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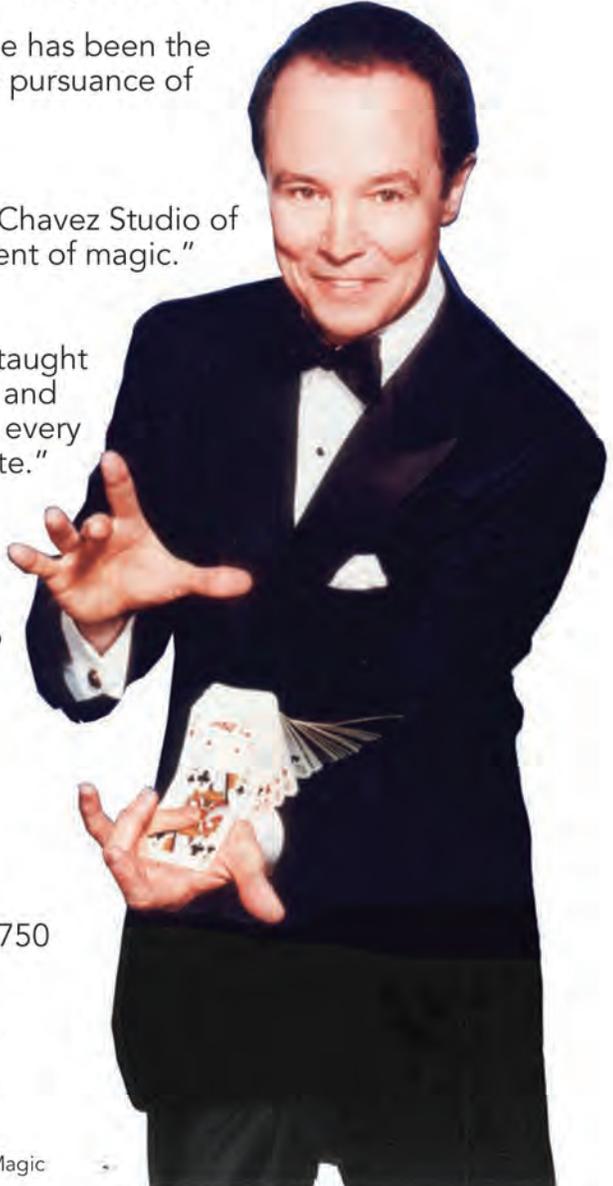
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Sindie Richison

13 Point West Blvd., St. Charles, MO 63301

(636) 724-2400 • FAX (636) 724-8566

office@magician.org

I.B.M. Website: www.magician.org

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carkinlaw1@aol.com

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Stephen Levine • Stephenlevine63@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

Simone Marron

5735 Joshuapoint Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89120

(904) 838-9897 • simone@marrons.us

INTERNATIONAL TREASURER

Mike Woodward • mikewmp@aol.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dwight E. Redman, Sr. • (301) 613-2872

Jason Michaels • (615) 521-6850

Keith Fields • (586) 566-5571

David Garrard • (502) 905-2512

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR • BUSINESS MANAGER

Samuel Patrick Smith

E-mail: editor@magician.org

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Dale Salwak, Rolando Santos

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Gary R. Frank, Jason Goldberg, Scott Humston,

Chip MacGregor, Dr. Steven Schlanger, Ron Sylvester

RING REPORTS AND RING EVENTS EDITOR

Dr. Steven Schlanger

E-mail: ringreports@magician.org

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Dawn Hofmeister

E-mail: advertising@magician.org

WEBMASTER

Simone Marron

E-mail: webmaster@magician.org

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Jessica Friend, Matthew Sharpe

PRODUCTION AND ART SERVICES

Tony's Studio

E-mail: tonyjadu@aol.com

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Messing

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The Linking Ring

FEATURED ARTICLES

Volume 103 Number 9 September 2023

14 OUR COVER: BARRY MITCHELL

Larry Lipman profiles the career of a kid-show creativity king—Barry Mitchell, prolific performer, writer, and inventor.

28 I.B.M. CONVENTION SHOWS

Coverage of the I.B.M. Annual Convention continues with show reviews by Rolando Santos, David Garrard, Don Wiberg, and Don Greenberg—plus reviews of the David Parr and Andi Gladwin lectures by Rolando Santos and Joe M. Turner.

46 MILT LARSEN: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

More than one thousand people gathered at the historic Wilshire-Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles to honor the extraordinary life of Milt Larsen. Dale Salwak reports.

48 THE WORLD-FAMOUS AUSTIN MAGIC AUCTION

For nearly half a century the Austin, Texas, magic community has been supporting an annual magic auction. In November, the tradition continues!

Kent Cummins reports.

62 A PORTRAIT OF THE PROFESSIONAL

Neil Foster's advice on becoming a better performer? "Read, read, read."

Dale Salwak explores the rich rewards that books bring to the life of a successful magician.



Columns

- 12 FROM THE EDITOR
- 13 THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE
- 68 FROM OUR UK CORRESPONDENT
- 72 POLISHING THE RINGS
- 74 MARKETING MAGIC
- 82 TEACHING MAGIC



The I.B.M. logo is a registered trademark of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Departments

- 65 YOUTH TRIVIA
- 109 HOCUS IN FOCUS
- 112 BROKEN WAND

Trick Section

- 87 BARRY MITCHELL ONE-MAN PARADE
- 100 THE CARD CORNER
- 104 SIMPLE DIVERSIONS
- 106 AUTO-MAGIC

Miscellaneous

- 14 PICTURES FROM THE PAST
- 15 WHAT'S IN A NAME
- 54 RING EVENTS
- 59 APPRENTICESHIP CEREMONY AT MAGIC CASTLE
- 78 MAGIC AND MEMORIES
- 83 DID YOU KNOW?
- 84 RING LOCATIONS
- 86 SICK & CONVALESCENT
- 158 APPLICATIONS/ REINSTATEMENTS

COVER PHOTO BY MICHAEL MESSING



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

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

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

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

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



From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

It Works! Someone left the door open this summer, and a few flies, probably seeking relief from heat and humidity, cruised unnoticed into our air-conditioned house. They zoomed down the hallway, flew daringly close to our dinner, dodged the flyswatter, and made a general nuisance of themselves.

As these winged tormentors continued to elude capture, a distant memory – something I read many years ago – began working its way up from the deep recesses of my mind. During my childhood and adolescence (still in progress), magic books taught me how to do all sorts of useful things. For example, I learned how to make a needle float on water, cut a banana in half without peeling it, and make a playing card stick to the ceiling.

One of these fine educational manuals contained an especially strange but fascinating item: the secret of drowning a fly and bringing it back to life. Now decades later, the memory of this stunt resurfaced as flies buzzed tauntingly over my head.

I said to my younger son, “I seem to remember a trick with a fly that I read about when I was a kid.” I described the feat and assigned him the task of making the arrest. Soon, one live fly was in our capture and submerged in water. Ten minutes later we removed the pesky insect from its watery grave and placed it on a paper towel. Unsurprisingly, the fly appeared to be dead. Motionless. No sign of life. Nothing. Ten minutes under water without oxygen had done the trick.

Next we poured table salt on the fly – and waited. A couple of minutes later, miraculously, one of the fly’s tiny legs

moved. Our entire family gathered to watch this weird ritual. Another leg moved. Then, sure enough, the fly wriggled around, turned itself over, and started crawling away.

Amazing! It worked! A variation on an old joke came to mind. “What you would call a fly with soaking wet wings? *A walk*, I guess.”

But then, against all odds, the formerly dead, now revived, crawling, walking fly gathered his strength and took off, soaring defiantly into the air. I grabbed the flyswatter.

Okay! Okay! I was just kidding about the flyswatter. You can’t kill a fly that survived such an experiment. We let him live. Besides, we had to; we couldn’t catch him.

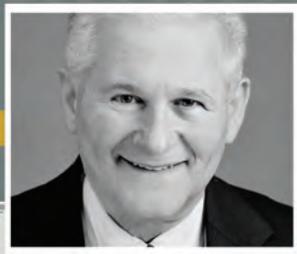
There is, of course, a scientific explanation for the survival of the fly. We looked up all of this online and thus were able to turn a ridiculous prank into an educational experience. According to reliable sources, flies (and other insects) breathe through tubes on the body called spiracles. When the fly was submerged, water blocked the airways and knocked him out. The salt drew out the moisture, enabling him to breathe, regain consciousness, and provide entertainment for the whole family.



So, if anyone wants to know what’s been happening recently at the Smith household, that’s the latest buzz.

President's Page

CHARLES ARKIN



It has been a busy summer. After our I.B.M. Convention in Pittsburgh, Lori and I attended the Society of American Magicians Convention in New Orleans. The S.A.M. honored Tina Lenert and had several good shows and lectures. Next, I travelled to Abbott's Get-together in Colon Michigan, helped judge their contests, and met new friends. Abbott's has a nice mixture of scheduled magic events with plenty of open time slots to relax.

Immediately after Abbott's, Lori and I attended Magic Live in Las Vegas. Magic Live is one of the largest conventions in North America, with excellent talent at every event. I greeted members of the Tacoma, Washington Ring 70, a few Masonic brothers who are magicians, and several I.B.M. Board and Committee members. All conventions were fun and provided opportunities to network, learn, and promote the I.B.M. The highlights for me at all of these conventions were sharing magical effects and meeting with old and new friends.

Next on the schedule is attending the British Ring convention in Eastbourne, United Kingdom, and the Atlanta Harvest of Magic in September. I also just registered to attend the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians in November, and the Winter Carnival of Magic in March 2024. If your schedule allows you to attend multiple conventions, please consider attending some of the smaller regional conventions to further support our magical arts.

Building Bridges. Consistent with our "Join, Learn, Connect" slogan for the presidential year, our 2024 Convention will have the theme of Building Bridges.

Similar to a bridge which connects one body of land to another, there are several methods to build or strengthen our connections within the magic community. Our communications and convention will also share ideas on how to connect more effectively with your audience, market your product to potential customers, and connect with fellow magicians in a learning environment which builds and strengthens relationships. At the Ring level, I encourage the more senior members to reach out and help mentor other attendees at magic meetings. We must avoid the comfort of staying within our own smaller groups or cliques. I challenge each member to find or be a mentor in magic!

Best Practices for Rings. To increase interest and participation by more members at your Ring meetings, consider adding **multiple topics** to your meeting agenda. I attended Ring 198's August meeting in Lexington, Kentucky. Led by our **International Treasurer Mike Woodward**, their agenda had three themes. The August topics were (1) Review of Conventions Attended Over the Summer, (2) Silk Magic, and (3) Book Reviews. This resulted in one hundred percent of the attendees actively participating in the discussion and presentations. Consider adding multiple topics to your meeting agenda. You may gain more interest and attendance with expanded agendas.

2024 Convention Guest of Honor. Can you guess who this is? This person has won the Magic Castle's Oscar in six separate categories, has created more than thirty magic publications, specializes in close-up

(continued on page 15)



Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING



“Monk” Watson filled the bill as a performer: a trade show entertainer, serviceman, and friend from his early beginnings performing in a the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus to his military time in World War I. During World War II, he entertained at dozens of Army Camp Hospitals and service camps. He was a friend to many who gave his time to bring a smile to his audience whether it was large or small. To learn more, turn to page 159.

President's Page – from page 13

magic, and has been named one of the Most Influential Magicians in the Twentieth Century. Stay tuned for more details on this mystery Guest of Honor.

New Member Incentive Referral Program. I have been mailing gifts to I.B.M. members who succeeded in bringing new members to our organization. The most popular requested gift is the Presidential three-coin set of copper-gold-silver colored manipulation coins. These are great for close-up work or simply to add to your coin collection. I encourage each of you to bring in at least one new member this year!

“What’s in a Name?”

Part Fifteen

By Dr. Steven Schlanger
“What’s past is prologue.”

RING 303, FORT MYERS, FLORIDA – Ron Murphy and Dan Tong

In the early 1980s, a young magician moved from Pennsylvania to Cape Coral, Florida. Ron Murphy soon discovered there were a number of magicians living in Southwest Florida who had little social and professional interaction with one another. Ron decided it was time to organize. He was responsible for getting magicians together in order to form Ring 303, and centered it in Fort Myers, Florida. Ron contacted and pulled in giants in magic to provide lectures and inspirations for the local magic talent. Magicians like Eugene Burger, Jeff McBride, and Aldo Colombini performed and taught magic to the members of Ring 303.

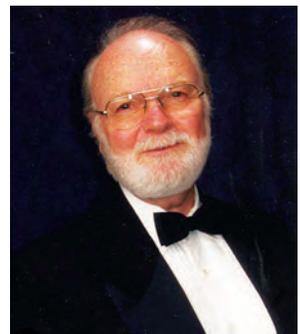
Another magician who had been performing professionally all through Florida from the 1960s through the 1970s, was Dan Tong. Dan and Ron soon became friends and in 1982 Dan moved to the Fort Meyers area and joined Ring 303. Dan is well known by many magicians as the inventor of the Dan Tong Holdout, a utility device that allows for productions of anything concealed under a jacket from seemingly nowhere. Dan joined Ron and helped forge an active Ring 303. Dan brought in magicians like Joshua Jay, Dan Harlan, and Darwin Ortiz.

In honor of Ron’s starting of the Ring and his contributions to the magic and magicians of Southwest Florida, the members voted unanimously to name Ring 303 as the Ron Murphy Ring. After years of service by Dan Tong to Ring 303, he also became recognized as one of the leaders that had contributed his knowledge and training to other magicians in Southwest Florida. And thus, the membership again voted unanimously, this time to include both Ron and Dan as founders and contributors to Ring 303.

David Lounsbury



Ron Murphy.



Dan Tong.

BARRY MITCHELL

By Larry Lipman

Barry Mitchell is the most influential children’s magician in the world.

You may consider those fighting words. You may even offer a handful of other contenders for the title, such as David Kaye (Silly Billy), David Ginn, Christopher Barnes (Christopher T. Magician), Jim Kleefeld, and John Kimmons, among others.

All are worthy magicians who have contributed much to the art of children’s magic. But I’ll contend that, over the years, no one has produced more magic props, routines, videos, and books about children’s magic than Barry. His Facebook group “Fans and Friends of Barry Mitchell Products” boasts more than 2,600 members – far more than any other children’s magician or dealer. Nearly all of them perform for children.

Get two children’s magicians in a room and it’s likely they both have at least one Barry Mitchell prop. Often, it’s the same one.

Barry holds the record for the most lectures at KIDabra, the annual convention of children’s magicians, with a total of thirty-six. He’s also lectured numerous times at the annual Kapital Kidvention and the Fellowship of Christian Magicians. The Magic Castle in California and The Magic Circle in the United Kingdom? He’s lectured at both. Barry has also lectured at conventions for the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the World Clown Association, and Clowns of



One of Barry’s hilarious library shows.



Barry Mitchell. MICHAEL MESSING PHOTO

America International. Lecture tours have taken him as far as Australia, Denmark, South Africa, Canada, and Mexico. Not to mention the seven cruises where he taught magic and creativity with friend and fellow magician Tim Sonofelt. In May, he lectured at Trix in the Stix, the annual convention of children's magicians held in Great Britain.

Barry has published nine books and produced a half dozen CDs, more than two dozen DVDs, and more than one hundred twenty short videos – most only a few minutes long – originally posted on Facebook. Some of Barry's DVDs focus on specific routines, but most are concerned with creativity.

Above all, Barry – a magician, lecturer, and author – is a creator. Whether he's creating new routines, new props, new characters to portray, or new puppets to add to his shows, Barry is always developing new ideas and seeing them to fruition. That last part is the hard part.

Two of his latest puppet characters, Sam the Turtle and Hyena the Laughing Chicken, now play major roles in Barry's live shows and his many videos.

Barry Mitchell was born in Sweetwater, Tennessee, midway between Knoxville and Chattanooga. His father grew up in a log cabin without indoor plumbing, and worked as a sharecropper and maintenance man. His mother worked in an office.

Growing up on a farm, Barry's chores included feeding the pigs and chickens and harvesting tobacco and hay. From a financial standpoint, Barry recalled, "We were quite poor."

Barry's uncle Bob Horn, his mother's brother-in-law, used to give Barry puzzles and "brain teasers." As a Boy Scout, Barry was fascinated with ads for magic shops and Hank Lee catalogues on the back pages of *Boy's Life* magazine. At his elementary school's Reading is FUNDamental programs, Barry was drawn to the books about magic.

Barry vividly remembers the first magic set he ever bought. He was nine years old at the time, and it was a blister pack he saw at the White Way dime store in Sweetwater. The blister pack had a few magic tricks such as a paddle and a ball and vase. The pack cost \$1.09. Barry stared at it for so long that a man approached and asked him about the pack. When Barry informed him that he only had a dollar, the man gave Barry a dime and Barry bought the pack. That dime put him on the path to perform magic.

One day while sitting in church, Barry's friend Kenny Witt showed him a magic prop he had purchased at the Gatlinburg Magic Convention. It was a thumb tip that Kenny used to make a tissue disappear.

"I about lost my mind," Barry recalled decades later. "This was like the heavens opened up. Who knew something like this existed?"

Of the two, Kenny was more the performer; Barry was more the producer of magic effects. Without a nearby magic shop he could visit to see how certain props worked, Barry built his own props with the slight guidance of the line drawings in various magic catalogues. A lot of lumber and flat black paint went into those



Left: Promo shot for college show. Assistant Donna Summit. 1981. Right: Civic club show, 1980.



props. To make a balloon-to-dove production, Barry used rat trap springs to hold and then release the bird from a sling.

Barry described himself as a “fat kid” who lacked self-confidence. But in high school, a bout of mononucleosis resulted in weight loss, which made him more confident about his appearance.

While in elementary school, Barry was put in a class for slow readers. Instead of emphasizing reading, the teacher made the students work on their writing skills. Barry said that experience “changed my life,” and he has considered himself a creative writer ever since.

Barry started working at Kuhn’s 5 & 10 when he was only fifteen years old. He had to get special permission because the age requirement was just under sixteen. He continued working at the store part time until he was in college and landed his first professional long-term magic gig.

When he was sixteen, Barry did his first magic show for a Boy Scout court of honor.

“All the props were made by me and mostly made from wood and flat black paint we already had in the garage at home. This is when I made props based on guesses of how the tricks might work from

looking at line drawings in the magic catalogs.”

After high school, Barry enrolled in Hiwassee College, a two-year institution in nearby Madisonville. Then he entered Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, where he graduated with degrees in religion and business. While at Hiwassee, Barry met Ross Steele, who had an extensive collection of magic. Steele taught Barry how to do many manipulation tricks. For the first time, Barry got to see the inner workings of various props, such as dove pans.

Steele took Barry to a Harvest of Magic Convention in Atlanta.

“It was like a whole new world,” Barry said. “I had never seen anything like this.”

At the convention, Barry also got to see a show by Del Ray.

“It was the smoothest thing I’d ever seen. I’d never seen magic before like that.”

Among the items he purchased was Nick Trost’s card trick “Oscar,” and a Ralph Dewey book about making balloon animals. Barry immediately went back to his room and started twisting balloons.

Soon after, Barry added balloon twisting to his magic shows, at first twisting

them from the book's directions right in front of the audience. In early 1980s Tennessee, balloon twisting was an unusual skill that helped Barry book more shows and festivals.

In the summer of 1981, Barry made his first bid to be a working magician. He told his mother that he was going to be a magician at the Lost Sea, a tourist attraction near Sweetwater that includes a cave and underground lake. His mother told him there was no way that would happen, which only made Barry more determined to get the job.

Wearing a brown suit from his high school graduation and carrying an empty briefcase (just for show), Barry went to the attraction twice before he could explain to the manager that hiring him to perform would draw bigger crowds to the park's retail area.

The manager asked Barry how much he wanted. He said he was performing shows for thirty dollars, but would work at the attraction for thirty dollars a day. So, Barry was hired to do six shows a day, five days a week for a hundred and fifty dollars, while he continued to work two days a week at Kuhn's.

An employee who worked in the office and knew what most Lost Sea employees were paid told Barry he was making more money, per week, than most of the cave tour guides.

"That really changed my life and gave me a lot of confidence," he said.

It was something that Barry had been lacking. When he graduated from high school, Barry's mother asked him what he intended to do. Barry said he would go to college and then become a professional magician. His mother said he couldn't make a living as a magician.

"I said [to myself] I would do everything I could to prove her wrong," Barry recalled. "It wasn't until I was in my forties that I realized she didn't know I was in competition with her."

Barry's father never encouraged his son to pursue magic, but many years later he



Dolly Parton and Saloon Show cast of Dixie Stampede in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, 1993.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DIXIE STAMPEDE

came to a show and told a friend, "Barry is a pretty good actor." Barry described the comment as "the best compliment I never received from my father."

Barry had grown up in the Southern Baptist church and in the summer of 1982, after graduating from Hiwassee, he moved to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where he worked with a group of summer missionaries at the Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries. They performed at local campgrounds. Barry worked at the Ober Gatlinburg Ski Resort, doing walk-around magic and performing as the Magician on the Mountain during the day. In the evenings, he performed with the other missionaries at the campgrounds.

"My missionary appointment was to get a job, pay my own way, and volunteer my free time to perform in the camps at night. Ober Gatlinburg, as a magician, was the job that allowed me to pay rent and food," he recalled.

The next summer, he worked as a youth minister at Macedonia United Methodist Church in Knoxville. He put on magic shows in churches and for local businesses while attending Carson-Newman.

Barry said he's been lucky to have many mentors throughout his career. In college, one such mentor was his drama professor John Welton.

“He became a close friend as well because he worked his way through college as a magician. I would go to his house often to do magic. He taught me so much about magic and stagecraft. He is in his nineties and we are still in contact.”

Two days after graduating, Barry was on a plane headed for New Orleans. The 1984 World’s Fair was being held there, and although the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board didn’t have a pavilion in the fair, they wanted to have a presence in the fair’s city. Barry was part of a group that included two mimes, a banjo player, and a jazz band.

For six months, their job was to perform in order to draw a crowd while other missionaries spoke and handed out religious tracts in the French Quarter.

Barry almost didn’t stay.

One of his first stops in New Orleans was purchasing supplies at a local magic shop. As Barry was leaving, a young man entered and asked what Barry was doing. When Barry explained that he was performing magic to build a crowd – but not taking tips – the man, whom Barry remembers only as Jason, became visibly angry and threatened Barry. He said Barry would cut into his business, which relied on generous tips.

“No one had ever threatened me,” Barry recalled.

Despite the threat, Barry made his first performance at Jackson Square. Jason was there. Afterward, Jason approached Barry and asked to see the linking rings Barry had been using.

Barry said he was sure Jason was going to hit him, or at least bend the rings out of shape. Instead, Jason showed Barry how to do a linking ring routine.

“He showed me stuff I had never seen in my life, and then he taught me. The fact he was willing to teach me was a huge blessing. I was blown away. He certainly didn’t have to even speak to me,” Barry said.

Jason, who was from New York City and had studied with Frank Garcia, also showed Barry how to perform the cups and balls, more extensive balloons, and



Promotional photo, 1996.

helped him order a custom street performing table.

Street performing for six months in the French Quarter, and learning from Jason and other magicians, Barry said, “was like a magic college.”

After his stint in New Orleans where he performed almost constantly, Barry said he was tired of magic. He tried a few jobs, including less than a week on a construction crew.

“I was living at home and lost in depression. My college loans were due, and I didn’t have a job. I sold a great deal of my magic to pay bills. I had some incredible antique magic that I sold for pennies to a magic shop in Marietta, Georgia.”

Ultimately, Barry was hired as an activity director at TMI Academy, a private school in Sweetwater. He headed a dorm for boys in the fifth and sixth grades, and later managed the school snack bar and store. Once again, a mentor appeared: Louie Vesser, the school vice president.

Vesser arranged for Barry to attend a session with motivational speaker Zig Ziglar. Initially, Barry was disappointed with the session, which he described as a three-hour sales pitch for a more expensive seminar. Later, Barry said he embraced Ziglar’s model – getting folks to pay to



Festival show, 1991.

hear him make a sales pitch. For years, when Barry would speak at conventions and sell his magic, Barry said he'd recount the Ziglar story and say that was exactly what he was doing.

While at the school, Barry married Trudy Walker and they lived in an apartment at the school. About this time, Barry's interest in magic returned. He performed at many of the drama, puppetry, and clowning festivals put on by the Southern Baptists, including the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Barry taught magic, clowning, balloons, and juggling. He also taught magic at state festivals in several other states.

After the school closed, Trudy got a job as a teacher and Barry established a balloon delivery business, Balloons by Barry.

"I dressed as different characters for deliveries: Rev. UR Older, Funny Bunny, and Gorilla Grams were some of the characters. Because of the business, we were able to get small festivals and events." Trudy did face painting and Barry twisted balloons.

Barry worked briefly as a newspaper advertising salesman. He liked helping customers design their ads, but hated the selling part of the job. He also got a job doing graphic design and typesetting at a print shop in Sweetwater.

Barry established a mail order magic shop called The Magic Clown. They sent customers a catalogue that Barry had developed from the drama festivals. Barry

also started creating more magic of his own to sell.

With financial support from Ross Steele, Barry opened a weekend magic shop at a large flea market in Sweetwater, where he and Steele sold magic – like Svengali decks and cups and balls – during the weekends. They filled mail orders during the week.

In 1991, Barry auditioned for the role of the Oreo Magician in Knoxville. Accompanied by a character dressed in an Oreo cookie costume, the Oreo Magician would perform under the sponsorship of Nabisco's "Unlock the Magic" campaign at various grocery stores selling Oreo cookies.

Auditioning for the job, Barry created a trick using an Oreo cookie he made from plastic-coating two Oreo shells and foam. Barry's Oreo trick – in which the foam became a sponge ball and led to a routine – far surpassed their expectations.

Barry later marketed that trick and others he performed at the audition, including what became his Got Cookies routine.

Barry didn't get the job for Knoxville. Instead, he got a much larger job as the Oreo Magician covering much of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama.

During this time, Barry acquired another mentor, Bev Coffey, a customer at the flea market store who was a paint distributor. Barry described him as "the most incredible salesman I ever met. He could literally sell ice in Alaska. He is in his eighties and still a trusted friend and mentor. He was far more of a father to me than my actual father ever was."

After working with Nabisco, Barry was hired by International Home Foods, makers of Chef Boyardee. Most of the appearances were in Georgia.

By this time, Barry was producing and marketing some of his magic tricks, including The Black Hole, a screen-printed white handkerchief with a black spot in the middle that could be used to vanish a silk with a thumb tip. Another trick was the



Promo shot, 1991. CHARLES GARVEY
PHOTOGRAPHY

Fourth Dimension Cent Climax, a penny trick that involved a small mirror, mini-penny, and jumbo penny. Barry sold the products to D. Robbins, which distributed them to magic shops around the country.

Barry also marketed some of his magic through Hank Lee, including Neon Sponge Balls, Idiot Insurance, Can-O-Wands, Got Cookies, and others.

At the time, Neon Sponge Balls was a unique product – colored sponge balls. Barry made them by buying white sponge balls from Goshman and dyeing them in a pot on his stove. The trick became so popular that Steven Goshman informed Barry that the company would start mass-producing sponge balls in a variety of colors, called Ultra Brights.

Without the exclusive on colored sponge balls, Barry figured out a way to screen print on sponge balls, which led to Boo Balls, a yellow ball with a printed face.



Painting faces at a festival in the late 1980s.

They were a hot item and a forerunner of some of Barry's most popular products, including his Smile Maker and Pumpkin Maker.

In 1992, while still working at the print shop, Barry auditioned for the Dolly Parton Dixie Stampede (now Dolly Parton's Stampede) in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The Stampede needed two character actors, who would perform in the saloon and arena shows.

Barry didn't get the job originally. But when one of the actors left, Barry took the role of Phenois T. Simon II, a con-artist character who would perform as the comedian and magician in the show.

That meant Barry worked at the print shop from 6 a.m. to noon, came home and filled mail orders, then drove seventy-five miles to Pigeon Forge to do the evening show. He got home around midnight. The long hours put a strain on his marriage, and Barry and Trudy divorced a few years later.

A year after joining the Stampede, Barry and fellow cast members David Eilart, Kay Allen, and Greg Stout were offered an opportunity to put together a dinner show in the restaurant at Ober Gatlinburg Ski Resort. The show was called Mountain Top Celebration.

"It was a combination of comedy magic, illusions, singing, and dancing. Think of it as Li'l Abner in the Smokies," Barry said. The climax of the show involved a version of Metamorphosis – but in this case, the girl in the box was transformed into Barry in a dress.

After a month, the show closed. Barry and the other cast members were offered a choice: take a one-month salary buy-out, or sue the owner for the full value of the six-month contract. They took the money.

Barry went back to the Dixie Stampede and applied for his old job. He got it – this time as magician Thadius T. Rose. But he also got a slap on the wrist: a hundred-dollar-a-week salary cut. He would also have to deal blackjack at the saloon casino (where the stakes were play money) and

sweep the floors after closing. Barry swallowed his pride and took the job.

Working at the blackjack table, Barry began doing card tricks in addition to dealing. He was making more money through tips each week than he had from just doing magic and comedy. He said he learned a lesson from the experience.

“This may not seem like a big deal, but in my mind I should have been a star in the show and didn’t want to sweep the floor. After two weeks, I had a life-changing moment. I realized I was still making a living as an entertainer. I was still living my dream, and it didn’t hurt me in the least to sweep a floor. My entire perspective on life changed. There isn’t anything I’m too good to do. That attitude has served me well over the years.”

For two years at the Stampede, Barry performed at the pre-show with Cindy House, including wearing a pink dress and singing a love song. He also got to perform back in the arena show.

While still performing at the Stampede, Barry returned to Ober Gatlinburg doing table magic and stage shows called “Adventures in Silliness.” The result was that Barry was working seven days a week, putting on two to four shows a day. Barry was also doing school shows throughout East Tennessee, ending before 4 p.m. so that he could get back to the Stampede.

Barry remained at the Stampede for a total of four years and then, with help from



Garbage Busters School show, 1990s.

Dave Gorden, a co-owner of the theater where country music star T. G. Sheppard performed, Barry started working as Sheppard’s opening act. Later, he did the same with country stars Jim Ed Brown and Helen Cornelius at the Eagle Mountain Theater.

Gorden helped Barry perfect his stagecraft, including working on the way he dressed, stood, talked to the audience, and crafted his scripts. He helped transform Barry from a Dixie Stampede comedian to a more polished business suit-wearing comedian.

“Dave Gorden helped me to see that I could be more than I was. That was his contribution to my life,” Barry said. “No



Promo shots, circa 1991. CHARLES GARVEY PHOTOGRAPHY

one had ever told me I could be more than a working magician. Dave told me I could be a motivational speaker. And he convinced me to believe it.”

While Barry was performing at Eagle Mountain, another magician came to town who would have a major impact on him: Terry Evanswood. Evanswood was an illusionist looking for a place to perform. Barry was already performing in the evenings, but the folks at Eagle Mountain said they were looking for magicians to do a comedy breakfast show. They put Barry and Terry together, even though the two had never met.

Somehow, it worked. Barry said he had to initially convince Evanswood he wasn't trying to take over his show, just make him look better.

A year after Barry and Terry started working together, the Eagle Mountain management informed all the performers that they were cutting their pay. Barry left, but he and Evanswood remain close friends.

In a 2006 profile that Evanswood wrote about Barry in *Funny Paper* magazine, Evanswood said the following about Barry's decision to leave the show: “I recall thinking, ‘A year ago, I didn't know how I could work with this total stranger, and a year later I don't know how I can work without him.’ He had become an integral part of the show and the comic sidekick to much of my magic.”

At one point during this period, Barry was hired to do a program in upstate New



Working with Terry Evanswood in his show at Wonder Works in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, with Terry's assistant, Jessica Beasley.



Barry's Recycling Pirate school show, 2018.

York. He arrived at what he described as a “little bitty church,” but without his luggage. Barry went to a local store and purchased common items such as a nylon rope and deck of cards. He also used dollar bills and a coat hanger to make the gimmick for the Anderson Newspaper Tear.

During the performance, the nylon rope began to unravel. Barry made up a story about how discouraging people can result in their self-confidence beginning to unravel, just like the rope. The story became a central piece of his motivational speeches.

Dave Gorden recommended that Barry do a show for science teachers in Pigeon Forge. He ended with an inspirational poem he wrote titled “Encourage Me.” After the show, Barry told the organizers that he could do a motivational program on encouragement. They hired him and said the first show would be in two weeks.

Barry didn't have a motivational show, but he quickly put one together, opening with some comedy magic and then moving into inspirational storytelling combined with magic. The programs were a success and Barry was hired to do more such programs throughout Tennessee and nearby states.

Terry Evanswood introduced Barry to Mark Daniel, founder of KIDabra, and Barry gave his first KIDabra lecture in 2000. Two years later, former editor of *The Linking Ring* Phil Wilmarth saw Barry's lecture at KIDabra and, as a result,



Kapital Kidvention convention gala show, 2018.

Barry was invited to lecture at the 2003 International Brotherhood of Magicians convention in Kansas City. Barry had been a member of the I.B.M. since he was nineteen and would pour over the photos in *The Linking Ring* of magicians attending the conventions. “I wanted to be in it so bad.”

At the Kansas City convention, Barry shared the spotlight with Aldo Colombini and André Kole.

“When Phil introduced me as one of the three most creative people in magic, that just meant the world to me.”

Barry’s 2003 KIDabra lecture, *The Magic of Thinking Creatively*, lasted three hours and was a creative review of the products he had created, up until then, for use in school shows. As of 2022, Barry has given thirty-six lectures or presentations at KIDabra and KAX, its west coast sister conference – more than any other person.



School show performance.

Initially, Barry was surprised at the reaction many of his presentations received from fellow children’s entertainers. Many magicians had never seen anything like his products, including *Super Chicken*, which was later sold by Hocus Pocus.

In addition to Hocus Pocus, Murphy’s Magic sold some of Barry’s DVDs, including a DVD recording of his *The Magic of Thinking Creatively* lecture for KIDabra. As a result of that DVD, Barry was invited to give a lecture in Australia.

For seven years, starting in 2008, Barry and Tim Sonefelt hosted a series of cruises for magicians interested in being more creative in life and entertainment. Among the teachers on the cruises were Robert Baxt, Michael Finney, Jim Kleefeld and Bev Bergeron.

At his 2012 KIDabra lecture, Barry connected with Sherry Grant, a minister at a church in North Carolina who also did clowning and magic shows. Barry knew of Sherry because she had purchased many of his products,

At one point, Sherry posted online a photo of her cats nestled in a box of Barry’s magic products. Barry and Sherry also saw each other at the Fellowship of Christian Magicians conference. By 2014, they were married.

Sherry, who holds two master’s degrees, plays a major role in helping Barry refine his products and routines. “Her creativity is a part of all of it,” Barry said.

An accomplished seamstress, she also does much of the sewing needed for many of their products. Sherry also produces sewn items that Barry sells at conventions and through his website.

Sherry is one of a number of people who have become involved in helping Barry with his creations. While Barry once took pride in creating and constructing his routines and products on his own, he now says he’s reached a point where he realizes the value of working with others to improve his creations.

“Somewhere along the way, I learned that it’s not about me, it’s about the audi-



Barry and his wife, Sherry Grant, in California for the 2018 KAX convention.

ence,” he said. “When that comes in, it helps you lose some of your ego. And when you start losing some of your ego you realize ... maybe I need to get other people to help me deliver better content to the audience.”

Tim Sonfelt was the first magician with whom Barry began to collaborate. Others in Barry’s brain trust include Lee Andrews, Gene Cordova, Tommy Johns, Dorian LaChance, Al Moessinger, Steve Petra, and Steve Wronker. Jay Ruple does much of Barry’s video and website work.

“I have so many people who have helped me to do it better. I just can never say enough about all of the people who have helped me do what I do.

“When you really think about it, this is a pretty silly way to make a living, but I haven’t done that by myself. It’s been a lot of people that have helped me get to this point,” Barry said.

Over the years, Barry has had a significant presence on social media. Some of his posts and videos were to promote new products, others were shot in hopes of being part of subsequent DVDs. Still



Barry performing a library show.

others were just random ideas that Barry wanted to share with the magic community.

The original videos were labeled “Backstage with Barry,” and were intended to eventually fill a DVD. But there was no coherent theme. The next version, posted to his Facebook group, was called “VIP Videos.” Each video opened with, “Welcome to VIP Video, your private link to tips and ideas from Barry Mitchell Products.”

“Under this banner I could share anything from a simple Dollar Tree DIY idea to a full routine ready to perform. The magic creativity world was open for me to share.”

Eventually, Barry shot more than a hundred and twenty VIP videos.

About thirty of the videos were included in the Duh Part Deux DVD in 2013.

Meanwhile, Barry’s trick called Smile Maker – a multiplying sponge ball routine, with a large sponge ball kicker – was growing in popularity among children’s magicians.

“When I noticed some were even using the product in their advertising photos, I asked myself why I wasn’t.”

In 2016, Barry started calling his basic show the Smile Maker Show. He and Jay began building what would become his virtual Smile Maker Studio, a membership-based website that would house all of Barry’s digital content including his videos, lectures, and product demos as well as links to all of his DVDs. It also includes written articles for the KIDabra Journal and the World Clown Association magazines.

Members of the studio have access to all of the content and can get a discount on purchases of Barry’s products.

The studio opened on April 1, 2017.

“Why did I create the studio? It’s my legacy. Since I don’t have children, there’s no one to carry on whatever good I might have brought into the world,” Barry said. “My work is my children and the only way for that to have a possibility of continuing is to put all the content in one place and



Attendees at Tim Sonefeld and Barry Mitchell's Creativity at Sea cruise convention, 2007

ask a much younger friend to keep it alive when I'm gone. The studio really is the Barry Mitchell Library. It brings joy to me to be able to see what I've accomplished in my work life, and it brings joy to others when they find an idea to improve their work life. The mark I leave on magic and family entertainment is all contained in one place. So, it was never about the money, it's about the legacy."

The arc of Barry's career can be seen in a collection of his business cards in the Smile Maker Studio. Originally, Barry advertised himself as a "magician for all occasions," a designation he now scorns as being too general. That evolved to his balloon business, then a magic clown, Professional Idiot, Professional Jester, professional speaker and others.



Barry performing a library show.

"Now, I don't want any of those. I only want to be a children's entertainer. I've done all of those other things. I'm tired of them. I don't care if I never do another family show. I'm happy doing libraries, churches, and schools."

Barry sees himself foremost now as a creator. And the creativity has sprung from a problem to solve.

"If you look at that list of DVDs, every one of them was born because there was a library theme or ... a lecture that I had to give."

Every summer, Barry created a new library show filled with new routines, new props, and new characters. He used them in his shows, but he also marketed them through product sales and DVDs, which continue to sell long after the library summer theme is done.

"I put myself in situations where I am forced to be creative. Because without making stuff and doing that, I don't know that I could survive. I need to be constantly creating."

Larry Lipman is a retired journalist, children's performer, and a frequent contributor to The Linking Ring. You may reach him by email at lipman.larry@gmail.com.

2023 Evening Shows



TAYLOR HUGHES MAGIC STORYTELLING

Reviewed by Rolando Santos

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MESSING

Taylor Hughes brought his signature style of Magic Storytelling – and some of the pieces from his successful Amazon Prime Comedy special, *Chasing Wonder* – to the convention's opening night. The audience loved it.

Although Hughes has been doing magic for over thirty years and has performed over three thousand shows, the entire show felt fresh, spontaneous, high energy, and entertaining, with Hughes appearing to have as much fun as the audience. The quick bits, such as the bowling ball in the sack, left the front-row lay members of the audience wide-eyed and smiling.



Taylor Hughes, Elizabeth Nauert.



Hughes' mischievous side was fully displayed in his version of the classic "steel wrist-shackles and padlock" routine. His timing, one-liners, and big smile turned an often-mundane escape effect into a hilarious laugh-out-loud comedic mystery.

Hughes' version of the Mirror Penetration was the highlight of the evening, drawing a lot of *oohs*, *aahs*, and a few "that's really good" comments from the magicians seated around me.

Hughes started doing magic when he was seven years old. As he said during his performance, there is "no mean magic" in

his shows because magic and performing are oxygen for his soul.

Many of the effects we saw are classics of magic, yet his presentation personality infused these old chestnuts with a new energy and vibrancy that infected the entire audience.

Hughes' Comedy Magic special, *Chasing Wonder*, runs on Amazon Prime. Based on what I heard, I am not the only one who's going to make sure I check it out.

Evening show reviews continue next month.

THE REALLY BIG MAGIC SHOW THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023

Reviewed by David Garrard

After a terrific one-man show by storytelling magician, Taylor Hughes, our evening shows shifted back to a multi-performer format on Thursday evening. Robert Ramirez did a wonderful job as Master of Ceremonies, making us laugh and performing some unique magic, including an updated version of Afghan Bands with duct tape—which he later tipped at one of the Inspiration Sessions.

Trevor and Lorena Watters opened the show with a fun and fast-paced duo act that gave evidence of years of working together. The magic was classy, colorful, and well-received.

Marc DeSouza was next with his act featuring beautiful work with silks, as well as effects from past master, Fred Kaps. Magic with coins, silks, and rings reminded us why classics are classics, and what they look like when perfectly performed.

Paige Thompson wowed us with a baseball prediction that earned her volunteer his own major league hat. She also presented a fun version of the thumb tie.

In the midst of contributing his expertise to the Lance Burton Teen Seminar, Dr. Lawrence Hass presented a fine turn



Trevor and Lorena Watters, Henry Rose assisting.



Marc DeSouza.

on stage using simple props and intriguing premises. There's a reason Larry has a reputation as one of the most knowledgeable magicians in the world.

We have a saying that the juggler always kills at the magic convention, and Howard Mincone proved it true once again. Howard was simply spectacular, and one of the highlights of the evening. His befuddled onstage character had us rolling with laughter even as we applauded his amazing skills.

Kayla Drescher continues to make a name for herself in venues around the country, and it was great to have her on our show. Kayla presented a variety of mental magic, including a confabulation routine. Her material was polished and professional.

Reggie Rice closed our show with a series of rapid-fire illusions that were as flashy as his multi-colored suit. Reggie's enthusiasm as a performer is contagious, and brought tremendous energy to the final act of a wonderful evening.



Paige Thompson, Brent, Keith and Doc.



Top: Robert Ramirez. Second Row: Kayla Drescher with volunteer Ellen. Bottom: Dr. Lawrence Hass.



Top: Howard Mincone, Audrey. Center and Bottom: Reggie Rice.

INTERNATIONAL MAGIC CHALLENGE AND GOLD MEDAL SHOW

Friday, July 14, 2023

Reviewed by Don Wiberg
Past International President

Magic contests have become very sophisticated over the years and this year's I.B.M. Stage Contest was no exception. The final contestants survived the earlier preliminary contest and went for the Gold Medal on Friday night. While the performers were of very high caliber, none were awarded the coveted gold medal. Michael Dardant, from New Orleans, very nicely handled the M.C. chores. Michael brought his "N'awlins" charm to the competition show. Hosting this show is not an easy chore as the M.C. normally builds up the acts in his introductions. With a bright smile and a pleasant manner, all Michael could do was give the contestants' names and where they were from.

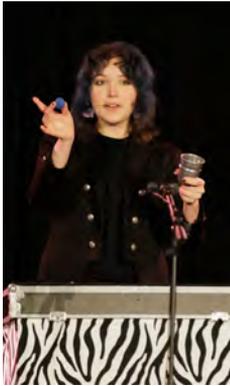
Gabe Lim from Arizona opened the show with some classic ball and flower manipulations. Multiplying balls were transformed into colorful roses and streamers. The roses were carefully placed in a barren bush. Gabe made a beautiful fan appear while roses floated gracefully above. Several fans of cards were produced, and roses magically appeared on the green bush while a snow-storm of confetti filled the air.

The second performer, Michael Nguyen from California, produced two parasols from large silk scarves. A cascade of colorful silk scarves led to the production of several balls. The balls vanished, appeared, multiplied, and turned into a plethora of playing cards. The playing cards were diminished in size and more fans were produced. As Michael produced fans of cards, a steady stream of cards sprayed from a card fountain as he produced one more parasol to bring the act to its conclusion.

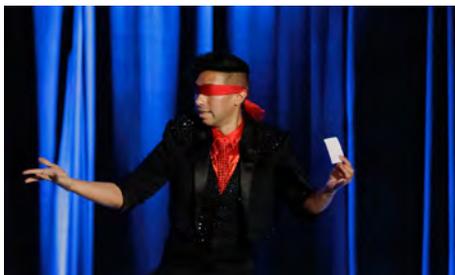
In the youth category, Anja Steyn from South Africa was the lone female entrant in the final competition. She took us on a journey through time with her versions of the Cups and Balls. While this perfor-



Above: Michael Nguyen. Right: Gabe Lim.
September 2023



Top: Michael Nguyen. Middle: Anja Steyn. Third Row: Anja Steyn, Olivier Henning. Bottom Row: Joe Marchese, Olivier Henning, Michael Dardant.



mance might have been better suited for the close-up competition, Anja's handling of this effect was quite good. She began by performing the oldest version of the Cups and Balls and ended with a modern "Rap" version using plain plastic tumblers. After the cups were manipulated in the usual way and balls appeared, she produced a cocktail complete with a decorative umbrella. This came as a total surprise and won her the Award of Merit.

A performance by the Netherlands' fourteen-year-old Olivier Henning was the talk of the competition. As the curtain opened, there was a mysterious greenish glow on the performer. When the stage lights brightened, it was apparent that the audience was in for something special. Playing cards appeared at Olivier's fingertips. There were several minutes of pure manipulative magic concluding with a standing ovation for the teenage magical prodigy. His performance was reminiscent of last year's gold medal winner in the adult category, Russia's Artem Shchukin. Olivier's performance won him the First Place Award in the youth category and



Top: Joe Marchese. Bottom: Danny King.

the Fantasma Award presented by Roger Dreyer, CWO, Chief Wizard Officer, Fantasma Magic.

Even though magic performances have changed with the times, the next act had all the charm of the “old school.” New Jersey’s Joe Marchese performed in a style seldom seen today. He wore very formal attire – no torn jeans or wrinkled tee shirt. He produced canes and colorful silk scarves from nowhere. Among the silk scarves, he produced several clocks. The clocks multiplied and vanished, ultimately reappearing in larger versions. Just when the audience thought he was done, he produced two of the largest wristwatches in the world. But wait, he wasn’t finished. He amazed everyone by producing a huge alarm clock and four gigantic wristwatches to a nice ovation. Joe received the Award of Merit for his efforts.

The final act in the competition was Danny King from Texas who ultimately won First Place. He presented several ring penetrations off of a bright red cord. He produced many balls and manipulated them to everyone’s amazement. The balls eventually changed into playing cards which he multiplied and vanished, all timed to beautiful music. His stage presence and skillful manipulations helped to sell the act as Danny won First Place in the Adult Category.

While the judges were deliberating, the second half of the show began with M.C. Michael Dardant warming up the audience with some funny finger flinging, à la Art Mertrano. Michael introduced David Parr, who recently was the featured magician on the cover of *The Linking Ring*. David used to have his own show in Chicago and his years of performing are evident. His



Left: Luis Carreon assisted by Alan Fisher and Tina Levine. Above: David Parr assisted by Gary.

theatrical training is evident as he has a reason for doing what he does. A spectator from the audience was encouraged to assist in a dark tale involving a steel ring. As the volunteer was asked to close his eyes and follow directions carefully, the ring penetrated his arm. There were several variations of the ring penetration, all of which were a mystery to the spectator yet evident to the members of the audience. The spectator was baffled yet the audience was in on the trick. As England's famous mentalist Tony Corinda once said, that's "The Powers of Darkness."

The second performer, Luiz Carreon of Chicago, is another rising star in the world of magic. Despite his youth, Luiz has had years of experience as a demonstrator in some of Chicago's magic shops. He presently holds forth at Magic, Inc., Chicago's only surviving brick-and-mortar magic shop. His opening effect involved several penetrations of a charm off of a ribbon. His featured effect was based on Lucha libre, meaning "freestyle wrestling" or literally translated as "free fight" which is the term for the style of professional wrestling originating in Mexico. Since its introduction to Mexico in the early twentieth century, it has developed into a unique form of the genre, characterized by colorful masks.

Luiz displayed a large booklet of pictures of wrestlers wearing those colorful masks. He placed a large cloth bag over his head, thus blindfolding himself. The spectator chose a wrestler's picture at random. As the picture was shown to the audience, Luis removed the cloth bag. Much to everyone's surprise, he was wearing an identical matching mask. So many of the prediction effects are predictable. This one had a surprise ending, making it unique.

The closing act was Harrison Lambert. Harrison is an actor, comedian, and magician originally from Philadelphia and is an alumnus of The Groundlings Sunday Company in Los Angeles. He presented several standard card effects with his own



Harrison Lambert.

special twists. He finished his set with a nice variation of the "3 Rope Trick."

Michael Dardant of New Orleans brought the show to its' conclusion in an easy manner. It's easy to see why the New Orleans locals refer to their city as "The Big Easy." Michael, a true "N'awlins" native, made the handling of the International Magic Challenge and Gold Medal Show look big and easy.

SATURDAY NIGHT GALA SHOW MAGIC! AN EVENING OF WONDER

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Reviewed by Don Greenberg

On Saturday night, July 15, 2023, the I.B.M. Annual Convention concluded with a gala show titled *Magic! An Evening of Wonder*, emceed by Lucy Darling. The phrase “alter ego” has probably been overused to describe this stage-character created by Carisa Hendrix. It’s also a little inaccurate, as Carisa has *many* characters in her quiver. But on this night, she was Lucy Darling. Breathily and biting, her wit and interactive banter was slightly edgy, and the audience responded very positively.

The first performers of the evening were Matthew Pomeroy and Natasha Lamb from Durham, England – partners on and off of the stage – performing as “The Conjurers.” They worked as a team, as opposed to an old-fashioned magician and assistant. Their chemistry and audience involvement were genuine and captivating, and their act was an excellent start to the final gala show.

Buster Caldwell, performing as his self-deprecating and confidence-lacking character “Buster Balloon” appeared next, and was an offbeat and funny solo



Above: Lucy Darling (Carisa Hendrix). Right: British Ring President Oliver Tabor.





entertainer. He used volunteers from the audience, and allowed an adorable little girl in a frilly dress to steal the show. Although he was described as a balloon artist, he didn't do a whole set of 260E twisting; his act very effectively centered on his entertaining personality, and there just happened to be an inflated balloon or two in the mix. This was actually a significantly more effective way to please a crowd of pasteboard-wearers grownups – much better than torturing tubes of rubber into unusual shapes. From England, the refined and charming Oliver Tabor stepped out with his silent manipulation act. Oliver is the current President of The British Ring, the I.B.M.'s *largest*. His stage persona was attractive, approachable, and appealing, and his manipulation act was inventive and a bit surprising – especially his work with bubbles. Slightly reminiscent of Vito Lupo, but *not* a copy, Oliver's take on "Snowstorm in China" brought an audible "OOOH!" from the crowd.

Ran'D Shine pretty-much exploded through the curtains to open his set, and was ... well ... the *least-shy* performer of the evening. His clever linking of semi-standard plots into a very original and cogent act with a "*now-that-makes-sense*" ending was fun and refreshing for the



The Conjurers (Matthew Pomeroy and Natasha Lamb), Charlie Spurgeon.



Top: Ran'D Shine assisted by Jerry, Kumanji and Stephen Levine. Bottom: Jason Bishop, Paige Thompson.

audience. Ran'D's experience as a college circuit performer really showed.

The final performer of the evening was illusionist Jason Bishop. Jason's set included a diverse range of effects, from coins to large box illusions to a floating, glowing ball-thingy. Young, vibrant, and apparently not-bad-looking, his high-energy display of illusions did not disappoint, and he was a very effective finale for the Convention's final show.





