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# The Linking Ring

JANUARY 2026



**MOIRA FLETCHER**  
PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH RING

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

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# The Linking Ring

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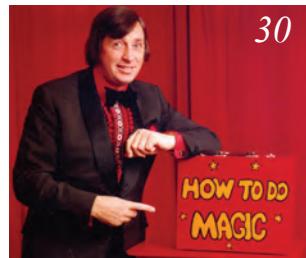
"Magicians can practice for years in the privacy of their studio, but at some point they must step out and risk what they have learned without fear of being judged," writes Dale Salwak.



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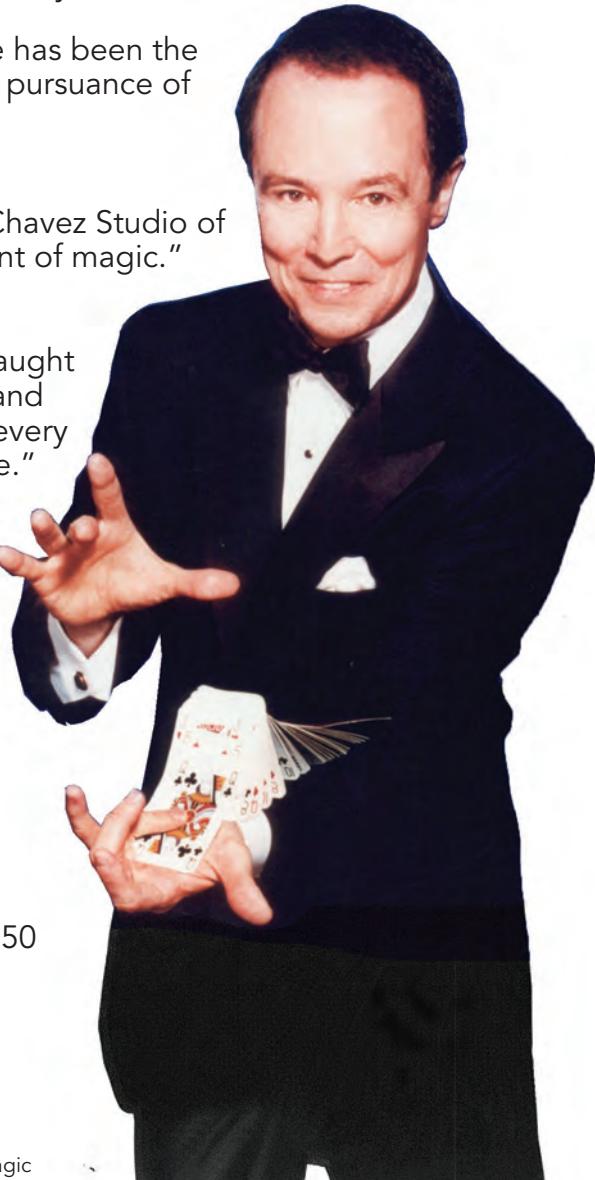
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# Feel the Power

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



# From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

**What? Me worry?** As an adolescent, I read *MAD Magazine*, which was a cause of concern among some of my relatives. At least, I think that's why they were concerned.

One redeeming feature of that journal of satirical humor was its mascot, Alfred E. Neuman, whose philosophy of life was not to worry. Yet as I grew up, finished school, started a business, bought a home, got married, and had children, there seemed to be things to worry about all along the way. Still, I didn't want to be a worrier. An anxious emotional state creates a thick mental fog and reduces our ability to focus. Our best work is not done while worrying. The only thing accomplished by making a mountain out of a molehill is the total exhaustion of the mole.

Earl Nightingale once noted that forty percent of the things people worry about never happen; thirty percent of people's worries are about things in the past, and no amount of worry can change them. Needless worry about health, he said, accounts for twelve percent, and petty, miscellaneous worries make up another ten percent. Legitimate concerns, then, account for only eight percent of the things we worry about.

A century before Earl Nightingale's day, another inspirational writer and speaker, Henry Ward Beecher, noted: "It is not work that kills [us]; it is worry. Work is healthy.... Worry is the rust upon the blade. It is not the revolution which destroys the machinery but the friction."

Of course, we need to pay attention to legitimate concerns. Rejoicing in the light at the end of the tunnel when it's really a freight train heading in our direction does

not ultimately cure worry. It only postpones it while the problem gathers momentum.

But if ninety-two percent of our concerns are "rust upon the blade," and they slow us down in cutting through our work, how can we stop worrying about them? Here are four techniques that I've used.

**Take a nap.** Sometimes we're just tired. Things look brighter and solutions come quicker when we are rested.

**Prepare.** Not being adequately prepared for a job, project, or decision is a valid reason to be concerned. Doing our homework and preparing for the task ahead takes away worry.

**Make a list.** Sometimes we have a vague sense of anxiety; several things may be troubling us. Solution: Write them down on a piece of paper and take a look. They may not be worth worrying about. Even if they're legitimate, having them on paper seems to free the mind to work out a solution.

**Take action.** Sometimes we're worried because we're procrastinating. Even taking the first small step may relieve the uneasiness that comes from inaction.

Do these four simple solutions work? To paraphrase the African-American motivational minister, Johnnie Coleman, "They work when you work them."

As we think about making New Year's resolutions, perhaps ousting the worry habit should be on the list. The next time we get stressed out, we can take a deep breath and relax, remembering the immortal words of Alfred E. Neuman: "What? Me worry?" He understood that most things we worry about will probably never happen. And with a clear mind and calm nerves, we can more easily face the things we wish to remove or improve.

# President's Page

STEPHEN LEVINE



Hello, I.B.M. family! I am pleased to announce that Connie Boyd will be the Guest of Honor at the upcoming I.B.M. Annual Convention this July in St. Louis, Missouri.

In the glittering, mysterious world of magic, where sleight of hand meets theatrical artistry, Connie Boyd has carved out a place as one of the most influential and inspiring figures of her generation. A performer of elegance and precision, a producer with vision, and an advocate for women in magic, Connie has spent decades dazzling audiences while quietly reshaping the industry from within.

Her story is one of passion, resilience, and reinvention. It is a journey that has taken her from the bright lights of Las Vegas to stages across five continents, and now into the role of mentor, documentarian, author, and champion for the next generation of magicians.

Connie Boyd's professional magic career began in 1987, when she performed at a Christmas show at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas.

"My background as a dancer, my coordination as a juggler, my musicality, and my skills as an aerialist benefited me a lot," Connie said. "My acts were like no other and difficult to copy, as I floated high above the stage, or escaped a straitjacket while hanging upside down. I had great success. I was often the only female in the room, headlining in the venue or show."

The event, attended by renowned artist Barclay Shaw, proved to be a turning point. From that moment, she never looked back.

Her signature production, *The Beauty of Magic*, became a celebrated fixture in Las Vegas and beyond. The show was a master-class in combining grand illusions with refined theatricality. Boyd's performances

were not just about the mechanics of magic, they were immersive, emotionally resonant experiences. She brought a sense of grace and glamour to the stage that captivated audiences with her poise as much as with her illusions.

When Connie began her career, the magic industry was overwhelmingly male dominated. Female magicians were rare, and often relegated to the role of assistants rather than headliners. She challenged that norm head on, stepping into the spotlight as the central figure in her own productions.

Her success was not simply a matter of mastering complex illusions, though she did so with remarkable skill, but by redefining what a magician could be. She brought a distinctly feminine perspective to her craft, proving that magic could be powerful, glamorous, and deeply personal all at once.

By doing so, she became a role model for aspiring female magicians, showing them that they could command the stage on their own terms.

Her style transcends language barriers. Through visual storytelling, emotional connection, and a touch of humor, she has captivated audiences of all ages and cultures. Whether performing in an intimate theater or a grand auditorium, Connie's magic feels personal, as if each illusion is crafted just for the viewer in that moment.

In recent years, Boyd has expanded her role in the magic community beyond performing. In June 2020, she launched "Magical Women with Connie Boyd," a YouTube channel dedicated to showcasing some of the best female magicians in the world. The channel, which now has more

(continued on page 13)



# Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING



In the first issue of *The Sphinx*, the magazine's founder William J. Hilliar wrote: "Nothing will be left undone to make this magazine of help to the amateur and professional magicians alike." Hilliar lived a well-traveled life that brought him recognition, accolades, and scores of friends in magic and other walks of life. After his life was tragically cut short, many wonder what might have happened if he'd returned to his waiting cab that night. To learn more, turn to page 135.

## **President's Page** – from page 11

than three hundred videos, quickly became a hub for interviews, performances, and behind-the-scenes insights, shining a spotlight on talent that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Her work with “Magical Women” is more than entertainment, it is advocacy. By documenting the stories of women in magic, Boyd is preserving a vital part of the art form’s history while inspiring the next generation of performers. In 2022, she was awarded a Fellowship by the Academy of Magical Arts and this past summer was presented with the “Award of Excellence” by the Milbourne Christopher Foundation.

Boyd’s influence extends into print as well. She writes a monthly “Magical Women” series for *Vanish* magazine, profiling female magicians from around the globe. Her articles blend biography, cultural commentary, and celebration, capturing the unique journeys of women who have carved their own paths in magic.

Her recent book, *The Power of Magical Women*, spotlights more than seventy trailblazing women redefining twenty-first-century magic. Through revealing interviews and inspiring stories, Boyd highlights the artistry, courage, and brilliance of modern female magicians breaking barriers and commanding the stage. We will have a book signing at the Convention, so bring your copy.

For many young magicians, especially women, Connie Boyd is more than a performer, she is a mentor. Her openness in sharing her experiences, both the triumphs and the challenges, offers invaluable guidance to those navigating the often-unpredictable world of magic.

She emphasizes the importance of authenticity, encouraging performers to find their own voice rather than imitate others. In her view, the most powerful magic comes from a place of personal truth, where the performer’s identity and artistry are inseparable.

In summary, Connie Boyd’s legacy is multifaceted. As a performer, she’s brought beauty, sophistication, and emotional depth to the stage. As a producer and writer, she’s amplified voices that have long been underrepresented in magic. And as a mentor, she’s shaping the future of the world of magic.

We hope you will join us in St. Louis in July 2026 to hear Connie’s stories and see her influence in action.



Connie Boyd.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL MESSING

# MOIRA FLETCHER

## President of the British Ring

By Don Greenberg

If you're not from Scotland, it's possible that you've never met anybody named *Moira*. It's not a very common name outside of the Gaelic regions. Pronounced *MOY-rah*, it's the Anglicized spelling of a Gaelic form of *Mary*. In Greek, it's linked to *fate*, or *destiny*. In this case, we're referring to Moira Fletcher, the new President of I.B.M. Ring 25, the British Ring.

As Moira took office this past September, there was nobody more aware of the issues that hindered the club. As executive secretary, she became familiar with declining membership and convention attendance. The Ring's financial condition had forced a restructuring of the convention format in the preceding few years, but Moira intends to stay involved and help solve these concerns. The Ring has been a part of her life for her whole life.

Many of us were brought into the world of magic when we saw our first magician, or when we received a magic set as a gift. Not Moira Fletcher – she was *born* into a multigenerational magical family in Glasgow, Scotland. Older members of the I.B.M. may remember her father and mother, Duncan and Olive Fletcher. Duncan and his Scottish-themed magic, and Olive with her ever-present smile,

were fixtures in the British and especially the Scottish magic communities for the entire second half of the twentieth century.



*Moira Fletcher, with partner Alan Maskell, after her installation as President of the British Ring.* PHOTO BY JEMMA TYNAN



*Left to right: The Fletchers after an early "Scout Gang Show," the only time they all performed together. Left to Right-Top; Olive, Duncan, Ian. Bottom; Moira, Rena. A "Do as I Do" rope routine for Girl Guides in 1973.*

ry. If you attended a Convention that they also attended, you saw Duncan at the banquet, formally and proudly dressed in a kilt made of "Fletcher" tartan fabric, standing next to Olive with her beaming smile.

So, it seems that the new Ring 25 President has been involved in magic since she was born – or perhaps even earlier. Her father, Duncan, became interested in magic when he was a little boy, and that interest stayed with him throughout his whole life. Duncan Fletcher met Olive on VJ Day in the United Kingdom on August 15, 1945. They had their first date shortly after that, and in July 1948, they were married. The children came along quickly, and the magic continued.

The Fletchers are a very close family, although Duncan and Olive passed away in 1995 and 2015, respectively. Moira is the youngest of the three Fletcher children. Her sister, Rena, is four and a half years older. Her brother, Ian, seven and a half years older, died way too young, in 2010. Moira, her two children, and Rena, visit or communicate with each other almost daily.

If you've spent any time with Moira, you may have heard her refer to "Two Five



Four," a special location – a place with mystical qualities. "Two Five Four" is her affectionate reference to 254 Nithsdale Road, the lovely suburban home southwest of the center of Glasgow, Scotland, where Moira and her siblings were raised. Olive filled the home with loving care and smiles, and Duncan filled it with magic. The children were an infinite source of energy and laughter, and the magic community supplied the home with a continuous stream of houseguests and visitors. More on the visitors later.

When Moira was a tiny five-year-old, she proudly presented her first magic performance for two of those houseguests: a routine of the "Cups and Corks" for Ed and Nanci Keener. It was absolutely horrible according to Moira – a complete and utter disaster. The Keeners applauded, adoring the little girl's wholesome sincerity, but Moira carries that memory to this day, although she laughs when she recounts the story.

And Moira's laugh is unique. An involuntary burst of infectious joy, it shines through just about any crowd noise. It's more than a giggle, and gentler than a



Moira in the middle of the “Scottish Act” in Kilmarnock, 2006.

guffaw. Any performer who hears her delighted laugh during their performance knows instantly where Moira is seated.

By the time she was nine years old, she was performing for her “Entertainment Badge” in the Brownie Guides. When she was around twelve, she was working towards a more elaborate and more challenging “Entertainment Badge” in the Girl Guides. Moira constructed a complete act, including “Torn and Restored Magazine Cover,” “Color Changing Silks,” and “Ribbon Fountain.”

As a result of her Girl Guides performances, she was asked to perform in local shows, where she encountered her first heckler. An adult audience member shouted, “It’s up your sleeve!” at the pre-teen magician, who happened to be sporting a sleeveless dress. Moira finished her act, undaunted. After the show, the interrupter approached Moira to apologize. He explained that he assumed it would be funny because she had no sleeves. Silly heckler.

Also at age twelve, Moira attended her first magic convention as a regular attendee. She still recalls that convention of the Scottish Association of Magical Societies (SAMS) as a significant event in her magic growth. She found herself gravitating

towards the individual people, as opposed to the tricks being offered – an indication of her natural tendency for interacting with the membership.

From that time on, Moira stayed very involved in magic, and “grew up” in the craft, actively participating alongside her father, and assisting him with shows and Ring activities whenever and wherever she could, including administrative duties and helping with contests.

Moira continued to perform as well. In 1976, she made an appearance on the television show *Take a Bow*, a talent show that featured child performers. In her six-minute segment, she performed for about three and a half minutes, and absolutely sparkled while interacting and responding to the hosts interview questions for the remaining time.

A year later, at the SAMS Convention Contest, Moira took second place and



The “three-girl” illusion act conjurors. Left to right: Amanda Letarte, Moira Fletcher, Elaine Grant.



*Moira performs in a sleeveless gown for an appreciative audience... and one heckler.*

received – astonishingly – the “Fletcher’s Cup.” The trophy, provided to the organization by her father, had been established a few years prior because the first-place winner had been receiving a trophy, but the second-place contestants had not been receiving *any* recognition. Moira eventually served as President of SAMS.

While attending Anniesland College in Glasgow to become a medical secretary, she continued performing magic shows, and she maintained her participation in magic club and Ring activities. And when she completed her schooling and began her career, she worked full-time as a medical secretary for the next ten years, but her involvement in magic seemed to increase.

In the mid-1980s, she was performing at the nearly 1,800-seat King’s Theatre, designed by architect Frank Matcham, on the western edge of downtown Glasgow. During one multiple-act variety show, Moira recalls that she was using a “Hat-Box Substitution Trunk,” as well as an authentic Robert Harbin “Zig Zag Lady.”

Her illusions were well built, her act was well rehearsed, and the Theatre was spectacular, but that didn’t guarantee that everything would always go as planned.

On one evening, the performers that preceded her were a “slapstick” act who left the stage a complete mess, with no time for the crew to adequately clean it. As Moira made her entrance across the stage – the stage that was left coated in shaving cream and confetti – she slipped on the surface in spectacular style. She recovered in a professional “show-must-go-on” fashion.

Later that evening, her assistant (her brother Ian’s girlfriend, Terri McPhee) was inside of the Harbin illusion. But when Moira went to slide the middle section, it inexplicably jammed. The *Zig* just wouldn’t *Zag*. Moira pushed it, jiggled it, rocked, and rolled it, but it didn’t budge. Then, as suddenly as the trouble appeared, it vanished. The middle section glided smoothly across the rails. Moira completed her set without additional snags. However,



*Left to right: Wearing the chains of the President of the Scottish Association of Magical Societies in 2004. Moira at the filming of the “Take a Bow” TV show, which promoted young performers.*

she never did discover what caused the problem.

She changed her course in 1988, and for the next eighteen years, Moira worked as a full-time professional magician. She entertained at children's shows, shopping centers, and restaurants. She performed at Christmas parties, birthday parties, and retirement parties. She was hired for television advertisements, including one memorable milk commercial spot. For almost five years, Moira trouped a “three-girl” illusion act all over the UK, along with colleagues Elaine Grant and Amanda Letarte.

During those years, there were a lot of changes in her life. She had her son, Graham, and her daughter, Mandy, with her then-husband, George Colvan. But her involvement in magic was a comforting constant. That's because magic and magicians were always there, as long as she could remember. Even before she began walking or talking, “Two Five Four”

served as a way-station for wandering conjurors. The home's famous visitors register is replete with the names of well-known magicians. And Moira has thousands of fond memories from those visitors.

She recalls that Alan Shaxon told the family wonderful stories about working with Rowan Atkinson on the *Mr. Bean* show. I.B.M. co-founder Len Vintus stayed several times, and loved chatting about magical experiences in his travels. June Horowitz, the I.B.M.'s first female International President, exuded a gentle, friendly warmth and interacted well with everyone. Terry Seabrooke and Duncan shared a love of single-malt Scotch whisky. Moira can clearly picture Terry Seabrooke sitting on the floor without his shoes, enjoying the underfloor heating, and holding a glass of Glenn Somethingorother. She repeats his comment “*This* is what I love about visiting here,” and she laughs.

... *Billy McComb ... Paul and Andi Diamond ... Jay and Francis Marshall ...*



*Left to right: Moira in an advertising promo shot. Performing close-up at a convention. "Cups and Corks" remained a favorite part of Moira's repertoire, in spite of her disastrous first performance.*

*Ray and Dorothy Mangel ... Bob and Jean Parrish ...*

Through multiple visits, Eddie and Amy Dawes became "part of the family." Amy helped Olive and worked in the kitchen like it was her own, and Eddie made their stays friendly and familiar.

*... Jay Scott Berry ... Ali Bongo ... Darryl ... Jay Sanke ... Aldo Colombini ... John Wade ...*

When Pavel fled Czechoslovakia in the late 1960s, his mother stayed behind. They were eventually reunited, but Pavel stayed

at "Two Five Four" often, and eventually began calling Olive his "second Mom."

*... Doc Eason ... Randy Wakeman ... Robert Harbin ... Steve Beam ...*

She remembers that when Trevor Lewis visited, Duncan would break out his ukuleles, and the two of them would serenade the family. She recounts how Michael Ammar stayed with them, and took an early-teenage Graham to the premier of one of the *Star Wars* movies. David Nixon was a passionate fisherman, so Duncan arranged a Scottish salmon-fishing permit for him.

*... The Wychwoods (Jack and Audrey Shaw) ... Tom Owen ... Andrew O'Connor ... Anthony Owen ...*

The memories come back to Moira in rapid succession, and in no particular order. You become very aware that she treasures these stories, and that sharing them makes her happy. She continues ... David Berglas *loved* to be helpful, *loved* the relaxed atmosphere. A very *large* Al Goshman would pick up Frosty, the family dog, and *throw* him through the air, to the opposite end of the living room. Frosty



*Two of the "Two Five Four" guest register books.*



*Performing for children along the waterfront in Dunoon, on the West Coast of Scotland.*

would sprint back to Gosh's waiting arms, and the stunt would repeat, over and over – and Moira *laughs*.

Both of her children became involved in entertainment. Graham has worked behind the scenes, doing the lighting for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, as site manager for venues at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and in many other lighting, sound, and stagecraft capacities.

Mandy has continued the family tradition and has traveled as a performer since 2015, working in Spain, around the UK, and on the Viking Cruise Line. She also inherited “The Scottish Act” from her mother, who had inherited it from her father. All three generations of the act were featured in a video montage, put together by Bob Hamilton for the 2017 Convention.

In 1996, Moira began working for one week each summer in the Orkney town of Stromness. For the next seven years, her magic shows and children's workshops remained favorite activities for the locals and tourists. She'll tell you that she became famous in Orkney – and *only* in Orkney (and then she'll *laugh*).

For years, Moira and her sister, Rena, assisted with the British Ring Conventions. They organized and worked the registration desk, the welfare booth, the children's show, the “Parade of Flags” event, and the dinner. In 2011, Moira became part of the council, and she became the Assistant Executive Secretary under Past International President John Pye in 2014. She became the Convention Team Lead in 2017, and when John Pye stepped down in 2018, Moira became the Executive Secretary. Through all of this, Moira has worked hard to rejuvenate the Ring's level of enthusiasm and activity.

Interestingly, she's serving as Ring 25 President exactly fifty years after her father, Duncan Fletcher, was Ring 25 President.

These days, Moira works as the Practice Manager of a General Practitioner Surgery Practice. She's heavily involved in Scouts and Girlguiding, and acts as the Producer and Director “Scout Gang Show,” the creative arts component of the organisations. She and her partner Alan Maskell live in Glasgow and share their love of magic.

So, what does Moira hope to accomplish as President of Ring 25? Her objectives are simple to state, but she knows that she'll need to work hard to accomplish them. She hopes to help plan the Ring's Centenary Celebration, which will take place in 2028. She wants to meet with the members of the British Ring, and increase the communication with the individual members. She hopes to extract their genuine opinions – positive, and negative – and not simply settle for polite responses to her probes. By sincerely engaging with the membership, she believes that she can make them feel more welcome and more important, make meaningful improvements, and thereby increase their involvement and participation. It's clear that Moira Fletcher would like every Ring 25 member to have the same sense that she enjoys – the sense of belonging to a *magical family*.



## Singapore Ring 115 Presents Gician Card Magic Challenge: A Night of Magical Excellence in Singapore

I.B.M. Ring 115 (Singapore) was proud to present the Gician Card Challenge, a card magic competition held on the evening of October 15, 2025, at the Drama Centre. The event, generously sponsored by Gician Tan, attracted forty-three members and fourteen guests. Ten contestants took the stage, each allotted ten minutes to perform. The rules were strict: performers were provided with a new, sealed red deck and a blue deck, with no accessories permitted except for a card-marking pen. The performance order was determined by a prior draw.



Wee Kien Meng (aka Mr. Bottle) started the night with a powerful opening. He magically produced two jokers from a sealed card case, performed the compelling “Chicago Opener” (also known as “Red Hot Mama”), and concluded with a stunningly fair card location, seemingly without touching the deck the entire time. His act set a high bar for the evening.

Tangcueco Vicente III Tiu created a gentle ambience with soft background music. He impressed the audience with David Solomon’s refined variation of the classic Twenty-One Card trick, followed by Jay Sankey’s “Back in Time” (a Triumph effect with a time-travel premise) and a graceful version of the Anniversary Waltz, ending his act on a strong note.

Chunny Teoh began with a flashy production of the four kings. He then performed a multi-phase sandwich routine with the kings before moving into a challenge card divination, involving the revelation of the selected card at a randomly chosen number.

Luke Tan delivered a complex act heavy on sleight of hand. He performed a “Drunken Poker”-style effect combined with a colour-changing deck kicker, followed by a “Call to Colours” routine where he dealt red and black cards as called out by the audience.

Joseph Then centred his performance on the aces. He began with a Four-Ace production, moved into an Oil and Water routine, and then performed an instant Ace Assembly. His act continued with an Elevator effect that featured a transposition kicker (“Low Riser”/“Michalelevator”) and concluded with an exciting version of the classic “Twisting the Aces,” where the aces changed to kings and back again.

Ian Tan opened by producing a deck from his empty hands. His routine featured a four-ace production with multiple colour changes, a universal card effect where all



(l to r): Gician Card Magic Challenge Champion Ian Tan. • Secnd Place winner David Fillary performs.  
• Third Place winner Chunny Teoh performs.

aces transformed into the selected card, and an imbalanced transposition involving his pocket. He then performed a Collectors effect, using the aces to find the three kings – mates to the selected king – before revealing the entire deck to be in new deck order.

Linus Ng began with an Ambitious Card effect involving a signed selection (the Ten of Diamonds). He then produced all sixteen court cards (aces, kings, queens, and jacks), dealt a poker hand of straight flushes, and concluded with a highly creative grid revelation, arranging cards on the table to form the shape of a “10” and a diamond before producing the selected card itself.

David Fillary, like Ian, started by producing a deck from thin air. He performed a variation of the “Chicago Opener” with a colour-changing back finale, followed by an imbalanced transposition involving his pocket. He closed with a stunning Triple Coincidence effect using both red and blue decks, where his three chosen cards perfectly matched those of a spectator.

Enrico Varella began with a deck production via a table spread. His act included a Lennart Green’s Laser Deal (where cards vanished upon being dealt), a Full Suit production (Ace through King of Spades), a swift production of the four aces using Gary Ouellet’s “Three Second Wonder,” and concluded with “The Exclusive Coterie” from Erdnase’s *The Expert at the Card Table*.

Kai Emmanuel Kuah captivated the audience with his storytelling. He presented his own version of the classic “4 Burglars” trick, where four jacks were repeatedly caught by

two jokers as police officers. While the effect was repetitive, his engaging narrative ensured the audience followed along closely.

The panel of judges comprised renowned magicians Harapan Ong, Shade Soo, Tommy Kien, Lim Teck Guan, and Fernando Ng. While the judges deliberated, guests were served snacks and refreshments. Before the results were announced, the audience was treated to a special ten-minute guest performance by FISM winner Juan Colas, who dazzled with his world-class coin and card magic. Juan performed an impressive coin box routine, followed by a baffling version of the classic Palindrome Cards effect, where the Ace to Five of Diamonds repeatedly reverse their order in an impossibly fair manner.

Judge Harapan Ong addressed the crowd, noting that the standard of this year’s competition was significantly higher than the previous year’s and congratulating all contestants on their excellent performances. The sponsor, Gician Tan, then announced the results:

Champion: Ian Tan  
Second Place: David Fillary  
Third Place: Chunny Teoh

The champion received a \$500 cash prize, a trophy from Gician Tan, and the coveted Challenge Trophy, which will be engraved with his name. The event was smoothly hosted by JK Tan, with Baharudin on videography, Ivan Lee as timekeeper, and Kenneth Chia as event administrator, bringing a successful and inspiring competition to a close. *Harapan Ong & Ng Kah King*

## Ring 130 (Jacksonville, Florida) Get-Together at Eric Eaton's Magic for Adults

On Thursday, November 13, instead of our usual meeting room, this month's magic gathering took place right in the theater seats. Several members of First Coast Magicians Ring 130 gathered for a special night out to support and enjoy the comedy magic of *Eric Eaton: Magic for Adults*. It was a fun, energetic evening with a ton of laughs.

In attendance were members Chris Sharp, David Coll, Jim Green, Robert Sands, John Nolen, John Palumbo, David Jaison, and Charles Miller. We were joined with wives and friends (some reluctantly, some enthusiastically), so we took up a few tables which made for a fantastic night. It didn't take long for Eric to change the minds of those that may have felt pressured to join. His blend of sharp wit, clever magic, and unexpected audience interactions would make for an awesome show.

His performance was a lively mix of visual magic, quick-fire jokes, and improvisational moments that kept the entire audience

laughing and engaged. One joke could be argued was a "hack" line, however, the delivery of the joke was unexpected and surmounted any expectations. Watching Eric toy with unsuspecting audience volunteers was hilarious and his ability to blend strong magic with comedic timing reminded all of us why live magic remains such a valued art form.

If you've never seen Eric perform, do it. You may have seen him before on *Masters of Illusion* for the last eight seasons, but this show is something you wouldn't catch anywhere else.

After the show, we shared a few stories and tossed around ideas for future shows and meetings. There's quite a lot brewing in the club, so stay tuned. If you're in the Jacksonville area, stop by and say hi. First Coast Magicians meet on the third Thursday of the month, with another non-I.B.M. dinner gathering on the first Thursday. Contact Chris at [info@ibmring130.com](mailto:info@ibmring130.com) for further details.



(l to r): Chris Sharp, John Nolen, David Coll, Robert Sands, Eric Eaton, David Jaison, Jim Green, and Charles Miller.

## **Ring 131 (Denver, Colorado) Presents Annual Evening of Odd Magic Show**

The Mile High Magicians Society hosted its annual Evening of Odd magic show. **Charly Wonder** emceed the event. She performed a card trick with murder names from scary movies and was able to correctly match the murderer with their weapon of choice.

**Jeff and Karen Wake** opened the Wake Funeral Home. The funeral home was magically funny and creepy with guillotines and switching caskets. **Karen Wake** catered the event with elaborate themed treats and decorations.



*Jeff and Karen Wake present a hilarious and spooky guillotine routine at Ring 131's annual Evening of Odd event*

**Wymisner** had a deck of Halloween recipe cards. He had audience members pick a type of food and imagine eating that food. He was able to correctly deduce which food each audience member selected.

**Glenn Proulx** demonstrated his own unique twist on removing and reattaching his finger. He had a giant skeleton. He sliced his arm off, but the skeleton was okay.

A new member, **Victor**, demonstrated the power of the Cult of the Sleeping God. He performed a ceremony where one participant died. A held envelope matched the marked person.

**Melody Berg** demonstrated the power of Voodoo. An audience member marked a doll, and a matched doll was marked identically.

**Chris Manos** brought a spirit box with a magical egg that disappeared and reappeared. At the end of the performance, the egg turned into a creepy eye.

**Richard Nakata** brought ESP cards and had an audience member select one. This symbol was burned into a piece of paper.

**James Lopez** performed a modern rendition of a classic when he swallowed fifty needles and pulled them out on a string.

**Kier Royale** used a ghost trap and a change bag to trap a ghost. He had a handkerchief completely disappear from the compartments of a change bag into a ghost trap.

**Gene Gordon** demonstrated a rising card due to spirits in the room. The card later appeared on his arm.

The Mile High Magicians Society thanks the performers, Karen Wake for the food, and the Children's Haven for hosting the event.

*A.J. Perea*

## **Ring 243 (Canton, Ohio) Annual Banquet Celebrates 105 Years of Canton Magicrafters**

Ring 243 of Canton, Ohio celebrated another wonderful year of magic at their Annual Magic Banquet on November 1, 2025. The Magicrafters were founded in 1920 and we have held our Annual Banquet for more than sixty years. More than 150 people enjoyed an evening of wonderful food, fellowship, and great magic. This marked

the 105th year for Canton Magicrafters.

The guests were treated to four close-up entertainers. Up first was Jim Kayder. Jim started off sharing his Sets of Three: CSB (three coins), Professors Nightmare (three ropes), and three all-backers routine (three cards – supposedly). He received a big round of applause from the audience.



(l to r): **Don Moody**, seen here producing candles from silks, was honored as Ring 243's Magician of the Year. • **Dale Smith** produces a "snowstorm," much to the delight of spectators. • **Mike Salvino**.jpg: Mike Salvino's clever effects kept the audience laughing. (PHOTOS BY RICK EVERHART)

Next up was Rory Rubin. Rory did a two-card transposition, Mr. Danger (a Tenyo ect), a Dice Bomb, and a vanishing card effect, mystifying his assistants.

Next up was Don Strongoli. He shared a three-card revelation and an outstanding needle through a mirror. Finally, he folded the mirror and restored it. The spectators cheered heartily.

Our last performer was Ron Barnett. Ron started off with a mentalism effect using an iPhone.

He had four spectators tear up the cards they were holding, then had them hide a piece, duck some pieces, and swap some pieces. Even though the four spectators didn't reveal which card they had, the last piece matched the one they were hiding.

Following the hour of close-up magic, dinner was served. Santangelo's Party Center once again served a delicious buffet meal featuring roast beef and baked chicken. It was obvious that no one left hungry.

Following a 50/50 drawing, it was time for the stage show. This year's emcee was Canton Magicrafters' very own Mike Bishop. Mike did an outstanding job of keeping the show running smoothly through the evening.

Our first performer was Don Moody. Don is new to Magicrafters but not to magic. He produced some candles from silks, vanished a glass of water into a newspaper, showed the paper, refolded it, and poured the water back into the cup, finally vanishing the candles. It was a wonderful way to begin the stage show. No better way than with some classic

magic brought to us by a club member.

Our second act was Dale Smith. Dale is a member truly devoted to the art of magic. He started off with What's Next, a moving dot routine. Following that, he changed bubbles into balls producing enough balls for all the kids in the audience. He shared the Axtell board, making a drawing talk. He produced a plethora of silks from a square circle and changed some colorful feathers into unique objects. Finally, he told a story producing a veritable snowstorm.

During intermission, the club held its annual gift raffle and many people left with some very nice prizes. The club then honored the Magician of the Year: a member of the Canton Magicrafters who is selected by a vote of the membership, and who has demonstrated a true commitment to the craft of magic and the club. This year's winner was Don Moody, a super performer and new member of the club. However, he makes every meeting and always has something to share.

Mike Salvino started the second half of the show. Mike is a very clever and gifted magician. He performed an outstanding Blendo effect, followed by using a silk box. He then proceeded to take some knots off of a silk (à la Jeff McBride). Audience members laughed when he displayed the silk with three holes in it. Finally, he did a Hostess Cupcake Trick, leaving his helper and the audience in stitches. He reminded me just how good those old routines are.

Our headliner for the evening was Skill-dini. He is a veteran performer for Los Angeles's

(continued on page 138)

# MOUNT DORA MAGIC BASH

A Weekend of Wonder



**O**n the quiet streets of Mount Dora, Florida, you expect to hear the clink of coffee cups at the diner, the shuffle of antique hunters poking through shops, and the gulls calling over Lake Dora.

What you don't expect – at least, not on an ordinary September weekend – is the sound of laughter echoing in an old baggage room, or the sight of a silver dollar vanishing into thin air.

But September 19–20, 2025, wasn't an ordinary weekend. For two days, wonder itself came to visit. They called it the Magic Bash.

## A Small Town with a Big Idea

The Magic Bash began the way so many good things do: with a simple idea. Magician and producer Scott Humston wondered what would happen if, instead of magicians gathering behind closed doors for lectures and late-night sessions, an entire town opened itself up to magic. What if the public, not just magicians, got to share in the laughter and astonishment?

So he walked into the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce with his pitch: a weekend where world-class magicians would weave themselves into the fabric of the town. The Chamber said yes, and the doors of Mount Dora swung open.

## The Stages Were Everywhere

The Chamber's Baggage Room, with its brick walls and intimate seating, became a

parlor theater where adults leaned forward, inches from the mystery.

Elsewhere, restaurants turned into magic clubs as sleight of hand traveled from table to table. Families gathered outdoors for children's shows, their laughter mingling with the Florida sunshine.

One of Mount Dora's historic inns, overlooking the lake, offered an air of elegance, as if the golden age of magic had returned for an encore. For one weekend, the ordinary places of Mount Dora became extraordinary.

## The Magicians Who Came

The performers brought as much variety as the venues. Giovanni Livera lit the spark, his charisma and boundless energy sweeping audiences into the thrill of the moment.

Terry Ward lent sophistication, silver dollars vanishing and reappearing with the grace of a seasoned vaudevillian. Erick Olson seemed to be everywhere at once – cracking a joke one moment, leaving someone speechless the next.



*L to R: Bob and Val Swadling have a blast at the Mount Dora Magic Bash. Erick Olson performs street magic. Families watch Brian Happie perform in the park.*

Jimmy Rook was the children's favorite, his humor keeping them laughing until a moment of impossibility brought wide-eyed gasps. Together with Humston, he led a kids' magic class, where young hands learned their first tricks. Many left with a deck of cards and a new dream.

Brian Happie infused his shows with rhythm and celebration, proving that magic can be as contemporary as it is timeless. In Tim Pitch's case, his performances indoors and out reminded everyone that sometimes the best magic is a laugh and a surprise.

Humston himself wore the producer's hat most of the time, but he couldn't resist slipping into a corner with a deck of cards, sharing a quiet miracle at a dinner table and reminding himself why he had dreamed this all up.

### **The People Who Watched**

If the magicians supplied the tricks, it was the people of Mount Dora who supplied the wonder.

Neighbors who had lived side by side for years found themselves laughing together in the Baggage Room. Families huddled close outdoors, children discovering that astonishment doesn't come from a screen but from a pair of skilled hands. Tourists who thought they'd come for antiques instead stumbled upon a festival of the impossible.

And everywhere, the same question rose: "When's the next one?"

### **Not Without Its Bumps**

Like all first-year festivals, the Bash had its challenges. Ticket sales for parlor shows came later than hoped, and marketing will need to start earlier in years to come.

But no one seemed to mind. The smiles and gasps spoke louder than the numbers.

If success is measured in connection, laughter, and memory, the Magic Bash was an unqualified triumph.





Top, l to r: Terry Ward's parlor show. Erick Olson's parlor show.  
Bottom, l to r: Jimmy Rook's family show. Giovanni's captivating parlor performance.

### Bigger Than One Town

For members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Mount Dora Magic Bash offers a reminder of what magic can do when it leaves the hotel ballroom and walks down Main Street. Magic is not only for magicians. It is a gift that astonishes families, inspires children,

and knits communities together in shared delight.

This festival proved that magic can be more than a craft. It can be a cultural event. It is an idea ready to travel, as other towns may well host their own weekend of wonder. All it takes is the courage to say yes.



Left to right: Gio performs his penny routine. Gio performs "Cardographic."



Timothy Pitch at Lakeside Inn.



Mount Dora Magic Bash creator, host, and M.C.  
Scott Humston.

### See for Yourself

If you'd like to take a peek, visit [www.magicbash.fun](http://www.magicbash.fun). You'll find highlights, photos, and even the original theme song created for the event.

It won't be the same as sitting in the Baggage Room or watching children giggle in the sunshine, but it will give you a taste of what Mount Dora experienced that September.

Because in the end, the real magic wasn't only on stage. It was in the gathering of people, the laughter of neighbors, and the simple joy of believing, even for a moment, in the impossible.



# A Tribute to Trevor Lewis

1932 – 2025

One year ago this month we featured Trevor Lewis in our “Pictures from the Past” column by Gary Frank. Sadly, Trevor passed away six months later, and we published his Broken Wand notice in the July issue. Trevor served as President of the British Ring (2008–2009), and we felt it would be appropriate to include memories from a few of his friends in this year’s British Ring issue.

## Samuel Patrick Smith

I first saw Trevor Lewis when I was sixteen years old. He was one of the magic celebrities lecturing at the International Brotherhood of Magicians Convention in Washington, D.C. The year was 1977, and this was the first lecture I had ever attended on children’s magic. Being so close to childhood myself, I wasn’t sure if I even wanted to entertain children.

Trevor’s lecture, however, would have changed anyone’s mind. He demonstrated that entertaining children was an art and could be not only fun and funny, but also hilarious. I particularly remember his “Tommy’s Teeth” routine and the closing line, which – delivered in his inimitable style – brought gales of laughter: “Always be true to your teeth, and they’ll never be false to you.”

Although Trevor Lewis brought laughter and amazement to young audiences for most of his life, I’ve seen firsthand that he also knew how to make adults laugh at the same time, placing him safely out of the “kiddie performer” category.

His delightfully dry sense of humor and ability to make people laugh may have belied his technical skills as a magician.

Recognition of his abilities goes back many years. In 1969, for example, he won The Magic Circle Close-up Award. Two years later, he won the Zina Bennett Cup at the British Ring Convention. In 1976, he won the Close-up Card Trophy at FISM. Other awards and honors followed, all of which fervently disprove that worn-out stereotype of the unskilled children’s entertainer. “A kid-show performer has a trophy from FISM?” Yes, and why not?



*With the Zina Bennett Cup for first place in close-up magic at the 1971 British Ring Convention.*

Trevor’s career consisted of a lot more than just winning trophies, however. For years, he presented a sponsored show on road safety for schools throughout Wales. He was the resident magician on four television series in Britain. He also hosted his own series of magic shows for BBC Wales,

called *Trevor's Tricks*. He made television appearances in America, Japan, and Australia.

In addition to educational magic performances for children – usually themed around safety and hygiene – Trevor lectured for magicians throughout Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and the United States.



*Trevor incorporated educational messages in many of his routines.*

Those who never saw him perform can still get an idea of his wit in his books. Trevor was a master at writing routines. Each one was carefully worked out and balanced for the most effective presentation: laughs at the right place, educational points made at strategic moments, and the whole effect leading to the most satisfying conclusion. Along the way, adults in the room shed tears from laughing at his jokes sprinkled generously throughout his ingenious routines.

What advice did Trevor Lewis offer those wanting to be successful in the field of children's entertainment? "My advice is to read everything on magic, stagecraft, and comedy," he said. "Watch every video on magic possible. Don't use suggestive material. Above all, learn to entertain."

With all of Trevor's accomplishments in magic, one would conclude that he had

been a full-time performer. Actually, throughout his adult life he held down a solid, non-magical career, graduating from college in Liverpool as a Ministry of Transport First Class Engineer. He sailed with the Merchant Navy, starting with the Pacific Steam Navigating Company, traveling to and from South America and Australia. Trevor was the Chief Engineering Officer on a huge ferry, crossing the Irish Sea between Dublin and Holyhead, Wales.

After retiring, he moved with his wife Val to her native village of Old Colwyn. She retired from teaching classes in religion and Welsh. Trevor said, "She told everyone she had to retire to keep the house looking neat. That's the price she had to pay for getting married to a magician." Trevor spoke of his two grown sons, David and Richard, with great affection. His wife and sons, he said, always supported and encouraged him.

Despite an illustrious career as a children's entertainer, Trevor said the best part was not the awards and accolades, but the friendships he made all over the world. "As the years go by," he said, "the things of the heart remain. If I've learnt nothing else, I know that friendships are priceless, time is invaluable, health is wealth, and love is a treasure."



*Trevor Lewis and Phil Willmarth in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, on the coast of the North Sea in 1979. PHOTO BY MEL KIENTZ.*



*Trevor could entertain children with playing cards as easily as with kid-show props.*

**Moira Fletcher  
President of the British Ring**

Trevor, along with his beautiful wife Val, was a very dear friend. Having met him first in my teens, Trevor must have decided I would be a good victim for his various gags, and that continued throughout our friendship. I even get a mention in one of his lecture notes for the best reaction to one of his pranks! He stayed with us many times, and I remember one very special time when he and our dad, Duncan Fletcher, also a Past President of the British Ring, sat together playing a ukulele duet. That was a very magical moment. Trevor was a font of knowledge and ideas, and I am grateful for all the thoughts he shared with me about some of the effects I have performed over the years. He always had something extra he could add, but he never took away from my own performance, which he thought was important. I miss both him and Val so very much, but I

am so glad that through all he gave to magic his name will live on and others will benefit from his experience and joy for life.

...

**Dale Salwak**

Imagine the timing of Carl Ballantine combined with the wit of Karrell Fox and the warmth of Jay Marshall, and you have an idea of the persona of Trevor Lewis both onstage and off. We first met in the late 1970s at a convention in Christchurch, New Zealand, and then again in 1980 at Eastbourne's British Ring Convention. On the strength of those two incredibly creative, laugh-every-few-seconds performances, I later booked him as emcee, performer, and lecturer for the I.B.M. Convention in San Diego, California (1989), where he brought down the house. Along with his magic and comedy, Trevor took

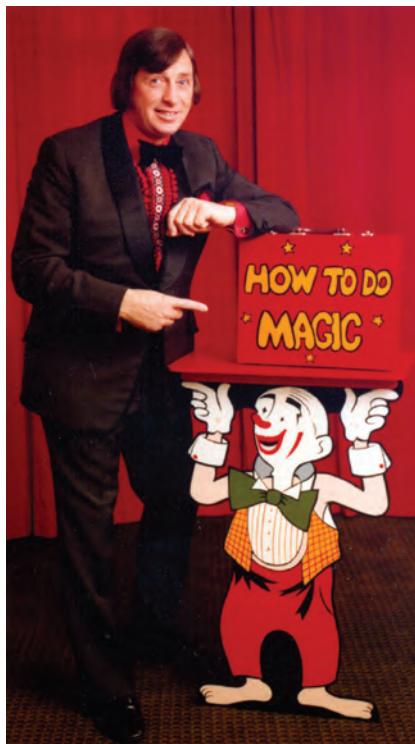
friendship and loyalty seriously. People just had to get word to him and he would drop what he was doing and go spend time with them. When I think over these many years, I am reminded of Polonius' advice to his son Laertes in *Hamlet* (I:iii): "The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, / Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel." Dear friends are hard to find, but when you do, they create unbreakable bonds through all sorts of life's challenges. Such a man was Trevor Lewis.

...

