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The Linking Ring

MAY 2025

JIM MAGUS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



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Join International President Mike Dunagan and special guest expert Jeff Sobel (head of our TVP program) as we talk new ideas, best practices, and look at the role of the TVP program in today's I.B.M.!

8:00 PM EST, Wednesday May 14, 2025



Check magician.org > resources
for full details.

Next Call: 6/22/25



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The Linking Ring

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The wife of Jim Magus, legendary authority on the history of African American magicians and bizarre magic pioneer – along with a host of friends – shares insider information on his long and illustrious career. Melania Magus Saltarella reports.

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Jason Goldberg shares an assistant conservator's discovery at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York of a late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century predecessor of the magic coloring book.

26 THE ADHD MAGICIAN

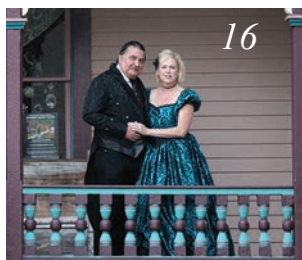
Barb Rosenfeld shares techniques she has used to overcome the challenges of ADHD during her lengthy career as an entertainer.

28 NEW I.B.M. YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The I.B.M. is making an even stronger commitment to helping the next generation of magicians. Here is your chance to make your contribution a legacy. Charles Arkin, Simone Marron, and Jason Michaels report.

42 IN MEMORIAM JACK GREENBERG

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



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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

“The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.” I first read these words of William James, the founder of American psychology, when I was sixteen. With each passing year, the truth of this statement becomes increasingly clear. As the social media meme advises, “Go where you are celebrated.”

James uses two powerful words: *deepest* and *craving*. The longing for appreciation reaches to the core of one’s personality. More than just a passing desire, it’s a relentless, emotional hunger – a fundamental craving in human nature – to be recognized and admired.

In the realm of investments, appreciation means to increase in worth. In our business and personal lives, showing appreciation to others does indeed create more value. At home, a family member who vacuums the house will be happier to receive praise for the accomplishment than to fend off criticism for not sweeping the porch. Our colleagues – whether volunteers in a club or paid employees at work – will feel most energized in a positive atmosphere where their good qualities and dedicated efforts are recognized.

A positive environment doesn’t call for an absence of honesty. To the contrary, when we don’t feel under constant attack by our coworkers or superiors, we are more receptive to constructive criticism. It’s easier to digest when sandwiched between layers of appreciation for the things we’ve done right. Of course, this applies only to direct feedback. Criticism made behind one’s back is seldom well received.

I’ve been fortunate to work for organizations with highly effective leaders – people who know how to say thank you and fill that deepest of human cravings, the need to feel appreciated.

On the other hand, I’ve seen talented and dedicated workers disheartened by inept or politically motivated managers. The same people in open, upbeat, creative organizations have flourished. With their contributions recognized and appreciated, they are motivated to better their best. Everyone benefits.

The eccentric steel tycoon, Andrew Carnegie, paid one of his employees, Charles Schwab, a million dollars a year – not for his knowledge of the industry, but for his skill in dealing with people. When Dale Carnegie, author of *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, asked Schwab the secret of his success, he replied that his ability to arouse enthusiasm among team members was his greatest asset. The way to develop the best in people, he said, was by appreciation and encouragement.



Charles M. Schwab.

“I believe in giving [people] an incentive to work,” Schwab remarked. “So I am anxious to praise but loath to find fault. If I like anything, I am hearty in my approbation and lavish in my praise.” The average person does the opposite: If he doesn’t like something, he complains; if he does like it, he says nothing. But why be average?

Schwab understood the truth taught by William James: “The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.” We may not be paid a million dollars for appreciating others, but there’s no limit to the intangible rewards when we are, in all sincerity, “hearty in our approbation and lavish in our praise.”

President's Page

MIKE DUNAGAN



It's May! And by the time you're reading this, it might very well be June. Yikes!

After this column, I will have only one more chance to speak to you through this President's Page. I already know much of my June article will be thanking a lot of fantastic people. I'll also want to leave you with an update on projects, programs, and the progress we've made.

So, guess I'd better make this one count.

Call me an old sap, but I have always been moved and inspired by John F. Kennedy. He was eloquent. He was smart. He seemed to lead with his heart. I'm not talking politics, I'm talking leadership.

He also made one of the strongest statements ever said in an inauguration speech. He challenged an entire nation with seventeen words when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

That was gutsy. Given the times, it was a controversial statement to make.

I refuse to steal the line but want to make the same challenge to all of us. To me, to you, to everyone in the International Brotherhood of Magicians: What are you doing to make the I.B.M. a better organization?

That is not an accusation. It's a question for reflection. It's a family question.

I strongly believe one of the I.B.M.'s primary responsibilities is to support our Rings and provide value to our members. It is perhaps our most important job, day in and day out. My presidency, and the entire board of trustees, is dedicated to this responsibility.

Delivering on that promise comes in conducting our annual Convention, in promoting the art of magic, in helping our rings grow and succeed, in creating a worldwide

community of performers and teachers to tap into, in providing assistance through Ring Leadership calls and Ring Guides, in helping Rings with their recruiting efforts, in publishing *The Linking Ring*, in conducting magic competitions, in providing members-only online content, in keeping up with important legal issues, in providing online lectures and entertaining podcasts, and in dozens of other ways.

Can we do better? *Always.*

But membership comes with responsibilities, too. As members, we are the organization. There is no "them," there is only "us." We are all equally responsible for making the I.B.M. the I.B.M.

Are you doing your part? Again, not an accusation, just a question. If yes, bless you and thank you. If not, start doing your part.

I recognize that doing your part does not mean we all do the same amount. As members, we can only do what we can do, we can only contribute so much. But do what you can do.

Contribute wherever possible. Help set up chairs at your next Ring meeting. Attend the Houston Convention. Chair a local Ring committee. Pay your international dues. Spread the word about the I.B.M. and the joy of magic. Take advantage of the support given by International. Take part. Help out.

This organization is made up of amazing people doing amazing things. Collectively each day, we make the International Brotherhood of Magicians the greatest magic organization in the world.

Can we do better? *Always.*

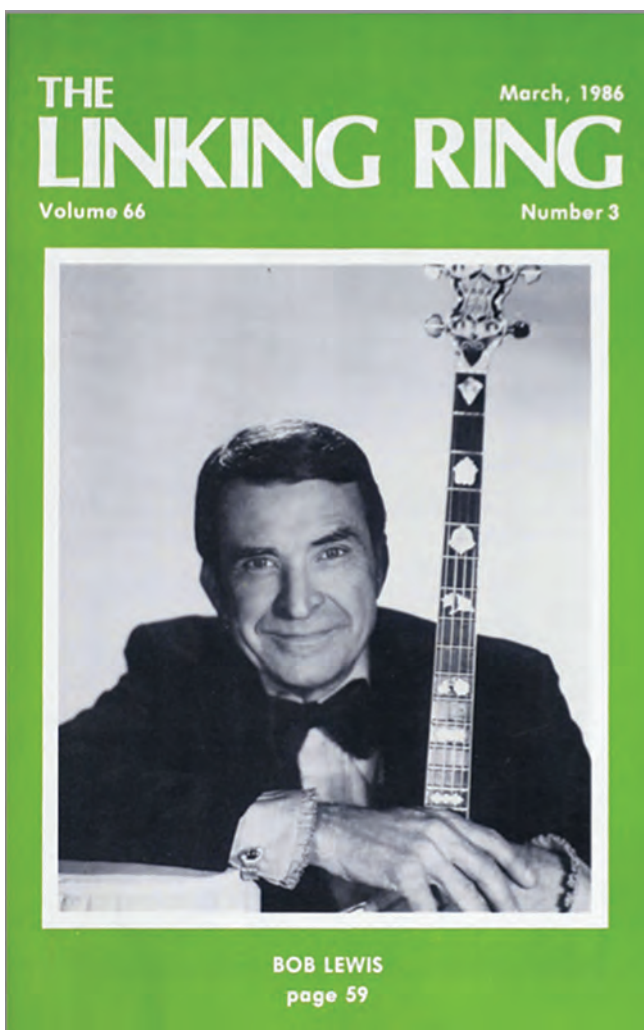
One Last Thing. I had the honor of attending the Mystify Magic Festival in late

(continued on page 15)



Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING



Bob Lewis was a great guy and a friend to all, someone who would drop anything he was doing to help someone out of a jam. He and Clarke "The Senator" Crandall (1907–1975) were the best of friends and avid banjo players and collectors. In fact, Bob may have collected more banjos than anyone else in the world by the time of his passing in 1986. He and Clarke had a good, solid friendship and when you put the two of them together, the evening would be filled with jokes, music, and magic until day break. Between magic and music, Bob made a career in pure entertainment. To learn more, turn to page 145.

March. If you missed Simone Marron's review in last month's *Linking Ring*, go read it for a great in-depth review.

Congratulations to Leah Orleans and the entire Mystify team. What a convention and what an experience. There was so much talent. So many great performers. So many new ideas. It was an incredible three days.

A Band of Brothers

By Frances Morgan

"We few, we happy few, we Band of Brothers."
– St. Crispin's Day Speech by William Shakespeare.

In 2024, I joined the International Brotherhood of Magicians and attended the annual Convention. I made new friends and had the honor of competing in the I.B.M. Stage Contest. This brotherhood extends not only across oceans but also time. By reading previous issues of *The Linking Ring* and learning about the rich history of the I.B.M., I connected with the organization's past. Its lectures, events, and members, especially, gave me a link to both its present and future.

I discovered that brotherhood is a value the I.B.M. takes seriously. Here are people, both men and women, who are proud and honored to share their passion for magic with others. The most common phrase I hear from magicians is "If you're willing to learn, I am willing to teach." I've discovered this to be true of the I.B.M., which I appreciate as a new magician.

As a student, one of my favorite poems was the St. Crispin's Day Speech from William Shakespeare's *Henry V*. "We few, we happy few, we Band of Brothers." Little did I know that this line would foretell my path, that one day I would proudly proclaim that I am a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians – a fraternity which also welcomes sisters into their brotherhood, a fellowship with a rich magical history and future. I am proud to be part of this Band of Brothers.



Frances Morgan

JIM MAGUS

By Melania Magus Saltarella

THE MAN

“Born the seventh son of the seventh son ...” Nah, just kiddin’.

James Leonard Saltarella, better known by his stage name Jim Magus, was born in Rochester Hills, Michigan, to an Italian father and Scottish-American mother. His introduction to magic began when his grandparents, Ma and Dear Gibson, gifted him the *My Favorite Martian* magic set when he was eleven. It wasn’t long before he began performing. At his first public show, the emcee stumbled over his last name, which convinced him to adopt the stage name “Jim Magus” – a reference to Simon Magus, the magician from the Bible’s New Testament.

Jim continued to perform and there grew a following in the Rochester Hills area. He was a local favorite who was often featured in the local papers. In college, Jim performed fire-eating to the tune of The Doors’ “Light My Fire” for a Michigan rock band. He also performed an acclaimed Dancing Cane routine.

His love for the history of magic was inspired by another gift from his wonderful grandparents: Walter B. Gibson’s book *The Master Magicians: Their Lives and Most Famous Tricks*. His passion for history led him to take an African American history class in college, where he wrote one of his term papers about a Black magician. Jim quickly found there was nothing in print about the subject and no mention in any of the books at the local

library. This started a quest that led him to an incredible meeting with the world-renowned Fetaque Sanders.

Fetaque was one of the most talented, brilliant magicians to ever perform and had a vast knowledge of Black history. He was thrilled to share the information with Jim, but on one condition: that Jim would not just write a term paper, but a *book* that would make sure these incredible men and women received the recognition they deserved.

This was the beginning of a beautiful friendship that fueled what has become Jim’s passion project and life’s work. He spent a week at Fetaque’s home going through clippings, articles, and books, and still views the time he spent with him as one of the greatest experiences he ever had.

Jim used his research on African American magicians to write a series of articles that ran in *The Linking Ring* starting in August 1984. He received the *Linking Ring* trophy for the series in 1985. Ten years later, Jim published his first book on the subject, *Magical Heroes: The Lives and Legends of African American Magicians* for which he won the Society of American Magicians’ Special Library Award. Jim has been featured in multiple publications as one of the world’s experts on the subject. Since then, Jim has published a second book, *That Old Black*



Left to right: Melania and Jim. PHOTO BY LILY YANDELL Jim performs sleight-of-hand magic for high school students at a Paran School event in 2019.

Magic. His third book in the series is set to be released by the end of this year.

In the late 1970s, Jim discovered bizarre magick and séances for entertainment. His mentors included Tony Doc Shields, Tony Raven, and of course, Tony Andruzzi. Jim's first book on the subject, *Horror Magic*, was published in 1980 by Supreme Magic. He was invited to perform and lecture at the first Tony Andruzzi Invocational Convention in October 1984, which was the first magic convention devoted to bizarre magick. Jim also performed and lectured at Docc Hilford's Weerd Weekends, where he received the coveted Tony Andruzzi Award for his contributions to bizarre magick.

Jim has served as the president of his local Society of American Magicians chapter, as well as vice president of his local I.B.M. Ring in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1990, he began dating his now-wife of thirty-three years, Melania. He brought her and their children into his magic act to make it a full family magic show. Jim's performances have included multiple corporate venues as well as private parties for Ted Turner and Dominique Wilkins.

Jim has also performed and lectured at numerous magic conventions, including the Psychic Entertainers Association, the Magic Collectors Association, the Atlanta Harvest of Magic, the Winter Carnival of Magic, the I.B.M. Convention, and the SAM Convention. Most recently, Jim performed and lectured about séances and bizarre magick at the East Coast Spirit Sessions.

Giving back to the community has always been important to Jim. The Magus family has raised money for local schools for various projects. For years, he was the featured magician in Cherokee County, Georgia, who kicked off the summer reading program. His volunteer work includes Project Magic, Cure Childhood Cancer, Atlanta Food Bank, SafePath Children's Advocacy Center, Read Across America, Bartow, Cherokee and Cobb County Schools and libraries, Special Olympics, Camp Sunshine, the armed forces, and many other organizations.

Jim has written two books on Acworth, Georgia, and is the creator of Acworth Ghost Tours. Now he performs with his wife Melania and their nineteen-year-



Above: Jim Magus and David Himelrick as the Southern-inspired comedy duo Bubba and Cooter, in 1995. Left: Fetaque Sanders, who provided many of the research materials that Jim Magus used to write his books about the history of Black magicians, greets Jim in 1973.

old granddaughter, Melania McFalls (yes, named after her grammy). Dressed in Victorian-era costumes, the family act delights their participants with spine-tingling stories of the ghosts who haunt Acworth.

THE MYTH

When we were dating, several of my girlfriends came to a party at Jim's home. His "magic room" was the place we all went to watch him and other magicians perform. As you can imagine, the room décor evoked the Addams Family: a skull here, a gargoyle there, a full-size guillotine, and several other interesting magic props. After the party, one of my very religious girlfriends pulled me aside and

said, "You know he must be a devil worshipper." I cracked up and just said, "No, he's Methodist." It is interesting trying to explain to the average person why you need a skull in your house!

THE LEGEND

The first time Jim heard the term "legend" used to describe him, he looked at me and said, "It's official, I must be getting old!" The fact is, Jim has touched the lives of many in the magic community, so I've asked a few of them to share their favorite memories.

David Himelrick: I first met Jim through our mutual connection with the Psychic Entertainers Association. We both regularly attended the organization's annual Meeting of the Minds (MOTM) conference. In the summer of 1994, Jim and Melania came to visit my wife and me for a weekend at our cottage on Lake Martin. While floating around in our inner tubes, Jim and I began to wax philosophical on the deep metaphysical topic of what would rednecks do if they had psychic powers? We both immediately recognized the endless comic potential of the topic and began to bounce ideas around for a potential skit, which gave birth to the comedy duo Bubba and Cooter.



Jim Magus and David Himelrick, seen here as the comedy duo Bubba and Cooter, attempt to contact the spirit of Elvis Presley during a comedic séance performance in 1996.



Above: Jim and his wife Melania Magus Saltarella with their granddaughter, Melania McFalls, at the 2024 Acworth Ghost Tours event. Left, top to bottom: Jim Magus poses with his granddaughter, Melania McFalls, at the 2017 Community Magic Show. Jim Magus poses with a cane and lantern in front of Acworth City Hall in Acworth, Georgia, where he is the creator of Acworth Ghost Tours.

We performed this at the 1995 MOTM. It is a bit hard to adequately relate the sophisticated material it contained. We had a running gag where after we did the first demonstration, we would end subsequent ones with the line, “It’s a gift!” delivered in a strong Southern accent. We got the whole audience to shout it along with us. Our backstory was that “We were cousins, and so’s our parents.” One of us got our psychic gift after being abducted by aliens (Alabama is a primary landing site, you know). The other got his gift when his trailer was hit by a tornado – for the third time. Some of the demonstrations included the telekinetic opening of a beer can using only the power of our minds. We suspended a prediction from a fishing pole above the audience at the end of a fishing line in a Mail Pouch tobacco pouch. At the time Al Mann was selling his Diplomental Pouch, so we called ours the Diplomental Mail Pouch.

For our book test, an audience member selected the first word on a page in *Varmint Masters* magazine (yes, it’s a real magazine). We had them select any page between 22 and 24. Fortunately, our audience was not particularly mentalism erudite, so it blew right by them. Our finale was the infamous “Twelve Have Died” bullet catch. We did it like it had never been done before – with a twelve-gauge shotgun. We actually shipped the gun to Seattle and fired it in a major hotel. If you missed it, I’m afraid an encore is out of the question today.

We went on to do additional crazy stuff two more times. The next MOTM performance was the Bubba and Cooter séance. I came out with a number of band-aids on my face. Our opening line was, “You remember that bullet catch thing we did? Well, we don’t do that no more.”

For this performance, we informed the audience that we were going to attempt



Above: Jim Magus in the early stages of his bizarre magic career, 1972.

to contact someone on the other side. Of course it had to be Elvis. Jim sported a beautiful, handmade, baby-blue Elvis jumpsuit complete with a cape, a wide belt, and white shoes. We collected Q&A questions from the audience and attempted to contact his spirit to get answers to those questions. The questions we answered were all prepared so Jim could sing a line from a famous Elvis song as the answer. At first, we failed to contact him, but we kept getting other dead singers. Finally, we asked for a sign if Elvis was with us. Then I secretly pulled a thread and a jelly donut dropped from the rafters onto a table on the stage. We took that as an indisputable sign he was now with us. Some of Elvis's answers were slightly cutting, but very funny inside jokes. We ended the night with a recording of the main musical theme of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, "Thus Spoke Zarathustra," along with an "Elvis has left the building."

For those of you who don't know him, Jim Magus is a clever, creative, and witty fellow. I have been fortunate to make so many great memories with him that make me smile.

Jack "The Wiz" Camp: Jim and I met in the early eighties when we were both

members of the Georgia Magic Club, Ring 9, in Atlanta. Several club members advised that we should meet because of our common interest in "weird" magic. They were indeed correct! I will achieve the milestone of becoming a member of the Order of Merlin Excelsior (sixty years of continuous membership). It has been my privilege and honor to have Jim Magus as a close friend for more than forty of those years.

Together we began a common journey that found us spending many weekends, late nights, and long phone calls exploring what would later come to be known as bizarre magick.

Jim, Melania, and I have performed many corporate and private gigs together. One time in particular stands out. We were at an outside event under separate tents when the wind became quite a challenge for us. Not to be daunted, each of us improvised a way to contend with the situation and continue performing. I switched to reading rune stones, which would stay in place. Jim brought a crystal ball out of his case and sat it on his table. As he read each card, he began to slide them underneath the crystal ball.

At one point I glanced over to see how it was going with Jim. The sun had shifted



Jim Magus and Sebastian Black on stage in 2018. Jim Magus on stage at the 2015 Society of American Magicians Convention with Ran'D Shine, Rory Rennick, and Hiawatha Johnson Jr.

positions enough to shine directly into the crystal ball. It was at that moment I noticed a wisp of smoke rising from the cards he had placed under the crystal ball. The cards had caught fire! At that exact moment, the guy for whom Jim was doing the reading shouted, “What does that mean?” as he frantically backed up and pointed at the smoking cards. It was a priceless moment, and it was the astonished look on his face I vividly remember. It was the only time I ever remember him being totally stunned and speechless. Of course, the pause made this moment even stronger.



A young Jim Magus poses with tarot cards.

Jim leaned back and said, “Stay at home for three days. This will pass ...”

My second favorite memory is the wild weekend we spent making the infamous Magus Video with the outstanding assistance of Monte Johnson. Jim gathered together friends to participate in and help him record his fantasy video. It centered on a satirical take of the introduction to *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Jim was in his zone and so into his masterpiece. At the time I do not believe he fully recognized how much enjoyment he was giving the rest of us. We were laughing hysterically while standing in his driveway around 10:00 p.m., bouncing his car up and down to emulate having a flat tire, holding the garden hose up in the air to create the illusion of rain, and waving tree branches to simulate wind, while filming the introductory scenes. The team was in stitches while serving as stagehands and support characters. It was an unforgettable experience. Thank you for the memories, Jim. It has been one of the true pleasures of my life sharing such a magical friendship with you.

Jeff McBride: How did I step into a real-life horror movie? I wasn’t quite sure then, but in retrospect, I realize it was the first time I had truly witnessed bizarre magick performed in a deeply convinc-



Jim Magus performs the “Twister” routine with his wife Melania Magus. Right, top to bottom: Jim Magus plays harmonica at a 2022 Acworth Ghost Tours pub crawl event. Jim performs at an Acworth Ghost Tours pub crawl, with Cathy Mintz and Debi Smith, in 2017.



ing way. I had just flown in from New York City to Chicago for Tony Andruzzi’s legendary Invocation Convention. The moment I stepped into the hotel, I knew I wasn’t in Kansas anymore. The place was crawling with strange, mysterious figures – most of them clad in black, their eyes gleaming with the secrets of the unknown. It was as if I had entered some underground society where magic wasn’t just tricks, it was *real*.

Within the first few hours, I met Jim Magus. Now, he had a presence about him – something in his voice, his demeanor, that suggested he knew things the rest of us didn’t. Before long, he had persuaded me to follow him to his hotel room. *That should’ve been the tip-off*.

Little did I realize, I was about to step into an experience akin to the Michael Douglas movie *The Game* – except I was the unwitting lead character in a play I didn’t know had already begun.

Jim shut the door, a serious look in his eyes. “I haven’t been able to sleep for

weeks,” he confessed. “Not since I found what’s inside this book.” He pulled open the bedside drawer and revealed a Gideon’s Bible. That wasn’t the strange part. What was strange was what was *inside* it. Wedged between the pages were tarot cards – dozens of them, their edges frayed as if they had been shuffled and reshuffled through many sleepless nights. “I have to keep them in the Bible,” Jim said. “It’s the only thing protecting me.”

That was when my magician’s mind started firing on all cylinders. Was this an act? A set-up? A demonstration of psychological illusion? Or had I stumbled into something darker? Jim’s voice dropped to a whisper as he told me the story of how he had acquired these cards – cards that he swore had a presence, a power, something *other*. “They need to be exorcised,” he said gravely. He handed me the deck. I shuffled and drew three cards. My stomach tightened as I turned them over. Three sixes. 666.



Left to right: Jim Magus with his daughter Elizabeth and friend Jack Camp during a performance at a Cure Childhood Cancer event in 1999. Jim Magus with his wife Melania, son Wes, and daughter Elizabeth perform at the Alliance Theater in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1995.

Then, with an almost theatrical inevitability, I flipped the next card: The Devil. Jim's face was unreadable. Was this his trick? Or was something playing tricks on *us*? Quickly, he took the cards and placed them back inside the hollowed-out Bible, returned them to his bedside drawer, and slammed it shut. "We must leave this place!"

In that moment, in that dimly lit hotel room, I felt something shift in my perception of magic. This wasn't just sleight of hand. This wasn't just entertainment. This was storytelling, mystery, *theater of the mind* – magic so powerful that it blurred the line between the illusion and the real. That night changed me. It was my initiation into the art of intimate, immersive magic – magic that doesn't just *fool* people but *transports* them into another reality. A magic experience so personal, so eerie, that it leaves its mark forever. Jim, thank you. That night was more than a trick. It was a *gift*. A private, one-man show that altered the way I perform magic to this day. And for that, I am forever grateful.



I am honored to write this story about Jim Magus and even more honored be married to this *amazing* man. As a fellow entertainer and partner in many of the shows over the years, several things come to mind when it comes to why I think

the young magicians call Jim a legend. He has used his talents as a writer to publish more than three dozen books on magic. As an historian with a thirst for knowledge, he has ensured the history of African American magicians has been documented and their legends will live on.

Jim is a multifaceted performer. He has created many illusions himself. Any illusion he performs he likes to make his own. He has been performing for sixty years and his audiences have ranged from state governors and corporations to magic convention attendees and private spectators. His family shows have delighted his audiences with the classics of magic. As a mentalist, he has captured the audience with his charisma and style, which wows them every time. Being a master storyteller and a bizarrist, he can draw you into the story with his quick wit, right before he gives you goosebumps. His tongue-in-cheek style makes his performances so entertaining. Jim's attention to detail when it comes to his props is an important part of his act. Merely by appearance, they can stir the emotions of both his participants and audiences. He is dedicated to the art of magic, and the respect and friendships he has made are dear to him. Jim's love for magic is infectious, and he has furthered the art of magic with his unique and legendary style.

Blow Books

By Jason Goldberg

Everyone knows that books have the power to transform. As magicians, we know that can be taken literally: who among us has not performed with the venerable coloring book?

We are not the only ones to encounter these tricks as part of our work. In August 2023, an unusual blog post appeared on the website of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In the post, Assistant Conservator Lydia Aikenhead described discovering and treating a blow book from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century hidden among a collection of other transforming books the museum had received.*

In an amusing coincidence, I met Lydia through a friend while she was a conservation intern in Washington, D.C. I gave her a small modern children's coloring book as a souvenir when I learned about her interest in art and book preservation. After reading the Met's blog, I reached out to Lydia for a brief interview, curious to learn a little more about her background and work on the blow book.

As her blog post notes, one of Lydia's parents is a children's book illustrator and her other parent works with early photographic postcards, so the opportunity to work with a book like this was a unique opportunity for her. The book was included in a project to treat and provide preservation housings for a group of French and German children's books held in the Met's Department of Drawings and Prints, funded by the New York State Grant Program for Conservation and Preservation. It was given to the mu-

seum in 1964 by the collector Lincon Kirstein, who donated – in addition to prints, photographs, and sculptures – a number of illustrated children's books, many of which have interactive visual elements like flaps, pop-ups, and transforming images. Before the book was examined as part of this project, it had been misclassified as a traditional coloring book, but Lydia and her supervisor quickly recognized the book's unique nature. Her supervisor had seen blow books before and Lydia realized the similarity to the children's coloring book I had given her. In addition, the book's repeating images and unusual tabs were clues that something unique was happening.

As her blog post makes clear, Lydia is interested in more than the actual object when she's conserving a piece. The object tells a story, and this blow book has some tantalizing details but leaves others to be discovered. It was clearly well used, so this wasn't a piece that sat on a shelf but rather seems to have been actively part of shows, likely for adult audiences. It seems clear from the well-worn tabs that it was handled a lot. As she said, "When conserving a piece, I am always interested in how the condition reveals who may have used it and if there's any damage or other marks that can say something about the life of the piece. Unfortunately, there were no notes about ownership, but my hunch is that this was used in a performer's working repertoire and had a significant life on the road." The title page was

*Check out her blog at www.metmuseum.org/perspectives/articles/2023/8/library-blow-book and the object description at www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/350109 for details about the book and how she treated it.

missing, making it difficult to tell if other copies of this particular book exist.

Surprisingly, blow books have been around for a while, with evidence suggesting they were sold as early as 1550. It's striking that magicians used them, given society's norms at the time. As Lydia noted, "It's fascinating that blow books were being used to entertain audiences that early. If you think about the times they were used in back then, most people couldn't read. However, blow books seemed to be one of the first commercially available tricks that people could buy. That said, people would know what a book is even if they couldn't read it, and the visual nature of the books made them work for audiences."

This was Lydia's first treatment of a magic object. We hope it won't be her last!

[Blow Book (Magic Book)], 19th century, etchings, some with hand coloring, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 64.629.12, Gift of Lincoln Kirstein, 1964. Image: Lydia Aikenhead, Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Blog post – 5: The book's front cover. Note the lack of title or any other identifying information, the extent of creasing, and damage along the edges from handling.



Blog post – 8: The book's fore-edge, showing undulations that resulted from performing the book, where the thumb manipulated the tabs in different directions.



Blog post – 9: The book's fore-edge, showing undulations resulting from handling use and the tabs cut along the fore-edge.



Blog post – 10: An illustration of cats and mice.



Blog post – 11: An illustration of birds. This illustration is upside down, as images were printed in both orientations to allow for more possible transformations when the volume was rotated vertically in the hand.

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How One Magician Overcomes the Challenges of ADHD

By Barb Rosenfeld

I have been a professional magician, clown, and puppeteer for thirty-five years. When I was forty years old, I was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder (ADD), or as it is now known, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The American Psychiatric Association defines ADHD as a chronic brain disorder. ADHD is one of the most common childhood disorders that continues into adolescence and adulthood. As of 2024, it is estimated that twenty-two million adults in the United States have an ADHD diagnosis.

ADHD is a lifelong condition that is not outgrown, which means those who are diagnosed with ADHD must learn how to effectively manage their symptoms. There is no real test to diagnose ADHD. Those who are diagnosed must exhibit several of the following behaviors: distractibility, impulsivity, inattentiveness, disorganization, and performance anxiety, among others.

I personally experience many of the above traits. It makes learning and performing magic difficult and frustrating.

ADHD has caused me to go through some very trying times. Two things that challenge me are reading and comprehending magic performance directions. Because ADHD can impact a person's working memory and how they process information, I need to read magic directions over and over before I can really understand them.

When deciding which tricks to use in my shows, I need to lay out all of my tricks on the floor. This helps me visualize which ones will work with the theme of the show. Visu-

als support my working memory and help me to focus and organize my thoughts.

People with ADHD also have more difficulty making decisions than people who don't have ADHD. It can cause us to overthink or overanalyze problems, especially when given too many choices. I have about six different kinds and sizes of change bags. It takes me a very long time to decide which ones to use, which is really difficult for me. By the time I finally make a decision thirty minutes later, I change my mind and decide to use another trick altogether.

But then, I realize I don't know how to do the trick I have selected. I am now running out of time to practice and that I should not have waited until the last minute to start working on my show. Now, anxiety starts to bubble up inside me. I start feeling depressed, my self-esteem sinks, and I lose any motivation I may have had.

What was supposed to be my show is now spread across the floors of two rooms. I quickly throw everything into a bag and tell myself I can't do this now. An hour later, I finally gain back my composure. I buckle down and decide on the final tricks to use.

I begin to rehearse in front of a full-length mirror but get distracted and start playing with my hair. Self-stimulating behaviors, which can include playing with one's hair, biting one's nails, humming, pacing, doodling, or tapping one's fingers, are unconscious actions that help people with ADHD focus and manage stress.

When I perform my show, even though I have written down the order of the tricks I



(l to r): Barb puts on a magic show at a California school. • Barb at the Eddie Bauer headquarters, where she performed a puppet show. • Barb performs at a holiday-themed magic show for the Victoria's Secret headquarters.

plan to perform, I can't seem to find the list. I realize I have forgotten it at home. I start to get flustered, but I manage to gain my composure and go on with the show. I have practiced my patter over and over, yet I can't remember the words. I improvise and complete the show as best I can in the moment.

Accommodations can help people with ADHD feel more confident and perform their best. Here are a few of the accommodations I have made to help me successfully get ready to learn, practice, and perform my magic:

I reduce distractions. Instead of laying all my tricks across the floor, I put the ones I plan to use in my current show in a bin. The ones I am not going to use go in another bin, in another room, out of sight. When I practice in front of the mirror, I remove everything on top of the countertop so I don't get distracted by what is there.

I use visual guides. I start working on the tricks I currently need to fit within the theme of my show. I then log into YouTube or watch an instructional video on a magic website. I practice the tricks along with the video.

I make lists. I make a list of the order of the tricks I plan to perform. Then I make several copies of that list and put them in different places. If I lose one of the lists, I have more copies in my purse, my pocket, or my magic case.

I am not the only magician who has ADHD. I am sure there are many other magicians and performers reading this who

have found other ways to overcome their ADHD challenges.

After many years performing and teaching magic, I have learned to master and compensate for all of my magic performance challenges. I love magic, and I still perform and teach. Doing so gives me such joy and excitement! Because of magic, I have developed a renewed confidence in myself and my skills.

People who have ADHD are generally very bright, creative, and funny. I know I am! Having ADHD has been a true blessing for me. I have accomplished many wonderful things in my life, and I am still going strong.

Medical information cited in this article is sourced from the American Psychiatric Association, the Attention Deficit Disorder Association, and the National Institutes of Health.

Barb Rosenfeld is a professional magician, clown, puppeteer, retired assistant teacher for special needs children, and retired preschool teacher. She is the founder and past president of the Attention Deficit Disorder Association of Missouri, and a certified ADHD life coach who has written for several ADHD magazines and books. Barb also works as a healing touch practitioner, Reiki master, certified laugh leader, and a singer and dancer in off-Broadway shows.

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New I.B.M. Youth Scholarship Program



The I.B.M. is making an even stronger commitment to helping the next generation of magicians. Here is your chance to make your contribution a legacy.

Youth programs are key to developing future generations of magicians. The most effective method of learning the art of magic is face-to-face mentorship. The I.B.M. provides such opportunities at our Conventions and through local Rings. Learning magic on the internet may teach someone how to learn a trick, but is not necessarily the best way to obtain the comprehensive skills and techniques required to be a good performer. Attending local Ring meetings, learning from experienced magicians, and attending our annual Convention are invaluable methods for learning and understanding the nuances of the performance art of magic.

Although there may be relatively low costs to becoming a Ring member, we understand that attending the annual Convention can be a financial challenge for many of our families. That is why we have created the I.B.M. Youth Scholarship Program: to assist all youth families with the financial costs involved.

At the 2025 I.B.M. Convention in Houston, we will continue to offer free Convention registrations to the first forty youth members under the age of eighteen who register to attend. Additionally, teens from the ages of thirteen to twenty-one can attend the Lance Burton Teen Seminar (LBTS) prior to and during the Convention with free registration, thanks to generous donations from the I.B.M. Endowment and Development Fund. Here, the attendees experience a face-to-face teaching experience like no other with some of the finest magic instructors in the world, including Lance Burton, Jeff McBride, and Larry Hass.

We anticipate the teen seminar will continue to be available for many years.

The I.B.M. has created a Youth Scholarship program to further assist the financial needs of our families. Starting with the 2026 Convention, every I.B.M. Junior Member from the ages of seven through seventeen can apply for a scholarship that will not only cover their Convention registration but will also help with a portion of their family room charge at the Convention hotel. Any non-magician parent of a youth attendee continues to be eligible to register for a reduced Convention registration fee.

How does the scholarship work? We are relying on the generosity of our members and private sponsors to contribute to the Youth Scholarship Fund. Starting with the 2026 Convention registration form, registrants can check a box to indicate they wish to include a sponsorship for the Youth Scholarship Fund, as well as apply to be a recipient of the fund. Also, our online membership dues renewal form has been updated to include a checkbox option to contribute, and our members are already contributing. People, including life members who do not receive annual dues notices, may also contribute using our online payment system. Please note that these contributions are not considered tax-deductible donations, as the I.B.M. is considered more of a social organization rather than a charitable entity.



Some photos from the 2024 Lance Burton Teen Seminar in Tacoma, Washington.

At the beginning of each year, the Youth Scholarship Committee will determine the total of the donated funds available for scholarships, and the number of scholarships that will be available for that year's annual Convention. Depending on funds received, an amount will be allocated for each scholarship not to exceed a total of \$500 per applicant. The scholarship monies will cover the youth member's Convention registration, with the remaining scholarship portion to be paid toward the family's hotel bill (only valid at the official Convention hotel). This should make the Convention much more affordable for our members.

If you or someone you know would like to help give our youth the opportunity to become better magicians, you can donate today by contacting our office at (636) 724-2400, or email office@magician.org. You can also go directly to our generic online I.B.M. Payment Form located at www.magician.org/portal/ibmccprocess, click the "Other" payment type, and write "Scholarship Contribution" in the comments section. Keep an eye out for the "donate" button that will soon appear on our new website.

Our children are our future, and the future of magic. With your help, the I.B.M. can ensure our continued legacy of helping to educate quality magicians, and to improving the art of magic.

We thank you for your generosity!

Charles Arkin, Simone Marron, and Jason Michaels
Youth Scholarship Committee

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

By Dr. Lynn Miner, Mike Desotell, and Rick Morein

This article showcases how Ring 398 celebrated Houdini's 151st birthday with resounding success. Packed with insightful details, it provides a blueprint for other Rings to replicate, offering a proven strategy to generate publicity and attract new members.

Overview

Ring 398 (Appleton/Green Bay, Wisconsin) honored Houdini's legacy with a spectacular two-part celebration. On March 24, 2025 – marking his 151st birthday – Ring 398 hosted a community-wide afternoon celebration at the Appleton Public Library. In the evening, Ring 398 hosted an exclusive birthday party for its members, filled with magic, camaraderie, and tributes to the legendary escape artist. Both events honored Houdini, Appleton's most famous and celebrated son.

Although it's widely known that Houdini passed away – ironically – on October 31, 1926, his birthday has often been overlooked. Ring 398 felt it was only fitting that the world's most renowned magician have his extraordinary life commemorated not just once, but twice each year: first on his birthday and again on the anniversary of his mysterious and untimely death on Halloween.

Phase 1: Community-Wide Celebration

In collaboration with the Appleton Public Library, Ring 398 hosted an afternoon Houdini Birthday Party. Library Director Colleen Rortved welcomed attendees to the special occasion. Rick Morein provided a brief history of Houdini and Appleton's importance to the art of magic. Ring 398 member Bruce Hetzler performed a three-card monte effect using jumbo cards in which the final selection turned into a "library card." He then gave the children in attendance a pamphlet containing easy-to-do magic effects. Next, with the assistance and participation of two young ladies from the audience, Rick Morein performed his time-tested "Wands and Flowers" routine, ending with his beautiful eighteen-bloom "Botania" production, followed by a big round of applause and plenty of *oohs* and *aaahs* from the audience.



Ring 398 members and the public attend the afternoon Houdini Birthday Party at the Appleton Public Library in Appleton, Wisconsin.



Bruce Hetzler performs his "Library Card Monte" effect.

Ring 398 member Tal Kuhn presented Appleton Public Library Director Colleen Rortvedt with a new copy of magician Joshua Jay's latest book, *Magic: The Complete Course*.

The celebration wrapped up with everyone singing "Happy Birthday to Harry" before cutting the birthday cake and taking pictures next to the life-size cutout of Harry Houdini as they viewed Houdini-related artifacts.

Reflecting on the event, Director Rortvedt commented, "It was wonderful to experience the excitement and delight of the audience. ... Seeing the excitement as the kids came to get their free book was really special ... I've given the book that was donated to our materials management section so they can catalog it and get it into the collection. ... We look forward to more partnerships and all the exciting things you have going on over the next two years bringing amazing magicians to Appleton."

The Appleton Public Library is a true treasure trove for magic enthusiasts, offering an impressive collection of books and DVDs on many facets of prestidigitation. With 344 titles in its catalog, it's a paradise for both budding and seasoned magicians. Names like Phil Ackerly, Norm Barnhart, and Joshua Jay jump off the shelves alongside legendary figures such as David Blaine, David Copperfield, and Mac King. The collection spans classic minds like Martin Gardner, Karl Fulves, and Richard Kaufman, delves into the secrets of mentalism with Ormand McGill, and even features a work by the great Harry Houdini himself. Whether you're searching for sleight-of-hand secrets, stage illusions, or the science behind the spectacle, the Appleton Public Library has a spellbinding selection waiting to be explored. When gifting library books, it is essential to first check existing holdings in order to avoid donating a book that the library already has.

Phase 2: Ring Members' Celebration

The Houdini Birthday Bash continued into the evening as Ring 398 members and colleagues from Ring 31 (Madison) and Ring 41 (Milwaukee) assembled at Monty's Secret Theater for more festivities. It began with a social hour thanks to the generosity of Kendra and Kahlen Scherg, who provided small sandwich boxes and refreshments as attendees looked at Houdini artifacts and enjoyed a birthday cake. A raffle was held to bolster the Ring 398 treasury. Items included Houdini cocktail



In celebration of Houdini's 151st birthday, attendees were treated to a cake featuring an image of a chained Houdini moments before one of his famous escapes.



A few of the Houdini artifacts on display.



The Appleton Public Library welcomed guests with a cardboard cutout of the birthday boy himself.

glasses, Houdini stamps, a Houdini envelope, and “The Art of Magic” postage stamps.

President Daryl Rogers began the evening program by recounting little-known facts about Houdini’s life. He then transitioned to the magic show portion of the meeting and rocked members with his signature effect by performing a recreation of Houdini’s “Water Torture Cell” escape sans water.

Mike Desotell, after paying verbal homage to the world’s greatest escape artist, presented a pair of Houdini-era handcuffs for a tongue-in-cheek escape. Wasting no time, he simply held up the cuffs and declared his freedom – cutting straight to the punchline. Houdini would have had a good laugh.

Ring namesake Dr. Lynn Miner celebrated the life and legacy of the greatest escape artist of all time by attempting an escape of his own. Lacking handcuffs and milk cans, he encircled a long loop of rope around his neck three times before escaping the entanglement. This effect reminds us that Houdini’s greatest gift wasn’t escaping physical bonds; rather, it was escaping the ordinary and making us believe in the impossible.

Kevin Koehne’s performance showed once again that presentation is everything, as he did a pasteboard version of Houdini’s legendary Metamorphosis. Magically, Harry and Bess instantly changed places.

Tal Kuhn continued with a mind-boggling effect that bamboozled Ring members, as a volunteer-selected Houdini card was hopelessly lost in the deck but was finally found after some haphazard card mixing. Tal demonstrated that you don’t need to bust your knuckles to present entertaining magic.

Marv Roth took the spotlight with his performance of the classic “Sidewalk Shuffle.” In Houdini parlance, the effect could be considered the “Great Escape Shuffle,” where each card in the routine symbolized one of Houdini’s famous escapes, with the final revelation proving that even when the odds were stacked against him, he always found a way out.

Ring 31 member Wayne Peterson performed a nifty packet-type card effect and was really handy with the pasteboards as he showed his version of Houdini’s “Rabbit in the Hat.”

After the meeting ended, Ring 31 President Dan Feaster said, “It was a privilege to attend Ring 398’s celebration of Harry Houdini’s 151st birthday. I have attended several Houdini séances but this was a very



Ring 398’s mother-daughter magician duo Kendra and Kahlana Scherg, the latter of whom was the 2023 Junior Magician of the Year.



A handful of Ring 398 members gather for a pre-meeting gathering.



President Daryl Rogers mimics Houdini’s famous “Water Cell Torture” escape.

intimate time to appreciate and celebrate the legacy of Houdini. It was fun watching a number of magicians perform effects that Houdini might have appreciated.”

Promotional Efforts

Ring 398’s Houdini Birthday Bash was a resounding success, thanks to a well-coordinated media and outreach campaign. The event not only celebrated the legendary escape artist but also helped spread awareness about the magic community and Ring 398’s activities. Through a combination of traditional media, social media engagement, and direct community interaction, the club effectively reached a wide audience, sparking interest in both Houdini’s legacy and the art of magic.



CBS interviews Ring 398 Vice President Rick Morein for a television appearance.

To maximize exposure for the Houdini Birthday Bash, Ring 398 launched a multifaceted media campaign led by members Lynn Miner, Rick Morein, and Mike Desotell. This strategic planning team crafted and distributed press releases to three regional newspapers and four television stations, ensuring strong coverage in print and broadcast media. Several TV stations ran the Houdini birthday story multiple times. Additionally, arrangements were made with local media company Civic Media for an interview featuring Ring 398 member Lou Lepore, which aired on twenty Wisconsin radio stations within their network. In sum, the Houdini Birthday Bash received mass media coverage before, during, and after the

events. Equally important, it drew 150 area residents to the afternoon Appleton Public Library Event and the largest crowd ever to attend a Ring 398 evening celebration.

Beyond these traditional media efforts, Ring 398 executed a dynamic social media campaign, using Facebook and Instagram to generate excitement in the weeks leading up to the event. Posts featured rare photographs, vintage video clips, and engaging Houdini trivia, culminating in a week-long countdown to the celebration. Even seasoned magicians were surprised by some of the lesser-known Houdini facts highlighted in the campaign:

1. Houdini starred in four movies and holds the distinction of being the first person to fight a robot on film.
2. He authored a book detailing techniques for escaping handcuffs and breaking out of prison.
3. He was responsible for giving silent film legend Buster Keaton his famous stage name.
4. Houdini became the first person to fly over Australian soil and was the first individual captured on film while flying.
5. He nearly died attempting a buried-alive stunt – then risked his life again to perfect it.
6. During World War I, he taught American soldiers how to escape German handcuffs.
7. He had a complicated friendship with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, making them “best frenemies.”

At the Appleton Public Library event, an interest sign-up sheet encouraged attendees to stay connected with Ring 398 and explore their passion for magic. The goal was not merely to collect names but to foster ongoing communication with individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels. To facilitate this engagement, Ring 398 prepared a series of follow-up messages for Secretary Kevin Koehne to distribute, as appropriate:

1. Welcome Email
2. Invitation to the Next Meeting
3. Member Spotlight Feature
4. Houdini's Legacy and Its Connection to Ring 398
5. A Beginner's Magic Trick for Kids
6. A Beginner's Magic Trick for Adults
7. A Downloadable PDF of Easy Card Tricks
8. Reasons to Join Ring 398

Our extensive promotional efforts led to an unexpected yet exciting outcome. Jeff McBride caught wind of the Ring 398 Houdini Birthday Bash and invited Lynn Miner – Ring 398 board member and an instructor at the McBride Magic & Mystery School – to record a segment about the celebration. The segment aired on March 24 during their 718th consecutive Mystery School Monday episode. As a result, Houdini's 151st birthday gained national and international recognition within the broader magic community.

Summary

Ring 398 held the Houdini Birthday Bash for three reasons. First, to honor the greatest escape artist of all time. Second, to make a bigger impact in our community. And third, to attract new members who share our passion for the art of magic. Through these efforts, the Houdini Birthday Bash not only honored the legendary magician but also strengthened the local magic community by inspiring new and seasoned enthusiasts alike to engage with Ring 398. The event's suc-

cess serves as a testament to the power of strategic outreach and the enduring appeal of Houdini's remarkable life and legacy.