Top and Center: Buster Caldwell, Natalie (little girl), Lucy Darling, Jason Bishop. Bottom: The cast of Magic! An Evening of Wonder.

THE DAVID PARR LECTURE

By Rolando Santos

Past International President

This year's convention debuted a new series of talks that gave performers time to share their performance secrets and philosophies in a relaxed setting. Instead of the traditional "Here is a trick that works for me, I will teach it to you," approach, each performer chose an important topic or effect and delved in. This helped attendees to fully understand the nuances of the effect and why it works for a lay audience.

The convention committee couldn't have picked a better person to kick off the newly created series of interactive discussions. For half a century, David Parr has created magic, mystery, and memorable moments. Parr called on his unique background of theater directing, acting, award-winning magic acts (he fooled Penn and Teller), and his off-beat interests to demonstrate how to capture a lay or magician audience. He focused on what he called "The Three Keys to Being a Happy Artist": 1. Find your voice. 2. Find your people. 3. Find your place.

Parr started the evening by talking about his childhood, when he would collect soda bottles to make money to buy magic, then seamlessly segued into a version of the 21-cent trick that resonated with the audience. His routine was fun, filled with mini moments of comedy and reveals, which ended with the spectator keeping the nickel as a souvenir.

Several magicians commented that they had never seen an adult version of the trick. Until that night, they looked at it as a throw-away kid's effect. Parr used it to reinforce his first point of performing magic: talk about things you are passionate about or that make you feel good.

He said, "Mine your past, it's a gold mine of stories and themes." He uses 3x5 cards to make lists of ideas, things that catch his attention, or just words and phrases. He keeps them in file boxes and goes through them for inspiration.

David moved on to his second point, finding your people, which he defines as people you can trust who will give you honest feedback. But the feedback has to be more than "That was good" or "I don't like it." "His people" explain why something works, and they have suggestions





and ideas to improve the things that don't work. The people in that circle of trust will also be the ones to pick you up when the inevitable bad show happens.

The last point, finding your place, involves finding a venue or environment to perform the kind of magic you enjoy doing. In his words, "What is the ideal circumstance for people to experience my work?" In his case, the search for "his place" led to a long-running and well-received theater show called *Cabinet of Curiosities*, where he could explore all the weird, cool, and fascinating things that caught his attention.

His closing piece is an entertaining version of the 2-4-2 deal disguised in a humorous storyline about the death of Wild Bill Hickok, and the infamous Aces and Eights Dead Man's Hand is one of the things in his show.

Rather than using a series of deals and a few phrases to do a "trick," Parr added two cowboy hats, a spectator who plays the part of Wild Bill, who comedically dies in the end, and a metered, carefully crafted dialogue to produce a fast-paced, fun, small-piece-of-theater with a surprise kicker ending.

Taking some vintage effects, remaking them in his voice, testing them on his people, and finding his place to perform them resulted in an entertaining and informative inaugural Inspirational Series for the rest of us at the convention.

If you want to learn more about David and his thoughts on performing, he is the cover story for the June 2023 issue of *The Linking Ring*. That same issue includes a Parade by him. Look for him at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles, where he will perform during the second week of August.

THE ANDI GLADWIN LECTURE

Reviewed by Joe M. Turner
Past International President

Wednesday night's late lecture was presented by Andi Gladwin, whose mild manner and unassuming demeanor are the polite calm before a creative and magical storm. Powerful effects, clever routines, and practical advice made this lecture an hour well-invested.

Mr. Gladwin opened with his routine for Jack Wise's "Heist," a variation of Tommy Wonder's "Ring, Watch, and Wallet" which was itself derived from an earlier routine by Alan Shaxon. Mr. Gladwin has taken a different approach to the scripting, eliminating the "I got mugged on the way to the show" premise on the basis that it triggers

a modern audience's skepticism before the magic performance itself has even begun. He emphasized the importance of a realistic presentation being, if not completely truthful, at least not overtly implausible.

A fantastically simple change of four jacks to four aces – isolated in a wine glass – was next, followed by "Supersonic," a card location routine using a regular deck of cards and two spectators. This routine is so pleasing in that it uses an old principle in a new way and plays for a large room. A three-selection routine, "Aura," came next and while it was also a location routine, it had a notably different feel (and also requires notably different preparation).

"People Power" is among the best examples of "pack flat, play big" magic that you can imagine. A row of six people joined him onstage, but Mr. Gladwin showed that





Linking Ring team members who attended the 2023 I.B.M. Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, paused for a group photo. Back row, left to right: Rick Heath, Larry Lipman, Past International President Joe M. Turner, International Executive Secretary Sindie Richison, Official Photographer Michael Messing. Seated, left to right: Past International President Rolando Santos, Executive Editor/Business Manager Samuel Patrick Smith, Adele Friel Rhindress, International Secretary Simone Marron, and Past International President Don Wiberg. JIM HENSON PHOTO

he had correctly predicted the decisions that they would make which eliminated all but one person. The needed props could easily be constructed based on the explanation in the lecture, but of course professionally produced items are available through Vanishing Inc. Magic.

The lecture concluded with a wild experience in which Mr. Gladwin promised to teach five moves in five minutes with the challenge that people in the audience could do anything they liked to try to distract or prevent him from completing the task, with a promise of a gift to the entire audience if he was unable to finish the challenge. After a few interruptions for odd questions, some attendees eventually got up and physically interfered with him – hugs, taking the cards out of his hands, etc. – in

a progressively more raucous display of good-natured fun. In the end, Mr. Gladwin happily revealed a website for attendees to receive a free gift: the video instructions for one of the routines taught earlier.

As an encore, Mr. Gladwin performed “Magic Squared,” his unique version of the magic square which features an “upside down” kicker that has astonished every magician who has seen it.

Magic and the I.B.M. are fortunate to have smart, generous, creative people like Andi Gladwin in our family. It was indeed a pleasure to spend an hour learning from his insights and experience.

[I.B.M. Convention coverage continues next month.](#)

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE: MILT LARSEN

*What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments
but what is woven into the lives of others. – Pericles (quoted by Thucydides)*

By Dale Salwak

More than one thousand relatives, dear friends, and colleagues gathered on June 24 at the historic Wilshire Ebell Theatre, Los Angeles, home for many years to It's Magic! – to celebrate the extraordinary life and brilliant vision of the legendary Milt Larsen who had passed away in his sleep on May 28 at ninety-two.

Under the direction of Dale Hindman and an exceptionally professional crew, the three-hour, well-produced program featured the brilliant David Kovac as Master of Ceremonies with stirring tributes, summing up the remembrances of things past and future dreams, from Lance Burton, Gay Blackstone, Sara Ballantine, Chuck Martinez, Erika Larsen, Jessica Hopkins, Liberty Larsen, David Copperfield (video), Johnny Cannizzaro, Greg Sherman (son of the Oscar-winner Richard M. Sherman who also appeared onstage), Terry Hill, Dale Hindman, and Randy Pitchford. A read message from Arlene Larsen included the words: “Milt gave us all so many happy magical memories to keep forever.”

WILSHIRE EBELL
THEATRE

*Guests arrive at the after party
following the celebration.*



MILT LARSEN
CELEBRATION OF LIFE

April 9, 1931 - May 28, 2022



The celebration was held in the historic Wilshire Ebell Theatre, Los Angeles, California.



Original cast members sing excerpts from the musical Pazzazz!



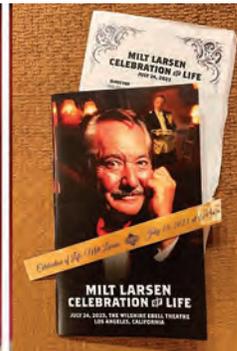
Posters commemorate past productions of It's Magic

Some of Milt's favorite performers also entertained: Jody Baran and Kathleen, Mark Haslam, Michael Goudeau, and Les Arnold and Dazzle. Songs from Milt's and Richard Sherman's musical, Pazzazz!, along with a medley from their comedic album, Smash Flops!, were sung by the original cast members Carly Bracco, Joe D'Auria, Joshua Finkel, Bonnie Gordon and accompanied by musical director, Richard Allen.

At the finish, the audience moved on to a splendid reception, leaving behind at down-stage center a spot-lighted, fitting commemoration of Milt's carpenter act: an empty chair draped with tools, roses, and an Ace Hardware apron.

"What you've set in motion can now never be stopped," wrote Chuck Martinez on behalf of the Academy of Magical Arts: "the power of magic, imagination, and love. Uncle Milty, you will never be forgotten."

Flowers celebrate the memory of Milt Larsen.



Every attendee received a program; the gold band admitted the wearer to the after party.



The World-Famous Austin Magic Auction

By Kent Cummins

“The I.B.M. Ring 60 Magic Auction is undoubtedly the biggest annual auction of magic ever held!” – The Linking Ring, June 1986

For nearly half a century, the Austin, Texas magic community has been supporting a (mostly) annual magic auction. The 2023 World-Famous Austin Magic Auction will be held all day Saturday, November 4. The Texas Magic Collectors will meet the night before. Details are at www.austinmagicauction.com.

Why Have an Annual Magic Auction?

The primary purpose of what is now branded as “The World-Famous Austin Magic Auction” has always been to keep magic paraphernalia out of the landfill and redistribute it throughout the magic community.

Magic enthusiasts and families of deceased magicians put up items for sale, and performers, hobbyists, and collectors come to find their next best magic effect, book, or memorabilia. It’s a full-day magic show and a one-day magic convention.

How It All Began

November 20, 1975 was the debut of what would become the largest annual magic auction in the world.

It all started when I.B.M. Ring 60 (Austin,

Texas) hosted a One-Day Mini-Convention to support the Junior Ring. “The Great Scott and Judy” (Fred Scott Donaldson and his partner, Judy Wilkes/Donaldson, now Hollingsworth) created the Mini-Convention with one lecture, one show, and one dealer, representing one of everything that a three- or four-day magic convention would provide.

John Novak, a magician and escape artist, brought a box of miscellaneous magic from the Fun ‘N Magic Shop in San Antonio where he worked, and auctioned them off to the more than eighty magicians and family members who attended.

The second Annual Mini-Convention was held on November 19, 1976. Judy wrote in the Ring 60 newsletter:

“Scott put on his auctioneer’s hat and prodded bidders for almost an hour with some 35 pieces of magic going to new homes. The bargains were many and the selection varied. The auction was another of the high points of the day.”

The story continues:

“The third Annual Mini-Convention was another great success. Lou Hormung was auctioneer, and a good job he did, too, selling all but two of the 43 items up for bid.” (IBM Ring 60 Newsletter Vol. 3, No. 11, November, 1977)

My First Mini-Convention

1978 was the fourth year of the Annual Mini-Convention. Here's the official report from the Ring 60 newsletter:

"Judy Wilkes handled the auction registration and Steve Farmer did a grand job of auctioning off the 51 items up for sale. \$152.15 changed hands, with the Junior Ring realizing a profit of \$18.41, including one auction item donated by Kent Cummins."

I was one of thirty-four people who each paid one dollar to attend. It was my first Mini-Convention, and I noticed that Steve had not been given the opportunity to study the items before offering them for sale. I asked Judy if I could volunteer to be the auctioneer the next year, and she cheerfully agreed.

My First Year as Auctioneer

More than fifty people paid \$1.50 each to attend the fifth annual Mini-Convention. As planned, I became the auctioneer. I wore a seersucker jacket and plastic "straw hat" that I had worn for an Army presentation at Fort Lee, Virginia, when I was Senior Instructor for the Army's Club Management Course between 1974 and 1976.

Scott and Judy were able to get the auction items donated far enough in advance that I could review and devise a sales pitch for each item. I remember repairing broken tricks, adding silks and other supplies, and photocopying catalog descriptions and instructions. The result was an increase in sales to more than four hundred dollars!

My favorite memory of my first auction was the sale of a 5-in-1 Magic Wand. When I was in the sixth grade in Shreveport, Louisiana, Lee Grabel came to town with his amazing illusion show. He opened his show by waving a cane in the air, and having a colorful scarf appear on the end of it.

I figured out how he might have accomplished this, and was able to use my 5-in-1 Wand to produce a colorful eighteen-inch silk to start my own show. That idea was not

included in the instructions for the wand, but I remembered it and when I demonstrated the wand for sale, I included the production of a silk.

Bidding for the wand was exciting, and the winning bid was finally made by the person who had offered it up for sale!

Success Breeds Success

The sixth annual Mini-Convention was held November 22, 1980, with fifty people paying \$1.50 each to attend. I continued as auctioneer, with sales of eighty-two items exceeding five hundred dollars (\$545) and profit exceeding a hundred dollars (\$108.33) for the first time. The auction ran from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. I was having a blast!

The next year, the auction moved from the Recreation Center to the *Austin Cabaret Theatre* in the Village Shopping Center in North Austin. (I had opened the Austin Cabaret Theatre as part of our chain of sandwich shops.) For the first time, more than a hundred items (214) were sold. As auctioneer, I would sometimes buy an item if it didn't attract any bids. Then I would sell it the next year.

A separate flyer was used to promote the auction as part of the Mini-Convention. I used a photo that Dan Corcoran had taken of me in what had become my auctioneer costume, although the photo had been taken some five years earlier for the Army Club Course. Admission increased to three dollars, and the auction itself was held from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Auction Comes of Age

In 1982, we moved the auction to the SamWitch shop at 504 Congress. The rest of the Mini-Convention was cancelled to provide more time for the auction, which attracted a record-setting eighty-one people. Registration started at 11:00 a.m. and the auction was held from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. There were four hundred and twenty-one items sold, producing a staggering sales figure of \$3,593.50, and a profit for the Ring

of \$383.46. Admission was one dollar.

The Auction returned to the SamWitch shop again in 1983, starting at 1:00 p.m. This was the first time the auction sold more than five hundred (551) items. Sales were “only” \$3,234.45, with a profit of \$386.46. Seventy-one people attended. Scott famously said that the size of the auction had reached its peak.

I.B.M. Ring 60 skipped the winter of 1984 to change the auction date to February, when magicians had more free time. The location was also changed to the First Unitarian Church in North Austin, where my wife Margot and I were members. The result was the first time with more than a hundred people (101).

The auction became a full-day affair, with registration starting at 8:00 a.m. and the auction running from 10:00 a.m. until the last item was sold at 11:00 p.m. I was the only auctioneer. This was the first time we had a Silent Auction, a new feature suggested by Jack Mistro. In all previous auctions, *everything* was auctioned off – by me – from the stage!

The entire Wan Soo Troupe act by Scott and Judy was auctioned off with other illusions. More than five hundred items were sold for a total of \$7,876.80 and a profit of \$940.15.

Back at the Unitarian Church in 1986, a hundred and eight people bid on six hundred and fifteen items (five hundred and forty of which actually sold), producing sales of \$5,600.90 and a profit of \$385.71. I had sold the SamWitch shops and become a full-time magician, so the auction committee decided

to actually pay me to be auctioneer – a short-lived concept, with so many other people volunteering so many hours! (The auction ran for twelve hours.)

In 1987, the first-ever auction ad was run in *The Linking Ring*, and we also distributed a four-page flyer with a new auctioneer photo (with the same jacket) by Richard Slagle. Attendance grew to a hundred and eighty-three people, despite the increase in admission to three dollars. The result was the first time that sales reached ten thousand dollars (\$10,606.80) and nearly a thousand dollars (\$938.29) in profit. Scott said that NOW we had reached the peak!



Paul Osborne banner.

In 1988, new advertising artwork was donated by Paul Osborne, who also sent three of his theme park illusions for sale. Scott and Judy helped create many large “table tent” display boards upon which to staple the ever-growing number of silent auction items. A hundred and



Early promotional material • Kent Cummins auctioning at Unitarian Church.

sixty-seven people each paid three dollars to participate. Sales were \$11,588.83 with a profit of \$387.08. An attempt at computerized checkout was a disaster!

In 1989, admission was raised to five dollars, with attendance of a hundred and seventy. For the first time, more than a thousand items (1,145) were sold for a total of more than fourteen thousand dollars and a profit of sixteen hundred dollars. Mary Cay Patterson became the Auction Chairperson, while I remained the main auctioneer. Judy Donaldson created and conducted three “speed auctions.”

Clowning Around

As an addition to the regular auction in 1990, Ring 60 conducted a liquidation of the Clown Factory from a San Antonio mall, resulting in total auction sales of \$26,237.50. More than a thousand volunteer hours were expended by members of Ring 60 in order to inventory, transport, organize, price, and display the tricks, gags, and costumes for sale in the auction. The mall received nearly fifteen thousand dollars for the merchandise, far more than they would have otherwise obtained. We took credit cards for the first time. Scott stopped making predictions!

Two hundred and five participants paid five dollars each to attend the 16th Ring 60 Magic Auction on February 23, 1991. One of the fifty or so volunteers was SAM National President Margaret Dailey, from Indianapolis, Indiana. Sales were \$14,108.10.

1992 was a leap year, and the auction was held on February 29. Two hundred and fifty-four participants – using a hundred and eighty-nine bidder numbers – purchased 2,094 items for total sales of \$20,865.00. Guest auctioneers included C.J. Johnson, Ray Anderson, T. Myers, Bobby Cordell, and Peter the Adequate (Hinrichs), among others. “The kitchen made over \$400 with all the delicious treats that were available during the day.” (Ring 60 Newsletter Volume 18, No. 3, March 1992)

“Ring 60’s famous MAGIC AUCTION broke all records again with over \$21,000 of magic sold. Over 2,400 wonderful magic

treasures were offered during the stage and silent auction. We had 66 sellers and 194 buyer numbers representing the 256 people who attended.” (Ring 60 Newsletter, Volume 19, No. 3, March 1993)

Ron Carlidge became an auction tagging party volunteer on the advice of Derek Kennedy from Fort Worth. (My “Magic Camp” started in the summer of 1993.)

In 1994, the auction remained at the Unitarian Church. Anne White created a new auctioneer photo (with the same jacket) for me. Two hundred and thirty-nine people each paid five dollars to participate; there were 2,357 items sold for a total of \$23,185. And we didn’t take credit cards that year! (We also didn’t allow alcoholic beverages.)

The Twentieth Anniversary!

The Twentieth Anniversary of the World-Famous Austin Magic Auction was held in a large space that had formerly been a Children’s Museum Haunted House at Westgate Mall in South Austin, Texas. There were seventy-four sellers, two hundred and forty-nine bidders, and three hundred and thirty-two registrants. Sales included 3,378 lots which sold for more than \$34,000, and \$1,571.00 from a “Celebrity Auction” was personally accepted by Margaret Dailey for the scholarship fund of the Society of Young Magicians. (Yes, although I.B.M. Ring 60 sponsored the auction, the money was donated to the SAM youth group.)



(l to r): Fred Rosenbaum, Margaret Dailey, Kent Cummins, Mary Cay Patterson.

The Celebrity Auction received donations from David Copperfield, Walter “Zaney” Blaney, Mark Wilson, Michael Ammar, David Goodsell, Stan Allen, Bob Markwood, Anne White, and several other well-known magicians. One of the many interesting items offered for sale was a set of the foam rubber truck tires that ran over Teller in Penn & Teller’s 1990 television special. (The set went for two hundred dollars.) The estate of Frank “Kovar” Mann was also liquidated at this year’s auction.

The Twentieth Anniversary Auction was written up by Scott Wells, and featured with photos in a three-page article in the April 1995 issue of *Magic* magazine.

In 1996, the auction returned to Westgate Mall, adding the huge space formerly occupied by Service Merchandise – making this the biggest space ever used by the Austin Magic Auction!

“For the second year, we will once again have a special Silent Auction area whose proceeds go to the Society of Young Magicians Scholarship Fund. Wonders of magical items and memorabilia from the magical and talented will be donated by the Magic Camps in Austin, Virginia, Denver, Illinois and the West Coast Wizards Camp.” (Ring 60 Newsletter, Volume 23, No. 2, February 1996.)

The 1997 auction was dedicated to Louis Berkie, “King of the Wooden Nickels,” and proprietor of the ELBEE Company, and the Fun’N Magic Shop in San Antonio – appropriate, since the very first auction consisted of items from his shop! Berkie was also my personal mentor in my life of magic. Held once again in Westgate Mall, this became the last of the yearly I.B.M. Ring 60 Magic Auctions.

What the Auction Means to Me

I love magic auctions!

When I was in Lance Burton’s Green Room, Lance said that I “looked familiar.” I said that we had not previously met. And then he said, “Wait! You are the guy with the auctioneer hat!” He had seen my picture more than once in *The Linking Ring* auction ads.

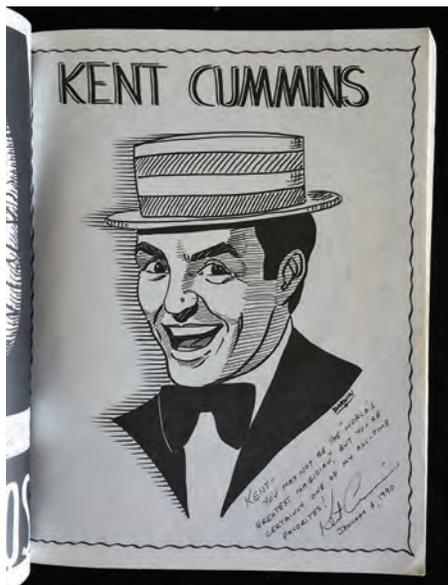


Kent Cummins dedicates auction to Berkie.



Wooden Nickels by Berkie.

When I first met Gary Darwin in Las Vegas, he gave me a copy of his book of caricatures of famous magicians. I was shocked to find that it included a picture of me as auctioneer! He had not met me when he drew the picture, but he had been inspired by the ad in *The Linking Ring*.



Kent Cummins by Gary Darwin.

The first time I met Steve (Hinrichs) Daly, we were sitting together at Gary Darwin's Midnight Magic Meeting in Las Vegas. I told Steve that I was a fan of Tiny Bubbles and his Showgirls of Magic. Steve said, "Well I am a great fan of yours!" It turns out that he had attended one of our biggest auctions, and I hadn't even realized it.

Chip Romero insists that he would not have had his wildly successful career had it not been for the auction. Year by year, I had sold him the illusions that he used to build his act.

Claude Crowe, when head of the Texas Magic Collectors, once told me that being the auctioneer was something that I did better than anyone else – that it was me at my best.

The Lone Star Magic Auction

In 1999, with Ring 60's approval, the auction was taken over by the Fort Worth Magic Club, and renamed, the "Lone Star Magic Auction."

The story of the Lone Star Magic Auction is not mine to tell. I was trying to earn a living as a magician, so I was not directly involved.

Return of the Austin Auction

Ron Cartlidge eventually brought the auction back to Austin, this time sponsored by SAM Assembly 206. It once again started small and grew each year. I was no longer in charge, but I was still the legacy auctioneer. As such, I recruited and supervised the auctioneer team.

I am doing it again this year!

kent@magichotline.com

Attention, Magicians and Magical Artists!

Would you like to present your expertise at the International Brotherhood of Magicians' Annual Convention in 2024?

We are accepting speaking proposals for our convention next July in Tacoma, Washington.

Topics can – but do not have to be – centered around the art of magic. They can be performance, artistic, or business based. Unique and creative topics are especially encouraged.

Does this sound like you? Please submit a short proposal that describes your topic and your expertise regarding the topic to *office@magician.org* with the subject line "Call for Presentations."

Proposal deadline: November 1, 2023.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

Ring 13 (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) Becomes Tampa-Greenberg Ring



(l to r): Don Greenberg, introducing a special announcement during the I.B.M. 94th Annual Convention Gala Banquet, in Pittsburgh. • Ring 13 President Eric Meredith, presenting a proclamation announcing the renamed “I.B.M. Tampa-Greenberg Ring 13.” • Ring 13 President Eric Meredith, presenting a proclamation to a surprised Past International President Jack Greenberg. • Past International President Jack Greenberg, surrounded by family members Diana Greenberg, Don Greenberg, and Sharon Greenberg.

On the occasion of the I.B.M.’s Annual Convention Gala Banquet held in Pittsburgh on July 14, Ring 13 President Eric Meredith presented a very special (surprise) proclamation. He announced that our Ring 13 Board of Directors and members had unanimously voted to rename our Ring the I.B.M. Tampa-Greenberg Ring 13, in recognition of our 2000-2001 I.B.M. Past International President Jack Greenberg’s seventy-eight years of continuous membership and lifelong contributions to both the I.B.M. and to our local Ring.

According to archived issues of *The Linking Ring* magazine, I.B.M. “lucky” Ring 13 was organized by thirteen I.B.M. members in the Pittsburgh district, who met on December 13, 1927 (*TLR*, Vol. 7, No. 4, Dec. 1927, page 94). On September 10, 1939, the Ring’s name was changed from the Golden Triangle Ring of Pittsburgh to the Tampa Ring of Pittsburgh, in memory of our late president TAMPA (stage name of Raymond S. Sugden), who passed away after a short

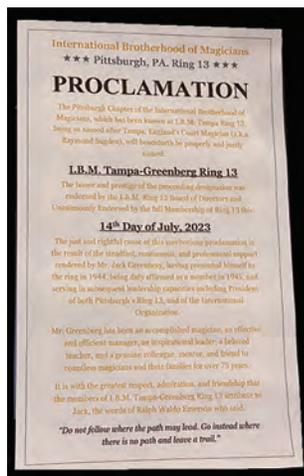


I.B.M. International President Billy Hsueh presenting a Presidential Citation and plaque to Past International President Jack Greenberg. • International President Billy Hsueh’s Presidential Citation, presented to Jack Greenberg. • I.B.M. plaque for Jack Greenberg, celebrating seventy-eight years of membership in the I.B.M.

illness on July 19, 1939 (*TLR*, Vol. 19, No. 8, Oct. 1939, page 77). “He was the right-hand bower to Thurston, and for years had a show out under Thurston’s contract. He was president of the new Pittsburgh Ring, Golden Triangle Ring 13, and had many good ideas for its advancement (*TLR*, Vol. 19, No. 7, Sept. 1939, page 53). “For a number of years Tampa was associated with Thurston, at one time managing one of the Thurston Shows, and is credited with having been the creator of some of the popular illusions used in the show. He also had the distinction of having been one of the highest paid magicians in vaudeville (*TLR*, Vol. 19, No. 6, Aug. 1939).

During the banquet, Jack’s son, Don Greenberg, introduced current Ring 13 President, Eric Meredith, who presented the proclamation. *Report and Photos by Mark Zajicek*

I.B.M. Ring 13 Proclamation, announcing its name change to the I.B.M. Tampa-Greenberg Ring 13.



I.B.M. Harry Roz-On Ring 26 (New York, New York) Celebrates Eighty-one Years

On June 30, 2023, I.B.M. Harry Roz-On Ring 26 celebrated eighty-one years of magic and camaraderie with the return of its annual June Social. COVID-19 may have prevented our celebration in 2022, but we made up for it in 2023.

The New York Key Ring became I.B.M. Ring 26 when we were granted our charter on May 4, 1942. In recognition of this milestone, members put on a first class show in the French Ionic Room at the Grand Masonic Hall on West 23rd Street in New York City.

The first thing that struck audience members when they entered the French Ionic Room was the beauty of its Mediterranean motif, large columns, and beautiful floral plasterworks adorning the ceilings and the walls. It set the mood for a magical evening. Something that is magically significant is the fact that inside this very building, Houdini was sworn in as a Mason. Audience members received a beautiful souvenir show program that was produced especially for this event.

Before the start of the show, Past Presidents Frank Reyes and Rene Clement performed a Broken Wand Ceremony in memory of thirteen members who passed away over the last few years. The family of

Ken Krebs joined us that evening. Ken passed away June 9, 2023. His family accepted his broken wand.

The evening’s pre-show event was a close-up performance by Dr. Michael Rubenstein. Dr. Rubenstein performed twice on *Penn and Teller: Fool Us*. Michael treated everyone to a new coin routine titled “The Sun, the Earth, and the Moon.” It was beautifully choreographed and used a miniature globe. Michael caused the coins to vanish, change, and reappear.

The main event was a fabulous stage show comprising what could also be called a reunion of a cast that performed together thirty years ago, and as recent as ten years ago. Five of the six acts reunited for this event. Rene Clement acted as the evening’s master of ceremonies.

Olmedini opened the show. Over the years, Olmedini lost his eyesight. This would have stopped any other person from continuing to perform, but not Olmedini. With the help of his assistant, Olmedini vanished and produced a small canary cage, as well as many beautiful silks. Olmedini skillfully performed the “Passe-Passe Bottles.” After a bit of chicanery, Olmedini went into the multiplying bottles. Olmedini ended with the production



(l to r): Michael Rubenstein • Olmedini • Frank Reyes • Tommy Burnett • Rene Clement • Joe Pescador • Joe Pacheco • Group photo from left to right (rear) Woman unknown name, Frank Reyes, Olmedini, Joe Pescador (partially hidden), Tommy Burnett, Joe Pacheco. Front center- Rene Clement.

of two giant flag staffs displaying six-foot colorful silks.

Next up was Past President and producer of the show, Frank Reyes. Frank opened with the “Torn and Restored Newspaper,” done silently to music. Next was his performance of what has been somewhat known as his trademark effect, the “Pom Pom Stick.” This routine never fails to entertain and confound an audience. Frank closed his set with his rendition of Mike Bornstein’s “Linking Rings” routine, using the linking rings that belonged to our late Mike Bornstein, as well as the music that Mike used. This was Frank’s tribute to Mike Bornstein, who was his mentor.

Next up was Tommy Burnett, “The Man Who Knows Too Much.” Tommy intrigued the crowd by bringing up four volunteers, one of whom was going to die that night. Accompanied by appropriate mystery sound effects, Tommy handed a goblet to each volunteer. This murder mystery mental effect immediately had the crowd sitting on the edge of their seats. Bringing up a fifth spectator, Tommy handed the spectator a “poison” cherry and instructed the spectator to secretly place the “poison” cherry in one of the victim’s goblets. Tommy’s task was to detect where the poison was placed, thereby saving the volunteer from doom. Of course, The Man Who Knows Too Much saved the day.

Past President Rene Clement followed by inviting a guest to choose one of two envelopes for a chance at winning a hundred dollar bill. After a bit of byplay, Rene was left with the winning envelope. Rene then asked a spectator to name a fruit. He then took the audience through an imaginary journey about a lemon and a knife, apparently displaying both. But it was just their imagination. Not only did he reveal that what he was holding was a fork and a crumpled piece of yellow paper, but upon opening the paper it revealed the word apple, the fruit the spectator thought of. Rene ended with a Rubik’s Cube, which was mixed by an audience member. When done, each side perfectly matched a Rubik’s Cube sealed in a bottle that was in full view of the audience.

Joe Pescador started his set by presenting fellow performer Joe Pacheco, a Peter Warlock first edition magic book in honor of their longtime friendship. With that done, Joe went into a beautiful “Professor’s Nightmare” rope routine, followed by a dye silk routine. Joe then displayed a purse frame, extracting from it a coin. Next, Joe invited an audience member to assist him. But the invitation was not done verbally. Joe pantomimed the assistant to come to the stage. Once on stage, Joe pantomimed for the assistant to look inside a pail and confirm that it was empty. Having confirmed that, Joe

went into his presentation of the “Miser’s Dream.”

Joe Pacheco closed the evening with his signature productions of colorful silks and doves. Joe produced a silk and split the silk in two, then proceeded to perform “Knots Off Silk.” A flipped top hat allowed a silk to cascade from it, only to rise back into the top hat from which Joe produced a dove. A lit red candle was on display. Displaying a playing card with a hole, Joe passed the card in front of the red candle, visibly changing the candle to white. With candle in hand and a silk, Joe caused the candle to vanish and a dove to appear. This was followed by a

“Twentieth Century Silks to Colorful Dove” production. Joe ended by covering the cage containing the produced doves, removing the cage from the table, tossing everything into the air vanishing the cage and along with it, the doves. Simply magical.

The evening ended with a touching display of camaraderie and celebration of our eighty-one years as Ring 26. Many thanks to the Trustees of the Mason Hall for hosting our celebration, and to everyone who attended. Here’s looking forward to one hundred years. Please visit us on our Facebook page, I.B.M. Ring 26.

Frank Reyes

Ring 129 (Kansas City, Missouri) Enslow Award Competition

After a number of postponements, Ring 129 finally held the annual Enslow Award competition on June 24, to select the stage magician of the year. The contest is named for the late Claude Enslow, who is remembered by long-term 129-ers as a man who was always ready to help his fellow magicians with advice on all things magical.

This contest included members who had qualified in 2022’s monthly qualifiers, as well as those who had qualified earlier but were denied a chance to compete in an annual contest due to the cancellation during the pandemic. Jerry Jackson won the first-place trophy with an act based on the problems of growing older, producing large “pills” to demonstrate the need for more medications. He also performed a “Salt

Pour” routine in connection with the need to modify our diets to reduce the intake of salt. First runner-up was Brad Lynn, who performed the popular “Hole Card/Whole Card” commercial routine. The second runner-up was Gene Kean, performing a pair of multiplying-bottle routines.

Other competitors were Phil King, who handed out alphabet cards apparently at random to a group of spectators, resulting in spelling out “miracle” with a surprise ending. Travis Porter had a spectator roll a die several times to determine which of several boxes should be destroyed, before revealing that the one untouched box contained a live kitten. Husband-wife team Paul and Verliee Patterson performed various effects based on the colors of the American flag.



(l to r): First place trophy winner Jerry Jackson. • First runner-up Brad Lynn. • Second runner-up Gene Kean.



(l to r): Phil King • Travis Porter • Paul and Verlee Patterson • Tom Burgoon • Todd Lamanske • Lance Rich.

Comedy magician Tom Burgoon, a long-time Ring member, served as master of ceremonies. He performed a number of his favorite routines while the other acts set up their props. Todd Lamanske entertained

our non-magician spectators with close-up table magic before the contest began. Finally, Lance Rich entertained everyone present while the judges deliberated.

Stu Lewis

Submitting Ring Events

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

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

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

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

The Second Annual Apprenticeship Ceremony at The Magic Castle

By Dale Salwak

A study of the arts, magic included, influences every area of children's lives as they grow in self-confidence, patience, perseverance, discipline, and devotion to hard work.

This became the dominant theme on May 21 during the second annual Apprenticeship Ceremony held in the Hollywood Magic Castle's Peller Theater – a follow-up to the weeklong Chinese Festival of Magic featured in January.

Forty-five guests, including myself, witnessed the acceptance of fourteen-year-old Yuhao Chen (Mick) by master Jinling hu from Beijing.



Jinling hu and Yuhao Chen (Mick).

The ceremony was simple yet formal. The apprentice offered tea to his master and the two sides exchanged gifts. In remarks afterward, he explained that his passion for magic goes back to when as an eight-year-old he saw Mat Franco's performance at the LINQ Hotel, Las Vegas. His parents, noting their son's deep attraction to the art, found Jinling through various channels.



Jinling hu and Yuhao Chen (Mick).

Of his teacher he said: "She puts lots of emphasis on thinking carefully about each move in a performance to avoid visible mistakes. I like working with her because her classroom is relaxed and I am learning from the best of the best."

Jinling is the fourth-generation inheritor of China's National Intangible Cultural Heritage Fu's Illusion as well as winner of the eighth annual China Acrobatic Golden Ju Award and the fifth National Magic Competition. Over the years she has created a series of high-level magical productions – such as Dunhuang Lianxiang, Magic Chunli, Ink Breeze – and has won many magic awards.

Since 2014, Jinling (who now lives half of each year in California) and I have collaborated to develop programs in our respective countries for the education and training of Chinese children in the history and art of magic. We look forward to continued cooperation as we find ways to integrate Eastern and Western magic on many levels. Jinling hopes to become, as I am, an Ambassador of Magic Cultural Exchange.



(l to r): Yunzhe hong (Kate) and Zhengguang Wu. • Jinling hu and Yunzhe hong (Kate) speak before a packed house.



Yunzhe hong (Kate) performs a close-up routine.

“What every aspiring magician yearns for,” she said, whose own daughter, xuehui Wu (Layla), has been one of my students since 2021, “is the approval of an established teacher — to be told, ‘Yes, you have it, just persevere and you’ll be all right.’”

“I am very happy, therefore, that Chinese magicians can have this experience overseas,” she added. “Yes, the students are young, but they have great ambition.”

Jinling’s new apprentice has clear goals in mind. Along with his study of the art, he hopes to win an international magic award and have the opportunity to perform in many venues.

“Mick is very hard-working, serious and rigorous in his approach to magic,” said Jinling, “with clear pursuits and plans for the future, including the study of finance and business at an Ivy League university.”

In school, he is eager to organize a magic club with 30 or more students. As they learn, he hopes that they will feel encouraged to use their art to serve the public.

“Because magic has no borders and does not require much language communication,” she added, “it can show the wisdom of the performers through their art.” Jinling and I want to help her new student to succeed in every way possible.

Following performances by Yuhao Chen and six-year-old Jasmine Feng as well as Yunzhe hong and xuehui Wu (both of whom had performed last July in the SAM Future Stars of Magic Show, New Orleans), everyone enjoyed a delicious brunch for which the Magic Castle is famous and then a show in the Palace Theater of Mystery featuring Josiah Bunde and the comedy magic of Larry Wilson.



(l to r): Yuhao Chen (Mick). • Jasmine Feng. • xuehui Wu (Layla) performs her billiard balls routine.



Performers and guests pose following the ceremony. Front row, from left: Ping Sheng, Yuhao Chen (Mick), Dale Salwak, Jinling hu. Back row: Guangzheng Guan, Yunzhe Hong (Kate), Wei Wang, Jenny Xhang, Jack Zhang, Charlie Chang, Jianwen Chen, Pek Chen, Chanpei Chen, Peter Cheng, Veronica Li.

Among the guests attending the ceremony were Jinling’s mother, Shi keying; Amy Wang, President of the South Bay Chinese-American Association of California; Pedro Chan, President of the Cantonese Association of California; and Xiaoping Zhang, founder of the Eastvale Volleyball Club and former member of the Chinese National Volleyball Team.

The event was reported in full in the *World Journal*, Southern California’s largest circulating newspaper within the Chinese-American community, and featured on YouTube and ICITY News.



Ping Sheng, Jinling hu, Yuhao Chen (Mick), Dale Salwak, Xiaozhong Hao (Matthew), Xiaokun Hao (Michael), Ying Qin, Di Hao.

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.

Sign up 1!
 The more members we have the more we can do to
 advance magic and serve you.



A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

Reading

In 1963, soon after Neil Foster had welcomed me into a lasting friendship, I asked him, rather precociously, how one becomes a better performer. His answer was blunt and forceful: “Read, read, read.”

I soon learned that like many experienced magicians, professionals especially, Neil was a prodigious and inveterate reader, a man in love with books and fully alive to the world.

Shelves in his Colon, Michigan home – bedroom, guest room, and basement – overflowed from floor to ceiling. He actively read history and theater and fashion. He read novels and biographies. He read newspapers and travel guides. Together with his wife, Jeanne (who also loved crime fiction), he read the Bible (both Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament, King James Version) and *The Book of Common Prayer*; and, of course, he continued all his life to read the essential studies, both new and old, in the history and art of magic along with just about every conjuring journal and catalogue on the planet.

The English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge identified four classes of readers: the hourglass (gives back everything it takes in, unchanged); the sponge (gives back everything it takes in, only a little dirtier); the jelly-bag (squeezes out the valuable and keeps the worthless); and the Golconda (runs everything through a sieve, keeping only the nuggets). Neil was the Golconda reader.

The nuggets that he discovered fueled his imagination and inspired his work (a topic

for another column). Reading was the means. The end, the purpose, was performing – the central passion of his life.

Always fierce to know, Neil’s philosophy was simple yet profound: “The more we learn through books and the arts in general, the more empathetic, compassionate, well-rounded we may become, and therefore the better performers.” Of his own volition he embraced and lived by Franz Kafka’s timeless wisdom: “A book must be the axe for the frozen sea within us.”

That is, the circumstances in life can paralyze our emotions. Fear or jealousy or vanity can set in. The potential for barbarism is in all of us. But good books are able to break through what has become stuck inside. They can stir us up again, humble us, steady and embolden us, unfreeze what the world has frozen, and awaken us to a changed perspective on life.

They can also suggest what is possible. When we create, we are bound to be influenced by what has already been discovered; we cannot create from nothing. Think how bereft we would be, for example, if our predecessors – the masters and disciples, teachers and apprentices – had not taken the trouble to preserve their discoveries. Absent these imaginative keys, magic as we practice it today would be an impossibility. Ours would be a world bordering on silence.

Like most passionate and thoughtful defenders of a reading life, Neil enjoyed talking about books. In later years, whenever we met, I knew that I’d better be prepared for the question: “So, what are you reading?” I

suspect that he asked this in part because he knew that I shared his passion for the printed word.

This led to another question. Suppose we are traveling on an elevator from the second to first floor. In that brief time, we should be able to respond without forced thought to the following: “Name at least five books important to your magical life.”



Dale's first magic book, a gift on his tenth birthday.

Every reader has a favorite answer. At the top of my list stands G.S. Ripley's *Magic for Boys* (a gift from my father when I turned ten, with a title that cries out for revision), along with the following that my lucky hand found early in my development: *The Tarbell Course in Magic* (Harlan Tarbell), *Greater Magic* (John Northern Hilliard), *Card Fan*

Productions (Edward Marlo), *The Royal Road to Card Magic* (Jean Hugard), *Routined Manipulation* (Lewis Ganson), *Encyclopedia of Silk Magic* (Harold Rice), *Modern Coin Magic* (J.B. Bobo), *Professional Card Magic* (Cliff Green), *The Professional Technique for Magicians* (James Reneaux), *Magic and Showmanship* (Henning Nelms) – and, in later years, anything by John Mulholland, Eugene Berger, Edwin A. Dawes. The list never ends: as soon as I mention one, I can think of ten more.

At some point in our professional lives, however, we will also need a “4 A.M. book,” just as all of us need a 4 A.M. friend: some source of comfort, guidance, stability to whom we can turn when we are unable to escape the constant throb of self-doubt, or when the dark night of the soul seems too long and deep to bear.

“You’ll never be so unhappy or burdened,” Neil said, “that reading will not help you.” With book in hand, we are never alone. “Old books, like old friends,” wrote the novelist Michael Korda, “are always the best of companions.”

In high school I was introduced to Henry David Thoreau's life-altering *Walden* and discovered something deeply personal as I learned to cull from my reading what pertained to me:



Houdini in his library, 1926.



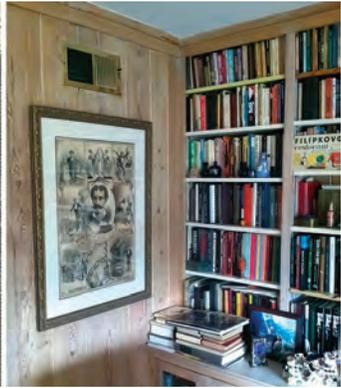
Selections from Houdini's personal library now held at the Library of Congress. COURTESY KENNETH TROMBLY COLLECTION/MAGICPOSTER.COM.



*Charcoal drawing by
A.L. Leroy, 1827.*



John Mulholland, circa 1930.
COURTESY POTTER & POTTER
AUCTIONS



Part of Kenneth Trombly's library.
COURTESY KENNETH TROMBLY
COLLECTION/MAGICPOSTERS.COM.

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

If a man [or woman] does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to that music which he hears, no matter how measured or far away.

Students should not play life or study it merely...but earnestly live it.

And so on, image upon image. These noble words come from a self-directed man with both a deep intuition and a strong originality. Like our own performances, his reading, and writing, became for him an unassailable space, free from the unrelenting clamor and incessant, gossipy prattle and pettiness of his daily life; away from the nagging pressures to complicate and conform that seemed to preoccupy so many people.

So for Neil (and most reading magicians that I know): Never at a loss for what to do with himself, he also led a rich inner life. Except for one late melancholy period, I never knew him to battle *ennui*, world-weariness. To confess that we're bored with life, the ever-curious Neil once said,

points to vanity. "How can we be bored with something we know so little about!"

As guests on this small planet, here only for a few decades that pass too swiftly, we face many existential questions that urge a response, including: "How can we become better at what we do?"

One answer, Neil's answer, inspired in childhood from the example of his parents, is to – *read, read, read* – and not waste time.

"A life full of books," he counseled me over the telephone on March 10, 1988, the evening before he passed, "is a good life."

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 Ryan Salwak 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.

Youth Trivia Contest



September's Question: This female conjurer first performed magic costumed as a man, but eventually became a very successful female magician. *Who was she?*

Answers must be postmarked by October 20, 2023.

June's question was: A magician once compared learning the name of the inventor of playing cards to identifying the first person who decided to eat a lobster. *Who was the magician who made this comparison?*

A few Youth members did submit guesses at the answer to this month's question, but unfortunately, none of those guessed correctly. Here's what we were hoping that you'd tell us ...

What person in human history first saw a live lobster wriggling and snapping its claws, and subsequently thought to themselves "Mmmm ... I'd like to put that hideous thing into my mouth."? That's a question that's impossible to answer, and ridiculous to ask. But asking ridiculous questions and providing well-researched answers – frequently tongue-in-cheek – was a specialty of Ricky Jay. Sure, it's likely that we'll never know who the first person was who tried to eat a lobster. It's also likely that we'll never be able to determine the identity of the person who invented playing cards. In the opening pages of his book, *Cards as Weapons*, Ricky Jay provides this peculiar analogy to stress the impossibility of identifying the inventor of playing cards ...

"To determine the inventor of the playing card is as difficult as determining who ate the first lobster."

It's important to note that the entire book is written tongue-in-cheek. The pages are filled with fun fiction and fake facts. Jay does, however, hide some information inside that may be useful to historians and magi-

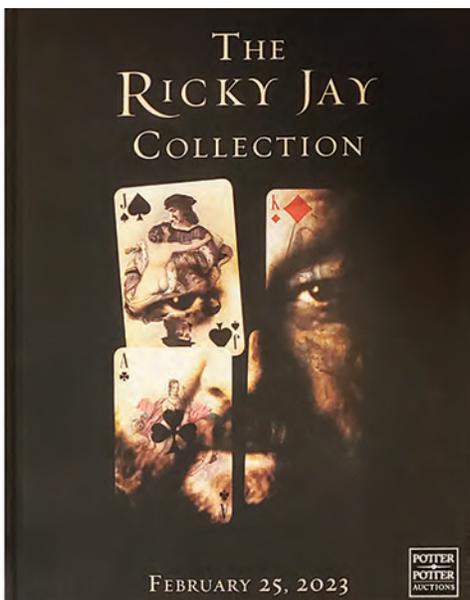
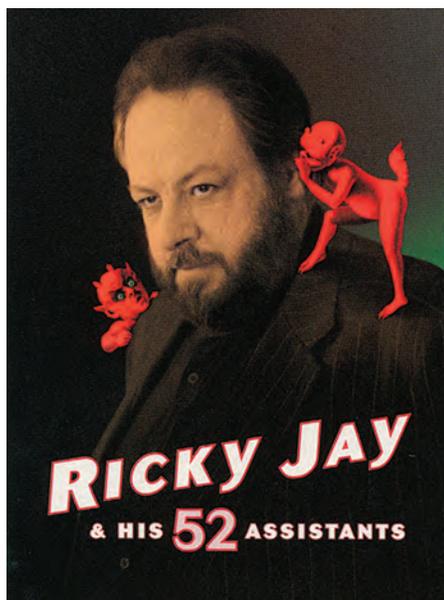
cians. That must have been very difficult for him.

It's also important to note that this book contains some material that's not appropriate for most folks under the age of eighteen. However, its common purchase price of several hundred US dollars may keep it out of young hands.



*The cover of *Cards as Weapons*.*

Ricky Jay, born Richard Jay Potash, was an American magician, historian, collector, author, and aficionado of all things bizarre. As a magician, he focused on sleight of hand, primarily the kind done with playing cards. This blended into his fascination with gambling and cheating at gambling. Jay's passion for history seemed to have no borders, but the people and events connected to circuses, carnivals, sideshows, and gambling were most likely to get his attention. The weirder the subject, the harder he worked to display the 'normal' aspects. Individuals



(l to r): A poster advertising the one-man-show, directed by David Mamet, *Ricky Jay & His 52 Assistants*. • A catalog from Potter & Potter, one of the auctions of the enormous collection of Ricky Jay.

from the past who had been labeled as “sideshow freaks” were handled with particular care in his writing.

Of all of the peculiar figures from the past studied by Ricky Jay, none of them captured his attention more than Matthias Buchinger. Buchinger, born in the seventeenth century without hands or feet, became a sensational performer of magic, music, and marksmanship, and entertained members of royalty all across Europe. Jay was captivated by the life and achievements of the “Little Man of Nuremberg,” and in 2016 he released a book entitled *Matthias Buchinger: The Greatest German Living*. Inside the book’s 159 pages, Ricky Jay explained and expounded on the life and achievements of Buchinger, from fathering fourteen children to mastering the art of microcalligraphy.

Ricky Jay was an avid collector, and acquired documents and historical artifacts from magic, juggling, circus and carnival sideshows, and every human oddity imaginable. But, he didn’t just acquire these items for the sake of owning them. He studied them. He investigated their histories. He evaluated what he’d learned from them. And frequently, he wrote about what he’d learned.

His extensive collection of artifacts and ephemera has been the focus of several auctions. For two days in October 2021, Sotheby’s in New York City auctioned “The Ricky Jay Collection.” Then, in February 2023, Potter & Potter Auctions held another extensive auction of more items from “The Ricky Jay Collection” in Chicago. At the time of this writing, Potter & Potter is planning to hold a follow-on auction of “The Ricky Jay Collection, Part II” in October 2023.



An automaton made by Alan Wakeling seems to watch Sotheby’s auction of Ricky Jay’s collection. The automaton later sold for more than \$200,000 US dollars.

In addition to his involvement in the performance and histories of magic and the allied arts, Ricky Jay had a significant involvement in the film industry. He appeared

as an actor in more than a dozen films, including *Tomorrow Never Dies* and *The Prestige*, and he served as a technical advisor, illusion creator, and consultant for many others. The consulting firm “Deceptive Practices” was formed by Ricky Jay and Michael Weber to provide these unique services to clients in entertainment businesses.

From the perspective of the public, Ricky Jay probably was and is most recognizable for his elaborate, thesauric language, and for his card-throwing antics. In 1977, he set world records for throwing playing cards farther, higher, and faster than anyone else on the planet – these records stood for nearly twenty-five years. He continued to perform card-throwing through his career, accompanying his demonstrations with his humorously ostentatious patter. He referred to a watermelon as “the most prodigious of household fruits,” and would demonstrate his world record card-throwing skills by “piercing the thick, pachydermatous, outer melon layer” with cards thrown from several feet away.

As a sleight-of-hand artist, gambling expert, historian, author, collector, consultant, and all-around entertainer, Ricky Jay left a

deep impression on the craft of magic. His impact will be noticed for a very long time.

Ricky Jay died in 2018. The first person to eat a lobster died thousands of years ago, probably from an allergic reaction to shellfish.

You can find more information about Ricky Jay and his fascinations in books, such as *Learned Pigs* and *Fireproof Women*, and in the compilation of his quarterly *Jay’s Journal of Anomalies*, both by Ricky Jay. There’s also quite a bit written about him in back issues of periodicals including *Gibecière*, *MAGIC*, *M-U-M*, *Genii*, and *The Linking Ring*.

If you submitted an answer to this month’s question, but you didn’t submit the correct answer, please ... try, try again! These questions can be challenging, and they aren’t intended to be easily solved using Internet search engines like Google, Yahoo, or Archie. Bring your copy of *The Linking Ring* to your local Ring meeting and ask the senior members to help you come up with the answer. Show the whole world how much you know, get your name printed in *The Linking Ring*, and win some great stuff from one of our finest brick-and-mortar magic shops!

Calling All Youth Members!

