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The Linking Ring

JANUARY 2024



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

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



From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

The Extra Mile. When I was growing up in Central Florida, a small castle overlooked a lake in nearby Mount Dora. In its heyday, I learned, this architectural novelty had been the home of Napoleon Hill, the best-selling author of inspirational books in the 1930s and '40s. By the time of his death in 1970, one of his books – *Think and Grow Rich* – had sold more than twenty million copies.

It was a fabulous success story, but Hill's career as a self-help author had its ups and downs. After twenty years of interviewing prominent businessmen such as Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ford, and Thomas Edison – while living a hand-to-mouth existence as he researched and wrote – his eight-volume *Law of Success* course was published in 1928. It was an immediate hit, and the Hill family felt their ship had finally arrived – until the crash of 1929 when people decided to buy food instead of books on how to become a millionaire.

Following a big comeback in 1937 with the publication of *Think and Grow Rich*, he again spiraled into financial insolvency when he unwisely acquired a Rolls Royce and then, in 1939, the castle. Other setbacks included his wife's filing for divorce and losing the copyright to his books due to an ill-advised prenuptial agreement. Hill persevered, however, driven by his desire to develop a philosophy of success, become prosperous himself, and serve humanity. Eventually, he formulated seventeen principles of personal achievement, based on his observations of others and the lessons he had learned.

One of the key concepts Hill taught – and demonstrated – is the habit of going the extra mile. "Render more and better service than that for which you are paid," he wrote,

"and sooner or later you will receive compound interest on compound interest." Doing more than expected, he said, sets you apart from the rank and file who do just enough to get by. This drive for excellence and the willingness to serve others also leaves one with a greater sense of self-respect and satisfaction.

Rendering more and better service may include arriving early for a show or cheerfully staying late when necessary; keeping our props neat and clean; giving one hundred percent to every performance, regardless of the size of the audience; or leaving the room where our Ring meeting is held even cleaner than it was before we arrived.

Of course, going the extra mile isn't limited to business or professional activities. Giving full attention to our spouse or children, lending a hand to a friend who is overworked or overwhelmed, calling or writing to an elderly acquaintance, sincerely thanking the person who bags our groceries – each day is replete with opportunities to do more than meet minimum requirements.

A cynic could ask, "Why bother?" but a better question is, "Why not?" Why wouldn't we want to do our best and continually surprise people with excellence? As Napoleon Hill wrote, "The end of the rainbow is at the end of the second mile." Even if there's not a literal pot of gold awaiting us, the view looking back will be magnificent.



President's Page

CHARLES ARKIN



Magical Goals. Welcome to this new year 2024, a time when many of us renew our commitment to complete the previous year's projects and establish new goals and resolutions. One of my personal 2024 goals is to develop new routines that combine patter and magical methods to share inspirational messages with my audience. I encourage you to set realistic goals that you can achieve to enhance your satisfaction with performing our magical arts. Within these pages of *The Linking Ring*, find areas or topics that bring you inspiration, and work toward elevating your proficiency in areas that are important to you. Whether you want to focus on certain performance skills, character building, marketing, or other areas, I hope that each of you will establish and achieve your personal magical goals for the year.

Travels and Presentations. This past month, I continued my goal of visiting magic venues and promoting the I.B.M. I attended holiday parties with Ring 324 in Middleton, Ohio and Ring 43 in Chicago, Illinois. Spectacular magic shows followed at the Chicago Magic Lounge and the Rhapsody Theatre. These are wonderful and highly recommended venues. I also attended the Ring 2100 virtual meeting, during which we shared our favorite holiday magic tricks and magical ideas. I personally presented the incomparable **Jan Rose** with a Presidential Award in Chicago, and extend many thanks to Past International President **Bill Wells** for presenting a Presidential Citation to I.B.M. Ring 50 President **Marc Carrion** on my behalf.



(l to r): International President Charles Arkin presents the Presidential Award to Jan Rose at the Chicago Magic Lounge. • Past International President Bill Wells presents a Presidential Citation to Marc Carrion, President of Ring 50.

I.B.M. International Convention. We are preparing a spectacular convention for this July in Tacoma, Washington. We have stars of magic and performing arts who will dazzle you as well as teach you many secrets and methods to share with your audiences. It is with great pleasure that I announce the legendary **Michael Ammar** will be our **2024 Convention Guest of Honor**. Mr. Ammar has won the Magic Castle's equivalent of an Oscar in six separate categories and created more than thirty magic publications. He specializes in close-up magic and has been named one of the Most Influential Magicians of the Twentieth Century. Let's celebrate together in Tacoma!

In addition to the magic, our convention is in a beautiful location. With nearby Mount Rainier and Puget Sound, and art galleries and museums within walking distance of the hotel, please be sure to take advantage of the sightseeing opportunities. Be sure to register now for Tacoma!



Pictures from the Past

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June 1966



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With the passing of Canadian magic publisher Micky Hades on November 16, 2023 at ninety-seven-and-a-half years old, we have all lost someone who had a wealth of magic knowledge at his fingertips. Micky could be taking a phone call, practicing a trick, and answering a request all while he was typing out an order of books. He could easily tell you what performer was working at a certain theater, as well as let you know what illusions or tricks were in the show. To learn more about his prolific career, turn to page 143.

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PHILIP PARTRIDGE

President of the British Ring

By Ron Sylvester

Philip Partridge has performed for heroes and a king, on television, and in the world's only seven-star hotel. Yet one of his favorite roles as a magician is belonging to a magic club.

Partridge took over as President of the British Ring at a time when magic organizations, such as the I.B.M., have seen dwindling membership and diminishing interest in the club aspect of magic. Ring 25 remains one of the strongest clubs, with five hundred members. Leading this ninety-five-year-old group is just the latest endeavor in Partridge's decades-long love of magic organizations.

"There's a term that you can choose your friends, but not your family," Partridge said, paraphrasing American novelist Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* during a video interview from his home in Manchester, England. "My magic friends are very important to me. My parents have passed, and I don't keep in contact with my brother, so my magic friends are my family."

The fifty-four-year-old magician can count among his private audiences the Beckham family – yes, those Beckhams – and King Charles III when he was still the Prince of Wales. But it's children's shows that have become Partridge's top income producer as a professional magician.

While the thought of doing a show for a three-year-old might give some magicians nightmares, that's exactly what Partridge did for one of his most notable shows.

"It came out of the blue by an event organizer who contacted me," Partridge said when describing the call he received for a show in 2002. He met the organizer at a leased-out movie house in Manchester, where the organizer handed the then-thirty-three-year-old magician a lengthy confidentiality agreement.



A professional children's magician in his element.



Left to right: Philip Partridge, International President Charles Arkin, and Dr. Steven Jan. PHOTO BY GEMMA TYNAN

“I didn’t know it was the Beckham family until I walked in the door,” he said. Partridge had been hired to perform at Brooklyn Beckham’s third birthday party, the first child of football legend David Beckham and his pop star wife, Victoria. “One of the most memorable parts of that day was Victoria asked to borrow my microphone at the end of the show. Obviously at that time she was one of the Spice Girls.”

His family show website, *magicphilip.co.uk*, promotes nursery school and toddler

parties, which include children up to three years of age. The day of our interview, he’d just finished a gig for a toddlers’ Christmas show.

“What I do is a mixed-age show where you have fun games for the younger ones and more sophisticated magic for the older ones,” he said.

For Partridge’s toddler Christmas show, he opened with a game of musical statues. He makes sure his games are of the non-elimination variety, so that everyone can have fun – even the parents.



Peter Golstraw, one of the children in attendance at a birthday party where Philip was performing, uses a furry wand to strike the magician. PHOTO BY PETER GOLSTRAW

"It got the blood running, the children were dancing, and the parents got involved," said Partridge. "The whole idea is the children have fun. I bring double the amount of magic. You never know what you'll need, so you just kind of go with the flow. With children, it's all about the journey. It's like you'd never use a break-away wand for adults, or at least you rarely would, but with children it's just a part of the journey."

Partridge became hooked on magic at the age of eight, when he received a magic set for Christmas. That's nothing unusual – many magicians tell the same story. But Partridge may be one of the few who, more than forty years later, still performs a trick from his first childhood set.

"Part of that set was the 'Equal Unequal Ropes,'" said Partridge, recalling the effect also known as "Professor's Nightmare." "I didn't understand it for four years," he added. "When it finally dawned on me, I performed it for my mum, and she was really impressed. And to this day, I perform Equal Unequal Ropes."

"Mum" was the late Joy Partridge, who proved quite impressive in her own right. One of her accomplishments was parasailing in the Alps, when she was sixty-five, for the BBC television program, *I'd Do Anything*. As a prize for that performance, she arranged for her son to fulfill his life-long dream of meeting Lance Burton at what was then the Monte Carlo resort in Las Vegas, where Burton performed.

Partridge said he considers himself fortunate to grow up at a time when he could take inspiration from the magicians of the late twentieth century. In addition to seeing Burton's original Monte Carlo show in Vegas, he also got to see Siegfried & Roy's show. He grew up watching Paul Daniels and Wayne Dobson on television as a boy. *The Paul Daniels Magic Show* debuted on BBC1 just two years after Partridge received that magic set.

"I went 'round to grandma and grandpa's house, and my grandma would spoil



Philip Partridge, who enjoys working tables, shows off his version of coins through silk.
PHOTO BY CETRA STUDIO

me with ice cream and cake, and we would watch the Paul Daniels show together," he recalled. "He and Wayne Dobson were comedy magicians, and I know that some of their patter lines influenced me to become a comedy magician."

But magic wasn't going to be Partridge's first calling. He studied pharmacy at the University of Manchester, where in his final year he worked a practicum at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in West Derby, Liverpool, one of the largest children's hospitals in Britain. It was there he developed a love of performing for the youngest of audiences.

"After hours, I did cheer up the children by doing shows," Partridge said. "I believe in a holistic approach. There's a joke that says laughter is the best medicine, unless you're diabetic, and then insulin is."

Partridge could only perform when he wasn't on the clock for his other job filling pharmaceuticals for patients. His supervisor wasn't too patient about his magical aspirations.

"It was brought up in my appraisal that I should stick to my pharmacy focus," Partridge said with a smile. "I think my manager wasn't too keen on me doing magic. After six years, my enthusiasm for performing overtook my pharmaceutical interests."

He went to work for the Wizard's Den, a magic and toy shop in Liverpool managed by Paul Stone, who would go on to produce corporate and theatrical shows in

London and Las Vegas. Stone would be instrumental in teaching Partridge about the business of magic.

Partridge's job at the Wizard's Den included demonstrating tricks with Sven-gali and other magic decks of cards. When Partridge attended his first British Ring Convention in 1992, he entered the close-up competition. He performed a routine he'd developed using the Nudist Deck, or Mental Photography Deck, involving a washing machine. He didn't place, but later that year he co-founded the Merseyside Junior Magic Club with two friends.

"One of my greatest joys is seeing young people progress in magic," said Partridge.

Five years later, in 1997, Partridge turned full-time professional. He was funded by a loan from the Prince's Trust. Partridge gained a mentor who helped him set up a business, a role he would later serve in to help other fledgling arts and entertainment entrepreneurs.

One rule he vividly remembered was that when the Prince's Trust office called, you answered. He received a call in 2003 to do another mysterious show – similar to the one at the Beckham's party a year earlier. This time, his audience was His Royal Highness Charles III, the namesake of the Prince's Trust and a literal crowned head of Europe.

What do you do for the man who will be King? Well, the rope trick you got in a magic kit when you were eight years old, using the colors of the Union Jack, of course.

"I was really proud that I performed the Equal Unequal Ropes with red, white, and blue ropes," he said, "something I continue with to this day."

Partridge has performed on the television show *The Weakest Link*, as well as with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He also performs strolling magic for guests at the corporate luxury boxes at Old Trafford Stadium, home of the Manchester United football team.

"At the bigger games, like when Manchester plays Chelsea, there may be nine magicians working various areas of the corporate boxes," said Partridge.

One night, Partridge walked into a box and performed for professional footballer Cristiano Ronaldo. For an American magician, that's like performing close-up magic for Barry Sanders.

"One thing I've learned and tried to pass on is use your television appearances and those kinds of performances as your biggest marketing material," he said.

The Beckham party led to bookings for other football stars. After he performed for the then-Prince of Wales, he landed a residency at Burj Al Arab in Dubai, United



Left to Right: Partridge delights a pair of newlyweds with his signature close-up magic. PHOTO CREDIT: LAURA BAREHAM PHOTOGRAPHY. Partridge, shown here with King Charles III when he was still the Prince of Wales, performs Equal Unequal Ropes for His Royal Highness.



Partridge creating magical merriment and hilarity.

Arab Emirates, billed as the world's only seven-star hotel.

But Partridge said to not overlook the power of a kid's birthday party. "When I'm doing children's entertainment, if the grownups like me, I'll get booked for their fortieth, fiftieth, and sixtieth birthday parties," he explained.

Still, Partridge said nothing quite beats the magic community, which organizations like the I.B.M. and British Ring personify. That's why he and his partner, Dr. Steven

Jan, are now the first family of Partridge's extended family. He proudly wears the medallion of the President, which is inscribed with the names of past Presidents who have served the Ring since 1928. They include expert manipulator Geoffrey Buckingham, author Ken de Courcy, and legendary British youth mentor Cynthia Neptune.

"I am very loyal to magic clubs, and people have seen that, which is why I think I was asked to serve as president," he said. "I stand on the shoulders of legends, the names on this chain."

He added that you should never underestimate the power of tricks you may have received as a child, even when you're performing for heroes and kings.



Partridge poses with his puppet rabbit for a publicity shot. PHOTO BY PAUL STOREY

Ron Sylvester is an associate editor of The Linking Ring and a lifetime member of the I.B.M. A journalist, writer, and editor for more than forty years, he lives and performs magic in central Kansas with his wife Gaye Tibbets.

A Special Night for Ring 113's (Bergen County, New Jersey) Richard Micucci

A very special event was planned for our November Ring meeting. There was a surprise party for Richard Micucci to celebrate his fifteen-year reign as president of Ring 113 in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. A few months in the planning, Dennis McSweeney organized the evening with the help of I.B.M. national headquarters and magician David Corsaro. Richard was presented with an official I.B.M. presidential citation for his life-long dedication and support of the magical arts and his staunch leadership of the Ring. McSweeney also presented Rich with the Ring's framed original charter, a large vintage Ring 113 silk banner, as well as a wooden card and dice box with an engraved plaque.

Highlights of the roast included the mock presentation of a king's crown and scepter and the submittal of a fake invoice holding Rich personally responsible for cost of the party! After some coffee and cake, the members performed their magic. Richard Micucci performed Jay Sankey's classic "Holy

Moly." Dan Silvestri performed one of his signature coin routines, Bill Tarr's "Come-back Coins," a clever Coins Across routine. Mark Cahill demonstrated and explained an original card routine where a deck is cut and dealt into four piles to produce the aces and kings! Jay Paul showcased a hands-off card routine where the spectator selects a card, mixes up the deck, face up and face down, and Jay is able to find the selected card with the aid of a clever key card principle.

Eddie Conrad brought in two Sucker Die Box props and demonstrated his go-to routine. He also performed a card force with a wacky revelation courtesy of Dick Stoner's Las Vegas Glasses! Carl Morano demonstrated Bernardo Sedlacek's "Sedladeck" where the spectator freely names any single card in a deck and that happens to be the only face up card in a completely blank deck! John Henderson entertained the group with Benjamin Earl's "Hand Bit by Trees" where a deck of cards is cut and stacked multiple times to create four piles that



(l to r): Richard Micucci displays his I.B.M. presidential citation. • Ring 113 banner.
• Rich Micucci with crown and scepter.

miraculously produces the four kings! Dennis McSweeney performed an old school coin vanish by rubbing a coin on his elbow until it dissolves to nothing! Micucci reprised an oldie but goodie, the “Metamor-

phosis Bills,” where a dollar bill and a five switch hands between the magician to the spectator. Mark Cahill also demonstrated his sly handling of changing a dollar bill to a C-note without a thumb tip! *Carl Morano*

Singapore Ring 115 Participates in Yellow Ribbon Run 2023

Six magicians from Singapore Ring 115 got clearance to enter the Singapore Changi Prison on the early morning of Sunday, 24th September 2023. Their pockets were full of tricks, ready to do their roving magic for the runners of the yearly Yellow Ribbon Run. More than 6,500 locals and international participants braved the morning rain to take part in this year’s Yellow Ribbon Prison Run.

Five magicians swung into action, entertaining the runners as they gathered in the tentage, drenched. Ng Kah King, the only balloonist in the team, worked the hardest as the

queue at his stall was perpetually long.

J. K. Tan



(l to r): Ng Kah King, Kogi Oberoi, Ng Ek Hwang, Thomas Yeo, JK Tan, and David Fillary.



(l to r): Ng Ek Hwang and David Fillary. • Ng Kah King. • The group with former member Jimmy Lee.

Ring 129 (Kansas City, Missouri) Annual “Colonel Boone” Competition

On November 1 Ring 129 held its annual “Colonel Boone” competition for close-up magician of the year. The contest is named in memory of the late Ring President Colonel Boone (real name Clyde Glandon), who was not only an outstanding close-up performer but also took the time to help other magicians improve their own performances. Five members had qualified for the contest based on their performances in the Ring’s quarterly contests, and four were on hand to compete.

Jeremiah Jackson took first place for the

second year in a row. He opened with a “Sponge Ball and Bowl” routine, with the final load being a deck of cards, leading to a card routine to conclude his act. He is also the reigning stage magician of the year, being one of the few members to hold both titles simultaneously. Second place went to Stu Lewis, whose act featured Bill Malone’s “Sam the Bellhop” routine. Dave Heeter took third place with a card routine during which he mixed up cards in a black cloth sack and rearranged the face up, face down orientation. Phil Franklin’s routine was



(l to r): Jeremiah Jackson. • Stu Lewis. • Dave Heeter. • Phil Franklin.

based on ESP, as he “tested” a spectator’s ESP first with cards and then had him predict the combination of a lock. Unfortunately,

nately, despite his impressive performance, he was disqualified for exceeding the time limit.
Stu Lewis

Ring 194 (Huntsville, Alabama) Performs Magic at Studio 60

Ring 194 performed two club benefit shows for the Huntsville Senior Center known as Studio 60. Ring members performed on stage and entertained with close-up magic before the shows and during intermission. The lights, sound, ticket booth, and backstage including curtain pullers were all done by members. Studio 60 volunteers worked at the concession stand and online ticket sales.

This event was the first Ring 194 benefit show in several years. The shows took place on October 21, 2023. Most of the stage performers performed strolling magic before the shows. Jared Cassidy dressed in his sequin jacket and shoes served as master of ceremonies for both shows.

Brett Boyer opened both shows with some scarf magic and Rocky Raccoon, Kevin O’Connell performed Passe-Passe



(top row l to r) Ring 194 Poster. • Derrick Born. • Patrick Brunson and Samantha O’Connell. • Jared Cassidy emcee and Studio 60 director Julie Born. • (bottom row l to r): Jared Cassidy, Brett Boyer, Bob Ward, Kevin O’Connell. • Jack Jones, Dean Carter, Trace Cooper, Jack Baldwin. • Steve Cassidy and George Patides.

bottles, Jack Baldwin entertained with some children's magic, and Bob Ward did a card to wallet. Jack "Preacher" Jones entertained with ventriloquism, Dean Carter showed off his Cooties, and Trace Cooper closed both shows with a guillotine routine. Of course, stage performers did more than the one trick listed here.

Most of the stage performers strolled along before the shows. Derrik Born and Patrick

Brunson also performed close-up. George Patides and Steve Cassidy worked backstage, sound, and lights. Patrick Brunson and Samantha O'Connell worked at the ticket booth. The Studio 60 team led by Julie Born did an excellent job with ticket sales and the concession stand with hot dogs, popcorn, and candy. Thanks to all who took part in putting together a great event. *Patrick Brunson*

I.B.M. Ring 284 (Fort Walton Beach, Florida) Donates Magic Books to Valparaiso, FL Library

The I.B.M. Ft. Walton Beach, FL Ring 284 has been meeting in a local library for the past year and had noticed that they had just a few magic books under our favorite Dewey Decimal number of 793.8.

The Ring took the opportunity of the Valparaiso Community Library Fall Festival to present three (one each for kids, mid-level and advanced) to Librarian Hope Willis this October 30th. *Ronald Hudspeth*



Ring 284 President Jeffery Sobel and Librarian Hope Willis. • (l to r) Children's Book of Magic (Dorling Kindersley Publishing, 2014), Practical Encyclopedia of Magic (Nicholas Einhorn, 2014) and Complete Course in Magic (Mark Wilson, Revised 2003)

Ring 392 (Blowing Rock, North Carolina) Celebrates Second Annual Halloween at the Holler's Gathering

The William E. (Bill) Spooner International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 392 and their guests celebrated Magic Week with the Second Annual Halloween at the Hollers event on October 29, 2023, at the magical, mysterious, and fascinating home of Dr. Cato and Susan Holler in Marion, NC. There was magic and adventure everywhere! Upon arrival, everyone was treated to the sight of the black Cadillac Escalade formerly owned by Criss Angel and an array of over eighty Jack-o'-lanterns decorating the exterior of the 1940s home. Before entering, everyone had to dodge a pumpkin seed spitting machine. This was followed by a spooky low howl near the entrance. As costumes were encouraged for the day, Sea-Ling (Cato) in full Asian dress welcomed everyone and invited us inside. Susan was wearing an "Invisibility Cloak;" however, we were still

able to see enough of her to know she was present!



Entrance to Cato and Susan Holler's home where guests had to dodge pumpkin seeds from a seed spitting machine.

Once all had assembled, Cato and Susan shared information about the history of the home and its décor. Bats are well represented because Cato and Susan are world-class cavers having explored and mapped caves around the planet. Both Susan and

Cato were elected Fellows of the National Speleological Society. Cato currently serves as a board member. Their daughter, Nancy, was also a Fellow as well as a director. Further, Cato is a Fellow Emeritus of the Explorers Club and serves as a member of the board of directors of the North American Jules Verne Society. As a matter of fact, Cato and Susan “discovered” that their home sits directly over a cave they have named Hollow Hills Cavern that can be accessed for free tours.

Once everyone arrived, we were ushered into the unique Libaratorium (a custom designed combination research library, bar, and magic auditorium). Here we found an ornate bar with a *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* theme, a large collection of magic posters and window cards, magic props of all descriptions including a unique reproduction in stainless steel of Houdini’s Milk Can Escape, a beautiful custom-made one of a kind sword basket, a wide array of masks some of which are animated, a performing stage with footlights, curtains, and a trap door, secret storage shelving accessible only by those possessing the knowhow, seating for the group, and special objects collected from around the world related to magic, caving or other adventures the Hollers have experienced!

Following a few additional comments from Cato, President Dr. Joe Mazzola welcomed the group, thanked the Hollers for their willingness to host this event, and declared that a day of magic should begin! Various timely magic productions were shared beginning with Sea-Ling’s story of how he became the favored court magician of a Chinese emperor. Narration was provided by Nelson Brookshire, as Sea-Ling demonstrated how he met and surpassed every challenge the emperor presented including the production of silks from an empty box, an escape from shackles, magical retention of his hand and head though subjected to guillotines, mental location of a sacred orb hidden by guest, Cheryl Reynolds, and ultimately the production of a strand of golden bats symbolizing good luck from a bottle!

These actions cemented his position as the emperor’s favorite court magician and sealed his long and happy marriage to the emperor’s daughter, the lovely Su-Zing (Susan)!

Guests Tom and Cheryl Reynolds learned that sitting on the front row is hazardous at a magic performance – they were invited to the stage by an old wizard, (Nelson Brookshire). With their assistance, Nelson provided proof that a brass ring presented to him at a séance by the famous Italian medium, Eusapia Palladino, many years earlier could not be restrained. When Tom spoke a magic word of his choosing, the ring which had been knotted on the rope penetrated it without damaging either the ring or the rope and ended up on a crooked antique cane held by Tom!

Next up was former Le Grande David magician, T. J. Shimeld, dressed in a dazzling costume he secured from that longest running live magic show in history. T. J. artfully and professionally presented the “Wands of Mystery” (Chinese Sticks). His creative presentation of an old classic wowed everyone including Cheryl Reynolds who provided a strand of her hair to assist in making the effect work! The “tissle” or “tassle” timing intertwined with his well-turned tale of magic was perfect! As always, T. J. showed his love for detail, magic, theatrical performance, and magic history.

In keeping with the Halloween theme, Fletcher Roberts, Boone, NC, resident and street performer in Gatlinburg, TN this past summer, chose to freak out Cheryl and Sue Ellen Brookshire by showing a video of a spider crawling across his phone. Somehow the spider unexpectedly ended up on the back of Cheryl’s hand! Shrieks penetrated the room when the spider was revealed! This is not a trick for those with a heart problem! Fletcher’s parents, Johanna and Doug Roberts who were dressed as a tree and artist, Bob Ross respectively, proudly shared in the moment.

Dr. Gerry Hayes and his wife, Cara, enlightened us with magic effects spawned by their recent trip to Ghent, Belgium, to the European Magic History Conference. First



(l to r): Cato and his Houdini vase which shared a foreboding message. • T. J. Shimeld dazzling everyone with his "Wands of Mystery". • President Joe Mazzola suggesting that Houdini's spirit might be about. • Fletcher Roberts performing his "Spider" routine with Cheryl Reynolds.

Gerry demonstrated how Sue Ellen's luggage ended up in Timbuktu rather than in Paris as she had predicted. Then using Cato as his fellow library visitor, each randomly selected a book from fifty options. The spirit must have been working as both selected a book by the same author, Mark Twain! Lastly, relating to the *Discoverie of Witchcraft*, with help from his wife, Cara, Gerry freed author Reginald Scot (or at least his skull) from being bound by ropes that were threaded through his eye sockets!

To conclude the magic and since it was National Magic Week, Dr. Joe Mazzola decided it would be a good day to see if Houdini's spirit could be invoked. He first stacked three books then laid a magic marker (is there any other kind?) on their edge. Standing at least ten feet from the setup, the marker moved then fell to the table! We dared not question whether Houdini had somehow influenced this puzzling effect!

Cato shared his Houdini vase, and with a little coaxing, Houdini's image appeared and spoke to the group ominously. However, instead of something tragic occurring, everyone was invited to enjoy fellowship and a

generous spread of sandwiches, sweets, drinks, nuts (appropriate for this group), and fellowship. Those who wanted refreshment from a Coke machine were given a dime. The dime could be used to purchase any soft drink available or beer!

Cato is a retired dentist, so it should not be surprising that also in this room is the dental chair that was used in the *Carol Burnette Show*'s hilarious and iconic skit that featured Tim Conway and Harvey Korman at the dentist's office. The chair is autographed by them, and Carol Burnette, of course! You can see the skit on YouTube if you choose.

Following the fellowship, those who wanted to tour Hollow Hills Cavern were shown a secret room where Cato has a workshop and props from La Grande David and more. This room can only be opened by speaking the correct magic word to an owl sitting on a shelf. I won't reveal the word at this time. Before entering the cave, a video presentation gave a history about how the cave was "discovered" was shown. Following this, Cato showed a display case featuring items typically found in caves including



Gerry Hayes shares a spine-tingling effect with Sue Ellen Brookshire. • Sea-Ling (Cato) allows guest Tom Reynolds to examine the shackles. • Nelson Brookshire performs the classic "Ring through Rope" routine with Tom and Cheryl Reynolds.



Striking a magic pose – L-R: Joe Mazzola, Gerry Hayes, Cara Hayes, Johanna Roberts, Doug Roberts, Susan Holler (seated), T. J. Shimeld, Tom Reynolds (seated), Tyler Shimeld, Nelson Brookshire, Sue Ellen Brookshire, Cheryl Reynolds, Mary Droho, Chris Holler (on floor), Fletcher Roberts, Christine, Robert Orentlicher, Terry Holler and Cato Holler. Not pictured: Oliver Holler and Annette Holler.

skeletal remains of animals, pottery, and other artifacts. To enter the cave, you must go through a Hollywood simulated Russian submarine door secured from a movie set. Once inside, “tourists” encountered fairies, bats, treasure, stalagmites and stalactites, and a possible seismic event which led to us having to “escape” through an emergency exit! All was exquisitely and tastefully done, and those of us who were lucky enough to survive this tour will long remember it as well

as all that had gone on before.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Past International President Dr. William (Bill) E. Spooner, his lovely wife, First Lady LaRose, and the amazing Dot and Bill McLaury. Although health reasons prevented them from attending the event, their influence and spirits were very much felt on this special occasion. The Hollers are graciously open to having visitors, so consider putting this on your bucket list!

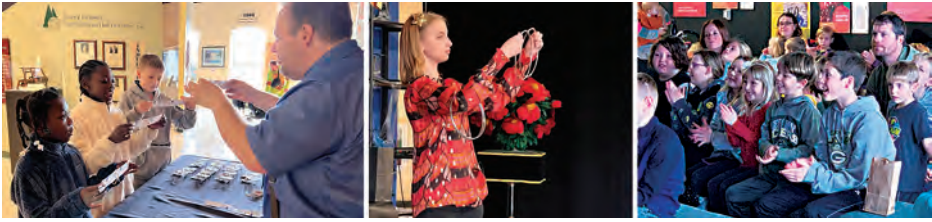
Nelson Brookshire

Ring 398 (Appleton/Green Bay, Wisconsin) Cavalcade of Magic Benefit Show

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, the members of International Brotherhood of Magicians Dr. Lynn Miner Ring 398 gathered together at the Atlas Science Center in Appleton, Wisconsin, to perform a two-hour benefit program with the goal of raising awareness of the Atlas Science Center, the I.B.M. and Ring 398. Eight of the Ring’s members showed up at the Center at 9:00 in the morning to prepare for the day’s events. Each member selected one of the tables that were set up at various places throughout the center to teach magic. The doors opened at 10:00 and excited families entered and

began circulating through the Center. As they came to each table, the magician there taught one or two simple tricks, including “Three Card Monte,” “Linking Paper Clips,” “Jumping Rubber Bands,” and more. The guests were also given information about both the I.B.M. and Ring 398.

At 11:00, approximately one hundred moms, dads, and kids were seated in the theater and the magic show began! With Ring Vice President Daryl Rogers acting as Master of Ceremonies for the show, each member was given time for one or two routines. President Michael Schroeder kicked off the



(l to r): Ring 398 member Scott Hanneman teaching a simple classic magic effect. • 2023 Junior Magician of the Year Kahlan Scherg. • Everyone had a great time enjoying the magic.



(l to r): Ring 398 President Michael Schroeder, I.B.M. International President Charles Arkin, Atlas Science Center Executive Director Carol Couillard. • I.B.M. International President Charles Arkin presents sponsor Tom Boldt with Presidential Citation.

show with his “Disappearing Ketchup Bottle.” Daryl followed next with a routine especially appropriate for Appleton, Wisconsin, “Houdini’s Siberian Chain Escape.” Secretary Rick Morein wowed everyone with his beautiful “Botania,” after which Treasurer Tal Kuhn performed a routine with colorful color-changing plumes.

Tal was followed by Sergeant-at-Arms “Magic Marv” Roth who performed the “Six

Card Repeat,” followed up with a perplexing rope routine. Scott Hanneman, a.k.a. “Hanneman the Magician,” shared both mentalism and rope magic along with his partner Muffin the Wonder Fish! The penultimate act was the 2023 Ring 398 Junior Magician of the Year Kahlan Scherg with a fun “Stratosphere” presentation and a beautiful “Linking Rings” routine. Closing the show was I.B.M. International President Charles



Left to right: Daryl Rogers, Scott Hanneman, Rick Morein, Tom Boldt, Charles Arkin, Kahlan Scherg, Michael Schroeder, Tal Kuhn, Marv Roth.

Arkin, who is also a member of Ring 398. Charles performed a jumbo card prediction and then demonstrated to everyone why they should never play “Three Card Monte” on the streets for money!

That ended the magic, but it was not the end of the show. Benefit sponsor Tom Boldt, CEO of The Boldt Company, was brought on stage and presented with a Presidential Citation for his deep interest in, and continuing support of, the art of magic, both in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. A rousing round of applause brought the festivities to an end. After cleaning up and loading out, Tom treated all of the members to a delicious lunch at a nearby restaurant.

As one of the goals of this show was to raise awareness of Ring 398, we were gratified that one guest shared that he was into magic when he was younger and wanted to find out more about the Ring. Hopefully, the show sparked a similar interest in others who

will also pursue magic and join us for our meetings. Perhaps the most amazing part of this entire program was the fact that there were no rehearsals for it at all. Michael took care of all of the arrangements with the Center, members supplied backdrops, sound systems and tables, and the only formal organization for the teaching and the show were in-person and online discussions and an online spreadsheet filled out by the participating members. It is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of each of the members that the entire event went so smoothly. The Ring members did a great job showcasing their many and varied talents, and judging by their laughs, their oos and ahs and their applause, the audience had a great time and loved the magical entertainment. This was the third benefit show produced by the members of Ring 398, and we are already looking forward to presenting another in 2024!

Daryl Rogers

Ring 401 (Barcelona, Spain) Holds First Annual Magic Convention

On November 3, 4 and 5, 2023, Ring 401 Barcelona held the first Annual Magic Convention in our city of Barcelona. With the presence of I.B.M. International President Charles Arkin and his wife Lori, we had the pleasure of hosting more than one hundred fifty magicians from around the world. There were four Magic Galas, ten lectures, and twenty international artists such as Gaetan Bloom from France, John Henry from

Sweden, Luca Lombardo from Italy, Alexander de Cova from Germany, Yosuke Ikeda from Japan, Henry Evans from Argentina, Julian de Rosa from Italy, and Spanish and Catalan artists such as Magic Andreu, Silvana, Maxi Stia, Gonza Martini, Karlus Soler, Maxi Stia, Juan Colas, Rubi Ferez, Dani DaOrtiz, Miguel Angel Gea. There was also a fair with magic shops.

In short, three days of camaraderie and



(l to r): Event poster. • Presentation of the Presidential Citation.

• International President Charles Arkin and Ring 401 dignitaries receive much-deserved applause.



(l to r): Gaetan Bloom enthalls the spectators. • The cast takes a bow.

magic with magicians from the United States, Portugal, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Catalonia, Argentina, and Peru. We are wait-

ing for you next year 2024 to share more magic in this magical city called Barcelona. *Brando*

Zaragoza, Spain – I.B.M. Ring 402

We are Ring 402 in the city of Zaragoza (Spain) and we want to tell you what we have done since we became part of the I.B.M. and what we want to achieve. In Zaragoza, a city that is between Madrid and Barcelona, we have a magical place called El Sótano Mágico (Magic Basement). A Magic Theater, led and directed by Helena Perdomo and Pepin Banzo, where the best magicians in the world pass through, it has already been programming magic for nine years without interruption. Magicians such as Henry Evans, Dani DaOrtiz, Gaetan Bloom, Wolfgang Moser, Juan Luis Rubiales, Woody Aragón, Miguel Ángel Gea, and countless others pass through this room.

In addition, in the basement, we have the Museum of the Magicians of Aragón with professional material from great magicians such as Pepe Carrol, Rahma Khan, Alberto García Vidal, Little Revi, Javier Antón, etc. Aragón is a region in northern Spain made up of three cities: Zaragoza, Huesca, and Teruel. Zaragoza has traditionally always had a very good quality of stage illusionists; among them Javier Antón of the World Magic Grand Prix. We have been in the world of magic for a long time in different groups and associations; we formed a Magic Club with our talented students from the Magic School. The idea was to continue working for magic trying to innovate and

think creatively about new effects and new ideas.

Things increased and shows have been prepared, The Company of Resident Magicians has been set up, and it has been decided to go one step further, and in some way legalize and professionalize the magic group. That is why we wanted to be part of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Since we decided to open our Ring, we have not stopped doing performances and events, among them it is worth highlighting the participation of several members of the Ring 402 in the III National Stage Magic Contest (Javier Antón Trophy) last September 30 and November 1 from 2023. Pepin Banzo and Helena Perdomo (President of 402) were in charge of presenting the Awards Gala and other members of the brotherhood as contestants: César Martínez (Martínez), Pedro Olloqui (Macao's Cat), Alberto Moros (Alberto Sorom), and Nicolás Martínez (Zenit), the latter winning a third prize having presented a total of sixteen artists from all over Spain. The contestant and the winner's gala turned out to be a success in terms of public attendance.

On November 4, taking advantage of the fact that the first annual I.B.M. Barcelona Ring 401 Magic Convention was being held in the city of Barcelona, we contacted its President Héctor Verikas (Brando), and he



Ring 402 Awards Gala III Javier Anton Trophy.



(l to r): Ring 402 receives recognition certificate. • Founding members.

encouraged us to go visit them to meet the President of the Central. The International President himself, Mr. Charles Arkin, gave us in-person the document that accredits the Constitution of Ring 402 in Zaragoza. It was a very nice event with the presence of a large number of magicians from all over the world.

In one of our photos you can see several founding members with International President Charles Arkin: César Martínez (Martínez), Pepin Banzo, Helena Perdomo, Alberto Ballester (Erasmus Lestér) and Alberto Moros (Alberto Sorom). An affiliation to the International Brotherhood of Magi-

cians based in Zaragoza where the names of the statutory members appear, sealed and signed by the International President of the I.B.M. Charles Arkin himself has joined the Aragonese Ring to encourage other magicians to join this circle of lovers of the art of illusion and also be a founding member of 402 Zaragoza.

Now it's time to continue working on new projects, projects that will be revealed throughout the year in the form of meetings, conventions, festivals, conferences, and performances. As Charles Arkin said, "Long Live Ring 402 of Zaragoza!"

Helena and Pepin

My Mentor Joe, the I.B.M., and Why You Need Your Joe, Too

By Michael S. Tulkoff



Joe Bruno and Michael Tulkoff.

You will become a better magician and entertainer if you build a special relationship with a mentor(s). There is really no excuse not to cultivate this rewarding, two-way relationship.

Every magician and entertainer can become a mentor to not only uplift another a human being, but to also uplift themselves. Why should you make the effort to give as much as you receive? Because you will help other people develop their craft while becoming a better person and performer in your own right. Video conferencing has made it possible for us to share nearly everything, including our I.B.M. ring meetings. The only thing you can't share over video is the touch of another person's hand. Otherwise, you can now live in the far reaches of the hinterlands and use mentorship to maintain a wonderful, giving, and caring relationship, which goes beyond the magician-entertainer connection.

To properly introduce my own mentor and good friend Joe Bruno, who is soon to

be ninety-four-years young, here's an excerpt from his One-Man Parade in *The Linking Ring*. Joe has written ten Parades and is one of the most prolific Parade writers in the history of the I.B.M. This will set the stage for why Joe has been such a blessing to me and my family for close to three decades.

Joe Bruno is a retired electrical engineer who worked in the aerospace industry. He's a veteran of the Korean War, a proud member and officer of his VFW, a keen boater in his past, and a master of many talents in various vocations and avocations. His interest in magic began as a child and he has pursued it and has performed for over seventy-five years. His audiences are family and children, adults and corporate functions with both a magic act and a mentalism show. He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Order of Merlin Excalibur, and the Society of American Magicians having been with both organizations for

over sixty years. He is the author of *Anatomy of Misdirection* and *Twelve Steps to Creative Magic*. Both of these books are available from Murphy's Magic Mart and Amazon. Additionally, Joe was the host for decades in his home and officer of the Society of American Magicians Assembly #6 Kellar-Thurston in Baltimore, Maryland. Currently he is our esteemed Dean. Prior to that Joe was heavily active going back over fifty years and the newsletter editor of the Yogi Magic Club in Baltimore. This club was part of the famous Yogi Magic Mart owned by Phil Thomas, well known in magic circles. A recent book of three hundred pages was published about Phil Thomas, Maryland's Ambassador of Magic by Mark Walker & Michael E. Rose. Joe made numerous contributions.

I met Joe Bruno in the summer of 1994, long before I eventually emigrated to Israel in the summer of 2001. We met not only at monthly magic meetings but also at his home, or the Denny and Lee Magic Studio, for hands-on learning. Since then, we have stayed in touch by phone, email, and in-person visits whenever I'm visiting family in the United States. Joe taught me much more than new tricks. He also taught me how to stay on the lookout for creative solutions, and to always ask myself, "Why are you doing the tricks that you are doing?"

For the first seven years, Joe accompanied me to more shows than anyone else – why he subjected himself to that torture, I'll never know. Whether it was at a stage show for elementary school kids, or a more intimate program at a daycare center, bookshop, or shopping mall, it was Joe's laser-sharp and constructive criticism that proved invaluable in shaping the direction of my magic career. The late Eddie Robinette, another fabulous mentor and fellow I.B.M. member, was a dear friend of Joe. Eddie spent decades as a semi-pro magician while also working as a full-time educator in the public school system. Along with the late and great Denny Haney, these three mentors literally held my

fingers to teach me the handling of the Whit Haydn fabulous Four Ring comedy routine, which I still use to this day.



Michael with legendary magic dealer and teacher Denny Haney.



Eddie Robinette, Michael Tulkoff, and Joe Bruno.

Let's take a closer look at what it means to be a mentor. To begin, I want to share an acronym I found at www.abbreviations.com: Manage, Educate, Nurture, Train, Organize, and Realize.

These concepts are, in my opinion, very suitable for magicians and entertainers. Note that I eventually decided to replace the word "realize" with "review."

M – Manage

Discuss to set up how your mentoring will proceed. A syllabus if you will, a track to run upon. What do you wish to accomplish in specific details? Type of magic, audience(s), target markets, style, character, etc. There is a plethora of free template charts which you can use. They can be used to track your mentoring meetings, the goals you set, the milestones you pursue, and so forth. Manage means to resource. Back in the day when a resource librarian was a treasure, you would have been greatly benefited to cultivate such a relationship. If you know about the Dewey Decimal System, you know what I'm talking about. A mentor is even more valuable than the resource library for you as a growing entertainer.

E – Educate

What does your mentor recommend as a "must foundation" to build upon? Use your head – don't watch videos and mimic. I love to read while underlining the text, using a highlighter, and making notes. Do you own a Tarbell set, histories of magic (like those by Milbourne Christopher), or sleight-of-hand classics by authors such as J.B. Bobo? Did you know his spiralbound work on kid's magic is a classic resource, or that kid magic is how he and his wife earned their living? School shows for decades upon decades. The photos and outfits might seem old, but the routines are gold for the taking. You can make them your own signature pieces. If you enjoy eBooks, go to *lybrary.com* to read an array of new and classic books, which you download in a searchable PDF file format. Of course, titles on business, marketing, public speaking and so much more is also invaluable and should be a part of your library, too. I have a lovely working library in my office, which includes years of acquisitions, some new but mostly used. What a pleasure it was to go into the Denny Haney Magic Studio on Marlyn Avenue in Essex, Maryland, and always find treasures. Denny would make suggestions or I would peruse the tables that he stacked with upright booklets and books. I can't think of any other magic shop during that time, whether brick and mortar or mail order, that had such a

massive selection of used books. The older folks reading this know that in the old days, there were mimeographed manuscripts, thin spine-stapled booklets, and clothbound treatises. Denny was correct, and always harped that a book is a magician's best friend. (He wasn't as fond of videos or CDs.)

N – Nurture

It's often best to just listen to your mentor. Listen to their stories about past generations or experiences in the trenches, which can both educate and inspire. These stories will urge you to ask more questions and learn more together. Set yourself a goal to find something of interest to you, such as a past magic effect, act, or entertainer. Together with your mentor, discover what it is that makes the person or topic interesting. It will lead you and your mentor down many other avenues to nurture. There is so much more than just "going on stage," no matter what type of artist you are. Ask your mentor about travel, costuming, ancillary props, novel networking ideas, or idea generation starters.

T – Train

At one point I thought about getting more into card magic. In response, Joe wrote and mapped out some homework for me, such as the sleights, moves, practice, and handlings he believed were the most important to grasp in the beginning. I admit that I did not stick with the approach for long, as I did not and do not enjoy pasteboards. Training can also involve asking your mentor to help you choreograph your moves. For example, close-up mat work, stage work, or work for a tight little parlor venue or corner of a classroom. Join a Toastmasters® Club or take community college courses in the subjects of theater, arts, public speaking, business, and more. Of course, join a magic club, even a virtual one that you can attend by video. Training also means rehearsing, practicing, and dress rehearsal.

O – Organize

Organize your learning schedule, meetings, and goals. Even if your mentor cannot provide help for some of the following, you can work together to explore how and where to learn database building, as well as social media, web, email, and print marketing.



Joe Bruno's eighty-eighth birthday celebration at S.A.M. Assembly 6, in Baltimore, Maryland.

They can also give you pointers for running your own home-based business, such as office needs, accounting, record keeping, and organizing your props, gear, library, and vehicle to become a successful and self-employed variety entertainer. I tend to pack a lot in my gig case and duffel bag. When teachers and students marvel at how much I bring to build a backdrop and stage, I sometimes tell them, "Everything has its place and every place has its thing." Organize.

R – Review (Realize)

Mentorship is ongoing. You must give as well as receive. You will realize that by following up with them as you continue to build your connection. Never stand still. At the risk of sounding cliché, here goes: "The only constant is change." Today's hot effects are tomorrow's blasé, boring items. Don't buy into that. Try to keep ahead with review, review, and more review. Be a thinker and innovator in your presentation. Build, and know that review is the ticket to keeping fresh.

In conclusion, Joe Bruno drilled into me

that to be a magician, the magic is 10 percent and *you* are 90 percent. That includes the entertainment that *you* add to your interactions and performances. Mentorship will nurture this part of you, as long as you wholeheartedly care and invest in both your mentor and yourself. It's a relationship that will make you a better person.

Good luck, work hard, and always do your best to enjoy your audiences. For them, *you* are the magic.

Michael lives in Israel and performs a nationwide magic show about road safety. His goal is to use fun and magic to educate, but his bottom line is to save lives. Michael performs for a variety of audiences and venues, including nurseries, kindergartens, elementary schools, and senior citizens. Municipalities and regional councils have employed him for decades, but he also performs non-governmental shows for private events, community centers, corporate clients, and more. You may reach him by email at magicmichael.co.il.

Southern California's YOUTH MAGIC LEAGUE: Inauguration at The Magic Castle

By Dale Salwak

On October 20, 2023, guests and performers gathered at the Hollywood Magic Castle's Peller Theater to announce the launch of the Southern California Youth Magic League (Y.M.L.) – to be headquartered in the El Monte/Temple City area and directed by Kate Hong, 14, Mrs. Jane He and the Franklin Foundation Friends of Magic, Dr. and Mrs. Chen, Dale Salwak, and former Disney executive, Gary French.

