

VOLUME 103 NUMBER 5

The Linking Ring

MAY 2023



THE MAGIC OF PUCK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

The Linking Ring



Dawn Hofmeister
 Advertising Manager
 advertising@magician.org

ADVERTISING RATES AND SPECS

Deadlines are the 5th of the month, the month prior to publication date. (Example: an ad appearing in the December issue must be submitted by November 5.)

SIZE	New Ad	Standing Ad (Repeat from an ad on file)	If ad is NOT print ready digital file, add a 1 time per ad set up charge of...
2-pg spread, (Color)	\$775	\$725	+\$125
2-pg spread, (B&W)	\$575	\$525	+\$125
Back Cover (Color) full page	\$600	\$550	+\$75
Inside Covers (Color) full page	\$550	\$525	+\$75
Facing inside ft cover (p.3)(Color)	\$450	\$425	+\$75
Facing inside bk cover (B&W)	\$325	\$300	+\$75
Interior full-page, (Color)	\$425	\$425	+\$75
Interior full-page (B&W)	\$300	\$275	+\$75
Half Page (Color)	\$275	\$275	+\$40
Half Page (B&W)	\$250	\$225	+\$40
1/4 Page (Color)	\$175	\$175	+\$25
1/4 page (B&W)	\$150	\$125	+\$25
2 inch ad (Color)	\$95	\$95	+\$10
2 inch ad (B&W)	\$70	\$65	+\$10
1 inch ad (B&W only)	\$50	\$50	+\$5

Full Page
 6" X 9"

Live print area
 5.75" X 8.75"

For full bleed create
 a canvas
 6.5" X 9.5"

For 2-page Spread
 start with a canvas
 12.5" X 9.5" with live
 print centered within
 11.5" X 8.5"

1/2 Page Horizontal

Live Print area
 5" X 3.75"

1/4 Page
 2.375" X 3.75"

1" Ad
 2.375" X 1"

1/2 Page Vertical

2.375" X
 7.625"

2" Ad
 2.375" X 2"



**Free Convention Registration for
first 40 I.B.M Members under 18**

JULY 10 - 15

FREE ENROLLMENT

[bit.ly/ LBTS7-2023](https://bit.ly/LBTS7-2023)

**LANCE BURTON JEFF McBRIDE LARRY HASS
and SPECIAL GUESTS**

Available to all I.B.M. members 13 to 19
years of age and their families through the
generous support of the I.B.M.'s EDF.



The International Brotherhood of Magicians

Founded in 1922 by
Len Vintus, Gene Gordon, and Don Rogers.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sindie Richison

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

(636) 724-2400 • FAX (636) 724-8566

office@magician.org

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

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Billy Hsueh

billy@magicofbilly.com

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT ELECT

Charles Arkin • carkinlaw1@aol.com

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Dunagan • (404) 834-8180

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

Simone Marron

5735 Joshuapoint Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89120

(904) 838-9897 • simone@marrons.us

INTERNATIONAL TREASURER

Mike Woodward • mikewmp@aol.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jeffrey Brodrick • (570) 335-3559

Jason Michaels • (615) 521-6850

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

Rolando Santos • (404) 784-6174

Keith Fields • (586) 566-5571

David Garrard • (502) 905-2512

LIVING PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Bill Pitts, Jr., Dr. William A. Wells, Donald E. Wiberg,
Dr. William E. Spooner, Michael J. Gorman, Dr. Jep Hostetler,
John R. Browne III, Jack K. Greenberg, Michael Stratman,
David Sandy, Tony Wilson, Roger Miller, Joan Caesar,
Rolando Santos, Vanni Pulé, Bill Evans, Shawn Farquhar,
Joe M. Turner, Oscar Muñoz, Bob Patterson, Michael Finney,
Alex Zander, Stephen Bargatze, Ken Scott

LEGAL ADVISOR

Stephen Levine

(ISSN 0024-4023)

USPS NO. 314-460

The Linking Ring

Official Journal of
The International Brotherhood of Magicians

EXECUTIVE EDITOR • BUSINESS MANAGER

Samuel Patrick Smith

E-mail: editor@magician.org

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Dale Salwak, Rolando Santos

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Gary R. Frank, Jason Goldberg, Scott Humston,

Chip MacGregor, Dr. Steven Schlanger, Ron Sylvester

RING REPORTS AND RING EVENTS EDITOR

Dr. Steven Schlanger

E-mail: ringreports@magician.org

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Dawn Hofmeister

E-mail: advertising@magician.org

WEBMASTER

Simone Marron

E-mail: webmaster@magician.org

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Jessica Friend, Matthew Sharpe

PRODUCTION AND ART SERVICES

Tony's Studio

E-mail: tonyjadu@aol.com

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Messing

THE LINKING RING (ISSN 0024-4023) is published monthly by the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Office of Publication, 13 Point West Blvd., St. Charles, MO, 63301, for members only. Annual dues, \$60.00, includes \$20.00 for 12 issues. PERIODICALS postage paid at St. Louis, MO and other places. ©2023 by the International Brotherhood of Magicians. All rights reserved under international and Pan-American conventions. Reproduction of THE LINKING RING magazine in whole or in part is forbidden without prior written permission. For airmail, address changes, and other official business, contact our International Executive Secretary (see above). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE LINKING RING, 13 Point West Blvd., St. Charles, MO 63301.

The Linking Ring

FEATURED ARTICLES

Volume 103 Number 5 May 2023

16 OUR COVER: THE MAGIC OF PUCK

Meet Malcolm Puckering, whose autobiographical card routine on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* was described by Penn Jillette as “incredibly moving.” Larry Lipman writes about Puck’s struggles and successes in life and magic.

26 SAVING HOUDINI’S VOICE

Noted researcher John Cox reports on the incredible story of digitizing the only known recordings of Houdini, from fragile wax cylinder records in David Copperfield’s collection.

30 IN MEMORIAM: HARRY LORAYNE

The prolific Harry Lorayne – magician, memory expert, and longtime I.B.M. member – left a large legacy through his writings, lectures, performances – and friendships.

39 A PORTRAIT OF THE PROFESSIONAL

Neil Foster opened himself to trustworthy voices of earned authority who had reached the artistic level to which he aspired. Dale Salwak describes Foster’s teaching on the value of listening.

58 DID NICOLAS HUNT REALLY USE THE BINARY SYSTEM?

Former mathematics professor Thomas Henry examines whether Nicolas Hunt’s 1631 book is the earliest instance of the binary system appearing in a magic trick, such as the Magic Age Cards, as writers often claim.



Columns

- 12 FROM THE EDITOR
- 13 THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE
- 40 MARKETING MAGIC
- 49 FROM OUR UK CORRESPONDENT
- 54 POLISHING THE RINGS
- 56 TEACHING MAGIC

Departments

- 37 YOUTH TRIVIA
- 93 HOCUS IN FOCUS
- 97 BROKEN WAND

Trick Section

- 69 BOB MALINCHOCK ONE-MAN PARADE
- 85 THE CARD CORNER
- 88 SIMPLE DIVERSIONS
- 89 CRAFT STORE MAGIC
- 90 AUTO-MAGIC

Miscellaneous

- 14 PICTURES FROM THE PAST
- 25 RING EVENTS
- 44 MAGIC AND MEMORIES
- 52 GREEN MAGIC
- 64 RING LOCATIONS
- 66 MAGICAL MELODY
- 67 DID YOU KNOW?
- 68 SICK & CONVALESCENT
- 144 APPLICATIONS/ REINSTATEMENTS
- 146 INDEX OF ADVERTISERS



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

COVER PHOTO BY PETER GOULD



YEAR-ROUND HEALTH INSURANCE

ALSO AVAILABLE:

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

LIFE INSURANCE

DISABILITY INCOME

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS

HEART, CANCER, STROKE INSURANCE

DENTAL & VISION INSURANCE

BUSINESS OWNERS' INSURANCE

AND MORE!

ARE YOU WILLING TO ROLL THE DICE?



THE BUYING POWER OF 300 NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS...
BECOMES YOUR BUYING POWER.

**SAVE UP TO 50% ON YOUR PREMIUMS
AS AN IBM MEMBER!**

WWW.ASSOCIATIONPROS.COM/IBM

888-450-3040

Why Buy a Three-year Subscription? Charlie Miller, Charlie Miller, Charlie Miller

SUBSCRIBE FOR 3 YEARS FOR AS LOW AS \$85

MAGICANA THE BOOK

by Charlie Miller

Over 600 pages, containing Charlie Miller's
"Magicana" columns from Genii.

\$150 value!

Get it for only \$25

plus \$15 postage USA or

plus \$30 postage foreign

when you **subscribe for 3 years,**
renew for 3 years,
or add 3 years
to your subscription.

for only
\$25*

Order your copy today at
www.geniimagazine.com
or call the Genii office

Genii

THE CONJURORS' MAGAZINE

**NOW
SHIPPING**

12 Monthly Paper Issues • Monthly Digital Issues Included • Viewable on your computer, tablet, or smartphone with exclusive video

PLUS Free Online Access to 83 Years of Genii and MAGIC Back Issues—100,000+ Pages

Digital Subscription Only: \$35 (includes access to archive)

Free Digital Access for All Print Subscribers

www.geniimagazine.com/subscribe-now/

Genii • 4200 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Suite 106-384 • Washington, DC 20016 • 301-652-5800

THE WORLD'S LARGEST-SELLING MAGAZINE FOR MAGICIANS

Magic & Mentalism

— CONVENTION —
www.Magistrorum.net



The world is watching
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Will this be your year?
July 12th - 15th



They are not just given away, YOU have to earn them.



**You will not believe
what's to come!**



Registration for both contests start January 1, 2023

Contest Chairmen are: Melody and Oscar Muñoz

For more information contact us at ibmcontestmunoz@gmail.com

Your next step...

Study with us online
or in Las Vegas.



MCBRIDE'S
MAGIC &
MYSTERY
SCHOOL

WWW.MAGICALWISDOM.COM
or call Abigail at (702) 450-0021

"Simply the best way to learn magic..."
--Jeff Christensen

PETER WOOD
COLLECTOR OF THE IMPOSSIBLE



WITH SPECIAL GUEST
Judge Mentalist



THURSDAY 15 JUNE, 2023
7:00 PM EST

MICK'S CRAB HOUSE
902 EAST PULASKI HIGHWAY
ELKTON, MD 21921

TICKETS HERE

SAY YES TO THE IMPOSSIBLE

WWW.ELKTONMAGIC.COM

From
singlesleights.com

PRODUCE WATER FROM NOTHING!

Wet Dry
Production
Tube

*Patent
Pending

Support the
magic dealers
who support the
I.B.M.

KEVIN JAMES
Presents
QUARTE
By Gaëtan BLOOM

\$350
Plus P&H

Perfect for zoom!!!
This legendary effect is seriously strong
This even fools magicians!
www.kjmagic.com

Atlanta
SEPT. 28TH-30TH
 *LECTURES *SHOWS *DEALERS

Harvest Of Magic

FEATURING BLAKE VOGT

GARRETT THOMAS, CHRISTOPHER T. MAGICIAN,
 CHRIS CAPEHART, PAUL RICHARD, MANY MORE!

WWW.ATLANTAHARVESTOFMAGIC.COM

ALCORN'S
Studio of Illusions

alcornillusions.com - 941.468.4198

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

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

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

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

Feel the Power

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



NTSC / Multi-Region coded

\$3500

Postpaid Worldwide.
US Funds ONLY.

CA residents add 7.25% sales tax.

Send Cashiers Check or Money Order to:

The Magic Bakery

P.O. Box 3255, Chico, CA 95927 USA

Credit Cards Accepted thru **PayPal** at:

www.themagicbakery.com



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

Recently someone asked my father his age. “I’m not telling you that,” he said, indignantly. Then he grinned. “But I wish I were ninety-two again.” He still works forty hours a week and outpaces most people decades younger.

One day last month at about four o’clock in the afternoon, I called and asked where he was. “At the Millworks,” Dad said, referring to a building in an industrial park he started years ago. I told him I would drive over to see him. “Come on,” he replied.

When I arrived a few minutes later, I didn’t see his truck. I called him again. “Are you at Millworks?” I asked. “No,” he replied. “I went over to the shop.”

“Okay, I’ll go to the shop.”

“Actually, I’m not there. I just left,” he said. “But I’ll be back in a few minutes.” I drove to the shop, and true to his word, he soon returned in his pickup truck – driving right past me. He pulled up next to a dumpster and started unloading materials from a building he was cleaning out. I laughed. “You’re a hard guy to keep up with.”

In fact, most people have not come anywhere close to keeping up with him during his seventy years in business. Dad is legendary in Lake County, Florida, where he was once referred to by a county employee as someone who “buys property and hoards it.” His secret to success, however, goes deeper than that: he loves making things better – solving problems and overcoming challenges. In short, he loves his work. He is

an upbeat, positive person – most of the time – and he lives the philosophy expressed by Elbert Hubbard: “Get your happiness out of your work or you will never know what happiness is.”

Years ago when I was having a hard time in business, he came by to check on me. His words of encouragement didn’t always leave one with a grin: “Work harder,” “Be better,” “Spend less,” “Do more,” “Get up earlier.” On this occasion, however, he sensed my distress because I was already

doing all of these things and yet still had not pushed through to the other side of my struggles. After his usual line of questioning and advice, he stopped on his way out and said, “Sammy, life is good – if you don’t buckle.” Then he left, leaving me to ponder his message.

He had helped me in many ways, financially and otherwise, but usually just enough to make sure I didn’t die. I still had to struggle, and it was part of his plan – not just for me,

but also for all five of his children, to make each of us strong. Apparently it worked because we all pushed through the challenges of our younger years and are here to tell about it.

In my work as a performer, writer, and editor, I’ve been privileged to know scores of famous and talented individuals, but none more remarkable than my dad. Of his many gifts to me, among the greatest is the knowledge that life is good if you keep finding happiness in your work and never give up.



*Oil painting of Gene Smith
by his grandson,
Austin Smith.*

President's Page

BILLY HSUEH



Hi, I.B.M. Fam!

April has come and gone – I hope you were able to have a nice Easter weekend! I know mine was pretty fun. I had the opportunity to share a bit of my magic at the I.B.M. JAM in Los Angeles, where I met some of the members in the area. A huge thank you to Ring 21 for being our host Ring, and to our amazing guests Luis Carreon and Steven Brundage for being there to teach and hang out! It was kind of cool to be able to spend my birthday performing and teaching what I do, and what was even better was the surprise cake at the end. It quite literally made my heart melt. Mighty Torrente was our photographer and videographer for the day, and he created a video from the JAM that we posted on our Facebook page. So, make sure you take a look at that! If your Ring would like to host an I.B.M. JAM, please let us know and we can send you the details!

It's been a dream of mine since I was fifteen years old to be invited to attend a 4F (Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic) and it

happened! I got to attend my very first 4F! As a first timer, it's a rule that I have to perform. You can imagine how nerve-wracking it is when you look out into the audience and everyone you see is someone you have looked up to since you were a teenager. Overall it was a blast, and I left with some cool new ideas to try!

If you haven't registered for the convention yet, what are you waiting for? Make sure you are coming to our annual family reunion! We have an amazing talent lineup so far, as well as many cool events and ideas. I am seriously super-excited for it and you should be, as well! You can register at www.ibmconvention.com!

Next on my list is Monday Night Magic in New York City, then off to Detroit, Michigan for the Magic Soiree, followed by Des Moines, Iowa for Abracorndabra. If you are in and around the area, I hope to see you there. If not, you can keep up with my travels on Instagram! That's it for now – I will see you in those cities or in the next issue of *The Linking Ring*!



Past International Presidents attending 4F. Left to right: Stephen Bargatze, Bill Wells, Joe M. Turner, Shawn Farquhar, International President Billy Hsueh, Joan Casear, Rolando Santos, Bill Evans, and Don Wiberg.



Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING



While growing up in New York, Theo Doré met Harry Kellar and was an occasional guest in the home of Harry Houdini. He learned his craft from local magicians during the Golden Age of Magic, became a popular entertainer for family audiences, and appeared at such prominent venues as Radio City Music Hall. During his long career, Theo Doré shared his knowledge and experience with others in more than three hundred magazine articles. To learn more, turn to page 145.

“What’s in a Name?”

Part Thirteen

By Dr. Steven Schlanger

“What’s past is prologue.”

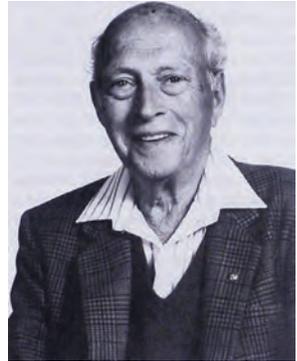
RING 203, ZIMBABWE, AFRICA – Hans Trixer Ring

Hans Trixer was born in Germany in 1921. When he was fifteen years old, he learned magic from Ottokar Fischer’s *Illustrated Magic*. Three years later his family fled to Holland to escape the Nazi’s persecution of Jews. The family was apprehended after the invasion of the Netherlands, and they were then transported to concentration camps. Hans survived the brutality of the Holocaust, though sadly his parents did not.

Though trained as a jeweler, Hans took a job with Henk Vermeyden’s magic studio in Holland after the war and edited *Triks* magazine. He was an inventor of magic, an award-winning performer (Close-up Grand Prix at the 1949 FISM), and a prolific author of books and articles. His routines can be found in Ganson’s *Routine Manipulation Finale*, Corinda’s *Thirteen Steps to Mentalism*, and Paul Curry’s *Special Effects*, among other publications. He was also a lifelong friend of Fred Caps.

In 1952 he moved to the African continent to what was then known as Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. He was the director of a large jewelry company though his occupation did not interfere with his passion for magic. Trixer continued (until his demise in 1994) to write about and create magic, generously sharing his ideas and routines with magicians all over the world.

Because of his prominence in the magic community (he was referred to as the “Dai Vernon of South Africa”), Ring 203 members celebrated Hans Trixer by naming the Ring in his honor upon receiving its I.B.M. charter in 1971.



Hans Trixer.

Sign Up a New Member

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

THE MAGIC OF PUCK

By Larry Lipman

Malcolm Puckering left his first magic show with tears in his eyes.

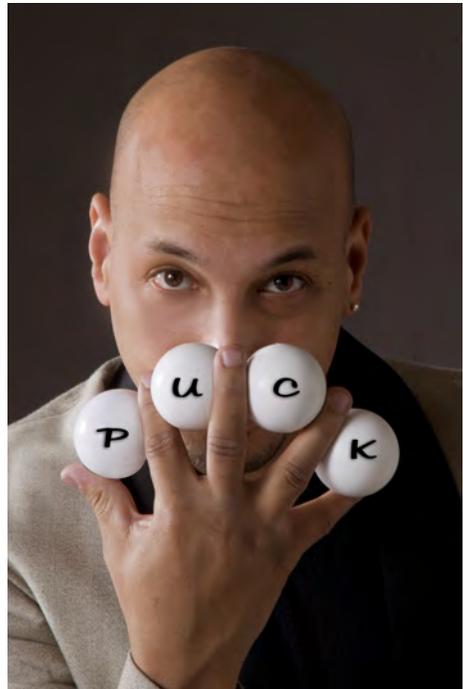
It was his sixth birthday.

Malcolm – now known throughout the magic world as Puck – had just attended a magic show with his adoptive father at Long Island’s Adventure Land amusement park. The magician had called on Malcolm to be his assistant. When the magician performed the breakaway wand, it seemed to break when Malcolm touched it. It didn’t become solid again until the magician took it back in his hands.

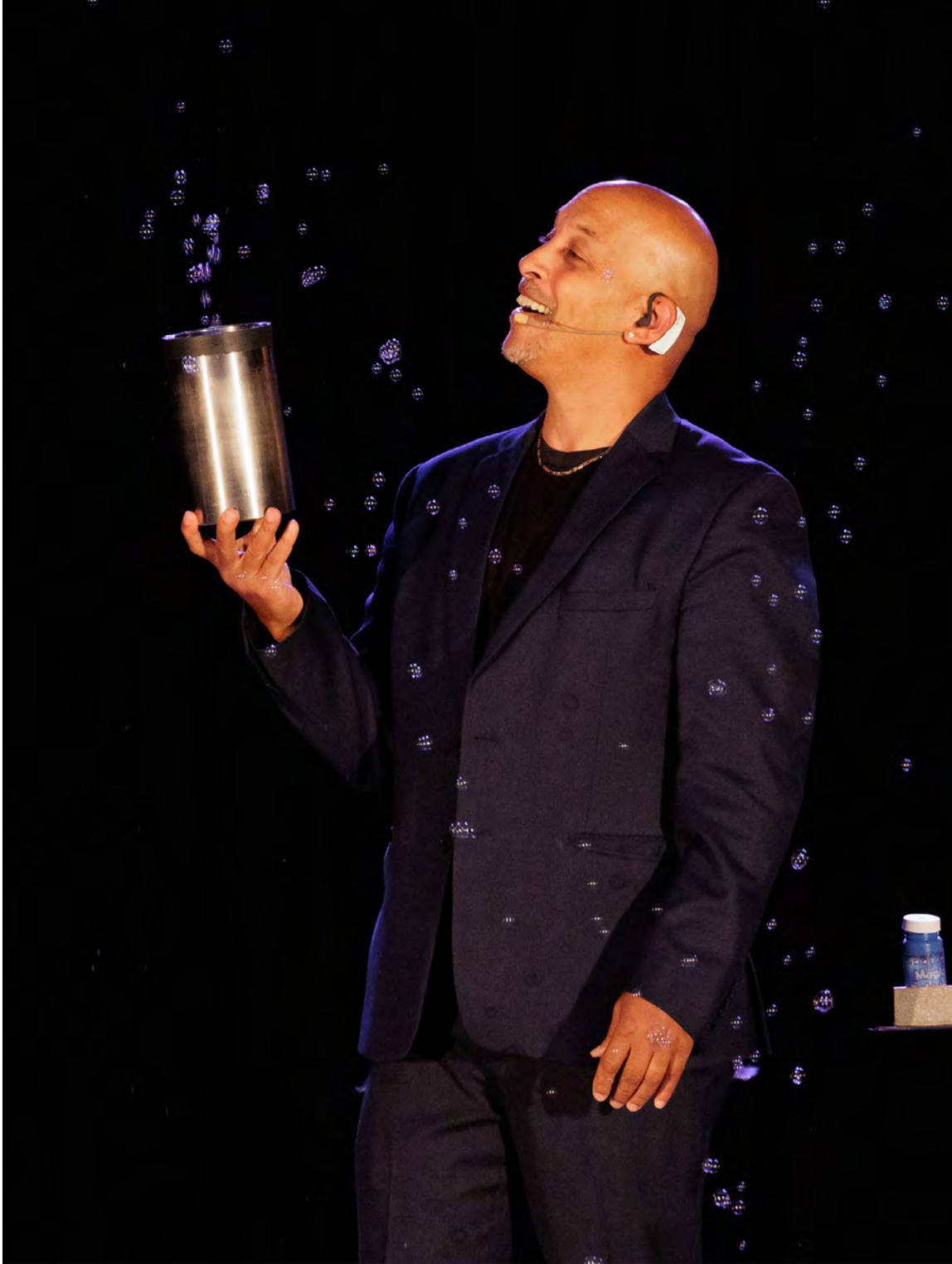
The magician gave Malcolm a break-away fan next. Once again, it broke when Malcolm handled it. The fan restored when the magician touched it.

Malcolm believed that it was his fault the props broke.

“I felt like I was the butt of the joke,” he said years later.



Malcolm Puckering.



Puck performs at the I.B.M. Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, July 2022.
PHOTO BY MICHAEL MESSING



Above: Performing the Blaney Ladder Levitation. PHOTO BY SCOTT ALEXANDER Right: With Scott Alexander at America's Got Talent. PHOTO BY JENNY ALEXANDER



Seeing that his son was upset, his father took Malcolm to a small magic shop at the park where he bought the boy a set of flat red sponge bunnies.

Malcolm was hooked on magic.

In his autobiography, *Finding Magic: Memoirs of a Magician*, Malcolm wrote: "That simple trick sparked a fire that would stay ablaze the rest of my life."

Despite his upsetting first experience as a magician's assistant, Malcolm changed his mind after encountering the sponge bunnies trick – and experiencing the popularity of television magic shows. It was enough for Malcolm to declare to his friends that he was a magician. A teacher at school invited him to perform some magic tricks at the spring concert.

Malcolm's father took him to Creative Magic in Long Island, where he bought Malcolm the Fantasio Vanishing Cane to Silks, a chain escape, and a top hat.

Malcolm, wearing a borrowed black cape and the hat his father had bought,

was introduced at the spring concert as "Malcolm the Magnificent."

"I knew right then and there that being onstage was something I wanted to do the rest of my life," Malcolm said.

Using money he obtained from his grandfather, Malcolm began to buy tricks, including a dove pan that he used to produce a friend's hamster. At one point he accidentally set fire to a shag carpet while using a burning paper towel instead of flammable liquid. He received a severe beating from his mother.

Malcolm loved to observe the magicians who gathered at his local magic shop. He learned magic by watching them and by reading books like *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic*.

"I taught myself," he said.

Before Malcolm was born, Malcolm's father had played drums in a band. Malcolm said his father became an X-ray technician to support his family but "lived his dreams of entertaining vicariously through me and, with his contacts, booked

me into clubs and hotels.” His father billed him as the “Kid Magician.”

Malcolm’s parents – his adoptive mother was a registered nurse – organized a travel club. They hosted trips to various international locations where Malcolm would perform.

“I was so unusual because I was so young,” said Malcolm.

Malcolm never knew his biological parents. He was placed in a foster home after he was born and bounced from home to home until he was nearly six. Around that time, he became friends with Andre Puckering, the grandson of an older couple who lived next door to the foster home where he was then living. Andre convinced his parents, Learmond and Elsie Puckering, to adopt Malcolm.

Malcolm grew close to his adoptive parents, but was devastated when his father committed suicide on New Year’s Eve. Malcolm was fourteen.

Afterward, he stopped doing magic. He played percussion in the junior high school band and he began devoting more time to music. He hung out with rappers in his neighborhood and even worked on a rap album, but it was never completed.

One day, Malcolm brought a pellet gun to his high school. He said that it was for self-defense from the boyfriend of a girl he had a crush on. Malcolm was arrested and sent to a foster detention home before he was transferred to George Junior Republic, a school for troubled youth in Freeville, New York.

After his release, his mother told him that he wasn’t making any money hanging out with rappers. Malcolm responded by enlisting and serving in the U.S. Army for three years, stationed primarily in Germany. In 1988, Malcolm was given leave and scheduled to fly home to New York for Christmas. He was scheduled for flight Pan Am 103, but his Army company commander had another assignment for him that led him to miss the flight. A



On stage at the centennial celebration of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Atlanta, Georgia, 2022. PHOTO BY MICHAEL MESSING

bomb detonated and exploded Pam Am 103 above Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all two hundred fifty-nine people aboard and eleven people on the ground.

Returning to civilian life, Malcolm began working in New York as a waiter in several high-end restaurants and hotels, including the Waldorf Astoria and the Four Seasons.

His girlfriend at the time asked Malcolm what he intended to do with his life. Did he want to continue being a waiter? What had he enjoyed doing as a child?

Malcolm replied that he had enjoyed magic. His girlfriend looked up a magic shop in the Yellow Pages and bought Malcolm an invisible thread reel.

“I was sucked back in,” he recalled. “I fell in love with [magic] again.”



Left: Puck's first public performance at seven years of age. PHOTO BY LEARMOND PUCKERING



Right: Country club performance, age fourteen.

To his amazement, Malcolm found that “everything had advanced so much since I was a kid.”

He began spending his time at the magic shop. When Malcolm met a man who raised and sold doves, he purchased two.

But Malcolm was no longer the unusual “Kid Magician” who stood out because he was young. Now, he was an adult trying to compete in New York City. He decided to move, settling with his brother in Alexandria, Virginia where he thought there would be less competition. Malcolm continued working as a waiter for restaurants like Capitol Hill’s famous The Monocle, using that time to also hone his bar magic. His favorite trick was a special card-on-ceiling trick that involved currency – often a hundred dollar bill – that stuck to the ceiling. More often than not, the spectators let the bills stay on the ceiling. Malcolm retrieved them after closing.

Following his time at The Monocle, Malcolm began working at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Pentagon City, Virginia and started dating pastry chef Kecia Reyes.

Malcolm frequented two magic shops in the area: Al’s Magic Shop in Washington, D.C., owned by legendary magic dealer Al Cohen, and Barry’s Magic Shop in Wheaton, Maryland, owned by magician

Barry Taylor. Malcolm and Barry became good friends. Soon, Malcolm was accompanying Barry to gigs and working as his assistant for major performances.

Malcolm was developing his own bird act and began searching for a vanishing dove cage. Barry put him in touch with another legendary magician, Denny Haney, who owned Denny & Lee’s Magic Studio in Baltimore, Maryland. He bought the cage and several books Denny recommended. After that, Malcolm began making the hour-long commute to Denny & Lee’s about once a month.

Malcolm asked Kecia to give him feedback on his dove act. The pair worked together on an act, calling it Puck & Kecia. The act included a white cockatoo named Hoppy, and they started adding parrots and other exotic birds – not to mention a cat.

When Denny needed an assistant for his show, he hired Malcolm.

Malcolm and Kecia started competing at Dealer Days organized by Al Cohen, Joe Stevens, and Nick Ruggerio, co-owner of Collector’s Workshop. The couple entered the World Magic Summit in Washington and won the stage act competition with their bird act.



Left: *The Magic of Puck*. Right: *Puck promotional photo*. PHOTOS BY FREDDE LIEBERMAN

It opened the doors to more gigs. Malcolm began working with Denny Haney on stage and in the shop, later meeting Vito Lupo and Peter White of P&A Silks. Denny, Vito, and Peter helped Malcolm fine-tune his magic and secure bookings.

Malcolm's reputation grew. He appeared weekly at Monday Night Magic in New York City. Magicians, including Simon Lovell, began working with him and drawing up routines on the back of restaurant placemats. Malcolm would work on the routines and perform them the following week.

"Once they saw I was seriously into magic, they put in the time and started working with me," he said.

In the mid-nineties, Malcolm met Curtis Carroll, who billed himself as Alexander, America's Funniest Hypnotist. Curtis taught Malcolm hypnosis and arranged for Malcolm and Kecia to appear on cruise ships.

Laden with a dozen cases of equipment, Malcolm and Kecia performed their bird act and illusions on several ships, traveling extensively until their divorce in 2000.

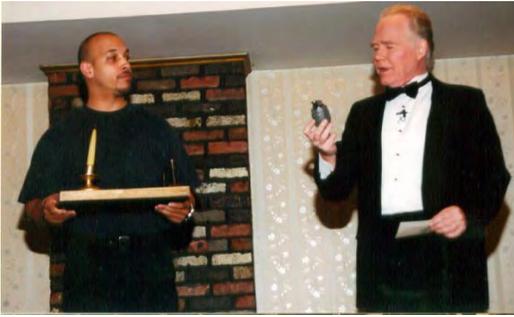
After performing for so long as a double act, Malcolm had to figure out how to perform as a solo act again.

Curtis retired from performing and began managing Malcolm, who took over Curtis' hypnotism act.

At a show in Maryland, Malcolm met another illusionist, Joe Romano, who primarily did school assembly shows. With Joe's encouragement and advice, Malcolm put together an educational school assem-



Elements of Illusion cruise ship production show.



Above: Assisting his mentor, Denny Haney. Right: Malcolm served in the U.S. Army for three years.



bly show called *Magical Moments in the Lives of Great African Americans*.

Within a year, Malcolm was booked to perform magic and hypnosis at Curtis Carroll's Magic & Mischief Theatre in Orlando, Florida. The show was short-lived, but Curtis arranged a booking for Malcolm at the Magic Castle. He performed twenty-two shows at the Magic Castle in just one week.

Back then, performers at the Castle were paid little. They also had to provide for their own transportation, cover the cost of shipping their equipment, and pay for their lodging. They received one covered meal a day and minimal drinks.



Early promotional photo, age twenty-seven. PHOTO BY KECIA REYES

Performing at the Castle in those days was “a labor of love,” said Malcolm. “When I first did it, it was more for the prestige.”

One of the people Malcolm met that week was Jack Goldfinger, who later became the Castle's entertainment director. Malcolm and Jack posed together for a photo. Jack printed the photo over a picture of the Castle, superimposing the following words: “Puck Made It. Jack Goldfinger.”

After the Castle, Malcolm was back to working the cruise ships as a solo act. He also started giving keynote speeches for high school and college audiences, aimed at inspiring at-risk youth.

He tells his audiences how magic saved his life. “When I got into magic, everything changed.” Magic sparked his creativity and provided an outlet for his energies, which kept him “from going off the deep end.”

Then Malcolm got a call from a magician who would change his life: the late Scott Alexander. At one point, both Malcolm and Scott had worked as Denny Haney's assistants. Scott was performing a large illusion show and needed someone to take over for a few months while he did other things. Malcolm filled in for Scott in

the *Elements of Illusion* show. It included a fire-eating routine.

After two years on cruise ships in Hawaii, Carnival Cruise Line hired Malcolm for another three years.

Malcolm and Scott collaborated on routines and began performing together in a show called *Magic in Black and White*. Malcolm said the show was “socially conscious” and different from the typical magic show.

“We were doing emotionally engaging routines instead of just magic for the sake of magic,” he said. “It was a very creative endeavor.”

Scott Alexander and Puck, as they were widely known, gave most of their performances at theaters and corporate events. They also performed at the Magic Castle twice a year. Malcolm recently sold a video of one of their Castle shows to Penguin Magic and donated the proceeds to Scott’s wife and family.

Scott and Malcolm formed A&P Magic and began marketing their effects through Penguin and Murphy’s Magic.

Their first effect was Shoe Business – the trick where the magician seems to accidentally pour liquid in a volunteer’s

shoe. Murphy’s bought more than five hundred sets of the trick and “it sold like crazy,” said Malcolm. Soon, he added, the trick became “overdone” as magicians around the world began to copy it.

Shoe Business was followed by Needles and Hanky Panky. Malcolm said he and Scott co-produced and sold around twenty routines to magic dealers over the years. Malcolm also produced more than a dozen on his own.

Of all the routines that Malcolm and Scott marketed, he said the common thread was that each routine came from their shows and that they’d honed them over hundreds of performances.

In 2011, Scott was given the opportunity to compete on *America’s Got Talent* and Malcolm went as Scott’s on- and off-stage assistant. Scott made it to the quarter-finals.

The following year, Malcolm reached out to a few people he’d met from the show, hoping to land a spot. He was rejected. When he tried to get on through a YouTube competition, he again didn’t make the cut. Then, two weeks before the show was scheduled to air, he learned that one of the selected contestants couldn’t compete. *America’s Got Talent* asked him to perform live.

Malcolm did a dancing and vanishing handkerchief routine. He made it to the semi-finals with the dancing handkerchief and a woman floating illusion act before he was eliminated.

“I got defeated by a dog act,” said a rueful Malcolm.

But his national exposure on *America’s Got Talent* gave way to bigger and better things. Penn and Teller invited Malcolm and Scott to perform on the first season of *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*.

Malcolm returned to *Fool Us* in March with an autobiographical routine where he talked about his work doing keynote addresses. He performed what Penn Jillette described as an “incredibly moving” card trick that ended with seemingly blank



Hypnosis show. FREDDE LIEBERMAN PHOTO

cards transforming into a photo montage of his biological and adoptive fathers with a kicker production of a photo of himself as a young boy.

Malcolm got a call from Scott's wife in January telling him that Scott had been hospitalized on St. Kitts. He was performing on a cruise ship when he'd fallen ill. Before they could work out travel arrangements, Malcolm received notice that Scott had passed away.

Malcolm was devastated. "We were all really close," he said.

One of the recent highlights of Malcolm's life was the discovery of his biological family. After watching a documentary about a set of triplets who were separated at birth, Malcolm noticed that the three boys had come from the same agency that placed him in foster care. The agency, which primarily handled children born to Jewish mothers, said it would provide some information to those who'd been processed through their system in the sixties.

Malcolm contacted the agency. They sent him six pages of information, but not the identity of his relatives. His wife bought him a DNA kit, which led to the discovery of two matches.

Eventually, Malcolm learned that his biological father was Mal Waldron, a jazz pianist who was recorded on more than two hundred albums and played with many of music's greats, including Billie Holiday.

He also learned that his biological mother was Michele Feldman, a young



Magic in Black and White with Puck and Scott Alexander.

unmarried Jewish woman who had another son.

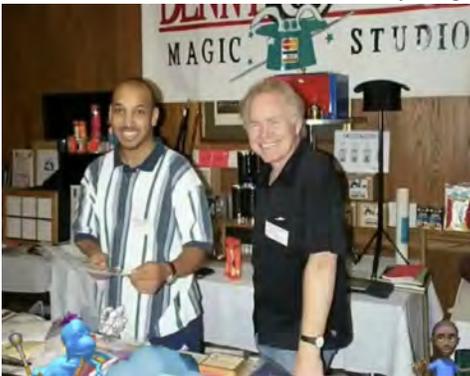
The revelations have led to the discovery of more relatives and eventually Malcolm found that he had six siblings and a plethora of cousins, aunts, and uncles. He has become close with his newfound relatives.

"They've taken me right in," he said.

In his autobiography, Malcolm recounts the obstacles in his life – being given away at birth, bouncing around foster homes, losing his adoptive father to suicide at a young age, getting into legal trouble, two failed marriages – but he credits magic for helping him to overcome those obstacles and succeed. Here's how he put it:

"There was always one constant in my life from age six, and that was magic! Magic pointed me in the right direction. Magic gave me a place to belong and feel accepted. Magic gave me my beautiful children. Magic brought me to God and helped me to find the faith I so desperately needed to succeed. Magic saved my life and I am eternally blessed. I found magic!"

Larry Lipman is a frequent contributor to The Linking Ring. A retired journalist, these days he enjoys writing about the amazing magicians he encounters. Reach him by email at lipman.larry@gmail.com.



Running the Denny & Lee Magic Studio convention dealer booth with Denny Haney.

Ring 46 (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) Hosts I.B.M. JAM

I.B.M. Ring 46 in Oklahoma City was pleased to host an I.B.M. Jam on Saturday, February 18, 2023. It was a pleasure meeting the International President-Elect of the I.B.M., Chuck Arkin. Chuck presented a lecture on what he called “classic mentalism.” He performed and explained time-tested feats of mind reading without the use of any electronic gizmos. After asking Derrick Beeson to select a playing card, Chuck called his wife, Lori, who was able to divine the name of the card. Chuck also performed a very nice color-changing deck routine with the use of a red/blue double-backed card. He supplied everyone with the necessary gimmick.

Award-winning professional magician Michael Dardant flew in from New Orleans. Michael presented a lecture about magic’s use of rubber bands, coins, hair ties, sponge balls, and playing cards. He wowed us with an out-of-the-box use of the venerable Invisible Deck. Michael also blew us away with what he called “a classic force with no cards,” where he forced a card verbally while spreading invisible cards.

The I.B.M. JAM was like a one-day convention that did not require any long-



Front row, left to right: Jim Short, Justin Teeman, and Michael Dardant. Back row, left to right: Michael King, Jay Relkin, Chuck Arkin, David Teeman, Shawn Clark, Lee Woodside, Jerry Bowzer, and Grant Vinson.



(L to r): David Teeman, right, shares his Obedient Ball with I.B.M. President Elect Chuck Arkin. • Michael Dardant and Chuck Arkin.

distance travel on our part. We highly recommend that other Rings participate if given the chance. We had a blast!

Lee Woodside

Sign up 1!

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



Saving Houdini's Voice

By John Cox

One of the great treasures inside David Copperfield's International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts in Las Vegas are the original wax cylinders that hold the only known recordings of Houdini's voice. First discovered in 1970, only two of the three Houdini cylinders were ever transferred to a playable media format. Likewise, only a short clip has ever been released to the public.

One cylinder, which reportedly holds a recording of Houdini and his sister Gladys reading their father's poetry, was never transferred – and has not been heard since 1970. The collection holds five additional cylinders with no record of what's on them. So, there's still a lot of mystery surrounding these cylinders.

I spent two weeks in early March at the museum, working and researching. I shared some of my museum adventures on my blog, but I kept the big news top secret.

Mike Caveney was at the museum, too. Years ago, Mike and I pitched David on the idea of making new digital transfers of all the wax cylinders. We had a few purposes: to finally hear the fabled poetry cylinder, to document what's on the mystery cylinders,

and to digitally preserve all the recordings for the future. David tasked us with investigating how this could be done safely.

It's been a long journey, years in fact, but all roads lead to Dr. Michael Khanchalian, aka "The Cylinder Doctor," who just happens to live twenty minutes from Mike. Not only can Michael repair damaged cylinders, but he's also developed a player that can safely play old recordings. He was clearly the man for the job. So, we once again pitched the idea to David.

Any reluctance on David's part was understandable. He has the original cylinders and the original tape transfers from 1970 (which, ironically, may no longer be playable), so why risk damaging the cylinders or discovering they had gone bad? Or worse, discovering that some slippery collector in the 1970s had pulled a switcheroo and he actually owned nothing. The value of these cylinders could be wiped out entirely. But David Copperfield is dedicated to preserving magic history, and if there was a chance of capturing a new piece of Houdini's voice, he would take the risk. He gave us the go ahead and trusted us to get the job done.

Lifting the heavy glass off the display case in the museum in order to retrieve the cylinders was pretty nerve-wracking. And it was about to get worse. Mike had left the museum by the time all the arrangements had been made, so it fell to me to bring the cylinders to Los Angeles. Without revealing what I was doing to anyone besides those at the museum, I loaded all eight cylinders into my car and made the trek back to LA, battling a three-hour traffic jam and two hellacious downpours along the way. But I made it!



Precious cargo. The wax cylinders travel to Los Angeles.

The next day – March 16, 2023 – Mike and I arrived at Michael Khanchalian’s beautiful home. He has an amazing collection of players and cylinders and is clearly an expert and enthusiast in this field. “He’s the John Cox of wax cylinders,” joked Mike. After a fabulous tour of his collection, we got down to work in his “lab.”



Mike Caveney and Dr. Michael Khanchalian, aka “The Cylinder Doctor.”

The first three cylinders, which came from David’s vault and were labeled as containing

Houdini’s voice, did not contain Houdini’s voice. Michael knew this instantly as he could tell they were commercial recordings and not the type of “blank” cylinders one would use for recording. Instead, what we heard were vaudevillians Will Oakland (“When You and I Were Young, Maggie”), Billy Murray & Ada Jones (“Whistling Coquette”) and a musical march (“Queen of Sheeba”). It was fun to hear these sounds from the past, but it was a little disconcerting, and the switcheroo theory was dancing in my head. But we still had five cylinders to go.

The cylinder labeled “Pa’s Poems,” in Houdini’s handwriting, was up next. Michael was encouraged by what he saw. At least this was the correct type of “blank” cylinder. This was the moment of truth. Houdini history was about to be made, for better or worse.



Michael slid the cylinder on his player, carefully calibrated the needle, hit the record button (we were making direct transfers to CD, no computers or hard drives involved), and lowered the needle.



The first Houdini cylinder ready to play.

Houdini's powerful voice boomed over the room in a recording that had not been heard in fifty-three years. He introduces "an original German recitation" of poetry written by his father, "Reverend Doctor Mayer Samuel Weiss," to be spoken by his sister, "C. Gladys Weiss." There is a fantastic candid moment when Houdini is about to state his father's birthday and he has to ask Gladys, "What was the year?" It's very faint, but it's there, and we all looked at each other in delighted disbelief at what we had just heard.

Gladys then recites the poem in German. Gladys was blind, so she's doing this from memory. As Houdini says on the recording, the poem was "taught to her" by their father. I believe she makes a mistake and starts over after a small gap in the recording. Houdini then comes back on and says he will repeat the poem "in case you did not understand it." This seems to be his true speaking voice and not the "presentational" voice he uses on the other recordings. He then proceeds to recite the poem, which is also in German. He speaks faster and, to my ear, more confidently in German, with great flair and rolling Rs. Gladys signs off with the date, October 30, 1914, which is a day after the other recordings were made. The fact that this recording was made on a different day has never been documented.

Next up were the two full recordings of Houdini's Water Torture Cell patter. As with



the poetry cylinder, each runs just over four minutes. The quality of these transfers is much clearer than what exists currently. For years, I believed Houdini said "I, Houdini" as his sign off. I've been wrong. "Harry Houdini" is now sparkling clear. There was also a big surprise waiting at the end of the first speech. After Houdini signs off, the cylinder seems to end. But then Gladys comes back on and "certifies" that she heard her brother "make this record" on October 29, 1914. This certification was never transferred in 1970 nor have I ever seen any mention of it. It's possible it was missed or that the machine they used couldn't pick it up.

Speaking of machines from the 1970s, our expert Michael said he was amazed the recordings weren't destroyed back then, as you can't play these Edison Blanks on a regular machine. They are much softer and the



Hearing Houdini speak German for the first time.



weight of the needle can wipe them clean. Several times, he said it was miraculous that the recordings survived and in such great fidelity.

The final two cylinders were commercial recordings of German songs. It was still exciting to hear these, as all the cylinders belonged to Houdini and it's wild to hear the music he played at home for pleasure.

Over the next few days, I prepared notes and transcriptions of all the cylinders and reunited them with their correct cases. I was helped in this by Jessica Jane Peterson, who became the fourth lucky person to hear the poetry recording.



Jessica Jane Peterson and John Cox keeping the cylinders secret.

I then drove the cylinders back to Las Vegas and played the new recordings for David. He was thrilled by what he heard. He instantly picked up on all the same moments that had so excited us in LA, especially the moment when we hear Houdini's more natural speaking voice. Even before the recordings ended he was working on the next steps. Audio work will be done to clean up the recordings and the German will be translated. It was mission accomplished and everyone was delighted and relieved!

I took myself out to dinner that night and thought about what had happened. Not only

had I finally heard the "Pa's Poems" cylinder, but I now understood it was always the most precious and personal recording of them all. Houdini loved and honored his father and you can hear that. He loved his sister, and you can hear that. The family language was German, and you hear that. If Houdini ever came back, this would be the cylinder he would want to hear. Preserving it was more important than I ever understood. I felt like I had done a service for both Houdini and David Copperfield, and I was overwhelmed with gratitude at the amount of trust that had been placed in me.

I then sent David a text with one last request. Could I share this momentous news? His response came back quickly: "Sure."

As I said, David didn't need to do this. This headline could have easily read, "The Houdini wax cylinders are no more." But this is what makes David Copperfield a titan of magic. He took the risk, extended extraordinary trust, and now deserves the credit for saving this important piece of Houdini history. Maybe even the most important piece. When and where the general public might hear these I can't say. But the fact that we can now hear them was the purpose of this incredible journey.

About the Author: John Cox is a Houdini historian who has been writing a daily blog about Houdini since 2010 (wilbouthoudini.com). Last year, he launched a Patreon (patreon.com/wildabouthoudini) where he shares exclusive content, such as unpublished photos, videos, tours of private collections, and original research. John lives in Los Angeles and is currently working on his first book about Houdini.



In Memoriam Harry Lorayne

May 4, 1926 – April 7, 2023

A man of many talents, Harry Lorayne, who passed away in Newburyport, Massachusetts, on April 7, 2023 at age ninety-six, had an uncanny gift for solving problems.

At eight years of age he witnessed his first card trick. Intrigued, he was determined to perform it, but there was one problem. Because his family was poor and lived in a tenement on New York City's Lower East Side, he didn't have the money to buy a deck of cards. Harry's solution? He collected his neighbors' empty milk bottles, turned them in and recovered the two-cent deposits, and accumulated enough cash to purchase an inexpensive deck. Problem solved.

Now his thoughts returned to the mechanics of the trick. He had no idea how it worked or how to perform it. After workshopping through at least eight different versions, night after night, he finally discovered the secret.

There was an added benefit. All the time he was thinking about magic, he explained, he hadn't felt self-conscious or shy. "I felt proud of myself for the first time in my life," he said, as he performed that same card trick all over the Lower East Side. "I don't think there was a person living in our neighborhood who didn't watch me perform." His confidence and self-confidence began to grow.

Another challenge arose in school. Because he was dyslexic, his grades suffered, but once again a quick-witted Harry solved that problem, too. In the local library he discovered and studied memory-training manuals. Soon the techniques he learned began to pay off so that Harry was earning perfect marks in all of his classes.



Harry Lorayne as a teenager.

Despite those successes, he dropped out after his sophomore year, left his job as a shipping clerk, and joined the Army while continuing to perform for his fellow soldiers. After an honorary discharge, he returned to New York and, by the mid-1940s, was working table magic at the trendy Billy Reed's Little Club on 55th Street.

That's also where Harry crossed paths with the actor Victor Jory (*The Miracle Worker*, *Gone with the Wind*), who was so in awe of Harry's card skills that, several times a week, he'd bring a different friend along and ask to see a new trick. When Harry ran out of effects to show, he decided to try one of the memory feats he had learned.

He asked Jory to call out any number from one to fifty-two, and he would identify the card at that position. Or he asked his friend to name any card and Harry would tell

him its position in the deck. After doing that with seven or eight cards, he thought up a big finale which impressed Jory most of all.

“What is the best hand in poker?” When Jory said, “A royal flush,” Harry asked him to name a suit. He did, and Harry immediately said, “Okay, look at the cards at positions 9, 14, 28, 32, and 43.” He did, and there were the five royal flush cards of that suit. Noticing Jory’s delight, Harry had an epiphany. “I had never realized the strength of a memory act. His raving at that moment in time changed my life. That’s when I began to focus on my memory work as a career.”

In 1951 he hosted briefly a local television program called *The Prof. Magic Show*. In Harry’s own words: “It was set in the city, and I was supposedly a retired magician who now owned a candy store. The neighborhood kids would come into the store once a week, and I’d do magic for them. I was in my early twenties, so I had to gray my hair, wear glasses, and try to look old enough to be retired. The fact is, I looked like a twenty-year-old with fake gray hair and eyeglasses!”



Pitch book by the star of the Prof. Magic Show, 1951.

By 1958 he was making guest television appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *The Merv Griffin Show* as well as a regular spot – twenty-four appearances altogether – on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*. Time magazine called him “The Yoda of Memory Training” and “The Memory-Training Specialist.”



With Ed Sullivan (left).



Harry made twenty-four appearances on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.

Over the course of his life, Harry published dozens of books, at least fourteen of which pertained to memory training. *The Memory Book*, which sold more than two million copies, was so influential that it was featured by many book clubs.

Even Bob Dylan mentioned in his memoirs that he’d read the book shortly before his music career had taken off; and Alan Alda praised it for helping his acting career. “When I go on stage with a hundred pages of text in my head,” he said, “I got there thanks to the Harry Lorayne method.”



(l to r): Harry Lorayne lecturing. • Signing copies of *The Memory Book*, which sold two million copies.

Boeing, Xerox, Exxon, and NASA also included his memory system in their training programs, with companies around the globe hiring Harry to give lectures and keynote speeches.