If you truly believe that you have a question that’s suitable for the I.B.M. Youth Trivia Contest, **please** send your question and the answer, along with your name, age, membership number, telephone number, and address to:

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

Please include a few references. If we decide to use your question, we’ll send you either a pair of infanttech® Zooby Video Baby Monitors for cars or a really cool magic book – our choice.

See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 103 and mail your responses to the address above.

Answers must be postmarked by October 20, 2023.



From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD

Last month, I was sharing with you a contemporary news item about Chung Ling Soo and his connection with Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon, and bringing you up to date with the Roberta Byron story, which continues to unfold.

One person with links to both performers was the notorious British magic dealer Will Goldston.

One of my reservations about Goldston stems from his promotion of the unfounded rumour that William Robinson, alias Chung Ling Soo, had committed suicide when he was shot on stage at the Wood Green Empire in March 1918. "Suicide – the most ingenious and cold-blooded suicide that was ever planned. That is my theory!" he proclaimed in his book *Sensational Tales of Mystery Men*. The clue is in the title.

Will Dexter responded to this in his book *The Riddle of Chung Ling Soo*: "It is a deplorable thing that William Robinson should be commemorated by a lamentable collection of wildly sensational stories with little truth in them, written by people determined to make the tragedy into something sinister."

Goldston had hinted vaguely at financial and marital problems as motives, supported by some flimsy circumstantial evidence, but nothing was substantiated.

In the wake of the backlash, Goldston admitted late in 1929 that: "It was only the slipping of a safety catch on a rifle that caused him to be killed." By November 1932, he had revised this to: "A tiny hole in the barrel

had sprung a leak, causing Death by Misadventure. You can understand how welcome the result of the inquiry was to me!"

The following year, however, he reverted to the "possibility of suicide" to promote sales of his latest book, *Secrets of Famous Illusionists*.

Some stories refuse to die, and I was recently contacted by Nic Picot, who said: "I met a great nephew of one of Robinson's assistants, on board a clipper on the China seas. He told me that Robinson committed suicide, and it was in the police reports. The great uncle was arrested and charged with murder, but was released." This was no doubt a reference to Jack Grossman, whom I interviewed in Sheffield a number of years ago, after he had recreated the bullet-catching act on *The Paul Daniels Show* on BBC television. Soo's son, Hector Robinson, subsequently refuted the whole thing.



Jack Grossman with Paul Daniels.

Will Houstoun, good friend and editor of *The Magic Circular*, is also an expert on Professor Hoffmann. He recently pointed me in the direction of a story titled *A Magician's Dream*, unwisely published by Goldston in his *Magician Monthly* of February 1912. It was by Hoffmann, and openly featured Chung Ling Soo and his wife. Here is an excerpt:



Just then, Chung caught sight of Aga, who floated coquettishly towards him. “Yum yum! Pitti sing!” he remarked, with a seraphic smile, at the same time tickling her under the chin with the tip of his fan. Just at that moment, however, a natty little Chinese lady appeared upon the scene. “Turn yum, indeed; I’ll yum yum you!” she said, pulling a long pin out of her back hair. “My sainted aunt! Suee Seen!” cried Chung. “I must dissemble!”

Quick as thought, he flung his pigtail up into the air (where it remained erect), and began to climb it, hand over hand. But Suee Seen was not to be left behind. Taking the hatpin in her mouth, she caught hold of the skirts of his robe, and they disappeared through the ceiling together. What happened after that I can’t say, but I was glad I was not Chung Ling Soo.’

Hoffmann later wrote to Goldston, saying:

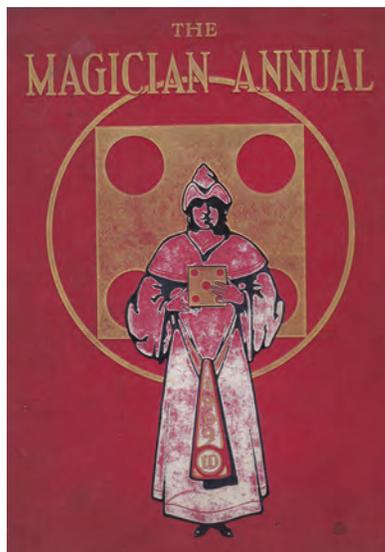
“I am very sorry to hear, from a private source, that there is trouble in the Chung Ling Soo Household. I need hardly say that, if I had known this, nothing would have induced me to write as I did about him. Please let him know this if you have the opportunity of doing so.”

I am grateful to another good friend, Bob Loomis, editor of *The Magical Spectator* newsletter and life-long member of both the I.B.M. and British Ring, for drawing my at-

tention to this ironic clipping, taken from *The Wizard* of May 1910 (Vol 5, No. 57):

“Chung Ling Soo, having saturated the press with what he does do, and is going to do, has now struck on quite a bright idea in getting notices saying what he proposes *not* to do. One item, he proclaims, which will be missing from his future performances, is that in which he used to allow six men to fire rifles at him, when he caught the bullets on a plate. It is a remarkable fact, Chung Ling Soo says, that every conjuror who has performed this trick for any length of time has been shot dead. He himself met with a trifling accident lately, hence the omission. We cannot afford to let this clever Chinaman be killed.”

One interesting book I came across recently is Goldston’s third *The Magician Annual*, for 1909-10. Among other things, it has an article on Houdini by Houdini, beginning: “My birth occurred on April 6, 1874, in the small town of Appleton, in the state of Wisconsin, USA.” Complete BS, of course. Walford Bodie also contributes *Stories of the Road*, which need to be taken with a larger pinch of salt than usual, as you would expect from the good doctor.



The Magician Annual, 1909/10.

One of the most delightful elements of the volume, however, is a series of cartoon illustrations by “Nibs” depicting, among other



(l to r): Aerial fishing goes wrong! • Austen Temple, the replacement. • Goldston in hot water.

things, tricks going wrong. You will find an example here based upon aerial fishing – made famous by Soo. Originally, Nibs also had a cartoon on page 62, showing Ernest Noakes, a prominent member of The Magic Circle, levitating his obviously pregnant wife under the title “The Lightest Lady on Earth” – the implication being that she was blown up with air, and so was able to float. Gamage’s, the publishers, had to withdraw all the copies they could find and hastily replaced the quarter-page illustration with an innocuous photograph of Austen Temple, which had no relevance to any of the text.

The Wizard magazine of November 1909 included a cartoon of Goldston literally “in hot water,” as he was regularly controversial.

He had been sued for breach of contract in 1908 when an illusion he supplied to Hugo Lorenz did not meet specifications; then in 1909 Gamage’s was sued for libel when he printed, in *The Magician* for January that year, a thirteen-year-old inaccurate story about Marie Becker (Mlle Greville) shooting her employer, Mons Guibal. Refusing a printed apology, she was awarded £250 in damages, the sum being deducted from Goldston’s salary. The offending issues were withdrawn, and only around 240 remained in circulation. It is not clear how many copies of the annual escaped, but from my research the recall seems to have been thorough.

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.

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.



Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

Energize

“Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

Andrew Carnegie

It’s time to launch your Ring’s meeting. Your guests and members stand divided in small groups, chatting away. A few others sit quietly by themselves waiting for the night’s session to get underway.

We meet to socialize, share, learn and improve! We can’t do this with our members’ minds and butts anchored firmly in their safe little circles. How do we draw this disengaged gaggle of human beings into a bastion of fraternal camaraderie?

Shake things up!

Our strongest Rings share a unifying fraternal bond. Team-building exercises promote this relationship in a fun way that splits cliques and motivates passive members. Ice-breaking games connect friends and strangers, shatter comfort zones, and ignite creative brain cells.

Here is a selection of short, low-prep exercises that are appropriate for both teens and adults. If you have a large group, break it into teams by randomly drawing team numbers from a hat. No force bags allowed!

Birthday Line-Up: Challenge your members to place themselves in order of their birth month and day without speaking and with their hands clasped firmly behind their backs. Each team must create a novel means of communicating these dates to one another.

Presto Change-O: Team A and Team B form separate lines facing each other. Each person faces someone on the other team. Give Team A one minute to study the members of Team B, then turn their backs. Team B has one minute to change five clearly visible details about themselves, such as removing a coat, turning a shirt inside out, untying shoelaces, removing a watch, etc. Team A turns to face Team B and has one minute to identify the five changes. Repeat with Team B observing Team A.

Wizards, Magicians and Sorcerers: This is a more physical version of rock-paper-scissors. Wizards point an imaginary wand in a fencing stance and shout “Expelliarmus!” Magicians raise one hand and shout “Cadabra!” Sorcerers raise both hands and growl “I Command Thee!” Members take turns moving to the front of the room in pairs, standing back-to-back. They each take three steps forward, strike a pose, and turn. Wizards defeat Magicians, Magicians overpower Sorcerers, and Sorcerers vanquish Wizards. Defeated players are out. Continue until one player emerges as the champion. Disqualify players who use the wrong phrase for their pose.

Grab Bag: Place a wide variety of generic non-magic items (such as rubber

bands, paper clips, pencil erasers, tissues, plastic bags, plastic straws) in a paper bag. One bag per two-to-four-member team. Empty your junk drawers or make a dollar store run! Give the teams fifteen minutes to create at least one magic effect using the materials provided. Appoint a panel of judges or invite members to vote for the team presenting the most novel and creative solution.

Puzzling Teamwork: Hit your dollar store to purchase several fifty-piece jigsaw puzzles. Pour the pieces into individual paper bags. One complete puzzle per bag. One bag per team. Teams compete to be the first to put the puzzles together. This game promotes teamwork, creative organization and rapid decision-making under fire. You can spice this up by mixing one random piece from each puzzle into another team's bag. The first team to find their missing piece and complete their puzzle wins.

Hand Jive: Give each participant a picture of a hand in one of four positions. For example: Flat, Closed Thumb Up, Fist, Fist with Pointing Index Finger. On command, each member must form their hand into the pictured position and find others who match. When they've formed their groups, give them five minutes to create a slogan or motto that defines their group and relates to their hand position. Invite each group to share their hand position and slogan.

Back When: Before the meeting begins, approach each adult member privately and ask him or her to share a significant positive event or accomplishment from their teen years. For teens, ask them to share a significant event or accomplishment from their childhood. Read each item aloud at the start of the meeting and challenge members to agree on which member identifies with each memory. Ask the owner of the memory to stand up. This exercise creates closer familiarity and promotes discussion.

Two Truths and a Lie: Ask each person, in turn, to stand and state three facts about

themselves. Two of the facts must be true and one must be a complete fabrication. Ask the members as a whole to agree on which statement is the lie.

Fun Questions: Develop a "Fun Question" for the night. Ask each member to write their answer to the question on a slip of paper. Collect the papers and read them out loud. Members state who they believe provided each answer. Ask the answer's author to stand and explain their selections. Fun questions might include "If stranded on a desert island, I would take these three items," or "If I could spend an evening with any celebrity, living or dead, I would choose _____." This game provides insight into member personalities and discloses potential common interests with other members.

Bucket List: Move around the room and ask each member to share an interesting incomplete item from their bucket list. This noncompetitive ice breaker helps us to learn more about our peers and promotes discussion after the meeting.

Celebrity: Print the names of famous two-person team members (Penn & Teller, Laurel & Hardy, Martin & Lewis, Shari Lewis & Lambchop, etc.), one name per sheet. Tape or pin a name to each member's back. Members roam the room to identify their missing team member, then match up with the correct partner. For teens, use names they're more likely to recognize.

Develop your own creative team-building games. Books such as *Thinkertoys* by Michael Michalko and *Creativity Games for Trainers* by Robert Epstein are helpful resources.

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.



Marketing Magic

KENT CUMMINS

Who's the Greatest?

"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best." – St. Jerome

On the other hand:

"Perfect is the enemy of good is an aphorism which means insistence on perfection often prevents implementation of good improvements. The Pareto principle or 80–20 rule explains this numerically. For example, it commonly takes 20% of the full time to complete 80% of a task while to complete the last 20% of a task takes 80% of the effort.[1] Achieving absolute perfection may be impossible and so, as increasing effort results in diminishing returns, further activity becomes increasingly inefficient." – Wikipedia

What does all this mean for us as magicians?

If you ask me, it all depends on our goals. If you just want to show a few tricks to a few friends, maybe you can be satisfied as long as most of the tricks work most of the time? But if you are a full or part-time professional entertainer, your paycheck depends on the quality of your performance.

I often say that the quality of your performance is the first step in effective marketing. (Harlan Tarbell said that, too!) So, if you are marketing yourself as a magician, you need to be better than your competition, so you can get paid more ... and more often.

And if you want to win on America's (or any other country's) Got Talent or Penn & Teller: Fool Us, you probably need to not just be good or better than your competition.

You need to be one of the best!

What is a bad magician?

Look at the way magicians tend to be portrayed on television sitcoms such as *The Brady Bunch*, *Arrested Development*, and *The Big Bang Theory*. The focus is on the wannabe magician's lack of skill and excessive ego. It is embarrassing to watch them try to fool their friends.

I remember when I was that kind of magician. In high school, I would bring a cigar box full of tricks to a party, and if people didn't ask me to perform, I would sit in the corner and feel sorry for myself. It was all about my need for attention, rather than about entertaining someone.



Kent Cummins with trophy for Best Youth Presentation at 1961 SEAM Convention in Birmingham, Alabama.

I hope that I have outgrown this approach to magic. What about you? (You wouldn't be reading this column if you weren't genuinely interested in making magic work for you.)

How do you get good?

You have to really care. If you do magic tricks just to build up your own ego (and many of us started there), it is unlikely that you will be a very good magician. A good magician focuses on the audience rather than his or her own ego. And if you really care, you will take the time to practice each routine before showing it to an audience.

It helps to have mentors. My magic mentor was a magic store owner who taught me how to make rubber stamps, how best to organize tricks, and how to demonstrate tricks to sell over the counter. He helped me learn how to run a business, but was not able to really help me develop as a performer. I envy the people who grew up under the guidance of Jay Marshall, Eugene Berger, or Johnny Thompson.

If you don't have anyone available as a mentor, purchase and read the best magic books you can find. Look for the classics, such as *Greater Magic* and *the Tarbell Course*, but also look for books from some of magic's best current thinkers.



Books full of tricks are great fun, but don't forget to read books on theory and psychology. Any book by Jim Steinmeyer is a great place to start. There are more ideas in last month's column on Showmanship.

It is said that perfect is the enemy of good, but I don't feel that I am in danger of becoming perfect! Striving to constantly improve, to become the best magician I can, seems

like a reasonable strategy. I want to keep getting better.

Money-Back Guarantee

When I became a busy Part-Time Pro, as Gene Anderson describes, I decided that I would offer a guarantee: "Your money cheerfully refunded if your audience is not enthralled by the performance." The exact wording changed depending on the client and the event, but the idea was that even if my show was "good," I would refund their money unless I was FANTASTIC!

I have offered a version of this guarantee throughout my career, and perhaps it has helped prospective clients agree to pay my fee. (I always tried to be the highest-priced magician in my area, meaning I could make more money doing fewer shows. I learned that clients treat you better when they pay you more.)

You may be wondering if I ever had to make good on this guarantee. Yes. Once.

It was a major keynote presentation booked by a friend and his wife for their annual business conference. I was looking forward to the event, which was in Boca Raton, Florida. It should have been wonderful. But when I arrived at the venue, the night before, I discovered that the audience would be at huge round tables, separated from the stage by a large dance floor. And the stage was filled with band instruments and electronic gear.

I should have discussed this with the people who hired me, to explain that this was not a good situation for my presentation, and to figure out a way to change it. Maybe a small stage could be set up on the dance floor, so that I would have room to work and be closer to the audience. Maybe chairs could be put on the dance floor, to bring the audience closer to the stage. Maybe the band could move their instruments to the side.

But I did none of these things. The people who hired me were my friends, and I didn't want to come across as one of those needy performers who only wants a specific color of M&M candies in the green room. (Read

about rocker Van Halen if you are not familiar with this reference.)

So, I decided to accept the situation the way it was. I stood on a small corner of the side of the stage. I pulled props out of a suitcase instead of having them set up the way I would normally perform. I once walked down across the dance floor to get closer to the audience. It was a terrible situation.

It wasn't just a magic show; it was a five thousand dollar keynote speech using motivational magic. Audience reviews were not terrible, but they were certainly not glowing with praise. I returned the deposit and did not bill them for the balance or expenses.

I had not lived up to my marketing promises.

How do you get better?

Keep working on all aspects of every performance. The first thing I do following a performance is ask for "notes." The people I work with know that I want to be told what worked well and what can be improved.

One way I used to improve my shows when I was still in high school was to take one trick (such as the UF Grant Super Jet Fire Bowl) and ask myself, "How would a real magician create this effect?" The answer: He would hold out his hands and a bowl of fire would simply appear. I couldn't do that, of course, but I did use staging and misdirection to come as close as possible. I think my audiences saw empty hands ... and then a bowl of fire!

How can you make your current show better? Take just one trick at a time and brainstorm (even if only with yourself) how to make it better. What does the audience see? What do you want them to think happens? Is there a weak point that can be improved? Can you rewrite the script or update the music? Do props need to be repaired or replaced?

Are you the BEST?

Who is the "World's Greatest Magician?" We tend to think of the great stage illusionists of the past: Howard Thurston, Harry

Blackstone, Harry Houdini. Or more recently, Mark Wilson, Doug Henning, Lance Burton. When it comes to consistently making the most money, it has to be David Copperfield.



But what about those amazing magicians who did not necessarily distinguish themselves on the large stage? Malini, Slydini, Ricky Jay. And there are so many more who could legitimately claim to be the best in what they do.

Who is the best magician in your hometown? Is it you? Could it be you?

When should you stop performing?

"The Great Scott and Judy" were the final performers for each session of Magic Camp. I remember the year that Scott came to me at the end of the session, and said, "That was our last show."

"Of course," I replied. That was our last session! I'll see you again next year."

"No," Scott continued, "That was my last show ever. I will no longer be performing."

I protested, "You are at the top of your game! Your shows have never been better."

"And that's the right time to stop," Scott explained. "I don't want to be one of those embarrassing old magicians who drops cards on the floor and messes up the tricks. I want to stop while I can still be proud of my performances."

I was stunned. But the more I thought about it, the more sense it made. I have seen more than a few of those "embarrassing old magicians," and I completely respected his choice.

A few years later, at the age of sixty-three,



The Great Scott and Judy.

I decided to follow his example. I created my “When I’m 64” Tour, inspired by that wonderful Beatles song, and created a Google Calendar to keep track of my shows. It was 2007, and my plan was to do at least sixty-four shows that year and then stop performing. I would continue to teach, to write, to attend magic gatherings, and to curate my ever-growing collection.

In the spring of that year, I was called by Cy Albertson, who was bringing in John Calvert for a show at Cy’s country club. He asked me if I would be Master of Ceremonies for the performance. I enthusiastically accepted! I had read about Calvert in *Genii*, and knew about his book, but had never seen him perform.

The day arrived; I put on my tux, and proceeded to introduce John Calvert. I sat back to watch his show, and noticed something that I had not anticipated: He was a better magician than I was! And he was ninety-four years old, thirty years older than me.

I realized that age was not necessarily the determining factor for when to stop performing. I wanted to keep getting better. So, I formed a focus group of people with diverse backgrounds and insisted that they tell me

when I stopped getting better. Not when I started getting worse! Not when I was continuing to be good. I promised myself that I would keep working on my act, trying to constantly get better.

Some years later, I had the opportunity to start performing with my granddaughter, “The Amazing Adele.” This gave me even more inspiration, and members of my focus group said that I was getting better every year.

The Bottom Line

How good do you want to be when you perform? Neither you nor I will probably become the best magician in the world, but we can strive to be the best version of ourselves. We can always get better. We owe it to ourselves, and to the art of magic.

Do you love magic? Me, too! Listen to “Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center” at www.fantasticmagiccenter.com. And consider supporting the Patreon account to help preserve and share the art of magic.

I always enjoy hearing your ideas and experiences: kent@magichotline.com.

Magic and

Memories

David Ginn



Start with a Business Card

Whether you're a budding twelve-year-old magician or already beyond college, if you decide to do shows, you need a *business card*. Even with the multitude of digital options today, in my opinion, there's still no perfect replacement for the good, old-fashioned, low-tech business card you can hand someone when they ask, "How can I contact you about a show?"

When my friend Marty Walden and I started seriously studying magic at age twelve, doing only free shows, we each had a business card. Marty made his first (I didn't even think of it), so I copied his.

Figures 1 and 2 show our original 1958 business cards. By the time we were fourteen, we started doing paid shows after a scoutmaster handed us a five dollar bill (split two ways) following a Blue & Gold Banquet performance. That's what made me spring for the **Magician** cut from Tannen's in New York, shown in **Figure 3**.

Yes, I was on my way to big-time magic!

Now, let's skip a few years past high school, college, and my first year of marriage. My wife Lynne and I moved to Augusta, Georgia, for my two years in the military. Thanks to ROTC at the University of Georgia, I started my army stint commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. My friend Mark Merchant used to joke, "Lynne Ginn married a second lieutenant because the first one got away!"

Now here is the true story.

When I entered the United States Army in February 1970, I was forced to print a hundred calling cards at my expense. All new officers were required to do this. The cards read simply:

Lieutenant David F. Ginn

During one officer orientation session, one of our instructors explained to us:

"You are all required to print a hundred calling cards. If you remain in the army for two years, you will only use one of them. I've been in the army five years, and I've used two of mine. You see, I have *two* hats."

That got a big laugh, because the only place you ever put that card was in the plastic name slot inside your dress hat so that you'd know whose hat belonged to whom. The card was a required piece of unnecessary expense.

What can you learn from this story? For starters, if you're only going to identify your hat with your business card, save your



money. And if you are going to print only your name on the card, you're wasting your time *and* money.

Here is my point from an entertainment standpoint:

Business cards are for business.

Their purpose is to help you get jobs, to help people locate and contact you, and to help potential and real clients remember you, call you, write you, or send you things in the mail.

Business cards are tools that work for you and for others you hand them to. Business cards help people spell your name right, perhaps when they are writing out your check. Business cards are ready references for people who might wish to recommend you and give out your telephone number. Business cards can even be used to identify your luggage, flight and clothing bags, show equipment and – your hat.

So, where do you begin in designing your own business card?

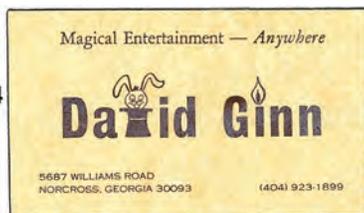
Begin with *your name*. When you come right down to it, that's the most important thing on your card. Your name is who they are going to pay. If you are Jumbo the Weird Magic Clown Mime Ventriloquist, it's fine to put that on your card. But get your name on the card, too. Otherwise, someone is bound to ask if they should write the check out to JWCMCV or who? **So, get your name on the card.**

The next two things go together on your card, hand in hand: *your complete address* and *telephone number with area code*. I consider both of these things an absolute *must*. Put them in small type if you like, but get them on your card!

By complete address, I mean the number and name of your street with the word *Street* or *Road* or whatever beside it. Don't give us one of these: 4406 W. 28th. What's that supposed to mean? West 28th garbage dumpster? West 28th parallel to the moon? Be logical by putting *West 28th Street* on the card. Make it perfectly clear and readable. Make it look professional.

By telephone number, I mean the whole thing. Seven digits and the three-digit area code. See my business card from 1974-87 in **Figure 4**. I got the flame candle idea from Fantasio, and the rabbit out of hat from lots of places, even though I used doves when I designed it.

Fig. 4



The fourth thing that belongs on your card is *some* suggestion of your business or talent: Magician, Clown, Juggler, Storyteller, Ventriloquist, whatever. Sometimes this can be done with words, sometimes with artwork. Throughout the next few pages, you will see many ways to do it.

Take these four things together – your name, address, telephone number, and what you do – and blend that into a card that is exactly two inches tall by three and a half inches wide, so that it comes out looking like **Figure 5**:



Fig. 5

Say, wait a minute. Something went wrong. What size did you say it was?

That's the next thing to consider: size. The standard size of a business card is two by three and a half inches, at least from the American point of view. This means a number of things: (1) People in business are accustomed to thinking of business cards in this standard size. (2) Printers are accustomed to printing this standard size. (3) Card files and holders are made to hold this size, as are wallets and other things. (4) Getting outside of this standard size not only creates problems for people who handle your card, but going non-standard *costs you more money*.

By now you may have deducted my personal recommendation: *Stick with the standard size in a business card*. Spend your extra money on colored paper, ink, or something else.

Sticking with the standard size doesn't lock you in as much as you might suspect.

Consider that there are literally hundreds of types of card stock you can choose from, and dozens of colors of paper, as well. If you could actually see the fifty cards I reproduced forty years ago in my *Promoting Me and You II*, you'd see what I mean. Quite a lot of variance, to be sure. If you desire, you can even add raised letter printing to your card, which takes it to another dimension.

Let me stop and tell you where you can view my collage of fifty business cards without buying anything. Go to www.ginmagicshop.com. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on GOOD READS. Once that opens, scroll down to number 27: 50 Business Cards. Click on that and view all the cards from the book, many of them in full color.

Back to business. Now that we've settled on the standard card size, what are the other considerations?

Take a look at my model business card for Mark Mead. What's wrong with it? I hope you guessed it right away. There's too much on it. It doesn't look clean and clear and *simple*. And that is the key to designing your own business card:

Keep it simple.

It's fine and wonderful to have an attention grabber on it, such as a special type or intriguing art. But keep it simple. Get what you need on it, and keep off the rest. Sounds simple enough, doesn't it? Maybe so, but to design your own card properly, you'll need to do lots of thinking, rough sketches, and more thinking. Most of the business cards you'll see in my fifty-card collage were not slapped together overnight. Some took months to get from idea to finished product.

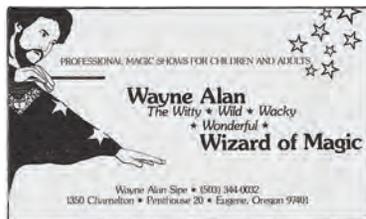
Let's recap – name, address, phone number, your business, a standard size, and simplicity. Those are my six important things to apply in preparing your own business card. Keep them all in mind as we begin a short tour. Due to space considerations, I will show you only a baker's dozen cards here, and you can view the others on our website, newly designed by Marty Hahne in 2021.

We will start with one of my favorites, using the *Promoting Me and You II* book numbers.

6. Fantasio 1983. In the world of magic, the name *Fantasio* has meant excellence for over sixty years, stemming from his early appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and later his manufacture of plastic canes and candles. By the 1980s, Fantasio was so well known in the entertainment field, at least by magicians and agents, that it was not necessary to have “magic” on the card. With most business cards, however, you will need a word or two or a picture to indicate what you do.



11. Wayne Alan (Sipe). Nice drawing and even though a lot of words, the card is easy to read. Black ink on light gray card stock.



21. Andre Kole. Simple, clean design, black and white on gray paper. Like Fantasio, he was so well known, he didn't have to say “magic” on the card.



24. Baffling Mr. Baker. I met Harmon Baker at a convention when he was some ninety years old. He appeared on *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson* when he was a hundred years old! Even in his nineties, Harmon was a live wire, totally clever and coherent.



25. **Gordon Meyer.** Highly creative card with *all* the necessary information. Great artwork, too.



29. **Amazing Abner (Jim Ford from Tennessee).** Yes, the card was cut that way. Jim did a hillbilly-style act reflected by his card. Amazing!



31. **Mark Merchant.** My young friend who worked lights, sound, and curtains for my school shows back in 1968 went on to become a full-time professional vent/magician. His early card was simple but effective.



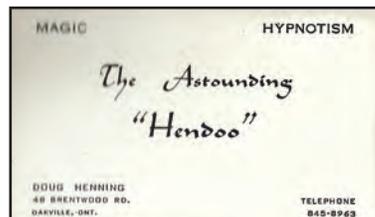
35. **Christopher Fair.** A two-sided card. Line drawing on front with name, then info on the back. Simple, effective.



44. **Lovel Buchanan.** Ticket-shaped card with notches. Simple, easy to read.



45. **Astounding Hendoo.** An early Doug Henning card with all the info needed. Black-and-white flat printing.



This concludes our little tour and tutorial about business cards. How does your card stack up when compared to these? I hope it's just as good or better. If not, there's still time for you to design a card that is your own.

Please don't copy these cards. Instead, use these examples as springboards to create your own original business card – one that will promote the YOU that can be only you.



Teaching Magic

ROBERT DURANTE

Stewart James published a trick in *TOPS* magazine back in 1940, which he called TUPAK. His idea used two decks of cards. I streamlined it to only use one deck. It is an interesting item and other magicians, like Jack Arvis, have reworked this idea as well. When playing with this, you will think it should be a matching card effect. Mr. James, in his wisdom, spoke against doing that. After trying it out on friends while doing it as a matching card, they figured there was some type of set-up involved. When you do it as explained below, that premise leaves their minds. It is the kind of magic where your student can do it right away. Your students will get frustrated when asked to work on something they are not ready for. Failing to learn something puts their interest in magic on the back burner. This is one of those ideas that looks completely impossible and is fun and easy to do. So, let's delve into it now.

Juan pack: A two-fold Prediction

This takes a little prior arrangement. You can do it while looking through the deck to remove the jokers. Howard Hamburg teaches the virtue of simplicity by leaving your jokers with the deck. This allows you the opportunity to set up routines in front of the spectator, all under the guise of looking for those two pesky jokers. It's the old saying "Don't run when nobody is chasing you." In this case, you need to know the fourteenth, the twenty-sixth, and the fortieth cards from the top. When teaching this effect to newbies, you want everything set up and this would be an opening effect. If you are more advanced, you can easily set this up "while looking for the jokers." Now, take a

business card or index card and write the name of the fourteenth card from the top. Write the fortieth card on the other side. Do not let anyone see the name of the fortieth card. Lay down your prediction card with the fourteenth card showing. In our example, let's assume the fourteenth card is the Three of Spades and the fortieth is the King of Diamonds. Pick up the deck and divide the deck into two equal piles. Spread through and cut at the twenty-sixth card. (That is why you need to remember it.) Now you have two face-down piles of cards in front of you. Place the top half to your left and the bottom half to your right. Allow your helper to place the prediction cards in front of either pile. Regardless of the pile they chose, point to the left-hand pile (top half). "Let's begin. I want you to cut off a small portion of cards. Please, just a small group, like between four and ten cards. We don't want to be counting all day." "Now count them and put them aside where I can't see them." Turn your back as they remove the cards and count them. Once they are done, point to the prediction card. Tell them: "The 3 of spades can be in either pile. I wonder if it is in the pile, you placed the prediction card in front of?" Deal a card face up from each pile, dealing two cards in tandem. One from each pile. You already know which pile it's in, but act like you have no idea. You stop when the Three of Spades turns up. If they chose the left-hand pile, compliment them on their ESP ability. If they chose the right-hand pile, just tell them "They were only off by half a pack." Ask your helper "What number of cards did you cut to?" Point to the pile on the right. Deal that many cards face up off the right-hand pile, and the King of Diamonds will be at their number.

(continued on page 105)

Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



Al Flosso toured with Stephen Bibrowsky, known as Lionel the Lion-Face Man. He had his entire face covered with hair and bore only four teeth.

Criss Angel, born Christopher Nicholas Sarantakos, is a world-class illusionist and a musician. He was the lead singer for his band Angeldust (Industrial genre), having released five albums.

Besides being the production assistant for Mark Wilson in the TV series *The Magic Land of Allakazam* and the curator of the David Copperfield collection in Las Vegas, Leo Behnke opened and managed Merlin's Magic Shop in Disneyland. Among his employees was a young Steve Martin, who learned much about magic from Leo. He also once got a job for Larry Jennings working for his dad in the plumbing repair business.

At the age of sixteen, Jeff McBride was the opening act in Japan for the Fania All-Stars, a musical group and record label showcasing some of the best musicians of the Salsa genre.

Doug Henning once suffered from a collapsed lung resulting from a congenital ailment. Within three months, he underwent thirteen attempts to have his lung permanently reinflated. After losing a great deal of weight, and near death, the fourteenth attempt proved successful and saved his life.

Harry Lorayne became the world's foremost memory expert despite struggling academically because of undiagnosed dyslexia. He completed only one year of high school.

Shadowgraphy was once known as "Ombromanie."

Despite the several fortunes amassed by Max Malini over his lifetime, he died of malnutrition in Honolulu on October 3, 1942.

According to Al Flosso, the "Chess Player" exhibited in the Dreamland Circus Sideshow in Coney Island had a concealed person inside who was an escapee from Sing-Sing.

On May 11, 1943, Bess boarded a train in Los Angeles bound for New York. In an ironic twist of fate, she died at a stopover in a small town in San Bernardino County, California, named the same as one of her husband's famous tricks, *Needles*.

Harry Blackstone Sr. never performed outside the United States and Canada, except for one engagement in Bermuda in 1931.

The Spaniard close-up magician Jose "Pepe" Carroll was Jose Franco Arsenio Larraz. He chose his stage name from the author Lewis Carroll of Alice in Wonderland fame.

R I N G L O C A T I O N S

*Ring numbers are in parentheses after each location.
Check Ring Reports for meeting times and locations.*

U.S.A.

ALABAMA • Birmingham (35) • Florence (330)
Huntsville (194) • Montgomery (256)

ARIZONA • Lakeside (300) • Phoenix (55)
Prescott (356) • Tucson (172)

ARKANSAS • Fort Smith (75) • Little Rock (29)
Searcy (308)

CALIFORNIA • Burbank/Glendale (326)
Carlsbad (292) • Hollywood (21)
Long Beach (96) • Orange County (313)
Palm Desert (291) • Sacramento (192)
San Bernardino (254) • San Diego (76)
San Francisco (38) • San Jose (216)
Santa Clarita (280) • Simi Valley (276)
South West Riverside (359)

COLORADO • Denver (131) • Fort Collins (250)

CONNECTICUT • Hartford (278)
New Haven (59) • Stamford (97)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA • Washington (50)

FLORIDA • Clearwater (42) • Daytona Beach (251)
Ft. Lauderdale (150) • Ft. Myers (303)
Ft. Walton Beach (284) • Jacksonville (130)
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Sarasota (81) • Tampa (175)
West Palm Beach (117)

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Macon (275) • Warner Robins (289)

HAWAII • Honolulu (185)

IDAHO • Blackfoot (306) • Boise (364)

ILLINOIS • Champaign (236) • Chicago (43)
Peoria (48) • Springfield (239)

INDIANA • Elkhart/Mishawaka (342)
Evansville (56) • Ft. Wayne (221)
Indianapolis (10) • Lafayette (219)
Muncie (310) • Nashville (336) • Boise (364)

IOWA • Cedar Rapids (327) • Davenport (11)
Des Moines (167) • Dubuque (93) • Sioux City (24)

KANSAS • Wichita (47)

KENTUCKY • Lexington (198) • Louisville (64)

LOUISIANA • Baton Rouge (178) • Lafayette (214)
Lake Charles (268) • New Orleans (27)
Shreveport (267)

MAINE • Bangor (362)

MARYLAND • Baltimore (179) • Hagerstown (94)

MASSACHUSETTS • Boston (122)
Cape Cod (307)

MICHIGAN • Ann Arbor (210) • Battle Creek (89)
Detroit (22) • Flint (36) • Grand Rapids (211)
Kalamazoo (333) • Lansing (54) • Saginaw (212)

MINNESOTA • Minneapolis (19)

MISSISSIPPI • Jackson (98)

MISSOURI • Branson (325) • Columbia (8)
Joplin (305) • Kansas City (129) • St. Louis (1)
Springfield (132)

MONTANA • Billings (153)

NEBRASKA • Lincoln (259)

NEVADA • Las Vegas (257)

NEW HAMPSHIRE • Manchester (166)

NEW JERSEY • Collingswood (165)
Long Branch (123) • Lyndhurst (113)
Newark (106) • New Brunswick (200)

NEW MEXICO • Albuquerque (90)

NEW YORK • Albany (186) • Binghamton (79)
Buffalo (12) • Ithaca (140) • New York (26)
Rochester (4) • Suffolk (317) • Plainview (244)
Syracuse (74) • Utica (101)

NORTH CAROLINA • Blowing Rock (392)
Canton (344) • Charlotte (296) • Fayetteville (341)
Greensboro (340) • Raleigh (199)
Wilmington (248) • Goldsboro (375)

OHIO • Akron (161) • Canton (243) • Cincinnati (71)
Cleveland (23) • Columbus (7) • Dayton (5)
Galion (189) • Lima (205) • Marietta (197)
Middletown (324) • Toledo (68) • Youngstown (2)

OKLAHOMA • Oklahoma City (46) • Tulsa (65)

OREGON • Albany (238) • Eugene (319)

PENNSYLVANIA • Allentown (32) • Erie (149)
Harrisburg (20) • Greensburg (158)
Philadelphia (6) • Pittsburgh (13)
Pocono Mountains (332) • Reading (57)
Scranton (30) • State College (352)

RHODE ISLAND • Providence (44)

SOUTH CAROLINA •
Charleston (234) • Columbia (105) • Greenville (63)
Hilton Head Island (349) • Myrtle Beach (334)
Spartanburg (227) • Summerville (370)

R I N G L O C A T I O N S

*Ring numbers are in parentheses after each location.
Check Ring Reports for meeting times and locations.*

TENNESSEE • Bristol (355) • Chattanooga (112)
Knoxville (58) • Memphis (16)
Murfreesboro (252) • Nashville (37)

TEXAS • Austin (60) • Corpus Christi (157)
Dallas (174) • El Paso (354) • Fort Worth (15)
Harlingen (269) • Houston (39) • Longview (286)
Midland/Odessa (255) • San Antonio (18)
Tyler (266) • Wichita Falls (187)

UTAH • Salt Lake City (193)

VERMONT • Manchester Center (245)
Montpelier (126)

VIRGINIA • Norfolk (103) • Richmond (180)
Roanoke (222) • Staunton (320)

WASHINGTON • Lynnwood (339) • Seattle (52)
Spokane (225) • Tacoma (70)

WISCONSIN • Madison (31) • Milwaukee (41)
Appleton/Green Bay (398)

WORLDWIDE

ARGENTINA • Buenos Aires (182)

AUSTRALIA • Adelaide (148) • Canberra (273)
Melbourne (84) • Sydney (102)

AUSTRIA • Vienna (240)

BANGLADESH • Dhaka (279/295)

BELGIUM • Antwerp (298) • Brussels (86) • Ghent (282)

BULGARIA • Sofia (391)

CANADA

ALBERTA • Calgary (66) • Edmonton (28)

BRITISH COLUMBIA • Vancouver (92)

Victoria (183) • Abbotsford (387)

MANITOBA • Winnipeg (40)

NOVA SCOTIA • Halifax (316)

ONTARIO • Hamilton (49) • Kitchener (235)

London (265) • Fonthill (294)

North Bay (365) • Ottawa (151)

Peterborough (302) • Thunder Bay (304)

Toronto (17) (99) • Windsor (116)

QUEBEC • Montreal (62)

SASKATCHEWAN • Regina (309)

CHINA • China (311) • Macao (357)

Hong Kong (277) • Shanghai (400)

CUBA • Havana (399)

FRANCE • Nantes (343) • Nice (350) • Paris (358)
Strasbourg (388)

GERMANY • Kornwestheim (285) • Nuremberg (348)

GREECE • Athens (338)

GUATEMALA • Guatemala City (107)

HUNGARY • Budapest (281)

ICELAND • Reykjavik (371)

INDIA • Mumbai (67) • Bangalore (177) • Calicut (261)

INDONESIA • Surabaya City (321)

IRELAND • Cork (363) • Dublin (85)

ISRAEL • Pardess-Hana (264)

ITALY • Bari (377) • Bologna (347) • Cuneo (346)

Milan (223) Napoli (108) • Padova (314) •

Rome (204) • Trieste (353)

JAPAN • Nagayo (380) • Osaka (201) • Tokyo (374)

LATVIA • Riga (376)

MALAYSIA • Malaysia (373)

MALTA • Valletta (202)

MEXICO • Mexico (382) • Mexico City (164)

NETHERLANDS • Utrecht (78)

NEW ZEALAND • Auckland (160)

PHILIPPINES • Makati (328) • Quezon City (322)

PORTUGAL • Portugal (312)

SERBIA • Belgrade (396)

SINGAPORE • Singapore (115)

SPAIN • Barcelona (401)

SOUTH KOREA • Seoul (366) (372)

SWITZERLAND • Romandie Suisse (207)

TAIWAN • Taipei (360)

THAILAND • Ramkhanheng (369)

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THE UNIVERSE • Global Electronic Ring (2100)

VIETNAM • Ho Chi Minh City (378)

ZIMBABWE • (203)

For corrections and updates, e-mail

Dr. Steven Schlanger,

Ring Reports Editor

(ringreports@magician.org).





Sick and Convalescent

I.B.M. MEMBERS

SICK AND CONVALESCENT COMMITTEE

JIM SHORT/CHAIRMAN

12616 Whispering Hollow Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73142 • jimshort@flash.net

KEVIN CARNEY 101 Rue De LaPaix, Slidell, LA 70458 • kmcarney@charter.net

JERRY ARGETSINGER 91 Saddlehorn Dr., Rochester, NY 14626

Send Mail To:

John Allen, 1704 Princess Helen Rd. West. Mobile, AL 36618

Paul Barton, 4706 Mount St Helens Way, San Diego, CA 92117-3029

Robert Betz, 15204 W. Colonial Dr. 104A, Winter Gardens, FL 34787

Richard Bohlman, 201 Hickory Circle, Live Oaks Place, Pearl. MS 39208-8081

Malcom Campbell, 2505 Old Quarry Road, #1518, San Diego, CA 92108

Kenneth John Capman, 2007 Brook Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

John William Cheek, Pomeroy Living, Bed D42, 3500 W. South Boulevard,
Rochester Hills, MI 48307.

Sanford Gladden, P.O. Box 788, Riverview, FL 33569

Ed Hurtubis, 1624 Lakeshore Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80525-2476

Ulfat Kabir, Rupayan Nilufar, Flat C:7, House:14/15, Block: D, Road:1,
Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Elton Kelly, 712 Hewlett Street, Bakersfield, CA 93309

Manfred Losch, Daughters of Israel Nursing Home, 1155 Pleasant Valley Way,
West Orange, NJ 07052

Simon Lovell, c/o Tont Lovell, 10, Audley Rd., Great Leighs Chelmsford,
Essex, CM3, England

Simone Marron, 5735 Joshuapoint Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89120

Marvin Mathena, 45900 Geddes Rd., Canton, MI 48188-2306

Harry Monti, 803 Sherwick Terrace, Manchester, MO 63021

David O'Connor, 16 Olympic Place, Sinnamon Park, Brisbane, Qld 4073, Australia

John Osborne, 820 Spring Drive, Northville, MI 48167

Bob Patterson, 3450 Wainscott Place, Lake Ridge, VA 22192-5245

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

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Emory Williams, Post Office Box 396, Vail, AZ 85641



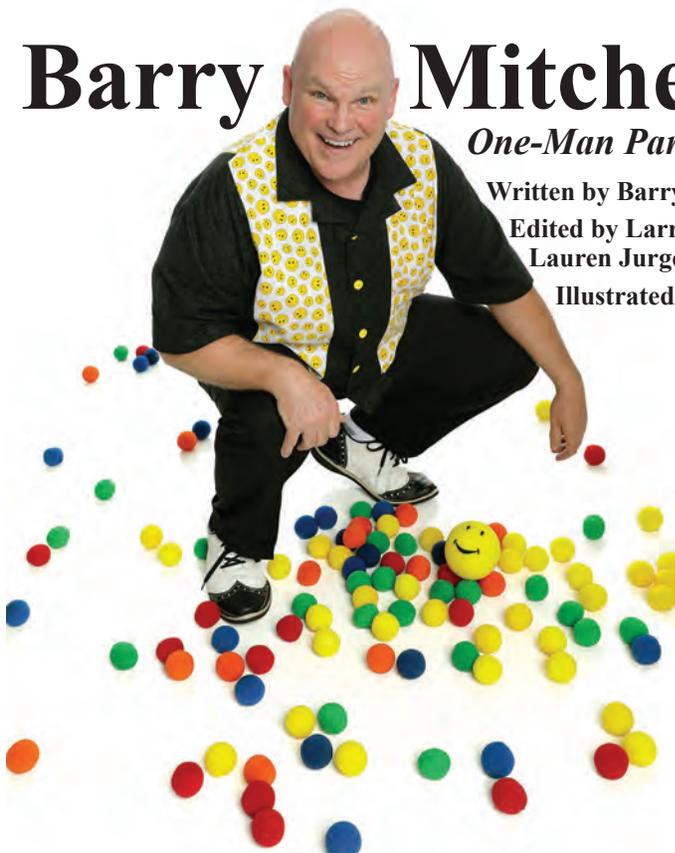
Barry Mitchell

One-Man Parade

Written by Barry Mitchell

Edited by Larry Lipman and
Lauren Jurgensen

Illustrated by Tony Dunn



BIO: Barry Mitchell has been performing comedy magic for five decades and is one of the most prolific creators of props and routines for children's entertainers in the United States. A regular lecturer for KIDabra, Kapital Kidvention, the Fellowship of Christian Magicians, World Clown Association, the Magic Castle, The Magic Circle, and other groups, Barry was a featured speaker earlier this year at Trix in the Stix, the convention for children's magicians held in the United Kingdom. Barry is the author of nine books on magic and has produced more than one hundred twenty videos. Barry's Facebook group (Fans and Friends of Barry Mitchell Products) boasts more than 2,600 members worldwide.

The Two-Dollar Puzzle Trick

This one really excites me. It's super easy to perform, super easy to make, and costs only two dollars – not including a permanent marker and a dry erase marker. Maybe it's a little more than two dollars.

I first shared this idea in my creativity book *The Magic of Thinking Creatively*, printed in 2003. It was also part of my *Duh* DVD and PDF book. I ended my “Duh! Wish I Had Thought of That” lecture at KIDabra with this piece. At the end of the effect is my script from the KIDabra lecture, which includes the motivational lead-in about my mother.

EFFECT: The magician displays a puzzle in a picture frame with a single missing piece. With a wave of the hand, the missing piece magically appears and the puzzle is complete.

My idea for this effect came from an old card trick where a sentence is written on a chalkboard and several of the letters are erased to reveal the spectator's selected card, the Ten of Hearts. The Ten of Hearts is painted on the chalkboard, to make it permanent, while the rest of the letters are written in chalk, which can be erased.

I wanted to use a dry erase board to create a trick with the same effect. I tried to create the board, but the permanent ink would smear when dry erase letters were removed. I had the idea that the permanent information could be displayed under a piece of glass and the dry erase writing would be on the surface of the glass. The idea worked. The result is an appearing puzzle piece illusion.

A puzzle, or even a picture or poster, is framed under a piece of non-glare glass. Non-glare glass is best for performance on stage, however, an inexpensive 11" x 14" frame from a dollar store will work. Originally, I suggested framing the picture on a piece of black foam core or using a black felt mat. The black surface around the picture fools the eye into believing the background of the puzzle is black. Therefore,

the black drawing of a puzzle piece appears to be a missing piece or indicates a hole in the puzzle. However, I tried something even cheaper for this one. I removed the picture frame cardboard and colored it with a black marker. Then I glued the completed twenty-four-piece puzzle on the cardboard with rubber cement. I placed the puzzle in the frame (**Fig. 1**) and the trick is done.

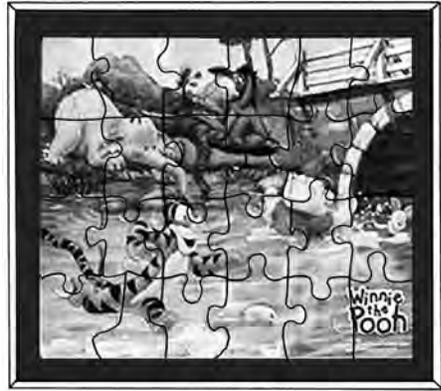


Fig. 1

With a black dry erase marker, draw a puzzle piece on the surface of the glass (**Fig. 2**).



Fig. 2

Erase the drawing of the puzzle piece and the puzzle appears to magically heal itself. The possibilities are really unlimited for using this simple principle. And the price is low enough that it's worth making just for fun. Several years ago, I wrote a children's sermon routine for this idea.

To erase the dry erase mark, I glued a piece of fuzzy-side Velcro to the back of a large Band-Aid. The Velcro worked like an eraser. A piece of adhesive felt works even better. The following is an excerpt from my book *Talks for Tots, Teens, and Tater Eaters*.

PRESENTATION: Someone once said, “If my life was a puzzle, I would be one piece shy of the full picture.” (Hold up framed puzzle with missing piece.)

I knew a man who spent weeks working on a five-thousand-piece puzzle. He finished the puzzle and noticed one piece was missing. When he couldn’t find the last piece, he searched the house with no luck. He searched the yard wondering if a piece fell out of the box from the car to the house. Finally, he was desperate to finish the puzzle. He went back to the store and bought another duplicate puzzle. He spent hours going through each piece until he found the missing one. He was so excited! But when he tried to push in the missing piece, it didn’t fit exactly. No matter what he tried, the picture just didn’t look correct. After all his effort and searching for the missing piece, he gave up.

He placed a Band-Aid over the hole for everyone to see. (Place the Band-Aid eraser over the missing piece. Hold it in place as you continue with the script.) The missing piece had wounded his joy. The bandage seemed to be an appropriate response. Can you imagine his excitement if a visiting neighbor noticed the missing piece hidden in the edge of the carpet? (Begin to rub the Band-Aid against the glass in a small circular motion in order to erase the marker.) His wound would be healed. (Remove the Band-Aid to reveal the restored puzzle.) Then he could surely celebrate his completed work.

When was the last time you shared a missing piece of encouragement or praise with a friend? Our words of praise could be the piece that makes someone’s day complete. Your encouragement may be just what’s missing from a wounded heart.

INSPIRATION FROM THE AUDIENCE: Following the above puzzle piece message for adults, an audience member shared a suggestion. He had been so moved by the illustration, that he wanted to have a puzzle framed with a single missing piece and a Band-Aid to display in his office. He would use it as a conversation piece in order that he might share hope and encouragement with others.

You never know how an object message can be used to inspire others. Imagine that – a two-dollar trick with such potential.

CREATIVITY SCRIPT FROM KID-*abra* LECTURE: I wanted to end this program with something fun that pulls all my thoughts together. With brainstorming, inexpensive props, and a script that makes it memorable, we will be a hit.

Last year [2009] I had to move my mother to live with me because she was losing her memory. In many ways, she is going back to her childhood. One of the things she loves to do is work on puzzles. She doesn’t work them fast and she is no longer able to finish them, but she seems to enjoy just playing with the pieces.

Creativity is very similar to working a puzzle. From childhood to old age, we all work puzzles. We use our creativity and problem-solving skills starting at a young age. And yet, as we get older, many of us believe the illusion that we aren’t as creative as the next guy. We work our puzzles to the point that we say, “That’s good enough. I could probably do better, but I’ll move on.”

Since we’re content to move on, we frame our less-than-complete puzzle and show it off to family and friends. We try to compensate for the incompleteness by saying, “If I was more creative, it would really be something.”

We miss the true secret to creativity during this process. So, I want to share it with you.

An audience member has been holding it the entire time. (A member of the audience was given a bag before the performance. Inside the bag is a picture of a clock.

On the back of the clock is felt to work as the eraser.) Would my audience helper please bring me the time machine?

Creativity is all about time. The more time we spend working on our ideas with others, the more creative they will be. Time is the magic that completes our puzzle. (The small picture of the clock erases the marker, allowing the puzzle to be complete.) That's the secret to creativity. Our desire to find a solution and our willingness to invest our time and find the best possible solution. Creativity doesn't have to be puzzling after all.