Added support will come from Club 1+ — another organization co-founded by Albert Jia and Kate. This group will combine art and other formats with a variety of promotional tools to raise awareness about vulnerable populations in the U.S. including autistic youth, orphans, and the homeless. Student volunteers will assist at events designed to raise funds for charitable organizations including the Y.M.L.

Kate's love for the art ignited when she first witnessed the artistry and wonder of a magic show as a child. She dove head-first into honing her skills and eventually performed in the Magic Castle's brunch shows during last year's Chinese Festival of Magic and the *Stars of Tomorrow* at the SAM Annual Convention in New Orleans.

"Magic has always been about more than the thrill of performance," she said in her opening remarks. "It has instilled

confidence, creativity, and purpose. I aim to pass these same gifts to the next generation."

That aspiration led her to founding this league so that youth can learn from veteran magician mentors, attend interactive workshops, enjoy shows, and gain opportunities to perform themselves.



(From left) Phoenix Hong, Layla Wu, Kate Hong, and Albert Jia display the banner announcing the launch of Club 1+.



From left: Derek Dai, Jane He and Gary French watch as Dale Salwak presents a special plaque to Kate Hong celebrating the launch of Y.M.L.

A key focus will be including and uplifting autistic youth. “Performing magic boosts confidence, communication and social skills for those on the spectrum,” Kate added. “Magic gives them community and a platform in which to shine.”

Beyond learning a variety of magic techniques, members will build invaluable life skills including public speaking, creative thinking, teamwork, and leadership. “Youth of all backgrounds,” she said, “will gain a supportive community around a shared passion.

“With your backing, we will nurture the next generation of passionate magicians. But just as important, we will enrich young lives, empowering them to believe in themselves and what they can achieve.”

To be sure, the members have ambitious plans, but realizing them will take everyone – parents, mentors, donors, partners – coming together.

“Tonight marks an exciting first step on that journey,” Kate concluded. “Thank you for celebrating this milestone with me. With your support, we will shape young lives through the wonder of magic.”

After the meeting, everyone gathered to enjoy a sumptuous buffet for which

the Castle is famous and a splendid Halloween-themed show in the Palace of Mystery.



Kate Hong displays the plaque she received celebrating the launch of Y.M.L.

THE TAIWAN MAGIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONVENTION: 2023

By Dale Salwak



By Dale Salwak

Photos courtesy of Kei Izumi

For its energy and enthusiasm, stellar talent, professionalism, and warm friendship, few magic conventions in the world today come close to the Taiwan Magic development Association's (TMA) annual convention. In 2023, the convention was held in the capital city of Taipei from October 10 to October 12, following a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

As the accompanying photographs reveal, an international slate of guests joined over one thousand university and college students, along with OB/Old Boy and OG/Old Girl (that is, older members who are already university graduates) from Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Macao, Korea, Australia, Spain, France, Belgium, Canada, and the United States. They visited dealer booths, attended lectures, participated in or watched stage and close-up competitions, and enjoyed two sellout evening gala shows.

Produced by superwoman Yoyo ("Friend") Lin, President Jonathan Yang, Vice President Devin Lin, as well as Board Members Yu Chen Kun, En-Jui Shang, and a staff of dedicated, hard-working volunteers, the event more than lived up to its

theme of "Reunion!" – a spirit captured in the opening lyrics to a song composed by Yoyo and Tim Ellis, and played by Dr. JAM:

*Before the show begins
Promise me just one thing
Wherever you – find yourself –
You'll remember to come back,
The TMA is not you,
The TMA is not me,
No, no, no, it's family.*



Hard-working volunteers celebrate a successful convention.

The history of TMA goes back to 2003, when Taiwan's Chou, Tai-Hsiang realized

that professional magicians like him wanted to attend magic events. He discovered on a video tape from Akihiro Yamamoto of Japan that although various universities sponsored magic clubs, none of them were working together.

Believing it would be great if they combined efforts to produce a show, Chou completed his military service and then worked with the presidents of the other magic clubs in university to found the Taiwan Magic Association in August 2003. At the suggestion of another friend, Wang, Kai-Fu, they invited his friends from Japan to their 2004 debut.

That first convention ran one day and was a great milestone for the country's magic community. By 2008, interest in the event had grown and it became a two-day affair, before it expanded again in 2010 to its current run of three days. It joined FISM in May 2010, which authorized the organization to vote for and recommend contests for events.

At the center of the weekend is Yoyo Lin, a hard-working, energetic, gracious lady and born leader, whose goal since 2013 has been to make Taiwanese magic

as international as possible, while bringing live magic to the country as an alternative to the pervasive internet and social media.

Most remarkable is that all of the members are undergraduate or graduate students who are majoring in foreign language, science, or business, all while sharing a passion for the art of magic.

"The magic community in Taiwan is trusting," said Yoyo, "and has great relationships with each other, a result of the hard work everyone has done for this society."

Planning for the convention began about six months in advance. The members, all volunteers, communicated by e-mail and telephone. About two to three months before the event, they increased their meetings to once every two weeks. Their entire budget came from convention registrations and public ticket sales. "We don't make money," Yoyo added. "We just have fun."

Since 2011, the convention has been part of Taipei's Annual Summer Festival of the Arts, which qualifies them for a government subsidy – similar to the one that South Korea's BIMF has enjoyed for many

(text continues on page 43)



DAY 1 GALA STAGE SHOW

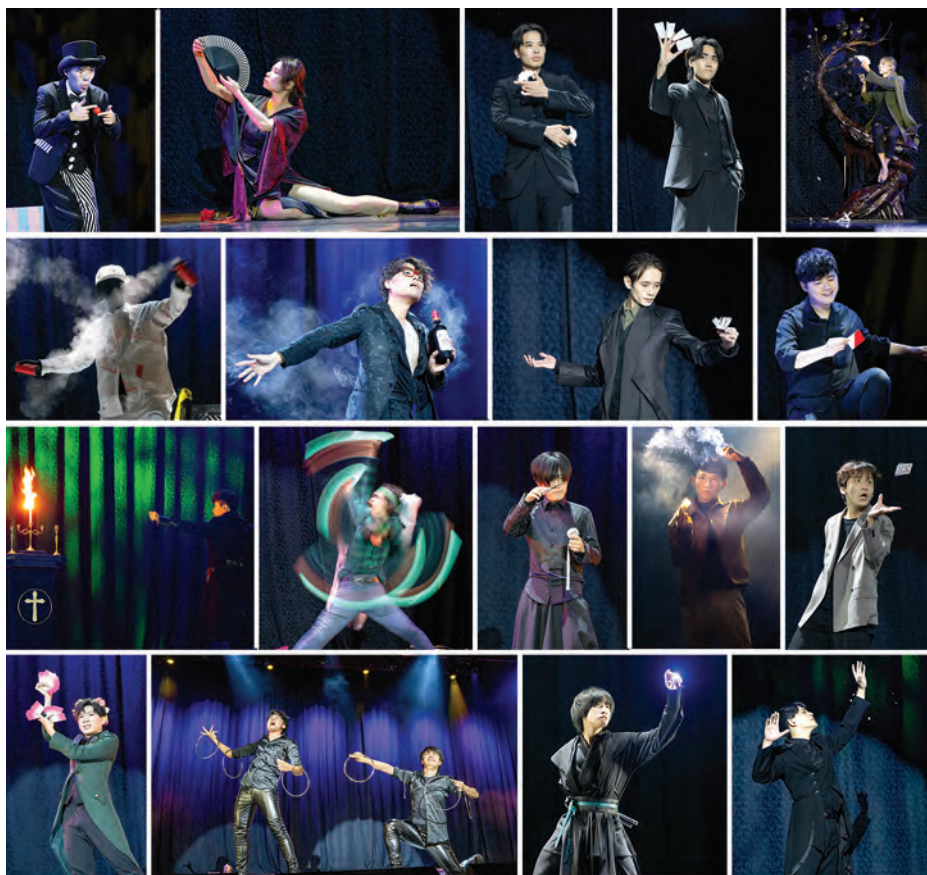
(row one l to r): Ikeda, Yosuke (Japan, host), Dale Salwak (United States), Kim, Sang-Soon (Korea), Tobias Dostal (Germany), Yu, Ho-Jin (Korea).

(row two l to r): Matéo Turbelin & Aélia Savary (France), Eric Chien (Taiwan), Eden (Korea), Do, Ki-Moon (Korea).



DAY 2 CLOSE-UP GALA

(l to r): Do, Ki-Moon (Korea), Lim, Hong-Jin (Korea), Eagle Hsu (Taiwan), Jonio (Japan),
Eric Chien (Taiwan), Tobias Dostal (Germany).



DAY 2 STAGE CONTEST

(first row l to r): Hakusai (Japan), Chen, Ying-Tung (Taiwan), Ko, Wanabe (Japan),
Kim, Cheol-Gyu (Korea), Zio (Taiwan),
(secod row l to r): Blank (Korea), Chabull (Japan), Yang, Jie-Wei (Taiwan), Lin, Jin-Shan (Taiwan).
(third row l to r): Hsu, Chun-Cheng (Taiwan), Yukichi (Japan), Kurokawa (Japan),
Devin Lin (Taiwan), Yoo, Hyeon-Wu (Korea).
(fourth row): Hsieh, Yu-Chen (Taiwan), Sugawara, Takahiro & Suzuki, Juntaro (Japan),
Park, Do-Won (Korea), Sasakikuchi (Japan).



DAY 2 STAGE CONTEST BY INVITATION

(row one l to r): Mario Lopez and Héctor Mancha (Spain, hosts), Cao, Yang (Hong Kong), Keyro Pun (Macao), Yoon, Jae-Seob (Korea).

(row two l to r): Juan Colás (Spain), Cheng, Chung-Yao (Taiwan), Lee, Yi-Dong (Taiwan), Wookie (Korea), Huang, Chian-Yu (Taiwan).

(row three l to r): Fujiyama, Taisei (Japan). Tempei (Japan, guest), Judges.



An audience of over one thousand filled the theater for the gala shows.



DAY 3 CLOSE-UP CONTEST

(row one l to r): Liu, Chang-Chin (Taiwan), Cho, Byung-Min (Taiwan), AL (Taiwan),
 Ibuki (Japan), Strange Tu (Taiwan)
 (row two l to r): Kim, Sung-Kang (Korea), Rei (Japan), Uni Kim (Korea),
 Gotaishi (Japan), Nojima (Japan).
 (row three l to r): Lychee (Japan), Julio Wosek (Spain), Han, Jin-Hyoung (Korea),
 Daxien (Taiwan), Alfonso Rituerto (Germany), Terushita (Japan).



Judges (back row) assemble with the award winners from stage and close-up competition.



DAY 3 CLOSING GALA

(row one l to r): Sunny Chen (Taiwan, host) with Yoyo Lin, Laurent Piron (Belgium), Héctor Mancha (Spain).

(row two l to r): Rubi Férez (Spain), Dr. Leon (Japan), EG Lee (Korea).

(row three l to r): Titos Tsai (Taiwan), Tim Ellis (Australia), Iwane, Yuki (Japan), Jerome Murat (France).

(continued text from page 39)

years. This also means that the convention now pulls a wider audience from the general public.

To qualify for the subsidy, the group had to convince Arts Festival officials that magic belongs in the same category as music, drama, and other performing arts, and that their artistic expression is important to Taiwan's culture and global image.

Each competitor (twenty-two on stage, five by invitation, and sixteen close-up)

was schooled in showmanship, routine, and the classic principles of magic. With ingenuity and creativity, they took what they knew and applied it to highly original theme-based acts.

It is easy to conclude that the TMA, with its principled dedication to the art of magic and its family unity, will continue to contribute significantly to the artistic life of the enchanting island of Taiwan – while at the same time paying homage to the region's rich history and traditions.

AWARDS

CLOSE-UP MAGIC CONTEST

OMG Special Award
Daxien (Taiwan)

Troba'm Special Award
Han, Jin-Hyoung (Korea)

BIMF Special Award
Alfonso Rituerto (Germany)

UGM Special Award
Strange Tu (Taiwan)

FFFF Special Award
Alfonso Rituerto (Germany)

TMA Special Award
Gotaishi (Japan)

3rd Prize
Han, Jin-Hyoung (Korea)
Nojima (Japan)

2nd Prize
Daxien (Taiwan)

1st Prize
Alfonso Rituerto (Germany)

STAGE MAGIC CONTEST

808 Special Award
Yukichi (Japan)

OMG Special Award
Huang, Chian-Yu (Taiwan)

Hanson Chien Special Award
Devin Lin (Taiwan)

UIMC Special Award
Lee, Yi-Dong (Taiwan)

Alexander 100th Anniversary
Convention
Special Award
Cheng, Chung-Yao (Taiwan)

BIMF Special Award
Huang, Chian-Yu (Taiwan)

Magination Special Award
Park, Do-Won (Korea)

Magic Castle Special Award
Juan Colás (Spain)
Kurokawa (Japan)

TMA Special Award
Cao, Yang (Hong Kong)
Fujiyama, Taisei (Japan)

3rd Prize
Yoon, Jae-Seob (Korea)

2nd Prize
Cheng, Chung-Yao (Taiwan)

1st Prize
Huang, Chian-Yu (Taiwan)
Juan Colás (Spain)

INTERNATIONAL STAGE MAGIC INVITATION CONTEST

3rd Prize
Lee, Yi-Dong (Taiwan)

2nd Prize
Cheng, Chung-Yao (Taiwan)
Huang, Chian-Yu (Taiwan)

Grand Prix
Juan Colás (Spain)



Youth Trivia Contest

January's question: A very well-respected performer was once charged with counterfeiting United States currency. *Who was this?*

Answers must be postmarked by February 20, 2024.

October's question was: A well-known magician was tragically affected by theater fires, not once, but three times within a span of just over a decade. *Who was this performer?*

Several Youth Members sent answers to this question, but unfortunately, none of them was correct. Of the answers that were submitted, the most common response was the name Lafayette. Lafayette was tragically affected by a theatre fire – it killed him – however, we were able to find in that magician's story only one instance of a theatre fire. Here's what we were hoping that you'd find ...

He entered the world in 1814 as John Anderson, approximately twenty-five statute miles west of Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom. He lost both of his parents within about a year of each other when he was only fifteen or sixteen years old, and he was forced to grow up early and fast. By his late teens, he had tried his hand in several areas of theatrical business. Inspired by a performance of magician, juggler, and ventriloquist Signor Blitz, he settled into a career as a performing conjurer. Around this time, John Anderson inserted "Henry" into his name and began billing himself as John Henry Anderson.

At the age of twenty-three, John Henry Anderson performed for Fox Maule, a member of British nobility peerage. He was encouraged by the noble to put together a traveling magic show of his own.

The show toured successfully for over three years, and Anderson's name became well known.

John Henry Anderson was very skilled at performing, but he was also skilled at selecting the material to perform. He acted as his own producer and director, and worked diligently to fine-tune the presentations in his shows. Anderson ruthlessly cut the stuff that didn't get a satisfactory response from the audiences, and he worked to continuously improve the bits that he left in the show.

However, Anderson also recognized the value of promotion and advertising. He was as skilled a self-promoter as he was a performer and producer. It was his aggressive use of advertising strategies that made him one of the top draws of his time. Magician, historian, and author Ricky Jay once broke into laughter in the middle of an interview as he described John Henry Anderson's unabashed acts of self-promotion. These included plastering twenty-sheet, billboard-sized lithographs onto The Sphinx, and having his name and image embossed into pieces of butter to be distributed to hotels and homes in the vicinity of his shows. He even managed to get a large ad on the second page of the very first issue of Punch, a magazine that ran for 151 continuous years.

He began billing himself as "The Great Wizard of the North." The promotional moniker had a great "hook" to it. It tied him to his Scottish origins, and it was easy



(l to r): John Henry Anderson. • A broadside poster for The Great Wizard of the North.

for the public to remember. Anderson explained that the name had been given to him by Sir Walter Scott, who said to him:

“They call me ‘The Wizard of the North’ but they make a mistake – it is you, not I, who best deserve the title.”

Well ... probably not. That’s likely another bit of brazen self-promotion, or more correctly, a complete lie. The truth is that Sir Walter Scott died in 1832, when John Anderson was barely eighteen years old. But brazen self-promotion isn’t exactly rare among magicians. (Just think of Houdini.)

In order to compete with his rivals, some of whom had their own performance venues, he built his own theatre, which opened in 1845. It was called “The City Theatre” and it was located on Glasgow Green in the city of Glasgow, Scotland. It opened in July, and John Henry Anderson was the primary entertainer featured for the first few weeks. Four months after the curtain

went up for the first time, The City Theatre burned down. The fire occurred overnight, into the early hours of November 19, so fortunately, there were no injuries or deaths. Still, Anderson’s financial loss was tremendous.

Several years later, in the early 1850s, he was performing at a theater in the United States (notice the American spelling of theater) when there was another fire, although it was not as severe.

His misfortune with theatre fires struck a third time, this time in central London at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden. Anderson had leased the theatre, and was presenting a nonstop entertainment event and benefit show, over two days on March 3 and 4, 1856. In the very early morning hours of March 4, a fire initiated in a work area, well above the stage. Someone shouted “Fire!” People clambered for the exits as the flames spread, and within thirty minutes, the building was engulfed and the

roof collapsed. Again, thankfully, nobody was killed. And again, tragically, John Henry Anderson lost almost all of his equipment, and suffered a tremendous financial loss. The theatre was rebuilt, and today stands as the Royal Opera House.

Over his long career, *The Great Wizard of the North*, John Henry Anderson, traveled and performed for audiences of common folk and royalty all over the globe. He made and lost fortunes, several times over, and became one of the most influential conjurers in the history of our craft.

You can learn more about John Henry Anderson in books, including *John Henry Anderson*, *The Great Wizard of the North & His Magical Family*, by Edwin A. Dawes and Michael E. Dawes. There are also

many pieces written in back issues of periodical publications like Hugard's *Magic Monthly*, *Genii*, *MAGIC*, *The Magic Circular*, and *The Linking Ring*.

John Henry Anderson died in 1874.

If you sent an answer to this month's question, but it wasn't the correct answer, please ... try, try again! Some of these questions can be a bit tough. They're not intended to be easily answered, especially by using internet search engines. Try taking your issue of *The Linking Ring* to your local Ring meeting and asking some of the more senior members to help you find the answer. Show everyone how much you know, get your name published in *The Linking Ring*, and win some really cool stuff from one of our best brick-and-mortar magic shops!

Attention, Youth Members!

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

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

Be sure that you include a few references. If we *do* use your question, we'll send you either a case of leftover Halloween candy or a *really* cool magic book – our choice.

See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 145 and mail your responses to the address above.

Answers must be postmarked by February 20, 2024.



A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

Finding Ourselves

It might be a cliché, but accurate nonetheless, that the most difficult journey we will take as performers is the journey to self-identity. It begins when we ask, as do most artists: *What does it mean to be me?*

My understanding was first nudged in that direction in September 1961, after my parents, brother, and I had moved from Massachusetts to Indiana. At the end of the first week among my new friends and in a new school, I said to my mother, “Nobody knows me: I can be anybody I want to be.” She said, “Why don’t you be yourself?”

I was similarly challenged four years later, after my debut performance at Abbott’s Magic Get-together, when Jay Marshall cared enough to say to me, in private, something that burned into my brain: “You’re doing Neil Foster.”

He was referring to my deportment, my attitude, my look. As someone wrote at the time, “It’s not easy to escape the shadow of flawless Foster.”

Gratefully, Jay’s comment, along with my mother’s, did not discourage but rather rewarded me in ways I could never have foreseen in those early days of my performing. By 1973 I had the first of many breakthroughs when, after seeing another of my shows, he said five words, both exhilarating and daunting, whose meaning I think about every day: “You’re doing Dale Salwak now.”

When I shared this story with Neil, he assured me, with the same certainty as he knew his name, that the artist’s journey to find the “Inmost Me” always begins in this way.

Virtually every professional in the world, he reminded me, if they are honest with themselves, has discovered the truth of Aristotle’s words from *Poetics*: “Imitation [of reality] is part of a creative process.”

Everybody, even those who seem strikingly original, has probably based some of his or her style upon significant predecessors. From childhood that is how we learn. Nobody grows in a vacuum.

Then as we mature and if we are lucky, we retain traces of the qualities found in performers we admire: grace and clarity, precision and passion. If we are patient and persevering and *very* lucky, what we become is not several people rolled together but ourselves at full potential.



Alfred North Whitehead.

“[By] linking . . . with the great,” wrote Alfred North Whitehead, “we can become freer to be ourselves, to be what we most

want and value.” Nothing else is of comparable importance. The art reveals the artist.

Consider as prime examples the lives of Harry Kellar, Max Malini, Cardini, Dai Vernon, Charlie Miller, Al Flosso, Slydini, Suzy Wandas Bennett, Channing Pollock, Francis Carlyle, or Celeste Evans, to name a few of our magical heroes.

Early in their development they took in what they had seen and heard and read and dreamed of and over many years transformed it with their genius into something distinctive and their own. The results of their artistic freedom continues to influence later generations.

What’s true for magicians is true as well for artists from other genres, including the painter, the sculptor, the composer, the author, the singer – all of whom admit to an undeniable wellspring of resonances, traces, remembrances both past and contemporary. Thus:

Picasso attributed his style in part to the personal impact of Paul Cézanne, Raphael, and Henri Rousseau as well as archaic and tribal art;

Leonardo da Vinci owed much of his identity to Leon Battista Alberti’s treatises on painting and architecture, Filippo Brunelleschi’s design of the cathedral dome in Florence, Antonio del Pollaiuolo’s anatomy of muscles and nerves, and Andrea del Verrocchio’s lessons in painting, the mechanical arts, and sculpture;

Oscar Peterson steered toward jazz because of the work of Teddy Wilson, Nat King Cole, James P. Johnson, and his idol, Art Tatum;

Vladimir Nabokov found the genesis for his masterwork, *Lolita*, in the work of Lewis Carroll, Charlie Chaplin, and Edgar Allan Poe; and

Tony Bennett drew inspiration in varying degrees from Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, and Art Tatum.

Neil, too, spoke of his own work in such terms. One of many attractions about the man that emerged from our talks and correspondence was the unfeigned pleasure he took in acknowledging what he had absorbed from others – including the flair of Benny Chavez,

the technical mastery of Cardini, the limitless creativity of Harry Blackstone, Sr.

The seed of inspiration was planted deep when he was nine and saw for the first time the Great Blackstone. Within thirty minutes into the show, Neil knew that he wanted to be a magician. “It was more than the tricks,” he said. “There was something about the man himself – the twinkle in his eyes, the powerful presence, his heart – that caught me and would not let go.”

Lest anyone think that finding ourselves is an easy path, however, let’s not overlook the difficulties involved, the heights not reached.

The potential obstacles are many, including self-doubt and fear, discouragement, personal turmoil, criticism, distractions. Some discover it accidentally; others are blithely unaware of or deny having been influenced by another performer.

The message is clear, however: if we read widely and see and hear everyone, as we must (if we hope to mature); if we resist the temptation to give up prematurely; if we stay true to our art long enough, then gradually, very gradually, instinct will guide us to our deeper, permanent self.

Then settling into and expressing that self (a basic human need) through our art becomes, unapologetically, a very real source of joy as the flame of discovery burns intensely during a lifetime devoted to our profession.

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.



From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD

Early in the eighteenth century, John White published a very early magic textbook called *Hocus Pocus*, which included the instructions for a bar trick to amaze your friends. The stated idea was for the performer to “name all the cards in the pack without seeing them,” and the accompanying woodcut illustration was added to clarify the concept. Basically, the magician was instructed to “accidentally” spill a pool of liquor on the tabletop, then use the reflection from this as a mirror to glimpse the cards that were illuminated by a well-positioned candle. The cards were to be held above the head, in the manner shown. Sidney Clarke commented upon the “impossible illustration” in his *Annals of Conjuring*, pointing out that the card shown in the hands of the magician (Five of Spades) is not the one reflected in the puddle of liquid (Two of Clubs), which adds a whole new dimension. The artist was either inebriated, or had not bothered to read the text he had been paid to illustrate. Steve Beam alluded to this in an article in the quirky journal *Perennial Mystics Squared* (Issue 26, October 2022), adding the observation: “Judging from the performer’s oh-so-natural hunchbacked posture as he ‘secretly’ stares at the reflection, it might have been a good idea to reserve some of the liquor for the audience.”

We’ll return to this later, but for the moment let’s consider the popular myth that the sum of the values of all the cards in a deck is 365 – the number of days in an ordinary year. If you do the calculations, you will find that each suit adds up to 91, and this

multiplied by 4 comes to 364, not 365. In fact, any number multiplied by 4 must result in an even number. Some magicians use this idea in their patter, either inadvertently (having heard it elsewhere) or hoping that the audience will not be numerate enough to notice the error.

I suspect that current usage can be traced back to “The Deck of Cards,” recorded by Wink Martindale in 1959 and played frequently on the radio around that time. I still have the vinyl 45rpm version. It tells of a soldier trying to avoid court martial for playing cards in church, by claiming that his pack of cards functions as a bible and a calendar. This is the soldier boy’s patter:

“When I look at the ace, it reminds me that there is but one God, and the deuce reminds me that the bible is divided into two parts. When I see the three, I think of the Holy Trinity, and when I see the four, I think of the four evangelists who preached the gospel.”

He goes on to speak of other biblical figures (the five wise virgins, etc.) up to the Ten Commandments, ending with God as the King of Heaven, and the Virgin Mary as Queen. Unluckily for him, the Jack is the Devil.

So far so good, but this is where things start to come unstuck:

“When I count the number of spots on a deck of cards, I find 365, the number of days in a year.”

Count those again, Wink.

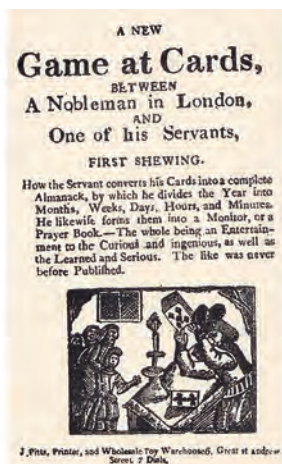
He goes on, rather less controversially: “There are fifty-two cards, the number of



A bizarre card trick.



Isn't It Wonderful?
autographed frontispiece.



Game at Cards cover.



Manuscript detail.

weeks in a year. There are four suits, the number of weeks in a month. There are twelve picture cards, the number of months in a year. There are thirteen tricks, the number of weeks in a quarter. So you see, Sir, my pack of cards serves me as a bible, an almanac and a prayer book.”

Some suggest that you could include the Joker to round up the number – but the Joker does not have a specific value, and as there are always two of them anyway, the best you can do is a leap year of 366. It may just be easier to say “Fair cop, Gov!”

Further searches, and a vague memory, took me back to my copy of Charles Bertram’s book *Isn’t It Wonderful?*, published in 1896 and bearing Bertram’s signature beneath a picture of him performing his trademark effect of the blindfold card-stab. The book contains, on pages 173 to 180, a reproduction of a distinctly older text. Frustratingly, Bertram claims that this is “from a very old publication,” but neglects to give any further details. It is, however, “a curious explanation given by a servant to his master when suspected of indulging in the pernicious vice of gambling, and whereupon being interrogated, explained the novel use he made of a pack of cards which was found in his possession.”

Further scrutiny reveals this to be a much earlier manifestation of the “Deck of Cards”

patter, applied to a servant rather than a soldier. According to the blurb, this is the “first shewing” of “a new Game at Cards, between a Nobleman in London and one of his Servants.” It claims that the like was never before published, and promises to tell, “how the servant converts his Cards into a complete Almanack, by which he divides the Year into Months, Weeks, Days, Hours, and Minutes. He likewise turns them into a Prayer Book – the whole thing being an Entertainment to the Curious and Ingenious, as well as the Learned and Serious.”

Set out in the form of a script, a jealous servant accuses his Lord’s favourite of gambling – a vice which the master regards as mortally hateful. The other servant protests his innocence, but when he is searched and a pack of cards is discovered on him, he gives a detailed justification along the lines of the “Deck of Cards” excuse. In short, the master believes his story and the accuser is banished, despised by all, and forced to beg for bread before dying prematurely of “no other disease than a broken heart.” The epitaph on his grave warns others not to share his fate.

Amusingly, at the end of the piece the narrator addresses the reader, saying that now the “almanack” (i.e., pack of cards) has been explained, perhaps he would like to buy one from the printer – J Pitts of Great St. Andrew

Street in Seven Dials, where he also has a wholesale toy warehouse! Thus, the whole thing becomes an elaborate advertisement.

Exactly dating this item, which purports to be the origin of the “Deck of Cards” concept, is difficult. The style of lettering and illustration, however, with the elongated “s” feature resembling the letter “f,” bears a marked resemblance to that of the book *Sports and Pastimes*, which was published in 1676. Furthermore, the writer refers to both the King (“the allegiance I owe to his Majesty”) and the Queen (“the allegiance I owe to her Majesty”). William and Mary are the only couple in British history who reigned as joint monarchs. They ascended the throne in 1689, Mary dying in 1694 and William in 1702. I would suggest that this dates the text to somewhere between 1689 and 1694; so circa 1690 and the beginning of the last decade of the seventeenth century.



Bringing this full circle, it may be noted that the trick mentioned in my first paragraph is featured on the cover of the Bertram example, but without any further reference to it.

b.lead@btinternet.com

Submitting Ring Events

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

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

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

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



Alaska Animals

Last month I told you about how my new book *Children Love Animals* came about, including why it took eighteen years to get it finished. I also told you about how if you put any animal trick in your show, the children will love you. Why? Because *children love animals*. Not just live animals, but anything animal-related!

This month and next, let me share with you how I used that basic rule in my school show career.

If you have watched my lecture video *It's All the Same Trick*, now part of the DVD *David Ginn's Invisible Message*, you've seen me perform five or ten different versions of the same trick. Basically, it's the idea of showing a bunch of different laminated pictures, having an audience helper select one of them, then revealing in some way that you knew ahead of time which one the helper would select. It is basically a card trick in kid-show packaging.

1. The Moose Cap

During our June 1995 trip to Alaska, which completed my lifetime quest to visit all fifty United States, my wife Lynne and I visited all the gift shops in downtown Anchorage. She bought hundreds of things. Well, maybe lots. I bought a grizzly bear cub puppet, an Alaska animals pictorial calendar, and two yellow plastic Alaska road signs – one with an eagle, the other showing a moose. On our Alaska Railroad train ride

from Anchorage to Seward, I also bought a baseball cap with moose antlers attached.

I had already planned to create an Alaska-themed school assembly program for 1995-96. A month later, I got to work on it. I taped the two yellow signs together back-to-back, then ran a loop of rawhide through a hole in the top so I could hang up the sign.

At the local Office Max, I had nine of the animal pictures blown up and laminated as 11 x 17 posters. Along with the moose cap, that's all I needed to entertain and educate over a hundred thousand Georgia school children about the animals in our forty-ninth state.

Performance. Inviting a boy on stage, I positioned him on my left, asked his name, and then posed this question:

"Ronald, do you know what June 23 is in Alaska, or anywhere else in the western hemisphere? You don't? Well, it's the longest day of the year. Where we live in Georgia, we have more daylight on June 23 than any other day of the year. And do you know what they do in Alaska on June 23? You don't? Well, the answer is – they play a statewide Midnight Baseball Game.

"And now, Ronald, here's the big question, so listen carefully and think before you answer. What *time* ... on June 23 in Alaska ... do they *play* that **midnight** baseball game?"

Believe me, in over four hundred live performances of the Alaska show, virtually all

the boy helpers gave the same answer.

“Midnight.”

“Ronald, that’s a good answer – but it’s *wrong*. The Midnight Baseball Game starts about 10:30 pm and lasts until two o’clock in the morning. Because in Alaska on June 23, it is daylight all night long!

“In fact, when my wife and I arrived there on June 24 (we missed the game by one day), I woke up around three in the morning and looked out my hotel room window, and it was broad daylight just like it is outside your school right now. Yes, that’s right! At three o’clock in the morning it was still completely daylight in Alaska!

“Anyway, Ronald, I brought back a souvenir baseball cap from Alaska, and I’m going to let you wear it. So face the audience, and I’ll see if it fits you.” I reached into the suitcase behind the boy and brought out the cap with the bill toward him. Quickly, I placed it on his head as in **Figure A-1**.



A-1: David with helper wearing baseball cap with horns.

The 1980s photo in **Figure A-1** shows a boy wearing a horned baseball cap. Unfortunately, this is not the one with moose antlers that I used in the Alaska show, but it gives you the general idea. My moose cap vanished – I don’t know where.

The audience children immediately saw the moose antlers, but I didn’t want them to tell the boy. That’s why I “shushed” them with a hand sign as in **Figure A-2**. However, some of them always laugh, and



A-2: David shushes kids with finger to lips.

that’s fine because it leads into one of my best jokes for the teachers.

“Hey, don’t laugh,” I told them. “Even your teachers wear mousse on their hair!”

I looked right at some of the teachers when I delivered that line, and I promise you they either groaned or laughed. And I was happy with either reaction.

We continued the routine without the boy knowing about the antlers on his head. One by one, I showed the pictures of Alaska animals: puffin bird, moose, bald eagle, sea otter, bear, and so forth, telling something educational about each animal. See **Figure A-3**. Then I performed a card force (bottom force), having the boy choose either the eagle or the moose, depending on my ending.



A-3: David shows animal pictures to volunteer.



A-4: Yellow sign with eagle drawing.

Regarding the ending, the moose/eagle road sign is hanging somewhere in sight, on stage, for the entire show. If the eagle side was showing, I forced the moose. If I was doing two shows in a row, in one show I forced the moose, the next I showed the eagle.

Let’s say the eagle side is showing for this performance (**Fig. A-4**), so I forced the moose. Before I did this, however, I set the stage like this:

“Ronald, do you see that eagle sign over there? Well, before the show today, I put a picture of *one* of these Alaska animals on the

back of that sign. And I want you to use your magic, your ESP, your intuition, to try and figure out which animal it is.” Then I went through the card force with the moose.

“Okay, Ronald, you stopped me on the moose. Isn’t that interesting?” I took the sign down. “Tell you what. Everyone put your hands on your knees. When I give you the signal, give me a drumroll, and on the count of three, I will turn the sign around to see if Ronald is correct. And if he is right, let’s all give him a big round of applause. Ready? One, two, three!”

Immediately I turned the eagle sign around to reveal the moose, as in **Figure A-5**.



A-5: David turns yellow sign around to reveal moose.

“Wow, Ronald, you did it! Let’s give Ronald lots of applause!” Yes, it was fun, it was educational, and it was very easy to perform.

2. Fuzzy the Bear Cub

Now what did I do with the grizzly bear cub puppet? Easy, too. I used him to deliver educational material early in the show. You might consider him my warm-up act. I called the bear Fuzzy because he looks “fuzzy,” and I remembered that old children’s song I loved years ago. You probably know it:

*Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear.
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair.
Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn’t fuzzy, wuzzy?*

This bear puppet stayed inside a purple trunk, which I picked up for ten or twelve dollars at a local store. I carried him into the show, took him out during the performance, then put him back when was finished. But the trunk served another purpose: *It hid my cheat sheet!*

In the bottom of the little trunk, I had my notes on what Fuzzy told me about Alaska. That way I could ad-lib, but always worked in the facts. When I brought out the bear as in **Figure A-6**, I let him peak over the top of the trunk first. Then I hugged him to me and let him pretend to be shy, very similar to the way I handle my koala puppet.



A-6: David with brown bear puppet.

“Alaska – our forty-ninth state – is called the Last Frontier, and it is located in the northwest corner of the United States. In fact, it is the largest state in the USA. Most people know that Alaska is the farthest state to the north and to the west. Hawaii is our farthest state south. But did you know that Alaska is also the farthest state to the *east* because part of it lies in the *eastern hemisphere*? In fact, the Aleutian Islands go all the way to the 172nd Eastern parallel.

“Now, Fuzzy – are you ready to look at the boys and girls here? No? Why? No, they won’t bite you! Come on, take a look.” The bear slowly turned and looked at the kids. “See, they’re very nice. What?” Bear whispered into my ear. “They’re not very big? What? Oh, your momma is big? Oh, very big. In fact, Alaska bears are some of the biggest bears in the world?”

“What, Fuzzy? Your momma is very, very big? How big? What? She weighs eight hundred pounds!” Kids loved that figure. “Then, yes, I’d say she’s very big!”

As Fuzzy warmed up to the crowd, he

ended up telling me educational things about Alaska.

“Now Fuzzy wants you boys and girls to know about his home in Alaska. What?” The bear whispers in my ear again, and I repeated what he said. “Fuzzy says Alaska has three thousand rivers, and there are eighteen thousand islands in Alaska. Wow, eighteen thousand! That’s a lot of islands and rivers. And what?” More whispering.

“Fuzzy says that Alaska has one hundred thousand glaciers and three million lakes. What? Oh, your momma fishes in a lake. Well, Fuzzy, if Alaska has three million lakes and only a half million people, that gives everyone six lakes each to fish in.”

The bear whispered again. “What? Your momma likes to fish in the lake? I am sure she does.

“Of course, I know that Alaska produces as much oil as our State of Texas. What, Fuzzy? Your momma doesn’t like to fish in the oil? Well, I hope not.”

After I worked in a few more facts, I got into the same line of humor I used with the Australian koala. Fuzzy said he knows someone in the audience, a girl in a green shirt.

“Who is that girl, Fuzzy?” I asked him. “What? She’s your *girlfriend*?” Just saying the word *girlfriend* makes the audience of children laugh really loud.

“Where did you meet her? At the Dairy Queen?” More laughter. “And she was eating a hot fudge sundae with *ketchup* on it?” Kids screamed at that. “And she shared it with you? I think we’ve heard enough about that for now.”

Kids always enjoyed animals with stories and personality. But it was time for Fuzzy to go, so he whispered to me:

“You gotta go? Where are you going? Back into your trunk? Okay. Then where are you going? To help your momma fish in the lake – of course!”

So I put Fuzzy back into the trunk – “and don’t turn on that TV set!” – and the kids clapped their hands for my little fuzzy friend.



A-7: Little girl holds white rabbit in lap.

3. The Real Story

Many young children think puppets are real. Sure, it depends on which puppet you are using and how you handle and present it. So you must handle the *real* aspect of the puppet with care. But let me share with you what happened over twenty years ago when I presented Fuzzy the Bear during my Alaska show at a nearby elementary school.

Kindergarten, first, and second grades were at the first show of two. In those early puppet days, I often “picked on” a specific girl in the audience to be the bear’s *girlfriend*. In that show I identified a cute six-year-old little girl, and I did all the jokes you’ve read.

Immediately after the performance, I started resetting my props for the older kids’ show, grades 3-5. But the principal interrupted me, saying a little girl wanted to ask me something. I turned and looked, and yes, it was the little girl I had picked on. Oh, boy, I thought, *I hope I haven’t hurt her feelings*.

So I stopped what I was doing and sat down on the front edge of the eighteen-inch high stage in the gym. I motioned for her to

do the same, so she came and sat down beside me. "What did you want to ask me?" I said to her.

NOW, reader, I want you to STOP and listen closely to exactly what came out of the child's mouth. This is word-for-word what she said:

"Why did that little bear say those things about me?"

I did not expect the question, and I started to answer flippantly, "Honey, that bear didn't say anything. That was *me* doing the talking!"

Then I realized the truth. *She believed the bear was real.* I quickly changed my answer. I said:

"You know what? I think Fuzzy saw you out there and thought *you* were the nicest lit-

tle girl in the whole school. So I think he was just making that up because he likes you. So listen, right now he's back stage taking a nap. But when he wakes up, I'll tell him you came by to say hello. Is that okay?"

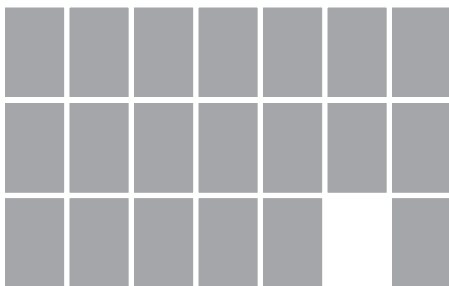
She said yes, then happily went back to join her class. But I learned my lesson about keeping puppets real.

"Why did that little bear say those things about me?"

That's a true story – the real story – that I will never forget. I told you. Children *love* animals!

This article David has excerpted from his new book, *Children Love Animals*. For more information, go to GinnMagicShop.com or contact David at ginnmagic@comcast.net.

Missing Linking Rings?



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

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



Marketing Magic

KENT CUMMINS

Marketing by the Numbers

"If you don't know your numbers, you don't know your business."

— Marcus Lemonis

This is my one hundredth column of "Marketing Magic." (This is remarkable, because Sammy was only expecting three articles from me!)

This year I will also publish my one hundredth weekly column in Alan Watson's *New Zealand Magic E-zine*, as well as my one hundredth podcast episode, "Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center." (Episode #52 of the podcast was all about "Numbers!")

January is the first month of 2024, which is my seventy-fifth year as a magician! Last year, I celebrated my eightieth birthday with a big party ... the biggest since I celebrated my fiftieth, thirty years earlier. We celebrate these important milestones with our family and friends, but we also use numbers like these in our marketing.

People often ask me if I still perform. Yes, I am still a magician! "So, how many shows do you do?" I started keeping track, and it turns out that I do about fifty-two shows a year. Fifty-two is an interesting number: the number of weeks in a year, the number of cards in a deck, the number of years Houdini lived. It is also the number of white keys on a piano, which interests me because I once played piano in a rock and roll band (back when what we now call "classic rock" was called "Top 40").

When my wife Margot asked me what the special gift was for a fifty-second wedding anniversary, I glibly replied, "playing cards!" She chided me for joking, but my

gift to her that year (already more than six years ago) was fifty-two decks of special playing cards, with pictures of us from each of the years that we had been married.



When I realized in 2017 that I was about to turn sixty-four, I promoted my "When I'm 64 Tour," promising to do sixty-four shows during the year. (This was inspired by The Beatles' famous song from 1967, "When I'm Sixty-Four.") I set up a Google calendar so that people could follow my progress.

In 2019, I used the fact that I had been a magician for seventy years to promote three public shows at the historic Scottish Rite Theatre in Austin, Texas.

Why a Marketing Column About Numbers?

It was Rick Heath, a performer and artist with the Le Grand David Spectacular Magic Company during its thirty-five-year run from 1977 to 2012, who suggested a column about the use of numbers in marketing. He pointed out that Cesareo Pelaez, the company's founder and director, would capitalize on numbers when marketing their shows:

25th Anniversary, 35th Anniversary, 7 performances at the White House, etc.

Look at how successful McDonald's was for years by highlighting the "millions sold" on their signs!

Did the Walt Disney Company really try to trademark the word "magic"? Regardless, they have made the word their own by calling their theme park "The Magic Kingdom." This year alone, Disney is advertising:

May 1: Disney's Hollywood Studios 35th Anniversary

June 1: Disney's Typhoon Lagoon 35th Anniversary

June 9: Donald Duck's 90th Birthday

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey understood the power of numbers. In a wonderful 1942 poster, they touted "50 Famous Elephants with Beautiful Girls!" (It took a different poster to tell us "300 Beautiful Dancing Girls.")



A 1934 poster for the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus advertised, "CLYDE BEATTY the Jungle King in a Stronghold Battle with 40 of the Most Ferocious Beasts that Breathe!" (I would rather see the 300 Beautiful Dancing Girls.)

In America, we loved the Three-Ring Circus.

Marketing Numbers from Famous Magicians

Magicians of the "Golden Age" often boasted about how many tons of equipment they had, how big were their casts, how much things cost, etc.

I have a souvenir program from the first

magic show I ever saw: "World Super Magician BLACKSTONE and his Show of 1001 Wonders." It was Blackstone Senior, in 1952. (I am not sure how many wonders were in Blackstone Junior's show.)

"Chung Ling Soo and his Ten Assistants" (his ten fingers) are on a classic magic poster. But Ricky Jay advertised his "52 Assistants" (a deck of cards ... but what about the joker?).



A Thurston poster promoted his "\$50,000 Illusion," making Beauty (a horse) vanish in midair.

Andress promoted "54 Years of Pleasure Making" (couldn't he have waited one more year?), as well as "75-100 Useful Presents Given Away at Each Performance."

Hellers Wonder Coterie brags about "Two Solid Hours of Fun!"

We pay attention to the numbers.

Magic Clubs

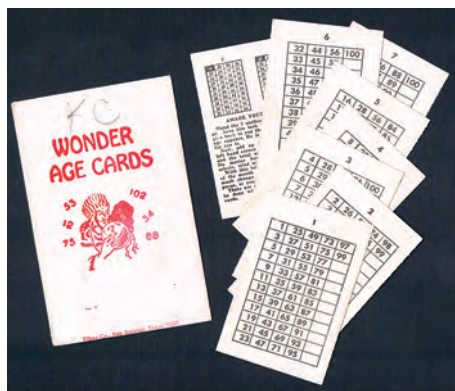
Our magic organizations also make a Big Deal about numbers. The Dallas Magic Club changed the year that they would host the Texas Association of Magicians (TAOM) convention, so that it would coincide with the one hundredth birthday of their club in 2024. The TAOM recognizes those who

have attained twenty-five years of membership by bestowing the “Order of Willard” designation, and those of us with this designation get a special presentation during the convention.

And of course, I.B.M. recognizes various levels of membership continuity through our “Order of Merlin” program. (I am now Order of Merlin Excelsior!)

Math Magic

One of my first math magic tricks was the “Wonder Age Cards,” purchased from the Fun ‘N Magic Shop in San Antonio, Texas when I was just a kid. The idea was that the magician could divine the age of the spectator just by using a few cards. It uses the binary system, with numbers up to sixty-four. That means I have not been able to use the trick for my own age for nearly two decades!



The Fun ‘N Magic Shop advertised, “1,500,399 Tricks, Jokes, and Novelties.” I once asked Berkie, the proprietor, why that number. He replied, “Who’s gonna count?”

One of my favorite tricks is “The 1089 Trick,” although I don’t call it that when I perform it! It uses numbers to create a prediction effect. Dan Page, aka “Cranius Astounding,” has used this effect to create an amazing book test.