### **Marvin Berglas President of The Magic Circle**

It is a pleasure to pay tribute to Trevor Lewis, MIMC with Gold Star – a magician whose influence has been felt far beyond the spotlight, and often where it matters most. He was a highly skilled close-up and stage magician with a great personality. His accomplishments and awards around the world are testament to his skills and entertainment value. It is a rare commodity to be able to entertain all types of audiences. Trevor was more than comfortable and at home in front of sophisticated adults as well as excitable children. Trevor had long understood that children's magic is among the most demanding disciplines in our art. It requires structure, empathy, and absolute honesty. He consistently reminded performers that young audiences deserve real magic – thoughtfully constructed, clearly presented, and never condescending. In doing so, he helped elevate children's magic from a sideline to a respected craft. What I have always admired about Trevor was his generosity of spirit. Through lectures, writing, and various informal conversations, he shared ideas freely, encouraging others to think more deeply about presentation and purpose. Trevor never sought to create followers; instead, he helped magicians find their own voices, armed with better thinking and higher standards. Within British magic,

Trevor represented the very best of our traditions: professionalism, humility, and a genuine desire to give back... plus he was a really nice guy! Many performers working today – particularly in family and children's entertainment – carry his influence, whether knowingly or not. Trevor Lewis's legacy is not measured by tricks alone, but by the standards he quietly raised. For that, magic – on both sides of the Atlantic – is richer.



*Vintage Trevor Lewis.*

...

### **Mark Daniel**

If you were a friend of Trevor Lewis and lived in the United States, it wasn't unusual for your home fax machine to activate in the middle of the night. Many mornings I would wake up to find he'd faxed me musings or a new idea for a routine. Phil Willmarth told me that he, too, retrieved faxes from Trevor every morning. This practice



*Trevor is moved to tears as Phil Willmarth (left) reads the inscription on Trevor's Lifetime Contribution to Children's Magic Award at the 2008 KIDabra Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, as convention co-chair Mark Daniel (right) looks on.*

went on for many years. I must have copies of them somewhere, but I'm not sure if the thermal fax paper managed to preserve any of the precious correspondence.

I met Trevor at the 1989 I.B.M. Convention in San Diego, where his lecture knocked me out. We stayed in touch and two years later my wife Tami and I invited him to the International Festival of Children's Magicians – later rebranded as KIDabra – in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Trevor returned to the conference in 1994, this time in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Once again, his lecture was great. A few memories from my time with Trevor at that conference will forever stand out in my mind. For one, we had a case of IBC Root Beer in our hotel suite during one of the evening's get-togethers. Sammy Smith and I were enjoying the root beers when Trevor said, "I don't know this 'root beer,' but let me try one."

Tami handed him a bottle. Trevor took a sip, immediately grimaced in disgust,

and exclaimed, "What the bloody hell is this!" We're not sure what kind of beer he was expecting, but certainly this wasn't it!

He and his wife Val stayed over for a couple of days after the convention. We took them to a Japanese hibachi-style steakhouse, where the chef prepares your food on a griddle at the table. Val was her normal yet conversational self, but Trevor went on and on about how incredible the hibachi experience was and that they'd never seen anything like it. "We have nothing like this in the United Kingdom," he said. I was happy that we redeemed ourselves after the international root beer incident!

At the 2008 KIDabra Conference, Trevor received the Lifetime Contribution to Children's Magic award. He received a much-deserved standing ovation from the roomful of admirers who had benefited from the best of his comedy magic, willingly shared with children's magicians around the world.



## From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD

PHOTOS BY CAROL TYNAN

52 is a strangely significant number.

There are, of course, 52 weeks in a year.

There also happen to be 52 playing cards in a regular deck (as Wink Martindale would tell you).

David Devant gave up his professional career and retired at the age of 52.

Shakespeare died at the age of 52.

Alexander Herrmann died at the age of 52.

Doug Henning died at the age of 52.

Harry Houdini died at the age of 52. This was a century ago, on Halloween (another significant date) in 1926, so you won't have far to look for Houdini-related references over the next twelve months.

Although at times it may seem rather parochial, my brief in this column is to record happenings over here in the United Kingdom in the hope they may resonate in some way internationally.

The Ramside Hall Hotel, situated on the outskirts of Durham, proved to be the perfect venue for the dinner of Northern Magic Circle President Alan Clarke: a Xanadu comprising a golf course, spa, surrounding woodlands, and an array of lounges and restaurants.

Unfortunately, one of the guests dropped dead at the drinks reception and we spent the intervals between courses trying to establish the identity of the murderer. The Agatha Christie-style "murder mystery" is another quaint British tradition. The top table guests suspected Doug Graves, if only because of his name, although Ali Bye was a serious contender. Apart from Alan himself, those top table guests were Moira Fletcher and Alan Maskell (British Ring President and partner), myself, and four of Alan's friends from university days.



NMC President Alan Clarke.

The after-dinner cabaret opened with the charming DaSilva Circus Marionettes: original seventy-year-old models made by Ray DaSilva Palmer and operated by the next generation of Nick and Sandra Palmer. The puppeteers soon dissolved from our consciousness as we became enthralled by the wonderful world of the traditional circus, with clowns and acrobats of all types. The spot concluded with the latest creation of three dancing skeletons, all with independently moving limbs and heads whose construction and manipulation defied belief.

Magic for the evening was in the safe hands of the equally legendary Bertie Pearce, whose act included six-card-repeat in as many languages, each accompanied by an appropriate chapeaugraphy hat. Classics such as Torn-and-Restored Newspaper, "Brainwave," and Chinese sticks all took on a new lease of life with Bertie's original

interpretations. There was even a hand chopper; but all in the best possible taste.



*DaSilva Puppets.*



*Bertie Pearce in cabaret mode*

Magic became music in the final offering from Noah Kelly, who can play just about anything on anything. A row of horns was perfect for a Muppet theme-tune medley, and in the concluding chaos President Alan temporarily lost his dignity beneath a sea of rapidly unrolling toilet rolls, fired from a cannon. It was one of those “you had to be there” moments.



*Alan under fire! (Durham)*

The next day saw the welcome return of Bertie, this time with a talk on Victorian pleasures and pastimes under the title of “We Are Amused.” Bertie took as his starting point Frith’s iconic panoramic painting of Derby Day, executed between 1856 and 1858 and taken on tour. We heard about Agnes Marshall, who introduced ice cream, Edwin Beard Budding, who invented the lawn mower, Cook’s Tours beginning in 1841, the creation of the rubberised golf ball, bathing machines, peep-shows, the magic lantern, Punch and Judy, picnics, and the craze for cycling enjoyed by both sexes; not forgetting the music halls as exemplified by Sickert’s painting of the Old Bedford Music Hall in 1885. Trains, of course, were very influential, as shown in Frith’s minutely detailed painting *The Station* (1862), with each section telling its own story. It was a wonderfully kaleidoscopic presentation, under-pinned with witty, throw-away comments. Bertie’s talk was interspersed with appropriate magic, such as a masterful presentation of the Cups and Balls (complementing the grifter in Frith’s picture) with a truly startling climax. The same could be said for an original version of “Confabulation,” and even the Equal/Unequal Ropes.



*Bertie’s Cups and Balls.*

President Alan followed this up with a cleverly written poem about his own cooking and items inspired by his hero Lewis Carroll; some written puzzles, a “giant memory” test, and the Knight’s Tour. There was even a display of part of his extensive collection of Alice books.

The Carroll theme was continued by Paul Buonocore (Ali Cardabra) in the role of the Mad Hatter. He had crafted a series of effects around the Wonderland characters, including the Caterpillar, Duchess, Queen of Hearts, and the Cheshire Cat, culminating in a delightful rendering of “Jabberwocky” accompanied by a deftly manipulated balloon model.



*The Mad Hatter.*

The inimitable Philip Partridge, a former Ring 25 president, was here, there, and everywhere, ensuring that everything ran like clockwork on both days.



*Philip Partridge.*



*NMC President Alan Clarke  
with Moira Fletcher.*

Alan is to be congratulated (as indeed he was) upon organising such a memorable occasion which will take its place in the annals of the Northern Magic Circle.

## Sign Up a New Member

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

## Magic Down Under Profiles of Prominent Australian Magicians

By Kevin Casaretto

# Edgar Joe Stuthard



Edgard Joe Stuthard was born in Canada on September 16, 1911. Stuthard worked carnivals, circus shows, and fairs throughout the 1930s, performing fourteen to sixteen shows a day. In 1927, he discovered and eventually perfected the Svengali deck.

Between 1934 to 1936, Stuthard worked small theatres doing illusion shows, but success did not come easily. During the Depression years, his wife Kay produced the imitation mice for his "Wonder Mouse" trick.

In 1940, Stuthard joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He spent three and a half years entertaining troops in Europe and rose to the level of sergeant. The Stuthards returned to Canada in 1946, where they did a show at the Starland Theatre before returning to England that year.

From 1946 to 1950, the Stuthards mostly performed in England and did two shows a day. By 1957, they were back in Canada but made Australia their home in 1959. They settled in Sydney and later relocated to Melbourne, which became their permanent home.

After settling into Australian life, Stuthard

made several television appearances and was involved in the Sydney and Melbourne magic scenes. He worked for Coles variety stores, which were still operating as five and ten stores, before they became a supermarket chain.

Stuthard manufactured his decks at the Melbourne-based Hudson Industries Pty. Ltd. He traveled all over Australia to pitch his gaffed decks and other tricks, in particular his Svengali and Stripper decks. He also sold his Wonder Mouse effect and a version of Find the Lady.

Stuthard was deeply involved with the Australian magic scene.

Thanks, Joe, for calling Australia home.

*Author's Note: I had the honor of meeting Stuthard at an Adelaide Royal Show state fair. I bought his trick decks and "Wonder Mouse" and still have them, like many other magicians. I showed him a book that he was featured in, written by "Harry Baron." Stuthard asked me where I bought it. I told him that I had found it in a shop in Adelaide, after which he arranged to purchase all ten remaining copies.*

# Youth Trivia Contest



**January's question:** In his stage show, Harry Blackstone Jr. performed a very recognizable presentation of the “Vanishing Birdcage.” In his routine, he would vanish the birdcage, and then state “I’m going to step backstage into my office to get another cage, and another canary!” Then he would repeat the effect. *Who originated this unique patter and presentation of the vanishing birdcage?*

Answers must be postmarked by February 20, 2026.

**October's question was:** In the late 1700s, a famous magician became embroiled in an angry, hostile dispute with a lawyer who was also a magician. *Who was the lawyer?*

Only a few Youth Members submitted answers to this month's question, and unfortunately, none of those Youth members submitted the correct answer. One *not-so-youthful* member, however, did send the correct answer. In any case, here's what we were hoping you'd find.

*Feuds between magicians are, unfortunately, not that rare. Some of them are righteous, some of them are based on ridiculous ego or immature jealousy, many stem from bragging rights or intellectual property rights, most of them are unflattering and unadmirable.*

*You may be familiar with the clashes of Horace Goldin versus P.T. Selbit, James Randi versus Uri Geller, John Neville Maskelyne versus, well ... a lot of folks. The dispute in this month's question occurred in the late 1700s. One of the participants was an Italian-born magician, Giovanni Giuseppe (Joseph) Pinetti Willedall de Merci, known professionally as Giuseppe Pinetti. A former science professor, he was arguably the most renowned conjuror of the second half of the century. Pinetti's opponent was a French lawyer named Henri*

Decremps (sometimes Descremps), a well-educated man with a fascination for magic.

*Although Pinetti was born in Italy, he first made his name as a magician in France. His publicity practices and stage persona usually involved self-important, grandiose declarations. In his advertising, he claimed pretentious “official” titles, many of which didn't even exist. His manor of dressing for the public's eye, both onstage and offstage, was also gaudy and glitz. During his shows, he changed his costume several times, and was even reported to have worn spectacular uniforms of high-ranking military officers, dripping with military decorations – although he had never been in the military.*

*However, Pinetti experienced a positive and extremely successful career. He was one of the earliest conjurors to embrace and develop magic as theatre entertainment, as opposed to street busking. In 1782 or 1783, he was enjoying a popular run in Paris at the Théâtre du Menu-Plaisirs du Roi, a temporary theatre established on rue Bergère after a fire at the Palais Royal. It was then and there that Henri Decremps found the opportunity to watch Pinetti's show.*

*While it's difficult to deny that Pinetti was very successful, there were some folks who didn't love his show. A seventeen-year-old John Quincy Adams, transiting Paris, found*



(l to r): There are very few images of Pinetti. This engraving is from his book, *Physical Amusements*. • Images of Decremps are also rare. The text above this engraving reads “H. Decremps, Born in Beduer en Querci, 15 April 1746.”

Pinetti's performances to be nothing more than ordinary carnival stunts. But Adams wasn't preoccupied or possessed by his negative opinion of the show, and he didn't set out to destroy Pinetti's career. Henri Decremps however, developed tremendous resentment with purpose toward Pinetti.

At Giuseppe Pinetti's show, the audience was greeted by a stage designed to mimic a drawing room in a fancy home, complete with fine curtains, crystal chandeliers, fancy furniture, and attractive wallpaper on the back wall. His shows were billed as “science demonstrations,” and “experiments,” and were a mix of sleight of hand, automata, mentalism, a few effects with birds, pistols, rifles, rings and cards.

Pinetti's list of effects was diverse. He was one of the earlier performers of a “Second Sight” act, and a “Ring Flight” routine. One of his tricks with cards and a pistol could be considered an early precursor to “Card On Ceiling,” although that premise had been published at least 130 years earlier. He caused small birds to “expire,” and then return to life. Cards selected by audience members jumped from the deck. Coins, rings, and knives moved and danced at his command. Personal effects from the audi-

ence vanished and then reappeared in impossible locations.

It's possible that, at first, Decremps actually enjoyed the performance, but then something changed. Maybe Pinetti snubbed Decremps when he offered to sell Pinetti an original effect. Maybe Pinetti appropriated an idea from Decremps without credit or compensation, and performed it as his own. Maybe he didn't like Pinetti's assertion that his tricks were grounded in scientific principles. Or, perhaps Decremps was just annoyed by Pinetti's over-the-top self-importance. It's difficult to identify the exact events or reasons for Decremps's vindictive actions.

In 1784, a year or so after witnessing Giuseppe Pinetti's presentation, lawyer and amateur magician Henri Decremps authored and published a book in French that targeted Pinetti and his conjuring career. The volume, titled *La Magie Blanche Dévoilée* (White Magic Revealed), claimed to expose the methods used by charlatans to defraud innocent people and separate the naive from their money.

In this book, Decremps was careful not to use Pinetti's name, but he clearly intended to damage Pinetti's Career and his reputation. (Pinetti was mentioned in the preface

of the English translation published about a decade later.) Decremps reasoned that Giuseppe Pinetti had presented himself as something other than a magical entertainer, but was nothing more than a charlatan and a fraud. Yet, there doesn't seem to be any evidence that Pinetti ever laid claim to paranormal powers.

The tricks that were "exposed" were all from Pinetti's repertoire. The effects and the patter described by Decremps were exactly the same as the effects and the patter used by Pinetti. The methods that he "revealed," however, were generally incorrect, and the result of speculation by an inexperienced, amateur magician.



This engraving from the front of Decremps's book shows a magician throwing cards into the air and shooting them with a pistol, causing a selected card to become nailed to the wall. The text reads "The Professor of amusing Philosophy who having burned a Card (taken at chance) to ashes, throws the Pack in the air at which he fires a Pistol & the Card is found nailed to the Wall." This presentation, and even the pictured set was exactly the same as Pinetti's.

Initially, the book by Decremps did not have the desired result. The controversy that it generated seemed to also generate interest in

Pinetti's shows. In response to the Decremps book, Pinetti published a book of his own almost immediately – within a few months. His Amusemens Physiques et Différentes Expériences Divertissantes (Physical Amusements and Diverting Experiments) was also published in 1784. In the preface, Pinetti explained that he was responding to some hints and insinuations regarding his methods – referring, of course, to the Decremps book. He did give away the methods for some of his effects, but most of the tricks Pinetti described were actually not useful to him.

Eventually, the audiences lost interest in Pinetti's shows and ticket sales diminished. Giuseppe Pinetti simply left France and traveled to London, Portugal, Germany, and Russia, and had successful runs wherever he performed.

Henri Decremps put out four more books over the next four years, all with the same malicious intent. While they were somewhat successful from a sales perspective, they never succeeded in Decremps's goal of ruining Giuseppe Pinetti.

You can learn more about the life and magic of Giuseppe Pinetti, as well as the bitter rivalry between Pinetti and Henri Decremps in books, including *The Annals of Conjuring* by Sidney W. Clarke, and *The Old and the New Magic* by Henry Ridgely Evans. There's also information in back issues of periodical publications like *The Magic Circular*, *Gibecière*, and *The Linking Ring*.

Giuseppe Pinetti is believed to have died between 1800 and 1805. Henri Decremps died in 1829.

If you mailed us an answer to this month's question, but you didn't send the *correct* answer, please *try, try, again!* These questions can be tough, and they aren't intended to be easily answered using Internet search engines like Google, DuckDuckGo, or Bing. Bring your copy of *The Linking Ring* to your local Ring meeting and ask the senior members to help you find the answer. Show the whole world how smart you are, get your name printed in *The Linking Ring*, and win some great stuff from one of our finest brick-and-mortar magic shops!

## ***Hey there, Youth Members!***

Do you think that you have an appropriate 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:

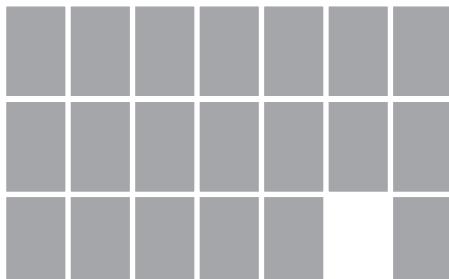
I.B.M. Youth Trivia Quiz  
c/o Don Greenberg  
4450 Peace Valley Road  
New Waterford, Ohio 44445 USA

Make sure that you include some good references. If we *do* use your question, we'll send you either a *slightly* defective pair of snowshoes or a *really* cool magic book – our choice.

**See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 137 and  
mail your responses to the address above.**

**Answers must be postmarked by February 20, 2026.**

## ***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*.



# *A Portrait of the Professional*

DALE SALWAK

## **Heart-Wise**

*[Change] your focus from being the “seen” to being the “seer;” from being the “judged” to being the “entertainer;” to being the giver of an experience to the audience. – Elena Greco*

“Audiences come to the theater to see the best version of you.” The authentic ring of Benny Chavez’s words, spoken to every student enrolled at the Chavez Studio of Magic, resonate with us today. “No one interested in the art of magic with any degree of seriousness,” he added, “must ever forget this large truth.”

Imagine the ideal: as the music begins, the house lights dim and a spotlight pierces the darkness. The curtains part to reveal a stage splashed with cobalt-blue light. At its center stands a gold table holding a small, seemingly unexceptional green bush. Individual blooms begin to emerge spontaneously from the branches, scarlet petals fall, and then a



*To every one of his students Benny Chavez said,  
“Audiences come to the theater to see the best version of you.”*

puff of smoke mushrooms from the top.

Suddenly, the music fades out and a siren wails, as a ghostly white silk scarf emerges from the smoke and streams across the stage out of sight. At that moment, someone resplendent in wardrobe and holding the scarf enters from stage right – since the Middle Ages the side of virtue, integrity.

Within three seconds, the audience has leaned in and formed an impression. Every detail about the performer – from pressed clothing and polished shoes to confident physical bearing and friendly smile – helps to focus their interest and create expectation. A strong opening invites the audience, which after all has given some of their precious time to the performer, to become participants in the show.

Now our magician with the mysterious scarf begins to take them on a journey of the senses. With effortless ease the first of many white doves materializes. Lighted candles pop into view between the fingertips. Fanned playing cards suddenly appear, then vanish just as quickly.

As servant to his art, the performer's full force of personality is given completely to the magic – without compromise, always one step ahead, never predictable. Because the performer seems to believe in what is presented, the attentive viewers suspend their disbelief and surrender to whatever world is created for them. The human mind, said Harry Kellar, “dearly loves mystery.”



*The human mind, said Harry Kellar,  
“dearly loves mystery.”*

But let's go deeper: Every audience member yearns to connect not with an automaton but with a human being who cares and, like them, confronts problems, faces limitations, overcomes obstacles. Restoring order, like solving a mystery, carries with it the spark of challenge and sense of satisfaction.

Suddenly the music stops. One of the doves refuses to return to its cage and just sits on the floor in spite of the concerned performer's gentle prompting. The audience is caught up in this benign conflict, hoping the magician will not fail, wondering what will come of the bird's quiet resistance.

Finally, after repeated attempts to coax the dove, the performer shrugs, picks it up, and tosses it into the air, where it is transformed into another white silk scarf. The moment of vulnerability (which, of course, was well-rehearsed) is resolved fully and gracefully.

While the opening and body of a magic show leave the audience with a psychologically powerful impression of the performer, the closing or climax is pivotal. Audiences remember best what they see last.

As the music builds, the magician covers the dove-filled cage with a purple cloth, and then with great care picks it up, walks forward, and suddenly throws it into the air.

The stunned audience realizes that both the cage and the doves have vanished, as the empty cloth drifts down into the magician's waiting hands. Where have the birds gone? The unanswered question lingers long after the curtain is lowered. The performer wisely leaves them wanting more.

But let's go even deeper. Likability and warmth and empathy, blended with just the right dose of mischievous wit and an openness to the equality of the audience, are other defining marks. Inviting the viewers into a glowing bond or circle of mutual respect links them irrevocably to the performer.

People are most ready to relax and be entertained when they experience work that comes straight from the artist's heart. Their interest captured, they commit and trust. “Go ahead. I am willing,” they think. “Surprise me. Justify my time.” *If the audience cares about the performer, then most likely they*

*will care about the magic.*

Here we can learn from Howard Thurston, who developed a strategy for dissolving the potential barrier between performer and public. Before going onstage, he repeated over and over to himself, “I love my audience.”



*Before going onstage, Howard Thurston repeated over and over to himself.  
“I love my audience.”*

This feeling reminded him of why he was there. It was genuine and it spilled over the footlights and into the collective unconscious of the audience.

Let's go even deeper. In every group there are people suffering or afflicted in some way, and Thurston believed that one reason for performing is to lift their spirits. Even if only for a few minutes, the magician who allows this awareness to infuse the performance becomes, in the arresting insight of the late British historian J. H. Plumb, “heart-wise.”

To achieve this connection, akin to an instant of spiritual grace, Benny encouraged his students to imagine at the start of the show that the person they care most about is seated in the audience.

It might be a close friend, a husband or wife, a sibling – someone to whom the soul is knitted. During the show everyone is taken in, but the performer focuses and projects the work as if to that one individual.

Done faithfully, over time that sense of shared humanity will expand to embrace the entire audience and they in turn will feel it for the performer. “One loving spirit,” wrote Saint Augustine in a not so different context, “catches another on fire.”

Becoming heart-wise requires daring, patience, dedication, and much introspection: Performers do not just glide their way to success. Magicians can practice for years before a set of mirrors in the privacy of their studio, but at some point they must step out and risk what they have learned without fear of being judged.

Some shows will be troubling, others near transcendent, but that is the risk that magicians must take if they are to age into an understanding of the art and themselves so well that at their best they and the material become one.

Audiences can sense whether or not performers, as creators of little worlds, have reached this ideal depth. These are the magicians they remember, the earnest, kindly, thoughtful ones who have opened their eyes, most of all the heart, to nuanced, powerful, and exquisite magic which they might otherwise never have experienced. At such a time, a small miracle has come to pass.

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*Dale Salwak continues to perform internationally while directing (since 1978) the Chavez Studio of Magic in southern California. Currently he is serving as an International Relations Officer for the I.B.M. Special thanks to Ryan Salwak for valued input. Some of the above ideas first appeared in Dale's “Magic in the Classroom” from the January 2015 issue of Genii, the Conjuror's Magazine.*

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

# *Ambassadors of Magic*

By David Garrard

## **The House of Houdini: Preserving The Legacy in Budapest**

Located in the mysterious Castle District of Budapest, Hungary, just a hundred meters from the Royal Palace, the House of Houdini is a premier meeting point for magicians and lovers of the art of magic from all over the world. Devoted to the Hungarian-born Harry Houdini, the greatest magician and escape artist of all time, the House safeguards the largest permanent exhibition of Harry Houdini artifacts in Europe and contributes to the preservation of the Houdini artistry and legend for future generations.

David Merlini directs the House of Houdini. Merlini's name has been synonymous with high-tech escapes for more than twenty-five years. Whether frozen in ice or launched with a missile, Merlini's elaborations of Houdini's classical escapes have carried him along a unique path. Born in Budapest, just like Houdini, he felt a calling to safeguard his legacy. After spending decades amassing the largest collection of original Houdini items in Europe, Merlini chose Budapest to open the House of Houdini.

The venue was graced by a pre-opening visit in 2016 from Joe M. Turner, then International President of the I.B.M., and has been welcoming Houdini enthusiasts from every part of the globe since.



*House of Houdini founder David Merlini with Joe M. Turner, then International President of the I.B.M.*



*Exterior of the House of Houdini museum, decorated for the holidays, in Budapest, Hungary.*



*Merlini has amassed the largest collection of original Houdini items in Europe.*

The House of Houdini is open seven days a week and offers guided tours and magic shows on the hour. The venue showcases new talent while preserving Houdini's heritage at the highest museum standards.

Visit [www.houseofhoudinibudapest.com](http://www.houseofhoudinibudapest.com) for more information or email [info@houseofhoudinibudapest.com](mailto:info@houseofhoudinibudapest.com).

# Magic and Memories



David Ginn

## Mystery of the Pyramids

When I visited Tannen's Magic Shop in 1961, I should have purchased Mystery of the Pyramids when it was still easily available and I had the \$12.50 to buy it. I read about it in the *Louis Tannen Catalog No. 3* and stood there with red-haired Lou Tannen himself as he showed it to fifteen-year-old me in his New York City shop.

Instead, I bought a metal Walsh Vanishing Cane, which promptly sliced my fingers open and left me bleeding over the bathroom sink during a family vacation. Live and learn: that's what I learned.

The truth is, I wouldn't have known what to do with the Mystery of the Pyramids trick at that stage of my magic life. Forty years later, it was a different story. I must have been subconsciously thinking about the pyramids trick the entire time. I finally realized it would make a good solo opening trick for my Egypt show during the summer of 2012, which I'd then carry through the next school year.

There are two main problems with the Mystery of the Pyramids trick. First, it is repetitious. Second, it has no ending. You just repeat the same thing over and over, so it's more of a puzzle. Consider this partial text from Tannen's catalog:

**A stack of five loose checkers graduating in size to represent a pyramid are seen on a rod and base. Each checker is a different color. The stack is covered by a tube. The tube is turned completely over and**

**replaced on the table. Wonder of wonders, when uncovered, the pyramid is still right side up when the tube is lifted off. This may be repeated indefinitely so it makes a wonderful running gag. A really wonderful new principle that is completely mystifying.**



Fig. 1  
Tannen's advertisement for  
the Mystery of the Pyramids effect.

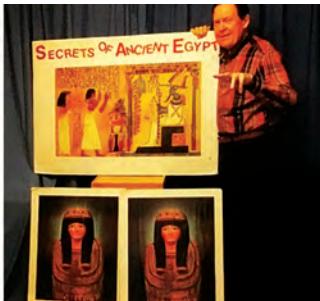
To make it useful in the show, the repetition did not matter much (you can play off that), but the pyramid trick needed an ending. Fourteen years ago I realized that the repetition mixed with words could create such an ending. Furthermore, this lesson applies to any and all repetitious tricks that don't have a sure-fire ending.

The lesson I want to share is: You must have *fun* with the repetition and create a *verbal* ending.

If you can get the children in your audience to say the ending with you, all the



**Fig. 2**  
*David Ginn holds a toy round pyramid.*



**Fig. 3**  
*With a Secrets of Ancient Egypt poster.*



**Fig. 4**  
*Holding a round pyramid toy with can cover.*

more effective. I will shortly show you how I did this. But first I had to find the trick itself.

Mystery of the Pyramids went out of production for about twenty or thirty years. For a long time, I tried to locate a good working version. One dealer advertised a new version in 2011 at a price of \$495 – too rich for my wallet. I occasionally ran across an old used one but never got to see or hold it because no one wanted to sell it.

My friend Ron London actually owned a large one – about a foot tall and seven inches in diameter – but he was still using it. He finally brought it to the 2012 FCM convention in Marion, Indiana, just to show me, and he let me play with the trick on a kitchen table. “That’s what I want,” I said, but he still wanted to keep it.

That same summer, some magic maker finally brought out the trick again and, thanks to Paul Gross at Hocus Pocus Magic, I got one! **Figure 2** shows me holding the new model, seven inches tall, made exactly like the one Ron had and the ones from fifty years ago.

It would be impossible for me to explain the working of this trick. All you need to know is that mechanically, it works. You show the stack of checkers on the base with pole, cover them with the tube or canister, turn the stack over while holding both ends with both hands, then slide off the tube again and they are still upright.

Here’s how I presented it in hundreds of

*Secrets of Ancient Egypt* shows as my opening warm-up trick.

“Boys and girls, when you hear of the country Egypt – what is the first thing you think about, like those pointed things behind me?” I pointed to my backdrop cut-out shown in **Figure 3**.

“Pyramids!” shouted the children.

“That’s right, pyramids. The tombs of ancient Egyptian kings, known as pharaohs. Thousands of years ago, Egyptian workers spent over twenty years building those solid structures that stood as much as 400 feet tall, like a forty-story building.”

This is when I’d bring out the Mystery of the Pyramids trick and say to my audience, “This simple children’s toy will illustrate what I mean. Maybe you had one of these when you were a little kid.” (This helped children identify with the prop. I lifted off the tube/cover and placed it on my table.) “It has a stand with a pole sticking up, and you drop the checkers on it one by one according to their sizes. When you finish, it looks a lot like a round ...”

“Pyramid!” the kids said.

“Yes, a pyramid.”

I lifted up only the top two checkers, one by one, to show the stick. That’s as far as you need go. I dropped the checkers back on the post and picked up the tube/cover. See **Figure 4**.

“The amazing thing about the pyramids is that the Egyptians built them without

any cement or mortar, and thousands of years later ..." (I covered the checker pyramid with the tube, turned it over between my hands, and uncovered it again from the opposite end) "... *they're still standing up!*"

I paused to let that sink in.

"You see, the Egyptians knew all about architecture way back then, so that's the way they built the pyramids." I turned them over again. "And they're still standing up. Engineering is what they were all about." I turned them over for a third time. "Those pyramids are still standing up."

By now the kids were starting to hear those same three words over and over, and I wanted to egg them into joining in with me.

"Do you realize that some of the bricks they used to build pyramids were six feet cubed? And they moved them without any pulleys or machines as we know them now?"

I repeated the turn-over move a fourth time.

"And they're still standing up!"

I said the words a little slower this time, dramatically, and the kids started catching on.

"In fact, the truth is that three thousand years ago, Egyptians knew things about building that we don't even know now. It's absolutely amazing. And that is why ..." I turned over the pyramids once more, my fifth time. "... those pyramids, those mighty, mighty, great big pyramids in Egypt are ..."

The kids said it with me: "STILL STANDING UP!" See **Figure 5**.



**Fig. 5**

*Lifting a can off a round pyramid.*

When delivered dramatically while employing the repetition factor kids love, the Mystery of the Pyramids became a fun-filled magical moment early in my show. If you get your hands on an old or new version of this simple prop, I suggest you give it a try.

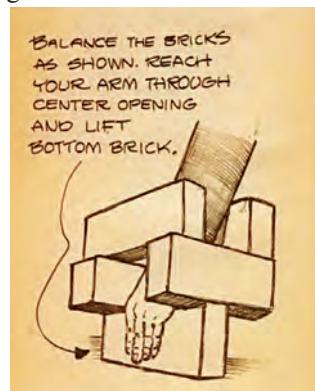
Next, let me offer you a bonus freebie from the same Egypt show, one you can make yourself.

## The Five Brick Pick-Up

Here's a very old stunt I've used in more than five hundred live shows to the amazement of children and adults alike. I read it in an old magic book when I was a teenager, but never thought I'd use it to make my living. Then along came my Egypt show, and the five-brick pick-up seemed right to illustrate my story.

**EFFECT:** The magician begins: "Before our program is over today, I will show you a feat of Egyptian engineering using ordinary bricks. In fact, I will demonstrate right here on the stage how I can pick up *five* bricks *at one time ... with one hand*. You will actually see me do this, right here on the stage!" The magician continues the show with musical magic and audience participation, then returns to the brick pick-up stunt just before the closing routine.

**SET-UP:** You'll find the basic method for the stunt illustrated in **Figure 6**. That's a Bill Blackard 1976 drawing I posed for using real bricks.



**Fig. 6**

*Black-and-white drawing of a brick stack.*



Fig. 7  
Bricks on table.



Fig. 8  
Stacking bricks.

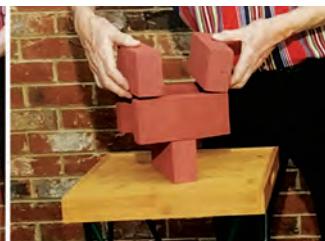


Fig. 9  
Finishing stacking the bricks.

Back in the early days, I used solid bricks weighing five pounds each, then later employed bricks with holes in them for lighter weight. In 2010 I discovered sponge bricks made by Steve Goshman, so I started using them for less stress and strain. Let's return to the routine.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**  
“You see, the ancient Egyptians understood architecture and engineering even better than we do today. So by demonstrating to you how I can pick up five house-building bricks with only one hand, you will get a little understanding at just how clever those Egyptians were three thousand years ago.”

As I said those words, I brought the bricks forward and placed them haphazardly on my table as in **Figure 7**.

“Now I will stack the bricks in a certain way and with one hand, all at one time, I will pick up the entire stack.”

If using real bricks, I pointed that out, saying, “These are real clay bricks, the kind for building houses, and they weigh about five pounds each. That means if I pick them all up at once, I will be picking up twenty-five pounds of weight.”

Since I changed to the sponge bricks, I changed the patter as follows: “I used to perform this feat using real bricks. But I got tired of dropping them on my foot, so I found these *sponge* bricks to save me bruises. Still, the basic engineering is exactly the same. Just the weight is different.”

Now for the verbal applause set-up.

“In just a moment, I will put on a piece of dramatic music to enhance the effect you are about to witness. But before I start, let me explain something very important.

“Sometimes when I do this – in fact, a lot of the time – the audience rewards me with a *big* round of *applause*. But only if I do a really good job and don’t drop any bricks. Keep that in mind, just in case you might wish to *wildly* clap your hands at *the appropriate time*. Like when I have actually *picked up* the five bricks and you are very *sure* that I have done it. That’s when you should really *applaud*: when you *know* I’ve really accomplished the stunt.”

I start to reach for the music button, then stop and say: “I just thought you would want to know that ... just in case you wanted to *applaud* when I actually *do the stunt!*”

Seeds planted heavily, I turn on the music: an instrumental version Led Zeppelin’s “Kashmir,” performed by the girl group Bond. It is very dramatic and driving, perfect for this routine.

With appropriate dramatic gestures, I carefully stack the bricks as shown in **Figures 8-9**. Then I slowly and carefully insert my right arm down into the stack as you see in **Figure 10**. I grip the bottom brick with my thumb and fingers, then slowly lift the stack an inch or so off the tabletop.

*(continued on page 138)*



Fig. 10  
Inserting a hand into the brick stack.



# Marketing MAGIC

KENT CUMMINS

## Success!

*“Everybody is looking for instant success, but it doesn’t work that way. You build a successful life one day at a time.”*— Lou Holtz

### What Does “Success” Mean to You?

I recently gave a presentation to the Austin chapter of the National Speakers Association. I was asked to provide tips from my extensive experience as a speaker and entertainer to help those who are not as far along on their individual paths. I gave my first magic show in 1952 at the age of nine, and my first serious, paid speaking engagement was in 1970. So yes, I have a few years of experience to share!

I told my audience that David Copperfield was clearly a success, since he was the richest and most famous magician of our time. He is the first magician to ever become a billionaire, and he still does hundreds of shows every year. He has worked hard to achieve that success.

But I am also a success, even though I am not a billionaire or millionaire. And I am nowhere near as famous as David Copperfield.

What makes me a success is the fact that I have been able to pursue my passion, performing magic, for more than seventy-five years. I also celebrated my sixtieth wedding anniversary last June, and we have wonderful visits with our kids and grandkids every week.

David accomplished what he wanted to accomplish, and I accomplished what I wanted to accomplish. That is my definition of success.

### How Do You Define “Success”?

Do you know what you really want out of life? I am surprised by the number of people who don’t. They might say, “I want to be happy,” but often they don’t really know what happiness might look like for them.

In her wonderful adventures in Wonderland, Alice asks the Cheshire Cat for directions. When she says she doesn’t care where she is going, the Cat responds that in that case, “It doesn’t matter which way you go.”

This is often paraphrased as, “If you don’t know where you are going, any road will take you there.” So, do you know where you are going?



### Oh Please, Not More Goal Setting!

If you have been reading my column for years (this is column number 123), you have already heard more than enough about goal setting. But ... *goal setting does make a difference!*

Multiple studies have clearly shown that people who set written goals have more success than people who only think about what they want. If you don't put it in writing, it's not really a goal. It's just a wish, and the genie may still be in the lamp.

If you have not done any serious goal setting and aren't sure where to start, you can Google "SMART goals" and follow the prompts. Or you can ask ChatGPT or your favorite generative AI tool to lead you through it. (You can also go back and read my columns about SMART goals.) This will teach you how to be one of those successful people who regularly sets and achieves their goals.

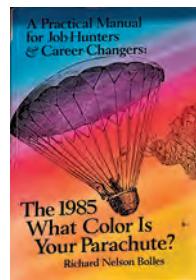
## What Color Is Your Parachute?

In 1985, my wife Margot and I still owned a small chain of sandwich shops in Austin, Texas. "The Sam Witch Shops," as they were called, had been going for nearly fifteen years and we were getting tired of the inevitable problems associated with running restaurants. We closed some of them and made arrangements to sell our flagship shop in Dobie Mall, which was located across from the University of Texas campus.

Meanwhile, our partner John Schexnaydre was taking a job in technology.

To figure out my next steps, I read a book by Richard Bolles called *What Color is Your Parachute?* I thought it would be a book about how to create the best resume and get the best job, but to my surprise it was actually a motivational book, urging the reader to discover their passion and then find (or create) a job that matched that passion.

When the book suggested I ask my mother what my best abilities are, I literally did just that: I wrote her a letter and waited for the reply before reading the next chapter. It took me most of the year to finish the book. An updated edition of the book is released every year, and of course there is now a website and various programs based on it.



*What Color Is Your Parachute?* taught me there were at least half a dozen things I loved doing, but I did not want to spend forty hours a week on any of them.

I loved magic, but I did not want to spend every weekend doing kids' birthday parties, then spend every weeknight working at clubs.

I enjoyed juggling, but I was not highly skilled and I didn't want to spend all of my time practicing.

I loved teaching, but I did not want to have to do only what a school district told me to do, then grade papers at night.

I liked consulting, but I had already learned that many people who claim they want consulting don't really want to change their ways.

I loved writing, but I did not want to spend all my time in a room without people.

I enjoyed public speaking, but I did not want to become a road warrior who was always on airplanes and sleeping in hotel rooms.

So, what was I going to do?

What was I going to do now that we were out of the restaurant business? Margot was already working for Sysco Foods, our major supplier, as an accounts payable supervisor.

I finally realized that I could actually do all of these things, just not at the same time. I would become a *full-time Kent Cummins!*

### Choose Your Lane

The National Speakers Association is fond of advising its members to “choose a lane”: become the best speaker for physical education teachers, or dental hygienists, or restaurant managers. Find an area in which you are both knowledgeable and interested, then devote your energy to becoming widely known and respected in that market niche.

That advice is perfect for many professional speakers, and it has helped them craft meaningful careers. But I love constantly changing what I do, learning new things, and trying different opportunities. How could I possibly choose a lane?

At a National Speakers Association Keynote Conference in Las Vegas, I listened to advice from many excellent speakers. I particularly liked Bruce Turkel, who spoke about branding. During a break, I introduced myself to him and asked, “How can I choose a lane when I want to do so many different things?” He responded, “Kent, you have already chosen your lane. It is a multi-lane highway. Embrace it!”

And that is what I have done. That’s what it’s like to be a *full-time Kent Cummins.*

### Motivational Magic

I quoted Lou Holtz at the beginning of this month’s column because he is someone

you may have heard of before. If you’re a sports fan, you may know him primarily as the head coach of the University of Notre Dame football team, where he won the 1988 National Championship. He is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. He is also well known as a motivational speaker, and not just in the locker room.

Here are a few more of his often-quoted comments, which emphasize responsibility, discipline, and attitude:

“It’s not the load that breaks you down, it’s the way you carry it.”

“Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”

“Do what is right, do the best you can, and show people you care.”

Oh, by the way: Lou Holtz was also an accomplished magician.

### What Are Your Core Values?

A therapist recently gave me a deck of cards that are nothing like the hundreds of decks at my Fantastic Magic Center. They are not playing cards. They are square and look more like drink coasters. They are part of a program called “Peak Values,” and I was encouraged to use them to help me understand my own core values.

There are fifty-six different cards, slightly more than a deck of playing cards with jokers. Each card has one “peak value” on it. The first task is to eliminate half of the cards, which is hard, because all the values are positive. For example, would I be willing to eliminate the card



(l to r): Lou Holtz did magic for Johnny Carson. • Lou Holtz with Mary Ann Campbell.



that says, “Kindness”? But some values resonate with me more than others. So, after some elimination, I was left with only twenty-eight cards.



*Peak Values cards.*

The next step was even more difficult: eliminate half of the remaining cards. That required me to decide which fourteen of the fifty-six cards were most important to me.

Can you guess the next step?

Yep. Eliminate half of those, then two more, leaving just five cards to represent my core values. I eliminated “Honesty” and “Ethics,” because I thought they were a lot like “Integrity,” and that word resonated with me more. I chose “Collaboration” over “Community.” And I knew I would keep “Inclusion,” “Optimism,” and “Family.”



*The Cummins Family - Carolyn (daughter), Kent (Grampa), Margot (wife), Ace (grandchild), Kevin (son), Rachel (Kevin's wife)*

### **Multiple Streams of Income**

Financial author and expert Robert Allen popularized the term and concept of “multiple streams of income” in his 2005 book *Multiple Streams of Income*. I was already familiar with the concept from marketing newsletters and other materials I consumed while trying to earn a living. It turned out the concept worked for me,

even though I wasn’t specifically trying to implement it.

When I had a week with no magic shows, I might get paid to write an article for a magazine. Sometimes, I would make money with a juggling workshop. I was hired to give keynote speeches. Occasionally, I was asked to provide consulting services, and I had opportunities to make money teaching magic and juggling.

By offering more than one service, I almost never had an empty calendar – or bank account!

### **Marketing Multiple Streams of Income**

Marketing yourself as “Entertainment for All Occasions” may be an accurate description, but it is not an effective marketing strategy.

Cody Fisher once told me he lost a potentially lucrative corporate gig because the person hiring him saw a post on Facebook where Cody was being very entertaining at a child’s birthday party. I know Cody well enough to understand he can be equally effective in a corporate setting, but the person who was going to hire him was not willing or able to make that leap.

I have literally seen business cards that advertised mentalism and balloon sculpture on the same card. Of course, you can do either of those things, but you are not likely to sell both to the same client at the same time.

During my career, I had at least half a dozen different business cards! I loved the trading card style, with my photo on the front and my contact information on the back, just like a baseball trading card. I had one with my magician photo, in a cape and top hat, and one in my juggling outfit with juggling props. I had a different card for my Renaissance character, Felonious the Fool. I had a card for corporate speaking, in which I was wearing a business suit. I even had special business cards that were customized for specific clients or projects.

If I were building my business today, I would have multiple websites. (Oh wait: I *do* have multiple websites!)



I have KentCummins.com, Fantastic-MagicCenter.com, MagicWordsPress.com, and my newest, LikeHoudini.com. I have divested myself of MagicCamp.com and MagicHotline.com, since I have sold those businesses.

### The Bottom Line

I love being an entrepreneurial enter-

tainer and working to achieve my goals. I consider myself a success! What does "success" mean to you? Share your stories and ideas: [kent@kentcummins.com](mailto:kent@kentcummins.com).

Listen to "Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center" at [www.fantasticmagiccenter.com](http://www.fantasticmagiccenter.com). A new episode appears every Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. CST.

## SUBMITTING RING EVENTS

All articles about special activities in your Ring – shows, banquets, public service projects, etc. – should be submitted to Lauren Jurgensen at [ringreports@magician.org](mailto:ringreports@magician.org).

Articles should be submitted as soon as possible following the event and must include the name of the author. We prefer articles to be submitted as Microsoft Word documents, attached to your e-mail. Captions for photos should be included in the document at the end of the article and coded to match any accompanying photos.

For those without e-mail access, cleanly typed events and traditional photographs may be mailed to Lauren Jurgensen at the address on page four of each issue of *The Linking Ring*.

# Conjurer's Foolosophy

JOE HERNANDEZ



I've learned that enjoying your success is okay, but treat it as deceptive.

I've learned that a magician performing with poor posture is not confident in his performance.

I've learned that a good reputation is a magician's best gimmick.

I've learned that good magic construction should have varying tension and momentum before its final resolution.

I've learned that foolosophy is a process of dumbing down the intellect through deceptive means.

I've learned that magicians are not concerned with a cup being half-full or half-empty; they just need a cup.