The Old Banana Trick

EFFECT: A banana is shown. It's suggested that the banana is magical because it has been sliced inside its peel. The banana is peeled, and has been sliced several times even though the peel is in place.

METHOD: To prepare the banana, carefully insert a long needle into the side of the banana and move it back and forth to slice the banana inside the peel. With practice, you can do this in a matter of seconds just before your show.

One of my favorite effects in magic goes back to my childhood, when I was learning magic from library books. The sliced banana is a truly magical effect for lay audiences and often overlooked by magicians because of its simplicity. I often close my adult shows with it. Yes, I consider it that strong of an effect. Of course, the strength of the effect also has to do with the presentation.

PRESENTATION: My Grandpa loved bananas. He gently tied a string around my finger. He said, "Let this string be a reminder for you to get me a big bunch of bananas when Grandma takes you to the market tomorrow."

I heard what he said, but when tomorrow came, the string was gone along with any memory of our talk. Grandpa was a little disappointed that his string trick didn't secure my memory.

The next week, before the market run,

Grandpa handed me a banana and said, "Do you know why I like bananas so much?"

I said, "No sir."

He said, "Because every so often one of the bananas is very special. They are so special I like to eat one each day hoping to see the magic inside."

I said, "What magic?"

He said, "The magic of the sliced banana."

My eyes could not have been wider as I wondered what could make a banana magical.

He said, "Magic bananas are sliced inside the peel. If you find a banana that's sliced one time, you'll have good day. If it's sliced two times, you will have a good week. But if it's sliced more than two times, you will have a great year. Son, I believe this is a magic banana. Why don't you peel it?"

As I peeled the banana, I saw one slice – then two, then three. The banana was cut into several pieces. It was the best year Grandpa and I ever had.

As we ate the banana he said, "When you go to market, will you remind Grandma to get me some bananas?" I did.

I share that with you because I believe magic creates memories. We made some memories today. We smiled and laughed. I believe the next time you see a banana, you'll smile again.

Crepe Coil Can

EFFECT: The magician's hat coil has always been one of my favorite productions. I used to use a hat coil in almost all my shows when I was in high school. The effect is still strong today.

METHOD: Several years ago, I discovered that a roll of party crepe paper could serve the same purpose as a hat coil and be much more economical. It is larger in depth and won't last as long, but it gives a great punch for half a buck.

I've produced the coils from bags in the past, but I've always wanted a way to quickly load a coil into a hat or other object. As a child, I used a large jar lid to hold hat

coils. I attached Velcro to the top of the lid and the inside of my top hat. The hat coil was jammed into the lid. The jar lid was a simple solution to hold the coil in the top of the hat, as well as load it during a show.

While working on another project, I decided to spend a little time searching for a jar lid that would work with the crepe paper coil. I won't bore you with the details of my search. I'll just say my local grocery store and Dollar Tree offered the solutions. The crepe paper I use comes from Dollar Tree. Two rolls in a pack for a buck. (This article was written several years ago; it's \$1.25 now.) Crepe paper found in party stores is larger and more expensive, which is why the Dollar Tree crepe paper is perfect for this project. **Figure 1** shows my perfect can. That's a statement I've never used before.

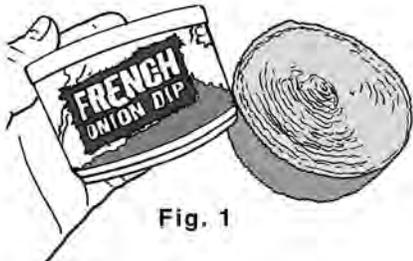


Fig. 1

As you can see, my perfect can contains French onion dip. Step 1, remove the dip and clean the can. Use your favorite method.

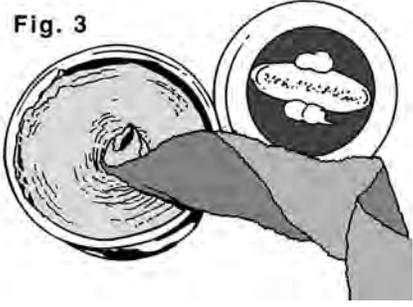
The coil is almost a perfect fit in the can (**Fig. 2**).



Fig. 2

You'll need to remove a little of the coil from the outside to fit it inside the can. It's best if it's slightly loose. Be sure to push up the center of the coil so that it's ready to grab and pull (**Fig. 3**).

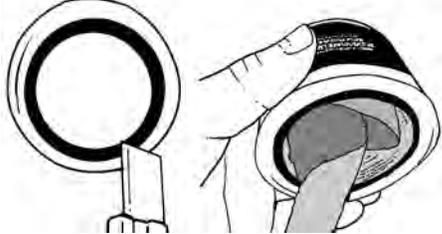
Fig. 3



Cut a hole in the lid that is slightly smaller than the coil (**Fig. 4**). The lid holds the coil inside the can and allows it to fall out when ready (**Fig. 5**). This can works great.

Fig. 4

Fig. 5



Find a way to attach the can to the inside of the prop you're using to produce the coil. Magnets would be a perfect solution if French onion dip came in steel cans. However, Velcro is a great option. I found a pimiento cheese package that works perfect, as well. This is actually my favorite of the two methods (**Fig. 6**). It's not required to remove any of the outside of the coil. Because the coil is looser inside, it flows out much easier (**Fig. 7**). I do recommend the brand shown in the picture. The fit of the lid and size of the package works great. Some of the other brands have lids that fit lower in the package. The cheese is tasty, too.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

Balloon Fairness Race

EFFECT: Balloons and a change bag are used to present a simple definition of fairness. This is more of an activity than a magic trick. A change bag is used to accomplish the point, but it's not intended to be seen as a magic trick.

METHOD: You'll need regular party balloons (lower quality is best). You'll be asking children to inflate the balloon and then sit on it to pop it. The faster it pops, the better. You'll also need balloons that are thirty-six inches in diameter, but you will need to order them from a balloon shop.

Place one large balloon on one side of the change bag and a small amount of party balloons on the other side. Children will choose from the party balloons; the adult will only have the choice of the large balloon.

I have always performed this in schools and used a teacher helper. I wrote this for a character show twenty or more years ago, but I also use it in my anti-bully show.

PRESENTATION: Have three seats available that are sturdy enough for the kids to sit on a balloon and not break the chair. Be aware that some chairs slide on the floor more than others. Stand behind the chairs during the contest in order to help keep the seats in place and prevent children from falling. The teacher should be seated in the third chair, in order for the large balloon to be chosen last. Choose a small boy, girl, and teacher. Do not choose kindergarten or first grade students because many younger children are not strong enough to inflate a balloon. Be aware of latex allergies and ask your helpers before exposing them to balloons.

When the teacher pulls the large balloon from the bag, the students will notice and laugh. This is exactly what you want for the purpose of the message. Be sure everyone can see that the teacher's balloon is larger before you begin the race.

Have some fast-paced music available to play in the background during the contest. You want the energy to be high during the contest and get the audience to cheer them on.

PRESENTATION: I need three helpers who are full of hot air. Our helpers will compete in a balloon-inflating-and-popping contest. I call it The Great Balloon Race. In just a moment, each helper will reach inside this bag and choose one balloon. On the count of three, you'll stand and start huffing and puffing to inflate your balloon. When your balloon is big enough, you should place it behind yourself and pop it with your *bottom!*

Please reach into the bag and grab a balloon. It doesn't matter which color. Each of our helpers has a balloon. On the count of three, stand and inflate your balloons. The first to pop the balloon with your bottom wins the great balloon race. One, two, three, go! (Play music during the race and cheer on the audience. The kids go nuts. Sometimes one child will pop a balloon quickly. Other times I allow the contest to run a short time and then I call a draw. I've never had a teacher pop the balloon.)

We have a winner! Wait, let me see the teacher's balloon. Guys, have you ever seen a balloon this big before? That's one big balloon. Do you think this contest was fair? No, it wasn't fair. Our teacher couldn't possibly inflate this balloon big enough to pop. When our teacher pulled the balloon out of the bag and we saw it was so large, did we know the contest wasn't fair? (Children will respond, "Yes.")

Yes, we could tell it wasn't fair. How did we act when we saw the balloon? (Some children will say they laughed, which is what you want to make the message clear.) Yes, we laughed. I know we are just having fun and I was playing a joke on our teacher. However, we can tell when someone is being treated unfairly, can't we?

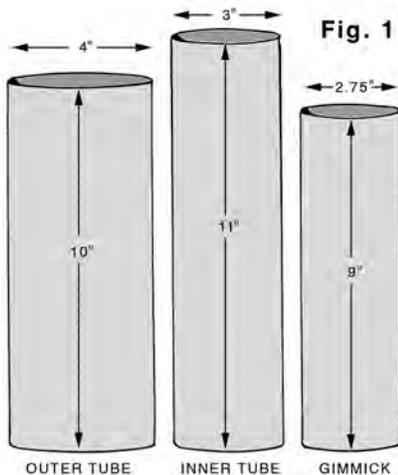
When we see that someone is being treated unfairly, we shouldn't just laugh, we should try to help and get help. Fairness means playing by the rules and remembering that everyone should have an equal chance to win. It also means that we should be willing to help someone who is being treated unfairly. We can tell when someone is being treated unfairly and *how we act* when we see the unfair treatment of others *reveals our character*.

Arrow Tubes aka Cylinders of Silliness

EFFECT: Two tubes are stacked inside each other. The outer tube has an arrow-shaped window revealing an arrow design on the inner tube. The tubes are shown empty with a variety of turns, concluding with a production of a bottle of Smartwater. I use Smartwater in my children's shows as a running gag. I tell the kids I'm starting to feel silly and when I feel silly, I use Smartwater. The gag continues to increase in fun as I take a sip between routines and the kids try to convince me I'm not getting smarter.

DIY INSTRUCTIONS: The tubes use black art and can easily be made in a few hours. You'll need three sizes of cardboard mailing tubes. I found the three-inch and four-inch tubes at Staples. Other needed items will be explained below. The thinnest (gimmick) tube has a diameter of approximately two and three-quarters of an inch. I had this tube at home, but you might be able to find this size at the UPS store or another office supply. A small bottle of Smartwater fits perfectly, so take one with you when shopping for the inner tube.

The tubes are cut nine inches long for the gimmick, eleven inches long for the inner yellow tube, and ten inches long for the outer red tube (Fig. 1).



The inner gimmick tube is covered with

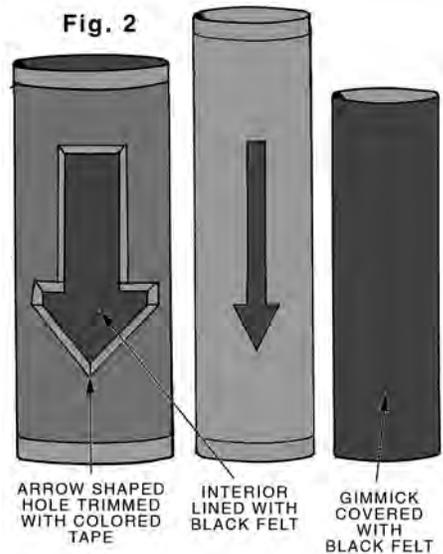
black adhesive felt. The felt comes in 9" x 12" sheets and is available at Hobby Lobby and Joann Fabric stores.

Felt is also used on the inside of the four-inch diameter tube. You may choose to paint the tubes black instead of using felt, but the felt makes the prop very deceptive.

Red construction paper or scrapbooking paper is laminated and then wrapped around the tube. By laminating the paper, it gives it a smooth finish and protects the prop from scratches and tears. Painting the tube is also an option.

The size of the arrow-shaped window is determined and cut before the paper is wrapped around the tube. The position and size of the arrow is based on the size of the gimmick. The window must be shorter and narrower than the gimmick.

When the arrow window has been cut out using a razor knife, the laminated paper may be added. Carefully cut the arrow design in the red paper after it is attached (Fig. 2).



Blue electrical tape is used to trim the edges of the arrow and the top and bottom of the tubes. Any colors may be used. The yellow tube is covered in the same way and decorated with red electrical tape. Red tape is used to create the arrow design on the yellow tube.

With the yellow tube removed and the black gimmick tube in position, it is invisible due to the black art. **Figure 2** shows the starting position of the nested tubes.

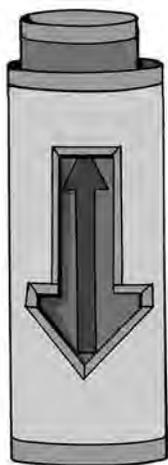


Fig. 3

PRESENTATION: (The tubes with load chamber and bottle are held in your hands. At the beginning of the presentation, the outside tube arrow is pointing down and the inside arrow is pointing up.)

I'm starting to feel silly. When I feel silly, I grab my cylinders of silliness. When the arrows are pointing in the correct direction, I have a solution for my silliness.

Oops, the arrows are pointing in the wrong direction. I'll move the yellow cylinder. (Casually show tube empty as you switch position of the tube.)

That's better. No, that's not correct either.

I'll move the red cylinder. (Casually show the tube empty as you switch position of tube.) Wow, I really am silly. That's not correct either.

What if I hold the cylinders like this? (Turn tubes on their sides to be horizontal.) That's just as silly.

How about I move the cylinders this way? (Turn the tubes vertical so the water bottle is now upside down. The arrow of the inside tube will point up and the outside tube will point down.) This is not working at all.

I've got it, I'll switch the yellow cylin-

der. (Switch inner tube leaving both arrows pointing down and bottle upside down.)

Nope. Both arrows need to be pointing up for this to work. What should I do?

Ah, you're correct. I need to turn both cylinders at the same time. (Turn tubes so everything points up.)

That's it. I don't need to feel silly anymore. I now have a bottle of Smartwater. This is how I stay so smart. (Produce bottle by lifting all three tubes at once leaving bottle sitting on hand.)

Friction Popcorn

EFFECT: I first published this in my book *Wee Wand Routines* in 2001. I started performing it at my school shows in 1996. It's a simple idea, it's one of my favorite routines, and it's loved by children. If you do educational shows, it opens up the subject of friction and thermal energy. By all means, give this one a try, you'll use it for everything from birthday parties to large children's events.

PROPS: Change Bag (I prefer the zipper change bag). Air-popped popcorn. Small bag of popcorn kernels. (To make air-popped corn: Pour a couple tablespoons of popcorn in a paper bag. Fold top and heat for a minute and twenty-five seconds. Overheating will burn the corn.)

METHOD: Place air-popped corn in one side of change bag. Have bag of popcorn available.

PRESENTATION: How many of you like popcorn? Wow, me too! I love popcorn and I usually make microwave popcorn, but that's so boring. That's why I invented friction popcorn!

Please take your hands and place them on your face. (Put hands on cheeks and change your voice slightly as if squeezing your face.) My hands are slightly cool. Take your hands away from your face. (Change voice back to normal.)

Place your hands together and start rubbing your hands back and forth. You'll notice your hands are getting warmer. You're creating friction heat – also known as thermal energy.

The rubbing together of two surfaces is called friction. Take your hands apart and place them on your face again.

(Change voice to silly version again.) You'll notice your hands are getting warmer. Take your hands away from your face. (Voice back to normal.)

Place them on your lap. You just created friction heat or thermal energy. We're going to use some of that heat to pop some popcorn. I'll need some helpers with some hot little hands. (Choose two volunteers.)

Do you like popcorn? (Place one kernel of popcorn in each child's hand.) Did you know these are miniature explosives? Inside each kernel is a small amount of moisture, also known as water. When the water gets hot, it changes into steam and then it starts to push against the sides of the corn trying to be free, until *boom!* Popcorn!

That's what we're going to make today.

(Get change bag.) We'll be using this acme magic bag. It has a zipper at the bottom with little zip-etts. (I love to say zip-etts. I heard David Copperfield use it during his Bill to Wallet routine *many* years ago. I don't know who deserves credit, but I love to say it.)

We'll pour the popcorn in the bag and see if we can create enough friction heat to pop the corn. Drop your kernels in the bag and I'll pour in the rest of the popcorn inside too.

Put your hands together and start rubbing. Our audience can rub along and we'll fill the room with friction heat. Keep rubbing and getting those hands warmer and warmer.

On the count of three, I want both of you to place both hands on the sides of the bag and the heat will transfer through the bag. (Switch the change bag to the popped corn.)

One, two, three, put your hands on the bag. (Start shaking the bag up and down while the helpers have their hands against the sides of the bag. The popcorn will begin to fly out as if it's popping out.)

You're popping the corn! (Children in the audience go wild at the sight of the

popcorn flying out of the bag.) Wow, you did it. You popped the corn! Would you like to try some? (Give each child a few pieces of popcorn to try.)

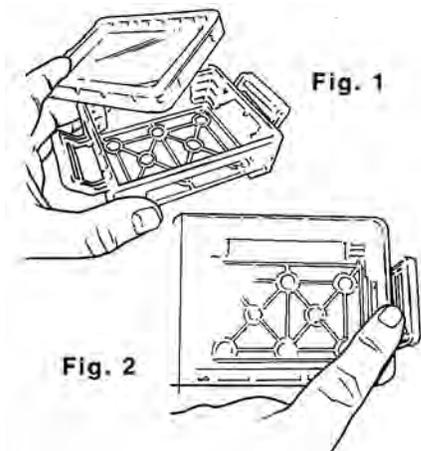
Do you like your own cooking? Wait, we forgot something. We forgot the sodium chloride. What is sodium chloride? You're right, it doesn't have much flavor without the salt.

The \$2 Gimmick

This is one of my favorite gimmicks. I've never shared this idea outside of my DVDs or my Smile Maker Studio streaming service. It's a clever way to hide sponge for a production effect. Several of the effects I sell on my website use a version of this gimmick.

I call it The \$2 Gimmick because they originally sold for more than a dollar. The price has gone up or down over the years, depending on the brand. The version I use now comes from Walmart. It is the Pen + Gear Plastic Storage Box. It is 4.72" x 3.38" x 1.57". It fits rather nicely in the bottom of a small brown paper lunch bag. There are a variety of sizes of these boxes, which means you might find a reason to produce a massive amount of sponge from a small space (**Fig. 1**).

There is a clip on each end of the box, which is easily opened with a slight push (**Fig. 2**).



It's even easier to open when the box is filled with sponge (Fig. 3). On one end of the box, I attach Velcro dots and use a strip of Velcro as a hinge. It's a simple system, which keeps the lid inside the paper bag when the gimmick is opened (Fig. 4 and 5).

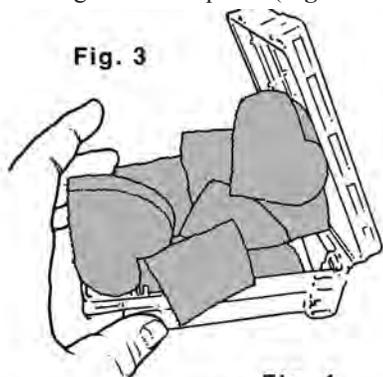


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

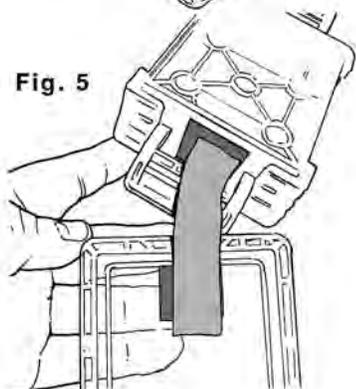


Fig. 5

Figure 6 shows the gimmick open inside a short bag. Figure 7 shows the gimmick closed inside a full-size paper lunch bag. A large amount of sponge balls may be compressed inside the box. When the clip is popped open, the lid explodes inside the paper bag. The gimmick can easily hold seven three-inch sponge balls, twenty-six two-inch sponge stars or hearts, twenty-two two-inch sponge balls, or three four-inch sponge balls.

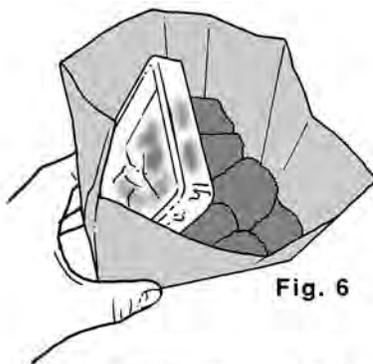


Fig. 6

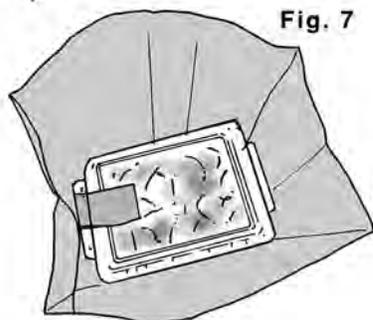


Fig. 7

What to Do?

What can we do with a plastic box and a few sponge balls? I'm glad you asked. I have a few ideas. Actually, I have *several* routines I've created for this gimmick. Here are three routines that might inspire you to create something amazing.

Routine 1 The Goose That Laid Giant Green Gumballs

PROPS: This routine uses two-inch green sponge balls. The \$2 gimmick is attached to the bottom of a wicker basket. The most difficult part of this routine is finding a basket that perfectly holds the gimmick and is tall enough to hide the lid when the gimmick is opened. I wish I could show you a picture of mine but after I finished performing the routine, my wife found another use for the basket. Please don't tell her I said that.

On top of the gimmick was a picture of a fake bottom of the basket. This idea comes from Tommy Johns, my magician

friend from Georgia. People from Georgia want others to know where they live. I took a photo of the bottom of the basket, printed it the same size as the basket itself, and attached the photo to a thin piece of cardboard. This covered the gimmick and allowed for the basket to be handled freely and appear to be empty at a glance. This is a stage routine, so no one is examining the props. I had enough room in the basket to move the fake basket bottom to the side and pop the gimmick to release the balls.

Load the gimmick with twenty two-inch sponge balls. Set the gimmick in place, cover with the fake bottom, and put three additional balls on top of the fake bottom.

PRESENTATION: Have you heard the story of the goose that laid giant green gumballs? What? Golden eggs! No. She laid giant green gumballs. What would you do with a golden egg? You can't eat it. You can't chew it. You can't throw it at your cousin. Well, my mom certainly wouldn't let me do it more than once. But giant green gumballs are candy-coated chewable goodness.

The farmer who owned the goose loved her. He called her Goose because she wasn't a duck. He sold the gumballs to gumball machine companies. The companies were able to charge more because the giant green gumballs are GMO . . . Goose Modified Orbs. All other gumballs are non-GMO. Not as popular.

Each night the farmer would place a little empty basket in the goose's nest. The next morning, he would remove the basket and carefully empty the gumballs into a big gumball bowl. (Remove three sponge balls from basket, which are on top of the fake basket bottom.)

The farmer and the goose were doing very well. The farmer loved the goose, and he made her a beautiful nest with a soft memory foam blanket. The goose had all she wanted of her favorite foods – green eggs and tuna fish. I agree, that's nasty.

Everything was fine until someone shared a picture of the goose on Instagram. In no time, there were lines of people

wanting to see the goose and get a selfie. One of the selfie-takers decided the goose might be a feathered candy factory for himself. He thought, if green eggs and tuna fish will make gumballs, maybe jalapeños and Kool-Aid will make jellybeans. Who knows what might come out of a goose, if you change what you put inside of a goose.

So, he stole the goose. (Spooky music is encouraged here.) He threw her in a cage with no blanket and no green eggs or tuna fish. He tried to get her to eat something different. He tried pickles in grape juice, but she wouldn't eat. He tried pizza with pistachios, but she wouldn't touch it. He tried garbanzo beans by themselves, but she still wouldn't eat. She became weaker and weaker, and the thief became more and more angry. Eventually, he took her back to the farm and left her on the farmer's porch in the middle of the night.

The next morning the farmer found her and placed her on her soft blanket. He gave her green eggs and tuna fish and she started to eat. She regained her strength. When the farmer posted the news on Facebook, there were over a million smile emoji reactions. Some people even commented, "Because of the goose, I started eating green eggs and tuna fish." That's still nasty.

Many have tried to figure out how someone could be so mean and greedy to steal a goose that lays gumballs. How could someone try to feed so many different things to the goose and expect a different response?

Someone asked the farmer why the goose lays giant green gumballs when she eats green eggs and tuna fish. The farmer said, "The secret of the goose isn't what she eats, it's what she feels. When she feels love, she gives her best. In the case of the goose, her best is giant green gumballs."

The farmer continued to place an empty basket in her nest each night. (Turn basket upside down to show empty.) Each morning he would remove the basket and fill up the gumball bowl. (Open the gimmick and begin to remove the balls from the basket. Continue telling the story while producing balls.)

I suppose the real question is, what do you do when you feel love? Next time you see a green gumball, remember the goose and show a little love to someone around you.

One more thing, I personally don't recommend green eggs and tuna fish. That's still nasty.

Routine 2 Bath Bag Bubble Bomb

PROPS: This routine uses a paper bag, and the gimmick is filled with several two-inch balls and one three-inch ball. The original routine used white sponge balls, but they are no longer available. We'll change the color to blue. Load the gimmick with balls and place in bottom of paper bag. Inside the bag place one additional two-inch ball, a rubber duck, a loofa, and a piece of rope. You may change the items and adjust the story to your preferences.

PRESENTATION: When I was younger, my mom gave me a bag for everything. I got a school bag, a lunch bag, a snack bag, and even a bath bag. My dad called her the bag lady. She didn't like that. She called him – well, that's not important.

My bath bag contains all my favorite items for tub time. My favorite soap on a rope (remove rope piece) which is now just a rope. My favorite loofa. (Remove loofa.) His name is Guada-Loff-e. And my favorite rubber ducky. (Remove duck.) His name is Earl. I love to give everything a name. The bag's name is Poke.

There was one more thing mom placed in my Poke. She called it the bath bag bubble bomb. It's like a little blue Jell-O ball. When you drop it in the tub, it makes magic soap bubbles. I like to name my soap bubbles, too, just before they disappear.

Would you like to see the magic? I don't have a tub, so we'll use Poke. In goes the bath bomb, along with a sprinkle of magic dehydrated water, and then we shake. (You may choose to use a salt shaker to repre-

sent the dehydrated water. This can add an element of conflict with the kids when they try to convince you it's salt. Close the top of the bag and shake.)

It worked. It's time to name the soap bubbles. This looks like a Fred. (Reach into bag, pop open the gimmick, and remove the balls one at a time while giving them names.) One more. (Remove largest ball.) I think I'll call him Tiny.

Routine 3 Dragon Eggs

PROPS: This presentation uses sponge eggs. Timothy Pressley offers a variety of colored, super soft sponge eggs through my website. I chose yellow because a black painted face shows up best. Painting the eggs is not necessary, but it sets up for the final line of the script.

To paint on sponge, I use Tulip brand dimensional fabric paint. It comes in all colors and is sold at most craft stores. I also used yellow Tulip paint to make small dots on a cardboard panel to represent tiny dragon eggs (**Fig. 1**).

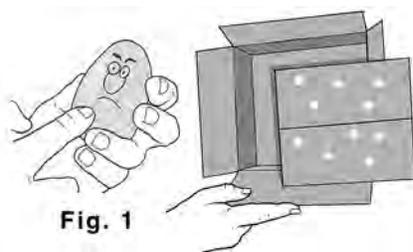
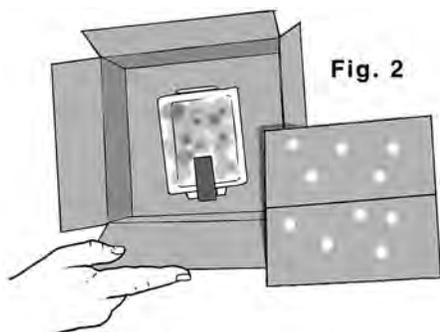


Fig. 1

I use a USPS Priority mailing box size 7" x 7" x 6". You'll need two of the mailing boxes in order to make a fake bottom to hide the \$2 gimmick. The fake bottom is made from two of the box flaps taped together. It lays on top of the \$2 gimmick when the prop is set for performance. It can easily be pushed on one side, which will flip it up and give access to pop the \$2 gimmick open. The \$2 gimmick is loaded with sponge eggs, putting in the painted egg first. The gimmick is Velcroed to the bottom of the box (**Fig. 2**).



You'll also need a small number of air pillows used for packaging. I also use a small candy container filled with tiny yellow candy, such as Nerds, to represent the dragon seeds. A container in which to place the eggs may be necessary during production. All these pieces come together to make a fun routine for kids.

One more thing: you'll need something that represents adding heat to the box. I use a plastic torch of doom, which is a toy torch from Oriental Trading. "Torch of doom" is what I call it – you won't find it listed that way at Oriental Trading.

SCRIPT: Do you know where dragon eggs come from? A dragon? No, they come from Amazon. They sell everything. I ordered a box. Would you like to see them? (Open box and remove packaging pillows and small container with yellow candy.) Dragon eggs are shipped very small for storage purposes, but they grow with heat. They eventually get big enough to hatch into full-size dragons.

We're not going to wait long enough for them to hatch because dragons make a mess in the kitchen. (Open candy container to casually show something small and yellow inside. This is a stage routine, so it's not necessary to show everything. Pretend to drop a small amount of the eggs into the apparently empty box.)

I'll put a few eggs in the box so you can see them. Dragon eggs are very sticky.

(Hold fingers against fake panel as you tip the box and allow the audience to see inside, per **Figures 3**.) You can see the eggs stuck to the bottom of the box.



For you to see these eggs grow, we must add heat. That's how dragon eggs grow into bigger eggs before they hatch. I have a plastic torch of doom. All performers travel with a plastic torch of doom. It's standard issue for magicians. You should ask the next magician you see. If they don't have one, they are probably not a *real* magician. I just hold the torch under the box to add heat. The eggs will start to grow.

It's happening. The eggs are growing. Do you want to see them? I need to remove the heat. They are starting to pop like popcorn. (Reach into box, push fake bottom to one side, and pop open the \$2 gimmick. Begin removing sponge eggs.) Here they come. These are soft-shell dragon eggs. You must be careful not to squeeze them. No one wants an angry baby dragon. Wow, I put way too many eggs in the box. Now I'm overflowing with dragon eggs.

One way to know these are actual dragon eggs is because some of them have a face on the egg. Here's one. (Show egg with face as in **Figure 1**.) There it is. A face only a dragon could love.

Send comments and appreciations to:

Barry Mitchell
barry@barrymitchell.com

Parade Contributions Wanted From Rings and Individuals

Send submissions as Microsoft Word documents to editor@magician.org.

Thanks, we look forward to hearing from you!



The Card Corner

MIKE POWERS

Color Ambitious

This is an improved version of an item from my first book, *Powerful Magic* (1983). As the title implies, this item is an Ambitious Card Routine (ACR) with a kicker ending. The ambitious card's back changes color. As a side effect, the signed card can be given away, leaving the spectator with a magical souvenir that they can show to their friends. A video demonstration of this routine can be found at www.mallofmagic.com/cardcorner. Scroll down to the bottom for the link. You will also find tutorials for moves tagged with an * at www.mallofmagic.com/themoves.

SET-UP: Let's say the deck is blue. You'll need a red-backed card that you'll give away at the end. You'll also need to remove the duplicate card from the blue deck. Let's say the red-backed card is the Four of Spades (4S). Since the card will be signed, it's good to use a spot card in order that the signature stand out. For greater impact, you can write the words "YOUR CARD" on the back of the odd-backed card. You'll also need a Sharpie marker so that the card can be signed.

The odd-backed card will be forced. It should be face up at the bottom of the face-down deck with one blue-backed card face up beneath it. In other words, the odd-backed card is face up second from the bottom, with a normal-backed card face up beneath it.

PROCEDURE: The following move will not only force the selection (4S) but will also leave it face up with two face-up normal cards beneath it. Thus, after a Triple Turnover, the forced card will be third from the top. (Check FINAL THOUGHTS for ideas on making double and triple lifts easier.)

THE FORCE: With the deck face down, obtain a right thumb break over the bottom two face up cards. Take the deck

into right-hand Biddle Grip* and swing cut about half the cards into the left hand (**Fig. 1**). Now begin to peel cards from the right hand's packet onto the deck in the left hand as you say, "Just say 'stop' any time." When the spectator says "stop," say, "You've stopped me at this card." Indicate the top card of the left hand's group. Push the card to a sidejogged position with the left thumb. Now begin to flip the card face up onto the left hand's packet using the cards in the right hand (**Fig. 2**).

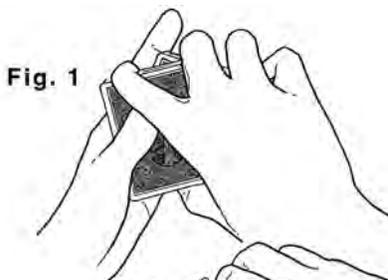


Fig. 1

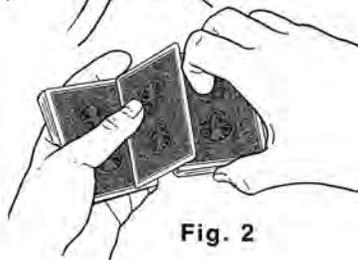


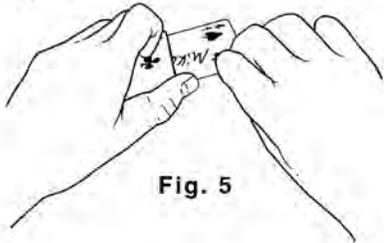
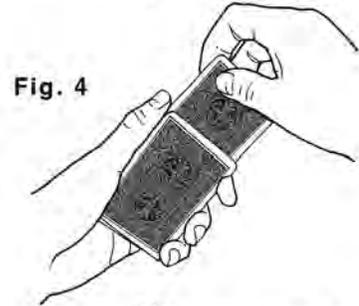
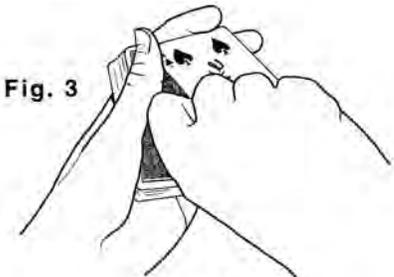
Fig. 2

Allow the right hand's cards to "kiss" the left hand's packet and allow the two cards below the thumb break to remain on the left hand's group as you move the right hand away. The force card (4S) will be seen on top of the left hand's packet. Apparently, this is the card that was stopped at. Clearly, you must not let anyone notice the identity of the card that's being flipped over. Be careful to completely cover it with the right hand's cards just for a moment.

Table the right hand's cards face down and continue with, "For security reasons, I want you to sign your card. So go ahead and uncap the Sharpie and sign your first name here. For stability, I'll leave the card on the deck. It'll be easier to sign that way." Indicate a spot in the center of the card.

PHASE 1: You want to be sure the spectators are paying close attention for maximum impact. Say, "I'm going to put your card into the middle of the deck. Be sure I don't cheat!" Now, perform a Triple Turnover (made easy by the fact that the three cards are reversed). Slowly remove the top card (an X card) with the right hand and place it face down on the tabled portion as you say, "No secret moves. No hanky-panky." Place the left hand's cards on the "selection" and square up the deck. Say, "The impossible has happened! Your card has risen from the center to the top." Pick up the deck in left hand dealing position and perform a Double Turnover*, revealing the face of the signed card.

PHASE 2: Because of the natural curvature of the cards, the top double can be easily manipulated. Move it to the position of **Figure 3** and then take it with the right hand as shown in the illustration. Say, "You can see that the card that's going in the center is your signed card." Move the squared double to the front of the deck and insert the two cards, as one, into the middle of the deck (**Fig. 4**). Note the position of the right thumb and fingers. Rotate both hands palm downward (**Fig. 5**) to show the face of the signed card. Now reverse that process, bringing the deck to a face-down position with the double still outjogged.



You will now use Marlo's Swivel Change* to keep the upper, normal colored card, outjogged while secretly pushing the selection flush with the deck. To wit: Push the top card of the pair to the left with the right thumb while simultaneously pulling the second card (selection) to the right, using the right first finger. **Figure 6** shows an exposed view.



Your right hand hides this condition from the spectators. Finally, use the left index finger to push the selection flush with the deck. Now you can use the right hand to move the outjogged card parallel with the deck. It should appear that you merely put the selection into the center of the deck and adjusted it.

Slide the half-deck above the outjogged card slightly inward. Now use the right thumb to riffle off the lowermost two cards of the injogged group and hold a break over these two cards. Push the injogged group flush with the deck while maintaining the break. This will position the two riffled cards on top of the selection with a thumb break above the two cards. Cut at the break as you say, "Your card is about halfway down in the deck." **Figure 7** shows what the spectators see.

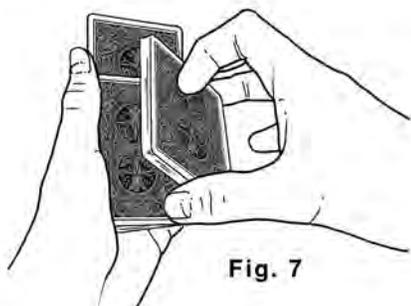


Fig. 7

Replace the right hand's cards on top of the deck with a break under them. Move the cards above the break forward a bit. **Figure 8** shows the current situation.

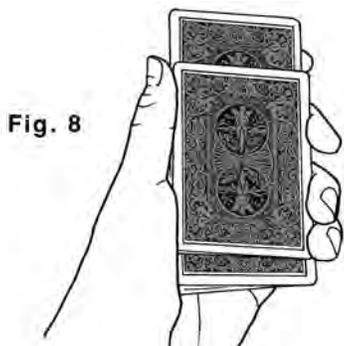


Fig. 8

Use the right hand to engage the ex-

posed cards and swivel five or ten cards to the position of **Figure 9**. Finally, pull these cards free and place them on top of the deck as you say, "I'll bury your card even deeper." Actually, you have moved the selection to a position third from the top. Make your magical gesture and then perform a Triple Turnover. It appears that the selection has risen for a second time.

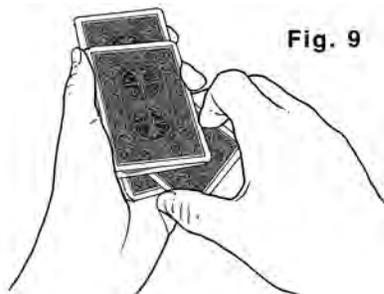


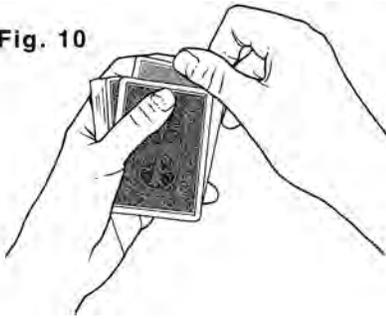
Fig. 9

PHASE 3: By this time, the spectators are really burning the deck. They can't imagine how the card jumps from the center to the top. Handle things very deliberately so as not to create even an iota of suspicion.

Say, "Don't look away." Flip the triple face down and pause. Remove the top X card and place it face down into the center of the deck. Push it flush and wait a beat or two to build suspense. Perform a final double turnover to show that the selection has, once again, magically come to the top of the deck. It is possible to add more ambitious phases. But I'm going to head for home at this point. In FINAL THOUGHTS, I'll mention methods for adding one or two more phases.

TAKING IT HOME: Flip the double face down. The idea is to remove the odd-backed selection in such a way as to not reveal the odd color yet. One easy way is to move the deck, which is in left-hand dealing position, to a vertical position and then use a Necktie Second Deal* (**Fig. 10**) to pull the second card (selection) out of the deck with its face toward the spectators. You can then put it face up on the pad for the final reveal. Whatever your method, the selection is now face up on the table.

Fig. 10



Rather than simply showing the odd back with the words “YOUR CARD” on it, try this: Say, “How do you know that this is your card?” The spectators will likely indicate that the signature is the proof. Say, “I made sure that this is *your card*. Look ...” Flip the card face down, revealing the odd back and the words “YOUR CARD” for the big ending. Give the card to the spectator as a souvenir of a very magical experience.

FINAL THOUGHTS: You will have to be very careful with the multiple lifts in order not to expose the odd back. One ploy is to establish that what creates the magic is the riffling at the inner short edge of the

deck. You could say, “All I do is riffle the cards like this ...” This will allow you to hold back either two or three cards as needed as you grab a break, making the double or triple lifts bulletproof.

I think that a three-phase routine is perfect, given the kicker ending. But you can add more ambitious card phases if you like. One way is to obtain a TILT* break under the third card, allowing you to put the double card into the break. This would give you another phase. Alternately you could flip the double face down and then Double Cut* the bottom card to the top. You’d then show that the selection is not the top card and finally proceed with a Triple Turnover*. I’m recommending using three phases, as described, and the kicker.

Thanks to Robin Dawes for pointing out that putting the words “Your Card” on the back not only gives you the final bit of presentation, but also increases the power of the ending.

Mike Powers

mpowers@mallofmagic.com

I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

(Continued from page 67)

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 67.**



Simple Diversions

ANDREW WOO

Snap Happy

In its purest form, this does not qualify as a magical effect but as a bit of comical business. Ideal for waking up sleeping audiences or possibly dealing with less-than-cooperative individuals. You know what I'm speaking about. Nevertheless, whenever there is a lull in the act, this can be easily incorporated for a few laughs. Although this effect uses playing cards, it is *not* a card trick. Read on.

EFFECT: The magician gives a spectator the chance to win money. A twenty dollar bank note is placed on the performance surface, and on top of that rests a playing card box. The magician directs the spectator to shuffle the deck. The spectator tries but is unable to shuffle it, while the audience erupts in laughter.

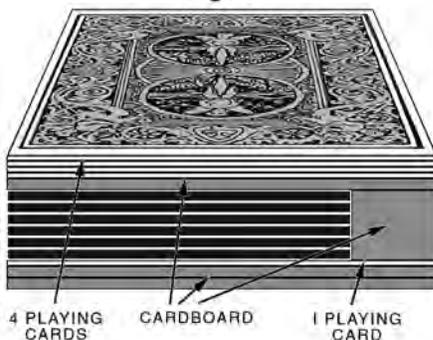
PREPARATION: It is possible to do this with a regular deck of cards. The preferred method would be to use a card box, cardboard pieces (approximately one-sixteenth of an inch thick), five disposable playing cards, liquid glue, business card magnetic backing pieces, a pencil, an X-Acto knife, a Bang Cap trigger mechanism, and red Bang Caps. In addition, a bank note of any denomination.

Using the cardboard pieces, construct a fake deck with a section cut out specifically for the Bang Cap trigger mechanism. The reason for using the business card magnetic backing pieces is simply to add weight to form a more realistic tactile impression of the card box. Of course, any method of construction will do, as the card box will not be opened by the spectator. Anyway, here is the

detailed construction of the fake deck of cards.

Starting from the top, glue four random playing cards, followed by one piece of cardboard, six business card magnetic backing pieces (with cardboard of equal thickness to complete the width of the box), one playing card, and two pieces of cardboard (**Fig. 1**).

Fig. 1



Place the Bang Cap trigger mechanism on the bottom of the fake deck and centre it. Use the pencil to draw its outline. Then, use the X-Acto knife to cut the outline at a sufficient depth, so that the box will remain flat when resting on the performance surface. Do the same with the card box. Glue the Bang Cap trigger mechanism onto the fake deck, insert it into the card box, and glue it permanently closed.

Once dry, open the Bang Cap trigger mechanism, insert one of the red Bang Caps, set the trigger, and place the deck on the performance surface but close to the edge of the table, where you are seated.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

The magician invites an audience member to join them at the table for a friendly game in which the spectator can win ten dollars. The audience member sits across from the magician at the table.

The magician reaches into their pants pocket and removes their wallet. They withdraw a twenty dollar note and place it on the performance surface, while ensuring that it is situated closer to them than to the spectator. The magician sets out the rules of the game by prefacing, "There is an opportunity for you to win ten dollars. We will play a little game of which there is zero risk to you. Okay?" Slide the deck off the edge of the table, using your thumb to keep the trigger from being prematurely released. Place the deck, trigger-side down, on top of the bill (Fig. 2).

The magician continues, "In a moment there will be a unique opportunity for you to snatch that bill and keep it. When the opportunity arises, it will be crystal clear. Ready? But first, pick up the deck and thoroughly shuffle the cards." As the spectator picks up the deck, the Bang Cap will activate, startling the spectator into a momentary lapse of mental acuity. As the bill is purposely situated closer to you, it is just a matter of quickly snatching the bill. With the response, "Maybe next time." Return the bill to your wallet.



Fig. 2

NOTE: It is possible to soften the blow by exchanging the gimmick deck for a lollipop, gift card, or even a handshake to thank them for being a good sport. As an option, you can switch decks prior to the effect. If by chance you are not inclined to make this effect, I do have a few red and blue decks in stock.

Until next month ...

Andrew Woo

andrew@magicalwoo.com

www.magicalwoo.com

Teaching Magic – from page 82

Now mention that "I did write the name of another card on the back of the prediction card." Turn over the prediction card and show them the surprise. When you do the dealing in tandem from each deck, do not count the cards out loud. You are just turning the cards over while looking for the Three of Spades. When you are in the second phase of the effect, you mention the prediction on the back of the card while dealing. Everyone now starts thinking about the impossible. The number of cards they cut off reveals the predicted card. This is a mind blower. Easy enough that anyone can do it, and you get a very strong magical moment. If they put the prediction card on the left-hand pile, then you get two magical moments. If they place it in front of the right pile, no problem, you get a laugh instead. <https://youtu.be/j0ja1bTepE>



Auto-magic

MICHAEL BREGGAR

Wow – we’re getting really close to the “Auto-Magic” century mark! This is the ninety-seventh column!

Before we jump into this month’s mini-miracle, I want to pay a visit to *The Department of Clarifications*. Readers really enjoyed John Carey’s superb “Scattered,” which appeared in the July 2023 issue. I received several emails from folks who needed a tidier explanation to make things work. So, let’s get clarified.

As noted, the aces start at the top of the deck. Shuffle, retaining the aces on top. Spread the deck and upjog about a quarter of the cards from the middle. As the right hand comes over to swivel out these upjogged cards, the left thumb pushes the top card (an ace) slightly to the right so the left pinky can be slipped under and hold a left pinky break. Now, *remove the upjogged cards and turn them face up, commenting on this face-up card. This packet is placed face up on top of the deck.* Your right hand then lifts off *all the cards above the left pinky break* – the face-up cards plus the face-down ace. Table the packet and repeat this action three more times. Stack the four face-up packets on top of the remaining cards in your hand (face-up also). Proceed to the revelation.

I hope this helps.

Two-Ring Circus

What follows is an oldie but goodie. I can’t remember where I first learned it, but Aldo Colombini, Walter Gibson, and others have versions. I suspect it evolved from a Ken de Courcy idea as it seems very *Magigram-ish!* This is my version.

You open a small paper bag and turn it over, dumping its contents to the table. Out

pours half of a candy bar, a couple of crumpled dollar bills, a used pencil, a shoelace, and two two-inch rings – one red and the other white. You casually show the inside of the bag to be empty. “I was once asked that if I had real magic powers – like Merlin or Harry Potter-like magic powers – what would be the first thing I’d do?” As you speak, you have rummaged through the debris on the table and picked up the shoelace. “Well, it wouldn’t be this!” Picking the shoelace and the pencil off the table, you open the paper bag. You first drop the shoelace into the bag and then, from the inside of the bag, you use the pencil to punch a hole on the left side of the bag, about midway. You then thread one end of the shoelace through the hole so about a third of the lace dangles outside of the bag. With the pencil, punch another hole on the opposite side of the paper bag and, as before, run the other end of the shoelace through. If you wish, you can slide the lace back and forth.

Addressing a participant, ask “Can you pick up the candy bar and hand it to me?” When you receive the candy bar, take another bite out of it, start to hand it back to the spectator, but they certainly won’t want it! So, just toss it into the bag! Now ask them to pick up one of the two rings, either the red or white one. Let’s say she has picked the red ring off the table. You bring the paper bag towards her and have her drop the ring into the bag. Immediately, you fold down the top of the bag a little bit. “You had a choice of the red ring or the white ring. Correct?” You shake the bag; everyone can hear the ring bopping around. “The remnants of the candy bar provide the essential oils to make the magic happen – although when it’s hot, it can get a little messy!” Now, a second

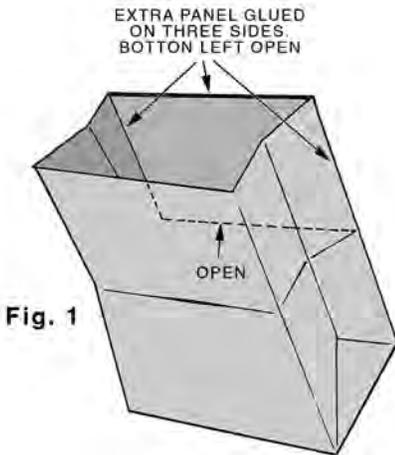
helper, Seth, joins you and Marilyn. You hold the bag high, about nose level, and ask Marilyn to hold one end of the shoelace while Seth holds the other. "Hold these ends *tight*. Don't let go." You grasp the bottom of the bag with both hands and say, "Merlin and Harry Potter ... you may be super magical, but let's see you do this ... !"

With that, you yank the paper bag downwards. The shoelace tears through the bag as Seth and Marilyn maintain a tight grip. Amazingly, the red ring spins in the center of the shoelace!

Ring, String, Thing.

Here is another installment to satisfy my recent obsession with ring-on-rope routines! This one is the utmost of simplicity, yet it surprises me even today how many people are absolutely fooled by it!

The paper bag is a "lunch-style" bag, eight by six inches. Take the closed bag and fold it in the middle and press to sharpen the crease. Now take another bag identical to the first bag and from any side cut out a rectangle the same width of the bag by a height of approximately four inches. Look at the creased area *inside* the good bag and glue the rectangle you just cut aligned with a crease. Apply the glue to just the edges of the rectangle, and only to three of the edges. You are making a pocket inside this bag. The pocket opening should be pointing *downwards* when the bag is opened and is mouth up (**Fig. 1**). Aligning it to a crease makes it difficult to detect.



Two more steps to get ready. You will need two identical shoelaces. You can make things really deceptive if you use plain white shoelaces and smudge a little dirt on them in the exact same spots. I use inexpensive, light plastic rings. You will need two red rings but only a single white ring. Lace one of the red rings onto a shoelace and tuck it into the inside bag pocket. Hold the bag sideways so that the lace and ring do not slip out of the pocket and into the bag proper. Now, toss the other white shoelace, duplicate red ring, white ring, candy bar half, pencil, and whatever debris you want (!) into the bag. Fold it as flat as you can, keeping it sideways. You are ready to begin.

As you begin the effect, you grasp the bag, which has been folded as flat as possible and is sleeping on the table. As you lift the bag, your hand should be close to the bottom. The other hand pops open the mouth of the bag. Tilt the bag close to ninety degrees and let the shoelace, red and white ring, pencil, and detritus drop to the table. Your spectators may wish to examine things and that is okay. You may even want to encourage it, but that's up to you. Note that because of the way the pocket has been glued inside, the duplicate lace/ring stays put. When the bag's mouth is open towards the table, the open end of the pocket is upwards. Almost like an egg-bag.

Follow the presentation above. Have someone hand you the shoelace, which you then drop into the open bag. (Note: You will have turned the open bag mouth up. This will release the duplicate lace/ring to the bottom of the bag. Lightly grab the duplicate with your fingers, through the outside of the bag, to hold things in place.) The silly bit with the candy bar gives you a reason to completely drop the shoelace into the bag before taking the pencil. As presented above, you'll pierce a hole on opposite sides of the bag, poking the pencil point from the inside out. The holes should be about halfway from the top of the bag. Take the pencil out of the bag and hand it to a participant. Now, you will take the end of the previously hidden shoelace and thread that through one of the

holes. Immediately push the other end of the ring-looped lace through the opposite hole. Be certain to keep the threaded duplicate ring in place (otherwise, you have no finale!). The shoelace you dropped into the bag a moment ago is now lightly held in place by your outside fingers. "Magician's choice" is used for the ring selection. Ask your assistant to pick a ring off the table. If it is the red one, hold the bag near her *above eye level* and have her drop the ring in the bag. If she picks up the white ring, *say nothing, just pick up the red*

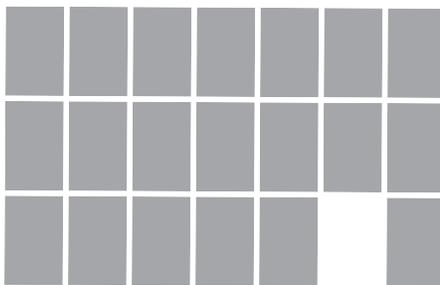
ring and toss it into the bag with a flourish.

