

VOLUME 105 • NUMBER 6

# The Linking Ring

JUNE 2025



**MICHAEL BREGGAR**

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Co-host this month will be our International President Elect, Stephen Levine joining Mike Dunagan in his last Ring Leader call as International President. Together, they want to hear what you think.

### Thursday, June 19, 2025

8:00 pm EST, 7:00pm CST,  
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Check [magician.org](http://magician.org) > resources  
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# The Linking Ring

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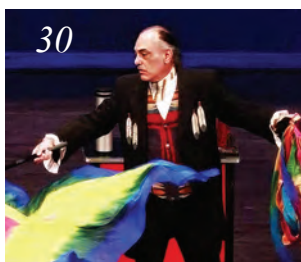
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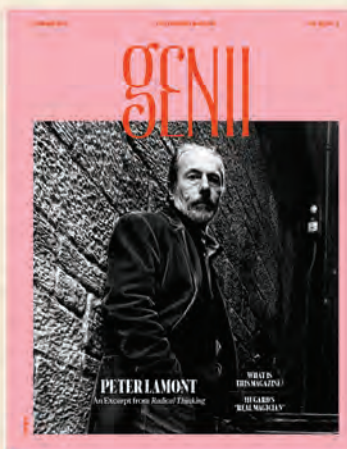
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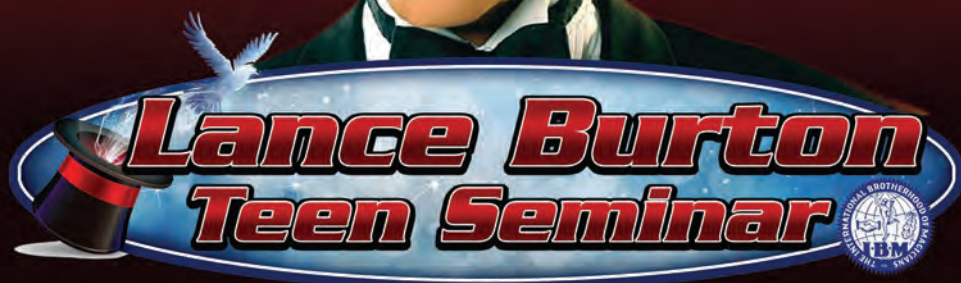
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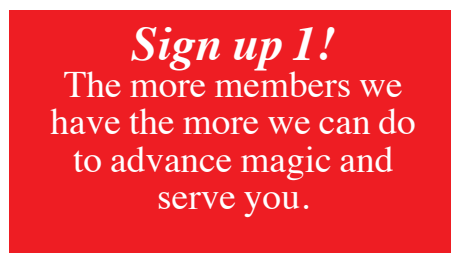
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## *Had a Brief Lapse in Your Membership? Consider the Reinstatement Option.*

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

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

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

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# Feel the Power

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



# From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

**Excusitis, the Failure Disease.** My entrance into the world of formal education shook my creative spirit to the core. After two years of grandmotherly love at Mrs. Cross's Nursery School, my parents enrolled me in Bluebird Kindergarten. I was five. My fellow inmates and I were required to sit at desks and face the front of the room. Our teacher was excellent, but the classroom experience jolted my sensibilities.

One day a wad of paper sailed from the back of the room just past our teacher's head. We were stunned. Most of us never would have dreamed of doing something like that. Mrs. Kleimeyer cast a penetrating glance toward the little delinquent. "Billy Jones!" Before she could continue, he stammered, "I dropped it!" Even at five, I knew that explanation was pathetic.

In the ensuing years I've heard – and have given – some equally lame excuses. There is, of course, a vast difference between a reason and an excuse. A reason may change our plans. An excuse points to other people or circumstances to explain why we didn't do what we promised.

As an editor, I frequently hear those tired cat-ate-my-homework excuses. "No one let me know about the deadline" (even though it's always been the first of the month). "I wish you had told me the article wasn't up to standards" (although I'm pretty sure the writer knew better). "I'll have my column to you by Tuesday." (Crickets).

Ten years after the episode at Bluebird Kindergarten, I read Dr. David Schwartz's highly-regarded *The Magic of Thinking Big*. One chapter, "Cure Yourself of

Excusitis, the Failure Disease," sheds light on the high cost of casting blame and making excuses. "You will discover," he writes, "that excusitis explains the difference between the person who is going places and the one who is barely holding his own.... the more successful the individual, the less inclined he is to make excuses."

The habit of blame goes hand-in-hand with excusitis. Someone else is the reason we are not moving forward. We say that a certain condition – such as lack of capital, not enough time, no moral support – is why we have failed. Otherwise, we would have lived up to our promises.

But, friends, let's get real. The reason we didn't do it is simple: We just didn't do it. We didn't plan, we didn't take the time, we didn't sacrifice personal whims for the satisfaction of living up to our word.

A friend's son lamented the loss of a baseball game: "The other team paid off the umpire!"

"No," his dad said, "you lost."

"But..."

"No! You lost. That's all there is to it."

The sooner we learn this lesson, the sooner we recover from excusitis, the failure disease. When we accept responsibility, we move forward. We cease making regrettable excuses. We begin to succeed.

Facing the truth is not as hard as it seems. It points us in a better direction, even if it's a path different from the one we've been taking. We no longer say, "I dropped it!" Instead, we confess, "Yes, I threw the wad of paper, and that was a bad decision."



# President's Page

MIKE DUNAGAN



Six hundred words. That's how many words I have each month to convey my message, at least in theory. I offer this public apology to Sammy Smith since most months I've gone slightly over.

It is now June, so these are my final six hundred words as your International President. While the previous 6,600+ words seemed limitless, these last few seem precious.

This past year has been an honor. I love this organization. To serve it, to serve all of you, has been both an amazing experience and an incredible privilege. I know that might sound trite, but it is true.

I have met so many great people, from superstar performers I've admired for years to everyday members who are the bedrock of the I.B.M. I'm constantly humbled by the expressions of support and appreciation I receive, often from people I've never met. Proof positive that we're an organization built on respect, encouragement, and support.

Is everything perfect? No. But if we're honest, what is? Perfection's an aspiration, not a destination. Leonardo da Vinci began painting the Mona Lisa in 1503. He was still working on it when he died in 1519. Success isn't about achieving perfection, it's about working toward it.

One thing you learn in a hurry about this job is that keeping things running requires a true team effort. I'm incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by awesome people. I owe a lot of thanks to a lot of people, beginning with my fellow officers. Stephen Levine, Jason Michaels, Charles Arkin, and Simone Marron have worked their back-ends off in support of this organization. Their dedication to the I.B.M. and the time they've invested over the past year has been awe-inspiring.

The same is true of our Executive Committee: David Garrard, Keith Fields, Jeff Sobel, Scott Cantrell, Mike Woodward, and Matt Stanley. They head most of our critical committees and strategic initiatives, each of them playing a major role in moving those committees and initiatives forward.

Our Past International Presidents and Committee Members are the backbone of the I.B.M. While there are too many to call out by name, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate their insights, ideas, and countless hours of time they've invested in our success.

I want to thank a few more people by name. Sindie Richison, Sammy Smith, Rolando Santos, Shawn Farquhar, Bill Evans, Oscar and Melody Muñoz, Benjamin Barnes, Lady Sarah Harfield, Erik Tait, Eric Schuster, Jim Driscoll, Ken Scott, Joe M. Turner, and Meadow Perry. These individuals – names you know and some you don't – make major contributions to this organization every day.

Most of all, I want to thank all of you. You are why we exist. Without you, there are no officers, no committees, no I.B.M. family. Which also means our future will be decided by you. That's the simple truth.

International officers are tasked with guiding the I.B.M., but it is our members who power it. New member recruiting, member retention, financial support, organizational growth – these cornerstones of our success are all controlled by you, our members.

You decide whether to promote your Ring. You decide if you attend conventions. You decide if you enforce international dues. You decide to maintain your membership. And each decision has an impact.

*(continued on page 17)*





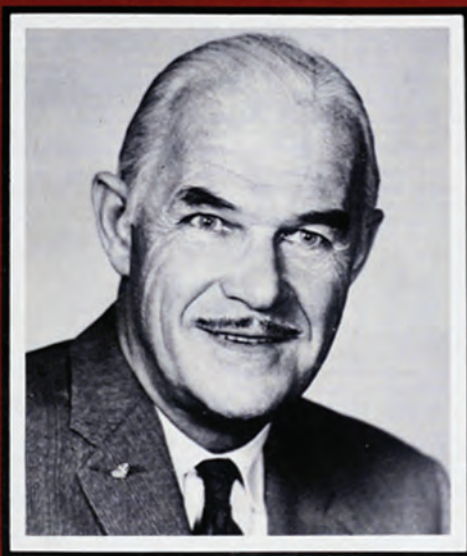
# *Pictures from the Past*

THE LINKING RING

## THE LINKING RING

February, 1979

Vol. 59 No. 2



**AUSTIN C. GORHAM**  
1901 - 1978

page 118

Austin Clare "Ace" Gorham was born March 5, 1901, in New Bedford, Massachusetts. His interest in magic started around the age of twelve. From that point on, Ace covered the bases as far as a career in the early days of vaudeville, silent movies, magic, and he took his education in finance and that gave him a career as marketing-assistant in a major oil company. These are just a few of the highlights from Gorham's life. To learn more, turn to page 144.

For more than one hundred years, we have been a leader in the magic community. It is up to each of you if we are to remain a leader in the future. No matter who your International President is, it is all of you who are truly in charge.

Please use your power wisely.

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

### WANT TO SUBMIT A RING EVENT?

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

# MICHAEL BREGGAR

By Jason Goldberg

There's a classic photograph in magic – I'm sure you've seen it. It perfectly captures the magician's art and spirit. Black and white, even though so little in magic actually is, but here it works. Almost a noir scene, you can't help but hear a slow jazz trumpet in your mind. The magician wears a sharply tailored suit. It has a few wrinkles at the edges from a long night of performing, but this moment is his to ponder his craft. Eyes not facing the camera but rather looking down at his hands, considering the mysteries remaining to be gleaned from the fish and fork he holds.

What, wait? Oh, you probably thought I was talking about Dai Vernon. Nope. If you haven't seen it, the portrait is of Michael Breggar from his book *The Expert at the Cod Table*, written alongside his mysterious crony S.W. Ordfish. And if the picture doesn't get you, the jokes, puns, and (most importantly) the hard-hitting tricks, none of which require knuckle-busting moves, will.

As Steve Friedberg, a former President of Ring 6 said, "There are guys out there capable of working absolute miracles with a regular deck of cards. I'm not one of them. But Mike Breggar's carefully constructed (and joke-filled) plots make it possible for guys like me to be able – if only for a moment – to pretend that I'm one of them."

It's just one of many books and tricks that Mike has produced over the years.

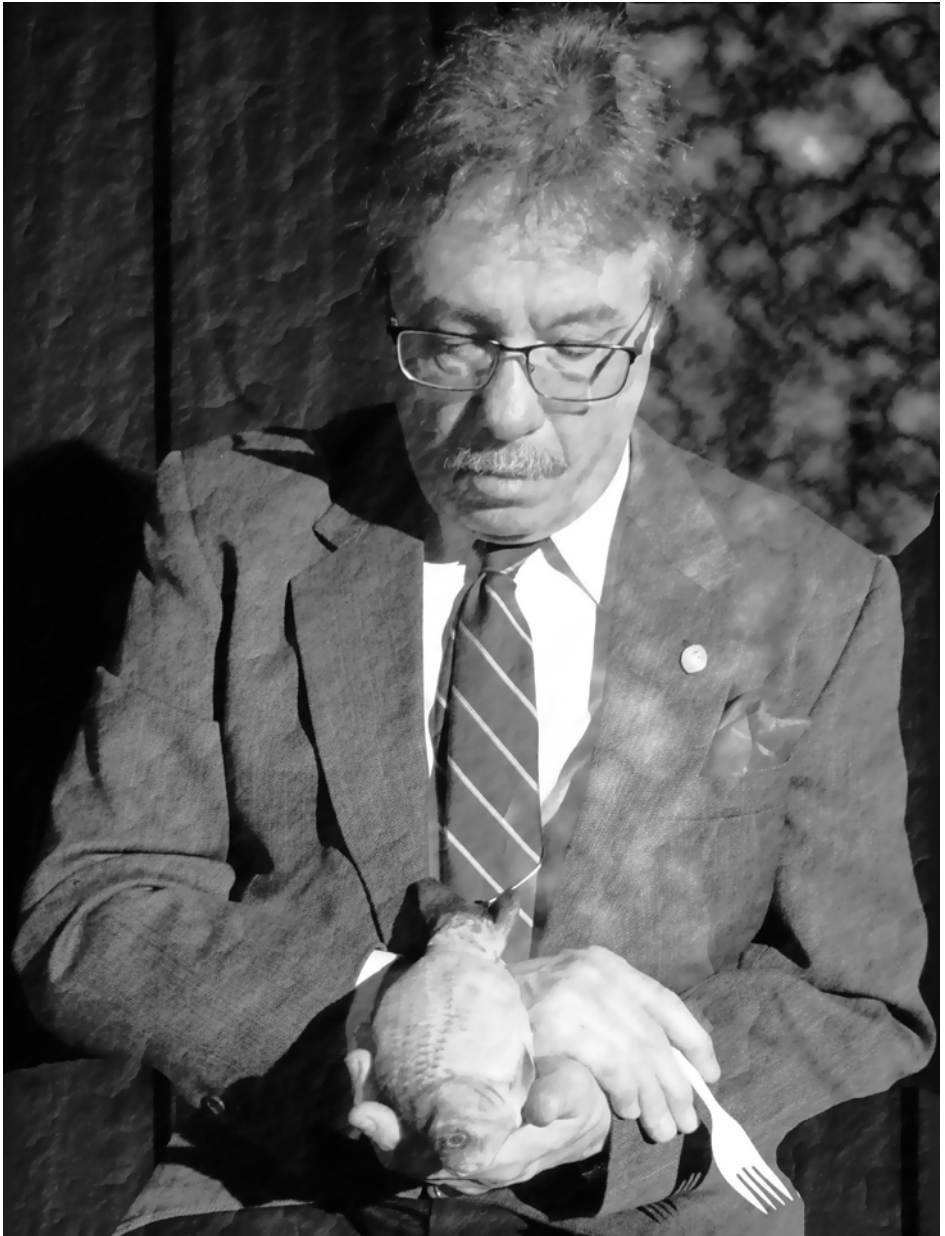
Eight books, in fact – his latest is the hysterically funny but commercially strong, face-melting *Raiders of the Lost Card*. There are numerous manuscripts floating about, as well as his bestselling, five-star reviewed products like *Art Attack!*, *Bad Bikes*, *PSI-Roller*, *The Emotional Sensitivity Perception Project*, and *Flat Dice*. If you're reading this, you also undoubtedly know Mike from his hugely popular *Linking Ring* column "Auto-Magic."

So, let's take a little time to get to know him better and uncover some secrets for those who want to develop their own magic. Like most magicians, Mike was born on a snowy Friday in Philadelphia.



Michael Breggar, the author of the popular *Linking Ring* column, "Auto-Magic."





*Michael considers the mysteries of a fish and a fork in a comical take on the classic Dai Vernon image.*

Wait, that part isn't necessarily *completely* true. Okay, Mike *was* born on a snowy Friday in Philadelphia, but probably so were a few other magicians. What is true is that, like most magicians, Mike caught the magic bug when he was five years old. He was captivated by Mark Wilson's

*Magic Land of Allakazam* on Saturdays, immediately followed by *Mr. Wizard* (Don Herbert). It was a magical magic followed by natural magic. His dad brought home a Gilbert Mysto magic set as a gift, and Mike would play with it. While he couldn't do much with the set at the time given his age,

## MIKE BREGGAR



*Caricature of Michael by Ever Elizalde, after the style of Ted Salter.*

he recalls seeing the plastic doll in the set in two and the fascination he had with its mirror cabinet. Several years later, his fascination was reinforced by Ray Walston in *My Favorite Martian*. Walston's character "Uncle Martin" could read minds, turn invisible, and point his fingers at things and make them levitate. Gilbert even produced a "My Favorite Martian Magic Set" complete with a flying spaceship version of "Cubio." But no cards – that came later.

Those early years continue to influence him. As Mike says, "I still have *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic* on my shelf and consult it frequently. The book was published long after the *Allakazam* show ended. While much of it was ghost-written by Walter Gibson, the feeling is pure Mark and Nani."



*A selection of books by Michael, including his recent *Raiders of the Lost Card*.*

Mike's love of magic was cemented by a magic chicken. Sorry, I meant chicken pox, which I admit isn't very magical. When Mike was nine, he fell ill with the virus. To help fill his time during recovery, his parents gave him two books. One was Doyle's *Complete Sherlock Holmes* and the other was Bruce Elliot's *Classic Secrets of Magic*. He devoured both books, even though there were only a few tricks in Elliott's book he could actually perform! Still, Mike loved reading about the "Ambitious Cards" and Sack's dice routine. In the appendix, Elliott noted that magic shops could be found in many towns, so Mike went looking and found Kanter's Magic Shop near his home.

"Walking in, it felt oddly like a bakery," he said. "There was a distinct smell of the books, cards, and gaudily painted props. The long glass showcases had a mix of everything for all ages and experiences. I saw kids and the old pros alike hanging out. That's when I really fell in love with magic and realized it was more than little gags and inexpensive, blister-packed 'toy' tricks. It was more complex. It was something more." Among others, he was introduced to the works of Harry Lorayne, certainly not even imagining he would become a friend later.

Mike started with the traditional items like ropes and the "Fraidy Cat Rabbit." One of his first tricks was the





*Michael performs close-up magic for a room of delighted spectators at the Magic Castle. PHOTOS BY TAYLOR WONG, COURTESY OF THE MAGIC CASTLE*



*Left: Lecturing at Marc DeSouza's. Right: Michael attends a magical dinner with Marc DeSouza, Danny Archer, Scott Wells, and Bernardo Sedlacek.*

"Metamorpho Spots," a trick he still owns and performs when he works in a platform or stage setting. As his skills developed and he became more professional in his attention to the craft, Mike and his friend Paul started to perform at birthday parties as The Mystifiers with a twenty-five-minute show through their early high school years. They typically did two shows a week in the mid-1960s at eight dollars a pop. The magic was good, but they had to be creative with their props. They were performing as kids, remember? Using U.F. Grant's books as a guide, they would make inexpensive stage illusions out of cardboard. As Mike says, "I still have my original copy of Grant's *Victory Carton Illusions*. It set me back two bucks!" The appliance carton and broomsticks were just as effective, if not as flashy, as your typical swordbox.

By the time college rolled around, Paul had lost interest in performing. Mike's interest also slowed for a time, but he performed bar magic for a few years. After college, he pursued a career in management consulting. That's when the bug hit him again. The magic bug, not chicken pox. He was now a senior executive in the consulting world and worked for several large, well-known firms. He found his magic skills were useful for presentations and networking. It turned out that senior leaders in several Fortune 500 companies

were fans of magic, and they would ask him to perform for corporate events, executives, and their families. In one notable instance, after a rather tense final project presentation to a company's C-suite leadership, the CEO asked Mike to stay behind after everyone else left. "My team was shaking because they thought we were being chewed out, but it turned out he was a serious magic hobbyist and just wanted to talk magic and session for fifteen to twenty minutes!"

Mike didn't aspire to do anything more significant until later in his consulting career. Mike subscribed to various online magic websites and forums, all of which came with the obligatory ads. "I noticed that so many of the ads pushed the 'greatest, most sensational tricks of the year.' Of course, they all claimed to be 'self-working,' which itself is a misnomer. Those ads really bothered me. You have to do a lot of work from a presentation perspective to entertain an audience and make them believe. The only *true* self-working magic is sitting back to watch *Star Wars* or checking out automatons at a museum." And those advertisements kept coming. More and more tricks were supposedly self-working. Mike wondered, "Something just did not compute. Did magic lose its way? Had it all become paint-by-numbers?"

Fate arrived for Mike. Having a late hamburger and Diet Coke dinner at yet





*Michael at Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic performing Art Attack.*

another hotel lounge after a long day consulting, he emailed Shawn Farquhar (who was International President of the I.B.M. at the time) and suggested someone curate material of self-working magic for a column. Do the research, bypass all the junk, and write up some strong routines. Mike said it could go back to the literature in the Theo Annemann, Bruce Elliot, Jean Hugard days and focus on the *presentation* of self-working tricks. Shawn wrote back almost immediately and copied the message to Sammy Smith, editor of *The Linking Ring*. Rather than searching out someone else, Sammy asked Mike for three written columns as a sample. (*Associate Editor's Note: Hmmm ... sounds like how I was recruited. Quick tip: Don't write to Sammy unless you want to become a Linking Ring columnist!*)

"I wondered what I was getting myself into," Mike says. "I was traveling for work while writing these first few columns while in airplanes or eating at various hotel lounges. But I became obsessed over how to structure the column. I wanted to try something a little different. To emphasize presentation and structure, I would concisely describe how the routine would play (including scripting), only then

describe the secret workings. I wanted to call it 'The Pencil Dot,' a phrase I thought was well known to most magicians, but Sammy convinced me to change the title to something more apropos. So, I renamed it 'Auto-Magic.'"

The first column was published in October 2015, and the one hundredth column was published in 2023. (*Another Associate Editor's Note: Okay, I take that back. Write to Sammy. Yes, you'll stress over each column, but you'll learn a lot and you'll get to meet amazing people, too. Take the following example.*) Mike was a few columns in and still searching for his "voice." Out of the blue, he got an email from Jon Racherbaumer, who was thrilled to see someone else thinking about magic along performance lines. Jon offered to help Mike refine his style and find his personalized style. Mike remembers, "I was floored! I so respected Jon's work, and spent so many years reading and learning from his many books. Hearing from him was amazing. He helped me think about the material I was writing and was sincere and generous about encouraging me."

About a year and a half in, Jon suggested Mike review his work to find the best five to seven columns, write a preface for

them, and publish it all as a book. This was the start of Mike's era of self-publishing. His first two books, *The Five Roads to Vegas* and *Back to the Launching Pad*, featured updated and rewritten columns from *The Linking Ring*, plus a few new items and thought pieces. One of Mike's particular favorites from his books is a face-up version of "Out of This World." In it, the assisting spectator is blindfolded, but everyone else in the audience follows their attempt to create separate piles of red and black cards. "It is quite funny, actually. The assistant is placing cards from a shuffled deck in a wholly disorganized manner. They think the participant has failed in separating the colors, but it turns out that when the face-up mess of cards is flipped over, they see that the subject was successful: the card backs are sorted into black backs and red backs!"

After publishing, magicians started emailing Mike from around the world. Mike recalls two moments of pride. "I came up with an easy ACAAN-based idea on some John Bannon work from his fantastic book *Destination Zero* (Squash Publishing). Right after 'Absolutely ACAANY' was published, John reached out to me. He mentioned he was coincidentally publishing an almost identical version ("Collusion" in *Mentalismo* and his fantastic *Move Zero* video collection). He said it is a great trick and wished me success with it. We've remained magic buddies ever since. I also started noticing



With son Seth and wife Marilyn.



Michael with his wife, Marilyn.

that my name was showing up in the Ring Reports, and it's been really gratifying to see others are enjoying my material."

Mike says he gets emails monthly from those who read his column. Especially rewarding are comments he gets from physical rehab centers saying their patients can perform his tricks because they don't need much dexterity, and it helps in restoring confidence levels. He also heard from a grade-school teacher in Europe who used his trick "Mixed Emojis" from the March 2017 issue of *The Linking Ring* to help her students understand set theory. As Mike says, "How rewarding is all that?"

Mike is proof that actively participating in and contributing to magic societies is not an anachronism. It has helped him meet leaders in the art as he became one himself. He never thought he would be on a first-name basis with people like Jon Racherbaumer, who was such an influence on his work. Marc DeSouza, Scott Wells, John Carey have become friends. As Marc says, "When we met, we all instantly became friends. We have similarly warped senses of humor and a healthy disregard for the canons of magic."

Harry Lorayne had also connected with Mike, serving as a sounding board and something of a mentor. As Mike says, "I.B.M. breaks down walls. It doesn't matter who you are, at some point we were all at a starting point. Contributing to I.B.M. offers you the ability to open



*Snapping a selfie with one of his heroes, John Bannon.*

doors to become friendly with the greats of the industry. These folks are very generous with their time.” Mike credits I.B.M. for giving him the confidence to reach out to the greats to ask about publishing his versions of their ideas in his column. “Everyone has been very gracious.”

In addition to writing, Mike has also released several tricks. Mike has worked closely with Liam Montier (Kaymar Magic) and Owen Packard (Big Blind Media). *Art Attack!*, *Bad Bikes*, and *PSI-Roller* have become huge hits. As with his work in “Auto-Magic,” Mike likes to experiment with existing effects and improve their performance. “Art Attack!” for example, had its origins in an almost century-old effect. Martin Gardner revitalized the old idea in the 1970s, and John Bannon published his brilliant, definitive analysis of this origami-based method (see “Degrees of Freedom” in John’s *Dear Mr. Fantasy*).

Mike is working with TCC Magic on an updated version of his “Flat Dice,” a trick based on a George Sands routine from 1947, which Mike initially released with Meir Yedid. “TCC has been great to work with. They are very collaborative, and the quality and workmanship of their props is nonpareil.” The original Sands idea was more of a bar trick anyway, using bits of paper torn from a cocktail napkin. “It was a great idea but was obviously a math-

based trick.” Mike loved the concept and worked out how to make it look like less of a math trick by using poker chips. With further advice from Marc DeSouza and assistance from Mitch Geier, Mike then came up with the idea of using thin, almost two-dimensional, dice: *Flat Dice*. Yedid sold out the first batch in an hour and many more since. Now, TCC has licensed it and will produce an updated version working with an actual dice manufacturer. Mike has no desire to stop producing and is currently working on an incredible add-a-number-style prediction, an amazing, very direct mind-reading routine (calling Uncle Martin!) and a parlor piece that spoofs the old game show *The Match Game*.

When you read Mike’s books, you’ll notice a theme to each, giving him a different outlet for his creativity. For example, *Expert at the Card Table* is clearly a satire of Erdnase. One of Mike’s favorite stories about the response to the book was hearing that Harry Lorayne loved it so much and laughed so hard that his caretaker wondered if something was wrong! His latest book, *Raiders of the Lost Card*, adopts the Spielberg classic as a theme. There are thirty-five great routines and utility moves, lots of spoofy references and call-backs to the Indiana Jones movies (including “scripts” of “scenes cut out from the films.”) It is his biggest book yet. Among other positive reviews, Marc DeSouza said, “*Raiders of The Lost Card* may be his best book yet. It’s not the Ark of the Covenant, but it contains real treasures: great routines, engaging presentations, and it is just so much fun to read!” Matt Baker adds, “Whatever you do, when you open up this book, don’t look directly at it. The strong self-working magic and clever principles contained within will literally melt your face off if you do.”

Mike said he really found his voice going back to *Dancing with the Cards*. Rather than the usual Effect and Explanation format, he wrote it as Presentation and Explanation. This allows Mike to share full scripts, something





*Michael lectures on comedy mentalism at Marc DeSouza's.*

he has come to believe is important for his work. Comedy, wordplay, and *MAD Magazine*-like satire have also become part of his writing and performance style.

Mike has a process for developing tricks and testing material. Plot always comes first, method second, then refinement of the presentation. The presentation always follows the well-tested 'Three-

Act Structure' supposedly described by Aristotle and modernly popularized by screenwriting professor Syd Field (in his 1979 book *Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting*). Mike tests everything iteratively, first with his long-suffering and beautiful wife, Marilyn, and their never-holding-back son, Seth. Then, he will share with a close circle of magic friends. He won't "field test" until he feels he has worked out any bugs and has a relatable and entertaining piece.

He likes to take classics and put a spin on them, recognizing they need to be unusual and different to attract any interest. For example, his face-up version of "Out of This World" mentioned earlier. "As great as the original Paul Curry effect is, I wanted to do something that hasn't become mundane. I thought laterally about it. I asked myself whether this can somehow be done face up? Does that defeat the purpose? I blindfolded the spectator. The



*Where the magic happens: Michael works on his next "Auto-Magic" column.*



*Opening night at the Magic Castle with Jack Goldfinger.* PHOTO BY TAYLOR WONG, COURTESY OF THE MAGIC CASTLE

person will get it wrong, and the audience will know. It became a problem I wanted to solve. That's how I came up with my version. I figured out the plot and the structure, then I researched the method. Once I'm comfortable I have a plot and method that works, I work on the presentation."

Even though there's a lot of humor in his work, Mike acknowledges he isn't a joke-by-joke comedy magician. The humor must somehow be baked in, situational. The comedy still comes from how his routines are structured. Mike says, "I'm not afraid to take a simple trick and make it much longer, as long as it's entertaining. I give presentation serious thought. I sit down and write my scripts like I write my column. That helps me get the kinks out so I can catch things early."

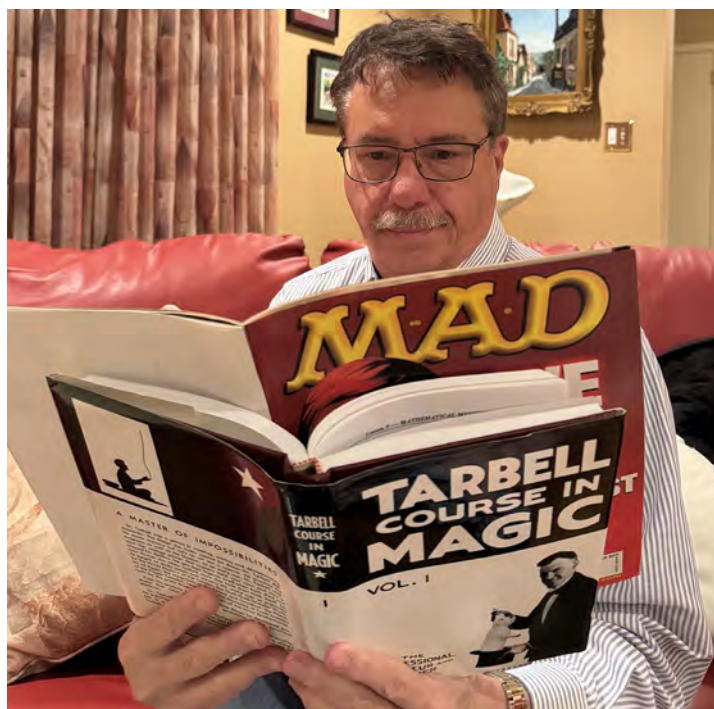
Mike also has a team of mentors and peers who help him with his designs. "Marc and I frequently meet at a nearby deli. Howard Hamburg, whom I met through the Magic Castle, and I will occasionally online session. Liam Montier, Matt Baker, Bob Farmer, Steve Friedberg, Mike Powers, Jay Scott Berry, Bob Durante, and others also help. They often

will pick up cues or note early history that relate to what I'm developing."

As Liam says, "Mike Breggar can do amazing things – he updates and imbues classic principles with modern whimsy, presentational shenanigans, and commercial goings-on, to create the sort of magic that I love to both perform and produce!" Matt agrees: "He has an incredibly corny sense of humor, but it's quite endearing ... He also has a really good sense of how to structure a magic routine. He loves exploring interesting methods and then finding a new presentational hook." Bob adds, "I knew we were both tuned in to the same radio station, the one that broadcasts on frequencies only those with an active magic imagination can hear."

Mike has advice for anyone interested in developing and publishing their own work. "If you're interested in creativity and performances, it's worth listening to and understanding the construction of jazz music to think about performance structure. It may seem freeform, but it is usually tightly constructed." Mike also strongly believes in the three-act structure. "Each trick needs a definitive beginning, middle, and end. Whether the routine is one minute or sixty minutes long, nothing improves material more exponentially than following, or redesigning, the routine according to the three-act structure." Mike sees "kicker endings" as, essentially, fourth acts; encores, even. He uses them often "because they are so much fun and highly entertaining."

He also encourages magicians to go to the movies. Mike advises, "Carefully watch films by Hitchcock, Spielberg, Woody Allen, Orson Welles, and others. These are masters in timing and pacing. They all follow the three-act structure. Hitchcock is particularly relevant. You're trying to build suspense as the roller coaster climbs to the apex, then you start to release some of that tension as the coaster zooms along. As fast and furious as it may be, you know it is controlled, so you relax a little. But then you kill 'em with your knock-out conclusion! If you have that



*Studying the classics.*

mind-blowing of an ending, give people a chance to breathe before unleashing an act-four kicker!”

Think about this for a moment. That’s how Rod Serling developed most of his scripts for *The Twilight Zone*. Mike also recommends a diet of Buster Keaton, Laurel & Hardy, the Marx Brothers, Jackie Gleason, and Sid Caesar.

“Keaton and Laurel & Hardy started their careers in the silent film era,” Mike says. “Watching them is revelatory. They were masters of timing, including the art of the pause. These guys said more with their silence than with their words! Look at their pacing and timing. Also, seek to understand the *pacing* of the patter. The Marx Brothers, Gleason, and Caesar mastered this (as well as when to keep silent!) Magicians can overwhelm the audience with patter. Let the magic and the entertaining speak for itself. All of this informs my thinking whether I am creating a new

routine, method, performance, or act. It’s the same regardless of the running time of the trick or whether I will be performing at the Magic Castle, Smoke & Mirrors, the prestigious FFFF Convention, in-person and online lectures, private parties, benefits, or just for family and friends.”

Regarding his “Auto-Magic” column, Mike’s still going strong as he tunnels his way into year ten. I hope that many of you, like me, are looking forward to his new creations. Funny as his work can be, he takes it all very seriously. And it’s even funnier to think about how it all began. “I can’t believe this all started with writing a note to Shawn while drinking a Diet Coke and eating a hamburger at a dark hotel lounge all those years ago.”

*Mike Breggar can be contacted at mbreggarmagic@gmail.com. Jason Goldberg is an associate editor for The Linking Ring.*



# Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



Houdini was a man of unwavering determination, constantly seeking the spotlight through any means necessary. His early life experiences, particularly his family's connection to locksmithing, significantly shaped his career. He was known for weaving stories when discussing his early fascination with locks, handcuffs, and security devices.

One account claimed that his ancestors were locksmiths, leading him to believe it was his calling to pursue the profession. In another anecdote, Houdini recalled his mother's irresistible pies that she would cleverly conceal, challenging him to seek them out.

Houdini's cleverness and determination were evident in his early years, as he would uncover the hidden treats by deftly picking the locks, a testament to his future escape artist skills. His early years were also marked by impressive skills and a determination that would shape his future. Additionally, Houdini recounted the incident when a horse accidentally trampled his hand at the age of nine, landing him in the hospital. While there, he stumbled upon a pair of handcuffs that were typically used to restrain unruly patients, and ingeniously opened them.

News reporters played a significant role in crafting the Houdini legend. They often sensationalized or misrepresented Houdini's words and deeds to create captivating news stories. The fusion of Houdini's embellished stories and the distorted news coverage, which Houdini didn't feel compelled to correct if it generated publicity, suited his purpose perfectly. This highlights the intriguing power of the media in shaping public perception and the Houdini legend, a testament to the influence of media in our lives.

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Ricky Jay's parents secretly hired magician Al Flosso, whom Ricky considered one of his idols, to perform at his bar mitzvah.

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Hollywood actors, singers, and comedians who were also amateur magicians include: Chester Morris, Patrick McGeehan, Steve Martin, Harold Lloyd, Jerry Lester, Robert Lansing, Michael Jackson, Victor Jory, Cary Grant, Jackie Gleason, Eddy Nelson, Walt Disney, David Allan Coe, Dick Cavett, Johnny Carson, Bill Bixby, Milton Berle, Orson Bean, Steve Allen, Barbara Stanwyck, Orson Wells, and James Stewart.

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Robert-Houdin did not become a professional magician until after the age of forty.

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Joe Hernandez is the author of *Magic Babylon: 1,001 Strange Conjuring Facts, Fallacies, and Tales* and the recently released *Houdini, The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*. This article contains excerpts from these books, which are available from your favorite magic dealer, Amazon, and [www.booksbyjoe.com](http://www.booksbyjoe.com).

# The Magical Teacher: Robert “Tamaka” Bailey

By Jay Crawford



PHOTO BY FRANK JANG

Although composed of quiet communities, Half Moon Bay, California is home to some truly amazing individuals. For example, Robert “Tamaka” Bailey of Pacifica.

Robert, who goes by his professional name, Tamaka, started as a high school and camp counselor. In the early 1970s he was working as a camp counselor when he saw a magician grab and hold the attention of adolescent campers throughout the length of his performance. Any teacher will tell you the ability to hold a youngster’s attention for that length of time is akin to a superpower worthy of an action or superhero movie.

It occurred to Tamaka this might be a way to connect with the youth, and such connection was important on several levels. As a counselor, Tamaka hoped to instill students with a sense of self-esteem, a feeling of respect for others, and a resistance to self-destructive temptations such as drug abuse and gangs. He was also a Native American, a Choctaw, who wanted to see his culture and language passed on to future generations. Magic seemed like a great teaching tool that could also become a profession, and it looked like fun.

His first step was to become proficient in the craft. For that, he turned to the Chavez

Course of Magic in Pasadena where he began his training under Dale Salwak. Professor Salwak was an excellent choice, as his career not only encompassed worldwide recognition as a magician, but he also attained his Ph.D. in English literature, became a university professor, and served as entertainment director at the Hollywood Magic Castle. In other words, he had the skill and experience of a professional magician as well as a solid background in education. Tamaka was also taught stage acting by Bob Fitch, who was an experienced director, actor, magician, juggler, and dancer who had coached such famous illusionists as David Copperfield and David Blaine.

Upon graduating the course, Tamaka toured the United Kingdom, the United States, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, China. His performances included opening for the Smothers Brothers, Weird Al Yankovic, and Julio Iglesias. He also performed at the Magic Castle, which is the clubhouse for the members of the Academy of Magical Arts – meaning the audiences were often composed of world-class magicians as well as their guests, so you really needed to be good to be asked to perform there.

Incredibly, despite the demands of a successful entertainment career, his passion, his

focus, was, and still is, on educating the youth. He often performed in elementary, middle, and high schools addressing issues such as drug abuse, gangs, avoiding violence, and promoting self-esteem. Some of the venues have been local, such as Vallemar School in Pacifica.

One performance particularly touched his heart. "I volunteered to do a children's Christmas party at UCSF Hospital," he said. "I didn't know it was for children with cancer. I watched the kids being wheeled in when I saw they brought in a little guy whose cancer was terminal. He was also blind."

How was this frail child going to get any enjoyment or comfort from a show based on visual illusions? All he could do would be to hear other children laughing and enjoying themselves. He wouldn't know why they were laughing, he would feel isolated.

Tamaka gave it some thought. He had training and experience with a program developed by David Copperfield called "Project Magic." The idea was to incentivize stroke patients to approach physical therapy with a positive and enthusiastic mindset by teaching them some simple magic. They taught illusions incorporating simple physical manipulation, an area stroke patients would be focused on.

"So, I thought, what did I have for Joey?" he said.

Tamaka opened the show by having Joey wheeled to center stage. Taking Joey's hand, he showed the audience a small, red ball. He explained to Joey what he was doing. He had Joey feel the ball and manipulate it for a moment. He then had Joey close his hand on the ball.

When he opened his hand, there were two balls. Tamaka had him count them. Joey was surprised and his face lit up.

For the next few minutes, Tamaka made the balls double, then revert to single balls and even vanish. All the while he was using Joey's hands. This was not part of the planned show, but it was working for Joey and the rest of the children were enjoying it.

"Then I had a magic wand routine where I gave the large wand to him, had him feel it, then I had him wave his hand over the top of the wand and it turned into a feather flower," Tamaka said.

The audience gasped and Joey could hear their oohs and aahs. Tamaka had Joey examine the flower by feeling it and explained what magic Joey had performed. His response was an enthusiastic, "Yeah!" For the rest of the show, Joey was fully involved.

After the show, Joey showed Tamaka little Christmas stockings that he was making for his family and said, "I want you to have one." This meant quite a lot to Tamaka. His performance had not only made a connection with Joey, but also the staff. That February, the nurse who was assigned to look after Joey called. Joey had passed away, but she had a message on his behalf: "Thank you for giving him the best Christmas party ever."

Other performances have been on reservations, such as those serving the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Tamaka incorporates native story telling in those performances, but he always seeks the permission of the tribe from which the particular story comes. In doing so, he demonstrates his respect for others.

Tamaka also teaches classes in the Choctaw language. He believes if you're going to understand your culture and remember the stories of your ancestors, it helps to know the language used when those traditions and stories were formed. With a little thought, he incorporates Native American stories and Choctaw vocabulary into his illusions to make the performances more entertaining and informative.

For example, he explained the Choctaw and Chickasaw languages were closely related. He noted the Choctaw were the first tribe forced to walk the Trail of Tears, followed by the Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek, and Seminole tribes. It is not surprising, then, that Oklahoma Territory is Choctaw for Red Nation. In this case, we are only talking about understanding one word in Choctaw – *Oklahoma* – but it adds texture to the story of the Trail of Tears.

"My whole reason behind doing magic is to teach, entertain, or put a smile on one's face," Tamaka said.

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# Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

## **“Accidental Magician” Dwight Redman Steps Down at Ring 50 (Washington, DC) Celebration After Serving with Purpose a Dozen Years as Territorial Vice President**

Dwight Redman attended his first I.B.M. meeting in 2003. It was an auction, and he was trying to help buy tricks for his son Eric. But it seems Dwight caught “the magic bug” as much as Eric.

Some twenty-two years later, after more than a decade of service as the Territorial Vice President, Dwight Redman is stepping down. He was celebrated at the April 2 meeting of Ring 50 at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Virginia, with performances in his honor by illustrious magicians including Chris Capehart, honored as only the fourteenth Ring 50 magician ever to receive the Sabar Award, and toasted by scores of friends and family.

“I had no idea Ring 50 would be such a part of my life,” said Redman, as he accepted the Sabar Award from the last recipient, 2023 honoree Larry Lipman. “I call myself the Accidental Magician.” Whatever the case, it appears to be no accident that Redman has won the Dan Lacey Competition (Ring 50’s annual competition) twice.

Redman’s now-adult son Eric did not see it as accidental. He said his father did offer him great support, but he also said, “There was a competition in the house,” and that Dwight Redman soon started performing tricks for clients in his insurance business.

Redman’s duties included representing



*(l to r): Sabar Award recipient Larry Lipman honors his successor, Dwight Redman. Ring 50 has only received thirteen prior Sabar Awards in its history. • Dwight Redman cuts the cake surrounded by family (daughter-in-law Jessica Redman, grandson Eric “Sage” Redman, son Eric Redman, wife Crystal Redman, daughter Donna Redman, and son Derik Redman).*



(l to r): Chris Capehart honors Dwight Redman with a performance of his famous linking rings. • Noland Montgomery busks Dwight Redman with some powerful sleight of hand and an envelope prediction hustle. • Teo and Jessica Redman, Eric's wife, risk shredding Dwight's license. • Barry Taylor unfurls his huge rabbit silk with the help of Dwight Redman and Redman's grandson Sage.

Ring 50 at international and regional I.B.M. events, swearing in new chapter officers every year, and leading Broken Wand ceremonies for deceased members.

A dozen magicians performed a wide range of tricks across several genres to honor Redman, an accomplished semi-professional magician who performs at venues such as Poe's Theater in Baltimore, Maryland. Poe's owner Vince Wilson hailed Redman as a "great ambassador for magic," and performed a mentalism piece assuring the audience that he could discern whether a given spectator was capable of murder based on cards they chose from the old Clue board game.

Capehart offered a more lighthearted performance, claiming to use his Jedi mind powers to move objects, and doing a version of his famous "Linking Rings" routine for the crowd, including the two Redmans, who have appeared as perhaps the only father and son performers on the cover of *The Linking Ring*.

Noland Montgomery performed a "street busking" sponge ball routine with great legerdemain and called on Redman to pick an envelope and win a priceless prize, audience applause, even though the suspecting spectator lost out on the envelopes with the cash prizes. Theo Rushin Jr., who goes by the stage name Teo, a former Ring 50 member and former president of Assembly 23 of the Society of American Magicians (for which Dwight served as the long-time treasurer) performed a trick in which he took Dwight's driver's license, placed it in an envelope that was mixed with other identical envelopes. With Jessica Redman, Eric's wife, making the selections, Teo fed the envelopes into a shredder until only one remained. Thankfully, it contained Dwight's license. Long-time Barry's Magic Shop proprietor, Barry Taylor, who retired from that business several years ago, brought a few roast lines, but also produced a rabbit in a hat (on a huge silk) with the help of Dwight Redman and his grandson Sage. *Todd A. Eisenstadt*

## Sean Taylor Lectures in Singapore Ring 115

Titled "Looking Forward to the Past," this lecture by Sean Taylor from Australia took place on the evening of April 14, 2025, at the Drama Centre. The event attracted an attendance of forty-two people, thirty-seven of whom were members of Singapore Ring 115. We could relate to this title as Sean Taylor and his lovely wife Diana had been to Sin-

gapore in the past, also delivering a lecture to us. This was more than twenty years ago.

**4 Gone Illusion:** After an introduction by our host Tommy Kian, Sean got four spectators to each look at a card from a deck. He took a card from the deck and put it inside an envelope. He claimed that this card represented all the four cards chosen by the four



spectators. The card turned out to be a joker – jokers are wild, claimed Sean. Just as everyone thought that was a bad joke, the four cards seen by the four spectators vanished from the deck. They were each reproduced separately from Sean’s different pockets.

**The Final Stop:** In his second effect, Sean had a spectator deal to any card. That card was the exact card found in an envelope he placed in full view at the start. He explained another version which used an imaginary deck of cards.

**Symbology Deck:** Sean introduced us to his Symbology Deck. He had three spectators each cut to a card, and he could divine the symbol and colour of each of the three selected cards. After explaining the concept behind this clever deck of symbols cards, Sean showed how, with some Symbology gaff cards, he could perform a version of Paul Gordon’s “Ten Card Poker,” an “Out of this World,” and other effects possible with ordinary playing cards.

An interval allowed us to purchase Sean Taylor’s effects at a table manned by his wife Diana. After the break, Sean proceeded with stand-up and mentalism effects.

**One:** Sean had one spectator merely imagine taking a card from an imaginary

deck of cards and inserting it inside an empty black envelope which was then placed inside another red envelope for safe keeping. Imagination became reality. When the spectator named his chosen card, the red envelope was torn apart and the black envelope inside it now contained the very card named by the spectator.

**Survivor Game:** This effect involved the entire audience. We all chose between two opposite items, such as dog and cat, hot or cold, city or country, etc. Each time this happened, an envelope was opened and all who chose the predicted object inside it remained standing, the rest got to sit down. After several rounds, two spectators remained, and they chose two items between them, e.g., Chinese or Italian. The final envelope was opened and one of them was the only one left standing. A prediction by the performer described the details of this person correctly, the gender and how he or she was dressed.

**PsyCon Confabulation:** A lottery was fabricated using four spectators who each named a different number. Sean took out his wallet. Inside his wallet was an envelope. Inside this envelope was a written message to his wife to purchase the exact four numbers for Saturday’s lottery draw. This is a nice version of Alan Shaxon’s “Confabulation.”





**Pineapple Surprise:** This is an all-time favourite effect of Sean's. A spectator freely named a playing card. A deck of cards was shown to have various fruit items written on the backs of each playing card. The named card had "pineapple" written on its back. An unlabeled metal can visible all the time was opened and inside were pineapple slices.

It was an entertaining evening as Sean

was an engaging lecturer. As he explained the genesis of each of his effects, we got to appreciate his creativity in his thinking. In the lecture, we learned several special envelopes used by Sean, such as his Pro Envelope, and his version of the Kismet envelope.

After his lecture, we took photographs with Sean and continued to patronise his dealer's table.

*John Teo*

## Huntsville, Alabama Ring 194's Studio 60 Fundraiser

Ring 194 gathered to perform two public shows to raise funds for Studio 60 Senior Adult Center of Huntsville, Alabama on March 22. The shows were at 2 and 6 p.m. with close-up magic during the intermissions and balloon animals after the shows. This event only went smoothly because the entertainment was top notch, and the staff of Studio 60 handled the ticket sales and concession stand. Julie and Derrick grilled hamburgers for Ring 194 members between shows.

Brett Boyer dressed in tails and top hat, opened the shows with flowers appearing from everywhere, and performed many other effects including "Hole Card" and

Rocky Raccoon finding the chosen card. Brett introduced emcee Jared Cassidy, who told jokes, did a Kabuki Streamer, and a "City Prediction" to fill in gaps between performers. Kevin O'Connell performed as Mario the Magician in Mario dress, producing flowers and umbrellas before moving on to scarf juggling and plate spinning. Patrick Brunson executed his Parkinson's Disease comedy magic called Tremors. Ventriloquist Preacher Jack Jones' dummy impersonated Elvis which brought lots of laughs. Trace Cooper demonstrated several magic feats ending with a guillotine finale with a brave young girl volunteer.



(l to r): Brett Boyer. • Jared Cassidy. • Kevin O'Connell. • Patrick Brunson. • Preacher Jack Jones and vent. • Trace Cooper.



(l to r): Russ Payton. • David Thompson. • Matt Growden. • Matt Adams. • Dean Carter.

