

VOLUME 105 • NUMBER 2

# The Linking Ring

FEBRUARY 2025



**BUDDY FARNAN**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS





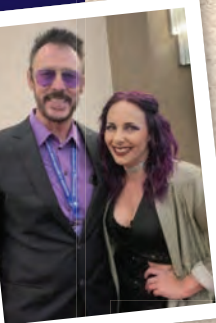
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Check the I.B.M. Homepage for full details.

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



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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.

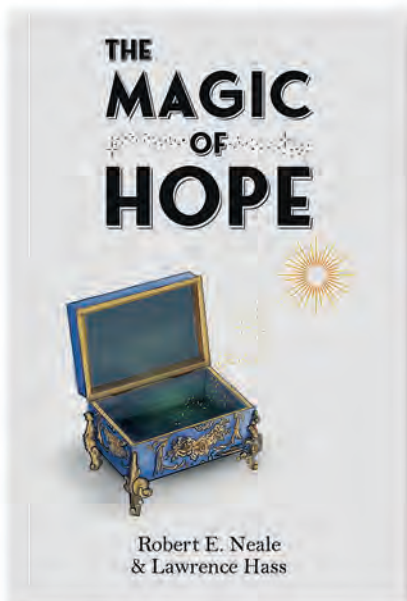
Performers will appreciate **DALEY REVISITED**, featuring new dual enhanced convincing displays, and a solid psychological sell. As a bonus, Steve adds his Triumph-based lead-in, with an insane cutting sequence in the middle.

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.



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## From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

*“Blessed are those who have found their work.” –Thomas Carlyle*

In his book, *Past and Present*, the great historian Thomas Carlyle wrote that a person who “actually and earnestly works” always has hope. A genius with an insatiable appetite for work, Carlyle was well acquainted with the joy found in a labor of love.

Throughout history, the most creative among us have thrown themselves with complete abandon into their fields of fascination. I think of Thomas Edison at his “invention factory” in Menlo Park, New Jersey. So intent was he on unlocking the mysteries of nature that Edison often worked through the night with his equally absorbed and dedicated team.

I see Charles Dickens, immersed in his work – standing before the mirror in his study, reciting dialogue between characters to see the expressions each would make when speaking; then, dashing to his desk and taking up a quill pen to preserve his ideas in ink.

Whether a labor of love is a hobby or vocation does not matter. It is not money, but a desire to contribute, to perform with excellence in an area of compelling interest, that inspires dedication. This the world does not always understand.

The indefatigable Albert Schweitzer, pouring himself into work, studies, and music, was advised, “You can’t burn the candle at both ends.” Schweitzer replied, “You can if it’s long enough.” The light created by his labors of love beamed brightly into his ninetieth year.

Is it possible to become so infatuated with one’s fascinations that health, as well as social and family obligations, are neglected? History says yes. Yet we have

examples of people deeply engrossed in work or avocations who also live healthy, balanced lives. In some cases, though, the credit goes to a supportive family.

We see Carl Sandburg in his upstairs study in Flat Rock, North Carolina, stomping his feet on the floor in frustration to notify his boisterous family below that he requires absolute silence while he writes. In old age, Sandburg admitted that without his wife Paula to keep him on course, “I would have been a bum.” Called by one biographer “a serene, deeply contented woman, fulfilled, sparkling with vitality, rejoicing in her life,” Sandburg’s wife is rightly credited for much of his success. Yet without his own intense passion for writing, the stories, poetry, and masterful biography of Lincoln would not have seen the light of day.

Labors of love are not, of course, restricted to intellectual pursuits. My grandfather, a South Georgia farmer, worked more than sixty hours a week until shortly before his death at age ninety-seven. He continued not from necessity but out of love for his calling. One day in the field, well into his nineties, he bent down and scooped up the soil in his hands. “I love the smell of the earth,” he said. He had found his life’s work, and he followed it until the end.

Carlyle was right about those who “actually and earnestly work.” Labors of love switch our mental machinery away from troubling circumstances and the maddening minutia of daily life. We become absorbed by a fascinating problem and all else slips away for the moment. We intuitively know, with Carlyle, that those who have found their work are truly blessed.



# President's Page

MIKE DUNAGAN



***Are you registered yet?*** The 2025 I.B.M. Convention in Houston, Texas, is getting closer by the day and the Convention team is in full swing, putting together what promises to be our most exciting event ever.

Oscar Muñoz and Stephen Levine, our Convention co-chairs, are adding the finishing touches to their master plan – blending a perfect mix of lectures, shows, jam sessions, free time, and dealers (along with a few other surprises to keep things interesting) to please any I.B.M. attendee.

Benjamin Barnes, our talent coordinator, is assembling an amazing lineup of performers, influencers, and lecturers guaranteed to excite all magic fans. The Lance Burton Teen Seminar, an incredible (and free) offering for youth, is filling up quickly. And with our special Guests of Honor, Randy and Kristy Pitchford, you'll learn the latest about what's up in the magic world, including the Magic Castle and *Genii* magazine. Look for a fantastic cover story about Randy and Kristy in next month's *Linking Ring*!

The Convention Committee just finished a planning session at the Houston Royal Sonesta Galleria hotel, and I can now vouch for what a great spot this will be for the Convention. It's an award-winning hotel with beautiful guest rooms, fantastic meeting spaces, a fitness center, an outdoor pool, and a variety of on-site food options – all at a great I.B.M. Convention room rate.

Bringing your family? The hotel is located within minutes of the Galleria Mall, Rice University, Memorial Park, the Houston Zoo, and other top-rated attractions.

It really is going to be an amazing event, and I hope you'll be there. After all, the best

part of every Convention is seeing old friends and making new ones. It truly is our magical family reunion!

***On to other things.*** As invested members, we should all have a basic understanding of how the I.B.M. is run, so I thought I'd provide a bit of insight.

The organization is run by a Board of Trustees, made up of our five international officers (President, President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer), six Executive Committee Members-at-Large, and all living Past International Presidents.

The I.B.M.'s structure and election rules are set by our bylaws. Officers are elected annually, serving for one year. The President, President-Elect, and International Vice President cannot succeed themselves in the same office. The President-Elect automatically becomes the next President. Members-at-Large are elected to a three-year term.

Basically, officers are responsible for the day-to-day management of the organization. The entire board is responsible for any formal business that requires official votes. All play a role in providing guidance, insight, and perspective to the business matters of the organization.

Beyond the board, much of the work is accomplished through committees. Committee chairs and members develop and execute processes, plans, and programs that drive the I.B.M., from our annual Convention to our social media presence and everything in between.

Finally, all of the I.B.M.'s officers are volunteers. Every one of them. And we are always looking for members who want to take part.

*(continued on page 15)*



# *Pictures from the Past*

THE LINKING RING

## *The Linking Ring*



**MAL LIPPINCOTT**

**Vol. 29  
No. 7**

**SEPT.  
1949**

When you ask a close-up or parlor magician to show you their perfect standby effect, many will open their case and pull out a Lippincott Box. This classic prop allows performers to find a coin, ring, or other item in a locked wooden box after vanishing it in front of their spectators. Mal Lippincott invented the prop and his Lippincott's Quarter Go effect seventy-five years ago, and it is still a staple of many acts. Mal's passion for magic gave him the perseverance to perform in wartime, during the Great Depression, and in tent shows across the United States. To learn more turn to page 145.



## ***President's Page*** – from page 13

I believe this structure leads to both fresh ideas and leadership continuity.

Term limits on many of our leadership positions assure a steady flow of new people and ideas into the system, avoiding the “Leader for Life” stagnation that can occur in volunteer-based organizations. Though not at all guaranteed, the succession of officers moving up step by step to the presidency ensures leadership experience and continuity, giving us the ability to implement long-term plans over a multi-year/multi-administration period. All in all, it works.

Now, back to my original topic: Go register for Houston. You will thank me later.

---

## ***David Garrard Receives Harry Collins Mentorship Award***

On Friday evening, September 6, 2024, during the Louisville Magic Club's annual *It's Magic!* show, David Garrard was awarded the first-ever Harry Collins Mentorship Award. Named after renowned Louisville, Kentucky magician Harry Collins, the award recognized David's work teaching, encouraging, and sharing his knowledge and experience with young magicians. The award was presented by Lance Burton and Louisville Magic Club President Dennis Alm.

Harry Collins, a talented magician, was one of the founders of the Louisville Magic Club, as well as Lance's mentor and friend in the early years of his career. Harry and David were also friends, and David owns several of Harry's props and one of his road cases.

While planning the thirty-fifty annual *It's Magic* show, which Lance hosted this year, Dennis told Lance about his idea to surprise David Garrard with a special mentorship award in recognition of the many ways David has helped young magicians over the years. As one of Harry's former mentors, Lance suggested naming the award after him. Lance and Dennis both knew this would be a special moment.

David opened the second half of the show and after his amazing set, Lance brought him back to the stage for the surprise. After a few words about how Harry had guided his own career, Lance presented David with the beautiful award.

Gideon Clark, one of the young men with whom David works, appeared in the show to perform a beautiful version of Twentieth Century Silks. Afterward, Gideon's mother Amanda said, “David Garrard has been an absolute gift, not only to our son Gideon, but to our entire family! Watching him work with Gid, I am always so thankful for David's patience and expertise. He is very intentional about how he crafts each lesson. Gideon and David will sit side by side and work the intricate details of a trick until it turns out right. We are unbelievably blessed to have this master magician sharing his knowledge and time with our son!”

Lance said that the award is “a small token of our appreciation for everything you have done to pass on knowledge to the next generation. Well done, David!”



***Lance Burton (left) and Louisville Magic Club President Dennis Alm (right) present the first-ever Harry Collins Mentorship Award to David Garrard.***

# BUDDY FARNAN

## Luckiest Guy in Magic

By David Ginn

Years ago, a young friend of mine, ten-year-old Dylan Lockwood, had a schoolmate playing with him at his grandmother's house.

Dylan said to his friend, "You wanna come in the house and meet my great-grandmother? She's ninety-three years old – and she's still alive!"

Buddy Farnan – magician, vent, promotor, TV personality, park manager, advertiser, MC, miracle worker, and mentor to many, including me – turns ninety-one years old on February 7, 2025. And he's still alive!

When I reconnected with Buddy, then in his mid-eighties, at the Winter Carnival of Magic about seven years ago, I asked if he was still performing.

"Yes," he answered, "I'm still doing the occasional show. You know how we are in magic. It's hard to ever quit because the shows are still fun for the audience and us too."

Buddy came into my life in 1965, when I was a freshman in college at the University of Georgia and a member of I.B.M. Ring 9, the Georgia Magic Club. He had moved to Atlanta from Buffalo to manage and promote the Funtown amusement park, which included hosting a WSB-TV show

called Funtime. That show often used local budding performers like me to make guest appearances. In my memory article in this same issue you'll read more about the actual TV show and how it affected several of us, thanks to Buddy Farnan.

But where did Buddy himself come from and how did magic affect his life?



*Buddy Farnan as Buckskin Joe, the star of WGR-TV's Fantasy Island, posing beside a TV camera.*





*Left: A promotional photo of Buddy performing a sleight-of-hand card effect. Right: Buddy rouses the crowd with his Run Rabbit Run routine.*

### **Early Years in Magic**

Buddy Farnan grew up in “the projects” of Buffalo, New York. At age twelve, while on a Boy Scout camping trip to Canada, Buddy’s appendix ruptured. That led to two major operations, and he spent a month in the hospital. During that sensitive recovery period, Buddy’s mom frequently appeased him by giving him fifty cents or a dollar to spend.

According to Buddy, he quickly invested the money in a simple magic trick from Swan’s Music Store, which had a magic counter in downtown Buffalo. Like many young magicians, he badgered all his friends to “watch this one!” Yes, the magic bug had bitten Buddy, and some 79 years later, it has never let go.

Months later that same year, Buddy attended a McDonald Birch show at his school and was invited to assist Birch on stage out of five hundred students attending.

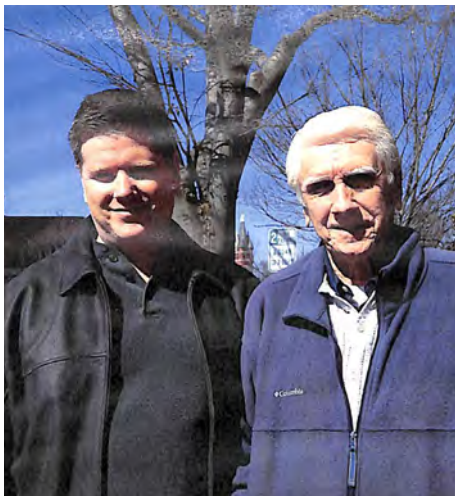
“Besides the Ching Soo firecracker in tube NOT exploding and switching places with a big red silk handkerchief,” said Buddy years later, “Birch pulled a live duck from under my sweater, then gave me

a free ticket to his evening performance. The experience was absolutely exhilarating!”

It wasn’t long before Buddy discovered Gene Gordon’s House of Hocus Pocus, where he bought his early magic props and where he hung out almost every Saturday. There he met celebrities such as Dante, Blackstone Sr, Dunninger, Okito, Hen Fetsch, and Jay Marshall, all friends of Gene Gordon. How could he help but learn his craft from masters?

According to Gene in his *Magical Legacy* book, “Clyde ‘Buddy’ Farnan was not only a natural born magician, but an entertainer as well. During his high school years, Buddy became one of my helper boys and worked in the Niagara Falls magic shop. During his army years, Buddy landed in Special Services and performed shows all over Europe. Then magic put him through college at USC in California, where he knew Harry Blackstone Jr and Carl Ballantine.

“After college Buddy spent several seasons as an actor and magician at a large amusement park in Boston and later New York. When he heard of a proposed amuse-



*Left: Buddy with his son Chris, who as a child would often mimic the TV announcer's line "And here's Buddy Farnan!" when Buddy returned home from work. Right: Buddy with his life partner of thirty years, Linda Jones, at the Civitan's 90th Anniversary Gala in 2012.*

ment park called Fantasy Island between Buffalo and Niagara Falls, Buddy sold himself to them as manager. He designed many buildings and wrote the scripts for the Golden Nugget western shows and the outdoor shoot-outs. He even hired me!"

A nearby photo shows Buddy in 1961, playing the part of Buckskin Joe, wild west magician, entertainer, and actual manager of Fantasy Island amusement park for five years.

But we're getting ahead of our story. Let's back up.

In 1948, Buddy was in ninth grade and his friend Frank LaMarca pulled him into a junior high talent show. He performed a pantomime routine about a fly bothering him during which he was scared to death.

"The laughter came," said Buddy, "wouldn't quit, and I turned out to be one of the hottest acts of the evening. After that I was voted Class Clown in the yearbook."

During his senior year of high school, Buddy teamed up with another friend named Jimmy Morrissey. Buddy played straight man while Jimmy played a baggy-pants comic, and the pair won second place to some cute kid who could sing and dance. That's when Buddy learned the old showbiz adage, "Never follow the animal

act, the kid performer, or the stripper!" Buddy later added, "Or Santa Claus!"

The week after graduating from Kenmore High School in June 1951, Buddy happened upon a summer theatre job at the Grand Island Playhouse. Officially, Buddy was in show business, but when the summer ended, he was out of a job.

As it turned out, a week later at Gene Gordon's Magic Shop, magician Bill Whal, who ran a printing company, hired Buddy to work for him. For the next year, Buddy dealt with printing advertising flyers, newsletters, plate making, collating projects, and ink. Without realizing it, Buddy was getting on-the-job training that would come in handy at his advertising agency years later.

### **Off to Hollywood**

In 1952, Buddy landed a position in the mailroom of WBEN-Channel 4 television in Buffalo, New York, at the whopping salary of thirty-two dollars a week! He continued to work in dinner theatre on the side, but he longed to perform more magic.

During one of Buffalo's usual snowstorms, Buddy talked with his mailroom friend Al Barris about striking out on





*Buddy with his Giant Rabbit.*

their own. So on his nineteenth birthday in February 1953, Buddy and Al hopped into Al's 1942 Plymouth and headed to California. They drove south through Louisville, Memphis, and Texarkana, staying in YMCAs along the way until they finally arrived in Hollywood with twelve dollars to each of their names.

After finding a rooming house that cost six dollars a week, Al and Buddy paid for two weeks of lodging. Then they



*Buddy on the set of Funtown.*

headed for the Hollywood USO next to the Pantages Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard, where coffee and doughnuts were free. When the director learned Buddy was a magician, she said, "Can you do a show tonight?" Of course he could, and he did!

Soon, Al got a job as an NBC page and Buddy found work at the Iris Theatre. Next, Buddy became involved with the USO, which took him to Air Force bases in Montana, Phoenix, and other cities.

Everywhere he went, he constantly bumped into people in show business. At a charity event for Bob Hope's wife, Buddy spent a lot of time chatting with a shy, quiet man who turned out to be Buster Keaton, a giant from the silent movie era.

One of his friends became Annie Leslie, whose father Phil wrote for Fibber McGee and Molly. Annie asked Buddy to accompany her to a wedding of her brother's best friend.

When the group picked up Buddy at the USO, they arrived in a brand-new Cadillac. In 1953, that was the equivalent of a limousine today. The driver drove the Cadillac to the top of a large hill to a gigantic estate. Here's what happened, in Buddy's own words from his memoir *Know Buddy*:

"I was admiring this beautiful home when this dear, sweet, elderly lady asked me if I would like a tour. She showed me around the house and even showed me a huge hand-carved bar in the rec room, which she proudly noted was transported around the tip of South America in the days before the Panama Canal. She didn't mention how it came to be there, but she was extremely proud of it. Then she left me to enjoy the refreshments."

Buddy didn't know who she was, but on the way home, his friends told him the place was called PickFair – named after Douglas Fairbanks and his wife, the "nice elderly lady" Mary Pickford. She, Fairbanks, and Charlie Chaplin were so big in the film industry that they'd started their own movie studio, and Mary Pickford was its president.



*Buddy performs the Floating Rabbit effect.*

When I read this story in Buddy's memoir last year, I had just watched the 1926 silent film "Sparrows" on TCM. In the movie, Mary Pickford plays a teenager who rescues a group of children from a "baby farm" in a southern state, leading them to escape through an alligator-infested swamp. When Mary made the film, she was thirty-four years old, but her diminutive size let her pass for a sixteen-year-old. The day she showed Buddy around PickFair, she was in her early sixties. (Call him lucky if you like, but things like this seemed to happen to Buddy Farnan all his life!)

After nearly five months of living in Hollywood, Buddy was offered the role of Jughead in a television series based on the Archie comic books. His starting salary



*Buddy waves at the camera with a peanut gallery of children behind him.*

was \$500 per week, which was a lot of money in 1953.

But before he could accept the part, Buddy had to make a trip home to Buffalo to meet with the Draft Board. Despite his ruptured appendix and double operations seven years before, the army decided to take him anyway.

Buddy managed to live and work in Hollywood for the rest of the year, but by early 1954 he returned to Buffalo for his two-year stint in the army. Having passed his physical, Private Clyde V. Farnan Jr. ended up on a train from Buffalo to Louisville, Kentucky on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 1954. His destination? Fort Knox, Kentucky.

### **Off to the Army**

Buddy made friends everywhere he went. At Fort Knox, he met another raw recruit named George Perry, who took him to the governor's mansion several times and ended up marrying the governor's daughter.

In September 1954 after boot camp and radio school, Buddy sailed to Europe on the largest ship he'd ever seen. Fortunately, a call went out for entertainers to amuse the dependents on the top decks while five thousand soldiers billeted down below the water line. Buddy spent most of his ten days aboard doing shows upstairs and eating the good food!

The day Buddy arrived in Germany, he spotted a sign that said "Talent Show Tonight." He managed to get on the bill and won the contest with a card trick and a glove ventriloquism routine! That contest led to his association with several "service club commandos" who became friends. After several months in Germany, Buddy was permanently transferred to the Frankfurt Special Services office.

For the next two years, Buddy spent his military service organizing shows, competing in contests, and performing magic, ventriloquism, skits, and comedy. A PFC in the army, he often lived better than some of the generals. However, non-showbiz





*Kidshow panel at the 1980 I.B.M. Convention. Left to right: Harold Taylor, Bob Fuller, David Ginn, and Buddy Farnan.*

sergeants often “supervised” him and the other performers.

When Buddy’s show group was housed in Stuttgart in a barracks built by the German army, a new sergeant arrived and wanted them to “shape up.” He insisted they show up in uniform the next morning at 5:30 a.m. when he blew the whistle. One of the show crew obtained one hundred whistles, and when the sergeant blew his, everyone blew whistles at 5:30 a.m., which turned out to be pretty loud. That made the angry sergeant insist they turn out in the company street in uniform.

“We obeyed his orders,” said Buddy. “The clown came out in costume and red nose. I wore my checkered tuxedo jacket. Three dancers showed up in Spanish costumes. And the entire 7th Army Symphony arrived with their instruments! After that, we never went out for inspection again.”

Buddy’s two years in the army reads like McHale’s Navy, as you can see. In fact, a German booking agent had him travel to

Paris to perform magic on the second-floor restaurant of the Eiffel Tower!

### **College in California**

Once he exited the army, Buddy lived up to a promise he’d made and headed back to California to attend the University of Southern California. Even though the Army gave him a thousand dollars a year for school, he often worked six part-time jobs a week to earn his tuition. He was twenty-two years old at the time. While there, he met the young English woman who voiced Alice in Disney’s *Alice in Wonderland*, and seriously dated her for two years.

One of Buddy’s college roommates was a Japanese fellow that everyone called Yo. Yo had never acted but lied his way into a movie, and later appeared as a regular in the TV show *McHale’s Navy*. That connection led Buddy to know Carl Ballantine, a magician who also appeared on show, and another student named George Lucas



*One of Buddy's signature routines is captured in this promotional photo.*

of Star Wars fame. Buddy's lifelong string of luck and coincidence continued.

In 1959, he landed a summer job in a theme park outside Boston, Pleasure Island. That summer, he sang, danced, did prat falls, and performed the chapeaugraphy hat routine he used all through the Army. During that one summer of being paid three hundred and fifty dollars a week (more like three thousand dollars now), Buddy earned all he needed to pay for his senior year at USC with money left over.

His senior year at college, during which he earned good grades but never took it "that seriously," came and went. Buddy missed his graduation ceremony because of a job opportunity at Freedomland Park in New York City.

"I did see my diploma," he told me, "but it got lost in my many moves." Years later, his life partner of thirty years, Linda Jones, secretly got Buddy a duplicate of his diploma as a surprise gift.

### **Plunging into the Amusement Park Business**

With the Army, USC, and Hollywood behind him, Buddy started his life of performing and promotion at Freedomland USA, a 205-acres theme park in the Bronx, New York. For the 1960 show *Westward Ho Ho*, Buddy created the cowboy character he played.

Wanting to return to Buffalo in the wake of his mother's heart attack, Buddy again learned of a new amusement park being built near home – Fantasy Island, located on Grand Island near the Niagara River. Before the smoke cleared, the park hired Buddy to run the park's entertainment program. The second year, he was promoted to president and general manager at a salary of twelve thousand dollars a year, a large salary in 1961.

At Fantasy Island, Buddy convinced the park's board to repaint the original bright red, yellow, and blue colors found





*A young Buddy performs a pick-a-card trick with a young Debbie Reynolds.*

in traveling carnivals. He wanted a more sophisticated look like Disney Land, which he'd seen in Southern California. So, they repainted the park in muted colors. Convinced that twenty-seven-year-old Buddy knew what he was doing, they also made him the youngest park manager in the United States.

One of the first things Buddy initiated was a pay-one-price ticket. You simply paid one price and rode any ride you liked. Nobody had ever done this in an amusement park, not even Disney.



*Buddy introducing his cow puppet Mini Quarts.*

Thanks to an advertising class at USC, Buddy beefed up Fantasy Island's outdoor advertising. As an extra marketing tool, Buddy sold a Saturday morning kids television show named after the park, Fantasy Island, to WGR-TV. The show featured Buddy as Buckskin Joe, who resembled his Freedomland character. He often used acts from the park – puppet shows, singers, dancers, and of course magic by Buddy Farnan. Every show had a live "peanut gallery" of children, which proved great for audience participation routines. The gallery developed a long waiting list of kids who wanted to be on TV with Buckskin Joe.

One more thing: Unlike every other TV show for kids, Buddy's show had absolutely no cartoons. It depended on real live entertainers instead.

During his time at Fantasy Island, Buddy met and married Jeanne Senecal in 1963. One year later, Jeanne gave birth to their son Chris.

### **South to Atlanta**

After five years of a very successful run at Fantasy Island, Buddy was approached by a headhunter searching for a new manager to oversee an amusement park in Atlanta, Georgia. That park had not "earned a dime" during its previous four seasons, and the owners thought Buddy Farnan could turn it around.

So in 1965, Buddy, Jeanne, and baby Chris moved to my hometown to accept a challenge: integrate the first amusement park south of the Mason-Dixon line. As an incentive to make this work, Buddy was offered a healthy base salary plus a percentage of any profit, "should it occur," as a bonus.

Funtown became the first "open park" in the south. Anyone could come to visit it regardless of race. Buddy employed a strong security force to prevent racial trouble in the park. This fact even got a mention in Dr. Martin Luther King's first autobiography, and as late as 2015, Buddy was still getting calls from MLK research-

ers to ask how it worked out. Despite all his successes in radio, television, and live events, Buddy feels his greatest achievement was his work with integration from 1965 to 1969 in Atlanta.

Unknown to me at the time (I was a freshman in college), Buddy used many of the same techniques that worked at Fantasy Island. He joined the local Rotary Club to network with other executives. He sold Atlanta's WSB-TV on a local children's show called Funtime, much like the Fantasy Island TV show. He joined the Georgia Magic Club, I.B.M. Ring 9, to connect with other magicians. He did local performances, presented the weekly TV show, and managed the Funtown park. And yes, he turned the park's profit margin around and got a big bonus!

By 1968, the Funtown park was "very profitable" under Buddy's guidance. However, a big northern realtor instigated a take-over of the park's parent company and won. That realtor immediately sold all the park's rides, so there was no longer a need for the park or its manager, Buddy Farnan.

But Buddy's luck persisted. When word got around he was "available," Buddy was immediately hired with salary and bonus to "turn around" Lake Spivey, a water resort park near Jonesboro, Georgia, just south of Atlanta. He added a western town similar to Funtown and Fantasy Island, then hired Abb Dickson to host fun fights and do a magic show like Buddy did in Buffalo.

WSB-TV bought Buddy Farnan and Friends, a newly renamed Funtime-style show with the usual guests like Mark Merchant, Abb Dickson, and David Ginn.

By 1969, Buddy had invested in radio station WGRI in Griffin, Georgia, magically turning it around. Three-year-old Chris even did voice commercials, saying, "My mama listens to WGRI," which listeners loved.

In 1970, Jeanne and Buddy started an advertising agency. Their clients included Chick-Fil-A, Arby's, fifteen shopping malls, various real estate projects, and the Atlanta Nascar Track Road. However, due

to the stress of business, Jeanne and Buddy grew apart and parted ways a few years later. Buddy gave her his share of the business.

Lucky Buddy, once again, kept the Irvingdale and Miss Georgia dairy accounts, as well as some shopping malls. This moved him into the new 1970s business of promoting shopping centers.

Due to my army commitment from 1970-71 and how I spent 1971-80 developing my school show business, I lost touch with Buddy for several years. But he continued his lucky magical life in the years to come. For example:

- In 1974, he met and married Countess Tanja from Bulgaria, a union that yielded no children and lasted only a few years. But he was married to royalty!
  - In 1975, he moved to Chicago to create America's first combination shopping mall & amusement park, Old Chicago. Again his promotional stunts worked to target the family crowd and get the mall out of bankruptcy.
  - In 1981, Buddy got a call to fly to Forest City, North Carolina, to work his magic and "rescue" another mall situation. There he met Linda Jones, who years later "morphed" (Buddy's word) into his life partner.
  - More shows, promotions, and advertising activities followed over the next twenty years. By 2005, Buddy and Linda settled down in Salisbury, North Carolina, in some version of retirement.
- During his career, Buddy engineered many firsts:
- The one-price-ticket at amusement parks (before Disney ever did).
  - The first local children's show marketing a theme park, produced in Atlanta by Ted Turner of TCM and CNN fame.
  - Innovations in the indoor shopping mall business.
  - The first sale of magic props on television (before Marshall Brodien's TV Magic Cards), including the sale of Chia Pets.





*Buddy Farnan composite 8 x 10 promotional photo.*

- The first fully integrated amusement park and swimming pool open to African Americans, and lots more.

Magic, he will tell you, started it all. And some kind of magical luck carried Buddy throughout his entire career of adventures and successes. Along the way

Buddy helped the lives and careers of many people inside and outside showbiz.

Buddy certainly made Gene Gordon, founder of the I.B.M., proud of him. For me, Buddy gave me the television experience of a lifetime from 1967-69, and for that I can never thank him enough.

# **Build the Legacy**

## **The Strategic Process of a Two-Time, Back-to-Back Champion of the Strolling Magic Showdown at the Magic Castle**

By Joshua Ng

### **Turning the “Why” into the “Wow”!**

Perhaps this is related to my obsession with technical magic, but I have always enjoyed a good competition. I started competing in the Strolling Magic Showdown at the Magic Castle in 2023, six months after I became a member of the Academy of Magical Arts at the Hollywood Magic Club. Although the competition was friendly, I was determined to win. After several refinements and strategic improvements, I secured my first Showdown win in March 2024.

After my win, I was eager to enter and compete again. But my friend and mentor Tony Picasso warned me that this would be taking a huge risk, because if I did not win again, then I would become “just another competitor” of the Showdown. In his opinion, it is better to quit as a winner. Nevertheless, I was determined to win again, and with continued refinements and strategic improvements, I secured my second back-to-back win of the Strolling Magic Showdown in June 2024. As a result, I have the honor to be the current of the five legacy champions of the Showdown.

I am now honored to share with you my strategical process for winning the Academy of Magical Arts’ Strolling Magic Showdown.

### **Turning the “How” into the “Wow”!**

In my opinion, a core component of winning the Showdown is to treat strolling magic as a performance. This means a performer must construct a show like he would in a theater.

The format of the contest was instrumental in how I decided to construct the kind of show I would like to perform. In the Showdown, both associate (laymen) and magician members can sign up as judges and comprise the audience, but only magician members can enter to compete. The contest environment is challenging because it’s very loud, with many magicians performing and talking to their audiences simultaneously. Complicating the already subjective judging situation, the judges are given no specific guidelines or criteria upon which to judge and sadly, this can often turn into a popularity contest.

All of this might sound a little vague, but it actually helped me construct my shows. Yes, shows: I performed two different sets depending on my audience. If a table had more laymen, I would do a set intended for laymen and vice versa. I do this because most magic contest audiences like to see technique and/or theory. However, I decided to do a combination of technique, theory, and performance.



*Winners' circle of the Academy of Magical Arts' Strolling Magic Showdown, June 18, 2024.  
Left to right: Joe Namsinh (second place), Joshua Ng (first place), and Chris Canfield (third place).*

To do this, I had to consider the appropriate showpieces that would allow me to demonstrate all three of the criteria I'd set for myself. I also had to consider that I would be performing for many tables in a short amount of time, so minimal or zero reset would be required for my acts.

The mem-deck, which is already part of my ordinary repertoire, was extremely practical in this situation. Combined with expert sleight-of-hand techniques, such as the Truffle Shuffle and Stuart Gordon Double, its use was able to elevate a show from a mere demonstration to an exceptional performance.

For example, I chose to showcase my Truffle Shuffle with my original Triumph effect when I performed sets for magicians. When Juan Tamariz visited the Magic Castle, he expressed that his favorite card plot is the Triumph. The magicians at the club, like the Maestro, are

looking for a fresh presentation with expert sleight-of-hand techniques when they're observing another performer's Triumph.

This conveniently leads to my last "how": How to present the routines as a showman. Showmanship can be elevated by having an opening and closing line. When delivered appropriately, an opening line helps establish the tone of the performance and sets proper expectations for the audience. At the end of my routine, I end with, "And this, my friends, is what I call ... fresh!" to further reinforce my message of being "fresh" to both laymen and magicians.

### **Turning the "What" into the "Wow"!**

Besides attending the Magic Castle and getting feedback from the magician members, I also frequent the Magic Apple in Studio City, California. Get-togethers in the back room of the store are known as the "1902 Sessions," which are facilitated by



Tony Picasso and the many high-level performers who come to session, give feedback, and exchange ideas. The 1902 Sessions were vital to my achieving my championship awards, because the attendees always provided insightful ideas on how to improve the performance of a routine, and sometimes for how to improve the entire act.

In-person communities like these are essential to improve your magic, whether you are looking to compete in the Strolling Magic Showdown or just to improve your performance. In an age when online magic shopping is readily accessible, it encourages us to become better consumers. Additionally, when you purchase magic in a brick-and-mortar store, you become a better magician and a better performer by interacting with peers and mentors there.

The I.B.M. has an intrinsic edge to this point, as its founding legacy was magicians from small towns – far away from the big cities – getting together to session.

By sharing my strategy, my wish is to motivate, inspire, and help others become better performers because after all, we are all ambassadors of the magical arts.



Joshua Ng, also known as the “Hong Kong Sensation,” is the current two-time consecutive champion of the Academy of Magical Arts’ Strolling Magic Showdown. He brings his background and expertise in music, psychology, and theology to the art of magic. You can reach him at: [joshnmagic@gmail.com](mailto:joshnmagic@gmail.com).

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

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

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

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact our International Executive Secretary, Sindie Richison at [office@magician.org](mailto:office@magician.org).

# From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD



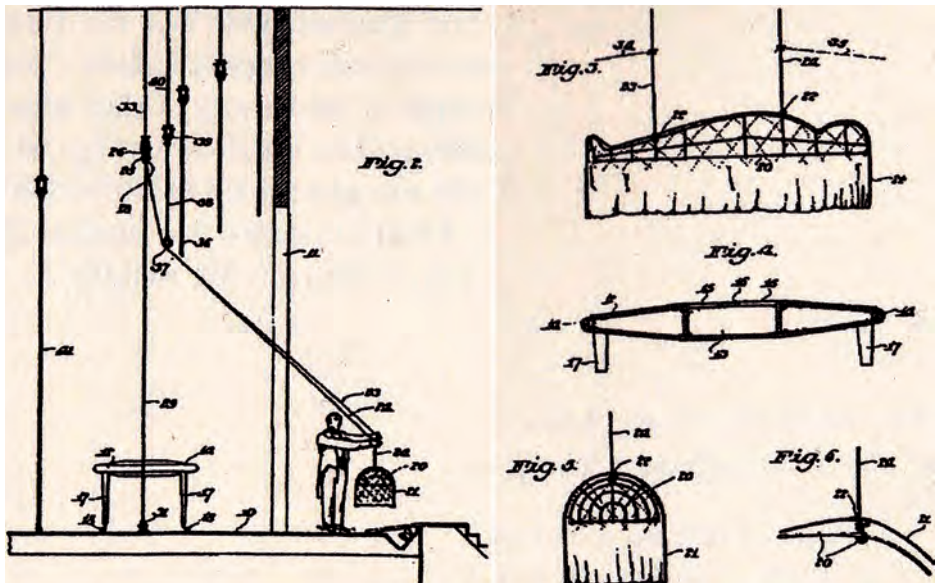
As mentioned last month, British “local lad made good” Stanley Jefferson (aka Stan Laurel) set off for the United States at the beginning of the last century in search of fame and fortune ... and he found both in his partnership with Oliver Hardy.

Regarding their only magically themed film *A-Haunting We Will Go* (1942), the most significant element from the magic historian’s point of view is the authentic recreation of Dante’s Asrah illusion (called The Phantom Princess), although the use of blatantly trick camerawork elsewhere in the film does it no favours. Dante’s young assistant Marion Trikosko had watched the film several times before signing up with him, and found the final vanish so clean that he was convinced that camera trickery had been employed. In his memoirs, he makes the

point that what the cinema audience saw was exactly the same as experienced by the theatre audience, apart from the “eerie blue light” which could not be conveyed on the black-and-white film:

Dante stood in front of a table with a crystal ball in his hand. The orchestra played some mysterious music as a girl walked towards him. He held up the crystal ball, made some hypnotic passes and, in a commanding voice, said, “Close your eyes and think of sleep ... rigid!” The girl stiffened and fell backwards, caught by an assistant. Another assistant took hold of her ankles and they lifted her onto the table.

The hypnotised girl was covered with a cloth. As Dante made some mystic passes over her, she began to rise. The table was wheeled off stage, and Dante made the girl



Asrah patents.



*Dante collage by Kevin McGroarty.*

float. He passed a hoop over her body. At Dante's command, the girl rose to a height of seven or eight feet.

Dante walked under the suspended figure and addressed the audience: "There she rests. She will remain there for hours should I so desire." He turned and pulled the cloth away. The girl was gone, just as in the movie. The girl had vanished!

I saw it with my own eyes, and still I couldn't believe it. It wasn't trick photography after all. The audience went wild with applause.

The girl simply reappeared from the wings, rather than being discovered in the audience or running down the aisle.

Unfortunately, Moi-Yo Miller didn't appear in the film, Dante's assistant, Margo the Magic Maid, being played by Sheila Ryan. As it happens, Moi-Yo didn't appear with the on-stage Asrah either, as she was the only member of the company entrusted with working the machinery.

It is interesting to note that Dante incorporated into his Asrah the thin, tapered table which he had designed for his sawing-through illusion. The accompanying patent illustrations from 1925 show the rigging of the apparatus, with the lines running up to the

flies. One gives detailed dimensions for the wire form, the hook-up, and the tapered table.

For his Canadian tour in the autumn of 1943, Dante incorporated into his show a "grand Japanese water spectacular" called Fountania. "We hated it!" says Trikosko. The set-up was extremely intricate and uncomfortable for the assistants, who had to wear small, pressurised water tanks under their costumes with rubber hoses running down their sleeves to enable water to spout from the tips of their wands. The routine was finally abandoned when some of the water got into the Asrah table. As Trikosko recalls: "When the assistant dropped onto the table and hit the cold water, we heard a torrent of four-letter words coming from under the cloth. In the wings, we pulled the elastic webbing apart and helped her out. Her gown was soaked and stuck to her body."

The film culminates in a knockabout sequence which opens with the Hindu Rope Trick. As Hardy plays on a pipe to keep it erect, Laurel climbs the rope which, under his weight, bends out over the heads of the audience with him dangling dangerously from it.

Subsequently, Laurel is hypnotised and placed inside an elaborately decorated



mummy's casket, as Dante announces his Invisible Transfer illusion: "I draw your attention to the coffin suspended from the ceiling of the theatre. I shall attempt to pass my subject through space invisibly, before your very eyes." Laurel duly vanishes, but when the coffin descends to stage level it is found to contain a dead gangster.

This sequence obviously owed a great deal to what Trikosko refers to in his programme notes as the Hanging Trunks illusion: "Girl disappears from stage and is found in seconds in the innermost of three nesting trunks, suspended from the dome of the theatre."

When Laurel cannot be found, the film ends bizarrely and randomly with a large egg rolling into view. Hardy cracks it open to find that it contains a miniature Laurel, crying. He roars with laughter and utters the final words, "Sim-Sala-Bim!"

The film also shows that the concept of recycling successful sight gags is not new. There is a gratuitous scene in *A-Haunting We Will Go*, for example, in which Laurel and Hardy knock over and break a classical statue. When they have reassembled the pieces, the head and legs face a different way from the torso. This had been lifted directly from a previous film, their own silent short *Wrong Again* (1929).

The notion of slipping in tried-and-tested slapstick routines goes back at least as far as the Italian *commedia dell'arte*, popular from the mid-sixteenth to the mid-eighteenth centuries. The Italian "lazzi" were familiar brief sketches which could be shoehorned into any situation to liven up the comedy – much in the way that modern-day British pantomimes may incorporate stock scenes such as a cake-baking or a wallpapering routine.

In 1930, Dante had made a film with a Swedish company, both writing the script and starring in it. Titled *Dante's Mysteries*, the plot concerns two thieves breaking into the magician's house and getting more than they have bargained for as inexplicable things start to happen around them, by magic. To reduce costs, much of the filming took place in Dante's own home, using illusions and effects from his stage show, including Goldin's version of *Sawing Through*



*Museum in Laurel's hometown of Ulverston.*



*Brian with Laurel and Hardy statue.*

a Woman. It was felt that the picture was popular enough to warrant distribution in the United Kingdom, but Horace Goldin filed an injunction to protect his patent. Goldin was known for pursuing court cases for publicity purposes, and on this occasion didn't even turn up to present his case.

We'll have more on Goldin next month.

# Ian Adair

## *A Remembrance*

By Steve Short

Ian Adair was my closest magical friend, and we would email and call each other on a weekly basis. The phone calls were always full of fun and laughter, which would include impressions of various magicians, topical news, and, of course, magic. We would often call each other using funny voices and pretend to be a customer calling a magic dealer asking for a ridiculous trick! The call would end with both of us crying from laughter.

Ian was always willing to help me in the creation of specially designed effects for my shows. He was also very helpful when I wrote my biographies about David Nixon, Alan Shaxon, and Johnny Hart.

I knew Ian in my youth. I saw him at conventions when he was working with Edwin Hooper on the stand of The Supreme Magic Company. When we met properly at Bristol Day of Magic, we became friends.

Every year, I spent a week visiting him in Devon, England, when we would swap ideas, dine at Ian's favourite restaurants, and meet up with Edwin's sister Margaret. On some occasions, I brought my wife Carla and my

three sons, which was great fun.

Ian had a wonderful career in magic, starting with his dealership when he was still at school in Kilmarnock, Scotland. When his mother asked him what he wanted to be when he left school, he replied, "A magic dealer." You can imagine her response! Of course, his dream came true and after corresponding with Edwin, Ian was offered a position at Supreme, which would eventually become the largest magic dealership in the world.

Ian created many effects during his time at Supreme, including close-up, cabaret, and small illusions that magicians performed around the world. Edwin and Ian worked well together, devising new and exciting magic for professional and amateur performers. Many well-known magicians would buy from Supreme, including David Nixon, Paul Daniels, Tommy Cooper, and even David Copperfield.

In addition to inventing tricks, Ian excelled in writing articles for several magic magazines. He also wrote more than three hundred books on magic, some of them for the general





*Steve Short with his friend Ian Adair.*

public but most of them for magicians. Channing Pollock influenced Ian's work with doves, and Ian's multi-volume *Encyclopedia of Dove Magic* became the bible for dove magicians. The series was a bestseller and inspired Lance Burton to create his award-winning act. Ian was thrilled to eventually become friends.

After Supreme closed its doors for the last time, Ian started his own magic dealership called Abracadair. He also became a very busy and popular children's entertainer in Devon, working at local holiday centres, hotels, and birthday party events.

When he retired from performing, Ian did not rest on his laurels. He invented more tricks, wrote more books, and launched a website packed with new creations so he could start dealing magic from home. Ian's favourite piece of magic was

the paddle trick, and he created many variations. He was a big fan of any card trick that uses the rough and smooth principle. His books include a guide to puppet magic, a comprehensive overview of magic wands, and a publication named *Thinking Tricks*, which offers valuable ideas and tips on how to create original effects and routines.

Ian was a very proud member of the I.B.M. and The Magic Circle with Gold Star. In 2015, he was delighted to visit London, England to receive the John Nevil Maskelyne Prize honouring noteworthy contributions to the art or literature of magic.

Ian Adair leaves behind an amazing legacy. He will forever be remembered for his prolific inventions and written contributions to this wonderful world of magic. I will miss his calls, his emails, and his friendship.





# A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

## Setbacks

*You can't really be defeated, because failure  
is like a preparation for something else. – Joyce Carol Oates*

As performers most of us have experienced at times unavoidable and necessary setbacks. They are part of the ebb and flow of the artist's life.

On such occasions, Will Eaves wrote in his brilliant *The Point of Distraction*, our job is to make triumphs of mistakes. We do this by staying the course. The only answer is “doggedness and energized patience.” We must not be afraid to fail.



*What Will Eaves says  
about the writing of  
words and music applies  
wonderfully to our work  
as performers.*

In this spirit there's a wonderful poem by the gifted and conscientious Rainer Maria Rilke (“The Man Watching”) that talks about the biblical story of Jacob wrestling with an angel, being defeated, but coming away stronger from the fight. It ends with the following graceful exhortation:

“This is how he grows: by being defeated, decisively, / by constantly greater things.” Rilke had to go a long way in his maturation as a poet to reach those lines, and so must we as performers.

The truth is, like all successful artists Rilke failed, often, but he never folded, never resisted taking risks. When confronted with a setback, he didn't abandon a new idea. He retooled it and tried again.

*Like all successful artists,  
the poet Rainer Maria Rilke  
failed, often, but he never  
folded – a lesson for all of us.*

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For him, as for most of us, he grew from his failures. Each experience gave him thicker skin and greater wisdom. He learned when to be shaped and formed by adversity.

I think of the impeccable Norm Nielsen. He loved to tell of a time in the mid-1950s, just out of Chavez, when he performed in a magician's show in Chicago, wearing tails and working with pastel cigarettes and colored doves.

Johnny Thompson was also on the show and had a friend film Norm's act. About thirty years later Norm viewed the film with educated eyes and was “stunned, absolutely astounded.”

It occurred to him that if he could give that guy on the screen any advice, it would

be, “Get out of the business and find something you can do.”

Or Neil Foster: he didn’t start out mastering the Zombie. The first one he bought, in 1943, had no appeal, and so he sold it to one of his students at Chavez. Then he watched the other fellow go through the routine.

Gradually Neil took renewed interest in the effect, bought another from George Boston of Abbott’s Magic, and went on to develop the incomparable routine for which he would soon become famous.

And we mustn’t overlook Channing Pollock: he too was not an overnight success. After graduating from Chavez he looked for work but with little success. He finally decided to try one more year, and if he failed, return to selling used cars.

Fate intervened. Jay Marshall saw him on a show, recommended him to Mark Leddy, booking agent for “The Ed Sullivan,” and suddenly he was in great demand.

Side-by-side with failure is discouragement. “Art is a calling,” said Julia Cameron in *Letters to a Young Artist*, “subject to the dark night of the soul.”

Consider the word *coeur*: French for “heart.” To be *discouraged* is to move away from the heart and what it loves and knows. To be *encouraged* is to trust the heart and what it urges us on to.

