Have people work in pairs or small groups, as long as they can see their person handling the coins.

“Let’s conduct an experiment. We are going to use four coins – a quarter, a dime,

a nickel, and a penny. Place these in any order you like, but make sure that the coins in your stack are all either heads up or tails up. You decide which way to begin. In every experiment there is a control group. In this case, we will use one coin to make sure we’re following the scientific method. I want each of you to secretly select one of the coins and move that coin to the top of the stack. Do not look at your neighbor, we do not want to foil the experiment! Remember your selected coin and now do the opposite, turn the entire stack over, facing the opposite direction.”

The magician continues, “To ensure the objectivity of this experiment, move the top coin to the bottom of the stack (Step 5). Next, let’s do the opposite. Reverse or flip the top coin and move it to the bottom (Step 6). Because this is an experiment in opposites, we can do opposite things. If you believe that opposites attract, spell the word YES and move one coin from the top of the stack to the bottom of the stack for each letter in YES, or three moves. If you do not think that opposites attract, spell the word NO and move the top coin to the bottom twice (Step 7).

Next, the magician says, “Let’s do the opposite again. Reverse or flip the top coin and move it to the bottom (Step 8). Do the opposite by not doing the opposite and move the top coin to the bottom without flipping it. (Step 9). Finally, let’s do something we have not yet done, turn the top coin over but leave it on the top. This coin is now opposite (Step 10). Frankly, I am getting a little confused. So, let’s end this experiment.”

For the reveal, the selected or secret coin will be either heads or tails and all the other coins will be the opposite. The audience can simply spread the coins out on the open palm of their hand. The magician can conclude by saying, “This was an experiment in attractiveness! I do not know what coin you selected or whether you choose to begin the experiment heads up or tails up, but I can tell you that your secret coin is opposite. I am not sure if this means that

opposites attract or distract. Maybe birds of a feather do not fly together!”

Fig. 1 Steps for Both Routine Patters	
Step 1	Stack a quarter, a nickel, a penny, and a dime.
Step 2	Mix the coins in any order, but keep all the coins either heads up or tails up (follow patter).
Step 3	Secretly select any coin and move it to the top of the stack. Everyone can be different.
Step 4	Flip over the stack.
Step 5	Move the top coin to the bottom.
Step 6	Reverse the top coin and place it on the bottom.
Step 7	Move coins top to bottom by spelling one coin for each letter (follow the patter options).
Step 8	Reverse the top coin and place on the bottom.
Step 9	Move the top coin to the bottom.
Step 10	Turn the top coin over and leave it on top of the stack.
Step 11	Set down and spread the coins. Everyone's secret coin will be the single one in the group. It will be heads or tails, but different from the other three coins.

Magician Group Patter: The magician says, “I see we have a lot of *odd balls* here today! No disrespect, but as magicians we are a little – if not a lot – odd. We are different, with a distinction (I hope), and see the world in a unique way.”

Rather than memorize, you can retrieve an index card from your pocket with the following list of synonyms printed. The magician continues, “Some of you might be offended at being labelled odd, so here are some alternatives: weird, strange, peculiar, bizarre, off center, unusual, abnormal, offbeat, quirky, curious, crazy, wacky, kooky, screwy, maybe even freakish.”

“While most of us might march to the

beat of a different drummer, being different can be a good thing. We need more diversity – same old, same old, is boring. I prefer to be referred to as eccentric, puzzling, mysterious, baffling, zany, uncommon, eerie, unconventional, or maybe even rare.”

The magician says, “Take out of your pocket four coins, four *different* coins. Remember, different is good. Let’s use a quarter, dime, nickel, and a penny. Place all the coins tails up. When you are different it is important to watch your back or your tail! Place the coins in a stack in any order, tails up. Now study the four coins, secretly select one of the coins, and bring it to the top of the stack. Maybe you want to select the ‘most different’ of all the coins, or maybe not. I need to remember that I am dealing with a group of odd people.”

The magician continues, “Now that you have covered your back, it is important to keep one’s head up. When you are different, you need to ‘be alert’ because the world needs more ‘lerts!” Flip the stack heads up.

Proceed with Steps 5 and 6 from the chart, but instead of spelling YES or NO as in Step 7, the magician can say, “Since this is a test of one’s ‘odd-ballishness,’ please spell the word ‘oddball’ while moving a coin from the top of the stack to the bottom for each letter. If you want to be really odd, spell ‘really odd.’ Complete the remaining steps.

For the reveal, the magician says, “At the beginning of this routine I told you this is a test to see if you are a real magician. A test to determine if you are odd enough to be part of this ancient fraternity. I don’t know what coin you selected at the beginning, but I am sure it was an odd choice and maybe different from the others around you. But now I can tell you that the coin you selected is facing the opposite direction (heads or tails) than the other three coins. Spread the coins in your hand and you will see that ‘one of these is not like the others.’ Congratulations, you passed the test – you are oddly a real magician!”

A Penny for Your Thoughts

EFFECT: A bag holding a collection of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters is presented. Both sides of each coin have been numbered with a black Sharpie marker. The magician removes one numbered penny coin and secretly covers the coin with a bottle cap, saying, “A penny for your thoughts.” A spectator randomly withdraws six numbered coins of any denomination to create a six-digit number. The number is noted. The coins are flipped over, displaying different numbers and arranged in any order by a spectator, to create a new six-digit number. The two numbers are added, and all the digits in that final number are totaled and reduced to a single digit. That final number matches the number of the penny under the bottle cap – a lucky penny, perhaps!

METHOD: The method uses “The Rearranged Dice Principle” by Thomas Henry which first appeared in *Liber Numerorum*, (Somerville, Massachusetts: Lybrary.com, 2019) pp. 1-12. and more

recently in *The Linking Ring*, Volume 103, Number 11, November 2023, pp. 56-60. I adapted the routine using numbered pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Magicians and some laypeople are aware the opposite sides of a dice add to seven. I have employed this feature by numbering the sides of each coin such that both sides add to seven. The randomness is further disguised by using an assortment of different denomination coin values.

It does not matter which six coins are selected or the order the coins are arranged to create the six-digit number. The number can be written left to right or right to left. Once all the coins are flipped, the coins can again be arranged in any order to create a second random number. The two numbers are added to create a final multi-digit number. All the digits of the final number are totaled and reduced to a single digit. That number will always be 6 and will match the number on the penny that was placed under the bottle cap. Of course, a penny with the number 6 showing is secretly selected by the magician at the beginning of the routine (**Fig. 1**).

Fig. 1

Below is an example of the ten steps used in the prediction. The letter represents the denomination of the coin and the number, of course, is the number marked on the coin.

Step 1	Six coins drawn (example).	P2	D2	Q3	N6	N1	P5	Lay coins in a horizontal row.
Step 2	Coins are rearranged.	N6	N1	Q3	P2	D2	P5	Final order of coins.
Step 3	First number created.	6	1	3	2	2	5	Write this number on a paper pad.
Step 4	Flip each coin over.	N1	N6	Q4	P5	D5	P2	Mix coins while flipping.
Step 5	Coins rearranged.	N1	N6	P5	Q4	P2	D5	Final order of coins.
Step 6	Second number created.	1	6	5	4	2	5	Write this number below first.
Step 7	Add the two numbers.	7	7	8	6	5	0	Totalled final number (Steps 3 and 6).
Step 8	Add all the six digits.							$7 + 7 + 8 + 6 + 5 + 0 = 33$
Step 9	Reduce to single digit.							$33 = 3 + 3 = 6$
Step 10	Lift bottle cap prediction.							Penny coin number 6 is a match.

Fig. 2



SET-UP: Collect at least forty-eight coins: twelve pennies, twelve nickels, twelve dimes, and twelve quarters. Your investment will be \$4.92 in coins. Using more coins will further disguise the method. It is easiest to do the next step in groups of six. Using a black Sharpie marker, number both sides of each coin denomination: 1-6, 2-5, 3-4, 4-3, 5-2, and 6-1 (**Fig. 2**). Number the first set of six pennies, the second set of six pennies, and continue for the rest of the nickels, dimes, and quarters. Any international coin currency can be used.

WORKING AND PERFORMANCE: The magician says, “I throw all my loose change in this bag. It contains pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. I think there are also some nuts and bolts, screws, and even a wine bottle cork. It is kind of a junk bag. You likely have a similar grab bag at home. Mine is a little different in that I have written numbers on my coins. For example, here is a nickel with the number one. Contrary to what my friends might tell you, the number one does not mean that this is the first nickel I ever earned! Here is a quarter with a number six, a dime numbered five, and another penny with a number two.” Show these to the audience and drop the coins back into the bag. Look, there is also a bottle cap. Let’s keep this bottle cap.” Place the bottle cap on the table.

The magician continues, “While I may no longer have the first nickel I ever earned, I am a penny-pincher, so I am going to secretly pinch a numbered penny and cover it with this bottle cap. This will be a ‘penny for your thoughts,’ which we will come back to later.”

Have a spectator randomly select six coins, one at a time. Let them rearrange the coins in any order. Follow the ten steps in **Figure 1**.

The magician recaps, “You randomly selected six coins out of a bag of coins of different denominations. You arranged these numbered coins to create a unique six-digit number. You then mixed the coins and created a new six-digit number, added the two numbers, and reduced the final number to a signal digit. The number you ended with was six. Please lift the bottle cap and tell everyone the number on the penny. We have a match! A penny for your thoughts.”

Piano Coins

EFFECT: Coin effects that work in a spectator’s hands are particularly impactful. A spectator positions their hands on a tabletop as if to play a piano. The magician places quarters between the spectator’s fingers. The coins are paired, two coins between each finger, with one odd single coin placed on the spectator’s right hand between the pinky and the ring finger. After counting, the odd coin is shown to have invisibly jumped from one hand to the other.

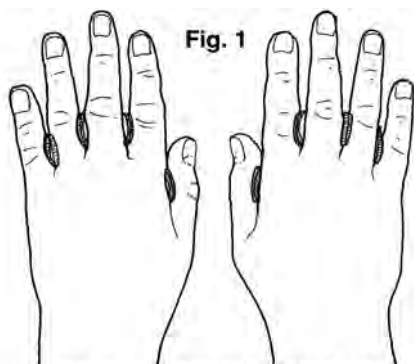
METHOD: This is a no-set-up routine that uses fifteen quarters and some “sleight of mouth” to support the effect. Based on my research, coins have never been used for this classic effect, which is surprising because it seems to be a logical and easy adaptation.

I used to think that every magician knew the old classic Piano Card trick. But it

seems its secret is safe, hiding in plain sight with the rest of our classics in print. The routine can be found in such tomes such as Hugard's *Royal Road to Card Magic*, T. Nelson Down's *The Art of Magic*, Gibson's *Complete Illustrated Book of Card Magic*, and *Scarne on Card Magic*. I even found a reference in a 1911 magic journal that referred to the routine as an "old effect." There is also a very good modern version in Juan Tamariz's *Verbal Magic*.

Piano Cards was a favorite of Dai Vernon and John Mulholland. Tom Mullica and Paul Daniels have great video performances of their routines. Others have adapted the routine using socks and fruit. Jim Steinmeyer has a fantastic patter in his *The Conjuring Anthology* with apples and oranges. I have learned to never say never, but again, my research has not discovered any use of coins with this classic of magic.

Have a spectator place their hands on a tabletop as if to play a piano. Arrange fifteen coins in pairs with the tail sides facing each other. Arrange the coins as shown, with the extra single coin in the spectator's right hand between the pinky and ring finger (**Fig. 1**). The method is straightforward. Since the coins are removed in seven pairs – an odd number – and placed in two stacks, the single coin will always be the odd coin and will appear to have moved invisibly. This will become clear in the performance below.



USING 15 COINS, ARRANGE PAIRS OF COINS TAIL-SIDE TO TAIL-SIDE AND PLACE BETWEEN A SPECTATOR'S FINGERS. THE ODD 15TH COIN IS PLACED BETWEEN THE RIGHT HAND PINKY AND RING FINGER.

WORKING AND PERFORMANCE:

I have organized the performance into three easy-to-follow phases.

Phase 1 – Spectator Set-Up

The magician begins, "I need the assistance of a tortured soul. Someone whose loving mother forced them to take piano lessons." Once you have found your spectator, you can explore their piano experiences, good and bad. The magician continues, "I hope this does not bring back unwanted memories, but please 'assume the position.' You know what I mean! Place your hands on the table as if you were about to launch into your favorite rendition of 'Chopsticks.' Remember, posture and hand position are very important. Make sure your feet are flat on the floor, back straight." You can demonstrate this as you speak.

The magician continues, "I'm not sure if your piano teacher did this, but mine placed a coin on the back of my hands to ensure proper hand position." Drop a loose pile of fifteen quarters on a tabletop (**Fig. 2**). Take two coins from the pile to demonstrate. The magician continues, "Enough of this flashback to our youth. We do not have a piano here today, but we do have some coins. So, I thought I would show you something that I learned not at piano lessons but at my magic lessons. I am going to place pairs of coins between the fingers and thumbs of your hands. Please resume your concert pianist hand posture. I will face the pairs of quarters with the heads facing out as a reminder to always keep our heads up to maintain proper piano posture!"



Fig. 2

When placing the coins between the fingers and thumbs of the spectator, always say, “Two coins make a pair, two more coins make a pair, these two coins make a pair, etc.” Repeat this, as it helps reinforce the notion that we are dealing with pairs (**Fig. 1**). This is part of the “sleight of mouth” which supports the method. Begin on the spectator’s left hand and move across, ending with a single “odd” coin that is placed between the ring and pinky finger of the right hand. The magician observes, “Look, one single, odd coin remaining. You look very uncomfortable. Let me remove these.”

Phase 2 – The False Count

Beginning with the spectator’s left hand, remove the first pair of coins and place the coins back on the table, separating them to create two stacks. Eventually the stacks will have seven coins each. When removing the pairs, place one on the left stack and one on the right stack. The magician says, “Two coins make a pair, two more coins make a pair, these two coins make a pair, etc.” Repeat this adding the coins to the stacks until you are left with the odd coin (**Fig. 3**). When you get to the final odd coin, say, “We have an odd coin left over.”



Phase 3 – The Reveal

Holding the odd coin in your hand, the magician says, we have two even piles of coins and one odd coin. Show this by moving the stacks together. Set the odd coin aside on the table. The magician says to the spectator, “Please pick up the first pile of coins in your left hand and close your fist. Do the same for the other pile using your right hand and close your fist.”

The magician continues, “You now have an even number of coins in each hand. But we have this odd coin. I would like you to decide to which hand you would like me

to add this odd coin. The left hand (for example), okay.” Slide the coin into the top of the spectator’s closed fist, by the thumb and index finger. The magician says, “Now I am going to invisibly transport that coin from your left hand to your right hand. Please lightly tap your two fists together. You are being too gentle. That must be from all those years of piano lessons. Tap your fists again, but this time with more gusto. Tap, well done!”

The magician concludes, “Let’s recap. We had an even number of paired coins in both fists. You decided to add the odd coin to your left fist, and then we tapped the fists together. Let’s see if it has disappeared. Please open your left hand and hold your palm flat.” The magician separates the coins in pairs again and says, “Here is a pair, there is another pair, another, and another pair but no odd coin. It seems to have disappeared. Please open your right hand and hold your palm flat. We have a pair of coins, another pair, another pair and look the odd coin has invisibly jumped from your left hand to your right hand. Maybe you should have taken magic lessons instead of piano lessons.”

Pick a Coin ... Any Coin

Well, we almost got through a full Parade without a card trick! This is a hybrid coin and card routine that I have named “Pick a Coin ... Any Coin.”

EFFECT: A spectator selects four coins from a bag of change: a quarter, a dime, a nickel, and a penny. The dates on the selected coins are used to count cards into four piles. The card piles are turned face-up and the value of the top cards matches the denominations of the coins (e.g., Four of Clubs for the quarter, Ten of Diamonds for the dime, Five of Hearts for the nickel, and Ace of Spades for the penny). As a double-kicker, four blank coins are found inside the card box and all the other cards are also revealed to be blank.

SET-UP: Locate four blank coins or slugs the size of a quarter coin. The jewelry

section of craft stores will carry these. You could even use metal washers from a hardware store. Place these in your card box and load the box with four regular playing cards and a blank deck.

Coins

You will need to do some coin collecting, which is easier than it might seem. A large bag of coins will further the illusion of a random coin selection. Gather the following coins:

- Quarters Three quarter coins dated 1998, three dated 2008, and three dated 2018.
- Dimes Six dime coins dated 2005 and six dated 2015.
- Nickels Six nickel coins dated 2006 and six dated 2016.
- Pennies Three penny coins dated 2003, three dated 2013, and three dated 2023.

The above collection of coins will allow you to force the numbers needed for the card selections. The spectator will select four coins, one of each denomination. Only the last digit in the coins' dates will be used to count the cards. The numbers will be 8, 5, 6, and 3. The selection and order of the coins will be used in partnership with an ordered card stack. Place these coins in a clear sandwich-size Ziploc bag.

Cards

Using a blank deck of cards, replace four blank cards with the following regular cards and arrange in an ordered stack:

- Four of Clubs Position 8 from the top of the deck.
- Ten of Diamonds Position 9 from the top of the deck.
- Five of Hearts Position 19 from the top of the deck.
- Ace of Spades Position 20 from the top of the deck.

METHOD: Have the spectator select four coins, one of each denomination, from the bag and arrange the coins: quarter, dime, nickel, and penny. Remove the cards from the card box making sure that the four blank coins do not make a noise. Close the card box and set it aside.

You are going to deal cards into four piles below each of the coins. But you are going to deal the cards using two methods – “count spread” and “deal spread.” Let me explain.

Step 1 – Ask the spectator to pick up the quarter and tell everyone the date on that coin. You will tell the spectator that we will just use the last digit in the date so as not to run out of cards. The forced number of all the quarters ends in 8. For the first packet, you “spread count” eight cards from one hand to the other hand without changing the order, and then place this packet face down on the table below the quarter coin. The eighth card in the card stack will be the Four of Clubs and will be at the bottom of the packet that goes facedown on the table below the first coin, the quarter.

Step 2 – For the dime coin, the spectator tells you the date, which ends in 5 for all the dimes. This time, “deal count” five cards one after each other into your hand, thus reversing their order. The bottom card in this packet will be the Ten of Diamonds and this packet placed below the dime coin.

Step 3 – For the third pile, the dates on all the nickels end in 6. This time we will return to the “count spread” method as in Step 1. Spread six cards from one hand to the other and place this packet face down below the nickel coin. The Five of Hearts will be on the bottom of this packet.

Step 4 – Finally, for the penny coin, of which all dates end in 3, “deal spread or count” three cards and place these face down below the penny. The Ace of Spades will be the bottom card. Your work is done.

WORKING AND PERFORMANCE: The magician says, “Anyone want to see a card trick?” Display and shake the clear plastic bag full of coins.” After inviting a spectator to assist, the magician continues, “I know I said card trick, but please pick a coin ... any coin. This is the parking meter coin bag from my car. Please take out a quarter, a dime, a nickel, and a penny and lay these on the table by order of their value.” You can arrange the coins from smallest to largest value or the reverse

order as shown. Make sure the coins are spaced to allow the cards to be placed below the coins (**Fig. 1**).



Fig. 1

Remove the cards from the card box, making sure the four blank coins do not “talk.” Close the card box and set it aside. A false card shuffle can be added if you wish. The magician says, “This is the card part of the demonstration. Please pick up the quarter and tell everyone the date of the coin. 2008, you say?” [For example.] “I do not want to run out of cards, so let’s just use the last digit in the date. You said 2008, correct? So, let’s use the number 8.” Follow the instructions in the method section above using the coins to create the four piles of cards. Note the cards in **Figure 1** will be face down on the bottom of each packet, ready to be turned over for the reveal.

REVEAL: Turn over each packet, being careful not to flash the blank cards. The packets should be aligned as shown in **Figure 1**. Point out to the audience that the coins have located their card “mates.” The Four of Clubs for the quarter, the Ten of “Dime-ons” for the dime, the Five of “Harts” for the nickel, and the solitary one-cent penny the Ace of Spades. Your audience should make this connection, but make sure it’s clear.

Kicker 1 – Pick-up the card box and give it a shake. Open the box and dump out the four blank coins (**Fig. 2**). Place the blanks on top of the real coins. The magician says, “I wonder what would happen if we placed these blanks on top of our four coins?”

Kicker 2 – Not only comment that these coins are blank, but also show that all the other cards are blank. Spread each of the four packets and then the remaining cards in the deck (**Fig. 3**).



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Coin Curiosities

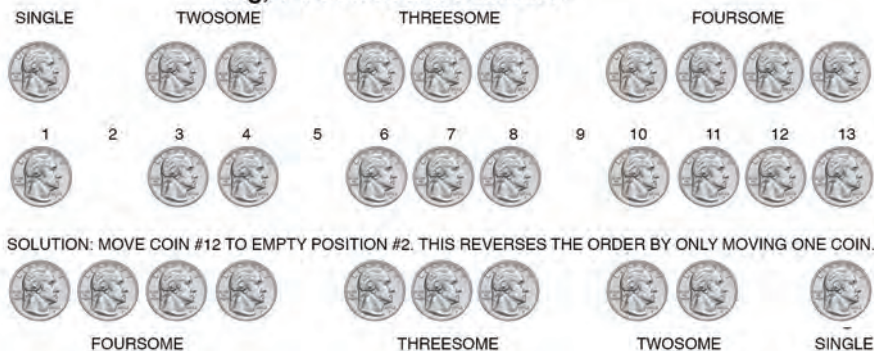
I wanted to conclude this Parade with three interesting coin curiosities, but I’m not sure how to categorize these effects. More than just puzzles or problems, these three effects might be called bafflements, puzzlements, impossibilities, maybe even mystifications. Jim Steinmeyer likely best framed the issue with his brilliant series of *Impuzzibilities*. These coin curiosities deal with golfing, Amazon porch pirates, and cryptocurrencies. Enjoy.

Coin I Play Through?

EFFECT: Using the game of golf storyline, ten coins are arranged in golfing groups: foursome, threesome, twosome, and a single. As any golfer knows, weekend golf is notoriously slow. To ensure a reasonable “pace of play,” golf groups cannot be larger than four players. As a golfer, “one always tries to be behind the group in front of you, but never in front of the group behind you!” If a foursome is slow, they will often let the group behind (another foursome but usually a faster threesome) “play through.” Golf etiquette gives twosomes and single golfers no priority. But for the creative player, there is one clever way to speed up the pace of play.

SET-UP and METHOD: After explaining the above golf conundrum, the magician arranges ten coins. One could use golf ball markers, furthering the golf theme. Arrange ten coins as shown in the top row of

Fig. 1 FOUR GOLFING GROUPS



the diagram (**Fig. 1**). Make sure to leave a full space between each golf group.

Ask a group of spectators if they can figure a way to speed up the “pace of play” by *only touching one coin*. Is there a way for the “single player” or “twosome” to play through the groups in front of them? To make it even more difficult, you can remind your participants that because “single players” and “twosomes” have no priority on the golf course, those coins cannot be touched.

Let them struggle, but not too long. Move coin number 12 to position number 2. This reverses the visual order of the groups, allowing the “single player” and the “twosome” to play through. Enjoy your good walk spoiled.

Porch Pirates

EFFECT: Five parcels, represented by five coins, have been delivered to the porch of an absent homeowner. A pair of unscrupulous “porch pirates” have been hiding in the bushes, waiting to steal these online deliveries. The first attempt was unsuccessful, and the second attempt was foiled thanks to the help of a doorbell camera.

METHOD: Asymmetrical transpositions are a magical effect where groups of differing numbers of items switch places. Thought to have first been published in 1801 in M. Ducoeuriel's *Trois Heures d'amussement en Le nouveau Comus*, this is my modern take on the old “Sheep and Wolves” coin routine that is often referenced to J. B. Bobo, *Modern Coin Magic* (1952, pp. 208-210). Even in Bobo, the routine is referenced as an ‘ancient trick.’ The routine has also been called “Robbers and

Sheep,” “Cops and Robbers,” “Fox and Geese,” “Tramps and Geese,” “Poachers and Rabbits,” and many other names. The Milton Kort and Stewart James version in Bobo requires two hidden coins and some sleights. Lillian Bobo’s version in the same book requires a double-faced coin. My version, not original, is a simple version with no sleights or gimmicked coins but supported by modern patter.

PERFORMANCE: The magician says, “You have likely all heard about the nasty people who follow Amazon trucks delivering parcels to the homes of online shoppers. They hide, often in plain sight or in the bushes, and when no one is looking they steal the parcels off the porches of unsuspecting customers. These daylight thieves (in ‘Prime’ time, pardon the pun) have become known as ‘porch pirates.’”

The magician continues, “Below (**Fig. 1**) are coins that will represent five recently delivered Amazon parcels to the same home. Two other coins – porch pirates #1 and #2 – represent the villains in this troubled tale of thievery. They are the modern Bonnie and Clyde. Both porch pirates are hiding in the bushes outside the unsuspecting home of our Amazon shopper, waiting for the Amazon truck to complete its awaited delivery.”



Fig. 1

Pick-up porch pirate #1 in your left hand and porch pirate #2 in your right hand, holding these coins in a closed fist. With your right hand, cross over and pick up the far left coin. With the left hand, cross over and pick-up the far-right coin. Continue these crossover pick-ups until all the coins are in your fists. There will be three coins in your left hand and four coins in your right hand.

The magician says, "Our dynamic duo of dastardly deeds has stolen all the parcels off this porch. But out of the corner of their eyes they notice a doorbell camera. Fearing they have been caught red-handed, they return the parcels to their original spot and retreat behind the bushes. With the left hand, cross over and deposit a coin on the right side. Continue alternating until all five coins are back on the table.

You now will now have no coins in your left hand and two coins in your right hand. Note, when depositing the last coin from your left hand, make sure to keep your fist closed so as not to raise any suspicion. The magician continues, "Having figured out the sightlines and angles of the cameras' lens, these porch pirates make a second daring attempt in broad daylight."

Beginning with the right hand, cross over and pick up the coin on the far left. Repeat the alternating pick-ups until all the coins are in your fists. You will have the two porch pirate coins in your left hand and the five parcel coins in your right hand. You are now ready for the reveal.

The magician says, "Because our homeowners had upgraded to the doorbell camera with a security monitored system, police arrived to apprehend the porch pirates and secure the parcels." Open the left hand to display two coins and the right hand to show five coins.

Itty Bitty Coin Mystery

EFFECT: A paper grid is placed on a tabletop. Six pennies are arranged along the sides of a square with four pennies set in the center. The magician moves a penny from the center to one of the sides. But when the spectator counts the pennies,

there are still six pennies on all sides. This is repeated until all four pennies are moved out of the center. The four pennies have disappeared and there are still only six pennies on the sides of the square.

METHOD: The idea, if not method, was reportedly discovered by Doug Henning in 1984 when he saw it performed on the streets of India. Jim Steinmeyer learned it from Henning and published a variation called the "Bermuda Triangle," employing a triangular pattern. The description appeared in Jim Steinmeyer's first book in the series *Impuzzibilities*, "Understanding the Bermuda Triangle," (Hahne, 2002), pp. 15-18. With Steinmeyer's permission, Bruce Bernstein published a version using a rectangular pattern with twelve pennies on each side (total twenty-six pennies) called "Pennies from Heaven." This appeared in his booklet *Going South with His Secrets* (out of print).

While Doug Henning may have been the modern discoverer of the idea, the principle can be traced back to perhaps the world's oldest magic text, *De Viribus Quantitatis* (*On the Powers of Numbers*), which was penned by Luca Pacioli (between 1496 and 1508), a Franciscan monk who shared lodgings with Leonardo da Vinci. An effect employing the same idea called "The Blind Abbot and his Monks" was translated, edited, and published in *The Secret Out* by W. H. Cremer in 1871.

So, lots of history. I learned this routine from I.B.M. magician Matthew Crabtree and present in this Parade a simpler effect using only twenty pennies, six on each of the four sides with four pennies in the center. I have modernized the presentation using a cryptocurrency patter.

WORKING AND PERFORMANCE: Print the grid in **Figure 1** on 8.5-by-11-inch paper with the square approximately 7 by 7 inches. I added a Bitcoin logo in the center of the square to advance the theme of the routine. Arrange the pennies or crypto coins as shown in **Figure 2**.

The magician says, "Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin use computer hardware and

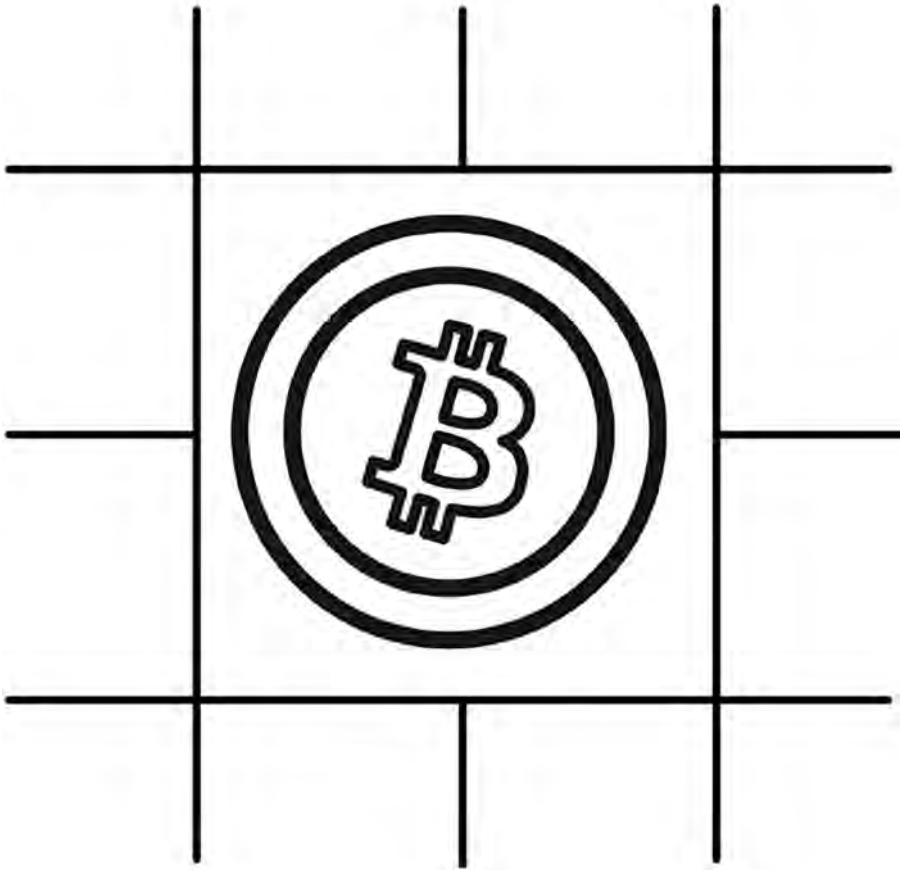


Fig. 1

Print this grid on 8.5-by-11-inch paper with the square the approximate size of 7 by 7 inches.

software to ‘mine’ for reward tokens in the form of Bitcoins. I am not totally sure I understand that type of modern alchemy! But as a creative magician, I am going to use my ‘mind’ to create the token coins that you see on my grid. Please notice that there are six token coins across the top, bottom, and sides of this square grid.” Demonstrate the number of tokens by counting six coins on each side of the square. The magician continues, “You will also notice there are four token coins in the center of the grid. Just like cryptocurrencies, these tokens can be elusive. Let me demonstrate.”

