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The Linking Ring

AUGUST 2023



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

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COVER: CLOSE-UP SHOW PERFORMERS AT THE 2023 I.B.M. CONVENTION
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MESSING



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SCAN ME



From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

One of the unadvertised stars of last month's I.B.M. Convention was Adele Friel Rhindress, assistant to Harry Blackstone, Sr., from 1947 to 1950. She wasn't booked to lecture or perform, but she was there – and that was enough.

After attending ninety-four magic conventions since 2005, and writing six award-winning articles exclusively for *The Linking Ring*, Adele's admirers were drawn to her like an elusive moth to a flame.

We compiled her *Linking Ring* articles into a book, *Blackstone Memories*, and shipped fifty copies to the convention. Roger Dreyer of Fantasma Magic – a huge supporter of the I.B.M. and a fan of Adele's – gave her a prime spot at his booth, and within an hour the hardcover books were sold. The softcovers vanished in a day or so, with Adele graciously autographing them for her admirers. International Treasurer Mike Woodward generously gave his time collecting the money. Production costs were donated, so one hundred percent of the proceeds will go to help youth in magic – Adele's specific request.

Adele reminded me of how she began writing for *The Linking Ring*. When we first met in 2011 at KIDabra in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, I asked her to sign her book, *Memoirs of an Elusive Moth*, published by Gabe Fajuri. Rather than scratch out a generic inscription, she suggested we sit down and visit. She didn't discuss herself; instead, she asked about my interests, my family, and my profession. We had a good talk, and she eventually signed the book. I later discovered that this was true to form: Adele has the gift of turning a simple moment into a memorable occasion.

Before we parted, I asked, "Are there any

stories about Blackstone that didn't make it into the book – perhaps something you thought of after it was published?" She said, "Let me think about that." She began writing and eventually contributed six wonderful human-interest articles on Blackstone and his assistants. Without Adele's willingness to write these, much of this information would have been lost, including the story of Blackstone's gracious visit to her family's home one Christmas.

Adele has a deep interest in sharing her knowledge, but she doesn't seek praise or recognition. As a writer, she is intensely focused on accuracy and only reports what she believes to be true. She takes no literary license; if she doesn't know, she doesn't guess. Yet her memory for visual detail is remarkable. She sees in her mind's eye the colors of clothes and costumes and physical features of people she met seventy years ago.

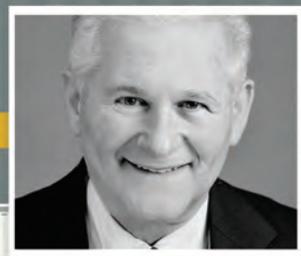
She also has a sense of humor. She says of her friend, Terry Evanswood, "He likes antiques." Then she adds with a smile, "That's where I come in." At ninety-three years young, Adele is a treasure, a special gift to our art. We are grateful that she emerged from the shadows nineteen years ago to cast new light on the Golden Age of Magic – and even more thankful to know such a delightful person who continues to spread joy wherever she goes.



Adele and Sammy, 2023.
PHOTO BY JEFF SOBEL

President's Page

CHARLES ARKIN



Many thanks and congratulations to our entire I.B.M. Convention team for producing fantastic programs, which were presented this past week in Pittsburgh! The convention was filled with a wonderful combination of Inspiration Sessions, workshops, contests, shows, Order of Merlin and newcomer socials, and JAM sessions. Please mark your calendars for July 10 – 13, 2024, to attend our next convention in Tacoma, Washington. Registration is now open at www.magician.org.

One of the many benefits of attending our convention, as well as joining and attending your local Ring meetings, is to connect with a group of mentors with whom you can learn more about our magical arts. I thanked twelve mentors during my brief Presidential acceptance speech at the convention. They are Dr. Richard Mossey, Don Wiberg, Bill Evans, Bill Spooner, Bill Wells, Mike Stratman, Rolando Santos, Oscar Muñoz, Simone Marron, Ron Lawson, Mark Wiechman, and Frank Johnston. I also proudly displayed a few posters featuring Bill Pryor, another mentor who was on the cover of our November 2017 issue of *The Linking Ring*.

I encourage each of you to find a combination of magic friends who can help teach and share magical ideas. Also, regardless of where you are in your journey, consider becoming a mentor to help others learn through your experiences and wisdom.

I ask for your help to increase our I.B.M. membership. The “New Member Incentive Referral Program” enables existing I.B.M. members to earn thank-you gifts for bringing in new members. The new member must identify your name as their referral source, in the “Additional Comments” sec-

tion of their I.B.M. Membership Application form. Through June 1, 2024, a maximum of five hundred incentive gifts are available. While supplies last, you can select from (1) one of two hundred and fifty President Challenge Coins, or (2) a three-coin Join-Learn-Connect manipulation set, or (3) a deck of our Centennial Anniversary I.B.M. Playing Cards, or (4) two I.B.M. Insurance Policy tricks, or (5) a ten percent discount voucher (not to exceed fifty dollars in discount value) from our I.B.M. Merchandise Store.



I plan to attend many local Ring meetings this year, either virtually or in person. I encourage everyone to join in our monthly Ring 2100 virtual meetings, as well as our “Up My Sleeve” broadcasts online. For those of you attending conventions, I hope to see you at one or more convention locations including New Orleans (S.A.M. convention); Colon, Michigan (Abbotts); Las Vegas (Magic Live); Eastbourne, United Kingdom (British Ring convention); Atlanta (Atlanta Harvest); Barcelona, Spain (Ring 401); Columbus, Ohio (MagiFest); Blackpool, United Kingdom (Blackpool convention); and Tacoma, Washington (2024 I.B.M. Convention).

Stay tuned for future reports and activities promoting our magical arts.



Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING

THE LINKING RING

EXCLUSIVELY FOR MEMBERS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

Vol. 49 No. 8

August, 1969



ELIZABETH WARLOCK

In This Issue

Canadian Parade

One of Elizabeth Warlock's first performances was at St. George's Hall in 1949. It was well received by the audience as well as the entertainers waiting in the wings. With natural ability and guidance from her father, Peter Warlock, Elizabeth excelled in her performance skills – but it was her writing that eventually brought her fame. To uncover more of Ms. Warlock's story, turn to page 144.

2023 LINKING RING Awards



The Bamman-Willmarth Trophy

Each year *The Linking Ring* presents awards for outstanding articles. All material published in *The Linking Ring* is contributed on a volunteer basis for the good of magic and the I.B.M.

We receive many excellent contributions, and it is difficult for the Linking Ring Awards Committee to narrow the winners down to a small number. In order to be published at all, the article must be outstanding, so the selection of material has already been through a rigorous process before it appears in print.

This year's recipients – for articles published between April 2022 and March 2023 – were announced by Executive Editor Samuel Patrick Smith at the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown Hotel during the 2023 I.B.M. Annual Convention.

BAMMAN-WILLMARTH TROPHY

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“Celebrating the Centennial”
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“The Hydrostatic Glass in History”
November 2022 and
“The Fate of Saadi Shirazi”
March 2023

ARIEL FRAILICH
“The Legacy:
An Eighty-Year Overview of I.B.M. Ring 17”
December 2022

RABBIT AND HAT CLUB
“Rabbit and Hat Club Parade”
December 2022

GARNET GARVEN
“One-Man Parade”
February 2023

ANDREW WOO
“Simple Diversions”
2013–2023

MICHAEL BREGGAR
“Auto-Magic”
2015–2023

THOMAS HENRY
“Rediscovering the Buddha Papers”
February 2023

2023 *Close-up Show*

I.B.M. CONVENTION



WYNDHAM GRAND PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN HOTEL
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MESSING

Reviewed by Joe M. Turner
Past International President

The afternoon of Thursday, July 13, brought a high point of the week: the professional close-up show. Talent coordinator Shawn Farquhar welcomed the audience with the excitement of a playwright who already knows that he's got a hit on his hands and is just waiting for you to see what's coming – or in this case, "who's" coming!

The first "who" was the inimitable Marc DeSouza in the first of his performances at the convention. His act consisted of a three-coin routine with coins seemingly vanishing and reappearing from little resting points in mid-air, eventually

transforming into three Chinese coins. He performed his version of the Kaps Homing Card using his script about the Japanese dog Hachiko's legendary loyalty to his owner. A card sequence followed in which the shrinking, growing, and transformation of playing cards was likened to Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*, made especially relevant when a small mirror was found to have transformed into a selected card and the rest of the deck transformed into mirrors.

David Parr brought a mildly eerie tone to his act, softened with the comic production of a giant Brussels sprout. A



Marc DeSouza.



The Linking Ring



David Parr with volunteer Robert Grey.

wild card routine saw the transformation of a packet of red hearts into a collection of Jacks of Spades – except one, which itself ultimately transformed as the finale. A somewhat macabre tale of a magician meeting an Egyptian pharaoh was the premise for a routine that was part storytelling, part origami, part torn-and-restored paper. Mr. Parr concluded his set with his well-known “Copycat” routine, in which

he performs an action with a pack of cards, rings a bell, and invites the spectator to do the same. In a wordless dance of mixing cards and a chiming bell, a fantastic coincidence occurs in which they both find each other’s selected cards.

What can you say about the next act that hasn’t already been said? Jeff McBride transforms even the smallest or simplest piece of magic into a room-filling piece of theatre. After an introduction by Paprika Leaverton, Mr. McBride entered the room in character as something of a sideshow snake-oil salesman, playing the harmonica and running his thimble-laden fingers up and down his “necktie,” which seemed to have been cut from a piece of aluminum washboard. Thimble magic has never been so fully theatrically justified. He entertained the crowd with his funny homage to Gilbert and Sullivan entitled “The Modern Esotericist” before setting off on the rhyming tale of “One Card Pete,” which he used to frame a six-card repeat routine. He concluded with a coin manipulation routine including applause-generating roll-downs, a “silk and silver” style routine, a repeat coin production, and a liquid production kicker.

Next up was Chicago’s Paige Thompson, whose rapid-fire patter and card material was like drinking from a magical fire hose. Four seemingly random selections by audience members were found to be the four queens. The queens



Jeff McBride.

magically vanished and reappeared in envelopes in a lead-up to her well-received finish, an oil and water routine in which her painted fingernails (red on one hand, black on the other) were used to visually illustrate the coming separations of red and black cards. In an unbelievable conclusion that got loud gasps, the packet was shown to be alternating red and black – and her painted fingernails were then also found to be alternating red-black on both hands. It was a strong, creative, unexpected finish and received a great response.

Magical creator, writer, performer and entrepreneur Joshua Jay took no prisoners in his set. He opened with the fantastic “Hitchcock” routine, which is more than a card trick – it’s almost a movie! He took a single card, tore it into four pieces, and set it aside as a mysterious beginning. Four spectators each selected cards which were then reinserted into the pack. With a wave, the cards were seen to be reversed. Each of the pieces on the table is now somehow found to be a piece from each of the selections – it’s an astounding piece of magic. He followed with an impossible torn-and-restored card and closed with his recent update to the classic “coins and cylinder” routine, this time using three coins, a dollar bill, and a final production of a shot glass.

Our show’s next performer was Luis Carreon, another Chicago-based performer with quick-fire wit and on-fire wizardry. I had never seen Mr. Carreon perform live, and his set was so fun and funny that your usually detail-oriented reporter lost track of keeping notes! Mr. Carreon’s skills with a pack of cards were excellent, there



Joshua Jay.

was no doubt that he was comfortable using the pasteboards to entertain a room of any size. He produced four kings, then performed a routine that looked like a fingertip coins-across routine, but with four cards which seemed to travel from one hand to the other. While my memory and notes of the specific material may be hazy, one fact is crystal-clear: this room laughed more during this set than any of the others. Mr. Carreon was pure entertainment.

Our penultimate performer, Andi Gladwin (whose amazing late-night lecture you’ll read about elsewhere) performed a unique “tossed-out pack” variation with three spectators. Somehow the choices they made of color, card, and number were combined to identify a specific card at that position in an isolated deck. It was an impossibly magical coincidence. Perhaps more impossible was the follow-



Paige Thompson with volunteer Hunter Peckham. Luis Carreon.





Andi Gladwin.



Ran'D Shine with volunteer Hunter Peckham.

ing thought experiment made tangible: Mr. Gladwin borrowed twelve cards from an audience member's deck and split them between two widely separated participants. He caused two thought-of cards to travel between the packets – a baffling extended-play version of an Edward G. Brown effect.

Closing the show was Ran'D Shine, another performer whose reputation preceded him, but whom I had never seen in live performance. A Philadelphia native and four-time College Magician of the Year, his set had great magic supported by a massive personality. A spectator chose random numbers from a deck of cards with numbers printed on them, only to find that Mr. Shine had somehow predicted exactly what she would do. A card trick with three additional spectators followed, in which the deck was divided into four packets. Each of the three spectators and Mr. Shine eliminated cards from their packets, and from the seemingly random cards that were left, the top cards were four of a kind. Mr. Shine closed his show with a masterful

coin routine in which three coins were produced, vanished into thin air, reproduced, and transported from hand to pocket in progressively more amazing ways, with one vanished coin even reappearing in a pen cap and finally on the wrist of a spectator!

All told, it was a phenomenal show as noteworthy for the engaging personalities of the performers as for the mystifying performances themselves. As the “convention close-up” has transitioned into more of a parlor or cabaret environment, these performers easily rose to the ever-present challenge of playing close-up material – even on a table – to a full room. It was a theatrically and magically satisfying afternoon of quality close-up conjuring.

Joe M. Turner a professional speaker, mentalist, and magician based in Atlanta, Georgia. He has served as International President (2015–2016) and continues to be active on the I.B.M. Board of Trustees. You may reach him by email at jmt@turnermagic.com.

2023



I.B.M. CONVENTION *Inspiration Sessions*

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MESSING

Reviewed by David Garrard

The ninety-fourth I.B.M. “family reunion” included a new feature: *Inspiration Sessions*. Formerly known as lectures, these events were sprinkled throughout the convention. Several featured solo presenters, while others were group efforts. What follows is a short review of each session.