Discouragement, like fear, has many faces. In *The Spooky Art*, what Norman Mailer had to say about the subtle perils and hazards of the writer’s life surely applies to the performer’s:

“It is not easy to acquire the stoicism to endure, develop the will, the stamina, the determination, and the insensitivity to take critical abuse,” he wrote. “Every professional who manages to forge a long career must be able to build a character that will not be unhinged by [setbacks].”

The good news is that if we persist and stay true to ourselves, cherish whatever talent we possess, and use it faithfully for the good of others, then in the words of Channing, “we will most assuredly meet the people we need to meet.”

That is, during our journey and at just the

right moment there will emerge in our lives helpers or guides who support us. Typically they are older, wiser, having already made their own journey to success, they are now walking with us.

After I had auditioned unsuccessfully for CBS-TV’s *Ted Mack’s Amateur Hour*, the seasoned producer spoke eleven words that as an impressionable, easily discouraged fifteen-year-old I needed to hear: “You’ll make it. You’ll take your knocks, but you’ll make it.”

In high school, toward the end of my struggling sophomore year (“How,” I wondered, “can I measure up to the others?”) my literature/drama teacher said six words that also impacted my life for the better.

To one of you I am giving an ‘A,’ she said. “You earned a ‘B+’ but I am giving you an ‘A’ because [and here are the words] I think you have the potential.”

In hindsight, it’s quite possible and probable that she was speaking to several students, but at the time, I believed that she was speaking only to me, and that made all the difference.

Sometimes the encouraging words we hear from a relative stranger carry more weight than what we hear repeatedly at home. In both instances those simple yet meaningful words helped solidify the commitment that carried me into the future.

Sure, there have been times when my dedication flagged, but whenever I felt fearful or discouraged, there arose within me, like a divine benediction, the soothing words, *You’ll make it* and *I think you have the potential*.

A philosophy that perfectly sums up my points here may be found in the writings of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius.

He understood that setbacks themselves aren’t necessarily good or bad, but can be either depending on how we approach them and choose to let them affect us. What stands in the way becomes the way. “The impediment to action advances action.”

During each disagreeable, sometimes humiliating setback, we have to ask ourselves: “What am I going to do with this?” And then

we have to try again. Each time we'll get a little closer until we discover that a setback is an opportunity, a chance to be better, to do better, to re-evaluate, to start over.

"Setbacks are part of the process," said Anthony Hopkins: "learn from them, grow from them, and keep moving."

*Actor  
Anthony Hopkins  
understands  
as well as anybody  
that setbacks are  
part of the process.*

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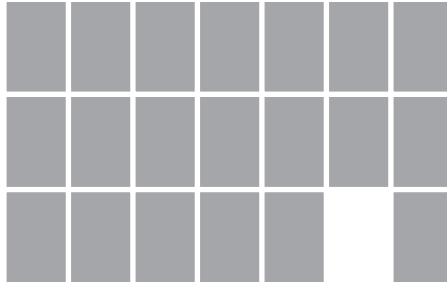
*Dale Salwak continues to perform internationally while directing (since 1978) the Chavez Studio of Magic in southern California. Currently he is serving as an International Relations Officer for the I.B.M. Special thanks to Ryan Salwak for valued input.*

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**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](mailto:dsalwak@citruscollege.edu).

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# *Missing Linking Rings?*



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

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



# Youth Trivia Contest



**February's question:** A well-known, significant magician performed on the Lyceum and Chautauqua circuits, and was reported in newspapers to have died at the age of seventy; in reality, the conjuror was in his or her early eighties. *Who was this performer?*

**Answers must be postmarked by March 20, 2025.**

**November's question was:** There is an illusion performed on a stage, during which a large, petaled flower opens to slowly reveal the living, disembodied bust of a woman, who reacts and speaks to answer questions. Then, the petals close, and she is gone. *What is this illusion?*

A few Youth Members submitted guesses at the answer to this question. A few of them were very close, in that the illusions that they named were very closely tied to this one. But, unfortunately, none of those submissions were exactly correct. This is what we were hoping that you'd tell us:

*"It's done with mirrors!" You might have heard that used as a convenient and easy explanation of the method behind an illusion. Usually, it's not true. Usually.*

*The illusion in November's question is called "The Birth of Chloris." It's designed to be a slowly forming piece of eye candy, a visual crescendo. Spectators might not all notice the focus of the illusion at the same time. It sort-of sneaks up on them.*

*The audience sees the large, closed-petal bud of a flower, situated among a bouquet of other flowers, all arranged in a decorative vase that rests on a four-legged table. As a soothing piece of instrumental music gently builds, the petals of the large bud slowly relax and begin to open. It's almost imperceivable at first, but after a few moments, everyone in the audience becomes aware that the flower is blooming.*

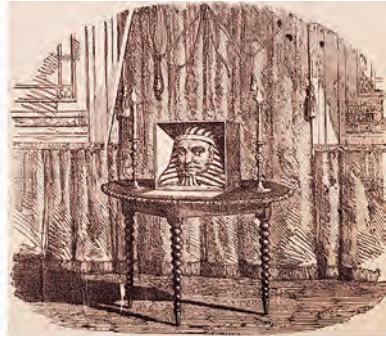
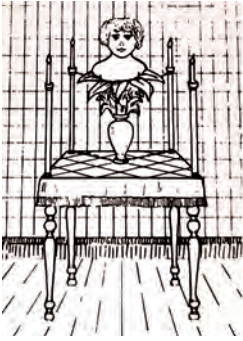
*As the petals continue to open, they reveal*

*the animated bust – the head and shoulders, without a body – of a beautiful, young woman, living peacefully within the blossom. Her eyes move inquisitively as she gazes around the theater. She notices, smiles at, and acknowledges people. She speaks and answers questions. And then, with the wave of the conjuror's hand, the figure calmly withdraws and ebbs back into the bud as the petals slowly close, and the illusion ends. The scene at the finish is exactly the same as was at the beginning; a vase of flowers resting on a table.*

*This presentation is actually a part of a subset of illusions that all have common roots. The illusions known as "The Cabinet of Proteus" (sometimes more simply as "The Proteus Cabinet"), "The Sphinx," "The Oracle of Delphi," and "Palingenesia" all use the same principles as "The Birth of Chloris." And, those first four illusions were all created by the same incredibly significant person.*

*Thomas W. Tobin was born in London England, in 1844. In his teens, he became acquainted with John Henry Pepper – the man who, along with Henry Dirks, developed the illusion principle now known as "Pepper's Ghost." As a teenager, Tobin had invented and improved a gas-lamp system that became useful in lighting and projection – and in the illusions that used "Pepper's Ghost."*

*By the time Tobin was twenty years old, he had conceived the design of what some consider to be the very first "magic cabinet"; "The Cabinet of Proteus." This wardrobe-*



(l to r): A portrayal of “The Birth of Chloris” from the plans in *The Great Illusions of Magic* by Byron G. Wels. • “The Cabinet of Proteus” in *Modern Magic* by Professor Hoffmann with the doors open, a light on at the top of the lamppost, and nobody home. • “The Sphinx” was first presented by Colonel Stodare at Egyptian Hall, before Maskelyne and Cooke took over the venue.

sized box could make full-grown people appear and disappear, in full view of the audience. It became one of the most significant inventions in the history of magic.

Within a few months, the young Thomas Tobin further developed the principles used in “The Cabinet of Proteus” to create, “The Sphinx,” followed very shortly after by “The Oracle of Delphi.” Six or seven years later, he created an illusion called “Palingenesia,” again exploiting these same concepts and principles.

In “The Sphinx,” a simple box with a hinged front panel was seen resting on a table. The living, disembodied head of a man, wearing an Egyptian Nemes headpiece, was revealed to be inside of the box. The head opened its eyes, recited poetry, and engaged in conversation. Then, the magician closed the front panel. When it was opened once again, all that remained in the box was a small heap of ashes. “The Oracle of Delphi” was another disembodied-head illusion, but in this case, the living head – and in some versions, heads – floated in mid-air, instead of resting on a table in a box. And in “Palingenesia,” a whole, living person was somewhat comically cut into pieces, and then reassembled.

All of these illusions created by Thomas Tobin, were, as you might have guessed, “done with mirrors!” A mirror or two mirrors, situated at an angle of 45 degrees to the stage’s scenery, reflects from the sides or ceiling what appears to be the back of the cabinet, or the back of the stage setting. The mirror and the reflected image conceal the

body of the person whose head remains visible, and appears to be “disembodied” or floating. It’s a completely convincing illusion, even to those who know the secret. The concept, which has been used by several other illusions over the years, has come to be known as “the Sphinx principle.” One of those later effects that relies on the Sphinx principle is the illusion in our question, “The Birth of Chloris,” and it’s remarkably similar to “The Sphinx.”

We couldn’t positively identify the name of the person or persons who first created or performed “The Birth of Chloris,” and we’re also not certain of when those things happened. There are records of plans for building the illusion offered for sale as early as 1899 by Frank Hewes, who performed under the name “The White Yogi.” Hewes was a very creative illusion designer and builder who is credited with inventing “The Sword Suspension,” and “Shooting Through a Woman,” so it is slightly possible that he adopted and adapted the principles that made Tobin’s illusions so amazing, and then marketed his ideas as “The Birth of Chloris.”

Our friend – and brand-new Executive Editor of Genii – Jim Steinmeyer however, believes that it’s unlikely that Hewes created this effect. He points out that Hewes sold plans for a lot of things that he didn’t invent. Jim Steinmeyer thinks that the most likely culprit is Henry Roltair. Roltair created quite a few of the variations on the “Sphinx,” such as “Spidora, the Spider Girl,” in and around the 1890s. Many of these were specifically in-

tended for carnivals, “Ten-in-One” side-shows, and circuses. The plans for “The Birth of Chloris” were later available for purchase from Thayer all the way through the middle of the 1900s.



An artist's illustration of “Spidora,”  
and a photograph of the creepy real deal.

We'd like to send a special thank you to Jim Steinmeyer for his generous help with this month's subject.

A description of the workings of the illusion, “The Birth of Chloris,” appears in *The Great Illusions of Magic* by Byron G. Wels, a two-book set. Information on the short life and amazing contributions to magic of Thomas Tobin is scarce. Almost all of the details regarding this amazing creator were more or less lost or forgotten, and have only been recovered and conserved because of the research of a few individuals – most notably Jim Steinmeyer. His article in the February 2004 issue of *MAGIC Magazine* is possibly the most extensive piece on Tobin available. There are also bits and mentions in back issues of periodicals including *Gibecière*, *Genii*, *The Magic Circular*, and *The Linking Ring*.

Thomas W. Tobin died in 1883, at the young age of thirty-nine. Henry Roltair died in 1910. Frank Hewes died in 1917.

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

## Hey there, Youth Members!

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

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

Please make certain to include a few references. If we use your question, we'll send you either a whole pallet of live crickets or a really cool magic book – our choice.

**See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 144 and  
mail your responses to the address above.  
Answers must be postmarked by March 20, 2025.**





# Marketing Magic

KENT CUMMINS

## Still More Pro Tips

*"I have a good show, but my marketing sucks!"* – Michael Kaufman

Does *your* marketing suck? (Maybe that's why you're reading this column.)

### Michael Kaufman

Marketing is probably the weakest part of what I do. I have a good show, but my marketing sucks or else I would be working a lot more. One thing I did learn is that it's easier for someone else to market me than it is for me to market myself. When I talk to people my ego sometimes gets in the way, but if another person does it for me, they're more neutral, which I think makes marketing easier and more effective.

"Magical Mystical Michael" Kaufman  
[www.magicalmysticalmichael.com](http://www.magicalmysticalmichael.com)

### Kent's Comments

My wife, Margot, has seen way too many magicians in the seventy years (married for sixty) we've known each other. "Magical Mystical Michael" is one of her favorite magicians to watch. Yes, he has a good show!

But does he really suck at marketing? I

asked him to contribute to this column because it seemed like I was always hearing about his performances, mostly through email channels.

His tip – let other people book you – is important. You probably didn't become a magician because you loved marketing! You would rather concentrate on your performance, which is okay because having a good show is the first step toward effective marketing.

So, hire a business manager or connect with an agent you trust. Marry or otherwise partner with someone who loves doing your marketing. Make sure they know everything they need to know in order to represent your best interests. Now, all you have to do is be the best magician you can be. Presto! However...

Don't be afraid to market yourself when the opportunity arises. Nobody knows what you are capable of doing better than you do. Be careful not to let your ego get in the way, yes. But don't be afraid to enthusiastically let people know how you can meet their needs. (Also, you won't have to pay a separate fee for the person booking you!)



*Magical Mystical Michael Kaufman.*

## JD Stewart



JD Stewart.

I was honored when Kent asked me to contribute my marketing ideas and thoughts. I did not know what I should write. Should I concentrate on tips for birthday parties, schools, corporate, churches, or fundraising? Should I talk about the New Magic Academy? Or should I talk about getting gigs? If it is about gigs, do I talk about children's birthday parties? I've done that. Should I talk about schools and libraries? I've done those, too. How about preschools? I've done a boatload of them. Magic camps are another type of marketing. I have done a lot of magic camps. Then there are all the corporate gigs, churches, and fundraising for non-profits. They are all a little different.

But what ties them together? What is the unifying idea that allows me to move between teaching magic to adults and children and performing for corporate audiences and churches?



I think I found the answer: it's my brand.

What is a brand? First, let's talk about what it's not. It is not your colors. It is not your logo. It is not your website. It is not your stage name or moniker. True, everyone recognizes the Coca-Cola font and colors. We all know the Nike swoosh. We see the

Toyota logo on every one of its cars. My favorite denim brand is Lee Jeans. I look for their logo whenever I purchase a pair of jeans. Because we recognize the logos of these companies, we think of the logo and colors as their brand. It is not. Their logos are symbols to remind us of their brand.

The reason I buy Lee Jeans is because they always fit me. They wear well. They meet my expectations. And that is their brand. Their brand is their reputation. These companies have established their brand by making promises. You know what they promise and whether or not they fulfill that promise.

In other words, your brand is your reputation. Do not think to have a strong brand you must have the best quality. Walmart's promise is low prices and acceptable quality. They do not promise high quality. They promise *acceptable* quality. That is their brand.

What do you promise, and do you keep your promise? Do your customers know what they will receive when they buy from you? Is the quality of your service or product consistent so your customers know what to expect?

Building a strong brand takes time. It is building a reputation. But it can be destroyed in an instant. In the long run, a strong brand will save you time and money. It will bring you the type of customers you want. Build a strong brand by making and fulfilling your promises. When thinking about strong brands, think Walmart and Neiman Marcus. These are very different companies. They make very different promises. But both have strong brands. Customers know what to expect and whether the brand is meeting that expectation.

Well, there you have it. My thoughts on the most valuable marketing tip I can provide. Build your brand's reputation and guard it jealously.

Make the World Magical,  
JD Stewart, MD (Magic Dude)  
New Magic Academy

## Kent's Comments

I remember when magic was just a part-time obsession for JD, and I have been impressed with how, through creative ideas and

hard work, he has turned his obsession into a career. And I like what he says about branding.

I didn't get my highest-paying jobs because of advertising or other specific marketing efforts. I got them because of my reputation. My brand.

### **Trixie Bond**



*Trixie Bond.*

### **Niche Marketing for Family Entertainers: Lessons from a Forty-Year Career**

For more than forty years I thrived as a family entertainer, captivating audiences with magic at children's birthday parties, schools, libraries, and a variety of family celebrations. From first communions to Christmas and Ramadan parties, if it was a family event, chances are I was there, performing my magic to create cherished moments at their party. Occasionally, opportunities to perform for adult audiences – corporate hospitality rooms, trade shows, or cocktail parties – came my way. These bookings often stemmed from the impression I made at family events. Still, my heart and marketing efforts were firmly rooted in family entertainment.

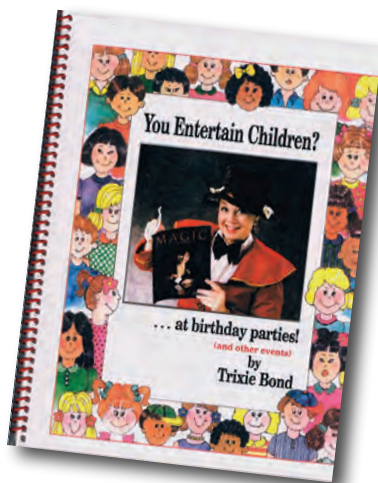
Why did I focus so intently on this niche? My background in advertising provided the answer. Before committing full-time to magic, I spent a decade in the advertising industry as a media buyer, a broadcast advertising manager for a major retail chain, and a radio account executive. I saw firsthand how businesses succeeded when they targeted the right audience with consistent messaging. It was clear to me that this approach would work just as effectively to promote my own services.

### **Understanding the Power of Niche Marketing**

In advertising, success hinges on reaching the right people. For my shows, that meant targeting moms: women ages twenty-five to forty-nine who could afford quality entertainment for their children's events. (Today, this demographic has shifted slightly to women ages thirty-five to fifty-four, reflecting changes in family planning trends.) I knew that my time and resources would yield the best results if I focused on this specific audience.

I budgeted 5 to 10 percent of my monthly income for advertising and invested in channels that offered laser-focused targeting. One of my most successful strategies was an eight-year run with a monthly ad in the local *Kids Directory*. This small publication was distributed in pediatricians' offices, pediatric dental clinics, and daycare centers – places where moms were sure to see it. Even better, I could select distribution to specific zip codes, ensuring my ads reached families more likely to book my services.

Consistency in marketing, paired with delivering exceptional shows, turned this targeted approach into a sustainable career.



### **Why Niche Advertising Works**

In the broader world of marketing, the debate between broad campaigns and niche advertising is ongoing. However, for



businesses like mine, niche advertising offers distinct advantages:

### 1. Laser-Focused Targeting

Niche advertising allows businesses to zero in on specific audiences. Instead of casting a wide net, you're speaking directly to those who are most likely to need your services. Platforms like Facebook and Google Ads have made this even more effective, enabling advertisers to target audiences based on demographics, interests, and behaviors. For a family entertainer, this meant focusing exclusively on parents who valued high-quality, engaging experiences for their children.



### 2. Higher Conversion Rates

Messages tailored to a specific audience resonate more deeply. Moms looking to create memorable events for their children were more likely to book a magician whose ad directly addressed their needs. Higher relevance translates to higher conversion rates, making niche advertising a more efficient use of resources.

### 3. Reduced Competition

Broad campaigns often pit businesses against larger competitors with vast marketing budgets, driving up costs. In contrast, niche markets tend to have less competition, allowing small businesses to stand out and secure better rates for ad placements.

### 4. Stronger Brand Loyalty

By focusing on a niche, you're not just selling a service, you're building relationships. Families appreciated that I specialized in creating magical moments for their chil-

dren, which fostered loyalty and led to repeat bookings. Over time, word-of-mouth referrals became one of my strongest marketing tools, reducing my need for paid advertising.

### 5. Easier Optimization

Smaller, targeted campaigns are easier to track and optimize. With fewer variables, it's simpler to identify what works and refine your approach. For me, this meant analyzing which ads in *Kids Directory* generated the most inquiries and tweaking my messaging to improve results.

### 6. Better Budget Alignment

Niche advertising aligns well with limited budgets. Instead of spreading funds thin across a broad audience, I could allocate resources strategically, ensuring every dollar spent delivered maximum impact. A targeted approach allowed me to maintain consistent visibility without breaking the bank.

### The Key Takeaway: Consistency and Focus Drive Success

Niche advertising isn't just about saving money; it's about making smarter decisions. By narrowing your focus, you can reduce costs, increase conversions, and build lasting customer relationships. My career as a family entertainer is a testament to this approach. By understanding my audience, targeting them consistently, and delivering exceptional performances, I was able to turn a passion for magic into a thriving, decades-long profession.

Whether you're a performer, a small business owner, or a marketer, the principles of niche advertising – laser-focused targeting, consistent messaging, and delivering value – can set you on the path to sustainable success.

Trixie Bond

[trixie@trixiebond.com](mailto:trixie@trixiebond.com)

### Kent's Comments

I am fond of saying that I have known Trixie since before she was born, since I knew her parents before they had her!

*(continued on page 49)*



## My Crash Course in Television Thanks to Buddy Farnan

From the time I was fourteen years old, in 1960, I attended the Georgia Magic Club I.B.M. Ring 9 meeting every month come rain or shine. That's where I met the "new kid in town," Buddy Farnan, in 1965.

Buddy had come from Buffalo, New York, where he was a protégé of Gene Gordon, who became my mentor in the 1970s. What goes around comes around.

I hope by now you've read my cover story about Buddy. Virtually everything in that story was unknown to me in the 1960s. I only learned about Buddy's background a year ago. But let's take this month's memories back to how Buddy and I got to know each other sixty years ago.

Sometime in 1965, an attractive offer lured Buddy to Atlanta to manage the Funtown amusement park and bring it up to speed. For Buddy, that included a new kids' television show called *Funtime*, finding show sponsors like Irvingdale and Miss Georgia Dairies, and promoting the show and park.

That is where my life and Buddy's connected. He joined the Georgia Magic Club to hobnob with other magicians – not only because he loved magic, but because he had two venues where he might need other performers.

I read Buddy's memoir, *Know Buddy*, to prepare this story for publication. I learned more about him than I ever knew. Written for his family, this humorous, conversational

124-page book tackles Buddy's entire seventy-year career. For space reasons, I will focus on my experiences with him between 1965 and 1970, when I departed for the army.



David and Buddy at  
Winter Carnival of Magic 2023.

I had already performed on one television show when I was nineteen and a freshman at the University of Georgia. Under the banner of Ring 9, I appeared on the show with John Stanfield, Hal Martin, John Doyle, and Walter White. I did my six-minute dove act on WSB-TV's *Two Bells TV Edition* in February 1965. I looked a lot like my first professional photo seen nearby, wearing my twenty-five-dollar, second-hand tail suit with studs and removable collar.

Fortunately, Hal Martin managed to get a kinescope recording of the show transferred to VHS tape (later DVD), which I published in my 2023 DVD *Magic on TV*. My assistant Joanne Shields looked great and for the most

part, my magic worked. But being self-conscious and shy of the TV camera, I failed to look at my one-eyed audience for almost the entire act!



*David in a tail suit with doves.*

Time and experience helped me a lot. In my next three years of college, I performed more shows, learned more magic, attended more conventions, toured Europe with Doug Henning, made it through army boot camp, and never stopped loving magic.

I believe Buddy saw that growth in me. When he started *Funtime* on WSB-TV, he invited me to do a guest spot in the spring of 1967, followed by another one in the summer after army boot camp. That's why my hair is short in the dove/mat/Diana photo below. They shaved my head at Fort Bragg!



*David and Diana with doves and mat.*

Every episode of *Funtime* followed the same format. The announcer started the show by saying, "And now, here's *Buddy Farnan!*"

Buddy would greet the viewers and a live audience of forty children, perform a quick trick, and introduce his guests. Guests might include a clown, juggler, ventriloquist, or other magicians. When I guested, I did a three-to-five minute spot, usually to music but occasionally talking. Buddy often sat and talked to the kids and performed magic tricks with some of them.

During my senior year of college and the beginning of graduate school, I appeared several times a month. I logged twenty-three TV appearances in 1968, mostly with Buddy but sometimes on other shows. There was absolutely no pay involved, but the experience I gained was beyond measure.

For one, I learned the power of television over kids who watched the show. After I'd made a dozen appearances on *Funtime*, I arrived at an Atlanta city school to perform a show. As I walked into the building headed for the office, a ten-year-old boy immediately recognized me.

"Look, it's David Ginn – *the magic dude!*"

Boy, what an honor. Thanks to Buddy Farnan, I had a new title and the kid even pronounced my name correctly.

Here's another funny thing I remember about doing the show with Buddy. Evidently, Buddy's five-year-old son Christopher watched the show on Saturday mornings, so he knew exactly how Buddy was introduced. One day Buddy arrived home after a live show or taping to find young Chris playing in the front yard. As Buddy got out of his car, his kindergartener son shouted, "And now, *here's Buddy Farnan!*" He said it just like the TV show's announcer did every Saturday morning. We all thought it was funny. When I mentioned it to Chris, who's now over sixty, in 2024, he laughed. He didn't remember it, but commented, "That sounds like me."

One of the many illusions I performed on *Funtime* was Thayer's Phantom Cargo Cage, which I acquired from the widow of



Atlanta magician John H. Smith. You can see it on the cover of the second edition of *Colorful Magic* and in the photo of me with assistant Marilu Martin. The difference is that on the cover of *Colorful Magic*, Marilu is hiding inside the table.



(left): The cover of David Ginn's *Colorful Magic*.  
(right): David with a cage and girl inside.

In effect, the illusion involves building a wooden cage on top of a table. The audience can see through the front bars that the inside is empty. When I performed it, I fired a blank starter pistol (quite allowable in 1967) and the girl appeared instantly.

The prop was clean and worked fine, but the black rim of the table base had several scratches. I asked Buddy if I should repaint it before the show.

"David," he asked, "how big is the illusion?"

"About six feet long and three feet wide," I said.

"And how big do you think that will look on a home TV screen?" He held up his hands to gesture the size. "About seven inches?"

"Yes."

"Do you think anybody will see the scratches?"

"Well, hmm," I realized. "No."

"So they won't see them. If it makes you feel better, use a black magic marker to fill in the scratches. Either way, nobody will see them."

That was one of many things I learned from Buddy during my college TV appearances.

In October 1967, the fall of my senior year at UGA, assistant Diana Bodron and I appeared in two spots on *Funtime*. You can see the complete shooting script nearby.

We did a three-minute dove act. Later, we performed Thayer's Tea Chest Mystery, which we called the Dragon Box. Nearby you can see a Thayer catalog ad for the illu-

sion, and another photo shows Diana popping out of the Dragon Box waving an Abbott's brass production flagstaff. In the October 1967 performance, Diana came out of the tea chest as a Halloween witch, as seen in a nearby black-and-white photo.

| PROGRAM # 22 |  | Funtime Format<br>TAPES 15/21/27<br>AIR 10/28/67 |                    |
|--------------|--|--|--------------------|
| 00:00        | COLOR WHITE  |  | CANT               |
| 00:10        | STREET TRAFFIC   |  | STUDIO             |
| 00:30        | OPENING FILM (PONTOWN)<br>SLIDE (1)<br>SLIDE (INVINCIBLE LOGO)   |  | CANT, ST           |
| 01:30        | GUEST INTRO AT CURTAIN   | David<br>Tambor                                  | STUDIO             |
| 03:30        | NUMBER SLIDE #A<br>COMMERCIAL  | (162 OF BLACK)                                   | CANT<br>(BLACK)    |
| 04:30        | NUDEY AND MIC'S HERE   |  | STUDIO, ST         |
| 06:30        | NUMBER SLIDE #B<br>COMMERCIAL  |  | CANT<br>STUDIO     |
| 10:00        | DAVE GINN MAGICIAN   | Gorge & Doran                                    | STUDIO, ST         |
| 11:30        | NUMBER SLIDE #C<br>COMMERCIAL  | (INVINCIBLE #12-15-67)                           | CANT<br>VF (11:00) |
| 14:30        | NUDEY AND GLOW   |  | STUDIO             |
| 15:00        | INTRO:<br>FILM: PUNNY COMPANY  |  | STP (11:30)        |
| 19:30        | NUDEY AND KINKIE   |  | STUDIO             |
| 20:40        | NUMBER SLIDE #1<br>COMMERCIAL  | (162 OF BLACK)                                   | CANT<br>(BLACK)    |
| 21:00        | NUDEY AND KINKIE   | WITCH  | STUDIO             |
| 21:30        | NUMBER SLIDE #2<br>COMMERCIAL  | DAVE GINN<br>IT'S WON TO BE POOLED               | CANT<br>STUDIO, ST |
| 26:00        | NUMBER SLIDE #X<br>COMMERCIAL  | (INVINCIBLE #12-15-67)                           | CANT<br>VF (11:00) |
| 27:00        | OOOIEEY AND BAY GOOIEEY  |  | STUDIO             |
| 28:00        | CLOSING FILM (PONTOWN)<br>SLIDE (1)<br>SLIDE (INVINCIBLE LOGO)<br>SLIDE (THOMAS)<br>SLIDE (PONTOWN)<br>SLIDE (2)<br>SLIDE (COLOR PRES.)<br>SLIDE (1) |  | CANT, ST           |
| 28:45        | OFF THE AIR  |  |                    |

Shooting script for Funtime show.



Artwork for Thayer's Tea Chest.



David Ginn's assistant Diana pops out of a chest while waving a flag.



*Diana as a Halloween witch.*

Here's how we worked. Every Saturday at WSB-TV studios on Peachtree Street in downtown Atlanta, *Funtime* taped at 3:00 p.m. Diana and I arrived at two o'clock, brought in our gear through a loading door, and set up our props. We used real backstage dressing rooms to get dressed and then performed our spots on the show.

A few hours later, after dropping off Diana, I returned home and unloaded the props with my dad's help. The next day, after church and Sunday dinner, I drove an hour back to Athens to school. The following Saturday morning I woke up at 8:15 a.m., quickly dressed, and went to my dorm's TV room to watch myself on the 8:30 a.m. broadcast. One week later in Atlanta, I did it all again with a new magic act, with or without an assistant.

On one show, I decided to perform Frank Garcia's Wild Card to music. Since they did a cooking segment on *Today in Georgia* every weekday, the studio had a kitchen set-up. Buddy asked them to cover the kitchen counter to create a flat surface, and I performed Wild Card with the TV camera pointed at a slanted overhead mirror. This allowed the audience to see my hands while I manipulated the cards and turned all the black jacks into Nine of Hearts.

Many of the routines in my first book, *Colorful Magic*, originally appeared on *Funtime*: A Bundle of Color, for example, and the Triple Tubes production.

I often featured Fantasio cane and candle effects in my acts to music. Before one show, I experimented with the new green vanishing candle Fantasio had sent me. I found that I could extend it to about thirty inches open, and it would fit in the mouth of a glass Coke bottle. I punched a hole in a solid color, thirty-six-inch silk, covered the candle with it, and lit the wick through the hole. Then I removed the very tall candle from the bottle, held it high in my right hand, and let it vanish in the standard way. I thought it very daring for that one show.

Buddy's show sponsor for years was either Irvindale or Miss Georgia Dairies. For that reason, he used a cow puppet named Mini Quarts in almost every show, bringing her to life with ventriloquism.

The cow would pretend to be asleep and Buddy would say, "Mini Quarts?" He'd



*(l to r): David performing Wild Card at Funtown. • Buddy Farnan with a cow puppet.*

draw out the pronunciation of her name, as if adding more syllables.

“Buddy Farnan,” the cow would reply, stretching out Buddy’s name the same way.

“Mini Quarts? Are you asleep?”

“Yes, I am, Buddy Farnan,” she replied, which children thought was very funny.

They would then do a comedy dialogue, introduce the next act, or promote a product or appearance.

During at least every other appearance from 1967-69, I used live doves and performed many different productions and vanishes. I even painted a white dove red using food coloring (a real mess) and did a color-changing dove on one show.

In yet another taping, my live dove appeared and took off flying into the rafters of the fifty-foot ceiling. After the show, we tried getting him down for an hour to no avail.

Buddy and director Bobby Thomas conferred and decided to leave the dove where he was. I think the news taped there at five or six the same night. Everyone went home and I heard nothing until my parents’ phone rang Monday morning. My mom took the call:

“This is Rhonda from WSB-TV. Bobby Thomas said to call you if David’s dove came down, and he did. Last night during the six o’clock news the bird flew through the set right in front of Johnny Beckman while he was doing the weather. We have the bird in a box. Can you come and get him?”

Since I was back at college, my dad Frank Ginn had the honor of retrieving the bird.

Sometimes, Buddy used us local guys to

perform at the Funtown park for special events. Nearby you can see a picture of me, Kevin Dawson, Jimmy Jenkins, and Buddy at Funtown during the summer of 1968. Our performances were always outdoors, so we were happy to have nearly perfect weather.

While working on this story, I talked often to my vent friend Mark Merchant, who was fourteen when he and I met in the fall of 1968. Buddy had Mark make a few guest appearances on the show on the weeks when I was back at UGA. Here’s what Mark shared with me:

*When I first appeared on the TV show, I did a three-minute magic act to music. I felt so nervous I was shaking. Buddy told me what I was feeling was excitement! He said I did a great job (hey, I was fourteen!), which I appreciated. When Buddy Farnan showed me some of his publicity material, it said:*

**BUDDY FARNAN:**

***Magician • Ventriloquist • MC***

*That really impressed me. Later he saw me do a magic act at the Georgia Magic Club Christmas party, and he also saw me do vent. After the party, Buddy kindly took me aside and said, “Mark, you are a better ventriloquist than you are a magician. I think you could really go places with that.”*

*So I took Buddy’s early advice, concentrated on vent, and now I’ve travelled all over the civilized world.*

Buddy was always encouraging others, and Mark’s story was a good example.

I can still hear Buddy saying during any given trick:



(l to r): Performers at Funtown. • A young Mark Merchant.



“This is going to happen right before your very eyes – and if you don’t have *very eyes*, whatever kind you have!”

And when doing a vanishing knot in his hand: “I’ll give the rope *a little pull and a little tug*.”

Which makes me suddenly remember this:

Buddy was supposed to do a thirty-second spot plugging Irvindale’s buttermilk. Except Buddy had never tasted buttermilk in his life.

Pouring himself a nice glass of buttermilk and talking about how good it was, Buddy raised the glass to his lips and took a big swallow – and realized immediately that he *did not like buttermilk!* But with this “live” taping, Buddy forced himself to smile and say how wonderful it was.

“Hey,” Buddy told me, “They were paying for the show, what else could I do?”

In my 1983 book *Promoting Me and You II*, I wrote commentary about this 1960s Buddy Farnan flyer, probably the one Mark Merchant saw way back then. I said that between 1966 and 1969, I made over *fifty* television appearances, most of them thanks to Buddy Farnan. We worked shows together, he occasionally sent me bookings, and we always had fun.



*A 1960s flyer for Buddy Farnan.*

*Experience cannot be bought.* Furthermore, experience takes time – lots of time. Thanks to Buddy Farnan, I gained a great deal of television experience between 1966 and 1969. For that, I have never stopped being thankful.

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## ***Marketing Magic*** – from page 43

But I have watched her progress from a cute teen magician to an outrageously successful family entertainer. And she did it when there were very few women in magic, and those few who were there got little or no respect. (Read my December 2023 column on Magic Misogyny.)

Her success proves the validity of her ideas. (And by the way, we used the *Kids Directory* franchise in Austin to successfully promote Fantastic Magic Camp.)

I agree wholeheartedly with Trixie’s comments about niche marketing. At one time, I had four different business cards: The Fantastic Kent Cummins / The Bungling Juggler / Felonious the Foool / Kent Cummins, CMCE

These were photo trading cards, and each featured a completely different photo and marketing pitch. Back in the days of mostly direct-mail marketing, I had publicity and promotion folders full of different materials for each market.

## **The Bottom Line**

**I would love to hear *your* favorite marketing strategy! Tell me at [kent@kentcummins.com](mailto:kent@kentcummins.com).**

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

# Hosting a Magic Convention

## Part Four: Cashing In Your Chips

By Johnny New York

*This is the fourth of a series submitted by Ring 22 (The Detroit Magic Club) describing their journey as they prepare to host Michigan Magic Day 2025, a major annual magic convention that will be held on May 17, 2025.*



*A few members sharing the fun at the Ring 22 Holiday Bash. Front: April Barrett, Ring Vice President Fred Lenter, Tara McCallister, Rob Krozal, Alex Heath, Don Osterwind. Back: Ring President Johnny New York, Mike Reuter, Jim Folki, Mike Thornton, Dan Jones, Phil Mann.*

You’ve all heard the old adage, “It takes a village to raise a child!” Very early on, our convention steering committee came to a similar conclusion: “It takes a club – an entire magic community – to raise a convention!”

Now that our Ring had established a solid foundation as the host of Michigan Magic Day 2025 by making a commitment, developing a perfect schedule, and finding the perfect venue, it was time to fill the slots and secure the talent. Continuing the Michigan Magic tradition of promoting outstanding magic and magicians in the greater-Michigan area, we wanted to showcase the very best talent and present the most appealing magic imaginable. But

dealing with limited finances and a plethora of possibilities to explore, how could we assemble such a roster of outstanding performers without breaking the bank?

First and foremost, we consulted those who have traveled down this road in the past. Our I.B.M. Territorial Vice Presidents (Chris Harper and his predecessor Jeff Brodrick) were as knowledgeable as they were helpful, giving us solid insights and a big head start. Attending the 2024 I.B.M. Convention in Tacoma, Washington, was also very helpful. While there, I personally consulted with many members of I.B.M.’s “Command Central” (President Mike Dunnigan, Board members Jeff

Soboleski, Sammy Smith, et al.), garnering practical ideas and experiencing a topnotch Convention first hand. (For those who have not attended these outstanding annual I.B.M. events, what are you waiting for?) We also informally polled our membership and other magicians within a rather wide community circle, which gave us a better picture of what potential patrons really *want* to see as well as what they *don't* want to see.

However, our real assets came from our club membership. Thanks to many of our members (internationally known magicians Keith and Sarah Fields, our Vice President and well-known magician Fred Lenter, and previous convention host and celebrated magician John Luka, just to name a few), we found ourselves connected in some way or another to several possible performers, lecturers, and magic dealers. These affiliations enabled us to directly contact candidates on a personal level, which was far more fruitful than simply cold-calling potential performers. These connections not only opened some pretty large doors for us – allowing Ring 22 to “cash in our chips” and obtain top-drawer talent at a very reasonable and affordable bottom line – but also allowed us to keep admission costs as low as possible while providing the biggest bang for attendees’ buck!

**REALITY CHECK:** When it comes to booking well-known magicians, getting a commitment far in advance can sometimes be impractical. In certain situations, they prefer to keep their advanced booking avenues open. There’s a luck factor involved when it comes to procuring talent, and no matter how busy you think they may be, there’s always a chance that headline entertainers will welcome the opportunity to participate in a nearby convention (especially a well-oiled convention!). Fortunately, we managed to “win the lottery” in that department and in true “cliffhanger” tradition, we decided to wait until early January 2025 to announce our convention’s incredible line-up.

As we enter the new year, Michigan Magic Day 2025 is shaping up to be a truly fantastic and *positive* event. We’ve increased membership involvement, drawn attention to a great magic community, and will provide a “must-see” event for magicians of every level and age. We hope to continue crossing every obstacle and roadblock with success as we journey toward our convention.

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Ring 22 would love to see you on Saturday, May 17, 2025, for Michigan Magic Day 2025! Learn more and book your tickets today by visiting [www.detroitmagic.club/michigan-magic-day-2025](http://www.detroitmagic.club/michigan-magic-day-2025).

## Sign Up a New Member

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



# Ring 198 (Lexington, Kentucky) Celebrates Fiftieth Annual “Un-Conventional” Magic Convention

By George Hunter

Cumberland Falls, Kentucky hosted the fiftieth annual “Un-Conventional” magic convention in early November. The annual event is organized by Lexington, Kentucky’s Ring 198, though “organized” is a generous term. While the dates, site, dealers, and headliner magician are always pre-planned, we pencil in the three performance sessions after we see who shows up! This year’s gathering, with seventy-eight registered magicians and many other attendees, was one of our largest.

The convention featured three lectures for magician attendees. The Lexington club’s Graham Ricks demonstrated half-a-hundred ways that poker cards and decks can be marked or gaffed, featuring both marketed props and arts-and-crafts options.

David Ginn, a top performer and creator of magic for children, demonstrated a baker’s dozen props that he markets. Some attendees were already familiar with and affirming of Ginn’s two books, *Kid Show Magic Kompendium* and *Children Love Animals*. His props were impressive.

Jonathan Levit, our other headliner, is a magician, creator, producer, and actor who’s had significant roles in *The X-Files* and other TV shows and films. He demonstrated a card effect with three phases and reveals, which employed three different methods. He advised, “Use every tool in your toolbox.” Then he explained the “secret” behind his impressive performance the night before, in which he called a guy – apparently at a random phone number – who guessed his volunteer’s chosen card and birthday. Jonathan’s app, “The Stranger,” demythologized this near-miracle. A stooge had answered the phone!

Over twenty magicians performed at one of the convention’s three shows. Several other types of entertainment surfaced. Sir Pat-Trick juggled a spinning plate on a pole. In Hal-

loween spirit, George Hunter presented Mark Twain’s story, “The Woman with a Golden Arm.” Buddy August performed in full costume as a floozy named “Nolean.” David Turner’s ventriloquism act, in which his first dummy impersonated the late Johnny Cash, entertained us big time.

Two acts simulated serious danger. Graham Ricks performed a Russian Roulette type of effect involving a three-pronged fishhook in his mouth. Cliff Mitchell’s scary stock-prop threatened to sever a volunteer’s forearms.

Ropes were featured in two acts. Joanna Logsdon led off Friday night’s performance with a version of Professor’s Nightmare. Jerry Burgess’s rope tried to cope with an uncooperative knot. Buddy August and Johnathan Levit performed impressive card tricks. David Ginn showed how he dazzles children with silks.

Jerry Burgess invited a woman to enter four different four-digit numbers on a white board, then add them, while a separate volunteer wrote five digits on his white board. His five digits were identical to the woman’s sum! The next day, magicians were heard groaning when Burgess revealed his method. He reported, “I get away with that because people assume I would not stoop that low!”

Playing cards virtually ruled the Saturday afternoon close-up show. Joana Longsdon, Dillon Williams, Sir Pat-Trick, and Jonathan Levit collectively demonstrated the incredible range of effects that are possible with cards. Levit performed a three-phase, three-method effect that he now teaches. Tom Vorjohan performed a Bank Night effect with six options from which the volunteer could choose one, and yes, the volunteer received the cheapest prize. George Hunter performed a Haunted Key effect after reporting how the primitive steel skeleton key found its way from the dungeon in Vlad



(l to r from top): *Graham Ricks. • David Ginn. • Jonathan Levit. • David Turner. • Roger Reeves. • Jim Harris. • Mike Raymer. • Tom Vorjohan. • Sir Pat-Trick.*

Dracul's castle in Romania to the historical artifacts booth in the British Museum's shop.

Roger Reeves, in full tuxedo attire, opened the concluding Saturday evening show with a beautiful series of dove productions from flowered silks. Jim Harris amused the crowd with his "Stupid Bean Trick." Daniel Herron challenged a spectator to a game involving a giant Tic-Tac-Toe board. Cliff Mitchell performed a matching routine with two sets of four cards featuring pictures of a dog, cat, horse, and frog. Dillon Williams showed us that magicians continue to develop new ways to stun folks with a Rubik's Cube. Mike Ray-

mer reminded us of the continuing evolution of tricks with sponge balls.

Our headliner, cardician Jonathan Levit, departed from his specialty with some mentalism. Following a novel book test, he wrote two two-digit numbers on a white board that was turned away from the audience's view. He then accepted the challenge of sending his two numbers, telepathically, to two audience members. His first revelation was a close miss; he nailed the second. (He did *not* tell us how he did that.)

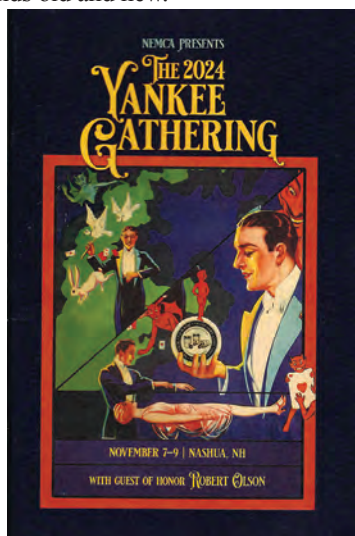
Next year's Un-Convention will launch our second half-century. Y'all come!

# 2024 Yankee Gathering



By Jason Goldberg

The twentieth Yankee Gathering, held November 7-9, 2024, at the Sheraton Nashua Hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire, and sponsored by the New England Magic Collectors Association (NEMCA), was full of wonders and surprises. While history isn't static and our perception of it can change, for a meeting in which several talks literally focused on attempts to speak with the dead, it was fascinating to see the many ways the dead still communicate with us – and how the living can come together to connect with friends old and new.



The first session focused on the living. **Mike Rose** brought us inside the world of Kohl & Company and the performance of a magician having the worst day of his life. Part of the appeal of a meeting like the Yankee Gathering is learning why someone is so interested in a topic to which they commit many hours, sometimes even years, to its research. Rose is a Baltimore native and enjoys studying the Baltimore magic scene, so getting to meet Dick Kohlhafer, the Master of Mishap who was also from Baltimore, was a real treat. Rose's talk, which was a preview for an upcoming biography, was a great dive into Kohlhafer's influences.



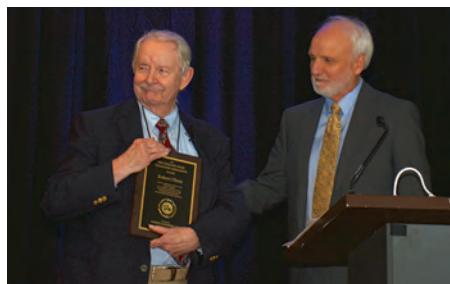
*Mike Rose.*

**Dean Carnegie** followed Rose with a profile of Robert Heller, a popular performer from the nineteenth century also known as William Henry Palmer. Another fascinating aspect of magic history is learning how researchers piece together the puzzles that



shed new light on a trick or performer's life. Heller has something of a controversial history, and Carnegie found new evidence showing Heller did not retire, but in fact had to continue his career because he was swindled out of his life savings. In an age when information is available at our fingertips, Carnegie shared how some of his insights accidentally arose from a letter he found on a website.

While not everyone at the Gathering was a collector, magic history and collecting walk hand in hand, and **Bruce Averbook**, **Richard Hughes**, and **Mike Caveney** shared insights on how to store and catalog a collection. For collectors with substantial holdings, the tips on everything from software and online resources to archival data were invaluable, as were the thoughts on how collections should be classified. The session offered attendees new ways to enjoy their collections while supporting estate planning. The material was also helpful for researchers, since many of these databases can be found online.