Begin at any corner. The method involves moving two coins – one corner coin

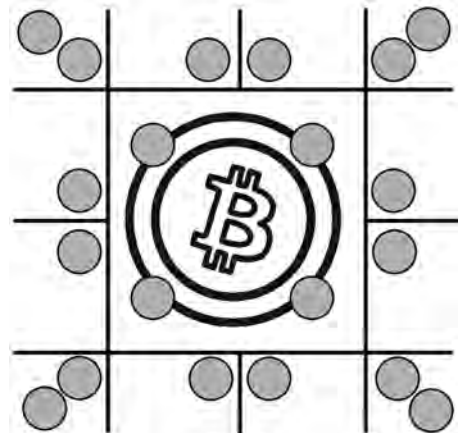


Fig. 2
SET-UP

and one center coin – to the adjacent square sides. This is repeated four times, removing all the center coins. Have a spectator count the number of pennies along each of the four sides of the grid, confirming six pennies. Using your fingers, simultaneously slide one corner coin to the same side of the square and slide one center coin to the side below or above the corner. The corner will now have one coin, and the adjoining sides will have two new coins each (Fig. 3).

The magician comments, “We have one less penny in the center. Would you please count again the number of pennies on each side? Six you say? Interesting.” Repeat this until all the center pennies are gone, having the spectator count and confirm each time that there are only six coins along each side of the square.

The ending pattern is displayed in Fig. 4. The magician concludes, “Just like in the notoriously volatile world of cryptocurrency, things can and do evaporate. Remember what Benjamin Franklin said: ‘Watch the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves!’”

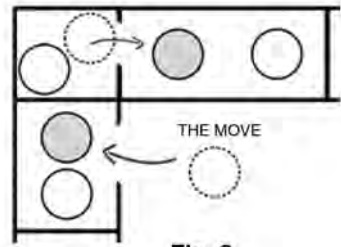


Fig. 3

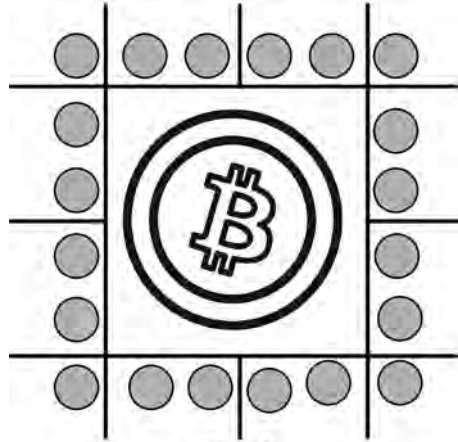


Fig. 4
SOLUTION

**Send comments, appreciations,
or other coin ideas to:**

Garnet Garven
garnet.garven@accesscomm.ca

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Marlo's Humdinger

This item was sent in by Bob Cervas, who learned it from none other than the great Ed Marlo! Bob's description of the routine includes the story of how he met Ed at Abbott's Get-Together. Here's the story in Bob's own words:

"My encounter with Marlo was brief so there isn't a whole lot to tell. Back in the sixties at the Abbott's Get-Together, many attendees milled around in front of the factory sitting at the picnic tables provided, engaged in conversation or impromptu sessions. It was there that I saw Marlo walking around by himself like any other registrant. (He was not there to perform or lecture.) I was in my mid-teens at the time with Cardician aspirations, and very familiar with many of the Marlo publications. But many of the sleights and techniques he described seemed unobtainable. Regardless, I wanted to say hello and tell him I was a fan. It turns out he was heading out for a sandwich, so I asked if I could treat him in exchange for seeing him demo a few moves for me.

I had recently read about the Zarrow shuffle and was unsure how convincing it would look. With my laser-focused gaze merely inches away, Marlo effortlessly executed the shuffle several times with each iteration looking absolutely like the cards were hopelessly mixed. I was very impressed, so I decided to be bold and ask for demos of second, center, and bottom dealing. I had read his descriptions of these sleights and wondered if there was any possible way these could be done convincingly. He did them all, still under my close laser

gaze (he even joked about that), and he still astounded me. If anyone who has never seen Marlo ever wondered if he was actually as good as his reputation, I can tell you he was all that and more. I hope he enjoyed my reactions.

I wasn't expecting him to offer to show me some of the things he was playing with, but he proceeded to show and teach the two packet effects I wrote up for the Card Corner. Unfortunately, as a teenager I didn't think of asking Marlo if the tricks he showed me were his or not. I was told that Marlo liked to play around with ideas that he thought were good (his or not) and exhausted all possibilities and variations before moving on to something else.

Even the Legend may have been a little self-conscious about one thing. Marlo commented on how he had "windows" (his words) between his fingers. I took this to mean he had small gaps between digits when holding his hand palm flat and fingers extended. Honestly, it was not noticeable at all, but somehow he felt it was something he needed to tell me.

I thought it was very generous of Marlo to spend time with a perfect stranger – and a teenager at that."

What a cool story! I didn't meet Marlo until the late 1970s. Okay, on to the magic.

EFFECT: The magician removes a packet of sixteen random cards from a shuffled deck and hands them to a spectator. The spectator is told to hold the packet face down in dealing position and to cut and then complete the cut. The magician

demonstrates the technique for clarity. The spectator is now told to spread the top two cards and to flip them over, in this case face up. Again, the magician demonstrates the procedure. Knowledgeable magicians will know this procedure by its acronym CATO (Cut And Turn Over).

The spectator is told to repeat the procedure, i.e., cut and then flip over the top two cards. The magician points out that this procedure randomly mixes the cards face up and face down.

The spectator is instructed to take the packet under the table and out of view and to repeat this process. Along the way, the magician suggests small variations e.g., turning the entire packet over and then performing CATO. Or moving a specific number of cards from top to bottom, which is the same as a cut but feels different.

Finally, the magician is handed the packet under the table as he claims to be able to figure out how many cards are face up. He predicts that eight cards will be face up. The packet is brought into view. It is found that not only was the prediction correct, but all the face-up cards are black. The face-down cards are all red. This is followed by a stronger second phase that involves a selection.

OVERVIEW: What was just described is one of a number of possibilities that we will now explore. It will be clear to the knowledgeable reader that these items are based on Bob Hummer's "18 Card Mystery" and what has become known as "CATO" or "Cut And Turn Over." You can find applications of the Hummer ideas in the work of Steve Beam, John Bannon, and others. Let's begin:

SET-UP: None. We will set up the needed red/black alternating order on the fly.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Spread the shuffled deck toward yourself and remove eight pairs of cards, making sure the face card of the pairs is red and that the following card is black (or vice versa). Stack these eight pairs face down ending with a stack of sixteen cards *in alternating*

color order. The spectator should be unaware of this condition. Quickly spread the cards face up in clumps so as to not give away the alternating condition. Hold the packet face down in overhand shuffle position in the right hand. Run three cards and toss the remainder on top. Then run five cards and toss. This will maintain the alternating condition while clearly mixing the cards.

Hand this packet to the spectator face down. Now pick up a small packet from the deck and hold them face down in dealing position. Walk the spectator through the CATO process, i.e., cut the packet and then flip the top two cards face up. Demonstrate the process a second time as the spectator follows along with her packet. Now point out that it's clear there are four face-up cards at this point. Note that if she were to continue the process, she might re-flip some of the cards already flipped changing face-up cards to face down. Anything could happen. After you've demonstrated the procedure, unreverse the reversed cards and return your packet to the deck.

Now have her take the packet under the table and execute the procedure several more times. It's a good idea to vary things to keep the procedure from getting boring. Have her flip the entire packet over and continue through a few more cycles. Point out that she doesn't know if she's turning face-down cards to face up, or face-up cards to face down, or one of each. It's random. At some point interrupt and ask if she has any idea how many face-up cards are in the packet. Of course she'll have no idea. Now have her hand you the packet under the table. This is where you'll create a packet with exactly eight cards face up, all of a single color.

THE FIX: In the original Bob Hummer "Eighteen Card Mystery" on which this item is based, you were instructed to reverse the orientation of every other card. We'll achieve that result using a Reverse Faro*. You will outjog the top card for about half its length and then take the second card under it without outjogging the

card. Now outjog the third card but not the fourth, i.e., outjog cards 1, 3, 5, and all the odd numbers. **Figure 1** shows the process as you are outjogging the fifth card. **Figure 2** shows the situation when you've finished with eight cards outjogged. You now must pull the outjogged cards free and flip all eight cards over on top.

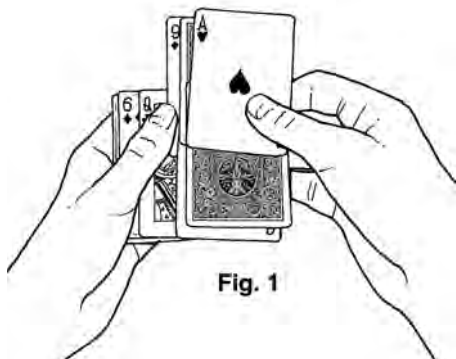


Fig. 1

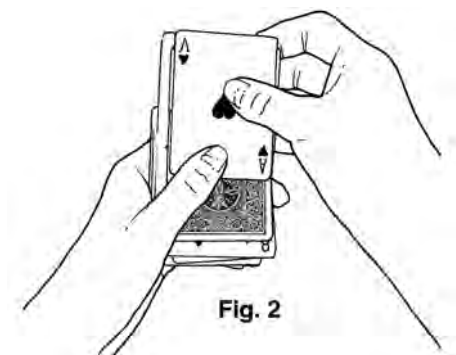


Fig. 2

Because this process is done under the table, this can be a little tricky since you must be sure no cards from the injogged group are pulled free causing you to reverse one or more extra cards. Here's a little tip for how to avoid this potential problem: Grip the outjogged group of eight as shown in **Figure 3**. Note that the outjogged group and the injogged group are not square at the short edges. However, there is a significant space where they are completely separated from each other. You must be sure when you pull the outjogged cards free that:

1. all the outjogged cards come free, and
2. none of the injogged cards come along for the ride.

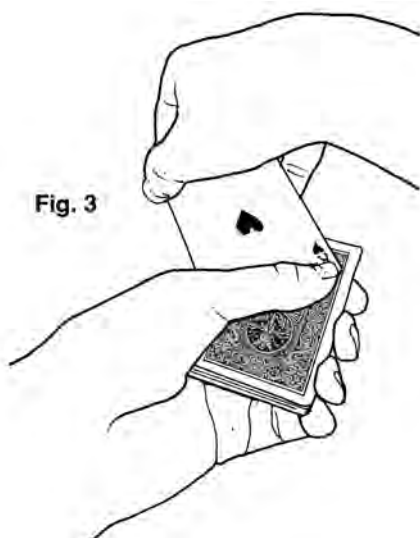


Fig. 3

Note the positions of the right thumb on the left long edge and the right fourth finger on the right long edge. They are both near the outer short edge of the cards but not too far down. From here you must rotate the outjogged group counterclockwise nearly 90 degrees. This will pull them free from the injogged cards without taking any of the injogged cards with them. Once they are free, turn them over (i.e., reverse them) on top of the injogged cards. The packet will now have all eight black cards facing one way and all eight red cards facing the other way.

Say, "It feels like you have reversed exactly eight cards." Bring the packet into view and deal all the face-up cards in a pile. There are exactly eight face-up cards. Continue with, "And amazingly all of them are red (or black as the case may be)." Show that all the face-down cards are of the other color.

PHASE 2: Orient all the cards face down and shuffle them to destroy the color separation. Have the spectator shuffle the packet a few times, creating a truly random pattern. Count off eight cards and flip them face up on top. Take the entire packet under the table and explain you're going to shuffle face-up cards into face-down cards. You will, but you'll use a technique that will end with alternating face-up and face-down cards.

Hold the packet in right hand Biddle Grip*, i.e., thumb at inner short edge, fingers at outer short edge. Use the left hand with thumb on top and fingers below the packet to pull off the top and bottom cards into the left hand. Repeat with the new top and bottom card until all the cards have been used. **Figure 4** shows the process in progress. You will now have a packet whose cards alternate face up and face down.

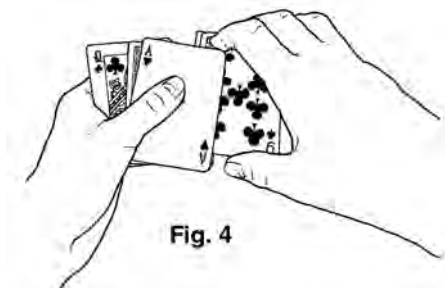


Fig. 4

Hand the packet to the spectator to hold under the table. Walk her through repeated CATO procedures again, flipping two and then cutting. You can vary things as before. Once the procedure has been executed five or six times, say, "Take a look at the packet. Is the top card face up or face down?" If it's face up, instruct the spectator to look at the card and remember it. She is then to flip only that card to face down. If the top card is face down, she is to flip only that card to face up and to remember its identity and then to cut the packet.

This is followed by another CATO and a cut. If you wish she can repeat CATO more times. When she's finished, tell her to hand you the cards under the table. Perform the Reverse Faro* procedure, again flipping the outjogged cards to reversed on top. This time all the cards will be either face up or face down except the selection, which will be reversed! Say, "I have used my magical intuition to turn all the cards face up."

Take a look at the packet before bringing it into view. Orient it so that fifteen cards are face up. That hides the selection. Spread the packet. There will be one card face down. Say, "Looks like I missed one." Now show that the face-down card is the selection.

FINAL THOUGHTS: There's solid magic here, but the effects are procedure heavy. You must keep things moving and change up the procedure a bit as described above to head off boredom.

A variation on the first sequence is this: At some point have the spectator look at the packet and spread the cards. She is to spot a card that she likes and reverse it in place. This will cause a nine-to-seven split of the sixteen cards, i.e., nine face up and seven face down, or vice versa. Furthermore, the selected card will end up being the only red card among the black cards (or vice versa) at the end. This was pointed out by my pal Craig Alan.

As always, moves tagged with "*" have video instruction at:

www.mallofmagic.com/themoves.



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Gratitude to Leipzig's Tear

This month's offering is particularly short and sweet. A genuine and timeless effect in magic is reimagined without sleight of hand. Is it in the realm of possibilities? Yes, it is doable at any level of ability. Readers will be familiar with the use of Magician's Wax or various legerdemain techniques for the torn and restored cigarette paper, however, this month we eliminate the extras for the magician. Yeah! Read on to see how this is exactly accomplished.

This version of the classic is well-received and a real fooler for your fellow magi buddies. Nate would be proud of this simple exchange.

EFFECT: The magician tears a piece of cigarette paper in half. It is handed out for an additional tear in half by a spectator, then directed to make a tiny ball out of the paper pieces. The magician requests that the tiny paper ball be passed to the next spectator, who is directed to make the tiny ball even tighter. Finally, the magician requests that the tiny paper ball is passed to another spectator who is directed to make the tiny ball even tighter. The tiny balled-up pieces of cigarette paper are handed back to the magician, who proceeds to unravel its mysteries and reveal the full restoration.

SET-UP: Two cigarette papers and a knowledgeable confederate, stooge, plant,

or partner in crime. You get the idea!

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

So, you will need a minimum of three spectators of whom one will be your confederate. The confederate will be the second person to receive the tiny ball of paper. The role of the confederate is to switch out the ball of paper with the premade restored cigarette paper ball. Follow the description of the **EFFECT** section above.

TIP #1: Practice in the mirror and with the confederate.

TIP #2: Study the masters. Research Nate Leipzig's work for subtleties.

TIP #3: Don't have a cigarette paper. Try using a piece of tissue paper cut to the size of the cigarette paper.

NOTE: This described version provides the benefit of being able to show both hands ultimately clean at every step of the performance. By the way, this method is not considered "cheating" but is more of a well-planned presentation.

A commercial effect that will be recorded in history as one of the most beautiful illusions ever shared with other humans.

Until next month, take care!

Andrew Woo

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www.magicalwoo.com



Auto-magic

MICHAEL BREGGAR

People who follow my work may recognize what follows. This is an item I released several months ago in Michael Close's fantastic newsletter (free subscription available at www.michaelclose.com). Everything Mike has to offer – everything – is worth more than ten times its price on the website.

I am repeating his effect here because I have received such a wonderful response from the community, I thought it should be shared with the I.B.M. community as well. Other eagle-eyers will notice I've used this title, "Chips Ahoy," once before. But it is so apropos, I will steal from myself!

In "Chips Ahoy," you will ask your helper to merely name a value or color of a casino chip. Then she will think about the chip, psychically projecting the image of the thought-of chip towards your empty, cupped hands. And when you open your hands, amazingly, that chip (of exact denomination and color) has materialized. Well, at least that is how the routine is perceived by your stunned audience. I perform this in close-up and table-hopping venues. Done right, it'll leave 'em speechless.

Chips Ahoy

The May 2000 edition of *Genii* magazine printed a brilliant section covering the magicians and magic of Japan. Every single magical item is great and worth learning. One that particularly caught my attention was a piece called "Fading Coin," by Tomoyuki Takahashi. Eugene Burger was also entranced by this trick and presented his version on a few occasions (*Exploring Magical Presentations* and *Penguin Live Lecture*, to name two videos).

Both Takahashi's original version and the Burger version involved the magical produc-

tion of a thought-of penny, nickel, or quarter. Takahashi's method was a beautiful amalgam of psychology and construction, involving the easiest of coin sleights. My challenge with his version was that the items produced are so small, your audience is distracted from the magical moments because they're thinking about coin concealment. I wanted the audience to be in the moment and accept what they have just seen as "pure." The use of casino-style chips and a compelling story provide that fuel.

You'll need a black \$100 casino-style chip and a red \$5 chip. I found a set of one hundred casino-style chips on Amazon for \$12.50.



You begin with the \$100 in your right trouser pocket and the \$5 in your left. You say to your subject, *"We are going to use the power of your imagination to do something remarkable. Are you game? I use the word 'game' for a specific reason ... this is all about gaming chips from various casinos. I collect them. My favorites are the invisible ones."* The audience will think you are a little more crazy than usual, but you continue anyway.

You now reach into your right pants pocket. You bring your hand out and it is clearly empty, but your thumb, index, and middle fingers are gently held together at the tips as if you were holding an actual, real, invisible chip! *"Here's one of those invisible chips. It is a black chip with pink spots around the edge. It is worth \$100 and comes*

from a historic old western-style casino near downtown Las Vegas. Ah ... the stories it could tell!"

Swivel your wrist as if to show both sides of the invisible chip, then mime, carefully placing it on the table surface to your right. It is important your audience believes you really can visualize this invisible chip. It is also important that you keep the pace casual and slow. Don't show your hand empty. Let the audience infer this is the case through the open movements of the hand.

Your right hand dips back into your right pants pocket. *"I've got another one to show you."* This time, however, while the hand is in the pocket, you palm the (real) \$100 chip as you bring the hand out, with the thumb, index, and middle fingers touching as if to show off another invisible chip. The curling of the three fingers will easily keep the real chip in a hidden, palmed position. Just keep things light and casual. Keep your movements slow and fluid. Say, *"This invisible chip comes from one of the newer, fancier casinos on the Vegas Strip. As you can see, it is a green chip and has a value of \$25."* As you "place" the green chip on the table to the left of the black chip, you comment, *"At \$25, this green chip obviously has less monetary value than the black. But to some collectors, it is worth more because it comes from a very famous, lavish casino!"* You can also gesture with your left hand at this point, because (as of now) it is empty.

"I've got one more to show you. It is one of my favorites, so we need to be extra careful!" With that, your left hand reaches into your left pocket, palms the red \$5 chip, and emerges as your right hand did before: thumb, index, and middle fingers gently touching at the fingertips, pretending to hold another casino chip. You "show" this chip, then place it on the table to the left of the other invisible chips. During this, you say, *"My prized possession. An invisible chip from the world-famous Casino Royale in Monte Carlo. It is bright red and only has a value of \$5 or €5 ... but, c'mon. Isn't she beautiful?"* You "display" this invisible chip as you gently place it on the table.

You now have both the black \$100 chip

and red \$5 chip loosely palmed in hands the audience previously saw empty. You casually point to where the invisible chips have been "placed," thereby further locking in their minds your "empty" hands.

Continuing, you say, *"Set in front of you, and for all eyes to psychically 'see,' are my three most favorite casino chips. On your left, my right, is a black-and-pink \$100 chip that came from a seedy but historic old casino in Nevada. Next to it, in the middle, is a green chip. It is worth \$25, but comes from one of the most beautiful, lavish casinos on the Las Vegas Strip. And finally, on your right, my left, is my prized red \$5 chip. It may not have a high value, but it comes from the world-famous Casino Royale in Monte Carlo. So now, I am asking you to think about these three invisible chips. Then, pick that chip off the table, place it flat in the palm of your other hand, and close your hand around it."*

Let's say your helper picks up the red \$5 Monte Carlo chip (most people do). *"Ah, the red \$5 chip from the Casino Royale in Monte Carlo. Great choice ... but I will give you a chance to change your mind and pick up another chip instead."* (Most people don't.) *"Okay, you're sticking with the red \$5 chip. You did not select the green \$25 chip, nor did you select the black \$100 chip."* As you say this, you mime picking up the two non-selected chips, holding them with the fingers and thumb of your right hand, and placing them back into your right pocket.

You also deposit the palmed black chip into your right pocket at this time.

Back to the performance: *"Please place the red \$5 chip in my right palm. As you do, imagine every molecule that makes up this lovely bright red \$5 chip."* After she does this, you cup your left hand over your right, letting the palmed red chip drop secretly into your right hand. You do not describe this action but immediately ask the spectator to place her hands above and below your hands. *"It's important we isolate things. Imagination knows no barriers."*

You now move into the third act, knocking their socks off. *"Now concentrate. Focus every fiber of your imagination on our empty*

hands. Think about that red \$5 chip from Monte Carlo. Imagine. Think ...” Slowly pull your hands away from your helper and then, even more slowly, open your cupped hands to reveal the physical red chip. If you have taken your time through the routine and allowed the suspense to build to that third-act climax, your audience will have found this materialization totally mind-blowing.

If your helper selects the black \$100 chip instead of the red, proceed exactly as outlined above, except you will be ditching with your left hand. The challenge is what to do if the middle green \$25 is selected. There are a few options that I have used over the years. What I currently do is this: immediately ask

your helper to select another chip still “*sitting on the table*,” and place that in her hand, too. Mention whatever color chip remains and ditch the other chip in your pocket on the pretense of getting an “invisible purse,” into which your subject places the two selected chips. “*It’s a special purse. Being invisible, it keeps the two chips you select clean, shiny, and free of fingerprints!*” You then move to the appropriate ending.

Performed at the correct pace and with the correct attitude, this is a wonderful performance piece of very intimate, close-up mentalism.

Friend-chip starts at:
mbreggarmagic@gmail.com

BAMBOOZLERS Diamond Jim Tyler

DIME ON THE EDGE

STUNT: Balance a dime on a dollar bill’s edge while the bill is outstretched and flat. This could be presented as a bet, but I prefer to do it as a stunt.

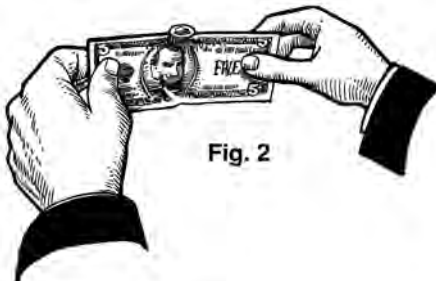
SECRET: Begin with a crisp bill of any denomination. Fold the dollar bill in half lengthwise. Crease the fold as flat as possible. Place the creased bill on the table, and then at the very center of the fold place the center of the dime head side down (**Fig. 1**). Lift the bill in the air and slowly open the folded bill. The dime will remain balanced on the dollar’s edge if you are careful and have a steady hand. Without much practice you can open the bill almost completely flat without the dime falling (**Fig. 2**).

After performing the above stunt throw on your sunglasses and say, “When you are cool the sun shines on you twenty-four hours a day!” and then turn up your shirt collar and strut away.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Excerpted from *Bamboozlers: The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters, and Bewitchery* by Diamond Jim Tyler.
www.djtyler.com.

Broken Wand

"...ANY MAN'S DEATH DIMINISHES ME BECAUSE I AM INVOLVED
IN MANKIND..." —JOHN DONNE



CONNIE "PAPRIKA" LEAVERTON

Connie "Paprika" Leaverton, 65, of Austin, Texas, died on April 1, 2025. She held I.B.M. number 73964 and had been a member since 2018. She belonged to Ring 216 (San Jose, California). Born in Amarillo, Texas, Connie graduated from Midland Texas High School in 1978, where she excelled in gymnastics. She received a degree in filmmaking and television production from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, and attended acting school in New York City. She worked as a professional juggler, magician, filmmaker, model, television producer, and entrepreneur. Her 2022 film, *The Queen's Influence*, chronicled female jugglers on the Pacific island of Tonga. For five years in the 1980s, she worked as a production assistant for Steven Spielberg and his film company, Amblin Entertainment, in Los Angeles. Her company Walkabout Productions, established 1986, has produced numerous award-winning corporate films, commercials, and the TV pilot *Connie's Treehouse*, which she produced and hosted. She spent many years teaching workshops on circus skills and filmmaking. She also had a home in Buena Vista, Colorado, and performed with Salida Circus, a youth outreach program for those wanting to pursue a career in circus arts. Her stage name "Paprika" was a window into her whimsical demeanor. Friends say she would have been amused to know she would depart this world on April Fool's Day. She is survived by her father, David



Leaverton, sisters Lauri (Daniel Smith) Leaverton and Karen (Don) Duhrkopf, and several nieces, nephews, and extended family.

CHARLES PICHOFF

Charles Anthony Pichoff, 82, died on August 13, 2024. He was born in Glencoe, Louisiana. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and Army, serving during the Vietnam Era. During his time in the Air Force, he worked as a medical lab technologist, an occupation that carried over to civilian life. Upon retiring from law enforcement, he became an insurance salesperson. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, Disabled American Veterans, Free and Accepted Mason, Franklin Lodge 57, and American Legion Post 63. He is survived by his wife of forty-nine years, Connie Pichoff; sons Stephen (Laura Ashton) Pichoff, Edwin (Cindy) Pichoff, and Joseph (Stacy) Pichoff; brother Darrel Pichoff; and six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



ROBERT STANLEY

Robert Stanley, 90, of Delta, Colorado, died on April 10, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 18404 and had been a member since 1968. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Excalibur (fifty years of continuous membership) and Ring 131 (Denver, Colorado). Bob was born in



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the youngest of five children. He grew up in Pitman, New Jersey, and joined the United States Marine Corps after graduating from Pitman High School in 1952. Upon returning home to Pitman, he became a Boy Scout leader in New Jersey and later in Boulder, Colorado. In addition to working as an electronic manufacturers' representative before the rise of the internet and mobile phones, he

became an amateur radio operator, one of his many hobbies in addition to magic and genealogy. Bob became interested in magic when he was twelve years old and often performed magic shows for his granddaughters' birthdays. He retired in 1996. He is survived by his wife Mary B. Stanley, children Geoff Scott Stanley (Karie) and Kathryn Stanley Jones, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

When a Magic Friend Dies

While it is a responsibility of Ring Secretaries to notify our Headquarters Office or Executive Editor of the death of a member, many members do not belong to Rings, and even the deaths of Ring Members often slip through the cracks. Please take the time to send us a short note and copy of any obituary notice. Don't let a fellow magic lover slip away without notice. Send to Editor or Headquarters Office. Addresses on page 4. Thank you.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WANT TO SUBMIT A TRICK OR A PARADE?

Email editor@magician.org. Parades should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words and include photographs or drawings so our artist has something to follow.

WANT TO SUBMIT A RING EVENT?

E-mail a Microsoft Word document and high-resolution jpegs (not embedded in the Word document) to Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org. Note: Ring Events are articles about special activities conducted by your Ring, such as banquets, shows, or charity events.

WANT TO SUBMIT A RING REPORT?

E-mail a Microsoft Word document to Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org. Note: Ring Reports are reports of the activities of your regular Ring meetings.

HANDY TIP: Look on page four of every issue to find contact information for officers of the I.B.M. and staff members of *The Linking Ring*.

Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



Ring Reports **must** be received by the 15th of each month to appear in the second following issue (for example, your January report will be published in March or April). Please e-mail reports to ringreports@magician.org with "Ring Reports" in the subject heading. You will receive confirmation of receipt. Please limit the length of your report to 650 words or less. Reports of excessive length may be edited to meet space requirements. Please notify the Reports Editor, Dr. Steven Schlanger, at ringreports@magician.org, if changes need to be made to your report's headings (e.g., changes to addresses, meeting times, or officers' names). We regret that we are unable to publish photographs in the Ring Reports section of the magazine.

RING 1, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI – Spirit of St. Louis

Meets 1st Wed. of month, Dielman Recreation Center, 11400 Olde Cabin Rd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141 / Web Site: www.IBMRing1.com
ALAN ZIBITS., Secretary / E-mail: Alan.a.zibits@boeing.com
532 Dartmouth Crossing, Wildwood, MO 63011

Since Ring One is now officially a 501(c)(3), elections for the new Board of Directors were held before the May Board meeting began, pursuant to Missouri By-Laws regarding non-profits. Immediately after the new Board was elected, the Officers for 2025 were confirmed by acclamation. The following were elected President Steve Queen, Vice President Tim Shegitz, Treasurer Sandy Weis, Secretary Paul Gregor, Board Directors Steve Finkelstein, Mike Hindrichs, Steve Bolland, James Hodge, Steve Zuehlke, Steve Buesking, Chad Jacobs, Jeff Lefton, Michael W. McClure, and Darryl Lenz. *The Spirit* is jointly edited by Gary Chan, Paul Gregor and Zai Shi. The Ring welcomes the new members of leadership who are all willing to bring "new ideas" to the organization.

Our March Magic Open Mic Night was such a huge success, and the members requested we host another. Therefore, the June meeting night was selected for the sequel next event. It was another huge success. Again, Sandy Weis was recruited to emcee the event and, of course, she agreed. There was such a variety of magic performed; no two performances used the same effects.

The following members performed: Steve Queen (he is really good with cards), James Hodge (performed his own version of "Grandmother's Necklace"), Chuck Levy (a comedian who used a pair of detectives to find the two volunteers' cards), Josh Weidner (he is definitely a skilled escape artist), Steve Finkelstein (he performed a mentalism effect using ten audience members), Paul Gregor and Dave Goldfarb (performed a "Cups and Balls" routine together), Zai Shi (did an interesting and

hilarious effect with a member's tie), Reggie Dunn (did several card tricks using our close-up projector and screen), Matthew Horowitz (he was able to perform a balancing act with cards), D. Jay (used a box in which he was able to produce several items – even two giant worms), Columbus Smith (he used a rope and had a whole routine using just the one rope), Jeff Lefton (he bravely borrowed, then lost, and then found a lady's ring in a great comedy routine), Chad Jacobs (performed several effects as Chef Banana while the members had to pretend they were children), and Tim Shegitz (he is an expert at manipulating cards and also card effects).

Even though Michael W. McClure did not perform this night, he was the one who made it happen. He organized the entire night, recruited the performers, advertised the event, used his computer skills to make flyers and promote online ads, brought all the audio and video equipment, and recorded the entire performances, etc. He lives the furthest away from our meeting site (one and a half hours away) but comes early and sets up the room. He even has volunteered to bring the snacks for the members. The Ring also thanks his wife and member, Susan, since she helps him with the setup. The Ring is continually growing since Michael joined. Michael has shared that we have added new members every meeting night since December 2024. This is great for the Ring; however, if this growth continues the Ring will need to find a new meeting venue. The Ring thanks Michael and Susan for everything they do!