Readers of *The Linking Ring*, of course, also know him as an innovative cardician who left a deep and lasting impact on the magical arts. Others may know him as the publisher of and writer for the monthly

magic periodical *Apocalypse*, which he founded in 1978 with Richard Kaufman, and featured effects from Dai Vernon, Sid Lorraine, and hundreds more. Its final issue appeared in 1997.

Given Harry Lorayne's contributions to magic and his enduring impact on our popular understanding of memory, it seems unlikely that the world will ever forget the man and his legacy.

My Friend, Harry Lorayne

By Paul Gordon

In 1975, my mother plucked Harry Lorayne's *Secrets of Mind Power* off the bookshelf and urged me to read it to help calm my anxiety. I read it and never looked back. It was, and still is, my favourite non-magic book. The year after, in 1976, I won *Close-up Card Magic* in a raffle at my local magic club. I read it and never looked back. It was, and still is, one of my favourite magic books. At the time, I was amazed to think that there were two authors called Harry Lorayne who wrote in a similar style! Harry laughed when I told him about this years later.

I started corresponding with Harry in 1979, and he always replied with charming letters. This went on for fourteen years. Then in 1993 we met for the first time in London. He treated my ex-wife and me to a lavish meal in Park Lane. At the end of the meal I showed him about ten of my tricks. Most were published in *Apocalypse* between 1994 and 1997.

In 1997 he asked me to perform and lecture at Tannen's Jubilee in New York. What a thrill! The experience opened lots of doors for me. Subsequently, I gave him more routines of mine for his books and DVDs. We talked often on the phone, and during the Covid-19 lockdown, I interviewed him. It's still available on YouTube.

When Harry turned ninety in 2016, I flew to New York to attend the party. In 2022, Elizabeth (his daughter-in-law) asked me to help proofread his last book. His claim of writing his "last book" was legendary in magic, but *The Essential Lorayne* truly was his last. Harry once said we should have written a book together. Now, sadly, we never will.

I'm writing this tribute from the heart just hours after his death, and my hand is trembling. If not for Harry, I wouldn't have my hobby, my profession, my writings, and my friends.

Thanks for everything, Harry, and I mean everything.



A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

Listening

He was one of the twentieth century's most brilliantly creative magicians whose style, presentation, and effects epitomized the ideal. Cards, coins, billiard balls, cigarettes, and canes *really* seemed to appear and vanish. His forty-five-minute "Concert of Magic" was sheer poetry in motion. The Zombie Floating Sphere in his hands became an inspired work of beauty. How is an achievement of this level to be explained? Beyond his keen intelligence, formidable technical skills, and infallible sense of timing, how did Neil Foster become Neil Foster?

Circumstances conspired to help. We begin in 1947, when Neil was feeling isolated, worried, and inadequate. Both of his parents had passed away within three years of each other, his aloof brothers voiced little care about what he did from hereon, and seemingly he had few close friends in whom he might confide. Could he make it? Could he really dare to go out on his own and earn his keep, please his audiences, and just survive? He had become, to use Robert Frost's phrase, "acquainted with the night."

Then one evening, during a long walk in his hometown of Aurora, Illinois, there came into his questioning mind a quite audible, reassuring voice, not of the inner self but from some place beyond, and it spoke four loving words that changed his life: "You are not alone." Never had he been so sure of anything. Beyond any doubt and uncertainty, *He knew*.

We call such flashes of intense insight "aha" moments – as in *now I see, now I understand*. Others refer to them as "epiphanies" – from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning

sudden and unanticipated moments of "spiritual manifestation." Virginia Woolf called them "moments of being," and William Wordsworth referred to them in *The Prelude* as "spots of time."

Whatever name we use, once such an eureka moment occurs and we have considered it afterward in calm reflection, we find ourselves in sync with the rhythm of life in a fresh way: the world is put into clearer perspective; we begin to move in a direction that is different from anything we'd ever imagined, a direction that we know is just right for us.

As a result, those few words, simple yet laden with meaning for that impressionable, shy twenty-seven-year-old, helped to solidify an instinct that he had cherished since he was nine and fell in love with the Great Blackstone and his *Show of 1,001 Wonders*: He wanted to be a professional magician.





CARDINI

ADE DUVAL

JOE KARSON

With his small inheritance and the motivation to forget the loneliness that plagued him, he climbed aboard the *El Capitan* from Chicago to Southern California, enrolled at the Chavez Studio of Magic, and emerged four years later to ripen into the endlessly inventive, virtuosic artist for which to this day he is remembered and admired.

As he made his way in the world, many other voices clamored for his attention. To whom should he pay attention? Useful as a guide were the words of the American biographer and poet Carl Sandburg, who in 1904 advised his own sister, Mary: “Listen to what others have to say, good and bad, about what you ought to do, and then do as your own soul, your own heart, your own self tells you. . . . Happiness has its source in the soul, in individuality.”

Building upon all that he had learned from Benny and Marian, therefore, Neil opened himself to the trustworthy voices of earned authority who had reached an artistic level of performance or invention to which he aspired – including Cardini (from whom he learned a new method for producing cards), Ade Duval (who deepened his understanding of silk magic), and Joe Karson (whose invention of the Zombie Floating Sphere transformed Neil’s life).

He also became an acutely attentive listener of his audiences. “Benny taught me that once we leave the classroom, our audiences become our teachers,” he said. “They will let us know what works and what

doesn’t.” For many years he tape-recorded from the wings his musically accompanied silent act, then played it back afterwards to gauge and understand their reactions. When did they applaud and when didn’t they? Why? Did his pacing and rhythm work? What could he do to increase his impact? What was missing?

Then another voice entered his life that absolutely transformed him again. One spring afternoon in the early 1950s he met Jeanne Hammond at the Fort Lauderdale Yacht Club, where he was performing. They became friends, fell in love, and married in Del Ray Beach on April 29, 1955. Until her passing on March 7, 1979, she gave him the emotional and imaginative support for which he yearned during his quest to excel.



The honeymooners celebrate in Lafayette, Indiana, 1955.

Although as an accountant Jeanne had no experience with show people or show business, she loved magic and, with an intuitive understanding of her husband's needs, could foresee the unrest he would feel if anyone were to undermine his inner world. She took him out of his inclination to loneliness. She became his ideal audience, what Freud called "the great understander." She became his muse.

She also became that most valued voice in any artist's life, the first critic, and he trusted her judgment in all its aspects, rightly, I believe. She had an artistic eye and could see whether or not he was at his best. "That's not Neil Foster," she said to him if she didn't like an idea. She reviewed each performance during collaborative debriefing sessions ("post mortems") that Neil later remembered as among the happiest times in his life.



Neil and Jeanne, circa 1958.

Four years before his passing in 1988, when asked for the secret behind his success, Neil joined the chorus of his contemporaries when he replied, "The secret is that it took a lifetime." To be sure, "trouble, disappointment, and sorrow visited him periodically," but in each instance Neil turned "defeat into triumph" as he discerned what magic historian Dan Waldron called the inner voice of a "deep, abiding" commitment to his art that "could not be stilled."

The question – How did Neil Foster become Neil Foster? – only deepens with time. What we do know is this: Whenever

he felt reluctant, confused, fearful, or doubtful of his abilities; whenever life with its many challenges seemed an arid, sterile affair, a dull habit, more duty and obligation than reward, there arose within him the words, *You are not alone*; and that first love (the guiding emotion of his life) radiated through him as he engaged his audience.



Neil at the top of his form, circa 1968.

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 John C. Sherwood (a close friend and student of Neil's) for sharing his notes from some of their private conversations.

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



Youth Trivia Contest

May's question: In the middle of the 1900s, a style of late-night magic shows became popular. *What were these shows, and how did they typically end?*

Answers must be postmarked by June 20, 2023.

February's question was: Nearly two centuries ago, a branch of religion sprouted and grew. It was based largely on the fraudulent use of what today might be described as "magical effects." *What was this branch of religion, and who is generally credited with starting the movement?*

While a few Youth members did send us responses to this question, unfortunately, none of them were correct. Here's the essence of what we were hoping that you'd tell us . . .

The branch of religious beliefs in this question revolves around the idea that a person's spirit continues to "live" after that person dies. This belief in an "afterlife" is at the center of many religions, and we're not attempting to challenge anyone's personal religious beliefs. However, the origin of the movement known today as Spiritualism is the subject of our attention. One of the significant features in this movement is the idea that, not only does a person's spirit continue to exist in the afterlife, but that it's possible to have two-way communication with that spirit. Some folks feel that these are not actually religions – they're only a group of theories suggesting that it's possible to communicate with the deceased. Those distinctions are outside of the scope of this column.

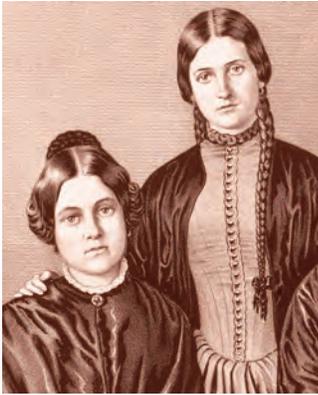
Spiritualism has become an informal and somewhat ambiguous term for a group of social and religious movements. They began, in part, with help from the insincere use of magical techniques. These magic effects were used to convince unsuspecting, trusting, and in many cases, vulnerable peo-

ple that it was possible to make contact and converse with the spirits of dead people. Charlatans frequently bilked grieving customers who were willing to pay money – not for magical entertainment, but for a chance to communicate with a deceased relative.

While some elements of spiritualism existed for many years, many historians consider the movement to have begun in 1848, in upstate New York, in the United States. Spiritualism is generally accepted to have started in one house in the middle of a small cluster of homes within the Town of Arcadia, between Rochester and Syracuse. The youngest two of the three sisters in the Fox household were Kate, eleven years old, and Maggie, fourteen years old. In the Spring of 1848, Kate and Maggie discovered that they could make knocking and tapping noises in such a way that other people couldn't identify the source of the sound. They dangled hidden apples from string and then bounced the unseen fruit off of the floor to make a resonating thumping sound. They also learned to flick their toes in a manner that thumped against furniture and flooring without the movement of their feet being detected.

What may have started as playful misbehavior sort-of blossomed. The girls managed to convince others, including their thirty-five-year-old sister, Leah, that these noises were being made by the spirit of someone who had been murdered in the house, years earlier. By the end of the following year, the Fox sisters were demonstrating their "spiritual powers" in front of paying

audiences. The number of people taken in by the girls' ruse grew, and soon, Leah was managing Maggie and Kate in their lucrative careers as spirit mediums.



Maggie and Kate Fox.

Forty years after the Fox sisters first made rapping noises, at least one of the sisters confessed that they had been faking it all along. Maggie divulged the methods that they had used, and explained the whole history behind the deception. She even toured, and sold tickets to her presentations. There's an entry in THE ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK STAGE reporting that on Sunday, October 28, 1888, at the Grand Opera House in Brooklyn, New York, "Margaret Fox Kane (Maggie Fox) of the Fox Sisters, 'founders of modern spiritualism,' gave an exposé of spiritualism."

Within a year, Maggie tried to... well ... "un-confess." It seemed, however, that the credibility of the Fox sisters was damaged. Their careers as spiritual mediums never recovered.

The deceptions perpetrated by the Fox sisters may have begun as simple mischief by children. But many folks capitalized on the frenzy that followed, fully aware of the fraudulent nature of their actions. One of the most significant of these cases – from a magician's perspective – was the Davenport brothers.

Ira and William Davenport were a few years older than the Fox sisters when they began their activities, encouraged and eventually managed by their father. It began as claims of strange, inexplicable sounds in the

middle of the night, and spirits rapping to communicate with the brothers. Living room séances followed. Rope escape techniques, taught to them by their father, were adapted and added to enhance the believability of the events. Eventually the brothers' demonstrations evolved into a very convincing routine that magicians today know as "The Spirit Cabinet."



The Davenport brothers conducting their "Cabinet Séance."

The Davenport brothers were put into a sleep-like state, blindfolded, and tied to the inside of a wardrobe-like cabinet that had been elevated above the stage on sawhorses. Bells, musical instruments, pots, and pans were put inside the cabinet, and the doors were closed. Immediately, the bells rang, the musical instruments sounded, and the pots and pans were inexplicably thrown from the cabinet. But when the doors were abruptly opened, the Davenports were discovered to be still sleeping, blindfolded, in their original positions, and tied to the inside of the cabinet.

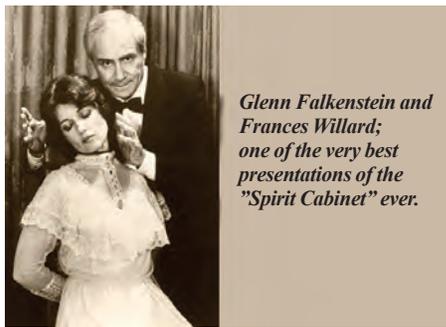
The fact that the Davenports were not truly communicating with "spirits" may be well-understood by those of us involved in magic. But, in the mid-1800s, the members of the public were being deliberately misled by the performers – and it was easier to mislead them than it would be today. Fraudulent séances were a relatively new phenomenon, and the public was more trusting than they are today. (Still, there are folks being conned by these tactics every day.)

During one of the Davenports' demonstrations in England, a watchmaker and

amateur magician named John Nevil Maskelyne was in the audience. He noticed the secret methods that the brothers were using, and he was appalled by the dishonesty of the Davenports' presentation. Maskelyne stood up in the middle of the show, loudly declared the Davenports to be frauds, and promised to prove his claim by recreating their feats **without** the use of supernatural powers. He and his eventual partner, George Cooke, did just that. Their "Spirit Cabinet" act was presented as an illusion, and it wowed the audiences. Maskelyne and Cooke went on to become very famous magicians.

"The Spirit Cabinet" has become part of the act for several well-known performers. Virgil and Julie were very skilled at the effect. Kalin and Jinger's adaptation is convincing and incredibly entertaining. Willard the Wizard and his daughter Frances performed a stunning version. Later, Frances revived it, improved it, and performed it with her husband, Glenn Falkenstein. Theirs is still one of the best presentations ever to be seen.

You can find more about the Fox sisters, the Davenport brothers, and "The Spirit Cabinet" in books including *The Century of Deception* by Ian Keable, *A Biography of the Brothers Davenport* by Thomas Low Nichols, and *Willard the Wizard* by Bev Bergeron. There's also a lot of information



Glenn Falkenstein and Frances Willard; one of the very best presentations of the "Spirit Cabinet" ever.

available in back issues of periodical publications including *Genii*, *The Sphinx*, *M-U-M*, and *The Linking Ring*.

Kate Fox died in 1892. Maggie Fox died in 1893. William Davenport died in 1877. Ira Davenport died in 1911.

If you submitted an answer to this month's question, but you didn't submit the correct answer, please ... *keep trying!* These questions aren't expected to be easily answered using Internet-based search engines like Google, Yahoo, or Bing. Bring your copy of *The Linking Ring* to your local Ring meeting and ask one of the more experienced members to help you find the answer. Show the whole world how much you know, get your name into *The Linking Ring*, and win some great magic from one of our finest brick-and-mortar magic shops. You'll love the prizes!

Hey There, Youth Members!

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

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

Make certain that you include references. If we use your question, we'll send you either a whole crate of Super Bowl LVII Champions Philadelphia Eagles T-shirts or a really cool magic book – our choice.

See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 146 and mail your responses to the address above.
Answers must be postmarked by June 20, 2023.



Marketing Magic

KENT CUMMINS

Metamorphosis: The Magic of Change

“There are going to be some changes around here.” – Tom Britton

I hate change.

Did you like it when the pandemic wiped out all of your shows?

Did you love having to wear a mask to the few events you could still attend?

Are you not worried about the latest economic/political crisis?

My lifelong friend and colleague, Tom Britton, says: “Nothing decreases productivity or stands in the way of reaching our goals more than the fear of change.” (From the back cover of the dustjacket to our book, *The Magic of Change*.)

So, what do we do?

Change might be an illusion.

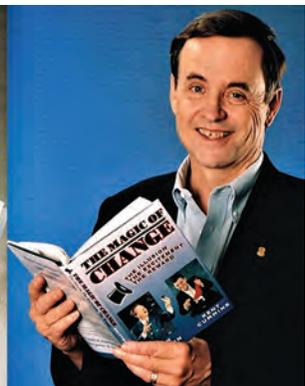
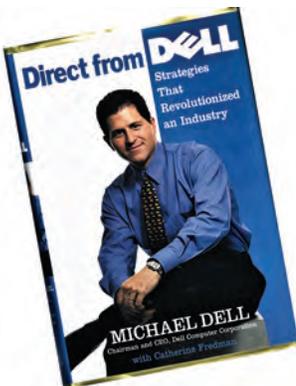
Michael Dell, the founder of one of the largest companies in the world, wrote a book to tell the story of his success. Published in 1999 by Collins Business Essentials, *Direct from Dell: Strategies That Revolutionized an Industry*, told the story of Dell’s early life

and how he created his multi-billion-dollar business.

Having done some major magic programs for Dell, I bought and read the book when it first came out. I was fascinated by the story of this college drop-out who changed the computer industry forever. But I was also fascinated by the fact that – although he seemed obsessed with the importance of change – he said that what we think of as gut-wrenching change is mostly an illusion.

Having lunch with Tom Britton, I mentioned this idea. He said, “You should write a book about that.” I said, “No, you should write a book about that.” After two more iced teas at Angie’s Mexican Restaurant, we decided that we would both write the book.

We had lots of ideas, including various potential book titles, but eventually we settled on *The Magic of Change: The Illusion, The Excitement, The Reward*. The result



was published by Bullion Books in 2000. It was our first hardbound book, our first book with a dust jacket, our first book with a bar code.

For a program on the Magic of Change, I start with a copy of the book which has been converted into a Hot Book. "Change is a hot topic!" In his keynote on the Magic of Change, Tom uses the Professor's Nightmare to represent the three parts of change: The Illusion, The Excitement, and the Reward.

All ropes are shown to be of equal length. When Tom asks which is the most important of the three, there is no agreement. Quickly the ropes become different sizes. However, when the correct answer of each having the same importance is revealed, the ropes return to equal length.

It is a great visual that brings an abstract concept to life in a meaningful, magical way.

The Illusion

We are magicians. We know a lot about illusions. But why did Michael Dell claim that much of what we think of as gut-wrenching change is really just an illusion?

A wonderful example is the rise of e-commerce, buying things online instead of in stores. This is an amazing change, right? But in a sense, it is not that different from the way we used to buy things from the Sears & Roebuck catalog a century ago. We look in the catalog (now Amazon.com), make a purchase decision based on a combination of desire and price, and place an order.

The order used to be sent through the US mail, while today it is sent from our computer or our smartphone. We are still just placing an order for something we want to buy. We still have to pay for it, whether by check, money order, or a credit card. And someone still has to go find that item in a warehouse and ship it to us.

The ingredients continue to change, but the basic concept is mostly the same ... even better.

There is something frightful about leaving behind the known, the comfortable, and the things we think we can control. But it doesn't have to be that way! Change is often mostly smoke and mirrors. Once we under-

CAPTURE THE VISION

Why do companies and associations in 34 states invite Tom Britton to kick off their meetings and conferences? They love the way Tom uses his experience and a touch of magic to bring the theme of their conference to life... and how he opens minds to new ways of thinking.

Your attendees will LEARN, LAUGH, and have their spirits LEVITATED.

Opening Keynote: The Magic of CHANGE...Success and You
The Illusion, The Excitement, The Reward

- The 3 faces of change. Which are you?
- Replacing the stress of change with excitement.
- Avoiding costly communication pitfalls.
- Knowing better when to change and when to "hang" in there.
- Your best source of profitable new ideas.

Breakout Session: LEADERSHIP & MOTIVATION

- Remembering your "grown."
- Unlocking your team's potential
- What employees really want from their job.
- 3 types of motivation. Which is best?
- Dr. Levy's amazing leadership secret.
- Creative problem solving.

Tom@TomBritton.com
www.TomBritton.com
281-627-3870

stand the illusion, it is easier to not only embrace change, but to experience the excitement and the reward.

The Excitement

The only constant we have is change, a saying that has been credited to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, some five hundred years before the birth of Christ. We can choose to get mad at the world for constantly changing; we can fear whatever is coming next; or we can embrace the excitement of change.

Like it or not, having things change is not boring. We have to learn new things, and we have to face new experiences. Let me rephrase that: we have the opportunity to learn new things and have new experiences. Isn't that exciting?

The Reward

Once we embrace change, we can enjoy the rewards.

As mentioned earlier, ordering things online is different ... but in many ways better. When the printing press was invented in 1436, people said that it was a terrible invention. It would change everything! The same

was said when the telephone was invented. We are worried about what the prevalence of smartphones will do to our kids ... and our culture. And don't even mention ChatGPT!

But as we adapt to change, things actually get better in many ways. People live much longer than we used to, and we have more opportunities than ever before. We all have instant access to information that used to involve hours, days, or even longer to find. So many things are so much easier now that we have computers.

Photography has changed dramatically in our lifetimes. Nearly everyone can create wonderful photos and videos just by pulling out their phones. (This means that there is no excuse for using outdated photos in our marketing. I love my Anne White photos, but after a decade or three, it may be time to find a new photographer.)

Even The Magic of Change had to change!

Tom and I were proud of our collaboration, and we also believed in the book. Each of us admitted to reading our book again from time to time, just to help us get over our intense personal dislike of change. In 2015, we realized that – although the concept of the book still made sense – there were a few examples that were no longer relevant. For example, we talked about listening to cassette tapes in the car.

So, we made a few revisions, changing the outdated examples with more current stories, and republished the book in a soft-bound format (no dust jacket, but we still have a bar code!).

The Future of Change

Let's face it: change is hard. By the time we get comfortable with how things are going, things take an unexpected turn in a completely different direction.

My daughter Carolyn and I recently heard Dr. Nadya Zhexembayeva, an expert on change and founder of Reinvention Academy, speak at Thrive, a National Speakers Association conference in San An-

tonio. Dr. Zhexembayeva explained three trends that are facing us today.



1. Turbulence is here to stay.

What does that mean for entrepreneurial entertainers? I think it means that we should pay attention to the universe, and be willing to constantly adapt to the world as it is. Some magicians, such as Paul Draper from Las Vegas, quickly adapted their shows to take advantage of Zoom. Many of us just sat around complaining, waiting for things to get back to normal.

During the pandemic (the November 2020 issue), I wrote a column called, “The New Normal.” It talked about virtual performances. But there is no “normal.” Even Heraclitus, centuries ago, observed that change is a flow, and that even the nature of that flow is constantly changing.

Are you waiting for the pandemic to go away for good? Are you waiting for the economy to improve? Are you waiting for there to be peace in the Middle East?

STOP WAITING! Be the best magician you can be TODAY.

2. Forget “If it is not broken, don't fix it.”

The fact that something is working perfectly should not make us complacent. We can be thankful that things are going the way we want them to, but we should also be constantly looking towards the future, making changes ahead of the competition.

I have been performing “The Rope Trick” for sixty-five years. I practiced, practiced, practiced until the routine was perfect. In 1960, I won the TAOM (Texas Association of Magicians) Teen Trophy with this routine. And then someone gave me a suggestion that improved it. Ten years later, someone else gave me an idea that dramatically improved the routine. Twenty years later, I noticed something simple that could be changed to make the routine work even better.

The Rope Trick was never broken. And yet, it has been fixed many times. (I wonder what The Rope Trick will look like next year.)



3. Continuous reinvention is a huge opportunity.

The slide from Dr. Zhexembayeva added, “for speaking, consulting, coaching business.” She was, after all, talking to speakers, consultants, and coaches. If she had been at a magician’s convention, the slide would have said something like, “for magicians, jugglers, balloon twisters, and clowns.”

The technological changes that have taken place during the past few decades have made it easier for writers to publish their work, for musicians to share their music, for entertainers to be seen throughout the world.

How can you use these new tools to achieve formerly impossible goals?

Should I change my act?

Have you recently evaluated your magic show? From time to time, I like to just sit down and think about how to make my act fresher, more relevant, more fun.

Maybe my costume could be changed, or the music, or my opening or closing trick. Maybe my patter needs to be updated. Do I need to change The Rope Trick? Maybe I should add the Substitution Trunk (“Metamorphosis”) to my act. (Maybe I should just use a Change Bag!)

I used to use a set of comedy signs for my rope trick. The last sign said, “BURMA SHAVE.” I loved that cultural reference, and back in the 1950s when I was using it, most people knew what it meant and laughed. But today? Maybe it is time to change that sign.

We know that the quality of our show is the first step to effective marketing.

Should I change my marketing?

Are you still using those old-fashioned business cards?

Well, good for you! They still have a definite place in effective marketing. But you may want to also add some technological ways of providing your information.

Last century (that sounds so cool!), the most important marketing strategies involved the Yellow Pages advertising and brochures to mail to prospective clients. Then it became important to have a great telephone answering machine message. Now you probably need to have a good email signature block and effective presence on social media.

Have you updated your website? Styles get old in a hurry, and tech-savvy clients may think less of you if you don’t have a modern site. When I started making a full-time living as a magician in 1986, most potential customers called me on the phone. Today, most of them find me online and then send me an email.

But the basic principles of marketing remain rock solid. The customers are still more interested in themselves than in your credits. Let your prospects know how they will benefit by using your services.

The Bottom Line

In 1999, Michael Dell said, “Learning to thrive on constant change is the next frontier.”

The Magic of Change is still available from www.magicwordspress.com. It costs twenty dollars, but you get a penny back, glued to the bookmark. (That’s right ... you get CHANGE!)



Do you love magic? Me, too! Listen to “Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center” at www.fantasticmagiccenter.com. And consider supporting the preservation of magic.

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

Magic and

Memories



Dove Magic Quartet

By David Ginn

It might have been Ian Adair who started me thinking about “dove magic” back in the 1960s, with all his two-dollar Supreme books on the topic. Or maybe it was seeing Channing Pollock on an episode of *The Hollywood Palace*. Or maybe it was seeing some unknown magician making a dove appear at one of my early Southeastern Association of Magicians conventions in Chattanooga or Knoxville, Tennessee.

This is a memory I cannot pin down. But suffice it to say that by early 1963, David Ginn wanted to add live white Java doves to his magic act. The trouble was that nobody in Atlanta was doing birds!

As it turned out, the solution lived right in my own home.

My dad, Frank Ginn, loved birds. Since I was a little boy, Dad had raised chickens, pheasants, quails, ducks, geese, peacocks, and other exotic avians. He was constantly in touch with bird fanciers around the south, either by mail or occasionally by telephone.

So, when I asked if we could get some white Java doves, Dad jumped on the task. In August of 1963, Dad had six white doves (three matched pairs) shipped to us from somewhere in Alabama.

Exactly one year later, we had increased our flock from six to a total of twenty-five! We kept the doves in Dad’s basement workshop. They would get out of their

cage and fly all over the place, nesting wherever they wanted.

Since I never used more than six birds in my shows, Dad either sold or gave birds away to others. My friend Mark Merchant told me that he bought a bird from my father that lived for sixteen years!

I practiced with those birds, made some Ian Adair tricks, and even bought some props secondhand to make doves appear and vanish. For a couple of big shows, my friend Harold Martin of Atlanta even loaned me his Abbott’s Suckerette Dove Vanish. I used it during my first television appearance in February 1965. You can even view the footage – and see me wearing my used set of tails – on my DVDs *Magic on TV* and *Colorful Magic on Stage*.



David Ginn in tails, 1964.

Harold Martin was to thank for that, too. He was on that television show with me, doing Abbott's Super X Suspension. Since he also had a friend working at WSB-TV, he managed to get an early video recording (*kinescope*) of the show transferred to a VHS tape. I later transferred it to a DVD. Whew! That's a long story, and I've made it short!



Harold Martin.

Picture this: I used live doves in every show between 1963 and 1977, fourteen years in all. The doves went with me to college, followed by two years in the army and several thousand school shows. They appeared, disappeared, and flew around school cafeterias, even landing on a teacher's head!

By the spring of 1977, however, I had wearied of doves for two reasons I'm about to share. That's when I made a major decision in my magic career: I switched to using a full-time *live rabbit*.

Now, please don't get me wrong. I loved making those live doves appear. But in earning my living through mostly school shows in auditoriums and gymnasiums, I ran into two major problems.

Flying, of course, was the biggest problem. I tried all the methods – short of wing clipping, which I should have done. I put water under the doves' wings, and I exercised them in a corner before loading them. But some birds simply had their own ideas about when to fly, meaning during my show. In a moment, I'll tell you a story to illustrate that.

The second major problem involved the doves cooing during springtime mating season. I distinctly recall being in a motel in Alabama, in 1975 or '76, with four birds in a cage. It was May, so the sun came up early, around five or six o'clock. I could technically sleep in until 7:30 a.m., but the birds would start coo-coo-cooing and wake me up.

The next night, they slept in the car!

When I kept the birds with me at my college dorm room in the spring of 1966, they did the same thing. My roommate Tom Beall yelled "shut up!" and threw shoes at their cage. We had covered the cage to make the doves think it was dark. *But it wasn't dark enough, so that didn't work.*

I decided to stop using birds – even though I still liked them. Putting all that aside, let me share with you four dove stories from days gone by.

This is actually an excerpt from my forthcoming textbook due this summer, *Children Love Animals: Captivating Kidshow Magic*. By the way, *Children Love Animals* is NOT just about using live animals in your kidshows. Instead, the book is about using ideas, pictures, toys, and stories of animals, plus puppets, as well as live animals in shows to entertain children.

Now for my stories.

Bird in the Rafters

At the Bethesda Elementary School gym in early 1977, my one bird in the show decided to take off the moment I produced him. My closer was the dove vanish. I had to do a lame talking closer, no thanks to the bird.

How do you get birds down from the gym rafters after the show? One method I used was having older kids throw basketballs at the birds, knocking them from perch until they missed a place to land and came hovering down to the floor. Then a kid would pick up the bird and put him back in his cage.

But in the case of Bethesda, the dove

perched on a platform about forty feet up, and the children were gone. The physical education teacher, Coach John Dollar, climbed up a wall ladder, got on the catwalk, and knee-walked thirty feet to reach the bird. He put the dove in his warm-up jacket pocket, reversed on hands and knees to the ladder, came back down, and handed me the bird.

“David,” he said, “let’s not do this again.” After that school year, I switched to the full-time rabbit.

The Bird That Never Came Down

At another school in Virginia, I had to leave a borrowed dove in the gym rafters. While on a lecture tour, I was booked to do a school show, so I had to borrow a pair of doves from the magician who set up the lecture and show. Of course, one of them decided to fly up to the top of the rafters in the gym.

The kids and I tried for forty-five minutes to get the bird down, but we failed. Thankfully, the owner did not hold it against me when we had to leave the school minus one dove. But the guy told me that four months later, the kids found a skeleton bird in the gym. No one knew when it died or exactly what happened, but they all agreed it was the borrowed dove that flew away during my show. What a legacy I left there!

A nearby picture is a live show photo of me making a dove appear in the late 1970s.



David Ginn in 1971, making a dove appear.

The Birthday Bird

I didn’t see this happen, but our daughter Autumn Ginn experienced it at age ten. On a Saturday afternoon, Autumn attended a birthday party of a school friend a few miles away. As entertainment, the mom had booked a young Atlanta magician who shall remain nameless.

During his performance in the family den, the magician made a live Java dove appear from silks. The moment the bird came out, it took off flying. The magician, afraid the flying dove might knock over an expensive lamp or knickknack, hurried after the bird to catch it.

According to Autumn, the bird eluded the magician and flew through the living room, then took off up the staircase to the second floor. When the magician started chasing the bird, several children – then *all the children* – chased after the magician. Everyone was laughing and shouting as they rushed through the living room and up the stairs to one of the bedrooms.

Finally, the bird stopped on top of the window drapes in the master bedroom. With a dozen girls laughing and talking, the magician reached up and captured the now very tired dove.

“That just proves the bird is real,” the magician told them. “Now let’s all go back to the den and finish the magic show.”

According to Autumn, it was the most fun birthday party she ever attended!

Since I stopped doing doves in 1977, the year before Autumn was born, as a child she was only around dogs, cats, and rabbits. She had no experience with live birds until that birthday party.

The Greenbriar Bird

Our last true story took place at Greenbriar Shopping Center in southwest Atlanta. In the late 1960s when I was getting lots of shows, I was blessed for five years (1968 to 1972) to book this top shopping mall every August. For two of those years I was still serving on active duty in the army, but I took leave to work Greenbriar for six days before school started,

doing three shows daily and four on the Saturday.

The following photos show assistant Diana Bodron and me in the summer of 1972, when I'd let my hair grow long over the ten months I'd been out of the army. In the first photo, we're performing the Balloon Cage dove production. The second photo shows Diana lying on Abbott's Chair Suspension, which I purchased just a month before the shows. At the recommendation of Doug Henning, who coached me on this in his Toronto basement that June, I repainted the chocolate brown chairs a light sky blue and the yellow board a dark blue. Doug's idea made the board look heavier than the chairs, part of the mystery of the illusion.



In every show I used one, two, or three live doves. They appeared in the musical beginning of the show. Then, after a little talk, my assistant and I made them vanish before moving onto audience participation and finishing with an illusion.

Since I worked the mall for an entire week, they had set up a nice stage with a curtained backstage. Once I moved in on

Monday morning, I left my sound system, the illusion, and other equipment there all week, either covered or semi-locked up. We never had any problems with theft during those five years – with one exception. That's what this story is about.

After one of the shows, a young boy approached me and told me that he, too, was a magician. Let's call him Reggie. He was a nice, clean-cut kid, about eleven or twelve years old. It turns out he had already watched several of my shows that week. Reggie wanted advice and gave me his telephone number. I showed him one of the birds backstage and, with assistant Diana nearby, I allowed Reggie and his little sister to hold the bird.

I don't recall what possessed me to do this – *young and green in my career? I don't know* – but on several nights I left the three doves backstage overnight. They were inside their cage, which was covered with a cloth. This sets the scene for what happened next.

Reggie and his sister came to see our shows on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

On Thursday, when Diana and I arrived at the mall, we went backstage and started our preparations. I uncovered the sound system, and Diana tackled the sub trunk where we had locked some smaller props inside.

"David," Diana asked, "did you take one of the doves home?"

"No, why?" I asked.

Diana replied, "Well, there are only two doves here. Not three."

I went backstage and confirmed what she had said. Two doves were perched inside the carry cage, not three. We set up the show and performed three shows with only two birds.

That day, neither Reggie nor his sister came to see us.

By now, Diana and I both had a feeling that we knew who took the missing dove. I took the other two birds home with me. After dropping off Diana, I went back home and told my wife Lynne about what

happened. I had no idea where Reggie lived, but I suddenly remembered he gave me his telephone number. So, after dinner, I called him.

“Hello, Reggie,” I said. “I missed seeing you and your sister at the mall today. Are you okay?”

Reggie said, “We couldn’t come today.”

I said, “Well, that’s okay. Maybe I’ll see you tomorrow. But you know what? When we arrived today, Diana found that one of the birds was missing. So we couldn’t do his trick today. I sure don’t know how he got out of the cage, but I hope he comes back soon. Do you know why?”

Reggie said, “No.”

I told him, “You see, these birds eat a special kind of food every day, and if they don’t eat it every day, they could actually die. So if you have any idea about where our bird went, or how he got away, I hope you can help me find him by tomorrow. Not only to do the shows, but also to eat some of this special food.”

Reggie remained silent.

“Anyway, I hope I’ll see you sometime tomorrow. Diana and I will be at the mall about twelve o’clock to set up for the one o’clock show. Come if you can.”

With that, I said goodbye and hung up the telephone.

On Friday morning, Diana and I arrived at the mall a little before noon. We went right into our usual set up. Then I heard a voice calling me from out front.

“Mr. David?” asked the voice.

I walked out from behind the curtain, and there stood Reggie and his sister. Reggie was holding a closed cardboard box in his hands.

“Mr. David,” he said, “I have your bird in this box. I took him home Wednesday night just so I could play with him like I was a real magician like you. I didn’t know about the food. I hope he’s gonna be okay. I’m sorry.”

I took the box and said, “Hey, it’s okay. I just wish you had asked me because I was worried about him.” I looked inside the box at the bird. “I’ll just go put him back in the cage with the other two birds, and he can eat some food before the show.”

Then I looked right into his young face, and I extended my right hand to shake his.

“Thank you, Reggie, for bringing the bird back. Now he can make lots of children have fun with magic. And maybe one day when you get older, you can perform magic with a bird of your own.”

“Thank you, Mr. David,” said Reggie. With his sister in tow, he walked away to find seats for the show.

Nearly fifty years later, when I told this story to my secretary and friend Jeannie Walters, she remarked:

“David, what you did was give Reggie the opportunity to come clean and do the right thing without accusing him of taking the bird.”

Yes, I guess that’s what I accidentally did, but the truth is – I just wanted my bird back!



From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD



I have attended five funerals in as many weeks. It would have been six, but two clashed.

On a less bleak note, four were for people well into their nineties, who had led full and rewarding lives. One was my good friend and internationally renowned magic historian, Eddie Dawes.

Although intrigued by tricks as a youngster, Eddie had come late to organised magic – at the age of twenty-eight when he joined the Scottish Conjurers' Association in Glasgow, following up with the British Ring when it held its convention in Edinburgh in 1953. Eddie had married Amy Rogerson and moved from Leeds in 1950. He had been just fourteen years old when his father died, and thankfully his headmaster encouraged him to follow the academic route rather than leave school early to support the family.

It is easy to overlook the fact that, for Eddie, magic was essentially a hobby, albeit a consuming one. His career and 'day job' were that of a scientist – as a professor of biochemistry pursuing ground-breaking research, developing the first commercially available biodegradable plastic. His publications in that field were as extensive as those on magic, and he lectured around the world. One picture here shows him being presented with a large-scale model of his work.

Of some help was the fact that Eddie required very little sleep, cramming more waking hours than most people into his long life ... and, as Mike Caveney discovered on a visit, he did not have a television set until 1990, when he was sixty-five years of age! Guests at dinners of Hull Magi-

cians' Circle (of which he was president for fifty-seven years) invariably received an invitation to his home, Dane Hill, following the event ... after 'carriages at midnight'! I recall at least one occasion when we were leaving as the milkman was on his rounds. His visitor's book contained more than three thousand signatures, and he had fifteen thousand letters on file.

Eddie regarded himself as simply a temporary custodian of what grew to be one of the largest magic collections in the UK, and his oft-quoted mantra was "collect, collate and communicate." He wrote over twenty books and monographs on magic, along with more than five hundred monthly scholarly articles which have now been combined in the monumental nine-volume set based on *A Rich Cabinet of Magical Curiosities*.

Eddie's interests spilled over into the world of literature, and he became a close friend of Philip Larkin – an eminent, internationally famous poet of the twentieth century. Indeed, while Eddie led a dual life



(l to r): Professor Dawes in the laboratory. Scientific model presentation.



(l to r): Eddie with Volume 1 of *The Rich Cabinet Collection*. • Eddie, Philip Larkin, and Dale Salwak.

as a scientist and a magician, Larkin was both a world-renowned poet and the head librarian of the Brynmor Jones Library at Hull University, where Eddie was the dean of science and pro-vice chancellor. Eddie subsequently became the chair of the Larkin Society and was instrumental in the commissioning of a statue to Larkin, a model of which he is seen holding here in one photograph.



Eddie with a miniature Larkin statue.

Another picture captures the visit of Dale Salwak, director of the Chavez Studio of Magic in California and a regular contributor to these pages, as well as being a great admirer of Larkin and his work. The

image shows Larkin sitting between Eddie and Dale, displaying a playing card – one of the few pictures showing the notoriously glum poet with a smile on his face!

The story goes that the two men first came into direct contact in 1964, when

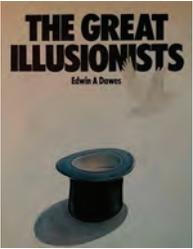
Eddie sent Larkin his copy of the recently published poetry collection *The Whitsun Weddings*, with a request to sign it. The poet was intrigued by Eddie's personal bookplate, which blended



scientific and magical references. Eddie subsequently became the Chair of the influential Library Committee. For those familiar with Larkin's poetry, it is interesting to note that Eddie had arrived in Hull in 1963, "between the *Lady Chatterley* ban and The Beatles' first LP." A radio programme dubbed Eddie "Philip Larkin's magician," although it could be equally claimed that Larkin was Eddie's poet.

Eddie and I were fortunate to be contemporaries of Larkin in Hull, as over a period of five years he was persuaded to amass for the University Library and Drama Department a collection of more than twenty-five hundred playbills relating to the local area between 1780 and 1920. Larkin was looking for someone to analyse the bills and provide a commentary, and my name was put forward – I guess a case

of being in the right place at the right time. There were several magic-related items embedded in the collection, and five bills found their way into Eddie's first book on magic, *The Great Illusionists*, published by David and Charles in 1979. Working to a tight deadline of two months, Eddie had used the Christmas break of 1978 to draw all his material together, with the secretarial assistance of Amy, who typed up his handwritten drafts, and younger son Adrian, who compiled the index.



The Great Illusionists was a landmark text in that it applied, for the first time, the forensic eye of an academic to magic-related material. Eddie advised me from the outset to keep detailed references of primary sources, and it is a lesson I have always tried to apply. He commented: "I have cited primary sources where possible and added explanatory notes. I have often been frustrated by the lack of references to source material in many of the historical works on conjuring. While acknowledging

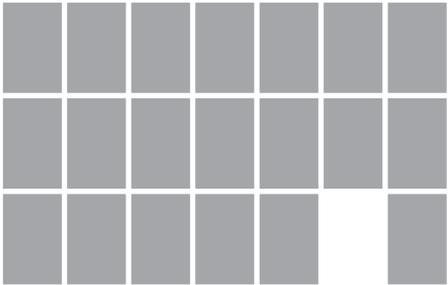
that the average reader is largely unconcerned with such minutiae, it is hoped that some of the more detailed citations that I have been able to provide will be of assistance to kindred souls who enjoy pursuing the original literature." Thus, he set the gold standard by which later works may be judged.

Indeed, Eddie wrote his own epitaph: "He knew his facts, and he cited his sources."

Although usually very persuasive, Eddie had been unable to convince the publishers that they should use his preferred title of *The Pursuit of Illusion*. Writing in the introduction, he commented: "I find myself at amiable variance with my publishers, whose insistence on *The Great Illusionists* instead of my own title of *The Pursuit of Illusion* will surely offend those magical purists for whom the term 'illusionist' has a special connotation."

Indeed, Eddie wrote his own epitaph: "He knew his facts, and he cited his sources."

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*.



Green Magic

CYRIL JOHN "CJ" MAY

A Call to Wands

This is the end. I have greatly enjoyed sharing enviromagic thoughts and routines with you over these last two years. But for now, I have put quill and ink aside to ensure that I do not descend into sharing half-thoughts and quarter-measures. Instead, I finish with a challenge.

It would be great if I could confide, conspiratorially, that there is a secret cabal of Green Magicians who work in the shadows to benefit our environment with magic's arcane and eldritch. To my eyes, such a twist on the Illuminati legends would be a positive one: hidden from everyday sight are those who are working to do good, not ill. But magicians, by their nature as performers, seldom work in the shadows. We jump on stage whether folks like it or not and show off our flourishes, conjurations, and ornately decorated boxes. We keep secrets, but we do not keep secret.

The green magic conspiracy is one that is playing out as you read it. With this column I have sought to win you over to this struggle, to enlist you to the cause, to change the way you think about the world and about the power of your own magic.

You have the potential for greatness far beyond what you imagined when you first picked up a wand or deck of cards. You likely sought amusement, respect, money, or any of the other common and respectable goals we conjurers pursue. You may have gained some amazement at your own ability to make a person's day, to bring forth tears of joy, or to enchant an audience so profoundly that the performance changes them ... and you. I am asking

you to push your magic just a bit further ... and change the world.

With this final column I announce The Enviromagic Challenge.

Prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200 will be presented for the top three performances submitted before noon, Eastern Standard Time, on October 1, 2023. The top ten acts will receive a very special, hand-made wand from Orchard Works Wands. Everyone will receive bragging rights and, dare I say, pride in using their talents to help conjure a better world.

To enter a submission, upload a video recording to Vimeo that is three to five minutes in length. Performances may be live or only to a camera. No "camera tricks," however. Angles may be used to advantage, but preference will be given to routines that can function live, not just on camera. Effects may be original, store-bought, or learned from a mentor with the rights to share. Well-known effects such as rings, cards, ropes, etc., may certainly be repurposed to environmental themes as can completely original effects. The performers must have the rights to perform the effects and all rights are reserved by performers and creators. All submissions should be constructed in ways to promote environmental understanding, engagement, and empowerment. They can be silly, sweet, or serious. This is, by intent, quite a broad arena!

Performers need not make their initial video submission(s) public. They may simply tag it #enviromagicchallenge2023 and email cyril.may@aya.yale.edu to

announce that it has been posted. The top ten performances, however, are to be made public at the time of award announcement. All performers are encouraged to make their videos public, in any case, as the goal is to generate more interest and creativity in the magic and “muggle” communities. Performers may submit more than one video.

Initial review of submissions will be handled by myself and, depending upon the number of submissions received, counselors from non-magic sectors such as theater and environmental. Jeff McBride, Larry Hass, Steve Trash, Megan Swan, and Jason Goldberg will review the final ten. Submissions will be judged on Magic, Theater, and Message.

The complete program will be posted to www.betterworldmagic.com.

Follow CJ May – Resourcerer on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CJMayResourcerer) for updates, answers to questions, and more.

Questions are welcome directly to cyril.may@aya.yale.edu.

Most people are concerned about the environment, yet often feel it is impossible for them to make a difference. But magicians are experts in the impossible. As workers of wonder, we can help our fellow residents of planet Earth understand just how powerful we are, even in the face of the seemingly impossible.

THE JUDGES



Jason Goldberg



Larry Hass, Ph.D.



CJ May



Jeff McBride



Megan Swan



Steve Trash

Jason Goldberg – Associate Editor for *The Linking Ring*, as well as a full-time biologist and enviromagician in Washington, DC, who has performed close-up magic at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History since 2008.

Larry Hass, Ph.D. – Dean of McBride’s Magic & Mystery School, international performer, award-winning teacher and author, a pre-eminent philosopher of magic. (lawrencehass.com)

CJ May – Enviromagician, award-winning sustainability professional working in recycling and sustainable materials management. (betterworldmagic.com, cyrilthesorcerer.com)

Jeff McBride – Master Magician, founder of McBride’s Magic & Mystery School, Magician of the Year (Magic Castle, SAM), Guinness World Record Holder, and recipient of innumerable other awards from the magic community. (mcbriDEMAGIC.COM)

Megan Swan – Enviromagician, wildlife scholar, first woman and youngest president of The Magic Circle. (meganswann.co.uk)

Steve Trash – Arguably the world’s longest-performing and pre-eminent enviromagician, magic television producer and star. (stevetrash.com)



Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

Rules Rule!

Who can forget Brad Pitt's pronouncement of the *Fight Club* rules? "Do not talk about *Fight Club*. Do *not* talk about fight club. If someone says, "Stop," goes limp or taps out, the fight is over. Only two guys to a fight. One fight at a time. No shirts. No shoes. Fights will go on as long as they have to." Violent as they were, Tyler Durden's rules were meant to protect *Fight Club* and its members.

Throughout my military and magic careers, I've enjoyed working with service and civic clubs across the U.S. and Europe. The success or failure of these clubs generally came down to how well they respected and served their members. Each club's construction of and compliance with club policies and procedures provides a member-approved foundation supporting a stable Ring environment.

There is a distinct difference between a policy and its procedure. Policies document what officers and members can or cannot do. Procedures give step-by-step instructions for how, when, and where each policy is implemented and enforced.

For example, suppose your treasurer is the sole manager for all club accounts – checking, savings, PayPal, Venmo, Square-Up, Zelle, etc. If the treasurer is a trusted member, this simplifies things, right? No harm, no foul? Now, suppose that this trusted treasurer suddenly leaves the Ring without leaving a record of logons, transfers, or passwords? Is a system in place to access or transfer the accounts without him? What are the

account numbers? Who are his bank contacts and phone numbers? Confusing, right?

Your policy might require a defined record-keeping method and a two-person treasurer team to simplify the transfer of authority. Your procedures may direct the treasurer to maintain all account information, checkbooks, ledgers, and passwords in a single secure location. You may decide that your president should maintain a backup set of account records. Your procedures may also define the frequency of account audits, reports, and the detailed steps needed to transfer authority from one treasurer to the next. Regardless of how you manage club finances, documenting each procedure greatly reduces the errors and stress that occur with inevitable changes.

Another important example is found in our I.B.M. Youth safety protocols. If your Ring hosts a youth program, then establishing and strictly enforcing a very specific set of youth protection policies will go a long way in preventing devastating situations.

Identify your needs – We create policies and procedures in anticipation of or in response to a need. Rings must constantly assess and, if necessary, change these policies as the club's culture changes. Should that need cease to exist, remove the policy.

Assign responsibility – Delegate responsibility for each policy to a specific officer, member, team, or committee. Require progress or status reports as necessary and

assign oversight to ensure that procedures are properly performed and documented. Should the members or the executive committee approve this policy? Designate an audit officer to periodically review policies and procedures to keep them current and productive.

Gather information – What are the things that make your Ring tick for your members? Have other clubs addressed this same issue? Do sample templates exist? How will the general membership react? Is this policy necessary or mere bureaucratic foolishness? Will this policy enhance or hinder Ring operations?

Draft your policy – Does the wording adequately explain the policy’s reason, intent, and obligations? Keep it direct and simple. There is no need for rigidly formal documents filled with Harvadesque wherefores and henceforths. Tailor your policies to match your Ring’s culture, mission, and members. This will make them easier to implement and help to preserve what makes your Ring unique.

Include these items in your policy template:

Header – The policy title, effective/revision dates, approver’s signature, and responsible officer or committee.

Purpose statement – What is the reason for this policy?

Definitions – A strong policy defines its related terms. This serves to clarify specific language as it applies to your policy and may save later arguments.

Conduct – Define expected behavior and restrictions and the consequences for violating these expectations, if applicable.

Reporting and modification requirements – What specific monitoring and reporting steps are needed? How can a member or officer request review, revision, or removal of the policy? How often should this policy be reviewed?

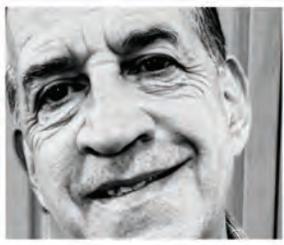
Consult with all participants – Policies are easier to introduce and enforce if you include everyone directly tasked in their creation. If you’re creating a new policy for your membership committee, it makes sense to include them in the creation process. If the policy addresses Ring volunteer activities, ask the members what guidelines they are most likely to support and respond to.

Policy approval and authority – Who has the authority to approve each new policy? Should your members have approval authority or is this a matter best left to the executive committee? For example, does a new policy uniquely affecting the Ring treasurer need to be presented to the members?