*Guest of Honor Robert Olson is recognized by NEMCA President Jim Zoldak.*

The Gathering honored **Bob Olson**, a longtime NEMCA member, collector, and performer. As Olson told the audience, he discovered a book on magic at the Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, an outdoor history museum featuring a recreation of an 1830s rural New England town. The book mentioned Richard Potter, the first American-born magician to gain fame in the country and notable for being a highly successful African American performer. The book sparked Olson's interest in this unique figure from American and magical history, and he

developed an act about Potter that he did at the Village for twenty-five years. Olson later developed an eighteenth century act consistent with the performances of the era. Olson is a busy collector with a particular interest in paper, magic tokens, and trade cards, as well as magic sets.

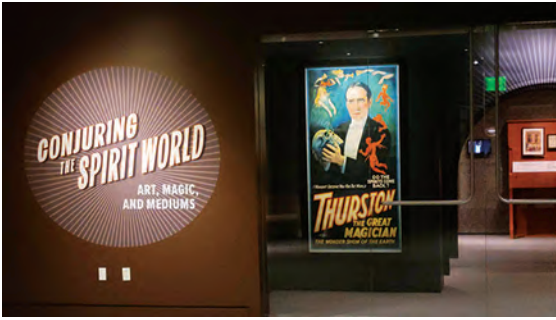
**Judge Gary Brown** followed with a talk on magic and innovation. Magicians excel at incorporating the latest inventions into their acts, though I was surprised to learn that Professor Hoffman's *Modern Magic* included seven tricks for the then-newfangled creation of wheat bran!

**George Schwartz**, curator at large for the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, previewed a tour for Gathering attendees with his talk on *Conjuring the Spirit World: Art, Magic, and Mediums*. Schwartz virtually walked us through the exhibit, highlighting several objects and how visitors might interpret them. While the exhibit covers other periods, it focuses on a time when people such as Houdini (a magician and debunker), Margery (a Boston medium), and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (the creator of Sherlock Holmes and a Spiritualism proponent) were active in the Spiritualism scene. Among other questions, the exhibit sought to address issues such as how mediums used objects to achieve their goals and what connection exists between science and Spiritualism.



*George Schwartz, curator at large for the Peabody Essex Museum.*

With Schwartz's presentation in mind, attendees were given a real treat with a bus ride to the museum, perhaps coincidentally located in the heart of American witch lore in Salem. We were given several hours to



(l): Visiting the Peabody Essex Museum's exhibit on *Conjuring the Spirit World*.  
(r): Objects at the exhibit, including the Spiritoscope.

explore the exhibit. Schwartz got the idea to design the exhibit because he'd heard stories about Houdini, Margery, and Doyle when he was a child. While Schwartz is not a magician, these stories stayed with him into adulthood and inspired him to add to those tales by exploring how magicians used the Spiritualism arts in their own practice, and what that meant for society at large. The exhibit was astonishing and did an excellent job interpreting the relationship between magicians, mediums, and the public, creating a tangible experience in which we could see the objects first hand. Everyone had a different favorite object. For me, it was seeing an original daguerreotype of the Fox Sisters and Dr. Robert Hare's Spiritoscope, a device used to test mediums. Speaking as a professional scientist, these two artifacts represent a time in history when the line between magic and science was blurrier. (For more information about the exhibit, read *Conjuring the Spirit World: Art, Magic, and Mediums*, which is available from retailers such as Amazon. See also the November 2024 issue of *The Linking Ring* for Rick Heath's review of the exhibit.)

**William Kalush**, of the Conjuring Arts Research Center, followed up with his insights into Eddie McGuire, a card magician from the early-to-mid 1900s. Kalush made a successful argument that McGuire was more successful than he's credited for.

**Brandon Hodge**, in his talk on "Ghosts in the Machine: A History of Spirit Communication Devices," covered one hundred and fifty years of history in forty-five minutes.

The curator of [www.mysteriousplanchette.com](http://www.mysteriousplanchette.com) gave a fascinating overview of the verbal, nonverbal, and writing devices spiritualists (and magicians) used to connect the living with those beyond the veil. He also provided historical context. For example, I found it fascinating that the news of the Fox Sisters spread by the wireless telegraph, still a relatively new and mysterious technology at the time. Was talking to the beyond through other wireless means really so different? Hodge demonstrated the evolution of these devices, showing how rapping gave way to newer, faster ways of talking with the spirits while audience expectations grew and performers sought to increase their profiles (and profits).



A poster from the Peabody's exhibit.

The museum tour was going to be hard to follow, and the Yankee Gathering delivered. **Anna Thurlow**, the great granddaughter of

Margery the Medium (Mina Crandon), offered a thoughtful and affectionate reflection on Margery's life. There are talks where you learn something interesting, there are talks where you learn something useful, and there are talks where your perspective completely changes. I had always thought of Margery as something of a con artist. Thurlow's well-reasoned argument that Crandon likely adopted Spiritualism as a means of survival during an era when women had limited opportunities, thus challenging social and gender norms, changed my view. Thurlow also highlighted important issues of control: control over Crandon's body when subjected to inspection by male investigators, and control over the narrative of her séances. Control, power, attention, survival. These issues, along with the family's belief that séances were about healing and connection, paint a far more nuanced and sensitive picture. Perhaps more than any other talk, I found Thurlow's session highlighted how our understanding of history can change – and sometimes needs to change.



*Anna Thurlow.*

History sheds light not just on the past, but on the present. The Yankee Gathering switched its focus from Spiritualism to diversity in magic history, with several sessions focusing on Black performers. **Ice McDonald** asked a provocative question: What do you call a Black Magician? The answer: A magician! He posed this question as a start to his talk to ask why non-White performers needed to add a qualifier to their profession. It's simply not necessary. McDonald highlighted several performers who once would have used these qualifiers to de-

scribe themselves. He shared stories about Black Herman (aka Benjamin Rucker), Ellen Emma Armstrong, and Fetaque Sanders, all outstanding performers who were characterized by their skin color or otherwise experienced racism. McDonald, a former President of the Society of American Magicians (SAM), mentioned how Sanders was listed in SAM's 1939 *Who's Who in Magic* even though he wasn't allowed to join SAM and had to travel with a trailer because he wasn't permitted to stay at hotels near his gigs.



*Dr. Kenrick "Ice" McDonald.*

**Rory Rennick** followed with a talk on Henry "Box" Brown, an escaped slave turned performer with a complicated legacy. **John Hodgson**, author of an excellent biography on Richard Potter, shared new discoveries about Potter's life, including a great anecdote about how a group of military cadets were expelled after attending Potter's show against the orders of the school's superintendent. **Margaret Steele** then took the stage and shared stories from her latest book *The Great Boomsky*, the culmination of twenty years of research and five years of writing. The work focuses on the many Black teens who took the role of The Great Boomsky in Alexander Herrmann's show over the years. Steele, who has a show based on Adelaide Herrmann, sought to write a book for the general public that highlighted unrecognized performers from Alexander Herrmann's show, many of whom went on to have successful solo careers.



The session concluded with **Robert Olson**, who's performed as Richard Potter for more than forty years, sharing a piece from his show. Olson's performance was followed by a showing of the documentary *Quiet Masters: The History and Relevance of the Black Magical Artist*, produced and directed by **Ice McDonald**. Taken together, these talks and performances illuminate the importance of diversity and inclusion in magic. They offer lessons about what work still needs to be done to ensure magic is a welcoming space for people from all backgrounds, and testify to the perseverance and creativity of magicians who sought to perform despite the obstacles in their path.



*Robert Olson.*

The final day opened with **Dean Arnold** sharing how he solved a one-hundred-and-thirty-year-old optical mystery: a Wonderful Telescope presented by Dr. Lynn in 1889, which allowed people to see through walls. As Arnold told the tale, the principle behind the telescope was known to the public at the time and often portrayed as a novelty rather than an illusion, but Dr. Lynn's version used a different principle from similar devices. Arnold described his research to uncover the mystery behind Dr. Lynn's device, contextualized it with other scientific discoveries of the time such as x-ray, and shared fascinating stories about how Dr. Lynn's oldest son later used the device for ill-gotten gain. Arnold also built several models of the telescope, which he offered in the Dealer's Room. (Full disclosure: I couldn't resist – learning about the history of science in the 1800s is one of my hobbies!)



*Dean Arnold.*

Three more lectures rounded out the Gathering's many sessions. **Jonathan Neal Brown** spoke about the Davenport's Demon Wonder Box, a silk production prop from the 1920s. Brown has made this old trick new again to stunning effect, and he walked us through the innovations that made it a practical effect to perform and attract audiences.



*Jonathan Neal Brown.*

**Tom Ewing** shared pages from a recently uncovered scrapbook compiled for John W. Sargent by his friends in 1912. Sargent was a full-time furniture salesman who moonlighted as a magician. Not only was he a founding member of SAM, he may have also been the first known trade show magician. **Michael Claxton** closed out the talks with a profile of Miss Cazan, the Blonde Houdini who performed in the early-mid 1900s. She was highly successful during her time but is virtually unknown today. These talks highlighted something important about contemporary performances: a reminder that magicians today really stand on the shoulders of those who came before, building on their dreams, ambitions, and innovations. We try to recreate, in our own way, the same sense of wonder for our audience.

This three-day event held so much more! Friends shared stories between sessions and we enjoyed fantastic evening performances by **Matt Roberts, Kevin Bethea, and Jonathan Neal Brown.**



*Kevin Bethea.*

There was a lively auction, and the Dealer's Room – always a hive of activity – opened early with many great finds to be discovered. A Display Room allowed members to share some amazing items, such as an old trunk lined with broadsides for Richard Potter's act. While mentors helped novices evaluate their potential purchases, it was still "buyer beware." I noticed one vendor selling a trick they claimed was exclusive to the Yankee Gathering, when in fact I've had this piece for several years and perform it often. (The price was reasonable, though.) I also managed to get a great deal on a piece of art that didn't sell at auction but will make a great gift. A little experience goes a long way. Fortunately, not everything was expensive, and there was a wide variety of books, posters, props, and other treasures to catch the fancy of collectors.

As mentioned earlier, this was the twentieth Yankee Gathering and NEMCA is exploring new opportunities to expand its reach and utility to collectors and historians around the world. To help support their growth, they are extending their leadership and membership beyond New England. If you are interested in magic history in all its forms, you can learn more and become a member at [www.nemca.com/wp](http://www.nemca.com/wp).

*Jason Goldberg is an associate editor for The Linking Ring.*



*(top down): John Gaughan and George Schwartz. • John Hinson and Anna Thurow (Relatives of Houdini and Margery, respectively). • People in the Dealer's Room. • Rick Heath in the Dealer's Room.*



# Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

## Ring 29 (Little Rock, Arkansas) Benefit Variety Show

In October of 2023, Little Rock Magic Ring 29 hosted a Benefit Variety Show to raise money for Feed the Vets, a local food pantry that provides food for all veterans in central Arkansas. Through ticket sales and donations at the door and back room, the Ring was able to raise enough to pay expenses and give the food pantry \$2,500. Founder and CEO Deyonka Hickey, an Air Force veteran, received the check and put it to good use for our veterans. Our emcee was Jody Birchfield, who kept our audience in check with his comedy and introduced juggler Blayk Puckett; comedy musician Farmer Fin; magicians Gene Berry, Daniel Parish, and Randall Eller; and our headliner, Tom Burgoon.

Now, fast forward to November 7, 2024: Ring 29 was told we were to receive a significant donation. To receive this donation, we needed to be a 501 3(c) organization, which we are not. The donation was for the work our magicians did with David Copperfield's Project Magic program here in

Arkansas. Volunteer State Director of Project Magic, Mary Ann Campbell, spoke with Mr. Copperfield's office and suggested the money be given to Feed the Vets (FTV) of Cabot, Arkansas. Mr. Copperfield agreed and a check for \$7,500 was sent to the food pantry's founder and CEO Deyonka Hickey. Mr. Copperfield cannot be thanked enough for his sincere kindness and generosity.



*Project Magic Volunteers Jim Henson, Mary Ann Campbell, Lisa Bolin, and Paul Carlon.*

The food pantry is not like others in Arkansas. The food is placed on shelves as



*Little Rock Magic Ring 29 and Feed the Vets guests.*





*(l to r): Ring President and FTV volunteer Marty Haughn, FTV's founder and CEO Deyonka Hickey, State Director of Project Magic Mary Ann Campbell. • Marty Haughn presents a Volunteer Service Award to Blayk Puckett. • Marty Haughn presents a Volunteer Service Award to Mary Ann Campbell. • FTV Maintenance Manager Tom Saunders assists TVP Larry Bean. • Deyonka Hickey assists Shawn Miller. • Logistics Manager TC Roddy and Deyonka Hickey assist Marty Haughn.*

you would find in a grocery store. Each verified veteran goes through the facility with a shopping cart and selects the items they want. Items include personal products, canned and boxed food, fruits and vegetables, and dairy products. For the holidays, various food drives collected turkeys and hams to give to the veterans as they pass through the pantry.

On the night of November 7, Ring 29 held a special gathering and invited the pantry's board and volunteers to attend. There was food and plenty of conversation. To kick off the night, an oversized check was presented to Deyonka Hickey by Ring 29 President and FTV volunteer Marty Haughn and Project Magic's State Director Mary Ann Campbell. Marty Haughn also presented Mary Ann Campbell and Blayk Puckett with Vol-

unteer Service awards for their hard work and effort to organize the show and raise money for the pantry. Randall Eller will receive this same award at a later date. The awards were artistically designed and produced by Ring member Bob Bullock.

Participants of Project Magic attended and had their picture taken with the symbolic check. Pictured to honor their volunteer Project Magic hours are Jim Henson, Mary Ann Campbell, Lisa Bolin, and Paul Carlon. Project Magic volunteers who were unable to attend were Elson Bihm, Melvin Brown, Jon Bucher, Scott Davis, and Randall Eller. The evening ended with a lot of fantastic magic that stunned and mesmerized the veterans. All in all, it was a great evening for everyone.

*Marty Haughn*

*Photos by James Kinsey and Derrick Rose*

## **Ring 50 (Washington, D.C.) Spreads Holiday Cheer by Hosting Annual Charity Magic Show for Kids**

The I.B.M. Ring 50 Holiday Kids' Show started with a bang and ended with a Bo (the rabbit produced by The Amazing Kevin) on December 4. The show, in support of the Fund for Alexandria's Child Holiday

Sharing Program, was held at the Lyceum Museum in Alexandria, Virginia and featured Capital Conjurers' Coordinator Drew Owen as master of ceremonies and show producer, with performers Noland Montgomery, Stella



(l to r): *Capital Conjurer Nate Horn demonstrates the intricacies of the Pom Pom Stick.* (PHOTO BY ALEX WOHL) • *Noland Montgomery removes a coin from a volunteer's ear.* (PHOTO BY ALEX WOHL) • *Capital Conjurer Stella Gilbert shows the audience that Rocky Raccoon did indeed find the predicted card.* (PHOTO BY ALEX WOHL) • *Drew Owen shows his color-changing Christmas tree ornaments.* (PHOTO BY ALEX WOHL) • *The Amazing Kevin has an audience volunteer pet his rabbit Boo.* (PHOTO BY RUSSELL ALMOND III) • *Mumblemore Magic, Ring 50 Secretary Todd Eisenstadt, has the audience focus on revealing the Hannukah gift sock chosen by an audience member.* (PHOTO BY ALEX WOHL) • *Ring 50 member Sunnier Sun gets some quality time with Santa, Ring 50 member Richie Klein, who posed for pictures at the annual Holiday Show.* (PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNNIER SUN)

Gilbert, Todd Eisenstadt, Nate Horn, and Kevin McGuire. Owen introduced the show by pulling several magic wands of different colors from a tiny coin purse.

Maryland-based kid show master Noland Montgomery opened by producing an ice cream cone from my empty hat. Then he engaged the three dozen kids in the audience (and dozens of adult companions) with a series of wand tricks. First, he tried to change the color of his wand to red but instead changed it into a piece of bread. He then produced another wand, but the ends kept breaking and drooping. Next, he announced he'd show the kids his best wand but discovered he was instead holding a hot dog. Multiple hot dogs appeared, then a giant hot dog, and then a string of hot dogs came from his hat. Next, he did a rousing "Miser's Dream" and

produced a silk banner reading "The End."

Capital Conjurer Stella Gilbert, a middle school student, followed with an animated "Rocky the Raccoon" routine, where the mind-reading puppet correctly guessed a spectator's card.

Newcomer Mumblemore Magic (aka Todd Eisenstadt), in his first public performance in decades, claimed that Santa used teleportation to transfer gifts from the North Pole into his toy bag on Christmas. He showed this by having a volunteer teleport a gift box from a wrapped present stack into a red Santa toy bag. He then transferred milk and cookies between two tubes and had a volunteer choose the missing puzzle piece from dozens to complete a picture of Santa stuck in a chimney.

Another Capital Conjurer, middle school

student Nate Horn, captivated the crowd with a routine using the Pom Pom Stick. Kidshow expert Kevin McGuire, the Amazing Kevin, closed the show with multiple audience-energizing routines. First, he had an audience volunteer spin around and turn loose beads into a necklace after several comical tries. Then he produced cloth wands

which shot into the audience while trying to change a plush rabbit into his magical pet rabbit Boo. McGuire did produce Boo and formally closed the show with pizzazz by producing a large silk banner of Santa Claus. Santa himself, as depicted by I.B.M. Ring 50 member Richie Klein, also made an appearance. *Todd Eisenstadt*

## Members of Ring 221 (Fort Wayne, Indiana) Participate in Stoner's Magic Show

Stoner's Funstore in Fort Wayne, Indiana held a holiday magic show on Friday, December 6 at the First Presbyterian Theater. The show was a rousing success, and some members of Ring 221 assisted Stoner's in making the evening of magic come to life.

Colin Haines, President of Ring 221, acted as master of ceremonies for the evening. He was a hit, but not more so than his revolving wardrobe of sequin jackets that changed throughout the show!

Elmer Smith, an honorary lifetime member of the Ring, was first. Elmer assisted the Stoner family in opening Stoner's Magic Shop in 1949, performing at its grand opening with his brother-in-law Dick Stoner and the legendary Percy Abbott. He later served as the manager of the store in the 1950s. Now ninety-five years old, he performed his magic act for us. Elmer presented classics of magic such as the "Linking Rings," "Hippity Hop Rabbits," the die box, and the "Square Circle" production, among others. He received a standing ovation and declared he is

now officially retired from magic. Let us all hope we can perform at that age!

Sean Bogunia, a well-known inventor of magic, traveled from Michigan to make his own return to the stage. He wowed the audience with his Yo-Yo skills before performing his own effects, such as his "Sketch Pad" and "Dancing Hank."

Rick Reader, another Ring 221 member, took to the stage next. He and Colin participated in a rope escape challenge, which Rick clearly rigged so he could easily win. The audience was in stitches! He performed paper hat and underwear tears, as well as a jumbo split deck routine. Rick on stage is like a bull in a China shop – a non-stop laugh machine. He was a hit!

Finally, Magic Man Rusty Ammerman took to the stage with his assistant Lana Thompson. He performed a variety of illusions, such as the sensational blocks, a window illusion inspired by Edgar Allan Poe, and the classic "Egg Bag." Finally, he and Lana closed the show with an illusion titled



(l to r): Colin Haines takes the stage in holiday style. • Elmer Smith performs the "Magic Thought Projector." • Sean Bogunia presents ventriloquism with his sketch pad illusion.





(l to r): Rick Reader performs a rope escape. • Rusty Ammerman and Lana Thompson perform a snowing illusion to close the show! • Bill Reader reveals the photo of his criminal assailant!

“Snowstorm in China,” bringing the holiday cheer to the end of the show!

The following Tuesday, Ring 221 held a holiday potluck at Stoner’s Funstore. Each member brought a dish for the occasion and decided to forgo tricks in favor of good old-fashioned joke telling. Our Ring is like a

magic family, and we celebrated it well! To close out the party, member Bill Reader performed a bit for us. He recalled how he was recently mugged at the airport and had all his belongings stolen, then pulled out a photo of the assailant to reveal it was Jolly Old Saint Nick!

Colin Haines

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:RingReports@magician.org).

# Create Your Own Dice Forcing Wheel

By Thomas Henry

Many routines, especially in mental magic, depend upon a deceptive force. The participant and audience must be convinced the inevitable selection was determined purely by chance or by whim, and that any of a wide variety of outcomes could have been possible. Card forces with regular or gaffed decks, psychological forces, numerical forces, change bags containing duplicates, and so forth are all well-known. This article describes a very different artifice, which I believe to be original.

Last year out of the blue, a surprising relationship between dice and clocks unexpectedly sprang to mind. It seemed crazy, but after some furious scribbling with pencil and paper, an unusual forcing method fell neatly into place. The resulting prop, intended for use with dice, is easily customized to fit a variety of themes involving words, symbols, names, colors, medallions, fortune-telling cards...the sky's the limit.

Best of all, unlike many schemes involving dice, there's absolutely no computation demanded of the participant or performer, and no turning the dice over either. They're interpreted exactly as they fall, and that's that.

## The Start of It All

Let's call this new prop a dice forcing wheel. It can take different forms depending on the type of dice employed and how many are rolled. While you'll no doubt want to tailor a version specific to your own purposes, the following example clearly illustrates the underlying principle at work. The effect is that of a design divination.

With a pair of ordinary gaming dice, the simplest wheel sports twenty-one sectors (**Fig. 1**). A word is assigned to each combination of the dice. The remainder of the prop is populated with some psychological

mumbo-jumbo just to propel the plot.

Here's how it's employed, baldly described. At the outset, the performer makes a prediction by drawing a psychic impression upon a sketchpad. This is set aside unseen. Now the participant fairly casts the dice, moves around the wheel according to their spots, and locates the corresponding word. At the marvelous climax, the sketchpad is unveiled, revealing an accurate representation of that very word.

To see how this works, place your finger on the figure and try it out. Imagine you've rolled a pair of dice and they came up three-six. You'll find this combination lying on the wheel at about the five o'clock position. Now proceeding clockwise, move three spaces along corresponding to the first die, then six additional steps for the other. Your finger finishes upon "smile."

Or suppose you rolled five-one, appearing near three o'clock. Drop your finger there, move five times, then one more and you'll wind up on "moon."

As a final example, start on six-five and progress similarly as before. This time the outcome is the word "arch."

In fact, these three destinations – the sweet spots – are the only ones possible no matter how the dice are thrown. But of what use is that you might ask? Well, the results are visual synonyms and can all be represented by the same sketch (**Fig. 2**). Depending how it's turned over at the climax, it unambiguously depicts a smile, moon, or arch. (Obviously, a square sketchpad is best). In short, the wheel exploits the powerful notion of a ranging force to lend an air of non-chalance. There are quite a few other ways to accommodate three outs for your own inventions, as will be seen in just a moment.

Incidentally, with this particular wheel

there's a one-in-seven chance the roll of the dice signals a sweet spot at the very start. In that case, you could bring the routine to a

rapid conclusion. Otherwise continue as usual and the participant will be ushered to the succeeding sweet spot.

Fig. 1

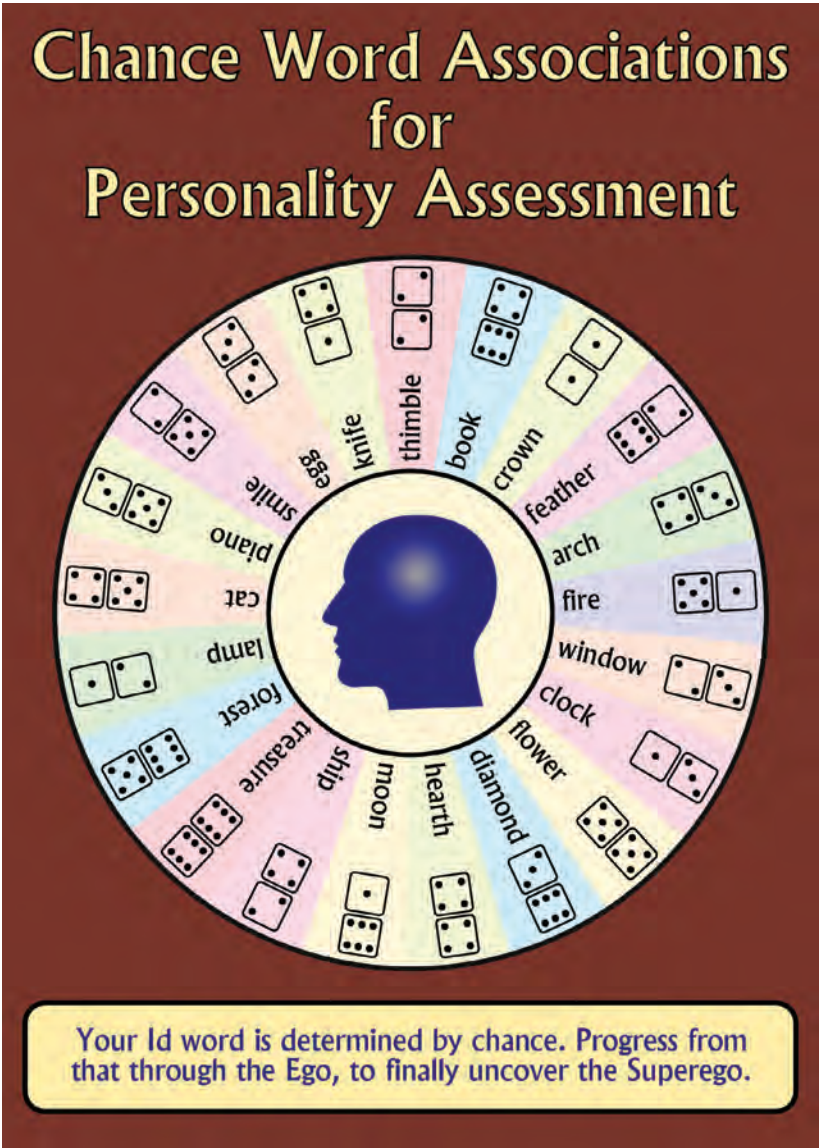
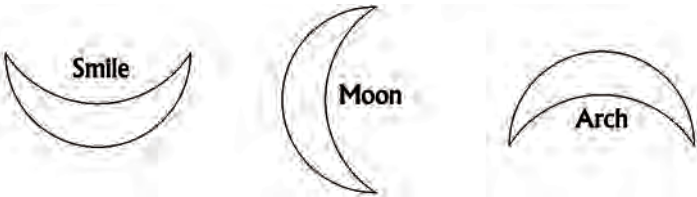


Fig. 2





## Theatrical Benefits

In performance, tedious calculation never rears its ugly head. Nothing more than pointing and moving about the wheel is required, as if directing a token in a board game. Quite literally, even kiddies brought up on Monopoly will innately understand what to do.

From a theatrical standpoint, the wheel and dice themselves can impart a fair amount of meaning. For instance, the psychological notions of Id, Ego and Superego could impute a certain amount of internal logic to the required actions. In particular, the participant casts the dice to locate the symbol of her Id, which can be lightheartedly commented upon as desired. Then the first die takes her to the Ego, and the remaining die to the Superego. The culmination, naturally, is one of the ranging force outcomes.

This plays upon the “expectation of threes,” a bias which seems to be built into us humans. There are countless other famous trios which could provide an entertaining rationale. I’m especially partial to Past, Present, and Future.

Note too that demonstrations of either precognition or telepathy can be staged. We’ve just seen an example of the former. For the latter, simply turn away while the participant rolls the dice and traipses along the wheel. After the accouterments are hidden and you face forward again (with marker and sketchpad in hand), assume your best telepathic attitude to sense the unknown symbol.

## Under the Hood

The routine just described may or may not be up your alley. That’s unimportant, for it’s the method, not the external trappings which matter at present. Let’s dig a little deeper in that direction.

The simplest wheel possible governed by a pair of dice, where their order is irrelevant, consists of twenty-one sectors. It can be proved mathematically that the optimal number of sweet spots is three, and hence are spaced seven units apart from one another.

Furthermore, observe that it makes no difference how the participant interprets a roll of the dice. A three-six is just as valid as a six-three, since it’s really only the aggregate which matters.

To fully appreciate the inherent pattern, examine the pairs in tabular format (**Fig. 3**). Read this left to right, top to bottom. For clarity, the sweet spots are designated in bold print. Of course, there’s more than one way to scatter the entries about, so feel free to exchange pairs of equal sums as desired.

|              |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>[3,4]</b> | [1,5] | [3,2] | [3,1] | [5,5] | [6,3] | [4,4] |
| <b>[6,1]</b> | [2,4] | [6,6] | [5,6] | [1,2] | [4,5] | [3,5] |
| <b>[2,5]</b> | [3,3] | [4,1] | [2,2] | [4,6] | [1,1] | [2,6] |

**Fig. 3**

While the inherent system is trivial, don’t overlook the three layers of obfuscation working on our behalf. First is that business of clocks hinted at earlier. Without getting into mathematical messiness, in a wheel of twenty-one sectors hinging upon the number seven, counting four spaces forward, say, is just as effectual as eleven. In the latter case, the first four steps take you to a sweet spot, while seven more simply carry on to the following sweet spot. This is an instance of what may be called clock arithmetic, or more precisely, modular arithmetic. In the context of a cyclic ranging force, four and eleven are equal!

Continuing this example, that number four can be expressed with dice in more than one way: three-one or two-two. This ambiguity further cloaks the underpinnings.

But it gets even better. Force methods from the past based upon pointing or counting have almost always demanded the participant move backwards. Innocent bystanders probably find that awkward. But here I’ve simply reversed the order of the pairs appearing on the wheel so the perceived progression is clockwise. This comes across as natural and requires no explanatory chatter.

Taken together, then, these three layers subtly camouflage what’s in truth the simplest of engines.

## A Variety of Outs

At this point you know enough about the wheel architecture to start spinning new routines of your own. But you may be wondering how best to handle the three-way outs mandated by the ranging force. Here are some alternatives.

In the example above, visual synonyms were exploited, but for a clever twist check out Chris Wardle’s idea of color synonyms. You’ll find this in his routine, “Teddy Time,” *The Linking Ring*, Volume 103, Number 10, 2023, pp. 85, 85. This could be ideal for some sort of character analysis shtick based upon colors.

Another possibility would be anagrams. For example, the words CASTER, REACTS, and TRACES might lie on the sweet spots, the other entries a wide mix of disparate words. So, your psychic abilities accurately divine the requisite letters, one by one. For more in this vein, see my “Anagram Methods for Mental Routines,” *The Linking Ring*, Volume 104, Number 5, May 2024, pp. 56-62.

For something completely different and well-suited to library and school shows, consider a wheel peppered with a variety of animals from around the world, such as lion, elephant, bison, polar bear, etc. But at the sweet spots lie the platypus, koala and kangaroo, all of which are indigenous only to Australia. The performer passes a pair of divining rods over a map of the world which unerringly twitch on that very country.

When it comes to cards of any type, three-way outs are handily accommodated by Norman Houghton’s well-known Kismet envelope. You’ll find a good description of this clever utility device in Ted Lesley’s *Paramiracles* (Seattle: Hermetic Press, Inc., 1994), pp. 27-33.

For that matter, the commonplace Himber Wallet easily manages multiple outs of three or more. See John Riggs’ *Heavy Mental*, (no place: self-published, 1994), pp. 13-16.

Regarding cards, let me mention that the basic wheel is also a natural fit to the Major Arcana of a Tarot pack (**Fig. 4**). Though constituted of twenty-two cards, all I did was

Fig. 4



simply plop the Wheel of Fortune in the center as an ornament. A wheel within a wheel has the ring of authenticity, don't you think? Fleshing out the remaining twenty-one entries, the sweet spots lie at the Magician, Strength, and Sun. Any of the three-way out ruses just mentioned brings home the bacon.

### Up the Ante

The dice forcing wheel can be conveniently modified for additional outcomes. With a pair of gaming dice, just insinuate that the order is significant, e.g., three-five is to be taken as distinct from five-three. This affords thirty-six combinations (**Fig. 5**). As before, the sweet spots (six now) are designated in the table by bold print. If desired, swap pairs with identical totals for further arrangements.

**[1,5]** [5,6] [2,2] [4,5] [6,2] [3,4]  
**[2,4]** [3,2] [4,6] [1,2] [5,3] [6,1]  
**[6,6]** [4,1] [5,5] [3,6] [4,4] [2,5]  
**[5,1]** [6,5] [1,3] [5,4] [2,6] [4,3]  
**[4,2]** [1,4] [3,1] [6,3] [1,1] [5,2]  
**[3,3]** [2,3] [6,4] [2,1] [3,5] [1,6]

**Fig. 5**

**[4,2,2]** [5,5,5] [4,1,1] [5,5,3] [2,1,1] [5,5,1] [6,6,6] [4,3,2]  
**[3,3,2]** [6,5,4] [3,2,1] [6,5,2] [6,3,3] [1,1,1] [4,3,3] [5,2,2]  
**[6,5,5]** [3,2,2] [5,5,4] [2,2,1] [6,4,2] [5,3,3] [4,4,2] [6,2,1]  
**[4,3,1]** [5,1,1] [6,4,4] [6,6,1] [5,4,3] [4,4,3] [5,3,2] [3,3,3]  
**[6,1,1]** [6,6,3] [2,2,2] [5,4,4] [6,5,1] [6,3,2] [6,3,1] [5,3,1]  
**[6,6,4]** [4,2,1] [6,5,3] [6,4,3] [4,4,4] [5,4,2] [5,4,1] [6,6,5]  
**[5,2,1]** [3,3,1] [6,6,2] [3,1,1] [5,5,2] [6,4,1] [6,2,2] [4,4,1]

**Fig. 6**

**[6,5]** [7,3] [5,4] [8,0] [6,1] [3,3] [8,8] [4,0] [8,6] [9,4] [1,0]  
**[9,2]** [5,5] [8,1] [4,4] [5,2] [9,8] [4,1] [9,6] [3,0] [1,1] [8,4]  
**[0,0]** [9,1] [6,3] [7,1] [4,3] [5,1] [9,7] [3,1] [7,7] [2,0] [7,5]  
**[8,3]** [8,2] [7,2] [6,2] [9,9] [6,0] [3,2] [8,7] [2,1] [8,5] [6,6]  
**[7,4]** [6,4] [9,0] [5,3] [7,0] [4,2] [5,0] [2,2] [9,5] [7,6] [9,3]

**Fig. 7**

By using three dice where order isn't a concern, the number of outcomes swells to fifty-six (**Fig. 6**). Providentially, that's the number of cards within the Minor Arcana of the Tarot. Or you could distribute the fifty-two playing cards around the wheel, labeling the four unneeded sectors with a message such as "Roll again." In either case, seven sweet spots arise.

### Variations on a Theme

So far we've seen three distinct ways commonplace gaming dice can furnish twenty-one, thirty-six, or fifty-six options. Of course, ordinary dice bear but the numbers one through six on their faces. If you feel that's too limiting, consider what are known as D10 dice. Because these are emblazoned with the digits zero through nine, the audience is apt to conjecture "any and every number is possible." By the way, you can purchase nice ones inexpensively online from Amazon, eBay and so forth. With a pair, there are fifty-five ways the dice can be cast (disregarding order), guaranteeing five sweet spots (**Fig. 7**).

I've mentioned the Tarot twice now. Seventy-eight distinct cards comprise that entire pack. Fortuitously, a pair of D12 dice bear-



[1,12] [9,3] [10,1] [4,6] [1,8] [10,11] [2,5] [7,12] [2,3] [8,9] [12,4] [1,1] [6,8]  
 [3,10] [6,6] [4,7] [5,5] [11,11] [6,2] [12,8] [2,4] [7,11] [1,3] [10,6] [3,12] [7,7]  
 [6,7] [10,2] [12,12] [2,8] [4,5] [9,12] [1,6] [11,8] [4,1] [12,5] [1,2] [8,7] [11,3]  
 [11,2] [5,7] [6,5] [11,12] [3,6] [7,1] [10,10] [3,3] [8,10] [6,11] [8,8] [10,5] [2,12]  
 [9,4] [8,4] [2,9] [3,7] [10,12] [3,5] [4,3] [9,10] [6,12] [2,2] [7,9] [11,4] [5,9]  
 [5,8] [1,11] [8,3] [1,9] [7,2] [4,4] [9,11] [1,5] [9,9] [7,10] [11,5] [9,6] [4,10]

**Fig. 8**

[1,6] [3,3] [0,5] [1,3] [4,6] [4,5] [0,1]  
 [2,5] [0,6] [6,6] [2,2] [3,0] [6,3] [4,4]  
 [3,4] [1,5] [2,3] [0,4] [5,5] [2,0] [3,5]  
 [0,0] [2,4] [4,1] [5,6] [1,2] [1,1] [2,6]

**Fig. 9**

ing the numbers one through twelve generates that very span of outcomes, once more discounting order. Equally felicitous is that a paltry six sweet destinations tame the beast (**Fig. 8**). Of course, with so many choices, the wheel must necessarily be fairly large, say a foot in diameter, but that could appear quite impressive in an intimate performance seated at a table.

Should you dislike dice, dominoes are an appealing alternative. Their pips run from one to six, with an additional “blank” logically interpreted as zero (**Fig. 9**). There are twenty-eight combinations and four sweet spots.

### Bring It to Life

With multiple possibilities at our fingertips now, it's time to concoct a personalized prop. In olden times, we'd probably reach for a compass, protractor and ruler, then engage in extended bouts of scurrilous language whilst trying to fashion a pretty wheel, punctuated by wads of wasted paper angrily cast aside in the process.

Nowadays, however, we have the luxury of computers, software, and color printers assisting us to easily craft beautiful results. I don't claim any intrinsic artistic ability myself, but have designed and fabricated some half-dozen attractive wheels for sundry routines with a modicum of effort. The vector-art program *Inkscape* is my tool of choice, and it's available for virtually all makes of computers. Despite its sophistication, it's available free of charge.

But just about any art software will get the

job done, so use whichever you have access to. As long as it includes a function to divide a circle into an arbitrary number of sectors, you're good to go.

And did you know there are free dice fonts available for your computer? Just search online using those three words and you'll discover some attractive ones. Once installed, you simply type 1, 2, 3, etc., from the keyboard and the corresponding faces of the die appear in full glory.

Begin by imagining what magical power you'll be demonstrating, and in what theatrical context. Then decide how many options and sweet spots will fill the bill. Fire up the computer, draw a circle, and partition it into sectors accordingly. (As a novice, I found all sorts of brief tutorials online explaining how to do this). Conclude by associating the words, symbols, names, or whatever the routine calls for. Print out the result, work up your script, and you're all set to commence rehearsals.

One final thing before turning you loose to brainstorm a personal masterpiece: I've deliberately kept this article non-technical, focusing on the pragmatic aspects only. When beginning to explore the concept, however, I put together an extensive mathematical worksheet to investigate every aspect of the algorithm. Upon request, this is available gratis to my esteemed I.B.M. colleagues curious about the theoretical framework.

You may contact Thomas Henry by email at [Everett.Ritland@gmail.com](mailto:Everett.Ritland@gmail.com).

# Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



One of the pivotal moments in the life of the iconic magician Harry Houdini was the marriage of his cousin, Helen Schonberger, to Moe Howard, a key figure in the comedic trio “The Three Stooges.” Helen, born in New York City on December 19, 1899, adopted the surname Howard. Their wedding, a union that would significantly shape the family’s legacy and influence on the entertainment industry, occurred on June 7, 1925.

Houdini, the enigmatic performer, was said to have graced their wedding ceremony with his presence. However, in keeping with his mysterious nature, he reportedly made a dramatic exit shortly after dinner, disappearing into thin air and leaving the guests in awe and speculation. The truth of this account is still under scrutiny. Yet, given his proximity to New York City at the time and his close relationship with his cousin Helen, it’s not implausible that he attended the wedding. Whether it’s fact or fiction, this moment has become part of the Houdini legend, adding another layer of enigma to his fascinating persona.

Helen and Moe’s marriage was a jubilant affair, filled with laughter and love. Their union blossomed and brought the gift of two children. Among them was Joan Howard, who would later carve out her career in the entertainment industry, strengthening the family’s ties to show business.

Helen’s life, which she lived to the fullest until her passing on October 31, 1975, in West Los Angeles, California, is intricately woven with that of Houdini. Their shared experiences in the vibrant world of early twentieth-century entertainment and family ties create a compelling narrative. It’s worth noting that, like her cousin Houdini, she passed away on Halloween, adding a curious twist to their shared story.



There was a time in the late 1890s when Houdini faced such difficult circumstances that he turned to gambling as a last resort, which ultimately proved to be a poor decision. In a game of craps in Chicago, he lost sixty dollars, which was a significant amount during that period. This loss was incredibly challenging for the young couple, causing considerable strain on their relationship as they struggled to make ends meet. This amount would be equivalent to almost \$2,100 in today’s market.

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Joe Hernandez is the author of the book *Magic Babylon: 1,001 Strange Conjuring Facts, Fallacies, and Tales* and the recently released *Houdini, The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*. These are excerpts from his books, which are available from your favorite magic dealer or Amazon.



# Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

## Thank Hank

New leaders step into their roles with a highfalutin vision of how they want the club to run. Sadly, reality promptly rushes in and punches them in the gut. As this pummeling continues, the inexperienced leader may retreat and try to hide from the difficulties of growth.

Understanding the dynamics of growth makes it easier to manage the stress of adding new members and supporting healthy development. We magicians are happy to share the latest card deck, the hottest new effect, and the best Penn & Teller fooler as healthy club growth takes a distant back seat. Until now.

Leadership hustle, determination, and grit have their limits. Inexperienced leaders tend to believe they must do it all themselves. Consider the case of good old Hank, our local cabinet maker. Hank started as a weekender doing the occasional fix-it and custom job for a few friends. We cheered as he built his wood-working passion into a real business. He delivered his exceptional cabinets in a timely manner. His reputation grew. New customers rushed in. Then, one day, we noticed a gradual decline in the quality of Hank's work.

Still, we love Hank, so we ask him to build our hot new illusion. Current orders so overwhelm him that weeks pass without our promised illusion. Hank can't keep up. He is exhausted and thinking about shutting down. He fails to recognize the structural problem of trying to run a four-man

business by himself with hustle, determination, and grit. Hank needs a new system.

Hank's structural issues are common to growing clubs. Tasks that we once easily managed on our own grow more difficult with every member we add. As our club starts to grow, we tend to hang on to a natural desire to do the things we've always done the same way we've always done them. Like Hank, strong leaders buckle down and work harder until their passion wanes and they run out of fresh ideas. Professionals call this the burnout threshold. As our active club membership increases, so should the number of trained volunteers and delegated tasks.

Signing new members does not mean we're growing. Our failures may drive old members out as quickly as the new members step in. Our membership roll may swell, but attendance plateaus. This is a structural issue.

Let's revisit our friendly cabinet maker. Hank's a nice guy. He wants to honor his commitments. He promises to have our new illusion ready for next Thursday's rehearsal. Thursday arrives and no cabinet. He's way behind schedule and we're both frustrated.

But we like Hank and our show is still more than a week away. He's been very good to us in the past, so we let this pass. Friday comes and goes along with the rest of the following week. It's show day and we still don't have our cabinet. We're less likely to trust Hank with future projects,



right? Guess what? Our members react the same way to ineffective club leadership.

Members will bail if we consistently miss deadlines, fail to meet commitments, and offer lackluster club events. Most members participate in our clubs exclusively for personal gain and pleasure. They crave active engagement. This may include recognition, education, skill enhancement, mentoring, or simple fellowship. If we don't meet these needs, even the most dedicated members will eventually move on. If your leadership team is untrained, unrecognized, or lacks delegated authority, they, too, will eventually lose interest in the club. Who can blame them for choosing not to serve as a small, unrecognized cog in our expanding machine?

What about our digital presence? Many of our forward-thinking clubs are busily creating a strong online and streaming presence. The best clubs appoint and train skilled volunteers to answer emails, respond to texts, create, and respond to daily social media posts, and keep web and media pages current. Just like our clubs, the larger our online presence grows, the greater the need for a strong supporting structure.

Remember my opening statement about reality punching us in the gut? Get ready for this one. I've convinced you that solving our structural issues will keep members from leaving, right? Surprise! Nope.

True, when we finally recognize the problem and give up the one-man-band bit, our newer members are more likely to stick around. In fact, our club may finally begin to grow faster than ever. But a few of our original members may balk at the changes, complain about the growth, and grumble about the new normal. Let's see how our good buddy Hank would handle this.

Suppose we and Hank are long-time chums. He used to do custom woodwork for us right on time and at just a hair over the cost of materials. We cheered for him when he went into business and good old Hank rewarded us with favorable treatment.

Wise old Hank finally spotted his problems. He hired three additional craftspeople, modernized his shop, and began delegating jobs to his new employees. He once again delivers top-quality projects on time at a reasonable cost. Hank's reputation is back on top! But it's just not the same. His earliest customers miss dealing directly with Hank.

Most of Hank's new customers are fine with these changes. They're excited for Hank and his growing business. But those who preferred good old Hank before all the changes are upset that he no longer offers the same preferential treatment. So, they leave.

Leaders need to accept this. It may come down to deciding who we're willing to lose. Do we serve the members who share our passion for an efficient, progressive, and growing club, or serve the members who resist change and want to continue doing things "the way we always have"? As much as I hate seeing a member walk, there really is only one practical choice.

Examine your club's structure. Create a structure that encourages and accommodates growth and member satisfaction. One that grows with your club. Be like Hank.

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](mailto:IBMYouth@magician.org).

## ***Sign up 1!***

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



# Conjurer's Foolosophy

JOE HERNANDEZ

I've learned that the impact of deception is not only psychological but physiological as well. There are neurochemicals at play, binding to our brain's opioid receptors to make us feel good about mystery.

I've learned that if I plan my routine for nine minutes, it usually lasts forty-five minutes.

I've learned that buying expensive coin effects from Meir Yedid doesn't help if I end up spending them at 7-Eleven.

I've learned that when I eat turtle soup before a performance, it helps me slow down.

I've learned that I reap enormous benefits when I embrace my mistakes.

I've learned that wonder is shown, not described.

I've learned that no magician will ever be on *Shark Tank* to sell a magic gimmick.

I've learned that Jazz Aces has nothing to do with jazz.

I've learned that magic exists to violate the laws of nature.

I've learned that when performing magic, I can feel my brain and hands participating in a complex neural dance.

I've learned that you must avoid wasting time seeking the perfect method. Seek an imperfect method that works perfectly.

I've learned that having panic attacks helps me attack my panic.

I've learned that conjuring allows my mature adult self to be silly without feeling shameful; it teaches me that being silly is a psychic need like any other.

