

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 6

The Linking Ring

JUNE 2026



Juliana Chen

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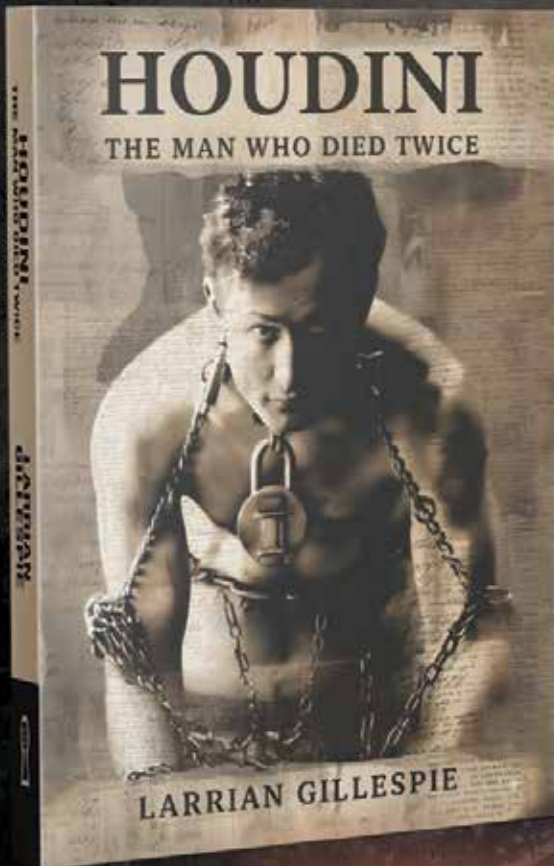
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The Linking Ring

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How did the world-class performer, mentor, and producer Juliana Chen become Juliana Chen? That was the theme for Dale Salwak's recent ninety-minute interview with her at the Magic Castle and now, the focus of this month's cover story.

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"I never intended to write a book about my magical life's journey," says Alan Watson. He reconsidered when his granddaughter reminded him that digital records can vanish in an instant.

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47 PORTRAIT OF THE PROFESSIONAL: CLUBS OTHER THAN MAGIC

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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.

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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.

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The International Brotherhood of Magicians proudly presents a stunning new EDF hardcover reproduction of Modern Magic by Professor Hoffmann — the book that taught generations of magicians.



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From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

My grandfather and I were sitting on his porch one summer afternoon. In his mid-nineties he lived in the home his father had built in 1895. He drove his tractor and farmed property that had been in the family for two hundred years. My grandmother cooked three meals a day, did the laundry, and kept house. Things were pretty much the way I remembered them from my earliest childhood.

Granddad and I sat quietly, sharing our space with some South Georgia gnats. I was thinking how amazing it was that my grandparents' lifestyle was unchanged, even though they were both in their nineties. As if reading my mind, Granddad suddenly broke the silence. "We're going to have to move," he said grimly.

My heart sank. Does he think they can't keep up the farm anymore? They're both in good shape, mentally and physically. Why would they move? A few seconds passed. I ventured the question: "How come?"

"Too hot out here," he said. "Let's go back to the den."

To the end of his days, retirement never crossed his mind. Granddad loved working because he loved farming. One day out in the field, he scooped up two handfuls of dirt. "I love the smell of the earth," he said. It was proof of what Thomas Carlyle wrote: "Blessed is the man who has found his work."

Perhaps we can take that idea further: "Blessed are those who have found their fascinations." To be absorbed in something, whether it's

work, sports, or a hobby, is one of the great secrets of life. A study by the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine found that adults with hobbies that exercise their brains are *two and a half times* less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease.

We've all seen those who are advanced in years but young in mind and body, while others, bored with life, are old before their time. One doctor noted, "Some people die because they don't have anything better to do.

Our interests are like crops; they have to be cultivated. Nothing is fascinating until we give it our attention. Years ago our driveway was just a layer of limestone before my younger son took a closer look. Then it became an archeological site as he unearthed shells and searched for artifacts. Excavating is one of my interests, too, except my quarry is filled with old magic books, letters, photographs, and ephemera. Researching magicians of the past gives me satisfying insights into their lives and careers, and sometimes my own.

History is just one fascinating facet of magic. Others include practicing sleights, learning routines, collecting memorabilia, reading the literature of the art, serving in the I.B.M., and getting to know other magicians at conventions and Ring meetings.

Which subjects captivate you? Whether it's farming, magic, or digging for arrowheads, having a hobby keeps our minds vibrant and young. There's no reason to get old when we are pursuing our fascinations.



President's Page

STEPHEN LEVINE



The year has flown by, and this will be my final column as your International President. I love the I.B.M. and all that it represents. Serving you this past year has truly been an honor, along with an amazing experience and an incredible privilege, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I have had the privilege of visiting a number of Rings, attending a number of conventions, participating in Zoom meetings, and meeting some amazing people from around the world in our organization. I have met hobbyists, semi-professionals, and superstar performers, many who are seen on television, stage, and theaters throughout the country. All of these I.B.M. members share something in common: a true passion and love for the art of magic.

Over the last year, many people have expressed their support and appreciation for the work of the I.B.M. We have received such positive feedback on our new website (thank you Eric Schuster and the whole Tech Transformation Committee), the publication of *Modern Magic* (thank you Endowment and Development Fund and Publication Committee), the new Member Engagement Committee (thank you Vincent La Padula and Vincent Reres), Lifetime Member virtual lectures (thank you Matt Stanley), our new Effective Ring Achievement Program (thank you Johnny New York), our I.B.M. podcast (thank you to Jason Michaels, Scott Cantrell, and Ben Young), Ring 2100 (thank you Ryan Piling and Alan Fisher) and webcasts (thank you Michael Dardant, David Corsaro, and Meadow Perry). With respect to member benefits, this year has truly been one of growth for the I.B.M.

I am incredibly fortunate to work with amazing individuals and owe a great deal of gratitude and thanks to a number of people, beginning with my fellow officers, Jason Michaels, Keith Fields, Charles Arkin, and Simone Marron. These officers have worked tirelessly in support of our organization, and as many of you know, they are all volunteers. Their dedication to the I.B.M. and the time they have invested over the past year has been nothing short of miraculous.

The same is true of our Executive Committee: Jeff Sobel, Scott Cantrell, Mike Woodward, Matt Stanley, Vincent Reres, and Eric Schuster. These individuals head most of our committees and strategic initiatives, and each has played an integral role in moving the committees and initiatives forward.

Our Past International Presidents and committee members are the backbone of the I.B.M. While there are too many to call out by name, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate their insights, ideas, and countless hours of time they have invested in our success. The initiatives and programs started by my immediate predecessors, Charles Arkin and Mike Dunagan, provided me with guidance, goals, and a strong foundation to continue to build on.

Additionally, this organization would not be in the position it is without the unbelievable support of our staff, specifically Sindie Richison and Sammy Smith. There are so many more individuals who I would like to thank who make major contributions to this organization every day, but Sammy tells me I am limited in terms of words for my

(continued on page 15)



Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING



In 1912, E.J.Moore was accused of taking ideas and presentations from comedic magician Frank Van Hoven, whose act “Dippy Mad Magician” was making headlines at the time. Van Hoven (1886–1929) claimed Moore was performing effects he considered his own property and possibly using some of his patter as well. A. M. Wilson, editor of *The Sphinx* magazine, felt it necessary to inform his readers that Van Hoven was considering sitting in the audience to watch Moore, the thirty-two-year-old performer. In Wilson’s opinion, there was not an iota of doubt that Moore had copied or taken any of Van Hoven’s act. Moore’s presentations and ideas, however, were completely his own. Moore would continue to impress fellow magicians as well as his audiences throughout his life. To learn more of Moore’s life and success, turn to page 151.

President's Page – from page 13

final column. However, I would be remiss if I did not thank my dear and loving wife, Tina Salvaneschi (who is also the I.B.M. Chaplain) who has been so supportive this past year. Tina loves magic and our I.B.M. members, and even attended the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians' annual convention in March without me! We both hope to see you at the annual Convention in St. Louis.

Most of all, I want to thank all of you, our members. *You* are why we exist, and *you* are the I.B.M. family. This also means that our future is in your hands.

The international officers of I.B.M. are tasked with guiding the I.B.M., but it is our members who power it. Our local Rings, our international Convention, our virtual Ring, and our website all provide connections to you. But it is you, our members at the local level, who are recruiting new members, contributing to member retention and organizational growth, and providing mentorship, training, and financial support. All of which contribute to the I.B.M.'s success, the future of which is in your hands.

You decide whether to promote your local Ring. You decide if you want to attend a Convention. You decide if you want to enforce international dues at the local Ring level (and we hope you do). You decide to maintain your membership and affiliation with the I.B.M. All of these decisions have an impact on the I.B.M., and for that I am grateful.

For more than one hundred years, the I.B.M. has been a leader in the magic community. It is up to each of you to make sure that we remain that way in the future. No matter who is on the International Board, it is all of your decisions that determine our future. As Stan Lee once said, "With great power comes great responsibility." Use it wisely.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

The following motion was made to amend the I.B.M. Bylaws at the quarterly Board Meeting on Zoom on May 14, 2026, and carried unanimously.

MOTION:

That the existing:

Article III Membership

Sec. 4. Any spouse or assistant of an Active Member or Honorary Member is eligible to become an "Associate Member." Associate members may not vote nor hold an International Board of Trustees (officer or executive committee) position, and do not receive *The Linking Ring*.

Be replaced with the following:

Article III Membership

Sec. 4. Any spouse or assistant of an Active Member or Honorary Member, living or dead, is eligible to become an "Associate Member." Associate members may not vote nor hold an International Board of Trustees (officer or executive committee) position, and do not receive *The Linking Ring*.

This proposed change to the Bylaws will be voted on by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting in St. Louis on July 23, 2026.

Our Cover

JULIANA CHEN

Art the Hard Way

By Dale Salwak

*Juliana Chen stands apart with her unique blend
of Eastern artistry and Western showmanship.*

– The World’s Greatest Magic IV (NBC-TV)

*Chen flicks dozens of cards into the air with such grace, fluidity,
and speed that she resembles a fountain of white cardboard missiles. Like
the best of illusionists, her greatest trick is to make our disbelief disappear.*

– The Toronto Star

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANA PLEASANT (THE MAGIC CASTLE) AND JULIANA CHEN.

On May 12, 2026, the Inner Circle at the Magic Castle became truly enchanted when I was privileged to conduct an exclusive ninety-minute interview with their brilliant artist-in-residence for the month of May, Juliana Chen.

“I’ve prepared some questions for you,” I said to her over the telephone one week earlier. “Do you want to see them beforehand, or be surprised?”

“I want to be surprised.”

Juliana and I first met more than thirty years ago during a convention in Vancouver for which we had been booked. Over the years, our friendship and collaboration have deepened, and my respect and admiration for her monumental skills as a world-class performer, mentor, and producer have grown. Creative and ambitious, resourceful and enduring, elegant and cultured, by just about any definition, description, or measurement, she has become a firm favorite in our magical



Juliana cuddles her new dog, JPINA (J=Juliana, P=Peter, Ina=Christina), which Peter bought in Germany after her dog Christine died (Paris, ca. 2006).

world as she continues to pursue an almost superhuman schedule.

Her achievements did not come easily. “Great art,” wrote Picasso, “makes great demands upon the artist.” This leads to an inevitable question: How did Juliana Chen become Juliana Chen? That was the theme for the evening; it is also the focus of this tribute.

“There is always one moment in childhood,” wrote the English author Graham Greene in *A Sort of Life* (1971), “when the door opens and lets the future in.” For Juliana, the door began to open in the Hunan province of the People’s Republic of China, where she was born and raised – and where she projected all the winsomeness of a supremely gifted, extremely hard-working child.

Neither her father Shunting Chen (who worked as chief of trains for the Railway Bureau) nor her mother Minying Tang (who sewed illustrated Chinese silk) was in show business, but there is every reason to believe that their work ethic, artistic inclinations (especially her mother’s), and integrity helped shape their daughter.

During those early years she focused on ballet, like so many Chinese girls do. At age twelve she entered the Hunan Provincial Academy of Arts to continue her studies, then switched to the Hunan Provincial Troupe to perform foot acrobatics. Because she was specially selected from school, everything – including food, clothing, and accommodations – was provided by the government, which also arranged for her career change.

Given her thinness, flexibility, resilience, and strength, fellow students (who described Juliana’s eyes as electrifying) nicknamed her “Little Fairy Bean” or “bamboo,” the latter of which is symbolic of the ability to bend with life’s challenges without breaking; and because of its hollow stem, of humility, too. As one of the fastest-growing plants on earth, it also symbolizes rapid progress, upward mobility, and flourishing vitality – all attributes that we appreciate in Juliana both on stage and off.



Every year the government required Juliana to perform in the countryside on a specially built stage for manufacturing employees and men from the army (ca. 1985).

After a knee injury and subsequent surgery prevented her from carrying on five years later, she took a bold dive into the world of magic, joining the Guanzhou Acrobatic Troupe in 1984. At the time, the troupe featured the best magic team (twins) in China. Her love for the art of magic can be traced in part to the inspiring work of the great Haruo Shimada, who she saw on television and later met through his daughter, Luna, at the Riviera in Las Vegas.

Although her knee could no longer support her profession, her hands were fine. “Maybe I can do magic,” she thought at the time. Along with Shimada’s precision and intensity, what caught her interest was his eyes: engaging, electric, almost hypnotic.

“The eyes have power,” she explained. “I am always talking with the audience through the eyes.” Without the troupe’s approval, she secretly started to study magic. “I was completely obsessed with it,” she said, adding that she practiced every day, whenever she had time.

She bought some cards and ping pong balls (to use as billiard balls), but having no teacher – secrets and techniques were regulated by the government and there were no magic shops – she discovered on her own what to do and how to do it.

Juliana’s technique for shooting cards, which she now teaches in her lecture, is something she discovered by accident one day. “Oh, they can fly!” she said to herself at the time. She uses not just her fingers, but her wrists to propel the cards in rapid fire over the audience. What she developed is an absolutely jaw-dropping, near-transcendent mastery of a constellation of new effects with cards, masks, and costume changes that has carried her through the world and earned her many accolades over these past four decades.

But nobody creates in a vacuum. Some-time around 2006, Peter Wendlandt, a German-born insurance salesman, entered Juliana’s life when he came to see her show in Münster. Her dog, Christina, had recently died, leaving her deeply saddened. “Maybe I can find a boyfriend,” Juliana thought at the time.

If we know the romantic story of a black swan – rare, and hopelessly devoted – falling in love with an elegant white swan and following her every day, we can understand what developed between them. In fact, the black swan and white swan played a direct role in their coming together.

After Juliana’s show, Peter, who knew the story of the swans, went to a local bar



where the performers were hanging out. There he met Juliana and asked her what she does every day. “I go to the gym,” she told him. On a second occasion, he invited her for drinks, then to visit the local zoo.

There in a parlor-sized room they saw a recreation of the story of the two swans. An imitation white swan stood before them. Juliana asked, “Where is the black one?” Peter was surprised to learn she was familiar with the story. When a real black swan appeared and touched the plastic feathers of the unresponsive white swan, Juliana was so moved that she began to cry. They started dating and have been together ever since.

Peter has helped Juliana with her performances in innumerable ways. Strong and



Magic Castle owner Randy Pitchford along with Erika Larsen, Kristy Pitchford, and Dale Salwak celebrate with Juliana Chen.



*Dale interviews
Juliana Chen
before members in
The Inner Circle,
The Magic Castle.*

very honest, he cares about details, always telling her what she needs to hear, not necessarily what she wants to hear. Every day they debate her work. If something displeases him, he says, “No good,” and she tries again.

There is so much more I could say about the halo effect of Juliana Chen. She is legendary for her mentorship of others, her production of shows, and her role in establishing Guangzhou’s I.B.M. Ring 311 in 1993. Her journey from China to holding dual citizenship in Canada (Vancouver, B.C. where she resided) and America (Las Vegas, where she now resides) — is courageous. Her work to create cultural ties between her country and international magic communities – building upon Mark Wilson and Nani Darnell’s historic trip in 1980 as guests of the Ministry of Culture – is inspirational.

Following the interview and dinner, the enchantment continued in the Magic Castle’s Close-up Room, where we enjoyed Juliana’s work with cards, all effects perfectly executed, ending with a baffling card-stab routine.

Along with her technical skill, what came across was her energy and humility. This was evident when she announced beforehand that she was nervous – which

came as a surprise to us – because this was the first time she had ever performed at that venue.

So, how did Juliana Chen become Juliana Chen? It is a difficult question, perhaps an impossible question to answer. We do know that all her life she has lived in environments where her talents can flourish, that she has always been alert to the work of others, remaining open to suggestions and help. “When artists perform with peers of the highest caliber,” Norm Nielsen





Juliana conducts a workshop in Shanghai in 2019.

once said, “they are inspired to greater heights in their own work.”

We know, too, that if she were to survive in the industry, she had to please her audiences while delving deep. Although much copied, she is a one-of-a-kind original who continues to work very hard to give expression to some of the most beautiful magic ever created.

Above all, Juliana has never compromised on her talent. She finds a way to



Juliana and Peter.

meet every challenge in service to others and to her art. “If we serve,” said the novelist Toni Morrison, “then we last.” Juliana and her work will last.

In his visionary work *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (1790-93), the English poet and printmaker got it right: “No bird soars too high / if he soars with its own wings.” – a beautiful metaphor for independence, authenticity, moral courage, and belief in one’s own potential. Perhaps that, finally, is the core of her strength, the secret to Juliana’s success.

After the interview, I complimented Magic Castle owner Randy Pitchford on the event and said I hope there will be more. “We’re only getting started,” he said. May Juliana Chen, the Magic Castle, our art, and all of its practitioners continue to soar for years to come.

Dale Salwak is an assistant editor of The Linking Ring. You may reach him by email at dsalwak@citruscollege.edu.



Juliana Chen's Awards

- 1985: Gold Medal of China Magic and Arts Festival
- 1990: British Columbia Magic Competition Gold Medal
- 1992: International Brotherhood of Magicians, First Place
- 1996: German International Magic Competition Silver Medal
- 1996: Golden Lion Award for the Best Magician in China
- 1996: Spanish Magic Competition Gold Medal and Grand Prix
- 1997: Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques (FISM) First Place in Manipulation
- 2001: Society of American Magicians Museum of Magic Hall of Fame
- 2001: International Magic Society Merlin Award for Best Female Magician
- 2002: The Academy of Magical Arts nominee as Stage Magician of the Year
- 2003: International Magic Society Merlin Award for Most Original Act
- 2023: The Academy of Magical Arts nominee as Stage Magician of the Year
- 2023: The Academy of Magical Arts Performing Fellowship
- 2024: The Magic Academy Award Hall of Fame in Tokyo, Japan

Preserving *a Life in Magic*

By Alan Watson

I never intended to write a book about my magical life's journey.

The idea came from my granddaughter, Aleshia, who encouraged me to record my life in magic purely for our family. Her reasoning was simple but quite profound. In today's digital age, so much of our lives exists behind passwords. When those passwords are lost, emails, photographs, letters, and treasured memories can simply disappear without a trace.

That thought stayed with me.

A Book That Was Never Meant for Publication

What began as a small family project gradually developed into something far more substantial. The book was never intended for public release. It was created for family, close friends, and those who had shared in my magical journey over the past forty-seven years.

However, something unexpected occurred.

Magic historians began to take an interest. Before long, copies were finding their way into magic research groups and specialist libraries around the world. That response made me realise something important: much of our magical history is fragile. Unless it is recorded, it can easily be lost.

More Than Awards and Recognition

The book does include professional highlights, such as receiving the Queen's Service Medal, correspondence from Her Majesty the Queen, the governor-general, and the prime minister of New Zealand, as well as other in-

ternational recognition and honours.

However, these represent only part of the story.

Far more significant are the personal records and the letters, photographs, and private moments that exist nowhere else. These are the true artefacts of a working magician's life. They provide a record not only of achievement, but of experience, context, and continuity.

The Process of Compilation

The preparation of the book became a journey and one that involved both discovery and discipline.

A good friend and respected author, Richard Webster, offered early and

invaluable advice: "Begin by creating folders on your computer."

Following this guidance, I began systematically working through my archives, letters, photographs, programmes, and memorabilia, sorting them into relevant folders. These were then arranged into a preliminary publication order.

The next stage proved considerably more demanding: reviewing the material critically and removing anything that did not meet the required standard.

It was, I admit, a sobering process.

The Importance of Feedback

Another valuable recommendation was to produce a very small initial print run of five copies and distribute them to trusted friends with different areas of expertise.

I believed I had prepared the material reasonably well.



Alan Watson with a fitting companion: a kiwi.



A life in magic, documented: Alan Watson in performance (left); his Lifetime Achievement Award alongside a wand and coin (center); and a letter from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II awarding him the Queen's Service Medal (right).

I was mistaken.

Each copy was returned with significant feedback and suggested changes. In effect, the manuscript required substantial revisions. While humbling, this stage proved to be one of the most valuable in the entire process.

Refinement and Expansion

Following those revisions, I produced a larger private run of approximately thirty copies for family and close friends who had been part of my professional journey.

At that point, interest began to extend further afield. Magic research institutions all over the world also requested copies, which was both unexpected and encouraging.

With additional feedback, I revisited the manuscript once again. Each revision strengthened the clarity, structure, and depth of the work.

One particularly helpful suggestion came from Paul Romhany, who recommended the inclusion of QR codes linking to video material. This proved to be an excellent addition, allowing readers to connect printed history with performance footage.

Practical Considerations

From a production standpoint, I used VistaPrint and their desktop publishing photo book software, which I found straightforward and accessible.

The result was a leather-bound A4 volume of 120 pages, printed on high-quality stock designed not merely as a book, but as a lasting record.

VistaPrint often has sales and gives major discounts on a range of photo books.



Why This Matters

If there is a central message I would offer to fellow magicians, it is this:

Every professional magician has a story worth preserving.

Not as self-promotion, but as historical record.

Our art is built upon those who came before us. If we do not preserve our journeys, future magicians and historians may never fully understand what was achieved, what was created, or even what was possible.

My granddaughter's simple observation about disappearing digital memories became the catalyst for something far more significant than I first imagined.

A Final Thought

It is not necessary to begin with a finished book.

Start with photographs. Start with notes. Start with memories. Speak with family. Record experiences while they are still vivid.

Because one day, these records may be all that remain.

And they deserve to be preserved.



and Variations

PART ONE
By Jim Magus

On April 19, 1985, Woody Allen's film *The Purple Rose of Cairo* opened in theaters. While this movie does not include a magician, it does include the theme of a classic magic illusion. Jeff Daniels plays the movie-within-a-movie star who, from inside the screen, spots a sorrowful Mia Farrow in a theater seat – then steps right off the screen and into her life. This same premise has been used by magicians for more than a century, beginning not long after the creation of motion pictures.

The Film-to-Life illusion, sometimes referred to under as “From Film to Life” or “Screen to Life,” is credited as the creation of master magician and film pioneer Horace Goldin, who was filmed performing the illusion early in the history of cinema. *Goldin's Little Joke*, which debuted in August 1902, was probably his first film venture. It was a British Mutoscope and Biograph Company film directed by William Dickson, a magician who was known to work with Thomas Edison and who developed the emulsion process used in film. *Goldin's Little Joke* shows Goldin conjuring an egg from a hen and transforming the egg into a chicken, which is then cooked and served. When the chicken is about to be carved, it magically revives and flies away, using early film special effects.



Goldin's next film was *Comical Conjuring*, released in February 1905. (The title *Comical Conjuring* had been used previously as the British release title for Georges Méliès's 1903 film *Jack et Jim* [also known as *Jack and Jim*], a short trick-film comedy starring Méliès as Jack and French magician Jules-Eugène Legris as Jim.) In the film, Goldin performs several magic tricks. It was filmed in the United Kingdom, produced by the British Mutoscope and Biograph Company, and directed by the magician-turned-filmmaker Walter Booth.

Another trick film, *The Cabby's Dream*, was directed by Charles Raymond and released in October 1906 by Warwick Trading Company. It's about a cab driver who dreams he stopped outside of a theater to pick up an unidentified magician carrying a suitcase inscribed "A. Presto," then took him to a grand estate. The magician argues with the cabby about the fare. When he produces a coin and tosses it in the air, it turns into a frightening display of strange creatures that pester the cab driver.

Less than a year from the release of *The Cabby's Dream*, in 1907, Goldin debuted the first Film-to-Life illusion. It was said to be inspired by Charles Raymond's trick film. At the time, many magicians performing at theatrical houses would include on their program a short motion picture shown as part of their entertainment, so it seemed only logical to Goldin the film itself could be used as an illusion. Goldin's original version of Film to Life debuted at the Palace Theatre in London. His act began with the projection of a film showing his arrival in a taxi at the stage door. In the film, as Goldin opens the door of the taxi, he steps unexpectedly from the screen onto the stage. Goldin then turns toward the driver, who remains in the film, to argue over the fare. After the projection, Goldin would proceed with the remainder of his magic act.

Goldin continued working on the Film-to-Life illusion over the years, improving it and making changes. The June 19, 1920 *New York Dramatic Mirror* reported: "Goldin has a 1920 novelty in his Film to Life. The magical art demonstrator lowers a small picture screen, has the projection of an exterior made with a woman acting as the central figure. Goldin also appeared in the film, but making it appear he does so from where he stands on the stage. At the close of the reel after the picture woman has acted as though she understood every question and command from Goldin's lips, the woman steps forth herself, in the garb worn in the film." In his book *The Great Illusionists*, Derek Tall writes, "In the Film illusion, Goldin introduces a little clever protean work. Stand-

ing beside the screen, he participates in the plot of the film, and eventually a lady steps out of the film onto the stage. She is smoking a cigarette handed to her film projection by Goldin on the stage. It is novel and clever."



Horace Goldin.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL CLAXTON

August 1948 issue of *Conjurors Magazine* described it this way: "The magus had a movie short made of his beautiful, titian-haired wife performing an acrobatic dance. Mrs. Goldin, who was somewhat less than medium height, wore a striking harlequin costume. A regulation moving picture screen would be lowered onto the stage, and the short would be shown. As a grand finale, the magician invited the cinema cutie to join him. There came a blinding flash and the shadow ostensibly stepped down from the screen to be transformed into a real live woman. This unique bit of deception made a big hit and became the feature of the show."

In the September 1950 issue of *The Linking Ring*, a writer mentions the illusion when talking about the Philadelphia magic shop of Carl Brema and his son. “Pick your way up two narrow flights, and there you were – in a real atmosphere of magic. In that shop, Carl sold Horace Goldin a Svengali Pack, which the great illusionist used in his Screen to Life.” Brema stated he taught Goldin about the Svengali Deck after Goldin requested a surefire way to force a card for the screen illusion.

In the June 11, 1920 issue of *Variety*, a reviewer shared his thoughts on Goldin’s performance. “Next is his most interesting diversion, but why it is programed as an illusion is the only mystery connected with it. A small picture sheet with Goldin’s female assistant shown on the screen is the stunt. It is called From Film to Life. Goldin carries on a conversation with the screen figure and her movements are timed perfectly to synchronize with his verbal accompaniment. He gives her a handkerchief, steps behind the sheet to appear in the picture and later reappears in perfect tempo, etc. It entertains, but doesn’t mystify. At the finish the girl steps through a black art curtain in the flesh.”

The October 1921 issue of *The Sphinx* reported that the Film-to-Life illusion was used to introduce the woman to be featured in Goldin’s spectacular and acclaimed *Sawing a Woman in Half* illusion. When his wife stepped off the screen and onto the stage, Goldin would saw her in half.

Thurston’s From Film to Life

In 1923, Howard Thurston added the Film-to-Life illusion to his magic show. It does not appear he obtained permission to use Goldin’s version, so it is likely that Thurston developed his own version, drawing inspiration from Goldin’s work and other sources. In Goldin’s version, a film of the performer or his assistant interacts with actors on stage before walking off the screen and onto the stage. In Thurston’s version, the magician is on stage in person and appears to interact with an assistant in a projected film. He then walks from the stage directly

into the film, where he performs a few tricks before seemingly walking off the screen and returning to the stage.



Howard Thurston.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL CLAXTON

On October 6, 1923, *Billboard* published the program for Thurston’s Wonder Show. From Film to Life was presented during the second part of the program, showing “a surprising succession of effects [taking] place on the film, the girl in the picture finally walking from the screen to the stage, and Thurston duplicating her disappearance from a chair.”

Thurston ended up dropping the Film-to-Life illusion from his show because of the expenses required. The April 1962 *Linking Ring* asked, “Remember when Howard Thurston presented the living motion picture effect in which a shadow figure presenting magic would suddenly step from the screen? He did not keep this in the show very long because the Motion Picture Operators Union made him hire an operator for the few minutes it took to present the illusion. Salary cost for this one man was too great even in those days. It was a good illusion and could be worked today with a large modern television receiver in the same manner the movie screen was utilized. Maybe someone has by now.

The Girl with the Celluloid Mind

The same year Thurston began performing his version of the Film-to-Life illusion, Goldin added sound to his own in a novel manner. *The Girl with the Celluloid Mind* debuted in 1923. Talking films did not appear until 1929, but Goldin boasted he created the first talking picture, and apparently he did just that. There have been two methods offered. Goldin probably began with backstage actors lip-synching to the film being projected on the screen. Shortly thereafter, Goldin used a phonograph record that was specifically designed to be synchronized to the projected image.

The Duluth Herald of August 29, 1922, reported that “Horace Goldin [is] perfecting plans for a new illusion for next season. In preparation he has an illusion – which, when completed, will completely out-mystify any previous illusion turned out by this versatile trickster. Goldin plans to present a unique mindreading specialty in which questions asked by the audience will be answered by the magician from the motion picture screen. The illusion was recently given a private showing to booking men.” J. Bowyer Bell’s book *Cheating and Deception* states that in 1923, Goldin adapted a phonograph to the silent film to premiere a talking picture mentalist act called *The Girl With the Celluloid Mind*, in which a prerecorded voice was synchronized with the filmed lip movements. Goldin was taking his Film-to-Life illusion one step further just as Thurston was performing the original concept.

Almost a decade later, Goldin’s show continued to include a version of Film to Life. In *The Sphinx* of October 1932, it was reported that Goldin, completing a successful tour in Germany, took his company to Sweden where he played at venues that included the Cirkus Variete in Stockholm and the Folks Theatre in Gothenburg. “He advertises sixty tricks and illusions in sixty minutes and carries eight tons of magic props. He has fifteen assistants and among other things is presenting his ingenious novelty, 100% talkie – From Film to Life.”

In *The Sphinx* of March 1951, Frazee

reminisced about his recollection of Goldin’s show. “In later years, one of his best numbers was From Screen to Life. First he was seen in pictures and then he stepped right out of the picture onto the stage leaving his fair assistant on the screen and she also came out and joined him.”

Conjurors Magazine of August 1948 reported a mishap during Goldin’s performance of Film to Life when presented at the New Theater in Boston. “Mrs. Goldin fell ill just as the curtain went up. It was too late to make any changes in the act so Mrs. Goldin did the next-best thing. She asked one of the girl assistants to take her place. The assistant, a tall blonde, hurriedly got into the harlequin costume. It was a poor fit, but both girls figured that that was a minor fault. All this was done unknown to Mr. Goldin, who was busy on stage. Everything went off according to schedule until the climax. Then, when the image on the screen came to life, instead of a five-foot-five redhead, a six-foot blonde appeared. It was hard to tell who was the more surprised – the audience or the magician. Goldin just stood there unable to say a word. The audience was quiet too – for a few seconds. Then the silence was shattered by a burst of derisive laughter. The act had really taken a pratfall. That was the last time From Film to Life was ever presented.”

Goldin apparently dropped it from his act at that time, but other magicians have made certain the Film-to-Life illusion lived on. “Although the apparatus had cost more than \$10,000, it was put in a storehouse and never reclaimed.” *Magic Circular* of 1954 reported the film Goldin used in his Film-to-Life illusion was presented to the Magic Circle library.

The Great Mystery Film: Ah-Ben-Aza

The Great Mystery Film, created and performed on March 9, 1925, by a magician calling himself Ah-Ben-Aza, may have been inspired by a film and live stage show managed by Frederick J. Peers that debuted in Dublin, Ireland, the prior year. The 1924 film was called *The Mystery Film Girl* and starred an Irish performer named Violet

Domino, who opened her program by presenting a film of her visiting scenic places throughout Ireland and Scotland. In both the film and on stage, a masked Domino offered traditional Irish and Scottish songs and dances. In a newspaper article titled “The Mystery Film Girl,” a reviewer wrote: “In these days, when so many reviews are bolstering their programs with the vaudeville acts and the call for novelty is insistent, Domino, Britian’s Mystery Film Girl, will doubtlessly prove a strong attraction. She is simply singing and dancing her way around the world, and has already covered her tour of Scotland and Ireland, and continued her work in London. Through the screening, Violet Domino hidden by a velvet mask, sings the well-known national songs of the countries.” On October 10, 1926, *Billboard* mentioned “*The Mystery Film Girl*[, which] opened at Christchurch, New Haven last month, is creating quite a lot of interest in her novel act.” A 1927 *Billboard* column followed up: “*The Mystery Film Girl* will leave for New Zealand shortly, thence to Honolulu, and then to the United States. Frederick J. Peers is her manager for the act, which has done good business around the picture houses and also in vaudeville.”



The masked face of the performance artist seemed to be the only mystery of *The Mystery Film Girl*. The feature of the act involving a combination of movie and vaudeville, and while there was no magic in the act or film, it probably inspired the similarly titled film and vaudeville stage combination that also debuted in London less than a year later. Both films begin with scenes highlighting a country, but *The Great Mystery Film* of Ah-Ben-Aza provided a true mystery.



In the July 1925 issue of *The Sphinx*, it was reported that “Ah-Ben-Aza, *The Great Mystery Film*, was at the Glasgow La Scala Picture House. A short film with magic as its theme is shown, in which Ah-Ben-Aza and his slave Maritza take part.” *The Great Mystery Film* was also known as *The Mystery Film* and *Wherl-U-Seer*. Ah-Ben-Aza was billed as the “Man of Mystery.”

The Coventry Evening Telegraph of March 2, 1925, reported that at the Alexandra Theatre on “March 9th was to be the First Provincial Presentation of *The Great Mystery Film*, with the personal appearance of Ah-Ben-Aza the Magician and his slave, direct from the Tivoli, Strand.” The Tivoli Theatre of Varieties was a popular English theatre based in the Strand, West London.

The Film Renter and Moving Picture News of December 17, 1924 reported: “Booked by International Cine for Immediate Release, is a cleverly constructed music hall and cinema turn, in which Ah-Ben-Aza

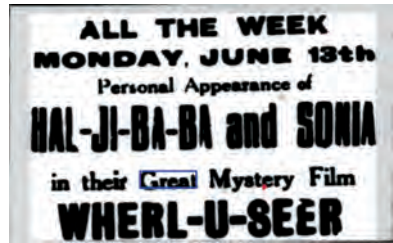


and his slave perform tricks of legerdemain on the lines of the Zancigs. The turn opens with pictures of the magician performing his art in Bagdad [sic], of their departure to London in a sack” (did they climb into a cloth sack to teleport to London?) “and their arrival. The picture fades out, and the magician and his slave are on the stage in the flesh and perform in person. One of the most attractive items is the selection of prominent parts of London, which, as they are named by the magician, are thrown onto the screen.” The magician’s assistant appears to have been teleported to whatever location is chosen by a spectator. The reviewer speculated on the method used by the magician. “Obviously the selection of the locality must rest in the hands of the magician, for the film, having joined up previously, must run its course and about a dozen different scenes follow, in rapid succession. Nevertheless, the effect is somewhat startling and will ensure an amount of popularity.”

The Birmingham Mail of January 9, 1925 explains: “Ah-Ben-Aza, with his beautiful slave, is a great attraction and a novelty as well. Members of the audience may ask Ah-Ben-Aza to send his slave up New Street, Birmingham, to Oxford Street, London, and a host of other places, and immediately the scene is put on the screen and the slave is seen in the picture walking in the locality nominated. The solution of this trick may or may not be very simple, but it is certainly very effective.”

The aforementioned review in *The Sphinx* continued: “At the end of the film, the two appear in person ready to carry on their magic. Ah-Ben-Aza goes round the audience, and allows members to take a card. Maritza on the stage names the card and tells the fortune of the card’s chooser.” Newspapers are handed to audience members, and by people choosing additional cards, a page, column, and line are chosen. Maritza then tells what is written on the line selected. Ah-Ben-Aza then shows some cards with names of places printed on them, and they are shown to be all different. Twelve of these are chosen, one by one, and as each one is chosen, Maritza,

in the film, is seen at the chosen location. Again, the reviewer speculates about the method. The magazine reports, “In our opinion, one well-known sleight is used throughout, but Ah-Ben-Aza does it well.”



By the end of 1926, Ah-Ben-Aza had either changed stage names (possibly for financial reasons) or sold the rights to *The Great Mystery Film* to another performer. Hal-Ji Ba-Ba was the name used by a London magician who also used dashes between his names and had a “slave” as his assistant, who was appearing with a “Great Mystery Film” at the Electric Palace in November of 1926. A Staffordshire newspaper of January 12, 1927, reported on the performance. “Hal-Ji-Ba-Ba and his slave, Sonia,” were advertised in the *Croydon Times* as performing in their “Great Mystery Film” *Wherl-U-Seer*, at Prince’s North End Theatre on June 11, 1927, and he was advertised as performing the act with his son in the *Croydon Times* a few days later on June 15, 1927. Performing the act with his son may have taken some revision of the script or film. The act was presented July 27, 1927, at the Empire Kinema. “The Great Mystery Film *Wherl U Seer* opens with Hal Ji Baba and his slave Sonia shown in street scenes in Baghdad before teleporting to London,” which matches the description of the Ah-Ben-Aza film. The act was advertised in London newspapers in September 1927.

Film critic Ron Court wrote a blog post in which he recalled the time he saw the act performing at the Knowle Picture Playhouse in London. “I can remember the first film they had there, it was Jackie Coogan in *The Kid*, but because of the huge number of available artistes that had been thrown out of work, they had to have a spell of half an

hour in between, where you had artists come on. And one day descended on Knowle two people whose names were Halji Baba and Sonia. They were mind-readers, and he used to wear a turban with a great big red ruby on it. He used to come on the stage, and Sonia would go ‘What have I got my hand on now?’ and he’d say ‘a fountain pen.’ ‘What colour is it?’ ‘Black.’ And they were feted all in Knowle because they used to put on acts in the pubs as well, and no one quite knew how they did it, but I understand that they ran up debts everywhere. They stayed at the Swan, and I don’t know whether this is true, but they never paid. When they used to buy a round of drinks, they put it on the slate. And suddenly they disappeared. Some wag in the Swan said the next night ‘I saw him about two o’clock this morning on his magic carpet!’ Halji Baba and Sonia, I often wonder what happened to them. I used to watch them spellbound.”

The similar “Hajji Baba” is a traditional Iranian nickname typically given to a child in remembrance of an ancestor.

Marveltone, 1929

The July 1929 issue of *The Linking Ring* reported: “An act called Marveltone played here recently and is chiefly notable for being the first use of talking movies in a mind-reading demonstration.” The act was performed by mentalist Professor George Lovett and his wife Belle, who was a pianist. The illusion called Marveltone was put together by the Keith Albee offices in the Palace building. It was exploited by Terry Turner who was the press agent for the Keith Albee interests at the time. Marveltone came shortly after the birth of talking pictures, and was billed as ‘Thinking Pictures’ and ‘The Mind Reading Movie.’”

The press appreciated the novelty. The *Moline Dispatch* of November 9, 1929 reported: “Marveltone, the feature attraction for the vaudeville program coming to the Capital tomorrow, is a remarkable offering and will amaze any audience. Marveltone is a phenomenal example of what possibilities exist in the development of talking pictures

in the future. Marveltone is the latest creation of George Levett, who is well known among the patrons of the Capital Theater for his outstanding exhibitions of mental telepathy. Marveltone will answer any questions you might want to ask and will play any [music] selection that you would like to hear.” On November 23, 1929, the newspaper reported on the show at the Lyric Theatre, “four Radio – Keith – Orpheum vaudeville acts, the featured act being Marveltone, presented by George Lovett, Marveltone is said to be unlike anything ever done on the stage, and is as interesting as it is mystifying. Appearing with Mr. Lovett in this unusual act are Georgia Templeton, the Girl with the X-Ray Mind, and Elsa J. Brown, the musical oracle who in addition to revealing their inexplicable mental powers, are highly talented musicians.”



The Sphinx of December 1951 described the performance: “In it a film was projected on screen of a string trio casually playing musical selections. George Lovett went into the aisles in the usual way and the spectators suggested musical compositions. The violinist on screen advanced to a close-up and clearly and distinctly, in perfect synchronization, would say, ‘The lady in B 103 would like to hear Dardenella.’ The trio on screen would execute the selected song and immediately follow up by playing the next selected

(continued on page 49)



And so it begins: a Ring specifically for I.B.M. Youth Members that meets on Zoom!

Meetings are every second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. EST and are open to I.B.M. members ages 12-21. We won't kick you out if you're a little younger, but if you're older than 21, there are plenty of other Rings you can join!

As many of you know, there is an amazing Lance Burton Teen Seminar that takes place every year at the I.B.M Convention, but we've also been getting requests for a monthly Youth meeting. In response, the I.B.M. founded Ring 1221 for Youth members in September 2025. It is hosted by Lady Sarah and Keith Fields, but is run by magic mentors to the youth Christian Manahl (Midwest Championship for Close-Up Magic 2024), Ferran Charles (Close-Up Contest winner 2023) and Geno Ploeger (Close-Up Contest winner 2024).

Current members of Ring 1221 come from the United States, Canada, and India, staying up late, waking up early, or adjusting their school or college schedules to accommodate the time difference. So far, Ferran has taught the Ring a fantastic "Linking Pretzel" trick while Youth member Jayant has written and performed a Christmas-themed script for using ropes. We've also had one internationally acclaimed guest (come on, we've only had three meetings!): the legendary Dan Sperry. We asked Ring members who else they'd like to learn magic from, so watch out - we may be hearing from Lady Sarah soon!

Tell the magic-loving young people in your life to reach out to ibm-ring1221@gmail.com to learn how they can join. Let's encourage the next generation of magicians!



Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

Ring 5 (Dayton, Ohio) Hosts an Evening of Philosophy and Sleight of Hand with Willy Monroe

The Dayton Magic Club (Ring 5) was honored to welcome Willy Monroe, who traveled all the way from Madrid, Spain, to share his unique vision of the conjuring arts. While the twenty-five members in attendance certainly walked away with new effects for their repertoires, the evening offered something far more valuable: a masterclass in the art of thinking through magic.

Willy didn't just show us how a trick works; he challenged us to understand why it should matter to an audience. From his perspective, magic is not merely a puzzle to be solved, but a medium for artistic expression. His insights into timing, psychology, and the "Spanish School" of magic theory provided a refreshing look at how we can elevate our performances from simple tricks to memorable experiences.

Following the formal lecture, the room buzzed with energy. Members took the opportunity to socialize one-on-one with Willy, diving deeper into his creative process. It was a rare chance to pick the brain of a world-class performer in an intimate setting, discussing everything from the nuances of balloon modeling to the heavy lifting of card theory. Some even took pictures with him to commemorate the meeting.

As is tradition, the magic didn't stop when the lights went down at the venue. A dedicated group went to Archers for the "Traditional DMC After-Hours." Over food and drinks, the late-night session flourished. A huge thank you to Willy Monroe for his generosity of spirit and for bringing a piece of Madrid's magical heritage to our Ring!

Michael Bayer



Willy Monroe speaks to Ring 5.

Reggie Rice Wins Washington, DC Ring 50's Annual Dan Lacey Memorial Contest Featuring 14 Magicians

Fourteen Ring 50 (Washington, DC) members participated in the annual Dan Lacey Memorial Contest for the title of Magician of the Year at the April meeting (held March 31 so as not to conflict with the Passover holiday).

Reggie Rice was selected as the winner by a panel of four judges, all with years of professional magic performance experience. Charlie Ross came in second and Tom Beutner came in third.



Reggie with Dan's sister Cecelia, joined by judges Karen Beriss, Ray Kosby, Theo Rushin Jr., and Dave Thomen.
ALL PHOTOS BY LARRY LIPMAN

The annual competition began in 2003 to honor the late Dan Lacey, who was in his second year as president of Ring 50 when he died from cancer in 2000. As she has almost every year since the competition began, Dan's sister, Cecelia Ritchie, was on hand to help present the winner's trophy. Ring 50 Vice President Mitch Prayer, who coordinated the evening and served as emcee, also participated in presenting the trophy to Reggie.

Participation was limited to Ring 50 members. This year's competition may have drawn the largest collection of performers to date. Each performer was limited to an eight-minute set. The judges were drawn from the Greater Washington and Baltimore area and included Karen Beriss, Dave Thomen, Theo Rushin Jr., and Ray Kosby. Here is a brief summary

of each member's performance in the order they were given.

Dwight Redman performed Bob Miller's "Relentless Ring and String" (adding a couple of steps not in the original routine), ending with Collector's Workshops "Samurai Sword," in which a gold ring mysteriously vanished and was revealed on a miniature sword held in place on a wooden rack with no visible point of entrance.

Nate Solloway used 10-inch playing cards in a stack of four aces, kings, queens, and jacks. The cards were dealt into four stacks with the top card revealed. A volunteer – Capital Conjuror Dane Curren – moved the top card from one stack to another and each time the stack underneath showed the same cards as the top card. With one stack left, Nate dealt four more cards to a stack from a cut made by Dane. The top cards were switched again and the newly dealt cards matched the card that had been visible the whole time. Then the stack on the table matched the card Dane cut to.

Danny Selnick assumed the costume and mannerisms of an old-time carnival barker and offered audience members the opportunity to win money at a game of chance. From a beautifully constructed box with nine numbered wooden pull tabs, randomly chosen audience participants had the opportunity to win a big wad of money. Danny said he would go last, allowing the participants to get the first opportunity. Each participant called out a number and the corresponding tab was pulled by Danny's assistant, with a prize falling from the box. Ultimately, none of the participants chose the money pull-tab, giving Danny the big money win.

Drew Owen displayed an ancient wooden box which he said contained objects from the world of wizards. He pulled out numerous items such as a magic wand, various potions,

a magical charm, and a box of Lucky Charms cereal. Then Drew took out the “mystical orb,” a crystal ball which seemed to float and glow. Ring 50 member Bob Weiman assisted Drew by selecting a card which was then signed. Drew then produced what he called the Rope of Entanglement, which would ensnare Bob’s card from the middle of a sealed deck banded together. The magic seemed to have failed when Bob couldn’t find the card. While Bob and Drew looked at the deck, the rope slowly rose out of the box and had the selected and signed card in its coils. Drew then placed all of the items he had pulled from the box back inside and, with a special incantation, the box instantly flattened into what Drew called two dimensions.

Reggie Rice seemed unprepared to perform when his name was called, walking on stage in an old bathrobe and hair net. He went behind the curtain and in a split second appeared again, fully dressed in his glittering costume. Reggie held up a seemingly empty grocery bag and then, looking at the ceiling, appeared to catch something in the bag. He turned it over and a bowling ball fell out. Reggie placed the ball back in the bag and then seemed to decide to pull it out and throw it into the audience. The crowd was startled when a huge black orb suddenly was thrown at them. It was a

black balloon. Reggie then called on a spectator, Maria Selnick, to help him with a classic sponge ball routine using very large sponge balls. Reggie then performed Tom Stone’s “Of Dice and Men” trick, getting Maria to select a number from a set of numbered placards. The one she chose said “Hug” on the back, which was her prize. The other cards were shown to all say “Kill.” Finally, Reggie finished with the Smiley Face version of the “Bekos Best Ever Knots Off Silk” trick.

Josh Young performed a series of mentalism effects laced with humor. With Ring 50 member William O’Connell standing behind him, Josh held a clipboard with three notations: Green, 1942 and Lying. Josh asked William to name a color, pick, and date, and say whether he was lying or telling the truth. William named all three selections on the clipboard. The comedy ensued when Josh turned around and the audience saw all three notations pinned to Josh’s back. Then Josh talked about the importance of branding and noted how the Pepsi logo was developed and became wildly popular during World War II. Josh asked audience volunteers for three numbers, which were added on a calculator. Another audience spectator touched some keys on the face-down calculator and mul-



(l to r): Reggie Rice displays a smiley-face version of the “Bekos Best-Ever Knots Off Silk” trick during his award-winning performance. • Reggie Rice receives the 2026 Dan Lacey Memorial Trophy from Dan’s sister, Cecelia Ritchie, and Ring 50 Vice President Mitch Prayer, who organized the event and served as emcee.

multiplied the numbers, arriving at the total of 12,939. When Josh showed a mirror image of the Pepsi logo, the letters formed the number 12,939.

Tom Beutner said three types of people come to a magic show: those who love the moment of astonishment; those who treat magic as a puzzle to be solved, and those who love the mystery that comes with magic. Assisted by I.B.M. past international president Bob Patterson and Cecelia Ritchie, Tom performed an example of the type of magic in each of those categories – a flash appearance, a flash solve of a Rubik’s cube, and a three-way match with cards drawn from different decks that were examined and shuffled by spectators. After the first two cards were shown to match, he gave Cecelia the choice to open an envelope that contained a third card to see if it was a match, or keep it sealed and save it as a souvenir, preserving the mystery of what was inside forever. He pointed out that the people who love the moment of astonishment wanted to see the envelope opened and a match inside. The people who treat magic as a puzzle were still trying to figure out the two-way match, but a third match would make their solution even harder. The people who love a mystery would prefer not to have the envelope opened because that would preserve the mystery forever. As tension mounted, Cecelia opened the envelope and revealed the third match.