What, if any, procedures are needed? – You’ve written the “what and why” policy. Are step-by-step “when, where, and how” procedures needed to implement and support this policy? For example, a policy on member complaints explains what needs to be done. An accompanying set of procedures explains when, where, and how the designated officer must handle, process, and report each complaint. Is officer training needed? Who is tasked with introducing and managing the policy? Procedures ensure that each policy is addressed and implemented in a uniform manner.

You and your members will enjoy the long-term advantages of committing to writing, fine-tuning, and enforcing your club policies and procedures. Day-to-day operations will be less stressful, your club will function in a more stable manner and, if done well, you’ll finally have a clearer picture of your club’s path forward.

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.



Teaching Magic

ROBERT DURANTE

This month, let's talk about finding good magic for the new magician. Books and videos are usually not written for new magicians. Another problem with learning magic from a video is that you find yourself imitating the performer. Learning from a book, you are forced to add your own personality to the effect.

This is what your students need to realize. They do not want to act like Criss Angel or Shin Lim – they want to create their own character. Usually, the best way to start is by being yourself. Create stories that relate to you. While reading a book with the props in hand, your creative process kicks in.

Lucky for us, most libraries now have wonderful collections of magic books. Josh Jay has written a few magic books for the novice magician, which can be found at your local library or bookstore. *Knack Magic*, by Richard Kaufman, is excellent for students as well. Bill Severn even wrote a few great books that were only intended for library use.

A lot of those books have now been printed in paperback. If you're lucky, you can find them at a bookstore. Get your student interested in reading books about magic, acting, theater, and other allied arts. Urge them to keep a journal and write down their thoughts on magic – and life in general. I have kept journals for years and it amazes me how my thinking on magic has changed since I started out. Today, I am sharing a magic trick that was taken from an old magic book and streamlined to eliminate a lot of memorization work. Reading from the book with cards in hand got my creative juices flowing.

Magic Time: *The Indicator Card* is a

great piece to teach a class. Start by talking about the different ways magicians ask people to select cards. "Sometimes they spread out cards and ask you to take one. Sometimes they count down cards and ask you to say stop. Today, we want to be totally random. I am going to lay out three piles of three cards taken from all different parts of the deck." As you are speaking, lay out three piles of three cards from left to right. Now, ask your helper to "choose any pile." Have them mix up their cards and look at the bottom card of their packet. Now, place the cards face down back on the table. Starting from the left pile, pick up one pile on top of the other. Place these nine cards on top of the deck and cut the cards. Taking the cards behind your back, tell your helper, "I am going to remove a random card and place it face up into the deck." Now, bring the deck forward and spread it out face down on the table. They will see a Ten of Diamonds face up among the cards. Ask them, "Was this your card?" They will say no. Tell them it is your indicator card, and it will help find their chosen card. Now, by spelling Ten of Diamonds when you come to the letter S, it will be their chosen card.

Modus Operandi: I discovered this effect in an old book called *50 Card Tricks You Can Do* by Rufus Steele. I streamlined it and made it a bit easier. First, you start with the Ten of Diamonds face up on the bottom of your deck. It is easy to do this on the fly. Tell your spectator "Magicians are a funny lot. They will spread out cards and ask you to choose one." Spread off four cards from the top of the deck as you speak. Next, take those four cards and put them on the bottom below the reversed Ten

of Diamonds. “Others will ask you to say stop.” Deal off three cards from the top of the deck. Now drop the deck on top of the three cards. This is a subtle way to place your Ten of Diamonds eight cards from the face of the deck, positioning it just where it needs to be for everything to play out. Follow the rest of the effect by talking about choosing cards by random. Take out nine cards and make three piles, left to right, three cards each. Now, ask your helper to pick any one of the piles. They do so and shuffle it. After it is shuffled, say “Please remember the card at the face and place the packet face down on the table.” Now, you need to gather up the piles from left to right. Let’s call these piles A, B, and C. There are three things to remember. If they looked at the face card of Pile A after you talk about reversing a card and showing the Ten of Diamonds face up in the deck, tell them “This Ten of Diamonds tells me if I count ten cards down, I will

find your card.” Starting with the first card below the Ten of Diamonds, begin counting. The tenth card will be their chosen card. If they chose the card on the face of Pile B, you go a different route. “Let’s spell Ten of Diamonds.” Deal off a card for each letter starting with the first card below the face-up Ten of Diamonds. At the letter “s” in “diamonds,” turn over the card – it will be the selection. If they chose Pile C, you spell again but spell the word “the” first. Once more, at the letter “s” you can turn over the card and show that it’s the chosen one.

This is an excellent effect that teaches your student a bit about card control, holding a deck, and dealing cards. Try it out and I think you will like it.

Until next month, practice your magic.

<https://youtu.be/rJfBV6Uh6po>

Bob Durante

bobdurante55@gmail.com

Submitting Ring Events

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

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

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

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

Did Nicolas Hunt Really Use the Binary System?

By Thomas Henry

You are no doubt familiar with a kids' trick generally known as the Magic Age Cards. These cards bear various groups of the counting numbers, typically from 1 to 63. The spectator thinks of a number, then indicates on which cards it appears. Thanks to what's known as the binary system, the performer is able to divine the thought-of number. Behind it all is the fact selections from the key numbers 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 and 32 can be combined in various ways to sum to any of those numbers 1 through 63.

Performed like that, it's not much of a trick and really only suitable for youngsters just starting out in magic. However, later performers and inventors have neatly disguised and embellished the method to turn it into something far more satisfying. Indeed, interesting routines exploiting the binary system appear rather frequently in magic magazines.

I'm always interested in the genesis of any magic method and like to find out who the originator is, and who has improved it. Last year my curiosity was piqued to look into the lineage of the Magic Age Cards. It's been a lengthy journey full of surprises which I may share in a later article one day. But for now, let's just focus on affirming or denying a certain claim commonly made concerning its origin. As you'll see, an important lesson is driven home along the way: sometimes it's necessary to check things out yourself.

A Claim Is Made

Let's get specific. In online sources and in magic magazines, one will often see Nicolas Hunt's, *Newe Recreations or The Mindes release and solacing* [sic], (London: Luke Faune, 1631), cited as perhaps the earliest

instance of the binary system appearing within a magic trick. For example, the website *Magicipedia* indicates that Edgar Heyl believed this to be the first source. This claim has also been repeated in print several times in recent years.

Always a doubting Thomas, I decided to chase down Hunt's book somehow and see for myself just what he was up to those four hundred years ago. It took some doing to find a legible PDF scan on the Internet, but I eventually came across a reasonable one at: <https://www.marianotomatis.it/?page=biblioteca&code=HUN1631>

I downloaded this onto a laptop with an ebook reader application. Get it yourself if you'd like to confirm my investigation. In any event, let me show you what I found.

A Bit of Helpful Linguistics

Apart from the fact typesetting was still quite primitive and untidy in 1631, the year Hunt's book appeared, there are several other things to bear in mind as you attempt to study this historical work.

Most obvious is the use of the elongated "s" which appears frequently throughout. You'll be tempted to see it as an "f," which really slows you down each time you have to stop and remind yourself of it. What makes it such a slog for modern readers is that there were some rather fiddly rules concerning when the usual and when the elongated form would appear, so you'll see both throughout. That practice lingered in English writing and printing until the early 19th century.

And then there's that capital letter "J" which complicates things a trifle from time to time. This, as a letter in its own right and distinct from "I," didn't become common in the English language until about 1633, i.e.,

just about the time Hunt was composing his tome. So, for example, the name “Sir John Jennings” appears on page 34, instead of our more modern “Sir John Jennings.”

What’s more, the letter “u” was also a latecomer to English, and printers had apparently still not quite figured out what to make of it. At times it stood in place of “v,” and at other times not. So for example, on page 204 you will find the word “under” appearing as “vnder,” while “over” appears as “ouer.” The late arrival of “u,” of course, is due to the lasting influence of Latin among educated readers and writers then.

There’s one more thing to keep in mind. Orthography (accepted and consistent spelling) still lay a couple centuries in the future. Thus, you will often find words spelled idiosyncratically and inconsistently. Your best bet may simply be to sound out the text aloud and let the phonics guide you.

Our mother tongue was definitely undergoing some changes then. All in all, it’s messy – yes – but also kind of fun trying to imagine what it would have been like to have encountered this tome four centuries ago at the local bookstall. With all that in mind, let’s open *Newe Recreations* to see what secrets it conceals.

Overview of the Book

Before we start searching for possible connections to the Magic Age Cards, let’s take a brief moment to become more acquainted with what Hunt penned. This was written back in the days when a title often filled an entire page. So not surprisingly, it bears the following rather grandiose mouthful, which for convenience I’ll render in modern spelling:

New Recreations of the Mind’s Release and Solacing – in a rare and exquisite invention for the exercising of acute wits and industrious dispositions. Replenished with mysteries, secrets and rarities, both arithmetical and mathematical, not formerly discovered by any.

The work is divided into two “books” or sections. Book I is devoted entirely to the main magical method of interest here. It

commences with eighteen pages of a dedication, preface and table of contents, followed by the text proper spanning 205 pages.

Book II is a collection of a couple dozen arithmetic tricks, along with a handful of stunts involving magnetism, writing with invisible ink, etc. This all occupies another eighty pages and comes across like filler material to pad out the book. Nowhere does anything involving binary representation of numbers pop up, so we can disregard this second portion altogether.

Returning to Book I for a closer inspection, we find that Hunt kicks things off with a long-winded, flowery and obsequious dedication to King Charles I of England. Purely from a marketing standpoint, that may not have been the wisest choice for a dedicatee, given what was to come less than two decades later: civil war and then the beheading of Charles I, sentenced as a traitor.

The preface which follows dips into a bit of self-praise. It’s clear Hunt thought quite highly of his invention and expected the reader to feel likewise. Finally, a fairly descriptive table of contents wraps up the introductory material.

With that, we’re ready to dig more deeply into Book I and find out what Nicolas Hunt was up to.

Overview of the Method

In a nutshell, the first book is devoted to a single numerical method along with nineteen different presentations exploiting it. For all of these, the printed book itself is a prop, meaning that it must always be on hand for a performance. In a sense, each of these routines is somewhat akin to a book test. Generally, the participant will be looking up something within the text, and then the performer divines that thought. We’ll get to the presentations in a moment. But first, let’s just focus on the numerical methodology behind it all.

Essentially this comes down to divining any number from 1 to 60 which the participant is secretly thinking of. To save you the trouble of grinding through the archaic text or squinting at messy scans, I’ve typeset Hunt’s prop anew for you. Refer to the **Figure** now.

A					
	1	2	3	4	5
M	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20
R	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35
G	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45
	46	47	48	49	50
B	51	52	53	54	55
	56	57	58	59	60

B					
	47	49	29	28	27
E	26	46	25	23	24
	22	21	20	19	48
	54	37	36	35	34
D	55	33	32	31	13
	15	14	12	56	57
	50	18	16	17	45
F	43	44	53	42	41
	40	39	38	52	51
	58	30	11	10	59
C	8	9	7	6	5
	4	3	2	1	60

C					
	55	56	54	53	58
E	52	51	50	41	48
	47	46	30	29	28
	40	44	42	41	35
F	60	39	38	37	36
	34	33	32	31	13
	18	27	26	25	23
N	24	22	21	20	19
	17	16	59	45	43
	12	15	14	57	11
D	10	8	9	7	6
	5	4	3	2	1

D					
	58	30	54	60	53
C	52	51	50	49	48
	47	46	29	28	59
	44	32	41	40	56
E	39	42	38	37	36
	35	34	33	31	13
	26	18	25	23	24
F	55	22	21	20	19
	27	16	17	45	43
	11	10	6	57	12
D	8	7	5	4	3
	2	1	9	15	14

E					
	55	60	29	52	46
E	53	54	56	57	58
	50	59	30	28	51
	40	44	42	41	39
F	48	38	37	36	35
	34	33	32	13	31
	22	45	26	17	23
G	24	47	21	20	19
	18	16	25	43	27
	23	15	10	49	11
D	8	9	7	6	5
	4	3	2	1	14

F					
	54	46	56	50	57
D	58	59	60	49	48
	47	30	29	28	55
	41	44	42	40	39
G	38	52	37	36	35
	34	33	32	31	13
	25	27	26	23	51
E	24	22	21	20	19
	18	17	45	43	16
	3	2	4	12	11
H	10	8	53	9	7
	6	5	1	14	15

G					
	32	23	20	16	18
K	19	21	34	22	33
	25	26	27	31	24
	60	15	55	41	42
L	54	56	39	57	58
	59	13	40	14	12
	35	53	46	48	28
I	29	30	37	47	38
	49	50	51	52	36
	3	5	8	11	17
H	1	2	4	43	6
	7	9	10	45	44

H					
	19	16	44	20	21
C	22	24	23	25	26
	27	28	29	30	18
	36	60	42	45	41
D	40	39	38	37	35
	34	33	32	31	13
	55	46	47	48	43
E	49	50	51	52	53
	54	56	57	58	59
	4	1	2	3	5
F	17	6	7	9	8
	10	11	12	14	15

I					
	40	39	41	42	44
F	35	43	45	17	16
	18	19	20	21	22
	54	52	53	37	55
D	56	58	59	60	34
	33	32	31	13	57
	24	23	25	26	27
G	28	36	29	30	46
	47	48	49	50	51
	3	1	2	4	5
H	6	7	38	9	8
	10	11	12	14	15

K					
	37	35	36	38	39
F	31	40	41	42	44
	43	45	17	18	16
	54	48	49	33	50
D	51	52	53	55	56
	57	58	59	60	13
	22	19	20	21	24
G	23	32	25	26	27
	28	29	30	46	47
	5	1	34	2	3
C	4	6	7	9	8
	10	11	12	14	15

L					
	25	44	43	45	39
E	17	18	19	20	21
	22	24	23	26	16
	33	56	57	58	59
G	60	41	38	37	35
	34	32	31	13	36
	30	27	28	40	29
D	46	47	48	49	50
	51	52	53	54	55
	4	1	2	3	6
F	42	5	7	9	8
	10	11	12	15	14

M					
	18	34	20	4	31
N	32	33	16	19	50
	51	52	2	1	3
	10	26	29	12	39
P	40	41	42	25	27
	8	56	28	57	11
	7	55	23	9	35
O	36	37	38	21	5
	22	24	54	6	53
	15	48	46	30	43
Q	45	17	13	47	49
	58	59	60	14	44

In his book, each of these grids of numbers appeared sequentially on pages 177 through 197. However, to make the workings easier to comprehend, let's instead imagine them to have been printed on twenty-one separate cards.

Each card is assigned a letter of the alphabet as its title. You'll note that J and U have been skipped over, for the historical reasons mentioned earlier. (Actually Hunt sometimes used I and J interchangeably). And W,

X and Y simply aren't needed. So, we're left with a reduced alphabet of twenty-one letters. Incidentally, there's nothing intrinsically meaningful about them. They're simply employed as labels to indicate the various grids.

The numbers 1 through 60 appear on each card, arranged in four groups of fifteen. Hunt referred to these as quarters. Each quarter is also assigned a letter name to serve as its label. Since the handling is a trifle convoluted, let

N			
	34	35	18 2 36
D	37	38	39 40 41
	42	44	43 45 17
	57	54	55 56 48
G	49	4	51 52 53
	58	59	60 16 50
	9	5	6 7 8
F	1	10	11 12 15
	13	32	31 33 14
	19	30	3 20 21
C	22	24	23 25 26
	27	28	29 46 47

O			
	8	5	10 11 12
B	14	15	13 31 32
	33	34	35 36 37
	25	22	24 23 7
E	26	27	28 29 30
	46	47	48 49 50
	38	39	40 41 42
G	44	6	43 45 17
	16	18	19 20 21
	54	51	52 9 53
D	55	56	57 58 59
	60	1	2 3 4

P			
	14	13	15 8 31
D	32	33	34 35 36
	37	38	39 40 41
	26	27	28 29 30
F	11	46	47 48 49
	50	51	52 53 54
	42	44	10 43 45
C	17	16	18 19 20
	21	22	23 24 25
	55	56	57 58 12
E	59	60	1 2 3
	4	5	6 7 9

Q			
	33	32	34 35 36
G	37	14	38 39 40
	41	42	44 43 45
	46	13	30 47 48
B	49	50	51 52 53
	54	55	56 57 58
	20	17	16 18 19
F	15	21	22 24 23
	25	26	27 28 29
	59	60	31 1 6
I	2	3	4 5 7
	9	8	10 11 12

R			
	52	17	16 18 19
S	47	48	49 50 51
	53	54	55 56 57
	27	23	25 26 37
V	36	35	34 33 32
	31	13	15 14 12
	21	20	22 58 59
T	24	45	43 44 41
	60	42	40 39 38
	29	28	30 11 10
Z	8	9	7 6 5
	4	3	2 1 46

S			
	26	20	21 22 24
F	17	23	25 27 28
	29	30	46 47 48
	41	44	42 40 39
G	38	18	37 36 35
	34	33	32 31 13
	54	49	50 16 51
D	52	53	55 56 57
	58	59	60 45 43
	6	12	15 14 19
E	11	10	8 9 7
	5	4	3 2 1

T			
	28	29	20 23 25
C	26	27	30 46 47
	48	49	50 51 52
	13	44	42 41 22
E	39	38	37 36 35
	34	33	32 31 40
	54	53	55 21 56
D	57	58	59 60 19
	18	16	17 45 43
	4	3	11 15 14
F	24	12	10 8 9
	7	6	5 1 2

V			
	46	23	28 29 30
B	47	48	49 50 51
	52	53	54 55 56
	35	44	41 42 40
I	39	38	37 26 36
	34	33	32 31 13
	57	58	59 60 24
G	22	25	21 20 19
	18	43	16 45 17
	14	15	12 27 11
D	10	8	9 7 6
	5	4	3 2 1

Z			
	58	60	28 59 47
C	48	49	50 51 52
	53	54	55 56 57
	44	40	41 42 30
E	39	38	37 36 35
	34	33	13 32 31
	23	27	26 25 24
I	22	21	20 29 19
	18	43	16 17 45
	8	46	15 14 12
B	11	10	9 7 6
	5	4	3 2 1

*In a rare and exquisite invention
for the exercising of acute Wits
and industrious dispositions.*

me paint the procedure in broad strokes first as a bit of a road map. There are three steps in a performance. In the first, the participant locates her secret number on Card A. This directs her to a second card, where she finds her number again. And similarly, this guides her once more to a third card. The performer, glancing at the latter, will now know what her number must be. So keep that in mind: the participant will always be handling exactly three cards during the presentation.

Details of the Method

Card A is used but once, at the very start of the procedure. From then on, the participant will only be looking through the remaining twenty cards for the thought-of number. With that, we're all set to see the method in action.

Imagine I have just asked you to think of a number from 1 to 60, inclusive, and have handed you Card A. You look it over and note in which quarter your number falls.

Let's say you're thinking of 35. On Card A, you spot it in Quarter G. You set Card A aside as no longer needed.

Since your number fell in Quarter G, you now grab Card G and seek your number again. You'll find it lies in Quarter I. Card G is now out of play and discarded.

Taking Card I, you locate your number once more. This time you speak and tell me that it lies in Quarter F. At once I will know you originally selected the number 35.

How? As soon as you said your choice fell in Quarter F, I looked at those fifteen numbers and started mentally reciting the alphabet to myself: A-B-C-D-E-F, while scanning the numbers in that quarter sequentially: 40-39-41-42-44-35. My internal recitation stopped me on F, corresponding to your 35.

You probably won't understand *why* it works at this point, but the main thing is to know *how* to arrive at the hidden number. A schematic of the procedure would be helpful as review:

- The spectator, looking at Card A, notes which quarter her number lies in.
- She goes to the second card labeled the same as that quarter.
- She notes which quarter her number lies in on that second card.
- Then she resorts to the third card labeled the same as that quarter just seen on the second card.
- Finally, she reports the quarter in which she spots her number on that third card.
- The performer then silently recites the alphabet to himself while looking at that quarter, thus stepping along to the thought-of number at that letter's position.

If you try this out a few times for yourself, you're bound to hit one stumbling block. Recall what was mentioned earlier about the evolution of the alphabet in the English language. The method, as just described, would have worked perfectly for Hunt. But thanks to the "I/J" problem, nowadays we need to mentally think of the alphabet as skipping from "I" directly to "K."

Dressing It Up

I suspect even Hunt recognized that as a number trick it's pretty punk. So as mentioned, he fabricated within the book nineteen different ways to exploit it in terms of names, places, and more. In short, he turned it into a somewhat more interesting word test.

He did this by providing various lists of names and so forth associated with those key numbers 1 through 60. For example, in Chapter One (pp. 1–10), Hunt provides an extensive list of the names of kings and queens of England. Using the numbers and letters indicated above, he labeled those names to work within his system.

Subsequent chapters do something similar for surnames, Christian names, titles of nobility, professions, counties, parishes, colleges, years, months, etc. In short, Hunt provided not only a general purpose method but more importantly, a book of various lists associated with the key numbers and letter-labels. In this way, the performer can divine a variety of secret thoughts – as long as that book of lists is at hand.

To summarize: given a method for determining a number from 1 to 60, and nineteen different word lists associated with those numbers, then we've got a wide variety of different and potentially more interesting routines to be performed.

But Is It Worth It?

In short, no. It's true that the method is just as unfathomable to modern minds as it would have been to those of 1631. Equally true, though, is that the required actions make little theatrical sense and are tedious. Even when wrapped within a word-test presentation, it just doesn't seem like mind reading at all, but more like a secretary cross-indexing files. Quite literally the action lives up to the adjective "procedural."

While reading his treatise, I tried to imagine Nicolas Hunt performing any of these routines back in the seventeenth century. I conjured up visions of dainty rouged ladies seated in the drawing room lit by candles, their gentlemen escorts in powdered wigs

standing behind, maybe a polite gasp of appreciation at the conclusion, and Hunt bowing low in response. I can also easily imagine the audience silently wishing the whole night had concluded a half-hour earlier.

The Machinery Behind the Curtain

Essentially what's going here might nowadays be referred to by a computer scientist as a coding, indexing, or indirect-addressing scheme. Hunt worked out his algorithm so that each number from 1 to 60 is encoded, not once but twice, which really does obscure things decently. Even so, the performer is able to decode that new form merely by mentally reciting the alphabet.

The key is that the secret number appearing on the third card, must wind up at its quarter-letter's position within the alphabet. In the example above, the number 35 was encoded by the letter F on the final card (Card I). The letter F is sixth in the alphabet, and the number 35 appears in the sixth spot of Quarter F.

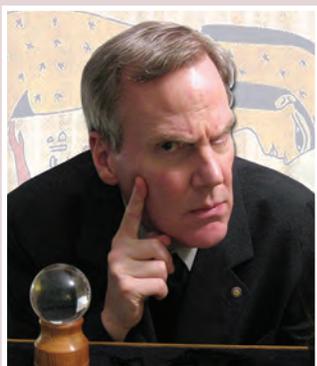
You have to give Nicolas Hunt credit for his perspicacity and tenacity. (And let's not forget the poor printer who had to typeset the grids by hand!) Even if the perceived effect is somewhat tedious, there's no denying his method is genuinely impenetrable.

And the Conclusion?

If you've waded through this analysis, it should be patently obvious there's nothing remotely connecting *Newe Recreations* to the weighted binary representation of numbers. Instead, the method hinges entirely upon the notion of secretly encoding the participant's number, twice even, so it ends up in a form the performer can easily decode.

With that, let's once and for all remove Nicolas Hunt of 1631 from the list of candidates postulated as being behind the Magic Age Cards.

You may contact the author, Thomas Henry, at the following email address: everett.ritland@gmail.com.



Thomas Henry began performing magic as soon as he could read, thus launching a lifelong love of books. Throughout graduate school, he earned his keep as a magician, guitarist-singer, writer, and almost became a professional wrestler. As a retired mathematics professor, his days are now spent teaching himself Latin, as well as chasing down ancient and obscure magic history.

Support Your Linking Ring Advertisers

And please tell them, "I saw it in *The Linking Ring*."

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

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

U.S.A.

- ALABAMA • Birmingham (35) • Florence (330)
Huntsville (194) • Montgomery (256)
- ARIZONA • Lakeside (300) • Phoenix (55)
Prescott (356) • Tucson (172)
- ARKANSAS • Fort Smith (75) • Little Rock (29)
Searcy (308)
- CALIFORNIA • Burbank/Glendale (326)
Carlsbad (292) • Hollywood (21)
Long Beach (96) • Orange County (313)
Palm Desert (291) • Sacramento (192)
San Bernardino (254) • San Diego (76)
San Francisco (38) • San Jose (216)
Santa Clarita (280) • Simi Valley (276)
South West Riverside (359)
- COLORADO • Denver (131) • Fort Collins (250)
- CONNECTICUTT • Hartford (278)
New Haven (59) • Stamford (97)
- DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA • Washington (50)
- FLORIDA • Clearwater (42) • Daytona Beach (251)
Ft. Lauderdale (150) • Ft. Myers (303)
Ft. Walton Beach (284) • Jacksonville (130)
Key West (329) • Leesburg (258)
Melbourne (188) • Miami (45) (390) • Orlando (170)
Pensacola (287) • Pompano Beach (337)
Sarasota (81) • Tampa (175)
West Palm Beach (117)
- GEORGIA • Atlanta (9) • Augusta (184)
Macon (275) • Warner Robins (289)
- HAWAII • Honolulu (185)
- IDAHO • Blackfoot (306) • Boise (364)
- ILLINOIS • Champaign (236) • Chicago (43)
Peoria (48) • Springfield (239)
- INDIANA • Elkhart/Mishawaka (342)
Evansville (56) • Ft. Wayne (221)
Indianapolis (10) • Lafayette (219)
Muncie (310) • Nashville (336) • Boise (364)
- IOWA • Cedar Rapids (327) • Davenport (11)
Des Moines (167) • Dubuque (93) • Sioux City (24)
- KANSAS • Wichita (47)
- KENTUCKY • Lexington (198) • Louisville (64)
- LOUISIANA • Baton Rouge (178) • Lafayette (214)
Lake Charles (268) • New Orleans (27)
Shreveport (267)
- MAINE • Bangor (362)
- MARYLAND • Baltimore (179) • Hagerstown (94)
- MASSACHUSETTS • Boston (122)
Cape Cod (307)
- MICHIGAN • Ann Arbor (210) • Battle Creek (89)
Detroit (22) • Flint (36) • Grand Rapids (211)
Kalamazoo (333) • Lansing (54) • Saginaw (212)
- MINNESOTA • Minneapolis (19)
- MISSISSIPPI • Jackson (98)
- MISSOURI • Branson (325) • Columbia (8)
Joplin (305) • Kansas City (129) • St. Louis (1)
Springfield (132)
- MONTANA • Billings (153)
- NEBRASKA • Lincoln (259)
- NEVADA • Las Vegas (257)
- NEW HAMPSHIRE • Manchester (166)
- NEW JERSEY • Collingswood (165)
Long Branch (123) • Lyndhurst (113)
Newark (106) • New Brunswick (200)
- NEW MEXICO • Albuquerque (90)
- NEW YORK • Albany (186) • Binghamton (79)
Buffalo (12) • Ithaca (140) • New York (26)
Rochester (4) • Suffolk (317) • Plainview (244)
Syracuse (74) • Utica (101)
- NORTH CAROLINA • Blowing Rock (392)
Canton (344) • Charlotte (296) • Fayetteville (341)
Greensboro (340) • Raleigh (199)
Wilmington (248) • Goldsboro (375)
- OHIO • Akron (161) • Canton (243) • Cincinnati (71)
Cleveland (23) • Columbus (7) • Dayton (5)
Galion (189) • Lima (205) • Marietta (197)
Middletown (324) • Toledo (68) • Youngstown (2)
- OKLAHOMA • Oklahoma City (46) • Tulsa (65)
- OREGON • Albany (238) • Eugene (319)
- PENNSYLVANIA • Allentown (32) • Erie (149)
Harrisburg (20) • Greensburg (158)
Philadelphia (6) • Pittsburgh (13)
Pocono Mountains (332) • Reading (57)
Scranton (30) • State College (352)
- RHODE ISLAND • Providence (44)
- SOUTH CAROLINA •
Charleston (234) • Columbia (105) • Greenville (63)
Hilton Head Island (349) • Myrtle Beach (334)
Spartanburg (227) • Summerville (370)

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

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

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

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

UTAH • Salt Lake City (193)

VERMONT • Manchester Center (245)
Montpelier (126)

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

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

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

WORLDWIDE

ARGENTINA • Buenos Aires (182)

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

AUSTRIA • Vienna (240)

BANGLADESH • Dhaka (279/295)

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

BULGARIA • Sofia (391)

CANADA

ALBERTA • Calgary (66) • Edmonton (28)

BRITISH COLUMBIA • Vancouver (92)
Victoria (183) • Abbotsford (387)

MANITOBA • Winnipeg (40)

NOVA SCOTIA • Halifax (316)

ONTARIO • Hamilton (49) • Kitchener (235)

London (265) • Fonthill (294)

North Bay (365) • Ottawa (151)

Peterborough (302) • Thunder Bay (304)

Toronto (17) (99) • Windsor (116)

QUEBEC • Montreal (62)

SASKATCHEWAN • Regina (309)

CHINA • China (311) • Macao (357)

Hong Kong (277) • Shanghai (400)

CUBA • Havana (399)

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

GERMANY • Kornwestheim (285) • Nuremberg (348)

GREECE • Athens (338)

GUATEMALA • Guatemala City (107)

HUNGARY • Budapest (281)

ICELAND • Reykjavik (371)

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

INDONESIA • Surabaya City (321)

IRELAND • Cork (363) • Dublin (85)

ISRAEL • Pardess-Hana (264)

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

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

Rome (204) • Trieste (353)

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

LATVIA • Riga (376)

MALAYSIA • Malaysia (373)

MALTA • Valletta (202)

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

NETHERLANDS • Utrecht (78)

NEW ZEALAND • Auckland (160)

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

PORTUGAL • Portugal (312)

SERBIA • Belgrade (396)

SINGAPORE • Singapore (115)

SPAIN • Barcelona (401)

SOUTH KOREA • Seoul (366) (372)

SWITZERLAND • Romandie Suisse (207)

TAIWAN • Taipei (360)

THAILAND • Ramkhanheng (369)

TURKEY • Istanbul (367) (368) • Izmar (379)

U.A.E. • Dubai (345)

UNITED KINGDOM • British (25)

THE UNIVERSE • Global Electronic Ring (2100)

VIETNAM • Ho Chi Minh City (378)

ZIMBABWE • (203)

For corrections and updates, e-mail
Dr. Steven Schlanger,
Ring Reports Editor
(ringreports@magician.org).



MAGICAL MELODY

By Robert A. Wallner

Here's a routine that uses the Gilbreath Principle to create a musical and magical wonder.

EFFECT: While singing The Beatles' song "I Saw Her Standing There" ("she was just 17"), the magician deals down 16 cards. After several cuts, the spectator shuffles the cards and selects four. Magically, their values add up to 17.

PERFORMANCE: Start with a 16-card stack on top of a face-down deck, consisting of 4 sets of 4 cards whose values add up to 17. For example, using the 5, 2, 4, and 6 spot cards (suits don't matter), you assemble the following stack: 5, 2, 4, 6/ 5, 2, 4, 6/ 5, 2, 4, 6/ 5, 2, 4, 6. You may freely shuffle the bottom stack of the deck, making sure to retain the top 16 cards.

In your best voice, sing the first 4 bars of "I Saw Her Standing There" as you deal down, into a pack, 1 card on each of the 16 musical beats. Those beats correspond to the CAPITALIZED syllables/words and the bullet points (●) shown below:

(well she was)

JUST SEVen TEEN ●, you

KNOW WHAT i MEAN ●, and the

WAY she LOOKED was WAY beYOND com-

PARE ● ● ●

After the 16 cards are dealt, cut the pack several times. Hand the pack (face down) to the spectator and ask her to deal down any number of cards to the table. Then, instruct her to (i) riffle shuffle the tabled cards with those held in her hand, (ii) deal down 4 cards from the shuffled pack into a pile, (iii) deal down 3 more piles of 4 cards, and (iv) turn over any pile. Spread the 4 cards from her selected pile as you sing the lyrics "well she was just 17," and reveal that the cards' values add up to 17. The Gilbreath Principle teaches that each of the 4 piles will contain a 5, 2, 4, and 6, although not necessarily in the same order.

NOTES: Other songs can be used, too. For example, for Tommy Tutone's "867-5309 / Jenny," you can use a stack consisting of 4 sets of the following 7 cards: 3, 7, 10, 9, 5, 8, 6. For the reveal, arrange and spread the cards (with the right edge of the 3-spot card covering the "1" on the 10 spot) to display the telephone number. For The Beatles' song, "When I'm Sixty-Four," use a stack consisting of 4 sets of the following 8 cards: 7, 10, 5, 2, K[13], 6, Q[12], 9. Other possible songs include Chicago's "25 or 6 to 4," Dolly Parton's "9 to 5," and Wilson Pickett's "634-5789."

This routine applies "Gilbreath's Second Principle," published in *The Linking Ring*, Vol. 46, No. 6 (June 1966), p. 85. The original principle is described in Norman Gilbreath's "Magnetic Colors," published in *The Linking Ring*, Vol. 38, No. 5 (July 1958), p. 60.

Robert Wallner is a practicing lawyer in New York City and a member of Ring 26. He can be reached at wallnermagic@gmail.com.

Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez

Bess Houdini was the godmother to Dai Vernon's eldest son, Edward.

At thirteen, Al Flosso dropped out of school and began performing. On his first gig, he shared the bill with the future actor, comedian, dancer, and singer-songwriter Eddie Cantor – fourteen years old at the time – at the Young Men's Benevolent Association.

Ricky Jay's real name was Richard Jay Potash, the grandson of magician Max Katz.

In November 1983, English magician Paul Daniels was recognized by the *Guinness Book of World Records* for performing forty-seven tricks in precisely four minutes.

John Scarne was known as "Flukey Johnny" because of his uncanny skills with cards.

The town of Faucet in Buchanan County, Missouri, is named after magician Faucett Ross's grandfather.

Francis Carlyle's real name was Francis Xavier Finneran. He took his mother's name, Carlyle, to increase his bookings.

Back in the day, roughing fluid was known as "slick ace fluid."

Father Cyprian's real name was John Harvey Murray.

In 1933, Dante won a judgment in the Supreme Court in Perth, Australia, against Geoffrey Allan Everett. Mr. Everett admitted to punching and breaking Dante's jaw but insisted that the plaintiff menaced him with a stick and used insulting language, which provoked him.



Joe Hernandez is the author of *Conjurer's Wisdom*, Volume I and II, and *Phonetastic*. Joe has been a producer of magic shows at the State Theatre in New Jersey and was a consultant to the yearly NBC show, *The World's Greatest Magic*. He has also collaborated in producing many magic videos, including DVDs from Rene Lavand, Harry Lorayne, Gene Maze, Mike Gallo, Sol Stone, and Herb Zarrow. He was a frequent contributor to *Apocalypse*. Joe has appeared on many public television shows performing close-up magic.



Sick and Convalescent

I.B.M. MEMBERS

SICK AND CONVALESCENT COMMITTEE

JIM SHORT/CHAIRMAN

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

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

JERRY ARGETSINGER 91 Saddlehorn Dr., Rochester, NY 14626

Send Mail To:

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

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

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

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

Merle Hamen, 249 Furrow Ln, Carolina Shores, NC 2846

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

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

Elton Kelly, 712 Hewlett Street, Bakersfield, CA 93309

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

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

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

Bill Meeker, 14088 W. Wrightley St., Boise, ID 83713

Harry Monti, 803 Sherwick Terrace, Manchester, MO 63021

Les Morgenstein, 33709 Lakeshore Dr., Tavares, FL 32778

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

John Osborne, 820 Spring Drive, Northville, MI 48167

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

Walt UMBERFIELD, 54 Cliffwood Dr., South Windsor, CT 06074

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

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



Bob Malinchock *One-Man Parade*

Written by Bob Malinchock • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen • Illustrated by Tony Dunn

Bob Malinchock has enjoyed the art of magic as a hobby since he was old enough to see his first trick in his immigrant grandfather's saloon – over seventy years ago. He ordered his first magic catalog from Douglas Magicland after discovering the supplier in a comic book ad. Bob went on to borrow the only two magic books at his town library. When he discovered *Genii* magazine after reading about it in a neighbor's *Book of Knowledge* encyclopedia, it kickstarted his lifelong hobby and enjoyment of the magical arts.

Born and raised in a small Pennsylvania coal town, Bob graduated from Penn State University with both a bachelor's and a master's in Engineering. He worked for Bell Atlantic for thirty-one years before retiring to become a consultant for seven years. Finally, after spending ten years supporting a local Assisted Living facility, he retired once again. He earned his stage name "Just Bob!" from his good friends at the West Virginia Wizards club. Whenever he'd arrive at a meeting, they would always welcome him with "Oh, it's Just Bob!" – and the name stuck!

Bob put on most of his magic performances for children during his earlier years, where he delighted and impressed kids at their birthday parties and elementary school shows. These days, he performs for local magic clubs, but gives occasional public appearances at retirement homes, libraries, or church. His self-imposed, personal challenge is to never perform the same trick twice for any club. That meant forcing himself to come up with new variations on old tricks, or creating new tricks altogether. Over the years, he has had the privilege of serving as secretary, treasurer, scribe, and newsletter author for several of the local magic clubs, as well as continuing I.B.M. and S.A.M. memberships.

Bob has made Leesburg, Virginia, his home for the last thirty-four years, where he lives with his wonderful wife Karen, four grown children, and nine grandchildren. Today he spends his leisure time reading, writing, and actively enjoying a magical life.



Another Simple False Cut

BACKGROUND: This is just another false cut I've been using for years, yet I can't say I've ever seen it in print.

EFFECT: A simple but interesting flourish with a deck of cards, which leaves the entire deck sequentially unchanged. Briefly, it consists of a one-handed Charlier pass immediately followed by a double undercut. Need I say more? If unfamiliar with either move, read on.

REQUIREMENTS: A deck of cards. Also, the desire to give the appearance of mixing up the deck of cards using a series of fancy cuts, yet retaining their original order.

PREPARATION: Just some minor practice.

SET-UP: Whatever your effect requires.

PERFORMANCE: No need to rush this cut, consider it a simple skill demonstration. Numerous videos are also available for viewing on YouTube.

Charlier Pass

Deck is placed in the left hand, but held off the palm of the hand by the four fingers and thumb. The first and fourth fingers hold the narrow sides of the deck, while the thumb is on the near long side and the remaining two middle (second and third) fingers prop up the far long side. In other words, the entire deck is supported by the five digits of the hand pressing against the four sides of the deck.

With the left-hand thumb, lift one half to two-thirds of the cards while maintaining pressure against the two middle fingers. The bottom of the pack will fall into the palm of the left hand, pivoting against the middle two fingers. At this point, the first and fourth fingers are only guiding the bottom cards into the palm and are not supporting any of the bottom packet cards, while the top two-thirds of the cards are held by the thumb and middle fingers.

The left forefinger slides under the bottom packet and pushes the far long side upward, pivoting against the crotch of the thumb and palm. To maintain deck stability, it might prove helpful to twist the left

hand slightly inward so the two packets rest against the fourth (pinky) finger. Continue pushing upward until the lower packet of cards slide beyond the inner long side of the top packet. As the lower packet clears the edge of the top packet, pull the left forefinger out from under the top packet, allowing it to fall into the left palm. The once lower packet will now automatically fall on top of the cards now resting in the left palm (Figs. 1-3).

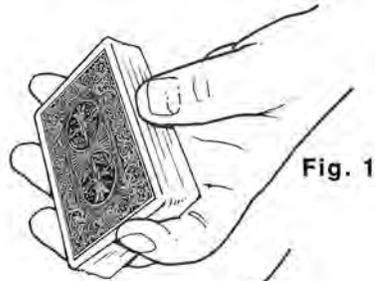


Fig. 1

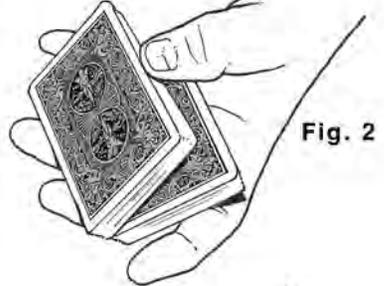


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

If we stopped here, a cut of the cards and a single-handed Charlier pass will have been accomplished. However, for this false cut/flourish to continue, the little pinky finger of the left hand must hold a break between the two packets as the upper packet falls. The result is still a cut, but the two halves are still separated by a finger break.

Double Undercut

The right hand now enters the picture. The thumb of the right hand is placed against the near short side of the deck in the left hand, with the other fingers against the outer short end of the deck. The break is transferred to the control of the right thumb.

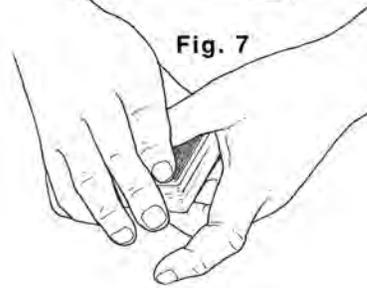
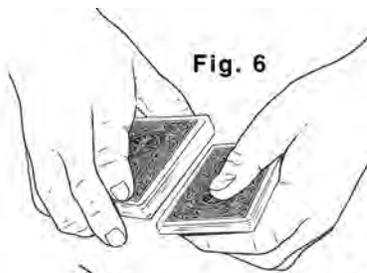
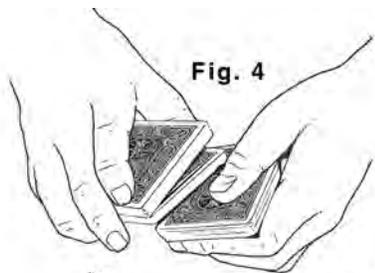
About half of the lower packet slides out to the left. It is then placed squarely on top of the deck, still held from above by the right hand.

The left hand returns to the bottom of the

deck. The left fingers grasp the bottom packet below the break, which is still held by the right thumb. The bottom packet is removed and brought to the top, similar to the previous packet move (hence, double undercut) (Fig. 4-7).

That's it. Done nonchalantly, without looking, it can give the appearance of considerable skill. However, as you have just learned, it's quite easy. Enjoy.

A demonstration video can be seen at youtu.be/t2ESN9VdwFA



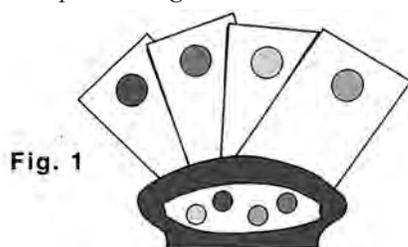
Carnival Star Banknite

BACKGROUND: The October 2010 issue of *The Linking Ring* featured a Parade effect called Zodiac Code, by Rachel Columbini. The effect forces a color by using a square, decorative board to translate a birth month. When working with this effect, I became aware of a few enhancements. In particular, that you can force any of the four colors – at any time – during presentation. The method can be hidden further by using a circular, rather than square, translation board.

EFFECT: A carnival-like numbered wheel is displayed. Three spectators freely select three of twelve numbers, which are then “translated” into three different colors.

Of the four colored envelopes available, all three selected prove to be winners while the fourth is the loser – left for the magician!

REQUIREMENTS: A translator card, described below, four envelopes each marked with a color, red, blue, yellow, or green. Each envelope contains a pre-printed message and three also contain a single dollar bill. If desired, a stand to exhibit the four envelopes. See Figure 1.

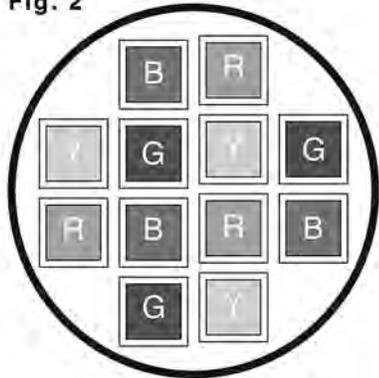


PREPARATION: There are two areas of preparation: the translation board and the messages.

TRANSLATION (OR FORCING BOARD): Obtain a circular piece of stiff cardboard about 7.5 to 8 inches in diameter. See **Figure 2**. Note that the numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 represent the four major points of a compass, or four sides if it was a square. Evenly space the rest of the numbers exactly as indicated. On the reverse side of the board, draw in the cross of twelve squares as illustrated in **Figure 2**. The ends of the cross should align with the four numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8.



Fig. 2



The exact placement of the colors is important. If the number 5 on the backside is in the twelve o'clock position, the two top squares should be red and yellow, reading left to right. If done correctly, with the number 6 at the twelve o'clock position on the back of the board, the top two colors should now be blue and red. Likewise for 7, the colors would be yellow and green. Finally, for

the number 8, the colors are green and blue. The disk may be laminated to extend its use (**Fig. 3**).

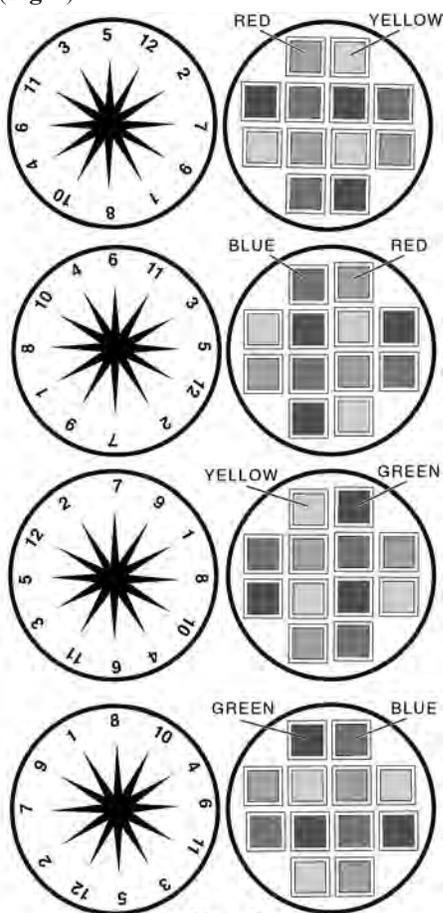


Fig. 3

MESSAGES: Three printed messages. “Congratulations! You are a lucky winner and may keep the dollar enclosed!” A fourth printed message may read, “Sorry! You lose another \$3.00 again!”

SET-UP: Place the loser message in the red envelope. Place the other messages, each with a dollar, in the other three envelopes.

HANDLING: The forcing of any of the four colors is very simple. Hold the board with the numbers facing the audience and the chosen number (for example, 5) at the twelve o'clock position. Twist the board to show the colored squares back around a vertical 5-8 axis. Count to the number 5,

counting left to right and row top down as though reading a paragraph. The colored square arrived upon will be green. Note that the numbers 3 and 12, adjacent to the 5, will also reveal the color green when counted out.

To understand how to force a particular color, do the following exercise. Place the number 6 at the twelve o'clock position, and twist the board around its vertical 6-7 axis. The color yellow will appear for selected numbers 3, 5, and 12. Place the number 7 at the twelve o'clock position, twist the board around its vertical 7-6 axis, and the color blue will appear for selected numbers 3, 5, and 12. Finally, twist the board around an 8-5 axis and the color red will appear for the 3, 5, 12 selections. It should be clear from this that no matter which number the helper selects, it is the twisting axis that determines which color is found.

In performance, it is important that before you begin any of the twisting, that the selected number is in the triad of numbers held at the twelve o'clock position. A triad consisting, of course, of the numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, and their adjacent pair.

The way the opposing hand grasps the board when turning it will decide how a new axis is chosen (i.e., on the right or left side of the circle). To get the color red, for example,

one would need to grasp the bottom of the disk.

PERFORMANCE: The patter can consist of visiting a carnival and choosing a number on a wheel of fortune. The number will be translated into one of four colors, thus greatly enhancing a player's odds. A player is selected and they choose any number. The number is noted on the top of the board and the back is revealed. Then, the green envelope is chosen and given to the player, who is told not to open their prize just yet. A second and third player help in a similar fashion. However, the third player had to choose a number a second time, because their first choice matched one of the first two. The performer intentionally forces a repeat to diminish the idea of a force. The magician will retain the final red envelope.

In conclusion, all three participants open their envelopes, read their notes out loud, and win a buck! The magician opens theirs last and reveals that once again, this trick has cost them \$3.00!

ENDNOTES: This effect intends to present the most simple and straightforward use of this forcing tool. With a little effort, more elaborate routines can be suggested.

A demonstration video can be viewed at: youtu.be/Kki_mMRXJ2c

The Crooked Deck

BACKGROUND: Like most of you, I have a marketed "Crooked Deck" (Fig. 1) among my many decks of cards, yet I have failed to really use it in a magic effect. Much to my delight, I discovered its "crookedness" could help considerably in any effects that required cards to be withheld in the card case. A previous Parade for The Linking Ring (October 2022) offered an effect called "Plan Ahead." The effect's set-up stated: "When removing the deck from the card case, secretly leave one joker in the box." Now, just how does one do that? Try using a crooked deck.

EFFECT: To secretly leave one or several cards in the case when removing a deck.

REQUIREMENTS: A Crooked Deck. This marketed special deck of cards is inten-

tionally cut crooked, similar to the shape of the letter "Z." See Figure 1.

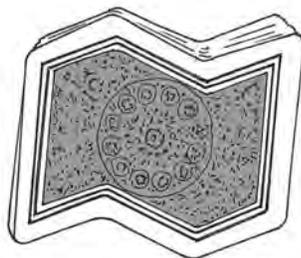


Fig. 1

PREPARATION: Depending on which cards you want the box to retain, simply reverse them in the deck before placing it in the case. Due to the cards' shape, when the case is opened the reversed cards will protrude from the remainder of the deck at one outside corner.

PERFORMANCE: When the deck is dumped from the card case into the waiting hand, the reversed cards are stopped by placing the thumb of the hand holding the case, so that it's slightly overlapping the case's opening. Thus, the thumb holds back the reversed cards so that the case secretly retains them. See **Figure 2**.

ENDNOTES: I now perform the Plan Ahead effect with the forced card already reversed in the card case and the "value" and "suit" playing cards already on the top and bottom of the deck. The two jokers are openly removed from the deck spread. When placed in the case, sandwich the reversed force card

between the two jokers. If inserted in the opposite direction to the force card, the revelation between the two jokers at the end may have more impact. See **Figure 3**.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

A video demonstration can be viewed at: youtu.be/nluVbWmGNT0.

Corona Queen

BACKGROUND: This is an ambitious card routine derived from a routine originated and used by Bobo, according to J.G. Thompson Jr. in his book *Top Secrets of Magic*, Vol. 1 of 3. Titled "The Traveling Joker," it used a gimmicked card and only half the deck. I changed the method (gimmicked card) to hopefully make it more visible and a bit easier to perform. The routine was developed during the coronavirus pandemic, hence the attempt to quarantine the Queen!