---

Joe Hernandez is the author of *Conjurer's Wisdom (Vol. 1 & 2)*, *Phonetastic*, *Magic Babylon*, *Houdini: The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*, and the soon-to-be-released *Conjurer's Foolosophy*, of which excerpts are taken for this column. Books can be purchased at Amazon.com, Magic Dealers, or [www.BooksByJoe.com](http://www.BooksByJoe.com).



Sometimes, it's nice to show your students other ideas with numbers. There are many fantastic math puzzles, match puzzles, and word games. Here is a magic pyramid using numbers that students and faculty find appealing.

$$\begin{aligned}1 \times 9 + 2 &= 11 \\12 \times 9 + 3 &= 111 \\123 \times 9 + 4 &= 1111 \\1234 \times 9 + 5 &= 11111 \\12345 \times 9 + 6 &= 111111 \\123456 \times 9 + 7 &= 1111111 \\1234567 \times 9 + 8 &= 11111111 \\12345678 \times 9 + 9 &= 111111111 \\123456789 \times 9 + 10 &= 1111111111\end{aligned}$$

The numbers in order create quite the magical pyramid. This shows the magical principles found in mathematics.

**EFFECT:** You reach into your pocket for a blank card or paper. When taking things out of your pocket, you lay some money and change on the table, followed by a pen and paper. Now, tell your audience you will make a prediction using numbers. Write your prediction on one of the cards or slips of paper, and do not let anyone see what you have written but leave it out where they can all see it. Ask your helper to give you a three-digit number and write it on one of your papers. Tell them, "We are going to use Chaotic Math. This is what weather people do when predicting the weather. It is also what paleontologists use when looking at old remains." So, reverse the same three numbers and subtract the smaller number from the larger one. You arrive at a sum and then say, "We used subtraction let's add this time to make things even more chaotic." Reverse the digits again and add. Reveal your prediction was a perfect match. Then stop and

look at the money you had in your pocket when you started. The cash and change will equal your prediction, too.

## **WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**

This is just a dressed-up version of the 1089 trick. First, have a ten dollar bill, three quarters, a dime, and four pennies in your pocket. Along with the money, you should have a few slips of paper or business cards in the same pocket. As you reach for something to write on, your hand comes out with the change and a folded ten. Now, take a pen and begin your math. Ask for a three-digit number and ask that each number be different. Let's say they give you the number 397. You write that down; above it, reverse the numbers and write 793. When you subtract, your sum is 396. Now reverse and add the numbers.  $396 + 693 = 1089$ . Show your prediction was 1089. Then, stop and look at the change on the table and say, "That is odd. I have a ten dollar bill and eighty-nine cents. Maybe the money influenced your subconscious to say the number 397. Many people have told me they get confused in doing this effect. Remember the saying, "A substitute teacher was added to our class." This way, you always remember to subtract and then add your numbers. Also, this can happen, and it throws people off: Let's say the number is 465. When you do the subtraction, your answer is 099. This can confuse you, and you may think it will not work now. But we finish by reversing the numbers 099, so now we have  $099 + 990$ , which equals 1089. If you teach young kids, do the subtraction portion only and add the numbers in the sum. They will always equal 18. You can show that you had eighteen cents in your pocket.

*bobdurante55@gmail.com*



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# *Sick and Convalescent*

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## Garnet Garven

### *Mathemagic 2.0 One-Man Parade*



*Warren Morse(l) and Garnet Garven.*

and unique presentations.

Garnet is an active member of our Ring and our immediate Past President. He is one of several Canadian and American snowbirds that spend the winters in the Greater Palm Springs area. Our Ring is enriched when these magicians from Edmonton, Vancouver, New York, Chicago, Idaho, Oregon, and points in between escape their snowy climates to visit us. They come for the weather, golf, tennis, music festivals, and great wine, but stay for the magic!

Our Ring, established in 1991, is one of a handful of dual I.B.M. and SAM clubs in North America. With notable past members such as Karrell Fox (Past President), Marvyn Roy (a.k.a. Mr. Electric), and current member Jeff Hobson, who is the owner and producer of the fabulous Marvyn's Magic Theater, the Palm Springs Magicians Club has a rich history. Garnet has generously shared most of these routines with our club. Please enjoy.

**Warren Morse**

*President of the Palm Springs Magicians Club, I.B.M. Ring 291*

A special thanks to I.B.M. member Warren Morse of Los Angeles for this introduction and his invaluable advice, which has helped me improve my magic. Thank you to Lisa Krol of Saskatoon, Canada, for her keen eyes and reviewing and editing assistance. I cannot tell you how valuable it is to have an I.B.M. member and magician, who works at the university level to improve the writing skills of graduate students, help me better communicate my magic.



*Lisa Krol*

As a retired business school professor, many of you might think I must like mathematics because of my profession. Far from it! While I studied doctoral-level calculus, advanced financial modeling, and computational theory, mathematics was never something I was good at or wanted to pursue. But as a magician, I appreciate the sheer elegance and performance certainty that mathematics offers to our art. I particularly enjoy effects in which the mathematics “hides in plain sight” and delivers a knock-out punch.

This follow-on Parade, which I call Mathemagic 2.0, offers several interesting performance pieces. I’ve included my full patter for each routine, but I encourage you to freely adapt the routines to your unique style and scripting.

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Garnet Garven is a retired business school professor and longtime dean. A devoted lifelong hobbyist, his magic has appeared in *The Linking Ring*, *M-U-M*, and *VANISHING* magazines. He lives in Canada but spends winters in Palm Springs, California.

Mathemagic 2.0 is my third Parade submission and a follow-on to my mathemagic-themed November 2023 One-Man Parade, which won a 2024 *Linking Ring* Award. It offers ten interesting and fun routines. Published in the same edition was a very interesting contribution by Thomas Henry (Volume 103, Number 11, November 2023, pp. 56-60). In his article “Rearranged Dice Principle,” Thomas Henry offered some intriguing ideas that underscore the methods I’ve adapted. He challenged magicians to “let our imagination roam and devise some novel routines.” Challenge accepted! The first three routines – Calculatus Eliminatus, Dice Galore, and Chips Ahoy – are my response of this challenge.

## Calculatus Eliminatus

**EFFECT:** A deck of Dr. Seuss flash cards with numbers on both sides is presented. The magician places a written prediction inside the card box. After shuffling, a spectator selects three, four, or five cards at random and tables these face up. The spectator arranges the cards in any order to create a multi-digit number and writes that number on a notepad. The cards are turned over to reveal different numbers. The spectator arranges these in any order and adds this to the first number. All the digits in the combined total are added and reduced to a single digit. Using Dr. Seuss’s “Calculatus Eliminatus” song, the magician’s prediction is revealed to match the spectator’s number.

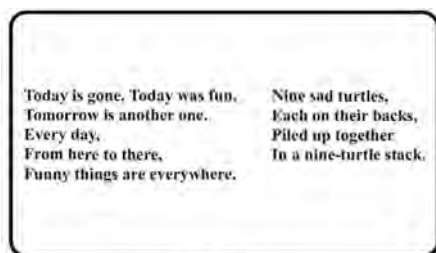
**SET-UP:** Purchase two boxes of Dr.

Seuss Number Flash Cards. These are available at Dollar Tree or teacher supply stores. I purchased mine for \$1.25 per box of thirty-six cards. Only the cards numbered 1 to 8 are used. Glue the cards back-to-back (1-8, 2-7, 3-6, 4-5, 5-4, 6-3, 7-2, and 8-1) so that both sides of each card total to 9 (**Fig. 1**). Sixteen double-backed cards are sufficient. On a blank or extra card, cut and paste the nine-line verse (**Fig. 2**). This is placed in the card box and used for the reveal.



Today is gone. Today was fun.  
 Tomorrow is another one.  
 Every day,  
 From here to there,  
 Funny things are everywhere.

Nine sad turtles,  
 Each on their backs,  
 Piled up together  
 In a nine-turtle stack.



**Fig. 2**

**METHOD:** The method uses Thomas Henry's "Rearranged Dice Principle." The original idea appeared in his book *Hidden Numerical Forces*, Orlando, Florida: Leaping Lizards Magic, 2006 and more recently in the November 2023 issue of *The Linking Ring*. I adapted the routine using Dr. Seuss number flash cards. Magicians and many lay people are aware of the "7's Complement Property," in which opposite sides of a dice will add to seven, which can raise suspicions. Using numbers from 1 to 8 and two-dimensional Dr. Seuss flash cards serves to disguise the method.

The spectator randomly selects cards by cutting the deck. It does not matter how many cards the spectator chooses, as the forced number 9 will be the result. I suggest either three, four, or five cards. The spectator can rearrange the cards in any order to create the first number. A second spectator writes the number on a notepad. The cards are turned over to reveal different numbers that are again rearranged. The second spectator totals the numbers. Next, all digits in the final number are totaled (checksum) and reduced to a single digit (root number). The number will always be 9. See examples below (Fig. 3).

**PERFORMANCE:** The magician begins, "Let's flash back to our childhood days with Dr. Seuss flash cards. This is how many of us first learned our numbers." Show the box and remove and display the cards. The audience will not think anything about the cards having numbers on both sides. You can have the spectator select the cards, but I suggest cutting the cards.

The magician continues, "We will need two volunteers, one to select the cards and one to serve as our chief accountant." Once the volunteers have been selected, provide the second volunteer with a notepad and pen. A calculator should not be necessary.

The magician says, "Did you read a lot of Dr. Seuss books as a child? One of my favorites was *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*. And of course, who can forget the classic *Green Eggs and Ham* and its protagonist Sam-I-Am. In this demonstration, we will be using Dr. Seuss's 'Calculus Eliminatus' from his book *Cat in the Hat*." If you have a copy of the book, it can add to the performance.

The magician says, "Before we begin, I have made a prediction on this card and will place it in the card box. We will come back to this at the end of the demonstration." Place this card face down in the box and set the box on the table in full view.

The magician says to the first spectator, "You are going to make a lot of choices. While I shuffle these flash cards, I am going to ask you to decide which side you wish to begin on – this side or the reverse side? Okay, the reverse side. How many cards do you want to use? Three, four or five – which do you choose? Four cards, okay."

Have the first spectator cut the deck four

| Steps         | 3 Cards   | 4 Cards      | 5 Cards          |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|
| First Number  | 146       | 7,835        | 76,142           |
| Second Number | 385       | 1,246        | 87,325           |
| Total         | 531       | 9,081        | 163,467          |
| Check Sum     | $5+3+1=9$ | $9+0+8+1=18$ | $1+6+3+4+6+7=27$ |
| Root Number   | <b>9</b>  | $1+8=9$      | $2+7=9$          |

**Fig. 3**



times, selecting the four cards. Place the cards face up and set the remaining cards aside. The magician instructs, "So you have randomly selected these four flash cards with these four numbers. You can leave the cards in this order or rearrange the cards to create a different number." Once the first spectator has finalized the order of the cards, have the second spectator record the four-digit number on the notepad.

The magician says to the first spectator, "Please turn the cards over. We now have four different numbers. Again, you can leave the cards in this order or rearrange the cards to create a completely different number. Okay, happy with this number?" Ask the second spectator to write the second number below the first number and add the two numbers.

Reading the final number from the notepad, the magician says, "Your new totaled number is xx,xxx. This is a large number. Let's recap. We had a deck of numbered flash cards that were shuffled. You chose which side of the cards to use. You then decided the number of cards to use. You cut the deck and randomly selected four cards. You rearranged the cards to create a unique number. You created a second number after rearranging the cards. The numbers were added together to create a new number that none of us could have predicted."

The magician continues, "Using Dr. Seuss's magical 'Calculus Eliminatus' method, we will reduce this large number to a single digit number. Would the second spectator add all the digits in the final number? Do you have a single- or double-digit number? A double, so add the digits in that number until you have a single digit number. Got one? Great. Do not tell us yet."

The magician says, "You will remember that at the beginning of this demonstration of 'Calculus Eliminatus,' I placed a prediction in the card box. Could we have the first spectator open the card box and read, in traditional Dr. Seuss style, the rhyme inside the card box? Before we read the prediction, please tell us your secret number. Nine, you say? Please read the prediction." (**Fig. 2**)

Today is gone. Today was fun.  
Tomorrow is another one.  
Every day,  
From here to there,  
Funny things are everywhere.  
Nine sad turtles,  
Each on their backs,  
Piled up together  
In a nine-turtle stack.

The magician concludes, "We have a match! Number 9. Thank you, Dr. Seuss – funny things are everywhere."

## Dice Galore

**EFFECT:** Six white dice are presented in ascending top value order. Without revealing, the magician places a single-colored die under a cup as a prediction. A participant rolls the six dice, rearranges the order, and creates a six-digit number. Each die is rotated and rearranged, and a new six-digit number is recorded. The two randomly created numbers are totaled. All digits in the final number are summed and reduced to a single digit. The colored die prediction is revealed as a match of the spectator's number.

**METHOD:** The method uses "The Rearranged Dice Principle" by Thomas Henry. This routine uses six dice representing each number on a die. We know from Thomas Henry's work that six dice will always force the number six when the two created number sets are totaled.

**PERFORMANCE:** The magician says, "I have six dice showing each of the six numbers: 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1. I also have a colored die that I am going to place under the cover of this cup." Without showing the orientation, place the die with the number 6 on top and cover it with a cup or another object.

The magician says to a spectator, "Please pick up the dice and make sure they are regular dice. Please toss the dice and arrange the dice in a row. Please rearrange the order or rotate any of the dice you wish. Happy? Okay. You have created a unique six-digit number that no one could have predicted. Please write the number on this notepad.

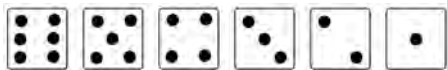
As the magician is explaining the randomness of the number just created, rotate each dice so the top number is on the bottom. Note, by using the “7’s Complement Principle,” the top and bottom numbers will always total 7. It is also important to change the order of a few of the dice. The magician says, “Let’s make your number more random.” This explains away part of the reason for flipping the dice. The magician continues, “I have turned over some of the dice and changed the order.” Arrange the dice in a row and ask the spectator if they want any of the order changed – encourage this.

The magician observes, “We have created a new second number. Please write this number down and add the two numbers together. So now we have a final number that no one could have predicted. When we began, I placed a single die under the cup with a single digit number facing up. Our final task is to take your large number and reduce it to a single digit. Please add all the digits in your number. Do you have a two-digit number? If so, add the two digits of that number. What final, one-digit number do you have?”

The spectator will report the number 6. Lift the cup to reveal the colored die showing the number 6. The eight steps in the routine are listed (**Fig. 1**).

**Fig. 1**

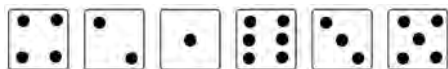
**STEP #1** Present six dice in descending order



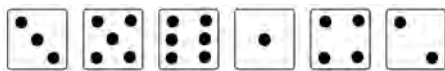
**STEP #2** Under cover, place a colored die prediction under a cup with number 6 on top



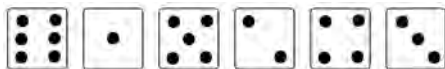
**STEP #3** Spectator rolls the six dice and rearranges the dice order creating a unique number (for example 421,635)



**STEP #4** Magician rotates all the dice – top to bottom (7s complement) and mixes the order



**STEP #5** Spectator also rearranges the dice order creating a second unique number, but does not rotate any dice



**STEP #6** Spectator writes second number on notepad (615,234)

The two numbers are totaled  
 $(412,635 + 615,243 = 1,036,878)$

**STEP #7** 1,036,878 is reduced to a single digit

The digits 1,038,878 are totaled  
 $1+0+3+6+8+7+8=33 \quad 3+3=6$

**STEP #8** The cup is lifted to reveal the colored die prediction as a match

## Chips Ahoy

**EFFECT:** Thirty multicolored and numbered poker chips are displayed and tossed in a cloth bag. The magician places a prediction chip face down. A spectator or spectators randomly draw six poker chips from the bag and create a six-digit number. The chips are turned over to reveal other numbers and again the spectators create a second five-digit number. The numbers are added and the total is reduced to a single digit. That number matches the magician’s prediction chip.

**METHOD:** This is another adaptation that uses “The Rearranged Dice Principle” by Thomas Henry. Like dice, poker chips have an inherent tactile appeal. Magicians and some lay people are aware that the opposite sides of a dice will add to 7. Dice can raise suspicions, while numbered poker chips better disguise the method and make it easier for the spectator to create their numbers.

The first number is created by the spectator, who blindly pulls random poker chips

from a bag. It does not matter what color is drawn. The spectator can rearrange the chips to create any multi-digit number. That number is recorded and the chips are turned over, revealing more numbers. These chips can also be arranged in any order and the two sets of numbers added.

**SET-UP:** Purchase a set of multicolored poker chips. There are usually five colors in each hundred-chip set. Using a black Sharpie marker and a white marker (Gelly Roll or similar brand), number each color from 1 to 6. On the reverse side, number the chips such that both sides of each chip sum to 7 (**Fig. 1**).

**Fig. 1**



Side 1 above – is numbered 1 to 6. The reverse side is numbered 6 to 1. Note that both sides of each poker chip adds to 7. Repeat the same numbering for each color group.



**PERFORMANCE:** The performance is like the previous Dice Galore routine. Follow the same basic steps, adjusting the pattern from dice to poker chips. To add more deception, number a poker chip with only one side showing the number 6. At the beginning of the routine, palm this chip, announce that you are going to reach into the bag, then extract the one-sided number 6 chip and place it face down on a tabletop as your hidden prediction.

The magician begins, “I have in this bag a collection of multicolored numbered poker chips. These are from my monthly poker night with the boys. They have no real value and are numbered so we can keep track of our wins and losses.”

Grab a large handful of chips and drop these waterfall-style back into the bag. Extract some chips, one at a time, showing only one side. Try to show samples of most of the colors and numbers. Show some of the num-

ber 2 and 6 chips. For some of the chips, do not show the number but pretend to read 8 and 9. This provides the illusion of a large selection of numbered chips. The audience will not notice that of the six chips randomly selected by the spectators, none were 7, 8, or 9.

Have a spectator or multiple spectators blindly select poker chips from the bag. If possible, do not have them look at the reverse side. After the six chips have been selected, set the bag aside. Arrange the chips to create the first number. Have the spectators suggest changes to the final order of the chips and agree on a final number. Have one of the spectators record the number. Once recorded, begin mixing the chips and flipping the chips. The spectators will not be able to keep track of the reverse numbers. Have the spectators decide on a final order for this second and last number. Have the spectators add the digits in the final number and reduce the number to a single-digit number. The spectators will report the number 6. Return all the chips to the bag and again, set the bag aside to focus on the prediction chip on the table.

Recap the steps of the demonstration and reveal the matching number 6 on the poker chip. Conclude with, “Number 6, a perfect match. As they say at my monthly poker game, chips ahoy matey – the booty is mine.” Grab the bag of chips and conclude.

## Dr. Seuss

### Flash Card Prediction

**EFFECT:** Dr. Seuss Number Flash Cards are displayed along with a Dr. Seuss-style poem for Spectator 1 to read. Spectator 2 follows the poem’s instructions: shuffles the cards, cuts the deck to select a card, memorizes the number, and places the card face down on a table. Spectator 2 cuts a card for the magician which is also placed facedown. Spectator 2 is instructed to perform some simple calculations resulting in a two-digit number (between 10 and 100). The cards of the spectator and magician are turned over to reveal a match of the spectator’s secret number.

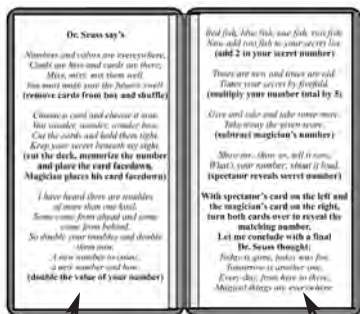


**SET-UP:** Purchase two decks of Dr. Seuss Number Flash Cards. These can be obtained at Dollar Tree or teacher supply stores. Alternatively, the cards are available on *Amazon.com*. There are usually thirty-six cards in each deck with numbers ranging from 1-20. Using both decks, make up a set

of thirty-six (or whatever) cards using only the cards numbered 1 to 9.

Print on copy paper, then cut and paste the poem on two extra flash cards (**Fig. 1**). Using clear tape as a hinge, join the cards. One spectator will use this prop to provide a second spectator their instructions.

**Fig. 1**



### Dr. Seuss say's

*Numbers and colors are everywhere,  
Cards are here and cards are there,  
Mixy, mixy, mix them well.  
You must make sure the futures swell.*  
**(remove cards from box and shuffle)**

*Choose a card and choose it now,  
You wonder, wonder, wonder how,  
Cut the cards and hold them tight,  
Keep your secret beneath my sight.*  
**(cut the deck, memorize the number  
and place the card facedown.  
Magician places his card facedown)**

*I have heard there are troubles  
of more than one kind,  
Some come from ahead and some  
come from behind.  
So double your troubles and double  
them now,  
A new number to count,  
a new number and how.*  
**(double the value of your number)**

LEFT PANEL

*Red fish, blue fish, one fish, two fish,  
Now add two fish to your secret list.*  
**(add 2 to your secret number)**

*Times are new and times are old,  
Times your secret by fivefold.*  
**(multiply your number total by 5)**

*Give and take and take some more,  
Take away the given score.*  
**(subtract magician's number)**

*Show me, show us, tell it now,  
What's your number; shout it loud.*  
**(spectator reveals secret number)**

**With spectator's card on the left and  
the magician's card on the right,  
turn both cards over to reveal the  
matching number.**

**Let me conclude with a final  
Dr. Seuss thought:**

*Today is gone, today was fun.  
Tomorrow is another one,  
Every day, from here to there,  
Magical things are everywhere.*

RIGHT PANEL

**PERFORMANCE:** This is a nice addition to the previous Calculatus Eliminator routine in this Parade, or it can be performed as a separate effect. It does not use the re-arranged dice principle but is essentially a self-working routine that can be done in the hands of two spectators.

The magician begins:  
 “As Dr. Seuss says:  
 Today is gone. Today was fun.  
 Tomorrow is another one.  
 Every day,  
 From here to there,  
 Magical things are everywhere.”

The magician continues, “Well, here is something magical for tomorrow – today!”

The magician can memorize the above introduction or open the hinged cards/poem and read the last paragraph. Select two spectators. Give the poem to Spectator 1 and hand the box of flash cards to Spectator 2. Have Spectator 1 read the steps (Fig. 1) providing Spectator 2 with their instructions in Dr. Seuss-style lingo.

Have Spectator 2 remove the flash cards from the box, examine the cards face up, and then mix the cards face down. Have Spectator 2 cut the deck to select their card. They memorize their number and place the card face down. You can have Spectator 2 also cut your card, showing it only to you and placing your card face down to the right of their card. Remember the number on your card. Subtract that number from 10. This is the number you will give to Spectator 2 to

subtract from their last total. This will result in the matching number.

For the final reveal, have Spectator 2 announce their secret number. Turn over the face-down cards to reveal the matching prediction (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2 (EXAMPLE)



**STEP #1**  
**(Spectator's card)**  
 Double the number  
 $7 \times 2 = 14$

**STEP #2**  
 Add 2  
 $14 + 2 = 16$

**STEP #3**  
 Multiply by 5  
 $16 \times 5 = 80$

**STEP #4**  
**(Magician's card)**  
 Secretly subtract  
 3 from  $10 - 7$

**STEP #5**  
 Have the spectator  
 subtract 7 from their  
 large number  
 $80 - 7 = 73$

**STEP #6**  
 Spectator reveals  
 their number (73).  
 Spectator and magician  
 turn over both cards  
 to reveal the match

## Channeling Houdini

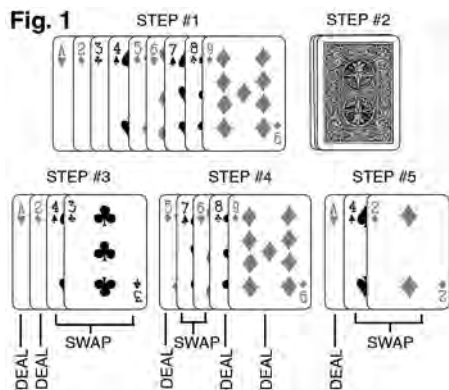
**EFFECT:** This routine is suitable for close-up, parlor, and small stage audiences. Channeling the spirit of escape artist Harry Houdini, this effect uses nine playing cards, ace through nine. Through a series of mixing procedures chosen by the spectator, the cards provide the numbers that open three combination padlocks held by spectators.

**METHOD:** This routine combines two methods. The false dealing method (Curry

Swindle or the Swindle Switch) was created by the late Paul Curry in his book *Paul Curry Presents - A Swindle of Sorts*, (unknown publisher) 1974, p. 7.

This is a very convincing mixing process used in several popular card routines. The card order effect was created by “stand-up mathematician” and comedian Matt Parker of STEM Maths Magic. Others have used this card order and mixing process under various names.

**SET-UP:** Use the ace through nine of a mixture of suits (**Fig. 1**). While cards in the same suit can be used, this suggested mixture of suits provides a more convincing visual presentation for the final reveal. Arrange the cards in ascending order from ace (which is valued at 1) to Nine of Diamonds.



**STEP #1** Fan and display cards.

**STEP #2** Turn packet face down.

**STEP #3** Deal face-up 2 cards and swap 2 cards. Pause to confirm process.

**STEP #4** Deal 1, swap 2, deal 1, deal 1, pick up cards and turn packet face down.

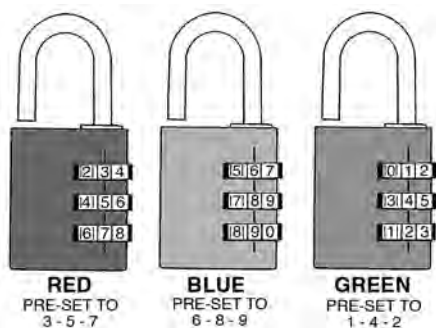
**STEP #5** Deal 1, swap 2. Place the 3 cards face down on bottom of packet. Set-up complete.

The cards are now in the reversed order (3C-5D-7S 6H-8C-9D. 1H-4S-2D) and facedown deal/swap movements by the spectators will not disrupt the order.

**STEP #6** With the packet face-down, deal or swap the cards as instructed by the spectators. Go through the packet 4-5 times until the spectators are satisfied that the cards are thoroughly mixed.

**STEP #7** Reveal – peek at the bottom card. If the 2D, reveal from the top of the packet. If the 3C, turn packet face-up and reveal from the top of the face-up packet. Set the cards in sets of three.

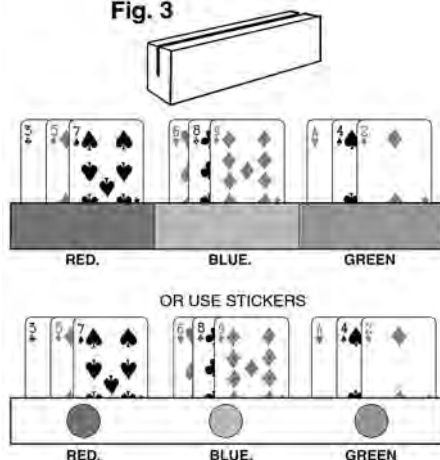
Purchase three different-colored three-number combination padlocks (**Fig. 2**). These usually come in three or four multi-colored sets for \$20 to \$25. Pre-set the padlocks to open as follows:



**Fig. 2**

Make out of wood or purchase dinner table card holders (**Fig. 3**) for the reveal. Color these to match the color of the associated padlock.

**Fig. 3**



**PERFORMANCE:** The magician begins, “The famous Harry Houdini was the world’s greatest escape artist. Reportedly, he trained as a locksmith, so maybe he was able to pick locks. He could escape from jail cells, straightjackets, handcuffs while underwater or hanging upside down – it did not matter. There seemed to be no type of restraint that could hold him.”

The magician continues, “I would like to try a Houdini-like demonstration using combination padlocks and some playing cards. History is not clear, but it seems that Houdini never escaped from combination locks. So, we will see what we can do.” Invite three spectators and give each a different-colored



combination padlock. The magician continues, "You each have a combination padlock. Please spin the combinations and make sure the shackle is secured. Please hold onto these locks and make sure that no one, especially me, comes near the padlocks."

The magician says, "I have nine playing cards: the Ace of Hearts through the Nine of Diamonds." Show the card fan to the audience, close the fan, and turn the packet face down (**Fig. 1, Step 1**). You can even count the cards face up while showing the audience. The magician says, "With your help, we are going to mix these cards so that you are satisfied they are in absolute random order. Let me demonstrate."

It is during the demonstration phase when all the "dirty work" is done (**Fig. 1, Steps 2 and 3**). Hold the packet in the palm of your hand with the cards face down. The ace will be on top. You tell the spectator they will be able to decide if they want the card "Dealt" or "Swapped." Here, "Dealt" means one card is placed face down. For demonstration purposes, deal the first two cards (Ace of Hearts and Two of Diamonds) face up. Next, demonstrate how a "Swap" is done. Slide the third card to the other hand, place the fourth card on top of the third card, and flip both cards face up. Showing will be AH, 2D, 4S, and 3C, all face up. Pause for a moment and say, "So you see what I mean. This changes the order of the cards." Note: When the cards are dealt face up, the swapping movement changes the order. But, when the cards are dealt and swapped face down, the order is unchanged, no matter how many times the cards are swapped. This is the "Curry Swindle Switch."

Next, deal one card, then swap two cards, deal one card, and deal the last card in the packet. Pick up the packet, turn it face down, and say, "Do you understand?" (**Fig. 1, Step 4**)

The magician says, "One final demonstration." Deal face up the Ace of Hearts and swap the next two cards. Pick-up these three cards, flip the cards facedown and place on

the bottom of the packet. The set-up is done before the spectators even believe the routine has begun (**Fig. 1, Step 5**). The randomly mixed cards will be in the final reveal order: 3C-5D-7S-6H-8C-9D-1H-4S-2D.

The set-up is complete and all that follows is for show. The magician says to the three spectators, "Now that you understand the process, let's begin." Hold the packet face down in the palm of your hand. All the cards will now be "Dealt" or "Swapped" face down, as called by the spectators. You can rotate between each spectator. The balance of the routine is self-working. The spectators can have you deal or swap the cards in any order, as many times as they like. Once you have dealt through the packet, you can repeat this four or five more times until your spectators are convinced the cards are thoroughly mixed.

Sounding exhausted, the magician says, "So, are you now convinced the cards are thoroughly mixed? Yes, great." It will depend how many times the packet was mixed. An even number of mixes will position the Three of Clubs on top and the Two of Diamonds on the bottom. An odd number will produce the reverse. As you pick up the packet, casually peek at the bottom card. If it is a Three of Clubs, turn the packet face up and deal, displaying the cards. If the bottom card is the Two of Diamonds, hold the packet face down and deal the cards face up, beginning with the Three of Clubs.

Place the first three cards in the red card holder, the next three cards in the blue holder, and the final three cards in the green holder (**Fig. 3**). The magician says, "While the great Harry Houdini may have used lock picks to open his locks, we are going to try it with only a few playing cards. Would each spectator please use the three numbers of the cards in the color-matching holders to see if these numbers will open your padlocks? Enter the combination numbers with the first number on the card closest to the top of the lock. Success, free at last. I would like to see Harry Houdini do this!"

## Hey, Good Lookin'

**EFFECT:** The magician holds a business-size card hidden in the palm of the hand. The magician tells a willing participant they're about to be shown some numbers and without any hesitation, they are to immediately shout aloud their selected number. Four single-digit numbers are displayed on the face of the business card. Once the participant shouts their number, the magician turns over the card, displaying their declared number and surprisingly proclaiming that "all good-looking people" select that number.

**METHOD:** I am not aware of the origin of this effect, but it is something that I carry in my wallet to this day. It is part of my "everyday carry," as many magicians say, because it is just a business-size card. The method uses a psychological number force. Don't ask me why or how it works, but it does – most of the time. The psychological force works because most people will select the number 7 if asked to name a number between 1 and 10, or the number 3 or 4 in a range from 1 to 5.

When presented with a choice of the four numbers 1 – 2 – 3 – 4, approximately 75 percent (my estimate) of people will pick the number 3. In my experience, the percentage is even higher among women. For some unexplained reason, women seem to search for a middle number (which is not offered) and land on the number next to the middle. Men who do not select 3 will often choose the outlier numbers 1 or 4. But the majority of people will usually select the number 3.

The propensity to select the number 3 may also relate to the flowing shape of the number itself, whereas the number 4 has sharp angles. The number 3 also has a rhythmic count, as in the time signature of a waltz. Finally, but of course not conclusively, we experience the number three as a set of numbers in pop culture. Examples include Three Blind Mice; the Three Stooges; the Three Musketeers; red, white, and blue; traffic signals; on your mark, get ready, go; three outs in baseball; gold, silver, and bronze medals at the Olympic Games, etc. While the num-

bers 2 and 4 also have associations, the number 3 seems to stand apart. In addition, the printed number 3 appears larger on the business card.

You will need to have a backup plan in case the number 3 is not selected. Try to perform this with more than one person. If the first person does not pick the number 3, you can quickly switch to a second or third person. The magician can say, "You and you are also very good looking, but apparently, she/he is gorgeous or handsome. Must be the blond hair or the mustache."

Alternatively, you can use 1 to 4 as a scale. If they pick the number 1 or 2, you can say, "You underestimate yourself. You are much better looking than that. You are at least a 3." If they select 4, you can say that the number 4 is reserved for George Clooney or Julia Roberts." Substitute other names as desired.

Another "out" I will use if needed is to perform a backhand card palm, making the card disappear and reappear while counting their selected number, then pocketing the card without showing the reverse side.

**SET-UP:** On the front and back of the card, print on card stock the text as shown (Fig. 1).

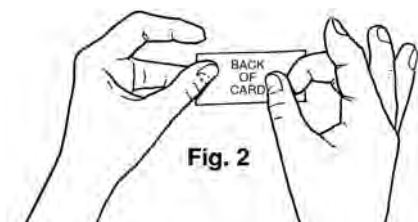
Fig. 1



A business-size card (3.5 x 2 inches) works best. These can also be printed using Avery 8371 or similar blank business card

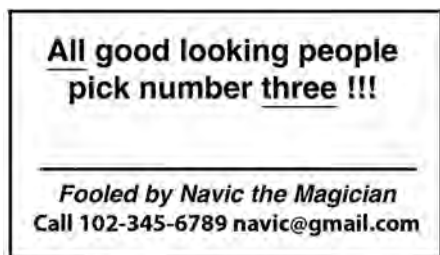
sheets. The Candara font is a good choice for the text. It is a humanist sans-serif font designed by Gary Munch and commissioned by Microsoft. Similar fonts will also work. If desired, the card can be laminated.

**PERFORMANCE:** The performance is very quick. It is one I often start with when someone says to me, “I understand you do magic, show us something.” Hold the card hidden in the palm of the hand with the number side against your palm and the back of your hand facing the audience. The magician says, “In a moment I am going to show you some single-digit numbers. The moment you hear the card snap, you are to immediately shout aloud your selected number. Do not hesitate. Understand?” Make sure they understand and are ready to proceed. Make a loud snapping sound by flicking your finger on the back of the card (**Fig. 2**). You can also say, “Pick a number now” in a loud, hurried voice. Do this while holding the card at eye level to the participant. The snapping noise triggers the spectator to speak.



**Fig. 2**

If they select three, pause a beat or two, reverse the card, and hand it to the spectator. The magician can conclude several ways, such as by saying, “I’m just as surprised as you are!” As an option, one can add their contact information to the bottom of the card and let the spectator keep the card (**Fig. 3**).



**Fig. 3**

## Death Wish

My “death wish” is that I wish I would not die! This rather dark routine ends on a slightly positive note.

**EFFECT:** A set of thirteen white, domino-style tiles are arranged face down, circling a round-shaped mirror marked with a large number 13. The thirteen leading causes of accidental death are printed on the face-down sides of the tiles. A spectator selects a number between 1 and 13, then moves clockwise around the mirror, eliminating the tiles that name the possible cause of an accidental death. The final thirteenth tile is revealed as the most likely cause of the spectator’s accidental death. To test the correct elimination of the causes of death, a mirror reflects the words, showing an upside-down and jumbled lettering, thereby confirming the other twelve causes were properly eliminated. The only cause of accidental death is the final thirteenth tile. When reflected, this tile clearly shows the text of the reflected word. Creepy, yes. The good news is that the spectator can now take cautionary steps to avoid their premature demise.

**METHOD:** This is my take on Jonathan Friedman’s “CHICO’s Curse” that appeared in *GENII – The Conjuror’s Magazine*, October 2023, p. 72. Instead of six death options written on torn pieces of paper, my adaptation uses thirteen unlucky causes printed on white plastic domino tiles, a round mirror, and an easier but more convincing force method. The reveal uses Friedman’s use of the word “CHOKED,” which when reflected in a mirror does not show the text upside down and reversed. This optical phenomenon shows all the other words jumbled.

The force method used in this routine appeared in my two previous *One-Man Parades* (Vol. 103 No. 2, February 2023, p. 74; Vol. 103 No. 11, November 2023, p. 84). The very clever prime number force, called the Sands Principle, first appeared in *Pallbearers Review* Vol. 10 Number 10, August 1975, and was called “Lucky Thirteen” by George Sands.



I usually use prime number 7, but this routine effectively uses the prime number 13. The number 13 is associated with bad luck and evil in Western culture and aligns well with the patter in this routine. Otherwise, just know that if you begin counting on the domino tile next to the forced tile, by any number between 1 and 13, then repeat the process using the same number, you will eliminate every tile except the forced one. It works every time. Try it with 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12.

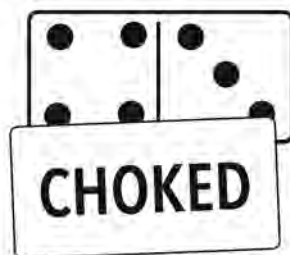
**SET-UP:** You will need two small round mirrors: either the kind used as a base to display figurines, or a large mirror coaster (approximately 5 to 6 inches). These are available at dollar stores and hobby outlets. Glue the mirrors back to back. Using a black Sharpie marker, print the word “CHOKED” in large block letters. On the other side, use a black dry-erase marker (since this will be erased during the performance) to print a large number 13.

You will also need thirteen tiles. I use white tiles from a set of plastic dominos (1 x 2 inches), print the words on white card stock and glue the 13 accidental causes of death on the dotted side of the domino pieces (**Fig. 1**). Other objects that can display the printed labels can be substituted. Using a black dry-erase, whiteboard style marker, write in large print the number 13 on both sides of the mirrors.

**PERFORMANCE:** Select a willing participant. The magician says, “I’m curious, do you have a death wish? I think we’ve all thought about our eventual demise. My wish is that I never die! That’s my death wish. Filmmaker, actor, and comedian Woody Allen said he’s not afraid to die, he just doesn’t want to be there when it happens. Cigar-smoking comedian and actor George Burns said he hoped to die in bed, shot by a jealous husband.”

The magician continues, “The fact of life is that we will all eventually die. Someone said there are only two things certain in life. The first is death. Do you know what the second one is?” Wait for someone to say taxes. The magician answers, “No, I am

pretty sure if you have a good tax accountant you can avoid paying taxes. The second certain thing in life must be that every magician you meet will want to show you a card trick!”



**Fig. 1**

Using white card stock, print, cut, and paste the thirteen causes of accidental death on domino tiles or similar objects.

1. **BURNED**
2. **BITTEN**
3. **CHOKED**
4. **CRUSHED**
5. **DROWNED**
6. **EXPLOSION**
7. **FELL**
8. **FROZE**
9. **IMPALED**
10. **LIGHTNING**
11. **OVERDOSE**
12. **POISONED**
13. **SHOT**

The magician says, “I suppose the real question is how and when. Will I die of natural causes, or will I die a horrible, accidental death? Surprisingly, only 5 to 7 percent of deaths are accidental. So, that’s good news, I guess. Another fact is that statistics show there are thirteen main types of accidental death. Thirteen ... I suppose this is also an accident!”

The magician demonstrates, “I have a round mirror, not surprisingly, with the number 13 written in black ink. In many rituals and ceremonies, there is symbolism in the circle, a sacred geometry that is both infinite and balanced. Some ritualist ceremonies surround ponds or bodies of water capturing reflections. Of course, we are all familiar with the stories of mirrors unable to capture the

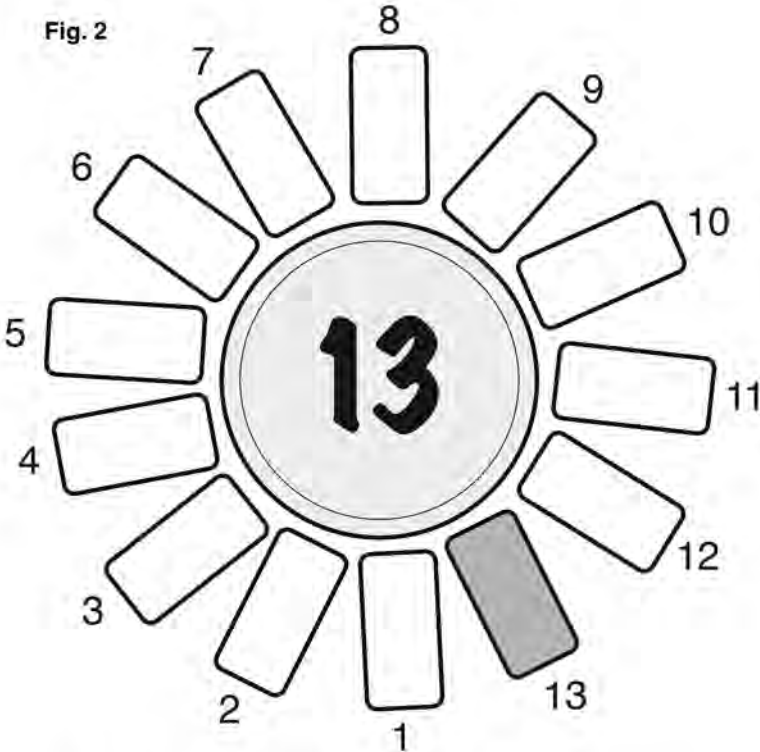
reflections of vampires. Some believe mirrors are a portal to the afterlife. Personally, I look in a mirror every day and recite, ‘Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who’s the greatest magician of them all?’ But that’s just me.”

The magician continues, “Some people believe in fate or destiny. Many say it’s God’s will. Others believe one’s fortune is written in the stars. Or *que sera, sera* – ‘what will be, will be.’ For the purpose of this demonstration, let’s just refer to these things as *The Spirits*.”

The magician explains, “I have thirteen white tiles which we will place around the mirror.” You can have these tiles face down in a shallow glass bowl. Make sure you can identify the forced tile, “CHOKED.” I poke

a few pin holes in the bottom of the label before gluing it. It creates a rough or braille-like finish to the touch. Poke the holes into the black lettering and use a black marker to re-darken the pin holes, or place some double-sided transparent tape on the tile. Use any other method that cannot be detected. Place any of the twelve tiles at the bottom of the circle (the twelve o’clock position from the spectator’s view). To your right, place the forced tile and then randomly complete the arrangement (**Fig. 2**).

The magician says, “On the reverse side of each tile is a different cause of various accidental deaths. I would like you to select a number between 1 and 13 (2 to 12). Are you sure that’s the number you want? You can



**TILE 13** – This is the force tile “CHOKED.”

**TILE 1** – Begin counting for the elimination.

13 is written on the mirror in whiteboard marker and erased before the elimination counting.

change your mind if you like. After all, it's only your fate that hangs in the balance. You have decided on the number 8 [for example]."

The magician says, "Let's erase that spooky number 13 from the mirror." Go directly to tile 1 and say, "Let's start at the top of the clock – 'high noon' as they say in Western movies – and move clockwise." Note, this depends on the view of your spectators.

In this example, move 8 tiles (or whatever number the spectator selects), beginning on tile 1. You will land on tile 8. Turn the tile face up and place it in the center of the mirror. Describe the nature of this awful accidental death by giving some examples. Create your own patter. One could say, "But the good news is that The Spirits have told us that if you were to die prematurely of an accidental death, this would not be how you would leave this earth. Do you feel better now? But let's confirm this won't be your cause of death."

Turn the tile on its side, with the lettering facing the audience. The lettering will be reflected in the mirror backwards and upside down. It will appear jumbled. You can tell the audience that this reflection is what we would expect, so we can eliminate this cause of death.

Return the tile, face up, to the original position around the mirror. Begin counting on the next tile (tile 9) and move 8 more tiles (in this example) to land on tile 3. Repeat this for the remaining tiles until you get to the last tile.

The magician says, "There is only one tile remaining and unfortunately, it may be the likely cause of your untimely demise. Place the last tile face up in the center of the mirror. The Spirits tell us that you will likely die from being choked. Maybe while skiing, your scarf will get caught in a ski lift as you are being towed up the mountain. Or maybe you will choke on a piece of steak too large to swallow. But let's double check and examine the lettering on this cause of death."

Place this final tile on its side with the lettering facing the audience. This is the only tile in which the lettering ("CHOKED") will appear readable. The magician says, "Oh, no

... the cause of death is readable by The Spirits. But do not be forlorn. At least you know how you might meet your maker. Now, I need to remind you that there's only a 5 to 7 percent chance you will have an accidental death. Now that you know this could be your likely cause of an early demise, you can be proactive. I would avoid ski hills and steak houses. After all, they say red meat isn't good for you. You might even consider becoming a vegetarian! Good luck."

## It's Five O'Clock Somewhere

The late Jimmy Buffett and country singer Alan Jackson sang, "I'm getting' paid by the hour, older by the minute / It's only half-past twelve but I don't care / It's five o'clock somewhere." This is a fun time-prediction routine that literally "packs flat and plays big."

**EFFECT:** The magician removes from his pocket a square-shaped paper "pocket watch." The pocket watch is unfolded to reveal the face of a blue analog clock, absent the hour and minute hands. Beginning at twelve o'clock, a spectator secretly thinks of any hour and silently spells the number as they move around the face of the clock. After a third move, the spectator lands on a final and unknown hour. For the minute hand, the spectator proceeds again by the number of letters in the final selected hour. This is done twice to determine the minutes. Pretending to use the Bluetooth capability of the blue pocket watch and the magician's smartphone, the two devices are paired or synced – in performance. The magician's cell phone reveals 1:48, which matches the spectator's secret time.