I've learned a fundamental truth through my journey into the world of magic: the performance and essence of magic are rooted in two aspects. The first is the science of the trick, which delves into the meticulous mechanics and psychology behind each illusion, explaining how sleight of hand, misdirection, and timing work together to create the unexpected. The second is the artistry of its presentation, which is the performance itself, the magician's charisma, storytelling, and ability to engage the audience. This art can transform a simple trick into a captivating experience, showcasing the magician's skill and ensuring the audience's enjoyment. Together, these elements create a powerful interplay that makes magic genuinely enchanting, always keeping the audience on the edge of their seats with the unexpected.

I've learned that when you have nothing to say, it's best to try repeating it.

I've learned that when something goes wrong or a mistake is made, don't say, "That never happened before." Just make sure it never happens again.

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Joe Hernandez is the author of *Conjurer's Wisdom Vol I & II*, *Magic Babylon: 1,001 Strange Conjuring Facts, Fallacies, and Tales*, *Phonetastic, Houdini: The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*, *Houdini Reflections*, and *The Foolosophy of Conjuring*, from which the above was excerpted. These books are available at [www.booksbyjoe.com](http://www.booksbyjoe.com), magic dealers, and Amazon.

# Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



## The Origins of the Trick ‘Wild Card’

In January 1994, the renowned magician Harry Riser wrote a detailed column for the Society of American Magicians’ magazine, *MUM*. He provided an account of the origins of the “Wild Card” trick. However, despite Riser’s efforts, his writing inadvertently contributed to confusion and misinformation about this captivating piece of magic, which Frank Garcia and Lou Tannen popularized. We can examine the history surrounding this classic effect to clarify and better understand the origins of the Wild Card plot, emphasizing the importance of accurate historical context in magic.

The Wild Card has a fascinating lineage that stretches back nearly 180 years to a routine known as “Everywhere and Nowhere.” This historical routine is meticulously described in the book “J.N. Hofzinser’s Card Conjuring,” authored by Ottokar Fisher and published in 1931. Hofzinser, a pivotal figure in card magic, presented three versions of this routine. The third version, which showcases the essence of what would later be identified as the Wild Card plot, features a dramatic transformation where nine distinct cards metamorphose into a “forced” Queen of Diamonds. This striking visual transformation, which exemplifies the enduring allure of the trick throughout the centuries, is sure to fascinate and intrigue any magic enthusiast.

Fast-forward to 1956, when a significant evolution of the concept emerged through the efforts of Brother John Hamman. He created an effect titled “The Mystic Nine,” later published in 1958 in his book “The Card Magic of Brother John Hamman, S.N.” He introduced a clever display of nine black cards and one red card in this routine. The effect’s climax is particularly striking, concluding with the nine black cards transforming into red cards. In contrast, the lone red card inexplicably turns black. This routine sets the stage for future interpretations and variations of the Wild Card trick.

Four years later, in 1962, an emerging English magician, Peter Kane, entered the scene with his rendition of the trick “Watch the Ace.” This version was featured in the monthly magazine *Hugard’s Magic*, Volume 19, Number 8. In Kane’s routine, he introduced double-faced cards, which added a new layer of complexity and intrigue to the performance. Kane’s fresh take on the plot is often credited as an influential contribution to the trick’s evolution.

In the same year, Frank Garcia presented his way of handling the trick, which he named “Wild Card.” While this account argues that Peter Kane’s innovations likely influenced Garcia’s version, it is essential to recognize the historical context. The roots of the Wild Card plot can be traced back to Hofzinser’s work, not solely to Kane’s contribution.

In a conversation with Richard Hatch in January 1994, the translator of “The Magic of J.

N. Hofzinser" for HR Magic of Humble, Texas, the author of this account found further corroboration regarding the Wild Card's origins. Hatch acknowledged this author's assertion that the foundational elements of the Wild Card could be traced back to Hofzinser's original routines.

Interestingly, neither Peter Kane nor Brother John Hamman publicly contested the origins of the Wild Card plot, indicating their deep respect and appreciation for its true lineage. Their understanding that the concept did not originate with either of them is a testament to their respect for the history and evolution of magic.

It is inaccurate to suggest that Lou Tannen, who played a significant role in marketing the Wild Card, believed that Peter Kane was the originator of the trick. Though Tannen may have harbored the misconception that the effect rightfully belonged to Kane, it is essential to emphasize that information regarding its origins has been accessible and well-documented for more than a century.

Ultimately, we must credit Frank Garcia and Lou Tannen for popularizing and evolving this old magic trick into a modern classic. Garcia's innovative techniques and naming of the effect "Wild Card," combined with Tannen's marketing acumen, transformed the trick into a commercial success. Their collaborative efforts, which made this mesmerizing effect accessible to a broader audience, are impressive and inspiring.

Joe Hernandez is the author of *Conjurer's Wisdom Vol I & II*, *Magic Babylon: 1,001 Strange Conjuring Facts, Fallacies, and Tales*, *Phonetastic, The Foolosophy of Conjuring*, *Houdini: The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*, *Houdini: Reflections*, and his soon-to-be-released *The Biography of Frank Garcia*, from which the above story was excerpted. These books are available at [www.booksbyjoe.com](http://www.booksbyjoe.com), magic dealers, and Amazon.

## ***Moving?***

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

## ***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 memberships 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*.



# Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

## Eye on AI

This summer, a new song by a band called The Velvet Sundown generated more than a million hits on Spotify. The popular band, composition, performance, and band photos were created entirely through artificial intelligence (AI). This experiment demonstrates the potential for opening new levels of creative and revenue opportunities even as it poses an equal or greater threat to an industry built on human connection, thought, and skill.

For creators and performers, AI presents exciting opportunities in crafting engaging scripts, designing eye-catching graphics, streamlining club operations, and enhancing social media engagement. Music studios currently employ AI to scout new talent, track viral hits, and spot music copyright infringement to collect unclaimed royalties.

Out of curiosity, I described a favorite card effect from the spectator's perspective to Gemini – Google's AI model – and asked it to generate an amusing storyline. Within seconds, I received a unique and entertaining line of patter requiring only minor personal tweaks. This instant creative output is fascinating.

For example, AI can track real-time reactions to certain plot twists, allowing the magician to deepen the emotional audience connection mid performance. This adaptability transforms each show into a one-of-a-kind experience.

However, this technological leap also brings challenges and ethical considera-

tions. Can AI replace the essential elements of personal creativity? From my perspective, true creativity stems from the personal connection we share with our art and audiences. This is something AI, for all its capabilities, can't currently replicate. These remarkable programs lack the emotional depth and motivation that drive genuine artistic expression.

When used as a creative tool, it helps us overcome creative blocks, inspires alternate perspectives, and automates the mundane aspect of our creativity. AI excels at generating social media discussions, captioning photos, and editing video clips. This makes it far easier to maintain a strong online presence aligned with our unique voice and branding. Allowing AI to handle these routine tasks frees us to focus on refining our personal creativity and engaging more deeply with our audiences.

Beyond this, AI raises important ethical questions about our creative process. Some worry that using AI for content creation could lead to accusations of plagiarism or a loss of authenticity. Content creators frequently report the overt AI-facilitated repurposing of another person's work. Disney and Universal recently filed lawsuits against the AI generator *Midjourney* for using copyrighted content nearly word for word. Celebrities roil over the uncompensated AI replication of their voices and animated image.

AI models train on vast datasets gathering copyrighted material including scripts,

music, video clips, and more without proper licensing. It is far too easy to inadvertently infringe on someone's intellectual property rights using AI-generated content without understanding its origins.

I recently struggled with a couple of paragraphs in a written work. I submitted the paragraphs to an AI program for suggestions. The AI rewrite was a definite improvement over my original piece. Then, Microsoft Word's Editor tool tagged the rewrite as a piece lifted nearly word for word from another author's published work. That is a recipe for an ethical and reputational disaster.

It is still unclear who owns the intellectual property rights to AI-generated content: you or the AI generator? Some AI programs require recognition for published content. Imagine having your show shut down, your website removed, or your products pulled from the market due to an AI agency claiming ownership.

Personally, I use AI to edit and suggest alternate approaches to articles, scripts, and comedy bits I've written. I occasionally ask it to clarify a thought or brainstorm an idea. I personally consider it unethical to ask AI to write a complete column or chapter from scratch then present it as my own. The key is to let AI assist in creation, not replace the entertainer's unique voice and delivery. You may ask, "Why does this matter?"

Consider the experience of a young student who recently discovered the *Harry Potter* movie series. He could recite the dialogue flawlessly, yet he had zero interest in reading the books. Curious, I encouraged him to read just the first book and share his thoughts. He's now on book seven, and our conversations have become rich explorations of what the movies omitted or changed. Through the cerebral effort of reading, he's developed a deeper, more personal connection to the story and its characters, one that goes beyond the docile effort of watching a film.

His discovery mirrors the personal vs.

AI creative process. Watching a movie is a passive experience. The film's director creates the visuals, sounds, and interpretations for us, requiring little creativity or imagination on our part. Reading, on the other hand, demands complete engagement in deciphering words, visualizing scenes, and interpreting characters. It is through this mental investment that we forge true creativity and personal connections.

Similarly, when we rely too heavily on AI to generate our creative work, be it a magic routine, a comedy bit, or a social media post, we risk becoming passive consumers of content rather than active creators. If we let AI do all the heavy lifting, we miss out on the growth, satisfaction, and authenticity that comes from wrestling with ideas ourselves. Our creative muscles weaken. We dull or lose the very qualities that make our art resonate: our unique voice, perspective, and emotional connection.

Consider AI more as a time-saving creativity tool rather than as a creative partner. AI should not replace the hard work and personal investment that define meaningful art. Just as reading led the student to a richer experience, engaging directly with our creative process ensures our work remains authentic and impactful.

AI's potential benefit for the entertainment industry is enormous. Like any artistic tool, we must use AI thoughtfully and within clearly established ethical boundaries. We must not allow AI to replace the human element in our art. The entertainer's personal touch and emotional connection with audiences are irreplaceable.

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

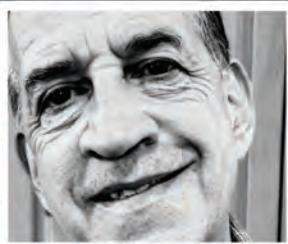
# *Linking Ring*

## **Now Accepting Applications for Advertising Manager**

*The Linking Ring* is looking for a new advertising manager. This is an opportunity to make connections in the world of magic and serve the organization you love. Responsibilities include recruiting new customers and serving existing advertisers. Most communication is through email. If you would like to be considered for the position, email a brief description of your interest and abilities to [advertising@magician.org](mailto:advertising@magician.org). Put "Advertising Manager" in the subject line.



*"Sometimes I think I'd enjoy things more if I had a lower I. Q."*



# Teaching Magic

ROBERT DURANTE

I hope everyone is ready to venture into a new year with *The Linking Ring*. Recently, a very good friend told me about an online magic group that teaches marketing for \$200 per month. He is a long-time I.B.M. member, so I asked him if he ever reads the marketing columns in *The Linking Ring*. Sadly, and similar to what many others have told me, he said, "I just skim through it because I get so much magic every month." I told him he could easily save \$200 a month on marketing education by starting to read *The Linking Ring* instead.

Each month, we feature marketing articles by experts who share insider knowledge. So, for 2026, make a New Year's Resolution to start reading your copy of *The Linking Ring* from cover to cover. It will improve your show and your business. Now for some fun.

When you teach, you will come across students who already know some magic. Sometimes they need guidance on finesse. I have written about the Vernon Optical Move before, and I hope you tried out the magic effects I shared with you last year in my January 2025 column.

Doc Daley is known for many magic effects, but "The Last Trick of Dr. Daley" is probably the most well known. Imagine the headline in an ad: **Now Do "The Last Trick of Doc Daley" with no double lifts, no fake cards, no glides, just magic.** Well, let's see what we can do to make that happen.

**EFFECT:** You show the four queens. First, you show the Queen of Hearts and the Queen of Clubs. You place the Queen of Hearts on the table, and the Queen of Clubs goes under your packet. Now, show

the Queen of Diamonds and the Queen of Spades. Place the Queen of Diamonds on the table over the Queen of Hearts. Put the black queen in your hand, holding its mate. Wave your empty hand over the black cards in your hand and the red cards on the table. Now, show that the red and black cards have changed places.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** This will all be done using the Optical Move. You can find a detailed explanation in Dai Vernon's *Further Inner Secrets of Card Magic*, page 20.

Grab four queens and arrange them from top to bottom:

Queen of Hearts  
Queen of Clubs  
Queen of Spades  
Queen of Diamonds

Now hold the cards face down in your left hand. Spread the top two cards, QH and QC, into your right hand. Your thumb is on top and your fingers are underneath. The top card should be toward the crotch of your thumb. Your hand is palm up. Now, rotate your right-hand palm down as you push off the top QH forward. Flick the face-up, far-left index corner of QH with your left thumb. Now, begin turning your right-hand palm up. Your right thumb draws back the top card, and your left thumb clicks the lower-left corner card of the lower face-down card. Make sure the cards are held in an even plane. The Optical Move makes it appear that you have hit the corner of the same QH. But the bottom card is the QC.

Grab the bottom card after flicking it and place it on the table face down. As you do this, miscall it by saying, "I will place  
(continued on page 138)

# The Multiplicative Multiple of Nine Principle

By Thomas Henry

Of the some half-dozen distinct properties of nine useful in mental magic, one has been tapped far less commonly than the rest. That's a shame, for it possesses certain characteristics rendering it more hands off, easier to motivate theatrically, and less wordy than the others.

Rather than the sum or difference demanded by its more familiar relatives, it hinges upon a supposedly random *product*. For that reason, let's call it the Multiplicative Multiple of Nine Principle.

We'll learn a bit of its history, uncover why it works, and then examine several new improvements to lift it from the realm of "number tricks." A practical reading list rounds out this survey which I hope may inspire further brainstorms of your own.

## The Raw Ingredients

Presentational aspects will be delayed until we understand what's going on under the hood. Let's first define several fundamental terms concerning ordinary counting numbers. Given any such number, if the digits be totaled, then the outcome will be referred to as the *checksum*. And if that process is iterated repeatedly until but a single figure remains, the *digital root* is arrived at. For example, the checksum of 1729 is 19, and its digital root is one.

Stripped to its barest essentials, the goal of this method is to force the number nine (or a small multiple thereof). The participant begins by thinking of a secret number, but by some means consistent with the theme of the performance, is guided unknowingly to transform that choice into a *desirable number*, i.e., a multiple of nine.

With that initial step out of the way, it's all downhill thereafter. Two rather unprepos-

sessing propositions come to our aid in the march toward the climax:

1. Any number which is a multiple of nine has a checksum which is also a multiple of nine.

2. And it will have a digital root of nine.

That all sounds pretty bleak, doesn't it! Well hang on, for once embroidered with a smidgen of showbiz, the actions can convey quite a bit of significance. Incidentally, the above two statements are easily proved with nothing more than school algebra.

Let's see an example of the underlying mechanics (Fig. 1). Suppose the participant decides upon 1729 as a secret number. By hook or by crook, coerce her to multiply this by some multiple of nine, say 45. Then the result, 77805, has a checksum of 27 which is indeed a multiple of nine. Taking it one step further, the digital root is nine itself.

So, the key is to get the participant to convert the secret number to a desirable number. Let's see how our conjuring forebears tackled that in the past.

secret number:	1729
multiplied by:	$\times 45$
desirable number:	77805

checksum:	$7+7+8+0+5 = 27$
digital root:	$2+7 = 9$

Fig. 1

## The Early Days

Though the notion is probably older, a Victorian report can be found in *The Magician's Own Book, or the Whole Art of Conjuring*

from 1857. (Henceforth, refer to the bibliography, below, for publishing details and page numbers.)

This anonymous entry, usually ascribed to George Arnold, lays out the underpinnings precisely and concisely, but discloses zilch of how to frame it magically. Not leaving much of a dent in the entertainment world, Arnold is perhaps best remembered nowadays for having once engaged in a tavern brawl with Walt Whitman!

With the title, *The Philosophy of Arithmetic as Developed from the Three Fundamental Processes of Synthesis, Analysis, and Comparison*, etc., you'd expect this next 1880 tome penned by Edward Brooks to be a real yawner. Instead, I split my sides guffawing upon encountering the following choice sentence: "Let the number nine once enter any calculation involving multiplication, and whatever you do, 'like the body of Eugene Aram's victim,' it is sure to turn up again." The reference here is to a notorious murder, commemorated in verse form by the beloved nineteenth century poet, Thomas Hood. In that tale, the murdered man's ghost incessantly pops up to torment poor Eugene, just like nine does in our decimal system!

Despite the evocative literary allusion, however, there's still no mention of how best to stage this as sorcery. Likewise, John Scott's *The Puzzle King* of 1899 does little more than sketch out a skeleton of the scheme.

The 1922 book, *Rapid Arithmetic*, by T. O'Conor Sloane, does offer one new bit of business to speed up the pace. The author observes that if the participant is restricted to an initial choice of one through twenty and multiplies this by nine, then the checksum is the digital root: nine. The no doubt grateful audience member need only sum the digits a single time, and bam ... there's our favorite figure. The pseudonymous "Florella" reported the same property and in the same year, within the pages of *The Sphinx*.

### Some Common Uses

Following these feeble forays, authors finally began to address the vital task of how decently to costume the Multiplicative Mul-

tiples of Nine Principle. Three main guises gained favor:

- the missing digit poser
- guessing an age
- forcing an item

The first has unimaginatively been recycled for almost a century now. The basic plot is that a single digit is scratched out from the desirable number, and the performer is able to divine it. While fooling, it's also fair to say there's really nothing in it the participant can personally identify with. Harry Lorraine's treatment in *The Magic Book* is perhaps the best and most comprehensive, but even he refers to it as a "number stunt."

Clayton W. Rosencrance took it in a card magic direction way back in 1931. It's pretty tedious, but to his credit he cleverly extended the working to account for both a value and a suit.

Another theme common over the years has been to wield the principle to divine someone's unknown age. This has the decided advantage over the missing digit premise in that it actually connects with the participant. The earliest rendition I've stumbled upon in the literature is still the best. It came our way thanks to the late Howard Adams when he was still just a teenager in 1949. You'll recognize him as a frequent contributor to magic journals (including a One-Man Parade in *The Linking Ring*), but most importantly as the inventor of the magnificent Ramasee Principle.

### As a Force

But to my mind, the foremost use of the Multiplicative Multiple of Nine Principle is as a force. Note, this is applicable either as a ranging force (by means of the checksum), or as a definite force (thanks to the digital root). The general idea is to dismiss the mathematical manipulations briskly, then promptly steer the audience's attention toward something inherently more intriguing.

For example, Karl Fulves described a book test centered around the dates on coins, which imparts welcome tactility as a bonus.

He credits Sam Schwartz with the gambit, another cunning contributor to our organization's journal over the years. Later, columnist Michael Breggar focused the spotlight on the coins themselves in his "My Favorite Things" from the December 2017 issue of *The Linking Ring*.

*Magic for Dummies* by David Pogue, with assistance from many of our craft's notables, also utilized this method as a force in the well-known "gray elephants in Denmark" shtick. While that plot is a trifle shopworn now, this version is perhaps the sleekest.

And don't discount young reader's books as an unexpected fount of insights. Case in point: Martin Gardner's *Mental Magic: Surefire Tricks to Amaze Your Friends* contains a genuine pearl which will be further extended in just a moment.

### In Search of a Desirable Number

Recall that the initial step is to nudge the participant from a secret number to a desirable form, i.e., a multiple of nine. Of course, one could always simply request the original choice be multiplied by nine. But that's patently too transparent to be deceptive.

Better, why not bid the participant to form a product with some multiple of nine? For example, 36 would still get the job done, effectively camouflaging the nine housed within it. To make this fly, however, it must come across as "natural." Daniel Rowan, in a piece concerning Social Security numbers (appearing in his One-Man Parade of March 2019), did so by mentioning that governmental agency came into existence in 1936. In another routine, he employed the date of Houdini's death.

Given the ubiquity of pocket calculators (and smart phones running analogous apps), how about this twist? Simply ask the participant to repeatedly multiply a bunch of one-digit numbers together, arriving at a humongous result, filling the display. That product, whatever it may be, is *likely* to be a multiple of nine.

Why? Well, obviously if nine enters the fray even once, we're home free. (Remember poor old Eugene Aram?) Or a three and an-

other three *en route* also does the trick, since their internal product is nine. Likewise, a three and a six, or a six and a three paves the way.

The beauty of this approach is that it requires very little in the way of procedural language to launch the activity. The participant instantly understands what to do: form the product of a handful of individual digits and halt whenever the whim strikes. For even more interactive fun, the calculator could be shared round robin, with several participants contributing to the tally. By the way, it should be clear that zero is to be avoided, since naught conveys naught when it comes to ESP!

Arthur Benjamin and Michael Shermer note in their book *Secrets of Mental Math* that populating a seven-digit display in this fashion will produce a multiple of nine no less than 90% of the time. For a more in-depth probabilistic analysis, be sure to check out *Mathemagics: A Magical Journey through Advanced Mathematics*, by Ricardo V. Teixeira and Jang-Woo Park. This little-known gem is a veritable trove of uncommon properties.

But if it's certainty you crave, then consider how the typical calculator keyboard is laid out (Fig. 2). Observe that the third column sports only the sweet digits (3, 6, and 9). So, get a trio of participants involved, and assign each a column. They shuttle the calculator among themselves, each multiplying by a digit from "their" column. Iterated at least twice, you'll know beyond doubt that the outcome is a multiple of nine.



Fig. 2

I bet you've never heard of David Sundstrand. Way back in 1914, this Swiss-American inventor patented the calculator keypad arrangement we just saw. Here's why con-

jurors owe him a debt of gratitude.

Imagine the keypad as a grid, giving rise to eight different three-digit numbers, according to the rows, columns, and both diagonals. And each of these eight quantities can be scrambled in six different ways, so there are 48 triplets total (Fig. 3). Providentially, each is evenly divisible by three.

123, 231, 312, 213, 132, 321  
456, 564, 645, 546, 465, 654  
789, 897, 978, 879, 798, 987  
741, 417, 174, 471, 714, 147  
852, 528, 285, 582, 825, 258  
963, 639, 396, 693, 936, 369  
753, 537, 375, 753, 735, 357  
951, 519, 195, 591, 915, 159

Fig. 3

Do you see where this is heading? If the participant chooses any two (and there are  $48 \times 48 = 2304$  such pairs) and forms the product, then the result is necessarily a desirable number. After all, a three is invisibly factored in twice.

Sunstrand assuredly had ergonomics in mind, but his keypad arrangement is a reminder of why serendipity is the magician's best friend. Don't miss how Gardner exploited that fortuitous connection in the source mentioned above.

### From Numbers to Nuances

At this point you have a mixed bag of methods to chart a smooth course from a secret number to a forced outcome. But what should that destination be? In short: anything but a number; the world has already endured way too much of that ilk.

A book test instantly springs to mind. If a ranging force is acceptable and you already know something about pages 9, 18, 27, etc., of a book or magazine, you're good to go, with the checksum greasing the skids. Should sloth be your byword (heaven forbid!), then simply learn the ninth page by heart and recruit the digital root as a definite force.

Not so well known, yet rife with possibilities, is the modulo-nine forcing wheel. De-

spite the fearsome title, the concept is actually quite simple. A printed wheel composed of nine sectors – each bearing an attribute, such as a color, animal, emotion, etc. – is brought forth. The participant places her finger at the top (above the twelve o'clock location), then counts round the wheel according to the checksum of her desirable number. She'll land on the ninth position, of course.

The forcing wheel has been virtually neglected in the literature. Nor has one of its best features ever been spotted: the checksum is in reality superfluous. The following wrinkle, which occurred to me some years back, has the participant shift immediately from the desirable number to the force item. I've dubbed it the *physical digital root*, for it's really nothing more than "adding without actually adding."

For instance, imagine the theme is astrology. Suppose the participant has already arrived at a desirable number by any of the dodges described earlier. A printed wheel bearing the planets is displayed (Fig. 4). The participant places a finger on the picture of the Earth, at the top. She now simply counts round the wheel according to the digits of the desirable number. If it's 77805, say, she'd first move clockwise seven steps, another seven steps, then eight, zero, and five. Even though three circuits about the wheel have been traced, she lands on Jupiter ... and always will, regardless of the original secret number.

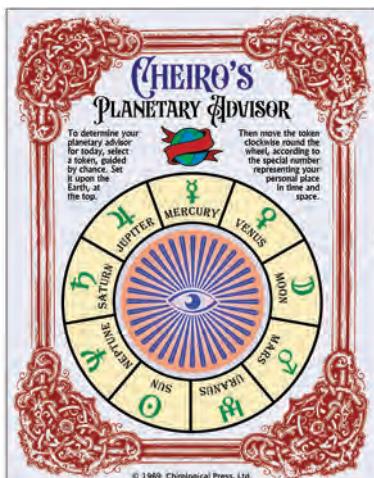


Fig. 4

With that, we're out of space, but certainly not possibilities. Now it's time for you to concoct a new, personalized theme, then draw upon the Multiplicative Multiple of Nine Principle to bring it to life. And never forget: the numbers you use are the mental

magician's version of the black lead chamber within a Square Circle!

**Send comments and appreciations to:**

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

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

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

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

# Dress Up Your Kid-Show Magic

By Samuel Patrick Smith



PHOTO BY AUSTIN CONRAD SMITH

Details make an ordinary show extraordinary. Consider this: you never leave a restaurant saying, "Wow, they sure have a great air-conditioning system" or "The temperature of the food was just right." But these and dozens of other details add to a memorable dining experience.

It's the same with your kid-show. Kids don't notice or comment on everything you do to make your performance shine. But all the details add up to a great time, and that's what the children, teachers, and parents ultimately remember.

Embellishing your show with extra touches puts you a notch above those who never get around to these details. Check out these five ideas:

**Add props.** Through the years magicians have recognized the value of such items as Breakaway Wand, Breakaway Fan, Cut-No-Cut Scissors, and more. Be on the lookout for things to use as funny magic wands. You could even wave a rubber chicken or pig!

**Spruce up your scenery.** Wait a minute. What scenery? That consists of your prop case, table, backdrop, silks draped over cases or chairs, and whatever else is in view during your show. Take it a step further by creating a theme show using decorations found at education supply stores—where teachers shop for classroom visual aids.

If you're putting together a dental health show, you may find a poster of a big smile

or a string of cardboard teeth. A show for Black History Month might call for a poster of famous African Americans. Since these materials are designed to be displayed on a classroom bulletin board and seen from a distance, the artwork is usually perfect for stage settings.

One of my mentors, Fetaque Sanders, excelled in performing for students. He didn't carry a backdrop but preferred to hide suitcases behind screens. I like to have my professional prop case that looks topnotch on stage. I keep it in full view as another way to embellish the kid-show stage setting.

**Dress up.** Adding a simple costume to a routine works wonders. In my Ernie the Elf routine, for example, I tell a story about an elf who thought he wasn't getting a Christmas present. I start by saying, "This is the story of Ernie the Elf." Then I pop on a long, crooked nose.

If you do a routine or tell a story about the Old West, put a cowboy hat on your head. During your Christmas show, wear a Santa hat during one of your tricks. You might even wear a different hat for every trick if you can find something appropriate. These could become more and more outrageous and therefore increasingly funny.

**Tell jokes.** Kids love jokes, so throw some into your patter. They're especially good if you're waiting for someone to come up on stage. You could fill in that empty spot with a knock-knock joke.

*Knock, knock. Who's there?*

*Alex. Alex who?*

*Alex-plain later!*

For older kids you could toss in a more sophisticated joke.

*Why couldn't Mozart find his teacher?*

*He was Haydn!*

In my routine for Deja Zoo (a mindreading trick for kids), I pretend to draw a picture of a giraffe. To fill in a few seconds as I sketch, I say, "What do you get if you cross a giraffe with a German Shepherd?"

Pause. "A watchdog for the third floor!"

Have fun with jokes and use them to embellish your patter.

**Enhance your image.** If performing in schools, libraries, or other public venues, the show begins weeks before you arrive when the kids first see your posters or other publicity materials. Yes, even in the age of social media, good old-fashioned print materials still make a positive impression. Branding, complete with professional photos, can greatly enhance the excitement about your show. If you've been there before, the kids will be saying, "I remember that magic person!" If they've never seen you, their imaginations begin working as they try to figure out what kind of magician you'll be. Amazing? Funny? Both?

Use professional typesetting and design to produce at least an 8.5" x 11" flyer with your picture and the date, time, and place. Larger tabloid-size posters are also helpful, but sometimes the smaller ones are more convenient for teachers or librarians to post on bulletin boards.

Fetaque had a funny technique for schools. He sent two small handbills for classroom use with special instructions. The teachers put up the first one several weeks before the show. Then the day before the show, they were to take it down and replace it with one of the same design – except now Fetaque had a double set of eyes! Kids would talk and that generated excitement for the show the following day.

Adding just one of these embellishments may not create the pizzazz you desire, but put them together, do a great show, and the children will have an even better time than they imagined – and you will be called back year after year.

---

*Samuel Patrick Smith, Executive Editor of this journal, has performed thousands of shows for children in the Southeast as Sammy the Magician. He is the author of nine books, including Big Laughs for Little People.*



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# Hocus Pocus Parade

THE LINKING RING



## BRITISH RING PARADE 2025

Compiled by Chris Wardle • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen • Illustrated by Tony Dunn

This Parade of Tricks is dedicated to the late, great Ian Adair. Ian compiled the British Ring Parade for many years and was a strong supporter of both British Ring 25 and the I.B.M., through his incredible output of tricks and routines.

Ian published more than three hundred books on magic and contributed something to nearly every leading magic magazine during his lifetime, including series that ran for decades in some publications. His *Encyclopaedia of Dove Magic* series and *Encyclopaedia of Children's Magic* are particularly stand-out publications. He worked closely with Edwin Hooper at The Supreme Magic Company, based in Devon in the United Kingdom, and this was at one time the largest magic dealership in the world. Supreme released hundreds of ideas from Ian, either as marketed effects or within their house magazines or published books. Later, Sam Dalal's Funtime Magic company in India released many more of Ian's creations. Ian marketed and sold more than one thousand effects over the years, so his claim that he devised at least one trick a day just has to be true. Ian was arguably the most prolific magic inventor of all time.

He won many awards during his lifetime, including I.B.M. plaques for his One-Man Parades, the Eddie Dawes Award for Contributions to Magic Literature from the British Ring, and the Cecil Lyle Award and Nevil Maskelyne Prize for Contributions to the Art or Literature of Magic from the Magic Circle.



Chris Wardle



We dedicate this collection of effects to Ian. Through his vast output of ideas, marketed tricks, and books, he will never be forgotten.

Chris Wardle

Ian Adair

# A Cheesy Magical Dream

By James Ward

**EFFECT:** Idly shuffling a deck of playing cards, you patter about the fact that, when performing, things can occasionally go wrong, so it helps if you can think on your feet. But how do you learn to do that? Well, for you, it's all about storytelling. If you can weave a good story, you can often talk your way out of trouble. Of course, that presupposes you can tell a good story – which doesn't always come easily to many of us. It's a bit of a Catch-22.

To practice, you explain, you like to take a deck of playing cards, give them a good mix (which you're currently doing), then deal them out and see if you can make up a story as you go along.

As you deal out the cards, your story goes something like this (with the values of the cards in brackets):

"I had a really strange dream last night. I think it's because I ate (8) four (4) pounds of Camembert cheese and went to bed *before seven* (4, 7), which is early even for me these days. In the dream I found myself walking down 65 (6, 5) King (K) Street. Out of the fog – there's always fog in my dreams – loomed a large sign advertising the presence of the mysterious Queen's Club (QD and QC). Above the sign was a large poster announcing that for one night only a magician – The Mysterious Jack Diamond (JD) – would be entertaining us with his legendary legerdemain – from 8.15 (8, Ace, 5) to 9.35 (9, 3, 5). So, it was lucky I'd fallen asleep when I did or I might have missed it. Apparently, the show wasn't suitable for minors: you had to be over sixteen (Ace, 6) to get in. Trouble is, in the dream – just as in real life – I only looked about fifteen (Ace, 5). There was a bouncer outside. Absolute giant of a man. Six (6) feet tall, weighed about 31 (3, Ace) stone. The sort of man who only exists in a dream fuelled by obscene amounts of Camembert cheese. He was German, too. I know that, because when I said, 'Can I come in?' he said 'Nein!' (9)

"I slipped him a tenner (10) – I find bribery often works with large, violent men in a dream – and said 'this is for tu' (4, 2). I don't know

why I was speaking an odd mix of English and French. Must have been the cheese. Like I said, it *was* Camembert.

"He waved me through, though I still had to buy a ticket. That cost me another tenner (10). I wasn't happy. Being a fellow-magician, I hoped I'd get in for free (4, 3).

"The show began and Jack (J) walked onto the stage. He said, 'Tonight I will show you nine (9) tricks. The first seven (7) are rubbish but the last two (2) will blow your mind.' I thought, 'Seven tricks before the good stuff. That's a long time to wait (2, 8).' Still, until I woke up, I had nothing better to do.

"Jack (J) gave us a bit of his life story and said, 'I've been performing magic from the age of ten (10). Believe it or not,' he went on – and I did, because he was obviously a humble man – 'I've won sixty-three (6, 3) magic competitions in the last nine (9) years. Which works out, for those of you who can do the maths – and well done, if you can – at seven (7) competitions a year.'

"I changed my mind at that point. He *was* a bit of a bighead. I hate (8) people like that. At this point, Jack's assistants (Q,Q) walked on from either side of the stage and the show began.

"He performed the first seven (7) tricks, and I have to say, they weren't bad at all. A man at the front was very impressed. He leapt up, waved his arms around and said, 'Jack! (J) Those tricks are freaking (K, K, K "freaking" = three Kings) brilliant!'

"Even I thought, 'If they're the rubbish tricks, I can't wait to see the final two (2).' Unfortunately, at that moment I woke up, which is often (10) the case when a dream gets interesting.

"And for those of you who have been following the story so far in the hope it will have a sensible and happy ending, there are, unfortunately, no cards left.

"Which means ... the Jokers (sounds like 'Joke is') (Joker card) on you!"

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** You'll have recognised, I'm sure, that this is my take on "Sam the Bellhop," a routine popularised by Frank Everhart in the 1960s, though it goes back to at least the 1950s. Bill

Malone made it more magical in the 1980s and beyond with false shuffles and cuts.

I like this sort of effect because although it's not magic as such, it can give the impression to a lay audience that you have a quick-thinking brain. And, hopefully, instil in them a belief that by sticking with you, they're in for an entertaining time.

I talk about my reasons for coming up with this story – training my imagination because I need to think on my feet – rather than just telling the story, because I think with all magic there needs to be a *reason* for its taking place, a justification for what you're doing. I think the audience is more likely to believe I'm genuinely trying to tell a story if I give them a reason for my doing so.

My shuffling is basically a series of cuts in the hands. As I prepare to tell the story, I openly look through the cards, searching for the Joker, which I cut to the face, thereby returning the deck to its correct order (see below). I will then say something like, 'I'm just having a quick look to get an idea of what I might want to say', and even move a couple of cards around – such as a King near the start and a King near the end – as if I'm readjusting the deck because I've had an idea. This helps dispel any idea that the deck is set up. I'll pretend I'm trying to throw a few thoughts around (as you might if you were doing this with a genuinely mixed deck), close up the deck face down, take a deep breath to apparently gather my thoughts, then begin.

If you have Bill Malone's vast array of technical skills, you might prefer his approach. If, like me, you struggle with a palm, let alone anything more difficult, you might prefer mine, which suggests – I hope – genuine improvisation. Occasionally, during the story-telling, I'll openly look at a few cards as if trying to put a story together. Not too many times – just enough to reinforce the impression that this is genuinely off the top of my head.

I've used the expression "tenner" a couple of times – a British reference to a ten-pound note. Obviously, "ten dollars," "ten euros," etc., will work just as well if you're not working in the UK.

That aside, the effect itself doesn't need any

further explanation. The deck is set up in the following order:

**8, 4, 4, 7, 6, 5, K, QD, QC, JD,  
8, Ace, 5, 9, 3, 5, Ace, 6, Ace,  
5, 6, 3, Ace, 9, 10, 4, 2, 10, 4,  
3, J, 9, 7, 2, 2, 8, J, 10, 6, 3, 9,  
7, 8, Q, Q, 7, J, K, K, K, 2, 10,  
Joker.**

Have fun!

## A Board Game Murder Mystery

By Chris Taylor

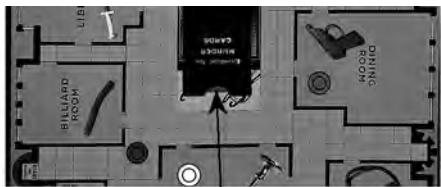
**EFFECT:** You ask someone to shuffle a deck of cards, then place them in an envelope only to take them out again. This has always troubled me. What is the point of the envelope but only to add force cards to the deck? Maybe I think too much, and this would never cross the public's mind, but I have to sit happy with my actions or I feel like I'm covering up. If something is not relevant to the effect, then don't use it (taken on board from a past lecture or two).

My local society has an annual President's Night where club members traditionally "sing for their supper," along the lines of a theme selected by the outgoing president, who then provides the food for them as a reward. Our 2021 outgoing president decided upon the theme of board games, with members having to perform a trick based on or associated with a (hopefully) well-known board game.

Time to relieve my troubled mind over the use of an envelope, as one is used in the game of Cluedo to hold the selected murder case cards until solved. I still have, from my youth, an original 1970s Cluedo board game. What better way to create an effect (one that I have never seen before, so maybe I'm original?) based on a simple principle, but with a totally new presentation.

For my example, I want to force Mrs. White, in the ballroom, with the candlestick.

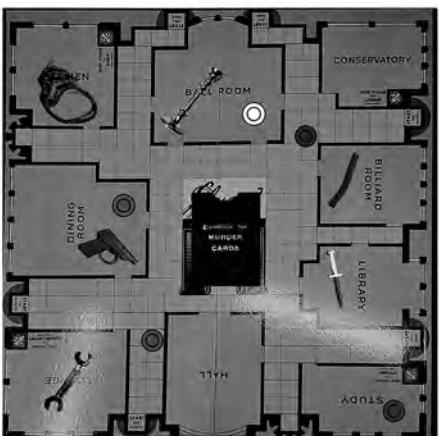
These three cards are placed face down in the murder case envelope, in that order from the top. The envelope is placed in the centre of the board as per usual, with the opening towards the back of the board, which is facing me (Fig. 1).



MAGICIAN'S VIEW  
SHOWING THREE  
PRELOADED CARDS

Fig. 1

I lay out the board and playing pieces, showing all the characters on their starting places and “randomly” place the murder weapons in various rooms. In my example, I place the candlestick in the ballroom, which is the room closest to me and conveniently next to Mrs. White. The other weapons are placed in random rooms (Fig. 2).



VIEW FROM  
AUDIENCE  
PERSPECTIVE



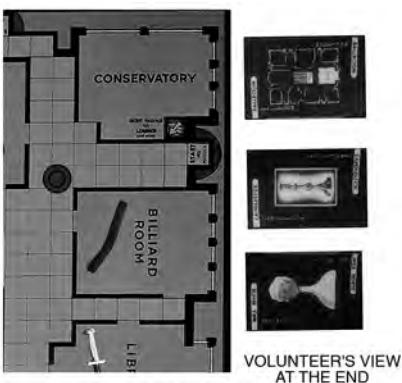
Fig. 2

I have someone shuffle the pack of Cluedo cards (obviously the prediction having already been removed and secretly placed in the envelope) whilst explaining that traditionally, one card of each type, person, room, and weapon would be randomly chosen and placed in the envelope. To demonstrate this, I take the shuffled deck face down and place it in the envelope for safe keeping until I need it. This loads the three force cards onto the bottom of the deck.

I now explain how the game works by moving a few of the playing pieces around the

board, leaving some in hallway squares and some in rooms, but only empty rooms containing no weapon apart from Mrs. White, who happens to be the piece nearest to me. I show she can move into a room with only two die rolls to make an accusation. The room she enters is the ballroom, which conveniently has the candlestick already placed in it.

Not drawing attention to this fact, I now ask the volunteer to remove the shuffled cards from the envelope and deal them into three piles, this obviously brings the force cards to the top of each pile. I ask them to turn over the top card of the first pile, which reveals Mrs. White. I then ask them to turn over the top card of the second pile, explaining that if it's another person to go to the second card and then third, if needed, until a room or weapon is found. This will never happen, as the cards are forced and it will be the ballroom, but to suggest it could be another person card adds to the improbability. Finally, I ask them to turn over the top card of the third pile, suggesting that if it repeats one of the previous selections to go to the next card again. This will result in the three top cards being turned over, showing Mrs. White, ballroom, and candlestick (Fig. 3). At this point, I move slightly back from the board to show the only full prediction on the whole board is, in fact, Mrs. White in the ballroom with the candlestick.



VOLUNTEER'S VIEW  
AT THE END

Fig. 3

There are 324 possible combinations of outcome between the six characters, six weapons, and nine rooms. I explain that this makes it more than six times unlikely to happen than

naming one randomly drawn card out of a standard deck of fifty-two. This puts it into perspective and also cheers me up, as I'm not a card magician. I traditionally wouldn't want to place a card back in a deck for someone else to find when I could have kept hold of it in the first place! (No offence intended to any cardicians, I know you put a lot of work into what you do and have full respect for that.)

This whole effect I consider to be a trick with cards rather than a card trick. It uses the basic principle I first mentioned but disguises it amongst the whole game aspect. As a side note, the game I use is an original, old-fashioned one. The older-style cards in this seem to be a lot clearer to distinguish than the newer version.

## Granddad's Magic Medal

By Peter Rooke

**EFFECT:** A children's effect, mainly for younger children. A medal vanishes and reappears but in broken condition, then gets fixed by magic!

**REQUIREMENTS:** A Devil's Hank and a change bag (either a flat-style one or a handle one). A three-way change bag is ideal, but this routine will be described using the regular two-way bag.

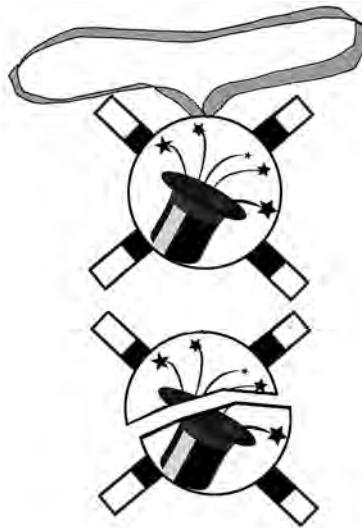
You'll also need three identical medals (one of which is all broken up). Two of them have a colourful loop of ribbon attached to the back, with the ribbon long enough to slip over your head so they can be worn on your chest. The third medal also has a ribbon but not attached, just left loose.

The medals are made from large, round floor-protection pads for furniture (the kind that stick to furniture legs). Each one is 2.25 inches in diameter (about 5.5 centimetres).

Each medal also has a magical motif on the front – mine is a top hat with stars coming out of it. Use a computer and printer to print the image, cut it to fit the medal, and then cover it with transparent sticky paper, like Mac-Tac.

Three small, flat magic wands, about 4.5 inches long (11.5 centimetres) by half an inch wide (1.2 centimetres). Two of them are stuck to the back of two medals (as well as the rib-

bon) while the other wand is left loose. Wands protrude from each side of the medal about 1.25 inches (3 centimetres) and are black with white tips.



I also stick a shiny, colourful star to the black part of each wand. I used stiff cardboard to make mine at first, but they tended to bend from all the handling. I now use thin pieces of plastic and cut them to the right size.

Finally, the third loose medal is cut in half (a little off centre) using very sharp scissors or a knife.

**SET-UP:** Wrap the ribbon tightly around one medal (not the broken one) and place it in the bottom of the change bag. The broken medal is placed on top, its ribbon left loose on top so it can be grabbed easily. The other medal has its ribbon wrapped around it, and is then wrapped up in the Devil's Hank (not in the secret pocket) and placed in the other side of the bag. A funny wand or two (breakaway or whatever) are in a handy spot.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** You patter about how people sometimes ask you how you became a magician. You tell them your granddad was a magician and he taught you lots of magic. He won a special medal once and gave it to you when he was old, explaining it's a magic medal and to look after it.

Remove the Devil's Hank and show the

medal, putting it around your neck. “He said it can disappear and reappear somewhere else. Let’s try it out to see if it works,” you say.

Invite a child up to help and hold the medal. Gather the corners of the hank and place the medal in the secret opening. The child holds the hank by the corners with both hands. Say it will reappear in the bag as you turn it inside out, showing nothing there. Magic passes, etc., and the child lets go of the hank as you whip it away and place it aside. The medal has disappeared. Proudly announce it’s in the bag and slowly withdraw the loose ribbon, pretending not to notice there is no medal attached.

The kids react, you notice, and look sadly in the bag. Take out all the loose parts one by one. Turn the bag inside out while saying you are making sure all the parts are there (show the bag empty). Something went wrong and must be fixed. Put the loose parts back in the bag, but in the other empty side. Here you can hand the child a funny wand or whatever.

Finally, reach into the other side of the bag, loosen the ribbon that was wrapped around the medal, and slowly withdraw it – but because you’re so nervous, you can’t look. Of course, you do look when the kids tell you it’s fixed. All ends happily.