Another favorite prediction trick takes advantage of the fact that the opposite sides of each die always add up to seven. Surprisingly, most non-magicians don’t seem to realize this. A popular card trick

originally called “Miko” uses a special 3½ of Clubs card, taking advantage of this principle.

I also have a copy of Meir Yedid’s “Perfect Perfect,” a trick with nine jumbo number cards. It claims to be “An outstanding prediction effect where you have 100% control over 198 possible outcomes.” Numbers.

Numerology

Numerology is the belief in an occult, divine, or mystical relationship between a number and one or more coinciding events, as well as the relationship between numbers and letters or other symbols. It is often considered a pseudo-science, although practitioners suggest otherwise.

Personally, I tend to remain with the skeptics, but I am aware that my friend Saul Ravenscraft uses numerology as one of several effective tools for giving readings. The magic doesn’t work if you don’t believe.

The Secret of Numbers Revealed: The Magic Power of Numbers, by Godfrey Spencer, is one of the oldest books in my library. (It doesn’t have a publication date, but the publisher’s address is listed as New York 10, New York ... no zip code yet! It also has a pencil notation indicating that it was the 545th book in my library, which makes it very old indeed.)

In the introduction, the author says, “The study of Names and Numbers opens up a new and large field in the hidden world of self-analysis, gives to us many facts pertaining to our individuality, and also a reason for apparent success or failure that heretofore were impossible to be obtained.”

Oh.

My Magic Library

The Dewey Decimal Number for books on Conjuring is 793.8, a fact that I learned when I was in elementary school. My *Giant Book of Magic Illusions* has those numbers on the spine of the book.

I don’t know how many magic books I have, but the number is certainly in the

[illegible]

Magic By The Numbers

You can look up versions online. The song is called “The Deck of Cards.”

The Rule of Three

patterns, and organizing things by three is one of the most satisfying ways to accomplish that. Pay attention to effective advertising, and you may be surprised at how often you see “The Rule of Three” in application.

It is said that the Cups and Balls is perhaps the oldest trick in the history of

But why is the number three so powerful? Philosophers, marketers, and neuroscientists continue to discuss and debate this.

It is said that the Cups and Balls is perhaps the oldest trick in the history of

magic, and most of the time it uses three cups and three balls (wink, wink).

Lucky Seven

The number seven is traditionally thought to be lucky. There are seven days in a week, seven colors of the rainbow, and seven notes on a musical scale. We talk about rolling sevens when we play dice. There are seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the “Seven Deadly Sins.” There were seven dwarfs in that Disney movie. We’ve read *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Steven Covey.

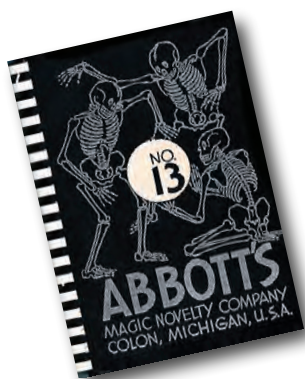
The seventh son of a seventh son will be gifted with magical powers of good and evil.

The *Six Keys to Baldpate* just doesn’t have the same flair. But what about the *Seven Year Itch*?

Unlucky 13

Why is there no thirteenth floor in a hotel?

The number thirteen is thought to be unlucky. But my favorite magic catalog is Abbott’s Number 13.



When I saw Kara Kum and his midnight ghost show, he advertised the “Crawling Thing from Planet 13.” I don’t think we would have been as afraid of “The Crawling Thing from Planet 12.”

Corinda’s *13 Steps to Mentalism* is undergoing a renewed popularity. (I bought my signed copy directly from Tony when I visited his magic shop in London in 1967.) Somehow, *11 Steps to Mentalism* just wouldn’t be the same.

Magic Tricks By The Number

Who ever heard of a “Four Card Monte”? Or the “Two Shell Game”?

Why is that popular trick called, “The 20th Century Silks”? When Frank Ducrot invented it in 1900, it was intended to indicate that it was a modern trick ... but now we are more than twenty years past the twentieth century.

Do you love tricks with numbers? Two words: Magic Squares.

D. Robbins Company sells a “slum book” called *102 Tricks*. I have used it for various projects. The first trick is (wait for it) the infamous “21 Card Trick”!

The Bottom Line

Next month will be my one hundred and first “Marketing Magic” column. I have already started writing it. Numbers matter!

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

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

**Support the magic dealers who support the I.B.M.
Buy from *The Linking Ring* advertisers!**

Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



Herr Doebler, born George William Smith Buck, was one of the great illusionists and entertainers of the nineteenth century. Known as the “Prince of Magicians,” he performed before Queen Victoria, the Empress of Germany, and other royals at Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1898.

John Scarne gave lessons in card magic to countless magicians and celebrities, including Joe DiMaggio, Orson Welles, Joe Louis, Milton Berle, The Prince of Wales, and James J. Braddock.

Harry Houdini departed from America to England in the early 1900s because he couldn’t command the salary he thought he deserved. In his diary, he noted that on February 18, 1905, he cleared a salary of \$2,150 for that week, a considerable sum. Using an inflation calculator, that would equal \$77,959 in 2023.

Balabrega (1857–1900), born Johan Moller in Helsingborg, Sweden, began performing with his father at an early age, as the Swedish Wonder and the Boy Magician. He often toured through South America, where he owned several fruit plantations. Less than a year after finishing a tour in Cuba, on June 12, 1900, Balabrega was performing in Pernambuco, Brazil, when he and one of his assistants were killed on stage by an exploding gas stage light. He was performing “The Moth and the Flame” pyrotechnic illusion at the time. The trick required a gas supply for the flame, which the theatre lacked. Instead, Balabrega used acetylene as a substitute, and it blew up.

Before he became a professional magician who presented himself as Bakir the Fakir, Al Goshman worked as a baker in Brooklyn.

Faucett Ross was an extremely popular magician and a prolific letter writer. It has been estimated that Ross wrote over twenty thousand letters to fellow magicians throughout his adult life. He did not become a professional magician until he was in his thirties and died at the age of eighty-six, which means that he averaged at least one letter a day, seven days a week, for almost fifty-five years.

Magician Sigmund Neuburger went by the stage name the Great Lafayette. He was just four days away from the opening of his new show when his dog, Beauty, whom Houdini had given to him as a gift, passed away. Four days later, when Lafayette was performing his signature illusion “The Lion’s Bride” on opening night, a fire broke out at the theatre and he died. Lafayette had previously asked the local council if they would be willing to bury his dog in their cemetery. They agreed to do this, but only if Lafayette was buried there upon his death.

Dell O’Dell died at the age of sixty-four of multiple myeloma, and left her body to UCLA Medical Center for scientific research.



Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

Term Limits

As a young club member, I was always a bit indifferent about officer term limits. My novice mind recognized that the best and most experienced members tackled a job very few wanted and made it work. As my understanding of Ring dynamics matured, I began to understand the importance of term limits.

Yes, there are a few highly gifted and enthusiastic officers who serve their members with distinction for years and years. Yet even these cherished maestros of management fail to convince me that the perceived benefits of unrestricted continuity outweigh the real benefits of regular leadership changes.

To be clear, I am referring to the senior positions of Territorial Vice President, Ring president, and Ring Vice President as well as the at-large members of the Ring executive committee. As a former Ring Counselor and TVP Coordinator, I've heard every argument for retaining the best members in these positions. It can be difficult to bid adieu to a truly gifted president. It can be especially difficult for a dedicated leader to hand his or her authority to another when there is still so much left to accomplish. Still, our clubs remain far healthier when there is an orderly and regular succession of leaders. Here's what I see as the advantages:

Share the Opportunity – Term limits promote diversity and inclusivity. Members come with a variety of skills, experiences, and perspectives. Investing this diversity into our leadership promotes in-

novative approaches to club management, event planning, and member engagement. Term limits offer every member an opportunity to lead and contribute. Which is the better leadership strategy: "Let's hope no one quits," or "Let's train quality new officers?"

Balance the Power - Term limits prevent executive boards from concentrating power within a small elite clique. A dynastic power structure can be intimidating to new members and make the executive committee appear closed to others. True club growth requires leaders who continually involve and train younger members in the operation of your club. Allowing other members to actively participate in the ins, outs, ups, and downs of club management creates, advocates, and strengthens the club's support base.

Build Leadership Skills – Actively encouraging members to move up the executive committee ladder develops leaders with a firm understanding and appreciation of our magic community. The great leaders provide a positive role model for members developing their own leadership skills. Moving members through the ranks of the club's executive committee builds a deeper bond with the club. It invites members to understand, appreciate, and grow into the senior leadership roles. Knowing that leadership positions will eventually open, members may be more motivated to engage in club activities and develop their leadership skills. This active participation fosters a vibrant, dynamic

club environment that attracts new members and retains existing ones.

Consider Fresh Perspectives – Clubs prosper through the continual flow of new ideas, fresh assessments, and innovative solutions to common problems. Like water, we humans naturally seek out the path of least resistance. Decision-makers tend to rely on the methods and routines that have worked for them in the past. Doing things the same way year after year digs deep ruts along our path that may keep us from exploring new ideas and fresh opportunities.

Create Fresh Connections – A steady flow of new officers inevitably leads to new club contacts, new relationships, new connections, and new opportunities. Each new connection presents fresh new opportunities.

Create Ambassadors – New connections do not mean casting out the old! Former officers assume the role of club ambassador. Their experience and insight remain available to the new officers. They continue to support and promote the club to our growing communities. These knowledgeable Ring ambassadors are the ideal choice to chair audit committees, membership drives, fundraising, club visibility within the community, and its social structure.

Avoid Founder's Syndrome - Limits restrict a condition that occurs when one or more founders or influential leaders maintain disproportionate power and sway over the management of the club. These leaders may prefer the status quo and resist change. They may refuse to adopt new ideas, approaches, or skill sets. The dominating officer falsely believes that he or she is the best person for the job; that no one else can deliver his or her level of leadership. It is this very thought that tags them as the least qualified individual for this task. To sidestep term limits, they may in-

ject their own “puppet officers” into positions of authority and control them from the side.

Reduce Potential Problems –Mediocre officers may fail to deliver the level of leadership needed for a club to prosper. Members hesitate in removing them to avoid hurt feelings, to prevent splintering the club, or simply because no one else wants the job. Term limits make it easier to weed out these unproductive officers without rocking the proverbial boat.

Set and Track Goals - Term limits establish a finite period that keeps officers focused on providing their best service and achieving their leadership goals. Without the pressure of a finite term, it is far too easy for an officer to fall into the “I have years to do this, there’s no rush” trap.

Those who oppose term limits cite the potential loss of expertise and institutional memory. They point to the loss of resolute leaders with a proven success and growth record. This is especially noticeable with positions that require a specific proficiency such as the treasurer and secretary. Extended terms for these positions make sense and, with proper oversight, will ensure continuity.

Regardless of where you fall on the term limit issue, clearly defined terms of service are important for clubs like ours. If your club does not currently support term limits for its board members and senior officers, this column will help you start that conversation.

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.

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

Marlene

The Unlikely Magician's Assistant

By Roy Field

Marlene Dietrich, sawn in half by Orson Welles? I recently came across this unusual magical reference when reading a biography of the German-American actress. I was determined to discover more.

Marlene Dietrich (1901–1992) found fame in the German cinema of the 1920s. Originally, she had studied the violin with the intention of becoming a concert violinist, but her introduction into the nightlife of 1920s Berlin – with its cabarets and notorious demimonde – changed her mind, and she trained as a theatre, and then, film actress. Her big break came in 1930 with the part of Lola-Lola in Germany's first talking picture *The Blue Angel*. A similar decadent cabaret environment was also captured much later in the musical *Cabaret*.

Marlene traveled with Josef von Sternberg, who directed *The Blue Angel* and was also Marlene's lover, to Hollywood and established a successful career in the 1930s. She mostly chose roles that portrayed a "femme fatale" film persona. This coincided with her private (or not so private) life, with her distinctive looks and androgynous style. In many ways, she became too "European" for Hollywood, both in looks and morals. By the time the link with magic occurs in this story, she was entering her forties and Hollywood was unsure what to do with her. A call from Orson Welles was therefore welcome.

Orson Welles (1915–1985) was the "wunderkind" of American theatre and film throughout the 1930s and 1940s. Still in his twenties, he and John Houseman founded the Mercury Theatre. It was this repertory company who produced the celebrated radio version of *The War of the Worlds*, which so panicked United States audiences with its realism. In 1941, using actors from the Mercury company such as Joseph Cotton and Agnes Moorehead, he wrote, directed, and starred in *Citizen Kane*, still referenced today as one of the best films of all time. In December 1941, Japan invaded Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and the U.S. entered World War II. Orson involved himself with numerous film, radio, and theatre projects to help the war effort. In 1942, together with Joseph Cotton, he came up with an idea for a spectacular magic show. *The Mercury Wonder Show* was born.

Orson had long been interested in magic, and indeed had sometimes incorporated magic into his dramatic productions. He had contributed routines to the *Phoenix* magic magazine and much later in his career was given an honorary fellowship of the *Academy of Magical Arts*. He proposed a big-top spectacle, part circus and part magic, in the heart of Hollywood. Admission was free for U.S. service personnel, with an admission charge for others to support the War Assistance League charity. He wanted to include illusions and, in particular, sawing a woman

in half. Because his cast included the well-known, aforementioned stars Cotton and Moorehead, another well-known name was required for the sawing illusion. His first and obvious choice was his glamorous wife Rita Hayworth, but her studio, Columbia Pictures, would not release her to work on a project linked to Orson Welles' studio RKO. He approached old friend Marlene Dietrich to help him out.



In many ways, Marlene was an ideal choice. Americans were suspicious of people of German descent, but Marlene had already obtained her American citizenship. She had also vigorously denounced the Nazi regime and mocked Hitler, and had thus been placed on a death list as a German traitor. To Americans, however, she was a “good German” and a staunch U.S. citizen. She also had famous and excellent legs! This was a time in twentieth century show business when “vital statistics” were often a yardstick for stardom. Marlene had them insured for \$10,000 as a gimmick, but all Hollywood female stars were overtaken when Betty Grable had hers insured for \$1 million.

Everyone who worked with Marlene described her as a trouper, although she could be demanding as to how she was presented. She joined the show with enthusiasm and indeed, was, sawn in half. The show played to a thousand service men and members of the public each night. Unfortunately, there is no film footage of these actual performances. There is, however, a movie based on these shows. *Follow the Boys* came out in 1944 and tells the story of variety artists going

abroad to perform for U.S. troops. The story line is flimsy, and the film is really an excuse to show the many stars who *did* perform for the USO (United Service Organization). Orson and Marlene are among the featured acts, so we can maybe see what the illusion looked like. We're not sure however, as this film shows a vertical version, not the normal horizontal. Orson is dressed in an evening suit and, when Marlene enters, she's flamboyantly dressed with a splendid headdress. A frame covers her midsection. Then, Orson asks two soldiers to wield a large saw and “cut her in half.” When the saw is through, Marlene's celebrated legs set themselves off sideways! They then return, and she is restored.

Does this sequence bear any relationship to the Hollywood stage version? Maybe not. It looks like the sort of sequence that pioneer filmmaker-magician Georges Méliès had created in the 1890s. Orson was certainly into film trickery, as well as his normal magic. However, today we do see “walking legs” on stage. The Belgian magician Rafael, for instance, and others. “Sawing through a lady” was not the only magic in the Hollywood show, although the only sequence shown in the movie. Orson had also developed a mind-reading act. For a time, this became a feature of Marlene's when she toured.

The success of the Hollywood stage show meant that the USO wished to take it abroad to where U.S. troops were in action. Marlene was approached and accepted, whilst Orson remained involved back in the states. Marlene's cohost abroad was therefore Danny Thomas. Danny Thomas is not so well known in Great Britain, but was a sort of “everyman” personality on radio and then television in the U.S.. He regularly appeared as a guest artist on shows by Bob Hope, Jack Benny, and others, and they in turn appeared on his own *The Danny Thomas Show*. Danny was an agreeable personality who was likely to be popular with the troops, especially with the glamorous Marlene by his side. Marlene, however, was somewhat surprised by him. She had a habit of seducing all her co-stars (whether male or female did not matter). Unfortunately, Danny was a



staunch Catholic and rebuffed her advances, but in spite of this, they were amiable while working together. Marlene sang, joked with Danny, flashed her famous legs and then they did the memory act. It sounds similar to the Piddington's/Spencer's style, but had occasional problems. Unusually, Marlene was in the audience asking for items or information and Danny was on stage. As the act relied on visual and audible clues between them, Marlene was often jostled and there was loud audience noise. However, even if the mind reading did not always work, *she* was amongst them – and that was important.

There is another unusual link to magic with Marlene's wartime act: she played the musical saw. This was also a feature of the popular English magician Geoffrey Robinson, who added this "treat" to his late-night performances as part of the *New Era* company at British Ring conventions. Marlene, in either glamorous frocks or army fatigues, would grasp the saw between her legs and seemingly play sentimental Bavarian songs. Maybe somewhat strange for American GIs, but all soldiers facing possible imminent demise seemed to want sentimental entertainment.

Danny Thomas left the USO, so the memory act was gone and soon, so was the musical saw. Her wartime solo act of glamour and songs and patter became the basis for her eventual long career as a cabaret artist. She was in genuine danger on many occasions, especially in the Italian campaign, but she paved the way for glamorous Hollywood stars to entertain troops abroad, such as Marilyn Monroe in the Korean war and Raquel Welch in Vietnam.

Orson Welles never lost his love of magic

and especially the grand illusions he saw in his youth. Influences from the world of magic can be found in all his films, including film trickery. One of his final films, *F for Fake*, although mainly dealing with forgery, is based on his opening statement that with film, you can never believe what you see. All his professional life, Orson had suffered vicissitudes in his dealings with backers and producers, and this was still true with his final magic connection. He had appeared often as a guest doing magic on other people's TV shows, but he wished to create a television special of his own. *The Orson Welles Magic Show* was filmed between 1976 and 1985 but was unfinished at the time of his death. The length of time taken to put the show together was typical of Orson's problems when financing his endeavours. The filmed sequences have never been shown on television and the footage is in the Munich Film Museum. Some sequences are available on YouTube and show what might have been. Whether in theatre, radio, television, or film, Orson Welles remained a magician to the end.

And Marlene? She had some cameo film parts, but mainly toured the world with her cabaret act – both in glamorous gowns and male eveningwear, linking her back to her Lola-Lola days in *Blue Angel* and reinforcing her androgyny. Wigs, face lifts, and special costumes kept her going into old age, but the girl born as Maria Magdalene had created Marlene, the icon, and it was the icon who people came to see. "You can't live without illusions," she said.

She needn't sing "Falling in Love Again" or anything else – she simply was Marlene. That in itself was a form of magic.



Roy Field is a member of the Order of Merlin Shield and has also been an I.B.M. British Ring member for sixty-three years. He has twice been given the Award of Excellence for his articles in *The Linking Ring*. Although mostly retired from performing, he is now a magical historian who publishes articles in many British magic magazines. He is an Associate Inner Member of The Magic Circle and was honoured to serve as President of the Northern Magic Circle between 2019–2023. You may reach him by email at RoyField10@outlook.com.



Teaching Magic

ROBERT DURANTE

If you have a group that you have been working with for some time, I have a great idea to share. Over the years, Kevin Casaretto has contributed some wonderful magic in *The Linking Ring*. Check out his Parades from February 2016, June 2017, March 2018, and April 2019. He contributed to the Card Corner in January 2019 and March 2023. While corresponding with Kevin, he offered a great idea which I am sharing here.

EFFECT: The Invisible Prediction. Your student is going to present a little show to their friends. They have seven magic items laying on a table. The items are cards, coins, ropes, etc. They fold up a piece of paper and crumple it into a ball, tossing it to one of their friends. That person can keep it or pass it along to someone else. Once it stops at a person, they are invited to pick up two items from the table for you to choose from. You chose one item, which is then eliminated. The other item is placed back on the table. Now you choose any two items, and your helper picks either one. Whatever they pick is eliminated and the other item is placed back in the mix. This goes on until your spectator offers you the last two items. Once again, you choose which one to eliminate, which leaves only one item left. Let's say the last item is a deck of cards. You tell them "As this is what was left, I will do my second trick with this deck." Pause and then say "You are probably wondering what the first trick was. Well, open the paper and read what it says." When they open it up, it says *We will be left with a deck of cards*. So now, you start off with a card trick and go on with your show.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: This uses the PATEO force, meaning pick any two and eliminate one. If you start with an odd number of items and let the spectator go first, the last two items will be an object

and the force object. You get the last choice, so you choose the odd object. If you start with an even number of items, then you go first and the last two items will once again come back to you, and you eliminate the odd one to leave the force object last. Never choose the force object when it is your turn to pick any two items. Kids have a lot of magic, and they need to learn how to structure a show. This allows them to have all their magic ready to go and start off the show with a great effect. When presenting a show, the first effect must draw in your audience and offer a kicker ending: making an object vanish or making something appear (or, in this case, allowing an item to be chosen and having it match your prediction that nobody was even aware you had made). The second item should show off skill, while the middle item needs to either have the "magician in trouble" effect or allows you to present something that seems very difficult to do. Balance effects and rapid memory effects are all good for this. You then need a penultimate effect that allows your audience to know the show is ending. This is the part of the show where you want to thank your helpers and the staff. Finally, you need a big ending. Think of your strongest and most visual magic effect; this should be the one you use to close the show. At the end, thank your host and your guests for making it a wonderful show and tell them to give themselves a round of applause.

Structuring a show is like writing a movie or a play. The plot must have different actions and levels of emotion to maintain the audience's interest.

Until next month, try this out and have some fun.

Bob Durante

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To Faro or Not to Pharaoh

By Philip Henderson

The Faro Shuffle is a beautiful demonstration of a magician's ability to handle a deck of playing cards. It is a relatively easy sleight to master (perfect practice is all it takes). Nonetheless, I wonder if this is an effective sleight for a magician to use in a performance. I have observed many professional magicians use a Faro Shuffle. Every time I see a Faro Shuffle, I immediately think "stacked deck." Why would a magician use this method if not to reposition the cards exactly where he wants them located?

When a professional gambler sees a Faro Shuffle, they know at once that the handler is cheating. The singular purpose of the faro is to reposition cards to the advantage of the handler. It is named after a card game (Faro) that was popular with nineteenth and twentieth-century gamblers in Europe and the United States, but declined in popularity when players began to use deceptive maneuvers to position cards for their benefit. The Faro Shuffle derives its name from card players who cheat – not such a reputable origin.

So, you don't fool magicians or gamblers, but what about laypeople? When a spectator observes a faro, they immediately know that the handler possesses great skill. They have just shown the layperson that they can deftly perform stunning and miraculous movements with a deck of cards. The layperson may not take the next step and presume a stacked deck, however, they will stop trying to figure out how the trick is done. They know that the handler is using their expert skill to perform their effect. For this layperson, the effect is not magical; instead, it is a display of manual dexterity and nothing more.

When the layperson is convinced it is merely nimble hands that caused the effect, the magic leaves the room. A magical experience eliminates all the possible means to produce the effect in the mind of the layperson. When a layperson assumes that the trick was done by mere manipulation, they believe they have solved the puzzle. Magic is not a puzzle.

You get more mileage from introducing the Classic Force into your repertoire than from mastering a faro.

The Classic Force is powerful because it is a casual sleight. The drawback to the faro is that it is a flourish, and is evidence of great skill. To a layperson, the Classic Force looks and feels like it is a fair and free choice. In a layperson's mind, nothing has happened yet; the magician has not revealed their handling ability. You have performed the dirty work in plain view and everything else you do is pure magic.

Watch Lennert Green perform his card tricks. Green has playing cards flying all over the place. Some land on the floor. The cards appear to have a life of their own. Yet, if you listen to him sometimes, he will announce while the cards are in motion that "the chaos hides the skill." He is leading his audience down the road he wants them to follow, which is that there is no way he could know where any card is – no one can know. I don't know how to produce controlled chaos the way Lennert Green does. However, I can use the Classic Force sleight, which appears to be a casual movement of no importance. I am misdirecting the layperson from the path by disguising my skill.

I vote no on the Faro Shuffle; it is not a magical move. I have become quite good at the Faro Shuffle, but I am done with it now. I have moved on to perfect practicing of the Classic Force. It will take time to perfect this sleight. My friend Paul Green suggests that you should perform the Classic Force even when you don't need to force a card. It is just good practice, and when you have to do the effect, it is tuned up and ready to go. After I perfect the Classic Force, I can begin perfect practice to add to my card magic the controlled chaos that is the hallmark of Lennert Green.

NB: Faro is an alternate spelling of Pharaoh.



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Hocus Pocus Parade

THE LINKING RING



ANNUAL BRITISH RING PARADE

Compiled by Ian Adair • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen • Illustrated by Tony Dunn

CORRECT!

Steve Short

A card revelation with a comedy theme.

EFFECT: The performer first displays a cardboard folder, stating that inside is his prediction.

A spectator selects a card from a deck (let's say it's the Jack of Diamonds).

The performer proudly opens the two-panel folder and the audience sees what they believe is a playing card, with its back design facing the audience. The performer asks the spectator to name her chosen card – and she does – the Jack of Diamonds. The card is reversed to display the bold word **CORRECT!** “Correct, 100 percent correct,” the performer quips. This causes much laughter, but the effect (if you can call it that!) doesn't end there. When the card showing **CORRECT** is reversed again, it displays a replica of the chosen card, the Jack of Diamonds.

REQUIREMENTS: A cardboard folder. I have deliberately left this as plain as possible – no bordered edges, no design on the front – it looks like a small black folder consisting of two panels. It's made from two identical pieces of black paper which is then folded in half. The rear area of the folder is glued around the edges and base, the top section left open, forming a secret pocket which can take a playing card. You will always know which side of the folded folder is the front, since two cut-away top edges, one on each side, helps you to locate this (**Fig. 1**).

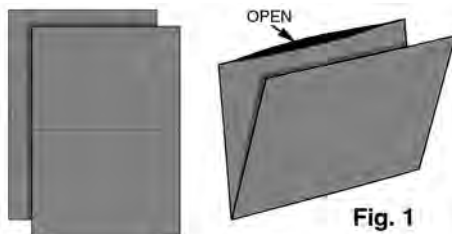


Fig. 1

Two special cards (**Fig. 2**).

(1) Front displays the word **CORRECT**. It has a Bicycle back design.

(2) Front displays the word **CORRECT**. Its reverse side displays a replica of the Jack of Diamonds (or any other card image).



Fig. 2



SET-UP: Insert the card that displays the playing card replica into the folder's proper pocket. Make sure the back design is facing outwards.

Now insert the second card into the pocket, with the side displaying **CORRECT** facing outwards.

You will require a deck of cards. Since a "force" of the Jack of Diamonds (in my example) is necessary, use either a regular deck or one of the gaffed decks, such as Svengali or Rough & Smooth.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Pick up the folder and display it. State that your prediction is inside it, and make sure the front of the folder faces the audience. Lean it against an object on your table so it's on full view through the presentation.

The spectator selects a card from the deck (forced – the Jack of Diamonds). Ask the spectator not to reveal the identity of her chosen card at this stage. The performer now says, "Ladies and gentlemen, this folder has been in full view before a chosen card was selected, and inside it is a replica of the chosen card." They then instruct the spectator, "Please name your chosen card."

The spectator names the Jack of Diamonds. Pick up the folder, open the front panel so the audience sees the rear side of a

playing card, and as you swiftly reverse it (it displays the word "**CORRECT**") and quip "**Correct!**" Whilst the audience is laughing, remove this card and close the folder. You now pretend the "effect" is over, and you casually insert it *behind* the other, within the folder. Pause for a moment and pretend to bring it out again, but instead, bring out the second card (**CORRECT** will be facing the audience). Now say "Well, I *was* correct, wasn't I?" Allow the front panel to drop down, so the audience can see the interior of the folder is now empty.

Ask the spectator to name her chosen card again.

Reverse the card to show the opposite side – a perfect replica of the Jack of Diamonds.

NOTE: This effect can also be made using jumbo sized cards, plus a larger folder.

ANOTHER WAY OF USING A CHIC PAN

Edward Stokes

Most readers already own a Chic or Dove Pan. As we know, it's a super prop for producing a large load, including livestock.

Here I use the prop for a "switch" (not a change) of one set of sponge balls to another. This can be used as a prediction type effect on its own or can form part of a three-stage presentation. It's also ideal when the performer wants to force one of the coloured balls.

EFFECT: Inside the inner tray of the Chick Pan are four 1" sponge balls of different colours: red, yellow, green, and blue. The inner base (and balls) are covered over using an opaque cloth or handkerchief. A spectator is asked to feel into the inner tray just to confirm that there are still four balls there. He or she is asked to remove one ball from the others, without knowing its colour, until finally removed.

This is the colour the performer has previously predicted.

REQUIREMENTS: A Chic Pan. Seven 1" sponge balls – four red, and one each of yellow, blue, and green. An opaque cloth.

SET-UP: Load the green, yellow, blue, and one of the red balls into the inner base. Load the remaining three red balls into the “inner feke.” This “feke” is now clipped inside the outer cover. Very carefully place the cover (with the insert inside) over the base without releasing the feke (**Fig. 1**).

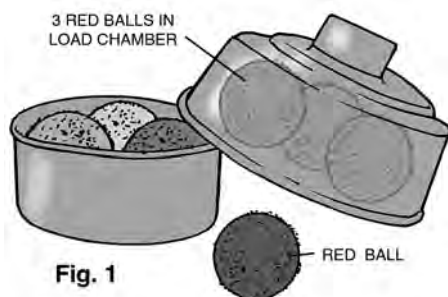


Fig. 1

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: In this example, *red* is the colour that will be forced. If you are presenting a prediction-type effect, you will need a piece of paper or card with the wording *You will choose red* written on it. Insert the paper or card into an envelope. If, on the other hand, you want to “force” the red ball as part of a lengthier effect, the working is the same.

In presentation, remove the cover of the pan and rest it on the table. Pick up the base and angle it towards the audience so they can see the four different coloured balls inside it.

Approach a spectator and explain what she must do. Reach inside and remove the red ball, displaying it, and saying to her “I’d like you to reach inside and choose one of the balls.” Casually rest the red ball on the table for all to see, and place the cover onto the pan. Pick up the cloth using your left hand, and remove the cover of the pan. Transfer the base to your left hand for a moment, as you “notice” the red ball on the table. Pick it up and drop it in with the others (this heightens the effect). Raise the base (“feke” now inside it) upwards as you get ready to drape the cloth over it.

Ask the spectator to reach beneath the cloth. Further ask her if she can still feel four balls. She will obviously answer “Yes.” Now ask her to remove one of the four balls – it is bound to be red – all four are red.

SPOOKY SUSPENSION

Ian Adair

EFFECT: The performer pours some liquid from a jug into a clear transparent tumbler. Displaying a length of red rope, he lowers this halfway into the liquid filled tumbler. The rope is seen suspended and the tumbler, with liquid, can be swung around in circles. The length of rope is removed and the liquid is poured into the jug.

REQUIREMENTS: A clear plastic tumbler, one which has a fluted or frosted appearance. A clear transparent tubular capsule (discard lid). Any liquid, such as a soft one (not solid-coloured ones), as long as it can be diluted with water to make it more transparent. A length of red conjuror’s rope which has a rope magnet embedded into one end of it. A metal washer of the size that can be glued to the base of the capsule (**Fig. 1**). A jug, used to hold the liquid. Possibly a tray upon which the jug, tumbler and rope can rest on.

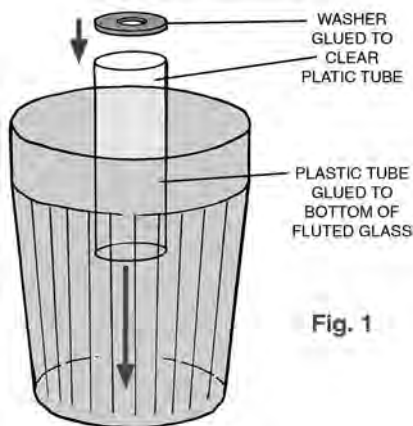


Fig. 1

SET-UP: The clear capsule may have to be shortened so that when its opened end is stuck to the inner base of the clear tumbler (centrally), it is secure and watertight. Use a strong bonding glue for this purpose. Using the same glue, attach the washer to the top of the capsule.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Pick up the tumbler and display it. The clear capsule inside won’t be visible, thanks to the fluted nature of the clear tumbler.

Pour liquid into the tumbler so that its level will rise above the top section of the capsule. Rest the tumbler on the table and pick up the length of rope. Hold the rope between both ends and stretch it, thus proving it is solid. Slowly lower the end of the rope that contains the magnet into the tumbler, allowing its magnetic end to adhere to the washer. The audience will see through the liquid so the rope is visible inside.

Release hold of the tumbler as you grip the top section of the rope. The rope now appears to be suspended. Swing the rope (and tumbler) sideways. Then, if wished, rotate it. This is possible because it defies the laws of gravity. After spinning the tumbler on the end of the rope as fast as you can, in a vertical or horizontal circle, hold the tumbler in one hand and remove the rope with the other. Now pour the liquid back into the jug.

TORN AND RESTORED PAPER Oliver Tabor

A piece of tissue paper is cleanly torn and restored at the fingertips.

The method utilises a thumb tip on an elastic pull. It starts with the restored sheet folded in the tip on your thumb and ends with the torn pieces pulled up your sleeve in the thumb tip, resulting in a very clean torn and restored. Some of the moves are similar in execution to Micheal Ammars Thumbtip Bill Switch that originated from Mike Kowloski's \$100 Bill Switch. The idea of eliminating the torn pieces at the end is from Kellar's Superior Paper Tearing by David P Abbot from the *House of Mystery Vol. 2: The Book of Mysteries* by Teller and Todd Karr. It was also published in *Genii* Vol. 67 No. 8 Aug. 2004.

REQUIREMENTS: Thumb tip with black elastic cord tied through a hole, made at the tip of the nail with a safety pin tied to the other end of the elastic (**Fig. 1**). Two pieces of tissue paper identical in colour as well as size (approximately 12 x 20 centimeters).

SET-UP: Fold one piece of tissue paper into a small packet, zig-zagging the last cou-

ple of folds. Attach the safety pin to the inside of your jacket close to the centre of the back. Feed the tip through your left sleeve. Load the folded paper into the thumb tip in readiness for a bill switch, position the elastic up over the nail of the tip, down the back of the thumb and hand into the sleeve (**Fig. 2**).

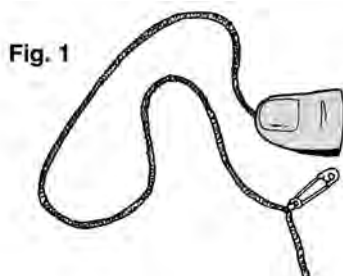


Fig. 1

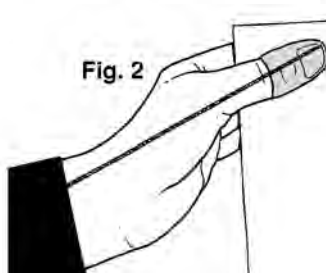


Fig. 2

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Hold the paper between your left thumb and fingers getting ready to tear pieces with the right hand. Start tearing strips down from the right side of the paper, placing each strip behind the next strip you intend to tear (**Fig. 3**).

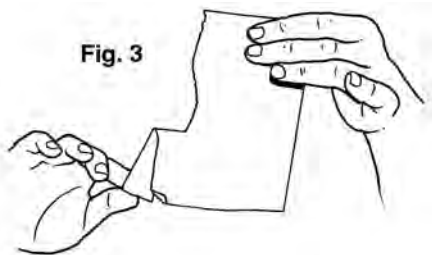


Fig. 3

You are left with a group of long torn strips. The left hand grips near one end so the right hand can tear the protruding rectangular section. The right hand re-grips the strips so the right hand can place its torn pieces behind and tear off the same size pieces again (**Fig. 4**). This is done until you are left with a group of the same size pieces held between the left thumb and index finger. The right-hand

index finger and thumb then take hold of the pieces and grip the outside of the thumb tip whilst the left thumb pulls out (Fig. 5).

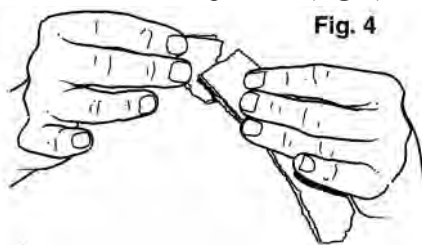
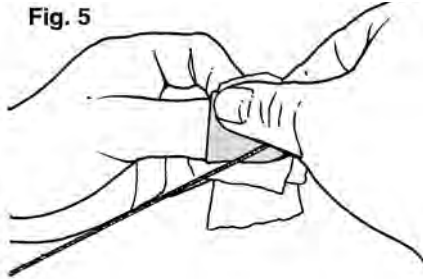


Fig. 5



This bundle of the torn pieces and thumb tip revolves 180 degrees, so the nail of the thumb tip is pointing towards the sleeve with the black elastic running up it (Fig. 6). It then pulls out the folded paper, placing it behind the torn pieces and repositioning the whole packet at the fingertips of the left hand (Fig. 7). This is a similar move used during the \$100 Bill Switch.

Fig. 6

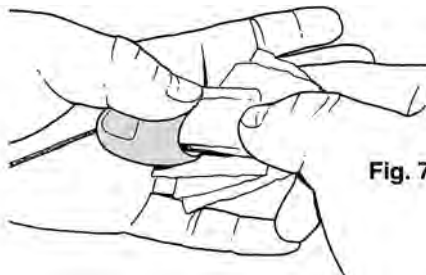
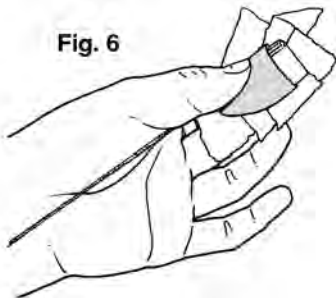
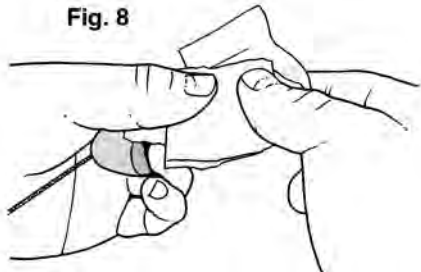


Fig. 7

Keeping the thumb tip at the same position in the left hand, fold down each side of the torn pieces into its centre to create the same size package as the folded paper behind it. During this process, the folded paper is slightly fanned to match the separate pieces due to its zig-zag fold (Fig. 8).

Fig. 8



Turn the whole packet around so that the folded paper is now facing the audience. The packet of pieces is now at the back and in line with the opening of the thumb tip (Fig. 9). These pieces are then easily inserted into the tip with the left thumb, the index finger can also assist in pushing them so that it sits tightly inside (Fig. 10).

Fig. 9

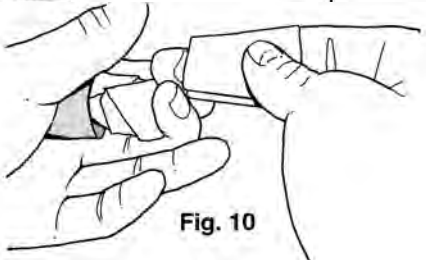
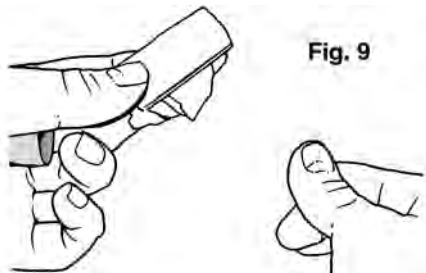
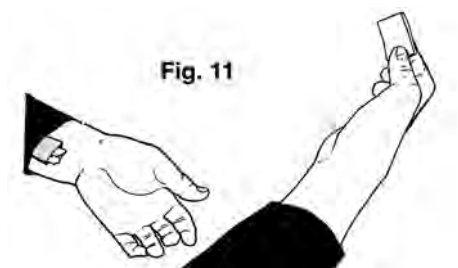


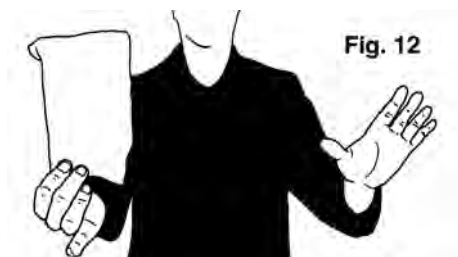
Fig. 10

The thumb tip is now going to travel up your sleeve whilst your right hand moves the packet close to your face, so that you can blow on the pieces. Your right hand moves slightly down as this happens and releases the traveling tip up your wrist and into your

sleeve (**Fig. 11**). The left hand's movements are quicker than the right hand's, to cover the small action of the traveling thumb tip. Rule Number Two: "The big movement masks the smaller, secret movement."



Once this is done, you can casually show both hands empty. Move the folded packet from one hand, whilst pulling up each sleeve, and slowly open the paper to leave you very clean in both hands (**Fig. 12**).



CHRISTMAS

Martin Peirce

EFFECT: A merely thought-of word that is associated with Christmas is revealed in an unusual and light hearted way. A spectator is asked to mix nine cards bearing Christmas-related words. Once they are happy, they are asked to submit any one of them to memory. The performer now takes the nine cards from the spectator and deals them face down on a table. Attention is now drawn to the backs of these cards. Once pieced together, they would form a picture from the front of a Christmas card. The spectator is duly asked to complete the small picture puzzle as the performer introduces a small bow, the type that one would usually stick on a Christmas present. They are now asked to mentally spell out their chosen word, one letter at a time, for each time that the per-

former touches a piece of the picture with the bow. When they have completely spelled the word, they must tell the performer to stop on the last letter. The performer starts to move the bow around whilst randomly tapping the cards that have made up the Christmas picture, as the spectator starts to mentally spell out their secretly selected word. When they eventually instruct the performer to stop, the performer asks them if they would be impressed if their word was actually under the bow. Whilst answering, the performer simply lifts the bow to reveal "Your Word" stuck to the underside of the bow. After the amusement, the performer actually removes the card that was directly under the bow and asks them what their freely chosen word was. This card is then turned over to reveal a perfect match!

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: I came up with this routine for a few reasons. Number one, I love Christmas and there are so few effects that incorporate it. Number two, I love the tap-it-out principal. Again, not many effects incorporate it. Number three, throwing away Christmas cards seems like such a waste. Hence, I came up with "Christmas."

Firstly, find a large Christmas card (A6 size is ideal). You will need just the picture part or you can simply use any Christmas picture. On the back of your picture, draw nine equal-size boxes (**Fig. 1**). Use your finest Sharpie to clearly write out the following words in order:

Top row: Decorations Star Elf
Middle row: Turkey Santa Presents
Bottom row: Chimney Snowflakes
Pantomime

As you may notice, all these Christmas words contain different quantities of letters, which makes the whole process work automatically.

Now, cut out your boxes so you have nine cards bearing Christmas words on one side with picture pieces on the other. The only other preparation required is a small Christmas bow with "Your Word" written on a small piece of card and glued to its underside. You are ready to perform some seasonal magical fun.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Hand the Christmas word cards to a spectator for mixing and get them to think of any of these words. If you wish, you may mention a word that they can comfortably spell. Deal the cards face down in a horizontal line and comment about the picture pieces that are now visible. Have the spectator assemble the picture, and then introduce your bow. Tell them to mentally spell out their selected word one letter at a time for each time you touch a piece of the picture with the bow and to stop you on its final letter. All that is required for you to finish on their chosen word is to tap the bow on the cards in the correct sequence. Tap numbers one and two can be anywhere on the cards as there are no one-

or two-letter words available to choose from. The rest of the taps (Fig. 2) are as follows:

Top row: Tap 11 Tap 4 Tap 3

Middle row: Tap 6 Tap 5 Tap 8

Bottom row: Tap 7 Tap 10 Tap 9

This is because the amount of letters in each word will end on the number of this tap. It's a very easy sequence to remember but will look very random to your spectator. After a small amount of practice, you will soon master it. A good way to remember this sequence to begin with is to number in your head the top row as 123, the middle row as 456, and the bottom row as 789. All odd numbers will be in the correct tapping positions, apart from the final word "Decorations," with the even numbers simply being in the even tapping positions but with two added. For example, if the word chosen was "Presents," your spectator would stop you on the eighth tap in your sequence because "Presents" contains eight letters. Turn the bow over for the "Your Word" comedy interlude, then hit them with the magic moment. You turn over the card, under where the bow was stopped, to reveal the impressive perfect match!

A TALE OF TWO PACKS

Eddie Burke

Simon Shenton was a local magician who gave me a few lessons when I was a boy of ten years of age. On one of these occasions, he told me about a trick performed with two packs of playing cards, which he claimed was seen at one of Charles Dickens' reading tours when Shenton's grandfather was present in the audience.

It is on record that in 1842, Dickens was an accomplished conjuror who decided he wanted to spend his free time honing his interest in *legerdemain*, or hobby, which would come to define the next decade of his life.

It's up to you to decide whether the story of Dickens performing the following trick is true.

In performance, you show two packs, one of which is given to a spectator for safekeeping. Another onlooker chooses two different cards from the second regular shuffled pack,

and then has a perfectly free choice of either card (no force).

When the first pack is spread across the table, it is seen that one single card has an X on it. Amazingly, this proves to be an exact duplicate of the chosen card!

It was some years later that I remembered my conversation with Shenton. I realised that the likely effect may have required two cards chosen from one deck, and then a second pack would somehow reveal them.

Perhaps an X or his signature would have been on the front of one force card, and the other one on the back of the other force card.

So, say the first force card was a picture card with the X on the front and the other force card was a pip card with the X on its back. The spectator could have a choice of either one, if they picked the picture card then the other deck would be spread face up to show the X on the duplicate of the picture force card.

If the pip card was chosen, the prediction pack was spread face down and the card with the X on its back would be found and turned face upwards to reveal it was the very card the spectator had chosen.

The idea that such a famous author had performed a card effect using two decks, way back in Victorian times, appealed to me as a presentation I could easily adapt. So I went looking for old packs of playing cards in junk and charity shops.

Years later, I was lucky enough to find two decks of old cards inside a small wooden box that was ideal for the look I was after. The cards just needed a bit of fanning powder on them so that they spread more easily.

I have no idea how old my box actually is but it played its part perfectly. It is shown here closed, and open with the cards inside.