**METHOD and SET-UP:** This time prediction effect can be performed anywhere by simply drawing an analog clock face on a napkin or a piece of paper. The basic effect appeared in Jim Steinmeyer's first book in his series *Impuzzibilities*, "The One O'Clock Mystery," (Hahne, 2002), p. 12. His routine only predicts the hour. I'm not sure if I'm the only one to have added to this effect, but my routine allows the performer to predict the



exact time, both the hour and minute. The forced time is 1:48.

Prior to the performance, add the digital time image of 1:48 in white lettering, with a black background, to the photo section of your smartphone. Have that photo ready to display (Fig. 1). A sample of the clock artwork is provided in Figure 2. Create your own folding prop by printing an analog clock face image, absent the two hands of the clock, on a piece of 8.5 x 11-inch standard copy paper. Use either light blue paper stock or color the clock face light blue. Print the remaining images on the reverse side. Cut out the images so the size of the pre-fold paper is 7 x 7 inches and fold the paper to create four panels. Folded, the 3.5 x 3.5-inch paper prop will show the two pocket watch images on either side.



Fig. 1

**PERFORMANCE:** The magician opens, “I have a very unique time piece to show you. You don’t see many pocket watches these days. I purchased this one from the estate auction of the late Jimmy Buffett, who always reminded us that ‘It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere.’ It has an analog clock face but in typical Jimmy Buffett care-free style it has no hour or minute hands. The watch is made of super thin screen materials that we are now seeing on newer smartphones. The screen even folds in half – that’s how flexible this new technology is. In fact, you could say its paper thin. The four sections of the pocket watch are actually solar panels, so no batteries are needed. You can also tell by the color of the screen that it offers Bluetooth capability. It is almost unbelievable!”

During the above patter, you remove the paper pocket watch from your pocket, displaying the name “Five O’Clock Pocket Watch.” You also show the other side of the

closed pocket watch confirming that the timepiece is from the “Estate of Jimmy Buffett,” establishing the provenance of this rare timepiece.

Fig. 2



FRONT



BACK

Open to the clock face. After selecting a spectator, the magician says, “Let’s begin at twelve o’clock or, as they say in old Western movies, high noon! Please silently choose any hour on the clock, then count clockwise – because that’s what clocks do – around the clock, moving one space for each letter in the number of your selected hour. For example, if you selected the hour seven, which has five letters, you would begin spelling on the one o’clock hour and spell the word moving five spots, landing on five o’clock,

Jimmy's favorite happy-hour time. Got it? Great. We will do this a total of five times." Demonstrate this by using your finger to move the various spaces on the clock face.

**Step 1:** Selecting the Hour. The magician says, "Remember that this timepiece is called the Five O'Clock Pocket Watch and we will spell the words of various hours five times. After five times, I think we should be able to discover your secret time – the exact hour and minute. If you're ready, let's begin."

The magician then cautions, "Be careful not to use your finger to point, move your lips, or tip me off with the movement of your eyes. Silently select any hour from one to twelve and spell the number of letters in that selected hour. You have arrived at a random hour that only you know. Do this again using the number of letters in this new hour, again moving clockwise. Because the 'third time's a charm,' let's do this a third time, stopping on a final hour." Note: The spectator will always land on one o'clock, regardless of the hours selected.

**Step 2:** Selecting the Minutes. The magician continues, "Now for the minute hand. Move by spelling the number of letters in your final hour. This will be the first number in the minutes. From this new number, spell and move to the final number for the minutes."

The magician summarizes, "So you will have a one- or two-digit hour number (1-12) and a two-digit number for the exact minutes (1-60). You should have a number like 8:12 or 4:38, for example. Whatever number you have is your 'secret hour and minute' that only you know. There is no way that I or anyone else could know your secret time. Would you agree with this?"

**Step 3:** Smartphone Reveal. The magician says, "Now for the cool part of this demonstration. You may have noticed the face of the pocket watch is blue. That's because it has a Bluetooth feature that allows my smartphone to sync with the pocket watch and discover your secret time. I know, I know – it sounds like something right out of *The Jetsons*."

Prior to the routine, add the image of 1:48 in white lettering with a black background to the photo section of your smartphone. Have that photo ready to display. Place your smartphone under the paper clock, declaring (you could even vocalize a pairing sound) that the Bluetooth devices have paired. Ask the spectator to announce their secret time. Show the picture on your phone, revealing the match.

Finally, fold back the bottom half of the clock face to reveal half of the reverse side, showing the picture of a margarita drink and the image "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere." The magician concludes, "While your secret time was 1:48, I'm sure Jimmy Buffett could find a bar that's open. As he would say, 'If life gives you limes, make margaritas.'"

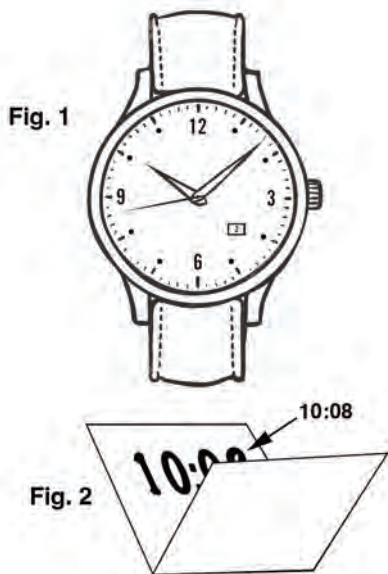
## Watch Out!

**EFFECT:** Using the web browser on a smartphone, a spectator searches for a random image of a wristwatch. In advance, the magician writes a prediction on a piece of paper that is folded and held by another spectator. The magician's prediction matches the exact time shown on the selected wristwatch picture.

**SET-UP and METHOD:** This no set-up, impromptu routine can be performed as a one-on-one close-up effect or for a larger parlour or stage audience. The idea comes from Atlanta-based magician Sean Ridgeway and is shared with his permission. He learned of this idiosyncrasy from a watch enthusiast friend and recognized the magical application.

A little-known peculiarity of wristwatch marketers is that most promotional pictures display wristwatches showing the time of 10:08 (**Fig. 1**). This position displays the hands of the watch in balance and is thought to be the most pleasing presentation. It has all to do with aesthetics. This orientation ensures the brand's logo is at the top of the dial and is not obscured by any date window or sundials. The time could also be set at a symmetrical 8:20. But from a psychological perspective, 8:20 displays the hands face down,

as in a sad face, while 10:08 or 10:10 projects a happy face. Nearly all advertising images found online show sample wristwatches with this time display.



**PERFORMANCE:** The magician says, “I need the help of two spectators, and one must have a smartphone that is connected to allow a search on the World Wide Web.” Addressing the spectator, the magician continues, “I need you to search for the following: ‘The greatest magician in the world.’ Did you find me? No? Just Harry Houdini. Maybe we need to narrow the search to the greatest magician in this room!” This will establish that the spectator’s smartphone is connected to the internet and that they can perform a simple browser search.

The magician says, “Before we do another search I need to ask you a few questions. Please answer the following: Cash or credit card? Hawaii or Las Vegas? Spring or fall? Humming or whistling? Gold or silver? AM or PM? Rolex or Timex? Very, very interesting. I think I have enough to make my prediction.”

If you wish, you can write the questions in advance and check them off when answered. You can add or change the questions to suit your audience. Recap the answers and ask if they wish to change any of their answers. Turn the paper over and then write, in large print, the time 10:08 (**Fig. 2**). Fold the paper a few times so the prediction is not seen. Have the second spectator hold the prediction.

The magician says, “You picked Rolex [for example], so please type in and search for the word ‘wristwatch.’ Do you see some pictures of analog-style wristwatches? You also chose gold. Do you see a gold Rolex? Please select the image, then open the image or make it larger. Now hold your smartphone face down.”

The magician says, “To recap, I asked you some screening questions. Before you searched the internet for pictures of wristwatches, I wrote down a prediction, folded the piece of paper, and handed it to this spectator to hold. I have not touched the prediction. Do we all agree with my recap of events?”

The magician says to the spectator holding the prediction, “Please open the paper and read the time that I wrote.” The magician says to the spectator with the smartphone, “Please turn over your smartphone and tell or show us the time on the picture of the wristwatch you selected. A perfect match.”

Depending on the actual image selected, the spectator may see or say 10:10 or 10:09. Usually when the prediction is read as 10:08 by the one spectator, the other spectator will just show the image or agree. If they say a number close to 10:08 you can make light of the difference by saying “Your watch must be slow or fast.”

Send comments and appreciations to:

**Garnet Garven**

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Marlo's seminal work, *Marlo in Spades*, better known as *The Spades Book*, was published in 1947. That was seventy-eight years ago. I knew that without doing any math since I was born in 1947. The book is in the public domain and can be found on [www.library.com](http://www.library.com), [www.trickshop.com](http://www.trickshop.com), and other sites for just a few dollars. It's a worthwhile investment. By the way, [www.trickshop.com](http://www.trickshop.com) has a number of free PDF downloads. The price is right!

This month's trick uses a technique from *The Spades Book* to learn the identities of two selections in a very sneaky manner. The technique is worth the price of admission. I have added some ideas on how you might use the information that is gained through this diabolical concept. Marlo called this idea "Mar Locato."

## Mar Locato Revisited

**EFFECT:** Each of two spectators select a card and lose it in the deck in a very fair manner. The magician barely touches the deck, yet knows the identities of both selections! This knowledge, and the positions of the selections in the deck, lead to some interesting revelations.

**SET-UP:** You'll need to have a bottom-cutting Breather\* (aka a reverse breather) in the deck. If you are unfamiliar with the concept of a "breather crimp," go to [www.mallofmagic.com/themoves](http://www.mallofmagic.com/themoves), where you will find a video tutorial on this and on many other moves used in card magic. Moves tagged with \* have video tutorials at the site. In this case, any crimp that allows you to cut the crimped card to the bottom will do.

**PROCEDURE:** The spectator may shuffle the deck since you'll be able to cut the breather to the bottom. I like edge-marking the crimped card so I can see where it is in the deck. When cutting the breather to the bottom, it's best if the card is near the center when you cut.

To begin, position the breather near the center of the deck. You will now demon-

strate what the spectator is to do. Say, "I want you to cut the deck near the center, like this." Cut at the breather and place the upper portion to the right of the tabled portion as in **Figure 1**. Point to packet A and say, "This is the card I cut to. After you cut, you'll look at the face of the card." Here you pick up the top card of packet A and mime looking at the face. But this time, don't tilt the card enough to actually see the face. Say, "Then place the card here," as you place the card on top of packet B. Now say, "Finally, place all these cards onto your selection." Suiting action to words, place packet A on packet B. Your demonstration has positioned the breather crimp to the bottom of the deck. This will now be exploited.



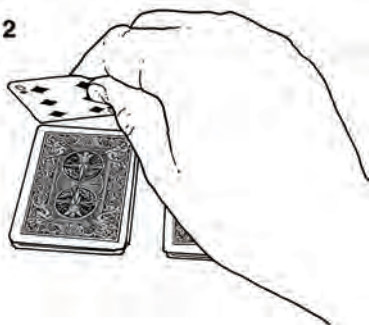
Fig. 1



Turn about ninety degrees so you can still see the deck with your peripheral vision. Clearly you can't see any detail, like a marked card. But you can monitor that the spectator is following your directions. Tell her to cut the deck like you did and look at the card she cut to. She is then to place the card onto the packet B, and finally place packet A on top, as you demonstrated. The breather is now on top of her selection.

Turn around and look at a second spectator. You will now quickly recap by saying, "Mary, you'll do the same. You'll cut the deck, look at the card you cut to, place it here, and then cover it up with these cards." Again, suiting action to words, cut at the breather and lift the top card of packet A. This is spectator 1's card! This time, tilt the card enough to see its identity (**Fig. 2**). Drop it onto packet B and then place the cards remaining at A on top. Perform these steps as you are verbally reestablishing the procedure.

**Fig. 2**



**STATUS CHECK:** You now know the identity of spectator 1's card. Its location is unknown. However, the process has repositioned the breather on the bottom of the deck.

When spectator 2 follows the procedure, she will end by putting the breather on top of her selection. She is now free to cut the deck as many times as she wishes before you turn around. This is the exact method of the original "Mar Locato" from the *Spades* book. Marlo suggests you cut the breather to the bottom, which positions the second selection on top. He says to then peek the top card and hand the deck to a spectator for

shuffling. Ed doesn't specify how to peek the top card. A Bubble Peek\* would work well here. As an alternative, you could reuse the procedure that allowed you to learn the identity of the first selection as you revisit what happened. Then you would know the identities of both selections. Armed with this knowledge, Marlo says to just read the minds of the two spectators. The largely "hands off" procedure makes it seem impossible that you could have this information, making the revelations strong.

**CHALLENGE:** I'd recommend *not* trying to peek the second selection and end by reading both minds as Marlo suggests. There are so many other ways to go here because you have control of the second selection. I'd recommend reading the first spectator's mind and then using the fact that you can cut to the second selection at will to then produce it in an interesting way. The challenge is to come up with your own method.

Here are a few ideas: If the breather is near center, you can impress the spectators by simply cutting selection 2 to the top. More impressive would be to ask the spectator to cut the deck and hope that she hits the breather. This happens about ninety percent of the time. A peek of the bottom card will tell you if she hit the breather. Pit Hartling's "Finger Flicker" is quite an impressive way to end. Any flashy production (e.g., Forton Pop Out Move, Benzais Spin Out Production) is a great way to conclude the effect. There are books on card revelations. Just find a production you like and end with an impressive revelation.

In the remaining space, we will first explore a handling variation that will put the two selections together under the breather. I will then offer some ways to end the trick from that configuration.

**VARIATION:** Proceed with spectator 1 as described above. When she finishes her mission, her selection will be in the center of the deck with the breather on top of it. Cut at the breather as in the original method, creating packets A and B. Her selection will be the top card of packet A. This time you'll handle things differently.

Look at the second spectator and say, "You will do as she just did." Tap the top card of packet A as you continue, "You'll look at this card, put it here (packet B) and then cover it with these cards (packet A)." Place packet A onto packet B. This time you didn't pick up the top card of packet A and transfer it to packet B. You simply recapped what spectator 2 is supposed to do without actually doing it. No one will see this as a discrepancy.

When spectator 2 has finished, you won't know either selection. However, both selections are together with the breather crimp above them. You can cut them to the top at any time. So, in this case, you wouldn't do any mindreading unless you do some peeking. But this time new options are open. You could cut the selections to the top and then double cut one of them to the bottom. Now a Business Card Prophecy\* move would allow a spectator to find both selections at the same time.

You could cut the selections to the top and perform a Double Turnover\* showing selection 1. You'd then turn the double down and place the top card (selection 2) on the table, face down. Now you'd contrive to get the top card reversed near center and then spread the deck face up. Spectators will assume that the reversed card is the second selection. They will be amazed to find that it's actually

selection 1! They'll flip over the tabled card to reveal the surprise transposition.

Faro shufflers could determine which card would end up between the selections after a Faro shuffle and then openly reverse the card. A single Faro would put the reversed card between the two selections. Be creative and find a strong magical ending to this routine.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** I'm running a little late with my column this month. It's already January 20 – coincidentally, my seventy-eighth birthday. As I write these final thoughts, I realize breathing some new life into Mar Locato, an effect from a booklet written by Ed Marlo in 1947, is basically an "exhumation."

The word strikes a chord because "Exhumations" was the title of Jon Racherbaumer's long-running column in *Genii*. So let this be my tip of the hat to one of magic's true greats. Jon passed away in October, leaving the magic world immeasurably poorer. He would have turned eighty-five just two days from now, on January 22.

I'll close with the word Jon always used to conclude his columns – a fitting tribute to his spirit and legacy:

*"Onward ..."*

**Mike Powers**

*mpowers@mallofmagic.com*

## **Parade Contributions Wanted From Rings and Individuals**

Sharing your original magic in a Parade builds your reputation, establishes your contributions to the art, and adds value to our journal. Getting published also means your work will be considered for a Linking Ring Award. Names of winners are announced at the Annual I.B.M. Convention and published in *The Linking Ring*. Submit your Parade or individual tricks to the Executive Editor at [editor@magician.org](mailto:editor@magician.org)



# Simple Diversions

ANDREW WOO

## Serial Brainwaves

I suspect and hope that this will be part of your mentalism repertoire. If you decide to pass it by, it will be a crying shame. Why? Simple: it is direct in results, easy to execute, requires absolutely zero arts and crafts, special wallets are not employed, no peek devices, definitely packs small and plays big, and has been, at times, my mentalism closer. By the way, no diagrams are necessary for this effect. Please proceed!

You might be saying to yourself that this sounds incredible. But I warn you the simplicity of the effect will have your head shaking. So, come along for the ride and be the person who really knows it all. All I have to say is that I have been doing this for many years and it does not fail to leave the audience speechless. Read all the way through to see the reason why it is so darn effective!

**EFFECT:** At the beginning of the show, the magician borrows a currency bill from a willing spectator and asks them to fold it, without either peeking. It is placed into a manila envelope and sealed. The manila envelope is returned to the spectator to be placed into his wallet for safekeeping until it is later requested.

At the end of the show, the spectator is asked to tear open the manila envelope and focus on the serial numbers. You display a blank pad, and you write the numbers that come to mind. Once completed, the spectator is to call out the serial numbers and miraculously, it matches what the magician has just written.

**PREPARATION:** You will require a Sharpie marker, a pad of blank paper, a manila envelope, and a currency bill. Mem-

orize or discreetly jot down the serial number and make it easily accessible. As this is performed in a parlour setting, a slip of paper rests on the performance magic table with the serial number easily visible. Place the bill deep into the manila envelope and close the flap. Place the envelope into the upper jacket's inner pocket. Clip the Sharpie marker to the same pocket. That is it. Be prepared to amaze.

### WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

To begin, ask the spectator to remove and fold the bill into quarters. There is some detail I believe is especially important. Mime the folding that is required. Direct the spectator to hold the bill in the landscape orientation. Fold the short side's left edges over to the right. Next, take the right two edges and fold them back over to the left edges of the folded bill. Ask for the bill.

Retrieve the manila envelope from the jacket inner pocket and situate it across the fingers and a portion of the palm. Fold up the flap so that it is vertically oriented. Mime placing the bill into the manila envelope, but it has surreptitiously slid behind (**Fig. 1**). The flap is moistened and sealed.

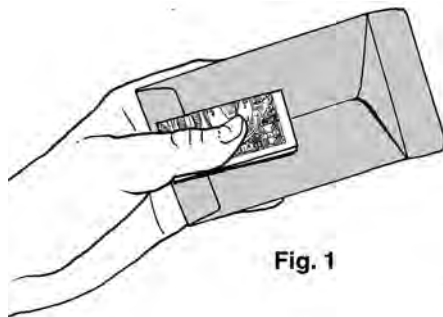


Fig. 1

The left-hand places the manila envelope into the right hand. Simultaneously, the left hand with the bill goes to the inner jacket's pockets, leaves the bill behind, and immediately withdraws the Sharpie marker. Hand the sealed manila envelope and the Sharpie marker to the spectator and have him sign his name across the sealed flap. The magician directs the spectator to place the signed and sealed envelope into his wallet and to have a seat until it is asked for. Of course, retrieve the Sharpie and return it to the inner jacket's pocket.

So here is what is in play. Every part of the process is simple to understand, without fancy sleight of hand to be concerned about. The spectator has full possession of (his) bill at all times. Your hands are shown free from trickery. Since the set-up is at the beginning even before the show gets rolling, no one is the wiser and you are so far ahead of the game.

The way I play it is that I'm finished with the show and undoubtedly, either the spectator or another audience member will pipe up and say something about the money that the spectator is hanging on to. As an afterthought, you agree that this needs to be dealt with.

Pick up the pad and show the audience it is blank. The pad is turned toward the magician and the Sharpie marker is again retrieved. Direct the spectator to remove the manila envelope and hold it up high. You

ask for confirmation that this is the same manila envelope in which the bill was placed. You ask for confirmation that the manila envelope is sealed, and the spectator's signature is still intact. Direct the spectator to tear the flap and remove the bill. Now the spectator is directed to open the bill and read the serial number to himself, over and over as you write down the predicted serial number.

Ask the spectator to call out, in order, the serial number. Simultaneously, turn the pad toward the audience so they can verify for themselves this amazing display.

**TIPS:** Be specific about the type of bill you are seeking. Newer and clean bills, specific denominations to match the forced bill, etc. Do not overly crease the folds. This truly works due to the utilization of extreme time misdirection – the preparation is at the onset of the magician's appearance and the revelation comes after the conclusion of the formal show. The effect presents as an afterthought: maybe the magician has forgotten the initial set-up, implying its lesser degree of importance. Therefore, the audience's guard is resigned.

I love to perform this mental revelation every opportunity that arises. Let me know how it turns out for you. Thanks for reading and we will reconnect next month.

**Andrew Woo**

*andrew@magicalwoo.com*  
*www.magicalwoo.com*

## ***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.





# Auto-magic

MICHAEL BREGGAR

Well, I *did* say there was going to be lots of new and interesting ideas this year! This month Robert Malissa, fabulous magician and magical tour leader over at Philly Magic Tours ([www.phillymagictours.com](http://www.phillymagictours.com)) has come up with a cool idea using coins and business cards that I've seen him use to fool magicians! Lay people haven't a chance when "Philly's Walking Magician" takes them on a tour.

## "30 Seconds from Now"

By Robert Malissa

Your volunteer is given a prediction in the form of a business card, folded in half along the short midline. The prediction is on the unseen side. Over the bent card is a folded cover, slightly bigger than the business card, which we'll call the "Cover Card." On each side of the Cover Card are the words "*30 seconds from now.*" The spectator is also given a penny, a nickel, and a quarter to shake in their hands like a pair of dice. They spill them onto the table. One coin is ultimately selected and then the spectator has a free choice in selecting the heads or tails side up. The Cover Card is lifted off the business card and the prediction matches the selection.

Your audience gulps in stunned silence. You let them keep the business card. They call you later, book you for a gig, and invite you to join them for a sail on their yacht in the Caribbean.

### The Walking Magician Explains

Rob tells me he was recently at a gathering of magicians where everyone showed their favorite version of a three-coin equiv-

oque trick. Someone showed a version with a prediction covered by a card that read, "30 seconds from now." While Rob liked the presentation, the method did not allow the business card to be passed out. He changed the method to allow for business card giveaways, thereby most assuredly "getting gigs and a yacht cruise in the Caribbean." I'm not sure that last bit has actually happened, but the trick is a good one! Here's Rob with the explanation:

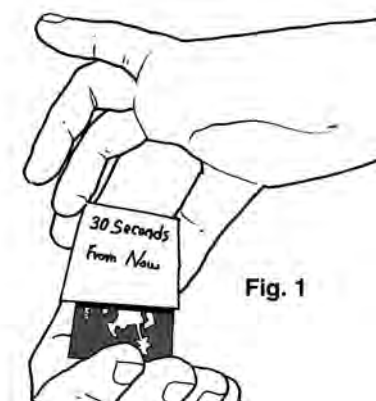
The force of the coin is a standard three-item equivocate (aka "Magician's Choice") process. Let's say we are forcing the nickel. I give the coins to the spectator and ask them to shake the three coins and toss them into my hand. I'll then ask them to pick up any two coins. One of three outcomes will occur. If they leave the nickel behind, you state that they selected the nickel. If they pick up the nickel and one of the other coins, you ask them to hand you one. If they hand you the nickel, you act as if that is the final selection. If they retain the nickel, you act as if that is the final selection. Either way, they end up selecting the nickel. One subtlety is if they pick up two coins, I remove the coin left behind, put it into my pocket, and then say, "Okay, now for your big decision, hand me one coin." Adding that statement will show your intention to get to this final moment was deliberate all along.

I remind the volunteer that the heads-up or heads-down orientation of the coins was *random* due to their shaking of the coins, even though the selection of the nickel was *deliberate*. Next, you give them the choice to keep the original heads-up or heads-down orientation, or flip over the coin. They have a perfectly free choice.

The written prediction utilizes an easy

multiple-out process. Start with a prediction on the business card that nests *under* the Cover Card. On this business card, write “*You will select the NICKEL, and it will be HEADS UP!*” Prepare a second business card in the same manner (folded in half), but this time the writing says, “*You will select the NICKEL, and it will be TAILS UP!*” The Cover Card can be cut from blank index card stock. It should be about one-sixteenth of an inch wider than the folded business card. Fold it midway and write “*30 seconds from now.*”

At the very beginning of the trick, I show the Cover Card and talk about how I have tested my ability to look into the future. I’ve determined I am fairly reliable at seeing thirty seconds into the future. I offer to show them a demonstration. I grasp the Cover Card by the sides as shown in **Figure 1**. Then I show the business card and fold it in half, being certain not to flash the prediction.



Nest the Cover Card on top. Now, ask your subject to hold open their hand, palm up and flat, and place the nested cards on top. Be certain that when you hold the cover card with the business card underneath it, the business card is secure and won’t fall out. It is held in place by the pads of your fingers that extend beneath the Cover Card. They open their opposite hand and you place the three coins on their palm. Direct them to close their “coin hand” and shake the coins like dice, then “roll” them onto the table.

As soon as the coin selection and orientation are completed, pick up the nested cards – squeezing them together – and place them in your left hand for a moment. Your right hand removes the other coins from the table and drops them in the pocket where you have earlier placed the tails-up card. Finally, regrasp the nested cards and place them on the table next to the coin. Go into your final bit of patter and let your helper lift the “*30 seconds ...*” card to reveal the prediction.

Now, all the above is fine and dandy if the force coin is indeed heads up! If it is tails up, you will need to execute a rather simple switcheroo. You’ll recall that after all the decisions have been made, you lifted the nested cards off your helper’s hand and grasped it temporarily in your lightly closed left hand. Ostensibly, you are just neatening things up before the climax. When you return the unselected coins to your pocket, your fingers clip the folded tails-up card. Bending your fingers before removing them from your pocket will safely place the tails-up card in a hidden finger-palm position. Now, your right hand reaches into your closed left hand and extracts the Cover Card only. The Cover Card is casually placed on top of the tails-up card. *In the same motion*, place the right hands’ cards onto the table as your left hand (with the hidden heads-up card) drops to your side (ditch the card at any time, no one will be looking!). Finish the routine as above.

That’s it! Sit back and watch their faces. Don’t talk for a bit and let what happened register. This is when they freak out. Keep waiting until they think, “I need to hang out with this person. I think I’ll invite them to my yacht in the Caribbean.” Mission accomplished.

Send me a postcard.

Robert will happily show you his amazing walking magic anytime. You can reach him directly at [info@phillymagictours.com](mailto:info@phillymagictours.com).

*I’m okay with just an email to [mbreggar-magic@gmail.com](mailto:mbreggar-magic@gmail.com).*

## 4½ CENTS

**BET:** Someone is asked to think of any number, two digits or larger, and add up the digits in their selection. That result is subtracted from their original number with a calculator. They are then instructed to add up all of the digits in their new total until only one digit remains. Once the spectator is concentrating on a single digit you can wager that you'll have half of that amount in pennies in your closed hand. Most would wager against that bet, and I promise they'll be shocked when you show them your prediction!

**SECRET:** This works on what magicians and mathematicians like to call the "Nine Principle." For the most part I don't care for math tricks, but this one seems so fair, and the punchline is so strong, that I find it a must in my repertoire. Ask someone to think of any number of two digits or more and then to add all of those digits together. Whatever the result, ask them to subtract it from their original number. The result will be a multiple of nine. Ask them to continue adding up the digits in their result until they have only one single digit. If they follow your directions, then they will always end up with the number nine.

State that you have predicted their thought-of number by concealing half of their thought-of amount in pennies in your closed fist. The odds seem highly stacked against you. So, when you open your hand to reveal four and a half pennies you are sure to amaze any onlookers.

When doing any math trick like this one you should not trust the spectator to do the math in their head. People make mistakes and especially people in bars. Hand them a pencil and paper to work the computation, or better yet, hand them use their phone calculator.

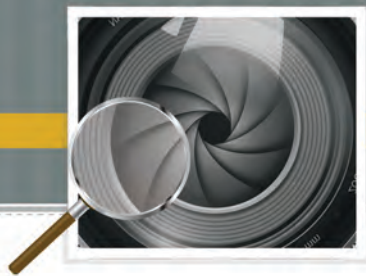
*You can buy half pennies at my website for 25¢ each plus \$5.00 S&H or you can make one by simply using two pairs of pliers to bend a penny back and forth until it breaks in half.*



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

# Hocus in Focus

A CLOSER LOOK AT MAGIC ON THE MARKET



## Books

### All Out Magic

Steve Shufton. Available from Your Favorite Dealer, [www.shufton.com](http://www.shufton.com), or [steve@shufton.com](mailto:steve@shufton.com). Spiral-bound, 41 pages, with gaff cards. \$45.



I have been looking forward to Steve Shufton's release of what I consider to be some of his best mentalism performance effects for several years now. I have admired his innovative perspective on presenting magic in previous reviews of his effects and performance pieces. Shufton pays extraordinary attention to detail across all aspects of an effect's construction. The result is an engaging, entertaining, and ultimately memorable magical experience. *All Out Magic* is a decades-long evolution of some of his finest performance pieces.

Shufton has transformed well-known card premises into a series of no-sleight miracles that mostly happen in the spectator's hands. All twelve effects in *All Out Magic* are based on what Shufton calls the "All Out principle." This ingenious concept involves using cards selected from a standard deck held by the spectator and a single prediction that remains in plain sight on the table throughout the performance. No cards

are switched out, and the performer never goes near the prediction on the table. As a result, the spectator has no way to reverse engineer a solution. This clever approach ensures that the magic feels real and mystifies audiences.

In "X Marks the Spot," a boxed deck of cards is placed on the table, and the spectator is told that one card has an edge marked with an X. The spectator uses a second shuffled deck, which the performer never touches. The spectator deals cards onto the table and stops anywhere they want. The boxed deck is then ribbon-spread on the table, revealing a card marked with an X on the edge, matching the spectator's selected card.

Some effects in *All Out Magic* use gaffed cards or a special envelope for predictions. These come with the book. Shufton explains how to use a regular wallet and a Humber Wallet. He even adapts the principles to use tarot cards, adding an extra layer of intrigue and impossibility to the effects.

One must-try effect is Shufton's signature, never-before-released Birthday Card effect. It is a true reputation maker. I won't tip the effect or method, but this will separate you from other magicians and mentalists competing for your market share.

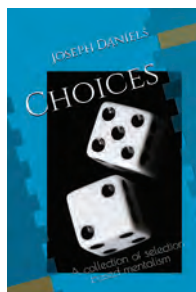
As I wrote about his work in other reviews, Shufton doesn't just teach you several great tricks. He breaks down the thinking, psychology, and audience management techniques and force subtleties that you can use to take your performances to a whole new level of mind-blowing. Learn more than just a few new tricks: learn to make your magic brilliant. *All Out Magic* has been worth the wait.

Highly recommended. *Rolando Santos*



## Choices

Joseph Daniels. Available from [joedanielsmagic@hotmail.com](mailto:joedanielsmagic@hotmail.com). Perfect bound, 45 pages. \$40.



The journey to mastering the art of performing mentalism and storytelling magic is often a series of serendipitous “Aha!” moments. It’s a blend of performance trial and error, sifting through countless books and articles and attending lectures where a single insight can transform your approach. These moments of discovery make the performance not just a series of puzzles but a captivating experience for the audience. It usually takes years to stumble across those nuggets of savviness.

There is now a forty-three-page book where key nuances, tips, and insights are gathered in one convenient location. Veteran theater, television, and movie actor-director Joseph Daniels’ new book, *Choices*, presents subtle scripting, acting, and stagecraft nuances, and excellent mentalism psychological methods in a concise, uncomplicated teaching style. It offers a one-stop source for transformative “Aha!” moments with specific effects and audience-tested long-form routines.

Being able to “jazz” or pivot on the spot can give you many engagement opportunities.

Daniels delves into how to reframe a spectator’s choices on the spur of the moment, addressing common performance killers and providing strategies to turn potential pitfalls into powerful moments. As Daniels says, “Never pause more than a beat or two; it betrays that you have to stop and think about what to do next.” Check your work for “Um” or “Uh” moments that destroy the illusion of mystery.

Daniels extensively covers approaches to multiple outs, equivocate, and free will. Access to the Free Will premise, as taught by Deddy Corbuzier, is rare. Corbuzier is an iconic Indonesian paranormal magic performer who decided to go into action movie acting full time. Free Will was his signature piece. Daniels is among a few select English-speaking performers licensed to teach the method.

Daniels provides alternate uses for gimmicked items like haunted keys and PK props. My favorite is using a Coin Through Cigarette gimmick to perform a Feather Through Coin effect. It blew me away when I practiced and did not disappoint in performance. Speaking of gimmicks, the book details how to make “4 in 1 out” envelopes and use stamps on a letter to get a peek at what’s inside the envelope. When Daniels showed me this, I walked away, shaking my head at the simplicity and genius of the gimmick.

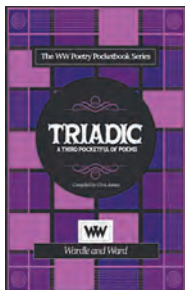
The late Darrell King’s script for equivocate is an excellent presentation suitable for beginners and professionals. Even those who don’t typically engage in storytelling can use this easy-to-perform storyline to add a story-based effect to their repertoire.

*Choices* is wonderfully to the point, an easy-to-read yet profound repository of insights and creativity-triggering concepts that, at some level, we already know or have come across but perhaps never stopped to examine or have forgotten to use. It’s a cornucopia of practical wisdom that can transform how you approach mentalism and storytelling magic. Daniels’ compact and direct writing style avoids extended explanations that often confuse rather than illuminate the path for a performer. *Choices* instantly elevated my performances simply because they reminded me of things I knew but had become lackadaisical about doing. This book is a must-have for beginners and a valuable addition to the library of experienced performers, offering a treasure trove of tips that can be revisited to remind us of the little things that make a big difference.

Highly recommended. *Rolando Santos*

### Triadic: A Third Pocketful of Poems

Chris Wardle and James Ward. Available from Your Favorite Dealer. Wholesale from Murphy's Magic Supplies. [www.murphysmagic.com](http://www.murphysmagic.com). Softcover, 83 pages. \$49.95.



British magicians Chris Wardle and James Ward's collaboration on *Triadic* is a game-changer for mentalists. This pocket-sized book test includes sixty-five poems that cover every emotion and occasion, making it the ultimate tool for connecting with any spectator or audience. Their approach to intertwining poetry with mentalism is brilliant. Their fusion of the two art forms, poetry and magic, captivates the audience and creates presentation opportunities and memorable connections.

The real strength of *Triadic* is its flexibility and adaptability. It empowers you to create performances that resonate deeply with your spectators by aligning with their emotions and interests. This personalized approach enhances the overall impact and makes each performance unique and memorable. With three possible revelations – words from the first line, the poem's mood, and a freely chosen word from the last line – you can create a truly personalized and impactful experience.

The methods used in *Triadic* are disguised versions of techniques that you are familiar with if you are already a performing mentalist, so experienced mentalists won't have to break new techniques into their acts. At the same time, the book also serves as an excellent introduction to mentalism for newcomers. The structured revelations and the emotional connection that the poems create make it easy for beginners to engage their audience and deliver impactful performances right from the start.

*Triadic* is like carrying an index of five dozen magic tricks with a potential personal connection for every occasion in a slim book that fits in your coat pocket. Any poem can be freely selected; there are no peeks, forces, or memory work to remember. Every spectator's choice and response to what they read creates a unique backstory, meaning every performance will be different and fresh for you as a performer.

The wide range of sentiments allows you to customize the effect to your venue and pinpoint your spectator's mood and interests with an exactness you have never achieved before.

*Triadic* gave me a greater sense of freedom and an enhanced impact on an audience than I usually experience. The more I tried to understand why that happened so I could replicate the experience with other effects, the more I concluded that poetry has a unique power to tap into emotions and convey complex feelings in just a few words. It's like a bridge between the writer's soul and the reader's heart. Experienced poets often have a knack for finding universal truths and emotions that resonate deeply with people. A book like *Triadic* that covers such a wide emotional range becomes the ultimate tool for connecting with any audience.

Highly recommended. *Rolando Santos*

## Tricks

### Palette: Full Colour Mind Reading

Arcane Relics in collaboration with Joseph Daniels. Available from [www.arcanerelics.com](http://www.arcanerelics.com). \$39.95.



Color-themed mindreading and personality test effects are incredibly popular,

with many new ones appearing on the market in the past year. I've purchased several, from a simple eye test based on colors to expensive electronic dice and color pen sets that deliver fantastic results. *Palette* by Arcane Relics stands out as a favorite. Based on the Iris Color Deck by Christopher Taylor, *Palette* has been reimagined by Joseph Daniels. Arcane Relics purchased the rights to many of Christopher Taylor's products, including the Iris Colour Deck. *Palette* is an authorized variation using the Iris Deck concept.

Instead of using a pack of cards with different colors, Daniels incorporates actual color samples from a well-known hardware store's paint department. These color sample strips instantly pique the audience's interest, making the effect more organic and relatable.

Here are a few reasons why *Palette* remains a go-to choice:

**Strong Audience Reaction:** Since the audience can handle the strips and are the same ones used in hardware stores, there is an instant connection that helps make a memorable experience.

**Classic Method:** The underlying method is a classic of magic, known for being virtually self-working, which allows you to focus more on the presentation and inter-

action. Plus, there are no electronics to keep charged.

**Versatile Patter:** The patter is easily customizable to suit different settings, whether close-up magic, parlor shows, comedy acts, or kids' performances.

While *Palette* comes with several routines by Christopher Taylor using the original Iris Color Deck and some suggestions by Chris Sipes, the owner of Arcane Relics, I prefer a simple premise: I have wanted to paint my magic room but can't decide what color to use, so a spectator will help me choose.

Because the color strips come from a hardware store, you can visit the store and choose a color that suits your patter to add to your set. I customized my set to use Texas Aggie Maroon as the force color. Still, it could easily be burnt orange (though I don't know why anyone would do that) or Georgia Bull Dog red if you were performing at a college or professional sports event.

The ad copy for *Palette* reads, "Colors are powerful ... [they] are an excellent tool for mentalists to connect with an audience and leave a lasting impression." *Palette* is a versatile and reliable effect to make that connection.

Highly recommended. *Rolando Santos*

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# Broken Wand

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



## IAN ADAIR

Ian Adair, 84, of Barnstaple, Devon, United Kingdom, died on January 14, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 22116 and had been a member since 1968. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Excalibur (fifty

years of continuous membership) and Ring 25 (British Ring). He was one of magic's most prolific authors, writing hundreds of books and magazine

articles. His contributions to *The Linking Ring* spanned six decades and included writing scores of Hocus Pocus Parades and compiling the annual British Ring Parade for nearly forty years. His three-volume *Encyclopedia of Dove Magic*, which he began in 1968, is considered one of the most important books ever written on the subject. He ran the Supreme Magic Company for more than three decades and has been credited with inventing or improving three thousand effects and routines. He was born in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland. At age five, Ian began learning magic after receiving a box of tricks at *The Boys Book of Magic*. He made his television debut on the BBC network at age nine and had his own weekly TV series, *Magic*, at age fourteen. He turned professional in 1957 and two years later won the Scottish Association of Magical Societies' Shield as that country's top performing magician. He began writing extensively about dove magic in 1960, when he produced a dozen booklets that sold for two dollars each. He started writing "Parade" effects for *The Linking Ring* in December 1962 and even-



tually became its most regular contributor. In 1985, he began compiling the British Ring's Annual Parade for this journal. His final "One-Man Parade" contributions ran in February, June, and November of 2024. His final British Ring Parade appeared last month. He was working on another project with editor Sammy Smith at the time of his death. His more than three hundred book titles included *The Encyclopedia of Children's Magic* (1991). He served as editor of *Trixigram and Magical Express* (1994–96) and wrote articles and columns for *Genii*, *MUM*, and other publications. The Inner Magic Circle awarded him the Gold Star in 1974.

## JIM BENDER

Jim Bender, 90, of Seattle, Washington, died on March 2, 2024. He was a member of Seattle's Ring 52 and Lynnwood, Washington's Ring 339, the Lynnwood Ring of Fire. Jim grew up in the Seattle area and graduated from the University of Washington with a business degree, specializing in sales. He took a job with Owens-Corning and became one of their top salesman. When they offered to promote and move him to their home office in Ohio, he turned it down because he wanted to continue living in the Northwest. He accepted a job with Palmer Lewis, a Northwest Builders Supply Company. He finished his career working for Stanley Door Co. Jim was young when he became interested in magic. When Blackstone Sr. came to Seattle's Old Palamar Theatre, Jim went to the





show and was so mesmerized by the performance he returned the next day. He began buying small magic tricks from Jean Foley's magic shop and later Syd Brockman's shop. Jim was a longtime member of the I.B.M. and SAM. He is survived by his wife Darlene, sons Jim and Jeff, a granddaughter, and many friends.

### JOHN BUCHER

John Bucher, 83, of Searcy, Arkansas, died on December 24, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 21892 and had been a member since 1994. He belonged to the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years of continuous membership) and Rings 29 (Little Rock, Arkansas) and 308 (Searcy, Arkansas). Jon was born on April 19, 1941, in Lincoln, Kansas and was the eldest of seven siblings born to Jonn Orris Bucher and Marguerite Marie Roy Bucher. He graduated from Arkansas City High School in 1959 and later graduated from Arkansas State University at Beebe, where he earned an associate degree in computer technology. Jon served in the Kansas National Guard and worked for John Morrell, Colonial Life, Walmart Distribution, KWCK Radio, and Hewlett-Packard, where he retired in 2011.



He was a devoted member of the St. Paul Global Methodist Church, where he served as a lay leader, young adult mentor, choir member, and finance committee chairman. His passion for magic touched countless lives. A lifetime member of the I.B.M., Jon won the International Close-Up Magic competition in 1975. He performed extensively, from church events and community shows to TV's *Theater of Magic* and the film *Mindreader*. As a teacher, Jon inspired students in magic classes and at organizations such as Kids Unlimited. He was also a gifted actor and storyteller who performed with the Performing Arts Center on the Square (PA-

COTS) and the Searcy Summer Dinner Theatre. Jon was preceded in death by his parents, his son Jon Aric Bucher, and his siblings Samuel, Duane (Ed), Neida, and Susie. He shared the last thirty-one years of his life with his wife Susan Ann Compton Bucher and is survived by his children Renee Bucher (Mark) Clemmons and Amy Bucher (Gordon) Manley; stepchildren Julie Vodehnal (Ron) McLaughlin, Desi Vodehnal (Mark) Harmon, and Tyler (Christy) Vodehnal; brothers Dan and Jim; and ten grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

### DAVID MICHAEL CLARKSON

David Michael Clarkson, 76, of Tracy, California, died on September 24, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 23867 and had been a member since 1971. He was a member of the Order of Merlin Excelsior (fifty years of continuous membership) and Ring 60. He lived in Tracy for thirty-one years. Michael graduated from the University of Texas, where he formed friendships that led him to join the I.B.M. He passed down his enthusiasm for the craft to his son Robert and his granddaughter Autumn, teaching them card tricks and other effects. Michael delighted friends, colleagues, and guests by incorporating magic into business meetings, dinner parties, and social gatherings. His charm and skill brought joy to many, and he was admired for his creativity and sense of fun. He is survived by his son Robert Michael Clarkson and granddaughter Autumn Bethany Clarkson. His wife of fifty-six years, Martha Jane Clarkson, followed him in death eight days later.



### ROBERT GILBERT

Robert Gilbert, 85, of Paris, Arkansas, died on June 7, 2022. He held I.B.M. number 65245 and had been a member since 2004. He belonged to Ring 73. Bob was

born on May 15, 1934, in Loon Lake, Washington to Margaret Stearns (Lane) Gilbert and Harold Burnham Gilbert. He later moved to Eugene, Oregon with his mother, where he attended elementary school, high school, and the University of Oregon. He graduated from the University of Oregon Dental School in Portland, Oregon before returning to Paris, Arkansas, where he spent most of his dentistry career. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington. He is survived by son Thomas (Bonnie) Gilbert, daughters Linda (Randy) Smith, Lisa (John) Lenz, Susan Langsner, and Janis (Wayne) Workman, and several grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.



## BRYON SMITH

Bryon Smith, 68, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, died on July 31, 2020. He held I.B.M. number 52185 and had been a member since 1995. He belonged to the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 75 (Fort Smith, Arkansas). He is survived by his wife, Dawn, daughters Laura Lovvorn and Kristy Welsh, brother Lionel Smith, sister Gina Bolton, and three grandchildren.

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## When a Magic Friend Dies

Please take the time to send us a short note and copy of any obituary notice. Don't let a fellow magic lover slip away without notice. Send a short note and copy of any obituary notice to Editor or Headquarters Office. Addresses on page 4. Thanks.

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To submit photos for Ring Events and other departments in The Linking Ring, your photos must be large and clear. Please set your camera on the highest setting. Photos may look beautiful on a computer monitor but may be too small for print reproduction. Ring Events may be published without photos, or not at all, if the pictures are too small to reproduce clearly. We love including photos of I.B.M. members, so please help us make them as good as possible. Thank you!

E-mail Ring Events photos to Dr. Steven Schlanger at:  
[ringreports@magician.org](mailto:ringreports@magician.org).

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## WANT TO SUBMIT A TRICK OR A PARADE?

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

## WANT TO SUBMIT A RING EVENT?

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

## WANT TO SUBMIT A RING REPORT?

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

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

# Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



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

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

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

On December 4th the Ring held their Annual Holiday Party, with thirty-six sending in their RSVPs. Michael W. McClure coordinated the events for the evening, which began with some unique games. He had isolated pictures of members' eyes, lips, ears, and mouths, and those in attendance had to figure out which member each image belonged to. It was a fairly difficult task and succeeded as a clever icebreaker that forced members to work together. He also had a set of rebus puzzles which, when deciphered, named "famous" magicians (many of whom were somehow connected to our Ring). The one that stumped most of us was "Michael Jackson." Many of us did not know he practiced magic. Michael McClure assured the members that Michael Jackson not only enjoyed and performed magic, but also held a patent for a special magic effect he often used on stage. Our Michael M. is very creative. He also requested that member Paul Gregor play holiday tunes on his organ during the first hour. Paul's talents were greatly appreciated. The members who played the games really enjoyed the activity as a warm-up to the evening's fellowship. Prizes were awarded to the members who earned the most points in three different challenges.