EFFECT: The effect is typical of ambitious card routines wherein a card jumps to various positions within the deck. In this version, the selected card is chosen in advance by the performer; e.g., the Queen of Spades (QS). However, in concluding this routine, the queen vanishes from one packet and appears face up in a second packet.

METHOD: The secret is to add a "stranger" or second card (QS) to the deck, the face of which is roughed. A second card from the deck, which contrasts well with the black queen, is also roughed but on its backside. I chose the Five of Diamonds. For the remainder of this description, we'll call the two cards (when stuck together) the DC or double card. We'll refer to the face as 5D, and stuck to its back is the QS.

PREPARATION: To save time, have the deck already divided into the reds and blacks.

All reds are face down with the DC on top. All the black cards, which have the QS at the bottom, are placed on top of the red half deck.

PERFORMANCE: The magician states that only one half of the deck will be used. That is to say, all the red cards ... and only one black card, the Queen of Spades. The remaining black cards are set aside. The QS is shown and placed on top of the red half deck. Turned face down, the QS is openly placed second from the top. The cards are squared, and the upper left corner riffled by the left thumb. The top card (of the DB) is turned over to reveal that the QS has jumped to the top.

The QS is turned face down and the DB is placed second from the top. The magician remarks that they will do it again, in case anyone missed what just happened. The cards are squared again, the corner thumb riffled, and the QS is again shown to have jumped to the top of the half deck.

The QS (single) is now placed on the bottom of the deck, the cards thumb riffled, and the QS (of the DB) is revealed on top of the deck again. The QS is placed face down on top (to join the 5D), and the DB is now placed in the middle of the now fanned-out half deck in the left hand. Remarking that they do not always know what happens to the QS when they do this, the magician reveals the top card to NOT be the QS. However, they look at the bottom of the deck and there is the QS.

This QS, now on the face of the deck, is placed face up on the table for the moment

(quarantined). The half deck is now spread face up between the two hands displaying only red cards, and to note that the quarantined QS on the table is the only black card in the deck. While doing this, the mage secretly notes where the 5D is located and splits the deck at that point, with the 5D to the far left of the spread taken by the right hand. This half is placed under the packet in the left hand, thus bringing the DB to the top of the deck when the deck is placed back in the left-hand mechanics grip face down.

The magician states that they will change things a bit and take the quarantined QS, placing her third from the top of the deck. In doing this, the magician intentionally shows the top two cards to the audience so there is no doubt that the QS is third (actually fourth, due to the DB) from the top of the deck. The deck is thumb riffled and the QS (of the DB) is shown as having jumped to the top of the deck again!

The QS is turned face down on the 5D and the DB is now placed on the bottom of the deck. The deck is thumb riffled and the QS, using a double lift, is shown to be on the top again. Leave the two top cards face up on the top of the deck.

The magician remarks that the QS had actually traveled from the bottom and turned over the deck by twisting the left wrist to show the 5D on the bottom. Immediately perform the glide on the bottom of the now face-up deck and remark that the QS (actually another card) is being quarantined again. This card is placed aside face down. The real QS is now face down on the bottom of the face-up deck. Do NOT turn the deck over!

With the deck now face up, the magician builds two piles of red cards as follows. Approximately one quarter of the half deck is placed face up to the left. A second quarter of the deck is placed to the right of the first quarter, also face up. A third quarter is placed face up on the left pile, and the last quarter is placed on the right packet.

The packet on the left is now fanned out to show that they are all red cards. The 5D (DB) is secretly noted and the fan is split at that point. That half of the fan is used to gesture at the face-down quarantined QS (?). The two

halves of the packet are put back together, but ensure that the DB will be on the top of the face-down packet. With a double undercut, the QS on top (of the 5D) is brought to the bottom of the packet. The packet is placed face down on the table.

The face-up packet to the right is now fanned to show all red cards. However, recall that there is a face-down QS in the center of this packet. Spread the cards and quickly advise the spectators that these cards are also all red, keeping the reversed QS from their sight by spreading to the right and left of the center. This packet is then placed face down on the table.

The magician notes that it is time for the hard part of the effect. They slide the face-down QS (actually an indifferent card) on the table to a position close to the left-hand packet, and announces that the QS will now jump into the left-hand packet. They pick up the face-down left-hand packet, thumb riffle it, and reveal that the face-down QS (?) is now a random red card, discovering that the QS has jumped to the bottom of the left-hand packet. The magician now takes about half of the packet in their left hand and drops it on the indifferent red card. This includes the QS. The remainder of the packet is dropped on it. The face-up packet with the QS, now in the middle of the packet, is turned face down and placed on the table. Note that the QS and 5D are now secretly joined again.

The really hard part now is to have the QS jump from the left-hand packet to the right hand packet! The packet on the left is now thumb riffled. The QS has jumped. To prove it, the magician now deals the cards in the left packet face up on the table to show that the black QS has disappeared! These cards are now spread face up on the table.

The right-hand packet is picked up, thumb riffled, turned end for end, and thumb riffled again. State that the end-for-end turnaround was necessary to cause the QS to not only jump into the packet, but to turn over as well. The cards are spread face down on the table and a now face-up QS revealed! The QS is slid out from the spread and the face-down red cards are gathered, turned face up, and

spread, showing this final display of one black QS among two spreads of all-red cards!

NOTE: Always uneasy with card sleights and manipulation, I would often look to the wonderful R. W. Hull's rough/smooth prin-

ciple for help, as indicated in the above routine. As the following Homing King effect will show, one can get a bit carried away.

A demonstration video of Corona Queen can be found at: youtu.be/p9mZbh2D5vU.

The Homing King

BACKGROUND: This effect is essentially Edward Marlo's "Original Homing Card Routine" published in the TOPS 1963 Trick Annual. Here, the difference is the introduction of the rough/smooth (R/S) principle to aid the non-card manipulators, which allows more magic enthusiasts to present this outstanding routine.

EFFECT: The king is removed from a small packet of cards over and over, yet continues to return until it is the lone remaining card in the packet.

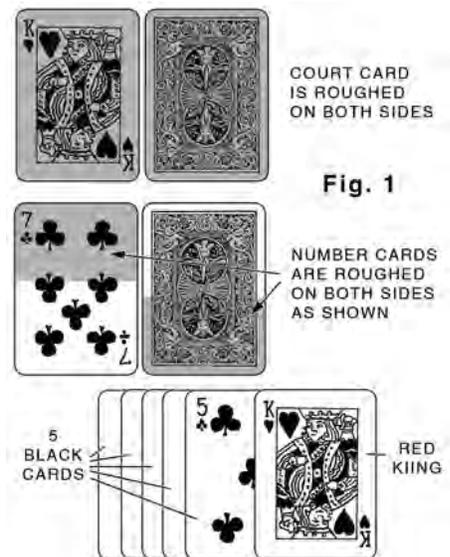
REQUIREMENTS: Cards required for this packet effect are five numerical cards of the same suit color and one court card of the opposite color. For this description, I've used five black cards and a red king.

PREPARATION: The king is prepared by roughing it completely on both the front and back. The unit cards are roughed halfway on opposing ends of the front and back. See **Figure 1**.

SET-UP: The cards are also arranged in the order shown in **Figure 1**. The black cards have the roughed face on the end toward the audience, and the back roughed end is toward the magician.

PERFORMANCE: The packet is held face up in the left hand, in the mechanic's grip. The left thumb presses and deals off the top king (and hidden black card) into the right fingers. Each subsequent black card is then dealt onto the previous card in the right hand. As a result, the cards are reversed and the king ends up second from the top of the packet, if held face down. The cards may be spread between the hands to show four black cards and the king at the end of the spread.

The packet is closed and flipped over, book style. Pressing with the left thumb, the top two cards are slid to the right hand, flipped,



and the king (two cards) shown. It is replaced on the packet face down. Using the right thumb on the lower right corner, slide the top card to the right, into the right fingers. This is the top black card, but the spectators believe it to be the king. Remark that the king is being removed and place the card on the table.

Turn the packet over, book style again, to a face-up position. The left thumb pressures the upper left end of the packet this time, and pushes the top three cards into the right fingers by dealing one card, and each card being placed under the previous card. The final, fourth black card(s) is retained in the left-hand fingers. The right-hand three cards, held in a spread fashion, are placed into the left hand. However, when doing this, make sure the fourth black card(s) in the left hand finds its way between the second and third cards of the right hand. This should result in the king being the second card from the end, or second from the top if the packet was held in face-down dealing position.

The packet is still in the left hand face up. Give the cards a shake, dip, or whatever to indicate that something magical has happened. Spread the cards with the left thumb, pressuring the outward, top end of the packet as in normal handling. The red king has reappeared in the packet. We are now in a similar position to the beginning. The packet can be flipped over book style, the king shown (double lift via R/S), and the top black card placed on the table.

The packet is flipped book style face up again, and with the left thumb pressuring the inward end of the packet, the three black cards (4) are shown as remaining. To illustrate, the top two face-up cards are placed into the right hand one at a time. When the cards are replaced into the left hand again, the magician must make sure the left-hand card(s) ends up between the two cards from the right.

The packet is in the left hand turned face up. Give the cards a shake, dip, or whatever to indicate that something magical has happened. Spread the cards with the left thumb pressuring the outward, top end of the packet, as in normal handling. The red king has reappeared in the packet. Once again, go through the process of removing the king and placing it on the table. There will only be two apparent black cards to exhibit. When spreading the two cards, remember to pressure toward the inner end with the left thumb. This time, only one card goes into the right hand, and it goes under the card(s) in the left hand when reassembling the packet.

The packet is in the left hand face up. Give the cards a shake, dip, or whatever to indicate something magical has happened. Spread the cards with the left thumb pressuring the outward, top end of the packet as in normal handling. The red king has reappeared in the packet. Go through the process again of removing the king and placing it on the table. This time there will only be one apparent black card(s) to exhibit.

Flip the card(s) book style, face down into the left palm. Immediately lift the inner narrow edge of the top card with the right thumb. The right fingers should be at the

outer narrow edge. Lift the top card and move the hand toward the spectator, face down. At the same time, the left hand retains the bottom card, and the palm immediately turns in toward the body hiding the card. The card in the right hand is flipped and shown to be the Homing King, which has reappeared one final time (Figs. 2-5)!

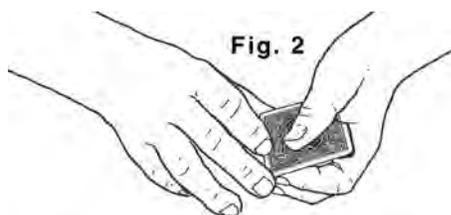


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

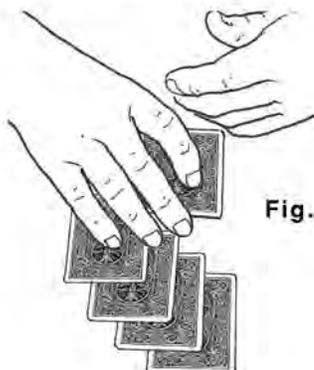


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The left hand with culled card can go to the lap or pocket for disposal.

A video demonstration is available at: youtu.be/YAppmqxUkHw

NuMenTel

BACKGROUND: In the January 2001 issue of *The Linking Ring*, there was an effect by Lyndon Wainwright called Numentel. In it, forty cards were introduced, each of which contained a five-digit number. A helper selected a card, and the mentalist revealed the five-digit number by reading the spectator's mind.

While I loved the basic method for deciphering the long set of numbers, I thought the stacking of the cards was a hindrance. By using business cards, I was able to let a spectator keep the card they chose and not worry about the maintenance of a stack.

EFFECT: A stack of about twenty business cards is introduced and examined. The back of each card is printed with a different five-digit number. One card is freely selected by a helper and the mentalist determines the numbers and their proper order in a dramatic, two-step manner.

REQUIREMENTS: A stack of about twenty gimmicked business cards, and a black/white board or large easel. If following the presentation included here, a large magnifying glass.

PREPARATION: Since I make my own business cards, I basically set up a "marked deck" of business cards. Being able to read the cards from the front, no "stacking" was necessary.

On my mentalism program business cards, I include my telephone, fax, and e-mail as well as an address. By altering two digits of the fax number, I was able to easily decipher the five numbers on the back side. Since I have no fax, the number is meaningless. The fax number on each card would look like (703) 669 9xx0. The two middle numbers would yield the five numbers on the reverse side. See the table for the codes used.

METHOD: Decoding the two digits into five is easily done. Do not let the following process intimidate you, for it is rather simple and can be done slowly during the presentation.

As an example, we'll use the number 27 from the table and develop a five-digit number as follows:

1. Add 5 ($27 + 5 = 32$). This provides the third and fourth numbers of the five-digit number (xx32x). If the new number exceeds two digits (e.g., 102) only use the last two digits (xx02x).

2. The fifth, or last number is derived by subtracting the smaller of the two-digit numbers from the larger. Thus, for the original example, $3 - 2 = 1$, or (xx321).

3. The second number of the five-character set is developed by adding the two key numbers, i.e., $3 + 2 = 5$ (x5321). If the sum is greater than one digit, then only use the unit, or last number. For example, if the sum equaled ten, then the zero is used.

4. The final, or first number in the sequence is found by adding the first two numbers of the four numbers already calculated. In this example, $5 + 3 = 8$ (85321). If the sum is greater than ten, as previously determined, use the second or unit number. The exception in the case of the first digit, however, is to not use a zero. If a zero is in the unit position, substitute the first number, i.e., for 10, 20, etc., use 1, 2, etc., not 0.

The table illustrates the codes I use.

Another example as a test: Given a code of 88 in a fax number of 703-669-9883, the derived string of five numbers on the back of the card would be: 12936.

SET-UP: A table and a single chair some distance from the mentalist.

PERFORMANCE: Have the assistant examine the cards to be sure all numbers on the back of the business cards are different. Place a lone chair in the back of the room or auditorium, facing the stage. Take the cards from the assistant and spread them number side down on the table. Have all the cards face you, so you can easily read them. Ask your helper to place their forefinger on any card and hold it there, as you remove all the other cards and secretly view the two-digit code on the card they are holding down with their finger. Remember the two-digit number – it's critical!

Once all cards have been removed, have your helper hide the card and walk to the chair at the rear of the room. Now, go through the process of identifying numbers

Psychic Match

BACKGROUND: This effect was inspired by a trick in *The Chronicles* by Karl Fulves, titled “George Sands Reverse Bank Nite.”

EFFECT: Using a Zener deck of cards, two random spectators each select an ESP symbol and both symbols prove a match in an interesting manner.

REQUIREMENTS: A standard Zener deck of ESP cards, a small gimmicked envelope, and a specially constructed paper plate holder.

PREPARATION: There are two aspects to this effect. The identification of the chosen card via an envelope and the revelation of the match via a plate holder.

Envelope: A standard 3 x 5.5 inch manila envelope is gimmicked. Using a penny as a template, cut a hole that is one inch from the bottom left corner of the flap side and a half of an inch inward from the side (**Fig. 1**).

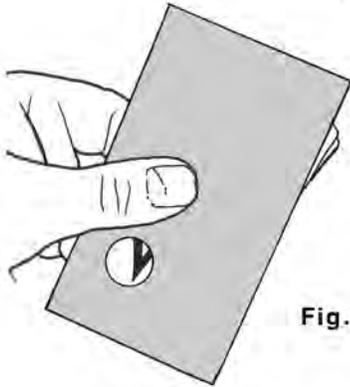


Fig. 1

It can also help to use a half-inch piece of double-sided sticky tape to temporarily seal the envelope. Place the tape on the envelope and lessen the stickiness on the exposed side by tapping it ten to twelve times with your finger. Easily seals and opens.

Plate: The paper plate holder is made by taking two nine-inch inexpensive paper plates and gluing them back-to-back. The plates should be trimmed back to where the curvature of the plate aids in the insertion of cards, about seven inches in my example. See **Figure 2** to see where the glue should be

applied forming five pockets around the plates. On one side of the holder, the numbers 1 3 5 2 4 (in that order) should mark the five pockets as shown in **Figure 3**.

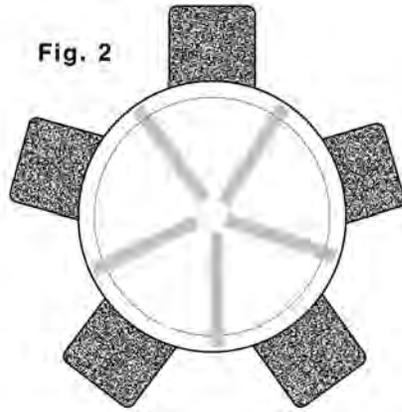


Fig. 2

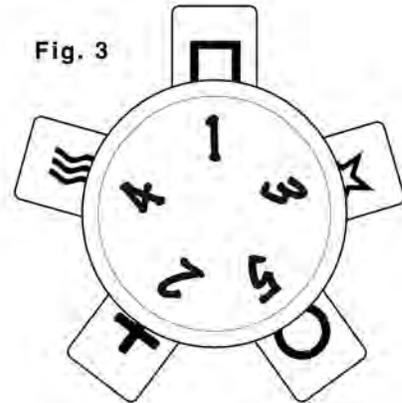


Fig. 3

SET-UP: Only two sets of five symbols are used.

PERFORMANCE: Carrying one set of five symbols and the envelope, the mage steps into the audience and hands the packet to a spectator. They ask the spectator to select a symbol. Keeping it face down and well hidden, the spectator is asked to slide the card into the envelope the magician is holding. The envelope is held in the hand with the flap side up and the card slid into it. The remaining four cards may be taken face down by the magician and placed face down on the envelope (or left with the spectator). The performer returns to their table and places the envelope on the table; however, in the process, they steal a glance at the back of

the envelope. Thus, the selected card is easily noted. See **Figure 4**.

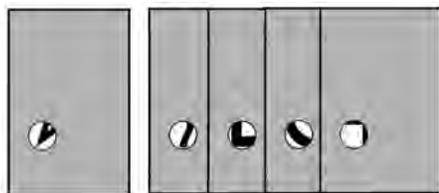


Fig. 4

The second set of ESP cards are shown very clearly and thrown face up onto the table in a makeshift row. The plate card holder is now introduced to the audience, but only showing the blank side to the audience. The mage begins to pick up the cards, one by one, and places them halfway into the five pockets of the holder with the faces of the cards visible to the audience. The matching card to the one in the envelope must be placed in the pocket #5, which is only visible to the magician at this time.

When all five cards have been placed in the holder, the plate is turned around to expose the numbered side of the holder. Now, only the backs of the five symbol cards are exposed. Magician requests another audience member to choose any number from one through five. If five is selected, all

other cards are removed and placed face down on the table, and the match has been made. But most likely, one of the other four numbers will be selected. In this instance, they explain that a process of elimination will be used. Do the following.

Whichever number is picked, remove that card and place it face down on the table. Then, proceed to count clockwise, starting at the number following the number just named and equal to the number just chosen. Continue until only one number is left. It will be the five. (Count the spaces left blank and start at the next place.)

Continue by retrieving the envelope and letting the selected card slide out, face down on the table. We now have one card face down on the table and one still in the plate holder back to audience. All that remains is to dramatically reveal that both freely selected ESP cards MATCH!

NOTE: When I first started doing this trick, I used a cheap 3 x 9 inch letter envelope. If cheap enough, the large ESP symbols could be seen through the envelope. I have not been able to find such envelopes recently.

A video demonstration is available at: youtu.be/mPrLRrQmgBs.

Spy Joker

BACKGROUND: This effect had its origins in a routine named “Alas-Poor Yorick” from the June 1980 Vol. 12, Issue 10 of England’s Magigram magazine. That routine’s method, while potentially obvious to an exceptionally astute audience, seemed to offer an opportunity if disguised appropriately. Spy Joker, I believe, effectively accomplishes that.

EFFECT: Consider this. A spectator is requested to merely think of any card, or they are given half a deck of playing cards to select any card they wish. It is hidden from the eyes of the magician by sandwiching it between two other unknown cards. Utilizing the joker as a spy, the mage not only finds the chosen card, but also names it. Magician never handles the cards if desired.

REQUIREMENTS: A marked deck is all that is required.

PERFORMANCE: Place a joker on top of the deck. Spread the deck face up on the table. Take about half the spread from the right and give it to a helper. Gather the remaining cards. The magician turns away or distances himself from the helper. The helper is requested to select any card they wish from the cards they have been given, and is told to remember it. They now have secret information – the name of the card selected.

While the magician is still not looking, the helper is asked to take two additional cards from their half deck. It is immaterial which cards are selected. One of the two cards is placed beneath the selected card on the table and the second is placed on top, effectively sandwiching the chosen card between the

two and thus totally hidden. These two cards act as bodyguards and shield the selected card from prying eyes (**Fig. 1**).



Fig. 1

The mage turns around and, after pointing out how well the secret information is being protected, suggests that they will now add a spy to the packet. They remove the top card from their packet, the joker (an unmarked card), and hand it to the spectator with a request that it be added to the three-card packet. It can be placed either above or below the three-card packet and thus will remain shielded from the secret information card by the two bodyguards. The helper is requested to take a card from the top of the packet and to place it at the bottom. This is repeated and the helper is informed that they can continue to do this as long as they would like. The mentalist notes that, effectively, the cards have been mixed without getting the spy card any closer to the secret information.

The helper is asked to deal their packet of four cards into a row on the table (**Fig. 2**).



Fig. 2

The magician, now playing the role of a retired CIA agent proceeds to remove three of the four cards from the row without exposing them, noting that agents frequently use reason, intuition, or sometimes guess where the information is located. It is here that the magician can easily identify which of the four cards is the selected card. Note where the Joker is among the four cards. Being the only unmarked card, it is easily found. If the Joker is on an end of the row, the selected card is the middle card of the

remaining three. If the Joker is not an end card, but in position two or three, then the selected card is the card not adjacent to the Joker.

With those three cards moved to the side, the lone remaining card is now the card the agency hopes is the card with the secret information. It is now that the three removed cards are exposed one at a time, each being revealed as not being the selected card: i.e., the two bodyguards and the spy. So far so good, the card has successfully been identified. But what is the secret info?

Here, the performer turns to the spy joker and asks to tell them the freely selected card. The joker whispers the information to the mage and reveals it to all! Obviously, the back of the last marked card tells all to the magician (**Fig. 3**).



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

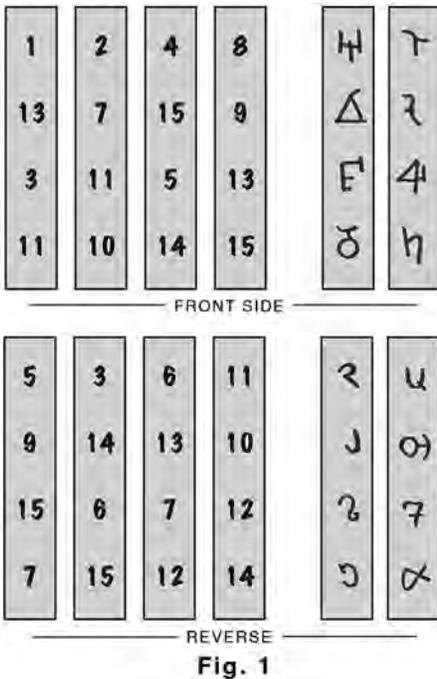
A video of the effect is available at: youtu.be/pk17s7k0J7o.

Sticks

BACKGROUND: This simple but very effective trick evolved from my attempt to enhance the deceit of a fairly common numerical mental mystery.

EFFECT: Six sticks with numbers are exhibited with the request that a spectator mentally select any number between one and fifteen. Sticks are chosen and then randomly arranged into a pattern. The performer achieves a mental connection with the helper by way of the pattern displayed and easily identifies the mentally selected number.

REQUIREMENTS: Six four-inch sticks marked on both sides with numbers as indicated in **Figure 1**. It is important that the numbers as exhibited are used. Two of the sticks are stranger sticks used for misdirection and to enhance the pattern building. They are also marked with ancient or foreign numbers.



PERFORMANCE: Show the two sticks with unusual numbering and note the Hebrew, Greek, Armenian, and Burmese

symbols. Make remarks similar to the following.

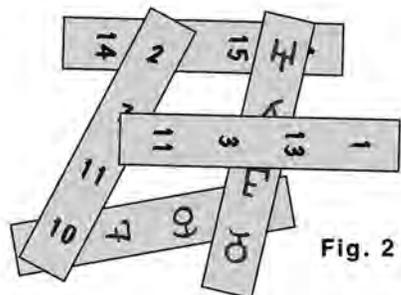
Archeologists have found sticks with various markings on them in very ancient ruins. Those markings usually turned out to be representations of numbers as used in their civilizations. Over time, scientists have theorized that those numbers referenced records of traders and merchants, gambling devices such as the forerunner of our modern dice, or even as a means of telling fortunes. More recently, however, it has been proposed that they could even have been used for making connections, enabling one to determine another's thoughts!

To test this last theory, an experiment is proposed. Four sticks are shown with numbers that have been translated into our more modern Western Arabic form of numerical notation.

A helper is requested to think of a number between one and fifteen. The performer then shows the assistant both sides of the four sticks. If the helper sees their thought-of number among the eight figures shown on each stick, they keep it. If the stick does not have their thought-of number, it is returned to the performer. At the conclusion, the helper will have one to four sticks in front of them.

At this point, the two extra stranger sticks are added to the helper's sticks.

The helper is asked to arrange the sticks in front of them in any pattern they want, as long as all the sticks touch each other (**Fig. 2**). The performer mysteriously analyzes the pattern created and reveals the number thought-of by the spectator.



Commenting that sometimes people believe the performer was simply just lucky in picking the correct number from the pool of fifteen, a repeat of the effect is proposed. The four Arabic numbered sticks are handed to the spectator who keeps the proper sticks and returns the others to the performer (for we can't have them contaminate the pattern). The stranger sticks are added and the effect is successfully repeated.

METHOD: Note that the numbers 1, 2, 4, and 8 can be found at the top of the column on one side of each stick. Look for one of those numbers on each stick that the helper identified as having their number. Simply

add those numbers and you have the merely thought-of number. Or look for the numbers on your sticks, add them, and subtract from fifteen.

NOTE: This is one of the few effects where the mystery increases as the effect is repeated. Try this one at a party sometime. Participants love to focus on the patterns.

A video demonstration can be seen at: youtu.be/VRAFFqdq-yA.

Send comments and appreciations to:

Bob Malinchock

bobjustbob1116@gmail.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



Get Thee Published in The Linking Ring!

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

Sign Up a New Member

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



This month we have a really cool item from Teemu Mäntynen. Teemu is from Finland and recently posted a video on the Magic Café that got my attention. I contacted him and he agreed to contribute the routine to the Card Corner. It's a packet trick using six cards. You can watch the video by scrolling down to April 2023 at www.mallofmagic.com/cardcorner. Here are the details:

The Betting Game

By Teemu Mäntynen

EFFECT: The magician introduces a packet of six cards. Five of the cards have blue backs. One has a red back. The magician explains that red loses. Anything else wins. The packet is turned face up as the magician explains that one of the cards is red on the face while the other five are black cards. Again, red loses. So, if you pick a card that's red on the back or red on the face, you lose. Otherwise, you win.

The cards are mixed a bit with the red-backed card reversed in the packet. Finally, the six cards are dealt, alternating face up and face down. The arrangement is shown in **Figure 1**. Three blue backs show and three black faces show. The location of the red back and red face are unknown. It seems that you have two chances to lose and four chances to win.

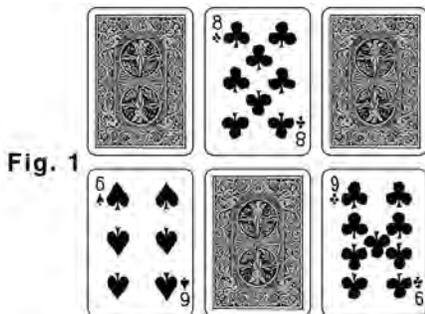


Fig. 1

The spectator chooses one of the six cards, but it turns out that she has no chance

to win. The three face-down cards have red backs, and the three face-up cards have red faces. Red loses.

Teemu adds a sucker aspect to the routine by flashing a red back during the laydown procedure. The spectator is led to think that the magician is trying to direct her to a loser. It turns out that she had no chance to win.

REQUIREMENTS: Three blue-backed cards with red faces and three red-backed cards with black faces. Since two of the black faces will show twice in the six as six counts, it's a good idea to use innocuous values, i.e., no aces or picture cards. In FINAL THOUGHTS, I'll mention the possible use of blank facers (or jokers) to eliminate the possibility of the spectator seeing a discrepancy.

SET-UP: Let's say that your three blue-backers are, from the face, 8D, 5H, 3D. And that the three red backers are, from the face, 9C, 8C, 6S. Place the face-up black cards onto the face-up red cards, ending as in **Figure 2**. The 9C is at the face. The 3D is at the rear.

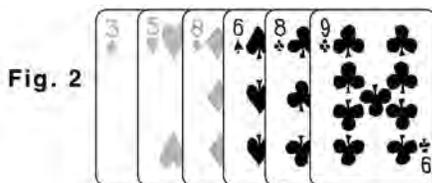


Fig. 2

OVERVIEW: Teemu counts the cards three times. First face down, showing a single red back. Then face up showing a single red face. Finally, face down again showing the red back. After the third count, the red backed card is placed face down among five face-up cards. I'll mention in FINAL THOUGHTS how you could structure things so that there are only two counts. Here are the specifics of how Teemu does the routine.

PROCEDURE: You will have to learn a six-as-six count that is similar to an Elmsley Count*. I have not seen this count used elsewhere, so it may be original to Teemu. I'll call it the TM Count*, with *TM* being short for Teemu Mäntynen. (There's a short video tutorial on my site at www.mallofmagic.com/the-moves.)

The TM Count: Hold the packet face down as you would for an Elmsley Count*. Most people hold the packet in the right hand for an Elmsley Count and take cards into the left hand. I do the opposite. I'll assume that you're holding the packet in your right hand. (Teemu counts the cards from left hand to right hand as I do. It's possible that you'll find this to be the most natural way to handle the count. Because the count involves pushing off a block and taking back some cards, it resembles an Elmsley Count. Thus, you may find it more natural to count from right to left. Try it both ways to find out what's best for you.)

Assuming you're counting face down from right to left, you will peel the first two cards singly into your left hand while keeping the other four cards fairly square. You don't want red to flash yet. Now, as the left hand returns to peel the next card, use your right thumb to push off the block of three cards above the bottommost card (**Fig. 3**).

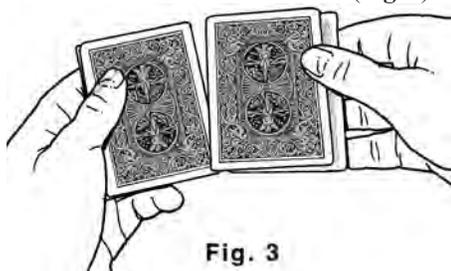


Fig. 3

A red back shows in the right hand. Now, very much like with an Elmsley Count, the left hand moves its two cards directly under the right hand's packet. This happens as the left hand takes the three-card packet that was just pushed to the left by clamping down with the left thumb. You now have three cards in your right hand with a red card on top. Peel them singly onto the left hand's packet, outjogging the first card (the red-backer). You'll end as in **Figure 4**. Say, "As you can see, there's one red card among five blue cards. In this game, red loses. Keep that in mind when we play." Remove the outjogged card without showing its face and pretend to place it into the middle of the packet. Actually, you place it on the bottom of the face-down packet. (NOTE: The TM count keeps the cards in their original order.)

FIG. 4



Flip the packet face up. A black face shows. Execute the TM Count* again. This time a single red face (3D) will show in the count. Again, outjog this card when you come to it. Say, "There's also a card with a red face. Again, red loses. You'll need to avoid this card to win." Pull the red-faced card out without showing its back and again pretend to place it into the packet but actually put it on the bottom of the packet. You have established the premise, i.e., red loses.

Flip the packet face down again and repeat the TM Count* one more time, again outjogging the red-backed card. Remove the red card using the right hand and, while keeping it face down, use the right fingers to flip the remaining five card packet face up in the left hand. Place the red-backed card onto the other five as shown in **Figure 5**. Hold it in place with your left thumb. The

canted position allows you to pull up with the right thumb at the inner short edge in order to get a break under the top two cards without flashing red faces. Remove the out-jogged card and place it, face down, into the break, i.e., third from top, as you say, “This may help you a bit to avoid red.”



FIG. 5

FINAL LAYDOWN: Flip the packet face down in the left hand and deal the top card face down on the table. Flip the packet over and deal the now face-up 8C face up to the right of the blue-backer. Flip the packet over again and deal the face down-card to the right of the 8C. Flip the packet over one final time and deal the top (face-up) card under the first card dealt, i.e., in a new row. The red backed card will show on top of the final two-card packet. Don’t say anything about it.

To finish, flip the packet over. A blue back shows. Deal this card to the right of the last dealt card and immediately deal the face-up, black-faced card (9C) to the right. The spectators should surmise that this card has the red back, which it does. **Figure 1** shows the situation at this point.

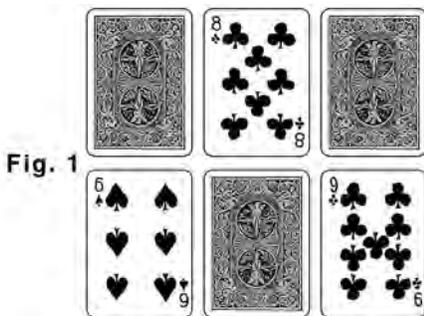


Fig. 1

Teemu brings an object of value into play, a five Euro note. You can use anything of

value since you can’t lose. It could be a twenty-dollar bill, a ring, etc. The spectator is to place it on her chosen card. If it’s not one of the red cards, she wins it. It appears that she has a four out of six chance to win – about a sixty-six percent chance. But, of course, she can’t win because all the cards are red on one side or the other.

The spectators believe that the card at lower right has a red back. Teemu likes to steer them toward that card, pretending that he’s trying to help. This creates a humorous situation that you can play off. Ultimately, they’ll put the money on some card. You then can show that they wisely avoided the obviously red-backed card by turning over the card at inner right. You now show that the card they bet on is a loser as well. Finally, you reveal that the entire thing is a scam by turning over all the other cards. Clearly there was no way to win. But also, solid magic has happened. How did all those cards end up being red?

FINAL THOUGHTS: It is fairly easy to make this more like a packet trick by using three blue-backed blank facers and three red-backed blank facers. You’d put red stickers that have the word “LOSE” printed in large letters on the backs of the red backers and on the blank faces of the blue backers (**Fig. 6**). The handling would be the same as that described above. The packet resets instantly, so it’s a good item for strolling.

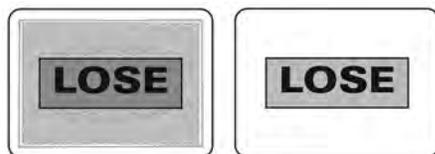


Fig. 6

I really like this routine. I have shown it to a number of lay people with excellent results. Give it a try. And don’t forget about the “Moves” section at www.mallofmagic.com/themoves. There are over sixty video tutorials, mostly on card moves.

Mike Powers

mpowers@mallofmagic.com



Simple Diversions

ANDREW WOO

Amaze-O-Bag

Okay, full disclosure! There is a little arts and crafts involved with this utility device/trick, but it is well worth the investment of your time. This revamped method will add more confidence via security with the use of the gimmick. The payoff is in the simplicity of handling of this switching apparatus, combined with the amazing audience reaction that you will reap in spades.

EFFECT: Slips of paper with individual spectators' written submissions are folded and placed together in a paper bag. A random spectator selects one of the submissions, and it's a precise match of the magician's prediction.

REQUIREMENTS: Two paper bags, glue stick, scissors, two small flat neodymium magnets, two small metal shims, slips of paper, and writing instruments.

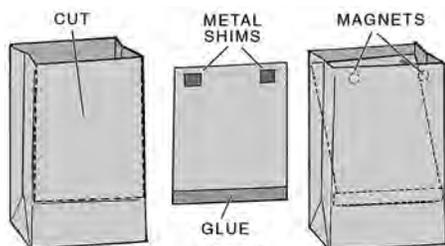


Fig. 1

SET-UP: Using scissors, cut along the outside edges of one side of a paper bag. Take said cut-out page and glue two metal shims on each of the page's upper corners. Now, glue a strip along the bottom and insert it in the paper bag, so that the edge of the paper bag and the cut-out page are in alignment. On the inside of the paper bag, adhere two flat magnets to the upper corners so that

they correspond and attract the metal shims on the paper bag itself (Fig. 1). Place the forced slips inside the paper bag with the gimmicked page being closed.

WORKING AND PERFORMANCE: Open the paper bag. Dislodge and open the gimmicked page to the other side so that the magnets are *not* attached to the metal shims. Have a spectator fold the individual submissions in quarters and drop them in the bag. As the top of the paper bag is closed, ensure that the gimmicked page is closed, too. Fold the top of the paper bag once and give it a gentle shake. Invite the spectator to insert their hand into the open paper bag and remove a singular submission. Ask the spectator to read it out loud. It will match your prewritten prediction.

As an alternative, you can have all of the forced prediction submissions emptied from the paper bag onto the performance surface. The advantage is a very clear and distinct impression of a fair selection on the part of the spectator. It also creates an opportunity for byplay when the spectator is about to select the random submission. Personally, I prefer this version as it provides an opportunity for the trick to become greater in its overall appearance. Thus, it plays longer and for bigger crowds.

NOTE: Hold the paper bag at eye level so that the spectator must reach up and over the edge of the bag to reach the forced selection.

Give this one a try and have fun. I will see everyone next month!

Andrew Woo

andrew@magicalwoo.com

www.magicalwoo.com



Spirit Slate Writing 1

You'll find a big selection of magic slates at your local craft store. Pick your slate size based on your venue. Here are two different methods for showing a blank slate (on both sides) that hides a yet-to-be-revealed secret message from the spirit world:

<https://vimeo.com/141700202>



Remember that when you show each side of the slates, your audience still won't know what you're planning. Act nonchalant and they won't pay close enough attention until it's too late.

After showing that both sides of the slate are blank, put a small piece of chalk between the slates. Hold the slates up to a spectator's ear while scratching on it with your fingernail. They'll confirm that they hear something.

You could also try combining it with the Pendulum Power trick, using two of the magic candles available from your local craft store.

Spirit Slate Writing 2

Was Spirit Slate Writing 1 a little heavy for your style? Then this one might be right up your alley.

A single slate is shown with the message on it reading "Please help and send message."

The magician shows that message, turns the slate towards himself and vigorously erases the message – putting the slate face-down on the table. If possible everyone at the table rests their fingertips lightly on the slate's frame.

When it's turned over, the joke is obvious. Some of the initial message must have been painted on to look like chalk! All the magician has done is erase the chalk portions of the initial message! Not too spooky after all.



Visit Dave Arch online at:
www.omahamagician.com.



Auto-magic

MICHAEL BREGGAR

Let's head to the UK this month and have another visit with our cool and quirky buddy, Chris Wardle.

Chris is the author of *Quirky Forces*, a wonderful book available everywhere. It provides details on fifty, nifty and ... well, quirky forces usable in just about any form of magic you desire. Chris remembered my lamenting that strong, *Auto-Magical* effects with coins are very difficult to find. Finally, he shared a super coin effect that he's had much success with.

This effect is not so much "quirky" as it is "fishy," but it is quite magical – and my close-up audiences have loved it.

"Fishy Coins"

By Chris Wardle

EFFECT: The performer displays two silver coins (to represent "poachers") and five copper coins (to represent salmon) in a circle. Holding a silver coin in each palm, the performer explains that two poachers caught five fish on a grand English country house estate and decided to share them. The performer now picks up a coin alternately in each hand, starting with their RIGHT hand, closing their hands around the coins.

The poachers were just leaving the country house estate when a gamekeeper was spotted in the distance, so they hid the fish in a bush along the bank and then hid themselves behind an old wall. The performer now places the five copper coins, one at a time, in a circle, alternating from each hand, starting with their LEFT hand.* (See note below later!)

When the gamekeeper had left the area, the poachers returned to the riverbank and

shared the salmon again. Pick up the coins as before, starting with the RIGHT hand.

The strange thing was that despite sharing them, one poacher took home four fish (open your RIGHT hand to show this) and the other poacher only got one! Open your LEFT hand to show this.

METHOD: Mike Breggar here. While the effect bears a close resemblance to the classic Milt Kort, Stewart James effect "Thieves and Sheep" (check out J.B. Bobo's *Modern Coin Magic*), there are several differences. And the method itself goes *way* back.

Here's Chris with the explanation:

This effect is based on an old swindle that has been performed in the past with matchsticks, coins, bottle caps, and dice. It can be found in many introductory magic and puzzle books. For example, there is a neat version called "Poachers and Fish," by Maurice Day, in his book *Masterclass Magic*. However, if watched closely, the discrepancy in the routine and handling can be spotted. The standard effect is performed with identical items, as one "poacher" has to represent a "fish" when they are replaced in a circle during the routine.

Therefore, I have tried to make it more deceptive by instead using a copper/silver coin set. Remember the asterisk in the presentation? This is where the sneaky part is executed. When you reach that particular spot in the presentation (noted by the *), the performer would actually have to place the silver coin down when he lays out the coins, if starting from the left hand, but by using a gimmicked copper/silver one, *it can be placed down with the copper side showing, and the left hand is then kept closed, as if it is still holding the silver*

coin! Later on, this coin is picked up first by the left hand, then a second coin is later picked up, so that when the hand is turned over and opened at the end, it displays one silver coin (as this side is showing) with one copper coin. The coins are deliberately laid out in a circle, so that the spectators cannot see any particular order to where you are picking up the coins.

Copper/silver sets can be bought from several dealers and consist of an American half-dollar, which has an old English penny on the reverse. Additional pennies can be bought from dealers and antique/coin supplies.

BONUS ROUTINE:

However, if you have a set of *two* copper/silver coins, you can create a really surprising alternative kicker ending to the routine:

You proceed with the moves as described above, displaying the silver coins at the start, one in each hand, but they are actually both copper/silver coins. In laying them out, when the poachers believe the gamekeeper is approaching, you place both gimmicked coins in the circle, copper-side up, keeping two genuine copper coins in your right hand.

Your LEFT hand then picks up the two gimmicked copper/silver coins when they are gathered up again, so you now have two silver coins in your LEFT hand – the poachers, and five copper coins in your

RIGHT hand – the salmon. To end the routine, you can now say that just as they were leaving the country house estate, the gamekeeper grabbed one of them (hold out your RIGHT hand) however, he got all of the salmon (open your hand to show the five copper coins, which can be allowed to drop onto the table or into a spectator's open hand) as the poachers were also magicians – and so they used a bit of magic to get away! (Open your LEFT hand to show the two silver coins! - the copper/silver coins showing 'silver side up!') This appears to be a clever sleight of hand, but is actually completely automatic thanks to the copper/silver coins. You now have an extra visual ending and an added surprise to the routine!

Auto-Notes.

There isn't much more to add to this. I'd suggest you first get comfortable with the original version noted above (rehearsal-wise), then add the second gaff coin and perform the bonus version (that's what I do) when ready to take this out for a drive.

I knew my audiences would be surprised and astonished by this routine. What I didn't expect is how much they laughed and were thoroughly entertained by the goings-on!

Cheers, Chris! And thanks for sharing this great routine!

Coin an email to me at mbreggarmagic@gmail.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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WANT TO ADVERTISE YOUR PRODUCT OR SERVICE IN *THE LINKING RING*?

Contact our Advertising Manager at advertising@magician.org. You may also place ads at www.magician.org. Click on Advertising to upload your file and pay with a credit card. All ads subject to approval.

NEED TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS?

Call our Headquarters Office at 636-724-2400 or e-mail office@magician.org. Please allow 60 days for a change of address. We do *some* mindreading, but we draw the line at guessing your next address.

MISSING AN ISSUE OF *THE LINKING RING*?

Call our Headquarters Office at 636-724-2400 or e-mail office@magician.org.

NEED TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A FELLOW MAGICIAN?

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

WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR NEWS ITEM?

Email editor@magician.org.

WANT TO SUBMIT A TRICK OR A PARADE?

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

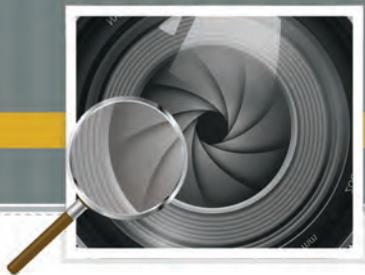
WANT TO SUBMIT A RING EVENT?

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

WANT TO SUBMIT A RING REPORT?

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

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



Videos

Opening Minds

Colin McLeod. Alakazam Magic UK. Available from Your Favorite Dealer (Your Dealer will provide you with information to access this online). Wholesale from Murphy's Magic Supplies. www.murphysmagic.com. \$62.



Originally published as a gorgeous four-DVD case in 2010, *Opening Minds* is now available as a four-file download. The material is more than twelve years old but far from dated. There are almost seven hours of mentalism to watch. Believe me when I say that you'll want to watch it several times – that's how entertaining and high-quality the materials, presentations, and instructions are.

The fifteen effects (six close-up, nine stage/platform) were culled from McLeod's then-current performing repertoire. The first three videos focus on stage effects, which were performed before a live theater audience just for these videos. While not McLeod's normal show, the audience was aware that they were attending a show that was being recorded. That means we get to see a master perform for a real audience in a real performance environment. The close-up performances were filmed in

either the real world or in the studio for his friend Mark Elston. Elston also sits in on all fifteen explanations, asking the same questions and making the same observations that we would if we were present.

If you've been seriously involved with mentalism for any length of time, you already own the DVDs. It's difficult to pass up a deal for almost seven hours of Colin McLeod's training for less than \$100. Having said that, if you're *not* a serious mentalist then these videos are probably not for you. Mixing McLeod's mentalism with sponge bunnies, card tricks, or Zig-Zag is difficult to pull off (possible, but difficult). On the other hand, these videos are required viewing if you want to learn mentalism. The effects are great, but McLeod covers concepts that are more valuable than the tricks. We should all pay attention to his audience management and treatment of onstage assistants. Everyone returns to their seats feeling like they made a new friend and were treated with respect. That, alone, is worth the price of admission.

As a magician, some of the methods taught may surprise you. Gimmicks you would never expect to see in mentalism are explored in new ways (well, as new as they could have been twelve years ago). McLeod uses no electronics, no stooges, and no secret assistants. Everything packs flat and plays big.

It would be easy to turn this review into a book report and describe each and every one of the series' effects. For now, let's just hit a few highlights. One of my favorites is the first effect on video four, "Result," a variation of *Albertest* from T.A. Waters' *Mind, Myth & Magic*. The effect is a

“bookless book test” in which a spectator is asked to think of a book, then a page number, then three words on the page before finally selecting one to concentrate on. The mentalist writes a word on a blank card that matches the spectator’s thought-of word. To perform the effect, all you need are a pen and a stack of blank cards. No secret writing or false moves, just choreography. For stage, I really like his chair test. This clean and visible effect uses four spectators and is as entertaining as it is mystifying.

If you’ve been around for a while, go into your closet and find these DVDs and watch them again. If not, buy them if you perform or want to perform mentalism. You won’t find a better deal.

Highly recommended. *Fred Rosenbaum*

Talk About Tricks, Volumes 1-3

Joshua Jay. L&L Publishing. Available from Your Favorite Dealer. Wholesale from Murphy’s Magic Supplies. www.murphymagic.com. \$49.95.



Joshua Jay’s *Talk About Tricks* features an enormous spectrum of magic cards, coins, and more, with approximately ninety tricks shared over seven and a half hours. Jay was sixteen when he began writing articles for *MAGIC Magazine*, which he did from 2001 until 2013. Later, he reprinted the articles in his book *Talk About Tricks* and has now released the book in video format. The price of the book series is \$250 and well worth it. While the video set does not include every trick covered in the books, it’s a steal at only \$49.95. The material is good for walk-around, close-up, and restaurant magic. The audio and video are

well done with no extraneous background noise, and the camera angles are good.

Both Jay and guest magicians perform tricks for the video, while demonstrating and explaining their original routines for cards, coins, predictions, mentalism tricks, and more. Contributors include performers such as Joshua Jay, Paul Cummings, Joel Givens, Rune Klan, Rick Maue, Francis Menotti, Eric Buss, Bob Farmer, Martin Gardner, Larry Jennings, David Parr, Gregory Wilson, and many more.

The first section runs almost two hours and covers ten routines. It teaches an Elevator trick by David Solomon called “Poker Effect,” which I have incorporated in my own close-up routines. It combines a story about blackjack and poker that gets a “Wow!” reaction.

The second section runs thirteen minutes. However, it really seems to be just an advertisement for some short snippets of various magicians. I was disappointed that Jay did not include explanations with this section, because it shows some awesome tricks. The third section has fourteen tricks, performances, and explanations. It runs about two and a half hours. There are tricks from Jay, Michael Ammar, Bob Read, and others.

The fourth section is seventeen minutes of Jay performing at least sixteen tricks, but with no explanations. The fifth section is strictly advertising. The three-hour sixth section features performances and instructions for more than fifty tricks. Jay performs his “Any Card, Any Page” routine. It is an easy trick to learn and perform with confidence, and it gets a good response from the spectator. Givens shows an excellent coin routine that he calls “Ninja Coin.” Jay does a prediction from Manuel Llassar called “Llassar Open Prediction.” I enjoyed this routine, but felt that it’s meant more for advanced magicians because of its complex sleight of hand that will take a lot of practice to perfect.

I also enjoyed Ryan Swigert’s “Kick Back,” a misdirection routine involving a spectator and two jokers. He repeats the

trick with the spectator holding the jokers, when in fact she doesn't. His routine and story are both delightful and comedic, using misdirection that is easy to learn and perform. The seventh section features comedy bits and magic routines by Harry Allen and David Regal.

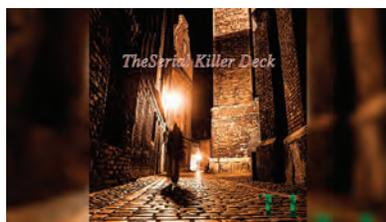
Because most of the tricks require some more advanced skills, I recommend this DVD primarily for advanced and intermediate magicians. However, beginners may find a few good tricks to pursue and to expand their skills.

Highly recommended. *Arnie Levin*

Tricks

Serial Killer Playing Cards

Taylor Imagineering. Available from Your Favorite Dealer. Wholesale from Murphy's Magic Supplies. www.murphysmagic.com. \$25.



Like many magicians, I think before I buy a deck of cards online because it can be hard to tell what you're getting. I like to visit my local brick-and-mortar magic shop and touch before I make any purchases. The moment I saw the Serial Killer deck on Penguin Magic, however, I put it right in my shopping cart. I was confident that "A Unique Deck of Playing Cards Depicting Serial Killers from Around the World" would lend itself to some engaging routines – and it certainly did.