Intermission brought close-up magic by Matt Growden, Brett Boyer, Derrick Born, and first-time public show entertainer, Evan Tate. The second half opened with father and son, Russ and Payton Ward's "Murder Mystery Prediction" with several audience members. Comic Dean Carter performed "Sponge Ball Cooties" and "Linking Rings" to music. David Thompson ate and handled fire, ending with a straight jacket routine with one hundred feet of chain and locks added. President Matt Growden performed the "Professor's Nightmare" and "Starcle" with an audience member. Matt Adams

closed the shows with "Think a Drink Hypnosis/100th Monkey" effect and ended with the Losander floating table and the vanish of that table.

Studio 60 staff was led by Julie Born. Balloon animals and swords after the show were created by Jack Jones, Brett Boyer, and Krystal Harrison. Steve Cassidy handled lights and sound. The stagehands who pulled curtains, lined up the entertainers, passed microphones, told David Thompson to be quiet, and moved tables of magic quickly on and off stage were Bill Warren, Gaven Albright, and Glenn Rudolph. *Patrick Brunson*

## Ring 402 (Zaragoza, Spain) Holds the First National Comic Magic Contest

On Saturday, January 15, the first National Comic Magic Contest took place at El Sótano Mágico in Zaragoza, organized by the local venue and the Ring 402. Juan Colás, the young magician from Salamanca, earned the recognition of both the jury and the audience with a hilarious magic act that captivated everyone in attendance.

On March 15th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., the highly anticipated first National Comic Magic Contest began, held at El Sótano Mágico in Zaragoza. Already an emerging landmark for the magical arts in Spain, the contest was organized by Ring 402. The event was graced by the honorable presence of Pedro Olloqui, who is a member of Ring 402, the general director of culture for the Government of Aragón, and a distinguished jury comprising some of the most celebrated magicians on the national and international stage: Enric Magoo (Badalona), World

Magic Award Winner; Jaime Figueroa (Madrid), International Magic Award Winner; Fernando Arribas (Valladolid), International Magic Award Winner; Javi el Mago (Zaragoza), National Magic Award Winner; Franduval (Zaragoza), serving as jury president and Honorary President of the Magic Association; and Helena Perdomo (Ring 402) served as host and presenter of the event, performing an impeccable job. Her exceptional ability to improvise between each participant allowed ample time to set up each magical act, winning over the audience from the very beginning, a challenging task given that some participants required significant preparation time for their performances.

Contestants from all over Spain gathered for this first edition, which generated enormous anticipation. The organization even had to reject many applications due to the

overwhelming interest. Among the selected finalists were: Óliver (Basque Country) giving a performance in which a single magician portrays multiple characters of different nationalities, blending magic and humor; David Navares (Madrid), a street magic specialist, with a “Cups and Balls” routine that left the audience in stitches and ended with a surprising finale. Mag-Diver (Barcelona’s Ring 401) presented an illusionist act brimming with rhythm and magic, set to the tune of 1920s New Orleans music; Albert Vidal (Sabadell) who offered an original act where the magician’s very own clothing comes to life; Magic José (Cádiz) whose magic was delivered with Andalusian charm, enchanting the audience with a unique style; Kachinochevé (Santa Pola), a lovable yet theatrical character who charmed spectators with the appearance of a giant teddy bear and his iconic magical phrase; Juan Colás (Salamanca) performed a combination of theater and magic in a performance full of comedic twists; Brando (Ring 401) with a hilarious routine inspired by everyday life

mishaps; Juan Capilla (Zaragoza), the renowned illusionist from Zaragoza captivated the audience with dynamic and original acts; and Magomino and Arthur (Logroño), a comic-magic duo with an unexpected and brilliant finale.

The venue, El Sótano Mágico, remained packed throughout the day, with an enthusiastic audience fully immersed in the magical atmosphere. Applause, cheers, laughter, and ovations accompanied every performance, creating a unique and unforgettable atmosphere.

The technical aspects of the event were masterfully handled by Pepín Banzo, ensuring flawless music and lighting. Additionally, the support of several members of Ring 402 (Zaragoza’s Magic Association) proved essential to the event’s coordination: they oversaw stage management, attended to the artists and jury, and controlled the timing, among other key tasks.

At 2:00 p.m., the winners of this first edition were announced as follows: First Prize, Juan Colás (Salamanca); Second Prize



*The winners and those who presented the awards (left to right): Pedro Olloqui (director general of culture for the Government of Aragón and Ring 402 member), Pepín Banzo (event organizer and Ring 402 member), Óliver (second prize), Albert Vidal (third prize), Juan Colás (first prize), Marta Buigas (owner of Tienda Magia), and Helena Perdomo (event organizer and president of Ring 402)*



Óliver (Basque Country); and Third Prize, Albert Vidal (Sabadell). The prizes included €1,000 plus a trophy for the first-place winner, €500 plus a trophy for second place, and magic items worth €300 (donated by two magic shops, Magosartesanos and Tiendamagia) plus a trophy for third place. The trophies, crafted by Aragonese luthier Pablo Morales, were a resounding success.



*First prize winner Juan Colás.*

El Sótano Mágico reaffirms its commitment to promoting magic and humor as vehicles of culture and entertainment.

At 6:00 p.m., the Winners' Gala took place before a full house, with a "sold out" sign displayed. The gala began with a musical presentation by Helena Perdomo and Pepín Banzo. The three contest winners showcased their acts, and as a delightful surprise, two of the jury members, Enric Magoo and Fernando Arribas, also joined in, thrilling the audience with their performances. Additionally, the gala's presenter, Jaime Figueroa, conducted the event masterfully, leaving the crowd roaring with laughter thanks to his original ventriloquism acts.

Based on the feedback from the audience and participants, the future of this event is guaranteed, with plans already underway for next year. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

*Helena Perdomo*

## **First "Twinning" Between Magical Brotherhoods Ring 401 (Barcelona, Spain) and Ring 402 (Zaragoza, Spain)**

A remarkable connection has been established between two vibrant magical communities: Ring 401 of Barcelona (Spain) and Ring 402 of Zaragoza (Spain). This historic twinning brought together the magic and camaraderie of both groups, resulting in an unforgettable exchange of talent, ideas, and tradition.

The festivities began on March 8, when the troupe of magicians from Ring 401, Brando (President of Ring 401), Silvana, Mc Guay, and Gonza Martini graced the stage of El Sótano Mágico in Zaragoza. Their arrival marked the beginning of an inspiring day filled with learning, wonder, and awe.

The morning started with a highly engaging and insightful lecture by the brilliant Mc Guay, focusing on the art of rope magic. Sharing his innovative ideas, personal perspectives, and the delicate subtleties honed throughout his professional career, Mc Guay captivated the audience of fellow magicians and enthusiasts. The session offered invaluable insights into the craft and served as a

testament to the endless creativity within the magical world.

As the day unfolded, excitement built for the grand gala in the packed venue of El Sótano Mágico. The gala, a dazzling showcase by the talented Ring 401 magicians, was hosted by the charismatic Brando, who entertained the audience with some of his finest tricks while seamlessly introducing the performers.

Silvana enchanted the crowd with two mesmerizing acts of Chinese shadow puppetry, bringing graceful artistry to the stage.

Mc Guay left everyone spellbound with a masterful rope routine followed by his signature floating table illusion, an awe-inspiring feat considering the table's weight and its casual use throughout the act.

The evening concluded with Gonza Martini, whose unmatched mastery of soap bubbles combined with smoke and fire left the audience in rapturous applause. Each bubble, lit with magic and mystery, transformed the room into a realm of wonder.



*(Back row) McGuay, Silvana, Brando (president of Ring 401), Pepín Banzo, Deive, Franduval, Erasmus Lestér, Juanca. (Front row) Helena Perdomo (president of Ring 402), Martínez, Zenit, Elena and Pablo Fernández.*



*McGuay, Brando, Gonza Martini, Helena Perdomo (president of Ring 402), Silvana.*



*Helena, Zenit, Pablo, Martínez, Erasmus, Gato y Pepin in Barcelona.*

Two weeks later, on March 30, the magic traveled to Barcelona as Ring 402 returned the favor, performing at the renowned La Casa dels Contes theater. The event featured an equally extraordinary gala, organized and hosted by Helena Perdomo (President of Ring 402) and Pepín Banzo, who delighted the audience with their live music introductions for every act. The lineup demonstrated the diversity and creativity of Zaragoza's magicians: Macao's Cat unveiled a spell-binding, seemingly endless production of Dragon Eggs; Zenit, the youngest magician of the group, wowed the audience with an intellectual and deeply engaging mentalism act centered around the mathematical concept of the square root of two; Erasmus Lestér transported the crowd through time with a brilliantly executed routine, immersing everyone in a thrilling journey through history; and Martínez the Magician closed his act by showcasing Zaragoza's cultural traditions, culminating in a stunning production of delicate paper butterflies, earning thunderous applause.

Finally, Pepín Banzo and Helena Perdomo performed the most exceptional version of "The Traveling Die" ever created. This acclaimed routine was recently published in the latest volume of *El Puerco Sabio*, a renowned work by Panamanian magician Marko, further attesting to the brilliance of their performance.

Beyond the performances, the experience was enriched by the lively preshow gatherings, where both Rings shared local cuisine, exchanged magical ideas, and built lasting friendships. These moments of camaraderie and collaboration highlighted the true essence of the magical community – a shared passion for creating wonder and inspiration.

This extraordinary twinning of the Rings was not only a celebration of magic but also a testament to the strength of shared traditions and the joy of creative exchange. Without a doubt, this intense and rewarding experience will lead to many more magical encounters in the future.

*Pepin Banzo*



## From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD

“It’s fun to be fooled!” proclaimed Horace Goldin, but it seems that The Magic Circle did not agree. Thirty years ago, on the very day that the Circle admitted its first female members (ninety years too late, some might argue), they simultaneously expelled Sophie Lloyd; in an apparently spiteful gesture to punish her for joining four years earlier under false pretences, taking the name of Raymond Lloyd and presenting herself as a man. They failed to grasp the irony in the fact that Sophie had pulled off the ultimate transformation illusion, worthy of Lafayette himself.

What is more, they also failed to recognise the fact that Sophie had passed her examination before a panel of judges, even when wearing gloves to disguise her feminine hands, so her skill was never in question. Apparently, they assessed her working in a club, and she even had a drink with one of the examiners afterwards without her identity being suspected.

Sophie took about two years to develop her male character, adopting a croaky voice, blaming laryngitis, and, as she was only five feet, two inches tall, posing as a teenager. She subsequently performed magic for ten years before going to live in Spain, where she worked for animal rescue.

In a further twist of irony, recently appointed TMC Chair Laura London (itself a refreshing turn up for the books) has spent much of her time recently presenting Sophie to the media, gaining for the Circle more publicity than it has ever had with a single story. One must never underestimate TMC’s ability to spin a negative into a positive.

I happened to be in London when the story broke, initially on the BBC’s flagship *Today* programme before spinning off into numerous breakfast TV shows, and I had the

pleasure of meeting Sophie at the Circle headquarters.

Our pictures, courtesy of Sophie herself and Brendan Rodrigues, show her performing as Raymond in 1991, and in female attire with her original Magic Circle certificate. Another shows her with her new one, as she has now been reinstated.



A Venn diagram based upon magic clubs in the United Kingdom would show significant overlaps, as most magicians belong to more than one society. This is particularly the case with the links between the British Ring 25 and the Northern Magic Circle. Over the years we have shared many members, including members of council and several presidents.

This year, the NMC convention took place over Easter weekend at its traditional venue of the Crown Hotel in Harrogate. The accompanying poster image will give you some idea of what went on. Reviewer Geoffrey Newton commented, “When seeing the



initials NMC we think of the Northern Magic Circle, but in this instance I would like to see it as the New Magic Concept, as the gala show had a new style of presentation.”



I compered the show, which opened with seasoned performer Stuart Brown, showcasing his manipulation act incorporating a dancing handkerchief routine which has been taken to new dimensions.

Comedy came in the form of the manic magician Peter Dean. Geoffrey says: “He basically presented Knife Through Coat, with the assistance of three young girls from the audience. In fact, he used a wand through coat – a wise decision these days which others may like to emulate. A huge laugh came when he pulled some of the insulation lining from the jacket; another inspired bit of business.”



*Peter Dean's "Wand Through Jacket."*

We were privileged to have with us the stars of *West End Magic*, London's longest-running magic show. Presenting highly entertaining extracts were former British Ring

President Oliver Tabor, Vicky Butterfly, and Wayne Trice. Oliver, producing, catching, and manipulating bubbles, paved the way for Wayne, who presented comedy using the Electronic Release behind a curtain, along the lines of the Substitution Trunk drape.

Oliver made a young volunteer from the audience into a magician, unexpectedly producing a live dove. Then *The Glamourists* took to the stage, featuring Vicky Butterfly, with a dance routine in an illuminated costume involving many lights and a constantly changing colour sequence. The first half ended with all the cast on stage for a confetti/snowstorm finale.



*Oliver Tabor: making a magician.*



*Vicky Butterfly.*

The second half was in the hands of Dave Loosley, who had recently become The Magic Circle Close-Up Magician of the Year, but on this occasion in the guise of a stage performer.



*Dave Loosley.*



(l to r): Marilyn Lord and Rick Tynan. • Outgoing President Doug Gregg, his lady Yvette, and incoming President Alan Clarke. • Roy Field with iconic poster.

CONVENTION PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEMMA TYNAN.

Lectures were presented by Dave, Vinny Sago (the proprietor of Neo Magic), and Geoffrey Newton himself, proving that all the tricks he has created for the *Key Ring* magazine (the UK's answer to the *Linking Ring*) really do work, and are simple but effective.

Each year, a lecture is dedicated to a person who has contributed significantly to the Circle, and this year it was late President John Tattersall. John's daughter Marilyn was there, making a special presentation to Rick Tynan following his *Alchemy* lecture, full of flashes and bangs and scientific experiments, proving Arthur C. Clarke's contention that "any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Demonstrations included a hydrostatic glass which threatened to soak President Gregg and the Möbius Strip, known magically as the Afghan Bands. It was all very entertaining as well as educational.

*Magic on the Air* was a potted history of radio magic from former radio producer Ian Fenn. His fascinating sound clips included the first allusion to a radio conjuror, which turned out to be a gag, and the famous excerpts of Lesley Piddington, who suffered from claustrophobia, reading minds in a diving bell to the accompaniment of dripping water, and the controversial foghorn which coincidentally went off during one of her live broadcasts, leading to all sorts of theories.

Current British Ring President Aidan Heritage was also with us, with a selection of

film clips of master magicians of the past. We were treated to footage of Jeffery Atkins with his Floating Princess illusion, the immaculate manipulations of Geoffrey Buckingham, Eddie Dawes introducing Jon Marshall as Stanley Collins in WW1 uniform, Tony Shelly's nap hand, the David Berglas levitating table, Ali Bongo performing his pom-pom routine in three foreign languages simultaneously, Brian Miller with his coloured doves, Alan Shaxon's trademark gas mantle, Terry Herbert as the Great Fiasco and Mark Raffles concluding his exemplary pickpocket act with the production of live chicks from beneath three silver cups.

I'll come back to Joy Spencer's talk on her parents, mind-readers Ron and Nancy, in a future edition. She formed part of a History of Mystery session, in which Geoffrey Newton (that man again!) focused upon Tommy Cooper and the part he played in the creation of a memorial statue in his birthplace of Caerphilly. A highlight was a demonstration of the nesting Martini bottles actually used by Cooper in a television clip, with an amended Martini label to prevent advertising. Roy Field (no stranger to these pages) showed and spoke about an iconic Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco poster from 1907, which had been used by Will Goldston to wrap up a sliding die box prop for the late Paul Freeman, while Doug Gregg explained the origin of a splendid toucan prop, as created by Louis Histed. I introduced a 111-year-old vent figure used by the female ventriloquist

Josephine Langley during the Great War, so there was plenty of historic variety.

The convention also had a well-attended children's show (as incoming Chairman Stuart Clarkson commented, "It's always a good sign when more and more chairs need to be set out!"), a welcome meal with a quick-trick cabaret, and a close-up competition which was won by James Piatt of Middlesbrough.

*Chairman Stuart Clarkson and President Doug Gregg with close-up winner James Piatt (centre).*



## ***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*.



# Youth Trivia Contest



**June's Question:** *Who delivered the first full-evening performance of conjuring in the venue eventually known as "London's Home of Mystery"?*

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

**March's Question:** In the first half of the 1900s, someone first performed an effect during which the conjuror seemed to be aware of what was going to appear in the news, long before the events occurred. *What do we call this, and who is generally credited with originating this effect?*

Several Youth members did send us answers to this month's question. Unfortunately, none of them responded with the correct answer. Here's what we were hoping that you'd tell us.

*The creative icon we know as Stewart James was born John George Stewart James in 1908, in Courtright, Ontario, Canada. It's a small community situated along the St. Clair River on Canada's border with the United States, about forty miles northeast of Detroit, Michigan. He lived in that tiny town his whole life, with the exception of a brief stint in the military performing to entertain the troops during World War II.*

*According to Stewart James himself, his interest in the art of magic was sparked around the time of his seventh birthday, when he heard someone describe the exciting experience of witnessing Howard Thurston's magic show. He soon acquired a copy of Ellis Stanyon's book, *Conjuring for Amateurs*, and the hook was set.*

*His parents were strict and restrictive, to a degree that today might be considered to be cruel. His mother and father seemed to disapprove of almost everything that he did,*

*and they didn't permit him to interact with other children. Stewart wasn't even allowed to attend school until he was seven years old. Socially, he was completely isolated.*

*By his own admission, Stewart James was not a particularly good student in school. His social awkwardness certainly didn't help his situation. He didn't have the opportunity to mingle with other people who were interested in magic, but he did have access to magazines and other periodicals at the church he and his family attended. One of these papers was *Boy's World*, and there was magic included in almost every issue. He read and reread every magic article he could find. He also ordered magic tricks through the mail.*

*The young boy waited eagerly by the mailbox, but when the packages containing his magic arrived, his father always intercepted, opened, and inspected the apparatus and instructions before Stewart was allowed to handle it. He soon realized that his father wanted to learn the secrets of the tricks; the father didn't want to be fooled by his son.*

*At a very young age, Stewart James learned to view his father's paranoia as a sort of a challenge. He studied every trick that he received, and then invented a new and different method for the effect – one that was completely baffling. The reactions from his befuddled father were a tremendous reward for his creativity, and so, that creativity blossomed.*

*His first tricks were published when he was about sixteen years old, and he never stopped, or even slowed in his ingenuity.*

*When WWII broke out, he left his small-town home for a few years and served in the Army, where he eventually was assigned to the military component responsible for entertaining the troops. He performed magic for the soldiers all over Europe for almost three years before returning to Courtright. He became a mail-carrier for the Post Office Department of the Canadian government for the next two decades, and he occasionally performed magic shows for most of his life, but he was always inventing new effects, and new methods for existing effects.*



*A thirty-one-year-old Stewart James.*

*Prior to the start of WWII, Stewart James conceived a new type of effect: a newspaper headline prediction. He contrived a seemingly innocent device that would securely store a written prediction of a future newspaper headline. The effect was eventually named "Headline Sensation." In September of 1938, he penned his prediction of the headline that would appear in The Buffalo Evening News, one year in advance. The prediction was sealed inside of a brass tube, placed inside of a block of wood, and locked inside of a small metal chest. The whole contraption was then held in the locked vault of the police department in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada for a full year. The expectation and publicity were tremendous. When the chest, block, and tube were unsealed in 1939, one year later, Stewart James's prediction of The Buffalo Evening News headline was found*

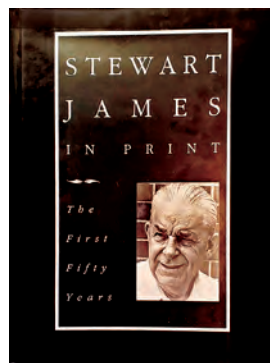
*to be exactly correct: "World War Threatened, Germany Attacks Poland."*



*Stewart James with the "Headline Sensation" apparatus that was kept by the Fort Erie Police Department for a full year prior to the reveal.*

*Stewart James is not known to have ever again performed this effect. However, later in 1939, Abbott's Magic Novelty Company began marketing "Headline Sensation" for the astonishing price of \$25.00 US currency.*

*It's important to note that, in 1935, Ted Annemann published a method that could be used for predictions called "An Original Faked Envelope." He was reported to have used it to predict the outcomes of elections and horse races, but not a newspaper headline.*



*Stewart James In Print, a three-kilogram/seven-pound tome that was the largest magic book ever published at the time and includes the instructions for "Headline Sensation."*

*Terms like "legend" and "genius" might be used a bit too often, but in this case, they're certainly appropriate. Stewart James*

was one of the most prolific – if not the most prolific – creators and inventors in the history of magic. When *Stewart James in Print: The First Fifty Years* was released, it was the largest magic book every published. It held more than four hundred effects and routines, inside of over one thousand pages. A follow-on set was released in 2000. Titled *The James File*, it was split into two volumes totaling nearly two thousand six hundred pages, and it contained more than five hundred and sixty tricks. The index was bound as a separate volume and had over one hundred twenty pages.

You've probably seen or performed magic effects that were created by Stewart James. He's responsible for the card tricks "Further Than That" and "Miraskill," non-card tricks like the numerous individual effects from "Sefalajia" including the "Astro Ball Cabinet" and hundreds of others. Many of his tricks and publications include the name "Jogestja," or are distributed by "Jogestja Ltd." "Jogestja" is a name made from the first two letters from each of the four names in his full name, John George Stewart James.

You can find more information about the magic and history of Stewart James in books, including *Stewart James in Print: The First Fifty Years*, by Stewart James and edited by Howard Lyons and Allan Slaight, *The James File*, Volumes 1 and 2, by Allan Slaight, and the significantly more accessible *The Essential Stewart James*, compiled and edited by Allan Slaight. There's also a lot of information in past issues of periodical publications, including *Genii*, *MAGIC*, *The Jinx*, and *The Linking Ring*.

*Stewart James died in 1996.*

If you mailed us an answer to this month's question, but you didn't mail us the correct answer, please try, try again! These questions can be obscure, and they aren't written to be easily answered using Internet search engines. Bring your copy of *The Linking Ring* to your local Ring meeting and ask some of the older magicians to help you find the answer. Show the whole world how much you know, get your name printed in the pages of *The Linking Ring*, and win some fantastic prizes from one of our finest brick-and-mortar magic shops!

## Calling All Youth Members!

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

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

Make certain that you include some references. If we decide to use your question, we'll send you either a pallet of "Scripps National Spelling Be 100th Anniversary" T-shirts, or a really cool magic book – our choice.

See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 143 and mail your responses to the address above.  
Answers must be postmarked by July 20, 2025.





## Celebrity Chaser?

Upon looking through a professional's photograph albums and boxes of letters, we might conclude, if we didn't know him (or her) well, that he had been a celebrity chaser (or worshipper) – that is, someone with a desire for recognition positioning himself within certain circles to appear as though they are friends.

Nothing could be further off the mark. All their lives many of the pros I have been privileged to know sought “the best and the brightest” (to borrow from David Halberstam), not to bask in their glory, not to name drop, certainly not to feed their own ego or any delusions of grandeur, but to learn much more than they could learn in libraries or through the media, and in person to express respect, sometimes near-reverence, for their enormous talent.

These often formative and distinguished encounters also gave them a lift of creative excitement and a surge of inspiration for their own work. Sometimes they led to more work and lifelong friendships.

“The force of a gifted and imaginative personality,” wrote Jeffrey Meyers in his superb *Privileged Moments: Encounters with Writers*, “is compelling and seductive.”

Many pros are insatiably curious about another's inner world, the creative process, and the relation between the rival claims of life and art, the public image and the real self. How did they advance their careers? How did they respond to criticism? How did feuds and quarrels start and end? How did they struggle financially and yet go on creating despite conflicting urges and illnesses

and mental problems and problematic marriages?

These are not idle questions. They are among the audacious many, Meyers insists, that are too hard to ignore and that we must dare to ask. But we can do so only on the celebrity's own turf, away from the megaphone of mass media and the intrusive lens of the paparazzi.

For this reason, among many, I have sought out high achievers in every field, including magic, along with politics and academics and music. With few exceptions I have found them to be all smiles, sympathetic, conscientious and kind, generous with advice. In every instance I have worked hard to show my respect and to earn their trust.

To enter the creative arena and join an ongoing cultural continuity of admirers, to learn from those experiences, and then through my writings and talks to share (always with the subject's permission) some of what I have discovered – is for me deeply enriching.

I have even released some of those photos for publication. Through the 1970s and 1980s Bill Larsen, Jr. in *Genii*, Neil Foster in *The New Tops*, and Phil Willmarth in *The Linking Ring* were especially generous to use them. They understood their historical importance.

But to do so risks being misunderstood. When I shared with Bill that I seemed to have provoked ill will among a few readers after my photos began to appear in print, he said to me: “Don't worry about someone's pettiness. Everyone does what you are

doing. Milt does it. I do it. It's part of our industry, and it's fun. Just look at the photos from our many years of the Awards show."

The seeds for my own curiosity in this regard were planted in me because of my remarkable parents.

After our father passed in 2005, my brother, Glenn, and I inherited his rolodex files with over 2,500 names and contact information of the famous and influential; and along with hundreds of letters from university presidents, authors, and politicians, boxes of cherished photographs depicting our parents with those they admired.

I remember so well when he called me from a New York publishers' conference to share with great excitement news of his meeting with Nobel Laureate Saul Bellow. ("The kind of talent," he said, "that takes your breath away.") Later, back home, he turned with renewed energy to his own writing projects.

My mother, too, couldn't contain her jubilation after spending some private time with the great Van Cliburn following his concert. Later, she turned to her piano with renewed fire and passion and precision.

Once tasted, this appetite never lessens. My own first experience occurred at ten years old when, thanks to my father's initiative, I met the acclaimed poet, Robert Frost, at Amherst College, Massachusetts, where he was visiting as writer-in-residence. His tender concern, like that of a grandfather and as if I were the only person in the world, affected me deeply. I even presented, to his delight, a card trick!

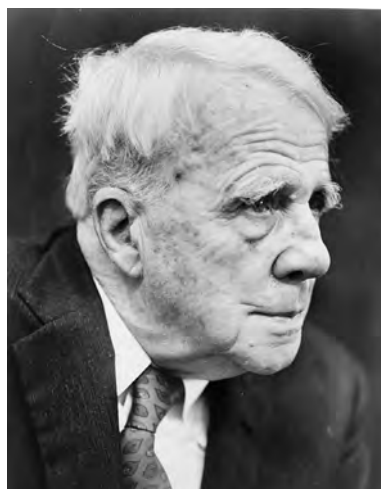
Since that meeting more decades have fled than I wish to admit, but something of its power and vividness stays with me. Whenever I visit my hometown, I lodge at The Lord Jeffrey Inn (now the Inn on Boltwood) in Room 6, which was Frost's residence when he stayed there.

Places, like photos (moments frozen in time), help to keep a person's memory alive. They direct our minds to something important which we might otherwise have missed. They may even inspire.

I'm sure my readers will agree, therefore,



*We never know where an encounter might lead us. Karrell Fox's private performance of a card trick for Henry Ford, Jr. led to a lifetime contract with the Ford Motor Company.*



*As a child, Dale met the acclaimed poet Robert Frost, whose kindness made a profound impression on him.*

Photo credit: Walter Albertin, World Telegram staff photographer – Library of Congress. New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection.

when I say how deep the sense of gratitude takes hold when we consider where magic has taken us, the doors it has opened, the people we have met – many of whom started in magic, too (see, for example, the web site *Celebrities Who Are [Were] Also Magicians*).



*"Good job, kid," said Frank Sinatra after seeing Dale's performance. On five occasions he was privileged to meet with Ol' Blue Eyes. Few encounters have inspired him so profoundly.*



*Every generation seeks out the famous and influential. In 1926, when his pal Bob Hope was just starting out, "Monk" Watson booked him again and again into the La Salle Garden Theatre where "Monk" appeared with his band. Over the years they golfed together and visited on Bob's movie locations. Photo credit: George Vallillee, Battle Creek Enquirer & News, December 7, 1974.*

When I study past photos of those posing with producers, senators, actors still living or now passed on, or when I see rightly celebrated pictures of current magicians with genuine celebrities, I feel a special affinity and think, "How wonderful you had this experience. Thank you for sharing that with us."



*Don Rickles and Dale connected often ("Ah, the magician!" he said each time), including a visit to the Magic Castle where, along with Bob Newhart and their wives, he watched Al Goshman in close-up and then Dale and Mike Caveney on the brunch show.*



*A warm friendship developed between Jane Thurston Shepherd, daughter of the great Howard Thurston, and Dale, here pictured outside her San Diego home where she lived with her husband, Dick.*

For I know the thrill and appreciate how my own encounters have positively affected not only my magic but also my attitude about our industry and my career plans – all fruitful topics for future columns. If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't do anything differently, only more.

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



# Magic and

# Memories

David Ginn



## My Ten Stolen Minutes

By the time I became a senior at Gordon High School in DeKalb County, Georgia, magic played a huge part of my life. Though I was only six years into my lifelong hobby, I already performed paying shows on a regular basis. These included church parties, picnics, schools, kindergartens, and holiday gatherings for Halloween and Christmas.



*David's high school senior yearbook photo.*

The fact that my dad, Frank Ginn, secured for me six white Java doves in August 1963 gave my act a big shot of adrenalin. Once I had the doves and Ian Adair's books, my magic career was wide open. I came home from school daily that senior year, went to the basement, and "played" with the doves almost every day. I practiced, bought tricks, and thought up new ones to see if they would work. *What fun magic was!*

In the spring of 1964, Morningside School in Atlanta hired me to perform three days of

shows for different grade levels. I even got permission to leave school early to do these performances for twenty-five dollars each (yes, seventy-five dollars for three days). Meanwhile, my classmates worked fifty to sixty hours to earn the same amount of money.

Yes, David Ginn and his magic doves provided *magical entertainment anywhere!*



*A young David during a 1964 outdoor performance for fellow students.*

During my senior year, I was paid to perform a show at my Methodist church on a Sunday night in March. When the show was over, I loaded the birds and gear into my car, then drove about seven miles to the after-church teen gathering at another church my then-girlfriend attended. By that time it was maybe eight o'clock, and probably thirty teens were at a house with a huge rec room. Everybody was sitting around drinking Cokes, eating snacks, and listening to music.

"Where have you been?" the host asked me. I told him I'd just performed a show at my home church for the children. "Does that

mean you have your show equipment outside in your car?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, yes I do."

"Then would you like to bring it inside and do it for us?"

*For free?* I thought to myself. *Hm. With my girlfriend watching me look good?*

"Yes," I said. "Get me some help bringing things inside and I'll do it."

"Everybody, attention!" the host announced. "David Ginn has just come from doing a magic show and says he will do it for us tonight! I need four volunteers to help him get his equipment inside."

I set up and performed the show, using my girlfriend for one of the audience helper tricks. I made the birds appear and disappear, and everybody loved it. Which brings us to the lead-in for this true story.

Cecil D. Pickens, who was my ninth-grade physical science teacher and eleventh-grade American history teacher, asked me to present a show for a Civitan-sponsored event for a local children's orphanage. It was on a Saturday morning, and it went very well. Monday morning at school, Mr. Pickens saw me in the hall before homeroom.

"Ginn," he said (he called everyone by his or her last name), "You did a fine show for the kids Saturday morning, and I want you to be rewarded for it."



*A 1964 yearbook photo of Cecil D. Pickens, who taught David physical science – and several life lessons.*

He pulled out his wallet, extracted a one-dollar bill, and handed it to me. "Here, take this," he said. "It's not much, but I want you to be paid for that show."

Since I was a Civitan member, I did the show as my contribution to the club, never expecting to be paid. But I've never forgotten Mr. Pickens' kindness and encouragement when he gave me that dollar.

Younger people reading this won't understand the value of one dollar in 1964. One time, that same girlfriend and I drove to downtown Atlanta, saw a movie for one dollar each, then picked up two fried peach pies and two Cokes at the Varsity for a dollar more. You could not beat a three-dollar date like that in 2025!



*Four teens at the 1963 Explorer Scout function, from l to r: Patsy Groover, Chris Roberts, Charlene Strickland, and David Ginn.*

Back to Cecil D. Pickens.

Pickens, as we all called him, was probably the most unusual character I ever had as a teacher. He ruled his classroom with an iron fist. He was totally in charge, often short and to the point, usually frightening younger high schoolers. And in the eighth grade, I was one of those frightened students.

For example, on my first day of physical science class in the eighth grade, Mr. Pickens assigned us an entire twenty-five-page textbook chapter and asked us to answer the twenty questions at the end of said chapter. This was in addition to the other five courses I was taking and whatever they assigned me that night. It was absolutely overwhelming to a thirteen-year-old.

After three days of this sort of thing, which I simply could not handle, Pickens stated, "We have forty students in this class, which is too many. I need five or ten of you, especially eighth graders, to bail out, that is *transfer out*, to somewhere else and take this course in your ninth-grade year. Anyone who wants to do that, pick up your books right now and report to the councilor's office."

Eight students immediately stood up and left the room. I was one of them. I just didn't have the experience or maturity to handle Pickens that first year of high school. After all, my idea of reading a novel was *The Lone Ranger West of Maverick Pass*, when other eighth graders were reading Steinbeck or Hemmingway.

I was braver in the ninth grade, and I purposely signed up for physical science with Pickens. I learned a lot that year, not only about science but also about teaching styles and doing homework. Let me offer you three examples of Mr. Pickens' teaching techniques.

**THE TIE TRICK.** When the bell rang, we had five minutes to change classes and get seated. Pickens stood at his doorway ushering students into class. "Come on, come on, take a seat before the door closes!" he said as we hurried.

When the bell rang again, Pickens closed the door. Immediately, he turned his back to the class and pulled his sport coat over his shirt – all the way up to the collar so you could not see underneath.

"I want everyone to take out a sheet of paper and quickly write your name and 'fourth period' at the top. Hurry! Hurry! Now, inside the paper you have five seconds to write a one-word answer to this question: What color is my necktie? Hurry, hurry! Five, four, three, two, one! Fold your papers and pass them to the head of your row, quickly. Mr. Hendrix, please collect the papers from each row, let's go, hurry, and bring them to me."

Papers in hand, Pickens gave his grade book for our class to a girl in the front row. Then he let his coat fall open—the tie was red—and many students went, "Oh!"

Pickens opened a paper. "Miss Blakeley, find the names I call out and in the first column, put either a check or a zero, as I tell you." He looked at a paper. "McMullen says gray. Give Mr. McMullen a zero. Franklin, purple, give him a zero. Groover, red, give her a check. Ginn, green, give Mr. Ginn a zero." He continued through the rest of the class. You either got it right or you failed. No in-between.

"Now, why did we have this little test today?" Pickens asked the class. "The answer is that a *good scientist* must be a *good observer*. When you come into this class, I suggest you look around the room and see what's new, what's different, what stands out. And what color tie I am wearing as well. That is your life lesson for today. Now turn to chapter four in the book."

#### **DO THE ENTIRE ASSIGNMENT.**

Pickens told us to read the twelfth chapter and answer the fourteen questions at the end. The next day when class started, he collected the homework papers, handed Miss Blakeley the grade book, and started through the papers.

He didn't read them. Instead, he flipped through each set of four or five pages to see if there were any blanks. If there were, this happened:

"Mr. Foster, you did not answer question number seven. Why is that?"

"I didn't understand it, sir."

"Blakeley, give Mr. Foster a zero. Mr. Foster, by tomorrow I want you to do the entire assignment over and give me some kind of answer for *each question*." With that, Pickens ripped Foster's homework in half and dropped it into the trashcan.

He continued this with each paper, each student, and about half the class ended up with his or her assignment in the trash because of unanswered questions. Yes, I was one of them.

What do you think I learned? Answer: Attempt to answer every question and if you can't, write something in every place. In other words, *try* to come up with an answer, *try* to solve the problem, and *try* instead of *not try*.



**WHAT COLOR IS THAT ELECTRICITY?** Pickens assigned us to read a chapter over the weekend. Some of us did, some of us did not. Monday morning, once the class was settled and quiet, he turned off the room light and flipped a switch atop a high table. There were two posts on the table, and bright, electrical lights suddenly jumped from one electrode to the other.

"Miss Blakeley, grade book. Alphabetical order. Miss Albertson, what *color* is that electricity?"

Albertson said, "Purple."

"Blakeley, give Miss Albertson a zero."

"Anderson next. What color is that electricity?" Anderson said green. Zero for Anderson. Archibald, next. What color? Blue? Zero for Archibald. Bates, zero. Benson, zero. Beasley, zero. Then came David Bolton.

"Mr. Bolton, what color is that electricity?" asked Pickens for the tenth time.

David Bolton spoke in a loud voice as he said, "Sir, that is not electricity. It is *ionized air*."

"Give Mr. Bolton an A for reading the chapter. He is correct, students. What you are looking at is indeed ionized air, not electricity."

What did I learn? *Read the chapter!*

Like it or not, that was how Cecil D. Pickens taught us. Some liked him, some hated him, few understood him, but I, for one, *respected him*. And I did my best to do what he expected of every student. Now, let me explain how Pickens' sense of fairness affected my life.

When the school administration announced we would have a senior breakfast on a Thursday in mid-May, everyone was excited. Three hundred seniors and free breakfast in the cafeteria, with entertainment!

That's when Mr. Pickens approached me in school one day and asked, "Ginn, how would you like to do a fifteen-minute magic act for the senior breakfast?"

"I'd love to do that!" I replied.

"Then let's plan on it. Fifteen minutes, no more. Keep it tight."

"Absolutely," I agreed.

For weeks I thought it over, weighing the pros and cons of taking the doves to school. After the show I would have to go to five

classes. Too problematic. No doves. Vanishing cane to silk, yes, appearing cane, too. Silk fountain closer. About ten minutes of audience participation in the middle. Linking rings probably. Maybe the egg bag. I thought it all out and planned a show with tape-recorded music for the end.

On the morning of the breakfast, I arrived early. I set up my props behind the curtain on the cafeteria stage. Everything was ready to go. Every senior boy wore a coat and tie, and the girls wore dress-up dresses. I sat and ate a little with friends, then slipped behind the curtain to do my last-minute preparation.

All was fine. I was set to start at 8:45 a.m., but 8:45 arrived and moved to 8:50. What was the hold up? I paced backstage, checking my watch: 8:52, 8:53, 8:54. The breakfast was scheduled to be over by 9:00.

Suddenly Mr. Pickens stuck his head behind the curtain.

"Ginn! The breakfast has run too long, and Jenkins wants to cut your act!" Mr. Jenkins was the principal, who nobody liked. No surprise. "I told him you'd do just five minutes. Are you ready?"

"Yes, sir!" I said.

"Ladies and gentlemen of GHS Class of '64 – here is your entertainment this morning – magician *David Ginn!*"

Someone pulled open the curtains and pushed my music button, then I plunged into all the silent to music tricks I had planned, vanishing cane, sponge ball production, Twentieth Century Silks, and finally the Silk Fountain.

Years later, my assistant Diana Bodron told me, "When you made those different color silks appear, we were saying, Okay David, make red, now green, now yellow, and so on, and you made every color of the rainbow come out!"

That five-minute act went well with decent applause, and many classmates later said good things to me about it. Mr. Pickens thanked me and apologized for having to cut me short.

"I had to fight for your five minutes," he told me, "because Jenkins wanted to ditch you altogether." Again, I have never forgotten his kindness.

But the story did not end there.

Fast forward fifty years to the fall of 2014. I had made my full-time living from magic since 1971 – forty-three years – but magic had also carried me through college and the army. I'd also written books and DVDs and lectured across the United States and twenty-five foreign countries. Mr. Pickens was long gone.

Then came the announcement that my GHS Class of '64 would have a fiftieth class reunion. People I had not seen in fifty years would be there, as well as high school friends I still knew and saw on a regular basis.

I found out who was in charge, and months in advance I called her. I told her what had happened fifty years ago, and said the reason for my call: "I want my *stolen ten minutes* back."

She seemed hesitant but amused.

"I can go on after the meal before the dancing starts," I told her.

"And you'll only do ten minutes?" she asked.

"Absolutely. Only ten minutes," I promised.

She agreed, as long as I paid for my dinner like everyone else. Which I did.

I spent lots of time thinking and planning what I would do that night. I wanted to keep it tight, colorful, funny, and entertaining. But I wanted it to be me. What do you think I did?

I settled on the Vanishing Coke Bottle I'd been doing for thirty-plus years as my opening warm-up trick. It always goes over great.

Next, I chose Duke's Dye Version using two audience helpers, straight out of *Professional Magic for Children*, because it plays for everyone – kids, teens, adults – and that

twenty-four-foot-wide silk streamer ending looks great on stage.



*Wearing a serious expression, David holds a bottle and a can of Coca Cola for the camera.*

But I also needed to toss in something personal. So I said:

"Tonight, I need two helpers from the audience. Since they happen to be here fifty years later, I would like to ask the first girl I ever dated from Gordon High School, Patsy Groover, and the last Gordon girl I ever dated, Sherry Burke, to come up and assist me. Let's give these two ladies a big round of applause!"

The audience clapped loudly as Patsy and Sherry arrived, and with them I did a very fast Duke's Dye Version. I played the color game I created in 1975, got lots of laughs, made them look good, then finished with the twelve-inch-wide and twenty-four-foot-wide silk streamer, twelve feet to the left and right of me.

When I gathered the streamer, I asked the crowd to applaud for the girls again. They each turned and gave me a hug before they went to sit down.



*(left): David finishes Duke's Dye Version during a convention show performance.  
(right): David demonstrates his skill with the Silk Fountain effect.*



*High school yearbook photos of Sherry Burke(l), and Patsy Groover(r), who assisted David during his “Stolen Ten Minutes” show at their fiftieth high school reunion.*

“Now to close my stolen ten minutes,” I said, “I’ll ask my friend Bill to play a little music from the 2000s. While the music plays, I suggest you keep your eyes wide open. Don’t blink them, because if you do, you might miss something!”

Bill punched the play button, which started Coldplay singing their big hit “Viva La Vida”—*long live life*—which I thought appropriate. Hey, my entire audience was sixty-eight years old!

I immediately did my four sponge ball production from *Colorful Magic*, followed by the Big Silk Quick, and from that my silk fountain, which ended with a thirty-six-inch “THE END” silk popping out.

I styled for applause, they clapped, and off I went. Since I was working out of a rolling show basket, I dumped everything inside of it, covered it, and prepared to leave. Quickly, I said goodbye to a half-dozen friends, then headed home.

I accomplished my mission and got back

my “stolen ten minutes,” fifty years and five months later. I thanked two sweet ladies for being nice to a magic nerd and going out with me all those years ago. We were still friends, and that mattered to me.



*A 2024 promotional photo of David with red sponge balls.*

PHOTO BY MICHAEL MESSING

I drove home the seventeen miles while playing music and singing, back to my wonderful wife of forty-five years at the time, who opted not to have dinner with two hundred and fifty people she didn’t know.

I didn’t blame her. But I am thankful that Lynne understood why I did it and allowed me to check off an item from my bucket list.

I just wish Cecil D. Pickens had been there to see it. I know he would have been proud of me.

## ***Get Published in The Linking Ring!***

The Linking Ring is always looking for new articles, including Parades with a theme, individual tricks, feature stories, biographies, historical essays, and other creative writing. If you want your work to reach as many people as possible, contact The Linking Ring. We have the largest circulation of any magic periodical in the world. Submit your articles or ideas to the Executive Editor. Address on page 4.





# Marketing Magic

KENT CUMMINS

## Prose from Pros

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

– Helen Keller

I asked nearly two dozen successful entertainers for their favorite, most effective marketing tips. I only asked for one tip, and I didn't specify how long or in what format their response should be. Some gave me a concise paragraph or two while others waxed poetic for several pages. But to my surprise, I received more than a dozen completely different tips! No two performers said exactly the same thing.

Some emphasized a particular medium, such as postcards, newsletters, or social media. Some shared specific strategies, such as networking. Others discussed the way they use their time. All of them have used these ideas to create careers in the entertainment industry.

Most of them are full-time professional magicians, but their ideas will also help part-time pros and hobbyists succeed.

Even if you never plan to perform for money, these ideas can help you find the nonprofit organizations, churches, or other groups that can benefit from your magic.

I hope you can put these ideas to work in your own life as a magician.

### Executive Summary

Here are quick summaries from the best of the best, nearly twenty entrepreneurial entertainers who have contributed to this series.



### Rick Heath

Ask people who are already successful what they did to become successful.

Rick, a frequent contributor to this magazine, suggested the idea of asking a few professional magicians for their marketing tips. So, I think that gives us the first Pro Tip! We all have great ideas, but so do lots of other people. Share ideas with your peers and everyone benefits.

Rick Heath, who now builds, restores, and paints magic apparatus for magicians and collectors, was an artist and performer with Le Grand David and his own Spectacular Magic Company during its thirty-five-year record-breaking run (1977-2012) at its two historic theatres in Beverly, Massachusetts.

[rick.heath@magicianwithapaintbrush.com](mailto:rick.heath@magicianwithapaintbrush.com)



### Scott Wells

Let professionals do for you what professionals are best at doing.

In other words, don't try to do all your marketing by yourself. Don't be afraid to use a

professional photographer, graphic designer, or social media consultant. Concentrate on what you do best: performing.

Scott Wells is a full-time professional magician and part-time professional Santa Claus. Scott has recently been recognized by the Academy of Magical Arts for his wonderful weekly podcast, "The Magic Word," which was also nominated for a FISM award as "Best Magic Newsletter."

*scott@scottwells.com*



### **Charles Greene III**

Keep a list/database of your clients. Stay in touch with them and never let them go.

Charles stays in touch with clients by sending personal postcards when he travels. Charles does travel to many interesting places around the world, but you probably go to some interesting places, too. A postcard from Paris or London is impressive, but a postcard from Little Rock, Arkansas can be just as interesting. Find a way to stay in touch with your clients.

Charles Greene III is an accomplished author and magical enthusiast as well as a wonderful performer.

*charles@charlesgreene.com*



### **Scott Hollingsworth**

I found that networking at both social and business events is my most powerful tool for increasing sales and expanding my magic business.

Networking is the name of the game, and Scott does it better than most of us. And "networking" doesn't mean force-feeding business cards to everyone you see! Effective networking is about getting to know people and caring about how you can help them. You might be surprised at the many ways these efforts result in help for your own projects.

Scott was the real magic behind Magic Is-

land in Houston, Texas, for many years. He continues to perform effectively for corporate clients, as well as lecturing for magicians.

*scott@scotthollingsworth.com*



### **CJ Johnson**

Testimonials from clients are powerful – they show potential customers that you're worth their time and money because it's people just like them singing your praises.

CJ believes in testimonial marketing, because people are more likely to believe it when someone other than yourself says that you are wonderful. How do you get testimonials? Ask for them!

CJ has become a highly successful magician and hypnotist, especially in the college market.

*cj@cjjohnson.com*



### **Kent Cummins**

If I had to list just one technique, it would be asking yourself this question: What are your goals?

Well, of course I have my own ideas about effective marketing! And I had an opportunity to comment on everyone else's ideas, too. But my main contribution to the conversation is a reminder to be aware of your goals.

"The Fantastic Kent Cummins" has been a magician since 1949, when he was six years old, and full time since 1986.

*kent@kentcummins.com*



### **Caroyn Cummins**

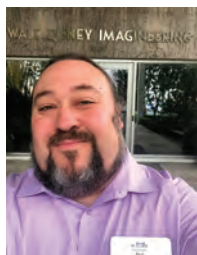
In marketing, your goal is either to retain a customer or attract a new one. Every marketing action should contribute to retention,

attraction, or both – if it doesn't, it isn't effective marketing.

Carolyn, my daughter, is not a magician but she has been a favorite assistant to more than half a dozen professional magicians, including Ray Anderson, The Great Scott and Judy, Bobby Cordell, CJ Johnson, David Hira, Rick Walker, and "The Fantastic Kent Cummins."

To my surprise, Carolyn has also become an expert on marketing!

*ckcummins@gmail.com*



### Paul Draper

When I started my professional career, I knew that I would need to focus on more than just the show. I would also need to focus on ways to create awareness in the market and

build a community that was regularly engaged with my offerings so that when the opportunity appeared, they would call me.

Paul had excellent marketing ideas in several areas, but he also has one of the best newsletters that I have ever seen. So, I was delighted when he stayed up all night, writing about how he uses newsletters to build relationships with clients. This started an entire column focused on the use of newsletters in marketing.

*paul@pauldraper.com*



### Bertil Fredstrom

"If you build it, they will come!" But they have to find you first.

Bertil doesn't like to waste money, but he has found that by spending a little bit in available venues, he gets more gigs.

Originally from Sweden, Bertil has been a Texan for more than two decades, performing as "Black Bert" (because Texans can't properly pronounce his real name!).

*bertilfredstrom@hotmail.com*



### Rik Gern

Have a deep and sincere passion for your work. Focusing on the work itself makes me feel good about doing my shows, and when I love what I'm doing, I think that communicates to others and creates good word of mouth.