*Author’s Note: I talk about my granddad’s medal, but he was not a magician – it was my great uncle who was really a magician. “Granddad” is easier to say and easier for the children to relate to. My great uncle (T.H. Chislett of Sheffield, England) passed away in 1979, aged ninety-three. I have many fond memories of him.*

## Your Lucky Charm

By Chris Wardle

Here is an item that can be printed on a card as a giveaway, projected on a screen with an entire audience playing along, or printed on your business card or advertising materials. It is quick and simple, and the prediction is right “under their noses” the whole time!

### EFFECT:

Choose a whole number between 1 and 9.  
Multiply it by 3.  
Add 3.

Multiply by 3 again.

Add the two digits of your answer to find your final number.

Look at the “lucky charms” list below and find the item listed at your answer number.



*(Read the first letters of each item on the list and you’ll see I knew your choice all along!)*

### WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

As you can tell, this is a fun, quick trick, where the prediction – the word “shamrocks” – is “hidden in plain sight” all along!

This is yet another variation on the Principle of Nines. I have employed this principle and theme several times before, and used the same mathematical sequence in my effect “Anyone for Tennis?” is a British Ring Parade three years ago. But here, the prediction is actually “built” into the list, so it is entirely self-contained, giving it a neat twist. You can, of course, change this for any other word or theme of your choice, but the lucky charm plot allows you to use illustrations or weave the effect into a personal reading, a “good luck” routine, or similar.

For more information or other variations on the Principle of Nines, look no further than this very magazine’s wonderful articles by Thomas Henry, who has explored and exploited its magical uses in many ways. For example, his article “The Additive Multiple of Nine Principle” from the May 2025 issue.

# Creditable Cards

By George Hills

**EFFECT:** To an amusing story, two packets of cards change value while the backs of the cards change with a punch ending. "Creditable Cards" is not just a quick card trick, but a complete routine that will not only amaze, but also amuse the audience.

"Creditable Cards" was inspired by a Joe Riding effect from quite some time back. Other magicians have created effects using credit card themes, e.g., Bob Longe and Paul Gordon, to name just two.

You will require cards that have been specially printed on cardstock. You could also glue stickers of credit cards and an IOU on the back of blank-back cards.

**SET-UP:** Ten cards are used, six with the same value (e.g., King of Spades, as follows).

Four Kings of Spades, with credit card backs.

One King of Spades with an IOU back.

One red-back card.

Four more red-back cards to complete a Royal Flush: Ace, Queen, Jack, and Ten of Spades, referred to as indifferent cards.

You will need to set up two packets of cards, in the following manner, on the table.

## Left Packet

From top: Face-up credit card, face-up credit card, face-up credit card, face-down red-back indifferent card, face-down red-back indifferent card (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

## Right Packet

From top: Face-down red-back indifferent card, face-down red-back indifferent card, face-down card of same value (e.g., King of Spades), face-down credit card, face-down IOU card (Fig. 2).

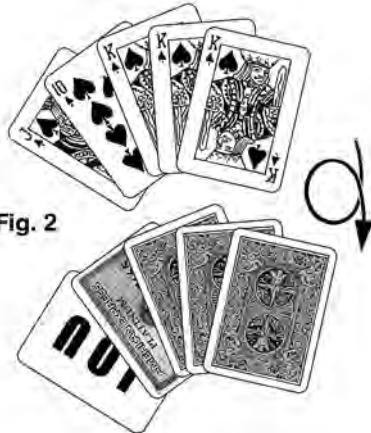


Fig. 2

## Method

The method employs a single false count throughout the routine: The Hammon Count.

This count enables a packet of five cards to be counted and shown to be face down, but two cards are in fact face up. Similarly, five face-up cards can be shown where two are face down.

Arrange five cards so the top three are face down and the bottom two are face up.

The cards are held in the right hand by the short edges (Biddle Grip).

The left hand thumbs off the top two cards into the left hand, with the second card on top of top card.

Now comes the exchange of the cards: The right hand is moved across to the left hand as before, but it moves further until the edges of the three cards come against the crotch of the left thumb. The three cards will be slightly to the left of the two cards already in the left hand.

The right hand moves back and away to the right, but takes the bottom two cards, which are now dealt back on top of the packet of three cards. Note: If the right hand alters the grip, take the two cards from the left hand with the thumb and middle finger. As it moves back

to the right, it will create a perfect illusion of showing five cards face down.

*This is not a difficult move to master: If you are not familiar with it, you will soon discover that the exact positions of the cards, and how they are held, are not really important. The cards are held to suit you. The main thing is executing a smooth switch, and executing the count without too much hesitation.*

#### **WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**

The two packets of cards are placed on the table and the right-hand packet is picked up. You say you saw a chap the other day messing about with playing cards. He noticed you watching him and called you over. He said "Look, I have five cards."

Hammon Count (HC) to show five face-down cards.

He then asked you to guess the values of the cards. "I looked at the other cards on the table and said [for example] KS." Turn the cards over and HC again to show five face-up cards matching the value of the face-up card on the table. Put the RH packet back on the table and pick up the LH packet. HC to show five face-up cards.

Now, take the top two cards from the left-hand packet and place them underneath the remaining three cards. Point to the new face card and say "This is the one to watch." The RH packet on the table is turned face down and the top card is placed on the left-hand packet, but as the face-down card is slid onto the packet, the top face-up card is slid out and placed face up on the table. HC the packet to show five face-down cards.

The top two cards of the left-hand packet are placed under the packet as before. Point to the top card and say "He told me this was the card to watch. The face-down packet on the table is turned face up and the top card slid onto the left-hand packet. As before, the top card of the packet is slid out and placed onto the table. Now you have a face-up card next to a face-down card. HC the cards in the hand to show five face-up cards.

The packet of three cards is turned face down and the top two cards in the hand are placed underneath, as before.

The top card of the face-down packet of

three is again placed on top of the packet in the hand, and the face-up card under the top card is slid out onto the table on the face-up card already on the table. The packet of cards in the hand are HC to show face-down cards.

Again, the two cards that remain from the right-hand packet are turned face up.

The top two cards of the packet in the hand are placed underneath as before. The face-up top card from the right packet on the table is again placed on top of the packet in the hands, the second card (face down) is slid out to join the other face-down card on the table.

The whole sequence is repeated with the last remaining card. It is turned face down (the top two cards from the packet in the hands are placed underneath), with the second card slid on top of the other two face-up cards on the table. The packet of five cards is HC to show five face-down cards.

The five cards in the hands are placed on top of the face-up cards on the table. The two face-down cards on the table are placed on top of the whole packet.

You now say that the chap asked you how many cards were face up. You said three. He then showed five face-up cards and five face-down cards (do so).

"I asked if he was a magician. He told me he played cards a lot, and in fact usually won a lot of money." The face-down packet is turned over to show a Royal Flush in Spades. "He said he would tell me how he did it, but I misheard him because he meant he would *sell* me how for £1000. I said I could not afford it, so he said he would accept an IOU."

The Five kings are picked up and the IOU card shown, then placed on the table.

"I said I hadn't got that sort of money. He said he accepted credit cards" – turn the four remaining cards over – "I said no thanks, so I still do not know how he did it!"

## **Almost Open**

**By David Gemmell**

**EFFECT:** An unusual handling for the classic Open Prediction effect.

#### **WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**

Begin with a shuffled deck – this need not be

complete and, so long as the deck is in reasonable condition, may be borrowed.

Two spectators are needed (but with good management you could use one). Ask Spectator 1 (“sp1”) to cut off a small number of cards. Ask Spectator 2 (“sp2”) to cut off a greater amount, while encouraging him to still leave some of the deck on the table.

Ask both to secretly count the number of cards they have. Once they have done this, combine the two packets and have them shuffled. After the shuffle, turn to sp1 and ask him to remember the card at his number as you deal the cards one at a time, flashing the faces as you do, then dealing them face down onto the deck remaining on the table.

After you have dealt ten to twelve cards, stop and ask him if he has a card in mind. If he says he does, drop the talon left in the hand on top of everything. Since he only took a small number of cards, ten to twelve should be more than enough to cover the mental selection process.

At this point, a False Shuffle and/or cut could be executed – this is your choice. You may even have the spectator execute the Ose Cut Sequence if you wish to handle the cards as little as possible.

Next, the top card needs to be lost towards the bottom of the deck. Whilst a number of approaches could accomplish this (such as a quick Double Undercut), I prefer to apply Bill Simon’s Prophecy Move.

Take the top card and hand it to the spectator. Ask them to thrust the card somewhere into the middle of the deck, being careful not to let them push it all the way in.

Execute the Prophecy Move and square up. Explain to the spectators what has happened, mentioning how in some card games, they’d have the option to decide from where the deal should begin. Spreading the cards, you now locate the face-up card and cut it to the bottom.

The deck is now handed to sp2. He is instructed to deal the cards face up into a pile, to his secret number, but to deal the last card (of his number) face down, then continue the deal face up. In the meantime, sp1 is told to look for their mental selection and stop the deal when they see it.

Of course, they won’t. It will indeed be the face-down card.

**CREDITS AND REFERENCES:** The modus operandi for this handling was inspired by a Nick Trost effect called “Split Second,” from a 1962 issue of *New Tops*.

## Framed! By Roy Field

I contributed an effect called “The Antique Shop Mystery” to the British Ring Parade in the January 2012 issue of *The Linking Ring*. The effect’s main premise is the usage of a vintage sand frame, but in a more modern setting. The storyline involves a credit card that disappears from a small envelope and reappears within the sand frame.

The envelope was based on Roy Johnson’s “Credit Transfer,” with the addition of a Shaxon Flap. Although this routine had its merits, there were aspects of it I did not like, so when I was asked to do a lecture based on some of my Parade effects, I took the opportunity to revisit it. The following is the result.

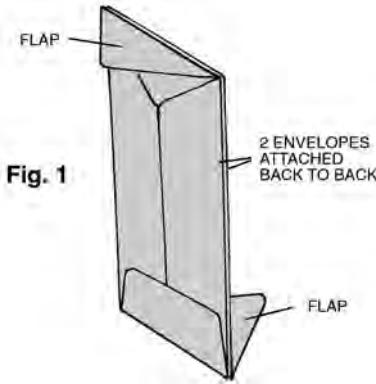
**REQUIREMENTS:** A sand frame or the modern equivalent to produce a card or illustration within a frame. My frame is known to be just over 120 years old and is very ornate, hence why it’s the basis of the whole storyline.

You’ll also need five illustrations of your choice, plus a duplicate additional force card, plus one blank, mounted on card, 3 inches by 4 inches or dependent on the size of your frame. The backs of the cards should be covered with some design, which you can achieve with cheerful wrapping paper, for example. You should be able to identify the force card by a marking of your choice on the back.

**(Note:** Whilst serving as president of the Northern Magic Circle for four years, I produced annual Christmas cards with a magical theme. Reutilizing the spare sets of these cards is what inspired me to revisit this routine, but use any illustrations or ideas yourself.)

For the envelopes, you’ll need a set of “wage” envelopes approximately 4 inches by 4 inches and prepared as follows. Take two envelopes, reverse one, and stick them together back to back in a “Z” fashion. Thus, an

envelope seen to have a simple flap opening at the top would look identical if you turned it end for end (**Fig. 1**). I rub a little flour or something similar into the stick-down glue on the flap, which preserves a little adhesion while allowing it to easily open without tearing.



Create a stack of about twelve envelopes and stick them together so they do not move about. Add the fake envelope to the stack and create a paper band to go around – tight enough to hold, but free enough to allow you to easily pull the top (fake) envelope.

Finally, you'll need a plate stand (to display the ornate sand frame), a small tray, a "reserved" sticker, and a small silk (optional).

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**  
Firstly, put the card you intend to force into the sand frame and turn it around so the plain sand shows and the frame looks empty. Load the blank card into the rear of the top envelope.

Show the card illustrations and say that you like all of them, but you're not sure which illustration to put into an appropriate frame. Use any storyline you like – I used my genuine story about my Christmas cards. Say that we'll make our selection without looking at them.

Shuffle the cards and then, by looking at your secret mark, make sure the duplicate card (of the card in the frame) is second from the top.

I either ask a helper to hold the tray whilst I "deal" cards, or I hold the tray whilst they deal. I use the Deal One, Put One Under Force. So, onto the tray you deal one card and then put the next back under the remaining

deck. Continue until you have one card left in your hand – it should be the desired force card. (The Paeto Force could be used, but I feel it is better with seven cards than with five. However, use any force you like.)

Show the pack of envelopes and pull out the top (gimmicked) envelope. Ask the helper to slide the chosen card into the envelope, "stick" it down, place it on the tray, and set it aside.

Draw attention by removing silk cover (if you use it) to the antique frame you have seen in the local antique shop. Say you like it so much that you wish to reserve, then buy it. Turn the Sand Frame over so the back now shows. (This will allow sand to roll away and reveal chosen card in the frame, but for now unseen with frame back on display.) Put 'reserved' sticker on frame. This does nothing – just a nice touch.

Pick up the envelope from the tray. If you pick it up from the bottom, it automatically turns it around. Ask the helper to take out the card that was put in. As the envelope has been reversed, the card that now comes out is the blank one. Express surprise, consternation, etc.

Go to the frame and turn it around to reveal the chosen illustration that is already "framed."

This routine is not really close-up, nor is it stage magic – it is something in between. I have found it goes well for audiences such as luncheon clubs, women's institutes, Rotary clubs, and similar institutions.

## Storytelling Magic Tips

By Laura London

A story is important for magic performance if you want your audiences to experience emotions beyond simply being puzzled. So, how can magicians use a story? It is not necessary to layer every trick with meaning. We don't have to write a complicated story and inundate our audience with unnecessary detail. But we can make sure our routines are well structured and that they contain themes and ideas that audiences will find engaging.

Here are my basic rules when I'm thinking of adding a story element to a trick.

First, keep the story simple. It can be very simple indeed, as simple as “Here is the first trick I ever learned. It was shown to me by my grandpa.” That’s a cliche, obviously, but it provides a starting point for the audience. It is our version of “Once Upon a Time.”

Next, tell that story in a clear way as the trick unfolds, then bring the story to a conclusion. This sounds obvious, but so many magicians begin a story yet never actually finish it. The story gets lost during the trick. To make sure that doesn’t happen, we need to think in terms of story structure.

**STORY STRUCTURE:** Every story has a beginning, middle, and end. Much of our magic has the same structure: a card is chosen, a card is lost, a card is found. This is very convenient. It makes the task of fitting our story to the trick relatively simple.

**THE PAT PAGE RULE:** When we learn magic, it’s vital we know what we need to say. Every book on presentation tells us that. It’s also common sense. But when we write our scripts, it’s good not only to be clear about what we say and when we say it, but also to write interesting lines. Pat Page had a great piece of advice: “If it’s not funny or interesting, don’t say it.”

Now, some performers have terrific personalities. Everything they say might seem funny or interesting. But not all of us are naturally charismatic. What we *can* do is consider if what we want to say would pass the Pat Page Rule. If it doesn’t, we can change it.

**OPENING AND CLOSING LINES:** One of the easiest exercises we can do is look at our opening and closing lines: how we start a trick, and how we finish it. This is our equivalent of “Once Upon a Time,” and “They Lived Happily Ever After.”

Make it funny, interesting, or both. Then build your actions around those lines.

You’ll find strong opening and closing lines in any drama. They capture the audience’s attention. They wrap up the story in a neat bow.

In my show “CHEAT,” I had to write opening and closing lines. No matter what else happens during the show, these lines never change:

**Opening line:** “*The Cardsharp, The Mechanic, The Grifter: These are all terms used to describe professional Card Cheats.*”

**Closing line:** “*If you tell a good story well, you forget about the lie.*”

These lines did, however, evolve over the course of performing the show. When I first wrote them, they sounded stiff and formal – almost as if someone else had written them. But all lines get more natural the more we say them.

When you first write a script, you have a fantasy in your head of how it will play out. Real-world performance will soon bring some reality to that fantasy. If the words you wrote don’t trip easily off the tongue, you change them. If they don’t get the response you hoped for, you change them again.

Over many performances, the script sounds more natural. More casual. Less like you are reading somebody else’s words from an autocue. This is because the script isn’t only about the words, it’s about the ideas. It’s about the message you are trying to convey, and finding the best way to say it so it suits you.

Remember, the script starts on your computer, but it’s forged in the heat of live performance!

## The Answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything

By Brian Clarke

This is my alternate version, using just sixteen cards, of an effect performed by Max Maven in 2009 called “The Magic of the Gilbreath Principle.”

**EFFECT:** The performer explains that with just sixteen cards, it is possible to find the answer to life, the universe, and everything!

The stack is as follows:

Ten of Hearts – Six of Hearts – Two of Clubs – Seven of Spades – Five of Clubs – Three of Hearts

Three of Spades – Five of Hearts – Seven of Diamonds – Eight of Clubs – Six of Diamonds – Two of Spades – Four of Clubs

Five of Spades – Five of Diamonds – Six of Clubs

Hold the packet either face up or down.

They can be cut anywhere, completing the cut each time.

Flip over the top two or four cards so they're face up on top of the packet. Then cut anywhere. The packet can be turned over to the other side to flip over two or four cards and cut as many times as wanted.

Deal the cards into two piles, then flip either one and place it on top of the other.

When the cards are spread, there will be cards face up and down. Ask someone to Google "What is the answer to life, the universe, and everything?" The answer will be 42. Add the values of the cards that are face up and it will be 42! The value of the cards that are face down will also be 42!

#### **WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**

Just follow along with the cards in your hand, as set up in the instructions above, and you will find that thanks to the wonder of the Gilbreath Principle, the effect just works itself!

### **Aunty Mary's Mindreading Canary**

By Reg Martin

**EFFECT:** The performer, displaying a (toy) bird in a cage, explains they have a mind-reading canary all the way from the Amazon (as eBay was out of stock!). Tonight, for one "flight" only, it will read a spectator's mind!

A deck of cards is offered to a spectator and they are invited to take any card, look at it, and hold it against their body. The spectator is asked to concentrate on their card. The bird in the cage then becomes very animated, chirping and flapping its wings, whereupon some feathers are seen to drop from the bird's wings. The performer reaches under the bottom of the cage and pulls away the sandpaper base sheet, where, affixed to the sandpaper, is the shape "7 C" in feathers. The spectator then confirms that their card is indeed the Seven of Clubs!

#### **WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**

The card is forced by your favourite method. For example, I use a one-way deck, with an indifferent card on the face. Therefore, my spectator has to choose the Seven of Clubs! You can buy clockwork birds in cages from toy shops and online. They have a slight recess

in the base of the cage, where the wind-up or battery mechanism is housed. Into this recess you can cut and then wedge inside a sheet of sandpaper, which can then be pulled away for the reveal at the end. Buy a packet of matching feathers from an arts and crafts store and glue them into a "7 C" shape to go onto the sandpaper. Also, using some long-handled tweezers, push a few between the wings and the body of your clockwork canary so that when you set it to chirp and flap its wings (whilst apparently reading your spectator's mind), the loose feathers will flutter to the bottom of the inside of the cage, creating the illusion they're the same feathers – which have formed the name of the chosen card – that appear on the sandpaper at the end.

This routine has lots of comedy potential and makes for a colourful and different type of card effect.

### **Cubes and Cards**

By Geoffrey Newton

**EFFECT:** On the table is a pack of letter cards sitting on top of their box and a pair of dice in a tumbler. An assisting spectator is given the dice to throw a couple of times to check that they are not loaded. The letter cards are passed to the spectator for examination and shuffling. These are now put in the box by the performer and not touched again for the moment.

The dice are rolled by the spectator. The totals on the top will be either seven or eleven (reason will be disclosed later). The performer takes the cards out of the box and deals, face down in a pile, one card at a time to spell SEVEN (or ELEVEN as the case may be). When the last letter is dealt, this card is pushed aside. The other four cards are turned face up to show just four random letters. These are turned face down and replaced on top of the pack. This only works if SEVEN is the dealt total. If it is ELEVEN, spell it out and push out the "N" card, then return the dealt cards to the top of the pack, faces unseen.

In either case, the pack is then turned face up to show that "each" card bears a single letter. Basically, the alphabet jumbled up but

through twice. The face-down card, which has been left on the table, is turned over and has the figure 7 (or 11) on it.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** You will need an ABC pack, two number cards (7 and 11) all with matching backs (Piatnik manufacture these), two faked dice that will only throw 7 or 11, and two matching unfaked dice. (These are sold as Tricky Dice and come complete with two matching unfaked dice.)

To prepare the pack, take out any two-letter cards as they will not be needed. Genuinely shuffle the cards. Take any four letters, then the number SEVEN then ELEVEN, and leave these in the box. Place the remaining cards on top of the closed box. Put a small tumbler containing the unfaked dice on top. The faked ones are in your pocket.

Ask the spectator to throw the dice a couple of times to prove they are normal. Next, ask them to inspect and shuffle the cards. Under the cover of this latter activity, palm out the fake dice from your pocket by curling your big finger, ring finger, and little finger round them. Pick up the unfaked dice from the table using your index finger and thumb. Hold the tumbler in your other hand. As you bring your hands together, drop the faked dice into the tumbler. Ditch the unfaked ones in your pocket as you ask the spectator to square up the pack. (This part of the operation may take a little practise to make it work smoothly.) Take the pack and put it in the box, face up on top of the six cards. Make sure the open end of the box is facing you so as not to expose the preloaded cards. Close the lid. Now proceed as in 'What they see' paragraph two. As you show "all" the cards just remember to be a little cautious so as not to flash the one other number card still in the pack.

## 007 Card Prediction

By Steve Short

**EFFECT:** The performer explains how the character, James Bond – 007 – had many gadgets in the past, including what appeared to be a deck of cards but was actually a secret camera. A card is shown with a blank face, which

is the blank "film." This is placed, face down, into the card box. A card is now chosen by the spectator from the deck. It is placed on the card box "camera," face down, and the spectator presses a printed "button" on the side of the card box, as if taking a photo! The chosen card is then turned face up – it is the Seven of Diamonds. The spectator opens the card case and inside it is the developed "film," revealing the Seven of Diamonds! For 007, *Diamonds Are Forever!*

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** A card box has an image of a camera on one side, with a click-button image on the side of the card box (Fig. 1).

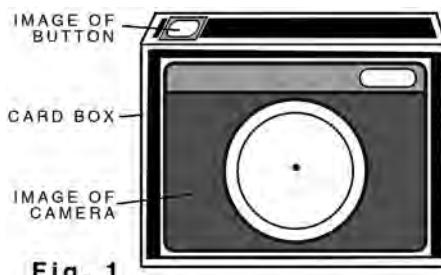


Fig. 1

From the box, a pack is taken out with the 7D on top and a blank-face card second down. Double lift the top two cards, saying this is the blank Polaroid film to go into the James Bond secret miniature camera (in reality the 7D is placed inside the card box, face down, leaving the blank-faced card face down on top). Using a duplicate 7D, force this on the spectator using your favourite method. Ask them to place the card face down on the image of the camera and press the click-button image on the side of the card box. Then, ask the spectator to look at their chosen card – it is the 7D. Then open the card box "camera" and take out the developed image of the chosen card. It is also the 7D!

Closing words are "A coincidence that you chose the 7D, as the James Bond connection is '007' and 'Diamonds Are Forever'!"

**Send comments or appreciations to Chris Wardle:**

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# The Card Corner

MIKE POWERS

## Smiling Daley

By Mike Powers

As you might surmise from the title, this effect is a synthesis of “The Last Trick of Dr. Jacob Daley” and Roy Walton’s “Smiling Mule.” It’s not difficult and packs a wallop. It’s a good item with which to begin the new year. You can find a video performance of the Smiling Daley effect at [www.mallofmagic.com/cardcorner](http://www.mallofmagic.com/cardcorner).

**EFFECT:** It is established that queens will be used for this effect, but before they are introduced, the spectator is asked to merely think of any card other than a queen. The deck is shuffled. The magician then demonstrates the ability to cut to a queen, the Queen of Hearts. This queen is placed face down on the spectator’s palm-up hand. The feat is repeated. This time the magician cuts to the other red queen, the Queen of Diamonds. This queen is placed onto the Queen of Hearts on the spectator’s palm.

Now the magician explains that if the spectator names her thought-of card, it will magically appear between the two red queens! The spectator names the card, say the Seven of Diamonds. She is told to lift her hand. The magician spreads the cards on her palm but no third card is seen. Just two cards. However, when these cards are flipped face up, they are found to be the black queens!

The magician flips the deck face up and shows there’s a red queen on top and one on the bottom. So, clearly, all cards are between the red queens, thus validating the claim that the named card would be between the red queens. Finally, the magician says, “You’re probably disappointed. You imagined that your

thought-of card would be sandwiched by the red queens. Let’s look again.”

When the deck is spread, it is seen that the red queens have come together near the center. There is a single face-down card between the face-up queens. And, yes, it is the thought-of card!

**SET-UP:** If we want the red queens to end up sandwiching the selection, you’ll need to have the four queens on top of the face-down deck in R, B, R, B order from the top. If you memorize the queen third from the top, you’ll be able to name the queens you’ll cut to.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** The first order of business is to establish that queens will be used. Say, “I have a question for you. What is your favorite type of picture card? You know, the jacks, queens, or kings. The ‘beautiful cards.’”

By saying “the beautiful cards,” I am trying to guide the spectator to choose the queens. If you choose a woman for the role, she is already inclined to make that choice. That’s the best scenario. However, should the spectator say “jacks” or “kings,” you will continue with, “Interesting. My favorites are the queens because I am able to cut to a queen at will. I’ll demonstrate in a moment.”

Since you never said you’d use the

cards the spectator likes, this tactic won't be seen as a force. It's just that you have the ability to cut to a queen that has led them to this moment.

Continue with, "Now I want you to think of any card other than a queen. It doesn't have to be a prominent card like an ace. Just any card. Don't tell me the card, though. Have you got one?" Here you're trying to guide the spectator away from aces since the choice of an ace could weaken the ending in that spectators might surmise that aces are common choices. The stage is now set. You will now demonstrate your ability to cut queens.

First, spread the face-up deck between your hands while hiding the bottom four queens. Say, "The deck looks well mixed, but I'll give it a shuffle." Table the deck face down and perform a Riffle Shuffle that keeps the queens on top. Now take the deck in the right hand in readiness for an Overhand Shuffle. Run the first four cards (queens) singly as you then grab a left fourth-finger break under the fifth card. Continue the Overhand Shuffle, creating a messy-looking deck. Square up the deck as your right thumb takes over the break.

**STATUS CHECK:** You have a right-thumb break over the four queens, which are now in B, R, B, R order.

Say, "Let me demonstrate my cutting skills. I will cut three times. Third time is the charm." If you took note of which queen was third from the top at the beginning, it will now be second from top. This will allow you to say, "I'm going to cut to the QH (or diamonds, as the case may be)." If you don't have that information, you won't be able to name the queen you're about to cut to.

Perform a **Triple Undercut\***, moving the four cards below the break to the top. (Note that moves tagged with \* have video instruction at [www.mallofmagic.com/the-moves](http://www.mallofmagic.com/the-moves). The password to access the videos is marlo7d.) It will appear that you merely cut the deck three times. Perform a **Double Turnover\*** showing a red queen. Ta da!

Say, "Hold out your right hand, palm upward" as you flip the double face down and remove the top card. Place it (a black queen) onto the spectator's outstretched hand. Now obtain a break under the top card (red queen) and perform a **Triple Undercut\***, this time cutting the top single card to the bottom. Again, perform a **Double Turnover\***. The other red queen shows. Name the queen and flip the double face down. Place the top card, the other black queen, face down onto the spectator's palm. Finally, tell the spectator to put her other hand on the two "red" queens. You are now ready to create some very strong moments of magic.

Say, "You are thinking of a card that only you know. You never indicated any card, you merely thought of the card. When I snap my fingers, I want you to name that card out loud. Amazing as it may seem, that card will instantly appear between the two red queens!" Let's say the spectator says, "Seven of Diamonds." Continue with, "Yes! The 7D has appeared between the red queens. Lift your hand." The spectator believes she is holding the two red queens. So, she is imagining that the 7D should be between the two cards she is holding. When she lifts her hand, reach out and take the two cards between your thumb underneath and fingers on top. Slowly spread the cards. It's clear there's no third card. Say, "Here's the first moment of magic. Your card isn't here because these are the black queens." Turn them face up, revealing the QS and QC. The change from red queens to black queens is a big moment of magic. But the really big moment is about to come.

Drop these queens face up on the table and pick up the deck. Flip it face up in the left hand. A red queen shows at the face. Say, "It's actually true that your thought-of card is between the red queens. There's one here at the face and one at the bottom." Take the deck in right-hand **Biddle Grip\*** as your left fingers pull the bot-

tommost queen to the left and into view (**Fig. 1**). Continue, “So your card is between the red queens, since *all* the cards are between them.”

**Fig. 1**

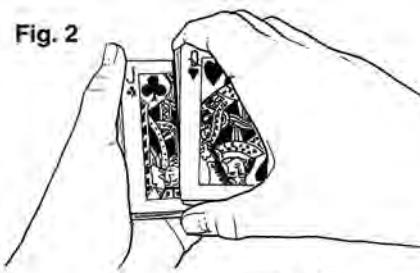


Now, as the spectators are appreciating the joke, you must locate the named card, the 7D. It could be anywhere in the deck, so you’ll be jazzing the following sequence. Spread about ten cards toward yourself as you look for the 7D. If you don’t see it, you can lower the deck and say, “Get it? All the cards are between the queens.” Continue spreading toward yourself until you come to the 7D. If it comes deep in the deck, you can lower the spread and name some other cards as you continue to milk the joke. Don’t let the spectators see the 7D. Square up the deck as you grab a left fourth-finger break under the 7D.

You will now sidejog the 7D in readiness for a **Side Steal Reversal\***-type action. Lift the cards above the break in right-hand **Biddle Grip\***, exposing the card beneath them, the JC in **Figure 2**. Say, “You get the joke, right? Every card is between the queens.” Now, as the right hand moves its cards back onto the deck, your left fingertips contact the face of the 7D, forcing it to a sidejogged position (**Fig. 3**, right hand removed for clarity). You can now grip the card between the right fourth finger and thumb as in **Figure 4**.

Turn a bit to your left to optimize angles as you pull the 7D completely out of the deck. Its left long edge should remain very close to the right long edge of the deck (**Fig. 5**). Rotate the left hand clockwise a bit. The more vertical position of the deck will hide the 7D (**Fig. 6**).

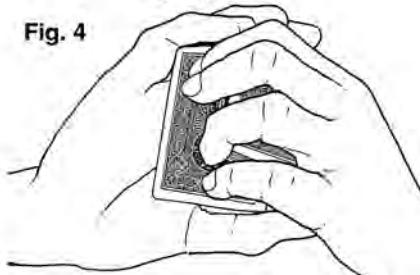
**Fig. 2**



**Fig. 3**



**Fig. 4**



**Fig. 5**

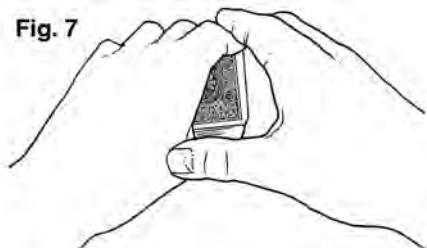


**Fig. 6**

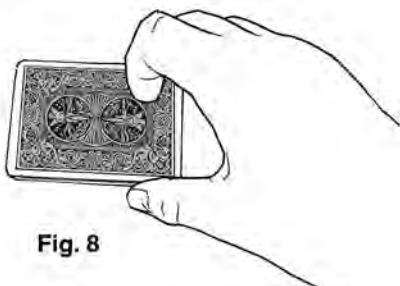


Tilt the left hand inward a bit, raising the outer short edge slightly as you then rotate the left hand palm downward, moving the deck face down onto the face-up

**Fig. 7**



**Fig. 8**



7D. Your right hand moves a bit to the right so the left hand can completely control the deck as it coalesces with the 7D. You'll end as in **Figure 7**, with the deck protruding from the left hand. Use the right hand to hide what's going on from the front. And, as with any secret action like this, you should look directly at the spectators in order to make eye contact. The move is well hidden, but it's always good to misdirect the spectators' eyes.

Grip the deck between the right thumb and second finger as you withdraw it from the left hand (**Fig. 8**) and place it face down on the table. Say, "I imagine you are disappointed since you likely imagined that your thought-of card would actually be sandwiched by the queens." As you deliver this line, pick up the deck using the right hand and place it in left-hand dealing position. All that remains is to secretly cut the deck. Walton used a Turnover Pass to accomplish this. But I think that a gesture cut will work fine in this context since the trick seems to be over.

To wit: Spread the cards face down between your hands, keeping the bottom-most cards tight so as not to flash the reversed card on the bottom. Break the spread near center as you hold about half the spread in each hand. Look at the spectators as you say, "Maybe we can make your wish come true." As you deliver this line, put the right-hand group under the

left-hand group, bringing the queens together at center with the reversed 7D between them. Continue with, "That would look something like this." Flip the deck face up and spread it on the table. Push the cards above and below the queens aside, leaving the three important cards alone at center. Pick up the two half decks, put them together, and table them off to the side so the only cards in the "stage" area are the two black queens and the red queens with a face-down card between them. Move the queens slightly away from the face-down card.

I like to end by saying, "If this card is the card you thought of, you will have been witness to a miracle," as I raise the inner edge of the face-down card. Allow the spectator to realize how incredible this eventuality would be and then allow the 7D to fall face up. Thank you, Roy Walton, for inventing this wonderful effect.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** There are certainly other ways to get set up at the beginning for the Dr. Daley sequence. I have found that the sequence described above works best for me. But feel free to experiment with other methods.

We should all make a New Year's resolution to add new moves and effects to our repertoires. May 2026 be a wonderful and productive year for all of you!

**Mike Powers**

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# Simple Diversions

ANDREW WOO

## Business Stability

When the opportunity arises, it is highly suggested to strike when the iron is hot. Here is the backstory. One summer at a family picnic, I noticed one of the wooden picnic tables had an ever-so-slightly raised splinter that was not evident to the naked eye. My creative mind exploded and spawned this appearing impromptu effect.

**EFFECT:** A borrowed currency bill precariously defies scientific explanation by balancing on the edge of a picnic table.

**REQUIREMENTS:** You will need to locate or create an inconspicuous hook, as well as invisible thread/loops, magician's wax, and a currency bill.

**SET-UP:** To begin, you will need to prepare a loop of Invisible Thread that will hook around a splinter and to the edge of your bill. The length of the Invisible Thread will be determined by the distance between the splinter itself and the edge of the bill. You may need Magician's Wax to secure the ends of the Invisible Thread together. Loop the Invisible Thread around the splinter and extend the other end of the loop. Lay this end down on the picnic table.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** The magician states, "I would like to borrow a crisp bill from anyone." While the spectator is searching for a crisp bill, the magician loops the end of the Invisible Thread around his thumb. A currency bill is received from the spectator and the magician proceeds to fold it lengthwise, making a tent-shaped bill. The Invisible Thread is secretly placed over the right or left long edges of the currency bill, and a balancing point is located on the top edge of the picnic table (Fig. 1).

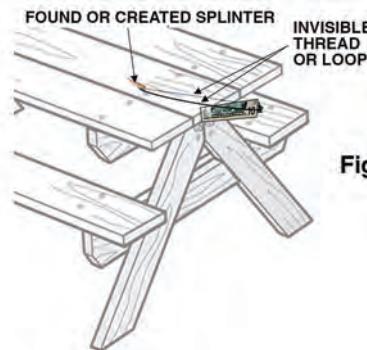


Fig. 1

**TIP #1:** It may take a few seconds to find the balance point, however, prior practice with the same length will enable you to effortlessly replicate the set-up.

**TIP #2:** If your Invisible Thread loop is short in length, use a smaller object such as a business card.

**TIP #3:** I carry a small pen knife on my keychain so I can craft the splinter.

**TIP #3:** If you implement the dealer item "Loops," be aware there is a small amount of stretch you must factor in before determining the distance between the edges of the currency bill and the splinter.

**TIP #4:** Use a crisp bill only. The rigidity of the currency bill is part of the workings.

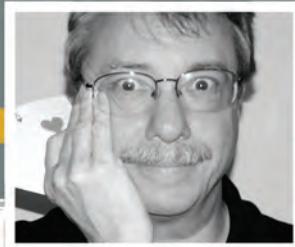
At this time, this month's offering is the finale of "Simple Diversions." It has been a tremendous pleasure.

Take care and always be magical. Andrew out.

**Andrew Woo**

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Happy new year to those of you reading the electronic edition of *The Linking Ring*. If you are reading the paper edition, happy new year and I hope your January was fun! I also hope you enjoyed the ten-year anniversary of "Auto-Magic" retrospective as we sailed through the last twelve months.

I have an incredible bag of great stuff by some great magicians we'll look at this year. We still may reminisce a little rewinding the ol' magical time machine to re-explore some coolness or other. Whatever, you've got a fantastic 2026 of "Auto-Magic" to look forward to. So, let's get started!

I am sure you already know of Mike Kaminskas. One of the finest and cleverest close-up, parlor, and walk-around magicians you'll come across. He's also been obsessed with designing, manufacturing, and selling incredibly fine classic props. His Kaminskas Cups (and Mike's Chop Cup) stand head and shoulders above the rest. Extremely well made and crafted and carefully designed by a magician, for magicians. You owe it to yourselves and your audiences to sprint over to Mike's website at [www.mkcups.com](http://www.mkcups.com) and check things out. Start your new year with some strong magic and really superior props to make your magic even more magical!

Why am I bringing up Mr. Kaminskas? Mike wanted to bring a little more happy to your happy new year! He generously offered up this really fantastic piece to share with you! It's indicative of Mike's magic: gut-punchingly awesome! I've seen him perform this a dozen times, I know how it all works, and it still blows me away! First appearing in Mike's book *Seemingly Impromptu*, comes his:

## Sharp Bend

By Michael Kaminskas

**EFFECT:** A Sharpie marker held horizontally by its end is given a few shakes. As it moves up and down in an almost hypnotic motion, it appears to bend. Yes, this is the old optical illusion of a bending pencil we all learned as kids in school. Only this time, it's not an illusion and the marker is permanently bent!

Forget bending silverware – this is something you will use!

**REQUIREMENTS:** For this effect you will need a marker or pen with a plastic barrel. I most often use a Sharpie-brand marker because it's what I use to sign cards, but I have frequently used the traditional ballpoint pens with a removable cap found in many restaurants, hotels, and bars.

**SET-UP:** To prepare, you will need a heat gun and cold water. The heat gun is used to warm up the plastic casing so it may be bent, and the cold water is for dipping the plastic so it immediately sets in the correct shape. I like to prepare a dozen or more pens at a time because I often give these unique items away as a souvenir. Once you obtain the required supplies, you will need to experiment: just soften the plastic without it bubbling or having the ink cartridge push through. Sometimes, I will just remove the ink cartridge altogether, bend the pen casing, and then replace the cartridge. You might find that you need to shorten the ink cartridge after bending an empty casing. *[Mike B speaking: Instead of a heat gun, try using a hand-held hairdryer. I have also used a small pot of boiling water and Bic pens. Remove the ink cartridge and nib*

first, then use tongs to lower ½ of the pen in the boiling water. About 15-seconds will do the trick.]

For markers, I prefer to leave the ink cartridge intact while it's heated. Ultimately, I have found this method to be less messy and much easier than using ballpoint pens. What you are shooting for after you finish the heating process is a bend approximately 40 degrees from the horizontal. I also like to add a slight twist. The location of the bend should be about two thirds of the way down the marker from the cap/point end. Take a look at **Figure 1**.

It will take some trial and error before you will be able to do this consistently, so be prepared to throw out quite a few!

#### WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

There are two keys to pulling off this stunt.

Start the movement of the bend while you are just beginning your patter. This occurs *before* your spectators focus on the marker.

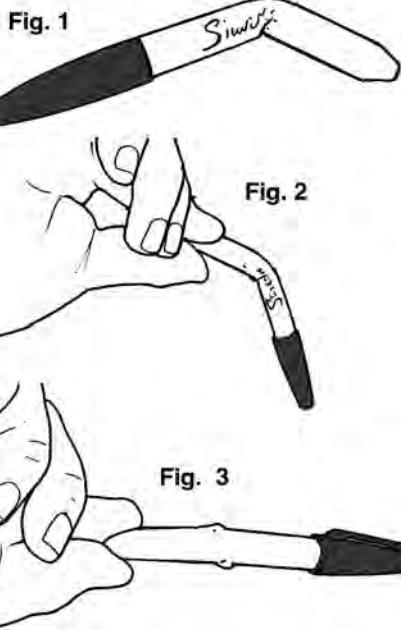
Keep the pen in motion at all times. This doesn't mean you have to do it fast. You just need to keep it moving to mask the fact that the marker/pen is already bent!

#### How to Pass Off the Bent Marker for a Straight One at the Start:

Let's take a moment to look at the bent marker and realize *why* this effect works: people have the preconceived notion that pens and markers are straight items! Little do they know we would spend time heating it with a heat gun to ruin their day (insert evil laugh here).

When holding the marker by the bottom while slowly rotating it between the fingers, it appears totally different to the human eye. If allowed to hang down, it appears extremely bent, which you can see in **Figure 2**.

To aid in the illusion, the marker is held loosely between the fingers while hanging below the horizontal, giving the impression it is bent even more than in reality. By simply rotating the barrel of the marker between the fingertips, the barrel will form a straight line even though the barrel is bent. Check out **Figure 3**.



the effect works. The illusion is just a matter of perspective. Oddly enough, it will work for one person or for fifty people at any given time because our brains tell us that pens are straight! Trust me when I say that this gets gasps from onlookers.

Originally, I came up with this idea to use more as filler material. A quick gag if you will ... but it has evolved into something *much* more than that. If used in a covert way, e.g., after borrowing a pen from a waitress, they will *not* forget it.

#### The Kaminskas Bends:

If you don't know the impromptu Bending Pencil illusion, just do a quick google search for "impromptu bending pencil" or "rubber pencil illusion" to see it in action. Done properly, the illusion of the pencil becoming rubbery is quite believable. **[Mike B. again: Grab a pencil or Bic pen right now! Grasp the end lightly between thumb and index finger (see Figure 3). Now, move your hand up and down about 5-6 inches. Let the counterweight of the pencil or pen wiggle the implement as you move your hand. The optical illusion is wonderful! Your pencil bends and flexes as if it's made of rubber! Now back to Mike K.]**

Once you have mastered the movement for that illusion, you will have no problem enacting a little change to permanently bend the marker. The only thing you need to add is a slight rotation of the marker between the fingers as the hand moves up and down. By combining the standard optical illusion with this move and the twisted pen, it will appear that the top half of the marker or pen gets soft like butter on a hot summer day and bends.

After the bend, it is important to display the marker below the horizontal, amplifying the illusion of how much it bent. Most times I will just end here and give the unusual item away, but sometimes I switch it for an ordinary duplicate and then hand it out. The choice is yours.

**AUTO-NOTES:** Mike notes his inspiration came after reading about Ted Les-

ley's bending wine glass in his book *Paramiracles*. Lesley's version employed not only a wine glass (!) but a mechanical method to make it appear as if it was bending while he spoke. The overall approach can be traced to Annemann's "Bending Swizzle Stick" (way back in *The Jinx* #3, 1934). Lee Earle, David Penn, and others have also devised great renditions of the bending wine glass.

With Mike K.'s version, you can make it all seem so very "organic." It is easy to carry and a cinch to perform. Also, if the pen still inks, use the bent pen during the rest of your performance (e.g., for signatures), which will accentuate the miracle status of the routine!

*Twist me an email at: mbreggar-magic@gmail.com.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WANT TO SUBMIT A TRICK OR A PARADE?

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

### WANT TO SUBMIT A RING EVENT?

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

### WANT TO SUBMIT A RING REPORT?

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

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

## MAGIC SPINNING COIN

**TRICK:** The magician stands a coin on the table and holds it upright by placing his finger on top of it. With his other hand he begins rubbing the finger vigorously, while pressing down on the edge of the coin. Eventually the coin takes off spinning as if by magic.

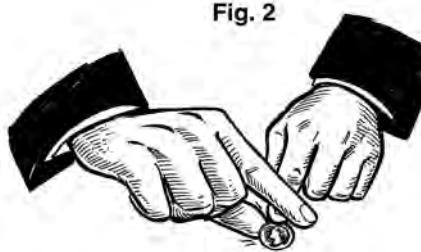
I love quick little tricks like this. This particular trick teaches a valuable lesson to beginner magicians. The principle is that a “big motion” conceals a “little motion.” This principle is used often in the art of magic.

Begin by balancing a coin on its rim on the tabletop with one of the flat sides facing toward you. Rest your right first finger gently on top of the coin to hold it in position. Stroke your right first finger with the tip of your left hand’s first finger several times as if you are creating some type of kinetic energy (**Fig. 1**). The remaining fingers of the left hand should be curled in toward the palm, with the exception of the left hand’s thumb, which should remain outstretched.

**SECRET:** Repeat the same rubbing action with your left hand but this time move your thumb in a little closer so that the thumb can strike the coin on its side and cause it to spin (**Fig. 2**). As soon as the coin takes off separate your hands and focus your attention on the spinning coin.



**Fig. 1**



**Fig. 2**

Like most good tricks it should not be repeated for the same group. Should someone ask you to do it again simply say, “*Good magicians don’t repeat their tricks... and neither do I.*”



Excerpted from *Bamboozlers: The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Boggliers, Belly Busters, and Bewitchery* by Diamond Jim Tyler.  
[www.djtyler.com](http://www.djtyler.com).