David Parr

Fresh off his June 2023 *Linking Ring* cover story, David challenged us to find our voice, find our people, and find our place. In other words, perform magic that fits who you are; perform for people with whom you connect; and perform in settings appropriate for your magic. (See Rolando Santos’ review in the September issue.)

Carisa Hendrix, Buster Caldwell, Patrick Przysiecki, Marc DeSouza

Carisa, aka Lucy Darling, provided excellent booking and promotional tips,

including the importance of following up and paying attention to details. She told us that every show is *anticipated, experienced, and remembered*. Of the three, Carisa said that how our show is remembered is the most important. Make it memorable.

Buster set his balloons aside and taught a nice, kid-friendly handling of The Chicago Opener. Patrick gave us an inside look at what makes a good close-up mat. Marc helped us revisit the incredible magic of Fred Kaps – an amazing and award-winning magician who, almost unbelievably, many in the audience had never even heard



Bottom left: David Parr with volunteer Christian Manahl. Top right: David Parr with volunteer Teena Leydig.



Top left and center: Volunteer Charlie Spurgeon assists Buster Caldwell. Left middle and bottom: Marc DeSouza. Center two photos: Carisa Hendrix. Bottom left and above: Patrick Przysiecki.

about. Marc’s presentation showed several props that belonged to and were used by Kaps, and encouraged us to look up Kaps on YouTube.

Andi Gladwin

One half of Vanishing Inc.’s powerhouse duo demonstrated and taught several terrific tricks, then gifted us downloads of his content! Andi quoted Edward G. Brown, who said, “Fit the performer to the trick; not the trick to the performer.” Excellent advice from a seasoned pro.

Q&A with Taylor Hughes and Couples in Magic Panel Discussion

On Wednesday evening, magic storyteller Taylor Hughes performed for us. Then on Thursday morning, our storytelling friend did just that: he told us a story! Taylor also fielded a few questions as he challenged us to put the attention on others and make it about them, instead of about us.

Gabriella Lester hosted a conversation between the various couples in magic who were appearing at the convention.



Andi Gladwin, Andi Gladwin with Charlie Spurgeon.

These included Paige Thompson and Luis Carreon; Kayla Drescher and Harrison Lampert; Lorena and Trevor Watters; Natasha Lamb and Matthew Pomeroy (the Conjurers); and Sarah and Keith Fields. The panel went back and forth on the challenges of working together, as well as on the importance of supporting, encouraging, and helping each other with separate acts.

Joshua Jay

Josh’s stated goals for our brief time together were three: learn a trick, have fun, and feel his passion for magic. Mission accomplished! Like his Vanishing Inc. partner, Josh presented us with a download of his content, which included Troy Hooser’s beautiful Charming Chinese

Challenge, Prism Deck, Triad Coins, and a new twist on the classic Cylinder and Coins.

Teach-a-Trick: Michael Dardant, Joshua Jay, Robert Ramirez, David Parr

New Orleans performer Michael Dardant used his combined love of juggling and magic to encourage us to research and learn from other forms of entertainment. Joshua taught a terrific trick based on Simon Aronson’s Shuffleboard. Robert Ramirez taught the wonderful Duct Tape Afghan Bands trick he performed on the previous night’s evening show. David Parr shared more of his unique magic and insights.



Joshua Jay. Joshua Jay with Geno Ploeger.



Teach A Trick. Left, top to bottom: Robert Ramirez, David Parr. Right, top to bottom: Michael Dardant. David Parr, Joshua Jay, and Shawn Farquhar. Joshua Jay.



Jim Steinmeyer.

Jim Steinmeyer

Jim Steinmeyer was our 2023 Guest of Honor, and his solo Inspiration session did not disappoint. Jim cautioned us to be careful about fixing things that don't need fixing. He told us that when we encounter this very problem in magic, it not only *contains*, but also *suggests* the solution. Jim challenged us to mix up some of the formulas, and to look for ways to bring something new to our magic. At the same time, he reminded us that there is nothing wrong with performing stage illusions and using apparatus. In fact, today's audiences often expect us to do just that.

Steinmeyer reminded us that, as magicians, telling stories and showing what we

can do – demonstrating our skill – can go hand in hand. The two styles are not mutually exclusive. As one of magic's foremost historians, he finished by telling us that you read history to know about the future – not just the past. An amazing man.

Carisa Hendrix

Carisa shared the construction and workings of her terrific book production, as well as other ideas and insights gained from her experience creating her character and performing as Lucy Darling.

Ran'D Shine

Ran'D's high-energy presentation was based on a series of *So Sayeth Ran'D* sayings. He reminded us that classics are



Carisa Hendrix.

classics for a reason, and they never go out of style. Ran'D gave a salute to children's entertainers, telling us that if you work for children and seniors, you will always have a market. He also walked us through a helpful "emergency exercise" that encouraged us to think about, and plan ahead for, situations where luggage is lost or props forgotten.

Kayla Drescher, Paige Thompson, Reggie Rice, Trevor and Lorena Watters

As Chair of the Magic Castle's Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Kayla's presentation focused on making our acts more inclusive and being careful not to offend or pop the bubble of audience members due to insensitivity. DEI is certainly a controversial topic – not just in magic, but in our country and world. Kayla made it clear from the start that she does not speak for everyone.



Ran'D Shine.



Couples in Magic, clockwise from top left: Sarah and Keith Fields. Trevor and Lorena Watters. Paige Thompson and Luis Carreon. Natasha Lamb and Matthew Pomeroy. Gabriella Lester, moderator. Matthew Pomeroy, Natasha Lamb, Harrison Lampert. Couples in Magic group photo.

Paige talked about the importance of being flexible and not being afraid to try something new. Reggie asked us to ponder the question, “What does success look like?” The Watters showed how mistakes in shows often lead to new ideas for tricks and comedy. They also (successfully) debuted a brand-new trick that involved their two dogs!

David Garrard serves on the Executive Committee of the I.B.M. Board of Trustees. You may reach him by email at garrard@bellsouth.net.



First row, Taylor Hughes; Second row, Paige Thompson, Kayla Drescher; Third row, Trevor and Lorena Watters; Bottom row, Reggie Rice.

2023 I.B.M. Contest Awards

Photos By Michael Messing

Awards were presented following the *Gold Medal Contest Show* on Friday, July 14, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

CLOSE-UP

First Place, Adult

Ferran Poage – Michigan, USA

Award of Merit, Adult

Dreygon Hibbler – Michigan, USA

People's Choice Award*

Jeffrey Wang – California, USA

There were no Youth participants in this year's Close-up Contest.

STAGE

First Place, Youth**

Olivier Henning – The Netherlands

Award of Merit, Youth

Anja Steyn – Cape Town, South Africa

First Place, Adult

Danny King – Texas, USA

Award of Merit, Adult

Joseph Marchese – New York, USA

People's Choice Award

Olivier Henning – The Netherlands

* The recipient of the People's Choice Award in Close-up also receives the FFFF Award, which includes a plaque plus an invitation and paid registration to the FFFF Convention held in Buffalo, New York.

**The recipient of First Place, Stage, in the Youth category received the Fantasma Prize Package. This year the package included rare magic memorabilia, including an item that belonged to Houdini, and \$1,000 cash.



From left: Close-up Contest Awards presented by International President Billy Hsueh: Ferran Poage, First Place, Adult; Dreygon Hibbler, Award of Merit.



Top six photos, clockwise from top left: Stage Awards presented by International President Billy Hsueh: Joe Marchese, Award of Merit, Adult; Anja Steyn, Award of Merit, Youth; Olivier Henning, People's Choice, Stage; Olivier Henning, First Place, Youth; Danny King, First Place, Adult; and Jeffrey Wang, People's Choice and FFFF Award, Close-up.

Bottom four photos, clockwise from left: Awards presented by Lance Burton, Jeff McBride, and Dr. Lawrence Hass: Gabriella Lester, Lance Burton Teen Seminar Media Magic Award; James Kilmeyer, McBride's Magic & Mystery School Faculty Award; Colin Eleazer, Adele Rhindress Award; Olivier Henning, Fantasma Prize Package presented by Billy Hsueh and Roger Dreyer.



P. T. Murphy's Magic

By Don Wiberg

PHOTOS BY AMY MAY

Poster designed by Mike LaPibus

Little could anyone have predicted or imagined that a young aspiring magician from Chicago's Southside would ever become one of the star attractions of the charming little historic town of Galena, Illinois. Many years ago, a young Patrick Thomas Murphy became interested in magic after wandering into several of the magic shops in the city of Chicago. He probably looked with awe at all the colorful boxes and other magic props – as do so many impressionable aspiring people of that age.

Some of these same trick shops may have fostered the interests of many young and old in the mysteries of magic. But for Patrick, these visits were the start of a magical journey that landed Patrick, now known as P. T. Murphy, in Galena, Illinois. He has his private theater just off the main street of a town known as the home of Ulysses S. Grant, the Civil War general and eighteenth President of the United States. It is also one of the more popular tourist attractions in the state of Illinois. On the path to establishing his own theater in Galena, P.T. cofounded *Magic Chicago and the Magic Cabaret*, two acclaimed magic shows on Chicago's north side.

“Chicago was the best place to grow up if you were an aspiring magician. Of course, I

didn't realize it at the time, but I was brushing elbows with the greats. Performers such as Jay Marshall, Tony Andruzzi, Eugene Burger, Bill Malone, Bruce Bernstein, and yes, even Mr. Don Wiberg were always very helpful and supportive. Everyone took the time to answer questions and help me out.” The list goes on, of course. P.T. feels extremely fortunate to have grown up in a city with so many great magicians and brick-and-mortar magic shops.

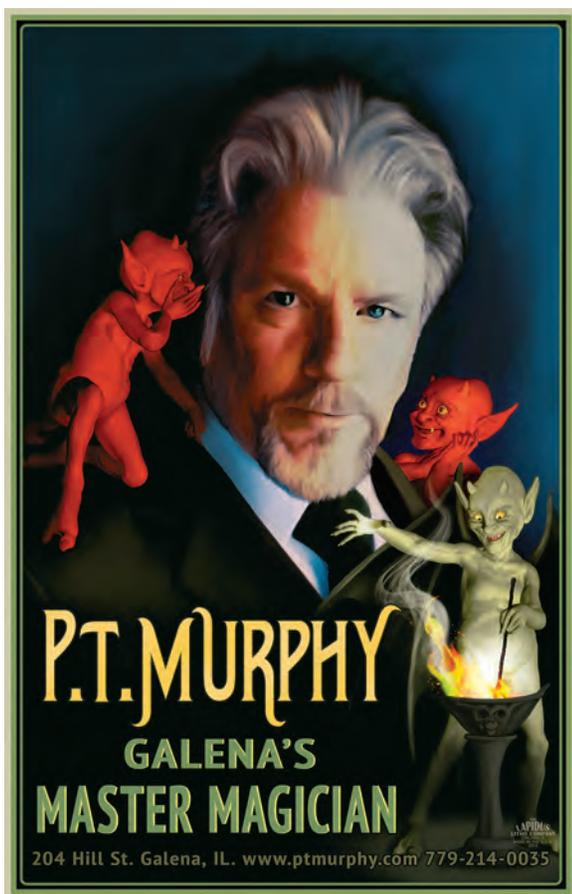
The posters promoting P.T.'s magic show appear in prominent locations throughout Galena. He credits Mike LaPibus, a commercial artist and magician friends with creating these mysterious images, similar to those found in some of the great magic posters of the past.

P.T. Murphy, trickster extraordinaire, celebrates ten years of magic, mystery, and mischief in one of America's greatest small towns. With over twenty-five hundred shows, five thousand spirits conjured, ten thousand playing cards picked, forty-eight thousand needles swallowed (and regurgitated), fifty thousand names remembered, and one global pandemic safely navigated, P.T. Murphy continues to cast his spell on visitors to historic Galena, Illinois.

P.T. Murphy's magic was established on April Fool's Day, 2013. "I thought April 1 was a fitting date for a magic show. Tradition being what it is; the trickster is celebrated on April Fool's Day." His audiences are no fools, however. Murphy has consistently been voted one of Galena's top attractions for ten years running. In celebration of this milestone, Murphy has a few new tricks up his sleeve for 2023. "Even though every show is always a little different, depending on the audience, this year I wanted to make each one extra special." When asked what exactly he has planned, P.T. Murphy only responds with a wink.

P.T. has always felt that magic is best experienced up close – the Chicago way. His theater seats twenty-four people in an intimate setting. At a maximum, an audience member is no more than twelve feet from the performer. Having experienced magic in the Chicago tradition, he thought it was normal for the performer to include the audience members as much as possible. During the show, he learns and remembers everyone's name. He finds out where they're from and gets to know a little bit about them. Every show is different because every audience is different. Galena, a tourist destination, is a very small town. He knows the audience will leave the show and wind up dining next to other people who were at the show. They may end up staying at the same bed and breakfast or any of the town's historic bed and breakfasts. Many guests who met at the show have become great friends. Visitors come from all over the world making this an international crowd.

The question many people ask is, "Why Galena?" Several factors led to P.T. and his family leaving Chicago. The real estate market had taken a hit. His condo was underwater, financially speaking. At the time, his day job was in jeopardy due to cutbacks and he was laid off. All of which forced P.T. and his wife to make plans for the future. They de-



ecided to sell their condominium and relocate to a more affordable area. His wife had an aunt who lived near Galena. On weekend getaways, they would pack up their son, who was two years old at the time, and visit the aunt. On one particular visit, they both looked at each other and said, "Let's move to Galena."

At the time, Galena did not have many things to do in the evening. Knowing that the small town of Galena was number three in the state of Illinois for tourism, Chicago and Springfield are the top two, he thought it would be a great place to perform. Having had experience with *Magic Chicago* and *The Magic Cabaret*, he knew that some of the ideas that worked there would transfer, so the Murphy family packed up and moved. "It was a bit more complicated than that, but you get the general idea," he laughs.