Rik performs as "Bonzo Crunch, Fool at Large," and is a truly professional clown (he graduated from Ringling's Clown College and toured with the Greatest Show on Earth before becoming a hometown clown in Austin, Texas). His best advice is to have the best show you possibly can. I agree with Rik that this is the first step to any effective marketing.

*bonzocrunch@sbcglobal.net*



### Shep Hyken

The job isn't doing the gig. It's getting the gig! While this is not a specific technique, I think it's sound advice for anyone in the magic or speaking business.

They call it "the magic business," and paying attention to the business side will definitely help you find the best opportunities to share your magic.

Shep is a professional speaker and a past national president of the National Speakers Association, but he is also an accomplished magician. His success speaks for itself!

*shep@hyken.com*



### Peter Hinrichs

There is one marketing strategy that always works for me. It's simply this: Always give 110%.

"Peter the Adequate" is probably my best friend in magic. We have done projects together for nearly three decades. The Fantastic Magic Camp, which we started in 1993, would not exist if it weren't for his incredible



creativity and tireless hard work.  
*magicpta@gmail.com*



### **Michael Kaufman**

I think it's easier for someone else to market me than for me to market myself. When I talk to people and we talk back and forth, sometimes my ego gets in the way. But if another person does it for me, they're more neutral and I think it becomes easier and more effective.

I both agree and disagree with this idea. I have had experiences where I only got the gig because someone else knew the best way to sell my services, but I have also gotten gigs that only became a reality because of my own passion for the project.

"Magical Mystical Michael" also effectively uses email to let his fans know when and where he is performing.

*magmys@aol.com*

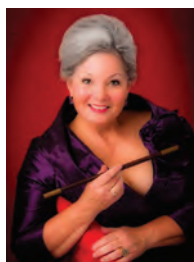


### **JD Stewart**

Build your brand/reputation and guard it jealously.

Your brand is far more than your stage name, logo, or brand colors. Your brand is your reputation in the marketplace: what people think when they hear your name.

JD Stewart, MD (Magic Dude) has built his brand and created the New Magic Academy, an amazing international resource for magicians, including lectures, products, and Imagine, a monthly digital magic magazine.  
*jd@jd-stewart.com*



### **Trixie Bond**

Whether you're a performer, a small business owner, or a marketer, the principles of niche advertising – laser-focused targeting, consistent messaging, and delivering value –

can set you on the path to sustainable success.

The National Speakers Association is also a fan of niche marketing, urging speakers and entertainers (and coaches) to "choose a lane" and become known as an expert in that one lane.

Trixie proves you don't have to be a guy to become a successful magician. You just have to work hard, develop your talent, and market like crazy!

*trixie@trixiebond.com*



### **Cris Johnson**

Your marketing boils down to one fundamental thing. It's the bedrock of your career. Without it, your business will fail. And it's only three words. Yup, three words. Here they are:

Know Your Market.

Cris knows his market, and I know Cris from his weekly newsletter. I find myself agreeing with most (although of course not all) of his marketing ideas.

*cris@thatdigitalmarketingguy.com*



### **Conny Ray**

I had it clear in front of me, Magic Party! In Swedish, TrolleriKalas! Children like parties and children like magic, of course TrolleriKalas.

Conny got this idea to sell magic parties from a trade show that had nothing to do with magic, an idea we might all consider. Most magicians are creative, but we do sometimes get locked into thinking like magicians! Some of the best marketing ideas can come from completely unrelated industries.

Conny's "real name" is Thorbjörn Holmqvist. I love looking at his marketing materials!

*info@trollpennan.se*



### **Cody Fisher**

Here is the best piece of marketing advice that I have to offer any performer trying to enter any market. First and most important is to have a good show for whatever market you are trying to enter.

You hear about the importance of having a good show from most of these performers. Cody reinforces the importance of knowing your market, since different markets typically require different shows. Forget the idea of “A magician for all occasions!”

Cody has become a highly successful magician by scrupulously following his own advice.

*magic@codyfisher.com*

### **Harlan Tarbell**

There is no cut-and-dried method of selling magic. There are basic principles that all have used successfully, but who knows what the morrow will bring in a new angle of publicity and interest that will appeal to the public?

The man or woman who wants to make

magic a profession should study the essentials of good business.

First you must build the best and most entertaining act or show you know how.



The Tarbell Course in Magic can teach you everything you need to know about being a magician, even marketing! I had the privilege of seeing him perform, hearing him lecture, and getting his autograph at the 1957 I.B.M. Convention in Houston, Texas.

(Sorry, but he does not have a current email address.)

### **The Bottom Line**

There is a reason these pros are successful. Do you have a tip we could all consider? Send it to *kent@kentcummins.com*. (You don't have to be a full-time professional magician to participate!)

---

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

## *Sign Up a New Member*

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

# Conjurer's Foolosophy

JOE HERNANDEZ



I've learned that entertainment plays a pivotal role in performing magic. It isn't just about executing impressive tricks, it's about engaging the audience, creating a sense of wonder, and crafting an experience that captivates and holds their attention. The ability to weave storytelling, humor, and emotional connection into a performance transforms a simple illusion into a memorable moment that resonates with viewers long after the show. In essence, true magic lies not just in the sleight of hand but in the enchanting experience that keeps the audience spellbound.

I've learned that magicians want the approval of other magicians and will go to extreme lengths to get it.

I've learned that I best enjoy watching a trick if I don't know or care to know how the trick is done.

I've learned that any card trick requiring forty-seven hand sleights is excessive.

I've learned that even a magician can't fool a Jewish mother. She will figure out the trick before the cards are out of the case.

I've learned that magicians are dealers of make-believe.

I've learned that there are no rules for creating magic. Through my experiences, I've realized that the journey of creating magic is liberating, far from rigid or confined by strict guidelines. Instead, it thrives on spontaneity, imagination, and a willingness to embrace the unexpected. Each moment is an opportunity for creativity, and the absence of defined rules opens the door to endless possibilities.

I've learned that not every trick is good, but there is good in every trick.

I've learned that if you want to hire a funny magician, you should consider only serious candidates.

I've learned that giving in to your everyday comfort will lead to further discomfort.

I've learned that instincts exist to make you aware of the pitfalls of trusting your intelligence.

I've learned that dirty mirrors are never clear.

I've learned that all too often, patter becomes nothing more than the perilous sorcery of words.

I've learned that if you practice without striving, your practice won't strive.

I've learned that a mistake is a happening, a moment in time; it is not you.

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



# Meet the Foxglove Force

By Thomas Henry

Several years back, while pondering that old chestnut the Matrix Force, a startlingly different methodology occurred to me. While the onstage actions may seem familiar, gone now is that hideous business of compelling the hapless participant to add up a bunch of numbers. The result is still guaranteed, but calculation never rears its ugly head.

In the erstwhile Matrix Force, the participant eliminates various numbers from a square array, then totals the leftovers, ending in a supposedly random value. If you've somehow missed the original, my "Polishing the Matrix Force," *The Linking Ring*, Volume 104, Number 6, June 2024, pp. 68-73, should bring you up to date.

But with the Foxglove Force – as we'll refer to this newfangled version – the entries are now merely juxtaposed (not summed) to create a final result. Then according to that, cards are dealt from a deck, a finger moved around a printed wheel, coins gathered, etc., to arrive at the desired destination. In this way, the participant is never subjected to any arithmetic.

## The Basic Mechanism

To understand the principle at play, let's consider a bare-bones example and ignore any routining niceties for the present. Imagine a pack of cards currently rests upon the table, and you wish to force the twentieth from the top. A mysterious parchment bearing a four-by-four matrix of numbers is brought forth (**Fig. 1**).

The participant commences, as in the canonical Matrix Force, by scratching out rows and columns, circling the leftovers. Even better, you might invoke Phil Goldstein's colored pen fillip. See his "Rainbow Matrix" *The Violet Book of Mentalism*, (no place: self-published, 1980), pp. 8, 9; this

was later reprinted in Max Maven's *Prism*, (Seattle: Hermetic Press, Inc., 2005), pp. 199, 200.

**Fig. 1**

12	50	22	44
30	14	31	35
3	23	4	17
21	41	13	26

Suppose the participant is left with 30, 41, 22, and 17 (**Fig. 2**). She's asked to think of these concatenated as 30412217.

**Fig. 2**

12	50	22	44
30	14	31	35
3	23	4	17
21	41	13	26

The participant takes the pack from the table and deals off three cards, skips over the zero, deals four more, then one more, two more, two more again, one more, and finally seven more.

The last card dealt is the twentieth. In fact, no matter how the participant prosecutes the usual row/column business, the successive figures invariably steer her to this very card. Be sure to note, too, the constituent digits may be construed in or out of order, e.g., 71221403 works just as well. There's incredible freedom here, permitting a diversity of theatrical embellishments.

Most importantly, observe that the participant isn't roped into tedious addition. Since the sole skill required is the ability to count from one to nine, the Foxglove Force could conceivably even be plied upon kindergartners!

### Customizing the Numbers

Before getting into ways the Foxglove Force can be more elegantly employed for entrancing effects of your own, let's see how the requisite numbers are determined. I should mention that while grids of other sizes are possible, we'll stick with the four-by-four in what follows. Furthermore, let's only utilize quantities under one hundred.

If you stare at **Figure 1** for a minute or two, you'll soon discern the pattern lurking behind the veil. To wit, all entries in the first column possess digits summing to three. Those of the second column add up to five, third column to four, and fourth column to eight. Let's refer to these as the *checksums*. But don't fret; we'll soon see sundry schemes to secretly shroud the system.

Observe that these four column checksums combine to make twenty. Savvy?

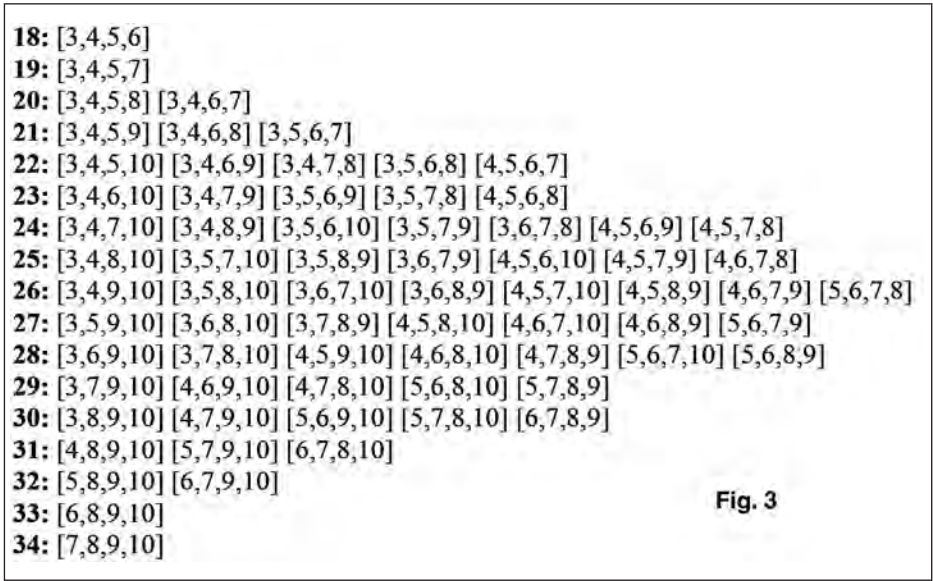
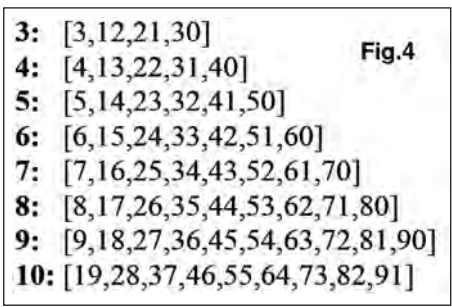
Now it can be mathematically proved that under these circumstances, the only force values possible are eighteen though thirty-

four. Furthermore, it can be shown the sole legal checksums are three through ten.

So, decide upon a target, then partition it into four valid checksums accordingly. In our example, the force number is twenty, and this has been partitioned as  $20 = 3 + 5 + 4 + 8$ .

Finally fill out the grid, a column at a time, with entries dictated by these checksums. Here, those in the first column will be 3, 12, 21, or 30, and in any order. Feel free to exchange the rows and columns throughout to impart a more scattered appearance.

That's all there is to it. It's easy enough to find these by hand, but to save you a bit of botheration, I put together a mathematical worksheet using the free and open-source software wxMaxima to tally all the possible partitions (**Fig. 3**) and checksums (**Fig. 4**). Just read 'em off and use 'em as is.



**Fig. 3**

Incidentally, when the participant deals cards according to the digits, she's inherently adding without seeming to add, creating what might be called the *physical checksum*. The earliest hint of this notion in magic I've unearthed popped up in Walter B. Gibson's "The Mystic Prediction," *Popular Card Tricks*, (New York: E. I. Company, 1928), pp. 7, 8.

### Further Camouflage

While it's been instructive to explain the Foxglove Force in terms of pencil and paper, that's hardly the best way to exploit it. After all, the matrix is on constant display, and an eagle-eyed participant may soon catch on to the column connections. (Similarly, with the Matrix Force there's no way you could ever let the participant take the paper home after the performance).

Moreover, the audience will probably wonder why these specific sixteen numbers were selected for use. And of course, the mere fact a printed prop enters the fray raises red flags.

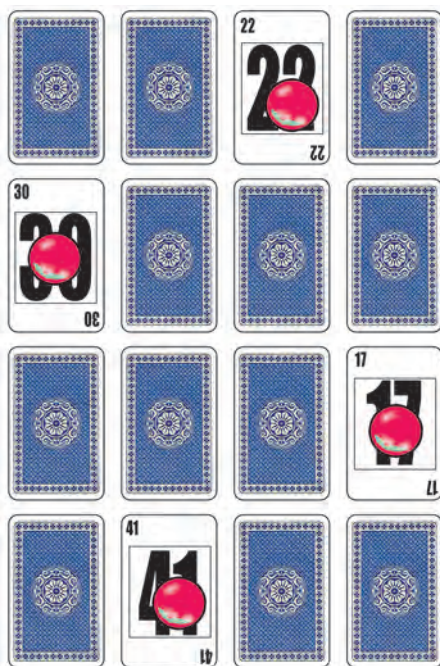
These suspicions are neatly allayed by dispensing with the prop altogether, instead mimicking the operation with number cards and tokens (polished stones, amulets, coins, etc.).

By number cards, I mean things like the Piatnik "1-2-3" pack, Gypsy Witch Fortune-Telling pack, Psy Cards, even a kid's flash-card set from the local dollar store. As long as the pasteboards bear numbers, you're good to go.

Let's run through the previous example again, but this time with number cards and tokens. Ahead of time, arrange the cards to mimic **Figure 1**: 12, 50, 22, 44, 30, 14, 31, 35, 3, 23, 4, 17, 21, 41, 13, 26. Then plop these atop the remainder of the pack. So, with the Piatniks, for instance, you can fan out the cards face up showing a mess of the fifty-two numbers.

If you'd like to commence with a false shuffle, such as the ever-deceptive Charlier Haymow, trim the top card short or put a breather crimp in it. In that way, the stack is easily restored pronto.

Now deal out the four-by-four arrangement face down. The participant sets a polished stone, say, upon a card which is turned face up, and the others in that row and column are removed. She repeats likewise with another stone. And again. The fourth stone, of course, belongs to the lone holdout remaining (**Fig. 5**). The entire matrix is shown here for illustrative purposes, but in actual practice the participant sequentially removes those face-down cards. As such, all clues are destroyed, and reverse-engineering by the audience becomes an impossibility.



**Fig. 5**

The stones having served their purpose are pushed aside. Finally, the four designated cards are juxtaposed, and you can proceed as before, confident the number twenty lies in the offing.

Let's pause to summarize the three key benefits here. Executed with face-down cards, the participant never sees all the numbers at once. And since discards are removed, lingering tell-tale evidence is effaced. And of course, the sixteen cards have been dealt from an apparently shuffled larger pack, conveying randomness.



Best of all, the elimination procedure with polished stones is theatrically interactive and catchy for bizzarist, story-telling, or sooth-saying plots.

### Additional Economy

But wait! We can trim the procedure still further. So long as the participant chooses a single entry per column, it makes no never-mind which row it lies in. In one fell swoop (the only type of swoop worth entertaining), the Foxglove Force assumes an entirely different appearance. Cast aside the stones now as a fresh scenario is sketched out.

Arrange the pack as described previously. After the usual false-shuffles and restorative cut, deal out four hands of four cards each. Hence, the packets are now segregated by checksum (**Fig. 6**). They're shown face up here, but obviously should remain concealed during an actual performance.



**Fig. 6**

Now the participant blindly grabs one card from each packet, the others disposed of. This would be particularly pleasant with four participants, providing lots of opportunities for mysterious or fun byplay. Oh, it should be clear that individual groups can be legitimately shuffled since their internal order is irrelevant.

If you think dealing slows things down too much at the outset, try this on for size. This time arrange the cards as: 12, 30, 3, 21, 50, 14, 23, 41, 22, 31, 4, 13, 44, 35, 17, 26, followed by the rest of the pack. Now after

the usual false-shuffle preamble, simply thumb off four packets of four to the table. Done! As before, each of these quartets can be fairly mixed by the participant.

### Double-Duty

To my mind, the wisest way to wield the Foxglove Force is by having a pack of cards supply not only the means but the end. Here's an illustration along those lines. While the power exhibited is precognition, the theme is fortune-telling. The presentation could be lighthearted or serious, depending upon your stage persona.

The main prop is the venerable Gypsy Witch Fortune-Telling Pack which has been on offer continuously for over 120 years now. Besides a value and suit, each card also bears a mystic symbol, and most important for our purposes, a prominent lucky number from one to fifty-two. They're readily available online for about ten bucks. Should you'd like to learn more about the Gypsy Witch cards, be sure to see my "An Archaic Prop for New Mental Magic," *The Linking Ring*, Volume 104, Number 3, March 2024, pp. 52-57.

Given the fortune-telling slant, the elimination procedure with polished stones (rather than thumbing off quartets) makes the best dramatic sense. So, arrange the pack by lucky numbers in much the same way as before: 12, 50, 22, 44, 30, 14, 31, 35, 3, 23, 4, 17, 21, 41, 13, 26, nineteen indifferent cards, 1, remainder of pack. That card labeled 1 is the goal; it's the Three of Hearts and shows the Sun as its mystic symbol (**Fig. 7**).



**Fig. 7**

Psychically render your prediction at the kickoff of the routine. Now deal out the four-by-four matrix from the apparently shuffled cards. Expounding on the four elements of the ancients (Earth, Air, Fire, and Water) could add some internal logic, not to mention pizzazz, at this point.

Set the rest of the pack aside. Situation check: the twentieth card down in that tabled talon is the Sun.

The participant now makes the eliminations via polished stones in the customary manner, leaving four selections behind, which she turns face up for the first time.

To conclude, from the remainder of the pack set aside previously, the participant counts down according to her personal digits. She'll wind up on the Sun, the very symbol you uncannily predicted long before.

### Final Thoughts

The payoff in the Foxglove Force isn't restricted to cards, of course. A printed wheel bearing archetypes of some sort (planets, zo-

diac signs, animals, emotions, etc.) is just as viable. Then the participant points and counts around it to arrive at the predetermined outcome. Or, she could take coins from a bag according to the digits of those checksums. Naturally, you've known her eventual wealth from the get-go.

The Foxglove Force might also find use with customized dice for a super-fast force. Each die would sport a set of six numbers leading to the same checksum. Then the participant simply rolls them out, slides them next to each other, and you're off to the races in five seconds!

Oh, about that name? When I first shared this still-untitled principle with my esteemed European colleague, Claudio the Cardist, he had me in stitches by referring to it as the Foxglove Force. If botany isn't your bag, look up the genus (scientific designation) of the flower going by that name.

**Send comments and appreciations to:**

**Thomas Henry**  
*everett.ritland@gmail.com.*

## Submitting Ring Events

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

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

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

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



## Creative Whacks

Creativity blocks! That temporary state where our brains go on strike and we can't seem to push our projects forward. Writers, artists, performers, and leaders all run smack into this wall from time to time. We spend futile hours staring at a blank screen, a cluttered shelf, or a new prop waiting for a miraculous bolt of inspiration. These mental walls may even cause us to hobble through the pages of a book, listen to a podcast, or watch an instructive video without retaining a single word.

Club leaders often hit these barriers while struggling to satisfy the wide expectations of their members. For leaders, the most common cause is the stress and anxiety of trying to please everyone. Being kind and helpful is generally a good thing, but constantly trying to please others can leave us emotionally depleted, stressed, and anxious.

These issues create mental barriers that stifle our creative process. Blocks may appear when we're facing impossibly high standards, tight deadlines, a dry idea well, fear of criticism or failure, mental burnout, or when distractions interrupt our creative process. Each type requires a slightly different approach. Identifying the cause of your block is the first critical step.

Perfectionism's unrealistic expectations create blocks. Allowing our inner critic to fill our heads with negative self-doubt freezes our creativity mid-thought. Mental fatigue and burnout from outside stressors weaken our ability to think clearly. External distractions may hold our creative efforts

hostage. The average person checks his or her phone ninety-six times a day. We spend an average of two-and-a-half hours every day on social media, checking email, and surfing. That's a boat load of distraction.

Once we've identified and removed the most likely causes, we may still need to kickstart our creative juices. Try these block-smashing techniques.

**Freewrite.** Set a timer for ten or fifteen minutes and begin writing. Write continuously about anything and everything that flows into your thoughts. Don't stop. Don't edit. Don't judge. If you get stuck, write, "I'm stuck" and follow your thoughts from there. Just write!

Freewriting sidesteps your inner critic. It kickstarts your brain's creative mode and releases a rush of fresh thoughts. You can start off with a targeted prompt such as, "I need a novel performance for this week's club meeting ..." or "This prop is a yellow box that resembles a ..."

During my comedy club days, I used freewriting every morning to brainstorm topical set-ups and punchlines. I committed to handwriting at least five single-spaced pages every morning. Many of my best comedy bits came from these ramblings.

**Change Your Environment.** If your desk isn't working, move! Find a park bench. Visit a playground. Kick back in a coffee shop. Go for a drive. Walk the dog. If you use a keyboard, try a pen. Play soft background music. Changing our environ-



ment triggers new neural pathways and associations that may spark creativity.

**Take a Strategic Break.** Step away from the project and engage in a different activity. Psychological studies demonstrate that our problem-solving skills improve with periodic breaks. Our brain subconsciously churns over creative challenges during these breaks. Choose physical activities that occupy your conscious mind, such as walking, cooking, or exercising rather than watching TV or surfing social media. Avoid procrastination by setting a specific return time. Ernest Hemingway avoided writer's block by ending each day of writing mid sentence to give his mind something to work on.

**Adopt a Structured Approach.** Adopt a methodical system for overcoming creative obstacles. Roger von Oech's ingenious app, the *Creative Whack Pack*, offers a creative, structured process. His approach features four mental characters: the Explorer, the Judge, the Artist, and the Warrior.

The Explorer seeks out new information and resources. He slashes through the unknown looking for unusual patterns, uncommon twists, and common thoughts, then passes these patterns to the Artist. The Artist asks, "What if?" as she attempts to twist and turn these patterns into a useful design. If the Artist needs more information, she kicks it back to the Explorer.

The Artist is unconcerned with rules or critical evaluation of these ideas. She passes that task to the Judge. The Judge looks for drawbacks by applying critical questions to the Artist's work. Is this a good idea? Is it worth pursuing? Do I have the resources to make this happen? If the judge finds a flaw, he kicks it back to the Artist for further work.

The Judge passes the ideas that survive his critical evaluation on to the Warrior for implementation. The Warrior crushes ex-

cuses, ignores rejection, and pushes through procrastination. He thrusts our ideas into practice. If an idea doesn't work, he kicks it back to the Judge for further review. Oech's *Creative Whack Pack* app offers an interactive oracle-style workshop to guide us through each level.

Using these techniques can help us push through our creative blocks. The best approach, however, is to prevent creative blocks before they strike!

Develop a consistent creativity routine. The mind is a muscle. Like other muscles, we strengthen our brains through exercise. Setting aside daily creativity time trains our brains to be creative on schedule. End creative sessions mid idea to give yourself a clear starting point. Always keep a creative notebook handy! Constantly write down ideas, observations, and inspirations as they come to you. Voice recordings are fine if you transcribe them later. Scanning written pages for idea seeds is much easier than wading through hours of meandering voice recordings.

Fuel your creativity! Explore various book genres, listen to constructive podcasts, seek out new experiences, practice people watching, question everything, and keep your curiosity level high. Expand your horizons!

Most importantly, understand that creativity blocks are not a reflection of your skill, leadership, or potential. It's a natural part of the creative process that we all experience at some point. Understanding their roots and exploring different resolution techniques will keep you pushing forward.

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

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

# In Memoriam Michael Gordon Miller

1939–2025

By Dale Salwak

He was since 1961 an employee at Abbott's Magic Mfg. Co. in Colon, Michigan – “The Magic Capital of the World”; a performer more than fifty times (and emcee, too, for the close-up shows) for the Get-Together; the first of many students of Neil Foster's at the Midwest branch of the Chavez Studio of Magic; editor of *The New Tops* after Neil had retired; emcee for twenty years at The Motor City Close-up Convention; a staunch supporter and encourager of all of us, ever willing to share his knowledge; and friend to hundreds if not thousands within our magical world and beyond.

I am referring, of course, to Gordon Miller (as he was known), who passed away peacefully on March 8 at the Fairview Nursing and Rehabilitation Community in Centreville, Michigan, with his family at his side. He was eighty-five.

Gordon was born on May 29, 1939, in Chelsea, Michigan, to the late George and Wilma Miller. He graduated from Paw Paw High School in 1957, then moved to Colon. After his honorable discharge from the United States Army in 1963, he returned to Colon to pursue a career in magic. “It was there,” he said, “that I felt comfortable.” He also enjoyed reading and all sports.

We first met in 1965 after he had performed Neil Foster's Center Tear not once, but *twice*! With that, and many other innovations, he could be counted on to close the Get-Together's Wednesday night show, at the end of which there unrolled from the flies – with appropriate

explosions, flashing lights, flags, streamers, ribbons, confetti, and accompanying music – huge colorful banners announcing the start of the convention.

“Our business is all about pleasing the audience,” he once said with an unerring feel for our art, “making them laugh, making them cry.”

As a gentleman whose love for magic never left him, he was always a welcomed presence within our community. Often he attended other conventions, too, standing before a tempting

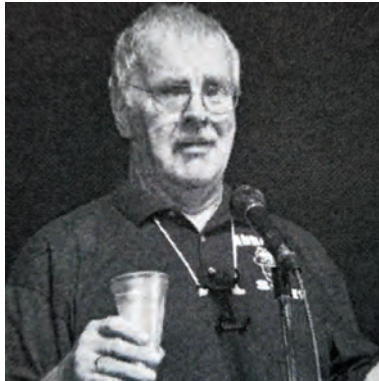
display of Abbott's products, ever-ready to demonstrate anything to the delight of the attendees. He knew the entire catalogue. “If one needed an answer,” said one friend, “Gordon was the man to go to.”

“To me, Gordon was always the ‘hidden’ costar of the close-up convention at Abbott's,” added his friend, John Morgan. “I always wondered how he came up with such clever introductions for all the performers. The answer is simple: He was a clever

guy. He was also a friendly guy and a great conversationalist. I will miss all those qualities. His absence diminishes Abbott's.”

Survivors include his wife of forty-seven years, Marilyn J. Miller (*née* Nye), son David and daughter-in-law Wendy, both also of Colon, and four grandchildren. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his son John Miller and three siblings.

Private interment of his ashes took place in plot #48, Lakeside Cemetery, Colon, among many famous magicians. To plant a tree in his memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.



*Gordon Miller welcomes the  
Get-Together audience.*

COURTESY OF: ABBOTT'S MAGIC MFG. CO.

# Misdirection in Mentalism: The Art of Guiding Minds, Not Just Eyes

By Balasubramanian “Magic Balu” Chandran

Misdirection is often misunderstood as simply “distracting someone while you do something sneaky.” But in mentalism, misdirection evolves into something deeper. It’s not about hiding the method, it’s about guiding the mind so that your audience never even thinks to look for one.

Let’s talk about what misdirection really means in the context of mentalism, how it differs from traditional magic misdirection, and how you can master it to create moments that feel impossible and real.

## 1. What Is Misdirection in Mentalism?

In classic stage magic, misdirection often involves visual attention control – waving one hand while the other does the dirty work.

In mentalism, misdirection is cognitive and emotional. You’re not just controlling what they look at, you’re controlling what they think is important, relevant, or even possible.

Mentalism misdirection is not about deception, it’s about narrative control.

## 2. Types of Misdirection in Mentalism

### A. Physical Misdirection

- Rare, but sometimes needed – e.g., peeking a billet while moving.
- Can involve a prop or a gesture, but it must be invisible within the context of the routine.

### B. Temporal Misdirection

- The time between method and effect is increased so the audience disconnects cause and effect.
- **Example:** You peek information early in a conversation, but the revelation happens much later.

- The longer the delay, the less likely they’ll reconstruct the method.

### C. Psychological Misdirection

- Using language, logic, and structure to create false assumptions.
- **Example:** “You could have thought of anything...” creates the illusion of freedom, even if you limited their choices subtly.
- It’s about suggesting what they should remember, not what actually happened.

### D. Emotional Misdirection

- When someone is emotionally engaged – laughing, surprised, touched – their critical thinking drops.
- Create moments of tension or intimacy to bypass logic.
- “Amazement fog” happens when you hit them emotionally before they can analyse what just happened.

### E. Structural Misdirection

- The architecture of your routine leads them away from the method.
- Bury the secret action in a moment that seems irrelevant or disconnected.
- **Example:** A billet switch is done early, and the routine appears to be about body language.

## 3. Core Principles of Misdirection in Mentalism

### A. Focus is a Limited Resource

- People can only track so much. By giving their attention a job – a decision, a thought, a moment of suspense – you buy time and invisibility.

### B. Believability Over Flash

- Mentalism thrives on minimalism. The



simpler the effect appears, the more their mind fills in the gaps — and the less likely they'll dig into the method.

### C. The Lie of Memory

- Most spectators won't remember exactly what you did. They remember the story they built around it. Guide that story intentionally.

- “You wrote nothing down, correct?” Even if they actually did, now their memory conforms to your framing.

## 4. Techniques of Misdirection You Should Master

### A. The False Focus

- Draw their attention away not just visually but conceptually.
- Ask them to focus on how they're thinking, not what they're holding.
- “Don't say the word, just picture it ...” puts their mind on the internal process.

### B. Layering

Use multiple methods, each innocuous, so if they suspect one, they won't suspect all.

- **Example:** Combine a psychological force with a subtle peek and a time delay.

### C. Convincer Techniques

Add elements that support a false memory:

- Say, “You had a completely free choice,” even when you forced it.
- Let them feel they shuffled a deck that you secretly controlled.

### D. Justification

Every move must have a natural reason:

- Fold the billet “so I can't see it” – while peeking it.

- Hand them a deck “to mix it” – while they destroy your stacked order (after your job is done).

### E. Dual Reality

Let one person experience one truth while the audience sees another.

- Creates impossible effects when recounted.

- Their version of the moment becomes a tool of further misdirection.

## 5. Examples of Misdirection in Classic Mentalism Effects

- **The Center Tear:** Misleading them to think you're destroying the information completely.

- **Drawing Duplication:** While they focus on drawing, you've already glimpsed the image.

- **Psychological Forces:** The structure of the presentation convinces them they had freedom when they didn't.

- **Book Tests:** You delay the reveal so long that the method feels disconnected from the climax.

## 6. Misdirection and Ethics

Misdirection isn't lying — it's storytelling. But ethical lines still exist. Avoid:

- Gaslighting volunteers (“You never wrote it down,” when they clearly did).

- Emotional manipulation that causes discomfort or embarrassment.

- Creating false claims, like psychic powers, unless clearly theatrical.

- Mentalism should elevate the participant, not deceive in a harmful way.

## 7. Final Thoughts: The Gentle Art of Control

Misdirection in mentalism isn't loud or flashy. It's subtle, elegant, and invisible.

It's about shaping where people look, what they believe, and how they remember the journey.

You're not just controlling attention. You're controlling assumptions, logic, emotion, and memory – the core of what makes an experience feel real.

And when it's done well, the audience walks away not asking, “How did they do that?” But saying, “There's no way that could have happened ... but it did.”

And that, truly, is the art of misdirection in mentalism.

# Music Meets Magic: Choosing the Sound and Working the Rhythm

By Gleb Tsarev

Music plays a crucial role in magic performances, serving as more than just a backdrop – it creates an emotional and immersive experience that enhances the magician’s storytelling and the audience’s engagement. In a world saturated with multimedia entertainment like films and video games, audiences are accustomed to sophisticated sound design, making music an essential element of any magic show. The right music not only amplifies the emotional impact of illusions but also guides the audience’s focus.

## How to Select the Perfect Music for Your Act

Choosing the right music begins with defining the atmosphere you want to create. Consider how you want your audience to feel. Music has the power to evoke universal emotions through shared cultural associations, so it’s important to move beyond personal preferences and tap into sounds familiar to most people.

## Draw Inspiration from Pop Culture

Pop culture is a treasure trove of musical references that most audiences instantly recognize and connect with. Movie soundtracks, in particular, offer a wealth of inspiration. Find a film with an atmosphere similar to the one you’d like to create and analyze its music. For example, if you’re aiming for a light, fairy-tale-like, and slightly mysterious vibe, you might decide the orchestral score from the *Harry Potter* films is a good reference point. Upon examining the soundtrack, you may notice the prominent use of the celesta, an instrument known for its sparkling, otherworldly sound. The celesta’s

enchanting tone also appears in Tchaikovsky’s “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” and the *Home Alone* score, where it creates a sense of wonder and magic. Such musical details instantly spark the right associations in the audience’s mind and by studying these examples, you can pinpoint the musical elements that shape the vibe you’re after and use them to enhance your own performance.

## Explore Aesthetic Categories

Today’s internet culture is a goldmine of inspiration, with its classification of content into “aesthetics” or “core” styles. These styles define the visual, sonic, and emotional characteristics of different content, each with its own unique set of associations. Many of these aesthetics include distinct musical elements that help create a specific atmosphere. They’ve become a kind of shared language that connects pop culture, cinema, fashion, video games, and social media. People usually pick up on these cues automatically, often without even realizing it.

For instance:

- **Dreamcore** features echo effects, soft synths, and chiming bells, creating a dreamy and surreal vibe.

- **Fairycore** leans on natural sounds, gentle melodies, and instruments like the harp to create a whimsical, fairy-tale feel.

- **Victorian Aesthetic** uses the harpsichord and classical motifs to capture the refined elegance of the Victorian era.

These are just a few examples, and there are countless other aesthetics to explore. This diversity makes it easy to find the perfect style to complement your magic act. I’d suggest diving into these categories to discover fresh ideas and inspiration.

## Don't Forget About Copyright

While music from films and video games can be incredibly inspiring, it's important to remember that most of it is protected by copyright and cannot be used freely without purchasing a license – often at a high cost. Instead of using these tracks directly, consider them as references and search for similar sounds on stock music platforms such as **AudioJungle**, **Epidemic Sound**, or **Artlist**. These sites offer affordable, high-quality tracks that you can legally incorporate into your performance.

For a completely unique musical piece, you can collaborate with freelance musicians on platforms like **Fiverr** or **SoundBetter**. They can compose custom tracks tailored to your specific concept, ensuring your magic show not only stands out but also avoids any copyright issues.

## Why Rhythm Is Crucial and How to Use It

Rhythm in music does more than set the mood – it provides a framework that can synchronize and elevate the actions on stage. When visual elements match the rhythm of the music, the brain naturally integrates them, creating a unified and immersive experience for the audience. This psychological and neurobiological connection makes rhythm an essential tool for magicians.

## Synchronizing With the Rhythm

Picture performing the same card routine twice. In the first version, every movement aligns perfectly with the music: a card appears precisely on the beat and vanishes on the next. In the second version, your movements are disconnected from the track, lacking rhythm. The first version always resonates more because our brains enjoy the predictability of rhythm. When music and motion sync, the audience experiences bursts of pleasure as their anticipation is fulfilled, keeping them deeply engaged. This is the same principle that makes music videos with rhythmic cuts visually satisfying.

## Changes in Rhythm: How to Steer Audience Emotions

Adapting your tricks to musical transitions allows the audience to subconsciously merge the emotional energy of the music with the illusion, making the tricks more powerful. Here's how you can leverage these changes:

### • Acceleration of the Rhythm

A faster tempo naturally builds excitement and tension. In a magic show, this is the perfect opportunity to transition from simpler effects to more elaborate and astonishing illusions, creating a sense of escalation.

### • Slowing Down the Rhythm

A slowdown or pause in the music allows for a moment of emotional release. These moments can be used to emphasize a crucial part of your trick, drawing the audience's focus to what's happening. A well-placed pause in both music and action can make the reveal of a trick feel even more impactful.

### • Drops and Dynamic Transitions

Modern music often uses drops – abrupt changes in rhythm or structure – to create a peak of emotional intensity. In magic, these moments can align with pivotal transitions, such as the reveal of an impossible effect or a sudden transformation. By timing your performance to coincide with these dynamic shifts, you amplify the audience's sense of awe.

Music is more than just a background element in magic – it's a vital tool for creating atmosphere, guiding emotions, and enhancing the audience's experience.

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To make it easier, here's a checklist to help you integrate music seamlessly into your act!

### Checklist for Illusionists

#### Setting the Mood

What specific atmosphere or emotion do I want my audience to feel?

Will the track resonate with my audience?

#### Finding Inspiration

Have I explored film soundtracks or aesthetics to identify instruments and motifs that fit my act?

#### Navigating Copyright

Am I certain I have the rights to use my selected music? Should I purchase a license or hire a musician to create a custom track?

#### Aligning Rhythm and Movement

Does the music naturally match the pace of my routine? Have I identified key beats or transitions in the music to synchronize with my tricks?

#### Managing Tempo Changes

How can I use accelerations, slowdowns, or drops to heighten emotional impact during specific moments?



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

Since its inception in 1966, the Order of Merlin has served to recognize many of our most loyal and active members by providing a very few privileges or perquisites. Of course, the Order also serves as an incentive for members to recognize that maintaining one's continuous membership status is a worthwhile pursuit. More than one fourth of our current members have been inducted into the Order of Merlin by virtue of their maintaining an uninterrupted membership status within the I.B.M. for twenty-five years or more. Note, however, that only one such reinstatement may ever be considered for the purpose of adjusting a member's Order of Merlin eligibility.

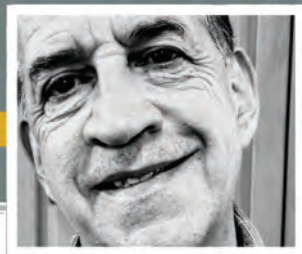
Over the years, some I.B.M. members have allowed their active membership status to lapse because their dues were not paid. This, of course, is unfortunate, since some of those people have maintained or re-kindled their deep interest in magic, and many of them have also continued to adhere to the principles that led to the foundation and growth of the I.B.M.

What options do such magicians have if they wish to resume activity as I.B.M. members following such a lapse? Obviously, they may re-apply to become members again, just as they did when they originally joined. This would require their submission of a new application form, a new sponsorship by active members, a prescribed prepayment of dues and initiation fees for the new membership, and a period of time to allow for the orderly processing of the application.

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

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

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact our International Executive Secretary, Sindie Richison at [office@magician.org](mailto:office@magician.org) or at the physical mailing address for the Headquarters Office, on page four of each issue.



There is a lot of talk about the exposure of magic secrets. Marketed effects that are still for sale should not be shared or taught in a class. It is easy to make up a Professor's Nightmare and teach the trick to your student. But magic shops still sell this effect, and it is a slap in the face to them. That is different if you are selling and teaching purchased magic tricks. Books written about magic can be found in any bookstore you walk into. People buy a magic book and start their journey. I started in magic by getting a large "best of" Reader's Digest book one holiday. It taught how to find a selected card face up in a deck. It also showed how to rub some chalk on a tabletop, then have it penetrate the top and appear on your palm. I still use both tricks almost sixty years later. I've shared the reversed card before, but the chalk one might be long forgotten.

So, let's get ready for some fun. I always remember reading in a set of lecture notes by Charlie Miller: "If you want to do magic that laypeople like, then you must go to neighborhood bookstores and learn the magic in books sold to the public." This is a profound statement when you take the time to think about it.

**Modus Operandi:** First, you need some sidewalk chalk. Before you begin, wipe some chalk onto the middle fingernail of your left hand. Hold a piece of chalk in the other hand and draw a little dot on your kitchen table. Put the chalk away and show your left palm to your

guests. Your hand is at your side; you only need to bring it up waist high above the table, showing your palm face up. Everyone will see your hand is clean. Now, go under the table with your hand still palm up and stop under the chalk mark. With your right hand, begin to rub the chalk dust away. Show the dot is gone. Then, withdraw your hand from under the table and show everyone that your palm now has chalk. It seems the chalk penetrated the table and is now on your hand. This is a straightforward, easy-to-understand trick, and people love the effect. All you need to do is bring your open hand under the table, make a fist, and rub your nail with the chalk on your palm. You do this while rubbing away the chalk spot with your other hand. It is also good to wipe off any chalk residue that could still be on the fingernail. Now, bring your hand palm up, and everyone will see the chalk mark on your palm. This is an oldie but a goodie. As magic bartenders, we did this with cigarette ashes, which were plentiful at the bar. Then, they banned smoking from venues and ruined a lot of good magic. Terry Seabrook's "Cigarette in Coat" was the best opener for a parlor-type show. Sadly, you would be asked to leave if you used a lit cigarette now. Using chalk works well, and I have found it a useful bit of magic all these years.

Until next month,

Bob Durante

*bobdurante55@gmail.com*



# *Sick and Convalescent*

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## Michael Breggar

### One-Man Parade



Written by Michael M. Breggar • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen • Illustrated by Tony Dunn

Michael M. Breggar has written the “Auto-Magic” column in *The Linking Ring* for ten years. The original idea for the column was to minimize or eliminate any sleight of hand while maximizing the entertainment and performance value. The clichés about “self-working magic” pronounce that this allows the magician to concentrate on the performance, but Michael contends that since the performance is the effect, the tricks need to be clever, layered, deceptive, and, most of all, entertaining. While some methods require “moves,” the performance and audience involvement (and reactions) are always more important.

In addition to the monthly column, Michael has eight books in print (search “Breggar” at your favorite online magic shop) that have been “bestsellers.” Michael’s ninth book, which explores comedy mentalism, will be published in late 2025. Mike also has many best-selling and well-routined tricks available, including *Bad Bikes*, *PSI-Roller*, *The Emotional Sensitivity Perception Project*, and his big hit *Art Attack!*

Michael is now retired from full-time global management consulting and lives in southern New Jersey. His wife, son, and cats are frequent habitués of his written effects. Michael is a lifetime professional sports fan, and being raised in Philly may or may not make that a blessing.



## Start here, Go there

When Sammy Smith, the brilliant, erudite, and multitasking editor of *The Linking Ring* asked me to pull together a Parade of my favorite tricks from my “Auto-Magic” column, I jumped at the chance. It was fun to look back at the sheer variety of my effects, as well as revisit Tony Dunn’s fabulous illustrations and some of the crazy wordplay I used at the time.

Even better was pulling out old issues of *The Linking Ring* and having a chance to revisit the astonishing amount of great magical journalism, historical articles, and tricks from every great modern magician you can think of.

One of the greatest perks of I.B.M. membership is instant electronic access to every single issue of *The Linking Ring*. This amazing publication is now more than one hundred years old. Its pages tell the story of magic as we know it today. It contains contributions from almost every magician you can think of, and hundreds of other magicians you’ve never met but wish you had!

Recently, Sammy and I mused about our tangible connection to this documented history of the art. It is humbling. We talked about how we feel both honored and blessed to be able to have something more to contribute to this organization and to this enduring publication.

My biggest takeaway as a member of the I.B.M. is the “brotherhood” part (though it should be called brother and sisterhood – I suspect the acronym IBSM sounds more like a missile than an organization’s name!). Magicians are a friendly lot. And the better (read: nicer) ones are not only friendly, but also generous with their time and willingness to share their love of magic with anyone interested. If you are really interested and want to learn “magic” and not just “tricks,” they will work with you to help you get there. Uncommon qualities in these cynical times.

Lennon and McCartney wrote, “The love you take is equal to the love you make.” The same goes for the love of magic. The I.B.M. can open those doors for you, but you must

first walk up to the house and knock. Once inside, you must be willing to open doors for others yearning to enter.

This Parade contains six tricks with assorted commentary from my “Auto-Magic” column. The premise of “Auto-Magic” is looking at magical effects using sleight-of-hand-free methods. Like the great mentalist Ted Anneman wrote, I have always maintained that “the effect is the thing.” The entries here stress this and always emphasize the importance of the audience shining the spotlight on the audience surrogate: the volunteer. A few edits and corrections have been added here and there, while the awesome, aforementioned Mr. Dunn has graced these pages with artwork worthy of the Musee D’Orsey.

We open the door of “Auto-Magic” to you and can’t wait to hear about your success with the six effects that follow.

## “Under My Spell”

This effect from the very first “Auto-Magic” column originates from the so-called “Jim Steinmeyer Nine Card Trick,” which has also undergone literary developments by another giant, Martin Gardner. Colm Mulcahy has examined its mathematical workings in *Mathematical Card Magic*, as have others, and Marty Kane has psychoanalyzed a chapter of playful card tricks based on this concept in his great book *Card ChiKANery*. I have added a bit of spackle and paint to the original effect to make it easier to adopt to your style.

**EFFECT:** Magician puts a pack of cards on the table and removes the deck. After a few shuffles, he hands it to a spectator asking the spec to deal nine cards face down. Three piles of three cards each. The spec then selects any pile and shows the bottom card to all. Let’s say it’s the Ace of Spades. The spec next combines all three piles and spells the name of the card selected, followed by spelling her first name “Marie” and turning face up the last dealt card. It’s the Ace of Spades. Finally, the magician points to the card box which has been in full view and notes that there was a piece of

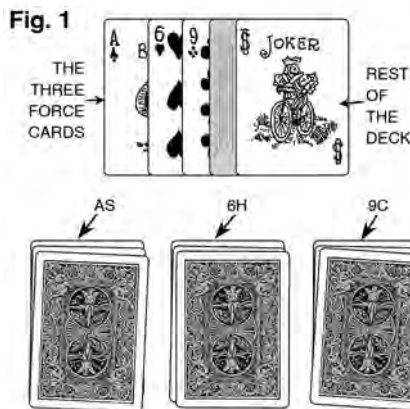
paper in the box. Marie removes it and it says, “You will select the Ace of Spades.”

### WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Place any three known cards on top of the deck (we’ll say they’re AS, 6H, 9C), box the cards, and you’re ready. We’ll cover the prediction part later.

Empty the card box, remove the two jokers, and give the cards as many shuffles as you are comfortable doing as long as you maintain the top three cards. Alternatively, you could turn the deck face up, spread the deck (not showing the top three cards), and say the deck looks well shuffled (**Fig. 1**).

Give the deck to the spectator. Have them deal out three piles of three cards, left to right, one at a time. This will put our three known cards at the bottom of the piles (**Fig. 2**). The spectator picks a pile and remembers the bottom card, showing it to the other spectators. They’re next instructed to take that pile and place it on top of any other pile, then place that six-card pile on top of the last pile.



**Fig. 2**

Now tell the spec to spell out the “randomly selected card” (use that phrase). Deal one card face down for each letter. Demonstrate for them by spelling the word ace, A-C-E, as you deal each card face down onto the table. Pick up the dealt cards and put them on the bottom of what’s left in the pack they’re dealing from. Next, they spell O-F and put those two cards at the bottom. And finally, S-P-A-D-E-S. Again, place the cards at the bottom of the pack.

At this point, I ask the spec for their name. If it is a five-letter name, like Marie, Kirby, or James, or a four-letter name and first initial of their last name, great! Have them spell one card for each letter of their name. If not, have them spell the word M-A-G-I-C (as in the Steinmeyer description). Turn over the last dealt card. It will be the AS! (For a four-letter name, you could also have them spell the four-letter name and then turn over the next card).

As for the kicker – the prediction finale – we will use multiple outs. “You will select the Ace of Spades” is written on a folded piece of paper and placed inside the card case. “You will select the Six of Hearts” is written in Sharpie on one side of the card case, which you keep covered during the trick. “You will select the Nine of Clubs” is written boldly on one of the jokers you removed earlier, being careful not to flash the writing in the beginning (**Fig. 3**).

**AUTO-NOTES:** Practice the mechanics of this effect and understand the emphasis is on the spectator. For the few minutes of this effect, you have granted your mystical powers to the spectator! Compliment them, build them up, let them enjoy having “the power” for those precious few minutes. This not only gets the audience fully on your side – in a sense you become part of the audience for a few minutes – but also heightens the amusement and response when you throw in the kicker at the end.

This is a great little effect. I encourage you to give it a try. It is not a “simple” trick; rather a complex effect that can become a strong performance piece for you. Take the time to understand it and apply proper pacing, following the lead and timing of your spectator.