Geoff Weber, “the Retro Magician,” performed a time travel-themed act. He opened with a variation on the “Crazy Compass” trick using a clock face to illustrate how time flows. He then revealed his time machine box, covered in wires, dials, and even a flux capacitor. He offered to give an audience member’s phone an upgrade by sending it to the future. Instead, with a dramatic cloud of smoke billowing from the machine, the phone was transformed into a 1980s-era brick phone. Geoff got a call on the phone from his future self, advising how to fix the situation, and magically produced the original phone from thin air.

Kit Karlson performed a mentalism routine where Kit asked new Ring 50 member Henry Rose to make a drawing. Kit then played a tune on his phone: “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.” When Henry showed his drawing, it was of stars and the moon. Kit then asked Henry to concentrate and named Henry’s childhood pet’s name and species: a dog named Bozo.

Louis Hofheimer demonstrated five classic magic effects in rapid succession: a stage-size Hot Rod, a rope to square knot where the rope formed a square, a rope to scarf, a cut-and-restored rope trick and finally, the production of flower boxes from an empty bag. When stacked on top of each other, the boxes exceeded the height of the bag. At one point, Louis was assisted by members Cristian Vidrascu, Geoff Weber and Conjuror Dane Curren.

Gary Hernberg, who bills himself as the “Okayest Magician” with truly mediocre skills, invited member Steve DeSimon to write his name on a selected playing card. Then Gary tore the card in two and – since his skills are only mediocre – Gary said he would restore the card to one piece by stapling the halves into one. Then, to the audience’s astonishment, the two half cards seemed to merge into one intact signed card.

Charlie Ross talked about his fascination with tattoos and invited a spectator to select a card – the Seven of Clubs – from a deck of cards. Charlie rubbed his arm and a tattoo of the Seven of Clubs magically appeared on his arm. Charlie then asked the spectator to select a tattoo design from a clear zipped bag. He said if he couldn’t guess the design, he would have it tattooed on a part of his body. With the audience’s help, it was agreed the tattoo would be placed on Charlie’s lower back. Charlie failed to guess the selected tattoo design – a butterfly – but said he couldn’t get it tattooed on his lower back. Turning his back to the audience, Charlie lifted the bottom of his shirt to display a large butterfly tattoo already on his lower back.

Bastian Lazo asked Ring 50 Treasurer Mike Peckham to select a card. Then Bastian



Participants in Ring 50's 2026 Dan Lacey Memorial Contest (from left): Drew Owen, Gary Hernberg, Nate Solloway, Charlie Ross, Ring 50 Vice President Mitch Praver (who also served as emcee), Bastian Lazo, Cecelia Ritchie (Dan's sister, who helped award the trophy), winner Reggie Rice, Kit Karlson, Louis Hofheimer, Danny Selnick, Joshua Young, Cristian Vidrascu, Geoff Weber, Tom Beutner, and Dwight Redman.

tossed out a deck of cards in a rubber band and asked three spectators to peek at a single card. Using a series of questions, Bastian correctly identified three cards and the three spectators sat down, indicating he had identified a card they had seen. Then Bastian correctly identified Mike's card.

Cristian Vidrascu showed Dane Curren a stage-size Hot Rod stick and asked him to select a color. When Dane's selection did not match the colors on the other side of the stick, Cristian had Dane open an envelope that had been in full view on the table. Inside was a certificate saying the spectator would choose the color Dane chose. Then Cristian did a jumbo version of a trick often known as the Princess Trick

revealing the queen chosen by an audience member and showing that not only did the selected queen have a different color back, but all the other cards were blank.

While the judges tallied their scores, Larry Lipman, who had been president in 2003, the year the contest began, recalled why the Ring's board created the contest in Dan Lacey's memory and gave some anecdotes about Dan. Then Larry asked Cecelia Ritchie to talk more about her brother and how much magic meant to him. Cecelia then read the names of the winners and, with the help of Vice President Mitch Praver, awarded the trophy and a magic book once owned by Dan to this year's winner, Reggie Rice. *Larry Lipman*

Ring 92 (Vancouver, British Columbia) Hosts 2026 Magic Festival and Annual Children's Magician of the Year Competition

The Vancouver Magic Circle (VMC) Ring 92 did not hold a regular meeting this month, as we were busy hosting events as part of the MAGIC Festival in New Westminster, British Columbia. Two key events

took place: a dinner and show at Stefanos Restaurant and Lounge, and the annual Children's Magician of the Year competition at the House of Comedy. These events serve as the club's primary fundraisers.

The dinner and show at Stefanos Restaurant and Lounge was open to the public, with tickets sold in advance. Assisting with setup were event producer Yoosik Oum; past I.B.M. International President Shawn Farquhar, who supplied lighting, backdrop, and microphones; Graham and Terri Kita, who provided signage; Scott Barker, who brought his helping hands; and our featured performer, Ryan Pilling of Calgary. Thanks to this dedicated team of volunteers – well, everyone except Ryan, who we actually had to pay – the event came together beautifully.

During dinner service, Graham and Shawn entertained guests with impressive walk-around magic. Shannon Linning handled the 50/50 draw, selling an impressive \$414 in tickets – well done, Shannon! The draw took place after dinner, just before the show, with VMC member Rob Teszka holding the winning ticket and taking home \$207.

Congratulations, Rob, and thank you to Shawn, Graham, and Shannon for your contributions.

Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening was newly elected VMC President Roy Hopwood. After his opening remarks, Roy introduced Ryan Pilling, who delivered a highly entertaining and hilarious hour-long performance. It was a fantastic show – great job, Ryan!

Following the performance, thanks go to

Shawn, Graham, Terri, Yoosik, and Scott for assisting with the teardown. The evening was both enjoyable and financially successful, with a total of sixty-two tickets sold.

The second MAGIC Festival event was the club's annual Children's Magician of the Year competition. Special thanks to I.B.M. Past Presidents Alex Zander and Billy Hsueh for adjusting the PCAM convention schedule, allowing VMC members to fully participate in both events.

Setup for the competition was handled by VMC President Roy Hopwood, first Vice President Charles Gauthier, Shawn Farquhar, Graham Kita, Simon Cassegrain, Michael Levy, Michael Nemeth, Julius Palme, Guang Yow Low, and Scott Barker. Everything was ready in time for doors to open at 2:30 p.m., with the show beginning at 3:00 p.m.

As guests arrived, Graham, Michael Levy, and Ray Wong entertained with engaging walk-around magic. The performers for the competition were Jack Schwartz, Rod Chow, Reg Donnelly, and Michael Glenister, performing in that order.

The event was emceed by Roy Hopwood, last year's competition winner. After welcoming the audience, Roy introduced the first performer, and the competition began.

Each magician delivered an excellent



(l to r): Roy Hopwood (left) and Simon Cassegrain (right) at the VMC Dinner. Hopwood serves as 2026 president; Cassegrain serves as 2025 president. • Show headliner Ryan Pilling of Calgary, Alberta, holds up the event poster. • Ryan Pilling.



(l to r): VMC President Roy Hopwood performs his Egg Bag routine during the vote counting for the Children's Competition. Hopwood was the previous year's winner. • Jack Schwartz with the Children's Magician of the Year Trophy.

performance, delighting the young audience. After the final act by Michael Glenister, voting commenced, with audience members casting ballots for their favorite performer. While votes were counted, Roy entertained the crowd with routines including Professor's Nightmare, the Egg Bag, and magic wands.

Roy then announced this year's Children's Magician of the Year: Jack Schwartz. Congratulations, Jack!

Scott Barker produced the event and ninety-four tickets were sold. We would like to extend sincere thanks to the entire behind-the-scenes team who made this event possible: Roy Hopwood, Shawn Farquhar, Graham Kita, past VMC President Simon Cassegrain, Charles Gauthier, Julius Palme, Michael Nemeth, Guang Yow Low, Ray Wong, and Michael Levy. Your efforts were invaluable.

Scott Barker

Singapore Ring 115 Celebrates its Diamond Jubilee of Magic

On the evening of Saturday, March 14, 2026, Singapore Ring 115 (The Great Wong Ring) marked a historic milestone with a grand 75th Anniversary Gala at the Pan Pacific Hotel. The event was a spectacular showcase of fellowship and illusions, attended by 130 guests, including esteemed patrons, representatives from the Society of American Magicians, and the family of the late Great Wong. The occasion was also graced by international guest magicians: Glen Bailey (Hawaii), James & Sulin Posy Prado McKusky (USA), and Barry Khoo (Malaysia).

Guests arrived as early as 6 p.m. for pre-dinner drinks and socialising. They were treated to walk-around magic by our members. At 7 p.m., following an opening ad-

dress by President John Teo, the banquet began.

Throughout the dinner, magic continued at the tables with close-up performances by members. During the formal proceedings, President John Teo honoured those who contributed to the Ring over the past year with tokens of appreciation. He also conducted an induction ceremony for two new members, Dave Karyadi and Henry Zuo. After dinner, the emcees transitioned the ballroom into a theatre-style setting for a high-energy stage show.

Alex Tan opened the show with a breathtaking Chinese Face-Changing (Bian Lian) act. Donning different masks to depict the different characters in Chinese folklore, Alex changed the masks on



(l to r): Alex Tan performs his *Bian Lian* act. • Emcees JK Tan and Joseph Then. • Kah King with his *Luo Quan Xian Cai* act. • Joe Yu with assistant. • Ian Tan performs the linking rings. • Nique Tan, the real mentalist.

his face one at a time at lightning speed. The final mask magically vanished to reveal the real face of the performer.

Following up with the Chinese theme, Vice-President Ng Kah King presented a Chinese version of the Kuma Tubes known as “Luo Quan Xian Cai.” With two empty cylindrical covers, he produced a myriad of items, culminating in the appearance of an impossibly large wine urn. He concluded his act with an improved Losander floating table with an audience participant, and the table finally vanished under the cloth cover.

Joe Yu brought drawings to life by manifesting a 15-pound bowling ball from a sketchpad. He placed his lady assistant inside a cabinet, collapsed the top part, and pushed a huge cylinder through the bottom part of the cabinet. When the cabinet doors were opened, his lady assistant emerged unharmed together with a gigantic teddy bear!

Zhang JinMing performed a stunning prediction piece involving the colours of the Chinese God of Fortune’s attire, which matched the audience choices perfectly. Ian Tan delivered a poignant tribute to the late Jeremy Pei with his masterful rendition of the Chinese Linking Rings routine.

Nique Tan, “The Real Mentalist,” show-

cased incredible mathematical prowess with the inexhaustible digits of Pi. His next act was Marc Paul’s “Decision, Decision, Decisions” in which five men and one lady from the audience made decisions regarding colours that seemed to be influenced all along by the performer.

Joseph Then, who was one of the emcees, provided the comedic highlight of the night with his ventriloquism routine with his vulture figure. He then turned Stage Producer Eisen Lee into a human puppet by attaching a figure mouth onto Eisen’s face. The hilarious dialogue and antics that followed with this live figure left the audience in fits of laughter.

In the curtain call that followed, Vice-President Ng Kah King rallied all the performers on stage and thanked the dedicated crew. All who attended were given a name tag as well as a magical door gift provided by Gician Tan. The lucky draws featured cash vouchers from various commercial establishments, instead of physical items. The top two prizes comprising a total of \$500 were contributed by Victor and his sister Angeline Ng. JK Tan and Joseph Then served as emcees, hosting the evening and introducing the performers.

Our thanks also go to the following people: Kenneth Chia (event producer, back-



(l to r): Joseph Then with vulture figure. • President John Teo gives a magical message during his opening address. • Zhang JinMing unveils the Chinese God of Fortune. • President John Teo conducts the induction ceremony. • Guests socialize during pre-dinner drinks.



All attendees of the 2026 Diamond Jubilee of Magic.

drop), Joseph Then (backdrop), Eisen Lee (magic show producer), Rebecca Seet and Jennie Teh (reception), Luke Tan, Ivan Lee, Dave Karyadi, and Lim Shi Jie (stage hands), Victor Heng (finance), Ang Kun

Rong (audio), Baharudin (visuals), and Martin Tan (photography).

It was an unforgettable evening of great fun, sumptuous food, infectious laughter, and fabulous magic!
John Teo

***Share the Magic!
Invite a friend to a Ring meeting.***

Ring 179 (Baltimore, Maryland) Hosts FISM Winners and Guest Lecturers Henry Evans and Daniel Mormina

On April 9, 2026, members of I.B.M. Ring 179 (Baltimore, Maryland) and several other lucky magicians were treated to an excellent and entertaining lecture by two FISM winners: Henry Evans (First Prize in Card Magic, 2000) and special guest Daniel Mormina (Invention Award, 2022).

Henry's opening effect, Top Card, used a red deck of cards with each suit handed to volunteers to mix. After additional mixing and a series of choices by another volunteer about how to restack the cards, the top card ultimately matches a face-down blue prediction card that has been on display on the table for the entire effect. In sharing the method, Henry also explained why this is such a powerful opener: the conditions of the effect create an immediate audience connection – everything is visible, ex-

aminable, and seemingly impossible.

Henry then presented some of his classic effects for about one hour. This included Modern Times and a variation involving a color-changing deck and deck switching. This led to Henry's Perfect Triumph. These effects showed the audience why Henry may be magic's King of Flaps.

Daniel then took over with a display of what for most would be considered knuckle-busting magic with cards and coins. Daniel's magic requires second deals, bottom deals, and Tenkai palms. Daniel performed an impressive oil-and-water sequence, progressing from using four cards of each color, to five, and then six, amazing the audience. Daniel also shared his new effect called Wristbands, in which red and yellow paper



(l to r): From l to r: I.B.M. Ring 179 President Andy London; Henry Evans; Daniel Mormina; Ring 179 Vice President Dave Thomen. • Henry with magician Peter Wood, known as the Collector of the Impossible. • Henry lectures to an audience that included members of I.B.M. Ring 179 and S.A.M. Assembly 6. • FISM winner Henry Evans.

bands change colors and places.

Henry finished the evening with a few more effects, including a different balancing-card effect and his linking rubber bands. Henry suggested that linking bands can be a

closer for a rubber band set, or an opener leading into the classic linking rings.

If you get a chance to see these two creative magical inventors lecture, don't miss it.

Michael Worsham

Ring 398 (Appleton/Green Bay, Wisconsin) Celebrates Houdini's Birthday

Over a hundred people gathered on the Boldt Learning Stairs at the Appleton Public Library on Saturday, April 4, 2026, to celebrate the 152nd anniversary of the birth of Harry Houdini with four magicians from the Dr. Lynn Miner Ring 398 of Green Bay/Appleton, Wisconsin.



More than one hundred people gathered on April 4 at the Boldt Learning Stairs of the Appleton Public Library, where they were entertained by four members of Ring 398 in celebration of the 152nd anniversary of the birth of Harry Houdini.



Ring 398 President Daryl Rogers assembled fellow magicians Marv Roth, Kevin Koehne, and Michael Schroeder before a special performance at the Appleton Public Library. The pep talk paid off, as the standing-room-only audience was amazed from start to finish.

After a brief introduction by Children's Librarian Ann Cooksey, Ring President Daryl Rogers shared information about

Ring 398 and a brief history of Appleton's "native son." Houdini and his family moved to Appleton from Budapest when Harry (born Erik Weisz) was just four years old. Houdini always considered Appleton his hometown.

The show itself began with an escape routine to honor the legendary magician. Rogers performed the Siberian Shackles Escape with the assistance of two other Ring members. The audience laughed in all the right places as Rogers cleverly manipulated the chains in ways no mortal could. Applause erupted at the end when Rogers freed himself from the unbreakable, unbendable steel hardware.

Marvin Roth had the audience at the edge of their seats as he told of being a young lad interested in magic, and how a local magic shop and the library provided him with the knowledge he sought. Roth just couldn't seem to get rid of his cards, as time after time he tossed cards into his hat and each time was left holding six cards.

Ring Secretary Kevin Koehne literally had the crowd on pins and needles as he demonstrated how Houdini could swallow needles and string and then link them together. Not wanting to give youngsters any bad ideas, Koehne substituted beads for the needles and a change bag for his mouth and stomach.

Ending the show, Sergeant at Arms Michael Schroeder made an elephant disappear ... sort of. Since getting a real elephant into the library would be impossible, even for Houdini, he opted for a table-top version. Schroeder's manipulation was effective and a success with the audience.

Following the performances, guests



(l to r): Ring 398 President Daryl Rogers, who was held as captive as he performed the Siberian shackles escape. With the help of fellow magicians Kevin Koehne (left) and Michael Schroeder, Daryl demonstrated his escape skills, much as Houdini did more than a century ago. • Try as he might, Ring 398's Marvin Roth could not get rid of his cards in his rendition of the Six Card Repeat. Young and old watched in wonder as Marv threw card after card into his hat and each time was left with six cards in his hand. • Ring 398 Secretary Kevin Koehne kept the audience on pins and needles as he demonstrated a version of Houdini's needle-swallowing technique, using beads instead of needles and a change bag instead of his stomach. The trick was sharp and to the point. • Ring 398's Michael Schroeder wowed the crowd at the Appleton Public Library as he scaled down Houdini's famous vanishing elephant illusion. • Magician Michael Schroeder secured fellow Ring 398 member Janet Janquart in his straitjacket. Janet had never been in a straitjacket before (that we know of). Michael was feeling generous and aided in her escape.

sang happy birthday to Harry, then continued the celebration with two birthday cakes, beautifully decorated to honor the greatest magician of all time. This was the second year in a row that Ring 398 celebrated Houdini's birthday at the Appleton Public Library. Ring 398 will be involved in more community events as Appleton continues to celebrate the Year of Houdini, commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of his passing. *Mike Desotell*

We had two cakes, because one simply couldn't contain the legend of Harry Houdini. And in true Houdini fashion, with a little help from our guests, both cakes vanished without a trace!





From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD

On Sunday, April 15, 1956, an intrepid bunch of magic enthusiasts found themselves at the Scotch Corner Hotel, sited on a motorway junction in North Yorkshire, to debate whether the country needed another magic society to complement The Magic Circle in London and other more local magic clubs.

There does not appear to be a record of the discussion, but the assembly agreed to proceed and The Northern Magic Circle was born, with the professed aim of promoting friendship through the art of the magical, exemplified by the adopted Latin motto *amicitia per artem magicae*. The seven founder members signed a postcard depicting the hotel, which remains in the archives. Before too long, fifteen “affiliated societies” had joined up, and an annual Easter convention was established. Initially termed the Easter Parade, it has taken place most often in the spa town of Harrogate, and returned there this year to celebrate its seventieth anniversary.

As a prelude to this platinum convention, a drinks reception and celebration dinner (with a splendid rabbit-in-hat cake on display, subsequently cut by President Alan Clarke) was followed by our now-traditional cabaret performed by members and diners.



President Alan cutting anniversary cake.



Founders' postcard.

One was special guest Sabi Molnar from Budapest, Hungary, the birthplace of Houdini. He has been involved in magic since 2017, appearing on Hungary's Got Talent! and working with the Smiling Hospitals Foundation for sick children. Sabi has written three books on magic, and in 2020 he founded his own magic school where he teaches the art of magic to the younger generation. This was his first appearance in the United Kingdom; also on our gala show and lecturing.



Brian with Sabi Molnar and Bogi.

We were delighted to have a contribution from British Ring President Moira Fletcher, who presented the “Triadic” book test in memory of its joint creator, Chris Wardle, who readers will recall passed away at the very end of last year. Moira then acted as an assistant to Steve Short, who presented an inspired and spontaneously choreographed cane vanish, with colourful silks and music. The whole affair had the feel-good factor always associated with this event, and set the tone for the following two days.

It was appropriate that the Junior Section

should have pride of place at the end of the convention, having been at the heart of the Circle for so many years. Their show was *The NMC Juniors – A Celebration*, which opened with video messages from current professionals who had made their mark in the “golden years.” International performer Phillip Hitchcock sent greetings from on board a luxury cruise ship, along with clips of his act. Similarly, Danny Hunt and Stephanie (Amethyst) sent impressive highlights from their show reel, with their congratulations and best wishes. Nick Mohammed, star of *Ted Lasso* and *Celebrity Traitors* among other things, apologised for being unable to attend, as he was hosting the Olivier Awards that very evening – certainly a local lad made good. I recall giving Nick an early break when he performed at my dinner when I was NMC President in 1998/99.

First to appear live on stage was Godfrey Shackleton, an honorary vice president who had been a Junior a decade before the section had been officially formed. Dressed in the brightly coloured costume for his Harlequin act, he produced an apparently endless cascade of golden chocolate coins.

Moira Fletcher had been an early Junior, and recreated a routine which was a favourite of her father, Duncan, involving rabbits and top hats.

Popular professional Darren Mac, who had been our gala show compère, recalled the occasion when Cynthia Neptune, whose name had



Darren Mac, Moira Fletcher, Graeme Shaw, Godfrey Shackleton, Mirage.



(l to r): Stuart Clarkson. • Mirage. • Brian with Nick Mohammed. • Brian with Jon Marshall and “Frankie.”

been synonymous with the Juniors, had provided lengths of new rope to enable everyone to perform the equal/unequal ropes routine.

Graeme Shaw, now the proprietor of Magic Box in Newcastle, presented the act with Derek the Raccoon, which had secured for him the title of Family Entertainer of the Year. Graeme now also runs a successful Junior group himself.

Compère and show organiser Stuart Clarkson presented Ali Bongo’s Pom-Pom Sticks wearing fetching Australian headgear, before introducing the illusionist duo Mirage (Cameron Glenwright and Beth). In an on-screen greeting, Marvin Berglas, president of The Magic Circle, had alluded to the fact that four consecutive winners of the Magic Circle Young Magician of the Year competition (between 2009 and 2015) had been from the Northern Magic Circle, and we had also provided the runner-up in 2017. That had been Cameron. The engaging couple concluded with

an original presentation of the “swords through cardboard box” concept, but using sticks and opaque clingfilm stretched around a frame to form a square “box.”

The show was a fitting ending to a splendid convention, which had also encompassed half a dozen top-drawer lectures by John Hotowka, Geoffrey Newton, Adrian Sullivan, gala headliners Griffin and Jones, Matt Pritchard, Sabi Molnar, and Neil Roberts, along with a History of Mystery session which showcased filmed performances from the past and “Professor” Jon Marshall with a restored Frankenstein’s monster from a 1950s sideshow.

As always, the whole weekend was captured for posterity by our splendid duo of photographers, Carol and Jemma Tynan.





Clubs Other than Magic

I cannot praise becoming so enamored of, so locked into our relatively narrow community of magicians, that we find ourselves isolated from the vastness of the world, its cultures and interests.— Neil Foster, 1971

For many years I have enjoyed membership in several non-magical organizations both here and abroad, including the Italianate but unmistakably English Travellers Club at 106 Pall Mall, London. Founded in 1819, this “Foreign Office Canteen” – as it is often called – is shimmering with vividly remembered centuries of British tradition.

Carrying letters of support from the novelist and member, Kingsley Amis, who had introduced me to the club in January 1973, and a former professor (also a member), John Halperin, I submitted my application. After an hour-long interview and a six-month vetting, I learned with gratitude that I had been admitted.

Neither ego nor delusions of grandeur drove me in this direction. Along with its wood-paneled dining room, exquisite library (filled with rare, historic, and modern literary work plus most of the important newspapers in the English-speaking world), and tranquil, cozy guest rooms – I joined because, far away from the “tourist’s gaze,” I could learn from extraordinarily gifted and interesting people of the highest order, including politicians, military leaders, diplomats, and intelligence officers.

Slowly, as I grew in psychological maturity from these encounters and others, my magic grew as well. (I can still hear Channing Pollock’s gentle yet austere baritone as he taught that there is a correlation between the two.)

Times of solitude, of isolation are necessary for growth in any of the arts, of course,

but I didn’t want to be so secluded in the clichéd “ivory tower,” so disengaged from the practicalities and urgent problems before us in the greater world (of which we Americans are only five percent of the population), that I lose a healthy perspective on life and therefore my work.

Every country has such groups. I think of our own Bohemian Club in the Nob Hill district of San Francisco – where Harry Blackstone, Jr., was a member for many years. Founded in 1872, it became an exclusive meeting site for some of the most powerful artists, journalists, and politicians, including four U.S. presidents who were active members: Theodore Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Ronald Reagan, and Richard Nixon.



A member of the Bohemian Club, Harry Blackstone, Jr. stands with Tad Devine in front of a portrait (hanging in the club) of Harry, Sr. sawing in half Tad’s father, Andy Devine.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAY BLACKSTONE



An event at the Travellers Club.

Each year Harry attended a sixteen-day secretive gathering at the remote 2,700-acre Bohemian Grove deep in the Redwood Forest of Sonoma County. Called “summer camp,” it was a time for relaxation, talks, musical performances, comedy – and even magic.

Its motto, taken from Shakespeare’s *Midsummer’s Night Dream* (II.ii) – “Weaving spiders come not here” – captures the event’s purpose: an escape from the working world. As the much-beloved *Der Lindenbaum* (The Linden Tree) concludes: “I found my solace there / For rest and peace are here.”

Then there is Neil Foster who was a member of the Colon, Michigan, Masonic Lodge 73 F&AM (Free and Accepted Masons) – founded in 1855 with Martin Gloyd as the first master. All his life Neil carried his mother Sarah’s message: “Be all you can be.” She encouraged him to overcome his innate shyness by casting his net of experience wide, by exercising his mind at full throttle.

“How can you ever know the strength of your beliefs, your interests,” she would ask, “unless you step out into the world and meet with others, including adversaries, who may think or believe differently?”

The Lodge and the people he met offered young Neil an opportunity for such growth. He noted the members’ diction and behavior. He watched how they interacted with others. He listened with an open mind to what they had to say, whether or not he agreed. He even sketched in a letter to me how one should stand while conversing (see illustration).

From these experiences, and others, Neil



Neil Foster paid careful attention to posture and feet position when conversing. “Your attitude,” he said, “will change overnight.”



Colon Masonic Lodge #73.

came to understand the glowing bond that links people irrevocably, and the costs and the rewards of this linking. That awareness carried over to his performances as he thought deeply about his audience. As soon as he had walked onstage and began his magic, we sensed that this was a man who knows himself, who understands why he is there, who is at one with his magic.

The Lodge’s secret symbols and rituals also appealed to the magician within; and from 1978 until his passing in 1988 he carried this example into his teaching at the Midwest division of the Chavez Studio of Magic, requiring every student to sign – as did its

founders Benny and Marian – a pledge of secrecy before admittance.

The Travellers Club, Bohemian Club, and Masonic Lodge are just three examples of the many exclusive members-only organizations – incubators for groundbreaking ideas – that some artists find inviting.

When we invest ourselves in the house of magic (to rephrase a line from Henry James' preface to his novel *The Ivory Tower* [1917, 1914]), we discover that it has many rooms and many locked doors and that we are shut out.

The irony is that the key to each door is readily available, if only we know where to look, who to consult, and what to ask. "Ask and you will receive," the reader is encouraged from another source and in a different context, "seek and you will find, knock and the door will open."

Taking advantage of opportunities to network and perform in a non-magical setting is one key. Opening up ourselves to other beliefs and cultures and perspectives is another. Learning all we can about what it means to be professional through the eyes and experiences of those from other disciplines is yet another key.

All this is captured memorably by Henry

James who, as a member of London's elite Reform Club and Athenaeum, appreciated their "quiet conviviality," "civilized manners," and intellectual pursuits within a luxurious setting. In his preface to *The Ambassadors* (1903), he writes from the perspective of someone buried and therefore isolated in his work (a major theme in the novel): "Live all you can; it's a mistake not to."

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 Gay Blackstone, Ryan Salwak, and John C. Sherwood 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.

Film to Life – from page 30

composition. The wonder was that the lip movement of the screen figure was phonetically perfect and the selections rendered were legitimately selected by the spectators. It was a battling and wonderful piece of business but the Keith Albee interests grew tired of it after they had invested the fortune it took to make the component parts of the miracle jell. Marveltone is probably the only illusion that was born, rehearsed, and exploited right from the Palace building itself."

On November 22, 1930, Bill Sachs in *Billboard* wrote, "The Mosque Auditorium continues to book varied amusement attractions that draw well. For three days beginning Thursday, Lovell & Clark's revue with ten vaudeville acts, featuring Marveltone, a picture with a human brain," played to big business." The act was still going, as well as growing, fifteen years later. On March 17, 1945, Sachs' *Billboard* column mentioned "a turn formerly made up of George Lovett and his wife has been augmented to five people, with the addition of the three Lovett daughters. Act is currently headlining at the Bowery, Detroit, after playing KaCees in Toledo." To be continued next month.



Inside the Wizard's Workshop

BILL WINTERS

I'm sure most of you are already familiar with the late, great Norm Nielsen, who I first discovered in the pages of *The World's Greatest Magic* by Hyla M. Clark. Today I want to introduce you to Lupe Nielsen, whom I first met when she and Norm graciously hosted a party at their Las Vegas home for the attendees of the 2015 Magic Collector's Expo. At that time, all the attention was on Norm, but now the spotlight is turning to Lupe.

Lupe hails from Panama City, Panama, and became interested in magic at four years old when a family friend performed a trick and then taught her how to do it. That was all it took. Before long, she was discovering magic books in the school library and making her own simple props, since there were no magic shops to buy them from in Panama City. Early attempts at building props included a Square Circle, shells for Vanishing Wands, and an ambitious undertaking with her brother, a Substitution Trunk.

At ten years old, Lupe got her first paying gig when she performed a magic show at the birthday party of her neighbor's child. She was surprised to earn five dollars, learning you could get paid for having fun.

Lupe continued to master the magical arts. As a teenager, she was busy performing magic on television, performing at children's birthdays, as well as doing close-up events and stage shows. But all of that stopped when she moved to the United States to attend college at Virginia Tech, where she received a degree in theater arts. Despite years of performing magic, her focus shifted to the backstage and production aspects of the theater.

After graduation, Lupe got back into magic performance and worked as a close-

up performer at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia, along with gigs in the Washington, DC metro area. There she worked in just about every venue a magician can perform at: corporate events, private parties, bars, restaurants, and a dinner theater. She also spent a season working at Hank Lee's Magic Factory in Boston, Massachusetts.

In the late 1980s she met Scotty York, who became a mentor in close-up magic. According to Lupe, Scotty was an excellent car mechanic and builder. One day he received a prop made by Collectors' Workshop in the mail and wondered why they did not put a bottom in the item. Scotty immediately took it to his shop, soldered a bottom, carefully ground down the solder joint, and polished it. Lupe was in awe at the ease with which he completed the task.

Scotty introduced Lupe to Nick Ruggiero and Jane Smith. They, along with Rich Bloch, owned Collectors' Workshop and the group became fast friends. Lupe began working at Collectors' Workshop in 1993. All the shop employees had their own bench, and Lupe's bench was located upstairs next to a guy named Tom who, as luck would have it, was the best woodworker at Collectors' Workshop at the time. Most of Lupe's time was spent crafting all the little parts and pieces the other guys didn't want to spend time making. She made small brass levers and springs, tapped holes on plates that would go into tricks, and polished a lot of brass. She also made small components in the milling machine. Always a trooper, she completed what she was assigned and learned in the process. One of the effects she was tasked with was the "Clock of St. Marcos," in which an entire deck of cards had to be hollowed out to provide sufficient space



Norm and Lupe Nielsen.

to fit a small music motor. According to Lupe, hollowing the cards took an entire month. The joke around the shop was that they should have renamed it the “Clock of St. Lupe.”

Her other job was to do the bookkeeping. This was before the prevalence of personal computers, when bookkeeping was done on a large ledger by hand. That eye-opening experience taught Lupe just how little money a magic business makes.

Lupe moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1995, where she worked with and later married Norm. They were a perfect match, possessing the same taste, liking the same movies, and sharing the same views on magic. Since he was a stage performer and she was primarily close-up, they could be booked at the same convention, sharing time in the dealer’s room while manning the Nielsen Magic booth. They also shared an

interest in magic history and a love of magic posters.

Norm was passionate about the Okito-Nielsen line and Lupe worked by his side in the shop, sanding components or helping to assemble props to expedite the job.

A huge turning point came for Lupe in 2010 when Norm decided to fully retire from performing on stage and stop traveling. She was happy to cut back on traveling because the freed-up time allowed her to focus on her passion for woodworking. Lupe enrolled in every single woodworking class she came across and worked nearly twenty extra hours per week for more than ten years to hone her skills in almost every aspect of woodworking: joinery, inlay, marquetry, carving, woodturning, and finishing. According to Lupe, learning the intricacies of woodworking has made her a much better magic craftsman than she ever imagined.



Her sense and appreciation for fine craftsmanship has increased a hundredfold, and she is still learning.

Norm not only taught Lupe about running a magic business, but also taught her how to paint and work with decals, a skill he learned from Okito. He showed her how to work with latex and plastic and how to be fearless in trying new things, even if she felt like she didn't know what she was doing.

Unfortunately, Norm developed Alzheimer's in 2015 and passed away in 2020. This forced Lupe to continue Nielsen Magic as a "one-woman operation." Today, she still runs the little magic business that Norm Nielsen lovingly established in 1956.

While Jamie Yocono was her first fine woodworking teacher, Lupe currently has several woodworking mentors who are not magicians but some of the best craftsmen she has ever known. She loves to watch John Gaughan lecture about historical magic pieces, finding it inspiring to see how he has restored so many classic pieces of magic. Her favorite illusion craftsman, Ray Lum, also happens to be her neighbor and good friend.

When I asked Lupe what her biggest runs were, she stated she and Norm never "counted." The only reason they made an approximate count was to know how many materials and supplies to get. Together with Norm, she has made thousands of Latex Doves, hundreds of Spot Cards, and dozens of Vanishing Dove Cages, Checker Cabinets, and Chinese-Sticks, as well as packed thousands of Vanishing Bottles. From time to time, she makes marionette controllers for the local puppeteers and continues to produce select items from the Okito-Nielsen line.

One of the highlights for builders during the pandemic was watching Lupe build a large batch of Dean's Boxes, a process she documented on her Facebook page. She started by cutting and sizing 600 pieces of fabric for the curtains, 600 curtain rods, and mill and cut 900 pieces of wood for the project. The finished product was a beautiful effect that quickly sold out. She did all this while battling breast cancer — she is a superhero.

Lupe Nielsen is a builder's builder, dedicated to producing beautiful props made to exacting standards.

Conjurer's Foolosophy

JOE HERNANDEZ



I've learned that rushing through a magic performance diminishes the audience's sense of wonder and reduces opportunities for refining routines.

I've learned that whenever I notice my attention shifting toward the outcome rather than the process, I take it as an indication to reflect on what I may be hastening toward or possibly avoiding.

I've learned that there are times when it's okay to skip practice. Instead, rest and listen to music.

I've learned that throughout our journey in magic, we are constantly "taking." However, have you paused to think about what you will leave behind?

I've learned that a performance should serve a purpose that extends beyond the mere demonstration of a trick.

I've learned that sustained creativity requires maintaining a sense of curiosity and establishing passion as a foundational element.

I've learned to identify the segment of a routine that presents the greatest difficulty. Reflect on effective strategies to address these challenges and develop a plan to overcome them.

I've learned that during practice, ensure that your actions remain intricately connected to your intentions and mental focus.

I've learned that slowing the pace of a performance can uncover subtle elements and present new opportunities for enhancement.

I've learned that the act of observing with intention resembles a form of visual meditation. It encourages present-moment awareness and mental focus, thereby fostering creative expression.

I've learned that it is important not to rush a pause, as a well-timed pause maintains the continuity and effectiveness of the routine.

I've learned that magic provides me with solace and helps me remain grounded, even as I devote considerable time to constructing imaginative worlds.

I've learned that a magic prop can introduce a distinctive element to an otherwise unremarkable area of my home.

I've learned that clear intention is essential for advancing one's magic to a higher level.

I've learned that magic books are distinctive in that they become integral to a magician's life, often retained as if they are indispensable.

I've learned that magicians often concentrate on verbal patter, overlooking the narrative potential of silence.

Joe Hernandez is the author of *Conjurer's Wisdom Volumes 1 and 2*, *Phonetastic*, *Magic Babylon*, *Houdini: The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*, *Houdini: Reflections*, and the just-released *The Foolosophy of Conjuring*, from which excerpts are taken for this column. Books can be purchased from Amazon.com, magic dealers, or www.booksbyjoe.com.

Youth Trivia Contest



June's Question: Many, many magicians became interested in the craft when they received a "Mysto Magic" set. *Where did the name "Mysto Magic" originate?*

Answers must be postmarked by July 20, 2026.

March's question was: *What father and daughter, from a family of magical performers, share the same birthday?*

Well, this question was tougher than we expected it would be. Several of our Youth members submitted responses to this month's question, but unfortunately, none of them submitted the correct answer. Here's what we were hoping that you'd tell us.

There are several families in the field of magical entertainment who have earned the title of "Magic Dynasty." The Bambergs, the Larsens, the Herrmanns, and the Maskelynes easily come to mind. Well, the subject family of March's question certainly qualifies.

On December 12, 1895, Harry Francis Willard was born in Texas, in the United States of America. Exactly forty-five years later, on December 12, 1940, his daughter, Frances Louise Willard, came into the world.

The Willard family is a dynasty of magical entertainers is made up of many performers, spread through at least four generations over more than a century.

Many great magicians, including Orson Welles, Al Flosso, MacDonald Birch, De Yip Lou, Frank Ducrot, Laurie Ireland, Dante, Horace Goldin, Max Malini, Harry Kellar, Emil Jarrow, Karl Germain, and Harry Houdini have performed "under canvas," in circus-style tents raised specifically to accommodate huge audiences. However, one name associated with this type of production

stands out from all of the rest: Willard the Wizard. But Willard the Wizard was not a single performer.

The dynasty began when James Maroney Willard was bitten by the magic bug, shortly following the American Civil War. It's believed that he was heavily influenced by the carefully cultivated reputation of Scottish conjuror John Henry Anderson, who was advertised as the "Wizard of the North," meaning the Wizard of the Northern part of the United Kingdom. By the time he was fifteen years old, James was presenting himself as "Willard the Wizard," and within a few years he was traveling and performing in theaters across the southwest United States.

It was during these early years of his career that James and his new bride, Lucy, developed their version of Anna Eva Fay's "Spirit Cabinet" routine, which had been adapted almost directly from the "Cotton Bandage Test" presentations of eleven-year-old Laura Ellis and her father. Little Laura Ellis's father had, of course, been inspired by the successes of the Davenport brothers, and other "Spiritualist" frauds. It was a long chain of inspiration.

In an attempt to attract audiences, Lucy was given the stage name of "Nellie Davenport" so that audiences would assume she had some familial association with the Davenport brothers. It was probably unnecessary. The Willard "Spirit Cabinet" was so smooth and skillful that their presentation left all others behind. Their refinements are



The huge five-pole tent of the 1930s. (COURTESY DAVID CHARVET)

still in use, and their presentation is the yardstick by which other performers of the effect are measured to this day.

The Willard family began to grow. Over the next two decades, Lucy gave birth to a daughter; Edith in 1882, and three sons; Robert in 1885, Harry in 1895, and Tommy in 1903. Just before Tommy was born, James Willard began touring the Willard the Wizard show under a giant, canvas tent. All of the children traveled with, and eventually assisted in the Willard the Wizard show. When Lucy was expecting their third child, she was understandably unable to perform. Edith, still in her early teens, was taught to perform the role of the 'spirit medium' who was bound inside of the "Spirit Cabinet." She eventually left the show and show business.

The first son, Robert, struck out on his own around the time of brother Tommy's arrival, and performed with minimal success due to some poor planning and decisions. He struggled for years, and died destitute, ten years later.

Harry left a couple of years after that to create his own future as a conjuror. He transitioned through several circuses and other shows, polishing his performance skills. He returned home in 1918 to visit his family, shortly following the end of World War I. Within a few months, his father, James, stepped aside into a purely managing role, and Harry assumed the starring role in Willard the Wizard.

In 1934, Tommy began touring a traveling tent show, but due to an unusual arrangement with another entertainer, Tommy performed as "Mel-Roy" for a year. When he was able to break free from the "Mel-Roy" deal, he updated his show and reestablished himself using the name "Willard."

Frances, the daughter of Harry mentioned in our question, became an absolutely stellar entertainer. Her skill as the 'spirit medium' in the "Spirit Cabinet" was almost as stunning as her physical beauty. She began performing again with her second husband, Glen

Tommy Willard, James Willard, Edith Willard's husband Archie Mentzer, and Harry Willard. (COURTESY DAVID CHARVET)

A broadside advertisement for James Willard's show.





(l to r): Frances Willard Falkenstein and Glenn Falkenstein in a “Spirit Cabinet” pose. • Margo is shackled into the inside of a casket before the casket is filled with live rats on World’s Most Dangerous Magic II. • Hannah and Michael Ammar in a poster advertising their version of the Willard “Spirit Cabinet.”

Falkenstein, and recreated the “Willard Spirit Cabinet” in addition to other feats of mentalism. Two of Frances’s three children from her first marriage eventually joined the family’s dynasty and performed in magic. In the 1990s, daughter Margo worked with the Pendragons, and appeared on the World’s Most Dangerous Magic II television special, escaping from a coffin filled with live rats. In 2010, her daughter Hannah and her husband, magician Michael Ammar, debuted their version of the “Willard Spirit Cabinet” at the I.B.M. Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas. It was a bit of a full-circle return to the Willard tent-show’s origins.

The Willard family endured quite a few tragedies over the years. In addition to Robert’s dreadful death before his thirtieth birthday, Edith’s husband died unexpectedly young. Harry’s first wife, Lotte, died from an

infection at the age of twenty-one. His second wife, Joy, passed away at forty-two. A few years later, Harry and Joy’s seven-year-old son, Patrick, was killed in an accident while riding his bicycle. And on three different occasions, the Willard the Wizard show tents and apparatus were completely destroyed ... twice by hurricanes, and once by fire.

But the family’s resilience and determination became as legendary as their tours. They recovered, rebuilt, and resumed their shows following each setback.

Magicians – knowledgeable and highly respected magicians including Bev Bergeron, David Price, Walter Blaney, and Virgil Mulkey – have raved about the skill and the presentations of Harry Willard. They all swore that he was the best magician they had ever seen, and that he performed the best magic show that they had ever seen.



(l to r): A window card for Harry Willard’s touring tent shows. • The entrance to the tent show. (COURTESY DAVID CHARVET) • A moody promotional photo of Harry Willard.

They would go on and on about his “Thumb-tie,” his “Dancing Handkerchief” (two handkerchiefs dancing together), and his “Asrah Levitation.” They practically worshipped his “Spirit Cabinet.” After all of their long lives in magic, and with their tremendous depths of experience and knowledge, they were absolutely certain that Harry Willard was the greatest magician in the world.

*According to statements made by the members of the Willard family, Harry Willard was good, but ... his father, James Willard, was **better**.*

We’d like to give a great, big “thank you” to magician, author, and historian David Charvet for his generous help with this month’s subject.

You can find more information about all of the members of the Willard family in books, including Willard the Wizard by Bev Bergeron, MAGIC: A Pictorial History of Conjurers in the Theater by David Price, and WILLARD: A Life Under Canvas by David Charvet. There are also a lot of articles in

past issues of periodical publications, including Genii, MAGIC, M-U-M, and The Linking Ring.

James Willard died in 1936. Tommy Willard died two weeks later in 1936. Robert Willard died in 1914. Edith Willard Mentzer died in 1969. Harry Willard died in 1970. Glenn Falkenstein died in 2010. Frances Willard Falkenstein lives in California with her daughter Margo. Hannah Ammar lives in Florida with her husband Michael Ammar.

If you mailed us an answer to this month’s question, but you didn’t send the correct answer, please don’t give up... Keep trying! These questions aren’t expected to be quickly or easily answered using Internet-based search engines like Google, Yahoo, or Bing. Take your issue of The Linking Ring to your local Ring meeting and ask one of the older, more experienced members to help you find the answer. Let the whole world see how smart you are, get your name published in The Linking Ring, and win some great stuff from one of our finest brick-and-mortar magic shops. You’ll love the prizes!

Hi there, Youth Members!

Do you believe 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

Make certain that you include some references. If we decide to use your question, we’ll send you either a booklet on the rules of Snooker or a really cool magic book – our choice.

**See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 149 and mail your responses to the address above.
Answers must be postmarked by July 20, 2026.**

Magic and

Memories

David Ginn



My First Lecture Tour Part Two

When I published advertisements with the schedule for my first lecture tour in the April and May 1978 issues of *The Linking Ring*, that schedule was not entirely correct. I left out two cities and a convention, so I must have submitted the ads before Christmas. Evidentially, several bookers saw the published schedule and called me to book additional cities afterward. That's how I ended up performing a total of nineteen bookings that year during the months of May and June, as you can see in Sid Lorraine's column from May issue of *The New Tops*.

David Ginn

Magical Entertainer DAVID GINN will embark on his first lecture tour this spring, presenting material from his magic books and performances under the title, "50 WAYS TO MAKE CHILDREN LAUGH." Each lecture will run 2 hours, and Ginn will present the lecture in 19 different cities in May & June, as follows:

May 8:	Bethlehem, Pa. IBM Ring 32
May 9:	Somerset, Pa. SAM Assembly 108
May 10:	Detroit, Mi. IBM Ring 22
May 11:	Joliet, Ill. SAM Assembly 106
May 12:	Munster, Ind. IBM Ring 173
May 13:	Des Moines, Iowa, Bakers Cafeteria (Justo Hijo Magic)
May 14:	Omaha, Neb. SAM Assembly 7
May 15:	Kansas City, Mo. IBM Ring 129
May 16:	Minneapolis, Mn. SAM Assembly 12
* * *	
May 28:	Roanoke, Va. IBM Ring 222 - 3 P.M.
May 30:	Richmond, Va. (Contact Woody Thomas) (275-1267)
May 31:	Baltimore, Md. IBM Ring 179 (Ft. Meade Dff. Club)
June 1:	Norfolk, Va. IBM Ring 103
June 2:	Schenectady, NY. SAM Assembly 24
June 3:	Montreal, CANADA, Morrissey Magic (2 P.M.)
June 4:	Toronto, SCM, Inn on Park Hotel (2 P.M.)
June 5:	Buffalo, NY. IBM Ring 12
June 6:	Rochester, NY SAM Assembly 47
June 16-17:	IBM Ring 144 Convention of Magic in Charlotte, North Carolina (Lecture & show)

Unless otherwise noted, all lectures are at night.

David's corrected 1978 tour schedule.

I must have worked a half-dozen school shows in Georgia during the last week of May, because in the video recording of my June 2, 1978 lecture, I mention that my last show was on Friday, May 26. I used one of the lecture items in that very show.

Having recovered from the first half of the tour, I started the second half by taking a Delta flight from Atlanta to Roanoke, Virginia, on the morning of May 28, a Sunday.

May 28. When I arrived in Roanoke around noon, my sponsor picked me up at the airport and drove me directly to the lecture site. There I set up and presented a 3:00 p.m. lecture to Ring 222, a small but enthusiastic group of magicians. That night I had dinner with several magicians and got a good night's sleep.

May 29. The next morning, a young Woody Thomas picked me up and drove me to Richmond, Virginia, where I did something different. It was Monday and I was not scheduled to lecture in Richmond until Tuesday, so Woody arranged for me to perform an elementary school show using my own props, his doves, and a Dagger Livestock Vanish.

I recall the show went fine, but one of his doves flew up into the rafters of the gymnasium. Woody and I, along with a half dozen students, tried for an hour to capture the dove to no avail. So, we left him there.

Woody told me months later that the school janitor found the skeleton of the dove in the gym. Sad but true.



Woody Thomas.

I stayed at Woody’s home with his family. The next day, we took a look at his 40-foot illusion trailer. It was filled with large magic props, some of which Woody expressed interest in selling or trading.

One such prop was a used Palanquin Illusion, the curtained cabinet you could show empty before using it to make a girl appear. In a part-trade, part-cash deal, the Palanquin became mine, and weeks later Woody shipped it to Atlanta.

Looking back forty-eight years later, I consider that a highlight of the trip. At home we repainted the Palanquin, added new striped curtains, and used it in my Magical Wonder Show to produce three girls! You can view this exact illusion on my DVD *Thirteen Illusions*. Paul Osborne actually published my three-girl method in one of his illusion books years later.



The Palanquin Illusion prop, which David obtained from Woody Thomas.

The Richmond lecture on Tuesday night went fine, and the next morning I headed by car to Baltimore, Maryland.

May 31. On Wednesday, I.B.M. Ring 179 hosted me in Baltimore, and I suspect Phil Thomas of Yogi Magic Mart had something to do with it. Phil and his wife were very involved with magic clubs and always encouraged young magicians. I had a good, very interested audience, and sales of wilting flowers and coloring books went well.

June 1. The next day, I traveled to Norfolk, Virginia, where I lectured for I.B.M. Ring 103 that night. I was getting my usual eight hours sleep every night, waking up at 8:00 a.m. to eat breakfast, shower, and dress for the day. For these short hops, several clubs arranged for someone to drive me from city to city, a nice change from the airport routine.

My lectures had smoothed out by now. I basically did the same lecture each night, just as a touring rock band does the same set list of songs each night. But thanks to a Charles Pecor lecture I attended many years earlier, I applied the “Illusion of the First Time,” a valuable technique. In essence, I made each lecture appear as if I’d never done it before, making it feel fresh and alive and fun. That translated to my audiences as though I cared about each of them, which indeed I did.



David in 1978.

June 2. This was a very important lecture, but I did not realize it at the time. The city was Schenectady, New York, and the lecture took place in an old downtown YMCA. It was a rainy night in a meeting room with no air conditioning. Thankfully, they opened the windows to circulate the air, but for the entire lecture you could hear rain pouring and curtains blowing in the breeze. At least it wasn't hot.

The reason I remember this is because one gentleman asked me if he could video tape the lecture, and I said yes. This was in the early days of video, and I had no tape of me doing anything and none for sale. Forty-eight years later, I am glad I agreed.