P.T. spent the last few years working on a



core set of magic material, which he hoped one day would become the basis for his own show. By the time he arrived in Galena, he had a solid forty-five minutes' worth of material, but no place to perform.

He knew of a small performing space on Main Street in downtown Galena. It was a cute little theater that operated in conjunction with a trolley tour company, and seated roughly seventy-five people. He had been warned that working with the owner was difficult. With P.T.'s past work experience in association management, event planning, and the trade show industry, he felt he was prepared for anything, and he was – well, almost.

He was fortunate to make good friends with Jan, the young lady who was in charge of ticket sales for the trolley tours and theater. She kept an eye on the owner, who (come to find out) was trying to cheat P.T. by telling this young lady to *not* report all of the ticket sales for his show. Fortunately, Jan put the kibosh on that situation.

P.T. began Memorial Day weekend of 2013, and the season was quite successful.

As the days of summer passed and autumn loomed, he realized there was enough momentum to continue into October and November with the possibility of continuing into December. Performing during the late fall and early winter required a heated theater. The theater owner insisted that the space was heated. P.T. soon came to realize that this was just another one of her lies. During one extremely cold weekend in October, in an attempt to keep the customers warm, he gave away hot apple cider and boxed wine. He later learned that giving away hot cider was legal, but giving away the wine was not.

As he was trying to navigate the lack of heat in the theater and keep his customers warm, the state and federal authorities began to investigate the owner. It seemed her trolley tour business was not in compliance with various rules and regulations. Her drivers were not properly licensed, and the vehicles were not up to safety standards. That – coupled with an upstart magician who wanted to give away wine – was probably too much for her. She changed the locks on the theater



doors and didn't tell P.T. She ordered her staff to not let him back into the space. All of his props were locked up, and he did not have a working key to the theater. What did he do? Well, he "Houdinied" his props out!

He may not have had the new key to the theater, but he had the old key to the office, which the owner had given him. He also had the phone number for Kurt, the man who was in charge of the facility. P.T. called Kurt and explained the situation. The owner had told Kurt to not let him into the theater, but Kurt said that it was okay to let him into the office, where the new key was hanging on a hook. "So, I took the new key, unlocked the theater, and rescued my show."

It didn't take long for the owner to visit the building and enter the theater. She was freaked out to see that the entire show was gone – *poof!* She called the ticket manager to find out what happened. The ticket manager had no idea any of this had taken place. Kurt, the man who provided P.T. with the office key, kept his secret to the very end.

P.T. says, "The moral of the story? Be nice

to all of the people you encounter, as they will help you along the way."

After ten years, P.T. Murphy is still a fool for Galena. Every day is a chance to mystify visitors and welcome them to this quaint, historic little town. Demand for tickets is higher than ever. Book now. "By the time you get to Galena the show will be sold out," laughs Murphy. Enjoy the mysteries of an ancient art form as presented by Galena's master magician, P.T. Murphy. The picturesque setting for this up-close magical experience is P.T. Murphy's twenty-four-seat private theater located in the heart of historic Galena, Illinois at 204 Hill Street. Located just thirty-nine steps from Galena's Main Street, it's also light years away from a dream that a young magician from the south-side of Chicago once had.

Don Wiberg is a Past International President of the I.B.M. who served as International Secretary for more than twenty years. You may reach him by email at magic-don36@comcast.net.



Mizuho (Japan)

By Dale Salwak

It is June 12th. I am sitting at the gate in Narita airport after a two-hour, 200-mph bullet train journey from Nagoya, waiting to board Delta for my ten-hour flight home.

As the only Westerner among a company of richly talented Asian magicians, I have just concluded a national tour under the expert direction of Agape Kaz. We began in Tokyo and ended in Nagoya, with performances at Obihiro, Kitami, Sapporo, Kanazawa, Toyama, and Osaka along the way. Twelve shows in nine days: What an experience!



Dale with new friends after the Nagoya performance.

The words “pure pleasure” come to mind as I reflect on my fellow performers, professional in every respect, offering (as the

accompanying photos convey) an elegant, colorful potpourri of some of the most beautiful magic that this continent has to offer and representing a range of styles from the traditional to the modern.

Everything here feels inter-connected. I am reminded of my first thought-nourishing

10th Anniversary 2023 TOKYO ワールドマジック
 2023年6月4日(日)
 ガラショー昼14:00 ガラショー夜17:30
 (開場は30分前) (開場は30分前)
 ワールドマジック
 Dale Salwak
 Mike Chan
 ワールドコンテストグランプリ日本コンテスト
 11:00開始 1位,2位,3位 賞金・表彰
 会場 板橋区立文化会館 東京都板橋区大山東町51-1
 主催 ワールドマジッククラブ 後援 渋谷慶太&マジックファンタジア (関)ハートフルマヨ
 TEL:070-5600-9535 Email: wmcagape@gmail.com

One of many posters used to promote the Japan tour.



(l to r): FISM Originality Award Winner Sang Soon Kim (South Korea). • Dale Salwak (U.S.A.). • Akky (Japan). • Mike Chao (Taiwan). • IRyun (South Korea). • Agape Kaz (Japan). • Magical Splash starring, from Japan, Mai (four years old) and Sai (seven years old).



Japan tour cast (back row, left to right): Fushigi Ryo, IRyun, assistant, Ryunosuke, Dale Salwak, assistants (2), Sang Soon Kim, Mike Chao, assistant, Shibuya Keita and Magic Fantasia; (front row) Kei, assistants (2), Agape Kaz, Mizuho, Shun and Sasha.

visit to Japan in 1978, when I came upon the English translation of a slender book by the novelist Junichiro Tanizaki, a work that I always recommend to the uninitiated if they are thinking about venturing to this mesmerizing part of the world: *In Praise of Shadows* (*In-ei Raisen*, 1934).

That book was one of the sparks for what followed as my interest in and affection for the pre-Western to modern traditions of the farthest reaches of Asia broadened and deepened.

Eventually Tanizaki's entire body of work (for which he was a finalist for the 1964 Nobel Prize in Literature) led me to close and

sympathetic readings of his tantalizing and relevant contemporaries – notably Yasunari Kawabata, Yukio Mishima, Haruki Murakami, and Kazuo Ishiguro – and to the classic eleventh-century novel, *The Tale of Genji*. If we want to understand a people and their rich history and culture, surely we must take up what they are reading. This is a lesson that I continue to live by wherever I travel.

Tanizaki captures the timelessness of Japanese aesthetics summed up by the word *wabi* (referring to a sense of beauty, of simplicity and serenity). He writes of subdued light and shadows, of old materials with natural patina, of tarnished silver. The massive roofs of temples create shadows beneath. Gold statues catch tiny rays of light in the dark inner chambers.

He also writes of the charm of soft voices, the love of understatement of a people whose modesty, humility, courtesy, and respect for others leave visitors with a certain feeling of warmth, of calm and repose – the same feeling I have right now, forty-five years later after first visiting Japan.

The values Tanizaki explores are found, to be sure, not only among the people but in the history of their arts. Many of the classics in all genres, including magic, could never have originated under the glare of artificial lighting. They required the shimmer of candlelight, or the glow of a coal-fire, haunted and inspired by the deep shadows of antiquity. For darkness is primal; it soothes, invites, and relaxes. Voices lower. Thoughts emerge with greater care, ease, and openness.

Thus the arts remain a countervailing power far from the illuminated and bright objects of the world and the corresponding frenzy of the crowd. The arts make order out of disorder, understanding out of fear. They are indeed a means of creating “a momentary stay against confusion,” writes Robert Frost, one of Empress Michiko’s revered poets.

How far I have come since 1978 in my understanding of and appreciation for this part of the world, and yet how far I have to go. I find it fascinating that we’re never quite sure as to what hints, pointers, suggestions, or promises we will discover each time we visit another country. Surrounded by its peo-

ple’s space, we catch a glimpse of humanity in its depths.



(from left): Aika, Dale Sabwak, Mike Chao, Yo Yo Lin (visiting from Taiwan), Sang Soon Kim, IRyun, Agape Kaz.

Having produced over the years a number of tours in the U.S. and abroad, I appreciate the time and effort that went into this one. My gratitude goes to Agape Kaz who, along with his skilled staff (including my backstage assistant and translator, Tomoya Kanamori), attended to every detail to see that we were comfortable and that all we required was provided – from the splendid cuisine to travel arrangements to housing, including a three-night stay at his Royal Hotel in Kitami, where we performed twice for the guests.



Each hotel room door featured the performer’s photo.

I look forward to returning (to Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, and Kagoshima, Kyushu) on December 14–22 at the invitation, once again, from Agape Kaz, and adding to my store of memories of this precious place.

Magic With Purpose: Ring 115 (Singapore) Participates in Project Phoenix's Tenth Anniversary

On Sunday, May 28, 2023, Project Phoenix celebrated its tenth anniversary by hosting its annual magic gala show. Project Phoenix (PP) is a volunteer-led programme that was set up by I.B.M. member Shade Soo. The programme empowers marginalised youth by building English proficiency, enhancing their communication and presentation skills, and stimulating independent and creative thinking. It was inspired by David Copperfield's Project Magic and has touched the lives of more than two hundred and sixty beneficiaries over the past ten years.

This year's gala show was the biggest in the project's history. It was held at NAFA Lee Foundation Theatre and welcomed three hundred and sixty-five people who came to watch the show between 6:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Those in attendance consisted of friends and families of the participants, members of the public, and special guests from various stakeholders. The show consisted of a pre-show and dinner from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. followed by a stage performance from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. During the pre-show, mentors brought their mentees from various schools to perform



(l to r): Mind reading by Luke Tan and John Shutler (not in picture). • During the pre-show, a student performs walk-about magic. • The Amazing JK. • The Magic Skit.

for guests while they enjoyed their dinner. Performers included students from Bende-meer Primary School, Boon Lay Garden Primary School, Ang Mo Kio Primary School, and Yio Chu Kang Secondary School. The highlight of the show was to see these fifty young magicians between the ages of eleven and fourteen run around the venue, excited to perform for friends, family, and even the public.

The two-hour stage performance started with guest magician and I.B.M. Ring 115 Hon. Secretary, “The Amazing JK!” JK graced the stage with his wonderful magic that was not only witty and entertaining, but also sent heartfelt messages of encouragement for the youth in the crowd. Later, volunteers such as I.B.M. members John Shutler and Luke Tan, put on wonderful acts for everyone to enjoy. These ranged from traditional effects and mind reading, to a magic skit where the performer disappears and reappears at the back of the theatre. However,

the true stars of the show were the brave students who went on stage for the first time in their lives. They performed some simple yet elegant magic for everyone to enjoy and did so despite the immense stage fright that they definitely felt. For the teachers, family members, and mentors in the audience, it was indeed a proud moment for them to watch the students on stage.

Throughout the entire program, Project Phoenix was co-organized by the hard-working members of the Yio Chu Kang Youth Network and supported by Mr. Yip Hon Weng, adviser to Yio Chu Kang Grassroots Organisations. Project Phoenix is also supported by Majority Trust and their SG Strong Fund, Singapore Kindness Movement, Yio Chu Kang Zone 8 RC, and Kampung Kakis. Lastly, we would like to commend the inspiring core team of PP consisting of John Shutler, Trevor Lim, Hannah Castilo, Wang ErJia, Wong Jun Hao, and Daniel Koh. *John R. Shutler*

Ring 175 (Tampa Bay, Florida) Tampa Bay Festival of Magic 2023

The 2023 Tampa Bay Festival of Magic was a fantastic one-day magic convention held at the Lion’s Eye Institute in Tampa, Florida on May 20. Hosted by I.B.M. Ring 175 (the Warren Hamilton Ring) and coordinated by Ring President Tom Vorjohan, the venue, the magical talent, and the flea market were outstanding!

The morning started off with members of Ring 175 setting up tables, chairs, and a stage at the Eye Institute while flea market vendors brought in their wares from far and wide. It was a hectic scene, but the registration desk and flea market tables were ready when the first attendees entered the room at precisely 8:00 a.m. There were many bargains available, which led to some brisk sales for the many magicians in attendance! Ring Secretary John Holly’s table was cleared off by 10 a.m., due to his drastic price cuts before the lectures began. Savvas Nikolaides’ table saw steady traffic all morning long, although John Holly (from the

neighboring table) may have been his best customer, buying “new” stuff from Savvas from the money he made selling his “old” stuff to others. Everyone wins at magic flea markets! Andrew and Jessica Hyder of the Tennessee Magic Emporium (*magicemporium.com*) sold some great books. There was a host of magical goodies from Scott Correll at SWC Magic (*swcmagic.com*), as well as the magical items our featured guests offered after their lectures.

An enthusiastic lecture from the talented and entertaining Doug Conn kicked off the event at 10 a.m. Doug is a veteran performer of close-up and parlor magic, specializing in street theater and busking at fairs, festivals, corporate events, and even riverboats! You name it, he’s performed there. Doug’s social media presence is vast and his YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@DougConn) is one of my personal favorites. Check it out when you can!

Doug first showed how he uses linking

rings to draw a crowd, clanging them and linking them as he draws people in. The rings let people know he is a magician and not some con artist trying to win money from them with Three Card Monte. The clanging lets people way down the street know something is going on nearby. Doug followed up with “Three Lumps,” a nice coin and cup routine, and then produced four royal flushes using a Vernon false shuffle, the rubber backing of a mat, and an easy but fancy reveal. Doug explained some of the work involved in becoming successful in multimedia. He now publishes all of his magic and new creations on YouTube. As a YouTube creator he has received millions of views. The views lead to his online shop and there is an opportunity to receive gifts and tips from online viewers. Using all the social media outlets available will help increase your revenues, but if you are only going to use one, Doug recommends YouTube shorts. In order to satisfy your viewers, you should commit to posting something every day! Nobody said this was going to be easy. You must commit to providing your multimedia audience with a benefit or reason to care about you and your channel if you hope to be successful.