With our new designation as a non-profit, we are courageously launching into a new program of using our time and talents to better serve the people of St. Louis. Michael McClure has created the project he calls "The Magic of Giving Back," which solely focuses on bringing free entertainment and education to the underprivileged and economically disadvantaged children

in our community. He has over a dozen members already signed up to help carry out this mission and has several charitable agencies ready for us to begin scheduling appearances in August. More details will follow next month, but our new leadership is committed to seeing that all people have easy access to the benefits that the Art of Magic provides.

The Ring always welcomes visitors to its meetings and activities. Check out the Ring One's web address (which Michael also created and is continuously updating) www.ibmringone.com.

Sandy Weis

RING 2, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO – Filips-Tutler-Doeright Ring

Meets 7:30 pm 2nd Fri., Valley Christian Church, 7155 Glenwood Ave., Youngstown, OH

PETER LUCKE, Secretary

E-mail: IBMring2Youngstown@me.com

The following Ring 2 members and guests were present at our June meeting: Fritz Coombs, Paul Capito, Kyler Freeland, Larry Henderson, Reggie Jannetti, Jim Klayder, Peter Lucke, Gary Morton, and Brian Moss. The theme of the evening was ropes.

Opening members' magic, Fritz Coombs performed a version of the "Professor's Nightmare." He began by showing us a small basket and commenting on it being a classic Hindu rope trick. Fritz then removed three ropes from the basket and continued with a classic Professor's Nightmare effect.

The magic continued with Larry Henderson and "Celebrity Presage" by Orry Suen. Larry invited Brian and Reggie to assist him. Larry showed us a book titled *Celebrity Fails*, and he read a few examples of dumb quotes by celebrities. He then asked Brian and Reggie if they knew the difference between prediction and mind reading; they did not, so Larry explained the difference. He announced that earlier he had sent a text message to Brian and asked him not to open it. Larry then asked Brian to choose a random page in the book. It was a page about Tom Cruise. He asked Brian to open the text message and show it to the audience; it showed an X-ray of a head. Larry claimed it was that of Tom Cruise, and that was his prediction. For mind reading, Larry handed the open book to Reggie and asked him to choose a long word on the page and asked for the first letter; it was an S. He then wrote a word on a notepad and asked for the word. Reggie said, "Suggestion." It was correct.

Next, Peter Lucke presented a packet trick called "Ace Flipper." He displayed four cards, the four aces. He closed the packet, tapped on it, and when it was spread, one of the aces had

flipped over, showing it was a red backed card. Peter repeated this, and a different ace flipped over. He commented that the aces all showed red backs. Closing up the packet, he revealed that all four aces really had blue backs. Again, closing the packet, he turned it over and spread the cards to reveal that they all had green backs.

Brian Moss amazed us with "Coins Across" from David Roth and Craig Petty, then Jim Klayder entertained us with "Ring Off Rope." He began with just the rope seemingly wrapped around his neck. Pulling on both ends, he removed the rope. Gary Morton concluded members' magic with "A. F. Taft Prediction" from Steve Beam's *Semi-Automatic Card Tricks* vol. 8. Where a prediction on a slip of paper showed the correct order of the coins on the table.

Our visitor, Reggie Jannetti, performed "The Prediction." He had five audience members assist him. On the table, he placed four cards labeled multiplication, addition, subtraction, and division. The cards were distributed to four of the assistants, and the fifth assistant received a small Bible. Reggie handed a calculator to Jim, who held the multiplication card. He asked Jim to enter three digits from his telephone number and press multiply. Jim passed the calculator to Gary, who entered three more digits and pressed plus. Next, Kyler entered three digits and subtracted, Brian did a divide with three digits, and finally, Fritz pressed equals. The final number was 50610. Fritz then opened the book to page 506 and read verse 10. Reggie handed a prediction paper to Jim, who confirmed that it was the predicted verse.

Peter Lucke

RING 6, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA – Delaware Valley Conjurers Club

Meets 2nd Monday, each month, 7:30 p.m., Wallingford Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford, PA 19086

DAVE KELLY, Acting Recording Secretary

Web site: www.ibmring6.com

For our June meeting, we began by congratulating Marc DeSouza on the successful launch of his wonderful new magic venue, his House of Magic in nearby Glenside, PA. Marc purchased a large bank building, rehabbed it, and has created an amazing home for magic in the Philadelphia area. It has a full-size stage with professional lighting and sound, along with 104 comfy seats with unobstructed views. He also has video equipment for projecting close-up magic onto a large screen. Soon to open in the building will be a close-up room, the bank vault that will be loaded with magical effects, a magic library, and a huge museum of magic in what had been the basement. Marc has already hosted several magic lectures, and weekend shows are

presented by the Smoke and Mirrors group. The House of Magic has given magic an amazing new home in the Philadelphia area!

Tonight, we participated in a Teach a Trick night of sharing and teaching. Bill McElvenney started with “Rapunzel,” a story about the fairy tale girl locked in a high tower. He used rope to show how the prince could climb the hair by looping the rope into knotted loops. He then cut the loops and snapped the knots off of the rope. Bill explained the workings of the effect, and why he uses cheap clothesline rope. Also, Bill wears dark clothing when he does rope magic so that the rope is very visible against a dark background. Reba Strong had us fooled with a rubber band and a ring that jumped from one loop to another and back again. She shared the technique and had rubber bands for us to practice on as she explained.

Marc Bruley showed a large red die, and using only sleight of hand, had the dots changing places as he showed the die. He uses two sleights, one an old turnover move, and the other sleight that he covers with a simple large movement. David Hale gave us the first card effect of the night. He shuffled a deck of cards, had one selected, and seemed to have made a wrong prediction on a small piece of note paper. However, when he waved a flame under the paper, the “wrong” prediction visibly became correct.

Card maestro Steve Friedburg had a volunteer shuffle a deck of cards, and then had a card selected and placed back into the deck. He asked the volunteer to call out a random number, and when Steve had him count down to that number, it was the chosen card! Steve said it was his version of “Invisible Illogical Count Down.” Jim Capobianco (“Laz”) had two helpers shuffle his deck, spread out the mixed cards, and had a card selected, then placed into the deck. It didn’t quite work out for Jim, but he then was able to explain the workings of the effect.

Marc DeSouza explained that he was doing a “Three Trick” set, where one card effect led logically into another. First, a card was selected and then revealed, then he cut to four aces which switched places on the tabletop and finished with “The Collectors” effect.

Larry Grossman shared a story about six little rubber ducks. Each duck looked like a different superhero character. He asked an audience member to call out a number and counted the ducks to that number. He stopped at the number and then opened a small box on the table that matched the selected duck. Larry said that he always gets a great reaction when he performs this for children. Dave Kelly explained why dol-

lar bills do not have a high-tech anti-counterfeiting in them and showed how to pull out the colored threads used in the bill’s paper. Of course, a thumb was involved as he pulled out an eighteen-inch colored silk streamer. He also cautioned that many people no longer carry cash, so magicians need to have bills and coins ready to do the magic.

Jimmy McGinty showed how he made some beautiful magic wands from wooden dowels, and also a magic wand from PVC that he uses to carry his “Needle through Balloon.” Finally, he pulled an eight-foot-long white magic wand from a small paper lunch bag. He explained how to make it from a Home Depot item, and how to keep it hidden until the big reveal.

Thanks to all for sharing their magic. In July, we’ll have our Stage/Platform competition with great cash and down-load prizes. *David Kelly*

RING 9, ATLANTA, GEORGIA – Georgia Magic Club

Meets 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00pm, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church,
471 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA
Ring 9 Website: www.gamagicclub.com
BILL PACKARD, Secretary / Email: billpackardmagic@gmail.com

T.I.P. Lecture: “I Blame It on John Bannon” by Steve Goldstein. Inspired by several packet tricks by John Bannon that involve different colored backs, such as “The Royal Scam.” Steve first presented a variation of “B’Wave” where all the backs change to different colors. To create some of these effects, one needs several decks of different colors, and Steve went down the rabbit hole to collect a few decks by Bicycle, Card Shark, Phoenix, Metalluxe, Dragon Backs, custom decks from Theory 11 (including Grateful Dead), Wondercraft, Whispering Imps, Unity, and even Kirigami (art of cutting cards), then even more of his collection of hundreds of decks and various ways to store them and display them (carat cases, nail polish stands).

Business Meeting: President Clark Kjørlaug greeted thirty-six members (one on Zoom) and four visitors (including Michael Varon’s children) Augustus Graves (substituting for David Howell) appeared at the Secret Isle, now a regular venue for Magic and Comedy. Atlanta Magic Night presented their Farewell Spectacular with Mark Johnson, Steve Langston, Mark Merchant, and (P.I.P.) Joe M. Turner. Gus is also appearing at the Atlanta Fringe Festival May 29 to June 7 at Seven Stages. The Georgia Magic Book Club is reading *Repertoire 2* by Asi Wind. Zoom meetings are scheduled monthly on second Wednesdays, with the first on June 11. Lynn Fox has been added to the magician roster for Project Magic at the Shepherd Center and at the Hope Lodge. Steve Goldstein reported on the last Magic

Meetup on May 4 at Hudson Grille. The next Magic Meetup will be at Fellini's on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer reminded us about the upcoming lecture on May 21, by Benzi Train and Eri Leclerc. Joshua Jay's lecture is scheduled for October 26 (a Sunday, at 2 p.m.). National Magic Week is the last week of October, and Anthony Vinson suggested members plan to promote that by performing at town squares, restaurants, local TV, etc. and asked for additional ideas.

Theme Magic: "Mentalism for May" – Perform some mentalism or mental magic. (1) Young guest Lisa Varon, assisted by her father, dealt cards into a matrix formation, turned away while a spectator selected a card, and twice determined which card was selected. (2) Jason Kresner showed a packet of cards representing people who had "pierced the veil" in Savannah, and a throw of the die revealed the only card with a picture on it. (3) Mark Hatfield placed a jumbo ace through nine cards that had been shuffled into a 3x3 matrix, had any three-in-a-row revealed and added together, and showed that he had predicted the total. (4) Patrick Buchen had a card thought of, showed a photo of himself looking at a red backed card, then revealed that the only red backed card in a blue deck was the thought-of card. (5) Walter Fields presented Max Maven's "Karotsuke." (6) Eric Schuster had a spectator clear his mind and focus to produce a passcode that successfully unlocked Eric's phone, then Eric did the same and was able to unlock the spectator's phone. (7) David Rakoczy repeatedly invited a spectator to roll a die and cover it with his hand and determined the number of spots on the top by observing the "tell" as the spectator recited all the numbers. (8) Steve Langton gave a "Hall Pass" to a spectator, asked him to choose a celebrity he wanted to meet, showed a prediction of him as a baby (a gag), and turned the photo around to show the true selection (Tom Cruise). (9) Aryeh Rabin had a card selected, showed it to be "revealed" on four different cards (similar to 52-on-1), but turned all four into the selection. (10) Jerry Li admittedly used a stacked deck but determined which card had been selected and replaced first only by feel, then after lots of additional manipulation by the spectator. (11) Jamey Evans demonstrated his knife-throwing skills into a cardboard box and invited a spectator to do the same, and when he tore open the box, all four holes had been circled on the inside as a prediction. (12) Wayne Carter performed a Die Cypher variation using ESP symbols. (13) Gary Poleynard performed "Mental Epic for Strolling." (14) Debbie Leifer,

for National Roadie Day, had a card named, which was also named by a stranger who answered a random telephone number. (15) Martin Baratz placed three cards face down on the table, and while his back was turned had a spectator look at one, replace it, and switch the positions of the other two, then after turning around and the spectator's additional mixing of the cards, he determined the selection.

General Magic: (1) Mark Hatfield performed a linking rope effect with the aid of a beautiful box made from the wood from the "Serenity" boat from the Bermuda Triangle (Dean's Box) to the delight of the two children who participated. (2) Martin Baratz performed a card trick that he called "Magic Trick." (3) Steve Goldstein showed another deck from his collection, Ex Tenebris, a marked deck that reveals cool designs, letters and hidden words under black light. (4) Catweazle Jim Mangham's orders from Dan Bradbury are packaged with crumpled pages from magic catalogs from the 40s or 50s, so he invited anyone to look at or take them. Also, he showed an example of a laundry basket used as a dump box in a show.

The Wheel of Names Giveaway winners were Lynn Fox (Gregory Wilson's "It"), Jason Kresner ("Millionaire"), and Rubin Fernandez ("Jumbo Tomfoolery"). The Coveted Royal Blue Pin was awarded to Debbie Leifer.

Bill Packard

RING 12, BUFFALO, NEW YORK – Gene Gordon – Karl Norman Ring

Meets 1st Mon. each month at the Screening Room Cinema & Café, 3131 Sheridan Dr., Amherst, NY. Web site/E-mail: Ring 12.org
TODD NELSON, Secretary,
(716) 480-4757 \ 24 Majestic Circle, Amherst, NY 14226

In June, four Ring 12 members entertained and educated the rest of the group with some very solid close-up magic!

Dave Barrett dazzled with Mark Jenest's "Jiggernaut," Slydini's "Coins through Table," Michael Ammar's "Bluefield Debut" and a couple of Frank Garcia's card effects and Dave's version of the "Three Shell Game."

Bill Butski presented a mini workshop in which he performed a beautiful "Wild Card" routine and shared some insight from Reginald Scot's *Discoverie of Witchcraft*. Bill also shared an excellent "ACAAN" type of effect as well.

Jim Greco wowed the crowd with his versions of three different effects: "Prior Commitment" by Simon Aronson, "Bannihilation" by John Bannon, and "Jazzy Transposition" by Jim Sisti.

Finally, Victor Trabucco fried everyone with his handling of "Twisting the Aces" using an ace two, three, and four, a great version of "The

Hotel Mystery,” and a pair of four ace productions. He also showcased a few killer moves, including the Buckley Card Reverse, a Slop Shuffle with Daryl’s Display, Vic’s Bottom Palm, the Trabucco Multiple Shift and a great handling of “Card Warp.” He also threw in a few effects just for show. What a night! *Todd Nelson*

RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm The Linden Grove, 1100 Grove St., Pittsburgh, PA
MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@sei.cmu.edu
Web site: www.ibmring13.org

During our June meeting, we received new Ring membership applications from Joe Bedard and from Sam Shea. Tony Brahler’s Ring membership application was voted upon and granted. Welcome, Tony! Lucy Hall introduced our performers with a suggested theme of “character magic, done in costume.”

Sam Shea presented his first performance for Ring membership by dealing sixteen cards face down onto the table from a deck that had different U.S. states on their faces. Sam asked Lucy to place four, quarter dollar coins on the backs of four of the cards on the table. Sam showed that the chosen cards’ faces matched the state designs shown on the back sides of the respective state quarters.

Joe Bedard presented his first performance for Ring membership by having a card selected and shuffled back into the deck. Although the selected card was not ambitious enough to reappear on the top of the deck, Joe lit that top card on fire and showed that it magically transformed into the chosen card after being burnt. Next Joe showed three Chinese coins threaded onto the middle of a length of ribbon. Joe made the coins pass one by one through the middle of the ribbon while the coins were held in spectators’ hands.

Eric Meredith asked Dave to hold a daily planner calendar book while Eric gave a folded sheet of paper to Sam to enclose in an envelope. Eric asked Ted to select one deck of cards from seven decks from seven different casinos, remove the cards from that box, shuffle the deck, and cut the cards. Eric explained that he had previously written down the name of a casino, the name of a card, and a date. Ted confirmed that the name of the casino and the card that he had cut to matched Eric’s prediction. But when Ted opened the planner book to the date that Eric announced, that calendar page was missing. Sam opened his envelope to find the missing calendar page, which had the name of the selected card and casino written on that date page (“Destiny”).

Todd Hertzberg removed and set aside one

prediction card from a shuffled deck. Todd instructed Joe to deal cards into three piles on the table. The top cards on each pile were turned over and were supposed to match Todd’s prediction; but something didn’t quite work, so Todd offered to perform the effect another time instead.

Joshua Updyke had a card selected from a deck and set aside, and Joshua claimed that his contact information was written in invisible ink on his forearm. Joshua passed a borrowed cell phone over his arm, and his contact info immediately appeared on the phone’s screen, which included the name of the selected card.

John Pedrotti caused a light bulb to light up while held in his hand, and he made a wooden match ignite by tapping it with his wand. Next John wrapped two ropes around Todd’s neck and pulled the ends, penetrating Todd’s neck (a variation of Matt Fore’s comedic “Ropes through Neck” routine).

Tony Brahler showed a pocket calendar in which different card names were written on each day. Tony asked Cece to name any date and then look up the name of the card identified on that day in his calendar. Tony fanned a deck of cards to find the identified card, and he turned over that card to show that “Special Day” was written on its back. Tony then fanned the backs of the rest of the deck to show that that special card was the only red-backed card in a blue backed deck.

Dave Matheus performed a version of an “Ambitious Card” routine in which a card that Eric selected and replaced in the middle of the deck repeatedly jumped to the top of the deck. The final time, Dave made the card sticking out of the middle of the deck appear to slowly and visibly melt upwards to be the top card.

Ted Knoblach asked Joshua and Eric to each take a random number of matchsticks from a pile and then count their matches. Ted dealt cards face up on the table while counting aloud, and he asked Joshua and Eric to each remember the card that appeared at their number of matches. Ted then gave the deck to each of them to find and remove their cards from the deck. The values of their cards matched (Vinny Sagoo’s “The Perfect Match”).

Levi talked about the evolution of his magic character, and he performed another version of his “Ambitious Card” routine where he made Cece’s selected card repeatedly reappear on top of the deck.

Dan Kamin played an old video recording of one of his comedic performances where he was introduced and pretended to be a new foundation executive giving a speech to a theatre and

dance company event. The audience only gradually caught on to his masquerade.

Gary Filson led a discussion on conducting a Broken Wand Ceremony for a departed magician, and he distributed printed copies of two, sample ceremony scripts and instructions to our members.

We ended our evening with an auction of eleven boxes of magic items donated from the collections of the late Don Gilbert and from Gary's friend, Larry. *Mark Zajicek*

RING 15, FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Ren Clark Ring

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:00pm at 4055 International Plaza, Ft. Worth, TX 76109

GEOFFREY GRIMES, Secretary / ggrimes@aol.com

Facebook: Fort Worth Magicians Club

Everyone was up for the May meeting of the Fort Worth Magicians Club. It was good to get back with everyone after the cancellation of our April meeting.

A cause for celebration, Gavin Griggs, President, announced that he would be performing all summer long in a children's camp, a wonderful opportunity for sharing his incredible close-up talents. Vice President for Programs Devin Hall would be covering in his absence.

Several members shared additional updates and announcements. Ron Wilson reported on the July 12th public show at Fort Worth's Rose Theater. Everything is a "go" with the ticket link active now. We will be marketing through our Facebook page that can be shared with our own followers. The poster will have the QR code for purchasing tickets. Sales from the tickets go entirely to the theater for continuing repairs and upgrades.

The Gregory Wilson lecture was cancelled in April due to a slip up in his schedule. We will try it again at a later date.

Jordan Burgess suggested we invite Michael Ammar to lecture sometime this year, a suggestion that triggered a very positive response.

Mike Smith announced the upcoming Magic Auction to be held on the Sunday after the TAOM meeting on the Labor Day weekend. Scott Wells will be the auctioneer.

John DiPalma, whose parents host monthly poker games for adults in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, invited FWMC members to consider performing at the monthly gatherings. The first evening, already booked with Tony Dempsey, is June 14, followed by regular monthly venues. Any of our FWMC club members is welcome to perform for a little "flight time" and some really "good eats"!

Geoff Grimes shared his story of the creation of the "Magic for Ukraine" (magicforukraine.org)

website. He told the story of a Ukrainian refugee child, who, along with her mother, this past weekend, discovered Dal and Cinde Sanders, two of the "Magic for Ukraine" entertainers, performing their live magic show at the Taste of Addison (Texas) weekend festival in an outdoor stage. The little girl just couldn't believe that she was able to meet one of the actual performers whose YouTube recordings she had watched with her father over the Internet! She had fallen in love with magic! (Sometimes, "we just win"!)

Geoff passed out hand-painted wooden Ukrainian "pysanky" eggs, challenging members to come up with an original egg routine. To stimulate interest, he passed around Steven Minch and Donato Colucci's *Encyclopedia of Egg Magic* (Hermetic Press, 2002). He then shared copies of "Notes on Comedy and Humor in Magical Entertainment," texts for the April meeting of the "Mid-Cities Magic Circle" in Arlington, Texas.

Gavin Griggs performed a "teach-a-trick" routine from the *Mark Wilson's Magic Complete Course in Magic* with volunteers Mike Smith and Michael Stein. Mike marked a selected face down card from the deck, and holding it behind his back, marked an "X" on the reverse and returned it, unseen, to the deck. Gavin passed the deck to Michael who replicated the move, but this time, marking an "X" on the face of the card before returning his, unseen, to the deck. Gavin then spread the deck to reveal that the marked cards, in fact, were the same card, with a big black "X" on both sides! Thanks, Mark!

Program Chair Devin Hall then announced the program theme: "Wha'cha gonna' do when a trick goes 'south'?" Even late in the meeting, the topic still generated lively discussion and a lot of reminiscences of flubs, miscues, prop malfunctions, forgotten lines, jack-ss interruptions, volunteer screwups, and... well, you can fill in the blank with your own "misbegotten" woes, no? Let's put it this way, we all winced, not just a li'l bit, when Will Baffle recalled the evening the blade on the guillotine actually struck the girl's neck! (Whoooooops!)

From Will's head chopper, the evening migrated into informal "shows" and "tells" and lively magical conversations (that we just never get enough of!). *Doc Grimes*

RING 16, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – Society of Memphis Magicians

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00pm, Germantown Presbyterian Church

JEFFREY DAY, Secretary

Web sites: www.ring16.org

Our June meeting was our best attended meeting in many months. We had a very lively

business portion where we walked through many ideas to make our Ring both better in attendance and quality. Memphis is booming with magic and many club members are making it happen!

Our first performer of the night was Grayson Smith a.k.a. Amazin Grayson. Grayson is a busy magician performing weekly at the Memphis Botanic Gardens and the VA Hospital. Grayson's magic is always uplifting and has a positive message. Tonight, he performed a card routine which he calls "Helpful Cards." By changing a single card's position in a group of cards, he is able to create harmony out of chaos.

Next to perform was Michael Clayton. He is very busy this summer performing library shows (where he got his start) on top of his regular schedule of shows. Michael specializes in wholesome family and illusion shows. Tonight, he performed his "McCombial Library Books" routine from his library show and a card routine where a selected card is located sandwiched between two guardian cards.

Our third performer of the evening was Joe M. Turner, a Past President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Joe is one of our busiest magicians performing all around the Mid-South with his stage and table magic. He is also a well-known inspirational speaker. Joe first performed his version of an "Astor ESP Card Matching" routine, where the spectators have completely free choice of placing five cards in any order, but they still match the order of cards that Joe placed before beginning the routine. His second routine was a "WiFi Card Revelation." A card is chosen but revealed in a very unique manner as Joe changed everyone's WiFi networks on their cell phones to match the chosen card. Wow!

Our next performer was Martin Seiler who specializes in Mental Magic. Tonight, he performed a Tarot card routine that he titles "Dancing with Nostradamus." This was a fine routine where Nostradamus had predicted the World Trade Center attacks centuries before they happened.

Our fifth performer was James Pennington. He is a very busy young man juggling his love for magic and a college degree. Tonight, he performed his version of a "Spidey Hypnosis" card routine that he titled "A Diamond Thief." A very nice routine.

Our final performer of the night was Doug Green. Doug is probably one of our busiest mentalists and is well known throughout the country. Doug is always willing to share ideas and routine with Ring members. Tonight, he performed his version of "Zephyr" giving credit

to Nestor Dee, Colin MacLeod, and Andy Jerxman. Another great exhibition of Mental Magic performed by Doug.

As always, if you are in the Memphis area on the first Tuesday of the month, please drop in for some great magic at the Germantown Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Magically yours,
Dr. Jon Stanford

RING 19, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – Carl Jones Ring

Meets 2nd Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom and in person 2nd Sat. (location TBD)

ANDREW SELBITSCHKA, President / Web site: www.IBMRing19.com

June is a strange month, whereby our Zoom meeting precedes our in-person gathering. The Zoom meetings are more intimate, and we spend more time on theory and procedure, than on showing tricks and workshoping, which dominated our in-person meetings.

Rich Hinrichs started us off with rubber band magic. He, then, segued into presenting the children's trick, the "Magic Sword" illusion, followed by sponge balls and a Gozinta Box. Rick also shared some of his magic using pens, pen caps and bands.

Tyler Erickson performed Michael Ammar's "Ring Bandit." This was followed by a discussion of RB magic and use of various props to enhance RB effects. We spoke of how to present and enhance effects, whilst making performances more entertaining with the addition of humor.

David Hansen, a fan of John Bannon (who isn't?), shared a card trick from Bannon's book, *Very Hush Hush*. I assisted in the trick, and we discussed how to better frame the trick, or any trick for that matter, to a created a better format.

Dan Norat offered his version of Paul Harris's "Immaculate Connection," the linking of two playing cards. Dan also shared his thoughts on the *Animal Wizards* magic books. He found them a fun read and a great conversation starter but reiterated that the magic contained within could be considered "dangerous" (read scary and poisonous chemicals), if not presented correctly!

Speaking of books, Tyler wanted to confirm that *Magic for Dummies* contains some magical gems that are often overlooked; check out "Linking Pretzels."

I shared a recent purchase, for one dollar, at a book sale of a third edition of *Expert Card Technique - Hugard and Braue* (edited by Carl Waring Jones - more on that later).

Back to rubber band magic, Tyler taught a trick whereby a RB transfers magically from the hand of the magician to that of the spectator.

Scott Freda shared some card flourish skills that he has been honing. This led to a discussion on cardistry.

Our workshop topic for the meeting was about getting into secret setups. We talked about which methods work best, often dependent on how you are “selling” the trick being performed. Making it something that is directly related to the trick, by asking questions of the participant(s), will help to cover a secret move. Don’t just say something to cover a move. We often say more than we need to say, actions should speak for themselves.

We also had a masterclass on topping the deck. Tyler provided a modification to the group, of the Masterclass that he created for Vanishing Inc. His offering to us contained enhancements that covered a more specific move for topping the deck, that will allow for a more deceptive, less obvious movement.

Our in-person meeting was small, but the feel of the meeting was exciting and generated great participation.

Paul Laidig, The Vintage Magician, pulled some magic from his closet and performed “Copentro.” He asked for and we offered feedback for condensing the trick and enhancing the reveal of flight of the coins.

Dan Norat shared a calendar trick with Steven Olson; we discussed how he could condense the effect and enhance the trick for parlour presentation.

We took a break from performing to discuss danger magic, specifically the “Bullet Catch.” Paul shared that he had performed the trick but would not do so again. We tried to encourage (jokingly) Steven to perform the trick; his mother, Miriam, nixed that idea. Boo!

Fast Eddie Olson performed two packet tricks, “These Cards Are Marked” and “Four Card Monte.” Both were enthusiastically received.

Jean-Robert presented his original trick “Envelopes of Mystery” and “Ring and String with Box.” The box effect had a surprise ending that we did not see coming - bravo!

Monte Cook shared his version of the “This ‘N That Card Trick.” His presentation was refreshingly modified from the original and was well received.

We rounded out the meeting with a discussion of a trip to the Minnesota History Museum’s Gale Family Library. The library houses the archived papers of our Ring namesake, Carl Waring Jones. Dan Norat, Harry Entwistle, with his wife Debbie, and I were able to view the materiel used to create *Greater Magic: A Practical Treatise On Modern Magic*. The manuscripts, notes and artwork were fascinating to review. This was our first trip, and we barely made a dent in viewing the documents, in the

four hours we spent there. This is such an honor to have the info available for reviewing. We will be making many more trips and entering pertinent info on the Ring 19 website. I cannot wait for our next trip!

Please join us either in-person or on Zoom. All are welcome!
Jennifer Graham

RING 20, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Eddie Clever Keystone Ring

Meets 2nd Thur., at 6:00pm (order off the menu), meeting 7:00pm at John’s Diner 146 Sheraton Dr., New Cumberland, PA 17070

MARK KROTULSKI, Secretary
E-mail: eddieclever20@gmail.com

In attendance were Frank Bianco, Al Bienstock, John Fortino, Steven Gailey, Dan Sculley, Jack Ritter, and Stephen B. Smith, Michael Reist, and Michael Worsham. The meeting opened at 6:33 p.m. and the president greeted the members and guests.

The Secretary’s Report was approved as corrected. The Treasurer’s Report explained that the CD will soon mature, it will be cashed in, bills paid, and the balance put back into a new CD.

Under Old Business: President Smith will pick a date in April for the club field trip to the Houdini Museum in Scranton. Vic will get the date approved with Dorothy. Members of the club entertained veterans on March 10. Helping out were President Smith, Al, Frank, John, Jack, Michael Worsham, Genevieve, and Barry.

Under Good of the Order: The Magic Swap meet is coming up. Mark Z couldn’t be here because he was out traveling. House of Magic in Philadelphia will soon open. Rodney is finishing up the banner for Jubilee Days. Steven G reported they will have a one-day festival for clowning in Harrisburg. More information to follow soon. Michael Worsham reported on the Jokers of Magic to take place on March 15. Michael Reist reported on a trip to the Murder Mystery Theatre at Mt. Hope. Many are attending Brett Myer’s show in Lancaster the weekend of the swap meet. Sculley reported he attended Kyle Purnell’s Carlisle show.

Our club held its annual Eddie Clever competition – for this competition you must perform something found in the “Parade” from *The Linking Ring*.

Stephen Smith performed “Witch Is It” by John S. Roberts in the Nov. 2020 *Linking Ring*. It was a very clever and moving story involving ropes. Al Bienstock performed “Probably Plus” by Sam Burborow found in the February 1952 *Linking Ring*. John Fortino performed “Symbol Eyes” by Bob Malinchock found in the August 2023 *Linking Ring*. Michael Worsham performed David Parr’s “Cue Test” found in the June 2023 *Linking Ring*.

The club awarded John Fortino the 2025 Eddie Clever championship. Well done, John. After the competition, Michael Reist performed Axel Hecklau's "Perfect Moment" for the club.

April. In attendance were Frank Bianco, John Fortino, Maryann Gelehrter, Mike Gelehrter, Ritchie Matthews, Vic Orriola, Jack Ritter, Dan Scully, Stephen B. Smith, Maria Tellez, Michael Worsham, and Doc Yoder. The president greeted the members and guest. We welcomed two new members to the club, Mike Gelehrter (Mike's wife, Maryann was our guest) and Maria Matellez.

Under Old Business Vic reported that we don't seem to have sufficient interest to go to the Houdini Museum in Scranton this month.

Under New Business the president presented the sign-up sheet for Jubilee Day. Our booth will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and the president plans to man the booth during that entire time. The sheet was broken down into one-hour shifts. Members started signing up.