These cards play best when used for strolling magic effects whenever there are groups of adults socializing. The first place I used them was at a casino party, and right out of the gate they were a hit. Cocktail tables are helpful for laying out the cards. As I got to know the group, I would ask them if they would like to see something a

little scary. People often responded with an enthusiastic yes, and the net was cast. I got an incredibly strong reaction to this trick. The story I shared with them raised the hairs on the back of their necks and, by the end, they were so amazed that they cracked up laughing at each other.

What is the deck like? It's a novelty deck where every card has a different black-and-white photograph of a serial killer or murderer in the center on a white background. Beneath each photo are the name of the killer, the country they're from, and the year(s) when they were "active." The photos have a thin black border and standard pips in black and red. The joker cards are two famous unidentified serial killers: Jack the Ripper and the Zodiac Killer.

Half of the deck features killers from before 1900, so it's perfect if you would like to do a historical piece. For my routine, I wanted serial killers that the people I was entertaining had already heard about. There was plenty to fascinate my audiences, so I placed the cards where I could easily show them. At the bottom of the deck, I put Richard Ramirez (California's Night Stalker), Aileen Wuornos (who Charlize Theron played in 2003's *Monster*) and Ed Kemper (who is smart, chatty, and one of the people the FBI interviewed when they were first developing serial killer profiles). At the top, I put Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, David Berkowitz (New York's Son of Sam), John Wayne Gacy, and Gary Ridgeway (the Green River Killer).

In addition to fifty-four killers, the deck comes with ten "quote cards" featuring some of their creepy quotations. I adapted my routine from one by Rolando Santos, which was provided with the deck. I start by saying that I am fascinated by serial killers because my brother was almost abducted by one (true story). I show them some of the serial killers in the deck and say a little something about them, drawing in the audience. I set a card on the table, face down, and say Rolando's wonderful line, "The latest crime statistics show that

every one of us will walk alongside or past a murderer not once, not twice, but thirty-six times in our life. You could be standing near a murderer right now.”

I explain that it’s our basic instincts (like when we sense something hinky and the hair goes up on the back of our neck) that can save us. I then say, “Let’s try an experiment to see if one of you can sense a killer.” Following the procedure laid out in the deck’s accompanying PDF, my volunteer makes a series of choices based on their “instincts” and ends up with two face-down cards. I say, “Two people left on the street. One is certainly a killer. The other card represents your best instincts. That moment when you turn away, and don’t let him into your life.” She senses which card makes her uncomfortable and flips over the other one. It’s the blank-faced card.

I say, “I knew your instincts would protect you.” (Sigh of relief.) “But I also knew that one of the worst serial killers of all time was right next to you. Please flip over the other card.” She does and shows her friends the bad guy. I say, “And you’ll notice at the very beginning of our experiment I set aside one other card. You see I purchased an extra set of cards.” (This is a lie – there are only ten with the deck.) “They have quotations from each of the famous serial killers in the deck. Can you see which quotation I chose?” She reads the quotation aloud, which is from the very serial killer she just avoided. I end by saying, “I’m so glad you avoided him.” The group usually doesn’t hear my last line

because their own reaction is so loud. I adapted this routine to one where the woman chooses to listen to that little voice inside her, rather than the original which seemed to be more about being saved by someone else. Not only is it dramatic and humorous, but it doesn’t need any sleights or advanced card magic – just some set-up and a bit of bravado.

The deck comes with a PDF featuring routines by Christopher Taylor, Rolando Santos, and Vince Wilson, so you’ll have plenty of ideas to work with. There is also a bonus download video that teaches two effects. The video is shot over the shoulder and features Christopher Taylor with a Spell to Name effect and a Think a Card trick (which is a reworking of his Half-Track).

You have more to work with, too. The deck includes a double backer and a blank-faced card, and each card has a standard-looking red diamond and white back design that is also a one-way back design. If you already use cards to do spooky routines, this deck will be easy to use.

The deck also has two reference cards that show every card and its corresponding killer. A separate PDF has material about the killers and some of their victims.

Why would tricks with serial killers resonate with an audience? Because we are all fascinated with the macabre. And really, you’re a magician. If you’re at their table entertaining them, they already know you’re a little weird, anyway.

Highly recommended. *Belle Daily*

Hocus in Focus welcomes products for review. Send items to:

Hocus in Focus Reviews
11018 Anaqua Springs Road
Boerne, Texas 78006

Unsolicited items will not be returned unless accompanied by return postage and a mailing label.

**Support the magic dealers who support the I.B.M.
Buy from *The Linking Ring* advertisers!**

Broken Wand

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



DUANE "DUKE" BECHTEL

Duane E. "Duke" Bechtel, 79, of Beaumont, California, died October 26, 2022. He held I.B.M. number 67810 and had been a member since 2008. A police officer by trade, Bechtel ran two magic stores in Beaumont and Calimesa, California, from 1990 to 2014. He also toured – often



performing shows with his son, Edwin, including a fundraiser for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Los Angeles. Duke's father, who dabbled in magic tricks as a hobby, introduced him to magic when he was ten years old. His father laid out four wads of paper, covered each of them with a cloth, and then showed that the paper had moved from under one cloth to another. And another. And another. Duke was hooked. He would later use the same trick to hook his own seven-year-old son, Edwin, on magic. Over the course of his twenty-two-year career as a Beaumont police officer, Duke performed many twenty-minute magic shows. In 1990, he was still on the force when he opened his first magic shop, which he ran for four years during his spare time. He opened another shop in Calimesa in 2001 and ran it for thirteen years. Duke is survived by his son Edwin, two sisters, and an extended family of nieces and nephews.

JOSEPH GENNA

Joseph Genna, 82, of Toms River, New Jersey, died January 20, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 46915 and had been a member since 1991. He belonged to the

Order of Merlin (twenty-five years of continuous membership). While growing up in Elizabeth, New Jersey, he worked for his father at the family



business, Opal Cleaners. Joe graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School and enlisted in the United States Army, where he was assigned to the 4th Missile Battalion (Nike-Hercules) 71st Air Defense Artillery. Following his service in the military, he worked in Linden, New Jersey at the Food Fair warehouse while taking flying lessons at Linden Airport during his spare time. He earned his pilot ratings and became the Chief Flight Instructor for Linden Flight Service, rising to the position of Director of Operations of Linden Airport Flight School and Charter Service. Joe was also a designated pilot examiner for the Teterboro area. He became a corporate pilot for PRC Management Company, where he remained until his retirement. In addition to magic, Joe learned to play the organ at the Organ Club of America, earning the Song of the Month Award, and later honed his musical skills with his many friends at Royal Music. He is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Pat; two sons, Joey (Nancy) and Tony (Dawn); a sister, Jeanette (Tony) Fedeli; two grandchildren; and extended family.

DOUG KUHN

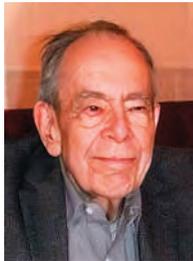
Doug Kuhn, 86, of St. Clements, Ontario, Canada, died March 5, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 49761 and had been a member from 1993 to 2008. He was a tool and die maker and designer with a passion

for repairing clocks. Doug amassed a collection of about thirty clocks in his home, earning him the nickname “Grandpa Tick Tick” from his grandchildren. A man of many interests, he also enjoyed genealogy, hunting, gardening, and bonsai, and was a member of the Elmira Amateur (Ham) Radio Club, the R.O.M.E.O. Breakfast Club, and the Waterloo Historical Society. He is survived by his beloved wife of sixty years, Annette (Schell); children Jim (Simone), Jeffrey (John), and Jackie (Ed); and grandchildren Jake Bugarsky (Isabella), Jarod Kuhn, Evan Kuhn, and Josh Bugarsky (Hanna).



MARLIN “LEE” LEGAULT

Marlin Charles “Lee” Legault, 92, of Platte City, Missouri, died March 12, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 28516 and had been a member since 1975. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership). Marlin was born in Chateaugay, New York in 1930, and in 1961 he was legally adopted by Frederick Clifford Legault of Malone, New York. He was raised in Chateaugay and joined the military at the age of sixteen. Marlin began his Air Force training in Texas and was stationed in Colorado before moving stations to Rapid City, South Dakota, where he met and married Frances Jane Fischer. He was later stationed at various air force bases in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Anchorage, Alaska; Rantoul, Illinois; Biloxi, Mississippi; and the Philippines. He served as an equipment technician in the Flight Checker’s Squadron, where he installed and tested radar systems. Marlin’s service included the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In 1972, he retired from military duty and



began working for Wilcox Electronics, eventually moving to the Kansas City area in 1975. Marlin performed magic at benefits shows as well as USO shows. He was awarded the Taps & Blue Award, which earned him a live television appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, as well as an award from the USAF Flight Checkers for thirty years of continuous entertainment. Marlin’s hobbies included woodcarving and tinkering with electronics and computers. He belonged to the Twelve Apostles Catholic Church in Platte City, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion in Parkville, Missouri, and the Platte City V.F.W., where he served as commander for military honor guards. Marlin was also active in the fundraising efforts for the Veteran’s Memorial at the Platte City courthouse. He is survived by his wife, Frances; children Doreen (Sheldon), Darleen, Marlin D., Donald, Gregory, and Dawn (Dwayne); and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

HARRY LORAYNE

Harry Lorayne (*née* Harry Ratzer), 96, of Newburyport, Massachusetts, died April 7, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 17783 and had been a member since 1960. He was a member of the Order of Merlin Excelsior (sixty years of continuous membership). He grew up in Manhattan, New York’s Lower East Side, where he struggled through poverty and undiagnosed dyslexia before serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. After his discharge from the military, Harry – who dropped out of high school but spent countless hours in the library studying memory techniques and the magical arts – earned a living as a table magician at Billy Reed’s Little Club in Manhattan. There, he had a chance encounter with actor Victor Jory, who was so impressed by Harry’s memory skills that it convinced Harry to



make a full-time career shift to lecturing, writing, and performing memory tricks. Harry was a regular on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, and also appeared on *The Merv Griffin Show*, *The Mike Douglas Show*, *The Regis Philbin Show*, *Good Morning America*, and *The Today Show*, among others. He wrote more than fourteen books on the subject of memory, including his *New York Times* best-seller *The Memory Book*, which sold over two million copies and has been cited by both Bob Dylan and Alan Alda as one of the books that influenced them. *Time* magazine called him “The Yoda of Memory Training.” Harry was a prominent cardiologist who not only published a plethora of books and periodicals on the subject of card magic, but was considered one of the most distinguished magicians in his field. He was predeceased by his wife, Renee, in 2014. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Elizabeth Lorayne, and granddaughter, Vivi.

BRIAN McADAM

Brian Charles McAdam, 80, of Ottawa, Ontario, died December 12, 2022. He held I.B.M. number 19789 and had been a continuous member since 1995. He belonged to Ring 151. Brian was born in Edmonton, Alberta on February 17, 1942. He earned a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Alberta in 1965. Following his education he completed his Foreign Service exam, which took him to Ottawa. Brian spent his working life serving his country as a Canadian diplomat. Brian’s wisdom stemmed from his life experiences and enthusiasm for reading. He had a massive library. His humble nature, big smile, and kind heart made him both approachable and enjoyable to visit with. Brian always found time to converse with others, sharing stories about life, magic, and every-



thing in between. His interest in magic began when he was twelve years old. His uncle showed him some tricks which kick-started his interest in magic and a desire to read everything he could find about the topic. He loved magic and was most passionate about mentalism. He was a committed member of Ring 151, performing at charity shows, storing the Ring’s magic library at his house, offering his home for meetings and lectures. Both Brian and his wife, Marie, were exceptional hosts. Brian showed courage and strength during his years as a diplomat and later while challenged with a variety of health issues. His gentle spirit and mission to do good for others will always be remembered. He is survived by his wife Marie, his sons Sean and Colin, his stepdaughter Paula, and seven grandchildren.

RICHARD SNOWBERG

Richard Lee Snowberg, 81, of Denver, Colorado, died March 19, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 26402 and had been a member from 1974 to 1994.

He grew up in West Bend, Wisconsin, as well as the towns of Valparaiso, Indiana and Elwood, Indiana. In 1960, Rich graduated from Sterling High School in Sterling, Illinois before receiving his undergraduate degree in physical education from Illinois State University in 1964. He was the top-ranked player on the Illinois State University tennis team. Rich taught physical education in Illinois for three years before pursuing a doctoral degree in educational media at Indiana University. He completed his doctoral degree in 1971 and was hired as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Later, the University of Arkansas hired him to launch their educational media program. In 1975, he returned to Wisconsin as an associate professor at



University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UW-L), where he taught media courses and supervised their campus media center until his retirement in 2000. Rich liked to incorporate magic into his university lectures and developed a clown character named “Snowflake,” which he performed as for years at parties, celebrations, and hospitals. He also wrote six books on the subject of clowning and later founded the “Clown Camp” adult clown training program. Rich spent thirty years as the Clown Camp’s

director. He was elected three times as the President of the World Clown Association, where he organized international clown training programs in Scotland, Singapore, and Borneo. In 1999, Rich was inducted into the International Clown Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Janice (Tobler); sons Eric (Jennifer) and David (Michelle); grandchildren Blaise and Lena; sisters Karen (Ron) and Jean (Rick); and brothers-in-law Jack (Beth) Tobler and Jerry (Barb) Tobler.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WANT TO ADVERTISE YOUR PRODUCT OR SERVICE IN THE LINKING RING?

Contact our Advertising Manager at advertising@magician.org. You may also place ads at www.magician.org. Click on Advertising to upload your file and pay with a credit card. All ads subject to approval.

NEED TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS?

Call our Headquarters Office at 636-724-2400 or e-mail office@magician.org. Please allow 60 days for a change of address. We do *some* mindreading, but we draw the line at guessing your next address.

MISSING AN ISSUE OF THE LINKING RING?

Call our Headquarters Office at 636-724-2400 or e-mail office@magician.org.

NEED TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A FELLOW MAGICIAN?

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

WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR NEWS ITEM?

Email editor@magician.org.

WANT TO SUBMIT A TRICK OR A PARADE?

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

Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



Reports **must** be received by the 15th of each month to appear in the second following issue (for example, your January report will be published in March or April). Please e-mail reports to ringreports@magician.org with "Ring Reports" in the subject heading. You will receive confirmation of receipt. Reports of excessive length may be edited to meet space requirements. Please notify the reports editor, Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org, if changes need to be made to your Ring report headings (such as changes in officers' names, addresses, or times of meetings).

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

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

Gary S. Chan shared the following: "Dave Cox brought fun and excitement to Ring 1 on March 1, 2023. His stage persona is full of energy, and he generated lots of laughs from the audience. Dave is incredibly engaging with the audience, and this writer's personal opinion is that this engagement is what differentiates Dave. He had plenty of jokes at his ready (or he's just really good at making them up on the fly) for all of the situations that would arise during his performance. His approach kept all volunteers on their toes and, thus, also the audience's. Of course, a magic lecture wouldn't be a magic lecture without any magic! Dave taught us many different tricks, the most memorable of which was a routine involving toilet paper. I never knew toilet paper could be so much fun!"

Dave is from Virdin, Illinois which is twenty miles south of Springfield. As a teenager, he would visit Gene Devoe's shop in St. Louis. Dave now lives in Pasadena, California and travels all over the world performing magic. His father, Jim Cox, was able to attend the lecture. Jim is the I.B.M. Territorial Vice President for Illinois.

Eckert's farm booked Jill "Silly Jilly the Clown" Schmidt to perform three shows daily for five days as part of their Easter Egg-Citement. One routine she designed for her new Easter theme show is a pizza oven type trick where Silly Jilly claims she is better at hiding eggs than the Easter Bunny. The observant kids are on to her as they notice the Easter egg move, but in the end, they are baffled when the egg is on Silly Jilly's back. Jill tested a small homemade version at her weekly restaurant gig, and after learning it was a hit, she hired Jam Stone Magic to build her a large quality version.

Several Ring 1 members were interviewed on St. Louis television stations regarding their upcoming events. Christian Misner and Zi Wang were interviewed on KMOV talking about their February 17th performance at Union Station. Follow this link to view it: <https://www.kmov.com/video/2023/02/17/learn-about-mardi-gras-ball-happening-tonight-union-station/>. Randy Kalin, Jesse Bader, and Josh Weidner were featured on KSDK regarding their show, *Disbelief*, that they would be performing at the Westport Playhouse on March 11th.

Dan Todd shared the following: "The Children's Hospital magic show was held on the first Friday of the month. I performed 'Aladdin's Lamp' (Blue Genie gag), 'Spirit Slates' revealing how many beads the spectator separated them at (via Jumbo Dean's Beads), 'Magic Coloring Book' ('My Favorite Things' with color changing streamer), 'EMPTY' (the word empty is in jumbo magnetic letters; the 'E' is removed and placed in a box. It's still spoken MPTY Repeated by removing 'P,' and so on. After all the letters are removed, the board is literally 'Empty!' The box is now Empty too!), "Grandma's Pearl Necklace" (broken and restored with acting it out), 'Mis-Made Queen,' 'Square Circle' (bird cage finale w/chirps), 'Three Frog Monte,' and 'What's Next.'

I visited Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital on the second Monday of the month. It was great! I performed Barry Mitchell's 'Super Screen' (Buda Screen, Devil's Rope (while assembled, I got the rope to stand on its own on the table), 'Spirit Slates' revealing how many beads the spectator separated them at (via Jumbo Dean's Beads), my Chess version of 'Cereal Killer,' used *Book of Magic* to find a missing racoon, 'Block Through Head,' my large version of the Astro Cabinet with a small basketball and net, Back to Front Cardholder for the selection and a stage Nested Boxes for the reveal, Brazen

with No Brainer Bags, 'Even Granny knows Your Card Jumbo,' and a fifty-foot Multi Color Paper Production. The show elicited smiles, gasps, and laughter. They love seeing us." The Ring really appreciates Dan's visits to these hospitals. He is creative, enthusiastic, energetic and dependable (he visits these hospitals every month). The children, their parents, and the staff thoroughly enjoy his magic visits.

Christian Misner shared the following: "The 2023 Winter Carnival of Magic in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee was one of the most exciting events of the year for magic enthusiasts. This annual festival is a gathering of some of the most talented magicians from all over the world, and it is a celebration of the art of magic in all its forms. The Winter Carnival of Magic has been held in Pigeon Forge for almost fifty years, and it has become a staple of the magic community. Each year, the festival attracts hundreds of visitors who come to see the incredible performances, attend workshops, and meet fellow magic lovers. This year's festival was bigger and better than ever before, with a lineup of world-class magicians and performers such as Christopher T. Magician, Artem Shchukin, Aaron Radatz, Jon Armstrong, Guy Bavli, David Corsaro, Scott Wells, David Ginn, Bill Gladwell, Michael Bloemeke, Mike Hummer, Sterlini, Jay Blackwell, and Jonathan Neal and Liane. The event included a variety of shows and lectures, covering everything from close-up magic to mentalism. One of the highlights of the festival were the Friday and Saturday night shows, which featured some of the biggest names in magic (see above). Members of the public were invited to join the festival attendees for incredible performances that left us all amazed and awestruck. In addition to the performances, the Winter Carnival of Magic also included a dealers' room, where visitors could browse and purchase magic tricks and props from some of the industry's top suppliers. Overall, the Winter Carnival of Magic in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee is an event that should not be missed by anyone who loves magic. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, there is something for everyone at this festival. So, mark your calendars and get ready for next year's magical experience!"

Michael W. McClure reports: *Magic Moments-Volume 1- Our Favorites*, our Ring's enhanced video recording of members' recent performances, has been in the hands of four St. Louis area children's hospitals for over a month now. This thirty-six-minute production features family friendly magic acts by six of our talented members, which are interlaced with vibrant original segues of interactive effects and humor cre-

ated by me for this project. The constant transitions from live performance to cartoon segments is very effective in retaining the attention of the hospitalized children and their families. I asked one of our newer members, Paul Gregor, to create original background music for the project to help sustain the mood. The hospitals were provided with a digital file containing the complete show, which they have now added to the hourly rotation of entertainment on their CCTV services. Each hospital's Activity Director has been overwhelmed with our production and has expressed gratitude and praise for I.B.M. Ring 1's considerate donation of time and talent for the comfort of their little clients. As always, we stand ready to answer the call when in-person performances are again allowed, but for now, it is richly rewarding to have produced a product that will bring joy (and a needed distraction) to hospitalized children and families during their times of difficulty. Our second volume is still in the works and will be a welcome sequel once edited. In the months ahead, our plans include future filming that will focus on children-specific themes. I encourage every Ring to stretch their directorial skills and give this sort of project a try. It was great fun, for a great cause; what more could you ask for in a club activity? Please contact me if you have any questions, or just want to learn more about the undertaking. I can be reached at watson7654321@gmail.com." To view *Magic Moments Volume 1* please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDhw5InEIo4&t=897s.
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

Vice President James Killmeyer opened our March meeting. The following Ring 2 members and friends were present: Susan and Warren Campbell, Paul Capito, Fritz and Janice Coombs, Jim Hathy, Larry and Kayla Henderson, James and Eric Killmeyer, Jim Klayder, Peter Lucke, Mark Miller, Gary Morton, and Brian Moss. The theme of the evening was a box effect.

Peter Lucke opened members' magic with "Numberground" by Mickael Chatelain. He showed us a small Chinese box. From a drawer in the box, he produced a card box. Peter invited Janice to assist him. He took out the cards and spread them in his hands. Janice verified that they were in a random order. Peter again spread them face down and had Janice select a random card. He announced that he had a prediction as he opened the top lid to reveal a card, the QC. Janice

noted that it wasn't her card. So, Peter took out a marker and wrote another prediction on the back of the card, he wrote 5D. Janice said that wasn't it either. Peter then gave the card a shake in his hand, the 5D morphed into 3D, and Janice said that was correct.

Larry Henderson amazed us with "4K Color Vision" by Brent Braun. He showed us a die that had a different colored spot on each side. He invited James to assist him. Larry also had a small plastic box into which the die would fit, and a lid covered the die. While Larry had his back turned, he asked James to put the die into the box and put on the lid. Larry turned around and read James's mind. He stated that the color of the visible side of the die was blue. When the box was opened, he was correct. The effect was repeated in a variety of ways, and Larry was always able to predict the color of the die's face.

Brian Moss continued with "Picturesque" by John Guastafiero and David Regal. It is a variation of McDonald's Aces but performed with wine glasses. Brian began by placing four wine glasses in a row on the table. He asked Larry to assist him, and then showed us sixteen cards, the four aces and all the court cards. He placed one ace face out in each glass. Next, he placed three court cards behind each ace, the court cards faced backwards. He handed the glass with the AS to Larry. Brian then picked up a glass touched it to Larry's glass and revealed that the ace was no longer in Brian's glass. This process was repeated for the remaining two glasses, and in each case, the ace disappeared. Brian concluded by revealing that Larry's glass now contained all four aces.

Jim Klayder was next with "Card in the Box." He opened a card box, removed the cards and fanned them out in his hand. Jim then pushed up a selected card, and asked the audience if they were, "Happy with that one?" No one responded. Jim then opened the box, took out one card, it matched the selection.

Fritz Coombs entertained us with "Die Box" by Delben. He showed us the die box, and that it had four doors that could be opened, two on top, and two facing us. He also showed us an empty paper bag. Into the bag, Fritz placed a large die, and asked the audience if he should transfer it visibly or invisibly to the box. There were a variety of responses, so he chose to transfer it invisibly. He then pretended to move the die to the box. Continuing, he invisibly transferred the die back to the bag, and held it up to show us it was there. Next, he visibly transferred the die to the box, and then transferred it invisibly back to the bag. Fritz tipped the box from side to side, and the noise it made demonstrated the die was in the box. He opened the doors in a variety of ways,

but no die was visible. Finally, he opened a door, and we saw the die. He closed the door and opened all the doors; the die had now vanished. Then he took the die out of the bag.

James Killmeyer told us the history of cards. He said that they were first invented in China shortly after the invention of paper. He described various decks that were developed. Then he showed us his deck of cards and had an audience member cut the deck. James then did a few fancy cuts himself. Finally, he had Fritz cut the deck again. The top card turned out to be the AS, known as the leader card. James then spread the deck to demonstrate that the other cards followed the leader, they were all in new deck order.

Susan Campbell invited Janice to assist her in her effect. She took out a deck from a blue box and spread it face up on the table. Susan then asked Janice to select one of the cards, it was the 10D. Susan then asked what the color of the backs of the cards was and pointed to the box. Janice said, "Blue." Susan then asked what the color of Janice's selected card was, it was blue, but of a different shade. Susan concluded by spreading the deck face down on the table to show that every card had a differently colored back.

Gary Morton continued with "Hold it Buster" by Dan Harlan. Gary got out an envelope with jumbo cards in it. There was a square opening in the envelope showing the Queen of Diamonds. Out of the envelope he took four cards, three 5Ss, and the QD. He began his patter with a story about how his father would decide if he had to do certain chores. The father would begin by placing the QD in a stand on the table, back side to the audience. He then turned one of the 5Hs around, so we saw the back. The father asked Gary where the queen was located. Gary chose the hand. But the queen was on the stand. The father repeated the effect by placing a card in the stand and reversing a card in his hand. So, this time Gary chose the stand, but the queen was in the hand. Gary continued with different variations on the same effect, along with some very amusing patter.

Closing members' magic Jim Hathy performed "Coffee, Tea, or Sugar." Jim placed a cup and saucer on the table along with a napkin. He invited Janice to sit at the table. He had Janice clean the cup and the saucer with the napkin. Jim then had Janice place the saucer on top of the cup. Finally, he had her pour the cup into the saucer; sugar poured out.

Our guest Mark Miller next performed "Roll" by Chris Congreave. He began by placing three dice on the table. He had three audience members either select a die or choose an imaginary die.

They each rolled their die, imaginary or real, and announce the number that came up. They were three, two, and one. Mark added them to get six. He then took out a deck of cards, counted to the sixth card, and placed it face down on the table. Mark announced that there was a prediction in the deck. He pushed one card forward from the deck, on its back was written, "You will roll a 6 and the 6th card will be a Three of Clubs."

Finally, Gary Morton entertained us with a mini show. He performed the world famous "Eleven Dollar Bill Trick." Following that he continued with an egg-in-the-bag trick. *Peter Lucke*

RING 6, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA – Delaware Valley Conjurers Club

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

DAVE KELLY, Acting Recording Secretary

Web site: www.ibmring6.com

We held our first meeting of the new year via Zoom, thanks to the decision of club leaders who wanted to be sure that we could meet whatever the Philadelphia-area weather could bring. Twenty of us enjoyed a fun and educational night with Doug Conn, who has an extensive presence on social media in addition to busking in the streets of New Orleans.

Doug began with a David Roth coin routine, a four-coin transposition on a table using only his hands and the coins. He remarked that this gives him two to three minutes of action, which help to draw a nice group of observers to his tabletop when he is performing on the street. He then finished with a "coin flurry" with one of the Morgan silver dollars, signaling the transition to his next routine. To perform, he uses a wooden tabletop, covered in cloth, and placed on a keyboard stand.

Doug demonstrated the importance of sound, movement, and color, with a short four-ring linking rings routine. He said this makes it clear to passers-by that he is a magician, not a street-gambler hustler. It helps to draw in a workable crowd.

A card effect had a selected and signed card reappear inside a wallet, wrapped in paper money. To signal where tips are to go, he returns the signed card to his volunteer, and drops the bills into his upturned tip hat. It's a visual sign that money will be appreciated! As tips go into the hat, he has a series of funny, scripted lines to keep the mood light, and the tips flowing. He also showed a placard with links for audience members to send tips via Venmo or PayPal. So many people no longer carry cash, and this is a great idea when they want to show their appreciation for his fifteen-minute show.

A street performer's signature effect is often the "Cups and Balls." Doug performed several routines using only two cups, and one of them seemed like a Chop Cup effect but used only regular cups and

Alan Wong's tennis balls for one of the surprise climaxes.

Near the break, he explained where to find much of the magic that he shares via YouTube videos, along with his website. He has several sets of lecture notes available as PDFs for very low cost! He also shared the fact that he uses Morgan dollar replicas produced by Oliver Magic, available online. They look like the real thing and are nowhere the cost of real silver dollars.

Social media presence is very important for performers today, and Doug shared tips to get more views online. He starts with a short, visual "hook" effect to grab viewers' attention. He asks viewers to "like" and "share" his videos. Good lighting and sound are also important to produce a quality product.

Even though we did not meet in person, we were together in spirit, and had a great night. In February, we will again meet via Zoom to host bubble-magician Meadow Perry.

Our March theme was "Teach a Trick," and nine members shared a great variety of creative and easy to learn magic. Dan Cashin started the night with "Random Acts of Pseudo Magic." Dan is a professional Industrial Rigger, and often gives safety lectures to professionals. He sometimes throws in a little rope magic to energize his pupils. Dan took a brass ring, had a volunteer tie it onto a string. Then the helper tied another knot on the string, and just like that, the ring penetrated the string. Dan carefully shared the timing and reasoning behind every move.

Magical Reba (Strong) taught a trick from *Magic for Dummies*, on page 82! Reba had a deck of cards wrapped up in gift paper with a card theme. A helper selected a card, and Reba asked if this card was pictured on the paper. It was not. She then had the helper turn the paper over, and on the back were pictures of the backs of all the cards, except that one was face up – a picture of the selected card. Reba had copies made of the needed gimmick, and we now all have a template to recreate this miracle.

Ed Schmitt generously shared his Dental Floss magic. Using real waxed dental floss, Ed showed how to make an inexpensive version of the "Gypsy Thread." Using waxed floss helps to make it a very easy, and very fooling version. "And you can get fifty performances from a single roll of dental floss," Ed said. Mitchell Kaplan shared his "Senses" card effect, where a volunteer picks one red and one black card from a face up, shuffled deck. The volunteer holds the cards behind the back, and Mitchell was able to divine which card was in each hand repeatedly. He also had the helper hold the full deck behind his back and told him which color card would be dealt next. A great effect with no preparation.

Randy Butters shared his new sponge ball act, using large multicolor sponge balls. He drew on his years in the Air Force, playing martial music while he had his volunteer stand at attention and follow directions precisely. The balls appeared and disappeared at will, and the music enhanced the fun of his “military” commands. A really unique routine, and he shared his methods at the end. David Hale stunned with a “No-Gimmick Sealed Invisible Deck.” The spectator handles the deck the entire time, even unsealing the deck to reveal the thought-of card to be reversed in the pack. David showed the preparation, and the fact that this deck can then be used for regular card magic after the reveal.

Dave Kelly did his version of the classic “Professor’s Nightmare.” Dave used heavy maritime grade nylon rope for visibility. He started with the usual “move” needed to make the magic happen, and then shared his twist move. Once the three ropes are “ready,” he drops the ends to show them unchanged. Then he grabs the ends and then makes the ropes change length. He explained the need to slow down when performing this. We’ve all done this a thousand times, but it’s the first time for most audiences to see this little miracle. He returns the ropes to original sizes with one touch of the end of one rope.

Chris Fabiano used music to create atmosphere for his “Magician Who Doesn’t Care.” Using only a Post-it note, a penny, and playing card, Chris slowly wrapped the coin in the paper, pulled out a small wand, and vanished the coin. Then he cleanly turned over the card and the coin reappeared. Very slow, clean, and open. One simple gimmicked card and a standard paper fold made the magic happen.

Marc DeSouza took us back to his childhood with his memories of a “Duck Pond” at a local summer fair at a local church. He took six costumed rubber ducks out of a bag and lined them up on a table. He asked a volunteer to name a number between one and six, then turned over that selected number ducky and it was the winner! Marc explained several ways to get the correct number ducky, and the effect has two easy “outs” depending on the number called. Marc said that this plays well for children who like the ducks, and for the parents and other adults who reminisce about the simple summer fairs.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to a fun night for all members. *David Kelly*

RING 9, ATLANTA, GEORGIA – Georgia Magic Club

Meets 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00pm, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 471 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

Ring 9 Website: www.gamagicclub.com

BILL PACKARD, Secretary / Email: billpackardmagic@gmail.com

T.I.P. Lecture: Jamey Evans – “Exposing the Krabby Secret Formula.” In his signature zany over-the-top style, Jamey gave a PowerPoint

presentation showing similarities between the Simpsons’ Krusty Krabby character and magician Craig Petty. This was brief, so he had time to demonstrate and explain three unique effects: The production of a Pop-Tart from between two paper plates, “Mousetrap Roulette” with four bags (ingenious use of a firecracker snapper to simulate the sound of the spring release), and a “Signed Card to Mouth” (while his head was covered with a paper bag).

Business Meeting: President Steve Langston greeted twenty-four members and six guests. Mention was made of Scott Alexander’s and Maria Ibanez’s passings and the health issues of Ring 9 members Gary Koepke, Eric Schuster, Steve McCoy, and Bill Cress. Secretary/Treasurer Bill Packard handed Membership Certificates to David Howell and Tim Mason. On March 8, the Georgia Magic Book Club will have their first Zoom meeting to discuss the first third of *Magic and Showmanship*, by Henning Nelms. Steve reminded us that the Ring 9 Online Store is still active, with new design ideas to come, and that the *gamagicclub.com* Video Library is still growing. Murl Harmon will be interviewing members for a “Ten Minutes with...” segment. A few people expressed their pleasure in attending the Annual Magic Banquet, including Kyle Jarrard’s show. Congratulations were given to Greater Magician of the Year Award winner Eric Schuster, T.I.P. Lecturer of the Year Debbie Leifer, and to the many Circle of Honor recipients.

New committees for 2023: Digital Team – Chair Eric Schuster; Social Media – John Cason; In-Person Zoom Director – David Flucker; and Meeting Photographer – Soeren Loeffler. The club has acquired some updated equipment for improved Zoom and close-up performances. Membership Committee: Chair Stan Konter, with additional Ambassadors Eric Schuster and Anthony Vinson. Development Committee (to discuss fundraising opportunities) – Chair, I.B.M. International Vice President Mike Dunagan, with Debbie Leifer.

Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer reminded us about the virtual lecture by Mark Leveridge (strolling and restaurant magic) on February 28 (free to members) and announced an in-person lecture by Chris Philpott (creator of “100 Monkeys”) on April 13.

Anthony Vinson and other Ring 9 members enjoyed hanging out with Chris Capehart on Sunday before his show at the Red Light Café and several more attended the sold-out show as well. Anthony announced that there is a Virtual Magic Meetup scheduled for February 22 (7:00, hosted by Mike Dunagan) and an In-Person Magic Meetup scheduled for February 26 (2:00

at Fellini's Pizza in Decatur). Anthony asked for contributions for the Spring issue of the *Equinox* which will be published in April.

Membership Performers (Clark Kjørlaug, emcee) – 1. Mark Frisbee performed a one-at-a-time “Coins Across” routine with four coins. 2. Marcos (Marc Butkiewicz, assisted by Cathy Ross) turned a glove into a colorful silk streamer and caused a black silk to vanish and reappear in a previously empty goblet.

Theme Magic (“Love Is In the Air”) – 1. Walter Fields performed “Sucker Silk to Egg” and proved that the egg was real. 2. Mike Dunagan performed the “Color Monte” packet trick while standing. 3. Jamey Evans caused three spectators to burst a balloon while they completed a static electricity circuit by holding hands. 4. Richard Rubin demonstrated how he does a “mental workout” instead of physical exercise, by correctly reciting the answers to some complicated mathematics (such as eighty-nine to the third power) and determining the day of the week of some spectator-named dates. 5. Clark Kjørlaug performed a multi-phase card trick where the deck was shuffled and separated into four piles, the match to a selected card in one packet was found in the same position in another shuffled packet, matching cards were found in a face-up/face-down shuffled packet, and all the cards matched order in the two remaining packets (a one-deck version of Juan Tamariz’s “Total Coincidence”). 6. Tim Mason performed a Chop Cup routine with multiple final loads. 7. David Howell showed how a match could at first be passed through the holes in a matchbox, but later could not, because the box contained a block of steel. 8. To music, Brian Robert produced, vanished, transformed, and multiplied multi-colored thimbles. 9. Arthur Atsma showed several methods of manually getting a ball into a shot glass which was under a glass cover, but the last was by magic, then produced the shot glass filled with “tea” from an inside/inside-out bag. 10. Howie Slomka presented a “Two-Card Monte” variation where both cards changed in the spectator’s hands. 11. Past International President Joe M. Turner invited two volunteers to fairly select cards from a shuffled deck split between them, then reassembled the deck, divided it into five packets, showed each packet to the volunteers, placed the two packets containing the selections into his two coat pockets, and without ever looking at the faces of the cards and before they were named, removed and displayed the two selections. (Alex Elmsley’s “Cross-25” in *The Collected Works Volume 1*). 12. Steve Langston placed a deck of cards on the table and invited a spectator to call a friend who named a card, then to look for the card (counting fifty-one), and the

named card was found in Steve’s pocket. 13. Murl Harmon twisted two cards together in such a way that they created a spiral pattern (more than an optical illusion) and then separated the cards to show that the effect was only temporary. 14. Anthony Vinson performed a series of linking and unlinking effects with the Ninja Rings.

General Magic: Jim Mangham caused three spectator-selected cards that had been returned to a blue deck to reappear face up in a red deck that had been isolated. (He credited Bill Packard as the source of the white top hat he used in the routine.)

President’s Spot Giveaways: Prizes were won by six members, including a half dozen different colored real chicken eggs (donated by Howie Slomka) to Steve Langston.

Congratulations to our newest members Mike Frisbee and Marcos, and to the winner of the Coveted Royal Blue Pin for February, Steve Langston.

Bill Packard

RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa Ring

Meets 1st Thu., 8:00pm Eat 'N Park, 1250 Banksville Rd., Pittsburgh, PA
MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@sei.cmu.edu
Web site: www.ibmring13.org

In March, our suggested performance theme was “anything goes,” and Past International President Jack Greenberg kicked off the evening by expressing his appreciation for being able to join our meetings virtually via Zoom. Ring applicant Joshua Updyke presented his second performance for Ring membership by borrowing a smart phone and using it to visit a website to make his prediction. Joshua asked Roger to pick an imaginary card from an invisible deck and name that card. Joshua instructed Roger to play a video on the borrowed phone, and that video correctly revealed Roger’s named card. Joshua then showed a laser-cut, plastic jig that he had created to accurately strip a single card, which would allow him to instantly produce that stripped card from rest of the deck.

John Pedrotti set aside a jumbo card as his prediction, and he separated a regular deck into two halves and asked Dan which half to keep or throw away. John repeated this again and again with the remaining cards until only a single card remained. That final remaining card matched John’s jumbo prediction card. John then displayed a large envelope, and he asked Todd to name any card. John opened the envelope and removed a second envelope that contained a smaller, third envelope, which contained a fourth envelope containing a fifth envelope. That smallest envelope contained Todd’s named card (using a variation of a card index developed by Mortenn Christiansen).

Michael Strough showed four, numbered envelopes, and he asked three spectators to each

take one of the envelopes. Michael instructed everyone to tear open their envelopes and open the papers inside. On each of the spectators' papers was printed the word "YOURS," and Michael showed that on his paper was written the word "MINE" (Max Maven's "Goal Mine"). Michael next gave Joshua a book and asked him to open the book to any page, select any word on that page, and write that word on a piece of paper. Michael correctly named Joshua's selected word.

Jeff Vanderhoff showed a cloth bag containing many slips of paper on which were written different questions. Jeff asked Mark to reach in, pick one piece of paper, and read it aloud. Jeff opened a large envelope and opened a prediction that correctly stated that the question would be chosen by Mark, and the prediction also correctly identified the specific, chosen question.

Ted Knoblach asked Dan to pick a card, which was then returned to the middle of the deck and shuffled. Ted located Dan's selected card. Ted asked Dan to sign his card, which was again returned to the deck. Ted found Dan's signed card trapped between the two jokers. To finish, Ted performed a routine using four blue backed cards alternating with four red backed cards, and Ted repeatedly made the alternating cards separate into their respective colors.

Ring applicant David Matheus also presented his second performance for Ring membership, asking Dan to name his favorite four of a kind. David removed those four cards from the deck and placed them aside on the table, and he asked Dan to cover the rest of the deck with his hand. David made Dan's four selected cards change places and transpose themselves back into the middle of the deck.

Eric Meredith performed an effect by dealing two cards face down on the table, and then he asked two people to say stop as he dealt the rest of the deck face up on the table. Eric inserted one of his face-down cards at each stopped location. Eric then showed that both of the face down cards were located face-to-face with its matching value and color. Eric then revealed "the rest of the story" as he showed that those two pairs of matching cards were the only four red backed cards out of a blue backed deck.

Levi closed the evening by dealing nine cards on the table, alternating face up and face down, and then he dealt nine more cards face down on top of those original cards. Levi gathered up the pairs of cards, showing some face up and some face down, and he dealt those cards into two piles again. After gathering all the cards once more, only four cards were now face down. Levi showed that those face down cards were a royal flush.

We hope to see many of you here at the I.B.M. Convention in Pittsburgh in July! Please come join us!
Mark Zajicek

RING 19, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – Carl Jones Ring

Meets 2nd Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom and in person 2nd Sat. (location TBD)

PARKER WILLIAM, President / Web site: www.IBMRing19.com

We were treated to two excellent meetings in March. Our meetings, both in-person and virtual, are attended by different members, depending on which type of venue they prefer, which allows for a totally different vibe. You never know what to expect!

At the live meeting, we enjoyed a performance by Fast Eddie Olson, who presented his 'mad scientist' routine with Slevan Olson as 'willing' participant. Jack Boyd wowed us with his "Cups and Balls" routine. Jack has been away from the meetings for a while, and it was great to see him perform his wonderful magic for us.

Jennifer Graham explained last month's Teach-A-Trick, "The Lazy Magician."

Tyler Erickson entertained us with his version of "Professor's Nightmare" and shared a few requisite card tricks. We then broke off into session groups.

Our Monday Zoom meeting captured an all-together different feel. Rubber bands took center stage for the majority of the meeting with tips, tricks, and techniques shared by Rick Hinrichs, MagicBrad Gudim, and David Hansen.

President Parker William shared his "Tarot Card Trick" with Drew Selbitschka, divining which of the Major Arcana cards was selected by Drew – it was 'Justice', by the way.

Parker shared that he has been busy reading and offered his comments on *Pocket Power* by Jarle Leirpoll by turning your pockets into lethal weapons and making every magic moment have meaning; *The Books of Wonder* vol 1 by Tommy Wonder and Stephen Minch, which he found insightful.

Jennifer Graham finished Book 8 in the Eli Marks magic book series, *The Self-Working Card Trick and Other Stories* by local author John Gaspard. If you like mysteries and magic, these books are entertaining and fun to read.

Michael Wilke is enjoying the *Mad Book of Magic* by Al Jaffee.

MagicBrad talked about his plan to launch the Minnesota Magic Festival in June 2023, that will provide a full week of magic, from lectures to workshops to exhibitions and shows. This event will draw both magicians and the public to what should be a fab week of magic! More info to come on MinnesotaMagicFestival.com.

Tyler Erickson shared his "8 Ball from Card

Box” card trick and offered a tutorial (and new adaptation) on the Twirl Change.

We wrapped up the evening with a discussion of long and short cards. Another fab meeting!

Jennifer Graham

RING 20, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Eddie Clever Keystone Ring

Meets 2nd Thur., at 6:00pm (order off the menu), meeting 7:00pm at John’s Diner 146 Sheraton Dr., New Cumberland, PA 17070
MARK KROTULSKI, Secretary
E-mail: eddieclever20@gmail.com

In attendance at the meeting were Stephen Smith, Al Bienstock, Richie Matthews, Michael Reist, Jack Ritter, Mark Zagursky, Rodney Ries, Ed Lopez, Michael Worsham, Kyle Purnell, and special guest Wayne Shifflett.

Our meeting was called to order by President Smith at 6:30 p.m. Immediately thereafter the Secretary’s Report was approved unanimously, and a Treasurer’s Report was given. There was no Old Business and there was no new business other than it was announced that the Eddie Clever Competition would take place at the March meeting.

During the Good of the Order Michael Reist and Kyle Purnell spoke a bit about MagiFest. Michael Worsham brought up the possibility of attending an Oriole’s baseball game. We were reminded of the Performer’s Swap Meet in March. Wayne of Mingus Magic reminded everybody of his May event of twenty-four hours of magic – all proceeds benefit Alex’s Lemonade.

Under Smith’s Thoughts for the Month, President Smith displayed his Christmas gifts from his children. Two posters with his dogs Andre, the Great Houndini and Thurston, posed in magician attire based on classical magical posters. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

There were no magical performances by the performers as instead Wayne Shifflett of Mingus Magic brought magic to demo and sell. Mingus Magic is one of the oldest brick and mortar shops in the United States. Of particular note, were the flower props he hand-makes. A great time was had by all. Another fun night of magic.

Michael L. Reist

RING 22, METRO DETROIT, MICHIGAN – The Warren Stephens Ring

Meets 3rd Tue., 7:15 pm – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 749 W. 14 Mile Rd., Clawson, MI 48017
JOHN “JOHNNY NEW YORK” SMITH, President
Email: jonsmi7646@gmail.com

Our Ring 22 February was filled with magical performances, a twenty-five-minute magic show, a workshop, a surprise mini lecture, and many more events. Our meetings have not only grown to become magic mini conventions but

have also become international now as several magicians from Canada now attend in-person on a regular basis. About forty-plus magicians gathered for an evening of performing on February 21st and it was a spectacular evening of magic!

Our Ring 22 President Johnny New York started us off with some brief but important announcements about both the Ring and other things magical in our area. Eric Bedard, who lives in Canada, was our Spotlight Magician for the February meeting. Eric is an amazing pro who has worked on cruise ships and many other venues, and you could really tell by how polished his performance was. Eric started off with a bit of comedy using a size 100XL thumb tip. Eric then moved to an effect about being able to tell which cards were missing from a deck as he had four or more spectators shuffle small sets of a deck of cards then had someone deal off twelve cards from the complete deck, and then hand him the rest of the deck. Eric could tell which cards were missing and proved it by correctly naming all twelve cards that were missing. Next, Eric shuffled the complete deck again and had ten people each select one card from the deck and insert their selected cards back into the deck. He then produced the ten cards and all in different ways. Eric ended with a card version of Houdini’s famous “Metamorphosis” stage illusion. Eric used the King of Spades for Harry, the Queen of Spades for Bess, and the card case as the trunk. Not only did the two cards change place, but when turned over again the Queen of Spades became the Queen of Hearts! What a wonderful twenty-five minutes of magic performed by Eric.

After a few more announcements from members, Bob Whitford gave us a great workshop on minimalist magic. Minimalist magic is just magic with a couple of props or playing cards which are items one could easily carry in your pockets every day. Bob started with a classic vanishing dime routine and then did “Doc Daley’s Last Trick.” He then did the Red Pop/Black Jellybeans effect that uses an Elmsley Count and a Hamman Switch. Bob both demonstrated and explained how to do each effect and his overall message was to make sure you are making each magic effect your own in how you perform it. An excellent workshop that was very well done, thanks Bob.

Ring 22 is very fortunate to have one of the best brick and mortar magic shops just a block away from where we meet – Wunderground Magic Shop. If you are ever around the Detroit area you really should try and stop at Wunderground Magic Shop as it is an amazing place that one can easily spend an hour or more in. Christopher Bogucki, one of the professionals

at the shop, showed us what was new. Christopher spoke about “EDT” which is a receipt prediction effect that just arrived today and also “Permanent Record,” which is a memorable card effect. He also mentioned the shop just acquired an out of state large magic book collection (which got a lot of our attention)!

We were now in for an unexpected treat in the form of a mini lecture on coin moves by Tom Mosier! Tom is a fantastic veteran magician who is extremely skilled and has been a long-time member of the Detroit magic scene. Tom showed us some of his coin moves that have not been previously published and were very new and surprising to most of us. He had some coin vanishes, appearances, and transformation that were both startling and surprising to even our best coin magicians. Tom’s lecture is just another way that Ring 22 membership gives back because each meeting is recorded and added to our website, so members can watch meetings again if they want to go over something. You don’t get that at any conventions I know of! And the great news is Tom will be back next month with part two!

Yours truly then gave a quick review of the Magifest Convention that happens every January in Columbus, Ohio. I spoke briefly about the performers and lecturers and also on how one of the themes of the convention that many lecturers spoke about was how to better connect with your audiences. One of the things I really enjoy and look forward to is talking with the performers and lectures just one on one during breaks at the convention. I learn so much from these short chats and had an exceptional time talking with Shoot Agawa. I really enjoyed the entire convention.

Our Vice President Fred Lenter then led a group discussion on how to better connect with your audience. There were so many suggestions from members that I could not write them down fast enough (but being a member, I can watch the recording on our website to review them). Some of the suggestions included eye contact, putting more of yourself into each performance, learning spectators’ names and speaking with them during your performance, actually listening to your volunteers, and so many more. This discussion included a ton of great tips to help connect with audiences.

It was now time for individual performances, and we started with a new magician who attended for the first time and performed a nice three ropes to one rope using a red rope, a blue rope, and a white rope. Next up was Jim Tait who used one of the Ring 22 coffee mugs he makes for members to do a Chop Cup routine. Jessie, another newer member, then did an untying knot

routine using three neck ties tied to a piece of rope. Bill Brand then did a change bag effect using a ribbon and individual letters to spell out Dr. Seuss in the end. Ferran Poage, who is one of our younger members but is a fantastic coin guy, then did part of his routine he will be using in an upcoming competition he has entered. It was very well done and involved a surprise ending with his name tag changing at the end. Carol Trusk then ended the evening with a very nice four ace routine she has been working on.

I couldn’t believe that two plus hours had just sped by and the meeting was over. This is why I always so look forward to a Ring 22 monthly meeting. Every meeting has a Spotlight Magician performance, a workshop or group discussion, the latest in magic, and always a surprise event, lecture, or book review. And after the meeting a bunch of magicians head over the Hideout Pub for what we call “The Afterglow,” where there is more magic and conversations about just about anything. You are more than welcome to join us as we meet the third Tuesday of every month. Visitors are always welcome, just contact John Smith at the email above.

Norm Cattell

RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:30pm at Musician Union Bldg. 322 West 48th St., NYC / Web site: www.80-20.org/meeting
JAMES R. STRANGES, President
E-mail: magicjim@optonline.net

Our February 2023 Mike Bornstein Zoom Lab session was themed “Go To Effects.” Members had an opportunity to demonstrate effects that they “go to” when people find out that they are magicians and are faced with that request, “Show me something.”

Ring 26 member and S.A.M. National Dean, George Schindler, performed the “Himber Bottles.” George displayed various liquor bottles from a bag and placed them back trying to decide which one to select. He finally decided on one and vanished the rest as he folded the bag.

Performing an effect with two hair bands was Past President, Rene Clement. The linking and unlinking of the hairbands was unusual and entertaining. Rene also performed “Apollo.” As an FYI Rene runs and maintains our Facebook page. You didn’t think those photos and announcements got on there by themselves, did you?

Past President Frank Reyes performed a vanishing coin effect using a pocket handkerchief, a quick coin effect using a Quiver and finished off with six card effect where the spectator freely selects a card, and it turns out that it is the only card with an indifferent back.