Doug demonstrated the camera setup he

uses when working on the street. He stressed that the video clips he gets are worth far more money to him than what he collects in the hat. Doug then offered several of his magic creations for sale after his lecture, including a great package deal for Festival attendees.

Next up was Jafo (a.k.a. Jason Fields), the magician who’s performed over forty thousand shows at Universal Resorts, Orlando. Jafo is a traveled and seasoned performer who now teaches the art of magic to other performers. He enjoys helping other magicians share their love of magic with their audiences, and relayed several techniques that he uses to connect with his spectators. For example, since everything in your show should be for the benefit of your audience, you must listen to them as much as possible! Jafo went into some detail explaining how to turn audience responses into relevant connections, as well as how to use conversational multi-threading techniques and the benign violation theory to create truly memorable magic performances. It sounds more complicated than it is! He then demonstrated some of these concepts to us by performing a jaw-dropping rendition of “Zone Zero” by Jerry Andrus, and then breaking down how we, as the audience, had made certain assumptions that



(l to r): Ring President Tom Vorjohan opens the 2023 Festival of Magic! • Ring Treasurer Ken Spanola and former Ring President Rudy Hernandez. • Doug Conn breaks out some rope! • Jafo (a.k.a. Jason Fields) connects with the audience. • Ring Secretary John Holly greets the talented Erick Olson. • Erick Olson was busy before and after his lecture! • The Dan Sperry Diet is not for everyone.

he'd encouraged before he completely subverted them to great effect!

Sharing some of the material from his Mexican Turnover Reborn project, the Siesta Control and the Mexican Tuuurnover (with four u's) were my favorites. Jafo also showed us an effective use of the turnover move with a Mental Photography Deck. Very nice! This magical man had so many great tips – too many to cover here. Jafo closed his lecture by reminding us to be kind to our audiences. He said that we should work to make them feel as if they are an important part of the show. In particular, make sure to replace pointless questions with questions that lead to an answer that affects the show. Your audience will feel much more involved.

The charming and funny Erick Olson (www.corporatecomedian.net) provided us with the third lecture of the day. As seen on *America's Got Talent*, Erick is a seasoned corporate entertainer who has been called a cross between Jay Leno and David Copperfield and we love him. Claiming himself "the third Olson twin," Erick had us laughing from the start. Erick picked two audience members to assist him as he launched into the performance and explanation for "The Little Card," which made us all laugh again!

Erick entertained the convention audience with his stories about the development of "Pick Your Poison" (during COVID when drinking was rampant) and then "Wet Your Whistle" (for those who loved the first effect but do not imbibe). He explained how, as a child, he loved buying easy magic tricks that made him look like a professional magician without needing much skill. "Then I became a professional magician without much skill," Erick joked! On the contrary, Erick's skills were quite evident as he demonstrated a condensed version of "Giovanni's Pennies," with methods to customize the performance to a specific client, and then showed us his customized clean-up where the pennies are placed into a purse only to vanish and be replaced by a silver dollar! Erick continued

by sharing several methods of "opening the door to do magic," explaining this is much better than just "doing magic." For example, using a mis-made bill or a Blockbuster card to charge your dinner leads to questions, requests for magic, and ultimately better gigs. It was no surprise when Erick closed out his segment with the fantastic self-working effect, "Olson's Closer"! And as promised, this deck made us look like real card workers without needing much skill.

Finally, as seen on international television and viral videos, direct from Las Vegas and sold-out world tours, the break-away star of the best-selling magic show in Broadway history, shock illusionist Dan Sperry came to the stage! Meeting the "Anti-Conjuror" is an unforgettable encounter! Dan shared stories from his more than twenty years of experience as a professional magician. These included notable interactions, experiences, and adaptations of routines during each stage of his career, spanning from birthday parties and walk-around to stage mentalism and illusions. Dan demonstrated two load techniques using homemade props (a large white pad and a tissue box), which many of us will try, I am sure. He then ate several razor blades and some thread, which emerged from his mouth fully threaded, and which none of us will try, I am sure.

Dan closed out his lecture with the exclusive debut release of his new effect, "Tossed Out Tarot," based on the tossed out deck concept. Dan explained the thinking and development of the deck and provided several performance tips. This professional multi-phase mentalism routine is intended for any skill level. It can be rehearsed tonight and can add over five minutes of entertaining mentalism and amazing magic to your show tomorrow.

The day ended with a wonderful stage performance featuring our four talented stars. Ring 175 is proud of the fantastic one-day magic conventions we hold each year, and we hope to see you in Tampa at next year's gathering!

John Holly

Ring 194 (Huntsville, Alabama) – Jack Baldwin: A footnote in Magic

To read and look at the photos in Donald Croucher's book *Magic by Miller* is one thing; to see those handmade wooden works of art demonstrated in person is totally another. The book shows pictures of one-of-a-kind magic, original magic, prototype magic ideas, and first editions, but now Ring 194 (Huntsville, Alabama) saw those magic props performed in person by Jack Baldwin. Jack was a very close friend of Clarence Miller and is the keeper of Clarence's largest collection of handmade wooden magic. Not just the "Impossible Penetration," the "Magic Chimney," or the "Little Box," but thirty different miracles, some of which Clarence made only one.

To start, Jack filled the room with Clarence's magic on two display tables. Two of Clarence's performing tables also held magic that Jack used for the evening. Jack dressed for the evening in his bright performing clothes. After an introduction about what was happening this evening, Jack introduced Clarence S. Miller (1929-2018) via the video titled *Magic by Miller*. In Clarence's own words, it was Jack Baldwin who inspired Clarence to get back into magic after many years away from it – as well as to start producing the handcrafted magic that made Magic by Miller known around the world. Way to go, Jack. You just never know who is watching.

Around 1980 in Irvine, Kentucky, a new magician performed a few magic tricks at a festival. This got Jack's picture in the local weekly newspaper. Clarence Miller read the article and contacted Jack. Then the magic took place: they became life-long friends. Close family friends, too. Jack's children called Clarence by his nickname, "Stinky." Jack's wife Marti, his children Alethea, Joellen, and Jack Robert, one granddaughter, and other family friends attended tonight's program. Clarence's nickname comes from when Clarence the child tried leaving a movie for the concession stand when the actor on the screen yelled,

"Come back Stinky." Clarence received a nickname for life.

Jack's children joined in with comments about visiting Stinky's workshop where there was free soda, candy, and sometimes gifts like 45 RPM records from Stinky's jukeboxes. Stinky owned a line of vending machines that his children still own. Jack's children chimed in at the appropriate times during tonight's presentation.

Jack opened with my favorite, the "Impossible Penetration" using Glenn Rudolph as the victim – I mean helper. Brett held the basket to catch the finger if the trick misfired. It took a minute before Glenn placed his finger in the wooden finger chopper. Jack not only showed the magic prop, but he also performed it well. Alethea remembered the history question that was used in the trick. How far was Louis XVI's crown lowered? Alethea pulled a finger across her throat. For a piece of magic made in 1985, it still looked impossible. Clarence made thousands of these, and they are numbered. Jack has the first one, prototype A! Prototype A is labeled on the bottom, for Jack Baldwin. It is pictured in Croucher's book.

Clarence's Arm Chopper is a unique magic prop. Only one exists, and Jack is its keeper. No one lost an arm tonight during the demonstration, but volunteer Matt Growden came close. Dean Carter and Patrick padlocked Jack's hands in the "Chain Shackle Escape" from which Jack escaped. The two volunteers may have pulled the chains a little too tight. This was one of the non-wooden magic props by Miller. Jack went on to present trick after trick including the "Little Box." Jack also showed the prototype Little Boxes. Jack told the history of how he showed Clarence his sponge ball routine and Clarence came up with a way to enhance the routine. Thus, the Little Box was born. Jack told the history behind many of the props.



(l to r): Patrick and Dean with Chain Escape. • Glenn and Brett with Impossible Penetration. • Matt with the Arm Chopper. • Jack with the Impossible Penetration. • Jack Baldwin.

The video will be shown in its entirety later. A table held several of Clarence's magic which magicians could try hands on. Each with the original packaging and instructions. This allowed each attendee to personally see and feel the quality of the wooden magic as well as understanding the magic behind the trick. Jack said it was my encouragement (constant nagging) that inspired him to present this tribute to Clarence Miller.

Wow, what an evening of magic! Jack,

you may think of yourself as only a footnote in magic history, but what a footnote. The only thing I wanted more was for Jack to auction off the magic. That was received with a big "NO." Jack's children will become the keepers of Magic by Miller.

Photos by Patrick Brunson and Gerald Cassidy. Thanks Jack, J-E-R-K, for a real magical treat. (Jack's t-shirt made by his daughter, Joellen, with "Jack, J-E-R-K," was on display.)

Patrick Brunson

Ring 239 (Springfield, Illinois) – The Central Illinois Magic Get-together

What does it take to make a memorable one-day magic convention? Experienced magicians giving lectures about the area of magic in which they are experienced? The Lincoln Ring had that covered. A truly superb close-up show by magicians who perform close-up magic for fun and profit? The Lincoln Ring had that covered. A group of attendees from near and far who love doing magic, watching magic, and learning magic? The Lincoln Ring had that covered. An evening show featuring world-class headliners, family-friendly,

and open to the public in a venue worthy of such an attraction, the Hoogland Center for the Arts? The Lincoln Ring had that covered, as well.

The astounding Yort started off the lectures with his instructions on how to do street magic based on his years of performing magic on the streets of Las Vegas; the ancient art of busking. Yort's humor and magic skills opened the get-together on a high note. Keven Kelly gave a lecture on the card magic of the late Ed Marlo. Past International President Michael Finney's



Yort during lecture.



Past International President Michael Finney.

lecture packed a lifetime of entertaining with magic and humor into an hour and fifteen minutes. The lectures from these men, who are stars of both magic and entertainment, were set to make the attendees better magicians and better people. Next was a close-up show featuring the lecturers, along with Terry Richison from St. Louis and Rob Thompson, all of whom performed with humor and mystery as they interacted with the audience.

Lincoln Ring 239's own Jeff Harpinger was the master of ceremonies for the evening show. He started things off with a fooler dooler trick before bringing on Howard Mincone, a skilled comedy juggler. Howard does his act combining mime mixed with juggling. His hilarious humor with body language and facial manipulation made this writer recall the humor of Red Skelton. Howard Mincone is that good. Next came Yort, with his baffling magic and humorous performance. Richison's professional performance included the addition of nostalgia as he tapped into memories of his father leading to a levitation in which he was assisted by his daughter. The Lincoln Ring's own Dr. David Goldman performed his award-winning mindreading to the amazement of everyone present, as he read the minds of seven people chosen from the au-

dience. The evening show was open to the public, and a very large number of the public came out.

One performer after another amazed the audience with some of the best magical entertainment available anywhere. The highlight of the evening was the appearance on stage of the internationally famous Michael Finney. Michael is a very funny comic and an awe-inspiring magician, and a past International President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. After the show, he hung around to talk and take pictures with the attendees. The show was family-friendly, and this writer – along with several other parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents – was over-joyed to have their children present. If Michael hadn't won me over before, he would have when he posed for a picture with three of my great-grandchildren. Where was the fourth one? Talking to another star of the evening show!



Past International President Michael Finney, with kids.

(continued on page 43)



Dr. David Goldman.



Kevin Kelly.



Howard Mincone.



Terry Richison.



Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

A Passion Divided

The focus of any magic club should be – hmmm, let me think – oh, yes! Magic! There was a time when only the crudest individuals would think of projecting their intimate romantic experiences, personal religious beliefs, or divisive political philosophies onto others. Today, the willingness or, indeed, eagerness of individuals to openly share these and other sensitive and polarizing topics is beyond common place. Unchecked, this callous (or innocent) indifference to the sensibilities and beliefs of others can destroy your club. The disastrous loss of corporate and organizational image, prestige and customers through open support or condemnation of divisive political and social issues is clearly evident today. Please don't let this happen to you.

Let's be clear here. You have an absolute right to your beliefs and opinions. You have the absolute right to openly express these beliefs and opinions. Celebrating our lives and beliefs is a glorious and healthy thing! However, a few tend to forget that this right extends to each and every member of our clubs. While there may be a proper time and place for these discussions, I respectfully submit that our magic clubs, forums, and websites are not that place. Introducing or openly encouraging a potentially divisive topic that has no bearing on our club's declared mission, regardless of positive intentions, is reckless and destructive.

Imposing unrelated sentiments onto club members with the hope that it may inspire others to share your views invites needless friction. Our clubs are in the business of promoting and enhancing the art of magic, not changing minds or social conditions. When

opposing members hear their personal opinions and beliefs shamed, blamed, or labeled unworthy by those whose respect we covet, tempers flare, members become naturally defensive, and they may shy away from further club involvement. Bruised feelings from seeing our opinions rejected or treated as unimportant can't help but affect member cohesion and hinder future growth. If "*Good! We don't need their kind*" just passed through your thoughts, I respectfully suggest that you reexamine your value to the club.

The temptation to "set someone straight" or "make our opinion known" is strong. Most of us share strong opinions regarding societal and political issues. It is simple human nature and doesn't necessarily make one side entirely right and the other utterly wrong. Think before you act or speak. The best defense is to politely excuse yourself by saying with a smile, "Sorry, I'm staying out of this one."

But even those members who consciously avoid the topic may subconsciously choose a side resulting in passive aggressive or other retaliatory behavior, an uncomfortable or tense environment or long-term animosity. Members may feel resentment, self-censor and avoid further fraternal relationships. Worse yet, members on each side of the issue may seek the security of like-minded cliques effectively dividing your club into loathsome "Us vs. Them" factions. If "They" are part of the club's elite or leadership, the offended member's sole recourse may be to leave the club and discourage others from joining. This is a death knell for any club.