Good of the Order: Al Bienstock was not present at our meeting because he was attending a special township commissioners' meeting to replace a deceased member; Mark Zagursky was absent because he was not feeling well tonight; Rodney Ries had a conflicting meeting tonight, but he is working on the Jubilee Day banner; John Fortino will be performing "Mentalism with a Twist" on Saturday April 26, 4:00 at the Paxton Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg; Michael Worsham mentioned that PA Entertainer's swap meet attendees received discount tickets to Brett Myers Magic and Wonder Theater in Lancaster where Brett performs an excellent Las Vegas level show; Marc DeSouza's new magic theater in north Philadelphia is now open and will be doing shows every weekend; Jack Ritter received his Order of Merlin for fifty years membership in the I.B.M.; Vic showed us two books that he picked up on his trip to Japan (*La Campanella* by Shimpei Katsuragawa and *The Elusive Illusive* by Ben Daggars).

Vic performed "Mirror Mirror" which is in the *La Campanella* book. He also performed a self-working "Triumph." Michael Worsham magically produced a Rubik's Cube from a picture of one in a pamphlet. He then solved it while behind his back starting with one color randomly selected by Maria. He successfully solved the entire cube behind his back. Frank performed a magical location of a volunteer's selection from a packet of nine cards, (i.e. Jim Steinmeyer's "Nine Card Trick" with Frank's embellishments). Mike G. performed a "Ring on Rope" routine involving a cool levitation at the

beginning. The routine was excellent, and it was similar to the following performed by Frank. Frank performed his awesome "Finger Ring on Rope." John Fortino performed the "Eddie Clever Book Test" that he won in the Clever contest last month. It involved a deck of letter cards, and John had worked it into a nice show piece. Smith performed "The Egg Plague" which is the penultimate piece in his upcoming Harrisburg Fringe Festival show.

We are particularly pleased to have our two new members. Both seemed to have a lot of fun, and they have indicated that they will continue to attend our functions. *Michael Reist*

RING 21, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA – Caryl Fleming

Meets 1st Thu. at Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Cathedral auditorium, 650 Michelorena St., Los Angeles, CA 90026 / Web site: www.IBMRing21.org

GERRY SCHILLER, Secretary
P.O. Box 246, Newbury Park, CA 91319 / (805) 499-8921
E-mail: geraldschiller@gmail.com

For our June meeting we tried something new that was actually quite old, bringing back our Close-up Award Competition and it was filled with great, mostly original routines.

Our President Bob Weiss had a somewhat unconventional idea to reverse the room using the stage for the audience to sit so that four tiers were created allowing everyone to see the close-up action easily.

Ellen Stein who started our night told of a story of growing up in Savannah where she saw the card trick, she was about to perform, then she charmingly performed Daryl's "Printing Card" effect and then a card color back change, followed by a matching mate card effect.

Next, Bob Carroll performed hilariously as he did a version I think was "Out of this World" with a spectator who mixed up the cards herself in the beginning! It had other surprises too. He also had her sign her name on an image that changed. He finished with a fun "Color Monte."

Allan Litteneker did a funny and unique routine using cards and asking audience members tough yes and no honesty questions that wound up to be a mathematic magic square. It had a surprise ending where the center card matched his prediction in his box and all the other cards in the deck turned blank.

Rachel Slocombe did a unique "Cups and Balls" routine as balls disappeared and reappeared under the cups. Her unique patter had to do with a family home renovation, eating, and gastrointestinal products. It ended I think with cute bears.

Manny D'Mago performed with a routine about how when he was young, he could use magic to pick up girls starting with a flash appearing Trident gum effect then an M&Ms

appearing effect. He explained as he got older, he learned how to pick up women with bracelet magic as they linked and unlinked and then using money magic which he did a cool coin routine, then a card effect tying into his Starbucks coffee cup.

Bob Weiss did an amusing "Ambitious Card" routine with an examined deck of cards as the signed spectators card kept popping to the top using several different methods as well as eventually the whole deck changing to the spectator's card and then back to normal with their card reversed. At the end their card wound up in the previously examined empty card box.

David Martinez performed a great original card routine using a car and along with his great wit as well.

We also had a guest performer that did a routine with cards using a patter with so called "mirrors" as the cards kept changing.

The audience voted on a scale of one to five each in the categories of presentation, originality and effect. The results will be announced at our 87th Annual Awards and Installation Banquet in October along with Best Comedy and Best Stage.

Bob Weiss

RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:00pm at The Mountain House Gallery,
702 9th Avenue (corner of West 48 Street) New York, NY 10019
JAMES R. STRANGES, President

E-mail: magicjim1@optonline.net / Website: www.80-20.org/meeting

Our April 2025, the Bornstein/Clement lab was certainly well attended by enthusiastic and eager members, as always. The theme? Rope, String, Shoelace, Thread and Cord Magic. But before beginning, we enjoyed great camaraderie over a meal and our usual mini auction.

Past President, Frank Reyes, started the evening with challenging everyone to hold their ropes with an end in each hand and tie a knot without releasing either end. Later, revealing the secret to this teaser, Frank proceeded to demonstrate G.W. Hunter's "Puzzle Knot". Throughout the evening Frank entertained and taught "Panama Rope Trick," "Tarbell Jumping Knot," Mike Tannen's "Sliding and Vanishing Knot," Aldo Colombini's "Appearing and Sliding Knot" and Tony Slydini's Rope Routine.

Jack Diamond showed that his talents are not only in card work. Jack performed two beautiful routines involving a finger ring and a lace. One routine involved the visible penetrations of the lace through the ring. The other effect was a version of "Ring Flight."

Adrien Pierard followed with the classic, "Rope through Neck." Adrien followed this with another version of tying a knot without letting go of the ends. He ended with a wonderful

routine involving a lace and three Chinese coins. One by one the coins are threaded onto the lace. Then while holding on to both ends, one by one the coins penetrate the lace.

Wendy Pincus presented three ropes of different lengths. She placed them in one hand. With a little shake and letting go of two of the pieces they all joined and became one solid length. Well done.

Coin man, Sheldon Lippman, performed a baffling rope knot never before seen by yours truly. Apparently, this was an effect he learned as a young man from Flip Hallema (Flip). Even with a theme we still allow for other effects.

Guy Crowl performed a funny duel paddle effect with flies. Yes, flies.

Finally, up to bat was Zachary Adelman. Although he is one of our newer and younger members, he never fails to demonstrate that he is up for the challenge. Zachary performed a signed card effect where he signed one card, and a spectator signed another card. At the end both signatures appear on one card: each their card. Thanks to all who attended and participated in the lab.

April 2025 After-Meeting Show brought a special opening performance. With a common theme being "Currency Night," the opener was coin man Dr. Michael Rubenstein. Michael, who has appeared on *Penn and Teller: Fool Us* and has had teaching videos produced on his works, sat down and performed two beautifully constructed and entertaining routines. Thank you, Doctor.

With that our regular show began. Longtime member, Steven Gertzman opened with a classic of coin magic, "Flying Eagles". Done expertly he followed it up with "Three Fly".

JVIC the "Relationship Magician" followed presenting a jar filled with coins. He invited three spectators to each guess how much money was in the jar. He opened the jar and taped to the inside lid was a prediction. The prediction was that the amount in the jar would be two dollars less than one of the guesses. Upon the reveal it turned out to be the case.

Next up was our newspaper aficionado Robert Wallner. Robert presented a routine that was constructed along the lines of a game show. Armed with six paper bags, each containing a prize, he used a bell, a horn, a die and a spectator to create a hilarious and entertaining routine. New member, Zac displayed six sealed envelopes. Each envelope was labeled with a different word. For example, one envelope was labeled "ignore," another "winner," another "sex." Well, you get the idea. Five individuals were given a chance to win a prize, but the left-over envelope would be

Zac's. With freely made choices and an opportunity to change their selections, Zac was left with one envelope. The envelope contained the prize.

Adrien Pierard followed with another classic effect. Called "Roll the Bills," this effect was performed by many of the greats. One such great was Mark Wilson. Adrien next performed an encore performance of an effect he did at our recent lab. This was as a special request by Frank, who loved it so much at the lab that he asked Adrien to present it at this meeting. Three Chinese coins threaded onto a lace were made to magically and visually escape from the lace.

Tommy Burnett confounded the group by asking someone to select a number from one to one hundred. Spectator called out forty-two. Tommy reached into his pocket and pulled out a handful of coins. When counted, the sum of the values was forty-two.

Our closing act was Jack Diamond. Armed with six coins and a ring, Jack performed his rendition of Slydini's "Coins through the Table". Such a beautiful routine and rarely presented it was a joy to see it being done.

Thanks go out to all who performed and attended. Thanks again to James O'Brien for the notes and those who took photos. Please visit us on our Facebook page, [ibmring 26](#). *Frank Reyes*

RING 27, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA – Earle J. Christenberry, Jr., Ring

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:0pm, Knuckleheads Sports Bar & Grill, 3535 Severn Ave. Ste. 10, Metairie, LA 70002. Optional meal anytime after 6:00pm – brief business meeting around 7:00 - 7:15 – followed by magic.
KEVIN CARNEY, Vice Presiden / E-mail: kmcarney@charter.net
101 Rue De LaPaix, Slidell, LA 70458 / (985) 643-3611
Web site: www.ibmring27.com

June 5th, 2025, Lenny "Tricky TrainWreck" and Darlene Bertrand, Allen Boudreaux, Craig Boudreaux, Kevin and Barbara Carney, Jim Hussey, Herb Miller, Trini Montes, and Hunter Songy attended.

We excitedly acknowledged the 30th year of the St. Stanislaus Summer Camp Magic Show presented by Joe Harrison and Cole Marshall. The event is always a big crowd-pleasing success and features some of our I.B.M. Ring 27 talent, Joe Harrison, Dr. Joe Dalgo, Craig Boudreaux and others. We also noted upcoming local performances of Harrison, Dr. Dalgo, Fernelius, and Helling, Jr.

Craig Boudreaux handed Hussey a quarter marked with an "X". A second, unmarked quarter was examined before it inexplicably changed location with the "X"ed quarter while the original was still in Jim's closed hand (Gregory Wilson's "The Undercover Pen"). Boudreaux then presented a finessed "Cups and Balls" routine including a normal cup, a ball, pen, quarters, wand, big strawberry and dice.

Using only four red and four black cards, Jim Hussey actualized a recurring elevator effect via modi operandi of Vernon, Cervon, and Skinner. This segued into 'darker mysteries' as he enjoined Darlene to select a card. This was reshuffled into the deck. A voodoo doll was presented to find her card. It had a little difficulty and settled upon four. From these it 'ritually' selected Darlene's card the Ten of Spades. The remaining three cards were the other tens! (Jim Hussey's "Voodoo.")

The deft hands of Kevin Carney displayed a red silk that instantly dropped to the table as a solid red ball ("Silk Handkerchief to Billiard Ball"). Before the amazement and applause faded Carney presented a padlock and some keys to Craig for inspection and safe keeping. Boudreaux securely locked it and placed it under a glass. With a wave of a handkerchief the lock was not in the glass, but rather, locked around the glass's stem ("Phantom Lock").

Allen Boudreaux summoned a fairy light into his closed hand ("Firefly" by Tinanias). Later he had Darlene select two cards and placed them into a box. When reopened all kinds of stuff kept coming out of the box before the chosen cards were identified and found ("Anything Box" by TCC and Conan Liu).

Darlene Bertrand had Jim Hussey shuffle a deck then remove all the diamonds. The rest were discarded. Jim selected one of these to be a 'specialized' card and placed it face down on the table. Hunter Songy and Craig Boudreaux each also selected their own cards to be lost among the remaining diamonds. Jim's 'specialized' card was then revealed and used to find Hunter's card which in turn found Craig's (Werner Miller's "Thingumbob of Diamonds" from *EnigMaths 2*).

Herb Miller effected a baffling card trick. Trini Montes offered some of his card effects. First, he and Songy each selected a card and placed them into the other's deck half. After various packet splits, turnovers and shuffles, their individual cards were the only face up cards ("Overcast" by Trini Montes and Jon Racherbaumer from *Walking to New Orleans*). This was followed by presenting Hunter with the four jacks which were distributed face up in the deck. Somehow the jacks changed places with aces on top of the deck when the deck was riffled (Trini Montes' "Jack This Ace"). Later he rendered his "Ninja Party."

Lenny Bertrand displayed five hand drawn cards that represented essential human needs. Allen was asked to ponder them and to think of a number between one and five. That number was used to eliminate cards until only one

remained. Upon elimination each card was turned over revealing a blank back. The remaining card when flipped displayed a message that linked to a secret prompting hidden within the other cards ("Coat" by Cameron Francis from his *Out of Sleight* DVD).

Tricky TrainWreck continued with another mentalist card revelation effect made possible by implementing John Bannon's Riffle (Cross) Cut Force.

Leonard Bertrand

RING 36, FLINT, MICHIGAN – The Conjuror's Club

meets 4th thu. of the month January – October, and the 3rd thu. of the month for November and December. Currentlty meeting at Sam's Restaurant on Grand Blanc Road at 6:00 p.m. in the private room.
DOUG DERN, Secretary • E-mail: law4less@aol.com

The May meeting was filled with lots of excitement. We were coming off the Michigan Magic Day Weekend. And what a weekend it was. Michigan Magic Day is a small magic convention and this year it was hosted by Ring 22. Ring 36 had one hundred percent attendance to support the convention.

The Ring 36 May meeting started off with lots of exciting stories about the weekend. Everyone was excited about the magic they bought and talked about what a great job Ring 22 did. Thank you Ring 22. Steve Valentine was the headliner this year and everyone was amazed at the great magic he did.

After a long discussion of Michigan Magic Day, we turned our meeting to the July fundraiser we are having. We are doing a theater show. We have a daytime matinee, and an evening show scheduled to raise funds for our Ring so we can get more lectures. Then we turned our discussion to Michigan Magic Day next year. Ring 36 will be hosting it in Flint.

After our business meeting, we had a special guest, Ring 36 President Johnny New York. He did a mini workshop of card magic. He showed us how to do a false cut, talked about memorized decks, and showed us a few tricks that he created. Everyone enjoyed it. Thank you, Johnny.

The meeting was adjourned in the usual manner, and everyone made it home safely.

Doug Dern

RING 39, HOUSTON, TX – Scott Hollingsworth Ring

www.houstonmagic.com
JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH, Secretary / E-mail: judy4birds@yahoo.com

Thirty-one Houston magicians gathered at the meeting hall as usual on the first Monday in June. The evening's mini lecture was given by Jamie Salinas. He performed and then demonstrated the ins and outs of his M&M prediction. A number and colors of a few M&Ms poured

from the bag miraculously matched his written prediction. Smooth handling and easy-to-follow instructions make this cute routine something anyone can do. Thanks, Jamie.

Matthew Crabtree delivered the month's brief Houston magic history segment talking about Walter Blaney. He shared several specific memories of his interactions with Walter and shared the fact that Walter will be honored this year with his picture on the back of S.A.M. membership cards.

The I.B.M. Ring 39 business meeting started at 7:40 with President Gene Protas presiding. Donnie Kornegar made a motion to approve the May 2025 meeting minutes as published. Dick Olson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Treasurer Judy Hollingsworth gave the treasurer's report; there were no questions.

Secretary Judy Hollingsworth read a communique from TAOM President Eric Hogue in which he urged early registration for the TAOM Convention in Irving over Labor Day Weekend. The laid-back format with several meals included in the registration price of only \$150 should entice every TAOM member to attend this fun "unconventional" convention! It will include picnics (indoors) to hark back to TAOM's beginnings. Lectures? Shows? Dealers? YES, YES, YES! Please sign up today and remind your magician friends.

President Protas called for a vote to approve the club's buying a full-page color congratulatory ad in the national 2025 I.B.M. Convention, which will be in Houston July 9-12. The membership approved the motion unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The open mic performance subject de jour was "Classics of Magic," with presentations by Matthew Crabtree, Johan McElroy, Greg Conner, Alex Osypov, Jimmy Fingers, Drew Heyen, Jay Schwausch, Jamie Salinas, Gene Protas, Rick Hebert, Lanny Kibbey, Caesar Trujillo, David Rangel, Daniel Chin, and Harry Maurer. The three blue ribbon winners for the evening were Jamie Salinas, Alex Osypov, and Lanny Kibbey.

Judy Hollingsworth

RING 43, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – Harlan Tarbell Ring

3rd Fri. except July and August, 7:00 p.m., at Magic, Inc. 1838 W. Lawrence, Ave., Chicago, IL
MIKE KAMLET, President / E-mail: kamlet@ameritech.net
175 E. Delaware #8502, Chicago, IL 60611 / (312) 266-2129
Web site: www.ring43.org

The meeting began with an announcement by President Mike Kamlet that in June we will hold our annual Close-up Contest, in August we will have a Pizza party/Crafts program, and in October we have a lecture by Chad Long.

Next, Kevin Owens announced that Ring 43

dues are \$30 (an amazing bargain) or \$35 if paid after September. Kevin also introduced two new members, Ben Jones and Steve Horn.

The activity for our May meeting was a lecture by mentalist Joe Diamond. Dubbed America's Greatest Mind Reader by Coast-to-Coast AM, he's a World Record Holder who solved the world's largest corn maze, blindfolded! He also read the minds of Penn and Teller on their Las Vegas stage and saw the future in Brooke Burke's palm!

Brielle Kawalek introduced Joe who started off by touting "Satan's Shoelace," an effect available for purchase at Magic, Inc. A shoelace is wrapped around a spectator's wrist and cleanly penetrated the wrist when the ends were pulled.

Joe spoke about magician Ted Annemann, who was the source of inspiration for a lot of stuff he did. Joe said he was going to perform the Annemann Mentalist Act, then explain it. He picked Alec Schraegle to assist in his first effect. Alec mentally chose a card (JS). He dealt cards face down as Joe spelled "Jack of Spades." The card that corresponded to the last letter was turned over and shown to be the JS! He then repeated this with a deck Alec had kept in his pocket and again found the JS!

Joe got Kristen Kaniewski and Vianney Perez to assist and had Vianney write a number on a slip of paper. She counted from one to nine four times and each time she counted he guessed one of the digits in her code. Joe then gave Kristen an imaginary phone and had her call a friend. He correctly guessed her friend's name was Rachel!

Next, Joe got Nancy Anderson to sit in an (imaginary) isolation booth and pick a two-digit number, writing it on a notepad. Several volunteers wrote numbers on a pad. When the numbers were totaled, they added up to thirty-two. Nancy showed the number she had written, and it was also thirty-two!

Joe picked Brielle to assist and blew up a yellow balloon. Brielle tied a blindfold around his eyes. The balloon was tossed randomly around the audience and Joe found it while blindfolded and popped it with a dart.

Joe got Ian Murray to think of an object, Ben to think of a password, and Steve to think of his first pet. Joe correctly guessed the password was Slay, the object was a bicycle, and Steve's pet was named Peppy!

After the meeting a number of members adjourned to Primo Chukis restaurant for additional fun and fellowship. *John Hutsebaut*

RING 46, OKLAHOMA CITY – Seymour Davis Ring

Meets 1st Mon. of month, New Beginning Fellowship Church, 15601 S. Pennsylvania, OKC
LEE WOODSIDE, Secretary
E-mail: WoodsideLee@hotmail.com
Ring Web site: www.okcmagic.org

Vice President Justin Teeman called the June meeting to order. He then gave a recap of Lance Pierce's "Pebblepalooza" magic weekend that he and his dad recently attended. He praised the lecture by Chad Long and name-dropped Michael Weber and Bill Malone as attendees.

June is the month of our annual Close-up contest. Members compete for cash prizes and bragging rights.

Cassandra Crowe selected playing cards randomly from a deck and asked Grant Vinson to tell her whether he believed them to be red or black. Cassandra placed the reds and blacks into different piles. At the conclusion, it was found that Grant had one hundred percent success! It was "Out of this World."

David Teeman brought out two decks of Fox Lake playing cards. He spread the cards from one deck and invited Rick Martin to touch the back of one card, which proved to be the Three of Clubs. He then asked Rick to take the other deck out of the box and spread it. There was one face up card, which was also the Three of Clubs. David then showed two decks he had purchased at Dollar Tree, a *Batman* deck and an *Avengers* deck. He performed the same effect he had shown with his Fox Lake decks.

Grant Vinson had Rick Johnson take a card, sign it, and return it to the deck. Grant returned the deck to the card box. He then introduced us to his "bad ass" stuffed rabbit and removed a switchblade knife from it. He stabbed the deck with the knife and pulled it out of the deck sideways. The Three of Spades that Rick had signed was stuck on the blade of the knife.

Lee Woodside told the story of Timmy's encounter with a leprechaun. The wee one changed Timmy's copper coins into silver, but alas, the next morning the coins were again copper. Lee then performed his "Leprechaun Seance," where a card chosen by Grant Vinson was divined using a leprechaun's business card, but only after holding the little guy's feet to the fire.

Shaun Clark showed a stopwatch with a rotating bezel. He demonstrated how the watch worked and, after moving the bezel, asked Rick Johnson to hold the watch face down and start, then stop the stopwatch. Sure enough, the hand lined up with where Shaun had set the bezel.

Share the Magic! Invite a friend to a Ring meeting.

Rick invited Jim Green to select a card, which was returned to the deck face up. Rick removed the selected card and the two cards on each side. Rick then invited Grant Vinson to look at a social media post that Rick had created hours ago. The photos matched the cards. Rick then performed an “ACAAN” (any card at any number) routine.

The scores were tabulated during the break. After the break, Justin announced that Rick Johnson won third place, Lee Woodside won second place, and David Teeman was the contest winner.

Lee Woodside

RING 49, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA – The Doug Henning Magic Wand Club

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00p.m. (except July and August), Ryerson United Church, 265 Wilson St. E, Lancaster, ON
DOUG HUNT, President, / E-mail: stiltrecord@yahoo.ca (519) 750-4703
Web site: ring49magic.com

June 2025’s Ring 49 meeting, the final event for our 2024/2025 season, was held at Symposium Cafe Restaurant in Ancaster, Ontario. This well attended event was chaired by club President Doug Hunt. After some opening comments, he established the Executive Board for next year (he’s staying on as President).

Then, as Chair of the Events Committee, I gave a review of a recent club show performed for a local senior’s facility. Performing annual ‘formal’ shows is something the club is intending to adopt as regular activity as it really seemed to unify and add purpose to the group.

After sharing a meal together, members took turns in performing their favorite effects for each other. Restaurant/table settings are well suited for card effects, especially packet tricks, but wands and balls and numbered tiles – all the usual paraphernalia – made appearances.

Informal events like this are well worth including in your Ring’s schedule. I find they create a real sense of comradery and group adhesion; and the food and drink doesn’t hurt either.

Rene Chouinard

RING 50, WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Capital Ring

Meets 1st Wed. 7:30 pm, Lyceum Museum, 201 S. Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314 Web site: www.IBMRing50.org
MARC CARRION, President / E-mail: president@ibmring50.org
TODD EISENSTADT, Secretary / E-mail: toddeisensta@gmail.com

Twenty-year member Geoff Weber won Ring 50’s annual Dan Lacey Contest May 7 and bragging rights as the Ring’s reigning “magic performer of the year.” In Weber’s winning routine, he predicted the freely chosen movie (*My Fair Lady*) from an antiquated Blockbuster Video DVD case after guessing a confabulation of predictions from different spectators, from movie stars (Robert DeNiro) to city skylines (here San Antonio).

It was an evening of visual magic, featuring some unique stage acts, such as a wizard who made musical instruments appear from his cauldron, a Houdini impersonator in chains who escaped from a mail bag, and, of course, some excellent card tricks. Weber, who has been performing professionally since 1997, has published a trick and competed in the Dan Lacey contest a half dozen times. “I’ve gotten close a couple of times, but this was my first time winning the trophy,” said Weber. “This was very meaningful for me and something I had been hoping for, for a long time. It felt really good to get all the positive feedback and recognition from my magic peers.”

Consistent with his “Retro Magician” persona, Weber performed his “Blockbuster Video Confabulation.” He said that “going to the video store used to be such an important ritual for me and my friends. It’s amazing how many things like this we took for granted that have now disappeared.”

Reigning Dan Lacey winner Drew Owen created an elaborate plot combining magic and music, captivating the audience by producing violins, banjos and flutes from drawings, floating a violin and then watching self-playing violins compete. He concluded his act by losing the stringed instrument in his cauldron and then producing it again from his potion.

Former Ring 50 President Danny Selnick (a.k.a. Houdanni) claimed he did not care if he won or lost, at one point stating to the crowd, “I may go over the eight-minute time limit but isn’t this interesting?” Indeed, it was, as Selnick did finally manage to free himself from the cuffs and bag, after meeting his real goal for the evening, “Come hell or high water, I was going to tell some of the dumb jokes that I’m known to tell at the club.”

There were a lot of highlights. Charlie Ross opened with a champagne bottle appearance, Arnold Fuoco turned a Red Bull can into pineapple juice, Sebastian Lazo converted random piles of cards into odd and even piles, Russell Almond produced umbrellas from silks and also made a picture of the Incredible Hulk appear. Additionally, Cristian Vidrascu found the spectator’s card after making a card stand on end, Dwight Redman made a signed card appear from a Black Hole of Mystery in a silk, and Nate Solloway presented a “smash and stab” routine of his own conception which involved hammering boxes until only the one with the spectator’s expensive watch remained.

But the best was saved for last, as Weber launched into his routine with the memorable line, “Now we have ‘Netflix and chill,’ but

before it was ‘Blockbuster and bang.’”

The Dan Lacey Award was named after the Ring 50 president in 1999 until his death in 2000 during his second term. He was remembered as a jovial hobbyist magician who was extremely dedicated to the magical arts. Ring 50’s competition in his name began in 2003.

Todd Eisenstadt

RING 56, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA – The Mystic IKI Ring

Meets 2nd. Mon. of month at home of Norris Priest, Henderson, KY

MIKE EAKINS, Secretary

E-mail: TheMikeEakins@gmail.com

Website: www.ring56.com

Ring 56 held the monthly meeting on June 6th, and it was a very enjoyable and educational time. We started off discussing future activities, such as a lecture by Trevor Lewis in September and our annual picnic/swap meet in October. Several of our members will be attending conventions this summer, and our President Joseph Franklin will be on the bill at the Vent Haven CONVENTION in July.

Frank Findley told us more about how the Ring grew years ago with the help of Clyde Crouse, who manufactured magic in Evansville and eventually became known in Hollywood as a prop master and magic teacher for actors playing magicians. We look forward to Frank’s writings about this interesting magician from our past.

Member Norris Priest noted that *The Linking Ring* articles by David Ginn were must reads, and he enjoyed them very much. We also discussed magic shows the members were performing, along with shows coming into the area.

“Voodoo” by Chris Congreave was presented by President Joseph Franklin. It is a fun packet trick, similar to “The Web,” which will no doubt become popular.

Gary Burgdorf followed with a mini lecture on his “Big Nut Off Rope” routine. He starts off with some rope knot magic, then brings out his large chrome plated nut which jumps on and off, vanishes, and reappears on the rope. Gary has some very clever moves, and after the performance he graciously revealed his routine to all of us. A lot of thought has gone into it, and learning his methods was as entertaining as watching him perform the trick. President Joseph Franklin was taught the trick by Gary years ago and uses it in his close-up work. He shared some additional ideas on it, along with his addition of a special rope to add more byplay.

A mini lecture on small audio systems by Frank Findley was very enlightening. Audiences need to hear you as well as see you, and with so many options this advice was most welcome. He showed the amp he uses (Hisonic) and dis-

cussed free or inexpensive apps that allow music and sound effects to be easily played. Frank uses a small remote which stays in his pocket. It covers a good distance, allowing him to fade out, stop, and start the music easily. A lot of research went into Frank Findley’s choice of a sound system for smaller audiences, and his sharing was very helpful to members.

The mini lectures made for a very educational Ring meeting, with members saying it was a very worthwhile and enjoyable evening. We hope to do more of these in the future. *Mike Eakins*

RING 58, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thu. 6:45 pm each month, Messiah Lutheran Church, 6900

Kingston Pke, Knoxville, TN 37919

Web site: ibmring58.com

VICTOR AGREDA, Jr., President

(865) 223-1401 / e-mail: vagredajr@gmail.com

The evening began with the installation of our new officers. Congratulations are in order for the following: President Sherman Wires; Vice President Michael Messing (I.B.M. Official Photographer); Secretary Timothy Pressley; Treasurer Jack Wilson; Sergeant-at-Arms Caden Jerden; Program Chairman Nick Roberts; Board of Directors Tom Raidy, Bill Sturgis, Steve Jergin, and Jim Stott.

After I.B.M. Past International President Mike Stratman swore in our new officers, Andrew Hyder introduced Dan Fleshman as our guest lecturer for the evening. Dan arranged a stop in Knoxville on his lecture tour from Ohio in route to Florida. Seventeen of his fifty-one years performing magic, he has proudly served as the house magician at the Chop House restaurant in Beaver Creek, Colorado.

Dan humbly admitted to having a dental emergency on the road and that he may lose his front tooth at any moment during the evening with us. Mr. Fleshman understood the old adage stating that the show must go on. He was determined not to let a tooth stand between him and an opportunity to perform for a group of his peers.

For two and a half hours he proceeded to share with our club his deep wisdom on performing in a restaurant setting. Dan shared how he manages his props, how he approaches tables, and how he keeps his props and material fresh year after year. In regard to honing one’s material, Dan said, “Listen to your audience and they’ll write your show for you.” Brilliant advice, Dan.

He performed and taught a handful of his signature routines including, but not limited to: An electric Fire Wallet combined with “Hundy 500” by Gregory Wilson to capture an audience’s

attention; Gregory Wilson's "Pointless," a topsy turvy pen that will leave any spectator scratching their head wondering which end is up; a three ring penetration routine heavily inspired by Shoot Ogawa's "Ninja Rings;" a "Chop Cup" routine with a jigger, olives and corks that concluded with a giant lime dropping out of the jigger; a multi-phase rope routine combining classics such as "Professor's Nightmare" and "Ring on Rope;" Richard Pinner's "Kids Kards," a nice visual piece of magic; and an effect where the four aces assemble after being shuffled into the deck.

As for Dan's tooth, it did fall out in the middle of his lecture! He calmly placed it in a safe place, made a joke about now fitting in with us Tennesseans, and proceeded with the lecture like the pro that he is.

Timothy Pressley

RING 59, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT – Frederick Eugene Powell Ring

Meets 1st Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m. at River Valley Retirement Community, 101 Oakview Drive, Trumbull, CT
CJ MAY, Secretary / E-mail: cyril.may@aya.yale.edu
Web site: www.ibmring59.org

Much magic was on display as the Greater New Haven Magic Society held its June meeting on Monday 6/2/25. Gale Alexander bested us with "Die-Cipher II," sussing out the brass die's number within the opaque brass box. This was even more amazing as he received it as a gift without instructions and had to learn two important secrets to perform it.

"The Amazing Andy" Charney shared a silk cabby he purchased at a recent auction in New London.

Avinash Sridhar tossed out a few magazines to the entire group and was able to determine the words selected from their contents by all those assembled.

Join us as guest or potential member whether you have the conjuring talents of Copperfield or can barely shuffle a deck of cards. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Reduce – Reuse – Recycle.