**Fig. 3**

## "The Dating Game"

"Computer dating has been around for a long time," you begin. "People think it started in the 1970s or with websites like *Match.com*, but it's been around for centuries." You hand out two dice to your spectators. "These are the original computers. Well, not these, but dice just like these."

You next pull five index cards or blank-face playing cards from your pocket. "Let's see if this still works."

You need the names of five couples: one name written on the top half of each card and their corresponding mate on the bottom. If you are performing for fewer than five couples, invite your spectators to name famous couples (Romeo and Juliet, Popeye and Olive, Peanut Butter and Jelly, and so on). "So we have five couples, but all couples started as individuals." With that, you tear the cards stacked together in the middle and place the top stack on the top or bottom of the other – let your specs decide.

Now you have a stack of ten "half-cards" each with one name on it. Turn the pile face down and cut the cards as many times as desired, or let a few of the spectators do this.

With the stack of cards face down, deal the top five cards – one at a time – face down on the table (Fig. 1). "We have gone back in time and separated the couples. Even mixed them up. That's like putting them into different cities!" Put the remaining stack of five on the table to the left of the first stack (Fig. 2). You may wish to fan them slightly to show there are five cards.

"Now let's see if we can get the computer to generate the right matches." You push the two dice towards a spectator. "In a decent-sized population, the odds are pretty good a person will find their mate. Four to one, in fact. So please take the dice and put one in front of each pile so the total adds up to four. You can put a one and a three, or two twos, three and one, whatever."

Let's say the volunteer places a one in front of the left and a three on the right (Fig. 3). "Very good. Let's give it a try." With that, you pick up the left pile of half-cards and transfer one card from the top to the bottom. Place it

back on the table and pick up the right pile, then transfer three cards from top to bottom, one at a time.

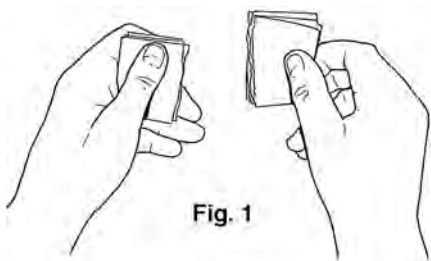


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

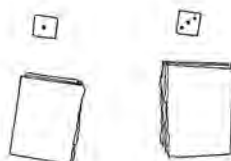


Fig. 3

"Is it a match?" you ask expectantly. Pick up the two piles simultaneously and turn the piles face up to read the names showing. "Charlie Brown and Michelle Obama – not a match!" You turn the pile face down again, then casually remove the top cards from each pile, placing them together and off to the side (Fig. 4). Reread the last sentence. It is the key "move" and will be completely overlooked because of the comic tension.

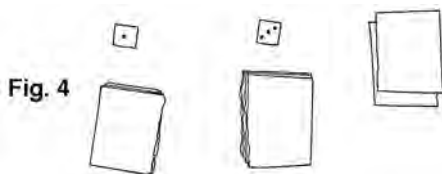


Fig. 4

You continue. "The odds of a good match increase as the population goes down." You hand the dice to another spectator. "They are now seven to one. Please place the dice in front of the people piles so the faces total seven."

This time, they place the five in front of the left pile and two in front of the right. You repeat the action from before: pick up the left

pile, then transfer five cards – one at a time – from top to bottom. On the right pile, two cards are transferred. “Do we have a perfect love match this time?” You pick up the piles and turn them face up. “Romeo and Olive Oyl. That’s an interesting concept, but not a good match.” You turn the piles face down, remove the top cards, and place them aside near the first pair set aside.

“Still no luck, and now the odds go up to eight to one.” You repeat the above actions as the spectator sets the dice to total eight. You’ll transfer the cards as before and show the bottom two cards to similarly amusing results.

“Now you know why dice were such lousy computers! The odds are now nine to one. Please set the computer in motion.” You hand the dice to another spectator to set in any manner so that the tops total nine. Again, transfer the top card of each pile to the bottom in accordance to the number on the die. Except this time, do not flip the piles over to show the bottom cards. Just remove the top cards without showing them and place them over to the side with the other discarded pairs. This will leave one pair of half-cards in front of the spectator.

“Maybe the ninth time is the charm. Turn over those two cards and see how good a matchmaker you are.” The spectator will turn over a perfect match. “Lucy and Ricky! That’s great. Maybe we just needed a little magic for these vagrants over here,” you say, referring to the four pairs of discards. You snap your fingers then one by one reveal the perfectly matched pairs: “Popeye and Olive Oyl, Michelle and Barack Obama, Charlie Brown and the Red-Headed Girl, Romeo and Juliet! How perfect! Despite being separated and mixed up, they all managed to find each other!”

**COMPUTER PROGRAMMING:** Carefully follow the instructions above and the trick works itself. The keys are in the steps underlined above. These steps will be completely overseen by the audience as the construction of the effect is clever and engaging.

**AUTO-NOTES:** This trick goes back to an old Howard Adams effect popularized by Larry Becker. Becker took the first steps in

adaption and published his version as “Will the Cards Match.” Karl Fulves further adapted it in *New Self-Working Card Tricks* (“Make the Cards Match”) and as “The Odds Against” in his *My Best Self-Working Card Tricks*. Adams’ method has been given the monicker “Ramasee Prophecy,” based on what he named his original effect. Other variants can be seen over the years, and this dating theme is my contribution.

## “Spot Change”

Here’s an interesting little effect that is a nice lead-in (or even lead-out) to a coin or mental routine. I use it as a way to break up a series of card tricks in my card set. The principle is versatile, and you will surely come up with many ways to routine this effect.

**EFFECT:** You ask your spectators to toss some loose change on the table. You want a decent mix of coins, about ten or twelve will do. As they put the coins on the table, you remove two items from your pocket. The first is a small, sealed manila coin envelope (#1) with a big, mysterious question mark on it. The other is a package of multicolored, quarter-inch adhesive dots. The type pictured here works well, but you are not limited to any particular brand (**Figs. 1-2**).



FIG. 1

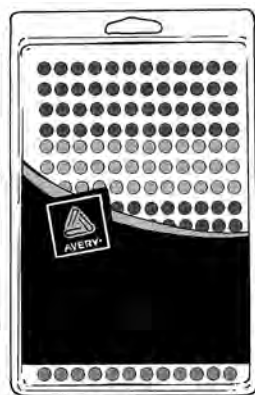


FIG. 2

Your spectators are now invited to take any color dot from the sheet and place it on either side of any coin. Once a coin has been dotted, it can be tossed into a (hopefully empty!) coffee mug nearby.



“We need a designated randomizer, and you, Seth, look to be as random as they come!” you say, pointing to a spectator and being quite happy the coffee mug was indeed empty earlier. “Put your hand over the mug and give the coins a good shake. Then, dump the contents on the table.” After he does so, you continue, “Any coin that isn’t showing a colored dot is now taken out of play.” You instruct Seth to pick up those dot-less face-up coins and move them aside. “The rest get thrown back into the randomizer.” Any coin that is showing a face-up dot, you pick off the table and noisily clink it back into the mug.

As your helper repeats this process, you mention, “I wasn’t kidding when I called this a randomizing process. Let’s look at the math. We have twelve coins of four different denominations. And four different color dots you could have placed on any one of them. That’s 192 different possibilities before we even started. And Seth will continue this shake, rattle, roll and eliminate the face down coin process until there’s only one remaining. In math terms, that’s 12 factorial. In terms I can understand, that’s almost 500 million-to-1 that any specific single coin with a specific colored dot would remain. I hope you didn’t have plans for an early night!”

Despite this astronomical number, you usually get down to the last coin standing after five or six rounds.

When one coin remains, you point to it, pick it up, and place it in your palm for all to see. “So, the ‘last coin standing’ is a quarter and it has a red dot on it.” You turn to a second spectator and say, “Marilyn, please open the little envelope, remove the card and read it out loud.”

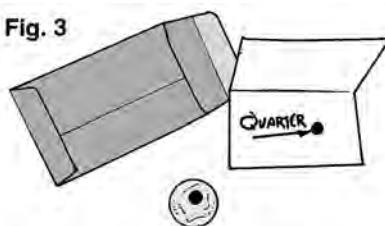
She does so. It says simply: “Quarter.” And a nice little red dot is next to the printed word.

**DOUBLE-HEADER:** It’s summertime and baseball season is in full swing. But the double-header I am referring to here is a variant of the double-headed (or double-tailed) coin. What we have here is a double-dotted coin. The usage of such a gimmick

goes way back in magical annals. Professor Hoffman’s *Modern Magic* described tricks with double-face cards and coins almost 150 years ago. The usage surely goes back even further.

In our effect, we will perform a small preparation by writing “QUARTER” on a small piece of folded paper and placing a red adhesive dot next to the printed word (**Fig. 3**). This is sealed in the opaque envelope. You’ll also need a 25-cent piece, upon which you will place another red dot on one side. Place the quarter and envelope in your pocket and you are ready to swing for the fences.

**Fig. 3**



**THE BALL GAME:** Begin by asking your spectators for some spare change. Ideally, you want about twelve coins of different values. There should be at least two quarters. The packet of adhesive dots and the empty coffee mug is placed close to the action. As they gather their coins and toss them on the table, you reach into your pocket and remove the sealed envelope with the quarter hidden behind it. Place it on your palm (quarter under the envelope), and briefly mention you have a prediction of sorts in the sealed envelope. As you pick up the envelope with your other hand to casually toss it on the table, scoop up a few of the coins and put them in your hand with the pre-dotted quarter as if to look them over, thus ringing the gimmick into play. Next, extract the gimmicked quarter with your thumb covering the red dot on the back and place the rest of the coins back on the table. Explain you want your audience to place different colored dots on just one side of each coin and toss it into the mug. You then peel off a red dot and place it on the un-prepped side of the quarter and toss it into the nearby mug.

Follow the storyline and patter above. Doing the “shake-dump-remove” of all face-down coins will eventually yield only a single dotted coin: the quarter. It has no face-down, un-dotted side!

**CLEAN-UP:** After the denouement, gather the coins to redistribute to the audience, scrape off a few of the dots with your thumbnail to help make the coins “legit legal tender again,” and just pocket the extra (gimmicked) quarter. Or, you can swap the gimmicked quarter for one you have in another pocket (this, too, should have a red dot on a single side).

**DOUBLE-HEADED BUT SINGLE-MINDED:** I hope you’ll give this one a try. It’s easy and pretty effective. The double-sided-prop principle has lots of uses in magic and mentalism. Give your creativity a little kick and see what other ideas you can develop.

## **The Cure for the Common Board Game: “Monopoly-S-P”**

**CHANCE ENCOUNTERS:** After many years of decline, non-electronic games have had several years of strong sales. Though the year-over-year growth has been under 10 percent, sales have been steady and growing. It’s time to dust off that Scrabble set, retrieve the Clue box, and revive your Trivial Pursuit! Digging out the old Monopoly box also presents magicians with an interesting “new” set of props. Colorful, very familiar, and perfect for some impromptu magic!

Using board game pieces for magical effects is certainly not new. Scrabble tiles have been used for many mental effects from the likes of Maven, Sankey, and most recently Francis Menotti with his *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*-winning “Wordsmyth” trick. In the literature, you’ll find tricks using cribbage pegs, mancala stones, UNO number cards, you name it. In fact, a good Monopoly routine is mentioned in a piece by Danny Archer in the April 2002 issue of *The Linking Ring*.

I have come up with a fun routine using the tokens, deed cards, and dice from the standard Monopoly set. Perfectly impromptu, you could perform this at any gathering of friends or family while post-game tempers simmer down.

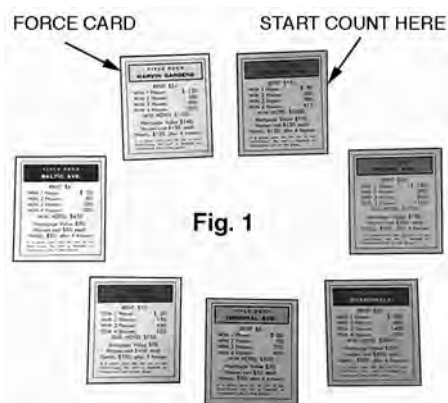
**“MONOPOLY-S-P”:** After a friendly session of bartering and bantering over the Monopoly board, but before the set is neatly repacked and put away, you offer to demonstrate a bit of psychic ability that you wish could have been channeled into your gameplay. You write something on a small piece of paper, fold it, and ironically sandwich it in the middle of the orange “Chance” card stack. “I will need all the game tokens,” you say, which you shake together in your cupped hands before letting them randomly spill in front of a spectator. “And a bunch of deed cards,” you add. You give the deeds packet a good shuffle and remove seven of them. “Seven is a good number. In fact, it is the number of spaces on a given side if you count only the properties.” Which is not necessarily true, but it sounds good! You arrange the cards face up, which is to say “mortgage” side down, in a circle.

You then hand the dice to a spectator. “Of course, we will need these dice. Please give them a good shake and let them roll.” Just like in the game, if they roll “doubles,” ask them to roll again.

You now turn your attention to the game tokens and slide two of them towards the spectator. “Please select any one of these two and place that one out of play, back in the game box. Very good, now slide any two remaining – your choice – toward me and I will do the same.” This continues until just two pieces remain. “Are you right handed or left handed? Please take your right [or left] hand and cover one of the remaining pieces.” After that’s done, say, “So you left the thimble out in the open, and you are protecting the little dog. Okay, the thimble is out of play.” You toss it into the box.

“Now, let’s look at the dice. You rolled a four. Are you OK with that roll, or do you want to roll again?” They are satisfied with

their roll. You place the selected token on deed card #1 (top of the circle in the configuration illustrated in **Figure 1**) and count “one.” You instruct your helper to use the token and to continue moving clockwise, one space (deed) at a time. Card #2 is “two.” They move their token to card #4, which they then turn face down (“mortgage”-side up). They continue to move the token another four spaces in this fashion, until all but one card has been turned “face down.” Remove the last “face-up” deed and place it aside with the token.



“By pure chance and a roll of the dice, you selected the little dog game piece and the deed to Marvin Gardens. You will recall before you rolled the dice, and before we even randomly removed the deeds from the packet, I placed a little note in between all the Chance cards. Can you remove that note and read it out loud?”

Of course, it says, “You will not pass GO. You will not collect \$200. But you will select the dog token and you will randomly land on Marvin Gardens.”

**GO:** Magicians will likely see what’s going on, but the two forces used here seem to completely fly past everyone else. In the example, we’re forcing the selection of the dog token and the Marvin Gardens deed card. You use this in your written prediction and sandwich it amongst the Chance cards.

The force of the dog token is accomplished using the very versatile PATEO

Force. Readers of this column know how much I love Roy Baker’s “Pick Any Two, Eliminate One” force. Originated in 1968, you can read more about it in my March 2016 “Auto-Magic” column. While there are several flavors to the performance of the PATEO, I usually start with an even number of items and push out the first two non-force items to the spectator. The spectator tosses one aside (“back in the box, out of play”) and moves the non-selected piece back into the pile. They then push two game tokens of their choice toward me. I remove one and push the other back. Obviously, I do not give the spectator a choice of two that includes the force piece. If one of the two pieces presented to me by my assistant is the force piece, I toss the other one out of play. This back-and-forth continues until two pieces remain: the force piece and any other piece (here, the dog and the thimble respectively). I now ask my helper to cover one of the remaining two and using equivoque, we have the dog piece forced. Read the patter above. If they cover the dog, you can say “Thanks for being kind to animals” as you toss the thimble aside. If they cover the thimble, I pick up the dog while saying, “You must be an animal lover. It was clear you had your eye on the puppy all along.”

The force of the Marvin Gardens deed can be done in a multitude of ways. These are cards, after all! But I think using the mathematical “Seven Force” works nicely because the mechanics of it feel analogous to the game play of Monopoly. After mixing the cards, you peel out seven property cards. Don’t use the railroads or utilities because the patter mentions that there are usually seven properties to be had on the edge of an average Monopoly game board. I lay the cards out in a circular pattern. Card #1 (“Tennessee Ave.” in the illustration) is top-most. Card #7 (the force card) is directly to the left. Following the procedure as written here, on the count of “one” you place the token on Card #1. On “two,” it is moved to Pacific Ave. “Three” is Boardwalk and “four” lands the dog on Oriental Ave., which, like the tokens earlier, you take out

of play. But here, you merely turn over the card rather than removing it from the table. You place the token back on top of that turned-over card, and proceed to the next count, which will eliminate Tennessee Ave. As soon as six deeds are “mortgaged,” you pull the last one in play aside and place it next to the dog token.

I usually put all the other cards aside with the discarded tokens, reiterate how the choice was clearly fair and aligned to Monopoly rules, and then proceed to the denouement.

**GAME THOUGHTS:** While researching Monopoly-based effects, I was surprised and amused to note that in his Monopoly effect mentioned earlier, Danny Archer also used the PATEO Force in the selection of the token. I’d say brilliant minds think alike, but Danny is in a class of his own! I haven’t been able to trace the provenance of the “Seven Force” I use here, but I suspect it is very old in origin. (**NOTE:** Shortly after this column was published, the inimitable Max Maven wrote me pointing out that the procedure is “George Sands Prime Number Principle,” which was first described in “Lucky 13,” which was published in *Pallbearers Review*, August 1975.” Thus quoth the Maven.

I have also toyed with the idea of having the prediction printed on a Chance card. Simply glue a label with the prediction onto the face of a card. I cut 1/32" off the short edge of the card. I can then fully shuffle the Chance deck and riffle the back end of the cards upwards. The “short” is evident and I cut the pack at that point. That brings the prediction card to the top of the pile where it will be used at the end. It’s an interesting little variation that’s in keeping with the overall theme, but I believe it is superfluous and weakens the reveal.

## **“Absolutely ACANNY”**

A couple weeks after this trick was published, a very nice note came from John Bannon. I have been a huge fan of John’s since my purchase of his amazing

“Stranger’s Gallery” many moons ago, and an even huger fan since the publication of his “Zero” series book and DVDs (“Destination” and “Move,” respectively). John pointed out an error in one of my citations for this trick and also told me about his trick “Collusion,” which he was finalizing for publishing in his *Mentalissimo* book and the first “Move Zero” DVD. Our tricks are identical with one minor exception – I show the SUIT and VALUE markers at the beginning, while John waits for the denouement.

In another email, Jon Racherbaumer suggested this approach (one of my heroes reading my stuff and writing to me?! My blood pressure spiked!). One could argue either way, I suppose, but I have found my approach increases the suspense a bit more, making for a better entertainment. Waiting until the end probably increases the impact, though. I guess it’s a matter of choice. I won’t use the “brilliant minds think alike” cliché because I would never claim my mind to be as brilliant as John’s, but we were clearly tapped into the same wavelength.

Here’s my column from the January 2016 issue of *The Linking Ring*. In the months that followed, I answered all emails with a clearer explanation of the method. Then, in the March issue, I printed the clarifications along with the credit clarifications suggested by Mr. Bannon, Esq. I further clarified things in my book *The Five Roads to Vegas* (available at your favorite online magic shop!) and even added three additional “Any Card at Any Number” methods for those interested.

**A SELF-WORKING ACAAN?:** Well, maybe. It is a trick that is ACAAN-ish. And it is self-working. And it is a pretty cool effect that you can make into a small miracle with a strong presentation.

“ACAAN-ish,” for lack of a better name, owes a lot to Karl Fulves’ seminal “Gemini Twins” (*More Self-Working Card Tricks*) and John Bannon’s “Four-Sided Gemini” (from his wonderful book *Destination Zero*). Furthermore, the always-cool Cameron Francis has a great trick called “Gemini Annihilation,” which uses the Gemini construct to create a selected card. Finally, if you like the



overall workings of this and similar effects, you'll want to check out *Gemini Motif*, a short but strong book written by the erudite Jon Racherbaumer. Sharp-eyed readers (maybe even myopic readers) will notice that this trick's DNA is the same as the first trick in my book *"The Five Roads to Vegas."* Needless to say, I like the "Gemini Motif" and continue to marvel at its' versatility.

**-ISH IS AN ACAAN:** Our favorite magician shuffles a deck and removes two jokers. The word "SUIT" is written on one joker while "VALUE" is written on the other. These cards are placed aside as you state "Rather than start with a typical 'Pick Any Card' bit where I could possibly influence what card you select, we will use these 'Indicator Cards' and create a totally random card, random suit, and random value."

You ask Marilyn, Spectator 1, to "call out any random number between, say, one and twenty." She says "twelve." You hand the deck to Marilyn and ask her "deal out twelve cards, then, one at a time, into a neat face-down pile." You place the joker marked SUIT face up on the face-down pile (**Fig. 1**), take the rest of the pack from Marilyn, and place it face down on top of the SUIT joker.

You then carefully slide the deck over to Spectator 2. "Seth, we need you to think of a random number, too. But let's go from five to twenty-five." Seth calls out "ten."

He is instructed to pick up the deck and deal a face-down pile of ten cards. As before, you place the joker face up on the dealt pile (**Fig. 2**) (this is the joker marked VALUE), then plop the rest of the deck on top.

You have a serious look in your eyes as you remind your spectators that this type of card selection process was as fair and random as could be (can you keep a straight

face?). "Any card could have been picked," you say, as you spread the deck from right to left. The two jokers will be face up, and you slide them and the cards to their immediate left out of the spread (**Fig. 3**). You then reassemble the deck without displacing any cards, then move the jokers so they sit on top of their respective selections.

"This card," you continue, "represents a totally random selection of a suit." You flip over the SUIT-indicated card, the Eight of Spades, and point at one of the pips. "It's a spade."

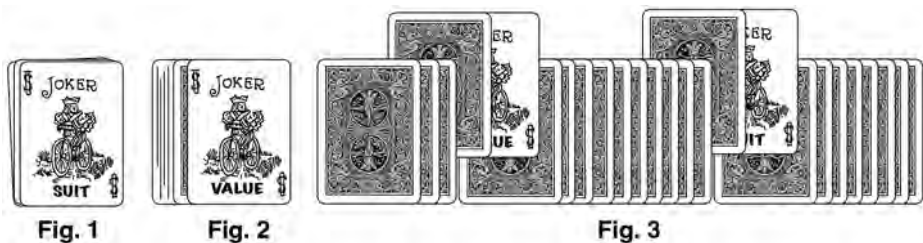
"And what is the value of this spade?" You turn over the other card, which is the Two of Diamonds. "The value is two. So, the totally randomized card that both of you just created is ..." — you gesture to your audience to finish the sentence — "the Two of Spades!"

"We now need another number, a totally random number. So, just like combining your random selections to create the Two of Spades, we will combine your totally random numbers that you, and only you, thought of at the start of this presentation. Marilyn, you said twelve, I believe, and Seth, you mentioned ten. Combining them, we get twenty-two, right? It's obvious you selected different numbers. My number would be very different, and the card you created would have been different, too. But we have landed on twenty-two and the Two of Spades."

You pick up the tabled deck. "Wouldn't it be a miracle if the twenty-second card was the Two of Spades?" The deck is face up as you begin to deal the cards. "I'll even deal them face up so you will see that there is no funny business taking place!"

Of course, the funny business happened before you began to deal.

And, of course, the twenty-second card is the Two of Spades.



## **WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**

Have the jokers marked **VALUE** and **SUIT** and placed anywhere in the deck. You'll want to mark them so the words are clearly printed in the lower third of the card. It will make the selections a bit more obvious and viewable. The deck is set up with Eight of Spades as the top card (on the face-down deck) and Two of Diamonds as the bottom card (feel free to use your own selections). The "created" card, the Two of Spades in our example, sits just above the Eight of Spades. In other words, the Two of Spades is the next-to-last card of the face-down deck.

You are ready to go. Just follow the instructions and patter mentioned above and the trick mechanics will work by themselves.

**AUTO-NOTES:** I did mention the deck is shuffled at the start. While false shuffles or cuts are beyond the purview of this column (and not really necessary – you could put the set-up deck out of the case and start by pulling out the jokers), a simple riffle shuffle retaining the bottom few cards and the top card or two is easily accomplished. Just let the cut half, which contains the bottom two cards, start the shuffle and end with the half containing the top few cards.

Instead of jokers, you could use your business cards or your spectator's business card, writing **VALUE** and **SUIT** on them beforehand (just remember, as set up here, the **SUIT** is declared first). It is also important to remember that the "indicated cards" are the cards to the left of the jokers or business cards.

Another ploy I use frequently is to use dice to generate the numbers. The spectators select any four dice from a big container full of dice of all colors and sizes. When they roll the dice, you'll want the total to be in the teens. You don't want a number too low or too high. The dice make all of this appear to be so much more random!

As written in the original article, there was confusion about the order of placing the **SUIT** vs. **VALUE** jokers. But when tackled as described here, it should work perfectly

well. A few emailers also missed the point of where the force cards lay in relation to the inserted jokers. Whether spread from left to right or right to left, it doesn't matter – the force cards you slide out always lay on top of the joker indicator cards.

The mathematics that engine-power this trick are ridiculously simple, yet so well-disguised by the process and method. Essentially, the two numbers selected by the spectators are "discarded" cards placed at the bottom of the deck. All you have done is discarded those cards and added them back to the deck at the bottom, displacing the final force card from the bottom. Basically, you have asked "What is your 'any number'?" They say, for example "fifteen." So you next add fifteen cards, physically moving the force card to the right spot, right under their nostrils!

**FINAL NOTE:** Before counting down to the **ACAANed** card, be sure to do a little kibitzing. The recap allows for a bit of time misdirection, which is necessary to prevent the audience from thinking too hard about the topological discrepancy of the indicated cards on top of (rather than underneath) the indicators.

## **"A Whole Empty Brain"**

You shuffle and cut the cards. As you toy with them, you patter about left-brain versus right-brain thinking. Left brain is more logical and regimented ("adaptive additive cognition," the psychologists call it). Freer, associative, and creative thinking ("adaptive subtractive cognition") occurs on the right side of the brain. A properly functioning noggin balances influences from both sides which delivers, hopefully, sound reasoning.

So, let's try an experiment.

"Using your right brain, think of a number between ten and twenty. Got it?" you say to the spectator. Marilyn says fifteen. You take the deck and deal down fifteen cards. "Since we're using your right brain, and that's minus cognition, subtract the two digits that make up fifteen." She says four. You deal down four cards handing the fourth face down to her.

You reassemble the pack and give it a cut. “Now, let’s try it with the left side of the brain. A number between ten and twenty different than the first, please.” She says eleven and you deal down eleven cards. “It’s the left side, the positive side, so add the two digits together.” You deal down two cards after Marilyn does the math, reassemble the cards, and place them aside.

“The real question is, do the left and right sides of your brain work in harmony?”

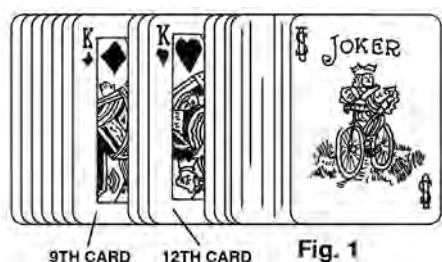
You turn over the cards. One is the King of Hearts and the other is its mate, the King of Diamonds. Clearly harmonious!

“But let’s take this a step further: How powerful can your mind be, if both left and right sides work together simultaneously?” You ask your helper to place her hands on top of the deck and, using both sides of the brain, think of nothing. “Empty your mind and project images. Even if it’s only for a second.”

A second or two later, thank her. Tell her how infectious her empty mind was, but let’s see if the experiment worked. You turn over and spread the rest of the deck face up. All the cards are blank!

**10-20, PLUS OR MINUS:** Based on the Nick Trost trick, “The Couple’s Lucky Number” from *Subtle Card Creations (Vol 1)*. Nick employs Tom Craven’s variant on the 10-20 count force that appeared in Harry Lorayne’s *Best of Friends Volume 2*. Plus, *Linking Ring* readers may recall previously traipsing down 10-20 territory in the April 2016 installment of “Auto-Magic.”

**SET-UP:** Using a blank deck, place the two red kings, or whatever mates you wish to force, at the ninth and twelfth positions from the top. Put a joker on the face and slip another joker into the middle of the pack (Fig. 1). Case the deck.



## WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

When you start the effect, as you begin the patter about left-right brain cognition, uncase the deck and clearly flash the joker on the bottom. Then run through the deck, being careful not to show the blank cards, and pull out the two jokers. Casually toss them on the table or set the deck down, placing the jokers in the card case.

If you can do a false shuffle, that’s great. An injog false shuffle works well here (check *Royal Road to Card Magic* or *Card College I*, among many, many places for details). A very easy false shuffle that also works well is this: Deck is in dealing position in left hand. Backs to the audience. With your right hand, pull two-thirds of the pack upward and overhand shuffle off fifteen cards or so to the bottom of the cards in the left hand. Toss the remainder back on top of the left-hand pack and place all on the table. The tops cards are untouched, and your audience will have seen what appears to be a perfectly legit mix. Again, be very careful not to flash the blank cards.

The rest of the routine is built upon the performance and a bit of psychology. Oh, and mathematics!

For the math to work, you need the first named number to be higher than 11. Here is where the psychology factors in. When I say “Name a number between 10 and 20,” I emphasize the word “between.” More importantly, I gesture with the left hand close to my chest for the “10,” and an emphatic chop with my right hand a foot away from my right side. This nuance places a distinct emphasis on the higher numbers. I have never had anyone call out 12 or less. Alternatively, you can ask for a “hard number between 10 and 20.” That play works well, too.

Following the script above, Marilyn calls “15.” You deal fifteen cards in a single face-down pile. Because it is “right-brain subtractive,” she subtracts the two digits. You pick up the dealt pile and deal three cards in a pile in front of you and slip the fourth card in front of your spectator.

Patter some more as you reassemble the deck. It must be done in this manner to place

the second force card in the tenth position. From the cards remaining in your hand, drop one card onto the cards in front of you. Then push off two cards from the pack in your hand, not changing their order, and drop them on top. Then drop any number of cards on top of these, it doesn't matter at this point. Pick up the whole pile and place it on top of the rest of the (undealt) deck. A false cut, such as the Jay Ose Cut, is apropos here, or you can again perform the false shuffle noted above.

To perform the Ose cut, lift the top third off the deck and place it on the table to your left. The cut half of the remaining cards, place them to the right of the first pile and place the remaining third to the right of the middle part. Talk for a second or two, then reassemble the deck with the left third, placed on top of the middle and the combined pile on top of the rightmost pile. Moving smoothly, it is amazing how fooling this false cut is.

For the second number, again emphasize "between" 10 and 20. Though the math works with 10, it does not with 20. Most people tend to call out 11 or 12 when they first call a higher number. Perform as scripted and the traditional 10-20 force will yield the other king.

You could end this trick after the reveal of the two mates and your audience will have had a fun, satisfying, and mystifying experience. But the kicker makes it all magical.

With the two kings on the table, the rest of the cards are all blank. You could do a riffle shuffle or multiple cuts – nothing will disturb the order obviously. So, make the most out of the moment leading up to the reveal. I continue with the psycho-babble and ask my helper to cup her hands over the deck and "empty your mind and project images to the deck." It's all very contradictory – silly, even. But when you turn the cards over, they will fall off their chairs!

**NOTE:** You are not supposed to know your assistant blanked out the cards, so you need to act surprised when you turn the deck over. I sometimes comment, "Remind me to have you touch a parking ticket I got the other day."

## Without You, They're Just Tricks

*An essay from the first  
Auto-Magic column*

I really dislike the phrase "self-working" as it pertains to magic. Tricks can be self-working, but magic never is. An automaton such as those seen in the 1800s that "played" chess and performed fortune telling, and so on, is basically a complex prop that drives a complex trick. Cool and amazing, but still a trick. An older, erudite gentleman with a kind manner, stentorian voice, and a beard as big as his face, who performs the Gypsy Thread while telling us a story of Indian myths and the creation of the universe, is treating us to magic. Real magic.

In the last several years, "self-working" magic has been redefined. Now, it essentially means magic that can be performed without sleights (usually card or coin magic). It has moved beyond the image of "trash magic" – i.e., if arthritis-inducing moves are not involved, it can't be any good.

Steve Beam has written nine volumes of "semi-automatic" card effects. Big Blind Media produced a trilogy of "Ultimate Self-Working" DVDs. The eloquent Roberto Giobbi has a trio of books with great self-workers written in his inimitable style. John Bannon equates a journey's end point with sleight of hand in "*Destination Zero*." If you want effects involving more than cards, reach back to the work of Karl Fulves, or reach forward to Jim Steinmeyer.

The learnings are in many, many places, and the teachings come from some of magic's greats. Even sleight-of-hand experts like Dai Vernon and Michael Ammar have given us great effects that are self-working in method. But the key point is the real magic is in the presentation, not the obscured math or optical illusions that steam engine the effect. We constantly read ad copy that states the "effect is self-working so you can concentrate on the presentation." I believe that copy like that may actually drive buyers away. It's a lot of work to get the presentation just right and become something that fits the performer. It also requires a lot of rehearsal.



So many just try to learn the latest flourish or ridiculous sleight from YouTube or elsewhere.

I wanted to do a column on self-working magic to get I.B.M.-ers to think about the framing of an effect, and develop a layered deepness to the understanding of an effect and its affect on the audience. Doing so, with originality, will advance magic as an art and you as a performer. Renoir was a great painter not because he was so adept and quick to mix the pigments on his palette, but because of how he framed his point of view and translated it to the canvas. In fact, this

concept of impressionism is even adaptable to magic. Pick up a copy of Hugard's Encyclopedia of Card Tricks. Each effect is described in a terse three or four paragraphs, and the interpretation and presentation are mostly left to the performer.

This is what "Auto-Magic" offers in each monthly installment: A few ideas, some important theory (brought painlessly), and an effect or principle ready for you to paint on your magical canvas.

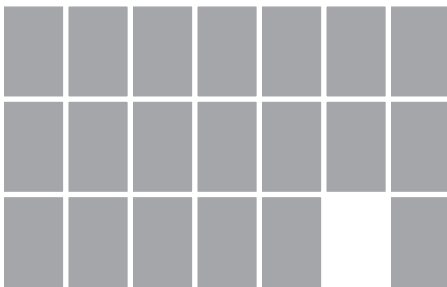
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## *Missing Linking Rings?*



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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*.



Last month's column featured "Violet Assembly" from Nancy Colwell. I think some new ground in the area of "assembly effects" was broken there. I suspect that her routine will spawn many variations using the underlying methods of "Violet Assembly."

This month's column is such an attempt. The write-up that follows is self-contained. However, I recommend that you first go through Nancy's routine from last month. You will find a video performance of "Violet Assembly" as well as my variation, "Magnetic Convergence," at [www.mallofmagic.com/cardcorner](http://www.mallofmagic.com/cardcorner). Scroll down.

The main differences in my methodology and Nancy's are:

I have the queens appear face down in a face-up deck, I use a different method for vanishing the "follower queens."

It turns out that using a face-up deck with face-down queens leads seamlessly into a follow-up sequence where queens are inserted into various places in the deck, only to rise to the top to join the "Magnetic (leader) Queen."

## Magnetic Convergence

**EFFECT:** The queens are removed from the deck. Three are placed face down in a row. The fourth queen, the QH, is designated as the "Magnetic Queen." She is placed face down in the middle of a face up deck. The magician explains that the three followers are irresistibly attracted to the "Magnetic Queen."

One by one the "follower queens" are placed into packets of three cards. The queens disappear and are found to have joined the "Magnetic Queen" in the middle of the deck. As a follow-up, the three followers are placed into three different parts of the deck. The "Magnetic Queen" is face up on top. The magician makes a magical gesture, causing the three followers to rise to the top, joining the leader.

**SET-UP:** None.

### WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

The opening sequence is identical to that used in "Violet Assembly." Remove four queens and hold them face up in the right hand. If you position the QH second from

the face, she will end up being the "Magnetic Queen." Take the deck face up in dealing grip. Obtain a left fourth fingertip break below the face card of the deck and add it to the rear of the queens packet as you square the queens face up onto the deck. Openly turn the five-card block face down and deal three cards face down in a row from left to right. Necktie the deck upward as you take the fourth card, a queen, into the right hand. Display it to the audience while hiding the last, reversed queen on the face of the deck (**Fig. 1**).

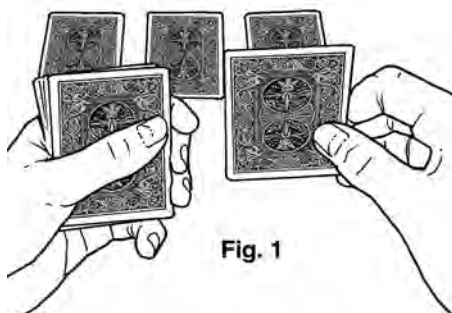


Fig. 1

Table the pack face down as you describe the queen in the right hand as the “Magnetic Queen.” The three tabled cards are from left to right: X card, Q, Q. Show the leader queen clearly as a single card. Put it face up on top of the face-down deck and cut it into the center. This brings the reversed queen that was on the bottom and the leader queen together in the center. Turn the deck face up on the table. This turns the two centralized queens face down.

**VANISHING THE QUEENS:** In “Violent Assembly,” Nancy used the “Collins Ace Vanish.” I am choosing a different path. I find that placing the queen face down among three face-up X cards and then using an **Ascanio Spread\*** works very well. Here are the details:

The deck is face up on the table with two face-down queens near the center. Remove three or four cards from the face of the deck. Retain three of them and place any extras back onto the deck, face up. Take the queen on the far right of the tabled row and flash its face. Now insert the queen face down, third from the top in your face-up packet of three cards. You can outjog it a bit and then raise the packet so the spectators see the card’s face. Square up the four cards. It’s a good idea to use a magical gesture that is perceived as the cause of the vanish. You can “twist” the packet or, perhaps, “cast a shadow” over the cards.

Now, use the action of the **Ascanio Spread\*** to create the impression that you only have three face-up X cards as follows: Hold the packet face up in right-hand **Biddle Grip\***, i.e., fingers at outer short edge, thumb at inner short edge. Move the palm-up left hand under the packet so that the left fingertips can contact the bottom card. Keeping that card in place, use the right hand to rotate the upper three cards five or ten degrees clockwise. Place the left thumb onto the face card of the packet, holding it in place as the right hand then moves the second and third cards, *as one*, to the position shown in **Figure 2**. The face-down queen remains hidden behind the slightly outjogged second card. Apparently, the queen has dis-

appeared. Immediately pull the double card free with the right hand as shown in **Figure 3**. Note that the right thumb pinches the double near its outer right corner. Now return the right hand under the remaining two cards and use the right thumb to pull the top card onto the double. Repeat with the card that remains in the left hand. Perform these actions briskly so the existence of the extra card (queen) is not seen by the spectators.

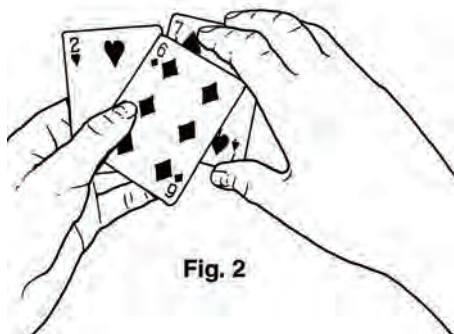


Fig. 2

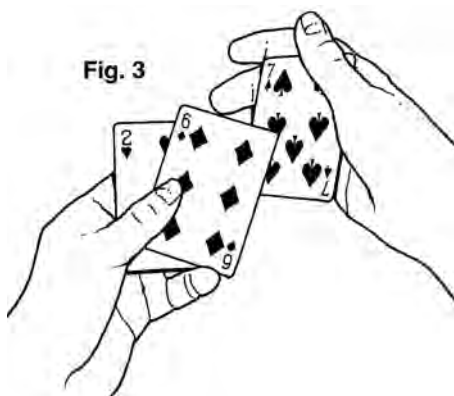


Fig. 3

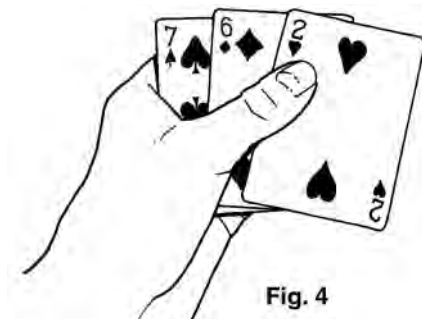
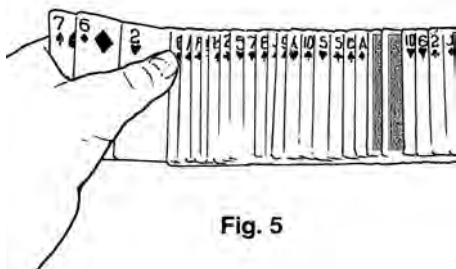


Fig. 4

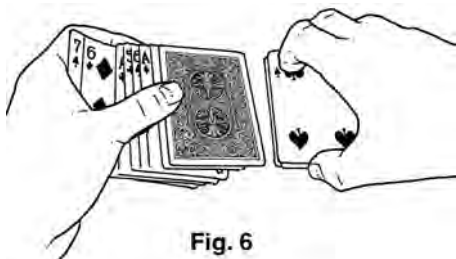
Transfer the packet of four (as three) to dealing position in the left hand and spread the four cards as three, keeping the queen at the rear hidden (**Fig. 4**). Say, “The queen has

disappeared and joined her sister, the ‘Magnetic Queen,’ in the deck.” Use the right hand to spread the deck on the table from left to right. Two face-down cards will show near the center. Now, just as in “Violet Assembly,” pull the left fingers a bit to the left under the packet and use it to begin to scoop up the spread of cards as in **Figure 5**.



**Fig. 5**

When you reach the face-down cards, separate the spread keeping the two face-down queens under the left thumb. Use your right hand to square up the remaining cards as shown in **Figure 6**. Finally, use the right hand to deal the top two face-down queens onto the tabled group, reversing their order. This puts the “Magnetic Queen” under the other queen. Use the right hand to square up the cards in the left hand. There is a reversed queen at the rear of this group. Place these cards onto the tabled group. There are now three queens reversed in the center of the deck.



**Fig. 6**

Two face-down cards thought to both be queens remain on the table. Repeat this exact sequence, i.e., remove three cards and use the **Ascanio Spread\*** to vanish the rightmost queen. Then spread and scoop up as before. This time, three face-down cards show at center. The fourth queen is the bottom card of the left hand’s group, which has the three face-down queens on top. Square up the left hand’s cards and the remaining

tabled cards. Place the three face-down queens onto the tabled group. Don’t reverse their order this time. Finally, place the left hand’s cards on top. There are now four queens face down in the center of the deck.

Repeat the vanish of the last “queen” using the **Ascanio Spread\*** ploy. This time, you can’t show the face of the inserted card since it’s an X card. At this point, the assembly will be complete when you spread the tabled cards showing four cards at the center. These are the four queens. But the situation is ripe for a follow-up effect:

**FOLLOW-UP EFFECT:** You will be sliding the left hand’s packet of four under the spread as before, but with a difference. First, square the four cards into left-hand dealing position. Now, as the right hand spreads the deck from left to right, you must reverse the left hand’s packet as follows: Move the left thumb under the packet at the left long edge and push the cards to a nearly vertical position on the left palm. See **Figure 7**.



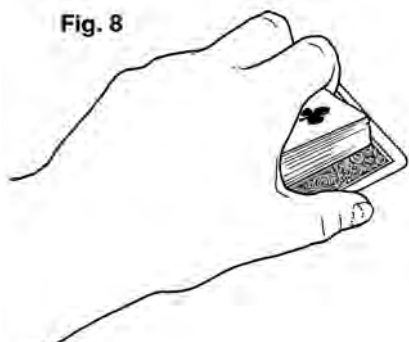
**Fig. 7**

Begin to rotate the left hand to palm downward. The reversed X card’s face comes into view. Scoop up the spread as before by sliding the left hand’s cards under the spread. Stop when you reach the group of face-down queens and use the right hand to remove them. Square up the left hand’s cards and place the tabled half-deck, squared, onto them. Table the deck which is now face up with three face down cards at the bottom. Pick up the four queens and deal the top three, face up in a row. Place the last queen, the “Magnetic Queen,” below the row of queens. This brings the assembly to a conclusion. Take a moment to let the feeling of magic sink in.



**PHASE 2:** Pick up the face-up deck into dealing position with the palm-down left hand. With the hand still palm down, flip the “Magnetic Queen” to face down using the left fingertips. Now pick up the queen, adding it to the bottom of the face up deck as in **Figure 8**. Turn the left hand palm upward, bringing the face of the queen into view. Pick up the other three queens using the right hand and add them face up onto the “Magnetic Queen.” There are now seven face-up cards on top of a face-down deck.

**Fig. 8**



Find the natural break between the seven face-up cards and the face-down deck and obtain a left fourth fingertip break there. Spread the top three queens a bit to the right, keeping everything else squared. Now with the right hand, palm upward, insert the right fingertips into the break and flip the entire block of seven cards face down as four. This is the **Zarrow Block Addition\***. Be sure that none of the X cards flash. It should look

like you just flipped over the four queens. Continue by removing the top three cards, one by one, as you then insert them face down and outjogged into the deck at various positions from the bottom up. Say, “I’m placing the followers at different places in the deck.” Flip the next card face up on top. It’s the “Magnetic Queen.” Push the outjogged “queens” flush with the deck. Continue with, “Once again the ‘Magnetic Queen’ attracts the followers.” End by dealing the top card face up to the table. Now deal the top three cards face up next to her for the big ending.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** One advantage of having the queens face down is that the suit discrepancies are not seen and possibly noted by an alert spectator. The use of the **Ascanio Spread\*** speeds up the vanishing sequence by automatically positioning the queen reversed on the bottom. And, finally, the face-down approach leads to the “Ambitious” sequence at the end without a lot of handling.

I hope that this first variant based on Nancy’s new approach to an assembly will further stimulate others to experiment with the concept. I’m already playing with some other ideas.

As always, video instruction is available for moves tagged with “\*” at [www.mallof-magic.com/themoves](http://www.mallof-magic.com/themoves).

**Mike Powers**

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## Beach Balance

While on a cruise in December 2024, I had the opportunity to watch Mr. Jason Bird perform his magical headliner act. You may remember that he released a close-up effect to the magic community, called “Money-Morphosis,” a few years ago.

We shared a few moments of conversation and from it spawned this month’s contribution, based on a classic beginner’s effect.

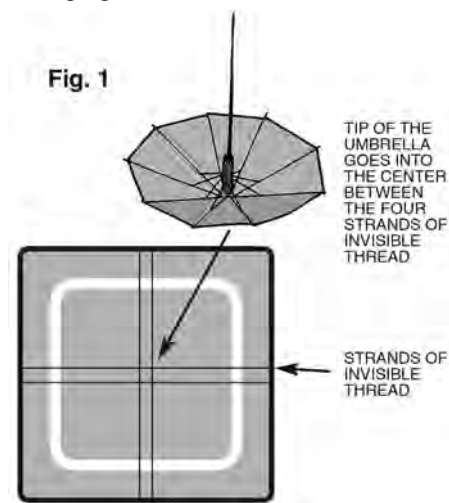
**EFFECT:** The required items can be found at a resort bar and forms an impossible magical demonstration whereby a Hawaiian beverage umbrella defies gravity and without scientific reasoning or common sense.

**REQUIREMENTS:** A square bar coaster, a cocktail/beverage umbrella, a straw, invisible thread, and glue/Magician’s Wax.

**SET-UP:** Break the pointed tip off the umbrella’s end. Wrap two strands of thread vertically around the coaster and adhere it with glue or Magician’s Wax at the back of the bar coaster. Wrap two strands horizontally around the coaster so that it crosses and intersects with the two vertical strands, and adhere with glue or Magician’s Wax at the back of the coaster (**Fig. 1**).

**PRESENTATION:** Open the umbrella three quarters of the way and insert the tip of the umbrella into the square center space created by the four strands of Invisible Thread (**Fig. 1**). With the coaster resting in an open hand between the fingertips and thumb tip, gently squeeze inward to create a marginally concave-shaped coaster. Next, grasp the straw and place it under the Invis-

ible Thread strands but above the coaster itself, having it move from side to side to prove the inverted umbrella is balanced while suspended in midair without attachments of any kind. Wave the straw, side to side, above the inverted umbrella with the same purpose.



**NOTE:** The Invisible Thread must be adhered tightly to the coaster. The function of the pink ring on the toothpick is to keep the umbrella propped open.

**TIP:** If the coaster is too rigid, dampen it with water to enhance its bendability.

Enjoy this month’s getaway effect or, better yet, perform it on your next Caribbean vacation. See you next month ...

**Andrew Woo**

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# Auto-magic

MICHAEL BREGGAR

As I continue to reflect on the ten-year anniversary of *Auto-Magic*, I must say how grateful I am for your continued readership. I continued to be honored by the loyalty of those of you who have stuck with me from the beginning. Brilliant and creative British magician Chris Wardle became an I.B.M. magic friend all those years ago.

I just *love* Chris's material. I urge you to be on the lookout for a brand-new routine of his called VOCABULUM. Like much of Chris's work, it is highly commercial and baffling, yet easy to execute.

Get this: On one side of an ordinary "packet-trick" wallet, five specially printed cards are shown. Each one has a list of twelve random four-letter words. Your participant randomly selects any of the five cards and any of the twelve words on the card. Now, you draw attention to the non-gimmicked wallet again. In the opposite pocket there are four different cards. You remove them and show them to be letter cards and, amazingly, those four letters spell out the randomly selected word your helper just selected! It is a true "wow" moment and a great effect. Do yourself (and your audiences) a favor and seek it out!