Remarkably, the Houdini Birthday Bash grew from a mere kernel of an idea into a hugely successful event in just three weeks. This achievement would not have been possible without the passion and dedication of every member of Ring 398. More than just a group of individuals, the Ring embodies a thriving magic community – a true magic family – united in its commitment to advancing the art of magic.

So, what's next? The Houdini Birthday Bash was just the beginning – a grand kick-off for a two-year celebration of magic in the Appleton/Green Bay area. While many events are still in the works, three major highlights are already set. On October 30, 2025, Gay Blackstone's *Masters of Illusion*, America's top touring magic spectacle, will dazzle audiences at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. In July 2026, the Society of American Magicians will bring its annual convention to Appleton, Wisconsin – Houdini's hometown. Since Halloween 2026 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of Houdini's untimely passing, Jeff McBride's Magic & Mystery School will take center stage in Appleton with a powerhouse lineup featuring Jeff McBride, Lance Burton, Larry Hass, Ricardo Rosencranz, and our own Daryl Rogers.

With world-class magic on the horizon, the spirit of Houdini is alive and well – right here, where it all began.

Digital References

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Web: www.ibmring398.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/ibmring398

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Dr. Lynn Miner, Mike Desotell, and Rick Morein were the three members of the Dr. Lynn Miner I.B.M. Ring 398 who served as the strategic planning committee for the Houdini Birthday Bash. They took a kernel of an idea and realized it as a dual event in just three weeks. This was only possible thanks to the cooperation and collaboration of all Ring 398 members, which boasts a strong sense of magic community.

Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



Hardeen and his brother Houdini likely attended P.S. 70, which is located at 207 East 75th Street, right next to their home at 218 East 75th Street. The school was established in 1874, the same year Houdini was born in Budapest.

P.S. 70

In the heart of the city, where stories intertwine,
Two brothers grew up, in the shadows they'd shine.
Hardeen and Houdini, the magic they'd weave,
At P.S. 70, where dreams would be believed.

A school built in 1874, its walls full of lore,
Right next to their home, just a few steps from the door.
In the bustling streets of New York, their childhood unfurled
As mystique and wonder danced through their world.

Born in Budapest, Houdini took flight,
With Hardeen beside him, they chased after the light.
A life intertwined, through secrets and tricks,
Brotherhood forged in the art of the fix.

So, here's to the moments, the laughter, the tears,
To the magic they shared, across all those years.
As time drifts away, and the shadows grow dim,
Their legacy lingers, a spellbinding hymn.

This excerpt is from Joe Hernandez's recently released *Houdini Reflections*, a collection of fifty-four poems celebrating the life and achievements of the great escape artist Harry Houdini. The book can be purchased from Amazon, www.booksbyjoe.com, or your favorite magic dealer.



Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

Derrick Chung and Steph Lac Lecture at Ring 17 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

On February 20, while most people were watching the Four Nations Face-Off hockey game, fifty members of Ring 17 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) were watching an excellent lecture by Derrick Chung and Steph Lac. Each of them showed us several items. Derrick started with a trick based on Vernon and Cervon's "Devil's Elevator" (which can be found in *The Cervon File*). Derrick produced the ace through the Five of Hearts, then added four black cards and apparently demonstrated how he could second, centre, and bottom deal the red cards only to have them appear atop the cards in his hands. During this he provided a tip on the Biddle Steal.



Derrick Chung.



Steph Lac.

Next, Dan Stapleton and I helped Derrick demonstrate a variation of a Gordon Bean trick called "Spot On." We each rolled a die, secretly noted the numbers rolled, and were then shown cards one at a time until we each saw a card that was at our respective rolled numbers. The cards were mixed and Derrick was still able to determine our thought-of cards. Following this trick, he showed us a clever false mix and something

called the Oink Shuffle.

Club member Theo helped with the next trick. He selected a card and then chose three other cards and all four cards ended up being a four of a kind. We were reminded of an Alex Elmsley take on the riffle force. After a person says stop, just toss the cards above the break into the other hand. It was also a good reminder of the gold that lies within the Elmsley books.

Next, Ari and Pierre assisted with the "Couple's Trick" wherein one person thinks of a card and the other divines it. This effect is based on a Steve Mayhew idea. During the break it was great to see Mark Lewis and Ariel Frailich sharing their knowledge with some of the younger members.

Steph Lac is a premier gaff maker. He was referred to as being similar to Q from the Bond movies. He showed a trick called "C C Rider" (colour changing) where the selected card was the only one with an odd-coloured back. While there are several ways to accomplish this, none of us had ever seen it done via the Svengali Principle. It should be noted that this method allows the deck to be seen as having all red or all blue backs.

James Harrison assisted Steph with the next item called "WSOP" (World Series of Poker). Cards were selected at random from a face down spread and somehow the spectator found a Royal Flush! This was based on poker deals by both Marlo and Gardner. The final item Steph showed us was a "Do as I Do" with two decks. He then concluded by showing us the various types of Stripper Decks he manufactures including Belly



Steph and James Harrison.



Steph and Theo.



Lecture sales.

Strippers, Negative Strippers, and Double Wedgies. He also showed us some cool items for dice. One was called the “Sure Shot” Dice Box which works on the same principle as the classic Flash Dice trick but uses a square box instead of a rectangular

one. He was also selling Whip Cups for dice which allow you to control how the dice roll even though they are being shaken in the cup. Both recommended the book *Fast Jack: The Last Hustler* by John Farrell.

David Sutherland

Ken Trombly Shows Promotional Posters from Magic’s “Golden Age” for Ring 50 (Washington, DC)

Ring 50 (Washington, DC) member Ken Trombly, proprietor of www.magicposters.com, lectured on March 5 with PowerPoint pictures of dozens of magic posters from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which he said, “was the golden age of magic and also the golden age of stone lithography.”

Trombly discussed the process of producing the posters, which acquired their colorful and artistic esthetic after the invention of stone lithography made the use of several colors on each poster possible. He showed a range of pre-lithography black and white “broadside” announcing shows by several

of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century magi. But the contrast with the “Golden Age” lithographic prints, concentrated between about 1890 and 1910, was stark.

“Golden Age” magic shows were publicized at that time through promotional posters (often thirty inches by forty inches in dimension) and much smaller “window cards” (miniature posters placed in store windows), which have become collectors’ items over the decades, now fetching dozens of times their prices scant decades ago. “Circus, Wild West, and magic posters are popular and collected,” Trombly said, while



Photos by Todd Eisenstadt.

other arts, like opera, did not seem to produce such lasting memorabilia.

Stone lithography, the technique for printing the colorful lithographs, was invented in Germany in the 1870s, Twombly said, although several United States companies based in the Midwest, mostly in Ohio, were contracted to produce promotional posters for many of the stars of magic's heyday, including Alexander Herrmann, Theo Bamberg (Okito), Ching Ling Soo (William Ellsworth Robinson), Howard Thurston, and

of course, Harry Houdini.

Trombly's pride in the collection showed, as did his enthusiasm for the occasion to speak to the technology, the era, and the magicians, who made the posters possible. He showcased for the forty or so Ring 50 members present several framed posters, as well as the extensive gallery of photos. When asked about his favorite poster of all Trombly replied, "There is not just one; that's why I became a collector."

Todd Eisenstadt

Tenth Annual Hawaii Magic Festival Features the Magic of "Kaulana"

Tenth Hawaii Magic Festival audience was treated again to a great array of Hawaii magicians and featured a very special performer, Hawaii's own Kaulana Chang. Kaulana started as a junior magician and is now a professional emcee and popular deejay in Hawaii, as well as a great magician. Coordinated again by the ringmaster, Mike Ching, Ring 185 (Honolulu, Hawaii) continues to put on this premier magic event of the year in Hawaii. The only difference was a new venue. Since Kaimuki Hawaii Performing Arts Auditorium was not available, the venue quickly moved to Farrington High School Auditorium in Kalihi. The huge spacious auditorium presented a perfect setting with a large stage, great lighting, and a larger seating capacity. Strolling magicians again wowed the eager enthusiastic and patient crowd outside the auditorium, as well as inside once the doors opened. Bradley Choy entertained the crowd with a nifty rope routine and several other great routines while receiving great loud applause from the appreciative crowd.

Mike Ching, coordinator for the Hawaii Magic Festival, always seems to put together a great lineup of magicians complemented by Curtis Kam's humorous emcee bits. This year was no different, but there was little time in between acts as the performers took up almost a full two hours. Master magician Curtis Kam greeted the eager crowd with his deep resounding voice and by the way, Ring

185 recently voted to name their Ring after Curtis. Ring 185 is now called the Curtis Kam Hawaii I.B.M. Ring 185. Curtis entertained the crowd in between acts with his usual silly and amusing stuff using a bouquet of flowers, Roy Bensen's "Oh, See the Pretty Thing," and his amazing big "Ring and Rope" routine.

James Lee opened the show with an array of "classical magic" producing a fabulous display of brightly colored silks and several white doves. Harvey Ouchi followed with his "Mission Impossible Act," entertaining the crowd with his antics using silks, umbrellas, and canes. He also surprised the audience with his version of Dan Harlan's "Starcle." He then created some mystery by performing an escape act with chains and having volunteers lock him up tightly prior to the escape. He ended with a nice touch using a silk fountain.

At this time, Mike Ching was called to center stage by Curtis Kam who presented him with a beautiful special award plaque from Ring 185 in appreciation for all his many years of hard work as the magic festival coordinator. It was evident that Mike was totally surprised and caught off guard. Immediately following the presentation, one of his students, fifteen-year-old Kylie Lahoe took the stage and amazed the crowd with a splendid display and control of a large floating transparent sphere across the stage. She



(l to r): James Lee. • Harvey “Mr. O” Ouchi escapes from a straitjacket. • Kylie Lahoe. • Mike Ching and Reuben Lauronal. • Kaulana Chang and Reuben Lauronal.

calls her act “A Window Through the Stars.” Kylie was also soon joined onstage by another one of Mike Ching’s students, Landon Espiritu. Poised with grace and movement, Kylie continued to entertain the audience from all parts of the stage. She has a very bright future in magic.

The duo of Dr. David and Karin Brown entertained the audience with a bit of humor and sadness mixed in with their magic and large illusion. David, a retired dentist and former owner of the Ko’olau Magic Theater, was dressed in a clown’s outfit while his wife Karin sang “Send in the Clowns.” They were both dressed as clowns, of course. David and Karin teamed up to perform their version of

a sword box similar to stabbing knives through a large wooden box, except these blades were made of glass that varied in size from one foot by three feet to larger. As Karin nervously stepped into the illusion box out of sight, David (The Great Davidio) carefully placed a half a dozen of the large transparent “blades” through the box at various locations. And after removing them, Karin stepped out without a scratch ... I think. Karin did a great job with her beautiful voice as she sang her rendition of “Send in the Clowns.”

Eddie Bond, a world-travelling juggler, acrobat, escape artist, comedian, and magician, who performs regularly on the streets of Kalakaua Avenue and all over the world



(l to r): Special Award to Mike Ching from Ring 185. • Eddie Bond. • Karin and David Brown.



Landon Espiritu.



Kaulana Chang.

created a story using two volunteers. He is truly a street performer and normally juggles flaming knives or escapes from a straitjacket while hanging upside down. But at the festival, he involved two volunteers in a skit while balancing on a variety of objects which kept everyone on the edge of their seats.

Landon Espiritu, who first appeared on the Hawaii Magic Festival when he was seven years old, is now sixteen. He did a wonderful presentation of “Knots Off Silk” and the “Linking Rings” and the Hecklaus’ “NewsFlash” paper tear. His beautiful smile and great stage presence will take him far on his journey to magic stardom.

Kaulana Chang brought a team of dancers filling the stage with movement, music, magic, and several large illusions. He immediately introduced an empty trunk and produced six beautiful dancers as the audience responded with loud cheers and applause. He continued to perform several other stage illusions (sub trunk, mini spiker box illusion) while weaving various magic routines in between each illusion. He finally concluded the show with his version of “Metamorphosis.”

A special *mahalo* to the backstage crew, which consisted of Bradley Choy. Bradley not only moved props around but also as-

sisted Mike Ching with the management of the acts, curtains, and music for all the acts and provided refreshments for the performers and support crew. He is the perennial star backstage and is invaluable to the production of the show. Much thanks to all the close-up artists, Bradley Choy, “Opa Aloha” (Joseph T. Page), Harvey “Mr. O” Ouchi, Kent Lee, Henry Nakatani, Reuben Lauronal, James Lee, Glen Bailey, Kelvin Chun, and Landon Espiritu.

Hats off to Mike Ching again for taking on the task of coordinating such a huge event. In addition to general producer Mike Ching, other contributors to the planning of the event include James Lee and Kent Lee (Eventbrite and ticketing coordinators), Harvey Ouchi (logistics, facilities, and contracts), Kelvin Chun (publicity). Special thanks to publicity specialist Kelvin Chun who amazingly managed to secure several spots on the morning news to help advertise the Festival, Kaulana Chang who provided music for performers and microphones with the support of his sound crew, police Sergeant Walter Espiritu, father of Landon Espiritu, who assisted with security and parking again, Irwin Santos who assisted with Eventbrite ticketing, QR code, and posters, and Brad Kerwin who provided magic prizes.

Harvey Ouchi

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

Mastering Black Art: A Guide to Making It Invisible

By Gleb Tsarev

Black Art is probably one of the most elegant techniques in magic, used to create seemingly impossible illusions in countless ways. Recently, it has gained popularity in close-up magic. For instance, my FISM-winning act was entirely based on this technique. However, despite its deceptively simple concept, working with Black Art requires attention to several critical details.

In this article, I will focus on three key factors that ensure maximum invisibility with Black Art: **material selection, lighting, and camera settings.**

Material Selection

The foundation of Black Art lies in the choice of material. Velvet is the preferred option due to its light-absorbing properties and ability to mask hidden elements. The two most commonly used types are plain black velvet and crushed velvet.

Plain black velvet is ideal for work with cameras and controlled lighting. Its smooth surface minimizes visual inconsistencies when using black cards and other props. The optimal thickness is 0.8–1 mm. Additionally, opt for the least reflective (matte) velvet

available to reduce glare and maintain a deep, unobtrusive background. This type of velvet provides:

- No glare, preventing distracting reflections.
- A uniform surface that allows tricks to blend seamlessly without disrupting the table's appearance.

Crushed velvet, on the other hand, is best suited for stage performances. Its textured surface consists of numerous small elements that subtly shift when interacting with black objects, such as cards covered in the same material. These changes are barely perceptible to the human eye, resulting in only minimal surface distortions. With effective misdirection of the audience, such variation will go undetected, especially under stage lights.

Crushed velvet has a number of advantages:

- Adapts well to theatrical lighting.
- Requires less dimming and camera adjustment to remain unobtrusive, even in less controlled settings.
- Ideal for larger venues where the audience is seated farther away.



Texture of plain black velvet.



Texture of crushed black velvet.

(continued on page 102)

In Memoriam
Past International President Jack Greenberg
1930-2025

2015 PHOTO BY
MICHAEL MESSING.



Past International President Jack Greenberg was an active member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians for eighty years. He held the record for attending the most I.B.M. Conventions, never missing for decades, beginning in 1947 when he ran the youth events in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the I.B.M. Annual Convention in 2023, Ring 13 announced the renaming of the Ring to the Tampa-Greenberg Ring 13, in his honor. After his passing on March 6, *The Linking Ring* received the following tributes from friends and colleagues. His Broken Wand appeared in the April issue.

John R. Browne III

Past International President (1998-1999)

For many years my family and I looked forward to arriving at the convention hotel because we knew that after checking in and refreshing, invariably and like annual clockwork we would find Jack Greenberg and his wife Carole greeting people in the hotel lobby, giving tips about hotel amenities, and opining on other topics such as local restaurants and even what to order!

During the years I served our organization as legal advisor, I worked closely with Jack when he chaired our Convention Committee. I kept myself apprised by monitoring Jack's site visits and his discussions with local officials, key hotel and theatre staff, city government and transit people, and with anyone else necessary to assemble all the pieces. Jack was an excellent negotiator. He worked very hard to get the I.B.M. the best deal possible, which resulted in some wonderful conventions. Jack knew who to talk to, what to say, and how to say it.

In my mind Jack Greenberg was far and away the best Convention Committee Chairman the I.B.M. has ever had, based on my eighteen years serving as legal adviser, working closely with the convention committees and knowing that Jack's hard work, dedication and attention to detail would get the job done no matter what.

I recall that it was the great Karrell Fox who nominated Jack to go up through the chairs of office. Jack was always careful to take proper steps and observe legalities during his time in office. He once called me at a hotel in Paris to ask my opinion about a board procedure matter. I was relieved to learn that no tragedy was involved.

Jack chaired the Order of Merlin Com-

mittee and successfully petitioned to have its status changed from an ad hoc committee to a permanent committee. He enthusiastically made recipients feel proud to have attained their various levels of accomplishment. His choice of speakers at the Merlin Breakfast was always excellent.

I know how important the I.B.M. was to Jack and vice versa, because Jack was a great fountain of institutional knowledge, which is not learned from reading board minutes but is knowledge presented through the memory of those who experienced important people, situations, and events worthy of passing on.

Jack loved the I.B.M. He was one-of-a-kind and will be greatly missed.

Paul Gertner

In 1969, when I joined Pittsburgh's local chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Jack Greenberg was already an established member of that club, I.B.M. Tampa Ring 13. In fact, he had been a member for almost twenty-five years. I was only sixteen years old, but I quickly noticed that although Jack was not one of the elders in the room, he was the one who was organizing the monthly meetings, the annual magician's banquets, and the club auctions, and was usually acting as the emcee whenever the club sponsored a public show. He always kept the shows moving and made sure they flowed smoothly from start to finish. He served as a mentor to young magicians, including me, and offered advice, a listening ear, and the knowledge that he'd acquired in his non-magical job as a businessman.

Everyone knew it was just a matter of time before he would rise through the ranks of the organization, which he did. He was



Jack and Carole meet their granddaughter, Anna, for the first time.



Jack's love of dogs is evident in this photo taken with puppies from his son and daughter-in-law's spaniel.

elected to serve as the International President of the I.B.M. in 2000, an organization with fifteen thousand members around the world. That year, Jack and his wife, Carole, went on a whirlwind world tour. They visited local I.B.M. Rings and attended club meetings and conventions in what had to be the busiest travel schedule of their lifetime. He and Carole became ambassadors of the art of magic, promoting it around the world. It was a job for which they were both well suited. Carole passed away four years before him, during the pandemic, and they had a lovely ceremony on Zoom to honor her.

Growing up, Jack was an adult in my life on whom I could rely. When he reached a position of influence in the magic world, he would always reach out and help others in his orbit. I experienced this personally in 2000 when Jack decided that, as the incoming International President of the organization, he wanted to book me to perform my full seventy-minute one-man show called *Ten Fingers*, at the I.B.M. Convention that year in Buffalo, New York. At the time, booking an intimate close-up magic show for a convention of more than one thousand magicians had never been done before. Overall, it was a very ambitious, expensive, and time-consuming project, especially for a four-day convention. When Jack told me he was going to present the idea to the I.B.M. Board of Trustees, I recall saying, "That would be great," but to be honest, I never thought he'd get approval for such a big ask. One month later, Jack called and said "It's a done deal." This past week, I was

at a magic convention where two of the participants mentioned seeing my show twenty-four years ago at the I.B.M. Convention in Buffalo when Jack was the International President.

Jack and Carole, along with their children, Don and Diana, were part of the Pittsburgh magic scene for all four of the decades I was a member in Pittsburgh. During those years, the club grew. We attracted new members and quite a few went on to successful professional careers in the entertainment world.

There were a number of unique things about Jack's magic that all the magicians knew and found intriguing. For more than fifty years, he did magic shows for the neighborhood kids in Forest Hills on Halloween night. After setting up a theater in his living room, he repeated the short performance over and over. It became a popular destination, year after year, for trick-or-treaters in the Pittsburgh suburb.

One of the more interesting aspects of Jack's magic side was his magic library. In fact, that was one of the first things I learned about Jack when I met him at age sixteen. Many magicians have magic libraries, but apparently Jack's library of magic books was computerized – this was back in the days when computers involved IBM punch cards. I always found that fascinating. Most magicians could barely keep track of a book, but Jack was a very early innovator and could not only find the book he was looking for, but he could track it down based on its contents, trick by trick. Back in the 1970s, a computerized library was a magic trick all

its own. Of course, this was the way his mind worked, and it translated into his non-magic career as well. As an entrepreneur, he founded *Measurement Services Incorporated*, a firm focused on human behavior measurement and evaluation, occupational testing, hiring processes, labor relations, and training development.

Even in his eighties and nineties, Jack was still very actively involved in the magic community and local magic scene. If I attended a magic convention somewhere around the world, chances are Jack and Carole would be there. Once Carole was gone, his son Don would travel with him to conventions whenever they could. It was great to see him in 2022 in Las Vegas at the Magic Live Convention. He was then in his nineties, moving a little slower but still hitting every show.

The best part was seeing Jack in the summer of 2023 in Pittsburgh when, at the age of ninety-three, he attended the International Brotherhood of Magicians Convention in his hometown. Little did Jack know that a special surprise was being planned by all those in attendance. At the convention banquet on the final night, a special presentation was announced. I was sitting at the next table beside Jack, and we all watched his reaction – a reaction that put a big smile on our faces. It was the exact same reaction we magicians live for.

During a magic trick there is a single moment when the magic happens. In that moment, the spectator's eyes go wide and their jaw hits the floor. It's the moment when the spectator experiences the sense of wonder, and magicians create it better than anyone else. But this time it was not an appearing rabbit or a disappearing playing card that caused Jack's heart-warming reaction. It was an announcement that the local magic club – the club that had been part of this life for more than three quarters of a century – was going to be renamed in his honor.

The new name of the club would be I.B.M. Tampa-Greenberg Ring 13. Usually this happens after the honoree has passed away; the magician is not normally there for

such an announcement. But Jack was there. And what a reaction it was. He slowly stood up as he realized what was happening, his eyes wide and his mouth agape, and he looked like one of the thousands of kids he had entertained with his Halloween magic show over the years. All of us snapped photos of that magical moment, as Jack got one last standing ovation. I can assure you there was not a dry eye in the house. That is how I'll remember him. Standing there as that announcement was made, surrounded by the love of friends from around the world, and with a sense of amazement on his face. I cannot think of that image without a smile coming across my face.

Rest well my friend, you have earned it.



Past International President Jack Greenberg performs one of his famous Tricks and Treats Halloween magic shows in his home's living-room-come-theater for Pittsburgh's trick-or-treaters.



Every year for over half of a century, Jack performed magic shows for Halloween trick-or-treaters. Children, parents, and grandparents poured in to watch the performances he called Tricks and Treats.

Don Greenberg

Not many people can honestly say that they had meaningful conversations and interactions with their father for more than sixty-four years.

He was one of my sponsors when I joined the I.B.M., fifty years ago.

He joined the I.B.M. eighty years ago.

It was a privilege to watch my mom and dad for sixty of their sixty-one years of marriage.

Years. What I wouldn't give for just one more day – just one more conversation.

Somebody once asked me who my mentors were in magic. I didn't list my father among the names. He glared at me, almost expressionless. I explained in a rationalizing manner that "dad" is a different role from "mentor," and that his impact on my life – both inside and outside of the world of magic – was significantly *greater* than that of a "mentor." My explanation didn't seem to make him feel better, and I felt badly.

The thing is, I was right – and I was wrong. No, I didn't see him as the friendly counselor who sweetly put his arm around me and gently gave me sage advice about the performance of effects and routines. He never sugarcoated his opinions. A terse "That needs a *lot* of work" wasn't an uncommon suggestion. So, in my youth, I viewed a few of my dad's close friends as mentors: Bill Joy, Bob Filips, occasionally Bob Kline.

But, when I compare my father to a dictionary-definition of "mentor," he certainly was "an experienced and trusted adviser." There wasn't anybody alive with more knowledge, experience, and wisdom. And I would trust him to the end of time, and to the edge of space. I'm not the only magician who felt that way.

I'm simply the only magician who could call him "Dad."

Rick Heath

When I received the news that Jack Greenberg had passed away, emotions flooded to the surface for which the usual expressions of sympathy immediately felt



Jack and Carole clowning around in a photo-booth at a friend's wedding.

wholly inadequate. In addition to the sadness of never again seeing a person for whom I had great admiration, there was the realization that both magic and humanity had lost a *good* person who lived a principled life in the midst of a world seemingly and utterly bent on self-destruction.

My fondest memory of Jack centers upon an anecdote that brought both of us delight with every retelling.

At the 2006 I.B.M. Convention in Miami, Florida, Jack, as the chairperson of the Order of Merlin, presided over the annual 8:00 a.m. breakfast. He had invited Cesareo Pelaez, the founder and director of *Le Grand David* and his own *Spectacular Magic Company*, to deliver the keynote address.

When I learned Cesareo had agreed to speak, I was stunned. During our thirty-five-year run, Cesareo rarely spoke publicly at a magic gathering. The few exceptions were brief but heartfelt expressions of thanks when receiving awards. Landing Cesareo was a *major* coup, an achievement not to be underestimated.

Cesareo and Jack enjoyed a professional collegiality (both were psychology professors), and their relationship exemplified mutual respect and consideration. In his talk, and as Jack had anticipated, Cesareo "delivered the goods," forcefully speaking about his life in theatre and stage magic in Cuba, and the influence of conjuring legends such as Fu Manchu, Chang, and Richiardi, Sr.

Henceforth, every time I met Jack, I would begin, “You know, Jack, you pulled off the greatest trick in the history of magic.” The smile on Jack’s face signaled he knew what the next line would be. “I don’t know how you did it, but you got Cesareo to speak at the Order of Merlin Breakfast!” That moment became our special bond. To his credit, Jack never revealed the secret to working a veritable “minor miracle.”

The last time I saw Jack was at the 2023 I.B.M. Convention in Pittsburgh. He had slowed considerably. He used a walker and was assisted by a devoted caretaker who seemed to intuitively understand Jack was relishing every moment of the convention that, thankfully, was in his hometown, and that might well be his last.

After an evening stage performance, as Jack was exiting the crowded ballroom, I approached him and, once again, began, “You know, ...” His face lit up, knowing what came next. In the midst of the post-show hubbub, that private moment, of which no one else was aware, will always live in my heart.

Jack Greenberg had, and continues to have, my abiding respect. Why? Because he warranted it.

Dr. Jep Hostetler

Past International President (1994-1995)

During my time on the I.B.M. Board of Trustees, including my term as International President, I got to know Jack Greenberg very well. He became my dear friend. One outstanding quality that personified Jack was his truth-telling. He would cut through the jargon, the fluff, and the distractions to invite us to look at the facts, to consider the options, and to be true to our word. He came to my side as a beloved convention planner and helper. He was always available. He was a hard worker, a trusted friend and a fun magician. We have had phone calls over the years, as we stayed in touch. At each convention Joyce and I made it a point to have dinner with our dear friends, Carole and Jack Greenberg. We will miss him greatly.

Bob Patterson

Past International President (2017-2018)

It was a pleasure to have been a friend of Jack’s. I looked forward to his participation and comments at the I.B.M. Board meetings. Nancy and I always enjoyed seeing and visiting Jack and Carole at the many I.B.M. Conventions. We will look back and think of him with a heart full of warmth and love – and even a smile at the things he did and shared. He was energetic and dedicated to the I.B.M., and I was always impressed by his memory. Jack fought a tough battle and now it is time for him to be at peace. He will live in the hearts and memories of so many people.

Sindie Richison

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Jack Greenberg. His love for the I.B.M. was central to his life. He gave his time and heart, not for recognition, but because he believed in what the organization stood for.

For me personally, Jack was a true friend. I will miss the many times he would call just to check in – a simple act that meant so much to those of us on the receiving end. His warmth and friendliness brought comfort to those he met. I will honor his memory not only in words but in actions that reflect the values he embodied. I will strive to live with the same kindness, integrity, and perseverance that defined his life.

Rest in peace, Jack. You will be missed, but never forgotten.

Terry Richison

Jack Greenberg had a special way to show his kindness, wisdom, and unwavering support to all who had the privilege of knowing him. As a friend and mentor, he touched countless lives, offering guidance, patience, and encouragement. He lived his life with integrity, always leading by example. Though he is no longer with us, his spirit remains in the lessons he taught, the lives he impacted, and the friendship he freely gave. Jack’s legacy will forever shine brightly in our hearts.

Dale Salwak

I have grown to know Jack K. Greenberg as a close friend and confidante since 1994, when Jep Hostetler brought me onboard as entertainment chairman for the I.B.M. Annual Convention. Speak of the I.B.M. and instantly Jack's name rises to the top as someone who was passionate about his convictions, loyal to his friends, caring about the well-being of our beloved organization, and a defender of its ethics. He brought his business acumen to every assignment, and we are the better for it. During one jaw-dropping meeting I watched as Jack pored over invoices submitted by hotel management and found more than \$30,000 of overcharges. With his devoted wife Carole and son Don always at his side, Jack could be counted on to keep his promises. I was privileged to know him, and grateful for all he taught me during the past thirty years.

Michael Stratman

Past International President (2002-2003)

Past International President Jack Greenberg was a friend with a heart for the I.B.M. His knowledge and expertise was evident at all of the Board meetings. He and his wife Carole were great friends for many years and will be greatly missed.

Joe M. Turner

Past International President (2015-2016)

Jack Greenberg was smart and truly loved the I.B.M., especially the Order of Merlin. He was the first International President with whom I interacted personally, starting with receiving a trophy from him at a Winter Carnival of Magic back in the 1990s. Later as I became involved in the I.B.M. and served on the Executive Committee, I quickly realized that we could rely on Jack's attention to detail. He was in the audience for my first lecture at The Magic Circle and even sessioned with me at some British Ring conventions. He was an unforgettable character who was devoted to the I.B.M.

Tom Vorjohan

When I began writing for *The Linking Ring* in the mid-1990s, our then-Executive Editor Phil Willmarth encouraged me to get in-

involved in committees and, in his words, "learn how this organization works." The board meetings were always filled with decades upon decades of experience from Past International Presidents, current officers, and committee chairs. Getting to hear people like Earl Christenberry, Doc Mossey, and Jack Greenberg speak on behalf of an agenda item or issue was always enlightening. Jack always let us know what he was thinking and exactly how he felt about a topic.

No, it may not have always been popular, and these discussions certainly took up extra time, but there was never a doubt that these leaders had our membership, our convention, and our organization as their highest priority moving forward. Past International Presidents stayed active with the board for decades after they left office. Jack Greenberg was one of those dedicated leaders, as he served as our International President from 2000 to 2001, yet stayed involved for the quarter-century that followed.

I am grateful for the "lessons learned" from our board over my more than thirty years of service I donated to this organization, and I treasure the times Jack Greenberg went out of his way to talk to me personally and help me learn by hearing many other details and information that he was willing to share. Thank you, Jack, for your tremendous service to our I.B.M. Rest in peace, you will be missed.



Conjurer's Foolosophy

JOE HERNANDEZ



I've learned that 501 Magician of the Year awards were given last year. I wasn't selected; I was 502.

I've learned that even in silence, you must be grammatically correct.

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 sleights take practice before you can get the hand of it.

I've learned that it's essential to plan and script out all your tricks carefully. Over the years, my experience has shown me that this scripting process helps refine the performance and ensures that every detail is thought through, allowing a smoother execution. By scripting each aspect, from the timing to the transitions, you can enhance the overall presentation and avoid any potential mishaps during the performance. It's all about creating a seamless experience that captivates the audience while showcasing your skills effectively.

I've learned that a mirror has no eyes but sees what you see.

I've learned that magical stories function as mirrors, reflecting intricate fantasy worlds that delve deeply into the complexities of human experience. Through their imaginative narratives and the enchanting art of deception, these tales let us explore profound themes such as hope, love, and resilience. They capture our imagination and uplift our spirits, allowing us to connect with the emotions and challenges that define our lives. In this way, fantastic narratives serve as escapism and insightful explorations of the human condition.

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



A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

Contentment

*True contentment is not having everything,
but in being satisfied with everything you have.*

— Oscar Wilde

*[I]f we have the courage to let almost everything else go,
we will probably be able to retain the one thing necessary for us –
whatever it may be.*

— Thomas Merton

In the May 16, 2005 issue of *The New Yorker* we discover that two of our finest contemporary American novelists, the late Joseph Heller and Kurt Vonnegut, once attended a billionaire's party on Shelter Island.

Vonnegut: "How does it make you feel to know that our host only yesterday may have made more than your novel *Catch 22* has earned in its entire history?"

Heller: "I've got something he can never have."

Vonnegut: "What on earth could that be, Joe?"

Heller: "The knowledge that I've got enough."

In our magical world, too, the contented among us are easy to spot. They go quietly about their work, evince a spirit of generosity, carry no grudges or jealousies, and are neither boisterous nor haughty, competitive nor greedy. They seldom ruminate on what may have been, but focus on what is. They have escaped the spinning top of desire, the anxiety, the need to ask constantly, "What's next?" Having taken their eyes off them-

selves, they look for ways, with their talents, to serve others.

Reaching that level takes time, often years, for some of us grow as slowly as a tree. Neil Foster described the process with these encouraging words: "Climbing to the top of the mountain is electrifying. When you have at last reached the mountaintop you may return, but nobody ever stays there all the time. The secret is, when you are up there, look for your valley. You can never find your valley until you have reached the top. So pick out a peaceful valley that you will enjoy. Once in a while return to the top for kicks."

In the mid-1970s Channing Pollock visited Neil and Jeanne in their cozy, well-appointed Colon, Michigan home, where they had settled in as he served as Vice-President of Abbott's Magic, editor of *The New Tops* (Jeanne was hired as an accountant; she also proofread and typed copy) and, later, teacher after more than a decade of touring. At one point during his stay, Channing said, gently: "Until now, I always wondered why you weren't on the road, working every top place. Now I understand. You have all you need, right here."



Their home at 201 Goodell Street, Colon, Michigan became a sanctuary for Neil and Jeanne Foster after ten years on the road.

Channing, too, found his own valley later in life, as he explained to John Fisher in a November 19, 2000 interview. Channing recalled that when he was forty-three and had done everything and been everywhere, he needed to make a decision. "I thought maybe I'd go back to Europe, but the idea of doing it all over again didn't appeal to me."

About this time he met the Asian-American artist and socialite, Corinne (Cori) Shoong. Given that she had three children, was mature like Channing, and had roots, he said to himself, "I can't take her around the world with me and I can't leave her."

She was so important to him that he left the stage, married in January 1969, and spent thirty-one years together until her passing in 2000, while he mentored young magicians (as a way of repaying the profession which had been so kind to him) and transformed himself into a quintessential gentleman farmer in northern California.

Once heard, the above stories, and a hundred more like them, may float through our head as we think of those precious times when we too have suddenly felt inexplicably at peace with our circumstances. Thus the following scenes also hold us mesmerized:

One rainy morning in his much-loved Trafalgar Square, London, a magician was sitting by himself in a cafe. A copy of the *London Times* lay open on the table. A waiter put down an English breakfast in front of him. He refilled his coffee cup. Suddenly, for no apparent reason, the guest was flooded with the wondrous feeling of contentment, joy, and his eyes teared up. His name? Jay Marshall.



Corinne (Cori) Shoong was so important to Channing that he left the stage, married in January 1969, and spent thirty-one years together until her passing in 2000.

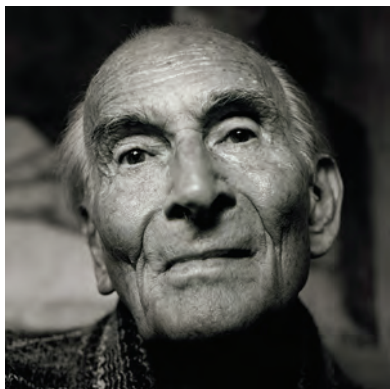
Then this: in the solitude of her Belgium bedroom a child (born into a show business family) retreated into long, uninterrupted stretches of calm. Saturday mornings she lay contentedly in bed until noon, reading about magic. Late at night, lights off, she snuggled under the covers with a deck of cards. Her name? Suzy Wandas, later known (because of her superb sleight-of-hand) as "The Lady with the Fairy Fingers," and who in 1958 retired from the stage to marry within three months the love of her life, Dr. Zina Bennett.



After a stunningly successful stage career, Suzy Wandas retired to marry the love of her life, Dr. Zina Bennett.

And this: During a train ride from Paris to Amsterdam in the Fall of 1977 to attend the Houdini Opera world premiere at Theater Carre, a twenty-year-old magician reflected: "Here I was . . . traveling the world, visiting friends, making new ones, seeing and learning great new magic and doing exactly what I wanted to be doing. All of these wonderful opportunities were coming my way simply because I had learned to entertain people with magic." His name: Mike Caveney.

The Polish-French modern artist Balthus declared that painting was like praying. I think there's an element of that in our magic, too. In *Vanished Splendors: A Memoir of Balthus*, he talked about the "unspeakable happiness" he felt each day upon entering his studio, a refuge from our rushed and agitated world. As he meditated in front of his latest painting to plumb its meaning, he felt connected and eager to get back to work. "[I]t's vital to always work," he said, "and improve in everything."



The Polish-French modern artist Balthus talked about the "unspeakable happiness" he felt each day upon entering his studio, a refuge from our rushed and agitated world.

PHOTO BY OLIVER MARK/WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Totally indifferent to society's seductions, he never competed with others, never compromised on his art, never hurried. He lived by the motto, "More important than how soon is how well." Yet during most of his ninety-two adult years he produced hundreds of paintings, many of which are now

displayed in the world's top galleries and private collections.

In our own profession, too, the words "quiet excellence" come to mind as I think of those among the current generation who are contented with the deeply gratifying pleasures of their magic, one of the last trustworthy vessels of the inner life.

Having put a distance between themselves and a frenetic world insistent on conforming, they experience a much longed-for, lasting calmness and equilibrium captured so beautifully by William Butler Yeats in the closing lines to his poem, "Lake Isle of Innisfree" (1888):

I will arise and go now,
for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping
with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway,
or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

To be contented does not mean to be lazy or idle or ambition-less. It means (from the Greek, *autarkeia*) to be "free from all things," full, satiated, satisfied with what we have and what we are doing. (Even in defeat there is contentment.) It means staying true to our calling in life. Indeed, one of the joys of life is finding that calling – everyone has at least one – and working patiently and consistently to fulfill it in spite of any obstacles we might face along the way.

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

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

Youth Trivia Contest



May's question: In 1920, a well-known touring illusionist initiated a lawsuit against another magician who was using the same name. *Who was the well-known illusionist, and what was the real name of the magician who was the target of the complaint?*

Answers must be postmarked by June 20, 2025.

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

As happens from time to time, we had a correct answer submitted by someone who is just a little bit too old to qualify as a Youth Member. In this case, that "little bit" is about forty years. There were also a handful of Youth Members who submitted guesses at the answer to this question. Unfortunately, none of those submissions were correct. This is what we were hoping you'd tell us.

He was born Ludwig Krieger in 1851, in the eastern part of Germany. In his youth, he was sufficiently skilled at acrobatics to join a traveling circus, and he traveled around Europe with the troupe. It's likely that, during this time with the circus, young Krieger became interested in magic and learned the craft from the circus's conjurors. He also became quite proficient in presenting the imaginary world of Punch and Judy and the performance of the Punch and Judy puppet shows. Magic and Punch and Judy shows eventually became his primary performing skills.

Sometime in his mid-thirties he moved to the United States and along the way, Ludwig Krieger became **Louis Krieger**. He had quite a few pseudonyms, titles, and stage names during his long career. In the subculture of Punch and Judy performers, the artists are re-

ferred to as "professors," and that very likely contributed to his advertised stage persona, "Professor Louis Krieger." (Although, it's also true that many magicians of his time gave themselves the title of "professor.") On a few bills, he was listed using the spelling "Professor Kruger." He frequently billed himself as "The Merry Wizard," and he appeared in several brochures as "Count Krieger," the king of entertainers, favored by the affluent and with references from royalty.



The cover of one of Professor Louis Krieger's advertising brochures. COURTESY OF KENNETH TROMBLY



(l to r): A classic cabinet-photo of “Pop” Krieger performing the Cups and Balls. • The stern facial expressions in these pictures belie the comic nature of Krieger’s performing character. COURTESY OF KENNETH TROMBLY

But his most recognizable name, from the point of view of today’s magicians, is “Pop” Krieger. Everyone in his circle of friends and family called him “Pop,” and if you hear magic scholars and performers mentioning him these days, they’ll refer to him as “Pop” Krieger.

He earned a reputation as a top-notch, audience-focused magician, especially for his performances of “Cups and Balls.” In David Price’s book, *Magic, A Pictorial History of Conjurers in the Theater*, Krieger is described as having been “the greatest living exponent of cups and balls in the world.” That’s pretty high praise. His routine varied from venue to venue. He worked in close-up settings, parlors, drawing rooms, and on the stage, but he strongly preferred being very close to his audience members. In fact, when he performed on stages, he regularly brought groups of audience members to join him on the stage in a “committee” format, so that he could maintain his comfortable, close-up atmosphere.

Laughter—lots of laughter—punctuated his

entire show. And on top of all of that laughter, the “final loads” for his cups and balls routines were always gasp-inducing showstoppers. On many occasions, “Pop” Krieger would end by lifting the cups that everyone had just witnessed to be empty and revealing a live mouse, scurrying underneath each cup. In other performances, he would raise the cups to uncover large potatoes. However, these were not ordinary potatoes. When he invited the committee members to pick up the spuds, they were discovered to be freshly baked, straight from the oven, and **way** too hot to handle. This surprising realization brought screams and howls of laughter from his spectators. (See what we did there?)

The phased structure of his routine has influenced the most recognizable cups and balls performers over the last 150 years. Max Malini and “Pop” Krieger were close friends. They shared with each other many of their pet techniques, so it’s difficult to determine the specific “who gave to who” components of their routines. One of the biggest differences

between their cups and balls routines was that “Pop” Krieger retrieved his final load items from a gibecière; Max Malini used the back pockets of his trousers (and was possibly the first magician to do so.) Dai Vernon, whose routine is often cited as the foundation of most cups and balls routines today, was **hugely** influenced by “Pop” Krieger’s routine.

Many other effects were featured in his shows, including “Aerial Fishing,” and pulling a rabbit from a hat. There were also a few Asian-themed pieces. And frequently throughout the show, in his Eastern European accent, he would direct the audience to “Watch the Professor!”

“Pop” Krieger enjoyed a prolific career on the Chautauqua and Lyceum circuits, and in legendary vaudeville houses including Tony Pastor’s and the Huber. But his biggest source of continuous work was the wealthy membership of high society. He was one of the favorite magicians of New York’s rich and famous.

The word “dynasty” is used to describe a line of rulers or leaders, all from the same family lineage. The magicians in the family of “Pop” Krieger may fit that definition. He had ten sons and daughters. One of his sons, Willie, became a skilled performer of magic, as did Willie’s wife, Norma. His daughter, Lillian, married legendary magician Al Flosso. Lillian and Al Flosso begat Jackie Flosso. It was a dynasty.

When “Pop” Krieger passed away in Lincoln Hospital in New York City, the New York

Times reported that the magical icon was seventy years old. This news, coming from one of the most respected newspapers around, was repeated in many other publications. Many of his friends and colleagues in the world of conjuring were puzzled by this; they had believed him to be a bit older. In actuality, he was eighty-two years old, having been born in September of 1851.

Information on the magic of Louis “Pop” Krieger can be found in books, including *The Coney Island Fakir: The Magical Life of Al Flosso* by Gary R. Brown, and *MAX MALINI: King of Magicians, Magician of Kings* by Steve Cohen. There are also bits and mentions in back issues of periodicals including *Gibecière*, *Genii*, *Hugard’s MAGIC Monthly*, and *The Linking Ring*.

Professor Louis “Pop” Krieger, I.B.M. member number 933, died in 1934.

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

Hey there, Youth Members!

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

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

Please make certain to include a few references. If we use your question, we’ll send you either a crate of day-old (as of Easter 2025) baby chicks, or a really cool magic book – our choice.

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



Marketing Magic

KENT CUMMINS

Marketing Multiple Characters Mr. Mystery

"Oh, Mr. Mystery, You're just too much for me."

Sung by Fabienne Delsol

Since we've been talking about how to market more than one character, let me introduce you to "Mr. Mystery."

Halloween Magic

When I was still in school, I needed a way to sell multiple magic shows during the Halloween season. Almost every school in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, had a Halloween Carnival, and many were on the same day. So, I created "Mr. Mystery," a character that could be played by myself or my best friend John Schexnaydre, also a magician.

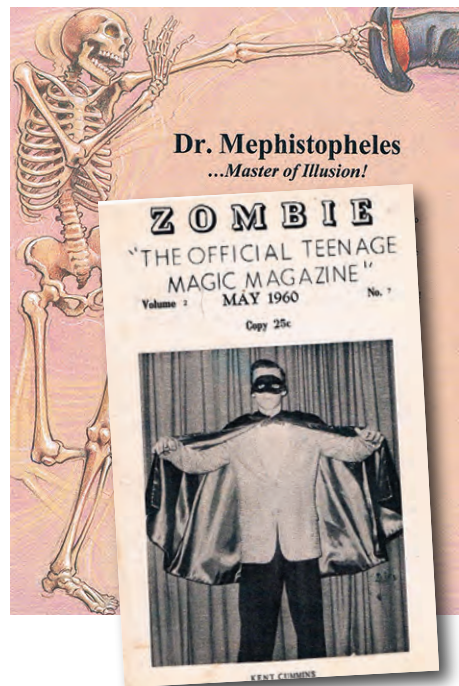
John and I were about the same size, and we used a lot of music rather than patter. We had similar costumes and put together similar shows.

Mr. Mystery performed in a cape with a black mask, long before Valentino promoted himself as "The Masked Magician." My marketing efforts promoted "Kent Cummins presents Mr. Mystery!" It worked. The schools might not have known who was performing, but as long as they got a good show, they were happy.

My mom took a photo of me in my Mr. Mystery costume, and it appeared on the cover of *Zombie, the Official Teenage Magic Magazine*, in 1960. (It was my first appearance on the cover of a magic magazine).

Many years later, when I was asked to provide a magic show for a rave, I brought

out Mr. Mystery again. I was doing lots of programs for children and didn't want "Kent Cummins" to be associated with a rave, which was often associated with psychedelic drugs. I even considered using "Dr. Mephistopheles" as a rave character instead of Mr. Mystery, but it didn't matter. The city cancelled the permit for the event.



Creating a Character

What do you do when you create a new character? The first thing I do is create a bio so that when the character is performing, there will be consistency in the way he or she is presented. I had a lot of fun writing a bio for Mr. Mystery!

You can read it yourself here, or go to www.fantasticmagiccenter.com and listen to a dramatic retelling of the story performed by Chris Walden.