From one of the packs I took two cards: a picture card and a spot card. Then, using a permanent black marker pen, I drew a large X on the face of the picture card and a large X on the back of the spot card. These then became my prediction cards. The picture card was put into the lower half of the deck about ten cards from the bottom, and the pip card was placed about ten cards from the top. The pack thus became my prediction deck.



The same two cards were removed from the other pack and positioned face down on top of the second deck, ready to be forced.

You can, of course, use your own favourite method. So you then force two cards from your working pack.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Using the patter outlined in these instructions, you draw attention to your wooden box and open it to show the two decks of playing cards laying side by side within.

You remove the working pack with the two force cards secretly on top and spread it face upwards, showing your audience that all the cards are different.

The prediction deck is left inside the box, which is then closed and handed to a spectator to hold in full view.

The working pack is now shuffled, but while being careful not to alter it and disturb the two top cards. I found a riffle shuffle was best for this, allowing the two force cards to arrive last on top of the deck.

You could, of course, turn the pack with its faces towards the audience and over-hand shuffle it in this manner without disturbing the two top cards. Done in this way,

the audience is satisfied that the cards are being mixed in the deck.

The two cards are now forced and placed face upwards so that everyone can see their faces. The spectator is now given an opportunity to freely choose their preferred card of the two. They are also given the option to change their mind if they so wish, until they are happy that they have had a perfectly free choice of just one card.

The prediction pack is now removed from the wooden box and in the case of the picture card being selected, the deck is spread *face up* across the table. The card with the X on its face is removed – by the spectator, if you prefer. The two picture cards are now compared with each other for your climax. You also point out that no other card has an X on its face.

You are now probably ahead of me. If the pip card is selected, then the pack is spread *face down* and the card with the X is located. You point out that it's the only card with an X on its back. The chosen card is again revealed to the audience and named out loud. The spectator who is holding the X card face down now turns it face up to show that both cards are a match for your climax.

PATTER OUTLINE: “When I was a young boy, I had lessons in magic from a gentleman called Simon Shenton. He not only taught me lots of very good tricks, but also showed me some of his prized possessions, collected over the years by his family who were all involved, in one degree or other, in the magic arts.

“One of the things he showed me was this box which contains, as you can see, two decks of cards. Apparently this was given to him by his grandfather who was also a magician and received it many years ago from a fellow magician, who became famous as an author. His name was Charles Dickens. Yes, that's right, the gentleman who wrote *Oliver Twist*, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and many other marvellous stories that we have all enjoyed over the years.

“With these two self-same packs of cards, Charles Dickens performed the trick that I am going to perform for you now.

“I will remove one of the packs and leave the other one inside the box, which we will close just as Dickens did all those years ago. Perhaps this gentleman here will hold the box keeping it in full view of everyone.

“As you can see, all the cards are different in the deck that I hold, and I will give them a shuffle to mix them up a little.

“Now we need to have two cards selected!” At this point, you go into the force that you are using and have the two cards thus forced displayed faces upwards.

“Now we only want one of these cards, so sir, which one do you prefer? Just as Dickens did all those years gone by, you have a free choice, so please name any one of these two cards.” The gentleman does so. “Are you happy with that choice sir or do you wish to change it for the other card?” Continue in this manner until it is obvious to everyone the choice is free of any pressure from you.

“Charles John Huffam Dickens died on June 9, 1870. But before he died, he bequeathed this box to a fellow magician, as is the custom in magic circles. That's how I came to own the box and cards, passed on to me by Simon Shenton. I discovered that Charles Dickens had put a large black cross amongst one of the cards that are left inside the box. Would you hand it to me, please?”

You now bring the effect to its climax by spreading the cards across the table as already explained and locating the card with the X.

I am certainly not suggesting that Charles Dickens came up with this idea, but the gentleman may have done so for all I know!

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING!

James Ward

EFFECT: There are two decks of red-backed cards on the performer's table, together with an envelope on which is printed a large Question Mark – the performer's prediction.

The performer asks a helper to choose one deck for their experiment which, he explains, will involve a prediction, mind-reading, and magic.

From the chosen deck, the performer asks three different helpers to each remove a single random card (i.e., three cards in total). Next, they ask a fourth helper to cut the deck to find a fourth card, which they simply memorise, leaving it in the deck.

The performer sets the first deck aside and picks up the second deck. They briefly fan it face up as they say, “Between you, you chose four different cards, all of which will be in this deck. My job – impossible as it seems – is to find them.”

Looking through the deck, the performer removes three cards and places them face down on the table. “If I am right,” they announce, “I have identified three of your cards.” They now ask their helpers to insert their three chosen cards into different parts of the deck, so as to once more complete the deck.

Setting the deck down, the performer reminds their fourth helper that they cut the deck anywhere they liked and only thought of a card. For the first time, the performer asks them what card they were thinking of. Let’s assume they reply, “The Ace of Spades.” Pointing to the envelope on the table, the performer continues, “Wouldn’t it be amazing if I had been able to predict the card you were thinking of?”

The spectator agrees, and the performer then turns the envelope around to show that on the other side, they have printed the words, “I knew you would choose that card.”

“No, seriously,” the performer tells them, as they remove a large Ace of Spades from inside the envelope. “I really did know you would choose that card.”

One out of one. So far, so good!

That, the performer explains, was a prediction. Now for some mind-reading. The performer announces that they will go through the deck, simply showing every card. Their helpers are not to say anything out loud, but are asked to look for their cards to ensure there is only one of each in the deck (the ones they have just inserted). This is because the performer has already removed their cards from the deck.

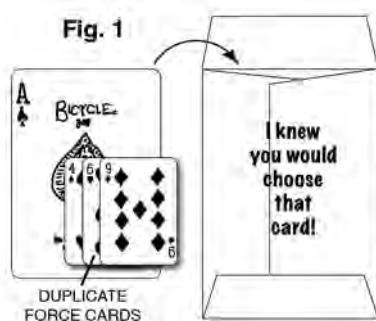
The performer goes through the deck,

showing all the cards. Their helpers confirm they only saw one each of their chosen cards, which is as it should be. One by one, the performer asks them what cards they chose and, one by one, they turn over their selections. They are not their cards – which turn out to be 4S, 6H, 9D – but rather the mates of their cards: 4C, 6D, 9H!

“That was mind-reading,” the performer explains, “because it allowed me to remove the mates of the cards you chose.” But, they add, it was also curiously another prediction, because “I was so sure you would choose the cards that you chose, that I did indeed remove them from the deck – but before the trick even began!” As the performer says this, they tip open the prediction envelope again ... and the three chosen cards fall out!

“Prediction, mind-reading, and prediction again,” the performer remarks, “which leaves only the magic.” The performer reminds them that they placed their cards into different parts of the deck. Despite that, as the performer snaps their fingers and fans the deck face down across the table, there are three face-up cards, now grouped together in the middle of the deck: 4S, 6H, 9D – their chosen cards!

METHOD: First off, you need three decks of the same size and design. One of them will be a three-way force deck. You will also need a large envelope capable of holding a jumbo-size Ace of Spades. As well as the large Ace of Spades, insert duplicates of your three force cards – in this instance 4S, 6H, 9D (taken from the third deck) – into the envelope (**Fig. 1**).

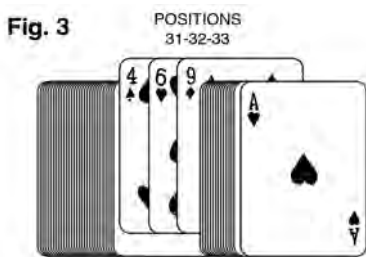


You will use the three-way force deck to force three different cards. Mine contains 4S, 6H, 9D. Yours may be different, in which case, use those cards instead.

At the face of the deck, place an indifferent card (say, QH), and behind it an Ace of Spades, both taken from the third deck, which you can now set aside (**Fig. 2**). While talking early on, flash the QH so your helpers can see it. (This will later help to reinforce the belief that all the cards are different.)



Your second deck is normal, except for the fact that the duplicates of the three force cards are grouped together in the centre (or thereabouts). I actually place them in positions 31, 32, and 33 (**Fig. 3**). This is because, after a move I will shortly describe, they will, at the end, appear roughly in the centre of the deck. I also pencil dot the three cards in all four corners so that I can spot them easily.



If, at the start, when you ask a helper to choose a deck for your experiment, they choose the non-force deck, place it to one side, saying, "Very well, we'll come back to that later." Then proceed with the first part of the routine, using the force deck. If, however, they select the force deck, again put the non-force deck to one side, saying "Very well, we'll come back to this second deck later." Either way, you ensure that you begin with the force deck.

Fan the cards face down, and have a different force card taken from the relevant part of the deck. (You tell your helpers that you want cards taken from different parts of the deck "to make things fair!")

After the three force cards have been removed from the deck, cut the QH to the top, leaving the AS on the face. (But don't flash it!) Now, ensure a fourth helper chooses this by means of the cross-cut force. (Have the cards cut, and the apparent "cut" marked by placing the lower half on top.) Your fourth helper only needs to lift up at the break and remember this card, they don't remove it from the deck. (You can build in the usual time delay, which is essential when using the cross-cut force, by recapping what has happened to date, i.e., that three cards have already been chosen but that in case your fourth helper thinks you've somehow made people take certain cards, their choice will be "completely random" and out of your control.)

Set the first deck aside and pick up the second deck, which you briefly fan face up to show that all of the cards are different. Which, indeed, they are.

Now remove the mates of the three selections (4C, 6D, and 9H) and place them face down on the table, after which you reveal the Ace of Spades as in the "Effect" above.

Next, have the three chosen cards returned to different parts of the deck, ensuring they are not placed within the batch of three duplicates in the centre.

If you wish, do a few false cuts to apparently mix the cards further. Though you will apparently show all the cards in the deck, you will actually hide the three cards you have placed in positions 31, 32, and 33. To do so, you will utilise a clever move which I first came across in the late Simon Aronson's book, *Try the Impossible*. What you do is as follows:

Turn over about six or seven cards. Flip them face up onto the deck, then spread them out so the faces can be seen. Ask your helpers to look for their card, but not to tell you if they've seen it. Close up the spread and drop the face-up cards on the table. Repeat this

process a few more times, running off small groups of cards, until you spot your three marked cards. Make sure you have about six or seven cards in front of your marked cards at this point.

Here is the move you will execute at this point. Turn over the cards right up to (but not including) the first pencil-dotted card. Now, as you close the spread, take the three pencil-dotted cards underneath the face-up cards and pick up the entire batch, placing them very carefully onto the other discards. What you have done is placed the three pencil-dotted cards face down (and hidden) in the discards. Continue this process until you have run through the entire deck.

At this point, you will have shown your helper all the cards (apparently), and they will have only seen one each of their cards, scattered throughout the deck (i.e., the cards they placed back into the deck).

Your helpers will confirm that they have seen their cards in the deck.

You now turn over the mates of the selections, tip out the duplicates from the envelope, and move to the finale. Fan the face-down deck to reveal the three selections now grouped together, face up, in the centre. Predictions, mind-reading, and finally, magic ... a Little Bit of Everything!

ZELWA REVISITED

Roy Field

Magicians have always kept their eyes open for items that could be adapted for magical use. Indeed, Woolworths and many stationery stores were often regarded as almost as important as magical dealers! This came to mind when I was loath to throw out an empty instant coffee tin can. In the United Kingdom, it was Nescafe Alzera in a quality tin (much better than the usual "tin of beans"), with a brightly coloured plastic snap on/off lid. I had been reading a 1912 book on conjuring apparatuses and remembered an item called a "Zelwa Cannister," which led me to wonder if my used coffee tin could be adapted in a similar style for modern use.

EFFECT: A divided cannister that can produce, vanish, or change items, accessible at both ends but masked by a sliding cover.

REQUIREMENTS: Two empty cans with snap-on plastic tops. Only one can will be used but the second plastic top will go on the bottom of one can. For my experiment, I used a 5-inch high coffee cannister with a brightly coloured snap on cover (the brighter the better), but any product with a snap-on cover will do. You will also need cardboard, coloured tape, clear tape, glue, matte black paint.

SET-UP:

1. With a can opener, carefully remove the bottom of the can. Use clear tape to go around and overlap the new open end, to cover any sharp edges. Also, the tape will build up the lip so that the snap-on lid will fit as tightly as it were on its normal end.

2. Use the cardboard to create a diagonal divider within the can. Glue or tape into position. Paint the interior with matte black paint.

3. Create, with thin cardboard, an exterior sleeve to cover the can about half an inch (or just over 1 centimeter) short of the height of the can. The sleeve should be able to slide freely, but the less movement up and down, the better. (The illusion is as follows: the sleeve covers the bottom of the can, including the second snap-on lid. If the can is turned, the sleeve slides to make what was the bottom of the can become the top.)

4. Put some coloured tape around the tin, top and bottom, next to the snap-on lids. The colour should be the same, or as near as, the colour of the snap-on lids. Decorate the sleeve any way you like (**Figs. 1 and 2**).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

With a slight pressure on the sleeve, you can freely handle the can without revealing its double end. It can be shown “empty” with the matte black not revealing the division. A wand can be fully inserted to accentuate this point.

In my view, the can acts as a better “change” item rather than a production or vanish. For example, a coloured silk on one side can change to a different colour by turning the can. The 1912 book mentioned paper shavings. For instance, white paper shavings could turn into coloured confetti, and blank paper could turn into paper money.

How to turn the can without being obvious? Different magicians will have different approaches depending on their own personalities and body movements. Although very difficult to describe in print, I use my own stomach area. Bear in mind the sleeve has only a half inch to move, it only takes a moment. As I pick up the can, I make a half movement and touch the top of the can against my stomach and it changes almost immediately. I have used this movement for years with, for example, magic wands with sliding sleeves. As I said, it’s difficult to describe, but it works for me. If in doubt, the tried and tested turning behind a piece of apparatus on your table is always a safe bet.

BONUS: A quickly made “change” item uses discarded 35mm film canisters. In our digital age, these are becoming rare but they can have quite a few magical uses. Glue two film cannisters end to end and disguise this fact by sticking coloured paper around it so that it looks like a tube. Unlike “Zelwa” above, there is no sliding sleeve and no diagonal interior division. The canisters are usually black so you can’t really see inside, anyway. They have black lids, so put a white spot or something on one lid so you know which way you are working. This is not to be made a feature of an act, but can be useful for a quick change in part of a larger routine. For example, blank paper in can change to a message.

FINAL COMMENTS: The “Zelwa” principles have been around for many years. When old magic books refer to their construction, it often involves “fettling” with a

tin plate. The purpose of these presentations is to show that with some simple DIY work that uses common domestic objects, such as coffee cans or 35mm film cannisters, a useful and practical apparatus can be made.

4 QUEENS GET-TOGETHER

Ian Adair

A fan of five playing cards is displayed. Four have their backs facing the audience whilst one, the Queen of Hearts, has its face outwards. The Queen card is removed and pocketed. Moments later, when the fan is shown, the Queen has returned. This is repeated several times, the Queen being removed and returned to the fan. The performer is finally left with four cards, all with their backs facing outwards. Could these all be the Queens? Yes, but when they are reversed, they are the Queen of Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs, and Spades – *all of which can be handled or examined by spectators.*

All cards are single and have back designs; there are no specially printed cards.

REQUIREMENTS: I use Bicycle cards that share the same back design. Six duplicate Queens, removed from an “All Alike Deck,” mine being the Queen of Hearts. Three other Queens (clubs, spades, and diamonds). Roughing fluid.

Rough the fronts of two of the Queens so you end up with what appears to be a double-backed “card.” Three Queens are roughed on their fronts, so that they adhere to the fronts of the three other non-hearts Queens (also roughed).

The last Queen, the sixth, is not gaffed and is genuine (**Fig. 1**).

SET-UP: From top to bottom: The three non-Queen of Hearts cards with the duplicate Queen of Hearts roughed to them (face to face). The two Queen of Hearts cards which are roughed together. This ‘double’ card has a small pencil dot on its top left-hand corner. When the cards are reversed, they appear to have back designs on both sides. Insert the genuine Queen of Hearts somewhere in the centre of the set. This

means that when you fan the cards, the audience will see the backs of four cards, with the only face-up card (QH) amongst them (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1

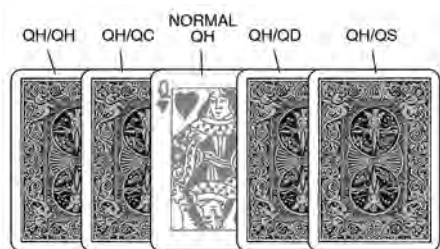


Fig. 2

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

With the cards set up as described, commence by fanning these towards the audience. Point to the only card that has its face towards the audience (the Queen) and remove it, then pocket it. Square up the set, snap it with your fingers, and now fan the cards. In doing do, secretly part a roughed pair somewhere in central position.

A duplicate Queen will come into view, which you remove and place in your pocket. Square up the set, finger-snap it again, and fan the cards for the return of the Queen. Part a roughed pair within the central area so that the duplicate Queen comes into view. Remove it and pocket it. Square up the set and snap it, this time parting the uppermost pair (top of your set) so that another duplicate queen is seen to return. Remove this card and pocket it.

Now cut the cards and complete the cut, so that the last remaining roughed pair (both Queens of Hearts) are now somewhere in the centre. Square up the set and snap the cards. This time when you fan the cards, secretly part the last roughed pair – which are right at the bottom of the set – so that one of the Queen of Hearts cards now faces the audience. Remove this card and square up the set, finally snapping it.

You are now left with four single playing cards, the backs of which are facing the audience. All four are Queens: hearts, clubs, spades, and diamonds. The Queen of Hearts is the only card that has a pencil dot on its top left corner. Cut the set and complete the cut. The marked card will now be somewhere in the centre.

Square up the cards and look at them. Pause for a moment, and say, “The Queen of Hearts has returned again, but it’s not facing us this time.” Remove the marked card and reverse it, then display it as the QH. Place it face up on the table. At this point, the audience believes that all the cards are the Queen of Hearts. This is where you prove them wrong. Reverse the remaining three cards, one at a time, and position them next to the tabled Queen of Hearts so that you end up with a complete set of four Queens: hearts, clubs, spades, and diamonds.

You could quip, “The other three cards? Well, these are also Queens, each having a different suit.” The cards may be left on the table for any spectators wishing to examine them.

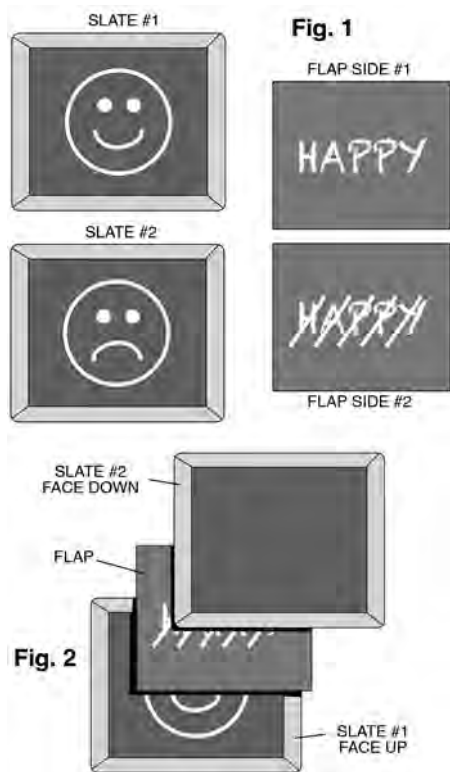
HAPPY-FACE SLATES

Peter Rooke

This routine works well near the start of a show. Using a pair of slates (“chalkboards”) with flaps, the lines crossing out the word “happy” are erased and a sad face becomes a happy one.

Draw a happy face on one side of the first slate, and draw a sad face on one side of the second slate. The word “Happy” is written on one side of the flap, and on the reverse side “Happy” is also written – but with a line

(or lines) through it as if the word is crossed off (Fig. 1). This side of the flap is placed face up over the happy face on the first slate. The word “Happy” is face down. The second slate is placed on top of the first sad face, facing downwards (Fig. 2).



To begin the routine, announce that because this is a Happy Birthday party (or whatever the occasion is) you have drawn a nice happy face on one of these chalkboards. Show the sad face, and the audience will soon inform you that it is a sad one. Look puzzled as you notice the face and then say not to worry, because you have written the word “Happy” on this other chalkboard. Look even more puzzled as you notice it has been crossed off with a line through it. Then, you suddenly remember that your nephew (or your niece, grandchild, cousin, whoever) visited you yesterday and he is always playing tricks and pulling pranks on you. He must have gone in your magic room and done this. If anything else goes wrong, we can blame him!

Something must be done about it, because the show and party are happy events, not sad events. Place slates together as you say we will do some magic. Have the children pretend to erase the line that goes through the word “Happy” and then erase the sad face. They follow your actions as you shake your hand back and forth in the air. After that, you reach inside your pocket and pretend to grab little pieces of invisible chalk which you throw out to the children, apologizing if you hit anyone and picking up the pieces that fell on the floor. The kids hold the chalk up and follow you as you draw a happy face – a circle, two eyes, and a happy mouth. They can then keep their piece of chalk as a souvenir.

Hold the slates high as the children grab their happy faces and throw them towards the slates. Of course they hit you and you pretend to wipe the chalk off yourself. During all this, the slates are turned over, so the flap falls down on the other slate. Finally, reveal the word “Happy” with no line through it. Then remark that one of the happy faces did manage to hit the chalkboards after all, as you show the happy face. The children give themselves a big clap. You announce that everyone now knows it really is a Happy Birthday party show (or whatever kind of show you are performing). I usually put a large elastic band around the slates to keep them together. This helps prevent the flap from slipping out during all the action of erasing and drawing. And I always call them chalkboards, not slates, during a show.

RING-A-GO-GO!

Robin Rigsby

EFFECT: The performer borrows a finger ring from a lady spectator and covers it with a pocket handkerchief, which she grips. A tube of pastilles (candy sweets) are displayed. The performer states that if the trick fails and the ring is not recovered, this “gift” will hopefully “sweeten” her up.

The performer grips one of the corners of the handkerchief and snatches it away ... the spectator’s ring has vanished!

Apologising, the performer breaks the

seal on the lid of the tube, removes the lid, and slowly begins to pour the pastilles into a clear glass bowl on the table. Once several pastilles have dropped into the bowl, the spectator's ring comes into view. It's handed back to the spectator who verifies it is her property.

REQUIREMENTS: You must look around supermarkets for a suitable tube that contains pastilles (soft and easy to squash). The tube I use is manufactured by a long-standing firm called Rowantrees, but you may find another brand that contains similar candies. Most containers have a seal over the lids, for security purposes, which must be broken before removing the lid. Also, I have found that most tube-like containers are never full. Shake the contents and see for yourself. This helps us in this presentation.

Before breaking the seal, use a sharp craft knife or scalpel to cut out and discard a small section towards the back of the tube (**Fig. 1**). You will now be able to see some of the pastilles inside. You may have to remove two or three, using a pair of tweezers, so a definite gap now exists. This tube is carefully rested inside a cardboard box or another receptacle with the cutout section uppermost.

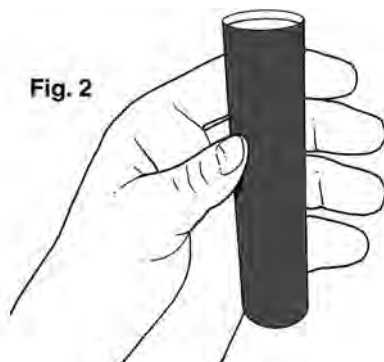


You will also need a pocket handkerchief, which has a small curtain ring sewn into one of its corners. This can be covered with a separate corner piece taken from another identical handkerchief. Also, a clear plastic or glass bowl, which should be on your table.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: Select a suitable lady spectator, one who is wearing a slim engagement or wedding ring, and borrow this. Hold the handkerchief in your left hand whilst the right holds the ring between the finger and thumb. Insert the ring into the folds of the hank. At the same time,

secretly bring the faked corner up to the top position. Ask another spectator to take charge of the ring, and ask them to grip it through the material of the handkerchief. The spectator grips the curtain ring through the hank, whilst you palm the genuine ring.

State that experiments like this sometimes go wrong and that, on occasion, borrowed rings are never recovered once they've been magically vanished. As you bring out the tube of pastilles, the palmed ring is inserted through the cut-out section. In bringing out the tube, the thumb covers the cut-out section (**Fig. 2**). This means the tube can be casually shown at all angles, as well as keeping in the pastilles and, of course, the ring. Shake the tube for "effect" and quip, "If your ring cannot be returned, this little gift of sugar-coated pastilles may well 'sweeten' you up a bit."



Your left hand snatches the handkerchief. The ring has vanished!

Make a fuss of breaking open the tube so that the audience can see it has not yet been opened. Open the lid and angle the tube over the clear bowl. Pastilles will start dropping out into the bowl. Then, the ring will dramatically appear amongst them. Lift the bowl and approach the lady spectator, asking her to remove the ring. Further ask her to verify the ring belongs to her. She will, of course say "Yes."

WHOOSH!

By George Hills

The following item was devised especially for children in a close up situation such as a restaurant. In the past I found myself looking

for a quick colourful item that would appeal to a wide age range and came up with the following. Whoosh has been ideal for the table to table engagements where children are present. Adults also have enjoyed the rabbit and hat theme.

REQUIREMENTS: Six cards specially printed as follows: three cards depicting a rabbit, as well as one with a hat, one with a rabbit in a hat, and finally a *whoosh!* (gone) card (**Fig. 1**). A plastic wallet is also required. The wallet is a similar style that is supplied with some dealer packet card trucks. The wallet has an extra piece of plastic on one side to make a double pocket behind the clear front. The extra opaque piece is cut from a second wallet and inserted under the clear plastic side, and should be just wide enough to meet the fold in the wallet.

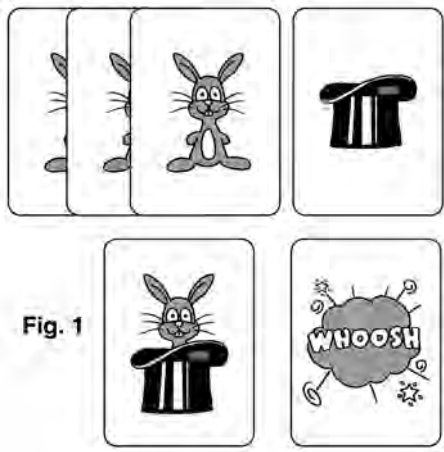


Fig. 1

SET-UP: From the face, the cards are arranged as follows: rabbit, rabbit, *whoosh!*, rabbit, hat, rabbit in hat (**Fig. 2**). The cards are put into the wallet in this order.

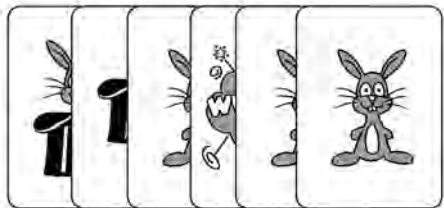


Fig. 2

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: The cards are taken from the wallet and the

face card is shown to be a rabbit. The performer asks if anyone knows what it is. A rabbit will be the response. “Look, I have another” as the next card is also shown. The cards are turned face down and the performer asks if anyone knows where rabbits live. Whatever the answer, the performer says that magician’s rabbits sometimes live in top hats. The top two cards are turned over as one to show a top hat (double lift). These two cards are turned face down and the other cards are placed aside.

The two cards are in the right hand as the left hand reaches for the wallet. The wallet is held open, as the two cards as one are apparently placed in the wallet. What actually happens is that as the two cards are about to be placed in the wallet, it is held vertically in front of the performer and the two cards are placed behind the false division. In a single action, the top card is drawn back and slid under the transparent plastic. Both cards are pushed home. The wallet is now placed aside so that a single face-down card can be seen.

The four cards are now taken face up and shown to be four rabbit cards, by using the “Elmsley Count.” The cards are turned face down and the top two cards are turned over as one to show a rabbit. The two cards are turned face down again and a child is asked to wiggle fingers, tap the cards, and say *Whoosh!* After a bit of byplay, the top card is turned over to show that the rabbit has gone *Whoosh!* and disappeared.

The card visible under the transparent plastic is taken out to show that the rabbit is popping out of the hat. Congratulate the helper for using magic fingers. A balloon or another gift is given to the child.

The above effect has proved to be simple, direct, and easy to follow for all children in a walkaround table-to-table situation. I hope you like it.

BOW-TIED!
Chris Wardle

Here is a colourful and baffling opening item to a stand-up or stage presentation. It is

also ideal as a compère “quick trick” between introducing the acts. Throughout, the focus is on you, because it’s all about completing your outfit for the evening! (Although written for a performer wearing a suit, it could easily be adapted. See the final comments at the end.)

EFFECT: The performer arrives on stage wearing a white button-up shirt and a dark suit, but no tie. They are carrying a cardboard gift bag and a clipboard. They explain that they could not decide which bow tie to wear for this evening’s performance. The clipboard is handed to a spectator, who is told to verify for the audience that it contains a list of ten different colours. The spectator confirms this. They are asked to remove the pen from the top of the clipboard and to call out any number between one and ten. For example, they call out seven. They are asked to circle the seventh colour on the list and to call it out. They name purple. The performer reaches into the gift bag with clearly empty hands, and slowly pulls out an unmade bow tie – in purple! The gift bag is tossed to another spectator to verify that it is empty. The bag is tossed back, the tie is dropped inside, and the performer momentarily turns away to place the gift bag at the back of the stage. Turning around, they are now seen to be wearing the purple tie, which is done up in a perfect bow!

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

This employs three methods. Firstly, the choice of colour. Please look at the list below:

1. White
2. Gold
3. Violet
4. Red
5. Light Green
6. Black
7. Purple
8. Orange
9. Light Blue
10. Yellow

This is an idea adapted from my recent hardback book *Quirky Forces* (2022). It utilises synonyms, a method I first came across as a force in Marvin Kaye’s *The*

Handbook of Mental Magic (1975) in his effect “The Challenge Prediction.” Kaye terms the method as “Synonymy.” I have added a subtlety to this in the use of the pen. Because you ask for a number *between* one and ten, you automatically eliminate these two options. The force colours are in the three, five, seven, and nine positions. If one of these odd numbers is called, you simply ask the spectator to circle the colour at that number. If they call two, four, six, or eight, you ask them to use the pen to cross off, therefore eliminating, that many colours working down the list from the top – and therefore arriving at a force colour, which they then circle!

The flat, unmade bow tie is double-sided. It’s made by cutting out a bow tie template in two colours and sewing them together along the edges. (Alternatively, you can actually buy double-sided or “reversible” ties online.) One side is purple coloured, which covers the violet or purple options, and the other is turquoise, which can be presented as light blue or light green.

The gift bag holds the tie. You just pull it out to show the appropriate side. In your jacket pocket, you have two ready-made ties without the neckband. One is purple and one is turquoise, and have a lozenge-shaped magnet glued inside the knot section. The magnet will match up with a lozenge-shaped magnet (painted white) that is glued to the top button of your shirt.

Use Velcro hook and loop tape to fasten this top button, so that the real button and magnet are permanently glued in place to the front of your shirt. Check the poles as you fix the magnets, so that the ties will attract and not repel! A lozenge-shaped magnet stops the bow tie from twisting off the horizontal as you move your head and perform.

As you turn around to face the back of the stage, you quickly reach into your inside jacket pocket and place the matching-coloured tie to the magnet. When you turn around, it looks like you are now wearing the chosen tie! You could, of course, adapt this to be a bow that goes in the front of

your hair. Do this by secretly wearing a small, plain hair slide or “Alice band,” with a magnet glued to it to affix the chosen bow. Or, adapt this for a handkerchief in your top pocket – whatever suits you and your style!

BINARY KINGS AND QUEENS

Tony Griffith

This trick was first shown to me many years ago by the late Bob Ostin. Its name and origin are unknown, so I have titled it “Binary Kings and Queens” with credit to Bob.

I will explain the basic principle and handling, and leave the reader to insert their own presentation.

Needed are the four kings and queens. Each set must be in the same order, i.e., CHaSeD. They are displayed as shown in *Figure 1*.



Fig. 1

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

The trick is performed in the hands. The spectator is asked to think of one of the eight cards. The cards are alternatively up-jogged as shown in *Figure 2*.



Fig. 2

The spectator is asked if the thought-of card is in the top upjogged row. If the answer is “Yes,” then the top four upjogged

cards are stripped out and placed *behind* the bottom four face-up cards. If the answer is “No,” then they are stripped out and placed in *front* of the bottom four face-up cards.

This procedure is repeated two more times. After carrying out the above procedure three times, the eight cards are held face down and dealt alternatively into two piles, starting on the left. The four cards in the left-hand pile are picked up and turned face up, one at a time, with the following result:

- The first card will indicate the colour of the thought-of card.
- The second card will indicate the suit.
- The third card will indicate whether the thought-of card is either a King or a Queen.
- The fourth card will be the actual thought-of card.

All four cards will be the same colour, either red or black. After a pause to let the effect sink in, turn over the right-hand pile to reveal all the cards are also of the same colour. Again, either red or black.

Not only have you revealed the thought-of card, but you have also separated the red and black cards into two piles.

RIBBON-IFTY

William Parkhouse

For years, magicians have been changing a silk, a piece of rope, even a strand of Christmas tinsel into an evening cane. I can’t say if the following hasn’t been in print before, but it’s one of several ways I use the classic prop “Appearing Cane.”

Obtain six lengths of thin, coloured nylon ribbon, approximately the length of your cane. Tie the ends around the folded cane release lever.

In performance, either pick up a bunch of ribbons (or magically produce them from one of your production-type props) and swish them around. As you do this, release the lever so the ribbon lengths are engulfed inside the cane. Instant transformation of a bunch of what appear to be single lengths of ribbon into an evening cane.

SOLUTION - ILLUSION PAPER TEAR

Jack Foster

So many novel paper tears have been originated, published, and marketed over the years. My offering is yet another, and since the working of most is the same, I don't intend to describe a complete step-by-step explanation.

In performance, the magician explains that he is about to perform the famous torn-and-restored paper trick. He displays a strip of paper, which bears the bold word **SOLUTION**, and says, "I first must study the instructions – the solution to how it is done." He pretends to read the instructions on the reverse side of the strip and, after a pause,

tears the strip into several pieces. Waving his hand over these, he finds that the strip is still in pieces. "Noticing" that he should have waved his hand over the pieces, he does so now.

The pieces change into the original strip size. However, the word **SOLUTION** has changed to **ILLUSION**. He finally says whilst opening the strip, "It has worked! It's an illusion."

The **ILLUSION** strip is neatly folded and pasted to the top left-hand corner on the reverse side of the **SOLUTION** strip.

Send comments and appreciations for contributors to:

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The Card Corner

MIKE POWERS



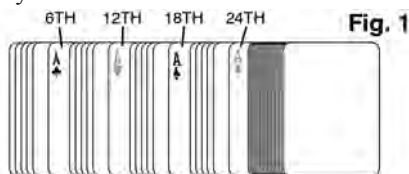
This trick is based on a principle used by Frank Garcia in the effect, “European Aces,” published in Garcia’s *Super Subtle Card Miracles* (Million Dollar Productions, 1973). A variation of the trick, “Four Guys Find the Ladies,” was later published by Bob Lusthaus in *The Linking Ring* (October 2012). This is Sal’s rendition of the effect. It takes the trick into the realm of mentalism and adds a surprise ending. The trick is best done using four spectators. Check out the demonstration video at www.mallofmagic.com/cardcorner. Scroll to the bottom.

ESP Aces

By Sal Mannuzza

EFFECT: Each of four spectators is asked to close their eyes and visualize the Ace of Clubs, Hearts, Spades, and Diamonds, respectively. They are asked to imagine a number that they “see” floating above their ace. The cards appearing at each of those numbers are placed, face down, in front of each spectator. These cards are then turned over, revealing the ace that each spectator visualized. Finally, the remaining deck is ribbon spread, face up, showing that all cards have blank faces!

SET-UP: For the big ending, you’ll need forty-eight blank-faced cards as well as the four aces from a deck with a matching back pattern. Position the four aces as follows: Ace of Clubs, sixth from the top; Ace of Hearts, twelfth from the top; Ace of Spades, eighteenth from the top; Ace of Diamonds, twenty-fourth from the top (**Fig. 1**). Note that the aces are in CHaSeD order for easy memory. Feel free to put them in any order that you’ll remember.



PROCEDURE: Although it’s not necessary, Sal likes to begin with a false shuffle, retaining the top twenty-four cards (e.g., an overhand jog shuffle control) and a full-deck false cut. Just be careful not to flash the blank facers. During the shuffling and cutting, say, “Let’s do an experiment involving ESP. Okay [spectator A], try to use your imagination. Close your eyes and visualize the Ace of Clubs. [Pause] Got it? Great. Now floating above the ace is a number, say between five and ten. Do you see it? Tell me that number.” Let’s say the spectator says, “seven.” Continue, “Open your eyes and recall that you were visualizing the Ace of Clubs. You visualized a number floating above it. You said that the number was seven.”

Take five cards, one by one, from the left hand into the right hand without reversing their order and drop them face down on the table as you say, “That’s five.” Now, take the next two as before without reversing their order as you continue, “... and two more makes seven.” (Had the named number been eight, you’d take three cards.) The top card of the seven-card packet is the Ace of Clubs, due to the five-two counting procedure. But it seems that the top card is the seventh card.

Remove the top card and put it face down in front of spectator A. Finally, place the remaining six cards face down on top of the deck.

The Ace of Hearts is now eleventh from the top. Repeat the procedure, this time asking spectator B to visualize the Ace of Hearts and to visualize a number between ten and fifteen. As before, ask the spectator what number they visualized. Let's say it's fourteen. This time you will remove two groups of five cards. Take the first group of five without reversing their order as you say, "That's five." Drop these to the table and take another group of five in the same fashion, saying, "And five more makes ten." Drop these to the table. The Ace of Hearts is now the top card of the deck. Take four more cards (making fourteen) without reversing their order as you say, "And four more makes your number – fourteen." Drop these on top of all and quickly review what happened, getting a bit of time misdirection. Say, "You visualized the Ace of Hearts with the number fourteen floating above it." Remove the top card of the tabled group and place it face down in front of spectator B. Place the remaining thirteen cards back on the deck.

The next ace in sequence, the Ace of Spades, is now sixteenth from the top. So, you'll repeat the procedure with spectator C, this time asking her to think of a number between fifteen and twenty. Let's say she says, "seventeen." As before, you'll take groups of five cards. This time you'll remove three groups of five as you say, "There's five, and five more makes ten, and five more makes fifteen." Now take two more, again without reversing their order, as you say, "And two more makes your number – seventeen." Drop these on top and recap, as before, distracting the spectator from thinking about the procedure. You want it to seem that the top card was at their named number. As before, remove the top card and place it in front of spectator C. Place the remaining sixteen cards on the deck. Say, "You imagined the Ace of Spades with the number seventeen floating above it."

The procedure should be clear by now. The final ace (Ace of Diamonds) is twenty-first from the top. You'll tell spectator D to imagine the Ace of Diamonds and a number, this time between twenty and twenty-five. Let's say the number is twenty-three. You'll proceed as before, only this time you'll take four groups of five, one by one, as you say, "Five, ten, fifteen, and twenty." You then take whatever number reaches the spectator's imagined number. Since she imagined the number twenty-three, that would be three more cards. The Ace of Diamonds is now the top card of the packet of twenty-three cards. Place it in front of the spectator and recap. Again, place the top card in front of the spectator and get ready to wrap things up.

Say, "Each of you imagined an ace and a position in the deck. I counted to that position and put the card in front of each of you. Let's see how each of you did." Turn over the cards, revealing an incredible "coincidence." All the spectators were correct. The *big* ending is waiting to happen. Say, "It's amazing that each of you found your ace. But what's even more amazing is this." Spread the deck face up, showing that all the remaining cards are blank (**Fig. 2**)! Say, "How did you do it?"

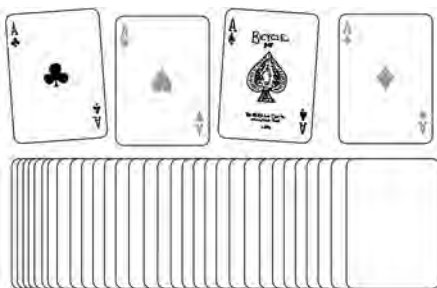


Fig. 2

FINAL THOUGHTS: I really like this effect. It's a powerful self-worker. Sal performs it as written. It occurs to me that having the spectators think of specific cards, aces in this case, foreshadows the ending. The spectators will expect that they'll be correct, and they will be. Of course, the blank deck ending will kick their butts anyway!

Here's another possible way to go: Instead of saying, "Think of the Ace of Clubs," I think you could avoid the foreshadowing by saying, "Your suit will be clubs. Close your eyes and visualize the club symbol floating in the air. Now imagine a number floating above it. Say, a number between five and ten. What number are you visualizing?" Continue with the procedure described above, ending with the Ace of Clubs in front of spectator A. At the end, the cards in front of the spectators have suits that match the suit they were assigned. But this time, aces weren't mentioned. You can act as though just finding a matching suit is what you were hoping they could do. Now, when you reveal the Ace of Clubs, you just say, "Wow! That's great you found a club. The odds are only one in four." Expectations are now fairly low. This will magnify the power of them

finding the ace of their suit. If you visit the link described in the intro, you'll not only find a demo video of the effect, but also a description of a method using a normal deck, which you can set up with a few partial faro shuffles. You'll lose the blank deck ending. But it's a way to get into the basic effect using a normal deck while setting up the position of the aces on the fly.

CREDITS: This trick is based on a principle used by Frank Garcia in the effect, "European Aces," published in Garcia's *Super Subtle Card Miracles* (Million Dollar Productions, 1973). A variation of the trick, "Four Guys Find the Ladies," was later published by Bob Lusthaus in *The Linking Ring* (October 2012).

Mike Powers

mpowers@mallofmagic.com

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

WANT TO SUBMIT A RING REPORT?

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

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



Simple Diversions

ANDREW WOO

The H₂O Cap That

When those moments occur, you are prepared. You have convened at an outdoor family picnic, enjoying the warm weather and delightful conversations with friends and family. It is keenly noticeable that folks have congregated in anticipation of bearing witness to a wonderful and enchanted display of wizardry. Somewhere from the crowd a partaker yells out, “Magician boy, perform a trick.” You sheepishly perform a simple, impromptu effect that will leave them gasping and desiring a follow up.

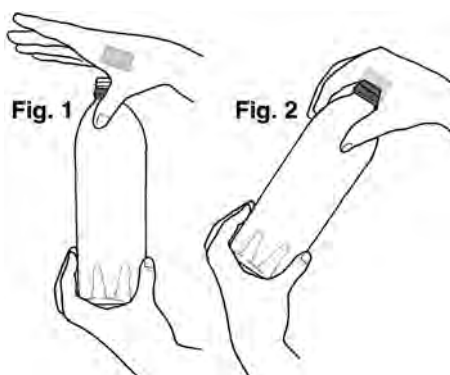
EFFECT: The magician claims that they can penetrate the bottom of a standard water bottle with its cap. Upon demonstrating, there seems to be an absolute failure. Careful examination shows that the bottle cap pierced the bottom of the bottle and found its way screwed on at the top.

PREPARATION: Common plastic water bottle with two screw-on bottle caps. Place one of the screw-on bottle caps in your right pants pocket.

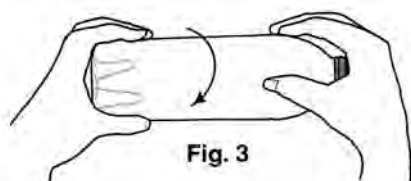
PRESENTATION: The magician asks to borrow a water bottle. The spectator volunteers the bottle and is asked to unscrew the bottle cap from the top of the plastic bottle. The magician retrieves the bottle cap and places it upon the performance surface. You then hand out the bottle to be examined while secretly obtaining and palming the matching bottle cap.

With the bottle cap deep in palm position of the right hand, the left hand retrieves the examined water bottle which is held vertically. The left and right hands come together whereby the opening of the bottle is inserted

into the bottle cap itself with the label facing the audience (**Figures 1 and 2**).



The left hand turns the bottom of the plastic bottle two quarter turns toward the magician, essentially locking the cap onto the bottle (**Figure 3**). The right hand, with its extended fingers, secures the bottle. The bottle is then turned vertical so that it is situated upside down.



The left hand retrieves the bottle cap from the performance surface and places it in the palm. The bottle is turned so that it lies horizontal or perpendicular to the ground. Count to three. The right hand stays stationary as the left hand moves towards

the bottom of the plastic bottle making contact. It remains in that position.

The magician looks dismayed, then shakes the bottle forwards and backwards. The magician then removes the right hand, as it is explained that they used too much force, and reveals that the bottle cap is on the top of the bottle where it should be (**Fig. 4**).

It is handed out for examination. The magician asks a spectator to unscrew the cap to verify that it is solidly situated. Simultaneously, the extra bottle cap is ditched.

This quick effect is a surprise that will squeal any doubters amongst you. Enjoy this spur-of-the-moment effect and I will see you next month. Until then ...



Fig. 4

Andrew Woo

andrew@magicalwoo.com

www.magicalwoo.com

Moving?

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

Missing Linking Rings?

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

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



Auto-magic

MICHAEL BREGGAR

Happy New Year!

I can no more believe that it is 2024 than I can believe we are beginning our journey along the path of the *next* 100 columns! Yep ... this is “Auto-Magic” number 101! We will start off the new year, and the new Auto-Magic “century,” with a great effect that bridges mentalism, card magic, and a fun presentational premise. Sandpaper your fingertips and get ready to perform.

20/20 Exteroception*

**sensitivity to stimuli originating
outside of the body*

“In the mid-1970s,” you begin, “a young girl in Philadelphia made extraordinary claims about having the ability to ‘see’ with her fingertips. I’m so nearsighted, I’d probably have to get a pair of glasses made for my fingers. Or contact lenses ... which would create another problem because I wouldn’t be able to use my smartphone!”