As an added bonus, the video is in glorious black and white! Months later they sent me a copy, which I later converted to DVD and sold singly or as a bonus in the back of the enhanced *Children Laugh Louder* book. You can find these at www.ginnmagic-shop.com. The DVD is titled "David Ginn Live Lecture 1978."

When I watch the video now, I always hear the rain through the open window, but I also get to see what I was sharing nearly fifty years ago. I was surprisingly coherent, which is pleasing to see now in my older years.

After the lecture I managed a good night's sleep, which was a good thing because the next day I was due in Montreal, Canada, and that meant an airplane ride.

June 3. On Saturday, someone drove me early to the Schenectady airport, and I caught a flight directly to Montreal where Herb Morrissey himself picked me up. I had met Herb through Fantasio the year before at the 1977 Florida State Magic Convention, so we were on friendly terms.

Morrissey Magic was a well-known magic shop in both Montreal and Toronto, and Herb and crew made all those fabulous aluminum lota vases, dove pans, and silk gimmicks. While lecturing at their shop in Montreal, I got to see lots of those props hands on. All that *al-oo-mini-um*, a funny way to pronounce *aluminum*, fascinated me.

The Montreal lecture is where something unintentionally funny happened. Remember that Montreal is located in Quebec, which is a French-Canadian province and *very French*.

I was demonstrating a kids routine using a magic wand, and I handed the wand to a boy helper. Then I remarked to him: "Be careful where you point that wand. Don't point it at me, you might turn me into a *frog!*"

Over fifty magicians and wives in attendance *roared* with laughter, but I did not know why!

After the show was over, one of the remaining magicians said to me: "You don't know why they laughed so hard at your frog line, do you?"

I said no.

"The word *frog* is a slang derogatory word for a Frenchman, especially a French Canadian," he replied. "It's kind of like calling someone an SOB."

"Oh, no," I remarked. "Do you think they took it that way? I was referring to the Frog Prince."

"No, that's what was so funny. They *knew* you didn't know what you had just said in your innocence, and that fact made it very funny to them."

"I hope they forgave me."

"I am sure they did," he replied.

Live and learn.

When the afternoon lecture concluded, I had a nice dinner with Herb, his wife, and their family, plus a few other magicians. After traveling for eight

days straight, I needed to wash a few items of clothing. My plan was to do it that night. As it turned out, Herb's wife offered to wash them for me that very night in time for me to fly to Toronto the next morning. That's when I made the biggest mistake of the tour:

I thanked her but turned her down.

Instead, I took five pairs of slacks – plus



Herb Morrissey.

my white underclothes – to a laundromat next door to my hotel. I washed two loads of clothes, then tossed the whites into one dryer and the five slacks into another dryer.

Round and round they went while I read an adventure novel. When the dryers stopped, my whites were fine, but all five pairs of slacks were wrinkled from ankle to waist. Wrinkles every two inches all over the legs. Very wrinkled. Unwearable. And my experience with ironing anything was sorely lacking.

So I put them into the bottom of my suitcase and pressed everything on top of them, hoping that would help. The only wearable slacks I had were the ones I was already wearing. The next day I wore them to the airport, where I was headed to my next lecture in Toronto. My performance suit was not an issue, thank goodness.



David's famously wrinkled slacks.

June 4. Herb Morrissey drove me to the airport that Sunday morning. I thanked him and said nothing about the wrinkled slacks. Maybe I could get someone to iron them at the Inn on the Park Hotel in Toronto, since I was lecturing and sleeping in the same place.

My morning flight got me to Toronto by 11:00 a.m. It was a short drive to the hotel, where I ate a quick lunch and then started setting up for the 2:00 p.m. lecture. Toronto, I had suspected, would be my biggest lecture in terms of attendance, and I wasn't wrong. Nearly two hundred magicians, wives, and even a few kids came to see me.

While I was busy setting up, one or two magicians arrived early and came in to say hello. I really don't like to talk and socialize while setting up, because you can make mistakes or forget something. But this one fellow arrived, talking happily and eating a bag of what I first thought to be candy circus peanuts.

"What's that you're eating?" I asked.

"Curds," he said, referring to cheese curds, a popular Canadian treat. "My wife made them."

"Like curds and whey?" I asked. "I've never had one."

"Yes, would you like to try one?"

"Sure." I reached into the bag, extracted a nice fat one, and popped it into my mouth.

"Thanks!" I replied.

I love cheese, but not all types of cheese. So the moment the curd hit my tongue, I knew I'd made a mistake. I instantly realized I did *not* like curds, which to me tasted like spoiled cheese.

"I need to get something backstage," I told him, my mouth still full.

I quickly walked off into the wings and spit the curd into my hand. I knew I couldn't swallow it and do my lecture, too. I ditched it in a trash bin, wiped off my hand, and went back to finish my set-up, *curd free*.

In the summer of 1972, my wife Lynne and I made a trip to Toronto. We spent four days with Doug Henning and his girlfriend Mars Barrick, who worked as Doug's assistant, before the four of us rode in Doug's pea-green Volkswagen mini-bus to the I.B.M. Convention in Buffalo. That was the same van Doug used for all his magic shows, and it loaded from the side – not the back – via a sliding door.

By 1978, I had not seen Doug or Mars for six years, but I knew by then they had gone their separate ways. Doug's career had taken off with "Spellbound" in Toronto and later "The Magic Show" on Broadway. Mars was now doing a magic act with Lesley Walker called "Mars and Maya."



Mars Barrick with David's wife Lynne and Doug Henning.

I hoped to see Mars in Toronto (Doug was away on tour, I think), so I asked Sid Lorraine if she would be at my lecture. His answer was yes, most likely, so I kept my eyes open for her in the crowd.

I first met Mars at the New Orleans I.B.M. Convention in 1971, which Doug missed because he was in the hospital for a collapsed lung. Mars and I spent time getting to know each other, which led to our couple's trip.



David with Sandra.

During that 1972 trip, Doug actually taught me the Abbott's Chair Suspension and the Sub Trunk (Abbott's Canvas Covered Box, minus the cover) in his basement. I thought I was too tall or big to perform the trunk, but Doug convinced me I could do it. Back home, I bought a chair suspension right away (Doug had given me a canvas bag, just like his, to carry it). A year later, I purchased a brand-new Sub Trunk from Abbott's, exactly like Doug's.

I went on to use the trunk in shows for the next twenty-five years, and Doug Henning gets all the credit.

Back to the Toronto lecture. Sponsored by the Society of Canadian Magicians in partnership with members of the I.B.M., SAM, and several independent magicians, this lecture was my big one. None other than Sid Lorraine, who I'd met at a past I.B.M. Convention, introduced me. I knew he was close

friends with Doug and Mars, and of course I had admired Sid's artwork in many books over the years.

I plunged into my performance of kid-show magic à la David Ginn, as I had already done fifteen times in May: comedy warm-ups, Raising Hands gags, the Hot Book, the Electric Deck, and the Wilting Flower (thanks to Bruce Johnson).

I kept wondering if Mars Barrick would indeed show up, but I didn't see her for the first thirty minutes. Then she arrived in the middle of the Wilting Flower.

When I completed my two-hour lecture, the audience gave me a wonderful round of applause. Following that, Sid Lorraine took the microphone and spent more than a minute endorsing me, much like Karrell Fox had weeks earlier. I felt very humbled to have this happen twice, each time by magic men I deeply respected. Sid prompted another round of applause, and then it was time for me to make sales.



Sid Lorraine.

During the brief lull in between, Mars approached the stage to say hello. I stepped down and quickly asked her two questions:

"You're not leaving, are you?" She said no. So I said: "Good, do you have an iron?" She replied yes. With five pairs of wrinkled slacks, I had to be practical and ask for help.

"I don't know what the iron is all about," she replied, "but you really know your kid-show magic!"

By the time sales were over and I was packing up, Sid walked over to me with Mars and asked if I'd like to have dinner with a group of magicians that night. I said sure.

“And tomorrow, I know you have a flight to Buffalo at three o’clock,” he said, “but my wife Rene and I would like to have you for lunch at our home at about 11:30. Mars says she can bring you from the hotel, then take you to the airport after. Will that suit you?”

I could not believe it. Lunch at Sid Lorraine’s house. What a wonderful offer! Of course I said yes.



That night I ate dinner with Mars, Sid, and about ten other magicians at the hotel. During the dinner, a young magician around the age of twenty, whose name I have long forgotten, presented me with a portrait he had drawn of me in my honor. I ended up using that same drawing as the masthead for my *M-U-M* magazine column for more than fifteen years in the 1980s and 1990s.

By the time dinner was over, I was exhausted. I said goodbye to everyone, traveled by elevator to my hotel room several floors up, and went soundly to sleep.

June 5. Mars showed up at 10 o’clock Monday morning, iron in hand, and pressed five pairs of slacks in my hotel room. Then we quickly packed them and drove to the Lorraine home. We had a delightful luncheon with Sid and Rene (short for Irene), where we talked about magic, Doug, Gene Gordon, Abbott’s (where I was booked to lecture later that summer), and more. By 1 p.m. I had to go, so Mars drove me to the Toronto airport and we said goodbye.

George Graham, a friend of Gene Gordon, picked me up in Buffalo and drove me to the hotel, where we met up with Gene. After a meal, we drove to the Forks Hotel and I briefly met Eddie Fechter. Then we climbed upstairs to a meeting room with a stage where I presented my lecture to I.B.M. Ring 12 after Gene introduced me.

June 6. The next morning after I showered and ate breakfast, Gene Gordon arrived and drove me 90 miles to Rochester, New York. That gave us plenty of time to talk magic and magic history. During the ride he told me about the lifetime book he had been writing for years and his “magical legacy,” and I expressed interest in publishing his book in the future.



David reading books with Gene Gordon.

Publishing his book is exactly what Lynne and I did in June 1980 after six months of intense editorial work. *Gene Gordon’s Magical Legacy* became a bestseller in our field and led to Gene receiving a Master’s Fellowship from Hollywood’s Academy of Magical Arts in 1981.

The lecture that night was for Rochester’s SAM Assembly 47. It was the eighteenth and final lecture of my tour. All went well and I sold out of hot books, shoelaces, wilting flowers, and coloring books. Gene roomed with me that night in a local hotel and drove me to the airport the next morning.

June 7. My morning flight had me home by noon. I was glad to see Lynne, to sleep in our own bed, and to get back to normal.

Week by week I reflected on my entire tour experience, weighing the pros and cons of how it had gone. Eventually the pros won out, and in spring 1979 I continued by taking my first lecture tour of the west coast.

That, of course, is a story for another time. But to wrap up the first tour, let me add one more note:

Those five pairs of slacks I baked in Montreal – the same five that Mars had ironed in Toronto and Lynne had washed and dried at

(continued on page 100)



Marketing MAGIC

KENT CUMMINS

MAGIC!

*"It is not easy to convince people that magic is useless."
Compton's Encyclopedia (1984 edition)*

Let's talk about *magic*. This column is, at least theoretically, about marketing yourself as a magician. You are a magician. But do you believe in magic?



It seems to me that in order to answer that question, we have to agree on the meaning of the word "magic."

I was first introduced to this topic on Christmas Day, 1949, when my dad gave me my first A.C. Gilbert Mysto Magic set (the Exhibition set). I was six years old, although I would be seven in just two weeks. The first

page of the set's instruction manual said:

"What Magic Is: Hundreds and hundreds of years ago, the priests in Egypt and other far Eastern countries, used to do magic tricks for a very different reason from that which actuates our modern magicians. In order to impress the common people with their supernatural ability and prove that they were in league with the gods, and good and evil spirits, they had some of their temples arranged so that the doors would open when fires were lighted on the altars, trumpets would blow when the doors were opened, and other unusual and impressive marvels would occur. These things appealed to the superstitious people of early days, and gave the priests the power and prestige they desired. In those days magic and religion went hand in hand.

"Nowadays the modern magician employs his skill and mechanical apparatus to entertain. No one believes that he possesses supernatural power."



The 1984 edition of *Compton's Encyclopedia* (Volume 14 – M) contains similar ideas:

“**MAGIC:** Early man believed in magic. So do many primitive peoples today. They think that by saying certain words or doing certain things they can influence the health or actions of people at a distance.

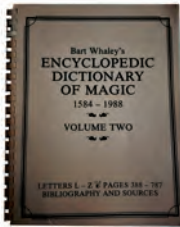


“Modern man has not quite rid himself of these beliefs. Many people think the number 13 is unlucky. Some carry a mascot to protect them against bad fortune or touch wood after they have remarked that things are going well. Today such beliefs are called *superstitions*.

“It is not easy to convince people that magic is useless.”

You might ask where I found a 1984 edition of *Compton's Encyclopedia*. The answer would be “in my library.” I bought it at a used book sale many years ago and was impressed by the amount of space they gave to the subject of “Magic Arts” – a total of nine pages with lots of photos.

From Bart Whaley's 1989 *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Magic, 1584-1988*, Volume Two, I like this definition by John Mulholland in *The Art of Illusion*, 1944:



“Magic is the pretended performance of those things which cannot be done. The success of a magician's simulation of doing the impossible depends upon misleading the minds of his audiences.”

I still remember, as a kid, going to the Del Rio, Texas public library and looking up “magic” in the card catalog. Instead of books on magic tricks, which is what I was looking for, I found books on witchcraft, demonology, and the occult arts. The librarian kindly showed me that I needed to look under “conjuring” to get the books I was looking for. Dewey Decimal Number 793.8.

I still love libraries, but where would we be without artificial intelligence (AI) telling us all the answers?

Google's AI Overview says that magic is generally defined as:

“... the use of rituals, spells, and charms believed to influence natural or supernatural forces to cause desired events. It is often defined as an art or skill, including both the perceived manipulation of reality through occult means and the performance of illusions by magicians. It is often described as creating wonder by making the impossible seem real.”

Key Perspectives on Magic

- **Supernatural/Occult Magic:** This involves using hidden natural forces to influence events. Practitioners (often in traditions like Wicca) believe it is the art of directing energy to create, or “manifest,” change in the world.

- **Illusionism/Stage Magic:** This is a performance art, often called tricks or sleight of hand, that uses skill, technology, and misdirection to create, for example, the appearance of defying gravity or making objects disappear.

- **Cultural/Historical Context:** Historically, magic was often integrated into religious systems and used to affect outcomes like agriculture, weather, or health. It often refers to practices that fall outside the bounds of conventional science or organized religion.

- **Metaphorical Magic:** The term is frequently used to describe a powerful, positive, and mysterious quality (e.g., “the magic of the moment”).

Key Components of Magic

- **Intention:** The practitioner's will is directed toward a specific, desired outcome.

- **Ritual/Method:** Actions, words, or tools, such as wands or spells, are used to focus energy.

- **Performance:** In illusion, this includes a “Pledge” (showing something ordinary),



“Turn” (making it extraordinary), and “Prestige” (the final effect).

By contrast, Dictionary.com offers seven different definitions of “magic”:

1. The art of producing illusions as entertainment by the use of sleight of hand, deceptive devices, etc.; legerdemain; conjuring.
to pull a rabbit out of a hat by magic.
2. the art of producing a desired effect or result through the use of incantation or various other techniques that presumably assure human control of supernatural agencies or the forces of nature.

Synonyms of “magic”:

entertainment

3. the use of this art.

Magic, it was believed, could drive illness from the body.

4. the effects produced.

the magic of recovery.

5. power or influence exerted through this art.

a wizard of great magic.

6. any extraordinary or mystical influence, charm, power, etc.

the magic in a great name;

the magic of music;

the magic of spring.

7. (initial capital letter) the US code name for information from decrypting machine-enciphered Japanese wireless messages before and during World War II.

Related Words: Magic, necromancy, sorcery, witchcraft imply producing results through mysterious influences or unexplained powers.

What Does the Bible Have to Say?

“The Bible defines magic as the attempt to manipulate spiritual forces, nature, or human fate through forbidden means – such as sorcery, divination, or spells – rather than relying on God. Considered an ‘abomination’ (Deut. 18:10), it is portrayed as engaging with demonic power, not divine power, and is condemned for seeking forbidden spiritual knowledge or control.”

I once lost a wonderful trade show opportunity because the guy who was assigned to find entertainment for the booth started reading a biblical concordance warning against consorting with magicians.

Technological Magic

I love what my friend Gus Davis (who performs magic as “Gusto the Great”) says: “I love living in the future!”

I read and enjoyed *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams shortly after it first came out in 1979. It is a novel about an amazing satellite that has all of the knowledge of the universe within it. I remember that this was obviously science fiction and that there could never actually be such a satellite. (How enormous would it have to be?)



And now, we have just about all of the information in the universe available on a small device that fits in our pocket. We can call almost anyone in the world on this tiny device and look up almost any information we might want. Adams died in 2001 at the age of forty-nine, so he only got to observe the beginning of the cell-phone revolution.

What does all this have to do with being a magician? Here is one of the most popular quotations about magic, by science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke:

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”

Formulated in 1962, the quotation suggests that highly advanced innovation seems magical because its workings are not understood, appearing as wonder rather than mere technical progress. People are not fooled when I answer my cell phone by tapping my ear to activate my hearing aids’ Bluetooth feature. But they are fooled when I perform the Square Circle to close my magic show.

Marketing Magic and Technology

Magicians who use technology, often referred to as tech magicians or digital magicians, incorporate tools such as iPads, smartphones, artificial intelligence (AI), augmented reality (AR), robots, and social media into their acts to create modern illusions. This field blends traditional sleight of hand with cutting-edge technology.

Tech magicians like Trigg Watson have become more and more popular over the past two decades. I like to think of those temples in ancient Egypt, which used the latest technology to fool people.

Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin (1805-1871) is widely considered the “Father of Modern Magic” due to his pioneering shift of magic from street-fair entertainment to sophisticated theatrical performance in Paris, starting around 1845. He revolutionized the art by performing in evening dress, introducing mechanical automata, and utilizing electricity.

So, the “Father of *Modern Magic*” died more than 150 years ago! But he was famous for his pretended use of ether to levitate a woman, and his actual use of an electromagnet in the Light and Heavy Chest illusion.

Real Magic

When I teach magic classes to kids, I always tell them there is indeed such a thing as “real magic.” When an ugly caterpillar crawls into a cocoon and waits for a while, a beautiful butterfly emerges. The sun “comes up” every morning and warms the earth. Life as we know it would not exist if this did not happen every morning.

If you want to experience real magic, just go for a walk in nature ... the woods, the mountains, the beach. Look at a waterfall. Watch the ocean. Listen to the birds.

A man and a woman fall in love, and produce a baby who grows up into a real human being. And one of those human beings changed his name to David Copperfield! If this isn’t magic, I don’t know what is!

Fake Magic

When I show a box apparently empty and then produce loads of amazing things from it, that is not “magic.” It is a clever trick. But

(continued on page 103)

Exploring the Oswald Rae Color Force

By Joe M. Turner

Oswald Rae (1892–1967) was an English magician who was active in the early twentieth century. He served in the British armed forces during both World Wars and performed as a magician at concert parties, society programs, royal events, and vaudeville shows throughout the interwar years and beyond.

In 1928 he became one of the founding members of the British Ring of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. That same year, he wrote the short book *Sub Rosa*, in which he described an effect called “A Neat Colour Force.” This routine uses an apparatus that allows the performer to force a color from a 4x4 grid consisting of sixteen color squares. The device consists of a rotating square card on which the colored squares are printed. This card rotates beneath a celluloid layer on which the numbers are printed. By placing the force color at specific points in the colored arrangement, the card can be rotated and the force color can be made to come up at any named number from one to sixteen.

The device does have some drawbacks. It cannot be examined, it cannot be freely displayed before use, and the card in the apparatus must be changed out to force another color.

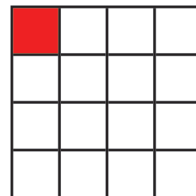
Magicians Louis Histed and Thomas Barker later devised a new arrangement that eliminated the need to have a rotating card inside another apparatus. The idea was published in *Abra*, vol. 38, no. 529 (special thanks to Bob Gill and Noel Britten of the Magic Circle for filling in this gap). Instead, a dartboard-style radial arrangement of numbers is printed on one side of a square board, and the color grid is printed on the back. The numbers are distributed in what appears to be a random order, but the order is not ran-

dom. The numbers across the top of the board correspond to the squares where the force color will appear when the board is flipped horizontally with those numbers facing up. This builds the necessary rotation into the presentation and eliminates the need for a bulky apparatus. You can have the board on display, number side forward, before the routine. Furthermore, you can easily print different cards with different colors.

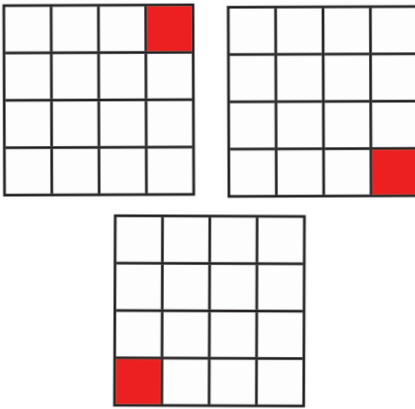
I first saw this method used in an online program by Duane Laflin, but he cannot remember where the dartboard-style method originated. In working out the trick, I thought through a method for knowing where to put the colored squares and numbers. The Rae description simply tells you where to put the numbers, but I thought it could be instructive to understand why you put them there. Understanding the principle would allow you to make larger number grids if desired.

How to Place the Force Color Squares in a 4x4 Grid

Let’s assume our force color is red. In a 4x4 grid, you would color the first square red. That is the square that would be counted as “one” if that row were on top.

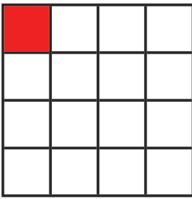


Now, rotate the square clockwise 90 degrees. Do that two more times to see what happens.

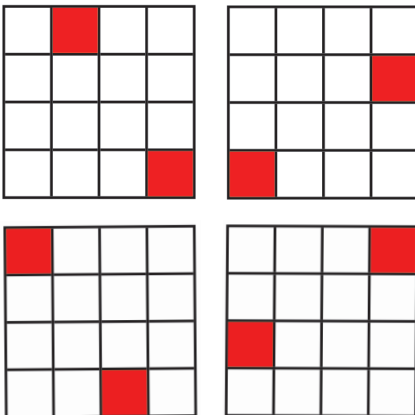


Do you see how this square now comes up if you count to 4? In the other two configurations, it would also cover the numbers 16 and 13. So that single square covers 4 of the 16 possible outs, depending on which side is on top when you're counting.

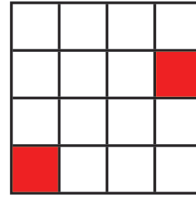
Now go back to your original arrangement.



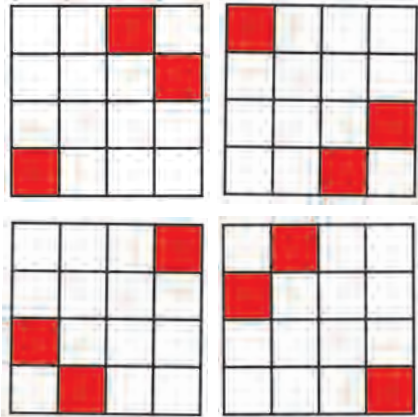
Rotate the grid 180 degrees, then color in the space for counting to 2. Fill it in and look at it from all other directions. Do you see how it would also cover 8, 15, and 9?



Now we need to put in a square to cover number 3. It would be ideal to pick a row that doesn't already have a colored square. We can get there by putting our #1 square in position 13.

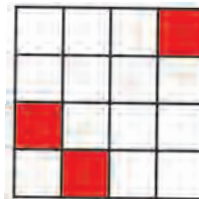


If we color in the square for 3, we will also cover 12, 14, and 5, as you can see in the other three rotations.

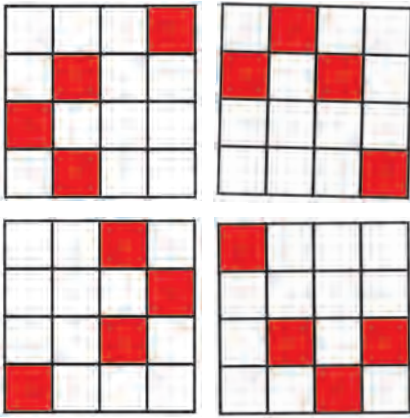


So now we've covered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16.

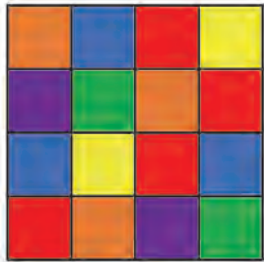
We need to find a spot to cover the next uncovered number, 6. It would be ideal to put it on a row that doesn't already have a red square. Look at the next to last grid above. That row is empty, and that's where the number 6 would go.



So let's color it in. Rotating it through the other alignments, we see that the same square covers 6, 7, 11, and 10. That's all the ones we were missing.

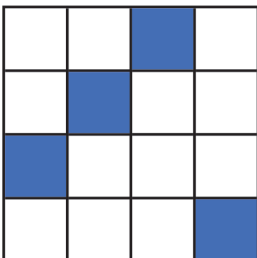


You would then finish the square by filling in all the other squares with a variety of different colors. This looks like you could choose any of six different colors, but you're really being forced to choose red.



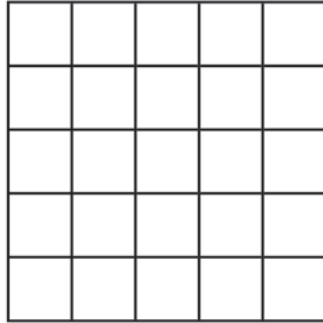
This is not the only arrangement that would work, by the way. You could simply fill in square 1, then rotate 90 degrees in either direction, fill in square 2, rotate again, fill in square 3, and continue until you cover all the options.

Constructing the square using this kind of rotation would result in a square like the following. (I've changed the color to blue so we don't confuse it with the previous grid.)

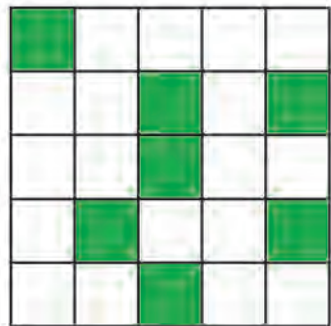


This isn't bad, but the straight diagonal line of the force color doesn't feel as random as I would like. That's why I decided to "mix up" the rotations a little.

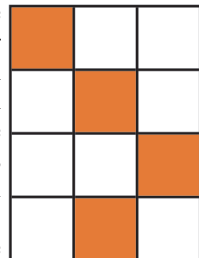
Do you see how you could do this for a larger grid? Imagine a 5x5 grid.



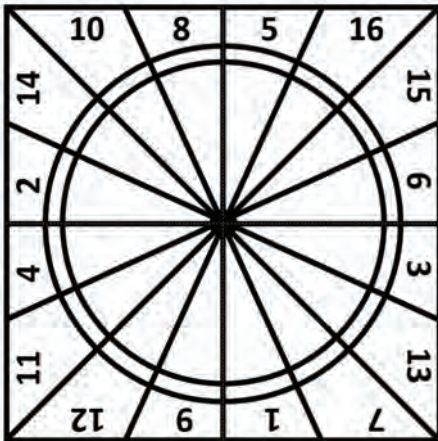
I filled this one in so that all 25 options are covered from some direction. I rotated in different directions and moved the squares around to try to fill in different areas of the final grid. But you can check all the numbers from 1 to 25 and get to them depending on which row you put on top to start counting.



You could use the same process for larger or smaller grids. In fact, there's no reason the grid even has to be square. Consider this 3x4 grid – it covers all 12 possibilities, depending on which side is held on top to start counting.



For the 4x4 grid, it's easy to make a design that puts the colors you want on top. I used PowerPoint to make some simple ones. I could print this out the same size as the color card and paste them together back to back to make a working force card. You could draw it by hand with a straight edge and a compass or even just tracing around the lid of a jar or coffee can. But this arrangement with the four numbers on each side is a wonderful solution. I hope that I can find the originator one day.



Applications

Once you understand how to make the force work, the question becomes: what can you do with it?

For one thing, you can take existing tricks that require forces you don't like as much and adapt them to this force. Some routines (e.g., the classic Dock Haley "Keys to the Kingdom" gospel magic routine or similar) require something like a "Hot Rod" force, in which you have to spell or count to get to the right object or person in a line on stage. I am personally not a fan of spelling to a chosen number; I've always thought it felt a little fishy. You could fix this immediately by having the people stand on a variety of multi-colored circles on the floor. Have someone else choose a number and they just happen to get the one that makes the trick work!

I have also worked on routines using colored balloons, boxes, or cups that have dif-

ferent things inside them. You can always have what feels like a free choice result in the spectator selecting the item that you need.

Taking it a bit further, you could use it in situations where a Confabulation-type prediction was made and a color was part of the story you were telling. Maybe it's the color of the bus your group is taking on an imaginary trip somewhere, or the color of the suit that a singer was wearing during an imaginary concert. Confabulation routines that pay off with a big reveal showing the combination of all the audience's random "choices" can be a strong moment in a show.

Whatever you do, I think it's important to put some theatrical distance between the force and the revelation. Don't just force a color and then show that you have that color hanky in a bag, for example. There should be at least one extra step along the way so the procedure is a little further away from the revelation.

Crediting Notes

Special thanks to prolific magic creator and author (and friend) Steve Beam for providing me with the reference to *Sub Rosa* and Mr. Rae's original write-up. Thanks also to Magicpedia for the information about the life of Oswald Rae. The information in the Magicpedia article was derived from articles published in *The Linking Ring* in 1931, 1932, and 1967.

Thanks again to Bob Gill and Noel Britten for the information about Histed and Barker and the *Abra* reference.

Joe M. Turner is a professional entertainer and speaker who served as the 2015-2016 International President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He has written for *Genii* magazine, *The Linking Ring*, and other publications including his own lecture book, *A Few Modest Enchantments*. He and his wife Rosemary live outside Memphis, Tennessee.



Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

Add a Little Fun

Great leaders always look for ways to add a little fun to our Ring meetings. Those unique activities add an extra kick to our meetings, making them more engaging for guests, inactive members, and those who occasionally pop in. Try these on for size.

Trivia Challenge. Start each meeting with a magic-themed trivia question. Check *The Linking Ring's* Youth Trivia and other feature articles for ideas.

Turbo Creativity Bags. Open four separate paper bags. Mark the bags *TYPE*, *STYLE*, *STUFF*, and *PROPS*. Toss slips of paper listing Fitzkee's classifications of magic, the various styles of magic (comedy, close-up, parlor, dramatic, etc.), various non-magic items, and common magic utility props into the appropriate bags. Teams select one slip from each bag and have fifteen minutes to create a plausible routine with patter around their selected slips. Members vote for the most creative presentation.

Kudos Minute. Start each meeting with an invitation for members to express their appreciation for a fellow member. They may recognize a member's recent performance, their assistance with a project, or simply their friendly and supportive nature. Anything positive counts! This activity is a great way to boost confidence and bolster Ring morale.

Random Acts of Kindness. Kick off this campaign by leaving an anonymous token gift on a member's seat. Include a complimentary note celebrating their contributions

to the Ring and challenging them to leave a similar anonymous gift and note for another member next meeting. This simple idea is self-perpetuating and creates a lasting bond between members.

Dad Joke Minute. Select two or three members to present their best Dad Joke at the start or end of each meeting. Members vote for the funniest or most groanworthy rendition. This promotes humor and improves communication.

Magic Landmarks. Create interest in our magical history! Choose a location prominently linked to a famous and historic magic figure. For example, Robert-Houdin's *Théâtre Robert-Houdin* in Paris, Harry Houdini's townhouse in Harlem, or Howard Thurston's burial crypt in Columbus, Ohio. Write clues about the magician and location on slips of paper dropped into a hat. After each performance, read one of the clues. The more performances, the more clues! You decide whether to allow or ban smartphone use.

Name That Member! Each member writes down four fun facts about themselves – three not-so-obvious facts and one easy-to-guess identifier. Randomly choose and read one member's fun facts at each meeting, allowing time between each one for guesses. End with the most obvious fact, rather than starting with it, to keep things challenging.

Rose, Thorn, Bud. Start the meeting with members sharing a high point ("rose") from

the previous month, a low point (“thorn”), and something they’re looking forward to (“bud”).

Have You Ever? This game helps us learn about our fellow members. Create a list of magic related “Have you ever ...” questions, such as, “Have you ever flubbed a trick in front of an audience?” or “Have you ever produced a rabbit, dove, or other animal?” Be creative! Invite all members to stand. They remain standing if they can answer yes. They sit down if their answer is no. Play until one or none remain standing.

Fancy Dress. Challenge members to attend a meeting dressed as their favorite magician, literary character, or superhero, or as their own fantasy characters such as Cardman, Sherlock Bones (dice detective), or the villainous Dr. Knotts (rope magician). Members vote for the most creative costumes or character. Give bonus points for performing an effect associated with their costumed persona.

Marshmallow Game. Divide members into teams. Set a timer for twenty minutes and challenge each team to build a freestanding representation of a popular stage illusion or prop using marshmallows, spaghetti, small paper cups, and string. Members vote for the most creative and convincing representation. Bonus points if the illusion actually works.

Caption This. Kick off each meeting with a magic-themed cartoon projected onto a wall or screen. Invite members to suggest humorous captions for the cartoon. Members vote for the funniest suggestion. This activity encourages teamwork, humor, and creativity. Add the cartoon and new caption to your Ring’s newsletter or social media.

Chopsticks. This is fun to watch! Select four or five random members to sit at a table. Jumble a deck of playing cards onto the table in front of each challenger. Players must place one hand behind their backs and, using the other hand alone, transfer cards back into the card box using chopsticks. The player with the most cards in their card box after

three minutes wins! Try coins and dice!

Book Swap. Encourage everyone to bring a book they’re ready to part with wrapped in brown paper. On the paper, they should write a few clues as to each book’s content or genre. Give the members twenty minutes to mingle and swap books. This is a great way to discover new reads, declutter our shelves, and give old volumes a second life. Unwrap the books together.

Prop Swap. Just like the book swap, but with small unwanted and unused packet tricks, utility items, and props. Wrap, tag, and trade!

Old is New. Divide the members into teams. Display a common or not-so-common magic prop or illusion. Explain its mechanical function for the unfamiliar. Set a timer for ten minutes. Challenge each team to create a never-before-seen story, patter, or routine around that prop. Performance is not required. It’s the creative storyline that counts here. This activity may spark fresh life into old props sitting on members’ shelves! Members choose the most creative routine!

We all love a good challenge! Incorporating fun challenges and games into our meetings keeps things fresh and exciting. They keep members engaged, boost personal creativity, and promote member interaction. Several of these activities support creative brainstorming, which may help members generate ideas for new projects. Best of all, these brief events help members to relax, laugh, share openly with one another, and build a sense of camaraderie that strengthens Ring cohesion and growth. Enjoy!

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.



Did You Know?

JOE HERNANDEZ



The Alexander Tapia Theatre, ca. 1832.

Reynold Alexander's opening night of *Quién mató a René Monclova?* took place at the historic Alexander Tapia Theatre in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, co-starring René Monclova, the well-known Puerto Rican actor. The magic show was presented in a play-like format, featuring a unique magic extravaganza of illusions and mentalism. The show will debut in the United States in September 2026 at the House of Magic in Pennsylvania.

The Alexander Tapia Theatre was built in 1824 and opened in 1832. Over the years, this impressive venue has hosted performances ranging from Spanish colonial dramas to twentieth-century plays, welcoming generations of theatergoers through its neoclassical facade. In the late 1800s, the theatre became a center for cultural exchange, bringing together artists from Europe and the Americas. It is also known in magic history for events like Dante's debut, when Howard Thurston sent him there to perform on June 28, 1927. That show drew crowds from all over the Caribbean and helped the theatre earn its reputation as Puerto Rico's "temple of wonders."

After Dante's influential performance at the Alexander Tapia Theatre, his show – a huge musical revue featuring forty assistants, with more than ten tons of elaborate equipment and amazing illusions – appeared to have been an enormous success and launched what would

become a legendary global career. Building on this triumph, Dante toured South America, performing an incredible one hundred shows in Buenos Aires alone, before moving on to Europe. He was a golden age pioneer, becoming the first all-American magic show to perform in the Soviet Union, where he received fifteen curtain calls on opening night.

Continuing the tradition of prominent figures visiting the Tapia Theatre, San Juan's Mayor Miguel Romero attended the event with his wife and Angela Meyer, granddaughter of the famous illusionist Richardine. Ángela Meyer, a well-known Puerto Rican actress and producer, was born in San Juan into a family of magicians and entertainers. Growing up among the performing arts sparked her everlasting affection for the stage.

This strong bond to stage magic runs through Ángela Meyer's family. Richardine amazed people everywhere with his mysterious tricks and strong stage presence. He performed in city theaters and festival tents during the golden age of stage magic, when magicians were as popular as rock stars and drew big crowds. The 1920s and 30s were lively for stage magic in Puerto Rico, with traveling illusionists filling halls and magic clubs active in San Juan. Richardine's daughter, Margot Debén – Ángela Meyer's mother – was born while he was on tour. Margot became known as "La Princesa Nanglin" (The Nanglin Princess), one of the few female magicians who impressed crowds with creative tricks, sparkling costumes, and charisma. She broke new ground as a top female magician, inspiring young women to try magic. Margot also did well in comedy on Puerto Rican stages, winning praise when theater and cabaret were popular in Old San Juan.

Ángela, inspired by her family's magic legacy, followed her uncle, Ricardo Debén Jr., also known as Richardine II, whose stage presence delivered energy and bright lights. Before turning two, she debuted in her father's magic show. Her childhood unfolded amid the backstage bustle of South American cities and European towns, complete with murmuring, applause, and spinning costumes in the family's magic troupe.

With this rich family background in the performing arts, Ángela found a natural path to her successful career. She starred in telenovelas like *Yo Sé Que Mentía* and *Coralito*, and turned into a beloved figure of Puerto Rican television variety shows. As a producer, she created hit series and theater productions, helping young actors get their start. Later, Ángela turned into an advocate for the arts, working to increase public support for local artists, entertainers, and magicians.

Joe Hernandez is the author of *Conjurer's Wisdom Volumes I & II*, *Magic Babylon: 1,001 Strange Conjuring Facts, Fallacies, and Tales*, *Phonetastic*, *The Foolosophy of Conjuring*, *Houdini: Reflections*, and *Houdini: The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*. The above is an excerpt from his soon-to-be-released book, *Frank Garcia: The Man with the Million Dollar Hands*. All books are available at www.booksbyjoe.com, magic dealers, and Amazon.

Sign up 1!

The more members we have the more we can do to
advance magic and serve you.



Teaching Magic

ROBERT DURANTE

This month, I want to show you how to take an old trick and make it new. This effect takes its inspiration from Howard Adams's "Will the Cards Match" idea. Many people have used this concept to come up with ideas, and I love that you can theme it for any occasion.

Mixing two packets of cards – while spelling a certain phrase – creates a striking card-matching effect. I do some summer camps at churches and wanted an effect that tied a religious theme to magic. Another friend and confidante, Kevin Casaretto, came up with a planet theme for a science show. For libraries, I created a version with dinosaurs. Today, with the help of Google, you can find any picture you need to print off your own cards. Let's get ready to dive in.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

You have a poster that reads "Read the Bible Daily." Now show that you have two sets of matching cards. Each card covers a lesson from the Bible. You need two sets of five matching cards.

Now, spread each pile face up to show the different cards. Both sets should appear in the same matching order. "Let's make sure each pile has the same number of cards." Turn both sets face down, then deal one set of cards, one at a time, to show only five cards. For the other pile, just spread them out and show five cards, then square them up and lay them next to the first pile.

Say, "We will mix the cards further by spelling. We are going to spell a phrase:

Read the Bible Daily." Ask a helper to choose either pile to begin the spelling. Read is the first word. From their chosen pile, bring the top card to the bottom of the pile for each letter in the word. When completed, deal the card on top of your packet face down, then deal off the top card of the packet they did not choose. Doing the same with each word – *The*, *Bible*, and *Daily* – you will end up with four sets of paired face-down cards on the table. This leaves two cards remaining, one in your hand and one still on the table.

"Can you imagine how impossible it would be if these last two cards left were a match?" you say. Act delighted that they do (if they don't, you did not follow the directions). "I wonder if any of the others match?"

Now, start turning over each pair to show they all match. The hardest part is spelling with the last two cards in a pile, so be careful.

You can do the same effect using a moon, star, sun, Saturn, and meteor. Use the phrase "Hope the Stars Align." Once more, follow the directions and your cards will match. You can spell while going back and forth between the piles, but it will confuse students. After they master the basics, tell them about this advanced approach.

Once you play with this, you will hopefully come up with other ideas for matched pairs. It is an effect that can be themed to your needs. Enjoy!

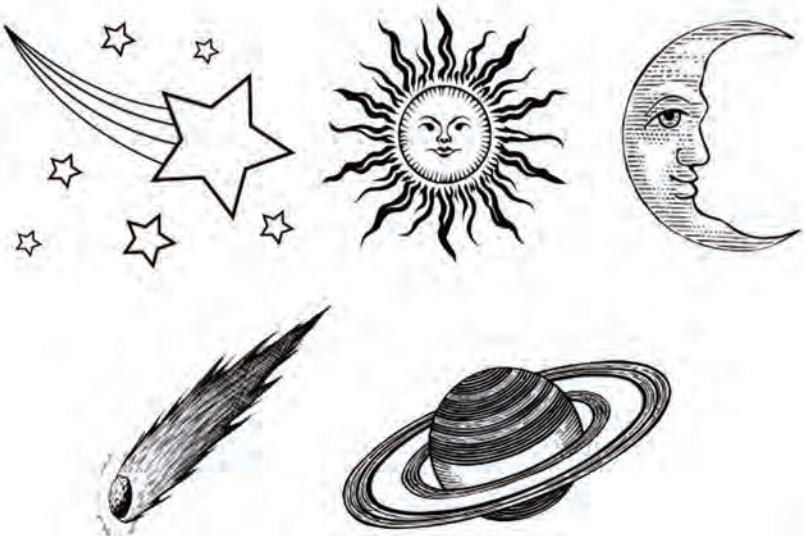
Bob Durante

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READ THE BIBLE DAILY



HOPE THE STARS ALIGN



The Unexpected Rewards of Contributing to 'The Linking Ring'

By Thomas Henry

From time to time in *The Linking Ring* you'll run across a caricature of William Shakespeare, alongside a message encouraging members to submit articles for publication. Similarly, another occasional blurb announces that our Executive Editor is eager for Parade submissions. The latter spells out three benefits of pitching in: building one's reputation, contributing to the art, and adding value to the journal. But may I append one more reason to that admirable list? And it's completely self-serving in nature!

In short, sharing your thoughts, wisdom, and experience with other colleagues through these pages is an excellent way to boost your own originality and achievement in the craft. This is no pie-in-the-sky pep talk, for by contributing articles to *The Linking Ring*, I myself have quite literally received far more than I've given.

Selfishness may seem an unworthy motive for interacting with other I.B.M. members through the printed page. But let's face it: there's always a certain amount of egotism in anyone who's ever picked up the wand. It's my contention, though, that dipping pen into inkwell offstage is the surest way to promote further personal accomplishment onstage. Actually, there are many benefits in so doing. How many? Lifting a line from Elizabeth Barrett Browning, let me count the ways.

First, an old adage states it's always the teacher who learns the most. Hitting upon a marvelous brainstorm is one thing, but explaining it to others is when the veil is lifted and all becomes clear.

I have found many times, even after having performed an original routine repeatedly, composing a description for colleagues reveals previously unseen pitfalls or possibilities. Writing has ever been my white cane.

Not unrelated is that in the process, one is often sent to the bookshelf to dig up earlier references. I can't begin to tell you how much profit I've derived from diving into the literature of our craft, just to make sure readers get the straight dope. Yes, it's often time-consuming. There have been instances when chasing down a single citation for an article, both online and in physical books, had me pulling my hair out. But no one ever claimed love is easy! Besides, more often than not, that's precisely the moment serendipity peeks round the corner.

Some of us members dwell in the hinterlands, far away from Rings and their meetings. The next best thing is if our journal brings readers and writers together via email exchanges. One of my fondest memories is of the late Chris Wardle – a conjuring inventor of great note – who was prompted to touch base, thanks to an article of mine. Thus commenced a delightful three years trading several ideas back and forth, until his untimely passing. Though separated by the Atlantic Ocean, we “met” thanks to *The Linking Ring*.

Yet another payoff is actually two-fold: by encouraging a colleague to submit an article, the rest of us reap the advantage of reading it. To wit, just last year a fellow member wrote to say he'd been inspired by a method I shared here and had created a new routine

around it. It was very clever, so I urged him to write it up and submit it to our esteemed Editor. He did, and so David Lapin's "Viaggio in Italia" appeared in *The Linking Ring*, Volume 105, Number 9, September 2025, pp. 68-69. Thus, not only was a new author welcomed to the fold, but I was additionally afforded the self-centered pleasure of relishing his finely crafted article. Talk about a win-win situation!

Believe it or not, there's yet another reward which comes from joining in the fun. I've discovered that penning articles also makes me a better scriptwriter for my own routines. It alerts me to repetitive words or phrases, those which lack impact or are trite, and lousy grammar doesn't trip me up quite so often as well. I can almost guarantee it: write an article, and your next script is sure to flow more smoothly.

This is all well and good, but you might be thinking authoring an article is an occult art, accessible only to the select few. Far from it – at least not for anyone in our craft. Stepping in front of the audience as a conjurer has previously proved you possess the one vital prerequisite: ego.

Here's what I mean. You already know you can **talk** confidently about yourself and convey your meaning before a crowd of strangers. So, simply **write** like you speak – at least for the first draft – just as though you were performing before a layperson or explaining a method to a fellow magician, one on one.

Now **read it aloud** and really listen with fresh ears. A split-personality helps here! Recite it slowly and imagine yourself hearing it all for the very first time. If it sounds like the real you and not someone else, yet accurately tells the story, then more than half the battle has been won.

In later sessions you can revise phrases which could be better expressed, fill in the details, and trim redundancies. A few remaining style, punctuation, or grammar flubs might linger, but remember, there's a cogent reason the I.B.M. employs an editor. Just keep your eyes open and learn from experience. In any event, you ought to find each article better than the last. But without a maiden voyage, how would you ever know?

Before closing, I should mention I'm simply a member-in-ordinary, and moreover have had no formal training in English composition. The suggestions made above spring purely from personal experience after diving into the deep end. If ever there was a two cents' worth, this is it!

In summary, then, contributing to *The Linking Ring* may be your most valuable membership perk. Though a seeming paradox, just when you think you're giving, you're actually getting.

Thomas Henry is a frequent contributor to The Linking Ring. You may reach him by email at everett.ritland@gmail.com.



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The Linking Ring is always looking for new articles, including Parades with a theme, individual tricks, feature stories, biographies, historical essays, and other creative writing. If you want your work to reach as many people as possible, contact The Linking Ring. We have the largest circulation of any magic periodical in the world. Submit your articles or ideas to the Executive Editor at editor@magician.org,



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Michael Stelzer One-Man Parade

Written by Michael Stelzer • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen • Illustrated by Tony Dunn



Michael Stelzer is a professional magician whose performance credits include churches, comedy clubs, and Pandemonium at Oklahoma City. His other interests include martial arts, professional wrestling, boxing, fencing, bodybuilding, and Olympic and highland games competitions. Recently, he has published a series of math books covering poker probability. His latest book is entitled *Mathematical Strategies to Winning No-Limit Texas Hold'em*. He is currently retired and lives in Ohio.

CIGAR BOX JUGGLING

Cigar box juggling differs from traditional juggling. Traditional juggling involves items that are routinely tossed and

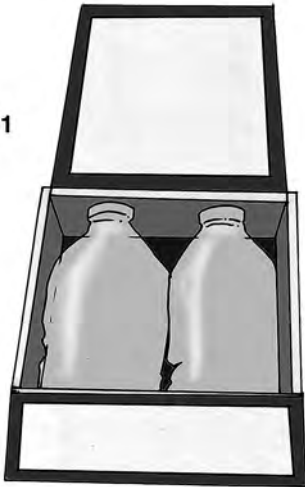
caught in a cascade or column pattern. In cigar box juggling, the middle or the end boxes are flipped, turned, or rotated while keeping the center box pinned between the two outer boxes in a comical fashion.

REQUIREMENTS: I have found the Churchill en Tubo cigar boxes ideal for juggling. These boxes measure 7 5/8 inches by 5 3/4 inches by 2 1/4 inches and were purchased empty from a cigar shop for around four dollars each. To perform the stunts described below, you will need three empty cigar boxes, six empty 16.9-ounce water bottles, and some wide duct or masking tape.

SET-UP: The cigar boxes take a lot of abuse in practice and performance and need to be reinforced to prevent crushing. Here's how to reinforce them:

1. Open each water bottle.
2. Blow enough air into each bottle to over-inflate them.
3. Screw the cap back on.
4. Unscrew the cap slightly so that air can escape when the bottle is squeezed.
5. Open the lids of the cigar boxes.
6. Squeeze out enough air and collapse the bottle, from top to bottom, to permit a tight fit of two side-by-side water bottles, then tighten the caps (**Fig. 1**).
7. Reinforce the structure of the boxes by running the tape around all four sides and carefully folding the excess tape over the top and bottom of the boxes.

Fig. 1

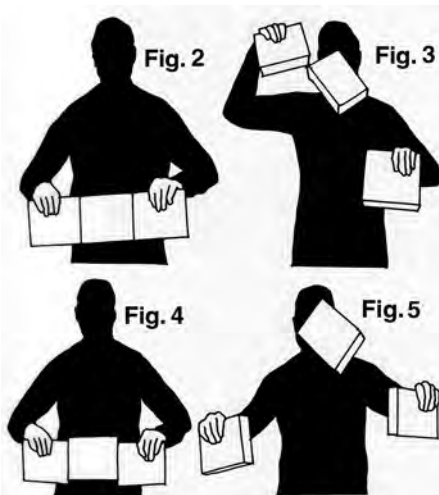


The prepared boxes are ideal for juggling because air is light in weight, making the boxes easy to toss and manipulate. Also, air is a fairly incompressible gas, which prevents the boxes from being crushed.