## PARADE CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED FROM RINGS AND INDIVIDUALS

Please submit the complete Parade as a single Microsoft Word document. Total length: 8,000 to 10,000 words. If your Parade is accepted for publication, our staff artist, Tony Dunn, will draw illustrations based on your rough sketches and/or photos. Submit your Parade by e-mail to [editor@magician.org](mailto:editor@magician.org) with Parade Submission in the message line. Thank you!

# Broken Wand

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



## BRENT COGGINS

Brent Wayne Coggins, 66, of Lake City, Minnesota, died October 17, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 40139 and had been a member since 1985. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 19 (Minneapolis, Minnesota). He worked for the City of Rochester and with the United States Soil Conservation Service, helping design and improve the city's flood management systems. Later, he worked for the Iowa Department of Transportation. Brent became known as “SinGee the Magician.” His performances combined faith, laughter, and wonder, helping remind audiences that with faith, anything is possible. Brent founded both SinGee’s Young Flame and Mystic 13 Magic Clubs. He performed multiple times for the Eagle’s Cancer Telethon to help raise funds and awareness in the fight against cancer, a cause that became deeply personal for him after he was diagnosed with leukemia in March 2024. Brent was a lifelong, active member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Rochester and taught Sunday School for many years. He also helped run lights and sound for local bands including Euphoria, Speed Limit 4, and Booker and Minnie. Brent worked on a hot air balloon crew, spent time with friends at LTS Brewing Company, and sat on his deck overlooking Lake Pepin. He is survived by his wife, Virginia “Ginny” Coggins of Lake City, his daughter Jacquelyn (Nate) Proper, stepchildren Jessie Rueb and Jerik (Susan) Brumm, brother Lee (Sheila) Coggin, eight grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and a niece.



## ERIK D’HAENE

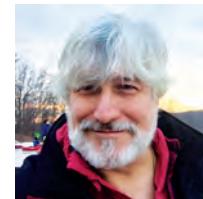
Erik D’Haene, 60, of Aardenburg Zee-land, Netherlands, died October 11, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 59335 and had been a member since 1998. He belonged to Ring 282 (Ghent, Belgium).

## GREG DIETLEIN

Greg Dietlein, 67, of Langley, British Columbia, Canada, died November 23, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 57739. He had been a member intermittently since 1994, most recently rejoining in 2019. He belonged to Ring 92 (Vancouver, British Columbia). From an early age he showed a keen interest in magic with a particular penchant for picking locks and creating illusions. Greg continued his love and study of magic into adulthood. He was a former Ring president and librarian. Greg was awarded the Golden Rabbit award in 1998.

## ROBERT MCNEILL

Robert McNeill, 64, of New York, New York, died May 24, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 69125 and had been a member since 2010.



## SEIJI MORIMOTO

Seiji Morimoto, 93, of Torrance, California, died on April 16, 2025. He held I.B.M. membership number 50407. Seiji was a passionate amateur magician who found great joy in performing for family



gatherings and special moments with loved ones. Whenever his grandchildren and relatives were together, he was eager to share the wonder of magic. He is survived by his wife Ginko, three children, and four grandchildren.

### **RICK ROSS**

Charles F. "Rick" Ross, Jr., 73, of Fairfield, Ohio, died November 11, 2025. Rick worked in retail sales for many years. He is survived by his life partner of forty-two years, Melanie Marischen, stepdaughter Tracey (Adam) Milner, step grandchildren Alex Milner and Sam Milner, sister Mary Jane (Ed) Overmyer, and nieces, nephews, and extended family.



### **When a Magic Friend Dies**

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

## ***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 Lauren Jergensen at [ringreports@magician.org](mailto:ringreports@magician.org). Type "Ring Event" as the e-mail subject.

Please note: Write-ups of your monthly Ring meetings are considered Ring Reports and should also be e-mailed to Lauren Jurgensen at [RingReports@magician.org](mailto:RingReports@magician.org).

# Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



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

## RING 1, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI—Spirit of St. Louis

Meets 1st Wed. of month, Parkway United Church of Christ 2841 N.Ballas Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 / Web Site: [www.IBMRingOne.com](http://www.IBMRingOne.com)  
SANDY WEIS, Secretary / E-mail: [ibmringleone@gmail.com](mailto:ibmringleone@gmail.com)  
1755 Elkins Drive, St. Louis, MO 63136

The Ring's Annual Fall Show was held on October 18th at the Florissant Performing Arts Center located in Florissant, Mo. This year's theme was Magic of Halloween. All the performances centered around the classic monsters and spirits of the season. Tim Shegitz once again served as our Emcee and opened and closed the production with some impactful magic. The following members performed on stage— Steve Queen as the Phantom of Florissant, Christian the Magician, Jeff Lefton, Steve Zuehlke, Mike Hindrichs, Steve Finkelstein, Marty Kopp, Columbus Smith, Alexander Damman and Reginald Dunn. Alexander Damman, Chuck Levy, D. Jay, and Mathew Horowitz performed close-up magic in the lobby before the show. Michael W. McClure was the Producer/Director and creator of full-screen stage audio and animations that provided the continuity for each separate act to blend seamlessly. This fantastic show could not have happened without his contributions. The Production Team included Steve Queen, Steve Finkelstein, Steve Zuehlke, Mike Hindrichs, and Michael W. McClure. This year our profits were significantly higher than in previous years. The audience seemed to thoroughly enjoy the show, as laughter and astonishment was evidenced throughout the performances. The Ring is already planning next year's show with a theme of Magic of America, to continue our nation's celebration of its 250th anniversary.

Earlier this month, Mentalist Gary S. Chan performed a hybrid in-person and virtual show from a client's New York City studio. To keep everyone engaged, he alternated between routines for in-person volunteers and effects designed for online participants. To his surprise, the two worlds

blended easily. Moments of amazement rippled through the room and in the online chat as if everyone were sharing the same space.

The Ring is steadily growing its membership, and therefore have outgrown our regular meeting venue. It is difficult to find a space which will meet our needs, and one that is centrally located. Libraries offer free space; however, the ones in St. Louis County close at 8:00 PM, so they are not feasible. Many local government centers close early, and professional meeting rooms remain outside our budget. A new location was quickly discovered that is centrally located, within our budget, and also offers enough space to accommodate the growing Ring. After an on-site tour, the Board approved Parkway UCC as our new home. The Ring will begin meeting there in January 2026. Further details will be provided in next month's Ring Report.

Timothy Shegitz provided an excellent magic lecture for the members at the November meeting. The title of his lecture was "MAGIC . . . It's Not What You Think!" . . . a compelling exploration of the difference between performing tricks and creating true magic. The lecture highlighted the stark contrast between a "trickster" and a "magician." While both may use sleight of hand, the trickster merely executes a trick, whereas the magician elevates it into an art form. He emphasized that true magic lies in presentation, storytelling, and the ability to captivate an audience. A magician's performance should be seamless and far beyond a simple "pick a card" routine. The lecture also delved into the importance of separating mechanics from performance, stressing that mastery of both is essential. A poignant anecdote about clowns who believed they were "funnier without practice" served as a cautionary tale about the dangers of complacency and ego. Timothy passionately argued that practice is not optional—it's the foundation of excellence. The talk balanced humility, technical insight, and theatrical sensibility,

leaving both novices and seasoned performers with actionable challenges.

In the end the lecture felt less like a how-to and more like a call to honor audiences by turning tricks into meaningful, practiced acts of wonder. Timothy presented several magic effects he had created and offered those to members who wished to add something a little different to their acts. Everyone in attendance took something of value away from this lecture.

At the November meeting, Michael W. McClure was delighted to distribute his latest tabletop game, Masters To Mythics, to everyone that had backed it during his Kickstarter campaign. It has taken three years to create and produce this deeply magic-themed game, which features not only over a dozen images inspired by our own Ring 1 members, but also many of the most famous magicians currently active. *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

Our November meeting was opened by Vice President Bob Gurdak. He commented on various upcoming club events and plans. The following members and friends were present at our meeting: Susan and Donna Campbell, Fritz Coombs, Martin DeVore, Bob Gurdak, James and Eric Killmeyer, Jim Klayder, Peter Lucke, Mark Miller, and Gary Morton. The theme of the evening was Ring Magic.

Opening members' magic, Fritz Coombs presented a rope effect. In the effect, he tied a bow knot in a rope. Fritz then threaded the ends of the rope through the loops of the knot. Finally, when he pulled on the ends of the rope, the knot vanished from the rope.

Next, Gary Morton entertained us with a Newspaper Tear effect. He held up a newspaper and tore it in half. He then gathered up the halves and tore them in half. The tearing was repeated until only small pieces remained. As he was tearing the paper, he recited a poem by Edgar Guest. Gary then held all the torn pieces in his hands and magically unfolded them into a fully restored newspaper.

James Killmeyer continued the magic with Poker Player's Picnic from Royal Road to Card Magic. He shuffled a deck of cards and then invited Gary, Fritz, and Jim to assist him. He asked Jim to cut off a quarter of the deck and place it on the table. Next, Fritz cut off a third of the deck and placed it on the table. Gary cut off half of the remaining deck. There were then four packets of cards on the table. James picked up one packet,

moved the three top cards to the bottom of the packet, and then randomly distributed the next three top cards to the tops of the three other packets on the table. He then asked each of his assistants to do the same with the remaining three packets. Finally he and his assistants displayed the top card of each packet, they were all four aces.

Peter Lucke followed with Balls in a Bag. He displayed a small bag and removed five small balls from it. There were four white balls and one black ball. He invited five people to assist him. Each person was instructed to remove one ball from the bag without looking at it. Peter then was able to identify the color of the person's ball and also found the person with the black ball.

Next, Bob Gurdak amazed us with Flite from Steve Thompson. He invited Susan to assist him. Bob showed Susan his wedding ring, drawing attention to the inscription inside the ring. He said his wife told him that the ring held the keys to her heart. Bob then reached into his back pocket and pulled out his keys. He asked Susan to hold out her hand palm up, then he placed his keys in her hand, and she closed her hand with the keys inside. Bob gave Susan a fist bump, and when she opened her hand, the keyring had the wedding ring attached to it. Bob's other hand was empty.

Jim Klayder performed a variation of Dai Vernon's Chinese Rings. Jim commented that he saw Dai Vernon perform back in 1970. Jim used six rings for the effect. He linked and unlinked the rings in a variety of ways, and closed by linking all six rings together.

Closing members' magic, Mark Miller performed Four by Four Mental Grid. Mark began by borrowing a deck from the audience. He asked Jim to shuffle the deck in a variety of ways, including a table wash. Mark then dealt single cards to the table in a four by four grid. He asked Jim to deal the remainder of the deck on rows or columns in any way he wanted. Mark asked Jim to look at the top card of any one of the sixteen piles; it was the JC. Jim then replaced the card. Mark asked Jim to place the packets of the bottom row on top of each other, and then the packets of the left column on top of the accumulated bottom row. Then he asked Jim to place his packet on top of any of the nine remaining packets. The process continued until all the cards were gathered together. Mark showed us a list of the names of 52 heroes and villains. He then asked Jim to count through the deck until he came to the JC previously chosen. It was the 13th card. Mark looked at the thirteenth name on the list; it was Superman. Mark then removed from his pocket a Superman logo.

Guest magician Martin DeVore performed Thought Echo by Sam Schwartz to close the evening's magic.

*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](http://www.ibmring6.com)

“Stuff from a Magic Set” was tonight’s theme. Or it was supposed to be. Many of the performers showed magic with old tricks, but with many improvements and modifications. Bill McElhenney began with a smooth Linking Ring along with Rope routine. So many magic sets have small versions of this classic, with only basic instructions. When he finished his set, Bill shared some of the subtleties to enhance the magic. His lovely wife Sue McElhenney showed several color changes with a Hot Rod that had gemstones changing colors. Reba Strong did a quick 2 aces across, and David Hale brought out two “Nickels to Dimes” sets that he combined for a new effect. He also waved his hand over a penny and it visibly became a dime. Chris Fabiano added some flourishes and shuffles and then “Cut to the 4 Aces.” Chris said that the original version in a kid’s magic set used a Stripper Deck. Chris does the magic using a regular deck. Jim Capobianco (Laz) had two volunteers separately select a card from a deck. When the first card was selected, he had his helper hide the card, and make a picture on a large pad of paper. Then the second helper selected a card from the deck, and draw a picture of it on another large pad. Jim had them both reveal their art work at the same time, and they had both selected the same card. He used a Svengali Deck, but with some rough and smooth to make it a Mirage Deck. Very visual magic. Marc Walsh said his magic was “Partly true and partly False.” He displayed a Gilbert Mysto Magic set box, and said that he learned a coin trick in it. He sprinkled salt on the coin, which vanished and became a handful of salt. Larry Grossman showed a magic set that was a gift for all who attended the 2008 IBM convention. He had not opened it until later, and showed a lot of really nice effects that were gifted to attendees: Coin Purse, Nesting Chinese coins, 2 Card Monte, and a “Missing Think” effect by Dan Harlan. It used 5 clear cards with imprints of playing cards to do a clean mental effect. Jim McGinty showed us his modern version Atomic Light bulb. It uses LEDs and is much brighter than the old incandescent bulbs we are familiar with. He showed a wooden “Snapper” puzzle, and did a mind-reading effect with a staple of magic sets – Color Cube box and block. It was fun to see how so many of us have taken these simple tricks made them our own.

*Dave 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](http://www.gamagicclub.com)  
BILL PACKARD, Secretary / Email: [billpackardmagic@gmail.com](mailto:billpackardmagic@gmail.com)

October meeting is the Georgia Magic Club Annual Auction. We had Flea Market activities first, followed by a brief Business Meeting, and then the Live Auction. We had 49 attendees, including 9 non-members.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

President Clark Kjorlaug greeted the members present for a brief meeting. Acknowledgement of Ken Scott’s successful Atlanta Harvest of Magic (which may return in 2027!), Magic Valley Ranch, ABG Fall Festival (featuring Patrick Buchen), and the upcoming TRICS (November 20-22 in Charlotte NC). The new Georgia Magic Book Club reading is *Mumbledore Card Tricks* by Lee Benzaquin. Project Magic is attracting more magicians to participate. The next Magic Meetup is November 2 at Fellini’s. Joshua Jay lecture is the Sunday following the Auction. Stan Konter and Zach Ivins admitted their birthdays are in October.

President Clark Kjorlaug called for the second and final round for nominations for Officers and Board Members for 2026. There were no new nominees for any position and no challenges, so by default from the first round, the Officers for next year are:

President: Clark Kjorlaug

Vice President: Zach Ivins

Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Packard

Board Members at Large: Debbie Leifer, Eric Schuster, and Ken Scott

Also, the first round of nominations for the Greater Atlanta Magician of the Year were received. Nominees are Mike Dunagan, Mark Hatfield, Bill Packard, and Ken Scott.

### **MAGIC AUCTION**

Debbie Leifer arranged for the use of the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church facility. Ken Scott MC’d for the entire evening while Eric Schuster, Steve Langston, Zach Ivins, Bill Packard, and Tammy Packard entered Flea Market and Live Auction transactions in the database. There were 59 participants, as well as a few donations from outside the club, including the entire collection from a retired magician.

There were 212 transactions entered. The Top Seller (after the donations) was Matt Baker and Top Buyer was Zeke Powerz. The Highest Bid was \$250 for a Guillotine. After expenses, the Georgia Magic Club made over \$1500 in profit.

Next month’s (November) magic performance theme is “World Sight Day.” Perform something where the audience sees the magic happen.

*Bill Packard*

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

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

We had an excellent lecture this month, as Steve Friedberg joined us for the evening. Steve had a fantastic set with numerous effects that he had tweaked and adjusted to fit his style and character. He began with his version of Paul Cummins' Old Faithful, and continued on with Cards of My Friends (Benatar), M2C1 at the Home Depot (Friedberg/Pilsworth), Rod the Hop (Friedberg, after Marlo), Mirage (Friedberg, after Harris/Wiles), TWAIN (Friedberg, after Dobrowolski/Bannon), Smiling Mule (Walton), the Cream of Wheat book test (Friedberg), Steve's Trade show act, Improbable Impossible Countdown (Carey/Pierce), Regal Aces (Regal), YAFAP (Carey), and he wrapped up with a moving Tribute to Howie (Friedberg, after Fulves). Along the way, Steve talked about presentational strategies; what to say and what not to say, framing, and the importance of engaging the audience and telling a story as you perform. In all it was entertaining, educational and well received!

*Todd Nelson*

Welcome to the November meeting. As usual, we started with a teaching table. This month we had Scott Hood. He began by showing us interesting ways to produce a deck. It is more interesting than just pulling it out of our pockets. One way was to have the cards in a tied up rope and asking if people wanted to see a rope trick, and then pulling out cards, as well, he produced cards out of a Slinky. He also had some cool effects, such as 6-card repeat and Cardiographic.

Now, it was time for our lecture. But wait, no lecture. We broke off into small groups and discussed what we wanted to go over. The small group I was in was headed by Mike Kugel. The first thing we did was an effect that Denis Gesel created. He had nine laminated sheets with toys, he asked a spectator to choose any toy. All sheets were different. Then he turned the sheets around and the same toys were in a different order. By telling Denis which sheet the selected toy was on, he divined the thought of toy. He also brought prototypes for similar effects with books and movie posters, patent pending.

Now we got into many card effects, some simple self working and some that required sleight of hand. Many participated, many learned. Then our group was graced by the incomparable Vic Trabucco. I could watch him forever. He has so much to teach and he makes everything look so easy. He had an Any Card At Any Number routine that floored everyone. I just bought Destiny Deal,

from Penguin, and I thought I had a good ACAAN, but it was no Trabucco handling. It was a great night, I learned a lot, but I wonder what I missed out on from other tables. Oh well, at least I had the Trabucco experience and I hope to learn more from our members.

*Shlomo Birkan*

## **RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa- Greenberg Ring**

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm, Eat'n Park, 1250 Banksville Rd., Pittsburgh, PA  
MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@sei.cmu.edu  
Web site: [www.ibmring13.org](http://www.ibmring13.org)

Happy New Year! In November, we elected the following members to be our Ring officers for 2026: President Joshua Messado; Vice President Ralph Kelly; Secretary Mark Zajicek; Treasurer Todd Hertzberg; Sergeant at Arms Matt "Levi" Burdine; and Board of Directors Tony Brahler, Lucy Hall, and Eric Meredith, with Joshua and Levi serving as ex officio board members.

President-elect Messado announced that he would be performing at The Magic Castle in December as well as for a holiday party for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Joshua "Lofi Messado" also announced the release of his new music single and an upcoming album of music. Lucy emceed our performers with a suggested theme of "juggling."

Tim Palucka presented his first performance for Ring membership, asking Joshua to cut some cards from a deck, silently count those cards, and place those cards into the card case. Tim dealt 20 more cards face up onto the table and instructed Joshua to remember the card at the position of his number of cards. Tim correctly identified the card at Joshua's number position. Tim then showed that card was the only blue-backed card in a red-backed deck and it also matched the card on the face of the packet that Joshua had placed inside the card case. Tim rolled up his sleeve to show the name of that card was also written on his forearm.

Joshua Messado jugged three balls, but he humorously stopped at juggling four balls, citing the low ceiling.

Todd Hertzberg asked Eric P to hold a small, clear box containing a folded playing card. Todd asked Alex to select and sign a card, which was returned to the middle of the deck. Todd opened the box and removed the folded card to show that it was Alex's signed card (Jon Allen's "Paragon 3D").

Steven Gailey jugged three balls in various patterns while telling us the history of his local clown troupe. Steven also jugged three clubs and then three swords.

James Cooper asked Sam to shuffle a packet of 20 cards and then guess whether each card was red or black as James separated the cards into one of two piles. James revealed that the cards were successfully sorted into all red and all black piles

(a variation of Paul Curry's "Out of This World").

Levi demonstrated three examples of memorable magic: making something float, setting something on fire, and changing currency from one bill to another. Levi folded a dollar bill into a small packet, then he opened the bill to show that had it turned inside out ("Mismade Bill") before he restored the bill to normal again. Levi returned the bill to his wallet as flames erupted from the wallet. Levi then took out another dollar bill and made it float between his outstretched hands.

Gary Filson showed a tall, rectangular tube with a picture of a Christmas tree on each side decorated with a red, a yellow, and a green ornament. Gary lifted that cover to show inside a clear tube holding a stack of the three, colored ornaments, but in the wrong order. Gary removed the ornaments, replaced the cover, and stacked the ornaments in the correct order. But when Gary lifted to cover again, the red ornament had again jumped to the bottom. Gary placed aside that red ornament into a separate storage box, then he reloaded the green and yellow ornaments. Once again the red ornament jumped to the bottom of the stack as Gary showed that it had vanished from its storage box (Christmas tree variation of "Strat-O-Sphere").

Sam Shea juggled three balls, and then he flipped through the pages of \*A Clown Magic Coloring Book\*, showing uncolored pictures. Sam snapped his fingers and flipped through the book again to show all of the pictures were now fully colored. Sam tore out the last page from the book that had a picture of a clown that was uncolored. Sam gave a set of six, numbered, colored markers and a die to Alex, instructing her to roll the die and then color in different parts of the clown picture with the respective numbered marker while Sam was blindfolded. When Alex finished, Sam showed that he had a duplicate copy of the picture that was colored exactly to match Alex's clown.

Eric Meredith explained the evolution of the Three-Card Monte trick, and he challenged us to follow and find a queen among two aces. Eric repeatedly caused the queen to switch places with one of the aces. Eric made the queen turn into a third ace, and then he made all three aces turn into three queens (Garrett Thomas' "Stand Up Monte").

Jeff Vanderhoff also juggled three balls, then he talked about juggling four, five, six, seven, and eight balls. Jeff showed that he could juggle "eight balls" as he juggled three, 8-ball billiard balls. Jeff then set up three glasses and filled each by emptying a water vase (Lota Bowl) in between the filling of each glass. Jeff placed a pie plate on top of the three water glasses, stood three cardboard

tubes on the plate above the glasses, and balanced an egg on top of each tube. Jeff smacked the edge of the plate with a broom handle, causing the eggs to successfully drop into the water glasses (\*The Klutz Book of Magic\* "The Broom and Egg Whap").

Our panel of judges named Steven Gailey as our November Magician of the Month. Congratulations, Steven!

Mark Zajicek

## RING 15, FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Ren Clark Ring

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:00pm at 4055 International Plaza, Ft. Worth, TX 76109

GEOFFREY GRIMES, Secretary / [ggrimes@aol.com](mailto:ggrimes@aol.com)

Facebook: Fort Worth Magicians Club

President Gavin Griggs welcomed attendees and announced the topic as "spooky magic," being it's October. He invited members to share their Halloween effects.

Doctor Mike opened the performances with Jim Kleefeld's mentalism effect, "Pocket Horrors Verite." Doc was able to discern the selected movies from the show cards each member had selected. He applied everything he could remember from his career as a psychotherapist (as well as the published method!)

Doctor Mike concluded his set with the "Go, Go Vanish," by Stuart James. Bill Irwin stepped to the platform to share his own version of the vanishing hank with a 2" sponge, enhanced by his "sailor/parrrot" script—FUNNNNNY! He followed up with a vanishing card.

Bill closed his set his "I have no idea what the name of this" card trick. After cutting a deck and selecting a revealed card, with the two split stacks separated, he was able to discern the selected card after a series of shuffles. He explained his use of a "breather card" to identify the selected card.

Ron Wilson presented a report on our "Rose Marine Theater" charity show in Fort Worth. For the second year, it was a great success, raising funds to help the theater to purchase a new stage curtain. The public really appreciated both our close-up opening acts and the stage shows featuring Doc Grimes, Russell Shead, Bill Irwin, and Ron Wilson.

Ron continued with pieces from his show at "The Loft" in Wichita Falls. Keeping with the theme of spooky magic, he began with the "haunted key." He noted that the "key" to the show is the audience's imagination—as in imagining the ghost can turn the key in his extended hand to begin the show. Laying it on the closeup pad, he covered the key with a "glorpy" scarf, trapping the "ghost" of the key beneath it.

For a second effect by Steve Banachek, Ron balanced a pen on the back of an upside down glass tumbler. The pen turned and dropped on

command. Bill Irwin introduced the discussion of “relevance”—how do we get our audience to care about the effect. Ron explained his “spirit” script.

Aaron Stone performed his incredible floating table, referencing his holiday script and Halloween show. He created his own version of a floating table design, using a 3-D printer! He shared harrowing tales of his attempts with prototypes. This version is created by John Slaughter, Aaron’s guest for the evening.

Doctor Mike and Geoff Grimes were up next, performing Greg Gleason’s “Quantum Coins,” his delightfully deceitful matrix routine. Three coins covered with a playing card vanish and transport invisibly under the fourth card, only to all return the same way to their original locations.

President Gavin appointed three club members to serve as a nominating committee for the sub-mission of a 2026 slate of officers.

The evening concluded with the attendees sharing warm memories of club magician Hal Hudgins, waging his battle in the hospital, suffering from pneumonia. The club offered prayers and best wishes for his recovery. *Dr. Geoffrey Grimes*

#### **RING 16, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – Society of Memphis Magicians**

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00pm, Germantown Presbyterian Church

JEFFREY DAY, Secretary

Web sites: [www.ring16.org](http://www.ring16.org)

Our November Meeting was Jam Packed with Great Magic. We had a short business meeting to elect officers for the coming year and set the date for our Holiday Party. Our 2026 officers are President Joe M. Turner, Vice President Michael Waits, Treasurer Don Berry, and Secretary Ring Reporter Dr. Jon Stanford. Now on for a Great Night of Magic.

Our first portion of magic was a Video submitted by Joey Butler who is one of our mentalists. He wanted two routines to be considered for our upcoming Public Show. The first was his version of “Quante” by Gaetan Bloom followed by “Elementary Mr. Watson” which was a murder mystery routine.

Now on to Our Annual Magic Competition titled SMMURFFF. This stands for Society of Memphis Magicians Unique Reward For Finishing First. This is a highly coveted award with the winner receiving a trophy and dinner at the Holiday Party. We had the highest number of contestants competing this year that we have ever had.

Our 1st contestant was Doug Green. He is a well known Mentalist and a Great Performer. Doug is our Director for the Big Magic Show on February 21, 2026. Doug calls himself “The Mind Thief.” He presented his version of a Annemann/Corinda Routine where he predicted a

Spectator’s choice of a Person, Place, and a meal that they shared together. Doug’s Mentalism Routines are always amazing!

Our 2nd contestant was Grayson Smith aka The Amazin Grayson. His routine tonight was titled “The Silent Treatment” which is his version of a Jon Allen Routine. Grayson had a narrator speak on his behalf as he allowed a spectator choose a card. He revealed his prediction which had been in his mouth the entire time therefore he couldn’t speak. Grayson is a regular performer around Memphis. His Magic is always uplifting and leaves the spectator with a smile on their face and their heart.

Our 3rd contestant was Don Berry who is both a fine musician as well as a fine magician. He performed his show opener, “Fire and Fun” from his “The Wonders in Illusion” show. He presented a Flash Pan to Spring Dollar Bills followed by a Disappearing Candle – all set to music.

Our 4th contestant was Michael Clayton, who is a well known full time magician in the Memphis and Mid-South Area. Michael will be performing the large illusion portion of our Public Show in February. Tonight he performed a fine Billard Ball Routine ending in a confetti snow storm proving his skills include manipulations as well as illusions.

Our 5th contestant was Dr. Jon Stanford. He presented the Shaman Spirit Box from Sedona, Arizona aka “Dean Dill’s Box.” He followed that with Oscar “The Owl.” This is a card routine, where a miniature owl finds 2 spectators cards in a very magical manner.

Our 6th contestant was Stuart Dunkin. He presented an Oriental Routine which told the story of several shopkeepers quest for establishing their operating hours. Their shop banners disappeared and reappeared in a surprise ending. It was set to the music “Shadow Dance.” Stuart has been performing magic for 30 years in clubs, parties, corporate events, and nightclubs across the country.

Our 7th contestant was Joe M. Turner. Joe is a Past President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and writes a monthly column for “Genii Magazine.” Joe is constantly in demand performing magic, music, and speaking engagements. He is also going to be the emcee for our Big Show. Tonight he entertained first with coin manipulations. He then produced a bottle out of thin air and proceeded to pass the bottle through a spectators body. He completed his performance with the divination of cities around the world thought of by spectators using luggage tags.

Our 8th and final contestant was Bentley Burns. Bentley is a very busy magician performing throughout the region including appearing on Penn and Teller’s “Fool Us.” Tonight he performed

“Double Shot” where 2 full shot glasses disappear only covered by a silk. He followed this with a Jumbo “McDonald’s Aces.” He may not been able to fool Penn and Teller but he did fool us.

This concluded a Great Night of Magic. It was a very close competition as you can see from the descriptions. The winner of the 2025 SMMURFFF Competition was Dr. Jon Stanford.

If you are ever in the Memphis Area on the 1st Tuesday of the month, we meet at the Germantown Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm. We would love to have you visit. *Dr. Jon Stanford*

#### **RING 21, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA – Caryl Fleming**

Meets 1st Thu at Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Cathedral auditorium, 650 Michelorena St., Los Angeles, CA 90026 / Web site: [www.IBMRing21.org](http://www.IBMRing21.org)  
GERRY SCHILLER, Secretary  
P.O. Box 246, Newbury Park, CA 91319 / (805) 499-8921  
E-mail: [geraldschiller@gmail.com](mailto:geraldschiller@gmail.com)

President Bob Weiss began the meeting talking about last month’s banquet with everyone agreeing it was great food, a great room, great raffle prizes (some donated by the magic store The Magic Apple in Studio City), great entertainment by Jay Scott Berry and a big possibility that the club will return to El Mariachi Grill again next year. Bob introduced a couple new members as well as other news and information and then he introduced the visiting International president of I.B.M. Stephen Levine. He talked about the upcoming summer convention next year in St. Louis as well as the new updated website coming soon and other benefit offerings that the international provides for our members besides *The Linking Ring Magazine*.

Then it was onto our main presentation for the night. And it was to be Jay Scott Berry’s last lecture ever. He began with his 18 minute Magic Castle close-up performance that he did at the castle and then he went and showed us step by step how it worked. It was filled with so much magic from silk appearances and disappearances combined with balls, rings and his magic wand. And so smooth it seemed effortlessly, real magic! He showed using a special topit that he created on both the right and left sides of the jacket with a zipper to make it a sure fire catch. Jay Scott also showed us a special gimmick that was invisible in the hand for vanishes and appearances that he created and later sold. The lecture lasted for about two hours and seemed to go very quickly. Because he had some items for sale there were no raffle prices held this night. Everyone seemed to have a great time and it was very well attended. Next month will be our holiday party with holiday magic and feast.

*Bob Weiss*

#### **RING 23, CLEVELAND, OHIO – Blackstone Ring**

Meets 1st Wed., at 7:00 p.m. at Pleasant Hills United Methodist Church 13200 Bagley Rd., Cleveland, OH 44130 / [www.ring23.org](http://www.ring23.org)  
DAVID NEUMAN, President / E-mail: [neuman77@gmail.com](mailto:neuman77@gmail.com)

The November meeting of The Cleveland Magicians Club Ring #23 started with two major events for the evening program. In attendance there were 45 members along with non-members present. First on the agenda, was our annual elections of officers. Nominations were given and accepted. The results are as follows:

David Neuman - President

Bryan Gerber - Vice President

Bruce Averbook - Recording Secretary

David Sarian - General Secretary

David Boyce - Treasurer

Sergio Castro Program Chairman

Jim Hathy - Sergeant of Arms

We are all looking forward to an exciting year.

Next the stage was set for our annual contest. This included both stage and close-up competitions. This year we had seven performers in each category. All performers did an excellent job. A big thank you to the judges, Ed Verba II, Sharon Martynowski and Jason Tilk, who had quite a job selecting the winners. The winners are as follows:

##### **Close-Up**

1st - Sergio Castro

2nd - Bryan Gerber

3rd - Russell Welsh

##### **Stage**

1st - Chris Budyka

2nd - Sergio Castro

3rd - Jim Hathy

If you are in the Cleveland area, stop into one of our meetings. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Hills United Methodist Church. 13200 Bagley Rd. Cleveland Ohio 44130. We would love to see you there!

*David Neuman*

#### **RING 31, MADISON, WISCONSIN – Ben Bergor Ring**

Meets 1st Wed. each month, 6:30pm at the Sequoia Public Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison, WI.  
MARK PEPELEA, Ring Contact  
(608) 425-8839 / [mpepelea@gmail.com](mailto:mpepelea@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.ibmring31.com](http://www.ibmring31.com)  
<http://www.facebook.com/BenBergor.IBMRing31>

Our October Monthly meeting of the Madison Ring 31 began with a giant magic pickup donated by two aging out magicians whose families wanted to see these collectables, props and books get into to good hands. Two large conference tables were filled with a giant, assortment of magic from 5 decades of performance! Each member was invited to take what they want and donate what

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

they feel the items are financially worth to a local food bank.

Afterwards, the materials left will travel on to another IBM Ring, and then a convention for others to participate. Thanks to Mark Pepelea for organizing this. After the bonanza magic donation, a quick business meeting involving a holiday party plan was conducted. Then it was time to perform. We had 7 of our members choose to share. Our theme this month was Magic Mentors and Heroes.

Each of the performing members shared stories and wisdom from some of their mentors and heroes. Indeed, mentorship seemed a key component in many of the magi's lives and in learning magic. First to share was Daryl Rogers, who performed a beautiful torn and restored newspaper effect while reciting a Shel Silverstein poem. Next was Lynn Miner performing a gypsy witch playing card matrix invention written up recently in one of the LRs. Third, Tal Kuhnz spoke of his mentor J. Jay and performed the trick Inferno.

Then Dan Feaster performed his mentor's trick the Whispering Die. Mark Pepelea performed a card/mind reading effect from one of his mentors, while Wayne Peterson shared a Houdini silk piece after speaking briefly about the escaped one inspiration. Finally, Richard Ortiz Diaz performed and taught a very deceptive and effective coin vanish sleight that was both profoundly simply and elegant. Till next time, we hope to find you warm, happy and magical.

*Benjamin Talbot*

#### **RING 32, ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA – Allentown Society of Magicians, Inc.**

Meets 2nd Mon. of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at Hops Restaurant, 1945 W. Columbia Ave., Allentown, PA.

Web site: [www.ring32.rhhomepage.com](http://www.ring32.rhhomepage.com).

JOE KEPPEL, President

Our November meeting brought in a change of weather, (fall to winter), and a change of officers. Joe Keppel remains president, Don Severn, vice president, Al Grout, secretary, Jeff Stortz, treasurer, and Bruce Ward, member at large. After a brief business meeting, we had Scott Correll back again this year. Coming up from his home in Florida with lots of magic and another great dealer demo. Scott has been with us many times and always has new items and something for everyone. And again, he didn't disappoint.

Coin magic at half price. I purchased the melting silver dollar. Silk affects, card affects, cup and balls, chop cup, smoke machines, remote control light bulbs, and on and on. It was a fun and rewarding evening. We all stocked up on some new items. Thanks Scott for a great night and hope to see you next year.

*Al Grout*

#### **RING 39, HOUSTON, TX – Scott Hollingsworth Ring**

[www.houstonmagic.com](http://www.houstonmagic.com)

JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH, Secretary / E-mail: [judy4birds@yahoo.com](mailto:judy4birds@yahoo.com)

November is traditionally flea market/swap meet for Houston magicians. This year's array of bargains drew a large, enthusiastic crowd. Business meetings were, perforce, short and to the point. President Gene Protas called the I.B.M. meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Michael Thomas moved to waive the guest rule; Bettie Protas seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes. Marco Vasquez moved to accept the October minutes as published. Harry Maurer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Treasurer Judy Hollingsworth gave the financial report; there were no questions. Judy Hollingsworth read the slate of officers (second reading) for next year, to wit: Gene Protas President, Johan McElroy Vice President, Judy Hollingsworth Secretary/Treasurer, and Donnie Kornegay Sergeant-at-Arms. There were no nominations from the floor.

Discussion ensued about the upcoming Christmas party in December and the annual installation banquet and show on February 15. Gene Protas will take reservations for the banquet, which will feature great food and some nationally-known performers that will blow you away. Make reservations early, as seats are limited.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m. with an anxious crowd ready to buy, buy, buy!

*Judy Hollingsworth*

#### **RING 43, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – Harlan Tarbell Ring**

3rd Fri. except July and August, 7:00 p.m., at Magic, Inc. 1838 W. Lawrence, Ave., Chicago, IL

MIKE KAMLET, President / E-mail: [kamlet@ameritech.net](mailto:kamlet@ameritech.net)  
175 E. Delaware #8502, Chicago, IL 60611 / (312) 266-2129  
Web site: [www.ring43.org](http://www.ring43.org)

Chad is an internationally acclaimed performer and creator, known for blending amazing magic with humor. Chad is also known for his many creations such as The Shuffle Lesson, Now Look Here, Spineless and many more great effects using cards, coins, mentalism along with various everyday objects.

Chad's first comedy bit was to produce a nickel, not from under a silk, but rather from under a silk bed sheet! He then magically produced three silver dollars and did a great coin routine where the coins appeared, disappeared, and teleported to different locations.

Next up was a card effect where the card was forced using an Electric Deck. He was interrupted by a bell ringing and produced a pan of fresh-baked cookies from his case. The selected card vanished from the deck and appeared on his table.

As a show of skill he began pulling cards apparently out off the wall.

Chad had Nancy Anderson examine an envelope

which he then disassembled. He stapled the edges back together with a black pen inside. He then handed out book pages to various people to examine.

Chad then inserted the book cover into the stack of paper and the first word on the page selected was the word "time." Chad tore open the envelope and showed a picture of a clock was drawn inside the envelope. (Spineless).

Next he had a card selected and returned to the deck claiming it would rise to the top. The top card was turned over and it had a message "Look in his pocket." The card in his pocket said 'look in his hand'. The card in his hand said "Look on the table" and the card on the table was the selected card!

Chad took a piece of uncooked spaghetti, broke it up and chewed the pieces. He then reached into his mouth and pulled out the foot-long piece of uncooked pasta, fully restored. (Al Dente) As a finale, he then snorted it up his nose!

Next up, Chad took two knitting needles and a spool of thread and apparently knitted a silk right before our eyes!

During the pandemic, Chad took up origami. He told Nancy he could read her mind using origami. She chose an origami card with a picture of the finished product. He placed the card in his pocket without looking and said he would create the origami figure she had chosen. After a few false starts, he gave up and crumpled up the paper but when he looked at the origami card it was for a paper crumpled ball.

Finally, Chad showed his lottery bill. A five dollar bill had a scratch-off panel on it. He explained that the lottery was trying something new. When the panel was scratched off it said "20". The five dollar bill instantly changed to a twenty dollar bill!

After the meeting a number of club members went to Primo Chuckies Restaurant for additional fun and fellowship.

*John Hutsebaut*

#### **RING 46, OKLAHOMA CITY – Seymour Davis Ring**

Meets 1st Mon. of month, New Beginning Fellowship Church, 15601 S.

Pennsylvania, OKC

LEE WOODSIDE, Secretary

E-mail: [WoodsideLee@hotmail.com](mailto:WoodsideLee@hotmail.com)

Ring Web site: [www.okcmagic.org](http://www.okcmagic.org)

President Cassidy Smith introduced David Teeman as our featured performer for December. David began by showing that it's easy to tie a square knot, especially if you have a square rope. He then showed a red rope, a green rope, and a yellow rope. He tied the two red ends together, the two green ends together and the two yellow ends together. Instead of ending up with three rope rings, however, he ended up with one giant ring.

David showed three different colored ropes tied in rings. He magically linked the three rings together. David showed us his wonderful method for "getting ready" for the performance of the Hindu Beads right in front of the audience.

David brought out a cord and a croquet ball with a hole drilled through the middle. He threaded the cord through the ball and demonstrated that he could cause the ball to stop at any point along the cord. He then invited Bruce Rodesney (AKA Murphy Villa) to try it, but of course he couldn't make it work.

Cassidy Smith showed us a variety of rope magic tricks that are available. He showed us the "Tide" gag, a rope with magnets, the cut and restored rope, false knots, the one-handed knot, and the William Tell knot. He stressed that a very good pair of scissors should be used for the cut and restored rope trick. He also showed us a fake Elmer's Glue bottle that could be used as a comedy way of restoring a rope.

Jonathon Meyer generously offered the use of his new Magic & Comedy Theater for our December Holiday Party and Stage/Parlor Magic Contest. A vote was taken and everyone welcomed of the idea.

Cassidy Smith led off our member performances by asking Derrick Beeson to select a playing card. The card was returned to the deck and with a "spap," it flew out of the deck and Cassidy caught it. Cassidy also showed the new Popschticle gag item from Pop Haydn. Pulling an ice cream bar from one's pocket, taking a bite out of it, and returning it to the pocket is a great laugh getter.

Lee Woodside performed the "Square Knot in Square Rope" that he uses to open every performance of his "Captain Lee's Magic Medicine Show." He gave tips on making this a memorable magic trick rather than just a "throwaway" bit. Lee then gave pointers on the performance of the Professor's Nightmare. He said that he prefers 3/16-inch blue Dacron rope rather than the traditional magician's rope. He also offered tips on the Fred Kaps move and the false count that turn the trick into a miracle. Lee emphasized that it is important to make eye contact with every member of the audience during the opening trick.

Bruce Rodesney invited David Teeman and Rick Johnson to each hold one end of a rope. Actually, it appeared to be a long rope and a short rope tied together. Bruce grasped the knot and moved it to another point on the rope and untied it to show two ropes. He retied the knot and again moved it along the rope. He again untied it and retied it. Bruce borrowed Lee Woodside's three ropes and performed his version of the Professor's Nightmare.

*Lee Woodside*

## **RING 49, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA – The Doug Henning Magic Wand Club**

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00p.m. (except July and August), Ryerson United Church, 265 Wilson St. E, Lancaster, ON  
DOUG HUNT, President, / E-mail: [stiltrecord@yahoo.ca](mailto:stiltrecord@yahoo.ca) (519) 750-4703  
Web site: [ring49magic.com](http://ring49magic.com)

This month (Nov 2025) Ring 49 hosted a lecture by Chris Campbell on his FenyxFyre Escapology Thrill Show. This might be a little off the beaten path for many in our guild, but not far off. Magic has a much older history in the so-called 'old world' but in North America some of our earliest performers\* were people like the Davenport brothers who would be tied up and closed into a cabinet. Supposedly spirits would then cause things to happen that a tied man couldn't do (spoiler alert: an escapologist could). At the turn of the century (1900) many spiritualists and mediums would have themselves tied to their chair before the lights were out – well, I think you see where this might be going.

The most famous magician of this era, Harry Houdini, was just as famous for escapism as for magic, and he spent his later career exposing fake mediums. To be fair, he never exposed any real mediums, but maybe because he never found one.

All that to say, Chris fits right into our community and he gave us an incredible and valuable look into a less common side of our art. I'm hesitant to delve too far into Chris's personal life as he was quite open, but many years ago he met an old carney, and that chance encounter set him on life-long path into the wild world of escapism.

His material largely distilled down to his audience (us) trying to restrain him, and he shaking off the shackles like water from a duck's back. He escaped from ropes, zip ties, straitjackets, and even handcuffs. In fact, he once posted a video with just a little too much information about handcuffs and was then contacted by our Provincial Police. Long story short the video was taken down but he now consults with them now helping new recruits learn more about their equipment.

He opened standard police handcuffs in seconds using a five-dollar bill – honestly! This guy was amazing. He went over the basics of lock picking, taught a member to escape from a standard straight jacket (successfully first try), and exhibited many of the 'prop' (i.e., gimmicked) equipment available on the market (but he usually uses 'the real things'). Chris also develops and markets a lot of his own equipment.

The uniqueness of his material, his thorough knowledge of escapology, and his open and approachable demeanor made this a presentation that will stay with us indefinitely.

\*Note: this writer does recognize that there were well-developed peoples and cultures in North America prior to European settlers and they

may have included magical effects, but unfortunately this has not been well-documented.

*Rene Chouinard*

## **RING 50, WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Capital Ring**

Meets 1st Wed. 7:30 pm, Lyceum Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314 Web site: [www.IBMRing50.org](http://www.IBMRing50.org)  
MARC CARRION, President / E-mail: [president@ibmring50.org](mailto:president@ibmring50.org)  
TODD EISENSTADT, Secretary / E-mail: [toddeisensta@gmail.com](mailto:toddeisensta@gmail.com)

Over a dozen magic tricks and books were reviewed by Ring 50 members at their latest meeting, but club members only had positive things to say about all the items they selected to review. Indeed, "Buyers Rejoice; Buyer's Remorse," was the theme of the November 5 meeting of IBM Ring 50 organized by Ring 50 Vice President Mitch Praver, who said that a late fall meeting to review magic tricks might inform club members' holiday purchases.

Larry Lipman opened the evening by performing a prediction trick where the kid helper wins a dollar but the magician opens his sock to find a wad of bills. The trick was from Kid Tested Magician Approved by Christopher T. Magician, a book featuring hundreds of pages of original routines designed specifically for children's entertainers that has received rave reviews in the magic community. Then Todd Eisenstadt reviewed "Copenetro" by the Argentine magic builder Shinetti, a version of the classic coin penetration effect housed on a portable table that allows coins to visibly penetrate through glass. Next, Arnie Fuoco presented "Mystery of the Rune Ring" by Anthony Yap, a baffling ring-through-rod penetration effect where a mystical rune-covered ring appears locked onto a metal rod between two nuts after being dropped into a completely examinable box. Lars Klores demonstrated "Notion of Motion" by Angelo Carbone, a groundbreaking rising card effect that allows any freely-named card to rise from a deck on command without forces, threads, magnets, or electronics, and "Glass Penetration" by SEO Magic, an instant close-up miracle where a transparent board penetrates through a ribbon-threaded frame even though the ribbon remains threaded.