You hand a cased deck of cards to a spectator and ask her to shuffle them thoroughly. *“I don’t know if I believe in that kind of stuff; I certainly don’t have that ability.”* You suddenly point at Marilyn. *“But maybe you do! Let’s try something.”*

You pick up the deck and quickly spread through the cards, left hand to right, faces towards you. *“We will use two cards of different values and attributes. Ah, these will work well.”* You have upjogged two cards, and now close the spread and remove the two cards as you turn the deck face down. You then give the cards a triple cut. *“In case you happened to glimpse at any of the cards – with your eyes, that is! – I will change their order.”*

You now ask Marilyn to stand and face the audience. You hand her the cards and instruct her to take them behind her back, to prevent any possibility that her vision influences the outcome. You call attention to the two face-down cards that you removed moments earlier. *“I am going to turn over one of them.”* You do. It is, for example, the Four of Diamonds. *“Look at this Four of Diamonds intently. Plant the image of it in your mind.”*

You pause for a moment, then say: *“Now, lift off a portion of the cards – a quarter, a third, half, whatever, with your right hand. Then flip over the balance of the cards in your left hand and plop the portion in your right hand back on top. Got it? Great! Now, bring the randomly cut deck forward and place it on the table.”*

Marilyn does that, as you continue: *“You thoroughly shuffled a deck of cards, and I removed two of them. I turned one face up and you concentrated on that card ... the Four of Diamonds ... and you took the deck behind your back and cut the cards at a random spot. Yes? Correct? All fair?”* Everyone, even the nearby cat, nods in affirmation. *“Just like Mary Donahue, that young lady in Philadelphia, I believe the external stimuli – the Four of Diamonds – enabled you to see with your fingertips and cut the deck of cards exactly at the right spot. We will see that spot where the two halves come together face to face.”*

With that, you spread the cards in a wide ribbon. The Four of Hearts (the Four of Diamond’s mate) is at the exact point where the two halves come face to face!

“But I am also interested in the random card next to your random cut.” You now slide out the Four of Hearts and the face-down card to its immediate right. You point

to the other “prediction” (face-down) card on the table. *“Now, this one you couldn’t possibly know, right? It’s face down, after all. So, you couldn’t have been influenced by this card. At least not through your optic senses.”* You turn over this card. It is the King of Clubs.

“Hmm, maybe there is another sense at play?” You ask Marilyn to flip over the face-down cut-to card.

It is the King of Spades!

“Marilyn, at some point you should look for some Visine hand cream!” She is too astonished to have heard what you just said.

Let Your Fingers Do the Walking ...

You can play this one as a mental effect or a card effect, or as a mental card effect. Whatever way you want to play it, just play it! This is a completely spur-of-the-moment, impromptu card effect that can be performed from a shuffled deck in use (or “FASDIU,” as my acronym-loving buddies would say). You will want to make sure the deck is more or less complete, because you will need random cards with their mates. Having said that, if the borrowed deck *is* missing a few cards, you could drive a point home that not all the cards *have* mates. It’ll make things seem even more impossible.

This effect is based on a Richard Himber two-card force found in *Tarbell Volume 2* called “Double Detection.” Essentially, you need to note the bottom two cards after the shuffle, remove their mates, and surreptitiously flip the bottom card of the deck face up. When the deck is then cut and placed face-to-face, the point of juncture will be those two cards that were formerly on the bottom, but are now in the middle of the ribbon spread.

Let’s look at the handling details and the painless method I’ve concocted.

You hand out the deck for a shuffle. Taking it back, you spread the cards hand to hand with the faces towards you. The two cards at the bottom (face) of the deck are, let’s say, the Four of Diamonds (on the face) and King of Clubs (directly on top of the four). You must now search for the other red

four and black king. (When searching, it is easier to look for a “red four” and a “black king.” Don’t search for specific cards or suits, per se.) When you find these two cards in the spread, upjog them half their length. You now close the spread, leaving the two cards upjogged. As you close the cards, your right thumb moves horizontally across the face card (Four of Diamonds). This locks the Four of Diamonds in place against the right palm (face up) as you turn the rest of the deck over on top of the face-up four, folding it like a closed book. As soon as the fifty-one cards have landed face down on top of the face-up Four of Diamonds, the thumb and index fingers of the right hand clip the two outjogged cards and pull them out of the deck, then drop them to the table. The turnover, snatch, and removal of the two outjoggers – as well as their placement on the table – are all done in a *single fluid motion*.

This looks like you have found two cards and upjogged them, and then simply turned the balance of the deck face down at the same time you removed the searched-for cards. And, while you have indeed done that, you have also *reversed the bottom card* in an (almost) sleight-free manner!

Now follow the presentation above. And it is *all* presentation now! Your heavy lifting is done!

Auto-Notes:

1. The “prediction” card, which you turn over before your helper cuts the deck (the “optic influence”), is the card that was on the bottom of the deck. In our case above, the Four of Diamonds.

2. After I pull the two cards from the face-to-face spread, I typically remove all other cards from the table. This draws the focus to your presentation and the four cards in play.

3. Your helper need not stand and do the “work” behind their back. You can have them do the cut and flip with their hands under a table, or even under a big napkin or handkerchief. Up to you.

Focus your ideas to me at:
mbreggar magic@gmail.com



Broken Wand

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

PAUL ESTERLINE

Paul Esterline, 62, of Manchester, Georgia, died June 4, 2023.

He held I.B.M. number 34960 and had been a member from 1992 to 2009. Billed as the "Man of Mysteries," Esterline was a performer and stage illusion designer. His fascination with magic began when his older brother, Mark, came home from school one day and showed him a trick. Paul performed his first magic trick at the age of five. From that point on, he read every book on magic available through his school, and was just nine years old when he was paid to perform his first magic show. Paul studied with Ted Carrothers, who served as his mentor for many years. His magic career took him around the world, including China, Italy, Germany, France, and Canada. Paul created illusions for magicians in North America, selling them through ads in *The Linking Ring* and word of mouth. He was best known for his Metamorphosis. He also appeared as a Renaissance reenactor, blacksmith, and farrier. He is survived by his partner, Dawn Thiebault, children Andrea and DaLan "Tu" Johnson, Hayley and Caleb Martin, Cecilia Esterline, and Samuel Esterline, four siblings, and four grandchildren.



(fifty years of continuous membership) and Rings 49, 235, and 304. Tony was born in Birmingham, England, and spent much of his childhood living in the Middle East and South Africa due to his father's job. He completed his school years in Chester, England after his family returned there. After secondary school, he



trained as a physiotherapist at Salford Group Hospitals where he met his wife, Celia. They started a family and moved to Thunder Bay, Canada. Tony became the head of the Physiotherapy Department at Port Arthur General Hospital, where he worked for the next three decades. In retirement, Tony and Celia moved to the Village by the Arboretum in Guelph. Tony participated in sailing, running, cycling, curling, camping, canoeing, and cross-country skiing. He spent thirty years as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Thunder Bay and was later a member of the Guelph-Wellington Men's Club and the Chair of the Social Committee for the Village by the Arboretum in Guelph. Tony and Celia traveled extensively throughout the world. He performed magic at birthday parties and other events. He joined the British Magic Circle in 1992, and was also a member of the Canadian Association of Magicians No. 314 and the Society of American Magicians. He is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Celia; two children, Stephen and Susan (Stan); his sister, Pam, and brother, Barry; two grandchildren, and extended family.

TONY GIBBS

Anthony (Tony) M. Gibbs, 85, of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, died October 26, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 21724 and had been a member since 1967. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Excalibur

RICHARD LARSEN

Richard N. Larsen, 90, of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, died January 26, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 33775 and had been a member since 1978. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 334, which he founded.



Richard graduated from Binghamton (New York) North High School in January 1950 and attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, New York, where he majored in Chemical Engineering. He was commissioned in the United States Air Force in 1955, beginning a career that spanned thirty years while reaching the rank of colonel. During his time, Richard served in Bermuda; South America; Ethiopia; Vietnam; Okinawa, Japan; the Azores, Portugal; and stations throughout the US. In Ethiopia, he trained the Imperial Ethiopian aircrews on counter-insurgency tactics. While at Nha Trang Air Base in Vietnam, he flew 1,219 combat sorties, logging 1,475 combat hours for the 5th Air Commando Squadron. He served as a Command Pilot with over 5,500 hours of flying time. Among his military decorations are the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with seventeen Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Vietnam Service Medal with nine Bronze Stars. He was a member of Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the Society of American Magicians. In addition to founding I.B.M. Ring 334, he also served as its President. Richard was a founding member of the American Air Museum in Britain, which honors American Air Force members who served during World War II. He is survived by his wife

of sixty-seven years, Betty Laman; a son, Richard E. Larsen (Karen) of Lopatcong, New Jersey; daughters Debra L. Thornley (Tim) of Jacksonville, Florida, Linda S. Hope (Earl) of Wyomissing, and Sha' L. Toon (Joaquin) of Goodlettsville, Tennessee; eight grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

DONALD MITCHELL, JR.

Donald Mitchell, Jr., 94, of Riverview, Michigan, died September 23, 2022. He held I.B.M. number 57658 and had been a member since 1997. He belonged to the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years of continuous membership) and Rings 210 and 303. Donald worked for years as an educator and administrator for Allen Park and Woodhaven Schools in Michigan. He was also a long-standing member of the Kiwanis club. In addition to magic, especially with cards, he performed music and played his self-proclaimed “greatest vice,” golf. He had a passion for entertaining friends and was happiest when performing card tricks for a crowd, doing so with a deft hand and his famously dry wit. He is survived by his wife of seventy-two years, Marion Mitchell; children Gail (Bruce) Vos and Lynn (Bruce) Bishop; brother Ronald Mitchell; five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.



DR. DOROTHY SCHULTZ

Dr. Dorothy Heidel Schultz, 95, of Champaign, Illinois, died December 4, 2023. She held I.B.M. number 29121 and had been a member since 1995. She belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years continuous membership) and Ring 236. Dorothy graduated from Mankato State Teachers College in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree and went on to earn her M.D. from the University of Iowa in 1959, at a time when very few women entered medical school.

Dorothy and Donald, who were married in 1950, worked in private practice together in Champaign until his retirement in 1986. Dorothy became a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians. Until her retirement, Dorothy worked as an emergency room physician at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital in Mattoon. In her spare time, both Dorothy and her husband performed magic shows throughout central Illinois. Dorothy was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Society of American Magicians. Ring 236 was named the Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring. Dorothy also raised doves for many years, which she and her husband used in their magic.

HARLAN SMOLIN

Harlan Joel Smolin, 72, of Silver Spring, Maryland, died August 6, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 39581 and had been a member since 1984. After a twenty-year absence, he renewed his membership in 2015. Growing up in Skokie, Illinois, Har-

lan attended the Yeshiva High School at the Hebrew Theological College in Skokie followed by The Ohio State University, where he met his wife Judith at the Hillel dining room. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Geography in 1972. He would go on to earn a master's degree in Geography at Ohio State followed by a master's in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Pittsburgh. He would also attain a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Maryland. A small business owner for most of his professional career, he enlisted in the Army ROTC at Ohio State at the height of the Vietnam War and continued to serve in the Army Reserve for twenty years, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. He had a love of close-up magic, especially with coins, which he performed for his customers, family, and friends. Harlan is survived by his wife of fifty years, Judith; daughter Jennifer (Jason Berman) Smolin and son Jared (Julie) Smolin; brother David (Cindy) Smolin; and six grandchildren.

When a Magic Friend Dies

While it is a responsibility of Ring Secretaries to notify our Headquarters Office or Executive Editor of the death of a member, many members do not belong to Rings, and even the deaths of Ring Members often slip through the cracks. Please take the time to send us a short note and copy of any obituary notice. Don't let a fellow magic lover slip away without notice. Send to Editor or Headquarters Office. Addresses on page 4. Thank you.



Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



Reports **must** be received by the 15th of each month to appear in the second following issue (for example, your January report will be published in March or April). Please e-mail reports to ringreports@magician.org with "Ring Reports" in the subject heading. You will receive confirmation of receipt. Reports of excessive length may be edited to meet space requirements. Please notify the reports editor, Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org, if changes need to be made to your Ring report headings (such as changes in officers' names, addresses, or times of meetings).

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

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

On October 21st, Ring 1 had their annual fundraiser, *Magic and Mystery*, which was held at the Florissant Performing Arts Center. A good crowd was on hand for both the afternoon and evening shows. Performers included Terry Richison, Laurence "Nothing Up My Sleeve" Levy, Steve Zuehlke, Josh Weidner, and Jeff Lefton. John Davit and D. Jay Lenz performed close-up magic in the lobby before the show. As a bonus, we also had Ted Schnarre and Rita Long (two professional ushers from the Fabulous Fox Theatre) escort people to their seats. Managing the sound and lights were Alan Zibets and Chuck Peterson. Taking care of the lobby were Mike and Susan McClure and Sandy Weis. Mike had an informational display featuring I.B.M. Ring 1, including posters, giveaways and much more. Mike also coordinated a massive marketing blitz that included numerous press releases, Facebook pages and ads, videos, and a spot on one of our local morning television shows (Tim Ezell, from Fox 2 News, interviewed Laurence Levy). We had a meet and greet in the lobby after the show and all the patrons really seemed to enjoy themselves. A free professional magic trick was given to each household with a link that told them how to perform this trick. Hats off to all of our members for making this event a huge success!

Steve Zuehlke shared the following: "For our November meeting, we were treated to a lecture by our own Steve Finkelstein. The topic of the lecture was Math Magic. Steve's lectures always draw a good crowd, and this lecture was no exception. Twenty-six members were in attendance and lots of faces we haven't seen in a while attended. Steve also generously gave all

in attendance two sets of lecture notes at no charge. Steve covered a variety of subjects including the 1089 force, extensive work on Magic Squares, The Grey Elephants in Denmark principle, Mental Logs/Sticks, binary solutions, The Faro Shuffle, the Palindrome Principle, Rules of Nines and a host of others. Very fascinating stuff! Some of it was easy and some will take some memory, but Steve's explanations made it very easy to follow. Steve and his brother have a small line of mental effects they have created which were for sale after the lecture. To "sum" the evening up, fantastic! Thanks, Steve Finkelstein, for sharing!"

Dan Todd shared the following: "We all should be so lucky in retirement to be performing magic and seeing all the smiles. Besides teaching chess in schools and hospitals, I perform chess magic for my students. On Thursday, October 26 I performed magic for Children's Hospital Volunteers' Luncheon. Then on October 29, I performed parlor magic at a local shelter. On October 31 I performed close-up magic which was chess and spooky themed in my Zoltar booth at the World Chess Hall of Fame for Halloween. On November 6, I performed a CCTV Magic Show at Children's Hospital and performed the following: Countless Cookies, Backstage Elephant, Dr. Suess Book Test, I Know What You Will Say, Find the Lady, Instant Magician - performing many comical effects ending with a rope effect and The End - Blendo rope silk. This month I performed by myself at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital. I performed the following: Astro Cabinet (basketball with hoop), Super Screen with plush bunny, Slydini Silks, Divining Rods with jumbo brazen to find the hidden alien, Rocket Book, Mis-Made Queen, my version of Bucket Filler with water, Aerostatic Glass, Human Phone Number, Six Bill Repeat, Comedy Handcuffs

Escape, Even Granny knows your card, and Down 2 1. On November 14 I performed close-up at Shriners Hospitals for Children. You probably noticed that I have been quite busy during retirement doing what I enjoy, bringing smiles to others. I encourage my fellow Ring 1 members to contact me at Magic@TheGreatTodd.com or call me at 314-409-7066 if they would like to volunteer. Also, I encourage any I.B.M. magician to contact me if you would like further information regarding the magic I perform and/or create.”

One of our members, Chad Jacobs (Chef Bananas), is performing magic full-time. He is a well-known children’s entertainer in the area. Besides performing as Chef Bananas, he is now playing the role of Santa Claus. Check out his Facebook page to see how much Chad looks like the “real” Santa Claus.

Ring 1 is busy planning their annual holiday party which includes food and the white elephant gift exchange. Guests are always welcome to attend Ring 1’s meetings and activities.

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 Ray White opened our October meeting. At this meeting we voted in new officers for the next two years. The following Ring 2 members and friends were present: Susan and Donna Campbell, Fritz Coombs, Bob Gurdak, Larry Henderson, James and Eric Killmeyer, Jim Klayder, Peter Lucke, Brian Moss, and Ray White. The theme of the evening was a Tom Craven Effect.

Opening the evening’s magic, Peter Lucke performed “Another Aussie” by Tom Craven. He asked Bob to assist him. Peter gave a blue-backed deck to Bob to shuffle, and then asked him to deal off sixteen cards. Bob then shuffled the packet of sixteen cards and handed it to Peter who said he would make a prediction. Peter removed a card, his prediction, from a red backed deck and placed it on the table. He then demonstrated the Australian Down Under Deal. One card is dealt to the table and the next is placed on the bottom of the packet. He asked Bob to continue the Aussie deal with the blue deck until only one card remained. The final card matched Peter’s prediction card.

James Killmeyer continued with “My Glory in Magic.” He told us he became interested in magic while in elementary school. To describe this, he showed us a dollar bill folded lengthwise saying that it represented his life. James

then attached a paper clip to the bill saying that it represented magic. He attached a second paper clip saying it represented reality. James pulled quickly on the ends of the bill causing the paper clips to pop off. He caught them in midair. The two clips were linked together. James finished by folding up the bill, enclosing it in his hand, and when he opened his hand, the bill was replaced by a silver dollar.

Brian Moss next entertained us with Benson Bowl by Roy Benson. Brian placed a ceramic bowl on the table along with three red sponge balls. He began by inverting the bowl on the table. Then taking one of the sponge balls in his left hand he tapped on his hand with a wand, and upon opening his hand, the ball had vanished. Brian raised the bowl, and the ball was now under the bowl. He repeated this process until all three balls were under the bowl. He left one ball under the bowl and placed one ball under each hand. When he raised his left hand, the ball had vanished, and two balls were revealed to be under his right hand.

One sleight from Tom’s book was Jim Klayder’s effect. Jim began by selecting three random cards from a deck and placed them face down on the table. Jim continued by turning cards face up on the deck one at a time. He asked Larry to say, “Stop.” The next face down card was the selection. Jim asked Larry to guess the selected card. To help Larry, Jim turned over the three cards on the table. They were the 7C, 7S, and the 7H. Larry correctly said the selected card must be the 7D, and it was.

Larry Henderson performed a Tom Craven trick found in Steve Beam’s *Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 1*. Larry invited James to assist him. He began by having James shuffle a deck of cards. Larry asked James to deal the cards one at a time while spelling THE TOM CRAVEN CARD TRICK. With his back turned, Larry asked James to put from two to five cards in his pocket, and to remember the number. James was then asked to select one of the cards. Larry turned the card over and had James place a round red dot sticker on the card, and to initial the sticker. James was then instructed to deal his secret number of cards (three) on top of the selected card. This packet was placed on top of the cards from the original packet. Larry asked James to take up the card packet and deal from the top to the bottom while spelling EVERY MOMENT IS PRECIOUS. When he finished, the top card was the selected card with the red dot on it.

Concluding members’ magic Bob Gurdak performed a version of the “Invisible 21 Card Trick” attributed to Tom Craven. Bob began by shuffling a deck. He took six cards from the top

and asked Jim to pick one card and not show it to anyone. Bob then began the 21 Card Trick by dealing the cards into three columns of seven cards each. He briefly explained about the 21 Card Trick as he gathered up the cards. Bob replaced them with twenty-one clear plastic cards that he dealt out in three columns. Bob asked Jim which column contained his selected card. Jim said it was the middle one. Bob gathered up the columns of plastic cards, and again dealt them into three columns. Again, he asked Jim which column had his selection, and Jim said it was in column three. Bob gathered up the plastic cards making sure the third column was in the middle. As he re-dealt the cards he counted, and when he reached the eleventh card, he announced that the selected card was the 8D. Jim confirmed that was correct.

Peter Lucke

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

In October, instead of a regular Ring 9 monthly meeting, the Georgia Magic Club hosted our Annual Auction! After a Flea Market, with seventeen sellers participating, we had a brief business meeting to nominate Officers and Board Members at Large, as well as Georgia Magic Club representatives for the 2023 Greater Atlanta Magician of the Year award.

The live auction went very well. We had fifty buyers/sellers and the database team logged 286 transactions altogether. David Ginn brought some of his dealer items, Stan Konter was the biggest seller, and Morris Herzberg invested the most. The highest bids were for Tom Sikorski's framed poster of David Copperfield and a Rose Act that Scott Duke brought in (\$100 each), and Bill Packard sold a \$2000 Flash Appearance in good condition for \$25! (Editor's note: I was glad to get it out of my garage!)

Thanks to the volunteers who helped keep things running smoothly: Eric Schuster, Steve Langston, Clark Kjorlaug, Bill Packard, Tammy Packard, (I.B.M. President Elect) Mike Dunagan, Debbie Leifer, Anthony Vinson, Stan Konter, and especially Past International President Ken Scott, who auctioneered for the entire evening.

Bill Packard

RING 12, BUFFALO, NEW YORK – Gene Gordon – Karl Norman Ring

Meets 1st Mon. each month at the Screening Room Cinema & Café, 3131 Sheridan Dr., Amherst, NY. Web site/E-mail: Ring 12.org

TODD NELSON, Secretary,

(716) 480-4757 \ 24 Majestic Circle, Amherst, NY 14226

The clocks had changed; there was a darkness in the air on this day, the day before election

day, the day that was Ring 12's November meeting. We began the meeting with Michael Kugel and his teaching table. We learned card magic. He performed many effects. There was an effect where a card was chosen, then put back in the deck, then put back in the box, then put under a silk, and yet, the chosen card escaped. Another effect was a "Triumph" effect. Cards were backwards and forwards mixed together, then straightened out, well not all, the four aces were backwards. There were other impressive ace routines.

Our main lecture was Mike Gallo, and it was coin magic all the way. That man can handle coins like nobody's business. He performed "Coins Across," "Copper/Silver/Brass" with no gimmicks and coins out of nowhere into a glass. Just to name a couple. The moves he taught were incredible and didn't look too difficult.

I purchased the notes and have the videos from his last lecture. I need to study them. The one deviation from coins was a "Cups and Balls" routine with four balls and two cups, with no extra ball. I was amazed and can't wait to study more of him. Maybe I'll watch his Penguin Lecture right now.

Shlomo Birkan

RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm Eat 'N Park, 1250 Banksville Rd., Pittsburgh, PA

MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@sei.cmu.edu

Web site: www.ibmring13.org

Happy New Year! At our November meeting, we elected the following members as our Ring officers for 2024, who will be installed at our January 4 meeting: President Matt "Levi" Burdine; Vice President Jeff Vanderhoff; Secretary Mark Zajicek; Treasurer Ted Knobloch; Sergeant-at-Arms Cece Wagner; and Board of Directors Jack Greenberg (I.B.M. Past International President), Lucy Hall, and Ralph Kelly. We also discussed interest in resuming our annual banquet with members of the other local magic clubs during the spring of this year.

Our suggested performance theme was "comedy magic," and Lucy Hall introduced our performers. Gary Filson presented his third performance for Ring membership as he asked Lucy to join him, and he showed to the rest of us his prediction, a large Jack of Diamonds card in a wooden frame, before he covered his prediction with a large silk. Gary asked Lucy to select a card from a jumbo deck, which he revealed to the audience was all Jack of Diamonds cards. When Lucy showed that her selected card was the Nine of Clubs, Gary uncovered his prediction card and showed that it had turned into a Nine of Clubs to match her card (Dan [Smoky Mountain Magic] Wolfe's "Fraidy").

Cece Wagner placed a small cup and a red ball on the table, and she covered the ball with the cup. Cece lifted the cup to show that the red ball had vanished and had turned into two, blue balls instead. Levi asked Roger to select a card from a deck, and he placed that card face down on the table. Levi showed another deck of cards in which every card had been cut in half diagonally, and he asked Roger to pick a half card from each half of the split deck. When Roger revealed that his two halves did not match each other, Levi turned over the originally selected card to show that it, too, was a half-and-half card that exactly matched Roger's two, selected half cards (House of Chuckles' "Banana Split Deck").

Michael Strough showed five, one-dollar bills, and he folded each bill and placed them in a glass tumbler. Michael handed the glass to Levi and asked him to shake and mix them up, remove one bill, and place that bill into an envelope. Michael gave a pad of paper and a marker to Roger and asked him to write down the sequence of numbers and letters that he recited. Michael instructed Levi to remove the bill from the envelope and read the serial number, and it matched the predicted number exactly (Riccardo Berdini's "Black Door"). Michael also showed us a packet of five Pokémon trading cards that he caused to change one by one into energy cards (Josh Burch's "Uncommon").

Jeff Vanderhoff sat in a chair and asked Roger to tie Jeff's hands together with a rope that was also tied and knotted around his knees. Roger draped Jeff's jacket over his tied hands and legs. Jeff then instructed Roger to perform a magic trick with an imaginary deck, and Jeff repeatedly motioned with his suddenly freed hand to tell Roger what to do while Jeff pretended that his hands were still tied. Roger had Eric pick a card from the imaginary deck, and Eric later named his selected card. Jeff asked Roger to hand him a real deck of cards that had been sitting on the table, and Jeff showed that one card in that deck had turned upside down, and it indeed matched Eric's named card (adapted from Bill Malone's "Standing Ovation Invisible Deck" routine, from the *Bill Malone On the Loose*, Volume 3 DVD).

Ted Knoblach displayed a box containing a ring with a ruby stone in it, and he told a story of a young man who proposed to his girlfriend. As Ted asked Levi to assist him in acting out the story, Ted placed the ring on Levi's finger and covered it with a silk. Ted removed the silk and showed that the ruby had changed into a diamond in the ring (Daytona Magic's "Ring Exchange"). Ralph Kelly asked Eric to read an enamel pin that was attached to Ralph's shirt, which consisted of the word "Threeofclubs."

Ralph had Jeff select a card from a deck, but it was not the Three of Clubs, it was instead the Jack of Hearts. Ralph looked down at the pin on his shirt again, and the pin now read "Jackofhearts."

Eric Meredith told a story that his mother's father's great grandfather, who was the first steamboat operator in America, had told of a riverboat gambler who cheated at cards. Eric shuffled a deck of cards and dealt two piles of three cards each, showing that he had dealt himself three of a kind. Eric repeated this to deal himself another three of a kind, and then another. Eric then dealt two hands of five cards each, dealing himself a full house, three times in a row. As an apprentice tried to deal the same, his hands contained only two pair. When the apprentice finally dealt himself four of a kind, the gambler showed that he had a royal flush (Harry Lorayne's "Little Fella' - Big Fella'").

We wish you all a very happy, healthy, and magical new year!

Mark Zajicek

RING 19, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – Carl Jones Ring

Meets 2nd Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom and in person 2nd Sat. (location TBD)

PARKER WILLIAM, President / Web site: www.IBMRing19.com

We held both in-person and Zoom meetings in November. We are starting to see an uptick in the in-person meetings, which is refreshing! It is so nice to see magic up close and in person being presented by our fellow magi.

The in-person meeting was started, as always, by magic performed by club members. Rick Hinrichs shared some rubber band magic that he has been working on, inspired by Dr. Cyril Thomas. Andrew Miller, who always has bands with him, was able to provide enough to the group so that we could follow along and learn. Rick presented "Rubber Band and Ring," "Crazy Man's Handcuffs" and "Ring Band-it." A discussion soon followed around rubber band magic and several ways to "get ready" for presenting impromptu RB magic.

Andrew Miller shared a Ryan Pilling trick "Square Hole." Dan Norat presented a mentalism routine he calls "Numerology 101" using Steven Olson, Andrew Miller, and Rick Hinrichs as volunteers. This, then, offered a jumping off point to discuss Magic Squares. Tyler Erickson offered a mini lecture on the bottom deal and various color changes including the Leipzig Bottom Slip and how to finesse the steal when surrounded by spectators.

Jennifer Graham shared stories of her recent trip to Las Vegas and presented the trick that Shin Lim does as part of his audience participation segment, Woody Aragon's "Love Ritual."

Our Zoom meeting was very heavily focused on card magic. David Hansen shared his version

of Don Alan's "Big Deal" and Rick Hinrichs presented Chad Long's "Shuffling Lesson." Tyler Erickson offered a demonstration of finessing a Svengali Deck to make better use of this often-under-utilized prop. Using phrasing and time misdirection can make the deck a much stronger trick than usually seen in presentation.

We also discussed when best to use a deck switch; how to make the participant the star of your performance and the advantages of breaking down tricks to their bare minimum - something that Tyler calls "Magic Darwinism." As always, an engaging and entertaining time! *Jennifer Graham*

RING 20, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Eddie Clever Keystone Ring

Meets 2nd Thur., at 6:00pm (order off the menu), meeting 7:00pm at John's Diner 146 Sheraton Dr., New Cumberland, PA 17070

MARK KROTULSKI, Secretary / E-mail: eddieclever20@gmail.com

In attendance at the meeting were Stephen B. Smith, Al Bienstock, Jack and Linda Ritter, John Fortino, Michael Worsham, Michael Reist, Richie Matthews, and Dick Zechman. The meeting was opened at 6:31 p.m. by President Smith. The minutes were approved by voice vote as was the treasurer's report.

Under Old Business, a heartfelt appreciation was expressed to the Ritters for hosting the August Magic Picnic. Under New Business, it was made known that we will accept nominations for officers at our next meeting.

Smith's Thoughts for the Month: He remarked that two months ago he said he didn't like magic shows. The reason being is that magic shows at their core are illogical. What he means he explained is that if a person truly had magical powers, they would be doing other things than a magic show.

A few points for Good of the Order were made. First, Anna DeGuzman became the first female magician to make the AGT Finals. In addition, it was noted that the MAES Convention was well attended, and Michael Worsham found it very worthwhile. Michael Reist mentioned the Kapital Kidvention Deal Day. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

In lieu of our normal procedure of performing magic, we did the Ritter Grab bag which consisted of dividing up into two teams and then performing as much magic as possible with the items in the bags. A good time was had by all.

Michael L. Reist

RING 22, METRO DETROIT, MICHIGAN – The Warren Stephens Ring

Meets 3rd Tue., 7:15 pm - Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 749 W. 14 Mile Rd., Clawson, MI 48017

JOHN "JOHNNY NEW YORK" SMITH, President
Email: jonsmi7646@gmail.com

The Ring 22 October 17th meeting started at

7:30 with announcements from our President Johnny New York. The Ring 22 December meeting will be December 14th with a buffet dinner by member Rick Raimondo and plenty of giveaways throughout the meeting. Ring 22 will have a lecture Sunday afternoon, October 22nd (George Tait) and will also have a mini lecture during our November meeting by Eric Bedard. Harriet Jacobson also announced that the deadline for submitting recipes for The American Museum of Magic's cookbook is October 31st. They are getting close to their target of one hundred recipes! We had another full room with over forty magicians in attendance, so it was time to start the show!

Johnny introduced our Spotlight Magician, Tara McAllister. This was a first-time event for Ring 22 in having a female magician for our spotlight magician. Go Tara! Tara has the type of performing persona that just welcomes you and puts you at ease. Tara started by having three volunteers select a card from an ESP Deck, look at their card, and then hold them up so she could not see them. Using just a light touch on each of their hands for a "connection," Tara correctly predicted each of the symbol cards they selected. Tara then asked for three more volunteers and asked them each to select a card from a deck. Tara then quickly predicted the first two volunteer's cards. For the third prediction she produced a picture of the Eye of Horus and asked the third spectator to sprinkle sand across the eye and see if they could see their card. After sprinkling the sand, the Eye of Horus correctly predicted the card by having the number and suit appear in its eye! It was a great performance in both magic and mentalism and Tara did a great job!

It was now time for our workshop, and we had three veteran magicians present on the uses of different types of wallets. Mike Thornton started us off an introduction to wallet magic with one way to use the burning wallet that produces an actual flame when you open it. Mike then introduced Tom Mosier who first did an effect in which a signed card disappears from the deck and is found in his closed wallet using a check wallet. Tom then explained how the wallet works and how to do the effect. Next was John Luka who did a wonderful routine using a signed card and a Houdini's Metamorphous trunk with the wallet being the trunk. Not only did Harry (the King of Clubs) change places with Bess (the Queen of Hearts) but the signed card was actually found inside a zippered compartment in the wallet. John was using a wallet of his own design, and it was a terrific routine. Mike Thornton then closed the workshop with a

really nice “Finger Ring on Rope” routine in which the finger ring completely disappears and ends up inside a sealed envelope inside his wallet. It was a very entertaining and enlightening workshop! Thanks Mike, Tom, and John.

Our Ring Vice President Fred Lenter then led a discussion on Breather Cards that included how to both make a breather card and use one. Several members then added how they use them and some ins and outs to keep in mind when using a breather card. There seems to be a lot of different uses for a breather card, and it was a great discussion for our ring.

The program part of our Ring meeting was over so it was now time for our Open Stage where members can perform for our group. Bob Whitford started it off by presenting his version of “Jumping Gemini” which is a packet trick in which the four cards keep on changing from one card and suit to a completely different one and ends up with all four cards being four cards we had not seen during the routine at all. One of our newer members Brandon then performed the Fishhook effect where he puts a fishhook in his mouth with one of four strings tied to the fishhook and then a volunteer pulls out three strings, one at a time. Thankfully the last string was the one actually tied to the fishhook, and no one had to call 911. Carol Trusk was next, and she correctly named the four cards that four volunteers had selected. Bill Brand then demonstrated his hand chopper. Up next was another new member, Joe, who had a deck shuffled; a spectator selected a card and then inserted it back in the deck. Joe gave the deck a quick shuffle and cut and the selected card appeared between the two jokers. Jessie then did some razor blade sleight of hand he is learning from the book *KORT*. Our Artistic Director Keith Fields then performed his four-bean routine where he makes four beans disappear into various places of his face and then magically produces them from his mouth. Eric Bedard then made a selected card disappear and magically return to the deck it came from. Our Vice President Fred Lenter closed out the open stage with a card effect where a spectator selects a card, and it turns out to match the single card he had in his pocket. A lot of really nice performances tonight!

Time sure disappears when you are having fun, and it was time to end another Ring 22 meeting. We had another great night of magic including a super workshop on wallets and a really nice discussion on the use of a breather card.

Norm Cattell

RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:30pm at Musician Union Bldg. 322

West 48th St., NYC / Web site: www.80-20.org/meeting

JAMES R. STRANGES, President

E-mail: magicjim@optonline.net

The theme for the October Lab was Gambling Effects and Gimmicks. Many great effects were presented and explained. Robert Wallner did a “Cards to Pocket” reminiscent of Francis Carlyle’s “Homing Card” from the *Stars of Magic* series. Adrien Pierard presented a variety of effects. He started off with “Impromptu Mexican Monte,” where cards turn face up, face down, the queen is everywhere and vanishes. He also did an Ed Marlo effect which involved a spectator cut the deck in four piles and the four aces wind up on top of the piles. Adrien ended with Dani DaOrtiz’s “Poker Deal.” I understand that after Adrien’s performance, the group wanted to have a federal holiday named after him.

Rene Clement performed and explained effects using poker chips. Rene performed Mark Mason’s “Effortless” utilizing poker chips. He next presented a poker chip transformation of two different colored poker chips. This was followed by Jim Steinmeyer’s “Poker Demo” and ended with “Poker Con.”

Guy Crowl performed an effect involving poker chips and a story of his mother-in-law. Guy also performed a fantastic “Die and Cup” routine. The spectator was asked to roll a die and then cover it with a cup. Each time Guy was able to call out the number on the face of the die.

We even had a performance from future member, Brian Marks. Brian shuffled the deck of cards and cut the cards to the four aces. All in all, an entertaining and enlightening session. Thanks to all.

A fun and magical evening show before an enthusiastic audience was enjoyed by all at our October After Meeting show. It was Close-up Night, and the performers were excellent. Francoise Xavier Charpentier (FX) started the show with fun card effects, a “Chink-a-Chink” and ended with an outstanding penetration of one card through another.

Guy Crowl baffled a young lady from the audience with a die and a cup. She repeatedly placed the die under the cup with her selected number on top and Guy mentally revealed the correct number each time. The girl was given the die at the end to keep as a souvenir.

Tommy Burnett, “The Man who knows Too Much” took time out from his hit show, *Seance and Other Eerie Things*, to demonstrate to our audience an eerie tale of poison and victims.

Eric Qiu dazzled with some card manipulation and cards changing from queens to blank and back again. An imaginary card thought of from a spectator materialized. Great set of magic.

Robert Wallner read the mind of a woman from the audience by predicting a word she selected from a sheet of newspaper. He then gave a little comedy relief with his "Torn and Discarded Newspaper" trick.

Adrien Pierard performed some stunning card effects and did some unusual magic with two spoons. They balanced, spun, and magically bent.

To end the evening, Sheldon Lippman performed a deck matching and transporting card effect and ended with a beautiful coin matrix. A standing ovation from the appreciative audience ended the night.

Our November Lab was themed "Transformation." Since Adrien Pierard suggested the theme, it was only fitting that he start the session. Adrien performed a beautiful "Spellbound" type effect involving changes, vanishes, and appearances. It was clear that he put lots of thought and time into the routine. Adrien also performed the classic "Wonder Disc" effect.

Robert Wallner continued to perform his "Torn and Despose" newspaper effect. No, there is no typo. You read that correctly. Past President Rene Clement performed a visually amazing effect called "Twister Flavor," where a box of Chiclets turns into two packs of stick gum.

Rene also did "Split Prediction." Sterling Lee came prepared to do a "Ring Flight" using a ring that he provided. He decided not to, due to the size of the ring. It was a giant engagement ring. Giant? It was about eight inches in diameter.

Francoise Xavier Charpentier (FX) performed a very nice card effect. Past President, Frank Reyes was ready with several effects. Frank demonstrated the "Vanishing Cane" to double silks, "Appearing Silk to Cane," "Silks to Parasol," silk "Blend" and a very nice "Auto Smoke Ball" where a silk turns into a ball in a puff of smoke. All in all, a great evening. Thanks to all who participated and attended.

Frank Reyes

RING 29, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – Little Rock Magic Ring

Meets 1st Thur. each month, 6:45 pm., Conference Center at Baptist Hospital, Little Rock, AR. / Web site: www.LittleRockMagic.org
MARTY HAUGHN, Secretary

Little Rock Magic Ring gathered at the home of Jim Henson this month. The meeting was presided by President Dane Dover on November 2, 2023. The meeting was brought to order to discuss any business. Our first order of business

dealt with the recent Benefit Variety Show for Feed the Vets in Cabot, Arkansas. The event was a success and raised \$2500 for the food pantry. Dane offered the floor to Marty Haughn, one of the committee members who organized the show, to show off the over-sized \$2500 check to be presented to Deyonka Hickey, Founder/CEO of Feed the Vets. It met with approval by all in attendance. The presentation was held November 4, 2023, during the turkey drive supported by The Point 94.1 with host Rick Steel. Several volunteers from the nearby Guard Base, Air Force Base, and fellow Veteran volunteers to collect turkeys from the giving community of Cabot and surrounding area. Marty also handed Dane a "Living Document" containing everything we, as a committee, could have done better and listed several pages of recommendations for the next fund raiser event. We hope to have another event like this one in the very near future. Many thanks go out to the performers, Daniel Parrish, Gene Berry, Farmer Fin, Randall Eller, Blayk Puckett, Tom Burgoon, and emcee, Jody Burchfield. Each of these entertainers volunteered their time to help raise awareness and money. Of course, I would be remiss in not mentioning the fantastic support of our sponsors, backstage staff, sound and lighting tech and video tech (thanks Richard).

Further business discussed the overwhelming approval of our new location for meetings at Terry Library. What a great facility with plenty of room to maneuver and perform. Lastly, Dane stated that he and former President Marty Haughn have been working to get back into the public eye in hopes of gaining new membership. Dane stated he had spoken to an organization who was interested in creating new programs. It was suggested/asked if Ring 29 could provide some magicians to hold classes on magic beginning in April. This is a great idea and will help promote our Ring. At this point, the business meeting was closed and turned over to Jim Henson and Marty Haughn.

For the past year or two Jim has been selling off the estates of local magicians who had passed. It has been a long haul and struggle, but it appears to be coming to an end. To accomplish this, Jim arranged to make this month an auction month. Marty and Jim had placed bundles of magic into boxes and each box was sold with a beginning bid of one dollar! Fortunately, we had a nice crowd who were willing to bid and sort of compete for what they wanted. Of course, it was all fun and games, but every box was sold as were all the books. By the end of the night Jim collected nearly \$300 for the widows of these magicians. Fine work Ring 29!

That is it from Little Rock. Next month is our annual Christmas Potluck guaranteed to have plenty of fun, magic and way too much food! Be safe and stay magical everyone! *Marty Haughn*

RING 31, MADISON, WISCONSIN – Ben Berger Ring

Meets 1st Wed. each month, 6:30pm. at the Sequoia Public Library,
4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison, WI.
WAYNE PETERSON, Ring Contact
(608) 274-9411 / E-mail: magic@waynethewizard.com
Website: www.ibmring31.com
<http://www.facebook.com/BenBerger.IBMRing31>

Our club takes a summer break from June until September. We did meet in late August for our annual barbecue picnic hosted by Lisa and Mark Pepelea (Secretary). The picnic was well attended by our members and members of Ring 93 (Dubuque, Iowa). Mark's barbecue was delicious, and the magic performances and flea market were enjoyed by all!

Our first formal meeting was held in September with a good turnout and participation! Many of our members attended the Houdini Club of Wisconsin's one day magic event. It was a fun time with a lecture, free flea market, open mic competition, dealers, and lunch included. Wayne Peterson (Vice President) received the People's Choice Outstanding Comedy Magic Performance Award.

The Ring hosted a lecture by Bill Gladwell at our October meeting. Bill's topic was on mentalism and showmanship. His lecture was easy to understand and very practical. Please consider Bill for your Ring! Highly recommended!

Wayne Peterson

RING 32, ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA – Allentown Society of Magicians, Inc.

Meets 2nd Mon. of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at Hops Restaurant, 1945
W. Columbia Ave., Allentown, PA.
Web site: www.ring32.rhhomepage.com.
AL GROUT, President

What a great little dealer demo by our old friend, Scott Correll. I won't cover each and every effect but would like to give my two cents on several that caught my eye.

Scott started off with "Grandma's Necklace" which is now in new and improved form. Over seventy years back I remember this in Art Neimeyer's magic shop in Allentown. Lots of versions to this oldie but goodie which is still entertaining people.

Scott's light up wands were a bargain and really gave off light for an added touch to any piece of magic. Along with lights his Edison style remote light bulb drew lots of oohs and aahs. That sucker was really bright and lit up in my hand.

Crazy dice with skulls engraved in them was another unusual piece. One of the highlights

was probably the bubbles blown by Scott's vape cigar. They bounced on his gloves with ease and gave off a puff of smoke for a finale. Every time Scott shows up he has some silk magic and he vanished a ball off of our youngest attendee, Enrique, who is a card flourish wiz. We have seen this effect many times and it still looks good when Scott performs it.

Paddle tricks, gaffed cards, gaffed decks, you name it and Scott probably had something that you liked. Several Tenyo items were on display and a number of us went home with the "Passcase" quickie. This is a little wallet affair which vanishes or appears things in a flash. If you work with anything flat, a card, billet, coin, etc. this is definitely up your alley.

Well, as you have guessed I loved this evening. If you need to contact Scott, go to SMC magic company where he has a small sampling of items. One of the good things is much of the magic is practical and has numerous uses. Those little things that help to enhance a bigger miracle are so important. This guy has been around over forty years, so he has seen and done a lot. Good luck to Scott Correll, a real magician.

Bob Good

RING 43, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – Harlan Tarbell Ring

3rd Fri. except July and August, 7:30 p.m., at St. Francis Hospital,
S. Conference Room, First Floor, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60202
MIKE KAMLET, President / E-mail: kamlet@ameritech.net
175 E. Delaware #8502, Chicago, IL 60611 / (312) 266-2129
Web site: www.ring43.org

President Mike Kamlet announced we booked a new lecture for February, Radek Hoffman from Poland. Next month is Mentalism/Spooky Magic Night. Mike then introduced our October lecturer for the evening, Dan Fleshman.

Dan Fleshman has been entertaining in restaurants and night clubs throughout the country with his magic for over thirty-five years. He has also performed many times at the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, California. Dan will also be performing at the Gateway Magic Convention in St. Louis in April.

Dan began by demonstrating how he sets up in order to perform a three-hour shift in a restaurant. His process goes all the way back to a lecture by George Schindler on Pocket Management. Next, Dan went over the humorous way he approaches a table, chatting up the customer before he tells them he's a magician.

After getting young Ace McKay to assist him, Dan demonstrated "Extreme Burn," an effect where a stack of singles turns into a stack of fifties and then a stack of hundred-dollar bills. He also did a nice "Professor's Nightmare." He then pulled out a solid steel ring that penetrated

on and off the rope. Following, he did his "Linking Rings" routine, lastly followed by an olive production with a drink jigger.

Dan performed "Pointless," a trick with a Bic pen where the point of the pen repeatedly switches from one side to the other. Next Dan showed a coin routine and explained how he kept the coins separate and in the correct order while in the coin purse. He ends the routine with a giant coin production.

After the performance portion of the lecture, Dan then explained his Linking Rings routine in great detail, showing the moves and sequences involved. Dan went over his Professor's Nightmare in detail, including a great display move, and showed his transition into a "Ring and Rope" routine. Next, he explained the olive and jigger effect ("Rejiggered"). For his first card effect he did "Clone Deck" where a deck is removed from a holder and instantly and visually, turns into two decks.

After the break Dan had Kristen Kaniewski pick a card (2C). He then mixed the cards face up and face down, and then spread the deck on the table. The cards were all face up except one. Unfortunately, it was the 3S. "No problem," Dan declared and the face down 3S was turned over showing it was now the 2C! ("Rough Triumph.") Another card effect saw the selected card returned to the middle of the deck. Dan claimed the card was now on top, but when turned over it said, "Check his pocket." In his pocket was a card that said, "Look on the table," and when the table card was turned over it said, "Look in his hand" and Dan was now seen to be holding the selected card.

Dan did an "Ace Assembly" but when the fourth card emerged from the deck, it was actually a four, which he then instantly changed to the fourth ace. Following this, Dan combined a Houdini "Metamorphosis" effect with a "Signed Card To Wallet" effect. Dan had a card selected, showed a series of famous paintings. He then claimed that one of them was counterfeit. The Mona Lisa was seen to be holding a playing card which matched the selected card. ("Mona Lisa's Secret.")

In closing, Dan shared the story of the best tip he ever got. While performing at the restaurant he was just starting his routine at a new table when a little girl from the previous table walked over and, when he greeted her, she said, "I really loved your magic!" and she reached into her little purse, pulled out a one-dollar bill. And that tip was the best tip he ever got.