THE HOME POSITION: When juggling, the “home position” should have all three boxes held at waist height (or higher, if that is more comfortable for you). The left and right hands hold onto the outer boxes in an overhand palm-down position. Pin the middle box between the outer boxes with enough pressure to prevent it from falling. For clarity, we will assume that the “mark” (the words Churchill en Tubos on the top right hand corner of each box) is in the lower lefthand corner when in the home position.

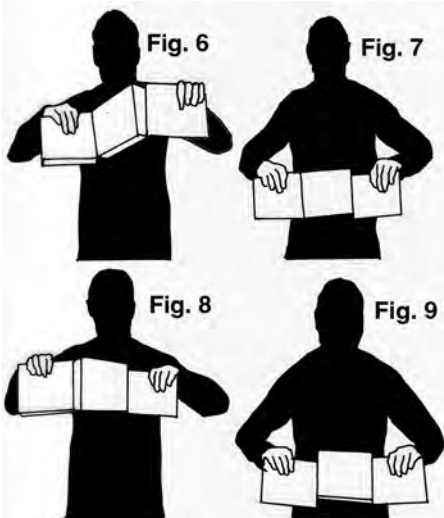
THE FLIPS: Here, we perform four flips on the middle box (a clockwise flip, a counter-clockwise flip, a front-to-back flip, and a back-to-front flip), two rotations on the end boxes (at 90 and 180 degrees), and a comic catch for the end of the performance. While performing each technique, you perform a squeeze of the outer boxes together to pin the middle box between them.

THE CLOCKWISE SPIN: Hold the boxes in the home position (**Fig. 2**). The right wrist rotates to the right in a stationary position as the left arm rotates to the right in a large arch, while keeping the middle box pinned between the outer boxes. At about a 45-degree angle, the arms slightly separate, allowing the middle box to revolve 180-degrees in the air. Notice that the right hand is higher than the left hand in **Figure 3**, to be once-again pinned between the outer boxes (**Fig. 4**).



THE COUNTER-CLOCKWISE SPIN: Hold the boxes in the home position (**Fig. 2**). The left wrist rotates to the left in a stationary position as the right arm rotates to the left in a large arch, while keeping the middle box pinned between the outer boxes. At about a 45-degree angle, the arms slightly separate, allowing the middle box to revolve 180-degrees in the air. Notice that the left hand is higher than the right hand in **Figure 5**, to be once-again pinned between the outer boxes (**Fig. 4**).

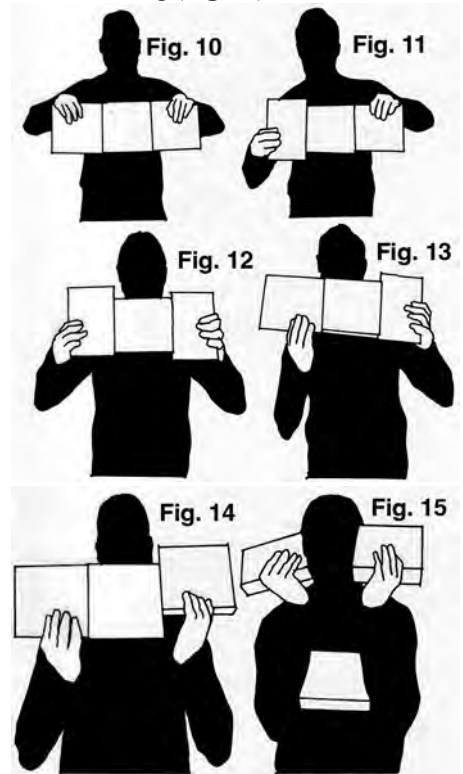
FRONT-TO-BACK FLIP: With the boxes in the home position, the left hand pushes its box away from you, while the right hand pulls its box toward you (**Fig. 6**). This action causes the middle box to spin in the air in a clockwise direction (as seen from above). The middle box is pinned between the outer boxes with its face toward the juggler (**Fig. 7**).



BACK-TO-FRONT FLIP: Starting in the modified home position shown in **Figure 7**, the left hand pulls its box toward you while the right hand pushes its box away from you (**Fig. 8**). This action causes the middle box to spin in the air in a counter-clockwise direction, as seen from above, and is pinned between the outer boxes with its face toward the audience (**Fig. 9**).

COMIC CATCH: With the boxes in a high home position (**Fig. 10**), both arms

quickly pull the boxes upward. While in motion, the right hand rotates its box 90 degrees and pins it to the middle box (**Fig. 11**). Perform another slight upward toss as the left hand rotates its box 90-degrees and pins it to the middle box (**Fig. 12**). Repeating this same upward pull on the boxes, the right box and then the left box perform an additional 90-degree rotation (**Figs. 13 and 14**) so that the middle box is pinned between the outer boxes held in a palm-up position. Now, release the pressure pinning the middle box and catch it with your elbows, as you pull the outside boxes to the side of your ears for a comic ending (**Fig. 15**)!



PERFORMANCE NOTES: It is not necessary to rotate or push and pull the boxes exactly as described in this article. Experiment with different combinations to get a sense of the results. Also, in the comic catch feat, you may wish to bypass the intermediate steps displayed in **Figures 11-13** and merely perform a 180-degree rotation on

each of the side boxes, either individually or simultaneously depending on what you prefer.

In addition to juggling the boxes, some entertaining balancing feats can be accomplished as well.

THE 9-BOX BALANCE: Align nine boxes in a line on a table so that the tops and bottoms face each other. Mentally assign each box a member of the alphabet, in which box “A” is the leftmost box, and box “I” is the rightmost box (**Fig. 16**).

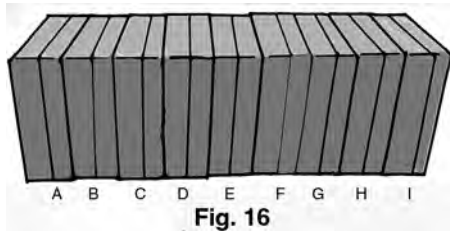


Fig. 16

Then, outjog box “D” by a few inches (**Fig. 17**).

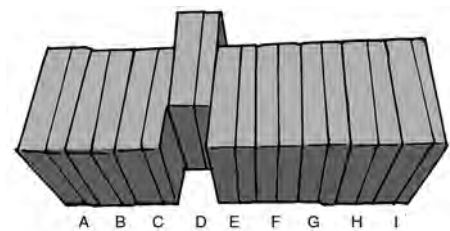


Fig. 17

Hold the stack at chest level and compress them together with both hands, using enough force to keep them together.

Pivot box “E” across the bottom of box “D” until it hits box “C.” Next, pivot box “F” across the bottom of boxes “E” and “C” until it hits box “B.” Then, slide box “G” across the bottom of boxes “F” and “B” until it hits box “A.” Slide box “H” across the bottom of both boxes “G” and “A” until it reaches the edge. Finally, stand box “I” straight up and center it until it balances all of the boxes above it. Hold box “I” in your right hand with your palm running across its back, fingers on one side and thumb on the other (if your hand is big enough). Balance all nine boxes around face level (**Fig. 18**).

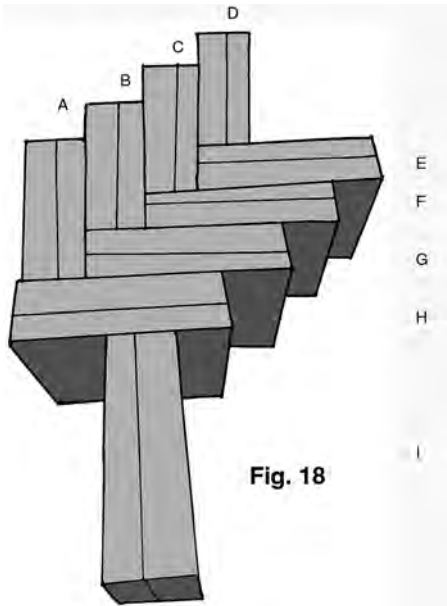


Fig. 18

To recover, pivot box “I” so that you have a face-to-back position with boxes “H” and “I.” Slowly rotate both hands in a clockwise direction. You should have five boxes in your right palm and four boxes in your left palm. Bang the boxes together lightly so they align properly, then in a rapid manner lift and rotate your hands in a counter-clockwise manner to smash all the boxes together prior to setting them all back on the table.

THE SEVEN-BOX PYRAMID: A seven-box pyramid is an arrangement of seven boxes that has three steps going up followed by three steps going down, as viewed from left to right (**Fig. 19**).

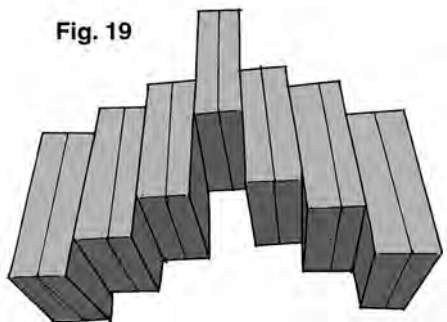


Fig. 19

The set-up for this feat is very similar to the 9-box balance and follows the same pivot

and sliding rules, as before. However, after all of the boxes are properly aligned, the hands swing around the box stack in a counter-clockwise direction, using box "D" as the pivot point until the pyramid position is formed. Recover in similar fashion to the 9-box balance.

THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR BILLIARD BALL ROUTINE

In the "Hocus-Pocus" episode of *The Six Million Dollar Man* (1976), Mark Wilson (as character Dave Powell) performs a billiard ball routine for characters Steve Austin and Oscar Goldman. In this episode, Dave taught Steve magic so he could go undercover as a magician to recover a stolen code book.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: The billiard ball starts in the classic palm position in the right hand as you show your left palm empty (Fig.1).



Fig. 1

As you sweep your right hand over your left hand, the left hand steals the ball and places it in the classic palm position as it rolls over, while the right hand rotates to reveal an empty palm (touching the back of both hands together). This sleight indicates that both hands are empty, and that nothing is hidden behind either hand or between the fingers (Fig. 2).

Next, the right hand turns over (so the back of the left hand is in the palm of the right hand). As the left hand rotates over, the palmed ball in the left hand is stolen and returned to the classic palm position in the

right hand, as the right fingers slide down the palm of the left hand to once again show that the left palm is empty (Fig. 3).

The left hand forms a loose fist as the right hand reaches into it and rolls the ball from the classic palm position to the fingertips, producing the first billiard ball (Fig. 4).

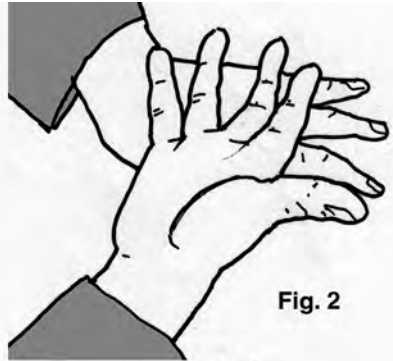


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

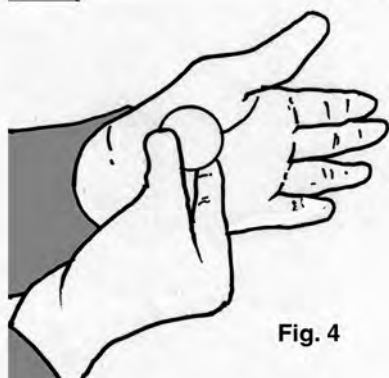


Fig. 4

The performer then performs a retention vanish and retains the ball in his right hand as he shows the front and back of his left hand to be empty.

As he presents his left palm as empty, he extends his right hand (with the classic palmed ball and the hand's back facing the audience) behind his left hand, turning it over and rolling the ball from the palmed position to his right fingertips for the reveal (Fig. 5).

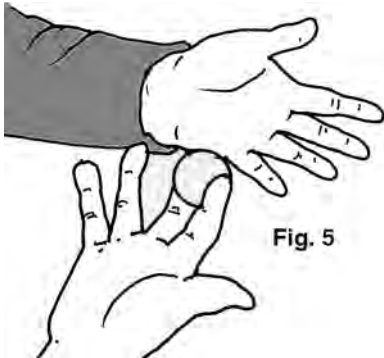


Fig. 5

The performer then places the ball atop his left fist and pretends to take it with his right hand (Figs. 6-7), but the ball actually drops into the left fist and a false take occurs with the right hand.

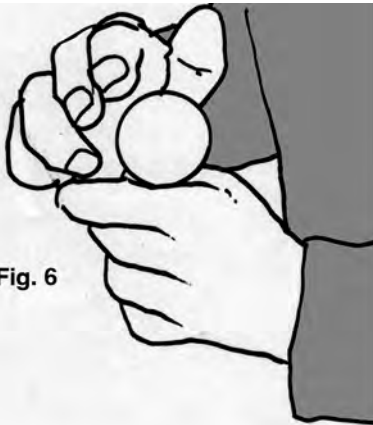


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

The performer pretends to place the ball into his mouth, as the left hand (with the palmed ball) assumes a natural position at the lapel (Fig. 8).

Next, the tongue is placed into each cheek in succession to indicate that the ball is being transferred between each cheek. The middle finger of the right hand is used to push the "ball" from the cheek into the center of his mouth (Fig. 9).



Fig. 8

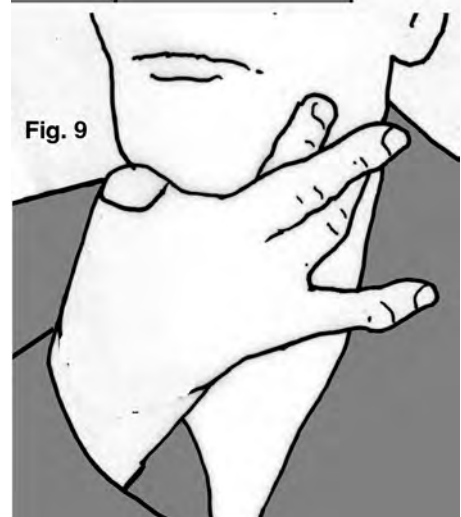
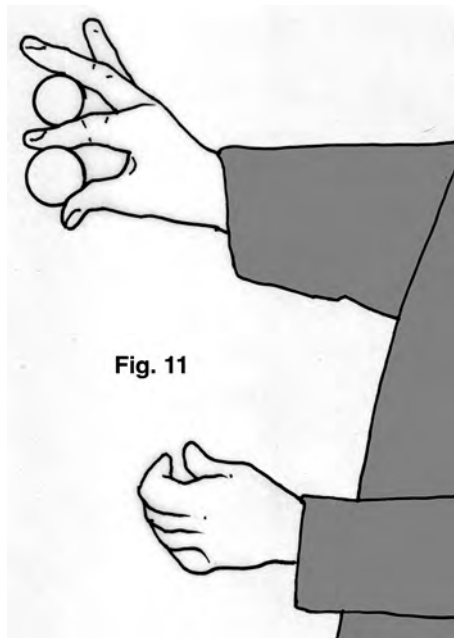


Fig. 9

The magician uses the fingers of the right hand to gesture that the ball traveled down his esophagus, then retrieves the ball at the beltline – in fact another billiard ball and shell (Fig. 10).



The performer then holds the ball and shell between the thumb and index finger of his right hand, producing the second billiard ball between the index and middle fingers (Fig. 11) by rolling the ball from the shell (held between the thumb and index fingers) with the middle finger.



The standard billiard ball production routine continues. However, due to the fact that I do not notice the performer transferring the ball between the index and middle fingers to the middle and ring fingers prior to producing the third ball between the index and middle fingers, it is my belief that the performer is rolling the ball from the thumb and index

finger, over the ball held by the index and middle fingers to between the middle and ring fingers. Later the ball between the index and middle fingers is transferred to between the ring and little fingers as the fourth ball is loaded into the shell. The final ball is then rolled from its shell to be produced from between the index and middle fingers.

To conclude the effect, all of the balls are simply put into the pocket.

I remember watching master magician Mark Wilson on television in my younger days. He starred and performed in the first network television magic show for CBS for two years, then moved to ABC for another two years. His wife Nani Darnell performed as his assistant.

SIMPLE TRICKS WITH GAFFED DECKS

The following three tricks use a double-backed deck, a 52-card force deck, and a double-backed deck that is red on one side and blue on the other. Additionally, you will need a double-faced card that is the same on both sides. The effects are simple to do and do not require any sleight-of-hand skills. However, I do recommend that you begin each effect by displaying a standard deck and have a spectator shuffle the cards and then secretly perform a deck switch. If you do the switch at the beginning, all actions will appear innocent and natural. Should you try a deck switch after you perform your miracles, the spectators will watch your actions more closely and you will likely fail to perform the switch when they demand to see the deck.

INSTANT REVERSED CARD

EFFECT: A spectator freely selects a card, shows it to the audience, and replaces it at any point within the deck. Instantly, the chosen card reverses itself in the deck.

REQUIREMENTS: You will need a double-backed deck, in which both sides are identical, and a selected force card from another deck with the same back design.

SET-UP: Place the regular card face down at the bottom of the double-backed deck. This will be your force card. Then, place the deck in its card case.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Withdraw the deck from its case and discard the case. Shuffle the cards using a standard shuffle or riffle shuffle, but ensure that you maintain the force card at the bottom of the deck. Next, perform a standard Hindu shuffle force and display the force card to your spectator. Turn that half of the deck over, slide off the bottom card, and hand it to the spectator to show the audience. Restore the deck, fan the cards, and allow the spectator to replace the card face down into the deck at any point within the “face-down” (since the entire deck is double-backed) deck. Distract the volunteer and audience by looking him or her straight in the eyes and subtly turn the deck over. Finally, ribbon spread the deck onto the table and reveal that the only reversed card in the deck is the selected card! For a more spectacular finish, toss the cards into the air and reveal that the only face-up card on the floor is the selected card. Of course, to ensure that the trick works as expected, you would need to force a double-face card (one in which the front face and the rear face are identical) onto the spectator.

AMBITIOUS CARD FOR THE NON-DEXTEROUS

EFFECT: A spectator freely selects a card from a fan of cards, shows it to the audience, and replaces it at any point within the deck. Instantly, the chosen card travels to the top of the deck. You may repeat this effect indefinitely with the same result.

REQUIREMENTS: You will need a 52-card force deck in which all 52 cards are the same. Have it readily available for your effect.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Withdraw the deck from its case and discard the case. Shuffle the cards using a standard shuffle or riffle shuffle. If you are feeling exceptionally bold, allow the spectator to shuffle the cards. Have the spectator select a card

from a fan of cards, show it to the audience, and replace it somewhere back into the middle of the deck. Square up the deck and reveal that the selected card has magically appeared at the top. You may now continue with a standard ambitious card routine without the use of any sleight-of-hand skills.

COLOR CONFUSION

EFFECT: A spectator freely selects a card from a red-backed deck, and replaces it face up at any point within the deck. With the wave of a handkerchief, the deck magically transforms into a blue-backed deck. When the deck is ribbon spread upon the table, the selected card remains face up within the now blue-backed deck.

REQUIREMENTS: You will need a double-backed deck in which one side is red and the other is blue. Additionally, you will need a regular face card with a back design that matches the red back of the double-backed deck, a double-faced card that is identical on both sides and is different from the regular card, a small piece of double-sided tape, and a pocket handkerchief or silk.

SET-UP: Place a small square of double-sided tape in the center of the regular face card and place this face up on the bottom of the red-blue deck with the red-backed side facing at the top of the deck. Gently (so that the cards do not stick together), place the double-faced card on top of the regular card and place them into the deck. Handle the cards and case to ensure that the weight of the deck does not cause the two cards to stick together.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Withdraw the deck from its case and discard the case. Next, perform a standard Hindu shuffle force and display the force card to your spectator. Turn that half of the deck over, slide off the bottom card (the double-facer) and place it on the table in front of the spectator. Casually allow the spectators to glimpse the next card (the regular face card with the invisible double-sided tape camouflaged on it) to convince them that it is a regular deck. Now, firmly place the two halves

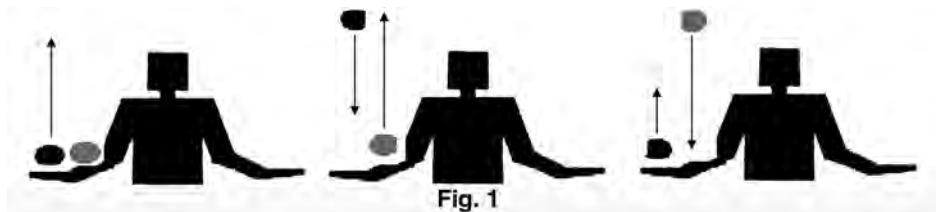
of the deck together, causing the regular card with the red back to adhere to the red back of the red-blue backed card in the lower half, merging them together as one card. Spread the red-backed sides of the cards to the spectator and instruct him to insert his selected card face up into the spread. Generally, the spectator at this point will assume that his selection is a normal card and not turn it over and reveal the double-faced card. After the

selected card is reinserted into the deck, close the spread and announce that his card is face up somewhere within the red deck. Momentarily distract your spectator or shake a silk in front of the deck while you secretly turn the deck over in your hand. To the spectator's surprise, the deck has now changed to blue and when it is ribbon spread upon the table, his selected card is still face up, but the color of the whole deck has changed to blue!

BALL JUGGLING AND TRICKS

JUGGLING TWO BALLS IN ONE HAND

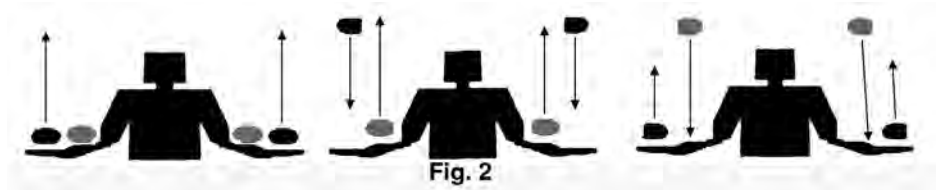
To juggle two balls in one hand, start with one ball held between the palm and ring and little finger, and the second ball held by your thumb, index, and middle fingers of your dominant hand. Throw the ball held by your thumb, index, and middle fingers straight up into the air. When this ball reaches its peak, shift the hand to the inside or outside of the balls' falling path (to prevent a mid-air collision) and throw the remaining ball into the air and catch the one that is falling. Repeat this cycle repeatedly until you choose to stop (Fig. 1).



Once you become proficient with two-ball juggling in your dominant hand, practice with the non-dominant hand until you obtain equal proficiency with both hands.

FOUR BALL JUGGLING

Four-ball juggling is two-ball juggling in the same hand done with both hands simultaneously. Try this trick with both hands throwing the ball in the hand to the outside of the falling balls' path (away from or outside the body), or to the inside of the falling balls' path (towards the center of the body). Additionally, you can experiment with different combinations of right hand inside or outside, and left hand inside or outside, to create interesting juggling patterns (Fig. 2).



JUGGLER'S TENNIS

Juggler's Tennis involves two similar balls thrown in a standard cascade fashion between your hands, while a third (dissimilar) ball is thrown back and forth "over the top" of the cascade.

To perform this trick, you will first need to become proficient at the two-ball cascade. Hold a ball in each hand, then throw one ball up in a small trajectory toward the other hand.

As that ball reaches its peak, throw the ball in your other hand up underneath it toward the hand that threw the first ball, catching each ball in the hand it was thrown toward. Repeat this technique, tossing the two balls in small trajectories toward the opposite hand, until you feel skilled at cascade juggling two balls (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

To juggle the third ball, hold the balls in the same starting position as the basic column juggle, with the unique ball held by the ring and little finger and palm. Now, begin the two-ball cascade, while the third ball passes back and forth between the hands in a large trajectory over the two balls juggled in a cascade fashion (Fig. 4).

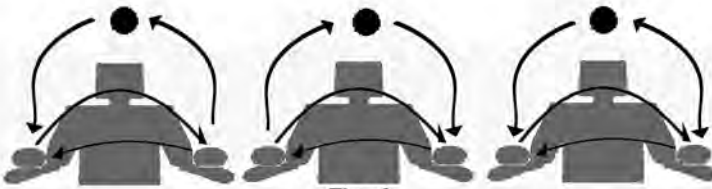


Fig. 4

FLASH

The Flash technique is merely a three-ball cascade, in which the performer tosses the desired ball into the air at a greater distance than the other two.

So that we can properly perform the following tricks, we shall revisit the basic three-ball cascade, which was presented in the July 2018 issue of *The Linking Ring*.

Begin with two balls in your dominant hand and one in your non-dominant hand. From your dominant hand, throw the first ball and wait for it to peak. Then throw the single ball in your non-dominant hand and allow the first ball thrown to land in your now-empty non-dominant hand. Once that second ball reaches its peak (from your non-dominant hand), throw the third ball from your dominant hand and catch the ball coming from your non-dominant hand. Continue the cycle. Each time a thrown ball reaches its peak, throw a ball from the other hand, which empties that hand to catch the ball in the air (Fig. 5).

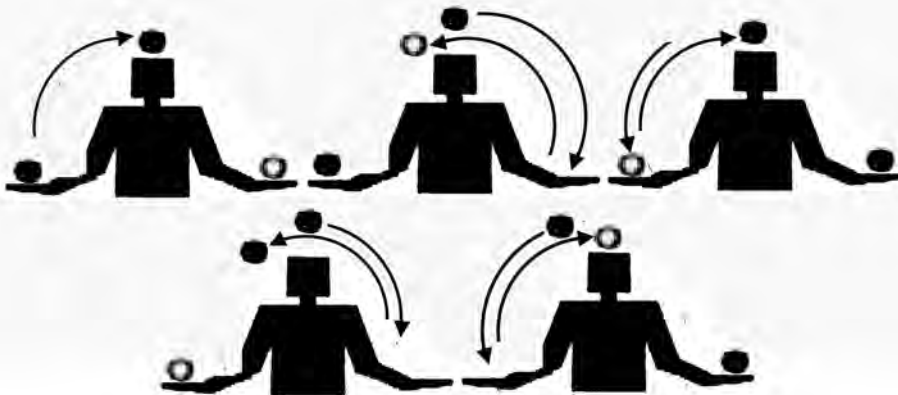


Fig. 5

To perform the Flash technique, simply mentally keep track of where each ball is located. Then, when an audience member calls out one of the colors of the balls, throw it upward with greater force to “flash” it to a greater height and resume the cascade.

ELBOW BOUNCES

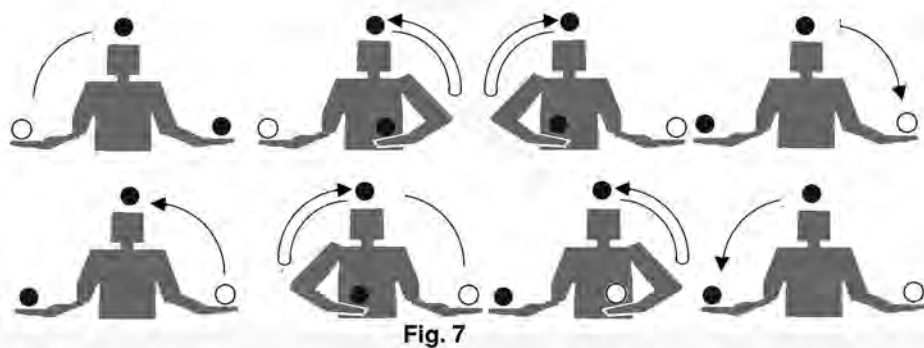
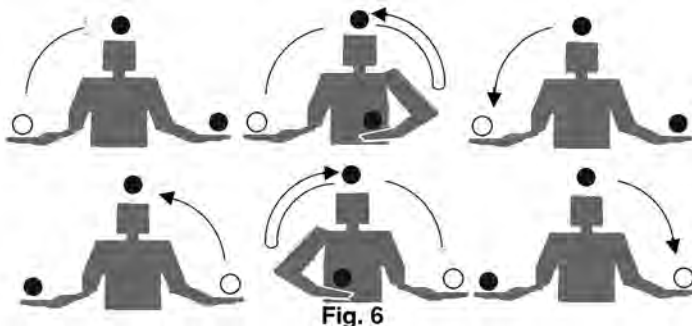
During the three-ball cascade, you will notice that you generally hold one ball in each hand while one is in the air. This particular arrangement allows the juggler to perform either the single elbow bounce or the double elbow bounce.

SINGLE ELBOW BOUNCE

Holding a ball in each hand, bounce the mid-air ball off either elbow and then allow it to re-enter the cascade (**Fig. 6**).

DOUBLE ELBOW BOUNCE

The most difficult three-ball trick I do! This trick is the same as the single elbow bounce, but the ball bounces off both elbows before re-entering the cascade (**Fig. 7**).



REVERSE CASCADE

The reverse cascade is identical to the three-ball cascade except that when the mid-air ball is at its peak, you always ensure that you toss the next ball above (“over the top”) of the current balls’ trajectory. This is in opposition to the regular cascade, where you always toss the next ball under the mid-air balls’ current trajectory.

BALLOON SCULPTURES

Balloon modelling, twisting, or sculpting is the shaping of special balloons into almost any given shape, typically a balloon animal. These balloon sculptures may be composed of a single balloon (single balloon modelling) or two or more balloons (multiple balloon modelling).

HISTORY: The exact origins of balloon modelling are unknown, and several figures have been credited as the first balloon twister. A 1975 book by Jolly the Clown credits “Herman Bonnert from Pennsylvania at a magician’s convention in 1939,” while Val Andrews, in *Manual of Balloon Modeling*, Vol. 1, credits H.J. Bonnert of Scranton, Pennsylvania as “the daddy of them all.” Jim Church III, however, claims that Frank Zacone from Youngstown, Ohio, was performing a balloon act during the 1940s and had been doing so for some time before that. Henry Maar has also been put forward as a candidate.

PERFORMANCE TIPS: The ability to create balloon animals can be a stand-alone performance, or it can be an alternate ending to any balloon trick or stunt (e.g., balloon swallowing, card or bill in balloon, needle through balloon). It is also possible to fold up your business card and place it inside the balloon so that when the sculpture deflates or pops after the show, the spectator will have your contact information to book you for a repeat performance.

It is possible to add detail to your balloon sculptures by using permanent markers to draw features (e.g., eyes, ears, mouth). Although black markers are standard, you can use a variety of colors to add character to your balloon sculptures.

CAUTION: After drawing on your sculptures, delay handing the sculpture to infants and allow the ink to dry first. Baby saliva has the potential to liquefy the ink and presents a potential health hazard!

BALLOON SIZES: Balloon sizes are identified by a number that represents the measurements of the inflated balloon. The

most common size of twisting balloon is a 260, which measures approximately 2 inches in diameter and 60 inches long when inflated. Another common balloon size is the 160, which is 1 inch by 60 inches when fully inflated.

It is not always necessary to purchase professional sculpture balloons. I have found that generic twisty balloons from any party store can do the job quite nicely. However, since their inflated length is much smaller, the sculpture is generally smaller and therefore more difficult to create than those using larger balloons.

HOW TO INFLATE BALLOONS:

Prepare each new balloon for even air distribution by taking an end in each hand and stretching it a couple of times. You may now inflate it by using either your mouth, a manual pump, or an automatic pump.

Inflation by mouth is ill advised, as it takes great lungpower to inflate the balloon. I have heard rumors (unsubstantiated, as far as I know) that people who blow up balloons by mouth suffer from flabby cheek muscles. In order to prevent this, you can apparently use your opposite hand (that which is not holding the balloon) to keep your cheeks from puffing out too far during inflation. I have never inflated a balloon by mouth, so I have little guidance to offer on this technique.

Manual balloon pumps are, in my opinion, the best choice for the inflation of twisting balloons. You may purchase balloon pumps inexpensively at party stores and are readily available. The pumps can be classified as single action (where each inward push of the handle adds to the inflation of the balloon), or double action (where each inward or outward pull adds to the inflation of the balloon).

To use these pumps, merely pull the nozzle of the balloon around the nozzle of the pump and hold it in place. Then use the other hand to pump the balloon to the desired size. Finally, pinch the balloon above the pumps’ nozzle (to prevent the escape of air), pull the balloon from the pump, and tie the nozzle to trap the air within the balloon. I have no familiarity with

the automatic inflation pump, but I understand that they use batteries and inflate the balloon with a single button press or foot pedal.

Since each twist of the inflated balloon forces air into the uninflated portion, this section must be large enough to accommodate the displaced air. If there is insufficient air displacement space, the individual sections between the twists may over inflate to the point of bursting! Typically, leaving 6 to 8 inches of the end of the balloon uninflated should be sufficient for most figures. Practicing and experimenting each figure will help you learn how much to inflate the balloon for different applications.

TYING THE BALLOON: Pinch the nozzle end of the inflated balloon between the thumb and middle finger of the left hand with the balloon pointing upward.

Grab the nozzle between the thumb and index finger of the right hand. Stretch the balloon nozzle outward and wrap it clockwise around the tips of the index and middle fingers of the left hand. Spread out the fingers of the left hand and tuck the nozzle between the left index and middle fingers. Grab the nozzle again after it passes between the fingers and continue to hold it with the right thumb and index finger while the left fingers slip from the loop.

Alternately, you can twist the nozzle around your left thumb to create a loop, tuck the nozzle under the loop, and pull it through.

MONEY-SAVING TIP: In order to create each sculpture effectively and efficiently during a performance, it would be necessary to reconstruct the same figure several times during practice. Instead of reaching for a new balloon each time, you will find that you can carefully untwist the balloon, reshape the balloon with your hands, and attempt the same sculpture again with the same balloon.

BASIC TWISTS

While making all locks and twists, hold the balloon lightly with your non-dominant hand at the nozzle end while your dominant hand twists toward the uninflated end. This

ensures the air is displaced toward the non-inflated end, opposite the nozzle.

THE LOCK TWIST: Each series of bubbles must be secured in place by a lock twist to keep it from unraveling. To practice a simple lock twist, first make a single bubble (using a basic twist, generally three to four twists are sufficient), approximately 1 inch long as shown in **Figure 1**.

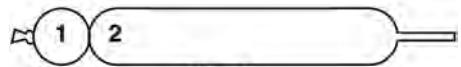


Fig. 1

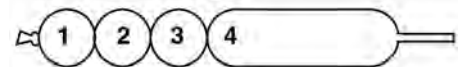


Fig. 2

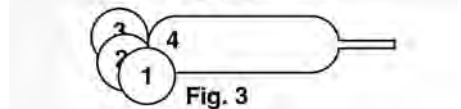


Fig. 3

Then, while securing the bubbles within your palm, twist two additional bubbles of equal size (bubbles #2 and #3 do not need to be the same size as bubble 1), as shown in **Figure 2**.

Next, fold over bubbles #2 and #3 and extend slightly (to minimize friction and aid in twisting) while twisting bubbles #1 and #4 together, as illustrated in **Figure 3**.

TULIP TWIST: Hold the inflated balloon in your left hand with the knot pointing to the left. Now, with the index finger of your right hand, push the knot inside the balloon (**Fig. 1**).

Use your left hand to pinch the sides of the balloon to grasp the inner knot and withdraw your right index finger. Then, with the right hand, twist the end three to four times to secure the knot within the main body of the balloon. **Figure 2** displays the completed tulip twist.

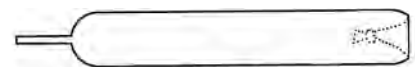


Fig. 1

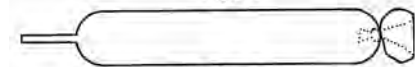
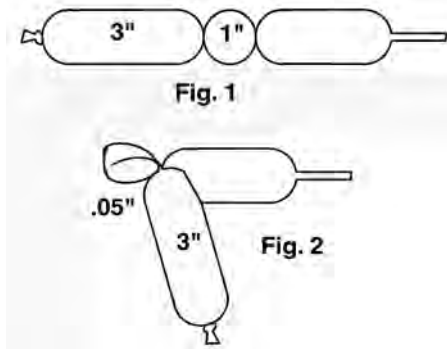


Fig. 2

BASIC BALLOON SCULPTURES

PINCH TWIST: Hold the inflated balloon in your left hand with the uninflated end pointing to the right. Now, create a 3-inch bubble and a 1-inch bubble (**Fig. 1**).

Fold the 1-inch bubble in half and twist the two ends together (**Fig. 2**).



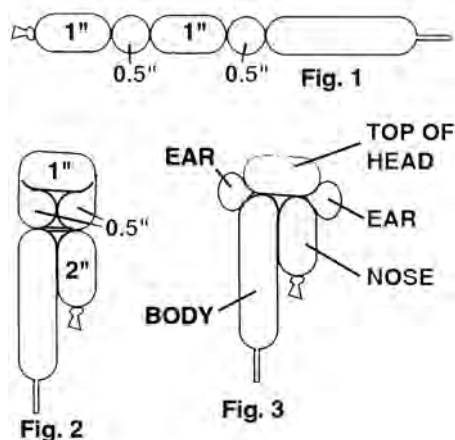
THREE-BUBBLE PINCH TWIST SERIES

The three-bubble pinch twist typically forms the head and ears of different animals.

CONSTRUCTION: Hold the inflated balloon in your left hand with the uninflated end pointing to the right. Now, form a chain with a 1-inch bubble, a 1/2-inch bubble, a 1-inch bubble, and a 1/2-inch bubble (**Fig. 1**).

Lock twist the two 1/2-inch bubbles in place (**Fig. 2**).

Finally, pinch twist the two 1/2-inch bubbles to create the ears (**Fig. 3**).

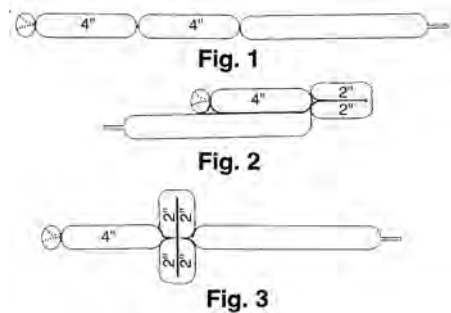


BASIC SWORD

CONSTRUCTION: Inflate the balloon, leaving 2 inches uninflated, and tie off the nozzle. Then, perform a tulip twist 1 inch from the end. From the tulip twist, measure up 4 inches to form the handle. Then make a 4-inch bubble (**Fig. 1**).

Then, fold the 4-inch bubble in half and perform a lock twist to secure the first segment of the hand guard (**Fig. 2**).

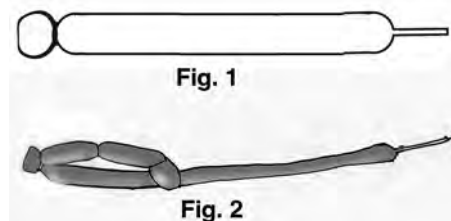
Repeat the actions shown in **Figures 1** and **2** one to three additional times to complete the basic sword with two to four hand guard protrusions. **Figure 3** shows a two-dimensional sword with two hand guard protrusions.



SABER

The saber represents the type of sword used by the light cavalry of the early modern and Napoleonic periods. A curved blade and a hand and knuckle guard characterize this sword.

CONSTRUCTION: Inflate the balloon for the blade and handle, leaving a small portion at the tip uninflated, and tie off the nozzle. Then, perform a tulip twist 1 inch from the end to form the pommel (**Fig. 1**).



Next, inflate another balloon to a much lesser degree and wrap its center around the blade approximately 6 inches above the

pommel. This balloon will form the hand and knuckle guard. Twist this balloon at a point close to the blade balloon to form the hand guard. Now create one or more additional bubbles down the length of this balloon to form the knuckle guard. Finally, tie the nozzle of this balloon to the uninflated tip end and twist the remaining tip around the pommel connection to complete the saber (Fig. 2).

BALLOON SWORD TRICKS

Using a balloon sword to perform a trick is more unique and kid friendly than using a real sword.

BALLOON SWORD SWALLOWING:

Instead of swallowing a real blade, swallow the blade of a balloon sword! While standing, tilt your head back and open your mouth wide. Now, place one hand over your lower lips (to conceal the secret) and use the other hand to slowly lower the balloon sword down your throat. Then, mark the spot with your hand to indicate how deeply the “sword” has travelled down your throat. Finally, withdraw the “sword” and indicate (by your hand placement) how much of the “blade” you actually swallowed.

The secret to this trick is that you do not actually swallow the “blade.” As you lower the “blade” down your throat, you are actually compressing it against your tongue. As you continually lower the “blade,” its diameter will unnoticeably increase before the eyes of the spectators. Should you wish to appear to swallow even more of the sword, you can bend the “blade” in a zig-zag fashion (this takes practice) against your tongue. Finally, you slide your marking hand even more toward the guard after you withdraw the sword to give the illusion that even more of the blade has been swallowed.

BUNNY RABBIT

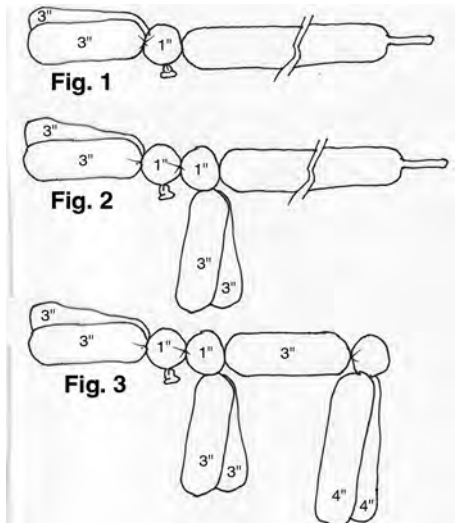
Continuing with the notion of incorporating balloon twisting into a magic act, you can either twist a balloon rabbit before the eyes of the spectators, or produce one from a hat (most likely with the aid of table loads).

CONSTRUCTION: Inflate the balloon,

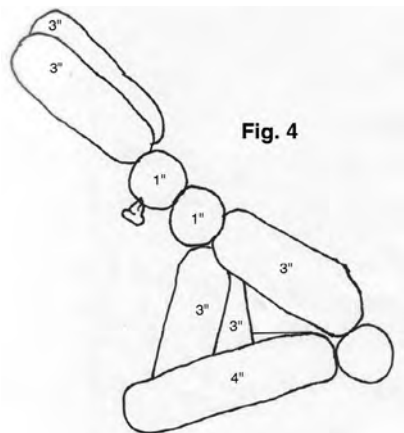
leaving 3 inches uninflated, and tie off the nozzle. Holding the balloon in your left hand (if you’re left handed, hold it in your right hand), form a 1-inch bubble for the head and two 3-inch bubbles for the ears, then lock twist them in place (Fig. 1).

Next, form a 1-inch bubble for the neck and two 2-inch bubbles for the front legs, then lock twist them into place (Fig. 2).

Next, form a 3-inch bubble for the body and two 4-inch bubbles for the hind legs. Lock the hind legs in place with a lock twist. Leave a small bubble at the end to serve as the figure’s tail (Fig. 3).



To set the figure in a sitting position, wedge the hind legs between the front legs (Fig. 4).



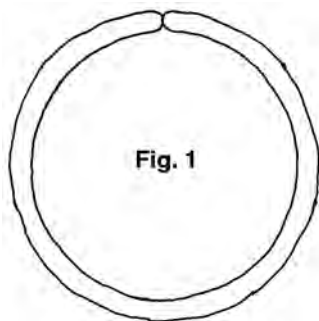
OTHER SCULPTURES

Although the remaining sculptures are not generally associated with magic (with the exception of kid shows), they are among the most popular figures requested by your spectators and should be in every balloon-twister's routine.

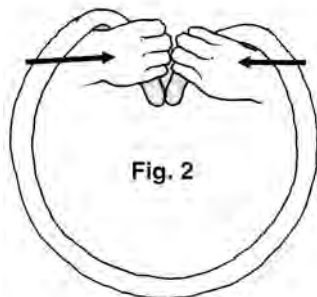
HEART

The heart is a simple figure to construct and may be used with the teddy bear to create a multiple-balloon figure of a teddy bear clinging to a heart.

CONSTRUCTION: Inflate a balloon until only a small section at the tip remains uninflated and tie it off. Then tie the uninflated tip onto the nozzle to form a simple circle (Fig. 1).

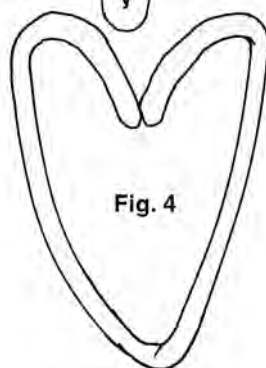
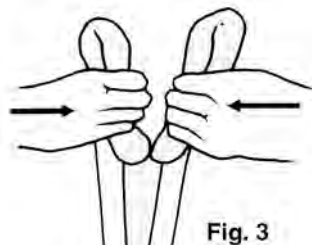


Now, fold the top of the circle down to a point approximately one quarter of the diameter. Take a portion of the balloon in each hand and squeeze, compressing this inner portion in and out with your hands several times (Fig. 2).



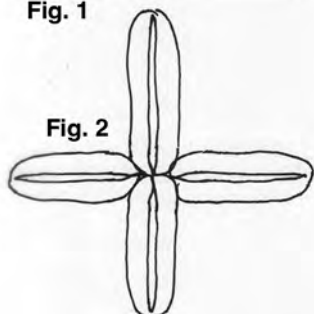
Then, grasp an inner loop and outer loop in each hand and compress the figure together, in and out, several times (Fig. 3).

The distorted figure then takes the shape of a classic heart (Fig. 4).



PALM TREE

CONSTRUCTION: Inflate a green balloon until only a small tip remains uninflated and tie it off. Now, form a circular balloon (as done previously for the heart) and twist the end (with the nozzle tied to the tip) to the opposite end of the balloon to form a figure of eight shape (Fig. 1).



Secure this shape under your armpit or another structure to prevent it from untwisting. Repeat the same procedure for a second green balloon and twist them together to form the palm leaves (Fig. 2).

For the tree, inflate a brown balloon and twist the uninflated tip into the junction of the two palm-leaf balloons. If you want your tree to have a base, twist two to three large bubbles and lock twist them into place (Fig. 3).

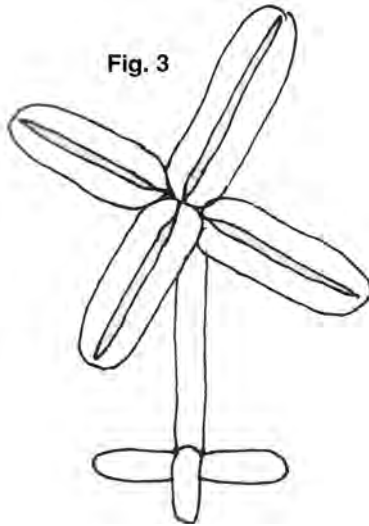


Fig. 3

TEDDY BEAR

CONSTRUCTION: Inflate the balloon, leaving 6 inches uninflated, and tie off the nozzle. Holding the balloon in your left hand, form a chain of bubbles as follows: 3 inches, 1 inch, 1/2 inch, 1.5 inches, 1/2 inch, and 1 inch. Then, lock twist the two 1-inch bubbles at the base (Fig. 1).

Form a 2-inch bubble in the 3-inch bubble and tuck the nozzle end, which forms the nose, through the 5-bubble loop forming the head. Then, lock the nose in place by performing pinch twists on the two 1/2-inch bubbles that form the ears (Fig. 2).

Now form a 1-inch bubble (neck), a 3-inch bubble (front of arm), a 1-inch bubble (paw), and a 3-inch bubble (back of arm), as shown in Figure 3.

Twist the bottom of the back-of-arm bubble onto the lower part of the neck bubble, and pinch twist the paw bubble to form one

of the arms. Then repeat the same procedure to create the other arm (Fig. 4).

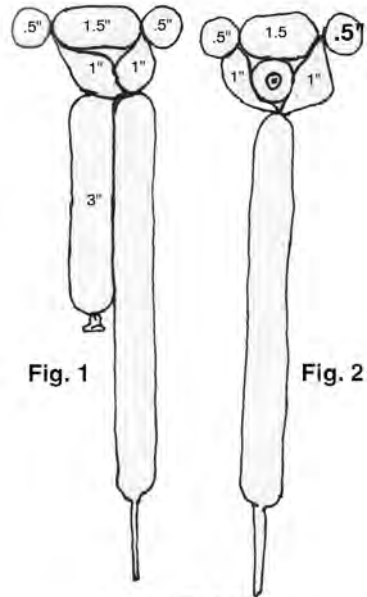


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

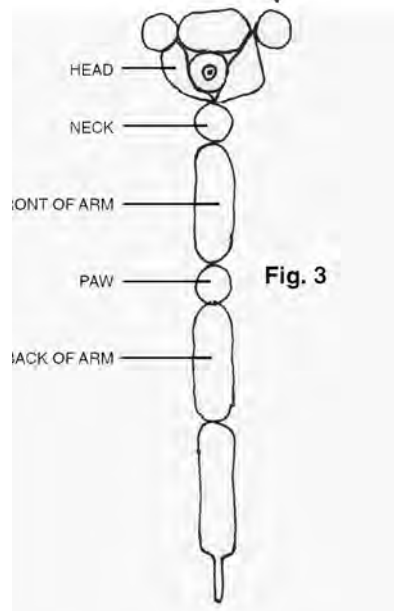


Fig. 3

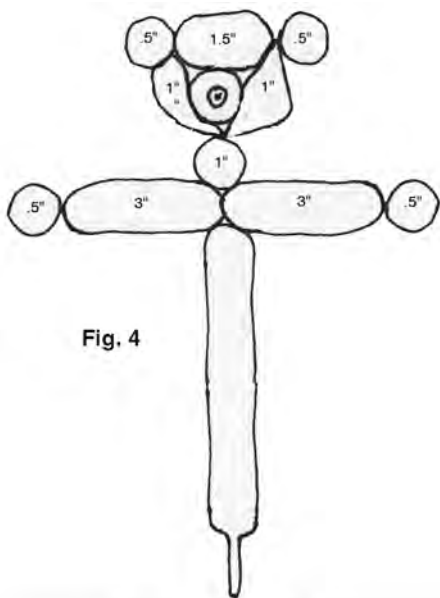


Fig. 4

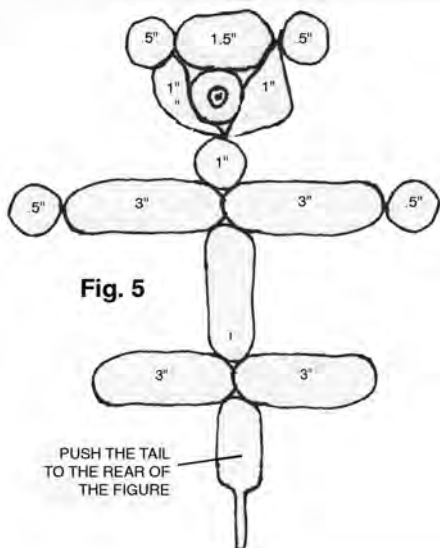


Fig. 5

TWO BALLOON FIGURES

It is possible to create a two-balloon figure of a teddy bear hugging a palm tree or a heart by modifying the teddy bear sculpture.