CJ May

RING 60, AUSTIN, TEXAS – Carl Moore Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00, at Hero's Night Out in Cedar Park.
TRICIA HEIL DAVIS, President
Web site: www.ibmring60.org

Our June meeting began with an extremely well-researched and captivating lecture by Burt Rosenbluth on Harlan Tarbell. Of course, he is the author and illustrator of the famous *Tarbell Course of Magic*. This course started as a hugely successful correspondence course. By the 1920s Tarbell was a sought after and respected magic performer, educator and innovator in magic. Throughout the course of the lecture, we

learned about many lesser-known segments of Tarbell's life. Tarbell served in WWI as a medical illustrator for the United States Army creating accurate anatomical drawings and instructions for medical trainings and surgeries. While serving in France, Tarbell studied under French Impressionist Claude Monet. Also, Tarbell directed the movie *Buck Rogers in the 21st Century* and even had a role in the film. Many a modern-day magician have benefited from Tarbell's teachings on ethics, presentation, psychology and stagecraft. One of our Ring members in attendance made a special disclosure: in 1957 he went backstage after a performance and garnered Tarbell's autograph on the program, which he still has!

The main program got underway, with Vice President JD Stewart delivering a presentation on AI in Magic. JD worked with AI for many years and took us through some of the various ways AI can be used as an asset to magicians. Brainstorming ideas for a routine can be enhanced with AI and programs such as chat GPT. JD demonstrated searching for ideas, and various AI generated responses. After brainstorming, there are ways to then generate text and scripts, as well as develop characters. JD showed characters he had created for branding and marketing his magic. Finally, AI can be used to put the created routines into a show and add music for a polished final production. A lively discussion with both curious and experienced members ensued. Thank you, JD, for guiding us down the AI magic trails!

Tricia Heil Davis

RING 63, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA – The Rhett Bryson Ring

Meets 1st Wed. monthly, 7:30pm, at the Shepherd's Care Assisted Living Center 2100 N. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC 29609
AUSTIN SEAY, Secretary / E-mail: magicofaustin@gmail.com
Web site: www.ring63.com

Meeting started at 7:04 which included sixteen attendees and three guests. The theme for the June meeting was "show/teach a trick from a book."

For old business, our member Shawn Moss (Kellar O'Neil) performed with Jack Roper at the Opera house in Abbeville, S.C. Our members Rob, Mike and Edmund performed at the Speakeasy Magic in New Realm Brewing company in downtown Greenville, S.C. Rob also performed three shows in a local Simpsonville bar which was attended by a few Ring members.

Our new member David performs every Saturday at Social Latitude on Woodruff Rd.

For new business, our member Terry Bailey offered to discuss with the new management in City Club in Greenville to change our meeting location. Also discussed performing walk-around

magic at the city club, which was previously well received. The meeting in July will stay on July second. Discussed also booking two lecturers: Cliff Mitchell and Scott Robinson.

For his Initiation Performance, David deduced the thought of name that a spectator was thinking of and had the thought of name and the name of his spectator next to each other in a shuffled deck. For his Initiation Performance Ted dove into the memories of three spectators and wrote things about their past on a whiteboard. For his Initiation Performance, Mason found a thought of card while the deck was in his pocket and then found a chosen card in a shuffled deck.

Performances: Perry performed and taught a baffling mathematical trick where three chosen cards added up to deal to the three aces individually, then the sum total of the three cards added to the fourth ace (from Andi Gladwin's book *Blomberg Laboratories*.)

Jon performed his version of "Charming Chinese Challenge" with a jumbo Chinese coin as a kicker finale.

Rhett performed two effects, both with scripts written by Al. The first was "Quackers the Duck Finds a Card." The second was the "Digit Delimiter" finger chopper. Also, Rhett showed a few posters designed by Al to advertise both effects.

Austin performed a demonstration of telepathy and clairvoyance using two freely chosen playing cards where the spectator handles the cards.

Mike performed a double prediction card trick from the *Encyclopedia of Card Tricks*.

Jimmy performed a variation of "Choose Your Queen" where the spectator eliminates three cards leaving just their thought-of queen, and the other cards eliminated were all jokers.

Steve performed and taught an impromptu mathematical card trick. *Austin Daniel*

RING 68, TOLEDO, OHIO – Toledo Society of Magicians

Meets 2nd Tues., each month, 6:30 p.m. Location varies.

PATRICK PRZYSIECKI, President

E-mail: patrick@patrickmagic.com

Ring 68 (Toledo, Ohio) met on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at the Lucas County Library in downtown Toledo. Seven magicians (George Magill, Johnny New York, Martin Jarrett, Patt Przysiecki, Doug Ferguson, Boomer Reynolds, and guest Mike Bayer) were in attendance.

After an installation of officers by I.B.M. Territorial VP Mike Bayer, the magic portion of the meeting began with a show by Martin, which featured an "Out of This World" variation from Tamariz' latest book, a card effect by John Luka ("Airplane"), and "Miracle Monte" from Wolfgang Moser.

George presented a Paul Gordon effect from a recent *Linking Ring* "Parade" and a double prediction effect where a shuffled deck was dealt to piles of paired cards sorted by matching or mismatched colors.

Doug showed a card prediction from John Carey titled "The Trick With No Name."

Johnny amazed us with a mathematical prediction effect ("Against All Odds") that ended with a custom license plate matching the math.

Patt presented a special deck that revealed a freely selected U.S. state to be the only reversed card.

Mike Bayer from Dayton Ring 5 performed a clever poker routine called "Mystical 13" by Howard Bamburg.

Following the meeting, we adjourned to nearby Poco Loco for food, drink, and comradery.

Doug Ferguson

RING 70, TACOMA, WASHINGTON – Great Virgil and Julie Ring

Meets 4th Sun., at LeMay Car Museum, 2702 E. D St., Tacoma, Fife, WA.

RICK ANDERSON, Ring Contact,

501 S. 43rd St., Tacoma, WA 98408 / (253) 473-5456

E-mail: rickandersonmagic@gmail.com

When a Ring meeting falls on the Memorial Day weekend, a light turnout can be predicted. Five of us braved the holiday traffic to share some of their magic and mysteries.

President Rick Anderson called the group together and the festivities began. First was Fred Turner who kept his theme from the April meeting with another linking card effect. This one used only one card where two smaller pieces were torn out and one was linked on to the larger piece. The result was handed out for examination. Fred followed this topological trickery with an "any card at a specific number" from the creative mind of the late David Solomon.

Next was our electronics wizard, Mike Losk, with a card matching that used some high tech. The card effect was great but the opportunity to learn about the tech was astonishing. Rick showed a deck drawn by his kids when they were young. A card was selected. Rick explained how the deck looked like it was kids' drawings to us but to the imagination of the kids, the cards looked regulation. With a wave of the hand, the faces and backs were a regular pack of Bicycles. With another wave, they were back to their kid condition.

Splitting a mixed deck in half, David Peltó allowed a helper to have cards from one packet placed face up into the other. After a few times, a prediction was shown that matched the number of face up cards in the deck. A second prediction correctly predicted the number of black face up cards, then the condition of the remaining red

cards. David was kind enough to tip the workings to the membership.

Closing the performance section, Mike demonstrated how fiber optics cable works, something he had brought for a younger member who was away for the weekend. They missed out on something quite amazing. The meeting concluded with conversation about magical events and news. *Fred Turner*

RING 74, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK – Harris A. Solomon Ring

Zoom meetings on the 2nd Tue at 7:00 p.m. In-person meetings on 3rd

Tue at The Spaghetti Warehouse in Syracuse, please contact:

KEN FREHM, President / E-mail: kfhrehm@gmail.com

JOEY HOFFMAN, Secretary / E-mail: joeydemonmagic@gmail.com

This month's meeting was a little light on attendance. We only had six members! However, our alternate meeting where we tested a new location, The Spaghetti Warehouse in Syracuse, had a better turnout. While it was an unofficial meeting and I wasn't keeping notes, I believe we had twelve.

We've been going back and forth for a few weeks now on whether or not to change our meeting place. After hearing everyone's feedback and taking a vote, we have decided to make The Spaghetti Warehouse our new official meeting place. These meetings will no longer be on the third Thursday of the month, and instead they will be held on the third Tuesday. Thank you everyone for your feedback and votes!

Dave Sorenson started the evening off with a lecture all about Busking. Dave's been all around the world busking and it was great to hear some tips from someone who's actively out in the field. He gave some great advice on how to deal with hecklers, how to collect tips safely and legally (cash and electronically), setting up your spot with makeshift barriers, and what to do when you're asked to leave or move locations. There were tons of things you normally wouldn't think about, like not setting up too close to businesses, picking the right spot and event, and how to gauge how loud your speaker should be, if you should even bring one. Thanks again Dave, great stuff!

I performed one of my favorite effects by Michael Vincent. I had Ken select a card and shuffled it into the deck until I was told to stop. I then took the top five cards off and showed them, asking if one was the selected card. When I was told the card was in there, I mixed the cards up and placed them face down. However, now there were only four cards. After turning over all the cards, and not seeing Ken's card, I spread the deck out, and his card was face up in the middle.

David MacBlaine did a routine with ESP

cards, where he removed cards with different symbols on them one by one until we told him to stop on the symbol we wanted. We chose the square. He then pulled a prediction out of the envelope saying, "You will choose the square."

Ken Frehm had even more magic to Demonstrate, Teach, and Share. This one was called "Clip the Odd Card." Five Cards are glued spread out together, four red cards, with one black card in the middle. The spectator is told to put a paperclip on the black card. They do this easily, and the cards are turned face down. When asked to do it again, and if they'd like to make a wager, this time the paperclip is nowhere near the black card.

The in-person meeting date and place has changed! As it stands, the date for our Zoom meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month, and our in-person meetings will be the third Thursday of the month. Both meetings start at 7, so try to sign on or get there a little before. Interested? Email kfhrehm@gmail.com and a link will be sent. We welcome all!

Joey Hoffman

RING 75, FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS – Bill Pitts Ring

Meets 2nd Sun. each month, 1:30 p.m., Fort Smith Library, 3201 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith, AR

KEN ZELNICK, Secretary / E-mail: kzelnick@suddenlink.net

The June meeting of I.B.M. Ring 75, Fort Smith, AR was held Sunday, June 8 at the Fort Smith Library. Eight members were in attendance, seven in person and one by Zoom. The meeting began with the nomination of club officers for the upcoming year. They are as follows: Larry Bean – president; Jody Birchfield – vice president; Ron Ingram – secretary; Clyde Hayre – treasurer; and Nick Gay – sergeant-at-arms. Installation will be held at the July meeting.

The theme for this month's meeting was "Boxes," and the attendees did not disappoint. Several had items for "show and tell," as well as performances and demonstrations. Larry Bean demonstrated some 3D printed tip-over boxes and dove pan. Ron Ingram showed how he had set up the boxes Larry had produced for him. Nick Gay showed a nested box set he purchased at Hobby Lobby and will alter them later. He presented a couple ideas for using them without alteration, which he will perform when developed. Ring attendees "workshopped" the idea to help. Nick also performed Tenyo's Crystal Cleaver and a magical knots routine. Rod Barrett presented a collection of boxes as per the theme of the meeting, starting with Wizzy Dizzy Milk Box, then moved on to several drawer boxes, making a rubber band move between them. He finished with a borrowed quarter appearing in a locked box. Clyde Hayre demonstrated a "No

Flippin Idea” box. Jody Birchfield showed a double watch box. Ron Ingram presented a “new” silk gimmick, and the group workshopped it.

Departing somewhat from the “Boxes” theme, Larry performed a book test, Ron performed the latest evolution of his “Scarves Through Scarf” routine and a “Color Blind Pom Pom Stick,” Patrick Kelly performed a “Stripped Down Memory” card routine, and Clyde showed some very small Dye Boxes, performed a “Billie Blockhead” routine, and finished with a mini lecture on flip-over boxes, then closed with the smallest “Color Vision” we have seen, and his “Smuggler” routine.

With no other items of business, several members recessed to reconvene at a local coffee shop.

Ken Zelnick

RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. “Social Gathering,” 7:00 p.m. start time.

Trinity United Methodist Church in Haley Hall, 4150 South Shade Ave., Sarasota, FL

STAR NEWMAN, President / (651) 491-1050

E-MAIL: prettymagical@gmail.com / Web site: www.ibmring81.com

‘Twas the 5th of June, and fifteen Sarasota magicians (including two guests) were excited about some magic. We moved next month’s meeting to the 10th to avoid the holiday hoopla, and then Nick Benevento did a tribute and Broken Wand for John Tegan (who went by “Jonti”); he was a performer at Magic Moments and helped at a couple different magic shops which are no longer around.

We moved into our Teach-a-Trick segment, and this month our incredibly popular professor of card magic, David Pitchford, did two things for us. First, he shared and explained a very easy “Oil and Water” effect with three red and three black cards. Second, he did a “Vanishing Aces” effect that was completely done with the Ascanio Spread, and David’s simple and systematic movement of his fingers, hands and cards made it very understandable.

The theme for the evening was “Table Hopping” and we had as many performers “hopping” as we had others sitting at two different tables across the room from each other. There were three performers at each table, and after they all finished, they switched tables. Former member Bill Bremmer did a ten-card game that we thought was poker, but he had the winning hand for Clue! Showing his keyring with three keys attached, one vanished from the ring in a blink of an eye only to appear in a coin purse. To end his set, Bill pushed a key through an Australian “polymer banknote.”

Taking inspiration from Doc Eason, Dan Walsh opened with the “Old Three Coin Trick” (a fun version of two-in-the-hand, and one-in-

the-pocket) and then did his version of Doc’s “Impossible Opener” with a deck of cards. He finished with a sort of “Ambitious Card” routine and then “A Bit of a Classic” with the Ace through Four of Spades.

Gary Roberts changed some one-dollar bills into hundreds, then back to ones. He presented a spelling routine where older photos of people were matched up with a great story that proved they found their proper mates. Gary concluded with a penetration effect using a glass, coin, ping pong ball and a silk.

Our other set of table-hopping magicians opened with David Pitchford – who we learned has been a huge influence on magicians in the area earlier in the meeting – doing a fast-paced set of card effects. David’s experience with this style of magic has been to get in, do lots of magic, and get out after doing some great magic.

In contrast, Frank Velasco loves to weave a story, and he opened with an effect with cards and dice he learned from Giobbi’s *Secret Agenda*. A strong mental effect with two sets of the five ESP cards were mixed, and a spectator aligned each face down card with its face down match. He finished with one of his favorite Monte effects that Richard Volmer had contributed to *Apocalypse*.

Having performed tableside from 1984 up until Covid in 2020, this is Tom Vorjohan’s favorite form of magic. Mixing some magic with comedy, Tom’s set included a jumbo-sized quarter, a mini nun, a shrunken wallet, and then he performed his new packet effect called “Persona” with a fun set of personal questions, and he ended with his “Ring & String” routine that was originally inspired by Dan Fleshman in the early ‘90s.

Thanks to all of our performers, this was a unique style for a meeting that went over well with everyone.

Tom Vorjohan

RING 89, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN – Neil Foster Ring

Meets the second Monday of every month, 7 p.m., at American Museum of Magic located at 107 E. Michigan Ave. Marshall, MI 49068.

ERIC SULLIVAN, President

140 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI 49068 / E-mail: trazdel@att.net

The May I.B.M. Neil Foster Ring 89 meeting is in the bag! John C. John Sherwood, Kevin Rosewood, Phil (Le Grand Wysard Phillip), Colleen, Mike Moorian, and Eric Sullivan (Trazdel) were all in attendance!

Eric kicked off the meeting by sharing different events that are coming up soon including the Marshall Area Farmers’ Market, and shows at the American Museum of Magic (please reach out to info@americanmuseum.com if you would like to perform). Kevin shared that the bylaws are close to being completed. John shared an update on the dates for our Ring performance.

The dates are October 11th at Maria's Uncorked, and October 18th at Great Escape Stage Company. More details to come.

Now, the moment you have all been waiting for. Magic! The theme this month was bag magic. Kevin started the magic with a quick thought of the "Card to Pocket" effect and then shared a card-fanning routine he was working on. Everyone had great feedback on how both of these could be improved.

Eric gave a mini masterclass on how to make your very own Silky Sullivan rabbits out of craft foam. It was amazing to be a part of, and boy, did we make a mess.

Mike was next on the stage. Mike showed an empty bag and amazingly pulled three boxes of flowers out.

John S. was last to take the stage. He shared his work on the Richard Osterlind stack. It's a special stack that is nearly impossible to spot and allows for incredible magic!

The theme for June is Packs Small Plays Big. The next meeting will take place on June 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Michigan. Until then, keep practicing, performing, and sharing amazement. *Kevin Rosewood*

RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.
BILL FIENNING, Secretary
(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: wcfienn@att.net

President Dave Dunlap opened our June meeting. We kept the business meeting very short and got quickly to our topic, a Teach-In. Four members, each seated at a separate table, taught a trick to a small group of attendees. Then the attendees would move to another table to learn another trick.

Sergeant-at-Arms David Ryan taught variations of "Pre-Deck Ability" by Aldo Colombini and "Shuffle Bored" by Simon Aronson. In a different vein, Ron Peterson taught how to make a tiny shirt with a bow tie from a dollar bill without cutting the bill.

John Polinko's trick was the David Regal's "Modern Transposition." President Dave Dunlap showed how to make a little paper wallet to hold a small trick. The Teach-Ins are always popular meetings. Even if we already know the trick, we sometimes learn additional information at these events. *Bill Fienning*

RING 92, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA – The Vancouver Magic Circle (Charles Howard Ring)

Meets 4th Thurs. except July, Aug. and Dec., 7:00 pm, Sunrise Community Hall, 1950 Windermere St., Vancouver, B.C.

SIMON CASSEGRAIN, President

E-mail: simon.cassegrain@gmail.com / Web site: www.ibttring92.com

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meet-

ing took place on Thursday, May 22, 2025. President Simon Cassegrain welcomed and greeted the members and guests especially the late Dennis Chan's sister Lori and her husband Tony. Simon invited guests to stay for the close-up magic competition after the Broken Wand Ceremony.

Graham Kita presided over the Broken Wand Ceremony for his long-time friend Dennis "Bulldog" Chan who passed away unexpectedly on May 1, 2025, at the age of 82. Dennis was a dedicated, long-serving VMC member serving as the Sergeant-at-Arms for two decades, as well as the club's historian, librarian, and *Linking Ring* contributor.

Many members and guests in attendance took to the stage to share their fond memories and stories about Dennis and his love of magic, the Ring, ventriloquism, and cooking. Those who spoke included fellow magicians from the VMC, the Fraser Valley Magic Company and S.A.M. Among them were Dave Watters, Bruce Hunt, I.B.M. Past International President Shawn Farquhar, Past S.A.M. President Rod Chow, John Stenning, Roy Hopwood, Bob Britton, Mike Norden and long-time friends and neighbors such as Suzanne Gustafson. After the many lovely tributes, the Broken Wand was presented to Dennis' sister Lori.

The meeting was also live streamed online via Zoom for members and friends who were unable to attend in person courtesy of Simon Cassegrain for setting it up and Shannon Linning for monitoring the chat. The photographer for the meeting was Roy Hopwood.

The ceremony was followed by a refreshment break graciously organized by Graham Kita and his wife Terri. Ken Cowie, Suzanne Gustafson, Dave and Cathie Watters, Graham and Terri Kita contributed food and refreshments. Mike Vetterli brought pop and was reimbursed by the club. Mike made the coffee for people to enjoy.

After the break, President Simon Cassegrain announced that magician Geoff Williams will be giving an online lecture on June 17. Simon then read the rules for the close-up magic competition. Graham Kita served as the emcee/host of the competition. The four competitors were John Stenning, Scott Barker, Roy Hopwood, and Michael Glenister. The winner of the competition was Roy Hopwood. The H.B. MacLean Trophy, fully buffed and shined up by Shawn Farquhar, was presented to Roy.

The helping hands for the night were Scott Barker, Roy Hopwood, Rob Teszka, Chris Yuill, Glen LaBarre, Simon Cassegrain, Suzanne Gustafson, Shannon Linning, Dave and Cathie Watters, Graham and Terri Kita. Many hands

make light work. Twenty-nine members and sixteen guests were in attendance. *Charles Gauthier*

RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club

3rd Sun., 2:00pm, Adam's Dance Connection, 900 Jackson, Dubuque, Iowa
JIM MCCREA, President, (309) 235-6215
E-mail: jrmfpc@gmail.com

After a discussion of the club show performed at the Galena Center for the Arts two nights before and an upcoming performance for the East Dubuque Public Library. It was agreed that the show in Galena was a total success and members felt it was one of the best shows ever performed by Ring 93. All the performers brought their A game, but it might have been a six-year-old boy in a blue shirt that stole the show. He kept moving closer to the action and it was obvious that he wanted to be a volunteer. When he reached the front row, Walking Magic Bob finally called on him to assist in a "Cut and Restored Rope" effect. When this six-year-old volunteer sprinkled magic dust on the rope, and restored it into one piece, his smile and reaction were priceless as the audience applauded.

Jim McCrea led off the performances with Paul Gordon's "Fooler!" from the May edition of *The Linking Ring*. After performing it, he explained how it worked since none of the others had yet read the Parade section of *The Linking Ring*.

Mark Pepelea presented a demonstration of the Prophecy Move in a trick where the two red kings were found. The move was new to a few members and the group discussed a couple if different handling. It was agreed that the move was quite deceptive when done casually. Chris Westemeier added his own touch to the move, which made it even more deceptive.

Adam Kieffer produced a coin from Margaret shoulder and then took pointers on the best way to make it disappear from members of the club.

Next Adam performed a sixteen card, self-working trick with five steps to it. First, he took a twelve-card packet, face down and asked a spectator to insert four aces, face up, anywhere in the deck. Second, the deck was randomly shuffled by another spectator. Next, the cards were dealt in a card down, card flipped rotation until all sixteen cards were on the table. After that, the top two cards were offered with a choice to put the cards down or flip them over until all sixteen cards were on the table. Next, the cards are placed on the table in a card down, card flip rotation until all sixteen cards were down. After that, the top two cards at a time were offered with the choice to put the cards down or flip them over until all sixteen cards were on the table. Lastly, the sixteen cards are dealt onto the table in a four-by-four layout, and

the spectator is asked to instruct you to flip the cards up, down, left, or right, until all sixteen cards become one packet again. At the end of all this, the four aces will return to their face up position in the packet.

Walking Magic Bob a retired teacher, performed and taught several classic effects. First, he performed Aldo Colombini's "Birthday Card Trick." Bob added his own personal touch to the effect by ending the effect with a Master Card rather than the usual Happy Birthday card. Next, he showed the book, *Stars of Magic*, one of his first purchases over fifty years ago. Bob then performed and taught, Dai Vernon's "Cutting the Aces," found on pages 27 – 30. A classic effect involving several sleights, but well worth the practice. In closing, Bob performed an effect that he purchased from the Henry Evans lecture called "Matching Couples." A self-working effect where the spectator performed the magic.

Bob Beardsley

RING 94, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND – The King Ring

Meets 4th Weds. each month, 7:30 p.m., Williamsport Redman Tribe
#84, 16129 Lappans Rd., Williamsport, MD
Web site: www.kingmagicring.com
CHARLES JAMES, President / E-mail: khandu1@aol.com

The No-Junk Auction was a great success this year as many members and guests got some outstanding deals. I personally got a \$500 item for just \$80. Charlie James, once again, served as auctioneer. He moved quickly from item to item with the help of runners, Joe Cole and Max Mixell. Our runners ran all night to the backbone of auction night, members Karen James and Jim Greer. We could not do it without their expertise.

I was asked during the evening about the attendee who was constantly yelling/bidding, "Two dollars" at the start of most items up for bid. I explained, "Oh, that's Allen Walters. He's been doing that for years. (Years ago, he started at one dollar.) If Allen did win the item, it usually went to a newbie. Allen is famous for his generosity.

The night had many guests who quickly learned when and where to return for a great magical bargain.

John Swomley

RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – Merlin Eiert Ring

Meets 3rd Sat., 7:00 pm at the Seal Beach North Community Center,
3333 Saint Cloud Dr., Seal Beach, CA
Web site: www.Ring96.com
CLIFF GERSTMAN, Secretary / E-mail: Cliffg37@verizon.net

On May 17th Ring 96 held its 2025 Close-up competition. President George Reis went to great lengths to make sure the audience could see all the close-up action, by setting up a camera and a projector onto a huge screen behind

the performers. We had an amazing audience of nearly sixty people who came to watch the festivities.

Our first performer was Dan Habel. Dan showed us a jumbo-sized ESP deck of cards and a matching regular sized deck. Dan had a volunteer shuffle and deal the regular sized deck into four piles and turnover the top card of the first pile. It matched the top card on the jumbo deck as did the next three. Dan had the volunteer shuffle the jumbo deck and pull out a card. The card matched a prediction. Finally, Dan pulled six objects from a box and blindfolded the volunteer. She picked one object which was called for in a previously unopened mini briefcase.

Kevin Papkle was up second. He offered three lessons which were, be flexible, invest in the future, and be yourself. Kevin performed a "Ring On/Off Rope" trick using a rubber band and proving he could be flexible. He invested in himself with four silver coins that he turned into gold one at a time and dropped into a mug. He poured them out, and they were silver again. Kevin pulled a king from a deck of cards; he asked three unusual questions of his volunteer and then pulled out a prediction card. The volunteer chose a card. It was the Seven of Diamonds. Kevin had it partially replaced in the deck but left it sticking out. His prediction was the Seven of Hearts. Where the volunteer had stuck it into the deck it was sandwiched by the two black sevens.

Jeff was next to the table. He asked a volunteer to choose a number between 1 and 130. She chose 83. Jeff told her there would be a scream at 83. He brought out a book of famous artwork pieces. He turned to page 83 and found Edward Munch's painting, "The Scream." Jeff had a pile of large index cards and a Bicycle deck which was not normal but had words of different lengths. Jeff had three words chosen from the deck and asked for the number of letters in the word. The first volunteer said eight letters. Jeff guessed the word. The next volunteer said six letters, and Jeff guessed the word. The last volunteer had a five-letter word. Jeff guessed that too. Then he showed the backs of his index cards where he had predicted the chosen words in writing.

Marty Gorman was performer number four. He opened by spreading the deck and shuffling the deck with a claim to have memorized the order of the deck. A volunteer chose a card, and Marty knew it was the Four of Diamonds. Another card was chosen, and it was the Eight of Spades. Marty knew that too. Marty produced four kings in four different ways and lay them on the table. He dealt the rest of the cards into

four piles and proceeded to deal them out. They were in queen to ace order and in all suits matching the kings.

Alan Hanson was next, and he presented the "3Cs" of classic magic. A volunteer chose three cards, and Alan knew something about each one. The first was the Jack of Hearts. The second was the only red card in the deck, and the third matched his prediction as well. The second C was coins, and Alan presented four coins that seemed to travel between his volunteer's hands and his own at will. The last classic was "Cups and Balls." The cups fell through each other, the balls moved around as is appropriate and the act ended with potatoes as a kicker load, and a baby chick.

John Engman came to the table and showed us a shoestring and silk. He linked two shoestring loops together and then separated them apart. The silk was rolled up and seemed to grow larger in John's hands. John ended his routine with linking safety pins.

Joji Takeda was up next, and he opened up with dealing a number of cards. He put his hand across his mouth in a zip motion and had the audience call out the card's names. He did a nice Erdnase top change. Joji did a routine with two gold coins and two silver coins. The coins changed placed, vanished, reappeared, and eventually returned to as they had started. He did a sponge ball gag that found two sponge balls in the volunteer's formerly empty hand. Joji ended with an "Ambitious Card" routine.

Trevor Yang arrived ready to work. Trevor started with spreading a deck and doing a card wave. One card had somehow flipped over in the wave. A volunteer chose a card. It was the Ace of Spades and when Trevor found it, it was mini-sized card on a stuffed dog's collar.

Wayne Mitcheltree was our second to last competitor. He had four aces, and four indifferent cards that he freely showed. One at a time he stuck aces into the pack of indifferent cards and laid them down on the table. Eventually the aces were all on the table, while the indifferent cards were back in his hand.

Liam Ferris was the last performer. Liam had a deck of Tarot cards and had a volunteer select one card. The other cards got put away. Liam asked the volunteer to focus on factors of the card, the colors the shapes and such. Liam used a pendulum to divine the correct card.

While the votes were collected and counted, former Ring President John Piercy, who had been doing sight-gags between the acts came out to do some real magic. John found a chosen card, predicted a chosen card, and did a lie detector routine.

When the votes were counted, Joji Takeda was in third place, Alan Hanson was in second place, and Kevin Papke took first place. The coveted people's choice award, which was voted on by our non-member guests, went to one of our newest members Trevor Yang. Another exciting night at Ring 96. *Cliff Gerstman*

RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - The Maurice Rooklyn Ring

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood
Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street
Chatswood.

JACK SHARP, President / email: jack@sharpmagic.com.au

Our May meeting was a little unusual and didn't go according to plan. A few of our members were overseas at various magic conventions and a couple are suffering health issues at the moment, so we broke a record and had only four people turn up.

Does this mean that the meeting was a disaster? By no means. Peter Wood and Anthony Dillon performed the material they had prepared for the night, but because of the intimate number of people, each effect sparked off conversations about other ways to perform it, alternative ways to present it and various other improvements.

Once Peter and Anthony had presented their prepared material, it became an impromptu situation where we began performing other effects which encouraged more discussion. The night ended up being a combination of a social night, workshop and teach in. We all went home after a couple of hours feeling that it was a very worthwhile evening. I think we all learned something, and all of our creative juices were flowing.

The designated theme for the meeting was Packet Effects and Gimmicked Decks. Throughout the course of the evening, Anthony presented "Between The Jokers" from Chris Congreaves' book *Curiouser and Curiouser* – a new twist on the card sandwich idea, "Thirteen" from JB Magic – a two-deck effect that only uses one deck, "Predicshuns" by Roddy McGhie using a deck that looks handmade by a child, Paul Gordon's "OMG Colour Change" where the aces turn face up one at a time, then they end up with different coloured backs, "Random" by Peter Nardi – a triple prediction effect where the spectator makes all the choices, and "Eight Card Brainwave" with a much improved ending by David Williamson where all the backs are apparently shown as you flip over the chosen card.

Peter showed us the following, "Acrobatic Chameleon Cards" – used as an audience warm up exercise wherein four aces turn face up and back down one at a time, then the backs change from blue to red, then to multicolours, "Chicago Opener" with a different ending in which the

second chosen card is waved over the first card whose back has turned red, and when turned over, both have changed places, "Three Card Triumph," "Impromptu ACAAN" and "Out of this World."

Small get-togethers with two, three or four other magicians can be a very worthwhile experience, as long as they are knowledgeable and prepared to share ideas and not hold back because of jealousy or insecurity. If you have never been in that sort of situation, try it. Invite a couple of friendly magi over for a jam session.

Peter Rodgers

RING 106, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – Sydini Pyramid Garden State Ring

Meets 2nd Wed., 8:00 p.m. at The Sparta Avenue Stage, 10 Sparta Ave.,
Sparta Township, NJ

STAN BLADEK, Secretary / E-mail: quakmagicphil@aol.com

Our monthly get together was a night for presenting, discussing and getting feedback on our "works in progress." Stan Bladek presented another aspect of his baseball 'work in progress' routine. He has changed Doc Eason's "All Screwed Up" routine by changing the nuts and bolts to bats and balls. He has come up with original patter relating to a bunch of college classmates playing in a summer softball league. The amount of feedback and informative remarks were just incredible. The number of professional magicians in the club makes for such a dramatic improvement to any routine. The comments and insights are most welcome, timely, and productive.

Bruce Harpster showed his recent work on two fronts. He has been doing some impressive spoon bending, as well as spending time with the pasteboards. He did several false cuts and a slick false riffle shuffle. His handling and execution were top notch.