The Ring again purchased Firehouse sandwiches (special thanks to James Hodge for picking up and delivering the order), and several members brought a side dish to share, or else donated to the Ring to help offset expenses. There was plenty of delicious food for everyone.

For the middle third of the programming, Columbus Smith presented a show/mini lecture titled "A Haunted Victorian Christmas." He per-

formed many effects from his regular, professional show, and then explained the details and nuances of several of them. Most of his magic was of a spooky or supernatural theme, which included a clever "Haunted Key" presentation, a mysterious bell ringing (and then not able to be rung), and an untouched swaying of randomly selected bells, all of which are designed to make an audience wonder if a disembodied spirit's hand was possibly enacting the magic. Sandy Weis' favorite was the book test he performed. She has seen many magicians perform book tests, but this one was one of the best. Thank you, Columbus, for sharing your time and talents with the Brotherhood. He is performing a similar lecture at other paid venues, so we are fortunate that our members were able to see it first and for "free."

Then the excitement began with Michael's new and improved gift exchange. Members were encouraged to bring wrapped gifts related to magic. The members were instructed to take a different gift from the table and sit in a circle. Everyone opened their presents so all the members could see what the gift possibilities entailed. Michael gave each member an envelope. The members took turns reading the messages in their envelopes. For example, a message might instruct "Everyone to pass their gift to the right," or "Swap with someone wearing red." Some messages offered the opportunity for that person to challenge another (of their choice) to a giant inflatable dice roll-off, or a Rock-Paper-Scissors competition, with the winner retaining the prize of their choice. Several members received cash in their envelopes (donated by the Ring) which was really a welcome surprise, as that extra bonus was theirs to keep and not subject to swapping. When the game concluded, no one ended up with the present they originally had picked. The final round allowed everyone to participate in an "Odd or



Even” prediction, which eventually narrowed the crowd down to one winner. This lucky player was allowed to steal any gift they wished. Michael redesigned our gift exchange to allow all players to be constantly active throughout the entire game, and yet guarantee everyone a chance to still be the final winner at the end. Our members really enjoyed this and have demanded that we never go back to our old White Elephant/Dirty Santa method. Our thanks to Michael and his wife, Susan, for organizing this fun event. They promised new surprises in 2025, if our members don’t wind up on Santa’s naughty list before then! *Sandy Weis*

## **RING 2, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO – Filips-Tutter-Doeright Ring**

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

PETER LUCKE, Secretary

E-mail: IBMRing2Youngstown@me.com

The following Ring 2 members and friends were present at our December meeting: Jim Allgren, Donna and Susan Campbell, Fritz Coombs, Kyler and Lexi Freeland, James and Eric Killmeyer, Jim Klayder, Peter Lucke, Brian Moss, Keri Vrable, and Ray White. The theme of the evening was Silk Magic.

Opening members’ magic Peter Lucke performed “Crystal Cylinders.” He showed us a stand with two concentric metal cylinders. Lifting the outer yellow cylinder revealed an inner red metal cylinder. Lifting the red cylinder revealed a clear crystal cylinder. Peter placed two colored silks into the clear cylinder. He replaced the red and yellow metal cylinders. When he later removed the two metal cylinders, the colored silks had vanished, and the cylinder was filled with Christmas candies.

Fritz Coombs next entertained us with “20th Century Silks.” He placed on the table a shot glass. Fritz showed us three silks, a yellow one, blue one, and a multicolored one. He tied the yellow one to the blue one and placed it in the glass. The multicolored silk was placed in a bag. Fritz later opened the bag, and the multicolored silk had vanished. He then pulled on the ends of the silks in the glass. Tied in between the two silks was the multicolored silk.

Ray White had us worried with “Hook” by Eric Ross. He invited Brian, James and Keri to assist him. The hook had three prongs, and four strings were attached to it. One of the strings was attached to the hook. Ray placed the hook in his mouth and asked each assistant in turn to pull on one of the strings. Each string pulled loose. Ray opened his mouth and pulled on the fourth string, and it was attached to the hook.

James Killmeyer’s effect, “Silk Road with

Coins,” was in the form of a history lesson. He spoke about the development of silk in China, trade along the Silk Road, and how silk made money for the Chinese. James showed us a blue square of silk. As he was explaining he magically produced silver coins in a variety of different ways from the silk. This symbolized the money earned from the sale of silk.

Brian Moss performed a Svengali routine attributed to Craig Petty. He invited Kyler to assist him. Brian shuffled the deck twice and spread it on the table. He asked Kyler to select one of the cards and show it to the audience; it was the AC. Brian said he would guess the card, and he correctly said it was the AC. He then divided the deck into five packets and placed them on the table. Brian asked Kyler to select one of the packets. The top card on the packet was the AC. Brian shuffled the deck one more time and had Kyler pick a number, he picked thirteen. Brian counted off thirteen cards, and the thirteenth was the AC.

Jim Klayder concluded members’ magic with “Color Changing Hank.” He showed us a red hanky and began pushing it through his fist. Out of the other end of his fist he pulled a white hanky. Upon opening his fist, the red hanky had vanished. He reversed the effect by pushing the white hanky into his fist and pulling a red hanky out. The white hanky had now vanished.

Guest magic opened with Jim Allgren performing a magic numbers card trick. He invited Ray to assist him. Jim spread a deck in his hands and asked Ray to select nine cards. Ray was instructed to place the cards on the table in three face-down piles. Jim then asked Ray to turn one of the piles face up. The top card on the pile was the 3H. Jim gathered up the cards and then dealt them while counting 1, 2, 3 and spelling OF HEARTS MAGIC. If he ran out of cards, he picked up the packet and continued to deal. The final card was the 3H.

Kyler Freeland concluded guest magic with “The Awakening” by Dan Harlan. The routine was an enhanced version of the Professor’s Nightmare effect.

Following the evening’s magic James Killmeyer explained how his effect was performed. *Peter Lucke*

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

Meets 1st Mon. each month at the Screening Room Cinema & Café, 3131  
Sheridan Dr., Amherst, NY. Web site/E-mail: Ring 12.org

TODD NELSON, Secretary,

(716) 480-4757 \ 24 Majestic Circle, Amherst, NY 14226

December came and we had two get-togethers. The first was our usual holiday party. The board provided ample food for all to enjoy, and

ample entertainment for all to enjoy. Our entertainment began with Aiden Cooper and his impressive “Linking Rings” routine.

Next Mike Kugel had a plethora of effects, even using my son for a routine where a torn napkin turned into a mouth coil. Denis Gesel had a self-made effect. It was a “Red Bull” effect. The audience was expecting a Red Bull can, but we got a puppet of a red bull. The puppet went into a magic box and became the Red Bull can at an unexpected time. Impressive.

Then, Bill Butski, who we haven’t seen in a while, did a coin routine incorporating the “Night Before Christmas.” He also taught a card routine with cards upside down and right side up intermingled and shuffled and when laid out, the only face up cards were a royal flush in Spades. Dave Barrett also had a plethora of effects for us. He had a jigger routine, which included my son. He had a “Pea and Shell” routine and much more. It was a great evening for Ring 12. Also, a great evening for my son, he was the youngest and was chosen as a volunteer a lot. I thank all those who chose him, he can be overly eager.

I’m looking forward to next year’s party, but I’m sure there will be many good times in between. Maybe even a lecture by Alex Hirsley. The lecture by Alex Hirsley came a week later. No one was too magic-ed out. We had a large group from Canada join us. Always good to see my great north brethren. Alex talked mainly about street magic. She began with a “Flipstick” routine and pulled items out of it, these included coins, balls, and huge coins. She had a fork bending routine that she taught, we even got to practice with forks she gave out. Yay forks! She discussed and showed some well-crafted card manipulations. She taught them, but it was too fast for this old fogie. She performed “Cups and Balls” as well.

There was so much taught in this lecture, I’m looking forward to reviewing the notes and other fun purchases from the meeting. I just hope I don’t sit on the fork. *Shlomo Birkan*

### **RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring**

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm The Linden Grove, 1100 Grove St., Pittsburgh, PA  
MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@sei.cmu.edu  
Web site: [www.ibmring13.org](http://www.ibmring13.org)

In December, our Ring celebrated our ninety-seven-year anniversary. We approved Joshua Messado’s application and welcomed him as our newest Ring member, and we also congratulated Joshua on his appearance on the cover and in the feature cover article of the November issue of *The Linking Ring*. We discussed plans for our upcoming, annual banquet to be held on April 27 at The Fez. We closed our business meeting

by installing our new Ring officers for 2025. Lucy Hall introduced our performers with a suggested theme of photo or phone magic.

Lashaya Fields presented her second performance for Ring membership as she showed three cards with different colored targets on them. Lashaya asked Mike to think of one of the colors. Lashaya turned over that colored card to show “You will choose this card” written on its back; on the backs of each of the other two cards was written “Not this card.”

Todd Hertzberg performed an Oil and Water” effect. Eric Meredith had a card selected from a deck, and he placed that chosen card between the two jokers. Eric caused that card to repeatedly vanish and then reappear in between the two jokers. Eric also presented Jim Steinmeyer’s “Deepest Sympathy.” Lucy asked Todd to look at and memorize one number from a card with sixty-four numbers on it. Lucy then handed Todd several other cards with numbers on them, and she asked him to identify whether or not his selected number appeared on each of those cards. Lucy correctly identified Todd’s chosen number.

Gary Filson showed a red cloth bag and a large red handkerchief. Gary placed the red handkerchief in the bag, snapped his fingers, and pulled out a “ruby” handkerchief instead (obviously the same red one). Gary repeated this, making the handkerchief change to “cherry” and then to “scarlet.” The final time, Gary pulled out the handkerchief showing that it had changed into a large green silk with Santa Claus on it. Luis Carreon from Chicago paid us a surprise visit while he was in town for his month-long residency at Liberty Magic performing his show *La Bestia*. Luis opened with some fancy card flourishes, and he produced the four aces from the deck. Luis made the aces jump one-by-one from one hand to the other hand. Luis made two of the aces disappear and reappear inside the deck. Then he made Lashaya’s signed card vanish and reappear inside a zippered compartment in his wallet. Luis asked Levi to randomly select four numbers that correctly unlocked Luis’ mobile phone. Luis also correctly identified the numbers that would have unlocked Eric’s phone. Later, Luis performed an encore card trick, asking Eric to pick a card and Todd to think of any card. Luis correctly found Eric’s card, and he produced Todd’s card from his back pocket.

Levi turned on his phone flashlight, and he split the light to make a light appear at the fingertips of his other hand, too (using a D’Lite). Levi counted twenty cards onto the table, and he asked Todd to cut off about half. They counted

the cards in each pile to show that the piles contained nine cards and eleven cards. Levi invisibly made two cards travel from one pile to the other. Jeff Vanderhoff showed six sheets of paper that had different shapes drawn on them, and he asked Lashaya to pick one sheet and set it aside. Jeff folded another piece of paper into an origami shape to try to identify it, but then he gave up and just crumbled up the paper. Lashaya turned over her selection to show that it had an image of a crumbled-up ball of paper. Jeff then told a story of three children trying to decide on a gift to give to the parents, as he folded a single piece of paper into the shape of a doll house, an airplane, a church building, and a cross. Ralph Kelly, dressed as Santa Claus, started to read to us from the book *The Night Before Christmas*, but all the pages were blank. Ralph waved his sleigh bells over the pages and showed that words now appeared on the blank pages. Ralph did it again and made full-color pictures appear on the pages. Next Ralph caused a sponge ball to pass through Todd's head. Ralph closed the evening by making a magic rope become stiff as he held it horizontally.

On December 10, Luis Carreon presented a special lecture at Liberty Magic for our Ring members. For over two and a half hours, Luis performed, explained, and shared with us many of his astounding card and coin routines, effects, moves, and subtleties. Thank you very much, Luis, for an amazing lecture!

On December 15, Ring members joined members of local S.A.M. Assembly 18 in conducting a Broken Wand Ceremony for Bill Cornelius, who had passed away on December 6. Bill was a long-time member of both magic organizations, and Bill had served as a past Ring president and a past Assembly president of each local club. Rest in peace, Bill. We will miss your magic and humor.

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

Aaron Stone, president, opened the meeting, greeting the enthusiastic members and guests.

It was "Past President's Night" for the Fort Worth Magicians Club. To begin, Secretary Geoff Grimes shared an update on Luis Daniel, celebrating his 93rd birthday. We all gathered to record our singing of the birthday song for an Excalibur Member of the I.B.M.—make that 77 years!

Michael Stein shared remarks on introducing a little "truth" about us in our act. He suggests that doing so makes for a special connection with our audiences. He then invited Ron Wilson

and Doctor Mike (Smith) to join in a routine predicting the ideal hour each was thinking. The trick involves the "ritual" of the "passing of the hours." From a deck of cards, each counted down the number cards that reflected their favorite hour. He shared comments about his mother that added a sense of verisimilitude to this routine.

Past President (PP) Ron Wilson stepped up next for his routine, a card effect featuring a "free" choice of red cards. Red and blue aces changed places from one packet to another. Turning over the packets, he revealed all the unselected cards turned blank!

For his second routine, Ron invited Ash Adams to join him with a routine featuring a pocket watch and a deck of cards. Ash signed a card selected from the deck which Ron returned to the deck. Unable to find the selected card, Ron withdrew a card from the watch box, revealing Ash's signed card!

PP Bill Irwin was next. In the context of archeology, he introduced a "rare Chinese" coin and spoke about cultural "coniology." P-P Tom Smith (from 1986) paid tribute to Louis Daniel for all the work he has done for the Fort Worth Magicians Club and so many other North Texas organizations. He showed illustrations and posters that Louis had created over the years including copies of his annual Christmas cards. P-P Matt Martin performed a transformation of base metal coins from gold to silver and back again from silver to gold. Pouring a portion of magic "elixir," the metal changing to clear glass only to pass to a coin purse exposed open and exposed from the beginning of the room. Matt shared that his routine was an adaptation from *Tarbell*.

Club PP and historian, Ash Adams brought rare club artifacts from his FWMC artifacts. He introduced the British Will Goldston, author of *The Secrets of Magic*, published in 1902 at the age of twenty-six. One rare piece was Goldston's "locked book," one of only 1,000 pieces printed. The focus of his discussion was Goldston's appearance with Houdini at a meeting of London's Magic Circle and later the meeting of Harry Houdini with a former United States President. Ash presented letters, printed invitations, programs, and badges from the famous meetings—all in all, an incredible display of magic research and commitment. Thanks, Ash!

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)

ANDREW SELBITSCHKA, President / Web site: [www.IBMRing19.com](http://www.IBMRing19.com)

Our Zoom meeting topic for December was Magical History, which could be from a book, movie, or personal experience.

Harry Entwistle shared memories of his days in Chicago, during the magical heyday of the magic scene there, in the seventies and eighties. Harry rubbed shoulders with Ed Marlo, Jay Marshall, Simon Aronson, Al Andrucci (Heba Haba Al), Matt Schulien, and Eugene Burger, to name a few. Harry's stories are always entertaining and memorable.

Jennifer Graham told the story of when, whilst visiting Chicago and Magic, Inc., her wife almost killed Jay Marshall as he was crossing the street to go home from the magic shop. "That old man should watch where he's going!" She didn't know who "that old man" was. Luckily for good brakes, Jay was with us for a few more years. I was fortunate to meet Jay a year later, keeping quiet about the almost near run-in.

Dan Norat is reading Steve Cohen's book *Max Malini - King of Magicians, Magician of Kings* and has found it a fascinating read. He was especially interested in the Spirit Bell information. Rick Hinrichs likes the book, *The Magician and the Cardsharp* by Karl Johnson. Rick, although not a card person enjoyed the information regarding the various deals, false, second, bottom, but the elusive center deal was the most fascinating. Tyler Erickson provided a mini lecture on the various deals described in the book and did several demonstrations of the Kennedy Center Deal, as well as, discussing the AKA (Alan Kennedy Action). Tyler also shared some thoughts on card magic. His opinion of the side steal is that, when done badly, looks exactly like what it is. A bottom palm or Erdnase replacement, to the dominant hand, is a much better option. The best false shuffle is a deck switch, and the best card control is a force. Rick offered a few tricks using string, ropes, and rings. He provided a mini tutorial of the tricks performed. Tyler Erickson wowed us with a trick using dice and a tin can. Any small objects and small container will work, as he demonstrated the classic transposition.

Our in-person meeting showcased quite a bit of magic, we saw everything from cards, coins, ropes, and other objects. Tyler Erickson started off with the "Bullet Card Trick." We discussed potential other names to call the trick that might not need to refer to the deck as a gun. Rick Hinrichs showed some refinements that he has been working on with his rope, ring, and string routines. He also preformed "Grandma's Necklace." He provided a demo of real versus false knots. Steven Olson worked with Bob Miller for a lesson on Bob Hummer's "Mental Monte" (Three Card Choice). David Hansen with Parker William, shared his healed Skittles package.

Bob Miller performed "Copper/Silver/Brass," "Invisible Coins," and "Coins Across." Bob mentioned that his new book, *Remember The Room*, will be available on Amazon.

Alex Madsen showed his version of the card trick "Soul Mate." Steven Olson offered up several small tricks. Brent Braun's "4K Color Vision Box," as well as "Burglar Ball," assisted by President Andrew Selbitschka. Fast Eddie Olson showed off his new magic case and performed "Rope Through Neck," "Professor's Nightmare" and "Not a Knot."

Monty Cook joined the Ring by auditioning with a card trick, "Thought Echo." He was unanimously approved to join.

Tyler has upcoming lectures in Michigan and Texas. Anyone who gets to see his will be amazed at his knowledge, passion, and techniques in the art of magic. And we get that for free at every meeting! We ended the meeting with Tyler teaching the "Piano Card trick."

If you are ever in Minnesota on a meeting day, please join us!

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 Frank Bianco, Al Bienstock, John Fortino, Ed Lopez, Vic Orriola, Jack Ritter, Dan Scully, Stephen Smith, and Michael Worsham. The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. and the members were greeted by the president. Dan Scully motioned to approve the September meeting minutes with a correction. Frank seconded. Motion passed unanimously. There was no additional Secretary's business.

The treasurer reported that the account balances were the same as last month. There was no old business. However, under new business, we will be performing at the Hampden Township VFW on October 21st. Those in attendance tonight who will be performing include Al (if he is able to do it around his home duties), Frank, Smith, Jack, Vic, and John.

Instead of our regular December meeting, we are going to hold our annual holiday party on what would be our meeting night, (Thursday, December 12th). The location will be Marzoni's Restaurant in Mechanicsburg.

We accepted nominations for club officers for 2025. Those nominated included: Steve Smith for President, Vic Orriola for Vice President, Al Bienstock for Treasurer, and Michael Reist for Secretary. Al Bienstock and Jack Ritter were nominated for board positions. All present



accepted the nomination. We must hear an acceptance or rejection from Michael Reist.

Under "Good of the Order," we noted that: Our secretary was unable to be present because he was attending the Steve Reynolds' lecture hosted by Marc DeSouza; Ritchie Mathews has the flu, and we wish him a speedy recovery; on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. the S.A.M. is holding a lecture on scripting based on Ryan Kane's book *Out of Stock*; Vic mentioned that Armando Lucero is offering a master class for eight people in the N.Y.C. area – West Chester County (there is one spot left in the class); three weeks ago Michael Worsham was diagnosed with Spinal Stenosis with an L5 pinched nerve (he was unable to compete at MAES, but he brought stuff to MAES to sell from an estate that he inherited. He will be selling more of the stuff on March 29th at Tait's Swap Meet); Vic is going to help to set up a field trip for the club to visit the Houdini Museum in Scranton, PA (we are targeting sometime in the spring for the trip); Next month, Frank Bianco will give us magic lessons. We are all looking forward to that!

Dan Scully motioned to adjourn. Al seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting closed at 7:05 p.m.

On to the magic: Frank Bianco held court by demonstrating several card routines including Chris Capehart trick determining which of tabled cards a spectator mentally selected; Vic performed his dream card prediction and then blew us away with a card at any number routine from Dani DaOrtiz; Michael showed several effects with Rubik's Cubes that he has worked up for the competition in which he was unable to participate; Stephen Smith reanimated a vampire's heart; John demoed a really cool book test (he explained his fourteen to fifteen number force); Al showed us a barehanded coin vanish that he is playing with (he used his cool mis-stamped quarter that has two George Washington heads on the face).

*Michael Reist*

## **RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring**

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:00pm at The Mountain House Gallery,  
702 9th Avenue (corner of West 48 Street) New York, NY 10019

JAMES R. STRANGES, President

E-mail: [magicjim1@optonline.net](mailto:magicjim1@optonline.net) / Website: [www.80-20.org/meeting](http://www.80-20.org/meeting)

Considering the bad weather we had this night, the Bornstein/Clement Lab was well attended. In fact, it was one of the bigger turnouts. Sheldon Lippman started us off with a prediction effect utilizing a framed photo of Harry Houdini. Joel Kahn performed an effect utilizing a flashing Zippo lighter and transferred the light to his hand. Also, Joel brought some effects and books he no longer had use for and invited the members to take what they wanted. Adrien Pierard entertained us with a very nice

"Re-set" card effect. Later Adrien also did a card color change. Past President, Frank Reyes turned a card into a watch giving thanks to George Schindler. Frank also performed "Twister Flavor." Visitor, Jerry, did a card reveal using Joel as an assistant.

Wow, what a great turnout for September 13th, Bornstein/Clement Lab. We welcomed visitor Joe Devlin to the Lab session. Frank Reyes performed "Priest Pearls" and a 3D card effect. Robert Wallner performed "Card to Picture Frame" and a phone app effect with a sugar packet. John (J Vic, "The Relationship Magician") Schrier, entertained with a Sweet and Low and Splendor effect and followed up with using a timer, a book resulting with a selection of a paragraph be revealed and revealing a color. Francois, FX, amazed with a beautiful aces effect by Peter Cane. Guy Crowl delighted everyone with a studded paddle and gem effect, a gambling effect accompanied by a tale of his love for his mother-in-law. Adrien Pierard charmed everyone with a skillful card effect. Next, Eric Qiu, with his own Black Friday card effect. Guy ended the evening by beguiling everyone with a large safety pin and handkerchief effect. After teaching the effect Guy gave everyone a giant safety pin to take home.

Versions of Classic/Old school magic, the theme for our October Bornstein/Clement Lab, was nicely attended. We actually had a surprise visit. During our lab a customer in the front of the diner heard that we were conducting a lab and asked the waiter what it was about. The waiter told him, and the customer asked if he could take him to us. It turns out that he also did magic, and he performed an "ACAAN" effect for us. Sterling Lee performed a Rubik's Cube effect called "Venom Cube" by Henry Harrius. Guy Crowl brought a bunch of old vintage effects in their original packaging. Some examples were "Simplex Cut and Restored Rope" and "Magnetic Rising Card" by Easy Magic. James O'Brien produced a card box from a Devil's Hank and from the box he took out a length of rope. James then performed a cut and restore effect.

Eric Qiu performed a beautiful four aces to four queens card effect. Past President Frank Reyes performed an old coin assembly routine taught to him by Mike Tannen at the old Circle Magic shop. He also performed his version of "Glass Through Table." New member, Jack Diamond, treated us to a very nice performance of "Twisting the Aces."

Our October After Meeting Show was actually a much anticipated, members only card workshop. This special workshop was hosted by frequent Magic Castle performer, long time Ring

26 member and Ring 26's 2015 Magician of the Year, Bjorn Hanson.

Armed with decks of cards and close-up pads, members were eager to dig in. Every participant received a copy of the Conjuring Arts Research Center's edition of *The Expert at the Card Table* donated by one of our members.

The workshop began with Bjorn emphasizing that this is an interactive workshop where questions, suggestions and pointers were invited. For this workshop everyone received specially produced notes. Bjorn went through great lengths to produce notes whose fonts are Dai Vernon Direct with the illustrations in the style of Marshall D. Smith by renowned Putnam Valley New York Artist, Regina Gelfer.

The Top Palm, the Top Change, the Turner Over Pass, and the Second Deal/Double Lift were all covered in the workshop. It was great to watch everyone trying the various sleights and asking questions. The workshop was peppered with stories of Bjorn's experiences at the Magic Castle and his experiences as a student of various card experts. His attention to detail and some suggested nuances for the different sleights are things you cannot get from a book. To top off the workshop Bjorn taught his favorite, go to, no sleight at all, card effect. This alone was worth the evening.

Many thanks to Bjorn for all his work and dedication to putting this together and for his years of dedication to Harry Roz-On Ring 26. Thanks also to everyone who attended and made this such a memorable, enjoyable and successful workshop.

Frank Reyes

## **RING 27, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA – Earle J. Christenberry, Jr., Ring**

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:0pm, Happy Italian Pizzeria 7105 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123. Optional meal anytime after 6:00pm – brief business meeting around 7:00 - 7:15 – followed by magic.

KEVIN CARNEY, Vice President / Web site: [www.ibmring27.com](http://www.ibmring27.com)

December 5: Dr. Neil "The Whiz" Baum; Lenny "Tricky Trainwreck" and Darlene Bertrand; Allen Boudreaux; Craig Boudreaux; Barry Fernelius; and Kella Kruebbe attended.

Craig Boudreaux got things rolling with a few handlings of "Grandma's Miracle" by TCC. Then Craig added his touches to Peter Kane's "Jazz Aces." Craig later dazzled us with a multi-phase signed card, "DeLuxé Jack Sandwich" routine he assembled using techniques taught to him by Jon Racherbaumer and Trini Montes.

Dr. Neil "The Whiz" Baum gave us an out of the blue history of toilet paper which led to a combined prediction for Craig, Allen, Darlene, and Barry when a sealed roll of TP was unrolled ("TP's Prediction"). Barry Fernelius rendered a

pleasing, surprising string of wonders done with two diaper pins and a handkerchief; classic magic from a classy man.

After Allen Boudreaux retrieved an ordinary twenty-five cent piece given to Darlene for inspection and initialing, Allen ate and swallowed it. (I don't think that item was on the appetizer menu.) Then, after a bout of hacking, he used a large hemostat to painstakingly retrieve it from inside his nose.

Darlene Bertrand had Baum select a card and return it to the deck. Darlene guided Neil though a few dealings that ultimately somehow resulted with Neil finding his own selected card and unknowingly dealing himself the four aces!

Kella Kruebbe sloppily opened a sugar packet, spilling some before snorting the contents. His sinus was cleared but a coin fell out of the sugar packet.

Lenny "Tricky Trainwreck" Bertrand asked everyone "What do you want to do the first week of each month?" Train handed everyone some numbered slips of paper and encouraged the spectators to make various random adjustments to their papers in order to each arrive at a random number. That number would correlate on a chart and answer the initial question. Coincidentally everyone arrived at the same number and wanted to perform magic on Thursday ("Temptation" by Juan Tamariz from *Verbal Magic*). Bertrand also performed "Lady Spell" by Jon Racherbaumer from Aldo Colombini's *Simply Improv2*.

Barry Fernelius will perform a benefit show for Turtle Yoga Studio this month. Fernelius will also perform at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, CA Jan. 27 – Feb. 02. Doug Conn and Michael Dardant continue to impress and educate via their successful social media presence. Joe Harrison and Dr. Joe Dalgo also individually continue their long running performance runs.

Reflecting on some of the previous December meetings at Knuckleheads we had Kevin Carney print money using magnets. Joe Dalgo went dog shopping via Tenyo and did a card puzzle by Theodore Deland and Richard Kaufman. Dalgo also showed "A Strange Coincidence" (from Eugene Burger's *Teaching Magic*) and Barry Richardson's "Power of Suggestion" (*Theater of the Mind*) using Tabasco sauce, a ring and a hanky. Lenny Bertrand used a flashlight to deliver his Christmas themed "Follow the Star with Gifts."

Recalling a December night a few years ago Dalgo did Phil Goldstien's "Overture" from *Focus*, "Kings Overture" (from Harapan Ong's *Principia*) and Marc DeSouza's "Die of Destiny" at our 2022 meeting. Herb Miller used

a Penn and Teller app to find “What’s Lenny’s Card” and later preformed Simon Aaronson’s “Shufflebored.” Michael Dardant amazed us with some storytelling effects; first a storied card effect about Fiasty Redheads and Jealous Brunettes (a homage to Bro. Hammon from Richard Kaufman’s *Secrets of Brother John Hammon*) followed by a situational original of his (work-in-progress) when spectators make up a random weird event on the spot. Tonight it was about a platypus, wearing a toga, at Audubon Zoo, performing for Jon Racherbaumer, a trick he just learned from Dr. Dalgo (“DeSouza’s Die of Destiny”). All of this culminated as Dardant displayed a photo on his phone of this exact crazy moment (Michael Dardant’s working title “A.I. Oh, You!). Magic Mike also did some anti-gravity ring stuff. Kevin Carney inexplicably used a die within a sealed box and divined its hidden number. Then he showed some of his skill at dice stacking (“Problema Dice” by Martin Duffy). Darlene Bertrand broke out five cards to prove “Destiny/Fate” (from John Carey’s *Reflections*). Lenny Bertrand concluded with John Carey’s “Simplex Premonition” from *Three for Trio*, followed by a six-phase “Ambitious Card” routine and the “Play It Straight/Bannon Triumph” (from John Bannon’s *Impossibilia*).

The “magicians’ table” was reserved at Knuckleheads Dec. 7th for our meeting last year when five of us knocked out an evening of quality entertainment. Craig Boudreaux used some “Kolossal Kolored Kards” (Past International President Obie Obrien) followed by “Color Changing Quad Treys.” Allen Boudreaux demoed the Milking Force used in “Milking the Deck” (from a Vanni Bossi book) followed by Rick Lax’s “Return Flight.” Gerry Thompson gifted us items from his collection of magic books. Lenny Bertrand performed his “Two Cards to Box” before he and Craig demoed and discussed Aldo Colombini’s version that uses a different gaff. Later Tricky Train rendered the Liam Montier puzzler “Adjective.” Darlene Bertrand delivered her “Klondiking to Spectator’s Card.” Craig and the group workshoped Marlo’s “Miracle Aces” and various multiple shifts. Craig concluded with his “Measles for Christmas” culled from a similar named Jay Sankey effect. He also gave a short intro to splitting cards. Allen Boudreaux performed a sugary shakeup prediction (“Sweets” by Matther Dobson) and a real hand smasher using bags, wood blocks and a big sharp pointy nail (“Mini Roulette” by TCC and Treay Chou). Allen followed this with a personalized version of “Enigma” by Christian Grace and concluded using Modern Averdi Mental Dice.

Lenny Bertrand

## **RING 32, ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA – Allentown Society of Magicians, Inc.**

Meets 2nd Mon. of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at Hops Restaurant, 1945 W. Columbia Ave., Allentown, PA.

Web site: [www.ring32.rhhomepage.com](http://www.ring32.rhhomepage.com).

JOE KEPPEL, President

Two regular members, Al Grout and Nick Tibberts, were not in attendance due to covid, but most members presented a variety of magic. Twenty-year-old Enrique continues to amaze with a chosen card in the box routine and also his version of the flip-over eyeglasses. He handles this smoothly and can do it multiple times, amazing.

Card guru, Joe Keppel, presented an effect called “The Collector” and also a dice roll prediction intertwined with cards that was quite nifty. Lots of audience involvement with this one and prediction seems impossible.

Yours truly, Bob Good, did an old effect from his long-gone act which was the disappearing knot in a silk. It just melts away. Also, I showed that the knot trick made famous by Slydini can be done with ordinary silks and a lot cheaper. I believe Herrmann was noted for doing it and it appeared in my Mysto Magic set silk instructions from my Gilbert kit of long ago.

George Reiger had a nice big silk to umbrella number with several productions of umbrellas and a big one as well. Don Severn did a great cup and ball number which he must have really worked on.

Next month Joe Keppel will lecture on the chop cup with hands-on for members. Jeff Stortz and Tom Yurasits I believe wrapped things up with card effects. I was out of the room for some of that action so please excuse.

Have a great holiday season everyone! Have fun and watch the ice! See you in 2025. *Bob Good*

## **RING 36, FLINT, MICHIGAN – The Conjuror’s Club**

meets 4th thu. of the month January – October, and the 3rd thu. of the month for November and December. Currently meeting at Sam’s Restaurant on Grand Blanc Road at 6:00 p.m. in the private room.

DOUG DERN, Secretary • E-mail: [law4less@aol.com](mailto:law4less@aol.com)

Ring 36 had a very busy meeting for November. It was a big turnout. Territorial Vice President Chris Harper filled us in on all the magic happening around the state. He told us what the other Rings were up to as he has been busy visiting other Rings in the area.

Ring 36 President Randy Berg conducted the meeting and did a very secret teach-in with his Magic 101. Also, Kevin Clark did a teach-in on the chips. Then everyone performed their favorite Thanksgiving theme magic. Vice President Dennis Kingsley did a brief but informative workshop on the Faro Shuffle.

Then it was time for fellowship and gossip. And boy, there were some doozies. But you will have to attend our next meeting in December if you want to know about them. And as usual Dennis adjourned the meeting. Until next time.

*Doug Dern*

### **RING 43, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – Harlan Tarbell Ring**

3rd Fri. except July and August, 7:00 p.m., at Magic, Inc. 1838 W.

Lawrence, Ave., Chicago, IL

MIKE KAMLET, President / E-mail: kamlet@ameritech.net

175 E. Delaware #8502, Chicago, IL 60611 / (312) 266-2129

Web site: [www.ring43.org](http://www.ring43.org)

For our November meeting the theme was Everyday Carry / Impromptu Magic. The meeting began with a Magic Incorporated dealer demo by Pedro Nieves. He had a card selected (2H) and brought out his assistant, a mechanical chicken, which correctly found the card. Next came a rope trick where two assistants grabbed the ends of a long rope. Pedro bundled up the middle in his fist and, when he opened his fist, the rope was a fraction of its original length ("The Idiot's Rope Trick"). Next, he did Bob Brown's "Four Card Monte." Finally, he caused a rope to penetrate through his waist!

First up was Terrence Hunter who vanished a small silk with an eye printed on it. He also did the "Mis-made Bill", which featured a triple change. Finally, he got John Sturk to assist and did a "Torn and Restored Sweetener Packet."

Mike Kamlet showed a psychic dollar bill. His volunteer selected a digit from the serial number, and it appeared in a little word balloon next to the picture of George Washington. He also showed how to make Washington smile or frown on command.

John Hutsebaut did his "Eye Ring" routine where a finger ring with a small eye on it penetrates onto a rubber band and then off again. He also demonstrated and explained "Touch," an effect where he wraps a rubber band around his hand and then it jumps onto a spectator's hand when they say "Jump!"

Paco Perez, with his daughter's assistance, asked three questions and spelled out the answers with cards. They used the cards chosen to find the final card (the "Houdini Card") and then showed their prediction in the envelope which matched.

Craig Reeder placed eight objects on the table and he and Pedro took turns eliminating objects. Pedro was finally left with a matchbox which matched the prediction.

Asher Stuhlman always carries a deck of cards, and he picked John Sturk to help. He held the deck in his left hand and John held his wrists apart and closed his eyes. When John opened his eyes, the deck was teleported to Asher's other hand!

John Sturk was next. He did the "Three Ball Transposition" where three balls jumped from one hand to the other and finally, they all vanished. He then showed an ultra-bright self-lighting LED light bulb ("Shine 3.0").

Finally, Mike did a Back Table presentation on Martin Gardner's *Encyclopedia of Impromptu Magic* and showed off both the Magic Incorporated version of the book as well as the Commemorative Edition, which was ten years in the making.

After the meeting some of the members adjourned to Taqueria Primo Chuki's Mexican Restaurant for additional fun and fellowship.

*John Hutsebaut*

### **RING 46, OKLAHOMA CITY – Seymour Davis Ring**

Meets 1st Mon. of month, New Beginning Fellowship Church, 15601 S.

Pennsylvania, OKC

LEE WOODSIDE, Secretary

E-mail: [WoodsideLee@hotmail.com](mailto:WoodsideLee@hotmail.com)

Ring Web site: [www.okcmagic.org](http://www.okcmagic.org)

We had a great turnout for our December Holiday Party. The Ring provided turkey, ham, and soft drinks and the members brought sides, salads and desserts. After a great meal, we began our annual Stage/Parlor Magic Contest.

President Cassidy Smith introduced Cassandra Crowe as the first contestant. She placed four white balls and one black ball into a paper sack and invited five participants to each draw out one ball and keep it hidden. She then divined who held the black ball.

Kevin Brasier invited three audience members to each choose a card and then return it to the deck. Kevin brought out his sword, threw the deck of cards into the air, and impaled the three chosen cards onto the blade of the sword.

Lee Woodside showed a deck of cards as all being different. He placed rubber bands around one end of the deck and tossed the deck to Rick Johnson and asked him to peek at one card. Rick handed the deck to Molly, who followed Rick's example. This was repeated with Kallie and Grant. Lee concentrated and divined all four cards. He then handed certificates to all of the participants recognizing their capabilities as telepathic communicators.

Shaun Clark showed four small chrome rings. He demonstrated the ability of the rings to link and unlink.

Brian Tabor showed a leather cone and a white ball. The ball was able to penetrate the cone. He also caused the ball to multiply. He then showed a paper sack and asked Grace to name any fruit. She chose "apple." Instead of an apple, however, the bag contained a lemon. Brian caused the lemon to change into a crumpled-up piece of orange paper. When the paper



was unfolded, the word Apple was written on it.

David Teeman placed a silk scarf into a small wooden caddy. He showed a small casket that was clear on all sides. After making a magical gesture with his wand (a toilet plunger with a magic wand as a handle), he showed the caddy empty and then the silk scarf magically appeared in the small casket.

While the votes were being tallied, Kevin Brasier showed us his collection of books detailing the construction of stage illusions. He also showed books and DVDs about the performance of illusions. Kevin has constructed and performed the “ZigZag Girl” and the “Metamorphosis” illusions among others.

After Michael King had tallied the results, Cassidy Smith announced the winners of the contest. Brian Tabor took first place, Kevin Brasier second place, and Lee Woodside third place.

*Lee Woodside*

### **RING 49, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA – The Doug Henning Magic Wand Club**

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00p.m. (except July and August), Binkley United Church, 1570 Main St. West (opposite Boston Pizza), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 1E8.

DOUG HUNT, President, / E-mail: stiltrecord@yahoo.ca (519) 756-2984  
Web site: ring49magic.com

December’s Ring 49 meeting in Hamilton, Ontario was well attended and very constructive. We have been planning to perform a stage show at our season end (June), so this meeting was a bit of a primer for that event; but I’ve gotten ahead of myself.

The evening started with opening announcements which included recognition of one of our own: Ken McCreedy was recognized by Canada Magic as an Inspirational Canadian Magician. Congratulations Ken!

Our teaching table was hosted this month by Dinshaw ‘Doc’ Puthakee. I was very pleased to see Doc’s presentation because, like me, performing for his grandkids is his major motivation. To that end Doc went over a few self-working card tricks (based around a nine-card theme) with some excellent commentary and tips on performing them.

Then to the meat and potatoes. Your humble scribe (Rene Chouinard) set down his quill and performed a piece intended for a stage show. The piece itself was formed around a Gibson Box but made use of equipment normally associated with stage performing – a set script, lighting (spot), audio and projected video, stage organization and props of a suitable size for a larger venue. As was intended, it prompted useful and constructive discussion about each of these topics.

This was followed by a presentation from our

I.B.M. Territorial Vice President and club member Scott Hood who went over sound equipment and mics which he uses in his performances and discussed various options and equipment available for shows. Although he covered larger systems appropriate for full-stage events, he also had smaller (and lighter) systems for more limited venues. Scott recommended equipment that ran on batteries (despite their weight) for simplicity in set-up and discussed issues with Bluetooth and how to avoid them. Thanks Scott – supper informative. That’s it for December, see you next month.

*Rene Chouinard*

### **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 met a week early in November to avoid getting gravy on our magic! Fifteen members attended, plus two joining via Zoom; it was a great meeting full of magic. We will be doing an exchange show once again with Nashville’s Ring 37 for our respective holiday parties, and after discussing some area news (like the new location for Terry Evanswood as well as the final show at the Gatlinburg Space Needle for Erik Dobell after eight seasons there) we had thirteen members share some Holiday Magic – Any Holiday!

Mixing in a historical story about the “first” Thanksgiving, Ed Ripley did an excellent version of the “Cannibal Cards” with his tongue securely tucked into his cheek.

Bill Osburn, a.k.a. “Magic Bill,” turned back to Halloween as he shared a package he won from David Orthodoxy that included a “Haunted Key – Blood Edition” which flipped over in Sherman Wires’ hand.

Going back to some dated book or notes, Past International President Mike Stratman did a mathematical effect with a penny and a nickel that accurately relied on the presumption that we are not good at doing math in our heads.

Jim Stott used a trepidatious Roy Schubert as his “child assistant” to help with a 4th of July routine (our next 4th will be our 250th celebration!) using a variety of fun wands – including Jim’s own creation of a gorgeous Flower Wand – along with some funny glasses and a LIT firecracker. This was a fun routine with the silk appearing where the firecracker was, and the firecracker appearing on Roy’s back.

We were glad to have Tom Raidy up from the Chattanooga area to show us something he is working on with a sea story of an old sailor... as

he presented a fun story in conjunction with Tenyo's "Excalibur Ring Penetration."

Traveling through space and time, Roy Schubert had a chosen page torn from a book along with a randomly called-out year arrive in just one of five possible envelopes – to the dumbfounded silence of the group's appreciation once again. Roy also did a stunning card effect with a chosen and sticker-clad card proving Card Insurance is good to have.

Jack Wilson proclaimed that "people lie more during Christmas than other holidays," and proved it with a smooth version of Nick Trost's "Lie Detector."

Having reworked an old lollipop trick, Bill Sturgis showed a stand with six colored Christmas lights and removed three...only to have them reappear moments later.

Preparing Bill Abbott's "Sock Appeal" with all Christmas socks, Tim Pressley had seven fairly eliminated only to have the remaining sock match the single one he was wearing.

I.B.M. Official Photographer Michael Messing shared and recommended Jim Kleefeld's book *Halloween Magic* for inspiration about holiday themed performances.

We were glad Ray Adams made the trek from Pigeon Forge so that he could share his three-phases of "Slydini's Silks" which he did very smoothly; he was asking for presentational ideas.

To end the evening, Tom Vorjohan was on Zoom and did a little show and tell pertaining to three great products he just purchased from David Garrard. This evening was a magical celebration of a fun collection of our holidays!

*Tom Vorjohan*

## **RING 60, AUSTIN, TEXAS – Carl Moore Ring**

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00, at Hero's Night Out in Cedar Park.

TRICIA HEIL DAVIS, President

Web site: [www.ibmring60.org](http://www.ibmring60.org)

November and December Ring 60 meetings provided a spectacular array of performances.

The theme of the I.B.M. Ring 60 November meeting was to share something you bought or learned at a convention. A number of members performed a variety of well executed effects. We also welcomed two visitors, magicians Chano Garcia and Randall Pitts.

Vice President Scott Wells opened the meeting with a follow-up on the Houdini libel trial history lecture, as well as a recap of Houdini seances, and provided a look ahead to upcoming magic conventions. Scott then led off the evening's performances as he amazed the group with his voice controlled light bulb, and Brooks Griffith followed with his entertaining sloppy shuffle color changing card trick.

Robert Tarry smoothly brought kings to aces to kings to aces, and JD Stewart combined coins and cards for a clever effect. Bertil Fredstrom demonstrated a series of shuffles with skill and humor, then Dave Spring expertly used the world's tiniest deck of cards for a card prediction. Tricia Heil Davis produced four aces from random volunteer deck cuts, then delved into the world of serial killers for a gruesome book test.

First time guest Chano Garcia performed a spot-on image prediction, then wowed the group as he had volunteers extract multiple fishhooks from his inside his mouth! Dalton Jones took us out with insights into what he learned about character boards and character development from a recent convention lecture.

It was a great night of magical fellowship, and props to all the performers!

The December Ring meeting was a gathering to honor past presidents and enjoy many of their performances. We were fortunate to have eight past presidents in attendance, each of whom shared some history of the Ring from their respective years in office. We were also pleased to welcome two first-time guests Honey Goodenough, and Silly Sparkles, a.k.a. Regina Martinez, as well as returning visitor and new member Randell Pitts.

The Past Presidents performed in historical order. The Fantastic Kent Cummins was the Ring 60 President in 1978. Kent remains a very active performer and educator on local, state, and national levels. He described a childhood trick he learned in New Orleans and then performed the Stamp Album trick, fantastically causing stamps to appear into a previously empty stamp collector's album.

Robert Castillo, the Amazing Robert, presided over Ring 60 in 1980 and 1981. His service to the Ring continues today as treasurer, performer, welcomer, and person of overall amazingness. He shared memories from his year as president of performances of the late, great, Harry Anderson. The Amazing Robert then skillfully moved aces throughout the deck, disappearing and reappearing.

Past President Brooks Griffith served sometime in the late 1980s or early 1990s and was on the Board for many more years. Brooks Griffiths' family hosted the Ring picnic for an incredible twenty-nine years at their lakeside home and land, for which we are so appreciative. Brooks showed his cardician expertise, magically moving the chosen card from the middle of the deck to the top of the deck.

We next honored Past President Will Mannis, who has been of so much service to the Ring in

so many ways for so many years that the Ring's annual service award is named for him and his wife Heather. Will's term as Ring president was after Brooks. Brooks commented that there were years the Ring picnic would not have happened, but for the efforts of Will and Heather.

Chris Walden oversaw the writing and memorialization of the Ring's bylaws during his year as president in 2006. We rely on these today for the Ring's direction and organization. Chris dove deep into his polished mentalism abilities to predict cards and then captivated the group with further storytelling and predictions.

We welcomed international award-winning past president Bertil Fredstorm to the stage next. Bertil served as Ring President in 2007 and brings his enthusiasm for competitions to the group. He instigated our one-trick contest, and the Magician of the Year award, both of which continue today. He is always a source of encouragement and inspiration for performers to take the next step at competitions. Bertil performed a series of increasingly brilliant mentalism effects, culminating in visually manifesting an audience member's thoughts.

JD Stewart, past president in 2008, is founder of the New Magic Academy. He is constantly creating, learning, and educating. He shares his character and show development freely with Ring members, and especially encourage members to perform at meetings. JD enlisted five audience members to engage in impressive feats of mentalism and prediction that wowed us all.