CONSTRUCTION: First, create the heart or palm-tree figure. Then, create the head and neck twists for the teddy bear. Wrap the teddy bear balloon around the heart/palm tree, then twist the teddy bear balloon several times at the midpoint of the inside portion of the heart to form one arm (Fig. 1).

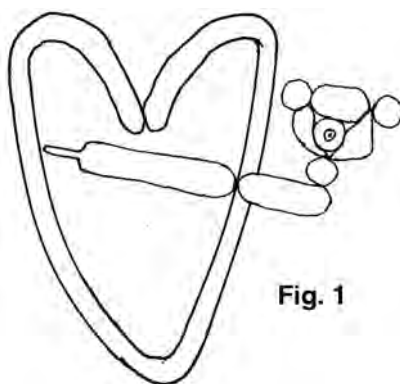


Fig. 1

Continue wrapping the teddy bear balloon around the heart and lock twist the balloon into the neck to form the other arm (Fig. 2).

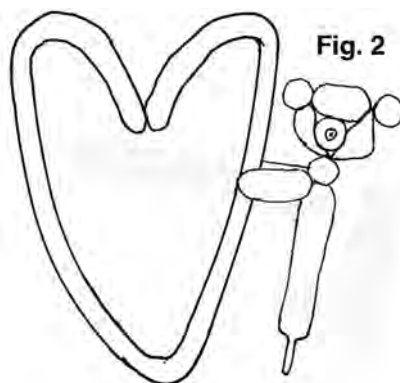


Fig. 2

Finally, repeat the procedure for the legs. The final sculpture represents a teddy bear hugging a heart or clinging to a palm tree (Fig. 3).

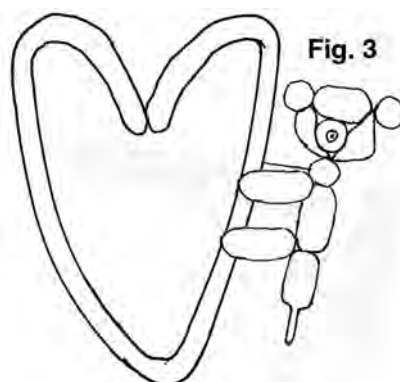


Fig. 3

Send comments and appreciations to:

Mike Stelzer

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Parade Bonus

HINDU SHUFFLE GLIDE

By Ian Baxter

For those readers who expressed interest in my Hindu Shuffle Scrapbook in the March issue, this unexpected entry should prove of interest.

The Glide, that ancient sleight originally used for exchanging one card for another, has not always been popular. It is unwieldy and even when performed by the experts, flags suspicion. The action calls for fingers of the left hand to fold under the deck and glide the bottom card out of sight as the right fingers extract the second bottom card.

Personally, I have never been keen on the Glide, chiefly because it is very difficult to get away with. The same goes for variations that have cropped up over the years, including my own bash published in *The Linking Ring*, October 1969.

Checking through the entries of the Scrapbook just recently, I chanced on this idea – a handling of the Glide that incorporates The Hindu Shuffle. Entry (3) in the Scrapbook is Bottom Card to Top and this is the starting point. If your copy of the March issue is at hand, turn to page 95.

With the deck in left hand ready to start the Shuffle, right hand positioned above as usual, ensure right third finger is at the extreme inner right corner of the deck; most important.

Meanwhile, your left hand is holding the deck from beneath in the customary grip, with left fourth (little) finger curled inwards, resting against the underside of the deck. The almost-flat portion between the two knuckles of the fourth finger contact the bottom card and with very little effort, you can slide the bottom card towards you about half an inch. Check **Fig. 3** and **Fig. 4** on page 95 of *The Linking Ring*, where Tony Dunn's superb illustrations clearly show what is happening.

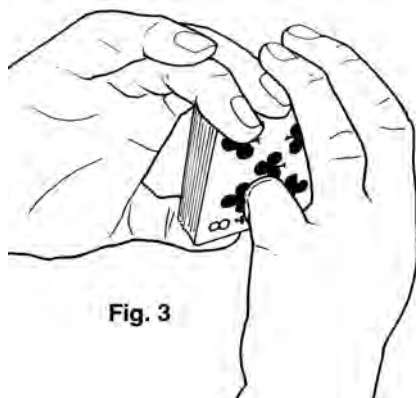


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

This is the Ceiling In-jog, so named by me in the Scrapbook because its out-of-sight placement suggests the underside of a roof.

Right third fingertip maintains contact at the inner right corner with right thumb on the opposite side. Protruding bottom card remains firmly gripped.

Now for the action: Right hand remains poised holding the deck parallel to the floor, left first and second fingertips reaching beneath from the front, *sliding out the second bottom card*. Left thumb assists as the face-down card is withdrawn and casually dropped to the table.

And that is all there is to it – you have just executed the Hindu Shuffle Glide.

Continuation is just as easy with left thumb, first and second fingertips repeating the action, one card after another for as long as required. To produce the glided card, just as in the old version, right fourth finger at the rear of the deck simply pushes the card in until it is flush. It is now ready for withdrawal as previous cards were. Once you try this out for yourself, the advantages become obvious:

The method of holding onto the deck will not arouse suspicion because there are no transfers from one hand to the other. You are simply maintaining the same hold in your right hand, following the Shuffle.

No more folding of two or three left fingers under the deck as you prepare for the glide action. The out-of-sight Ceiling In-jog does the work for you.

Once the Hindu Shuffle Glide has finished, you can recommence the Shuffle, without the need to reposition the deck in any way.

Before closing, I would like to share a little background.

Mentioned in the Scrapbook was the fact that I started out in card magic back in 1961.

In January of that year, at just fourteen years of age, I was admitted to a local club, The Magic Circle of Victoria. Almost overnight, I found myself captivated by sleight of hand, particularly with cards. An elderly member noticed my immediate interest and offered to help. His name was Jack McGlone and we became friends immediately. Over the years that followed, Jack never once failed to assist me with various sleights, moves and tricks, along with recommending enough reading matter to choke a horse! The Hindu Shuffle was among the early sleights that Jack encouraged me to learn.

A touch of humor is in evidence here: Sixty-five years have passed and now, this new approach to the Glide pops up. I can almost hear the pundits chuckling in the background: "This goes to prove what a slow thinker Baxter is. It has taken him over six decades to come up with a new approach to the Glide, so what on earth is he going to dream up next?"

Your guess is as good as mine!

Send comments and appreciations to:

Ian Baxter

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Magic and Memories – from page 63

home – came out of our dryer wrinkled *every single time*. Further ironing never helped. The wrinkles were permanent, ruining the slacks. We eventually tossed all five pairs in the trash. I went another thirty years before daring to wash my clothes again while on tour, and that time – I was in the United Kingdom – I had two people helping me!

You see, I learned lots of unexpected things from those lecture tours. One of them was that David Ginn is not a laundry man, nor an Ironman.

Most of you may never know what it takes to set up, present, and live through such a crazy schedule. When I look back on it now, as well as all the others, I marvel at how I did it. You couldn't pay me any amount of money to tackle such a thing again. I'm forty-eight years older, you see, and tours are for the young and adventurous — *and those who are maybe a little crazy!*





This month's contribution comes from Kevin Casaretto. Kevin, who hails from the "land down under" also known as Australia, has been a good friend to Card Corner. He has previously contributed to the January 2019, March 2023, and December 2024 columns.

This month we have "Missing Mate," a technically easy prediction effect with a novel twist. You can see a video performance of the routine at www.mallofmagic.com/card-corner. Just scroll down.

Missing Mate

By Kevin Casaretto

EFFECT: The magician removes three cards from a blue deck and sets them aside face down. These are "prediction cards." The spectator then shuffles a red deck and removes three cards, which remain face down. The magician asks the spectator to make a final decision and select one of the three. This card remains face down as the magician then shows the faces of the two rejected cards.

The blue prediction cards are shown to be the Two of Spades, the Two of Diamonds and the Two of Clubs. When the red selection is turned over it is found to be the 2H, the only two missing from the collection of blue twos.

SET-UP: Let's say your working deck has blue backs. You'll need another deck of contrasting color. Let's say it's a deck with red backs. Remove the 2H from the red deck and put it into the blue card box so that its back shows when the card box is opened. Remove the small flaps and tuck the big flap into the box. Now insert the blue deck over the flap so that the flap traps the red-backed 2H against the back of the box. There should be plenty of room for the blue deck.

It's best if you position the other deuces

(2S, 2D, 2C) on top of the red deck. It will be better if they are not among the three cards the spectator removes from that deck.

PROCEDURE: Remove the blue-backed deck from the box, leaving the red-backed 2H in the box. Be sure the flap covers enough of the surface of the card that no one will notice the card in the box. Leave the box on the table with the opening toward you (**Fig. 1**).



Fig. 1

When you're ready to perform "Missing Mate," explain that you're going to remove three prediction cards from the deck. Spread the cards toward yourself and upjog the 2D, 2S, and 2C (all the deuces except the 2H). Strip them out and drop them on the table face down. Say, "These cards will make sense shortly. They will predict the future. I'm going to put them into the card box so that I can't change anything."

Place the blue deck aside, face down. Now square up the three deuces and slide them into the card box face down on top of the 2H. Since the flap is partially inside the box, you can slide the three cards over the flap (**Fig. 2**) and then pull the flap free, finally reinserting it.

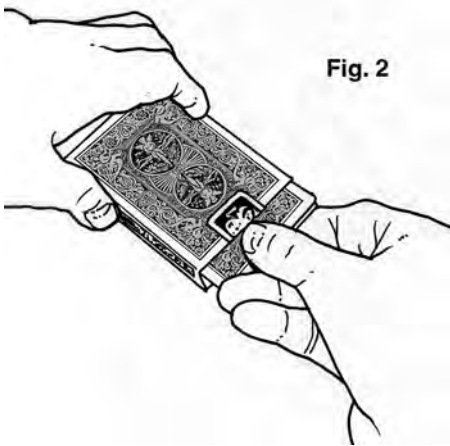


Fig. 2

Introduce the red deck and spread the cards face up so that the spectators can see a random mixture of cards. Give the deck a shuffle or two that keeps the three deuces on top. Spread the deck face down either on the table or in your hands. Say, "Please remove three cards from the middle of the deck and place them on the table face down without looking at them." Should the spectator begin to take one of the deuces, say "Don't make it easy for me. Take one from the middle." It's not important that they don't take a deuce. It's just a bit better when there aren't any deuces in that group.

Continue, "We're going to narrow this down to just one card." Separate the three cards (**Fig. 3**) and have the spectator select one of the three as her "final choice." Push the selected card forward and take the other two cards, one in each hand. Show their faces and name the cards (**Fig. 4**). In this case you'd say, "You rejected the JH and the 9D." Square the two cards face down and slide them under the unseen card and drop the three cards, loosely squared, in front of you.



Fig. 3

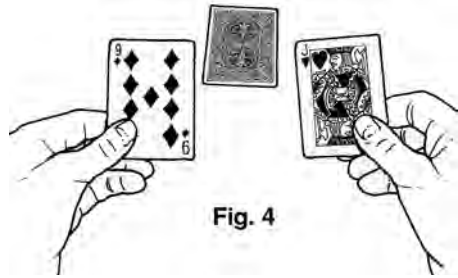


Fig. 4

Open the flap of the blue box and remove the four (as three) cards. Be careful not to flash any red. Spread the four, as three, between your hands, keeping the bottom two cards as one. Three blue backs show as they should. Square up the cards and drop them onto the three red cards and then pick up all seven (as six) cards in left-hand dealing position.

Say, "The three blue-backed cards were put aside before we even saw the red deck. I think you'll find this interesting." Turn the top card face up and drop it on the table as you name the card. Do the same with the next two cards. The pattern will be clear. You just dealt three of the four deuces onto the table. You now are holding four red-backed cards as three. Remove the top card and table it face down next to the three face-up deuces (**Fig. 5**).

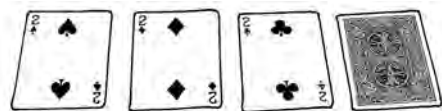
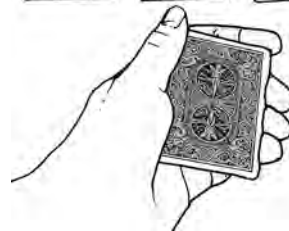


Fig. 5



Now flip the three cards in your hand face up, being careful not to reveal that you actu-

ally have three cards. Spread the three as two, keeping the bottom two cards as one. Say, "These are the two selections that you rejected, the JH and the 9D." Square up the cards and drop them face down onto the red deck.

The spectators should be anticipating the ending. They are thinking, "If my selection is the 2H I'm going to be blown away. That's not possible. My selections were free choices."

Say, "I was hoping you'd select the card that completes the set. That would be the 2H. Let's see what you did."

Lift the inner short edge of the red backed card as though you didn't know what it was. Look up at the spectator. Pause and then let the card fall face up for the big ending (Fig. 6).

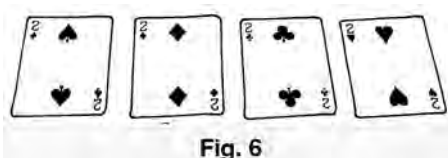


Fig. 6

FINAL THOUGHTS: Kevin uses a different way to get the red-backed card into play. He puts the blue-backed 2D, 2S, and 2C along with a red-backed 2H into a card wallet or small envelope. He then uses a red-backed deck as his working deck. When he's ready to perform "Missing Mate," he makes sure the 2H is on top of the red deck so it's not chosen. He then has the spec remove three selections, which are tabled face down. He now introduces the card wallet and proceeds as described above.

I prefer openly removing the deuces at the outset and putting them into the card box. I think that approach hides the method more effectively. Of course, this method requires the use of two decks. So, you may want to use Kevin's method to avoid the extra complexity of needing two decks.

Mike Powers

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Marketing Magic – from page 67

it looks like magic if you don't know the secret. As magicians, we tend to think that distinction is important. Harry Houdini, the most famous magician of all time, devoted much of his later life to exposing fake Spiritualist mediums who used magic tricks and pretended they were real. James Randi won a MacArthur Foundation grant for doing much the same thing.

But not all magicians are in favor of this extreme non-belief. We don't like it when people use magic tricks to literally trick people out of their money, but that doesn't mean that all interests in the supernatural are immoral, illegal, or fattening.

I like what Joseph Dunninger said: "For those who believe, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not believe, no explanation will suffice."

Here's What I Think

I fell in love with conjuring, the art of magic performance, more than seventy-five years ago, but I don't typically call it "conjuring." I call it "MAGIC!"

I never met Doug Henning, but I saw all of his television shows and read about him in all of the magician magazines. I loved his insistence on providing a sense of wonder. That sense of wonder is desperately needed in today's world.

I believe in magic. Every day I see things that I don't understand. Things that amaze me. Things that inspire me. Things that make me proud to be in love with magic.

What does "magic" mean to you? (And do you believe in magic?)

"The magic don't work if you don't believe."

The Bottom Line

Share your stories and ideas: *kent@kentcummins.com*.

Listen to *Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center* at *www.fantasticmagiccenter.com*. There is a new episode every Monday morning, 8:00 a.m. Central Standard Time. Check out my latest book, *I Want to Be Like HOUDINI!* at *www.likehoudini.com*.



Auto-magic

MICHAEL BREGGAR

Hello again, A-M Whizzes and Wizards. I am going to take a bit of an introspective turn this month. I've mentioned many times in this column that I maintain lots of notebooks to jot down ideas, thoughts, routines, tricks, works in progress, and cool stuff I have read in magic books and classic magic magazines. I thought it might be fun to occasionally share some of these bits and pieces with you. Sort of like Milbourne Christopher's column in the legendary *Hugard's Magic Monthly*.

We'll start with a sampling here. Let me know what you think. If you like this concept, we can revisit the notebooks a few times every year!

CORRECTION – APRIL 2026: *Before we jump into the ol' spiral-bound bounty, there's one thing to clear up. In the April 2026 issue, I wrote a really fun piece called "Obedience." Very nice to know how much many of you loved the trick! Not as nice was an egregious omission! I missed the placement of the Ace of Spades in the description of the set-up! I am already lashing myself with a collapsible wand for this oversight. The seventh card in the set-up should be the AS. It will sit between the Ace of Clubs and the King of Spades. Aha! Now, the trick will work as advertised! "Obedience" really is a great trick and so much fun to perform. If you can do a false shuffle or cut before you start, your audience will be even more stunned.*

Auto-Notes for June 2026

I recently returned from the prestigious FFFF Magic Convention – also known as 4F or Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolics – in Buffalo, New York. Just like our annual I.B.M.

Convention, the most magical moments happen away from the stages and lectures, usually in the casual sessions and hangouts with magical friends both old and new. Magicians we love and respect are always approachable and love sharing their ideas. Moral of the story: Attend these conventions, keep an open mind, and share as much as you'd like others to share with you.

While there, I was lucky enough to spend some quality time with the amazing Bernardo Sedlecek and the incomparable Christian Grace. They patiently watched me perform my work-in-progress effect "Oil and Water," then showered me with fantastic insights and notes. They also melted my brain into cream cheese by performing a few tricks of their own.

I am bringing this up because I think there is an important lesson to be learned here. My magic education was instilled by the techniques and tricks I learned in the latter part of the twentieth century. While my routines are current, the *texture* of these routines has been clearly shaped by the magicians and magic of the era in which I was first educated. Bernardo and Christian, while performing classic card-magic plots, have developed a very, very contemporary style. It's fast and personal, amazingly profound, and magical.

While the techniques I use and the techniques they use are cut from the same cloth, their style is far more modern. And they really, truly care about the reactions and feelings of their audience members. Dani DeOrtiz, among many others, falls into this same ilk. How they adorn psychological strategies to deepen the mystery is ingenious.

To see an example, check out Bill Malone

and the late Aldo Columbini's performance of "Oil and Water." It is a masterful, jaw-dropping, and beautiful experience. Then, go search out Christian, Bernardo, or Dani's versions. They are equally jaw-dropping, but psychologically devastating, too – *oil and water*, indeed!

While mentioning Christian Grace, I would strongly urge every reader of "Auto-Magic" to run to Christian's website www.magicmonthly.store. You will find literally hundreds of free videos and downloads, as well as fantastic monthly and quarterly subscription plans that provide deep access to all this material and very detailed tutelage. The effects and routines are striking and relatively easy to execute.

It's the structure and performance you will learn that makes all the difference in the world. Trust me on this one, folks. I also recommend viewing Bernardo's various commercial videos and downloads at his website www.bernardosedlacek.com.

* * *

This year at FFFF, I picked up a "tube" of Card-Shark's brand-new Science Friction Stick. Yes, it is a solid stick version of their fabulous Science Friction Spray. Let me tell you, it is well worth buying. Whatever you can imagine doing with the spray (or any other "roughing stick"), you can do faster, better, and with less mess by using this stick. Do check it out!

* * *

Eric Jones is feeling much better and looked great at FFFF. He told me he is working on a new concept around the linking finger rings plot. Serendipitously, I have become obsessed with the linking finger rings (using and not using the gaffed Humber-style rings). Nick Lewin's "Ultimate Linking Finger Rings" has become my new standard. Amazing, breezy, funny, and astonishing don't come close to describing Nick's version, which is based on Ken Brooke's version. You can check it out on Nick's website at www.nicklewin.com.

* * *

I was honored to participate in the Pat Page Memorial Teach-a-Trick session at

FFFF this year. I performed and taught "Chips Ahoy." This cool little piece of Auto-Magic miracle-izing was introduced to I.B.M. members in this very column of the April 2025 issue!

A volunteer is "shown" three invisible casino chips. One is from a seedy, old casino north of downtown Las Vegas. It is a black chip worth \$100. Next is a green chip worth \$25, from a now-defunct casino in Atlantic City. The invisible third chip "displayed" is from an elegant casino in Montenegro and is valued at €5. Your helper carefully considers each of the three invisible chips laid out in an invisible row on an invisible table. They pick it up and place it in their cupped hand (you don't want it to fall out, do you?). You now clean off the display table and put the unselected chips back in your pockets. Finally, you place a hand over the volunteer's cupped hand. The helper's other hand goes on top of yours and your loose hand is placed underneath. Your subject is then asked to imagine the invisible chip she just selected in every detail: color, value, weight, etc. You begin a slow shaking action of the hands. Moments later, the spectator begins to *feel* something materializing in the palm of her hand. Hands are unfurled and sitting right there in the middle of your helper's palm is the exact casino chip she was merely *imagining*.

The DNA of this effect traces back to Tomoyuki Takahashi's "Fading Coin" from the May 2000 issue of *Genii* magazine. Eugene Burger did some fabulous work on it (check out his videos *Exploring Magical Presentations* and the *Penguin Live* series). Jon Racherbaumer also played around with the idea in the December 2016 issue of *Genii*. Personally, I think using gaming chips instead of coins makes all the difference in the world and gives me a really nice presentational hook to play with. It has become an "everyday carry" item for me and seems to blow 'em away. I never realized what an impact this simple, little trick could have. But I have learned people feel *empowered* by the routine. A real, live reminder as to why magic is still so important and relevant in

this day and age. Magicians have a gift and a responsibility to share this gift with others. Making their day and giving them a surprising uplift is one of the most gratifying things you can do.

I've made a few minor changes to the handling of "Chips Ahoy" since it was published in *The Linking Ring* last year. Mostly around consistently showing your hands

empty until the very end when you must palm the appropriately named chip. I also changed the patter slightly to psychologically strengthen the overall effect. You can also find this little wonder in my new book *Know Brainer*. (Now released! You *knew* I was gonna sneak in a plug!)

Auto-Noted at

mbreggarmagic@gmail.com.

BAMBOOZLERS

Diamond Jim Tyler

DATE REVELATION

GAG: A date is mysteriously revealed!

Ask someone to remove a coin from their pocket. Make a wager that if you guess the date correctly that you get to keep the coin. Most everyone will comply with this, since it seems impossible. As they look at the coin, you say, "Today's date is (insert the current date)." They may groan at this gag, but you get to pocket the coin! Try the gag with a dollar bill if you are truly greedy!

When setting up the gag tell them that the ability to foresee hidden objects has been passed down and is in your bloodline. Say, "*My father is psychic. My mother is telepathic. Ironically, this makes me psychopathic!*"



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



JOHN "JACK" BROWNE III

John "Jack" Browne III, 87, of Lafayette, California, died May 19, 2026. He held I.B.M. number 26045 and had been a member since 1973. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Excalibur (fifty years of continuous membership) and Ring 38 (San Francisco, California). He served as International President during the 1998-1999 term of office and served as the organization's legal advisor. Jack grew up in Indiana and was a third-generation attorney in his family. After serving as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Medical Service Corps, Jack entered law school at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he earned his law degree in 1965. He practiced law in San Francisco for thirty-three years. He took an interest in magic at age ten after reading a John Scarne book, but didn't take it up seriously until he saw Martin Lewis perform in The Magic Cellar at Earthquake McGoon's in San Francisco. Jack hired Martin to teach magic to him and some friends. He joined Ring 38 in 1973. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a captain, and on the boards of the American Lung Association and the San Francisco Traditional Jazz Foundation. He belonged to the Society of American Magicians and the Magic Circle in London. Jack married Janice L. Browne in 1974 and they had five children: Laura, Joan, John R. Browne IV, Vanessa, and Grace.



Jack grew up in Indiana and was a third-generation attorney in his family. After serving as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Medical Service Corps, Jack entered law school at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he earned his law degree in 1965. He practiced law in San Francisco for thirty-three years. He took an interest in magic at age ten after reading a John Scarne book, but didn't take it up seriously until he saw Martin Lewis perform in The Magic Cellar at Earthquake McGoon's in San Francisco. Jack hired Martin to teach magic to him and some friends. He joined Ring 38 in 1973. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a captain, and on the boards of the American Lung Association and the San Francisco Traditional Jazz Foundation. He belonged to the Society of American Magicians and the Magic Circle in London. Jack married Janice L. Browne in 1974 and they had five children: Laura, Joan, John R. Browne IV, Vanessa, and Grace.

CHARLES HUTCHENS

Charles Hutchens Jr., 68, of Clemmons, North Carolina, died January 29, 2026. He held

I.B.M. number 48335 and had been a member since 2014. He worked at the Matthews Police Department in North Carolina, taught kindergarten at Clemmons Elementary School, and led Bible lessons at Friends Baptist Church. He also performed as Kazoo the Clown, as Leonard the Magician, and as Professor Plato and his amazing fleas. To others, he was Leonard the chaplain, visiting them in their nursing home. He also played Santa at the Tanglewood Festival of Lights. He is survived by his wife Emily Dusenbury Hutchens, mother Dorothy Beckner Hutchens, daughter Laura (Dan) Corbin, son Matthew (Rachel) Heide, two grandchildren, and extended family and friends.



DR. MICHEL KLEIN

Dr. Michel Klein, 87, of Paris, France, died March 17, 2026. He held I.B.M. number 69877 and had been a member since 2011. He grew up during the Nazi occupation of France in World War II, and what he saw inspired him to become a physician. He practiced in the intensive care units and ardently supported universal public medical care as a safety net for those who are unable to afford care. As a youth, he played rugby and performed ballet. He was also an avid skier and met his wife on a ski slope. He grew up writing plays, sewing costumes, crafting sets, and directing his sister and cousins in performances to entertain family during holidays. At age seventeen, he crossed France



on bike to work for the summer in Picasso's clay studios. At eighteen, he crossed the Atlantic by boat to North America. He spent hours in the churches of the Jura region of France, mastering the organ. He became interested in magic while attending an international conference on immunology, where a fellow researcher was practicing close-up magic during a break. Michel began learning magic and discovered a love for the community of magicians, citing its diversity of backgrounds united around one shared passion. In recent years, he rediscovered another old love: fossils, collecting saber-tooth tiger skulls, dinosaur eggs, jellyfish, and ammonites. He kept current with his medical education, helping fellow and student research until shortly before his death. He spent the past two decades learning to speak Chinese. He is survived by his wife Christine Klein-Lantau, daughter Anne-Mélusine Klein, son Alexis Klein, and grandchildren.

**SUJATHA LAKSHMIE
WEERASINGHE**

Sujatha Lakshmie Weerasinghe, 86, of Houston, Texas, died April 18, 2026. She held I.B.M. number 73543A and had been a member since 2017. Originally from Sri Lanka, she was an English-trained teacher and a piano teacher before immigrating to the United States on August 4, 2010, with her husband, the magician and illusionist Nihal Weerasinghe, a member of the I.B.M. and the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years of continuous membership). Sujatha performed an integral role in magic shows with her husband. She was levitated, as well as put into a "Zig Zag" and "Substitution Trunk." Her performances spanned Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Bahrain, ranging from children's birthday parties to public performances. She contributed significantly to elevating the level of these performances, helping to pioneer



the Oriental Sri Lankan style which made history by winning All Ceylon Awards. After moving to the US, she performed during a Ring 39 (Houston, Texas) monthly meeting in December 1998 alongside her husband and their three children. Magic remains a part of the family legacy: her three children, two granddaughters, and grandson are all current I.B.M. performing members. Sujatha attended numerous I.B.M. Conventions, including Orlando (1995), Kansas City (2003), Reno (2015), and San Antonio (2016). Internationally, she attended the XX Congrès Français de l'Illusion in Bordeaux, France, and the British Ring 25 Convention in Eastbourne, United Kingdom in 1998. She is survived by her husband and three children.

GARY L. WEIMER

Gary L. Weimer, 71, of Markleton, Pennsylvania died April 14, 2026. He held I.B.M. number 37007 and had been an I.B.M. member since 1981. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership). He was an alumnus of West Virginia University and Penn State. Gary taught agriculture and science in the Rockwood Area School District, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He offered his students "Magic Mondays," where he would perform for them at the end of class if they behaved. Gary founded Twentieth Century Magic (TCP) in 1978, which grew to include several assistants and off-stage technicians, including his daughters Kara and Eleas. Twentieth Century Magic specialized in family entertainment for both secular and Christian audiences, including a show he called "The Magic of Christ." Gary later expanded TCP to include his show "Ag is Magic," a thought-provoking and humorous presentation on why agriculture is important to everyone. Gary was a founding member of the Laurel Highlands Magic Club. He also belonged to the Society of American Magicians, Fellowship of Christian Magicians, Pennsylvania Vo-Ag Teachers Association,



Rockwood Young Farmers Association, Somerset County Young Farmers Association, and the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA). He is survived by his

wife, Pamela (King); daughters Kara (Brandon) Reed and Eleas (Calvin) Wu, along with his grandchildren and a brother, Kenneth Weimer, Jr.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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NEED TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A FELLOW MAGICIAN?

Call our Headquarters Office at 636-724-2400 or e-mail office@magician.org. They do not have to be members of the I.B.M. to be included in our Broken Wand section.

WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR NEWS ITEM?

Email editor@magician.org.

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 Lauren Jurgensen 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 Lauren Jurgensen 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*.

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

Since its inception in 1966, the Order of Merlin has served to recognize many of our most loyal and active members by providing a very few privileges or perquisites. Of course, the Order also serves as an incentive for members to recognize that maintaining one's continuous membership status is a worthwhile pursuit. More than one fourth of our current members have been inducted into the Order of Merlin by virtue of their maintaining an uninterrupted membership status within the I.B.M. for twenty-five years or more. Note, however, that only one such reinstatement may ever be considered for the purpose of adjusting a member's Order of Merlin eligibility.

Over the years, some I.B.M. members have allowed their active membership status to lapse because their dues were not paid. This, of course, is unfortunate, since some of those people have maintained or re-kindled their deep interest in magic, and many of them have also continued to adhere to the principles that led to the foundation and growth of the I.B.M.

What options do such magicians have if they wish to resume activity as I.B.M. members following such a lapse? Obviously, they may re-apply to become members again, just as they did when they originally joined. This would require their submission of a new application form, a new sponsorship by active members, a prescribed prepayment of dues and initiation fees for the new membership, and a period of time to allow for the orderly processing of the application.

A second option is available, provided that the lapse of membership is relatively short, not exceeding three years. In such a case, 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 person'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. Do it now, even if your lapse occurred many years ago.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact our International Executive Secretary, Sindie Richison at office@magician.org or at the physical mailing address for the Headquarters Office, on page four of each issue.

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, Lauren Jurgensen, 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, Parkway United Church of Christ 2841
N.Ballas Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 / Web Site: www.IBMRingOne.com
SANDY WEIS., Treasurer and Scribe / E-mail: ibmringone@gmail.com
1755 Elkins Drive, St. Louis, MO 63136

Ring One stepped boldly into new territory at the April meeting with an experimental format titled "Speed Dating" Magic Mini-Lectures... and the gamble paid off. For the first time in the Ring's history, members rotated through nine different magical "first dates," each hosted by a magician sharing a signature effect, a distinct performance style, and a short teaching segment designed to introduce the basics of different prop magic acts, and then help members fall in love with something that they do not currently have in their own acts.

The evening was guided by host Sandy Weis, who kept the energy warm, playful, and perfectly on-theme. Thank you to the nine performers who generously shared their time, talents, and secrets.

Each magician presented a completely different genre of magic, giving members a rare buffet of styles to explore: President Steve Queen with Linking Rings...a graceful dance of metal and mystery; Darryl Lenz with Professor's Nightmare...a classic lesson in visual impossibility; Steve Zuehlke with the Chinese Sticks...comedy timing and mechanical elegance; Jeff Lefton with Miser's Dream...coins appearing from thin air; Steve Finkelstein with Endless Chain...the con game that fools even when you know the rules; Chad Jacobs with the Coloring Book...and many varieties of this time honored classic; Tim Shegitz with a Bill Exchange...one bill creates a money miracle; Keith Smith with the Chop Cup...masterful misdirection and surprise loads; Bob Danner with a killer card effect...a little something that everyone should use.

Performers not only demonstrated their effects but taught the full methods, answered

questions in real time, and even offered to stay afterward for one-on-one coaching. Members walked away with new material, new techniques, and in many cases, a renewed appreciation for branches of magic they had never explored before.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Members loved the pace, the variety, and the chance to "date around" the magical arts. The Ring is already discussing offering this format again in the future.

A special thank-you goes to Michael McClure, whose creativity and organizational work brought this entire concept to life. A large crowd attended this playful, multi-genre learning night and many were asking when we would host this style of an event again.

Sandy Weis recently volunteered at two remarkable St. Louis events that showcased the breadth and creativity of modern magic performance.

Her first stop was the Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, where Lucy Darling (Carisa Hendrix) performed to a sold-out audience. The evening offered a pre-show, the main performance, and an after-show meet-and-greet. As a volunteer, Sandy attended both the pre-show and the full performance — and came away deeply impressed. Lucy Darling proved to be not only a captivating entertainer but also an extraordinary magician with a devoted following. The crowd adored her, responding with enthusiasm to her humor and polished magical artistry.

Sandy's next volunteer experience took her to The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis at Webster University. Expecting to see a traditional play titled "The Enigmatist," she was surprised to discover something far more unusual: a magic-and-puzzle hybrid performance created by David Kwong. While structured like a play, the entire production revolved around a unifying

theme that connected every element — from four lobby games for patrons to solve, to the puzzles and magic woven seamlessly into the show itself. Sandy noted that she had never seen a performance so intricately designed, where each moment flowed naturally into the next. Audiences agreed; the run sold out, and additional dates were added due to demand.

If David Kwong ever brings “The Enigmatist” to your area, Sandy wholeheartedly recommends attending. His blend of storytelling, mystery, and magic is something you simply have to experience.

On March 19, Gary S. Chan performed a stage mentalism show in New York City that came with an unexpected challenge. Upon arriving an hour before showtime, he discovered a massive TV screen positioned directly behind the performance area, effectively acting as a mirror. With his routines already finalized, he had to improvise. For two effects that relied on secret handling, he mentioned a (non-existent) photographer in the audience, using him as a reason to reposition volunteers and block the reflective angles. The adjustment worked well, and the audience didn’t suspect a thing. Going forward, however, Gary will be adding a clause to his performance contracts forbidding any giant mirrors (or anything that behaves like one) behind him on stage!

Sandy Weis

RING 2, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO – Flips-Tutter-Doeright Ring

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

PETER LUCKE, Secretary

E-mail: IBMring2Youngstown@me.com

Our April meeting was opened by secretary Peter Lucke. The following members and friends were present at our meeting: Susan and Donna Campbell, Fritz Coombs, James and Eric Killmeyer, Jim Klayder, and Peter Lucke. The theme of the evening was “Sponge Ball Magic.”

Susan Campbell opened the evening’s magic with Zig Zag Snake. She constructed her trick herself using a 3D plastic printer. Susan introduced us to her magical snake, a small plastic snake about 4 inches in length. She also showed us a plastic box with three compartments. Each compartment had a window in it. Susan said the snake was forbidden to go into the box. However, the adventurous snake went in anyway, and parts of it could be seen in each window. Susan then raised the middle section, causing the snake to die. The snake vanished, and a bunch of bones fell out of the box.

James Killmeyer mystified us with a Coin Funnel trick. James showed us a metal cylinder. He unscrewed it to make two cylinders of equal

length. Into the top of the lower cylinder he placed a disk, and then he screwed the two halves together to make a single cylinder with a barrier in the middle. James then showed us four coins. He placed the four coins into the top of the cylinder, above the barrier. Upon lifting the cylinder we saw that one coin had passed through the barrier onto the table. James continued by placing the three remaining coins in the top, which resulted in two coins on the table. The process was repeated until all four coins had passed through the cylinder.

Fritz Coombs entertained us with Cash Paddle from Eddy Taytelbaum. He showed us both sides of a wooden paddle with three rubber bands on it. Fritz placed a penny under one rubber band. He then revealed that there was now a second penny on the other side of the paddle. It constituted a 100% return on his initial investment. Fritz then placed a nickel under the second rubber band. Flipping the paddle showed a nickel on the other side; again a 100% return. Fritz repeated the effect with a dime. He continued by producing a dollar bill. Finally, he removed the dollar bill and showed us that it was all done with mirrors.

Jim Klayder closed the evening’s magic with a Classic Sponge Ball Routine. Jim invited James to assist him. Jim began by placing two red sponge balls on the table. He picked up one and gave the other to James. They held the balls in their closed hands. When Jim opened his hand, his ball was gone, and when James opened his hand, two balls were revealed. Next, Jim gave James two balls to hold in his closed hand. When James opened his hand, three balls were revealed. Jim next placed two balls in James’s hand and the third ball in his pocket. When James opened his hand, three balls appeared. To conclude, Jim picked up two balls and placed the third ball in his pocket. Finally, Jim opened his hand, and the two balls had vanished.

Following the magic, Jim Klayder demonstrated and explained his classic coin effect. In the effect, he picks a coin from behind his ear and makes it appear and disappear in a variety of ways. He passed out coins so that members of the audience could learn the various effects.

Peter Lücke

RING 5, DAYTON, OHIO – Dayton Magic Club

Meets 2nd Fri. each month at 7:30pm, Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church,
Kettering, OH.

DAVE DAVIS, Ring Reporter / E-mail: daytonmagicring5@yahoo.com

Web site: www.sites.google.com/site/daytonmagicring5

The March gathering of the Dayton Magic Club, Ring 5, was a testament to the thriving magic scene in Dayton. With 26 members in attendance and 4 guests—all of whom

expressed a keen interest in joining our ranks—the energy in the room was palpable from the start.

Our Vice President opened the meeting with a recap of our recent highlights. The feedback regarding the Javi Benitez lecture has been overwhelmingly positive; members are still buzzing about his unique approach and sleight-of-hand mastery. Looking forward, the club is thrilled to announce an upcoming lecture by Willy Monroe, visiting us all the way from Madrid, Spain. His reputation for creativity precedes him, and it promises to be a standout session for the Ring.

The DMC continued to make its mark on the local community. We celebrated the success of our participation in TechFest, where magic and technology intersected to delight the crowds. The momentum continues as we gear up for two more major community engagements: the Hoopla STEM Challenge and Springboro StemFest. These events remain vital for showcasing the “science” behind the art of magic to the next generation.

The evening’s formal entertainment featured two polished 15-minute sets:

Charlie Cadabra captivated the room with his signature style, blending mystery with expert timing.

Larry Taylor followed with a compelling set that showcased both his technical skill and stage presence.

Once the scheduled performances concluded, the “open floor” segment saw a flurry of magic from the front of the room as various members stepped up to share new effects and refinements.

As the formal meeting transitioned into a workshop atmosphere, the room broke out into table jamming. This informal exchange of ideas, grips, and patter is often where the most growth happens, and tonight was no exception.

The festivities didn’t end at the meeting; many members migrated to Archers for DMC After-Hours. Over food and drinks, the magic continued late into the night, capping off another exceptional month for Ring 5. *Michael Bayer*

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

Hunter Gaul presided over a reverent Broken Wand Ceremony for longtime Ring #6 member Archie Strong. Archie was an active member in a huge variety of Ring events: fundraiser shows, competitions, and was often seen in full clown regalia. Several members, including his wife

Reba (“Silly Reba”), shared recollections of this generous man.

Tonight’s theme was “Open Mic Night,” where members performed and asked for tips to make the magic more effective. Some tipped the methods, while others just plain fooled us with a wide variety of magic.

Jim Capobianco (The Amazing LAZ) opened with a routine that began with an amazing recitation of the mathematical pi formula. He had print-outs of the value of pi with hundreds of numbers so that we could follow as he recited them. He also had two other math related effects. A great way to make math magic! Mark Walsh next performed his “World’s Fastest Card” trick, where two cards in the hands of a spectator switched places without any funny moves. He finished with an Invisible Deck routine, sure to floor any lay audience.

Silly Reba counted through a stack of five \$1 bills that instantly changed into five \$5 bills, then into five \$20 bills. Great, visual magic. Jack Schultz shared a version of an old card effect where a volunteer shuffled a deck, counted three rows of 7 cards each, then asked the volunteer to mentally select one of the cards. With the help of Jim Capobianco, we saw two very different ways to finish the effect. David Hale did his “Topsy” magician, showing a whole collection of holes in four cards. Visual, and a real fooler.

Bill McElvenney had a deck of cards shuffled, asked a volunteer to count out 8 of them, then pick one card out of the small pack. Bill showed that all of the remaining cards in the stack were blank, and the previously selected card was the only card in the whole stack with a face printed on it! Mitch Kaplan asked us to remember one card in a packet of 4 cards, then slowly all four cards turned into blank faces!

May will be our Close Up contest, with cash and matching amount magic downloads of \$100, \$50, and \$25 to the top three contestants.

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

Georgia Magic Club (Ring 9) meeting March 16, 2026

TIP (To Improve Performance) LECTURE: “Scripting and Modular Routines” by Patrick Buchen.

Scripting is essential for elevating performance beyond simply “doing tricks.” It provides a clear roadmap to manage nerves, strengthens trick architecture (beginning, middle, and end),

and improves overall routine construction. Through scripting, performers can refine timing, eliminate weak moments, and create more intentional, engaging presentations, resulting in a more polished and consistent performance.

Scripts are typically structured similarly to screenwriting:

Slugline (Title): Identifies the routine

Action Line: Describes movements, staging, and audience interaction

Dialogue: The performer's spoken words

There is screenwriting software available to keep the formatting clean and consistent.

Patrick referenced Scripting Magic by Pete McCabe, which provides a template and uses spectator names for Left, Right, and Center to assist with blocking. He also mentioned an "Effects Sheet" by Michael Close, a tool for indexing and cross-referencing effects to determine suitability for specific audiences and placement within the show.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Clark Kjørlaug welcomed 32 attendees, including three members on Zoom and Mike Varon's son Jackson.

Clark listed some upcoming conventions: SAM in Appleton WI (7/1-4), IBM in St. Louis MO (7/22-25), MAGIC Live in Las Vegas NV (8/2-5), KIDabra in Atlanta (8/12-15), and TRICS in Charlotte NC (11/19-21). There was mention also of Kyle Littleton's Secret Aisle (4/17).

The Georgia Magic Club had their first Zoom meeting to discuss Approaching Magic by David Regal on March 11.

Tim Wolfe and Gary Poleynard have been added to the roster of magicians at Project Magic. They would welcome more to volunteer at the Shepherd Center.

Steve Goldstein announced that the next Magic Meetup is scheduled for March 29, at Fellini's in Decatur.

Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer announced an upcoming lecture by Nathan Kranzo, scheduled for Thursday April 9.

Vice President Zach Ivins passed out additional Circle of Honor certificates to Eric Schuster, Stan Konter (5-year membership), David Fluker (5-year membership), and saved one for Ken Scott (40-year membership).

Secretary-Treasurer Bill Packard presented Theme Magic Winner certificates (for both December and February) to Aryeh Rabin.

Mark Hatfield donated several Georgia Magic Club shirts to interested members.

THEME PERFORMERS: "(Web)Master Magician" – Perform some magic you learned on the new IBM website! MC'd by Zach Ivins.

Walter Fields: Professor's Nightmare with a geometry teacher presentation

Eric Schuster: Card prediction using a dealing/counting procedure (from Joe M. Turner's Jam Sessions)

Clark Kjørlaug: Card prediction using a Down Under Deal (Mike Powers; Linking Ring, May 2018)

Patrick Buchen: An "Atrocity" routine featuring the removal of a Teddy Bear's internal organs and producing rope "intestines" forming the 8 of Hearts.

Mike Dunagan: A routine from the "Ink and Paper" section where participants followed the face-up/face-down instructions, yet only the performer's cards aligned at the end of each phase.

Lynn Fox: A 25-card matrix elimination leading to a predetermined total, plus they spelled "MAGIC" on the reverse.

GENERAL MAGIC PERFORMERS:

Mike Varon: Predicted a card at the position determined by three random numbers.

Aryeh Rabin: Combined Professor's Nightmare with a Ring and Rope routine.

Also, Howie Slamka (on Zoom) shared a story of an accidental Card to Wallet experience.

Winners of the giveaways from the Wheel of Names were Walter Fields (Pretty Little Men), Mike Varon (Acting for Magicians), Steve Goldstein (Chroma, donated by Mike Dunagan), Scott Duke (Deck Shell), and Eric Schuster (a product by Andrew Mayne).

Winner of the Coveted Royal Pin for Theme Magic was Walter Fields. Next Month's theme (April) will be "April Foolery" – Present magic with your best jokes, gags, or general antics.

William Packard

RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm, Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs and Grille, 1155 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA

MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: ibmring13@gmail.com

Web site: www.ibmring13.org

In April, we approved Ring membership applications from Tracey Hinsch and from Tim Palucka. Welcome, Tracey and Tim! We also held our first monthly contest of the year, which Lucy Hall emceed with a suggested theme of money magic.

Christopher Welch presented his third performance for Ring membership, asking Jakor to examine a silver half-dollar coin and a copper English penny. Christopher caused the coins to switch places in his hands, and then Christopher made the coins change places while one was held in Jakor's hand.

Chris Handa placed three metal cups on the table, from which he produced a five-dollar bill, a rubber band, and two paper clips. Chris placed

the rubber band around the center of the bill, and then he attached the paper clips along the top edge of the folded bill. As Chris and Lashaya pulled the ends of the bill, the paper clips and rubber band linked together (“Lincoln Paper Clips”).

Ted Knoblach snapped his fingers and made a dollar coin appear at his fingertips, followed by another coin, and then a third. Ted made the coins disappear one by one. He placed one coin in his pants pocket and made the coin penetrate through his pants. Ted made that coin change into a jumbo coin. Next, Ted placed a deck of cards and a prediction envelope on the table, and he asked Joe to think of any number and deal that number of cards on the table. Ted removed a card from the envelope and showed that his prediction card matched the card at the number that Joe thought of.

Eric Meredith placed four aces on the table and placed three indifferent cards on top of each ace. Eric caused the aces from the first two piles to vanish one by one to join the ace of spades in the fourth pile. The ace in the third pile did not repeat that pattern; instead, the three aces already in the fourth pile disappeared and joined together with the ace in the third pile. Next, Eric removed two credit cards from his wallet, and he gave one card to Ted to place in Ted’s own wallet. Eric made the credit cards change places in their two wallets (Gregory Wilson’s “MasterCon”).

Tracey Hinsch displayed four half-dollar coins on the table, and she placed a paper napkin over an empty glass and secured that napkin over the mouth of that glass with a rubber band. One by one, Tracey tossed three of the coins into the air to make each coin disappear and then reappear inside the covered glass. Tracey tossed the last coin in the air, but it reappeared with a clink inside another glass on another table in the corner of the room.

David Matheus showed four jacks, and with a gentle shake of the packet, the cards turned over one by one in his hands. David shook the packet again, and he showed that each of the cards now had back designs on both sides. After another shake, the cards had blank faces. David turned the cards one more time to cause them to change into the four aces (John Guastaferrero’s “Tallspin Twist”).

Dan Kamin presented a routine from his “The Magic Lesson” show in which a pair of dollar coins jumped from one hand to the other hand and back again. Dan caused those coins to change into a jumbo coin, and then he made that jumbo coin vanish and reappear repeatedly at his fingertips.

Our panel of judges named Tracey Hinsch as our April Magician of the Month. Congratulations, Tracey!

On April 12, our Ring joined local S.A.M. Assemblies 18 and 157 to host our annual Greater Pittsburgh Magic Network (GPMN) Banquet and Magic Show at The Fez event center. Levi performed strolling card magic during the cocktail hour, which was followed by a close-up magic show that was emceed by Ralph Kelly with performances by Chris Handa, Jeff Mullins, and Joshua Messado. After a delicious buffet dinner, the presidents of each of our local magic clubs presented awards to their respective members. Our Ring president Joshua Messado presented Tracey Hinsch with a framed certificate for being our April Magician of the Month, and then our previous Ring president Levi presented a special Outstanding Magician of the Year award to another past Ring president, Eric Meredith. We drew raffle tickets for a variety of donated prizes, and then Jeff Vanderhoff emceed our “stage” show with performances by Ray Lucas, Dylan Mahaffey, and Michael Mykita. It was another successful and very enjoyable evening, and we look forward to continuing this tradition for years to come. *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

Bill Irwin, 2026 President, opened the meeting, a special evening featuring a lecture with Gary Plants, the “gaffed cards guy”! The FWMC members had been eagerly anticipating his appearance, and we weren’t disappointed.

Bill began with the postponed election of Russell Shead as the 2026 Sergeant-at-Arms, who the members elected with a thunderous yell! Thanks, Russell! Bill followed with the request for assistance for information about one of Hal Hudgins’s card effects. Hal passed away on October 12, leaving a wonderful legacy of magic! Thanks to Pam, Hal’s wife!

Vice President Will Baffle encouraged 2026 members to update their contact information. He announced June 6th for the club’s annual picture—watch the Facebook page folks! Among announcements Javier Benitez is in town performing in Arlington.

Then Jordan “Tiny” Burgess rose to introduce our lecturer, Gary Plants. He began with a review of his more than 50 years as a hobbyist (a chemistry teacher for 33 years!) After retirement, he and his wife Debbie began performing on cruise ships, now just finishing his 18th venture!