After the meeting, some members went to Taqueria Primo Chuki's Mexican Restaurant for additional fun and fellowship. *John Hulsebaut*

RING 46, OKLAHOMA CITY – Seymour Davis Ring

Meets 1st Mon. of month, New Beginning Fellowship Church, 15601 S. Pennsylvania, OKC
LEE WOODSIDE, Secretary
E-mail: WoodsideLee@hotmail.com
Ring Web site: www.okcmagic.org

Our themes for November were Patriotic Magic and Turkey Magic. Members were encouraged to perform magic that honors our military heroes or to show a magic item they bought that did not live up to the hype in the ad (imagine that!)

President Cassidy Smith started the meeting by showing off some of his favorite magic routines. He began by producing a bouquet of flowers. He then performed a multi-phase "Cut and Restored Rope" routine that he said was inspired by Michael Skinner, who was his "mentor," even though Cassidy never actually met him in person. Cassidy finished by using his elegant Sherwood Cups and Balls to perform a routine with lots of bits of business and technical skill.

Michael King led off the "Turkey Magic" portion of the meeting. He talked about an effect that has the participant perform calculations that force the number 1089. He said that the instructions indicated it would work even if the first number given is smaller than the number with the digits reversed, which is not the case. Michael then told us about ordering an early version of the nut off bolt effect and receiving a nut, a bolt, and a length of fishing line, with instructions to glue the line to the nut.

Jim Green showed us his jumbo Three Card Monte props. He discussed ways of causing the king to turn into the queen and vice-versa. David Teeman showed a deck of cards with superheroes Captain America and Wonder Woman as the jokers. He had two cards selected and returned to the deck. When the cards were spread on the table, the selected cards were between the two jokers. He then showed a drawer box to be empty. After a magic spell, the box was opened to reveal Captain America and Wonder Woman action figures.

Cassidy Smith led a discussion on ways to store magic items. He recommended tackle boxes and sewing boxes with multiple compartments for storing close-up magic props. Lee Woodside said that storing props in clear freezer bags lets you easily determine what is in the bag without having to open it. Lee also advised that if magic is stored in a closet, to be sure to check the carpet for moisture frequently.

Our annual election of officers took very little time. All the current officers were elected by acclamation to serve during 2024. Cassidy Smith will continue as President, Justin Teeman

as Vice President, Michael King as Treasurer, and Lee Woodside as Secretary, even though Lee offered to nominate anyone crazy enough to want the job of secretary. Lee Woodside then performed a routine to honor those who served in the military. He started by playing the songs of each of the branches of the military and asking those who served in each branch to stand. He had Molly Brasier present a small American flag to each of the veterans. Lee then performed the mis-made flag effect.

Rick Martin showed off his finger chopper that he made with the help of his laser cutter. He showed three playing cards, each of which had a hole in the center. He placed his finger through the holes and raised up the middle card through his finger. Derrick Beeson performed the "Demi Deck." A deck of cards was placed into the device and the deck was broken into two parts and then restored. Grant Vinton invited Justin Teeman and Cassidy Smith to each select a playing card and then return it to the deck. Grant then spread the deck and showed that the selected cards were between the two joker "detectives."

Justin Teeman performed a blackjack-themed effect with four cards. Pairs of cards turned into blackjacks. As a finale, he ended with four black jacks. Cassidy Smith invited Jerry Bowzer to select any five items from Cassidy's close-up props. After studying the items for one minute, Cassidy performed a very professional routine using all the items.

Lee Woodside

RING 56, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA – The Mystic IKI Ring

Meets 2nd. Mon. of month at home of Norris Priest, Henderson, KY
FRANK FINDLEY, Secretary
E-mail: secretary@ring56.com / Website: www.ring56.com

Seven members attended the October meeting at the home of Norris Priest in Henderson Kentucky. President Joseph Franklin opened the meeting by reminding members of Ring elections in November. Following this was the announcement that next month's performance theme is magic with glasses. All other business was suspended for our annual swap meet.

The Ring 56 swap meet has garnered a reputation for incredible deals. Everything from close-up to stage magic was represented in what the members brought to trade. Marty Ransford brought a library worth of quality books and videos. Some examples included *The Books of Wonder*, *Stars of Magic*, and *The Magic of Michael Ammar*. Norris Priest had a table full of classic magic from the 1950s through 2000s. One item that caught particular attention was an early MAK Magic/UF Grant Brilliant Magic Lamp.

Frank Findley brought a storage box of DVDs he sold for five dollars each or three for twelve.

He also had an eclectic range of tricks running from an in-the-box Haskell's Diminishing Cards by Merv Taylor to a twenty-eight bloom Botania with matching Blooming Flower. Joseph Franklin had a strong mix of modern magic including smoke and fire effects.

Terry Broshears brought a wide selection of color changing knives for which he is well known. Last but certainly not least, Mike Eakins had some great comedy and family magic for trade.

All along the members were demonstrating the items to each other. A lot of props changed hands, and everyone deemed it a fun time.

Frank Findley

RING 58, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thu. 6:45 pm each month, Messiah Lutheran Church, 6900 Kingston Pke, Knoxville, TN 37919 / Web site: ibmring58.com
VICTOR AGREDA, Jr., President / (865) 223-1401 / e-mail: vagredajr@gmail.com

The October meeting had sixteen members present, plus our secretary, Tom Vorjohan, logged in via Zoom from Las Vegas while he was visiting with our former member, Ben Young. Our president was also absent, so Michael Priestap was presiding over the business and acting as our Program Chair for the evening. Only some brief business to talk about food for our Christmas party as well as a potential lecture by Scott Robinson in the next few months.

Victor Agreda has been coming up with some creative themes for our recent meetings, and tonight it was "Squish or Shrink" to challenge our more creative members. Andrew Hyder performed the first trick he ever bought from a dealer: the "Two-Cent Atom Smasher." This is a quick but visual shrinkable trick! Tim Pressley demonstrated how he uses spring snakes for his kids' shows with his new double-loaded book that is available through Barry Mitchell.

After a volunteer initialed a chosen card, Sherman Wires was able to have it swap with another signed card while he and his volunteer held the cards in their lips. Talk about a change of style, Bill Osburn followed with an endless supply of ice cream cones (a little squishy)! And Ed Ripley was able to split sponge balls – now that's really squishy – into two again and again, but each time they shrunk little by little. Ed got bonus points for shrinking and squishing! Roy Schuber did another one of his original creations of mentalism in the form of a book test; his volunteer was offered a choice from a sack of books, and other audience members chose the page, the line, and the word in from the left on that line. This single word exactly matched a word chosen by a member of the audience and written on a note card before the meeting began!

Using three cups and a duck, Jim Stott was able to smash the two cups that did not have the duck underneath without looking. Jim also brought in the program from the 1963 I.B.M. Annual Convention that was held in Knoxville, Tennessee, as well as sharing the Willard the Wizard poster that he received at that convention; his memories of that first convention were fun to hear. Michael Priestap brought out some soapy bubbles, and he was able to catch one of the bubbles as a solid, clear marble. Using some squishy sponge bunnies, Bill Sturgis had gotten these while he was at Magic on the Beach Convention last month, "So I could always pull a rabbit out of my baseball cap!" he said.

As the performances began to come to a close, Danny Justice turned a napkin into an egg with multiple appearing eggs along the way. It was great to get some advice from John Gyllenhaal about how he uses the "Bigger Wands" that progressively get bigger and bigger. He did his routine with his magic hat producing an armadillo, *Paw Patrol* character, and bunny ears, all the while using *Star Trek* transporter sound effects which he controlled from the hat.

Tom Vorjohan via Jack Wilson

RING 59, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT – Frederick Eugene Powell Ring

Meets 1st Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m. at River Valley Retirement Community, 101 Oakview Drive, Trumbull, CT
CJ MAY, Secretary / E-mail: cyril.may@yale.edu
Web site: www.ibmring59.org

I.B.M. Ring 59 is now holding its monthly meetings in the swanky first floor of River Valley Retirement Community, 101 Oakview Drive, Trumbull, CT. Members are returning for great conversations, discussions of magic shows, props and books, and sharing wisdom and insights.

Jay Reidy is once again bringing forth a parade of wooden wonders. Most of the collection of finely crafted wooden props he has shared over the year come from the expert workshop of Mel Babcock. This November, however, Jay shared a beautiful piece he built with his own hands.

Please join us at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (other than when our meetings fall on or near a holiday).

CJ May

RING 63, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Meets 1st Wed. monthly, 7:30pm, at the Shepherd's Care Assisted Living Center 2100 N. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC 29609
PAUL DILELLA, Secretary / E-mail: magicmanpauld@yahoo.com
Web site: www.ring63.com

The October 2023 meeting of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 63 was held at the Shepherd's Care Assisted Living

Center in Greenville, SC. The October meeting theme was "Perform Any New Trick – Your Choice." We had ten performances after our October magic meeting.

Our first performer was Professor Rhett Bryson who performed the "East Friesian Bedside Lamp" illusion made in Germany and is an attractive, made to resemble an old-time candle bedside lamp, but instead of a candle, it had an electric lightbulb. But a very unusual lightbulb which lit with the striking of a match and extinguished with the blowing of the lightbulb. Wow!

Paul DiLella performed a magic trick straight from the pages of *M-U-M* magazine. It was a cellphone calculator trick which performed the "TOXC" effect on steroids. Four sealed envelopes were shown, and the spectator had a genuine free choice of any envelope (no Magician's Choice). Next, the magician's cellphone calculator was introduced and shown to be normal (this is not normally done when performing this effect but was done for magicians who think they know the "TOXC" force principle) by typing sample calculations. The spectator then types in a random number, the magician types in a random number, and the spectator types in the last number, and a total appears. The spectator opens his envelope to reveal a five dollar bill whose serial number matches the total on the cellphone. But wait, there's more! The magician clears the calculator and once again the spectator puts in a random number, the magician types in a random number, and the spectator types in the last random number, and a total appears. This time the total matches the exact month, day, and year of the spectator's birthday. Whew! Long explanation but very powerful!

Justin Porter was trying out a routine he was presenting at his local university and performed a unique self-made Production Tube producing silks after silk after silk and then producing candy bar after candy bar after candy bar (much to the delight of the audience!). Justin next performed a "Coca Cola Teleportation" routine moving the contents of a Coke bottle from one paper bag to a previously empty cup in another paper bag. It was a great and tasty effect!

Glenn Strange was our next performer and did the "Pendulum Prediction Card Trick" using his keychain with a lighter attached to it to find a freely selected card. After the light was lit, he *accidentally* burned his fingers, but a blister appeared between two of his fingers revealing the selected card *burned* into his two fingers. Now that is one hot trick!

Danny Williams amazed us all with both his

manual dexterity and his incredible memory skills by flawlessly performing the classic “Kate and Edith” card trick. Yikes, what a long script to remember. I can’t even remember what I had for breakfast this morning. Great job Danny.

Dick Stevens, Children’s Magician Extraordinaire, showed his magical diversity by performing a Mentalism routine made famous by Steve Valentine called “Booked.” A spectator stops the magician at any page in a book and the spectator notes the first word, not only does the magician predict the word chosen, but he makes the selected page in the book disappear only to appear inside the prediction envelope, torn out of the book, and matching the tears inside the book. And you thought he only did children’s magic!

Kenn Ball performed a trick from a past issue of *Genii* magazine called “Contact” using a spectator’s cellphone and contact list to divine the name of the person the spectator stopped at while scrolling his contact list. Kenn also did a trick by John Racherbaumer called “Counting On The Foreseeable.” Two great effects from a very talented magician.

And finally, El Presidente, Mike Noonan, performed a marketed effect called “Tumbleweed” using only four jokers that turned face up one at a time, and then face down one at a time. My head is still hurting from keeping track of what was going on during this trick. Nicely done Mike!

As usual, lots of magic, fellowship, and sharing on this magical night. If you are ever in the Greenville, SC area on the first Wednesday of the month, please contact our Secretary Paul DiLella and join us!

Paul DiLella

RING 64, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY – Okito/Lance Burton Ring

Meets 7:00pm various dates at Kosair Charities, 982 Eastern Blvd.,
Louisville, KY 40217

MICHAEL A. RAYMER, President

Web site: www.louisvillemagicclub.com

The LMC has been busy in recent weeks having held two meetings in the past month. On October 25th, we enjoyed a lecture given by close-up and restaurant magician Keith Leff, titled “The Art and Science of Strolling Magic and Table Hopping.” Keith is a highly skilled and accomplished magician having won the I.B.M. Close-up Magician of the Year three times, first place in both Close-up and Stage Magic at the World Expo of Magic and also winning the Gold Medal/Achievement Award in Comedy Magic among his many magical achievements.

During his lecture, Keith offered many of his own time-tested valuable pointers and advice on

how to become a restaurant magician. Things like how to approach the venue as in cold calls, negotiating the contract and many other necessary need to know information. During his lecture Keith also performed many of his favorite magical tricks and effects. Among them “Copper to Silver and Back Spellbound,” “Ball Through Saltshaker,” “Money to Burn,” “Vanishing Card Box,” “Signed Card in Card Box,” plus a very visual paddle move with a Sharpie pen.

The lecture proved to be very interesting and informative, especially to those of us who perform restaurant magic and table hopping.

Our second meeting, our regularly scheduled monthly meeting, was held on November 14th at the Kosair Charities Center on Eastern Parkway in Louisville. The meeting was two-fold in that it was our election of club officers for the upcoming year as well as the Annual Robert Escher Close-up Contest. There were forty-six members and invited guests in attendance to the point of standing room only.

Our current President, Michael Raymer, is stepping down after six years of loyal and faithful service to the club. Thanks Mike. The full slate of nominees was presented to the membership, and unanimously approved. Our new president is Dennis Alm, First V.P. Matt Sohl, second V.P. Tom Crecelius, Treasurer Allison White, and Club Secretary Carl Loud. Congratulations to all and best wishes in the new year.

The most anticipated event of the night, the Close-up Contest was next. There were eight contestants in the Senior Division but only one contestant in the Junior Division. I’m sure you already know who won that award. Each contestant was given a specific amount of time to perform his or her magical effect or trick in front of a panel of well-seasoned, highly professional international panel of judges. There were many very entertaining and amazing effects for the judges to consider. A very difficult job indeed. When all was said and done, the final results were announced, and the winners presented their well-earned awards. First Place went to Daniel Schaffer who took a common household item, a fork and caused it to contort and bend itself into incredible and unimaginable shapes just by Dan using the power of his mind. A very visual effect. Second place winner, Allison White performed “Cracker Bucket” an obvious play on words for Cracker Barrel. A “patron” from the audience chose several items from the menu along with their prices. The prices were added up and amazingly Allison predicted the exact total of all the entrees down to the last

penny. Third Place winner Richard Cross was a double winner as he also took the People's Choice Award. Richard performed "Acrobatic Knot" to perfection. He also amazed the crowd with the use of three large Chinese coins that were strung and tied together on a large scarf. The coins were then made to visibly and magically "melt" off of the cloth. Another very visual effect. Lastly, but certainly not least was our Junior Division entrant, Joanna Logsdon who performed "Magic with Handkerchief Magic" along with the assistance of an audience member. Good Job Joanna. This concluded the formal activities of the evening and as such, members of the club and guests gathered and held an open forum among themselves. See you next month.

Carl Loud

RING 70, TACOMA, WASHINGTON – Great Virgil and Julie Ring

Meets 4th Sun., at LeMay Car Museum, 2702 E. D St., Tacoma, Fife, WA.
RICK ANDERSON, Ring Contact,
501 S. 43rd St., Tacoma, WA 98408 / (253) 473-5456
E-mail: rickandersonmagic@gmail.com

Those in attendance at our meeting were Don Ryan, a past member of the club, Jon Bowne, Mike Hoyles, Rick Anderson, and Dave Pelto.

Mike Hoyles showed a card and buried it in the deck, but it seemed to always move up to the top again. But when buried near the bottom it didn't. This time it had advanced to the bottom of the deck!

Jon Bowne showed two sets of cards, red ace through five and black ace through five. Each was shuffled and laid face down on the table. Four coins were then placed on the table and a spectator was asked to move some of the coins in front of one of the piles and the remaining coins in front of the other pile. He put two with the red pile and two with the black pile. The top card was removed from the red pile and placed on the bottom and, since there was two coins, another card from the top was placed on the bottom. This was repeated with the black card pile. When finished, the top card of each stack was turned over and they matched! That matching pair and one coin was set aside, and the process was repeated with the three remaining coins. This time all three were moved to the black pile. Like before, a total of three cards were dealt to the bottom of the black pile and none from the red pile. Again, the top card from each pile matched. It was repeated with just two coins placed in front of the red pile and none in front of the black. After the dealing sequence, the top cards matched. He repeated with just one coin in front of the black pile and after the top card of that pile was dealt to the bottom, both top cards matched. Finally, the two remaining cards, one

black and one red also matched. (The matching pair and one coin are removed after each sequence.)

Dave Pelto held up two strings for all to see. He then pulled the ends apart and the string became one single length of string.

Rick Anderson cut a deck of cards into four separate piles. Following his directions, a card was moved from one pile to another, and this continued a number of times. Then the top card of each pile was turned over. All four were aces. He then had a card selected and returned to the deck. It was then ribbon spread (face down) and the selected card was face up. *Mike Hoyles*

RING 74, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK – Harris A. Solomon Ring

Meets 3rd Thu of every month 7:30pm. For current meeting details and venue, please contact:

KEN FREHM, President / E-mail: kfrehm@gmail.com

JOEY HOFFMAN, Secretary / E-mail: joeydemonmagic@gmail.com

We had another fantastic turnout for our in-person meeting at Denny's. Twelve people came out, including some friends from Ithaca! Our transition back to in-person has been going very smoothly, so thanks to everyone that's been coming out. We also had a potential new member, Patty Tichy, join us. It was great to meet you, and you're welcome back anytime.

David MacBlane kicked off the magic by showing us five pictures of famous magicians from the past. They were each put into an envelope and mixed up. We selected a random envelope, and the rest were put away. He then took a deck of cards, shuffled, and had Ken cut to a card, the Five of Clubs. David then opened up the envelope showing Alexander the Great holding our card.

Paul Jackman had a switchboard with four lightbulbs screwed in, and four switches with colored tops: red, yellow, blue, and green. He flipped the switches on one at a time, and they lit up with corresponding color. The red switch produced a red light, the green a green light and so on. He then removed all the bulbs, mixed them up, and allowed us to choose which bulb would go there. He then removed the colored tops and again had us choose where they would go. He flipped the switches again, and all the colors lined up. He did this over and over, and the lights always matched.

Steve Tichy performed a rope routine where he would tie knots in the rope, and magically move it up and down. He also tied different silks to the rope, and pulled them straight through the rope, maintaining the knot. He also introduced his wife and prospective member Patty Tichy, and while doing so, produced a bouquet of flowers from seemingly nowhere.

David Kilpatrick took a shot glass and covered it with a large cup. He covered the cup with a silk and grabbed a coin. He dropped the coin onto the upside-down glass, and it vanished before hearing a clank. He removed the silk, and the coin had gone through the glass and into the shot glass. He replaced the silk and did this three more times, once in slow motion, which looked absolutely stunning.

Bruce Purdy had four giant cards, three with a vampire, and one with a pumpkin. He turned them over and had us try to find the pumpkin. This proved difficult given all the cards, so Bruce removed one, and put it face down. He showed us the pumpkin and again mixed them up and turned one vampire over. No matter how many times we guessed, or how many cards were there we could never find the pumpkin.

James Turner had a bottle and a rope. He stuck the rope inside the bottle and conjured the "genie" inside of it. He convinced the genie to hold onto the rope, and when James turned the bottle completely upside down, but the rope stayed in. He then grabbed the rope and pulled the bottle straight up, set it down, and pulled the rope out.

I shuffled a deck of cards, revealed an ace, and placed it face down. I did this again and again until all four aces were down. I squared the packet, and held the cards face up. With a snap of my fingers, I spread the cards out and there were now five, and the four aces had changed into a royal flush.

Mike Stanley folded up a piece of paper and tore a big piece out of the center and crumpled it up. When he opened up the paper, there was a massive hole that looked much bigger than the paper originally was. He said this represented the moon, and when he uncrumpled the piece that was torn off, it was in the shape of a star.

As it currently stands, the new date for our Zoom meeting will be the second Thursday of the month, and our in-person meeting will be the third Thursday of the month. Both meetings start at 7, so try to sign on or get there a little before. Interested? Email kfrehm@gmail.com and a link will be sent to. We welcome all! *Joey Hoffman*

RING 75, FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS – Bill Pitts Ring

Meets 2nd Sun. each month, 1:30 p.m., Fort Smith Library, 3201 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith, AR

KEN ZELNICK, Secretary / E-mail: kzelnick@suddenlink.net

The September meeting of I.B.M. Ring 75, Fort Smith, AR was held Sunday, November 12 at the Fort Smith Library. Seven members and three guests were in attendance.

The business portion of the meeting involved discussion of two upcoming events: our annual Christmas potluck and magic show, and the

Cavalcade of Magic in Eureka Springs. The Christmas meeting will be Sunday, December 10 in the Rose Room at Creekmore Park. Dinner starts at 1:00, followed by a magic show by club members and any guests who might also want to perform. The club will provide the main course (usually chicken and ham,) and attending club members will provide the "supporting cast" of sides and desserts. This meeting is always a good time, and nobody goes away hungry. Guests are welcome.

The Cavalcade of Magic will be Friday and Saturday, March 22 and 23, with a night-before gathering and magic auction on Thursday, March 21. 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, all members demonstrated their skills. The theme for the meeting was "Silk Magic," and we saw some old standards such as "Twentieth Century Silks," a version of "Blendo," and a couple Devil's Hanks, as well as some innovative new ideas. Silk magic has always proved to be popular as it packs flat and plays big.

After the meeting, several members recessed to reconvene at a local coffee shop. *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

October is a performance night, and the theme of the evening was "Spooky Magic." The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Josh Sherwin. In attendance were thirty-one members and five guests. The business meeting was brief with next month's lecturer being Robert Baxt. Mark Booth talked about the Holiday Banquet Chili Cook-off, and the Ring was reminded that we are redesigning the Ring logo and welcome member input.

With that, the meeting was turned over to the Vice President of Entertainment, Magic Mike Stilwell. The first order of entertainment was an audition for membership by Robert Budz who told of his early introduction into magic, his loss of interest, and his reintroduction much later in life. He took a deck of cards face up and face down and pulled the aces one at a time. He then placed a card down and changed it on the table with a wave of his hand. With a tap of his fingers, all the cards were then face up with the exception of the aces. At the conclusion of his act Robert was escorted out of the hall, the membership voted, and Robert was made a member. Congratulations.

Nick Benevento was the first performer whose mystic ropes of two colors linked together and then magically separated with the appropriate incantation. Steve Rowin was next on the stage in appropriate seasonal garb. He told of the historic Salem Witch Trials and his relationship to them. He produced an amulet that was capable of finding vampires. He called a member of the audience (Gary Dismuke's daughter Katrina) who chose a cadre from the audience. Steve then demonstrated how to identify the Nosferatu. Cards were given to the volunteers who switched cards at will with other members. Katrina then took the amulet and gazed upon the cadre until she felt the vibrations. The member holding the vampire card was Alvin. All the other cards were blank. Alvin received a coin 3D printed just for the occasion.

Mark Booth with bony hands, told a story of a magician who belonged to a magic club and had a card trick to show that he wanted to make seem spooky. Only poor ideas came to mind. Laurie Pearson came up to help Mark follow the leader. Laurie was to follow Mark's zombie actions. Using the bone arms, Mark would signal via a screech when Laurie was to imitate his movements. Cards were shuffled. Both parties did a "You Do As I Do" with seasonal screeches in between. After magic move and magic gesture, came the revelation that both parties had produced the same card.

Misha introduced his routine by reminding the audience that across the street from the meeting hall was the most haunted house in America (as its sign outside says), the Whaley House. Susan Callagy was called up from the audience to help Misha with his haunting demonstration. Six cards were drawn to represent the six children of the Whaley house. He told the story of Anna Whaley who had a tragic marriage and ended her life. She is still haunting the Whaley House to this day. Susan had committed one of the six cards to her memory and that card was now gone from the stack, the card that represented. Greg Wauson was next up asking how many members liked to cook. He lamented how he liked to cook but the recipe book he ordered from Amazon was mixed up with Hogwarts. Instead of culinary magic, it contained magic using culinary items. Greg then tried to boil water but instead of boiling the water solidified and could be held up with a spoon.

We took a break for the opportunity drawing and great gifts were won by members and guests alike. The door prizes were donated by the Librarian, Gary Salisbury. After the break, Ms. Charley took the stage and performed a ritual

she does at home. Her friend Mama Denise had a ritual that she did up to her death, in October. The ritual used a candle which she lit every night for dinner to remind him of her childhood a package of Zig Zag rolling papers, and a deck of playing cards. With these on the table, Ms. Charley tried to contact the spirit of her friend to identify a selected card. Being spooky magic night, Ms. Charley's friend lent a hand, and the card was identified. Callahan (from the Dark Side) in a black and red robe appeared on stage known to all of us as Callahan from the light side but is now Calahan from the Dark Side. He called on Susan to once again assist. Fuego, the dragon of fire appeared on Callahan's hand and addressed Susan asking for a pure thought. With a deck of cards split into body and soul and the pumpkin head of the Halloween beast, Callahan from the Dark Side eventually found the card that Susan had chosen behind the glass of the rectory door.

Max with an X was next on the bill. He talked of a frail man who was so weak that all he could do was put a key into his hand and watch it roll. Max then placed a blank deck into his pocket. He forgot the names of the people in the room and asked the name of a woman who said, Alexa. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a card with that name printed on it. Again and again, as people gave the old man a name the card would be pulled out with that name on it. Max explained that the frail man asked for a bell to be tied to one of three ropes attached to a wood block. This was to allow the spirits to answer questions. Max held the same block with rope and bell up and spirits answered with a ring of the bell and its movement from one rope to another.

Mr. Funtastic performed a magic series titled "What if." What if magic was done by different people? What if he was someone else? "What if I were a monster hunter?" Mr. Funtastic proposed. He then told the story of tracking a monster who loved pizza but only pizza with children as the topping. The monster had an eyeball in a box that would rise from under a drape in Mr. Funtastic's hand. Alvin Revilas donned in full witch-doctor garb Alvin came onto the stage and took an audience member who could draw. He drew a picture and Alvin gave the tablet to another person and told her to draw three Xs. He then lit an electric candle and invoked Voodoo, but the spirits were against him, and the effect did not work. All magicians know of uncooperative spirits.

Vic Terrific was the last performer of the evening. After wishing a happy Columbus Day he gave a PSA about candy, making sure it was

well sealed off, as in his case, it would turn into a Rubik's Cube. He then tried to produce a dove from an inflated paper bag, but the flying feathers indicated it did not work as planned. He then inflated a balloon and had the spectators make a gun with their fingers. After the count of three, they said BANG! But again, things did not work out as planned, to the amusement of the audience. Susan, it turns out, drew a card that said "Bat," and Vic pulled a big bat balloon from behind the curtain. This was a performance night, so members voted on who they thought best of the evening. The meeting was then adjourned.

Richard Ustick

RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. "Social Gathering," 7:00 p.m. start time. First Methodist Church, 104 S. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL

GARY ROBERTS, President

E-MAIL: gary@robertsgary.com / Web site: www.ibmring81.com

We had a fun evening at a special meeting created by our President, Gary Roberts! We met at Gary's neighborhood clubhouse on a perfect weather evening the first week of November... right on the heels of Halloween. No one seemed to get lost as we diverted from our normal meeting location; in fact, we had twenty-one members and guests enjoying the evening which started with the announcement of next year's slate of officers: it will be the same as 2023 with Gary at the helm, Star Newman as our Vice President, Tom Vorjohan as the Secretary, and Bob Banta will continue as the Treasurer (until a volunteer steps up to take the position from him so he can step down).

After some fellowship and a wonderful selection of pizzas, we were treated to a forty-five-minute show by Orlando Hernandez. Orlando is from the neighboring town of Parrish, and many of us were unfamiliar with his style of magic – it was a great show! Orlando is a storyteller, and he opened with a saga of a lavish family who had a fire destroy their home in 1908. During his enthralling tale, he had cards with names on them that matched, and a thread that symbolically represented the damage caused to the family but was completely restored (a.k.a. "Gypsy Thread").

While Orlando's underlying style tends toward the dramatic presentation of magic, he had a lot of fun presenting Past International President Shawn Farquhar's Book Test and the Sock Trick with packets of cards and a set of mismatched socks on his feet! He also had a creative "Torn and Restored Playing Card" using a Bill Tube, and he concluded the show with a trip to Paris with volunteer, Joe Dobson, who found his chosen card on the passport and then the Mona Lisa had a large oddity: a giant playing

card in her hands matching the chosen card from earlier.

The club gave Orlando a well-deserved loud ovation! (In fact, if any of this report is incorrect or mixed up, it is due to Orlando's engaging style and routines that distracted my note taking.) We hope that he will be able to work a future meeting into his busy performing schedule.

Tom Vorjohan

RING 84, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA – Charles Waller Ring

Meets 1st Mon. 7:30 p.m. (except January), at the Welsh Church, 320

La Trobe Street, Melbourne

AIDAN THOMPSON, President/Secretary

E-mail: aidan.thompson@fultonhogan.com.au

October meeting for Ring 84 was well attended and sparked by some excellent magic from members. Brian Thompson kicked off, advising he would perform the Tri-Triple Force with the Da Vinci Load, from the August 2023 issue of *The Linking Ring*. Not one to back away from the usual flurry of gags, Brian addressed a spectator and asked if he would be surprised to see he had written your name in his notebook. Flicking it open, sure enough, "Your Name" was written! Next joke: Would spectator have any idea of the four-letter word written on the next page? The answer was "no" and Brian showed the word "know" in large writing. More crippling gags followed, including a few about mirrors. Two samples: I once worked at a factory where they made mirrors. I could really see myself working there. I left the mirror factory to work elsewhere. On reflection, I should have stayed. Brian concluded with a clever mathematics effect involving noughts and crosses.

Aidan Thompson followed with a book test by Bob Durante, from the July 2020 issue of *The Linking Ring*, page 71, a neat twist on the familiar 1089 number prediction – page 10, line 8 and 9 words in, or other combination to suit. Aidan continued with a novel effect using five different coloured plastic eggs, again from the pages of *The Linking Ring*, this one from the Past International President Vanni Pulé's Parade in the July 2019 issue, page 85. Further discussion from members included touching on Jack McGlone's popular prediction published years ago – "Idle Idol" from the pages of *The Blueprint*.

A card prediction from Peter Rowe was next. Cards carefully counted, prediction realised twice, with the correct number being arrived at and also matching a previously chosen card placed in the card case. Nicely done.

Graham Etherington displayed a number of cards of very attractive young models. Following a shuffle, spectator ended up with the ugly one! The expected laughs followed.

Chris Haller presented a trick taught to him years ago by the late Laurie Kelly, the Chinese Sticks, with original rhyme patter. Impressive. A most enjoyable evening. *Aidan Thompson*

RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.

BILL FIENNING, Secretary

(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: wcfienn@att.net

President Dave Dunlap opened the November Ring meeting. Our topic for the meeting was Puzzles and Similar Challenges. Tom Karas had a wooden puzzle box that could not be opened unless you discovered the secret. The box held several puzzles, some of which were very challenging. He started with two corks, each held in the crotch of your thumbs. The challenge is to trade the corks in a single motion without dropping them. It is sometimes called the "Twisty Corks." He also had the (magnetic) mummy puzzle where the mummy will not lie in its coffin unless you know the secret. Besides those, he had a small black plastic cube, consisting of two U-shaped pieces, that could not easily be opened. He also tried to teach us how to drop a wine bottle cork so that it would land standing upright on one end.

Secretary Bill Fienning, delving into his mathematics background, demonstrated a (fallacious) proof showing that $1=2$. Naturally, our Sergeant-at-Arms, David Ryan, with his engineering and mathematics background, saw the problem immediately. Bill presented and explained Bertrand Russell's Barber Paradox concerning the man who is the village barber; he shaves every man (and only those men) who do not shave themselves. Then the question is: Who shaves the barber? There is no satisfactory solution to this paradox.

Our V.P., Jim Oliver, shuffled a pack of face up and face down cards, making a mess. Then with one shuffle, he rectified all the deck. Dave Dunlap performed "Mondo Monte" with playing cards and "Overdraft" with two plastic credit cards.

Bill Fienning

RING 92, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA – The Vancouver Magic Circle (Charles Howard Ring)

Meets 4th Thurs. except July, Aug. and Dec., 7:00 pm, Sunrise Community Hall, 1950 Windermere St., Vancouver, B.C.

YOOSIK OUM, President

E-mail: yoosikoum@gmail.com

Web site: www.ibmring92.com

The Vancouver Magic Circle's Halloween meeting took place on Thursday, October 26, 2023. Several members arrived early for a jam session.

President Yoosik Oum officially opened the meeting by greeting the members and guests.

The workshop for the evening was presented by Rod Boss and Graham Kita. Rod did a crystal ball and card routine with another card revelation using a wind-up Count Dracula. Graham Kita did a tutorial on "MacDonald's Aces" and a haunted match box. He was dressed up as a clown. Everyone enjoyed the workshop. The workshops have been proven to be a huge and popular event amongst the members. Members are learning a lot of magic from each other.

The competition for the evening was for the Tip Top and Tootsie Trophy. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in a Halloween themed magic by an adult or junior member. At least one magical effect (close-up, parlour, or stage) with a Halloween theme must be performed. The 2022 Tip Top and Tootsie Trophy was not contested. Roy Hopwood was the winner of the 2021 competition. He was the host and emcee for the 2023 competition, and he read the rules. The competitors were Daniel Schwartz, Jack Schwartz, Rod Boss, John Stenning, Robert Teszka, and Blake Aleong. Simon Cassegrain was the timekeeper. The winner of the 2023 Tip Top and Tootsie Trophy was Daniel Schwartz. Congratulations to Daniel and to the rest of the competitors. In between the acts, Roy Hopwood gave out Halloween facts, asked a few Halloween themed quiz questions, and told a few Halloween themed "bad dad jokes."

To celebrate some of the Halloween activities, there was a dessert table decorated with a Halloween tablecloth and Halloween napkins. Thanks to Graham Kita for doing this. For the refreshments, Dale Brown brought donuts. It was nice to see long time Vancouver Magic Circle member Dale whom we haven't seen for quite a while. Graham Kita brought Halloween cookies, cupcakes, and bottled water. Rod Boss brought some chocolate candies. Thanks everyone.

To end the evening's Halloween activities, there was the ever-popular Halloween dress up contest. Yoosik Oum was the emcee for this event. The winner is decided by the applause/elimination process. The one who gets the most amount of applause by the end is declared the winner. There are no prizes, just a whole lot of fun and laughter. The competitors were Blake Aleong, Roy Hopwood, Ray Wong, Graham Kita, Rod Boss, Scott Barker, and Robert Teszka. The winner was Rod Boss, who was dressed up as wizard. Photography was done by Simon Cassegrain. Thanks to Kim Fabbro for giving me a ride to and from the meeting. There were twenty-three members and four guests in attendance.

Dennis Chan

RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club

3rd Sun., 7:00pm, Hy-Vee meeting room, 400 Locust St., Dubuque, Iowa
BOB BEARDSLEY, President, (563) 556-8584
E-mail: rbeardsly@Q.com

Emcee Rob Gomoll began the October meeting of Ring 93 with two scary poems and one about the “History of Halloween.”

Ghosts, nightmares, and mystery... / Let’s find out about Halloween’s history. / Ancient Celts feared the dark days ahead / And thought this time of year brought back their dead. / They had some safety measures planned / To save themselves when the dead walked the land. / First, since daylight was soon done, / They’d light bonfires to emulate the waning sun. / Next, they wore costumes and masks to hide from the ghost. / They’d leave little cakes by their door, so spirits wouldn’t haunt the host. / These Celts hoped to avoid a ghostly meeting, / And that’s why our kids today go Trick or Treating. / Now, an Irish immigrant named Jack made a deal with the Devil. / But ol’ “Stingy Jack” wasn’t on the level. / He got ol’ “Scratch” to climb up a tree. / Then he carved a cross in the bark, so the Devil couldn’t flee. / Jack had one goal: / He’d let the Devil down if he wouldn’t take his soul. / When Jack died, he was rejected at the Gate by ol’ St. Peter. / It seemed God didn’t want Jack either! / So, with a hollowed-out turnip as a lantern, lit by a coal from Hell, / Jack wandered over hill and dell. / People swore they saw a light / moving through the woods at night. / Today we carve out a pumpkin and put in a candle to burn. / That’s why we call it a “Jack”-o-lantern. / Pope Gregory wanted to Christianize the Celts, and he thought of a way. / He made their New Year, November first, “All Saints’ Day.” / In the True God, the Pope wanted them to believe. / He called their day, “All Hallowed Eve.” / So that’s what we mean/ when we say, “Happy Halloween!” / Since its creation, / Americans spend over ten billion dollars a year on this celebration! Then Rob did a Halloween trick which he learned from watching Spidey on YouTube.

Ring President, Chris Westemeier, started by dumping a set of dominoes onto the table. He asked a spectator to arrange them in a chain, matching the number of pips on each domino. Chris handed an envelope with a prediction to another audience member. Once the chain was completed, he noted the values of the two ends of the chain and asked the audience member to open the envelope. Within the envelope, were two pieces of paper with the same numbers! He followed this trick with a box showing pictures of jellybeans and the words “Free Samples.” Opening the box showed it contained only four cards with pictures of different color jellybeans.

Using the Frustration Count, the different colors would change as he went through the cards. He then counted the cards showing more than just four at a time. Stating that the best part was free delivery, he reopened the box to show it had become full of jellybean packages which were handed out to the audience.

Jim McCrea performed a Halloween-themed trick based on Chris Philpott’s “100th Monkey Effect.” Jim, who is the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Galena, Illinois, followed that up by demonstrating a Christianized version of “Hippity-Hop Rabbits.”

Walking Magic Bob Beardsley had a very busy fall with the following performances: McDonald’s Plastic Company Picnic, Kieler Fireworks in the Park, Medline Company Picnic, Ace Hardware Fall Festival, Kid’s Expo at the Grand River Center, Hispanic Heritage Festival in Dyersville, Cub -A -Thon at Swiss Valley Park involving two hundred scouts and their parents, and several private parties. Walking Magic Bob, with the help of Sheila Juers, performed an effect from Big Blind Media called “Two Deck Dave” from the repertoire of Jack Tighe.

At the end of our meeting, members had a short workshop where they taught their tricks to other members. Ring 93 believes that magic is about learning and sharing as well as performing.

The Grand River Center in Dubuque is celebrating its twentieth anniversary, and Walking Magic Bob Beardsley and Ring President Chris Westemeier were invited to entertain at the event by doing walk-around magic. Ring 93 is involved in many community events. *Rob Gomoll*

RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – Merlin Eflert 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

The October meeting of Ring 96 started off with a double bonus surprise. First, we had master card magician Jeremy Griffith come to lead our pre-meeting workshop. The members had been instructed to bring their own deck and Jeremy taught twelve of our members some of his incredible sleights.

Next, we opened our meeting proper and introduced our guest emcee for the night Jheff. Jheff is a Magic Castle performer, the publisher of a newsletter for mentalists, and the originator of several mentalism effects. He proved to be the perfect host for our night of “weird magic and mentalism.” Jheff opened the show with what appeared to be a sight gag. He covered his hand with a silk and asked a volunteer to pick a

number from one to five. The number three was chosen and Jheff removed the silk to show three fingers. He took out one card from his pocket and asked for the suit. Hearts was called out. The card in his hand was the Three of Hearts.

Joyce Basch took the stage dressed as the Queen of Hearts. She had a set of eight and a half by eleven-inch envelopes labeled one through nine. She had the audience decide how to mix the cards and what order they should be in. She called for nine volunteers and gave each one a card. When the envelopes were opened the volunteers were each holding a letter, and in the correct order spelled "Halloween."

Kim Hallinger was next and poured some hideous ingredients into a pan, including, pepper, cayenne pepper, an old sock, and more. She covered the pan and soon revealed it was full of peppermint candies.

Jheff came out with four different colored envelopes. He asked the first volunteer to pick one, he chose Green and was given that one to hold. The next volunteer chose blue and got that envelope. The third person picked red and was given that envelope. That left yellow which Jheff handed to a last volunteer. They opened the envelopes. The green one had a note which read "You will pick the green envelope." Very funny. The blue and red envelopes had similar comedic messages matching their color. The yellow one; the last one left, stated the correct order in which the envelopes would be picked.

David Fisher brought out a bag and the story of Frank McGillicuddy. Frank could cut to any named card in the deck and David demonstrated this. He changed four aces to four sevens and also changed the colors of the backs of the deck from red to blue.

President John Piercy brought out a square cage with a circular tube inside it. He showed both to be empty. He told a story of visiting a haunted house. First, he pulled out spider webs from the empty tube. He demonstrated that it was empty again and pulled out a ghost. Once again, he pulled out the tube and it was still empty, but when he put it back in, out came bats. Finally, he pulled out a gnome.

Jheff returned to the stage with a rolled-up silk. He made a pair of knots in the silk then vanished the knots and unrolled the silk revealing a picture of a ghost. There were two holes in the silk where the knots had been and where the ghost's eye would have been.

Kevin Papke performed the Zoltan trick. A card was chosen, and Kevin read notes from the box that helped to describe the card and how it was picked. The chosen card was soon found sticking out of Kevin's pocket.

Paul Case came to the stage and did a few jokes and sight-gags before bringing out a book of "travel destinations." He had a volunteer pick a destination and easily guessed it correctly. Paul followed that with a set of ESP cards that were placed in a rack in random order but matched his prediction.

Jheff had a volunteer pick a page and a word from a book. Letter by letter he figured out the word and had it written on a previously unshown pad.

Joseph Ken was our next performer. He brought up a volunteer and showed him the Ace of Spades that he called the card of death. Joe shuffled the ace into the deck. He guided the volunteer into crisscrossing the deck to pick a card. The chosen card was the Queen of Diamonds. Oddly the card right next to the queen was the Ace of Spades. On the back was written "It is not your time." A very creepy ending to a fine effect.

Bill Pearce brought up a spatula which he proceeded to psychically bend and then restore back to its original shape. Then he told an elaborate story about him and his wife picking out a casket for him to use after he passed. The picture of the casket was ornate and very expensive. Bill kept folding the paper, shrinking the accouterments, and lowering the price until all that was left was a trash can.

Jheff brought up two volunteers and gave them each a set of ten Uno cards. He performed a "Cards Across" routine with them. His closing effect called for six volunteers. Jheff read instructions from a series of cards calling for the volunteers to take different actions and sending them back to their seats. The winner was asked to pick a number from one to twenty-five. Jheff read from the list of prizes. The prizes were awkward, unusual, and disgusting. However, the one picked (number five) called for a stuffed animal. This had been in a bag in plain sight the whole time. Another exciting night at Ring 96

Cliff Gerstman

RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - The Maurice Rooklyn Ring

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street Chatswood.

JACK SHARP, President / email: jack@sharpmagic.com.au

The first part of our October meeting was spent doing a postmortem on our Sydney Magic Day which was held a week previous to our meeting on the 9th. There are two magic clubs in Sydney, I.B.M. Ring 102 and The Geniis Magical Society. The two clubs worked together to stage this, our second Magic Day, a mini one-day convention which featured Chris Congreave

from the U.K. and leading Australian performers from both our clubs. Our discussions were very favourable regarding the Magic Day and it was suggested that this event should take place each year.

After dissecting the Sydney Magic Day, the magic began. Phuoc Can Hua presented a nice routine with a Foo Can that he had made himself on his 3D printer, however he cleverly operated it to function as a Lota Bowl (emptying it, then pouring more from it). His craftsmanship on designing and producing the prop was fabulous. John Kanawati showed a routine with the jumbo Colour Changing Rings. Three large rings changed from black to a whole spectrum of sparkly colours. Nice handling and a great routine.

Barry Abkin amazed us with Brian Caswell's "Trilogy Extreme." Two spectators name a number, a deck of cards which has every card numbered was shown and Barry predicted the cards with those numbers. Barry then told us what his lucky number is, and it turns out that that matched a third spectator's chosen card. Our new president Jack Sharp did a great version of jumbo "Five Card Repeat" with a storyline that he used to perform this as a child. His routine concluded when the box into which he was throwing all the cards turned out to be empty, all the jumbo cards had disappeared.

Clement Kwok, the owner of The Art of Conjuring magic shop in Sydney did some incredible card stuff and then an unusual but baffling rubber band effect where the band kept penetrating the spectator's fingers. During supper after the meeting Clement showed us a display where his tablet was projected onto a screen as well as onto objects on a table in front of a screen such as a white cup and white toy car. When you coloured in the object on the tablet, the objects on the table became coloured in because of the projection. This was intended as an experiment for an idea Clement was working on.

Also, during supper, Barry Abkin performed Allan Kronzek's "Think of One" which knocked us all for six. A spectator merely thought of any card and with almost no fishy moves at all, Barry named the card. This was followed by much discourse on how Barry could possibly have known the chosen card. Another great night of magic at Ring 102. *Peter Wood*

RING 105, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA – The Coe Norton Ring

Meets 2nd Thur. of the month 7:00 P.M. at Home of Tony Metze, 123 Holly Ridge Lane, West Columbia, SC

TONY METZE, Acting Secretary / Email: tonymetze@yahoo.com

Facebook: Columbia Magic Club IBM Ring 105

Website: www.IBMRing105.org

Ring 105 met on Thursday 9th, 2023, at the home of Tony Metze. The meeting began with a

perusal of tricks donated to the Ring by a member who has moved out of town. After everyone discussed many of the items and their possible use, nearly everyone took one, two, or three. items. Donations to the treasury were made in good faith.

Next was discussion and multiple performances in Tony's magic room. Tony began with an effect first created by Bob Torson. Tony showed ten eight-by-ten portraits of a religious nature and a frame with a large question mark. The frame is put aside, and the spectator selects a number between one and ten. Russell selected the number seven. After some one-liner jokes and a bit of by play, Tony counted to the seventh portrait. The frame was turned around and revealed it now had the same portrait.

Richard Soos, our current TVP, stepped up with numerous variations of the Temple Screen effect. Rich's innovations remake this into truly something totally new. Rich then presented a macabre effect with a small doll whose head vanishes, then floats under a handkerchief, think Glorpy, then the headless doll was placed into a small doll house. Lights flashed and the walls of the house fell down to reveal the head of the doll was back on the doll. Masterfully made with intricate mechanical innovations.