It is a stretch to expect club officers to list

all undesirable topics: gun violence, religion, politics, sexual and gender issues, etc. It is far more productive to encourage members to take personal responsibility for creating a welcoming club experience for everyone. Set the rule to kindly leave all topics not related to magic at the door. Encourage club officers and members to be alert for and discourage topics that are likely to incite conflict at club events. Encouraging members to self-moderate their actions and speech is far more effective than creating exhaustive lists.

If your club chooses to celebrate social structures within the club, then solidly commit to celebrating each and every social strata fairly and equally – race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, or gender identity), marital status, personal and professional achievements, national origin, disability, age, veteran status and so on. That’s a pretty tall order for most clubs. It’s far more practical to focus exclusively on the one thing that brought us together in the first place.

If you witness a conversation turning south, step in and remind those involved that the club’s sole purpose is fellowship in magic. Once again, if the topic has no bearing on magic, consciously push it out of the door. Invite them to pursue their discussion, if so inclined, away from the club, then direct the conversation back to a unifying magic-based topic. Doing this allows us to maintain our professionalism and promotes a safe environment in which we can all share our passion for magic.

It all comes down to this. Unity and

growth begin with reaching beyond our differences in support of a common goal. For us, that goal is to socialize with those who share our passion for magic. We belong to and enjoy our magic clubs. We look forward to spending time with and learning from our magical peers. Anything that dampens that enjoyment has no place within this particular sphere – locally or nationally. If you choose to form a breakaway subgroup focused on a potentially divisive topic, by all means enjoy! We are all free to celebrate and exercise our inherent right to our personal views, beliefs and opinions. However, if it doesn’t concern magic, it simply doesn’t belong in our clubs – period. Keep the main club body balanced and safe for all members.

Magician Jon Finch defines magic as, “... the architect of dreams, building palaces in the air with the bricks of astonishment.” He describes magic as a universal language, one that draws people of every nationality and creed to a common celebration of wonder and joy. We join our clubs and organizations to share this language and our wish to build something unique, beautiful and inspiring. That is the recipe for true diversity! That’s the magic within our Magic! Peace be with you.

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

Events – from page 41

It takes a lot of work to make an event like this possible. The Lincoln Ring is fortunate to have several magicians work their magic behind the scenes. Ring 239’s own Tim Galaher, Elden Roark, David Matrisch and his wife Carla, and director Jeff Harpering, along with sound engineer Troy Roark, and lighting director Terry Walthall, contributed their time and talents to facilitate this event. Much of the success of this year’s Central Illinois Magic Get-Together is due to these fine people.

Three years from now, Lincoln Ring 239 will host another Central Illinois Magic Get-Together. If you live in the Springfield, Illinois area or ever visit, come join us at one of our monthly meetings. Ring 239 meets the second Monday of each month at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. Look us up at www.ring239.com. You can also email us at www.info@ring239.com. Visitors are always welcome!

By Walter Smith



A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

Surprise

A single sentence from one of Neil Foster’s letters challenges me every time I run into it. “Without the element of surprise,” he wrote in 1978, “we risk losing our audience.”

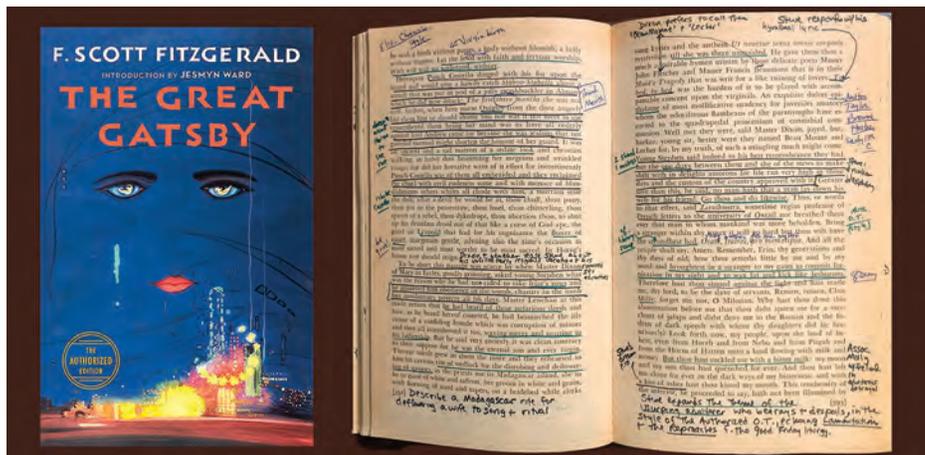
Great authors know this. Every word counts, for example, in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s intensely compressed masterpiece, *The Great Gatsby*. As we become aware of how deliberate are even the unexpected, seemingly random moments, we keep turning the pages, admiring the stylistic brilliance, the grace, while sensing mysterious depths waiting to be discovered with each re-reading.

About the energy and inventiveness of his own masterpiece, *Ulysses*, James Joyce accurately foretold: “I’ve put in so many enigmas and puzzles that it will keep the professors busy for centuries arguing over what I meant.” The intricate layers are

dizzying, beyond compare, with one textual surprise after another. Aficionados can’t leave it alone.

Visual artists know this. Each time we study and contemplate a masterful painting we are moved by something we hadn’t noticed before. Thus the undoubted inscrutability of Leonardo da Vinci’s haunting “Mona Lisa,” with its enigmatic smile, the possible hidden messages, and what has been called “the Mona Lisa effect” – the impression that the subject follows us with her gaze.

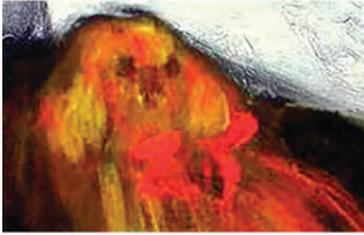
Recent imaging and restoration of Pablo Picasso’s “Le Moulin de la Galette,” painted in Paris in 1900, revealed in the lower left corner a small King Charles spaniel with a red bow that the artist had painted over. Although we may have seen



(left): F. Scott Fitzgerald’s many-layered masterpiece, *The Great Gatsby*.

(right): From Dale’s heavily annotated copy of James Joyce’s *Ulysses*: surprises on every page!

*Picasso's LE Moulin de la Galette
in which a dog is hidden under
paint in the foreground.*



*Imaging and restoration revealed this
dog hidden in Picasso's painting.*



the picture before, since its restoration we can't stop staring and wondering, What was the artist's intention? Such entralling discoveries are golden.

Composers know this. My late mother, as a classically trained pianist, spent a lifetime immersed in the works of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt, to name a few. During practice she often discovered subtleties of harmony and tone, some nuance of phrasing, some intention that had escaped her earlier.

These melodic surprises, and the private delight they offered, she recorded among hundreds of penciled annotations in the margins of eight cartons of sheet music representing a lifetime of study which I saved after her passing.



*A page from Dale's mother's sheet
music showing penciled annotations.*

What's true for the greatest authors and visual artists and composers (and of course other creators including dancers, singers, actors, and sculptors) also applies to many professional magicians: Their work holds up to close scrutiny because it is filled with revelations and surprises that play against our expectations.

Think, for example, of how many times we have watched and studied with care the performance videos of, say, Cardini, Channing Pollock, or Dai Vernon. Perhaps dozens, and yet on each occasion we discover little touches that in a flash take the piece to a higher level, something that we didn't have the eyes to see or the ears to hear previously.

We savor every move, every gesture, every expression – it all counts – and although we may not be as gifted, their pure magic inspires us to try to reach our own potential. We too want to present the best of which we are capable, as naturally as possible.

If we as students are so affected by another's mastery, then imagine what it is like for lay audiences on every level when the performer – with confidence, élan, and infallible timing – triggers surprise in their minds and therefore keeps them engaged.

Neil Foster, whose exquisite stage performances and phenomenal knowledge of the entire range of magic granted him irreproachable authority on the subject, well understood this principle. Throughout his

professional life he kept trying to add the unexpected to his own set routines.

“Sometimes it is just the little wrinkles that count up,” he wrote. “It doesn’t always have to be something big, but new and different twists.”

This philosophy he imparted to his students. “Now that you have the structure for your act,” he would offer, “you have a living to earn. Begin to look for ways to layer in more surprises. Learn the fundamental rules of theater, of course, but know how to break them, and forget the rules that others impose. This is a joyful journey that will never end for you.”

Whether performing close-up or on-stage, silently or with words, we are creating a series of pictures. Sometimes, all it takes is changing one detail to deliver the unexpected. From here larger lessons follow. For example:

- Keep props hidden until it’s time to use them; otherwise, we telegraph what’s coming.

- Look for opportunities to introduce “the Kafka effect” – named after the Czechoslovakian novelist who used *non sequiturs* or juxtapositions of the familiar with the unfamiliar to intensify the reader’s experience (thus a produced silk handkerchief turns into a cigar from whose smoke appears a filled wine glass).

- Build to a peak, then try to top it (as when a second girl pops out unexpectedly at the climax of the Doll House routine).

- Listen for places in the accompanying music to add changes in mood, tempo,

style, thereby priming the audience’s expectations for what is ahead.

- Stretch and push artistic boundaries, exploit versatility, and play like a child – for whom anything is possible and freedom is limitless.

“But to surprise our audiences,” added Neil, “we must know them.” Everything we are creating is for the general public, the majority of whom have never seen a live magic show; and even if they have, more than likely they have not seen *us*.

The pleasure of the unexpected provokes and teases the viewers’ minds in all the best ways possible. On the strength of this promise, is it any wonder that audiences everywhere return over and over – as they do for the best authors, painters, composers – to experience all that the professional magician has to offer?

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.



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

Youth Trivia Contest



August's question: A conjurer from the European Low Countries once wrote an anthology of magical creations that included a section on DIY electronics. *Who was this magician, and what was the name of the collection?*

Answers must be postmarked by September 20, 2023.

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

A few Youth members did send us answers to this question, but unfortunately, none of them were correct. Here's what we were hoping that you'd tell us ...

Scary theater presentations go back hundreds of years. Lanterns were used to project frightening images for audiences as early as the 1600s, and possibly as early as the 1400s. In the late 1700s, a scientist and magician from Liège named Étienne-Gaspard Robert began presenting "Phantasmagoria" shows, projecting ghostly, ghostly images onto clouds of smoke and screens made of gauze. Using specially created and modified lanterns that moved about, he caused the images to appear to come "alive." These, however, were not the midnight magic shows in our question, although they might have helped to inspire them.

*In the question, we were alluding to the type of shows commonly referred to as **Spook Shows** or **Ghost Shows**. These programs became popular beginning in the United States in the 1930s. Their popularity grew, and continued for more than four decades.*

Elwin-Charles Peck, a magician who used the stage-name "El-Wyn," has often been credited for creating this strange genre. He capitalized on the public's interest in ghosts and seances, and in 1929, he began assembling his ideas for a show that featured

*spooky-themed illusions and a special finale; his El-Wyn's Midnite Spook Party ended by producing apparitions crafted from figures that had been decorated with luminous paint. These ghostly forms were displayed over and among the audience members, in completely darkened theaters, by members of the company sprinting up and down the aisles. This finale, most commonly called the **Blackout**, bore many similarities to the Phantasmagoria shows from the late 1700s. The Blackout lasted several minutes, and it produced shrieks, screams, and laughter from the surprised audience members.*

A Ghost Show's curtain typically went up around midnight. The productions took place in movie theaters, following the last showing of the main feature. Ghost Show producers and promoters easily sold the idea to movie theater owners by pointing out that the theater would be otherwise closed and empty, and not bringing in any money. These midnight performances filled the seats in what would normally be vacant movie houses, and raised extra revenue for the theater owners. The Ghost Show would either be preceded by a low-grade horror film, or followed by one immediately after the Blackout. In some cases, horror films were shown both before and after the Ghost Show.

The magician who served as Master of Ceremonies and hosted the show usually presented themselves as a ghoulish or psychic character with an appropriately ghoulish or psychic name, often with the title of



Window card and promotional photograph for Dr. Silkini's Asylum of Horrors (Jack Baker).

All images courtesy of Gary Frank.



Advertisement for Dr. Satan's Shrieks in the Night Show (Johnny Cates).



Advertisement for Gwynne's Spook Party (Jack Gwynne).



Window card for Dr. Neff's Madhouse of Mystery (Bill Neff).



Promotion for The Great Kirma's Ghost Party (Frederick Lindsay)

"Doctor." Jack Baker was "Dr. Silkini," Joe Karsten was "Dr. Macabre," Phillip Morris was "Dr. Evil," Ormond McGill was "Dr. Zomb," Frederick Lindsey was "The Great Kirma," etc. The conjurer performed illusions with decidedly ghoulish or psychic presentations or themes. Head-choppers, sword-boxes, spirit-cabinets, buzz-saws, cremation, and séances were commonly included using gruesome or paranormal routines, costuming, and stage effects. Quite a bit of fog and fake blood was employed.

Ghost Shows were lucrative. Well ... that's an **incredible** understatement. There are accounts of some of the shows bringing in more money in one night than the hosting

movie house could possibly earn in a whole week. In the early 1940s, there were some shows bringing box office totals in excess of seven thousand dollars in US currency, per night. That's around a hundred and fifty thousand in today's dollars. That financial success is the biggest reason that the production of Ghost Shows spread as quickly as it did. This is also why many big-name illusionists jumped on the Ghost Show bandwagon. Howard Thurston, Harry Blackstone Sr., Willard the Wizard, Virgil, and several others tried their hand. Phillip Morris eventually developed his "Dr. Evil" character to become the host of a late-night television program featuring horror films. Dr. Evil's

Horror Theater became wildly popular in many national markets on Friday nights. The time slot ran from 11:30 p.m. on Friday night until 3:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, and the show drew extremely high ratings as well as lots of advertisers.

In today's world, with laws and regulations regarding lighting and exit signage, the Blackout would not be possible. The hazards associated with performers sprinting around in a totally dark theater full of audience members are too numerous to even consider staging this most valued component of the Ghost Shows. These rules, combined with competing forms of entertainment such as television, led Ghost Shows to dwindle in number until they vanished completely from the culture.