Your work is done, and you can move to the ending. When you pull the bag down (while your helpers hold the threaded shoelace tightly), immediately crumple the bottom a little so there is no danger that the duplicate lace and ring will fall out.

This effect is all about presentation and timing. Practice it well. It is *so much fun* to perform and audiences are truly amazed.

Shoe me an effect of yours at mbreggar-magic@gmail.com.

Missing Linking Rings?



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

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



Books

Magicseen Magazine – Masterclass, Volumes 1-3

Available from www.trickshop.com. \$12.64 per volume (PDF file format), or all three for \$26.54. Also available from www.magicseen.com for £10 (no discount).

MASTERCLASS

Magicseen Magazine is a magic publication from the United Kingdom. It is primarily known as a features magazine, but each issue also contains several magic or mentalism effects. Those effects have been harvested and published as very low-cost digital downloads that are now available from *Trickshop.com*. Any order containing two or more items qualifies the entire order for a 30 percent discount, bringing the total package down to an incredible price of \$26.54, or about fifteen cents (US) per trick.

In total, there are one hundred and sixty-eight tricks across the three volumes. Obviously, this review cannot detail or even list all of them and their many contributors. But to whet your appetite, contributions include names such as Max Maven, Boris Wild, David Stone, Aldo Colombini, Wayne Dobson, Jay Sankey, Mathieu Bich, Marc Paul, Trevor Lewis, Joshua Jay, John Bannon, Peter Diffie, Andy Nyman, Dan Garrett, and Vincent Hedan. I don't see a name on this list that I wouldn't pay fifteen cents for one of their tricks.

Each volume is delivered as a PDF file. They run between 120 and 185 pages each.

They have a full-color cover page and an index organized by creator and title. The fonts are easy to read and the effects contain both line drawings and photographs (color and black-and-white) as appropriate.

Each effect is covered in full detail and runs several pages. Most effects contain credits. Card tricks are heavily featured, but there is something here for everyone. You are encouraged to go to the websites and read all of the offerings, but below is a random sample of a few from Volume 1:

- The Erdnase Story – Woody Aragon
- It Takes Guts Damn It Vanishing Deck – John Hotowka
- Linking Rope Rings – Trevor Lewis
- Check Mate – Mathieu Bich
- ESP 3-Way – Ian Thomson
- Right Between the Eyes – Rafael Benatar
- Wife Swapping – Tim Ellis
- Cheers – Camilo
- Assembly – Jozsef Kovacs
- Dollars And Sense – Jay Sankey
- The Anytime, Anywhere on Anybody Drawing Duplication – Marc Paul
- The 'Squeeze' Ring Off Cord – Mark Leveridge
- Frozen Rodent – Max Maven
- Rocket Card – David Stone
- Coins And Card – Joachim Solberg
- Surprise Prediction – Wolfgang Riebe

This review has taken me an incredibly long time to write. Why? Because we're talking about one hundred and sixty-eight tricks and I can't stop reading. Each trick seems better than the last.

I noticed some minor formatting issues when I viewed them in Microsoft Word, but the volumes appear perfect in Adobe

Reader. Running Microsoft Word on a Mac may be contributing to my problem. If you see a problem on your device, try a different reader.

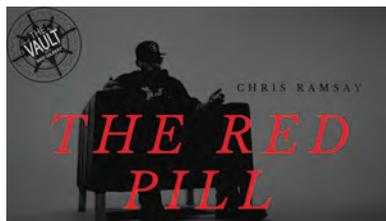
In a world where magicians purchase a fifteen-minute download of a mediocre card trick for \$30 (and we've all done it), I can't imagine anyone not feeling that they got their money's worth with these one hundred and sixty-eight tricks for less than \$30. Volume 4 is in production as of the time of this review.

Highly recommended. *Fred Rosenbaum*

Videos

The Vault – The Red Pill

Chris Ramsay. Available from Your Favorite Dealer. Wholesale from Murphy's Magic Supplies. www.murphymagic.com. \$15.95.



This offering from the Vault includes two effects from Chris Ramsay's personal working repertoire that he calls "Red Pill" and "Secret." Both are interactive routines that guarantee a personal connection with your audience.

In Red Pill, two decks are presented to two spectators. One deck is an open pack of blue-backed cards and one is a fully sealed red deck. You show that the red deck is sealed from both sides before placing it between the hands of one of the spectators, which makes the reveal something they never expect! The other spectator selects a card from the open blue pack. Moments later, the selected blue-backed card has now vanished from the open pack and impossibly appears face-up, sealed between the sealed cellophane and box of the red deck. This is the red card from the sealed red deck. When the red deck is un-

sealed and the cards are removed, there is one blue-backed card, in new deck order; it is the selected card from the blue deck!

In Secret, imagine showing a spectator a sealed deck of cards, placing it between their hands, and having them think of a playing card. Now imagine that the card they just thought of is now impossibly trapped and sealed inside the cellophane which has never left their hands! The best part is that everything is fully examinable and the spectator can decide to tear open the deck to find out how it was done, or keep it sealed as an impossible souvenir!

Ramsay shows you enough information to modify your work to improve the method, but you can just do what he teaches. The gimmick construction is extremely difficult, but you have an incredible effect that blows people away once it is done. While this makes a fantastic giveaway for a performance, you are giving away a brand-new deck of cards and a few minutes of prep work each time you do. Ramsay says that the setup takes him five to ten minutes, but that ten to fifteen minutes is more realistic for your first time. I recommend you make a few at once.

Some sleights are involved, but you are free to choose your own method and there are no difficult moves. Ramsay tells his audience that the magic starts after showing the selected card inside the plastic wrap of the sealed deck. However, doing this version requires opening the deck, which in turn requires a new deck set-up for each performance. You may want to stop before the "magic starts." This leaves you with a non-damaged deck that can be used over and over again. If you are working at a party or a bar, I suggest that you make up a few decks with different cards. It can't get much stronger if you perform for someone and they then see you do it for someone else with a different card.

The download is an hour and a half long. Ramsay spends the first thirty minutes showing how to make the gimmicks. The camera work, angles, explanation, and quality of the video are excellent. Ramsay's

presentation is very detailed and easy to understand. You will need to make a new card box gimmick every time you perform Red Pill. The gimmick will take about fifteen to twenty minutes to make and is not hard. The gimmick requires a little arts-and-crafts work with things you probably already have in your magic supplies and equipment drawer (tape, glue, empty card box, new deck, and X-Acto knife) and some patience.

Ramsay includes a section on sleights. He finishes up with a section on tips and ideas. There are no live performances of the routines, although the promotional video shows Ramsay performing the tricks with a live group. It would have been nice to see Ramsay perform this to live spectators with the download. This is a great sealed deck trick and well worth the purchase price. Go and get it!

There is a lot of work to do, everything considered, but it's worth the small investment.

Recommended. *Bob Patterson*

The Vault – Wing

Ade Rahmat. Available from Your Favorite Dealer. Wholesale from Murphy's Magic Supplies. www.murphysmagic.com. \$10.

Magic can't get any more visual than Ade Rahmat's *Wing*. It is a perfect tool for visual transformations! You show a playing card and the card just disappears with the wave of a Sharpie marker! It can be

used to change a playing card to a real dollar bill, or you can change a blue-back deck to a red-back deck. Other tricks are also possible.



Wing is highly recommended for social media. However, it is not something that can be done with a live audience without lots and lots of practice with even the best audience management skills. It's not angle-proof. But for video, it looks great and appears quite impossible.

Wing is surprisingly easy to build and perform. The sixteen-minute tutorial download is easy to follow. The gimmick construction requires minor arts-and-crafts work with items you may already have available, or are otherwise inexpensive to purchase. Rahmat took nine-and-a-half minutes to build the gimmick. The Sharpie and card are not examinable.

Wing is recommended for magicians who have a social media presence. If you study the routine and practice with it, it will be within your difficulty level.

Recommended as noted. *Bob Patterson*

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Broken Wand

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

MAINUL KAHN

Mainul Kahn, 80, of Uttara, Dhaka, Bangladesh, died July 12, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 32049 and had been a member since 1977. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 295. A professional architect, Mainul was best known in Bangladesh for his closeup magic and mentalism, drawing sold-out shows in auditoriums into his late seventies. He served as a president of his Ring. He also organized his country's first magic society, the Bangladesh Gono Jaduchakra, in 1972. He was the first Bangladesh magician to perform on national television. He learned magic from a snake charmer at age ten and was performing regularly as a teenager in Satkhira. In 1963 he was admitted to study architecture at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. He later moved to Saudi Arabia, where he worked as a government architect for eighteen years. In Saudi, he performed for royalty, on television, and worked closeup on weekends at luxury hotels. He returned to Bangladesh in 1997. His mentorship of younger magicians earned him the name "Professor of Magic" in that country.



KENNETH W. KREBS

Kenneth Walter Krebs, 83, of the Bronx, New York, died June 9, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 23327 and had been a member since 1992. He belonged to the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 26. Performing under the stage name "Candini the Great,"

his children have early memories of trips to Manhattan to visit Tannen's Magic Shop, seeing shows at Mostly Magic, and attending conventions, during one of which they met David Copperfield.

How Candini got started in magic is no mystery. As he told it, when he was a kid, there was a magic trick offered for a penny or so on the comic strip inside a Bazooka Joe bubblegum wrapper. He sent away for the trick and it delighted him. As a youth, he had a five-drawer dresser devoted to his magic equipment. The dresser would later become known to his children as "the magic closet." Kenneth was a sleight-of-hand enthusiast who mastered card, smoke, fire, coin, rope, and ring effects. As a high school Spanish teacher, he was known to teach by doing magic shows in Spanish. His children remember falling asleep at night to the sound of his wand tapping on a metal bowl as he practiced producing sponge balls from under it, in preparation for class the next day. He eventually became a children's magician and was well known around the Tri-State area, sometimes pictured in local newspapers. Families would call upon Candini year after year to entertain at their family events, along with his white rabbit, Harvey, and his dove, Gregory. He would often incorporate the adults as assistants, donning them in ridiculous props and costumes to the delight of the children. He was a master of incorporating one-line puns, jokes, and storylines into his show. He never left a party until every child had gotten to pet Harvey and received a balloon animal. Candini's grandchildren have taken an interest



in magic, receiving tricks as gifts on each of his visits. Candini incorporated his love of Salsa dancing into his magic. In a show he produced for the Ring, he brought with him a group of semi-professional salseros who performed in full costume as part of the show. He died on the way to his car after an afternoon of shooting billiards with his friends. The bag he was carrying included a magic trick in the side pocket. He is survived by four children, ten grandchildren, and six nieces and nephews.

PETE LABRUZZO

Pete S. Labruzzo, 88, of Tampa, Florida, died June 17, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 63463 and had been a member since 2002. He belonged to Rings 42 and 175. Pete earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Arts Education from the University of Tampa in 1957 and went on to get his Master of Arts Degree from Appalachian State University in 1968. He spent thirty-two years as a teacher and administrator in the Hillsborough County Public School system. He ended his education career as director of Brewster Technical Center, a Tampa community college. Pete was a member of the Most Holy Redeemer Church in Tampa. He was also a veteran of the United States Navy and spent eight years in the Naval Reserve. Pete performed magic at charity shows all around Tampa, with the Hope Children's Home being one of his favorite venues. Pete is survived by his sister Cathy Ridings (Larry), his daughter Colette, grandchildren Damien and L.T., and extended family.



GREG LINDSAY

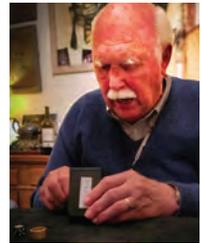
Greg Lindsay, 73, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, died June 14, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 19137 and had been a member since 1963. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Excelsior (sixty years of

continuous membership). He was born in Maryland and spent weekends of his youth at the revered Yogi Magic Mart in Baltimore, owned by Phil Thomas. Greg had a quick wit and was always ready with a joke or comment while performing. After a career in real estate and insurance, Greg went on to open and operate a brick-and-mortar magic shop in Greensboro, North Carolina. He traveled to magic conventions as a dealer. In addition to being a magician and magic collector, Greg was also a master bridge player, world traveler, and "foodie." He loved travel and cruising, and he died on his sixty-ninth cruise. He is survived by his wife Corazon Lindsay.



MARTIN (MARTINUS) SMITT

Martin (Martinus) Smitt, 88, of Westbroek, The Netherlands, died March 4, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 40262, and had been a member since 1985. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 78. He performed under the stage name "The Great Garibaldi" and served as ring president for more than ten years. Martin was also active in the Nederlandse Magische Unie" (NMU) and served on the board of 52 Schakels. Martin started doing magic at the age of twelve years. He began by performing magic at parties, and later specialized in close-up and card magic. He was very proud of his invention of the complex three-piece pom-pom stick. After Martin's career as a general practitioner, he began to devote more of his time to magic. He is survived by his spouse Meta, son Martijn, daughter Karlienke, daughter-in-law Manon, and five grandchildren.



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WANT TO SUBMIT A RING EVENT?

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

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

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

Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



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. Reports of excessive length may be edited to meet space requirements. Please notify the reports editor, Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org, if changes need to be made to your Ring report headings (such as changes in officers' names, addresses, or times of meetings).

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

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

Ring 1 does not meet in July; however, the members are looking forward to the annual "Ice Cream Social" and flea market which take place during the August meeting. Members are encouraged to bring their "old" or "unwanted" magic to sell at the flea market. They need to remember to also bring money so they can purchase the magic others no longer want or need. The annual Close-up Contest is scheduled to take place at the September meeting. Members who wish to compete should submit their name to Steve Queen (the winner of last year's contest). On September 24 the Ring has planned a President's Banquet at Rosalita's Cantina in Des Peres, MO.

In June, Jill "Silly Jilly the Clown" Schmidt attended Clown Camp in Wisconsin. She had a blast and learned tips to improve her magic shows. She carpooled with Columbia, MO resident Kathleen Neason who Jill became Facebook friends with thanks to the Midwest Magic Jubilee. Kathleen saw Jill's post raving about Clown Camp, so Kathleen enrolled. "Clown Camp changed my life," says Kathleen. Jill has been going to Clown Camp since 1995, attending approximately half of them.

On the evening of July 7, 2023, The Weingarten was transformed into a world of enchantment and wonder as Christian the Magician and Joshua Weidner joined forces to deliver a spellbinding magic show. Opening the show, Joshua Weidner took the stage. With each act, he seamlessly blended humor and mind-boggling tricks, captivating the audience's attention from the very first moment. Weidner's performance set the stage for an unforgettable evening of magic. Closing the show with infec-

tious energy and flair, Christian the Magician stepped into the spotlight. His new, twenty-minute routine dazzled spectators with a seamless fusion of mentalism effects, weaving a captivating narrative that kept everyone on the edge of their seats. The highlight of his set was a remarkable variation on his renowned "Bill In Instagram In Lemon" routine, leaving the audience in awe and wondering how the bill ended up in the Lemon. The majority of the audience consisted of non-magicians, eagerly embracing the opportunity to immerse themselves in the realm of magic. Gasps of astonishment and bursts of laughter filled the air. The Weingarten, the esteemed venue hosting the magical affair, expressed their utmost satisfaction with the turnout and the caliber of the show. Talks are already underway for a command performance before the year's end. After an hour and ten minutes of non-stop, spellbinding entertainment, the echoes of applause reverberated throughout The Weingarten as the audience gave a standing ovation. Attendees departed with a renewed sense of wonder and a shared memory of an extraordinary night where the impossible became possible.

Gary S. Chan performed stage mentalism in Warsaw, Poland, in June 2023. He wowed audiences with predictions, influences, and a quick wit. Perhaps more importantly, he and his wife took the opportunity to travel around Poland, enjoying the sights, food, and excellent weather.

Dan Todd shared the following: "Being retired from a day-to-day job allows me the freedom to volunteer my time at four children's hospitals, three individually as an official hospital volunteer and a fourth one through the Healing Powers of Magic (Ring 1's program). The last official volunteer position I applied for had the most hurdles, Shriners Children's Hospital of St. Louis, MO. Even though I had performed for special events there for almost ten years as part of Ring 1's Healing Powers of

Magic, there were about twenty documents to sign in front of a notary and a physical exam which included hearing, vision, blood, and urine. While all the hospitals get background checks on their volunteers, Shriners also requires proof of many immunizations and vaccinations. They, also, to be as stringent as possible, added a series of Hepatitis B shots, spread out over several months. At two of the hospitals, I teach or just play chess with the children. This is sponsored by the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis. I get paid to teach, yet the volunteer hours from the hospitals are through the Chess Club. A paid volunteer! The chess work for Children's Hospital of St. Louis, started as a special event and morphed into volunteer time. This was partly my fault. They had to come down to greet me at the door each time for special events, so I suggested I become a volunteer so that I could just come on up when I arrived. As the volunteer process progressed, they started to realize that "outsiders" for repeat special events had no background checks of verification of vaccinations, etc. The day before I was officially cleared, they said that I could not be with the children until approved! Now for the magic. I have a variety of venues each month and at each one do different things. At Shriners Hospital of STL, I perform close-up and strolling magic in the lobby for the families who are waiting to see the doctors, as well as when I perform at special events. At Children's Hospital of STL, I perform thirty-minute magic shows on their CCTV monthly. This means I am in a room with just a person controlling the audio/visual. No kids, unless they call in or if they are at a special event. Starting in July, Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital wants me to perform parlor magic in a classroom. Once a month at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital, I represent I.B.M. Ring 1, usually with other magicians, on a small stage, open platform setting."

Trudy Thomas Monteith (a.k.a. Trudy Monti-Monteith) now has two books available on Amazon. She is the editor/publisher of these murder mystery books, which were originally published in a newspaper by author Albert Payson Terhune. Neither were ever published as a book. The stories are the same; however, one takes place in New York (brownish cover) and the other takes place in St. Louis (blue cover). Reviews have been very positive. One reader stated "As good as a real Sherlock Holmes mystery." Another reader stated, "an exceptional book that effortlessly captures the essence of Sherlock Holmes." The books, *The Fatal Chord: The Baffling Mystery of the Carnegie*

Hall Murder (New York) and *The Fatal Chord: The Baffling Mystery of the Odeon Murder* (St. Louis) can be ordered through Amazon or from Trudy, if a reader would like an autographed copy.

The Midwest Magic Jubilee (a joint collaboration between I.B.M. Ring 1 and S.A.M. Assembly 8) will hold an election for officers on September 14. Following are the candidates who have accepted a nomination: General Chairman Trudy Monti-Monteith and Scott Smith; Vice Chairman John Apperson and Gary Chan; Secretary Paul Gregor; and Treasurer Sandy Weis. Members who belong to both the national and local organizations of either or both clubs are encouraged to vote. *Sandy Weis*

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

Before our stage contest began, Jim Capobianco shared more details of the magic summer camp that many club members are working on producing. Our site host, the Wallingford Community Arts Center is running an arts summer camp, and our members are providing magic classes to students ranging from kindergarten to high school age. The club has created a detailed curriculum for the classes, and we all hope that it will generate interest in a new generation of magicians.

The night's main event was the Annual Stage Competition. Dave Hale arranged for our guest judges and the prizes. Five members vied for the honors. Steve Friedberg moved away from his mastery of cards to attempt some mental magic. After getting a page in a paperback book selected using random numbers called out by the audience, he asked for a helper to go to that line in the book and look at the first three words. He successfully guessed the first letter of each of the three words, and then wrote down three words on a clipboard. His three words were: "Carafe of Whiskey." Sorry, not the words in the book. The correct words were: "Cream of Wheat." Steve lifted the papers he had written on and showed that under them was a Cream of Wheat box label! And on the back of the clipboard were Cream of Wheat packets!

Bill McElvenney displayed a variety of penetrations using rope, a scarf, and a large wooden ring. His funny patter kept the flow with each surprising effect. His finale was a multiple cut and restored string.

Jim Daly had three volunteers select Post-it Notes that audience members had written items:

Occupations, Colors, Celebrity Names. He was able to name the items (Cowboy, Pink, Elton John) without seeing them on the notes! "Look at the paper, then look at me." Jim next asked for a random number from the audience, then created a Magic Square on a white board. Each column added up to the called-for number! The finale was when he covered each number with a corresponding Post-it Note with the number, and the finished product was a pink photo of Elton John in a cowboy hat! What a great way to connect three very different effects.

Always ready with mental magic, Jack Schultz, said that he has a part-time job at his apartment complex. Residents have a service where they can order items using a number code to save time. He had six large, laminated signs with items, their code number, and the prices. Jack passed out the cards, and had audience members call out different items, along with their prices. He totaled the prices on a large whiteboard, then revealed a roll of toilet paper with the same totals on it!

Mitch Kaplan wove his many college degrees, along with science, to explain the "String Theory" of Physics. He showed a long piece of thin rope with only two ends, but then there were three ends, and then four ends! Loops and knots appeared and vanished on the string and ends and middles changed places. And we still don't understand String Theory!

Guest judges Ran'D Shine, Donna Hart, and Tim Mower then conferred to total their scores. They gave marks for originality, presentation, entertainment value, etc. The Club purchased gift cards from Vanishing, Inc, and Vanishing, Inc added an equal value download for each award.

And the results of Ring 6 Stage Contest for 2023: Third Place (\$25 gift card, \$25 download) Jim Daly; Second Place (\$50 gift card, \$50 download) Mitch Kaplan; First Place (\$100 gift card, \$100 download) Steve Friedberg.

David Kelly

RING 9, ATLANTA, GEORGIA – Georgia Magic Club

Meets 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00pm, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 471 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

Ring 9 Website: www.gamagicclub.com

BILL PACKARD, Secretary / Email: billpackardmagic@gmail.com

T.I.P. Lecture: Steve Goldstein presented "Hey! It's Not Cards!" a "show and tell" of just a few of the gaffed coins in his collection. The first mention of gaffed coins was in *The Discoverie of Witchcraft*. Steve talked about regular and expanded shells, products from Johnson, Todd Lassen (Cerberus gimmick), Jack Carpenter, and Dave Neighbors; as well as some unique items such as gaffed poker chips,

Brass Buttons, Bluether, and Atomic Coin. Steve showed us his Copper/Silver/Brass set from Pressley Guitar, and a Two-Copper/One-Silver set.

Business Meeting: President Steve Langston greeted thirty-four attendees, including two online and five guests, including current I.B.M. International President Bill Hsueh. Upcoming conventions and events mentioned include a presentation of the movie *The Prestige* at Plaza Atlanta (Zach Ivins performing pre-show), the I.B.M. Convention in Pittsburgh, Magic Live in Las Vegas, KIDabra in Chattanooga, Atlanta Harvest of Magic, and TRICS in Charlotte. Lynn Fox presented a eulogy for recently passed Bill Kress, displaying several photos. Among many other activities, of course, Bill owned a successful theater supply company, presented an exotic bird magic show (sometimes assisted by Rick Silver), provided magical effects for Atlanta's production of *The Nutcracker*, and hosted a Terry Evanswood Roast. Previous S.A.M. and I.B.M. Presidents Ice McDonald and Joe M. Turner had co-officiated Bill's Broken Wand Ceremony.

The Georgia Magic Book Club is reading Tommy Wonder's *Books of Wonder* Volume 1, next Zoom discussion scheduled for July 19. The Ring 9 Exchange, for GMC members only, is open on Facebook. Steve invited everyone to join. Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer led a review discussion of the recent lecture by Bill Wisch and announced an upcoming lecture by Matthew Garrett (September 14). *Equinox* editor Anthony Vinson gave an update regarding the publication and announced that a Magic Meetup is scheduled for July 30 at Fellini's.

Theme Magic ("National Pralines Day"): Christophe Fouquet performed a Two-in-the-Hand/One-in-the-Pocket routine with balls (nuts?). Dan Garrett created a Magic Square with selected playing cards, with the total matching the amount of change in his purse. Zach Ivins reversed the deck around a selected and returned card twice – the trick was called "The Nutty Professor." Joe M. Turner demonstrated a (somewhat surprising) physics experiment using steel nuts attached to strings, then created a "school bell" with a self-unscrewing nut and bolt inside a glass. International Vice President Mike Dunagan displayed a collection of Hershey candy cards in a circle and played a "Buck a Guess" game with the outcome previously written on his five-dollar bet. Lynn Fox performed a multi-phase routine with a steel nut and a rope. Steve Langston made us cringe with his presentation of a roulette game with a fish-hook in his mouth, with spectators pulling on all

the strings except for the one actually tied to the hook. Jamey Evans did a Jack-in-the-Box gag, juggled hammers, and attempted to divine a selected card by slicing a cucumber on Steve Langston's stomach. Mike Frisbee caused a signed bill to vanish then reappear inside a peanut can.

General Magic: Christophe Fouquet performed an original trick that relies on probabilities, based on the Kruskal Count that he found in a math paper. Dan Garrett revealed a selected card within a series of cards displayed as a question mark (a trick from John Bannon's new book *Very Hush Hush*). Jim Mangham caused a knot to slide to different positions on a rope. Jamey Evans caused a small hole in a playing card to turn into a bigger square hole, then used a Facetime session to display a selected card from a card fan.

In the President's Spot, Steve Langston used the magic spinner to give away DVDs, card bundles, and various tricks to five lucky attendees.

The winner of the Coveted Royal Blue Pin for June was Mike Frisbee. *Bill Packard*

RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm Eat 'N Park, 1250 Banksville Rd., Pittsburgh, PA
MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@sei.cmu.edu
Web site: www.ibmring13.org

At our July meeting, we concluded the distribution to our members of the remaining magic items from the late Dick Recktenwald. We discussed ways that our Ring members could volunteer to help during the upcoming Annual Convention in Pittsburgh. Our suggested performance theme was "works in progress" magic, and Lucy Hall again introduced our performers.

Past International President Jack Greenberg caused a silver dollar coin to vanish from a small pill box, using moves that he credited to the late Paul Diamond. Adrien Pierard joined us remotely to find the four aces in a deck of cards along with a previously selected card. Adrien later made two red cards and two black cards exchange places while they were face down on the table. John Pedrotti caused two, previously selected cards to appear, rise, and float inside a sealed candy tube. Levi separated a deck of cards into four piles of thirteen cards each. Levi turned over each pile and spread them across the table to show that all the aces had vanished. The aces had reappeared inside the card box sitting on a table at the opposite end of the room.

Eric Meredith gave brief book reviews of

Matt DiSero's *The Fog Machine of War* and the Kindle version of Gustov Kuhn's *Experiencing the Impossible: The Science of Magic*. Next Eric gave a coin purse to Dan to examine and show that it contained a silver dollar and a Chinese coin. Eric placed both coins in his hand and covered them with the purse. After Eric removed one of those coins, he made that coin vanish and then reappear with the other coin still under the purse. Eric repeated this after covering both coins with the purse in Dan's hand, and Eric caused both coins to vanish and reappear inside the purse (a variation using a "Hopping Half" coin set).

Ralph Kelly asked Dan to pick a card and reinsert it into the deck. Ralph then asked Dan to place the two jokers on top of the deck. Ralph spread the two jokers and showed that Dan's selected card had appeared sandwiched between the two jokers (Bill Goldman's "Monkey in the Middle").

Dan Kamin performed his work-in-progress version of his "Jinx Card" (a variation of "Ambitious Card") in which he asked John to name any card, which Dan made appear on top of the deck. Dan asked John to select another card, which also appeared on the top of the deck. The selected jinx card continued to reappear in different locations, even leaving John's hands to reappear inverted at the bottom of the deck. Lucy Hall showed a number of magic items, including a square, glass, decanter bottle containing a full deck of the I.B.M. 100-year anniversary playing cards that she had painstakingly reassembled inside that bottle, which she was donating as raffle prizes to be awarded at the upcoming I.B.M. Convention.

From July 11 to 15, over three dozen of our local Ring members and their guests attended the 94th Annual Convention here in Pittsburgh, featuring a stellar line-up of talented performers, lecturers, and competitors. During the Gala Banquet, our Ring president Eric Meredith presented a very special (surprise) proclamation, announcing that our Ring 13 Board of Directors and members had unanimously voted to rename our Ring as the "I.B.M. Tampa-Greenberg Ring 13," in recognition of Past International President Jack Greenberg's seventy-eight-year membership and lifelong contributions to both the I.B.M. and to our local Ring. Congratulations to Jack! And thank you to this year's Convention team, all the performers and speakers, and everyone who attended the recent convention to make it such a successful and memorable event! *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

“Effective ways to make your magic more about you” was the program topic for the July meeting of the Ren Clark Ring 15/Fort Worth Magicians Club. The club met on Thursday, July 6. Attendees included Michael Stein, president, Aaron Stone, program chair, Mike Smith, Geoff Grimes, George Ferrin, Bill Irwin, Russell Shead, Will Baffle, Jordan Burgess, Pix Smith, Gavin Griggs, Steve Darklis, Randi Rain, Patrick Schulteis, Sarah Schulteis, Mike Ince, and Michael Dimsdel.

President Stein opened the meeting with old business and announcements. This month, Bill Irwin is performing with Braden Daniels in Mansfield, Texas. He will open with magic before Braden’s mentalism show. Jordan mentioned Mark Wilson materials he wished to donate to the Mark Wilson Magic Club at Dallas College. He also announced the return of the North Texas Super Session in November. The very popular “SS” is always the “do-it-yourself” weekend convention for performing magicians in Dallas and from around the country. Aaron Stone is working with the Dallas Magic Academy. He is teaching thirty kids this summer. He shared the story of a young twelve-year-old girl who learned how to spring cards overnight, impressing the other students the very next day. Michael presented a certificate of appreciation to Pix Smith for his various “secret services” to the club. Pix is our informal *Flashpaper* editor, the club’s monthly newsletter. Mike Smith announced that he and Geoff Grimes would be hosting the McBride Magic and Mystery School July 10 “Monday Night Magic” meeting. They will be interviewing Dal and Cinde Sanders. Dal was the 2013 National President of the S.A.M. Gavin Grigg has an upcoming performance for the young patients and their families at Cook Children’s Hospital in Fort Worth.

Jumping from announcements to the program topic for the evening, Aaron Stone introduced the program topic, “introducing more of yourself into your magic performances.” Point 1: Don’t be afraid to “expose” your humanity. Aaron shared a frustrating moment he once experienced while performing his “Rocky Raccoon” performance. Thinking he had ruined his act, “Rocky” broke apart in the middle of the routine and went flying over the kids and the birthday cake. Unexpectedly, the kids went nuts! Adding “comedy and byplay,” he created

an original performance, incorporating the “mistake” in all future shows, much to the joy of the kids each time. Aaron says, “In that routine I let my audiences get a glimpse of me as a real person who can make mistakes and still overcome them, just like them. They really like that! It shows that the ‘magician’ is really human.” The point, audiences like to see you “be human,” exposing something of your real self. He then added another advantage. He quoted Las Vegas magician Bizarro, “If you give your audience a little truth of yourself, they will believe all the rest.” You give them stories that come from your real-life experiences. Nevertheless, as a character actor, Aaron noted Bizarro’s recognition that we have to follow the narrow set of rules that is defined by the “bubble” in which the show is designed. You don’t do routines that are inconsistent with the “rules” of your character.

Mike Smith shared how he incorporates what Rick Maue calls “stool time,” literally sitting on a folding stool at points in his show, *The Wizard of Us*, sharing experiences of magic in his life, inviting audiences to make their own connections with him. He shares his first experience of seeing magic when watching Mark Wilson and Nani Darnell perform at the opening of a supermarket. Mike noted that really happened, although, as he tells it, he embellishes the end as a lead-in to his first trick. Mike says, “Even if the story you share might not be completely truthful, the audience has to accept it as ‘truth-like.’”

Randi Rain noted that her script, even as an outline, is framed by her own experiences and personality. She noted the difference between “character acting” and being “yourself.” Not to dismiss character development entirely in the conversation, Pix Smith, owner and director of the Dallas Puppet Theater, noted that he had spent thirty years developing his “old woman” character that he uses in his puppet acts. Jordan Burgess, who works as an accountant, performs magic in his office as a way of breaking the monotony of some of his work. For further discussion on character and performance, he recommended the insights found in Ken Weber’s work, *Maximum Entertainment*. He called attention to Bill Malone’s character that defines how he performs his zany routines. Michael Stein discussed tightening scripts to avoid stating the obvious. “Get out of the habit of so many performers who feel they have to announce what they are getting ready to do throughout a routine (when it is often obvious to the audience already).”

Point 2: Plan ahead. After performing routines often enough, you come to anticipate audiences’ reactions, and you can compose certain

retorts, anticipating audience's responses to your routines. Doing so, says Aaron, is another way of interjecting yourself into your routine.

Book Reviews: Mike Smith introduced *Magic as Medium* (London: The Neat Review Publishing, 2023) by Canadian magician Shawn DeSouza-Coelho. The author reexamines Eugene Burger's formula for staging a magic effect: "That was fair. That was fair. That was fair. Whoa!" While the book design might be a little uncomfortable for some readers, DeSouza-Coelho emphasizes the need to incorporate *meaning* into each routine. Geoff Grimes introduced Darwin Ortiz's work *Designing Miracles: Creating the Illusion of Impossibility* (Ortiz Publications, 2006). Ortiz follows up his *Strong Magic* with this text that emphasizes the importance of design to eliminate any and all possible audience conjectures of "cause/effect" relationships. Rightly or wrongly, if an audience accepts even the possibility of a cause, the experience isn't "magic."

For open mic Aaron performed a disappearance with the use of a "universal pull." He shared some of his real-world experiences using the device effectively in walk-around routines. Michael Dimsdel performed a bill switch, changing a dollar into an alternative to a hundred-dollar bill, this time, two fifties! He followed the bill switch with a fascinating "Charming Chinese Challenge" rope and coins effect.

The meeting closed with each of us inspired to improving our magical performances!

Dr. Geoffrey Grimes

RING 19, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – Carl Jones Ring

Meets 2nd Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom and in person 2nd Sat. (location TBD)

PARKER WILLIAM, President / Web site: www.IBMRing19.com

July, again, saw us meeting twice – in-person and virtually. These two options work well, as they bring a great blend of magic minds to each meeting, which are attended by different groups of people. We do have the overlap of diehard magic fans, but the varied attendance keeps the meetings fresh. Yay, Zoom!

Our in-person meeting started out with card tricks and Paul Laidig started a discussion of how to effectively turnover a card to eliminate suspicion. Utilizing the same motion aids in this.

Moving on to coin work, we discussed the Ramsey Subtlety and the importance of angle management. Watch the elbow! Andrew Miller presented his Magic Square based on a soccer-themed training schedule – the entire group was involved with the trick, and it was quite entertaining. Jack Boyd shared some sponge ball finesses with the group.

Our Zoom meeting had a very different feel with the majority of the focus on rubber band magic including "Crazy Man's Handcuffs" vs. "Crazy Sam's Handcuffs." Rick Hinrich shared his pen cap penetration routine, most notably "Travelling Cash" using a pen cap. David Hansen offered a card trick using Aaron Fisher's "Revolution #9" and Tenkai's "Optical Triumph." Rick Hinrich presented a Paul Gordon packet trick and Tyler Erickson shared an estimation card trick.

Rick also shared Joshua Quinn's linking business card trick and offered an amusing real-world story of how this was received by a store owner.

We discussed how to build and structure routines in the event of late comers, someone showing up in the middle of a trick and how to bring them in so that they are not lost and can catch up quickly. We also discussed working with spectators and how to provide specific direction to achieve what you want them to do. This is particularly helpful with self-working tricks that require specific instructions.

We wrapped up with discussing positive narratives in how to hide what secrets lie in the shadows vs. the information to which you want to draw the audience/spectators' attention.

Tyler ended the meeting by sharing a color-change under the guise of a riffle shuffle which he calls "Lightning Leipzig" and a flurry using coins and keys.

Jennifer Graham

RING 20, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Eddie Clever Keystone Ring

Meets 2nd Thur., at 6:00pm (order off the menu), meeting 7:00pm at John's Diner 146 Sheraton Dr., New Cumberland, PA 17070

MARK KROTULSKI, Secretary

E-mail: eddieclever20@gmail.com

In attendance at the meeting were Stephen Smith, Al Bienstock, Michael Reist, Jack Ritter, Ed Lopez, John Sergolt, Richie Matthews, Evan Katz, Jack Ritter, Rodney Ries, and John Fortino.

President Smith opened the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Greetings and Welcome by President Smith followed the opening. Immediately afterward the secretary's minutes were approved the treasurer's report was approved.

President Smith brought some stuff from the Ken Knott estate to be given away. More will be given away at future meetings.

As part of Old Business, it was reported that Dave Bowers will do a lecture on a Sunday now. Not part of the meeting but now confirmed is a lecture by Marcos Waldemar on June 27 at 6:30 p.m. Both lectures will be held in the garage behind the Ace Hardware Store in Mechanicsburg). President Smith will schedule the holiday party.

There was no new business and Smith's Thought for the Month was what is the difference between mentalism and mental magic?

In Good of the Order: Michael Reist reported that he began writing his book on booking day-cares. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

We then had a Mentalism Workshop by John Sergott and Al Bienstock. Both did a number of effects. Al Bienstock performed an effect that used strips of papers with rows of single digit numbers. He had volunteers use the strips to create a series of four-digit numbers which were then added up and matched his prediction. He then showed a board with the last names of U.S. presidents. Six names were on a board. He had us all pick a president to start with. He then gave us instructions on a series of moves eliminating various names. He successfully predicted the U.S. president we all ended up on. He then did a very nice book test presentation followed by another nice number prediction.

John Sergott began with an impromptu coin prediction. He then did a very nice ESP presentation. Next John did an effect where he showed various celebrities in four envelopes. He then predicted who each volunteer held in their envelope. John then did a very nicely done book test. He followed that up with a very nice card prediction/location routine. Next, he did a routine he called his version of "Picture This" with a Mental Photography Deck. Last, John then had a prediction on a business card and through a series of questions he had a volunteer make a choice and lo and behold his prediction was the thought of card.

Michael L. Reist

RING 22, METRO DETROIT, MICHIGAN – The Warren Stephens Ring

Meets 3rd Tue., 7:15 pm – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 749 W. 14 Mile Rd., Clawson, MI 48017

JOHN "JOHNNY NEW YORK" SMITH, President
Email: jonsmi7646@gmail.com

Our Ring 22 June 20th meeting was a spectacular evening of magic! The meeting included forty-four magicians in attendance and the evening included a spotlight performance, an amazing coin lecture all on the unpublished coin sleights of Tom Mosier, a children's magic workshop, a raffle, a preview of not one but two performances by magicians who are going to compete at the I.B.M. International Convention, and of course, our usual open stage for individual performances. It's no wonder the meeting would run longer than usual but I don't think anyone at the meeting wanted it to end! It was also really nice to be able to talk both before and after the meeting with some of the great friends you make at these meetings. I can't think of a better way to spend an evening.

Our President, Johnny New York, started the meeting off with several announcements about magic events happening in our area. The Southeast region of Michigan is a hotbed of magic and there are two magic lectures one can attend in June, one by Chris Carter at Ring 22 and one by Bill Wisch at Ring 68. There are also several live magic performances at various venues that Johnny talked about.

Our Spotlight Magician for the night tonight is Dennis Leung. Dennis opened with producing a silver dollar that he then ate and swallowed and finished by reproducing it with a burp. He then showed us his own routine for "Crazy Man's Handcuffs" with rubber bands that linked and unlinked over a dozen times in his hands. Dennis then talked about how Chinese coins used to be carried on a string or ribbon, but then demonstrated how easy it is to steal the coins off the string or ribbon. He then made the coins disappear and produced a really huge coin from a tiny coin purse. Dennis also talked about how he had to play with a lot of invisible toys during his childhood and that how he learned to "see" invisible things. He then demonstrated this with some invisible markers on playing cards that helped him determine which cards spectators chose. Dennis ended his show with an amazing array of bending forks and fork tines in his hands and right in the open in front of everyone. It was a very clever and entertaining twenty minutes of magic!

Tom Mosier, a very well-respected veteran magician from the Detroit area, then gave the second part of his coin lecture he started in March of this year. All of the coin sleights Tom demonstrated were sleights he created to help him replace other coin sleights he was not comfortable doing. Tonight, Tom both demonstrated and explained his retention coin vanish using his thumb, his thumb grip which he uses to both hold and vanish a coin, a one-handed coin switch using silver/copper coins, and he reviewed his flash toss vanish from the March meeting after several in attendance urged him to. Tom is an amazing magician and the dexterity he still has in his hands is very encouraging to a lot of us as we start the retirement phase of our lives!

Our Ring 22 president then had a free raffle for the night. We were each allowed to select a card from a face down card fan when we entered, and Johnny then pulled one card out of another deck and the matching winner could then blindly select three magic DVDs from a bag of over twenty different magic DVDs. Gordon Russ was the lucky winner tonight.

The meeting then moved to our Children's

Magic Workshop. Andy Makar, Bill Brang, and Gordon Russ each demonstrated a magic effect from their children's show. Andy also spoke about how important the beginning of your show is for children and how it sets the tone for the show. Gordon also spoke about how important your performing character is to your show and gave insight into how to make sure your character matches the magic you do. All three also had some great tips for managing both the children and the adults at a children's magic show. It was a very enlightening workshop.

Johnny then introduced two of our members (Dreygon Hibbler and Ferran Poage) who will be competing in magic competitions at the International Brotherhood of Magicians International Convention in Pittsburgh this July. They both then performed part of the act they will use at the convention for us. They are both very young and very good magicians, and we wish them all the best at the competitions!

It was now time for our performing stage for those in attendance. We had several magicians who were attending for the first time tonight perform. Mike, who is attending his first meeting, did a really nice "Three Card Monte" routine. Chris, another first-time attendee, did a routine with several jokers and the deck card box. Dennis Leung then performed an effect that involved the spectator using an imaginary gun to shoot a corner off his selected card when the entire deck was in a card box. The missing corner was then found in an unopened box of cards and in the middle of the Ace of Clubs! George, another first-time attendee then closed out the open stage with a really nice "Cups and Balls" routine.

Wow, two and a half hours just disappeared tonight in a most enlightening and entertaining way. We saw so much great magic tonight, but this is why I always so look forward to a Ring 22 monthly meeting. Every meeting is like a mini magic convention. And after the meeting about twenty magicians headed over to the Hideout Pub for what we call "The Afterglow," where there is more magic and conversations about just about anything. You are more than welcome to join us as we meet the third Tuesday of every month. Visitors are always welcome, just contact John Smith (Johnny New York) at the email above.

Norm Cattell

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.rhometownpage.com.

AL GROUT, President

Great meeting at Hops or if you like the old

name, The Paddock in Allentown. Yours truly was sidelined with a heart attack and I have not been able to get info up to date for three months or so. Finally, we are back in action. Actually, the Ring has been in action, but not their secretary!

After our usual business meeting it was on to varied types of coin magic and assorted material. President Al Grout started things off with a coin appearing under a glass setting innocently on a deck of cards. Wow, magic right in front of your eyes. Shifty Bruce Ward did not disappoint with a clever use of a coin production or vanish using just a piece of scotch tape. Back in the day we used loops on the coins which is a similar gaff. After months of not being able to do magic, it was nice for me to do something. A folded dollar bill balanced on the thumb I decided to start with. Bruce had no luck with his and he chose which bill to use. Also, I had a "Perky Penny" effect which is a little black box using a penny and a washer. It is cute and cheap. I hear it is an oldie, but never had or saw one. Somewhere in my presentation I managed to smash my thumb and what a thumb accident it was! I think guys thought I had another attack. I did the big rubber thumb as a tribute to the great George Carl, who would have had a birthday the day before our meeting. If you do not know George Carl do yourself a big favor and watch him on YouTube. Charlie Frye and many others love this guy.

Joe Keppel followed with "Coins Through Table" but I missed this and some other effects as I got involved with meeting and greeting members and my wife who now gets me to meetings. Thank you, Kay. The days of making dates and costumes is over, but I still need her help!

Next month is auction time and that is usually a lot of fun. We all have magic we need to unload, and we all can hardly wait to add more stuff to our pile. Oh well, it is fun. Stay tuned for the results.

Bob Good

RING 37, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE – Nashville Magic Club

Meets 3rd Thurs. of month, except November, 7:00 pm at the Andrew Price UMC, 2846 Lebanon Rd. in Donelson, TN

Web site: www.ring37.com

ANNETTE HUNTER, Secretary / E-mail: secretary@ring37.com

The June meeting was a meeting of predictions and phone tricks. The meeting started out as all meetings so far in the year of Kevin King's fiftieth year celebration which like a normal King's event, has lasted over a year. Keven has been cleaning up his house, in my opinion, and finding older pictures and props from his basement and bringing them to the meeting and sharing with the club. Thanks Kevin. Have to be honest here, it is a fun time when Kevin shares.

Joe Thomas and Co., drove in from his new home and soon to be magic venue in Louisville, KY and we were so glad he did. He has such a heart and great talent that he is willing to share with the members. When our teach a trick person fell sick and was not able to attend, Joe stepped up and shared a wonderful matrix effect he learned from the great Dean Dill. Joe later helped Past International President Stephen Bargatze, who needs lots of help, which goes without saying, with a phone app he was trying to learn.

Scott Cantrell was next and really did nothing. Wayne Quizenberry has rejoined our group and we are glad to have him back. Wayne showed a “Two Card Monte.” Scott Carothers and Mark Haggard and Larry Finley each took part in sharing magic with the members. Thanks guys. Mike Berger, a man who never fails to perform, came well prepared to amaze us.

All in all, a great meeting. Tom and Vickie Gibson were missing from the meeting as they were out of town welcoming into the world their newborn great grandson. Congrats to them all.

Stephen Bargatze

RING 43, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – Harlan Tarbell Ring

3rd Fri. except July and August, 7:30 p.m., at St. Francis Hospital, S. Conference Room, First Floor, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60202
MIKE KAMLET, President / E-mail: kamlet@ameritech.net
175 E. Delaware # 8502, Chicago, IL 60611 / (312) 266-2129
Web site: www.ring43.org

The great thing about lecturers from other countries is seeing unique magic. Marcos Waldemar from Spain shared some original and fun effects. The first half was all cards and mostly little sleight of hand.

John Mussman and Martin Mercy shuffled part of the deck. John selected a card and Brielle Kawalek shuffled some cards and cut off a packet. The deck was reassembled, given a shuffle and the selection was found at the number of cards Brielle cut off. Next Brielle cut to two cards which matched a written prediction. Marcos tore nine cards in half and each half was shuffled. Brielle named a number and Marcos counted down in each packet to show the only match. All the other pieces were then shown to match. Martin signed a card and Marcos drew two rings on the back and with a wave of his hand the rings on the back of the card linked. Marcos shared lots of variations of the Erdnase Color Change.

After a break, Marcos shared effects with gimmicks. First, he shared a clever effect with a nail writer. Marcos went through the details of his nail writer and touches on the overall routine.

Alec Schraegle selected a card with a picture

of a “scent” and Marcos had members smell a piece of paper to represent candy to correctly identify the scent. This was repeated with two more cards and each time the “smell” changed. Marcos shared other ideas of effects that can be done with “scents.” Nancy Anderson selected a card and Marcos removed a fly from the card case. The fly was put on the deck and as Marcos spread the cards, the fly danced around finding the selection.

Marcos joined several of us for a bite to eat after the lecture and to share more magic.

Luis Carreon was our featured lecturer for our June meeting. Luis is a bit of an institution in Chicago. He originally worked at Izzy Rizzy’s Magic Shop and then, when that closed, he worked at Magic, Inc. for twelve years before becoming a full-time magician and creator. He has performed his show *Bending Minds and Bending Dreams* at theaters around Chicago, has been featured on the Univision evening news, was semi-finalist on *Tengo Talento*, the Spanish language equivalent of *America’s Got Talent*, and he is also a regular performer at the famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, California and a featured performer at the Chicago Magic Lounge.

Luis handed out a deck to be shuffled. First, he had Fernando Garcia think of a card. He then had Jay Basso name a card (JS) and then used the JS to find the card Fernando had chosen (6D). He then reached into his back pocket and pulled out the JS. (“Yours, Mine, and My Pocket.”)

Next, he magically found the four aces, one at a time. He then found the four kings. He then placed the four kings in the card box. One at a time, the aces changed places as the kings “escaped” from the box. The aces and kings then instantly returned to their original places, with the kings back in the card box. (“Reset.”)

Working with just the four aces, Luis turned one face up inserted it into the packet of face down aces. All the cards were shown to be face down. He then turned two aces face up and again showed all the cards were face down. He then had somebody pick an ace and the chosen ace instantly was shown as the only face up ace in the packet. (“Up and Down Aces.”) Fernando chose the JD; Robert chose the joker. Luis put the joker under the card box and held up the JD. When he turned it face up, it had changed places with the joker, which was now under the box. (“My Card Transpo.”)

After the break Luis did the “Sucker Torn and Restored Napkin.” Luis uses wrapping tissue which is more compressible than napkins. Also, his setup eliminates the need to steal the load.

Next up was a coin trick with several silver coins and a glass tumbler. The first coin penetrated from under the glass and the next three coins vanished, one at a time, and appeared in the glass. One of the coins even disappeared from under a shot glass!

The next effect caused three coins to penetrate from his hand which was held inside a Ziploc bag. All the effects were amazing to watch and fully explained by Luis. While very few of the club members can perform at Luis' skill level, everybody should have been able to take something away from the lecture.

John Hutsebaut

RING 44, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND – William E. Baker Ring

Meets 1st Wed. each month from Sept. to June, 7:00 p.m., at the VFW Hall, 354 Fruit Hill Avenue, North Providence, RI 02911
JEFF SMITH, President / 79 Weeden Rd., Fairhaven, MA 02719
Contact: JeffSmith-RISM@comcast.net

Stand-up/Parlor magic was the theme for our March meeting. Close-up pads not needed. Malik Haddadi started the night with Trevor Lewis' "Homing Card." He then performed his take on the Multiple Selection plot, a routine he obviously has honed to perfection. Nicely done! Corkey LaVallee followed with "Perfect Match" by Ickle Pickle. Corkey then amazed the crowd with his mentalism and math skills with the "Human Abacus" from Alakazam. Jeff Smith was next and performed Bill Abbott's "Celebrity Smart Ass," an uplifting presentation on the world of Hollywood's elite.

After a refreshment break Mark Thomas performed "Hawaiian Punch" by John Bannon, a triple prediction coin trick – a real fooler. He followed that with "GPS," a version of Tossed-Out Deck that uses luggage tags rather than playing cards. A different twist on an old classic and nicely done. Tom Coniaris closed out the night with "Card Through Card Box" where a playing card is pushed through a slit in the card box. But when the box is opened, a solid block of steel falls out. Another fooler! Tom ended with a nice handling of Dean's Box.

This was another successful meeting of magic and fun.

Jeff Smith

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

Our annual "Pandemonium of Magic" public show was very successful this year. We have performed our show on the day before Father's Day for many years. We had a great audience, an impressive lineup of magicians, and actually made some money for the Ring.

David Teeman welcomed everyone to the venue. He used a pair of large dice a la "victory cubes" to produce his assistant, Brynna. He then turned the show over to President Cassidy Smith, who emceed.