His story is about “love,” something he communicated from the “get-go”!

Gary’s first routine was a money routine—a bill progression that ranged from \$30 which vacillated from one denomination to another. He followed with his “Bill Palmer” tale about the time Palmer met “the Professor” at a TAOM meeting, attempting to perform a mentalism with the “master.” Bill followed up with the “twisteroo” move from Vernon’s “Twisting the Aces.” Three exposed “eights” turn into four blank cards, followed by the transformation of the backs into four different colors! His last piece featured Matthew Martin as a volunteer who selected a card which he promptly returned to a shuffled deck. Using the “deck’s lie detector,” Gary was able to discern the selected card—the “5-D.”

Gary then proceeded to teach the effects, first the bill routine, and then the card progression/transformations—Nick Trost’s “Wacky Packet.” Dai Vernon’s “Lie Detector” features a stacked deck that Gary explained, demonstrated with casual misdirection from the division of the deck for shuffling to the restoration of the stack.

Gary’s next routine was Charley Miller’s, the “Dunbury Delusion.” His improvement is his subtle use of an “edge mark card,” allowing him to determine the color, the suit, and the value.

For his next trick, a mentalism card reveal—an original piece—“Out of Sight/Out of Mind.” It’s another effect using an “edge-marked card.”

Gary then turned to card transfers, demonstrating his card-to-top handling. He finished his lecture, demonstrating moves from his “Durango On Cards”—what a fabulous session!

The evening closed with informal sessions with many folks pulling out their cards or carousing around Gary, eager to purchase his famous “Magnetic Card” (we just about bought him out!)

Geoff Grimes

RING 16, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – Society of Memphis Magicians

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00pm, Germantown Presbyterian Church

DR. JON STANFORD, Secretary

Web sites: www.ring16.org

Our April meeting was the best attended in many years, including several visitors. We are seeing a resurgence of magic in our Ring and in the city of Memphis.

Our Front Table was presented by Jeffrey Day, who is a well-known “Victorian Magician.” This was a mini lecture complete with lecture notes. He taught 3 unique magic routines. The first was a dice and card routine titled “The Mysterious Dice Trick.” This was followed by “The Crazy Prediction Card,” which is a mentalism routine. He concluded

with “Minds in Collusion,” which is based on an Eddie Joseph routine. Jeff presented a great front table which was both informative and enjoyable.

Next, President Joe M. Turner moderated our business portion. Joe and Jeffrey Day were interviewed by “The Daily Memphian” about Houdini’s performances in Memphis. Our Ring will be involved in the 100th anniversary of Houdini’s death in October with several magic events. Joe gave a teaser of a possible magic convention in Memphis in 2027. We have many magicians performing throughout the Mid-South in the next few weeks.

Now on to the magical performers for the evening:

Our first performer was Kyle Anderson. His routine was titled “Ringer.” A selected card is revealed when it flies “boomerang style” from the middle of a pack of playing cards and is caught by Kyle. He stated that he had performed this at the Magic Castle.

Our 2nd performer was Lucio Martinez, who provided the dove productions for our big public show. Today he amazed everyone with his version of “The Gum Guy.” This is a Rocco Saldino creation that he put to music. Lucio took a piece of gum and tore it into multiple pieces which morphed into numerous full size sticks of gum. It was both humorous and musical at the same time.

Our 3rd performer was Mike Speros. He presented his version of “Oil and Water Again.” Mike stated that this was a Michael Skinner routine that was taught to him by Jim Surprise. Jim was a champion sleight of hand artist that we lost several years ago. Mike’s routine ended with the oil and water becoming all water with the oil vanishing. Mike would have made Jim Surprise proud.

Our 4th performer was Martin Seiler. Martin is one of our Ring’s fine mentalists. Tonight he presented “25 Choices,” with all the freely chosen numbers added together to equal a previous prediction. Martin is a tax attorney and therefore his numbers always add up correctly.

Our 5th performer was Deanna Pendergrass, who is our youngest member. She presented a coin passing through the bottom of a glass. She is the future of our Ring. Great job, Deanna.

Our 6th performer was Jason Pendergrass, who is Deanna’s father. He presented his “Vanishing Box from Voodoo Village.” Jason would make a quarter disappear and reappear every time that he opened and closed the box. It is great to have father and daughter magicians join our Ring.

Our 7th performer was Doug Green. Doug is

a well-known Master Mentalist. He presented a routine that he has titled "Root of All Evil," based on a creative concept by Drew Bakentoss. This is a routine utilizing money, and everyone loves money. Doug always mystifies!

Our 8th performer was Grayson Smith, "The Amazon' Grayson." Grayson is the VA Hospital magician and performs there regularly. He performed "Blue Moon," which was taught to the Ring at the Nate Kranzo lecture. This routine utilizes 4 blue backed cards. He gets rid of 1 card since he only needs 3 cards. This is repeated several times with another card reappearing. The trick concludes with only red backed cards. Once again Grayson amazed us all.

Our 9th performer was Dr. Jon Stanford. He presented "The Dr. Jon Cube," which is a Rubik's type cube except it is all the same color. The cube breaks into 2 pieces of multi-colored formations before becoming 2 cubes, then reassembling into the cube from the start of the trick. He followed this routine with Clarence Miller's Impossible Penetration, aka Wooden Finger Chopper. He finished by giving the spectator a Mardi Gras Bead Puppy Dog.

Our final performer was Joe M. Turner. He is a very busy performer in the region. He presented a Visible Drawing Transposition. The spectator drew a picture and Joe did also. These were placed into frames with each holding their own picture, then they magically changed places. Visible magic at its best.

The evening was completed with Joe's Wheel of Fortune where several winners received magic related prizes. This was a great evening of magic where everyone became a winner. If you are ever in the Memphis area on the first Tuesday of the month, we would love to have you as our guest.

Dr. Jon Stanford

RING 17, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA – The Sid Lorraine Hat and Rabbit Club

Meets 1st Mon. (except July and August) For current meeting details and venue, please visit website.

Web Site: www.ibmring17.org

DAVID PECK, President / E-mail: david@sochange.ca

For our first lecture of 2026, David Sutherland performed a rope routine (Sandsational Rope) using two different presentations simultaneously as an exercise for everyone to compare and contrast the difference between using stock lines and a script that was written by the performer. Rob Fishbaum and David Peck assisted.

We were then treated to a film by Daniel Zuckerbrot called "The Life and Strange Genius of Stewart James." Shot in the 90s, the film featured cameos by Margaret Atwood, David Ben and Alan Slaight.

We learned that Stewart's parents were distant and downright mean. Amongst other coping mechanisms, he spent a great deal of time with his three imaginary friends: Khardova, Rigonally, and Faxton. Magicians have this team to thank for such magical classics as Miraskill, Sefalalja, Further Than That and the Robot Deck amongst many, many other tricks. Stewart once asked the triumvirate if they could work on something other than magic tricks, such as a cure for illnesses. They said no.

For me, the most interesting fact was that Stewart was a friend of Pat Lyons and Pat knew Robert Bloch. Pat and Robert went to visit Stewart, but Robert was not allowed in Stewart's house. From the car, Robert noticed Stewart's mother dashing from window to window peeking out from behind the curtains. It was her seemingly manic and odd behaviour that became Robert's inspiration for Norman Bates's mother in a novel he was writing called Psycho.

Following the film, David Ben performed his version of the James trick 51 Faces North which he calls Window to the Soul and can be found in his book Tricks. Jude, a new member of our club, got to experience this trick firsthand.

Stewart James is credited with over 2,000 creations. The entire James series rivals the number of items found in the Tarbell Course but of course the Tarbell series was a compilation of tricks from different contributors, not just one person.

Personally, I wish Mr. James had created fewer items and lived a happier life.

David Sutherland

RING 19, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – Carl Jones Ring

Meets 2nd Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom and in person 2nd Sat. (location GameZenter, Roseville, MN)

ANDREW SELBITSCHKA, President / Web site: www.IBMRing19.com

The online meeting started with Will Earley sharing his continued work on the Ball and Cone routine. Will shared that as he was looking through his magic drawer, he came across a copy of Tops Magazine (September 1993) that deals with Indian Magic - the All Tricks issue. Will shared some of the tricks included in the issue including "Rupees Created From Dust". Rick Hinrichs shared a magic marker trick called Invisible Magic Wand.

The club discussed coin magic - Jennifer is reading Bobo's "Modern Coin Magic". Rick Hinrichs discussed the coin magic of Danny Goldsmith. Will Earley discussed using coasters instead of coins. "Fast" Eddie Olson is working on coin magic, as well. Dan Koopmans is reading "Magic with Cards" by Schindler and Garcia.

At the in-person meeting, Rick Hinrichs broke the ice with a few rope miracles, a rope through the neck and two versions of linking ropes usually used in conjunction with a Dean's Box. He followed up with an impromptu "Grandma's Necklace" using a cube with a hole in it and a pair of shoelaces. Tyler Erikson gave a small touch, pulling on the bottom rope to make the bite less likely to bind.

Andrew Selbitschka followed up with a tasty little item, a blindfolded version of Hector Chadwick's called "Mars & Murries". Paul "The Vintage Magician" Laidig shared a chop cup routine to demonstrate methods for practicing, scripting and routine. "Fast" Eddie did a number divination. "Fast" Eddie read the minds of two spectators in his unique performance style.

Jean-Robert Lemarchand did three tricks for the club. Jean-Robert brought back his story of the Seer of Leone, with some new touches. He then performed an adorable rendition of "Mr. Glove" by Juan Pablo. Tyler demonstrated a Thumb Tip Kick Steal that would work well with the trick. Jean-Robert finished with the Ghost Deck, as he continues to refine and streamline his routines.

Steven Olson workshopped a modernized penny to dime trick with a cellphone camera. There were two card stab locations performed. Dan Koopmans used an Ace to find a selection, using a method from Magic with Cards. Andrew Miller followed with Rafael Benatar's "Favorite Cards of My Friends".

New club member, Jin performed a very clean CAAN routine. Dan Norat did a center tear routine. Dan followed with a book report "Technics of Illusion" by Katherine Rein. Tyler closed out the general meeting wowing the club with "The Pulse Trick" from Magic from Cards, showing there is great material in common books.

Hope to see you here online or in person next month!

Dan Norat

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
MANNY D'MAGO, Secretary
P.O. Box 340841, Arleta, CA 91334 / (424)653-7614
E-mail: mannydmago@gmail.com

President Bob Weiss began our April meeting introducing three new members Marguerite Krick, Storm Velez, and Jay Jackson. Each told a little bit about themselves, their interest in magic and more. Then Bob announced an exclusive invitation to the John Gaughan Illusion Studio Warehouse for our members in May. This will be a chance for members to visit and talk with this amazing person and his magical place. John has done illusions not just for magicians like David Copperfield, Siegfried

and Roy, Ricky Jay, and Doug Henning, but also in the music world such as The Doors, Michael Jackson, Cher, Alice Cooper (his infamous guillotine) and Barbra Streisand to name just a few. Bob also announced another "field trip" for members to meet up April 27th at The Green Room in the Valley, for they have Magic Monday Nights hosted by Matt Felten.

Then it was onto our lecturer Gregory Wilson. He began showing his hands empty and so cleanly, then all of a sudden a poker chip appeared. He explained how it worked using Dexter putty and all the finesses of the poker chip with the comedy byplay of the chip appearing on the spectator's shoulder. Next he began with another cool strolling magic effect using a pen and a cap. The pen kept changing direction and the cap as well. At the end it was all examined. Next, he had a spectator give a large number, then he reached into his pants pocket pulling out all these coins, giving the spectator them to count their value, and yes, his pocket was shown cleanly empty, and yes, the spectator's number matched exactly the value of all the coins. Next he had golf tees disappear and reappear in different hands. Then he had these golf balls coming endlessly out of their box over and over again, truly magical. Then he did another effect where blank playing cards turned to a straight flush as well as the colors on the backs changing. Then he showed us how to make a really easy effect with a Starbucks snack bag and a swizzle stick. The swizzle stick could be heard snapping, even spectators broke it, and yet it was fully restored, and of course the bag was cleanly empty. Then he did another effect using the three card monte routine, but with colored credit cards. He then did comedy byplay with a chosen card that kept appearing under him on his chair. He did more with coins appearing and disappearing, a card box spinning on top of his finger, and a Rubik's Cube effect with two mixed up — one by a spectator — and yet they matched, and they were examinable. A lot of these effects he had for sale, and as you can guess, many members were anxious to make purchases. Gregory's lecture was fantastic; if you ever have a chance to see him, you must.

Manny D'Mago

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

April Meeting: Lenny "Tricky Trainwreck" and Darlene Bertrand, Allen Boudreaux, Craig Boudreaux, Alvon Brumfield, Anderson

Brumfield, Leslie Brumfield, and Kevin and Barbara Carney attended.

Our pre-meeting convocation conversations included acknowledging the continuing regular magic performance work of our fellow Greater New Orleans Area magic troupers, enthusiastic impromptu performances and overall fun, friendly confabulations. Kevin Carney also reminded us that he would later be distributing more items from the personal magic library of our late, beloved colleague Milton Scheuermann, as donated by his wife, Margie.

Performances officially began as Anderson Brumfield skillfully reticulated a Three Card Monte inspired by Tom Matriq. Craig Boudreaux gave an extended sponge ball routine replete with practical tips. Kevin Carney offered another episode in his series of Lock and Keys effects. Darlene has become a favorite participant for these befuddlers. This time Darlene was only offered two keys to open the Henry Squire & Sons Limited Old English 440 Brass padlock (David De-Val, Dupe Padlock). Carney continued to captivate us by displaying four coins of which one was a unique Houdini Coin that purportedly could (and did, for us) escape a securely sealed coin box at will (Sam Schwartz's "Incredi-box").

Craig Boudreaux returned and recounted some highlights from the recent Lake Charles lecture by Javi Benitez. Within his recollections he offered Barbara Carney a face-down spread of cards from which to select one and show it to everyone before it is remixed and lost in the deck. Boudreaux snapped his fingers making her card now invisible, then removed it to the table. After naming it, proving that he could see the invisible card, he claimed he would toss that card into the deck to any position Barbara desired. When the cards were counted out face up, that card appeared at Barbara's number ("Invisible Card" by Javi Benitez).

Anderson Brumfield repeated his Tom Matriq inspired "Alternating Three Card Monte" for those that missed it. The rest of us enjoyed this encore performance. Beware if Anderson is cut loose in Times Square.

Alvon Brumfield promulgated a stunning series of coin productions, transpositions, augmentations and vanishes worthy of being televised. This man has some serious chops.

Darlene Bertrand used a deck of cards to simultaneously hack the passwords from eight spectators using Jim Steinmeyer's "Password Fallacy" (from Steinmeyer's Subsequent Impuzzibilities, vol. 3 of the Impuzzibilities Series).

Allen Boudreaux had a selected Jack of Clubs literally become imprinted/embroidered inside his hat!

"Tricky Trainwreck" Bertrand demonstrated how a mathematician, a psychic, and a magician might present essentially the same card trick differently. Of course the magician steals the show. This Jon Racherbaumer gem, "Duelling with Cards" from Aldo Colombini's Impromptu Card Magic, manifests this through a series of unfolding revelations of diminishing effort yet increasing wonder. Bertrand transitioned to another Racherbaumer packet trick, "Vanishing Oil and Water." In Lenny's oil and water-ish routine both the water and oil surprisingly become crystal clean and clear (from Stephen Minch's compilation New York Magic Symposium, Close-Up Collection One).

Craig B. gave us a perfect card closer with his version of "Magic Man." *Leonard Bertrand*

RING 29, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – Little Rock Magic Ring

Meets 1st Thur., 6:45 pm., First Community Bank, 17820 Central Parkway, Little Rock, AR. / Web site: www.LittleRockMagic.org

MARK MULKERIN, Secretary

Little Rock Magic Ring 29 met Saturday, April 11, 2026 at Saint Michael's Episcopal Church in Little Rock. President Marty Haughn presided with Secretary Mark Mulkerin assisting.

After Marty opened the meeting shortly before 1:30 pm, Mark presented the official business beginning with the planned public magic show on May 2nd at the Veterans Park Event Center in Cabot, Arkansas. The show will feature Larry Bean, Cedric Morley, and Mark with Joey Williams acting as emcee. Members were reminded to arrange for tickets through Treasurer James Kinsey.

Discussion of the Ring 29 and Ring 308 auction of Jon Bucher's estate followed, which will be held at the Stagecoach Clubhouse on May 9th at 1 pm. The meeting continued with a reminder of the new officer installation at the June meeting with expected openings for the Sergeant-at-Arms and the President or Secretary. Marty provided clarifications regarding the rules around office holding. It was noted that nominations could be submitted to Marty or Mark.

James then shared information regarding upcoming lecturers Jamie Williams and Keith Leff, followed by a discussion of avenues to promote magic in the Greater Little Rock community. Marty shared his thoughts on offering magic classes through various venues, with the Ring providing the magician and the venue providing necessary materials. Ring members will reach out to various venues such as libraries and community centers to gauge interest and opportunities.

The meeting then progressed to bringing in

lecturers and having members present mini lectures. Several magicians were suggested along with strategies for discovering additional lecturers who may come to the area.

Mark then proceeded to other logistics including the prospective locations for meetings through June, the securing of a third performer for the annual show, and the logistics around the Jon Bucher benefit auction. Members were reminded of the upcoming Cavalcade of Magic in Eureka Springs and the need to check with Treasurer James Kinsey regarding dues.

With official business done, the meeting transitioned to performances with Shawn Miller starting things off with a card prediction gone apparently wrong, until his whiteboard was partially erased to reveal the correct card. He followed it up with a number prediction trick using spare change.

Dan Hecke was next to perform with his exploration into the world of remote viewing using two decks. Bob Bullock followed with his demonstration of a one-hand knot that he was working on mastering. With Shawn and Marty's assistance, Dane Dover demonstrated sympathetic magic with a blister mysteriously forming on Dane's finger corresponding to the finger Marty had indicated on Shawn's hand. Dane followed this with a pen penetrating a handkerchief.

Jim Henson was last to perform with several uses of a specialized deck, then he shared some stories from magic history related to Arkansas with some fun and funny contributions by Mary Ann Campbell. The meeting wrapped up at about 2:30 pm and was followed by a brief tour of the building by those interested. *Mark Mulkerin*

RING 30, SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE, PA - Faye Plotkin Ring

Meets 1st Thu., 7:00pm, at The Iron Skillet Restaurant inside the Petro Travel Plaza, 98 Grove St., Dupont, PA 18641
BURT EBEL, Secretary / Email: ebel717@msn.com

IBM Ring 30 held its April meeting on Thursday, April 2nd, in the back room of the Iron Skillet Restaurant in Dupont, PA. It was an interesting and enjoyable meeting.

After a brief business meeting, and prior to members enjoying an evening of magic performances we had two birthdays to celebrate. After the cake and coffee we enjoyed an evening of mentalism, card, and coin magic. Both stage and close-up.

After the performances, the night got a little more interesting. Several members, who attended the Pennsylvania Entertainers' Swap Meet, days earlier which was held on March 28th, in Leola, Pennsylvania, found themselves purchasing vintage magic props. They brought them to

the meeting. This broke out into a very intensive brainstorming section.

Ring 30 is looking forward to its next meeting which is always held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. As always, we would like to extend an invitation to local magicians, as well as any magicians visiting Northeast Pennsylvania. Please come and join us. *Burt Ebel*

RING 31, MADISON, WISCONSIN - Ben Bergor Ring

Meets 1st Wed. each month, 6:30pm. at the Sequoia Public Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison, WI.

MARK PEPELEA, Ring Contact
(608) 425-8839 / mpepelea@gmail.com

Website: www.ibmring31.com

<http://www.facebook.com/BenBergor.IBMRing31>

Our March Monthly meeting of the Madison Ring 31 began with change of venue to the Nitty Gritty Restaurant in Sun Prairie WI. The new venue offers members a chance to meet socially before and after the meeting, as well as purchase food and beverages. Everyone seems fat and happy with new spot. The restaurant offers us a private back room, which gives the event a Chicago style magician's gathering feel, albeit in Wisconsin. For the kick off at the new place, we conducted business, exchanged info on upcoming conventions and then transitioned to a swap and sell exchange of magic between the attending members.

Our April Monthly meeting was a special lecture given by master magician and teacher Marv Roth. Mr. Roth is known for a unique mix of inventive methods as well as carefully considered routining and technique. Mr Roth aptly described his approach, stating: "I like to make the routine complex and interesting but without excessive difficulty." Performing and teaching a wide variety of effects, Marv's evening was densely packed with insight and wonder.

Card tricks were well represented throughout lecture. Marv said at one point, "I like to remodel existing magic." And rehabbing magic he does. Presenting card work far beyond the usual "please pick a card", some of Marv's marvels included a 6 card repeat count effect, discarding all the cards into a hat as he counted and counted...as many are familiar with...yet in the end, the hat was completely empty of discards! He also demonstrated his original take on vanishing kings in hand; as well as a truly expansive follow the leader routine with a stunning all card transformation to conclude. Marv's personified little plunger was charming; along with Marv's take on the best "breather" card I've ever seen. Along with card effects, Marv's diversity of knowledge included a very original take on the tied, cut and circled rope effect. He called it "Rope Fatigue"; first performing it, then

patiently teaching its highly creative method. Marv performed a ribbon through glass effect that utilized an older, yet very unknown method, to poetic perfection. We also learned that it's possible to balance 3 coins on edge, mentally remove a nut from a screw; and we all learned a truly alternative coin vanish from, one hand to the other; with its clever slights and gaffed method clearly taught. A lot of Marv's effects and methods involved creative, though simple, arts and crafts. Marv pointed out and supplied information on his favorite techniques and materials for making some of the props. After this very full demonstration and lecture, we also had an opportunity to discuss the lecture and purchase materials from the magician. Driving home a tad later than usual, I was filled with new knowledge as well as a darn good burger. Till next time, we hope to find you all warm, happy and magical.

Benjamin Talbot

RING 32, ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA – Allentown Society of Magicians, Inc.

Meets 2nd Mon. of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at Hops Restaurant, 1945 W. Columbia Ave., Allentown, PA.

Web site: www.ring32.rhhomepage.com.

JOE KEPPEL, President

Our April meeting was well attended and for a good reason. A past member, Dan Minnich, passed away and his wife donated all his magic to our Ring 32, to be given away free. We very much appreciate her doing this and we'll continue to thank her.

I would say there were over 100 items present, many small items and older, but many unique items no longer on the market. Wow, what a night. Our president, Joe Keppel, had a nice number system of picking an item and rotating, so all members had many turns to choose. Eventually, it was kind of a free for all until all magic was gone. It took a couple of hours, but what fun and so rewarding. I'm sure every member got some magic that they will entertain with and make an audience smile. Thanks so much, Mrs. Minnich.

Our next meeting will be a dealer demo by Arlen. We've had Arlen in the past, and he has brought along a lot of unique and practical magic. Yours truly has a show that night and unfortunately will miss the demo.

Some nice magic was presented later in the meeting. George Reiger showed us a neat production of a giant, instantly inflatable, brown bear that was a mind blower. Don Severn presented a prediction of a movie, with beautiful cards and a free choice. This was truly mysterious, and made me appreciate the art of inventing and producing our wonderful magic.

All in all, it was a fun and exciting night.

Al Grout

RING 39, HOUSTON, TX – Scott Hollingsworth Ring

www.houstonmagic.com

JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH, Secretary / E-mail: judy4birds@yahoo.com

The delightful Carol Ann Maurer gave the April "History Moment" at the Houston magicians' meeting. The subject, "Do or Die – Fatal Magic," was fascinating. She shared details of five of the (known) twelve magicians who have perished while performing a bullet catch routine. Most notable, of course, is Chung Ling Soo, with the startling revelation that he was not Chinese when his dying words were spoken in perfect English. Carol explained many of the varied ways performers met their death from this routine. She shared a short video from magic historian Wes Barker, in which he told of the deaths of Arnold Buck, Adam Epstein (the Wizard of the West who was shot by his wife... on purpose), Madam DeLinsky, and Chung Ling Soo. Carol's presentation was one of the most entertaining and edifying bits of history Houston members have enjoyed.

Phil Nichols' mini lecture, "Ventriloquism 101" gave real insights about being a vent. His explanations were easy to understand and provided a great deal of insight about what it takes to master this ancient profession. The mechanics are easy – speak with your top teeth touching your lower lip. Sounds simple? Well, it is. Once you master the use of certain sounds for seven letters (B, F, M, P, V, W, & Y) you can "throw your voice." The difficulty lies in creating an interesting character and separating yourself from your "dummy". Yes, that's what vents call their ventriloquial figures. Being able to "be" two different people at the same time is a special art that takes lots of practice. Phil's lecture was very educational and interesting.

President Gene Protas called the IBM Ring 39 business meeting to order at 7:56 p.m. Scott Hollingsworth moved to approve the minutes from the March meeting as published. Edgar Aquino seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Treasurer Judy Hollingsworth gave the treasurer's report. There were no questions. With no business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned in record time at 8:58 p.m.

Performers for the evenings' open mic were Matthew Crabtree, Winton Gibbons, Alex Rangel, John McElroy, Gene Protas, Phil Nichols, Rob Greenlee, Lanny Kibbey, and Jamie Salinas. Ribbon winners were Johan McElroy, Lanny Kibbey, and Rob Greenlee.

Judy Hollingsworth

Sign up 1!

ING 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

Our program for the March meeting was Works In Progress. Members were invited to show off a new trick or something they were working on and members could offer suggestions or helpful advice.

Our May meeting will be a lecture and our June meeting is our annual Close Up Contest. In September we are having Tarbell Night, honoring Harlan Tarbell.

The meeting began with a front Table by Terrence Hunter. Terrence taught The Newspaper Tear. He showed two versions, with a normal sized newspaper and the smaller papers that are becoming more popular these days.

John Hutsebaut had a volunteer freely select a card (JS). He then tore a corner off the card in order to mark it. As he massaged the corner in his hand smoke began to rise. He inhaled the smoke and then opened his hand to show it was empty. He then reached into his mouth and pulled out the missing corner! John then explained how to do the smoke effect and how to force the card. He also showed a Mylar Chop cup and explained how to make one.

Edwin Vargas picked Terrence to assist. He had Terrence pick a card Edwin had a wind up toy chicken which was his assistant who would help him find the card. Edwin spread the cards around the table and the chicken hopped around and stopped on one card which proved to be the card Terrence had chosen.

Kevin Sowizol chose Kristen Kaniewski to assist. He had her pick a card (7D) and read his prediction which said "You will not pick the Joker". After everybody laughed Kevin showed that every card in the deck (except hers) was, indeed, a joker.

Terrence again stepped up and pulled out a mini-Boom Box. He said he was becoming a Tik Tok influencer. Two volunteers picked slips from a plastic envelope. One chose "donut" and the other chose Legos. Rather than reveal the donut, Terrence showed a lemon. The lemon turned into a wadded up piece of yellow paper which he unwrapped to show a chocolate donut. He also did Spooning Around where a spoon appeared and later turned into a fork.

Brad Davidson did Three Card Monte with four cards. He fanned three cards and set one on the table. Each time the money card (AD) vanished from the fan and appeared on the table. For the last round, the card on the table was blank and the three cards in the fan were all Ace of Diamonds.

John Sturk picked John Mussman and had him peek a card. Next Ian peeked a card and finally Ed picked a card. John then analyzed the three volunteers and called out three cards which were the three chosen cards! (In Flight by David Regal)

Paco Perez went next and picked Kristen to assist. He showed two decks and Kristen chose the blue decks. After eliminating all but two of the cards from each deck, Paco showed his prediction which said everybody is talking about 6/7.

Mike Kamlet showed a card effect. Two people chose cards and Mike found the four Aces. He dealt the two black Aces onto the table and they turned into the two red Aces. He then fanned the two Aces and the selected cards appeared sandwiched between them! Mike then showed another variation of Any Card At Any Number.

Asher Schulman performed Twisted Sisters by John Bannon. Two four card packets, one red backed and the other blue backed were placed face down on the table. Asher said they were the four queens. He had one volunteer name a black queen and one name a red queen and said he would cause the selected Queens to jump to the opposite packet. He then spread the packets and the chosen Queens were shown to be face up in the opposite packet.

After the meeting some members adjourned to Primo Chukies Mexican 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

In lieu of a regular meeting in April, we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the formation of Ring 46. The charter from April 1946 included the name of our Ring's namesake, Seymour Davis.

We were very appreciative that Jonathan Meyer offered the use of his venue, Jonathan's Magic Theater, for our celebration. We were very pleased that Seymour Davis' daughter Dayna Davis Savage was able to join us for the party. She and her husband Gary drove all the way from the Houston area. Their two children ShirlyKay and Kent and their spouses also drove from Texas.

The first thing that greeted members and guests was a blowup of the original Ring charter. Michael King had the document enlarged and Rick Martin affixed it to a foam board.

Our celebration started with socializing and plenty of food and drink. The Ring provided

food and a wide choice of soft drinks and members brought a variety of desserts.

President Cassidy Smith acted as our emcee for the evening. He started by having certificates presented to all the officers commending them for their many years of service. He then introduced each of the magicians who performed.

Lee Woodside performed the venerable die box routine. He stated that had Seymour Davis performed at your grandfather's school when your grandfather was a little boy, he may have performed this very same trick.

David Teeman invited Seymour Davis' daughter Dayna to join him on stage. Every time David attempted to vanish a small handkerchief after Dayna waved the wand, he failed. Each time he then called for a bigger wand. Finally, with a wand that dwarfed the stage, the trick was successful.

Michael King performed his "One Man Circus" act. He juggled, spun plates, and ended by juggling clubs while riding a unicycle. He then demonstrated his card skills. He asked a kid who identified himself as John Jacob Jingleheimer Smith to name a card. The kid named the Ace of Diamonds. Michael, who had been shuffling a deck of playing cards the entire time, showed that the cards were now in new-deck order, but missing the Ace of Diamonds. Showing his hand empty, he reached into his pocket and removed the missing ace.

John Pansze invited Shirley Kay to assist him. He tore off two strips of toilet paper and handed one to her. They each tore up their strips of paper and put the wadded up paper in their mouths. John proceeded to pull out a very long strip of paper from his mouth.

Bruce Rodensky talked about the "Predict-A-Pet" trick that Lee Woodside had come up with back in 1999. Bruce then took out three business cards. On one he had drawn a cow, on another he had drawn a pig, and on the third he had drawn a chicken. He asked Lee to choose one and Lee chose the pig. Bruce asked Lee to turn over the cow and read the message, which said that Lee would not pick the cow. The same was true for the chicken. The message on the back of the pig said that it would be chosen.

Kevin Brasier produced a candle and lit it to prove it was real. He wrapped a scarf around the candle and it vanished. Kevin then produced a dove from the scarf.

Jim Green told everyone that a one-hundred-dollar bill has three holes in it. He used a toothpick to prove it and then passed the bill for examination.

Jonathan Meyer closed the show with his sig-

nature card and rope magic. If you're ever in the OKC area, we highly recommend that you pay a visit to Jonathan's Magic Theater. *Lee Woodside*

RING 64, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY – Okito/Lance Burton Ring

Meets 7:00pm various dates at Kosair Charities, 982 Eastern Blvd., Louisville, KY 40217

MICHAEL A. RAYMER, President

Web site: www.louisvillemagicclub.com

The Louisville Magic Club Ring #64 Lance Burton/Okito Ring held its most recent meeting on Tuesday, April 7th at its regular meeting place, The Kosairs Charities Center on Eastern Parkway in Louisville, Kentucky. There were 25 members and invited guests in attendance. Club President Bret Sohl called the meeting to order promptly at 7 PM and after a few brief updates and announcements on past and upcoming events and member activities, it was time for our special guest lecturer of the evening to take center stage.

Our guest speaker was none other than Nate Kranzo of Penguin Magic. Nate is a full-time magic entertainer who has acquired a considerable and well-earned reputation for creating and performing unique and original magical effects. Born and raised in Michigan, he honed his magical skills working in the many resorts in Northern Michigan before embarking to tour extensively around the country and around the world, performing in Canada, Mexico, France, England, Holland and Japan. His magical creations have been published and documented in several national and world-wide magic publications such as "Magic Magazine," "Genii Magazine," and "The Linking Ring." He has been a consultant for the TV show "Penn & Teller Fool Us" and, as mentioned, a major contributor and inventor for Penguin Magic.

During the lecture, Nate wowed and amazed us with many of his magic creations and effects for a very appreciative audience. Some of the incredible feats included: "Repetition," a card effect using 3 cards that continuously turned into 4 cards no matter how many times you threw a card away. "Six-Card Repeat," a classic of magic, was next. Nate showed us how rough and smooth cards were involved in performing this offering. "Mood Ring" illustrated how moods can affect and ultimately enhance a magical performance. "Stone Purse" and "Multiplying Coins" were next. "Coin Thru Silk," a trick made famous by Michael Ammar, was beautifully performed. "Money Ball" — a quarter miraculously morphed into a yellow bouncy ball and back again in the blink of an eye. The most astonishing and probably best effect from Nate was saved for last, namely "52

Gone.” A spectator thought of a card from a deck that was fanned in front of him. An entirely different deck was then removed from Nate’s jacket pocket, all while the original deck instantly — and I mean instantly — disappeared into the unknown. The spectator’s card was correctly identified to the amazement of the spectator and everyone in the room. It was quite the show-stopper. Several audible gasps were heard from those among the gathering when that deck disappeared. Amazing, incredible and very visual.

After a brief Q&A, the meeting was adjourned. Those in attendance offered Nate a very rousing round of applause for a wonderful evening of magic entertainment and wonder. See you all next month and have a magical day. *Carl Loud*

RING 71, CINCINNATI, OHIO – W.W. Durbin Ring-J. Ronald Haines

Meeting dates vary per month, 7:00 p.m. at Springdale Nazarene Church, 11177 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45246.

Please check website, www.Ring71.com for upcoming events.

CHARLIE MEYER, President / Email: charlie.cadabra@yahoo.com

Facebook: International Brotherhood of Magicians - J. Ronald Haines - W.W. Durbin Ring 71

In January 2025 we canceled our Holiday Dinner because of the rising costs of various venues. During the spring we had various lectures and magic demonstrations. In July our annual picnic was held at Don Westermeyer’s house. During the summer our regular meetings were suspended but some members elected to attend and practice and critique each other’s presentations. At our April Ring meeting we returned to a format that we used in the 1960s at Haines House of Cards. As members arrived, they could sign up to demonstrate a trick. After the demonstrations we took a break for drinks and snacks. Then those that wanted to teach a trick did so and answered questions from the group. Gerald Ralston demonstrated a trick with a washer on a rope using a mirror glass. All the rest demonstrated their favorite card tricks.

Al Scheide

RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – Honest Sid Gerhart Ring

Meets 7:00 pm 2nd Mon. of the month at Immaculate Conception

Church located at 2540 San Diego Ave., San Diego, CA 92110

MAGIC MIKE STILWELL, President / Web site: www.ring76.com

For our March 9th meeting, President Magic Mike Stilwell welcomed us 40 in attendance. 30 were active members and ten were guests.

The most notable Announcements were:

During his term, our President aspires to attain a membership of 100 magicians. That goal seems attainable. Membership-VP James Thayer noted that with new members David Meredith and Jacob Zuckerman, our club now has 80 active members!

On February 28, at the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center, Professor Paul hosted his 40th Annual “Rotary Creates Magic” fundraiser with a matinee and an evening show.

On March 5th, Anjo Sanchez hosted his first magicians’ jam-session at the Longball Cocktail Club. A dozen local amateur and professional magicians met to Show-and-Tell their secrets.

On March 10th, for the “Strolling Magic Showdown” at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, Magic Mike Stilwell will compete with 24 magicians from around the world. We told Mike to “break-a-leg” (in good faith).

The theme for our April 13th meeting will be “You Fooled Us”. Eight contestants will attempt to win a trophy by “bamboozling” judges Ms. Magical Charley and Miguel Garcia.

VP-Entertainment Paul Dwoark introduced the “Magic Mini-Lectures”. Each of the five (5) lecturers presented a 10-minute session, in rotation, at five tables of attendees.

Magic Mike taught his signature warm-up routine with a gambling die (He learned the effect when he was a teenager!) Mike gave everyone one die for them to practice later.

Anjo Sanchez focused on mental magic by teaching a card routine with a freely selected card. That card matched his prediction, which had been untouched beside his close-up pad.

Max with an X taught beginner’s coin magic by performing “Magician’s Choice”, “Ghost Coin”, and “Pencil Steal”. He also demonstrated simple ways to make a coin appear or disappear.

Magical Ms. Charley performed a playing card routine with many surprises. By deftly using Double Lifts and a Mercury Fold, the lost card was surprisingly found in her pocket.

Vic Terrific performed a “worker’s” routine in order to demonstrate the value of using the simplest methods. He also emphasized how proper routing can add dramatic impact to the surprise-ending of any magical effect.

Librarian Gary Salisbury led the 50/50 Drawing and the Door-Prize Raffle. A dozen lucky members each won magic props, all taken from the inventory of our club’s vast Magic Store.

Thank you Alvin Revilas, for serving you freshly brewed hot coffee and the homemade Filipino Lumpia rolls. *Max Long*

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

It was awesome to have 21 magicians and a couple of family members convene on the 2nd of April for a jam-packed, marvelous lecture by

the resplendent Geoff Williams. With a constant arsenal of tomfoolery up his sleeves and a disarming “who-me?” grin emblazoned on his lips, Geoff presented a two-hour powerhouse performance and lecture covering about a dozen of his published magic effects. In short, it was a great evening of magic to watch, and even better to gain the knowledge of how to do them and present them.

Williams has been lecturing since the late ‘90s, with his first set of lecture notes coming out in 1999. In total, our lecture came from his 298 pages of published material, and he hand-picked ten effects out of the 91 he has published. He also has recorded an “At the Table” lecture as well as a Penguin lecture. There were four tricks using cards (his improvement on Devastation was a favorite, as well as his Jack Elmsley that was inspired by Marlo’s Technicolor Prediction #4), a gorgeous coin vanish into a pen that he calls Kewpie (pronounced “QP”), a very funny celebrity prediction that takes the Baby Gag and makes it true comedy and very magical, and we were also treated to a couple of his most recent product creations: the Rubreak Cube (where a Rubik’s Cube falls completely apart in a spectator’s hands) and his Bits & Pieces Project, a kind of prediction effect using the sixteen torn pieces of a card.

Along the way, Geoff completely entertained the club with his wit, his scripting, and the disarming nature of his skill and knowledge of magic. He emphasized how he is always looking for ways to put his spin on tricks that he reads or sees. Geoff has two books out about mnemonic picture methods for both the Aronson and Mnemonica full-deck stacks, and he referenced the power of having a simple system like his to help even when remembering a card someone chooses. However, he never slowed the lecture down to share his expertise with a memorized deck. We are lucky to have Geoff as a regular attendee and member of Ring 81, and we highly recommend that you reach out to him to lecture for your club or at your convention.

Tom Vorjohan

RING 84, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA – Charles Waller Ring

Meets 1st Mon. 7:30 p.m. (except January), at the Welsh Church, 320 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

AIDAN THOMPSON, President/Secretary

E-mail: aidan.thompson@fultonhogan.com.au

General Business: Ian Baxter opened our night by distributing copies of his new routine, a new approach to the Stuart James classic “Simplicity for Aces.” Ian also shared stories from his time at the Magic Castle in 1973,

including how he discussed card-to-pocket routines with Francis Carlyle and Dai Vernon.

Melbourne Comedy Festival. The festival is underway, featuring 10 magic shows: six aimed at children and four for adults.

One Man Parade March 2026. Watch out for Ian Baxter’s One Man Parade in the March 2026 issue of “The Linking Ring.”

Melbourne Spiegel Haus. A British group of magicians will be performing at the Melbourne Spiegel Haus in May for a six-week season.

Magicians of the West. A new club, Magicians of the West, was founded in April this year. I.B.M. Ring 84 member Ben is among the founding members.

Magic at the Meeting: Ben opened the evening with a sock routine. A participant selected one sock from a range of cartoon socks, which was then revealed to already be worn by Ben. He is calling this effect “Magic Is a Foot.” Ben also suggested storing gift coins in ring boxes as a useful extra tip.

Peter Hanway performed his Romanian Rings routine, first documented by Terry Rogers and based on a Paul Harris routine. He also demonstrated rubber band handcuffs and a broken-and-restored rubber band effect by Harry Lorayne, which he recently learned.

Aiden Kemp dealt a deck of cards into two piles and had a participant select one. The chosen pile matched a prediction in the form of a miniature card carried in Aiden’s wallet. He noted this serves as a versatile catch-all effect, keeping several different cards in his wallet to suit various occasions.

Kim demonstrated marked deck work, predicting the number of randomly selected cards, the count of cards in a chosen pile, and the total of digits and pips on those cards. Kim used the Marksman deck, noting it is available in bricks at a reduced price. An additional effect using the DMC Marked Deck was also displayed.

Peter Hanway

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: trazdal@att.net

March brought another lively evening of magic and conversation to IBM Neil Foster Ring 89. In attendance were John Sherwood, Kevin Rosewood, John Kik, Phil (Le Grand Wysard Phillip), Eric Sullivan (Trazdel), Gene, and Nancy. We also had four visitors stop in after noticing our gathering and wanting to learn more about what was happening.

A reminder that our Ring business meeting will take place on March 30th at 7:00 PM via

Zoom. Weekly shows at the American Museum of Magic resume on April 4th. Reach out to Scott if you would like to perform. Michigan Magic Day will take place on April 25th in Flint, Michigan. This annual gathering of magicians from across the state is always filled with lectures, performances, dealers, and the chance to connect with fellow conjurers. John asked if the Ring had any interest in having a space for Marshall Pride once again this year. This was met with overall positivity from the group.

Of course, no Ring meeting would be complete without a little magic. Gene kicked things off by sharing a daring escape involving chains and shackles. Kevin ensured the chains were tight and locked, but they were no match for Gene. Next, Eric shared a clever card effect that reminded everyone just how powerful a simple deck of cards can be in the right hands. Finally, Kevin took a moment to workshop elements of his card manipulation act, discussing technique and presentation with John. The conversation focused on specific sleights and nuances of handling.

The next meeting will take place on April 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Michigan. The theme is Close-Up.

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.
CHRISSEY BEYERLEIN, Secretary

Website: Albuqadabra.com / E-mail: info@ChrissyCadabra.com

A Whirl of Wonders: Ring 90's Magical Month of April Marvels

If you happened to stroll past a gathering of Ring 90 magicians, you might have felt it — a faint shimmer in the air, like the world itself was holding its breath. That's because our beloved club has been buzzing with more magic than a wizard's attic in a windstorm.

A Secret-Soaked Afternoon with Banachek

Between monthly meetings, Ring 90 members huddled together for a special treat: a magic lecture from the legendary Banachek. Imagine a room full of grown adults grinning like kids in a candy shop as they learned the hidden mechanics behind illusions that have fooled audiences for decades. Pocket predictions? Check. Max Maven's "Isolation?" Absolutely. The Hoy Force? Minds blown. PK touches, confabulation routines, melting/bending forks, "this and that" cards — oh my. But the biggest lesson wasn't a sleight or a secret. Banachek reminded everyone of something far more powerful: don't just copy magic — transform it. Take a trick that's already

strong, then twist it, shape it, and breathe your own story into it. Magic becomes real when it becomes yours.

Just when the excitement seemed to peak, Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church invited Ring 90 to sprinkle a little wonder at their family Easter carnival on April 4th. Performers Gene Gutierrez, Dave Dunlap, and Chrissy Cadabra delivered not one but two 45-minute parlor shows for crowds of delighted kids and their equally delighted parents. Laughter, gasps, and wide-eyed amazement filled the room — proof that magic is a universal language spoken fluently by children of all ages.

April's Teach-In: A Magical Carousel

April's monthly meeting transformed the room into a rotating workshop of wizardry. Four members set up teaching stations, and everyone else traveled from table to table like magical explorers collecting treasures. By the end of the night, members left with pockets full of new techniques and heads full of new possibilities. Brenda Lamon shared the elegant mystery of coins through sheer silks, inspired by Michael Ammar and performed to enchanting music. Dave Dunlap taught a slick version of cutting the aces, courtesy of Paul Gordon. Gene Gutierrez dove into the mind-bending world of Hummer principles. Nation Green demonstrated Frank Garcia's charming easy card rise.

A New Look for Ring 90

As if the month weren't magical enough, Nation Green and Gene Gutierrez have been brewing up something special behind the scenes: brand-new Ring 90 logos! These fresh designs will make their grand debut at the May meeting, giving the club a visual identity as bold and bright as its members. From secret lectures to Easter enchantment, from hands-on learning to artistic creativity, Ring 90 has been a whirlwind of imagination and community. Whether you're a seasoned magician or someone who still wonders how a coin disappears behind an ear, there's something here for everyone. And the best part? The magic is only getting started.

Chrissy Beyerlein

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

The March meeting of Ring 93 began with a discussion about the possibility of hosting proposed lecture. After some discussion, it was decided that it would be better to build up our treasury a bit before bringing in another lecturer. So the conversation turned to an upcoming strolling magic event scheduled for mid-April.

Jim McCrea performed his version of Paul Harris' Deep Clear in which a volunteer selects their own 3-4 letter magic word. That word is then used to resolve a card trick. Then Jim showed that their freely chosen magic word was spelled out in letter cards contained in a leather wallet that had been in full view on the table before the word was even chosen.

Walking Magic Bob performed a seldom seen effect called Burmese Bells. A most unusual effect original with Collectors' Workshop. Five antique bells are suspended on different lengths of cord from a clear Lucite tube. The performer holds the tube at arm's length and asks a spectator to choose one of the bells. On command, the bell begins to swing. At first, ever so slightly, and then it picks up momentum until it is swinging wildly. The spectator was asked to make another choice, and upon doing so, the first bell returns to its previous state of quiescence while the second begins to swing. Bob also performed his version of Chris Capehart's Continuous Coin Production. After several coins were produced, Bob ends by producing 5 more Silver Dollars without ever going to his pocket. For his final effect, he performed a card trick dedicated to his daughter about buying a wedding ring.

Chris Westemeier performed what he calls "A Silly Prediction." He writes a prediction on a note card that is placed face down on the table. A spectator selects a card from a deck of cards and without looking at it, places it next to the prediction. The prediction is turned over to show the words "You will pick this card" and an arrow pointing at the selected card. After reiterating that he did say it was going to be silly, he shows that he got it exactly right as the selected card is turned over to show the exact same words and arrow are printed on it. Next he performed "Hyper-Bent-Elation" by Daryl. Two cards are selected and signed by spectators. Using scissors, a few cuts are made in the cards, then folded and end up making two impossible objects with mixed up fronts and backs. Finally, Chris showed something he was still working on developing. He shows a coin with images of life on one side and death on the other. With death face up he placed three half dollars on top in a stack and the death coin slowly crept up the stack to the top. Then the coins were separated and covered with playing cards. When the life side was shown, the other coins joined it, one at a time.

Adam Kieffer performed the 1089 calculator trick and a couple's version of Will the Cards Match with Zener cards. A husband Phil, and wife, Lou were asked to assist with the effect to test their compatibility. Two sets of matching

Zener cards were laid on the table in separate rows and then collected. They were then dealt on to the table in two packets. Lou was asked to choose which packet she would keep, and which she would give to Phil. After selecting the piles, the couple was asked to go through 4 rounds of Phil or Lou deciding who would place one card on the bottom of their packet, in any order they wanted. Round one had 4 moves to the bottom, round two had 3, round three had 2, and round 4 had one move from the top to the bottom. After each round, they were asked to place their top card face down on the table. Each time the next round started, Adam would bring the two cards together. After the rounds were completed, Phil and Lou were asked to bring the last card that they were holding, together to then be flipped to reveal that the cards were a match. Their compatibility was then showcased by showing that each of the pairs of cards on the table were also a match.

On Sunday, April 12th, five club members Bob, Margaret, Jim, Adam, Mark and Chris, traveled to Galena for a club show. They performed walk around magic for a mother and son event at the Galena ARC. The magic was very well received and a great time was enjoyed by all in attendance.

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

Ring 94 members gathered on March 25th at the Redmen's Club for their monthly meeting.

There was a very brief business meeting. Two officers were unable to attend, but we hope to see them next month. Our president shared information about a website that sells magic-themed T-shirts. All were reminded that the annual Ring auction will be rescheduled due to members having scheduling conflicts. A new date will be announced soon.

All were busy preparing for the Annual Swap Meet being held in Leola, PA. This is a super event and if you ever get the chance to attend you won't regret it.

The Ring sends get-well wishes to our Treasurer, Jim Greer. We miss him and we hope he will be back with us soon.

Following the meeting, members shared magic. The theme for the night was Mental Magic. Charlie James served as emcee. Jerry Mullinex performed a unique rope-off effect. He magically removed the tied-on rope from an original horn from an early 1900's car! Jason Wrathford offered up a card effect using a volunteer while sorting and restacking the cards.

Cards were featured again by Joe Cole, who also produced a yo-yo from his shoe which he then expertly handled. Closing out the evening, Charlie James performed his favorite mentalism effect, Transmental, using an assortment of marked bars he could tell the volunteer which bar was placed into a brass tube.

Following the performances, members continued to share other effects and routines, making it a fun evening for all. Joe Cole was our participation prize winner. Next month's theme will be Anything Goes. No one will have an excuse not to perform.

Karen James

RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – Merlin Eifert 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

This month, Ring 96 presented an Evening of Strolling Magic. Nine of our magicians rotated around four tables allowing everyone to have a close-up view as they performed a ten-minute set.

Marshall was the first to our table. He placed a jumbo card face down on the table and then took out a normal deck of cards and had a volunteer pick one at random. She picked the four of spades. He put down a card from the deck and said he had found her card. It was the King of Hearts. Marshall turned over the prediction and it was the King of Hearts. It matched his card, but not the volunteer's. He told her to look more closely, and she saw the King was holding the four of spades. Marshall pantomimed handing a volunteer an invisible deck of cards. He had her pantomime opening the deck and choosing a card. When she chose one, he took out a real deck and found her card was the only one reversed in the deck.