The Amazing Richie made his appearance from sunny Florida. Richie demonstrated

“Beyond Reform,” “Contact,” and a new effect called “Wand-O-Blocks” by Lain Bailey. Wand-O-Blocks is a nice walk-around effect using small interlocking blocks where a white block vanishes and appears in different places on the wand and hand.

Our Zoom host and New York’s Favorite Mind Reader, Tommy Burnett, was up next performing “Astronomical” as only Tommy can. Tommy topped it off with the easier card at any number effect.

Finally, Cole Blackwell, a visitor and hopefully future member, stepped up and performed “Kolossal Killer” by Kenton Knepper. Very nicely done.

As always, thanks to all who stepped up with their “go to” effects. Don’t forget to visit us on Facebook, I.B.M. Ring 26. *Frank Reyes*

RING 29, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – Little Rock Magic Ring

Meets 1st Thur. each month, 6:45 pm., Conference Center at Baptist Hospital, Little Rock, AR. / Web site: www.LittleRockMagic.org
MARTY HAUGHN, Secretary

Greetings from Ring 29 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The weather was today’s big Arkansas news and this evening it is supposed to have possible storms with fifty mph wind gusts and lots of rains flooding low lying areas and possible tornadoes. We did not call off the meeting tonight and eight members were present.

Joel Nicholson, vice president, emceed for President Dane Dover who was unable to attend. The magic of “The Incredible Die Penetration” performed by Joel was performed with a Gospel theme that used the Die Tube as a burial tomb of Jesus and the wand that held the die in the tube represented the cross where Jesus was crucified, and the die represented the body of Jesus locked inside the tomb after his death on the cross. Miraculously, the tomb (die tube) could not hold Jesus (the die) and the cross (wand inserted through the die tube and die) was empty at finish. A different twist.

John Wofford walked up and opened his hands and within them he held a mini tube horizontally with a string running out the bottom of a hole near both ends and on the end of each string was a small ball. The routine began by pulling one ball and the opposite end string and ball moved up to the tube. Again, he pulled the long string on the opposite end and convinced his audience that the string went through the tube and came out both ends. Then the magic happened. With a twist at the tube center and a quick pull the tube separated into two pieces and no string connected the balls hanging out both ends. The applause started along with the groans. Good fun.

Bob White did some “Dead Reckoning” that

was thoroughly amazing. He handed out parts of a full deck of cards to three audience members and asked them to shuffle them thoroughly so they would be mixed. He retrieved the cards, placed them in one stack and fanned them to the audience to let them see that they were well mixed. Blayk Puckett cut the deck down about two-thirds of the way and placed them together and shuffled all the cards and showed the top card to the audience while Bob White turned away, so he’d not see the selected card. Blayk placed the card randomly in the deck and Bob had him cut the deck and stack into three piles then restack together. Neither person knew where the card was located. Bob then instructed Blayk on a dry run of how to “spell your card” by laying down a card from the stack for each letter of the card. For example: Two of Hearts would count out eleven cards before stopping. Now the “impossible” start of trickery: Bob asked Blayk to think of the spelling of his selected card and to think “Stop” when it was spelled out as Bob started laying out cards one at a time. Bob asked Blayk if the cards he laid out until he stopped could have spelled out his card. Bob asked Blayk what card he had been thinking of and Bob showed Blayk that he had stopped exactly at that card! Mentalism plus cards! The crowd loved it!

Blayk Puckett uniquely began making his audience laugh when he put the corner of a jumbo card between his lips for the entire trick and held up a pack of cards and making gestures and grunting-humming noises and hand signals to signify what he wanted done by a randomly chosen audience member Bob White with the deck of cards. First Blayk’s hand motions and noises had Bob to shuffle and cut the cards and discard either half of the cut deck. This splitting of the cards kept going until there were only three cards left and Bob chose the two cards to discard and only one was left. Blayk then turned his jumbo prediction card around and Bob’s remaining card around and they proved to be a match. Only then could Blayk regain his speaking voice. Applause and smiles followed.

Blayk Puckett also helped Jim Henson demonstrate the “Cup and Ball” trick that Jim gave each attendee that night. Again, Blayk’s performance of “Ball and Bucket” was unique and humorous and enjoyable. He had set his routine to poetry and his own name rhyme from start to finish. Such talent is very rare.

Jim Henson enjoyed speedily presenting demonstrations of a large array of fun tricks that he had laboriously arranged to give one per person this stormy night. Jim’s efforts of building and sustaining the Ring 29 Magic Club are beyond measure and extremely generous in all

descriptions of supporter of magic. Some of the items were: "Looking for a House," "Card Guard," "One for the Ladies," "Three Card Monte," "Frustration Count," "Put On," "Invisible Deck" (Jim Henson's favorite), "Wonder Bill," "Mis-made Bill," "Oreo Selection," "Haunted Key," "Folding Dollar Bill," and "Pen through Bill Penetration."

We all appreciated Patrick Taft and Chris Thompson making the meeting through the extreme weather to be with us tonight and thank them for their die-hard effort to be here.

Until next meeting stay healthy, increase in service to your fellow man, stay faithful, and practice, practice, practice. *Joel Nicholson*

RING 43, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – Harlan Tarbell Ring

3rd Fri. except July and August, 7:30 p.m., at St. Francis Hospital, S. Conference Room, First Floor, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60202
MIKE KAMLET, President / E-mail: kamlet@ameritech.net
175 E. Delaware #8502, Chicago, IL 60611 / (312) 266-2129
Web site: www.ring43.org

First up, Pedro had Andrea Solembergo pick two cards at random. Zach Evans then picked a different card, the 9C. When Pedro turned over the two cards Andrea picked one had a "9" written on its back and the other had a club symbol written on its back. ("Red Hot Prediction" by Cameron Francis.)

Next, Andrea picked the 7H and lost it in a red backed deck. Pedro had him throw a blue backed joker face up into the deck. When the joker was located in the deck it was shown to have landed on top of his chosen card, the 7H. ("Fly Monkey" by Louis Carreone.)

Pedro dumped a cup full of coins on the table and had Zach remove all the face up coins. After doing this several times, only one coin was left. Pedro showed his prediction which correctly identified that it was a quarter, dated 2008, minted in Hawaii, a triple prediction! ("Hawaiian Punch" by John Bannon.)

Lastly, Pedro laid out sixteen numbered cards in a four-by-four matrix and a volunteer eliminated all but four. Pedro correctly predicted the sum of the four cards. The number cards were turned over and they had regular card faces on them, the identities of which were also shown to have been predicted. ("Matrix Poker.")

Mike Kamlet led off in Teach-A-Trick demonstrating reading a "poker face" by naming the poker hand Dan Feltey was merely thinking of. Mike then played a few hands of poker where the magician always wins. Mike gave everybody at the meeting a pair of gaffed cards so that they could perform the mind reading trick.

John Hutsebaut showed a "Linking Rubber Band" effect done with neon colored ponytail bands. The linked bands could even be handed out for examination. He then demonstrated an even more effective presentation with two rubber bands

where one was shot at the other and they linked in midair ("Target Practice" by Rory Adams). A video tutorial can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbr4n—2cA>.

Zach the Magnanimous (Zach Evans) showed an amazing card production which looked initially like a sloppy back palm but turned into a real fooler for magicians. He also demonstrated a simplified way of doing the Biddle Steal.

Andrea produced a card deck from Magifest. He held the deck face up under the table for a second and turned over one card and put it back in the pack. He then had Dan name a card (3H). Andrea found the face down card in the face up deck and laid it on the table. He turned it over to show it was indeed the 3H and then instantly ribbon spread the deck on the table to show there were no other face down cards in the deck. Andrea then repeated the trick with Brielle Kawalek naming the JD. Again, the card turned over was the selected card. He repeated the trick twice more with Pedro and Kevin Owens naming a card. Everybody was mystified until he explained the method.

Daryl Rogers, performing remotely, did a simple trick with two plastic straws that he twisted together and then caused them to penetrate apart.

Dr. Lynn Miner, performing remotely, showed a card trick where John picked a card, it was found to be the only red backed card in the blue backed deck. Lynn then rubbed the card's face on his sleeve, and it turned into a message card that you could personalize with any message you want.

Past International President Don Wiberg, performing remotely, demonstrated a trick pen which instantly changed its texture on command. The pen can be found at crushmetric.com.

After the Teach-A-Trick was done Mike gave a back table mini lecture on famous female magicians by sharing some biographies of women in magic starting with *Those Beautiful Dames* by Frances Marshall. Mike also shared brief bios of Adelaide Herrmann, Ionia, Suzy Wandas, Dell O'Dell, and Celeste Evans. Mike also recommended watching Celeste's appearances on *The Barbara Walters Show* and, on *The Bozo Show* which can be found on YouTube.

Following the meeting some members went out to a Mexican restaurant for food and fellowship. *John Hutsebaut*

RING 46, OKLAHOMA CITY – Seymour Davis Ring

Meets 1st Mon. of month, New Beginning Fellowship Church, 15601 S. Pennsylvania, OKC
LEE WOODSIDE, Secretary
E-mail: WoodsideLee@hotmail.com
Ring Web site: www.okcmagic.org

After a long dry spell without live lectures, we were very pleased that Jeff Corn was willing to stop in OKC on his way west to the Magic Castle

and give a lecture. Jeff began by showing two playing cards, with his hands otherwise empty. He rubbed the two cards together and produced a half-dollar. He proceeded to do a “coin flurry” and then performed a Coins Across” routine.

Jeff invited Jerry Bowzer to join him. He showed a one-dollar bill and a twenty-dollar bill and asked Jerry to hold both in his fist. Jeff removed the one-dollar bill from Jerry’s hand and magically changed it into a twenty. Jerry opened his hand to reveal the one. He showed us how to make the very deceptive gimmicked bill.

Jeff brought out three ropes of different lengths and performed a three-stage “Professor’s Nightmare” type routine with them. He next showed a deck of playing cards made up of cards from different casinos in Las Vegas. He shuffled the deck and then asked Grant Vinson to cut off about half the cards, leaving the other half for Jeff. After some shuffling, cutting, and dealing, each person ended up with four piles of cards. Grant turned over the top card of each of his stacks and found that they were all kings. Jeff turned over the four aces from his stacks. Jeff then showed that all the remaining cards in the deck were Tens of Clubs.

Jeff set up two paper match books to use as card easels. He showed two aces and placed them backs out on the easels. With a magical flourish, the cards switched places. He did it again, but this time the two red aces appeared in their place.

Jeff finished with a trick he called “The Lucky Coin.” He had Jerry Bowzer select a card (the Two of Hearts), which was then lost in the deck. Jeff spread the deck on the table and asked that Jerry place a casino chip where he thought the Two of Hearts was. Jeff removed the cards not in the vicinity of the chip and spread out the few cards that were left. He asked that Jerry place the chip on one of these cards. Sure enough, the selected card was the Two of Hearts. As a kicker, Jeff asked that Jerry turn over the casino chip. On the back was the index off a Two of Hearts.

We were very excited to host an I.B.M. Jam in February. We got to meet I.B.M. International President Elect Chuck Arkin and enjoy lectures by both him and Michael Dardant. A Ring event article was submitted about the Jam.

President Cassidy Smith was our featured performer for March. Cassidy used a Golden Nugget (think Michael Skinner) matchbook as a card easel. He invited David Teeman to select a card, which was the Two of Hearts, and return it to the deck. Cassidy shuffled the deck and then showed the Queen of Spades, which he placed on the “easel.” With a magical flourish, the card turned into the Two of Hearts. Cassidy then showed four red back aces and a blue back blank card. He

placed the blue back card back out on the easel. He showed that the four red back cards had become blank. When he turned the blue back card around, it had the pips from all four aces on it.

Justin Teeman led a discussion on magic mentors. Professional illusionist Rob Lake was able to attend our meeting because he was in town to visit family. He said that he had learned a great deal from both Kirby Van Burch and the late Jim Smithson. Several other members said that they had learned a lot from Jim Smithson. The late Harold Todd was also mentioned as a mentor.

Cassidy Smith asked members to name something they want audiences to perceive about them in addition to being magical. Some of the answers included funny, silly, fun-loving, respectful, grandfatherly, connected to the audience, and energetic.

During our brief business meeting, Lee Woodside sold copies of our annual *Grimoire*, which were hot off the press from our magical scribe, Malaki Dracwin (a.k.a. David Swanson). The *Grimoires* were distributed on flash drives this year, since most computers no longer come with CD/DVD drives. Those who contributed to the *Grimoire* had already received a free copy.

Our performance theme for the month was “A Tribute to the Masters.” Lee Woodside led off by first performing his version of the “Professor’s Nightmare,” using blue Dacron sailing rope. Lee then talked about his early years in magic as he performed Tenyo’s “What’s Next.” He said that he has been doing that routine for over twenty-five years and was surprised when he found out by reading *From Beyond* that Eugene Burger was using his own version of the spot card in a somewhat similar routine.

James Graham showed four what he called “spaghetti strings.” With a flourish, one of the strings vanished. He then talked about working in a spaghetti factory and demonstrated how he could make the unequal lengths of spaghetti conform to the same length. James performed a “magician’s clock” effect with a deck of cards. After shuffling a deck of playing cards and having them cut by an audience member, he placed twelve cards face down in a circle. When he turned them over, the ace was in the one o’clock position, the deuce in the two o’clock position and so forth. The card he had placed in the middle was a king. James ended with a poker deal routine that he said he learned from *Backstage with Blackstone*.

After thoroughly shuffling a deck of playing cards, Michael King cut to each of the aces. Michael’s card handling skills are amazing.

Cassidy Smith presented a “Linking Rings” routine using Shoot Ogawa’s “Ninja Rings,”

which are close-up size linking rings. He performed several standard linking rings moves but impressed us the most by spinning one ring on the tabletop and linking it to the ring in his hand.

Lee Woodside

RING 47, WICHITA, KANSAS – Wizards of Wichita

Meets 1st Tues. of the month, 6:30-8:30pm, Spear's Restaurant 4323W. Maple St., Wichita, KS
NELSON SCHMITT, Secretary / E-mail: nscmitt1@cox.net
Web site: www.ibmring47.com

Due to the upcoming Time Change next week, the Wizards of Wichita selected a theme of "Time" based magic for the March meeting. Make of that what you will.

Club President and emcee, Nelson Schmitt, introduced each act with the help of the talking skull of Pirate Jim. In between each act, Pirate Jim and first mate Nelson, drew a new piece of magical booty from his skeleton chest. A string of pearls onto which he could magically link a golden nose ring. A piece of rope from the mainsail on which he tied the world's strongest knot, but then made vanish with a wave of his hand. And finally, a gold doubloon which Nelson could toss from one hand to the other but could defy time by pausing briefly in mid-air on his command.

Brett Vague demonstrated how with enough time, you can multiply your money, but we didn't have five years to see his five-dollar bill double, or ten for it to quadruple, but Brett condensed ten years into two minutes for us. He wrapped his five-dollar bill in a folded piece of paper, then folded that into another and repeated this four times. When he unwrapped all four layers, the innermost packet, which first contained his five-dollar bill, now held a single twenty-dollar bill. Great job!

Ron Sylvester did a nice version of a book test. He had a volunteer come up and take the copy of *The Wizard of Oz* (we are in Kansas after all) and pick any page and remember the first word on the page. Ron was able to successfully divine which word she was thinking of.

Tobias (Tony Cortest) performed a series of card effects centered around Physics, Space, and Time Travel. First, he demonstrated how a worm hole works by folding one card inside of another. When pushed through the outer card, the inner one turned inside out. Pushing it back through, it turned back. He ended by pushing it half-way through and trapping it by ripping it showing half the card one way, and the other half flipped inside out. He then had a random card placed upside down in a small pack of cards that he set on the table. He took the rest of the pack out into the audience and let Sheri select one. Losing it back in the pack, he went back and picked up the small packet he left on the table. The card Sheri selected was the one he placed into the first packet at the

beginning. He ended by performing a "Signed, Torn, and Restored Card," thus traveling back in time. Tobias also re-wound time by snapping his fingers and dropping a coin from one hand to the other. Then, in a strange Deja-vu moment, he rewound time by commanding the coin to fall upwards into his waiting hand followed by the finger snap, thus making the audience experience "Vuja-de."

Rondini the Magician showed us his ancient Genii in the Golden Casket. Ron could give a volunteer four cards with ancient symbols on them and have them mentally select one. Ron would divine which symbol would be selected and whisper it to the Genii. Then, when he opened the Genii's casket, the Genii would announce in a ghostly voice, which symbol was selected. Ron then handed out a Time Dial, simply a single hour hand bolted to a clockface painted on a clear piece of glass. He allowed two different audience members to turn the hour hand to a selected hour, then reset it back to twelve, so Ron would not know which hour was selected, but each time, Ron was able to divine the selected hour.

Tony Cortest

RING 48, PEORIA, ILLINOIS – Harold Martin Ring

Meets 3rd Mon. 7:00 pm, Peoria Pizza Works. 3921 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights, IL. Website: peoriamagicians.com
MICHAEL BAKER, Secretary / E-mail: themagiccompany@aol.com

The February meeting began with discussion of upcoming events. Among these were the banquet, the riverfront market, the HOI Fair, and a possible show for the Riverfront Museum.

Our theme was "Gimmicks." Prodigal son, Ian Munk, showed up unexpectedly. He's living in the area again and will rejoin our club. He showed a card prediction effect. Yort showed a trick with a Queen of Hearts that continued to show up.

Gambit showed "Laced Up," and "Super Lemon," both of which incorporate clever gimmicks. We asked that he not explain "Laced Up" as the effect is better just experienced. Great trick! He had an extra "Super Lemon" up for grabs. Phil Raso quickly claimed that.

Phil then showed an effect with the baby gag as a spoof prediction.

Michael Baker showed a couple of gimmicks and some photos of others he made in the past.

The rest of the meeting was fun discussion about many things.

Michael Baker

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

With just two weeks until the start of the 48th Winter Carnival of Magic, our business meeting

is a little bogged down with last minute details. Mike Stratman has the tablecloths from the Whippys, Michael Messing got the magic kits from Jim Stott and took them to the Country Tonite Theatre, and a lot of other “I”’s are dotted, and “T”’s are crossed – we are ready for a great convention!

First up to perform was Sherman Wires doing his initiation performance. He did an “Ambitious Coin” routine with an American dollar and Chinese coin; putting both in his hand, removing one to his pocket, and both would be found in his hand. He ate the corner from a selected playing card only to have it reappear in his wallet that was on the table the entire time. He finished by adding a bunch of numbers from the audience to reveal a total that he knew from before he started sealed in an envelope Mr. Priestap was holding. After short deliberation, Sherman was unanimously welcomed as our newest member!

The theme for the evening was to get something to levitate or float, but that is just a suggestion. Armed with a deck of cards, Ed Ripley visibly transformed and found the mates of cards using a fun buzzer app to heighten the effect. Bill Osburn proclaimed “Inflation!” as he floated a dollar bill. Ray Adams, who will be starting in the show “Array!” on April 7 as well as doing a walk-on part in the Winter Carnival, also floated a dollar under impossible conditions – including having someone holding a cell phone camera just inches away to record the masterful feat.

Using a truly invisible deck of cards, Michael Priestap showed great imagination! Tim Pressley had an invisible ball routine where the ball became visible and floated around the audience. And Michael Messing showed and told the story about a custom-made floating device that he had made for restaurant work.

Yes, it was a fun night of magic with just a portion of those present doing magic. The buzz for the evening was all in anticipation of the Ring welcoming performers, dealers, contestants, and attendees at the Winter Carnival on March 9 for a great three days of magic, fun, and fellowship!

Tom Vorjohan with Tim Pressley

RING 60, AUSTIN, TEXAS – Carl Moore Ring

Meets 1st Mon., 7:00, at the IHOP, 11654 Research Blvd., Austin, Texas.
TRIXIE BOND, President / E-mail: trixie@trixiebond.com
Web site: www.ibmring60.org

I.B.M. Ring 60 kicked off our year with our annual banquet and installation of Ring officers.

On February 18, 2023, we gathered at Heroes Night Out for an evening of food, fellowship, and feats of magic. We feasted on Texas barbeque and desserts galore. The first place winner of the dessert contest was Carolyn Cummins with her amazing pecan pie, and second place went to

Tricia Heil Davis with her chocolate covered pretzel magic wands.

The 2023 Ring officers were duly installed by guest magician Jamie Salinas. President Ken Dickensheets; Vice President Tricia Heil Davis; Treasurer Glen Watkins; Secretary/ Communications Trixie Bond; Sergeant-at-Arms Douglas Floyd; Director JD Stewart; Director Robert Castillo; and Fantastic Director Emeritus Kent Cummins.

Following the installation of officers, we were entertained with two captivating magic performances. Fabian is a favorite on college and university campuses and performed sophisticated sleight of hand and mystifying mentalism. Award winner Jamie Salinas has been featured at Hollywood’s Magic Castle and kept the audience involved with complex and precise predictions and telepathy, and masterful sleight of hand.

On March 6 the Ring returned to the IHOP for its first meeting of 2023, with nearly thirty members in attendance. The topic for the meeting was “Stage Tools Every Performer Needs.” Vice President Tricia Heil Davis introduced a new format for this year’s meetings. We will begin each meeting with a “teach-a-trick” segment, followed by a brief presentation on the history of the Ring, which will build on itself throughout the year. For the March meeting, JD Stewart taught a card trick involving much free choice and shuffling by the audience member, somehow ending with a correct card prediction. Tricia Heil Davis presented some history of the formation of the Ring, and its namesake Carl L. Moore. Dr. Moore was a Dallas dentist who moved his practice to Austin and was one of the moving forces of magic in Central Texas in the 1930s and ‘40s. He was the first President of Austin’s newly formed Ring 60 in 1948. Tricia shared the November 1932 *Seven Circles Magic Magazine* feature describing the first convention of magicians held in the southwest with Dr. Moore, then the president of the Dallas Magic Circle, acting as the “mentor, manager worrier, chauffer and what have you.”

The main program consisted of four fifteen-minute segments on stage tools every performer needs. First up, local improv performer Robert Heil described his work in improv, and guided the group through several improv exercises. The group was enthusiastic and quite engaged! Next, Tricia Heil Davis shared tips and strategies for incorporating comedy into your magic routines, with credits to Paul Draper and the McBride Magic and Mystery School. Tricia and Robert presented together on storytelling in magic, sharing some insights from their late magician father Larry Heil. Paprika Leaverton rounded out the

evening with expert demonstrations and instructions on juggling scarves, oranges, balls, and even knives!

We concluded the evening with open mic time. Robert Castillo entertained with nuts, screws, and bolts moving from hand to hand, attaching and un-attaching, and even changing size. Paprika performed her award-winning "Linking Rings Gone Awry" as well as new juggling and manipulations.

Thank you to our new and returning Board members, the entertainers and presenters, and the open mic performers!
Tricia Heil Davis

RING 63, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Meets 1st Wed. monthly, 7:30pm, at the Commerce Club,
55 Beattle Place, Greenville, SC 29601

PAUL DILELLA, Secretary / E-mail: magicmanpauld@yahoo.com
Web site: www.ring63.com

The February 2023 meeting of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 63 was held at the Commerce Club in downtown Greenville, SC. The February meeting theme was "Your Favorite Trick."

Our first performer of the evening was Justin Porter who performed a trick involving a spectator who freely chose a drink (milk) from a variety of cards with drinks written on them. He then showed his prediction in a paper bag that was displayed in front of him. Inside the bag was a can of Sprite soda. But using his magical powers (only for good, of course), Justin opened the can of Sprite soda to reveal that the liquid inside was indeed milk, matching the card drink that the spectator had freely chosen. Whew. A great trick variation from Kieron Johnson's "Too Hot To Handle."

Larry Colombo, I.B.M. Ring 63's 3D printer "guru," showed the membership his newest creation, a 3D printed puzzle he made that went with a great routine involving a Gozinta Box. Well done, Larry!

Mike Noonan, our president, performed a little something he purchased at MagiFest called "Picto Play" which is a deck of colorful cards with words and pictures on them. Three spectators each cut the cards to select a card, and Mike was able to successfully tell the spectator which card they selected. Amazing!

Paul DiLella performed something from the Ring's recent Guy Bavli/Haim Goldenberg lecture called "Wheel of Chance" which is essentially a forcing device for any number of items that can be customized on a clock/wheel; great for predicting playing cards, food items, words, or even a person in the audience. Paul then performed David Parr's *Fool Us* trick called "Copycat" involving a spectator mimicking the magician's actions with playing cards, including

ringing a bell, to amazingly select the same card. This trick was very well received by the membership.

Rhett Bryson demonstrated his new "Jumping Stool 2.0" which is a stool that effortlessly jumps six feet high to the wonder and awe of the audience. Rhett also performed his favorite trick using two rubber bands that linked and unlinked called "Crazy Man's Handcuffs."

And last and certainly least (just kidding), Steve Taylor performed a card trick involving a spectator who selects a card that is lost in the deck and then Steve proceeded to shuffle four piles of playing cards face up and face down making an apparent mess of the deck. But with a magical wave of his hand, the deck was spread faces up and all the cards were found to be faces up except the one card the spectator selected which was the only card face down. Despite similarities to current tricks out there, Steve Taylor believes this trick pre-dates those methods because the spectator is actively involved in the cutting of the cards and many other aspects of the trick. Thank you for the history lesson, Steve!

As usual, lots of magic, fellowship, and sharing tonight. If you are ever in the Greenville, SC area on the first Wednesday of the month, please contact our secretary to join us!
Paul DiLella

RING 64, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY – Okito/Lance Burton Ring

Meets 7:00pm various dates at Kosair Charities, 982 Eastern Blvd.,
Louisville, KY 40217

MICHAEL A. RAYMER, President

Web site: www.louisvillemagicclub.com

The Louisville Magic Club, Okito/Lance Burton Ring 64 held its monthly meeting on March 14th with twenty-four members present and one invited guest, Vincent Knight. We welcomed three new members to the club, Shawn Kesling, Cage Kesling, and Thomas Schreider. Welcome!

Club President Michael Raymer called the meeting to order, and the evening commenced. Since our last meeting, LMC member Cody Clark presented his third production of Cody and Friends Magic Show this time featuring "Wonder Women of Magic" starring Kayla Drescher. Also appearing in the show was "Magic Amanda" as well as our own LMC member Joanna "Magic Jo" Logsdon. Kayla has appeared on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* and specializes in bar and restaurant magic. Kayla gave us a special lecture the night before providing tips and pointers to help us improve our performances and to hopefully getting bigger and better tips. The show was a sellout and a complete success.

Bradley Morgan was our featured speaker for the evening and the topic of discussion was "The

Art of Printing Magic Using a 3D Printer,” Brad began with a slide show titled “Everything You Need to Know About 3D Printing” which showed and explained the basics of what can be accomplished using a 3D Printer. Brad brought examples of what can be made by 3D printing. One, were the small thimble-like cones used in the “Chink-a-Tink” routine. Probably the most amazing prop he created was a small teapot/kettle used in an Okito/Boston Box routine. Brad kiddingly referenced the use of Morgan dollars since his name was Morgan.

The lecture stimulated lively discussion among the group both during and afterwards. It was very interesting and informative. Several pieces of his works were available for purchase at the close of the evening. Thanks Brad! *Carl Loud*

RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. “Social Gathering,” 7:00 p.m. start time. First Methodist Church, 104 S. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL
GALE MOLOVINSKY, President / (240) 483-9774
E-MAIL: Gamol@aol.com / Web site: www.ibmring81.com

We had so much happening at our March meeting on the second of the month with twenty-two members and guests present, thus our minutes will lack a bit of detail to fit it all in. Once again, we had a powerhouse meeting of magic! Stevie D shared a brief bit of Ring 81 history including some background about Inez Blackstone Kitchen (our first president) and a funny story about Geoffrey Buckingham who lectured for us at Inez’ urging. Dick Stevens followed with his “Teach-a-Trick” about an imaginary casino, a three-phased prediction, and a bit of Becker magic that fooled us.

Our theme for the evening was to show the tricks we always carry with us. Jose Reyes turned his empty pocket inside out, then it magically sucked back into his pants. What a start! Hal Ackerstein first took a bite out of a half dollar and then shared his joy that there is now a gimmicked Oreo for the same restoration! Later, Hal shared his Flaming Wallet that he carries with him. Scott Correll had a few new items for sale at the back of the room, and he shared his Rainbow Streamer and thumb tip trick and story with a rainbow in the dark. Nick Benevento had a length of red rope and went through a fun routine to cut and restore the rope several times.

Although Stan Hillard had come with a large new prop, he set it aside and did a beautiful transposition of a one-dollar and hundred-dollar bill laying on the table in full view. Dick Stevens had his own version of “organizing my wallet” where five skewed bills instantly righted themselves. Our president, Gary Roberts, who acted as our host for the evening, turned four one-dollar bills instantly into four hundreds (and got audible

gasps!). Later, Gary shared his unlinking, linking, and “locking” diaper pins and concluded the evening with a quarter penetrating inside a miniature airplane Scotch bottle. Tom Vorjohan shared the power of those small rubber balloon animals that helped him and Pam board their recent cruise without problems, and then did “Kolossal Killer” by Kenton Knepper. Later, he shared his “car kit” that he has with him all the time.

In a delightful seemingly out-of-this-world presentation, Hillary Reyes had Lois Hillard correctly sort photos of Bess and Harry Houdini. Bob Banta used Dan Walsh and Catherine Hillard to mentally choose an object and he guessed it (a nice presentation of “Mental Yarn” by Bill Goldman). Later, Bob did a deceptive dollar bill penetration with a pencil. Our card man, David Pitchford, cracked-up the group and himself with the “proper way to vanish a coin” using a one-dollar baby doll arm! Our consummate host and newsletter editor, Woody Woodward, showed a trick he does “only once” using three pairs of coins and a bit of equivoque to be holding matching coins. Dan Walsh showed the mini hand he uses to entertain youngsters doing sleight-of-hand manipulation. WOW... this was a great meeting with lots of sharing and wonderful magic! *Tom Vorjohan*

RING 84, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA – Charles Waller Ring

Meets 1st Mon. 7:30 p.m. (except January), at the Welsh Church, 320 La Trobe Street, Melbourne
AIDAN THOMPSON, President/Secretary
E-mail: aidan.thompson@fultonhogan.com.au

Ring 84 commenced the February 2023 meeting with nine members attending. Following a short business session, our enthusiastic membership kicked off with Ian Baxter performing his new release through www.lybrary.com, “Knockout Book Test.” Following a page being freely chosen from one of two books, Ian was able to mentally fathom words, as read by two spectators.

Peter Rowe followed with “Coloured Coins,” a matrix effect where four coins of different colours magically assemble in one corner.

Keith Jones followed, performing “Dimension L” where a light suddenly appeared at his fingertips and then levitated.

Graham Etherington showed us an effective prediction involving six numbered cards, a picture of Houdini appearing on his card and an empty prison cell on the card held by a spectator.

Peter Rowe stepped forward again, this time with a variation on the ever-popular Dai Vernon classic “Expansion of Texture.”

Aidan Thompson performed “Imagination

Becomes Reality,” as invented by Tomoyuki Takahashi and performed years ago by Eugene Berger. A coin chosen from three by a spectator remains imaginary, whilst the remaining two materialise in the magician’s hands.

Peter Rowe continued, this time with an effective Okito Coin Box routine.

Then Brian Thompson followed with an impressive card mystery using a brand new and sealed deck. Three piles are dealt and the top card of each is shown to match a previously chosen one.

Finally, Laurie Kelly stepped up with a surprising effect where a glass placed on a book would, on command from the performer, suddenly shatter.

A very worthwhile meeting in which to start the new year.

Aidan Thompson

RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.

BILL FIENNING, Secretary

(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: wefienn@att.net

President David Dunlap opened the March Ring meeting. The current Board was reelected by acclamation. Our officers for 2023 are President Dave Dunlap, V.P. Jim Oliver, Secretary Bill Fienning, Treasurer Tom Plunkett, and Sergeant-at-Arms David Ryan.

Treasurer Tom Plunkett brought us more information about the two-day New Mexico Magic Festival planned for September. It is partially sponsored by the S.A.M. Our local club members are assisting in the preparation and publicity.

Our topic for March was Tipping Tips on Thumb Tips. Paul Cochrell (Tall Paul) brought his thumb tip routine from his children’s show. It is a funny and entertaining act. He has a computer-controlled speaker on stage which plays sounds as commentary to his tricks. It is controlled by a wireless system triggered by a magnet on his leg. It is a clever way to add to the show while keeping his hands completely free to perform.

Tom Karas produced a small silk handkerchief using a thumb tip and Octopalm Anti-Gravity gel. Octopalm enabled Tom to stick the thumb tip to the back of his hand, making the use of the thumb tip much less obvious. Octopalm is available from magic dealers on the Internet.

Treasurer Tom Plunkett demonstrated the Sonata device. It is a finger-palmed gimmick that can be used similarly to a thumb tip. For certain functions it is the better method, especially those involving mentalism. Tom Karas did a nice routine producing and vanishing a small silk handkerchief with a thumb tip. Bill Martin demonstrated several different types of thumb tips he had collected over the years.

Ring 90 now has three I.B.M. Life Members: Mahlon Love, Bill Martin, and Bill Fienning, who recently became a Life Member.

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 February meeting was a special event. It was the club’s annual awards and installation banquet. The event took place at Stefano’s Restaurant in New Westminster on Wednesday, February 22. Arriving early were Graham Kita, Roy Hopwood, and Rod Boss. The doors opened at 6:30 p.m., but many of the members and guests arrived early. At 7:00 p.m. everyone was asked to take their seats and the food orders were taken. Next up after that was the club photo. All of the well-dressed members of the Vancouver Magic Circle gathered on the stage for the photo. Our photographers were Henry Tom and Vincent Lee.

The emcees for the evening were Graham Kita and Rod Boss. There was lots of walk-around magic happening thanks to magicians Simon Cassegrain, Mike Vetterli, Rod Boss, Henry Tom, Yoosik Oum, Jordan Vo, Rob Teszka, Rod Chow, Ken Cowie, and Roy Hopwood. Also, intermittently throughout the night, raffle prizes were drawn. Special thanks to I.B.M. Past International President Shawn Farquhar, Karen Kamachi (RAPS), Rod Boss, Dennis Chan, and Graham Kita for the raffle donations. Also, thanks to our ticket sellers Jordan Vo and Graham Kita.

Then it was dinner time. The menu choices consisted of roast lamb, chicken cordon bleu, pan fried prawns, calamari, filet of salmon, moussaka, or a vegetarian special. After the delicious dinner, it was time for the installation ceremony and the swearing in of the new executive for the 2023 magic year. Presiding over the swearing in ceremony was I.B.M. International President Billy Hsueh. He read out the duties and responsibilities for the new executive. Your new executive for this year is Yoosik Oum, President; Simon Cassegrain, first Vice President; Henry Tom, second Vice President; Roy Hopwood, Treasurer and Secretary; and Dennis Chan, Sergeant-at-Arms.

The winner of the Murray Award for the most creative performance during the course of the year was Rod Chow. The winner of the Stan Kramien Award for showmanship was Henry Tom. The winner of the Dave Culos Memorial Trophy (also known as the Golden Rabbit

Award) was Dennis Chan. The recipient of the President's Award was Roy Hopwood.

We were honoured with the presence of Vancouver Magic Circle members Billy Hsueh (I.B.M. International President) and Rod Chow (Society of American Magicians National President). These two Vancouver Magic Circle members hold two of the most prestigious positions in magic. We, as the VMC, are very proud of the accomplishments of both of these magicians this year.

After the delicious dinner, it was show time. The featured performer was Robert Ramirez from Los Angeles. He wowed everybody with a great show. He started with a ukulele routine, where a chosen card ended up being his guitar pick. He performed his version of the Afghan bands using duct tape. He also included match box juggling and a card manipulation routine. Everyone enjoyed his performance. Again, thanks to Henry Tom and Vincent Lee for taking care of the photography. Vincent also took photos at the Robert Ramirez lecture, Roy Hopwood for looking after all the money during the event, and Shawn Farquhar for his help in securing Stefano's Restaurant (even though they're normally closed on Wednesday night). Stefano's for their great food and service. Graham and Terri Kita for organizing this event. And finally, the Vancouver Magic Circle would like to thank all who attended this year's installation banquet. It was truly a prestigious and successful event. There were thirty members and sixty-two guests in attendance.

The next night, we held the Robert Ramirez lecture back at the hall. The lecture was awesome, and Robert's methods were diabolical. The remaining awards were handed out. Receiving their certificates for the 2022 contest winners were: Roy Hopwood for the Cecil Ackery Trophy; Graham Kita for the Charles Howard Trophy; Rob Teszka for the H.B. MacLean Trophy; Mike Vetterli for the William Shelly Trophy; and Rod Chow for the Ray Gamble Trophy. Graham Kita received his wand holder's certificate. Congratulations to everyone.

Next, the Vancouver Magic Circle loyalty pins were handed out by Rod Boss. The five-year pins went to Steve Braybrooke, Ed Goldberg, Michael Nemeth, Gary Robins, Gabriella Lester, and Mike Vetterli. The ten-year pins went to Dennis Bauyon and Margaret Li, and the fifteen-year pin went to Bryn Williams. The thirty-year pin went to Roger Sylvestre. The Helping Hands certificates were awarded to Terri Kita, Suzanne Gustafson, Lori Farquhar, Tyler Mayfield, and Chelsea Kita. They are the people who work behind the scenes to make our gatherings successful.

Dennis Chan and Graham Kita

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

The February meeting of Ring 93 began, as usual, with Rob Gomoll singing the club song and reciting the following poem.

Not another box of chocolates or a greeting card! / Oh, it shouldn't be this hard! / It's Valentine's Day, 2023, and you don't know what to do. / You don't want something cliché; you want something new! / You'll get your loved one to hug your neck / If you can force four cards to the top of the deck. / Make them all Hearts, and they will say, / "L-O-V-E" in a very unique way. / Make one the seven, one the queen, one the ace, and one the three; / Line them up and you'll be surprised at what you'll see. / Look at the corners and you will tell / L-O-V-E is what it will spell! / You'll see what's in store / When you have him/her deal them out in stacks of four. / Chocolates have lots of calories; greeting card lyrics are trite. / Try this trick: It'll light up your Valentine's night!

We had a family of four visit us, and their second-grader son is interested in magic, so we instructed him on several tricks. Rob Gomoll did a card trick called "Persuasion." The spectator is given the deck to deal out as many cards as he/she wants and then is asked to take those cards and make two stacks. Turning over the top two cards, the spectator is asked to put a square or round token on his/her chosen cards. The magician opens a wallet with two cards in it, one with a round hole and one with a square hole that matched the spectator's choice.

Phyllis Fishnick was up next who did an amazing rope trick. She tied the ends of a rope together and gently blew on them, and the knots flew off. Next, she showed how the cards could show magical mathematical odds. She asked spectators for two numbers and several times the deck presented those cards to the onlooker by sheer probability.

Jim McCrea introduced our young member to the classic "Clock" trick. The magician secretly puts a selected card thirteenth in the deck. The spectator is asked to name a number on a clock face, and after creating a clock face with the cards, the selected card is at the spectator's chosen number. He also demonstrated the classic egg-and-handkerchief trick. He also showed how a coin disappeared beneath a handkerchief. Last, Jim performed "Clones, the Sponge Ball Trick with a Personality" for the mother of our guest family.

Chris Westemeier did the "Gozinta Box Trick" with two boxes and three sponge balls.

Amazingly the larger box fit into the smaller and sponge balls appeared inside. He also did a trick which had an arrow that pointed to the spectator and then at the magician until a card appeared saying, "Stop!" It used the famous Elmsley Count. Chris emphasized to our young magician that practice was the most important factor in successful magic.

The business part of our meeting involved voting to invite Keith Leff to lecture on close-up magic at one of our meetings in the future. It was a meeting of tricks and learning, and our visitors said they'd definitely be back at our next meeting and sign on as members of our club! *Rob Gomoll*

RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA— Merlin Efert Ring

Meets 3rd Sat., 7:00 pm at the Seal Beach North Community Center,
3333 Saint Cloud Dr., Seal Beach, CA
Web site: www.Ring96.com
CLIFF GERSTMAN, Secretary / E-mail: Cliffg37@verizon.net

On Saturday, February 18th, Ring 96 gathered for an exciting evening of magic. The first thing we did was have a workshop with Kevin Papke. Kevin showed us some moves and subtleties to go along with that classic of magic, "The Professor's Nightmare."

Kevin began with a classic routine that showed "Cut and Restored" as the "Jumping Knot" and led into the three-rope effect. He showed us his handling of the "three separate rope reveal." Then he guided us in the making of the effect from a bag of rope he brought along with the needed scissors. This was the second pre-meeting workshop in a row that Kevin produced for us. Both were highly successful. Next month will bring a coin workshop.

The regular part of the meeting began, and President John Piercy introduced our lecturer, Robert Baxt. Robert opened his set with his well-known classic, the "Newspaper Tear." He has his own handling of the effect, which is different from the typical one you will find in a magic book. The effect is brilliant, so Robert was quick to point out that newspapers are getting closer and closer to being obsolete, and he may not be able to do this routine much longer.

Second, Robert pulled out his rope and proceeded to do his take on "The Professor's Nightmare." While it was similar to what Kevin had done in the pre-meeting workshop, it did have Robert's own style of comedy magic attached to it. It went over very well, and the pre-meeting workshop took nothing away from Robert's presentation.

Next, Robert brought out a poster with a "q" shaped ring of pictures on it. He had a volunteer pick a number between five and fifteen and proceeded to count forward and then back along the

pictures. He landed on a picture of a diamond ring and turned the poster over to show a large diamond ring on the back. Next, he showed us several of the same trick set up with different themes and pictures. He invited us to be creative with it.

A volunteer was invited to say "stop" as Robert riffled through the pages of a calendar. It was apparently a dog lovers' calendar as each page featured a photo of a different breed of dog. The volunteer landed on a Pug. Robert said the worst thing about having a dog is walking it in the rain, so he brought out three umbrellas, one was red and white, one was blue and white, and the last was grey and white. The volunteer picked the red one. He gave Robert the blue one, and so the dog gets the grey one. The grey one opened to reveal a photo of a pug on it.

Robert brought a lady up to the stage and had her hold out her closed fist. After some humorous by-play, Robert made a drawing on a pad of her hand. He added her name and a black spot on her hand. When she opened her hand, there was a large black spot on it. She all but freaked out.

Robert brought out a webbed bag with a large plastic goldfish visible in it. He recited a rhyming story while the fish vanished from the bag and later appeared in his hand. He folded a large cloth and placed the fish in it. The fish vanished again and reappeared in the webbed bag.

Robert brought out a device with a flashing light and a buzzer. He said it was a lie detector. It buzzed and flashed with each lie or exaggeration spoken. This was more of a sight gag than a magic effect, but it still got a good laugh from the audience.

A puppet of a "red bull" was placed into a change bag, following the instructions from a recording. Out came a can of Red Bull. This effect was very simple, but Robert got a lot of mileage out of it by reacting to the recorded instructions. He likes this version more than the Bandana Banana as it is less messy, and you don't have to find bananas wherever you go.

A volunteer counted ten bills from a wallet and was instructed to sit on the wallet. Another volunteer did the same thing. A moment later, there were only seven bills in one and thirteen in the other. Apparently, the switch was made while the wallets were being sat on.

The final routine of the night was a Book Test. There were several books to be chosen from, and two volunteers each had a book. One picked the page and the other read the first line out loud. Robert had a prediction with that line already written. It was another exciting night at Ring 96.

Cliff Gerstman

RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - The Maurice Rooklyn Ring

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood
Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street
Chatswood.

DALE TRUEMAN, President / email: daletrueman@me.com

Our January meeting was disrupted by a summer storm which often happens this season, but Sydney had missed out on many of them this year. We delayed the start of the meeting, which was a good idea with some members turning up fifteen minutes late drenched to the skin. They had just made a quick walk from the railway station in pouring rain. Our topic tonight was "Cash Conjuring" covering notes, coins, credit cards, casino chips, gambling, betcha's, and pick pocketing; anything that could be loosely associated with money.

With the absence of our president tonight, Peter Wood took charge and ran the meeting. Before the main entertainment commenced at the request of a member requiring some family magic material for a future show in Alice Springs, a town in the middle of Australia, Peter showed a few routines. With a short length of plastic drainpipe with some strategically placed holes and two lengths of rope he tied a spectator up. The spectator then tied Peter up. We could see how secure he was, then instantly the shackles fell away. Peter then performed and showed the workings of a very old effect that I've always called the paper tree production or the paper fir tree, but Gene Anderson calls the "Corn Stalk."

Peter then introduced our other Peter, Peter Rodgers who, with a cheating at cards theme, performed John Bannon's "Bullet Party," then, encapsulated into a gambling routine, performed "Twisting the Aces," "The Last Trick of Dr. Jacob Daley," the "Dai Vernon Poker Deal," and Peter's own amalgamation of the Walter Gibson and Harry Lorayne poker deals.

Phuoc Can Hua is a lover of Tenyo Magic, tonight he performed a version of Paul Harris' "Twilight." With the aid of a pocket mirror he made coins appear, multiply, change, and vanish. Then with some Japanese music and using a small plastic pagoda, he vanished the center of a 1000 yen note, or did it actually slide to one side like the classic Zig Zag lady?

Anthony Dillon then demonstrated a pen through an Australian twenty-dollar polymer note which was wrapped in a Post-it Note. After his performance Anthony was generous enough to explain the full workings of the method which uses a normal pen or Sharpie which can be borrowed. With the assistance of Bailey and Phuoc, Anthony then had a coin wrapped in a silk. The corners were pulled through a finger ring, the silk trapping the coin, however, Anthony succeeded

in removing it. Bailey was asked to choose an imaginary coin which Anthony produced. A card was chosen from a pack in new deck order, the pack cut, the card returned, and the chosen card was miraculously discovered back in its original position with the cards back to new deck order. Another card was chosen, and it appeared under a poker chip using a little bit of word play. It was Anthony's performance of Erik Tait's "Ultra Lucky Coin."

Bailey Baranenko joined our Ring about eighteen months ago, however, because of the size of Sydney and his working commitments, he has found it hard to get to meetings until tonight. With his phone he took a photo of Anthony's hand, he then drew a small cross with a Sharpie on Anthony's palm, the cross vanished from his hand only to appear in the photo. With a bit more skullduggery Bailey made the cross appear on Anthony's other palm. The classic cigarette ash trick with smoking generally frowned upon in Australia is now rarely performed. Some years ago, the effect was updated with MagicSmith releasing what is now his best-selling effect, "Double Cross," which replaces the ashes with a Sharpie pen. Only very recently has the digital effect of adding an image to a photo on your phone been added which shows that Bailey is keeping up to date with new magic and technology even whilst unable to attend many of our meetings.

Peter Wood had been introducing the performers, it was now his turn to perform. We were all instructed to grab for an invisible object in the air, but Peter was the only one to produce an Australian hundred dollar note. It was padlocked between two sheets of clear acrylic Perspex. There was also a stand with five keys hanging from different coloured ribbons. With a well thought out comedy routine, Peter had various spectators choose keys until only one remained. There was Peter's key, and it was found to be the only one to fit the padlock. Peter, as usual with him, has created a great routine that he uses for family audiences with the classic "Pentalock."

It was now time to retire for tea, coffee, and supper and plenty of discussion about tonight's performances and magic in general. *Peter Rodgers*

RING 103, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA - Earl Edwards Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:30 p.m., Virginia Wesleyan University
JAMES JOHNSKE, President / email: geomagic10@gmail.com
Website: <https://ibm-ring-103.jimdosite.com>

There were good discussions during the business portion of the meeting. Jim told everyone that Chris Michael contacted him about an upcoming performance he was giving on February 18th at the Suffolk Arts Center. Jim provided the details and where to purchase tickets. We also discussed the theme for March

which is “Magic by a Ring 103 Member or Magic from the *Tarbell Course in Magic*.”

We also discussed an upcoming auction. Sonny Narvaez would like to sell some of his magic book collection and donate the money raised in the sale to Ring 103. The officers also agreed that the money would be used, in part, for Sonny’s dues in future years. The auction will be open to Ring members and other guests from the local magic community. A date has not been decided, but it will be during the spring or summer months when a larger crowd can be expected.

The performance part of the evening followed. February’s theme was “Classics of Magic.” Jim recently returned from MagiFest in Columbus, Ohio. He performed “Monkey” by Jeff Prace which is based on an old theme of magic with a modern twist using a house key. Next up, Joe performed a dazzling rendition of “20th Century Silks.” Sonny followed with a nice “Linking Rings” routine. He also gave some interesting insight on some magic history.

Christian then told an interesting story while transforming silks from one color to another and back again. Sean whipped out a nice card trick and used a spectator’s intuition to help find a selection. R.G. shared a performance of one of his new tricks he recently picked up called “Mr. Danger” from Tenyo. Jon closed the evening with a knuckle busting production of four aces.

After the performances, many of us hung out and shared some more magic moves and had some great discussions. *Jim Johnke*

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

The March Ring meeting highlighted St. Patrick’s Day themes of luck and the color green. Richard Micucci started off the evening with Dan Harlan’s circle to star effect, “Starcle.” Rich provided napkins and conducted a mini-DIY workshop, teaching the multiple folds and tears to perform the illusion.

Next, Eddie Conrad performed Brian Casell’s mental card stunner, “Cataclysm,” a re-working of a Mark Eldson effect. Three cards are chosen from a deck with numbers on their backs. The total of the three numbers and the selected cards match a photographic prediction!

Mark Cahill performed and explained a coin con game. The magician and spectator take away any amount of coins from a pile of twenty-one. The last person to pick up a coin is the loser. It’s a clever method relying on simple math that guarantees the magician always wins. Mark also per-

formed “Drop!” a card sandwich effect and a clever magic circle math routine.

Michael Healy responded with a demonstration of Harry Lorayne’s Magic Square.

Dennis McSweeney showed us a deceptive bar bet where it takes a ridiculous amount of coins stacked flat to reach the top of a vertical standing coin.

Mark Karavolos impressed everyone with Darwin Ortiz’ four-card packet trick with a variety of sly sleights to make the cards change faces four times!

Jay Paul demonstrated a baffling ACAAN with a phone app.

Carl Morano followed with a Dennis McSweeney packet trick where the faces and backs of a packet of cards change colors! Carl also performed the newly released Accumulator Deck from David Penn. This is a revision of the popular 52 to 1 Deck with some new bells and whistles! Carl also performed Mark Zacharia’s “Shake! Rattle! Predict!” where face up and face down cards are mixed. All face down cards are eliminated until one face up card remains. A prediction reveals the last card! *Carl Morano*

RING 115, SINGAPORE – The Great Wong Ring

Meets 15th of each month, 7:00 pm, Level 2, Hotel Grand Central, 22

Cavenagh Rd, Singapore 229617. Website: ibmring115.org

JOHN TEO, President / Tel: +62504422, 97509017

10M Braddell Hill #01-49, Singapore 57931

This evening, I.B.M. Ring 115 took on a new format for its meeting, with magic jamming sessions arranged before and after the magic performance segment. Hosted by Carson Goh and Kenneth Chia, the themes were “Story Telling Magic or Magic With A Message.” The meeting was held at the Drama Centre and attended by thirty-three members and nine guests.