Chris has been very generous with his many routines published not only in this column, but also in his One-Man Parades. He has gifted us with another terrific routine. You can't lose when you perform:

## You Can't Lose!

By Chris Wardle

You hand a spectator a sealed envelope for safekeeping. "Inside is an impossible prediction for a little game of randomness and chance. And while it is a crazy game of

chance, it is a game in which I cannot lose!" What a way to start the proceedings!

You indicate a small tray with lots of white plastic playing counters on it. On the underside of each one is a different, random, three-digit number. Approaching another spectator, you tip a few counters from the tray into their cupped hand for them to examine and read out the random numbers. A third participant is now asked to take any counter still on the tray and hold it in their palm.

Next, three dice are displayed and a fourth spectator rolls the dice. You note and add the three numbers rolled, e.g., 5, 6, and 4, making a total of 15. The hidden faces on the bottom are now exposed and a second total is made, e.g., 2, 1, and 3, making 6.

The spectator holding the envelope (#1) is asked to use the calculator app on their phone to help generate a random total. The two dice numbers are added:  $15 + 6 = 21$ , which is then multiplied by the three-digit number on #3's chosen counter, e.g.,  $21 \times 167$ . The total is announced, and you write it large and boldly on a pad, e.g., 3,507.

The prediction envelope is opened and spectator #1 reads aloud:

*"By rolling three dice and multiplying by a random, three-digit number, a four-digit total has been reached. I predict that there is no way I could know the outcome. Therefore, I cannot lose!"*

After the faint laughter and polite applause, you reveal that you were only joking. Despite the impossibility of the circumstances, they really couldn't *lose* because upon turning the pad around, the audience sees that the upside-down number **3507** resembles the word **LOSE**. Ah, yes, you knew all along!

### Wardle's Wonderous Working

Several elements come into play for this really interesting effect. The three dice are ordinary and the age-old "21 Dice Force" is used. Chris's method, however, is very clever. Breaking the force into two numbers, which are subsequently added, detracts from the fact that you are just adding the top and bottom numbers of three dice.

The tray is actually the old "Multiplying Money Tray" that used to be a feature of children's magic sets. However, you can now purchase ones from magic dealers that come in wood or metal and actually look like common key or coin trays. Chris notes that the one he uses "is rectangular and in strong, black plastic and looks just like the ones you find in European hotel rooms. The prop, which is a dealer item (so I will not explain the exact working here), allows extra coins to be added to those on the tray to multiply the amount of money. I am sure that I am not the first person to think of this, but I have not seen it used as a forcing prop in print anywhere."

In fact, I prefer not to use the commercially available Money Tray, but instead an idea found in Tarbell and many other sources. Take a magazine or a large format softcover book. First, about 40–50 pages together. No need to glue the entire pages, just a rectangle measuring three inches by seven inches. The glued area should comprise the *back* pages of the magazine/book and centered at the top or bottom of the short side. Wait until the section has completely dried and then *carefully*, using a craft knife, cut a channel about an eighth of an inch deep by two inches wide and six inches long. This should accommodate three standard-sized poker chips. Using a magazine or a book works perfectly and, in my mind, looks a bit more natural.

Alternatively, I have also gaffed up a five by seven inch picture frame by merely adding another layer of backing. Cut the channel into a five-by-seven-inch piece of black foam-core board. Glue that to the frame backing. On top of the foam-core, glue a five-by-seven-inch piece of black poster board.

Here's more of what Chris has to say:

"Next, I load three counters with random numbers [into the channel] and then place all the rest of the counters, with the force number of 167, onto the tray itself. When I approach the spectator, naturally my hand goes over the tray to stop all of the counters falling off into their hands, but actually I am simply stopping *any* of the force counters from falling off. The three hidden counters with random numbers on them are released and fall into the spectator's cupped hands. I have used twenty-two-millimeter white opaque playing counters, bought cheaply online and written on the numbers with a black permanent marker."

Twenty-two-millimeter game pieces measure about one inch. I prefer using multicolored poker chips. Use a black grease pencil to write the numbers, since permanent marker ink may show through the other side. You'll only need about a dozen chips topside.

Chris also adds that "When I write the total of 3,507 on the pad, I make the 5 deliberately "loose" and more like an *S*, which aids the visual when the number is revealed by inverting the pad at the end. So, with this prediction, you really can't lose – it's a win every time!"

(This is like a tennis match! Heads turn back to Mike for a final comment or two.)

3,507 thank yous to Chris for sharing this routine. It is quite fun and allows for a good deal of interaction. You do not need four spectators to participate, but it is always good to get many people involved if you can without destroying the pace of the entire routine. Chris has constructed this quite well, allowing all participants to feel like they really add to the routine and are not merely props.

A final note: If you have a transparent change bag (a *good* one, please), you could use this instead of the tray/magazine/book/picture-frame switcher. Load the back side with a bunch of force number chips (of different colors) and the front is loaded with multicolored chips upon which the random three-digit numbers are boldly written.

*Chip in and email Michael at mbreggar-magic@gmail.com.*



## KNOTTY NAPKIN

**BET:** Wager that someone cannot hold the corners of a cloth napkin and tie it in a knot without letting go of the ends. Obviously, you'll want to let your friends try this several times before showing them the amazing solution to the task.

**SECRET:** Begin by stretching the napkin diagonally and placing it on the table in front of you. Then let go of the napkin and cross your arms. Stretch your left hand's index and middle finger underneath your right elbow, and your right hand's index and middle finger over your left elbow. In doing this you have tied your arms in a knot. Take hold of the ends of the napkin in each hand (**Fig. 1**). Pull your hands apart while still holding onto the ends of the napkin (**Fig. 2**).

When you unfold your arms you wind up putting a knot in the napkin. This could also be done with any long cord, string or rope. And speaking of ropes, here is a classic rope or bar joke:

*A length of rope went into a bar, sat on a stool, and ordered a drink. The bartender said, "We don't serve ropes here." Dismayed and disappointed, the rope went out and then got an idea. He stopped a man and asked, "Will you please tie a knot in me and separate my strands at both ends?" The man obliged, and with this done, the rope went back into the bar and again ordered a drink. The bartender looked him over and said, "Say, aren't you the same rope who was in here before?!" "No," was the reply, "I'm a frayed knot."*

**Fig. 1**



**Fig. 2**



Excerpted from *Bamboozlers: The Book of Bankable Bar Betches, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters, and Bewitchery* by Diamond Jim Tyler.  
[www.djtyler.com](http://www.djtyler.com).

# Broken Wand

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



## STEVE APPLEBAUM

Dr. Steven "Steve" Applebaum, 67, of Ambler, Pennsylvania, died April 2, 2025. He held I.B.M. 64394 and had been a member since 2003. He belonged to Ring 6 (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). Steve was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in a science-focused environment, and he carried that into his early career as a software engineer. He went on to become a doctor, practicing family medicine and urgent care. When not treating patients, he was "Dr. Mystic." During the holidays, he donated his time to performing magic for children in the hospital. He entertained family and friends at any gathering, and asked restaurants if he could walk around from table to table, performing tricks for patrons. He also ran marathons and half-marathons. Steve is survived by his wife Candice (née Harrison), his children Jason and Rachel, and his sisters Ruth and Marcia.



## DAVID HAND

David Hand, 72, of Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, England, died December 1, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 50080 and had been a member since 1993. He belonged to the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 25 (British Ring). His first job was as a metallurgist with British Steel. He met his wife Ann while singing in the same choir. David appeared in many produc-



tions of musicals and Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. One of his most notable roles was the title role of John Wellington Wells in *The Sorcerer*, where he was able to combine his magical abilities with his musical prowess. David was the baritone voice in Fourum, a four-part harmony group. He made many appearances with them, raising a considerable amount of money for countless charities and a singing tour across the United States. He was most recently president of the Hull Magicians Circle and won the Annual Simpson Shield. David is survived by Ann, his wife of forty-eight years.

## CURTIS KAM

Curtis Kam 65 of Honolulu, Hawaii, died April 17, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 38603. He belonged to Ring 185 (Honolulu, Hawaii), which was named after him. Curtis had a baccalaureate degree from Yale in biopsychology and graduated from the University of Hawaii Law School. He spent decades as a practicing lawyer in Hawaii but, for those in the local magic community, Curtis was "The Wizard of Waikiki." Skilled in coin and card magic, he headlined "Magic in Paradise" at the Hale Koa Hotel for thirteen years. He regularly performed table-side at Dave & Buster's, Tony Roma's, TGI Fridays, and has entertained corporate and private audiences for more than forty years. He designed illusions for "The Magic of Polynesia," Honolulu marketing and media firms, trade shows, conventions, Ballet Hawaii, and Hawaii Opera Theater. Since 1989, he performed as one half of the men-



talism and magic team Paranormal Guys, alongside mythical radio personality Jon Kealoha. As a creator, he published downloads and lectures, including live visits to magicians from Milan to Tokyo, and Hollywood's Magic Castle, London's Magic Circle, and the 2013 I.B.M. Convention.

### **TIMOTHY LAGANKE, SR.**

Timothy LaGanke, 85, of Novelty, Ohio, died January 4, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 67017 and had been a member since 2007. He belonged to Rings 23 (Cleveland, Ohio) and 150 (Fort Lauderdale, Florida). Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Tim graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1958. The United States Army and National Guard veteran moved back to his family home in Novelty in 1972. He started the Lube Stop 10-Minute Oil Change in 1985 and later founded QuickChange in 1995 in nearby Chesterland. Born on Halloween day, Tim was fascinated by magic and referred to himself as Timbo the Great. In addition to magic, he was an enthusiast of penny arcade machines, toy trains, antique automata, and sports cars. Tim was a member of the Sports Car Club of America, St. Anselm Catholic Church, Chagrin Valley Athletic Club, Catawba Island Club, and the Pine Lake Trout Club. He also coached youth sports. Tim is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years, Mary LaGanke (née Waechter); son Timothy J. (Brooke) LaGanke Jr. and daughters Michelle (Dave) Debes and Nicole (Patrick) Lennon, six grandchildren, a great grandson, and several step grandchildren.



### **DAVID MCLURCAN**

David McLurcan, 80, of Surrey, England, died March 22, 2025. He held I.B.M. number 63036 and had been a member since 2002. He belonged to Ring 25 (British Ring).

### **THOMAS HARTLEY TOWER**

Thomas Tower, 75, of Salem, Oregon, died January 31, 2025. He held I.B.M. num-

ber 75945 and had been a member since 2024. He grew up in Los Angeles, California, graduating from Narbonne High School and the University of California-Santa Cruz. He



completed graduate studies at Santa Cruz, and Western Oregon State University, earning degrees in psychology and counseling. Tom's primary career was as a therapist, first offering community mental health and addiction counseling for the homeless at Cascadia. Without seeking it, he earned a niche in the queer community and was given the affectionate nickname of "The Dyke Whisperer" by his clients. He later started his own private practice at the Integral Counseling Institute. Tom transitioned from mental health counseling to the spiritual care of hospice patients and their families as a hospice chaplain. He took up magic as a teenager and performed at house parties. His love of the craft never faded, and he attended shows and workshops well into his seventies. Other lifelong interests included playing music, scuba diving, white-water kayaking, and swimming laps at the local rec center. A dedicated Grateful Dead fan, you could usually find him in his tie-dyed t-shirts and rose-colored glasses. He had so many Hawaiian shirts that his niece and nephew still refer to Hawaiian shirts as "Uncle Tom shirts." Tom primarily played banjo, but also the slide guitar, dobro, bass, concertina, didgeridoo, and washboard. He worked with his dad in Tower Construction, building barns and homes in the Salem and Silverton areas. He later used his woodworking skills to make musical instruments and taught a banjo-building class at the local college. He toured the Pacific Northwest as a member of three folk and bluegrass bands: Briarrose, No Strings Attached, and Kathy Boyd and Phoenix Rising. He is survived by his wife of thirty-five years, Krista Albert; daughter Lucille Glick (and partners Tavi and Juniper) of Portland, Oregon; son Pascal Tower (and partner Ira) of Portland; and a grandson, brother, and extended family.

# Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



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

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

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

Ring One members have continuously volunteered for events in the St. Louis area. On March 22, several members offered their time and talents to perform magic at the Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Event. Then on March 23, members entertained at the St. Louis Kidney Walk Strolling Magic. The Ring appreciates it when the members volunteer their time to promote magic in the community, and the various charities served are very appreciative.

Gary S. Chan performed mentalism at the intermission for an event featuring Elia Esparza (from *The Voice*) and Mark Ramos Cover in Nashville. Gary performed multiple effects, including a "Truth or Lie" routine that was made all the better because of how expressive his volunteer was. His volunteer provided great banter and used his whole body to communicate feelings. It turns out that this volunteer (who was truly randomly chosen) is also an actor, so he knew how to work the crowd. It's magical when things come together so well.

Our members have also been busy attending lectures. On March 28, the Midwest Magic Jubilee sponsored a lecture which was hosted by I.B.M. Ring One. The incredible Gregory Wilson was the lecturer. Gregory hasn't been on the lecture tour circuit since 2018. During that time, he continued to refine, hone, and perfect some of the most commercial magic that magicians can carry. This tour is called "Things I Carry and Use 2.0." He is an excellent magician, but he is also a superb presenter and instructor who is quite entertaining. He explained everything he presented in a way that everyone present could understand. There were several members who were not true "magicians" but were

mesmerized by listening to his stories. Everyone attending was able to take away effects they could do immediately.

On April 9, Ring One sponsored a lecture featuring two incredible magicians, Henry Evans and Daniel Mormina (both from Argentina). Henry Evans is a FISM winner and has a knack for creating interesting effects and gimmicks. Henry entered a school of magic when he was only eleven and became an award-winning magician who travels the world all year round, either as a speaker or as a performer. Daniel Mormina is also an award-winning magician who has created magic effects. He was the FISM 2022 Invention Winner. The Ring One members enjoyed this lecture immensely.

Steve Zuehlke and Steve Buesking hosted the Gateway Close-up Convention which took place April 3-5 in Collinsville, Illinois. Both Steves are members of Ring One. This is the fourth year the convention has taken place. Top close-up magicians lectured and performed. The members who attended thought it was one of the "best" conventions they have ever attended. Steve and Steve are already planning next year's event. The members can't wait to hear who will be performing and lecturing.

The new tabletop game, *Masters to Mythics: Behind the Magic*, that we have been writing about is launching its Kickstarter campaign on May 6. You can visit [www.MasterstoMythics.com](http://www.MasterstoMythics.com) for more information.

Michael McClure has finished our new website, and it is now live, so make sure you update your records. The new website address is [www.ibm-ringone.com](http://www.ibm-ringone.com). If you haven't visited it yet, you will see an exciting new look. There are new features and a brand-new style. Please note that we will not be using the numeral #1 on the website address any more. Instead, we will be using the word "one." Ring One's email address has also changed. The new email address is [ibmringone@gmail.com](mailto:ibmringone@gmail.com).



Our new email address will now be monitored by several members who are in leadership positions. Members are excited about these new upgrades to our internet presence. *Sandy Weis*

## **RING 2, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO – Filips-Tutter-Doeright Ring**

Meets 7:30 pm 2nd Fri., Valley Christian Church, 7155 Glenwood Ave.,  
Youngstown, OH

PETER LUCKE, Secretary

E-mail: IBMring2Youngstown@me.com

Vice President Larry Henderson opened our April meeting. The following Ring 2 members and friends were present: Fritz Coombs, Bob Gurdak, Larry Henderson, Jim Klayder, Peter Lucke, Gary Morton, Mark Miller, Brian Moss, and Keri Vrable. The theme of the evening was Coin Magic.

Gary Morton opened the evening by telling us about his research on our club's long history. In 2028, our club will be 100 years old.

Opening the evening's magic, Gary Morton entertained us with "Words" attributed to David Stone. He showed us several booklets that contained word search puzzles. He asked Jim to pick a booklet, turn to a page, and search for a word in the grid of letters. After he located a word, he asked Peter to pick a letter; he picked T, but T was not in the word. Gary continued by guessing a few other letters; they were correct. Eventually, Gary said the word was "nervous"; Jim confirmed it was correct. Gary had Peter find a word, using a different booklet. After Gary suggested several letters, he correctly named the word; it was "geranium."

Bob Gurdak followed with the "Magic Coins of Zoltar" attributed to Zoltar. Zoltar was a genie machine in a mall. Bob said he inserted a coin, and the machine returned a small box containing two brass coins. One had a white face, and the other a black face. Also in the box was a blank faced blue backed playing card. Bob placed the white coin in his left hand and the black coin in his right hand. He closed his hands and when he reopened them, the coins had changed places. Bob then performed it in reverse, returning the coins to their original positions. Taking the card, Bob placed the white coin on the white side of the card, and the black coin on the blue back of the card. After flicking the card, Bob showed that the coins had switched colors. He concluded by showing the two coins were not black on one side and white on the other. But, instead, one had green and red surfaces, and the other was blue and yellow.

Jim Klayder entertained us with his go-to coin routine with six coins. Jim began by producing a silver dollar coin from behind his left ear. This was followed by a variety of effects in

which the coin vanished and reappeared in different places. Adding two more coins from behind his ears, he continued with a three-coins-across effect. He concluded the magic with a copper and silver coin exchange in a spectator's closed fist.

Brian Moss amazed us with a "Coins Through Table" effect attributed to Slydini. Initially, he displayed six silver dollars. Placing three coins in each hand, Brian asked if he could make the coins pass through the table. After banging one hand on the table, he opened his hand to show the coins were gone. He brought out his other hand from under the table; it now had all six coins. Brian continued by magically vanishing three coins from his left hand and revealing six coins in his right hand. He concluded with a variety of single-coin tricks.

Peter Lucke performed "Ring Escape" from Rob Stiff. He displayed a large brass bolt. Threaded on the bolt was a brass nut. At the tip of the bolt was a hole with a locked padlock through it. The lock prevented the nut from being removed from the bolt. Peter asked Mark to assist him by providing a ring. Peter unlocked the lock, unscrewed the nut, and slipped Mark's ring onto the bolt. He next replaced the nut and lock and gave Mark the key. Mark examined the setup and affirmed that the ring couldn't be removed. Peter set the bolt on the table and, under the cover of an opaque cloth, removed the ring from the bolt.

Fritz Coombs continued with "Out to Dinner" a copper silver transposition. He invited Keri to assist him. Fritz asked her to hold her hand flat, and he placed a silver coin in her palm. On top of the coin, Fritz placed his business card, and on top of that, he placed a copper coin. He asked Keri what was under the copper coin, and she correctly replied, the card. And under that was the silver coin. Fritz lifted the card to reveal a copper coin underneath instead. He then repeated the effect, now revealing a silver coin in her palm in place of the copper one.

Larry Henderson concluded members' magic with "Heroes and Villains" by Craig Petty. Larry had a special deck of fifty-two cards. Each card had a picture on it and was marked as a hero or as a villain. There was a number rating the strength of the person pictured, and also on the card was the name of the person's nemesis. Mark assisted by first dealing out three piles of cards. He dealt six cards in each pile. Following Larry's instructions, Mark turned over the top card of each pile, stacked up the three piles, and added the remainder of the deck on top of that. He began dealing the deck to the table, stopped at a random point, and turned over the top card.

Larry then went through the deck placing the card next to a flipped card on the table, and the packet above was placed below on the table. There were now four face-up cards and four packets on the table. The face up cards were all heroes, and the top cards of the packets were the corresponding villains.

Bob Gurdak next presented a mini lecture explaining the effect “Any Card at Any Number,” which he performed at our February Meeting. The evening concluded with guest Mark Miller performing “Adjective” by Max Maven.

*Peter Lucke*

### **RING 5, DAYTON, OHIO – Dayton Magic Club**

Meets 2nd Fri. each month at 7:30pm, Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church, Kettering, OH.

DAVE DAVIS, Ring Reporter / E-mail: daytonmagicring5@yahoo.com

Web site: [www.sites.google.com/site/daytonmagicring5](http://www.sites.google.com/site/daytonmagicring5)

The Dayton Magic Club conjured up an evening of wonder and fellowship at its regular meeting on April 11th! The event featured a delightful blend of club business and captivating magical performances.

The meeting commenced with a productive business session. Members celebrated the resounding success of the recent TechFest and Hoopla events, acknowledging the club’s significant contributions to these gatherings. Enthusiasm was also high as the club looked ahead to future events, with XAct being a key focus of the discussion.

The true magic of the night unfolded during the performance segment, where twenty-two talented members graced the stage. Each magician presented their own unique and mesmerizing take on packet tricks, a form of close-up magic that never fails to astonish. The air crackled with excitement and applause as we all witnessed impossible feats performed with ordinary cards.

The enchantment didn’t end with the formal meeting! The magic community then transitioned to Archer’s Tavern for “DMC After Hours.” This provided a more relaxed setting for members to continue sharing their passion for magic, exchange ideas, enjoy good food and drink, and strengthen the bonds of friendship that make the Dayton Magic Club so special. It was a night where the magic truly flowed, both on and off the stage.

*Mike Bayer*

### **RING 6, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA – Delaware Valley Conjurers Club**

Meets 2nd Monday, each month, 7:30 p.m., Wallingford Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford, PA 19086

DAVE KELLY, Acting Recording Secretary

Web site: [www.ibmring6.com](http://www.ibmring6.com)

After finalizing plans for our upcoming April visit by author Joe Hernandez (*Houdini, The*

*Ultimate Trivia Compendium*), we began a night of sharing some magic routines, critiques, and explanations. Dave Kelly began with a routine from a David Ginn book. Dave produced a rabbit in a hat. Actually, a magical rabbit puppet from a hat. The puppet, “Bun-E-Rabbit,” then produced a dove from the hat, and showed his chain escape. The dove was a real dove, a box of Dove soap, and the escape was the chain escaping from the rabbit!

Bill McElvenney shared his “Sock Switch,” first his shoelaces tied themselves, and then after showing mismatched socks on his legs, the socks switched places. He is working on some changes to make further color switches possible. Mark Walsh shared an effect that Boris Wild taught us in February, “Any Card at any Number.” He did the magic twice, using a “smart” way to do it, as well as a “simple” way. Mark also opened up the floor to discussions about ways to use the Si Stebbins deck set-up. Jim Daly shared a math miracle from Tarbell. It was a visible prediction of numbers, with a prediction envelope in full view.

Jim Freiberg shared his expertise with cards with a different “Card at Any Number,” and several Dani DaOrtiz card routines. He also showed ways to perform a bottom force with any deck of cards. Reba Strong juggled a single tennis ball, and the ball then answered questions with googly eyes on it. Larry Grossman went to an old *Linking Ring* magazine, to show how to use a Svengali Deck to cut to a selected card. Jim Capobianco (“Laz”) did a card effect using a Mirage Deck, that made selection of the card so easy. Finally, Jim Daly showed us pieces of paper with some of the strange place names found in Pennsylvania (think Bird in Hand and Paradise). Yup, real name places. After showing all of these towns, he stacked them into one pile and opened the pile to show a complete map of Pennsylvania. A great night of sharing magic.

*David Kelly*

### **RING 9, ATLANTA, GEORGIA – Georgia Magic Club**

Meets 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00pm, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 471 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

Ring 9 Website: [www.gamagicclub.com](http://www.gamagicclub.com)

BILL PACKARD, Secretary / Email: [billpackardmagic@gmail.com](mailto:billpackardmagic@gmail.com)

T.I.P. Lecture: David Howell, “Slicing and Dicing: Nefarious Feats with Short Cards.” First, David performed Paul Curry’s “Turn of the Century,” which uses a double backer to force a card with a handling similar to the Deeper Cut Force, to apparently cause the selected card to turn over in the deck, as well as to serve as a Key Card, but with corner shorts to also control the position of the force card. David uses a Sunstar corner rounder device from

Amazon. Second, David performed a “Selected Card at Any Number” effect with a Svengali Deck that he made himself, using a Stripper Deck device from *ThePerfectShuffle.com*. He answered many questions about those and other similar devices and referenced *A New Angle* by Plunkett and Feldman for ideas on using Stripper Decks.

Business Meeting: President Clark Kjørlaug greeted forty members (three on Zoom) and two guests. We heard reports on the Winter Carnival of Magic (Mark Hatfield won the Parlor/Stage contest), Kyle Littleton’s Secret Aisle (Zach Ivens performed), and the previous evening’s Atlanta Magic Night (which featured Gus Belgrave and David Howell). Jamey Evans will perform at next month’s Secret Aisle and the next Atlanta Magic Night will feature Eric Schuster and Chris Moorman. Past International President Ken Scott recited a list of visiting performers appearing at the Atlanta Harvest of Magic (September 25-27), including a workshop by Andi Gladwin, and encouraged attendees to reserve their rooms ASAP. Murl Harmon reminded us of the Atlanta Society of Magicians’ Flea Market at 2:00 on April 12 (regular meeting at noon) at the American Legion Post.

The Georgia Magic Book Club had its second meeting on March 5 to discuss Joshua Jay’s *The Particle System*, with a final meeting scheduled for April 2 and Joshua Jay planning to participate! Walter Fields reported that there are now four magicians volunteering for Project Magic at the Shepherd Center. Steve Goldstein reported that the latest Magic Meetup had a record-breaking attendance and the next Magic Meetup is scheduled for May 4 at the Hudson Grille.

Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer asked for feedback on Gregory Wilson’s lecture (all great!) and reminded us of the upcoming (April 16) lecture by Willy Monroe.

Mike Varon is still on crutches, and Bill Packard just had hip replacement surgery, but it was great to see Anthony Vinson back at the meeting. Secretary/Treasurer Bill Packard handed a Circle of Honor certificate to Ken Scott, new member certificates to Gary Poleynard and Jerry Li, and a Theme Magic certificate for February to Mark Hatfield. Clark Kjørlaug awarded the VIP Lecturer of the Year crystal to Brian Robert, who was not present at the Annual Banquet to receive it.

Performing for Membership: Patrick Buchen pulled from his mystery bag a Rubik’s Cube, which volunteers randomly mixed, Patrick returned to the bag, and removed it solved (it was obviously a second cube), then took out the

first cube and solved it instantaneously. Then he and a spectator each mixed cubes and they were shown to match, then solved one of them instantaneously.

Theme Magic Performers: “Employee Appreciation Day,” perform one of your “workers,” a go-to favorite routine to perform. (1) Newest member Jerry Li had a card selected, returned, and the deck shuffled, then dealt cards from his pocket while the spectator mentally spelled his card and stopped him when finished – the last card dealt was his card! (2) Clark Kjørlaug removed a card from the deck as a prediction, and invited a spectator to indicate when he should stop dealing, produced three aces (spelling to one of them!), and revealed that the prediction was the fourth ace. (3) David Rakoczy demonstrated his ability to bend forks with his mind. (4) Ravi Navare had a card selected, shuffled the deck, and eliminated cards per the spectator’s choices until one card remained, the selected card! (5) Murl Harmon spun a card so hard the ink on the card turned into a spiral. (6) Steve Langston caused a hole in a key to transpose to another key. (7) Zach Ivens performed “Card Warp.” (8) Jamey Evans found a selected card by setting off a mousetrap with his tongue. (9) Steve Goldstein performed a Silver/Copper Transposition. (10) Eric Schuster performed a two-in-the-hand, one-in-the-pocket routine with coins. (11) Dominic Prestera did an “Ambitious Card” effect. (12) Wayne Carter vanished a silk and produced it from his mouth. (13) Martin Baratz performed a brief “Ambitious Card” sequence then caused the deck to turn into a clear plastic block (Omni Deck). (14) Lynn Fox performed “Gypsy Thread” with dental floss. (15) Howie Slomka had a card selected, displayed each of four cards, twice, and put one of the cards in the card box, which turned out to be the selected card. (16) Gus Belgrave, with a set of index cards with thoughts written on them, had several selected and identified them all. (17) Christophe Fouquet performed a series of effects. (18) David Fluker performed “Cut and Restored String.”

General Magic Performers: (1) Jamey Evans demonstrated the One-Handed Knot, then took the knot off the rope. (2) Gus Belgrave had a card selected, returned to the deck, and shuffled, then determined its identity. (3) Jim Mangham performed a card miracle.

The Wheel of Names Giveaway winners were Lynn Fox, Eric Schuster, David Rakoczy, and Christophe Fouquet. Winner of the Coveted Royal Blue Pin for March was Christophe Fouquet and Patrick Buchen was invited to

become a member of the Georgia Magic Club.

Catweazel Jim Mangham started a new segment called "Who Wants It?" where he simply pulls something from his collection and gives it to whomever wants it!

*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

It's April and time for our meeting, but first we have a teaching table, as per usual. This month we had Greg Ebert. He talked about the history of how to see magic and how to get booked to do magic. There was no YouTube or social media when he was young and starting out in magic. He had original ways to reach people, such as free balloon animals with a preview of the magic he was able to do. He showed us his "Cards Through Table" routine, it was impressive. It was a very useful teaching table.

Now it was time for the main event lecture of April 2025. We had Shaun Robison. He discussed restaurant magic and how to approach tables, along with teaching some excellent magic.

He began with making a full shot glass appear under an empty handkerchief. This was the one effect not taught, but impressive to see. He had some packet tricks where the fronts and backs change into designs not seen earlier in the effect. He performed "Coins Across" with an Okito Box that ended up being a solid block. He finished up with restaurant items, such as a "Torn and Restored Straw Wrapper," "Linking Swords," and a contest with napkins. All this and more. I'm looking forward to learning more from the lecture notes.

*Shlomo Birkan*

### **RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa- Greenberg Ring**

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm The Linden Grove, 1100 Grove St., Pittsburgh, PA  
MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@sei.cmu.edu  
Web site: www.ibring13.org

In April, we planned to perform a short magic show on June 12 as part of the Scott Township Library Summer Reading Kick-Off event. Lucy Hall emceed our performers with a suggested theme of "bottles and glasses."

Tony Brahler presented his second performance for Ring membership, betting the keys to his house that we would like his trick. Tony made a signed, half-dollar coin disappear and then reappear on his key chain (John Murray's "The Mark").

Levi placed an upside-down glass on top of a coaster on the table, and then he placed a dollar

coin on its bottom. Levi pressed the coin and made the coin penetrate through the bottom and appear inside of the inverted glass (Hanson Chien's "Roller Coaster"). Later, Levi had six people reach inside a bag to pick out a small ball without letting him see it, and Levi correctly identified the person who had the black ball. Levi closed by making the Statue of Liberty disappear from a 2001 quarter coin (Roy Kueppers' "Statue Vanish").

Todd Hertzberg showed off his recently acquired, gold glitter and black tuxedo jacket. Todd later performed an effect with two martini glasses, a scotch glass, a half dollar, and an English penny, making the coins change places.

Roger Sacco asked Lashaya to read aloud a number, 746121, written on the back of a dollar bill. Roger instructed Lashaya to fold the bill and hide it in one of her hands behind her back and then switch the bill back and forth between her hands. Roger correctly identified that Lashaya was holding the bill in her right hand. When the number on the back of the bill was turned upside down, it spelled out the word RIGHT.

Dan Kamin performed a routine using two, small, plastic paddles that he received as a young boy, with each paddle bearing a picture of a top hat on each side. Dan made a rabbit appear in one of the hats on one paddle. The rabbit jumped from one paddle to the other, and then the rabbits multiplied on all sides before disappearing again.

Ted Knoblach borrowed Eric's wedding finger ring and threaded it onto the middle of a long length of red cord. Ted made the ring penetrate the cord as he pulled it off the middle. Ted repeated this, and then he made the ring pop back on to the middle of the cord again. Ted made the ring vanish and then reappear inside of four, nested pouches. Ted asked Eric to select and sign a card, which was returned to the deck. Ted wrapped a rubber band with the ring around the deck, and he made the band and ring wrap around only Eric's signed card.

Gary Filson placed an empty Coca Cola bottle inside a brown paper bag. He turned the bag upside down to claim the bottle had disappeared, and then he made the bottle reappear again. Gary repeated this, but the second time, he produced a full glass of wine from the bag and crumpled up the bag to show that the bottle really had vanished.

Jeff Vanderhoff set two bottles of water and two glasses on the table, and he asked Lashaya to imitate him and mirror everything he did. They each opened their bottles, poured some water into their glasses, drank the water, and set



down the glasses. After tossing their bottles and glasses in the air, they poured and drank the rest of their water. However, Jeff surprised us and drew laughter when he spit out his water into his glass, not having swallowed his water. Jeff then took a canister of potato chips and a glass bottle of ketchup out from a brown paper bag. Jeff pretended to make the bottle of ketchup disappear inside the bag by apparently hiding it inside of the potato chip can. But then he showed that the ketchup bottle really had disappeared as he crushed the bag and opened the can to let out a large, spring snake.

Chris Handa showed a crystal stem glass that was tied to a string and suspended from a stick. As Chris passed the hanging glass over various objects, it made a quiet ringing sound to detect haunted spirits. Chris showed a small effigy figure that rose and fell over on the palm of his hand. Chris also celebrated the publication of his new book, *Talismans and Thaumaturgy: Stories and Sorcery at Castle Blood*.

Eric Meredith talked about quantum mechanics while he had two cards selected and returned to the deck. Eric placed a random card inside a plastic sleeve that he called “Schrödinger’s Envelope.” Eric’s card visibly turned into one of the selected cards, and Eric’s card had jumped back to the top of the deck. Eric placed his card inside the sleeve again to transform it into the second chosen card (Katsuya Masuda’s “Wow 3.0”). We wish you all a magical summer!

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)

ANDREW SELBITSCHKA, President / Web site: [www.IBMRing19.com](http://www.IBMRing19.com)

Our in-person meeting started off with President Andrew Selbitschka regaling us with his recent visit, in March, to The Magic Castle in Hollywood. He was impressed with the variety of acts that were presented. He also visited the Magic Apple store and bought a few effects. Michael Barnard and Jennifer Graham shared stories of their visit to the Gateway Convention in April. It is a small convention, but the intimate and casual setting should make it a must-go for any magic enthusiast.

Our group was small, but we had ninety-five percent participation! Rick Hinrichs started out the presentations with a “Blendo” trick before moving on to his version of a Bizzaro money trick using loops. We offered some suggestions for improvements but were very impressed with Rick’s handling of these effects.

Bob Miller wowed us with his “Invisible Coins/Coins Across” routine. He also shared his

self-coloring coloring book featuring Dugan the Magical Monster. Bob ended his segment with a lottery card trick using Andrew and Jody LeBlanc as volunteers.

Michael Barnard and Jennifer Graham performed and demonstrated Larry Becker’s “Will The Cards Match?” We used this as a teach-a-trick segment for the meeting.

Jody LeBlanc has been working on some tricks for a kids show, he performed his “Three Card Monte” using stuffed turtles. It was very entertaining and engaging.

Paul Laidig performed the “Ultimate Sucker Die Box.” He was followed by Steven Olson, who was asking for feedback on a routine that he is developing, using 4K Color Vision and the Ravensberger game Colorama.

Andrew Selbitschka purchased a card trick on his visit to California. He had tweaked the trick to better fit his performance style. Using Michael Barnard’s assistance, with red and blue decks of cards, he performed this effect for the group.

Jennifer Graham shared “The Impossible Card Trick” with the assistance of Walt Pattinson, Jody LeBlanc, and Monty Cook.

Walt then shared Harry Lorayne’s “One-Eyed Jack Sandwich” trick.

Monty Cook floored us with his magnificent slop shuffle.

Bob Miller demonstrated his version of the slop shuffle to produce the four aces and a chosen card.

Steven Olson closed out the magic portion of the meeting with some coin flourishes. We then broke into small session groups.

Our Zoom meeting was small, but Tyler was back from WonderBash, where he lectured, so all was, again, right with the world.

We welcomed Isaiah Haddon to the meeting. Isaiah is twelve years old and is a local creator of magic effects. He wowed us with his card manipulation skills and his work on the center deal.

Tyler Erickson shared his wonderful card magic with the group, including but not limited to card productions, card counts and dealing demonstrations.

We talked at length about some magic book recommendations for learning more complex card magic, that we thought might enhance Isaiah’s card repertoire.

Rick Hinrichs and Paul Laidig offered some card tricks to the group, including Paul’s trick using Tarot cards.

We spent a fair chunk of time discussing the basics of building an act/show, whether it be for close-up, parlor or stage. Isaiah is building an

act to demonstrate a gambling routine and welcomed insight and feedback from the group.

If what we do sounds interesting, all are welcome to attend either or both of our in-person or Zoom meetings. Contact info may be found at the top of the report.

*Jennifer Graham*

### **RING 21, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA – Caryl Fleming**

Meets 1st Thu. at Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Cathedral auditorium, 650 Michelorena St., Los Angeles, CA 90026 / Web site: [www.IBMRing21.org](http://www.IBMRing21.org)  
GERRY SCHILLER, Secretary  
P.O. Box 246, Newbury Park, CA 91319 / (805) 499-8921  
E-mail: [geraldschiller@gmail.com](mailto:geraldschiller@gmail.com)

A rare rainy night for Los Angeles but we still had a decent turnout for our March meeting. It was Stage Performance Night that includes voting for the best by tonight's attendees with the award to be given out at our October Awards and Installation Banquet.

Hosted tonight by "Dr. John" who did also did a nice four ace routine. Bob Carroll did a rap for seniors that was original and hilarious that led to a poster restoration. David Martinez did a routine with coins and a very visible bag where they repeatedly appeared along with other surprises. Ellen Stein performed with a magic yellow rope including threading the needle and knots appearing and disappearing. A guest performer did card flourishes. Manny D'Mago did an act with a movie memory night theme using postcards and a clothesline. Nicolas Garcia performed with rope that a handkerchief appeared on and off the rope as well as a rope routine with sliding knots. Reid Ekman performed with a lightbulb and a white handkerchief, and they kept changing places very magically all along with music. Roy Ball finished the evening doing a card routine using the one ahead method and the insurance policy. Cool magic raffle prizes helped end the evening.

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 21 met again on April 3, 2025. The meeting was really awesome. We had a lecturer come in from Spain. Rafael Benatar was the lecturer, and he was spectacular in his performance. Rafael's lecture was quite awesome.

Rafael is quite charming and very elegant. He lectured on some of his most impeccable card material, and of course, his "Cups and Balls," which is legendary. The lecture was well received by the members. Rafael was able to sell lots of his lecture notes and some of his effects. Because the lecture took up the majority of our meeting time, we did not have much time to do anything else for the monthly meeting. We did not have our regular raffle due to the fact we had the lecture, and he was selling his products. We wanted to be respectful of our lecturer.

Our May meeting will be on May 1, 2025,

and will be held at the same location (650 Micheltorena St., Los Angeles, CA 90026).

*Louis Lave and Bob Weiss*

### **RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring**

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:00pm at The Mountain House Gallery, 702 9th Avenue (corner of West 48 Street) New York, NY 10019  
JAMES R. STRANGES, President  
E-mail: [magicjim1@optonline.net](mailto:magicjim1@optonline.net) / Website: [www.80-20.org/meeting](http://www.80-20.org/meeting)

February's Lab attendance was small due to it being Valentine's Day. I guess the ones in attendance had made arrangements to be able to attend to Lab and still fulfill their obligations to their Valentines. After conducting our usual raffle, past president and host, Frank Reyes, introduced the attendees to the Handkerchief and Silk lab by demonstrating some effects using a Dye Tube and a Silk Poke. Frank displayed a one-hundred-dollar bill silk. Finally, Frank performed a "Rising Selected Card through Silk" effect taught to him by his mentor, Mike Bornstein. Robert Wallner determined to continue his never-ending newspaper theme performed a "Silk through Newspaper" effect. Sterling Lee expertly performed the silk effect, "Waltzing Matilda." Zachary Adelman used a handkerchief to make a coin appear and vanish. Zachary also did coin, ring, and handkerchief effect which got everyone attending trying their hand at it. Adrien Pierard entertained with a card effect using a handkerchief and the assistance of Scott Willet. Adrien ended with a rarely seen selected card through handkerchief. Another fine, fun and informative lab.

Our February After Meeting Show, titled Comedy Night, was strongly attended. Items donated to the Ring were raffled off and the health status of our President, James Stranges, and other Ring news were reported to the membership. Past President Frank Reyes was the evening's master of ceremonies and showed off his \$100 dollar silk lining in his blazer jacket. He also utilized the assistance of Sara Garner and Adrien Pierard in a mind reading effect where everyone was in on it except Sara. Robert Wallner started off with a Clippo type of effect. Sara Garner was asked to stop him as he ran a pair of scissors up and down a newspaper column. When he cut it, it landed at the prize in his wallet. He pulled out his thick wallet and drew out a hundred feet or more of a newspaper column. Zachary Adelman performed a unique routine using a bowl full of bubble gum. A spectator selected one for Zachary which he proceeded to chew only to realize that it was a balloon. He then segued into a "Needle through Balloon." He finished off inflating a surgical glove, drawing a figure on it and then milking it. It was an udder success.

Guy Crowl followed with his rendition of his various casino cards given to him by his miserable mother-in-law (his words not mine). All the cards were from various casinos. With the help of a Deborah Holt and Zachary Adelman cards were selected through a series of shuffles. At the end, not only did the face of the cards match, but also the backs. Nice effect but the story is hilarious. John Schrier as Jvic The Relationship Magician created a great dual reality effect. Scott Willet was asked to think of something and to remember it. Jvic blindfolds Scott and reinforces that he remembers the item. With some clever and psychological suggestions Jvic causes Scott to forget the thought-of item. The Man Who Knows Too Much, Tommy Burnett, did a few, very good card effects. But, as a special request by Frank, he did a beautiful and hilarious Book Test with a volunteer. With their backs to each other and the spectator holding a book, Tommy asked the spectator to select a page. Once done, Tommy was able to recite the contents of that page. I won't reveal how it was done, suffice to say it was funny as heck.

Closing the evening was Sheldon Lippman's alter ego, Dr. Meshugana. Dressed as a deranged doctor with wooly hands, hair that looked like he stuck a finger in an electrical socket and a hunchback stance, Dr. Meshugana performed a selected card, vanished and later to appear in the once empty card box. He ended by vanishing a Bjorn Hanson's ring and making it appear on tied to Meshugana's shoelace.

March 2025, Bornstein/Clement lab was themed Sponge Ball and Pocket Magic. As always, the attendance and enthusiasm were great. After the meal and the traditional raffle, past president Frank Reyes started things off making a sponge ball appear and vanish with the use of the Sanada gimmick. Used by the likes of Jay Scott Berry, it is very versatile. Frank also explained the differences between the Goshman sponges and others. He also demonstrated how to make the sponges softer. Later Frank demonstrated splitting a sponge and using a purse frame a la Goshman.

Adrien Pierard performed the "Magic Ten Count" sponge ball routine. This was widely performed at one time. Rarely seen now a days, Adrien did it justice. Guy Crowl brought in a huge bag of sponge balls enough for everyone in addition to a few clown noses. Guy performed a wonderful paddle routine telling a story about pizza and meatballs. He also performed a routine marking a paddle with dots making them appear, multiply, and vanish. Matae Kristov alternated some red and white individual diamond hanging sheets that suddenly turned into a

red and white checkerboard two by two-foot sheet. Also, he amazed everyone with a deck of individual cards that he caused to link to one another in a curious way. Sheldon Lippman engaged us with some fabulous coin routines. He did a Dai Vernon routine, a coin roll vanish, and a routine using several coins. Robert Wallner did a mental effect using a mysterious pen that may be used to write a prediction. He followed it up with an effect utilizing ESP symbols. Jack Diamond, recently back from Italy, performed a sponge ball vanish that he attributed to Steve Dacri where the fingers don't move. Jack also demonstrated a paddle routine that he learned from Daryl Martinez.

March's After Meeting show was a first-time event. This show was treated as a "Open Mic" night. A few performers notified the producer ahead of the evening and a number offered to perform when they arrived. It was a wonderful evening. Not only did the people in attendance enjoy the evening, but at the end, the performers received much sought-after critique and suggestions.

Opening the evening was Zachary Adelman with a version of the "Egg Bag" where eggs kept disappearing from the bag and ending up in his pocket and ending with several eggs. Jack Diamond performed an effect requested by Frank Reyes. Jack had one spectator select a card. Jack then had another spectator who did not know what the card was receive that image of the card from the first spectator. But it was done mentally; completely baffling for those not in the know. Adrien Pierard followed with his version of "Card to Pocket" utilizing a giant pair of tweezers.

New member, Zac, had five people each freely select a page and word from one of two books. Zac then named the five words and asked that if their selected word was mentioned to put their hands down. All hands went down. James Chan (hopefully soon to become a member) did a Rubik's Cube effect utilizing a large cube and a miniature cube where he had a spectator mix the cube, call out a color. James then solved that color, behind his back. Finally, the mixed Rubik's Cube match the miniature one that was sitting in a box.

Closing the show was Tommy, "The Man Who Knows Too Much" Burnett. Tommy took stage carrying a metal box containing not one, not two, not three, but four Rubik's Cubes. The cubes were placed on the table and Tommy stated that he would solve all the cubes within a stated time... blindfolded. Tommy grabbed each one and twisted and turned them. Upon removing the blindfold, the cubes were not solved. He

then stacked them up and when turned around the time he said he would solve them was displayed on the back of the cube.

Thanks to all who attended, to all the performers, to James O'Brien for taking notes, Ace and Barbara Greenfader for the photos. Please visit our Facebook page, IBMRing 26.

### **RING 27, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA – Earle J. Christenberry, Jr. Ring**

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:00pm, Happy Italian Pizzeria 7105 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123. Optional meal anytime after 6:00pm – brief business meeting around 7:00 - 7:15 – followed by magic.

KEVIN CARNEY, Vice President / Web site: [www.ibmring27.com](http://www.ibmring27.com)

Our April 03, 2025 meeting was attended by Julia Avery (guest of MD), Lenny “Tricky Trainwreck” and Darlene Bertrand, Allen Boudreaux, Craig Boudreaux, Kevin Carney, Dr. Joe Dalgo, Michael Dardant, Barry Fernelius, and Jim Hussey.

With excitement, delight and congratulatory spirit we recognized Michael Dardant for his well-deserved *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* success. We enthusiastically crowded around Dardant and his trophy for photos and congratulating.

We also recognize the continued performance engagements of Dr. Joe Dalgo, Joe Harrison, JoJo Strauch, Craig Boudreaux, Winston Helling, Jr., Barry Fernelius, and others. Also, our March 19 gathering at the Maple Street Cafe had good attendance and participation. It made for an entertaining evening.

Tonight's performances began while shuffling cards, Barry Fernelius asked Dr. Dalgo to lie or tell the truth for a few questions. Dr. Joe did both, however the deck responded for each question with the truth (Nick Trost's “Perfect Lie Speller”). Then Julia Avery and Tricky Trainwreck each choose a card that they shuffled into personal separate piles. Using appropriatem and engaging finesse, Barry found both cards (Juan Tamariz's “Neither Blind Nor Stupid”). Returning to his lie or truth theme, Fernelius delivered Bruce Cervon's “Speller” for Craig Boudreaux.

Leonard “Tricky Trainwreck” Bertrand showed Michael Dardant how three different magician types (a mathematician, a psychic, and a general magician) might perform the same trick. The effect ended with a surprising color change (Jon Racherbaumer's “Dueling with Cards” from *Psi-Clones*).

Dr. Joe Dalgo had three spectators each select a different card. When Dalgo applied each card to the deck each of the three cards replicated itself into a complete deck. This was repeated for each selected card before the deck Dalgo restored the deck to its normal, natural fifty-two

card state (“Gary Plant's presents Robert-Houdin's Protean Deck”).

Allen Boudreaux attached a quarter to his forehead. How did it stick there? It was nailed in! Ouch.

Michael Dardant bewildered us by captivantly employing elements from his trophy winning *Fool Us* performance for Lenny Bertrand. Not only was Trainwreck's invisible thought-of card found in an impossible location, it was also signed in the color that Lenny named. Bertrand was also rewarded with some souvenirs many would drool over.

Jim Hussey dazzled us as he casually and smoothly flourished a deck of cards before Julia Avery. Various fans, left-handed and single-handed shuffles, cuts, flourishes, and spreads were rendered away from the table. Personally, I was so spellbound that I don't remember how the effect culminated. Well done, Jim!

Kevin Carney beheaded a king in front of Darlene. Despite this horror the king repeatedly kept popping up holding her card! Carney then, by request, guided us thru Penn and Teller's version of Woody Aragon's “Love Ritual.” Under Carney's direction we each found our own selected card even after various manipulations.

Craig Boudreaux had Julia select a card and then borrowed a ring from her. He proceeded to clearly secure it onto a string before astonishingly removing it. Craig repeated this feat in various ways before the ring disappeared and was found, with her selected card, inside a nest of wallets.

Darlene Bertrand had us each gather a cluster of cards and select one. Our chosen card was then placed into our own individual pile. She then had us locate our lost card by spelling its first name (value), middle name (of), last name (suit), and finally its home address (deck). Bingo, card located! (Jim Steinmeyer's “Nine Card Problem.”)