Lee Woodside, a.k.a. Captain Lee, hypnotized the entire audience and left a post-hypnotic suggestion with them to always applaud loudly ("Professor's Nightmare"). Lee performed his "magic card" ("What's Next") and finished with a true classic of magic, the venerable die box.

Rick Johnson performed danger magic. He placed an object into his mouth and had four strings dangling from his mouth. He invited an audience member to select one string and yank on it. Nothing was tied to the string. After two more strings were yanked and proved to not be tied to anything, he removed a treble fishhook from his mouth, which was tied to the fourth string. Rick displayed a folded-up paper bag. He opened it up, reached into the bag and brought forth a bottle of beer. Rick showed five wooden disks, one of which had a large spike sticking up from it. He covered each disk with a paper bag. The bags were thoroughly mixed by both Rick and an audience member, so no one knew which was which. As an audience member made a selection, Rick would quickly smash that bag with the palm of his hand. When only one bag remained, he lifted the bag to show that the deadly spike was beneath it. He smashed an apple onto the spike to show that it was indeed dangerous.

David Teeman, with the help of his beautiful young assistance Brynna, performed an acrobatic knot routine. He vanished a silk scarf and it instantly reappeared in a small glass coffin being held by Brynna.

Grant Vinson showed three Chinese coins, which he threaded onto a cord. One at a time, the coins melted through the cord.

Daniel Buster performed as the Western Gambler/Western Roper. After cutting to the four aces in a deck of playing cards, he demonstrated his skills with a lasso, a la Will Rogers.

Darryl Brooks performed his act to music. He showed a "Silk to Rope" manipulation, the "Metamorphosis Spots," and a "Ring and Rope" routine.

Brian Tabor hypnotized the entire audience with a spinning disk. When they all looked at his head, it seemed to grow in size. He then performed a comedy "Silk to Egg" routine.

Shaun Clark invited the audience to enter his coffee shop. He performed a "Broken and Restored Coffee Stirrer" routine and then caused two coffee rings on a napkin to link together.

Cassidy Smith performed Jim Steinmeyer's "Hospitality" routine. He poured different drinks out of one milk carton. As he tore up the now empty milk carton, Michelle Tabor passed out the different drinks to audience members to prove that they were genuine drinks and not just colored water.

Kevin Brasier closed the show with his stage illusions with his assistant, Hannah. He placed her in a box and pulled the middle out to the side ("Zig Zag Lady.") He ended by shackling Hannah, tying her in a bag, and locking her in a trunk. He got on top of the trunk with a curtain and raised the curtain over his head. When the curtain was lowered, Hannah was holding it. The trunk was unlocked and opened, the bag was opened, and there was Kevin in shackles.

Strong storms raged through south Oklahoma City a couple of nights before our July meeting. Although our venue was undamaged, downed power lines blocked the roads leading to it. An "alternate plan bravo" was quickly arrived at and twelve magicians convened at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Moore, OK.

Among those in attendance was James Schoonover, who drove all the way from Ardmore and brought along his niece, Berkeley. Berkeley penetrated a dollar bill with a ballpoint pen and then showed that the bill was undamaged. Michael King suggested to her and her uncle the names of some accomplished female magicians that they might want to check out on YouTube. James Schoonover performed an "Ace Assembly" and a couple of other tricks.

Michael King caused a quantity of salt to vanish and then reappear. Michael then grabbed a straw and removed the wrapper, stating that the straw was now his magic wand. As he passed his "wand" over grains of salt, they began jumping onto the straw. He balanced the straw on top of a pepper shaker and caused the straw to move by using hand motions.

David Teeman performed the trick where a number of colored blocks are held in a box, and at his command, the named blocks fall from the box. *Lee Woodside*

RING 48, PEORIA, ILLINOIS – Harold Martin Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. 7:00 pm, Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights, IL. Website: peoriamagicians.com
MICHAEL BAKER, Secretary / E-mail: themagiccompany@aol.com

The June meeting of the Peoria magicians was held on Wednesday June 14, not our usual meeting night. The reason for this is that our regular venue is now closing on Mondays. We preferred to continue meeting in the same location, as it accommodates many of our needs, so the main goal of this meeting was to decide which day of the week and which week of the

month to call our regular meeting night. We had asked for a good attendance so we could get input from several members and decide on the best choice. That decision was for the second Wednesday of the month. The venue of course will remain Peoria Pizza Works on Prospect Rd. in Peoria Heights.

Other business involved a quick review of two conventions, AbraCORNdabra in Des Moines, Iowa, and CIMGT in Springfield, Illinois. Two members from Peoria attended AbraCORNdabra. Rodney Nordstrom, a.k.a. D'Nordo, competed in the senior tournament, assisted by his wife, Cheri. Michael Baker hosted the Sideshow of Wonders event as his horror host alter-ego, Dr. Zirkus. Michael also had a dealer booth.

CIMGT had a number of attendees from Peoria, including Troy Keefer, a.k.a. Yort, who was a four-way threat, or rather treat, in that he performed both close-up and stage, presented a lecture, and had a dealer booth. Undoubtedly, Yort is the hardest working magician in the area... at least at CIMGT.

Other business regarded mention of the Riverfront Market. As in the past, Peoria magicians will perform there on the first and third Saturdays through the month, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

The HOI Fair schedule is partially filled with volunteer performers. To date, we have D'Nordo on Tuesday night, Prodigal Son, CJ Diamond on Wednesday night, Yort on Thursday night, Jerry Tupper on Friday night, and Yort on Saturday night (I told you he works hard!). We still need someone to fill the Saturday afternoon slot. The fair will run from July 18-22. We trade our performances for use of their facilities when we have our special events, like public shows.

Speaking of public shows, our final item of business was the proposed show and mini convention for this October. We are hoping for Saturday October 21st as a first choice, or Saturday October 14 as an alternate date. As we did last year, the plan is to host a mini convention that will be free to any and all magicians. The daytime events will consist of a flea market, close-up shows, and lectures. This will be followed in the evening by a public show, with nominal charges for tickets. Because the mini convention is free, we are soliciting volunteers to perform and/or lecture.

Actually, there was one more quick item of business. This was merely the mention that Peoria is slated to host CIMGT in 2024. We are hoping to find a date in early spring and will update with information as we have it.

The magic theme for the evening was, well,

there was no theme. Periodically, we tell our members to bring for performance or show and tell anything they wish. This was one of those times. There was minimal participation, although what there was produced much interest and discussion.

Kyle Bassett, a.k.a., Gambit, performed with an interesting double Stripper Deck. If you are not familiar with these, rather than completely expose what it is, I suggest you research it. It could prove to be a powerful tool for the card worker. Kyle also performed a quick idea he had involving coins and sponge balls in a small box. Kyle also mentioned his continuing shows, *Get Tricked*, which have proven to be popular in the area.

Michael Baker showed several items that he will be including in a Fun Club Member Pack for fans of *The Haunted Dungeon Show*. This is the horror hosted show he produces in his spare time away from building magic, and the fun pack, consisting of trading cards, post cards, buttons, and more, is part of the branding effort. The connection to magic is that his show, as Dr. Zirkus, has segments called Monster Magic. These are, as the name implies, magic performed with a “monster” or “horror” theme.

The remainder of the meeting was more discussion about all things that interested us and ran much later than usual. I think the smoke from Terry Grawey’s cigar hypnotized all of us.

Michael Baker

RING 55, PHOENIX, ARIZONA – Bert Easley / Danny Dew Ring

Meets 3rd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Winfield Coffee Shop, 7025 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale, AZ / Web site: www.ring55.org
ROBERT RAY, President

Our June meeting was well-attended, we’re still not back to pre-pandemic numbers, but things look like they are headed that way.

The theme for this meeting was packet tricks, and those of us who were around in the “golden age” of packet tricks gave a whoop and really looked forward to what we’d see. And it didn’t disappoint, we saw some old and some new packet tricks throughout the evening.

Club President Robert Ray performed “B’Wave” and that started an avalanche of packet tricks. Frank Pastula performed “Wild Card Undone,” Russ Fitzwater performed “Anniversary Waltz,” David Boehm performed “Mona Lisa’s Secret,” Stuart Friedman performed a poker effect, Craig Brooks performed an effect that I neglected to write down (doh!), Bruce Kundin performed “The Gypsy Curse” and an effect by Christian Painter, newcomer Brad Beaubien performed “Card Warp” and a cardless card trick, and Club Secretary Jay

Jennings performed “ESPissimo.” The latter, while not technically a “packet trick,” does use two packets of cards.

Past President David Goldberg performed a packet trick that didn’t quite work out, but then redeemed himself with a rope trick. (No, we’re not all that strict on sticking to the theme.) And then toward the end David Boehm brought out “Decision Point” and the performance of the effect was delightfully creepy!

The meeting ended after Robert Ray taught some card control techniques and we stood around gabbing with each other for a while. We have a great core of magicians in Ring 55, and we invite you to join us if you find yourself in the Phoenix area!
Jay Jennings

RING 56, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA – The Mystic IKI Ring

Meets 2nd. Mon. of month at home of Norris Priest, Henderson, KY
FRANK FINDLEY, Secretary
E-mail: secretary@ring56.com
Website: www.ring56.com

Thirteen individuals attended our June 21 meeting at the home of member Norris Priest. This meeting was held on a Wednesday instead of our normal Monday to accommodate a special lecture by the vaunted Bill Wisch. It was an exciting return to regular live lectures again after the Covid-driven suspension of them over the last couple years. Members also discussed their plans to attend upcoming magic and vent conventions, other I.B.M. Ring and S.A.M. Assembly events, and nearby touring magic shows such as *The Foolers* presented by Penn & Teller.

The lecture was a great mix of stories of Bill’s time as a student of Slydini and tutorials on classic Slydini material and Bill’s own unique works. Tricks covered in the first portion included a practical one-coin flurry opener, “Helicopter Card,” Bill’s enhancement to Brother John Hamman’s “The Million-to-One Chance” card matching effect, and a dual vanishing knot on rope (“Symbiotic Shoelace”).

After this, Bill told very engaging stories from his time on tour as the authorized demonstrator of Slydini’s magic. These stories were as well received by the members as was the magic! Bill then returned to the tricks with a version of “Wild Cards” using colored spots and a weather-related patter, an “Ambitious Card” routine using sleights not commonly employed ending with the card being found folded in a previously shown empty box (John Kennedy Mystery Box). The membership went crazy over his ultra clean alternative to the Mercury Card Fold, the Wisch Fold. Next up was a very practical “Impromptu Card At Any Number (I.C.A.A.N.)” Throughout his explanations, he

included detailed points of magic theory including rhythm, crossing the gaze, and even structuring routines to make rhythmic beats disappear. The lecture ended on a crescendo with his performance of “Slydini’s Knotted Silks.”

After the lecture, the group broke into smaller discussions, and everyone enjoyed the drinks and snacks provided by hosts Joe and Cheryl DiVietro.

On July 10, nine members and two guests gathered at the home of member Norris Priest for our monthly Ring 56 meeting. President Joseph Franklin began by asking members to share news on their latest shows and magic related events. Joe recently added Losander’s Floating Table to his act and happily reported tremendous audience response. John Rhoades was recently in Troy, Michigan and stopped by the Wunderground Magic Shop. He reported having a wonderful time visiting this true brick and mortar store. Lewis Chaney reported that his recent mentalism library shows for adults went very well, which was evidenced by the strong reviews on social media.

The performance theme was “Don’t leave home without it,” that is, tricks that you may always carry around with you. Dale Burden began with a chosen card revelation that was a real fooler. John Rhoades performed a transformation prediction where the number on an examined, set aside credit card morphed into the name of the chosen card. Joseph Franklin took us through his carry kit which contained his table-hopping act and many options for varying circumstances. Joe then showed his “Coins through Table” routine which incorporated ideas from J.B. Bobo and David Roth. Terry Wolf did a transposition of an initialed coin from the hand of a spectator to a sealed bag. Frank Findley presented his spin on the “Triple Bill Change” where the audience determines the denomination of the transformed bill. He also showed a three-stage weighing the cards routine. Chris Moore talked about his experience managing multiple magic restaurants. He then performed Juin Baize’s “A.T.M.” where cash is produced from a borrowed credit card. Juin is a former member of Ring 56. Chris followed this with his own “A Dream Come True” effect where a red backed card signed and buried in the deck by a spectator instantly transported to a different, blue backed deck. Lewis Chaney then presented his “Question and Answer” routine using business cards carried in his wallet. In it, an attribute a person uses to secretly describe themselves is revealed in a personal mind map reading. His goal in creating the routine was “to make cold reading, warm.” Norris Priest showed his every-

day pocket repertoire which included comedy picture cards (Pride & Joy, Kids, Dead Aunt), triple coin production and vanish, flower napkins, color changing and vanishing pocketknife, “Scotch & Soda,” and “Mis-made Bill.”

The performances continued in smaller groups over drinks and snacks as the magicians continued to magish using their EDC items. This included various bill changes, ring and chain penetration, “EDCeipts,” “Chicago Opener,” four aces, and other card tricks. Several members noted that this was one of the most fun performance themes we have had.

Frank Findley

RING 58, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thu. 6:45 pm each month, Messiah Lutheran Church, 6900

Kingston Pke, Knoxville, TN 37919

Web site: ibmring58.com

VICTOR AGREDA, Jr., President

(865) 223-1401 / e-mail: vagredajr@gmail.com

We had thirteen members (one of those via Zoom) and one former member attending the June meeting. We are moving forward with a Buy/Swap/Sell event open to other magic enthusiasts in the area or within driving distance and the magic-loving public nearby on Saturday, September 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It should be a full house with a lot of magic for sale! Meanwhile, we have five members attending the Pittsburgh I.B.M. Convention, and a couple attending the S.A.M. and TAOM. We were sad to announce the passing of a dear friend of ours and supporter of the Winter Carnival of Magic for many years, Ricky Boone.

Our theme for the magic tonight was “I Learned It from *Tarbell*” and it was a very popular one! Our Vice President, Michael Priestap, was standing in for our President and Program Chairman, Victor Agreda, and Michael opened with a challenge – bring any volume of the *Tarbell* set forward, and he would do a trick from it. And he did: he pulled a giant penny from the pages of volume five! He also produced a deck of cards and did a custom version of the “Fred” trick. Jim Stott did the “Stamp Album” that is explained in lesson forty-six found in volume 4, and he “used some magic to get the stamps into the book.” Tom Raidy was one very well-dressed man complete with a tie and top hat as he brought page 335 from volume 5 to life: “Judge Lynch’s Necktie Party” is a rope tie that took Tom’s tie from his neck to between the two ropes he escaped from! Well done!

Sherman Wires found a selected card as well as the four aces, then used the aces in a clean “Matrix” effect, and he concluded with his signature stretching of a signed card! Past

International President Mike Stratman brought his 1947 copy of volume 2 which was inscribed and signed in 1954 by Harlan Tarbell. Bill Sturgis walked us through several pieces (like the “Dissolving Coin” from volume 1) and discussed how important Tarbell’s thoughts on magic theater and routining are still today. He also shared the two Spiritual Application books and the *Tarbell Companion*. Bill Osburn did a piece from *Tarbell’s Treasures* that he found with a very unique application of the 10-20 Force to find all four nines; he also explained it to the group.

Jack Wilson opened volume 6 to find a trick he originally learned from *Magic Digest*, and he caused a silk tied around a rope to penetrate through a rope and also his arm. Tim Pressley also combined a rope and silks for a trick from volume 4 (on page 357) called “Cords of Phantasia” using a wand and several smaller silks that melted off the rope. He also showed a new trick that arrived today: an ornate 3D printed egg vase with both egg and ball. Former member Caleb Bailey gave us a little history lesson about Tarbell (Caleb is a certified antique appraiser, and loves the back story!), then he did three variations of Threading the Needle.” Roy Schubert did a mesmerizing mental effect that showed “our future is a combination of chance and choice” with multiple endings and a financial windfall.

John Gyllenhaal shared a couple more pieces about his three STEM shows he does (and did a lot via Zoom, too); one the kids love is a geometric illusion with seven rectangles that turn into eight. I.B.M. Official Photographer Michael Messing shared the Sankey “Wanderful” ropes he is using at the libraries this summer (“Professor’s Nightmare” with ropes that look like magic wands) and a Jim Kleefeld trick like the bookworm but with the Beatles! He also shared his library poster and a couple stories. To conclude almost two hours of magic, Tom Vorjohan discussed three tricks via Zoom using Jack Wilson at the meeting: he talked about “Viper” by Terry Lunceford and that it was inspired by volume 4’s “Kolma-Tarbell ‘Snooty Snake.’” He also shared Tarbell’s “Card on Necktie” and how it became a marketed effect to pull a card from the sealed card box, and he concluded with the patriotic “Yankee Doodle Card” from page 120 – singing “Yankee Doodle” to find a chosen card. There are some gems in *Tarbell*, and this was a great night of sharing!

Tom Vorjohan

RING 60, AUSTIN, TEXAS – Carl Moore Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00, at Hero’s Night Out in Cedar Park.
TRIXIE BOND, President / E-mail: trixie@trixiebond.com
Web site: www.ibmring60.org

Ring 60 members and guests gathered on July 10, 2023 for a special Ring meeting. We wel-

comed old and new members and guests to a special venue for an amazing event. We were treated to a full lecture and performance by world acclaimed magician Nathan Coe Marsh.

Nathan Coe Marsh comes to us from Orlando, Florida and his career to date has included television, corporate events, cruise ships, casinos, trade shows, and comedy clubs. He has performed in thirteen countries, on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, and is a regular headliner at The Magic Castle in Hollywood. His worldwide performances include exciting venues such as the Top of the World club in Thule, Greenland, a twenty-three-week headline residency at resorts in Maui and O’ahu in Hawaii, French Polynesia, the Mexican Riviera, the Caribbean, and South America. We were incredibly fortunate to welcome him to our local club gathering in Austin, Texas!

Nathan began his presentation with “A Spirited Opener,” a one-two punch that grabs the complete focus of an audience and set the atmosphere of fun for everything that followed. A visible vanish of a silk from a champagne flute is followed immediately by the production of a full shot glass.

He then proceeded with an updated and highly relevant version of torn and restored with his own innovative touch, encouraging us to each engage in a creative exercise and look for new objects to use in “old” tried and true routines.

Nathan moved to a stunning card routine called “Bare-Handed” in which any card called for is caught out of mid-air. The spectacle of a card sword without the cost, and Nathan showed us new techniques for stand-up as well as close-up performance.

Next, we had our mentalism minds blown with an audience-named city appearing inside a balloon. Nathan described the history and evolution of this effect with respects paid to Bill Abbott and Johnny Thompson. Nathan immediately followed with “For Chan” of Chan Canasta’s legendary Two Pocket Test which he has expertly honed over 1,200 performances.

Nathan’s comedically scripted stand-up “Chop Cup” routine cleverly used a new approach to the final load with a technological tie-in. It was brilliantly executed with great wit and humor. Again, we were encouraged to experiment, get creative, and think outside the box, or in this case, the cup. Then, red pipe cleaners tied around Nathan’s thumbs could not keep him from seamlessly moving objects through the ties in a humorous and innovative thumb tie routine.

Nathan closed out with an astonishing effect producing a signed bill inside an orange. This

creatively perfected performance is the result of years of experimentation and hundreds of live shows. The orange is in full view, the signed bill is in full view. The bill vanishes. The orange is shown whole on every side. The signed bill truly is inside the orange. What a finish!

With each effect performed and taught throughout the evening, Nathan shared the history of the effects, noted performers and creators of the effects, and offered numerous show tips. The Ring members enthusiastically peppered him with a wide variety of questions, to which he graciously and generously responded.

The group stayed after the performance and lecture to visit with Nathan, sharing and learning even more. We are moving the day and location of our future Ring 60 meetings. Starting in September 2023, we plan to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at Hero's Night Out in Cedar Park.

Tricia Heil Davis

RING 68, TOLEDO, OHIO – Toledo Society of Magicians

Meets 2nd Tues.. each month, 6:30 p.m. at Heatherdowns Library 3265

Glanzman Rd., Toledo, Ohio

PATRICK PRZYSIECKI, President

E-mail: patrick@patrickmagic.com

Ring 68 met at Brandywine Country Club on June 13. Attending were Norm Cattell, Patrick Przysiecki, Martin Jarret, George Magill, Johnny New York, and Andrew Portala. Several discussions regarding future lectures, expenses, and a possibility of putting on a public close-up show were held. Then it was show time!

The theme was “something you bought at a convention or lecture recently. Norm did an effect where the spectator picks a card in his mind and after minimal probing, the card winds up being the only card in the deck with a written message on the back. It was a puzzler.

Martin Jarret performed an effect where the cards are randomly dealt, but wind up paired with their mates.

Andrew brought a large box full of things he bought at an auction, one of which was a huge copper dove pan that was nearly big enough for an ostrich! Okay, slight exaggeration. Still, very cool to see.

Johnny New York did an amazing effect where three spectators chose name badges, then were randomly given small boxes to hold. Johnny did not look at the spectators while he “shuffled” their positions and had them randomly trading boxes with each other. This was done to the theme of “Rock, Paper, Scissors” and at the end, the name badges were revealed to be Larry, Moe, and Curly. Johnny was able to correctly state, without looking, what each participant had in his box (which was either a rock, paper, or scissors) and who beat who! He

explained the method which made our brains hurt!

Patrick did a very smooth performance of a “Cut and Restored Rope” that became one continuous circle of rope in the middle of the routine.

George performed an effect from the second volume of *Let's Talk Tricks* called “Creator” where four double back red cards change to four jacks, then to four blue backed cards, then back to four reds. It is a good trick to do to practice the Townsend Elmsley Count, Jordan Count, and such.

The meeting moved to the restaurant where there were some good discussions and some more magic! All in all, a very fun night.

George Magill

RING 70, TACOMA, WASHINGTON – Great Virgil and Julie Ring

Meets 4th Sun., at LeMay Car Museum, 2702 E. D St., Tacoma, Fife, WA.

RICK ANDERSON, Ring Contact,

501 S. 43rd St., Tacoma, WA 98408 / (253) 473-5456

E-mail: rickandersonmagic@gmail.com

Some magic meetings are small in attendance but big on quality. Our June meeting was such.

Karl Hilsenberg began with his “Gold Card Prediction.” He had a single card with a gold back which he laid on the table face down. A spectator was asked to remove several cards from the table deck and choose one. It matched the Gold Card! Karl then had a card selected from a packet of cards and returned to the deck. He asked questions of the spectator who was allowed to lie if he wanted. Color, suit, value, etc. With each response Karl dealt the cards face down as he spelled it out. Finally, he informed us that the card also had a name, Clyde, and spelled that out. At the end, with the completion of the spelling, the last card matched the one selected by the spectator. Finally, Karl then showed an impromptu routine with a Swiss army knife. Seems these knives are superior because they are magical. Karl was able to show that the emblem could be made to vanish and reappear at will.

Jon Bowne dealt out three piles of cards with the admonishment that with each pile the spectator could tell him when to stop dealing. Another card was pushed aside. The top of each pile held a king and the pushed aside card was also a king! He also told us of his work with a raccoon puppet and how it could find a chosen card from the cards scattered on the table. An essential gimmick, Jon tells us, are ZOTS. These are soft latex disks that are sticky. One is placed on the nose of the puppet and hitting the card with the nose picks up the card from those on the table.

Mike Hoyles noted that many magicians take out a deck of cards and perform. Suggesting that it would always be better if the cards were shuffled before beginning the routine, he presented a tutorial on false shuffling. *Michael Hoyles*

RING 74, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK – Harris A. Solomon Ring

Meets 3rd Thu of every month 7:30pm. For current meeting details and venue, please contact:

KEN FREHM, President / E-mail: kfrehm@gmail.com

JOEY HOFFMAN, Secretary / E-mail: joeydemonmagic@gmail.com

We had another good turnout for June's monthly Zoom meeting. Nine members signed on to talk and share magic. It was a great time as always, thank you to everyone who continues to sign on month after month and support our club!

Howard Hamburg started off the evening by showing a packet of sixteen cards. Eight pairs of red and eight pairs of black. The cards were then collected into one pile and turned over. He then explained that we would separate the cards into two piles, black and red, and we would get to choose where each card went. Even though our choices were wildly random, when he began turning the top card of each pile over, they all matched colors. Howard was also kind enough to teach us his version of "Brainwave," which is a terrific and powerful effect that can be reset instantly. We learn so much every time he signs on. Thank you again, it's very much appreciated!

Professor Rem performed a story trick using the four kings. They were each randomly lost in the deck. Rem was then able to locate all of them using various methods such as spelling, locating a key card and counting down, and a very impressive flourish at the end.

Robina showed us a routine she's been working on. Her routines are always packed with tons of visual magic. She produced a flower from seemingly nowhere and placed it in a vase. The flower was wrapped in silk and pulled straight through! She then proceeded to produce multiple flowers from the silk.

Ken Frehm showed us four kings and four queens, turned them over, and laid them into two piles. He turned one king face up and placed it in the queen pile. The same was done with a queen, placing it in the king pile. He then flipped the cards in the queen pile over and they all had switched to kings! Ken had us cut to the middle of the deck, and we cut to a joker. The remaining cards on the table were turned over and revealed to be jokers, and the rest of the queens were now in the center of the deck.

David Kilpatrick had a board with seven slots and seven different letter cards. Four had letters, and three were blank. The cards were mixed up, and we chose which card to put into which slot.

When he turned the board over, it spelt out Ken's last name with all the blank letters at the end.

Matt Timian shuffled a deck of cards and had a card selected at random. The card was then shuffled into the deck. Matt then gave a magic gesture, and the card had disappeared from the deck, and ended up in the deck box.

I performed a four ace routine I've been working on, where the aces are lost into the deck multiple times and found through different sleights. The routine ends with perhaps my favorite card effect of all time, "McDonald's Aces".

Justin Graf shared a math effect that everyone in the call could participate in. We all thought of a random number, and after a series of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing, he was able to determine the number we all had.

We also had our in-person meeting at our president, Ken Frehm's house. We've been doing these regularly, with usually between four and seven members, but we'd love to see more faces! Let us know if you're interested! Steve Tichy started off with "Sword of Sultar" where a tiny sword penetrated a coin. Thomas Yeldon reached into a bag for a handful of change, and Dave did the same. Thomas was able to determine how much change they each had by listening to the coins shaking in their hands. David Kilpatrick showed us "Future Foretold" by Doug Henning. Ken Frehm performed his four king four queen trick. I attempted to perform a version of the effect, "Everywhere and Nowhere." Thanks again Ken for your hospitality!

Our next Zoom meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month via Zoom. The meeting officially starts at 7, but you can sign on at 6:50. Interested? Email kfrehm@gmail.com and a link will be sent to. We welcome all!

Joey Hoffman

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

MATTHEW KING, Secretary / Web site: www.ring76.com

"Magic Mike" Stilwell started the meeting at 7:06 p.m. with thirty-nine people in attendance including fifteen guests and twenty-four members. There were several announcements: 1. "Magic Mike" Stilwell, Jim Sloan, and David Yee entertained at the Silvergate Yacht Club on June 4, 2023, for the Wheelchair Regatta. 2. Mark Booth gave us updated details about the Installation Banquet on Monday, July 10, 2023. Fifty people have paid, and Olive Garden staff will be serving the food. Jeff Hobson will be performing for our club. We are collecting tips

for Jeff by check or cash. The most important detail is that if you haven't paid, you won't be able to attend the Installation Banquet. The absolute deadline to pay is June 30. 3. Richard Ustick, part of the nominating committee, presented the slate of incoming officers for 2023-2024: President-Josh Sherwin; V.P. (Entertainment)-Mike Stilwell; V.P. (Membership)-James Thayer; Acting Secretary-Sherry Luft; Treasurer-Miguel Garcia; Sgt.-at-Arms-Mark Booth; and members at large-Gary Salisbury and Misha Osinovskiy. The club is still looking for a permanent secretary!

We had two auditions. First up was "Super Duper Santa," Richard Stahley. He performed a classic "Professor's Nightmare" with a twist as "Santa's Nightmare." Richard used sleigh bells as sound effects and ended with a story about Fairy Dust and candy appearing and disappearing. Next was Chris Connelly who did a card prediction. His spectator dealt cards face up and face down and flipped over cards. Chris predicted the spectator's card. Welcome Chris and Richard!

The theme was "Mentalism Night," and the first performer was "Ms. Charley" Miller. "Ms. Charley" did a comical card counting routine. Three cards were selected, fanned through the deck to determine which cards are missing, guessing all the selections correctly. Max Long was the second entertainer, demonstrating three ways of predicting the outcome of die-sleight of math, sleight of hand, and sleight of mind. Mark Booth was the third presenter. He did a prediction effect called Michael Murray's "Show Reel," guessing the correct celebrity, a book test without a book. His finale was an "Inject" effect by Greg Rostami. Mark showed a Google picture of a card that the spectator had merely thought of, and the result was a tattoo artist revealing the spectator's card. Magic Doc Pearson performed a card prediction called "Coercion" by Paul Richards. The spectator thinks of any card and the magician proves that he knew the selected card beforehand. The fifth entertainer was Mr. Funtastic, who performed "Picto Play" with flash cards, another form of card counting. Mago Ruly was up next, who triumphed with a game to combat Alzheimer's. He produced a plush animal (unicorn), and his finale was a second plush animal (cow), working with adult and children spectators. The last presenter was Steve Rowin, who did a Max Maven's "Kurotsuke" effect. He figured out the color of a single candy from a group of candies with an entirely different color. He ended with a demonstration by his son who did Rubik's Cube in record time. Misha Osinovskiy taught us card tips, including dribbles, card spring, and fanning cards. The meeting ended at 8:55 p.m. *Sherry Luft*

RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. "Social Gathering," 7:00 p.m. start time. First Methodist Church, 104 S. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL

GARY ROBERTS, President

E-MAIL: gary@robertsgary.com / Web site: www.ibmring81.com

With the 4th of July just a couple days past, we were ready for some magic in Sarasota! Thirteen members and one guest from Orlando joined in the fun for the evening. In another week, Gary Roberts and Stan Hillard and their wives will be traveling to Pittsburgh for the annual I.B.M. convention – so Ring 81 is well represented. To open the magic, Secretary Tom Vorjohan taught a few betchas and gotchas from Diamond Jim Tyler's *Bamboozler* series; he taught three tricks: the "Infinity Band," the "Left or Right Prediction," and "Miraskill." These three were well within the abilities of all.

As the performances got underway, our Vice President Star Newman assumed the role of host and emcee, as she opened with a story of teaching a woman a trick so she could perform at her daughter's wedding, and it was a great success. Woody Woodward reached deep into his office drawers to find an effect he purchased at the 1981 S.A.M. in Boston – a trick with four deuces, and the one named was found to be the only inverted card in the packet with an odd back. Bob Banta did an effect with five different colored poker chips, and all were dropped into a paper sack, and he removed just the one thought of. He finished by chomping a piece of raw spaghetti and bringing it back out of his mouth whole.

Dan Walsh did a "Bit of a Classic" by Andi Gladwin with a very visually stunning card manipulation that impressed us all and had the ace through four changing colors and vanishing one at a time. Tom Vorjohan brought out a prediction from his wallet that was just "Off by One" ("Colossal Killer"), and Gary Roberts followed with some really big cards and the assistance of Jack Walters and Hillary Reyes; spelling each of the cards brought Hillary great success and Jack not so much! Hillary followed with the assistance of her husband, Jose, for the "Greatest Game in the World;" with David Pitchford and Star Newman assisting, they both won great prizes as they randomly chose their bags! Always fun when the volunteers become the heroes.

Showing a bit of "rubber-gami," David Pitchford used two rubber bands to make the shape of a star – and it stayed in the white rubber band! Jose Reyes had some huge one-dollar and twenty-dollar bills, and he made four ones turn into four twenties and then back again, and there was no way they went up his sleeve! To end the evening, Stan Hillard did a parlor version of

“McDonald’s Aces” using three wine glasses and a surprising revelation of both the vanishing of each ace as well as the reappearance with the fourth ace sitting across the room.

Fun was had by all, and Scott Correll of SWC Magic brought some of his newer items with him to show after the performances.

Tom Vorjohan

RING 89, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN – Neil Foster Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. 7:00 American Museum of Magic

ERIC SULLIVAN, President

140 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI 49068 / E-mail: trazdal@att.net

Those in attendance included Eric Sullivan, Oliver Sullivan, Mike Morian, Jeanette Hagland, Liem McBride, Colleen Hagarty, Philip Hagerty, Kevin Treman, and Stephen Carns.

We had some light business meeting information. First of all, we wish to welcome Scott Duck to the American Museum of Magic. He is opening and getting things back running smoothly. The new hours are Wednesday to Saturday 11a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Please contact Scott Duck if you are able to provide a Saturday Show at 2 p.m. I am suggesting two because the Farmers’ Market gets out at 1 p.m. This Saturday June 24th is the Marshall Blues Festival. The Blues Festival Music will start at 3 p.m. Eric Sullivan will be doing balloons at Grandmas’ Toys and Treats possibly earlier. If any other magicians want to come down and find a spot to do some busking and promote the I.B.M. Neil Foster Ring 89, and the American Museum of Magic, please show up.

Thank you everyone who worked at the Michigan Magic Day 2023. Especially the performers, lecturers, museum staff, volunteers, stage crew, the committee, and especially everyone who came to the event. Any Clubs wishing to take on next year or any future years we do have a website system setup and email info to help you next year.

Congrats to Brynn Cummings for her performance on *AGT*. Please get a chance to watch it. If you don’t, you are missing a great act. We have a new member, Kevin Treman, who joined us for the first time this week. He shared some of his work and was well received. Okay, he impressed us. Thank you, Kevin. Jeanette Hagland also shared the speech she is presenting to Toastmasters. Her speech is about magicians and her background. Other members have been sharing and teaching some effects including Mike Morian, and our newer member Liem McBride. Our meetings are becoming more about sharing, teaching, and providing great feedback.

See you July 10th at 7 p.m. Eastern. Have a wonderful 4th of July.

Eric Sullivan

RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland

Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.

BILL FIENNING, Secretary

(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: wefienn@att.net

President Dave Dunlap opened the July Ring meeting. We are trying to build interest in the New Mexico Magic Festival coming up in September. We will host a lecture by Keith Leff on November 21, 2023. The Ring 90 Board is looking for a suitable venue for our members’ magic show, Albuqadabra. Dunlap and Treasurer Tom Plunkett held an auction of magic for Denise, the widow of one of our deceased local magic members; the proceeds were given to her. Our topic for June was Coin and Dollar Bill Magic.

Chris Rose, a visitor from out of state, performed his modified version of “Hundy 500,” instantly changing five one-dollar bills into five hundred-dollar bills. He had a couple of great ideas for the handling which were appreciated by the members.

Paul Cochrell, one of our top coin handlers in the club, performed a one coin vanish and reappear from different places on his body several times. This seemingly impossible feat culminated in the unexpected appearance of a giant coin.

Tom Plunkett asked a random spectator to take a bill from his wallet and fold it so the serial number could not be seen and give to a third party. Tom was able to divine the number of the bill. Tom also showed a dollar bill to a spectator and asked him to pick any one of the serial number digits on the bill; he correctly predicted the outcome as scribed on the back of the bill.

David Dunlap performed Jim Steinmeyer’s “Bunko,” which was highly entertaining with the dollar bill amounts constantly changing. He followed up with Daryl Martinez’s “Cross of India,” which had each of eight coins moving one at a time from one place to another. This was extremely deceptive.

Bill Fienning

RING 92, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA – The Vancouver Magic Circle (Charles Howard Ring)

Meets 4th Thurs. except July, Aug. and Dec., 7:00 pm, Sunrise

Community Hall, 1950 Windermere St., Vancouver, B.C.

YOOSIK OUM, President

E-mail: yoosikoum@gmail.com / Web site: www.ibmring92.com

The Vancouver Magic Circle’s monthly meeting took place on Thursday, June 22, 2023. Several members arrived at the hall early for the usual chat session. President Yoosik opened the meeting by greeting the members and guests. A Broken Wand Ceremony took place to remember long time Vancouver Magic Circle member

Roger Sylvestre who passed away on January 27, 2023. In attendance to remember Roger was Rangie Sylvestre, her friend Gill Laziran and Roger's nephew Keith Roy. Graham Kita conducted the Broken Wand Ceremony. Graham also read the writeup about Roger's life which was submitted by Rangie. He then read the Broken Wand Ceremony. He then broke the wand and handed it over to Rangie. There was a moment of silence.

After the ceremony, the workshops and other magical performances were presented by Joji Yamashita, S.A.M. National President Rod Boss, Jack Schwartz, Blake Aleong, John Stenning, Cameron Minty, Reg Donnelly, Robert Teszka, Ken Cowie, and James Nguyen. They all showed various card moves and techniques. Well done everyone. These mini workshops are proving to be very popular amongst the members.

Competition time. The competition for June was for the Ray Gamble Trophy. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in card magic. Competitors are handed a brand-new deck of cards with the cellophane wrapper and the seal still intact. The timing starts after the competitor has removed the wrapper and opens the seal. The seal must be opened by hand. The cards must be used as they are from the box and nothing else may be used during the routine. The jokers and the box may also be used. The cellophane wrapper may also be used. Any additional items will result in disqualification. Last year's winner, Rod Chow, was the emcee and host for this competition and he also read the rules. This is an adult competition. Robert Teszka was the timekeeper. The competitors (in order of appearance) were Charles Gauthier, John Stenning, Roy Hopwood, and Simon Cassegrain. Simon Cassegrain was the winner of the Ray Gamble Trophy for 2023. Congratulations to Simon and to the rest of the competitors.

In between the acts Rod spoke about the first ever President of the Society of American Magicians from outside the U.S.A. the first ever Canadian president of the oldest magic organization in the world in its one hundred twenty-year history. He also spoke about the benefits of competing at various levels- local, regional, national and international, and encouraged members to enter as competitors to inspire confidence, creativity, and act development. Dennis Chan gave another reminder to the members not to play around with their cards and cell phones during a lecture or a competition as this distracts the performer and other members. In the words of Past National S.A.M. President Ice

McDonald, you should not be performing unless you are scheduled to perform.

The business portion of the meeting, members were reminded about the August picnic, and the September auction. The evening ended with I.B.M. International President Billy Hsueh presenting Dennis Chan with a framed interim certificate recognizing him for the Order of Merlin Excalibur and his fifty years of continuous membership with the I.B.M. The official pin and certificate will arrive by post. Thanks to Billy and to everyone in the Vancouver Magic Circle. Graham Kita received a Presidential Citation from Billy recognizing him and his hard work and dedication to Ring 92. Congratulations Graham.

Photographers were Henry Tom, Graham Kita, Rod Boss, Billy Hsueh, Simon Cassegrain, Glen LaBarre, and many others who took photos of Dennis Chan and Graham Kita receiving their certificates on this special occasion.

For the refreshments, Rod Boss brought cookies, Graham Kita brought cookies, coffee, and bottled water. Cameron Minty brought baklava, which is some kind of a dessert. Thanks everyone. Thanks to Kim Fabbro for giving me a ride to and from the meeting. There were twenty-six members and seven guests in attendance.

Dennis Chan

RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club

3rd Sun., 7:00pm, Hy-Vee meeting room, 400 Locust St., Dubuque, Iowa
BOB BEARDSLEY, President, (563) 556-8584
E-mail: rbeardsly@Q.com

Rob Gomoll opened the meeting as usual with the club song, and he presented his monthly poem titled "We Are Actors, Not Magicians!" based on the quote from Robert Houdin.

"We are actors playing the part of a magician," said Robert-Houdin, a man of great fame. / Eric Weiss (a.k.a. "Houdini") took his name. / In top hat and tails, Houdin took magic to the stage. / In the 19th century, he was all the rage. / He was the archetype of the magician's image. / Of course, everyone knows we can't really see a woman in half. / And, to pull a card out of thin air, we need some sort of gaff. / Yes, acting is the heart of the matter, / So it only makes sense To work on our "patter" / And our stage presence. / We depend on sleight of hand and distractors. / We magicians are indeed actors!

After that, Rob did a trick called "Invisible Dice." Using a math formula, he could figure out what two dice a spectator rolled.

Next up was Phyllis Fishnick who did a rubber band, paperclip and dollar trick called "Sergeant Elastic and Two Clip Artists." She has

been teaching magic to first and second graders in a summer program at the University of Dubuque. She also made a present of a change bag to a young member of the club.

Adam Kieffer was next. He did a knotted rope trick that wowed all of us. He knotted the rope and removed the knot. Then he put a knotted rope through a paper tube and pulled it out without the knot. He also did a "Ring and Rope" trick.

Bob Beardsley did some impromptu tricks using a silk and thumb tip in a very special way, so we couldn't see the thumb tip. He did a coin trick where he removed a coin from one hand and put it in his pocket only to have another coin in the same hand. He could do it numerous times as if he had an infinite supply of coins. He taught a young member the pencil paddle-move which moved the label on the pencil from the top to the bottom. He also did his version of "B'Wave" and a card trick featuring Houdini, wife Bess, and some shackles.

Eight-year-old Kaden Juers did a trick with a wand and a box, making the wand disappear. He also made coins in a container disappear. Kaden showed remarkable confidence and mature dialogue in his performance.

Reverend Jim McCrea did a trick with an invisible pool cue. He used some actual chalk to chalk-up the tip of the cue then he had a spectator hold his hand out and invisibly shot a pool cue at the spectator's hand. When the spectator opened his hand, there was a blue chalk stain on it as if he actually hit the spectator's hand! He did the "Seven-Card Lie Detector" next.

Club president Chris Westemeier did a trick called "Out of This World" with cards facing up and down. He finished with a trick he called "Oil and Water" where he deftly separated the red and black cards from what looked like a hodge-podge.

At the end of the meeting, the members spoke about how to use the "Enigma Pad" for mentalism.

Rob Gomoll

RING 94, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND – The King Ring

Meets 4th Weds. each month, 7:30 p.m., Hagerstown American Legion, Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD / Web site: www.kingmagicring.com
JOHN SWOMLEY, President / E-mail: johnnyo@trickyperson.com

It's June and time again for our annual banquet. With the completion of our meal here at the Morris Frock American Legion Post 42, Karen James presided over the ceremony and a new slate of offices was elegantly installed.

Dave Bowers became past president and gave out the "Top Hat Award." It is for someone who, in the past year, was most helpful. That award went to John Swomley. Our new president is Chuck Jones. Chuck gave a rousing speech and

themed the coming year as a year of "Magic First."

As our guest performer this year we were honored by Rich Bloch. Rich regaled us with a cavalcade of elusive and mystifying magic along with the Rich Bloch humor, which made for an incredible evening. *John Swomley*

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

On Saturday, June 17th, Ring 96 held its most recent meeting. We started with a pre-meeting workshop led by Kevin Papke. The topic for this month was the classic card trick, "Oil and Water." The workshop went well, and there will be a follow-up to it next month.

We started the meeting proper on a rather sad note with a Broken Wand Ceremony for the late Don Hallinger. Don was the father of long-time member and former Ring President Kim Hallinger.

President Jon Piercy introduced our lecturer for the night, Belle Daily. Belle is known primarily as a kids' magician, but she also does corporate work. She is a member of the Magic Castle and is well respected in her field. Belle's lecture showed some magic, but also strongly focused on the "business" side of the profession.

Belle opened by explaining why she does kids' shows. Simply put she is always working. Last year, with fifty-two weeks in a year, she did forty-one kids' shows, and she makes money doing it. She warned that when you are doing kids' shows, things will go wrong. You must always be ready to make a repair to a prop. If your prop cannot be repaired simply by you at home, perhaps that is not the prop to bring to the show. Also, kids are brutally honest. They will tell you if they think you are old, or if they catch onto your magic method. You just have to roll with it.

Belle is not a full-time magician. She has a "day job" and does magic on the side. She makes a good living at it so it can work. It is an inspiration to all those magicians who are not full-time, how well Belle does and how constantly she works. Free advice: base your shows around things that kids like. Belle will often produce things from empty cereal boxes. Kids like bright colors, and they like music. Use both. Belle will often take a length of bright yellow plastic chain and put it on the floor to delineate the "stage" area. Kids like to help, use volunteers.

Things to watch out for in kids' shows: Nine-year-old boys tend to be very chaotic. Ten-year-old girls can be very talkative. Pets may make

surprise guest appearances in your show. Move them out as best you can. Older children may want to insert their younger siblings into the show. Try to be fair. Pick a boy volunteer for this trick and a girl volunteer for the next. Kids will know that you are trying to be fair and respect you for it. Be aware of volunteers with learning disabilities. The family knows what the kid's limitations are and they will be understanding and accepting. Belle will always pause the show to allow for a crying baby to be removed from the show. Teenagers can be challenging. Belle gave her answer to a kid yelling out, "I know that one!" Her answer is to yell back, "Me too!" She suggested that this answer avoids a long, time-wasting discussion.

Belle presented her list of what a magic shop might try to sell to a starting-out kids' magician. Her list included a Die Box, Run Wolf Run (run rabbit run) PB&J, Torn and Restored, (with a kid-based graphic) ABC blocks, Stratosphere Tube, and flowers from an empty box. Then she gave us her list. First up was sponge balls. She did a demonstration of how a large sponge ball not only becomes a cube, but somehow produced the number ninety-six in sponge lettering.

She demonstrated a routine called "Food to Go." This very visual routine starts with a sign that reads food to go, it opens into a menu. Once someone orders a hamburger then a real hamburger is produced from inside the menu. Belle has fake food models because depending on what time the show is, the burger places may not yet be open for lunch, and it could be hard to find a real hamburger. Belle likes the Crystal Silk Cylinder, as well as the change bag. She much prefers the drawstring change bag over the one with the long handle. A drawstring bag is something that kids can recognize and relate to, the long handle one looks like a magic prop. Belle did a very funny routine called "Can You Guess What Is In My Sandwich?" It featured a prop sandwich and a piece of music that had a guy singing the title of the trick. The music was dance inspiring and probably works well with kids in the audience. At the end someone guessed "turkey" was in the sandwich, and Belle opened the prop sandwich to show a Thanksgiving style turkey graphic. Apparently, the sandwich can be opened to several different reveals depending on the guess.

Recommendation: Always record new shows to critique yourself. Belle demonstrated a magician's choice using mini cereal boxes. Now Belle spoke about the business of the profession: Handling a booking call; building rapport with the parents; information to know about the event; using Venmo to get paid; and minimize

the steps needed to get the show booked. Belle called up a volunteer and did a simulation of a booking call.

How to charge for a show? How long is the show? Belle recommends thirty minutes and no longer. Change extra for added benefits such as balloon animals, face painting, reading a story, teaching a trick (Belle does not recommend this), producing a bunny, petting zoo (with your rabbit), and a photo booth. Our area prices range from \$175 to \$500. Choose your price appropriately. Belle strongly recommends not telling other magicians your price, it only leads to unhappiness.

Cliff Gerstman

RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - The Maurice Booklyn Ring

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street Chatswood.

DALE TRUEMAN, President / email: daletrueman@me.com

President Dale Truman opened the June meeting and reminded members that next month's meeting, to be chaired by Peter Wood was to be classics of magic. Members were asked to negotiate with Peter to eliminate duplication. Dale then introduced Steve Miller to continue tonight's meeting. Although Steve has only recently come back into magic after he had a teenage interest, he has shown great skills in presentation in his performances at our Ring. He had chosen Mentalism for tonight's topic.

Steve asked the question, "Why Mentalism?" then he explained that generally our spectators know that we don't have any extra powers, but with Mentalism, they just aren't sure and a doubt creeps into their minds. To demonstrate Steve showed us a pack of Flash Cards that he claimed he purchased from a local Lane Cove two-dollar shop. He had three spectators cut to cards which he mentally divined. Steve then told us it was an effect that he had purchased from Paul Richards at the recent Blackpool Convention. Steve spoke of seeing Derren Brown last December then asked our treasurer, Peter Wood, to think of a dream, to condense it to just one word and to write it on the back of a business card. Steve again divined Peter's dream which was to be watching magic in Las Vegas.

Showing some hotel key cards and some postcards, Steve had one of each chosen, he then had six coloured envelopes, one was also chosen, and it contained a hotel key card to match everything. It was Steve's rendition of "Executive Suite" by David Minton from Alakazam Magic. Steve then spoke of his success with mixing story telling magic with his work as a marriage celebrant. Using a 1940s

soundtrack of the “Battle of Britain,” he spoke of the invention of the game of Cluedo, also known as Clue in the U.S.A. Having business cards with six rooms, six weapons and six murder suspects, he had one of each freely chosen in a different manner. The effect concluded when he produced a copy of the *Cotswold Gazette* with the headlines that Colonel Mustard had committed the murder using a revolver in the library which all proved to be correct.

Steve then started to introduce the other performers for tonight’s entertainment. First was Peter Rodgers who handed out packets of cards to seven spectators. Six of those spectators mentally thought of just one card from those packets. The seventh spectator, Bob checked to make sure all his cards were different, he mixed them up, then without looking sat on just one card. All the packets of cards were collected, and the pack was returned to its case. Then Peter read the minds of the first six spectators who all sat down as he disclosed their thought of card. Peter then explained that he could also see into the future, and he predicted that in a few seconds that Bob would show everyone the card that he was sitting on and that it would be the Ten of Hearts, which it proved to be.

Sean Taylor started by showing how unobservant we are. He asked us all to remove our phones and to look at the home screen, then without looking he asked if the date was above or below the time. Most of us couldn’t answer and we had to check. He then asked if the day was written in full, or was it abbreviated. Even though we had looked at our phones a few times during the last few minutes very few of us could tell us the correct time. Sean then split up a pack of cards amongst various spectators asking them to shuffle their cards. He then gathered the pack together inviting two spectators to come up to help. Half the pack was given to one spectator, and Sean took a few seconds to go through the other half, memorizing the cards which were then handed to the second spectator. Sean then went through each suit of cards and from memory he was able to nominate which spectator had which card. Using a card with the number one to twenty Sean had spectators nominate objects which were written against chosen numbers until all twenty were filled. He then showed that he could recall every item as the numbers were requested or any number as the item was named. He could also list the items either from one to twenty or in reverse from twenty to one.

Our next performer was John Kanawati, using a small child’s block with various letters in different colours he proved that he could tell which colour or letter was up using various

senses when the block was placed in a small box by a spectator. The effect concluded with the block completely vanishing.

Phuoc Can Hua had some small tablets with pictures of various foods on them. With his extra senses he deduced the tablets hidden in a small lunch box. Phuoc then using three Chinese figurines and three ESP cards requested a spectator to mentally choose one of the ESP cards and to exchange the other two all whilst Phuoc’s back was turned. The spectator moved the figurines and the ESP card as directed, but Phuoc, with a little help from the mathematical genius of Bob Hummer and Martin Gardner managed to locate the chosen ESP symbol.

Cam, our visitor from last month’s meeting had returned, he likes to mix technology and old methods. He got a spectator to stop him as he riffled through a pad with celebrities names on each page to choose a film star. Someone else called out a two-digit number, that number was compared to a list of names on Cam’s phone creating a coincidence that only happens in a magic show.

Jack Sharp, our next performer is a family entertainer, but yes, he was up to show us his latest acquisition of children’s mental effects. He asked for someone to name a famous painting, but being a mob of magicians his hope that they would call out the Mona Lisa failed. This, however, was well covered by Jack’s comedy presentation. He then produced a box of jigsaw puzzle pieces. One was chosen and Jack directed our attention to a stand covered by a scarf. On removing the covering it was seen to be an almost completed jigsaw of the Mona Lisa, the world’s most famous painting. One piece however was missing, and the spectator proved that he held the chosen piece which now completed the puzzle. Jack had just performed “The Final Piece,” a great effect from Tenyo’s 2023 releases. Jack then started to talk about Lego characters, and he said that we would now create a new one. Producing a booklet of pictures of various Lego characters, Jack showed us that each picture was cut into three sections. By riffling through each section, and stopping when requested, Jack could form a character made up of different parts. Tonight, the head was of a policeman, the body a pirate and the legs were of a tiger. A prediction that had previously been placed in “the birthday boy’s” pocket proved to be correct and an actual Lego figurine of the strange character was presented to the spectator. Mark Shortland is the genius behind this new effect called “Sketching Svengali” which gives a clue to the method.