Tim Fortune has been working on a new sketch pad routine. Sometimes it is the smallest suggestion or improvement that can really make a performance stand out. In this case, it was a suggestion by Joe Garsetti about the use of a specific adhesive to improve the handling of the pad. A product called Alien Tape is super sticky and will hold up to heavy handling and abuse.

Some of our members have been having health issues. Keep our club in your thoughts and prayers. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 9 at 8 p.m. Come on by to visit, participate or just watch. You are all most welcome. *Stan Bladek*

RING 113, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY – Audley Walsh/Conrad C. Bush

Meets 1st Thurs. 8:00 pm, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 300 Forest Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ.

ANTHONY FERRER, Secretary / web site: ibmring113@yahoo.com

After the usual club business, Ring leader Richard Micucci gave a demonstration and mini

lecture on the Osterlind Billet Center Tear. A group discussion ensued about various ways to billet peek.

Michael Healy demonstrated his most recent magic purchase, Meir Yedid's "WOW Book Test 7: the Kreskin Edition." The test utilizes the same method as the previous WOW edition. Aside from this new release, Meir has acquired the rights to the Kreskin estate inventory and is offering lots of exclusive Amazing Kreskin items!

Jay Paul presented Pit Hartling's "Chaos," an epic card trick. Two spectators, each choose cards from a spread deck and swap their positions in the spread. Jay squares the deck and deals eight piles. Through a seemingly chaotic process, he finds the two selected cards! For such a deceptively sloppy routine, the trick is mathematical and self-working!

Next, Carl Morano performed "Magic Butterfly," a Tenyo illusion where a card is chosen from a packet of colorful butterfly cards, the selected colored butterfly magically appears in a previously empty specimen box!

Mark Cahill performed a powerhouse "ACAA" routine from Lloyd Barnes' alternative handling for Craig Petty's Atomic Deck. Barnes variation doesn't require a phone and uses a stacked deck of regular cards.

John Henderson visited the evening's theme of money tricks with Scotty York's "Bill Swindle." This is a humorous con effect where John jokingly counted four-dollar bills as eight then transformed the bills into totally different denominations adding up to \$188!

John followed up with "Hart's Link" by Dean Dill. This interlocking rope effect is memorably highlighted in Dill's classic Dean's Box routine.

Next, Tim Fortune performed a coin con called "Nickel Poker" by Diamond Jim Tyler.

Bill Schmeelk performed David Jonathan's "Persona," a sucker personality test with stinging finale and John Henderson returned to close out the evening. John Henderson presented Steve Valentine's Haunted Deck, a very cool illusion that makes clever use of loops to eerily slide a selected card out from the center of the deck.

Carl Morano

RING 115, SINGAPORE – The Great Wong Ring

Meets 15th of each month, 7:00 pm, Function Room 2, #03-01, National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street, Singapore 188064. Website: ibm-ring115.org

JOHN TEQ, President / Tel: +62504422, 97509017
10M Braddell Hill #01-49, Singapore 57931

I.B.M. Singapore Ring 115's May meeting was held on Thursday 15th May 2025, in Function Room 2, Level 3, of the National Library building. Ian Tan was the host. It was

attended by thirty-seven members and twenty-four guests. The evening had two themes, presentations by the Phoenix Project Team and expert talks on how to perform magic in restaurants. As usual it ended with a lucky draw.

Ian welcomed all the guests with special thanks to students of the Phoenix Project Team with their leader Luke Tan and mentor Shade Soo, and the students from the Republic Poly with their leader Dr. Loke Han Ying.

Luke Tan announced the Phoenix Project's Gala Magic show on 24th May 2025 at the Sing Post Auditorium. This initiative is part of the MOE Uplift project. Complimentary tickets were offered to all I.B.M. members. Those present were invited to tell Luke or go to their website to register. He then introduced the performing team namely Jerrad, Zenn, Xuande and Erica. He also urged the members to give feedback on the performances.

Jerrad Ng started by having the audience shuffle a deck of cards and select one. The chosen card was predicted in advance by Jerrad.

Zenn Ong asked a volunteer to think of a six-letter word, got the first letter of the word (C) written on a card. Spectacularly, he revealed his prediction to match the chosen word was CANDLE. In the feedback he was advised to think of making his revelation more dramatic by destroying the envelopes.

Xuande Tan awed the audience with his "Three Card Monte" routine using giant sized cards. His message was do not gamble with him or lose.

Erica Seah cut and restored a newspaper with an interesting patter. She went to great lengths of time and strength to tear the sheets to very small pieces that looked messy, but the result was flashy and a crisp restoration.

John Teo shared his personal emotional experience of a gig he did for a M1 event. This was to entertain underprivileged children. He was moved by the reaction of an unwell child whose mother said that John's magic had brought a smile to the child's face after a long time. John reinforced what Project Phoenix was all about – the power of magic to make a positive difference in people's lives.

The first expert talk was by Tommy Kian. Smartly dressed in a three-piece suit, he shared insights on many issues relating to restaurant magic, such as how to approach a table, how to recover from a mistake, and how to solicit good tips from the diners. Tommy reiterated the importance of including tricks for children. He proceeded to demonstrate the die in box effect, sponge balls routine, and the double cross trick.

Next, Sng Ming Da, also smartly dressed, was introduced as a high-level restaurant performer, who also performed at the famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, U.S.A. Ming Da explained how he surveyed the restaurant for layout and the diners, the importance of including a signature effect, how to make his tricks modular, and how to personalise an effect for the V.I.P.s. He ended with an effect where a chosen and signed card ended in his mouth, clenched in his teeth.

Ian Tan carried on with the restaurant theme. Smartly dressed, he shared on ways to announce his attendance, how to perform tricks fully surrounded, how to pose for photographs and how to achieve those special photo moments. Ian then showed a sample of his restaurant magic: his mini-Chinese "Linking Rings" routine, "Hopping Halves" coin effect, and a card trick.

Harapan Ong took over the floor to announce that the Spanish magician, Rubi Ferez would be in Singapore on 24th May 2025. A show, a workshop, and a lecture are planned. Tickets are now on sale.

Ng Kah King told us about the afternoon jam session held on 14th May 2025. It was well attended and appreciated. More jamming sessions are planned. One will be held in the evening for working members to join.

Five lucky draws were conducted before closing the formal evening at 10:30 p.m. However, networking and exchange of tricks carried on vigorously long after the formal closure. *Kogi*

RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at Westport Coffeehouse Theater, 4010 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite D, Kansas City, MO 64111
KELLY RUSK, President,
E-mail: knr6244@hotmail.com

Our June meeting was a busy one. Dennis Burks led off the meeting with a presentation on a project which he has been working on, in conjunction with the local S.A.M. Assembly 38, to have a plaque placed at the corner of Tenth Street and Main in downtown Kansas City, MO to commemorate a significant historic event that occurred there, Houdini's first performance of the upside-down straitjacket escape.

The main activity of the first half of our meeting was a number of simultaneous jam sessions in which members could get some help on routines they have been working on. Jerry Jackson supervised a session on card routines, while Brad Lynn's session focused on "outs" to use when a trick goes wrong or appears to go wrong. In addition, some members involved themselves in impromptu groups.

Following the break, we then moved on to the

qualifying contest for our annual Magician of the Year Contest which has replaced our previous quarterly contests. Instead of choosing a winner, members were asked to assign point values to the acts that would determine whether the acts were strong enough to qualify for the annual contest.

Pete Walterschied did some work with a mostly blank deck. Brad Lynn performed a "Chop Cup" routine in which a lemon that was used as a final load surprisingly changed into an apple. Larry Warshaw had a selected card magically appear between the two black jacks, which initially were shown to have nothing between them. In the voting, all three were approved to move on to the annual contest.

Other performances at various times during the evening were Phil King's presentation of an umbrella which fell apart and changed places with a bunch of silks, Dustin Blencoe's "Ambitious Card" routine with a mostly blank deck, and Larry Warshaw's card routine combining an "Ambitious Card" routine with a "Triumph" effect.

A few members performed at the nearby Lawrence Kansas Buskerfest. Keith Leff was on the bill along with a number of magicians from around the country. Alan Goodheart made a few hundred balloon animals, while Danny Tangelo and Stu Lewis did some impromptu magic along Massachusetts Avenue. Thanks to the cooperation we got from the weather, a good time was had by all. *Stu Lewis*

RING 130, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA – First Coast Magic – Bob Hutchings Ring

Meets 3rd Tue at Hampton Inn, 4681 Lenoir Ave., S. Jacksonville, FL.
Meetings/Lectures at 7:30 (subject to change).
DR. DAVE COLL, Secretary (904) 254-2460
E-mail: info@IBMRing130.com / Web site: www.IBMRing130.com

On May 22, we were treated to a show by one of our very own First Coast Magicians, David Jaison. Usually travelling, he finally was able to find time in between bookings that allowed him to share his corporate mentalism show: Mentalism Beyond Belief.

Experiencing the working repertoire of a working magician, not in a lecture format, was great. With the room mostly full of magicians, David didn't sway in the performance and ended up using volunteers of both magi and muggles. Everyone enjoyed it and experienced a multitude of "wow" moments. It was a great show and it's no wonder he's as busy as he is.

To top it off, there was an encore performance of a trick invented by David. It's unique story line and premise was engaging. Should he make it onto Penn and Teller's show, just know it's a fooler. Thanks, David, for offering your time to the club.

On June 5, the Ring welcomed Dan Flashman back for a lecture. There was some disagreement as to when the last time he was here, we couldn't narrow down the exact time, but everyone agreed it had been far too long.

Dan began the lecture with the evening's "get ready." There wasn't the typical punchy opener to grab your attention, but instead his routine of final preparation before the night's shows kick off. What tricks go where, pocket load-out and management – there was nothing to hide. Afterall, he explained, "I'm going to describe everything tonight anyway, why hide it?" Dan has been working at the Chophouse in Vail, CO for over fourteen years. That equates to almost five hundred shows a year. He explains that resetting is an important detail than just the tricks, so you can keep going. So, as the tricks and explanations went on, he further explained the when's and how's to reset his pockets as he transitions between tricks and tables.

What are some key takeaways? (1) If you're afraid of restaurant work, don't be. You have the freedom to move on to another audience at any time. (2) You work for the restaurant, put away the ego. You're the eyes and ears of restaurant happenings to report back to the owner. (3) Accepting tips – "always appreciated, not expected." And if someone asks if they should tip, tell them to please take care of the servers. (4) When you approach the table, be a part of the group. Perform with them, not for them. (5) If parents assume your magic is for the children, he gently razzes them with "I don't like kids, didn't they tell you?" This allows the adults to know it's ok to participate.

What tricks did Dan perform? Workers – some of his own and some of others. But each trick was explained why he chose the piece, and their pros and cons to his line of work. One example is to use a one-minute opener. This way it's like an appetizer for your magic.

I think the rain kept away some people because it was fairly light on attendance, but overall, it was a great lecture enjoyed by those that did attend. With the holiday and travel seasons occupying most of his time in Colorado, it's a treat to see him. If you have the chance, you should do so too.

Chris Sharp

RING 150, FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA – Dr. Mark Horowitz Ring

Meets 4th Thur. in Tamarac, FL 7:30pm
JOHN PETRUZZI, Secretary (954) 721-3054
E-mail: johnlpetruzzi@hotmail.com

On Thursday, June 12th, 2025, I.B.M. Ring 150 held its monthly meeting. We had a lecturer from Argentina, Javier Franco. Javier lectured on the new phenomenon "Telephone Technology

Magic." He made it even interesting for those of us still wallowing in the 16th Century.

There are applications which when accompanied with Smart Phones and a magician's mind can make for extraordinary magic. I for one try to avoid such stuff but must admit it's intriguing.

Javier also introduced some props that are really something. One such prop would allow the magician to do a tremendous Book Test. The spectator opens an imaginary book, turns to an imaginary page, selects an imaginary word or phrase and the magician still will be able to announce the word or phrase. The lecture was far more interesting than expected.

If you want to know more, contact Javier Franco at magicstuff2k@gmail.com. I now have to look at my smart phone with new eyes.

Billy Byron

RING 153, BILLINGS, MONTANA – Billings Magic Society

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Reflections, 1140 Sixteenth Street West, Suite 13, Billings, MT.
BRENT CROMLEY, President / E-mail: brent@cromley.net
(406) 208-4147

We met a week later than normal in May, due to the appearance of the Champions of Magic performing in Billings on our regular second Tuesday meeting night. Tony Shandy, Debbie Herman, and Brent Cromley were the only attendees, but we still enjoyed a fun night of conversation and magic.

Conversation centered for a while on the history of the Ring, now the only one in Montana, and really the only one in this area of the country, as I.B.M. shows no Rings existing in North Dakota, South Dakota, or Wyoming. So, if any of you magicians reside in those states, feel free to join our email list and perhaps plan to visit us sometime in Billings.

We discussed a couple of birthday shows that Tony will have to prepare for, as he has an extended family that includes some avid fans who beg him to perform. Tony has plenty of apparatus that he's accumulated over the years and still is always on the lookout for some great new children's trick that he can add.

Tony also started out the evening's magic with a clever card trick that made Brent envious. It was an effect from Richard Sanders called "Any Card." Somehow Tony could not figure out which card had been selected by Debbie, but the backs of the four aces eventually spelled out, "The Queen of Diamonds," which was right on the mark.

Brent, of course, wanted to practice a couple new card tricks that he's considering adding to his database, now grown to over 250. The first

was Dani DaOrtiz's "Green Gambling," which is one of the tricks in his *Forces Project*, and an elaboration of Lennart Green's "One in 52". The second trick was a quick dual revelation effect created by Joe Barry and named "LLL Peek," as Barry considered that it "Looks Like Lennart," or the type of trick that Lennart Green would perform.

Several of our members were busy with work schedules this month, but no matter how few of us gather, we have a great time and usually end up a little wiser at the end of the meeting. If your travels bring you to the Big Sky Country, be sure to look us up.

Brent Cromley

RING 158, GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Wizards of the North

Meets 1st Sun 3:00 pm at Dino's Sports Lounge at 1020 Towne Sq. Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601

MARK DURIGON, President / email: mdur@comcast.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443

Ring 158 met at Dino's Sports Lounge on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. After a meal, the meeting was called to order by Vice President Chuck Rygle. Present also were Mike Baker, Rich Passaro, Rob Shook, Chuck Snyder, and Mark Zajicek.

New Business: Since Rob and Mark Z. are members of S.A.M. Assembly 157, they invited the members of Ring 158 to the summer picnic which 157 is hosting on June 22. Chuck Snyder was nominated and unanimously elected to the only remaining vacant office, Sergeant-at-Arms (even though he was unarmed). He announced that he was performing a show at his Johnstown venue on June 14, and he invited members to a preview show on June 7. Joshua Jay's recent show and lecture were discussed, along with the fact that he opened a recent Pittsburgh Pirates game by throwing the first ball, which had a card embedded within it.

After a quick break, magic was presented. Chuck Rygle inspected Rob's Driebeck Die to make sure that everything functioned okay. He then utilized a natural square with four different colored markers, one of each horizontal and one of each vertical. The same color intersects in four different squares. When the numbers in these squares are added, they always total thirty-four, which can be predicted in advance. He also demonstrated one of his favorite tricks, "Cardiograph." He then showed a cloth with writing, originally used by Joe Capone in his shows.

Rich performed "Soul Mate" with dry-erase boards and magnets.

Mike showed a number trick in which a four-digit number is chosen, and then after performing some mathematical manipulations, a given number is produced.

Chuck Snyder demonstrated "Perfect Match" with ESP symbols by Kovari Magic Productions.

The meeting was then adjourned. Next meeting will be on Sunday, July 13, 2025. Theme remains open.

Willis Shook

RING 170, ORLANDO, FLORIDA – Bev Bergeron Ring

3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m., at IHOP on Kirkman Road, Orlando, FL.

DENNIS PHILLIPS, Secretary

E-mail: dphillips13@cfl.rr.com

Web site: www.Ring170.com

President David Freeman opened the meeting by introducing three guests, Kevin Perez from Puerto Rico, Bradley Boltmann, new in town from Phoenix, and Lee Wolfson.

We had announcements of all the local magic shows and where our members were performing in our tourist town.

Ring Historian, Phil Schwartz, presented his 111th Magic History Moment on "The Incredible Dr. Jaks" one of if not the first magician who initiated and defined the idea of paid close-up shows. The German-born Jaks moved to Switzerland in 1934 and began entertaining small groups in St. Moritz hotels. After World War II he relocated to the United States and in just a few years had performed in 150 cities throughout North America. Bill Larsen Sr. wrote in *Genii* in 1953, "As Thurston was to the stage, so Stanley Jaks is to close-up." Although Jaks never wrote a book, he published mental effects in *The Jinx*, illustrated Bill Simon's book, *Effective Card Magic*, and created a number of commercial products like his billet knife and Supersonic Prediction, both of which Phil demonstrated.

Brian Sullivan opened our monthly club show with his skillful "Twisting the Aces" with a twist! He followed with his own, "Any Card at any Number." He explained that these effects are difficult for him because he is "colorblind in one eye!"

Eric Geyer, a financial planner and magic enthusiast, was doing his first magic performance in front of a live audience. He picked a tough audience, magicians, and he did a fine job for his first time. He used a story about financial planning and made it a mysterious card reveal of a selected card.

Paul Thomey predicted the top four cards in a shuffled deck and then he reduced a thick card box to the thickness of a single card.

Dan Stapleton concluded the show with a poker game with volunteers. Dan predicted the winner. When he opened his prediction it said, "Me." He had a royal flush. The effect was from the notes to his lecture, *Cards as Theater*.

Dennis Phillips

RING 175, TAMPA, FLORIDA – Warren Hamilton Ring

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, Tampa Gardens Sr. Living, 16702 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa, FL 33618 / Website: <https://tampamagicclub.com>
TOM VORJOHAN, President
(865): 254-9254 / E-mail: TomVorjohan@gmail.com

We had fourteen members and one guest attending the June meeting. This was just two weeks after hosting our annual Tampa Bay Festival of Magic on Saturday, May 31. The event was attended by fifty-two people, featured lectures by Jimmy Ichihana and Dan Fleshman, and had a sold-out flea market (fifteen vendors!) and a fantastic first-ever contest with ten competitors signed up that Lar Hookway won and received the \$100 cash prize. It was a great day of magic, and we owe a huge amount of thanks to Rudy Hernandez, Geoff Williams, Ken and Melissa Spanola, Frank Velasco, and Tom Vorjohan.

The theme for tonight had a trifecta of possibilities: Father's Day, Egg Day and/or Pudding Day magic... or to do something that you learned/purchased at the Festival of Magic. (Yes, the month of June has both egg day and pudding day!) Once again, we recruited the help of Mark Byrne to act as our fun-spirited emcee for the evening.

First up was our guest who recently relocated to this area, David Parker, who did an effect by Simon Lovell called "Fingers #3" which has a surprise transition of a selected card for a previously found card. David has some great knowledge and "chops" – we hope he will make Ring 175 his home.

Joe Dobson performed a smooth version of "Out of This World" using a couple red and black poker chips as markers. The kicker was that the back of the chips showed a correct prediction of how many red and black cards would be dealt.

Ken Spanola put his spin on a spelling effect from Steinmeyer's *Impuzzabilities* (the "Nine Card Problem") and he was kind enough to share it with the group. Buying a little time for the next performer, Mark Byrne did his smooth version of the "Mis-made Bill."

With a very comical presentation, Mark Myers found a selected egg without using smell, sight or hearing... just his mouth! He also used a miniature slate together with the "Ghost Writer in the Sky" to find a card. He passed out hundred-dollar bills to each of us (some great Hollywood money!), and we loved this... even if they were fake.

It is great to have Alan Zunich back with us each month (with his wife Barbara), and he shared a "winter wallet" that he purchased from Gary Barker just two weeks earlier. It was a great Fire Wallet! Using Ivonne Myers to pick a

card, he had to resort to his Insurance Policy to find it.

Sharing his favorite find from the Magic Day, Bob Klase was excited to get a Pocket Grenade Wallet from Dan Fleshman, then Bob shared some peculiar math with eighteen pieces of gold (or pennies!).

Daniel P. Fite was back from his trek on the Appalachian Trail, he shared a touching Father's Day story about his son and daughter using a picture frame and two simple crayons.

Speaking of treks, it's great to have Bruce Young join us and do a stunning transformation of four hand-drawn kings to four real kings.

President Tom Vorjohan opened sharing his "Ring & String" trick that he learned from Dan Harlan over thirty years ago, told his favorite Father's Day joke about a fun golf game, and finished with his new favorite personality test: "Persona."

To close out the evening, Geoff Williams had a pile of cards set aside to correctly predict the random card the guest chose... even when the pile needed only five-and-a-half cards. It was a great night with lots of magic. *Tom Vorjohan*

RING 179, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – George Dency Ring

Meets 3rd Tue., 7:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church at 109 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136
ANDY LONDON, President / Email: alondon@concast.net

The May 8, 2025 meeting was a joint meeting of I.B.M. Ring 179 and S.A.M. Assembly 6, held at our new monthly meeting location, the Chestnut Baptist Church in Timonium, MD. About twenty-five people attended. The meeting's theme was magic show openers.

Dave Thomen gave an introductory discussion of ideas and tips for openers. These included: don't stink, be likeable, no bad taste or controversial magic, magic should be easy to follow with no involved steps, routine should demonstrate or imply skill, should not be a 'get to know me' routine.

Mike Rose presented another in his series covering Baltimore magic history. Mike gave us the history of Thomas Chew Worthington, III, who lived from 1882 to 1953. In 1911 Worthington was a founder of the Demons magic club, and part of Baltimore's magic welcome wagon. By 1921 he was an arch Demon but became disenchanted with the Demons because of non-magicians joining. Worthington was Thurston's best friend. In 1923 he founded the Society of Osiris. It published *Tablets of Osirus*, printed copies of which are rare, but scanned copies can be bought at magic shops. Worthington was a shutterbug, and his photos help chronicle the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904.

Worthington dies in 1953, and in 1937 was on the cover of *Genii* magazine.

Performances: Tim Hall performed a book test which used a timer to select the book's page number, and line number. Tim then correctly guessed the chosen word in the book. Eric Keenan performed "Envylope 2.0" by Brandon David and Chris Turchi. Richard Kittleman performed Jeff McBride's "BEKOS" with a red silk. Jacob Knuckley counted out ten cards, and had a volunteer choose a card and show it to the audience. The chosen card is shuffled into the packet of ten cards. The chosen card is eventually shown to be the only reversed card in the packet. Howard Katz performing as Hindsight, handed a 1944 Walking Liberty half dollar to a volunteer. The volunteer placed the coin in one of his hands, and Howard was able to correctly guess which hand the coin was in. This was repeated two more times, and Howard guessed correctly each time. Howard then opened a scroll that was on the table the entire time, and it had his correct guesses on it. Joe Bruno riffled the deck, and a volunteer said stop to pick a card. This was done four times, to pick four cards, which were revealed to be the four aces. This trick is "Revolving Aces," which Joe says Herb Zarrow created, and which appears in Harry Lorayne's *Close Up Card Magic*. Joe handed out the instructions afterwards.

Ken Caplan performed "Sensational Blocks" a.k.a. Wonderblocks. Mike Stringer performed Randy Wakeman's "The Spectator Cuts to and Turns Over the Aces," from *Formula One Close-up*. Paul Belanger did a trick where he blows up a clear 260 balloon and placed it into a cylinder. Then spikes are pushed through the cylinder, and the balloon did not pop. Peter Wood performed a prediction card trick. Michael Worsham performed hat manipulation with his bowler hat to music. Mary Pomykala performed "Crazy Man's Handcuffs." Rick Beatty performed "Twisting the Aces." Vince La Paula performed David Regal's "Puzzle Box." Matt Jacobs -pulled a ring on and off and through his fingers. Jeff Eline performed "Or Not" by Dani DaOrtiz. *Michael Worsham*

RING 192, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – Victor Saint Leon Ring

Meets 2nd Weds., 7:00 p.m., at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbon's Dr., Carmichael.

JEFFREY TINKER, Secretary / E-mail: jtinker53@yahoo.com
Web site: www.magic1.org/ibm192

Our June meeting was well attended with several members performing. First off was Jefferson relating how he quit smoking. His method had mixed results. David Wright used a really invisible deck, and had his volunteer

think of a card. When the card was announced, David produced it from a small pouch that could only hold one card. Scott Cameron showed us his version of "Out of This World," one he could do with a borrowed deck. Andy Swan had several props he always carries with him, including a small elephant that changed to a small cat, and did a little fancy juggling. Ric Ewing performed the Two Coin Trick involving putting one away but showing two still in his hand until both vanished. Tom Allen had a paper puzzle, Mary Mowder showed things to do when you don't want to perform magic for drunks and rowdy folks. Dale Lorzo displayed several giveaways that people like as souvenirs. Pepe Puglisi had a mylar floating parrot that rose and fell at his command. Vikram Amasingh ran through his routine with "Key Master." Gary Berard showed us three tricks he was preparing for his granddaughter, including a jigsaw puzzle in a card box that changed to a real deck. And coins that changed from copper to silver. Scot Smith correctly called any card drawn from an unmarked deck, and credited the Si Stebbins Stack for his success, then taught us the "Eleven Cent Trick," an arrangement stumper, good for free drinks at a friendly bar.

Jeffrey Tinker

RING 193, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Len and Thalia Swinyer Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00 pm, at the Swinyer residence, 4970 Waimea Way, Holladay, UT.

MONT DUTSON, President / E-mail: montd84@comcast.net
Web site: www.utahmagic.org

Ring 193 met at the Swinyers' home on June 3. We were about twelve in attendance. We announced the Joshua Jay Lecture on Friday Aug. 15 at 7:00 p.m. Our annual Ring Swap 'n Sell will be Saturday Sept. 13. Bring any tables /chairs you might need. It will be out in the driveway and front yard of the Swinyer home. This will take place at the September Tuesday meeting.

We will be having our Ring 193 Competition in November regular meeting time. Performers will be allowed two minutes to set up and five minutes to perform. The judging committee will be made up of laypersons.

Kerry started the magic off by showing an empty clear box, locking it inside a larger wooden chest #1 and locking it inside a larger wooden chest #2. Thalia chose a card and tore it up. Kerry placed the torn pieces in a larger receptacle and turned it upside down. All the pieces of the torn card were gone except for one torn piece that fluttered to the floor. Thalia kept that piece. Kerry had Dan open the large chest, pull out the smaller chest and remove the clear box with a card inside, missing a piece. The piece

holding matches the card torn perfectly. Kerry said his routine is a takeoff of Robert Harbin's "Card in Whiskey Bottle."

Eric showed a small, fluffy animated bunny he couldn't resist buying and figuring out a trick with it later. Eric then had Kerry cut a deck and choose a card and return it, and have it shuffled. Then Eric showed a card he called an AI card, with micro circuits printed on it. The AI card is slid into the spread cards, removed, and the AI card said twelfth card down. Kerry counted down to twelve, and it was his chosen card.

Mont showed seven cards (serving as villagers in a village) on the table and recounted the history of the 14th-century plague in Europe. With the help of Rudy, they took turns selecting and turning over a card that they indicated who died from the plague. They were left with one remaining card, the individual to bury all the villagers: Death card, The Black Plague itself. A routine called "Sole Survivor" by Robert Neale, only Mont used Tarot cards as the villagers, adding a mediaeval air to the routine.

Dan has been working on his "Triumph" card routine and showed it for the second time. A card selected by Shawn McMaster was returned to the deck and various types of shuffles were done, including the magician's shuffle, mixing front and backs of all the cards. A magic touch and all the cards were all facing the same way, with his card, the only one reversed in the deck.

We had a visit from Shawn McMaster at our meeting. He is in town this week, appearing nightly at the Mystique Dining restaurant. He had Renee choose a card, and he shuffled it back into the deck. He then put her into a hypnotic trance and said she would be able to recognize the back of her card in the deck spread. She could see the only blue backed one in a red backed deck. He showed it was her chosen card, the Four of Hearts.

Owen came up to show some magic. His two-year-old daughter Sophie performed "Color Changing Silks" and produced an endless white paper coil from an empty drawer box. Then she hammed up her bows and applause cues! She stole the show! Owen envied his high school basketball-playing friends for their ability to spin a basketball on the tip of one finger. But he showed us how to spin a box of cards on his finger. Then he took the cards out and spun them.

He then had Eric choose a card, the Six of Hearts, and return to the deck while Owen got feelings of what it was and successfully said it was the Six of Hearts and was found in his wallet which suspiciously held a bunch of cards, but all turned out to be sixes of hearts!

Rudy finished up the magic part of the

evening by having Mont and Kerry each look at some spreads of cards separately. Rudy was able to "envision" the cards they each thought of. He then proceeded to explain the method using a special key card. He found the basic routine and method in an old book, *Miracle Gimmick* by Paul Fox. We then all adjourned to the refreshment area and chatted, laughed, and tossed back a few cookies of various styles. *Mont Dutson*

RING 194, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA – Space City Magic Club

Meets 1st. Thu., 7:00pm Madison Christian Church, Hughes Rd.,

Madison, AL

MATT GROWDEN, President

E-mail: Growdne@yahoo.com

June is not only the beginning of summer clearance sales, but it was also auction night for Ring 194. More deals than Matt Growden deals out in "Out of this World." Shoppers and sellers were Bill Mullins, Brett Boyer, Dean Carter, Matt Adams, Jack Baldwin, Jared Cassidy, Patrick Brunson, Evan Tate, and Evan's grandfather, Kenneth Jordan. *Patrick Brunson*

RING 197, MARIETTA, OHIO – The Tommy Windsor Ring

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 200 Franklin St., Marietta, OH

DALE WHEELER, President / E-mail: dalew3314@gmail.com

At around 6:30, members entered the hall and began the fellowship that is so important in these in-person meetings. When there was a break in the conversations, Jay guided us to, and through, the business portion. Topics included the petition to formally change our Ring location with the I.B.M. to our current location, the Ring membership certificates, our fall show updates, general announcements of other shows in our region, and a suggestion of themed magic during the meetings.

Following our business meeting, several of the members performed. This particular evening had several effects that not only entertained, but served to give opportunities to teach and critique. Dale Wheeler, Bill Stokes, Velma Kunze, Dock Cutlip, and Charleen Stokes shared magic.

Dale, with the assistance of Velma and Bill, performed "Out of Breath." Bill shuffled the cards. Dale took the shuffled deck, and Velma indicated when to stop counting cards into two piles. She was instructed to choose a pile. She then turned her cards face up and placed them on the table separating them by color. Dale then took his cards and turned them face down and attempted to match the color of hers. At the conclusion, Dale had amazed us with the percentage matched.

Bill borrowed a regular deck of cards from Dale. Velma agreed to help with this effect. Bill looked at the deck and pulled out a card then

placed it on the table face down. He proceeded to tell Velma about a dream he had where Velma took the cards and counted out however many into a pile. She then counted the cards into alternating piles. The premise was that the combination of the top cards of these piles would match the card, in value and in suit, the one Bill had chosen at the start. This effect is known as "Dream Card." At the completion of the performance, Bill taught the effect. Later Bill returned to perform his version of "Lucky Magician."

Velma continued as a performer this time. She utilized a "Wordless Bag" to tell the Creation story by changing the inside color multiple times with this prop. The lining pattern/theme was paired with the appropriate section of the story.