Alan arrived at our table with a box that contained the game Clue. He showed off the board and the pieces. He gave everyone a score sheet to use to predict who the murderer was, in what room, and with what weapon. Alan shuffled a pile of Clue cards. He had one volunteer pick a murder weapon card, one pick a murderer card and one pick a room from the random pile of cards. He collected the sheets only to find no one had predicted the correct solution. His prediction matched perfectly.

Our next performer was Magic Brad. Brad brought out a length of chain necklace to play "Fast and Loose." He staked a volunteer some money, and after showing how the game was played, he proceeded to win each round until the money was gone. After that he had two volunteers pick a card. The cards were placed back into the deck right side up in random positions

and cut into the deck. Soon the cards were found to be right next to their matching mates. Brad ended with "Around the World" where a shuffled deck dealt out at random by volunteers had all the red and black cards properly separated into piles.

New member Evelyn was up next. She had four cards in a paper clip which she said were the four queens. She had a volunteer pick a color to remove. The volunteer chose to remove the black Queens. Evelyn asked for which remaining red Queen to remove. The volunteer chose Hearts. The paper clip was removed, and the cards were spread and revealed only the Queen of Diamonds was face up. Surprisingly, that Queen had a different back than the rest. More surprisingly, the other three cards turned out to be blank. Next Evelyn took two jokers out of a deck, she had a volunteer pick a card, it was the two of hearts. She had the volunteer place an invisible two of hearts between the jokers, and after a couple of moves, the real card was found to be there. Evelyn placed four aces face up and dealing face down cards on top of them. She had a volunteer choose the order to stack the piles in, and then they were dealt out as poker hands, the volunteer had the four aces and won the hand. Her last effect was to place three beads on two strings and have a volunteer hold the beads in her hand. Evelyn pulled the ropes out through the volunteer's hand and left the beads inside.

Jess Cone was our next performer. He placed the four queens face down on the table and placed a silver dollar under one and asked volunteers to guess which queen hid the coin. The guesses didn't matter as there was a silver dollar under each one. Jess then went into a coin matrix routine where coins jumped back and forth magically between four locations on the table. Jess brought out a Chinese coin with a hole in the middle and seemed to pass the silver dollars through the much too small hole. He ended his set with a ring on a rope routine. The ring was clearly on the rope and then somehow came off. The ring appeared in the volunteer's hand, and then back on the rope.

Wayne was next. He pulled out a deck of cards, and had a volunteer count out ten cards face down into his hand. He gave five cards to a volunteer to hold without looking at them. Another volunteer got to look at the five remaining cards and was asked to mentally choose one. Wayne had the second volunteer hold the cards between his hands and made a magical gesture. The second volunteer had only four cards in his hand, and the first had six. Even more amazing was that it was the chosen card that had traveled from one volunteer to the other.

Kevin came to the table and had a card chosen and signed. He had a second card also selected and signed. Both cards were lost in the deck. The second signed card was somehow face up, and the two signed cards were right next to each other. After that it was seen that both signed cards were on opposite sides of the same card. Kevin took out a deck and spread it face down. All the backs were different. He had two volunteers pick a card each and placed them into the deck at random. Both cards were found next to cards that matched both front and back. This was good as all the other cards were Aces of Spades. Kevin produced three coins and they vanished and appeared at different places. He ended with some rubber band magic including Crazy Man's Handcuffs and Bill Up a Ladder.

New member John Aston brought out a deck of cards and put a prediction on the table. He dealt two cards which turned out to be the Ace of Diamonds and the Five of Clubs. He said that one card would guide him to the value of the prediction and the other would guide him to the suit. Sure enough the prediction was the Ace of Clubs. John laid out eight different cards face down. He and a volunteer took turns eliminating cards, until one was left. Another volunteer was asked to name a celebrity who had passed away. Houdini was named. John showed a prediction card with a skull and a Seven of Diamonds. The card matched the remaining card on the table. John ended with three very different looking business cards on the table. A volunteer was asked to pick one. It was the only one that said "You will pick this card" on the back.

Liam was the last performer at our table. He performed an unusual, themed effect that included a pendulum and tarot cards. He had a volunteer choose a tarot card from a deck, and used a pendulum to figure out what card was picked. He performed a similar effect having a different volunteer pick a "spirit animal."

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 meeting tonight was promoted as a double billing, with our Treasurer, Dale Trueman, giving a presentation on Building a Character and a lecture by visiting magician Yanai Elgossi. Unfortunately Dale was sick and our President had requested Peter Wood and Peter Rodgers to assist him with a short presentation on Character Building. The meeting commenced with Jack

Sharp making a few comments about our club and our convention in early November with Joshua Jay and Raymond Crowe as our special guests. Jack then spoke of his new interest of painting and he showed a very poor copy of Botticelli's Birth of Venus which he claimed was his own work. A spectator was asked if he could find his previously chosen card somewhere in the picture. An alarm sounded when the spectator touched an inappropriate area of the picture only for Jack to show the card was on full display in the painting's scenery.

Peter Wood was next, and to explain how you could build a character for your act he showed short videos of famous magicians with interesting characters including Whit Haydn as Pop Haydn, Charlie Frye with an amazing Linking Ring routine, Bill Malone and Tommy Cooper. Sean Taylor who was in our audience made a few comments about his experience in seeing Tommy Cooper live many years ago.

Peter Rodgers then showed a few books which discussed performing in character. Will Dexter's Everybody's Book of Magic has chapters with titles such as "These are Names to Conjure With" and "Top of the Bill" where such performers as, The Davenport Brothers, David Devant, John Nevill Maskelyne, Chung Ling Soo, Lafayette, Houdini, Horace Goldin and Richard Pitchford better known as Cardini are featured. All famous for their great performing characters. Other books discussed were Magic and Showmanship by Henning Nelmes which has a chapter on characterisation, Strong Magic by Darwin Ortiz with one of its four sections devoted to characterisation. Peter held up a DVD put out by John Van Der Put in 2008. The picture on the cover made John look like a bank officer. Peter then held up John's recent book, published by Vanishing Inc., showing him as his new character of Piff the Magic Dragon. He has been a Las Vegas headliner now for over a dozen years as "Piff", an amazing character.

After a short supper Charlie Mortimer introduced our main performer/lecturer for the night Yanai Elgossi. Yanai had come to Australia from Israel to assist Asi Wind with his seven day season in the Playhouse Theatre at the Sydney Opera House. Asi had now returned to the USA, however Yanai was stranded in Sydney because of closure of the United Arab Emirates airspace during the Israel, USA, Iran war. Yanai's performance and lecture was sensational! He is the future of close up and card magic. Although he is just 21, he has been mentored by such luminaries as Asi Wind, Juan Tamariz, Dani DaOrtiz, and David Williamson and it shows. Using great principles such as a superb classic force, a memorised deck,

dual reality, strong misdirection and a charming personality he left us spellbound, before he explained his techniques. Cards chosen appeared in impossible places. A card reversed in the deck by a spectator standing just outside the room was, apparently, predicted. He managed to read a spectator's mind to everyone else's amazement.

Yanai likes to routine his effects so that they have a 50/50 outcome at the end. He then gives the spectators a choice, but he never fails. Every one is left with the thought, what would have happened if I had chosen the other option? It's what magical nightmares are made of.

If you get the opportunity to see Yanai Elgossi perform or lecture don't miss it. We understand that he is currently writing a book of his magic. Don't miss that either when it's published later this year. *Peter Rodgers*

RING 106, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – Slydini 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 meeting began with our members mingling and catching up on past activities. It is surprising how much happens in one month. It was announced that Harry Evans will be performing at our beautiful Sparta Avenue Stage, and then holding a workshop on April 18th. Our club discussed entering the social media platform. Our secretary Stan will look into starting a Facebook page specifically for Ring 106.

Phil Schwartz showed off a beautiful set of Disney's Mickey the Sorcerer's playing card deck. It comes with numerous tricks available to be done with the deck. The deck comes with a nicely designed case as well. Barnes and Noble was selling it for ~\$15.00. He also brought along a board game that he possesses called Houdini vs. The Genii. Dan Sylvestri demonstrated a Chinese coin and Morgan silver dollar transposition with the use of a Slippery Sam. He then did a mini in-house workshop for us based off his variation of the 3 coins across routine.

Stan Bladek utilized the knowledge and critique of the members to fine tune his version of "Collared" by John Archer. The suggestions contributed by the Ring members were invaluable. Bruce Harpster did a Smash and Stab trick which very cleverly utilized a broken shot glass on the final reveal. He then proceeded to pop a large red balloon to demonstrate its effectiveness.

Joe Garsetti then amazed us with 2 routines. He came to the meeting straight from performing a walk around event for 150 lawyers. Talk about a tough crowd! Initially he fooled us with

his handling of "Blizzard" by Dean Dill. His misdirection was flawless. His next trick was a cups and balls routine based on Tommy Wonder's routine. He once again fooled us with some great misdirection and slick sleight of hand to make a large blue pom-pom type ball appear as well as a bright blue satchel to hold the cups as he finished the routine.

Once again, the club had a nice variety of magical effects and as usual, the comments and camaraderie was unmatched. *Stanley 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

This month's theme was money magic. Kevin Deen was the first to perform, presenting his Three Cups Challenge, a famous bar bet effect where you challenge someone to turn three cups upright in three moves, flipping two cups simultaneously each time. There's a secret move that makes this virtually impossible for the participant. Jay Paul performed Ring Flight by Mesika. Jay vanished a borrowed ring and revealed the key hanging from his key chain! Richard Micucci demonstrated and taught an impromptu dollar bill divination devised by Kenton Knepper. Six one-dollar bills were borrowed while a spectator signed one of the bills. The bills were turned over and mixed up with the magician's back turned. Turned back around, Rich was able to swiftly point out the face down, signed bill!

Bill Schmeelk brought along his X-Pen and performed a highly visual stretching illusion of his Sharpie marker! Bill followed up with Murphy Magic's recently released, Ghost Deck. Based on Lennart Green's Stolen Cards. The added stunning kicker after the matching cards is when Bill revealed that the rest of the deck was blank-faced! Dan Silvestri performed a deceptive coin matrix with pennies arranged in a square. Based on Jim Steinmeyer's Bermuda Triangle, no matter how many pennies Dan added to each side of the square, the total number of pennies per side remained the same!

Kevin Deen presented David Jonathan's and Nickolas Mavresis' Art Trivia from TCC Magic. A series of famous paintings are presented and the spectator must decide which one is the counterfeit piece. There is a humorous surprise ending where the chosen art is the only legitimate work while all the others are revealed to be crudely rendered rip-offs! Carl Morano brought his trusty Devil's Cups to performed a routine called The 4 Devil's Cups. Carl turned his back while the spectator placed one die under any one

of four metal cups. After a series of instructions to move and mix the cups around, Carl turned around and revealed the cup with the die by quickly turning over the three empty cups and stacking them!

Jay Paul closed out the evening with one of his favorite card routines. A chosen card is mixed into a deck. Through a process of elimination, only one card is left and it's the chosen one!

Carl Morano

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

April 2 was our first meeting in our new space at The Bowery Theater in Westport!

Shaun Rivera was asked at the last minute to open the meeting with an interesting money trick that he keeps in his wallet. Shaun is a seasoned pro and is always prepared.

Next, Dennis Burks revealed the Houdini plaque that Ring 129 and SAM Assembly 38 will be placing at 10th and Main Street this September, commemorating Houdini's first upside down suspended straight jacket escape. Many photos were taken including a group picture during the break.

Several Ring members then gave reports on various magic conventions they had attended. Dustin Blencoe reported on the success of the Ring 129 booth at Planet Comicon. Then Keith Leff spoke about his time at The Cavalcade of Magic and Daniel Mooncalf talked about his time at the Gateway Close-Up Convention. All reported that they had wonderful times and are looking forward to them in the future.

The theme of the meeting was "Lessons Learned." Members were asked to bring a routine or talk of a performance where they learned a valuable lesson on magic, performing, etc. Steve Steiner started us off with a lesson from his wife about streamlining his patter. Other lessons learned included:

"Just because you can, doesn't mean you should." - Keith Leff "Rehearse in full costume well before your performance." - David Sandy "When performing outdoors, perform in a shelter if possible." - Alabama Jones "Never use a dull nail when performing Blockhead." - Mooncalf "No matter how long and well-rehearsed you are, you WILL have a mishap." - John Hicks

Dennis Burks shared a story about choosing a spectator for a trick involving a watch only to find out the spectator only had one arm ("Always double-check your assistants"). Larry

Warsaw also shared a story about how he handled a situation where he found that his chosen assistant for a Book Test had dyslexia ("Always give your chosen assistants an out"). One of our full-time professional members, Todd Lamanske, rounded out the theme by reminding us that we should learn from every show, every routine, every time we perform.

Next, the magic segments from the 1975 Columbo television episode "Now You See Him" were shown and discussed as part of the ongoing Magic in the Media studies.

Finishing the meeting with Share The Magic, Dennis Burks showed his copy of "A Gift From the Gods" and the reprint of Modern Magic. Keith Leff shared a wonderful Card To Wallet routine which he simplified. And John Hicks shared Odd Card Out which he learned at The Gateway Close-Up Convention. All in all, a very full evening to break in our new meeting venue!

Kelly Rusk

RING 151, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA – Ottawa Society of Magicians - The Roy Cottee Ring

Meets 2nd Tue. at one of three locations. Contact us for details.
JOHN PERT, President
5556 Van Vliet Rd., Manotick ON, K4M 1J4

On March 9th, while King Charles, the Royal Family, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, dignitaries and hundreds of young people attended a traditional multi-faith Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey in London, the members of the Roy Cottee Ring (Ring 151, Ottawa) gathered in the back room of the Barley Mow to magish and persiflage.

In attendance were John Pert, Kyle Leon, Chris Pilsworth, Wayne Radford, George Sapounidis and Mark Montreuil.

Starting us off was Chris Pilsworth who treated us to some of his newest ideas. Chris started by taking three red bungee cords out of a bag, stretching them to different lengths and then performing a version of the classic Professor's Nightmare. Chris has really added some neat touches to this classic effect.

Chris then showed us a fancy pocket watch on a chain and a clear beer bottle. He placed the bottle into a box and lowered the watch into the box. He then removed the bottle, showing us that he had indeed captured time in a bottle, as the watch was now impossibly inside! He then replaced the bottle and watch into the box, and upon removing the watch showed that it had passed back out of the bottle. We had a long discussion of Chris's new idea and came up with many hopefully useful suggestions.

Kyle Leon showed us a special gimmicked card box that he had constructed that could produce impossible contents and then also a full

deck of cards. Kyle then showed us a prediction that used some white cards with simple drawings on them, a clock, a snail, a shirt, a boat and a horse. After a card was selected, it was the boat, which had a red X on the back. Even more amazing, on arranging the cards, we saw that the images spelled out the word BOAT! Kyle then ended by performing some impromptu mind-reading and precognition.

“Chairman” George Sapounidis, a well known polyglot musician and magician, told us about a multi-cultural concert that he was pulling together to celebrate the City of Ottawa’s bicentennial. This is a very big and exciting project. Who knows, maybe there will even be some space for magic!

That brought our meeting to a close, but not the magic for the month. Later in March, members John Pert, Chris Pilsworth, Pierre Daniel Bourgeau and Mark Montreuil performed par-lour and close up magic for adults recovering at Ottawa’s Rehabilitation Hospital. The show was very well attended and appreciated and everyone had a great time.

Until next month, dear reader, I remain.

Mark Montreuil

RING 158, GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Wizards of the North

Meets 1st Sun 3:00, Sunset Cafe, 302 S. Urania Ave., Greensburg, PA
MARK DURIGON, President / email: mdur@comcast.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443

April 12th brought together six of our local magicians meeting for the first time at our new location, Sunset Italian Restaurant. We were welcomed to a private room and provided excellent service, as well as an extra audience from some of the staff during the presentation part of the meeting.

Our business meeting covered several topics. We hope to schedule a picnic this summer. The local newspaper is planning on doing a feature on our magic club as it enters its 50th year. We are also keeping May 9th open to attend the Kyle Purnell lecture at “Something Amazing” in Johnstown. Chuck Snyder, owner of “Something Amazing” magic shop, will be demonstrating a feature trick each month, and this month he showed us Magical Visions by Matthew Wright.

Following a plethora of pizzas and other fine Italian dishes, and beverage of choice, we began the April competition, “Fool Us.” Each performer had two fellow magicians selected to be Penn and Teller, and then they proceeded to try to fool them.

Mark Durigon had a face-down card selected and placed in a clear single-card case. Then the spectator was asked to shake the card box,

which had been sitting on the table, to reveal a card inside. The card in the box matched the selected card in the clear case.

Chuck Riggie had one of the wait staff select a card. They then picked four other cards and added them to the selection. Chuck inflated a balloon and placed it on a stand. “The Balloon Knows,” he says, and one by one, a card was touched to the balloon. On the third try, the balloon burst, and the card in hand was the selected card, leaving our guest spectator amazed and somewhat startled.

Rick Bradley shuffled a deck of cards several times, some face-up into some face-down. The deck was reassembled, and the TV show Jeopardy was played. The answers were shown, and the spectators had to formulate the questions. The number of face-down cards, the number of red cards, and the suit of the remaining black cards were all predicted. Even an apparent mishap was predicted.

Chuck Snyder returned to the stage to present a two-deck trick. Using deck 1, he shuffled face-up cards into face-down cards. From a spread, two cards were selected. Deck 2 was used to illustrate the difference between GONE and VANISHED. Each spectator looks for their card as they are counted to the table. One selection was identified, but the other selection was not seen as the 51 cards went by. One card VANISHED. The card that was found ended up being the only card with GONE written on the back.

Steve Sojak brought out three dice, red, white, and blue, and three small cups. Turning his back, he instructed the spectator to place the dice on top of the cups, and then the dice were moved around several times. The dice were then covered with the cups. Steve then placed red, white, and blue poker chips in front of each cup. When the cups were lifted, the colors of the dice and chips matched.

Penn and Teller discussions took place after our guest spectators left. It was agreed that both Chuck Snyder and Steve Sojak had adequately Fooled Us. Thanks to all for a job well done, and a very entertaining meeting. *Rick Bradley*

RING 167, DES MOINES, IOWA – Justo Hijo Magic Club of Des Moines, Iowa

3rd Mon., 7:00pm at F&O’s Restaurant, 4050 Merle Hay Rd.,
Des Moines, IA 50310
STEVE DALY (Hinrichs), President
E-mail: Tinyb1999@yahoo.com

It was the “LUCK OF THE MAGICIANS” for Justo Hijo Magic Club of Des Moines, Iowa members at our third Monday of the month, monthly magic club meeting! (If you are visiting Central Iowa – come visit our club!) Thanks to the generous donation of magic books (some

old and rare, others newer and ALL filled with wonderful secrets!) – Club members performed a trick for a “first dibs” chance to pick out a new volume to add to their magic book collection. President STEVE HINRCHS and former president MIKAYLA OZ drove up to visit with BILL SMITH at his home a few weeks before. Bill has gifted our club members MANY wonderful magic props and books over the last couple of years. The club is very thankful to receive such magical gifts! THANK YOU, BILL! Over the next few meetings, more and more of Bill’s Books will be ‘up for grabs’ by club members.

Our Magical month of March began with a wonderful lecture by JAVI BENITEZ from Spain! Charming, funny, personable and VERY talented are just a few words to describe the powerhouse magician who lectured to our club members on Monday March 2nd. If your club gets the chance to book his lecture – DO IT!

Our regular club meeting was March 16th. We weren’t sure if we would have a March club meeting, as a blizzard struck the entire state of Iowa the night before (and temps were in the 70’s a few days before that!) 16 club members braved the cold and snow to attend the meeting, including Jack & Zeon who drove a four hour round trip to join us! We welcomed a guest of P.J.’s, a young lady whose name is Sierra. Sierra was asked to assist our magicians with their tricks a lot, as she was truly a great non-magician assistant, and the looks of amazement on her face were fun and rewarding to our club’s magicians. Also joining us was one of our newest club members, KIRK MARSH. Kirk is a former Ringling Clown who has traveled the world and appeared on many TV shows, cruise ships, casino show rooms and circuses. Our club is growing slowly!

It was time for MAGIC – something our club members dearly love to do, and we began with RUSS starting our magical presentations off for the night with a mentalism trick that involved VEGO as the accountant, AIDAN, ZEON, PAT, JACK, SIERRA, & P.J. with the random mixing of number cards with a prediction Russ had emailed the President STEVE twice earlier that day! AMAZING! WALTER presented a baffling card trick where the selected cards rose to the top of the deck right before our eyes. ZEON demonstrated his take on the coloring book trick, followed by JACK’s card trick which automatically predicted SIERRA’s chosen card. PAT presented a funny card trick with the help of SIERRA, using a paper bag and a blindfold that had wiggly eyes on it (very funny). VEGO asked KIRK to help him with his mathematical card trick that left the entire club scratching

their heads. VEGO is truly an amazing magician for just 11 years old. REX presented his Pompom Pole routine for retired folks who have little or nothing to do all day, with BRUCE following with a heartfelt message that, when folded, told us it was all “cow dung” (use your imagination as to what the actual word was, heehee) STEVE showed us a trick he learned from an old Linking Ring Magazine with a loop of rope & scissors. Our final magician’s performance was visiting Las Vegas magician VICTOR LEYON who was in Des Moines for a special appearance at the local casino for a private event. Victor presented a fun & unique card trick, then graciously shared with us how he did it.

Every club member took home a book or two as well as some new tricks they learned from the meeting.

Steve Daly

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@cfi.rr.com

Web site: www.Ring170.com

Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring” Orlando, Florida

President David Freeman brought the meeting to order. We had three guests, Joe Higley from the Daytona area, D.J McIntyre and Arlen Solomon, The SAM Youth Director. President Freeman gave a review of all the magic events and magic attractions in the Orlando area.

Phil Schwartz, our club’s historian, presented his 118th Magic History Moment lecture. Phil told the story of the Larsen family. In 1936, Genii magazine was started by the prolific Bill Larsen, Sr., and TV’s Magic Lady Gerrie Conrad Larsen. Their sons were long time Genii editor and reviewer, Bill, Jr. and creator of the Magic Castle, Milt. In addition, Phil showed three scrapbooks of magic ephemera he purchased in recent auctions. He closed with an original trick. He showed a handful of silks empty, and then he produced—a Dove bar. Not a bird, a popsicle! Bob Swadling offered to add his, and wife Valerie’s, hilarious incident to the Larsen story. Bob and Val were offered a chance to stay at Brookledge, the famous Larsen home with all the magic history. The guest room was in a converted garage. Irene Larsen told them to make themselves at home and then left to go out for the day but forgot to turn off the alarm in the garage and within minutes the police arrived with guns drawn. After a few tense moments, all was well and today, quite humorous.

Wallace Murphy, on behalf of our club, presented Phil with a fancy red velvet cake, as thanks for all Phil Schwartz’s hard work in preparing and presenting these 118 Magic

History Moments. During the break, he shared the cake with everyone.

Bob Swadling opened the monthly meeting show. He made a card vanish from a pack and then explained using a glue stick to make it happen. He then showed his original “shooter card” gimmick that can shoot a card up your sleeve for a miraculous vanish. Camile and Dwayne Walls, the father and daughter team did a baffling bit of mental magic. Dwayne would lay 4 random cards face up on the table and one down and Camile always knew the face down card. The cards were not marked because he used cards with backs that had no markings.

Paul Q had a deck of cards with names of show business stars and had a spectator sit on his prediction in an envelope and chose a name. The prediction was removed from the envelope, and it was a baby photo. After the laughter died down, the back was shown and it was the chosen star. Mark Fitzgerald had an appropriate card trick for St. Patrick’s Day. After a few cards were randomly chosen, they were all turned over and had the letters of “St. Patrick” on the back. Mike Flannigan did a “1089” trick on steroids. He had random numbers called out to add to the 1089 and the sum matched his written prediction in an envelope.

Dan Stapleton had a clever way to do the classic “boomerang” effect with the curving arcs that can be both larger and smaller than each other. Dan used the cardboard bands that you get when you buy hot coffee! He opened them up, cut them with scissors, and wrote the name of a volunteer on each. The arcs stretched and shrank.

Dennis Phillips showed 10 pairs of gloves. Each pair had two different colors. He invited up 9 volunteers to freely choose a pair of gloves and put them on. Then, they all found two other people to join hands with to make a continuous chain of gloves. Mysteriously, the last pair of gloves that remained for Dennis, were put on by him and matched the hands of the two people at the end making a perfect circle. Guest DJ McIntyre finished the show by having 2 volunteers each select a card and he was able to mysteriously reveal them. *Dennis Phillips*

RING 172, TUCSON, ARIZONA – The Joe DuPerre Ring

Meets 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m., Barro’s Pizza, 410 N. Wilmont Rd. in Tucson
FRANK PROCHASKA, Ring Contact
ibmring172@gmail.com

Our March 2026 meeting had twelve attendees including: Kenny S., Dan M., Juan F., Norm M., Ross H., Pat B., Michael C., Nathan B., Mitch L., Bill B., Alan V., and Frank P.

The group sessioned throughout the evening. Alan, Mitch, Nathan and others sessioned on

various card effects. Dan performed both Lloyd Barnes Vanishing Elephant – which generated a lot of interest – as well as a St. Patrick’s Day themed trick, Shenanigans. Kenny demonstrated a prototype of one of his forthcoming decks, the Torture Deck, as well as discussed other upcoming projects. Frank demonstrated his latest handling of fast and loose and also discussed his experiences with different chains. Michael performed Hybrid Predictions and other tricks. Many other effects were performed among the group and the entire group discussed various tricks, upcoming conventions, and other magic happenings.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 20th, 2026, at our normal place and time.

Frank Pochaska

RING 175, TAMPA, FLORIDA – Warren Hamilton Ring

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 3714 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa, FL 33618 / Website: <https://tampamagicclub.com>
KEN SPANOLA, President
(813) 249-7325 / E-mail: KSpanola@gmail.com

Terrific weather here in central Florida didn’t slow down attendance as we had 19 members and family attending the April meeting. Our Vice President is none other than the mega-skilled Geoff Williams, who opened the meeting with this month’s “Teach-a-Trick” segment on the Tenkai Pennies. Geoff made the transposition of two pennies look easy, smooth, and very deceptive, and he carefully walked us through the nuances of the “Goshman Pinch” that was originally in Tenkai’s lecture notes. Geoff has published his handling in his own notes, too. It’s knacky...but with a little practice, this is a great every-day-carry.

Our theme for the meeting was to find a discarded part of our repertoire from years ago, and members rose to this challenge. Secretary Tom Vorjohan opened with two tricks from his original show on May 23, 1976 (50 years ago, when he was just 12!). He did the Topsy Turvy Bottles with the assistance of Ivonne Ruiz and those iconic Black Cherry sodas. Then he did the Cut & Restored Rope that he learned from his first book purchase, “Magic Digest.”

Providing the funniest story of the evening, Geoff Williams told a hysterical presentation for the Fortune Telling Fish, something he did many years ago.

Mark Wilson’s best-selling book provided the basis for both tricks that Rudy Hernandez did: first the Torn & Restored Napkin including the false explanation where the torn pieces restore twice, then Rudy produced several eggs from a folded handkerchief over and over as he clucked like a chicken. Great to have Bob Klase produce a selected card and a royal flush from an otherwise

blank deck; he also had a named card appear between two jokers, having learned that from Michael Close's Workers series.

Magic that we did years ago that we rediscovered the power of again had Lowell Tauszik doing a beautiful Torn and Restored signed card courtesy of Karl Hein's dream, and he explained it to the group. Alan Zunich took us back to his first lecture, which he saw by Trevor Lewis back in 1981, as he gave a great safety lesson about crossing the road with Professor's Nightmare. Getting the entire audience involved in a tongue-in-cheek seance, Mark Myears connected with Harlan Tarbell to correctly match a prediction to what was in the envelope.

You know Frank Velasco loves John Bannon's work, and he shared his newest effect that included four questions to correctly find the selected card, and then a 3-by-3 Magic Square all adding to the same number. To conclude the performances, Joe Dobson went back to his beginnings with a Matrix effect he learned from Jonathan Levitt, and then his Lazy Man's Triumph.

Very fun night, and Scott Correll of SWC Magic brought in some wonderful tricks for sale before we left. Lots of magic from eleven of the nineteen people at the meeting. *Tom Vorjohan*

RING 179, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – George Dency Ring

Meets 2nd. Thu., 7:30pm at Chestnut Ridge Church, 1010 Saters Lane, Timonium, MD 21093

ANDY LONDON, President / Email: alondon@concast.net

The Baltimore Magicians Alliance, composed of SAM Assembly 6, and IBM Ring 179, held their March 12, 2026 meeting at the Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church in Timonium, MD. Two guests and 21 members attended. Ten members arrived early for a lively pizza jam that featured a ring and chain routine using a new linking technique, along with a discussion about ideas for orienting new members.

Announcements: (1) A special movie night will be held at Joe Pachino's home on April 21, 2026, featuring Dealt, the documentary on Richard Turner. (2) At the regular April 9, 2026 meeting, FISM winner Henry Evans will lecture. (3) At the regular May 2026 meeting two-time Fool Us winner Chris Capehart will lecture, on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at the Gramercy Mansion in Stevenson, MD.

Teach a Trick - Andy London played a video of a Henry Evans trick, followed by a flashback Zoom clip of club historian Mike Rose teaching a card trick - a clever variation of the Triumph effect that uses several shuffles and ends with the volunteer's named card as the only face-down card.

Up next was a Tarbell Volume 2 presentation by Mark Wolfire, who offered a comprehensive look not only at that volume in the series, but also at its 1928 origins as a weekly mail correspondence course. The course originally consisted of 60 lessons, and when Tannen later decided to publish it in book form, several lessons were dropped, updated, or added. Today, the Tarbell series contains 83 lessons across six volumes.

Mark noted that the material isn't just tricks. Volume 2 includes significant instruction on how to please an audience. All the lessons are designed to help magicians be original and entertaining. This point was reinforced by Ring Treasurer Jay Silverman, who joined Mark in demonstrating a rope trick inspired by Volume 2. Jay used three ropes of different colors, each with a knot tied in the center, and caused the knots to vanish in a spectator's hands and reappear on another rope that had been shown to have no knots at the start, now mysteriously bearing all the transferred knots.

Mark's selections from Volume 2 included several versions of the multiplying billiard balls, back-palming with playing cards and other card manipulations, as well as ways the cigarette tricks taught in the course can be adapted for pen knives. Rising cards then took center stage when Mark shared a photo of Dr. Samuel Hooker and the elaborate setup in his apartment used to create this effect. Tarbell's published methods helped advance the trick, and Mark demonstrated this by performing the Devano card rise.

Mark wrapped up his thorough presentation by emphasizing the coin manipulation taught in Volume 2 and how it has helped him with a "coins across at your fingertips" routine, as well as with material covered in the new Conover book by Eric Mead. He even added a follow-up to last month's Tarbell thumb-tip presentation by demonstrating the ingenuity of a trick called Repo by Tobias Dostal - a clever holdout that uses the thumb, but not a thumb tip.

This month's member presentation theme was mentalism, which tied in well with The Evasons being the next headliners at the Greenmount Station dinner show on March 24, 2026. Coincidentally, since the show date falls on Houdini's birthday, Dave is opening the show with an act honoring him and announced his excitement about visiting Appleton this summer.

Performances:

Rich Kitterman - shared a humorous anecdote about how socks go missing during laundry, displaying two mismatched ones. A volunteer

chose one, which vanished and reappeared between two other socks in the style of the 20th Century Silks trick, but using socks instead.

Josh Young - did a calculator trick that used random numbers which, when calculated, appeared as the word Pepsi upside down in its soda logo style.

Howard Katz - explained the origins of Zener ESP cards, and then demonstrated a thought transference effect.

Mary Pomykala - performed a humorous playing card prediction by calling a so-called Mr. Wizard, also known as Joe Pachino. Joe revealed the selected card despite not being present.

John Gazmen - presented Hoy's book test using several of his own books along with one from our club library. Members can check out books each month at our meetings, and his impromptu use of a book already in the room added to the misdirection.

Eric Keenan - shared his background in law enforcement with a clever routine involving coercion to influence a volunteer's thought-of card. He also assisted Dave Thomen, who rehearsed a new opening effect for his March 24 Houdini act.

Andy London - used a selected playing card to present three types of mentalism: telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition.

Kenny Caplan - asked a volunteer for a dollar, which he proceeded to ball up and use in a cups-and-balls routine. The trick concluded with a written prediction revealing the serial number from the volunteer's random bill.

The meeting ended with door prizes donated by D's Magic, Steve Myers Magic, and Freddie Lieberman Photography. Giveaways have now become a monthly tradition at Baltimore Magician Alliance meetings. *Michael Worsham*

RING 185, HONOLULU, HAWAII – Curtis Kam

Meets 4th Thu (except Nov. & Dec.), 7:00 p.m., at Kalihi Palama Library, 1325 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI 96819

LAUREEN TANAKA, Secretary

E-mail: laureenatnaka@gmail.com / www.hawaiimagicianclub.com

Five members attended our March 27, 2026 meeting in person.

Willy Chen kicked off the meeting with his performances: "The Gypsy Thread" and "The Needles Trick". Well done.

Joshua Jay from Vanishing, Inc., will be on Oahu on August 29, 2026, Saturday. He shared that he would like to offer a lecture on Close-Up, Parlour, Cards, Non-cards, Unpublished tricks, etc. The club is working on the following details: location, fee, times.

Nominations were discussed for the next year's Officers. Elections will be conducted at the April 23, 2026 meeting.

Hawaii Magic Festival updates were discussed. Dec. 26, 2026 date is currently on hold.

Bradley Choy performed his comedy routine using the sponge word "Something". He showed he had "Something" on his mind - held up the sponge to his head, he heard "something" - held up the sponge to his ear, etc. Members chuckled.

Bradley also successfully performed the Mexican Rope trick - One long continuous rope to 5 separate individual circles. Ta Da! Thank you for your time. *Laureen Tanaka*

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 returned to Len & Thalia's home for our monthly meeting. Thank you very much to Len and Thalia for your continued hospitality!

NEXT MONTH'S THEME: Old Effects Reimagined. Take something you haven't used in a while and breathe new life into it!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There are still some issues with the mailchimp emails. Please look in your spam/junk folders and move to your main inbox, and add rudy.chacon@email.com to your contacts and/or safe sender list. As each phone and carrier is different, help is available from Ring members if needed.

The Barry Mitchell lecture has been confirmed for 9/1/2026. Mark it on your calendars, more info to come!

Eric has set up a private Facebook group for Ring members. Anyone can be a member of the general Facebook group. The monthly minutes will be posted on the Facebook page going forward.

Ring 193 dues of \$25 will be due in April. A discount for lectures is available to paid members as well as the opportunity to perform at the annual Magic Competition.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Rudy discussed Salt Lake County Library System resources available.

Dan discussed the Maji Fest Convention in Columbus Ohio. It was top notch, comparable to Magic Live and he highly recommends attending.

Magic performed:

This month's theme was "Green Magic"

Ribbon-cutting demo (Eric Wanner) - Eric Wanner opened a ritualistic ribbon-cutting ceremony and recruited volunteers Jim and Chuck. Performer displayed a ceremonial ribbon-cutting device purchased in Cairo that visibly accepted the ribbon. Both volunteers initialed

the ribbon ends (Chuck wrote CH). Performer cut the ribbon with scissors and stated the cut could be instantly restored. Performer awarded the souvenir to Jim.

Leprechaun numerology & cards - Chuck Heller presented a leprechaun-themed card trick in March using one page from the Leprechaun Chronicles. Trick relied on numerology linking clovers with 3, 4, and 15 (three petals \times four-leaf arrangement \rightarrow 15). Volunteer shuffled and cut the deck; dealt cards formed rows/columns/diagonals that each summed to 15 (examples: $8+4+2+A=15$, $7+5+3=15$, $2+9+4=15$, $6+1+8=15$, diagonal $8+5+2=15$). Presenter pointed out the Chronicles page number was 15.

Doug's mentalist act (mind reading) - Doug invited audience member Chuck Heller to think of and write down a playing card. Volunteer Brad shuffled and hid the deck after jokers were removed. Doug placed an 'invisible' blank card between two jokers, then revealed a Nine of Clubs. Chuck's written card was the Ace of Spades; Doug confirmed the Ace matched. Doug named the routine 'Doug's Mentalist Act', said he'd done it 4 times, and gave Chuck a souvenir card.

Ring vanish — 'Stuck in time' - Thalia's ring was borrowed and placed in a small box she held. Performer used an egg timer (20-second) to make the ring vanish from the box. Ring reappeared inside the egg timer, described as "stuck in time". Two removal methods were mentioned: a messy method or unscrewing the timer; performer chose to unscrew.

Coin vanish & sleights deep dive - Rudy Chacon presents a signature "one-coin" routine that uses multiple gimmicked coins despite the name. Performer borrows a volunteer and uses a U.S. half-dollar (50¢, collectible value ~\$35) for vanish-under-shoe and ear-productions. Core sleights used: French drop, retention vanish, thumb palm/finger palm, thumb clip/Tenkai, waterfall vanish, and preacher vanish; employs fake squeezes and rub misdirection. Props and gaffs: split coin for the one-ahead principle, jumbo 7-8 in magnetic coin for productions. *Rudy Chacon*

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

Ring 194's April magic themes are usually about April Fools. This April was no different for the smallest gathering of Ring 194 Magi since 2004 records show. Seven members and Jack Baldwin and Patrick's driver Michael. Lots

of talk about future shows and conventions. Dean Carter gave the treasurer's report followed with a comedy counting card trick.

VP Matt Growden performed a guessing card game whether a chosen card was on the top or the bottom. Dean chose twice and got it right both times. Patrick Brunson told a story and asked members why each finger had a name. Patrick pulled a feather out of his PG-13 bird finger. Patrick finished with pencil through the dollar bill. Bill Mullins dropped a quarter on the floor but was not a trick. President Brett Boyer performed using a Dad Joke Card deck. Each member read one of the jokes, then they voted on the funniest joke which had been predicted. This was followed by Brett's Rubik's Cube trick. Meeting ended with astronomer Jared Cassidy reporting on Artemis II.

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

Ring 197 met on Monday, March 2. Jay Foresta called the meeting to order. The meeting included the usual activities of reports, updates, and performances along with a shared meal.

The theme for this evening's performances was related to St. Patrick's Day and/or the color green. Performers included Bill Stokes, Dock Cutlip, Keith Matheny, and Dale Wheeler. Bill began with "The Vanishing Leprechaun" from Ickle Pickle. The effect begins with 15 leprechauns on the "puzzle" pieces. Following the reversing of the top 2 pieces there are only 14 remaining.

Dock shared a variation of the classic "Professor's Nightmare," "The Awakening," by Dan Harlan. Dock continued with the Keychain Mystery. This includes a key on a chain looped through a hole in a stick. The hole, chain, and key appear at the top of the stick, and then end up in the middle of the stick.

Keith asked Velma to help him with the effect, "Match Game." ESP cards are displayed and through a series of actions and choices, their cards match. This was particularly impressive because following the match reveal, the remaining cards were all circles. Next, Keith selected Jay and Dock to help him with a self-created book test. The book test was a combination of several book tests.

Finishing the performances, Dale had four spectators, Keith who selected a number between 1 and 35; Dock selected a card, the 8 of Clubs; Velma wrote the name of a family pet; and Jay selected a particular block. Dale was hilariously successful with each of these predictions.

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. each month at Hope Springs Community Church, 1109 Versailles Rd., #400, Lexington, KY 40508
JON REES, Vice-President / E-mail: jrees@bellsouth.net
Web site: www.ring198.com

Graham Ricks opened our meeting with business and calendar updates. This included a review of the recent ADMC (Another Darn Magic Convention) in Cincinnati, OH.

The highlight of our March meeting was an outstanding lecture and performance by Brad Morgan of Morgan Magic Labs (morganmagiclab.com). Brad's lecture was titled Modern Day Magic and included the initial brainstorm of ideas that lead to creativity, design (including the advantages of 3D printing for magicians) and performances of many effects including Bare Foot (Morgan & Ousterling) and The Wishing Bowl (Curtis Kam). Brad is a creator, developer, magician, and sleight of hand artist. He has a passion for magic and his work is about making the impossible possible. His innovative utilities and effects are well thought out, top quality, and second to none. His creations elevate any magician's performance.

We welcomed our newest Ring member, John Piercy. John comes to us from Ring 96 (Long Beach, CA) and moved to Lexington, KY from Westminster, CA.

In our "Back to Basics" training, Jon Rees performed and taught a self-working card trick he calls "Algorithm." This trick involves finding a chosen card using the input of a spectator (the unknown algorithm variable). A feature of this trick is that it can be performed with a borrowed deck of cards.

Patrick Thernes (a.k.a. Sir Pat-Trick) gave an outstanding book review of "Slightly Absurd" by magician Charlie Frye (2023). "Slightly Absurd" is a deluxe book for magicians, offering insights into his performance philosophy and practical advice alongside his effects, with a focus on strong endings and character-driven magic. This book is excellent for magicians and serves as a journey through his mind, featuring over 1,000 photographs, a memoir, essays on character, and detailed explanations of his magic, including card and coin tricks, parlor and stage effects, and his signature "Eccentricks" (cartoon-illustrated gags).

Vincent Night presented the Magician's Organizer Plus by TCC Magic. This organizer

combines a close-up pad with a built-in storage compartment, so every time you practice, your core props are easily accessible.

Mike Woodward and Sir Pat-Trick hosted and performed with Michael Raymer and Jimmy McKnight (Louisville Magic Club, Ring 64) along with Ron Lawson and Frank Johnston (Cincinnati Ring 71) in Cincinnati (Cincy Magic) for the Season Finale at Artsville. Outstanding evening of magic. (www.cincy-magic.com)

If you are in the Lexington area, please do not hesitate to contact us and attend our meeting. Stay Happy and Magical!

Jon Rees

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: Ecraft@woh.rr.com
Web site: www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205

Ring 205 met at Mike's home at 7:00 PM on March 29, 2026. President Chris Topel opened the meeting. Gene Craft reported that the club had donated a magic book to the Tiffin Library in memory of Lowell Forbes. Lowell was one of the founders of Ring 205 and passed away on January 22, 2026.

Doug Ferguson gave the treasurer's report and also informed us of a magic lecture for Ring 68. Other magic happenings were discussed and then we broke for club magic. Chris Topel performed two different card finds. Doug Ferguson presented a routine in which he found a selected card between two black threes.

Mike Grubbs placed three packets of cards on the table. He then found a selected card. Gene Craft presented the evening lecture. He explained how the magician could mentally predict a chosen word from a long list of random vocabulary words. Gary Friedrich finished the evening with a unique magic show. He started with his popular opener (which jokingly was a bottle opener). We were then given the option to choose a \$100 bill from four envelopes. Surprisingly no one got the correct envelope! Gary concluded with two card manipulations and a production of a bunny silk, remembering Easter Weekend. Eddy Grubbs was also present. Wonderful sharing of magic and friendship tonight.

Gene Craft

RING 210, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – Duke Stern Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. each month 7:00pm at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170
RANDY A. SMITH, Secretary
Web site: www.aamagic.org

Our latest meeting of Ring 210 was led by Vice-President Wendy Stone while President Sean Howell was away performing at the Bay Area

Renaissance Festival in Florida. We opened with our featured performer, Phil Mann, The Magic Mann, who presented a parlor act beginning with a series of rose effects in which roses appeared, vanished, and multiplied until a full bouquet of a dozen roses materialized. He followed with a lively Yellow Bandana routine and concluded by transforming blown bubbles into a solid glass sphere for the younger members of the audience.

Karl reminded everyone that the club is still seeking volunteers for our Magic Summer Camp for Kids, with details available on the club website. Our learning session was led by Mike Thornton, who taught practical card handling including basic false cuts, false shuffles, and a couple of simple forces. Members practiced the moves with decks in hand.

Member performances followed. Newer member Robert Langefeld opened with an impressive Sharpie-through-card effect using a gimmick he built himself, allowing the marker to slide sideways through the card before everything returned to normal. Mike Bogdas performed a comedy prediction routine with Lincoln Stone assisting; his prediction initially appeared to be a mirror image of the tabled item, only for him to flip the mirror and reveal the correct prediction. Karl Rabe presented what he calls "Stupid Card Reveals," beginning with a Karrell Fox gag involving card pips reflected on his sunglasses, followed by a jumbo Panella-style reveal where the selected card appeared between two blank boards. Chuck Kimbrough amazed the group by finding a selected card behind his back from a shuffled deck that had been returned to its box. April Barrett demonstrated how to twist a short string of beads into a small bead dog and then performed an Easter-themed change bag routine ending with the production of a long multicolored streamer. Dan Jones performed a routine in which the spectator selected the only non-blank card in the deck. Finally, Ryan Hoffman performed for the club for the first time, presenting a clean card routine in which his spectator, Mike Bogdas, located all four aces.

The meeting concluded with about half an hour of socializing and informal jam sessions among the members.

Karl Rabe

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 Ring 216 meeting on February 11, 2026 was attended by 34 people, with some new visitors and some members returning from years ago. President Cal Tong started the meeting off by presenting the trophies for the two competitions last year. The winners were Ethan Martin

(First Place, Standard Division Close-Up); Harold De Armas (Peoples' Choice in Standard Close-Up); Jolie Morgan (First Place and People's Choice, Standard Division Stage); Miriam Al-Sultan (First Place Close-Up, Master's Division) and Jonathan Chen (People's Choice Masters Close Up, First and People's Choice in Masters Division Stage).

Next were two mini teach-ins of ten minutes each. Syd Kashima explained an invisible crib sheet for building a Magic Square without memorization; he credited Paul Fowler, "Overdraft", and Doug Diamond, "Calculated Thoughts", as inspiration. Cal Tong showed his improvement on a three-coin production from Jerry Andrus "Five Dollar Tricks", describing how to construct a more secure and easier-to-use gimmick.

Open performances began with Mitch Kothe with a travelling cards routine, Jeff with a card prediction, and Erica Tsai revealing a chosen card by shooting it from the deck. David Martinez asked a spectator to shuffle a deck and then select a card, which then was revealed in a prediction, then rising from the deck in a glass, then under the name tag the spectator had been wearing since the beginning. Alex Wu multiplied some spectator-counted coins on a tray and had some amusing audience participation comedy.

Alan Sands performed the comedy cut-and-restored rope routine he had been doing for years and which he said people always commented on after his shows. Sean shuffled a deck and cut to the aces. Andy performed telekinesis with a spectator's spectacles and then with a fork that bent itself in artful ways. Owen made three silver dollars fly from and to hand, then vanish one by one and reappear. Gary Goldberg alerted people to the upcoming Artemis II launch and gave a brief history of NASA using Scott Green's "Rocket Book".

IBM Ring 216 of Silicon Valley meets the second Wednesday of every month. We welcome all visiting magicians. *Gary Goldberg*

RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN

SCOTT STARKEY, President

After planning a field trip to Abbott's Magic Get Together, we shared magic with one another.

Scott Starkey performed his act in Esperanto because he will be performing at an Esperanto convention in July! Scott shared with us the first time he performed magic in a friend's basement that was completely sold out. He had five cards, threw three of them away, and magically he was left with five cards. He did this repeatedly, tossing the cards into a box, until he came to a dramatic

close and all the cards vanished from the box!

Scott, in Esperanto, shared some sensational rope magic. Three different lengths of rope became equal lengths with just a magical wave. He caused the ropes to become one long piece and eventually a contiguous loop. Eventually, one by one, he brought back the individual lengths of rope and restored them to their original size.

John Whitlock borrowed a \$100 bill from a volunteer and stapled it between two jokers. And just like pulling a tablecloth out from a set dinner table, John whisked the bill from the stapled cards without harm!

Jon Sexson had a card selected and returned to the pack. He said the card jumped to the top of the pack and revealed the 5 of diamonds. The selected card was the 3 of diamonds. Jon said he would make it right and tore away two of the diamonds. Doing one better, with just a rub he changed the torn card from a 5 to a 3!

Mark had a volunteer imagine a deck of cards. Methodically the volunteer eliminated the black cards, and then the hearts, until they were left with the Jack of Diamonds. The volunteer then spelled "Jack of Diamonds" from a pack of cards and there their card was!

Mark then shared a deck of cards made up of cards from other decks. He had a volunteer deal the cards down until they decided to stop. The spot was marked and this repeated once more. It was then revealed that the volunteer found the cards' mates with matching backs; moreover, the other cards had blank faces!

Benji shared some dice cheating techniques that he learned from his dad. With just a twist, dice in a cup fell through the bottom of the cup. The dice then went back through the bottom of the cup and into the mug.

John had a volunteer pick up three blocks and note their weight. He then had the volunteer pick up just two of the blocks and the volunteer remarked it felt just as heavy. When the volunteer picked up just one block he exclaimed that it was heavier than all three. *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

Things began with George and Jamison expounding on recent excursions to Colon, Michigan and Orlando, FL for a convention and a gig respectively. Then Gary opened with a ring and rope routine. Howard followed up with a big penny through card and a stretching queen.

The rest of the effects were as follows:

Central: Princess Card & TCC's Grandmother's Necklace, Ed: Pocket Ball, Sure Split Deck & Doubled Stacked, Justin: Cards Across, Zach: Disagrees, George: Balloon Bead Dog and showing off a newly acquired sponge cube. Besides Loaner by Francis Cameron Jamison also did Phantom Deck and Howard related it's actually a version of an old Emerson West trick called Pale Faced Paste Boards.

Then a side steal disagreement broke out between Zack and Howard. "Don't move the thumb" was Howard's advice via Marlo but Zack had learned it from Paul Cummins with a different technique. Justin and Zack also work on a new card control too.