More random effects kept coming from Allen, Craig, Lenny and others. Leonard Bertrand

### **RING 39, HOUSTON, TX – Scott Hollingsworth Ring**

[www.houstonmagic.com](http://www.houstonmagic.com)

JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH, Secretary / E-mail: [judy4birds@yahoo.com](mailto:judy4birds@yahoo.com)

An exceptionally large group of Houston magicians came to the IATSE Hall on April 8 for meetings of the three Houston magic clubs and a lecture by Gregory Wilson. His presentation was filled with picking pockets and making things vanish and appear. The audience never stopped laughing. His teachings were down-to-earth and usable for most magicians. The fun continued long after the meetings and lecture, with Gregory and many magicians sharing magic and stories well into the next morning.



The I.B.M. Ring 39 meeting was called to order by President Gene Protas at 6:55. He welcomed new member David McKnight and two other guests. Jamie Salinas moved to accept the minutes of the March 3 meeting as published. Roger Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no old or new business. Gene reminded everyone of the non-conventional TAOM convention being held in Wylie over Labor Day weekend this year and for the full-fledged convention, Houston will host in 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01.

*Judy Hollingsworth*

### **RING 43, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – Harlan Tarbell Ring**

3rd Fri. except July and August, 7:00 p.m., at Magic, Inc. 1838 W. Lawrence, Ave., Chicago, IL  
 MIKE KAMLET, President / E-mail: kamlet@ameritech.net  
 175 E. Delaware #8502, Chicago, IL 60611 / (312) 266-2129  
 Web site: [www.ring43.org](http://www.ring43.org)

To begin our March meeting Kevin Owens announced the sad news that two of our past members, Ginnie Aronson and Mike Volk, had both passed away. They will be missed. Ethan Schlaeter announced that the Magic Study Group would be going over Bobo's *Coin Magic* the second Saturday of each month, 2 p.m., at Magic Inc.

Kevin then introduced our guest lecturer for the evening, Mike Powers. Many are already familiar with Mike from his long running card trick column in *The Linking Ring*. Mike first became interested in magic from watching Doug Henning perform on TV when he was a kid. Early in his career Ed Marlo showed him a great card trick and Mike's reaction was, "That's impossible!" "I know," replied Marlo, "That's why we do it!"

Mike's first effect began with four blue backed jokers which changed, one at a time, into red backed cards. He placed one on top of the blue backed deck and the whole deck instantly changed to a red backed deck!

Mike next had three volunteers pick cards. He found the first and placed it face up in the deck where it was found sandwiched between the other selected cards. Next Mike showed the four aces and put them separately back in the deck. He then found them with four different methods!

Getting away from card magic, Mike switched to coins. He got two volunteers and magically produced three Morgan silver dollars, one at a time, and then caused them to vanish. Next Mike did a "Coin Matrix" routine, but he used four different types of coins: Chinese, English Penny, Mexican Centavo, and a Kennedy half dollar. This was an original effect that he created.

Following this Mike did a prediction trick involving three colored dice and a deck of cards. A volunteer rolled the dice to get a 3, a 4, and a 6. Mike counted cards down to the number on each die and then dealt down the sum of the three dice. The card at that number matched his prediction. As an added bonus his original prediction was Queen of Clubs which he crossed out and changed to a Two of Diamonds. After revealing the Two of Diamonds Mike turned over the deck and showed that all the other cards were in fact the Queen of Clubs!

Mike finished with a unique version of the 21 Card Trick called "The Knowing." Basically, it allowed the magician to instantly identify which card had been picked without going through the elaborate counting procedure in the original trick.

After the meeting, members were invited for food and fellowship at Primo Chuki's restaurant.

*John Hutsebaut*

### **RING 46, OKLAHOMA CITY – Seymour Davis Ring**

Meets 1st Mon. of month, New Beginning Fellowship Church, 15601 S. Pennsylvania, OKC  
 LEE WOODSIDE, Secretary  
 E-mail: [WoodsideLee@hotmail.com](mailto:WoodsideLee@hotmail.com) / Ring Web site: [www.okcmagic.org](http://www.okcmagic.org)

We were pleased to host a lecture by Gregory Wilson. Gregory began by causing the appearance of a poker chip. He then invited James Schoonover to join him and proceeded to "vanish" the chip by placing it on James' shoulder.

Gregory showed a ball point pen and repeatedly caused the writing end to jump from one end of the pen to the other. He calls this "Pointless." Gregory asked if there were any golfers in the house and Jerry Bowzer stepped forward. Gregory brought out a box of golf balls, placed them on Jerry's hand and asked him to guess how many balls were in the box. Jerry, an avid golfer, immediately said, "Three." Gregory proceeded to remove four balls from the box. He put three of the balls back into the box and then took out four more balls. By the time the routine was over, there were at least eight golf balls.

Gregory showed a golf tee in each hand and then caused one tee to jump to the other hand. After he showed the secret, we all had trouble believing the "move" fooled us. Gregory asked someone to name a number between one and one hundred. He immediately reached into his pocket and removed exactly that much change and showed his pocket to then be empty.

Gregory showed a credit card on both sides and in a flash the card turned into bills. He called this "Cash Flow."

Using Rick Johnson as his victim, I mean volunteer, Gregory performed a very entertaining

pickpocket routine. During the routine he kept handing me items he had stolen from Rick. By the time it was over, and he introduced me as his "partner in crime," I was holding Rick's folding money, keys, credit card, and phone. He did not explain this routine.

Gregory very cleanly showed five one-dollar bills front and back. He then changed the bills to twenties. When everyone thought the trick was over, he changed them to one-hundred-dollar bills.

Gregory performed a very nice "Ambitious Card" routine using a blank deck. He started by having Rick Johnson sign one of the cards and proceeded with a very fast-paced routine. At one point he held the deck in one hand with a blank card at the face and with a quick flick Rick's signature appeared.

My only concern with Gregory's lecture was that he bragged about using magic to get out of speeding tickets. My opinion is that this is a bad message to send. Otherwise, it was a very enjoyable and informative lecture.

The theme for our April meeting was Let's Make Magic. Brian Tabor performed a "Bank Night" routine where each participant opened his envelope to find a one-dollar bill. Brian opened the unchosen envelope and removed a one-hundred-dollar bill. He then passed out materials and taught everyone how to construct the stand he had used for loading the hundred-dollar bill.

Lee Woodside brought out three of his "friends" and placed a rock by one, a pair of scissors by the second, and a piece of paper by the third. He invited three participants to switch the items around and then read his prediction as to who would win the game. It was spot on. Lee then gave everyone a pair of folding scissors and taught the routine.

David Teeman led the member performances by showing a pop-out microphone gag. He then showed a wood and plexiglass stand for performing 20th Century Silks. He said that a friend had made it for him out of materials David scrounged from the trash bin.

Jim Green demonstrated a "Newton's Nightmare." He showed a long tube and a steel ball that fit into the tube. When he dropped the ball into the top of tube, it quickly fell out the bottom. However, when he invoked his magic spell, the ball took several seconds to traverse the tube.

Rick Martin, who has built several beautiful magic props in his workshop, showed us a couple of neat things. One was an accelerator for super glue. He said that when it is sprayed on one surface and super glue is put on another sur-

face, the two will bond almost instantaneously. The other item he showed was a tape that can be applied to greatly reduce friction. Rick then showed a stand made from wood that does the same thing as the one Brian Tabor taught us how to build from card stock. *Lee Woodside*

### **RING 49, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA – The Doug Henning Magic Wand Club**

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00p.m. (except July and August), Ryerson United Church, 265 Wilson St. E, Lancaster, ON

DOUG HUNT, President, / E-mail: stiltrecord@yahoo.ca (519) 750-4703

Web site: ring49magic.com

Going once, going twice.... Auctions are a great opportunity for magicians, you can unload some stuff that just doesn't fit your style (thought it looked great at that convention's dealer table) and it can become a treasured item in a fellow magician's repertoire. Old stuff finding a new life – it kinda warms my heart (look at me, an old softy).

With one reservation, I guess. Often what's on the auctioneer's block are the treasured belongings of fallen comrades, their prize effects, donated to benefit their favorite Ring, and their passing remembered and honored one more time. Such was the case at our last meeting where we remembered our long-time friend and member John Butendik.

This year our annual action night was great! Such deals on so many items across the range of genres and ability levels. We had paper flowers, change bags, flexible swords, surprise boxes full of – everything, a Rocky Raccoon puppet, a fog machine and a performance table/box travel kit. The opportunity to source very valuable items at rock bottom prices makes these events hugely popular, and as usual, well attended. It's worth the annual membership fee to clubs just to get access to these annual auction events, they really bring value to the membership.

So go to your Ring's auction; if you're not holding them, I highly recommend you start. They are well attended; everyone wants to help successful bidders with insight into the new acquisition, and you're able to appease your spouses by agreeing to unload some of the clutter in the basement (let's not mention the 'new' stuff that come back home). They are just a good time. Not sure what's on the agenda for next month yet, but I'll let you know.

*Rene Chouinard*

### **RING 56, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA – The Mystic IKI Ring**

Meets 2nd. Mon. of month at home of Norris Priest, Henderson, KY

MIKE EAKINS, Secretary

E-mail: TheMikeEakins@gmail.com

Website: www.ring56.com

Ring 56 met on March 17th, with a short business meeting to announce the Ring has again

been asked to present a show at Tri-Fest, a street fair in Henderson, Kentucky. Each year members band together to present a one hour show on the main stage. It is free for the audience, but the Ring treasury receives a fee for all the work. It is always a good time for performers as well as spectators.

Gregory Wilson's lecture was the main event for the meeting, and he certainly delivered. Greg is a very funny guy, along with being very creative. His chip on the shoulder routine kept Norris Priest laughing with tears in his eyes, while Lewis Chaney had no idea what was going on. You just have to see Greg perform it. There were tricks with pens, golf balls, Starbucks bags, credit cards, a ring jumping on a spoon, and so much more. Along the way, he dropped lots of advice on presentation and tips to make any trick convincing. In all, Gregory Wilson gave us a great entertaining lecture packed with usable magic and ideas.

The April meeting of Ring 56 began with a reminder of our April public show at Tri-Fest in Henderson, Kentucky. We also had a discussion about improving our social media presence and are looking forward to a video Frank Findley is kindly producing to gain interest in our Ring.

The theme for April's meeting was Openers and Closers. President Joseph Franklin showed us one of his close-up openers, an attention-grabbing sponge ball and billiard ball routine. Gary Burgdorf followed by predicting a time that was randomly selected from a picture of a clock, a real fooler. Keith Spurgeon had us saying "that's amazing" as he did a five card repeat with a fun story about how he started in magic, vanishing the cards at the end.

Vice President Frank Findley shared his opener to get an audience's attention, a blast of flash paper followed by a silk to cane. After opening a wallet of flames, Frank showed his closer, where a selected card has an affinity with another, ending with a fooling double prediction. Lewis Chaney's show opener predicted a two-digit number merely thought of by another member. He followed that with a non-force card prediction ending with the deck all changing into the same indifferent card, making the prediction even more amazing. Lewis' closer is a "Princess Card" trick printed on his business card, with an uplifting message.

Norris Priest was the final performer on our show with his opener, the first trick he ever saw, a cane wrapped in newspaper that vanishes, followed by a scarf that turns into the vanished cane. Norris closes his shows by performing a wonderful presentation of Duke's Dye Version, with the wish that his volunteers find the pot of

gold at the end of their rainbow in life. He followed the trick with an inspirational story about success, which was very well received by the group. At ninety years old, when Norris Priest gives advice, everyone listens.

Including two visitors, everyone had a very enjoyable evening of magic and fun. As is our custom, the following Monday we will informally meet at Barnes & Noble Bookstore for a social evening of magic talk and tricks. *Mike Eakins*

## **RING 58, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE – Smoky Mountain Mystics**

Meets 4th Thu. 6:45 pm each month, Messiah Lutheran Church, 6900 Kingston Pke, Knoxville, TN 37919

Web site: [ibmring58.com](http://ibmring58.com)

VICTOR AGREDA, Jr., President

(865) 223-1401 / e-mail: [vagredajr@gmail.com](mailto:vagredajr@gmail.com)

The March meeting was incredible as we shared the news about the most successful Winter Carnival of Magic we have had in all fifty years of the convention. There was an article printed in the April issue of *The Linking Ring* that was a wonderful tribute to the members of Ring 58 – both past and present – who made this convention amazing. It really is the way we come together each year to make the WCM one of the premier conventions, and one that we will sorely miss putting together each March.

Our business portion of the meeting was a bit longer than we've had in a long time, but we had several Bylaw changes that were presented to the membership by Vice President Sherman Wires that will be voted on next meeting. Afterwards, we took nominations for officer for the coming year (taking office at the May meeting). And then it was on to the magic!

First, we were treated to the initiation performance of Joshua Jones who we were glad to welcome into the Ring unanimously. "Magic Bill" Osburn has been working for several years on making an Ask Alexander poster talk, produce a card from his turban, and even move his eyes all with some amazing electronics, programming and servo motors. Bill gave an update on the progress as well as the ups and downs of this one-of-a-kind project.

Our President, Michael Priestap, showed off a golf putter that came from his father-in-law, and he did some magic with a large glass ball and container. Our treasurer, Jack Wilson, was assisted by Jessica Hyder and invited to buy her dinner at his favorite Cracker Bucket restaurant. Jack correctly predicted the price of the multi-course meal that she chose.

After performing a fun rope routine, Steve Jerden, asked for assistance with another quick money trick. Our always enthralling John

Gyllenhaal shared some magic with a few decks of cards. Speaking of enthralling magic, Jim Stott shared his Pom-Pom Pole routine that was sports themed and a crowd pleaser. To end the evening, Ed Ripley did an amazing “Any Card at Any Number” effect as he found the named card at the named number by counting straight to it.

*Tom Vorjohan via Michael Messing*

### **RING 60, AUSTIN, TEXAS – Carl Moore Ring**

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00, at Hero's Night Out in Cedar Park.

TRICIA HEIL DAVIS, President

Web site: [www.ibmring60.org](http://www.ibmring60.org)

I.B.M. Ring 60 members gathered in April for a restaurant night that included pizzas and salad provided by the Ring, and an array of entertaining strolling performances. Performing members practiced their restaurant magic skills rotating to each table, then feedback was given at the end of the session.

Bertil Fredstrom displayed several political and humorous deck shuffles, smoothly finishing with production of the four aces. Brooks Griffith showed his seamless versatility with several clever short tricks using a variety of props and materials including matchmaker with compatibility decks, pen and coin trick, rope trick, rubber band manipulations and a two-coin trick. Robert Castillo performed with smiles and style several effects at the “restaurant table,” utilizing miniature linking rings, nuts and bolts, and finishing with a mystery card prediction and a full deck prediction. Rob Tarry was smooth and engaging with the “restaurant patrons” as he took us through a two key trick, three coins appearing and disappearing, and the expertly executed “World Famous Rob Tarry Six Card Trick.”

After the strolling restaurant performances, we were treated to another well researched and fascinating history presentation by Burt Rosenbluth. Burt spoke to us about the renowned mentalist Joseph Dunninger, a.k.a. the Amazing Dunninger. Dunninger started performing at the age of seven, and experienced success in the venues of vaudeville, radio and television. He was a mystic and mentalist, but also a collector. He was a single person mentalist, a solo performer, and Houdini was his inspiration. Burt once again delivered a lecture that had us learning, thinking and ready to dive even deeper into the life and legacy of Joseph Dunninger.

Ring President Scott Wells continued the night's program with a mini lecture on restaurant magic. Attendees offered comments on their experiences of the evening's table magic, and Scott offered tips and suggestions drawing on his decades of experience. We learned ideas

on table approach, and tips on having the magic happen quickly. Scott shared his thoughts on reading the table, and most importantly, when it is time to move on. He appreciated and supported the practice of having a variety of tricks and emphasized audience involvement; get as many people at the table involved as possible. This min lecture was packed with major tips and ideas on keeping the magic up high where people can see it, re-sets and pocket management.

Thank you to our performers and lecturers for a full night of magic learning and fellowship.

*Tricia Heil Davis*

### **RING 64, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY – Okito/Lance Burton Ring**

Meets 7:00pm various dates at Kosair Charities, 982 Eastern Blvd., Louisville, KY 40217 / Web site: [www.louisvillemagicclub.com](http://www.louisvillemagicclub.com)

MICHAEL A. RAYMER, President

The Louisville Magic Club Ring 64 Lance Burton/Okito Ring held its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 14th at the Holiday Inn Express Airport Expo Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. The meeting was attended by thirty members and guests. Ring President Dennis Alm called the meeting to order and after a few brief announcements regarding upcoming meetings, shows and other items of business, it was time for our guest lecturer to take center stage.

Our guest lecturer for the evening was Greg Wilson, a two-time FISM Award winner not to mention the winner of several other magic association awards. Known as The Honest Conman, Greg specializes primarily in close-up, sleight of hand and confidence trickery. He is a regular performer at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, and also performs at large corporate events, trade shows and private functions globally.

Greg has been featured in numerous TV specials including a featured role as a resident wizard on Syfy's magic series *Wizard Wars with Penn & Teller*. Recently, he has focused on golf magic where he performs as The Golf Magician at tournaments around the country performing all golf specific tricks using golf tees, golf balls, and other golf related items. Billing himself as a “deception artist” his routine, “Criminal Act,” focuses on pickpocketing, card-sharking, short-changing, and street swindling. He has given his lecture to several U.S. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies including the FBI, CIA, ATF, Secret Service, Homeland Security as well as several police departments as a sort of training lecture.

As a creator of magic, he has created nearly five hundred tricks or effects along with producing videos and publishing books and contributing other magical themed articles for all of the major magic publications. Recognized worldwide, Greg caters to magicians of all skill levels



earning him well-deserved respect and admiration in all circles of magic.

Some of the highlights from tonight's lecture included his opening trick titled "Nothing" which was amusing, confusing, and most of all entertaining all at the same time. Especially for one volunteer from the audience. Another volunteer, a golfer by his own admission was equally befuddled when Greg presented him with a sleeve of three golf balls. The standard packaging for golf balls. However, Greg produced more than three golf balls from this particular sleeve. At last count I think there were six maybe more golf balls removed from that small box. A couple of golf tees mysteriously disappeared from one hand to the other in a wonderful example of close-up and sleight of hand magic in an effect called "Tee Time" staying with the golf theme. "Master Credit Card Switch" was next. A volunteer was asked to choose between either a red credit card or black card. The red card was chosen and placed in the volunteer's pocket. When the chosen credit card was removed from the volunteer's pocket it wasn't the red card. The black card was in the pocket and the red card was in Greg's wallet. This was accomplished using a standard move of pick pocketers by bumping into the target of the pick. "Cash Flow Credit Card" involved a rather unique gimmick. A gift card was shown all around to the audience, but when given a hard shake, it instantly turned into a twenty-dollar bill.

Greg performed so many awesome and incredible tricks during the evening we could have been there all night. A very informal exit poll was conducted at the conclusion of the evening and all attendees overwhelmingly agreed it was an outstanding lecture in every regard as to content, presentation and tutorial. Thank you, Greg, for a great and entertaining evening of magical miracles.

The Louisville Magic Club, Ring 64 Lance Burton/Okito Ring held its next monthly meeting on April 8th with twenty-five members and guests present. The meeting was called to order and after a few brief announcements and updates on upcoming club events it was time for our featured lecturer to take the stage.

Our guest lecturer for the evening was one of our very own, Richard Darshwood. Known for his dynamic presence and polished performance style, "Darsh" is a highly charismatic entertainer and magician who has baffled and amazed audiences across the country. Specializing in Restaurant, Bar, and Table Magic, he is a seasoned professional blending sleight of hand, psychological subtlety and theatrical flair to create unforgettable magical experiences for his

audiences. When not amazing crowds at private events or national conventions, you can find him performing weekly right here in Louisville. Appearing every Monday evening at Ciao Ristorante in the Irish Hill neighborhood and every Thursday night at Hauck's Corner in the Schnitzelburg area of town.

In order to better demonstrate and to give a real time visual example of his style and methods of performing his magical miracles, Darsh set up three tables, each table occupied by members of the club, to simulate restaurant patrons. As he proceeded to each of the tables Darsh would describe how he would approach each table, when to approach the table and for how long he would perform at each table. The tricks performed were all very simple and basic magical effects that not only were very entertaining but required no complicated moves, extra props or lots of prior set up. All the tricks were classic effects all magicians are very familiar with including "Chicago Opener" (a "Red Hot Mama" style card trick), "Professor's Nightmare," "Multiplying Sponge Balls," "The Most Hated Card Trick" (4 of Clubs), "Imaginary Card from an Imaginary Deck," "Bending Spoon and Fork" (perfect for restaurant magic), "Ring and String" and a very nice mini "Linking Rings" performance.

At the conclusion of his demonstration and lecture, the evening took on a jam session-like atmosphere with Darsh taking and answering questions, offering more tips and advice and even asking for anyone in attendance to feel free to perform a trick of their own which he graciously and gently offered a constructive critique. All in all, the evening was a very casual, fun, and most importantly magical evening. Thanks, Darsh! See you all next month.

*Carl Loud*

### **RING 68, TOLEDO, OHIO – Toledo Society of Magicians**

Meets 2nd Tues., each month, 6:30 p.m. Location varies.

PATRICK PRZYSIECKI, President

E-mail: patrick@patrickmagic.com

Ring 68 (Toledo, Ohio) met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the main public library in downtown Toledo. Five magicians (George Magill, Johnny New York, Martin Jarrett, Patt Przysiecki, and Doug Ferguson) were in attendance.

The meeting began with a show by Johnny, including an "Ace and Royal Flush Assembly," a three-way "Transposition to Wallet," a packet effect involving anniversary diamonds, a stunner that sent a slop shuffled deck all the way to new-deck order, and also a canned food prediction.

Patt did a sponge ball workshop where he loaned the props to everyone so we could learn his version of the ten-count mystery. Martin performed a gaff-free "3-Fly" coin effect with Morgan dollars.

George showed us an excellent routine with cards. Finally, Doug performed an open prediction card trick credited to Marlo and Krenzel. Following the meeting, everyone met again at The Attic on Adams Street for wings and libations.

*Doug Ferguson*

## **RING 71, CINCINNATI, OHIO – W.W. Durbin Ring-J. Ronald Haines**

Meeting dates vary per month, 7:00 p.m. at Springdale Nazarene Church, 1177 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45246.

Please check website, [www.Ring71.com](http://www.Ring71.com) for upcoming events.

CHARLIE MEYER, President / Email: [charlie.cadabra@yahoo.com](mailto:charlie.cadabra@yahoo.com)

Facebook: International Brotherhood of Magicians – J. Ronald Haines – W.W. Durbin Ring 71

The theme for our December meeting was Holiday Magic. Several members demonstrated their best magic that they use in their Christmas shows.

Our annual Holiday Dinner was held in January. We had a lot of good food followed by the magic of Aaron Starp.

Our March meeting was a lecture and performance by Greg Wilson. Greg is an excellent lecturer and performer. The highlight of the evening was Greg's poker chip routine where a member of our Ring kept finding a poker chip stuck to the shoulder of his shirt. Greg kept repeatedly secretly tossing the chip to Al Scheide who was sitting behind Mike. Al then would put the chip on his shoulder at which time Greg would ask him "Why do you have a chip on your shoulder?"

In April, our Ring 71 President Charlie Meyer invited us to attend a Ring meeting at his home where Henery Evans presented a lecture titled "Magic Beyond the Effect."

*Al Scheide*

## **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](mailto:kfrehm@gmail.com)

JOEY HOFFMAN, Secretary / E-mail: [joeydemonmagic@gmail.com](mailto:joeydemonmagic@gmail.com)

We had another great turn out for this month's in-person meeting. Ten of us gathered to share and talk magic. Recently, we've been making a push to increase the attractiveness of attending meetings. We've been doing monthly lectures, demonstrating, teaching, and sharing an effect (DTS), as well as giving out all of the materials needed. It's been amazing being able to learn about different types of magic from our array of experts. Going home with tons of notes, a new effect (with everything to perform it), and even DVDs has been a huge plus!

David Kilpatrick gave a fantastic lecture on Coin Magic. He went through many different ways to palm coins, as well as false transfers. Dave was even kind enough to give each of us a

Kennedy half dollar and even an Eisenhower dollar to practice with different sized coins. He also went through some subtleties and ways you can show your hand empty or even point with a finger while hiding a coin. Great stuff Dave, thanks again!

I performed an effect called "Invisible Date." I placed a deck of cards down on the table and asked TJ to think of either an author or a musician. He then looked up their birthday and told us all what it was. I then spread the cards out revealing two face down cards. They flipped over and were jokers, but one had the thought of month, and the other, the day.

TJ had different cue cards for audience members such as gasp, laugh, clap, etc. and had David McBlaine act out each different one. He was then asked to choose his favorite one. Once he had his answer locked in, TJ turned over the cards and they all said, "Not this," except for one, which said, "This!" He turned it back around, and it matched David's choice.

David McBlaine performed a "Coin Matrix" with a nice finisher. Bruce Purdy had me shuffle a deck anyway I liked and had me remove one card face down and place it safely inside of a small wooden box. He then took out four different colored envelopes and had me select one. The envelope was opened revealing the Seven of Diamonds. All of the other envelopes were also opened, showing that all four choices were different. The box with my card was opened and it just so happened to be the Seven of Diamonds.

Tom Bresadola shuffled a deck, spread the cards face up and had David Kilpatrick think of one of them. Tom then said he would be able to guess the name of the card. He said that he thought Dave was thinking of John. While we were all staring, confused, he explained that all of the cards had proper names, and asked Dave what the card was. It was the Two of Diamonds, and Tom removed it from the deck and turned it over revealing that the name "John" was written on the back. Not only that, but it was the only card with anything written on it.

Drew Yeldon took a deck of cards and removed the four aces and placed them face up on the table red, black, red, black. He then shuffled the cards and asked if we thought the next card would be black or red. If black, the card was placed on the first black ace, and same for the red ace. Then he gave Dave the cards, and he did the same thing, but with Drew guessing the colors. In the end, the cards were all turned over. Not only did all of us predict the right colors, but we also matched all of the suits.

Matthew Dowd performed an "Oil and Water" routine with an "Out of This World"

kicker. Ken Frehm had a box with a stick of wood going through it. He removed the stick and explained that it was a ring storage box, but the ring was missing. He then told a story of an emperor missing his ring and needing someone to use magic to bring it back. The stick was placed back in the box, and after saying the magic words, the box was opened revealing the ring securely in place on the stick. Ken also went over his "Genie Out to Lunch" effect and gave everyone a template to make copies so they could make their own and perform it.

*Joey Hoffman*

## **RING 79, BINGHAMTON, JOHNSON CITY and ENDICOTT, NEW YORK – Southern Tier Magic Circle Inc.**

Meets 1st Mon. 7:00 p.m., Binghamton General Hospital's Russell Room, 40 Arch St., Johnson City, NY 13790  
NATHAN HICKEY, President  
Web site: [www.stiermagic.com](http://www.stiermagic.com)

Our April meeting was enjoyed by all nine who attended. We had a slate of officers nominated, that being Chris Sablich for president, Doug Welch for V.P., Dan Young for Sec./Treas., and directors Gary Freed and Jonathan Harris.

We talked about who would be going to MAWNY later in the month and David announced that he would be hosting his kids Magic Camp in August and asked folks to stop by to make connections with the next generation of magicians.

We then convened our corporate meeting where we elected our slate of officers and completed other requirements. We also welcomed in a new member Greg Dean.

It was then on to our performances with the theme of gambling tricks. Chris started us off with a nice "Three Card Monte with Four Cards," where he starts with one red card but finishes at the end with three red cards and only one black card.

Next up was Doug, using a silk and four different coins. After giving the spectator a free choice twice, the coin that ended up penetrating the silk at the end was correctly predicted on a card that was on the table the whole time. This was Dan Harlan's "Fast Four."

Then Mike Stanley did a poker deal with the spectator making many choices but in the end the magician has the best hand. This is John Bannon's "Power of Poker."

Next up was John Maceli doing some tricks with an invisible die, then with some large dice. The large die led to a word and the cards that the magician and the spectator held were both able to spell out the chosen word. This is "Odd Dice" by Max Maven.

Following this Greg Dean stuck with the

gambling theme by doing "Advantage 21" by Paul Richards which requires some nifty sleight of hand.

Then Gary Freed performed "Big Blind" by Craig Petty which definitely fooled me.

David finished with a gambling effect that uses a long chain and some posts. After wrapping the chain around the posts, the spectator gets to bet if the chain will catch or release. It seems the magician is always in control.

It was a good night with lots of side discussions until security kicked us out for staying too late.

*Dan Young*

## **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](mailto:aidan.thompson@fultonhogan.com.au)

March meeting for Ring 84 saw some first-rate magic from members. Peter Hanway opened, showing a card with the word 'upside' printed on each side. Spectator held on to the middle section of the folds and the words 'upside down' appeared. Novel, good audience appeal.

Ben Lennon stepped forward with an impressive book test. Three volumes freely shown and spectator is asked to write down possible page numbers. A second spectator picked the numbers to be used, and a third spectator chose one of the books. Ben was able to draw a picture in detail of the first line from the selected book. Ben continued with some effective rubber band magic including a gravity defying levitation, the popular "Crazy Man's Handcuffs," then a "Broken and Restored Rubber Band" variation. Well done.

Kym Brockhoff, by request, performed "Know Way" from popular mentalist Gabriel Werlen. Such was the effectiveness of this that it prompted further discussion with members.

Kym followed this with a puzzling Rubik's Cube mystery. Thoroughly mixed up as usual, one cube was dropped into a bag, spectator holding another cube. Kym managed to magically match the cube in the bag with the one held by spectator.

Peter Rowe was next, presenting his smooth "Ring and Rope" routine, a folding plastic card routine involving colour changing dots and concluding with an impressive ring off chain effect.

Wal Parker had everyone in a spin with a "Four Ace Mystery" and then a countdown effect where a selected card turns up after having been lost among three piles dealt to the table.

Aidan Thompson brought the magic for the

evening to a close by describing three imaginary coins in front of him, a 20 cent, 50 cent, and \$1 coin. Spectator is given a free choice of any one in particular. Handing over the imaginary choice, Aidan caused the coin to become an in-the-hands reality. A most enjoyable evening.

*Aidan Thompson*

### **RING 89, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN – Neil Foster Ring**

Meets the second Monday of every month, 7 p.m., at American Museum of Magic located at 107 E. Michigan Ave. Marshall, MI 49068.

ERIC SULLIVAN, President

140 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI 49068 / E-mail: trazdal@att.net

The March I.B.M. Neil Foster Ring 89 meeting was a blast! John Sherwood, Andrew, Eric Sullivan (Trazdel), Phil (Le Grand Wysard Phillip), and Kevin Rosewood were all there, and we even had a new guest join us, Dave.

Eric wanted to thank everyone who performed at the American Museum of Magic during the winter months. Scott Duck will be looking for performers to perform at the museum every Saturday starting in April. If you're interested, just send an email to Scott ([info@americanmuseum.com](mailto:info@americanmuseum.com)). There is a business meeting on March 31st at 7:00 p.m. over Zoom. Eric will send out more details soon.

Phil shared some magic looking for a new home that was given to him by a local family. It was a wonderful assortment of playing cards and magic effects.

The theme this meeting was something green. Now on to the magic!

Eric started the night with an idea for a St. Patrick's Day effect. The spectator freely selects a shamrock, a rainbow, and a treasure chest from a pack of cards. As a kicker, the backs of the selected cards would be green, while the rest of the deck would be black.

Kevin then shared his work on card manipulation, card fan productions, and split fanning. Everyone had great ideas and suggestions to help him improve.

John S. shared a wonderful mentalism effect. Three people selected three different cards with images on them. John then amazingly shared what image each person was holding.

Phil closed the night with a "Chop Cup" routine that ended with three surprises.

The next meeting will take place on April 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Michigan. The theme is elemental magic. Until then, keep practicing, performing, and sharing amazement.

*Kevin Rosewood*

### **RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.

BILL FIENNING, Secretary

(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: [wcfienn@att.net](mailto:wcfienn@att.net)

V.P. Charlie Schroeder opened our April meeting. In a diversion from our usual magical topics, he asked the attendees to describe how they became interested in magic. Secretary Bill Fienning's interest was piqued when he watched Harry Blackstone, Sr. perform the Levitation of Princess Karnac, probably in 1947. He introduced himself to Ring 90 around 1974 with an unusual performance of the floating Zombie ball wherein the ball stuck to his suit coat, then slid around his body for over three minutes. An approximate recreation of the routine is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoAEpGTWNsU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoAEpGTWNsU) on the Internet.

Our newsletter editor, Jim Oliver, became interested in magic in the first grade after finding the book *Magic Made Easy* in the library. Russ Romans was about ten years old when he discovered magic while in the Cub Scouts. He later re-established his interest watching the Larson Brothers perform, and he became engrossed with the magic of Slydini. Ron Peterson stated that he got interested in magic as a little kid and liked to watch a British magician on television who wore a fez, who might have been Tommy Cooper.

When Brenda Lamon was in college, she performed as a Ginger Rogers impersonator. She met escape artist Rick Maisel in a laundromat, and he asked her to be his assistant; her interest in magic followed. Her husband, Ben, has always enjoyed watching magic and Brenda has taught him more about performing it. Nation Green was in the first grade when he asked his father for a magic kit. Later he was wondering what kind of job he could do over the summer and thought of an uncle who did magic. He decided that he should do magic, too.

Docc Hilford started in magic when he was about five years old with simple tricks; he later saw a kid do the cups and balls and that really got him started. He attended a Ring 90 meeting and decided that being a magician was as close as he could get to being like James Bond. Paul Cochrell got into magic when he was six years old. His brother, David, got a magic set for Christmas and performed the tricks on his birthday. When Paul saw the cups and balls trick, he

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



was hooked. David would not reveal the secret. Determined to know how it was done, Paul went to the library and checked out a book called *The Amateur Magician's Handbook*, and the rest is history.

John Polinko started his magic career while he was a kindergarten teacher. He purchased some effects at a local magic store. When schools asked him to do a school program, local magician Paul Britt showed him how to do a dove effect; he now incorporates more livestock in his shows. Justin Cooper's interest began in college when he saw David Blaine. Sevil Fletcher became interested when Paul Cochrell did a magic show at his home. He was very frustrated as most card sleights use two hands, while he can only use one. He says that he finds it satisfying to be able to create things with one hand that others have never seen. He really likes the magic of René Lavand.

Logan Birker checked out a magic book multiple times from the library and is trying to get back into it. Ken Flack's magic journey began in Chicago where he watched *Don Alan's Magic Ranch* on television. When he got a magic set, he would do shows for the neighborhood kids trying to get over his shyness. He would go to the Treasure Chest and Ireland's Magic to find small tricks that he could afford. Tom Karas brought along his first magic trick, a color-changing handkerchief, along with a photograph when he was seven years old performing the trick. He liked to perform kid shows when he was young. Twenty years later, his interest returned. The Zombie ball really intrigued him, but it was a television show with Slydini that got him interested in coin magic.

Sergeant-at-Arms David Ryan's uncle would do magic for him and make things disappear, but it was in high school when he became very interested in magic while watching David Blaine and The Illusionists. Tom Plunkett's interest in magic began in elementary school. He later saw local magician Mahlon Love perform at the Elks Lodge and his father took him to our local magic store. It was there he learned from Robert Apodaca (a card technician) and Ralph Bargas. In the seventh grade he started to work at that same magic shop. He did many shows during his college years, and it paid for his tuition.

Charlie Schroeder's interest in magic began while watching Bill Bixby on the television show *The Magician* and Doug Henning on TV where he liked Henning's performing style. Later, he would do magic for his children's birthdays. He has been an avid hobbyist since.

*Bill Fienning*

## **RING 92, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA – The Vancouver Magic Circle (Charles Howard Ring)**

Meets 4th Thurs. except July, Aug. and Dec., 7:00 pm, Sunrise  
Community Hall, 1950 Windermere St., Vancouver, B.C.

SIMON CASSEGRAIN, President

E-mail: [simon.cassegrain@gmail.com](mailto:simon.cassegrain@gmail.com) / Web site: [www.ibmring92.com](http://www.ibmring92.com)

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting took place on Thursday, March 26 at Stefano's restaurant in New Westminster. It was the club's annual Mystery, Magic, and Dinner evening. Arriving at the restaurant early to set up the lighting, staging, sound system and backdrops were Graham Kita, Scott Barker, Yoosik Oum, Simon Cassegrain, and Past International President Shawn Farquhar. The front door reception and ticket scanners were James Nguyen and Shawn Farquhar. Thanks to Shawn Farquhar for making the arrangements to have the dinner and show at Stefano's restaurant. He allows the VMC to be a part of the Magic Festival which started with the Children's Magician of the Year competition. President Simon Cassegrain was the host and emcee for the evening. While the food orders were being taken, walk-around magic was performed by Jonathan Santiago, Lon Mandrake, Graham, and Yoosik Oum.

After the dinner, Yoosik Oum received his past president's wand. He then introduced Ben Price, our featured performer for the evening. He is from Calgary. Simon also presented Ben with a VMC pin and two VMC pens, and a photo was taken. During his performance, Ben predicted a card in a paper clip three times. He was blind folded and performed a trick. He borrowed a spectator's phone and put it in an envelope. He proceeded to move four other envelopes around. Next the spectator chose four envelopes which he hit with a hammer. Miraculously, the envelope that was left had the spectator's phone in it. He manipulated a Rubik's Cube inside a glass bottle. For his finale, he used five audience members in a mind-blowing confabulation trick. Everyone enjoyed his show. The Vancouver Magic Circle thank all those who attended this year's Magic Mystery and Dinner event. Without you, the event would not have been such a success. The event was sold out. Photographers were Charles Gauthier, Donna Gauthier, Graham Kita, Chelsea Mayfield, Shannon Linning, and Roy Hopwood. Shannon Linning sold 50/50 tickets. She was also the Helping Hand. Simon drew the winning 50/50 ticket. Thanks to Simon for doing a great job as emcee and host for the evening.

The Magic Festival ended with the Children's Magician of the Year competition for the Wilf Rutherford Trophy for 2025. The competition

took place at Rick Bronson's House of Comedy in New Westminster on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Simon Cassegrain was the producer of the competition. Simon also produced the souvenir program booklet with the names and photos of each of the competitors. Charles Gauthier looked after the printing of the booklets. Charles was the ticket scanner, and he also handed out the voting ballots. The previous winner of the competition, Graham Kita, was the host for the competition. In this competition, the audience members are the judges and determine who won. Before show time, walk-around magic was performed by Graham Kita, Simon Cassegrain, and Dylan Hempenstall. The competitors (in order of appearance) were Michael Glenister, Rod Chow, Past International President Alex Zander (also known as Mad Max), and Roy Hopwood. During the competition, each performer had children come up on stage to be the magician's assistant.

After the competition, the audience members gathered to vote for their favourite performer. The previous winner of the CMOTY, Graham Kita performed, as is customary. The winner was Roy Hopwood. Simon Cassegrain and Graham Kita presented the trophy to Roy. Congratulations to Roy and to the rest of the competitors. The audience members enjoyed a great afternoon of magic. The event was sold out.

It has been an exciting week of magic. Many thanks to Shawn Farquhar for putting it all together, and to others who worked behind the scenes that other people might not see. Many thanks to Graham Kita for doing an excellent job as host for the afternoon. Thanks to Suzanne Gustafson for giving me a ride to the competition and home. During the Festival shows took place at Hidden Wonders, Stefano's restaurant, Rick Bronson's House of Comedy, and the Metro. It was truly a fun filled Festival!

*Dennis Chan and Graham Kita*

### **RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club**

3rd Sun., 7:00pm, Hy-Vee meeting room, 400 Locust St., Dubuque, Iowa  
BOB BEARDSLEY, President, (563) 556-8584  
E-mail: rbeardsly@Q.com

The March meeting was devoted entirely to a final rehearsal before the upcoming club show. On April 4th, six members from Ring 93, representing three different states, traveled to Peosta, Iowa and performed for one hundred spectators at the Peosta Community Center. Club members were Bob Beardsley from Peosta, Margaret Bussan / Lancaster, Chris Westemeier / Dubuque, Jim McCrea / Galena, Phyllis Fishnick / Asbury, and Mark Pepelea from Dodgeville.

Chris and Mark started off the evening of magic with a very entertaining "Passe Bottle" routine. Mark kept explaining what was taking place, but Chris playing the role of the villain, kept stealing away the bottles hoping to confuse Mark. The performance continued in a comical fashion, but in the end the bottle and the glass ended right where Mark predicted.

Margaret Bussan, an elementary teacher from Lancaster, was the emcee for the evening as she told stories about Elias the Enchanted, and gave glowing introductions for each member, making them sound as talented as David Copperfield.

Walking Magic Bob performed several effects; all classics; "Forgetful Yogi," "Linking Rings," and "Cut and Restored Rope" into "Professor's Nightmare." Forgetful Yogi received quite a reaction when the balloon popped, Yogi found his head and the correct card. In the classic "Linking Rings" performance, Bob included several silent links which seemed very impossible. Bob closed his ring routine with a dedication to the late Rob Gomoll with a short poem. Unfortunately, Bob had only learned the following four lines and credited *The Book of Destiny* by Larry Barnowsky as a source. Now these rings were enchanted and under a spell / That made them link together and ring like a bell / But now the spell is broken, a thing of the past / With three rings of silver, separate at last.

Mark Pepelea performed two more classics, "Silk to Egg" and the "Vanishing Bandana." It was quite a reaction when he ended the routine by breaking a real egg into a glass. The audience chuckled a number of times when Mark kept trying to fold a real banana in half when the directions kept saying bandana. Phyllis Fishnick wowed the audience with her "Color Changing Feathers" and "No Rabbits and No Hats." At the start of the second half of the show, Phyllis asked six younger kids to come up on stage and learn how to spin plates. This was a very popular routine and most of the kids were not only able to spin the plates but also passed the plates to each other.

Right before intermission, Chris Westemeier, performed his own original "Wonder Ropes" routine. In this fast-paced performance, Chris had colored ropes going in every direction, knots appearing and disappearing, and even a ring linking and unlinking. He closed this act with, "now a word from our sponsor." Chris also performed a monte effect with very large cards. This was a good example of the spectator not being able to beat the street hustler.

Margaret, besides being a terrific emcee, also performed a hilarious routine called "Dirty

Laundry” and got plenty of laughs when she blind folded herself with a pair of colorful underwear. She also helped with directions to Walking Magic Bob’s rope routine. Bob then challenged Margaret to perform some more magic as he pulled a number of props out of a large wooden box. The box was finally empty, and none were to her liking. Bob was kind of disappointed, but then Margaret came to the front and pulled out three large plastic boxes containing flowers and fifty-dollar bills. Bob was sort of impressed, but Margaret saved the best for last as she continued to produce three large bird cages with fake doves. All of this came from what appeared to be a large empty wooden box.

Jim McCrea, performed another classic, Zen’s “Ten Card Miracle.” With the help of two spectators, cards were counted and selected in the fairest possible manner. In the end, the three selected cards traveled from one spectator to the other standing twenty feet away silently and invisibly much to the amazement of the audience. Jim also performed the Guillotine, which really looked to be very dangerous to the spectator. All ended well as no harm was done to the daring spectator, although at times he looked very nervous.

Jim closed the show with the “Gypsy Balloon” as he kept breaking the string into small pieces. He ended the performance by restoring the string and talking about the connection that was made between Ring 93 and the spectators in attendance.

The magic of Ring 93 was well received by both young and old and a good time was had by all.

*Bob Beardsley*

## **RING 94, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND – The King Ring**

Meets 4th Weds. each month, 7:30 p.m., Hagerstown American Legion, Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD / Web site: [www.kingmagicring.com](http://www.kingmagicring.com)  
JOHN SWOMLEY, President / E-mail: [johnnyo@trickyperson.com](mailto:johnnyo@trickyperson.com)

Grab Bag Night is a night that lives in infamy. Members are asked to select a trick from their collection that they think can be learned inside of ten minutes. Then it’s showtime. The night’s emcee was Max Mixell.

Jerry Mullenix got things rolling with a card trick. A card was selected; the 7 of Hearts. Jerry then discovered a stray, wiry beard hair which was plucked from its place of origin. Applying heat with a lighter, the “hair” radically formed into the shape of a seven and a heart.

Max next introduced Johnny-O! (John Swomley). He began by magically catching invisible ropes in a bag. Three ropes were all that was needed. John tossed a knot into the first rope. The second was tied into a tangled knot. It

dissolved away. Finally, the three were tied into circles and the three loops linked together. Eric McDonald was next in the lineup and presented an old and deceptive Tenyo item. A ball was placed on a washer which was on a closed clear box. All was covered briefly with an outer cover. When the cover was removed the ball was inside the clear container. Eric added an imaginary truck in the mix to keep it interesting.

The emcee left some room for himself to perform and so he did. Max Mixell displayed two different colored hanks (blowing his nose in one). The hanks were placed into a tube. The tube was lifted to the lips, and with a puff of air, they emerged as one hank. The two colors blended together.

Mr. Mixell passed the baton to Charlie James of Khan-Du and Company. Charlie presented two red cups. In each cup he placed four quarters. One by one the quarters travelled invisibly from one cup to the other. The challenge here was that the member who offered this bag shorted Charlie one of the necessary quarters. Charlie showed why he is indeed, Khan-Du.

Jim Greer followed Charlie with a classic known as “Lethal Tender.” A Chinese coin was shown and placed in an envelope. A playing card was used as a magic wand and was tapped against the envelope. Upon inspection, the Chinese coin was now an American half-dollar. The half-dollar was openly placed on the table and tapped with the magic wand card changing it back into a Chinese coin.

Our final act of the night was Chuck ‘Thomas’ Jones. His luck was that he acquired one of the self-working offerings of the night, “Credit Card to \$100 Bill.” This left Chuck open to using his cleverness to play off the sight gag. As president, he pretended to reopen the business meeting so that he could comment on our upcoming auction. “We don’t take credit cards at the auction, so make sure you bring cash,” he said, just as the credit card flash-changed into a \$100 dollar bill.

Before I conclude this report, I’d like to recognize a very special, long-time member of the Ring, Dean Burkett. He absolutely hated Grab Bag Night and was teased relentlessly about it. We had countless laughs and a whole lot of magic shared together. On this night Dean was admitted to the hospital and could not make his “favorite” themed meeting. Sadly, just few days later our “Dean of Magic” died. Dean Burkett was eighty-seven and lived a very full and magical life. I am proud to have called him “friend.” As long as there is a Grab Bag Night, Dean will never be forgotten.

*John Swomley*

## **RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – Merlin Eifert Ring**

Meets 3rd Sat., 7:00 pm at the Seal Beach North Community Center,  
3333 Saint Cloud Dr., Seal Beach, CA  
Web site: [www.Ring96.com](http://www.Ring96.com)  
CLIFF GERSTMAN, Secretary / E-mail: [Cliffg37@verizon.net](mailto:Cliffg37@verizon.net)

On March 15th, Ring 96 held its most recent meeting. We held a strolling magic night. Last month we had a lecture about strolling magic, and this month was time to put it into practice. We put nice tablecloths over small round tables and put chairs on all but one side. We laid playing cards in a pattern on the tables to make small and unobtrusive center pieces and added some Ring brochures as well.

We decided not to make any announcements before the end, and our eleven well-dressed magicians went to work moving from one table to the next performing for more than thirty guests in our lay audience, and our regular members.

Wayne Mitcheltree performed a card magic miracle. Jon Strum used a die and a dice cup for his performance. Dan Habel was next with a pirate-themed card effect. Liam Ferris did the ashes on arm trick to reveal a chosen card. Marty Gorman used envelopes, money, and cards for his trick. Alan Hanson successfully predicted the time on a smart watch. And Kevin Papke performed with coins and silk, then metal nuts and a bolt, and then performed an “Ambitious Card.”

Trevor, our newest member, was next. He had a red deck and a blue deck. Trevor spread the red deck across the table to show that there was no specific order to the cards. He then put a card face down which he said was the volunteer’s card. He had the volunteer take the rest of the deck and count it into two piles with their choice of which went where. The last card dealt out was the Ten of Clubs. The volunteer’s card was shown to be the Ten of Spades. A volunteer chose a card, and Trevor read his mind to guess the card correctly. He did that again, but this time he had a second volunteer read the mind of the first. The cards matched.

George was next, he had three matching bottle caps. He put one in the pocket and there were still three in his hand. He repeated this three times until he put all three in his pocket and then they were all gone. Then he did the coffee stick in envelope trick followed by a “Ring on Rope.”

Joji was the magician next to the table. He came out with four coins that switched places magically. Then Joji used a coin purse frame to reveal sponge balls followed by a card trick with aces.

Marshall finished the night. He came to the table with an English penny and a half dollar. He

kept putting one in his pocket and still had both in his hand. Marshall pulled a packet out that had four fours. They soon turned into four aces. The Invisible Deck came out next and sure enough the volunteer’s choice of the Nine of Diamonds was reversed in a real deck. He ended with a three-card trick in which two tens surrounded a three, but the Three of Hearts soon turned into the “tree of diamonds.” The card had a tree on it covered in diamonds.

*Cliff Gerstman*

## **RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – The Maurice Rooklyn Ring**

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood  
Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street  
Chatswood.

JACK SHARP, President / email: [jack@sharpmagic.com.au](mailto:jack@sharpmagic.com.au)

Our March meeting had us performing Close Up Magic With No Cards, but before the meeting proper began local magician Sean Taylor wished to perform some of his effects as a dress rehearsal before his forthcoming tour of parts of Europe. Jack Sharp our president opened the meeting then introduced Sean.