Danny Selnick showcased "Last Laugh" by Vinny Sagoo, a simple and entertaining routine with colorful cards and jokers that features an instant reset and can be fully examined by the audience, and "Mystic Alignment" by Retro Rocketeers, a wooden prediction effect with blocks. Marc Carrion performed "Suave Links" by Milo Belamorte, a visual sequence of links and unlinks using only two close-up linking rings with an innovative grip that allows beautiful solid-through-solid effects. Mitch Praver demonstrated "Not.ESP" by Jake Keane, a hand-drawn prediction system disguised as a harmless notes app that

creates deceptive drawing duplications instantly, on the fly, and in full view of spectators. Steve DeSimone concluded with a review of TimCo Magic, an independent magic producer of a range of wood crafted items and other tricks, who recently moved to Hagerstown, MD and opened an online store. Geoff Weber finished the review session buy giving a strong review to Super Sucker, a “paddle move” trick in which a nickel turns into a lollipop.

*Marc Carrion*

### **RING 55, PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Bert Easley / Danny Dew Ring**

Meets 1st Tue, 7:00 pm, at Denny's, 3315 Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ / Web site: [www.ring55.org](http://www.ring55.org)

TANK HANNA, President (480) 343-0034

E-mail: [president@PhoenixMagicClub.com](mailto:president@PhoenixMagicClub.com)

The theme for the first of two meetings this month was Dollar/Thrift/Hardware Store Magic. Members dusted off those DIY masterpieces and came ready to inspire their fellow conjurers. Frank Ferrante showed us Transposition. A handkerchief vanished from one side of the room and appeared in a covered Coke bottle on the other side. It took a shopping trip to a dollar store and a hardware store, but Frank ended up with a great looking effect. One of our newer members, Zhe Xu (David), has only been doing magic for a few months but performed a great piece about getting married at the courthouse. With the help of some magic he turned \$5 into \$25 for the license and left the courthouse a married man! With Mystique running full tilt in the Phoenix area we have pro magicians coming to town every week. This week's performer, Dave Cox, came to our meeting and showed how he can sniff out a chosen card, and pass that skill onto someone else! He also gave valuable advice to the members who wanted feedback. Other performers included David Goldberg, Doug Northway, Bill Halmi, David Boehm, John Thornton, Gary Chan, Anvesh Yalamanchili, Brad Zinn, and Jay Jennings. The theme for the second meeting of the month was Creepy or Bizarre Magic. Members were encouraged to perform effects that ventured into the strange side of our art, and they embraced the theme with spooky flair. David Boehm, club VP, and his grandson Eddie took the theme to extremes and opened the evening as Dr. Phlegm & Dr McMucus. They performed a lovely plague themed routine, fit for the Middle Ages and today. Ricky Griffith's Dr. G came next with a classic séance touch, thrilling us with a spirit bell that rang on its own—an effect that set the perfect tone for the night. Doug Northway, club treasurer, showed a pair of floating effects that were as mysterious as they were ghostly. Objects moved and hovered in a way that made everyone lean in for a closer look. David Goldberg put Dr. McMucus

under the spell of suggestion for a hypnosis demonstration that ended with a clever bill tear routine—equal parts laughter and wonder. John Thornton served up something truly unique: real chicken bones put to use in an uncanny display of psychokinesis. It was weird, wonderful, and just a little disturbing—exactly what the theme called for. Gary Lazok presented a clever bag-and-balls routine with a mentalism twist, revealing hidden thoughts in a way that left the audience puzzled and impressed. Bill Halmi got some audible gasps with his chewed and restored raw spaghetti effect—gross, hilarious, and surprisingly magical. It fit the theme perfectly. Ravi Gahunia returned us to the spirit world with a mind-reading sequence using dice that culminated in another spirit bell manifestation. Chills, yes. Finally, Tank Hanna, club President, closed the evening with a condensed version of Sole Survivor by Robert Neal, providing a suspenseful and satisfying finish to our night of bizarre magic. *Jay Jennings*

### **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](http://ibmring58.com)

VICTOR AGREDA, Jr., President

(865) 223-1401 / e-mail: [vagredajr@gmail.com](mailto:vagredajr@gmail.com)

The theme for our October meeting was Spooky Magic, and our magicians responded appropriately.

Ed Ripley broke the ice as our first performer. He opened with the Hundy 500 and added a scary good ending. We're not sure if Ed printed up those hundreds himself, but that's another trick.

Michael Priestap's walk-on music was Jeff Beck's Ain't Superstitious. Bill Osburn and Sherman Wires helped him perform Spook Keys. Bill had a free selection of three skeleton keys, and he picked two for Michael and Sherman to use. Only one of them was haunted, and Bill was unable to make a connection with the haunted key and levitate it. However, Sherman and Michael were able to do it with the greatest of ease (and hidden magnets.)

Our next magician was Bill Sturgis, and he performed Tale of the Tarot using Angel tarot cards. Bill Osburn helped by mixing up the cards and separating into two piles. Despite his best efforts, Bill Sturgis was able to match the top cards of both piles from beginning to end.

Jim Stott discussed his first magic book from Scholastic, which he got in elementary school. He also discussed Magic and Monsters by David Ginn along with John Bundy's Tricks and Treats. That one has ideas on changing props into spooky ones. Jim then displayed a prop gun and explained how he uses it in his children's shows. He then

shot an extra-long snake into the audience, much to our delight.

Program Chairman Nick Roberts performed a silk through arm routine with Bill Osburn's help. And his arm. Nick then used a David Ginn prop to stick five metal spikes through Bill's arm.

Ed Ripley assisted Roy Schubert with Mind Over Matter, ending with the selected cards penetrating his handkerchief. The last magic Roy performed was a card trick in which he hypnotized Ed. Lastly, Roy generously gave away a Harry Kellar biography.

Bill Osburn showed off his tech magic with an interactive Thurston poster (The Man Who Knows.) Thurston's eyes light up and move back and forth as Bill had four people select a card. Thurston's first card revelation was physical, with the card popping out of Thurston's turban. The last three revelations were revealed verbally by Thurston. He was voiced by ventriloquist/magician Stephen Knowles, who entertained tourists for years at the Comedy Barn in Pigeon Forge. Bill talked about the challenges building this effect, and asked the group for feedback on improving the effect.

Our next magi was cardician Andrew McGrath, who performed an impromptu magic trick with Sherman, Ed and Josh.

Our show closed with John Gyllenhall performing Mark Elsdon's The Trick That Can Be Explained. This is a variation of Dai Vernon's The Trick That Can't Be Explained. Roy Schubert assisted as John told a story about a dream he had about the selected cards. John magically finished the trick by matching Roy's card with his dream cards.

*Michael Priestap for Tim Pressley*

#### **RING 60, AUSTIN, TEXAS – Carl Moore Ring**

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00, at Hero's Night Out in Cedar Park.

TRICIA HEIL DAVIS, President

Web site: [www.ibmring60.org](http://www.ibmring60.org)

Ring 60 gathered in November to honor Mary Cay Gold in a Broken Wand ceremony presided over by Kent Cummins. Many Ring members shared their memories of Mary Cay as a kind and dynamic person, and their gratitude for her long-time service to the magic community. She was truly a force of magic nature and will be missed by so very many friends and family.

We moved into the Ring meeting with an engaging and well-researched presentation from Burt Rosenbluth about the incomparable Max Maven. Burt led us through the evolution of Phillip Goldstein to Max Maven including his early times as Clancy the Clown and Max Ganef. Max was a prolific author, teacher and creator. Prism, Maven's multi-volume color series of mentalism, remains influential and profound. Brad Henderson shared some personal stories of

time he spent with Max, including their travels together in Russia and performing for the Russian space program.

Christmas magic was the theme of the Ring meeting, and we enjoyed performances from several members. Entertaining Christmas-themed presentations of some classic and some new effects commenced with President Scott Wells' creative take on Santa's Coffee Cup. Vice-President JD Stewart followed, taking us "Out to Christmas Lunch". Tricia Heil Davis then discerned Santa's favorite movie from audience volunteers. Rob Tarry rounded out the holiday spirit with his Disappearing Christmas Cards and Granted Wishes from Santa.

We will gather in December for Past-Presidents night, and head into the new year with full magic hearts.

*Tricia Heil Davis*

#### **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](http://www.louisvillemagicclub.com)

On Oct 14th the Louisville Magic Club held its annual Dr. Robert C Escher close/up -parlor contest. We had about 35 members in attendance. The judges were professional cruise magicians Brandon Baggett, Master magician Dinky Gowan, and escape artist Jayden Gowan. Michele Raymer was the official timekeeper. Seven contestants entered the contest. After about an hour of competitive entertainment, the winners were announced by our contest coordinator, Michael Raymer. #1. Jim "Uncle Red" Harris, with his Four Nightmares rope trick. #2. Bret Sohl, with an electronic hat that would illuminate when a chosen card was predicted, and #3. Joanna Logsdon with a very well executed card routine. Although Joanna is only 15 years old, she elected to compete with the seniors, and it paid off! Congrats to our winners! After the contest, club elections were held, and Bret Sohl was elected club president staring Jan 1, 2026. We usually meet the second Tues of each month, in the Kosa Center on Eastern Parkway. If you're in Louisville, check us out!

*Carl Loud*

#### **RING 68, TOLEDO, OHIO – Toledo Society of Magicians**

Meets 2nd Tues., each month, 6:30 p.m. Location varies.

PATRICK PRZYSIECKI, President

E-mail: [patrick@patrickmagic.com](mailto:patrick@patrickmagic.com)

Ring 68 (Toledo, Ohio) met on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at the main public library in Toledo, located on Michigan Avenue. Six members (George Magill, Martin Jarrett, Patrick Przysiecki, Michael Knight, Boomer Reynolds, and Doug Ferguson) were in attendance. Boomer gave us a false shuffle and false dealing lecture.

Boomer Reynolds began his demonstration from the perspective of a casino dealer with some card mechanic control. With many examples of different approaches by Steve Forte, Jason Ledayne, Richard Turner, Jason England, and Steve Reynolds, Boomer explained the latest casino dealer moves, including the now-required shuffle sequence (box, riffle, riffle, box, strip, box, riffle, strip, and cut) with details on the box cut. He repeated the advice of making all your shuffles look the same. Boomer demonstrated how to bow the top part of the deck to allow the dealer's hands to separate completely after a box cut but still find the break of a squared deck. The Zarrow shuffle was also shown. Boomer gave tips on second-dealing and bottom-dealing (including advice on how to use a straddle grip for the latter). He also showed how a bottom deal was facilitated in a stud game by turning cards faceup (large action) to cover the bottom deal (small action). His lecture was beautiful to watch, and it was clearly the result of many hours of practice.

Martin presented a selected card in a wine glass routine. George showed a clever and "short" routine where five selected cards from a shuffled deck were randomly inserted one at a time from the five spectators into the deck, which was then reshuffled. Each card was revealed in a mysterious fashion that clicked with the group. Doug presented Michael Ammar's version of J. C. Wagner's Super Closer, with the twist of asking for a number from one to ten (rather than cutting small substacks) to prepare the spelling portion.

Finally, four members adjourned to the Attic on Adams Street for wings, adult beverages, and live discussion on magic.

*Doug Ferguson*

#### **RING 74, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK – Harris A. Solomon Ring**

Zoom meetings on the 2nd Tue at 7:00 p.m. In-person meetings on 3rd Tue at The Spaghetti Warehouse in Syracuse, please contact:  
KEN FREHM, President / E-mail: kfrehm@gmail.com  
JOEY HOFFMAN, Secretary / E-mail: joeydemonmagic@gmail.com

We had 10 members join us for this month's in-person meeting at the Spaghetti Warehouse. Bruce Purdy set up a few backdrops, a table, and lights to really set the mood for the spookiest time of year.

Sir James started off the magic portion of our meeting with a horn routine. Five different colored horns were removed from a box. We were instructed to select one, and Sir James picked it up and squeezed it, letting out a honk. He then picked up the remaining horns and squeezed them, but they didn't make a sound. We selected a different horn, and again, only ours would squeak.

Thomas Yeldon laid out five cards that said "Theater 1" all the way to five. He then took a deck of cards and spread it out showing each card had a different movie written on it. The cards were

turned over and mixed, and we were instructed to select one that would be our movie. We chose Inception. We then selected four other cards to mix in with ours. We then were told to place the cards on any theater. Once we had our five cards laid out, Thomas turned over the cards that said "Theater" and they were all blank. All except for the one our card was on, which said, "You will see Inception."

I had Dave select a card out of a deck, and shuffled the card in. I then showed Mathew about 15 or so cards and had him think of one. After the cards were mixed again, I asked Mathew to name his thought of card. I then spelt the name of the card out, dealing one card off the top for each letter. The last card was turned over, revealing Dave's original card.

Bruce Purdy had four large cards he pulled out of an envelope. One with a witch, and the other three with a vampire on them. The witch and a vampire were turned over and mixed into the cards, and we were told to follow the witch. We guessed wrong, and Bruce removed a vampire so now there were three cards. Again, he turned over the witch and the vampire, and mixed them up. We guessed wrong again. Finally, there were only two cards, the witch and one vampire, they were turned over and mixed again. Once more we guessed wrong, as neither card was a witch. The witch was in the envelope all along!

David Kilpatrick had some really cool older Zig-Zag card effects in a small and larger size. He also told us that there's a picture in the paper of him performing the Zig-Zag illusion with his wife back in the day! He also performed a Spots routine, where spots seem to magically appear and disappear on a piece of paper.

Ken Frehm shared a story about Houdini performing one of his famous box escapes. A King, two Jokers and a Queen were removed from the deck. He explained that Houdini, the King, would be placed in the middle of the deck between the two Jokers, while his wife, the Queen, would stand on top of the box (well deck for us). A sheet would be put over her and the deck, and when it was removed, the King was on top of the deck, and the Queen was in the middle with the two Jokers.

As it stands, the date for our Zoom meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month, and our in-person meetings will be the third Tuesday of the month. Both meetings start at 7, so try to sign on or get there a little before. Interested? Email kfrehm@gmail.com and a link will be sent. We welcome all!

*Joey Hoffman*

#### **RING 75, FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS – Bill Pitts Ring**

Meets 2nd Sun. each month, 1:30 p.m., Fort Smith Library, 3201 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith, AR  
KEN ZELNICK, Secretary / E-mail: kzelnick@suddenlink.net

The October meeting was called to order by

President Larry Bean. Meeting was opened with discussion on the upcoming Cavalcade of Magic 2026. Plans are coming together and emails will be sent out soon to everyone on the Cavalcade mailing list. If you would like to be on this list, email to [ron.ingram@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ron.ingram@sbcglobal.net). We had the Arkansas Quad-Ring Meeting on Saturday, November 8, 2025 in Russellville, AR. Attendees experienced a Flea Market, mini-lecture on using rope for silk effects and silk for rope effects, several magic performances, and received a special Quad-Ring Coin. We performed our post-partum discussion on it at the ring meeting. We announced and made plans for next month's Annual Christmas Lunch and Show. After a break, we got into some performing. Rod Barrett started us off with some show and tell of a Card to Balloon and Cherchez La Femme props. Clyde Hayre demonstrated a Color changing Silk routine and a Vintage Jumbo B-Wave routine he had purchased at the Quad-Ring meeting the day before. Then some show and tell his "Linking Ring Flash Back Book Test", and a Hummer Monte routine. Yours truly then performed a Chinese Egg Bag and Patrick Kelly produced and custom minted coin from a tattoo of the same on his chest. Jody Birchfield demonstrated several card shuffles and Larry Bean performed a mind control routine and his newest favorite Book Test. We then dismissed and several re-adjourned at a local restaurant to fellowship and discuss more magic.

Ron Ingram

#### **RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – Honest Sid Gerhart Ring**

Meets 7:00 pm 2nd Mon. of the month at Immaculate Conception Church located at 2540 San Diego Ave., San Diego, CA 92110  
MATTHEW KING, Secretary / Web site: [www.ring76.com](http://www.ring76.com)

For our October 13th meeting, we signed-in for Sergeant-At-Arms Mark Booth while Librarian Gary Salisbury issued raffle tickets. President Magic Mike Stilwell welcomed 28 members and their 11 guests. Membership-VP James Thayer announced that Ring 76's membership continues to increase. We now have 75 active members!

For his mini-lecture, President Stilwell taught us "What a Professional Entertainer Must Prepare For A Tax Consultant". [www.thimble.com](http://www.thimble.com) was recommended for personal liability insurance.

For being an exemplary entertainer, a mentor and a volunteer, we stood to applaud Master Magician Terry Lunceford. President Stilwell handed Terry his well-deserved plaque that proclaims him as an Honorary Life Member of San Diego's IBM Ring 76. Mr. Lunceford has been an avid member of our club since 1989.

We all paused for a "Moment of Silence" in order to honor the passing of member Ken Ball. President Stilwell also conducted the customary

Broken Wand ceremony to honor the passing of member Armando Torres. El Mago Ruly kindly accepted the pieces of Armando's retired wand.

Announcements. Our September 8th meeting was a well-attended, profitable "Swap Meet". Nine vendors using 16 tables displayed their For-Sale magical properties and literature. For two solid hours, the hall was abuzz with many curious local magicians and magic aficionados. On September 28th, at the Witch Creek Winery, Tim Wise produced the "Magic Night With Alchemy After Dark". There were two shows. The star of the Parlor Show was corporate-magician Derek Ostovani. The star of the Stage Show was world-renowned mentalist Banachek. Between the shows, Magic Mike Stilwell also warmed-up the audience with fun, lively magic.

On Monday nights, Tim Wise is also producing a magical venue at the New Village Arts Center. On February 28, '26, Professor Paul Dwork will host "Rotary Creates Magic", his 40th annual fundraiser, at the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center. As a benefactor, our club will get \$30 for each ticket sold when "IBM" is clicked at checkout. Buy advanced tickets at [magicmagicmagic.com](http://magicmagicmagic.com).

After explaining the new voting procedure, Entertainment-VP Paul Dwork introduced each of the magicians for the "Spooky Magic" show.

1. Jonathan Gold performed an exquisite silent act to music with solid coins and an Okito Box.

2. With Gretchen as his assistant, Magic Mike performed a funny card effect entitled "Socks".

3. With the electrifying head of Emily, Professor Paul performed "The Transference of Energy".

4. Max...with an x performed two bar betchas and "Cups & Balls" with wadded-up dollar bills.

5. Eric Karimi performed "Flower Shadow" with a thorny rose. By snipping only their shadows, the rose petals fell away, one-by-one.

6. With his handsome assistant Alex, Alfonso performed two versions of "The Voodoo Doll". A) the little straw man came to life like a mummy from a casket. B) a Harry Potter wand made the doll rise-and-fall on Alfonso's palm.

7. Using a canister containing a stack of colorful discs and ringing handbell - with no clapper (?) - Mark Booth told us the story of the mysterious Blackhearts: an evil, European medieval family.

8. With Gretchen as his lovely assistant, Callahan "The Halloween Klown" performed a devish card effect that he learned while in India.

9. Hudson Hale performed fanciful flourishes with silver coins; disappearing and reappearing, flying from hand-to-hand or into an empty cup.

Active and associate members used paper ballots to vote for their favorite of the nine performers. Our voting resulted in a tie! Both Magic Mike

and Professor Paul were the favorites of the “Spooky Magic” show.

Finally, let us all thank Alvin Revillas for again baking and serving his delicious pastries; and James Stilwell for supplying the drinking water.

*Kim “Max ... with an x” Long*

#### **RING 79, BINGHAMTON, JOHNSON CITY and ENDICOTT, NEW YORK – Southern Tier Magic Circle Inc.**

Meets 1st Mon. 7:00 p.m., Binghamton General Hospital's Russell Room, 40 Arch St., Johnson City, NY 13790  
NATHAN HICKEY, President  
Web site: [www.stiermagic.com](http://www.stiermagic.com)

Our November monthly meeting had our usual attendance plus 2 young gentlemen that are new to our area. One of them, Sharan, works with me and he brought his friend Warren. Sharan is new to magic and Warren has been doing magic for some time and is interested in continuing his interest.

During our business meeting we discussed the plans for our annual holiday party which will be on December 11th. We will again join with IBM Ring 74 (Ithaca) and SAM 263 (Big Flats). The groups will help subsidize the cost of the dinner to make it more affordable for all.

On to performances:

Jon Harris presented Joshua Jay's Triad Coins but he asked the group for some help on presentation and the vanishing of the last coin. Several members were able to give him advice from their experience using the Triad Coins. He also performed Extra Card which is a packet trick where there seems to be some extra cards and in the end there is a card “extra card” printed on the face.

Gary Freed performed The Epic Deck by Rick Lax. This is a pretty cool deck that can be blank or printed, can be red backed or blue backed and Gary performed it very well. He also performed The Magic Button by Craig Petty. A very nice version of an ambitious card routine with a twist.

John Maceli performed with Aragon's Mnemo-Fry deck. He did a card trick with a siamese deck and he performed a trick with an ESP deck where we tried to call a friend who was going to name the chosen cards but alas the friend did not answer the phone. With the ESP deck he used a principle called the permanent deck where the spectator can do certain shuffles and the order of the deck doesn't change.

Chris Sablich performed an old effect, Positive Thinking, by George Graham who owned 4 Jokers Magic Shop in Buffalo. He still had the original packaging so it cost \$2.49 cents about 25 years ago. It is a very nice packet trick that someone should put on the market again. Then he performed a new sponge ball trick that he is still working on. I hope he shows it again when he has it nailed down.

Doug Welch performed Paddle Magic by Keith

Fields. It was flawless and pretty amazing even though it was “just” a paddle effect. He also used our 2 guests to perform the classic cords of fantasy which I think impressed our guests.

I performed Collin's Aces and our guest Warren showed us his skills with coins and with cards. He is obviously very skilled and we look forward to seeing more of his skills next month. *Dan Young*

#### **RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone**

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. “Social Gathering,” 7:00 p.m. start time. Trinity United Methodist Church in Haley Hall, 4150 South Shade Ave., Sarasota, FL  
STAR NEWMAN, President / (651) 491-1050  
E-MAIL: [prettymagical@gmail.com](mailto:prettymagical@gmail.com) / Web site: [www.ibmring81.com](http://www.ibmring81.com)

The first Thursday of November had us planning for our December pizza party and we had fourteen at our meeting including a couple of first-time guests and our snowbird, Dick Stevens, returning for the “colder” months. Our slate of officers was unanimously approved for 2026 with Star Newman, president; David Pitchford, vice-president; Tom Vorjohan, secretary; Dan Walsh, treasurer. Time for magic!

Illusion builder Gene Alcorn shared with us his latest project – venturing into working with metal and creating table bases that will be gorgeous. Our energetic president led us through another fun get-to-know-you exercise, and then she introduced our theme of “Knacky Magic” as something that we worked hard on whether it is a knuckle-buster or something else worth the time and effort. She shared an Alice in Wonderland drawing that grew through many versions, and she was still not happy with the way it went over.

Our incoming new treasurer, Dan Walsh did an “Ambitious Sandwich” that included the knacky Hot Shot Cut and hours upon hours of practice.

Doing two different card effects, Brian Zimbler did a couple fun prediction effects both having a prediction that was spot on. Tom Vorjohan shared a little bit about the seven years that went into his word-morphing Tricks-4-Food released over 15 years ago, and he performed Cup-a-Rubba-Ball-a-Dubba poem with the Cups and Balls. Our former president, Gary Roberts is beginning to sell some of his life-long collection, but he is hanging onto the piece he shared with us where a vinyl 45-RPM record visibly passed through another; despite a lot of searching, the manufacturer is still not known.

Recently, Mason Raxter has been sharing some great magic on our Facebook page, and it was great to have him at his first meeting – even though it was like we already knew him. As he asked, “Do you believe in intuition?” he did an engaging version of Out of This World. One of our newer members, Ed del Castillo is enjoying revisiting some of the classics and used a found

card to identify the selected card as well as find the four Aces. And to conclude our performances, our returning snowbird, Dick Stevens, did several bits including a piece of comedy mentalism with David Pitchford being an "instant stooge," a silly clown that could color itself, and he concluded with Meir Yedid's BS card that got great laughs. Snacks were provided by Tom Vorjohan and Dick Stevens, and the fellowship both before and after the meeting is always a highlight. In fact, five of the group went out after the meeting and learned that today was Wic Cooney's 83rd birthday...a surprise even to Wic who had seemingly forgotten.

*Tom Vorjohan*

### **RING 89, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN – Neil Foster Ring**

Meets the second Monday of every month, 7 p.m., at American Museum of Magic located at 107 E. Michigan Ave. Marshall, MI 49068.

ERIC SULLIVAN, President

140 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI 49068 / E-mail: [trazdal@att.net](mailto:trazdal@att.net)

The October IBM Neil Foster Ring 89 meeting was a blast! John Sherwood, Phil (Le Grand Wysard Phillip), Kevin Rosewood, Eric Sullivan (Trazdel), Colleen, and Mark were all in attendance! Eric kicked off the meeting by introducing Mark. Mark is a magician from the Lansing area. Mark shared his magical journey and how it took him all over the United States, performing at county fairs, events, and schools. He shared stories of how magic always came back to him throughout the years in one way or another. John S. then shared information about the upcoming magic show that the ring was putting on the following weekend at Great Escape Stage Company. We talked through how the day would go and what to expect. Mark kicked off the magic with a haunted key. Mark was looking for advice on how to perform the effect and some other ways to utilize the key. John shared a great idea of using a pendulum as a way to introduce the key. Kevin shared the thought of having the key to help find a selected card. Phil shared some great tips on how to perform the effect. John S. shared his card manipulation act and shared tips with Kevin on how to work through the routine. Kevin then gave it a try. During the month of October, Ring 89 could be found all over Marshall, entertaining, performing magic, and creating wonder. On October 11th, the American Museum of Magic hosted a captivating magic show featuring John Sherwood, Eric Sullivan, Kevin Rosewood, and Le Grand Wysard Phillip. John's mesmerizing card manipulation and mentalism captivated the audience. Eric showcased his mastery of the multiplying rabbits, die box, and other classic magic effects. Kevin followed with his impressive card and Rubik's Cube magic. Phil concluded the show with his extraordinary rendition of the Chinese sticks and the linking rings. After a brief break,

John, Eric, Phil, and Kevin visited Maria's Uncorked and Viking Warrior Axe Throwing Co. to discuss the upcoming Ring 89 magic show, "The Magic Cabin." They shared their talents: John's rope magic, Eric's sponge bunnies, Kevin's card effects, and Phil's thread of life. The magic delighted everyone and raised awareness about the museum, Ring 89, and The Magic Cabin. On October 18th, The Magic Cabin at the Great Escape Stage Company captivated audiences with an unforgettable afternoon of enchantment, laughter, and amazement. John Sherwood, the charismatic emcee, delighted everyone with his skillful displays using balls, cards, and ropes, introducing a stellar lineup of performers. Eric Sullivan's Die Box routine and mind-bending card effect left the audience in awe. Leia Spade's single-spoon trick amazed the crowd, while Ferran Charles's playful mastery of Sharpies, coins, and Mr. Potato Head entertained everyone. Le Grand Wysard Phillip's mesmerizing performance with a picture frame and six rings concluded Act One. The dynamic duo, Kik and Rosewood, transported the audience into a 1920s study, showcasing impossible teleportations and a jaw-dropping card revelation. IBM Neil Foster Ring 89 was honored to share its magic with the city of Marshall this October. We look forward to more exciting events in the future. The next meeting will take place on November 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Michigan. The theme is Productions. Until then, keep practicing, performing, and sharing amazement. *Kevin Rosewood*

### **RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.

BILL FIENNING, Secretary

(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: [wcfienn@att.net](mailto:wcfienn@att.net)

President Dave Dunlap opened our November meeting. Our topic was Worst Magic. But first, we had a surprise guest, magician Kevin Spencer. He toured with an illusion show before retiring it for a more personalized approach. He obtained his Ph.D. in education. He now specializes in using magic to facilitate communication with autistic children and older adults with dementia. We began with a question-and-answer session with him about his life in magic and his connections with several well-known performers.

Gene Gutierrez announced a contest to develop a logo for our Ring 90. It could be used on business cards or T-shirts, etc. Contact our president or treasurer for details. Then we were on with Worst Magic. These are the tricks that annoy, insult, bore or alienate the audience. Paul Cochran began with the much-despised 21-card trick. However, he demonstrated an Allen Ackerman version that was much shorter and more bearable.

Secretary Bill Fiennings started by citing some of the factors which he believed were often part of worst magic, things that are designed to annoy, alienate or embarrass the audience members. His examples included requiring a spectator to perform mathematical calculations, identify colors (which can be risky, 1 in 12 males are partially color-blind) or even to read. Some people require reading glasses or might even be illiterate in the language (21% of U.S. adults are illiterate). Then he demonstrated only parts of his worst routine, which was deliberately constructed to be as obnoxious as possible (within the limitations of a family-type audience).

These included asking the spectator to do impossibly complex graduate level mathematical calculus calculations, a test that color-blind men would fail, read text that is impossible to read and the brassiere (cf. 20th Century Silks) trick which is offensive because it embarrasses the spectator and violates the person's personal space as well.

Dave Dunlap presented a good routine with two curved pictures of bananas that seemed to change size. Chrissy Beyerlein did a routine with a Hot Rod (small bar with colored dots on it). All the dots changed to the chosen color, but then through more magic, all spots turned to another color, blue. Gene Gutierrez distributed four blank calling cards to spectators. Then three of them cut a shuffled deck and wrote the card to which they cut on the calling card. It turned out that all three had cut to the same card, as did the fourth person.

*Bill Fiennings*

#### **RING 92, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA – The Vancouver Magic Circle (Charles Howard Ring)**

Meets 4th Thurs. except July, Aug. and Dec., 7:00 pm, Sunrise Community Hall, 1950 Windermere St., Vancouver, B.C.

SIMON CASSEGRAIN, President

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The Vancouver Magic Ring's monthly meeting took place on Thursday October 23rd. Thanks to Graham Kita for opening the hall, and Mike Vetterli and Roy Hopwood for setting up the tables and chairs. Mike brought and set up his portable stage lights for the evening's competition. Thanks Mike! Ken Cowie brought cookies, Graham made coffee for everyone and put out water, and also brought some Halloween themed cookies, cupcakes and candies. Thanks Ken and Graham!

President Simon Cassegrain got the meeting underway just after 7pm with a few short announcements. He mentioned that the next Pacific Coast Association of Magicians convention in 2026 was going to coincide and be a part of past IBM President Shawn Farquhar's New Westminster Magic Week during March Spring break. Past IBM Presidents Alex Seaman and

Billy Hsueh will be the President and Co-Chair of the convention.

Then Simon introduced Lon Mandrake for a workshop on mentalism with a Halloween theme. Lon taught some great routines using several different mathematical principles which he explained. Another trick with a math principle that uses a freely thought of number, was reworked to using words instead of numbers and the chosen word is revealed. Very clever! He also performed a marketed effect called "Overkill" by Christopher Taylor. A murder mystery that mysteriously uses ten cards, 5 with victims pictured, and 5 cards with their murderers. Through a sequence of shuffling the cards by spelling the victim's names, the cards end up matching the victims to their murderers. Very befalling! Great workshop Lon! The meeting stopped for a 20-minute break to socialize and get refreshments.

Simon called the meeting back to order and proceeded to the annual costume contest. There were 6 contestants, Scott Barker as a mad scientist, Ken Cowie as a sports super fan, Roy Hopwood as a witch, Graham Kita as Mr. America, come on Graham, we are in Canada! Vincent Lee as a monk and our newest junior member Aaryan Parekh as Dracula. This year's winner was Aaryan Parekh! Congratulations Aaryan!

Next on the evenings agenda was the Halloween themed magic contest for the Tip Top and Tootsie Trophy. The M/C's for the contest were last year's winners Rob Tezska and Vincent Lee, they had tied in scoring, and both won! The contestants, in order of appearance, were Yooseok Oum, Scott Barker, and Roy Hopwood. This year's trophy went to first time winner Scott Barker with his comedic finger chopper routine. Presenting the Tip Top and Tootsie trophy to Scott were Competition Chair Mike Vetterli, President Simon Cassegrain, and M/C Rob Tezska.

To finish off the evening Rob Tezska performed a new routine in order to get some feedback from the members. It was Halloween themed mentalism where the spectator freely selected one of three horror novels. A bookmark was then freely placed into the book and two cutouts in the bookmark lined up with two random words on that page. Then, out of nowhere, an old-time radio broadcast started, it was a horror anthology show. The host mentioned the show's sponsor, which were the two freely chosen words. Very well done Rob!

The meeting wrapped up with more socializing and members giving Rob feedback on his routine. Rob is also featuring this routine in his limited time engagement show, The Cozy Spirit Show, for the week leading up to Halloween.

Thanks to Vincent Lee for taking many photos of the night's events! Also, thanks to Graham Kita and Ken Cowie for giving rides to the meeting for Roy Hopwood and Scott Barker. There were 24 members and 3 guests in attendance. *Scott Barker*

### **RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club**

3rd Sun., 2:00pm, Adam's Dance Connection, 900 Jackson, Dubuque, Iowa  
JIM MCCREA, President, (309) 235-6215  
E-mail: [jrmfpc@gmail.com](mailto:jrmfpc@gmail.com)

October 18th proved to be a day with numerous calendar conflicts for our members. For example, two were pleased to have fun family events to attend, while another had the far less fun task of recuperating from a recent serious leg injury. The end result was that only three members were in attendance that day: Mark Pepelea, Chris Westemeier and Jim McCrea. Even the visitors we've enjoyed for the past several meetings shockingly chose to be elsewhere! So the intrepid trio circled their chairs and turned to conversation.

First up was an idea that our president had some years ago when we used to meet in a local Hy-Vee grocery store's community room. At that time, Jim asked the cafeteria manager if he would like our club to do table-side magic for free as a way to pay the store back for allowing us to meet in their space. That manager was thrilled with the idea, but for whatever reason, that never happened.

So Jim asked the members present if the club might be interested in floating that idea again. His proposal was to again offer our services for free as a way for our members to gain closeup flight time and to generate publicity. Jim said that if Hy-Vee was interested, he could tentatively propose the idea to the current Hy-Vee cafeteria manager.

Mark has only done table hopping once, Jim twice, but Chris has never done it. Jim said that his limited experience in this area led him to believe that the three most difficult issues in table hopping are: making the initial approach to strangers at a table, followed by pocket management and selecting tricks with quick resets. Mark and Jim suggested that approaching a table could be made much easier if the club were to provide table tents so that people who didn't know about the magic advance could be forewarned before any of us came to the table. Therefore, they could have a ready answer when the magician asked if they would like to see some magic. In return for the club providing those table tents, we would ask Hy-Vee to advertise our performance locally, which could benefit both the store and us. If Hy-Vee proved to be interested in this idea, we'd ask those members who wish to be a part of this to bring three closeup tricks they might use in that setting to perform at our November club meeting.

Then we would select a date two months or more from then for the performance.

Changing gears, Mark said that our Paul Draper lecture for January 15 is a go and Chris said he would arrange Paul's hotel at one of the two hotels we've used for previous lecturers. Perhaps we should contact Paul with the website addresses of those hotels and let him chose between the two?

The conversation then turned to performances by famous magicians we've seen in person and memorable convention shows. From there, it drifted on to non-magic-related topics. Who knows where such an unusual turn of events came from?

Even though no magic was actually performed, a good time was had by all.

After the meeting ended, Jim went to Hy-Vee and talked with the current cafeteria manager. He is definitely interested, but said he would have to talk with his boss about it and then get back to Jim. So we wait for a reply. *Jim McCrea*

### **RING 94, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND – The King Ring**

Meets 4th Weds. each month, 7:30 p.m., Williamsport Redman Tribe #84, 16129 Lappans Rd., Williamsport, MD  
Web site: [www.kingmagiring.com](http://www.kingmagiring.com)  
CHARLES JAMES, President / E-mail: [khandu1@aol.com](mailto:khandu1@aol.com)

Welcome to Spookini. It's a very special annual event which features magic, mirth, and spaghetti. Karen James of Khan-Du and Co. was the night's MC. Her first recruit was Joe Cole. Joe did an abbreviated version from his upcoming show for the Red Men Lodge. After producing a Yo-Yo from his shoe Joe did 'Mugged' by Rich Marotta'. Of course he added his personal touches along the way. The 'Rabbid' comedy, terrifying rabbit is sort of Joe's themed mascot and he made great use of it. 'Rabbid' rabbit was produced out of a hat and its ears kept falling off, over and over. So naturally, they had to be stapled back on. Then he pulled a HAT out of the 'Rabbid.' Get it? Next a spectator was selected to pick from postcards of horror movies. Joe placed a paper bag over his head and attempted to draw a picture on the bag of the selected movie's antagonist. Surprisingly, when the bag was removed he had on a Jason mask from Friday the 13th. That was the selection!

Karen introduced a recently joining member, Jason Wratchford. Jason performed a version of 'The Jigsaw Deck' by David Regal. This introduced the cards for a delightful card trick. A card was selected and NOT returned to the deck. The cards were mixed, face up and face down. The helper simply named the suit of the card he selected. The cards were immediately spread to reveal that ONLY the suit of the selected card was face up. With only one missing, to bring the trick to a successful conclusion.

The next presenter was the only member to dress up for the costume contest, of which there was not. Johnny-O! (John Swomley) started to tell a story but was interrupted by a very rude defective stool. This 'Comedy Stool' brought a few gasps to the room, and some laughter, too. Then John performed a unique version of the classic 'Card Spider.' An alphabet card was selected, followed by Itsy Bitsy the spider weaving a duplicate of the selected card on his web. For John's final trick he needed the help of Joe Cole. Joe was asked to hold on to an interesting frame with two sheets of clear plexi rubberbanded together (TV Card Frame). A card was selected and signed. On the third flurry of cards sprung at the frame, the selected card appeared. It was trapped between two plates of plexiglass.

Karen then introduced her hubby, Charlie James. The male principal of Khan-Du and Co. introduced a box containing nine numbers on round metal discs. They were etched with the numbers 1 through 9. The crowd randomly picked and arranged the numbers on a plaque creating three rows of three numbers. When added up, the total matched a previously made prediction.

Jerry Mullenix would be our last performer. He started by pulling a hare/hair out of his hat. Hahaha! After having a card selected Jerry introduced an over-the-top, special effects, large crystal ball. It had lights and sound and it spoke. Using the ball the chosen card was revealed in a very eerie fashion that only Jerry could conjure up.

*John Swomley*

#### **RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – Merlin Eifert Ring**

Meets 3rd Sat., 7:00 pm at the Seal Beach North Community Center,  
3333 Saint Cloud Dr., Seal Beach, CA

Web site: [www.Ring96.com](http://www.Ring96.com)

CLIFF GERSTMAN, Secretary / E-mail: [Cliffg37@verizonz.net](mailto:Cliffg37@verizonz.net)

The Ring 96 October meeting was something we had not done in over 20 years. We went with a special banquet. The banquet was held at a local restaurant that served us an Italian meal. Appetizers of mozzarella sticks, and friend zucchini were real crowd pleasers. There was a no-host bar that many members enjoyed. We had nearly 50 members and guests in attendance, and everything went well. Members filled out raffle tickets as they entered, then they passed a Halloween themed photo booth where pictures could be taken for free and emailed to the members. Next was a tarot card reading table and a palm reading station as well. All in good fun, the members entered the dining area where members Kevin Papke, Wayne Mitcheltree and Brad Erickson were doing walk around card magic. Members and guests enjoyed appetizers and magic and soon the main course of different pas-

tas with meatballs available on the side. Secretary Cliff Gerstman took the stage and raffled off a few small but powerful effects from Penguin Magic. Next Cliff presented the awards for the night. First there were trophies for last month's Stage Magic competition which went to Alal Hanson in third place, Jullian Angel in second place and Kim Hallinger in first place. While there were many members worthy of awards, we gave out only a few. Bill Pearce was given a longevity award as the longest consecutive member of the Ring. John Engman got an award for being the best dressed magician. Phil Ureno won the best character award, and Alan Hanson was the best at magical theming. Former treasurer Paul LaGreek got an award for Making it count for all his years as treasurer. Judy case has served on the Ring 96 board for about 15 years and received a service award. Kevin Papke got a moving it forward recognition for starting and maintaining our pre-meeting workshop. Kim Hallinger was given an award for being the hardest working person in magic and Larry "Zeezo" Campbell was awarded for winning the most competitions. President George Reis introduced our magical performance by Nadar Hanna. Nader is a professional mentalist who performs around Southern California and at the Magic Castle as well. Nader opened with a hypnosis demonstration involving heavy and light hands. He pulled three ladies up on stage and produced a padlock which he demonstrated that the keys would not open. Then he added his own key, which opened the lock. Then the lock was relocked, the keys were scrambled together and each lady got one. Nader again used hypnosis to make the correct key heavy and it fell from one ladies' hand. It opened the lock. Nader sent two ladies back to their seats and had the last volunteer think of someone in the room. He told her to guide him to that person using only thoughts. Thoughts such as forward, left, etc. That worked well and Nader went straight to the chosen person. Three books were introduced, two Harry Potter books and one book by Stephen King: The Shining. The books were given out to volunteers, and one opened a Harry Potter book to a random page and the other was told to open to that page and choose a word. Nader took another book and walked around the room riffling through the book and having a volunteer choose a word. He found all the words. The last volunteer of this effect had the book The Shining. He was told to open the book at random and choose a difficult word. Nader wrote down the word "Thunderstruck" which was correct. Nader had given out five folding blank cards to five people before the show and asked them to write down something most people would not know about them. He correctly guessed all

five which included ostrich racing, going for a PhD, being born in Bakersfield, just getting a driver's license, and riding ET's bike at Universal Studios. Nader's last effect was to call for a small, unusual object. In a room full of magicians, that could be anything. A thumbnail sized statue of a chicken was produced. Nader had two people take him out of the room while the object was hidden. He came back into the room and read the mind of the volunteer who hid it to find it pretty quickly. After a little more socializing and magic, the night ended on a very happy note. Another exciting night at Ring 96.

*Cliff Gerstman*

### **RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA-**

#### **The Maurice Brooklyn Ring**

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood  
Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street  
Chatswood.

JACK SHARP, President / email: [jack@sharpmagic.com.au](mailto:jack@sharpmagic.com.au)

Our president, Jack Sharp opened the October meeting by giving us news of our convention coming up in less than a fortnight. He then started the entertainment by asking a spectator to imagine an invisible wooden box containing two packs of playing cards, one red and one blue. The effect quickly developed into a fun invisible deck routine. Jack then introduced our hardworking Peter Wood who seems to fill every job in our ring. Peter using a 100mm (4 inch) metal ring and a length of rope performed an intriguing ring and rope routine with the ring appearing to come on and off the ring four times with each penetration more impossible than the last.

Phuoc Can Hua who performs every meeting was next. Two ropes were threaded through the sleeves of Phuoc's coat which he then put it on. One of the ropes was knotted across the front of his chest. The ends of the ropes were held firmly by two spectators holding Phuoc securely in place. The spectators were asked to pull on the ropes when suddenly Phuoc was completely free. Our next performer Eugene Zanozin showed two jokers and a pack of cards. As he dealt the cards he had spectator Wayne Black drop the jokers face up into the pack at different spots. On spreading the cards Eugene showed that the back of the jokers showed pictures of feet. He then showed that he wasn't using a normal pack of playing cards. The faces instead of playing cards were shown to be pictures of various coloured socks. When the sock cards face to face with the jokers were shown however they did not match. Eugene then showed that he was wearing an odd pair of socks with each pair matching the chosen colours just chosen thanks to the Gemini Count.

Jack Sharp returned mentioning that he had just returned from his visit to his relatives in Dublin. Showing some slips of paper cut out from a mag-

azine he counted them. Without any folding or apparently any moves the paper instantly changed to Euro notes. This was Jack's rendition of "Instant Paper to Money" by Miguel Pizarro which is the latest version of Patrick Pages now classic effect Easy Money. Our next performer was Peter Rodgers who invited Wayne Black and Peter Wood to join him on stage. After a pack of cards was thoroughly shuffled and cut by Wayne Peter showed a folded prediction that had been on display all along. Peter then told a tall story where he had copied the prediction from an old Gypsy fortune telling animatronic machine. The prediction correctly forecast four points about the cards thanks to John Bannon's "Free Willy". Peter Rodgers then asked both Peter Wood and Wayne to think of numbers between one and twenty. As the cards were dealt jokers were dropped face up at the chosen numbers. The value of a card face to face with one joker, and the suit of the card face to face with the other joke were added together to make another imaginary card. That card came to life when it was discovered at the total of the two thought of numbers thanks to another Bannon effect, "Collusion".

Brian Fine who likes to perform with "a shuffled deck in use" had a card chosen, it was the five of spades. The cards were given a thorough mixing with some cards turned face up and some face down in a traditional "Drunken Shuffle Triumph" procedure. When displayed all the cards had righted themselves except for the chosen five which was again lost in the deck. Four cards were randomly chosen and each one was individually shown to be the five of spades as they were returned to the pack. When examined though the pack was shown not to have a five of spades at all and the mysterious card was produced from the slip case. Our last performer tonight was Barry Abkin who had a sophisticated routine with a book and a freely chosen jumbo card. The card placed in an envelope was used as a bookmark in the book. Numbers called out by spectators were input to calculators and produced the birth date of Leonardo DiCaprio, Barry deduced a large word on the chosen book page, the first word of the page and the chosen Jumbo card.