Next up was Mike Kimble presenting a stage version of "Mental Math Tricks." He displayed one large four-sided column with a row of four numbers. Mike quickly added the four numbers. Then he added another column, then a third, and finally a fourth. The finale was Mike adding "in his head," four four-digit numbers while never looking at the front of the four columns. This is the final part that is a new twist created by Diamond Jim Tyler.

Finally, John Tudor shared news of his creation of the Biography of Coe Norton, professional magician who early in his career was Mandrake the Magician. John showed a video of the history of this performer. All of us, Allen Young, John Tudor, Russell Anderson, Mike Kimble, Richard Soos, and Tony Metze, continued discussion on a production of a Coca Cola can from a coat an effect created by Patrick Page. Discussion on many topics continued to after midnight. *Tony Metze*

RING 106, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – Slydini Pyramid Garden State Ring

Meets 2nd Wed., 8:00 p.m. at The Sparta Avenue Stage, 10 Sparta Ave., Sparta Township, NJ

STAN BLADEK, Secretary / E-mail: quakmagicphil@aol.com

The Slydini Pyramid I.B.M. Ring got off to a nice start with a chat session about techniques for vanishing a knot off a silk. We had a nice turnout to see what our fellow magicians have been working on.

Stan Bladek started off with a “Bottle Production” which was then used to do the water in newspaper trick. He then proceeded to pour the water in one of three cups and end with all three cups turned upside down. Eddie Conrad performed a straitjacket escape and picked up some valuable tips from our host Joe Garsetti.

Joe Klemmerer showed us a very baffling “Four Ace Assembly” with no sleights. He then taught the trick to all of us much to our delight. Mark Ghia joined us and asked for a brainstorming session and feedback on re-working the haunted tip over candle. Greg Ferdinand kept with the Halloween season and performed his original “Which Witch” card trick. He based his patter on *The Wizard of Oz* which made it that much more enjoyable.

John Henderson used an F.B.I. badge and gave us a “Magicians’ Miranda Warning” and did a Dreamland Magic Himmer wallet effect. Bruce Harpster closed out our evening by showing us his latest work by doing a *Pete McCabe Vol. 2 Scripting Magic* trick utilizing peanuts, a resounding metal bowl, and some great spectator interaction.

We have a great club and welcome any visitors who may be in the area to attend one of our meetings.

Stan Bladek

RING 115, SINGAPORE – The Great Wong Ring

Meets 15th of each month, 7:00 pm, Level 2, Hotel Grand Central, 22 Cavenagh Rd, Singapore 229617. Website: ibmring115.org
JOHN TEO, President / Tel: +62504422, 97509017
10M Braddell Hill #01-49, Singapore 57931

I.B.M. Singapore Ring 115’s meeting was held on Sunday 15th October 2023 in Function Room 1, Level 3, of the National Library building. It attracted an attendance of twenty-seven members and four guests. JK Tan and Kenneth Chea were the coordinators, and the theme was DIY magic.

Doors opened at 7 p.m. and the programme started at around 7.30 p.m. JK Tan welcomed all and announced the presence of Pambudi and his wife as our special guests. John Teo kicked off the fireside chat. Pamudi said he learned his magic after he joined the Ring 115 in 2002. The story of him and his five-year-old daughter learning magic to a standard of winning competitions by 2005 was inspiring. The blend of magic to work and family was novel based on competence, confidence, and communication skills.

Pamudi as the guest performer skillfully demonstrated several effects. Producing the chosen QH picture card from an envelope in a card box. “Colorlogy” - Predicting the coloured dot on a card from a set of six different colours.

“Svengali Book” – to predict the city as the holiday destination. Matching the chosen 2D card with its image on the back of his T-shirt which had the logo “I’m a Magician” in the front. “Card of Chance” - where the volunteer put an object, a torch, on the only card with a message out of the five face down cards. The bright book test in which the first or last word on a chosen page was predicted. “Coincidence Psy” cards and ended with a flaming wallet.

Kenneth Chia demonstrated his giant mobile phone apps prop that he has been developing for the last four to five years. He matched the Facebook app the volunteer had chosen and successfully added more photos in the gallery within the existing frame (Freer Tiles Principle). He shared on how to work with round and strip magnets. He aptly showed one use of magnets to change one type of currency notes to another. He uses fake notes that can be purchased around Hari Raya.

Thomas Yeo had a board with images on two faces of hands with the first finger pointing outwards. Magically he was able to get the fingers pointing to the left, right, up, down, and both left, right, up or down.

Tedric Peh, eight-year-old son of Desmond Peh, did his Induction Test. He performed the “Professor’s Nightmare” with two ropes and freed himself from a rope tied around his waist. He got the volunteer to magically find the missing piece of the Mona Lisa photo jigsaw. Finally, he predicted that *Spiderman* was the chosen hero out of his set of hero cards.

Goh Yin Xian’s dealer’s demo started with the Mini Book Pro, 4-Way Colouring Book that came with magic wand and vanishing crayons, Threaded, Fuze-It, Flower Power, Australian Aces, Visual AF Magic Book, Chop Egg, and Birthday Candles Repeat (a la Six Card Repeat).

JK Tan’s first DIY item was a hook, made of yarn and coat hanger wire, to hold an ordinary mike when a hands-free mike is not available. Next, he impressed us with four large-coloured lights with their corresponding colour switches DIY kit. No matter how one mixed the lights and the switches, the right light came on to match the switch. The giant bolt and nut that unthreaded itself was awesome.

There was a ten-minute break when the members flocked around the dealers’ desks to make their purchases.

Kai Emmanuel Kuah took his Induction Test after the break. The traditional act of multiplying bottles was skillfully executed. He then had a giant card selected from a packet, put it in a bag, shackled and chained his arms Houdini-style, and immersed them in the bag also. His

hands came out free of the chains but threaded through holes in the giant chosen card. His last trick was "Fate & Freewill." He had a set of jumbo red and blue backed cards in separate wine glasses. At the end of random switch or deal moves, the indices of both sets of cards matched exactly.

Sng Ming Da introduced his new venture Magic Attic defining the various shows that are planned. He invited the members to contact him if they wanted to perform. This is parlour style magic with different themes throughout the week.

Desmond Peh performed a routine of appearing and vanishing coins interspersed with appearing and vanishing Sharpie pens of various sizes.

Charles Choo set alight a S\$50 note that did not burn. A selected card 4D miraculously appeared folded in a tin. It was removed and signed and again appeared from the tin. He changed paper to money and the volunteer confirmed all bank notes were real. He found the chosen 5C card, laid in a circle using a small hand that revolved to point at it.

Ng Kah King performed "Hindu Sands" with an interesting story about the cleansing of a poor boy, with the three coloured sands representing violence, greed, and gambling.

John Teo had two cards chosen from a deck. He brought out a prediction claiming it will match the indices of the chosen cards. To everyone's surprise the prediction did not match until John used his magic power to make a digit jump from one card to the other and changing into another suit. His second effect involved popular Christian names of men and women based on a card trick by Peter Duffy.

The luck prize draw was of the four normal prizes and two bonus prizes donated by Pamudi. Thank you Pamudi. The coordinators thanked everyone, and the meeting closed at 10:45 p.m. *Kogi Oberoi*

RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at First Christian Church of Blue Springs, 701 NW 15 St., Blue Springs, MO.

JASON MOORE, President,
E-mail: iccemann101@gmail.com

For magicians, October means Halloween and Halloween means magic. On October 28 Ring 129 presented a magic show at our regular meeting place in Blue Springs. Alabama Jones, J.D. Roberts, and Steve Steiner performed, while Dennis Burks, Jordan Byrd, and Samuel Becker worked behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly. The show, performed before a sold-out, appreciative crowd, was an amazing success.

The main feature of our November meeting was our annual Colonel Boone contest (named after our late president Clyde Glandon, who performed under that name) to choose the close-up magician of the year. Only five members had qualified via our quarterly contests, and four were on hand to compete.

Jeremiah Jackson took first place for the second year in a row. He opened with a sponge-ball and bowl routine, with the final load being a deck of cards, leading to a card routine to conclude his act. He is also the reigning stage magician of the year, being one of the few members to hold both titles simultaneously. Second place went to Stu Lewis, whose act featured Bill Malone's "Sam the Bellhop" routine. Dave Heeter took third place with a card routine during which he mixed up cards in a black cloth sack and rearranged the face up, face down orientation. Phil Franklin's routine was based on ESP, as he "tested" a spectator's ESP first with cards and then had him predict the combination of a lock. Unfortunately, he was disqualified for exceeding the time limit.

Following the competition, two members performed more complete acts. Shaun Rivera performed a number of card tricks, including "Linking Cards" and a "Torn and Restored Card." He also pulled a number of cigars from a tiny coin purse. Terry Magelssen performed a stage act, including a rising card and the divination of which spectator/assistant was holding onto a hundred-dollar bill.

During the business meeting, we accepted the slate of officers presented by our nominating committee. Jason Moore will serve a second year as Ring president. The other officers will include Steve Steiner (V.P.), Kelly Rusk (secretary), Past International President David Sandy (Treasurer), Dennis Burks (Sergeant-at-Arms), Cliff Norris and Jeremiah Jackson will join Brad Lynn and Lance Rich as at-large Board members. *Stu Lewis*

RING 130, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA – First Coast Magic – Bob Hutchings Ring

Meets 3rd Tue at Hampton Inn, 4681 Lenoir Ave., S. Jacksonville, FL.

Meetings/Lectures at 7:30 (subject to change).

DR. DAVE COLL, Secretary, Secretary (904) 254-2460

E-mail: info@IBMRing130.com / Web site: www.IBMRing130.com

On November 8th, we were treated to a very special guest lecture by Al Schneider. Al hasn't lectured in a long time and will most likely never again. He traveled to Florida from Minnesota just for our club so for some of us this was truly a "once in a lifetime" opportunity. And it was awesome.

The lecture was in two parts, divided into stage and close-up. As far as tricks goes, it was

a standard set up. However, what Al offered was more than just tricks. He told us the history of effects, the creativity process, and peppered in stories of generations past, like Karrell Fox and Al Goshman. Some of the most interesting ones were the challenges he and Fox gave each other at his magic shop.

Coins, ropes, cards, zombie, silks; this wide array of topics gives testament to Al's creativity. He admits he's not much of a performer, but the thought and theory put into each piece was clear. He did show his favorite trick, "4x4," published in *Genii*. What's most surprising is that "Matrix" is not his favorite piece, nor did he discuss it in his lecture. I'm sure after sixty-five years of the trick he wants something new and let the legendary piece be. And to be honest, while it was expected, it was also refreshing to not see it. Al's creativity hasn't stopped and instead we got to see new effects, nowhere published.

To be treated to comedic anecdotes from his lengthy career, Al made it a great night for all those who attended.

Chris Sharp

RING 148, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Garden City Ring

Meets 4th Weds., (except Dec. & Jan) 7:30pm The Bombshelter, South Rd., Thebarton. www.ibm148.blogspot.com
DREW AMES, Secretary
E-mail: info@drewmagic.com.au

This is the Ring report for Ring 148 Adelaide held on Wednesday 25th October 2023.

Present at the meeting were Drew Ames, Tom Weil, Murray Cooper, Kevin Casaretto, and Steve Burford.

We had some feedback from members that attended the Ballarat convention in Victoria. About a four-hour car drive one way. It was a close-up convention and numbers were kept low. About fifty people were present and it was dedicated to Steve Walker.

We then had a discussion on who we would try and get if we had an Adelaide convention. Some of the names raised were Mike Powers, Paul Lelekis, Lance Burton, and Craig Petty.

It then was on to performing for the night. Kevin used a Bob Hummer principle to make the magic great; a card trick that used two piles with the cards being mixed and then all the cards matched. Ian then gave us "Perfect Memory" and Mark Spellman's "Solace." Ian is a new member, and his magic is coming along very well indeed. Keep it up Ian. Steve did something that was very different as he made an ear appear from a coin. Murray as usual showed us that he is one of Australia's best card workers; he performed the vanishing queens and also did a four of a kind card effect. Tom ended the

night with transforming a thought-of card into four kings.

Kevin Casaretto

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 Thursday, November 9, 2023, Ring 150 held its monthly meeting. After a short business review, we got down to some magic.

Ray Eden showcased how he gimmicked his Hot Rod to enhance the appearance and disappearance of the colored dots. Mark Horowitz performed an appearing knot in a rope. Ron Zimmer magically penetrated a small voodoo doll in a case a la "Swords Through Woman." Gary Rock performed a complete and classic sponge ball routine. Robert Weinowitz provided comedy with his novelty eyeglasses and blown-up balloon "eating." Billy Byron ended the evening with performing the late Obie O'Brien's "Kolossal Koloored Kards" accompanied by music.

Ring 150 currently meets at The Coconut Creek Community Center in Coconut Creek, Florida at 7 p.m.

Billy Byron

RING 151, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA – Ottawa Society of Magicians - The Roy Cottee Ring

Meets 2nd Tue., at one of three locations. Contact us for details.
JOHN PERT, President
5556 Van Vliet Rd., Manotick ON, K4M 1J4

The theme of the Roy Cottee Ring's (Ring 151, Ottawa) October meeting was spooky magic. And so, a few hearty souls gathered to tell tales of spooks and spirits, as well as to consume a few, in the back room of The Barley Mow. In attendance were President John Pert, Kyle Leon, Aurèle Constantineau, Glenn Brown, Mark Montreuil, Stéphane Beaudouin, Dave Oxley, Ron Bell, and Ernest Thomas.

While I was still en route from my duties as a scout leader, President John Pert started us off with a packet trick using garlic and vampire cards that was a Halloween themed take on the classic oil and water theme. According to Kyle Leon, it was quite good.

Dave Oxley went next, showing us a very interesting routine where the cards were mixed, and then the spectator dealt down to the card at his freely selected number. This was repeated four times and then the four cards were found at the tops of four packets. In addition, the selected cards turned out to be part of a mysterious seven-digit number, which, when dialed, rang Dave's phone! Coincidence?

Ernest Thomas was next, showing us a photo of a red balloon, the same red balloon that was

made famous in the classic horror film *It*. Ernest gave the photo, face down, to a spectator and then proceeded to show a poster of the famous film featuring the murderous clown Pennywise. Ernest folded the poster, and when he opened it, the clown had vanished. Ernest had the spectator look at the photo, to reveal that Pennywise had travelled to the face down photo to reclaim his balloon, to the shock and delight of all.

Kyle Leon had a deck of cards shuffled by a spectator and a card chosen, the Six of Diamonds. Kyle then replaced the Six of Diamonds into the deck face up, and the cards shuffled. He then asked the spectator to deal the cards randomly into two piles. When the Six of Diamonds showed up, he asked the spectator to choose which pile it would go into. In the end, turning the cards over, Kyle revealed that the spectator had managed to separate the cards into red and black piles, including the Six of Diamonds.

Kyle then had a card selected from the deck and replaced. He asked if it was a black card, which it was. Kyle removed the Five of Spades, but it was not the correct card. He then used his lighter to warm the card, and he revealed that the image of the correct card, the Two of Clubs, was burned onto the face of the Five of Spades. For his finale, Kyle showed us four cards, the A, 2, 3, and 4, which, after being turned face down, magically turned face up one by one. After that, the blue backed cards changed to red backs, and then finally to green.

Aurèle Constantineau showed us an interesting mystery using jacks, queens, and kings. After being mixed, he asked the spectator to count down to the sixth card and then to deal the card face down into a pile. Eventually, once all the counting and dealing into piles was done, the cards had successfully managed to find their mates.

Ron Bell spoke about his upcoming lecture at our November meeting, and then told us about his experiences entertaining a very difficult audience at a dinner party. He ended by recounting his experience publishing the first electronic magic magazine, *Merlin's Web*.

At this point, as the clock was creeping ever closer to the witching hour, the formal part of the meeting came to a close and the members whisked off in their enchanted jalopies and ghostly carriages. Until next time, dear reader, I remain...

Mark Montreuil

RING 153, BILLINGS, MONTANA – Billings Magic Society

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Reflections, 1140 Sixteenth Street West, Suite 13, Billings, MT.

KENT MESSEMER, President / E-mail: kmezmriz@qwestoffice.net
122 S. 36th St., Billings, MT 59101

We had a light turnout for our October meeting, with just three of us gathered to usher in the

Halloween season with some magic. But both Tony Shandy and Brent Cromley were able to impress Tony's fiancée, Debbie Sherman, with a variety of magic they wanted to try out and practice.

Brent displayed his newly acquired magic wand that he had purchased at the annual Renaissance Fair held the previous weekend. Brent professed amazement at the large turnout at this event, an event at which some of our members have previously performed.

Getting into magic, Tony had prepared an elaborate presentation of Voodoo magic, including the piercing of his hand with a needle, and shockingly making a diagram appear inside Debbie's hand, even though she had kept it closed the entire time.

Brent came prepared to try two classic card tricks that he had learned many years ago from a series of VHS tapes of Harry Lorayne. The first was "On Hand Vibration," in which cards in the hands of the spectator seem to give "vibrations" of what card was selected. Second was Lorayne's "Ultra Location Prediction," a fairly simple yet clever effect in which two selected cards are found. Brent then wanted to try out, and explain, an apparently effective palming move he had learned from Past International President Stephen Bargatze's *I Hate Card Tricks* video. It worked, and Debbie and Tony were suitably fooled.

We had hoped to welcome a new member tonight, but he was unable to make it at the last minute. Here in the "Magic City" of Billings, Montana, we are always looking for new and interested magicians, but do not seem to be reaching them. But if you find yourself traveling through our city sometime, look us up.

Brent Cromley

RING 167, DES MOINES, IOWA – Justo Hijo of Magic, Inc.

3rd Mon., 7:00pm Felix & Oscars 4050 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA
BRUCE ANDERSON, Secretary
E-mail: bga0128@gmail.com

President Steve Hinrich welcomed us to Spooky Magic Night. Russ Samson led off by passing books around and asking members to pick a page and keep the last words. Alan Koslow chose a word from the *Titanic* book. Mikayla Oz chose from another book. Matthew Br. Gregory was next, then Jared Garcia, Sydney Storm, and Sue Thompson. Then Russ asked the people to sit down if they had the words "box, ghost, fox, river, and house." Russ matched most of the predictions. Spooky routine!

Alan Koslow brought his magic book and a chart of random numbers and asked volunteers

to pick a number on his chart with sixteen numbers. Marcus Stevens chose ninety-nine, Walter picked one hundred forty-four, Rex Thompson fifty-four. Alan added the numbers and turned to a page in medical book that had the predicted word “neurons” and had a picture of a frog. Very interesting memory routine!

Marcus had Mikayla shuffle a deck of cards, handed them back, and say, “Stop” as he fanned through the deck. Marcus placed the chosen card in the break and shot the AC out of the deck. Marcus shared his secret moves for a Teach-a-Trick.

Rex brought out the three ropes from the “Professor’s Nightmare” routine and created a story about an Italian cook who couldn’t get the spaghetti to come out evenly. He was fired. But then learned how to manipulate the spaghetti to be the same length and was rehired and became a good cook. Fun spin of the trick!

Matilda Ware and her dad Buddy had Walter pick a card from three rows of seven cards and tell Buddy which row his card was in. Matilda assisted her father who is blind to pick up the rows and arrange them again and again until Walter’s AH finally was revealed. This was an amazing feat for a blind magician!

Bruce Anderson brought out his Wizard puppet Merlin who was haunted by a witch that was inside him. The witch kept cackling a wicked laugh that was driving Merlin crazy. The witch accused him of stealing her sand-witch. Every time she cackled; he had the shakes. Bruce performed an exorcism that removed the wicked witch from his body. Fun toy from the Dollar Store.

V.P. Lucas McCannon asked young Viggo Garcia to assist by checking out four colored envelopes that had red, yellow, green, and blue aces inside. Viggo picked the red envelope that had the red backed card and a note that said, “You will choose the red envelope.” Viggo’s a young third grader that just joined us and had mastered a new set of Linking Rings. Remarkable routine for a young first timer!

Sydney Storm had Walter sit in a chair and Sydney had a wire with skeletons on the ends pass through his neck. Scary way to get ahead.

Steve Hinrichs showed Viggo three piles of cards and had him pick out the 10S. Not only did the 10S show up in a box, but it also rose from a double deck.

Our Justo Hijo of Magic Club will put on a show November 11th. Our club members will share a favorite trick in a five-minute routine to an audience in West Des Moines. It will be our club fundraiser to help us bring in magicians for club lectures. Our members are excited to perform for a live audience.

Bruce Anderson

RING 170, ORLANDO, FLORIDA – Bev Bergeron Ring

3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m., at IHOP on Kirkman Road, Orlando, FL.

DENNIS PHILLIPS, Secretary

E-mail: dphillips13@cfl.rr.com

Web site: www.Ring170.com

President Ryan Stiner called the October meeting to order, and it was entirely a lecture by Christian Miro, from Spain. Miro is a popular cruise ship entertainer who uses magic, ventriloquism, and comedy mentalism in his acts. He is trilingual and speaks Spanish, Italian, and English.

His lecture featured an in depth look at three of his signature effects and all were taught using his line of thinking that he has detailed in his new book *Conclusions*. He explained how to handle audience volunteers and mostly to love your audience and be able to read them. He always breaks down the theatrical “fourth wall” and communicates. His suggestions included wearing a unique wardrobe and making volunteers feel comfortable.

He opened with his standard opening, a flash appearing yellow silk, and then a coin appears in it. The coin vanishes and then, from the silk, he produces a tall highball glass filled with a drink. He went over each part of the routine and the reason for every move and body position.

Next was his clever and funny “Russian Roulette” with six eggs. Five are hardboiled and one is raw. Each time, the spectator chooses an egg by rolling a large die, and then they take turns cracking eggs against the other person’s forehead. Miraculously, the spectator does not choose the single raw egg, which was showed to be a real raw egg. His method was clever and solid, and it was a great ten minutes of suspenseful entertainment.

Finally, Miro did a polished and captivating “Cards to Pocket.” A spectator’s signed card somehow keeps coming back to his pocket and finally the entire deck, other than the signed card, vanishes from his hand, while being held at the wrists by a volunteer, and appears in his pocket.

Christian Miro’s performance, advice and tips and explanations on how he structured his routines was enjoyed by all.

Dennis Phillips

RING 179, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – George Dency Ring

Meets 3rd Weds., 7:30pm at Woodholme Country Club, 300 Woodholme Ave., Pikesville, MD 21208 / Website: IBMring179.com

ANDY LONDON, President / Email: alondon@concast.net

The October 2023 meeting was a joint meeting of I.B.M. Ring 179 and S.A.M. Assembly 6 at the Woodholme Country Club in Owings Mills, MD.

Announcements: (1) local magician Tim Hall

will headline the annual Banquet will be Nov. 5, 2023, at Pappas Restaurant in Parkville, with Ring members doing strolling magic. Deadline to pay the forty-five dollars per person ticket is November 1, 2023; (2) upcoming local shows at Greenmount Station and Alternate Worlds (new home of the Magic Warehouse) were announced; and (3) next month's theme of gaffed decks was announced.

Mike Rose Presentation: Ring V.P. Mike Rose gave an excellent presentation and Master Class about paddles and the paddle move, including paddles from his collection, a lesson, and hand out on how to do the move, and a new wood paddle he made themed to Ring 179 which he generously gave to everyone present.

History: Mike said that in 1859 "The Secret Out" was the first known publication about the paddle move, then called the dagger sleight. In 1906 the first wooden paddle was created by a German magician named Neumann.

Paddle Move: Mike gave handling tips. He said to do the move slowly, and at the same speed in both directions. He noted that the move looks less deceptive to the performer, and suggested using a mirror if you are not sure how it looks to an audience. The paddle should be flipped a full 180 degrees, not just 90 degrees. For the Hot Rod force, hold the rod/paddle vertically, not horizontally. Mike demonstrated the spin color change which looks great for the Hot Rod. He also discussed and demonstrated a cousin to the paddle move done with dice, which allows different die values to appear, and mentioned the move can be done with a number two pencil.

Paddles: Mike discussed the variety of paddle types available. These include slate and chalk paddles which are the predecessor to today's erase board paddles; paddles with moving handles for added deceptiveness; customizable paddles; paddles that use magnets with steel coins; and color changing knives. Mike showed a paddle from his collection, an ambiguous Princess face paddle, with a face that looks different when turned upside down, allowing for two different faces in addition to a different face on the other side of the paddle. Mike makes and sells several wooden paddles at Renaissance Fairs and has performed with different paddles thousands of times.

Mike provided a bibliography on paddle related publications. His original paddles are available at www.HardToFindMagic.com.

Michael Worsham

RING 185, HONOLULU, HAWAII – Hawaii Magicians Society

Meets 4th Thu. of each month, 7:00 p.m., at Kalihi Palama Library, 1325 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI 96819

HARVEY "MR. O" OUCHI, Secretary / mromagic@yahoo.com
www.hawaiimagiciansclub.com

I.B.M. Ring 185, Hawaii Magician's Society, once again convened an in-person meeting at the Kalihi-Palama Library. President Willy Chen presided over the meeting. A total of ten members (five via Zoom) were in attendance.

Glen Bailey announced that the Pohai Nani show has been cancelled due to air conditioning problems in the auditorium. Willy announced that Mark Mauricio has offered to involve our club to do a show at Dave and Busters. It will be the last Monday of the month, November 27. Tickets will be on sale for twenty dollars. Performers will not be compensated, however. Kelvin Chun announced that *America's Got Talent* is now open for auditions via video only. Videos need to be ninety seconds or less. Another audition will be held next month.

The theme for the night was "Danger." Willy opened with a flaming wallet and then displayed five brown paper bags. He then unveiled a large nail attached to a wooden block and covered it with one of the bags. He then asked each of the people present to select one bag. After each person identified a bag, he slowly raised his hand and suddenly plunged his hand downward on each of the selected bags, risking severe damage to his hand. Of course, impaling his hand on the nail would have caused us to call an ambulance. Alas! He slammed his hand on the second to the last bag and it was empty. Whew! He then revealed the spike under the last remaining bag. Now that was dangerous! Kelvin Chun then proceeded to cut into his wrist using a huge knife with blood oozing out. It was pretty gross.

Lastly, Mr. O ended the night with a performance of his infamous card stab in Japanese.

That's all for now! A Hui Hou and aloha from Hawaii Ring 185! *Harvey "Mr. O" Ouchi*

RING 192, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – Victor Saint Leon Ring

Meets 2nd Weds., 7:00 p.m., at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbon's Dr., Carmichael.

JEFFREY TINKER, Secretary / E-mail: jtinker53@yahoo.com
Web site: www.magic1.org/ibm192

November brought elections in our club. Every office was open, but we collectively decided to extend the terms of all the officers currently in charge. We'll firm up our agenda for the coming year at the January meeting.

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

November also brought our theme, Cylinders. It was purposely vague to allow a variety of creative uses. Andy Swan “turned” Scot Smith into a rabbit, then pushed his short but thick wand into a cylinder, broke the paper cap and produced a confetti storm, and three flags that when spread out were emblazoned with I.B.M.

David Wright didn’t have a cylinder, but the Ultimate Puzzle whose pieces could be arranged a number of ways to compose the puzzle into the same size rectangle, even after adding three small squares to it. Dale Lorzo talked about precision brass equipment and demonstrated tubes that were of different sizes, and then used a die balanced on a card balanced on the side of a glass. When he pulled the card away, the die fell into the glass; solid through solid.

Scot Smith showed us Black Door, a clever switching envelope. Ric Ewing did his take on Topsy Turvy bottles, and then did a trick with a tall wooden rabbit that found a selected letter card. Jeff Tinker gave us all Deja Vue as he performed his version of Topsy Turvy bottles in a more conventional style. Al Skinner did a chop cup routine explaining it was a cylinder with a closed end. Bill Devon pulled out his Demi-Deck, and the pictures you’ve seen don’t do it justice.

Amasingh presented his “Cylinders of Mystery” and caused a blue can to travel from a red cylinder to a white cylinder visibly and then invisibly. Al Levasseur closed us out with “Un, Deu” and changed two one-dollar bills into a two-dollar bill, and then back again. It was a great meeting with lots of solid magic. *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

We had a good November group of fourteen members. The theme was “Turkey Tricks” (tricks you wish you hadn’t bought, didn’t work, or anything dealing with Thanksgiving or tricks you were thankful for).

Business discussion announced Jason Carling will be performing for “Lunchacadbra” weekly Wednesdays through Saturdays strolling among the luncheon customers at the “Prestige” dining experience in Salt Lake City. Our Ring Secretary, John Gonzalez, will be missing for the next two years. He and his wife have chosen to serve as missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Buenos Aires. Good luck to them. John has been a great Ring Secretary and received an applause of thanks from those in attendance. Our Ring Christmas

get-together will be at the Swinyer home on Sunday Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. Finger foods by Thalia, guests asked to bring side dishes and gifts for exchange. It was announced that Magic Live! early bird registration opens Nov. 30 for Live in 2024.

President Mont Dutson opened the magic with his creepy story of Jack the Ripper. Many handmade props (such as a large rusty blood-stained surgical knife from the era that Mont said the type was still in use today, like the knives we use to do our festive “carvings” at Thanksgiving) to help assistant Rudy Chacon determine the true identity set the theme and atmosphere. Rudy did identify the true identity of Jack. The routine was from a *Vanish* magazine effect called “Jack the Ripper Revealed” by David Dellman. The props were handmade by Mont and rusted to look like old artifacts. The hit of the routine was the casebook journal with worn leather cover and yellowed ragged edged pages. Inside were newspaper clippings from that history of Jack, along with photos of the several victims. The blank journal “Vintage Leather Journal” was found through Amazon.

Eric Wanner asked Thalia and Len to hold a spread-out scarf. He placed two coins in the center, and visibly caused a penetration through the scarf to his waiting hand underneath. He then showed a trick he was thankful for. In explaining how magicians use the “peek” method to locate a card, he took a magic marker and drew a door in the lower corner of a box of cards. Then a card was selected, returned to deck and deck placed back into the box. Eric then showed the door on the box, drew a doorknob on it and visibly slid the door open to reveal the corner of the selected card. Then he closed the door and used his finger to erase the drawn door. He then handed out the box to show the box had no door! He said the trick was called “Little Door” by Roddie McGhie. Eric said was indeed grateful for this effect.

Jason Carling had Eric choose a card from a spread-out deck. Jason said he doesn’t do card tricks, so he brought his psychic friend to finish the trick. He presented an Axtel puppet, a burnt turkey! His name was Bernie. Bernie squawked a few times, extended his neck and was able to name the card.

Rudy Chacon stepped to perform an “in progress” routine he is developing. He said that he might mess up the script, so he was the turkey, audience was told they were the roast. He told how one year he and a buddy were accosted by a robber. He asked Owen Banks to play the part of his friend. He gave Owen a wallet to put in front pocket, and then he showed a

pocket watch that he unhooked from its chain and put the watch into the scarf. The chain he placed back in his pocket, a part of it was left hanging outside of the pocket. The wallet was removed from his pocket and placed in the bag. The robber left in a hurry carrying the “bag” with wallet and watch inside. When the robber got home, he found the bag was empty. Rudy then showed the wallet was back in Owen’s pocket. He then pulled on the chain hanging from pocket, and the watch was back on the chair. A great routine and received great feedback and suggestions. He tipped the handling of the watch and chain, and it blew us all away. The method was so simple and so amazingly performed.

Dale Stewart mentioned his book available at Barnes & Noble. A children’s book titled *Let’s Absquatulate!* It teaches children a great vocabulary. He will autograph any copies brought to our Christmas party. He then divided a new order deck into separate groups of cards and had Thalia choose a card and Dale reversed it and placed it into the packet. The separate packets were each shuffled. One deck placed into one of two crystal goblets. The remaining card packet was put in the remaining goblet. A scarf waved over each goblet and cards were revealed showing matched pairs in order. Thalia’s card appeared, reversed in one of the packets. Called “Sympathetic 10” by Jorge Alexander. Dale amazed us all!

Then all of us turkeys adjourned to the snack area and began to gobble up the treats. Dale had brought some pinwheel roll-ups that were delicious and were soon out of this world. All in all, a “Thankful” meeting for the month of November.

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

First the lecture: Keith Leff lectured to Ring 194 on restaurant magic. Keith arrived before any of the members, which was a good sign since some lecturers arrive exactly at the time the lecture is to start. Keith introduced himself to each member as they arrived and used their names during the lecture. Keith pronounced Bill as Bil-l and Matt as Mat-t, the members called Keith, Mr. Lef-f. Tips on restaurant magic included how to approach a table, tricks to perform, and types of restaurants most likely to hire a magician. Establishments serving Hunt Brothers’ Pizza were not a good choice.

Even though there were members who are or

have worked in restaurants, there was plenty to learn. Then came the magic. The silver penny was the best and I used it the next day. The vanishing card box caught everyone’s attention. Great lecture.

November meeting: Just like the past three years, the November Ring met in November (no brainer). After October’s meeting of rehearsals, November’s meeting had a theme of magic in honor of Thanksgiving. Stuffing tricks, turkey tricks (sucker tricks), and early Black Friday magic were all acceptable. Studio 60 event, Cook Books, and Ben May’s traffic report were not mentioned. Instead of four tables in the room, only one was used and this closeness led to lots of one-on-one magic before and after the meeting. And noise! So much that Jared Cassidy had to remove his headphones from listening to the post World Series talking heads.

President Matt Growden opened the evening’s magic with “Portable Hole from the Home Shopping Network,” where a map is drawn to the volunteer’s specs and a hole is punched in the map and moves from one map to another. Wow. Brett Boyer showed us his version of the Ben May Traffic production. Patrick Brunson performed George Schindler’s quarter from a dollar bill in ring, part of Patrick’s restaurant repertoire, but without the tacos. Glenn with two Ns Rudolph did a “Chosen Card to Wallet.” Looked good.

Michael Clark used children’s ABC picture cards to do his pick-a-card trick which he revealed by drawing the picture of the card on the dry erase board. The picture looked like a turtle or an army helmet, not the best drawing. Bill Mullins noted the differences between turtles and tortoises. May, who hasn’t been to a meeting for eleven months, said that both are reptiles.

Riley Brasher, who is taller than her mom, turned one large die in a clear glass jar to eight smaller dice in a flash. Boom. Trace Cooper showed the Pogoda trick from the October public show and explained the workings of the trick. It was a pick-a-card trick ending with a blank scarf turning into a card scarf. Of course, the chosen card. This led to a discussion regarding “Metamorphosis” and ways to do it and how many famous magicians performed the trick, each a little different. Bob Ward also performed his trick from the public show with the same results of picking a volunteer who did not know the difference between a spade and a club. Ben May gave Dean Carter a quick lesson on the four card suites and four seasons. Frankie Valli named all the Four Seasons. Doo wop.

Kevin O’Connell showed the “Hex Nut Off

the Rope.” This led to several magicians showing their version of the trick. Russell Davis was the only magician not to show his version of Hex Nut Off Rope. David Thompson showed a Craig Petty effect with three envelopes with money sticking out of them, a poker chip in front of each envelope and an amount written on each envelope. Riley picked one amount which David predicted inside each envelope. Treasurer Dean verified that David used real dollar bills. Jack Baldwin performed a trick that he bought new for \$1.25. Jack still had the original price tag attached to the trick and instructions, “Pentra Pasteboard.” Jack may have bought the trick directly from Robert Houdin.

Patrick Brunson

RING 198, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY – Thoroughbred Magic Guild

Meets 2nd Sun. afternoon of most months at Hope Springs Community Church, 1109 Versailles Rd., first building.

MIKE WOODWARD, Secretary / E-mail: mikewmp@aol.com
Web site: www.ring198.com

On November’s first weekend, Lexington’s club sponsored and hosted the 49th annual Unconventional Convention at Dupont Lodge near Cumberland Falls, Kentucky. Over seventy magicians registered for the lectures and shows, and their families and other lodge guests gathered for two evening performances.

The five scheduled lectures were instructive. Greg Hamilton demoed a number of his dealer items. Attendees were especially impressed with his variations on two classic effects: the classic “Professor’s Nightmare” ropes effect and, adapting from Bob Hummer, a mentalism effect featuring three cups of different colors.

Brad Morgan’s “Print Magic” PowerPoint presentation explored the possibilities of 3D printing for magic props. Since most of us were neophytes, Brad introduced us to the bold new world of 3D printing. Then he showed how many props could be printed more efficiently than traditional manufacturing.

David McCreary, an entertainer from Columbus, Ohio and our convention headliner, declared, “Being a great magician is more than being (technically) great at magic.” He featured one added variable: get the audience involved, mentally or physically. Make it interesting and amusing; engage their imaginations; surprise them; involve as many people as possible, in different ways. He then demonstrated a range of approaches to involve people. His approach to “Three Sponge Ball Monte” was an amusing and stellar example.

Patrick Hermes addressed every magician’s “persona” question: Do I perform as a heightened version of myself, or do I play a separate

character? Patrick was a theater major and learned that if a second character option is best, an actor has to be “realistically cast,” so, being short and wide, he would not play “leading man” roles. He reported how, under Joanie Spina’s coaching, he performed as “Sir Pat-Trick” at the Magic Castle and other distinguished venues. He shared a half-dozen key insights from Joanie Spina, including talk through your act, eliminate unnecessary words and moves, and plan the blocking.

Brad Henderson delivered the most academic lecture. While the magician must practice, he said, one should not perform exactly as practiced, because every audience is different, so an effective act is a creation in the context and moment. Notably, Henderson contributed a language for understanding a distinction that many performers may know only dimly: We employ two methods when preparing an effect, (1) The deceptive method, the sleights, gaffs, and other ways to make the effect’s cause invisible, and (2) The dramatic method that creates the “fictive reality” within which the audience experiences magic.

The convention’s three shows featured more than twenty magicians performing more than sixty effects (too many to name here), but several will provide a taste. John Shore’s story created a fictive reality in which the classic “Bill in Lemon” trick experienced new life. Buddy August produced an astonishing range of objects emerging from an empty bowl. Roger Reeves, with accompanying music, levitated a dancing silver ball. Jeff Hutton performed a version of “Miser’s Dream” on steroids. Duane Laflin performed a medley of impressive effects with silks, produced from “nothing.” Cards, coins, chips, ropes, rings, cups, dice, keys, silks, balls, and sponge balls gave color to many acts. David McCreary, our headliner, performed a range of effects, consistently amusing, with one effect co-starring an arrogant, trash-talking, bandana-wearing biker-puppet.

We call our convention “unconventional” because we only create the agenda when we see who shows up! The next event, November 1-2, 2024, will be the golden 50th anniversary Unconventional Convention. ‘Twill be great, Y’all come.

George Hunter

RING 199, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – Lee & Snavely Ring

Meets 1st Sat. of month, United Church, 820 E. Williams St., Apex, NC

DAN HARLAN, Secretary

E-mail: contact@danharlanmagic.com

Website: www.raleighmagicclub.org

This report is brought to you by the old-fashioned hyphen. To kick-start our November meeting, Phil Woodard used cards with photos... one might say SNAPS... on them. When

Sara Coleman chose a fork-picture, Phil made a fork appear. Too bad she didn't choose a key which might have opened our unexpectedly-locked, usual meeting place. Instead, we were forced to gather around the wooden planks of an old, flatbed pick-up truck precariously parked on the second level of a local watering hole... although most were having a bit more than water, if you know what I mean, and... seriously... how could you NOT know what I mean.

Bhavish Malkani followed with a card that hovered... a Hover-Card, if you will (and you will... in fact, you just did). Naturally, Dan Harlan, not to be outdone by his own tricks, did something different involving phony baloney money (looks better than it reads... kinda messes with your mind)... two hundred dollar bills. No, not two-hundred dollar bills. Two one-hundred dollar bills. See what happens when you start taking hyphens away?! Save the hyphen! Empty-handed, Harlan signed a phony Franklin for junior member Josh who trash-canned it, only to find it naturally nestled in an unnatural nest of boxes. (C'mon, even a nest of fifteen baby dinosaurs comes up on a Google search long before a nest of boxes.)

We were all D'lited when a first-time guest pulled a red light out of his phone. His name was Marlo (and probably still is), but he seemed a bit too alive to be the guy you're thinking of. Next, well-off Wayne Alan created a genuine silver dollar and re-vanished it without hesitation. Another guest, Mark Jarvis, had his cards wrapped in an ancient relic from the age of Xerox covered in random, black-and-white images of playing cards... near-exact copies. When Marlo (the live one) cut to a card, it matched the only face-down image in the pre-2000s artwork.

Lastly, but not leastly, Paul Kokkelenberg read a toast he'd written on paper (not on toast) for his fellow-motorcycle-enthusiast-friend Mike. Mid-toast, Paul realized he had the wrong page! The horror and embarrassment quickly ended when the correct page flew off the table into his waiting hand! An apt metaphor, for just like the paper, the night flew by.

Long live the oft-maligned hyphen! Sorry, I've gotta dash... *Dan Harlan*

RING 205, LIMA/FINDLAY, OHIO – Northwestern Ohio Magicians Association (NOMA)

Meets last Sun. of the month at Mike Grubbs's home in Findlay.
GENE CRAFT, Secretary, 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, OH 45807
E-mail: Ecrafft@woh.rr.com
Web site: www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205

Ring 205 held their annual installation banquet on October 29 at the Main Events in Findlay. We started with a wonderful banquet

meal that Roberta reserved from Cracker Barrel. Roberta then welcomed in the new officers for 2024: President, Gary Friedrich; Vice President, Doug Ferguson; Secretary, Gene Craft; Treasurer, Fr. Steve Blum.

Gene Craft was recognized as Magician of the Year. Also, Chris Topel presented Roberta Howard with a thank you gift to recognize her for her work as president in 2023 and her work to organize the banquet.

Roberta Howard read an article that honored the magic hobby and emphasized the dedication magicians invest to bring a moment of happiness into the hearts of our audiences. Gene Craft performed "Rings Off Rope." Doug Ferguson performed a unique card find routine. Elizabeth Nauert smashed several Styrofoam cups revealing a candy surprise under the last cup. Mike Grubbs had two audience members select certain cards from the shuffled deck. Chris Topel called a friend to reveal a chosen card. Jim Slagle performed a version of "Any Card at Any Number." Gary Friedrich concluded the evening with his own magic effect. *Gene Craft*

RING 210, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – Duke Stern Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. each month 7:00pm (come at 6:00 if you want to eat),
Senate Coney Island, 34359 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI 48150
RANDY A. SMITH, Secretary
Web site: www.aamagic.org

Our meeting was called to order by Ring President Dan Jones, and we kicked off with our round-table question. The question of the month was, "What is your Halloween tradition?" Answers varied from elaborate yard decorations, scary movies, handing out candy, costumes, and bonfires.

Then it was on to our opening performer, member Bou-Yu Chen, who performed a portion of his card manipulation act planned for the upcoming club parlor show. He then demonstrated and taught members various card manipulation techniques including the card fanning, front palm, back palm, and Tenkai Palm. Bou-Yu also performed a jumbo "Card Toon" routine. Many members came away with a greater understanding and appreciation for card manipulation.

Our Treasurer Rob Krozal provided the results of our successful Flea Market which the club rebranded as a "Pop-Up Magic Shop" with an effort to generate more engagement from youth in the local community.

Then it was on to member performances. Ken Magee, as Sandy Wedge, performed a golf tee prediction from his golf act. Mike Bogdas performed a bottle in paper-bag comedy routine with the final production of a full bottle of soda. Phil Mann performed a portion of his parlor act

with a dancing hank opening. Chris Johnson performed his ventriloquism routine with his dummy Jack (who prefers to be called The Great Jacksoni). After a few lame predictions, the Great Jacksoni correctly predicted the selected card.

Then, Ken was back with an elegant Color Vision prop and routine. Mike Doyle performed a spooky mortuary photo prediction and then a Sherlock Holmes book test. Ming and Barbara Louie performed a two person Cuba Libre routine from their act using a beautiful, engineered prop from Germany. Dan Jones performed a comedy brick production from paper bag routine and finally Don Oesterwind performed his sponge ball routine before members mingled and said goodnight. *Karl Rabe*

RING 216, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Meets 2nd Wed each month at the Yu Ai-Kai Cultural Center, 588 N.

Fourth St., San Jose, CA

DAVID MARTINEZ, President

E-mail: president@ring216.org / Web site: www.ring216.org

Ring 216 held its annual Close-up Competition on October 11, 2023. Eight magicians took turns performing at three tables for enthusiastic guests, most of whom were non-magicians. The competitors were Calvin Tong, Meriam al-Sultan, Jonathan Chen, Mitch Kothe, Jeff Friend, Syd Kashima, Mike B, and David Morrill.

After totaling up the scores of the spectators, First Place in the Master's Division went to Calvin Tong, and in the Standard Division two people tied for First, Mitch Kothe and Syd Kashima. The People's Choice awards went to Calvin Tong (Masters) and Syd Kashima (Standard). The Master of Ceremonies was Gary Goldberg.

I.B.M. Ring 216 of Silicon Valley meets the second Wednesday of every month. We welcome all visiting magicians. *Gary Goldberg*

RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA—

Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN

SCOTT STARKEY, President

Scott began our evening by having a volunteer write someone special on a slip of paper. He had others write insignificant fictional characters on other slips of paper. They were mixed up and Scott and the volunteer divined which slips were meaningless to the volunteer. He then revealed the name on the slip, their relationship, and significance! Scott had another volunteer cut the cards and remember the card cut to. He showed a few cards at a time and was able to psychically know which card the volunteer had cut to.

Jordan removed her watch and a volunteer randomly set the time by twisting the crown until they were satisfied. Jordan psychically knew what time was set. She then went on to prove that time was an illusion and revealed the hands of the watch had vanished. Next, Jordan then brought out some photos and stated that for one of these people it was the last time they were seen alive. The photos were torn and cast, any photo face down was discarded. This was repeated until one photo remained. The photo matched a missing persons poster, and the tears of the photo matched the last known photo of the victim! With a copy of *A Study In Scarlet*, Jordan had a word selected randomly from the book. She read the volunteer's mind and revealed the word.

Wooden Zener cards were mixed. Jordan was able to name what all of the cards were. She then had the cards mixed on the table, one selected by a spectator, and revealed which one it was with a pendulum. The reverse was done where she selected a card and then the volunteer found her card with the pendulum! Jordan borrowed a deck of cards and gave out portions to volunteers. They mixed the cards. As Jordan recollected the deck, she had the packets mixed face up into face down. She then revealed how many cards were face down, how many were red, and named all of the cards which were diamonds.