“Mr. Mystery, the Man of a Thousand Miracles,” was arguably one of the world’s top three magicians at the turn of the century. **David Copperfield** was the best known to the general public, especially in America, because of his annual television spectaculars. **Lance Burton**, with his own show in Las Vegas, was the name that fellow magicians most often mentioned. Siegfried & Roy had a bigger Las Vegas show, but their show at the Mirage had turned into more of a technological spectacle than a strict magic show.

But “Mr. Mystery” was the toast of Europe, Asia, Africa, and in between. His huge traveling show included three tons of equipment and twenty-two assistants, plus an elephant, two tigers, and a virtual menagerie of other animals (although, perhaps ironically, no rabbits). Mr. Mystery filled stages around the world with a two-and-a-half-hour extravaganza. And it was a *magic show*!

Until the accident.

But let’s start at the beginning. George Hammer, the man who would become “Mr. Mystery,” was actually an American citizen, apparently born in Germany to American parents during World War II. As his parents (who were reportedly in the diplomatic corps) trav-

eled around the world, so did George. He grew up comfortable with at least half a dozen cultures and languages.

A quiet, self-centered boy, George demonstrated an interest in anything unusual: scientific curiosities, circus and side show anomalies, the supernatural and the occult, and of course magic!

Despite having to move frequently, George managed to accumulate an impressive library of reference materials on magic and anything else even remotely related to magic. His parents supported his obsession by taking him to magic shows, circuses, and other theatrical performances wherever they traveled.

George was inspired the day he saw Sorcar, India’s foremost illusionist at age thirteen, and from that point forward vowed to become a magician himself. At social gatherings, he billed himself as “Harry Hammer, the Mystifier!” (It seems that most of the truly great magicians were named “Harry.”)

As a teenager, George became interested in the opposite sex but primarily chose his dates based on how they might look on stage as his assistant. In college he took drama courses and continued to build his show. No longer tied to his parents’ travel schedules, George and a close friend who shared his love of magic rented a large warehouse and started building his dream show, one illusion at a time.

By the time he was thirty, “Harry Hammer, the Mystifier!” had a solid one-hour show, plus several additional illusions for the occasional longer show. By the time he was forty, Harry had a two-hour extravaganza. But when he turned fifty, he had an epiphany. If he was going to truly succeed as a magician, he had to ratchet up the element of mystery to entice people away from their television sets and into the theatres.

In 1990, the year George turned fifty, “Harry Hammer” disappeared and “Mr. Mystery” was born. George had inherited a significant sum of money from his parents, and he used most of it to build a secret warehouse and rehearsal hall in Heidelberg, Germany, near his birthplace. Soon the world would be talking about the great magician, but they wouldn’t know who he was!

All magicians keep secrets, but George was keeping the best secret of all: his own identity. “Mr. Mystery” wore the traditional black tails and top hat with flowing cape, and a black mask that obscured his face.

When the millennium finally arrived (the exact time and date depending on what country you were in around January 1, 2000), George was making a name for himself throughout Europe and Asia. Soon, he would conquer America!

George had lots of beautiful assistants, and his physical needs were always taken care of. But one assistant, Helene, became more than just a sexual partner. George’s main love had always been the stage, but in Helene he found something more. Soon she was featured in his most exciting illusions. There was even talk of marriage.

Until the accident.

The details are hazy, perhaps obscured by the magician’s smoke and mirrors. It happened in England, at a performance at the London Palladium, and the detectives at Scotland Yard were called in to investigate. It has been reported that Harry Houdini himself was able to fool Scotland Yard, and maybe “Mr. Mystery” did as well. Or maybe it was just an accident. Reviewing the newspapers from the day, there are conflicting reports.

Here’s what we know: Mr. Mystery featured an illusion that he called, “French Revenge.” The curtains opened to reveal a “genuine” French guillotine, over eight feet high, with a stainless-steel blade. No detail had been omitted to make the guillotine look and perform like the original. This was proven when Mr. Mystery put a head of lettuce in the stocks where the victim’s head would go, then sliced it cleanly in half as the audience gasped.

“May I have a volunteer from the audience?” asked Mr. Mystery in a commanding voice.

Before anyone could respond, he continued, “No, I have my volunteer already: Helene.” He held out his hand.

Helene entered from stage right, dressed as a French chanteuse and looking impossibly charming, sexy, and self-confident. She was smoking a cigarette in a long cigarette holder,

but dropped it on the floor when she saw the guillotine. Surely *she* was not to be the victim! But as she started to turn and leave, two strong male assistants quickly grabbed her and carried her to the platform on which stood the guillotine.



The assistants lashed her to a small table so she could not move. She was gagged so she could not scream. And the table was moved so that her body was behind the guillotine, with her head close to the opening that still had shreds of iceberg lettuce.

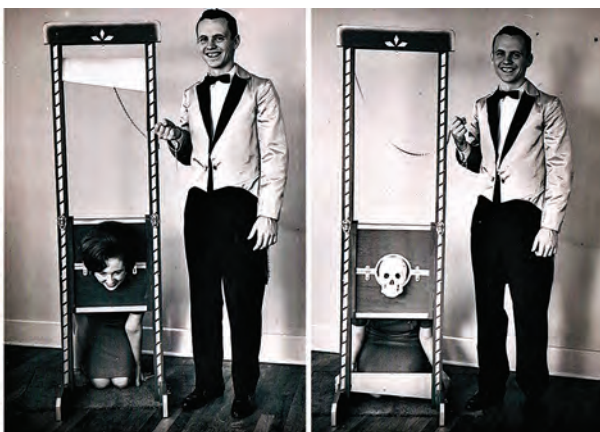
One solitary spotlight focused on the scene. The music began a dirge. A sliding board on the table allowed the two assistants to slide Helene so that her head went into the waiting hole. Mr. Mystery stood there, arms crossed across his chest, ready for the execution.

Suddenly, the music changed from “Spider’s Web” to “Saber Dance,” and a strobe light began to flash. All theatrical elements combined to create a sense of terror as the magician slowly stepped up to the platform and pulled the rope that was holding the blade. Gravity took over, and the blade slammed down. Somebody screamed and the remaining lights went out.

But then the lights came on again, the stocks were opened, and Helene stood erect and proud. She was alive! Stepping to the front of the stage with Mr. Mystery as the curtains closed, the pair took their bow to a standing ovation.

Until the accident.

It was October 30, 2009. Not quite Halloween, but disquietly close. After all, Halloween is when we celebrate all things



spooky and things that go bump in the night. It is the day Harry Houdini died, in 1926. The Society of American Magicians celebrates Halloween as “National Magic Day.”

But this was Friday night, October 30, at a sold-out performance at the London Palladium. That much we know. And we know this as well: for some reason, which thorough investigations have failed to reveal, the trick did not work as planned. The lights came back on, but Helene was still lying on the table ... with her well-coiffed head lying on the floor in a pool of blood.

Mr. Mystery’s grief seemed real, but who knows what a magician is really thinking? After all, their lives are devoted to deception. Even psychologists study magicians to try to learn more about misdirection. Was it an honest mistake? Or did a jealous assistant release the safety mechanism right before the show? To this day, nobody knows.

But Mr. Mystery’s brilliant career ended that night. There have been no more sold-out theatres or triumphant tours. Only some magic shows for the occasional traveling circus or carnival. George is still “Mr. Mystery,” but he is no longer one of the world’s greatest magicians.

You may yet see “Mr. Mystery, the Man of a Thousand Miracles.” But if he asks for a volunteer from the audience, it would be best if you walk away.

More Halloween Magic

More than half a century after Mr. Mys-

tery made his first appearance at a Halloween carnival, I was booked to perform at an epic Halloween event in Austin, Texas. But this was a show for adults with music, alcoholic beverages, and entertainment you would never find at a school carnival! “Sky Candy” was an acrobatic troop that performed on the high trapeze, and they did striptease while doing their acrobatics.

How could “The Fantastic Kent Cummins” fit into this event? Remembering the rave, I once again turned to Mr. Mystery.

I powdered my hair and added makeup to make me look older. (Thankfully, I needed the makeup!) I found an old top hat that was dented and had a hole in it. I took my beautiful silk streamers and crunched them up in a slightly damp place so they would come out looking old and not cared for.

We had a heckler at this show, a very drunk man who kept shouting inappropriate comments. The rest of the audience was frustrated that he kept trying to mess up the show. So, they were excited when I was able to convince him to help me with a magic trick.

I rolled out my Delben French Guillotine! (*Disclaimer: My character has nothing to do with the children’s book series by James Lee, starting in 2006.*)

The Bottom Line

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

Magic and

Memories

David Ginn



Karrell Fox and Mark Tripp Part Two

As a teenager, my friend Mark Tripp met Karrell Fox at a magic club meeting in Detroit. Karrell took a liking to Mark and mentored him throughout high school, college, and beyond. Mark spent many days and nights sitting at Karrell's kitchen table talking magic, business, and life in general – and *Tripper*; as Fox called him, learned a whole lot that carries him forward in magic to this day.



Mark Tripp with Christine the Cat.

During our conversations over the past several years, Mark told me many things you've never heard about the Foxy One, and I have asked Mark to share some of those things in print. So here is Mark with ten things he learned straight from Karrell – things that might affect and help you with your own magic.

Understand, please, that we are not publishing these things for you to agree or disagree with, but only to consider as wisdom from a true professional in the business of magic. So here we go, more or less in Mark Tripp's own words and recollections.

Ten Things I Learned Directly from Karrell Fox

By Mark Tripp

Since I was fifteen years old, I may have spent more time with Karrell Fox than most other magicians. We talked magic at his kitchen table for hundreds of hours, traveled to shows and conventions together, and became friends with a mentor-mentee relationship. I was the mentee, not to be confused with "manatee."

When David asked me one morning to write down some of the things Karrell taught me, many of which I had already shared in talks with David, I was flattered that I could be of help. After several weeks and lots of thought, I chose the following ten items, in no particular order.

Some of these things you will understand and "get" right away. Others you may not. But they all have various degrees of meaning for me and, in turn, helped me grow into a better magical entertainer, just as Karrell was during his lifetime.

So here we go, with Karrell's comments mostly in bold and Mark Tripp (me) explaining what it meant to me and maybe to you.

One: A Bad Magician Sinks All of Magic.

Let's say you're in charge of hiring entertainment for your company holiday. Since people want to hear music and dance, you hire a band. The night of the event comes, and most people don't like the band. Maybe it's the song selection, perhaps it's the singer.

Now at next year's party, you'll still have a band, just not *that* band. However, if you decide to hire a magician and your audience doesn't like that magician, they will *never* hire another magician. (Remember, this is Karrell Fox talking.) They will tell all their friends to never hire a magician. This, according to Karrell, is the number-one reason magicians have trouble getting work.

During my fifty-year career, I have seen it happen time and again. One bad magician doing one bad performance sours people against magic. On the other hand, a good magician doing a good job enhances magic and makes people want to see more.

Two: Who's Going to Pay You to Do This?

I don't care what the act you're working on is. The ultimate question is "Who wants to pay to watch you do it?"



Mark Tripp doing the Egg Bag with a little girl.

We know people love to laugh. We know families and children enjoy fun and entertainment.

Ask yourself why someone is going to pay you to do your particular act. You must come up with an answer if you plan to make money by performing shows.

Possible answers include: you are the only one doing a certain kind of show, you have a good price, you're the "new kid in town," other people they know have booked you, or you won *America's Got Talent*.

Bottom line: Think about why anyone would want to hire you.

Three: Read All the Old Robert Orben Books and Memorize the Jokes.

Again, Karrell talking to me.



Yes, they are old books filled with old jokes. Let me put that in perspective. Consider this:

Action in the North Atlantic was a film made in 1943. It's a World War II movie about merchant marines. In this movie, the great character actor Alan Hale Sr. tells a joke, which goes like this:

"You know what I'm doin' when this war is over? I'm puttin' into port, I'm gettin' off the ship, I'm puttin' an oar on my shoulder, and I'm startin' walking inland. And the first time a guy says to me, 'What's that oar doing on your shoulder?' That's where I'm settlin' down for the rest of my life."

Okay, 1943 to 2025. That's eighty-two years ago. Really an old joke, right? Well, yes, but quite a bit older than that. This joke

is from Homer's *The Odyssey*, written between the seventh and eighth centuries B.C.

"So memorize the old jokes," Karrell told me, "then adapt and update them." Read the books during the last hour before your bedtime. You will rewire your brain and put the jokes there.

Of course, you don't read them off like a hack. You pay attention to news stories and what people are talking about. Then you model the old jokes based on what is currently going on in the world.

In my comedy club days, Dr. Laura was the big thing on the radio. The Orben books are filled with Dr. Agony jokes. Obviously, call-in advice programs go way back. I took every one of those jokes and made them Dr. Laura jokes. People thought I was topical and clever as heck. All I did was scan the headlines of the newspapers and update the old jokes, and that was my act for the day.

Remember that part about reading jokes before bedtime. It pays off.

Four: Features vs. Benefits.

When putting your show together and more so when you're selling it, focus on how the client benefits from hiring you. It really doesn't matter about your invisible double lift or the latest trick you saw on television. The *only* thing that matters to the client is how hiring you makes their gathering better and their life easier.



Five: If You Call Yourself a Magician, Fool the Heck Out of Your Audience.

Karrell hounded me about this. I know this is *not* the current philosophy of the magic world. You're going to hear that fooling people isn't important, touching them is. Sorry, but this just isn't true. I suspect it's

embraced because most magicians can't fool people other than themselves.

Everyone likes to point to Fitzkee's *Showmanship for Magicians*, which seems to downplay the amazing part of your magic. However, his *Magic by Misdirection* is also part of the trilogy, and that entire book is about fooling your audience. If you don't fool them, you can call yourself a great many things, but you can't call yourself a magician. The popularity of Penn and Teller's TV show "Fool Us" speaks directly to this concept.



Mark Tripp performing
a school science show.

For my two cents worth, I believe Karrell was exactly right. We need to "fool the socks off our audience" every show.

Six: A Person's Growth in Magic is Directly Proportional to How Well He (or She) Overcomes the Reasons He (or She) Got into Magic in the First Place.

Karrell told me that quotation came from Robert Nelson. However, I have not been unable to trace it back to him. I know from my time studying psychology, this is true.

The concept of the shy child who becomes "the great hot dog" and amazes everyone in their classroom is now a Hollywood cliché. An episode of *Star Trek, the Next Generation* uses this. Numerous situation comedies over the years have as well, most notably *The Big Bang Theory*'s portrayal of Howard as an amateur magician. Sadly, these portrayals are never in a favorable light. "Many a true word is spoken in jest."



Whether it's "borrowing light" (every new magician wants to be Houdini), "affirmation seeking" (like fooling the boys at the magic club), or something else, the final question is: "Where is the entertainment?"

I know this concept is hard, and many have been very upset when I've shared this over the years. So, if you are upset, let me remind you of another important quotation: "*The sting of a reproach is the truth of it.*" – Benjamin Franklin.

Seven: Before You Buy that New Trick You See in a Magic Ad, Try to Work Out the Method for Yourself.

Exercising your own creativity is always a good thing. It sure didn't hurt Karrell. Everything he wrote in those six Supreme books started with him asking the question, "How could you do that?" Who knows, he told me, you might come up with a better way. And over the past fifty years I've found his advice to be right on the spot.

Eight: Take Any Trick and Make It Yours.

At my first Abbott's convention, I listened to a woman talking to Neil Foster about his presentation of the Zombie Ball. Her exact words were: "My husband floats a silver ball like yours, but he uses a coat hanger to do it."

Neil Foster had made the Zombie his signature effect in magic. The lady never realized Neil was using the same method,

perhaps better than her husband, but the difference was that Neil made the Zombie *his* trick.



*Duke Stern, Karrell Fox,
and Reil Borden.*

I absolutely love the Al Baker rice bowls. When I saw Ron Bauer do them with cereal and milk, I discovered a great concept. To quote the late Steven Covey in his book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, "Begin with the end in mind!" In other words, know from the start where the trick is going and how it will end. That way you will understand how it will affect your audience.

Old magic catalogs are filled with old tricks that no one these days seems to have heard about. You can start there, but:

Nine: No One Wants to Be First.

We have all heard how you need to be original and unique. We are told, "Don't be like anyone else or the agents won't book you." That's what they say, but it simply isn't true. Far more often than not, those people are going to hire someone exactly like the last guy they had. Why? Because from their point of view, that guy worked!

Bookers are not going to take a chance that something new and different is going to work when they can go with tried and true. When I finally got the agents from Gail and Rice to come see me do a family show, I was thrilled. I told myself, "Here's my big chance." No question, I killed the room.

The next day I got the news, and I quote: "He's nothing like Karrell Fox." Translation?

Mark Tripp was different, and they weren't going to risk an auto show client on different. So they ended up hiring someone exactly like Karrell Fox, only younger.

Yes, this can be debated back and forth, but remember I am sharing with you what Karrell Fox told me face to face. So let me wrap this up with a final piece of Foxy advice, about which I am sure we will all agree.

**Ten: Don't Take Life Too Seriously.
None of Us Gets Out of It Alive!**

Enough said, I think.



A Bonus Foxy Trick

Karrell had a wonderful routine for the Burned Bill Found in a Cigarette. I suspect it was in the middle of his performance because he used it as an excuse to smoke a cigarette. He offered to teach me the trick, but I declined because I didn't smoke and I didn't want to start a tobacco habit to do one trick. So we talked about the trick one night while driving back from a show, coming up with variations. Using Karrell's concept, this was our final version without using tobacco.

You need a Bic lighter, some flash bills, a sharpie marker, and a small sealed can of nuts. And, of course, you need that *special something*. Just follow these instructions.

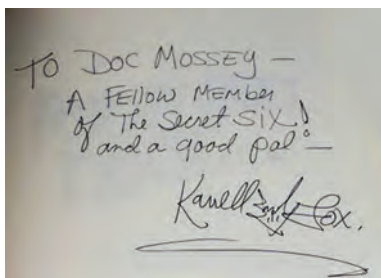
Take a flash bill and fold it in half. Next, rotate and fold the bill in half again. Carefully cut the bill and you should have four quarters of the bill. Karrell was too cheap to burn the entire flash bill for the trick.

Hand someone the sealed can. Now borrow a bill and have it signed. Fold up the borrowed bill and do the classic \$100 bill switch. Don't make a display of it, just fold and switch the real bill for the flash bill. Go to your pocket and drop off the thumb tip with the bill as you get the lighter.

Tell the audience there's a test to see if a bill is real or counterfeit. Light the bill and let it go up in a flash. Pause, then say, "Now that's a real one!" Pause again, then say "Does anyone have a hundred? It burns with a purple flame!"

Put the lighter away and put the loaded thumb tip back on. Walk over to the person with the nuts. Have that person open up the sealed can. Show your hands empty, reach in, and take the bill halfway out. Go to the owner and have him take the bill out the rest of the way. Let that person confirm it's his exact bill.

After the applause, say, "After all that you should get a reward, so here's nuts to you!" Give the helper some peanuts from the can, then you start eating the rest as you walk off stage.



From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD



Well, another Blackpool convention has come and gone, with the usual influx of international visitors. The shows were good on the whole. Rick Thomas presented three levitations, but all very different. There was a beautifully-tuned and gently humorous scenario in which a young boy from the audience levitated a glamorous assistant, a Copperfield-inspired flying sequence with a similar young lady, and the ultimate Asrah in which Thomas himself ‘flies’ to remove the drape – just as breathtaking on second viewing.

The gala show also had some talented acts, which would have been even better if the audience had been able to see them properly. The *Secret Cabaret* level of lighting did them no favours.

In his lecture, mentalist Marc Paul gave valuable advice about the revelation of predictions in order to produce three reaction points rather than just one, and put it into practice in his one-man show, which was smooth and sophisticated. Cillian O’Connor’s show was the opposite; deliberately unpolished and with an air of vulnerability which bears the ‘Dynamo’ hallmark. Cillian is the 15-year-old autistic young man who was a *Britain’s Got Talent* finalist in 2023 and

holds the Guinness World Record for performing 28 tricks in sixty seconds. His backstory is such that the audience is rooting for him from the outset, and his appearance and gentle Irish accent are all part of the attraction. An added bonus was guest appearances by Ryland Petty, with his Harry Potter themed act, and the Magic Circle Young Magician of the Year, Harry Merlin Piper.

In his lecture, Tom Crosbie, ‘the Performing Nerd’, emphasised the need to sacrifice the impossible for the believable, and reiterated the truism that likeability is more important than talent. In other words, if the audience like you they will like what you do. The converse, of course, is also true. If they don’t like what you do, they won’t like you. This was exemplified by the Canadian host of ‘The One’ competition, who alienated his audience with insensitive material and was unable to read the mood of the room or adapt – which in turn made things more difficult for the competitors.

This month, I want to tell you about a speciality act from the days of variety which you are unlikely to have heard of. Edna Squire Brown was born in 1913 in Openshaw – an area of Manchester. A glance at

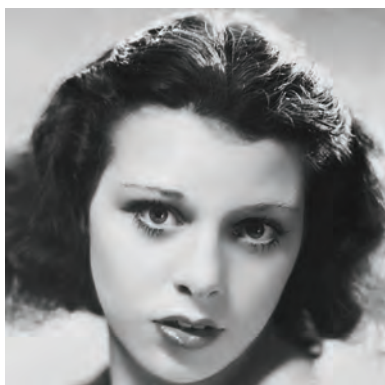


(l to r): Rick Thomas. • Marc Paul. • Cillian O’Connor. • Tom Crosbie caricature by Mark Shortland.



(l to r): Early programme. • Dancing with doves. • Hoop dance.

one of her publicity photographs may suggest a magic act with doves, predating Channing Pollock, but in fact she was described as an ‘acrobatic dancer’ who happened to use doves in one of her routines. Appearing initially in local concerts as a child, she went on to have a very successful career which included appearances at the London Palladium with the Crazy Gang, and she is mentioned in several show-biz autobiographies. She wore a flimsy diaphanous costume, with doves perched in strategic places to protect her modesty.



Edna Squire Brown.

The late comedy writer and television presenter Denis Norden recalled that binoculars were banned in the audience, but people would throw birdseed onto the stage in a vain attempt to distract the birds. Edna’s double secret was that the wings of the birds

were clipped so that they could not fly away, and she wore aniseed which attracted them and kept them in place.

Eric Morecambe (half of the iconic British comedy duo Morecambe and Wise) recounted the occasion at Feldman’s theatre/music hall in Blackpool when he and Ernie Wise played a practical joke. For her finale, Edna would pose on stage adorned with some of the birds, while her father released others from the balcony. They would swoop down over the heads of the audience and come to rest on her. Of course, those originally on stage were clipped, while the others were not. While Ernie distracted Edna’s father, Eric switched over the birds, so that those thrown from the balcony simply landed on the floor below and Edna had difficulty in keeping the flying ones in place.

At the age of eighteen, Edna appeared in the short Pathe film *Dance of the Hoop*, and the following year (1932) in *Dance of the Vase*, which is available on YouTube. She was also a regularly featured performer in the early days of television, from Alexandra Palace.

Edna achieved further national fame in November 1940, when she appeared in a Movietone News film with the title of *Nuptial Bliss Despite Bombs*. Just before Edna was due to be married to the fighter pilot John Martin, her London home was bombed, as was the church where the ceremony was to take place. Not to be beaten,



Blitz bride.

she was photographed leaving her home with her father, dressed in her bridal gown, and the ceremony took place in the ruins of the church. This set the trend for so-called 'Blitz brides'

who were determined to defy Hitler's bombs.

A sad corollary to this story is that John was killed in action just a few weeks after the wedding.

Sign Up a New Member

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



Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

The Art of Rings

For nearly two thousand years, military and business leaders have sought guidance from the ageless wisdom of Chinese general, military strategist, and philosopher Sun Tzu's manual, *"The Art of War."* His principles regarding strategy, teamwork, and morale, apply to today's club dynamics.

"Make your way by unexpected routes and attack unguarded spots."

Think Outside of the Box. We hear this often, but how often do we actually try it? Don't be afraid to try new things or experiment with different approaches. Look for ways to collaborate with other organizations. Offer unique attention-grabbing community events. Inject new challenges and social activities into your club's routine. Adapt to changing conditions. Catalog your members' unique skills and create new paths to your goals.

"Use the normal force to engage and use the extraordinary to win."

Strong leaders manage the mundane business of running our clubs while planning creative ways to engage members. They actively seek out extraordinary opportunities to treat members, enhance club programs, and energize their clubs. Shake things up and bring the magic back into your club!

"Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat."

Talk is cheap and fools rush in. Every club needs clearly stated long-term goals. "We'll meet every Monday and talk magic" is a painfully weak goal. Yet we find many

magic clubs founded on little more than this. Positive long-term goals may include increasing membership, coaching pro-level skills, or achieving greater recognition within the community. Goals are good, but objectives without action are mere words. Success requires focused engagement such as hosting outreach events, promoting community service campaigns, or presenting family social events.

"If victory is long in coming, then men's weapons will grow dull and their ardor will be damped."

Celebration motivates. Long-term goals are important, but lengthy periods between achievements can erode member interest. Keep members invested in the club's goals. Maintain open two-way communication. Present members with fresh and engaging challenges. Split long-term goals into smaller, more immediate targets. Celebrate each of these smaller accomplishments to keep your members pushing forward.

"A commander adept at the use of extraordinary forces finds his resources as infinite as heaven and earth, as inexhaustible as the flow of the running rivers."

Every leader hits the occasional barrier formed by limited resources or fading interest. Weak leaders accept these boundaries as an excuse to stop and rest. Sun Tzu warns against allowing perceived limitations to stifle our creative energy and forward movement. Strong leaders remain open to new ideas and adjust their plans when needed. Our club's

resources and opportunities are as infinite as our imagination. Open your club to external networks, partnerships, and unique funding opportunities.

“Keep the army moving and devise unfathomable plans.”

Leaders at rest tend to stay at rest. It is so easy to just do the same thing the same way day after day. Weak leaders prefer the predictability and minimal effort inherent in the mundane status quo. For these leaders, stagnation and failure are closing in. Innovation begins with the leader. Strong leaders break this pattern by introducing members to new ideas, challenges, and goals. Our business and social environments are constantly changing. Clubs that fail to change with them will soon begin shedding members. Flexibility, adaptability, and an open mind toward change are essential.

“Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.”

Losers enter a battle half-cocked. Colonial flintlock firearms employed a half-cock position of the hammer as a rudimentary safety. Soldiers couldn't fire a half-cocked rifle creating a delay and risking defeat or worse. Great leaders prepare for victory. They are proactive, plan with a clear end in mind, prioritize their goals, and look for win-win situations. Weak leaders who routinely push ideas and projects onto their members without planning or forethought wobble on the edge of failure.

“It is the business of a general to be quiet and thus ensure depth in deliberation; impartial and upright and thus keep a good management.”

Sir Francis Bacon wrote, “Silence is the sleep that nourishes wisdom.” Even the best leaders need to temporarily disengage from their day-to-day tasks to gain perspective, recharge, and develop a renewed sense of purpose and strategy. Backing away from the mental clutter allows us to view the big picture, identify blind spots, and develop innovative solutions. It helps us to push past potential biases and to quietly review past

actions. Downtime and reflection may spark new ideas and approaches to problem-solving. Stepping back and inviting future leaders to shine strengthens your club's leadership core and your legacy.

“A leader leads by example, not by force.”

Leaders lead! The dismal “Do as I say” leaders undermine trust and create resistance. Great leaders exhibit a “Do as I do” philosophy. They demonstrate commitment, a strong work ethic, and respect for others. They regularly attend and participate in club meetings and events. They display genuine enthusiasm for the club's goals and activities. Strong leaders treat club members with respect and display a positive attitude, even when facing challenges. They strive for excellence in all club activities and take ownership of their actions. Their active participation encourages members to contribute their ideas and perspectives.

“The wise warrior avoids the battle.”

Strong leaders seek win-win solutions to conflict. They carefully consider the different perspectives and needs of all involved parties, find common ground, and guide them toward a solution that is mutually beneficial. They may employ strategic thinking, negotiation, and diplomacy to minimize lasting harm.

This column barely scratches the surface of Sun Tzu's classic treatise on leadership. His advice on strategic planning, adaptability, moral influence, decisiveness, delegation, and efficiency is as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago. Learn these quotes and use them as you approach your next leadership hurdle.

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.

Take Your Seat

By Balasubramanian “Balu” Chandran

INTRODUCTION: WHEN SPACE SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

In mentalism, every detail matters. Your words, your pauses, and your gaze – all meticulously crafted to blur the line between illusion and reality.

But here’s a secret the audience never questions: Where they sit.

Yes, seating is a hidden psychological weapon. It affects perception, builds rapport, and even helps hide method. When used wisely, seating turns a good routine into an unforgettable experience. Just like lighting or music, it’s part of the invisible design that creates theatrical magic.

WHY SEATING MATTERS IN MENTALISM (BUT NOT ALWAYS IN MAGIC)

In magic, the trick often speaks for itself: a levitating table or a disappearing silk is inherently impossible and visually strong. The magician is often distant, theatrical, and commanding.

But mentalism is different. It requires intimacy, trust, and often an emotional connection. That’s where seating enters the game.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF POSITIONING

People behave differently based on spatial cues:

- Side by side = ally
- Face to face = challenge or intimacy
- Angled = neutral but persuasive
- Behind = authority
- Audience facing participant = theatrical drama

The mentalist’s job is to use space as a script.

FOUR POWERFUL SEATING STRATEGIES

1. SIDE BY SIDE: Building Rapport and Influencing Choice

Use when you want to influence choice subtly or read body cues.



Why it works:

This position feels friendly and non-threatening. It lowers defenses. It’s great for routines where the participant should feel they’re making their own decision freely (even if they’re not!).

Best for:

- Equivoque-based routines
- Drawing duplication
- Muscle reading

Example trick: “The Invisible Decision”

– Five cards on the table. The participant “freely” chooses one. You’re seated beside them, subtly guiding the selection with language and gesture.

2. FACE TO FACE: Focus and Intensity

Use when you want intensity, focus, or emotional connection.



Why it works:

Direct eye contact increases tension. The participant feels psychologically “seen.” Great for mind reading or emotional reveals.

Best for:

- Name or thought reveals
- Lie detection
- Cold reading

Example trick: “Name Game” – You ask the spectator to think of someone meaningful. The deep eye contact and silence builds drama. You slowly reveal the name, letter by letter.

3. ANGLED (“L-SHAPE”)

POSITIONING: Controlled Interaction with Misdirection

Use when you need to manage misdirection or perform secret moves.



Why it works:

You keep rapport while gaining visual cover for sleights or peeks. Ideal for more technical methods where direction control matters.

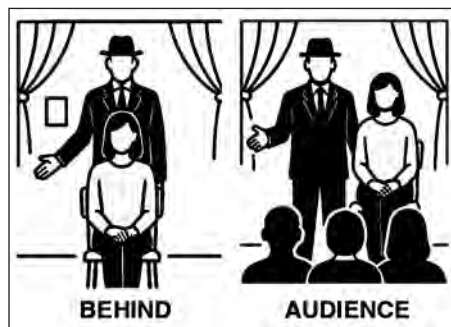
Best for:

- Billet switches
- CT (Center Tear)
- Dual reality

Example trick: “Sketch to Sketch” – The spectator draws an image. You’re seated at a slight diagonal, allowing you to execute a peek as you shift paper or re-cap the pen.

4. STAGE SEATING (PARTICIPANT FACES AUDIENCE)

Use when you want theatricality and maximum reaction visibility.



Why it works:

This layout highlights the participant’s expressions. The audience sees their disbelief and emotion, magnifying the effect. It’s perfect for finales or big reveals.

Best for:

- Predictions
- Confabulation
- Q&A routines

Example trick: “Memory Box” – You reveal multiple unknowns from the spectator’s life. The audience sees their stunned face, creating a magical climax beyond the effect itself.

SUBTLE WAYS TO GUIDE SEATING WITHOUT LOOKING FORCED

1. Pre-arrange chairs: Let natural movement direct people to the right place.
2. Use body language: Hold out a hand and nod to a seat without saying a word.
3. Make the invitation casual: "Join me here?" works better than "Sit there."
4. Create "framed space": Let furniture, lighting, or props guide the visual flow.

ADVANCED IDEA: SHIFTING SEATING MID-ROUTINE

To enhance engagement, change the position during a multi-phase effect. For example:

1. Start face to face for a strong connection.
2. Shift side by side to influence a choice.
3. Finish with the spectator facing the audience for a powerful reaction.

It feels organic, yet it's fully choreographed.

BONUS TIP: MIRRORING THEIR BODY LANGUAGE

Wherever they sit, subtly mirror their posture. Cross legs if they do. Lean forward as they lean in. This strengthens rapport unconsciously and helps build trust for more "unbelievable" effects.

CONCLUSION: POSITION IS POWER

In mentalism, your greatest props are words, silence, touch – and space. Seating is silent psychology. It tells the participant what to feel without saying a word. In magic, props do the trick.

In mentalism, position does the persuasion. So the next time you step on stage or sit in a living room, take your seat and know why you placed it exactly there.

Next time you're preparing a routine, don't just think: "What will I say?" Also ask: "Where will they sit?"

Because sometimes, the most magical move is made before you even begin the effect.

Magic Balu is a member of Ring 177 in Bangalore, India (ibmring177.in). You may reach him by email at baluthemagician@gmail.com.

Moving?

Please notify the I.B.M. Headquarters Office at least four to six weeks before you move. By notifying the office ahead of time you will receive *The Linking Ring* at your new address and avoid paying a five-dollar per issue charge to resend the missed issue to your new address. 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.

Parade Contributions Wanted From Rings and Individuals

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



Teaching Magic

ROBERT DURANTE

Lady Luck

By Bob Durante

I love spelling tricks. Spelling tricks are a perfect type of magic to share when teaching, as spelling is a big part of a student's day. Also, when spelling cards, it seems like everything is being left to chance, which is a great misdirection.

EFFECT: Your helper picks a card and you go through the deck, upjogging several cards and searching for theirs. Ultimately, you are unsure if you have found it, so you use "Lady Luck" and do some spelling. Luckily, you find their card. The reveal is that you had the ladies with you, too, by showing the other remaining cards are the four queens.

MODUS OPERANDI: Have a card selected and placed back in the deck using a key card. Tell your audience, "This will be as easy as one, two, three." As you pretend to look for their chosen card, upjog the first two queens you see. Keep the cards back to your audience. Now, seem slightly concerned and say, "Maybe as easy as one, two, three, four." As you look for the other queens, look for your key card and upjog the chosen card along with the four queens. Arrange the cards so the chosen card is at the rear of the five cards and remove them together from the deck. You now have cards in your hand (chosen card followed by four queens), all being held face down. Tell your audience, "I might need the help of Lady Luck" or "We need a bit of Lady Luck to find your card." Spelling the word

L-A-D-Y, take the top card and move it to the bottom of the packet for the letters L, A, and D. At Y, place that card face down on the table. Now, holding the cards squared, repeat these actions but spell L-U-C-K. Lay the card down on the table on the letter K. One more time, spell LADY and repeat. At this stage, you have three face-down cards on the table. The chosen card is the top of the two still in your hand. Tell your helper, "We are down to a fifty-fifty chance. Let's use your luck." Ask them to choose as you separate the two cards. The top card (chosen one) is in your left hand, and the other queen is in the right. If they choose the right, tell them, "Let's put the card right here," laying it face down with the other three. Then, slowly turn over the card in the left hand, showing the chosen card. Pause and say, "Lady Luck was really with us. I can prove it. Here are the ladies, and finding your card was all luck." If they choose the left-hand card, say, "Let's leave this card (the one in your right hand) with the others and look at what you chose." Then, reveal the card in the left hand, which is the chosen one. Finish as before, introducing the ladies. This is a fun effect and has a nice kicker to it as well.

Until next month, enjoy your magic,

Bob Durante

bobdurante55@gmail.com

The Additive Multiple of Nine Principle

Thomas Henry

Dante Alighieri described nine circles of Hell in his epic poem, *The Divine Comedy*. Carelessly, he neglected to mention the most nefarious of all. This overlooked region of the underworld is populated by magicians who compel innocent bystanders to endure a number prediction. Cue the flames and brimstone ...

There, got that off my chest. What follows is (I believe) an original mathematical force, but please regard it as a method, not a presentation; that tenth circle of Hell can't bear any more immigrants!

On the other hand, a mind-reading routine which translates an abstract number to a word, name, symbol, zodiac sign, color, etc., possesses intrinsic personal and emotional appeal. So while pondering the mechanics of this surprising force, never forget that a method is the paintbrush, not the painting.

Definite Articles Need Not Apply

In magic books and magazines, you'll frequently run across a routine which the author claims depends upon *the* principle of nine. There's no such thing. Or rather, there are at least four distinctly different principles of nine, so really it comes down to specifying *which* is at play. You can learn more concerning this in my article, "All About the Nonary Force," *The Linking Ring*, Volume 104, Number 4, April 2024, pp. 64-69. Remember, I.B.M. members get free access to back issues via *Ask Alexander*.

Here we'll scrutinize one of them more closely. Having never encountered it before, I've taken the liberty of christening it the Additive Multiple of Nine Principle. A few years after hitting upon it, however, I unexpectedly ran across a puzzle for the general public from the early 1900s which draws upon the self-

same concept. See Sam Loyd's "The Missing Number," *Cyclopedia of Puzzles*, (New York: The Lamb Publishing Company, 1914), p. 94, 351. So actually, the property lay in plain view for more than a century before becoming a conjurer's contrivance.

As an overview, this is a scheme for forcing the number nine or its brethren. What makes it particularly pleasant is that but a single *addition* is called for, neatly justified as "combining the influences" or some similar malarkey. Other nine-based magic routines almost always hinge upon subtraction, an operation the average spectator finds vexing, and which conveys no inherent dramatic message.

Now the Additive Multiple of Nine Principle is just that: a general principle. But it can be tapped in several theatrically diverse ways, as we'll see. In what follows, the emphasis is upon the inner workings and as a consequence, a flurry of numbers will momentarily fill the air. Don't let that daunt you. This is just to make sure you understand the underpinnings before designing a demonstration of your own. The mathematical machinations are quite invisible during the performance, with any actions demanded of the participant fairly quick and painless.

The TriTriplet Force

Ignoring the stage dressing for a moment, here's how the first variation goes. The participant creates three 3-digit numbers consuming all the ciphers one through nine, in any order whatsoever. This trio is then totaled. Remarkably, as fair as that sounds, the outcome is anything but random. In fact, quite a bit is assured, which can then be exploited as a ranging force or even as a definite force.

Let's work through an example together.

Suppose the participant decides upon the numbers 185, 924, and 673. Totting them up gives 1782. This seems fairly humdrum, until you notice its digits combine to eighteen: $1 + 7 + 8 + 2$. (Computer scientists and accountants refer to such as the *checksum*, a term we'll employ going forward.) Still, what's so special about that?

Oodles! There are 362,880 different ways your helper could have chosen a trio of numbers at the outset, yet unbelievably but a paltry 199 totals can ensue. Still more startling is that the checksum is restricted to nine, eighteen or twenty-seven. In a nutshell: despite the freedom afforded the participant, the performer need only prepare three possible outs.

It gets even better. Note that if those two larger checksums are further reduced to what's known as a *digital root*, then nine is cinched yet again: $1 + 8$ or $2 + 7$). To wit, this has morphed into a definite force.

Here's a concise summary of what can be called the TriTriplet Force. The participant forms three 3-digit numbers and totals them. Then:

- There are 362,880 ways this can be done,
- yet yielding only 199 possible results,
- the smallest of which is 774, the largest 2,556,
- whose checksums must be nine, eighteen or twenty-seven,
- with a fixed digital root of nine.

Incidentally, the checksum of nine occurs about a third of the time, eighteen two-thirds of the time, and twenty-seven almost never.

Timeout for Theatrics

I hope that clinical dissection didn't scare you off. It was offered so you'd know what's available when devising your own routines. In fact there are several ways to camouflage the digit-twiddling considerably.

We know the procedure requires the digits be singly called upon. This could theoretically be accomplished with pencil and paper, the participant scratching each off a list once consumed. Ick! Bookkeeping may be an impor-

tant occupation, but its place isn't on stage.

For a more graceful approach, toss nine numbered tokens to the table and let the participant have at it (**Fig. 1**). The disks themselves silently ensure the uniqueness criterion is met. This is an instance of what I denominated a *natural physical constraint* in "Magic Lessons from Literature," *The Linking Ring*, Volume 105, Number 1, January 2025, pp. 70-74. Incidentally, you can find number tokens on Amazon, or even make custom ones by affixing press-on vinyl stickers to poker chips.

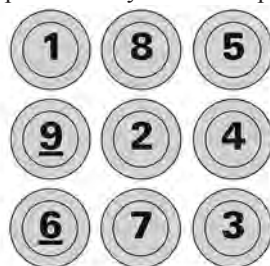


Fig. 1

The TriTriplet Force is particularly well suited to involving several people in the fun. For example, you could proffer all tokens to the first, who then randomly distributes three each to fellow audience members. Each of the latter freely invents a number which the first participant, now acting as secretary, totals, and it's on with the show.

How about a magazine test? With the TriTriplet Force, the smallest sum possible is far larger than the number of pages in a periodical. So obviously the participant reduces this to a checksum – another natural physical constraint – and opens to that page.

Providentially, before the show, you had become familiar with the general drift of pages nine, eighteen, and twenty-seven. A subtle pump takes care of the rest, aided further by the fact two of the pages are odd numbered, the remaining one even. Simply observe your helper's gaze.

While it's been instructive to investigate checksums and digital roots, in truth, computing them is often unnecessary. Thanks to what can be called the *physical digital root*, the participant moving a finger around a disk of words, symbols, colors, etc., as though in a board game, can emulate that. Think of it as addition without adding.

To wit, a forcing wheel, easily designed on your home computer and printed out, is divided into nine sectors. Each sector is labeled with something appropriate to an intriguing theme. (Dante’s nine circles of Hell probably wouldn’t be a felicitous choice, though.)

The participant places a finger on the uppermost sector, reciting “one,” then continues counting clockwise around the wheel digit by digit. In the example from above (1782), the participant continues with seven, eight, and finally two more steps, landing on the ninth sector. No matter the original total, this must always be the destination.

This ruse figured in my routine “The da Vinci Load,” *The Linking Ring*, Volume 103, Number 8, August 2023, pp. 85-89, in which Artist is forced from nine professions.

The QuinDuplet Force

We can zip through the remaining three variations, which behave analogously. Now, however, the digit zero enters the fray. With ten tokens to draw upon, this time the participant forms five two-digit numbers (Fig. 2). Once more, they’re totaled, with the Additive Multiple of Nine Principle coordinating things behind the scenes. The sum is 288 here, with its checksum of eighteen and digital root of nine.

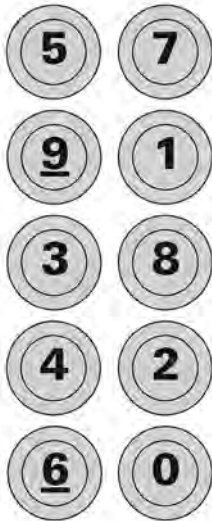


Fig. 2

Here’s what to expect of the QuinDuplet Force, as we’ll denote it:

- There are now a whopping 3,628,800 initial arrangements,
- yet yielding a scanty twenty-six possible totals,
- the smallest of which is 135, the largest 360,
- whose checksums can only be nine or eighteen,
- with a fixed digital root of nine.

A checksum of nine will occur about three-quarters of the time, and a checksum of eighteen the balance. Of course, as always, the digital root is locked in at nine.

It’s flabbergasting that a trifling twenty-six totals spring from the millions of ways the tokens can be permuted. Moreover, with only two checksums among these, something as simple as a double-faced card, two-out envelope, Himber wallet, etc., can easily orchestrate the denouement.

The DuoQuintuplet Force

By exchanging rows and columns, we arrive at the following variation. You should be quite adept at this now, so I’ll just summarize what to expect. Here the participant forms two five-digit numbers from the ten tokens (Fig. 3). In this instance, the sum is 112,788, the checksum twenty-seven, and the digital root nine. In general:

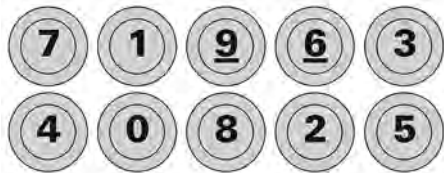


Fig. 3

- There are still 3,628,800 total arrangements,
- but yielding 18,285 possible sums,
- the smallest of which is 16,047, the largest 183,951,
- whose checksums can only be nine, eighteen, twenty-seven, thirty-six, or forty-five,
- with a fixed digital root of nine as always.

Truth be told, this version strikes me as less appealing than the others, but perhaps a clever application of the DuoQuintuplet Force will occur to you.

The Generalized Tuplet Force

Now this is crazy! It can be proved it really doesn't matter how many numbers or how many digits in each the participant fancies. The resulting sum will still be a multiple of nine, with a constrained checksum, and guaranteed digital root. In this, the Generalized Tuplet Force, one or more participants can have a genuine free-for-all.

Specifically, all rules are cast out the window now. This really opens things up for a variety of amusing scenarios in which the participants tender, take, or trade tokens among themselves whilst forming random numbers.

Here's an example (Fig. 4). The first participant is the wealthiest, having four tokens to toy with, while the last is the poorest, possessing but one; the others lie in between. The total is 7,776, with a checksum of twenty-seven, and a digital root of nine, as expected.

Despite this wild abandon:

- There are still 3,628,800 possible arrangements,
- the smallest sum of which is forty-five, the largest 9876543210,
- whose checksums can only be nine, eighteen, twenty-seven, thirty-six, or forty-five,
- with a fixed digital root of nine as ever.

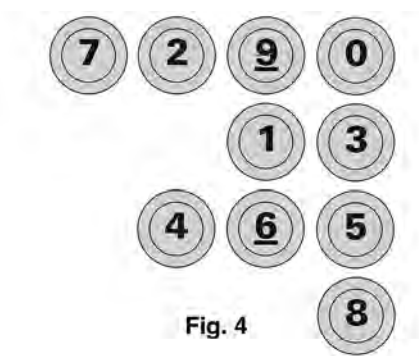


Fig. 4

In the Final Analysis

And so we see that by the Additive Multiple of Nine Principle, it truly makes no difference how the tokens are distributed, or how many participants are involved, or even what size the freely concocted numbers are. The checksums and digital root are completely determined regardless. Take advantage of that freedom.

Moreover, the single addition is quickly dispatched. And no further arithmetic need muddy the waters if you conclude with the physical digital root principle.

But remember, a banal number revelation surely ranks near the bottom of the list of earthly delights your anxious audience anticipates. I began this article with a literary allusion; let me conclude with another. Translate any abstract quantity to something the crowd can relate to, or as a rather famous Dane once phrased it, "The play's the thing ..."