Andy Nunn is a professional Mentalist based

in Sydney and he was tonight's final entertainer. He certainly demonstrated his professionalism tonight showing us a medley of mental effects. He had a spectator write their PIN number on the back of his business card which was then folded with the writing on the inside, but it only took seconds to discern the number. Andy was then generous enough to explain his billet reading technique. He had a spectator name a word and using five spectators in a line to think of associated words one after the other. The final word was found to have been predicted on a spectator's mobile phone. Both famous people and friends of spectators were thought of, and Andy managed to deduce them all.

As it was now 9:30, Steve ended what had been a great meeting and we adjourned to supper which is when we really get to know each other.

Peter Rodgers

RING 106, PARSIPPANY, NEW JERSEY – Pyramid Garden State Ring

Meets 8:00pm, 4th Tue. United Methodist Church, 903 S. Beverwyck Ave., Parsippany, NJ Contact # (973) 422-0019
BENNET CARLIN, Secretary

The July meeting had an ESP/Mentalism theme, but as is customary, all facets of magic are always welcome and were on display. Joe Garsetti started off the meeting blowing a cigar bubble and turning it into a bouncing rubber ball. Phil Schwartz followed this up with "Thought Transmitter" by John Cornelius. In this case he predicted a heart drawing inside a crystal ball. He then continued with Jim Sisti's "Mixed Symbols" and correctly found a chosen ESP card with a baffling count.

Bruce Harpster showed off his routine of Eugene Burger's "Thought Sender" trick. His reveal of an opposite-colored backed card took everyone by surprise. Dan Sylvestri caught everyone off guard with his flawless handling of Bob Cassidy's "Chronologue" trick. Using a 365-day planner, he managed to instantly locate the card inside an envelope that was indicated on the chosen date.

Edie Conrad utilized a super jumbo deck which he found at a hobby lobby. Giving his own twist to Brian Caswell's "Cataclysm," he utilized a special flashlight on a pad containing invisible ink to reveal the chosen card values. Stan Bladdek followed with the greatest four jack trick that never materialized as they all turned into jokers. This was Larry Jennings handling of the "Homing Card" and utilized the gaffed card found in the July 2002 issue of *MAGIC* magazine.

John Henderson performed John Bannon's "Hush Hush" and gave us a great mnemonic to remember the card set up prior to dealing. (In

1942, a 357 magnum was given to eight 16-year-olds.) The overall variety of magic performed made for a wonderful meeting, a good learning experience, and great camaraderie and friendship for all the attendees. *Stan Bladdek*

RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at First Christian Church of Blue Springs, 701 NW 15 St., Blue Springs, MO.
JASON MOORE, President,
E-mail: iccemann101@gmail.com

On July 6 we took shelter from the summer heat to attend our monthly Ring meeting. We began with the presentation of the trophies for the top three places in the annual Enslow Award competition for stage magician of the year, which we finally held last month after some delays.

Jerry Jackson, the reigning close-up contest winner, again took first place. Brad Lynn and Gene Kean were the first and second runners up. Since we are submitting a separate article and photospread on the event to *The Linking Ring*, I won't go into detail here.

Ring President Jason Moore then introduced the discussion topic of the evening, "I bought this; now what do I do with it?" Jerry Jackson showed us a trick he had purchased at a convention, one that had too many difficult moves, and explained how he had changed the routine to allow for the same effect with more workable sleights. Keith Leff showed how he could use a prop that he had purchased as a switchbox for cards (which was too awkward to use) to load a ring instead. David Heeter showed us a piece of magic apparatus he had acquired without instructions and asked (to no avail) what it was supposed to do. Dennis Burks (slightly off topic) demonstrated a square-circle device he had made in our magic-makers subgroup.

We followed with a discussion of a film *Our Magic*, which Jason had assigned last month. The reviews were mostly positive.

Following Alabama Jones' presentation of the latest items he had for sale through his virtual store (Magic Supply Company), we went on to our "Share the Magic" segment. Dennis Burks began with a book review of Tommy Wonder's *Books of Wonder*, which he had purchased several years ago at a convention but just gotten around to reading recently. He was amazed at how many insights he received from reading it. Jerry Jackson then discussed a book he had just finished reading, *Carter Beats the Devil*, a novel based on the magic feats of a magician of the same name.

These reports were followed by five performances. John Hicks explained how he had been

asked to develop a Blackjack routine, which he demonstrated for us, showing how he cleverly used the “Color Monte” moves to fit the theme. Brad Lynn changed a plastic cube to a ball and then changed the ball to a flat disc. He also performed a card routine in which all the cards except for a chosen card wound up in his pocket. Phil Franklin performed a mentalism routine during which he “guessed” which of the spectator’s hands held an imaginary die. Shaun Rivera showed us his original version of “The Trick that Fooled Einstein,” and then explained that the story of Einstein being fooled has been debunked. Finally, Keith Leff returned to the original theme of the night with a prop that would fool no one.

Since the meeting was a bit shorter than usual, many of us hung out discussing magic until it was time to vanish into the night. *Su Lewis*

RING 131, DENVER, COLORADO – Mile High Magicians Society – The Earl Reum Ring

2nd Thu., 7:00pm Knight of Columbus Hall.
4935 w. 1st Ave., Denver, CO 80219
GLENN PROULX Secretary / glennproulx@gmail.com
Web site: www.milehighmagicians.com

This month we had two fantastic lectures, the first was How to Routine Your Magic and the second was Marcos Waldemar. Jeff Jenson started us off with how he made his TNR toilet paper act into a routine. Try to pick your music to go with the flow and beats of your performance.

Shawn Preston was a few seconds short of timing his music with the act. It dawned on him to do something simple to fix it, so he just rolled up both sleeves and that solved the problem. Sometimes it is just that simple. If you are thinking of adding music to your act start with walk on and walk off music, then add to it.

Joe Givan and Carole Massie stated that engaging and connecting with the audience is very important to your show. Listening to the audiences oohs and aahs will give you feedback to what tricks worked and how your patter was. Eye contact and scripting is a must.

Tara Headberg suggested that you always face your audience, stand at a forty-five-degree angle to the audience and the audience on the side and helper can all see and hear you. The main thing for you to think about is to always be ready to recover when something goes wrong. It definitely could happen!

Tips for trade shows: Hit the bullet points for the company; perform a patter trick if the music dies; keep the volume down when using instrumental music; your music should be the frosting on the cake that helps the magic; always allow time for applause; greet them at the beginning and thank them for coming to your show; prac-

tice and time your act and use video or audio equipment to help you practice.

Marcos Waldemar performed a bunch of fun magic for us while passing through. He did a nice “Card at Any Number” and “The Tree and The Better Half” that was a card trick where many cards were torn in half and placed into piles. After the piles were shuffled the two halves matched! Marcos talked about the Penelope Principle used in one of his tricks. He also explained his handling on the Erdnase Color Change and did a nice trick with your business card. He also did a nice trick with a thin candy wrapper, and we could name what candy we wanted, and the wrapper actually smelled like the named flavor. Last he had a pet fly that found the spectator’s card. *Glenn Proulx*

RING 148, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Garden City Ring

Meets 4th Weds., (except Dec. & Jan) 7:30pm The Bombshelter, South Rd., Thebarton. www.ibm148blogspot.com
DREW AMES, Secretary
E-mail: info@drewmagic.com.au

Ring 148 Adelaide held our meeting on Wednesday the 28th of June 2023. The time of the meeting was 7:30 p.m.

At the meeting we had Tom Weil, Murray Cooper, Ian Riley, Kevin Casaretto, and two guests, Matt Lehmann along with Phil Ahrens.

Tom told us about his gig in Japan that went well. Murray has the task of getting more of us to use the library. There are some very real gems in the library, and we should use it a lot more than we have.

We had four performers for the night. Kevin started it off with a four in one chance of finding the lost card. It was a good start for the performers of the night. Murray did a “Three Card Monte” and followed it with an Okito coin box routine with twenty-cent pieces and a Mexican coin. Murray also had us in wonder with his colour changing aces and colour changing deck. Tom did a mind reading routine with some modern phones and watches and had us intrigued.

Ian brought the night to an end with his escape beads. *Kevin Casaretto*

RING 153, BILLINGS, MONTANA – Billings Magic Society

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Reflections, 1140 Sixteenth Street West, Suite 13, Billings, MT.
KENT MESSEMER, President / E-mail: kmezmriz@qwestoffice.net
122 S. 36th St., Billings, MT 59101

There were fewer of us to perform magic in June, perhaps due to our moving the meeting one week later, the result of some scheduling conflicts. But the four of us carried on the tradition of performing magic in the city whose nickname is “The Magic City.”

Our discussion centered on our Ring's contact with the national office of I.B.M. Brent Cromley explained how he had tried, unsuccessfully, to obtain a list of I.B.M. members in Montana so that they could be invited to be official members of our Ring. In that process he had offered to be appointed Territorial Vice President, if necessary to get the information, as that post has apparently been vacant for years. Brent was told that the central office did not have information regarding our Ring's meeting location and time, even though that information has been published in *The Linking Ring* for years, and never did receive a list of members. So, a somewhat frustrating experience, according to Cromley. And Montana remains without a TVP.

Tony Shandy related how much he enjoyed reading *The Linking Ring* and cited an article he had recently read on the life of Harry Houdini.

Joe Gastineau explained that he'd let his membership lapse, and needed to obtain an application form, so that is a project for our next meeting.

The magic was splendid, as we have come to expect. Tony indicated his voice was ailing so that he couldn't present a more dramatic story, as he usually does, but quickly amazed us all in showing an effect created by Tony Corinda called "Third Choice."

Brent went to the back of the room so he could try out a telephone effect from Joe Hernandez's book, *Phonetastic*. The trick, "A Trick You Can Count On," involved Tony dealing cards until he wanted to stop, adding some cards, and then reading the top twenty or so cards of the deck. The effect worked, and Brent was as surprised as the rest of the group when he realized that it actually fooled everyone. After that, Brent presented a newly purchased trick from Rick Lax titled "Past, Present and Future," using Tarot cards.

Joe hadn't brought any magic this month but did bring a variety of items that he creates using paracord. He has an amazing array of key fobs, dolls, bottles, and other items that he makes and sells at local markets.

And we concluded our meeting once again with delicious treats from Tony's fiancé, Debbie, who brought us plenty of Rice Krispie Treats.

Billings has been the recipient of record amounts of rain this month, so the entire countryside is as green as it ever can be. Let us know if you have plans to visit the Big Sky State, and we'll try to get together with you. *Brent Cromley*

RING 167, DES MOINES, IOWA – Justo Hijo of Magic, Inc.

3rd Mon., 7:00pm Felix & Oscars 4050 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA
BRUCE ANDERSON, Secretary
E-mail: bga0128@gmail.com

President Steve Hinrichs welcomed club members with the "Shrinking Card Box" trick.

He claimed to get a regular red card deck out of a tiny box. After showing the routine, he gave all members in attendance the trick, great starter for an evening of magic. Steve announced a July 24th Bill Wisch lecture featuring magic of Slydini. He also announced for our annual Christmas Party that each of our members present a five-minute routine for our show. Steve shared a routine with Walter that involved three tubes: a red with a smaller blue tube inside, and a white tube that was empty. Steve magically switched the blue tube over to the white tube. Then sent the blue back to the red and when lifting the white there was a clear drinking glass. Walter was impressed as well as the club members.

Alan Koslow announced giving card magic lessons at Sam's Club Cafe Sunday 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. He then asked Barb Funke to choose a card and shuffle the deck. Then he asked Jesse to choose a color, she chose red, and then a number from one to five and she picked five. Alan asked Barb to look inside a pizza box and was surprised to find the 5H. What a delivery!

Lucas McCannon showed three envelopes, one red, one yellow, and one blue. He asked Rex Thompson to choose an envelope. Rex chose red. Then he asked Barb to choose a color. She picked yellow. Lucas was left with the blue envelope, opened it to read predictions that said Rex will pick red, Barb will pick yellow, and Lucas will get the blue. Fun routine!

Rex shared a magic box that contained a Coke can. Barb slid blades through the box that appeared to go through the can. Upon removing the blades, the can was lifted out intact. Great visual trick!

Barb is a pro balloon animal creator and ventriloquist. She showed a dog that barked and a monkey that chattered. She appears at parties and festivals and creates a variety of animals for children of all ages. She will participate the first Sunday in August at the Fall Festival at the Des Moines Union Park Carousal. Club magicians are welcome to participate.

Sydney Storm shared how to amuse someone who checks his ID. The ID has a small piece of red sponge on his picture's nose, and he'll put the red sponge on his nose for a fun surprise. He mentioned being careful not to pick a cop or TSA agent to show this trick.

Bruce Anderson brought Larry Reed up to help in the "Fastest Card Trick in the World." Bruce read the official certificate then handed Larry the Top-Secret envelope containing predictions for chosen cards. Larry chose Alan to name a card, he picked the 8H. Then Tom picked the AC. Larry was instructed to carefully

open the Top-Secret envelope that revealed the both the 8H and the AC. This is a fast and easy routine that amuses the participants.

Larry then shared a paper tear with a story of a sailboat to Hawaii that got caught in a storm. He continued to tear and repair the boat that ended up the shape of a t-shirt. Larry's a master paper tearer and storyteller.

Steve and Bruce brought tables of books and videos that were free to our members. We enjoy cleaning house and encouraging young (and old) members to read and learn new tricks.

Bruce Anderson

RING 170, ORLANDO, FLORIDA – Bev Bergeron Ring

3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m., at IHOP on Kirkman Road, Orlando, FL.
DENNIS PHILLIPS, Secretary / E-mail: dphillips13@cfl.rr.com
Web site: www.Ring170.com

The June meeting date was shifted to earlier in the month so we could host a lecture by New Jersey's Bill Wisch. President Ryan Stiner introduced Bill and his son, Kevin.

Wisch is a fifty-year full-time professional sleight of hand artist, performer, and innovator. He is the only student Slydini ever authorized to lecture his magic on his behalf. Bill is the inventor of over thirty original sleights, winner of multiple awards in magic, and is proud of the fact that most of the magic he does is of his own creation or enhanced versions of classic magic.

His lecture included: "Impromptu Any Card at Any Number," a variation of the famous card effect (this was his great version of the ACAAN effect); "A Beautiful Day;" The "Slydini Wild Card Turnover" his new Flushturation Count; "Slydini's Helicopter Card," a chosen card invisibly goes from a card fan to a pile on the table; and "The Slydini Knots," the classic knots in two tied handkerchiefs that melt away.

Often you get something that you don't expect in a magic lecture, and this was the case with Wisch. Slydini was a mentor to Wisch. He advertised his visit as a lecture on Slydini magic, but Wisch focused more on how he enhanced and improved on a few of his mentor's, effects. There were some new and clever moves like the Wisch Wedge and a Flip-flop deal that fooled Dai Vernon at the Magic Castle. Since many of the moves were unique and unusual, Wisch had available DVDs with full explanations. Quality instruction from a master is priceless.

Dennis Phillips

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>
TOM VORJOHAN, President / E-mail: ring175magic@gmail.com

Ring President Tom Vorjohan opened the June meeting with brief updates regarding club

business and the success of our one-day Tampa Bay Festival of Magic last month. Special thanks went out to the convention "set-up/clean-up" crew of John Keever, John Holly, Rudy Hernandez, Ken Spanola, and Daniel Fite. These guys did such a great job cleaning up after the convention, the Eye Institute refunded the three-hundred-dollar clean-up fee normally charged for an event (proving Ring 175 magicians are great at making things disappear)!

The theme for this evening was a Tampa Magic Club Card Clinic. The first hour of the meeting featured three instructors moving between three groups of magicians to provide some "hands on" card handling instructions. The talented and witty Bob Klase taught us the extremely useful Elmsley and Jordan Counts along with several amazing effects using the counts. For magicians unaware of these methods, it was eye-opening! Meanwhile, Club Treasurer Ken "Kentastic" Spanola was busy teaching the card handling techniques needed to perform the "Chicago Opener." Ken also provided a printout which included some history of the effect and the various names it is known by (i.e., Red Hot Lady Killer). Later in the meeting, members were provided with a roughed stranger card to facilitate their DLs while they are practicing the real thing, ensuring everyone went home ready to perform this great opener!

Club Secretary John Holly came armed with tips for using the Si Stebbins Stack. The false shuffle and Charlier Shuffle were so convincing many members spent most of their "hands on" time practicing them! John uses a ShoCkeD order for the suits rather than the usual ChaSeD order believing it facilitates the determination of the next card since Spades have one point, Hearts have two curves, Clubs have three circles and Diamonds have four points. He also suggests memorizing the first thirteen card bank in your stack. The values in the other three banks will be the same, only the suits change. Since the sister card for any card is exactly 26 cards away from it, by memorizing cards one to thirteen, you also know their sister cards at positions twenty-seven to thirty-nine (by adding twenty-six to the position of the originally memorized card). So, you already know half the deck! Memorizing the order within the banks will help you with some mentalism type effects or when "weighing the cards" or "feeling the ink" on the cards to determine their value. John also suggested a number of great routines using the Stebbins Stack, including Gene Anderson's comprehensive Stebbins routine from *The Book*, Allan Slaight's "Sly Stebbins" lie detector effect, Jim Swain's "A Tribute to Dunninger,"

Craig Petty's "Beyond Stebbins" (including Stebbins with an invisible deck!), and Theodore Annemann's book test "A Thought is Fathomed." Frank Velasco offered up Martyn Smith's "Up the Ante" which is a great gambling bit using Stebbins and the Gilbreath Principle together. So much magic from one simple stack!

After all of our instructors had made their rounds, it was time for member performances. Daniel P. Fite has Frank Velasco phone a daughter for a fun imaginary dice effect! Dr. John Aime demonstrated the Hindu Shuffle with jumbo cards, then made a big production out of his big prediction with a New Yorker's Tree of Clubs prop! Ring President Tom Vorjohan gave John Bannon's new book *Very Hush-Hush* rave reviews and then showed us some tricks from the book. I am not sure if Tom will be getting a kickback, but he definitely sold a few books for Mr. Bannon tonight!

Finally, wearing his signature bright red shirt and spangled red vest, Mark Byrne showed us he already knows Elmsley Counts and DLs. Using serious card handling skills in a very casual manner, Mark entertained us with his up close and personal audience interactions.

This was a fun night of learning and magical entertainment! Member feedback indicates the hands-on approach was appreciated so we will likely do another clinic in the near future... maybe ropes?

Ring President Tom Vorjohan opened the July meeting by greeting "Darren from Nebraska" who had to come looking for us, but finally found us and we are glad he did! If you are ever in our area on the second Tuesday of the month, please do what Darren did and come hang out with us for an evening you will most certainly remember! If you are our only guest for the evening, as good sport Darren was, you can expect to be called up on stage as a "volunteer" throughout the night, so wear comfortable shoes.

Tom provided brief updates regarding club business before reporting sad news regarding the passing of one of our most beloved members, Peter Labruzzo, on June 17. To know Pete was to love Pete and our Ring is deeply saddened. A Broken Wand Ceremony is in the works in remembrance of this remarkable gentleman. Photos of Pete in action have been shared on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1347147769374092>

The theme for our July meeting was a "Gambling/Betcha Night," ensuring a fun filled event with lots of magic and methods shared. Always a popular evening to break out poker deals, "Three Card Monte" routines, endless chains, or any of Diamond Jim's material, our

members did not disappoint with their chicanery.

The magical Charles Garvey, "Weaver of Impossibilities," started the evening explaining how he could perform for any audience after his experience as the first magician to perform at two nearby nudist clubs! The experienced Joe Dobson advised Charles on the effectiveness of mirrored sunglasses in such a situation. Charles then performed Erick Olson's "Pick Your Poison," a self-contained mental bar bet he purchased from Erick at our one-day convention last May. Charles uses this effect when he is teaching magic at the OSHA Lifelong Learning Institute, and he did the same for us this evening.

Tom Vorjohan was up next with a couple of quickies, demonstrating how to turn a rubber band into an "infinity band" and then showing us how a stack of quarters measures up. I would go into detail, but I am going to use these. Tom then had Dr. Rob Albergo pass a coin from hand to hand while spelling his silent responses to a series of questions posed by Tom. At the end of his questioning, Tom knew the coin was in the doctor's left hand! Tom explained the method to the group, and we are sure to use it! Don't you wish you were here? We do too.

"Las Vegas" Joe Dobson was up next with a blank card monte routine he performed with our favorite volunteer, Darren. Using some fun Jon Armstrong sticker material, Joe demonstrated why you should never play this game.

Dr. Robert Albergo showed us an SEO magic effect where, using their phone, a photo is taken of your volunteer holding an empty wallet, a card is selected, and then the photo is examined revealing the selected card in the photo taken beforehand! The photo becomes their souvenir!

The talented and amusing Bob Klase was giving away twenty-dollar bills from the moment he walked in the room (just don't try to spend them)! Sticking with a theme, Bob had two volunteers join him on stage as he did a marvelous "Bills Across" routine with original patter regarding new math and how taxes work.

One of our newer members, the charming Gary Jenkins, performed a Bill Abbott effect using a deck of cards with pictures of fish on them. "Pick a cod!" yelled Mark Byrne from the back of the room. A fish card was selected and returned to the deck, the deck was tossed into a paper bag, and Gary stabbed a knife straight through the bag! The selected fish card emerged from the bag speared through by Gary's blade. Holy mackerel! Nice job, Gary. After sharing how the effect worked, much discussion ensued. A suggestion I liked came from Mark Byrne who mentioned since Gary is using a fish deck,

perhaps the final stab could be done using a giant fishhook in place of the knife. These guys are always thinking!

Joe Dobson came up to the stage again, this time armed with stripper cards from Vegas. His “Girlfriend” card trick was excellent, but we are not sure how his future “Skanks” deck will sell. Thanks for sharing, Joe!

Dr. Dinaesh Bhargava demonstrated a Bruce Elliot false count coin maneuver to great effect! The first time he did it, he fooled his volunteer and those closest to them. The second time he did it, we were all standing close to him, and we also saw nothing. Nice work, Dinaesh!

Our favorite mentalist, Lar Hookaway, was as impressive as always but tonight he did a card trick and a rope trick, demonstrating his well-known versatility. Lar was always a big fan of the Bunko Booth on the old Paul Daniels’ television show, and we see he learned much from watching. Lar’s Peter Kane card trick made our good-natured volunteer Darren, not just a loser, but a three-time loser! Keeping Darren on stage, Lar allowed him to lose all the cash he had been supplied while performing “Fast and Loose,” an endless chain effect with a length of rope. As Lar finished explaining the method, Dinaesh jumped up and untied his rope to demonstrate how to tie a knot without letting go of the ends. Not to be outdone, Bob Klase showed how to do it with the rope tied onto his two thumbs. That piece of rope then made the rounds as various members showed various techniques they use for improved performances. I think everyone learned something!

The quick-witted Mark Byrne was up next asking Dr. Dinaesh about Mary’s mother’s three children (got me too) and then splitting a two-dollar bill into two singles. Very visual and quite easy if you are prepared!

To close out the night, Darren from Nebraska was invited to perform and get even with us as he wished. Darren was kind, so an X was placed on an invisible deck, and when a visible deck was produced, the named card was the only card in the deck with an X on it! Darren credited the late, great Aldo Colombini for the effect. Thanks for adding so much to our meeting, Darren. Hope to see you again very soon.

This was a fun night of learning and magical entertainment!
John Holly

RING 179, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – George Dency Ring

Meets 3rd Weds., 7:30pm at Woodholme Country Club, 300 Woodholme Ave., Pikesville, MD 21208 / Website: IBMRing179.com
ANDY LONDON, President / Email: alondon@concast.net

Meeting at the Woodholme Country Club, Pikesville, MD 21208. Fifteen members and guests attended.

Ring Announcements. A swearing in ceremony was held for the Ring’s four officers: Andy London - President; Jay Silverman - Treasurer; Kenny Caplan – Sergeant-at- Arms; Michael Worsham - Secretary.

Guest speaker: Rob Niccolini of the S.A.M. started the meeting with a very informative and enjoyable slide presentation about his visit to the Magic Circle in London. He highlighted the Circle’s beginning in 1905 in an Italian restaurant, its nondescript outside leading to a grand three-story staircase entrance inside, its members including then Prince and now King Charles, how to become one of its 1,500 worldwide members, its year-round close-up and stage shows which are open to the public, the large magic library for magic scholars, and a museum with rare artifacts, including like Chung Ling Soo’s performance robes, an original Zig Zag illusion, and a Harry Potter Marauder’s Map.

At the end of the meeting, Andy London played a video of Max Maven performing and then explaining his routine called “Predixion.”

June 14, 2023, Performances: 1. Harry Damareck performed a showy version of the hot rod effect, with a long strip of six different colored bows. A volunteer selected a number from one to six. Harry counted out to the chosen number, to land on one of the bows. Then in a visual flash all six bows turned into the same color. 2. Paul Belanger performed an inexpensive Magic Math trick he picked up at a convention for his son and had never performed before. Paul showed four sticks with four digits on each stick. A volunteer picks a four-digit number for each stick, and the total of all four sticks is added up. The total matches Paul’s prediction. Paul repeated the trick with a different volunteer. Paul explained the method, which requires a quick glimpse. 3. Tom Steinhardt performed Jim Steinmeyer’s “Nine Card Problem.” A volunteer selects any nine cards from a deck and shuffles them. They look at the third card from the top, which is their card. Tom then gives instructions to the volunteer to count cards from the packet to spell the value of the card, the word “of,” and finally to spell the suit of their card. Tom then spells out the word “magic” and finds their card. 4. Gary Plotnick did a card trick. A volunteer selects four cards from a deck and lays them face up. Then they add to the value of each of the four cards, the number of cards needed to reach the value of ten for each pile. The total of the number of cards needed (twenty-eight in this particular case) are counted down to reveal a card, which the magician had predicted. Gary then explained the method. 5. Howard Katz -used a card stand which held six large cards numbered one to six. A volunteer picks a number between

one and six. Howard revealed the other five cards to contain a prize of a hundred-dollar bill. Howard then revealed that behind the volunteer's chosen card number was a comedy prize. 6. Jay Silverman started with two prediction cards. Jay then deals from a deck, and a volunteer tells Jay to stop dealing at a card two times. The two cards that the volunteers told Jay to stop at match Jay's two prediction cards. Jay then reveals that the rest of the deck that he was dealing from are all jacks. 7. Mary Pomykala performed what she called the card trick with no name. 8. Andy London did a trick with two volunteers. Each volunteer cuts off a small packet of cards. Volunteer one shows the top card of their cut off packet, and then shuffles their packet. Volunteer two shuffles their packet, and also shuffles the remaining cards which are in a third pile. Andy first correctly names the suit of volunteer one's card. Andy then predicts volunteer one's exact card, followed by naming the exact card of volunteer two. 9. Rick Beatty performed a card trick. A volunteer shuffles a deck, and then slowly shows each card to the magician, who eventually says stop, and makes that card a prediction. The volunteer starts by dealing two piles, turning over the top cards, and then followed additional instructions. Eventually Rick's prediction is found to be correct. 10. Michael Worsham performed Patricio Teran's "Impossible Escape." Two cards with small holes in the center represent a jail, and a prisoner. The cards are lined up together so that their two holes are aligned, and a metal fastener is put through the holes, and fastened, locking the cards together. A volunteer is able to easily pull the two cards apart, without ripping or tearing either card. The cards and fastener were immediately inspected afterwards. Members commented that the effect was previously released under a different name. 11. John Gazman performed a comedy card routine. A volunteer's thought of card (King of Diamonds) is brought to the top of a deck of cards by John waving a hot dog. John then changes the card to an Ace of Spades, which is revealed to be the top card. Then he performed a card trick using a four by five grid of cards. A volunteer selects a card, which is found to match the card which John had inside a prediction envelope. *Michael Worsham*

RING 185, HONOLULU, HAWAII – Hawaii Magicians Society

Meets 1st Tue of each month, 7:00 p.m., at Magic Mystery Theatre Showroom, 2nd floor, Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel, 2500 Kuhio Ave., Honolulu, HI 96815
 HARVEY "MR. O" OUCHI, Secretary / mromagic@yahoo.com
www.hawaiimagiclub.com

I.B.M. Ring 185 convened a meeting at the Kalihi-Palama Library. President Willy Chen presided over the meeting. A total of seven

members were in attendance, five members were present and two additional members participated via Zoom.

It was announced that Franz Harary will again be hosting a party at his Ko Olina townhouse on July 22 at 5 p.m. RSVP to Willy or Franz. Yona Chock announced that Pohai Nani will be available for a show during Halloween if the club would like to do a magic show for the residents and guests. Kelvin Chun announced the upcoming I.B.M. Convention in June in Pittsburgh and the July S.A.M. Convention in New Orleans. In August Magic Live! will again be having their conference at the Orleans Casino and Hotel.

The theme of the night was Easy Magic." Bob Festa began the evening with a four ace production and then performed a routine where the black and red aces switch places. He then performed Dai Vernon's "Twisting the Aces." Yona then performed a "Torn and Restored Napkin" routine. Kelvin performed a routine with a silk that had red and white vertical stripes that kept switching from vertical to horizontal. He then ended with a silk fountain that had a final load with a The End silk.

Harvey Mr. "O" Ouchi performed two quick tricks. The first one was a flash change where he showed four random cards and then in a blink of an eye, they changed into four aces. After the change he showed both the back and front of each of the four aces. He then performed a bill change where he folded the one-dollar bill and when he unfolded it, it had changed to a five-dollar bill.

Willy Chen ended the evening by teaching a trick. He performed a spelling routine by David Williamson where he spelled each number ace to ten while counting a card for each letter. However, he made some errors (planned, of course), but then spelled to the correct number immediately after. There were some sleights, mainly a triple lift, but it was a very entertaining routine. That's all for now! A Hui Hou and aloha from Hawaii Ring 185! *Harvey "Mr. O" Ouchi*

RING 192, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – Victor Saint Leon Ring

Meets 2nd Weds., 7:00 p.m., at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbon's Dr., Carmichael.
 JEFFREY TINKER, Secretary / E-mail: jtinker53@yahoo.com
 Web site: www.magic1.org/ibm192

July here brought warmer evenings and we were grateful for the a.c. at the MOCC for our meeting. Ric Ewing got us started with "Funny Money," a bills across routine. David Wright was next with an Alfred Hitchcock themed card trick featuring suspense and surprise. Visitor Jess Cone of Ring 193 (SLC) preformed the

“The Ring, The String, and The Thing” for us and Dale Lorzo showed his “Block Buster” using red and black cards. Al Skinner used a paper ball to choose a spectator then had him imagine a bookstore, open an imaginary book and choose a word on the page. After he revealed the word, Al had him uncrumple the paper ball which showed the selected word printed inside. Amasingh did a nice bit with 3D multiplying rabbits. Scot Smith balanced a straw on a bottle cap, and then made it spin just by waving his hands around it. We had a good turnout and a fun evening. *Jeffrey Tinker*

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

Christmas in July in hot Alabama, is what happens when Santa Claus drops in for a Ring 194 meeting. It could have been the real Santa since he gave out official looking business cards or it could have been Craig Hamilton, visitor. Ring reports slipped off the magicians’ tongues like oleo left out overnight. Both old and new business.

June 16th was a laid-back evening spent with an old friend. The highest compliment you can say about a 2023 magic lecturer is having him again after just having him in 2019. The Ring 194 members enjoyed seeing Bill Wisch and especially his performance. They also liked the stories, and the time Bill took to make the evening enjoyable. Nothing was rushed as Bill showed over and over from every angle possible for the “Helicopter Cards” and “Million to One.” Both tricks should be added to any magician’s repertoire.

Bill took the “Wild Card” and elevated it to an even better trick. Stories included: when he met Tony Slydini, lessons from Slydini, being a drummer, and being in the Navy band. Kevin Wisch assisted his father in the selling after the lecture. Teaching one-on-one continued after Bill had packed to leave and talking about old friends members knew that Bill knew. Sad note, Bill said this lecture tour is his last.

Back to the reality of July’s patriotic X-mas meeting: President Matt Growden went wild with the number of magic themes for tonight: red, white, or blue magic, sucker effects, card effects using wet cement, or actual patriotic effects. Patrick Brunson opened with a Past International President Joe M. Turner effect from *Genii*, January 2023. Patrick pronounced *Genii* like Gen-i, not the usual “Genie” pronunciation. *Genii* magazine staff member, Bill

Mullins said without a shadow of doubt, it was absolutely “Genie” like in the Disney movies. Others quickly joined in and there was talking from both sides of the table at the same time. President Matt called for an official vote, Bill said it did not matter, Genii is pronounced “Genie.” Jared Cassidy joined in with “the letter B is silent in comb.” Then Russell Davis, who did not attend tonight, would have said voting requires allowing members to study the issue for thirty days.

Patrick presented “Roadkill: A Guide to Understanding the Life of Crows”. It was a scientific study sucker effect combined with an “Ambitious Card” routine. Jack Baldwin presented “Double Impact” card effect. Packed small, played big. Dean Carter performed a coin trick from *TLR* with a heartwarming story about salmon. Bill interrupted with, “You should pronounce the L and not say “samon.” Kevin O’Connell said, “Pro wrestling is real.” Dean wrote on the dry eraser board Cook Books and the horrors of that quietened down the room.

Matt performed a four-ace trick by Max Maven titled “Lassie.” Not just aces, but queens and ending with four blank cards! Kevin showed “Scarf to Egg” ending with a real egg. Messy but good magic. Brett Boyer brought a robot balloon red dog named Squeaky. The mechanical dog did several tricks. The routine was shown at least four times (boys love their toys). Brett performed a flip-flap, Jacob’s ladder using a hot rod force ending with a three-foot diameter flower. He also vanished a coin in a scarf. Bill said it was a Silk, Patrick said it was a scarf. Referee Jared said it was a Silk Scarf. Santa said there will be a lot more coal in stockings this year. *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

Our July meeting site was changed to the home of Ring member Ken Brown. Ken had built a nice stage in his basement family room and wanted us to try it out. I had to admit it felt more like performing for a regular show somewhere. However, before we could get to the performing part of the evening, we had a few things to discuss.

The possibility of performing another public show was addressed. Also, it was decided that we would do a benefit show for Ken’s Church where he is the pastor. A couple of road trips were also discussed. About one hundred miles north of Marietta is Berlin, Ohio. Berlin is the home to two excellent shows. One is at the Madhrikan’s Theater of Magic. The theater is located in the basement of a full-fledged, brick

and mortar magic shop. The other is the Amish Country Theater. Although it is a variety, comedy show, two of its stars are friends of Ring 197. Ken Groves, ventriloquist and Gary Morton, magician. Our August meeting will be back to Dale Wheeler's home where he has also built a little theater in his basement.

Member magic started off with Dale having a card selected and then the chosen card was revealed and found 'burned' into the thumb and finger of Dale's hand. Dale next presented a neat little illusion where four hearts, when viewed in a mirror, turned into a heart; spade: club and diamond. Dale finished his set with a mentalism effect.

Jay Foresta was next up and performed "Problema," a puzzling dice effect that Jay used to present a Christian message. Jay's magic almost always consists of original patter expressing Christian values.

Chester Gault performed two standard effects with original presentations. First was "Silkola." Since there were no girls present, and Chester always uses the assistance of two girls, Ken and Jay, good naturedly filled in and assumed those roles. Next Chester performed his version of "Torn and Restored Paper."

Ken closed out the magic portion with "Take A Seat" and the "Brass Button." In "Take a Seat," four different colored balls were removed one at a time from a little black bag by four different people. Ken knew immediately who had which colored ball. The "Brass Button" was a beautiful effect, like a coin routine but with a button and sentimental patter.

After the meeting officially broke up, everyone reassembled at Ken's dining table and talked and performed magic. Some of our best times at a club meeting are when the meeting is over and nobody wants to go home, and we just hang around talking and doing magic.

We always welcome guests to our meetings. Hope you can make it sometime.

Chester W. Gault

RING 199, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – Lee & Snavelly Ring

Meets 1st Sat. of month, United Church, 820 E. Williams St., Apex, NC

DAN HARLAN, Secretary

E-mail: contact@danharlanmagic.com

Website: www.raleghmagicclub.org

Here's the short report, Sport...

Craig "Cap" Pyne opined on wine, magic design, and a good time while sharing tales from his terrific trip to Italy. Hard to beat a sweet retreat from Vanishing Inc. Neat!

Dan Harlan (the host with the most) performed "Toast!" That's his totally tantalizing

transpo trick with a Coke and a smile!

Then, there was Diego Mino with a bucket, and three colored liquids. With any luck it Would appear they were mixed, But we all had been trixed.

They separated, and he didn't chuck it!

Kevin Burke did the work with a quirky new thing... a tiny circus ring he did bring and he wasn't caught when what he brought revealed the thought like it ought.

I'm a poet and I wasn't at all aware of that fact... *Dan Harlan*

RING 202, MALTA – The Magicians' Society

Meets on alternate Mondays at 19:00 Volunteer Centre, 181 Melita

Street, Valetta

GEOFFREY BUHAGIAR, General Secretary

E-mail: gfotoartist@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/27850309211/

Some of our members could not attend this meeting because they were travelling for their summer vacations and others were busy with children's parties. Ironically, the theme of this meeting was magic for kids. The few who attended provided ample ideas and entertainment to fill a meeting with variety and fun.

Starting with some competent juggling with balls and silks, Robert Ellul, performed a variety of routines from his repertoire that exhibited skill and experience, including the tying of three silks in mid-air when blown out of a transparent tube, fooling around with a breakaway wand, a rope that becomes rigid at magical whims, and the colouring of black and white pictures on a book, which then vanished completely.

Honorary President and PIP Vanni Pulé, opened with a vanish and reproduction of a necklace on a stand, attributed to Past British Ring President, John (Sly) Smith. He then enlarged a can of soda from a miniature to a full size and finished with an old Supreme "turn it round," "packs flat" effect with a colour changing bathing costume and a surprise ending.

Our pro, Gwilym Bugeja, opted for an updated version of Supreme's "Bathing Beauty" called "A Trip to the Circus" by Twister Magic. This routine has various phases where items from the picture become three dimensional when removed, until the hilarious revelation at the end. Our last performer was veteran Joseph Demanuele who has had decades of experience entertaining children and has only retired recently for health reasons. His items included the classic penetration of a glass in frame and the magical linking of ropes. The effects and methods in these two routines were overshadowed, as should be, by the attention to presentation and audience participation.

Geoffrey Buhagiar

RING 205, LIMA/FINDLAY, OHIO – Northwestern Ohio Magicians Association (NOMA)

Meets last Sun. of the month at Mike Grubbs's home in Findlay.
GENE CRAFT, Secretary, 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, OH 45807
E-mail: Ecraft@woh.rr.com
Web site: www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205

Our May 21, 2023, meeting began with a lecture by Chris Philpott. He performed several routines that he has created and perfected on his own. He performed "End Of My Rope Trick," "Dousing Rod Card Find," and several other card routines. We finished the lecture, and all went to dinner at 5:30 p.m.

We then met back at Mike's home for our business and magic evening. Gene Craft distributed the treasurer's report. We noted that in the future all checks and bills should be okayed by two or three members of the club before any checks are written. We also discussed the Marshall Museum trip on June 25. Everyone is to meet at the museum at 12:00 noon for the guided tour. After the tour we are invited back to Chris and Rachel's cottage for a cookout.

Magic began with Gary Friedrich who demonstrated a beautiful card deck spinner. He then counted down to a selected number and produced the chosen card. Doug Ferguson counted exactly fourteen cards to the table. Half were black and half were red, all being Hearts except for the Queen of Diamonds.

Mike Grubbs counted cards to separate piles, placed a coin on each pile that matched the top card. Chris Topel used a deck of cards with dollars and cents written on the back of each. A random card selection matched the exact money in his wallet. Gene Craft performed the evening show. He began with a chalk and slate mystery that revealed several different colors. He produced Spotty the Dog and manipulated several picture cards to find the magical bunny. He concluded with "Hippity-Hop Rabbits" that revealed a Happy Memorial Day note. *Gene Craft*

RING 210, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – Duke Stern Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. each month 7:00pm (come at 6:00 if you want to eat),
Senate Coney Island, 34359 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI 48150
RANDY A. SMITH, Secretary
Web site: www.aamagic.org

Our meeting was called to order by President Dan Jones, and we kicked off with Michael Doyle as our featured performer. Michael performed several effects, including a couple of different die predictions, a tarot match effect with two volunteers, and an impressive book-based mind reading effect.

Then it was time for our get-to-know-you round table question where members introduced themselves and then told us about their "favorite summertime activity." Answers were varied and

included swimming, hiking, BBQ, sailing, fishing, traveling, boating, and of course attending magic conventions. We had several guests and prospective members attend including Caden Burkhardt, a student from the University of Michigan Magic Club, Charlie and Mike Palko, a father and son from the neighborhood, and Manish Mishra-Marzetti an attendee from our club's parlor show.

Then it was on to performances. Johnny New York performed a unique Rock-Paper-Scissors prediction with three volunteers, clever name tags and three mystery boxes. Mike Bogdas then performed a Spinning Star three-card prediction. Ron Hoole performed a clever card matching trick with half a deck, which was an actual deck cut in half crossways. Karl Rabe performed a card force and reveal. Caden performed a four aces routine, Dan Jones shared his visual story of trying to buy a casket and ending up with a trash can.

Then we wrapped up with Sean Naes providing a hands-on learning session for "The Professor's Nightmare." *Karl Rabe*

RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN
SCOTT STARKEY, President

John started the night off by having a volunteer think of a number. The volunteer then squeezed John's arm and when the grip was released there was a clear and distinct red seven, the number the volunteer was thinking of. Next John was able to effortlessly melt a ring on and off a spring. He repeatedly handed us the spring and ring linked together and none of us could remove it. He then had seven-dollar bills and alternated them face up and face down. With just a wave and a snap, all of the bills-oriented face up.

John then led us through some interesting hypnological phenomena. He had a volunteer pick up a stack of three blocks, each weighing about a pound. The volunteer then picked up two blocks and reported it felt as heavy as three. He then picked up just one block and said it was heavier than all three!

John placed a chopstick on a volunteer's fingertip and when John placed his hand over his heart, the volunteer was able to feel John's pulse transmitted through the chopstick! He then pulled some receipts from his pockets and handed them to a volunteer. The volunteer selected an item on the receipt and John was able to divine which item was selected.

Benji showed us he could push a yellow silk into the hand and that it would come out red. He then taught us how to do the effect and that it

requires a yellow silk and a red silk. When he repeated the effect to teach us, he pushed a yellow silk and a green one came out instead.

Gabe had a card selected and then lost in the pack. He brought out the volunteer's card, but it was the wrong one. With just a quick wave over his magical tattoo the card changed to the chosen card! He then had two cards selected by two different volunteers. The cards were returned and lost in the deck. Easily, he found the first volunteer's card. He handed it to the volunteer and moved on to finding the second card. He produced the second card, but it was wrong. He placed the indifferent wrong card on the second volunteer's hand. With just a snap, the first card was in the second volunteer's hand and the second card was in the first volunteer's hand.

John closed the evening by showing us his house key. There was a keyring on the far-right hole of the key. John waved his hand and now it was on the left. He did this a few times and we remained unimpressed. He then visibly moved the keyring to the middle of the metal key! *Benji Milanowski*

RING 234, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA - The Low Country Conjurers

Meets 2nd Mon. of each month, 7:00 pm, Tommy Condon's Irish Pub, downtown Charleston.

HOWARD VANDERBECK, Secretary (843) 406-0526

Email: Geothree@Yahoo.com

From the humid puff mud, the Lowcountry Conjurers have arisen after a long sabbatical due to Covid and many other obstacles! In the well-seasoned boutique theatre of Holy City Magic overseen by wizard Howard Blackwell of *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* fame, the establishment of I.B.M. Ring 234 is now back! Foot coin matrix sensei Gogo Cuerva is interim president for the next six months as things get going again. In attendance was the old wizard of gravitas experience Howard Vanderbeck as well as Bob, Central, Joe, Wes, Jason, George, and Zach.

The ninety-minute meeting was very upbeat as monetary dues and goals for Ring 234 were established which blended into a jam session on cards, rubber bands, billet peeks, and the "new" Heartbeat Miracle. Six of the wizards continued on to Charleston's hip King Street at El Jefe Texican Cantina. The watching of bachelor and bachelorette parties being tossed off the mechanical bull was enjoyed as Gogo entertained servers and Zach gained major respect in showing he could do the Muscle Pass. Much good humor and optimism was experienced for future events and activities to come.

The next meeting is August 17th at 6 p.m. at Holy City Magic! Email Gogo Cuerva for more information: Edoardopignataro@gmail.com.

George Younts

RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS - Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) For location call Chris at (217) 431-479

KEN BARHAM, Secretary

2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616

E-mail: Kebtram@aol.com

The meeting opened with discussion of recent and upcoming virtual club meetings. These became a great resource during the last few years and continue to offer some great information and camaraderie.

We also talked about the Springfield Get-Together. I can't say enough good stuff about the day. They had a great line up of lectures and shows and everyone who attended had nothing but good things to say about it.

Upcoming lectures - Markus Clegg, a long-time member of the local clubs who has moved away will be lecturing on booking and performing shows for assisted living facilities and senior living facilities. Marcus will show us how to tap into these underutilized venues. The lecture will be at our normal meeting time and place on August 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army in Champaign.

Mathew Garret will lecture on Sept. 27th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Chris Bontjes, 2313 Atwood Court, Danville, IL. The cost of the lecture is twenty dollars for members and twenty-five for non-members. Non-members who come in groups of two or more get in for twenty dollars.

Rob "The Professor" Higgins gave a thumbs up review of *My Silly Tricks* by Hector Mancha and Chris Bontjes recommended *Psychology of Magic: From Lab To Stage*, book by Gustav Kuhn and Alice Pailhes. Both books sound like a good read.

Randy Shields opened the magic with "Grave Mistake." Professor Higgins demonstrated his bullet catch and got some recommendations for treating burns on his fingers. Essen Hu joined us on Zoom and performed his "One Card Coins Across." Bill Pierce showed us his "Two Card Divination" and Mark Carlon closed out the magic on Zoom with his "Imaginary Coin Toss Prediction."

We also had some discussion of possible venues for the 2025 Get-Together hosted by CIMA. We are currently looking at venues and considering people for lecture, shows and dealers. Let me know if you have any suggestions.

The next meeting will be Wed July 19th at 7:00 at the Salvation Army in Champaign. Come early and meet us at Manzella's Italian Patio on First Street in Champaign for great food and moderately interesting conversation. The topic for July will be Walk-around Magic but anything you want to bring is fine. See ya at the meeting. *Ken Barham*

RING 243, CANTON, OHIO – Roth-Mills Ring

Meets the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at Mama Guzzardi's Italian Restaurant (temporary site) 1107 N. Main St. North Canton, Ohio 44720

RANDY WEIDENHAMER, Secretary / (330) 933-8787

E-Mail: randy.weidenhamer@sbcglobal.net

Meeting was held at Grace United Church of Christ in Uniontown OH., on June 28th, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Seven members were present. Meeting was called to order by Ken Hutchinson, Vice President. No minutes from the previous meeting were read by Randy Weidenhamer, Secretary, as they were published in the monthly newsletter for all members to view. Treasurer's report was read by Mike Salvino, Treasurer. All reports were approved as read.

All members' health concerns were expressed along with the members' celebrations to be honored. Our November banquet and magic show was discussed with Nick Eaton becoming our last close-up performer. All we have left is making the flyers and the tickets. This ended our short business meeting, and everyone readied themselves for the magical part of the evening.

Ron Barnett started things off with a great book test, doing multiple book tests from one book and Randy Weidenhamer performed his version of the classic "Hopping Halves." Mike Bishop performed and explained some of the finer points of the "Casino Royale" mentalism routine. And Tom Duplain performed a real brain twister with a three-piece picture puzzle of a fish. And that ended another perfect night of magic. I hope to do it again next month.

Randy Weidenhamer

RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The "Magic Ian" Ring

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, Community Room, Lake Square Mall, Hwy 441, Leesburg, FL

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: www.Ring 258.com

President Dave Lyons opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Under Good & Welfare both George and Kathy Drake are dealing with health issues. George has decided to allow Dave to finish out the year as president, even though they were to split the year, due to the tie in the election. Les Morgenstein is still recovering from a stroke back in December.

There was discussion about trying to get some paid shows for the Ring to help with the Ring treasury. Also discussed was recruitment of new members, especially since the turnout for June was only nine members. This may have been partially due to the torrential rains in the Lake and Marion County areas and because the "snowbirds" have flown North for the summer.

Andy Rohweder asked for a "critique" on an illusion he will be performing next week. The

effect is a form of "The Chain Breaker," in which he used a bar instead of a chain, calling it "The Bar Breaker." He received a lot of comments from the group. Andy also mentioned a shop he visited in Key West where everything was five dollars! He found some nice scarves which could be used as table covers. He bought four!

This month's theme was "Magic Demonstration and Flea Marke." The following members demonstrated items they were interested in selling: Regina Schiraldi – Ickle Pickle Cards and Money Bags; Jim Moody – Linking Rings, Gag Bag, and Acrobatic Silk; Dave Lyons – Slates, Rope in a Bottle, a small Appearing Bird Cage and Box of Plenty; and Andy Rohweder – Silks. Some of the props changed hands.

The theme for the July meeting will be Comedy Magic. Bring your funniest "stuff!" *Roger Reid*

RING 265, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA – London Magicians Guild

Meets 2nd Wed., Labatt's Engineering Bldg. unless otherwise notified.

MARK HOGAN, Secretary

It looked like it might be a sparsely attended meeting in May, so a spur of the moment change led us to meet at our favorite Crabby Joe's. Of course, a few more folks showed up after moving, but they made it and there was room for everyone.

The theme of the night was Rope Magic, and a few folks brought their rope routines into the restaurant! Andrew Olmstead showed off his terrific "Cut and Restored Rope" routine (complete with vanishing invisible scissors that had us all laughing!) along with a great "Ring and Rope" routine.

Mark Hogan performed Daryl's "Amazing Acrobatic Knot" routine (the Gregory Wilson version of a late-night TV commercial). He also showed us his own "Ring and Rope" routine involving a king, three magicians, a wedding ring, and the finger of the king's daughter (two of the three magicians saw a nasty demise, but it did have a happy ending!).

Keith O'Brien performed Dan Harlan's "Awakening," and those of us who didn't have it were floored! And Peter Mennie taught us a very slick counting procedure for the "Professor's Nightmare" that makes that part of the routine a breeze!

Thanks to everyone for finding us at Crabby Joe's and showing off their rope routines.

Mark Hogan

RING 268, LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA – Cajun Conjurors

Meets 3rd Mon. each month, 7:00pm. at Mr. Gatti's in Lake Charles AARON BACA, President

Web site: www.scorpius.spaceports.com/conjuror

Attending the June 19 meeting were Aaron Baca, Bart Glatt, George Mullican, Robert

Vallin, Mitch Richard, Tim Pardue, Jack Pardue, and Devon Faul. We had three special guests in attendance as well.

The business meeting agenda included reminders of upcoming lectures and TAOM and S.A.M. conventions. George Mullican introduced and recommended a book titled *Chance Powers and the Table of Death* by illusionist Duane Laflin (available on Amazon).

The magic theme was Potluck Magic, so a variety of magic was performed and enjoyed. Please check out our Cajun Conjuror Facebook page for photos.

George Mullican

RING 273, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA - Oliver Ring

Meets 3rd Thur., 7:30pm at the Burns Club

PETER FOSTER, Secretary

Email: pfooster@pcug.au

Fun meeting this month, although there were just the four of us: Richard, Chris, Phil, and me.