There's a lot more information about Ghost Shows in books, including Ghostmas-

ters by Mark Walker, and Willard the Wizard by Bev Bergeron. There's also quite a bit in back issues of periodical publications including MAGIC, Genii, The Sphinx, M-U-M, and The Linking Ring.

Étienne-Gaspard Robert died in 1837. Elwin-Charles Peck died in 1956.

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

Calling All Youth Members!

Do you believe in your heart of hearts that you have a suitable question for the I.B.M. Youth Trivia Contest? Then 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 use your question, we'll send you either a whole crate of shoelace aglets or a really cool magic book – our choice.

See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 146 and mail your responses to the address above.

Answers must be postmarked by September 20, 2023.

Sign up 1!

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



From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD

I am sure it is not necessary to trace here the dispute between Ching Ling Foo and Chung Ling Soo (William Robinson). It is sufficient to say that the genuine Asian magician challenged the pretender, leading to such tongue-twisting headlines as “Did Foo Fool Soo?” and “Can Soo Sue Foo?” Details can be found in sources such as Jim Steinmeyer’s *The Glorious Deception* and *Ching Ling Foo: America’s First Chinese Superstar* by Samuel D. Porteous.

icantly, his name was Maosheng Hu, and he was Chinese.

An entry from 5 October, 1904, caught his eye. A visitor called Chung Ling Soo appeared to have added a Chinese version of his name to his signature; or maybe his place of origin. To most other viewers this addition would appear to be genuine. Dr. Hu, however, realised that it was not formed from recognised Chinese characters. Whoever had written it didn’t know how to write in Chinese. Interestingly, “USA” was also tagged on as an apparent afterthought, in pencil.

From looking at his autograph on the accompanying photograph, we can see that Robinson was in the habit of adding a message, or repeating his name, in pseudo-Chinese.

The person making the entry above that of Soo hailed from Heidelberg, and the one beneath was from London.

So far so good.

The really intriguing part of the story is that as Dr Hu leafed through more visitor signatures he came across a similar entry dated 31 July, 1914. This time the name was slightly different – Ching Ling Foo – but the appended Chinese writing was correct. Foo was accompanied by a Chinese companion, along with a Charles F. Gammon from Fryeburg, Maine, whose line

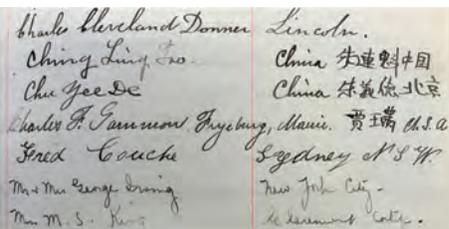
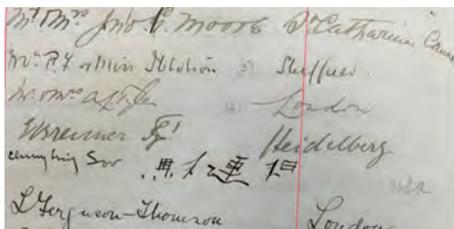


Chung Ling Soo (William Robinson).



Ching Ling Foo.

Even though a subject appears to have been exhausted, however, something new pops up now and again. Not long ago, a post-doctoral scholar from the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham happened to be leafing through an old visitors’ book from Shakespeare’s birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon. Signif-



Visitors’ book signatures.

also displayed some Chinese calligraphy. Below that was an entry from Sydney, Australia, and one for a couple from New York City, attesting to the fact that Shakespeare's former home was already attracting international visitors well over a century ago.

From our perspective, it is interesting to learn that Soo and Foo both went to Shakespeare's birthplace, ten years apart and presumably unaware of each other's visits. In the context of their relationship, Soo opened for a three-month season at the London Hippodrome on Boxing Day 1904, just weeks after his Stratford trip, and Foo mounted his challenge around the same time.

Avid readers of this column will possibly recall that, in February 2020, I wrote about the American female magician Roberta (reputedly the youngest in the world at the time) who performed at the first British Ring convention in 1931 at the age of fifteen. The story kept expanding with input from other sources, with additions in May and July of that year, and in June/July 2021.

Well, the story of Roberta re-emerged recently when her granddaughter, Debra Richardson, made contact via the Davenports Collection website:

"I would like to reach out to Brian Lead, author of an article on my grandmother, Roberta Byron. I have many of her costumes, wands, etc. and, along with other family members, may be able to contribute more to her story!"

Naturally, John Davenport and I both responded, with John pointing out that my article contained stills from a film taken by the Davenport family at the 1931 convention in Cheltenham. "We still have that film!" said John. "The plan is to convert it into a form we can put on the Davenport film YouTube channel."

"I'm elated!!" came the response. "My grandmother had a huge influence on my life. At fifty-eight, I find myself reflecting on who provided my core values and/or were amongst my 'teachers' and/or role models. My family would agree that

grandmother (Roberta to you) broke all the moulds."

Later came this intriguing snippet: "I have located my grandmother's diary from her 1931 travels abroad. Her entries mention a Charles Davenport several times. She seems to have been somewhat smitten. Who was Charles?"

Strangely, there has never been a Charles in the Davenport family!

Roberta had obviously got on very well with the young George Davenport. On her subsequent tour of Europe, she sent him a postcard each week: from Rome on 8 August, Venice on 18 August, and Lucerne on 24 August. Each bears a typically 1930s chocolate-box image of a local tourist site, but the last one reports seeing Dante performing in Venice. He was "very clever, with a fine act."



(clockwise): Roberta in Scottish costume, 1931. • Postcard depicting the Bridge of Sighs. • Postcard message.

Roberta addresses George (known in the family as Gilly) as "Gilly-Gilly," a nickname derived from his on-stage catch phrase of "Gilly-Gilly," used as magic words.

I extend my most grateful thanks to John Davenport for the accompanying images from the postcards in his collection, and for facilitating the current developments in the Roberta Byron story.

Magic and



Memories

David Ginn

Adventures with the Vanishing Birdcage

John Booth started me on my lifetime quest to perform the classic Vanishing Birdcage. I was only sixteen years old. It started by reading Booth's wonderful 1941 book, *Marvels of Mystery*, a book I consider one of the greatest books on stage magic ever written.

On page 124 of *Marvels*, John Booth tells an interesting story.

One day while lunching with a group of professional magicians in New York City, one of them asked:

"What do you consider to be the greatest trick ever conceived in the history of magic?"

"The Disappearing Birdcage Trick," replied another magician immediately, as though the question was not new. Unanimously, says Booth, "those present agreed that no effect has ever made the reputation of so many magicians, been more baffling, or caused more honest surprise than this trick, when well done."

Figure 1 shows John Booth just after the cage vanished.

With Booth's four pages explaining how he performed it and a used Abbott's red-ribbon model cage, I started learning the trick. For weeks and weeks I practiced it, and seriously, I thought I had it ready.

My chance to prove it came when I was asked to perform at the Atlanta-area Explorer Scout conference in the spring. I pre-

pared a fifteen-minute act, keeping the cage for my encore, just like John Booth. The afternoon of the show, wearing my white sport coat (see **Figure 2**) and a short-sleeved shirt, I practiced it dozens of times in my sleeping cabin during free time. I repeatedly showed it to five roommates, who thought it looked great. Yes, sir, I was ready.



1. John Booth.

2. David Ginn.

That night in front of twelve hundred Explorer Scouts, I did my fifteen-minute act, which went pretty well. Then I announced I had one more trick and went off stage to get it. Moments later I returned with the red-ribbon Abbotts cage. Like John Booth, I stood at center stage behind the mike stand.

And yes, I announced that in a flash, this little canary and the cage would disappear. I counted one, two, three – and shot out my hands and arms just as I practiced so much

– at which moment the cage collapsed, shot halfway up, and got caught on my sleeve. Yes, the collapsed cage was halfway in and halfway out of my white sport coat sleeve!

What did I do in front of twelve hundred people?

I dropped my right arm to my side, *palmed* the cage, and gestured with my empty left hand as I slowly walked off stage right, my hand with half cage pressed to my trouser leg.

Was there any applause for me? I honestly don't know.

Embarrassed beyond belief, I did not go back onto the stage. I hurried to my set-up area, secretly disengaged the cage, and packed it away. I had no idea how I would face my fellow scout friends later. I returned to our cabin, changed clothes, put the prop case away, and tried to read a Tarzan book.

When the guys came back after the show, I am sure they said some nice things about my act. But it didn't matter. I had failed, and boy, did it hurt me inside.

After that night, I put the birdcage aside and didn't try it again for many years. In fact, I must have sold it and given up. Remember, I was only sixteen years old.

Footnote in my text: Thirty-five years later, when I'd been doing full-time magic for twenty-five years, I tried the cage one more time. Same model, but wearing a jungle jacket in my Australia show. First show of the school year. I shot out my arms to make the cage disappear, the pull broke, and the cage zoomed from my hands to the front row of children sitting on the gym floor.

What a way to start the show and the school year. I walked forward, picked up the cage, and tossed it behind my backdrop, never to use it again in a live show. But I have sold several of them over the years, shooting wonderful home videos when I could do enough takes to make it look really good!

* * *

Where *did the vanishing birdcage originate? Exactly who invented it?* A little research gave me the answer.

French magician Buatier de Kolta

invented the birdcage trick, which has been known by many names: the Flying Cage, La Cage Volante, La Cage Eclipse, and the Vanishing Birdcage. **Figure 3** is a photo of DeKolta. He first showed it on May 1, 1875, at London's Egyptian Hall, where the program titled it "The Flight of the Cage of Canaries."



3. *Buatier de Kolta.*

The original shape of the cage was square or rectangular, but at some point de Kolta created a longer cylindrical cage with a round top and bottom. However, in a short time the trick became one single canary (or imitation bird) in a metal wire cage about 6 x 6 x 8 inches. The cage, held between the magician's two hands with no covering, instantly disappears. Within a year others started doing "their versions" of the cage. These days we might say de Kolta was ripped off.

According to *Magicpedia*, for a large sum of money, "Harry Kellar purchased a duplicate cage from a relative of de Kolta's without [de Kolta's] permission. Kellar later premiered it in San Francisco on May 15, 1876. In addition, Kellar sold the secret of the Vanishing Birdcage to Henry Stone in exchange for having props he lost in a shipwreck replaced."

Other performers followed and performed their versions of the cage. Charles Bertram

allowed the bird to escape the cage before he vanished it. Carl Hertz went to court in Britain to prove that the bird was not hurt every time he vanished it. Del Adelpohia often repeated the vanish and later sold his to Harry Blackstone Sr., who popularized having audience children come onstage to place palms on the cage before it vanished. Fred Keating, Fu Manchu, Servais Le Roy, Arnold de Biere, John Mulholland, Bert Allerton, Tommy Wonder, John Booth, and Billy McComb all put their personal stamps on vanishing the cage. But never David Ginn.

* * *

Over the next thirty or forty years, I saw many magicians present the Vanishing Birdcage. I must have seen Harry Blackstone Jr. do a great job with it a half dozen times at conventions, including my first visit to Abbots in 1978. I loved that Harry could perform the cage “in one” (in front of the main curtain) solo, as well as after getting “another cage” with a bunch of children. **Figures 4 and 5** show Harry both with the cage and after the vanish. It was marvelous.



4. Harry Blackstone, Jr.



5.

When I started writing this article in the spring of 2023, the internet was a great help. All I had to do was go to YouTube to see lots of magicians present their versions of the cage. You can do this too.

Of special note are these four magicians I’ve watched more than once on YouTube. For digital readers of this magazine, I have attached a direct link to the video. If you are reading an actual magazine made of paper, simply search YouTube as noted below.

1. Harry Blackstone Jr. Harry performs the classic version of the cage masterfully well. Live or on TV, it simply looks great. It is your starting place to learn this trick and how to present it. Search **Harry Blackstone Jr. Birdcage** or use this YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMV618cRmiU>

2. Kyle Eschen. At age fifteen, Kyle did a wonderful deadpan act and set up for the cage vanish. His dry humor reminds me of comedian Richard Wright. Some very clever lines, delivered without smiling, lead up to the cage vanish. The importance of watching him is to see a very different take on the vanish. **Figure 6** is the young Kyle. Search **Kyle Eschen Cage Vanish** or use this YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSpJIVBXE7k&f=14s>

3. Billy McComb. As Billy told me personally over twenty years ago, “*You can’t expect me as an old man to perform the cage vanish fast.*” For that reason, this version is done slowly with lots of comedy build up. He also manages to hook up the cage during the act, not before it. And for individuality, Billy uses a mouse in his cage, not a bird. **Figure 7** shows Billy and cage in a nice, posed photo.

Search **Billy McComb Birdcage** or use this YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSpJIVBXE7k&f=14s>

4. Paul Daniels takes another step forward, presenting the cage vanish with lots of humor, lots of build-up, and a different ending. There is even a quick appearance by wife/assistant Debbie McGee in a beautiful dress. **Figure 8** shows Paul with a cage. And if you pay close attention to the end of the YouTube video, Paul encourages magicians watching to individualize their tricks and make them their own. Good advice.

Search **Paul Daniels Vanishing Birdcage** or use this YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKori4Pla34>

Everything I’ve shared about this subject



6. Kyle Eschen.



7. Billy McComb.



8. Paul Daniels.

now brings me to the man I consider (*and this is MY opinion*) the top dog, the No. 1, the Absolute Master of the Vanishing Birdcage – Walter “Zaney” Blaney of Houston, Texas. Not only have I watched him do the cage on television dozens of times, but I also saw him perform it live a half dozen times and even worked a SEAM convention show with him back in 1967, fifty-six years ago!

What made Zaney Blaney different from other birdcage vanishers? *Walter was always ready to perform it.* At a second’s notice, he could reach under his coat into his “back pocket” and bring out the cage, then cause it to vanish immediately. No muss or fuss, no fooling around. He just pulled it out and BAM, made it vanish. And he could repeat it again and again.