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Paul Gordon

One-Man Parade

Written by Paul Gordon • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen • Illustrated by Tony Dunn



This is my fifth One-Man Parade for *The Linking Ring* since 2016. And, if interested, go see the October 2016, April 2018, June 2022, and April 2024 issues for more doable card magic by yours truly. (One of the Parades even won the “Excellence” award.) Anyway, this is a fairly unusual one because it’s not just standard card magic. It’s unusual, but still good in my humble opinion! Lots of stuff to dig into here.

Since 1977, I’ve had my magic published in *Abra*, *Abracassetta*, *The Linking Ring*, *M-U-M Magazine* (a Parade of sorts), *Genii*, *MAGIC*, *The Budget*, *Apocalypse*, *LaBal*, *Magicseen*, *Abacus*, *Onyx*, and books by Peter Duffie, Harry Lorayne, Aldo Colombini, Gary Jones, and others. I’m a member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star and a recipient of the John Nevil Maskelyne Prize for Literature. Since the mid-eighties I’ve lectured all over the world including the 4F, Tannen’s Jubilee, Magic Circle (five times), Blackpool Magic Convention, FFAP, Monaco All Stars, Strotmann’s In Stuttgart, Italy Congress, Madrid Circle, Lund (Sweden) Convention, British Magic Symposium, and hundreds of provincial magic clubs.

All of these routines come from my last two bestselling hardback books *Card Foolers* and *Card Thrillers*. Both are jam-packed with goodies and both are worth checking out at www.paulgordon.net/shop.

Now, without further delay ...

Fooler!

When I lectured at 4F in 2008, my late friend (and co-author of three books) Tom Craven showed me a wonderful trick using a fake deck. Here's my handling using a regular deck. Due to the set-up, it's really a magician-fooler only. Please don't skip past this trick due to the set-up. It's really worth trying it.

So, you need to simply pair up the mates of the deck in any order from top to bottom (**Fig. 1**). Example from the top down: KC, KS, 2D, 2H, 4C, 4S, JD, JH, et cetera.

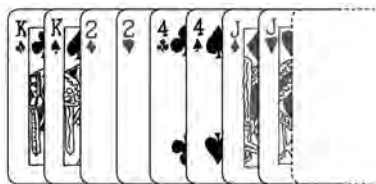


Fig. 1

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Say to two spectators, "I want you both to think of any number between one and fifty-two. But to ensure you don't think of the same number, I want you to think of an odd number and you to think of an even number." You ask them to reveal their numbers. Let's assume eleven and twenty-eight.

Now, you deal with the odd number first. Always the odd number first. So, deal eleven cards to the table and ask the spectator to take the eleventh card. Drop the in-hand remainder on top of the tabled packet and pick up the whole. Deal (to the table) to the twenty-eighth card and ask the spectator to take it. Drop the in-hand remainder on top of the tabled packet and pick up the whole.

The beauty of the trick is that the mates of both selections are on the top and bottom of the deck. Here are a few suggestions for how to end.

- Secretly glimpse at the top and bottom cards and name the selections.
- Riffle shuffle the deck, retaining the top and bottom cards, and then do a Hofzinser Toss to reveal the two mates of the selections.

- Take the deck under the table and reverse the top and bottom cards into the deck at different places. Say, "The mates of the selections will now do a somersault." Spread the face-down deck to reveal the mates of the two selections.

It's a good concept and one I'm sure you'll use.

S(cent)ed

This'll knock you sideways: Paul Gordon teaching a non-card trick. In fact, Paul Gordon teaching a coin trick!

Aside from Vernon's (or Slydini's) "Coins Through Table," I don't like coin magic. Usually, there's no climax, no fun, and you can't follow what's happening. And, I can always tell when a coin is palmed. The hand is cupped or looks arthritic. Anyway, in the mid-1970s Ken Brooke showed me Roy Johnson's "Cent." I've always loved it but not the handling. The reason being is the pre-show palm and an awkward switch. My routine eliminates all sleights.

REQUIREMENTS: You need a 50p coin (or dollar) and two cent coins. Plus, you need a very small bottle of Scent. I got mine on eBay. The bottle is about two centimetres tall by one centimetre wide. Glue one of the cents to one side of the larger silver coin but glue it off centre. Gel super-glue is best (**Fig. 1**).



Fig. 1

SET-UP: To set up, the gaffed coin, other cent, and bottle are in the right pocket. Reach into the pocket and remove the 50p and cent. When you reach into the pocket, feel for the non-glued side so that when you remove the two coins, the glued cent is on the underside of the 50p.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Say, "This is like David and Goliath with

coins. One of America's smallest coins and one of the United Kingdom's biggest." Display them with the cent atop the 50p on the fingertips of the palm-up left hand. Close the hand and turn it over. With the right fingertips, reach into the fist, openly remove the cent, and openly pocket it. Ask what is in the hand. When the spectator says the 50p, open the hand so the glued cent is on top of the 50p. Both coins are visible and that's the first piece of magic. The glued coins are now on the palm.

Close the hand into a fist again and turn it over. With the right fingertips, reach into the fist, openly remove the 50p, and openly pocket it. (Don't expose the glued cent.) As you pocket it, finger palm the Scent bottle. Ask what is in the hand. When the spectator says the cent, open the hand to show it empty.

Say, "It hasn't vanished. It's changed ..." Here you toss the empty left hand to the right hand (a kind of shuttle pass) and produce the bottle. "Yes, it's changed into a real S(cent)!"

Pretend to dab scent behind your ears (as Ken and Roy did) as you say, "Hmm, lovely!"

Put the bottle back in the pocket and you're reset.

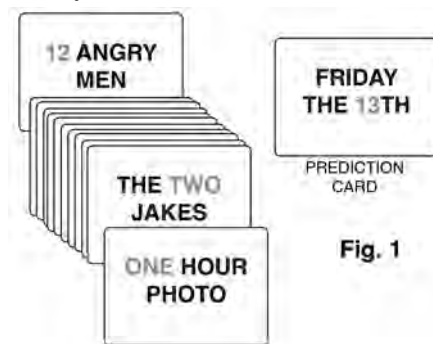
Movie Night

Cinegrid (from *Card Foolers*) is, in my opinion, a cracker, but this is even better. In *Gold Dust*, I discussed the Ramasee Principle. Its better-known title is Will The Cards Match (Larry Becker). Back in 2010, it took me ages to work out other phrases with more or fewer words of different lengths. I worked out some totally different routines, too. One of my ideas forced the number thirteen. So, when I was devising Cinegrid, I immediately thought of twinning the two ideas. Here's my result, which was briefly marketed in a limited-edition in 2019.

REQUIREMENTS: You require thirteen blank-faced cards. Write a movie title that has a number in the title on one each. You need one to thirteen. So, you could

have: *One Hour Photo*, *The Two Jakes*, *Three Days of the Condor*, *The Four Feathers*, *Five Easy Pieces*, *The 6th Day* (or *The Sixth Sense*), *The Magnificent Seven* (or *Seven Pounds*), *When Eight Bells Toll*, *Nine Months* (or *The Ninth Gate*), *10 Rillington Place* (or *Ten 'til Noon*), *Oceans 11*, *12 Angry Men* (or *Twelve Canoes*), and *Friday the 13th*. I suggest you write the number part of each movie in red ink and the rest in black. It helps the spectator later on, as you'll soon see.

SET-UP: Place the *Friday the 13th* card aside as your prediction. Set the other twelve in order with the "one" card at the face (Fig. 1). You might wish to pencil-dot (mark) the back of the "one" card to enable an easy false shuffle later on.



WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

To perform, talk about "Films That Are Often Watched." This is a five-word phrase I created using words that contain 5-4-3-5-7 letters. (See *Gold Dust* for more findings and information.) Saying the phrase in your patter and presentation not only enables the trick to work, it also makes sense.

So, display the twelve cards/films and flip the packet face down. If you can, perform a Charlier Shuffle or two. Spread the face-down packet and spot the marked card. Cut the packet, bringing it to bottom.

Push over the top six cards (don't reverse their order) and drop them onto the table. Drop the remaining six cards to their right. Square both packets.

You now say, "Let's use the phrase 'Films That Are Often Watched' to mix these." You now explain the following to the spectator. They pick up either pile and,

using the first word of the phrase (“films”), they transfer one card per letter from top to bottom. But at any point, they can table the pile and continue the spelling with the other packet. And, if they wish they can table this packet and continue with the first packet, et cetera. In essence, they’ll be transferring five cards (“f-i-l-m-s”) from top to bottom of the packet or packets. They could even work with one packet only. Once done, they take the top cards of each pile and place them aside as a pair. They then repeat with the next word (“that”) and so on, with the next three words. At the end, there will be two cards left on the table. Pair them up. You’ll now have six piles of two cards each on the table.

Here’s the beauty of my handling: Each pair totals (film-title wise) thirteen. To end, you simply ask the spectator to choose any pair, giving them a totally free choice. Scoop the other five piles up into one pile. (Doing this hides any evidence of maths work.) Show the chosen pair as totalling thirteen and then reveal your prediction as being *Friday the 13th*. Excuse immodesty, but it’s a killer! (Pun intended.)

Bingo!

If you like anagram-type effects, you’ll love and use this. I gotta’ tell you that it took ages to work it out. I use it often because it’s magical, unusual, funny, and ends clean. All can be examined. (It’s also available and already made up on my shop page, as is a video of said routine.)

REQUIREMENTS: You require ten blank-faced cards. Write the following ten letters (one letter per card) on them and set them in this order from face to rear: O, N, I, O, O, N, I, G, B, N (**Fig. 1**). In actual fact, the GBN letters can be in any order. (My mnemonic is: Onio, Onig, BN.)



Fig. 1

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Spread the packet face down to display ten

cards and then hold it with the faces toward you, as if studying a hand of poker. Say, “I’m a big fan of anagrams and I’d like to play an old game with you. We both have the same word and the first to find a credible anagram wins.”

As you close the spread, pick off the face four cards (keep them squared) and table them face up to your right. Place the inhand remainder (six cards) face up to your left. Both tabled packets are squared and the natural assumption is that each contains five cards/letters. The face card of each packet is an O.

Now, you’re going to show that each spells “onion.” Onion, oddly enough, doesn’t have any anagrams. Pick up the rightmost pile and do an Omega Count (see the sleights section) to show or spell the word onion. Table the packet to whence it came from. It now has the N at the face. Casually flip the packet face down.

Pick up the leftmost packet and repeat the Omega Count to show “another” onion. Flip the packet face down and drop it onto the first tabled pile.

Pick up the combined packets and say, “Two onions! Okay.” Push off the top five cards for yourself and hand the spectator the bottom five cards.

Say, “When I say ‘go,’ find an anagram and lay the word face up in a row. Okay? One, two, three ... go!”

The spectator will peruse his cards and soon realise that he can’t make an anagram of onion. Look at your packet, smile, and shout, “Bingo!” The spectator will look both puzzled and amazed that you found an anagram.

Say, “I haven’t found one, but ... bingo!” Lay your letters out on the table to spell “bingo.”

Isn’t this fun? Fun, magical, easy, and examinable. What more could you want? I know I’m biased, but I love it! Oh, by the way, it’s good to know that the letters of “onion” look the same upside down, just in case the spectator lays them out the “wrong” way, which they can’t!

The Meg

No, this has nothing to do with giant sharks. This has to do with the fact that Germany is an anagram of Meg Ryan. Again, like a lot of my anagram routines, this took ages to figure out. It's a fun trick and quite magical.

REQUIREMENTS: You need seven double-blank cards. On one side of the cards write "GERMANY," one letter per card. On the other side of the G-E-R cards, draw a flag of Germany. On the other side of the M-A-N-Y cards, draw a caricature of Meg Ryan (**Fig. 1**). Set the cards in G-E-R-M-A-N-Y order from face to rear (**Fig. 2**).



Fig. 1

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Hold the packet in Biddle Grip and peel the cards (using the left thumb) into the left hand, spelling G-E-R-M-A-N-Y as you do. Turn the cards over and regrip in Biddle Grip again.

You now do an extended Hamman Count like this: Do a Hamman Count doing the switch on three, but on the count

of five you take the fifth card again, then the next (sixth), and then the remaining block on the count of seven. Don't draw attention to the count. Just do it displaying seven flags as you talk about the strange unknown things about Germany. This comment will raise interest.

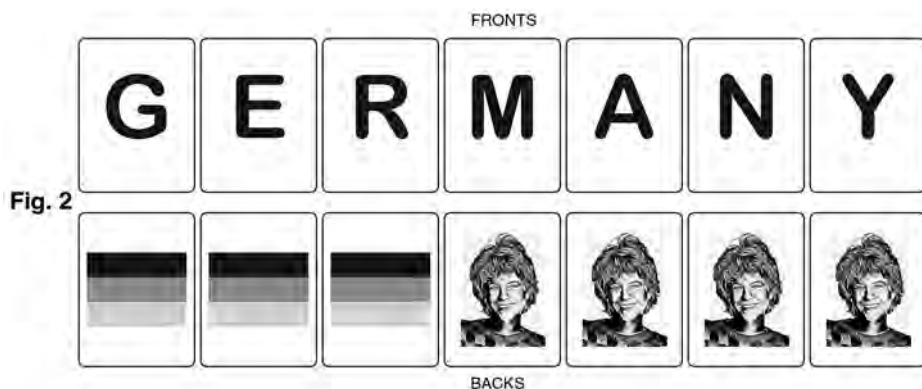
Flip the packet over into dealing grip and say, "If I make a few alterations ...". Here you push off the G and E cards and switch their order so they are now in E-G order from face. Slide them (as a pair) to second from bottom of the packet and then cut the bottom card (R) to top. Continuing the alterations, spread off the face four cards (R-Y-N-A) and openly switch the order of the N and A. Place these four cards to the bottom of the packet.

Say, "Oddly enough, I can now spell ... MEG-RYAN!"

Hold the packet in Biddle Grip and peel the cards (using the left thumb) into the left hand, spelling M-E-G-R-Y-A-N as you do. As you spell it out, catch a pinky break before the last three cards (Y-A-N) are spelled. (It's pretty magical because not too many people are aware of this anagram.) Casually cut the YAN cards to bottom.

Now, a nice kicker: Turn the cards over and regrip in Biddle Grip again. Do a regular Hamman Count switching on the count of four. Seven Meg Ryan caricatures are displayed. This is quite a startling moment.

Pocket the packet during the applause. How's that for unusual? What kind of mind comes up with this stuff?!



The Wicker Man

This “bizarre” routine was inspired by a Phil Goldstein effect entitled “Pagan Terms” in his book *Thabbatical*. In fact, also check out my “adult” trick Elsa Horne in my book *Card Foolers*.

REQUIREMENTS: You need nine double-blank cards and on one side of the nine cards (one letter per card) write SCOTISLES (Fig. 1) On the other side of each card, you write the words depicted in Figure 2. All these words relate both to the myths of the Scottish Isles, paganism/witchcraft, and the movie *The Wicker Man*. Note that the first letter of each word runs in alphabetical order so later on you know how to lay the cards out. Also note that the words are written on the card so that the first letter of each card denotes the top of the letter on the other side. By the way, Solstice is the force card. Now, if you are a tad confused, don’t worry – it’ll all make sense soon.



Fig. 1

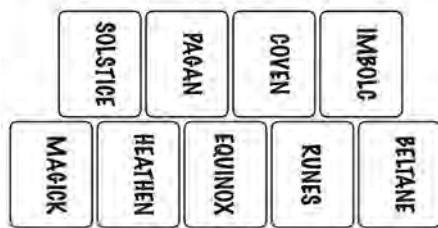


Fig. 2

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Lay out the cards as in Figure 1 and patter about the movie (set in the Scot Isles, with “Scot” being short for Scottish), witchcraft, paganism, and other related cults. Turn the cards over to reveal the words and patter a little about the meanings. (If you don’t know the meanings, google them.) Spread the cards around as in Figure 3 and segue

into the Roy Baker P.A.T.E.O Force. Basically, touch any two cards (except the force card, Solstice) and ask the spectator to discard one. You ask him to touch two and you discard any of the pair as long as you don’t touch Solstice, should that be one of his choices. You and he alternate the selection process until there are two cards left on the table, one of which will be Solstice. Ask the spectator to touch one of the pair. If he touches Solstice, discard the other. If he touches the non-Solstice card, discard it leaving Solstice on the table. You’ve forced Solstice.



Fig. 3

Now, take all the discards and lay them (words facing upward) in a right-to-left row in alphabetical order. So, Beltane (B) far right, Coven (C) to its left, then Equinox (E), et cetera. The last card is Runes (R). Patter about the fairness of choice and then turn the cards over to read, from the audience perspective, “S-O-L-S-T-I-C-E” as in Figure 4.



Fig. 4

That’s it. I’m very proud of this because it took ages to find a two-letter word (Scot Isles) that was a partial anagram of Solstice and that tied in with the patter and presentation.

The Sixth Locator

SET-UP: Prior to performance, get any six card to be in the fourth position from the top. Do two Straddle Faro Shuffles (and strip outs to top) thereby bringing the

six to thirteenth from top. Finish by doing a jogshuffle, adding two cards to top. The six is now fifteenth from top. There are other ways to achieve the get-into. If you wish, simply start with a six located at the fifteenth position from the top. Either way, this is a fooler and a worker!

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Table the deck and ask the spectator to cut it in two. She'll more than likely cut near the centre, but as long as she cuts off more than fifteen cards, you'll be fine. Ask her to take the cut-to card and look at it. While she does, return the top half to the bottom half and pick up the whole. Get the top card ready for Tilt. Place the selection into the break.

Okay, into the location: You need to cut the deck near centre and lose the bottom half. Don't fret, you have a four-card lee-way. You just need to cut (as if doing a full Faro Shuffle) from twenty-four to twenty-seven cards. It's actually pretty easy. Take the cut-off portion and do an eliminating series of Reverse Faro Shuffles. So, Reverse Faro the packet (i.e., upjog the second, fourth, sixth, eighth, et cetera cards) and table the inner packet. Reverse Faro the "new" packet and table the inner portion onto the just-tabled portion. Keep doing it until left with one card. Say, "This must be yours!" Turn it over to reveal the six. Say, "No? Ah, I know, it's an indicator card. Look." Count to the sixth card of the tabled group. It's the selection. It's magical.

The Sue Dough Centre Deal

Oh, this is fun! It's a pseudo centre deal. It's a very direct handling of a Phil Goldstein effect I learned in the early eighties.

SET-UP: On the top of the deck, set any ace, the King of Diamonds, and any ace (Fig. 1). Place the face-down deck on the table. Also set a five-card packet from face to rear like so: King of Hearts, black king, any ace, any ace, black king (Fig. 2).

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

The packet is face up in dealing grip. Patter about centre dealing and say that you'll demonstrate using the kings. As you say

this, perform an Elmsley Count to display four kings. Flip the packet face down and do another Elmsley Count, but place the last card to the bottom of the packet. Hold the face-down packet in dealing grip. Deal the supposed king's face down onto the deck, the last "king" being a double. Pick up the deck and do a non-flourishy false cut. It appears as if you've cut the kings to centre.

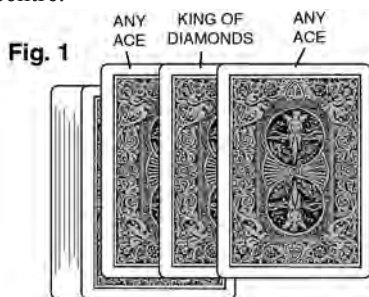


Fig. 1

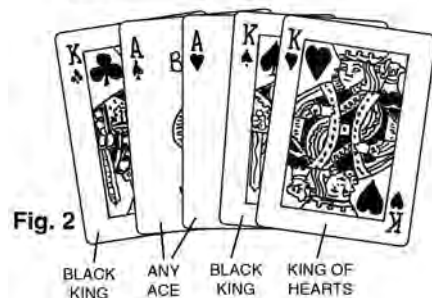


Fig. 2

Now deal two hands of four cards each to you and the spectator. Hold the deck in a pseudo gambler grip as you do the deal to add credence to the patter. To end, show the spectator's cards as being the four kings (which is a surprise) and, as a kicker, show your hand as the four aces. A fast write-up for a fast – but *powerful* – card quickie!

Flash Prediction

I've been toying with the Dudeney Principle for decades. You'll find routines of mine based on it in most of my books. This routine was marketed by Alakazam a couple of years ago and is the most commercial of the lot. It's sleight free and quite a fooler.

REQUIREMENTS: You need nine double-blank cards. On the faces (one

country per card), write the following nine countries: Rwanda, Japan, Germany, Norway, Egypt, Peru, Uruguay, Poland, and Italy. On the backs of each card, write the first letter of each country. So, N for Norway and so on. On the back of Poland, write a big P and a small o (just at the foot of the P), and on the back of Peru write a big P and a small e at the foot of the P (**Fig. 1**). This is to differentiate both countries.



You also need to write a prediction on a piece of paper as follows: “You’ve magically chosen Poland, Rwanda, Egypt, and Uruguay.” On the other side write, “... oh, and Peru.” Place the prediction to one side.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Show the nine different countries (maybe say a few words about each) and ask the spectator to shuffle them and lay them in a three-by-three grid on the table. Say that it kind of represents a map. The “lines/gaps” between the rows and columns are like creases in a map. Once they’ve laid the grid, you need to jiggle it a bit. Basically, Norway needs to be the central card and Poland, Egypt, Rwanda, and Uruguay need to be on the outer four corners. Now, some of the cards might already be in situ. The odds are quite high that’ll be the case. If not, say, “Let me mix ‘em around a bit.” Casually do so, getting them in position. Turn over the central (Norway) card so the N is uppermost (**Fig. 2**). The illustration shows a possible scenario. Say, “After a drink or two, it almost looks like an X, and X marks the spot on all maps!”

Continue by saying, “I’d like you to fold the map in any way you wish.” You now mime folding one complete outer row (or column) over onto its adjacent row or column. In other words, three cards are turned

over onto the three to the left, or right, or above or below depending on the spectator’s choice. They repeat the “folding” process with the grid and each time it gets smaller so eventually there is just one pile of cards on the table. Pick up the randomly folded grid of nine cards and spread them so that the four “force” countries are uppermost. Separate them from the five face-down countries and lay the force cards out so that they read (from the audience perspective) as Poland, Egypt, Rwanda, and Uruguay.



Fig. 2

Patter about how different the outcome would be if they had folded the map differently. It won’t be different, however, thanks to the principle. Read the prediction and receive your applause. Say, “There’s more.” Read the other side of the prediction (and Peru) and look theatrically bewildered. To end, turn over the force cards to read PERU. End.

Ghostly Ambitions

Ghostly Ambitions is a kicker version of Roy Walton’s “Ambitious Ghost” from *The Complete Walton 1*. Roy used four cards, I use a (hidden) fifth.

SET-UP: From the face of the packet, set the Ace of Clubs, Two of Clubs, Three of Clubs, Four of Clubs, Queen of Hearts. Instead of the QH, you could use a previously selected card or a gag card.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Spread the face four cards (keep the last two squared) to show the ace to four. Flip the packet face down and say, as you do an Elmsley Count, “I want them in reverse order with the ace on top.” The order from top is now QH, AC, 4C, 3C, 2C. Openly place the top card to bottom and flip over the next (new top) card to show the ace has risen to top. Table it face up. Spread the face-down top two cards (keep the last two squared) to show three cards. Square the packet, catching a break under the top two cards. Say, “Let’s try the two!” Place the top two (as one) to bottom. Flip over the next (new top) card to show the two has risen to the top. Table it face up onto the face-up tabled ace. Place the new top card (calling it the three) to the bottom. Flip a double face up (I use the block push-off technique) onto the packet (actually, just one card) to reveal the three. The four is secretly face up underneath it. Place this double onto the tabled ace/two packet. Say, “As for the four ...” Flip the final card face up to reveal the QH or selection or gag card.

Note, when you flip over the single cards, use the same action as your double lift.

Jumbo Split-Tease

Probably the first marketed packet trick I bought was Nick Trost’s Jumbo Two-Way Split back in 1974. Many years later, Aldo Colombini added a phase to it by having a prediction card. Aldo’s routine was marketed as “Match Play.” In Aldo’s routine, you had to have five envelopes secreted about your person. I didn’t like this idea because it was fiddly and took up too much pocket space for one trick. Aldo’s routine also required a glimpse. Well, I’ve eliminated both the glimpse and use of the pockets.

REQUIREMENTS: You need five jumbo cards (or just use regular-size cards) where the number of letters (spelling wise) increases by one with each card. So, you could use the Ace of Clubs (ten letters), Four of Clubs (eleven letters), Nine of Hearts (twelve letters), Queen of Spades (thirteen letters), and Five of Diamonds (fourteen letters). There are other cards you can use.

SET-UP: Cut all five cards in half at the width of the card. You now have ten pieces. Additionally, from your regular deck in play, set the AC, 4C, 9H, QS, and 5D in the tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth positions from the top. Place this deck aside and gather the ten pieces of jumbo cards.

WORKING AND PERFORMANCE: Display the ten pieces and point out they are five cards cut in half. Hand them to the first spectator to shuffle them. As he shuffles, say, “I want you both to think of a small number that isn’t the same and one that you can’t predetermine. Here’s how we’ll do it. Can you cut off a bunch and hand it to the fella (the second spectator) to your left. Both of you secretly count how many cards you have. Thanks.”

Let’s assume the numbers are three and seven. Take back the packets, gather them in any order, and let the spectator shuffle them.

Say to the first spectator, “I’m going to show you cards one by one. Remember the card that falls at your number, but don’t stop me when you’ve seen it. It’ll tip the wink if you do.” So, show the faces of the cards one by one to the first spectator, tabling them into a face-down pile as you do. This reverses the order of the packet. The last card, however, is used as a scoop (it goes to the bottom of the packet) to pick up the tabled bunch.

Now, face the second spectator (so the first one can’t see the faces of the cards) and repeat the dealing procedure as before. Due to Trost’s wonderful idea, both spectators will be thinking of the same card. Hand the packet to the first spectator and

say, "Please remove your card and table it face down." Address the second spectator and ask him to do the same. Turn over the two halves to reveal they chose the same card.

But, here's my killer kicker: Point to the tabled deck and say, "There's no way I could have known what card you'd choose because you freely shuffled the deck and the numbers were random." (All true.) "But, please take the deck and spell, one card per letter, to your card." Watch them both choke as the spelt-to card matches their joint selection.

By the way, at the start of the routine, jogshuffle the deck (retaining the set-up) as you say, "We'll come back to the deck later on. Until then, look at these *cut* cards."

Tandi Quince

Howard Adams's "Cidentaquin," published in a 1970 issue of *Genii*, spawned hundreds of variations over the years by the great and the good. It was also ripped off by the not-so-great and the not-so-good. Tandi Quince (an anagram of "Cidentaquin") was briefly marketed by yours truly in the late 1980s. I'd actually forgotten all about it until I recently saw it for sale on eBay.

REQUIREMENTS: You need twenty-five blank-faced cards. Spread them face up in five bunches of five. You now need to use your imagination.

Here's a basic idea: You need to draw five duplicate oranges on one set, five duplicate pears on another set, five duplicate apples on another set, five duplicate plums on another set, and five duplicate bananas on the last set. But, this fruit idea is a bit dull.

Here's something more exciting: How about a movie franchise that has five sequels, or, should I say, an initial movie and four sequels. For example, *Rambo*, *Dirty Harry*, *Die Hard*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Planet Of The Apes*. You'd need five post-cards of each sequel for a total of twenty-five cards, representing five sequels of five different franchises. By now you can see

movie sequels are more exciting than duplicate fruits.

SET-UP: Whatever you choose, set them in cyclical order like this: abcde, abcde, abcde, abcde, abcde. So, the five *a* cards will be, say, the five *Die Hard* movies, the five *b* cards would be the five *Rambo* movies, and so on.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: When set, briefly spread the cards face up to show various movies. Patter about the movies and the fact that there are five franchises with five sequels. When you spread the cards, spread in bunches to hide the cyclical order. Flip the packet face down.

Charlier Shuffle the cards and spread them for a selection to be made. Complete cut the cards at the point of removal. Table the selection face down to one side. Deal the top twelve cards into a pile and drop the remaining twelve next to it. Say, "The cards were well mixed and you had a free choice. I'm going to turn over the top two cards [the top cards of both piles] and if I get mates from a movie franchise, I'll place the pair aside." So, do as you say. If (and when) you get a pair, place them aside. If not, keep picking off pairs, forming two face-up piles adjacent to the face-down piles. You'll end up getting two lots of pairs, or four cards. These cards will be four movies from one franchise. The free selection will be the fifth movie in the franchise. Reveal it with flair.

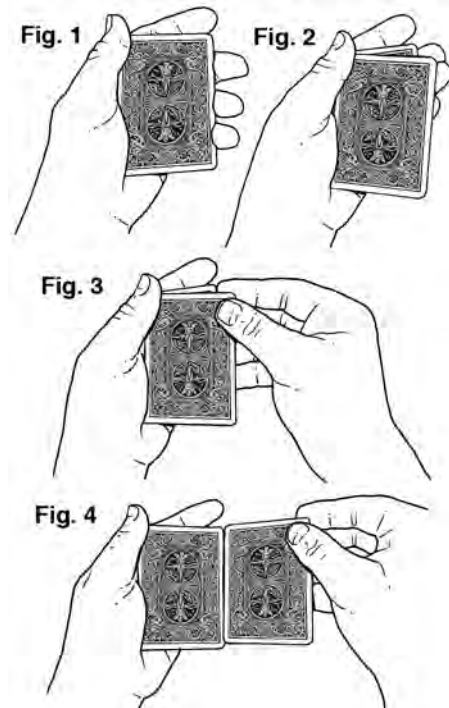
That's my version of Adams's classic. By the way, back in the late eighties I found it hard to find movies to fit the bill. I used book sequels instead.

Useful Sleights

Block Push-off Lift

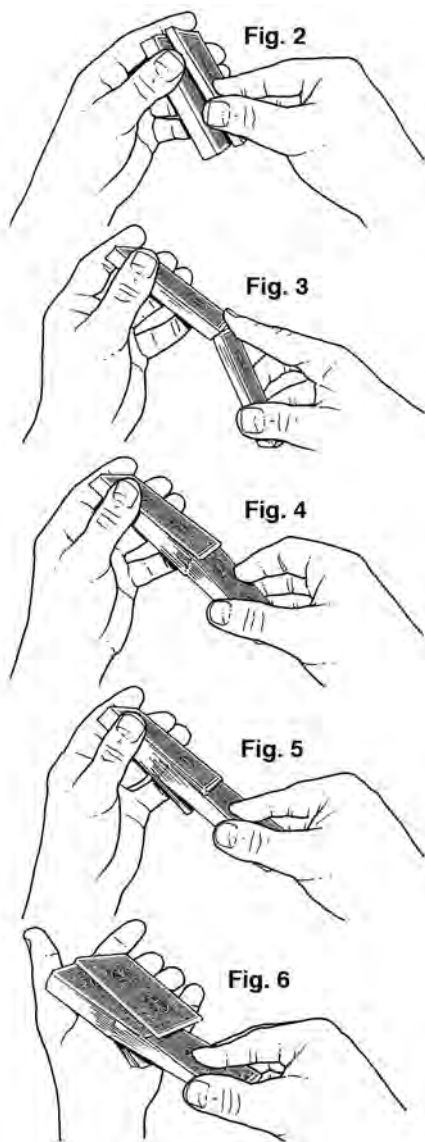
Hold the packet as in **Figure 1** with your left thumb pushing lightly down on the corner. Allow the fingers to drop as the thumb pushes all the cards above the bottom card rightward. The bottom card stays put due to friction (**Fig. 2**). The right grasps the packet (**Fig. 3**) and drags it to the edge

of the bottom card (**Fig. 4**). The block is flipped face up onto the single card. The illusion is that you flipped over one card. For practice purposes, flip over one card and make the block push-off look the same.



The Straddle Faro

Hold the deck tightly squared (**Fig. 1**). Your right hand cuts of the pivotal group (**Fig. 2**). This smaller section is butted against the larger group (**Fig. 3**), just corner to corner. Weave (see-saw) the smaller packet a tad. With practice, you will weave it into the larger section so that the cards are perfectly interlaced one with another (**Fig. 4**). Finally, buckle the interlaced section (**Fig. 5**) and pull it out of the unshuffled sections (**Fig. 6**). Place the interlaced sections on top of the combined unshuffled sections and square.



The Reverse Faro

Hold the packet as in **Figure 1** and push over the top card. Upjog the second to beneath the first, push over the third, upjog the fourth, continuing in this way. The final display is shown in **Figure 2**. That's it! It's a fast spreading of the cards between the hands action and should look like an unusual mixing process.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



At the end of the Reverse Faro, it's normal to strip out the outer section. The easiest way is to kick the outer packet to the right and revolve it out.

The Braue Reverse

Hold the deck as in **Figure 1** and catch a break under the requisite cards, as in **Figure 2**. The left hand undercuts half the deck (**Fig. 3**) and flips it face up onto the top half, but the break is retained. Now, depending on the trick, flip the new bottom half face up and place it under or above the right-hand section. **Figure 4** shows it going on top, which leaves the broken card (or cards) reversed face down on the bottom of the face-up deck. There are many techniques for this, but this is the basic one.

Fig. 1

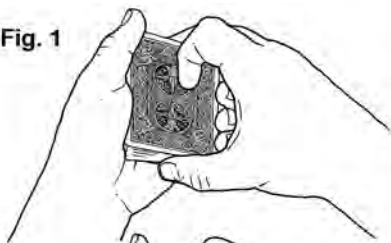


Fig. 2



Ed Marlo's TILT

Simply put, the left hand holds the deck as in **Figure 1** with a break under the top card or cards, and the right hand inserts a card from the rear (**Fig. 2**). From the front, it looks like the card is going dead centre.

Fig. 1

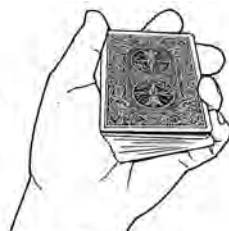
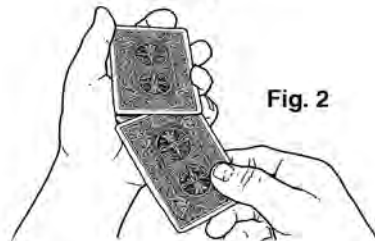


Fig. 2



Don't make the break too big or the illusion will be spoilt. My break is usually about five millimetres. If the break is too big, it looks like the card is being inserted under the deck. Also, be wary not to buckle or bend the top "tilted" card due to the pinky break. If you do, it takes on a ski-slope appearance which tips the wink.

The Elmsley Count

Hold a, say, four-card packet as in **Figure 1**. The left hand comes over the packet (**Fig. 2**) and slides off the top card into the left palm. The right thumb pushes over the top two cards as one (**Fig. 3**). The left hand comes to take the second card (actually a double), and as it does, the first card is slid back to the bottom of the right-hand packet. The third and fourth cards are taken singly as you did the first. Four cards have been shown. The third from top one is never seen, but the first one is seen twice.

Fig. 1

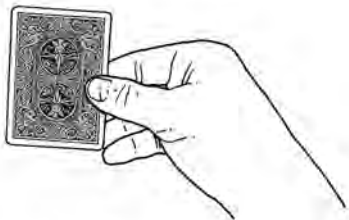


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



The Omega Count

This is the same as an Elmsley Count with a small extra move. Hold the packet in readiness for the Elmsley Count. Take the top card into the left hand and place it under the packet on the imaginary count of one. Without pausing, do the Elmsley Count, counting two, three, four, and five. That's it. It's akin to the Hamman Count performed in dealing grip.

The Jog Shuffle

Hold the deck as in **Figure 1** with the top card face up so you can see how the top block is controlled. The right hand drags up about three-quarters of the deck (**Fig. 2**). Note how the left thumb tip gauges the quantity withheld. The top card of the right-hand group is dragged off the packet with the left thumb (**Fig. 3**) and injogged by about an inch. The left thumb pulls off ten to fifteen cards from the right-hand section onto the left-hand portion (**Fig. 4**). Another bunch is dragged off, and finally, the remainder dropped on top. That's the first phase.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

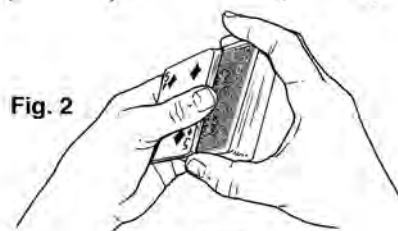


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Following this, the right hand comes over the deck (**Fig. 5**). The right thumb pushes the injogged forward (not into the deck, but forward) so that the original top

block (now the bottom block) falls or springs into the thumb crotch (**Fig. 5**). Finally, the shuffle continues by the left thumb dragging off the top block above the break in, say, three bunches and then the final block (the controlled block) is thrown on top (**Figs. 6-7**).

Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



When you injog the card, allow the tip of the left pinky to touch its face at all times. It helps you instinctively know what's happening if you are pattering to your audience. Try it and see. It makes the world of a difference.

The Last Word

So folks, that's it! That's my fifth One-Man Parade for *The Linking Ring*. I'd like to thank both Sammy Smith and Tony Dunn for their hard work, and I'd like to thank you for reading. Some of the above routines are to be found on my YouTube channel should you wish to see them in action, and you'll be sure to receive content if you join my newsletter on my website. All routines and marketing rights are held by Paul Gordon.

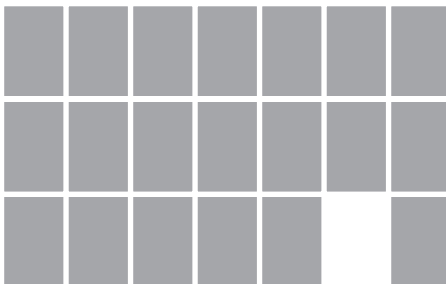
Finally, please check out my website at www.paulgordon.net/shop,

Send comments and appreciations to:

Paul Gordon

pgmagic@btinternet.com.

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I've known Nancy Colwell and respected her work and thinking for some time now. Before she transitioned, she wrote *Theseus: A Magical Journey* (2021), which introduced a new plot in card magic. Quite an accomplishment.

Recently, Nancy shared with me the routine you are about to learn, "Violet Assembly." I think she has again broken new ground with a new concept for assemblies. I thank Nancy for letting me put this fine routine in my column.

Since Nancy is an excellent writer, I have gotten off easy this month. So, mostly in Nancy's words I bring you "Violet Assembly." (There is a video performance of the routine at www.mallofmagic.com/cardcorner. Also, moves tagged with "*" have video instruction at www.mallofmagic.com/themoves.)

HISTORY: What follows is an ace assembly I developed just before NEMCON 2025 and refined while there.

Violet Assembly

By Nancy Colwell

EFFECT: The magician removes four queens, cutting one face up into the center of the face-down deck and leaving the others in a face-down row on the table. The magician then takes a packet of three random cards from the deck and inserts one of the queens into it. The queen vanishes from the packet. The deck is then spread to show that the missing queen has joined the face-up queen in the center. This is repeated with the second queen. For the last queen, the deck is spread on the table, clearly showing only three queens. The final queen is inserted into its packet while keeping all four cards on the table. The deck is squared and immediately the final queen is shown to have vanished from its packet and joined its sisters in the deck.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Remove four queens and hold them face up in the right hand. The deck is face up in dealing grip. Get a fourth fingertip break below the face card of the deck and add it to the rear of the queens packet as you square them

face up onto the deck. Openly turn the five-card block face down and deal three cards face down in a row from left to right. Necktie the deck upward as you take the fourth card, a queen, into the right hand. Display it to the audience while hiding the last reversed queen on the face of the deck (**Fig. 1**).

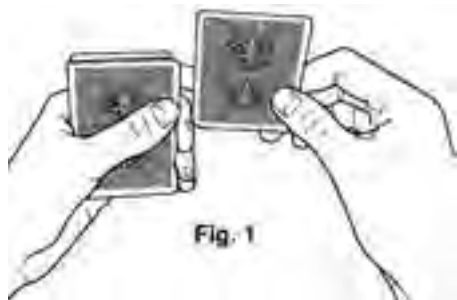


Table the pack face down as you describe the queen in the right hand as the leader queen. There are now supposedly three face-down queens on the table. However, the leftmost queen has been switched for an indifferent card. Show the leader queen

clearly as a single card. Put it face up on top of the face-down deck and cut it into the center, isolating the queen in “a place I can’t touch.” This brings the reversed queen that was on bottom and the leader queen together in the center.

Openly lift a packet of three cards from the top of the deck and show them to be indifferent cards. If you take too many, just put some back. Take the packet into face-up dealing grip and pick up the rightmost queen with the right hand. Buckle* the bottom card of the face-up packet with the left first finger and insert the queen face up, positioning it third from the face. From here you will do a variation of the Collins Ace Vanish.

The Collins Ace Vanish*: Turn the left-hand palm down into Glide* position (**Fig. 2**), leaving room under your arched palm. The right hand comes over, palm up, to pinch the packet at its end. The right thumb comes above and contacts the top card at its outer right corner, while the first and second fingers hover below the packet. Drag out the top card with the right thumb (**Fig. 3**) until you can grip the single card between the thumb and fingers. Pull the card out and rotate the right hand palm down to display its face. As you display this X card, the left hand glides back the lowermost card of the packet with the left second, third, and fourth fingers (**Fig. 4, bottom view**). (Note the position of the left first finger.) This is the same technical action as the Glide*. The right hand rotates palm up and approaches the packet with its card at a forty-five degree angle toward you (**Fig. 5**). The card is at a sharp angle with the packet so that the now-outjogged double card can be taken into a fanned condition. The indifferent card slides beneath the packet as the hands come together. The outjogged double’s outer right corner is now inserted under the right thumb and pinched against the right hand’s card between the thumb on top and fingers below (**Fig. 6**). The right hand now pulls out the double and rotates at the wrist, bringing its cards into a vertical fan – apparently just two cards. The left hand snaps over its remaining indifferent card, showing that the queen has vanished.

Fig. 2

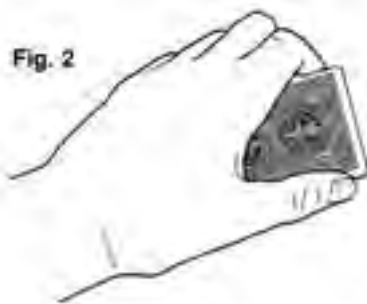


Fig. 3

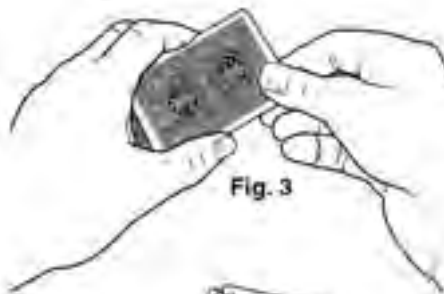


Fig. 4

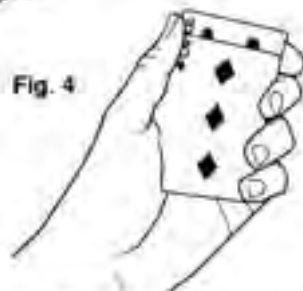


Fig. 5

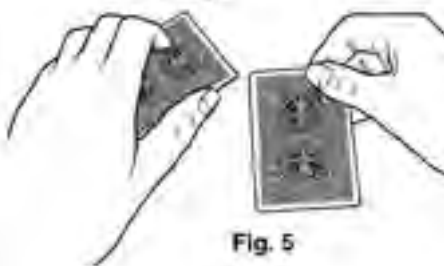


Fig. 6





Finally, place the left hand's indifferent card at the face of the cards in the right hand (Fig. 7) and lower the entire packet into a squared, face-up dealing grip in the left hand. From the top, the packet is: three face-up X cards with the face-up queen below them. Remove the first indifferent card with the right hand and snap it over face down in the right hand to softly demonstrate its singularity. Perform a pull-down move (or Buckle*) on the bottom card using the left hand and insert the face-down indifferent card into the separation, apparently putting it on the bottom. Repeat this process two more times. It appears that you have shown all three(?) cards individually and turned them face down. In reality, the face-up queen remains hidden on the bottom of the now face-down packet. This completes the Collins Ace Vanish* sequence.

Continue by spreading the tabled deck with the right hand to show that there are now two queens in the center. Remove both queens and place them aside. Use the left hand's packet to scoop up the deck as you add the packet to the bottom of the deck. Square and table the deck. A queen is now hidden face up on the bottom.

Pick up the two queens and snap them together to emphasize their singularity. Place them face up on top of the deck and cut the deck, once again bringing both cards to the center while secretly adding a new queen.

Repeat this sequence with the next queen, i.e.:

1. Pick up three cards.
2. Insert the queen into the spread.
3. Execute the Collins Vanish*.
4. Spread the deck showing three queens at center.

5. Put the queens aside and use the left hand's packet to scoop up the deck, secretly positioning a queen face up on the bottom. The vanish of the last "queen" will be handled in a slightly different manner.

You will now perform the Ribbon-Spread Hideout* as you centralize the queens. Place the three queens face up on top and cut the pack. As you complete the cut, leave the upper half stepped to the right about an inch. Pick up the deck while maintaining the step and take it into dealing grip. The left fingertips naturally contact the hidden queen at the face of the upper-stepped half. Slide the upper half to the left and flush with the bottom half, keeping the queen in place by the friction of the left fingertips. This results in the queen being sidejogged to the right and hidden by the right hand, which holds the deck from above. Spread the deck as you continue saying, "Instead of leaving them squared in the deck, I'll keep the deck spread out until the last possible moment." This displays three queens in the center of the spread while hiding the fourth queen (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8

Once the deck is spread, immediately lift off the top two cards by feel. This action should flow smoothly from the spread. The audience is conditioned to believe the packet contains three cards. Place the packet of three(?) face-down cards on the table behind the indifferent card believed to be the final queen. Continue to hold the packet against the table in right-hand end grip. Bend the top card of the packet upward with the right second finger at the outer edge and slide the final queen(?) into the center of the packet. The spectators believe that the packet contains four cards. Square the ribbon spread (deck) and perform a magical gesture. Flip the three-card packet face up to show that the queen has vanished. Finally, spread the deck showing four face-up queens at center for the big ending.

DISCUSSION: Among all ace assemblies, my favorite is the slow-motion aces plot. One reason for this is its emphasis on the leader packet, giving it a central role in the effect. It seems paradoxical that in most ace assemblies – effects about cards traveling to a common destination – the destination itself is often sidelined. Even in many slow-motion routines, the leader packet is treated as less significant than the packets from which the aces vanish.

This is puzzling because the leader packet is arguably the most important element of the effect. It provides context, transforming the vanishes from isolated moments into a cohesive transposition or translocation. More importantly, it serves as the ultimate destination, forming the second and final beat in a two-beat sequence.