At the conclusion of our performance we adjourned to supper and friendly conversations.

*Peter Rodgers*

### **RING 106, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY –**

#### **Slydini Pyramid Garden State Ring**

Meets 2nd Wed., 8:00 p.m. at Tha Sparta Avenue Stage, 10 Sparta Ave.,  
Sparta Township, NJ  
STAN BLADEK, Secretary / E-mail: [quakmagicphil@aol.com](mailto:quakmagicphil@aol.com)

Our club hosted another lecture, this time given by David Johnathan on November 6, 2025. We celebrated Fellow member John Henderson prior

to the meeting with a dinner. He will be leaving NJ for the Carolinas, but his magic will remain. We were all given a set of his notes on close up magic, as well as many great routines and memories that he gave us over the years.

Joe Garsetti started our themed meeting. The theme was self-working card magic. He put his own twist on a trick involving 4 people shuffling the deck, then using 4 selected cards to find a location in the deck that revealed the phone number of one of the selectors. Mike Healy then gave us a nice interpretation of a Pablo Avila trick involving shuffling a packet of 12 cards. He shuffled them 3 times, the spectator shuffled 3 times, yet they were all in numerical order when revealed.

Eddie Conrad showed off his recent purchases at the Super Sunday magic day held in Pennsylvania once a year. His first item was a Liam Montier "Lotto" trick that can be used as a nice ice breaker with multiple audience members. His next item was "Coffee Bean" by Michel. Lastly he did the "Write Now" trick by Paul Richards. This utilizes a Person, Place and Thing prediction with a very clever hiding place for the gimmick. Joe Kemmerer did a three way "Tossed out Deck" performance that took us by surprise.

Stan Bladek broke from the self-working card tricks to perform Jay Sankey's soda can trick. This is a transposition that results in a spectator being astonished to find a quarter in their hand rather than the flip top from the soda can.

Overall, a nice club gathering, good magic, and as always, a night of learning and rekindling the magic bug that all of us have inside of us.

Stanley Bladek

#### **RING 112, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE – M.H. Ortwein Ring**

Meets 3rd Tue. of each month, 6:00 pm at Miller's Ale House, 2119 Gunbarrel Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421

[www.ring112.org](http://www.ring112.org)

JIM DRISCOLL, Acting President / E-mail: [jim.driscoll@gmail.com](mailto:jim.driscoll@gmail.com)

Ring 112's September meeting was highlighted by a mini-lecture from Barry Savage titled "Hidden Treasures." Barry had scoured old books and publications and came up with a fun assortment of mentalism, card, envelope, and paper magic, along with some great gags and handlings. Following his presentation, we had sharing time with lots of performing, teaching, and brainstorming. Mike Edwards showed us his Genie from Axtell Puppets; Roger Smith demonstrated the spirit box he's building; and Tommy Johns used a unique twist to predict the Halloween costume he'll be wearing. Jim Driscoll showed a couple of projects he's building, including his card fountain, and Michael Frisbee demonstrated and taught his handling of a torn-and-restored toilet-paper rou-

tine. As usual, Cindy Poteet Williams brought wonderful Halloween giveaways that she and Ron Williams had 3D-printed for the group, including unique skulls and pumpkins.

In October, we welcomed guest speaker Bill Weimer, author of the book "Now You See Them, Now You Don't," which details the history of the famous magic bars of Chicago. Over the years, Bill performed at a number of these wonderful venues—from Little Bit O' Magic in the '70s to the modern-day Chicago Magic Lounge. His lecture traced his career performing alongside legendary magicians such as Bill Malone and Heba Heba Al. Bill is scheduled to return to our December meeting with Part II of his fascinating lecture.

Our performance time for the October meeting included routines by Jeffrey Williams, Michael Frisbee, Adam Ryan, Bill Weimer, and Jim Driscoll. We also enjoyed a great workshop discussion led by Tommy Johns about methods and gimmicks for the Miser's Dream.

Ring 112 owes a big thank you to members Lance Johnson and Jeffrey Williams who represented us at Life Care of Collegedale at our "pay-back show" in October. They each did a 20 minute set at the facility's festival as a thank you for allowing us to host Dan Stapleton's lecture there earlier this year.

*Jim Driscoll*

#### **RING 113, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY – Audley Walsh/Conrad C. Bush**

Meets 1st Thurs. 8:00 pm, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 300 Forest Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ.

ANTHONY FERRER, Secretary / web site: [ibmring113@yahoo.com](mailto:ibmring113@yahoo.com)

Richard Micucci opened up the evening's meeting with an unveiling his newly designed logo for the Meatballs & Magic t-shirt that will be presented to the performers of the recent charity event. The evening's magic theme was impromptu tricks and Rich kicked things off with Harry Harrius' Liquid Cash. This is a dollar bill illusion where two borrowed bills appear to melt through each other! Card connoisseur Jay Paul performed a trick from an unknown YouTube video source. A selected card is mixed into a deck and dealt into four piles. Jay was able to find the card and reveal it using a second invisible deck. Bill Schmeelk presented and explained a new product from Murphy's Magic called Roughing Balm for treating playing cards. He also demonstrated Murphy's Sure-Split Invisible deck that features a unique rough/smooth technique. Carl Morano performed Andy Nyman's Three Skulls On A Spike, a bizarre voodoo effect where multi colored skulls are impaled on a spike and match a fateful prediction in a mysterious box. Carl displayed his custom constructed stage and close-up versions of the creepy props. Eddie Conrad

demonstrated SansMinds' Vanishing Sharpie and seemingly transformed a sheet of tissue paper into an origami bunny courtesy of Alan Wong's Origami Rabbit! Mark Cahill performed his own version of Peter Duffy's That's A Fact. 9 cards are laid out face up and a dice is rolled to eliminate cards. The last card is shown to be predicted when the set aside cards are turned over. Mark followed up with Bob Mason's Just Think, an eight-card packet trick. John Henderson- Original Greatest Card Trick using automatic placement principle. Shuffled deck into 2 piles, selects 1 card. Next, Dan Silvestri performed Deddy Cobuzier's Free Will with wooden tokens and a bag. A spectator chooses where to place three different tokens and a prediction surprisingly reveals that the spectator did not exercise 'free will' and that the outcome was pre-determined! Michael Healy performed two effects- Jay Sankey's Heavy Metal and Piff the Dragon's Name Tag. Michael produced a long needle and penetrated a card box. After removing the needle, the box was shown to be empty except for a card-sized steel plate! Next, Michael performed Piff the Dragon's The Trick With A Name. Michael revealed a selected card prediction under the spectator's sticker name tag! As a follow-up to Dan's Free Will routine, Alen Thompson displayed his own custom Halloween version of Free Will props routine that included three mini coffins. The evening's finale was a packet card trick by Dennis McSweeney. Dennis performed a powerful visual transposition using two card mates with a pair in his hand switching places with a pair dealt to the table! *Carl Morano*

#### **RING 115, SINGAPORE – The Great Wong Ring**

Meets 15th of each month, 7:00 pm, Function Room 2, #03-01, National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street, Singapore 188064. Website: [ibm-ring115.org](http://ibm-ring115.org)

JOHN TEO, President / Tel: +62504422, 97509017

10M Braddell Hill #01-49, Singapore 57931

October was a special event night. It was Gician's Card Magic Challenge Competition. The event attracted a total of 57 people: comprising 14 guests, 3 patrons, and 40 members. It was held at the usual Function Room 2 at the Drama Centre at the National Library Building. Host JK Tan introduced new member Rob Newberry and several guests. An induction ceremony was conducted to officially induct Takuma Kobayashi, Axl Ching and Chunny Teoh into our Ring 115. Gician's Card Magic Competition was sponsored by our Gician Tan. In addition to a \$500 cash, the overall winner would have his name inscribed on a huge prestigious trophy. The trophy is designed to last for 10 years. Every year, it would have a different winner, because all winners are not allowed to take part in future Card Magic Competitions. We were in our second year of this competition. Last

year, the trophy was won by Tommy Kian. Everybody was waiting eagerly to know who would be this year's champion. 10 hopeful members took part. They were, in order of performance: Wee Kien Meng (aka Mr Bottle), Tangcueco Vicente III Tiu, Chunny Teoh, Luke Tan, Joseph Then, Ian Tan, Linus Ng, David Fillary, Enrico Varella, and Kai Emmanuel Kuah. Each contestant was given 2 brand new decks of playing cards: a red back and a blue back deck. Other than a sharpie to be used for signing a volunteer's name on the card, no other props or accessories were allowed. Each had 10 minutes to showcase their card magic. Determining the fate of these 10 contestants were 5 judges. They were Tommy Kian, Harapan Ong, Shade Soo, Fernando Ng, and Lim Teck Guan. While the judges were deliberating the results, we took a 10-minutes break where members were treated to curry puffs and packets of drinks. We were fortunate to have FISM winner, Juan Colas with us. He treated us to a short performance. He did a coin routine where 3 coins magically got in and out of a solid coin box. His second effect used a packet of 5 cards, comprising the Ace to five of diamonds. As he dealt each card in sequence, they magically reverse from Ace to five and then five back to Ace several times. It was time to announce the winners of the Card Competition. Chief judge Harapan Ong spoke on behalf of all the judges. He noted that the standard of all the contestants this year was much higher than that of last year. Third place went to Chunny Teoh, second place went to David Fillary, and the first prize winner was Ian Tan, who won \$500 cash and had his name inscribed in the prestigious challenge trophy for the year 2025. We thank the following members who made the event such a success. Abdullah Baharudin, who managed the videography, Ivan Lee, who kept time, JK Tan, who emceed the performances, and Kenneth Chia, who administrated the entire event. It was an exciting evening where members got to witness the card magic of 10 of our own members.

*Harapan Ong & Ng Kah King*

#### **RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring**

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at Westport Coffeehouse Theater, 4010 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite D, Kansas City, MO 64111

KELLY RUSK, President, / E-mail: [knr6244@hotmail.com](mailto:knr6244@hotmail.com)

Our October meeting was a lecture given by Gustavo Raley from Argentina. A highly skilled and experienced magician, Gustavo wowed the members with his very creative and practical effects. His routines were varied and useful for almost any performance setting. He also demonstrated his creative process which gave us a new tool for creating our own magic. A really fun and informative lecture!

Our November meeting began with a performance by Danny Tangelo of a new version of the cups and balls that he has been working on. Alabama Jones followed with a description of our Halloween show, which was attended by several children.

Ring president Kelly Rusk then led a discussion on creativity and improvisation in magic. David Sandy told how he had to improvise part of a live show when he forgot to pack some of his props. He also related a story of how a magician he knew used to browse in a veterinary supply store to find unusual props for his routines. Several other members also provided tales of their own and others' improvisations.

Kelly then introduced the announced theme of the evening: give-away magic—that is, small items that magicians can give away to spectators at the conclusion of a performance. Keith Leff gave us a mini-lecture on the subject, demonstrating the souvenir items he liked to give to spectators, especially when he performs walk-around magic. Kelly also congratulated Keith on being featured in the "Member Spotlight" of the October 2025 issue of \*LR.\*

David Sandy then spoke about the good relationship that our Ring has with the local SAM Assembly 38. He told us that such cooperation between the two organizations is relatively rare. In fact, many of our members belong to both clubs, and we are instituting a combined membership rate for such dual members.

The next order of business was the election of officers for the coming year. The nominating committee recommended that Kelly Rusk serve a second year as Ring president. Other nominees were Brad Lynn, vice president; Cliff Norris, secretary; Alabama Jones, treasurer; Dennis Burks, Sergeant at Arms; and Steve Steiner, Jerry Jackson, and Dustin Blencoe, board members. Jason Moore remains on the Board as immediate past president. We then voted to accept the entire slate as nominated.

We then moved on to the "Show Me the Magic" segment of our meeting. Tom Burgoon then related some stories, including one about James Randi, who once agreed to be tied up by two spectators who happened to be furniture movers, and they tied him so tightly that he could not escape. He also related a humorous story about how he once lapped a thumb tip and realized that a spectator noticed it and believed he had accidentally flashed her. Shawn Rivera followed with a bill change. Dennis Burks, an avid reader of books about magic, showed us a book he had read about a magician named Laurant. Finally John Hicks showed his original version of a Marlo Invisible Card routine, concluding a busy night of magical activities.

*Stu Lewis*

## **RING 130, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA – First Coast Magic – Bob Hutchings Ring**

Meets 3rd Tue at Hampton Inn, 4681 Lenoir Ave., S. Jacksonville, FL. Meetings/Lectures at 7:30 (subject to change). DR. DAVE COLL, Secretary, Secretary (904) 254-2460 E-mail: [info@IBMRing130.com](mailto:info@IBMRing130.com) / Web site: [www.IBMRing130.com](http://www.IBMRing130.com)

The October 16th meeting of our Ring was a wonderful blend of camaraderie, creativity, and a touch of nostalgia. With a solid turnout of members—Chris Sharp, Robert Sands, Monty Reed, David Coll, and Bill Gillespie—the evening was filled with energy and ideas building off one another. The Orlando Magic History Conference just wrapped up and a few members were there for Sunday's flea market. Members brought a variety of props, books, and lecture notes to swap or sell. Not only did we raise a few dollars for the club (always a welcome bonus), but the real treasure came in the information that was buried within those books and notes. Browsing each other's shelves and their obscure publications sparked a thoughtful discussion about the hidden gems of magic's past. These rediscovered nuggets became the much of the backbone of the evening's performances. Monty Reed dove into a delightfully offbeat routine centered around balloons and miniature balloon animals. What made it especially unique was the origin of the props—an unlikely source in a dental gift supply catalog. Monty's clever use of these tiny inflatables reminded us all that inspiration often hides in the most unexpected places. Sticking with the balloon theme, Chris also brought up the recently released "Impossiballoon" effect. This new trick is tucked away in an obscure set of lecture notes from the 1980s, which offers proof that nothing is new under the sun. This is not a negative statement about the trick's creators – it's just a fund observation. Though no one performed the effect live, the discussion around it reignited interest in digging deeper into old resources—who knows what other miracles are waiting to be rediscovered? Chris Sharp followed with an imaginative routine that had only just formed in his mind a few nights earlier in a dream. It was a creative adaptation of the classic Empire Magic "Backstage" trick, infused with his own personal flair, using optical illusions before the stage illusion. His version added a layer of theatrical misdirection that had everyone watching closely. David Coll contributed with a demonstration of the "9 Card Problem," a classic that never fails to mystify. Dave's smooth handling and relaxed presentation served as a reminder of how strong even the simplest effects can be when performed well. This evolved into the "15 card problem" that is used as a fun mix of gambling demonstration and Shuffling Lesson. Robert Sands, ever the tinkerer, showed off a range of his latest magical creations.

One effect in particular left jaws on the floor—a mentalism piece involving a secretly written note on a Post-it. After a fair process and seemingly impossible conditions, Rob revealed the note's contents by scanning a barcode... which linked directly to the spectator's Amazon cart. It was modern, tech-driven, and downright astonishing. Bill Gillespie closed the night with a set of well-polished laugh lines aimed at the children's show market. His shared jokes and timing tips are essential to proper audience management. These laugh lines are a sure-fire way to get everyone involved and is a great tool for performers looking to end their shows on a high note. His philosophy essentially was: "Get the glum to clap, and to keep the clapping going," which was a fitting way to close the evening. First Coast Magicians meet the 3rd Thursday of the month. If you're in the Jacksonville area, stop by or visit us for a lecture. For more information, contact Chris Sharp at [info@ibmring130.com](mailto:info@ibmring130.com).

Chris Sharp

#### **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

Our October meeting was pushed back by one week as few members would have been able to attend on Canadian Thanksgiving Monday. And so, on the third Monday of the month, the members of the Roy Cottee Ring (Ring 151, Ottawa) gathered for a meeting that was both solemn and joyful. As sometimes happens, the families of two deceased magicians, Donald "Don" Thomas Candon, and Brydon Evans Smith had donated some of their remaining magic tricks and books to be shared amongst the members so that they could continue to be used in the art of magic.

Members John Pert, Kyle Leon, Glenn Brown, Mark Montreuil, Aurèle Constantineau, Ernest Thomas, Doug Cuff, Clarke Payne, Mark Aronoff and Mike Vuckovic gathered to pour over a treasure chest of old magic books and effects, and to share many stories of magic and wonder.

Don Candon (1942-2024) passed away peacefully at West End villa in Ottawa, Canada at the age of 81. Don was born and raised in Kingston, Ontario, where he taught high school and played in his band, The Monarchs, where he was the lead vocalist and rhythm guitar player. After moving to Ottawa to work as a manager at Bell Canada, he joined a new band, The Prom Nights, and was a longtime member of Ring 151. Don performed many children's magic shows as "The Great Candini" and pulled many rabbits out of hats. He was active in club charity magic shows and loved to make children smile with his feats of magic.

Brydon Smith (1938-2022), a prominent art

curator, museum administrator and magician, died in Ottawa on July 19, 2022. He was born in Hamilton, Ontario, and studied science at McMaster University before falling under the spell of art and completing an M.A. in art history at the University of Toronto. Brydon played a key role in the planning and realization of the new National Gallery of Canada building in 1988, for which he received a Public Service Award of Merit. He was honoured in 2014 with a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts for his extraordinary contribution to the visual arts in Canada. Brydon was an accomplished magician, generous and fun-loving host, eco-warrior, inventor of the Samuel Beckett Martini and margarita-maker par excellence, Brydon will live on in our memories not only for having made a lasting contribution to the arts in Canada and abroad but as a lover of life to its fullest.

Club members found many treasures in the assembled collections, and I am sure that some will be performed again in the near future. And so, as the last tricks were parcelled off to their new homes and words of remembrance were uttered, another night of magic came to a close.

Mark Montreuil

#### **RING 167, DES MOINES, IOWA – Justo Hijo Magic Club of Des Moines, Iowa**

3rd Mon., 7:00pm at F&O's Restaurant, 4050 Merle Hay Rd.,

Des Moines, IA 50310

STEVE DALY (Hinrichs), President

E-mail: [Tinyb1999@yahoo.com](mailto:Tinyb1999@yahoo.com)

The Justo Hijo Magic Club Ring 167 of Des Moines Iowa had a "Spooky"-fun evening of magic performed by our club members! After President Steve Hinrichs gave some quick announcements of upcoming events, including teaching magic to the local cub scouts and next month's annual MAGIC AUCTION (where club members get to use their year-long earned "AUCTION BUCKS" to bid and win magic tricks & books) - it was time for some hauntingly FUN magic! Resident club ventriloquist BARB FUNKE eagerly took to the stage to show us her ventriloquist skills without a standard dummy! She created the illusion of an animated voice coming from a child's stretch tube toy! She finished by having 10-year old club member VEGGO join her on stage as she demonstrated how to throw your voice. Long time club member & former club officer ALAN KOSLOW performed a variation of the Chicago Opener with the help of MIKAYLA OZ. He followed this with a Medically Impossible routine he has performed many times, as he predicted VEGGO's DAD's exact pulse rate, with the help of ZEON counting the pulse rate and PJ WEISE holding the prediction. He was spot on with his prediction!!! Alan is a retired doctor from the area, however, this was

his last meeting with us as he and his family are moving to Albany, NY. We wish Alan well and look forward to his return visits! BRUCE ANDERSON (another longtime club member and fantastic club secretary for decades!) showed us part of his huge collection of hats! Bruce is like a magical chameleon, as with the simple change of a hat - he becomes a different character!?! Always fun stuff from Bruce. ZEON performed his version of Love Ritual, having the entire club rip up cards, toss & shuffle card halves, eliminating the halves down to one half that amazingly matched the other half we saved and sat on at the beginning of the trick. The next performer has become our club's true teacher of magic. JACK ACKERMAN showed us a quick trick with a vanishing rubber band (and then taught us all how to do it), followed by some wizardly advice on the seven levels of a magician. All was very informative and wise! TRICKY RICKY presented his version of a "fast hypnosis trick" putting club member MARCUS STEVENS into a "fast trance" and having him attempt to lift club member AMANDA VILLINES off the ground. (Amanda happens to be our newly crowned "Birthday Bookkeeper" for the club - keeping track of each club member's birthday date so we may celebrate their special day - magically!) It was an "uplifting" experience for all... (wink, wink) Finally STEVE HINRICHES performed a unique playing card trick with envelopes and free selections made by VEGGO. The Nine of Clubs was not only predicted once, but twice! "Spooky!" Justo Hijo Magic Club of Des Moines, Iowa meets the third Monday of each month at Felix & Oscar's restaurant on Merle Hay Road. Dinner on your own at 5:30 PM - Meeting starts promptly at 7:00 PM and ends by 8:30 PM - please come join us if you are in the area!

*Tricky Ricky and Steve Hinrichs*

#### **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@cfrr.com](mailto:dphillips13@cfrr.com)

Web site: [www.Ring170.com](http://www.Ring170.com)

President David Freemen called the October meeting to order. We had 26 in the room. Our one guest was Nick Hollen. We welcomed back members Tom Parkin, who is feeling better, and Nathan Coe Marsh, who is home from his cruise ship work. For his 114th Magic History Moment, Phil Schwartz presented "the greatest close-up magician that I've ever seen in person." He told the history of Abraham Bongers aka Mystica aka Fred Kaps, the Dutch magician who in his short 54 (1926-1980) years won the Grand Prix at FISM 3 times (the only magician to ever do so), who followed The Beatles on Ed Sullivan's show in 1964 (his performance was pre-recorded) and

who Phil saw perform live at Joe Steven's Mid-America Magic Conclave (predecessor of the Desert Seminar) in 1978. In addition, Bob Swadling shared several stories of his association with Kaps and Ken Brooke who were his close friends. Phil closed by showing a "prized possession," a photo of Fred Kaps inscribed to him. Our monthly ring show opened with daughter and father, Camile and Dwayne. They teamed up to turn one dollar into a twenty-dollar bill. Then a spectator shuffled some picture cards and secretly chose a card and was revealed to be a Harry Potter dollar bill. Dr. Ken Schreibman, MD, demonstrated a rare Lubor Fiedler creation called The Roentgen Box. Coincidentally Dr. Schreibman is a radiologist and medical professor, so the effect was appropriate to his profession. As you can guess an aluminum die was placed in the small, sealed box and Professor Schreibman was able to see the side of the die and reveal the number! The secret of the effect was ingenious, as are all Fielder's creations. Erik Geyer called up a volunteer and had him put a credit card anywhere in the deck and look at the playing card that it was next to. The card was then missing from the deck, and Erik teleported the card to an empty card box held by a volunteer across the room. Greg Solomon presented a clever card packet trick that was a "Lie detector". You could not lie to the cards. Craig would ask a question to the spectator, and he would spell out the words "true or false" and the final card would be turned over and reveal if the spectator was telling the truth or lying. Dennis Phillips did a stage size version of "Scotch and Soda" with only the copper and silver. The copper coin vanished from the spectators' hand and suddenly appeared in a glass inverted over a beer coaster. Thom Parkin concluded by giving us some website addresses to some of his interactive cellphone tricks.

*Dennis Phillips*

#### **RING 172, TUCSON, ARIZONA – The Joe DuPerre Ring**

Meets 2nd Tue. 6:30 p.m., Holy Way Presbyterian Church 4040 S.

Bilbray Ave., Tucson, AZ 83746

STEPHEN LEVINE, President

E-mail: [StephenLevine63@gmail.com](mailto:StephenLevine63@gmail.com)

Our September 2025 meeting saw eleven attendees, including Daivd S., Curt M., Mitch L., Bill B., Alan V., Aidan R., Steve E., Dan M., Juan F., Jesse B., and Frank P.

The group spent 3 hours sessioning on various effects. Mitch was working on false shuffles as well as a 3-card monte, which got that end of the tables, led by Steve sessioning on various 3 card monte effects and techniques. Bill demonstrated Oh Yeah. Dan demonstrated various card tricks and Dan and Alan spoke about this year's Joker's Gone Wild convention which they attended in Dayton, OH. David was working on a hopping

halves routine and everyone did one effect or another, or many.

The group also discussed a new email address specifically for the Ring, potentially hosting a Ring Instagram page, and other ways to let the community know we exist and to attract more folks.

The next meeting is November 17, 2025.

Frank Prochaska

### **RING 175, TAMPA, FLORIDA – Warren Hamilton Ring**

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, Tampa Gardens Sr. Living, 16702 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa, FL 33618 / Website: <https://tampamagicclub.com>  
TOM VORJOHAN, President  
(865): 254-9254 / E-mail: TomVorjohan@gmail.com

A dozen of us welcomed November with the election of new officers for 2026: Ken Spanola, President & Treasurer; Geoff Williams, Vice President; Tom Vorjohan, Secretary; Nick Faz and Rick Casale, Board Members at Large. Our “Teach-In” session was led by Rick Casale who taught his Center-Tear peek done at the fingertips. It was inspired by Lee Earle’s, yet Rick has made it very clean with open hands...and he gave us an online YouTube video link so we could review it when we got home. Very impressive, Rick!

This month’s theme was to teach a trick, and this was a great meeting full of sharing. Prior member, Nick Parlin is quite the coin manipulator, and he shared a coin vanish and reappearance using the Cardini steal that was effortless in his hands. Vice president, Rudy Hernandez put a fantastic presentation with the “threading a needle” effect where a rope magically goes through a loop...even with a knot. His tutorial had us all eager to do this trick again. Sharing a marketed packet trick to combine two celebrity photo cards to find “Charlie Monroe” – which surprisingly matched the prediction. Later he showed and explained Bannon’s Dawn Patrol (great if you can do a Faro perfectly).

Great to have Rob Albergo with us, and he shared his every-day-carry as a \$1 and \$5 bill changed places in a spectator’s hand. Rob showed that it just takes an extra piece of a bill and some glue to make. President, Tom Vorjohan, passed out free Bicycle Decks to everyone, then shared his favorite “Minnie Pearl” give-a-way – a balloon poodle made from small beads (pearls) that he learned from Bob Knigge over two decades ago. Back from his bathroom break, Assembly 244 President, Frank Velasco taught two great card tricks: Charles Jordan’s Keystone Card Trick and easy “follow-the-leader” with five red and five black cards based on a Juan Tamariz effect.

For a fun change of pace, Lowell Tauszik did a strong performance piece of ventriloquism with Axtel’s Big Mouth and a couple of kazoos. Then he shared “flip link” of two Linking Rings that he

learned from Patrick Snowden at Hocus Pocus while taking a break during his visit to his daughter; it is a unique surprising way to link two rings. Our treasurer, Ken Spanola shared a board game creation he calls “Vaca-nopoly” using number cards and the Fox-glove force to predict the outcome of the game. Mark Myers gave away a 51-in-1 Deck and then did another hysterical presentation with his wife, Yvonne Ruiz, ultimately ending in his no gimmick Sympathetic 10. One of our newest members, Nick Faz, laughingly told us about the “Rex Memory System” and then did Bannon’s 51 Fat Chances from his Zone Zero book. What a phenomenal meeting!

Tom Vorjohan

### **RING 179, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – George Dency Ring**

Meets 3rd Tue., 7:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church at 109 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136  
ANDY LONDON, President / Email: [alondon@concast.net](mailto:alondon@concast.net)

The joint meeting of IBM Ring 179 and SAM Assembly 6 took place on October 9, 2025 at the Chestnut Ridge Church in Timonium, MD. Seventeen members attended, with the theme of “teach a trick.” During the meeting, three lucky attendees won door prizes provided by Vice President Dave Thomen. Announcements: President Andy London announced upcoming events. The Ring’s annual Originality contest, judged by past winners, is in November. Winners will be revealed at the December meeting, which also serves as our holiday party with a catered dinner and a special guest magician, soon to be announced. Members may bring one guest. Other highlights include an upcoming Greenmount Station dinner show. Andy London shared a video of “Will the Cards Match,” a mental card trick using a math principle from Howard Adams in 1982, later popularized by Larry Becker. It relies on a clever sequence rather than sleight of hand to guarantee a perfect match. Performances: 1. Dave Thomen - after highlighting a trick from *M-U-M* magazine last month, Dave shared two issues of *The Linking Ring* that mistakenly featured the same April cover on the June edition. He also discussed using both issues in a Book Test trick by Clyde Hayre, featured in the September issue. 2. Richard Kitterman - followed Dave with a torn and restored napkin routine, complete with a humorous “magician in trouble” gag woven into the performance. 3. Harry Damardeck - handed out rope loops and invited Tim Hall to assist in demonstrating a rope-through-arm illusion. 4. Mike Stringer - demonstrated a Four Aces assembly technique he picked up from a video by J.K. Hartman. 5. Joe Bruno - our club dean, Joe taught an original Halloween-themed card trick featuring transpositions of witches and cats. He also revealed his source for creating the custom cards

used in the effect. 6. Ken Caplan - paid tribute to Eddie Robinette by performing the Kiss Lips card trick and explaining how to prepare the cards to conceal the lip reveal. He also informed members how much easier it is now to obtain the stamp used to make the cards compared to in years past. 7. John Gazman - won over baseball fans who aren't fond of the New York Yankees with a clever card trick that featured a surprise reveal - complete with a bit of profanity for comic effect. It was a playful Orioles-style nod to finishing last in the division. 8. Howard Katz - gave the worry stone effect a Halloween twist by having five members each hold a different colored stone, leading to a surprise reveal of who had the orange stone. 9. Rick Beatty - presented the history of the gambler's Three Card Monte and followed with a lesson on the sleight-of-hand techniques used to deceive an audience. 10 - Mary Pomykala - put a humorous spin on the classic Cups and Balls routine by swapping the ball for a sponge tooth. 11. Joe Pachino - incorporated an AI-themed patter to justify a shuffled card prediction.

*Michael Worsham*

#### **ING 185, HONOLULU, HAWAII – Curtis Kam**

Meets 4th Th (except Nov. & Dec.), 7:00 p.m., at Kalihi Palama Library, 1325 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI 96819  
LAUREEN TANAKA, Secretary  
E-mail: laureentanaka@gmail.com  
www.hawaiimagicclub.com

VP, Bradley Choy, conducted the October meeting with 5 members in attendance. President, Willy Chen, enjoyed a much anticipated vacation in China. Fall in Hawaii had blue skies and daily temps in low 80's. Hey .... we bundled up when the night temps went down to the 60's. LOL.

The 2025 Hawaii Magic Festival tickets began selling in October. This show was a Nod to Curtis Kam - who we miss. Stage performers and Strolling magicians rehearsed and fine tuned their acts. Magic enthusiasts & loyal Hawaii Magic Festival attendees purchased tickets daily. It was another great show showcasing Hawaii magicians with a Special Performance by Tom Dobrowolski from Chicago.

Kelvin Chun shared highlights from the Asain Magic Convention that he attended. Sounds like a good event to put on the calendar.

The theme for tricks was: Halloween

Bradley Choy performed "Glory" and "Think". Left us thinking for sure.

Kelvin Chun shared "The Mummy". Kent Lee did the "Eye Stab" gushing creamer. Creepy & messy. Brad Kerwin demonstrated the "7 Penny" trick with Laureen Tanaka as his volunteer.

Lots of laughs, applause and delicious pizza.

Hope you all had good Holidays and are embracing a Prosperous 2026. *Laureen Tanaka*

#### **RING 193, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Len and Thalia Swinyer Ring**

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00 pm, at the Swinyer residence, 4970 Waimea Way, Holladay, UT.  
MONT DUTSON, President / E-mail: montd84@comcast.net  
Web site: [www.utahmagic.org](http://www.utahmagic.org)

Ring #193 met on Nov 4, 2025, for our monthly meeting. Graciously hosted by Thalia and Len Swinyer, there were 24 attendees.

Our Annual Magic Competition was held during the meeting.

Carl Byrd acted as Master of Ceremonies while Thalia reviewed rules and kept everything organized. Special thanks to our judges (all non-magicians): Bobbie, McKay, Lan, Johnny, and our timekeeper Vincent.

Competitors were:

Kerry Summers - The Bewildering Blocks. 6 numbered blocks were stacked in descending order on each other, with another stack next to it in ascending order. When the cover was put on & taken off, both sets of blocks matched, no matter how they were mixed up.

Dale Stewart (Stewart the Magnificent) - The Mystery of the Blue Scarf. Using a new, sealed deck of cards. AS - 10S were put into one glass, and AH - 10H were given to an audience member to mix up. The 4H was selected and turned around, then put into the other glass. With a wave of the scarf, the order of cards in glass 1 matched the mixed-up order of glass 2.

Doug Coleman - A blank picture frame was shown. A deck of cards was removed from a paper bag, shown to be shuffled, a card selected, turned over, and the deck shuffled again. A book with names of famous actors was shown. A random picture was selected. A tape measure was used to measure between two audience members. The actor was named as Harrison Ford, the card as 4H, the measurement as 122", and these were present in the formerly blank picture frame.

"The Al Lampkin" - Two audience members came up to help with Dad Joke Poker. 10 cards were counted in Al's hand then kept by a volunteer. 10 more cards were counted in Al's hand and kept by the other volunteer. Al starts a dad joke, and if volunteer couldn't finish the joke, Al magically took a card and put it into the other volunteer's pile. After 3 jokes the cards were then counted as 7 and 13.

Javier Montenegro - "The Old Man". Cup and Ball trick. Ball changed to a cup. Ball changed to orange, then 4 oranges, one being larger. Then a flower appeared in one of the cups.

Rudy Chacon - Holly thought of a number between 1-1000. Vince chose a color. Rudy asked a couple of questions then Rudy chose a number and said it, Holly said NO, and the prediction card Rudy showed said NO (so he was right!). Carl

picked a number between 1-100 that had meaning to him (62) and Rudy had that amount of change in his pocket. Carl & Thalia then chose cards from a riffled deck. Rudy correctly named Thalia's card (8D) after two questions. Carl's card (2C) was no longer in the deck, but in a binder clip in a glass on the table.

Dan Pincock - Dan performed "Extreme Burn". He went to a store on Halloween. He had 5 \$5's verified by audience. When he rang up at the register the \$5's had turned to \$20's, which then changed back to \$5's. He then did "Instant paper to Money" where pieces of torn magazines were changed into assorted bills and back to magazine clippings!

Mont Dutson - Two audience members, Adriana & Holly, assisted Mont. Mont used an orange as a "crystal ball." Adriana selected a card from a deck and the card was torn into pieces. The torn pieces were placed under a silk held by Adriana, with one piece kept in her other hand. Holly held the "crystal ball." The torn card pieces disappeared from the silk and the restored card, minus one piece, was inside the "crystal ball." The piece in Adriana's hand matched the missing corner from the restored card.

Justin Porter - Justin had Owen & Rudy examine ordinary items (crayon, card box, toothbrush, etc.). Justin recited a poem to music while balancing the items on each other forming a tower. Justin removed a lower piece and placed it on top without the tower collapsing. Justin's used magic to show God uses the ordinary to do the extraordinary.

"One Magic Mister" Eric Wanner assisted by Dan & Holly demonstrated they had a connection while staring into each other's eyes. Eric did this by writing a prediction in a notebook. Dan chose a 2-digit number (#87). Eric opened the Notes app on his tablet, chose the note titled Celebrities, and had Dan scroll down, verifying the names were different, and looked at the name by his number (87). Holly stared at Dan and thought of a celebrity that came into her head. She said Johnny Depp, which was #87, and was also written in the notebook held by Eric.

Winners were:

1st place - Rudy Chacon; 2nd place - Eric Wanner; 3rd place - Mont Dutson; Honorable mention - Kerry Summers.

Carl Byrd

#### **RING 194, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA – Space City Magic Club**

Meets 1st. Thu., 7:00pm Madison Christian Church, Hughes Rd.,  
Madison, AL  
MATT GROWDEN, President  
E-mail: [Growdne@yahoo.com](mailto:Growdne@yahoo.com)

Event: October 18. Ring 194 sponsored a table at the Gigaparts Halloween event. Derrik Born

brought children closer to our table by performing coins across, chopstick paddles, and Chinese Coin on ribbon. Brett Boyer performed with rubber bands, Tree of Hearts, and a QR code force. Patrick Brunson performed a 3-card monte repeatedly where the spectator came close to guessing the right card. Making the crowd of spectators look larger stood George Patides and Jared Cassidy.

November Meeting: The performance theme was "Outside the Box Magic," which encouraged participants to present acts beyond traditional categories such as Appearance, Vanish, Transformation, Restoration, or atypical themes like Federal Shut Down Magic. This left many other categories of magic; Psychic, Topological Inversion, or Remembering how to Juggle. This was a ZOOM meeting with Kevin O'Connell, Riley Brasher, VP Brett Boyer at their places of residence. Jack Baldwin provided the real magic by bringing in a TV, computer, microphones, and software needed to provide ZOOM. Patrick Brunson watched Jack set up. And take down.

Members voted to remove Keith Harris from the Ring 194 bank account. Dean Carter was renewed as treasurer and left on the bank account. President elect Brett Boyer and VP elect Matt Growden to be added to the Ring 194 bank account. Patrick elected and agreed to finish secretary duties in December 2026. Patrick is not on the bank account. Legal paragraph.

Matt Growden performed an optical illusion puzzle chemical extract called Templet Magic. Evan Tate, junior card master performed a card trick. Kevin Zoomer turned a CD into a donut while Samantha asked Kevin "who are you talking to?" Dean turned \$7.43 into one Bitcoin. Patrick Brunson produced 7 quarters to a Beatle song and talked about sports with quarters, then found a thought of card via John Cornelius' memorized deck. Guest talent promoter, Cole Andrews, no kin to the Andrews sisters, invited members to perform short routines between bands at PHAT. Bill Waring performed a math puzzler with numbered index cards that not only added up to the prediction, but had the spectator's name on the prediction. Others involved choosing cards were Jared Cassidy, Kenneth Jordan, Jack, and Bill Mullins.

Patrick Brunson

#### **RING 197, MARIETTA, OHIO – The Tommy Windsor Ring**

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 200 Franklin St., Marietta, OH  
DALE WHEELER, President / E-mail: [dalew3314@gmail.com](mailto:dalew3314@gmail.com)

Ring 197 met on Monday, November 3. Jay called the meeting to order. Our meeting began with a reflection of the October Ring show and continued with the usual agenda items of reports and updates. Additionally, we discussed the upcoming Christmas dinner to be held on December 1 at our meeting location.

The topics of discussion included various music sources for shows and their costs, the equipment necessary and the legal requirements for the options. Relating to the Ring show, Jay shared that he had uploaded the pictures from the show that Kerry Blair took onto the Ring's Facebook page. The group was reminded of the upcoming Richard Osterlind lecture to be held in North Canton on Monday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. to which several plan to attend.

There was no theme for this evening's performances. Performers included Jay Foresta, Dock Cutlip, Bill Stokes, and Velma Kunze. Bill performed, with Dock as his assistant, his variation of "Future Foretold," a retired Ickle Pickle Magic product. The prop list includes a deck of cards, an envelope, and a prediction. The spectator deals face up with the "stop anytime" option leading to a match in the envelope.

Jay performed a classic "Scotch and Soda;" Velma served as the assistant. Following his performance, there was a discussion of the differences between "Spellbound" and a "French Drop." Dock brought to the table "Fast and Loose." This effect has been performed by several current professionals who all give a nod to Johnny Thompson and his insights into his handling of it. The single prop is a long chain that is shaped by the magician who asks his helper to place a finger in 1 of 2 sections to guess if, when pulled, the chain will connect to the spectator.

Dock's next trick involves a patter, a promise of \$20, and a series of moves to locate the illusive Ace. Dock invited the whole group to watch closely and listen carefully to see if we could find the Ace. This is an effect by Peter Nardi called "The Grifter" and will remind you of the standard 3-Card Monte. And speaking of Monte, Bill shared the effect called "Color Monte." Finishing the performance portion was Velma with her take on the "Wonder Box." Upon her request, a few offered suggestions for the handling and performance of the effect.

We would love it if you would like to join us, either as a guest or a new member. If you are traveling through or living in our area and would like to come to a meeting, get in touch with us.

*Charleen Stokes*

#### **RING 198, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY – Thoroughbred Magic Guild**

Meets 2nd Sun. afternoon of most months at Hope Springs Community Church, 1109 Versailles Rd., first building.

MIKE WOODWARD, Secretary / E-mail: [mikewmp@aol.com](mailto:mikewmp@aol.com)  
Web site: [www.ring198.com](http://www.ring198.com)

In late October, Lexington, Kentucky's ring hosted the fifty-first regional "Unconventional Convention" at the Cumberland Falls hotel. The event lived up to the "unconventional" reputation;

leaders wait to schedule the three shows when they see who shows up! About 70 magicians attended, plus families and other hotel and community guests.

Bill Sturgess began the Friday evening show with a lovely story about a soldier who was fond of whiskey and magic while he performed an egg bag effect. Bill Osburn featured an "Alexander, the Man Who Knows" poster—whose eyes awakened, whose voice revealed a spectator's choice of a card. The "eyes" theme continued as Tom O'Neill presumed to see through a volunteer's eyes, as he identified most of the ten card in her hand.

Anderew McGrath performed the first of several rope effects performed over the weekend; fortunately, no two rope routines were identical; McGrath cut his rope with two fingers! Jon Rees invited four volunteers to each pick a card; he nailed all four reveals. Cliff Mitchell united two ropes that were threaded through a box, and produced silks of many colors from an empty tube.

Cody Clark, who has Autism, performs magic and promotes Autism awareness in schools and other organizations. For our event, Cody featured pictures of six different socks; the volunteer chose the two socks that Cody then revealed he was wearing. Trent James, our headliner for the weekend, performed his original, expanded, and surprising version of the classic spotted cards routine.

Saturday afternoon's Close-Up show featured seven magicians. John Rees invited two spectators to cut a deck and sign the cards they cut to, which then rejoined the pack; when each spectator thought of a number between 1 and 52, their signed cards surfaced at those numbers. Cody Clark performed with two bills that changed places; then a deck changed colors. Timmy Lee told an ancient Celtic campfire story as chess pieces were influenced by the Fates. Buddy August told a story about a queen who commissioned a pirate to raid a silver treasure as he turned a copper coin into a silver coin. George Hunter performed a version of Bob Neale's "Sole Survivor" as he reported patterns of human behavior in the history of epidemics, including the recent pandemic.

Trent James, our younger headliner from Chicago, reported that he'd been interested in cut and restored rope effects ever since he reattached the umbilical cord at his birth! He then performed his ropes and ring routine that vastly expands upon the traditional Professor's Nightmare.

Chuck Arkins, a former I.B.M. president, opened the final show by performing a Three Card Monte gambling routine with three giant cards. Dillion Williams and Michael Preistrap both performed (quite different) rope routines;

Michael accompanied his effect with a short history of recorded music records since the invention of the cylinder music device in 1896. Chris Meece dazzled the audience with bottles in tubes; the bottles changed places, changed colors, and multiplied. Buddy Royter featured some silks that performed to music as the audience clapped in unison.

Trent James made silks change color as they passed through his fist, and then demonstrated that the wonder involved a fake egg with holes that had been held in his fist; but then he showed the egg as real by breaking it, with the white and yolk dripping into a glass. He then simulated a séance, in which the spirit wrote on a chalkboard, "This is Bullshit!" He ended by stealing a spectator's wallet in one of the most amusing routines in our convention's history.

Meanwhile, the Saturday morning agenda featured outstanding lectures for magicians.

In the first period, Andrew McGrath—a master of "Cardistry," performed more than 20 card-acrobatic flourishes; the routine finished by showing the deck in its original order! Bill Osbourne and Mike Woodward then featured a range of antique magic props—including some from the late 1800's. Except for its splendid wood craftsmanship, an 1890's Ball and Vase looked much like one from a basic magic set; but its method surprised us. Vintage props like a Nut and Bolt prop, a slate, a forcing deck, and a rising-card box were brilliant, and would fool most people today.

In the second lecture, Trent James walked us through several original versions of effects like his Ring and Rope routine and his Spot Cards prop. And he gave some advice that many attendees seemed to take seriously. For instance, he only buys or designs effects that will play close-up AND for a larger audience. He avoids performing effects that are new, "hot" and currently performed by many magicians. And he encouraged us go with magic that we are interested in, that engages us personally; and our attire should reflect who we are.

I especially enjoyed one of Trent's lines when he concluded an effect in one of the shows. "I know how you feel. When I first saw this trick performed, I forgot to clap too!" *George Hunter*

#### **RING 200, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY – Harry Blackstone, Sr. Ring**

Meets 3rd Tue. each month. 7 p.m., Clara Barton First Aid Squad located at 1079 Amboy Ave., Edison, NJ 08937

CARLOS A. NEGRON JR., Secretary E-mail: IBMRing200@gmail.com  
Website: [www.ibmring200.com](http://www.ibmring200.com)

President Conrad Colon called the October meeting to order with twelve members in attendance.

Plans were finalized for our annual Holiday Party in December, which will once again be held

at our regular meeting location. The always-popular White Elephant Magic Grab Bag will return—members contribute used or surplus magic items that get traded throughout the night, making for an evening full of laughter and surprises. Members voted to make the \$10 contribution optional rather than mandatory, ensuring everyone can join the fun.

Discussion also included upcoming shows at the recently opened House of Magic in Pennsylvania, a wonderful new venue that has quickly become an asset to the East Coast magic community. Members were also reminded that the Ring 200 Library offers a selection of magic DVDs available for borrowing and return.

Our featured lecture was presented by the always-entertaining Jimmy Brown, whose career has taken him from Matawan to Morocco and beyond. Jimmy shared a variety of routines, effects, and professional tips. Highlights included his handling of Balloon to Cane, a colorful prediction effect called Chip, and his version of the Restored Bill.