John Whitlock had a card selected, memorized, and returned to the pack. With a magical gesture the selected card revealed itself by being the only face up card in the pack!

Jon Sexson had a card selected and asked if the card was big or little. The volunteer stated it was little. With just a riffle of the pack, out jumped a miniature card that matched the selected card, truly a little card.

Jordan closed the night by having a card selected and returned to the pack. The cards were then shuffled face up into face down. The cards were spread in a fan and the volunteer held them while a photo was taken. While the cards in reality remained mixed face up and face down, the cards on the phone were completely sorted except the selected card. *Benji Milanowski*

RING 234, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA— The Low Country Conjurors

Meets 2nd Mon. of each month, 7:00 pm, Tommy Condon's Irish Pub, downtown Charleston.

HOWARD VANDERBECK, Secretary (843) 406-0526

Email: Geothree@Yahoo.com

Magic at the Beach debriefing from last weekend's convention in Myrtle Beach led off with kudos for Gogo's mainstage performance and George's competition pieces along with

South Carolina Pride to have this gathering back.

"Closers" was the focus afterwards. PB&J, ID with vanishing card box, paper bag quarter deviation, torn card corner transposition via a ninja pass/mercury fold and a napkin flower fold with poem represented the diversity of effects.

Central's "magician in trouble" plot using a clear forcing bag with a flipper and rising card double whammy was highly entertaining. And then all in attendance, Gogo, George, Joe, Ian, Austin, Jason, Bob, Wes, Zach, and Central were giddy over Tim Hill's "Emergence" presented as a climax to Bob's "Three Fly" routine.

And finally, newcomer, or returner to the fold, Austin wowed with a back-end Faro into Paul Harris' "Triumph" wrapping up with a Mnemonica effect.

Then, as always, sessioning concluded the night. "Disarmers" or "openers" is the next meeting's focus.

Ring 234's November meeting at Holy City Magic (HCM) in Charleston, SC kicked off with Howard Blackwell regaling all on the recent successful Official Houdini Séance that spooked the space on Halloween. Harry, for all we know, did not appear but there was a jammed packed audience waiting for him.

Then we welcomed new members Chris, Paul, and returner Jaime. Business discussions included: Blackpool, Ring 234's history, future lecture ideas, and HCM classes. Openers was the meeting's main topic which included: Central with a Bank Night via a gaffed die, George's audience clapper warm-up, "Princesses Necklace" by Joe, "Appearing Card in Box" by Gogo, Howard with Roy Cooper's "Lady Bug," Wes with "Card to Invisible Pocket," and Austin with a magician in trouble plot a la double lift top change.

The meeting closed on the next meeting's topic that was spawned by George cleaning out the magic junk drawer and everyone picking a trick from that to do next time. *George Younts*

RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS – Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) For location call Chris at (217) 431-479

KEN BARHAM, Secretary

2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616

E-mail: KEBRAM@aol.com

The meeting opened with discussion of online meetings available from the national organizations. Plans were made for those attending the Peoria Magic Day which, as usual, offered some great lectures and shows. I think I can speak for everyone who attended that it was well worth the trip up.

We will be meeting up with the Indianapolis club on Thursday, November 16th at the Beef House in Covington, Indiana, at 5:30 Central time. This is a fun way to hang out with magicians we don't get to see that often. The next Central IL Magic Get-Together will be in Peoria on April 27. Mark your calendars now.

Roy Stoutenborough gave a positive review of *Protoplasm* by Christian Painter.

Andy Dallas opened the meeting with the "Hoy Book Test." Andy Anderson stepped up with his "Disappearing Andy." I don't remember what that means but that's what it says in my notes. Chris Bontjes showed us his "What If." Mark Carlon performed a "Serial Number Prediction." Ken Barham performed a "Double Prediction." Shako Feng performed his "One Shot One Kill Prediction." Rob "The Professor" Higgins performed "Lucid" and the Demi Deck.

Ken Barham returned with "QIR Rings." Randy Shields performed a "Three Number Prediction." Bill Pierce showed us his "Mental Die." Rob Higgins returned with a peak wallet. Steve Alexxis did a penny force and discussed Equivoque. Shako Feng showed us his version of "B-Wave." Justin Dudley showed us his Magician's Choice routine and a Swindle Shuffle and Joe Zhang closed out the formal part of the meeting with his "Big Brain ACAAN."

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 15th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army in Champaign. Feel free to meet us early at Manzella's Italian Patio for dinner or just to hang out. I try to be there around five. The topic for November will be Teach-A-Trick. 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

The meeting was held at Mama Guzzardi's Italian Restaurant in N. Canton, Ohio on the 25th of October 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Sixteen members and one guest were present. The 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.

All members' health concerns were expressed along with the members' celebrations to be honored. The final details of this year's magic banquet in November were taken care of.

Nominations for 2024 club officers were taken with the vote at the November meeting. Due to the Thanksgiving schedule, our regular scheduled meeting will not change for November. Plans started for the February magic auction as the N. Canton Church was confirmed. This ended the business portion of the meeting, and everyone readied themselves for the magical part of the night.

The magic was started off with an initiation show by new member, Louis Heck. Lou caused solid coins to pass through a solid plastic bag and with the use of spelling, he correctly predicted the correct superhero / villain card to be chosen. Lou ended with changing two one-dollar bills into a two-dollar bill. Good job Lou. Randy Weidenhamer correctly predicted the chosen card by matching the backs of the cards. Don Strongoli used spirit slates to predict the correct chosen card and Ron Barnett used two decks of cards to show that the freely chosen card jumped from one deck to the other. And finally, Tim Angeloni demonstrated the correct way to use a haunted key. That ended the magic for the evening, but we are planning to do it again next month. *Randy Weidenhamer*

RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The “Magic Ian” Ring

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, Community Room, Lake Square Mall, Hwy 441.

Leesburg, FL

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: www.Ring 258.com

Under Good and Welfare – Jim Moody is a little under the weather having some balance issues. We welcome back George Drake after cataract surgery.

President Lyons took a moment to thank everyone in the Ring for their help and cooperation. Following that... Old Business! The Holiday Party will take place on Thu., Dec. 28, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at The Golden Corral Restaurant. Regina Schiraldi has volunteered to perform. Regina reported that her search for a new meeting place will have to wait a month, as the facility she was looking at will hold elections next month.

Under New Business, Andy Rohweder has repaired our sound system. The secretary noted for those who are Ring members, but not I.B.M. members, membership comes with a subscription to *The Linking Ring* magazine.

Nominations for Ring officers for 2024 were held. The slate of candidates is as follows: President – Dave Lyons, Vice President – Jim Moody and Andy Rohweder, Secretary – Roger Reid, Treasurer – Karen Lyons. Others were encouraged to take part. The election will take place at the Nov. meeting. Inductions will take place at the Dec. meeting. After nominations

Dave closed the meeting and we moved on to... “Bags of Stuff – Create an Effect.” The membership, a big turnout this month, were divided into groups of two and three and handed paper bags of assorted “stuff” and asked to create a magic presentation. Group 1 produced a sorcerer’s wand from a silk and a snake finale. Group 2 did a “Rising Hanky” and an appearing stone. Group 3 did drug straws, “Ring Off Rope,” a ball vanish, a card in bag and jumping rubber bands. Group 4 produced a coin from two cards, made a ring appear on a finger and cards became ropes. Group 5 vanished all their stuff from the bag. Group 6 performed “Rope through Neck,” “Rope through Wrist,” linking fingers, and rubber band penetration. A lot of fun and ingenuity came out of the exercise.

Next month’s theme – “Everyone learn a new trick, perform it, and teach it!” *Roger Reid*

RING 265, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA – London Magicians Guild

Meets 2nd Wed., Labatt’s Engineering Bldg. unless otherwise notified.

MARK HOGAN, Secretary

When this October rolled around, we “brought out the scary” and turned our attention to Halloween magic! Andrew Olmstead led off by showing us his skeleton key presentation for both adults and kids. He also performed a card routine for Leonardo Martins where he revealed the card in his native Portuguese!

Al Coombs performed his “Card through Handkerchief” routine and Peter Mennie helped him via Mark Wilson’s famous version. Mark Hogan showed an Other Brothers routine where two spectators exchanged taking shots where one of the shot glasses contained acid! (No worries – fortunately no one drank the acid!) Steve Seguin brought out a voodoo doll and performed a voodoo card trick where a selection was turned face up and its mate was also found face up; then the selection was torn, and the mate was found torn; then the selection was burned and the selection was found burned! He also presented David Regal’s “Long and Short of It,” where four pieces of coloured wood seemed to change size right before our eyes!

It was a fun (and scary) evening – thanks to everyone who attended! *Mark Hogan*

RING 273, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA – Oliver Ring

Meets 3rd Thur., 7:30pm at the Burns Club

PETER FOSTER, Secretary

Email: pfooster@pcug.au

Good meeting this month. There were seven in attendance: Kieran, Richard, Chris, Phil, me, and Kristian, who also brought a new person, Conor. I went first with the one that I trot out for new people, “Marked Cards.” This is a twisting

the aces effect, with the story that the subtle marks indicate which ace will be turning over next. As a kicker, the cards were turned over to show that they now had different colour backs, with the name of the ace written in large letters.

The theme for the evening was Halloween, so I now took out a mysterious looking box and told a totally plausible story about where I got it. A spectator then took a deck of cards and dealt them into a pile until they wanted to stop. Then the box was opened. Inside were some cards and a written prediction, which apparently indicated not only the number of cards dealt but also the card stopped at. This was "Box of Doom" by John Bannon. I followed with another trick for the new guy. This used an alphabet deck. The two of us mixed the deck face up and face down in a very haphazard way. Then the face down cards were removed. "Wouldn't it be amazing if these cards spelled a word?" Indeed, it would: they spelled "welcome conor." This was "Letter Perfect" by David Regal, although I used the Shuffle Bored procedure.

Kristian brought us back to Halloween with a voodoo type of trick. A card was selected, signed, and lost in the deck. Then a joker was given to the spectator, to act as a voodoo doll of sorts: the spectator signed the joker, then the magician tore off a corner and scorched the joker over a flame. Then the deck was spread. The signed card now had a corner missing and was scorched! Certainly, a bit different. This was "Voodoo Card" by Guy Hollingworth.

I followed with another voodoo trick. This used six cards, each of which showed a voodoo doll with a particular torture, e.g., a hot foot or an arm torn off. There was also a card marked CURE. The spectator selected one of the tortures in a very fair manner. Then the CURE was shown, it was a picture of the voodoo doll with a band-aid over the selected torture. Amusing and cute. This used a variation of the Hot Rod force, where it is never necessary to spell to a number. This was "Deja Voodoo" by Dan Harlan.

Phil now pulled out an actual voodoo doll. This was homemade, about the size of a child's teddy bear. It had some X marks on it in various places. A spectator was given the doll and a large pin. With the magician's back turned the spectator pushed the pin into one of the Xs. The magician was able to tell where the pin was. For example, the pin was pushed into the doll's right hand and the magician let out a cry and reacted with his right hand. Good fun. Phil next did a mini version of sawing a lady in half. This actually used a deck of cards. They were placed in a plastic card box, then a blade was inserted at the

midpoint, penetrating right through the cards. The two halves were then separated. Then the case was snapped back together, the blade removed, and the cards dumped out, totally unharmed. Very good indeed. This was "Demi Deck" by Angelo Carbone.

Phil followed with a card trick where two spectators each selected cards by dealing down to a number that they thought of. The magician then put the deck in his pocket. With no fishing or outs, the magician removed two cards, the selections. A clever trick that used a Mene Tekel Deck.

Chris now gave us a bit of a break from the card stuff with a torn and restored effect. He had two pieces of tissue paper, one white and one green. These were torn up, then transformed into a pair of green spotted underpants. This was "Paper to Pants." Chris followed with one with six small rods of different colours. A spectator put one in a metal cylinder and closed the lid, and put the others out of sight. The magician divined the selected colour. This was "Color Divination Rods."

Now Phil did one with a large Rubik's Cube. The jumbled cube was put into a box. When it was taken out it was completely solved. The cube was replaced in the box, then a spectator selected a colour (in a nice bit of improvisation, Phil used Chris' coloured rods and Phil Smith's Quinta procedure to force the colour). Then the cube was taken out of the box to show that every side was the chosen colour. This was "Color Changing Rubik" from Tora Magic.

Conor now did a very interesting combination of effects. On his phone he had a list of "Questions to Ask a Stranger." A spectator randomly chose one the questions. The spectator did not reveal the question, just thought of the answer. The magician divined the answer. The question turned out to be "What is my star sign?" This used the Digital Force Bag in conjunction with a star sign divination.

I now brought us back to cards. A card was selected and lost in the deck. The deck was the placed on the card box, where it then cut itself, pushing out the lower half. This card was removed, it was the selection. This was another version of the Haunted Deck but surprisingly it used absolutely no gimmicks. This was "Fright" by Jeki Yoo.

Kristian followed with another card trick. A spectator shuffled the deck, then the magician explained that he can cut to the aces whenever he likes. He then produced the aces, in a variety of ways. This was "The Myth" by Ben Train.

I now did one where four spectators each cut off a bunch of cards, noted one, then shuffled

their packets. The selections were then revealed in a variety of ways. This was my version of "The Immoderate Deception" by Doug Dymont. I followed with a word game that my mum used to play with me, to teach me new words. There was a list of words and some cards with letters on them (lots of different letters on each card). One person would choose one of the words, then spell it using the letter cards. The other person then had to figure out the word. There were three phases of increasing difficulty, culminating in the letter cards being face down. But the magician was always successful in determining the word. An excellent effect. This was "Stegosaurus" by Phill Smith, although this was my modified version, that allowed for a much bigger word list (81 words).

Phil then did an ambitious card routine, culminating in the card traveling to his pocket, and Chris did the classic "Unlinking Safety Pins." Phil then brought out another of his recent acquisitions. This was a large jar of jelly beans, where we were asked to guess the number of beans in the jar. After several spectators decided on a number, the jar was opened. Inside was a slip of paper with the number of jelly beans, which matched the spectator's guess. Quite an impressive item. This was "Candy Prediction 2.0" by Adrian Carratala. Phil finished with something a lot smaller (and cheaper), some ring on rubber band effects.

Next meeting is on 16 November. The theme is PK magic.

Peter Foster

RING 279, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Meets last Sunday, 4:30 pm, B-8/11. Tara Mia Road, Ganda, Savar, Dhaka-1340, Bangladesh
ROBIN KHAN, President
E-mail: robin.khan77@gmail.com

At the beginning of the meeting, General Secretary Mohammed Fokrul Islam Shipuraj thanked Ring President Robin Khan for taking responsibility for Bangladesh's largest magicians' organization the Magic Federation which celebrated a National Magic Competition on 2024, January 20, Saturday, at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka. President Robin Khan was elected a Convener of that event. Robin Khan declared the competition a success.

The Magic Competition Celebration Committee: Convenor Robin Khan; Co-Convenor Waliul Alam Khokon, Chief Advisor Jewel Aice, Chief Patron Mohammad Nasir Uddin, Patron Dr. Abdur Rahim, Patron M. A. Jalil, President Mouzzem Hossain Nannu, General Secretary Shikder Abdus Salam, Member Secretary Mostofa Kamal Sojib, Organizing Secretary Mostak Hassan Wasel, Magazine Chief Editor Shikder Abdus Salam, Sub-Editors Noor Mosarrof, A. K. Shah and

Mostak Hassan Wasel.

Advisory Committee: A. R. Khan, Hedayet Ullah Khan Azad, Ziamoni, Sheben Chakraborty, Ali Raj, Saheen Shah, and Noor Mosarrof.

Guest Selection Sun-Committee: Chief Advisor Jewel Aich, Chief Patron Mohammad Nasir Uddin, President Mouzzem Hossain Nsnnu, Vice President Mosarrof Hossain, General Secretary Sikder Abdus Salam, Organizing Secretary Mostak Hassan Wasel, Social Welfare Secretary Md. Mizanur Rahman.

Artist Reception: The Great Borhan, Mizanur Rahman, Ashis Mondol, Devendra Chakraborty Chandi, Ashraf Jowardar, Mahabubur Rahman, and Santa Khan.

Stage Management and Security Sub-Committee: Kazi Robiul Islam, Bairagi Suján, Osman Goni, and Sohel Ahmed.

Media, Music, Stage Lights, Sound System Instruction: Mouzzem Hossain Nannu, Mostak Hassan Wasel, Noor Mosharraf Hossain, Md. Rajan Sardar.

Entertainment Sub-Committee: Co-Convenor Waliul Alam Khokon, Assistant Kazi Robiul Islam; Md. Rajan Sardar, Boiragi Suján, Sohag Khan, and Sohel Ahmed.

Gift Selection and Purchase Sub-Committee: Co-Convenor M.U.Howlader, Md. Mizanur Rahman, Mostofa Kamal Sojib, Devendra Chakraborty Chandi, and Santo Khan.

Fund Raising Sub-Committee: Co-Convenor Waliul Alam Khokon, A. K. Shah, Mosharraf Hossain, Mostak Hassan Wasel, and Devendra Chakraborty Chandi.

Advertising For Magic Stall: Sikder Abdus Salam.

Advertisement Sub-Committee: Ziamoni, A. K. Shah, Mosharraf Hossain, and Mostak Hassan Wasel.

All of the magicians thanked the Ring president.

Shipuraj G.

RING 280, VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA – Mark Wilson Ring

Meets 2nd thu. of the month at 7:00 pm at the Newhall Boys & Girls Club 24909 Newhall Ave., Newhall, CA 91321
DAVE NORMAN, Secretary
E-mail: Davemagic@lagnor.com
Web site: www.ibtoring280.com

In October, our Ring Vice President, Clem Patafio, and Treasurer Mark Wray presented long-time member, Christopher Cory, Ph.D. with a special achievement award to recognize his many years of support to the Ring and its members. Chris is an exquisite close-up magician, especially with cards. Before his retirement, he was the house magician at Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, CA.

Chris has touched the lives of most of our members. I found Chris always eager to watch

the presentation of a trick and follow-up with words of encouragement and sage suggestions to us for polishing the handling. A few of our members shared anecdotes about Chris. Quoting Clem Patafio where he wrote in our Ring's November newsletter (Vol. 24 No. 10), *The Monthly Conjuror*; "When asked if anyone had a personal story of how Chris impacted him, Lonnie Dilan told of a time when he and his brother, Ronnie, were just starting out in magic and were appearing in one of their first appearances. After their performance, (that didn't go as planned), Chris gave them words of encouragement before he performed. That's when Lonnie decided that he (Chris) was who he wanted to be when he 'grew' up."

Welcome to our Ring's newest member, Mark Brifman. Mark is a welcome addition to our Ring, and he is a long-time member of the Magic Castle.

Our members attending this evening meeting included: Luke Boehret, Christopher Cory, Lonnie Dilan, David Norman, Clem Patafio, and Mark Wray. A few of our members, including our President, Chris Canfield, were sidelined with a bout of Covid, which, fortunately, did not cause anything more than a few days of inconvenience.

Our November meeting featured guest lecturer, Lou Serrano. I first had the opportunity to see Mr. Serrano perform when he was first starting his career as a magician in a local restaurant. From Mr. Serrano's website, I learned that he is a native Angelino who has been a professional entertainer his entire adult life. Prior to his career as a magician, he was a musician. For ten years Mr. Serrano, performed as a professional rock guitarist in night clubs all over Southern California, including frequent appearances at The Whisky A Go-Go, The Roxy, The Troubadour, and Gazzarri's on the Sunset Strip.

For over twenty years, Mr. Serrano has been a full-time professional magician and mentalist. He has travelled across the country and internationally performing for people of all walks of life. He performs in all types of venues, from close-up settings in clients' homes to corporate stages.

Mr. Serrano also has several corporate clients whose attendees are entertained with his magic artistry and (as his website states), "witness fun and amazing demonstrations coupled with extraordinary audience interaction. The performance is designed to support the message. They won't just hear a presentation; they will experience it!"

Mr. Serrano's presentation to our Ring consisted of a thirty-minute portion of his close-up routine, followed by an explanation of some of the effects. He then discussed his approach to the business aspect of magic and how we could market our services as magicians. Our members found Mr. Serrano's performance thoroughly

entertaining followed with clearly taught explanations. His approach to the business of magic was every bit as engaging and useful. Of the many take-a-ways from Mr. Serrano's lecture, I found focusing on details to be valuable advice. One of the many examples emphasizing this point was given during the explanation of his "Coins Across" routine. He showed us that he specifically arranges the coins and cards into neat groups rather than leaving them haphazardly strewn about the table.

All of our members enjoyed Mr. Serrano's performance and benefited from his knowledge and experience. Wishing everyone good health and Happy Conjuring!

Glenn Crites

RING 284, FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA - Conrad C. Bush Ring

Meets 4th Tue, 6:00 pm for socializing at Fresh Greece Pizza & Grill, 339 N John Sims Pkwy. W. Niceville, FL 32578. 7:00 pm meeting Valparaiso Library (459 Valparaiso Pkwy)

RONALD HUDSPETH, Secretary / E-mail: RMHudspeth@spamcop.net

Business: (Oct 26th) We anticipated pretty light attendance this month and decided to switch to McAlister's Deli for the social/dining and meeting to take advantage of their back room. Secretary Ron Hudspeth reported that he and V.P. Brian Ward will be attending the Daytona Magic Festival the first weekend in November and he will also be stopping in San Diego for the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians annual convention on his annual trip to the West Coast. The September "meeting" at the Atlanta Harvest of Magic had the club pretty well represented with six members driving up. Lastly, due to Thanksgiving, the November meeting will be a week later than usual, the fifth Thursday (30th).

Magic: Robert Vinson started off the magic showing several coin effects he has been polishing: "Hopping Halves," "Copper Silver Brass," and the "Charming Chinese Challenge" as well as "Dice, Dice Baby" by John Carey. Brian showed off a classic from his collection Satan's Spoons by Hiroshi Sawa as well performed "King's Secret" by Mark Bennett. Ron finished things up by showing the new, re-release of "My Word" by Dan Harlan, "S.L.O.B" by Simon Lovell, and "Ace, 2, 3" adapted by Steve Beam from the original "1, 2, 3 Trick" by Martin Gardner.

Ron Hudspeth

RING 291, PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA - Palm Springs Magic Club

Meets first and third Tuesday via Zoom

HENRY JUAREZ, Secretary / E-mail: henryjuarez1@hotmail.com

Web site: www.palmspringsmagicclub.com

October 3: "Great Magic Ads Up!" You can always count on a fun evening at PSMC, and that's a good way to sum up the goings on this past Tuesday evening when members brought

out a variety of mathematical effects to show that “Great Magic Adds Up!”

Warren Morse led off with an effect called “Ideal Meal” by David Jonathan. He brought out a packet of cards showing food items from four different restaurants, and had spectators choose a four-course meal, with each course coming from a different eatery. The cards were then turned over revealing the cost of each item (showing they were all clearly different). Amazingly, the total cost of the selected items equaled the exact amount of cash in a wallet that was in view throughout the effect.

Then Don Campbell gave a handful of numbered tiles to four spectators, had each person shuffle their tiles and place them in any order in a wooden frame. Turning the frame over revealed a new column of four four-digit numbers, created randomly by the spectators. Remarkably, the sum of these numbers matched Don’s prediction.

Next, Henry Juarez shared Alain Nu’s trick called “The 13 Card Mystery.” This was a killer Zoom effect where everyone in the room ended up holding the same card!

George Haas shared a Calendar Matrix effect where numbers were selected, columns and rows were eliminated, and the remaining numbers totaled his prediction. He then brought out a deck of cards and had a number of cards selected and counted. He then revealed that the top card matched his prediction.

David Suss brought out his Mental Sticks and asked a spectator to arrange them any way they would like. David then walked in front of the sticks briefly and wrote down the sum of all the numbers while other spectators in the audience used their phone’s calculator to add the numbers. David correctly added the numbers in his head, matching the number revealed on the calculators.

Warren Morse closed the evening with “Baffled” from Vinny Sagoo, in which the sum of numbers selected freely by four spectators turned up a card that matched Warren’s prediction. But the kicker was that all of the other cards in the deck turned out to be blank.

October 17: “Magic So Good It’s Scary!” PSMC members started tuning up for Halloween this past Tuesday evening with a look at “Magic So Good It’s Scary!” Warren Morse was the first to summon the supernatural with Dirk Losander’s “Exquisite,” a floating glass effect that eventually came to rest in a spectator’s hand.

Dean Apple was next with D’Lites that he used to shine through a small pumpkin that he held at his fingertips, which caused it to turn

spooky red. Then he brought out his finger chopper (I mean, carrot slicer) and shared some funny bits that he uses when he presents it in his kid shows. He finished with his “Halloween Triple Feature Horror” cards in which the volunteer goes to see a triple feature movie at the Haunted Theater. He places his ticket on one of the three movies, *Dracula*, *The Mummy*, or *Frankenstein*. The ticket matches his choice as the only name on the ticket.

Gary Beutler had a quarter signed on both sides and caused it to vanish. He then removed a closed jar of candy from a Trick or Treat bag and revealed that the signed coin was buried in the candy inside the closed jar. He then shared a one-ahead card trick, as well as “Slap Jack” by Paul Harris.

George Hass presented a card with a ghoul drawn on it. He had a card selected and returned to the deck and the ghoul, now with red horror eyes, found the selected card. He also shared a three-out card trick.

Carl Christman demonstrated a unique book test in which a spectator selected a page at random and silently read the first few lines on that page. Carl was then able to describe what was happening in those lines.

Finally, Henry Juarez brought out pictures of six mysterious crime suspects: an alien, a ghost, a witch, a vampire, a werewolf, and a mummy. Through a process of elimination directed by an audience member, the one remaining suspect was found to match Henry’s prediction of whodunit. He ended with a card trick where three court cards found two selected cards. *Henry Juarez*

RING 317, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK – Ring of Illusions

Meets 3rd Tue. at 7:30pm at Parker Ctr., LIJ Hospital, Lakeview Rd.,
New Hyde Park, NY

ANTHONY DIFILIPPI, President / Email: adifilip@mindspring.com

Web site: www.5fingermagic.com/ibm

Ring 317 had their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 17th. The theme chosen was naturally, Halloween, but as always, the theme in our club is a guideline, hopefully encouraging everyone to perform and share an effect. So far, fall weather in N.Y. City has varied, but we were lucky to meet on a slightly cool and clear evening. After a brief business meeting, and elections for the 2024 board completed, the magic began.

Leading off the evening magic was Phil Gjenashi who presented a haunting version of string into neck complete with *Dracula* fang teeth and scary music accompaniment! The effect itself was amazing, and the character acting Phil provided made it even more believable! The next performer was the very talented

Anthony Spano who presented the jumbo version of “Royal Fantasy” by Lubor Fiedler in a very entertaining style. We didn’t miss a beat and the magic continued as President Anthony DiFilippi told a great tale of human superstition related to numbers in the form of card effect “13 for Dinner,” a Eugene Burger routine. He followed that with an extremely well executed “Haunted Deck” routine.

Our next magician to take the stage was Gary Levinson, who went all out with his props for his performance. Gary had a spectator dress up as Sherlock Holmes complete with appropriate hat and pipe and did a clue style mystery routine. He employed some nice homemade props and graphics in his humorous routine. One of the newest magicians, Eric Pirola presented “Demi Deck” which appeared effortless and magical! This included a magical Hindu Force that fools many magicians because of the technique Eric uses, and he executed it flawlessly!

One of Ring 317’s original founding members, Bill Gleason utilized various props that included a chop cup, dice, silk, and cards as he presented a wide variety of mysterious effects baffling members! Frank Paris performed his “Anti-gravity Water” routine. He cleverly combined an expensive looking technological machine with slush powder! He then had the assistance of a cute moving barking robotic dog to find a spectator’s card.

Our finale for the evening was performed by our V.P., Bob McEntee, who presented an eerie spirit writing routine with a Haunted Hank. Bob also demonstrated a couple of alternate hookups for the haunted deck and a floating ring routine with a full body hookup of invisible elastic thread. Bob, who has a lot of ‘real life’ performing experience showed the club various types of thread, discussed their strength limits and the best/worst lighting situations for all of them.

That wrapped up the evening, and everyone saw and learned a few different things. At the rate in which time is moving, we’ll be meeting again soon in November. *Anthony DiFilippi*

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

Our theme for November was Thumb Tips. First of all, we welcomed visitor David Meadows. We learned that our neighboring Ring 71 will be video recording their members’ acts this month. Our Treasurer, Brad Morgan, had reported on our bank account and added, “This is not enough money for our usual dona-

tion to the church and our usual Christmas Party.” This led to a discussion of plans for the future. We had lots of good discussions and will continually address this concern. One plan would be to change our meetings to either the second or fourth Tuesday of the month.

As for our Christmas Party, donations were made and accepted and President James Butler will buy pizzas as our main course. Ring members signed up to bring potluck additions for the party. The entertainment we decided on for this year: US – cheap but very good talent. The second item of business was elections of next year’s officers. (Notice that we handled food first.) The officers for next year will be President James Butler; Vice President tRick Gaffney; Treasurer Brad Morgan; Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Rednour; Secretary Larry Hollinger; and Board of Trustees Patrick Dugan, Ralph Steinlage, Chuck McKinney, and Larry Payne. (They are not much, but the best we could do!)

On to magic. Rick Ross bolted a card in a frame, and it escaped undamaged – “Houdini’s Escape.” Tom Casper performed “The Tunnel” and told us of alternative endings. Rick Ross showed us “Kaifu’s Chips” from Kaifu Wang. These are six colored wooden coins. Volunteers Larry Payne and James Butler each chose one of the differently colored coins. They matched the two prediction coins perfectly. Larry Payne did two illusions for us: (1) “Tri-Fecta” – three silks to a beautiful, blended silk, and (2) his “Eight-foot by Twenty-one-foot Tie Die Production” for stage performances.

We adjourned but stayed around and talked more magic. Tom Casper brought some items he wanted to be rid of at reasonable prices. So, we perused those as we hung out. 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. Respectfully submitted. *Larry Hollinger*

RING 325, BRANSON, MISSOURI – The Tri-Lakes Tricksters

Meets 3rd Sat. of the month atl’s Magic & Joke Shop, 6:00pm, 124

South Business 65, Branson, MO

DR. CHRISTOPHER BECK, President

E-mail: beckibmring325@gmail.com

Saturday evening, October 21st, I.B.M. Ring 325 members gathered, once again, for a special “magical evening” at Dave and Denise Hamners’ “Unbelievable” Theater in Branson, Missouri. The Hamners have been gracious enough to host our “Magic Month” meeting for many years. Following the meeting, they invite club members, and their family members, to stay and enjoy their amazing show as their guests!

Dr. Chris Beck, President, opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone, and expressed his, and his fellow club members gratitude to Dave Hamner for hosting the October meeting of our local I.B.M. Ring. There was discussion, including the mention of the death of Dirk Arthur, who was known as a Las Vegas magician but was making plans to move to Branson. There was also discussion of a mentalist who attempted to put on a show in Branson; however, it closed after just one performance. There was also a discussion about next month's annual Pizza Party.

During the "business" portion of the meeting, Beck also briefly discussed some of the contents of the newsletter. Specifically, Beck answered the trivia questions, which, surprisingly, no one was able to answer correctly. (The answers were: Houdini, Erich Weisz, and October 31, 1926.) The "hints" were some lesser-known facts about Houdini. Beck also announced the theme for the November "Pizza Party" meeting. The theme will be: "Holy Holidays, Batman." Beck explained that meant the magic effects performed could be superhero-related, Christmas/Thanksgiving/New Year's-related, or a combination of these.

When it came time for performances, Club Vice President Gary Geise was up first. He had asked our host, Dave Hamner, to hold an envelope prior to his presentation. Geise asked his magician friends to think of a number between two and nine. Following a few steps, those who accurately followed the instructions came up with a number. That number (thirty-seven) matched the prediction Hamner had been holding the whole time. After everyone else had performed, Geise would return to perform some additional effects. Gary performed a couple of additional number prediction effects, with Beck having one prediction and Hamner the other (with Geise's now-familiar "Ollie the Octopus"). Mary Geise assisted, writing the numbers on the whiteboard, as needed. Of course, the predictions were "spot on." Finally, Geise would "reprise" his performance of "Sam, the Bellhop." (If you know the story, Geise customized for Branson and the club members. Geise even revealed Yak Williams, Dave Hamner, and Chris Beck were holding the closing "poker hands.")

Club Treasurer, Yak Williams, displayed a beautiful edition of the "Cube-Through-Blade" penetration effect. The prop was nicely made, and, instead of a die being used, the block was ornately decorated. Even for those who may know the workings of this effect, it is such a beautiful moment to see the block (through the "windows" on the cover) "visibly" penetrate not

just one, but two blades, moving from the top to the bottom, and then shown to be solid after removing the cover. It is an amazing effect.

Expert magician and creator, Jim Holmes, performed a quick, eye-popping effect in which one deck is shown in his hand and, immediately, a second deck "magically" appears from nowhere! He was asked to repeat this for his fellow magicians more than once!

Thom Taylor, a.k.a. "Nicholas Nickleby" (a magician with Central European roots) took the stage next. Taylor performed a "Linking Rings" routine with multiple phases. Of course, his recurring, special, magical "oil" (which allows a solid to pass through solid) was featured prominently in his performance. With a little drop of oil here and a little drop there, he created mystery and intrigue!

Club President Chris Beck began his performance with a discussion about choices, and trivia about the Rubik's Cube. While he was sharing, he had those in attendance mix up a Rubik's Cube, each audience member taking a turn, turning and mixing the cube. Beck had also noted a special treasure chest which was in full view the whole time. With some byplay along the way, Beck closed by revealing that the club apparently mixed thoroughly by his fellow club members actually matched, perfectly, the cube that was in the treasure chest!

As has become a wonderful annual tradition, club members stayed to enjoy Hamners' truly Unbelievable Variety Show, featuring Dave and Denise Hamner and their world-famous bird act, and a variety of mind-blowing illusions! It was a spectacular show and an incredible, yes, truly "magical" evening! *Christopher Beck, Ph.D. and Mary Geise*

RING 362, BANGOR, MAINE – The Bob Nixon Ring

Meets 2nd. Sun at the Boker Community Center, 22 ArmoryvRd., Augusta, ME

SCOT GRASSETTE, Secretary / E-mail: grassette@gwi.net

Our October meeting theme was Spooky, Bizarre, Occult. We got onto the theme after some quick discussion on old business and covered new business as well. We're looking forward to the Annual Tri-State Magic Auction November 19th, and we're planning on holding a Broken Wand Ceremony at our December meeting for Bob Foggybottom Rand at the December 17th meeting in Augusta.

The theme was kicked off with Scot performing "The Spirits vs. The Magician." Scot had a card that the back could be seen sealed in a mini freezer bag, while a single slate was shown empty and placed in an empty envelope. Randy Begin selected a card the Four of Diamonds. Scot showed his prediction was wrong but when

the slate was removed the spirits had written Four of Diamonds on it. Not to be outdone by the spirits Scot flicked the card in the bag and it visually turned to the selected card. Scot took a bow and turned the slate over where "Thank You" was written on the other side.

Alola Morrison took out her purse which contained an entire magic show! She had "Linking Pins," a spotted hanky, coin tricks, "Cut and Restored Rope," and more. She loaded all the items back into the purse, snapped it shut and when she opened it back up the items turned into a mini rubber skeleton and the spotted hanky was now white.

Scot then showed "White Star," an Out of this World effect utilizing photos of people who died and others who survived the sinking of the Titanic. Alola held a fountain pen of the clerk who recorded all of the deaths and Randy held a coin of Scot's grandfather who survived the

wreck. Alola successfully chose all of the ones who drowned, and Randy selected all who survived.

Monthly Show Doctor discussion was Ad-Diction, DVD, and Viral Videos. We all had input of how sometimes the most deceptive thing about a magic effect is in the marketing for the trick.

Off topic Joel Riemersma showed us his favorite Vernon effect, "Travelers," straight out of *Stars of Magic*.

Magic Wes influenced Alola to choose a card, shortly after we found out it was the only one with a red back. Joel then showed us an "Ace Assembly" and "Endless Loop" both from *Card College 5*. Wes shared some inspiration he received late night going to the bathroom on motivation to place something in the other hand.

Fellowship and magic continued at the Amazing Garden Asian Cuisine. *Scot Grassetto*

NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

JANUARY 2024 28 NEW MEMBERS

EZELL, JEFF, Yorba Linda, CA
GARBO, MICHAEL, Lakewood, CA
JASON, ALEXANDER, Pinole, CA
PADILLA, JR., FRANK, Borrego Springs, CA
POPLAWSKY, DAN, San Diego, CA
TERRIGNO, JASMINE, Anaheim, CA
BERG, MELODY, Colorado Springs, CO
PAGE, MAURO, Tampa, FL
CARTER, WAYNE, Snellville, GA
LIBRI, ANTHONY, New Berlin, IL
KERPAN, NICHOLAS, Boston, MA
MCNEIL, FRED, Centerville, MD
HODGE, JAMES, O'Fallon, MO
TOPPER, JEFF, Branson, MO
MARKS, BRIAN, Nyack, NY
SMITH, TYLER, Buffalo, NY
SNYDER, CHARLES, Johnstown, PA

KENT, JOE, Spring Branch, TX
BOWMAN, QUINTEN, Yakima, WA
HAMADA, CAMDEN, Walla Walla, WA
RYAN, DONALD, Tacoma, WA
MATTHEWS, DUSTIN, Parkersburg, WV
POL, JENSON, Ried im Innkreis, Oa-, Austria
ZEILINGER, PHD, CHRISTIAN, Ried im Innkreis,
Oa-, Austria
ARORA, PRANEET, Surrey, Canada
IORDANOUS, MICHALAKIS, Larnaca, Cyprus
HALLER, EMILY, Jena, Thuringia, Germany
SOMERVILLE, NEIL, Reading, Berkshire, United Kingdom

4 REINSTATEMENTS

COUCH, MARTY, Chicago, IL
FERRIN, GEORGE, Dallas, TX
KAHN, ALAN, Silver Lake, WA
NOVELO, CARLOS, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

Answer to Pictures from the Past – from page 14

Whenever Micky Hades was asked when he first started to toy with the idea of adding magic into his life, he would say simply, “Belsaz.” An America Magician by the name of John C. Greene (1867–1951), who performed under the stage name “Belsaz,” was performing near Micky’s home. Micky witnessed that performance, and once again the miracle of magic opened the eyes of that youthful ten-year-old to a world he would never forget. The wonder, the excitement, the colors of beautiful silks that appeared from the skillful hands of this marvel-maker – Greene gave Micky an opportunity to see a performer as well as a pitchman. Greene knew how to sell his show as well as bring in an audience for a good time. During his tenure, Greene toured the United States and Canada, presenting magic as well as showing “shorts” or limited films on his Edison Vitascope. With the aid of the Vitascope, audiences were seeing performers, people, and places they had never experienced. It was a whole new world, and Greene offered them a way to step out of their daily life without leaving their seats. He first performed a magic show, and then led them into a new world of fantasy.

After Micky saw that performance, he started to come up with ideas and ways to create small magical effects. Magic shops were not prevalent in Canada in the 1930s, and the only assistance he had to teach him anything new were books he might find at the library. Eventually, Micky left home and worked for a traveling carnival as well as a small circus outfit. Time passed and he went from small time to big time in western Canada, performing at bigger carnivals, a large traveling circus, and vaudeville theaters. He would perform magic and fire-eating, keeping the audience entranced with everything he did on stage. As time passed, Micky stepped into the world of publishing, and learned how to bring ideas to print. In short time he discovered it wasn’t the direction he wanted to take, but the knowledge Micky received from his time working at a print company taught him how to put his ideas into print and help other performers do the same. At that time, there was a machine called a Gestetner duplicator that made it possible to print pages at a lower cost than if using an offset printer. It was a two-drum rotary stencil machine used for copying, and the double-drum design inked the stencil with rollers, picked up the ink from a tube, and transferred it to sheets of paper. With this machine Micky could produce up to 1,200 pages in little more than an hour. He found a way to create a finished product and make a profit, all in a short span of time.

Between performing magic, keeping up with the magic clubs, and printing things for friends, Micky had found a way to reach out to his fellow performers around the world. At the September 1956 Charles Williamson Memorial Convention in Great Falls, Montana, Micky Hades had a lecture on equipment, its place in magic, where to get it,



how to take care of it, how to make it, and the proper manner to present it to the best effect. His own beautiful equipment proved his theory. In 1957, Micky became President of Ring 28 in Edmonton, Canada, and two years later President of Ring 66 in Calgary. To start off his new position, he performed various rope and chain escapes, as well as other stunts for the club. In March of 1959, Micky introduced the club (and others within mailing distance) to “The Had-E-gram Magizette” idea. Micky let the members know his monthly bulletin would include reports of the ring, news of magicians, and possibly even a few reviews on current effects. The magazine would be free to members of the Calgary Magic Circle, but subscriptions came in from the United States and as far away as India. That same year, Micky and various members presented “Varieties in Magic,” a show in which Micky stepped onto the stage and started his act by changing his wand into a pitchfork! He also performed a sympathetic silk routine, card manipulations, and a few mentalism effects. The entire show was well received.

In the 1960s, Micky started writing articles for *The Linking Ring* on a variety of topics, from reviews to trick ideas. He would even drop a thought or two on his own personal take on magicians of that time. One of his comments regarding children in an audience included, “... they can feel instinctively whether or not the magician likes them, and then they react accordingly.” What was true back then is still true today. In 1962, Micky wrote and published *The Make-Up of Magic* book, which included tips, ideas, methods, short cuts, and tricks that would give the reader ways to build their own magic effects. The eighteen-chapter book offered the beginner or professional magician a way to save a little money by building the effects themselves. The book sold for two dollars and fifty cents. Along with his monthly bulletin, Micky was known throughout the magic world for having the largest magic mail order business in Canada. Other booklets and books were soon to follow, including *Puppetry for Magicians*, *Novel Magic with the Appearing Cane*, *30 Fabulous Effects and Ideas*,” and *The Mentalism of Tan Choon Tee*. Micky illustrated a number of the publications, as well as creating the drawings for other author’s books. Micky also started producing magic effects like his “Oranges & Lemons” card trick – a great routine that was very well received by audiences – offered in both regular and stage size.

Micky continued publishing his monthly bulletin as well as extending his talent for illustration work. As many others found out at that time, trying to find someone to illustrate playing cards or a hand holding an object wasn’t the easiest accomplishment. Micky became the go-to person to contact at that time. Don’t be surprised the next time you open a magic book or booklet from the 1960s or 1970s to find that Micky is credited for the illustrations. Along with Micky’s illustrations, he was credited for publishing booklets like his *Comedy Funnel Magic* and for continuing to publish *The Master Index*. He made it possible for magicians to have publications available at a reasonable price, as well as to identify authors willing to write on subjects that were only being lightly covered in lectures or articles. During the 1970s, Micky purchased the remaining stock as well as reprint rights to a number of select magic authors, including H. P. Wisheart, Nick Trost, Nelson Enterprises, and Burling Hull. During that same time, Micky was writing a monthly mentalism article, gleaning information from his notes and producing the numerous materials he had purchased. In 1975, he published a current edition of *The New Make-Up of Magic*, and sold it for only ten dollars. It covered everything from the basics of magic to misdirection, black art, building techniques, and more. The 132-page book was (and still is) a must-have for a magician seeking material to expand their knowledge of the art of magic.

From the 1980s until the end of his life, Micky presented the magic community with a wealth of materials, including booklets, books, and lecture notes. In 1998, he published *Mandrake – Incomparable*, which included recollections of Leon Mandrake’s son Lon.

Sheldon O’Connell interviewed family members and friends to put together a book that gave the reader a nice insight into the life of magician Leon Mandrake. From books of history like that, to the scores of instruction booklets Micky produced, there always seemed to be a new project to get started. Now, those of us who love magic books will just have to rely on the more than sixty years Micky gave to providing us with reading material. He was responsible for publishing material on general magic, mentalism, comedy, illusions, history, and the major undertaking of research published as *Potter’s Index*, also known as *The Master Index to Magic in Print*. Micky Hades was truly one of a kind, and we will miss him.

Gary R. Frank

I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA
CONTEST RULES

(Continued from page 47)

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 47.**

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JOIN • LEARN • CONNECT



These words reflect key parts of our focus on obtaining new members as well as keeping existing members. This slogan appears on special coins that International President Charles Arkin is distributing in a new member referral program until June 1, 2024.



MEMBER INCENTIVE REFERRAL PROGRAM: HOW IT WORKS



A new I.B.M. member may identify one existing member who referred that new member to join our organization. An I.B.M. member may receive multiple gifts if they refer multiple new members. One gift for each new member, until a total of five hundred gifts have been provided.

The new member's application must state the referral person by name, and either the membership number or email address in the Comments Section. The name must

be in the Comments Section of the application at the time the application is presented to the I.B.M.

The referring member may choose from one of five gifts, while supplies last:

- (1) One of 250 President's Challenge Coins.
- (2) One of 500 Presidential 3-coin set of copper-gold-silver colored steel manipulation coins allocated to this program.



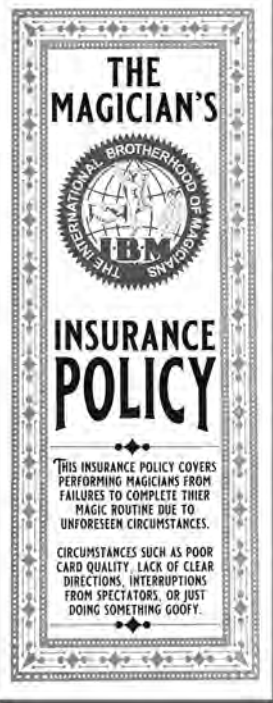
- (3) A deck of our I.B.M. Centennial Anniversary Playing Cards.

- (4) Two I.B.M. Insurance Policy tricks.

- (5) A 10% discount voucher (not to exceed \$50 discount value) from our I.B.M. Merchandise Store.

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Late-Breaking News! Our International President has donated one hundred sets of these limited edition coins to be sold through the I.B.M. Merchandise Store at magician.org. Sale price is \$20 each for the Presidential Challenge Coins and \$30 for the Presidential Three-coin Set, plus shipping and handling.

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Attention, All Contestants!

This year we're going straight to the finals! We are now accepting video submissions of your act. If you are selected for the finals, you'll be showcased in the evening show. Your picture will also be placed on our talent poster.

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