So why is the leader packet often treated as an afterthought? To some extent, methodological constraints play a role. The leader packet must undergo multiple transformations, end clean, contain a minimal number of cards, and be managed while remaining a “hot” location. Multiple time delays must also be overcome, time delays between each of the initial and final conditions that contain distracting magic. By contrast, the follower packets have much more methodological space, in part because of the extra cards that are openly discarded after a vanish is complete. It’s also a more tempting place to explore because their segmented nature encourages using diverse methods, perhaps a different one for each packet. As such, there’s a lot of pressure to treat the leader packet like a waste basket where the aces happen to end up, rather than as the centerpiece of the effect.

Reflecting on this, I realized that if the *deck itself* were treated as the leader packet, much of this methodological friction would be alleviated – while simultaneously reinforcing the leader packet’s importance. From there, the trick developed naturally. I was particularly pleased that this approach eliminated the need to explicitly remove and display all nine indifferent cards, creating a cleaner image and a more streamlined start.

An unexpected benefit was the use of face cards to obscure color discrepancies. I’ve never liked using aces and chose queens on a whim. Their intricate designs help disguise any inconsistencies in color. No matter what cards are used, such discrepancies are inevitable in this trick. That said, I’m unbothered by them – perhaps due to a mix of flimsy justifications and my own laziness.

The last point worth discussing is that this effect is fundamentally a *translocation* rather than a *transposition*. In an ace assembly, the aces are the focal point, while the indifferent cards merely serve as the stage. Given that only one set of cards is meaningful, and the other is essentially a discard pile, framing the effect as a transposition seems misguided. Follower packets rarely acknowledge the arrival of these “garbage” cards, making it more natural to treat the effect as a translocation. Conveniently, this perspective also eliminates the need to secretly add cards to the follower packets.

CREDITS: My original laydown sequence was a placeholder that I deliberately made into an ugly mess to discourage me from just settling for a weak method. I brought the problem to Tony Cabral in a session. He came up with the elegant laydown sequence used here, with one difference – in the original, the leader queen was tabled before flipping the packet face down, and a wrist-kill was used on the third card dealt to hide the reversed queen. Alcy Hart later proposed dealing the leader queen last, which allows you to eliminate the wrist-kill by simply turning the hand palm down on the fourth card and thumbing off the leader queen face up onto the table. I adjusted this to a necktie, which I prefer in this context.

The Collins Ace Vanish* was originally published in *Expert Card Mysteries* by Alton Sharpe (page 127). Also note Marlo’s variation in the *Expert Card Mysteries* on page 150, as well as Elmsley’s work in “COLLINSPELL” (*The Collected Works of Alex Elmsley, Vol. 2*, page 357). In Cy Endfield’s “Aces for Connoisseurs,” Mr. Endfield references the Collins Vanish from the first volume of *Magazine of Magic*, published in 1914.

The Ribbon-Spread Hideout* is attributed to Charles Nyquist. Nyquist's "Ribbon-spread Reverse" can be found in the August 1948 issue of *Hugard's Magic Monthly* on page 450A.

The insertion handling I use at the end to vanish the last queen has an unclear history. I have a vague memory of it being shown to me by Steve Reynolds. But when I asked

him, he said it was not his idea, although he did have a fuzzy memory of the idea. My guess is that one of us (I think probably Steve) improvised it in a session and promptly forgot it. But it could also be from some other source.

Mike Powers

mpowers@mallofmagic.com

BAMBOOZLERS

Diamond Jim Tyler

NEWSPAPER STAND

BET: Wager that you will stand on one end of a sheet of newspaper and someone else can stand on the other end of the newspaper and they will not be able to touch you.

SECRET: Once someone accepts your challenge walk them over to a door jam and lay the center of the paper over it. Close the door and stand on one end and ask them to try and touch you. This is easy money if your victim will fork it over.

Originally, I was taught to execute this bet with a dollar bill. The problem with a small piece of paper, such as a dollar bill, is that someone clever could stick their finger underneath the door to touch your foot and therefore win the bet. If you are like me and don't like losing, then I suggest using a sheet of newspaper.



Excerpted from *Bamboozlers: The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters, and Bewitchery* by Diamond Jim Tyler.
www.djtyler.com.



Reading About a Chick

Once, I received a request to produce an animal and in the end I settled with a baby chick for a young girl's birthday. This was to be the highlight of the show and so it was the final effect in the repertoire, knowing full well that the baby chick would occupy the children's attention for some time.

Instead of resorting to the traditional magic box apparatus, I opted to go old school. The objective is to travel lightly, so pack small and play big. This is the final solution.

EFFECT: The magician displays a newspaper on all sides and every page. The newspaper is rolled into the shape of a cone. A magical gesture is performed, the cone is tipped, and out comes a cute baby chick.

PREPARATION: You will need a newspaper with at least five sheets, strong tape, and a Styrofoam cup by taping from the inside of the cup and tape upwards to the newspaper (**Fig. 1**). Place the baby chick into the Styrofoam cup. Using the scotch tape, tape the Styrofoam cup to the center page (pick a side) of the newspaper. Place the baby chick into the Styrofoam cup. Loosely close the newspaper pages and fold up the bottom section.



Fig. 1

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Unfold the bottom portion of the newspaper. Display one side of the newspaper by turning your body to the side of which you are to highlight. Turn the body to the other side to show the other side of the newspaper. On that side, show each of the pages until you reach the page just prior to the center. Then turn the body to the other side and flip *past* the center page, then display the remaining pages.

Roll the newspaper into a cone so that the center is clear. Make the appropriate magical gesture, then tip the cone to produce the baby chick. Roll up the newspaper into a ball and toss it over your shoulder.

TIPS: One of the challenges is that baby chicks tend to grow rapidly. It is recommended that you acquire a baby chick that is between one and three days old. At birth, the average baby chick is approximately four inches tall and by the sixth day it develops to roughly six inches tall. Keep this point in mind when you are sourcing your holder (cup). The average weight of a baby chick would be around 80-100 gms.

Maintain the newspaper taut along the top by pulling the corners in opposite directions to prevent the center page from drooping. Please use proper care when handling baby chicks.

Enjoy this effect and I will catch you next month. Cheers!

Andrew Woo

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www.magicalwoo.com

Dear Fellow Magicians and Friends,

After eleven incredible years as the columnist behind “Simple Diversions” for *The Linking Ring*, I would like to announce that this will be my final year of contributions.

I am both joyful and proud to reflect on this journey as it nears the end. It has been an absolute honor to contribute to this esteemed publication and to be part of the International Brotherhood of Magicians in such a meaningful way.

The greatest reward has been connecting with fellow magicians around the world: sharing ideas, sparking creativity, and knowing my effects have found a place in your repertoires. Your support, kind words, and enthusiasm have made this experience truly special, and I am deeply grateful.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to *The Linking Ring*’s Executive Editor and Business Manager Samuel Patrick Smith for the incredible opportunity and granting me a voice in this publication. I will revere his friendly professionalism in the highest regard. A heartfelt thank you to Tony Dunn, whose artistic talent transformed my photos and diagrams into beautiful illustrative art. I also appreciate the dedicated staff who proofread my submissions, offering an essential second eye and aiding to refine my artistic expressions – this has indeed been a team effort.

Receiving the Award of Merit in August 2024 was an unexpected and humbling honor, but the true privilege has been the journey itself – one filled with learning, growth, and the joy of contributing to the magic community. I muse how absolutely blessed I am to have *stood on the shoulders of giants* as I pass the wand to the next generation of creative writers. I do so with genuine excitement for the prospect of our exquisite art.

So with immense gratitude and pride, peace!

Andrew Woo



Our official “Auto-Magic” time machine spin-cycles us back eight years to examine this fun yet baffling routine using emojis. Almost a decade ago, these mini cartoons were quite the rage, yet there were few, if any, magic routines published using them. I had come across a Dan Harlan trick called “Mixed Emotions” (*Premium Blend: Totally Mental*) that used poker chips with cartoons of emotions stickered to them. Switching things up a little, instead of cartoon emotions, I employed emojis, and instead of poker chips, I used little cell phones. In March 2017, *The Linking Ring* published what was to be the routine that seemed to have initiated an onslaught of emoji-based tricks.

I never could have anticipated the response from every corner of the world. And not only was I getting emails (and video clips) from magicians, but I was also hearing from teachers, clergy, doctors, physical therapists, and at least one politician! They were all using “Mixed Emojis” to teach math and science, theology, public speaking, confidence development, and more. All I could think about is the reach and scope of magic and how powerful a routine could be. Eugene Burger wrote that some magical “entertainments” can make a real, positive difference in someone’s life. I witnessed this first hand. What a humbling experience!

Let’s take a gander at:

“Mixed Emojis”

Emptying a little bag on the table, you show a collection of mini cell phones. Prominently displayed on both sides are emoji characters. “No doubt you know what these are. These little things are showing up

everywhere, from text messages and emails to pillows and even clothing designs. The most popular ones are seen here on these little cell phone tiles.”

The “cell phones” are thin rectangles, roughly the size of a domino. These pieces have a picture of a smart phone on both sides. A single emoji is prominent on the “screens” of each side.



Speaking to a spectator you say, “Seth, please mix up these pieces. You can even flip them to the other side. Really randomize them.” While Seth is doing that, you write a prediction on a piece of paper, fold it, and give it to another for safekeeping. “Now, place any one of these phones face up in front of you. Is that emoji one of your favorites, too? Find another piece on the table with the same emoji as the one you have face up in front of you. Okay? Place that phone so the two common emojis are face to face.” Seth finds another tile with the “Thumbs Up” and places it thumbs down on top of the first tile in front of him. “Now you have another emoji face up on top of the stack. Find the same emoji on the table and place that on top, face to face as before.” If no matching icon is seen amongst the “talons,” Seth, can pick up the remaining pieces, give them

a shake and dump them on the table. Or, individual tiles can be flipped over until one is found.

This continues until no cell phone tiles remain to be selected.

"What is the emoji on top of your stack? Hmm. 'Smiling Face Throwing a Kiss.' Carefully look at the character on the bottom of your stack. That one is the 'Smiling Poo.' You have to admit that all of this was as random as could be. You selected the starter from the emojis randomly seen when you first mixed up the tiles. Had you selected a different one, we certainly would have had different characters on top and bottom." Everyone nods in agreement as you reach for your prediction. *"Yet somehow, I knew you were going to select the emojis you selected."* You open the paper where it shows you have predicted the Kiss Face and the Smiling Poo icons. *"Maybe I deserve one of these ..."* Two other amazing phases follow. Finally, you reach in your pocket and remove an extra-large emoji of "Hands Clapping"!

Domino Theory

You can trace the origin of the effect back to a Martin Gardner trick called "The Break in The Chain" (from *Mathematics, Magic, and Mystery*). Gardner's trick use dominos and predicted numbers. Harlan updated it to poker chips and emotions. I further updated it to cell phones and emojis. The underlying math is certainly older than the Gardner effect, but many kudos need to go to Mr. Harlan for icon-izing the domino principle in play.

Five emojis are used:

You'll also need to make ten mini cell phone tiles. You could use dominoes and glue on the pictures or just use thick foam board.

Here's how to mark them. Call the five emojis A, B, C, D, E. Take a tile and place A on one side and B on the other. Then A/C and another followed by A/D and A/E. Grab three more tiles and mark as B/C, B/D, and B/E. On two more tiles, place C/D and C/E and on the tenth tile, mark it with D/E. Put the tiles in an envelope or small bag, put paper and pen in your pocket, and you are ready!



Three Iconic Acts

There are actually three phases to this effect as taught by Dan in his video. The first is described above. The method is simple. As you dump the cell phone tiles on the table and move them around while pattering, you simply palm one of the tiles. It should be one you had a good look at or one upon which you have placed an inconspicuous pencil dot. You need to know which two emojis are on its front and back. As you reach in your pocket for paper and pen, you can ditch the tile. This take-away move is well covered, as the spectators will be preoccupied looking at the little cell phones with the funny pictures. Your prediction corresponds to the faces of the copped tile. Follow the procedure above and the Gardner math will yield the end result of the top and bottom icons of the stack matching your prediction (and the faces of the hidden tile). If, by the way, during the stacking procedure no matching tile is on the table, instruct the spectator to flip the stack over and look again. If there is still no correct tile, they can "cut and complete the cut."

Phase 2: Put the paper back in your pocket and grab the hidden tile. Immediately, scramble the tiles on the table as if they were Scrabble tiles or dominoes, adding the palmed piece. Ask another spectator to do the stacking procedure. The result is the top and bottom emojis match. Dan uses this phase to show that the process is random. I approach it a bit differently: since emojis are used in person-to-person communication, have one spectator select the *first* piece used and another complete the stack. Common emojis on top and bottom show they are simpatico!

Phase 3: All ten tiles are mixed up again. *"Today's texting software has features that can anticipate certain common phrases. Let's see if you are as good as the software!"* You instruct your helper to shake the tiles in the small bag and without looking, remove one

and sit on it (!). Another spectator (or the same) goes through the stacking process, and you show the top and bottom icons. *“You can clearly see how these things don’t always stack up in the same way ... but did you anticipate the emojis on top and bottom? Are you as good at predicting things as your cell phone is?! Show us your hidden emojis!”*

As they remove the hidden tile and show the emojis match, you can reach for the giant “Hands Clapping” card you have hidden in your pocket!

Auto-Notes

Eight years ago, I ended the column describing “Mixed Emojis” as “a fun effect

that is topical and easy to carry around. I have found it to be a nice “middle trick” for a set. It’s a pleasant change of pace that people will remember and is still part of my close-up repertoire. I even made up a jumbo-sized card to use in parlor and stage settings. It is an audience pleaser and I perform it often.

By the way, I typically hand the “Hands Clapping” card to my helper at the end while saying they deserve the applause! If you’d like a template of the emojis I use for printing to get you started, send me an email.

Michael will 🤖 if you email him at mbreggarmagic@gmail.com.

Mastering Black Art – from page 41

When working with crushed velvet, note that its texture will appear different from various angles and lighting conditions. Test a small piece of the material on a card and place it on a velvet-covered table. Examine it from multiple angles and under different lighting to find the least visible side. This meticulous process ensures the best results. Once the optimal side is determined, test it further under various lighting conditions before applying it to the table. Also, ensure that the fabric direction on gimmicks matches the direction of the table’s material for uniformity.

Tip: Add a contrasting border – such as **white or red** – around the tabletop (on the front and both ends, leaving one edge free for ditching props). Brighter borders create a strong contrast, making the black tabletop appear even darker.

Lighting

Proper lighting is essential for the success of Black Art. It should conceal any imperfections on the table’s surface while enhancing the illusion.

Use LED lamps with diffusers to create soft, even lighting. This helps avoid shadows and glare that might reveal secrets. Adjustable brightness allows customization to specific conditions. Angle your light source at roughly 45° above and slightly in front of the black velvet surface to reduce glare, minimize shadows, and maintain a clean, even background.

The optimal color temperature is 4000–4500K for neutral white light, though slightly warm light (3500–4000K) can also work well. Warm lighting softens shadows, making Black Art effects more convincing.

Experiment with lighting set-ups to find the best one for your space. Personally, I prefer warm white light, which gives the performance area a natural and appealing look.

Camera Settings

When recording or streaming, the right camera settings are essential for maintaining the invisibility of Black Art and amplifying its effect.

Increase contrast to make black areas darker and light areas brighter.

Slightly reduce exposure to make velvet appear deeper and richer, avoiding overexposure in bright spots.

Use manual focus to prevent automatic adjustments that might reveal tricks.

Set a fixed white balance for consistent lighting.

By following these tips, you can create the perfect conditions to perform tricks using Black Art in your close-up magic.

Broken Wand

"...ANY MAN'S DEATH DIMINISHES ME BECAUSE I AM INVOLVED IN MANKIND..." —JOHN DONNE



DEWEY CARL BRANDENBURG

Dewey Carl Brandenburg, 91, of Troy, Ohio, died on March 30, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 15648 and had been a mem-

ber since 1954. He was born in Fixer, Kentucky, and was a graduate of American Home Schooling. He completed coursework at the Baptist Bible College Correspondence School, Prairie Bible Institute Correspondence School, and Liberty Home Bible Institute. He was an avid student of the Bible. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He was employed with B.F. Goodrich for thirty-three years before retiring in 1998. He was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Ludlow Falls and a former member of Troy Baptist Church. He was an ordained minister and served as a children's evangelist for more than thirty years, conducting hundreds of children's revivals and special days in churches in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan. Dewey was a life-long magician, a past president of Ring 3, and a lifetime member of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians since 1968 who frequently lectured at their annual convention. He was a member of Clowns of America International, often volunteering with his wife at area hospitals where he used his talents as a clown, magician, and an accomplished ventriloquist. He was a great conversationalist and always had a smile on his face and a joke to tell. He is survived by his daughter Charlotte (Scott) Collins of Troy; sons David Brandenburg of Bellefontaine, Ohio, and Douglas (Rhonda) Brandenburg of Goose Creek,



South Carolina; six grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.

JERE DEAN BURKETT

Jere "Dean" Burkett, 87, of Williamsport, Maryland, died on March 31, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 43262

and had been a member since 1998. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 94 (Hagerstown, Mary-

land). Dean worked for the Department of Defense in the Naval Sea System Command in mine warfare. He previously worked in the Naval Weapons White Oak Laboratory at Fort Detrick in Maryland. As he approached retirement, he saw an ad for magic classes taught by Hugh McVeagh at the local junior college. He served as Ring 94's treasurer for many years. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Burkett; daughter, Jennifer McCleaf; son, Jason Showe; granddaughters, Leanna Showe and Hannah Showe; brothers Mahlon Lee (Beverly) Burkett and Terry (Brenda) Burkett, and two grandsons.



KEN KRASIN

Kenneth C. Krasin, 79, of Darien, Illinois, died on January 29, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 26814 and had been a member since 1974. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Excalibur (fifty years of continuous membership). Born in Morgan



City, Louisiana, he grew up on the southwest side of Chicago. He graduated from Morgan Park High School and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in engine power technologies at Bradley University. He owned his own business as a manufacturer's representative and worked with all of his children throughout his forty-four-year career. Besides performing magic, Ken enjoyed woodworking, riding his Harley Davidson motorcycles, working on his car collection that included Ford Model As and Ts, skiing, barbecuing, relaxing on his pontoon boat, and watching sunsets over the lake. He is survived by his wife, Carol Farina; children, Kim (Chris) Conoboy, Rich (Ellen) Krasin, and Barb (Mike) Cunningham, and seven grandchildren.

DIRK SPENCE

Dirk Spence, 69, of Tinley Park, Illinois, died on March 20, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 49938 and had been a member since 1993. He belonged to the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years of continuous membership). Dirk was born on April 3, 1955, in Terre Haute, Indiana, and moved to Tinley Park when he was five years old. He graduated from Tinley Park High School in 1973. Dirk worked at Panduit Corp as a maintenance technician for ten years before he developed



his traveling magic act as the illusionist Mr. D and his Magic House on Wheels. He created two unique 1945 Chevrolet trucks to carry his show. His show was a popular feature at Chicagoland events for thirty-five years. He was also a member of the Tinley Park Historical Society. He is survived by his wife, Lana (Mason); daughters, Karlie Spence and Madelyn Spence; son, Dirk Robert Spence; two granddaughters, and extended family.

ERIC SPOELSTRA

Eric Andrew Spoelstra, 57, of Indianapolis, Indiana, died on February 27, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 52018 and had been a member since 1994. Eric was an alumnus of North Central High School and pursued further studies at Vincennes University. He worked for Monarch Beverage for nineteen years and most recently was employed by the Horseshoe Casino in Shelbyville, Indiana. Eric discovered his first magic set under the Christmas tree at age four, beginning a lifetime in magic and mentoring younger magicians. He is survived by his brother, David (Monna) Spoelstra; sister, Anne (Robert) Davidson; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family scattered across the world. He requested friends and family donate to the I.B.M. Youth Scholarship Program in his memory.



When a Magic Friend Dies

Please take the time to send us a short note and copy of any obituary notice. Don't let a fellow magic lover slip away without notice. Send a short note and copy of any obituary notice to Editor or Headquarters Office. Addresses on page 4. Thanks.



Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



Ring Reports **must** be received by the 15th of each month to appear in the second following issue (for example, your January report will be published in March or April). Please e-mail reports to ringreports@magician.org with "Ring Reports" in the subject heading. You will receive confirmation of receipt. Please limit the length of your report to 650 words or less. Reports of excessive length may be edited to meet space requirements. Please notify the Reports Editor, Dr. Steven Schlanger, at ringreports@magician.org, if changes need to be made to your report's headings (e.g., changes to addresses, meeting times, or officers' names). We regret that we are unable to publish photographs in the Ring Reports section of the magazine.

RING 1, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI – Spirit of St. Louis

Meets 1st Wed. of month, Dielman Recreation Center, 11400 Olde Cabin Rd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141 / Web Site: www.IBMRing1.com
ALAN ZIBITS., Secretary / E-mail: Alan.a.zibits@boeing.com
532 Dartmouth Crossing, Wildwood, MO 63011

Ring 1's Board decided that our club should begin offering Magic 101 again. For the March 5 meeting, Steve Finkelstein volunteered to lead the group. This special teach-in event was offered before the regular meeting. Approximately ten members arrived an hour early to take advantage of the opportunity. Steve taught them two very easy, but amazing, effects. All attendees were able to perform the effects when they left. Steve even created a handout for each attendee explaining the effect in case they forget or need to review. He received many compliments regarding the effects he taught. The Ring intends to offer Magic 101 in the future when time permits.

Members are always happy to perform for the Ring, however, the club has been so busy sponsoring lectures and hosting special activities that there is usually a very limited opportunity. Michael McClure decided to create an Open Mic Night to be held in the place of one of our regular meetings. We were delighted when fifteen members offered to perform an effect (and there was a waiting list). Sandy Weis was asked to emcee the event. It was just like the Oscars or the Academy Awards, she even had an official script to read, however, she was told that she could alter/modify the script if she wanted. The room was filled, the largest crowd the Ring has seen in a long time, and there were attendees that the Ring has not seen in "years." It was obvious that all the performers had practiced their routines, because everyone appeared as if they were seasoned, professional magicians. The following members performed, Steve Queen, Paul Gregor, Columbus Smith, Gary S. Chan, Zai Shi, Josh Weidner, D. Jay, Zi Teng

Wang, Jeff Lefton, Matthew Horowitz, Steve Finkelstein, Steven Buesking, and Christian Misner. No act was alike as all performances were unique. Several of the presenters were professional magicians; however, newer members were also asked to perform. Special thanks to Michael W. McClure for organizing a very classy event. Even though he did not perform that night, his organizational skills helped to make this event a huge success. He prefers to serve as more of a "behind the scenes" member, to allow others' talents to shine, even though he knows so much about magic theory and effects. He and his wife, Susan, brought their own backdrops, lighting, and provided video, audio, a close-up camera with projector and more, which made the performance area appear as if it were a stage production. He even made a cardstock program featuring photos of all the night's entertainers, which he passed out to all in attendance. Mike also created a special commemorative pin which was awarded to each Very Important Prestidigitator in appreciation of their participation. Thank you, Mike, for all you have done for the Ring. Since the evening was so successful, the Ring has already planned to host more Open Mic Nights this year.

Our Ring is proud to have recently reorganized ourselves as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public charity incorporated in the State of Missouri. This brand-new designation, an exciting and uncharted chapter in Ring 1 history, will allow us to expand our reach in so many new ways, and provide vast opportunities for the growth of all our members, from active or amateur performers to hobbyists. The Magic of Giving Back program, created and coordinated by Michael McClure, is being designed to spread the joy and wonder of magic to the underserved across the St. Louis region. We will be actively offering generous sponsors the privilege of partnering with us in our mission's outreach and support.

Ring 1 has planned to host several professional lectures this year, with Gregory Wilson, Henry Evans, Daniel Mormina, Javi Benitez, and Giacomo Bigliardi as several that are already booked. In fact, an exciting calendar for the entire year is already set. The Ring believes that pre-planning various activities for its meetings is very important. Members can set their calendars well in advance as a reminder of the incredible programs yet to come.

The Ring always welcomes guests to its meetings and activities. Check out the Ring's website for additional information, www.ibm-ring1.com. *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

President James Killmeyer opened our March meeting. The following Ring 2 members and friends were present: Kyler Freeland, Bob Gurdak, Larry Henderson, James and Trevor Killmeyer, Peter Lucke, Gary Morton, and Brian Moss. The theme of the evening was Paper Money.

James Killmeyer opened the evening's magic with "New Dollar Bill." He began by showing us a dollar bill and commenting that it actually contains some metal. He then folded up the bill, gave it a bit of a polish, and thereby produced a silver dollar coin in its place. James next gave the coin a bit of a rub, and it transformed back to a paper dollar bill. He then wondered if he could produce both the paper bill and the coin, thus doubling his money. James folded the bill in half, and out of the fold slipped a dollar coin. He commented that it might be illegal to double his money this way. He then folded the bill in half lengthwise to use like a magic wand. Tapping it on the coin made the coin vanish.

Brian Moss continued with "M-Box" attributed to Jimmy Fan. He began by showing us four Morgan dollar coins and a cylindrical coin box. After placing the four coins in the box, and closing it, he made a magical hand gesture and produced one coin. Opening the box revealed only three coins remained. For his next effect he pulled a coin out of the bottom of the box leaving only two coins inside. Next, he placed the box on top of his right hand, tapped on it with his left hand and a coin fell to the table, leaving one coin in the box. Brian concluded with a "Coins through the Table" effect.

Peter Lucke's effect was Tabman's "Keyed Up." Peter invited Trevor to assist him. He began by showing us a wooden wallet made of two pieces of wood slightly larger than a dollar bill. Inside the wallet was a two-dollar bill. The

opening at one end was blocked by a padlock, so the bill could not be extracted. Peter placed six keys on the table and asked Trevor to attempt to open the lock with each key. He was unsuccessful. Peter then took one of the keys and was able to open the wallet. He extracted the two-dollar bill and gave it to Trevor.

Larry Henderson amused us with "Cube in Bottle" by Henry Harrius. Larry removed a Rubik's Cube and an empty cubical-shaped glass jar out of a bag. He asked a volunteer to help him. Larry placed the jar and the cube back in the bag. He asked the volunteer to place her hands on either side of the bag, and if she could feel the objects in the bag, she could. Larry then pushed the sides of the bag together. Finally, out of the bag, he removed the jar. The Rubik's Cube was now inside the jar.

Gary Morton entertained us with Hemingway Lock from Collectors Workshop. He showed us a black bag that was locked with a large, heavy padlock. Gary had four audience members select one of five color-coded keys. The colors were red, green, gold, silver, and black. Gary was left with the remaining gold key. He asked an audience member if he would like to exchange his key for the gold key; he did, so Gary now had the silver key. The others did not exchange their keys with Gary. Gary then asked each audience member to try to open the lock; none were successful. Finally, Gary used the silver key and opened the lock. The prize in the bag was a one-dollar bill.

Bob Gurdak concluded members' magic with "Volunteer Swindler" from Hiro Sakai. Bob showed us a five-dollar bill with a slit in the middle. The slit allowed the bill to be folded origami style so that it appeared to be two folded five-dollar bills. The swindler would use it to pay for a ten-dollar item; the merchant would not notice the swindle until he unfolded the bill. Bob followed the swindler to see how he worked. The swindler showed the folded five-dollar bill to a merchant. The merchant said he'd seen this swindle before. But the swindler gave the bill a quick snap and it magically transformed into a ten-dollar bill.

Following members' magic, Larry Henderson gave a lecture on a magic effect that involved a Mr. Potato Head, and Gary Morton did a mini show. *Peter Lucke*

RING 6, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA – Delaware Valley Conjurors 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

To make sure that winter weather would not interfere with our February meeting, we met via

Zoom online. Our guest lecturer, Frenchman Boris Wild, shared two and a half hours of his creative magic in a relaxed, well-paced get-together. He came to us live from Paris, at two a.m. his time.

Marc DeSouza introduced Boris, his friend of many years. Boris shared a mix of on-line routines and stuff from his latest lectures. His forty years of magic give him a relaxed, friendly approach with an audience.

Without going into the details of his many routines here, many used an unprepared deck of cards that can be done on a moment's notice. He performed and then explained a huge number of his favorite routines, including "Zoom Nine," presented as an experiment using the spectator's favorite animal to spell out cards. The result is that a previously selected card appears at the end of the count. Boris explained that the effect can be performed with regular playing cards, sports cards, Tarot cards, and even Uno cards, since not everyone plays traditional card games.

"Four Cards to Four Aces" is an effect with gaffed cards, but very visual and has a fast reset. "Ten Max" fooled us with five \$20 bills, and cards printed with \$20 on them. The same effect can be done with ESP cards, or letter cards. Very versatile.

During the explanation of every effect, Boris responded to all questions that we posed. He has downloads for many of his notes and magic, at reasonable prices. We had a great night of watching and learning magic, and didn't have to drive home afterwards!

David Kelly

RING 9, ATLANTA, GEORGIA – Georgia Magic Club

Meets 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00pm, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 471 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

Ring 9 Website: www.gamagicclub.com

BILL PACKARD, Secretary / Email: billpackardmagic@gmail.com

T.I.P. Lecture: Augustus Graves, a.k.a. Gus Belgraves, "Paper Portals: Transforming Billets into Miracles." Gus read Jamey Evans' mind regarding the name of his first kiss. Gus then invited a spectator to enter a couple answers in the Note app on her smartphone, then to delete the entries. Gus was able to determine what she had typed by using a little-known method to "Undo" on an iPhone while entering a new note himself. In both explanations, Gus provided several tips on what to do if things go wrong, all motivationally justified!

Business Meeting: 2025 President Clark Kjolraug greeted thirty-two members (three on Zoom) and three guests. We heard reports on MagiFest and the previous evening's Atlanta Magic Night performances by Arthur Atsma and Mike Fuller. Ravi Navare reported that he went to see P.I.P. Joe M. Turner perform at the Magic

Castle. (P.I.P. Ken Scott will be performing there from February 24 to March 3.) Several upcoming conventions were mentioned, including Winter Carnival in TN (March 6-8, their last convention), the I.B.M. in TX in July (save \$75 by registering early), and KIDabra and Atlanta Harvest of Magic, both scheduled in Atlanta (August and September respectively). Kyle Littleton is scheduled to perform at The Supermarket on March 7. We just learned that GMC member Pete Garmon passed away in August. We've also missed Anthony Vinson, unable to attend meetings since his stroke in November. Mike Varon, accompanied by his wife Emily, came to the meeting on crutches, having recently had surgery.

Secretary-Treasurer Bill Packard handed Theme Magic Winner Certificates for December to Steve Goldstein and January to Clark Kjolraug and Ross DeMocko.

Steve Langston reported that the Georgia Magic Book Club has had their first Zoom meeting to discuss Joshua Jay's *The Particle System*. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5 and Joshua Jay himself is expected to participate in the April meeting. Walter Fields reported that Hope Lodge Project Magic magicians are required to register. Steve Goldstein reported that the next Magic Meetup is tentatively scheduled for March 2 at Fellini's in Decatur. Atlanta Society of Magicians President Murl Harmon invited everyone to the ASM Flea Market at their April 12 meeting, 1 p.m. at American Legion Hall. Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer gave repeat announcements for upcoming lectures, Gregory Wilson on March 12, and Willy Monroe on April 16. Packard's records show that Keith Rainey's dues are paid up through 2029!

There was an energetic recap of the Greater Atlanta Magic Holiday Banquet, especially the performance by substitute headliner Bryan Saint with his callbacks and "red potato" kicker. Awards were given to recognize about a dozen Circle of Honor recipients, Brian Robert (T.I.P. Lecturer of the Year, repeat from last year), Steve Goldstein (ASM President's Award), David Fluker (GMC President's Award), and Steve Langston (Greater Atlanta Magician of the Year, repeat from last year). Next year's Banquet is already scheduled for January 17.

Theme Magic Performers: "World Sword Swallower's Day" (1) Walter Fields showed how he could beat everyone else in Elementary School on a penny-stuck-to-the-forehead contest – there was a tack in it! (2) Steve Langston swallowed a burnt match which reappeared in the matchbook it came from, then caused a

selected card to vanish from a packet and also reappear in the matchbook! (3) Jamey Evans, after passing out Consent Forms, performed a Freak Show routine to loud music, swallowing a large number of nails; then balanced a spinning circular saw blade on the end of a progressively longer stick on his chin, with an exploding streamer finish. (4) Mark Hatfield performed (in costume) his original Dr. Seuss-style presentation of the Ninja Rings. (5) Guest Patrick Buchen, in character as a sideshow barker, juggled three balls then magically blew up a 260 balloon, swallowed it, and retrieved it revealing several tiny plastic swords attached. (6) International President Mike Dunagan caused two people to deal/stop at the same card, and a spectator to locate the card from three packets and "Card Stab" to it as well. (7) Ross "the Hat" DeMocko, again as a sideshow barker, introduced his rabbit-in-the-hat puppet, who performed a "rabbit stab" through a flurry of crumpled paper balls to catch the one with a spectator's selected word on it.

General Magic Performers: (1) Gus Belgrave had a suit named and a value mentally chosen and multiplied by four, with the resulting card appearing at the corresponding position in the deck. (2) Murl Harmon performed "Do As I Do" with two decks, but unfortunately failed to produce the same card as the spectator. (3) Martin Baratz reviewed the self-working classic "Nine-Card Problem" and then he did another self-working trick. (4) "Catweazle" Jim Mangham, referencing *The Complete Works of Mike Rogers*, performed a Book Test with a one-word prediction, but took over sixteen minutes delivering opening remarks on subconscious influence and instructing the spectator through a complex card-based procedure to determine the chapter and word count selection from Martin Gardner's *Mathematics, Magic and Mystery*. (5) David Fluker, since Martin said he didn't know how the Nine Card Problem worked, explained the principle to us all.

The Wheel of Names winners were Gus Belgrave (deck of cards and a roughing stick), Ryan Kessler (deck and book), and Jim Mangham (card wallet). Winner of the Coveted Royal Blue Pin for February was Mark Hatfield.

Bill Packard

RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm The Linden Grove, 1100 Grove St., Pittsburgh, PA
MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@sei.cmu.edu
Web site: www.ibmring13.org

In March, we were very saddened to learn that Past International President (2000-2001) Jack Greenberg passed away on March 6, just

three weeks before his 95th birthday. Jack had been an I.B.M. member for 80 years, and our Ring was renamed the Tampa-Greenberg Ring in his honor in 2023. Our Ring members paused for a moment of silence during our monthly meeting. Our deepest sympathies go out to Jack's son Don Greenberg, to Don's family (wife Sharon and daughter Anna), and to Jack's daughter Diana.

At our March meeting, Chris Handa applied for and was granted reinstatement of his Ring membership. Welcome back, Chris! March also brought back the return of our periodic Magician of the Month contest. Jeff Vanderhoff served as our emcee with a suggested theme of construction of apparatus.

Ralph Kelly removed from a box what appeared to be a deck of playing cards, but it was actually a six-piece jigsaw puzzle in the shape of a deck of cards. Ralph mixed up the pieces and then reassembled the pieces in record time, but then he instantly transformed the completed puzzle into a real deck of cards. Next Ralph displayed the faces of the cards one by one and asked Omar to think of any card. After shuffling and cutting the deck, Ralph successfully found the selected card.

Levi asked Lashaya to pick and sign her name on a card. Levi tore that card into pieces and placed those pieces inside a coin purse. Levi snapped his fingers and showed that the pieces had disappeared. Levi then showed that the restored, signed card had reappeared back in the deck.

Chris Handa showed an empty, wooden, rectangular tube that was serving as his finder of lost things while his daughter was away at college. To demonstrate how the finder worked, Chris discovered that his wedding band was missing from his hand. Chris turned over the tube, and he produced his missing wedding ring from inside.

Mark Tierno asked Lashaya to memorize a card from a red backed deck, and Mark shuffled that card into the deck. Mark turned over the cards and fanned their faces toward Lashaya, but her chosen card was now gone. Mark picked up a blue backed deck that had been sitting on the corner of the table, and he showed that Lashaya's card had reappeared inside that blue backed deck.

Todd Hertzberg asked three visitors to pick a card, look at a card, and just think of any card, respectively. Todd removed three cards from the deck and placed those cards face down on the table. After asking the spectators to name their cards, Todd turned over his three cards to show that they matched the chosen cards.

Ted Knoblach tied a knot in the middle of a large yellow handkerchief, and then he simply slid the knot off an end. Ted tied another knot, and he asked a spectator to slide that knot off the end. Ted opened and held up the silk to show a large smiley face with two holes cut out where they eyes would be. Next Ted produced a sponge ball and then a second ball. Ted caused the balls to repeatedly vanish and reappear under an inverted bowl, then multiply into three balls, and finally turn into a jumbo sponge ball. Ted finished by producing an egg from inside an empty, examined, paper bag. Ted placed the egg inside a handkerchief and asked Lashaya to squeeze the egg until it cracked. Ted removed the egg intact, and then he cracked open the egg to prove it was real.

Between each act, emcee Jeff had a running gag in which he claimed that he could balance an ever-increasing number of twelve-inch spikes on the head of another spike that he had driven vertically into a block of wood. Yet Jeff didn't follow through on any of his claims between the acts. At this time, after the previous six performers had finished, Jeff was claiming up to six spikes in his boast. Jeff proceeded to arrange a total of six spikes in an interlocking pattern on the table, and he successfully picked up and balanced all six spikes on the head of the vertical spike.

While our contest judges tallied their score sheets, we were treated with some quick, post-contest performances. Jeff changed four one-dollar bills into four twenty-dollar bills; then he challenged the audience to find a key on the front of a dollar bill and a big ONE on the back. Levi folded a hundred-dollar bill inside out into a mis-made bill. And Ted pulled a key off the center of a length of cord and then back on again. Our panel of judges named Ted Knoblach as our March Magician of the Month. Congratulations, Ted!

On March 13, Ring members and other local magicians gathered to conduct a Broken Wand Ceremony at the funeral service for Jack Greenberg, led by Jack's long-time friend and past Ring president Eric Meredith. Rest in peace, Jack. You will be missed but not forgotten.

Mark Zajicek

RING 15, FORT WORTH, TEXAS— Ren Clark Ring

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:00pm at 4055 International Plaza, Ft.

Worth, TX 76109

GEOFFREY GRIMES, Secretary / ggrimes@aol.com

Facebook: Fort Worth Magicians Club

President Gavin Griggs opened the March 2025 meeting with the introduction of our visitor Noah Ivy who indicated his interest in join-

ing the club. A performing magical entertainer, he indicated that he was looking for a new magic home! Noah then performed his audition routine. Spreading a deck of cards, he asked four volunteers to select a card. Amazingly and enthusiastically, he successfully called their cards. While Noah stepped out of the room, the members present unanimously voted on and welcomed him as our newest member!

Program Theme: "An Evening of Magic." Program Chair Devin Hall announced the "call for magic!" Performances began with Ron Wilson who wrapped a cane in a newspaper which magically transformed into a full wine bottle (of Mountain Dew!), receiving wild applause!

George Ferrin shared the "World Famous Three-Card Trick." To several members, he counted out three cards into their hands. When they spread the cards, each was astonished to discover four cards (will "minor miracles" never cease?). What fun!

Geoff Grimes followed with a performance of David Regal's "In Flight" version of the popular "Tossed Out Deck." New member Noah Ivy volunteered as Doc's assistant. Doc had Noah mix, shuffle, or otherwise "mess up" the deck. Taking it from him, Doc secured the deck with a large rubber band. He demonstrated to Noah how to flip up cards to reveal a selection. Noah selected three volunteers among the club members, each of whom took a peek at a card. Doc was then able to call out each volunteer's card. (Stand corrected! "Minor miracles" never cease at magic club meetings!)

Not to be outgunned by the old man (Doc Grimes), George Ferrin then performed a "Torn and Restored Dollar Bill," a routine that he shares with kids with whom he gives the dollar.

As an interlude, Doctor Mike (Smith) reviewed the latest publication of Dr. Robert E. Neale, *The Magic of Hope*. Neale has developed seven card routines involving story telling routines that come with his own creative cards. What may be his last major work (Bob Neale is now 95 years old!), *The Magic of Hope* reflects the theme that runs through so much of this enigmatic magic inventor's creative genius!

Back to the magic, Russell Shead shared an intimate opener that he often performs with his church group. He produced a handful of dollars that spread into an assemblage of fives (or was it hundreds?). Richard Sanders "Extreme Burn" is a great incentive to pass the collection plate just one more time!

Ron Wilson shared information about the cancelled 2025 TAOM. He performed a riverboat gambler routine (Martin Gardner's that he

was going to enter in this year's TAOM Competition. He demonstrated various deals producing sets of cards that complemented his script—great cardistry! After dealing himself a number of winning hands, he asked Devin Hall to join him to whom dealt his own winning hand!

Convention report: George Ferrin shared his overview of England's Blackpool Convention, highlighting the winners in the competition and delights from the dealers' room.

A "Passing" Tribute to the Amazing Kreskin: Bill Irwin, Ron Wilson, and Michael Stein paid tribute to the passing of the Amazing Kreskin, reflecting his shows and gracious greetings of his audiences. Bill noted his incredible energy and stamina that characterized his shows and his relationship with his audiences.

Update on Nani Darnell: Geoff Grimes gave an update on Nani Darnell who recently was hospitalized in California. He was happy to report that she is now home and doing well.

Upcoming Lecture: Devin noted that we are planning, hopefully, to bring Gregory Wilson to lecture in April, much to the enthusiasm of the members. It's been quite a while since Gregory lectured in North Texas.

Theme for the April Meeting The Gregory Wilson Lecture, or "Works in Progress."

The meeting adjourned with everyone celebrating Noah Ivy, our new member, and a call to reach out to other former members whose presence we all miss!

Dr. Geoffrey Grimes

RING 19, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – Carl Jones Ring

Meets 2nd Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom and in person 2nd Sat. (location TBD)

ANDREW SELBITSCHKA, President / Web site: www.IBMRing19.com

As has become our practice, the Ring holds both in-person and Zoom meetings. We had over twenty attendees at our in-person meeting and had almost ninety percent participation from the group. The theme was "Let's See If I Can Remember How This Works..." and the topic was successful in getting participants thinking about what they wanted to present to the group.

Rick Hinrichs started out with a "Torn and Restored Bill," which was followed by David Hansen's version of Rick Lax's "Torn and Restored Card."

Magic Brad Gudim offered up "Gypsy Thread" (keeping with the torn theme) and Spidey's "Diamond Thief Card Trick" with participant Miriam Olson.

Paul Ladig, with his little briefcase of magic, shared some of his magic collection, "Coin of Realm" and "Intangibility" and performed both for the group.

Card tricks were also on the agenda with Alex Madsen sharing a find-a-card trick, followed by Harry Entwistle performing a nine-card trick with helpers Michael Barnard and Jody LeBlanc.

Rick Hinrichs and Jody LeBlanc shared versions of spelling tricks with cards. Tyler Erickson performed a "Card to Card Box" trick and Paul Ladig offered his take on a "Two Card Transposition."

Bennett Scholl performed John Bannon's "Twisted Sisters" with Slevan Olson and his brother Blake Scholl. Not to be outdone, Blake then performed "Tahoe Transfer" by TC Tahoe, assisted by Paul Ladig.

Finger magic was also on display with Magic Brad and Tyler Erickson. Dan Norat showed "Telescoping Pinky," while Slevan Olson decided to detach his pinky!

Rubber band magic was not left off of the program as several people shared tricks. Alex Madsen, Tyler Erickson, David Hansen, Slevan Olson, and Rick Hinrichs all shared their versions of "Crazy Man's/Crazy Sam's Handcuffs," "Ring Bandit," "Ring and String," and "Band Through Thumb."

Fast Eddie Olson performed "Calculator Cards" with Blake Scholl and Slevan Olson ended the performances by showing off some coin magic.

Dan Norat is working with the Gale Family Library at the Minnesota Historical Society in reviewing the boxes of archival materials from Carl Waring Jones (our Ring namesake) and his notes on the creation and publication of *Greater Magic* and other magic books. A few Ring members with knowledge of cursive and archival material, will assist Dan in deciphering some of the documents for inclusion on the Ring website.

A discussion ensued about which magic books are being read. Jennifer Graham shared that she was reading *The Magic of Matt Schulien*. Tyler Erickson led a discussion of *The Books of Wonder* by Tommy Wonder. We also discussed a few other books that were worth a perusal including *Magic for Dummies* and *Magic with Cards* by George Schindler and Frank Garcia.

We ended the meeting with a lecture by Tyler Erickson regarding staging for large groups, specifically focusing on perspective (vertical vs horizontal presentation) for optimal viewing displays.

Our Zoom meeting revisited some of the rubber band magic that was shared at our live meeting. Tyler Erickson and Rick Hinrichs shared some of their favorites for attendees who were not at the live meeting.

Tyler Erickson performed “Washer on Rope.” He also offered a coin production flurry which led to a discussion of feints, vanishes, and continuous productions. Learning the moves allows you to turn any routine in to whatever you wish it to be. He also emphasized graduating from smaller to larger objects and stated that producing objects from the air is not as strong as productions from a specific location.

We also had a lively discussion of Slydini and his production methods. We focused on the importance of not telegraphing moves with the shape of the hand and how changes are made at the moment that the hands/fingers are blocked. We also talked about what matters most to an audience is when items are produced from something they have, hat, pockets, beard, etc.

Fast Eddie Olson has acquired a new magic trunk and shared the trick “Wrong, Wrong Again.”

Tyler Erickson, with Scott Freda, shared how to set up a card trick with specific phrasing, firstly, using a gag (something outrageously promised) and then coming through with the chosen card. He performed Roy Walton’s “The Smiling Mule with Submarine Sandwich” by Frank Simon. Tyler is a huge proponent of using borrowed items, cards, coins, books, etc. It is important to be adaptable with your magic and you are only hurting yourself if you cannot perform magic with everyday objects.

We ended the evening with a discussion on the Hot Rod trick, as well as magic done with dice, business cards, money and loops. We welcome all to join us in person or over Zoom.

Jennifer Graham

RING 20, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Eddie Clever Keystone Ring

Meets 2nd Thur., at 6:00pm (order off the menu), meeting 7:00pm at
John’s Diner 146 Sheraton Dr., New Cumberland, PA 17070
MARK KROTULSKI, Secretary
E-mail: eddieclever20@gmail.com

In attendance were John Fortino, Steven Gailey (“visiting” from Pittsburgh, I.B.M. Ring 13), Ritchie Matthews, Dan Miller (visiting from S.A.M. Assembly 108 in Somerset, PA), Victor Oriola, Jack Ritter, Stephen B. Smith, and Michael Worsham. The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. EST and President Smith greeted members and guests.

Secretary’s Report: Vic motioned to approve the November minutes. Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was no additional secretary’s business. Treasurer’s report was given and approved. In accordance with the by-laws, the president took a vote on whether to hold a magic competition at every monthly meeting. The members pres-

ent voted unanimously against holding the monthly competitions. Since the holding of monthly competitions was voted down, the president presented his proposed program for 2025.