Dock regaled us with not only with his magic skill, but his computer/tech skills. He used two props that he had created using 3-D printing. These were drawer boxes; the designs were exquisite. Additionally, Dock asked Bill to help him perform the mental effect, "L or D," also known as "Life or Death" by Peter Kamp and Magic Dream. This utilized double-sided tokens. Bill was to pick a number, then turn that number of tokens over, and then cover the token, while Dock is turned around. Dock then turns back to reveal which side is face up to the covered token.

Charleen shared "A Ring on a String" with Jay's help. This is a pocket trick that can be done spontaneously using simple props. A loop of yarn and a washer (or a ring) are needed. The looped yarn is put on the index fingers of the spectator after the washer is added to the loop. After wrapping the yarn on the right finger of the spectator multiple times, the possibility of removing the washer without removing the yarn from Jay's fingers seems unlikely. Yet after the final wrap, the washer is removed.

We would love it if you would like to join us, either as a guest or a new member. If you are traveling through or living in our area and would like to come to a meeting, get in touch with us.

Charleen Stokes

RING 198, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY – Thoroughbred Magic Guild

Meets 2nd Sun. afternoon of most months at Hope Springs Community Church, 1109 Versailles Rd., first building.

MIKE WOODWARD, Secretary / E-mail: mikewmp@aol.com
Web site: www.ring198.com

The attendance at central Kentucky's Ring 198, probably like many clubs, has not fully recovered from the pandemic. Most meetings, we approach or slide into double digits. But everyone now attending is serious, most atten-

dees can lead a program, most are performers.

Recent meetings have advanced our historical appreciation of the art of magic. Jim Holsinger briefed us on the historical contribution of Theodore Deland who, early in the last century, introduced gaffed playing cards for magicians. Prior to Deland, the known approaches to card magic required a mastery of sleights, so few hobbyist magicians did magic with cards; since Deland, most magicians perform magic with cards.

At another meeting, Mike Woodward demonstrated effects made possible with a half-dozen vintage props from the early twentieth century, including a checker cabinet that produced checkers and silks ex nihilo in addition to transpositions. Other vintage props included a ball and vase, a chosen card rising, and an early version of the long and short boomerangs. We were impressed by the sophistication of our predecessors.

Graham Ricks, a serious cardician, is also a collector of historical playing cards. From two excellent books, Roger Tilley's *A History of Playing Cards* and Jason McKinstry's *Paper Empires*, volume one, Graham walked us through some impressive history. By the way, McKinstry plans two more volumes of *Paper Empires*!

In June, George Hunter addressed a topic largely ignored in magic's lore: How should a performer initiate an effect? We have all studied ways to begin an act, and ways to end an act, and ways to end specific effects, but little on how to begin the effect. At one level, of course, we all know some stock beginnings like "Pick a card, any card." If, however, we want to "entertain" an audience in Ken Webber's sense of ushering the people into the performer's imaginary world, that challenge requires some serious reflection. Hunter explained three approaches that he has found useful; root the effect in a narrative, or give a historical background, or raise an engaging rhetorical question. He demonstrated the second way with his introduction to Lee Earle's "Alphabetized," an "opener" effect with alphabet cards.

George Hunter

RING 199, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – Lee & Snavelly Ring

Meets 1st Sat. of month, United Church, 820 E. Williams St., Apex, NC
DAN HARLAN, Secretary
E-mail: contact@danharlanmagic.com
Website: www.raleighmagicclub.org

Two-two-two months in one! May Tricks began with Dan Harlan causing five, I mean FOUR, bottle caps to magically gather AND... June was Totally Mental as he properly predicted a person, place, and weapon without a Clue. Typical operating state for him.

Deviating from the digital rain, Kevin Burke performed "Coin of the Future" by Jon Stetson from the book *Harlan Helper* (Google it, Mr. Anderson) AND... surprised SarahElla Harlan with some graduation cash (thanks to the con-ning members of RMC) in the guise of a "Bank Night" routine. Her tears of gratitude were all the thanks those sneaky folks needed.

Continuing within the simulation, Paul Syros presented his latest episode of "Will It Work?" by correctly predicting the actions of a group of participants AND... revealed which cocktail his helper wanted (without actually making one, the tease!).

Tapping into the Construct, Sean MacBain changed playing cards as they rotated around the deck like a clock AND... expertly performed "The Greatest Magician Ever" by Dan Harlan from *Excellent Choice*. The Choice is Yours.

Using bullet time, Tony Thomas caused four poker chips to rapidly assemble so quickly they became two-dimensional AND... he magically changed the artwork on a mysterious board to reveal participants' choices. "Choice. The problem is a choice."

New member, Gale Malovinski assembled four wrong cards into one bigger righter card and time-dilated a photo of a baby into a chosen celebrity AND... tapped into the immense power of the Zodiac to reveal a chosen card (why else?).

Returning to the May Trix, junior member Josh offered a red pill and a blue pill cleverly disguised as poker chips which did weird stuff.

Harlan jacked-in to reveal there is no spoon as it bent, twisted, and transformed into a fork. What the fork?!

Dan-Neo (Daniel Buck) and son, Elijah, debuted their mini-Broadway musical "Matrix" experience complete with costumes, script, video, animation, and a magic box of Trix.

Using a matrix of blank cards and five "random" choices, Wayne Haarhaus revealed the message "The Matrix Controls Our Minds." Take the red pill, stay in Wonderland.

I know Kung Fu...

Dan Harlan

RING 202, MALTA – The Magicians' Society

Meets on alternate Mondays at 19:00 Volunteer Centre, 181 Melita Street, Valetta
GEOFFREY BUHAGIAR, Secretary
secretary@magicianmalta.com
www.facebook.com/groups/2785030921/

As the end of the year was rapidly approaching, we had three meetings. The first one was dedicated vaguely to strings, rings and things and it opened up various possibilities. It was past president Glen Mercieca who opened with

a classic, almost impromptu effect that never ceases to baffle. A borrowed ring penetrated a string and a safety pin under a handkerchief and impossible conditions.

Brian Rolé passed a ribbon through a Chinese coin and then performed another penetration, a recent rehased version of the "Grandmother's Necklace" with transparent beads and a fluffy string by TCC & Chen.

Past International President Vanni Pulé threaded a ring through a ribbon and made it disappear to materialize inside a cartoon box in an animated flipbook (by Iota). Then he presented a storyline for four variations of the "Ring on Rope".

The meeting that followed was a sale of second-hand props. This was dominated by an array of items from the collection of our member Kris Attard, who had a supply of Supreme tricks and latex articles that were so old that they proved to be new to some younger members.

The last meeting of the year included drinks and bites, and a bit of holiday magic. The first one to perform was once again Glen Mercieca, with a "Just-Chance" routine using coloured Christmas bells. The good thing about it was that everyone won something, but the performer ended up with the lion's share. After this, we enjoyed a modelling balloon interlude with various stunning creations by our balloon expert, Robert Ellul.

Alfred Mifsud coloured a picture by magic that was also themed around the season. Vanni Pulé used the Out to Lunch method to change a picture of a candle from being unlit to a flaming one with a signature transfer to boot. He also predicted the way a stocking would be coloured. Finally, a real Christmas stocking went through various mutilations and transformations until the bag, turned inside out, revealed it had Santa's face on it. Yours truly ended the session with a variation of the "Hippity Hop Rabbits" using cut-outs of Santa and a snowman.

The first meeting in January was dedicated to a discussion about our potential participation in a national event in October. We agreed on a concept and the number of participants to be included in the proposal.

The meeting after was an open one with great attendance. We were glad to see our member John McKellar who was recovering from a stroke, Alfred Mifsud, recovering from a fractured shoulder, and a guest from Lancashire, U.K. William Richardson, who used to be known as Ricardo and Pat (R.I.P.) in the hey-days of cabaret. They were brought over by our member Kris Attard who was kind enough to

pick them all up from residences and hotel. In fact, it was Kris, who started the ball rolling by performing two Ton Onosaka effects. The first one was, as far as we know, a forerunner of “Wow” where a transparent card reveals the chosen ESP symbol with the help of a mirror. The other one was “Frame Up” a chosen card having a miniature version turning over in a frame displaying a two-dimensional spread deck.

Brian Rolé showed two boxes that fitted into each other alternately, even though they looked the same size. Every time they were opened, they produced a sponge ball. These sponge balls did their own magic by transposing from one hand to the other. He followed this with another effect with a ball. This time it was a solid ball bearing, which seemed to penetrate a sheet of glass inside a wooden box.

Glen Mercieca put a chosen card in a box, after removing two pistols from it. One pistol shot out a pair of comical bloomers. The other produced a bang banner and a real bang. The card in the box appeared now with a bullet hole in it.

Joseph Demanuele gave an excellent rendition of the linking “Beads of Prussia,” using a flash string in the process.

Lorenzo Brincat presented the “Malini Egg” with vanishes and productions of an egg and finishing with a small glass of liquid.

Our President, Gwilym Bugeja, tore a card in half vertically and had it signed. He punched a hole in one part, and it transposed into the other half. He also performed the “Card Across” with one chosen card in a version by Craig Petty, called “Across”. Finally, he penetrated a cap inside a bottle of beer and then stunningly twisted the bottle and handed it for examination. This is a relatively newly marketed effect called “Tornado Bottle”.

Itso Bratovanov works only with sleight of hand, and he had a chosen card turn over surreptitiously in a spread-out deck. He then demonstrated various finger ring acrobatics and ended with a chosen card changing into the missing suit among three other cards of the same value chosen by other members.

Vanni Pulé gave us his version of the Gemini principle using a rainbow deck with twin card backs, ending with two twin cards in value and colour while the rest of the cards all had a different value and colour and were all identical. He then moved to a more visual sequence with a rope where a knot is slid out several times until it climbs up the rope and is removed. He finished by combining “Psypher” with “The Predator Deck” in a series of predictions and divinations.

Our guest from the U.K., William Richardson, started by “Twisting the Aces” and showing that they all had mirror backs. He predicted the choice of an ESP symbol by revealing a prediction inside a locket that was used as a pendulum, for the choice. He ended with a funny twist by revealing that his glasses had a picture of a chosen card on them.

Geoffrey Buhagiar

RING 205, LIMA/FINDLAY, OHIO – Northwestern Ohio Magicians Association (NOMA)

Meets last Sun. of the month at Mike Grubbs's home in Findlay.

GENE CRAFT, Secretary, 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, OH 45807

E-mail: Ecrafft@woh.rr.com

Web site: www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205

Business meeting followed by much magic. Five members attended: Mike, Chris, Gary, Fr. Steve, and Doug.

Fr. Steve showed a wooden “snapping” puzzle with a rubber band and passed it around. Gary performed a “Three Card Monte” routine with three un-gimmicked cards. Doug brought a House of Houdini deck from his recent visit to Budapest. A selected card was locked into the deck, and it escaped, later found inside a small bag. Chris showed an unusual “timer countdown” revelation of an ace from an ordinary appearing deck and lectured on the subtleties. Mike did a show with four effects: “Oil and Water” cards; “Cups and Balls;” ESP cards that matched a free selection; and a fooler with an invisible marking of a card later made very visible.

June 29 – Doug show. Gary lecture. July – No meeting.

Doug Ferguson

RING 216, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Meets 2nd Wed each month at the Yu Ai-Kai Cultural Center, 588 N.

Fourth St., San Jose, CA

DAVID MARTINEZ, President

E-mail: president@ring216.org / Web site: www.ring216.org

The May 2025 meeting opened by welcoming two visitors, Eddie from San Francisco and Harold from Campbell. S.A.M. Silicon Valley’s “No Longer President” Kim Silverman announced some upcoming events. Ring 216 President Calvin Tong talked about his recent visits to the Sacramento I.B.M. Ring 192 and the Las Vegas I.B.M. Ring 257.

Then the evening launched into the magic raffle, with thanks to those who generously provided donations for the raffle, David Martinez, Calvin Tong, Yitian Liang, and Jeff Chiou.

There were ten amazing performances. Erika Tsai was able to divine a selected card under the fairest and the most impossible conditions. Kim Silverman performed a very intimate piece where a selected card traveled back in time, where the rest of the cards and the card box were also reverted to their original state. Rishabh Agrawal performed and taught a very

simple “ACAAN” utilizing the Breather Crimp principle. In a “teach a trick” talk, he discussed some other applications of the Breather Crimp.

Jeff Friend broke a mirror into pieces but then he restored it. Alex Wu performed his pet one-handed ace cutting sequence. Ken King performed a card routine involving a story of Doc Holiday and Kate Elder where four cards morphed to match a selection. Mike Bailes demonstrated some strange physics with coins that jumped around and became bent. Then Mike performed the classic “Crazy Man’s Handcuffs” with audience interaction.

Vijay Kumar performed two pieces of mentalism: a packet of cards spelled out the thought-of selection from an audience member; then he divined the favorite location name of the spectator. In David Martinez’s presentation, a selected card rose from the deck! Then the same card was torn up but somehow restored in a sealed deck held by the audience member from the beginning. The remaining corner matched! Then David work-shopped with other fellow magicians for some ways to improve the methodology and sleights.

Rounding off the magic-filled evening, Yitian used two Rubik’s Cubes to make everyone travel through space-time!

I.B.M. Ring 216 of Silicon Valley meets the second Wednesday of every month. We welcome all visiting magicians.

Yitian Liang and Gary Goldberg

RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN
SCOTT STARKEY, President

Scott started our evening by having three index cards numbered. He wrote a prediction for where one spectator would like to travel, the name of another volunteer’s friend, and a card selected by a volunteer and hidden. Miraculously all three predictions matched.

Scott then pulled out two jokers from an envelope and said that there was a queen between them. He had a volunteer name any queen and Scott revealed the backs of all four queens between the two jokers. He then showed the face of the named queen and revealed the rest of the cards were all jokers!

John Whitlock said he was never very good at solving a Rubik’s Cube, but that he could solve a Rubik’s flat; he showed a large card with a mixed-up cube printed on it. With just a wave of his hand the image visibly changed from mixed-up to a solved cube.

John then showed us a ghost he caught. It looked a lot like a solo cup with ribbons coming off of it. He had a card selected and returned to

the pack. He ran his finger down a ribbon, and we heard the ghost reveal the card name.

Jon Sexson had a pack of cards with numbers written on the back shuffled. A card was named, removed from the numbered pack, and then reinserted to get a random number. With a second deck of cards, the cards were dealt to the random number, and it was revealed to be the named card!

Benji had a card selected and returned to the pack. He pulled another card out and had a volunteer sit on it. The volunteer held the deck atop their head. Due to the pressure of sitting on the card, it rose to the top of the pack and the selected card was found under the volunteer.

Benji Milanowski

RING 234, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA – The Low Country Conjurers

Meets 1st Sun. of each month, 3:00 pm, Commonhouse Ale Works,
North Charleston, SC

GEORGE YOUNTS, Secretary / Email: george_younts@charleston.k12.sc.us

The Four Horsemen, Zach, Wes, George, and Gary met for about two-plus hours on May 18th in North Charleston, SC. The conversation meandered through many topics such as different things to write for an “Anniversary Waltz” reveal for an upcoming high-class gig, George’s Minding Reading Musical Game Show in Piccolo Spoleto and a good amount of brain power was used to learn the Green Neck System’s “Setting the Table.” Other effects looked at were the Atomic Deck by Craig Petty, “Screen Test” by Judah Gabriel, “Where it has to Go?” (Rick Lax’s presentation of Marlo’s Automatic Placement), “Mind Match” by Carl Jaymes, and “Shufflebored” by Simon Aronson.

And finally, thoughts, opinions, and pontifications were batted around about wearing magic holsters for walk-around gigs and the current state of new sponge balls on the market plus a nice piece of Steve Darci presentation advice.

The current meeting space is still working out for all along with the three p.m. Sunday meeting time. The space allows for good interpersonal communication.

For our June meeting Ed was early but when George showed up, they grabbed one of the long high tables and were soon joined by Zach, Wes, Gary and newcomer Theo. Zach and George chatted on successes and obstacles during George’s recent arts festival show and the idea of Magic Jamboree by the club for the same festival was batted around for next year.

Wes put out a pre-meeting text for books and was easily supplied with *Magic Treasures* by Fedko, *Best of All Worlds* by Geris, Postelnik and Demetrius, *One Degree* by Guastaferro, *Outnumbered* by Bannon and *Lunch is Served* by Romhany and Tahoe.

Tricks shown were one ahead method varia-

tions, "Two Jokers" by R. Paul Wilson, a four-ace routine off YouTube, "Predator Card," "Triumph Slop Shuffle" set-up for a Triumph, three phase card routine, "Friction Pen" to "Blister" to "Invisible Deck."

Then a group brainstorming ensued (as per Zach's request) for a different final phase echoing his inferno theme for the three-phase card routine. Rhett Bryson's and upstate Ring 63's ears were burning as we chatted about Rhett's I.B.M.'s *Linking Ring* cover profile. Gary showed his Indian Cups and Ed did Alakazam's "Movie Club" and "AI Card Generator." Next meeting is July 13th... same Bat time and same bat channel. Sim Sala Bim Everyone! *George Younts*

RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS - Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) For location call Chris at (217) 431-479

KEN BARHAM, Secretary

2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616

E-mail: Kebabram@aol.com

Unfortunately, none of the officers were able to make it to the May meeting. Thank you, Bill Pierce, for taking notes. One of the founding members of the club came to the meeting. I didn't get the name, but I believe it was Gary Slater. Sorry I missed him.

Hesham Hassan gave a review of *Conjurer at the Table* by Al James. Gary Slater performed his matching card trick. Hesham Hassan did some matchstick magic. Bill Pierce performed "Shrapnel" and gave a mini lecture about his experiences with different types of black art. Gary Slater talked about Lego magic and its possibilities.

Hesham Hassan, Rob "The Professor" Higgins, and Bill Pierce went to the Rhapsody Theater in Chicago and saw a show featuring the physician magician and John Gaughan. Bill has called me a couple of times to tell be about different parts of the show, so it sounds like it was a great time.

It was decided to keep the same theme for next month. Something you learned at the Get-Together. The next meeting will be on Wed., June 18th, at 7:00 p.m., at the Salvation Army in Champaign. Come early and meet us at Manzella's Italian Patio to eat or just hang out. I should be able to be there this time, probably around 5:00. See ya at the meeting. *Ken Barham*

RING 254, HIGHLAND, CALIFORNIA - the Karrell Fox/Paul Shartel Ring

Meets 2nd Tue. each month, 7:30 to 9:30, Highland Senior Cntr. 3102 E. Highland Ave., Highland, CA

STEPHEN HEALTON, Secretary / (951) 570-7266

E-mail: healtonecell@gmail.com

Our pre-meeting began with our teaching. This month Jazz taught on card tricks and manipulation. He showed the club the Swivel

Force, also the trick "Random," then he taught a false shuffle and false cut, along with a top bottom throw deck to the other hand, he called it a Toss Production. His advice when working with card tricks, "Always keep your manipulations at the same speed. If you are driving your car and see people walking on the sidewalk, you don't notice anybody. But if someone is running then you notice them."

The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. with our President Peter Winch welcoming our visitors to our little band of prestidigitators. Thomas was doing this 24 years ago, comes from Colton, and wants to become a member. Pete's Mom, visiting from Bangkok the capital of Thailand.

After a mercifully brief business meeting, it was time for our topic on marketing. Belle talked about working with clients. Always confirm their email. On deposits, how they can pay, Venmo or Zelle. Mention if they want to give you a tip, have it in cash in an envelope. Tell them it is so "If you give it to me in an envelope the people at the party won't see it." Since the people don't always think about tips, with that she gets a tip ninety percent of the time. Then send a follow up email. For a kids' show, on a large index card have them draw their favorite trick.

Chaz succeeded in filling our minds with good tips we can use. From experience he said for him, Zelle is better than Venmo. For corporate shows he does a net fifteen percent on invoices.

After a kids' show, I tell the host that if I get a referral from them, I will give them twenty-five dollars, he does not do that for corporate shows. Sometimes gets up to eight shows a month from referrals. With a booth at fairs Chazz has twelve boxes labeled with each month displayed. With a sign were the people can win a free magic show. Fill in the coupon with the child's age and some more information, then put them in the month the birthday is in. Then three months before he pulls the coupons and calls the people. He does give one magic show away. When he calls from the slips, he tells them they did not win but he is available for their party date.

Steve mentioned that he took Chazz's advice but uses one box with sheets that have a check box for the month. Then he puts that information in a data base. Belle mentioned that she has three pricing packages, Basic, Most Popular, and First Class. Then Chazz talked about on giving discounts, I tell them let me look at my schedule. After he views his schedule, he tells the client that he does have a show in that area and since he will already be going to be in the

area he will give a discount. That way if someone else wants a discount, he can tell them that there are no other shows in that area that day. If Chazz has a show next door or forty-five miles away from him, he charges the same price for a kids' show. Don't say mileage. If they low ball you, suggest a clown for that age.

For the members of Ring 254 who attended, it was quite an educational evening. *Steve Heaton*

RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The “Magic Ian” Ring

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, Perkins Restaurant, 27811 US Hwy 27, Leesburg, FL 34748

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: www.Ring 258.com

We are looking into the possibility of changing the corporate name of Ring 258 as it restricts the location where we might have our meetings.

We have a new presence on the Internet. John Zenkewich has created a page for us. Go to Facebook and look up I.B.M. Ring 258. Give us a like! We will be adding photos and videos of members past and present. Thanks to V.P. Andy Rohweder we are beginning early to look for a place to hold our holiday party. The last two places left something to be desired.

This month's theme was “Box Magic.” Each of the presenters demonstrated and explained the workings of their props. David Lyons did Match Box Magic. The “Toothpick through Match Box” was a killer! Roger Reid brought a variety of equipment. He began with a Die Box that had a die changed to an egg for use in kids' shows. Other props he showed were a Potato Box, Asian Box, Mini Producto Box, and a Gozinta Box which produced yards of feather boas. David Ginsburg presented a Turnover Box which produced a glass of wine, a Flip Over Box, a Dagger Box, and a Dove Box. Jack Drawec brought a Box of Cards and performed “Any Card at Any Number.” Regina Schiraldi brought stage size Hippy Hop Rabbits and the Zig Zag Coke. Greg Solomon showed a Drawer Box and performed Cameron Francis “Nothing but the Truth.” And Andy Rohweder explained Zig Zag Rocky. After Box Magic Roger Reid did an in-depth discussion and demonstration of his “Flash Coin Vanish” and preparation of the gimmick. Then he handed out envelopes with prepared gimmicks and complete instructions to all who asked for one. Next Month... Mental Magic!

Roger Reid

RING 266, TYLER, TEXAS – East Texas Court of Magic

1st Mon of the month, 7:00 pm, at Church of Living Hope on Hwy 69-North in Tyler, Tx.

JENE CARROLL, President

Ring 266 had nine people attend our June meeting. In April, we celebrated our Ring's 38th

anniversary. David Gish, one of our most devoted members, is also a charter member of our Ring. We awarded him with lifetime membership in our Ring at this month's meeting! David is exempted from paying dues/fees to our Ring for the rest of his life! David always performs for us and is great about mentoring new magicians.

We also had a couple of visitors, who'd been away from our Ring for a while. It was great to see them. We also briefly discussed a possible magic camp in the Tyler area. Unfortunately, our Ring's secretary wasn't feeling well and had to leave the meeting early.

We continue to meet at Church of the Living Hope in Tyler. Please contact us if you'll be in East Texas soon. *Paul M. Budd*

RING 273, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA - Oliver Ring

Meets 3rd Thur., 7:30pm at the Burns Club

PETER FOSTER, Secretary

Email: pfoster@pcug.au

Fun meeting this month, with five of us in attendance: Humphrey James, Richard Hunt, Chris Donohue, and me. We also had a new person, Andrew Allan. Welcome Andrew!

Humphrey started things off with a card trick, where the spectator cut the deck into several piles. The magician showed that the spectator cut to the four aces. This was by Robert Giobbi.

Humphrey followed with the classic “Chicago Opener.”

I then did the one I inflict on newcomers, the packet trick “Marked Cards.” This was a version of “Twisting the Aces,” with the story that the markings indicate which ace will be turning up next. But then the kicker: the cards suddenly had different colour backs, with the names of the aces clearly written.

The theme for the meeting was Mentalism, so Richard did “Dr X” by Andrew Normansell. I continued with another packet trick, “Duplicity” by John Bannon. Andrew then did the classic “Out Of This World” by Paul Curry. This does require a minor move, so we had a bit of discussion about some possible handlings. Chris gave us a break from the cards with one using a die and two tubes. A spectator sealed the die in one of the tubes, which was then sealed inside the other tube. Another spectator then selected a card from a packet of six cards. The chosen card was a two. The tubes were then opened to reveal the die, which indeed showed a two. I followed with “Triplicity 2020” by John Bannon. I then continued with “Simplicity Four Ace Trick” by Stewart James. I then followed with “Shuffle Bored” with an alphabet deck for the new person. The spectators shuffled the cards face up and face down in a very fair manner. In the end

the face down cards were taken out. They spelled a welcome for the new person.

Richard then did "Devastator," a card trick where the spectator selects a card and mixes the deck in a very fair manner. The magician succeeded in finding the card, even though the spectator did most of the handling. I followed with another card trick, where two spectators cut and shuffled the deck to select cards for themselves and another one for the magician. The magician successfully located the spectators' selections. One of the spectators was then asked to determine the location of the magician's card and succeeded! This was "Everybody's Lazy" by Simon Aronson. I then did something not entirely unexpected, a card trick. A spectator shuffled the deck and thought of a card, then took some cards and put them in the card box. The magician took the deck and put one card face down on the table. It was the selection (the ending can vary but is always good). This was "AK47" by John Bannon.

Chris then brought out something a bit different: three small turtles of different colours and a small box. With the magician not looking, a spectator put one of the turtles in the box, then two spectators each took one of the remaining turtles. The magician divined which turtle was where. This was "Turtle Trio" by Sukeyasu Hirata. I finished with one that used a mysterious wooden box. A spectator dealt cards until they felt like stopping, then the box was opened. Inside was a prediction, of how many cards the spectator would take and also the card they stopped at (not actually, of course, but that is the effect). This was "Box of Doom" by John Bannon.

That was the end of a fun meeting. Next meeting is on 19 June. The theme is Magic With Small Objects. Cheers. *Peter Foster*

RING 280, VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA – Mark Wilson Ring

Meets 2nd thu. of the month at 7:00 pm at the Newhall Boys & Girls Club 24909 Newhall Ave., Newhall, CA 91321
DAVE NORMAN, Secretary
E-mail: Davemagic@lagncor.com
Web site: www.ibring280.com

Members attending this evening's meeting: Joe Berman, Chris Canfield, Luke Boehret, Glenn Crites, Everett Gomez, Bob Love, and Clem Patafio.

Our meeting's theme was bizarre magic. A presentation might involve something purchased in a market bazaar, but our President, Bob Love, was thinking more like storytelling with esoteric narratives and imagery with a touch of the macabre.

The evening centered on the only performance of the evening, which was a series of

effects performed by Bob Love that illustrated the bizarre tale of Cora, a woman who lived in the wild west. She lived above the local saloon where she helped herself to the barkeeper's whisky and performed magic tricks for the customers. Oddly, customers paid Cora not to perform a most disturbing fortune telling prediction. For the few who dared, Cora would predict the hour of their death.

Cora signaled the barkeeper to stop filling her glass by placing the whisky bottle's cork in a small box in which she also stored her glass. The barkeeper would have to recover the cork by picking up the box. The mystery was that when the barkeeper picked up the box the cork was not next to the glass but was sitting in the glass.

Today, all that remnants of Cora's life consist of a partially burnt tintype photo of her and her room key, the key that she could not find in time to escape the fire that burned down the saloon. There are those who say the key is haunted as it can be seen to turn on its own as it sits in one's hand.

Cora's story was accompanied by a clock effect to predict the hour of one's death. It was inspired by "Now is the Hour." This effect is a packet trick developed by Roland Adams and sold by Fred Donaldson's company Scott Magic Co.

"The Cork in the Glass" effect was inspired by the "Astro-Ball Cabinet" by Dave Powell which was based upon Milson-Worth's Astro-Ball Cabinet, which is the first phase of Stewart James' effect. Cora's key is of course the classic Spirit Key.

This one presentation and ensuing discussion filled the entire evening. After Bob's presentation, he explained how the effects were accomplished, and then we began brainstorming alternative handlings as well as presentational enhancements. Luke Boehret, Chris Canfield and Joe Berman led a spirited discussion in which suggestions were proposed, tried, critiqued, and refined. Luke demonstrated how "Over Kill" as described in Paul Harris' book *The Art of Astonishment* could be substituted for "Now is the Hour."

Bob created an entertaining presentation by taking three tricks and theming them together to illustrate an engaging macabre tale. This is the definition of bizarre magic. Happy Conjuring!

Glenn Crites

RING 289, MACON, GEORGIA – Mike Fuller Ring

Meets 1st Tue. each month at 6:00 p.m., Fresh Air BBQ on Riverside Dr., Macon
DANNY WATSON, President / (478) 338-5572
Web site: www.angelfire.com/magic2/maconmagic

In attendance: Mike and Linda Fuller, Tony Zelonis, John and Rhonda Donahue, Jimmy Roach, Bill and Sallie Sirmon, Danny Watson. After some dinner at some of the finest BBQ in

Macon, Georgia at The Fresh Air BBQ we started off our meeting with our monthly riddle sheet presented by Danny Watson who gets the brain working on about six riddles for us to solve. Challenging to say the least.

On to the magic. Our June meetings theme was anything but cards or some kind of prop that you actually made for magic and Danny Watson was up first with a barrage of mind reading effects with numbers.

Mike Fuller was up next with his homemade Square Circle, jumbo sized to which he took it apart showed it empty then proceeded to pull a small then behind it a large rabbit out of the box. Looked great. Stuffed fake rabbits of course. No animals were harmed in the presentation of this effect.

Up next was Tony Zelonis and with the help of his assistant for the night, Sallie Sirmon, he placed the head twister box on top of her head and began twisting her head around one way then he turned it in the opposite direction to untwist her neck again. Great stuff.

John Donahue was up next with an old effect that he thought was called Blocko back in the day where he had two wooden tubes and a wooden block that would slide through the tubes. He placed one tube on the table then presented a sheet of glass that he put on top of the first tube then put the second tube on top of that. Picked up the block of wood, dropped it into the top tube, it slid down through the first tube, through the glass and out the bottom of the second tube without breaking the glass that was in between the two tubes. Looked good.

Next, he presented his version of the told time favorite, "The Chinese Laundry Ticket" where he had a ticket that he got from the dry cleaners with Chinese writing on it, tore it into four pieces then when he went to pick up his dry cleaning the man wouldn't give him his laundry back unless he had a good ticket so he crumbled up the pieces, a rub of the hand and the ticket was restored, voila. Good times.

If you're in the area, stop in we'd love to see ya. Until next month.

John Donahue

RING 291, PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA – Palm Springs Magic Club

Meets first and third Tuesday at the Portola Community Center in Palm Desert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

HENRY JUAREZ, Secretary / E-mail: henryjuarez1@hotmail.com

Web site: www.palmspringsmagicclub.com

At our first meeting of the month, members did their best impressions of Luke Skywalker as they proclaimed, "May the Force Be With You!" and explored forces of all kinds.

Warren Morse led off, mentioning the possibility of repainting the meeting room and showing a string of colored handkerchiefs as color

swatches for the potential paint job. When a spectator randomly chose one of the colors and tried to imagine the room in that color, the rest of the handkerchiefs magically fell to the ground, leaving only the selected one still suspended from the string.