Sean’s first effect, “Foregone Illusion” began with four spectators peeking at cards in the pack. Sean then removed one card placing it into his top shirt pocket. The pack was divided amongst the four spectators and all four peeked cards proved to have vanished. The card in Sean’s shirt pocket was shown to be the joker, however, we didn’t accept Sean’s assurance that jokers are wild so Sean produced the cards individually from other pockets. Sean then requested each spectator to now mentally think of a card from their handful of cards and he successfully divined them.

He then brought out a small black envelope which he showed contained just one card. A spectator was handed a full pack of cards which were shown to be mixed. The spectator was asked to deal the cards face up and to stop whenever he liked, the card in the envelope matched the card stopped at and the pack of cards could be examined with no duplicates. Sean has called this effect “Final Stop.” He then showed his Symbology Deck which he originally released over twenty years ago and is now back in his lecture. It is a pack of thirteen symbol cards repeated in four different colours and has the properties of both ESP cards and standard playing cards. Various secret magic principles are built into the deck.

Peter Wood was to host the non-card section of our night. He started by inviting Joey Szabo up to examine the frame of a small coin purse. Peter then produced a red sponge ball from the empty frame and then the sponge was split into two. The two sponge balls changed places, then



they multiplied in Joey's hand and then as Peter got rid of them, two in the hand, and one in the pocket they kept multiplying.

Peter's first performer was our new member, Lance Zhou. Lance got Wayne and Jack up to assist with Lance asking them if they believed they made their own decisions. A coin, a pen, and a pack of cards were all placed in different spots and a written prediction proved to have predicted the outcome proving they didn't have any "Free Will."

Peter came back and performed a lovely "Colour Changing Pocket Knife" routine before introducing Phuoc Can Hua who performed his routine with "Mahjong Tiles" where the tiles continually changed places. Peter then invited another new member, Christian Jacob's to perform. Christian had a loop of fine chain, which he manipulated to form a figure eight on the table. He said to his spectator that he was to place his finger into one of the loops and he would pull the chain away. One loop would catch, the other loop would come free. The aim was to find the loop that catches the finger. If Christian wasn't honest, he could have made a fortune.

Barry Abkin was our next performer with a story about how he used to be a supplier to Franklin's Supermarkets and with the problems between Motorola and Apple chargers which were always incompatible with each other. What we needed was a universal charger which Barry demonstrated with a short, a long and a medium length phone charger. Suddenly they were all the same length, then there were two then just one extra-long one. Its ends came off, then they were back on and then there were three cables, one short, one medium and one long.

Peter came back with two sets of red, yellow and black envelopes containing similar colour cards. No matter how they were mixed everything finished up symmetrical in Peter's performance of this Martin Lewis effect. Conway Restom, our next performer asked us if we ever had the feeling that something was about to happen before it did. He then produced a small combination lock which he showed to be locked. Various numbers were chosen without success. A date was now chosen and mysteriously the lock opened.

Christian performed a "Matrix" effect with four weights then it was Anthony Dillons turn. Anthony had a small die with a hole drilled through it, a small square tube and a toothpick size magic wand. Anthony dropped the die into the tube and locked it in place by passing the wand through holes in the tube and the die. With a gentle tap, though, the die escaped and fell free of the tube and wand. *Peter Rodgers*

## **RING 106, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – Slydini Pyramid Garden State Ring**

Meets 2nd Wed., 8:00 p.m. at The Sparta Avenue Stage, 10 Sparta Ave., Sparta Township, NJ

STAN BLADEK, Secretary / E-mail: quakmagicphil@aol.com

Magic was alive as the members of Ring 106 met for a busy evening. We had a nice turnout and some very interesting and mind-boggling magic happening. Our Ring is lucky enough to have a nice library at the Sparta Avenue Stage where we meet. I was thrilled to have the chance to get Dariel Fitzkee's *Showmanship for Magicians* and *Misdirection for Magicians*. In addition, I also checked out Darwin Ortiz's *Strong Magic* book. I have been reading both and it is quite interesting to see the contrast between the two authors and their opinions since the books were written fifty years apart from each other.

Dan Sylvestri rehearsed a couple routines that he will be performing in an upcoming show. He did a "Triumph" four-ace trick and followed it up with a Cards Across ("Leap") effect that was a real fooler. He then used an Extractor Card Case to totally fool this writer as I was the spectator for the trick. Eddie Conrads then filled the stage with the "character dream bag" production of a cast of colorful and bouncy puppets.

Stan Bladek rehearsed his opening act for an upcoming Chiller Theater performance. The "Appearing Glass" trick was performed then critiqued. Having a roomful of magicians lends itself to great insight improvements were adopted and have since led to a stronger effect. Tim Fortune presented an original origami-based card trick that involves a selection and a prediction. Our host, Joe Garsetti, did his original version of a shaker box and the location of a spectator's ring in a nest of boxes.

John Henderson closed our night in his inimitable style. He did a twenty-minute act featuring a five-way prediction ending with an "ACAAN," a "Hornswoggle" trick, a Scrabble themed trick, Jim Steinmeyer's "Sympathetic" card trick and ended with a three-card location trick.

All in all, this month's meeting rekindled that magic spark that we sometimes take for granted. I hope all of your club meetings are just as rewarding. *Stan Bladek*

## **RING 112, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE – M.H. Ortwein Ring**

Meets 3rd Tue. of each month, 6:00 pm at Miller's Ale House, 2119 Gunbarrel Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421

www.ring112.org

JIM DRISCOLL, Acting President / E-mail: jim.driscoll@gmail.com

Our regular monthly meeting was on Tuesday, March 18. A big thank you to Cindy

and Ron Williams who have again been busy with their 3D printers and had little bunnies (for magic and Easter) to hand out to attendees.

A new feature of the Chattanooga Magic Club's meeting is a mini lecture presented by a member. Our Vice President Mike Edwards presented our first lecture that coincidentally fit our monthly theme of DIY Magic! Mike has been doing shows for LEGO conventions around the southeast with props made of LEGO blocks. He shared a story or two about the show's evolution and demonstrated a number of effects he does in his show. He showed a rabbit production box that produced a LEGO rabbit (of course!), a breakaway vanish that changed a rabbit into a dog, Mark Shortland's "LEGO Figure Prediction," a miniature spirit cabinet made of LEGO blocks and closed with a LEGO frame prediction routine. All items, except for the figure prediction and the frame were custom built, one-of-a-kind items that Mike designed and constructed out of hundreds of LEGO blocks.

After Mike's lecture, it was performance and sharing time. Our theme for the month was DIY Magic. Tom Raidy performed a Gospel routine inspired by a routine from magic legend David Ginn. Even after mixing up stacks of drawings of the disciples, four volunteers managed to each find the greatest among them –Jesus!

Lance Johnson did an amazing "in the hands of the volunteer" \$1/\$5 transposition that he made, and Steve McDaniel demonstrated some paddle magic with a paddle made of LEGO blocks!

Tommy Johns was next with a movie prediction using a frame from Mark Wilson's book and a custom-made Svengali style Movie Poster Coloring Book. Robert Jones followed with a sponge routine with sponges made from hair rollers he bought at Dollar Tree.

Michael Frisbee closed the theme magic with a "Ring Flight" routine he made with a reel and a key case from Amazon. His advice is to never skimp on the reel for this type of routine! *Jim Driscoll*

### **RING 113, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY – Audley Walsh/Conrad C. Bush**

Meets 1st Thurs. 8:00 pm, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 300 Forest Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ.

ANTHONY FERRER, Secretary / web site: [ibmring113@yahoo.com](mailto:ibmring113@yahoo.com)

Attendance was high for our March Ring meeting. The magic ignited when Richard Micucci performed Tomas Medina's "The Exchange." Rich effortlessly out jogged a card from the pack and was able to visibly change the color of the card's back or face! Next, Bill Schmeelk performed Simon Lovell's "Twinkle." After multiple cuts, the spectator puts the deck behind their back, takes the top three cards and puts into their pocket and the deck back goes back into the box. Then, Bill pro-

duced another deck, cut it behind his back and took out three cards. The sets of cards matched!

John Henderson presented a free flowing three-phase medley of dice and cards miracles! Starting with Sean Devine's "ACAAN Prediction," he veered into Nick Trost's "Dice Decider" and climaxed with "Mental Die" by Dai Vernon! Carl Morano decided to celebrate Harry Houdini's birthday a few weeks early with El Duco's "Houdini's Escape," a coin illusion where Houdini's image escapes a gold coin leaving behind a cut-out silhouette in the coin and dangling pair of tiny handcuffs!

Eddie Conrad continued the coin illusions with Roy Kueppers' "Statue Vanish." In the tradition of David Copperfield, Eddie vanished Lady Liberty from a quarter, leaving a cut out silhouette! Recently returned from Blackpool, Michael Healy demonstrated David Regal's "Jigsaw Deck" and the "Random Card Generator," a clever card force that doesn't require a deck of cards.

Alen Thompson followed up with "Misprint" by Luke Dancy & Kevin Reylek. Al took a factory misprinted Bicycle card and magically corrected the card's misaligned printing! Jay Paul performed a card effect utilizing a deck switch. Jay found two cards from two spectators who selected cards and mixed them back into the deck.

Michael Kirschner entertained the group with his version of a favorite David Roth wild coin routine using Chinese coins. After the final coin vanish, the coin appeared on Kirsch's forehead! Dan Silvestri drew the evening to a rousing end with "Grandma's Miracle," a Beads Off Rope routine from Chen Yang and TCC. Dan threaded two ropes through three clear beads. A spectator closed their fist around the threaded beads and Dan violated a few laws of physics by pulling the ropes through the beads and the spectator's clenched fist!

*Carl Morano*

### **RING 115, SINGAPORE – The Great Wong Ring**

Meets 15th of each month, 7:00 pm, Function Room 2, #03-01, National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street, Singapore 188064. Website: [ibm-ring115.org](http://ibm-ring115.org)

JOHN TEO, President / Tel: +62504422, 97509017

10M Braddell Hill #01-49, Singapore 57931

March was our Annual General Meeting (AGM). A total of thirty-seven members and two guests gathered at the Drama Centre. The AGM commenced at 7.15 p.m. as soon as we had the required quorum of twenty members.

The following were elected / re-elected to the following positions: President John Teo; Vice President Ng Kah King; Hon. Secretary JK Tan; Asst. Secretary Ivan Lee; Hon. Treasurer Ian Tan; Asst. Treasurer Victor Heng; Committee Members Baharudin, Kenneth Chia, Wee Kien Meng, Luke Tanand, and Joseph Then; Auditors for year 2025, Curtis Choy and George Seam; Auditors

for year 2026, Kogi and Dr Loke Han Ying.

A short break was held where members were treated to snacks and drinks.

After the break, our guest magician from Hawaii, Glen Bailey, gave a twenty-minute children show where all of us acted as nine- to ten-year-old kids. His act comprised sucker appearing flowers, six-foot gag, double colour changing hankies, Ton Onosaka's "Fishbowl Mystery" where fish vanished because a cat ate them, headless silks, rabbit in hat scarf, mouth coil from fist to garland, Daryl's rattling and squeaking toys transpo, rabbit vanish from hat to magician's back, multiplying bottles and break-away wand. Glen also provided valuable tips on how to perform better kids magic and took questions from the floor.

Harapan Ong did a nine-fingers-on-one-hand gag with the entire audience. A volunteer then mimed putting a cross on the backs of every card in a deck of playing cards except one card of his own choice. This imaginary deck became a reality when Harapan took out the cards from a card box visible all the time on the table and spread to show that the only card without a cross on the back was the very card named by the volunteer.

Tommy Kian performed "Spread" where a volunteer chose a playing card from a deck of cards featuring popular travel countries and cities in the world. Tommy was not only able to pinpoint the chosen city as London, but when he spread the rest of the cards in the deck on the table, the back design revealed a large picture of the Big Ben of London. In addition to this, the volunteer was told to imagine the exact time he saw the Big Ben. Tommy produced a picture of a watch with the exact time named by the volunteer. This was Masuda's "Frozen In Time" effect.

Joseph Then did Jota's "Dream Box" where a volunteer freely chose a country, an artist, a drink, and a celebrity. All these were predicted exactly in a badge won by the volunteer at the start of the performance.

To end the evening, all those who attended were each given a gift courtesy of Kenneth Chia and Baharudin. As the gifts were limited in quantity, they were given out on a first-come-first-served basis.

John Teo

## **RING 122, WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS – Silent Mora – Ray Goulet Ring**

Meets at Temple Beth Shalom, 21 E. Foster St., Melrose, MA 02176, the last Tuesday of every month except during the summer, at 7:30 p.m.

Email: [ibm.ring122@gmail.com](mailto:ibm.ring122@gmail.com)

DEBBIE O'CARROLL, Secretary  
51 Olive St., Newburyport, MA 01950  
(978) 462-9954

As our members trickled in, several were already discussing *Penn and Teller: Fool Us*, and Mike Charles was casually practicing a

muscle pass before David called the meeting to order.

David's diplomacy secured us a spot at Snappy Pattys for March's meeting, saving us from needing to host it solely over Zoom. We are working to secure an open invitation on Mondays pending more diplomacy. For the time being, many club members meet at Snappy Pattys before the monthly meetings. Just let us know in advance so we can RSVP.

After some prodding from Pat, we moved to our next item of business, our upcoming magic shows! We have one for the library on Monday, April 28th at 7 p.m., and our spring show on April 12th at 12 p.m. at the Grace Episcopal Church. Our March meeting will be planning for the upcoming show.

Michael Charles proposed getting the data from Eventbrite and the payments to assemble a mailing list for future advertising purposes. He also volunteered his PA system. Any sound effects or songs that are used in the show should be sent to him or the I.B.M. email. There was discussion about potentially hosting more shows in the future so that magicians can get together more often to perform for an audience. Michael Charles and Mike Lee emphasized how meeting with fellow magicians is easier when these events are more frequent and consistent.

Pat was anxious to get to our magic trick feedback session for the night, so he was volunteered to start. He began with "King Con" by Richard Sanders, then moved on to a bandana coin vanish by E Bryan MacCarthy that was found through a series of magicians making it difficult to source the name. (Editor's Note: may be found in *Roth's Ultimate Coin Magic Collection*.) He also demonstrated the Martin Chapender coin palm, which he heard about from Jim Rainho, who heard about it through another series of magicians such as Jean Hugard, likely found in some long-lost magic packet. (Editor's Note: I believe it might be listed in his book, *Chapender's Method of Palming*.)

Mike Lee was next to volunteer and performed his rendition of "Equally Equal Ropes" by Mark Leveridge as a magician fooler. He also performed a unique split card routine of his creation based on the methods in Adam Wilbur's SPL-ITS Project. The crowd was just as impressed with the trick as with the craftsmanship after learning the prop was custom made.

Jimmy Do was up next with a three-coin routine whereupon one by one they disappear, only to reappear at will on the table. He then requested feedback as it was a new routine which quickly became a small collective lecture on

coins, with Mike Charles taking the lead and showing his version of the trick before segueing into his set for the night.

Mike C. demonstrated a few “Coins Across” routines he employs, such as Past International President Shawn Farquhar’s “Coins Across” and David Roth’s versions. This led to a discussion on coins and shells before moving to our next performer.

Our two newest members went next. Nick Kerpan demonstrated some rubber band effects he is incorporating into a larger cohesive performance. Mike McHenry showed off a “Monte” routine and card selection routine. A short feedback session on double lifts ensued.

Felice Ling performed a one-of-a-kind crayon routine she is working on. She shared some feedback from the Mystify Magic Festival about living the fiction of the presentation instead of just explaining it.

David Penn closed out the night with a Kreskin card trick he also found somewhere in an old book that uses the Crosscut Force. While discussing the Crosscut Force, Mike M. explained there was a survey of forces where spectators chose it as the “fairest” of the forces. Something to consider!

Our meeting closed out with a reminder that our March meeting will be on the 24th instead of the last Monday of the month, and it will be in person at Snappy Pattys. We will be planning our upcoming shows. Thus concluded our evening of magic.

*Daniel Barbas*

## **RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring**

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at Westport Coffeehouse Theater, 4010 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite D, Kansas City, MO 64111  
KELLY RUSK, President,  
E-mail: knr6244@hotmail.com

It’s been a magical month here in Kansas City. First came the annual Kansas City Comicon, for which Ring President Kelly Rusk assembled a number of Ring members to work at a booth where we could promote the art of magic and publicize the I.B.M.

We also had two lectures since our last report, in conjunction with the local S.A.M. Assembly (many of us belong to both clubs). Gregory Wilson (not Mark’s son, the other one) presented both a lecture and a hands-on workshop. While most of his lecture focused on items which he was selling, he provided several tips on presentation and audience management which we could apply to our own acts.

Subsequently, we enjoyed a lecture by Henry Evans, an amazing card worker, and he demonstrated several tricks that could be done with a borrowed deck. He also showed us a clever way

to perform a deck switch. In my opinion, he is one of the greatest card-men around. Beyond that, he was travelling with FISM winner Daniel Mormina, who gave us a demonstration of his card skills. In addition to these Ring events, several members attended a public show by Michael Carbonaro.

The theme of our April meeting was “junk-drawer magic.” Members were challenged to dig out some tricks that we had stored away for a long time. Kelly Rusk started the performance segment of our meeting with a “Linking Rope” routine. Jerry Jackson, who does not normally perform coin magic, showed us his routine with a Boston Box. Mike Wolgemuth followed with a routine in which he used a change-bag to cause a silk to apparently move to the inside of a bottle. Keith Leff showed us a dream-card effect. Brad Lynn performed a “Card Stab” with a deck that was placed inside a paper bag. Cliff Norris performed a three-card routine. Lance Rich continued the challenge by framing his coin act with a century-old monologue book that he had recently purchased in the silent auction of the collection of recently deceased member David Heeter. Dennis Burks demonstrated a ball that changed color when dropped through a tube. Dustin Blencoe showed us a routine he had recently learned with three Svengali Decks, to demonstrate the properties of this prop that our Ring was selling at Comicon.

I.B.M. Past International President David Sandy discussed the progress he is making on creating a magic museum and theater in St. Joseph, MO (the city where he lives). He even was given the opportunity to name the street where it was located, and he called it Magic Lane.

Dennis Burks then described a project that he is working on to create a plaque to be placed in downtown Kansas City, MO at the location where Houdini first performed his suspended straitjacket escape. He believes that this is an important incident in Kansas City’s history that should be recognized.

*Stu Lewis*

## **RING 131, DENVER, COLORADO – Mile High Magicians Society – The Earl Reum Ring**

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 40 West Arts Magic Hub Stage, 6501 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood, CO 80214  
A. J. PEREA, Secretary / E-mail: Secretary@milehighmagicians.com  
Web site: [www.milehighmagicians.com](http://www.milehighmagicians.com)

The Mile High Magicians Society hosted its biggest annual flea market. Some of the sellers included Stuart Hayner, Charly Wonder, Gene Gordon, Dan and Manon Rodriguez, Shawn Popp, Doc Murdoch, A.J. Perea, and Mickey Z. This was a perfect opportunity for some magicians to clear space in their homes, sheds, and storage units and other magicians to acquire



new illusions. A good number did both!

Some of the night's highlights included a library's worth of magic books, collectors' props in mint condition, three ball tricks, a dancing handkerchief circus, unique magic tables, a prediction slate, magic DVDs, and a wizard's hat. Dan and Manon Rodriguez had the deal of the night by bringing a collector's Zig-Zag illusion from the S.A.M. Magic Center in Parker, Colorado.

Countless sales were made from the start of setup to the final cleanup. Many sellers claimed to have only brought a small fraction of their collections so there will be even more cool props next year and in the years ahead!

The MHMS wants to thank Karen and Jeff Wake for booking and setting up the venue and making this night possible. *A.J. Perea*

### **RING 150, FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA – Dr. Mark Horowitz Ring**

Meets 4th Thur. in Tamarac, FL 7:30pm  
JOHN PETRUZZI, Secretary (954) 721-3054  
E-mail: johnpetruzz@hotmail.com

On Wednesday, April 9th., Ring 150 (Fort Lauderdale) held its monthly meeting. After a short business chat, we got down to some magic. The themes were Favorite Trick, Mentalism, Rough and Smooth Tricks, Money/Coin Magic, or Packet Tricks.

Thiagro Toscano started with having someone select on their phone a music selection and having him write down just one word from the lyrics (it was not heard by the group) and yet Thiagro was able to predict the word.

Nelson Osio, who was the person Thiagro used, did a version of four coins passing one at a time into a small box, a la Okito.

Michael Easler placed aside a "mystery" card face down onto the table; then preceded to manipulate the four aces which turned face down one at a time and then magically changed into four queens in which one of the queens changed into a different card and the "mystery" card turned out to be the ace that had vanished previously.

Randy Goodman performed three effects. Two of his own invention and one by the late magician and dealer Paul Diamond where two red queens are mixed among groups of red and blue back cards. The backs of the queens magically changed, and all of the other cards wound up the same. You had to be there to appreciate what happened. It was a good evening of magic. *Billy Byron*

### **RING 153, BILLINGS, MONTANA – Billings Magic Society**

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Reflections, 1140 Sixteenth Street West,  
Suite 13, Billings, MT.

BRENT CROMLEY, President / E-mail: [brent@cromley.net](mailto:brent@cromley.net)

In March we were delighted to meet in near-fifty-degree weather, compared to last month's

sub-freezing and snow-bound conditions. And it turned out to be a meeting filled with a lot of great magic.

The meeting started with the three older members, Tony Shandy, Kent Messmer, and Brent Cromley, comparing medical conditions. Kent was able to top the list with his recent experience of having a bullet removed from his shoulder in order to be able to undergo an MRI. We gave the younger Patrick Branger a lot to think about.

We also reviewed Patrick's recent shows performed in downtown Billings at the Nova Theater. We were all in agreement that the show far exceeded the quality of any recent professional shows that have been seen in town in recent years.

Then there was magic. Patrick started the evening with several effects he had obtained from Joao Miranda. The first was "Vision Box 2.0" which allowed him to do an invisible switch. The second was "P.O.V. Pad" which allowed Patrick to sense whatever had been written by his spectator on a Post-it pad. Later, Patrick demonstrated his newly acquired Puck's "Unbalanced," creating an amazing assortment of objects balanced in an impossible fashion.

Patrick also brought his "Tic Tac Toe" stage effect that he had used in his recent Billings shows. Although some of us had seen it in the show, Debbie Sherman was amazed when her guesses somehow produced a large reproduction of the Mona Lisa.

Kent was next. He brought out an effect that had been accumulating dust in his magic supply, but one that he'd seldom used. He had his little wooden car that ran across the deck of cards and was able to stop exactly at the location of Debbie's selected card.

Tony has performed several mentalism effects at meetings, and tonight he presented a classic. He was able to divine, through a process he called psychometry, whose envelope he was holding.

Rounding out the evening was a card trick from Brent. He performed "Don't Touch," from Dani DaOrtiz's Force Project (#11). Because the cards must be handled in a particular manner by the spectators, Brent uses an extra deck to illustrate the moves. Following that, Brent amused some, and fooled some, demonstrating the Kap Force that he had recently learned from a video by Giancarlo Scalia.

We concluded the evening by enjoying delicious sugar cookies from Debbie, who always seems to bring just the right treat for the occasion.

Spring has come to Montana, and we're beginning to enjoy the most beautiful views in

the world. If your travels bring you near Billings, look us up and we'll exchange magical secrets.

*Brent Cromley*

### **RING 158, GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA— Wizards of the North**

Meets 1st Sun 3:00 pm at Dino's Sports Lounge at 1020 Towne Sq. Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601

MARK DURIGON, President / email: mdur@comcast.net

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443](http://www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443)

Ring 158 met at Dino's Sports Lounge on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. After a meal, the meeting was called to order by President Mark Durigon. Present also were Mike Baker, Rick Bradley, Rich Passaro, Rob Shook, and Chuck Snyder.

Old Business: A picnic in July was discussed, but it was felt unlikely to have significance attendance due to vacations and other summer outings. Also, Rich will likely be on an out-of-town job until October. Instead, we are invited as guests to the June 22 picnic held by S.A.M. Assembly 157, at Bradys Run Park near Beaver Falls.

New Business: Rich had a recent show at Kastners in Jeannette, where he grew up. Dues for 2025 were collected by Treasurer Mike Baker. Chuck's Something Amazing continues to do well. He also juggles and has a stage area for presentations. Bill Abbott's shows at Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine, Florida was discussed, as well as the fact that Daytona Magic has announced that it plans to move. *Genii* magazine is editorially transitioning from Richard Kaufman to Jim Steinmeyer. Mark presented a Blast From The Past, a 1994 Magifest program.

After a quick break, magic was presented. This month's theme, in (dis)honor of The Infernal Revenue Service, is Magic With Numbers.

Rick presented a routine with two Z-fold notepads, one pink with girls' names, and one blue with boys' names. A girl's name was chosen. Random numbers were also chosen, and then Rick dealt that number of cards to spell that girl's name. He followed with a version of Meir Yedid's "Total Destiny" to predict the correct number of peanut M&Ms in a package.

Mark presented a trick of Mike Genovese's in which three poker chips are laid out and piles of cards dealt for each chip. The chips are moved and cards again dealt. There were eleven blank faced cards and one force card, placed third from the bottom. The final top card matches a prediction written on the back of the chips.

Chuck presented "Big Reaction" by Andy Nyman. Rob presented two effects using numbers chosen by spectators and then manipulated in unusual ways, the results matching predic-

tions which had been made. Rich presented "Fast Forward" utilizing baby and adult photos of celebrities. Mark asked four questions of a spectator involving years and numbers. He asks the spectator to add those numbers together, and the (predicted) answer is always twice the existing year (in this case, 4050). He also showed us "Random Card Generator" by Jeff Prace.

The meeting was then adjourned. Next meeting will be on Sunday, May 4, 2025. Theme will be April Showers Bring May Silk Flowers (magic using silks and/or flowers). There will also be a mini jam-session/tutorial on shuffles, cuts, false shuffles, and false cuts. *Willis Shook*

### **RING 165, COLLINGSWOOD, NEW JERSEY— William V. Rauscher Ring**

Meets 1st Mon., 7:00 pm at MT Ephriam Baptist Church, 25 S. Black Horse Pike, MT Ephriam, NJ 08059

JOHNNY MASS, Secretary

E-mail: [johnmassanova@gmail.com](mailto:johnmassanova@gmail.com)

Meeting started at 7:10 p.m. Twenty-five in attendance. President spoke in regard to how we would like the Ring to operate. Not focusing on politics but on magic. State the Board members are merely figure heads and the Ring belongs to the Ring members. With that being said, he stated that we will not have lengthy business meetings during club time and that everything will be transparent. No dues this year. Attempt to have two shows to donate to the space for allowing us to use it. Johnny Mass will produce the first show. Possible Broken Wand for our namesake William V. Rauscher.

Theme was Simple Magic. Next meeting April 7 with the theme "What's Old is New Again."

*Johnny Mass*

### **RING 170, ORLANDO, FLORIDA—Bev Bergeron Ring**

3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m., at IHOP on Kirkman Road, Orlando, FL.

DENNIS PHILLIPS, Secretary

E-mail: [dphillips13@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dphillips13@cfl.rr.com) / Web site: [www.Ring170.com](http://www.Ring170.com)

President David Freeman opened the meeting. Tom Parkin gave us an update on his "memorized deck" acceptance in the magic community. Tom developed and printed a training deck to teach you visually, with drawing mnemonics, how to memorize the position of every playing card in a stacked deck. He has the details at *Memdeck-Trainer.com*.

For his 109th Magic History Moment for our club, historian Phil Schwartz lectured on the life and contributions to magic of Scotsman, John Henry Anderson (1814-1874), the Great Wizard of the North. Early 19th century magic performance was a period of transformation. Anderson brought magic from the street to the stage where it was more accessible to a wider public. He produced and toured lavish illusion shows, promoted

using posters, sold merchandise and toured the world. Although challenged with financial losses and multiple bankruptcies, legal fights with managers and competitors, as well as the losses by fire of the two theaters (in Glasgow and in London) that he owned, Anderson became a household name, earning a reputation for grand illusion and splendid theatrical style. Phil showed original Anderson music sheets, a broadside and two original Anderson posters.

For the meeting show, David Freeman opened with his way to flip a coin and always know if it lands on heads or tails. Wes Iseli fooled Penn and Teller with his version of the effect. Tomas followed with some clever and mystifying sleights with a red and green sponge ball. Greg Solomon always has a bag of tricks. Bondi helped him reveal a chosen card with a lie detector approach. Greg knew what the truth was. He then had a straight flush of cartoon cards and finally he was able to tell the total of five selected cards in five hidden envelopes.

James Bailey showed a small hillbilly out-house. A chosen card appeared in the exploding house. And Giovanni had a polished routine with an Okito Box that transformed into a "lock box."

*Dennis Phillips*

## **RING 175, TAMPA, FLORIDA – Warren Hamilton Ring**

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, Tampa Gardens Sr. Living, 16702 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa, FL 33618 / Website: <https://tampamagicclub.com>

TOM VORJOHAN, President

(865): 254-9254 / E-mail: [TomVorjohan@gmail.com](mailto:TomVorjohan@gmail.com)

Thirteen members were at the April meeting for our second month at our new facility, and we were ready to share some magic! Looking for a creative theme, we opted for celebrating "Arbor Day" with green things, flowers, things from the earth, or whatever. Mark Byrne gladly volunteered to be our host and emcee for the evening's activities, and he brought up our resident magic dealer, Scott Correll, owner and namesake for SWC Magic. Scott shared some of the gorgeous sponge work made by Tim Pressley (like Peeps and Little Debbie Snack Cakes) – much better than simple sponge balls. Scott also shared three kinds of silk reels and TCC's latest Devil's Hank.

Using paper cards for the sake of Arbor, Frank Velasco shared a piece from his lecture that he just did a couple weeks ago in the Philippines – his Lie Detector effect with a "Truth Teller Coin." Frank was generous enough to teach us the complete trick. It is great to have Alan Zurich (and his wife Barbara) back with the Ring, and Alan did a fun presentation as he hypnotized a rope to make it stiff as a board. Later, Alan came back up to share his routine with an enviable set of large Bounce/No-Bounce Balls.

Without a deck of cards or any coins, we were treated to a great children's routine by Bob Klase with a white rabbit that changed to a black rabbit, eventually both disappeared, and the rabbit was found on Bob's back. We were treated to a great story about a pecan tree in a cemetery as Daniel P. Fite began a mental billet routine involving trees and a flower.

Continuing with Arbor Day festivities, Mark Byrne had a card chosen – the "Tree of Hearts" strangely enough – and the three was quite ambitious and finally was produced from Mark's mouth. Mike Wheeler had discovered some cue cards that he put together from a Jim Steinmeyer effect, and he delighted us with a story pertaining to the words on the cards as he found the chosen card. Tom Vorjohan shared his six-way Pom-Pom stick, discussed Doc Eason's new *Cocktails and Doc Tales* book, and shared his new deck of alphabet cards from Wonder Imagery that spelled out "A-R-B-O-R."

Borrowing a duck/rabbit silk from Mike, Rick Casale did an instant change with a reel, then Rick blew our minds as he made *all* of our cell phones link to a chosen card (he shared that this was "Hacker" from Ellusionist). Debuting his new Bits & Pieces Project for the Ring, Geoff Williams shared a Hug and a Handshake with Scott Correll after tearing a card into sixteen pieces (while the other fourteen unchosen pieces could have been gruesome and ugly!).

To end the evening, Ken Spanola had to pass on performing, so we were treated to Mark Byrne stepping in and doing a delightful four inch "Linking Rings" routine. *Tom Vorjohan*

## **RING 192, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – Victor Saint Leon Ring**

Meets 2nd Weds., 7:00 p.m., at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbon's Dr., Carmichael.

JEFFREY TINKER, Secretary / E-mail: [jtinker53@yahoo.com](mailto:jtinker53@yahoo.com)

Web site: [www.magic1.org/ibm192](http://www.magic1.org/ibm192)

Our Sacramento Ring and S.A.M. Assembly 72 had a treat in March when we sponsored a lecture by Jay Scot Berry. It happened on March 25, so we couldn't report it then. Great lecture and so much on methods used in atypical ways.

As for April, we had Al Skinner giving us an update on his "Needle Thru the Arm," and his improvements. Jeff Tinker did an abbreviated version of "ACAAN." Dale Lorzo showed us some spring bananas and then a magnetic square puzzle that could be arranged into different shapes. David Wright performed "Hyper-Twist," followed by Rick Mahan and "Timely Departure." Ric Ewing got a little help with a "Blind Coin Pick." Mary Mowder got Andy Swan to use her deck to find the four aces by spelling them out one-by-one. Pepe Puglisi

introduced us to his new Appearing Cane Launcher. It was a vast improvement over the standard “stomp” launcher, being electronic and remote controlled. Vikram Singh did a group calculator trick on his phone where the total could be broken down to the date and time the trick was performed. Tom Allen showed us “Quantum Entanglement,” or “Mind Over Matter.” “If you don’t Mind, it doesn’t Matter.” All in all, some fine magic by our talented group.

*Jeffrey 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](http://www.utahmagic.org)

Ring 193 met on April 1, 2025. We had nine in attendance. We discussed upcoming lectures by Joshua Jay August 15, 2025, and a lecture by Jay Scott Berry arranged by S.A.M. Assembly 300, the Ogden Magic Guild tentatively for November. We also announced the S.A.M. Assembly 300 performing the S.A.M. initiation formal ceremony April 26.

Ring 193 will be having its annual “Swap ‘n Sell” event on Saturday, September 13 in the front yard of the Swinyer home. You can arrive at 3:00 p.m. to set up, bring your own table/chairs if you need them. The Ring will furnish hot dogs, everyone else is asked to bring potluck side dishes.

Thalia asked if she could say something at the start of the meeting. She said it’s getting harder to provide the magic theater premises for our monthly meetings and said she couldn’t do it anymore. Lectures will be okay, but monthly meetings are not.

President Mont tossed out an inflated balloon to be knocked around and the final person to have it was asked to eliminate three of four colored ribbons shown on a board, completely free choice. Mont said he had written a prediction on the back and whatever color was left; he guaranteed his prediction would be right. The final color left was red. Mont turned the board around and said his prediction was right: on the board was the word “right!” He asked if his helper could hear something inside the balloon, yes. Mont said he had placed a ribbon inside before the trick. Then he gave a long knitting needle to his helper to hold and popped the balloon. A red ribbon was shown to have been inside the balloon!

Dan asked Aniket to cut and shuffle cards. He then spread the cards and had Aniket select one, replace it and cut the deck. Dan said he could pull his card out by touch alone. And he did.

Aniket then asked Dan to help him. Dan named the Ten of Clubs. Aniket showed two jokers, and asked Dan to verify they were indeed single cards. He then put them together clearly and the Ten of Clubs was found between them.

Rudy Chacon performed his version of a “Signed Bill Inside Balloon.” We won’t mention where he found the balloon to blow up! I think he said condominium. He then performed several vanishes and appearances of a pen and cap based on Greg Wilson’s “Recapped.” He then popped the balloon and found the signed bill inside.

Al Lampkin gave us a mini lecture on “Torn and Restored Napkin” and many valuable tips on handling as well as the performance of the trick. One tip was one he showed me many years ago about refolding the napkin in reverse folds to make the opening and handling much smoother. I have used it hundreds of times over the years.

Javier asked if one of our attendees was gay. They said no and Javier showed he had predicted the word “NO” written on the palm of his hand. He then predicted a randomly chosen card and showed he was right as it was on the back of a 52 on 1 card. Then he had a small paper folded basket with bunny ears sticking out and multi-colored eggs inside. Asked Aniket to choose a color (orange), and when he dumped the eggs out, they were all orange. He then dumped all the orange eggs back into the basket, and they all became multi-colored again.

We then retired to the refreshment room for chatter and munchies (did you get to taste the Vlasik Pickle Balls?) Fun and refreshments were had by all. See you next month.

\*By the way, Thalia said her announcement about no more meetings in their home was an April Fool’s joke. She really had sucked in everyone at the meeting!

*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](mailto:Growdne@yahoo.com)

The April meeting was delayed for a week because members and their families attended David Garrard’s performance at the Princess Theater. Members discussed the Studio 60 Show and how we can improve another fundraiser like that. Members agreed that the quality of the show was tops. Each performer performed their specialty, and it showed. For some, this was a chance to perform on a stage with curtains, spotlights, and stagehands.



Derrick provided the feedback report from Julie Born (Studio 60). Members who had a magic show since the last meeting were Matt Growden, Patrick Brunson, and Derrick Born.

President Matt Growden in an unsolicited email announced the magic theme for tonight was Spring Cleaning, a time to open the drawer or look under the bed and bring magic that has not seen the light of day in a while or a trick that has never been performed. Fifteen members were ready to watch, get entertained, and share. Not in alphabetical order, David Thompson performed Paul Wilson's gambling game, "Challenge Coins" and a four kings to four aces to four queens from Chris Capeheart. Kevin O'Connell with the assistance of Ryley Brasher performed "Ball and Vase" ending with a production of four Walking Liberty half dollars. Treasurer Dean Carter came in late with the treasurer's report. Close-up magician Evan Tate under the watchful eye of Kenneth Jordan performed an indicator card trick.

V.P. Brett Boyer performed a Double Drawer production box via Go-in-a-boxes to produce vintage Hot Wheels cars. Matt last name already mentioned, performed a "Psychotic/Psychology Test" using Bill Waring and Gavin Albright as helpers (two out of three isn't bad). Patrick Brunson performed three tricks using an Aldi magic quarter and a no force prediction card trick with Jared Cassidy's card matching the prediction.

Patrick provided pretzels. Bill Mullins and Jack Baldwin examined David's Elastic Pull and thumb tip holders. *Patrick Brunson*

### **RING 197, MARIETTA, OHIO – The Tommy Windsor Ring**

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 200 Franklin St., Marietta, OH  
DALE WHEELER, President / E-mail: dalew3314@gmail.com

Jay Foresta opened the meeting at 7 p.m. The meeting was a productive one with the normal business meeting activities and the clarification of previous discussions relating to the new meeting day, the installation of officers' calendar, future Ring shows, and the performances by a potential new member and several Ring members.

Our new member candidate, Velma Kunze, entertained us with a show that included lots of color, fun and variety. From her *Mary Poppins* style bag, she retrieved a seemingly endless supply of magic props. The opening included puns and the appropriate themed objects and moved to the more traditional magic props like a magic hat, a wand, a coloring-changing scarf, the "Mexican Rope Trick" from SEO Magic, and the King of Hearts card effect. Chester was her assistant with this final trick.

Members shared a variety of magic, with money or coins being the prevalent theme, in the

last half of our meeting. Chester, with the aid of Velma and Dock, performed the classic "Silk Cola." Dale Wheeler, who was assisted by Velma, performed Larry Becker's "Psychometric Coins." Larry Becker effects continued with "Ultraffinity" being performed by Bill Stokes and assisted by Jay.

Dock Cutlip performed Wes Iseli's "Flip It," with Jay as his helper. Dock proceeded with David Regal's "Silver Transfer" and Stephen Young's version of the "Baby Book." Rounding out a full evening of magic, was our Ring President, Jay, who utilized the "Thumb Switch" with a fifty-cent piece in a gospel-themed effect. Velma was his assistant.

We would love it, if you would like to join us, either as a guest or a new member. If you are traveling through or live in our area and would like to come to a meeting, get in touch with us.

*Charleen Stokes*

### **RING 198, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY – Thoroughbred Magic Guild**

Meets 2nd Sun. afternoon of most monks at Hope Springs Community Church, 1109 Versailles Rd., first building.

MIKE WOODWARD, Secretary / E-mail: mikewmp@aol.com

Web site: [www.ring198.com](http://www.ring198.com)

Jim Holsinger led our March meeting with a presentation on a pioneer in card magic who may be our art's least recognized paradigm shifter, Theodore Deland. Before Deland, few magicians performed magic with playing cards because the art required a mastery of difficult sleights. Since Deland, most magicians now perform card magic

Before Deland, the only exceptional methods in card magic were self-working or mathematical, or employed stripper or Svengali decks. Deland introduced gaffed cards and decks. Deland contributed his insights for only about fifteen years but then disappeared. He eventually died in a mental asylum.

In 2018, Richard Kaufman published a remarkable volume, *Deland: Mystery and Madness*. The book covers Deland's life, theory, writings, and methods, and Kaufman's kit includes replicas of some of his gaffed cards and decks, which made it possible for many magicians to perform effects that previously required challenging sleights. A quiet (rather unconscious) revolution emerged in card magic.

Jim Holsinger demonstrated five of Deland's effects and then passed out sets of Deland's gaffed cards set he named "the Spotter" and then invited members to imagine a trick they could do with the six-card kit, 4D/AC, AS/AC, 5D/AC, SC/AC, 5H/AC, plus a normal AC. Within minutes, several members presented first draft tricks they had conceived.

Our club was impressed with the work of the forgotten pioneer. We are proposing that the I.B.M. begin an annual Deland award for the best innovation in gaffed-card magic.

In our performance time, Mike Woodward performed an effect with a set of gaffed cards and a sleight!

*George Hunter*

### **RING 199, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – Lee & Snively Ring**

Meets 1st Sat. of month, United Church, 820 E. Williams St., Apex. NC  
DAN HARLAN, Secretary / E-mail: [contact@danharlanmagic.com](mailto:contact@danharlanmagic.com)  
Website: [www.raleighmagicclub.org](http://www.raleighmagicclub.org)

On April Fools we held our version of Fool Us where members compete to win the highly coveted “Well, That Fooled! (WTF)” Blue-Ribbon Button. Four clever members outwitted their peers to get the afore-mentioned conversation starter.

Michael Bloemeke won his WTF finding two chosen cards under test conditions. Test conditions are best conditions. Really, that’s key.

Tony Thomas received a WTF by (repeatedly) telling us the number on a die in a little box without looking at it. His performance (throwing around more red herrings than a seafood restaurant) was electric.

Our third WTF went to Bhavish Malkani who had his helper do as he did, and he did do it well... cutting to each other’s cards. That’s the long and short of it.

Dave Pawson earned a WTF by spelling to chosen cards. The odds stacked against him, his helpers did their individual parts, and he managed to divide and conquer.

The remaining competitors were thwarted in their attempts but did not let their crushing disappointment show.

Russ Condrey found a card in a balloon. Duplicating it with a clear balloon, the card visibly “squeeze” itself inside... with a bit of force.

Incredibly legibly, Bob Crane wrote down random two-digit numbers chosen by random no-digit helpers. APPropriately, the numbers mostly matched a photo of a lottery ticket, although one was “off-by-one” as one is.

Another loser, Dan Harlan performed the world-premiere of “Rasputin’s Reverse Russian Roulette” drinking all the poison and avoiding water. Remaining dry, he couldn’t erase his failure to fool. At least he took a shot.

Mike Kaiser worked harder than a Double-Decker bus driver to match cards at numbers and numbers on cards.

To warp our minds, Sean MacBain turned a folded card inside out when pushed through another card, ripping half-way through reality.

Paul Syros brought a disappointing bag of chips to test his influence. It was a bag of poker

chips. His influence worked but could not be eaten. Unequivocally.

Perhaps inspired by a paratrooper in Paris, Daniel Buck vanished a coin, but did not get a worthless WTF award.

Lastly on this listy, Wayne Haarhaus cut (a picture of) himself into four pieces which he rearranged and magically restored to their proper order. Some of us really flipped for this one. Some of us just became hungry for a turnover... and a bag of chips....

*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](mailto:Ecrafft@woh.rr.com)

Web site: [www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205](http://www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205)

The March 30 meeting was opened by Doug Ferguson at 7:00 p.m. at Mike’s. Fr. Steve Blum handed out the treasurer’s report for February. Doug talked about the club visiting The Magic Corner Museum in Wauseon, OH. He will check this out and report back to the club.

Gary Friedrich announced there was a birthday party for Dick Stoner. Roberta invited everyone to Elizabeth’s graduation May 18. She will follow up with invitations.

Magic began when Gene Craft performed “Knots Off Silk.” Gary Friedrich performed a routine in which three balls seemed to change places in a tube. Mike Grubbs had Chris deal cards to the table in two separate piles. When Mike revealed the top cards, they were both the red queens.

Roberta Howard explained how she could predict time that would match a random advertisement for watches. Doug found an ad on the Internet and the time matched perfectly. Chris Topel performed “A Moment In Time,” a card routine in which he predicted a selected card.

Doug Ferguson presented the evening lecture. He had Mike deal several cards to the table and Doug was able to predict the exact card he would stop on. Fr. Steve Blum presented the evening lecture. He produced a bouquet of flowers. He had Chris circle nine dates on the calendar and add the numbers. The sum agreed with his prediction. He also performed several card-find routines and ended with a beautiful silk production that was printed with “The End.”

We had a great magic meeting. Eddie Grubbs was also present.

*Gene Craft*

### **RING 210, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – Duke Stern Ring**

Meets 2nd Wed. each month 7:00pm at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170

RANDY A. SMITH, Secretary  
Web site: [www.aamagic.org](http://www.aamagic.org)

Our most recent meeting was two hours of non-stop magic! We had a great turnout for our

Close-up Showcase with twenty-four members and five guests. Six close-up performers each had their own table and four spectators at each table rotated every five minutes to a new close-up performer until everyone had seen all six acts. Performers got a chance to experience performing the same routine over and over for different audiences. Spectators got to see lots of great close-up magic. Afterwards, spectators voted on their favorite act and Mike Reuter was awarded the Close-up Showcase winner for 2025.

Mike Reuter showed a tiny grand piano and then performed a well-honed bare-handed coin "Matrix" with silver dollars to ragtime music, Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer." Then Mike showed a super tiny Apple Mac computer. A card was selected and somehow in the spectator's hand, the Mac was unfolded, and it was the selected card with a Mac back. What will Steve Jobs think of next. Phil Mann performed a nice "Coin through Table" routine and then went into a coin "Matrix" with engraved playing cards and half-dollars.

Bou-yu Chen did some lovely sleight of hand with a coin vanishing into thin air, then a pen whose tip seemed to constantly change which end of the pen it was on. Bou-yu concluded with a baffling coffee stirrer in a Starbucks Bag. The stirrer broken by several spectators' hands on through the bag magically was in one piece when the bag was ripped open. It matched a small broken piece taken before it was put in the bag proving that there was no switch. Sean Howell performed a well-honed "Cups and Balls" routine based on a custom Rub-a-dub-dub verse using three hand crafted leather cups. For the finale, three small bottles of Tequila appeared under the cups and then to everyone's amazement two limes and a saltshaker appeared under the cups for a super climax.

April Barrett performed routines she uses at Detroit Tigers baseball games to keep kids entertained while they are waiting to get their face painted. April first produced a tiny balloon animal from a bunch of un-inflated balloons. Dan Jones performed a couple Jay Sankey card tricks. First, he did a nice rendition of "Hi-Jacked" where four jacks turn into aces, then he did "Bigger Finish" where what appears to be four cards turns out to be a jumbo of the selected card in the spectator's hands.

Then we had a few bits of business. Our President Sean Howell reminded us that next month we will have a lecture by John Luka. Sean then called up past presidents, Dan Jones and John Russell, to present them with the I.B.M.'s Past President medals to a well-earned round of applause. Finally, members were

reminded of two upcoming events. Michigan Magic Day will be May 17th hosted by Ring 22 and our own Parlor Show will be May 24.

Then it was on to member performances. Lincoln Stone performed a nice rendition of "Color Vision" and concluded with an "Appearing Cane" from his top hat. Fred Lenter performed a baffling two deck card trick where a card selected from one deck turned out to vanish and was the only card in the second box. Austin Peczynski for his first time ever on stage performed a nice "Copper/Silver Two in the Hand - One in the Pocket" routine.

April Barrett did a "your name" on card routine. Dreygon Hibbler did an incredible time travel routine where he made three minutes completely disappear. Mike Bogdas performed a "Needle off Thread" routine where he magically removed a needle under cover of a handkerchief while the thread was held at both ends by a spectator. Boyu Chen did a very nice two spectator prediction where a number written on a card by one spectator is telepathically transmitted to another spectator who then writes down the same number. Fred Lenter was back with a very nice multi segment cut and restored routine. Finally, John Russell wrapped up with a card trick and Cootie Catcher routine from his act where the Cootie Catcher ultimately reveals the chosen card.

That only left a few more minutes for jamming and socializing before the lights went out.

*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](mailto:president@ring216.org) / Web site: [www.ring216.org](http://www.ring216.org)

October 2024: Ring 216 held its annual Close-up Competition on October 9, 2024. The spectators sat at three separate tables while eight magicians took turns performing them. The competitors were, in the Master's Division Calvin Tong (coins), Dan Chan (mental matching), Jonathan Chen and Mitch Kothe (each with cards). In the Standard Division, the performers were Erika Tsai (gambling demonstration), Yitian Liang (multiphase card routine), Alex Wu (cards, coffee cup and balls), Jeff Friend (cards), Rishabh Agrawal (visual card changes) and David Morrill (an original menu choice prediction).