Good of the Order: The Secretary is stuck at home because of a furnace repair occurring now. Al Bienstock is absent because he is visiting with his daughter Ellen who is visiting from Uganda. Dan Scully is getting his knee replaced and might miss next month too. We should plan to attend the future book release/book signing meeting of our member Misty Simon when she releases her latest book in which she writes about a fictional version of our magic club. Michael Worsham told us that Jeff McBride’s Mystery School is having a free online class on story telling the next three Saturdays. Vic will be attending MagiFest which is being held on January 23-26. Since he will be in Columbus, on the 22nd, he will be performing at the Columbus Italian American Club. Steve Gailey talked about his circus clowning days and his humor therapy charity “The Assorted Brigades of Clown” which performs at children’s hospitals. His group is a subset of the “Caledonian Order of Clowns” and meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. He has seven brand new clown trainees who he would like to have to join our club to be trained in magic. They range in age from six to seasoned citizens. (We would welcome them. The youngest ones would only attend our meetings accompanied by parents or other responsible adults.) Our new (visiting) friend, Dan Miller was in Harrisburg because he performs three agriculture-related magic shows at the Farm Show.

On to the magic: Michael Worsham performed an unexplainable card divination. John Fortino did an instant memorization of a deck to identify a selected card. Smith had John Fortino help him to magically identify a red backed card that had been accidentally lost in a blue backed deck. (This was a piece by Stan Lobenstern.) Jack told a story about a purse snatcher who got his thumb bitten off by his victim. *Michael Reist*

RING 23, CLEVELAND, OHIO – Blackstone Ring

Meets 1st Wed., at 7:00 p.m. at Metro. General Hosp., 2500 Metro
Health Drive, Room R170, Cleveland, OH / www.ring23.org
STEVE YACHANIN, Secretary / E-mail: yachanin@roadrunner.com

The March meeting of the Cleveland Magicians Club, Ring 23, started with twenty-two members and three guests present. President Dave Neuman opened the meeting with discussing old and new business. Discussed was the upcoming fund-raising show for Second Mile Outreach of Berea, Ohio. All members were excited to help with such a wonderful organization. Because of

a full program, we ended the business meeting and proceeded to the main event. Our Membership Chairman, Jim Hathy, recruited two new members and had them do an initiation show. Adam Bell and Chris Lee did a fabulous job of performing and were well received by our members. Both will be great additions to our club.

A new feature for the club is the President's Podium. Have you ever purchased an effect and not have the time to work on it and throw them in a drawer to get to it later? Dave did two effects: "Persona" by David Jonathan and "Jigsaw Deck" by David Regal. After review of each, it is the hope that members will be enticed to purchase them and add them to their repertoires.

Next on the agenda was Marv's Corner. Marv Leventhal performed two tricks and taught them to the membership. One effect which he found on the Internet, used colored dice and a prediction. The other effect was based on the well-known "Gray Elephant from Denmark" principle.

Sergio Castro, our Program Chairman, started the portion of the program called Convention Finds. He performed an effect that was taught and sold by Rich Holcomb at MagiFest. Using coins and a magic marker, he performed with utmost skill and entertainment.

Tim Hill entertained us by performing "Ultimate Free Choice," which fooled us all.

Next segment of the night was Packs Small, Plays Big. Bryan Gerber performed "Exact Change" by Gregory Wilson. Our guest, Elliott Harrington performed the "Fifty-Two to One Deck." Tim Hill showed us "Toxic Plus" for the iPhone. Sergio performed David Parr's effect called "Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

The final topic of the evening was the Performance of Mentalism. Dave, showed us his version of Ted Karmalovich's, the "Mother of All Book Tests." Mike Draganic showed us how to make a low cost, homemade book test. Bob Cervas did a prediction with the game of Clue.

The March meeting ended with members saying this was one of the best meetings they have been to, many members stayed behind to have a jam session of magic with each other. Until next month, have a magical journey. *David Neuman*

RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:00pm at The Mountain House Gallery,
702 9th Avenue (corner of West 48 Street) New York, NY 10019

JAMES R. STRANGES, President

E-mail: magicjim1@optonline.net / Website: www.80-20.org/meeting

Due to many members attending NEMCA (New England Magic Collectors Association) and The Magic Castle Conjurers Cruise the lab was small but strongly represented. The

November Lab theme was Mentalism, Clairvoyancy, and Predictions. The Man Who Knows Too Much, Tommy Burnett chaired the evening and performed a few miracles. Tommy performed "Pathway to Faith" by Tony Chris using tarot cards, Nick Trost's version of a Brain Wave effect and Jon Allen's "All or Nothing."

Our resident barrister, Robert Wallner, contributed and performed two effects. The first involved a dream where he was running for president. He then produced a *N.Y. Times* with the headlines that read, "Wallner Elected." He then had Barbara Greenfader write down, on the back of a card, the name of someone she knew from the past. The card was then placed in a wallet and yet he was able to reveal the name.

James O'Brien performed a nice pick a card routine using an ordinary deck and followed it up with a word card prediction in an envelope. He apparently got the effect from a book he purchased on misdirection.

Our November Comedy or Ha Ha Night After Meeting Show was filled with fun and large attendance. The evening's performers were introduced by emcee Frank Reyes. During the parts of the show Frank performed, "Grave Mistake," "Spot," and recited an almost risqué poem of "Old Mother Hubbard." Guy Crowl performed an impromptu effect using strings of rope which he won at that evening's raffle. Robert Wallner tried to start his set but was interrupted by a phone call. So, he answered the call by pulling a corded phone from his pocket. Tommy Burnett had everyone in stitches with his book test using a member of the audience. Tommy gave the person a book and had the person select any page. Tommy was then able to recite parts of the book. When the audience and spectator realized that Tommy was reading from his own version of the book, Tommy showed that the pages of the book he had were all blank. Doc Sasko performed a nice mental effect with the assistance of Rob Wallner. Unfortunately, Rob did not win the big prize. For photos and videos, please visit our Facebook page, IBM Ring 26.

The January 2025 After Meeting show was called Cards, Cards, Cards. After updating the membership of the status of Ring 26 President, James Stranges and other bits of business, the evening's entertainment began. Sheldon Lippman started with a touching tribute to Wesley James who recently passed away. Although Wesley was not a member of the Ring, he was friends with many members and influenced many magicians. Sheldon opened up with four cards chosen by a spectator that later transformed to four aces. Once the

aces were revealed under each card was a coin. Next Sheldon, who is a student of Armando Lucero, used the produced coins to perform a beautiful matrix.

Next up was Adrien Pierard with a boggling display of mental skill. Adrien asked three spectators for a month, date and year. Once given that information Adrien was able to, instantaneously, reveal the day of the week that date fell on. Next Adrien had a selected card placed into a shuffled deck. Adrien was able to not only tell everyone where in the deck the card was but also what card was before and after the selected card.

Next up was Frank with his presentation of George Schindler's version of the effect, "Zycho." The effect involves a spectator, a giant prediction card and an impossible ending. Sterling Lee stepped up as a last-minute addition to the lineup. He started off with a different version of a "Coin Matrix." Very nicely done. Sterling ended with a Rubik's Cube effect. A Rubik's Cube is in plain view at all times. Another cube is handed out to the audience. The cube is freely mixed by several members of the audience. Finally, after the cube is returned, Sterling reveals that the just mixed cube matches the one that was in view on all six sides. Incredible!

Our final act was, The Man Who Knows Too Much, Tommy Burnett. Tommy performed several mental effects involving cards. Two spectators were each asked to freely select a card. The cards were lost in the deck and then mysteriously found by him. Another effect involved a selected card, lost in the deck, and later being found by spelling the name of the card.

Frank Reyes

RING 27, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA – Earle J. Christenberry, Jr., Ring

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:0pm, Happy Italian Pizzeria 7105 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123. Optional meal anytime after 6:00pm – brief business meeting around 7:00 - 7:15 – followed by magic.

KEVIN CARNEY, Vice President / Web site: www.ibmring27.com

Our 3/6/25 meeting was attended by Kevin Carney, Craig Boudreaux, Allen Boudreaux, and Heidi and Herb Miller. From 6:30-7:30 p.m. we enjoyed dinner and casual non-magic conversation with magic following at 7:20 p.m. including eager chat looking forward to Michael Dardant's upcoming *Fool Us* appearance. We also discussed Doug Conn's recent move to Las Vegas.

Craig Boudreaux informed us of the release of a new line of sponge balls by Murphy's Magic that match the original Goshman Super Soft balls. He then performed his time-tested "big one" sponge ball routine.

Kevin Carney performed a bit of Viking magic, casting matching runes from a wooden box (Alan Warner's "Runic"). He then demonstrated a quarter-through card penetration (Van Rhee and Lewis "The Improved Hole Card"). Then he showed a half dollar coin stuck halfway through a dollar bill (Eddie Gibson's "Melting Coin").

Craig Boudreaux then demonstrated a "Sharpie through Coin" effect with an unusual method (PTC Pro from N2G Magic), next he showed a standard "3-Fly" and then previewed a new version of the routine he's working on with four coins.

Herb Miller did a Jeff McBride trick taking a bite out of a one-dollar bill; then performed a ten-count prediction card trick for Craig (from a S.A.M. magazine column).

Allen Boudreaux performed "30 Seconds to Stun" (Richard Sanders) on Heidi and stunned her in thirty seconds and then demonstrated an ACAAN using the Atomic Deck by Craig Petty. Unfortunately, Herb and Heidi had to say good night before Allen delivered "Ultimate Free Choice" by Alexander Herrmann.

Craig then reminded us of his favorite ACAAN with "Position Impossible" by Brent Braun. Allen then demonstrated a card finding routine based on the Green Neck System by Gabriel Werlen, to varying degrees of success, which began a vigorous conversation about mathematic techniques.

Craig Boudreaux then showed some card flipping techniques and showed an ace-location technique using them. Kevin showed us a technique for flipping the top card by throwing down the deck. *Allen Boudreaux and Leonard Bertrand*

RING 31, MADISON, WISCONSIN – Ben Bergor Ring

Meets 1st Wed. each month, 6:30pm. at the Sequoya Public Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison, WI.

MARK PEPELEA, Ring Contact
(608) 425-8839 / mpepelea@gmail.com
Website: www.ibmring31.com
<http://www.facebook.com/BenBergor.IBMRing31>

The March Madison Ring 31 meeting had twelve members in attendance. Each month, we have a theme. This month's theme was "Fool Us!" Members presented their magic in the same contest style as if on the famed Penn and Teller show, attempting to fool the judges. Our judges were Dr. Lynn Miner and Daryl Rogers. Both Daryl and Lynn brought years of experience to judging the contest. After conferring with each other, the judges announced if they were in fact fooled, or not. Six members chose to participate.

The first attempt to fool our illustrious judges was Mark Pepelea. Mark presented a "you do as

I do" card effect with two differently backed decks. Mark and volunteer Cliff Wollin each took one of the decks. Mark had Cliff follow along and mimic a complex series of moves Cliff made with his deck, including switching decks, finally resulting in each of them having two freely chosen, yet unknown, cards lying on the table before them. When the cards were turned over, they matched. The judges conferred and then announced they were fooled. After the fooling was finished, Mark shared that this was a performance of Dave Parr's effect "Copy Cat," a trick which did fool Penn and Teller when originally performed on their show.

The next contestant was Cliff Wollin, who enlisted Dan Feaster to help him with a pick a card effect. For this stunner, volunteer Dan Feaster shuffled, cut, chose a card and reshuffled it back into the deck before returning the cards to Cliff. Although Cliff never handled the deck before having it returned to him, he did in fact locate the card. Although the judges made a few guesses about key-card location etc., they were wrong. Cliff fooled not only the judges, but everyone else watching. Cliff then taught the trick to us.

The third magician of the evening was Wayne Peterson. Wayne brought out a small square bright yellow box and set it on his mat. Next, he displayed four selections of various types of candies for volunteer Dan Feaster to freely choose from. When the lid of the box was lifted there was a single slip of paper in it with a prediction that matched Dan's candy selection. The judges unfortunately were not fooled, but did comment on how creatively Wayne used this highly versatile prop.

The fourth person to share was Jim Sandstrom. Jim gracefully presented for our entertainment a stage size version of "The (W)hole Thing." This wonderful play of patter and manipulation was very enjoyable for all to watch. Jim presented this fairly well-known effect as a personal favorite and so chose not to have it judged.

Dan Feaster was our fifth magician to perform. Dan had three volunteers each choose a dollar bill from a stack of bills. He then asked each person to read small select sets of numbers from their respective bills. Dan wrote each of the number sets on a whiteboard as they were being read. After each volunteer had contributed their portion to forming this new number, Dan then lifted a cloth hanging above the new number to reveal he had already predicted the final combination of digits before the effect had begun. The judges were very fooled by Dan's effect.

Our last person to present was Tal Kuhn. Tal presented a clever "Triumph" effect with the result being a revelation of all four aces reversed face up in the deck. A clever interpretation of the classic effect, Tal presented this for fun without being judged.

After the presentations were complete, the judges shared ideas, observations and constructive criticism on performance style, effect methods, patter and subtleties of design and presentation to everyone who presented. This part of the evening was significantly educational and very well appreciated. Thanks again to Daryl Rogers and Lynn Miner for generously offering their expertise and insight to our group.

Benjamin Talbot

RING 36, FLINT, MICHIGAN – The Conjuror's Club

meets 4th thu. of the month January – October, and the 3rd thu. of the month for November and December. Currently meeting at Sam's Restaurant on Grand Blanc Road at 6:00 p.m. in the private room.
DOUG DERN, Secretary • E-mail: law4less@aol.com

February 27th, we had our meeting for February. We had a rather long business meeting. We held elections for the upcoming year. Randy Berg was reelected president, Dennis Kingsley continues as vice president, Chris Harper Ring treasurer, and Doug Dern secretary. We then as a group and committee decided to rename the Ring the Dick Wooten Ring. Dick was a long-standing member of Ring 36. By long standing I mean since 1954. Dick passed away earlier this month, and the Ring held a Broken Wand Ceremony for him that was well attended. Dick was a very active member. He attended every picnic, every meeting, every Michigan Magic Day, I.B.M. Conventions, and MagiFest, and many other national conventions for many years. His knowledge of magic was surpassed by none. He could talk magic with the best of them. Dick Wooten was Ring 36. He had a collection of magic that spanned over seventy years. He always performed a trick at our annual picnic and every meeting. He was always game for conversations about magic and had more stories about the days of past members and famous magicians he had met than anyone I ever knew. Dick Wooten will be missed. And that is why we named the Ring after him. There was an emptiness in the room absent the ninety-three-year-old magician. May he rest in peace.

Other business the club discussed plans a fund raiser show to be held on the 22nd of March 2025 in Clio. The business meeting was conducted by Territorial Vice President Chris Harper. Then afterwards Mr. Harper gave the Ring the lowdown on what's up in Michigan and the world of magic.

The Ring had two guests attend the meeting. Michael Arthur came as a guest of Magic Mike's. It was his first exposure to magic as an adult. And we were honored by Ring 22 of Detroit President New York Johnny.

Randy Berg did Magic 101 and Kevin did a demonstration of sleight of hand and teach in. Then the floor was open to perform. New York Johnny did a couple of mind-blowing and entertaining card tricks and left the whole club speechless. The meeting was adjourned as usual and everybody went home safely. *Doug Dern*

RING 39, HOUSTON, TX – Scott Hollingsworth Ring

www.houstonmagic.com

JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH, Secretary / E-mail: judy4birds@yahoo.com

Drew Heyen was presented the min-lecture on March 3. The large crowd appreciated his show-and-tell with a large umbrella-ed pushcart table for working outdoors. He has used this, or one of many different versions of it, for many, many years at outdoor festivals and shows. This latest permutation had a large umbrella affixed and was sturdy enough he could use it at a resting perch when things were slow. He described how to customize such a table for specific needs of the act and answered numerous questions. It was an excellent presentation. Thank you, Drew.

I.B.M. Ring 39 President Gene Protas called the March meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. Bill Palmer moved that minutes from the February 2025 meeting be approved as published; Panda seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Treasurer Judy Hollingsworth presented the financial report; there was no discussion. There was no correspondence. Gene gave a brief report of a Texas Association of Magicians board meeting held on March 1. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Theme for the night's magic was "gambling magic" and there are, evidently, many gamblers among Houston magicians! Those vying for ribbons were Matthew Crabtree, Bill Palmer, Johan McElroy, Panda, Ricardo Teixeira, Gene Protas, Lanny Kibbey, and Daniel Chan. Ribbons were awarded to Matthew, Lanny, and Gene. Congrats! Greg Conner and Marti Stein performed non-themed routines.

Another stellar evening of outstanding participation by our enthusiastic members.

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

175 E. Delaware #8502, Chicago, IL 60611 / (312) 266-2129

Web site: www.ring43.org

Our February meeting began with a Front

Table by John Hutsebaut. John demonstrated and taught how to get a rubber ball to penetrate into a sealed coffee cup. He also demonstrated and explained a "Chop Cup" routine that used a Starbucks cup. Finally, he explained the "Elevator Rubber Band Trick."

Next, President Mike Kamlet gave the Est night awards to Terrence Hunter and Paco Perez, who came in first and second in last month's contest. Mike also announced that next month would be the Mike Powers lecture and the Joe Diamond lecture would be in May. Our program for the night was "Works In Progress" where you share something you are working on and get feedback from the members.

First up was Terrence Hunter who showed a Hefty Bag with his first magic hat and coat and his first schoolbook briefcase. He opened the brief case and pulled out a real bowling ball! He also showed his first book that when opened, had a butterfly flying out of it. He finished with a comedy multiplying tennis ball.

Asher Stuhlman got a volunteer to assist in a fortune cookie trick. The volunteer cut the deck into four piles and turned over the top four cards, 2,4,7, and 6. He then opened a fortune cookie and his lucky numbers, per the cookie, were 2-4-7-6.

John Hutsebaut showed his "Light Fingered Glove" trick, a prop in search of a trick.

Dennis O'Neil talked about the power of his mind and how you could manifest your thoughts. He had Jay name a card (3C) and produced the card. He had Alec name a number (68) and then emptied his pocket to show he had that amount of change. He then had Alec initial a coin and hold it in his hand. When Alec opened his hand, the coin was bent. Kristen then thought of a book (*Murder on the Orient Express*) and then think of a word in the book. He correctly divined that she was thinking of the word "money."

Jay Collen shared a card move where he essentially did a double lift, but he did it from the center of the deck.

Mike showed an effect from a Gary Brown book. Mike dealt twelve picture cards, face up. His volunteer picked six of them. The selected cards were in one pile and the others were in a separate pile. As each card was turned over it matched the card back from the other pile.

Alec Schraegle had a spectator cut the deck and look at a card then pick a second card. Alec magically found the selected cards.

Kristen Kaniewski did a card reading for Alec. He cut the deck, several times, turning over the half he cut. Kristen demonstrated that she had total control over which card Alec selected.

Craig did an effect with a packet of ESP cards and asked for suggestions on how to force one of the cards.

To close the meeting, Mike showed off some interesting antique items from his magic collection.

John Hutsebaut

RING 46, OKLAHOMA CITY – Seymour Davis Ring

Meets 1st Mon. of month, New Beginning Fellowship Church, 15601 S.

Pennsylvania, OKC

LEE WOODSIDE, Secretary

E-mail: WoodsideLee@hotmail.com

Ring Web site: www.okcmagic.org

The first half of our March meeting was devoted to “Spring Cleaning.” Members were encouraged to bring magical items they were no longer using and turning them into cash. We had great participation, with many boxes of props and books for sale.

Our theme for the month was “Green Magic,” so naturally our featured performer was Jim Green. Jim handed Kallie an empty two-liter soda bottle and a balloon and asked her to place the balloon into the bottle and stretch the balloon’s opening around the top of the bottle. He demonstrated and was able to blow up his balloon inside the bottle. Not only that, the balloon did not deflate. Kallie was not able to blow up her balloon. Jim closed with his “Stupid Bean Trick.” He filled a can with beans and briefly covered the can with a paper sack. When he removed the sack, he poured blue liquid from the can into a wine glass.

David Teeman showed a green cylinder which was hinged along one side. He opened it to show that it was empty. However, when he closed it, he was able to pull two long multi-colored silk streamers from the end of the “empty” cylinder.

Lee Woodside invited Kevin Brasier and his lovely daughter, Molly to join him on stage. He introduced them to his three tree frogs, Monte, Thelma, and Louise and said that the object of the game was to keep their eyes on Monte. Molly won all the candy bars, and her dad got a consolation prize, a jumping frog.

Bruce Rodesney told the story of how he had six dollars when he got to church, put three dollars into the collection plate, but still had six dollars when he got home. He repeated this several times with the same result. He had Jim Green select a playing card and then he played a video on his notepad that predicted the card Jim would choose.

Joe Coover showed us some magic that he said he had done 10,000 times, in several countries. He borrowed a wedding ring from Rick Martin, put the ring on his finger, and then removed it. However, the ring appeared back on

his finger. Joe invited Shaun Clark to join him “on stage.” He brought out a piece of string and performed a multi-phase routine with the ring and the string. The climax was when he placed the ring on the string and had Shaun and Daniel Buster hold the two ends. Joe was able to free the ring from the string.

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 (519) 750-4703

Web site: ring49magic.com

Our March meeting started with a hiccup; our venue locked us out for March Break (an Ontario thing). A quick relocate to a local eatery and our planned presentation was only enhanced by the availability of beverages. We did skip our Teacher’s Table, but otherwise the show did go on.

It’s a funny fact that we often overlook what is right in front of us. How many people never visit tourist attractions in their own area? Our presenter was our very own President Doug “the Great” Hunt. If you don’t know Doug, he of course is a magician but is better known for juggling and especially stilt walking. Jugglers are judged by how many balls they juggle so I guess stilt walkers by how high – well Doug wins! Doug is the Guinness World Record holder for having the highest stilts; Doug set the record at fifty-five feet on a cold blustery day in October 2023 (I know, I was there). More accurately, he re-set it. Doug had set the record at fifty foot five inches back in 2002 but then Guinness changed the rules, so Doug went back and set it again, only higher (and at age 67 BTW). Both times, they were fund-raising events for a local charity (Participation House which services clients with abilities that can present challenges).

But that’s not what he wanted to talk about, Doug calls his presentation (which he often does for schools or other institutions) Failing Forward. Doug doesn’t hide the fact that he wears a knee brace. After years of stilt walking Doug blew his knee out in an unrelated accident that would be a very funny story if you could stop cringing. Basically, the doctor told him to drop stilt walking, just walking on the ground wasn’t certain. Doug failed forward; he mastered walking, then he got back on the stilts (with proper knee braces and support).

Doug’s first attempts at the record failed; aluminum stilts that long were just too heavy to lift and control, but someone saw the vision and believed in the goal and stepped forward and donated carbon fiber stilts (custom made). Doug talks about the importance of having the right

people, a good team, a good attitude, but most importantly keep getting back up, don't give up. He referenced Thomas Edison's quote, "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Doug personifies right attitude. He has a hand well worth shaking if you ever get the chance. Oh, and if you do, ask him what he was wearing when he blew out his knee. *Rene Chouinard*

RING 58, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thu. 6:45 pm each month, Messiah Lutheran Church, 6900 Kingston Pke, Knoxville, TN 37919 / Web site: ibmring58.com
VICTOR AGREDA, Jr., President
(865) 223-1401 / e-mail: vagredajr@gmail.com

With only seven days to go before our 50th and final Winter Carnival of Magic, February's meeting had an impressive twenty-five members and one guest ready to share the fun and excitement. We have secured the church for another year, Sherman Wires passed out the embroidered shirts to the members who had ordered them, and Tom Vorjohan was excited to tell the group that we have 234 pre-registrations (when there were only 161 total in 2024), and we may set a record next week!

Our returning guest, Josh Jones, opened the performances with a very impressive lie detector card effect that properly identified the chosen card. Since the theme for the evening was "Rubber Band Magic," our multi-award-winning Ed Ripley used a bit of creativity to show us a rising card effect using a pencil and envelope (from Daryl's lecture) and a secret band. It was great to have Danny Justice with us, and he changed gears and presented a version of PK Touch with Kyle Copeland and his dad, Jason, as his volunteers.

Tim Pressley, who will be one of our vendors at the WCM sharing his sponge creations, told us about his beginner magic book collection, and brought six of them to display; his favorite was *Give a Magic Show* by Burton and Rita Marks. (Of peculiar interest, the book is illustrated by Don Madden who was a children's book illustrator as well as the artist who drew many *Playboy Magazine* cartoons!) Tim also did a puzzle effect that kept allowing more pieces to fit in the frame. Our Program Chairman, Andrew Hyder, showed and taught how to stretch a rubber band in the shape of a star, and he did a lot of one-on-one teaching after the meeting.

Reprising a few effects that he shared last month, John Gyllenhaal further discussed "The Scoop" by Dan Harlan and more details about some of his magic switchboard routine. Sharing a couple of the always impossible-seeming

mental card effects, Roy Schubert did the first with Kyle Copeland as he discussed the difference between emotion and intuition to find Kyle's card, and then he used John Gyllenhaal to find a simply peeked at card that had vanished from the deck only to be found in a lemon! Our vice president, Sherman Wires, used both Andrew and Jessica Hyder (after several comedic byplay interjections) to show that Jessica drew a picture of the unseen card that her husband had chosen.

Going back to the theme, Andrew McGrath did the classic "Jumping Rubber Band" with a band interlaced at his fingertips; he also put a rubber band around his neck and penetrated it through his skin. Bill Osburn did another classic, as his ring appeared to defy gravity and climb an inclined band stretched from hand to hand. Showing a Home Depot product that he hoped would put some light on miniscule thread work, Bill Sturgis also shared a Cephalalgia box that he had 3D printed at home. To conclude the performances, President Michael Priestap did a bit of silent magic to produce six wrapped packages from a paper sack one-by-one. Great magic tonight!

Tom Vorjohan

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

Ring 68 (Toledo, Ohio) met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at the Blarney Irish Pub in downtown Toledo. Five magicians (George Magill, Johnny New York, Martin Jarrett, Pat Przysiecki, and Doug Ferguson) were in attendance.

After an update on Michigan Magic Day by Johnny, the magic portion of the meeting began with George doing a multiple prediction of a borrowed dollar bill's serial number. Martin performed a card trick called "It's About Time" using a card box from Russ Frye. He also showed "Talisman" from Tamariz's *Sonata* book. Johnny demonstrated some original tricks, including "Reality Check" (improving on Harry Lorayne's "Really!" effect), a name spelling effect inspired by a Martin Nash method, and a clever color-changing deck routine. Doug performed John Carey's "Right Before Your Eyes" card trick. It was a pleasant evening of Irish food, drink, and comradery.

Doug Ferguson

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 February meeting of I.B.M. Ring 75, Fort Smith, AR was held Sunday, February 9 at the Fort Smith Public Library with six people in

attendance in person, and one by telephone. The main topic of discussion this month was the upcoming Cavalcade of Magic to be held in Eureka Springs Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, with a night-before gathering and magic auction Thursday, March 27. This is a small convention, and always a lot of fun. Call Best Western Inn of the Ozarks directly at (479) 253-9768 to reserve a room. By the time this newsletter hits print, it will be too late to get the special convention rate, but it won't hurt to mention the Cavalcade.

Preregistration and entry for next year's free registration can be made on PayPal to *ibm-ring75@att.net*. Please add five dollars to your amount to cover the fees that are being charged. Or you can send a check by mail to Clyde Hayre at 421 South Denver Ave., Russellville, AR, 72801. There is no extra fee for checks. You can still pay at the door with cash or check, you just don't get in the drawing. Registration fee is still \$75 for a magician or \$100 for magician and family. We have added a single day fee of \$50 for those who can only make one day. If only the magician is attending events and family is only attending the evening shows, you still pay the magician only rate. The evening and matinee shows are still free! If that doesn't make sense, contact one of the committee members for clarification. (Note: We have a Ring 75 page on Facebook, you can contact us there if you have questions.) We hope to see some of you there!

The March meeting of I.B.M. Ring 75, Fort Smith, AR was held Sunday, March 9 at the Fort Smith Library. Seven members were present, five in person and two by phone.

As this was our last meeting before the upcoming Cavalcade of Magic in Eureka Springs, all of the discussion involved wrapping up final details for that event.

The Cavalcade of Magic will be Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, with a night-before gathering and magic auction on Thursday, March 27. The location is the same as always, the convention center behind Best Western Inn of the Ozarks. This is a small convention and very friendly. Ask anyone who has been there!

After the business portion, ye scribe, being one of the phone-ins, withdrew from the meeting. However, he is sure the members in physical attendance impressed each other with their individual magical skills.

Ken Zelnick

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

February's meeting for Ring 76 is the annual close-up contest. A chance for members to pit

their skills against other members in front of an eager and appreciative crowd. As it is a "contest" there are rules and restrictions that the usual "performance nights" do not have. The participants are judged by the membership present and are awarded at the July Installation Banquet.

The meeting was started promptly at 7 p.m. by President Josh Sherwin who announced the meeting schedule for the rest of the year. He then asked for introductions from any guests in the audience. We had thirty-nine members, and seventeen guests attend this evening.

Mr. Funtastic and Joe Mystic reported they were starting a series of magic shows for the county elementary schools and were looking for one more performer and stout hands to act as stage and prop managers. Paul Dwork reminded the members and guests of his annual Rotary Creates Magic show on March 8th. The proceeds from this star-studded event benefits the local charities served by the Encinitas Rotary Club. The final bit of business was a card for the Ring to sign thanking Dan Thomas, long a supporter of magic in the San Diego area, for his contribution allowing us to purchase an upgraded camera system to make events like the close-up contest better viewed by the attendees. It was much appreciated.

With the business portion concluded, the meeting was turned over to the Vice President of Entertainment, "Magic Mike" Stilwell. One of his favorite duties is to introduce new members who must audition for membership to the Ring. Tonight, Patryk Lauent introduced himself and dazzled the audience with a clever card prediction featuring a member of the audience, a mathematical bit of patter, and the previously chosen card ending up in a sealed box. Patryk was then excused from the hall and the Ring membership voted to accept him into our fraternity. Welcome Patryk.

Close-up Competition: First up was Miguel Garcia who demonstrated how to "win money when playing with friends." He dealt out four kings and showed how to palm, fake palm, and transpose the pasteboards across the mat. He then dealt the kings face down but when they turned them over, they had become aces.

Next up was Callahan started with the Albuquerque ball vanish and then produced a pack of Lego cards. A mechanical bird was used to choose one of several cards face down on the table. This was given to a volunteer who put it into his pocket. A second card was chosen, and Callahan asked the volunteer to read the largest word in the paragraph on the Lego Card but unfortunately, she had forgotten her glasses,

much to the amusement of the audience. When this was corrected the word was read and Callahan asked the first volunteer to remove the card, he had from his pocket which contained the predicted word.

The next contestant Raul Rivera. With the help of a member of the audience, Mago had a random number of cards counted down into several piles. When turned over each pile was made up of kings, queens, and jacks, with the remainder of the deck blank cards. When the piles were turned back over, they spelled, "How Great You Are Mago Ruly!"

Ms. Charley was introduced as the next contestant, and she recalled a card story from her college days. Four aces, red and black, she put the "heavy" Ace of Spades over the "light" Ace of Diamonds. She turned the card over but to our amazement when revealed the "light cards" had moved to the top. When set up again, the heavy cards had moved to one pile while the light cards had mysteriously moved to another.

It then became Mr. Funtastic's turn to perform. He said he was part of the M.I.A., the Magic Intelligence Agency, and was a master of spies and infiltrators. To demonstrate this he took a bill, the dollar bill, and folded him, disguising him as a \$100 bill. He then folded him again and he changed his disguise to a million-dollar bill, though somewhat mismatched. He tried to change it to a billion-dollar bill, but it changed instead to a one-in-a-million-dollar bill, or the original \$1. Mr. Funtastic then demonstrated the vigorous exercise routines agents of M.I.A. must follow and rolled the bill up, walked it across his fingers, up his sleeve, and then floated it into the air.

Mark Booth was the next contestant. He called up a member of the audience named Linda and amazed everyone by placing the brass ring on Linda's thumb, removed the ring while it was covered with a handkerchief, placing the ring in his pocket, and then caused it to magically travel from my pocket back to Linda's thumb. Next, he handed Linda a deck of cards and while she shuffled them, he produced a table with large red cards offering predictions as to what was to come. The cards were placed in a large Tupperware type container with lid to mix up and then dumped onto the table. Twenty-three were face up, the first prediction. Fifteen cards were found to be red, which was the second written prediction, and all of the black cards were clubs the third prediction, except one, which was the Ten of Spades, was revealed as the final prediction.

Vic Terrific took to the table and mentioned that he had to learn his own form of magic as he

was left-handed, and magic books are usually written for right-handed individuals. With two audience members called up he proceeded to manipulate the cards so that whatever one volunteer chose would end up being in the other's possession. Finally, two poker chips, one red and one black, were placed on the table. Jessica, a guest, chose a card, the Six of Clubs, and showed it to the audience. The card was shuffled back into the deck and Ring member Chris Lorensen dealt the cards, face down, in two separate piles, as he wished, in front of the poker chips. When the cards were turned over all the black cards were in front of the black chip and all the red cards, with one exception, were in front of the red chip. The one exception was the Six of Clubs.

Greg Wauson was the final contestant in this year's event. He told of a brilliant man who created an automated ATM which spits out \$20 bills but had some problems. For him it only spit out one-dollar bills and they were so soft a credit card would pass through them like a warm knife through butter, leaving no damage at all. Greg then produced a finger chopper used by his friend to make sure his grandmother never bit her fingernails again. He demonstrated its effectiveness with the help of Ring member Alfonso Vasquez.

The March meeting's theme was "mini lectures." A chance for members and guests to get some quick insights into new magic and performance skills. Five instructors would have a limited amount of time to teach a roundtable before moving on to the next group.

President Josh Sherwin was absent for the meeting, so Vice President of Entertainment "Magic Mike" Stilwell helmed the meeting. First up was the call for visitors and guests. Besides the twenty-seven members, there were six guests. The next order of business was the selection of the lecturer for the June meeting. The Ring members present voted to have Bill Goodwin, Librarian for the Magic Castle. "Magic Mike" then gave the rundown for the rest of the Ring's calendar year. Next month will be our annual "You Fooled Us" competition. As of this meeting, we have four contestants who will try and fool the judges with their performance skills.

"Magic Mike" had one further duty before the mini lectures. Secretary Richard Ustick is leaving the area and the members wanted to show their appreciation for his many years of work for the Ring by presenting him with the "Tip of the Hat" Award. We hope he continues to enjoy magic and will seek out the Ring in his new location.

With all business concluded, it was time to start the mini lecture series. The four lecturers started at different tables and presented concise demonstrations and instruction on a variety of subjects. Alvin Revilas was the timekeeper and gave a one-minute warning to move things along.

Max, with an X, presented what he called "Tricky Theater." He talked about the difference between doing a simple trick and crafting an entertaining event. To demonstrate this, he did a simple vanish of a small silk using a thumb-tip. Quick and elegant. He then showed how the same effect could be more entertaining by using a one-dollar bill and tweezers and removing a small green silk from the nose of George Washington. He then replaced the silk into the President's nose and unfolded the bill to be examined.

Next to our table was Micah Ortiz who demonstrated basic, but effective sponge ball manipulation. With a few clever and well-practiced moves, a small collection of different-sized sponge balls could become an entire act.

Following Micah, Terry Lunceford brought a deck of cards to the table and demonstrated the Kelly Bottom Placement and Snap Change. Both are simple sleights but require a good amount of practice. They have different uses and can lead to surprises from your audience. Terry brought extra packs of cards so the whole table could practice under his skilled tutelage.

After that "Magic Mike" showed how a couple of simple rope tricks could make children's magic and strolling fun. He showed how to tie a one-handed knot and how to "thread the needle."

Finally, Misha Osinowskiy gave an interesting lecture on various styles of coins for coin magic and how to polish silver coins to give them the best presentation shine. He also warned that newly polished silver coins were harder to handle and should be "seasoned" a bit to make effects more dependable. He showed some basic but effective sleights and how simple gesturing could hide palmed coins and give the appearance of clean vanishes and transpositions.

Richard Ustick

RING 79, BINGHAMTON, JOHNSON CITY and ENDICOTT, NEW YORK – Southern Tier Magic Circle Inc.

Meets 1st Mon. 7:00 p.m., Binghamton General Hospital's Russell Room, 40 Arch St., Johnson City, NY 13790
NATHAN HICKEY, President
Web site: www.stiermagic.com

The Ring has been meeting monthly with themes for our performances. January was cups and balls, and February was ropes. At our February meeting we discussed scheduling a

lecture to coincide with MAWNY when many magicians will be in NY. Next month we will open nominations for officers.

David Black opened the performances with Daryl's "Jumping Knot of Pakistan" which remains a classic. Mike Stanley then did the "Impossible knot" and the shoelace knot which was followed by Gary Freed doing his beautiful one rope routine which is Richard Sanders' "Fiberoptics." John Maceli then did a little variation of the impossible knot and our guest Greg Dean did an old classic with a shoelace coming off the spectators thumb without the magician letting go.

Jon Harris did "Professor's Nightmare" and I followed that with Dan Fleshman's "Professor's Nightmare" rope routine which includes a ring. Finally, Chris Sablich laced a ring onto a rope and then under a silk he made the ring come off without using the ends of the rope. Next month our theme will be Mental Magic. *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 / Web site: www.ibring81.com

As this season called "Winter" approached its end here in Sarasota, it was a beautiful March day to have a gathering of about fifteen prestidigitators. After some brief announcements, we discussed our upcoming public show on March 22 for the Trinity United Methodist Church where we meet; several volunteered to work backstage and assist in the house, and the Ring will be represented on stage with Woody Woodward, Gary Roberts, Dick Stevens, Tom Vorjohan, Laurence Hookway, and Star Newman.

Longtime member, and the creator of our original website (in fact, one of the first I.B.M. club websites for which she was lauded for producing), Dorothy Wolfgang, had passed away recently, and David Pitchford did an excellent Broken Wand Ceremony for us.

With "the luck of the Irish" celebration later this month, tonight's theme was "Luck, Chance, Gambling & Bar Bets." Hal Ackerstein did an entertaining and humorous "Bill in Orange" utilizing several assistants and a borrowed dollar. Hal requested some input afterwards, and members gave him excellent feedback. Dan Walsh, who realized the theme as he was walking out the door, grabbed "Skinner's Ultimate Three Card Monte" and presented a wonderfully entertaining and head-scratching version of this effect.

Using David Pitchford as his volunteer, Brian

Zimblér found all four aces from a deck using four dice and their random numbers; the remainder of the deck was found to be completely blank. Our “rope king,” Nick Benevento, was assisted by Star Newman in performing a stunning rope effect where Star showed the long rope, openly cut the rope into many pieces, and Nick then tossed the rope out as it was entirely restored with no tiny pieces to be seen.

Bob Banta displayed a Kennedy half dollar lying flat on a card, yet Bob mysteriously made the coin rise to a vertical orientation. He followed with a great (true!) story of a Gypsy lady that he encountered at Feria de Sevilla in Spain who got him with nothing more than a bar bet... as she said, “I bet I can tell you the day of your birth within three days.” He took the bait, and then she said, “Wednesday!”

The entertaining Gary Roberts had a very interactive coin flip test where he correctly predicted his volunteer’s choice of heads or tails for each of multiple flips. Dick Stevens had an ideal gambling prediction with Larry Becker’s “Casino Royale” which incorporated chips, blackjack, and a thousand-dollar bill.

Rounding this segment out, our “mental magic guru,” Laurence Hookway, performed his version of Chris Congreave’s “Cloak” as a gotcha to the Ten-Card Poker Deal; Lar even shared several of his helpful handling improvements for this routine.

The evening ended with president Star Newman leading a rapid-fire sharing of various bar bets that members knew using corks, glasses, hats, straws and other basic bar supplies. This was a fun night! *Tom Vorjohan, Bob Banta, Dan Walsh*

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: trazdel@att.net

The February I.B.M. 89 Ring meeting was small but mighty. Eric Sullivan (Trazdel), Phil (Le Grand Wysard Phillip), and Kevin Rosewood were all in attendance.

Eric reached out to Scott, from the American Museum of Magic, to ensure that there were magicians signed up for the February and March performances at the museum. Phil shared stories about his time at Magifest in Ohio. He talked through the schedule each day and some of his favorite lectures and performances.

The Magic theme this meeting was Valentine’s Day Magic. Kevin kicked off the night by showing off his impressive “Card to Ring Box” routine. Phil and Eric both gave him some great tips to help him take it to the next level.

Next, Phil showed off some magic tricks around the museum to practice for an upcoming performance. He explained how to do some cool magic tricks, like a “Cups and Balls” routine and a coin routine. We all had a blast watching him perform and sharing our thoughts on what effects to show. We also got to take a tour of the museum since some of the exhibits had moved to new locations.

The theme for March is Green Magic and will take place on March 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Michigan. Until then, keep practicing, performing, and sharing amazement. *Kevin Rosewood*

RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.

BILL FIENNING, Secretary

(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: wcfienn@att.net

President Dave Dunlap opened our March meeting. Our current Board was elected by acclamation. Because March is the month when our clocks are changed, our topic was tricks involving clocks and the zodiac. Secretary Bill Fienning presented his version of “Astro-Logical,” predicting the outcome of a spectator’s moves around a circular zodiacal display. Bill made changes to the routine to both shorten it and improve the presentation.

Treasurer Tom Plunkett performed an effect using a clear plastic clock. He talked about time, how precious it is and how we don’t control time, but time controls us. With that theme he passed around a small clock for everyone to examine and had someone set the time. He was able to tell them what time they had selected though his back was turned, and he was not anywhere near the clock. This effect was accomplished by using an old Tenyo plastic clock.

Jim Oliver demonstrated a card trick by Darwin Ortiz. A spectator shuffled the cards, cut off a small portion and counted them. Then the deck was reassembled, cut several times and Jim cut off the same number of cards as the spectator had cut off. Again, the cards were shuffled by the spectator who selected a card and returned it to the deck while Jim’s eyes were closed. Jim was able to cut exactly to the selected card. Finally, a spectator selected a card, returned it to the deck and then shuffled the deck. Then the spectator returned the deck to Jim, who revealed the selected card with a version of “Triumph.”

David Dunlap performed the “Clock of Doom” from John Bannon’s *Smoke and Mirrors*. Many of the members were not familiar with this effect and were enthralled with the performance. *Bill Fienning*

RING 92, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA – The Vancouver Magic Circle (Charles Howard Ring)

Meets 4th Thurs. except July, Aug. and Dec., 7:00 pm, Sunrise

Community Hall, 1950 Windermere St., Vancouver, B.C.

SIMON CASSEGRAIN, President

E-mail: simon.cassegrain@gmail.com / Web site: www.ibtmring92.com

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting took place on Thursday, February 27, 2025. President Yoosik Oum welcomed and greeted the members and guests. The evening opened with a workshop on coins presented by Donovan Atreides. He demonstrated different moves, sleights, techniques, and routines.

The swearing in of the new executive for the 2025 magic year also took place. Presiding over the swearing in ceremony was P.I.P. Alex Zander as he read out the responsibilities of the new executive with the candlelight ceremony. The new executive being sworn were President Simon Cassegrain, First Vice President Roy Hopwood, Second Vice President Henry Tom, Secretary Charles Gauthier, Treasurer Roy Hopwood, and Sergeant-at-Arms Dennis Chan. The new president will name the directors at a later date.

Graham Kita and Yoosik Oum handed out the certificates of the contest winners for 2024, Blake Aleong for the Rick Honey Trophy, Michael Glenister for the Charles Howard Trophy, Graham Kita for the H.B. MacLean Trophy, Blake Aleong for the Dick Gardner Trophy, Charles Gauthier for the Ray Gamble Trophy, Graham Kita for the Wilf Rutherford Trophy, Simon Cassegrain for the Wand Holder's Degree, Robert Teszka and Vincent Lee (tie) for the Tip Top and Tootsie Trophy, Past International President Alex Zander for the William Shelly Trophy, and Jack Schwartz for the Percy Poole Trophy. The Helping Hands certificates went to Terri Kita for selling 50/50 tickets at the March banquet, Chelsea Kita for the door check-in at the banquet, and Terri Kita, Shannon Linning, and Chris Vetterli for the clean-up at the picnic. Graham and Yoosik also handed out first year certificates and loyalty pins to Charles Gauthier and James Nguyen. Graham and Yoosik also handed out the Kramien Trophy to Charles Gauthier for showmanship during the course of the year and the Shawn Farquhar Creativity Trophy went to Simon Cassegrain. Simon Cassegrain was also awarded the Dave Culos Memorial Trophy for the Golden Rabbit Award. Roy Hopwood received the President's Award. Yoosik Oum received his Past President's Medal.

The competition for the evening was for the Cecil Ackery Comedy Trophy. The competitors for the Cecil Ackery trophy were James Nguyen, Alex Zander, and Graham Kita. Simon

Cassegrain was the emcee and timekeeper for the competition. Alex Zander was the winner of the Cecil Ackery Trophy for 2025.

The business portion of the meeting was the announcement of the Magic Mystery dinner and show to be held at Stefano's restaurant in New Westminster on Wednesday, March 26, 2025. Ben Price will be the featured performer. This coincides with the Magic Festival which starts on Monday, March 24, 2025, with shows happening at different venues in New Westminster. The festival will end with the Children's Magician of the Year competition for the Wilf Rutherford Trophy. The competition will take place on Saturday, March 29 at Rick Bronson's House of Comedy in New Westminster. It was nice to see Jeff McLeod, a longtime member of the club drop by for a visit.

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. a special Presidential Citation was presented to Quincy Li, owner of Clownin' Around Magic Shop, located on Granville Island. The Citation was presented to Quincy for his dedication and service to the magic community. Presenting the Presidential Citation was Yoosik Oum, president of the Vancouver Magic Circle and Heather Deal. Yoosik read out the Citation and then presented a framed copy of it to Quincy to feature prominently in the store. The Citation recognizes Quincy's "significant and ongoing contribution to the magic community in British Columbia." As Quincy accepted this citation, there were speeches and photo ops. Quincy thanked everyone for this special moment. There was also a special attendance sheet signed by the members that was presented to Quincy as a memory to mark his special day. After the presentation, the magicians hung around for a chat session and made some purchases from the store. Photography was done by Charles Gauthier, Graham Kita and Yoosik Oum. Thanks to Past International President Shawn Farquhar for giving me a ride to the presentation and to Alex Zander for giving me a ride home. This special report was put together by Charles Gauthier and Dennis Chan. *Dennis Chan*

RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club

3rd Sun., 7:00pm, Hy-Vee meeting room, 400 Locust St., Dubuque, Iowa

BOB BEARDSLEY, President, (563) 556-8584

E-mail: rbeardsly@Q.com

Most of the meeting time was spent planning for the club show to be held at the Galena Center for Arts in May. The club has six performers, all with different personalities and interests in magic, but things are coming together quite nicely. Margaret Bussan continued to shine as our master of ceremonies and there was time for the following performances.