Phil started us off with one that he was planning to do over Zoom at his regular guest spot on a trivia show. This involved everyone having a deck of cards. One person announced a special number, from one to nine. Everyone made various piles of cards (of unknown size) and moved them around in various ways. At the end, everyone had a pile of cards that matched the special number. Earlier, Phil had shown me this trick, so I now showed him a variation that allowed everyone to have their own special number, that was never revealed. At the end, everyone had a pile of cards that matched their own special number. Phil did this version on the show, and it went well. This was “Zeitgeist” by Jim Steinmeyer.

Chris now took us away from cards. He screwed a nut onto a bolt, then put them into a cylinder. A bit of a shake and he tipped them out; the nut was now off the bolt, and everything could be examined.

The theme for the meeting was “sound,” so Phil now produced something appropriate. This used three small plastic squeakers. The spectator could try them, confirming that one would squeak, the others wouldn’t. There now followed a “Three Squeak Monte” type routine, where the spectator could not find the squeaker. Good fun, with lots of room for byplay. This was “Magic Beep” by Kim Andersen.

I followed with another card trick, this one using two decks, one for the spectator, one for the magician. The spectator named a card, then the cards were dealt in unison, each of us dealing the cards face up one at a time. There were no matches, until we reached the spectator’s named card. This was “Do You Want to Continue” by Barrie Richardson.

Richard continued with another card trick

involving two decks. A spectator took one of the decks and cut off several packets. The card cut to was shown, then the remaining cards were counted to get a number. That number of cards was counted down in the other deck, and there was the same card. An interesting take on the ACAAN effect. This was “Dumbfounded” by Devin Knight.

Phil chimed in with a less complicated card trick. The magician made several piles of cards. A spectator chose a pile, shuffled it, remembered the bottom card, and dropped it onto another pile of their choice. The rest of the deck was assembled in a very fair way. The card seemed lost, but the magician found it by simply spelling the spectator’s name. An interesting way of controlling a card. This was “Chisiya” by Geni. Phil now did a classic coin trick that had been given a modern update. A stack of coins appeared, and disappeared, and even teleported. This was “Dynamic Coins,” but instead of the metal cylinder it used a very natural plastic bottle cap. Very nice. This was “ProCaps” by Lloyd Barnes. Phil finished with another classic that had been given an astonishing climax. This was a ring and rubber band routine, with lots of nice linking and penetration effects. For the climax, a spectator was given the ring to hold, then the magician said he was going to make the ring and rubber band change places. The rubber band was stretched, and it stayed in its stretched condition, a solid elongated oval! Then the spectator opened their hand to reveal that the ring was now rubber. One heck of a climax. This was “Hard Stretch” by Roman Armstrong.

Next meeting is on 20 July. The theme will be a bit simpler: Rope Magic.

Peter Foster

RING 279, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Meets last Sunday, 4:30 pm, B-8/11. Tara Mia Road, Ganda, Savar,

Dhaka-1340, Bangladesh

ROBIN KHAN, President

E-mail: robin.khan77@gmail.com

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Robin Khan, President of I.B.M. Ring 279, Convener of National Magic Festival 2023 organized by Magic Federation, thanked all the members to the Ring 279 president for gifting the wonderful Magic Festival. This is the first time in the history of Bangladesh that this is a miraculous Magic Show from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. non-stop in the presence of more than three hundred magicians. Chief Guest K.M. Khaled M.P. State Minister, Ministry of Cultural Affairs Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh, Special Guest Khalil Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Most senior magician Robin Khan Convener of the Festival spoke at the develop about magic. The

President and General Secretary of Magic Federation gave a speech on development.

After lunch Mr. Nashir Uddin Ahmed, Chief Patron of Magic Federation presented Court Pins, Identity Cards, Certificates, Crests, and Gift items handed through Special Guest. In the meeting, a prayer was offered expressing deep grief over the sudden death of Mainul Khan, the famous Magician of Bangladesh who received the I.B.M. Merlin pin.

Robin Khan, President of Ring 279 announced at the end of the meeting by announcing the special action plan on the occasion that I.B.M. International President Charles Arkin will visit Bangladesh on November 10, 11, 12, 2023. *Robin Khan*

RING 284, FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA - Conrad C. Bush Ring

Meets 4th Tue, 6:00 pm for socializing at Fresh Greece Pizza & Grill, 339 N John Sims Pkwy. W. Niceville, FL 32578. 7:00 pm meeting Valparaiso Library (459 Valparaiso Pkwy)

RONALD HUDSPETH, Secretary / E-mail: RMHudspeth@spamcop.net

Business: (June 22nd) President Jeff Sobel asked Secretary Ron Hudspeth to update us on upcoming magic events. He reported that with the I.B.M. Convention in Pittsburgh coming up in mid-July, we should have at least four, possibly up to eight, club members attending including V.P. Brian Ward and son Jonathan but most notably, Jeff will be sworn into the Executive Board for the I.B.M. at the business meeting. Next after that will be Abbott's Gathering followed by Magic Live! in early August. Several members have also expressed intent to join us for the "September meeting" in Atlanta for the Harvest of Magic.

Magic: We then moved over to the Valparaiso Library for the magic. In spite of being well into the summer vacation time, and not counting visitors, we were only one member short of doubling our attendance from last month! Jeff opened things up showing the "Tear/No-Tear" pads he just got, and Robert Vinson chipped in with similar feat of 'betcha-can' or 'betcha-can't' with a "Georgia Magnet" demonstration. Several of us joined in a discussion of Lulu Hurst's work (the original Georgia Magnet) including her difficult to find tell-all book.

Ron reported on his second visit with family to Past International President Shawn Farquhar's Hidden Wonders Magic Speakeasy in New Westminster in the Vancouver, B.C. area; each show is different and highly recommended. He then performed a poker routine from Paul Gordon called "Stunner" and a very creative "Tossed Out Deck" from Christian and Katalina Painter that they lectured on this year at AbraCORNdabra. Robert showed us the new

"Impossible Escape" penetration effect from Patricio Teran. Jeff finished the evening out presenting "NAME GAME" from Spidey and Rick Lax. *Ron Hudspeth*

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

July's meeting was filled with plenty of new business. Ideas suggested to think about included potentially doing a public show in 2024 and all involved with that idea, discussion of our Facebook page (in terms of use, what to do when contacted about doing shows, etc...) and our website use and related ideas, floating the idea of doing teach-ins as a regular agenda point, and ideas of trying to gain new members for 2024.

Our theme of the night was "Never Leave Home Without It," and what is something you always have on you to perform. We saw performances from Jason, Beau, Phil, Perry, and Zach, most of whom showed what they carry on a regular basis. Stories were shared by Beau, Rob, and Bart in relation to what they carry, with additional magic performed by Bart from his collection.

As we always say: Miss a meeting, miss a lot!

Zachary Ready

RING 291, PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA - Palm Springs Magic Club

Meets first and third Tuesday via Zoom

HENRY JUAREZ, Secretary / E-mail: henryjuarez1@hotmail.com

Web site: www.palmspringmagicclub.com

The Portola Community Center was overflowing with pocket sized miracles this past Tuesday night as magicians brought effects that "Pack Small, Plays Big!"

Don Campbell kicked things off by setting a lightbulb on the counter and causing it to light up on command. He demonstrated his flash wand and a couple of paper bangers.

Next, George Haas had two cards freely selected and lost in the deck. Upon failing to find them, he switched to showing us an ace monte trick where the red aces kept changing places with the black aces. At the end, the black aces were nowhere to be found, but the two selected cards from the previously botched effect were found in their place alongside the red aces. He then performed an effect called, "Palm Off" by Max Maven.

Carl Christman asked everyone to call out various vacation destinations as he wrote some of them on a pad. Next, he asked Don Campbell

to roll a die and we would eliminate the destination location listed at that number until only one destination was left, which, of course, matched his prediction. He shared several ideas with a dice and even taught us an impromptu version.

Finally, Henry Juarez brought out his bag of tricks to demonstrate several effects. First, he brought out a brass tube with several different peas and asked someone to select one. The different peas were returned to the tube and plugged with a cork. The spectator was asked to hold out his hand and concentrate on the item he selected. He then uncorked the tube and asked the spectator, "Is this your pea?" as he poured water onto his hand. He then brought out a gag bag that contained a prediction. He turned the colorful bag inside out showing the inside to be yellow. The prediction wasn't in there. "It must be inside out," he said turning the yellow bag inside out revealing a pink inside. Not finding the prediction he turned the bag inside out several more times, revealing a new different color bag until he finally found the prediction inside a zippered compartment.

June 20 Recap – "Magic in Red, White and Blue!" Mix a little bit of July 4th magic with a lot of interesting and enjoyable magic conversation, and you have PSMC's meeting last Tuesday night, where members got ready for Independence Day with "Magic in Red, White and Blue!"

Warren Morse led off with a story about a July 4th picnic, where coasters listing various food items that go together, like hot dogs and mustard, were carefully arranged in pairs to ease setting up the buffet table. But somehow, they all got hopelessly jumbled, and it took the help Ole Olson to sort the face down coasters by spelling "Have You Tried Magic?" When they were turned face up, each coaster was back neatly paired with its correct mate. (Warren explained this was a variation on a trick Garnet Garven published last year called "Bartender's Shuffle.")

Next, Gary Beutler told how Betsy Ross took three pieces of fabric, one red, one white, and the other, blue. He demonstrated by placing them into his fist one at a time. After working her magic, Betsy turned the colored fabric into the first United States flag. Gary opened his hand to reveal a small replica of our current flag. Gary followed by demonstrating and then teaching some dazzling card sleights and effects.

Don Campbell showed us a timely seven card trick, which uses only four blue-backed cards: the four sevens. One by one each seven turned over in the pack. At the end, each of the cards had a different red, white, and blue-themed back

design. Next, he demonstrated his firecracker trick where he caused a large firecracker to "pop" as part of a longer routine. Then he took the firecracker apart to show us the intricate details of how it works.

Ole Olson invited Henry Juarez to help him at the card table. A deck was selected and thoroughly shuffled. Henry chose the red cards for himself, leaving the black cards for Ole. One by one they turned over their top card. If they were both red cards, Henry got them; both black, Ole got them. Counting the cards we "won," Ole had two more cards than Henry, matching Ole's prediction. Upon playing the game a second time, each had the same number of cards at the end, again matching Ole's second prediction. This was John Bannon's "A View to a Skill" effect.

Henry Juarez

RING 317, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK – Ring of Illusions

Meets 3rd Tue. at 7:30pm at Parker Ctr., LIJ Hospital, Lakeview Rd.,
New Hyde Park, NY
ANTHONY DIFILIPPI, President / Email: adifilip@mindspring.com
Web site: www.5fingermagic.com/ibm

Our Ring was finally able to resume meeting since Covid shut us down over three years ago, after a lot of bothering of the hospital to allow us to meet again. We kept the business short and quickly got to the magic.

Frank Paris had a wide array of his new acquisitions. This included a rather complex RFID card reading system which communicated with special eyeglasses the performer wears! We joked that it's perfect if you're looking for an electronic method that costs hundreds of dollars to essentially perform what an Invisible Deck does for ten dollars! He also demonstrated blowing a balloon up in a glass globe, the physics of which prevents the air escaping from the balloon even when not tied. Another clever item was a marble and saltshaker penetration which was a fooler.

Wendy Pincus did a nice four ace trick that appeared quite deceptive.

We had several guests whom we hope will become members. First up was Bob Schwaber who presented a neat packet trick with "this one's for the birds" comedy climax. He was followed by Eric Pirola who had a clever presentation of "Second Story Man" which shoots the selected card out of the deck like a gun. Anthony Spano did a visually pleasing rope trick with a sliding white knot that turns red right before your eyes! Kevin McBride presented a very nice card effect he credited to Joshua Jay. Well done to all our visiting magicians!

We were thrilled to see Dr. Mel Boskin in attendance after some medical procedures! In

his unique style he presented “Six Card Repeat,” complete with literally wearing different hats and employing various accents to demonstrate how it might be performed by different nationalities. He added a nice addition with a self-made box to vanish all the cards at the end.

Jose Merced presented a beautiful “Linking Rings” routine and a well-executed “Torn and Restored Newspaper” (Alex Hecklau version). Robert McEntee presented a restored card effect called “Welded,” “Mini Gozinta Boxes,” and Dan Harlan’s version of Professor’s Nightmare, “Awakening.” Bill Gleason presented a very nice hundred-dollar bill vanish and reappear-ance with a clever device.

We extend our condolences to Bill for the loss of his wife and wish him the best with his own health challenges. We look forward to meeting again monthly!

Rob McEntee

RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:30 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042

LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary

4515 Northglen Court, Englewood, OH 45322

E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

Before our meeting officially began, Charlie Cadabra was showing us the production box he is adapting to use for his “Washing Machine Trick.” As with a lot of magic props, this originally had Chinese symbols painted on each side. With some stickers he has made it look like a washing machine. We discussed “Why Chinese symbols?”

President James Butler officially welcomed us to our July meeting. In news, Dayton’s Ring 5 will have a lecture by Ron Lawson on the 27th. There is a possibility of doing a show at a local church’s spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Sinclair Community College is opening a branch in Centerville which may present a venue for magic shows. A good review of Dan Lockett’s flawless performance at the Cincinnati Opera Company’s Preview Show Night. Discussed having a Halloween show and the Ohio State Reformatory theater in Mansfield was mentioned as a good location. Springboro’s Historical Society’s “Haunted Hot Dog Roast” in October may present some magic opportunities. We are still working on our “War of The Wizards” show with Rings 5 and 71.

Time for magic! Larry Hollinger started off with the “Koornwinder Kar” from Dick Koornwinder for volunteer tRick Gaffney. Next, Tom Casper showed us some magical ideas and products he is working on: (1) a toothpick holder containing invisible thread roll; (2) invisible thread holder/wallet made from three playing

cards; and (3) he let us examine and use his “Belly Stripper” gimmick from Eoin O’Hare (*theprecfectshuffle.com*) to make side stripper cards.

tRick Gaffney is working on laser printing on poker chips and offered us the opportunity to have one with our picture made free of charge. Tom Casper informed us of *Reel Magic Magazine’s* free tricks for subscribing. He then did “Quarter Through Ring” and showed us the gimmick. To finish our magic portion of the meeting, Chuck Myers performed three illusions for us. (1) “Mall Rats” from David Corsaro. (2) “Ugly Kid” with the book *37 Cute Babies and 3 Ugly Ones* from Paul Prater. The volunteer selected the paper with the page of one of the ugly kids. I was impressed with his home-made force box. (3) “The Key of Fate” with a very cool grand prize for winner Tom Casper – “Free Dinner for Two /Anywhere in the world /?” Lots of fun!

We adjourned but stayed around and talked more magic. So, if you are ever in Middletown, Ohio the first Friday of the month, please stop by and join us. From Ring 324 – The Friendliest Ring Around. *Larry Hollinger*

RING 325, BRANSON, MISSOURI – The Tri-Lakes Tricksters

Meets 3rd Sat. of the month atl’s Magic & Joke Shop, 6:00pm, 124

South Business 65, Branson, MO

DR. CHRISTOPHER BECK, President

E-mail: beckibmring325@gmail.com

It was Saturday evening, June 17th, when members of the club gathered at Yak’s “It’s Magic” magic shop in downtown Branson. Club president Christopher Beck had returned from his recent trip to the Holy Land. He opened the meeting, thanking the Vice President Gary Geise for filling in for him when he was gone.

Some items from the Magic Moments newsletter were discussed, and the club’s treasurer, Yak Williams also delivered a report updating members on the expenses related to last month’s Marco Waldemar. Williams also shared some used magic props he had acquired and wanted to sell, as well. Jim Holmes also gave an update on an opportunity he is working on for the club with a local restaurant, as well.

Performances began after the business portion of the meeting, and Yak Williams performed first. In keeping with the “music” theme for the performances, Williams performed a “unique” routine with Chinese Sticks to the “Dueling Banjo” instrumental. (He opened by pulling the sticks out of an actual banjo case.) It was extremely entertaining! Williams was “onstage” with a variety of effects or props throughout the evening, including with some of

those he had recently purchased. Those effects/props included what he referred to as “I Have No Idea” box (that makes liquid non-spillable), a “washing machine” effect in which silks changed colors multiple times, a bow tie prediction effect, an electronic switchboard, a billet box, and more, including clowning props and even a couple of puppets!

Gary Geise took his place in the spotlight and performed what is referred to as “Gary’s Classic” effect. Geise had a prediction in an envelope. He had Beck select a card. Beck showed his fellow spectators the card; it was a Jack of Clubs. Then, when Geise pulled the “Prediction” from the envelope, a Dancing Bear surrounded by multiple music notes was displayed. When the picture was turned over, the Jack of Clubs was clearly seen as the climax to a successful prediction effect!

Taking a culinary approach to his performance, Carl Wilson presented an intriguing effect using pasta! It really was an effect using spaghetti! Beck was asked to choose one piece of pasta out of the hundreds in the package, and “That’s Amore” played in the background as Wilson performed, breaking a long piece of uncooked spaghetti into small pieces. Wilson chewed up the pasta pieces carefully (as he had some dental work quite recently and was in a bit of pain) Wilson managed to eat the pasta. To the surprise of his spectators, Wilson pulled the fully restored piece of spaghetti from his mouth as his finale!

Thom Taylor took his turn at mesmerizing his magician friends. Taylor performed what was referred to as “Not the Professor’s Nightmare” or “The Upside-Down Professor’s Nightmare.” Taylor began with three same-sized ropes, and then tied them together with different types of knots (a Slip Knot and a Square Knot). His slip knot slipped off, and then the Square Knot slid off. Taylor’s rope routine was magical; for, in the end, the three equal-sized ropes transformed into three ropes, each of different lengths.

Chris Beck, as is his custom, performed a “mentalism experiment.” Assisted by Carl Wilson, Beck displayed the names of various famous singers printed on white cards. Beck had Wilson select one by use of an imaginary die. Beck asked whether the artist had ever received a Grammy. Carl checked on his phone and verified the performer had in fact won a Grammy. Beck continued to ask about details about the selected artist, which were confirmed, including the fact that the artist received his three Grammy Awards, not for what some might consider the most well-known songs or albums, but for gospel songs (such as “How Great Thou

Art”). Beck even sang a portion of the song, as he revealed the artist was none other than Elvis Presley.

When the club meeting was adjourned, some magicians inspected (and some purchased) some of the props Williams had demonstrated during the meeting. Then, as usual, some club members made their way to a local restaurant to continue the magical fun!

Christopher Beck, Ph.D. and Mary Geise

RING 327, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA – Fred Petrick “Mombo” Ring

Meets 2nd Thu. of the month at the Iowa Magic Shop, 1090 Seventh Ave., Marion, Iowa

DON NELSON, President / Email: nelsondon@aol.com

Ring 327 had a Sunday Magic Session May 21, on the heels of the AbraCORNdabra Magic Convention which had concluded earlier that day in Des Moines. Several members of the local Ring had attended the convention, and several reported on what they had learned. There were multiple appreciative comments on the skilled lectures and performances. Lectures by Bizzaro and Rob Zabrecky and a Master Class on mentalism using paper by Christopher Carter got special mentions.

At the Sunday Session Fred Mishler presented some ideas using “Animinimals” by Billy Damon. These are minute replicas of typical balloon twisting figures made with flexible plastic. They lend themselves to magic effects where a balloon figure appears to have become much smaller or distorted its shape. Fred also demonstrated several card tricks, including the Bizzaro Flip, where all the cards except the spectator’s selected card have been reversed back-to-face in the deck. This is one of the tricks that Fred had already worked on but was also taught in Bizzaro’s lecture. Fred also discussed and demonstrated “Hook,” where a triple fishhook tied with colored strings is placed in the performer’s mouth while the volunteers each select one of the colored strings to be jerked free. Only the string, which is affixed to the hook remains, and the performer is not harmed.

In the June meeting, all the attendees had attended AbraCORNdabra in May, so there was further discussion of the event and what had been learned. Don Nelson demonstrated a “Torn and Restored Napkin” effect from the *Tarbell* series that was also included in the *Tarbell* videos. The effect requires some preparation but since the only materials needed are paper napkins, it can be adapted to some impromptu settings also. There was a general discussion among the members of mentalism ideas.

The July Ring meeting was held July 6 at Ken’s Magic Shop in Hiawatha. One of our

members, Alex Garcia, had attended Tannen's Magic Camp in Pennsylvania in June and reported on his very positive experience there. The camp was busy daily with workshops and lectures, and there was a stage show presentation each night. Alex's roommate was a young magician from the Los Angeles area who is a member of the Magic Castle. The instruction was divided into beginner, intermediate, and advanced tracks. Some of the topics included the history of magic that performers should know, performing tips, showmanship, how to perform magic as a business/livelihood, as well as clinics on manipulating cards, coins, silks, etc.

Ken Marlin demonstrated a playing card through bill effect that is suitable to use for impromptu or walk-around use. The remainder of the meeting was spent looking through the shop's used book collection and trading advice on which classic books a magician learner should know about.

Don Nelson

RING 334, MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA – Grand Strand Magicians Society

Meets 1st Thu., 7:00 pm at the Southatlantic Bldg., Unit C, 908 Seaboard St., Myrtle Beach, SC
GERRY THOMPSON, Secretary
www.sandyshoesentertainment.com/

Howdy y'all! We had a slow start to the July meeting as we were enjoying a time of chatting with each other. Next month, in August, we are having a photo shoot for members. John Tudor will lecture in September. In October, there will be the Magic at the Beach Convention. Member Mike Heitman will be leaving the area to start a new phase of his career. Sorry to see him go. Michael Bairefoot has a possible new show coming.

President Ron Conley spoke about how he was inspired to use a stool in his shows. He followed by using a net to catch coins he produced. A brain storming session followed on how to further use the net. Liam performed "Wonder Bubbles," a fun effect. Paul McTaggart performed "Mysterious Ball Transposition" from *Tarbell*. A very nice trick and it suited his personality very well. Brain storming followed.

Michael B. performed sponge balls. Michael is very knowledgeable on everything he performs. Dale performed thimbles and billiard balls. Michael followed and showed us how to really do billiard balls. Will Yung did "Cards through Silk," also in *Tarbell*. It was well performed, a pretty effect.

Well, that was it for this meeting as I have no more notes. It was a fun and informative evening. If you are in the Myrtle Beach area the first Thursday of the month, please join us at the Magic Loft, we'd love to see you. *Dale Rabon*

RING 392, BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA – William E. Spooner Ring

Meetings monthly at 2:00pm in various locations
DR. JOE MAZZOLA, President
E-mail: jcmazzolado@gmail.com

Gerry and Cara Hayes hosted Ring 392 in Blowing Rock, NC at 2:00 p.m. on 6/24/23. Attending were President Joe Mazzola, Gerry and Cara Hayes, Nelson and Sue Ellen Brookshire, Judy Anders, Albert Lawson, visiting guest magician Tom Byrne (a.k.a. Sparky) and his wife Audrey from Scotland, Bill and LaRose Spooner, new member Lyndy Phillips, and special guests Ray and Paula Dueser (Cara's sister) from Charlottesville, VA.

Following the welcome by President Mazzola, the Ring unanimously voted to donate one hundred dollars to The Vanishing Wheelchair in honor of our magic friend, Ricky Boone, who passed away last week. Ricky will be remembered fondly by all who knew and admired him for his magical abilities rather than the physical challenges he faced his entire life.

Joe Mazzola confirmed that Gerry and Cara will once again host our next meeting on July 16 at 2:00 p.m. Lyndy Phillips formerly of the Dallas/Ft. Worth area of Texas was welcomed into our Ring. He will be a great asset to our group as he is a very accomplished professional magician, public speaker, comedian, and all-around good guy! Joe announced that Brad Ross's illusion show opened at Carowinds on June 16. It is hoped that our Ring will be able to find a time we can go see the show and visit backstage with Brad. Joe is developing a Halloween show for Marvel's Magic Theater. Check out the website or Facebook page to learn more about it. Also, Randy Shirley will present a show there on August 26 as well, so lots is coming our way!

It was "Ladies Magic Day," so Sue Ellen Brookshire prepared and flawlessly delivered her version of "Channeling Houdini." After expressing her appreciation of what it takes to learn and perform magic, she chose Joe as her helper. Following Sue Ellen's directions, Joe developed a random series of numbers on his cell phone that only he knew. Using a secret process that helped her "channel" Houdini, Sue Ellen was able to identify the single digit Joe had mentally selected from the series of numbers randomly obtained! Great job on what she declares was her first and last magic trick!

Cara Hayes stepped up to share the famous "Card in Balloon" trick. After having Joe randomly select a card, she lost the card in the deck. After blowing up a balloon and drawing a "near perfect" likeness of Joe, she attached the

balloon to a stand on a board. She then divined Joe's card, and upon her command, the balloon burst and to everyone's enjoyment Joe's card appeared where the balloon had been! This classic was presented beautifully! Thanks for sharing, Cara!

Former First Lady LaRose Spooner, rather than present a trick, shared a very funny story about a lady she met years ago at a conference. The lady was having trouble remembering LaRose's name, so LaRose suggested association might work. She told her it may help to remember her first name as being like the flower, rose. She suggested her last name could be remembered as a piece of dinnerware – spoon (Spooners). A year later at another conference LaRose saw the lady coming toward her and, when she got close enough, the lady said, "I remember you! Petunia Forker!" Of course, we all got a good laugh from that! This is one of the many great stories LaRose can share!

With the lady's section of the meeting concluded, Joe asked guest magician Tom Byrne to share some magic with us. Tom, better known as "Sparky" and his wife Audrey have been visiting fellow Scottish magician, Albert Lawson and his wife Judy. Tom shared how he became a magician which everyone enjoyed! Tom then dazzled us with his card magic, sense of humor, and stage presence. Following some fancy card flourishes, Tom had LaRose select a card and sign it. After vanishing the card, Tom used his "educated tongue" to find it. Amazingly, the vanished card reappeared in Tom's mouth! An assortment of mysterious effects concluded Tom's performance.

Lyndy Phillips began his magic time by handing out face down cards to everyone. Asked to think of a card, he proved that each person's thought of card was in their hand when the cards were turned over! Lots of fun and a good ice breaker! Lyndy then shared his magic life with us. His magic performance began with a smooth coin vanish followed by a copper/silver effect. His patter was as spot on and professional as his coin handling. Having "missed" finding the selected card Joe chose, Lyndy produced a newspaper that announced that he would miss the trick and named Joe's card. So glad to have you with us, Lyndy!

Gerry Hayes shared a trick that no one performs – well, almost no one! It is called "Fresh Fish" and was introduced by Arnold Furst in 1938. Gerry showed an advertising sign the owner of a fish market wanted displayed that said, "Fresh Fish Sold Here Today." Gerry demonstrated how an employee looked at the sign and concluded that "today" was not needed since the store was open. Gerry then tore off the word "today." Each word was determined to be unnecessary one by one. Ultimately nothing was left but a bunch of torn bits

of paper. When the store owner wanted to know where the sign was, the employee (Gerry) unfolded the "wad," and the sign was completely restored! A very nice item especially if you are an emcee! Gerry later told how Furst's comic strip evolved into *True Comics*.

Albert Lawson shared several effects. A business size card showing an empty wine glass was signed by guest Paula Deuser. After some conversation, Albert had Paula place the signed card face down. She then randomly selected the 5H from a deck. When asked to turn over the card she signed, Paula discovered a card matching her signed card was now pictured in the previously empty glass. Next, Judy and Sue Ellen assisted. Albert had Tom, Bill, and Gerry sign a card each. The cards were collected and placed in a wine glass held by the one of the wine glasses along with seven other cards. The other glass had ten cards placed in it as well. After some magic business, the signed cards somehow ended up in the opposite glass from the one they were originally placed in. This was a very nice twist to the "Las Vegas Leaper." Finally, Albert had Ray Deuser sign a one-dollar bill. The bill was then transformed into a very large foreign note. Albert had Ray select a fruit (orange) and when it was cut, Ray's signed bill was found inside! Next, he performed the classic "WIN/LOSE" card effect with Gerry Hayes. Gerry was unlucky as he selected from a deck of cards the only card that had "LOSE" written on the back. Maybe next time, Gerry. Lastly, Albert did a nice dove pan effect with fire! Nice work, Albert!

To conclude the magic, Joe invited Tom to assist him. Tom had a deck which he showed and gave to Joe to "memorize." In turn Joe showed his own deck to Tom face up. Both decks were cut and both Tom and Joe placed a card facedown into their decks. After a bit of byplay, it was revealed that both face down cards were the same. This was an amazing trick we all enjoyed!

Joe had to leave for Rome, Italy just before we adjourned for refreshments, but we look forward to hearing about his trip when he returns to our next meeting!

Nelson Brookshire

**RING 398, APPLETON/GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN –
Dr. Lynn Miner Ring**

Meets last Tue. except Dec., 6:30 p.m., email for location.

RICK MOREIN, Secretary

E-mail: rmorein497@gmail.com

The meeting was held at Monty's Secret Theatre in Kimberly and on Zoom. The theme of our Ring 398 June meeting was "Coins, chips and most anything that's round." The first magician to address both our in-house and Zoom

meeting attendees was Ring 398's President Michael Schroeder, who was the subject of our "Artist Spotlight" this month. Michael told those in attendance how he became interested in magic when he was seven years old and his parents took him to see a magic show at a local high school which featured a magician who performed a trick where he put a box on his lady assistant's head, which then turned into a skull right before his eyes! Michael was hooked! Fast forward to twenty-eight years ago, and Michael decided to visit his first magic shop, Rondini's in Appleton. The next magic shop Michael visited was Theophilus Magic in Milwaukee. While meeting Fred Jurgens there, Fred asked Michael if he would like to do some magic shows in his basement and Michael accepted. At that point, Fred became a mentor to Michael. When Rondini was performing at the Grand Opera House in Oshkosh, Rondini asked him if he would like to help him by selling some merchandise after his show and that was when Michael met Chris Cochrane who helped him sell Chinese Vases. Michael said that when he and Chris were both performing/demo'ing the Chinese Vase trick together, they both discovered that they had a lot of mutual and combined synergy and decided right then and there to take time to meet, plan and develop an act together, and that is how "The Comedy Magic of Mike and Chris" got its start. Their tagline was, "Somewhere between Penn and Teller and Laurel and Hardy, you'll find Mike and Chris." From there, Michael and Chris developed a strait jacket escape routine and introduced it in Appleton at the performing Arts Center, with Michael performing the escape upside down, hundreds of feet in the air. And that got everyone's attention. In fact, that escape was so sensational that it got them national attention and landed them a spot performing in Las Vegas at the Stardust Hotel and Casino. Michael said that the impact of that performing event and venue pretty much "got him to where he is today."

Our next performer (on Zoom) was Bruce Hetzler, who asked if anyone in the audience had a coin collection. Bruce said that he brought his entire coin collection with him, "It's a penny," he said, placing it on the outstretched fingers of his face up left hand palm. The only trouble with it, Bruce said, was that it's a little hard to see, and with that comment, brought out a magnifying glass, placing it on top of the penny on his left palm, making it appear larger. In fact, Bruce commented, some people think it looks as big as a half dollar, and pulling away the magnifying glass, the penny had enlarged to the size of a half-dollar. Placing the half-dollar

sized penny into his right hand, it turned into a silver-dollar sized penny, with Bruce commenting "Now that's what I call big money!" The trick was cute, clever, and went over well.

International President Chuck Arkin was the next magician to perform on Zoom, presenting a trick using three giant coins that he recently did for about seventy-five retired senior citizen ladies at a country club event. First, Chuck showed secretly putting an un-named and unseen coin inside a folded napkin which he placed under his collar for safekeeping. Showing the three giant coins separately as a Jefferson nickel, a buffalo nickel, and a penny, he invited Dr. Lynn Miner to help him, asking him to "name one of the coins." After Lynn named the penny, Chuck asked him to select one of the two remaining coins, and Lynn responded by naming the Jefferson nickel which left the buffalo nickel remaining. Chuck then took out the folded napkin, revealing a buffalo nickel. Chuck further told those in attendance how he intended to perform a version of this trick "on steroids," using a slate with "buffalo nickel" written on it as a kicker to further sell and point this simple but effective trick. In the opinion of this author (me!) the slate bit really makes this trick stand out and makes it a lot stronger. Next, Chuck showed those attending a new initiative he was introducing as the new International President of the I.B.M., a gift that members can receive for bringing in new members! The gift consisted of a set of beautiful new I.B.M. commemorative coins and a small-ish teapot and cover that acted like an Okito Box for the commemorative coins, clever and hopefully an easily obtainable collector's item for those who bringing in new members. Great idea, Chuck!

Ring namesake Dr. Lynn Miner was next on Zoom, discussing two new books he has recently written. The first is called *North Pole News*. It is written in a newspaper format with twenty-six issues containing fifty-two effects with each and all effects having a Christmas theme. This book is expected to be available on July 17 and contains a combination of detailed performance instructions and complete scripts and three hundred sixteen Christmas-themed one-liners for these close-up, platform, and stage effects. The second book is called *Seasonal Sorcery* and features two hundred nine holiday effects for thirty different holidays throughout the year. Most of these are linked up to QR codes with direct links to videos including thirty-five performed by the McBride Magic and Mystery School staff. Exciting!

Next to perform in-person at Monty's Secret Theatre was Ring Vice President Daryl Rogers

who presented his take on the “Oldest Trick in Magic,” the classic cups and balls routine. Daryl remarked that often, people who see him perform this trick remark that there is so much going on with this routine using three cups and three balls, that it is easy to confuse them and thus, to deceive them. So, in the interest of straightforwardness, and to keep things easy to see and to understand, Daryl developed his own version of this classic using just one cup and one ball. Daryl then began to perform his chop cup routine, explaining to the audience how the single red crocheted ball he was using becomes temporarily invisible once it goes inside the mouth up cup, and then permanently invisible once the ball is inside the cup and the cup is placed mouth down on the table. Using this byplay, Daryl showed and demonstrated how he could easily make the red ball travel from his pocket to inside the cup by making it visible and then invisible, while doing so. Daryl then confessed that people accuse him of using two balls, and, with a smile, turned over the face down cup with the red ball inside, revealing that the ball inside has changed color to a yellow ball. Upon lifting the cup up a second time, a second, much larger yellow ball has appeared inside the cup. Daryl’s routine was well thought-out and was very entertaining. His final loading technique was deceptive and very well done.

Monty Witt was next and performed and demonstrated several utility moves with coins. The moves that Monty demonstrated took advantage of great, common-sense stagecraft principles involving taking advantage of lighting reflections using the proper handling of the coins, which in turn, made it easy for a stage audience to see what was happening by inducing a retention of vision. Monty’s coin move demonstrations were very good, commercial, and well-received.

Our next performer was Ring 398 Secretary Rick Morein, who told the audience that he needed an “honest, handsome man wearing a shirt with a breast pocket” to please assist him for his next trick. Rick then chose Michael Schroeder to assist him, asking Michael to come up onstage. Commenting to Michael that “You don’t even know what you just volunteered for,” Rick told Michael that “it was his big chance to visit a fabulous casino anywhere in the world and win big money.” Michael commented that this sounded pretty good to him! Putting words into action, Rick showed Michael a clear goblet with different value casino chips from casinos all over the world, having Michael confirm this, and handed the goblet with the chips inside to

Michael while instructing Michael to hold the goblet in his left hand, put his right hand on top, turn the goblet over, shake it up, and then turn it right side up, remove any chip, and without looking at it, place it inside his breast pocket. After Michael did this, Rick drew the audience’s attention to a stand with a sealed envelope which, he said, contained a prediction. More on that later, Rick said. Next, Rick brought out a card case, pulled out the deck inside the case, put it on the table, gave it a couple of cuts and then handed it to Michael. Rick told Michael to take the deck in dealing position and deal cards face down, one at a time, onto Rick’s upturned left hand, stopping whenever he wanted to. Upon stopping, Michael was told to place that card on to Rick’s upturned right palm. Then, Rick told Michael to now deal the cards face up, one at a time onto Rick’s upturned left hand stopping whenever he wanted to. When Michael stopped, Rick instructed him to place that face up card on top of the face down card in his left hand, and to take those two cards, without looking at them, and place them into his breast pocket next to the casino chip. Then Rick showed Michael a tray with a stack of big (replica) hundred-dollar bills, commenting to Michael that before he left home he counted fifty of them onto the tray for a total of \$5,000. Rick told Michael to then lift off a stack of the bills without counting them, and to put them on top of the goblet containing the various casino chips, which Michael did. Removing the sealed envelope from its holder, Rick asked Michael to open the envelope clasps, look inside to make sure that there was only piece of paper in it, remove it and hand it to him (Rick) while he and Michael read the prediction together, proving that everything written was as it was. Rick and Michael read the prediction together. It said, “You will visit the Silver Spur Casino.” Rick asked Michael to reach into his breast pocket and read out loud what was written on the casino chip. It said, “Silver Spur Casino.” Next, Rick and Michael together read the second prediction which said, “You will place a wager on a hand of blackjack, winning with a total of twenty. Rick asked Michael to reach into his pocket and remove the two cards that he himself dealt into Rick’s hand. They totaled twenty. Next, Rick and Michael together read the third prediction, which said: With your winning hand of blackjack, you will win a total of \$1,700. Asking Michael to count the bills one by one, Michael counted \$1,800, to which Rick replied, “Close. I was off by one.” This trick was an invention of Larry Becker’s titled “Casino Royale” and has been marketed by Viking

Magic. Rick mentioned that he has owned the trick for over twenty years, and it always goes over well. Which, in fact, it did with those in attendance.

Next up was Ring 398 Treasurer Tal Kuhnz who showed everyone a “trick with a mysterious little box.” Showing a small green box with up and down arrows and a circular “turning” pattern, Tal read the directions which instructed him to place a glass of liquid in it and then turn it over, upside down, back and around, with Tal then showing the glass of liquid fully intact. The trick was interesting and those in attendance liked it.

Michael Schroeder next showed us “The

Linking Rings of Death.” These are essentially a basic linking rings set embellished with barbed wires. This set, long unavailable, was marketed years ago by Stevens Magic and is very clever, looks totally realistic, has a convenient, invisible magnetic key ring, and was well-received by those in attendance.

Ring 398 Sergeant-at-Arms Marv Roth was next, performing two close-up tricks with coins. The first trick was coins passing from hand to hand, and the second, follow-up trick was “Coins to Card Box.” These two tricks were direct, easy for the audience to understand, very deceptive and went over well. *Rick Morein*

NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS
13 POINT WEST BLVD.,
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

SEPTEMBER 2023 33 NEW MEMBERS

FULLER, DAVID, Tucson, AZ
GARRISON, RIC, Palmdale, CA
GURNEY, JONATHAN, Irvine, CA
LITTENEKER, ALAN, Tarzana, CA
RICHMOND, RYAN, Thousand Oaks, CA
WILKINSON, RONALD, Huntington Beach, CA
ROSS, CHARLIE, Washington, DC
RABIN, ARYEH, Atlanta, GA
FLIPPIN, ALEX, Maize, KS
COOK, KENNETH, Ann Arbor, MI
KREGEL, JAMES, Grandville, MI
JOHNSON, JEFF, Edina, MN
RUFTY, DAVIDSON, Las Vegas, NV
RUFTY JR, ARCHIBALD, Las Vegas, NV
FISHMAN, REUVEN, Astoria, NY
RAGAN, ROGER, Medina, NY
STAINROCK, ERIC, Buffalo, NY
SHANKLE, TREBOR, Dublin, OH
KLINGENSMITH, BRANDON, Allentown, PA
MIRRA, HARRY, Morton, PA
PETERSON, ALEXANDER, Murrysville, PA
ROCK, ELLIOTT, Pittsburgh, PA
SWINDLER, MARK, Johnstown, PA
BRIGHT, FRANK, Paragonah, UT

HOEGERL, JOHN, Forest, VA
RATLEY, RICK, Wise, VA
CUTLIP, DOCK, Vienna, WV
KRANTIS, JASPER, Adelaide, Sa, Australia
HARUN, MD. ABDULLA AL, Dhaka, Bangladesh
JANGMI, FARZANA CHOWDHURY, Dhaka, Bangladesh
PAIPULAS, DOMAS, Vilnius, Lithuania
SPOTSWOOD, TIMOTHY, Barbaza, Antique, Philippines
SOUTHERN, PAUL, Chudleigh, Devon, United Kingdom

12 REINSTATEMENTS

EMERY, ROBERT, Riverside, CA
RIVERA-MELO MADERA, RAUL, San Ysidro, CA
BALDINGER, KEITH A., Marion, IL
MURRAY, RYAN, Paducah, KY
JAMES, ELLIS, Pittsburgh, PA
PURNELL, KYLE, Boiling Springs, PA
PREMLAL, MD. GOLAM SAROAR, Siddheswari, Dhaka, Bangladesh
ULLAH, MD. OBAYED, Dhaka, Bangladesh
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Answer to Pictures from the Past – from page 14

Donald William “Monk” Watson was born in Jackson, Michigan on March 23, 1894. Before he was twenty years old, he had worked as a mascot for the touring Buffalo Bill Circus and joined the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus where he learned the art of clowning from a clown in the circus named Spot Flynn. It wasn’t long after he left the auspices of the circus that he enlisted in the Army in World War I. Before his enlisted time was complete, he had served with the famous 32nd Division, 125th Infantry in Europe, and as a stretcher bearer. Between the time he was on call, he found time to entertain the soldiers around the camp. He had an act where he was jumping around from place to place. Someone in the audience mentioned that his jumping and hopping around looked like a monkey. Around that time, the name ‘Monk’ was adopted to Donald’s name. Along with Monk’s ability to entertain the soldiers with comedy, he played a number of musical instruments, sang songs, and performed magic for the troops. The ability placed him in the infantry band. Monk was discharged from the service in 1918 after receiving shrapnel and a bayonet wound. While in France, Monk met vaudeville star Elsie Janis (1889 – 1956) who was traveling throughout France to perform for the troops and hospitals. She saw Monk working and asked him to contact her if he was interested in joining her company of entertainers.



Once Monk returned to the states and was discharged, he worked with Janis and her troupe for two years before going out on his own. During this time, he worked in theaters like Rialto in Omaha, Nebraska and Lincoln Square Theater in Decatur, Illinois. He was booked for nearly eleven months at the LaSalle Garden Theatre in Detroit, Michigan, performing as Master of Ceremonies for several variety acts. Monk broke his own record by working at the Grand Riviera Theater in Detroit, Michigan for three-and-a-half years, equaling a total of five thousand performances. During that time, Monk introduced the audiences to numerous vaudeville performers who were just starting out in show business. Some of those performers include Bob Hope, Martha Raye, Eddie “Rochester” Robinson, Ginger Rogers, Edgar Bergen, Bing Crosby, and Will Rogers. Several of these show business “rookies” kept in contact with Monk and remained friends over the years.

While working at the Lincoln Square Theater in the mid-1920s, Monk presented various shows like “Down on the Farm,” which was a combination of ‘Jazz and Jollity’ for the packed houses each night. The shows included specialty acts like the comedy team of Heinz & Smith, and famed whistler and impersonator Alice Louise Shrode. Ms. Shrode would bring the audience to their feet with enthusiastic applause after she gave an excellent demonstration of several different birds and then proceeded to whistle a few classical pieces of music. Monk found all sorts of acts during his time at the Lincoln Theater.

One of the many memorable events during the 1920s was when Monk challenged the Wellupp-Stuckey Furniture Store that he could make any customer laugh by breaking a complete set of dishware. The manager agreed and offered Monk one hundred and twenty-five dollars on the condition that they could select the customer. Monk had accepted the terms of

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the challenge and in doing so, he had to purchase sixty dollars' worth of dishware. Everything was set and the store was filled with customers, ready to watch the fun-filled antics of Monk Watson. The mystery customer was selected and witnessed loads of broken dishware being tossed around him as he maintained a solemn expression. The fellow was doing great until Monk dropped the last two dishes. He started to laugh and didn't stop until the store manager shook his hand and walked him away from the shattered mess on the store's floor. The store manager paid Monk the prize money and Monk walked away with a smile on his face. Unbeknownst to the store manager, Monk met up with the man after the challenge and paid him twenty-five dollars. Monk walked away with a little extra money in his pocket and the furniture received a great deal of publicity.

In the mid-1920s, Monk and his Merry Mob of Jazz Minstrels known as "The Keystone Serenaders" presented "Real Hot Southern Syncopation" to a packed audience at the Lincoln Square Theatre. Along with Monk's talented troupe of players, he balanced the show with acts like lead baritone Lee Barton Evans (1889–1964). He also had the Pickaninny Ballet, from the local school in Decatur, perform so as to keep his fellow Decatur audience members from filling the seats each night. He would also show a film whenever one was available. Comedy films *Sally*, *Irene*, and *Mary*, or *His Secretary* (starring Norma Sherer), would be on the playbill. In April 1926, Monk left the Lincoln Square Theatre to pursue different venues. In September 1931, Monk and the Keystone Serenaders were booked for the Capitol Theater in New Castle, Pennsylvania for a week of musical fun in the show "Hello! New Castle." The theater was packed at every performance. The local newspaper praised the theater manager for bringing in such a well-rounded performer. They expressed their enthusiasm for Monk and his troupe by adding "Play Hooky From Your Troubles! Forget Your Cares! Come, See, and Hear! Monk Watson and his Keystone Serenaders."

The performances were a success. Monk continued to perform in theaters as the Master of Ceremonies with a cast of thirty that included dancers, singers, musicians, and comedians from Indiana to Ohio, then to Iowa and beyond. The tour made its way to the west coast and they visited Universal Studios while they were in Hollywood, California. Monk and a few other members of the troupe were invited to watch the making of the film *Return of Frankenstein* and another film called *Mr. Dynamite*. After the filming was completed for a scene, they had a chance to meet and take photos with the actors. One of the most impressive actors was Boris Karloff, whom they met while he was in full make-up. Karloff let them know that it took five hours to have the make-up applied to him each day and *only* two hours to remove it all.

In 1935, Monk joined the Shaler Circus and continued his M.C. work while occasionally performing a few close-up tricks for his audiences. Monk stepped out of the spotlight and began working for Shaler's The Automotive Company. During the clinics, Monk would perform a few magic tricks (including his own "Traveling Cigar Band" effect) to keep the attendees interested. While in San Antonio, Texas, he was the added entertainer for the San Antonio Automotive Trade show at the Strauss-Frank Company. Monk shined that evening, filling the room with laughter and entertainment as he performed card tricks and larger magic effects, as well as telling great stories of his travels. While working in Southern California, Monk dropped in at a club meeting at the Hollywood-Knickerbocker Hotel in January 1938. A number of the members presented ideas and effects for the group. Members like Arnold "Furst" Furstenberg, Dr. Edward Saint, and Herbert Brill enjoyed the appreciation the members gave when the presentations were complete. As laughter filled the room, Monk had fun showing his imitation of an amateur magician trying to do a card trick for the first time.

As the 1940s began, Monk continued to M.C. shows for special events, Masonic Clubs, and magic shows. One of his favorite engagements was at the Abbott's Get-Together in Colon, Michigan. He always looked forward to this opportunity to visit with his old pals and

meet new friends. Monk's pal W. C. Dornfield (Dorny) would M.C. one of the shows while Monk would step in and M.C. the other. The two had a great time sharing the stage and creating routines for the audience to enjoy. Before the convention was over, those who attended met numerous magicians both well-known and new to the art, and found they had thoroughly enjoyed all of the performances thanks to both Monk and Dorny. Dorny and Monk had known each other for years. Both performers worked with Elsie Janis after WWI. They both completed their military time and came back to the United States after serving their country and entertaining the soldiers. Monk became a member of the I.B.M in 1941.

Monk was hired as the M.C. sales gatherings to present a trade show for the Shaler Company of Waupun, Wisconsin. Shaler Company was responsible for creating select products like the Shaler Vulcanizer to repair flat tires and the Shaler Roadlighter lens for automobiles and trucks. After six years working for the Shaler Company, Monk began to work for a different automotive company named Hastings Corporation, the Casite Corporation. Monk's job was nearly the same except this time he was able to put together a sales meeting that incorporated the company's products. He created a successful magic show that went far in selling their products.

When WWII broke out, Monk performed with other entertainers to support the troops' morale. Whether he was appearing at military camps or presenting a full show, Monk was ready to assist however he could. During the war, Monk visited a handful of cadet schools and became the official "Blues Chaser" for those young cadets who were far from home for the first time in their lives. After the war, Monk went back to his M.C. job with Hastings Corporation. In 1945, Monk's book *The Professional Touch* was published by Abbott's Magic Novelty Company. The sixty-four-page book was filled with insights into Monk's ideas and presentations. There was everything from card effects, time-tested routines, and original tricks that Monk had presented to scores of audiences in his lifetime.

Into the 1950s, Monk continued to travel from one event to another across Michigan, New York, and New England. The audiences at the Annual Houdini Memorial show had a great time watching Monk perform his own show, as well as M.C. and introduce performers like Burling Hull, Dr. Zinbad, and newcomer Karrell Fox. Monk was later elected the mayor of two square miles of Colon, Michigan. Nothing really earth-shattering happened in Colon that year, but it did give Monk the chance to stay closer to home where he could entertain his neighbors and visit friends. In 1955, Monk joined fellow performers like Jack Gwynne, Sam Berman, Okito, Jane Clements, and Harlan Tarbell to honor their friend Werner "Dorny" Dornfield with a grand show. The testimonial was arranged at the Hamilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois before an audience of two hundred of Dorny's closest friends.

In March of 1961, Monk added another feather to his cap by writing for *The New Tops*. His first article was filled with stories, ideas, and advice. With all of the wonderful experiences he had in his life, his column would show the magazine's readers what show business was really like from someone with first-hand experience. Monk continued to perform in Colon and participated in the annual Abbott's Get Together each year, and also joined the list of entertainers at Lou Tannen's Magicians' Jubilee in New York. The shows were all well received. Known



Monk Watson and Bob Hope.

performers like Senator Clark Crandall, Jack London, Ken Allen, and Joe Cossari were included in the list as well as a young puppeteer named Barclay Shaw. As the 1960s came to a close, Monk had a few health issues but didn't let this slow him down. He performed six shows while he had walking pneumonia. Monk took a little time off after he found out, but it didn't stop him from writing his articles or reviews for the magic magazines.

When Monk wasn't performing in the 1970s, he would drop by Abbott's Magic Shop to catch up on the newest magic creations for sale. If by chance someone wanted to see an item presented, Monk would gladly step behind the counter and put his spin on the effect. Not only would the visitor see a professional presentation, but they most likely purchased a trick or two before leaving. Monk had a way of making you want to hear what was going on in his world. It didn't matter if you had heard the tale before – it was about watching Monk relive the events or perform the trick. He had you from the moment he greeted you and smiled. Monk's days of performing may have slowed down, but he kept in touch with the magicians he'd met over the years. He also found time to reach out and talk to young, local magicians. Monk gave them a first-hand opportunity to find out how the world of entertainment had changed since he first stepped on stage. He had a wealth of information and materials to amuse his audience and they were interested in hearing what Monk had to say. After a long illness, Monk passed away on March 23, 1981.

Gary R. Frank

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

DEALER			
ALCON'S ILLUSIONS	10	GENII MAGAZINE	7
ASSOCIATION HEALTH CARE	6	THE MAGIC BAKERY	11
AUSTIN MAGIC AUCTION	9	McBRIDE SCHOOL OF MAGIC AND MYSTERY	9
CHAVEZ STUDIO OF MAGIC	INSIDE FRONT COVER	SPS MAGIC	10
JOBETH BOWERS	9	VIREZOMA MAGIC	9
COAI	8	CONVENTIONS	
THE LINKING RING	INSIDE BACK COVER	I.B.M. CONVENTION 2024	3, BACK COVER
		MAGIC AT THE BEACH	10

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