He also demonstrated the use of a Bulldog Clip Utility Device for vanishing or switching a bill or folded card—ideal as a kicker ending for a snake can routine. Jimmy displayed his creativity with the classic Coloring Book, showing how it could be adapted into a magazine cover effect. He recommended laminating a show outline, an organizational idea the members especially appreciated, and concluded with an innovative take on Nickel to Dime using a rolled-up bill instead of the standard metal cover.

After a short break, members performed on the evening's theme, "Escape." The theme was interpreted both literally and figuratively—ranging from physical escapes to routines that challenged performers to step outside their comfort zones.

Performances included:

\* Jimmy Brown – Spring on Ring, a classic routine.

\* Dennis Thomas – Houdini, the King of Cards: Houdini's handkerchief, tied and locked within two others and placed in a "jail" box, made its miraculous escape.

\* Dave Zboray – An ESP effect utilizing the Gilbreath Principle.

\* Michael Gutman – A clever card routine where two selections turned out to be perfect "twins," such as the Five of Clubs and Five of Spades.

\* Frank Valenti – A strong Four-Coin Matrix and an improved handling of Barry Richardson's Card at Any Number.

\* Topher Sutton – The whimsical Shaken Cat Trick.

\* Conrad Colon – A demonstration of the Thumb Cuff Escape.

\* Bob Klase – A unique routine using vintage photographs of couples. After the photos were mixed and paired, the cards were turned over to reveal fascinating stories and fun facts about each couple.

It was another enjoyable and inspiring evening at Ring 200—filled with creativity, camaraderie, and the shared joy of magic. *Michael L. Gutman*

## RING 202, MALTA – The Magicians' Society

Meets on alternate Mondays at 19:00 Volunteer Centre, 181 Melita Street, Valetta

GEOFFREY BUHAGIAR, Secretary  
[secretary@magicinmalta.com](mailto:secretary@magicinmalta.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/27850309211/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/27850309211/)

The highlight for the first meeting this month was yours truly (Geoffrey Buhagiar). The following part of the report is by Vanni Pulé: “Geoffrey Buhagiar has been fascinated by magic for many years. He gave us a short but colourful biography of his early years when he performed at different events and created props and illusions for himself and others. These last few years he has become very much engaged with the possibilities of using a 3D printer to make magic props. He started by creating fantasy figures related to games. Then he moved on to miniature replicas of famous illusions. He started creating his own gimmicks for himself and for other magicians and more recently he started making bigger props using different materials and including even different colours in each prop. Perhaps his most fascinating one was a beautiful square circle with the inner tube emitting a rainbow of gleaming colours. We were enchanted by the beauty of the props and their artisanship. He concluded his presentation by giving members some gimmicks he made himself. This was a very unusual demonstration for a magic meeting and it garnered a lot of interest. Over to Geoffrey.”

The meeting proceeded with various magic tricks from other members. Lorenzo Brincat presented the latest version of the ‘Blank Notes to Bank Notes’ that does not involve any sudden movements or folding of notes. Brian Rolé spread a pack of cards three times on the table and each time he could tell which card was mentally chosen. TVP, Alfred Mifsud, made pictures of sweets disappear from a children’s book and made them reappear as real ones. He then magically calculated the number of cards cut repeatedly from a deck, an idea by Hector Mancha. He followed this with a practical version of the rising cards that does not require any mechanisms. The last performer was Vanni Pulé who started by restoring a chosen and torn card inside a frame. His second effect was “Shadow” where a signed blank card transposes with a chosen card and he concluded his spot and the meeting with an effect, by the late El Duco, where a coin bearing Houdini’s face, on

one side, and handcuffs on the other side is hollowed out with the face and handcuffs becoming detached from the coin.

The meeting after this was dedicated to Halloween magic. Before the display of magic by members, we had ten minutes of highlight dedicated to our veteran member Joseph Demanuele. Rather than demonstrating tricks, Joseph showed us a clip from one of his shows in 2001, where he ended by producing a giant inflatable rhinoceros on stage. He spoke about how this idea evolved and the difficulties he encountered.

Then, Lorenzo Brincat visually changed a five Euro bill to a fifty euro one. Brian Rolé created an atmosphere of mystery and dread with a routine centred around the murders committed by Jack the Ripper, ending by predicting not only the name of the chosen victim but also the exact time of the crime. Vanni Pulé engaged us with some storytelling, first with a routine about vampires that involved an intriguing elaborate coffin and some miniature props. He then made a picture silk with the image of a ghost perform all sort of cavorting, and finished with a mental effect about a dead orchestra member and the loss of his instrument. Kim impressed us all with a routine performed totally on a mobile phone where a video displayed a lady having a number of balloons. After one was selected and burst, a number freely thought of appeared inside. Bill Schweda, alias Karl the Magician, revived the story of the Yorkshire Ripper and with suitable props revealed the identity of the chosen victim. Our President, Gwilym Bugeja, closed the session with two presented routines. His first one was a packet card trick where a number of cards bearing ghost pictures appeared, disappeared and turned over until they all, except one, vanished totally and appeared printed on the last remaining card. He then followed this with a hilarious routine with a skeleton that kept losing its head and other parts of the body and changing colours until it became completely restored again. Thus ended a very entertaining session of magic and ideas.

The last meeting was dedicated to silk magic but had as its highlight our respected Territorial Vice-President, Alfred Mifsud. He started by dishing out general magical advice, especially regarding children’s parties. He spoke about the importance of cleanliness and appearance, especially with the hands. He said that clothing is an option that the performer has to decide upon, depending on the occasion but that one must always be well dressed and well groomed. One has to adapt to audience’s age window and to keep eye contact with everyone. He also insisted on punctuality, getting all the details clear and having something extra, just in case it is needed. When storing the

props at home, one must make sure that all the props pertaining to one routine are kept together. He also advocated the presentational aspect, trying to be different from others and drifting away from the original routine in the instructions. Music, he said, is a choice that one must make and if it is used, proper preparation must be made for it.

He followed his very enlightening talk with some magic related to the theme of the meeting. He produced colourful silks from a rectangular tube and from a box that had its back and front door opened. He made a silk stand up straight and turned a black streamer into a colourful one. Three separate silks put into a transparent tube were blown out tied together, after which, a red and white silk were placed in a bag and after some red and white counters were added, they became spotted. PIP Vanni Pulé followed with Sea's Silk in Light bulb. Then he put three white silks inside a cardboard contraption, colours were magically removed from the front picture, and the silks emerged coloured accordingly, following the turning of a handle. The topless and bottomless box was then shown empty. His final trick was the classic variation of the Twentieth-Century theme, called "Mr and Mrs Green".

Lorenzo Brincat showed a practical routine where silks were made to appear and disappear at will. He produced the final one from Vernet's "Purse". Our vice-president, Glen Mercieca changed the colour of more streamers, produced silks from a box shown empty. Then, a flat empty box turned into a rectangular tube and, after being shown to hold nothing inside, produced a quantity of large tie-dyed silks.

Two guests from the United Kingdom participated without resorting to silks. Kancho performed the latest version of a classic grandmother's necklace effect, where two woolly strings penetrate three transparent beads inside the hands of the spectator. Kyle Sarocen wowed everybody with his casual presentation of the marvellous IARVEL watch that predicts the time chosen by a spectator.

Once again, another meeting, which was lively, entertaining and stimulating, ended on a positive note and leaving a lot of feedback.

*Geoffrey Buahagiar*

#### **RING 205, LIMA/FINDLAY, OHIO – Northwestern Ohio Magicians Association (NOMA)**

Meets last Sun. of the month at Mike Grubbs's home in Findlay.

GENE CRAFT, Secretary, 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, OH 45807

E-mail: [Ecraft@woh.rr.com](mailto:Ecraft@woh.rr.com)

Web site: [www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205](http://www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205)

Ring 205 celebrated their annual banquet and installation of officers on Sunday October 26, 2025, at the Main Events meeting room in Findlay, Ohio. Last year's officers were President,

Doug Ferguson, Vice-President, Chris Topel, Secretary, Gene Craft, Treasurer, Fr. Steve Blum. The newly installed officers are President, Chris Topel, Vice-President, Gary Friedrich, Secretary, Gene Craft, Treasurer, Doug Ferguson.

We had approximately fifteen members and guests. The event and banquet was setup by Roberta Howard. We all enjoyed a fine meal and socializing. After the meal we shared some of our magic talents. Gene Craft began with a beautiful silk rendition of Knots Across.

Doug Ferguson displayed eight random cards. When an audience member chose one of these cards it was the only red backed card in the pack-  
et. Chris Topel presented "Magic Mama" in which he counted down to a selected card. Gary Friedrich produced a bowl of candy that he offered to everyone. He then performed a very nice Coin Through Silk routine.

Jim Slagle had an audience member choose three cards which magically matched Jim's chosen cards. Mike Grubbs displayed a large production box. From the box he produced several beautiful silks, including five six-foot silks. *Gene Craft*

#### **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](mailto:president@ring216.org) / Web site: [www.ring216.org](http://www.ring216.org)

About thirty members were present to attend the free-for-member lecture at the Ring 216 meeting on September 10, 2025. President Cal Tong opened the meeting and introduced the officers. He announced that the Close-Up competition would be in October and invited people to sign up to perform. The Stage competition will be in December, but there will be no Walk-Around competition as we have had so many lectures this year. Meriam al-Sultan announced that Silicon Valley Magicians would have a lecture by Bill Goodwin.

Vice-President Syd Kashima introduced tonight's lecturer: magic creator, performer, and teacher at the Magic Castle Michael O'Brien. He opened with pulling a Coke bottle from his cap followed by making two more bottles appear ("Triple Bottle Production"). He next performed a routine he has been doing for fifteen years and used on his "Fool Us" appearance: a steel ring links onto a finger ring, a bottle opener, and a steel ball, with the spectators able to take the linked objects in their hands and examine them (Matthew Garrett's "Ninja Plus"). He then carefully taught both routines, giving his lessons from years of performing experience.

His sponge ball act came next, which exploited spectator psychology as much as it depended on sleight of hand, and he freely taught every step

and answered questions from the members on audience handling and the application of misdirection. Other effects he taught in the course of the two-hour lecture were "Progressive Oil and Water", where more cards are added at each successive phase and "Final Destination", predicting two cities spectators would choose for their vacation.

But the centerpiece of the lecture was Michael's method of personalizing his magic presentations. His philosophy is, "You want the spectators to feel they know you by the end of the performance." He gave a method that can be followed to develop presentations that reveal something of the life you lead outside of magic - family, interests, personality - and walked through several examples applied to himself. This was an inspiring philosophy that appeared to captivate many of the members.

A number of items were for sale, including a force to replace TOXIC and, as a pre-sale item, the "O'Brien Book Test". After the lecture there was time left for the members to socialize.

I.B.M. Ring 216 of Silicon Valley meets the second Wednesday of every month. We welcome all visiting magicians.

*Gary Goldberg*

#### **RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring**

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN  
SCOTT STARKEY, President

Our evening began with an after action report on our public Halloween show. It highlighted what went well and what goals we might have for our spring show. We remain ever grateful to perform for our community.

Scott started the night in a normal way by having a card selected and returned to the pack. It then went abnormal when he shuffled the cards face up into face down packets. With just a wave of the hand, all of the cards righted themselves except the selected card.

Jordyn had a card peeked and with a vulcan mind meld, she revealed the thought of card! She then taught us this effect which was an exceptionally clever peek.

David had three cards selected. He took a newspaper, made a simple cut, and opened it to show a silhouette of two hearts - which just happened to be the first selected card, the two of hearts. Another simple cut and he revealed the second card, the two of spades. One final cut in the newspaper revealed the final selected card, the ace of diamonds.

John put some sugar in a cup of coffee only to remember that he was supposed to cut back. He popped the bottom of the cup and had the undissolved sugar come out, but the liquid coffee remain in.

John then took a couple of singles and alternated them, so they'd be face up or face down. With just a quick wave all of the bills were facing the

same way.

Jordyn had a volunteer come up and test their psychic ability. The volunteer thought of a card and then attempted to sense which pile their thought of card was in. After a series of these sensations the volunteer then cut to their card proving they are sort of psychic.

Scott had a volunteer cut a random number of cards from a pack and placed in his hand. In his other hand he dispensed excess cards from the deck until he could feel he had perfectly balanced the number of cards in each hand. When they were counted, he had the same amount.

Jordyn had a volunteer name a number. It just so happened that the volunteer's name was on a list at the randomly named number.

Benji brought out a pizza peel and made tiny pizzas appear and disappear until a jumbo pizza was produced.

*Benji Milanowski*

#### **RING 234, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA - The Low Country Conjurors**

Meets 1st Sun. of each month, 3:00 pm, Commonhouse Ale Works,

North Charleston, SC

GEORGE YOUNTS, Secretary / Email: [george\\_younts@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:george_younts@charleston.k12.sc.us)

Zach and George got the usual high table but due to big event going on in Park Circle, and only them, felt it was abort time but soon Jamison, Justin and Gary showed up and we all were good to go. Here are the tricks: Justin presented: Coin Matrix with a Mirage Coin Set, Free Will Delux by Deddy Cobuzico, Ring and String, Tattoo You by John Bannon and Card Warp. Gary showed an old Harry Allen Daytona Magic creation that was Cards across and Princess card together on steroids. George pestered everyone with how to make a Rabbit out of Bandana and his Napkin Rose master class. Zach did Brother John Hammond 2 Card Trick, Chop Show by John Bannon, Packs a Wallop from Packs a Wallop by Doug Edwards and along with Jamison showed a very sneak coin shell move in a spectator's hand. Justin did Grandma's necklace (TCC) and Dark Wave ESP cards. George also did a Mental Telepathy deck presentation, showed off a tenyo toy and a number matrix version by Max Maven found in Genii magazine. Also, Justin gifted many with a P3's Zombie Monte. Plus, books and DVDs were lent out and returned as it all wrapped up after two and a half hours. Next meeting is November 23rd same Bat time... same Bat channel.

*George Younts*

#### **RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS – Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring**

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) at The Salvation Army, 502 N. Prospect, Champaign, IL 61820 (and Zoom).

KEN BARHAM, Secretary

2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616

E-mail: [Kebram@aol.com](mailto:Kebram@aol.com)

The October meeting opened with discussion

of upcoming online lectures and meetings followed by discussion of the recent Trevor Duffy Lecture hosted by the club. Everyone who was able to attend had a great time and if you get a chance to see him lecture or perform, don't miss it. J.R Thomas gave us a book report on Max Malini: King of Magicians, Magician of Kings by Steve Cohen. Sounds like a great choice if you are looking for something to read. The club decided to get a booth at the Urbana Farmers Market next year to promote next year to promote the club. More information on that as we get it. Chris Bontjes gave us some updates on the SAM and IBM national conventions next year. Mark Carlon informed us that Masters of Illusion is coming to Bloomington Center for the Performing arts on Wed, October 29th. J.R Thomas stepped in again with a review of "The Book Without a Name" by Theodore Annemann, which sounds like another great read. Rob "The Professor" Higgins showed us Unbelievalope 2.0. Chris Bontjes closed out the business part of the meeting with a review of Elevated Matrix. J.R. Thomas opened the magic with his SAMOROB. Rob Higgins performed his Bite and Restored card. Ken Barham Showed us his Jumbo Two Sided Die. Rob Higgins took the floor again with Frozen in Time. Essen Hu joined us on Zoom with his Big Stack and Roy Stoutenborough showed us his Magic Square Prediction. The next meeting will be on Wed, November 19th at 7:00 PM at the Salvation Army Building, 2212 N. Market Street in Champaign and theme will be: Do A New Trick From An Old Book. As usual, anything you bring is fine with us. Come early and meet us at Manzella's Italian Patio in Champaign for a meal or just to hang out. I try to be there around 5:00. *Ken Barham*

#### **RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The "Magic Ian" Ring**

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, in the Ball Room of the Lake Square Mall, Leesburg, FL 34748

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: [www.Ring 258.com](http://www.Ring 258.com)

Our meeting place has changed again! We are back at the Lake Square Mall hopefully for some time to come. The Mall is now under new management, and we were welcomed with open arms. We will perform a number of presentations during the year as payment for the use of the Ball Room. We had two guests at this month's meeting, Mike Palma and former Ring member Wayne Hughes.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for Dec. 29, 2025, at The Golden Corral Restaurant on Hwy. 441. We will enjoy the buffet, a Magical performer and a wild gift exchange.

Nominations for Ring Officers for 2026 took place tonight. For President David Lyons and Andy Rohweder. For Vice President George Drake and David Ginsberg. For Secretary Roger

Reid unopposed. For Treasurer Karen Lyons unopposed.

The Theme for this month was Halloween Magic. Jim Luscutoff led off with the Vanishing Finger, which actually happened! Andy Rohweder turned a yellow rubber band into snot, Ugh! Roger Reid produced a 36" Devil silk from a Pumpkin shaped, square circle type apparatus, using black art. Kim Young found the selected card using a Haunted Deck. David Ginsburg turned an orange silk into a Pumpkin. Greg Solomon showed a Gozinta Box, a Skeleton Key, a Toy Production and a new version of the Invisible Deck. Guest Mike Palma found the chosen card using a TV Card Frame. Guest Wayne Hughes closed the show with "Sox – Halloween Edition". November's Theme will be Four Corners Magic!

*Roger L. Reid*

#### **RING 273, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA - Oliver Ring**

Meets 3rd Thur., 7:30pm at the Burns Club

PETER FOSTER, Secretary

Email: [pfoster@pcug.au](mailto:pfoster@pcug.au)

A bit of a quiet meeting with just the 3 of us: Chris Donohue, Phil Bevan and me. The theme was Magic With Bottles and Glasses.

Phil started with a Hydrostatic Glass. This was filled with water, then turned upside down, with the water not spilling. The magician can break the spell, causing the water to suddenly spill. Although he didn't actually perform this, as it is a bit messy and there was no bucket available.

Phil followed with a messed up Rubik Cube in a paper bag. He claimed he was solving the cube with one hand, inside the bag. After a bit he removed a solved cube. But we were a bit suspicious that there was another cube in the bag. He admitted that there was something else in the bag, and pulled out a glass of champagne! Very surprising. This was Perfect Champagne Glass by Henry Harrius.

Next Phil showed a silk both sides, then produced a glass of water, with ice. This was Perfect Water Glass, again by Henry Harrius.

Continuing the theme, Phil showed a paper bag, clearly empty. He then took out a glass of wine. Very nice. This was Appearing Glass by Steve Thompson.

Having exhausted his supply of glasses, Phil then took out a credit card, which transformed into a pair of sunglasses. This was Sleek by Jeki Yoo.

Phil then showed another of his recent acquisitions. This used jumbo cards of cartoon characters. One was put aside as a prediction, then other cards were shown. They had either a first name or a last name, and the spectators were invited to match them up, for example "Bugs" and "Bunny". Then the packets were shuffled and the

spectators selected one from each pile. But they did not match: one was Mickey, the other was Vader. Then the prediction was shown - it was indeed Mickey Vader! Very funny. This was Cartoon Prediction by Defma Magic Geek.

Chris then did a silk and glass trick. He put a silk into a glass, then put another silk over the glass and secured it with a rubber band. He then reached under and apparently pulled the silk through the bottom of the glass. But then he revealed the glass did not actually have a bottom! So he tried again, this time with a real glass. Again a silk was placed inside, another over the top, secured with a rubber band. Again he reached under, again he pulled out the silk, and all could be examined.

Phil then did a card trick. A spectator selected a card and showed it around as the magician turned away. The magician turned back and the spectator returned their card to the middle of the deck. The card immediately jumped to the top of the deck. Again a spectator selected a card and showed it around as the magician turned away. Still turned away, he held the cards behind his back and asked for the card to be returned. When the magician turned back, the selection was sticking out of his mouth! Very surprising and amusing. This effect was by Richard Sanders, but Phil did it with a Mene Tekel deck.

Phil continued with another card trick. Two spectators each thought of a number, then counted down to that number, noted the card, then buried it in the deck. The magician then put the deck in his pocket. He removed 2 cards - the selections. A very nice trick that again used a Men Tekel deck.

Phil finished with another card trick. A card was selected and lost in the deck, then the spectator took a bunch of cards to get a random number. The spectator dealt down to that number - the card at that number had STOP written on the back, and it was the selection. As a kicker, the rest of the deck was all blank cards. This was Stop It!!! by Chris Congreve.

Next meeting is on 20 November. The theme is Spooky Magic.

*Peter Foster*

#### **RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic**

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:00 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042

LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary

4515 Northglenn Court, Englewood, OH 45322 / (937) 836-4359

E-mail: [IBMRing324@aol.com](mailto:IBMRing324@aol.com)

President Larry Taylor officially welcomed all 11 of us. First, we talked about next month's meeting – our annual Christmas Party. Signed up for potluck. Discussed which entree the Ring would provide. December is also Elections for Officers, so we reviewed the positions and candidates. It will be the same Officers as present with

the addition on tRick Gaffney as Sergeant at Arms. We learned that long-time Ring Member Rick Ross was hospitalized. (Later finding out that he had passed away. Rick was a constant positive force in the Ring over the years and he will be missed.) We checked in on what other local Rings had planned. Ring 71 (Cincinnati) is having 2 lecturers (The first, Frank Paris, was later cancelled) and second, two Bill Cook lectures November 15 and 16 at Artsville in Cincinnati. We raffled off fourteen items donated by Bill West and Tom Casper. Thank you, Bill and Tom. Lots of fun stuff and some extra money for the Ring. Then we took a short break for refreshments brought by June and Larry Taylor. Thank you, June and Larry.

Time for MAGIC! Jake Lindsey started off with Four effects: Number 1. A beautiful "Die Box" routine with separating into two boxes finale. Number 2. A "Two Card Monte" routine Number 3. A very deceptive "Lucky Loops" rope routine by SEO Magic and Number 4. "Silk to Ear" with volunteer June Taylor. Charlie Cadabra then hit us with four more. Number 1. "Hawaiian Punch (Quarter)" with tossing coins and dealing down and removing cards. I'm not telling you where Hawaii comes in! Number 2. "(Cards) Out of this World" with volunteer Bill West. Number 3. "Birthday Traveler" by Luca involving a Book of vacation destinations, the birthday day of volunteer June Taylor (13th) and confirmation of his predicted destination. Number 4. "Volpe". tRick Gaffney showed us a bell on a frame that rang on command – "Spirit Bell Pro". Larry Taylor presented a very smooth "Cup and Balls" routine. Tom Casper perplexed us with his "Assassin's Wallet" and sophomore "Felt Tip Pen" gag (rubbing the tip of the pen – horrible.. but I'm going to use it!). Bill West finished our session off with a "Truth or Lie" routine with volunteer Patrick Dugan. - "Tequila Hustle". We shared some "Squeaker" stories before we adjourned. Then we stayed around and talked magic.

So, if you are ever in Middletown, Ohio the first Friday of the month, please stop by and join us. From Ring 324 – The Friendliest Ring Around.

*Larry Hollinger*

#### **RING 325, BRANSON, MISSOURI –**

#### **The Tri-Lakes Tricksters**

Meets 3rd Sat. of the month at the Magic & Joke Shop, 6:00pm, 124 South Business 65, Branson, MO

DR. CHRISTOPHER BECK, President

E-mail: [beckibmring325@gmail.com](mailto:beckibmring325@gmail.com)

October is our annual visit to Hamner's Extravaganza. Jim Holmes, Jeff Pyzocha, Yak Williams, Lexi Cole, Anthony Mullins, Richard Knoll, Gary Geise were joined by Dave Hamner and all were welcomed to our annual

“Performance Nite”. Jim welcomed everyone to Hamner’s. He especially thanked Dave for inviting us and giving us the opportunity to showcase the club members. Dave graciously indicated he looked forward to our annual visit and the opportunity to see and enjoy time with everyone.

#### PERFORMANCES:

President James Holmes opened the show with his own One Handed Vanishing Cane to Silk effect. He created it 45 years ago while he was practicing his act for a show to celebrate National Magic Week. Over the years he manufactured thousands of the canes and sold them worldwide. Jim has received many awards over the years for his invention including the “Fantasio Magic Award”. His trick has been used in many TV shows including an episode of the CBS TV show “Simon & Simon” and most recently ‘Gordon Ramsay’s MasterChef Junior’ filmed at the world famous Magic Castle.

Nine-year-old Lexi Cole was our first performer. This is her second meeting with us. Using a green balloon, she demonstrated a balloon effect producing a shiny green puppy for all to enjoy. After the September meeting she and her Mom, Christine, joined us at Steak N’ Shake and several members helped her learn several balloon effects.

Richard Knoll our member from Little Rock AR with the help of Lexie and her dad, Dave, helped him complete a card effect. Lexie kept her hand on top of a prediction envelope. Richard then divided the cards into eight piles. At the direction of Richard Lexie and Dave alternately selecting one pile at a time for Richard to stack together. Next he sorted the cards into four piles adding cards to one pile until Lexie or Dave called “switch”. When all the cards were distributed. Richard directed Lexie to select two piles. Richard took the other two piles. Richard then had Lexie open the prediction envelope to read “I will have black and you will have red.” When the cards were displayed face up, Lexie had the black cards and Richard the red ones.

Vice President, Gary Geise presented the story of the rich man represented by 8 Diamonds and the poor man, 3 Clubs. The rich man told the poor man he wanted to play poker and wondered if the poor man could help him. While sharing the story, the cards slipped out of his hands and got out of order. Encouraged by the group he proceeded to share the rest of the story to the group.

Anthony Mullins showed three beads on a string and demonstrated how they penetrated and were manipulated to complete the “Grandma’s Necklace” effect.

With Yak’s assistance, Jeff Pyzocha had him select a card from the red backed deck. The chosen card, 6 Hearts when turned over, had a green

back. The card was returned to the deck. Yak next selected 3 Diamonds. When the deck was spread out, all the cards had red backs, no green backs were found.

Prior to returning to the stage, Gary Geise asked James to hold an envelope. He then asked Lexie to select a card from the deck in his hands. She selected J Clubs. When asked, James pulled a Halloween poster out of the envelope with a square displaying J Clubs.

Last in the lineup was Yak Williams to demonstrate a new box effect “The Color Changing Die” recently received from Italy. With the assistance of several members of the audience, he asked Anthony to select a color. He chose Blue, when the cover was removed, the die showed blue. Jeff selected Green, but the displayed die was Red. Richard selected White and Yellow was revealed. Mary selected Orange and for the final reveal, 8 separate dies in 8 different colors displayed when the cover was removed.

The Performance time was adjourned and all enjoyed a brief visit with Dave Hamner. The group exited to the lobby. After the guests for the evening were ushered into the theater, our group was seated and enjoyed the evening show.

*Mary Geise*

#### RING 334, MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA – Grand Strand Magicians Society

Meets 1st Thu., 7:00 pm at the Southatlantic Bldg., Unit C, 908 Seaboard St., Myrtle Beach, SC  
GERRY THOMPSON, Secretary  
[www.sandyshoesentertainment.com](http://www.sandyshoesentertainment.com) / (843) 650-0767

The Ring Report for October will be brought to you by President Paul McTaggart. Take it away Paul- This month’s theme was “Catalog Magic”, we could do any trick in the book. I opened the meeting with Mrs. Pat Ford presenting the Ring with a very fine portrait of past member Charlie Ford, which we will find a place of honor for the man. I next went over the agenda for the next meeting, December, and upcoming auction in a few weeks. Anyone who participated in the Halloween Carnival received a commemorative poster and we a signed Thank You Halloween card for Sallie at Ocean Lakes Campground. I discussed the event and some of the sideshow acts- Bryon’s Bed of Nails and Spidora, The Man with the X-ray Eyes, and the epic Straight Jacket Escape. We took a break to enjoy some of the best burritos ever! When we returned for a Matrix Workshop, Michael Bairefoot presented some valuable tips on how to make the Coin Matrix really pop. Michael also announced the plan to star in two new magic venues in Myrtle Beach which he will manage. Keeping the show moving, we went into the Magic Catalog open table starting with Jonathan Cox who performed and told

the Paul Harris Out of this World Oil and Water card effect. Dave Tanner blew us away with a signed quarter to Coke can and a card revelation that he called Bary Code. Ron Conley followed with the Steel Ball and Tube where at the end he produces a HUGE chrome ball barring. Thaddeus did some Magic Catalog show and tell from his collection. Many of the members took an interest in seeing some of these rare examples. President Paul McTaggart brought an Abbott's Magic catalog from 1943 and talked about some of the effects from the wartime era- such as, the silks for sale for sale with the image of President Roosevelt and General MacArthur, a Pearl Harbor presentation, and tricks with ration cards. I brought further examples of catalog tricks from my collection- The Card Penetration Frame, The Torn and Restored Chinese Laundry Ticket, and The Insurance Policy that finished with the King of Hearts revelation. Trois Pendleton showed us some clever card slights with his Cavorting Queens. Charles Graham presented his puzzling 12 Cards Down. Toddini closed the program with some shocking mental acuity being able to divine a number of cards at once. This theme may be revisited in the future to see what else the members have to offer.

Last month I (Dale) forgot to thank Gene Voshell for supplying a write up of his talk for the Ring Report. Thank you Gene. Thank you Paul for supplying your notes for the October meeting. You miss a lot when you don't make a meeting. Join us if you are in Myrtle Beach the first Thursday of the month, we'd love to meet you.

Dale Rabon

#### **RING 359, MURRIETA, CALIFORNIA – The Jeff McBride Ring**

Meets 2nd Thur.. at 7:00 pm at 40215 Sierra Maria Rd., Murrieta, CA.  
92562 and Via Zoom.

KARL JOHNSON, President

Email: [karl.johnson@gwcmi.com](mailto:karl.johnson@gwcmi.com) / (818) 632-6324

On Thursday November 13th, Ring 359, the Jeff McBride Ring, met for its monthly Zoom meeting. The turnout was a bit light, but we still had a fun conversation and shared some magic.

Mike Steele came out with a deck of 13 cards. He showed them as all random cards in a random order and then shuffled the deck. Mike did a three to two deal and the 13 cards were now in ace to king order. He did the routine while reciting "The 12 Days of Christmas" giving the effect a Christmas motif. This trick was based on a Joshua Jay effect.

President Karl Johnson literally pulled a rabbit out of a hat. It was a stuffed rabbit which was cute. He put the rabbit back into the empty hat and pulled out a stuffed Elephant instead.

Southern California TVP Cliff Gerstman lead a

conversation about Penn and Teller's show "Fool Us." There is much that the casual TV watcher would not know about going on behind the scenes.

Cliff continued on to talk about the roll out of the new updated IBM website that will hopefully make its first appearance on December 1st.

Karl Johnson is hoping that more IBM members will join his online ring that meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30. Always the same Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/3137070153?pwd=eW95a0xyRnZhdTdWdjVXTmJQaUZMUT09>

Cliff Gerstman

#### **RING 362, BANGOR, MAINE – The Bob Nixon Ring**

Meets 2nd. Sun at the Bunker Community Center, 22 ArmoryvRd.,

Augusta, ME

SCOT GRASSETTE, Secretary / E-mail: [grassette@gwi.net](mailto:grassette@gwi.net)

After a quick meeting of discussion for themes for 2026 we reached for our wallets and the tricks that can be accomplished with them. The November 2nd meeting theme was wallets. These EDC utility devices can make you feel like James Bond with all the things that can be done with them, and it's not just card to wallet. They can be used to switch vanish ring-in and peek at cards, notes, credit cards and money.

Bryan Taylor started us out with a Bob Solari item where a previously selected card from another deck matched the card that was cut to. Next Wes Booth shared some antidotes using wallets including a few fire wallet stories. Ken Shoemake demonstrated nest of wallets which a couple people in attendance have never seen before. A vanished coin ends up in a piece of fabric folded and hidden in 3 nested wallets, nice job Ken. Then Scot showed a wallet effect that he learned from Henry Evans at a Hank Lee Cape Cod Conclave so many years ago. A photo of Scot holding an orange silk is shown in his wallet, in a flash the silk flies up from the wallet and the photo now missing the silk. VP Dennis demonstrated the very clever card to wallet with the F1 Nitro wallet. Dennis also shared his EDC 3 way out with coins using a quiver purse and used Alola Morrison to help.

Off topic items started with Wes showing us a trick called Noah's Boat was an Ark which after all was done, Ken's choices made the face down cards all paired up. Wes then showed us an effect he was inspired by from the 100+ year old The Magician's Hand Book by PT Selbit. 4 Decks of cards are tossed into the air and they all balance on top of each other. Scot showed some new moves with a Go-Go Vanisher learned by a Jon Armstrong. It's a utility silk made to vanish small items. The meeting was closed and social was continued at the Amazing Garden Chinese Restaurant.

Cliff Gerstman

## **RING 398, APPLETON/GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN – Dr. Lynn Miner Ring**

Meets last Tue. except Dec., 6:30 p.m., email for location.  
RICK MOREIN, Secretary  
E-mail: rmorein497@gmail.com

Our October meeting's theme was Eerily Mystifying Magic. The meeting started with a front table demonstration where President Daryl Rogers shared Card Warp and some nice handling tips taught by Eugene Burger.

Bruce Hetzler shared a neat "Yes and No" ESP card prediction trick – where Marv Roth thought of a shape and all of the shapes had "NO" on their back except the chosen shape with a big "YES".

Our namesake Dr Lynn Miner shared an effect based on the Foxglove Force as described in the June 2025 issue of *The Linking Ring*. It fooled many of us – showing we should really be reading all the stuff in that wonderful resource!

President Daryl Rogers then shared his Don Wayne "Dancing Hank" gimmick, a clever zombie-like gimmick that allows one to perform a

cute animation of a handkerchief.

Marv Roth then shared a cute magic trick that started with blank cards, and then each card "printed" to show a variety of Halloween symbols. It was based on the NFW trick. He also shared how he printed his own custom cards and described a repositionable adhesive, Tombow, that works better than double-sided tape.

Vice President Rick Morein performed an eerie piece using a bell that loses its ring. He also shared the history of the Bucktown bell he used, that was built by Gordon Meyer.

Treasurer Tal Kuhnz then spooked us with a haunted photograph in which we thought we saw a man in the picture, but when we looked again, the man was gone!

Lastly, secretary Kevin Koehne shared a Hindu thread effect, with a dark poem that he recited during the tearing and restoring of the thread.

All in all, it was a ghostly fun time for all.

*Kevin Koehne*

## **NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS**

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

### **I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS**

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,  
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

### **JANUARY 2026 21 NEW MEMBERS**

ASTON, JOHN, Downey, CA  
CANDEE, TIMOTHY, Winchester, CA  
FARENBAUGH, JOSH, San Francisco, CA  
HIRSCH, ROBERT, San Diego, CA  
MCKNIGHT, JAMES, Bagdad, KY 40003  
OLIVER, THOMAS, Seal Beach, CA  
PAREDES, GUY, Port Charlotte, FL  
PARR, LUKE, Port St. Lucie, FL  
RAXTER, MASON, Venice, FL  
THERIAULT, JEFFREY, South Elgin, IL  
SCHILL, ADAM, Columbus, IN  
SLOGERIS, BILL, Auburn Hills, MI  
JONES, MICHAEL, Charlotte, NC  
BLADEK, STAN, Newton, NJ  
JONES, JUNIOUS, Hightstown, NJ

BREJTFUS, EDWARD, Las Vegas, NV  
SEIBOLD, ERIC, Clarence Center, NY  
PALUCKA, TIM, Pittsburgh, PA  
MOSS, SHAUN, Inman, SC  
GRAY, JAMES, Colonial Beach, VA  
DANIEL, ADAM, Fonthill, Canada

### **7 REINSTATEMENTS**

CASILLAS, LISA, Fresno, CA  
HYND, JIM, Colton, CA  
MARSH, NATHAN, Winter Springs, FL  
OLSON, STEVEN, Mahtomedi, MN  
MLAKAR, DAVID, Valley View, OH  
SEVERN, DONALD, Hellertown, PA  
MILLS, PETER, Tyler, TX

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

## Answer to Pictures from the Past – from page 12

William John Hilliar was born in Oxford, England, on November 27, 1876. His interest in magic began after seeing the magical talents of Bosco in a nearby township. In 1901, Hilliar's book *Novel Hand Shadows*, an original series of twenty-five silhouettes, was published by The T. Nelson Downs Magical Company, where Hilliar served as the company's manager.

That same year, T. Nelson Downs published his book *Tricks with Coins*, which Hilliar edited and revised. Hilliar, who began performing when he was around fifteen years old, had made quite the reputation for himself by the time he was twenty-four. He performed magic, ventriloquism, juggling, and was then known as "thought reading" in small towns. Notable engagements included the Royalty Theatre, where he performed for dukes and other royalty. He was also one of a handful of selected entertainers who performed at The Exposition Universelle of 1900, known to Americans as the Paris Exposition. Hilliar received rave reviews.

In 1902, he left England and sailed to the United States, where he founded *The Sphinx* magazine that same year in March. Hilliar wanted the magazine to bring together magicians from around the world, but only maintained control of the magazine for a few months, until October 1902.

In April 1902, Hilliar's book *Modern Magicians Hand Book* was published by Frederick J. Drake.

Hilliar also translated Robert-Houdin's book *Card Sharpers, Their Tricks Exposed or the Art of Always Winning* with the same publisher. After leaving *The Sphinx*, he decided to look for another avenue to promote magic not only for himself, but for so many others. There were a number of magicians throughout the United States who were performing but not receiving the accolades they deserved, and Hilliar's goal was to help them: people like Kellar, Heller, LeRoy, and Powell, among others.

In 1904, Hilliar went back to *The Sphinx* to become a correspondent. He created *Hilliar's Scrapbook* with the idea that fellow magicians could send material to him at the business he started with C.E. Wallace, the National Magical Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

While Hilliar was performing his show on the road with the Dixie Amusement Company, he gathered route information and newspaper clipping about other magic performers and sent it to the magazine to help promote their careers.

Hilliar spent the first decade of the twentieth century staying busy performing. He traveled to Michigan to perform in a few cities, then was off to Montreal to bring his unique performances to his Canadian audiences. In 1909, Hilliar was the manager of Barnum and Bailey's sideshows, where he continued to perform his act on the eastern side of the United States. In 1911, Hilliar and his wife began performing a levitation act and the "Miser's Dream" with the Hagenbeck-Wallace show as a featured attraction. They



**HILLIAR**  
Wonderful Master Magician  
AT  
**The Lyric**  
**This Week**  
MATINEE DAILY  
5 and 10 cents

returned to the circus route whenever their schedule allowed it, allowing Hilliard to travel from Calgary, British Columbia to the states of Washington, Oregon, and California, as well as the lower-middle states.

In 1913, he took some time off to sail to Europe before returning to the United States and joining the Pantages Vaudeville Circuit that ran from Canada to Southern California. In 1922, Hilliar started a side-show set-up (part of the Rubin & Cherry Shows originating in Montgomery, Alabama) that put other traveling mentalist and fortune-tellers shows of the time to shame. Hilliar used a canvas display that covered thirty feet or more, depending on the available space. The canvas flats featured paintings of what appeared to be indigenous people holding large crystal balls. Six artist frames were used to display insights into what the audience would see inside when they spoke to "Doctor" Hilliar. In the top center section of the display, the oversize capital letters spelled out *Hilliari – The Man Who Can Tell*. Each person who dared to pay the all-seeing master and ask him about their past, present, and future had to walk up six steps to reach him. On each side of the steps were two ticket-takers who also served as Hilliar's barkers, as well as confidants on hand should Hilliar need them during his performance.

The astounding part of this spectacular presentation was that it fit into an 18-foot wagon. Hilliar had made arrangement with *The Montgomery Journal* to place a question-and-answer stunt in their daily paper. Readers sent in their questions and then went to see Dr. Hilliar, who would divine the answers and put their minds at ease. It was a slick way to increase show attendance while entertaining the local population.

The 1920s kept Hilliar on the road. After three years performing and working as a publicity manager with the Rubin & Cherry Show, he joined the Zeidman & Pollie Show out of Portsmouth, Virginia. From there, Hilliar worked for the Johnny Jones Exposition, which was then one of the largest touring carnivals.

Hilliari lived on the Eastern coast of Florida in DeLand. In 1929, he was invited to the laboratory of Thomas A. Edison in Fort Myers, Florida. The two met and became friends when Hilliar was presenting a sideshow in Fort Myers. The meeting was of mutual interest to both men: Edison was interested in discussing Hilliar's sideshow acts, and Hilliar was pleased to be invited for a tour of Edison's rubber laboratory. After a demonstration of Edison's work developing a method to convert flour into rubber for the government, they talked about Hilliar's sideshow work. The two then sat for what Edison said would be his last time posing for a photograph. When Hilliar received the photograph, he was pleased to see that Edison signed it with the words, "To our good friend Hilliar – Thomas A. Edison."

W.W. Durbin, who would become the first elected president of the I.B.M., took the opportunity to let his readers know that at Hilliar's suggestion, he began holding a convention of magicians at his Egyptian Hall in Kenton, Ohio. It started a tradition that continues to this day.

Hilliari continued to perform as well as write for *The Billboard* and *The Sphinx* magazines, providing updates about magicians around the country. In 1926, fire destroyed Zeidman & Polie Shows and Circus in Youngstown, Ohio. Hilliar was there with his act, "Dr. Hilliar, The Man Who Can Tell." A photo appeared in one of the local papers showing the destruction that had occurred to the entire circus. Oddly enough, both Hilliar's display and another display set-up near Hilliar's only suffered minor fire damage.

Once the Great Depression began in 1928, theater doors closed and scores of people filled bread lines. Paying for entertainment became a luxury most people could not afford. By the early 1930s, things had picked up and shows started touring again. Hilliar, who had been dropped from *The Billboard*, was rehired as a magic correspondent.

Hilliari stepped away from his employment from *The Billboard* to go back to something that gave him more personal pleasure. He became the publicity man for Ray Marsh

Brydon's show based on Robert L. Ripley syndicated cartoon panel *Believe It or Not*. Brydon, who started the show in 1934, didn't have Ripley's permission to use the name. Brydon's show usually featured at least one real freak show, a magician or illusion act, and several working acts like a juggler, fire eater, or sword swallower. A musical act or two would perform, followed by the "Blow-Off": an act provocatively described by the carnival barker as being "too strong for women and children," which made the prospect of seeing the performance sound more enticing. Hilliar soon left Brydon's show to work as a publicity man for a few other touring performers who were traveling from town to town between 1935 and 1936.

On November 15, 1936, Hilliar took a taxicab from a local café back to the boarding home where he and his wife were staying at 1128 Iliff Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio. He stepped out of the cab and told the cabbie driver, Russell Wingate, that he'd "be back" and wanted him to wait. Wingate watched Hilliar walk to the rear of the house towards the garage before losing sight of him. Then he heard a single gunshot.

Hilliar did not leave a note, and there was no obvious indication he wasn't going to return to the cab. With Hilliar's passing, the magic world lost a person who gave so much of himself for others. So many performers of that time owe the success of their careers to Hilliar's promotional work. He almost single-handedly put them in the public's eye, giving them the opportunity to prosper in the same profession Hilliar enjoyed throughout his life.

## I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

*(Continued from page 43)*

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 43.**

## **Events** – from page 25

Magic Castle. I really don't know how to describe Skilldini's act except to say pandemonium. There is nothing else like it. A mixture of comedy and magic. The audience couldn't stop laughing. I hated to see his act end. If you ever get a chance to see Skilldini's act, go and see it.

All this for \$35 – what a bargain! Ring 243 is looking forward to another year of magic as we begin year 105. A very big thank you goes out to all who attended this year's banquet and to those who made it possible.

## **Teaching Magic** – from page 63

the Queen of Hearts on the table." Now you are holding one card in your right hand. Place it under the stack of two cards in your left hand, saying, "I will place the black card on the bottom of the packet." Now push the top two cards into your right hand, repeating the Optical Move. This time, it looks like you have placed the QD on the table. Once more, you put the lone card in your right hand under the card in your left hand. Your audience will think you have two black queens in your hand, and the red queens are on the table. Due to Vernon's Optical Move, you have done the opposite. Now you can reveal that the red and black queens have switched. This Optical Move creates a perfect illusion.

*Bob Durante  
bobdurante55@gmail.com*

## **Magic and Memories** – from page 51

Since my table is on rollers, I take that opportunity to push the table aside with my left hand. You can see me do this in my "Five Brick Pick-Up" video on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJA9TYUAkgo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJA9TYUAkgo)).

Generally, due to my applause build-up, the audience members clap their hands loudly as I gesture with my left hand. Then I carefully put the bricks back on the table and dismantle the stack, which is especially important if you are using real bricks.

In the studio video, I jokingly dropped the sponge bricks, but I don't do that in a live show. After all, somebody would have to pick up the bricks – and I don't want that somebody to be me.

One other possibility you might consider is cardboard bricks, which are sometimes used in kindergartens and pre-schools for non-dangerous play by little children. In my case I came across the Magic by Gosh sponge bricks first, so my weight problem with the bricks was solved.

This is another example, by the way, of a quick stunt that can turn into a big hit if you build it up properly and cue the applause ahead of time.

Both the pyramid mystery and brick pick-up routines I have shared with you were first published in my book *Kidshow Magic Kompendium*. I hope you have enjoyed them, and I hope they have helped you think.

Next month I'll talk about my friendship with one of the class acts in magic: Ricardo Roucau, also known as Fantasio.



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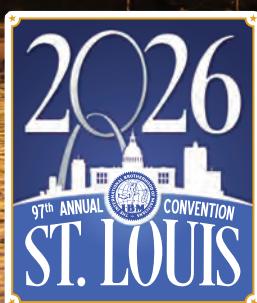
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