Next up was Carl Christman who had a spectator doing mind-reading. While blindfolded and with no verbal clues, the spectator copied what the magician was doing, raising his left hand, showing a count of three, and finally, naming a card the magician was holding.

The next magician, Andy Cohen, held a deck of cards and did an "unforce." The magician asked the spectator to completely clear his mind, and the deck of cards turned into a solid piece of clear plastic!

Steve Temkin taught everyone about several psychological forces, PATEO (pick any two, eliminate one), spectator-selected two-digit numbers, and Equivoque (magician's choice). His final effect used a package of M&Ms, and he correctly predicted what color would be the last one on the table.

Then Gary Beutler showed five cards on a scroll and asked everyone to silently select one of the cards. When he closed and reopened the scroll, the card selected by every audience member was gone!

Ed Waldo closed the evening by teaching everyone the Slip force.

Members played the role of both student and professor at our second meeting of the month, as everyone brought a trick to teach at "The School of Magic!"

George Haas taught us to pull a double card on a raffle force, a good way to start an ambitious card routine. Then George explained the Oram Subtlety, an eight-card routine where the spectator picks the only card that wasn't a king.

Eugene Ball then borrowed \$10 bill. He had it signed and folded by a spectator. Amazingly, the bill then turned into \$100, and the original, signed \$10 bill appeared in a sealed envelope.

Next was David Prekeges, who taught an Equivoque routine with a poker chip, quarter, and penny. The spectator picks one, one goes in the bag, and the magician gets the final one. After all this, the magician's prediction matches where the objects are.

Theo Starphire borrowed five items from the audience. He wrote down a prediction, and the object chosen by a spectator was an exact match!

Don Campbell followed with "Radar Vision." Two spectators pick two numbers from a board, and they match the magician's prediction.

Finally, Ralph Falcon taught his amazing version of the "Professor's Nightmare" rope effect.

David Prekeges

RING 313, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA— The John Fedko Ring

Meets last Tues. of the month, Irvine Valley Water District,
15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine.,

ALAN HANSON, Secretary

Email: AlanHanson15@gmail.com

Web site: www.ring313.org

Our lecturer, Gregory Wilson, arrived from his nearby home, having just completed performances across America where he drove 15,000-plus miles to visit 32 cities in 38 days. Gregory shared performance and explanation of many of his favorite routines. Wilson's casual performance style is heavy on misdirection and sleight of hand using common objects as props. His fast paced, energetic, and comedic spectator engagement helps draw in audience focus.

Wilson began by choosing someone who had a recurring "chip" on his shoulder (a poker chip which repeatedly vanished from Wilson's hands). Like the paper ball classic, the audience is "in the know." Wilson explained that this trick works because he is so far ahead of the spectator that he never catches up.

As many of his venues were at golf clubs, he next showed us two golf tees. These appeared to travel only where Wilson wanted them and in the most unexpected locations. Finally, one of the tees was tapped into his closed empty fist where it struck a golf ball. Where the heck did the ball come from?

While on the theme of golf Wilson asked for help from a player of the game. Member Chris Wynkoop assisted. Wilson showed a closed box containing brand new golf balls. Considering the size and weight of the box Wynkoop confirmed there were no more than three golf balls in the box. Wynkoop held out his hands as Wilson removed them one by one from the box. Magically, four balls came from the box. Not satisfied with four, Wilson tried it again this time he counted out six balls, then eight balls. In the end the box's label was revealed as manufactured by WILSON.

Yvette Fibel assisted Wilson's next effect. A ball point pen whose pen point magically moved from end to end. When asked which end the cap was on and which end the pen point, Yvette consistently chose the wrong end. Each time Wilson intoned, "that's what most people say," clueing everyone that no one ever gets it right. Wilson explained that this revelation is most effective when the performer allows the audience to "enjoy the moment." The response of the frustrated spectator is the essence of this magic.

Wilson casually reached into his wallet and removed five American one-dollar bills. While rotating these five bills it was clear that they had transformed into twenties. Just as suddenly

twenties became hundreds. We had just witnessed a performance of Wilson's "Hundy 500," a modification of the popular "Extreme Burn" trick.

Wilson then shared a lightning-fast transition of a credit card into a twenty-dollar bill, a great walk-around when someone says they don't take credit cards or that they give a discount for cash payment.

In his "Exact Change," a spectator calls out a number between five and ninety-five and Wilson immediately empties a front pocket, leaving the pocket hanging inside out as proof of emptiness, as the spectator counts the change that was inside totaling that chosen number.

Next came a Brian Gillis favorite called "Peek Pack." In Wilson's version four audience members were asked to remember one card as he riffled a deck of cards in front of each. Wilson was able to individually name the card each person remembered.

A multi-gimmicked dollar sized coin combined with a few sleights allowed the miraculous multiplication and vanishing from one to three, back to one, and finally gone.

Gregory Wilson's "Revolution" effect was demonstrated, a flourish where he can casually spin a single card or the entire deck in its box balanced on one finger.

Instruction on technique and props for all are available through Wilson's website. *Alan Hanson*

RING 317, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK— Ring of Illusions

Meets 3rd Tue. at 7:30pm at Parker Ctr., LIJ Hospital, Lakeview Rd.,
New Hyde Park, NY

ANTHONY DIFILIPPI, President / Email: adifilip@mindspring.com

Web site: www.5fingermagic.com/ibm

Ring 317 had its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 20th. The topic for the meeting was "Something New: Effects You Are Not Proficient With." Members were encouraged to bring items they have trouble presenting, don't have a routine for or can't remember the handling of. This led to a lot of brainstorming and discussion among the group, resulting in an enjoyable evening full of magic and camaraderie!

Anthony Spano from the Long Island Magic Club (LIMC) was a Ring 317 guest that evening and started things off with a wonderful effect from SEO Magic, called "Ana Kara Kuri" which is an artistic and visual way to reveal several incorrect card guesses followed by the large graphic transforming to the selected court card!

Perspective member DJ Leiva was up next and shared a nice ring routine he's working on. He smoothly executed several sleights from a routine called "Divorce" by Justin Miller. He

plans to combine this with a Ring and String and or Ring Flight routine. We welcome you and your magic DJ!

The fun and amazement continued when Ed Hass performed an original "Any Card At Any Number." This was a very creative method, and the club discussed possible alternate handlings to make it even more deceptive. Ed has a wonderful website with an extensive collection of card magic from various top sources which he has collected and adds brilliant thoughts and suggestions on, all free! (www.edhassmagic.com/edshead).

Gary Levenson presented "Color Test" by Luca Volpe in a very entertaining fashion. This led to a discussion of mnemonic code, where to hide a cheat sheet, etc. We can always count on Gary to present something new.

Long time Club Treasurer Wendy Pincus brought a more complex version of "Rainbow Ropes" she sought ideas for, and the club tried to give ideas/methods.

Robert McEntee, club V.P., demonstrated a Larry Jennings' three card penetration effect, seeking an improved handling. He shared how he uses a Sven Pad in a mentalism "Spectator as Mind Reader" routine. Next, he attempted to divine two participants' thoughts with "Eye of God" and special impression envelopes. However, neither method is ideal, and he prefers other devices to glance or otherwise obtain written information from a spectator. Lastly, he employed Mental Pen by Joao Miranda to allow a spectator to correctly select the victim in a "Who Done It?" spooky-type routine.

Long time club President Anthony DiFillipi demonstrated "Tiny Plunger" by Matthew Bich and Jon Armstrong. Although he only started working on it recently, Anthony appears to have the effect down cold, but like a pro, he sought feedback and ideas to strengthen it further.

Last but not least was an expertly executed ring routine by longtime member Phil Gjenashi. Phil based his routine on one published by Garret Thomas but adding the Sylvester Pitch and other sleights to make it even more deceptive!

Attendees enjoyed the magical sharing, and some left with new ideas or methods to improve effects they are working on. We recommend other clubs also hold a meeting designed to improve or solve presentational problems fellow members are having with their effects and routines. *Rob McEntee*

RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:00 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042 / E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com
LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary

4515 Northglen Court, Englewood, OH 45322 / (937) 836-4359

Secretary Larry Hollinger officially welcomed all nine of us. First, we selected up-com-

ing meeting themes from a distributed list of past themes. Patrick Dugan tallied the results for us, and the most popular themes were Impromptu Magic, Rope Magic, and Tarbell Magic.

In our business section, we reviewed the Annual Magic Auction from Memorial Day in Eaton. We also talked about The Stars in Magic Show last month. Jake Lindsay and Dave Davis performed in Hillsboro last month and the show went very well. Dave will also be performing at the Fourth of July Celebration in Xenia, Ohio. Neighboring Ring 5 will have Geoff Wilson as lecturer. We heard of a Ghost Hunters Presentation being held in Franklin and brainstormed ways we might get involved with them.

Time for magic! Dave Davis performed his "Linking Rings" routine, and we discussed purchase, quality, sizes and care of linking rings. Dave then went into his "Ring on Rope" routine. The years of practice he has put in on these really shows. They are beautiful effects.

Larry Payne presented "Berma's Bells," a puzzling effect with five bells on strings attached to a clear plastic rod. Called upon bells would be the only bell to swing back and forth.

tRick Gaffney presented "Prestige" with volunteer Larry Hollinger. Larry then did "Your Card" with volunteer Ralph Steinlage.

Jake Lindsey performed a flawless version of Jeff McBride's "Coin Vanish Routine."

Corey White showed his magic carry pouch – his pouch, hat and sponge balls were all the same shade of blue. Corey White did Michael O'Bryan's "Pocket. Hand, Pocket" routine.

Tom Casper donated "Hit" by Luke Jerмай. The lucky winner was Larry Hollinger.

Dave Davis came back center stage and performed the troubling "Hook" in which he put a fishing hook with four strings attached in his mouth and had volunteers choose and gently! pull that string.

Bill West did three effects for us. First was "Entourage" from Eric Ross. It was as hard to figure out as it was to spell. Bill then did "52 Toss from Cody Fisher" with volunteer Jake Lindsey. Bill finished with "Torn and Restored Deck of Cards."

Corey White finished off our Magic Performance Session with "Corey's Star Sign Prediction" with volunteer tRick Gaffney.

Before we closed the meeting, Patrick Dugan asked us to go around the room and each tell us their best trick. Very Interesting! And some great ideas!

So, if you are ever in Middletown, Ohio the first Friday of the month, please stop by and join us. From Ring 324 – The Friendliest Ring Around. *Larry Hollinger*

RING 325, BRANSON, MISSOURI – The Tri-Lakes Tricksters

Meets 3rd Sat. of the month atlt's Magic & Joke Shop, 6:00pm, 124
South Business 65, Branson, MO
DR. CHRISTOPHER BECK, President
E-mail: beckibmring325@gmail.com

Attendees: Jordan Stickley, Jim Holms, Thom Taylor, Gary Geise, Monica Holcomb, Yak Williams, Landon & Bo Greenway, new member Jeffrey Pyzocha, KJ Phelps and Anthony Mullins who arrived late. At 6 p.m., President Jim Holmes called the meeting to order.

Members who attended Cavalcade of Magic in Eureka Springs: Jordan, Yak, Thom, Gary and Mary Geise, Duane Laflin, Chris Beck, Eldon Shaw and Richard Knoll. Consensus: it is a great value for a convention that is nearby. All lectures are available to all and you're not stuck w/the requirement to choose one over another. Great time was had by all.

Visitor Jeff Pyzocha chose to officially join the club and paid his yearly dues. He indicated he's been into magic since he was five. He is a former member of S.A.M. and previously did stage magic but now focuses on close-up. He is really into Tenyo effects and has an extensive collection.

Teaching Moment: Card shuffling and forcing was the theme. Jim presented the following: A utility moved was shown. It is related to how to force a card. The Hindu Shuffle was also displayed and Jim indicated it is much easier than the Classic Force. You just need to pick the bottom card beforehand.

Performances: Landon Greenway stepped up first. Showing a stack of coins and a case, he vanishes the coins by bringing them together with the case. When together they reappear. The spectator is asked to guess what side the coins are located on, but when checked the stack is not there.

Jeff Pyzocha began by sharing some history about Salem, Massachusetts. He displayed several pictures of the infamous witch trials and explained how they worked. The audience then takes turns to decide which witches are guilty until the stack of cards is gone. This effect is called "The Given."

Yak Williams presented a card trick using a box. The spectator chooses a number between one and ten. Inside the box is a black bag and the cards. He spreads out the cards. Inside the bag is a black stone. The spectator placed it onto a face down card in the spread. The card was checked and deemed not right, but the selected card value is now printed on the stone. The stone print and wrong card then switch places.

KJ was up next showing a metal sheet with colored dots and matching cards. Spectators

then use "intuition" to match face-down cards to the slots on the sheet. They are revealed to show all the colors match.

Thom as his alter ego showed how a ring penetrates a shoelace, then jumps on. The ring is then tied on and pulled back off. He then tied the rope through a wooden block. Two spectators held an end of the rope, then pulled and the block passed through the rope. He then placed the wood block into a wooden heath, slid a wand through it all, then the block penetrates the stick.

Yak Williams displayed a large Egyptian box. He inserted a latex dove and after a "magic gesture" the dove is gone when the box is fully disassembled and shown. He next displayed Kanard's Mystery Ring Box. A ring goes into the box and is closed up. The wand is fed through the box. When opened up, the ring is discovered to have penetrated the wand.

Jeff displayed his Tenyo trick, he shared an Easter Island Head where a spectator places colored crystals into a platform. The head faces a named crystal until all crystals are placed back into the container.

Gary Geise asked a spectator from the back of the audience to help. He selects a card, memorizes it, then returns it to the deck. The first spectator gets an impression by looking at the deck. It matches.

Mary Geise

RING 327, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA – Fred Petrick "Mambo" Ring

Meets 2nd Thu. of the month at the Iowa Magic Shop, 1090 Seventh
Ave., Marion, Iowa
DON NELSON, President / Email: nelsondon@aol.com

Ring 327 had our monthly meeting June 5 at Ken's Magic Shop. Don Nelson performed a clever packet trick learned at AbraCORNdabra in May, in which one card in a helper's hand magically penetrates another card beneath it. Don then performed "The Locked Deck," which was followed by Fred Mishler performing "30 Seconds to Stun." These two tricks employ a similar method to riffle force a card, but the reveals of the two tricks are very different.

General discussion at the meeting was on the topic of adapting your performance to particular venues or audiences. One special setting identified was performing at nursing homes, where visibility may be limited and where some in the audience may be limited in mobility, hearing, or ability to follow the premise of a trick. It can be valuable in such a setting to mingle with some of the audience pre-show and use this time to recruit a few individuals who will be asked to assist you during the show. This avoids choosing assistants who won't be able to do what you expect.

Fred Mishler discussed his plans to revise his

magician persona. His chosen performer name will be Mugico, and his act will combine visual magic with a musical accompaniment designed to complement the visuals. He anticipates this will work well performing for children or for the elderly, since there will be less need to have complex patter or explanations or extended premises for a trick. Fred is also working with a fellow magician to consider doing a tribute act as a team.

Other discussion at the meeting involved alternative meeting schedules or sites. The current location has limited space, so it is difficult to perform or teach anything but close-up magic, particularly to a group. We will look into the feasibility of having some of our meetings at a location that approximates parlor staging to accommodate this type of performing or instructing.

Don Nelson

RING 334, MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA – Grand Strand Magicians Society

Meets 1st Thu., 7:00 pm at the Southatlantic Bldg., Unit C, 908
Seaboard St., Myrtle Beach, SC
GERRY THOMPSON, Secretary
www.sandyshoesentertainment.com/ (843) 650-0767

Hello everyone, here is the Ring Report for June 5th. The theme was Spooky Magic and Escapes. We had a smaller turnout than usual but an enthusiastic bunch. We had “Beauty Queen” food, chicken salad and grapes. A beauty queen contestant was supposed to join us and show her magic routine from the contest but she was busy graduating.

Showtime: Gene Voshell talked Spirit Bells. He covered one that was very old to late ‘50s to one just a few years old. A great talk as always. It’s one of my favorite parts of the meeting. Dave Tanner talked a bit about his Houdini collection.

Paul McTaggart had two long ropes penetrate his jacket as the ropes were held by helpers. Ray Hardee had a bag with Houdini related items in it, three small handcuffs linked together and a photo of locked handcuffs on one side and Houdini in cuffs on the other which he removed from the bag and showed. He replaced the items back into the bag, said the magic word and when he removed the linked cuffs, they were unlinked and on the photo the picture of the handcuffs were now open, and Houdini had vanished. Pretty cool!

Charles Graham did “Crystal Cleaver.” A ring in a small clear box, put on a small base, covered by a tall box, took a sword and inserted into the side slot and slide down penetrated through the clear box and ring. A very nice Tenyo item.

Toddini performed a card trick using a small number of Tarot cards. A card was selected and

replaced in the packet and shuffled. When the selected card was found, a bell rang. Loved it.

Bryan Wilson performed the “Mail Bag Escape.” It was well done even though he had hurt his hand. Someone said, “He was faster than email.” LOL!

Dale Rabon performed “The Deceased” by Jamie Dawes. Paul McTaggart did “Thieve and Sheep” and the “Piano Card Trick” using potatoes. Nicely done. Gene Voshell had one more classic trick to show us, the Astro Ball. A box a little larger than a lunch box was shown and when the front and back door was opened, it contained a glass and a ball. The doors were closed, and the beautiful box was taken into the audience and then back to the stage, when the front door was opened, the ball had magically jumped into the glass. It goes to show that an old trick is still fun to watch and fools.

When in Myrtle Beach the first Thursday of the month, please join us.

Dale Rabon

RING 392, BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA – William E. Spooner Ring

Meetings monthly at 2:00pm in various locations
DR. JOE MAZZOLA, President
E-mail: jcmazzolado@gmail.com

Members Present: Joe Mazzola, Gerry and Cara Hayes, Fletcher Roberts, Joanna and Doug Roberts, Cato and Susan Holler. President Joe Mazzola called the meeting to order and opened with officer nominations. After a brief vote, the following positions were confirmed: President Fletcher Roberts; Vice President Gerry Hayes; Secretary Nelson Brookshire; Treasurer Sue Ellen Brookshire; Sergeant-at-Arms Cato Holler.

It was then noted that the Ring’s tenth anniversary was just a few days away. Members shared photos and fond memories from the past decade of meetings. It was decided that at the next meeting, a group photo of all past presidents will be taken and submitted to the local newspaper to commemorate this milestone, along with a short write-up regarding the Ring.

Joe Mazzola kicked off the performances with an effect where a spectator selected a card by dumping small paper slips onto a table until only one number and one suit remained face up. Once the card was determined, Joe revealed a prediction that perfectly matched the selection. He followed this with a compatibility test featuring Doug and Joanna. Each chose a card at random, and through a whimsical process involving a “cootie catcher,” the two cards were revealed to be a perfect love match.

Fletcher Roberts demonstrated a Craig Petty “Chop Cup” routine using a borrowed cup and a crumpled dollar bill from a spectator. The effect

unfolded like a standard chop cup routine but with the added surprise that everything could have been borrowed moments before the performance.

Cato Holler demonstrated several 3D printed devices acquired from David Mann at the Winter Carnival of Magic. These included an amazing high-capacity Lota Vase and several types of drawer boxes. Susan and Cato also passed out a topological teaser to the attendees. It consisted of a coffee mug with an un-gimmicked rubber band linked through the solid handle.

Gerry Hayes did "Copy Cat" by David Parr and then he had three people select three-digit numbers. With the help of Grant's Improved Baker-Dunninger Slate he predicted the sum of the numbers. It was then revealed on a roll of toilet paper a la Ted Outerbridge.

Cara Hayes presented a beautiful, musical routine in which she poured different colored liquids from a single teapot. As she poured each glass, she also pulled out color-coordinated silks from within the seemingly empty vessel. By the end, six glasses stood before her, each filled with a different colored liquid, a stunning and colorful display.

The meeting was adjourned, and light refreshments were provided by Gerry and Cara Hayes.

Nelson Brookshire

RING 398, APPLETON/GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN – Dr. Lynn Miner Ring

Meets last Tue. except Dec., 6:30 p.m., email for location.

RICK MOREIN, Secretary

E-mail: rmorein497@gmail.com

Our May meeting started with a quick run-through of business, including reading our new article for our by-laws about donations. After that we moved into the mind-bending theme, mentalism!

Our Vice President Rick Morein kicked off the meeting with a "front table" sharing several different thumb writers, with different media including graphite, chalk and grease. Each had a different method for attaching the writer, full thumb-tip, band writers and adhesives, a very interesting discussion!

Bruce Hetzler then entertained us with a very cute animal mind-reading effect that included much porcine humor and ended with Noah's Ark to cover all the bases! Dr. Lynn Miner per-

formed an effect an Annemann classic, a mystery using four multi-digit dice and a book. He predicted not only the word found at the position of the sum of the dice, but also to total of the dice!

Tal Kuhnzz dazzled us with a magic dart board, invisible darts and a selected color. The invisible dart landed on a number and deftly determined the color selected!

Our Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael Schroeder, started his presentation with one of his signature jokes then proceeded to kill with an astounding drawing duplication.

Lou Lepore continued the fun with a very clever mental poker effect where the spectator selects both his own hand and Lou's hand, and Lou still won!

Secretary Kevin Koehne then informed us that he is a Grandmaster Tic Tac Toe player. He showed he could not be beaten, plus had pre-determined not only the outcome of the game (a tie) but also the exact placement of every X and O!

Our President Daryl Rogers then mystified us with mind reading effect where he determined the movie poster that three individuals were merely thinking of.

Our new member Otis Day then proceeded to demonstrate how he could determine which colored pencil was chosen to color in a picture. Although the picture was colored in a non-standard palette, he showed he had correctly predicted the coloring!

Rick Morein then proceeded to extol the virtues of "B'Wave" and performed it for those in the audience that had not yet seen it.

Marv Roth proved to us that mind-reading is real by letting a participant make all the decisions while mixing a deck of cards, and Marv had predicted the sum of the specific selected cards!

Finally, Monte Witt showed how artificial intelligence was taking over magic by showing that his phone could determine the names of six selected cards!

We closed the meeting with a "back table" in which Tal and Daryl shared their wonderful experiences at the AbraCorndabra Convention (Daryl won one of the competitions!) and Tal passed around some of the pictures of celebrities at the event. Another excellent Ring 398 gathering!

Kevin Koehne

Sign up 1!

The more members we have the more we can do to advance magic and serve you.

NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

AUGUST 2025 26 NEW MEMBERS

GOLDBERG, RICHARD, Cerritos, CA
MORA, BRENDI, Glendale, CA
SHAO, QINWEI, Los Angeles, CA
TERHART, NINETTE, San Ysidro, CA
VONSCHTUPP, LILL, Northridge, CA
WALTERS, ERIK, Huntington Beach, CA
WYNN, SR., DR. CHARLES, Columbia, CT
LEDBETTER, DALE, Fort Lauderdale, FL
LINDSAY, TRACY, Niceville, FL
TANAKA, LAUREEN, Kaneohe, HI
STONE, DAVE, Simpsonville, KY
LEVY, CATHERINE, Potomac, MD
LONG, KERRICK, Buffalo, MO
LONG, JENNIFER, Buffalo, MO
WHITE, AMY, Saint Charles, MO
SIMONE, BAILEY, Buffalo, NY
KRAUSE, FRED, Kettering, OH
BAKER, MIKE, Waldport, OR
LUCCHINI, JASON, Toledo, OR
RADLIFF, CHRISTOPHER, Norristown, PA
SMITHART, PHILLIP, Fate, TX
SCHWARTZ, SIDNEY, Vienna, VA

KOTINSKÝ, ADAM, Olomouc, Czech-Republic
WEISOVÁ, ANNA, Olomouc, Czech-Republic
HAPITA, SEF, Calamba, Laguna, Philippines
LEE, IVAN, Singapore, Singapore

17 REINSTATEMENTS

COOPER, TRACE, Madison, AL
LEDBETTER, GARY, Montgomery, AL
YNOSTROZA, JOHN, San Ysidro, CA
COSTANTINE, JOSEPH, Ocoee, FL
RIVERO, EDUARDO, Lakeland, FL
MISHLER, FREDERICK, Cedar Rapids, IA
KELLOGG, STEVE, Valparaiso, IN
EPNER, STEVE, Chesterfield, MO
FUNTENATTO, MICHAEL, Marthasville, MO
PENNELL, JEFFREY, Toms River, NJ
GEIGER, MAX, Alliance, OH
SHEA, SAMUEL, Pittsburgh, PA
BASS, BRITTAIN, Mauldin, SC
KIBBEY, RICHARD, Dallas, TX
ROBEY, DERRICK, Ridgeley, WV
PATEL, SAMIR, Vadodara, Gujarat, India
CLARKE, BRIAN, Yeovil, Somerset, United Kingdom

I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

(Continued from page 39)

Send your answer on a single sheet of 8½" x 11" paper. Answers must be typed or legibly handwritten. Include your name, mailing address, telephone number, and I.B.M. membership number. Make your answers as complete as possible. *These questions are not designed to be easily Googled. We recommend that you ask the senior members of your local Ring to help you come up with the answers.*

Contest Rules: You must be a Youth Category member of the I.B.M. in good standing and not have reached your eighteenth birthday on or before the date of the postmark of your response.

The Youth member who supplies the correct answer will receive a valuable gift package from one or more of the world's best magic shops. In the event more than one correct answer is received, a drawing will be held to determine the winner. Results will be published in *The Linking Ring*.

To allow enough time for mail from international members to reach us, we will announce the winner and answer in the third issue after the question runs. For example, May's answer and winner will appear in the August issue. **For more information, see page 39.**

Answer to Pictures from the Past – from page 12

Edgar Galusha Heyl was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 1, 1911. His mother chose his middle name, Galusha, to carry on her family name.

Edgar's father Earle secured his son's interest in magic at an early age. As soon as Edgar was old enough to stand, his father put him in his magic act. Whether bringing out an empty hat or assisting his father with a favorite trick called "Cobwebs," Edgar was always ready to help. In the latter trick, Earle would tell his young volunteer that his head was full of cobwebs. Once the audience's laughter had subsided, Earle would carefully lean over and begin to pull long streamers of "cobwebs" from the volunteer's ear. Edgar stood on the other side of the young man to make sure he wouldn't run off, or turn his head, before the trick was over. Once the cobwebs were removed, Earle would have his unpaid assistant take a bow and return to his seat as the audience continued to applaud with satisfaction.

Edgar's mother Elizabeth passed away in 1927, prompting him and his father to move into a lodging house in Baltimore, Maryland. Earle found work as an insurance adjuster and Edgar continued his education.

In 1931, Edgar graduated with a degree in engineering from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Times were troubled because of the Great Depression, but Edgar's father still found opportunities to return to the stage. In 1933, Earle (under his stage name "Sedrick Hoyt") was the featured act at Warner's Colonial Theatre in Hagerstown, Maryland. Meanwhile, Edgar found part-time work at a few venues, but he wasn't able to use his college degree until the late 1930s. He began to work for J.H. Filbert, Inc. in Baltimore. At the time, the company's main product was the butter substitute margarine, which they sold under the name Mrs. Filbert's Margarine. In 1979, the company rebranded the product under the name "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter."

Edgar enjoyed and pursued research into card magic, attending as many club meetings or performances as he could while submitting articles to magic magazines. In *The Sphinx*, volume 45, number 8 from October 10, 1946, he published an interesting take on Charlie Miller's idea of the "Dunbury Delusion" from Jean Hugard's *Expert Card Technique*, which he called "The Dunbury Delusion Done Over." Edgar made it possible for a person with limited card skills to perform a certain effect. Performing the card effect as Edgar instructed would make the performer appear to be far more advanced than they were leading on, but the effect could be performed flawlessly when well-practiced.

As the 1940s drew to an end, Edgar submitted magic history articles like "New Light on the Renaissance Master" to *The Sphinx*. He also wrote about older books of interest, such as *Scot's Discoverie of Witchcraft* and *Hocus Pocus Junior*.

In 1950, Edgar began selling used magic books by sending inventory lists to friends and magic magazine editors. Once his collection of used magic books, playbills, and programs had grown, he started taking out ads in the magic magazines, billing himself as the "Specialist in Conjuring Literature." He also researched and assembled bibliographies on the topics of juggling and English conjuring.

Edgar spent the 1950s and early 1960s collecting information on everything from the theaters where certain magicians had performed to magician tokens and advertising coins. Other magicians from that time who collected and wrote about their unique interests in the art of magic included Sam Hiddleston and Louis Tummers (known for their collection of playing cards), Stanley Collins (known for his binders full of bookplates), and J.J. McManus (known for his files of coin tricks).

Edgar wrote a monthly *M-U-M* column called "Cues for Collectors." As the 1960s pro-

gressed, he advertised his catalog of books, magazines, and memorabilia in “Hugard’s Magic Monthly,” where readers could find information about dealing cards and card techniques. His catalog also received occasional mentions in *The Linking Ring*’s “Hocus in Focus” column, which included many rare finds. In 1963, Edgar found a treasure trove of more than three hundred and fifty books on conjuring published between 1580 and 1850. These books had never been recorded collectively. Edgar put together a sixty-two-page bibliography to make sure these important literary works on conjuring would not go unaccounted, which he titled *A Contribution to Conjuring Bibliography: English Language 1580-1850*.

Edgar published *Cues for Collectors* in 1965. It is a fascinating book on collecting that covers topics like early American editions of Robert-Houdin’s memoirs, *Boy’s Own Book*, *American Magic Books*, *Odd and Unusual Books*, *Two Worthy Wizards*, *Mythical Magic Books*, *Cards for Conjuring*, and many others. Along with Ed’s massive coin and token collection, he obtained the massive mirror card collection of magician Richard “Dick” Dubois (1906-1965). Edgar wrote an article titled “Magicians’ Mirror Cards” in the *TAMS* journal, the official organ of the Token and Medal Society, in which he pictured Dick’s collection along with pictured contributions by Jay Marshall and Phil Thomas. As Edgar mentioned in the article, this was only the tip of the iceberg when it came to completing the entire collection of magician’s mirrors, but at least he was able to start building a foundation for future collectors to continue.

In May 1966, he published an article on page 40 of *The Linking Ring* called “Studies in Conjuring Literature – How to be a Cheap Connoisseur.” It offered readers ideas and tips on what other collectors had, as well as methods for keeping, storing, and preserving the grand finds in their collections. By the late 1960s, Edgar had become the editor of *Magicol*, published by the Magic Collector’s Association.

Edgar wrote his column “A Survey of Conjuring Books” for *The Linking Ring* from July to October of 1976, exploring the early English and European conjuring books published up through 1700. For collectors, the column served as an insightful road map for finding centuries-old books on conjuring. James B. Alfredson and George L. Daily’s *A Bibliography of Conjuring Periodicals in English: 1791–1983*, published in 1986, included a few of Edgar’s newsletters and other submissions. Edgar’s other contributions included research for the Maryland Historical Society and several reviews and articles for the *Maryland Historical Magazine*.

Edgar passed away after months of illness on May 23, 1993. Thankfully, all of his work is available online. If you find a spare moment and have access to Ask Alexander, please search for Edgar’s articles. They are filled with excellent information that will give you a grasp on magic, its history, and beyond.

Gary R. Frank

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Please note: Write-ups of your monthly Ring meetings are considered Ring Reports and should also be e-mailed to Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org.

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The Linking Ring

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