To prove my point, I advise you to watch Jeff Hobson doing the commentary on a wonderful seven-minute video about Walter and his cage vanish. Either search YouTube for **Zaney Blaney Birdcage** or use this direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSkJXnO4Qcg&t=133s>

For three different views of Zaney Blaney with the cage, take a look at **Figures 9, 10, and 11** below.

Not only could Blaney perform and repeat the trick instantly in shows, he also used it to get booked. Instead of handing out a brochure or business card to the CEO of a company, Walter did the birdcage vanish right in the office. Next thing he knew, the boss wanted him to repeat it for the secretaries and others, resulting in immediate bookings for their functions. Jeff’s commentary on the video brings this out, so by all means WATCH IT!

Once you understand Zaney Blaney’s ability to immediately present the cage, you are all set to read the most wonderful vanishing birdcage story ever. It is not about me because I wasn’t there to see it. I certainly wish I had been there.

What you are about to read came direct to my ears from the mouth of Bev Bergeron. Keep in mind that Bev and Walter, both from Texas, had been friends for decades when this happened. Here is what Bev told me:



9, 10, 11. Walter Zaney Blaney.

Some thirty-plus years ago, Bev and Walter were each working the Magic Castle on the same week. Bev was doing three shows a night in the close-up parlor while Walter did his act on the Palace stage.

One night before their shows, Walter said to Bev, "I'll come down to watch you after my last show tonight." Bev replied, "Great!" Evidently, the timing was right so that Blaney could do his act and then quickly walk downstairs, slip through a side door, and take a seat in the audience.



Bev Bergeron.

PHOTO BY CRAIG FENNESSY

That night, Bev told me, he finished his twenty-minute close-up act sitting down at a draped table in the Close-up Parlor. The cloth drape, he pointed out to me, went all the way to the floor so you could not see under the table. And in keeping with the close-up arrangement, there were two chairs besides the one Bev was sitting in, one on his left and one on his right.

When he finished his last trick, Bev announced, "Normally, ladies and gentlemen, my act would be finished at this point. But since you folks have been so kind to me with your laughter and applause, I feel compelled to present one more mystery of magic that I seldom ever perform.

"In order to do this feat of magic, I need the help of one audience volunteer." Bev looked around, then pointed to Blaney. "You, sir, would you mind leaving your audience seat and sitting beside me in this chair at the table?"

Blaney got up, all six feet five inches of him, and joined Bev at the table. Bev asked his name, and he replied, "Walter."

"Walter, I want you to do something for me," instructed Bev. "Under the drape of this table, down on the floor, I have placed a small birdcage with a little bird inside of it. Would you please reach under the table and get that for me?"

"I knew Walter was still wearing the cage," Bev told me, "and I knew I could fool everyone in the room who had NOT seen his act. And for those who HAD, at least I would amuse them!"

So, Walter leaned down and fiddled around under the draped table, then brought his cage into sight.

Bev said, "Just put the cage right here on the table, but don't let go of it." Walter did that. "Now I am going to take out my pocket handkerchief, here it is, and cover the cage. Just a moment, let me pull my sleeves up." Bev did that. Then he covered the cage with a white cotton pocket handkerchief.

"Now, Walter, I am going to take the cage in both of my hands through the handkerchief like this." Bev reached over and clipped the sides of the cotton hank with his thumbs and fingers. "Now Walter, you can let go of the cage while I stand up with it."

Bev stood up, supposedly holding the cage, while Walter – hands empty – moved back and kept his eyes on Bev.

"Ladies and gentlemen," stated Bev, "you're about to see the most amazing mystery I have *ever* presented anywhere. Watch! One, two, three!"

With that, Bev tossed the hank up into the air, clapped his hands together, and shouted, "Gone, gone, gone!"

Walter started clapping his hands, and the audience followed his lead. Half the audience was genuinely fooled. Others who had seen Zaney Blaney perform were smiling and clapping hands too. A few fellow magicians in attendance were clapping as well, in addition to laughing their heads off at Bev's magicians' only joke.

Bev told me years later, "*It was the easiest birdcage vanish I NEVER did!*"

So, I never even approached mastering the birdcage trick. But the truth is – I still love watching it.



Showmanship

“The secret of showmanship consists not of what you really do, but what the mystery-loving public thinks you do.” – Harry Houdini

How do we get more gigs and make more money? By having a better show. I believe that the quality of the show is the first step in effective marketing. But what is it that creates that quality?

Anybody can buy a Magic Coloring Book and flip through the pages, demonstrating “magical” changes. But to *entertain* with this simple prop requires *showmanship*.

What is Showmanship?

The dictionary says that showmanship is a noun meaning, “skill at entertaining, theatrical presentation, or performance.” It gives this example:

“Bud had a flair for showmanship and understood what the public wanted to see.”

I like that! We need to have a flair for what the public wants to see. Houdini obviously did that, since he remains the most famous magician in history (sorry, David).

Here is another quotation, this time from Jean Hugar: “It is a presentation which lifts the card trick from the level of the commonplace puzzle to the status of an unforgettable and inexplicable mystery.”

We have all seen card tricks that did not achieve that level. But hopefully, we have seen those “unforgettable and inexplicable” mysteries as well.

Non-magicians sometimes ask if they

can show me a trick, and often it is the infamous *21 Card Trick*. The trick usually works – that is, they find my chosen card – but it is painful to watch. When the late Ron Cartlidge, an amateur magician and magic historian, performed the same trick, it was remarkably entertaining. He told a compelling story. He used *showmanship*.



Showmanship for Magicians

Showmanship for Magicians is Book 1 of Daniel Fitzkee’s famous trilogy. It was first published in 1943, the year that I was born ... but I didn’t read it until some twenty years later. Here is an ad for the more recent kindle version:

“This classic magic text is a cornerstone of any magician’s library. *Showmanship for Magicians* takes up the subject of presenting magic to gain the greatest audience

response, including a detailed analysis of spectator appeals and how to incorporate them into the presentation of magic. Step by step, you will learn how to create a favorable reception through choice of material, style of performance, character of work, timing, pointing, pacing, building up to climaxes, emphasis, routining, arrangement of material, and in many other ways. This is the classic tome of stage craft written by a showman ahead of his time.”

That sounds like a lot of work, doesn't it? Maybe we can just read the latest book about card tricks ...

A more recent book is *Magic and Showmanship* by Henning Nelms. Here is part of the back cover blurb:

“Many books deal with the devices used by conjurers, but few concern themselves with the showmanship on which the real art of conjuring depends.”

The twenty-two chapters in the book do not include any chapters on card tricks.

Some of my younger friends who are serious about their magic swear by this book, and I wondered why I wasn't familiar with it ... until I discovered that it was first published as a “Dover Original” in 1969, four years after I graduated from college, got married, and started active duty in the US Army.

There are many other books that offer valuable insights into showmanship. I hope you have your own favorites (maybe by Eugene Burger?) in your magic library.

Tools of the Magician's Trade

For most of my professional life, I have taught magic classes for children and adults. One of the most popular classes is called, “Tools of the Magician's Trade.” We discuss misdirection, the magic wand, costumes, patter, magic words ... and *showmanship*. Here is a quotation from one of the handouts:

“What converts simple trickery into Magic? The answer is SHOWMANSHIP. In planning your presentation, think about how the trick will look to the audience.

Most professional magicians agree that ENTERTAINMENT is the most important part of a performance. Without SHOWMANSHIP, the most elaborate trick can fall flat. However, with the proper presentation, the simplest trick can become a miracle!”

One of the most prominent magicians in Central Texas during the past century was Fred “The Great Scott” Donaldson. He told students, “The essence of showmanship consists of Practice, Timing, Acting, and Love.”



PRACTICE

I have always considered “practice, practice, practice!” one of the main Rules for Magicians. From the course handout:

“Even the easiest tricks must be carefully rehearsed if you are to become a competent Magician. Practice in front of a mirror until you become confident. Then practice some more.”

When you are ready to move from simply practicing the moves to rehearsing the entire routine, video is your best friend. Unlike your other friends, it will tell you exactly what it sees, without fear of hurting your feelings. It is ridiculously easy to create videos these days, and you can watch them over and over, looking for ways to improve your performance.

Want more information about the power of appropriate practice? My column in the April issue of *The Linking Ring* is all about the Practice of Magic.

TIMING

When you are on a television show, timing is critical. (They have to have time for the commercials!) But timing matters in your other shows, as well.

I once lost a magic competition that I might have won . . . but I was disqualified because I went over by about a minute.

I try to practice literally dozens of times before I perform a new or changed routine. I find out how long it takes. But then I allow extra time for audience reaction.

Effective timing is not automatic. Look specifically for ways to enhance your sense of timing when you watch those practice videos. Are you rushing through parts of your act? Are some segments too slow? Do you know how long each routine typically takes? Are you allowing time for audience response?

Hopefully, in addition to practice videos, you have at least one video of your complete show. Watch it again, but this time looking especially for your timing.

The Power of the Pause: One of the many things I have learned from the National Speakers Association is the power of the pause. When standing in front of an audience, there is a tendency to think that you need to fill every second with powerful prose. But it is often more effective to stop from time to time and just look at your audience. Give them time to process what you have already said.

ACTING



I'm sure you have heard the famous quotation attributed to Robert-Houdin: "A magician is an actor playing the part of a magician." Like most famous quotations, this one has been misquoted, misunderstood, and

quoted out of context.

But the common understanding is not without merit. We are not *real* magicians! We are just doing tricks. But we want the audience to respect us as magicians, not just as tricksters. For this to happen, we need to understand what character we are portraying on stage, and why that character matters to the audience.

It seems to me that studying acting and other aspects of theatre will do more to make us entertaining as magicians than arduously practicing sleight-of-hand or learning a bunch of new tricks. I was fortunate to be able to take theatre classes during my undergraduate college days at Louisiana State University (1961-1965).

I even wrote and produced a magical play, called "The Black Magic Revue."



The Black Magic Revue.

LOVE

Scott did not specifically explain why this is part of showmanship, but from many armchair conversations with him, I think I understand what he meant. We are more effective if we love our art, love ourselves, and love our audiences. I like this quotation from Howard Thurston: "You can fool the eyes and minds of the audience, but you cannot fool their hearts."

According to Dale Carnegie, Howard Thurston would stand in back of the curtain before every show, saying over and over, "I love my audience." I started doing something similar, as a reminder that my show was more about audience enjoyment than my own ego.

If we are truly magicians, we should love our audiences as well as the art of magic. Learning how to do magic tricks without understanding what they mean to our audiences is nothing more than self-gratification.

Simplicity

The first thing I think of when I think of showmanship for magicians is Blackstone's Enchanted Garden, which I saw (twice!) with my dad in San Antonio in 1952. The stage was filled with feather flowers! But "showmanship" does not necessarily mean elaborate staging and a ton of props. Blackstone also demonstrated wonderful showmanship with just the Blooming Bouquet, performed on the apron.



*Kent Cummins performing
The Blooming Bouquet.*

Did my mentor, Louis Berkie, use showmanship with the S.S. Adams Ball and Vase at the Fun'N Magic Shop in San Antonio?

Did Doug Henning use showmanship to open a national television special with John Cornelius' Vanishing Nickel?

Did Ricky Jay use showmanship with little more than a deck of cards, his "52 Assistants?"

Of course!

David Copperfield, famous for such major illusions as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, uses showmanship in even the smallest illusion.

I was reminded of the importance of simplicity in showmanship while recently reading Part X of Rick Heath's marvelous column, "Magic in its Entirety," in *The Monthly Digital Magazine of The South African Magical Society*, June 2023 edition. With his permission, here is the opening paragraph:

"Though philosophical and scientific explanations of what makes certain tricks effective have their rightful place, the so-called 'average' person in an 'average' audience wants to be entertained. Period. And the 'average' person, whether adult or child, *loves* simple, innocent, understandable childlike games. This propensity seems to be 'hardwired' in the human psyche. Note well, childlike is not childish or aimless."

Rick is rightly known for his amazing artistic ability to create magnificent magical props, but in this piece, he gives wonderful examples of showmanship by some of the world's greatest magicians, with the emphasis on personality rather than props.

"Cesareo Pelaez, (Rick's mentor during his years with the *Le Grand David* company) once said that many tricks are merely forms of 'hide and seek' or 'peek-a-boo.' When Cesareo performed his stage-size Find the Lady, he would 'shuffle' the cards and say, 'Where is the Queen of Hearts?' He playfully challenged the audience to 'seek' the Queen 'hiding' among the Jacks. A magic trick was transformed into a delightful game of Hide and Seek."

Showmanship. Keep it simple.

"The Show Must Go On?"

Recorded in 1990 and released the next year, "The Show Must Go On" is the title of an amazing song written and performed by the hard-rock band Queen. But this legendary show business aphorism goes back much further than Queen.

The expression (and the principle) dates back to circuses in the nineteenth century.

Fred Scott Donaldson, referred to in the preceding section, often said in response to

this quotation (with a twinkle in his eye), “Why? It’s just a magic show!” Why, indeed?

There is even a quirky 1972 song written by Noel Coward, entitled, “Why Must the Show Go On?”

But in practice, Scott would do whatever it took to make sure “The Great Scott and Judy” did in fact go on. As professional entertainers, we owe it to our audiences to provide the show that they are anticipating ... and perhaps even a better show than that!

Those of us who are professional entertainers find a way to perform even when sick or dealing with personal problems.

The *Showmanship* must go on!

The Bottom Line

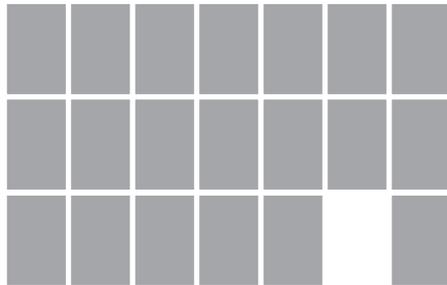
Houdini understood the importance of showmanship. So does David Copperfield. Perhaps the rest of us should pay attention!