Jim McCrea performed a version of David Regal's "Letter Perfect." Chris Westemeier assisted him, selecting a large group of alphabet cards, dividing that group in two and then shuffling the halves together with one packet face up and the other face down. The mixing of those cards continued as Jim pulled cards off the top of that pile in pairs and gave Chris the choice of stacking them in a new pile in their current state or flipping them both upside down. When that process was complete, Jim made a magical gesture, claiming that it would instantly make all of the cards face the same direction. Sadly, he did not succeed. Five cards were still facing the opposite direction from the rest. However, it turned out that the letters on those five cards spelled out Chris' name.

Chris Westemeier performed his "Wonder Rope" routine, a fast-paced rope and ring routine in the style of a commercial with quick tongue twisters and cheesy jokes. He then performed "Paradoja" by Michel. A box of matches is emptied onto a table and formed into a square with ten matches on each side. Every spectator is given some extra matches to add to any location in the square one at a time. With some quick moving around of a few matches, it is shown to still have ten matches to each side. After repeating several times, the question is raised as to where the extra matches went? The previously emptied matchbox is shown to contain the extra matches.

Mark Pepelea performed his version of the classic "Silk to Egg," which he plans to perform in the next club show.

Bob Beardsley talked about how he had been practicing a silent crash link with a ninety percent success rate. He only needed one try and nailed the link perfectly with no sound. Walking Magic Bob also demonstrated a way to include Margaret in an effect with a large wooden box. First this large box was shown to be clearly empty, then Margaret magical produced three large clear boxes containing flowers and bills. Just when it looked as though the effect was over, Margaret was called back for a second time and amazingly produced three large birdcages, each containing a fake dove.

In closing Walking Magic Bob using a thumb tip performed the classic, small silk rabbit from a large magic hat silk. Some discussion followed about how to use a thumb tip and if performed correctly, the tip should never be seen by the spectators.

Bob Beardsley

RING 94, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND – The King Ring

Meets 4th Weds. each month, 7:30 p.m., Hagerstown American Legion, Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD / Web site: www.kingmagicring.com
JOHN SWOMLEY, President / E-mail: johnnyo@trickyperson.com

The King Magic Ring did not meet in January. It was just too cold. So, our February

night meeting became a multi-themed night (i.e., magic from *The Linking Ring* and Valentine's Magic). However, before we started the show, generous Jim Greer unloaded a bevy of magic from his downsizing collection.

The emcee for the evening was Charlie James of Khan-Du & Co. It is rare when we are treated to a performance by a visiting guest. Guest, Eric McDonald, treated us to a few selections from the Paul Cummings card book, *An Unshuffled Deck In Use*. Five cards were selected. Four were set aside, but one was made special. It influenced the identity of the other four cards, making them an identical match. The four then transformed into the four aces. The surprises did not seem to end.

Chuck Thomas (Jones) followed. He began with a set of (Inner-Outer) boxes from which the instructions emerged. Chuck called it an "Imagination Experiment." It was a thinking-outside-the-box experience. With the audience's eyes shut, the instructions were given on how to make a free selection of one of three colored balls in a bowl. At the end, all the imaginary balls were blue, and the "Outer box" was "Inner." Chuck also tested a new "Linking Rings" routine he was working on adding to his show. It was all performed to the music of Gregorian.

Johnny-O! (John Swomley) began his portion with a reading from *The Linking Ring*, May 2003. The article was on Walter Blaney and his rabbit-trouble with Southwest Airlines. In that issue a "Gypsy Thread" routine with dental floss was taught. Sticking with the Valentine theme, John origami-ed a beating heart out of a dollar bill. John finished the night by showing a mish-mosh of items acquired from his recent convention trips.

John Swomley

RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – Merlin Eifert Ring

Meets 3rd Sat., 7:00 pm at the Seal Beach North Community Center, 3333 Saint Cloud Dr., Seal Beach, CA
Web site: www.Ring96.com
CLIFF GERSTMAN, Secretary / E-mail: Cliffg37@verizon.net

On Saturday, February 15th Ring 96 met to hold our most recent meeting. We tried something a little different this month as our featured lecturer, Brady Glen, arrived early and led the pre-meeting workshop. He showed us some unusual coin and card moves that we would be practicing and using during his lecture. This was our most successful pre-meeting workshop yet with fifteen members showing up early to learn from Brady. One of the strong values of doing a workshop early as we do is that it allows the leader to provide individualized attention to our magicians as they learn to master the

moves. Brady was no exception, and he helped us all out.

We started the meeting with a Broken Wand Ceremony for Paul R. Miles. Paul was a long-time member of Ring 96 who had passed away on February 4th. Paul will be missed.

Brady started off by speaking on the importance of “pocket management.” He went over how he loads his pockets and with what. He always knows where different colored decks are and where different types of decks are as well. The same was true for coins and other magical equipment.

Now for a trick.... Brady asked a volunteer to name a card. Six of Spades was called out. Brady picked up an envelope and the Six of Spades was the only card inside. A volunteer shuffled a deck and pulled out a few cards. The volunteer was told to look at the cards. Brady proceeded to correctly callout the cards in the volunteer had picked. This trick is a shocker for both magicians and lay audiences, and it relies on a very clever sleight.

Brady had a volunteer deal out some cards and stop when they felt like it. The card they stopped on was the Ten of Clubs. An envelope that had been sitting on the table the whole time, held a note that read you will stop on the Ten of Clubs. Brady spent some time talking about timing and how to get a volunteer to stop when you want without looking obvious about it.

“Double Cross” was the next effect where the magician puts an “x” on his hand with a Sharpie. It vanishes and appears on the volunteer’s hand instead. Brady credits Johnny Ace Palmer as his mentor who taught him all he knows about magic. He discussed with us how to approach a table when doing strolling magic, and how to know when to approach and when to back off.

Brady always carries lots of magical accessories and is always ready to perform a strolling show, a close-up show, a parlor show, or a stage show. You never know when you are hired for one show, and the audience is such that it calls for another. He is always ready to upgrade the show with the appropriate up charge as well. When Brady negotiates a show, he always tells the client all of his prices for all of his work. This lets the client decide what they want both up front and if changes need to be made. He also carries extra decks in case the need arises. He warned us, when working tables do not do the same tricks over and over. Rather have a large repertoire so that people at one table don’t see the same effects they just watched over the next table’s shoulders. Keep several different setlists at hand. Brady follows the “Rule of

Three.” Everything he does comes in three phases and three parts. This makes it comfortable for the audience. Don’t be afraid to do things in front of the table, as the spectators do not know what you are planning and working to.

A volunteer shuffles the deck and is asked what is his favorite card? The volunteer chose Nine of Diamonds. Brady said that his favorite card was the Queen of Clubs, which he pulled out of the deck. He had the volunteer insert the queen at random back into the deck. It proved to be right next to the volunteers Nine of Diamonds. This is an easy trick but does have one tough sleight involved in it.

Brady ended with “Imaginations Coins.” This trick involved four coins in a spectator’s hand and the number of coins changes right under their nose. Another amazing night at Ring 96!

Cliff Gerstman

RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - The Maurice Booklyn Ring

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood
Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street
Chatswood.

JACK SHARP, President / email: jack@sharpmagic.com.au

With our President Jack Sharp on the other side of the world at the Blackpool convention and Dale Trueman our Vice President rehearsing for a future theatrical event, Peter Wood opened the meeting with announcements of three forthcoming lectures. He then welcomed Anthony Dillon who was hosting tonight’s meeting from a shuffled deck in play (FASDIP).

Anthony introduced Brian Fine who only performs effects with normal playing cards. He had a card chosen; it was the Five of Diamonds. He then gave the pack a drunken shuffle which left some cards face up and some face down. Then suddenly all the cards faced the same way except the Five of Diamonds which was reversed in the middle of the pack. He then picked up the five with three other cards, suddenly all four cards were duplicate fives, then they were four indifferent cards, and the Five of Diamonds had vanished only to appear back inside the card box.

Our next performer Barry Abkin asked a spectator for a number between twenty and forty. Twenty-six was chosen and Barry said that number would prove to be the conclusion of the effect. He then asked another spectator to think of a small number and to take that number of cards from the pack and return them to the box. The spectator was then asked to remember the card at that position. With a few cuts the thought of chosen card appeared at the twenty-sixth position as Barry had predicted. This was his rendition of Rick Lax’s “Where it Has to Go” which

is based on the principle generally known as Ed Marlo's Automatic Placement from his 1958 *Faro Notes* booklet. It is even older than that though, however it is still a little known but amazing principle.

Anthony then brought back Peter Wood for his performance. Peter commenced by having various spectators choose cards. He then found each one in a completely different way. One was found next to a marker card inserted into the pack, another spelt to, another was found reversed and another by the spectator saying stop. Peter then said to Tony, his volunteer, "You are going to entertain me." He asked Tony to fan the cards in front of him and Peter chose a card. Peter then got Tony to deal cards and stop whenever he liked, and to then deal the cards into two piles. The top card of one pile was the same value as Peter's chosen card and the top card of the other pile was the same suit. Anthony then introduced Conway Restom who started his performance with an impersonation of Kenny Rogers by singing a few lines of "The Gambler." Conway then said that he was going to use nonverbal communication to test the poker faces of his two volunteers. The shuffled pack of cards was cut into four piles, and the two spectators picked a pile each. Both spectators secretly counted their cards, the two piles combined and then as Conway counted the cards face up the spectators remembered the cards at their secret numbers. Conway proved that he could see through their poker faces by deducing their thought of cards.

Our next performer, Eugene Zanozin was visiting our Ring for the first time, however, he soon proved his magic knowledge with his fine performance, and we look forward to welcoming him as a member in the near future. Eugene asked Anthony to cut the shuffled pack and then by looking at the top card of the cut stock he managed to deduce the fourth card of the other half, he immediately repeated it. It was now Anthony's turn. He had two kings and an unknown card that turned into a chosen card, then in a second phase the chosen card again appeared between the two kings that were now on the table. This was Anthony's rendition of a Magick Balay's sandwich routine. Anthony was also able to deduce a chosen card from amongst four other decoy cards and he performed a lie detector test with seven cards from the shuffled deck in use.

Our last performer Peter Rodgers told a personal story based on Vernon's patter from his "Cutting the Aces" routine originally published in the *Stars of Magic* series from the late 1940s. The routine began with "The Last Trick of Dr

Jacob Daly." Vernon's "Twisting the Aces" and the Vernon's "Cutting the Aces." He then performed John Bannon's "Timely Departure" from his book *Smoke and Mirrors*.

We then adjourned for supper and a vigorous discussion on our performances. *Peter Rodgers*

RING 106, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – Slydini Pyramid Garden State Ring

Meets 2nd Wed., 8:00 p.m. at The Sparta Avenue Stage, 10 Sparta Ave., Sparta Township, NJ

STAN BLADEK, Secretary / E-mail: quakmagicphil@aol.com

What a great night for magic! Our March meeting was very well attended, and astonishment was in the air. It was announced that Peter Samelson would be giving a lecture to our Ring along with two local S.A.M. clubs on Saturday, March 15. He would then present a show that evening with new material. Also announced was the Lancaster, PA swap and sale that will take place on March 29.

Ring 106 wants to recognize a past member of our club from the '60s and '70s who is having a birthday on March 17th. Happy Birthday Manfred Losch. Eddie Conrad used a green backed deck of cards in honor of St. Patrick's Day and did a Guy Bavli card reveal trick. He then followed it up with a recently purchased Jay Sankey "Omnilope" trick using an envelope to force a prediction. John Henderson never fails to fool the magicians in the crowd. Tonight, he did a four-pile stacked trick and followed it up with a miniature Svengali deck force that resulted in the reveal of the other three matching cards to the Svengali force.

Stan Bladek debuted the first phase of a baseball themed act that he is working on. Utilizing four baseball cards, his prediction was on the money. If it wasn't, he would have given up a Derek Jeter Opening Day 3D baseball card to the spectator. Michael Healy had the magi present pull out their cell phones and did Greg Rostami's super card at any number trick. This involved the use of a calculator and some quick thinking on his part to pull off the effect. The use of his mother's birthday was integral in the numerical calculation of the trick.

Theater trained actor, Bruce Harpster closed our evening with a story that was very personal and drew everybody's attention. Unfortunately, it involved getting hit in the head with a baseball and losing the girl! He then performed "Bentley" by Chris Hanowell.

As per usual, the post-performance chit chat and socialization went on long after the formal performances. Please let us know if you are ever in the area on the second Wednesday of the month; we'd love to have you attend.

Stan Bladek

RING 112, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE— M.H. Ortwein Ring

Meets 3rd Tue. of each month, 6:00 pm at Miller's Ale House, 2119
Gunbarrel Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421

www.ring112.org

JIM DRISCOLL, Acting President / E-mail: jim.dricoll@gmail.com

Ring 112 kicked off the year with a great January meeting. Our main piece of business was electing officers for the year. Our 2025 officers are: Jim Driscoll, President; Mike Edwards, Vice President; Tommy Johns, Secretary; Adam Ryan, Treasurer; and Michael Frisbee, Sergeant-at-Arms. Our Board of Governors for 2025 is Robert Jones, Tom Raidy, and Ron Williams.

Our theme for January was "Something New, Shiny or Quirky." Robert Jones kicked things off sharing his collection of illusion ornaments created each year by Smokey Mountain Magic. Mike Frisbee divined each person's special number which ended with a Valentine's theme and Barry Savage demonstrated a unique idea involving a spooky, animated pin impaled on a drawing of a voodoo doll. Jim Driscoll performed a Valentine's version of Dan Garrett's "Heartz" routine and Tommy Johns gave away bananas (yes, you read that right).

In February, we welcomed our newest member, Daniel Martin, who also is now a member of the I.B.M. Our theme was "Luck and Fortune: Tricks Themed with Luck, Gambling, and Games of Chance." We enjoyed magic from Jeff Williams, Tommy Johns, Roger Smith, Jim Driscoll, Daniel Martin and our guest D'arce Peter.

We invite all former Ring 112 members, and all magicians in the Chattanooga, south Tennessee and north Georgia areas who are interested in becoming a part of the club, to join us at one of our future meetings. Our meeting location is at Miller's Ale House, near the Hamilton Place Mall in Chattanooga. *Jim Driscoll*

RING 113, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY— Audley Walsh/Conrad C. Bush

Meets 1st Thurs. 8:00 pm, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 300 Forest
Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ.

ANTHONY FERRER, Secretary / web site: ibmring113@yahoo.com

James Knight, mentalist, first enthralled club members by performing his most recent show. He then proceeded to explain the mechanics and art involved in each of his "mind influencing" and "mind reading" effects. Knight is a student of human behavior. He is always studying how we behave so he can tell us what it is on our mind. It is not a gift; it is hard work. For some of his magic effects he must memorize a great deal of information, so it is always right at his fingertips.

One aspect of his presentation that goes unnoticed by audiences is the clothing he wears. He

is dressed in a three-piece business suit of understated color and pattern. He could be anybody. Often you see a mentalist dressed a bit theatrically sporting a turban, a colorful scarf and a medallion to get you in the mood for a spiritual experience. He looks not like a grandfather or a fakir but just an ordinary fellow with an important position. He means business. Knight performs 200 to 300 times a year, often twice in a day. His annually reinvented shows mean repeat clients who book him early to assure they get him again on their special date.

Keeping his performances fresh benefits both his clients and himself. He recommended that everyone who performs regularly will benefit from studying the material of Richard Busch particularly his out-of-print book *Peek Performances* (30 or 40 years old). Knight also recommended checking out forcing and book test software available as a smartphone apps for effects that will surprise and delight audiences.

Knight showed us book tests, hypnotism, forced numbers, card tricks using reverse Si Stebbins order, and generally showed a mastery of getting audience members to believe that he was reading their minds. He praised the work of Banachek and Richard Osterlind as top of field performers in mentalism.

Knight's lecture and show ran nearly three hours, when we were forced to vacate our meeting space. The time flew by because he had completely captured our members' attention. This was a compelling, entertaining, and educational evening of magic. *Alan Hanson*

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

JOHN TEO, President / Tel: +62504422, 97509017

10M Braddell Hill #01-49, Singapore 57931

This evening's meeting, themed Bizarre Magic, was co-hosted by Baharudin and Ng Kah King and attended by twenty-three members and two guests.

To help the audience get into the mood of the evening, Baharudin rubbed an egg along a volunteer's arm and chest area and invited him to break the egg into a bowl. A needle was found amid the contents in the bowl. This, Baha proclaimed, was the cause of the volunteer's ailments. Ng Kah King transformed a large fire he produced, into a long magic rod.

JK Tan presented three coasters with a long nail planted on one of them. A tall, white paper bag was placed over each of the coasters and nail; and the coasters were moved about randomly behind JK Tan and a volunteer's backs.

JK Tan began moving his palm over top of the paper bags slowly and when the volunteer gave the signal, he slammed his palm down on that bag. He was lucky. He also invited the nervous volunteer to attempt what he did. Somehow, his good luck followed for the last two randomly chosen bags and their palms were spared the trauma of the nail!

Thomas Ng emptied contents of a Coca Cola bottle into a plastic glove and sealed the glove's opening. He then held the emptied bottle above an empty glass tank and produced a coin inside the bottle. The coin fell downwards toward the base of the bottle. On impact, the glass bottle unexpectedly shattered!

Victor Heng put aside a prediction card for a mystery drink. He then laid out four coloured cards on the table and dealt out a white card below each of them, repeating until the volunteer stopped at a card. Victor will then place the corresponding-coloured card over it, to mark it. This procedure was repeated. A total of four types of drinks were chosen. When the drink cards were flipped over, the names of the respective drinks were printed on their backs. These drinks had colours which coincidentally matched their corresponding-coloured cards. Victor added that he had influenced the volunteer's choices as the predictions on the backs of the first three coloured cards were true, one of the drinks would contain coffee, two would contain fruits, and that the first letters of the drinks, when put together would reveal the mystery drink. This happened to be WINE, which was printed on the mystery drink card. The fourth coloured card displayed "Congratulations." Victor explained that the volunteer had incredibly chosen the only four safe drinks from the entire deck as all the other white cards, when flipped over, had POISON printed on them.

Baharudin returned to chomp some transparent glass pieces before a nervous audience. He also stomped barefoot on a pile of colourful, sharp, glass pieces. Desmond Peh bravely volunteered and successfully stood barefoot, on the pile of glass pieces on the floor, under Baha's close supervision.

Ng Kah King transformed small fire into a rose before he introduced the next performer, Kenneth Chia. Kenneth Chia was wearing a scary mask over his face and a guillotine around his neck. Placing four brown paper bags on a Lazy Susan, he labelled them one to four, as directed by a volunteer. One of them concealed a long sharp nail. The Lazy Susan was rotated. He was lucky each time as only the 4th, remaining bag was found to be the one with the nail. Next, he presented a figurine representing a

magician, which he fitted into a transparent case. The case was then locked. A volunteer plunged eleven knives through the case. When the case was unlocked, the figurine had no holes on it.

Luke Tan performed a card prediction trick with heroes and villains. Then James Phang sealed a mermaid, represented by a picture card, in a covered box. He then pierced six knives through the box without harming the mermaid. Desmond Peh did money magic with coins and bills.

The meeting ended with five winners in a lucky draw and a birthday song and present for Lim Teck Guan, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Members continued their fellowship and magic jamming late into the night.

Low Hwee Lang (Ms)

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

March came in like a lion, but that did not prevent a good-sized crowd from attending our March meeting. The theme for the first part of the meeting was "Adapting Magic," that is, modifying an existing routine in some way to make one's own. Dennis Burks, a safety expert by trade, demonstrated how he used some familiar routines, such as "Cut and Restored Rope" and "Silks to Flowers," to give a message about safety in the workplace. Keith Leff followed by showing how he adapted a close-up trick to be performed as a stand-up routine. Kelly Rusk showed how he added interest to a card routine by substituting jumbo cards in the form of movie posters. Pete Walterscheid demonstrated original ideas for the use of the Out to Lunch principle.

We followed this with our quarterly competition, under the new format by which we combine the stand-up and close-up competitions and assign point values to determine who qualifies for the annual Magician of the Year Competition. Keith Leff qualified by performing several card routines. Samuel Bricker "ate" an inflated animal balloon but misfired with a card routine and indicated that he would work on it between this month and our June meeting.

Three members then took part in the open, "Show Us the Magic" segment of the meeting. Phil Franklin had a deck of ESP cards shuffled and showed that he predicted the order they would fall in. Lance Rich gave a couple of positive reviews of books he had read recently: John Armstrong's *How to Win* and Margaret

Steele's *The Great Boomsky*, which tells the story of the first great Black magician. Harry Schuman closed the meeting with a demonstration of the Losander Floating Table.

On Saturday, March 8 eleven members of Ring 129 traveled to Ashland, Nebraska for the first annual Tri-State Magic Party! Joining The Omaha Magical Society and The Justo Hijo Magic Club of Des Moines, Iowa, each club provided a lecturer, close-up performer, and a stage performer for a fun day of magic and fellowship. The events were held at Mahoney State Park starting with a Swap Meet, then a pizza party at the lodge, lectures and close-up back at the theater, a taco bar for dinner, then back to the theater for the stage show, which was open to the public. A copy of Taschen's Magic 1400s-1950s book was raffled off as a fund-raiser for The Omaha Magical Society, which was won by our own Dennis Burks. The public show was a sell-out with extra chairs added and some standing room only patrons. Overall, a very fun day of magical fellowship with our mid-west friends.

Stu Lewis and Kelly Rusk

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 / Web site: www.IBMRing130.com

While the holiday was missed by a couple of days, our meeting took place this month with a Valentine's Day theme. The night kicked off with a surprise. Erik Casey brought everyone a gift, a set of customized "Stand-Up Monte" style cards that accompany his new deck release, the False Casesy (coming soon, in collaborations with Ryan Schlutz). Coincidentally, Robert Sands opened the evening with a rendition of "Anniversary Waltz." He had a take on Ryan Schlutz's version from the *False Anchors* book. It included a transposition before a transformation.

Mr. G performed a short routine with three tricks. The first was a "Two in the Pocket, One in the Hand" routine with gemstones. It fit the theme well, although the objects can be traded for anything to fit any theme. This will be a part of this lecture coming soon. A card trick followed; "Will It Match?" And finally, a "Torn and Restored Tissue Paper Heart," which was a trick revisited from his fellow lifetime member Jeff Arnold.

Bob Watts showed off his "Linking Rings Hearts." Monty Reed showed us his gravity defying coin trick, and explained the challenges that Paul Harris gave him on his way to mastering this feat. Rob performed once again, comb-

ing a "Triumph" effect with Jay Sankey's "Paperclipped." This was a segue into the new release Gravity Clips. Thirty seconds to stun.

To wrap up the evening John Palumbo offered some more business advice and how to grow our networks and sales pitches. Overall, a good night and we'll do it all again in two weeks with a lecture by Gregory Wilson.

And then finally it happened – the Gregory Wilson lecture. The turnout was fantastic and drew a crowd from all over Florida. Greg's theme was "Things he uses every day." There were some familiar tricks if you've seen Gregory lecture before, but he still treated us to a jam-packed evening of hard-hitting magic. So hard hitting, in fact, that he moved the table in front of four different people, repeated the same trick, exposed what he was doing, and still fooled the pants off everyone.

Two major highlights of the night: One, there were members that were reminding Greg of moves and jokes that were on his instructional DVDs that they use. Some he recalled, some he didn't, so that should give testament to the updating, rescripting, and evolution of his tricks. Basically, if you think you know Greg's work, you just may not. Second, we were introduced to a new effect that Greg proclaims will be the "Trick of the Year." Once you see it you may agree. It's called "Cash Flow," so keep your eyes peeled. No news on its official release. While I don't want to give away too much detail about what Greg performs, I do highly recommend you attend if he passes through your area.

I.B.M. Ring 130 meets the third Thursday of each month. Email info@ibmring130.com for details if you're in the area, we'd love to have you join us.

Chris Sharp

RING 131, DENVER, COLORADO – Mile High Magicians Society – The Earl Reum Ring

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 40 West Arts Magic Hub Stage, 6501 W.

Colfax Ave., Lakewood, CO 80214

A. J. PEREA, Secretary / E-mail: Secretary@milehighmagicians.com

Web site: www.milehighmagicians.com

Glenn Proulx was our master of ceremonies and led us through the night of horror stories and everyday carries. Stuart Hayner opened the night with a "Cut and Restored Rope" trick which turned into a lesson on misdirection and how to use a bowtie as a piece of magic. Chris Manos presented a red silk disappearing trick when as he was trying to disappear the red silk it instead changed colors and led to a large mouth streamer appearing from his mouth. After the act Chris gave us tips on how to operate a Johnson die tube and how to find a good coin drop bucket for Miser's Dream.

Bruce and Kitty Spangler brought us a collection of around one hundred different magic wands. They gave us lessons about a few of the most special wands in the collection including one that held live ammo and one that could change colors in an instant. Bruce then shared a horror story from one of his past shows in which he accidentally caused his rabbit to growl and scream at him before going on stage. James Lopez started off strong with an appearing bottle trick then took us through the seven tricks and two utilities on him at all times.

Steve Spangler provided us with a full history on fire books and fire wallets and demonstrated many of their uses and how they operate. John Luong shared with us his full collection of reels from old to new. John Walker showed us a card trick using frequencies and disruptions where he found the cards by listening to the deck. Secretly just using a corner short card made with a nail cutter on his key ring. Jeff Wake closed our night with a hilarious routine when he used an ordinary handkerchief as a prop to teach a full story about a grandpa, grandma, and fishing. *A.J. Perea*

RING 150, FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA – Dr. Mark Horowitz Ring

Meets 4th Thur. in Tamarac, FL 7:30pm
JOHN PETRUZZI, Secretary (954) 721-3054
E-mail: johnlpetruzzi@hotmail.com

On Wednesday, March 12th, Ring 150 (Fort Lauderdale, FL) held its monthly meeting. After a moment of silence for a member Fred Hayden who recently passed, and acknowledgement of guests present, a short Business and Treasury report, we got down to performing some magic.

The themes were Packet Tricks, Stories Using Cards, and other Self-Working effects

President Billy Byron told the classic “Cops and Robbers” story with cards. Gary Rock “played” a harmonica that mysteriously turned into a cookie which he ate. Ron Zimmer predicted which card a spectator would choose from a cube that had pictures of cards all over it. Treasurer Dr. Mark Horowitz matched the duplicate of a spectator’s card from several cards by the person simply telling him to stop as cards were being placed down.

Toscano Thiago mentally provided information on a person by plugging into a phone the person’s birthday. L.D. Madera also used a phone to match up a spectator’s card. Michael Easler did a packet trick where odd cards became even and even cards became odd, even after he discarded some. Marti Stein performed the classic safety pin sliding along a handkerchief. Randy Goodman showcased two of his creations along with his version of “Tic-Tac-Toe” called “Connect 4.”

It was an entertaining evening. Ring 150 meets at The Coconut Creek Community Center in Coconut Creek, Florida each month on an available day.
Billy Byron

RING 153, BILLINGS, MONTANA – Billings Magic Society

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Reflections, 1140 Sixteenth Street West, Suite 13, Billings, MT.
BRENT CROMLEY, President / E-mail: brent@cromley.net
(406) 208-4147

February was a special meeting for our Ring as we met at the offices and warehouse of Patrick Branger who with his wife Casey Smith owns Montana Premier Entertainment. They rent almost 4000 square feet in which they store a huge number of illusions, juggling and acrobatic apparatus, tents and inflatables. Our member Kent Messmer also stores some of his illusions there and it was a full night of seeing these two present some wonderful and large magic effects that neither Patrick nor Kent can typically transport to our regular meeting site.

The illusions were presented even faster than they are on the television program *Masters of Illusion*, and of course without any commercial interruptions. The first was “Tic Tac Toe Pro” created by Bond Lee, in which Patrick had Brent Cromley trying to win at that classic game but instead producing a beautiful reproduction of the Mona Lisa.

Kent then presented his “Twist and Cut,” an effect in which Patrick’s head was able to turn 180 degrees despite the fact that it appeared his entire torso had disappeared. Next, Patrick and Casey’s young son, Eli, became the star in an illusion titled “The World’s Greatest Magician.”

We next enjoyed the trick, “A Slice of Magic,” after which Kent brought out his handmade Big Yellow Box, from which he was able to produce a large variety of items, ending with a human being.

Zig Zag illusions were next, with Patrick showing off his “Mini Cube Zag,” followed by Kent showing his “Where Is She Zig Zag” effect. They both followed with “heavy” productions next, with Patrick producing and dropping a heavy bowling ball from his sheet of papers, and Kent producing an actual anvil which landed behind him with a loud thud.

The conclusion was one that Patrick and Casey will be using in their scheduled three-performance “The Magic of Circus,” later this week. Eli was again the star, and we were all amazed at the conclusion when a full-sized inflatable elephant appeared behind the screen. This is an illusion called “Ring Master,” and was a fitting conclusion for an extraordinary evening of magic.

We continue to be a small but dedicated group of magicians here in the beautiful Big Sky State. If your travels take you up our way, be sure to look us up.

Brent Cromley

RING 158, GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Wizards of the North

Meets 1st Sun 3:00 pm at Dino's Sports Lounge at 1020 Towne Sq. Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601

MARK DURIGON, President / email: mdur@comcast.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443

Ring 158 met at Dino's Sports Lounge on Sunday, March 2, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. After a meal, the meeting was called to order by President Mark Durigon. Present also were Mike Baker, Rick Bradley, Rich Passaro, Rob Shook, Chuck Snyder, Mark Zajicek, and guest Mike Genovese from Martinsville, Virginia.

Old business: Subsequent to Clint's resignation as Vice President, Chuck Rygle has kindly agreed to assume that position, leaving Sergeant-at-Arms as the only presently unfilled position.

New business: Clint did a Valentine's Day show at Rudy's. Rich did a show at Core Event Center in Irwin, and he has an upcoming show at Kettlers in Jeannette. All Ring financial information has been transferred to Mike Baker, Treasurer. Vince Charming, who now lives out-of-state but visits often, recently performed a sponge penguin routine for Mario Lemieux personally. Two websites which members recommend for good advice and reviews are those of *magicorthodoxy* and Jamie Salinas. Dues should be due next month, and we have begun talk about a summer picnic for Ring 158.

Upcoming performances: Joshua Jay will be at Liberty Magic in May. On August 9, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Strand Theater in Zelienople, Pa., Dan GreenWolf will perform Celtic Magic.

Mark D. showed an autographed Dai Vernon which he possesses, and a vintage collapsible Schlitz beer bottle. Mark Zajicek told the group about the upcoming Greater Pittsburgh Magic Network banquet on April 27.

After a brief intermission, magic was begun. The theme was vintage magic tricks and flea market. Rick Bradley removed a ring from a vintage box with a long applicator stick. Mike Genovese showed "Aces and Kings" with three outs, and also a trick with a notch cut out of the right side of the last card, enabling it to be pulled out of a packet last. Rich demonstrated Gravity Clips. Chuck demonstrated the Atomic Deck.

Next month's meeting will be on Sunday, April 6 with the theme of Numbers in (dis)honor of the IRS.

Willis Shook

RING 167, DES MOINES, IOWA – Justo Hijo of Magic, Inc.

3rd Mon., 7:00pm Felix & Oscars 4050 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA

BRUCE ANDERSON, Secretary

E-mail: hga0128@gmail.com

President Steve Hinrichs welcomed members to our February meeting. It was amazing that members braved the weather twenty-below with wind chill. Steve announced that our club will travel to Omaha for the Tri-State Magic Party. Omaha, Kansas City, and Des Moines will participate in a joint effort show and party. Fifteen magicians from our club will carpool to Omaha to participate in the show. We will do it again in Kansas City next year, and in Des Moines in 2027.

Steve called George Noble up for an award for his contribution to the club for forty years of sharing his talents and professional and magical participation. Steve presented him with a magical pocket watch. Thank you, George, for your service to our club.

Magic Showtime: (1) Lucas McCannon asked Theron Christensen to find a red queen from four aces. Theron picked the red Queen of Diamonds. (2) Marcus Stevens showed us how to find four aces in a card deck. (3) Pat Driscoll shared a zig-zag pencil and cups and balls. (4) Sydney Storm asked three young girls to hold onto red silks and a tricky box of colored socks. (5) Larry Reed vanished some objects and palmed a doll. (6) Theron had a red man on a box that vanished in and out of red silk. (6) Ricky Wayne had Larry say stop as he went through a deck of cards Larry ended up with a card that Ricky had the torn corner.

It was a cold night for us, but lots of hot tricks. If you are in Central Iowa the third Monday of the month, join us for food, magic, and fellowship!

Bruce Anderson

RING 170, ORLANDO, FLORIDA – Bev Bergeron Ring

3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m., at IHOP on Kirkman Road, Orlando, FL.

DENNIS PHILLIPS, Secretary

E-mail: dphillips13@cfllrr.com

Web site: www.Ring170.com

President David Freeman called the meeting to order, and we had twenty-eight in the seats. He also announced that we have fifty-one active members. We had one guest, Steven Rodriguez.

Phil Schwartz presented an interesting subject for his 108th Magic History Moment. He asked the question, "What was the first magic trick performed in recorded history?" Cups and Balls? Lota vessel? Linking Rings? Or more likely, according to Phil, the decapitation (and restoration) of a bird. Phil told the history and translations of the Westcar Papyrus which recorded three stories of magic during Egypt's Old Kingdom (2900-2690 BCE). Of the three

the only story that seems plausible recounts a magician named Djedi performing a decapitation and restoration of water birds (likely geese) before King Cheopos. The likely method is still used today in dove acts lending credence to this, the earliest recorded magic effect. In preparation for the talk, Phil said he had reviewed both old and new source material prompting his title, "Re-Learn of the Djedi."

This month's club show opened with Rich Lombardo doing an excellent torn playing card and restoration. Dennis Phillips did a "Do as I Do Rope Tie" with a spectator. The idea was to tie a knot in a rope without letting go of the ends. He did it and invited up a spectator to follow his directions and he gave him a rope. The spectator followed the directions but was unable to get a knot in the rope. Each try was hilarious. Finally, with an assist by Dennis, the knot was made in the spectator's rope. The effect is on page 340 of *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic*.

Dave Koenig performed an amazing book test with an alien mask on! He knew every word chosen and the result looked like something out of this world. Ari Rose concluded the show with a story about finding her first love in New York City. A locket chain and charm were put in a purse and emerged together. David Freeman did a short encore by showing the impromptu "Rope through Neck" that he uses when he is playing his costume character in his Ren Faire shows.

Dennis Phillips

NG 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

We hope it did not come as a surprise to any of our members as our March meeting was at our new location – as we moved from the church where we had been for several years to a senior living center just three miles up the road. However, several members were out of town, and only ten members and a couple guests were available to enjoy our "March Madness."

Our vice president, Rudy Hernandez, hosted the evening's entertainment and he opened with a piece of gorgeous magic that he received from the estate of charter Ring member, Tim Arango, many years ago: Gwendolyn the Duck (the country cousin of Jo-Anne the Duck) which was released in 1951. This one looked brand new, and Rudy is working on a routine he will share soon. Having purchased "Prison Escape from Jay Sankey, Gary Jenkins took a pair of cards to sandwich a dollar bill and stapled the three together, yet the bill was pulled free without a

mark and the cards remained stapled. This was a beautiful, and dumbfounding effect.

Mike Wheeler put together a fun routine that started with a magical origami book, led to a delightful version of Chad Long's Origami "Paper Ball" effect, then went on to produce some cut-out flowers, the production of a caterpillar silk which morphed into a full color butterfly silk. We applauded Mike's creativity and fun-filled storytelling magic.

First time guest, Glenn Hoppen, who moved down from Evansville (where he had been in Ring 56 with our president, Tom Vorjohan, in the early 1990s) over a decade ago... and he finally ventured out to a Tampa meeting! Glenn discussed some of his early influences like Gene Smith and Conrad Dietrich; he showed the pencil the latter used as promotion for his car mechanic shop and his magic. He performed a fun "Needle through Balloon" with "Billy Balloon, the sword swallower," and finished with a trap door for the floor and a lawn dart he teased with to get volunteers to help.

Supposedly caught empty handed tonight, Mark Byrne was assisted by our newest member, Barbara Zurich, to impress us and teach a little "L-O-V-E" that he had received from Dan Harlan after contributing to his recent gofundme drive. Armed with a desk bell and two contrasting decks of cards, Lar Hookway showed wonderfully interactive David Parr trick where two randomly chosen cards matched. This reminded Rudy of another trick he saw Kreskin do at Busch Gardens many years ago with two cut-to cards by two spectators from different decks that matched. He fooled several of us.

To conclude, Tom Vorjohan, freshly back from the Winter Carnival of Magic, shared some fake food (a corn dog and Eskimo pie), pulled a roll of toilet tissue from a ball cap, and did a six-way Pom-Pom stick. It was an evening filled with madness at our new meeting location.

Tom Vorjohan

RING 192, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – Victor Saint Leon Ring

Meets 2nd Weds., 7:00 p.m., at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbon's Dr., Carmichael.

JEFFREY TINKER, Secretary / E-mail: jtinker53@yahoo.com
Web site: www.magic1.org/ibm192

The March meeting theme was storytelling, and we heard quite a few. Scott Cameron kicked us off with "My Brother's Room," a mixed-up shuffle with the deck all straightened up at the end.

Scot Smith did a clever bit with "Sympathetic Matchboxes," and Pepe Puglisi did an "Impossible Twist," another mis-shuffled deck trick.

Al Skinner introduced us to Geek magic by performing the “Needle Through Arm,” complete with a little blood leaking out.

David Wright had a prediction and told us about his grandmother and showed her picture. When he had a volunteer pick a card, the picture changed to Grandma making a very unladylike gesture. This was followed by “The Card Not Selected.” When the final card was revealed, his prediction was right, and Grandma’s picture also showed the card in her hand.

Vikram Singh told about the guy who fooled him with “Color Monte,” and Dale Lorzo showed us his “Old Mother Hubbard” trick ending with a censored picture of her daughter, as bare as the cupboard. He followed up with a funny “You did what?” routine. *Jeff Tinker*

RING 193, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Len and Thalia Swinyer Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00 pm, at the Swinyer residence, 4970 Waimea Way, Holladay, UT.

MONT DUTSON, President / E-mail: montd84@comcast.net

Web site: www.utahmagic.org

Ring 193 met on March 4, 2025. We had seventeen in attendance. We discussed upcoming lectures by Joshua Jay August 15, 2025, and a lecture by Jay Scott Berry arranged by S.A.M. Assembly 300, the Ogden Magic Guild tentatively for November.

We reinstituted Ring 193’s annual “Swap ‘n Sell” the first since Covid struck. It will be held on Saturday September 13, 2025. It will be a picnic event with the Ring furnishing hot dogs and members bring potluck. We will munch and chat as we array our wares for sale, trade or give-away. It has always turned out to be a well-attended event. Our normal September 2 meeting will be cancelled that week.

Mont started off the Irish theme with the “Leprechaun Cards” where two stacks of cards set up as matching pairs are shuffled by Mont and then at Jann’s directions, and yet, “faith and begorrah,” they still remained as matched pairs. Must be the Leprechaun foolin’ around.

Eric presented a routine with a notebook of choices for Dan and Aniket thinking of a number. Aniket looked on Eric’s phone list of hundreds of movies and read the one at his chosen number position and it matched the movie selected by Dan from the spiral notebook.

The recent member to join our Ring is Dan Pincock. He decided to perform for the first time as a magician in front of an audience. He had cards dealt down into piles and had a helper make some choices to put into four piles. The top of each pile turned out to be the aces, and all the randomly dealt cards below each ace had only cards of the same color and suit as the ace

on top of the pile. Dan delivered it in a quasi-nervous “first time” routine that everyone found charming and blew them a way at the end. Great job Dan for your first ever!

Chuck stepped up with his Irish t-shirt, a green magic wand, green pot o’ gold, and a green sponge ball that turned red. Gold coins came out of the pot. Then he tapped the inside of the pot with his green wand and a small bouquet of flowers appeared in the pot. He then had Jann choose a card, shuffled the deck and set one card aside. He had Jann choose a number from one to twenty, she counted down and showed the card; it was not hers. Chuck showed the card he had set aside earlier, and it was her card.

Dan then held a couple of wooden toothpicks at his fingertips and had one jumping up and down with no visible means of support.

Aniket took the stage for some close-up card magic. He offered Javier a \$100 bet. If Javier won, he would get the \$100. After a series of deals, separate piles, and Aniket placing the \$100 bill on a pile as the bet where Javier’s chosen card resided. But he kept bringing the piles together until only one pile left with the \$100 bill on top. Aniket removed one card and set it aside and placed the bill on top of that. It turned out that was Javier’s card, and he did not get the \$100. Aniket did a second trick where the deck was spread, had helper take cards under table and cut the cards and then gave half deck to Aniket. Helper turned over top card of his deck, under the table and buried it in deck. Aniket took the other half of the deck and showed that it had a card reversed in it. It turned out to be a match! Fun and refreshments were had by all. See you next month. *Mont Dutson*

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

The rain may have been a factor. Reports back from the Last Winter Carnival of Magic were given by Bill Mullins, Patrick Brunson, and Dean Carter. After President Matt Growden asked for other reports, he did not do a card trick. Bill Warren and Derick Born did not do one either. Gavin Albright and Michael Brunson (driver) said they enjoyed the stage magic. *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

Bill Stokes opened the meeting at 7 p.m. The first order of business was the installation of our Ring President, Jay Foresta. Following the

ceremony, Jay presided over the remainder of the business meeting. The meeting was a very productive one with the normal business meeting activities and the inclusion of discussions relating to the meeting day, the installation of officers' calendar, future Ring shows, and reports from the recent conventions.

Following the business meeting portion, several members shared a variety of tricks ranging from bank night to rope effects. Chester Gault led the way with a "Bank Night" routine he created using a set of multi-colored drawers he purchased from Duane Laflin. Several spectators made choices trying to locate the money. Subsequent spectators could choose an unchosen drawer or "steal" from an already chosen drawer. In the end, Chester was the "winner" of the money.

Up next, Dale Wheeler shared a "3-Off" using a Styrofoam cup, a string, and a deck of cards. Dock Cutlip chose a card and was instructed to subtract three. Dale then pulled on the string and a message from the cup and the attached string predicted Dock's card minus three. The story line Dale shared was one with a string connecting two tin cans that many of us used as children to talk to one another.

Moving into the traditional rope effects was Jay Foresta. He showed a variety of knots, a cut and restored, as well as an escape routine.

Bill Stokes asked Dock and Jay to help him perform the "Cards Across" he purchased from David Garrard. Chester commented that it reminded him of the "Cross Thoughts" by Daryl.

Wrapping up the entertainment was Dock Cutlip with a one-dollar bill and a card with a circle cut out. The results gave the appearance that George Washington's picture seemed to "move" on the bill relative to the location of the hole on the card. This is an Eric Stevens' effect known as "Bill-usion" distributed by Mark Mason.

Before our dismissal, Dale suggested in "honor" of April being tax month that we bring money or coin tricks to perform. Of course, any tricks are fine to share.

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, contact us.

Charleen Stokes

RING 199, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – Lee & Snavelly Ring

Meets 1st Sat. of month, United Church, 820 E. Williams St., Apex, NC
DAN HARLAN, Secretary
E-mail: contact@danharlanmagic.co
Website: www.raleoghmagicclub.org

Note to readers: When I realized the date, I did not have the heart to wake up Dan Harlan to

complete his report. After a week of traveling, lecturing, and performing, I figure he needs the rest (and his notes are actually pretty fun to read). Therefore, the following report is Harlan's notes taken during the meeting, annotated (in parenthesized italics) by yours truly, SarahElla. Happy reading!

March forth! Or, actually, fourth. No-one was playing with a full deck. (They were playing with packets, due to March's Meeting Theme: What's in Your Packet?)

Kevin Burke magic chat "Gift Shows, Professor Hartz, and How He Outsmarted Alexander Herrmann" (the main takeaway? The best gift for a gift show is a...) sugar-cured ham and a barrel of flour. (The story of Professor Hartz is top tier hilarious. And Kevin's delivery was perfection, aided by Bhavish running snazzy new tech!)

Marc Seelinger (local brick and mortar magic shop owner) four queens separated R&B leaving R, named suit face up, others blank. (Oooh, ahhhhh!)

Josh (youth member extraordinaire) with four blanks, red backs, one turns green, one yellow, one blue, two blue, three blue, all blue, one still red, two red, no faces, all jokers, green, kings! (Impressive! Hint: he did not just have four blanks with red backs.)

Bob Crane, second (performance) for membership, volunteer who's not colorblind, Sean, spot cards, green, blue, orange. He predicted it in his little wallet. Josh (a second, not-colorblind volunteer) thinks of card, Bob writes, 4S your card is named BOB, (4 of Spades was indeed named BOB) in deck with names on back. (Bob is unanimously voted into Raleigh Magic

Club. His magic was wonderfully magical, but it's worth noting that members may have been swayed by his snazzy hat.)

Yasu Ishida "Mult Balls" to music. Not afraid of hard work. (First performance for membership, by our new supporting member who I'm certain has snagged the "lives farthest away" title! We are so glad to be his magic home away from home.)

Michael Bloemeke, twenty-six small packet tricks... a card trick... SarahElla shuffs, two R-bands wrapped around. Tossed and peeked three times. All three named. And reviewed. (David Regal). (Very impressive, but I have a fever, and the only prescription is "More Claws!")

Matt O for membership, deck of cards, five card poker hand, think of one, one taken out, mine is gone, yours is gone, magic wand substitute... Sharpie. Is my card gone? Bubble wand Sharpie. Card returns. (Despite his insistence on

performing not on theme, as is his right, Matt Oberlin was unanimously voted in as a full member of Raleigh Magic Club! Hooray!)

Harlan and the four kings (really five Kings, if you include Harlan, King of Magic.)

Dave Paulson first for membership. Sean with about half the cards, thought of number and card. Helluva process and he's wearing a shirt (16) where the card is! Thank the goddesses! (Congrats on a great first performance for membership!)

Sean MacBain "Eight Card Brainwave." And repeat? (You can tell Sean has been sticking to his 2025 resolutions! Smooth!)

Tony Thomas with a top hat, red spot to red ball, to spot, and cone, white ball, confetti. (Clearly needs no explanation! Bravo!)

SarahElla Harlan the Vanishing Earth. (Zombie ball masquerading as the Earth, introduced by SNAPS of course, because... Packet Trick.) With a happily snoring Dan Harlan nearby...