The scoring by the audience was as always very close. In the Standard Division, the winner on the Magician's ballot was Yitian, with Rishabh in second place. On the People's Choice ballot, Rishabh was first and Yitian second. In the Master's Division, Calvin won the

Magician's ballot with Jonathan in second place, while the People's Choice award was given to Mitch, with Jonathan second.

November 2024: Ring 216 had the honor and the pleasure of learning from and being fooled by the delightful Curtis Kam on November 12, 2024. Introduced by Syd Kashima to the largest gathering of the year, Curtis talked about how, after fifty years of performing strolling magic, he thinks he has finally solved some problems and would share his solutions that night.

Curtis opened our eyes to a fresh view on the two-in-the-hand, one-in-the-pocket theme, ringing changes on Vernon's dice routine with a laugh-inducing presentation. Then, asking the perennial question, "Is it ever okay to start a set with a card trick?" Curtis presented his solution for an opener that was especially good for quickly getting the attention of kids, the head-shaking appearance of three coins and then an invisible flight with the help of the spectators, a presentation that gives commercial enhancements to Vernon's "Silk and Silver."

What about the problem of using a jumbo coin as a finish to a routine? Everyone goes "wow" when it appears, but then they all want to see it, they pass it around, and the show trickles away. So, he came up with a routine that both uses and dispenses with the jumbo coin. Then there was the problem of "Leipzig's Opener" from *Stars of Magic*, which he had long employed but became unhappy that it was only a two-beat trick and something of a sucker effect. He solved both issues by adding a third beat for a powerful finish.

Then Curtis had fun with magic made to show magicians: an indecorous spectator-cuts-the-aces with a blank deck finale, a six-coin routine, and, from the "secret" issue of *The Disclaimer*, the "Travelers" with coins. More: an "Ambitious Card" that avoids the obvious moves and finding satisfying endings to two Paul Harris effects. And more and more! Curtis's approach to turning the four-ace assembly into a spectator's game was a real winner with the Ring audience. And he closed with his "new favorite thing," a "Ring and Rope" routine with a massive ring and multiple penetrations.

We knew we were watching something very special that night. One of the warmest and most creative people in magic had chosen to share some of his vast experience with us. We are grateful to Curtis Kam for his wisdom, humor, and empathy that encourages us all to give the best we can to the world.

December 2024: Ring 216's annual Stage and Parlor Competition amazed and delighted the audience on December 11, 2024. In the Standard

Divisions' clash of talent, Jeff Friend cast a banishment spell, Alex Wu turned blank cards to queens and conjured up a live fish, and Greg Lum played a dating specialist with prognosticating powers. In the Master's Division, a spectator surprisingly guessed the price of Mitch Kothe's suit, Alan Leeds puzzled out how to fit one's life together, and Jonathan Chen rang changes on linking four rings together with help from the audience.

When the votes were tallied, Alex was awarded first place in the Standard Division, and Jonathan took the Master's Division. Ring Vice President Yitian Liang was the emcee.

Gary Goldberg

### **RING 234, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA- The Low Country Conjurers**

Meets 1st Thu. of each month, 7:00 pm, Holy City Magic, 49 1/2 John St, Charleston, SC 29403

GEORGE YOUNTS, Secretary

Email: [george\\_younts@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:george_younts@charleston.k12.sc.us)

A strong six- Zack, Tom, Gary, Wes, George, Jason and a significant other met for beverages, food and a wide range of tricks, methods, scripting, news and presentations. The current meeting space, the Ale House allows for good interpersonal communication. Jason and Tom talked about their Blackpool attendance in January as George did similarly at Magifest too.

In the never ending pasteboard subject area we saw Zack using "Envelope 2.0" for a deck transfer then wowing with "Spectrum & Below" (by the French Twins), Gary doing Bannon's "Royal Scam," "Twisted Aces" versions by Zack and George, Jason shocking us with Blue Tooth (a rising card gimmick), Tom with "Lies, Damn Lies" (Steinmeyer nine card but here with seven) and finally George with Nick Trost's "Bigfoot" packet trick.

But we were not done with the cards yet! Discussions on handlings and scripting for "Twisted Sisters" and "B'Wave," Craig Petty's "ACAAN," and last but not least, Wes doing a Matt McGurk "OOTW" that can be found on YouTube and "Even You Won't Know How This Card Trick Works! (Revealed)." Got to love the Gilbreath Principle! Amazing!

On the coin front we had Danny Godsmith's "Coin Cuff" and a Coins Across (on a Morgan set by Zack) and then "Brass Buttons" by Matthew Wright was demonstrated by George who also talked about school shows, and an upcoming arts festival show and also presented Marc Paul's "Summing Up." Sponge Ball theory was chatted about too being sparked by Zack's restaurant gigs.

Meeting ran three hours! Even Gogo showed up in a beanie via Wes's cell from a cold Vegas.



Next one is scheduled for another Sunday on May 18th 3 p.m. at the Alehouse.

Sim Sala Bim everyone! *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: Kebabram@aol.com

The meeting opened with discussion of recent and upcoming online club meetings. The Central IL Magic Get-Together will be held at Danville Area Community College on May third. Info and online registration here: <https://cimagic.weebly.com/cimgtg>. Be sure to sign up for lunch from Jimmy Johns as well. Nick Locapo is planned to have a night before workshop on the Svengali Deck. More information as we get it.

CIMA is hosting a lecture by Trevor Duffy at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 4th at the Bontjes' compound in Danville, IL. The price will be \$25.00.

Rob "The Professor" Higgins gave a good review of *The Ultimate Marked Deck Book* by Ivan Lapland. Chris Bontjes mentioned that Vanishing Inc has some good deals on Magic eBooks and then opened the magic with several variations of the side steal and a simple "Card to Pocket" routine. Damon Kim performed his "Helder Skelter," Jason Brewer divined a card using a spectator's pulse. Eric Fang showed us his "ACAAN" in a separate deck of cards. Ken Barham performed "Card Warp" and "Split Focus." Rob Higgins took the floor again with "Warp Zag." Chris Bontjes returned to the stage with "Chicago Opener" and "Close-up Illusion." Bill Pierce showed us four coin-incidences. Chris Bontjes performed "Gemini Twins" and Eric Fang presented his variation. Damon Kim presented his "51 Cards to Pocket." Eric Fang demonstrated his Time Machine which closed the formal meeting but, as usual, much discussion continued after the meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army in Champaign. Come early and meet us at Manzella's Italian Patio on First Street in Champaign. The topic for April will be Prop-less Mentalism but anything you want to bring is acceptable.

See ya at the meeting. *Ken Barham*

### **RING 250, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO – Presto-Digitators**

Meets 2nd Sat. of month at 11:00 a.m. at Oregano's Restaurant, 4235 S. College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80525

LEW WYMISNER, President / [Lewiswymisner@comcast.net](mailto:Lewiswymisner@comcast.net)

(970) 484-7014 / Web site: [www.prestodigitators.com](http://www.prestodigitators.com)

The March combined meeting of I.B.M. Ring 250/The Presto-Digitators and S.A.M. Assembly 292 continued the upswing in atten-

dance since moving from Greeley, Colorado to Fort Collins. Twenty people attended, several from outside Fort Collins (Denver, Loveland, and other parts south).

After an hour plus of fraternizing and lunch, the actual meeting began. A new agenda item was instituted, "Tips." During the Mark Strivings lecture this past January, Mark talked about a "Pro Tip," regarding having a prop dedicated to an effect, as opposed to finding that prop (in this case a hammer) from your toolbox before every show. He advised, "Get two hammers!" To this end, we've integrated some "Tips" into the agenda from anyone that performs and has one to offer. Several folks contributed to this section of the March meeting, including Cody Landstrom, Tim (TimFoolery) Pendergast, and Lew (Loudini) Wymisner.

The Teach-in portion of the meeting, Cody taught an easy-to-do prediction using an envelope and a deck of cards. Cody went over the intricacies he had learned from real-time performing standing and sitting. He's the official magician every Friday night at a popular bar/restaurant in Fort Collins, The Rio Grande. His "Card(s) on the Ceiling" adorn a good potion to this restaurant.

Cameo Heitzman kicked off the performance section of the meeting with a wonderful Card Snake whose eyes lit up before it found the selected card. C.J. Adams performed a card effect called "Reflections." Mike Fry did an effect he called "Warp 9." Tim performed the Alakazam effect called "What Happens in Vegas." Gary Erichson performed an effect where a vanished half dollar appeared atop a selected card in the deck. Lew performed Bob Cassidy's ingenious effect called "Chronologue." Byron (The Great Byrini) Ferguson and his wife Toni amazed the assembled with a call-back card effect invoking the spirit of the late/great Harry Boulter, where a selected card appeared as a tattoo on Toni's body after Byron literally threw the deck at her, of course it was the Six of Spades.

The meeting ended with another give-away of magic from the estate of our S.A.M. 292 founder, the late Lloyd Worley, who left his vast collection to the clubs. *Lew Wymisner*

### **RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The "Magic Ian" Ring**

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, Perkins Restaurant, 27811 US Hwy 27,

Leesburg, FL 34748

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: [rogerreid1114@gmail.com](mailto:rogerreid1114@gmail.com) / Website: [www.Ring258.com](http://www.Ring258.com)

Our March 27 meeting was held at our new location, Perkins Restaurant, 27811 Hwy. 27, Leesburg. Under Good & Welfare: Les Morgenstein's daughter is recovering well from

recent surgery and appreciates the Get-Well Card sent by the secretary. On a somber note, Mr. Irv Cook, of Daytona Magic, has passed on. The secretary sent a card to his family.

**Old Business:** Last month we discussed the possible purchase of a TV camera and screen, to aid members watching close-up magic. V.P. Andy Rohweder researched and found it to be way beyond the financial means of the Ring.

**New Business:** The idea of a Summer Picnic was brought up. For a number of reasons, it will be tabled until January of 2026, in order to make adequate plans for next summer. A few members have asked for copies of the Ring Roster. The secretary will bring it up to date and distribute it with the March Ring Minutes. Les Morgenstein brought a stack of *Linking Ring* magazines to give out to anyone interested.

**After Meeting Entertainment Theme:** Silks and Silk Props. David Lyons led off with quite a few effects including a "Thumb Tip Vanish," "Vanishing Knot," "Dove Pan Fire to Huge 6' x 6' Butterfly Silk," "Chameleon Silks," "Dye Tube with 4" Silks," and "Silk through Silk Penetration." Kim Young amazed everyone with "Silk through Drinking Glass." Roger Reid produced a "Devil Silk from an Empty Potato Box" and told the story of Happy the Clown and the Circus Wagon (Silk Caddy) which changed the silks. Greg Solomon went off theme with "Two Ropes/Four Ends," "The Touch" and "Clue Dough." Jim Luscutoff did "Knot Ties" and "Coins through Silks." David Ginsburg, performing to music, caused black and white silks to become a black and white striped streamer, a pink silk became a mini pig, and three red silks became three roses. Regina Schiraldi conjured "Soap Bubbles to a Bubble Printed Silk," "Scrambled Happy Birthday Silks," "Mis-made Flag," and closed with a silk fountain. Andy Rohweder closed the evening with "Silk Shopping Bag," "Knots Go," and "Slydini's Knots Off!"

The April meeting will feature a lecture by Jeff Arnold. Looking ahead, the May theme will be Box Magic.

*Roger L. Reid*

## **RING 265, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA – London Magicians Guild**

Meets 2nd Wed., Labatt's Engineering Bldg. unless otherwise notified.  
MARK HOGAN, Secretary

The February meeting night came as the same night as the "storm of storms." Winter has been unkind this year and the snowfall was intense, so it was a late-game decision to cancel the meeting this night.

There was still some demand to meet up once the snow cleared. As a result, we tried a drop-in session at Crabby Joe's Restaurant a couple

weeks later. There was a good turnout and plenty of magic!

James Atkinson showed us a great bar trick where a coin penetrates an inverted beer glass! He also did Bill Goldman's "Monkey in the Middle," where a selected card appears instantaneously between two jokers.

Mark Hogan performed a "Which Hand" effect by Mark Elsdon where asking questions to liars and truth tellers could determine who holds a special coin.

Byron Berry and Andrew Olmstead were busy teaching our guest Casey Gentry some cool rubber band effects, and Christopher Campbell impressed us all by showing us how to open a pair of handcuffs with a dollar bill!

And there was lots of other magic going on as well. It was a great night. Thanks to everyone who came out!

*Mark Hogan*

## **RING 268, LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA – Cajun Conjurors**

Meets 3rd Mon., each month, 7:00pm. at Mr. Gatti's in Lake Charles

AARON BACA, President

Web site: [www.scorpius.spaceports.com/~conjuror](http://www.scorpius.spaceports.com/~conjuror)

Attending the March 17 Ring 268 meeting were Aaron Baca, Robert Vallin, Bart Glatt, George Mullican, Brett Heath, Tim Pardue, Jack Pardue, Perry Vincent, and David Jones. The business meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. and chaired by President Aaron Baca. Items discussed included Ring 268 goals – I.B.M. Mission promote, advance, and preserve the art of magic; develop a junior group (Cajun ConJUNIORS); implement a Monthly Historical Magic segment; annual awards meeting; sponsorship for magic education; monthly magic trick giveaway; communicate via GroupMe; funding our initiatives. Cajun ConJUNIORS meeting starts at 5:00 p.m., format will be a trick is performed and taught by a Ring member; kids practice one-on-one with the instructor; performance feedback for each participant; volunteering and attendance are encouraged but not mandatory. Monthly Historical Magic segment: Brief presentation on the history of magic at each meeting; topics may include specific tricks, famous magicians, or historical events in magic, etc.; presentations by different group members is encouraged. Monthly Magic Trick Giveaway: A magic trick given away to one lucky winner each month; winner must be at the meeting to be eligible to win. Annual Awards Night: Event will include meal, entertainment or special guest and awards ceremony; celebrates Ring achievements and member contributions.

Communication Via GroupMe: Transition all text announcements to GroupMe; organize lectures and meetings with reminders; polls to manage attendance and plan events.

Sponsorship For Magic Education: Sponsorship for one group member to attend a magic convention or camp; covers transportation, lodging, and convention fees. How is all this possible? Overview of the annual fundraiser as the primary funding source for group initiatives. Highlight past successes: raised tens of thousands of dollars through previous fundraisers. Key benefits tied to fundraiser participation, eligibility for sponsored convention trip, entry into the monthly magic trick giveaway, supports the annual awards banquet and other group activities.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m. The Magic Table: Aaron did Daryl's "Hole/Whole Card," Daryl's "Acrobatic Knot" rope trick, Daryl's "Ropes of India," Jack performed "Impossible Card Trick" by Ari Phillips; Tim did "Out of This Hemisphere;" Robert showed Kostya Kimlat's Okito Box routine; Brett did "Daryl's Rope Routine;" Perry offered TCC's wooden "Dice Tunnel;" David performed "Rock - Paper - Scissors Prediction."

Note: Check out a miscellaneous assortment of photos of the magic that was performed at the Magic Table on our Cajun Conjurer Facebook page. Please don't forget these upcoming lectures: Gregory Wilson, Monday, April 7; Trevor Duffy, Monday, August 25. The Cajun Conjurers are alive and well and makin' magic happen in southwest Louisiana.

*George Mullican*

## **RING 273, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA - Oliver Ring**

Meets 3rd Thur., 7:30pm at the Burns Club

PETER FOSTER, Secretary

Email: pfooster@pcug.au

Interesting meeting this month, with people leaving early and arriving late, but all up there were four of us: Kristian Giles, Humphrey James, Richard Hunt, and me.

I started with a quick "ACAAN": spectators named a card and a number, a spectator cut the deck and counted to the number and there was the named card. This was my version, "YAA-CAAN" (Yet Another Any Card At Any Number).

I continued with another one of mine: two spectators each thought of a card, then generated a "random" number with some simple calculations. These numbers were counted to, and they located each other's cards. This was "TOCARN" (Thought Of Card At Random-ish Number).

Kristian did a quick one where spectators named a small number, then Kristian dealt down to that number, tossing that card aside. This was repeated three more times with three more numbers. The four cards were shown. They were the

four aces. A quick effect that used a bottom deal.

I followed with one that was a bit different. This used ten cards. With the magician's back turned, a spectator turned the cards face down, swapped them around and chose one. The magician divined the chosen card. A very puzzling effect, with an ingenious method. This was "Know Way" by Gabriel Werlen. I continued with a fairly bizarre "Cups and Balls" that used three clear glasses and two invisible balls. Luckily the invisible balls were different colours, so they could be distinguished (see, I said it was bizarre). With the magician's back turned, spectators put the balls under the glasses and moved them around. The magician was able to determine where the balls were. Certainly, a memorable routine. This was "Seeing" by Gabriel Werlen.

I got back to some more real-world stuff with a card trick. Two spectators selected and signed cards. The cards then fused to become one double faced card, signed on both sides. This was Doc Eason's handling of "Anniversary Waltz" by Christopher Carter.

The theme for the evening was Paper. We had gotten around this by claiming that cards were made of paper, but now Richard came to our rescue with one that used a newspaper. He demonstrated how one could shuffle cards without touching them; he tossed them into a folded newspaper and shook them around. Some turned face up and were discarded, some actually fell out and were discarded. This continued until there was just one card left. And this card had been predicted, written in large letters on the back of the newspaper. This was "News" by Gaetan Bloom.

I then did, um..., oh yes, a card trick. A spectator mentally selected a card by remembering a card at a freely chosen number, with the spectator doing most of the handling. The magician then used their incredible psychic powers to divine the card and its location in the deck. He then claimed that he had a premonition that it would be that card at that specific location. This was not believed, but there was a piece of paper, in plain sight, that did indeed have that exact prediction written on it. A strong effect that used a clever combination of methods. This was "Triplicity 2020" by John Bannon. I continued with a stage effect that followed the theme of the evening, as it just used a pad of paper and a Sharpie. The magician described the history of numbers and explained that everyone had a "destiny number." Spectators worked out their own destiny number, then nine spectators were brought up, one for each number from one to nine. (Yes, I know we didn't have enough people

at this meeting. I improvised.) These spectators were shuffled around and the audience chose which ones would be used to arrive at a number. Despite all the free choices, this number had been predicted, with an additional kicker ending. An excellent routine. This was "The Human Equation" by Marc Paul.

I finished with another "ACAAN." This had the spectators choosing a card and a number, then checking an online survey to see how frequently that particular combination of card and number were chosen. One spectator was selected and their number counted to. Only then were they asked what card they had thought of. That was indeed the card at that number. A very clean effect and clever method. This was "Atomic Deck" by Craig Petty. We finished at that point. Next meeting is on 17 April, the theme is Circles. Cheers!

*Peter Foster*

### **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](mailto:Davemagic@lagnor.com)

Web site: [www.ibring280.com](http://www.ibring280.com)

Greetings! Here is Ring 280's report for March 2025. Members attending this evening's meeting: Chris Canfield, Glenn Crites, Evelyn Ehlers, Everett Gomez, Brian Hoffman, Bob Love, David Norman, and Clem Patafio.

The evening's theme was to perform with oversized or unusual cards. The members' performances were entertaining and became the basis of a jam session of suggestions for refinements. We had fun and learned from each other.

Bob Love opened the evening with a performance by having a volunteer pick a card from a poker sized deck. He tossed the deck into a paper bag and tried to find the chosen card by reaching into the bag. This did not work as he was unable to find the chosen card after a couple of tries. Bob then reached into the bag for a third time and produced a jumbo-sized card that matched the original chosen card. A streamer dropped from the jumbo card which displayed a message thanking his volunteers. A clever trick that incorporated an audience engaging kicker.

Bob showed us another use of a jumbo card. He took a Six of Diamonds card that he folded lengthways between the middle and bottom row of pips. The prop could then be used as a gag where the Four of Diamonds is forced and the six is mistakenly revealed. The performer folds back the bottom row of pips to create a card with four pips somewhat matching the forced card. Bob credited the idea for this effect to *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic*.

Bob Love gave out packets of eight indiffer-

ent cards to our members. The face values all differed, and the backs alternated between blue and red. He then taught us the "Eight Card Brainwave" effect developed by Nick Trost. The cards are presented face up to the volunteer which hides the fact that the back colors are in an alternating red, black order. The volunteer picks a card which is placed face up on the table. The magician appears to show the backs of all of the cards they are holding and then turns the tabled chosen card over to reveal that the back differs from the other seven cards.

Chris Canfield explained that the method of revealing only one of the colored backs is called the Olram Subtlety. It is a false count developed by Ed Marlo (Olram is Marlo backwards). The count shows all cards are the same when, in fact, half are different. Chris suggested a move to reveal the backs that minimized movement by just rotating the wrists. Evelyn Ehlers suggested an alternative handling that further minimized movement and left the cards reset for the next performance.

David Norman (Namron the Great and our Ring's long-standing secretary and newsletter editor) performed a mentalism effect where his volunteer would discern which card the audience had chosen. Dave produced a jumbo deck of cards and had the audience choose a card which he then tabled without looking at it. With the assistance of Evelyn Ehlers, Dave had her gaze into a crystal ball that he held in his hand mysteriously wrapped in white silk. Slowly, Evelyn was able to see the color of the card, followed by its suit and then its value. A mesmerizing parlor performance developed my Martin Lewis.

Brian Hoffman, past multiterm Ring president and accomplished children's performer, shared his version of a "Six Card Repeat." He used professionally printed playing card stock with pictures of cookies. Perfect for a children's routine where the magician can have his six cookies, eat three and still having six cookies. Can we do this with actual cookies? Brian shared that the company he used to create these cards is at: <https://www.makeplayingcards.com>.

Evelyn Ehlers has taken her lifelong passion for baseball (Evelyn worked as an administrator for Major League Baseball) and merged it with her current passion for magic. We are incredibly pleased to be the beneficiaries of her magical skills. Tonight, she presented Tarot Baseball. Using tarot cards that depicted baseball themes. She handed us a few face down cards and asked us to secretly choose one. Evelyn gathered the cards, mixed, and then reshuffled them, before being laid out on the bases in a representation of



a baseball diamond. Evelyn correctly selected each of our chosen cards. We all agreed that this effect was entertaining, clever, and absolutely mystifying. Thank you, Evelyn, for sharing what will undoubtedly one day be the center piece of your performance at the Magic Castle. Happy Conjuring!

Glenn Crites

### **RING 284, FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA - Conrad C. Bush Ring**

Meets 3rd thu, 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

Things remain more active than usual in the first quarter of 2025 for Ring 284, which is a hopeful trend. On the Business and Events side, we had an ex-comm meeting in January as everyone was returning to the area. Zakari Asiago brought a "Tub of Fun" for giveaway and raffles at the February meeting; we welcomed new potential members Mike and Tracy Lindsay. President (and I.B.M. Executive Committee member) Jeff Sobel presented some awards passed from Ring 287 (Pensacola) to our dual members and also gave a preliminary report on the progress for the second Speakeasy Magic Show that he would perform at Landshark Pizza (it was a sold-out show on February 28th). Jeff also gave us a preview of a book review that he has done of Robert E. Neale and Lawrence Hass' *Magic of Hope*.

The March meeting had V.P. Brian Ward and Sec. Ron Hudspeth reporting on the 50th (and "final?") Winter Carnival of Magic from Ring 58. It will be a shame to lose this event, but circumstances apparently dictate otherwise.

We also called another ex-comm session for Mar 25th to further discuss club structure, dues and support for our more distant members. We will be attempting a Panama City meeting the week after the next regular meeting where the ex-comm will drive to PC to generate interest in an annual, semi-annual or quarterly additional meeting there.

Magic: Many members provided entertainment and demonstrated props throughout the quarter. Jeff (Jay's "Particle System," Discover Magic's "Mind Trip," "4 Eyes" (a Zener card effect), Plainsight's Free-Will effect "Echolocation," Zakari ("Magician's Insurance Policy"), Brian (Hout's "Socks" from a lunch box...), Maven's "B-Wave," Earl's "Red Herring," Mark Zeid (several card tricks), and Ron (the new Rider Back marking system from Psenicka, Regal's "Jigsaw Deck," TCC's RGB Wand, Theory 11's *James Bond* theme collector's set, several new book tests from Josh Zandman, Petty's "Big Blind." As usual, many of these wound up being workshops as

members traded questions, tips and gotchas.

Remember that we meet for early dinner time on the third Wednesday now; if any of you find yourself in the area, please feel free to drop in. However, during tourist season or to facilitate special events like lectures, we may need to relocate the meeting for any given month. If you think there is any chance you might like to make a meeting, please e-mail below and we can put you on our e-mail reminder distribution. Our public announcements page on Facebook can be found under Ft Walton Beach/Niceville/Okaloosa Magic Club. Also, we have potentially several members who drive in from points as far away as Panama City, Crestview and Pace, so if you might like to carpool, feel free e-mail [RMHudspeth@spamcop.net](mailto:RMHudspeth@spamcop.net) for information.

Ron Hudspeth

### **RING 289, MACON, GEORGIA - Mike Fuller Ring**

Meets 1st Tue. each month at 6:00 p.m., Fresh Air BBQ on Riverside Dr., Macon

DANNY WATSON, President / (478) 338-5572

Web site: [www.angelfire.com/magic2/maconmagic](http://www.angelfire.com/magic2/maconmagic)

In attendance: Mike and Linda Fuller, Tony Zelonis, Ronald and Angie Livingston, Jimmy Roach, Bill and Sallie Sirmon, John and Rhonda Donahue, and special guest Evan Dupree.

Our April 1st (April Fool's Day) meeting starts off with some of the finest BBQ in all of Macon at Fresh Air BBQ. Then afterwards our meeting started off with Mike Fuller leading the way as our president, Danny Watson was feeling under the weather.

Mike came up with our usual riddle sheet, approximately six of them and we tried to solve them as usual. Then a knock on the door and in walked in an old-time member that we hadn't seen in quite some time, Evan Dupree. Was good to see him.

After some discussion on news and upcoming events we were on to the magic with tonight's theme being Fools Magic in honor of April Fool's Day. First up was Tony Zelonis with his routine called "Fraiddie Cat," where his cat being black gets scared by us spectators and he turns to white, then back to black again. Upon opening his house reveals that it's empty. Being skeptical as to where the white rabbit went, we hollered turn it around, and after a bit of play by play in turning around the rabbit, he was black on his backside as well. Nicely done.

Next up was Ronald Livingston with his version with six dice in a box all with different numbers facing up and with the help of Jimmy Roach, Ron puts the lid on the dice box and has Jimmy place another die in a cup of his choosing in one of three different colored cups, placing his hand over the top of the cup, shake, shake, shake and he dumps out a six on the die

on top of the box containing all the other die. When the lid is removed from the die box, now all the dice are reading a six. Looked great Ron.

Next Mike Fuller presented a spotted can and he placed a white silk into the can and a black silk into the can, abracadabra, the white silk changed to black, and the black silk changed to white. He replaced them into the can and reversed the procedure. Then he placed the two silks back into the can, a wave of the hand and he wipes the spots off the outside of the can, throws them inside and upon removing the silks the white one has black spots on it and the black one has white spots on it. Looked good Mike, hadn't seen that one in a while.

Next was John Donahue with his version of "Confusing Crayons" and with the help of Linda Fuller placed either a red or yellow crayon into their tubes and tipping the tubes over in a do as I do routine. John's would be right side up whereas Linda's would be upside down. In the end John's crayon shrunk down to half the size of Linda's.

Looked great. Next John did the "Wild Card" routine with his homemade version where all the blank cards turned into a rabbit in a top hat. Nice.

Finally, Evan Dupree had everyone in the room cross arms and clasp their hands together then had to rotate them with their thumbs pointing upward without locking up, done wrong and you couldn't rotate them, but he did with ease.

Next month's theme will be Flowers for the month of May. Hope to see you in the area and drop in as we'd love to see you. Stay safe, be well!

*John Donahue*

### **RING 313, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA – The John Fedko Ring**

Meets last Tues. of the month, Irvine Valley Water District,  
15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine.,

ALAN HANSON, Secretary

Email: AlanHanson15@gmail.com

Web site: [www.ring313.org](http://www.ring313.org)

Our members delighted in a full evening of magic and entertainment wisdom from Michael O'Brien. We were first treated to his entire Close-up Gallery routine as recently performed at the Magic Castle.

Two members were seated beside O'Brien as he began the show by producing a special "Gucci" purse (actually only a purse frame). This purse was shown to contain several sponge balls. The volunteers tried to hold onto balls, but which seemed to have a mind of their own. One ball became two balls then became no balls. No balls became three balls, and it was hard to know where the balls were at any given moment. O'Brien concluded the bit posing the

three red balls in a manner that resembled the iconic Disney mouse.

O'Brien proceeded into a signed card routine, where a freely selected and signed Six of Hearts kept showing up in unlikely places. Once it was found underneath the card box left on the table, on another occasion the card was found hanging from O'Brien's lips. Finally, the signed Six of Hearts card was discovered folded inside a small real purse found inside the "Gucci" purse frame. While the chosen card was revealed the rest of the cards were found to have traveled from his hands to underneath the card box.

O'Brien next removed his cap emphasizing its emptiness. He removed a large bottle opener from an inside jacket pocket which he used to strike the "empty" hat held in his other hand. Hearing the loud metal on glass sound was a startling effect as he next revealed a full glass bottle of Guinness beer from the inside the once empty hat. Next, he removed his jacket and pulled an additional glass bottle, this one of Irish Whisky from his sleeve. He placed both bottles side by side we marveled at his conjuring.

O'Brien removed his wedding ring telling us that his wife likes to see it on his finger, but he put it in play using a four-inch-wide steel ring magically interlocking them so that the ring spun around the larger steel ring. He found a second steel ring and began to show that these three rings had an affinity for each other as they slid together in midair connecting and releasing themselves at the whim of O'Brien. Next, he melded a one-inch solid steel ball onto one of the rings. It looked as though the wedding ring, the steel ball and the four-inch steel rings were dancing with each other in movements only a magician can elicit from inanimate objects.

O'Brien's did a nice version of "Coins Across" using an English two-pound coin, an Irish penny, a Chinese coin that had a hole in the middle, and finally U.S.A. fifty-cent piece. Using a handy whisky glass, O'Brien caused the coins to move from his hand into the glass one by one as selected by the audience.

He next removed an iPhone from his jacket pocket. He called this effect "The Final Destination." O'Brien displayed his wallet revealing his passport, several foreign currencies, and a boarding pass for a flight which was placed it on the table. Next, several spectators entered random digits into his phone's calculator to create a unique total which another audience member photographed for later recall. O'Brien then asked another spectator to choose random destinations from his phone's large number of digital postcards of world destinations. Both a departure and destination were

chosen. Another sequence of digital posters for in-flight movies made for another random selection. Finally, O'Brien opened his wallet and removed the airline ticket which showed the airline matching a reference in the selected movie title, the flight matching the chosen world-famous cities, and the random number photographed at the start all matching the serial number on the actual ticket.

Michael O'Brien then dissected his entire act sharing both the mechanics and performance tips along with the development of numerous thematic repetitions that enhanced the cohesion of the entire performance. A subscription on his YouTube channel offers training in these and many more effects as well as the associated props for sale.

*Alan Hanson*

### **RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic**

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:00 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042

LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary

4515 Northglenn Court, Englewood, OH 45322 / (937) 836-4359

E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

Secretary Larry Hollinger officially welcomed all eleven of us. For business, we checked in on what the other local Rings are or will be doing. We chose Themes of the Month for the next three months – Coins, Hat Tricks, and Fire Works. Patrick Dugan displayed a Door Banner he designed for the club. We discussed what we would want on a table banner. Jake Lindsey solicited help for a May 4th show in Hillsboro. Dave Davis offered to help. Reminded members about dues. We re-visited a couple of on-going questions: (1) Should we go dark in July and August and (2) Should we move our meeting day to Thursdays?

Time for magic! Jake Lindsey started us off with his version of "Sponges/Silk on Sash." Next, Corey White performed two for us. (1) Balancing and twirling a card on his finger "Revolution" and (2) "Mnemonica." Dave Davis manipulated his Red Hankey and performed a mind reading and prediction trick with volunteer Patrick Dugan. tRick Gaffney brought out a 4 X 4 Rubik's Cube and a numbered list of 250 movie names. The sums after being manipulated by volunteers together matched the movie name that he had predicted. It was "Awesome" by Joel Harbers & Magic Shop. Jake Lindsey returned with his "Sponge Bunnies" routine. Larry Payne finished our magic section off with "Silk Through Rope" and "One Handed Knots."

We adjourned but stayed around to discuss magic, especially carts, tables, and backdrops. Fantastic information!

So, if you are ever in Middletown, Ohio the

first Friday of the month, please stop by and join us. From Ring 324 – The Friendliest Ring Around.

*Larry Hollinger*

### **RING 334, MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA – Grand Strand Magicians Society**

Meets 1st Thu., 7:00 pm at the Southatlantic Bldg., Unit C, 908

Seaboard St., Myrtle Beach, SC

GERRY THOMPSON, Secretary

www.sandyshoesentertainment.com / (843) 650-0767

Tonight was April Fool's Joker Jam. As you walked in the door you signed in the Fun House Gate Keeper's magic ledger and proceeded up the stairs. At the top of the stairs, you were met by the Ring Master and given a secret handshake. It was shocking. We mingled a bit before the meeting started, always good to see my magic friends.

During the business meeting we talked of the Easter show at Ocean Lakes Campground. Greg Holt will be at Pelican's Stadium for the fire fighters. Thaddeus and Debbie will be at the Dream House Theater June 5-7. Greg Holt spoke about Happy Amps not being made anymore and that Pyle is making a copy that is pretty good at a good price. Here we broke for a snack of hot dogs and fixings and root beer floats.

We started showtime with Gene Voshell talking about and demonstrating the "Architect's Nightmare," a version of the Blue Phantom. Ads were shown for the effect. The outer shell is shaped like the Empire State Building. Inside are a stack of blocks, all white with a blue one on top. When the stack is covered the blue block moves to the middle and then the bottom and then to the top again. Nice patter went along with it. A nice trick and Gene gave a great talk about it.

Billie helped with the next trick and Gene vanished her ring in a handkerchief and it was found in a nest of boxes. Nice!

Thaddeus Plezia followed with his "Trained Fleas of Madagascar." A strongman flea flipped over a coin in his hand and the world's largest flea moved a box around and wrote the prediction of a chosen card. Very cool!

Paul McTaggart delt ten cards on the table, ace through joker. Liam and Greg helped. Each had a turn spelling the name of the card, A-C-E, and putting cards on bottom of the packet. Liam's count turned out right spelling to the card in order, but Greg could not. Was very funny.

Ronnie performed with a coin in bottle. A cork, bottle, and coin were examined. The bottle corked, the coin vanished, coin reappeared in the corked bottle. Sweet!

Ray Hardee was next. Debbie and Ron assisted and selected a card and signed it and replaced

it in the deck, the deck was shuffled. Ray made a prediction and put it in an envelope. All was placed in a large bag. Ray was blindfolded, he shook the bag mixing the cards, reached in but couldn't find the selected cards but found the envelope which contained the selected cards.

Next was Ed Brinnin. Ed asks Debbie to simply name a card, and it was on a card in a sealed envelope, the 52 on 1 Card. Cute. Where did I put mine?

Greg Holt handed Dave Tanner a magazine and turn to a page, 44, and pick a long word, Greg told him what it was and was able to do it several more times. He followed that up with a mental effect. Six items placed on the table, one was thought of, and Greg wrote a prediction. Shotgun shell was picked, the prediction was "lighter." Wrong. Nope! Greg showed the shell was indeed a lighter. He finished with finding which hand Ron held a coin in. The third time he used a metal detector to find it. Funny.

Eric Hall did an act I can't put down in words, it was so funny and happened so fast. A rose bud flew off the stem into his case, his cane didn't vanish but shot out of a top hat. Canes and cards flew out of two top hats like crazy but not from his hands. Very good and funny.

Bryan Wilson did some propless mentalism doing the "PK Touch." Loved it. Ron Conley spoke of working for Gene Gordon and asked how he came up with his effects. "Go to the store and see what you can make a trick out of." Ron does the same thing. He showed a miniature cups and balls that he made up and will demonstrate when he gets the moves down. Really look forward to it.

When you are in Myrtle Beach the first Thursday of the month, please join us.

*Dale Rabon*

### **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](mailto:grassette@gwi.net)

We welcomed a visit from Bettina Rosser of the Greater New Haven, Connecticut I.B.M. Ring. She was visiting in Camden and joined us for a meeting. It is believed that President Randy Begin has broken a speed record for the fastest business meeting at a magic club gathering, six minutes which included the announcement of the Great Northeast Magic Auction save the date November 2nd, a treasurer's report from Karen Seymour, and feedback from NEM-CON (New England Magicians Conference) which was very good! And ended with a quick vote on the new officers for 2025, which are as follows President Randy Begin, Vice President Dennis Labbe, Secretary Scot Grassette,

Treasurer Karen Seymour, Sgt-at-Arms Steve Cornish. Installation of officers will happen at the April meeting.

This quickly moved us into the magic and our on-theme topic was book test. Michael Smilek convincingly performed "Celebrity Presage" by Brett Barry. Master of the Senses Stephan Cornish showed us "Takin' it to the Streets" by John Archer, which uses map books from Boston and Paris. Stephan divined the name of a street thought of by our guest Bettina. He also presented "The Firm." For the very first time Scot Grassette did a book test and he picked the "AAA Book Test" by Marc Paul. It's an anywhere, anytime, any book, book test. Ken Shoemaker performed two tests one by Corinda and one by Hoy. Dennis Labbe did the "Million Dollar Book Test," and "Stop the Press" using a tabloid newspaper.

Off topic included Michael performing "Monkey in the Middle." Joel did a nice job with "Cylinder and Coins," a classic plot. Joel's presentation was inspired by John Carney's routine. Scot followed with "Coins through Silk" from Michael Ammar. Closing out the meeting our guest Bettina held court with some incredible card magic and some unique handling. She later revealed that she was challenged by her son to learn the Mnemonica stack and has gone down the magic rabbit hole since then. The fellowship and magic continued to Margarita's Mexican restaurant.

*Scot Grassette*

### **RING 398, APPLETON/GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN – Dr. Lynn Miner Ring**

Meets last Tue. except Dec., 6:30 p.m., email for location.

RICK MOREIN, Secretary

E-mail: [rmorein497@gmail.com](mailto:rmorein497@gmail.com)

What a fantastic March meeting we had on the birthday of Appleton's most famous resident and the world's most famous magician Harry Houdini! Hopefully you will be able to read a detailed account of our Ring's celebration of his 151st birthday, but the short form of it is: big party at the Appleton Public library with one hundred fifty people, magical history, magical performances (by Bruce Hetzler and Rick Morein) and a giant cake.

Following that was a gathering of Ring 398 and Ring 31 members, friends and family at Monty's Secret Theatre with food and more cake baked by Kendra and Kahlan Scherg! A big thank you to the team of Dr. Lynn Miner, Rick Morein, Mike Desotell, and Tom Boldt for pulling this all together in just three weeks! Also, thanks to Lou Lepore for appearing on a podcast to promote it all. However, it was a team effort of all the members of Ring 398 to make this event a resounding success!



We kicked off our regular meeting with a raffle for Houdini related items, including first issue Houdini stamps and items from this year's Houdini séance held in Appleton. Following the successful raffle, President Daryl Rogers listed the many accomplishments of Harry - did you know that Houdini was the first person to fight a robot on film? We continued the fun with some Houdini adjacent magical effects performed by the magicians in attendance.

Dr. Miner performed a "Rope through Neck" effect and encouraged us to channel our "inner Houdini" when presented with life's challenges. President Daryl Rogers performed a recreation of the Water Torture Cell, without water! Mike Desotell cut to the chase with his escape by showing he'd already escaped his shackles! Kevin Koehne cleverly recreated "Metamorphosis" using a card box and a couple of cards. Tal Kuhn again fooled us with a clever card trick, without needing any busted knuckles. Marvin Roth mesmerized us with "Sidewalk Shuffle" using super-sized cards. Ring 31 member, Wayne Peterson, shared a sweet packet trick with top hats and rabbits jumping around.

Special thanks must go out to all the non-magicians in the audience. All the performances were enhanced by their oohs, aahs and applause. The night was topped off with copious amounts of cake, one of which burst into flames to reveal Houdini in full shackles on top! We look forward to keeping this magical celebration an annual event and to continuing to share Houdini's legacy with the world.

*Kevin Koehne*

### **RING 401, BARCELONA, SPAIN**

2nd Thur., 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. C/Santa elulalia 21, Pipa club, Barcelona, Spain

HECTOR VERIKAS (a.k.a. Brando), President

Hello I.B.M. magic friends. We bring you hot news from Barcelona Ring 401. This past

March, we began the project "Show Us Your Secret," a project aimed at sharing original games and ideas to be included in a book about the magic of I.B.M. Barcelona Ring 401.

This first meeting was very fruitful, with ideas contributed by our members Xavi Puk, Toni Casas, Mc Guay, Silvana, and Brando. This April, we will hold a new meeting to add more games and ideas, so stay tuned!

Also, this March, we held a magical exchange between the only two I.B.M. Rings in Spain, Barcelona Ring 401 and Zaragoza Ring 402. Members of I.B.M. Barcelona went to perform a show at El Sótano Mágico in Zaragoza, and members of I.B.M. Zaragoza came to do the same at La Casa dels Contes in Barcelona. Mc Guay gave his lecture on ropes to the members of Zaragoza.

We hope to continue these magical exchanges and continue to bond for the growth of I.B.M. magic.

Our second convention of Ring 401 will take place on September 7, 8, and 9, 2025. As of today, we already have more than forty registrations! The convention will consist of three days of magic, five magic galas, six conferences, what happens in room 401? your minute of glory, a dealers' fair, an auction, a dealer show, and a la oreja mágica space.

What are you waiting for to sign up? Don't miss out on this event that is already a success.

Also, in April we have three interesting activities coming up: Thursday, April 10th, 7 p.m., a presentation of Brando's book *Paddlemania*, with a lecture on the paddle move; Thursday, April 24th, 7 p.m. a magic auction; and Sunday, April 20th, 6 p.m. a magic gala by I.B.M. Barcelona at La Casa dels Contes.

A magical hug, and may it be magic!

*Brando*

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**Please note:** Write-ups of your monthly Ring meetings are considered Ring Reports and should also be e-mailed to Dr. Steven Schlanger at [ringreports@magician.org](mailto:ringreports@magician.org).

## NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

### I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,  
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

### JUNE 2025 21 NEW MEMBERS

FORTIER, FRANK, Irvine, CA  
OSTROVE, MAX, Los Angeles, CA  
WEAKER, JEFF, Santa Clarita, CA  
HILSON, RAY, Norwalk, CT  
BRUCE, JAMIE, Royston, GA  
MCCOY, KEEGAN, Wailuku, HI  
CASNER, MICHAEL, Chicago, IL  
JONES, BENJAMIN, Chicago, IL  
COOPER, TODD, Tall Timbers, MD  
STONE, LINCOLN, Livonia, MI  
CROSBY, KENNETH, Reynoldsburg, OH  
KUNZE, VELMA, Byesville, OH  
LOPEZ, GREGORY, Cleveland, OH  
PLEZIA, DEBORAH, Conway, SC  
MCGRATH, ANDREW, Sevierville, TN  
CURREN, DANE, Manassas, VA

CURREN, GERALD, Manassas, VA  
FEMIANO, DOMINIC, Olympia, WA  
PETERSON, TOM, Hansville, WA  
OLLA, SEBASTIANO, Cape Town, South Africa  
LEE, JEONGWON, Seoul/gangdong-Gu, South Korea

### 10 REINSTATEMENTS

JANSEN, EDWARD, San Francisco, CA  
BAST, HENRY, New Haven, CT  
EISENBERG, LARSEN, Orlando, FL  
READER, BILL, Fort Wayne, IN  
GRIFFIN, MATT, Framingham, MA  
DECKER, FRED, Holly Springs, NC  
ALGREN, CHRISTOPHER, Fairborn, OH  
TAYLOR, KEN, West Columbia, SC  
CHRISTIENSEN, SEAN, Victoria, TX  
MCKNIGHT, DAVID, Texas City, TX

## I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

*(Continued from page 46)*

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 46.**

If you had to put a label on magician “Ace” Gorham, it would say “Be Involved.” Ace retired from the Mobil Oil Company after thirty-seven years as a district office manager. Prior to and during his time with Mobil Oil, he involved himself with local affairs in New Hampshire, where he resided. His accomplishments were astounding. Some of the positions worth mentioning include eleven years as the president of the Taxpayers Association and four years as president of the Merrimack Valley Region Association. He was president of two different Kiwanis Clubs, director of the American Automobile Association, director of the New Hampshire Highway Association, and director of the Advertising Club of New Hampshire. He was also involved in politics, serving as a representative and then as a senator in the New Hampshire Legislature. Ace served as chairman of the budget committee and was assistant moderator in Derry. He was an executive reservist for the United States Department of the Interior since 1950. When it comes to Ace’s accomplishments, these were just the tip of the iceberg – and he still made time for magic.

Ace started performing magic at the young age of twelve, later performing in vaudeville shows in the neighboring towns where he grew up. He took roles in local repertory companies and dabbled as an uncredited player in a silent movie or two, including *Down to the Sea in Ships* with Clara Bow. He eventually landed a job with Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Inc. in the mid-1920s.

Ace became a member of the I.B.M. in 1941, proudly holding membership number 6876. Throughout the 1940s, Ace was a member of not only the I.B.M. but also the Society of American Magicians. Whenever he had time to join his pals at a club meeting, he brought along something entertaining to delight everyone in attendance. He performed as “Merlini,” when he combined mentalism and his stage act, as well as “The Merry Wizard.”

As the 1950s continued, Ace found ways to get his name in print and advertise his upcoming performances. In 1955, Ace booked two shows at the Whalom Park amusement park on Lake Whalom in Lunenburg, Massachusetts. To promote the park’s fireworks show and Ace’s performance, they published a misprinted advertisement, spelling “telepathist” as “tellpahist”: “Ace Gorham – The Man with the X-Ray Eyes – a Tellpahist and Trickster.” At least they got his name right. Ace’s show included an inventive egg bag routine and a cut and restored rope routine. He would borrow a dollar bill and burn half of it. When it was all but done, the burned half of the dollar bill was found within a silk that was tied on the rope Ace had just restored.

In the 1960s, Ace performed magic on a local weekly children’s television show on WMUR Channel 9 called *The Uncle Gus Show*, starring Gus Bernier. Ace was so popular that “Uncle Gus” had him return for almost the entire run of the show. Throughout his time as a performer, he performed more than twenty-seven-hundred different tricks without ever repeating a single one. During the early 1960s, he stepped away from his long-time employment at the Mobil Oil company to enjoy a bit of leisure time with his family and friends. Ace joined Nashua, New Hampshire’s Police Chief Paul Tracy to teach local students about traffic safety rules, using magic and a few of his pal Uncle Gus’s techniques.

In the mid-1960s, Ace was the New Hampshire I.B.M. Territorial Vice President. He was also the First International Vice President in 1971. At the general meeting in New Orleans,



Louisiana at the Fairmont-Roosevelt Hotel, he acknowledged an increase in the I.B.M.'s membership, stating, "With more than twenty-five new Rings in formation, there is no reason to put any stock into the cry of the pessimist that magic is dead." Anyone who witnessed Ace's performances would agree that magic was making a comeback thanks to his leadership.

During the early 1970s, Ace continued to perform at club meetings, club scout shows, and other engagements, where he always left audiences pleased. Sadly, on December 19, 1978, while he was at his winter home in Hallendale, Florida, Ace passed away. Ace had accomplished so much in his seventy years. Few knew that in addition to his performances on land, he was one of the magicians who regularly performed magic on cruise ships. According to what he added to his publicity materials, he sailed on more than twenty ships and just under one hundred cruises. He helped out at numerous magic conventions and would willingly step into the part as emcee whenever necessary. He was one of the handful of gentlemen who made a difference in and out the world of magic.

Gary R. Frank

## ***Submitting Ring Events***

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

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

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

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

## **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.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## WANT TO ADVERTISE YOUR PRODUCT OR SERVICE IN THE LINKING RING?

Contact our Advertising Manager at [advertising@magician.org](mailto:advertising@magician.org). You may also place ads at [www.magician.org](http://www.magician.org). Click on Advertising to upload your file and pay with a credit card. All ads subject to approval.

## NEED TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS?

Call our Headquarters Office at 636-724-2400 or e-mail [office@magician.org](mailto:office@magician.org). Please allow 60 days for a change of address. We do *some* mindreading, but we draw the line at guessing your next address.

## MISSING AN ISSUE OF THE LINKING RING?

Call our Headquarters Office at 636-724-2400 or e-mail [office@magician.org](mailto:office@magician.org).

## NEED TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A FELLOW MAGICIAN?

Call our Headquarters Office at 636-724-2400 or e-mail [office@magician.org](mailto:office@magician.org). They do not have to be members of the I.B.M. to be included in our Broken Wand section.

## WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR NEWS ITEM?

Email [editor@magician.org](mailto:editor@magician.org).

## WANT TO SUBMIT A TRICK OR A PARADE?

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

## WANT TO SUBMIT A RING EVENT?

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

## WANT TO SUBMIT A RING REPORT?

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

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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

# The Linking Ring

Dawn Hofmeister  
Advertising Manager  
advertising@magician.org



## ADVERTISING RATES AND SPECS

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

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

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