Planning also went on for the two upcoming club events of The Arty Block Party & Piccolo Spoleto Lowcountry Magic Jamboree.

Meeting finally broke up around 5:30pm with the next one set for April 26. *George Younts*

RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS - Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) at The Salvation Army,
2212 N. Market St., Champaign, IL 61820 (and Zoom).
KEN BARHAM, Secretary
2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616
E-mail: Kebram@aol.com

Elections were held in February. President – Chris Bontjes, Vice President – Mark Carlon, Treasurer – Dennis Reed, Secretary – Ken Barham. Dues, \$20, were also due in February.

The meeting opened with discussion of recent and upcoming online meetings and lectures. We discussed three possible lecture possibilities coming up. Nathan Kranzo, Chris Moore, and Jamie Williams. More information will come as I get it.

The Springfield Get-Together is on Saturday June 6th this year and they have a great line up. Registration is open. They will be celebrating the Life and Legacy of Eldon Roark this year.

We will be getting a table at the Urbana Farmers Market at least one time this year. Mark Carlon is reserving us a spot on October 31st. We are hoping to attract some new members so if you have any other ideas on how to grow the club, let us know.

Phone List. I will be putting together a phone list. If you would like to be on it, or want to be excluded let me know. It will only be shared with members of CIMA and on the door of the men's room at the Flying J outside of Champaign.

Professor Higgins opened the magic this month with a Double Production Device and his Quarter Through Glass. Chris Bontjes performed his Dust Mote Sponge Balls and Purse Frame. Essen Hu joined us on Zoom with his

Card Reversal. JR Thomas joined us on Zoom with his Mystery Key Holder. Roy Stoutenborough showed us an item from Masters of Illusion. Bill Pierce showed us large close-up mat he made and demonstrated his Visualize and Endless Cup of Water. Ken Barham closed out the magic with Link King, Rubber band through the finger/Pen/hand, and a few others I can't remember because I was doing them, not writing them down.

The next meeting will be on Wed April 15th at 7:00 PM at the Salvation Army, 2212 N Market St in Champaign. Come early and meet us at Manzella's Italian Patio for food or just to hang out. I try to get there around 5:00. The topic for April is "Your Favorite Card Move" but anything you want to bring is fine. See ya at the meeting,
Ken Barham

RING 250, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO – Presto-Digitators

Meets 2nd Sat. of month at 11:00 a.m. at Oregano's Restaurant, 4235 S. College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80525
LEW WYMISNER, President / Lewiswymisner@comcast.net
(970) 484-7014 / Web site: www.prestodigitators.com

February: The Feb '26 meeting began with an update by President Neil Holstein about his attendance at the recent Magifest convention in Columbus, Ohio. Neil enjoyed his visit there and particularly mentioned seeing Bill Malone and Eric Mead as some of the highlights.

Cody Landstrom in the Teach-in section performed and explained a Cards Across he learned from Eric Mead and Eddie Goldstein. Cody furnished everyone in attendance a deck of cards so that they could follow along.

The performance section of the meeting, CJ Adams performed Fast Flush by Bruce Cervon. Gary Hickox did a Blackjack money effect. Lew Wymisner showed us his version of Larry Becker's Casino Royale. Doug Zimmerman did Wonderland Bill. Brian Hallisey performed a (very) jumbo card effect called Power of Poker. It was flawless! Rick Butler performed the effect Slate of Mind with the unusual addition of a pendulum. Very well done!

March: The March meeting began with a discussion about the possibility of returning to Estes Park to Aiden Sinclair's Underground at the Stanley Hotel next summer. Last year's "maiden voyage" was well attended and the tickets to the show were paid for by the club. We also discussed having a small group performance feedback session outside of the regularly scheduled meeting date, at President Neil Holstein's house, similar to such meetings once held at Paul Noffsinger's house before he moved to Arkansas, and similar to those once held in Erie, Colorado at Autumn Morningstar's abode.

The Teach-in segment of the meeting, Lew Wymisner went over a Joe Riding method of cutting a rope and getting immediately into the Professor's Nightmare/My Favorite Rope trick. Lew then taught a card effect he called, "Ladies and Gentlemen" he learned way back when he was a member of the Mecca Magic club in East Orange New Jersey.

The performance segment of the meeting featured Neil Holstein performing what he called, "King of Siam" (his version of Triumph). Mike Frey did an effect he called Bloc Drop. Rick Butler showed us Eye of the Dwarf, which utilized a Bob Cassidy peek device. Gary Hickox did a colorful rope effect and an interesting coin trick.
Lew Wymisner

RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The "Magic Ian" Ring

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, in the Ball Room of the Lake Square Mall, Leesburg, FL 34748

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: www.Ring 258.com

President Andy Rohweder opened the Meeting with the pledge to the flag. Under Old Business – The show the Ring performed for Mall Management was well received. Under New Business – We are looking for a new place to hold our Dec. Holiday Party. Daytona Magic will hold a four-day Convention Oct. 11 – 14 in Orlando. Details at daytonamagicconvention.com.

This evening's theme was "Comedy Magic". David and Karen Lyons led off with their version of "Do as I do Ropes". Roger Reid followed with "The Ropes are TIDE". Greg Solomon treated the group to a number of sight gags, a Prediction called "Fortuna" and a GREAT routine using a simple Svengali Deck. Andy Rohweder did "The Muller Report", a Coloring Book type effect and "Nursery Rhymes" with an XXX finale. George Drake's rabbit sat on his Lota Bowl, he had sponge balls move around, colored silks changed colors and demonstrated how to remove a solid wood ball from a shoelace. Sandy Schwartz closed the evening with a "Find Your Card" type effect called "Argument". Next Month's Magic Theme... "Anything Goes."
Roger Reid

RING 273, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA - Oliver Ring

Meets 3rd Thur., 7:30pm at the Burns Club

PETER FOSTER, Secretary

Email: pfooster@pcug.au

Another slightly sparse meeting this month, with just Kieran Taylor, Richard Hunt, and Peter Foster. Richard started with a packet trick. This was like Twisting the Aces, but with the cards turning face down instead of face up. One by one, each card turned face down, showing a blue back. At the end the backs changed to red, and

then each back had a different color. This was Chameleon Backs by Vincenzo Di Fatta.

Richard followed with an Oil and Water effect that used six cards, three red and three black. They were fairly intermingled. Then, with no moves, the colors separated. He then added two more cards to make four card packets. These were fairly intermingled and again the colors separated. This version was by Ash Marlow.

Kieran then described (rather than performed) a card trick that was a bit of a knuckle buster. The effect was that the joker was shown on the bottom of the deck. The deck was turned face down and a spectator named a card (genuine free choice). Then the deck was turned up — the joker had transformed into the named card! Very nice and clean, but also used some significant sleight of hand. We all had a bit of a practice of the required sleights, and Kieran was making some progress, but a lot more was needed. Perhaps Kieran can show this again at the next meeting. This was Double Agent by Blaise Serra.

We had lots of miscellaneous discussion but no further magic. Next meeting will be on 16 April, the theme is Self Working Miracles.

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@lagnor.com

Web site: www.ibmring280.com

MARCH: Members attending this evening's lecture: Joe Berman, Luke Boehret, Chris Canfield, Glenn Crites, Christopher Cory, Evaristo Gomez, Brian Hoffman, D. Hunter, Bob Love, David Norman, Clem Patafio, and Mark Wray.

This evening's theme was "TEARABLE MAGIC." According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary: tearable is an adjective which is pronounced: tear-able - 'ta(a)rəbəl. It's defined as: capable of being torn. Add the magic, and you get a 'torn and restored' effect.

I thought Bob, our current Ring President, said: "TERRIBLE MAGIC" in announcing the meeting's theme. Also an adjective, but with a completely different meaning. Laboring under a misapprehension caused by this homophone, I presented a torn and restored effect for which I was still working on the handling. I was grateful for the constructive feedback to improve my handling. Come to think of it, I pulled off an 'exacta,' an effect that was both tearable and performed terribly. Actually, Ring gatherings are the perfect place to present works in

progress to get ideas for improvement.

Chris Canfield described his experiences at "Blackpool Magic Convention" which he had attended in February 2026. Some of the elite performers were Hans Klok, Richard Sanders, Paul Gertner, and Banachek. In addition to performances and lectures, there were upwards of 200 dealers from a variety of countries. Chris also described going to London's "Magic Circle."

Mark Wray presented "Fresh Fish" a routine developed by Arnold Furst (1918-2002). He was a magician and hypnotist, who, incidentally, was a charter member of our sister Ring 21 (cite: Magicpedia). "Fresh Fish" involves a paper tearing routine in which a strip of paper with the words "Fresh Fish Sold Here Today" is torn into pieces using a comical presentation and then restored. This trick was created circa 1938.

David Norman presented a torn and restored newspaper effect. He gave us a choice of seven papers to choose from. The chosen paper was signed and promptly ripped apart only to be magically restored. An exceptionally clean handling.

D. Hunter combined a "torn and restored" effect with a transposition. He took two cards, one red and one black, and tore them into quarters. He gave a red piece to his volunteer to hold in their fist. D placed a black piece into his hand. He revealed that his piece was now red and the volunteer's piece was black.

Mark Wray tore a piece out of a folded dollar bill. When he snapped it open the bill was whole. Mark told us that he would carry this bill in his wallet for impromptu performance for those who asked: "Show some magic."

Bob Love constructed a prop using items from Ikea. His creation was a glass frame on a pedestal. He tore a corner out of a card and gave it to his volunteer. He covered the frame with a cloth. When Bob removed the cloth, the card, minus the corner piece, was now in the frame.

APRIL: Members attending this evening's lecture: Luke Boehret, Chris Canfield, Glenn Crites, Christopher Cory, Lonnie Dilan, Brian Hoffman, D. Hunter, David Norman, Clem Patafio, and Jeff Weaker. We were also joined by seven guests for this evening's lecture.

We were honored to host an evening with Tony "The Cardfather" Picasso. He shared excerpts from his performances, effect explanations, considerations, and tips on interacting with the audience as well as his philosophy on studying, developing, and presenting magic.

Mr. Picasso's website (<https://thecardfather.com>) describes him as "a Los Angeles-based close-up

magician best known for his playing card manipulation, sleight-of-hand, and mastery of the dark arts.” Picasso is a member of The Magic Castle and was a performer in the long-running Magic Castle All-Star Jam. In 2006 and 2007, he was selected as a member of the “Blue Ribbon Committee” nominating The Academy of Magical Arts annual awards in all performance categories including Close-up, Parlor, Palace, Bar and Lecturer of the Year.

Mr. Picasso’s character embodies the world of the Card Cheat, Con Man, and Hustler. Tony Picasso is described on his website as holding a “PhD - Diploma in propositions and hustles - The professor of honest deception.”

Mr. Picasso explained that his philosophy on evaluating acts is to ask these fundamental questions: Who is this person? What are they doing? Why should I care? How did this person acquire their specific power? These questions explain the motivation of the character. The next step is “to be interesting.” An act will be interesting if it has: (1) A sense of History, (2) Personal Anecdotes, and (3) An Expert Demonstration.

We were mesmerized by Mr. Picasso’s talk. He packed a dense amount of information on methods, techniques, experiences, and philosophy. We thank him for sharing this most valuable and useful information. Wishing everyone good health and Happy Conjuring! *Glenn Crites*

RING 287, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA – Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

3rd Thu., each month 6:45 pm at the Bayview Senior Center

Web site: gulfcoastmagiciansguild.com

ZACHARY READY, Secretary / (865) 719-8357

E-mail: deusso88@gmail.com

Our March meeting was great, with 16 members present. The meeting was fun, educational and interesting. Our business meeting was about 2 minutes in length, talking about lectures, doing a show at the VA facility in Bay Minette, and hosting an open house meeting in May. I volunteered to do a teach-in next month. Next month’s meeting theme will be “time”, meaning anything to do with time. Next Bruce led a discussion on the issue of how some magicians touch children inappropriately, hugging, touching their torso and standing too close to them as examples. We talked about the limitations, such as no more than a handshake when greeting the child, a tap on the shoulder to guide a child where you want them to stand, if they did not follow your verbal request and holding the child’s hand getting on and off the stage if needed. All in all, it was a very thought-provoking discussion. Bruce passed out a copy of an article he is writing on this subject, titled, “You Don’t Have That Right” to all the members present.

Beau then gave a teach-in of a really amazing card effect. He had printed up the needed directions for us as well. Thank you, Beau!

Bruce then reviewed “The New Bottle Book”, by Nielsen Magic. The book is filled with ideas using just about any standard trick that uses bottles. Bruce also reviewed another joke book. Titled, “Dad Jokes for Kids”. There are several similar books sold on-line, in book stores and other retailers. Bruce explained that he collects these books and always finds new jokes he uses in his shows for children. Then it was time for our monthly raffle and door prizes. Thanks to all, for buying all those raffle tickets. After a short break, we performed magic with the theme of Science Fiction Magic. Those performing were Geordan, myself, Beau, Perry, and Bruce. We saw all kinds of very great, unusual and strange magic. We wrapped up the meeting with other magic and those performing were Troy, Nathan, Mark and Bruce. Again, everyone performed wonderful magic. As we always say, Miss a Meeting, Miss a Lot.... *Zachary Ready*

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: <https://i-b-m-ring-298-mike-fuller-ring.webflo.io/>

After dinner at some of the finest BBQ in Macon Georgia we had a little discussion on what’s going on in the magic world then Pres. Danny Watson brought out his usual riddle board of about 5 or 6 to mess with our brains for us to figure out, a great way to lead into the magic for the night with our theme being money magic.

First up was Tony Zelonis with his money machine where he took a dollar bill and laid it on its pedestal and took the money press and rolled it on the dollar bill back and forth and when he lifted the press the bill was now a twenty dollar bill. Looked great. Everyone wanted one to take home and try on their dollar bills. LOL....

Next up was Danny Watson who was showing us a stack of dollar bills, some the heads were facing to the right and the others facing to the left explaining that some people have to have them all facing the same way and with the wave of the hand he recounted the bills down on the table and now they were all facing the same way. Nicely done.

Jimmy Roach was up next with his version of the famous Scotch And Soda where he showed a silver and a copper coin. Place the coins in his hand and closed it. He secretly removed the silver coin and showed it and what was supposed to be left in his hand was the copper but when he

opened his hand the copper coin was gone. Looked good Jimmy.

Mike Fuller was up with the help of Rhonda Donahue where he showed her a quarter and placed it under a cloth and had her hold the quarter thru the cloth and over a small glass of ice tea. He then removed a small box with a bunch of rubber bands around it and placed it on the table. With the count of 3 Rhonda released the quarter and we all heard it plunk into the glass of tea but when Mike uncovered it the quarter was gone. Mike then drank the tea and then had Rhonda remove all the rubber bands off the box on the table and inside was a match box with a bunch of rubber bands around it to which she removed and inside that was a little bag and upon opening it was the quarter that she had initialed at the beginning with her initials. Great stuff with a classic of magic. Mike then showed us another classic of magic called Coin Pentro where he had 4 coins on a stand in plain view. He also had a small hand held platform where he would put a shot glass on it mouth up and a larger glass mouth down over the shot glass so there was no way to get one of the coins into the shot glass. But Mike would take each coin from the stand one by one and toss it at the glasses and each time the coins would invisibly fly through the air and land in the shot glass one right after another. Great stuff.

Finally John Donahue with the help of Linda Fuller did his version of Paul Daniels' Bunko Booth where Linda had a choice of placing different denominations of money from a penny which Linda had brought to a half dollar, a dollar bill, a five dollar bill, a ten dollar bill and a twenty dollar bill and place them on a board with six spots on it and then later revealed that each spot was labeled with the letters A thru F. Next he showed an instructional board where Linda had to move the money to different spots on the board and then hand John a denomination of money per the instructional board and in the end after each turn she would have to hand him the bill at that location and at the end what ever denomination of money was left sitting on the letter D she would win. At the end her original penny was on the letter D. So sad she left with the penny she came with but just for playing the game left with a rose as well.

Next John finished out the night with Martin Lewis's jumbo sidewalk shuffle both routines while playing sideshow music with ambient crowd noise in the background. Looked good.

Our guest, Josh Dentmon enjoyed it all with a web search to find us on the web. Thanks for coming Josh.

Next month (April) will be wacky magic. If in the area drop in and see us. Love to have you.

John Donahue

RING 310, MUNCIE, INDIANA – The Muncie Mystifiers Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. of month, 6:30pm, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church located at 900 W. White River Blvd., i. IN.

RICHARD HERBERT, Contact

(765) 520-9206 or MagicByRichardLee@gmail.com

On Wednesday, April 8th, 2026, our group met for a spring evening of magic. Those in attendance were, Rick Herbert, Chase Skiles, Gary McCoy, Cevvin Hart, and yours truly. After a short business discussion, the magic began. The theme of the night was Tenyo Magic. Chase Skiles started the evening off with the Trick Starters Vanishing Car effect whereas a Hot Wheel type of packaged vehicle was able to disappear from its packaging and be produced elsewhere. Chase also performed Flash Cash and upon his command, an empty wallet suddenly produced loads of cash. Gary McCoy was up next with the Crystal Pyramid. Gary openly placed a coin into a vertical slot that was connected to a mini stage illusion. An empty yellow box was then shown, and a clear pyramid shaped cover was placed over the empty box. In a split second, the coin vanished from the slot and reappeared in the yellow box. Cevvin Hart and Rick Herbert both performed their versions of the Tenyo Mystery Showcase effect. To begin the effect, a small black pedestal is shown. A small black addition with a slit is then added and snapped into place. Next, a clear box is placed over the entire pedestal top, and all is secured with a rubber band with everything shown on all sides. A square yellow open-ended cover is then placed over the pedestal. When lifted, a coin now rests in the slot. All of these Tenyo miniature type stage illusions are great additions to any magic collection and many of them have become collectors' items. Our group also drew names for the chance to win free choice from our ever-growing box of magic effects. This month's winner was Chase Skiles. Chase selected a set of D. Robbins wooden cups and balls. Congratulations to Chase.

Our group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in Muncie Indiana at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please feel free to drop in for a night of magical fun. Additional info about our group is available at IBM Ring 310 on Facebook.

Johnny Reason

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 John Fedko Ring 313 enjoyed a member performance night after receiving a new website update and tour from our resident cyber professional, Steven Tran. Many new features and

benefits of the ring313.org website were unveiled.

A Broken Wand Ceremony was performed for our long term magic colleague, Bill Pierce, by the Territorial Vice President, Cliff Gerstman.

Member Tod Reis, kicked off the performances via his Zoom connection with a “do as I do” demonstration starting with the 13 cards of an ordered suit. After a seemingly impossibly crazy mix of the cards, they all ended up back in their original order.

Alan W. Hanson presented invited member to participate in an abbreviated version of the board game, Clue. Cards were mixed, board pieces placed on the board, and players were given four chances to guess the murder scenario in hopes of winning the million dollar prize. The cards were placed in three piles and players turned over the cards revealing the solution to this night’s murder mystery. No winner, but the revealed room, weapon, and perpetrator were, mysteriously, the only ones alone in a room together on the playing board.

Richard Zucker performed a mental memorization demonstration using multiple books. Random numbers generated a page number and Richard called out the first word on the chosen page. In a finale, in addition to a page, a second random number selected a particular line on that page, which Richard recited precisely, all the way down to the hyphen in that word part.

“Magic Al” Rich enthralled the room with a Broadway Musical version of Simon Aronson’s Shuffle-board card effect. The custom orchestral and professional singer included “Magic Al’s” name in an entertaining choreography of card manipulation and presentation.

Can Tang baffled the crowd with a prescient knowledge of any of five colored poker chips tossed into a bag and thoroughly mixed. He’d merely reach into the bag and always removed the selected color. Chips and bag were well examined, revealing no gimmick.

Steven Tran combined his cell phone and his Instagram account into a travel magic phenomena. Spectators were asked to randomly select both an airline name and a famous city from scrolling lists on Steven’s cell phone. Afterwards, a visit to Steven’s Instagram page showed a picture of him in Paris holding a plane ticket on the selected airline with the destination identified as the selected famous city.

A salute to a prior meeting performance by member Gary Meier. He appeared as “Master Jadoogar of India”, a turbaned and costumed character. Gary first performed the Australian Charles Gauci’s “Coin In Hand Illusion”. It started with a volunteer that Meier had never

met and a coin Meier said he had obtained in India for this illusion. Gary said, “I looked into her eyes, and know which hand the coin is in.” Meier next looked into his volunteer’s eyes and psychically revealed both that she had 12 siblings and that she was an artist.

Alan W. Hanson

ING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:00 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus

Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042

LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary

4515 Northglen Court, Englewood, OH 45322 / (937) 836-4359

E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

What a night for Magic! Bill West and Ralph Steinlage brought enough magic for all of us to pick 10 free items as well as Magic items and DVDs to buy. Lots of Magic changed hands, some that members had been looking for. Trick Gaffney reunited with a Magic book that he had won in 2021 and then sold to Half Price Books. There it was – with his name inside the cover! We reviewed what the other local Rings were doing and who they have lecturing. Bill West turned in \$180 from our Entertainment Book fund raiser. We learned that Artie Kidwell passed away the previous night. Artie has been an influence in all of the Miami Valley magic organizations for a long time. After buying, swapping magic items and telling stories we got down to our prepared Magic portion of the meeting. We did take a quick break for refreshments brought by (I’m not sure who). Thank you, (Whoever you were.)

Time for MAGIC! Our theme was “Silks”. Ron Frank started by pouring water into a Styrofoam cup, vanishing the water then “peeling” the cup into one long strand. Impressive! The trick is called “Milk Wonder”. Next, Dave Davis performed his “Mismade Flag Routine” using a tear apart change bag. Dave then shocked us by doing a CARD trick. Dave never does card tricks! This was a good one - “Prophecy Deck” from David Regal. Larry Payne came next with his “Silk Rolling and Disappearing Knot”. Larry gave us a quick overview on care of silks – folding, storage, preparation, etc. Larry Payne then showed us his unusual “Levitating Vase”. When you are sure that there’s a ball in it, he disproves that leaving you with “What The Heck!!”. President Larry Taylor gave us three illusions. The first was a “Paper Cone Production”. Larry Taylor then revealed how he had pulled it off. Second, he displayed a “Moonshine Mason jar” and changed the liquid to a silk. This we called “Moonshine to Silk”. Third was a quick “Silk from Wand”. Charlie Cadabra performed two routines for us. First, was “User Error”. Second was having the “Magic Button Card” find the

selected card. Next Corey White performed a smooth “Twisting the Four Aces” routine. Ralph Steinlage presented “Elimination” for our viewing pleasure. Bill West thoroughly confused us with his “Eight Card Brainwave” routine. To close the meeting, Corey White showed us his “Telekinetic Coins and Deck” which led to a discussion of PK rings and how to make your own magnetic ring with a silicon ring and small magnet. What a Magical Meeting! *Larry Hollinger*

RING 325, BRANSON, MISSOURI – The Tri-Lakes Tricksters

Meets 3rd Sat. of the month attl’s Magic & Joke Shop, 6:00pm, 124
South Business 65, Branson, MO
DR. CHRISTOPHER BECK, President
E-mail: beckibmring325@gmail.com

March: Javi Benitez (Spain) Lecture - This was a fantastic lecture. His playing cards through the table was incredible! He also had a new handling with the Gypsy Thread. This was much cleaner than the standard version. Very clever material.

Don’t forget the Cavalcade of Magic at the end of this month.

On the 27-28th of March 2026, we will convene again for fun, fellowship, learning, and magic! As usual, we will have an auction on Thursday evening, the 26th. And, we are introducing workshops this year!

Anthony Mullins, Gary & Mary Geise, James Holmes, Yak Williams, Jeff Pyzocha & Merica Barnes, Thom Taylor, KJ Phelps, Walt Pattison & Justin Doede. Danny Doyle guest from New York.

Brett Daniels is scheduled to perform for a short time at the Reza theater. His show is great and highly recommended.

Yak reminded everyone to pay their dues and thanked those who had already paid.

New VP, Jeff Pyzocha mentioned a Mickey Silver lecture at a SAM group meeting. He also reminded the group of his association with Twin Lakes Playhouse in Mountain Home, AR. Wanted to know if the group would like to put together a magic show and present it there in the future. If we are interested, he would pursue approval and potential dates from their board.

Yak Williams is in contact with the Territorial VP Mike McClure who replaced Doug Clark who retired due to health issues.

PERFORMANCES

Our guest, Justin Doede opened the performance section of the meeting with the help of Jeff Pyzocha. Using a rainbow deck of cards called Kaleidoscope Jeff chose an Eagle. The 9 Diamonds and 3 Hearts were selected. When finished the 9 Hearts and 3 Diamonds were displayed.

Tracy Eaton, sharing that love is sometimes painful and hurts. He then proceeded to share the Spike Game. He had six paper bags set up on the table and indicated three of them had spikes inside pointed up. He then shuffled them. Anthony Mullins selected Bag #5 and Gary selected Tracy’s Right Hand. Tracy then collapsed the bag. No spike. Jeff Pyzocha next selected Bag #2 and Right Hand. No spike. Next, KJ selected Bag #3, Justin chose Right Hand. No spike. Tracy then opened the other three bags showing the spikes. An informational reference was made to Nielsen Vanishing Bottles.

Yak Williams was up next with his Acrobatic Blocks. Displaying an empty tube he put Blue, Red, White cubes. “Magic Magic” and a wand wave, lo and behold the cubes changed places. Yak explained this version is made of acrylic. Original versions were made of wood and included four blocks. Available at your local Magic Shop.

Placing a Swiffer Mom box on the table, Anthony Mullins first shared the Valentine Card he presented to his wife. A red heart was on the top portion of the card with a small heart space missing. Below was the missing heart dedicated to his wife. Next, with the help of Yak, who chose the Q Hearts from the proffered deck. Anthony then displayed four cards in a row. Using a clothespin Yak tried to select the correct card. Both times he missed! Anthony next pulled a vase out of the box and presented a lovely bouquet of flowers. Then with a flourish he presented a paper rose.

KJ Phelps, assisted by Danny Doyle who selected the Q Hearts from the proffered deck. KJ then opened a different deck and placed multiple cards onto the table in stacks. Danny picked up stacks randomly and placed them on top of each other and stacked them up, some face up and some face down. KJ then dealt two piles, sometimes adding to the left pile sometimes to the right one, some up and some down. Danny selected the left pile and KJ laid them out across the table. Danny saw “Q U E E N O F H E A R T S”. He was gifted a small heart box of chocolates.

Our resident Slovak, Thom Taylor, aka, Nicholas Nickleby Instioff was down in the dumps as he had accidentally swallowed his Penetrating Oil and it had penetrated his brain. He displayed a Marks A Lot and a deck of cards with red backs. He selected a card from the deck and turned around to mark it. Using “mass hypnosis” he began sending thoughts to the brains of all spectators. Asking for assistance, Merica selected a Red Card, Danny a Heart, KJ selected

a number card, Anthony chose the number 8. When he spread the cards on the table the 8 Hearts was turned face up. When turned over there was a big X on the back. Das Vidanya he said as he left the stage.

Jeff Pyzocha next moved to the stage and indicated he had not done this effect in ten years. Having Merica come up to assist him he produced a colored napkin. Working from the edge, he rolled it into a lovely red rose with a green stem, which he promptly presented to his lovely assistant. A reference was made to Kevin James and the Floating Rose effect. He indicated many years ago he presented the same effect, using flash paper to make the rose, lit the rose and produced a real rose to his grandmother.

Our visitor Dan Doyle then moved to the table and sat down behind the table. KJ supplied him with a new deck of cards and Anthony selected one from the deck. Asked if it was the 5 Diamonds, Anthony replied "No". Gary guessed the Q Hearts. KJ then shuffled the deck. Dan retrieved the deck and proceeded to demonstrate a variety of shuffles and ways to arrange cards. He showed the red cards face up on one stack and the black cards face down. Proceeding to rearrange the deck multiple ways, he finally spread them face up showing all black on one side and all red on the other.

April: Location: It's Magic & Joke Shop, Downtown Branson, MO. Meeting Performance Theme: Perform something you found in a magic book. Be sure to have the name and author of the book. I may need magicians for a fundraiser in the future (mainly close-up, standup, strolling magic). I will also need a balloon twister, a face painter, and a caricature artist. Please let me know if you have any interest or know someone. Members attending: Anthony Mullins, Gary & Mary Geise, James Holmes, Yak Williams.

Reminder: Cavalcade of Magic, March 27-28 in Eureka Springs is next weekend. An auction will be held the night before. Venue is Best Western Inn of the Ozarks.

Those who attended the Javier Benitez lecture indicated it was a success and everyone who attended enjoyed it. Jim mentioned he is still working on options for us to participate in the local community. No specifics or dates were mentioned. This year's I.B.M. convention is in St. Louis this summer (July 22-25, 2026). If you are interested, check out the I.B.M. website. A request was made that anyone who would like to volunteer to provide "behind the scenes/production side" lectures regarding performing, being a magician, and the business of magic, was welcome at the convention. The SAM convention is

July 1-4, 2026 in Appleton, Wisconsin. They are honoring Houdini for the 100th anniversary of his death (Oct. 31, 1926). In Colon, Michigan, Abbott's Magic Get-Together Convention will be held August 5-8, 2026. Someone indicated Chris Beck was planning on attending.

Performances: Yak Williams had several new items to share, starting off with a new mylar Flair Wand effect. It wasn't very successful, it seemed kind of flimsy.

He next produced an LED light bulb capable of showing dimmer or brighter light. Simply screw it into an open light socket to recharge. It works better than the older version that was battery operated. He also had a less expensive version using a push button to operate.

Next, he displayed Wayne Dobson's Triplex V2 using a ball bearing, die, poker chip and deck of cards (not included). He asked for predictions: Anthony Mullins selected the poker chip. When the deck of cards was moved, only the ball bearing and die were left. Thom Taylor then selected the die and Gary Geise the ball bearing.

Yak then indicated that finding the Hippity Hop Rabbit effect to purchase and carry in the shop has been very hard. Thinking it over, he decided to create a new prop that presents in a similar fashion, using pictures of an American football and a European soccer ball along with two referees placed in an open top/bottom box. After displaying the balls and referees in several different ways similar to the Hippity Hop Rabbits effect, he asked Gary Geise who predicted the Cleveland Browns would win the Super Bowl. Yak then displayed a photo and declared "they would win when pigs fly." A brief discussion regarding the effect and a possible name ensued.

Our resident Slovakian, Thom Taylor, aka Nicholas Nickleby Insktioff, and his Penetrating Oil next took the stage. He displayed a wire pyramid and extolled its power over objects. Red and black boxes exchanged under the pyramid. He then placed three coins under the pyramid. Anthony Mullins assisted and when the effect was finalized, Anthony had five coins in his hand and the pyramid had none.

Next, with Gary Geise assisting, he showed four stacked boxes of sardines. Gary lifted them up to assess their weight. After stacking them under the pyramid, then removing one box, Gary discovered the three boxes left were heavier than the initial four. Removing one more, the last two were even heavier.

Next a bell was displayed and rang. When Gary attempted to ring the bell, it was discovered the ringer had disappeared.

Finally, a “marks-a-lot” pen was balanced on the four boxes of sardines. It was not staying in place, but after the pyramid covered it, the pen stayed in place.

Crying “Das Vidanya,” Nicholas Nickleby Insktloff left the stage with a flourish.

Gary Geise was next. Giving an envelope to Anthony, he then spread a deck of cards and asked Jim Holmes to “pick a card, any card.” He showed the 4 of Clubs to the audience. When asked, Anthony opened the envelope to display a leprechaun holding a 4 of Clubs on a poster.

A brief discussion of simple number-type tricks that can work well for table magic followed, including a page with pictures of different shapes that a customer had shared with Yak — everyone asked for copies. Another trick used several typical “local attraction” brochures and finished with a spoon, ring and napkin. Gary held the ring on the spoon, the napkin was placed over it, and with a “Magic Magic,” the ring was removed and the spoon remained under the napkin. Meeting was adjourned and we all went to Wendy’s.

Mary Geise

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

The April meeting’s report is once again brought to you by Paul McTaggart. Take it away, Paul! The Weird Sisters Ceremony was intended to communicate the use of the Magic Word. The evening began with a swearing in Sequence. Matt, of the Grand Strand Medieval Project, played the Gate Keeper and he signed in everyone that attended. His position was at the bottom of the staircase which was lined with candles which created an atmosphere conducive to the spooky fun. The next station was to meet VP Bryon Wilson who swore the member to secrecy with the Monkey Paw. Next, was our drum circle and an explanation of the value of the Magic Word. The Weird Sisters (Amy, Carolyn, and Lisa) convened around the caldron to recite the scene from Shakespeare’s tragic play, Macbeth. After a round of applause to our sisters, a pack of cards with the names of past magicians who were honored by calling out their names and a magic word was stated. The magic circle was closed and we began our meeting with announcements of upcoming events.

The theme for the evening was from Dariel Fitzhee’s 19 magical effects, a restoration or a levitation. First up on the Open Table was President Paul McTaggart with the restoration of a \$100 dollar bill. Thaddeus performed his

piece of magic that he called, “The Tea Box”. A card was chosen and the corner of the card ripped off as a receipt. The rest of the card was ripped up and vanished. A tea bag is chosen and lo and behold, the card was found in the chosen tea bag and it matched the corner. Amazing! Amy Clum performed performed a Tarot Card Mystery where the cards, after being shuffled well, matched. Weird! Liam had a card chosen and was discovered in the most magical way. Paul McTaggart was up again to perform his signature soup ladle levitation. Little Kenny also did an amazing card discovery with a borrowed deck. Not bad for a seven year old kid! Ron did some show and tell with a model of a magic shop that was assembled by his grandson. Ron also enlightened us about the time that he worked for the Ripley’s Believe it or Not Witchcraft Museum. He told some creepy stories and some funny ones too. We ate some of the best chili ever along with coconut creme and key lime pies. I am so thankful to our members who did a stellar job of clean up. Thank you Paul for the notes. If you are in the area, please join us.

Dale Rabon

RING 359, MURRIETA, CALIFORNIA – The Jeff McBride Ring

Meets 2nd Thur., at 7:00 pm at 40215 Sierra Maria Rd., Murrieta, CA. 92562 and Via Zoom.

KARL JOHNSON, President

Email: karl.johnson@gwcmi.com / (818) 632-6324

On April 9th at 7 PM Ring 359, The Jeff McBride Ring held its monthly Zoom meeting. The attendance was small, but the meeting turned out to be highly successful. The meeting opened with a discussion on how to prepare to audition for Magic Castle membership. Suggestions for extended practice sessions and getting positive feedback came to the forefront. Another point was making sure your patter is well rehearsed and smooth.

Another topic of discussion was the value of recording “sound bites” after a show from those who hired you. People love testimonials, and every magician who teaches the business side of magic promotes it as well.

The discussion turned to Aldo Colombini’s Color Contact effect. Jeff pointed out that this is an amazingly strong effect, and he presented us with a video he produced of his own lesson in how to do his version with his patter. With respect to Aldo, but Jeff’s version is quite good and quite a fooler, and leaves the table with a beautiful tableau on display.

Jeff showed us a video of Bob McAllister demonstrating what an innovator the man was. He did the ladle zombie ball, as well as a torn and restored napkin effect that made a waitress

look and feel like gold. Hopefully you will join us next month. For a small meeting this was a very magically exciting one. *Cliff Gerstman*

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

After some business, our March meeting commenced with a Front Table hands-on demonstration by President Daryl Rogers. Daryl provided everyone with red and green tissue paper and taught us how to make paper roses. A variety of tips were provided for variations on how the rose is made and used.

March's theme was "Not Just Child's Play", where our goal was to take a simple beginner's prop and elevate it with thoughtful presentation, stronger handling, or a creative storyline. And wow, did the Ring deliver.

Dr Lynn Miner started off with some hints and tips on how to work children's shows. He then proceeded to share his "Color Vision" routine, with a nicely made cube embedded with colorful jewels. Daryl then performed a beautifully structured routine set of 3 pieces using a drawer box, nickels-to-dimes and the "ring illusion". Daryl shared his love of putting 3 pieces together to make an entertaining set.

Marv Roth then performed his custom-made

version of the "ring illusion", using black art and a surprise ending. Our next presenter, Mike Desotell, performed a fun mentalism routine designed for children using Old Maid cards. Secretary Kevin Koehne then performed a Cassandra plot with a Svengali deck and Buddha Papers from his first magic kit.

Sargent-at-Arms Michael Schroeder told a story about recently finding a Marshall Brodien magic kit that was a gift to his son. He proceeded to perform an 'escape' trick with a paper magician and a brass tack. Treasurer Tal Kuhn proceeded to fool us with a handkerchief that could stand on its own.

Otis Day pulled out a well-used, battered deck of cards and proceeded to amaze us with 4 different effects, ending with the restoration of the ripped card box! Monty Witt then shared some of his classic handlings for rose magic, sharing some of his techniques learned after giving out 5000 roses a year for several years! He then shared his fun routine for the classic "Coloring Book".

Rounding out the meeting, at the Back Table, Dr Miner gave us a review of Doc Eason's new book "Cocktails and Doc Tales". And as our namesake, he shared some closing words, covering Eugene Burger's Rooms of Magic. A very nice wrap-up for the whole meeting.

Kevin Koehne

I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

(Continued from page 57)

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 57.**

NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

JUNE 2026 24 NEW MEMBERS

STEWART, KENNETH, Tucson, AZ
BANTER, TODD, Santa Maria, CA
DJAVAHERY, MICHAEL, West Hills, CA
DURLAND, JOHN, San Diego, CA
MARTGAN, CHRISTIAN, Highland, CA
DOLLEAR, WILLIAM, Huntley, IL
LEVINSON, JOSH, Chicago, IL
MADSEN, JEFFREY, Frederick, MD
BARRITT, KAREN, Wyoming, MI
NONGARD, RICHARD, Las Vegas, NV
IZGUR, MICAH, Dix Hills, NY
BROCK, KEITH, Cleves, OH
SIMPSON, TODD, Mason, OH
JOERG, WALTER, Piperton, TN
JONES, MARK POPEYE, Penelope, TX
ALMOND, RUSSELL, Fairfax, VA
GRICE, ANDREW, Chesapeake, VA
CARRICK, PATRICK, Kenmore, WA
LAPERA, SCOTT, Seattle, WA
SIDHU, NOAH KIRA, Surrey, Canada

KORKATTI, MIKA, Lemp 1, Pirkanmaa, Finland
GRABARSKA, JENS, Duisburg, Germany
LUNA, AXEL, Lima, Peru
SLATER, MARK, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, United Kingdom

14 REINSTATEMENTS

DOMINGUEZ, GARY, Villa Park, CA
VEVEA, VICTOR, Bakersfield, CA
COOPER, DAVID, Larkspur, CO
MILLER, ANTHONY, Pensacola, FL
RUSHIN, THEO, Germantown, MD
SMOLINSKI, PETER, Boonsboro, MD
KNIGHT, TRAVIS, Liverpool, NY
HOLLEY, TERRENCE, Medina, OH
JANOSIK, JEFFREY, Rocky River, OH
NASON, BRENDA, Coatesville, PA
MORRIS, MICHAEL, Richardson, TX
CHANG, YU CHUN, Haymarket, VA
POHL, ANDREAS, Coesfeld, Germany
SCHOLLAR, IAN, South Kesteven, England, United Kingdom

SUBMITTING RING EVENTS

All articles about special activities in your Ring – shows, banquets, public service projects, etc. – should be submitted to Lauren Jurgensen at ringreports@magician.org.

Articles should be submitted as soon as possible following the event and must include the name of the author. We prefer articles to be submitted as Microsoft Word documents, attached to your e-mail. Captions for photos should be included in the document at the end of the article and coded to match any accompanying photos.

For those without e-mail access, cleanly typed events and traditional photographs may be mailed to Lauren Jurgensen at the address on page four of each issue of *The Linking Ring*.

Answer to Pictures from the Past – from page 14

According to an online record citing a birth certificate, Ernest Joseph Limberger was born on October 12, 1880, in Manhattan, New York. There is, however, a discrepancy suggesting Moore was actually born in 1881. These differences in birth year will be mentioned again later in this article.

His family packed up and moved to Ohio while he was young. His father passed away and his mother remarried, and E.J. took his stepfather's last name as a stage name. His interest in magic began while he was in Ohio. Just before the turn of the century, Moore was booked at a local park for a simple magic performance near his family's home in Newark, Ohio. He found he liked the excitement of performing and chose to continue pursuing a career in magic.

Moore's act became a class of its own. He had honed his on-stage performance and his ideas were indeed of his own creation. His early career included breaking out of jails before he moved on to patter magic and card magic, as he worked to find the best fit for his talents. He even developed a ventriloquist act that amused his audiences. The highlight of the act was his comedy – he seemed to be a natural at making audiences laugh while he performed. Fellow magicians began taking notice, reporting that he presented his tricks well and his performance was suitable for the whole family.

As Moore gained more notoriety, he was able to add more effects to his show, from a rising card trick that floored the magicians in the audience to his comedy ventriloquist presentation. While in Chicago, Moore was a featured performer at the forty-third regular meeting of the Chicago Magicians' Club, held at the Great Northern Hotel on November 20, 1913. When someone asked if he had brought his wooden sidekick, Moore reached over without missing a beat and amused the entire audience with his "little friend," as well as performed a well-received card rise. *The Sphinx* magazine editor A.M. Wilson acknowledged that Moore performed an original presentation of the "Orange and Ring Trick" and made clear to his readers that Moore's ideas were his own and that he was doing quite well entertaining his audiences.

In one of the 1914 issues of *Magical Bulletin*, prop builder and inventor Floyd Thayer said that Moore was working the Pantages Circuit on the West Coast and that, by all accounts, he was filling theater houses and drawing plenty of laughter and bewilderment at every performance. By 1921, Moore was still on the Pantages Circuit, playing the Pantages' Hippodrome in Spokane, Washington. By 1923, he had returned from the West Coast with bookings in New York and was working the Poli Circuit.

One of the effects Moore claimed to have invented was something he called "The Tears of Buddha." The trick received its name in 1921, when fellow performer Jack Thompson coined it after watching Moore perform on stage. In the effect, Moore extracts a number of white beans from his eyes. The beans go into the mouth, pop from the left eye, then go back into the left eye before coming out of the right. Audiences sat in wonder at this strange demonstration of odd magic and bold trickery. Moore was under contract with Charles H. Rosskam's Chicago Stock Company and performed the effect for the first time in a vaudeville performance for the Keith Western Office at Grand Island, Nebraska, on October 20, 1921. The "Gabby Trickster" was also booked for a tour of the Poli Circuit, opening October 8.

Throughout the rest of the 1920s, Moore's bookings and popularity flourished. His engage-



ments included the Greeley Theatre in Manhattan, the Shattuck Opera House in Hornell, New York, and the Keith Theatre in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. His comedy magic act featured a rapid succession of card color changes, his signature "The Tears of Buddha," "The Water Trick," "The Rings and Oranges," and "The Jumping Spoons." In "The Rings and Oranges," Moore would borrow rings from spectators, make them disappear, and offer each person an orange – only for each ring to turn up when the orange was cut open. He also performed escape feats, including jail escapes at the 1927 and 1928 I.B.M. Conventions in Canton, Ohio, and Lima, Ohio, respectively.

In 1929, Moore was performing his hour-and-a-half show "A Night of Wonderment" to rave reviews. He varied his performance as needed and made sure his show entertained audiences of all ages. That summer, Moore featured two acts at amusement parks: "Buried Alive" and "Buried in Flames." He performed for the Ohio Power Company and the Burke Golf Company in Newark, Ohio, and for the residents of Circleville, Ohio, at the high school auditorium. "A Night of Wonderment" included audience participation as well as "The Tears of Buddha," canaries appearing and vanishing, a production of goldfish in bowls, a number of comedy effects, and a grand finale in which Moore promised to make a member of the audience disappear. Whatever the size of the audience, those who attended were guaranteed a remarkable performance. When the stage was too small for a larger effect, Moore would add more comedy and fun in its place. His "\$1,000 Radio Trick" featured Moore escaping from a locked box; when the box was opened, a radio was found inside playing music.

Moore continued performing his featured show well into the 1930s, occasionally booking I.B.M. events. In 1931, his show was booked at the Neil House Ballroom in Columbus, Ohio, alongside performers including Marvello, Jimmy Thompson, Billy Russell, Al Saal, Johnny Jones, Joe Ovette, Lester Lake, and T. Nelson Downs. At the end of 1937, a grand show was held at the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Co. Auditorium. Lester Lake opened with his Spike Illusion; Leslie Guest and Nina presented "Shooting Thru a Girl." The closing act was E.J. Moore, who came down from Newark, Ohio, to perform as a guest artist. The reviewer called Moore's act an asset to any show: fast, funny magic that wound up with his signature "Tears of Buddha." In 1939, Moore was invited to perform at Abbott's Sixth Annual Magic Get-Together, sharing the bill with Mysterious Lawrence, Jesse Thornton, Walter Harris, Paddy Hopkins, Madame Litzka (known in private life as Mrs. Maurice Raymond), Monk Watson, Winston Freer, L.L. Ireland, Frances Vandevier, George Paxton, John Braun, and Percy Abbott, who closed with an act cut to two minutes.

That same year, Moore performed "A Night of Wonderment" to a full house at Findlay

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 Night of Wonderment" present-



E. J. Moore

High School's auditorium in Ohio. He had taken to booking high schools in and around where he lived in Ohio to help their bands and orchestras build up their funds from near-empty coffers. The program included a transposition from a locked packing crate, "Tubes of Canton," "Tears of Buddha," and "The Vase from the Temple." As a special treat, Moore presented an exposé of fake spiritualism and intercommunication with the dead. He also began showing a short film trailer before "Tears of Buddha" so audiences could preview the effect, an idea that worked well and gave the performances a personal touch.

In November 1939, while performing at a high school auditorium in Greenfield, Ohio, Moore was walking up a runway the Greenfield Board of Education had built for the performance when it suddenly gave way. He fell to the floor below and broke his leg in seven places. The severe injury kept him hospitalized for more than twelve weeks. By 1941, Moore had added ventriloquism back into his act and was performing at high school auditoriums again, including two shows in early December at Central High School in Newark, Ohio, contracted through the Parents' Music Association for a matinee and an evening performance. As before, proceeds went to benefit the school's music programs. The injury to his leg, sustained at nearly sixty years old, led Moore to greatly reduce his performing schedule.

After 1941, Moore focused on creating and selling magic ideas he had been working on for years. Tricks sold directly or through magic shops included "Water-Go," "Link-King Ropes," "Instanto Rope," and "Out! Uncle Sam Arrived." In 1942, he was among the performers booked at the 11th Annual Magi-Fest of Mid-Western Magicians at the Neil House in Columbus for two days. In 1945, Moore began working with U.F. Grant while also selling a few of his own ideas advertised in the magic magazines. In June 1948, at the 20th Annual Conference of the S.A.M. in Atlantic City, Moore was among the entertainers at the festivities. The various shop owners demonstrated their effects, and Tarbell, Grant, Bull, Robbins, Loftus, and Moore were all on hand to present their magical wares to club members who had until then only read about them in the magic magazines. Moore continued promoting various effects through the early 1950s.

In 1956, at the Columbus 25th Magi-Fest Anniversary at the Neil House, Moore performed alongside International President Charlie Rosskam – whose father had been Moore's manager early in his career – and Chet Roth. The featured performer of the evening was Doctor Carlo

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER 1843

DATE OF BIRTH Oct. 12 1881

RESIDENCE alias Moore
32 1/2 No. 4 St Newark, Ohio

ACTOR

EMPLOYER'S NAME Heafey Vandeville

EMPLOYEE'S ADDRESS Hotel Grand Chicago

NAME OF RELATIVE Ernest Joseph Lumberger alias Moore

Signature: E J Moore



with “His Cavalcade of Mystery,” a presentation Carlo called “Night on Thunder Mountain,” filled with illusions and fun. Carlo was one of a number of magicians who found ways to keep magic alive during a lean period for stage performers. Carlo and others developed a spook show format that interested theater owners and sparked a craze in the latter 1950s. Other magicians, including John Daniels, Ray-Mond, Jose Frakson, and Kirk Kirkham, also found ways to keep stage magic alive through this period of transition. Late in 1956, Moore was admitted to the hospital and was not released until late August.

After returning home briefly, Moore was readmitted the following year. On April 25, 1957, E.J. Moore passed away. Those who knew him throughout his career as a magician, comedian, ventriloquist, and friend always had pleasant words and remembrances.

When researching E.J. Moore’s life, a few curiosities arose regarding the spelling of his name and his birth year. His birth certificate spelled the surname “Limburger,” but when Moore registered for the military draft in 1918, he spelled it “Limberger” and listed his date of birth as October 12, 1881, rather than 1880. His employer at the time was Western Vaudeville, based at the Majestic Theatre Building in Chicago, Illinois. In 1919, Moore’s passport application also used the spelling “Limberger,” and his mother included a signed letter stating her son’s birth date as October 12, 1881, even taking a pen to fill in the first “e” in the surname on that letter. It is possible the birth certificate was made in error and never corrected, or that the year was simply typed incorrectly. If 1880 was the correct year, why would E.J. and his mother consistently record 1881 on official documents? I suppose it adds to the mystery of Moore’s career.

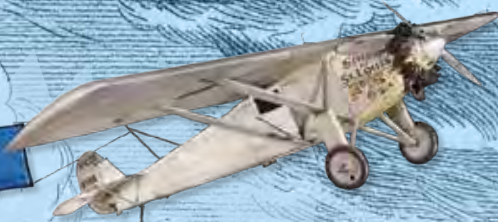
In the January 1958 issue of *The Linking Ring*, vol. 37, no. 11, pages 62-66, there is an article by Don Tanner featuring Moore and several of his effects, including a reprinted 1923 letter from Howard Thurston requesting permission to use one of Moore’s featured effects. If you have a chance, go to Ask Alexander (www.askalexander.org) and you will find the article.

Gary R. Frank

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.

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