John Teo kicked off the performance segment with a story-telling effect. He performed Joe Riding’s “Three Card Trick Using Four Cards” and shared that this trick was what got him started with magic. Next, he did an effect with a message. The message was on how to plan effectively, and the trick was a version of Simon Aronson’s “Shuffled Bored.” He showed that he was able to come out with a “plan B” when things went wrong with the outcome of a thoroughly mixed-up deck of cards.

Alvin Terence did an effect with four face up and face down cards and with an “Oil and Water” theme. He extended his magic touch to the entire deck and all the red and black cards were revealed to gather together respectively. He added that with interaction and magic exchanges, members, and non-members of I.B.M. will learn better, together.

Thomas Yeo presented a green toy worm that

appeared to have a life of its own. When a magic wand was placed near the worm, it would climb and curl itself around it, move from bowl to bowl, from hand to hand, and wrap itself around his fingers. He urged the audience not to be like the lazy worm.

Connor Stratton, an Australian and a guest for the evening, told how he learned magic to impress a girl he fancied. He invited the girl to insert a card of her choice into a deck. Despite his friend's meddling and causing the deck to become mixed up, the cards when laid out, were surprisingly revealed to be all face up except for only one which turned out to be the girl's card. With a few dexterous moves, he also transformed a deck of mixed-up cards into an arranged deck with all the red and black cards facing opposite directions respectively.

Harapan Ong invited a volunteer to mirror his actions with a deck. When both turned over their top cards were different. But, when they switched decks, their top cards were aligned. Even when they dealt out their cards, the cards at which they stopped at, were also the same. He reckoned that when each could see from the other's perspective, their cards would be similarly aligned. Next, he invited a volunteer to shuffle a deck with a Chinese character printed on each card and insert a chosen card randomly into the deck. He then placed his hand over the laid-out cards and selected a few cards to narrow his prediction of her chosen card. He eventually picked a card, but it turned out to be wrong. Explaining that he was better at performing magic in English than in Chinese, he put the remaining cards side by side and together, and they formed an English word "ONE" which amazingly translated into the Chinese character on his wrongly chosen card.

Jeremy Pei highlighted the list of promotional magic items available at his booth. He then presented a red and green coloured paper which he turned into a beautiful paper rose, complete with a green stalk. He then vanished it into a shower of red petals.

Goh Ying Xian demonstrated some of the latest products available at his booth. They comprised the Accumulator Deck, Rainbow Cards, Permanent Record, Loops Legend and Three Card Monte Stands.

The meeting concluded with a lucky draw and three lucky winners, followed by magic jamming session late into the night. *Low Hwee Lang (Ms)*

RING 122, WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS – Silent Mora – Ray Goulet Ring

Meets in person and ZOOM the last Tue. 7:30 p.m., at Temple Beth Shalom, 21 E. Foster St., Melrose, MA 02176
DEBBIE O'CARROLL, Secretary
51 Olive St., Newburyport, MA 01950 / (978) 462-9954

As the meeting started, we had a moment of

silence for the passing of Anne Goulet. Anne was married to and performed with magician and Ring 122 founder Ray Goulet. Anne led an adventurous life, often traveling for free on cruise ships as she and Ray presented magic together. She will be missed by all.

Good and Welfare: Davy brought up that Debbie O'Carroll has not been able to attend a meeting either live or on Zoom for some time. She is still recovering, and members are welcome to send her a card or note. Also, if there are other members that should be getting Good and Welfare wishes from us, please let Davy know. We will try to conduct a Broken Wand Ceremony at a future meeting for the three recent passings of Bob Massey, Bruce Fenton, and Anne Goulet. Davy will send in a memorial for each to *The Linking Ring*.

Daryl Vanderburgh, our treasurer, informed us that we had a donation of four hundred dollars to Ring 122 from a former member who had passed by the name of John Henry. We thank his estate very much, and Daryl has sent a thank you note. This gives us approximately \$1,500 in our bank account. Daryl will look at our paid members and see if there are active members who still need to pay and put a note in a future silent messenger.

Our March meeting will be in person as we have a new location for our monthly meeting at Temple Beth Shalom, in Melrose, Massachusetts. More details will be included in our February newsletter. Ring 122 members are invited to help and/or perform at our next live, public magic show to be held at the Belmont Unitarian Universalist Church on May 20, 2023, most likely at two in the afternoon. Members who would like to perform or volunteer for pre-show or to collect tickets should contact Rob Kinslow. Rob will be our master of ceremonies and so far Davy and Mikey Lee have signed up to perform. Mikey is in charge of putting a poster together and if you would like to help out on the committee let us know. Davy will look into advertising for the event.

Rob put out the idea of having a mentoring program or a summer magic camp as part of an outreach program for Ring 122. This could be coordinated through local libraries or community centers. If a member would like to take on this responsibility for setting up a program, please let Davy know. We will be happy to support you. Additionally, we are looking for a person to take on our social media coordination for Ring 122. This would include reworking the website (working with our editor, Daniel) and posting on social media, and perhaps creating Facebook events. If you would like to volunteer for this activity, please email Davy.

The meeting theme last month was “New Year, New Magic!” Davy mentioned that he had just purchased Podium Powder from Ickle Pickle Magic, our speaker in February. This is something that the recently passed Scott Alexander showed us at a November workshop. Davy hopes to use this with a dragon finger puppet and wants to create some original patter to go along with it. This led to an interesting discussion among members about banned flame effects used in the past for children’s shows. One of which was a Circle in a Square effect a member performed in the distant past where lighter fluid was used near (but not on) the child’s arm. This did raise some eyebrows as this would never be performed these days. Which also led to discussion on flame effects in general and whether they could ever be done indoors safely, or without extra insurance regulations.

Kevin Wassilak presented an effect he said demonstrated the laws of nature. This was “Crossed Cards” by Joker Magic, a pick a card effect using two different color decks which worked well on Zoom. Daryl said he was working on an effect called “Together 2.0” by Snake which is a torn and restored card effect similar to the one I mentioned in my president’s article this month. We saw a video of the effect and it was pretty amazing. Rob presented a “Three Card Monte” with two red and one blue back card. The cards seemed to melt through each other. This was a Larry Jennings and Jeff Williams close-up illusion that they called the “I Hate David Copperfield” trick. Dan Bybell is working on a mentalism effect, and he hopes to present it at the March meeting. Lastly, Kevin said to check out the Magic Roadshow blog at *Magicroadshow.com*. He highly recommends it! And with that the meeting was adjourned.

David Penn

RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at First Christian Church of Blue Springs, 701 NW 15 St., Blue Springs, MO.

LANCE RICH, President,

lance@lancerich.com / 4710 Stonecrest Ter., St. Joseph, MO 64506

Somehow, the Kansas City area missed out on all the terrible weather much of the rest of the country is experiencing, so our activities have gone on without a hitch. About twenty-five members and guests showed up for our March meeting, which was presided over by our new president, Jason Moore. He began the meeting by discussing the activities of the “Magic Makers” group, magicians who get together on a regular basis to build their own props. He then turned the meeting over briefly to Lance Rich, who presented Kelly Rusk with a medal indicating his induction into the Sorcerers’ Circle, a subgroup of our Ring who

have been honored for exceptional service to the Ring.

We then moved on to a segment which Jason had suggested last month, tricks with borrowed items. Alan Goodheart led off with a routine based on borrowed silverware. Shaun Rivera deviated slightly from the theme by showing how our I.B.M. membership cards contained built-in tricks that many of us were not aware of. Dennis Burks showed how the numbers of the hours on a watch could be used to force a predicted number.

Past International President David Sandy then showed us a couple of collectible items, including a U.F. Grant miniature levitation and an illusion previously owned by Blackstone Sr. He also advised us on how to determine if items in our possession are indeed collectible.

Prior to the meeting, Jason Moore had suggested that members view a film on Houdini, which could be found on YouTube, and he led a discussion on the film. We then moved on to our quarterly contests, which we use as qualifiers for our close-up and stage magician-of-the-year contests.

Jordan Byrd was the only contestant in the stage segment, performing a Ring on Rope” routine with a pair of scissors substituting for the ring. In the close-up portion, Stu Lewis performed his “Endless Chain” routine and David Heeter performed a “Ring on Shoelace” routine. Since up to three winners could be chosen for advancement to the annual contests, the members had simply to vote “yes” or “no” for each contestant, and all three were selected to move on.

Finally, we came to the non-competitive performance segment of the meeting. Dennis Burks began by giving a positive review of Guy Bavli’s book *Smiles*, and he then produced several balls with pictures of smiling faces. John Hicks performed two card routines (what else?), one in which three spectator selections magically reverse in the deck, followed by an open prediction. Matthew Bartlett, a junior magician whose talent and poise have grown before our eyes, demonstrated imagination vs. reality with several card transpositions. Lance Rich showed us some musical scores that originally were used by Blackstone Jr. in his performances.

On March 4, several members of our Sorcerers’ Circle travelled to St. Joseph, about fifty miles north of Kansas City, to take part in a murder mystery game at the Glore Psychiatric Museum, formerly the St. Joseph Lunatic Asylum, to tour the facility and take part in a murder mystery game called “Murder at the Asylum.” Though none of the groups completely solved the mystery, all had a good time, though

many were shocked to see the exhibits of how mental illness was treated in years past. *Stu Lewis*

RING 131, DENVER, COLORADO – Mile High Magicians Society – The Earl Reum Ring

2nd Thu., 7:00pm Knight of Columbus Hall.

4935 w. 1st Ave., Denver, CO 80219

GLENN PROULX Secretary / glennproulx@gmail.com

Web site: www.milehighmagicians.com

Since February is the month of Valentine's Day, we had a Stuck on You meeting. Anything that sticks is what you perform, Velcro, magnets, double sided tape, sticky notes, rubber cement, glue, etc. As a performer you could perform or reveal the method of the magic.

Jeff Jenson suggested using magnets on the "Twentieth Century Silks" trick. Tape can also be used to accomplish a double lift.

Gene Gordon performed Dave Neighbor's "Coins Across" to his pocket one at a time. He did a nice card trick where the spectator could lie, tell the truth, or do both. The card was found by spelling. Next, he did a nice "Card to Impossible Location."

Glenn Proulx performed the "Appearing Car" by Hyde Ren. He also demonstrated how he rewired a flameless candle to turn on with a PK ring, made three different color ropes link, changed a spoon into a fork, and finally did Pavel's "Flash Rope Restoration."

Matt Brandt made three coins appear and disappear. Then he had a sticky note signed and wrapped around a bill. He shoved a pencil through it and the hole was only in the sticky note and not the bill!

Dan Rodriguez suggested a way to use car door magnets to help your marketing and also suggested if your logo was painted on the car to use door magnet placards to cover your logo to be in compliance with your local HOA. (Especially, if you park your car in the driveway.) Another nice thing would be to make a refrigerator magnet of the birthday child as a giveaway.

Marty Jewell, the Queen of Puns in our club, did a nice card stab with a balloon! She had a stick in her hair, please stick around (because most sticks are round and you wave it in a circle!), stick to your routine, she had tape stuck to a deck for her tape deck, and make sure you stick-it-to- 'em.

New member Vespa performed Ron Frost's trick from the wax museum using magicians' wax. He had a box to trap daemons. Cards were selected from a tarot deck and by using a devil puppet the evil eye found the spectator's card miniature in size!

Ralph MacIntosh did a nice "Tossed Out Deck" prediction with the help of some bricks. It was a trick by Cody Fisher, "\$100 Bill Trick."

Steve Spangler talked about how magnets are used in vending machines to make sure bills are real, how to use a neodymium magnet to check a bill, and how Malt-O-Meal and Wonder Bread are fortified with iron. It was a magnetic night of magic that held our attention! *Glenn Proulx*

RING 148, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Garden City Ring

Meets 4th Weds., (except Dec. & Jan) 7:30pm The Bombshelter, South Rd., Thebarton. www.ibm148.blogspot.com

DREW AMES, Secretary

E-mail: info@drewmagic.com.au

The meeting was held on Wednesday 22 February 2023. Present at the meeting were Murray Cooper, Kevin Casaretto, Steve Burford, Drew Ames, and Ian Riley who recently joined the I.B.M. and is a very welcome new member of the club. We also had a guest, Adrian.

Murray was in charge of the meeting and with his presence did a first-class job of remembering the life of Max Maven. Murray performed six tricks that Max had invented. The tricks were "Fluttering Hearts," "Masque," "Electile Dysfunction," "Lost and Phoned," "B'Wave," and "Romim." With DVD clips of Max performing, it was a good look into Max's life and performance style.

A great night by Murray. Congratulations Murray very well done. (As per usual from Murray.)

Adrian performed a trick he learned from Ring 2100. Four cards were selected, and cards were face up and face down. The cards were cut in the middle and then when the cards were spread only the four selected cards were face up. Good presentation from Adrian.

Murray brought some goodies and refreshments for everyone, and we all had a chat at the end on a good start to our year. Hope to see everyone back for the March meeting. *Kevin Casaretto*

RING 151, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA – Ottawa Society of Magicians - The Roy Cottee Ring

Meets 2nd Tue., at one of three locations. Contact us for details.

JOHN PERT, President

5556 Van Vliet Rd., Manotick ON, K4M 1J4

The February 2023 of the Roy Cottee Ring (Ring 151, Ottawa) was held in person in the private room of The Barley Mow to the great delight of all members. In attendance were President John Pert, Kyle Leon, Réal Boucher, Glenn Brown, Luc Leduc, Chris Pilsworth, Jean Luc Dupont, Stéphane Beaudoin, Mark Aronoff, George Sapounidis, and Mark Montreuil.

Glenn Brown treated us to a lovely card move that he had developed with Gary Ouellette. Glenn had three cards selected and then dealt face down to the table. These three cards all coincidentally

were kings. The last card selected turned out to be an ace. Glenn then proved his mastery of the magical arts by revealing that the three face down kings had become aces. While Glenn and Gary never officially named the move they had created, Glenn called it a kind of turnover force.

Luc Leduc showed us a trick that he had sold in magic kits at one time. He showed us three safety pins which each had a different colored ribbon tied to them, one red, one blue, and one yellow. With his back turned, he asked that one pin be placed into the hand behind his back and that the other two pins be hidden. Keeping his hand behind his back, Luc was able to correctly divine the colour of the ribbon on the pin in his hand.

George Sapounidis, who tours and sings under his better-known stage name, Chairman George, entertained us with some anecdotes about singing at a Chinese New Year event in Chinese and meeting Ottawa's new mayor. He also talked about performing a comedy set at Yuk Yuk's and adding a vanishing silk routine to his music show.

Chris Pilsworth brought out a stack of pages from a destroyed novel. He mixed up the pages and handed the book's cover to a spectator to insert into the stack of pages. He then had a spectator look at the first word on the selected page and Chris tried to discern the word. Chris seemed to be having a rough time and came up with the letters CCD and the number 198. Chris then realized that CCD meant the *Collins Canadian Dictionary*, which he had a copy of. The first word on page 198 in the dictionary matched the first word on the selected page. Chris then talked about how he had based his presentation on a Chad Long idea.

Jean Luc Dupont shared a story of one of his first meetings with recently departed member Brian McAdam, and how he had enjoyed playing chess with Brian. He also talked of how he had tested the new Artificial Intelligence, ChatGPT, to see what it thought about the future of magic and who Ottawa's best magician is. ChatGPT thought that machines will not soon replace magicians, as they do not have the requisite manipulative skill or human guile, and that Chris Pilsworth was definitely one of Ottawa's foremost magicians.

John Pert gave four flashcards each to some spectators, asking them to choose one of the cards and to shuffle them up. He then gathered all the cards and dealt them into four piles, first asking the spectator to indicate that each card he was shown was his, then asking the spectator to indicate that each card he was shown was not his. In the end, even with these unhelpful responses, he was able to guess each selection correctly.

Stéphane Beaudouin had a card named and

then he cut the deck to the selected card. He then cut to the three other cards' mates so that, in the end, he had the Heart, Club, Spade, and Diamond, a nice presentation of matching the cards.

Kyle Leon showed us a deck of cards, spreading through the faces to show that they were all different. He had one card mentally selected and then, putting the cards behind his back, he removed one card and kept it face down. He then dealt through the remaining cards to show that the spectator's card was not there. He then demonstrated that the selected card had moved over to a second pack.

Mark Montreuil talked about his last stage show, where he found out late in the game that he was responsible for performing for forty minutes instead of twenty-five. One of the tricks that he decided to add was Paul Harris's excellent "Las Vegas Leaper," a trick where three cards travel invisibly from the magician's pack of ten cards to the spectator's pack of ten. The trick played very well for the small theatre crowd of seventy-five. Mark then performed the same trick live for the club, showing that it is not the size of the props, it's how you use them.

Mark Aronoff took the four aces and placed the black aces face down on the table. Then, the red aces in his hand switched places with the black aces. Then, one ace of each color changed places, and finally, placing the aces into the deck, they all turned face up in the centre of the spread. Mark then did a very nice cutting the aces, producing them one at a time from the deck after cutting the cards into four piles.

This was the last trick of the meeting, but not the last magic of the month. Later in February, John Pert, Kyle Leon, Chris Pilsworth, Stéphane Beaudoin, George Sapounidis, John Freemont, and Mark Montreuil entertained the patients at the Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre with parlour and close-up magic. The next day, the event coordinator sent the following review to the club: "Oh my gosh! I came in to work this morning and your wonderful group of magicians were all the talk of the town! Many of the patients talked about how much they loved the show! It was the topic of discussion at our coffee club this morning. They were telling stories, trying to figure out how each trick was done, one patient said, 'It blew my (bleeping)mind!' LOL! These types of events make people feel normal again and are so meaningful! One patient even told me that for about an hour he forgot he was in the hospital, and it made him feel so happy!

And so, another magical month has made its way into the books. 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.

KENT MESSEMER, President / E-mail: kmezmriz@qwestoffice.net
122 S. 36th St., Billings, MT 59101

We had a good turnout for our February meeting despite the fact that Billings had received four inches of snow earlier in the day. Braving the icy streets and cold weather were Tony Shandy and his fiancée Debbie, Kent Messmer, Cristina Foti, and Brent Cromley.

We first talked about some of the history of the club. Ring 153 was chartered almost sixty-five years ago, on May 15, 1957. None of the nineteen original members are still around. Perhaps the most famous of them was Charles Luedke who, besides being a popular magician in the area, was a distinguished District Court Judge for many years. At one time the Ring was renamed the Charles Luedke Ring.

Kent reported on some of his recent performances and disclosed that he plans to add hypnotism to his repertoire in response to several requests. This led to a discussion of various methods and performers, Brent recalling that he had completed a science project while in high school after hypnotizing several classmates and recording the data.

It seemed that everyone was prepared to perform, and Cristina, our newest member, went first, performing an intriguing card trick with which none of us had been familiar. Without a known name, we decided to call it “Cristina’s Card Jeopardy.”

Kent followed that with a classic card trick, “Anniversary Waltz,” with Tony and Debbie showing their affinity for each other by ending up with a single card, signed by both, after seemingly having chosen two different cards.

Brent performed Brother John Hamman’s “Magic Cards” trick but using cards with hearts on the back to fit in with the Valentine season. He followed that with Liam Montier’s “Adjective,” and Minhyoung Kim’s “Stop Watch.”

Tony closed the evening of magic with a mysterious revelation based upon palm reading. As usual, Tony had a fascinating story to tell as he completed his magic.

Debbie once again produced a different type of magic, introducing us to homemade Irish Dairy Cakes. As with all her treats that she brings, they were delicious. Her treats make our meetings extra special.

We’re looking forward to spring here in Billings, the “Magic City.” We have several new folks who have expressed interest in joining us and learning some magic, so we have hopes of growing our group. If you find yourself in this

part of the company, let us know and we’ll try to meet up with you.

Brent Cromley

RING 167, DES MOINES, IOWA – Justo Hijo of Magic, Inc.

2nd Mon., 7:00pm Felix & Oscars 4050 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA

BRUCE ANDERSON, Secretary

E-mail: bga0128@gmail.com

What a wonderful club meeting we had this February. Not even the Iowa winter can deter our growing group of conjurers from coming together.

Steve Daley started the meeting with several updates about the lineup for Abracorndabra. We are all very excited to attend another wonderful convention at our new location this May. Don’t forget to register before the price goes up!

Russ Samson was the first to perform for us. Three volunteers chose one of four leather wallets, each containing a humorous prediction. The tone shifts suddenly when the final wallet is opened to reveal Russ knew all along! A very colorful mentalism routine with a wonderful surprise finish.

Alan Koslow turned seventy this week, and Steve Daly made sure we all celebrated. Steve baked a delicious cake in the shape of a giant cupcake for Alan, and Alan was kind enough to share it with the club. Alan was the next to perform. A borrowed deck was shuffled by a volunteer. She chose three cards with the same value. The cards were again mixed, and then Alan dealt them onto the table in two piles, one face up, and the other face down. The process was repeated until only three cards remained face down. The three selections! Things apparently didn’t go quite as planned, but it was wonderful magic, nonetheless.

Tom Miller was next, with a trip through time and space to London, twenty years after Jack the Ripper. Another string of murders is terrifying the people, this time at the hands of “The Collector.” A volunteer discerned which suspect had done it, and sure enough, the items he had taken from the victims revealed his identity! Very interesting magic, and a vivid story.

Young Kellan Stevens, already honing his skills as a performer, had a volunteer pick a card, which happened to be the only printed card in the deck! When the card was returned to the deck, every card mysteriously became printed again. Fantastic! And at such a young age, too!

Barb Funke, in preparation for her upcoming events in State Center, thrilled all the youngsters in the group by telling a story with the aid of balloon shapes. At the end of the story, each child left the stage with a balloon bumblebee. Barb brings such a bright light to our club.

The performances were momentarily paused while Marcus Stevens taught us Dai Vernon’s

classic, "Twisting the Aces." Marcus promised us printed instructions in the next edition of the *Vanisher*.

PJ Weise asked us to follow along with a self-working piece of card magic. The four aces are covered with three cards each. All the packets are shuffled and folded together several times, so that the cards are facing every which way. When the cards are spread again, however, only the four aces are face up. What a gem to share with the group.

Nathan "Tricky" Alan delighted us all with a comedic "Thumb Cuff Escape." Despite the solid metal cuffs being closely examined by a member of the audience, Nathan ducked in and out of the cuffs faster than lightning. The surprise finish came when the cuffs vanished from underneath Nathan's foulard and were discovered hanging from his key ring! For those interested in learning more about Nathan's work with escapes, you can find his download, "Ultimate Escapes 101," on Penguin Magic.

Theron Christensen came next, with a pleasant performance of Eric Lewis's "Comedy Comeback Card," in which he talked about creating original magic by getting an idea for an effect and working backwards to discover a method.

Next, we were all delighted by Lucas McCannon's comedy card routine. A parade of card reveal gags was followed by a serious prediction that left us all stumped. Lucas then performed a second routine, in which both he and a volunteer mixed cards behind their backs. In the course of the mixing, they swapped a single card with each other. Surprisingly, the swapped cards matched! But far more surprising, was the fact that all of the cards in each packet were the same card, but not the same as the cards that were selected and swapped! How did he do it!?

Larry Reed shared a unique method for the classic "Ring on String" plot. A solid ring penetrated on and off the string multiple times, even though it never came near the ends of the shoe-string!

Mikayla Oz borrowed a handful of change. Then she carefully balanced a nickel on top of a quarter and a dime on top of the nickel, with borrowed coins! The method couldn't be spotted, even inches away. Wonderful.

Brendan Schlomer, one of our youngest attendees, showed off his impressive chops with a deck of cards. Two volunteers helped him whittle the deck down to a single selection. Brendan missed a couple of times when he first attempted to find the selection, so he showed us his insurance card which he keeps in his phone case. Of course, the insurance card turned out to match the selection! A great surprise.

Steve Daley performed a jumbo card prediction that he acquired at a recent magic auction. A card is selected from a standard-sized deck, and the jumbo card which has been in view from the beginning matches! Simple and elegant.

Overall, the turnout was spectacular and the variety of magic we shared with each other was inspiring. *Theron Christensen*

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@cfll.rr.com

Web site: www.Ring170.com

President Ryan Stiner called the meeting to order. Twenty-eight attended and we had three guests. The guests were Conner Kaplan from the Florida Space Coast, Mark Austin, an American who works in France, and Gregory Vargas. Ryan announced the current magic events and attractions here in the Orlando and Central Florida tourist area.

Guest Mark Austin brought a suitcase of hilarious sight gags that he invented, and hand made. Most of us recall the late comedian Gallagher and the still working, Carrot Top. Mark's creations are of the same comedy value and high quality. His crafting ability is amazing, and each gag had its own novelty case and back story. He concluded with a clever adaptation of a Gaetan Bloom effect.

Dr. Ken Schreiber demonstrated a Mobius strip effect made from a giant zipper. It seems to deny logic in the way one loop can become either separate or linked or double sized. His variation of the classic effect "Afghan Bands," is based on math topology, proving that classic magic from an earlier time is still amazing. To continue that idea, he did Al Baker's "Cut and Restored Ribbon." The ribbon's bow pops off from the middle and the ribbon is back together.

Dan Stapleton, who spent many years as a cruise director, performed another one of his classic effects. Four spectators divided the deck into four parts, and each chose a random card, and returned the cards to their decks. Standing together, they sprung all four piles at Dan, as he held up a chair, as if to protect himself, and each card was impaled on the bottom of each leg of the chair.

Jacki Manna showed us her new children's routine. She is adding it to her act. It was interactive and multiphase. A sad clown picture on a silk cloth turns colorful and happy and popcorn appears along with other bits of business. It had all the things that children love.

The final act was Dennis Phillips, who did a timed "Siberian Chain Escape" after his wrists were chained by a spectator. His giant timer kept

falling apart and one of his tightly chained hands would comedically come out unchained from under the cloth covering to fix it and return chained again. It is an entertaining classic effect.

Dennis Phillips

RING 175, TAMPA, FLORIDA – Warren Hamilton Ring

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 3714 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa, FL 33618 / Website: <https://tampamagicclub.com>
TOM VORJOHAN, President / E-mail: ring175magic@gmail.com

Ring President Tom Vorjohan opened our February meeting with announcements regarding our one-day magic convention and flea market to be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the Lion's Eye Institute in Tampa. So far, Tom has arranged for the talented Doug Conn and charismatic Eric Olson to appear with more to come! The most up to date details are available on our website at www.tampamagicclub.com.

Tom then welcomed our featured guest for the evening, the talented and charming John Luka. Ring 175 loves when visiting magicians are able to schedule a lecture with our club while they are visiting Florida. Our meetings draw the largest crowds when out-of-state magicians, not frequently seen in the Sunshine State, come to lecture for us. Visiting from Michigan for a few days, we were the only club in Florida lucky enough to snag John's seasoned talents during his trip.

Thanks to the advertising efforts of our terrific Social Media Director, Sara Kirkpatrick, magicians came to this meeting from as far away as St. Pete, Lakeland, and Orlando! I am happy to report several of these first-time visitors are now new Ring members bringing our total member count to fifty-three as of February 2023. We must be doing something right!

The lecture itself was fantastic! Just as John's *Tops Magazine* column was intended for magicians who do pocket and parlor tricks in informal settings, John's lecture provided us with some great effects to perform at a party or business gathering. John taught us some choice material from his great magic books, *Uncovered* and *L.I.N.T.* (including the astonishing "Chromo Balls" routine) and assorted material from his *Tops Magazine* columns. John did it all using ropes, cards, coins, and balls. We learned "Doubling Back Home," "Card to Wallet," "The Airplane Card," "Jazzed and Face Up (Aces)," and "Michigan Monte" (to name a few). After the lecture, John's Pocket Grenade Wallet was a big seller and a great buy!

This was another outstanding lecture, but all of our meetings are fun so if you are ever in Tampa on the second Tuesday of any month, please stop in and say hello. We look forward to seeing you there!

John Holly

RING 179, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – George Dency Ring

Meets 3rd Weds., 7:30pm at Woodholme Country Club, 300 Woodholme Ave., Pikesville, MD 21208 / Website: IBMRing179.com

MIKE ROSE, President

Email: mike.rose.magic@verizon.net

The February 2023 was a joint I.B.M.-S.A.M. meeting held specially at member Joe Pachino's house, where the Ring had met once before three years ago, just days before the Covid shutdown. Jay Silverman made some announcements and led the meeting. The theme for February was hearts.

Performances: 1. Joe Pachino - from the *Encyclopedia of Card Tricks*, Joe did a trick with three cards laid face up on a table. With Joe's head turned away, a volunteer chose one card, and exchanged the places of the other two cards. Joe was then able to identify the chosen card. Joe learned this trick from his nine-year-old granddaughter. 2. Jared Raitzyk - performed a Sean Devine trick using four Aces. The magician starts by openly predicting four cards. A spectator then cuts the deck into four piles, but instead of the four predicted cards, the cut-to cards end up being aces. The magician offers to try something with the aces, and mixes them into the deck, and tries to locate them, only to finally reveal the magician's original four card prediction. 3. James Mahoney - performed a card/prediction to wallet routine. It had a flourish in which by rubbing a selected card on the card box, it turned into a Ten of Hearts. 4. Ken Caplan - performed two routines: (a) A volunteer selects from a random scattering of about fifteen cards with paperclips and signs the card. That card is re-paperclipped and put into a paper bag with the other paperclipped cards. Ken is able to identify the chosen and signed card. (b) A volunteer "throws" a kiss onto a selected card, and a bright red kiss appears on the back of the card. Ken says this is great for walk-around, although he does not give out the kiss card. 5. John Carrington - performed the "Power of Love." A two-liter soda bottle is filled with water and one catsup packet. First John, and then members, held and squeezed the bottle, and the catsup packet went up and down inside the bottle. Johns said it will only work with certain catsup packets. 6. Michael Worsham - performed a trick that Penn and Teller did on a recent *Fool Us* show. The trick is an "Oil and Water" that the audience can do themselves with eight cards (any four black and any four white cards), by following instructions from the magician. 7. Tim Carver - performed a card trick in which a volunteer's selected card is somehow switched with a card that the volunteer simply thought of. 8. Mark Wolfire - performed "Total Coincidence" by Juan Tamariz. Two volunteers shuffle a red backed and blue backed deck. The

decks are split into red and black cards. The red cards from each deck are put into their respective card boxes. After various cutting, there is a match in both deck halves for the black cards. Next, after the two half decks are mixed together, a chosen card again matches. Then, after the two half decks are separated, both halves match card for card in order. Finally, the two red halves are taken out of their respective card boxes, and also found to match card for card in order. 9. Jay Silverman - performed a gambling-themed trick using poker chips called "NIM." Fifteen poker chips are arranged in a triangle on a table. A volunteer and the magician remove either two or three chips at a time. The last person to remove a chip loses. Jay was able to win every time and explained the secret. 10. Dave Thomen - performed a trick with a Cub Scout neckerchief. Dave said the Scouts are changing the neckerchief design, so the trick will have to be reworked in the future. 11. John Gazman - performed two card tricks. (a) a volunteer's thought of card is announced to the audience, and correctly identified where the card is in the deck. (b) a signed card is lost in the deck, the deck is riffled, and the card is found in the magician's (John's) pocket.

The March 2023 was a joint I.B.M.-S.A.M. meeting. Andy London made some announcements and led the meeting. The meeting theme was teaching a ring and rope trick.

Performances: 1. Tait Harbaugh, a.k.a. Papa Tater, a special guest attending to promote his popular magic Swap Meet held each spring in southern PA, shared his "Ring, String, and Wand routine;" 2. Joe Bruno performed routines he learned over fifty years ago put out by Okito, "Ring Off Rope/Silk," "Ribbon Off Ring/Bracelet, and "String Off Finger;" 3. Harry Damareck performed a "Ring Off Silk" routine – he is not sure of the source (later, Harry demonstrated some comedy cut and restored rope bits); 4. Jeff Eline performed and gave tips on the "Professor's Nightmare," Jeff also shared a subtlety tip for performing the endless loop, which is used in many rope routines; 5. Michael Worsham performed and explained three impromptu rope moves and routines from *Daryl's Expert Rope Magic Made Easy, Volume 1*, "Ropes through Body," "Improved Grandmother's Necklace," and the "Cords of Phantasia;" 6. Howard Katz performed a shoelace and ring routine commercially available as the "Houdini Ring;" 7. Jared Raitzyk performed and explained the "Cut and Restored Rope;" 8. Josh Young, a new attendee, performed a card trick he learned from a ten year old. The magician predicts a card (a joker). A volunteer freely selects one of five cards, but it does not match the magician's joker prediction. Then

the four remaining cards are all magically turned into jokers. As a finale (which Josh said will not work every time depending on the volunteer's selection), one of the jokers is holding the volunteer's selected card!
Michael Worsham

RING 185, HONOLULU, HAWAII – Hawaii Magicians Society

Meets 1st Tue of each month, 7:00 p.m., at Magic Mystery Theatre Showroom, 2nd floor, Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel, 2500 Kuhio Ave., Honolulu, HI 96815
HARVEY "MR. O" OUCHI, Secretary / mromagic@yahoo.com
www.hawaiimagiciansclub.com

I.B.M. Ring 185 again convened a joint meeting with the The Jimmy Yoshida Aloha Assembly 89 for the February meeting at the Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel, the site of the new Magic Mystery Theatre. Hawaii's magicians are very fortunate to have the use of the fabulous new Victorian era parlor room occupied by Oahu's newest sensation Waikiki magic show. For tourists visiting Hawaii check out *The Magical Mystery Show!* at <https://hotel-magic.com/oahu-tickets/magical-show/>. There is also a Magical Mystery Show on Maui.

Mycah Muranaka opened the meeting by announcing that both I.B.M. and S.A.M. Hawaii magic clubs will again begin meeting at Kalihi-Palama Library. The clubs should be resuming the S.A.M. meetings in April, first Wednesday of each month and I.B.M. meetings on the fourth Thursdays. Curtis Kam announced that at this year's S.A.M. Convention in New Orleans, there will again have a youth component.

Willy Chen, I.B.M. Ring President, announced that Harry Allen from Daytona Magic in Florida plans to visit Hawaii in early May and is asking if Ring 185 would be interested in his lecture. The officers are currently discussing the matter. Evelyn Strugnell is facilitating the discussion to make it happen.

Then the evening turned highly magical with several entertaining performances. The theme for the evening was rope magic. Willy started us off with a "Cut and Restored Rope" routine to some fantastic music. Joe Page then performed and taught the members a neat vanishing knot. Curtis Kam performed a "Cut and Restored Rope" routine he found in Terry Seabrooke's lecture notes and later shared the method. In short, he said he used Tom Stone's method (a magician from Sweden). He threaded the scissors onto the rope and held on to the other end to create a loop while the scissors swung from the loop. He then swung the scissors and loop up towards the two ends of the rope, and in a flash, the scissors dropped to the floor and the rope was magically cut into two equal pieces. It now looks like he has two lengths of ropes of equal length without

touching the scissors. Curtis also repeated the same trick using a huge Chinese coin. Curtis then showed everyone an old gag where he wound a piece of rope around the index finger of a volunteer and suddenly jerked the ends. Amazingly and fortunately for the volunteer, the rope immediately slipped off the finger of the volunteer with no injuries. A sigh of relief from the audience. Curtis did admonish the audience that the performer has to be very careful to wrap the piece of rope the “correct” way around the volunteer’s finger, otherwise, the volunteer might experience some excruciating pain. James Lee shared his version of “Rope through Body” and “Color Changing Rope” routines. Ron Ishimaru ended the evening by sharing a great “Ring on String” move. A Hui Hou and aloha from Hawaii Ring 185!

Harvey “Mr. O” Ouchi

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.

JOHN GONZALEZ, Secretary / E-mail: johngonzalez@mac.com

Web site: www.utahmagic.org

Our March meeting was started off by V.P. David Wright with a few announcements of interest and then the magic began. Pepe Puglisi showed us “Diminishing Milk” with a twist by increasing the milk in graduated glasses. He generously explained his method, and it didn’t include OOM. Al Skinner did what he called “Harbin” involving a story about Dai Vernon and a card in a bottle. Scot Smith came up with “VOX,” an ACAAN effect using Siri to make the selection.

Al Levasseur showed a magic bag with a do-as-I-do “Paper Tear” that ended with awarding Al Skinner a wizard’s hat. Dave Mitchell cut a piece of paper in such a way as to be able to walk through the hole he cut. John Iaconno performed an “Insurance Policy” trick, using a small folder he made himself, and suggested it could be made with his contact information on the front, and be given out as a souvenir. Bill Devon performed the “Six Bill Repeat” using hundred-dollar bills.

Dale Lorzo went through a story about his childhood ambitions with paper hats to demonstrate each career choice. He then offered to clean bills from the audience in his money washing machine. When he cleaned a five, however, it came out blank. He then fed a longer blank into the machine and printed a long line of five-dollar bills, one of which he cut off and returned to the volunteer.

David Wright showed us “Starcle” with a story about him and his mother looking at the night sky and ended with a moon and a star torn from the paper. Kirby Romine had “Absorbing News” for

us, and then pulled colored silks from the photos in another single sheet. Andy Swan juggled paper balls and then tried it blindfolded with predictable results. He never fails to entertain.

Jeff Tinker

RING 194, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA – Space City Magic Club

Meets 1st. Thu., 7:00pm Madison Christian Church, Hughes Rd.,

Madison, AL

MATT GROWDEN, President

E-mail: Growdne@yahoo.com

Ring 194 had a split meeting for March, one at the usual meeting place and the other at the Winter Carnival of Magic. Kind of like the old Zoom meetings we did during Covid 19 but different. One Ring meeting spread over two time zones. Attending the WCM meeting were V.P. Brett Boyer, comedian Dean Carter, Ring Reports and Events editor for *The Linking Ring*, Dr. Steven Schlanger (who by the way behaved himself), card man David Thompson, Artem Shchukin (Patrick Brunson served as interpreter knowing just six words in Russian.), George Patides, and Amanda Young with Hudson. Brett did the usual business of asking who bought which tricks so far at the WCM. Since the treasurer was at the WCM, the other meeting did not get his report. The only member performing a show since the last meeting was Patrick Brunson, who executed a great show at half-time during a Super Bowl party. He prepared a Valentine’s theme, not knowing the party was for twenty male football fans, no women!

The magic theme for March wasn’t March Madness Magic but “works in progress.” Kind of like a writers’ critique secession, where each member helped another sharpen their work. Members at the WCM did not have time to practice their new magic, so they skipped the magic portion of the meeting to attend lectures and shows. They will present their magic at the next meeting.

And now for the actual March meeting. Jared Cassidy contributed valuable feedback for our “magic works in progress theme.” Glenn Rudolph opened the session with a plea for help in developing a clean ACAAN method. He surmised that with some Breather Crimps and/or stripper cards, and a memorized deck set up it should be theoretically possible to create a deck that could be set to count down to the named card after one cut. Glenn’s concern was ease of handling “under fire” in an actual performance situation. This made Matt Growden recall a T.A. Water’s solution using a “double” deck consisting of very thin cards, and a setup in the card case that bevels the deck, allowing the performer to essentially “cut” the named card to any location

while the deck is removed from the case. Matt also shared his current handling of ACAAN using a faced deck setup from Barrie Richardson and a Gravity Half Pass (Aaron Fisher). We all agreed that Glenn's ideas are worth fleshing out and surely, someone else out there in magicdom has had thoughts along similar lines... none of us have done the research yet. Matt Growden tried out a new presentation for a simple trick of changing five dollars to one hundred dollars using a nice Tenyo magnetic card box. It centers around a discussion of the Stanford University "Marshmallow Experiment" and the merits of delayed gratification (especially when it comes to compounding interest!).

Jack Baldwin finished out the performances with a great presentation of an oldie but a goodie, "The Afghan Bands" made from strips of newspaper. Much discussion followed about how best to utilize audience participation for this effect and how well this would still play for children. And with a little audience management, this can still be a head scratcher for adults!

The meeting adjourned after some additional, obligatory card magic. *Patrick Brunson and Matt Growden*

RING 197, MARIETTA, OHIO – The Tommy Windsor Ring

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 416 Colegate Drive, Marietta, OH
KEN BROWN, President / E-mail: kennyrb@msn.com

President Dale Wheeler opened the March meeting of Ring 197. Due to illness and other reasons, attendance was smaller than usual but no less enthusiastic. Those in attendance were Ken Brown, Dale Wheeler, Chester Gault, Jay Foresta, and Tommy Wilson.

The Magic Auction, put on by our brothers in Canton, OH Ring 243, was discussed. Ring 197 was well represented with seven members attending. All either bought, sold, or both. It was a fine day with a lot of great magic sold. The folks in Ring 243 know how to put on an event. Kudos.

The club is planning a trip to Canton, which is one hundred miles north to attend a Fellowship of Christian Magicians meeting.

Returning members Tommy Wilson and Kerry Blair were unanimously voted back into the club without any of the requirements placed on new members (initiation show or swearing in ceremony). They have already made a positive impact on our meetings. New blood and new ideas have given the meetings a little boost.

Performing a Parlor Magic/Close-up show again this year for a sponsor was discussed. Interest in pursuing such a booking was high and will be addressed further if any progress is made acquiring a sponsor and venue.

Our April meeting will not be held at our usual

location. We will meet in the Sports Room at the home of member Dale Wheeler.

Member magic began with President Wheeler performing David Regal's "Modern Transportation." After having a card chosen and signed, it changed places with a card in Dale's pocket. A very entertaining effect and well done by Dale.

Chester performed "Something for Nothing" and "Sabrina the Magician." "Something for Nothing," although not a magic trick, is a very funny routine using cards with Something, Nothing, This, That, etc. printed on them. They are handed out to spectators with humorous patter. "Sabrina the Magician" is a funny recording of a magician giving instructions to a spectator for a card trick. A surprise ending brings laughter if not amazement.

Jay performed "Ambitious Card" where a card consistently finds its way back to the top of the deck. If we had a Most Improved Award, Jay would definitely win it. Jay likes performing with cards and coins. Each month, it is evident that Jay works hard at his craft.

Tommy presented "Sponge Bearing," "Sam the Bellhop," "Ambitious Card," and a mini lecture on the Slip Cut. Tommy performs table magic at local restaurants, and he has honed his skills as the professional performer that he has become. We always know that when Tommy takes the stage, we are going to witness something special.

Speaking of something special, I believe our meetings are something special. When there is an opportunity to assemble with a bunch of magicians, have a great time, and then do it all again every month, that's something special. Join us for a meeting if you are in the Marietta area. In fact, make a day of it. Marietta is a historical river town with lots to see and do. *C.W. Gault*

RING 199, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – Lee & Snavely Ring

Meets 1st Sat. of month, United Church, 820 E. Williams St., Apex, NC
DAN HARLAN, Secretary
E-mail: contact@danharlanmagic.com
Website: www.raleighmagicclub.org

In March, members perform "Card Tricks Without Using Playing Cards." Why? The deck deserves a break, so it gets a pass. Cut to the action (as performers shuffle to the stage) and see how they deal with it...

Cody Auclair begins his spot shaking a half-pair of dice so hard its spots stick to his hand. It has nothing to do with the trick, he just likes it. He then shows a book he likes, *Visions and Prophecies*. For the Vision, he hides a Tarot deck under a mysterious T-shirt (the mystery is how long ago it was washed) and someone cuts to a card. For the Prophecy, their chosen Three of

Swords is the only one circled in the book. Thus, proving (once and for all) the occult is one hundred percent real.

Next up, junior Josh has Bhavish choose a character from a bunch of Lego Minifigures collected from Josh's floor. Mini-Iron-Man gets stuffed into a black bag (like a mini frat pledge) held by Bhavish. Josh does likewise with a mini-Storm-Trooper. Instantly, after a little while, the minifigures change places! Thus, proving (once and for all) teleportation is one hundred percent real.

In an enlarged demonstration of string theory, Matthew Heady slides a knot off a rope forming a vortex oscillating the matrix. His second attempt causes the perturbation to oscillate linearly before spontaneously manifesting as a particle. You know that old card trick. Thus, proving (once and for all) 11-dimensional space is one hundred percent real.

When Dan Harlan's five chances fail to find a picture Viranchee is thinking of, he gives up. Viranchee says he chose a picture of the Earth, whereupon the five "mistakes" are shown to spell out E-A-R-T-H. Thus, proving (once and for all) fate is one hundred percent real.

Kevin Burke distributes pictures of his (great?) grandmother, Hettie, in her heyday. Invoking her spirit, they're torn in half, a piece kept, the others mixed, and all but one discarded. Totes random, but the two pieces form a complete image. Thus, proving (once and for all) ghosts are one hundred percent real.

Finally, Viranchee Lotia does a card trick with playing cards. Hey, we're not strict. Kevin Burke hides a few under... himself. Viranchee tells Kevin he looks seventeen cards taller. When the warmed cards are counted... yep, there's seventeen. Thus, proving (once and for all) Kevin Burke is one hundred percent real.

This report is inspired by true events.

Dan Harlan

RING 202, MALTA – The Magicians' Society

Meets on alternate Mondays at 19:00 Volunteer Centre, 181 Melita Street, Valetta
GEOFFREY BUHAGIAR, General Secretary
E-mail: gfotoartist@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/groups/27850309211

A sizeable group of our members attended the Blackpool Magicians' Convention. This is, perhaps, the largest convention to be held yearly. This time, there were about 4,400 attendees and, as usual, it was held at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, Lancashire, U.K. which has an ideal theatre (with two sittings) plus other rooms for shows, lectures, auctions, and dealers, the number of which was unbelievable. The flight from Malta is only about three hours and the place of

full of relatively cheap B&Bs that make it accessible to many.

Because of this, we only had one meeting this month. Four of our members were asked to perform something that utilised modern day technology. Our President, Glen Mercieca, set the ball rolling by having a card chosen. It was found predicted and embossed on a photograph of a credit card seen on his cell phone. But when the card was pulled out of the phone, it became real and still sported the stamped prediction. Brian Rolé also used a playing card as his initial premise, then shifting to an isolated bell which was used as a "Lie Detector." The volunteer was asked several questions and he had to answer "No" each time. The bell rang each time he told a fib. The questions then narrowed down to the choice of the card. The bell seemed to know.

Michael Mock, our treasurer, replicated faithfully a drawing made by one of our members while he was away in another room. This used a simple, yet ingenious device demonstrated at the Blackpool Convention. Then, another helper was asked to write the names of four countries on a whiteboard. Michael, while looking the other way, guessed the five countries and as each name was erased, he managed to divine in sequence which one was being wiped off.

The session ended with I.B.M. Past International President and honorary Ring President, Vanni Pulé. He showed a black Polaroid photo. A landmark was chosen and when a photo was taken with a mobile phone of the volunteer holding the photo, the landmark appeared in the picture. This uses an ingenious gimmick called Rainbow by Higar. He then floated an artificial flame from a tea candle and ended with the classic "Flying Ribbons" released by Daytona Magic. This was originally created by Ken Chaple in 1967 as "Ribbon Release" and subsequently marketed by Supreme Magic Company, with improvements by the great Ali Bongo and sold as "Popsy Pegs." Vanni combined it with an electronic colour cube. A colour chosen secretly on the cube sympathetically made a similarly coloured peg jump out of a frame, seemingly of its own accord.

Our Charter Night Dinner which had to be postponed from January because of unusually torrential rain was a great success and a separate report with photos should appear in the events pages.

Just three days after the dinner, we were treated to another meeting featuring never performed effects, either because they were new or because they had been lurking in the sock drawer for a long time. John McKellar commenced with the production of long thin streamer from his empty

hand used as a Vortex. This utilised the Sanada gimmick, with some additions, transformed into a Cloaking Device by Jay Scott Berry. John then showed us how he could magically attach practically any number of cards to a tiny plunger with the help of a crimp.

Territorial Vice President, Alfred Mifsud took some different Casino chips out of a bag and a chosen one corresponded with the prediction in a plastic coffin. He was followed by our President, Glen Mercieca, who performed a number of small items that he had in his possession and had never used. He opened with the Tenyo “Burglar Ball” where a ball penetrated a transparent box, the lid of which was closed firmly with two rubber bands. Then he divined the chosen colour on one side of a cube while it was hidden from sight. He followed with a “Two in the Hand and One in the Pocket” routine with nuts and bolts, ending with the nuts screwed on to a bolt. His last effect was the colours on both sides of two Casino chips changing colour a few times.

Vanni Pulé started with a new baffling routine by Chris Congreave called “Zodiac,” where a lucky number led to a selected card that was predicted together with the Zodiac sign. His next trick was “Shadow” by Bond Lee and Alex, an impossible signed card transposition. He placed a blank card inside a windowed envelope and allowed John to sign it. He then invited John to select a playing card which was placed aside. This became blank and the signed “blank” card was removed from the envelope and became the selected card. Vanni also performed Brent Braun’s “Torched and Restored” card and finished with an old gem from Supreme Magic Company of Bideford. “Colour in Mind” by Arthur Carter and Edwin Hooper is a clean, visual, and bold prediction of a colour.

Another enjoyable meeting came to an end and now we look forward to a very exciting competitive one in the following month.

Geoffrey Buhagiar

RING 216, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Meets 2nd Wed each month at the Yu Ai-Kai Cultural Center, 588 N. Fourth St., San Jose, CA
DAVID MARTINEZ, President
E-mail: president@ring216.org / Web site: www.ring216.org

On December 14, 2022, Ring 216 held its Stage and Parlor competition in person for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Audience members attended both live and on Zoom, and all magicians were allowed to cast ballots. There were six performers and only one competition division.

Tom Collett opened the proceedings by making colored streamers appear and disappear and defying gravity with a glass of water. A spectator

mixed up a Rubik’s Cube for Jonathan Chen, and it was found to match the arrangement of two other cubes; then all became magically solved. David Martinez demonstrated three psychic abilities, including drawing the animal a spectator was thinking of. Jeffrey Friend told a spooky story of a chain letter that was destroyed and made whole again. James Chan found a spectator’s card on Instagram and pulled it out of his phone. Meriam Al-Sultan pulled off her woolen cap and, under the close supervision of two spectators, caused a candy egg to disappear and reappear from it several times, then drew from it a glass of water.

When all the votes were in, the scoring was very close. First Place went to Meriam Al-Sultan and Second Place to David Martinez. The emcee for the evening was Gary Goldberg.

Ring 216 kicked off 2023 with a special lecture by one of the Bay area’s top magicians, David Gerard. Due to continuing heavy rains and flooding, President David Martinez restricted the meeting to on-line only. The lecture, on January 11, attracted dozens of Zoom participants.