Ken Dickensheets is our immediate past president, a position he held for two years. Ken navigated us back from Covid and Zoom meetings to stitch us back together into engaging in-person meetings. He is no less than magical duct tape. Ken ended our evening's performances with a series of numbers and predictions that stunned and amazed, adding multiple quite random six-digit numbers to arrive at his previously predicted total!

We are grateful for the service of each of these past presidents, who continue to entertain, educate and inspire. We look forward to the year ahead and many magical gatherings to come.

*Tricia Heil Davis*

## **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

Our November 24, 2024 meeting was brought to order by Ring President Rick Anderson with a large (for Tacoma) attendance. Tony Smith

and Jeff Evans began by sharing stories about the recent Pacific Coast Association of Magicians Convention held in Victoria, British Columbia. It was excellent, high-quality shows, lectures, contest acts, and the super-friendly vibe that PCAM is known for. And with a relatively small attendance it meant great seating for all of the events and the ability to hang out, talk, and session with all of the stars.

Tony displayed a chest of pirate-themed props that he purchased from the swap meet at the PCAM Convention. Members chimed in with ideas for routines that he could perform with the items.

The Ehart family arrived, and talk returned to the PCAM Convention as both Michael and Adria Ehart competed in the convention contests. Everyone wanted to hear more about Adria's gold medal-winning act. (She performed it for the club meeting last month while polishing it, always a great way to practice and get feedback.) Yes, Adria had her medal with her, and we all took a bite to make sure it was real gold.

It was a nice surprise seeing long-time member John Villarreal. He had a fun chicken-themed card trick that he made himself with stickers on blank playing cards. The chicken puns were flying thick! Next, he performed a sponge-ball-esqe routine using sponge eggs. They jumped from hand to hand, split in two, jumped from the pocket to John's hand as well as into Adria's hand. At the end, the eggs were completely gone! Next, he performed his version of "Ambitious Card" with multiple sequences. The ending was a big surprise: the entire deck of cards turned into a clear acrylic block while in Adria's hands! (This is Past International President Shawn Farquhar's Omni Deck, and it's mind-boggling.) John also showed a new visual Linking Rings move he's been working on that looks great.

Tim Flynn had a huge bag of number nineteen rubber bands and passed them around. He wowed Tammy with his multi-phase "Crazy Man's Handcuffs," proof that often times the simplest of props are the best. He opened an invisible purse frame and extracted some coins for a guessing game of two in the hand, one in the pocket that ended with all of the coins vanishing. Next Tammy chose a card which was shuffled into the deck and the deck placed into the card case. Tammy held the card box, and her chosen card eerily rose from the box!

Jeff Evans brought two items to show and get feedback on. One is a small wooden box with various colored poker chips inside. While Jeff turned his back, Tammy placed one poker chip

in the box and sealed it with a rubber band. After taking the box, Jeff was able to mentally “see” the colored chip. Next, he dumped out a handful of metal chain links to several people seated at the table. Each verified that the links were separate and placed them back into the box. Yet, a moment later, all of the links formed into one long chain.

Carl Chalker, who owns Magoo’s Annex, a bar in north Tacoma, recruited a new magician in town to join us at our meeting. Chris Mitchell grew up in the Los Angeles area, sharpened his skills at The Magic Castle, and moved to Tacoma for family reasons. Carl promised us that Chris was “the real deal” and “the best I’ve seen,” and Chris delivered! His “Signed Card to Pocket” fooled us badly multiple times. He also performed a smooth four of a kind routine, “Ambitious Card,” and some nice coin work. All was beautiful and fun to watch and impressed both magicians and guests.

Doug Sparkes showed a routine he created inspired by a book he is reading. He displayed about a dozen photos of famous actors and actresses and mentioned movies they each starred in. He asked Carl to separate these stars into two piles. When the stars were formed into pairs, Doug revealed a surprise on the back of each pair that proved that each movie star was destined to be paired together to create a new blockbuster movie!

President Rick Anderson brought a stack of books and DVDs that were for sale. He also demonstrated “What’s Next,” a visual trick with an unexpected ending. Rick’s handling of this routine is very efficient; the action of gripping and turning the card over moves the spots into the proper position. It’s a lesson in motivated actions concealing “the work.” This prop was also for sale.

*Jeff Evans*

## **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](http://www.ring76.com)

The November meeting of Ring 76 featured a guest lecture by noted magician Tim Wise. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and President Josh Sherwin welcomed twenty-nine members and seven guests. The business meeting consisted of announcements of future Ring events including December’s Holiday Potluck. Paul Dwork announced a fundraising show for the Encinitas Rotary Club in March.

With business concluded, the evening was turned over to the V.P. of Entertainment, “Magic Mike Stilwell,” who introduced our guest lecturer. Ring 76 features two lectures a year and we strive to cover all aspects of the performing arts. Tim Wise is a strong proponent of scripted magic, and he opened his talk with solid demonstrations.

He then went on to regale the audience with stories of his introduction to magic at age twelve and his days on the road with Dennis Loomis’ “Magic Capades” and hosting Jeff McBrides’ “Wonderground” in Las Vegas.

Following the lecture was the Opportunity Drawing where treasures of magic can be acquired for the price of a small ticket. The drawing is random, but fortune was smiling on new member Eric Kavimi who won around six of the prizes.

With that, the meeting was called to a close and the members all reminded of next month’s Holiday Potluck.

*Richard Ustick*

## **RING 79, BINGHAMTON, JOHNSON CITY and ENDICOTT, NEW YORK – Southern Tier Magic Circle Inc.**

Meets 1st Mon. 7:00 p.m., Binghamton General Hospital’s Russell  
Room, 40 Arch St., Johnson City, NY 13790  
NATHAN HICKEY, President / Web site: [www.stiermagic.com](http://www.stiermagic.com)

Our November meeting was held in our usual site with good attendance. We reviewed our 75th anniversary celebration which was a huge success. Pictures and a summary were submitted to *The Linking Ring*. We also discussed plans for our annual holiday dinner which we combine with the Ithaca Ring and the Elmira S.A.M. Folks plan to honor David Hanselman from Ring 140 and Ring 74 for his lifetime achievements in magic. With no further business we moved on to performances.

David Black performed an Alakazam effect “The Collector” which had a Jack the Ripper. Chris Sablich followed this up by showing us some fake eyeballs he made for an effect. These were very realistic and eerie. He then performed a card effect called “Blur” by Garrett Thomas which is a very unique effect in which the cards become blurry except for the chosen card.

Next up, Gary Freed held up a playing card and it changed into a watch and then he proceeded to do a “Chop Cup” routine ending with two tennis balls. This was all very unusual because Gary almost always does card tricks for us.

Jon Harris then performed “Nothing but the Truth” by Vanishing Magic Inc. which is a clever packet effect that leaves your spectator wondering.

Then John Maceli showed a card effect that you can do with someone by mail in which you mail them a deck with instructions on how to choose a card and then they only mail you half of the deck, but you are able to determine their chosen card.

After that Mike Stanley performed “Animal Capers” by Aldo which is a neat little packet card effect.

I then took another shot at performing Daryl’s “Cardboard Chameleons” which I am almost ready to perform in public.



Finally, Doug Welch showed us a brass coin box he bought at a magic auction. The spectator can put the coin in either heads up or heads down and then put the lid back on. Doug can then divine if the coin is heads up or not. Doug finished by showing us a trick built by David Hanselman which allows a rope to penetrate through a block of wood. It is a beautiful effect that shows the craftsmanship of David.

Our next meeting took place on a cold snowy night in December. Only five members were present. We discussed our upcoming holiday dinner party which will be on December 12th. We combine this evening with the Ithaca Ring and the Big Flats S.A.M. The board is planning some themes for our upcoming monthly meetings. January will be cups and balls, February will be ropes, and March rings. This should carry us through the winter doldrums.

For performances David Black started us off with a "Mind Trip" using three cards that each displayed a vacation place he had been too. He asked the spectator to place a coin on any of the cards. Then turned the card over to show that he had predicted that outcome.

Next up was Gary Freed who showed us five Tens of Clubs and one Jack of Hearts but then they all changed into Jacks of Hearts, seemed to be a "wild card" variation. He then went on to

do the "Trick with Two Jokers" which is a very baffling effect, producing any thought of card. This is the Predator Pack by R. Paul Wilson.

Then Chris Sablich showed us a nifty effect with a silver dollar that becomes two, then three, and then all three coins vanish. Chris continues to perfect this illusion.

We finished with John Maceli giving a spectator a deck of cards and having them deal a pile of ten to twenty cards, stopping when they like and looking at the top card. The spectator then reassembles the deck and gives it a riffle shuffle which is all very fair. The spectator starts dealing cards face up from the top and within a few cards John names the chosen card. Seems impossible but John has his secrets which he got from Charles Jordan.

*Dan Young*

### **RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone**

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. "Social Gathering," 7:00 p.m. start time.  
Trinity United Methodist Church in Haley Hall, 4150 South Shade Ave.,  
Sarasota, FL

GARY ROBERTS, President

E-MAIL: gary@robertsgary.com / Web site: www.ibmring81.com

We typically install officers in December, but we postponed the formality until next month as our top two "brass" were unable to be at the meeting. However, for 2025, we welcome Star Newman as our new President, David Pitchford

as our new Vice President, Tom Vorjohan continues as Secretary, Woody Woodward as our new Treasurer, and Gary Roberts becomes our immediate Past President after two wonderful years of leadership for Ring 81.

With twelve members enjoying the evening together, we put on an informal show to welcome our new officers; opening the festivities was Gary Roberts (using Jack Walters as his volunteer), Gary took a shuffled deck of cards into a clear box and had Jack shake them up wildly... and Gary correctly predicted the number of face up cards, how many were black and even a surprise ending prediction. Bob Banta assisted Frank Valesco in a game of Tic-Tac-Toe which ended in a tie – exactly as Frank predicted.

Bruce Young did a gorgeous card effect where cards vanished from the spread and were found reversed in the deck in the box. Dick Stevens shared a story about the "Night Before Christmas" with a mouse that appeared from the top, bottom, and side of the book Dick was reading. Then he used Brian Zimble for a Jim Steinmeyer menu effect where he correctly predicted the total – with tip! – for the random five-course meal of Brian's complete choosing.

Bob Banta, our dedicated treasurer for many years who just stepped aside, did a card effect with Nick Benevento and two decks of cards to correctly identify the chosen card requested. To conclude the show, Tom Vorjohan shared Steve Hart's large version of "Window of Opportunity," a quick puzzle trick and Chalet Magic's version of "What's Next."

Time flies when you are watching fun magic, and suddenly we had just ten minutes to do our first "Dirty Santa" gift swap. Led by Dan Walsh, the game was fast and furious with trading limited to just one steal per item; we met the time constraints with some great gifts being exchanged. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all. If you are in the Sarasota area in 2025, please reach out to us! *Tom Vorjohan*

### **RING 89, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN – Neil Foster Ring**

Meets the second Monday of every month, 7 p.m., at American Museum of Magic located at 107 E. Michigan Ave. Marshall, MI 49068.

ERIC SULLIVAN, President

140 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI 49068 / E-mail: trazdal@att.net

The December I.B.M. 89 Ring meeting kicked off with Eric, John, Mike, Matt, Andrew, Kevin, and Phil ready for an amazing night of magic.

Eric shared a letter the Ring received from Max, a magician in Oregon. Max collects magicians' business cards, and Eric will be sending back a letter that includes some business cards from different magicians from the Marshall area. The I.B.M. Ring 89 business meeting will

take place over Zoom on December 30th at 7:00 p.m. Keep an eye out for an invitation from Eric.

Now, let's get to the main event! Magic! This week's theme is "Appearances and Vanishes." John kicked things off with an incredible performance he learned from Neil Foster. It was an amazing effect involving cards, with fans of cards appearing, vanishing, and ultimately, the entire deck vanishing into thin air. He also shared an amazing effect involving the appearance and vanishing of water. Mike followed up with appearing and vanishing candle sticks. This led to a great exchange about finding your character and creating effects that work within the world of your character. Kevin then showcased a bottle production and a rose production effect. He asked for feedback on how to make the rose production even more impactful. Many great ideas were shared. Finally, Phil announced the addition of new DVD and VHS editions to the Ring library, which continues to grow.

The next meeting will take place on January 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Michigan. The theme will be rope magic. Until then, keep practicing, performing, and sharing amazement. *Kevin Rosewood*

### **RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.  
BILL FIENNING, Secretary  
(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: wcfienn@att.net

President Dave Dunlap opened our December meeting. This was our usual White Elephant gift exchange of magic. Using a random drawing system, participants could choose a wrapped gift or "steal" an already selected gift. There was some useful magic exchanged in the process.

Treasurer Tom Plunkett has been seeking some magic lecturers for this coming year. This has been difficult because there are fewer lecturers, and the cost is too high. Secretary Bill Fienning explained the reasons for weather-related cancellations, sometimes just hours before a Ring meeting. Desert weather in New Mexico can be difficult to predict and can change rapidly. *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 annual Christmas dinner took place on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at Shimshiri Caveman Restaurant which is located right in the heart of Vancouver's Historic Chinatown. Thanks to

President Yoosik Oum for making the arrangements with owner Mary Wiggins for the use of their facilities for this special occasion. Arriving early to the restaurant to set up the staging and the VMC banners were Graham Kita and Past International President Shawn Farquhar. The club used the house sound system. Shawn Farquhar brought his wireless microphones for the club to use. Shawn and Graham fixed the backdrops. The lights were already there.

The doors opened at 6:00 p.m. as members and guests arrived early for a chat session. After everyone was seated, President Yoosik Oum greeted and welcomed the members and guests and wished them a Merry Christmas and to enjoy the evening. He was also the emcee for the evening. While the wait staff were taking orders, walk-around magic was performed by Past S.A.M. National President Rod Boss, Past International President Billy Hsueh, Rod Chow, Yoosik Oum, and Henry Tom, while Graham Kita was selling 50/50 tickets.

After the delicious dinner, it was show time! There were two competitions this evening. The first one was for the Percy Poole Trophy which is a competition for junior members. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence performed by a junior member. No effects or routine designed to be performed close-up will be permitted.

The second competition was for the William Shelly Trophy, which is an adult competition. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in stage magic. Close-up effects are not permitted. Last year's winner of the William Shelly Trophy, Billy Hsueh, was the host and emcee for the two competitions. He read the rules for both of the competitions. The timekeeper was Simon Cassegrain. The opening act was performed by Scott Barker in the adult category. The next performer was Jack Schwartz. Jack was the only junior competitor for the Percy Poole Trophy. Following Jack's performance, other competitors for the William Shelly Trophy were Roy Hopwood and Past International President Alex Zander. Junior competitor, Jack Schwartz scored enough points to win the Percy Poole Trophy for 2024. Alex Zander was the winner of the William Shelly Trophy for 2024.

Congratulations to Jack and Alex and to the rest of the competitors. In between the acts, Billy Hsueh told magic stories. After the competition, Billy did some magic with a paper bag. After Billy's performance, Lon Mandrake did a mentalism effect using giant cards. He also used an assistant.

The bring a gift, get a gift exchange is always

a fun and popular event. Yoosik Oum drew the names for this event. I was surprised to see that for the size of the club, that not a lot of people participated in this fun filled event. There were only about ten gifts on the gift table. For the 50/50 draw, Graham Kita had a guest draw the winning ticket. Billy Hsueh called out the winning numbers. The winner of the 50/50 draw was Suzanne Gustafson (Bulldog's guest). She won \$95 which she donated back to the club. Graham Kita tried to get her to take the prize, but she wanted to give the money back to the club. This is the third time that Suzanne has won the 50/50 draw and each time she donated her winnings back to the club. Thanks, Suzanne, for supporting the Vancouver Magic Circle. In the past, other guests who have won the 50/50 draw also returned their winnings back to the club. Thanks to all those who bought 50/50 tickets to help support the club. The photographers for the evening were Graham Kita, Roy Hopwood, Rod Chow, and Henry Tom.

It was a fun and enjoyable evening for everyone. The Vancouver Magic Circle thanked the Shamshiri Caveman restaurant and their staff for their excellent food and service. The Vancouver Magic Circle, their executive and directors, thank each and every one for attending this year's Christmas gathering and fun filled event. Without you this event would not have been such a success. The Vancouver Magic Circle is hoping to see you all again in 2025. Thanks to Suzanne for driving me to and from the dinner. There were twenty-seven members and fifteen 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

It has been a tough month for Ring 93. On November 19th, Rob Gomoll passed away due to complications from ALS. Rob was a teacher in the Dubuque Community School system for thirty-nine years and he also taught at the University of Dubuque for eleven years. He was a member of the I.B.M. and Ring 93 for the last five years. During those years Rob was the emcee at club meetings, shows, and lectures. He opened every event with an original poem and usually performed a magic effect.

The following are some of the thoughts about Rob that members shared: "He was one of the most kind and decent people I have ever known." "Rob was a great inspiration for me to join the magic club." "Rob was everyone's cheerleader and had a passion for helping others." "Words were his passion, and he used them to lift up anyone who was struggling, feeling

judged, or underestimated." "Rob always encouraged me to keep writing and he pushed me to be a better person each and every day." "Rob had a way to make the ordinary extraordinary." "Whether he was sharing a poem to start a meeting, a story, or a bit of magic, Rob had the gift of making everyone around him feel special and appreciated." "Rob was the brother I never had and there will never be another Rob Gomoll."

Before he passed away, Rob sent a Thanksgiving poem for our November meeting, very likely the last one he wrote:

We all know Thanksgiving is more than a big balloon / In the Macy parade, / Or a football game in the afternoon. / It was a time when Native Americans gave the pilgrims aid. / Instead of beginning a deadly feud, / The Wampanoags gave the pilgrims some land and food! / They lived together without fear, / And the Puritans survived their first year. / The Wampanoag kindness was real, / So the Pilgrims invited them to the first Thanksgiving meal. / It's good to remember / In 1863 Lincoln established Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November. / Our Magic Club, Ring 93, is a Thanksgiving homily. / It is a REAL family! / When I had no transportation, and I couldn't go, / My magic-brothers drove me to a magic show! / When I had trouble walking, I leaned on a brother. / He took one arm, and another took the other! / Magic helps your mind and soul. / Learning tricks is a healthy goal. / It is fantastic! / And it keeps an aging brain elastic! / Magic Club is one big reason / Why I am grateful this Thanksgiving season!

At the November meeting we had two prospective new members with Fred Miller and TJ Regal. TJ is known as the Quad-Cities Magician and performs magic full time. Most of the meeting time was spent talking about and planning for a club show in the spring which will be held at the Galena Center for Arts. Performances for the afternoon were: TJ performing "Over Draft and Scratch," Adam a rope effect called, "Catch Me If You Can," Chris "Slydini Silks," Phyllis "Spinning the Plates," Walking Magic Bob "Houdini and Bess" effect plus his famous "Black Hills Charge-it" effect, and Mark performed "Big Kick" by Liam Montier.

*Bob Beardsley*

### **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](http://www.kingmagicring.com)  
JOHN SWOMLEY, President / E-mail: [johnnyo@trickyperson.com](mailto:johnnyo@trickyperson.com)

Christmas is coming and it only makes sense to shop around for new magic in November. This year, as last, we were visited by Jolly Ole

St. Scott. Scott Correll has a lengthy history in the magic dealer market and brought his wares to the night's attendees. Our evening was full of stories, demos, and laughs.

Here is a list of many of the items we got to experience and even purchase: Tiny Smoke Machine; coins including a new Hopping Halves; the latest TCC items; a rechargeable powered reel; Chop Cup/Coin Cup combo; new Tenyo items, Christmas Coloring Book; Knives (just knives, Scott loves knives); new Murphy's items; loud tiny sound boxes; bubbles tube (with Scott Correll's famous bubble juice); Hindu Vase; and a remote light bulb.

We all went away with new magic to regale the masses. *John Swomley*

### **RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – Merlin Eiert Ring**

Meets 3rd Sat., 7:00 pm at the Seal Beach North Community Center,  
3333 Saint Cloud Dr., Seal Beach, CA  
Web site: [www.Ring96.com](http://www.Ring96.com)  
CLIFF GERSTMAN, Secretary / E-mail: [Cliffg37@verizon.net](mailto:Cliffg37@verizon.net)

The November pre-meeting workshop theme was Jazz Aces. Kevin's version of this is an exciting yet fairly simple trick that relies on a gimmick and a little bit of a sleight. In this effect the four aces switch places with indifferent cards to gather together. Maestro Kevin Papke brought in gimmicks for people to use, and they brought in their own deck. Kevin's teaching went exceptionally well, and everyone soon learned the move and were ready to practice and master it.

Outgoing President John Piercy opened the meeting with announcements and held the elections for the next year's officers. This was an easy process with little controversy.

Our lecture for the night was Michael Mirth speaking on the topic of leveling up your magic.

Michael talked about what it means to "level up." You have to be willing to fail. You have to be willing to be bad in order to grow. But be bad in a safe place and reflect on what made you bad and how to improve your performance.

Michael brought out a deck of ESP cards. He had a volunteer cut the deck at a random spot. He proceeded as a time saver to simply hand a card from the new top of the deck to six people in the front row. This saves time of having six people pick a card. Michael commented on each person's personality before naming the card they were holding.

Michael produced two cards that looked like a cross between jumbo cards and Tarot cards. One was a black king, and one was a black jack. He declared the jack to be Hamlet and the king was Othello. He told an interesting story about Hamlet trying to run from death.

The story and the trick ended with the jack being somehow replaced by the card of Death that was coming for Hamlet.

Michael showed us "The Haunted Key," and pointed out that story telling can breathe new life into an old prop. We were shown an illusion using coffee cup sleeves that were opened up into the shape of a boomerang. Michael had a homemade pack of cards. Each card listed an obscure country and an unusual occupation. A card was chosen. It was a Filipino contortionist. Michael had a folder with a prediction. It turned out there was no prediction, just a groaner of a pun. He also demonstrated how to roll a paper napkin into a rose and took it to the next level by adding a rose essence scent to complete the experience.

A pack of four-by-six index cards was used for the next effect. Each card had possible locations on it. Michael predicted which card would be chosen. Michael brought up two volunteers. He had three eight and a half by eleven signs that read "The Good," "The Bad," and "The Ugly." One was the sheriff, one was the deputy, and the other was the outlaw. The three were going to have a shooting, and some might live, and some might die. A previously written paper declared who had real bullets in their gun, and who had blanks. This led up to the final prediction which quoted the famous Bob Marley song, "I shot the sheriff, but I did not shoot the deputy."

Next came an effect in which a dead man's hand, aces over eights, was shown along with an indifferent card. The deck was shuffled in different ways, and after a long session of performing various acrobatics with the deck, the chosen cards were the only face down cards. Michael's final effect involved four queens in four wine glasses. One queen was placed in each glass and covered with three indifferent cards. As Michael pulled the cards from each glass, the queen had vanished. All four queens ended in the last glass. Another exciting evening at Ring 96. *Cliff Gerstman*

### **RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – The Maurice Rooklyn Ring**

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood  
Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street  
Chatswood.  
JACK SHARP, President / email: [jack@sharpmagic.com.au](mailto:jack@sharpmagic.com.au)

The theme for our November meeting was Work in Progress. This is an opportunity for our performers to show something they are working on and ask the floor for any advice or suggestions for improvement. We have run this theme a few times in the past and some of our magicians have found it very helpful.

Host Dale Trueman introduced the evening



with an icebreaker by getting us all to stand and participate in a drama workshop exercise by going around the room and each person calling out their name, then doing an action with a sound. Dale then delivered a brief talk on character development and how he came up with his wonderful characters Dave the Bogan from Woy Woy and Snowy the cocaine dealer from the early days of historic Sydney.

Peter Wood was the first performer who presented his three-object prediction but showed how he had developed it into an idea where, instead of having a prediction, he had written a script. A spectator acted out an improvisation by choosing an object for himself, one for Peter and the remaining one left on the table. When Peter showed us the script he had written previously, it was exactly how the improvisation turned out, a variation on what is often a rather plain prediction.

Anthony Dillon then did an "Oil and Water" routine. A suggestion was to make it a story about men and women at a party; they arrive in pairs but soon we find all the men gathering together in one corner and the women in another area.

After that, our host Dale Trueman showed us a routine he was working on using the side steal, which he is still trying to develop the "knack" for that move. Some helpful suggestions were offered such as other handlings for the side steal and alternative methods for achieving the same result without using a side steal.

Conway Restom demonstrated the 52 to 1 Deck where two spectators merely think of a card they see in the spread, and Conway was able to cut to the cards they were simply thinking of. Numerous helpful suggestions followed.

Then Stephen Bell did a version of the "Card Sharp vs. Magician" routine where three cards that were previously shown as queens all turned out to be twos.

Finally, President Jack Sharp presented a two-deck coincidence where he and a spectator both turned over the same card in their decks even though it was done under the table, and they couldn't see the cards. He then showed a hybrid routine of UF Grant's original "Out Of This World" with a recent version of Eugene Burger's which involved a spectator holding a poker chip in his dominant hand whilst he dealt the cards with his other hand. The intention was to slow the spectator down so Jack could observe him more closely.

Jack then spoke to us about improving our magic so that spectators cannot see our methods. It is said, "Don't run if you are not being chased," but Jack says we must assume that we

are always being chased. Kids will tell us if they see something suspicious, but adults won't, so we never really know what adults are thinking of our magic. All our moves and methods must be flawless so as to avoid all possibilities of "being busted." I myself found this a quite motivating talk.

All in all, it was a good night. Routines were presented and people offered all sorts of ideas and suggestions. I took home some good insights and I'm sure others did as well. Let's do another Work in Progress next year. *Peter Rodgers*

### **RING 106, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – Slydini Pyramid Garden State Ring**

Meets 2nd Wed., 8:00 p.m. at The Sparta Avenue Stage, 10 Sparta Ave., Sparta Township, NJ

STAN BLADEK, Secretary / E-mail: quakmagicphil@aol.com

The I.B.M. Ring 106 met on November 13 for a meeting whose theme was mentalism. We started off the meeting with members commenting on recent conventions and get-togethers that they had attended. We got a review of Super Sunday, held in Pennsylvania (the old Bob Little meeting) and another review of the S.A.M./T.A.O.M. meeting held in Texas. There was a review of a day trip to the Houdini Museum in Scranton, PA which was an all-day affair as well.

Phil Schwartz started us off with Slydini's "Mongolian Clock" trick and followed it up with an invisible deck effect utilizing equivoque. This was off Rick Castro's Invisible Deck DVD. Mike Healy performed Larry Becker's "Casino Royal." The matching chip, Black Jack hand, and money amount all matched a prediction done prior to his performance.

Bruce Harpster played a psychic researcher with some neat props found at local stores over Halloween. He turned this into a two card turn around reveal with predictions written on the back of two alternate cards. Eddie Conrads then gave us a mini store demo as he showed off eight recent purchases at Super Sunday, Tannen's, and at Mel's Magic shop in Pennsylvania. Included were a double dove pan, "Inflamed," an ashtray fire effect, a Sprit fire clip with remote control, a Houdini deck, "Motel Destiny," "Omni Air," through the wall perpetual puzzle, and a Phantom lock from Tannen's.

Tim Fortune did a tasty M&M equivoque trick called "Blue Remains" by Hector Chadwick. Stan Bladek followed up with a dollar bill switch made to fool magicians. No thumb tip needed. This was based off Pete Biro's "Billion Dollar Bill Switch" from a 1997 publication. Dan Sylvestri closed our night with a Domino trick in which a spectator matched

twelve tiles, and the end designs matched a previous prediction.

We closed our meeting with each member getting a nice new marked deck of cards courtesy of Bruce Harpster. *Stan Bladek*

### **RING 112, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE – M.H. Ortwein Ring**

Meets 3rd Tue. of each month, 6:00 pm at Miller's Ale House, 2119 Gunbarrel Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421  
www.ring112.org

JIM DRISCOLL, Acting President / E-mail: jim.driscoll@gmail.com

Our regular monthly meeting was on Tuesday, November 17 and we were thrilled with seventeen members and guests in attendance. Everyone was delighted to have longtime member Steve McDaniel in attendance. We also welcomed two new guests. David Harrison is a retired minister and gospel magician who has traveled the U.S. and Canada bringing his message through magic. Bill Weimer is a Chicago magician who has relocated to the Chattanooga area. Bill appeared in a number of Chicago's magic bars in their heyday and wrote the book *Now You See Them, Now You Don't: My life in the Magic Bars of Chicago*.

We held a quick business meeting to discuss upcoming months. Officer elections will be in January. Acting president Jim Driscoll updated attendees on a Halloween day appearance on WTVT Channel 9's *Daily Refresh* program. He reported his goal was to raise public awareness of the Chattanooga Magic Club and hopefully attract the attention of potential new members.

Following the business meeting we had performance/sharing/teaching time hosted by Program Chairman Tom Raidy. Tom led off by exploring handlings for the Haunted Key and he presented a mini-illusion with a sword, a ring, and a crystal casket.

Lance Johnson, a fourth-generation magician, displayed his grandfather's handcrafted production box. He was followed by longtime member Steve McDaniel who shared one of his favorite classics from his extensive collection of paddle tricks.

Jeffrey Williams chased a mysterious entity hiding under a handkerchief around the room and Roger Smith talked about the effectiveness of using unusual props and shared some unique mummified hands he built. Adam Ryan followed by performing a divination of a random word selected by Tommy Johns.

Our guest Bill Weimer demonstrated a fun "con" game he created. Jim Driscoll then shared his latest creation of a corn husk doll that mysteriously stood up. Robert Jones finished the evening telling us more about our guest David Harrison and then announced that David had a box of magic items and members were welcome

to take anything they wanted.

We invite all former Ring 112 members, and all magicians in the Chattanooga, south Tennessee and north Georgia areas who are interested in becoming a part of the club, to join us at one of our future meetings. Our meeting location is at Miller's Ale House, near the Hamilton Place Mall in Chattanooga. *Jim Driscoll*

### **RING 113, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY – Audley Walsh/Conrad C. Bush**

Meets 1st Thurs. 8:00 pm, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 300 Forest Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ.

ANTHONY FERRER, Secretary / web site: ibmring113@yahoo.com

Our holiday party with a white elephant gift exchange took place during our December Ring meeting. After a lavish buffet and white elephant gift exchange, Ring president Richard Micucci performed the "Snow Storm" to create a wintery holiday vibe.

Next, Jay Paul performed a card effect with a unique stacking system to divine a chosen card. John Henderson shared a work-in-progress card routine inspired by the movie *National Treasure*. John applied an original force principle that referenced the mystical symbols on the dollar bill with a deceptive bill switch to reveal a chosen card.

Bill Schmeelk demonstrated Cameron Francis' "Loner," where the spectator is asked to imagine any of the four suits in a deck of cards. Once the suit is selected, the spectator freely names any card value. When the magician spreads the deck, displaying all blank faces, only one card is reversed, the spectator's thought of card! Next, Eddie Conrad presented a Christmas themed routine based on Jim Steinmeyer's "Nine Card Problem." A card was selected from a packet of nine cards and another spectator names any random card. The named card is spelled and dealt. Finally, the cards are dealt to spell Merry as in Merry Christmas, and the original spectator's card is revealed!

Bill Schmeelk returned to perform Chris Congreave's hilarious "Cloak." A spectator is dealt a winning poker hand but loses the game because the game was Clue, not poker, and Bill revealed he had the winning Clue hand to solve the murder! Next up, Carl Morano demonstrated Tenyo's 2025 reissue of the mystical "Crystal Pyramid" coin illusion. A signed 100-Yen coin vanishes and mysteriously re-appears in a tiny box underneath a clear plastic pyramid! Rich Micucci returned to close out the evening with John Bannon's "Spin Doctor," a highly visual color changing, acrobatic four-aces packet trick.

All in all, it was a festive evening overflowing with laughter, magic, food, and libations!

*Carl Morano*

## **RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring**

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at Westport Coffeehouse Theater, 4010 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite D, Kansas City, MO 64111  
KELLY RUSK, President,  
E-mail: knr6244@hotmail.com

Our December meeting was a cold evening in the Kansas City area, but there was a lot of warm fun. This was the last meeting conducted by our Ring President, Jason Moore. Jason has been our president for the last two years and has done an outstanding job in making our club events enjoyable and interesting. Kelly Rusk will be our incoming president.

The theme for this month's meeting was "Classics of Magic." Several members presented magic concerning the theme. Pete Walterscheid did a fantastic card trick using the Si Stebbins Stack method. Very ingenious. Lance Rich did a very fun presentation, passing out custom cards to all the audience, having them torn in two and then the final torn card magically matched. He also shared two very good books by Mike Caveny concerning the classic magic of sawing a person in two. Dennis Burks pulled a flat rabbit from a flat magician's hat and had the rabbit back to its proper size by the use of an air pump.

Our "Show Us the Magic" session started with Jordan Byrd sharing a very good book, *Spectacle of Illusions*, by Matthew Tompkins. (I ordered a copy of it the next day.) The Ring's best card mechanic, John Hicks, did a card effect using the Triumph Shuffle. Jason Moore and David David (yes that is correct) showed some very cool covers for Sharpie markers. Phillip Franklin shared his experience at a recent mentalist convention held in Philadelphia. An additional presenter at the conference was Bob Arno, one of the few honest pickpocket performers.

Our movie challenge to watch this month was *The Time Travelers* (1964). Discussion on the magical effects that were in the movie was led by Jason. Our dealer session had our local magic vendor, Magic Supply, share a number of Christmas tricks that were available. Members brought many toys for our annual charity drive "Toys for Tots" plus blankets were given for the First Christian Church of Blue Springs blanket drive. This will be the last meeting at this location. Our new location, starting in January will be the Westport Coffeehouse Theater, 4010 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite D, Kansas City, MO 64111. We want to thank the First Christian Church of Blue Springs for all the years they have let us use their fellowship hall.

This was another very fun meeting. If you are visiting the Kansas City area, please feel free to

make plans to attend our monthly meeting. You are always welcome.  
*Dennis Burks*

## **RING 131, DENVER, COLORADO – Mile High Magicians Society – The Earl Reum Ring**

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 40 West Arts Magic Hub Stage, 6501 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood, CO 80214  
A. J. PEREA, Secretary / E-mail: Secretary@milehighmagicians.com  
Web site: [www.milehighmagicians.com](http://www.milehighmagicians.com)

The Mile High Magicians Society hosted a business night where three of the most successful professional magicians in Colorado shared their insights for current and aspiring performers. Shawn Popp, Will Mannsz, and Charly Wonder spoke about their experiences building a brand for themselves and advertising to potential clients. The business side of magic is distinct from the performance side of magic.

One of the biggest recurring themes of the night was building a brand for yourself. First, each magician has to determine what types of shows they want to perform. Corporate shows are different than children's shows or restaurants. This determines how you present yourself including your costume, script, brand image, and advertising strategy. Each magician must then target their advertising in an effective manner. For example, a children's performer might book a booth at a local children's fair to target parents looking for entertainment for a birthday party. Alternatively, a corporate magician could perform at a restaurant frequented by executives. In-person connections generally lead to more bookings than online or mail advertisements.

All three members of the panel get a lot of bookings through repeat business or word of mouth. It is important to be a professional and represent the magic community well. This includes communication with the client, good hygiene, appropriate costumes, punctuality, and well-rehearsed magic acts. In cases where you, as the professional magician, cannot attend a booking, it is your responsibility to find a worthy replacement and communicate with the client. Shawn Popp broke his leg and had to find a replacement for a booking.

Having an online presence is also important. Each magician should have a professionally run website and content on their main social media platforms. Will Mannsz gave some insight into how he runs his social media presence and advertising.

Outside of advertising, the panel gave advice on how to run the business aspect. This included having a client list to document performances and agreeing to logistics. Charly's shows can be pricy, but she offers steep discounts to clients who cannot afford the full price. Professional

magicians should run their bookings like a business with a targeted marketing strategy, a quality product, and professionalism. *A.J. Perea*

### **RING 151, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA – Ottawa Society of Magicians - The Roy Cotte Ring**

Meets 2nd Tue., at one of three locations. Contact us for details.

JOHN PERT, President

5556 Van Vliet Rd., Manotick ON, K4M 1J4

After the solemn events of Remembrance Day, November 11th, the day every year that Canadians remember the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace, the members of Roy Cotte Ring (Ring 151, Ottawa) gathered to share the art of magic. In attendance were John Pert, Stephane Beaudouin, Chris Pilsworth, Ernest Thomas, Mark Montreuil, Aurèle Constantineau, Pierre Bourgeau, and Austin Flannigan.

President John Pert started us off by talking about a number of magic shows that are happening in our area, and also mentioning a possible club charity magic show. John then started off the magic by showing us three cereal box lids, two Honey Nut Cheerios and one Trix, and mixing up the cards in a classic three card monte. After turning the cards over, we failed to find the Trix until John turned around and we saw that it was stuck to his back!

Chris Pilsworth went next, introducing a pink rope, accompanied by the famous *Pink Panther* theme song. Chris then treated us to his own rope routine that combines parts of cut and restored and "Professor's Nightmare," ending the routine by fusing the three ropes into one long rope. It was a very nice routine and very well done.

Ernest Thomas said that he was so sure about his next trick, he was ready to risk twenty dollars on it. He showed three drink coasters, one each for Whisky, Beer and Wine, and asked us to pick one. We picked Whisky, and when Ernest turned over the twenty-dollar bill, we saw that Whisky was printed on the back, much to our amazement.

Austin Flannigan asked two spectators to each cut off around one third of a deck of cards to select a card. He then had the cut packets replaced, and he spread the deck face down, showing that there were two face up jokers in the deck. He removed the jokers and asked the jokers where the selected cards were. Austin said that the first joker said eighteen, and the second forty-three. The cards were dealt and the 18th and 43rd cards were removed. To our amazement, the jokers had indeed found the selected cards.

Pierre Bourgeau treated us to another classic

card trick. Pierre had a deck of cards shuffled and then asked a spectator to select a card. Pierre said that the spectator had left a fingerprint on the back of the card, and then he spread the cards face down. By slowly scanning the backs, he settled on one card, and turning it over, he proved that he had, in fact, found the selected card.

And so, another night of magic came to a close. Until next time, dear reader, I remain,

*Mark Montreuil*

### **RING 153, BILLINGS, MONTANA – Billings Magic Society**

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Reflections, 1140 Sixteenth Street West, Suite 13, Billings, MT.

BRENT CROMLEY, President / E-mail: [brent@cromley.net](mailto:brent@cromley.net)

(406) 208-4147

It was a rather sparse turnout for our November club meeting, but we were delighted to welcome a new member, J.D. Linderman, who, with his wife, have for years presented a wide variety of musical and magical entertainment at a number of different venues, most recently appearing at the annual All Hallows Renaissance Fair in Billings.

The "discussion" portion of the meeting was mostly familiarizing J.D. with our Ring and learning of his background. Originally from Florida, J.D. originally "found" Montana when he was deployed here to fight fires some years ago. He eventually found a way to move here. Brent Cromley gave him a couple older issues of *The Linking Ring* and suggested it as a good way to keep up to date on what is happening in the world of magic.

But of course, we always practice and show off magic at our meetings. Tony Shandy was prepared with another example of his original patter as he presented a startling disappearing and reappearing performance using Morgan dollars, an effect he appropriately named, "The Morgans." This was all done to the music of Barry Manilow's "All the Time."

Brent then performed three of his favorite card effects, the first being a trick he first learned on YouTube as "This, That and the Other." However, Brent uses cards with green, red, and yellow stop lights, the latter being shown at the conclusion as a reminder to, "always be cautious," when watching magicians. Brent followed that with John Bannon's "Triumph" and the late Harry Lorayne's "That's The Truth."

Debbie Sherman helped make it a magical evening by providing us all with her Rice Krispie Treats.

We've had extraordinarily great weather in Montana this fall but are preparing for the



inevitable cooler weather and snows. We have some of the country's best skiing in the state so if you find yourself taking a winter vacation to the Big Sky country, be sure to look us up.

*Brent Cromley*

### **RING 158, GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA—Wizards of the North**

Meets 1st Sun 3:00 pm at Dino's Sports Lounge at 1020 Towne Sq. Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601

MARK DURIGON, President / email: mdur@comcast.net  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443](https://www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443)

In lieu of a December meeting, Ring 158 met 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6, 2024, at Rodney's Restaurant in Irwin, Pa., as a combined business meeting and Christmas party. Present were Rick and Pam Bradley, Clint and Kathy McMaster, Chuck and Sandy Rygle, Rob Shook, Chuck Snyder, and Mark Zajicek. The meeting was commenced by Clint McMaster.

New business: The results of the elections held on November 3 were presented to the group, President Mark Durigon, Vice President Clint McMaster, Secretary Rob Shook, Treasurer Mike Baker, and Sergeant-at-Arms Chuck Rygle (who was not bearing any arms that evening). A calendar of themes for each meeting during the next year was constructed.

Chuck Snyder brought several boxes of items for sale from his recent venue "Something Amazing." Clint had placed gift bags containing magical items on a side table for each member, and he cleverly constructed an orderly sequence to follow in choosing a bag, based on the value of a diamond card found in a small Christmas stocking at each member's place setting.

After an exceptionally delicious and festive meal, some magic was presented. Rick Bradley presented a routine where some large, numbered cards kept repeating themselves and then disappeared from a box, and a convention prediction. Chuck Snyder did a book test. Clint performed a routine with colored socks. Chuck Rygle performed a "Six Card Repeat." Rob performed a card routine based on the Hummer Principle.

After more merriment and cupcakes which Clint provided, the party adjourned. The next meeting will be on Sunday, January 5, 2025, at Dino's, our usual venue.

*Willis D. Shook, III, M.D.*

### **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](mailto:dphillips13@cfl.rr.com)

Web site: [www.Ring170.com](http://www.Ring170.com)

Meetings are often fun and full of laughs. The November meeting was opened by Vice President Craig Fennessey because moments before, President David Freeman called him in a panic and said that he had laid down for an after-

noon nap and fell into a deep sleep, like an assistant in the classic Asrah illusion. All ended well, Freeman magically arrived just after Vice President Craig did the announcements of the upcoming events in the Orlando magic scene and took charge.

Phil Schwartz presented Magic History Moment #107, his series of mini lectures on a variety of magic history subjects. This month he talked about Buatier DeKolta (1848-1903), the great French-born inventor, performer and originator of magic ideas including the Flying Bird Cage (a.k.a. Vanishing Bird Cage), Vanishing Lady (a.k.a. the DeKolta Chair), Multiplying Billiard Balls, Spring Flowers, Rising Cards, and Expanding Die describing how DeKolta performed them. Phil also mentioned one of the DeKolta's fellow illusionists, Professor Edward Field, who performed the Vanishing Lady and, from his collection, Phil displayed two 1886 silk programs of Field's performances of the illusion.

There followed a discussion about what magic many magicians carry with them, everywhere they go, if they need to perform an impromptu effect. Many carried a deck of cards, a few carried a thumb tip. Bob Swaddling said he carries his matchboxes, and he performed them. A few said they carry a Hot Rod and Sponge Balls. Jaffo said that when asked to perform a trick, he humorously responds, "Well, then book my show!" This is one of those continuing topics that we ask ourselves along with the question what do you do if the airline loses your props on a flight to a show, and how do you put together on the spot?

The meeting show opened with Bob Swaddling showing a red pill and a blue pill (M&Ms) and a coin box and coins. Don't get ahead of me with the "blue pill" final punchline! The coin vanished from the coin box and appeared on a glass, both when covered by a deck of cards and then uncovered from thin air! I was not "up" from that surprise.

Dan Stapleton did an impromptu effect that he says he does many times a day when doing his hotel work. A ballpoint pen vanishes when tapped on his cellphone. He explains to the spectator how he does it and then the cellphone vanishes.

Dr. Ken Schreibman did a show and tell with Tenyo props. He collects Tenyo and gave advice on buying them. Almost all become collector's items.

Ari Fleishman showed a well-rehearsed and skillful giant coin routine with a big Okito box and coins.

Dennis Phillips concluded the show with an

impromptu dollar bill tear and restoration. Dennis learned the effect from Dr. Simon Carmel, many years ago. *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 / (865) 254-9254 / E-mail: [TomVorjohan@gmail.com](mailto:TomVorjohan@gmail.com)

As 2024 draws to a close, we had a dozen members at the December meeting ready to share magic and enjoy the fellowship of the season. We are excited that we will kick off the New Year with a lecture by Michael Ammar in January and a special celebration in February to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Warren Hamilton Ring 175!

Our President, Rudy Hernandez, had several great effects to open our performances starting with a “Vampire Bat” that found a selected card when he swung the bat through the flying cards. He then did a funny Sammy Smith effect with a red and white rope that supposedly changed places but had twisted together. Rudy ended with a version of the “McCombial Prediction” using Christmas pictures. It was good to have Scott Correll of SWC Magic share some of his newest and most popular effects he is carrying like “Stitch,” *Expert Coin Magic* from Murphy’s, “Light of God,” “Repo,” and “Wonder Orchestra” that cracked us up.

Bringing out some holiday coins, Bruce Young showed his magnetic version of “3 Fly” using a double-face super-triple coin which Bruce admits is great to play with as a fun toy or on lonely nights. Mark Myers did a fun version of any card requested at a number disclosed by a member of the audience. Jonathan Fudge, CEO of YTE Events, had no magic to share, but a great gift to request for the holiday: bone conduction earphones.

Sharing his comedy extending mistletoe to begin, Tom Vorjohan demonstrated his latest purchase from David Garrard as he correctly predicted the sum of a five course at his favorite upscale restaurant. He also shared the prototype of the puzzle effect he is working on with Geoff Williams. And speaking of Geoff, he followed doing his “3CP” as he effortlessly produced three silver dollars at his fingertips. He also shared the magical weight discrepancy between three white boxes that seemingly weighed less than just one box. *Tom Vorjohan*

### **RING 179, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – George Dency Ring**

Meets 3rd Tue., 7:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church at 109 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136  
ANDY LONDON, President / Email: [alondon@concast.net](mailto:alondon@concast.net)  
The November 19, 2024 meeting was a joint

meeting of I.B.M. Ring 179 and S.A.M. Assembly 6, held at the Gramercy Mansion, 1400 Greenspring Valley Road, Stevenson, MD 21153. About eighteen members attended.