SarahElla Harlan

RING 210, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – Duke Stern Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. each month 7:00pm at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170

RANDY A. SMITH, Secretary

Web site: www.aamagic.org

We kicked off our meeting with our featured performer Fred Lenter. Fred did a great one-handed card trick, where a picked card disappeared from the deck and appeared in Fred's hand which also happened to be in his pocket for the entire trick. Then Fred did a variation of the "Multiplying Billiard Balls" with more of a two in the hand one in the pocket flavor. This clever routine included an original ball from mid-air appearance which was a real fooler. Finally, Fred wrapped up with an "Intuition" trick. The spectator selects one card from the deck which they feel is "not garbage." After being returned to the deck the spectator randomly throws cards from the deck into the NG (not garbage) bag until only one is left in their hands, which turns out to be the selected Not Garbage card.

Then it was on to a few bits of business. We celebrated the club's 54th birthday by not singing "Happy Birthday." It was announced that free posters commemorating our 54th year were available for all members to take home. Three guests were introduced. Brian Derringer and Russ Kennedy were club members from the 1990s, and Tom Lybrand paid a visit from Ring 22. We reminded everyone that John Luka from Ring 22 is recovering from broken ribs and his planned lecture is postponed until he is feeling better. We will be sending out an email soon with information on signing up for our Close-

Up Competition scheduled for our April meeting. Members were reminded that they can sign up to volunteer for our Magic Summer Camp and/or to be a Featured Performer or to deliver a Learning Session. We are now using SignUp Genius. Check your emails for details.

We announced that a new feature of our meetings is Show and Tell. Members who have a collection are encouraged to bring in some pieces to share. A couple of tables will be available in the back of our meeting room to display your collection. During the Jam and Socialize time at the end of our meeting stand by your table and SHOW members what you have and TELL them about it. No pre-planning is required, just show up with your collection at a meeting and we will accommodate you. This month Dan Jones brought in his collection of Harry Blackstone, Jr. memorabilia including a signed photo with a young Dan Jones.

Then we moved on to a learning session. This month's topic was Gimmicked Key Cards led by Karl Rabe. Karl provided a hand-out and a variety of premade gimmicked cards including short, double, double and short, corner short, so members could experiment with the different variations. We then walked through making a breather card. A number of great tips were offered by members. Mike Thornton shared his technique for creating a breather card. He also shared a sequence for returning the card and going right into a shuffle that controls the selected card to the top. Johnny New York suggested a very slight pencil mark on the key card's edge to aid in locating and cutting to it. Fred Lenter shared how he used a key card. Karl shared a key card he makes which he calls the Heavy Breather.

Then it was on to member performances. Lincoln Stone performed a nice "Rope and Ring" routine. He then did a selected and revealed card using the tag on his magic case. John Smith did a routine where cards are mixed, mixed, and mixed again with spectators making many decisions in how they are mixed, only to result in the four cards selected by a spectator appearing face up in a face down deck. Dan Jones did a jumbo monte style routine. Mike Bogdas did a padlock with multiple keys. Keys selected fairly by the spectators won't open the lock, but the one remaining key does. Our guest Tom Lybrand did a nice rubber band routine, where colored rubber bands switch places. Mike Thornton did a deck memorization routine where a shuffled deck is split between two spectators and Mike correctly identified the location of every card. Tara McAllister shared the "Linking Rings" routine she is working on. Karl

Rabe did a variation on Bill Abbott's "Stabbed and Shot," using a digital thermometer. Then it was time to socialize and jam until they kicked us out and locked the doors.

Karl Rabe

RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN
SCOTT STARKEY, President

I.B.M. 219 is grateful that I.B.M. 10 is hosting Gregory Wilson, so he can lecture for us all in March. The performances for the evening started with Scott handing out a prediction card to one volunteer and had another select a card. The volunteer flipped over the prediction card which had a less than stellar revelation. Scott applied a little magic fire to the prediction, and it now showed the selected card.

Benji pulled out a little brass box and revealed a stack of silver fifty cent pieces. He closed up the box and pushed a push pin through the box and coins. He revealed how he did it by showing all the coins had holes in them, that is all the fifty cent pieces changed to red Chinese coins with holes in the middle.

John had a volunteer think of a card. The volunteer quadrupled the value of the card. The volunteer dealt down that many cards and their thought of card was at that number! John performed another effect, and he began by pulling out two prediction cards. He said the predictions will get him close to the randomly thought of card. The thought of card was named and found in the pack. It was next to the mates of the original prediction cards.

Benji shared the latest piece of smart technology he purchased, a smart plunger. The plunger picked up one card at a time, but once powered on it could pick up multiple cards at once. A volunteer named a number, and the plunger picked up exactly that many cards from the deck! A card was selected and cut into the pack. Benji stuck the plunger down and cut to the card. Another card was selected and lost in the pack. The volunteer then used the plunger and cut exactly to their card!

Ben Milanowski

RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS – Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) For location call Chris at (217) 431-479
KEN BARHAM, Secretary
2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616
E-mail: Kebram@aol.com

The meeting opened with discussion of online meetings and workshops offered by the national organizations. This was followed by dues, \$20.00, and elections. Your new and improved officer slate is as follows: President – Chris

Bontjes, Vice President – Mark Carlon, Treasurer – Dennis Reed, and Secretary – Ken Barham. May they be as successful and effective as last year's slate.

The Central IL Magic Get-Together is coming up fast. For information or to register online go here: <https://cimagic.weebly.com/cimgtg.html#/>. You can also sign up for a box lunch (\$15.00) when you register. This year's GTG will be held at the Bremer Conference Center at Danville Area Community College in Danville, IL on Saturday May 33d. There will be a Friday Night Workshop on May 2. Info to follow.

Gregory Wilson will be lecturing at the Hoogland Center in Springfield, IL at 7:00 p.m. You really can't go wrong with a Gregory Wilson lecture. CIMA will be hosting a lecture by Trevor Duffy on Thursday, September 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Home of Chris Bontjes. The price is \$20.00, and it should be a great lecture.

Dave Wernick opened the magic with a review of a new "Coin in the Bottle" he recently purchased. He rated it as okay. Chris Bontjes performed "Symbol Minded," a cool mentalism trick if you haven't seen it. Bill Pierce showed us his "Ultimate Match." Hesham Hassan stepped up with "Two Card Monte" and a discussion of "Anniversary Waltz." He also brought in some really good hot tea. He has been bringing the tea regularly and it is appreciated by all. Speaking of that, Julie Bontjes sends homemade snacks with Chris every month and we are all very grateful to her as well. Back to the magic, Essen Hu joined us over Zoom and showed us a false shuffle he has been working on. Well, he claimed it was a false shuffle, but it looked legit to me.

The next meeting is Wed March 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army in Champaign, IL. Come early and meet us at Manzella's Italian Patio for dinner or just to hang out. I try to get there around 5:00. The topic for the next meeting will be Card Tricks. See ya at the meeting!

Ken Barham

RING 243, CANTON, OHIO – Roth-Mills Ring

Meets the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at Mama Guzzardi's Italian Restaurant (temporary site) 1107 N. Main St. North Canton, Ohio 44720

RANDY WEIDENHAMER, Secretary / (330) 933-8787
E-Mail: randy.weidenhamer@sbcglobal.net

Meeting was held at the North Canton Church of Christ on the 26th of February 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Seventeen members and two guests were present. Meeting was called to order by Brent Schneider, President. No minutes from the previous meeting were read by Randy Weidenhamer, Secretary, as they were published in the monthly newsletter for all members to

view. Treasurer's report was read by Mike Salvino, Treasurer. All reports were approved as read.

The business meeting started off with a wrap-up of our 2025 magic auction. It once again was a huge success and fundraiser for our club. Some solutions to our magic library size problem were offered. We also discussed the possibility of having a learning night by watching one of our videos from our library.

This ended the business portion of the meeting, and everyone readied themselves for the magical part of the evening. There was no member magic this month due to a magic demo by our good friend, Mark Miller. Mark Miller is the owner of Perfect Occasions Costumes and Magic. He has two locations, Middlefield, Ohio and Geneva on the Lake Ohio. They stock over 5000 costumes and can get you just about anything in the line of magic. Mark is just about the last brick and mortar magic store in the country. Mark, a great close-up magician in his own right, does a wonderful job demonstrating his magic and I highly recommend his dealer demo if you are looking for something different for your monthly meetings. Also Mark always has the latest magic to demo and not stuff you have seen for the last twenty years. So why not support your magic shops? This ended the meeting, let's plan on doing it again next month.

Randy Weidenhamer

RING 250, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO - Presto-Digitators

Meets 2nd Sat. of month at 11:00 a.m. at Oregano's Restaurant, 4235 S. College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80525

LEW WYMISSNER, President / Lewiswymisner@comcast.net
(970) 484-7014 / Web site: www.prestodigitators.com

The February meeting of the combined I.B.M. Ring 250/The Presto-Digitators and S.A.M. Assembly 292 attracted over a dozen attendees. Once again, some of the "old" Prestos came out to the meeting (I.B.M. 250 had not met at all during the pandemic and until these combined meetings in Fort Collins, Colorado began at Oregano's Restaurant's back room a few months ago.)

After some time to fraternize among those attending and to order and eat lunch, Tim (Tim Foolery) Pendergast and Doug Zimmerman (one of the Presto members since the inception of Ring 250) co-chaired the meeting (in the absence of our S.A.M. 292 President Neil Holstein (who was vacationing in New Zealand)).

Tim's Teach-in was Henry Evans' "Perfect Triumph" (with a modification of his own). This effect appeared in *The Linking Ring* of April 2009/Vol. 89, No. 4. Doug's Teach-in was a sim-

ple and easy "Cut and Restored Rope" routine," supplying lengths of magicians' rope to each attendee, and a reference where to buy such rope, as well as a reference of where to acquire a great pair of inexpensive rope scissors purchasable from Amazon (used by E.M.T.s).

Performance Time: Gary Hickox performed a very funny effect, "Stretching a Dollar," with the kicker of a miniature wallet. Cameo Heitzman performed a prediction effect using poker chips. Tim performed David Parr's "Proof Positive." Rick Butler performed a version of "The Wizard's Manual" using a *Harry Potter* book. Doug performed the "\$5 to \$1 Transpo," but was unsure of the originator. He then performed Richard Sanders' "Extreme Burn 2.0-Locked and Loaded," followed by Nick Brown's "Wonder Bill." Newcomer to magic and to our meetings, Jacob Lapp, closed out the session performing the "Coloring Book."

Lew Wymisner

RING 254, HIGHLAND, CALIFORNIA - the Karrell Fox/Paul Shartel Ring

Meets 2nd Tue. each month, 7:30 to 9:30, Highland Senior Cntr. 3102 E. Highland Ave., Highland, CA

STEPHEN HEALTON, Secretary / (951) 570-7266

E-mail: healtoncell@gmail.com

Our February 2025 meeting began with our teaching time. This month Chaz showed the members the one-handed rope knot. He also discussed the questions to ask audience members. What are your names? Where are you from? And what do you do? Then you can play off that information.

Since our president was absent, our V.P. Jaren conducted the business meeting. He brought up that there were some openings for the club's positions. If you have a show coming up, as soon as you can, let Chazz know so he can put it in the newsletter. The club needs to plan a Magic Show for the Senior Center, because they have helped the club with the low rent, and one performance a year at the Senior Center.

Our resident Magic Castle Junior, Julie will perform for the Castle Juniors and will video it.

Then there were performances: Jarden did his sponge hearts, Julie did a bunch of butterflies and kaleidoscope, and her Disney routine were an audience member held onto a box, then another audience member picks a card that has a character from Disney. Then when a box is opened by the volunteer who has been holding on to it, a 3D model of the character from the card is revealed in the box when the volunteer opens it.

Then Pete did a silent act, which was recorded, where he produced many things, then his shirt magically changed and had a picture of

him and his girlfriend, who is in Japan, printed on the shirt. The video will be sent to her.

We had a visitor, Belle, that is also a member, and just moved into the area and will start coming to our meetings. For the members of Ring 254 who attended, it was quite an exciting and educational evening.

After the meeting Charles performed a smart bit of magic, "Copy Cat" by David Parr, the one that fooled Penn and Teller. *Steve Heaton*

RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The "Magic Ian" Ring

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, Perkins Restaurant, 27811 US Hwy 27,

Leesburg, FL 34748

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: www.Ring 258.com

The meeting was led by Vice President Andy Rohweder as President David Lyons was away performing.

Under Old Business we were going to discuss additional information on the cable TV network that would like to use our videos on their network. But Les Morgenstein was away caring for his daughter who had recent surgery. The secretary displayed the plaque which has been created to make Past President Jim Moody an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Ring.

Under New Business Sandy Schwartz suggested the purchase of a TV camera and screen to be used when close-up magic is being performed or taught. To be discussed further at a later date due to the logistics of storing the equipment. Noting that many of our members are getting up in age the suggestion was made to keep instructions with your props so that in case of your demise your magic can move along to other magicians. Jim Luscutoff has his equipment in a series of large totes with instructions and videos. Another suggestion was made to have name tags created for the meetings, similar to those being used by The Villages Magic Club.

The after-meeting theme was "Rope, No String, No Ribbon, Rope." Nine members performed tonight: Andy Rohweder led off with "Ring off Rope" and "Silk Melting Off Rope." Regina Schiraldi showed "Rope to Square Knot." Kim Young made a coffee cup handle escape from a Rope. April Malara did "Stiff Rope." Rick Jaworski and Jim Luscutoff performed Dueling Professors Nightmares. David Ginsburg took Knots Off. Roger Reid magished "Colored Linking Ropes," "The Ropes are Tide," and ropes through Kathy Drake! George Drake made a wooden ball come off a rope, with some difficulty. And finally, a large hex nut was made to penetrate a rope.

After the performances Andy Rohweder asked for critique on a card routine he has been working on. Card Master Allen Klein took the

lead on this and made several valuable suggestions. Next month's theme is Silks. *Roger Reid*

RING 273, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA - Oliver Ring

Meets 3rd Thur., 7:30pm at the Burns Club

PETER FOSTER, Secretary

Email: pfoster@pcug.au

Good meeting this month, with the five of us: Richard Hunt, Leonil Pepingco, Simon Stacker, Chris Donohue, and me. The theme for the meeting was Pens.

I started off with a puzzle. This was a box that contained a simple jigsaw with six large wooden pieces. They were put together to create the back of a playing card, the completed puzzle looking like a deck of cards. It was replaced in the box, then the box was opened again to show that the puzzle had transformed into a deck of cards. Very nice. This was "Jigsaw Deck" by David Regal.

Simon now did some rubber band magic, with rubber bands penetrating fingers, hands, and wrists. He showed us how some were done, and we had a bit of fun with them. This was "Dyno" by Joe Rindfleisch.

I followed with a card trick, where two spectators each selected and signed cards. Some nice effects followed, culminating in the selections fusing into a single card. This was Doc Eason's handling of "Anniversary Waltz" by Christopher Carter.

Leo continued with another card trick, where a card was selected and lost in the deck. The spectator was given a Sharpie to use as a wand. After some failed attempts to find their card, the spectator then checked the Sharpie they were holding. They removed the cap and unrolled the barrel to find it was actually their card! Very unexpected, and finally a trick that followed the theme for the meeting. This was "Look Sharp" by Wayne Goodman.

Richard now did another pen trick, this one using four mini-Sharpies of different colours. With the magician's back turned, a spectator chose one of the Sharpies and wrote in that colour on the back of a coaster. The magician then divined which colour was used. Very nice. Heck, the mini-Sharpies on their own already looked cute, which immediately attracted interest. This was "PenUltimate" by Wayne Dobson.

I continued with another pen trick. I took a Sharpie and showed that, by rubbing it, I could generate enough heat to soften the plastic. After a few twists and turns, the Sharpie had been twisted into a balloon dog! Very cute, turning a Sharpie into a shar pei. This was "Twister" by Danny Weiser. I then returned to the cards for the world's easiest four ace trick. The four aces were placed on the table and each covered with

three indifferent cards. After a bit of gathering and dealing, including one sneaky non move, the aces got together. This was "Simplicity Four Ace Trick" by Stewart James.

Chris got us back to the pens with a penetration effect. This used a card with a hole near one end. A pen was pushed partway through the hole. The pen was then impossibly moved to the other end of the card. The pen was then removed, showing that the hole had moved. This was "Wandering Hole" by Tenyo.

I followed with a card trick that used a pen in an unusual manner. This was a treasure hunt, where a card was selected to act as the treasure and the shuffled deck was a map. For a compass a pen was used, which was spun by a spectator to determine the next direction. After several steps a card was reached, the selection. This was "Buried Treasure" by Allan Kronzek.

Chris then did a mini guillotine, the Finger Chopper. But the theme gave him an excuse to do the safe version, using a pen instead of his finger.

I finished the evening with a quick card trick. The magician and spectator each thought of a card, the magician writing his down. The magician then named the spectator's card. "The name of your card is... Andy." The spectator then named their card, and it was removed from the deck. The cards were then shown to have names written on the backs, and the spectator's card was indeed Andy. But then the spectator tried naming the magician's card. The spectator said "Jack." The card with that name on the back was shown and it matched what the magician had written. This was "Phil Plus 2" by Trevor Duffy.

Next meeting is on 20 March. The theme is Paper. So perhaps it is time to dig up your Gene Anderson book.

Peter Foster

RING 287, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA – Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

3rd Thu., each month 6:45 pm at the Bayview Senior Center

Web site: gulfcoastmagiciansguild.com

ZACHARY READY, Secretary / (865) 719-8357

E-mail: deusso88@gmail.com

If you missed this meeting, you indeed missed a lot! We had nineteen members and one guest present for our 20th Anniversary Meeting. We kicked the meeting off with a lengthy business meeting, which lasted around four minutes. We discussed the possibility of hosting the Dan Stapleton lecture later next month, and decided to have it on Tuesday, February 18th at Sonny's. We talked about the Michael Ammar lecture on Saturday, February 1st, our February meeting, our Annual Awards Presentations, our goals for 2025, with getting at least five new members, and returning to the VA Nursing Home in Bay

Minette to do a show and do some close-up magic for the vets there. Then we played, "What is it and why do you want it?" We show an odd item or part of a trick, and members explain to us what it is and why they want it. Bruce then did a review of two books, being *Dealing with Magic* and the *Magical Life of Marshall Brodien*. Both books are highly recommended. Then we had our monthly raffle and door prizes. Then we took a longer than normal break, to have cake, coffee, and to take a few photos to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the GCMG.

During the break our VP Rob Vinson donated a big box of magic to the club, to be used for raffle prizes. Thank you, Rob! Then John Sr. offered to make engraved, plastic tags for our members. Of course, graciously accepted his offer. John Sr. also donated six wooden boxes, the size to hold a deck of cards, each etched with a different magic related design that we will use as raffle prizes. Thank you, John Sr.!

After the break, Bruce did a presentation about the history of our club, its ups and downs, its highlights and accomplishments. Beau suggested that it be written up and shared with all members. Then Bruce and Mark each gave a teach in. Bruce showed us a mind reading effect he has done for years with his wife. Mark showed us a great impromptu book test.

Magic was next and the theme was mentalism. The following members performed: Beau, Zach, Troy, Rob, Bruce, Perry, Ben, and Uwe. Everyone did wonderful performances. Then we moved on to any other magic you would like to perform. Those performing were Bart, Phil, Bruce, Beau, Bill, and Nathan.

By all accounts our February meeting was great, with twenty-one members and guests present. In our announcements segment, we discussed the possibility of presenting a public show to assist the victims of the wildfires in Los Angeles. Bart has been working on getting us a location with the Pensacola Little Theater a strong possibility. Thanks to Bart for all his time and effort in finding the location. We did determine, should we present this show, we would present the proceeds to the Salvation Army, to be distributed as they see fit.

I.B.M. Executive Committee Member Jeffery Sobel presented us with a Certificate of Recognition. We also learned Big Billy Countryman is in the hospital and will be undergoing surgery. We all wish Billy the very best. Next up, we distributed the props for another creative magic contest. The props were "Finger Traps" or "Chinese Finger Cuffs" or whatever they are called. We had four different colored ones, and you could take as many as you wanted.

Then it was time for our annual service awards presentations. For 2024, we set a record number of awards this year, as we had so many members getting the needed points to earn the service award. Congratulations to all!

After a short break, it was time for the evening's entertainment. Our special guest entertainer was Bruce! So, for about twenty minutes or so, he shared some of his favorite practical jokes, gags, and proposition bets.

To wrap up the meeting, it was time for magic. Those performing were Perry, Rob, Nathan, John Sr., John Jr., Beau, Zach, Greg, Troy, Bill, and Bruce. Troy set up his camera again and had it fed into the TV monitor, so everyone in the room could see those members doing close-up, and it worked great! *Zachary Ready*

RING 289, MACON, GEORGIA – Mike Fuller Ring

Meets 1st Tue. each month at 6:00 p.m., Fresh Air BBQ on Riverside Dr., Macon

DANNY WATSON, President / (478) 338-5572

Web site: www.angelfire.com/magic2/maconmagic

In attendance: Danny Watson, Mike and Linda Fuller, Tony Zelonis, John and Rhonda Donahue, Glen Heald, Reya Solomon, Ronald and Angie Livingston. After dinner at some of the finest B-B-Q in Macon, Georgia our meeting began with some discussion on this world's events, and personal stuff we began with our monthly riddle sheet created and presented by our President Danny Watson to which we all take turns trying to solve them, usually five or six each month, challenging to say the least.

The theme for our March meeting in honor of St. Patrick's Day was anything Irish, gold or green. With the meeting place all decorated with shamrock tablecloths, Irish flags and shamrocks all over the place, and a green pistachio cake baked by our very own Danny Watson. Was so good.

And now for the magic, first up was Danny Watson with his version of the Imp Bottle and with the help of his little invisible helper, Sunshine and his music box, there was magic with a rope placed in the bottle but when turned over the rope didn't fall out and then Danny grabbed a hold of the rope and hanged it on the right side up with the bottle hanging in midair and the bottle defying gravity. Looked good.

Next was Tony Zelonis with the old favorite, "The Missing Leprechaun" and with the help of Angie Livingston she counted fifteen leprechauns, and the cards were mixed and upon laying them down, Angie now counts again and counts fourteen as one of the leprechauns has disappeared. Amazing, one of my favorites.

Mike Fuller is up with his Irish green chain and with his help from Angie Livingston per-

formed for us "The Endless Chain," formed in the figure eight, Angie was to put her finger in one side or the other and when Mike pulled the chain she would win if the chain grabbed her finger. Time after time, the chain didn't grab, and she would lose. Finally, she got it right. We now have a winner. Great effect.

Next up was John Donahue with his routine done to Irish music of Albert Goshman's "Playing Card Monte" on a sheet of newspaper where four cards in different locations eventually landed under a piece of newspaper all together. Looked great. Next, he demonstrated if Tony Zelonis was psychic as he mixed up the thirteen values of playing cards, ace through king and for Tony to say whether to deal a card down or mix the next two down all the way to the end and at the finish spreading the cards and they were all in order. Tony Zelonis, our psychic magician.

Ronald Livingston was on deck and with the help from Rhonda Donahue had her pick a card, mix it back in and shuffle. Placed the deck in a bag, a magical gesture the deck was removed, and Rhonda went through the deck looking for the card she selected and lo and behold it was gone. Low and behold the card was now in Ronald's top vest pocket. Looked great Ronald.

Danny Watson finished off the night with the help of Mike Fuller and Linda Fuller as he used all the face cards and had Linda remember her one of the cards in the first six shown. Gave her the six cards to hold. Next, he gave Mike the other six cards to hang on to. With the wave of the hand and voila, Linda now counted her cards she only had five cards, Mike had seven cards, and the card Linda had in her mind from the first six, transported into the group of cards that Mike was now holding. Great job Danny.

Our theme for our April 1 (April Fool's Day) meeting will be Sucker Magic. If you're in the area, stop in, would love to see ya. Until then,

John Donahue

RING 291, PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA – Palm Springs Magic Club

Meets first and third Tuesday at the Portola Community Center in Palm Desert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

HENRY JUAREZ, Secretary / E-mail: henryjuarez1@hotmail.com

Web site: www.palmspringsmagicclub.com

Our first meeting of the month explored "Magic for your Valentine!" To underscore the theme, Don Campbell led off with red and white silks that merged into a single white silk with a red heart. Next was Dick Dumais who displayed four cards with "couples" names. He cut them in half and mixed them up, and the pairs of cards returned to the original couples. Woody Aragon's Love Ritual was enjoyed by all with

Steve Temkin's interactive routine. Steve has modified this trick with couples where they make their own cards with words that describe what they love about their partner.

Eugene Ball was up next and did a routine called "Knock 'em Dead" by Peter Nardi, where the spectator deals from a face up deck, stopping whenever he wants. On the card box, Eugene had a prediction that was the exact card where the spectator stopped. David Prekeges followed with a version of "ACAAN," where a spectator chose any number from one to fifty-two, and the magician correctly predicted which card was at that location in the deck. Then Garnet Garven then performed a routine based on Martin Gardner's "Power of Nine" work. A spectator picked a teenage-year number, and out of all the valentines the magician had, only the spectator's numbered one was filled out; the rest were blank.

Our second meeting of the month tried to answer a question; can a group of magicians get through a whole evening without doing a card trick? The answer was yes, for the most part. To drive home the meeting's theme, Warren Morse led off by making a deck of cards vanish. Then he threaded a needle, asked two spectators to hold the ends of the thread, covered the needle with a cloth and then magically removed the needle from the thread. The effect was Tannen's "Wonder Needle."

David Prekeges had three objects, a quarter, a penny, and a poker chip. The spectator chose which one went in the bag, and the other two were held by the spectator and the magician. The magician then read his prediction which was exactly correct. Steve Temkin was next with "Out of this Womb," his version of Out of this World. He showed a series of ultrasound pictures to a spectator, asking them to identify which ones they thought were female. The cards were put into separate piles accordingly, and all the spectator's guesses were correct. Next, Dick Dumais asked a spectator to place a skull-shaped die into a small box with any number facing up and correctly predicted which number they chose. Finally, Garnet Garven tried to imitate Yuri Geller by bending a large spoon, but somehow the spoon turned into a fork!

David Prekeges

RING 303, FT. MYERS, FLORIDA – Ron Murphy / Dan Tong Ring

Meets 4th Tue from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Golden Gate Post 7721 located at 800 Neff's Way, Naples, FL 34119
DAVID LOUNSBURY, Secretary
E-mail: chimeramagic@concast.net.

On Tuesday February 28, following a short Ring business meeting led by Ben Salinas, Ring

President, our annual magic flea market and magic auction was held at VFW Post 7721. Approximately forty members and guests were in attendance. There were a number of bargains for the buyers of magic which was new to them. Also, the members who had flea market tables and items for sale in the auction made out well by passing on items of magic they brought. Quite a bit of card and coin magic were exchanged. There were a number of vintage magic books available including a book signed by Mark Wilson. Collapsible tables, items from Tenyo going back ten years, larger tabletop devices, some new magic inventions, and a number of donated items with the proceeds going to the club were available.

A traditional get together was held by ten diehard members at a local restaurant following the flea market and auction for wings and a beer. There was a lot of fun to be had by the participants and guests. Of special note is that the Ring 303 is partnered with the Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.) Assembly 150, under the banner of the Southwest Florida Magicians Association (swflmagicians.com). If you are interested in magic, please call or email us. Also, you may drop in anytime to attend our monthly live or Zoom meetings.

David Lounsbury

RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:00 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042
LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary
4515 Northglen Court, Englewood, OH 45322 / (937) 836-4359
E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

President James Butler officially welcomed all thirteen of us. For business, we checked in on what the other local Rings are or will be doing. Ring 71 will have a lecture by Gregory Wilson on March 20th at 6:30 p.m. and Henry Evans' lecture April 2. Ring 5 will have a lecture April 21. Another Darn Magic Convention will be April 3-5 in Covington, Kentucky (just across the river from Cincinnati). March is Ring 324's Annual White Elephant Sale. The most unusual item (ever in our history!) appeared at this month's sale. Free Covid kits brought (donated) by Bill West. We discussed our Ring 324 Public Magic Show. Shawn Gray brought posters to be distributed. Larry Taylor reported that he had been in contact with Past International President Chuck Arkin for ideas and help. Jake Lindsey volunteered to mention the show on radio and television appearances he has booked. We discussed some physical logistics of having the show at Tytus. We broke for refreshments of pizza brought by Shawn Gray. Thank you, Shawn.

Time for magic! Ron Frank opened with

"Excalibur" using a large sword shaped letter opener, a pedestal and a metal ring. Next, he showed us "Pivot (Rising Card Trick)." The "Pivot" gimmick is super quiet, a big plus in rising card gimmicks! Larry Taylor took center stage with a very smooth coin, Okito Box, and playing card manipulation. Next, he did a "Transposing Four Aces" routine. tRick Gaffney showed us, but did not perform, an "Any Card At Any Number" trick that he bought from Tri-State Magic Shop. Next, Bill West and volunteer Jake Lindsey showed us "Prefiguration" in which all four eights move to the top of four piles. Ralph Steinlage gave us three card tricks: (1) "Verbal Magic" by Juan Tamariz (a classic); (2) "Automatic Placement" from a YouTube video that he had studied; and (3) "The Twelve (or 16) Card Trick." To finish the meeting, James Butler performed a smooth "Card to Pocket" routine.

(After the meeting, the Ring Magic Show leadership team decided that there was not enough interest from the membership to have the show and cancelled it.)

So, if you are ever in Middletown, Ohio the first Friday of the month, please stop by and join us. From Ring 324 – The Friendliest Ring Around.

Larry Hollinger

RING 325, BRANSON, MISSOURI – The Tri-Lakes Tricksters

Meets 3rd Sat. of the month atl's Magic & Joke Shop, 6:00pm, 124 South Business 65, Branson, MO
DR. CHRISTOPHER BECK, President
E-mail: beckibmring325@gmail.com

Members present included Gary, Mary, Monica, Yak, Thom, Jordan, KJ, Mark, Jim and Anthony and visitor Tony Sherwood. At 6 p.m. President Jim Holmes called the meeting to order. He was reminded that Mary will not be in attendance in March and April for sure, maybe longer. Jordan agreed to cover the meeting minutes during the time she is gone. Her knee surgery is scheduled for Mach 5.

The April 5 lecture at 6 p.m. here at It's Magic by Gregory Wilson was mentioned. All were invited to attend. The upcoming Cavalcade of Magic was discussed. A discussion on the bylaws was held. A brief discussing was held regarding "getting the word out" regarding the club and meetings. Anthony mentioned a newspaper notice. Jim indicated that Godfather's Pizza had changed hands, so our previous connection with them and some table magic came to an end. Jim has several ideas for promoting the club and expects to connect with the new owners in the future to see if we can possibly try the table magic project again. KJ said she would enjoy participating depending on the days of the

week. Jim is also working out some ideas regarding promoting the club locally. Next meeting is March 15th 6 p.m. at It's Magic. Theme can be St. Paddy's Day or something to "Keep it Green!" Membership cards are in process. Jim had to move residence, and his belongings are in a bit of a muddle right now. He's working to get all the necessary items organized and into process.

Our guest, Tony Sherwood, stepped up first, reprising an effect he hadn't done since he was ten years old. Mark Moody of Silver Dollar Fame performed. K.J. Phelps was up next, and Tony Sherwood assisted her. Yak Williams next graced the stage with two brass containers, one topaz and the other green. Anthony Mullins assisted. Next up was Anthony Mullins with his "Bucket O Fun" and a reference to the Chinese Foo Can. Pouring some rice into the container he put plate on top. He then flipped the container upside down onto the plate. Removing the container, he revealed an apple on the plate. Thom Taylor, a.k.a. Nicholas Nickleby Instkeoff and his Penetrating Oil next graced the stage. Displaying a cup with a lemon drop in a bag and using penetrating oil, the lemon drop disappeared. The lemon drop was then found in his hand. Again using penetrating oil the lemon drop disappeared from his hand and was found in the bag. Next applying more penetrating oil, the lemon drop is now found in his pocket. Dropping the cup onto the bag, the invisible lemon drop emerged from the bag as a mini basketball!

Yak Williams returned with a piece of rope and a small flower vase or "Urn" (Prayer Vase). He threaded the end of the rope into the vase and successfully pulled it out. He then ran the rope over his "crystal" and threaded the end of the rope into the urn again and was unable to remove the rope. After "un-charging" the crystal and passing it over the rope, it successfully came out of the urn. As a finale, Yak also displayed his "Peppermint Knot." Staring with a standard Boy Scout Square Knot, he magically removed the knot from the rope, then the knot hopped back into the center of the rope. Another special effect available at your "favorite" magic store as "Knot So Fast."

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/

Hello everyone! The March report is bought to you by Paul McTaggart. Thank you, Paul!

Tonight was chili night, and the members

bought the fixin's, the chili was a big hit.

The meeting started with announcements, door prizes, and old and new business. Ray Hardee started things off with a mental rope trick where a chosen color cord was tied to a sword. He dazzled with his version of "Ring Flight." Eric Hall creates his own props, and he has made a gimmick to use in a water scene. Eric made a Niffen Tube out of Monster drink bottles and a mailing tube. Eric is very clever. Charles Graham presented the "Siberian Chain Escape." After being chained, Charles put his manacled hands in a paper bag and escaped the chains.

Gerry Thompson recommended a gag with a squirt gun. Dan Welsh showed some diabolical card and coin magic using some beautiful wooden TCC props. Paul McTaggart performed a Jeff McBride inspired routine floating a crystal star and using a Buddha Screen to produce a very long colorful streamer. He followed that by producing three parasols and a full-size bird cage. Well done, Paul! Greg Holt was next with a comedy price tag routine where the security device was attached to the lining of his coat with the predicted price tag. Thaddeus Plezia wrapped the meeting producing the thought-of queen.

It sounds like I missed a good one. If you are in the Myrtle Beach area the first Thursday of the month, please join us. *Dale Rabon*

RING 371, REYKJAVIK, ICELAND – The Magicians' Guild of Iceland

Meets Last Wed., at 19:30 except June, July, and December.

GUNNAR M. ANDRESSON, Secretary

E-mail: toframenn@toframenn.is / Website: www.toframenn.is

I.B.M. Ring 371 held an Annual General Meeting at the end of January. The same board was re-elected and Reverend Peter Porsteinsson, the host for our AGM, offered cream pies and cakes on the occasion. All reports were approved unanimously and without discussion. We asked Einar Aron Fjalarsson to become the Ring's Social Media guru, getting some exposure on TikTok mainly to let people know that the Ring exists. The members agreed to put more emphasis on the magic during meetings and try to speed through the formalities, if possible. It was also agreed unanimously to have some representatives on Reykjavik Culture Night in late August and try to promote magic and the Ring as much as we possibly can.

The February meeting was held towards the end of February and to begin with, we watched a short film (available on streaming services) called *Gambler's Ballad: The Legend of Johnny Thompson*. It was an excellent film and very informative and fun. Then we dove into some

magic and enjoyed showing, watching and participating in card, coin, and dice magic of all sorts.

If you are traveling to Iceland or stopping by on your way either from the U.S.A. to Europe or from Europe to the U.S.A., please contact us for information and we would love to meet you and share some magic, even organise some lectures.

Gunnar Magnús Andrësson

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

January was the first meeting with our new board in place. Vice President Rick Morein and other board members kicked off the meeting with a quick update on the last board meeting. Rick also shared some exciting news about big events coming in 2026. Stay tuned!

The theme of the meeting was "Stage Magic" and Dr. Miner started us off with a "Cut and Restored Rope" routine with kicker ending where the scissors linked onto the rope! Next up, Kevin Koehne performed a "Six Card Repeat," based on Pop Haydn's routine. Marvin Roth then performed a "Three Card Monte" with five giant cards! Marv raffled off a set of the cards and the lucky winner was Monty Witt. Tal Kuhn then performed a very clever John Bannon card routine "No, No..., Maybe, Yes!" that can even be performed by a spectator over Zoom. Rick Morein showed us a piece that he considers the best card trick to perform for a large audience, David Hoy's "Tossed Out Deck." Some of us had not seen the routine previously, and it blew us away.

President Daryl Rogers joined us a little late because he had a gig that night. He introduced some changes to our Ring meeting that he'd like to implement this year. One of the changes includes a front table at the beginning of meetings, where there is a short hands-on project led by one of our members, and at the end of the meeting a back table where an individual can share thoughts on a particular subject. Of course, in between there will be some great magic! He also announced that Mike Desotell is going to be co-administering our social network and website with Dr. Miner. Mike has been active on our Facebook site, and we look forward to him adding more value across all of our socials. Daryl is also exploring ways to collaborate with other Wisconsin Rings for sharing magic, swap meets, etc. He then performed a work in progress using a magical self-lighting light bulb.

Monty Witt, not only a great magician, but an

experienced theatre director, gave us five mistakes that many magicians make on stage and how to fix them; the first one being “don’t step on your applause!” To see the full list, you may want to join our private Facebook page.

Finally, Daryl presented a Certificate of Membership to Janet Janquart, fiancée of Ring 398 member Mike Desotell. Janet was bestowed this honorary membership for her dedication in assisting Mike in getting to our meetings. She is a very welcome addition to our Ring!

Kevin Koehne

RING 401, BARCELONA, SPAIN

2nd Thur., 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. C/Santa elulalia 21, Pipa club, Barcelona, Spain

HECTOR VERIKAS (a.k.a. Brando), President

February 6, 2025, 7 p.m. – Auction of magic products coordinated by Magic Andreu.

Free entry. February 20, 7 p.m. – Unpublished Conference with Henry Evans, *Behind the Effect*.

This conference focuses on everything that happens around an effect, that which is not seen, but is perceived, felt, and that is so important to achieve a good result in our magic with the public.

Some of the concepts we are going to see: timing in technique; timing of the presentation; the magical power of the word; what we say and how we say it; oratory techniques that justify and accompany the effect put into action. Each of the concepts will be put into practice through the effects demonstration. For card magic lovers, there will be a section of high-impact effects that can be performed with an easy set up, and in some cases without any set up. February 26, 6:00 p.m. – Magic Gala.

Thursday, March 6 - 7:00 p.m. – Mentalism Conference at I.B.M. Ring 401 Barcelona. At I.B.M. Ring 401 we are pleased to welcome Larry, a reference in international mentalism,

for a unique conference where he will share his vision and experience in the art of mentalism and parlor magic. Conference content: Impromptu mentalism – effects without preparation, ready to impact at any moment; living room mentalism – amazing experiences for small audiences; Close-up mentalism – shocking proposals in an intimate format; scene mentalism – great effects for large audiences; living room magic – magical moments with a special connection with the audience.

About Larry: With more than twenty-five years of experience, Larry has traveled to fifty countries and more than one hundred cities, presenting his magic, humor, and mentalism show. He has been recognized with multiple international awards, including the 2022 FISM World Mentalism Award in Quebec, Canada, and the 1st Prize of the 2017 Spanish National Championship in Mentalism. In addition, he has participated in the most prestigious magic conventions and festivals in the world, establishing himself as one of the most influential Spanish-speaking Mentalists. A unique opportunity to learn from a true master of mentalism. Don’t miss it!

March 8: Ring Zaragoza exchange gala – four magicians who are members of Ring 401 Barcelona will hold a gala at the I.B.M. Ring 402 Zaragoza headquarters. March 20: Share your secrets – the partners of I.B.M. Ring 401 Barcelona meet to share techniques, secrets, passes, etc. from where we will make a selection for the preparation of the book *The magic of I.B.M. Barcelona*. March 30: Gala at Sala dels contes – gala for four magicians who are members of I.B.M. Barcelona 401 to raise funds for the association. A magical hug and let it be Magic!

Julian Casamayor

SUBMITTING RING EVENTS

All articles about special activities in your Ring – shows, banquets, public service projects, etc. – should be submitted to Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org.

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

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

NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

MAY 2025 29 NEW MEMBERS

MAHAN, MICHAEL, Mesa, AZ
TAYLOR, OZZY, Chandler, AZ
GILLESPIE, LARRIAN, Los Angeles, CA
HERRERA, ABEL, Pasadena, CA
MAHAN, RICK, Sacramento, CA
ROSELLEN, JONATHAN, San Pedro, CA
STAVE, MIKE, La Habra Heights, CA
VALOFF, JACOB, Mission Viejo, CA
WOLFF, PETER, Pasadena, CA
NOLAN, JOHN, Washington, DC
SO, JUSTIN, Decatur, GA
KNIGHT, LANTHONY, Kokomo, IN
MCCLAIN, CURTIS, Saint Louis, MO
LEIVA, DIOGENIS, New York, NY
KING, JACK, Oakwood, OH
RYHERD, STEVE, Englewood, OH
V.K. ARAVIND, Sunbury, OH
WESTENHOFER, EMMAHRAE, Ardmore, OK
BROWN, MIKE, Hendersonville, TN
DERUITER, ANDREW, Carrollton, TX

FRATTO, JOSEPH, San Antonio, TX
GINES, ERWIN, Boerne, TX
LOVE, DYLAN, Austin, TX
WESTEEN, CALEB, Fort Worth, TX
KLAIBER, MIKE, Bedford, VA
GEGARE, MICHAEL, Green Bay, WI
CHAPMAN, CHRIS, Middle Sackville, Canada
BROWN, LUCY, Langley Mill, Nottinghamshire,
United Kingdom
NASH, STEVEN, Hertford, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

10 REINSTATEMENTS

MORLEY II, CEDRIC, Cave City, AR
KOVAROVIC, JOHN, San Diego, CA
SMITH, NATHAN, Windsor, CO
STARUSTA, LEON, West Palm Beach, FL
SHAWVER, N. TRIP, Wichita, KS
CHOU, KEVIN, Brooklyn, NY
MORGAN, BRAD, Middletown, OH
ROBBINS, JODY, San Antonio, TX
COLE, JOE, Martinsburg, WV

I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

(Continued from page 55)

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 55.**

Bob Lewis was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on June 9, 1909. His father was a lawyer and decided to make their home in Knoxville, Tennessee, while Bob, his sister, and two brothers were still very young. They had a good childhood and Bob took an interest as a dancer on stage. In the mid-1930s, Bob was working on a show and saw someone perform a magic act. He thought magic would be an interesting, alternative way to find work when dancing wasn't what a particular theater manager wanted. His combination of dancing and magic turned out to be a hit. As the dance craze lost steam, Bob picked up his first banjo and learned how to play music, too.

Bob married Virginia Johnson in Dayton, Ohio, on November 30, 1940, and formed a dance team. They performed under the name "Bob Lewis and Ginny," unless the budget was slim, in which case Bob would perform his solo act with magic and his banjo. His comedy was for all ages and he would find a way to extend his southern drawl. No matter how he completed his magic effects, played the banjo, or recounted homespun tales from his past, his audiences enjoyed his act.

Bob enlisted in the army in September 1942 and after his enlistment was over, he returned home to continue booking shows and recreating his act. By the late 1940s, Bob had gained a reputation for having the gift of gab when it came to his pitch routine, which he would gladly perform for his club mates in I.B.M. Ring 5 (Dayton, Ohio).

As the 1950s rolled in, entertainment was being seen in a new popular, and nearly affordable venue called television. By the late 1940s, one percent of all households in the United States had at least one television in their homes. That increased to a whopping seventy-five percent of households by 1955. A number of entertainers saw the advantages of being on that fifteen-to-twenty-one-inch, black-and-white, 'new-fangled contraption that was taking the country by leaps and bounds. Bob was right in line and appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, one of the most popular television shows of the 1950s, a total of twenty-two times. He would perform a short comedy bit, telling jokes like, "I was a frogman for two seasons in a tunnel of love. It proved rather interesting" and "I was running a health food store. It was running pretty good until I lost my liquor license." Sullivan put Bob in between acts like vocalist Eartha Kit, singer Anna Maria Alberghetti, Broadway singer Carol Channing, comedians Dan Rowan and Dick Martin, vaudeville star Sophie Tucker, and impressionist Rich Little. Bob also was a guest on another variety show called *The Garry Moore Show*, blending comedy and banjo-playing whenever the opportunity arose.

Bob was always aware of his fellow performers' reactions to reading reviews of their shows. Sometimes the reviewers were "having a bad day" and would take it out on the act they saw



Bob Lewis and Ginny.

the night before. While he was at the Blue Angel Club in 1958 working with comedienne Phyllis Diller, Bob looked at it by possibly taking a step back. He said on occasion, "In fairness, the reviewer should also review the audience's reaction to an act or show." Bob was a level-headed person and knew that if the performer rehearsed their act and they were ready to perform, any review would not alter their performance for their audience. Ed Sullivan really liked Bob and his act so much that he booked Bob in the Sullivan Vaudeville act at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada.

As the 1960s progressed, Bob worked with popular acts including singer Nat King Cole, for whom he opened while they were working at Harrah's Casino in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. During his act, Bob would banter with the audience about current events, taking his time with a little light frivolity. He would also pick up his banjo and play a few songs. In 1962, Bob was still working the Stork Club and telling jokes like, "Oscar Orton and His Trained Oysters and how they suffered through too many layoffs because they could only work in the months that had an 'R' in them." When Bob was at the 1963 S.A.M. Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, he bumped another performer's act from the lineup because the audience wanted Bob to play his banjo and tell jokes. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Bob worked engagements for local clubs and emceed or performed at the annual I.B.M. Conventions.

Bob and Senator Clarke Crandall always seem to cross paths and when they did, they would pick up their banjos and play together. As their friendship grew, so did their banjo collections. Bob acquired Clarke's Vegavox No. 4 banjo and played it on special occasions. In 1974, the Dayton Convention (hailed as the "friendliest convention") brought together host rings and a good-sized audience. The performers included Don Alan, Jay Marshall, Zaney Blaney, Ali Bongo, Norm Nielsen, Tom and Sherrie, and comedy banjo player Bob Lewis. The convention was a great success.

Bob had a setback in the hospital in 1975 but was back to performing in full stride by February 1976. He performed at the 1976 S.A.M. Philadelphia Magic Convention with acts like Abb Dickson, Mark Wilson, and The Great Ballantine. In the late 1970s and 1980s, Bob worked as an emcee at various conventions and other magic gatherings.

In October 1983, Bob stepped on stage as emcee for the third Southwest Association of Magicians in Little Rock, Arkansas, hosted by the Logan Pritchett Ring 29. When he was asked about his approach to emceeing shows, he would always say, "a set [time-tested] routine should be left alone." He also said, "Many performers have trademark routines and even though they have done them thousands of times, they are expected to perform them often."

In March 1985 at Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio, Bob was one of the featured acts at the thirteenth annual Glass City Conjuror's Conclave. It was one of Ring 68's finest magical weekends. As 1985 ended, Bob was not able to complete his booked engagements. He'd had cancer for a few years but had continued to perform. His occasional visits to the hospital became a prevalent event and had to take time from his booked acts to visit the hospital, as per his doctor's orders. After undergoing surgery, Bob passed away a few months later on February 15, 1986. Bob was a trouper from his first days of performing, putting himself out there and having a great time entertaining his audiences and making great friends. *Gary R. Frank*

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The Linking Ring

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