After an introduction by Colin Cloud, David gave an action-packed, no-holds-barred extravaganza of a talk on what it takes to be a magic professional and what he was doing to try to achieve his aspirations. With great energy he explained the essential marketing concepts he used, the need to identify one’s desired market and how to go for it, the necessary aspects of becoming professional – image, clothing, networking, website, responsiveness, pricing. He emphasized the need to choose how one keeps score to know how well goals are being achieved, and how he imposed on himself the highest of goals.

In the second part of the evening, David focused on some of his favorite effects, those he did for attendees close-up before or after his set show: a stunning card effect, an interactive “Coins Across,” and some classic mind reading. He enthusiastically went over what he had kept or discarded over time in the constant search to improve their presentations, to become memorable to those people who next need to hire an entertainer.

Gary Goldberg

RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN
SCOTT STARKEY, President

Our meeting began with planning some performance opportunities with a local mentoring group. With those details sorted we moved on to performing for one another.

Scott had everyone write a two-digit number on a pad of paper. The sum was found to perfectly match a prediction Scott had sealed in a jar in clear view the whole time.

John had a dollar bill signed. He then took the very pen used to autograph the bill and pushed it right through the banknote. John ripped the pen away from the bill, but it remained unharmed.

John continued performing tricks with cold hard cash. He placed a penny on the table and waved a card over it. The penny shrank to the size of a pinhead! Inflation ain't what it used to be. Finally, John shared some flash cards. He had three of us cut and take a pile of the flashcards. He was able to divine the picture we were seeing on the flash card!

Benji had a die with colored spots on each side placed inside a box. He was able to divine the selected color. He then had the die placed in the box by a volunteer without the volunteer looking at it. The color was foretold in an instant!

Scott finished the evening by threading three Chinese coins onto a length of ribbon. One by one the coins melted off the ribbon and into the hands of waiting volunteers. *Ben Milanowski*

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

Don't forget, the 2023 Central IL Magic Get-Together will be in Springfield on June third this year.

Elections were held at the February meeting. Your new officers are: President - Chris Bontjes; Vice President –Mark Carlon; Treasurer – Dennis Reed; Secretary – The Right Honorable Ken Barham.

Dues were due at the meeting. Twenty dollars for the year. We decided that rather than have different tiers for dues, we will allow/encourage pre-payment for lectures.

Rob “The Professor” Higgins gave a review of and recommended *Loops Legends* if you are interested in learning some IT work. Mark Carlon, on Zoom, showed us a Slap Mat portable close-up mat which will soon be available.

Andy Anderson opened the magic with his “Torn and Restored Valentine’s Day Card.” Rob Higgins performed a “Phone Number Transposition” and “Avalanche.” Chris Bontjes showed us his version of “Signature 2.0.” Essen Hu showed us why Jason is always on the bottom. Bill Pierce performed “Siamese Waltz.”

The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m. at The Salvation Army in Champaign. As usual, come early and meet us at Manzella’s Italian Patio for fun and food. The topic will be Tricks with Food. See ya at the meeting. *Ken Barham*

RING 257, LAS VEGAS, NV – Fantasma Ring

Meets 1st Wed. of the month, 7:00 pm (4340 Valley View Blvd., Suite 204, Las Vegas, NV 89103

TODD HERBST, President

Email: toddherbst44@gmail.com

Web site: www.ibm257.com

President Todd Herbst opened the member meeting at 7:00 p.m. The first item of business was to welcome Grant Tasqual and Aden O’Shea who were visitors and who paid 2023 dues and became members.

Old business was the second item on the agenda. The Ring was able to gain control of the URL: *IBM276.com*. The website has been updated with current information and date and time of the next meeting. The business status of Ring with the Nevada Secretary of State is now paid and current. Annual fees to the Nevada Secretary of State were not paid for several years, so penalties also accrued. The Ring is near to gaining control of the account John McClanahan previously opened for the Ring. Todd Herbst believes Wells Fargo is near to releasing the funds in the account. Todd Herbst and John Lewit opened a new account for the Ring at Wells Fargo Bank. The Fielding West Tribute Show was announced for August 5, 2023, at the McDonald Ranch Club House in Las Vegas, Nevada. It will be held one day before Magic Live will begin. I.B.M. members wanting to attend the show, navigate to <https://ibm257.com/upcoming-events/>. The discount code was given to Ring Members for twenty-five dollars off for V.I.P. and ten dollars off for regular tickets. Roger Dryer is carrying the expenses of the show, and after recovery of costs, will shall all profits with the Ring. Mr. Dryer requested the Ring use the profits to promote youth in magic. Roger Dryer wants to continue the Ring’s tradition of presenting shows to commemorate important magicians in Las Vegas. Ring logo design is available for members to use to place upon tee-shirts, or other clothing.

The third item of business that came before the meeting was Michael DeSchalit discussed the once-a-month volunteer teaching at Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada. DSOSN moved its offices to Buffalo and W. Patrick Lane. Michael asked for volunteers to teach magic. Kirk D. Kaplan volunteered for the month of May.

The fourth item of business was Chet Cieliesz performed the “Birthday Card Trick.” He offered several desks for sale that he built for ten dollars. All proceeds to go to the Ring.

The fifth item of business was Darrin Race discussed the life of Gary Darwin. Here are a few of many points Darrin shared about Gary: He was born in Denver, Colorado on December 15, 1935; his mentor was Tommy Wu; moved to Las

Vegas in 1954; had a day job as a bell hop at the Riviera Hotel and performed a variety act in the Lido de Paris at the Stardust Hotel; he also worked at the Thunderbird Hotel starting in the late 50s into the early 60s; wrote several books on thumb tip magic; using pencil and pen drew numerous individuals; Gary was very good; started the Gary Darwin Magic Club in 1965 after Gary's death on February 29, 2019; Allan Ackerman now heads the club which continues to meet weekly on Wednesday evening between eight and midnight at Tommy Rockers. Visitors are welcome; finally, Darrin discussed making magic wands of wood from properties owned by Harry Blackstone, Sr., Lance Burton, and Gary Darwin; his body was cremated and was buried feet away from Harry Blackstone, Sr. in Lakeside Cemetery in Colon Michigan. Lupe Nielsen made the box for the cremains.

Todd Herbst called the close of the meeting at 8:18 p.m. *Kirk D. Kaplan*

RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The "Magic Ian" Ring

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, Community Room, Lake Square Mall, Hwy 441.

Leesburg, FL

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: www.Ring 258.com

Our meeting began with Good and Welfare. Allen Klein has had hernia surgery. He'll be laid up for four to six weeks. Greg and Coni Solomon stopped by to see Les Morgenstein, recovering from a stroke. Andy Rohweder is dealing with a recurring cancer.

It was noted that there are more vacant stores in the mall where we meet, which may eventually cause the mall to close. Members were asked to check for a new meeting location in Lake County, in exchange for a magic show. Karen Lyons and Jim Moody are looking into a May Ring picnic, if the pavilion is available.

Coming Events: Greg Solomon will perform his Professor Phineas T. Mortimer's Medicine Show in Hardy County, Zolfo Springs, March third, fourth, and fifth. S.A.M. Assembly 266 will hold a Magic Flea Market and Lecture on Sat., Mar. 18, in Lakeland, FL.

The theme for the evening was "Gimmicked Cards." Roger Reid led off with a display of various gimmicked cards including blank back, blank face, double face, etc., used for creating packet effects. He also showed the Electric Deck, a Jumbo Pip Deck, a Stripper Deck, Two Card Monte, and a Queen of Hearts routine utilizing three different gimmicks. Andy Rohweder memorized and recited the "547 Club." Dave Lyons was next showing the Charlier Pass, Multiplying Decks, Vanishing Decks, "Scratch" by Chad Long, Quarter Impression, Coin in Glass (which Dave manufactures) Paper Money to Deck, Shim

Magnets, Card Wallet, and Crimp Card Location. Greg Solomon closed the show with his Legs Table, Brown "Es," a Moving Pip Card, Dollar Through Dollar, and four effects he could not remember the names of.

The Theme for the March meeting will be a "Four Corners Teach In." *Roger Reid*

RING 265, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA – London Magicians Guild

Meets 2nd Wed., Labatt's Engineering Bldg. unless otherwise notified.

MARK HOGAN, Secretary

January saw the first lecture our club has had in several years – and it generated the best turnout we've had in years! We were all excited to present a lecture from Ben Train and Jonah Babins!

Ben Train lead off the night with "Semi Auto Aces," where a spectator tries to cut to an ace but fails, but it turns out he cut to all four aces! He then showed his variation on a "Four Ace Assembly" where the work is done before you start! And with "Candy from Strangers," a spectator moved along a series of Skittles on the table without Ben looking and yet Ben knew where they would end up.

Up next was Jonah Babins performing "Dancing Transpo," where he changed a twenty dollar not to a one hundred, but then changed a spectator's signed twenty-dollar to a five and ended with a powerful "Bill to Impossible Location!" Then he showed his version of Jeff Hinchliffe's "Déjà Vu," where a card trick happens over and over again, but then never happened at all! He showed us the haunted deck trick "Spook," then gave us some great tips for using an inexpensive ITR, and also his "Convincing Swivel!" which invisibly removes a selection from the deck!

After the break, Ben burned and restored a spectator's shirt, and also had two queens move through the deck to find a selected card, only to have them find also the mates of the card while the spectator is holding the deck! And Jonah ended with some expertise on how to scale up a professional magician's business.

The night just flew by! There was lots of activity at the lecture table, and almost everyone present hit the local restaurant afterwards to keep the night going. What a fun night it was! Thanks to Ben and Jonah for coming to London and showing us some terrific magic! *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

Ring 266 was thrilled to host a lecture by the capable Doug Anderson from Oklahoma this

month. Rick really went above and beyond! We had roughly seventeen people attend the lecture. Doug was great to linger after the lecture to help members with their purchases.

We are planning a Broken Wand Ceremony for the late Dr. Kevin King to be held very soon. Ours is a lively Ring and we welcome any I.B.M. members to visit us soon!
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. There were five of us, Kieran, Richard, Phil, and me. We also had a new person, Kristian, who was a very welcome addition. The theme was “my first trick, the one that got me into magic.” This allowed some of us to dust off some very old stuff.

I went first with a spelling effect; one I remember doing to my fourth grade teacher back in the ‘60s. This used a packet of thirteen cards. Each card was spelled, moving one card to the bottom for each letter. Except the cards would periodically be given to the spectator to spell the next card, but the spectator would always get the joker!

I followed with another old one that used a mathematical principle. The cards were shuffled face up and face down. A spectator took the cards, shuffled them, then counted off twenty cards and gave them to the magician, keeping the others for themselves. At this point, no one knew how many face up cards we each had. The magician held his packet under the table and said he would turn some cards over so that we would have the same number of face up cards. After several moments he brought out the packet. The face up cards were counted, and we did indeed have the same number. I also did a similar one where the magician apparently predicts the red/black separation in a shuffled deck.

The face up/face down shuffling prompted Kristian to show us his version of “Triumph.” Very nice indeed. This used the Roadrunner Cull by Kostya Kimlat.

Phil now showed us one that he used to do with matchboxes. This version had been modernised a bit and now used mobile phones. I had seen this before, but this was my first opportunity to experience the illusion myself. It really was extraordinary. I knew exactly what was happening, but it felt very real. This was “Baffling Phones.” There is also a version called Less is More that uses wood blocks.

I followed with another very old one. This used window cards, that is, cards with holes cut in them. I then showed a more recent version that did the same thing for playing cards. I had

designed this myself, called “Think of a Card” by Dumbledini.

Kieran now showed us the first trick he saw, a classic pick a card that used a key card. His mother had shown him this trick but wouldn’t tell him how it was done. His experience with this led him to his magic hobby.

Phil did another old one, which was a bit of a sucker trick. It was a basic pick a card, where the magician tried to find the card by dealing the cards face up one at a time. The spectator sees his card go by as the magician keeps dealing, until the magician deals a card face down. “The next card I turn over will be your card.” The spectator thinks the magician has messed up, and happily accepts a bet. Then the magician picks out the spectator’s card from the previously dealt cards and turns it over face down! Funny for the other spectators, less funny for the victim.

Kristian now did a classic magician’s choice, placing a card face down on the table and having a spectator narrow down the colour, suit etc. Phil also showed his version. There was then a good discussion of Equivoque, and the importance of having the spectator think that they did indeed make all the choices.

I now did the “21 Card Trick.” Well, not quite, this was a version that was designed to fool magicians. This was “The Knowing” by Mike Powers. Quite amusing and surprising.

Phil now showed us one that he sometimes uses when a spectator wants to do a trick. Instead, Phil selected a card and put it face down on the table. Then he asked the spectator to identify the card. The spectator was instructed to deal the cards to the table, eventually choosing two cards in a very fair manner. These two cards correctly identified Phil’s card, one showing the suit, the other the value. He could then compliment the spectator on their skill.

Richard now did a kids’ stage trick. This used jumbo cards, one with a parrot, the others showing empty cages. One of the empty cages was put aside, then there was a monte type sequence where the kids tried, unsuccessfully, to find the parrot. At the finish, all the cards were shown to be empty cages, and the card that was put aside now had the parrot in a cage.

Phil now did an “Oil and Water effect. There were three red cards with red back and three black cards with blue backs. The cards were very clearly alternated, but then they immediately separated! There were 3 phases, each very clean with no moves. Very nice indeed. This was “Peanut Butter and Cheese” by Josh Burch.

I continued with one based on a classic counting trick that I used to do a very long time ago. I put a mysterious looking box on the table and

told a suitably silly story about where I got it. A spectator then dealt cards until they felt like stopping. Then the box was opened. Inside was a note and some cards. The note said, "If you stopped at the right place then the following is true. I have as many cards as you, three more, and enough left to bring yours up to twenty-one." This turned out to be true. But then the spectator's top card was shown, and there were some kickers concerning this card. Very nice, with lots of surprises. The counting principle involved has been described as "The trick that fooled Einstein." But this version has been dressed up as more of a stop trick, where the number of cards and the actual card stopped at appear to be predicted. Very nice indeed. This was "Box of Doom" by John Bannon.

Phil now did a bunch of new stuff that he got from Tenyo. The first one was a plastic envelope, with a cutout so you could see inside. A snap of the fingers (which provided some convenient sound) and a banknote visibly appeared in the envelope. The next one was called "Invisible Zone." The final one was called "The Honeycomb."

Phil then showed another of his recent acquisitions. This was "Invisible Date" by Mathew Knight.

My next one was a request from Phil, who wanted to see the automatic placement principle. This was a card at any number effect. Very nice and very clever. This was "Where It Has To Go" by Rick Lax. I followed with one that used a similar principle but used a fairer looking selection. I came up with this handling myself, but it probably already exists. I then did another version that did not involve any counting by the spectator at all. I've called this "Marston's Machine," after William Marston, the self-styled father of the lie detector (although he has another claim to fame as the creator of *Wonder Woman*).

Phil now did a quick card trick by Juan Tamariz. Phil followed with a very nice effect using an elegant silk handkerchief and some cards. A card was selected and lost in the deck. The silk had its corners folded over and the deck waved over it. Now the silk was unfolded and there was the selection. There was another phase where a selection suddenly appeared in the silk. Very nice and very visual. This was "Arrival" by David Regal.

Kristian now told the story of the expert magician who was challenged to deal himself a royal flush from a shuffled deck. A spectator shuffled the cards. Kristian then took the cards and dealt them onto the table, occasionally dealing one of them to the side. At the end there were five cards so dealt, and they made a royal flush.

Very good and very technically demanding. Kristian then showed us his bottom deal, then his centre deal. I can see a workshop looming on the horizon. As if that wasn't enough, Kristian now did an extended sequence of false shuffles and cuts. Very nice. I left at this point, but the others were still comparing false shuffles and similar.

Cheers....

Peter Foster

RING 279, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Meets last Sunday, 4:30 pm, B-8/11. Tara Mia Road, Ganda, Savar,

Dhaka-1340, Bangladesh

ROBIN KHAN, President

E-mail: robin.khan77@gmail.com

Secretary General Mohammad Fokhrul Islam Shipuraj arranged the meeting.

President Robin Khan presided. Various aspects of the previous meeting were discussed and approved. All the members were present in the meeting.

The General Secretary spoke on the I.B.M. Ring 279 president's month-long visit to the country of Nepal. Bangladeshi renowned most senior magician Ulfat Kabir died due to illness. A deepest prayer was led by Md. Waliul Alam Khan. Prayers were offered for the bereaved family of the deceased. Robin Khan took part in the discussion and highlighted the details of the Nepal tour. He regretted that the number of magicians in Nepal is very low! The few that are there are not unanimous. He also said that after much searching, he managed to meet a magician. There are no I.B.M. members in Nepal. Why is there no Ring office? It cannot be that there will be no Ring office in the Himalayan country of South Asia. The I.B.M. TVP's responsibility is to monitor. He should be removed or removed if he cannot show any work with responsibility, so that someone else can do the work. He also said that a fifteen-member team of magicians from Bangladesh will go to Nepal on the next visit. Follow the instructions on how to make a Ring an I.B.M. member there.

Ring 279 Cultural Secretary Prema Ananna's solo magic show is on 16 March, at 4:30 p.m. in Kochi Kacha auditorium. There was discussion about financial support details for Ananya's solo magic show. *Mohammad Fakhru Islam Shipuraj*

RING 284, FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA - Conrad C. Bush Ring

Meets 4th Tue, 6:00 pm for socializing at Fresh Greece Pizza & Grill, 339

N John Sims Pkwy. W. Niceville, FL 32578. 7:00 pm meeting Valparaiso

Library (459 Valparaiso Pkwy)

RONALD HUDSPETH, Secretary / E-mail: RMHudspeth@spamcop.net

Business: (Feb. 23rd) We adjourned from dinner at Fresh Greece to the meeting room at the Valparaiso Library again this month. President Jeff Sobel suggested we review our meeting schedule for the remainder of the year, since several regulars

would not be available for the usual day in March. We decided to slip the March meeting to the fifth Thursday (30th) as well as the November meeting (also the 30th, due to Thanksgiving). The only additional change will be the September meeting where we will encourage as many folks as possible to join us in Atlanta for the Harvest of Magic. Jeff also reported that he has entered into an agreement with the library to trade some work to support their reading programs for the continued use of the meeting room.

No themes were discussed for upcoming meetings with the intent of having that conversation as old business at the next meeting.

Jeff then reported on his trip to MagiFest in Columbus. Secretary Ron Hudspeth gave a preview of the two events in March he will be attending, Portland (OR) Magic Jam, and Cavalcade of Magic in Eureka Springs, AR. Member Robert Vinson also volunteered that he had decided to drive out to the Cavalcade as well, so Ring 284 will be well represented in the Ozarks!

Magic: Robert started off the magic with a classic, performing the “Blue Phantom” from Thayer for junior guest Jonathan Ward and then allowed for a little show-and-tell. The prop looks wonderful and presents a great effect. V.P. Brian Ward showed us a routine he is working on which has the preliminary title, “I Don’t Get It, Man” from his early reactions. Jeff showed us an effect centered around the Harris’s multi-phase prediction “Overkill” combining bits by Ackerman, Emberg, and Marlo, finishing it off with introducing us to his hand “puppet,” Mr. Sniffer. Jeff then performed “Zinger” from MY Magic, as well as a version of B’Wave.

We took a little discussion break about the merits of B’Wave vs. John Bannon’s “Duplicity” (which Ron performed) for this particular application. Ron then demonstrated his new effect, “Invisible Simon” as well as performed “Travel Unravel” which he got at Daytona Magic Festival from creator Tim Ingersoll. He also performed TCC’s “ESP Mental Dice” (a solid handful of brass to be sure) and the new effect “Wordalism.” Jeff finished things off with a discussion of some magical puzzles as well as a solid through solid demonstration, that could be an everyday carry as it involves items you would have in your pockets, from Jeff Prace’s Plainsight Magic called “Mon-Key.” *Ron Hudspeth*

RING 287, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA – Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

3rd Thu., each month 6:45 pm at the Bayview Senior Center
Web site: gulfcoastmagiciansguild.com
ZACHARY READY, Secretary / (865) 719-8357
E-mail: deusso88@gmail.com

February’s meeting was filled with magic being sold and performed. We had a special guest Don Moravits, as well as performances from our members, including Bill Monroe, Phill Deprotine, Brian Ward, Beau Broomall, Zachary Ready, and Daniel Ricks.

Like we say: Miss a meeting, miss a lot!

Zachary Ready

RING 303, FT. MYERS, FLORIDA – Ron Murphy / Dan Tong Ring

Meets 4th Tue from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Golden Gate Post 7721 located at 800 Neff’s Way, Naples, FL 34119
DAVID LOUNSBURY, Secretary
E-mail: chimeramagic@concast.net.

It has been over two years since our Ring 303 has met. Due to the pandemic the Ring was temporarily closed. Because the venue for the meetings was in the theater of a retirement home, the management for the home no longer wanted to support club meetings in their facility to avoid health issues for their residents. Fortunately, several members of the club were military veterans and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Golden Gate Post 7721 located at 800 Neff’s Way, Naples Florida 34119. After meeting with the Post Commander JB Holmes and working with the membership of the VFW Post 7721, we established the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to be the monthly meeting location for the club. The meeting was presided over the club president, Mr. Tony Chaudhuri. The information and activity of the meeting was recorded by I.B.M. member David Lounsbury.

On January 26th, the first meeting in over two years was held. The meeting included twenty-two club members and an additional invited forty-two veteran members and their families. We opened with a lecture from Mr. Steve Hart, from Palm Bay, Florida. Steve has been a professional comedy magician for more than forty years. He entertained the sixty-four attendees with his unique blend of comedy magic for young and old.

The first meeting which restarted the club again was a rousing success. Everyone was enthralled by Steve Hart’s magic and comic

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

relief. We are back and we are looking forward to a productive and magical year.

Meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Golden Gate Post 7721, 800 Neffs Way, Naples, Florida 34119. Anyone wishing to join Ring 303 or even stop by for a visit to see what we do, is welcome. As the recorder for the Ring, I can be reached at telephone 239-777-7728. My email is chimeramagic@comcast.net.

David A. Lounsbury, Ph.D.

RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:30 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042

LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary

4515 Northglen Court, Englewood, OH 45322

E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

No Darrells, but we had three Larrys at this meeting; Larry Payne, Larry McMechan, and Larry Hollinger. President James Butler officially welcomed us to our March meeting.

In news, member Jimmy Pepper will be performing at Springboro Hometown Expo March 18. The Annual Magic Auction in Eaton will be May 27-28. We are still working on our War of The Wizards show with Rings 5 and 71 as well as videoing for a cable show.

Time for magic! Charlie Cadabra did three in a row for us: 1. “Think of One” from Allan Kronzek with volunteer Tom Casper. 2. “Stroop Test Cards” by David Jonathan and Nikolas Mavresis with volunteer Linda McMechan and 3. Liam Montier’s “What Happens in Vegas” using poker chips and Casino Deck cards. Tom Casper performed the “Ultimate Three Card Monte” followed by Charlie Cadabra presenting his version of “Three Card Monte.” Dave Davis bewildered us with “Ying Yang” with the help of volunteer Linda McMechan. Larry Payne brought out “Three Blocks” where one, two, and all three blocks seem the same weight as all three together. Tom Casper proposed using a special type of resin to make transparent “Three Blocks.”

Visitor Mike asked some great questions about trick selection and “Why Join a Magic Club?” The answers we quickly generated were: “It’s a place to comfortably fail performing a trick in development; it’s a place to get feedback on tricks; an opportunity to see many diverse tricks; a chance to enjoy camaraderie; a means to possibly develop a master/student relationship; a chance to participate in discussions on show order, lay outs and prop organization from practicing magicians; and last, to get help for lost directions to props. Those were just the quick thoughts. There are many more reasons to join.

We adjourned but stayed around and talked more magic.

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: beckimring325@gmail.com

Branson, MO. Just a few days after Valentine’s Day, members of I.B.M. Ring 325 gathered in downtown Branson at Yak’s “It’s Magic” magic shop for their monthly meeting. Club president, Christopher Beck, opened the meeting. Some business items were discussed, including some possible upcoming lectures.

Then, it came time for the highlight of the evening, which was the “opening act,” Jim Holmes. At the invitation of the president, Holmes demonstrated some of the effects he created and wrote about in *Fantasio’s Cane and Candle Book No. 4*. From innovative handlings for appearing and vanishing candles to the masterpiece he created, the One-Handed Vanishing Cane.

Holmes impressed his colleagues as he skillfully performed amazing visual magic! This unique effect was purchased and used by a variety of notable magicians including Neil Foster and Mark Wilson. As Holmes explained, it was Mark Wilson who was instrumental in seeing that his original effect was performed by one of the main characters in the *Simon & Simon* TV series in 1983 (“The Grand Illusion” 1983 – SO3 – Ep01). Watch here to see Holmes’ illusion performed <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6s23i2> by actor Gerald McRaney as character “Rick Simon.” (The effect is performed at around the 12:45 mark.)

Following Holmes’ presentation, Robert Morris shared another edition of a “miniature magic trivia” game he developed, designed to teach a bit about magic history and to utilize his miniature replicas magic illusions. These miniature illusions are available individually and as sets from Smoky Mountain Magic’s website. Following the game, performances began. The

theme was “I love magic because....”

Tracy Eaton was first to step into the club’s spotlight to share some magic. Eaton performed his “Specters of the Past” routine. Eaton’s routine utilized eerie props, a mysterious story, and an intriguing reveal. Eaton also shared some magic with a very nice, self-made “gold, jeweled” hot rod.

Vincen Barnes took to center stage next, to perform an interactive mentalism piece involving interaction with audience members, zodiac signs and horoscope readings.

Yak Williams, up next, shared a small version of the “Stratosphere” effect. This particular version, though, had a bit of a different ending, a final kicker in which all the balls in the clear tube are revealed to be the same color!

Mark Boody took his place in front of his fellow magicians to perform a wonderfully entertaining, visual effect. The comedic routine involved a choreography of “whole cards, hole cards, spot cards, and multiple spot cards, and a final HOLE card!”

KJ Phelps used her performing opportunity to perform a comical “McCombal” magical routine. KJ dressed up a volunteer for the occasion, made a truly “electric” connection with him, and proceeded to reveal his chosen card, in spite of the fact the odds were, literally, “stacked up” against him, and then her! The effect produced smiles and fun and laughter!

Robert Morris “lit up” the place, when it came time for his performance. His routine filled the magic shop with music and delight as light magically appeared, descended, and vanished at his fingertips!

Thom Taylor, a.k.a. Nicklaus Nickleby, mesmerized his fellow magi friends. A hypnotic image was introduced. Then, pictures of cards were shown, and, as if by magic, everyone’s thought-of card disappeared.

Carl Wilson exhibited his skills when the time came for him to perform. He first showed, and talked about, a metal cup. Then he proceeded to perform a version of the classic “Coin to Cup” routine, magically moving coins from one hand to the metal cup held in the other hand. Coin after coin after coin invisibly traveled across. The finale included the unexpected appearance of jumbo coins!

Gary Giese, club vice president, took his turn in front of his friends to share some history and insights into his membership in one of the most prestigious, well-known clubs among magicians, Hollywood’s Magic Castle. The club plays a prominent role in recent “magic history” and is a place many magicians dream of visiting, if they haven’t already. Fewer have the privilege of becoming full-fledged members! Giese is one of those “elite” who is a member. The Magic Castle was featured often in the ‘70s TV show, *The Magician*, starring Bill Bixby, and has become an icon synonymous with magic around the world.

The youngest magician in attendance, Caleb Martin, was the next performer. Caleb stepped up and was willing to attempt an effect involving predicting the result of a series of coin flips. The effect actually fooled Penn and Teller on their *Fool Us* TV show.

Christopher Beck, club president, concluded the initial performances by paying homage to the late Thom Borchert, former member of I.B.M. Ring 325. Borchert’s Broken Wand Ceremony was held this past January. In keeping with the

theme, Beck mentioned he loves magic because, as a pastor and Bible college professor, it allows him to share the greatest message of all! Beck performed one of Borchert’s go-to gospel magic effects involving a cut and restored rope, which is initially “restored” via three knots. In Borchert’s effect, the rope represents Jesus, the bag in which the rope is placed is His tomb, and the knots represent the three days Jesus was in that tomb. The knots literally “fly off” the rope, signifying the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The message is that all those who recognize their sin and their need for a Savior, and who put their faith in the risen Christ and what He did on the cross, may find forgiveness and salvation.

Beck closed the meeting reading from the afterword from the book titled 52, authored (and recently completed) by the late Scott Alexander (Scott Allen Grocki). In the afterword, Alexander reminded readers of the brevity of life, noting Harry Houdini and Doug Henning died at just fifty-two years old. Alexander said, in part, “Tomorrow is promised to no one. Time is the most precious gift we have.” Alexander passed away February 5, 2023, and, yes, he was just fifty-two. *Christopher Beck, Ph.D.*

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/

We had a good meeting in March. Eric Hall was our guest. We talked about our Easter show in April and the Clown Convention Ron and Jerry attended. Ron Conley told a funny story about his rabbit and a mishap with it. Jerry went to Santa Sunday and learned the dos and don’ts of being a Santa, about advertising and the different dealers at the event.

Ron talked animals. He gave us tips and tricks and stuff to do with your furry or feathered assistants. He performed a “Doves to Rabbit,” the “Dove Bag,” talked about a Dove “Sleeve,” performed a “Balloon to Dove” that had a Plexiglas box for outdoor work (very neat).

Eric Hall talked about spring animals and their construction and showed how to make a bunny out of a silk or towel. Paul McTaggart presented his last talk from his reading of *Magic and Showmanship for Magicians*, “Directing Attention.” There’s great information to be had from this fine book. After Paul’s talk, we broke for some pizza.

Now it was magic time! Dan Welch did a “Do as I Do” card effect with Liam. Next, he showed us “Gang of Four” and followed that with “Defaced.” Good stuff and he did it well.

Michael Bairefoot did the “Famous Marijuana

Trick,” the production of a roach, but not the one you are thinking of. Or maybe you were.

Dave Tanner performed an advanced dove vanish and turned a silk into a ball.

Liam Schuster followed Dave with a production of silks, a raccoon, and a teeth mold from a change bag.

Will Jung performed Pavel’s “Silk Serenade.” Still good, pretty magic. Paul did the “Shroud of Fu Manchu”. Using a glass and a handkerchief, a card placed into the glass changes into the selected card.

Ed showed us an effect he is working on, and it stunned us. Three men rent a hotel room for thirty dollars. The bellhop is sent to give them a rebate of five dollars, bellhop gives each man one dollar and keeps two. When you add the money paid and returned, where is the rest of the money? It sure confused me. He illustrated it with real money. Nice!

As usual, we were slow to leave having had a fun evening. If you are in Myrtle Beach the first Thursday of the month, drop it, we’d love to see you.

Dale Rabon

RING 362, BANGOR, MAINE – The Bob Nixon Ring

Meets 2nd. Sun at the Buker Community Center, 22 ArmyvRd., Augusta, ME

SCOT GRASSETTE, Secretary / E-mail: grassette@gwi.net

We discussed some necessary business including voting on officers including Randy Begin - President, Dennis Labbe - Vice President, Scot Grassetto - Secretary, Karen Seymour - Treasurer, and Bryan Taylor - Sergeant-at-Arms. Installation will take place at the March meeting. We also discussed a lecture coming up April 9th by Dean Sterne. Sterne rubbed elbows with many of Hollywood’s elites at hospitality suites, trade shows, and the Magic Castle, and worked with some incredible luminaries in our field while he was there. Don’t miss this important lecture, including tricks, and tales of Dean’s time residing at the one and only Magic Castle. We also welcomed a guest and potential new member, Joel Riemersma, all the way from Brunswick, Maine. Joel found us through Facebook.

Card Magic was on the docket for our February theme. Although we’ve shared plenty of card magic in the past, we have not had cards as a theme for years! Up first, was our treasurer Karen Seymour. Karen is such a skilled storyteller; we did not realize she was setting us up for her magic effect with tarot cards and a gypsy that came to her in a dream. One card was selected by Stephan Cornish and after some mixing and separating that the tarot cards revealed the card the Stephan had picked. You got us on that one Karen!

After that, we enjoyed a presentation Wes

Booth did revolving around the “Spy Balloon” that was recently shot down. Intel on a previously chosen card was revealed within the balloon held by Randy Begin and shot by Wes using a staple gun (good fun and a few laughs is always good at the meetings). Wes also showed us a four tens to four kings transposition.

Next, not being a card guy, club secretary Scot Grassetto challenged himself and showed a three-phase gambling routine called “2-4-2” found in Josh Jays’ *Talk About Tricks* book two. Everything worked out well for Scot beating everyone who attempted to play.

Our guest Joel, performed Eddie Fector’s, “I’ve got a surprise for you.” If “Red-Hot Mama” and “Card to Pocket” had a baby it would look like this. Also, Joel showed us “Undercover Twins” from *Card College IV*.

Steve (The Great Stephan) Cornish learned three new tricks for our theme, and presented them all like a pro, “Mambo #5” by Oz Pearlman, a nice “Card to Pocket,” and a “Cards Across” routine with Scot that included a five-dollar kicker.

Off topic Wes showed us an expertly made Houdini Paddle effect and appearing coin he learned from our Jonathan Pendragon lecture. Being more of a coin guy Joel did “Three Fly” routine called “Trifecta” and did a coin flurry using multiple methods.

Each month we’ve been going over and discussing a chapter of the Jeff McBride’s *Show Doctor*. This month the topic was the “Shakes” (dealing with visible nervousness).

Our March 12th meeting opened with bits of business including funds, themes, and activities for the rest of the year, including BBQ, lectures, and a day to honor Robert “Foggybottom” Rand. Wrapping up our business we did installation of officers as follows: President Randy Begin; V.P. Dennis Labbe; Secretary Scot Grassetto; Treasurer Karen Seymour; and Sgt.-at-Arms Bryan Taylor. Other positions include Wes Booth - Past President, Alan Drew - Dean, and Dayton Salisbury - Historian.

On Topic (Transpositions) to show/share magic started with Bryan Taylor who made up an effect with cards. He had Karen select a card and marked it with a small table tent that she had written the card on. Then did the same for another card, when the two cards were turned over it was revealed that the cards had transposed into each other’s place.

Up next Scot showed two transpositions he learned from *Tarbell*. First was a green and a red scarf were shown each in their own wine glass. They were momentarily covered with a black cloth and instantly changed places when the cloths were removed. He then placed a green ball

in the green scarf and the red ball in the red scarf, and each in their own glass. When the scarves were removed the balls spinning in the glasses had changed places!

Joel presented Paul Gertner's "A Familiar Ring" with lots of coin transpositions and involved his finger ring as well!

Karen helped Dennis with Gene Anderson's "Picto-Transpo." Dennis has done this many times since he learned it from Gene years ago, but had put it away for a while, it fit perfect with our theme.

The "Great" Stephan shared an effect from Ickle Pickle, "Jumping Bill." It's been one of his favorite effects for years, and it showed in his voice with the excitement performing it for us!

Joel jumped back up and showed us a "Copper/Silver Transpo" with a coin pouch.

We then ensued our monthly conversation from McBride's *The Show Doctor*. This month we had a group discussion called "Overweight," overstuffed pockets loading, carrying and transporting too many crates and cases. We had open discussion on the cure, learning to consolidate, pick lightweight cases, and pack small to play big. We also discussed the benefits of pack big play big!

We had time for a few more items off topic which included Dennis showing Karen's relationship with the queen. Joel showed us "Pendulum Hanging Coins." Following the meeting, members met at the Amazing Garden for food, drink, and continued magic. *Scot Grassette*

RING 392, BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA – William E. Spooner Ring

Meetings monthly at 2:00pm in various locations

DR. JOE MAZZOLA, President

E-mail: jcmazzolado@gmail.com

Ring 392 Zoom-met on 2/19/23 at 2:00 p.m. Zoomers were Joe Mazzola, T. J. Shimeld, Cato Holler, Susan Holler, Tyler Townsend, Gerry Hayes, Cara Hayes, Albert Lawson, Judy Anders, Sue Ellen and Nelson Brookshire.

Following the welcome and Treasurer's Report, President, Joe Mazzola confirmed that Doc Docherty will lecture in April at the Cedar Rock Country Club in Lenoir, NC at 2:00 p.m. The lecture will be approximately one- and one-half hours in length. Also, Steven Perry will lecture at Marvel's Magic Theater in Statesville on May 21. Those magicians who wish to attend who are not members of our Ring will be assessed ten dollars per person to attend. Invitations will be sent to several area clubs/Rings. Additional comments were shared about activities and upcoming events. Magic at the Beach will be held on October 5-7 at Myrtle Beach.

A multi-club magic swap/auction is being considered for April (possibly May) to raise funds to assist young people who wish to attend Tannen's Magic Camp. Details are pending relative to this event. Albert Lawson is continuing to table hop at Lenoir, NC's Main Street Magic Café twice a month during lunch on Saturdays. The next Potter and Potter auction will feature ephemera primarily.

Gerry Hayes participated in the Mind-ventionX online. It included some of the top mentalists around the world. Also, there will be another Poe's convention in Baltimore in August (24-27). T. J. Shimeld reported that Ricky Boone continues to make progress toward a full recovery. One way we can help is by purchasing magic from his shop as medical expenses are a challenge.

This month's focus was on tricks found in *The Linking Ring* (any year). Cato performed "The Tube of Mystery," or "Knots or No Knots," his version of Michael Breggar's "Life's Twisty Knots" found in the November 2017 *Linking Ring* magazine. A simple overhand knot was tied around a small cylinder with a short cord. Cara Hayes was asked if she would like to see a knot vanish or become a more complex super knot and also which end of the cord she would like fed through the tube of mystery. Her requests were successfully answered each time the cord passed through the tube. Mystifying to say the least!

Next up, Joe Mazzola showed four cards and had a spectator roll an imaginary die. The number on the imaginary die was used to move cards from the top of the four-card packet to the bottom. Arriving at a new card, he then used that suit to move cards from the top of the packet to the bottom arriving at a new random card as the selection. Joe then revealed that three of the cards had normal red backs and the selected card had a large letter "X" on the back noting that he had predicted that this would be the card the spectator chose! This effect, "Die Spell" was written up in the June 2006 *Linking Ring* and submitted by the great Aldo Colombini! Very nice work as usual, Joe.

Nelson Brookshire shared the fascinating "Topsy Turvey" idea from the November 2019 *Linking Ring*. A face which is frowning turns into a smile when the picture is rotated 180 degrees. Several other examples found on the Internet were shown. Members were left to devise their own use of this idea in their magic repertoire.

Albert Lawson shared two effects. An "Ambitious Signed Card" was executed using a double-backed card and a double lift. It can be repeated immediately if a second double-backer is under the first. Albert then showed a ring penetrating a magic marker! (What else!) This was

very nicely done and was very effectively demonstrated so all could understand the method. As always, it is a delight to see Albert in action!

The concluding trick was performed by T. J. Shimeld. He suckered us into believing he did not have a routine for the trick, then proceeded to blow us away with his version of the “Directional Arrow” effect. He used a small “tabletop” which he had painted with a striking pattern similar to, but not the same as, an arrow. When he concluded, we all wanted him to make us one!

Joe indicated he will be having a show on the evening of April 29 at his theater in Statesville. He offered to give Ring members a “break” on pricing if we attend. If you do not attend, he will be glad to send a bill anyway, I’m sure!

This concluded our meeting. We were encouraged to attend The Winter Carnival of Magic in Pigeon Forge from March 9-11. Perhaps we can gather as a group there for some additional magic family fun.

Nelson Brookshire

RING 398, APPLETON/GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN – Dr. Lynn Miner Ring

Meets last Tue. except Dec., 6:30 p.m., email for location.

RICK MOREIN, Secretary

E-mail: rmorein497@gmail.com

The meeting was held at Monty’s Secret Theatre in Kimberly and on Zoom. The theme of our Ring 398 January meeting was “Vanishes and Appearances.”

First to perform, and on Zoom, was our Ring’s namesake, Dr. Lynn Miner, who performed a very commercial trick titled “The Three-Coin Trick with Four Coins” taught to him by the late Eugene Burger. Using a patter line of, “One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go,” Lynn placed three of the coins, one at a time, from his right hand into his closed left hand’s fist, and, with the fourth coin left, Lynn opened his left hand to show that the first three coins had vanished. Next, Lynn placed the fourth coin into his closed left hand’s fist, and then showed that that coin had also vanished. The trick, Lynn explained, was done with the help of a modified, rubberized banker’s clip for the first three coins and a “Slydini-esque” vanish for the fourth coin, and the trick was well-received.

Up next on Zoom was Bruce Hetzler, who exhibited a few face-up “Billiard Ball Cards,” all with different colors in combinations of a solid or striped billiard ball with each card showing a different colored billiard ball. Asking Rick Morein to say stop as he dealt cards out, Bruce was asked to stop on a red, solid-color billiard ball card, and upon lifting the remainder of the cards, there, underneath them, was a real, solid color red bil-

liard ball. Bruce said that the trick was called “Dirty Pool” and it went over well.

Next was I.B.M. Territorial Vice President and Ring 398 member, Monty Witt, who did a mini lecture on the “why’s and wherefores” of vanishes and productions. In his mini lecture, Monty stressed that most magicians don’t give this much thought, but probably ninety percent of the tricks we do are, technically, comprised of a combination of vanishes and productions. Monty used a common nickel to dime trick, where the nickel vanishes and the dime appears, only looking like a change effect, as one example; another being the vanish and reproduction of a half-dollar, and yet another series of examples being a combination of sponge ball moves that are signature effects of Monty’s. Monty’s mini lecture was very informative and thought-provoking and went over well.

Ring 398 Secretary Rick Morein was next to perform and showed several variations on appearances and vanishes using flash paper. The first trick was a “two-parter” with the first part of the trick being the production of a cigarette from a lit piece of flash paper that Rick said was taught to him by John Cornelius, and the second part of the trick being the vanish of the same cigarette “snorted up the nostril” taught to Rick by Eugene Burger and called “Cocaine Cigarette.” Next, Rick showed a production of a silver dollar from a lit piece of flash paper tossed up in the air that he said was taught to him by Michael Ammar. This very pretty “Mid-Air Transformation” was particularly useful as the opening bit of Rick’s “Miser’s Dream” routine which he used for decades for his platform shows. Rick then produced a fan of cards from a lit piece of flash paper, using an old Louis Tannen Auto-Fan. Our members enjoyed the flash paper appearances and productions, particularly the production of the fan of cards.

Ring 398 Treasurer Tal Kuhnz was next to perform, beginning by producing a glazed donut from his mouth after a very brief coughing spell. Next, Tal discussed using balloon animals in his shows and demonstrated this by blowing up a small balloon, popping it, and then producing a full bottle of beer from the balloon. Tal showed how this trick relied on a belt “Holster” as a beer bottle holder, and the trick went over well.

Ring 398 President Michael Schroeder was next, and showed everyone several techniques that he has used and currently uses to deceptively produce and vanish coins for his shows. In particular, the Downs Palm was demonstrated very aptly by Michael as an important tool in his coin work. Michael also mentioned using a “coin rattle gimmick” to further confuse and mystify his

audiences. Also, Michael demonstrated producing and vanishing a giant-sized coin as part of his coin work. Those in attendance were impressed by Michael's coin skills.

Ring 398's Sergeant-at-Arms Marv Roth was next showing his version of "Monte with Coin Cups." This trick used a clever gimmick designed by Marv that those in attendance very much liked. Next, Marv demonstrated a version of "Sidewalk Shuffle" that he made himself that used different colored backs for each card. Marv's version went over well, and he spent some time explaining how the cards were constructed. This trick also went over well.

Our final performer was Ring 398 Vice President Daryl Rogers, performing a trick called

"Psycho-Kinetic Lock" where a padlock is placed into a large wine glass which is briefly covered by a foulard, and when the foulard was lifted from the glass, the lock disappeared, reappearing locked around the stem of the wine glass. The trick was deceptive and went over well.

We are always happy to welcome guests at our meetings, either in person or via Zoom.

We also would like to encourage international guests to attend our meetings via Zoom as well. If you are going to be in the Appleton/Green Bay area on the last Tuesday of the month, send me an email at rmorein497@gmail.com and I will give you the meeting location for our in-person meeting, or, contact me for the Zoom link.

Rick Morein

NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

MAY 2023 27 NEW MEMBERS

HENDERSON, JULIA, Hesperia, CA
KAMMERER, BJ, San Diego, CA
KOWALCZYK, JOHN, Los Angeles, CA
LOCKARD, JERRED, Palm Springs, CA
MARTINEZ, DAVID, Los Angeles, CA
MILLER, CHARLEY, San Diego, CA
AUSTIN, JAKE, Colorado Springs, CO
KRANITZ, DANIEL, Westminster, CO
LEVY, JEROME, Sun City Center, FL
MILTONBERGER, MATT, Chicago, IL
OAKSTONE, MICHAEL, Aurora, IL
OAKSTONE, TRISTAN, Aurora, IL
SPECTRE, REBECCA, Chicago, IL
RAY, ISAAC, Paducah, KY
RAY, XANDER, Paducah, KY
COYLE, GARRETT, Takoma Park, MD
YOUNG, JOSHUA, Gambriells, MD
SHAPIRO, IRVING, White Lake, MI
MAMBRETTI, NICHOLAS, Amherst, NY
SWEDYK, JAMES, Galloway, OH
MARTIN, RAY, Hunlock Creek, PA
BURDICK, BRUCE, Providence, RI

RAMAKRISHNA, ADI, Franklin, TN
DAVEY, BRIAN, Alexandria, VA
PHALEN, JORDAN, Nitro, WV
SAI, D. V. SIVA, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India
DAWS, TOM, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom

16 REINSTATEMENTS

ASSER, SETH "KICK", San Diego, CA
RIVERA, JUSTIN, Chino Hills, CA
LAPLACA, FRANK, Naples, FL
OTT, PAUL, Marion, IN
REUTER, MICHAEL, Pontiac, MI
MISNER, CHRISTIAN, Saint Louis, MO
TRITZ, GERRY ANTHONY, Jefferson City, MO
RANDALL, CHRIS, Las Vegas, NV
CANNON, CHARLES, Walton, NY
JONES, THOMAS, Astoria, NY
GOODALL II, MAX, Albany, OR
SCHUBERT, ROY, Knoxville, TN
SUMMONS, ERIC, Forest Lake, Brisbane, Qld, Australia
LECLERC, ERIC, Orleans, Canada
ST-JACQUES, DOMINIC, Tiny, Canada
SAVKOOR, PRAKASH, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Answer to Pictures from the Past – from page 14

Theodore Levy was born on October 26, 1893, in New York City. It would appear that from the time he was born, he climbed upon the tail of a comet, meeting magic's most illustrious luminaries. Theo found that it was more to his liking to work children's shows than to perform for their parents or for older kids. His audiences ranged from small groups at a local church to J.P. Morgan and his fifteen-hundred-plus guests. There were times when he was one of the featured acts at Radio City Music Hall. It didn't matter whether Theo performed at the home of department store magnate Adam Gimbel or at the hospitals he would visit to entertain those who needed a smile or two. He was the entertainer's entertainer.

Theo was on the editorial staff of *Hugard's Magic Monthly*, where he wrote a series called *Children's Tricks in Search of a Magician*. Over the course of Theo's life, he published more than three hundred articles in magic magazines, including *The Linking Ring*, *Conjurors' Magazine*, *Genii*, *Abracadabra*, *Tops*, and *The Magic Circular*. When it came to creating effects, Theo's original ideas were sold through Max Holden's, Tannen's Magic Shop, Supreme Magic, and even Tenachi's Magic Shop in Japan. If you ever had a question about any of Theo's effects or just wanted to ask him a question, all you had to do was write him a letter and mail it to the address that Theo gladly provided in most of his articles.

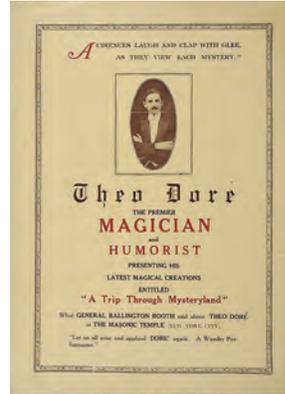
His articles chronicled a wide variety of subjects: everything from showstoppers to simple ideas to round out a show. Theo would submit effects like "Silk on Candle," "Sucker Flying Silks," "Cardlepathy," "The Mischievous Pixie," or "Shoelace Trick Psychic Surgery." These are still worthy effects that should be read and considered today. The book that seems to turn up in magician's libraries was Theo's crowning achievement, a book he published in 1971 called *Magnetrix*. It continues to be sold to this day. For those who are curious about Theo's work but want to start by reading something shorter than a book, search for his article in the March 1971 issue of *The Linking Ring*, called "So You're a Magician?" Your I.B.M. membership grants you access to *The Linking Ring* Archives at Ask Alexander.

Theo continued to perform at many schools, churches, children's camps, and theaters, while partaking in as many magic convention activities as possible. He was known to be an excellent listener who gladly lent his ear to young magicians whenever they had a problem with one of their tricks. Likewise, he often served as a "bouncing board" for magicians of every experience level.

If you asked Theo to step on stage, he'd do so without hesitation – forever a gentleman who was always ready to say hello or to amuse the audience with a trick. He also worked in so many different venues that he came to develop a philosophy which still holds true today: "You can forget that trite saying about an actor playing the part of a magician or words to that effect. You are not an actor playing the part of a magician. You are a magician and should be unless you are taking part in a play as an actor taking the part of a magician."

Theodore Levy passed away on April 8, 1985. His invaluable and worthwhile writings are still available online and in scores of magic magazines.

Gary R. Frank



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

DEALER

ALCORN'S STUDIO OF ILLUSIONS	10
ASSOCIATION HEALTH CARE	6
JOBETH BOWERS	9
RENE CHOUINARD	9
GENII MAGAZINE	7
KEVIN JAMES	9
THE LINKING RING	INSIDE FRONT COVER
THE MAGIC BAKERY	11
McBRIDE SCHOOL OF MAGIC AND MYSTERY	9

CONVENTIONS

ATLANTA HARVEST OF MAGIC	10
I.B.M. CONVENTION	3, 8, INSIDE BACK COVER BACK COVER
MAGIC & MENTALISM CONVENTION	8



Sign up 1!

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

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.**



PITTSBURGH

July 12-15, 2023

www.IBMCONVENTION.com



DAVID PARR



TAYLOR HUGHES

ACTS TO BE ANNOUNCED MONTHLY
* Acts subject to change

I.B.M. PITTSBURGH CONVENTION

VIP

**EXPERIENCE
2023**

Includes Convention Registration, Four-Night Hotel Accommodations,
Grand Banquet & Show Ticket, Front Row Seating for all Events,
Gift Basket on Arrival, Invitation to President's Welcome Party,
VIP Badge & Check-In, VIP Concierge Services, Early Entry to Events,
Lunch with the Stars, "First-in-Line" for Autographed Collector's Poster,
Photos with the Stars & Much More!

**\$1,800 per person, or
\$2,900 for two if sharing a room**

Limited to 15 Packages

Contact Mike Dunagan for more details
or to reserve your spot. Mdunagan123@gmail.com



www.IBMCONVENTION.com