President Andy London started the meeting by presenting several awards: Mike Rose received the Fred Schnelz Memorial Award for his excellent service as Ring 179 President from 2017-2023; Andy London received the Competition Award for Originality, for his original piece of magic telling the story of how he met his wife; Mary Pomykala received the Otts Oehm Memorial Trophy for Participation, named after Otts Oehm, who was one of the founding members of Ring 179, for helping the Ring have a wonderful location for both lectures and meetings at the lovely Gramercy Mansion in Stevenson, MD.

After the awards, Mike Rose presented a slide show he called the Baltimore Magic History Minute. Mike shared the origin and early history of Ring 179. The Ring’s namesake George Dency helped create the Ring in 1965. In 1990 the Ring was formally named after Dency. Early members included Denny Haney and current Ring President Andy London. Mike mentioned that another Ring had been formed in the Baltimore area even earlier in 1930, Ring 48, but it lost its charter due to lack of activity. Even earlier than that, the Demons Club of Baltimore was formed in 1911, and even had its own magic building.

Performances - tonight’s performance theme was holiday magic: Dave Thomen performed “Ribbon Rope,” which involves three pieces of rope, and magically ends with a single long piece of rope; Ed Kurtland performed a “Square Circle” routine themed as a chimney, in which Santa becomes stuck. Ed pulled numerous items out of the chimney, and eventually frees Santa to get out; Andy London performed with an alphabet deck; Jared Raitzyk did a trick where a volunteer shuffles a deck and makes various free cuts. After some selections are made, the four cards chosen are the four kings; Richard Kittleman brought out a paper-board Santa’s hat. The hat is covered with a black cloth, and the Santa’s hat magically changes color; Eric Keenan told a story using chameleon cards; Joe Bruno did a packet trick; Mary Pomykala performed “Five Minds At Once” as a Japanese woman; Jacob Knuckey did a packet trick that was a variation of Jim Steinmeyer’s “9 Card Problem” trick; Michael Worsham performed his holiday cards version of the “Six Card Repeat,” Mike Stringer did a card trick of his own creation; Jeff Eline performed an effect with cards; and Noah Danker did a trick with a small red packet of cards. *Michael Worsham*

## **RING 192, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – Victor Saint Leon Ring**

Meets 2nd Weds., 7:00 p.m., at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbon's Dr., Carmichael.

JEFFREY TINKER, Secretary / E-mail: jtinker53@yahoo.com

Web site: [www.magic1.org/ibm192](http://www.magic1.org/ibm192)

December's meeting was a combined affair with S.A.M. 72 and S.M.C. members. It was a little rainy, but no one got soaked.

This meeting was a competition, the first one in a long time. We had five contestants. They were Fred Lee, Mary Mowder, Pepe Puglisi, Scot Smith, and David Wright. Dale Lorzo was the master of ceremonies.

Each performer did several tricks for their set but stayed within the ten-minute limit. Each had a bit of humor among the miracles including a pocket square that couldn't be torn and a reappearing watch. Ropes, rings, and tumblers turning into streamers were the highlights of the show.

Votes were cast by club members and the lay audience in attendance. Dale Lorzo performed some time management tricks to keep the crowd entertained during the count.

The winners were finally announced: 1st Place Fred Lee (\$100); 2nd Place David Wright (\$50); 3rd Place Pepe Puglisi (\$25). The checks were given, photos taken, and we talked and laughed while the magicians packed up.

Our unofficial club motto is "Share the Magic, Share the Fun," and we certainly lived up to that.

*Jeff Tinker*

## **RING 193, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Len and Thalia Swinyer Ring**

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00 pm, at the Swinyer residence, 4970 Waimea Way, Holladay, UT.

MONT DUTSON, President / E-mail: [montd84@comcast.net](mailto:montd84@comcast.net)

Web site: [www.utahmagic.org](http://www.utahmagic.org)

Ring 193 met at the Swinyer's home on Dec. 8, 2024, for our annual Christmas gathering, held in place of our regular monthly meeting. It was graciously hosted by Thalia and Len Swinyer. Twenty-one people attended. A nice meal of BBQ was provided by Thalia, with others bringing sides and desserts.

Al Lampkin Give-away: Names were drawn from a top hat for magic donated by Al Lampkin. They included: *Cheating at Cards* books; *The Funniest Magic Show in the World* books; lecture notes by Al; Magic Coloring book; one-page reports on setting yourself up as a magician; and Magician at Large manuals.

Following the gift drawing, magic was performed by the attending magicians. Mont presented his new effect with shrunken heads, based on an old "3 No Evil" card effect by Doug Higley many years ago. Mont wanted to make it

creepier using shrunken heads in place of the cards, and an antique chest with rusted chain and lock. Inside the chest, three shrunken head relics of the Dark Museum. A guest curator, Tally, was invited to distribute the heads of her own free will. She put one in the Dark Museum, one she kept and left one for Mont. She was given the option many times to change. Then an antique scroll stuffed in the mouth of one of the heads was read and had successfully predicted Tally's distribution.

Dale with Thalia assisting in a trick using a "normal" deck of cards with a hole in the bottom and one in the middle. One was chosen and signed and put in the middle of the deck. After several cuts the deck was put back into the case. A ribbon was threaded through the case and tied. A bolt was also placed through the middle hole and secured. Her card was then pulled out!

Chuck did a card trick. Half the deck was given to two people, then half to two others. The cards were mixed up between the four (burning the cards). Top cards turned over were all aces!

Eric shared a new trick. A prediction was written. Using a pad, Notes app was opened. Celebrities' folder opened, and thirty-sixth was looked at. Different from all the others. Renee thought of the name, Tally said a name, that matched.

Carl did an attempt at "Grandma's Necklace." Paul did a card trick with Oliver assisting. The cards were spread and Oliver stopped on the selected card twice, then did a version of "Three Card Monte." Jason had a jumbo card as a prediction. Half of the cards were chosen and discarded. Again. Again. Again. Three cards were left, with one kept. It matched the prediction!

Owen and his daughter Sophie did a color changing silks demonstration, a long appearing length of paper and a card mentalism trick with the chosen card on her sticker she has been wearing. Javier/Al did a gambling demonstration. Cards were shuffled by audience members. The four aces were found. Next was mind reading by choosing favorite cookies.

Following the magic show the magicians attending held a gift exchange. Gifts exchanged included "Surreal" by Paul Richards, flashing glasses, real viewer magic trick and shrinking dice, a brick of cards, a collection of magic books and tricks, a Santa snow globe, a blanket, a copper water pitcher, a camping tool set, secrets revealed, quiz dice game and dice, a boomerang ball, tri-sandwich and off-world magic tricks, a plush blanket, and a bag with cups and balls, oddities haunted deck, arrested, coin trick, and acrobatic cards.

The next Utah Magic Fest is February 6, 7

and 8 of 2025 – tickets are on sale now! So far we have Stan Allen (owner/producer of MAGIC Live!), Curtis Hickman (founder of The VOID), and the Man, the Myth, the Legend, Michael Ammar! And we are in the process of booking a couple of more magicians! The Magic Festival will include lectures and shows. This year will be no different! Well, we do have a few different things, like the venue! The Utah Magic Fest will be held at the SCERA Center for Performing Arts in Orem, with the welcome party at The Prestige! We will also have the Utah Magic Championship, and if you buy your ticket before January 1st, you get a free Creative Magic Table! Follow Utah Magic Fest on Facebook for up-to-date information and get your tickets now at [www.UtahMagicFest.com](http://www.UtahMagicFest.com). See you there!

*Carl Byrd*

### **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](mailto:Growdne@yahoo.com)

Twas the night before and members Bill Mullins and Jared Cassidy discussed if 19th century English should be used in a 21st century Ring report. Marty Baldwin and Tammy Boyer thought “twas” was age appropriate for Joshua Growden (twelve years old). December meetings in the past brought out those members who come only once a year.

Magic theme for the evening: Magic performed after you eat your dinner at Logan’s. President Matt Growden performed “Starcle” an origami trick then reminded everyone to pay for their own dinner and nobody dance on the tables (the reason Ring 194 doesn’t meet at Jim and Nicks).

Jack Baldwin and Patrick Brunson executed close-up magic in the servers’ hands using sponge balls and napkins. Brett Boyer performed a razzle dazzle die box and traffic light routine. Spencer Murphy and Jennie Murphy watched their dad, John Murphy, perform their grandfather, Ralph Murphy’s version of “Hippy Hoppy Rabbits” and the “Coloring Book” as a memorial to Papa Murphy. Magic handed down to the next generation.

Keri May assisted her husband, Ben May in the performing of “Eggnog.” Ben finished playing a X-mas song on his banjo. Sure enough, music led to dancing. Bill Mullins and Kathryn won first place in the tango category. Dean Carter turned his magic with X-mas spirits of scarves and cards into a comedy routine. Even Nancy Carter laughed. Emcee Patrick made squeaking sounds jump from one sponge ball to

another without using a bird warbler. Did we ever find out who got the blue cheese instead of the ranch dressing? Merry X-mas, formerly Twitter-mas.

*Patrick Brunson*

### **RING 202, MALTA – The Magicians’ Society**

Meets on alternate Mondays at 19:00 Volunteer Centre, 181 Melita Street, Valetta

GEOFFREY BUHAGIAR, Secretary  
[secretary@magicianmalta.com](mailto:secretary@magicianmalta.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/27850309211/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/27850309211/)

This report covers briefly three meetings held in these last few weeks. The first one was an open one in which four of our members were asked to perform. Lorenzo Brincat presented a very convincing version of Glorpy, or the spirit handkerchief, that bobbed and moved about uncannily.

Gwilym Bugeja, our current president, managed to match two Rubik’s Cubes after they had been thoroughly mixed up, crediting Henry Harrius and his “Venom Cube.” He closed by showing that he had a prediction of the final outcome, tattooed on his arm. Past International President Vanni Pulé performed a variation of the “Gemini Twins” with a rainbow deck and an animated prediction in a flip book. He finished with his premier presentation of a variation of the “Anniversary Waltz” called “Lovers’ Waltz” by Nikolas Mavresis.

The second meeting was the annual General meeting where the following were elected: President Gwilym Bugeja; Vice-President and PRO Brian Role; Secretary Geoffrey Buhagiar; Treasurer Glen Mercieca; Sergeant-at-Arms Lorenzo Brincat, and Vice-Territorial President Alfred Mifsud. Some items of interest were discussed and the new website for the Ring was launched on <https://www.magicianmalta.com/>.

The last meeting, being close to Halloween, was dedicated to Spooky Magic. Past President, Glen Mercieca, pushed a knife through his hand and produced blood using a combination of a novelty gag and two chemicals. He then performed a semi-comic and spooky variation of Tony Curtis’s “A Night Out with the Girls.” Brian Rolé, another past president, narrated the eerie tale of Jack the Ripper with photographs of the murdered victims and an unbelievable prediction. Past President and TVP, Alfred Mifsud, caused a scarf to become rigid and then made a felt-tipped marker move about without touching, while another member moved her hand around it. Finally, honorary president, Vanni Pulé, hammered a nail in his nose, made a voodoo doll rise on his hand and had a chosen card emerge on its own from the deck, à la “Haunted Deck.” This variation is “Blue Tooth” by Sirius Magic.

*Geoffrey Buhagiar*



## **RING 205, LIMA/FINDLAY, OHIO – Northwestern Ohio Magicians Association (NOMA)**

Meets last Sun. of the month at Mike Grubbs's home in Findlay.

GENE CRAFT, Secretary, 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, OH 45807

E-mail: Ecrafft@woh.rr.com

Web site: [www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205](http://www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205)

Ring 205 met on December 1, 2024, at the home of Mike Grubbs. President Doug Ferguson opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Gary reported on the Dick Stoner recognition and Doug announced the Michigan Magic on May 17. Fr. Steve Blum distributed the treasurer's report.

Gene Craft began the evening magic with a routine called "Predict and Find." Gary Friedrich positioned nine cards on the table and added the total of one row. When he counted down in the deck that card matched his prediction. Doug Ferguson counted off \$20 in cash. On a return count there was only \$15, and then \$20, and then \$25.

Chris Topel performed "The Card Trick That Can't Be Explained." He was able to predict red and black face cards. Fr. Steve Blum presented the evening lecture. Using "invisible" dice he was able to determine the exact number on each dice.

Mike Grubbs presented the evening show. He began with a giant fly routine, King of Diamonds reveal, ESP card routine, and a card find. Mike concluded with "Oil and Water" and a "Matrix" effect. Eddie Grubbs was also present.

*Gene Craft*

## **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](mailto:Kebtram@aol.com)

The November meeting opened with a discussion of online meetings and resources. There is a lot of information available at both national organizations. If you aren't a member, you should consider joining one or both for the new year. Next up was information on the 2025 Central IL Magic Get-Together on Sat., May 3rd, 2025. Chris is lining up some great shows and lectures. To see what we have so far, and to register online, go here: [cimagic.weebly.com/cimgtg.html#](http://cimagic.weebly.com/cimgtg.html#/). A personal thank you from me to Chris Bontjes for picking up the responsibility for this as I was kind of slow to get started this time around.

Hesham Hassan recently went to Las Vegas and saw the show *Awakening* and met some of the magicians after the show. He gave an enthusiastic review and suggested you see the show if

you get down that way. Dennis Reed gave a good review of Jeff Harpring's comedy hypnosis show and recommended catching it if you get the chance. I have been thinking about putting together a comedy hypnosis show myself. I think I would be a natural. People go to sleep in my shows all the time and have been laughing at me for years. Someone brought in a copy of Juan Tamariz's *Five Points in Magic*, but I can't remember who it was. I do remember they liked the book, and it looked interesting when they passed it around.

Rob "The Professor" Higgins opened the magic with his "Turned on Cup Trick." Chris Bontjes followed with his Christmas McCombical Deck. Dave Wernick demonstrated his coin bending. Rob Higgins returned with his "Color Changing Card Box" and Sub Deck. Essen Hu joined us on Zoom with his Sketch Book and Bill Pierce performed "Phoenix." Ken Barham presented "Link King" to those who did didn't see it last month.

The December meeting will be on the 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army in Champaign. The topic will be "Something You Learned from a DVD" but anything you bring will be fine. Come early and meet us at Manzella's Italian Patio on First Street for fun and food before the meeting. I try to get there about five. See ya at the meeting.

*Ken Barham*

## **RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The "Magic Ian" Ring**

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, Perkins Restaurant, 27811 US Hwy 27,

Leesburg, FL 34748

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: [rogerreid1114@gmail.com](mailto:rogerreid1114@gmail.com) / Website: [www.Ring258.com](http://www.Ring258.com)

Many members arrived early to check out the food at our new meeting location. President David Lyons opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Our Holiday Party will be held on Fri., Dec. 27 at Ichibon Chinese and Japanese Buffet, Leesburg, FL.

This month was Ring Officers election. With no nominations from the floor, the current slate of officers was re-elected. Pres. – David Lyons, V. P. – Andy Rohweder, Sec. – Roger Reid and Treas. – Karen Lyons. Everyone enjoyed the food at Perkins, so it was decided to have our meetings there for 2025. V.P. Andy Rohweder confirmed with management.

David Ginsburg donated a brand-new Nehru jacket for the raffle. It was won by card shark Allen Klein.

Greg Solomon will bring his Magical Medicine Show to the Gulf Coast Renaissance Festival, in Alabama. David and Karen Lyons will be working at Kirby Family Farms in Williston, FL, for this year's Christmas Train.

The after-meeting entertainment was sharing

a trick or two from the “Grab Bag” of props provided by Past Pres. George Drake. First up was Andy Rohweder with “NoGo” and “Magic Dice Tunnel.” Next Greg Solomon worked “Coin Leaper,” “Magic Coin Coaster,” and “Silks in a Net Tube.” Jim Loscutoff showed “Noughts and Crosses” by Edwin Hooper. David Lyons did “Linking Fingers,” made a coin appear, and performed the Bobo Switch. Closing the show was Sandy Schwartz with “Australian Cards,” thus named because you placed cards “down under” to complete the performance. *Roger Reid*

## **RING 265, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA – London Magicians Guild**

Meets 2nd Wed., Labatt’s Engineering Bldg. unless otherwise notified.  
MARK HOGAN, Secretary

We had visitors at the October meeting, members of the Hamilton magic club (Doug Henning Ring 49) came down to our club to perform and teach – and what a show it was!

Derrick Finn opened the night with some terrific close-up card magic. He spelled the colour, suit, and number of two selected cards, finding not only their selections but their mates! He performed his own “Jazz Aces” variation where three kings magically followed the fourth, and a lovely “Sandwich” routine where three selections were found sandwiched between the four kings (which he later explained during his detailed discussion of breather crimps).

Up next was Renee Chouinard, who did a lovely presentation to music and lights of an heirloom box containing a teacup, which disappeared leaving the box empty, only to be filled with blossoms and an old watch as a reminder to treat as precious the time we have!

Victor Staniewski did a great comedy prediction routine, where a card selection of different animals was made, and Stan’s prediction appeared to be right (as he showed the audience the animals were all the same!) until the audience made the sound of the animal – the sound didn’t match what the spectator selected – but somehow it did match Stan’s prediction!

Travis Halyk (Magic Travis) presented his take on Andi Gladwin’s “Phantom Deck,” where all cards in the deck became literally invisible except for the selected card! He also did an impressive coin penetration through a glass held in his hands.

Funny signs started Doug McCoy’s presentation: he had effects where arrows changed directions; his gloved hand being punctured with a darning needle; a great presentation using Ton Onosaka’s “Lucky Lady;” as well as his takes on Daryl’s “Acrobatic Knot” and “The Whole Thing.”

Doug Hunt (the night’s emcee) described his recent retaking of his Guinness world stilt walking record, then Scott Hood started his act producing a Coke bottle from silks, then placing them in a bag, producing more silks from the bag, and an open flute of wine! After his take on “Professor’s Nightmare,” Scott then tied two silks together, made a third silk disappear, and the third silk was found tied between the other two! He removed knots in silks, then made the knots vanish and holes found in the silks where the knots once were! He ended with a marvelous dancing hanky inside a large glass jar!

Doc Dinshaw showed and taught us a fabulous domino mentalism effect where not only did he know the numbers on two covered dominos but was able to telepathically send those numbers to a random spectator!

And if all this wasn’t enough, Derrick Finn showed us some more effects using a breather crimp, Doug McCoy performed and distributed a prediction effect on the cover of *Genii Magazine*, and Andrew Olmstead ended with his own card transposition effect utilizing our “Sleight of the Night,” Marlo’s surprisingly simple Olram Jinx Switch.

It was a terrific evening, meeting old and new friends and sharing some terrific magic! The London club will return the favour next month in Hamilton (and we’ll have to up our game to match this night!). *Mark Hogan*

## **RING 266, TYLER, TEXAS – East Texas Court of Magic**

1st Mon of the month, 7:00 pm, at Discover Science Place in downtown Tyler, TX  
PAUL BUDD, President  
E-mail: chipper35\_1999@yahoo.com

For our November meeting, Ring 266 met at the home of Jan and Jene Carroll. Jan is currently our Ring’s Secretary/Treasurer, and we were there to celebrate Jene’s eightieth birthday! Jene has had a storied career in magic. One would be hard pressed to name something he has not done in our field.

Jonathan Havir was present and presented Jene with a lifetime achievement award. Our club’s president, Paul Budd, presented Jene with a Past Ring President medal. There were nineteen people present, and some members performed magic, of course and appetizers were served.

Jene recounted performing for children with major medical issues and remarked about how privileged he felt to have done so. Jene recounted having sold his tractor trailer rig, with stage and markings attached, many years ago, to Will Hatch. Will was present at the meeting! Will had also purchased Jene’s amazing gas-powered clown car back in the day too. Many of those

present mentioned how proud they were to have been mentored by Jene along the way. His wife, Jan, has been his tireless supporter as well. Ring 266 wishes Jene Carroll a Happy Eightieth Birthday and hopes for many more birthdays to come!

*Paul M. Budd*

### **RING 273, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA - Oliver Ring**

Meets 3rd Thur., 7:30pm at the Burns Club

PETER FOSTER, Secretary

Email: pfooster@pcug.au

Good meeting this month, with several people we had not seen in years. We had Leonil Pepingco, Humphrey James, Richard Hunt, Simon Stacker, Chris Donohue, Phil Bevan, and me.

The theme was Spooky Magic. Simon went first with a quick "Crazy Man's Handcuffs." I followed with "Deja Voodoo" by Dan Harlan. Chris now did the classic "Jumping Rubber bands." I went next with "Reverse Psychology" by Rick Lax. Simon then did "ESP Opener" by Banachek.

Simon followed with one that was perhaps a bit spooky, "Amazing Standing Card" by Gaetan Bloom. Phil then performed "Grandma's Miracle" by TCC and Chen Yang. He followed with "The Mother of All Book Tests" and then "Scotch and Whiskey" by Tom Elderfield. Then Phil brought us back to cards with a Triumph type effect, "Cheeky" by Craig Petty.

I followed with another card trick, "Triple Impact Collateral Damage" by Peter Nardi and Matt Ellison. Phil then showed a version of a Paul Richards' trick. I followed with one of my recent creations. It doesn't have a name yet, maybe "TOCARN" (Thought Of Card At Random-ish Number). Leo brought us back to the theme with "Fall" by Banachek and Philip Ryan. Leo then did a bit of "Psychic Touching." Leo had shown this to Past International President Shawn Farquhar, whose response was "Don't tell anyone!" Phil then followed with a coin trick. This was "Scotch and Soda," but unusually it was made in Australian coins.

Simon then did "Out of Sight Out of Mind" by Dai Vernon and Phil finished with a borrowed ring that vanished and reappeared on his key ring. Very clean, and no danger of losing the ring. This was "Flite" by Steve Thompson. *Peter Foster*

### **RING 289, MACON, GEORGIA - Mike Fuller Ring**

Meets 1st Tue. each month at 6:00 p.m., Fresh Air BBQ on Riverside Dr., Macon

DANNY WATSON, President / (478) 338-5572

Web site: [www.angelfire.com/magic2/maconmagic](http://www.angelfire.com/magic2/maconmagic)

In attendance: Danny and Lynn Watson, Mike and Linda Fuller, Tony Zelonis, John and Rhonda Donahue, and Ron Livingston. After

dinner at some of the finest BBQ in Macon Georgia, it was our annual Christmas Party and meeting for the month of December. Everyone had to bring a gag gift or elephant gift to give someone, and our President Danny Watson brought Christmas wear for everyone such as Christmas eyeglasses, Christmas headbands (some wild to say the least for us to wear for our Christmas party photo). Everyone also brought snacks to eat like chips and dip, cupcakes and brownies, cookies, an assortment of sweets to eat. All good.

Next, we played some Christmas word games, always fun to figure out. Then a little magic and Mike Fuller opened up with a bag and in it was a large black and white silk that had Merry Christmas on it, just plain, no color on it. He placed it into a bag, a wave of the hand and when he shook it out it was in full color. Looked really nice.

Next Danny Watson showed us a Christmas themed "Out Of This World" with the assistance of Rhonda Donahue; looked good. He also showed us a dice effect with the help of Mike Fuller where Mike rolled a die a few times to show it wasn't loaded, then Danny placed the die into Mike's closed hand and he took out a little plain white wand and when he waved the wand over Mike's hand the spots jumped off the die in Mike's hand onto the little white wand that Danny was holding, and the die in Mike's hand no longer had any spots on it. Nicely done.

Next was John Donahue who showed us Dan Harland's "Starkle," where he folded the napkin and tore it up into two pieces. The first piece opened looked like a round circle depicting the full moon and the second piece opened was a large star. Looked good. Next, he did two card effects and then finished up with Jeff McBride's card sailing using Jeff's McGrip super card shooter gimmick. All in all, a good time for sure.

*John Donohue*

### **RING 291, PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA - Palm Springs Magic Club**

Meets first and third Tuesday at the Portola Community Center in Palm Desert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

HENRY JUAREZ, Secretary / E-mail: [henryjuarez1@hotmail.com](mailto:henryjuarez1@hotmail.com)

Web site: [www.palmspringsmagicclub.com](http://www.palmspringsmagicclub.com)

On November 5, PSMC members brought out an assortment of magic paraphernalia to answer the question, "What's in the Box?" After some childhood reminiscences about magic store shelves that were filled with colorful boxes and tubes, Warren Morse led off with an ornately painted Silk Caddy, which he used to change several white silks into different colors. He explained this was part of a routine he used in the past that ended with a giant "Blendo."

Next up was Gary Beutler who showed us some history with the evolution of a Change Box. He had a 60 plus year old wooden box vs. a recent David Regal glass box. He also showed us the Beginnings Box, Red and Black Boxes, and a Golf Ball Box. He closed with the Problema Box containing six dice.

Eugene Ball then showed us an "empty box" but produced a bunny, golf balls, and other items from it. Ed Waldo also showed an empty box that brought forth a variety of items. The last one was a brass cylinder through which quarters passed one by one ("Four Quarters"). Don Campbell followed with a huge die that fit tightly over a smaller box inside, but then the big die fit inside the smaller box! Then the die numbers turn into Chinese characters. This was the first die box of the night (there were several). These are also known as a Driebeck Box, or a Gonzita Box. Don then showed a Mel Babcock wood box with red and yellow dies that trade places, then disappear, then turn into green and blue dies.

George Haas showed three coffin cards and then a Dracula card floated out of the coffin cards. After that, the Dracula card disappeared completely and only the coffin cards were left. Next was David Prekeges who showed Joshua Jay's "Inferno." Garnet Garven followed with a coin effect, discovering a coin that was held in a spectator's hand after it was put back into the mix of coins without Garnet ever seeing it. Garnet also went through a list of about a dozen other new effects he's working on and is hoping to publish. Marv Chapman showed a cardboard box with "whirly-twirls" that was empty. But opening another door he pulled out a mini-magic-wand, followed by multiple rainbow scarves. The last thing he pulled out of the empty box was a "good night" scarf to end the evening.

November 19: With Thanksgiving just around the corner, PSMC members feasted on a cornucopia of "Magic to be Thankful For!" Warren Morse led off by showing a stack of cards with various advertising and promotional backs. He asked spectators to place two different cards at random places in the deck and revealed that they had placed them next to cards that matched them both on the face and on the back. Next, Dick Dumais shared a trick he learned from Garnett Millard. Carl Christman was next. He asked a spectator to pick a single-digit number, multiply the digit by nine, then add, subtract until the spectator got his final number. The spectator then picked the letter that corresponded to that number location, and finally chose a vacation spot with that as the first letter. Amazingly, a diorama (disguised as a card

box) in view the whole time was Disneyland, the same location picked by the spectator.

Next up was Steve Temkin, who displayed a "random-card-generator" card. Garnet Garven followed with his "Odd Coin Out" trick, based off of "Baby Hummer" by Bob Hummer. Marv Chapman was next with his "Wacky Wand." David Prekeges had two spectators cut a deck and remember the cards they cut to. After replacing their cut packs on the deck, David dealt two piles. Not only were the top cards of each pile the spectator's selected cards, but David named the cards before revealing them. Ron Denhartog followed with a version of "Out of this World."

Next was karate expert Eugene Ball, who showed not a trick, but a stunt called "Short Change" or "ABC." Ed Waldo showed a ball and vase trick where the top was lifted off the vase showing a ball. The ball was removed and put into Ed's pocket, and yet when the top was next lifted off the vase the ball reappeared in the vase. Then the ball disappeared again on the next vase opening. Andy Cohen closed the evening with a two-card trick, with the Ace of Spades and Seven of Hearts. The cards continually traded places as Andy flipped and moved the cards around.

*Henry Juarez*

### **RING 294, FONTHILL, ONTARIO, CANADA – Niagara Les Wismer Ring**

3rd Tues., Pelham Public Library, 43 Pelham Sq., Fonthill, Ontario  
JOHN TYKOLIZ, President  
144 Humboldt Hwy., Port Colborne, ON L3K 2H4 / (905) 835-8671  
HELEN WISMER, Secretary  
30 Pancake Lane, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0

President John Tykoliz thanked John Smithman for sponsoring Ken McCreedy's magic show at the St. Catharine's Senior Community Centre on October 22nd. The City of St. Catharine's provided an excellent venue free of charge. Peter Murray's Omnimedia professional videographers recorded the event with two large cameras (also sponsored by John Smithman's company, Champions in the Workplace Development Inc.) Several Fonthill Magic club members attended the hour-long event along with over a hundred members of the St. Catharine's senior community.

President John Tykoliz and Secretary Helen Wismer told us that the Fonthill Library will not be able to host our meetings as they undergo major renovations next year. We are looking for a new place to hold our meetings starting next fall while they renovate the library.

This evening's magic presenters were Helen Atteck, George Marchionda, Adam Daniel, Anthony Lindan, Ken McCreedy, John Tykoliz, Dave Barrett, and Howard Hoover.



Helen Atteck demonstrated a ring and wand trick and showed us a classic die box prop with Chinese characters on it. George Marchionda transformed one 'nested' wooden ball into four wooden balls while hidden temporarily behind a red silk. Adam Daniel showed his new sleight of hand skill to disappear and reappear five playing cards at the end of his extended right hand. Anthony Lindan lost and found an audience-selected card, using a method he called his see-through switch.

At Ken McCreedy's magic show on October 22, Adam Daniel asked Ken how he did his "Silk to Umbrella" trick. So, Ken proceeded to show us how he performed it. He also explained how he did the "Appearing Silk on Rope" trick and talked about several magic books and printed magic props that he has developed over his nearly fifty years performing magic. He discussed how he made extra revenue with his productions. He teased us about the contents of his next (sixth) *Linking Ring* "Parade."

John Tykoliz is a master at finding and creating magic props and tricks from common objects that he finds when visiting local economy and recycle/restore shops. He showed us a paper trick where, with a multi fold and one scissors cut, he could produce either sixteen Os or sixteen Xs on demand. He showed a long, two-part threaded cannister that he used to support a mentalism trick that he had developed. John has such a creative and resourceful mind. His presentation prompted a lot of discussion from other members about how to enhance his magic mysteries.

Dave Barrett showed his card expertise by cutting four aces from an oversized, mixed card deck that came out of a mini-card box. Howard Hoover showed a kissing cousins trick where mixed cards became matched cards a la Nick Trost.

This club's meetings always seem to transform into imagination workshops with contributions from its creative and resourceful members.

Helen Wismer provided delicious cookies, cakes and beverages for us... mmm good!

*John Smithman*

### **RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic**

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:00 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042  
LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary  
4515 Northglen Court, Englewood, OH 45322 / (937) 836-4359  
E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

On December 6, Ring 324 held its annual Christmas Party. This year twenty-two of us gathered to enjoy the festivities. It was great to see Chris Rednour here. Chris had been in the hospital until the previous day. The only busi-

ness we conducted was to present member Ralph Steinlage with a certificate, DVD, and flash drive containing his Philo Award winning cable TV show *It's Magic – Ralph Steinlage Magic Square*. We ate delicious food brought by members. Wonderful food!

Before the magic, we raffled off over twenty door prizes. Everyone had been given a raffle ticket as they signed in. The main door prize was a package including two tickets to King's Island, DVDs and tee shirts donated by Tri State Magic Shop. Magic door prizes were donated by Charlie Cadabra. Larry Hollinger picked up some non-magic door prizes.

Our magical entertainment this year was home grown. Jimmy Pepper hosted and performed. The other performances were by Larry Taylor, tRick Gaffney, Larry Payne, and Charlie Cadabra. It was a wonderful evening of fun, food, and magic.

We adjourned but stayed around and talked about everything. It's a fun group. 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

Saturday evening, November 16th, was a special night for members of I.B.M. Ring 325. This was not only the regular monthly meeting, but it was also the annual club pizza party. President Christopher Beck called the meeting to order at 6 p.m., blessed the meal, and club members enjoyed the pizza along and chatting with their fellow magi! (Club Vice President Gary Geise and his wife, Mary, had picked up the pizza from Branson's Godfather's restaurant!)

There was a brief business meeting in which the president discussed the "Did You Know" (DYK) questions from the most recent newsletter. The magician discussed, specifically, was known as "Robert Heller." Though lesser known than Houdini, he was also an admirer of Robert Houdin (like Houdini). In addition to the newsletter item, it was decided the club would hold its annual "auction" (used magic sale) in December this year. Members were encouraged to bring magic items to sell and cash to buy items. They were also reminded the club receives ten percent of the sales. The club treasurer gave a report about the current balance of the club's account before performances began.

Jordan Stickley took the stage first, using silver half dollars. He blew on them, and they

turned into a copper coin, an Oriental coin, and a button. He noted he thought there was no logic or reason for the button, particularly. Various options were discussed to make the effect more logical. Stickley later returned to "the stage" to share a story about a friend, who is blind and for whom he performed the "Grandma's Necklace" effect. Even though blind, his friend was able to follow the effect and enjoy it.

Yak Williams was up next. He shared several items he had for sale in the magic shop. First, he showed off an "oddity," a pair of pliers carved from a single piece of wood. Williams also offered a devil's handkerchief for sale, and a rope with a slipping square knot that disappeared and reappeared. In addition, Williams shared a "Nut & Bolt" effect, as well. Next with Stickley's help, Williams demonstrated a "Hopping Horns" effect. Yak Williams would return later in the meeting to perform a mentalism effect with playing cards he had for sale in the magic shop.

Jim Holmes came up next. He showed the group a Nine of Hearts from a jumbo deck of cards. Holmes was able to cover a regular sized deck of cards in a card box with the jumbo card and vanish the entire deck. Holmes performed an additional effect where a card was selected. A lightbulb was freely shown and placed into a plastic bag. The volunteer moved the lightbulb (in the bag) over separate piles of cards. The lightbulb lit up, on its own, over one pile. The top card was turned over to reveal the selected card.

Anthony Mullins was the next performer. He began by telling everyone he had practiced the effect he was going to share for two months. Using two straws, one red and one white, he knotted them together. Then, magically, the knot disappeared. Mullins repeated the effect using red and white ropes. With Gary Geise's assistance, the two ropes were knotted together before also magically separating.

Thom Taylor was up next. With Gary Geise to assist, Taylor displayed three pens, one white, one blue, and one silver. He also displayed a special bookmark. One of the pens was inserted into the bookmark, penetrating it, but the pen was removed showing there was no damage to the bookmark. Gary Geise next presented a "Shrinking Card Effect" with the help of Mullins.

Christopher Beck was up next with what he referred to as an experiment. He mentioned Houdini billed himself, at one point in his career, as the "King of Cards." Showing Houdini's poster printed on a piece of paper, he wadded up the poster and threw the ball into the

audience to randomly select a volunteer. Mullins ended up with the paper ball, so he assisted Beck, by, first, pulling a deck of cards from their box. Then, when asked for a number, Mullins chose the number "Four." Beck explained he would deal off four cards down to find the "locator" card, which was found to be a seven. Then, seven cards were then dealt off one by one. The card arrived at was the King of Clubs. Beck unrolled the paper ball to reveal, in the corner of the Houdini poster, the King of Clubs.

*Christopher Beck, Ph.D. and Mary Geise*

### **RING 334, MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA – Grand Strand Magicians Society**

Meets 1st Thu., 7:00 pm at the Southatlantic Bldg., Unit C, 908  
Seaboard St., Myrtle Beach, SC  
GERRY THOMPSON, Secretary  
[www.sandyshoesentertainment.com/](http://www.sandyshoesentertainment.com/)

The meeting was called to order and started with announcements. The Christmas party will be at Charles Bach's Wonders Theater on Dec. 15th. Dues are due at the January meeting. This year we will have a ceremony for those who paid their dues. Eric Hall will also perform a show at the meeting. Michael Ammar will lecture on January 22nd. Oh, baby I can't wait. It's been years since I've seen him, he's always good. We will also have a breakfast get together at the Acme Bar in January.

Time for door prizes. The winners were: Eric, Thaddeus, Charles, Gene, Liam, and Liam. Congrats guys!

Gen Voshell talked about learning the Jack Channin "Six Card Repeat" back in '67 and it encouraged him to come up with his version which he demonstrated for us. Gene started out showing five decks which he vanished four of them leaving just the one. He performed his "Six Card Repeat." It was very nice. He took some cards and spread them on a tray and a fountain of cards sprayed up and a card castle appeared. Next, he covered a table with a cloth and produced a large bowl with Christmas lights in it. He then explained the Six Card Repeat. A short break followed and then it was showtime.

Showtime! Ron Conley performed an ungimmicked "Six Card Repeat," dropping the cards in a box. He accidentally dropped a card on the floor, and it still worked. After he finished the routine, the cards vanished from the box. Dave Tanner also did "Six Card Repeat," but, with a twist. Dave did it with packs of Fizz Wizz candy. Dale Rabon did "Fusion," not my best effort, but a nice card trick. Bryan Wilson showed us "Stitch," where he put his finger in a tube and cut it off with a pair of blades. No worries, he put it back on and showed the tubes.

Charles Graham performed a card rise. A

selected card was replaced in the deck and the deck went back in the box, and like magic, the card rose out of the deck. Cool! Paul McTaggart produced several rose buds from the tip of a magic wand. Next, he poured water from a small vase into a paper cup and placed the cup in a hat. Next, he showed a paper bag empty and took the cup from the hat and put in in the bag which he crumples, the cup vanishes and reappears in the hat. Nice magic.

The evening of magic was over, and we went our separate ways until the Christmas party. If you are in Myrtle Beach the first Thursday of the month, please join us. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Dale Rabon*

### **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

Ring 398's December meeting was also our holiday party at Luigi's restaurant. We had twenty-plus people in attendance including Michael Schroeder, Marvin Roth, Daryl Rogers, Scott Hanneman, Kevin Koehne, Kahlan Scherg, Dr. Lynn Miner, Scott Lane, Monty Witt, Tal Kuhn, Rick Morein, and a variety of muggle guests!

After enjoying our Italian dinner and socializing, our meeting started with the swearing-in of our new officers. It was a nice ceremony led by Dr. Miner. Our new board consists of: Daryl (President), Rick (Vice President), Kevin (Secretary), Tal (continuing as Treasurer) and

Michael (Sergeant-at-Arms). Daryl presented past-President Michael with a special Leadership Award in recognition of his service to Ring 398. A new tradition was started as Rick presented our new President with the "President's Golden Wand of Magic and Mystery."

Before beginning our evening of performances, a drawing for three prizes was carried out. The prizes were graciously donated by Marvin. Monty, Kevin, and Tal each went home with a wonderful gift!

The next part of the evening was devoted to performances. Daryl showed us "Card Through Dollar Bill" and then gave everyone their own gimmicked card (but not a dollar bill!). Michael performed a wonderful holiday themed effect with a Crystal Tube. Kevin presented a funny Christmas sock prediction. Rick's McCombial style prediction routine ended with a nice visual twist. Tal amazed us with a matchbook prediction. Monty did a silk and change bag routine and taught us how to say Mele Kalikimaka. Scott L performed a funny "Named" card routine. Scott H did a nice Sears and Roebuck themed card trick. Dr. Miner (a.k.a. Santa) entertained us with a "Celebrity Prediction." Kahlan ended the performances by telling us how much she appreciates Ring 398.

Dr. Miner announced a new book he'd written over the past year. He sent a copy to all the Ring 398 members. He also had a table filled with grocery bags that contained a myriad of tricks, which everyone (including the muggles) got to take home!

*Kevin Koehne*

## **I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES**

*(Continued from page 39)*

Send your answer on a single sheet of 8½" x 11" paper. Answers must be typed or legibly handwritten. Include your name, mailing address, telephone number, and I.B.M. membership number. Make your answers as complete as possible. *These questions are not designed to be easily Googled. We recommend that you ask the senior members of your local Ring to help you come up with the answers.*

**Contest Rules:** You must be a Youth Category member of the I.B.M. in good standing and not have reached your eighteenth birthday on or before the date of the postmark of your response.

The Youth member who supplies the correct answer will receive a valuable gift package from one or more of the world's best magic shops. In the event more than one correct answer is received, a drawing will be held to determine the winner. Results will be published in *The Linking Ring*.

To allow enough time for mail from international members to reach us, we will announce the winner and answer in the third issue after the question runs. For example, May's answer and winner will appear in the August issue. **For more information, see page 39.**

## *Answer to Pictures from the Past* – from page 14

Malcom Baze Lippincott was born in Henrietta, Texas, on December 9, 1895. He got his interest in magic from his father, who entertained his customers while working as a hotel manager. Mal started performing with a small circus and even though it was short lived, he gained experience for the next step in his career – vaudeville. His show was a little magic and a little comedy, and the audience loved the performer as well as the performance.

After learning the ropes in the circus, Mal joined a troupe of entertainers performing everything from comedies to acrobatics. The troupe included dancers, jugglers, actors, and with the addition of Mal, a magician. Then, in 1916, at age twenty-one, Mal was hired to work in silent movies at the original studios of Wolverine Films in Grand Haven, Michigan. He performed in lead roles in both slapstick comedies and dramatic movies.

Mal enlisted in the Army in June 1917, and was promoted to sergeant in the supply and sanitary division. After his stint in the states, he was transferred to Europe and eventually made his way to the Army Entertaining Circuit where he finished his military service in 1919.

When Mal returned to the states, he found work with a traveling circus for a brief time, then performed in a vaudeville circuit near Chicago. Mal's success as a magician and emcee proved to be a profitable one because he was able to join other variety performers in their travels working theaters and opera houses. In 1922, Mal independently promoted his combined act as "Lippincott and His Fun Show" with his wife, Maxine, as a part of the act. While the audience came to see the silent movie *Ben Hur*, they would be entertained for close to an hour by Mal and his company of performers either before the movie or during the intermission while the projectionist was loading the next reel and letting the projector cool down. Their vaudeville circuit tour lasted until 1923, when Mal and his wife found work in the Belle Barcus Summer Players. That touring company combined players in mini drama skits or plays and they happily included specialty acts like Mal's magic show. Both Mal and Maxine would participate in the plays since it would bring in extra money to cover their hotel and food costs.

After leaving the Belle Barcus Summer Players in 1926, Mal restarted his traveling company and toured Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Tennessee. In September of 1928, the Lippincott magic tent show was in its ninth week in Michigan. After they completed their bookings in Michigan, it was on to Ohio. Added to the showbill, mentalist Royal Ellwood, "Ellwood, the Modern Svengali." As with a number of performers of that time, the Great Depression halted their employment and their livelihoods. Theaters closed, and booking agents lost their jobs and joined the bread lines along with millions of unemployed workers from every line of work.

While Mal and Maxine could not get work in theaters, they were able to book smaller shows at schools, fairs, and other venues. In 1930, Mal and his show was working in Ohio again and performed their final booking in Sinking Springs. He started his tour again in late March in Missouri and crossed paths with fellow magicians including John W. Frye and Company and McDonald Birch. Mal continued to perform throughout the 1930s in school shows, an indoor police circus and expo in Danville, Virginia, and in 1938, he completed a thirty-one-night stand engagement in the Great Smoky Mountains through North Carolina and Tennessee. He got a bit of a surprise – and a bit of a laugh – when he was leaving one of his engagements at a school in Ohio. There was a posted sign that was on display stating: "No peddlers, solicitors, agents, or magicians allowed."

The tent tour continued into the 1940s with Mal and company working an under-canvas niter in Tullahoma, Tennessee. In 1944, Mal and his company were working in the French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana, and then it was on to Mobile, Alabama, and next they were booked at the historic Martin Centre in Douglas, Georgia. In mid-June of 1949, the first



advertisements came out promoting Lippincott's Quarter Go. This one effect became the magician's go-to effect whether it was a close-up, parlor, or stage act. The Devil's Hank was a good tie-in for a performance, but Lippincott's idea opened more possibilities, and it allowed the performer to expand from just having the prop in their hand. The small wooden box known more commonly as a Lippincott Box could be handed to a spectator, hung from a pole, or included in almost any concept that would work during the performance.

One of the last mentions of Mal and Maxine working was in the April 1954 issue of *The Linking Ring*. For the fifteenth consecutive year, Mal's show was booked at the Fontaine Ferry Park in Louisville, Kentucky. That was one of Mal's and Maxine's last performances. Mal passed away on August 24, 1956, in La Plata, Missouri. Scores of magicians who knew him and everyone who enjoyed watching him perform were saddened to hear the news.

Gary R. Frank

## Submitting Ring Events

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](mailto: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](mailto:ringreports@magician.org).

## NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

### I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,  
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

### FEBRUARY 2025 25 NEW MEMBERS

THOMAS, MARK, Siloam Springs, AR  
AMAYA, RUDY, Malibu, CA  
DERW, STEFANIE, Simi Valley, CA  
HEALTON, STEVE, Moreno Valley, CA  
LAURENT, PATRYK, San Diego, CA  
O'CONNELL, SCOTT, Anaheim, CA  
WHITE, D. HUNTER, Granada Hills, CA  
MUELLER, LOUIS, Clearwater, FL  
MAZZOLINI, MARSHALL, Cumming, GA  
PRESTERA, DOMINIC, Atlanta, GA  
VANWYNBERGEN, CR, Cumming, GA  
HEATH, BRETT, Lake Charles, LA  
SONNIER, CLAYTON, Lake Charles, LA  
COLEMAN, JOSHUA, Cary, NC  
KAISER, MIKE, Cary, NC  
VIGIL, PAUL, Las Vegas, NV  
GONZALES, JEREMY, La Vernia, TX  
MELROSE, PARKER, Austin, TX

SOUTHWOOD, BRADLEY, Milcreek, UT  
LUCHESSI, SAMUEL, Arlington, VA  
GRANT, JONATHAN, Walla Walla, WA  
MITCHELL, CHRIS, Tacoma, WA  
WELCH, GILBERT, Racine, WI  
POWELL, JOSHUA, Hedgesville, WV  
BENNISON, SAM, Prince George, Canada

### 9 REINSTATEMENTS

GILLAN, CHARLES, Santa Cruz, CA  
QUIROZ, JIMMY, Garden Grove, CA  
STONE, GILBERT, Santa Rosa, CA  
STRINGER, MICHAEL, Lutherville, MD  
HARDT, TY, Las Vegas, NV  
CARSON, TODD, Tamaqua, PA  
FRALEY JR., JERRY, Nashville, TN  
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VILLARREAL, JOHN, Rochester, WA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

# The Linking Ring

**Dawn Hofmeister**  
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## ADVERTISING RATES AND SPECS

Deadlines are the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month, the month prior to publication date. (Example: an ad appearing in the December issue must be submitted by November 5.)

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