Do you love magic? Me, too! Listen to “Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center” at www.fantasticmagiccenter.com. And consider supporting the Patreon account to help preserve and share the art of magic.

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

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Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



Before becoming President of the United States, George Washington stated in his diary that on September 19, 1769, he had attended court and spent the night in Alexandria, Virginia. During his visit, he witnessed a performance in sleight of hand. Speculation is that the most likely magician he saw was a performer named Peter Gardiner, who was also a puppeteer. George Washington once again saw Gardiner at a theatre in Williamsburg, Virginia, on November 17, 1772.

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

President Abraham Lincoln loved magic. In his youth, he would perform rudimentary magic tricks on anyone willing to watch him. As an adult, he would attempt to see as many magical performances as possible. He enjoyed magic so much that he made four trips to the Odd Fellows Hall, located approximately halfway between the White House and the Capitol, to witness the magic of the famous American-born magician John "Wyman the Wizard" Wyman.

Sid Lorraine had the uncanny ability to write and draw his comical caricatures and beautiful pictures with either hand.

The Houdini brownstone on 278 West 113 Street in Harlem, New York was built in an area populated with affluent German speakers in the early 1880s. The first residents were Thomas K. Moore and his wife, M.E. Moore. The first listing appeared in the *New York Herald* on April 5, 1896. The property was purchased on May 2, 1899, by Moses Kahn, his wife Henrietta Kahn, and Theresa Goldsmith with a ten-thousand-dollar mortgage from Seamens Bank.

Martin Gardner once used the pseudonym of George Growth.

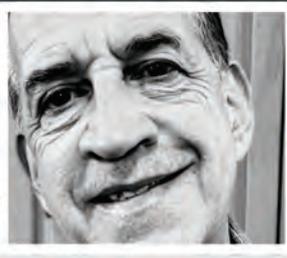
It was against the law to perform magic in public in 1750s-era Virginia. Despite that, William Byrd II – a member of the Virginia Governor's Council and founder of Richmond, Virginia – always welcomed his friend Thomas Bulling into his home. Bulling was the master of the ship *Dunkirk*, and would often drop by Byrd's house to entertain him and his family with tricks.

Howard Thurston was granted a patent for an anti-snoring device.

Tampa the Magician was a Carnegie Tech baseball team pitcher during the 1907 - 08 season.

One of Robert-Houdin's most trusted employees, LeGrand, served time in jail for making and selling replicas of some of Houdin's most amazing illusions.

Houdini's sister, Carrie Gladys Weiss, was almost totally blind from a childhood accident.



Teaching Magic

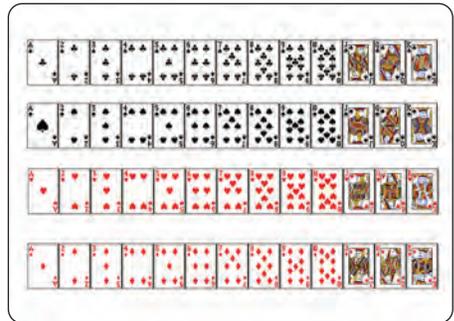
ROBERT DURANTE

As your summer winds down, now is the time to start contacting schools about doing after school programs. Most school districts have certain schools for “After School Programs.” They always need talented people who can teach something in a thirty-to-forty-minute classroom situation. Magic lends itself to science and math. If you can promote the idea that your magic workshops will teach kids all sorts of fun magic that is based on science and math, you have a great chance of being hired. Here is an opportunity for the many magicians who are looking for a place to perform.

You might want to volunteer for your first few semesters. Even after doing these classes for years, there are still some nearby libraries close where I continue to volunteer. I get more paying shows from these libraries than from anywhere else. The library staff also loves the fact that I am offering a “free program.” Librarians are great for word-of-mouth advertising. If they like what you do, they will tell any inquiring adult to call you. I am a real believer that what you give away comes back tenfold. Today, I have a great little treat for you and a bit of math magic to go with it.

The 52 on 1 card trick: Most of you probably have this novelty card. There are multiple uses for this, as you know. You can begin by taking a blank card and gluing it to the back of your 52 on 1 card. Write the word IT on the blank card. Now, put your card inside of an envelope. Decorate the envelope with question marks to make it look intriguing. Ask your helper to name any card in the deck. Wouldn't you be surprised if IT was inside the envelope? After they name their card, take out your 52 on 1 card with the IT side showing. “See, I told you IT was in the envelope.” After the groan, turn the

card over and reveal their card on the 52-card side. This idea, of course, is a groaner, but now take your invisible deck from your pocket (or have one in the envelope) and reveal that you really did know the card they were going to choose.



Here are two reveals that use math and allow you to have fun with your novelty card. Tell your spectator to think of a number between 10 and 52. Whatever the number is, add the two digits together. Next, subtract this new number from your original number. Now add together those double digits. You will always arrive at number 9 if your math is correct.

Example: They are thinking of the number 23. So, $2+3=5$ and $23-5=18$. $1+8=9$.

Here's a second example using the number 34. $3+4=7$ and $34-7=27$. $2+7=9$. Are you ready for another one? Ask someone to think of any number between 1 and 10. Ask them to write their single digit three times in a row. Now, add these three numbers together. Divide your three-digit number into your answer. For example, they are thinking of the number 7. $7+7+7=21$. 777 divided by $21=37$. Let's try it again. They think of the number 5. $5+5+5=15$, and 555 divided by $15=37$.

(continued on page 89)

International Brotherhood of Magicians
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting – Mr. Billy Hsueh
July 13, 2023
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – 11:00 a.m.



Call to Order

The Annual Business Meeting of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (I.B.M.) was held on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown. The meeting was called to order by International President Mr. Billy Hsueh at 11:09 a.m. (EDT). International Secretary Ms. Simone Marron was present to record the Minutes, and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes from 2022 Annual Business Meeting

The Minutes from the midyear meeting were approved by unanimous consent, and the Minutes Approval Committee was discharged from its duties.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Roll Call

The following members were in attendance:

Board Members – Mr. Billy Hsueh, Mr. Charles Arkin, Mr. Mike Dunagan, Ms. Simone Marron, Mr. Mike Woodward, Mr. Jeffrey Alan Brodrick, Mr. Rolando Santos, Mr. Dwight E. Redman, Mr. Jason Michaels, Mr. Keith Fields, Mr. David Garrard, Mr. Don Wiberg, Mr. Jep Hostetler, Mr. Jack Greenberg, Mr. William Evans, Mr. Shawn Farquhar, Mr. Oscar Munoz, Mr. Michael Stratman, Mr. Joe M. Turner, Mr. Alex Zander, and Mr. Stephen Bargatze.

Non-Board Members and guests included: Executive Editor of *The Linking Ring* Mr. Sammy Smith, Executive Secretary Mrs. Sindie Richison, and Legal Advisor Mr. Stephen Levine. The names of other guests in attendance were recorded separately.

Appointment of a Minutes Approval Committee

International President Mr. Billy Hsueh appointed Mr. Joe M. Turner, Mr. Keith Fields, and Mr. Mike Dunagan to the Minutes Approval Committee.

Reports of International Officers

Officers and Committee Chairs were asked to give a brief summary of their reports that appeared in the Big Book of Reports for the benefit of the members present at the meeting.

International President – Mr. Billy Hsueh. Mr. Hsueh has travelled extensively, hosted I.B.M. JAMS, and performed at many Rings. He has also supported social media revamping.

International President-Elect – Mr. Charles Arkin. Mr. Arkin has been representing the I.B.M. while attending conventions. He has also attended many Ring meetings virtually around the world and wishes to thank Mr. Alan Fisher and Mr. Ryan Pilling for running these events. Mr. Arkin has also served as convention co-chair and registration chair for the current convention. Mr. Arkin

will be attending the Barcelona Ring 401's first annual convention, the British Ring convention in Eastbourne, and the SAM convention in New Orleans. He looks forward to serving as International President.

International Vice President – Mr. Mike Dunagan. Mr. Dunagan has been working with the Marketing Committee and has implemented several programs. He has also been involved with convention promotion and show sales, as well as hosting the VIPs at the current convention.

International Treasurer – Mr. Mike Woodward. Mr. Woodward stated that there are enough financial resources to meet our obligations. However, we are facing a 2 percent decline of membership annually, and expenses are going up. The budget will need to be revised and adjusted to accommodate these changes.

International Secretary – Ms. Simone Marron. Ms. Marron continues to work with the office, members, and Board Members. She also continues to update the website, write for *The Linking Ring*, work on the administration of the Lance Burton Teen Seminar, and serve on the convention committee.

Report of Legal Advisor

Legal Advisor – Mr. Stephen Levine. Mr. Levine continues to work on legal matters for the I.B.M. He has assisted with O1 and P1 visas, contractual issues for next year's convention in Tacoma, and put together a Code of Conduct for Board Members. He is looking into copywrite issues, exposure, and monitoring potential lawsuits and grievances.

Reports of Committees & Cost Centers

Current & Upcoming Conventions – Mr. Oscar Munoz & Mr. Chuck Arkin. There are 361 paid registrations, and 427 in attendance in Pittsburgh. The 2024 convention will be held in Tacoma, Washington, and Dallas, Texas is a possibility for 2025, Detroit is being looked at for 2026. Hotel prices have increased greatly since the pandemic. The future site committee is trying to book three to four years ahead to save on hotel rates and trying to also create a new experience for everyone.

Executive Editor of *The Linking Ring* – Mr. Sammy Smith. Mr. Smith reported that the *Linking Ring* staff has had a busy and productive year publishing the magazine. Supply chain issues have resolved but prices have not come down. The contract with the printer has been renegotiated. A survey was sent out to members, and 78 percent still prefer to receive the print edition of the magazine.

Head Office International Executive Secretary – Mrs. Sindie Richison. The office deals on a daily basis with members and phone calls. Life membership packets are being sent out quickly, and Mrs. Richison requested that if anybody has ideas for a new life membership card, that they submit them to her. Mrs. Richison encouraged members to come to her for any assistance that they require.

Endowment & Development Fund – Mr. Bill Evans, Mr. Rolando Santos & Mr. Shawn Farquhar. The Endowment and Development Fund has provided a grant to an organization producing a documentary about the Armstrong family called *Going Fine since 1989 – The Magical Armstrongs*. The I.B.M. will be receiving a copy of the film for the website.

Membership Committee – Mr. Oscar Munoz. Membership numbers continue to decline. We need to focus on our membership and bringing in more youth. Mr. Muñoz is open to suggestions.

Ring Coordinator – Mr. Shawn Farquhar. Ring 401 in Barcelona was chartered with assistance from Ms. Simone Marron. They will be hosting their first convention this November. Ring 172 in Tucson was regenerated with the assistance of Mr. Stephen Levine. Mr. Farquhar visited Taiwan and would love to see a Ring chartered in Asia. The magician community over there is much younger than in the US. Many international countries are having a problem raising funds for I.B.M. membership. Ways to raise funds to help charter Rings, especially in South America, are being looked into.

Order of Merlin – Mr. Shawn Farquhar. Mr. Farquhar is honored to be the chair of this committee after serving under Past International President Mr. Jack Greenberg for many years. Mr. Farquhar has many new ideas, including starting this year with having an afternoon social instead of a breakfast. Pins and other items are being designed for Order of Merlin. There are 361 new Order of Merlins this year.

FISM Report – Mr. Shawn Farquhar. Mr. Farquhar stated that it has been an honor to serve as the I.B.M. representative on the FISM committee, but he is stepping down. Mr. Erik Tait who won a prize at FISM last year will take over his position. FISM meets monthly by Zoom. The I.B.M. put in a bid for the North American championship, but TAOM and SAM combined won the bid. Mr. Farquhar feels that as the largest North American club in the FISM organization, that the I.B.M. should be represented more.

TVP/Ring Counselor – Mr. Alan Fisher. Mr. Fisher stated that his first convention TVP meeting occurred that morning. There were seven TVPs in attendance. Mr. Fisher plans to revitalize the TVP program and link the Executive Committee and Rings through communication. He is hopeful that this will help membership.

Awards Committee – Ms. Melody Munoz. In Ms. Munoz’s absence, Mr. Oscar Munoz reported that they are in the process of redesigning the gold cups. They have been able to reduce the trophy costs by 50 percent.

Life Membership Committee – Mr. Tom Vorjohan. Mr. Vorjohan was not in attendance, but his report is in the *Big Book of Reports*. Mr. Vorjohan is stepping down from the Life Membership Committee.

Sick & Convalescent Committee – Mr. Jim Short. Mr. Short was not present at the meeting, but his report appears in the *Big Book of Reports*.

Marketing Committee – Mr. Jason Michaels. Mr. Michaels stated that the Marketing Committee was put together a year ago by PIP Mr. Ken Scott. Their goal is to spread the word, create more visibility, and increase membership, and convention registration. The Marketing Committee meets monthly on Zoom. They produced a first-timers reception at this convention, and with the help of Scott Cantrell, put together the *Pittsburgh Papers* for all the convention attendees. The Marketing Committee has also supported JAMs, publicity, advertising, produced monthly newsletters, and helped the Social Media Committee. Mr. Michaels stated that their product is excellent, so all should go out and spread the magic.

Necrology Service

The necrology service and breaking of the wand ceremony was carried out by Mr. Rolando Santos, Mr. Don Wiberg, and Mr. William Evans, to memorialize the members we lost during the previous year.

The Linking Ring Awards – Mr. Sammy Smith

The following *Linking Ring* awards were presented by Mr. Sammy Smith:

THE LINKING RING AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

DALE SALWAK

“A Portrait of the Professional”
2020 – 2023

RICK HEATH and HUNTER GAUL

“Magic: In Search of the Deeper Narrative”
2022 – 2023

CHRIS WOODWARD
“My Des Moines Memories”
May 2022

BRUCE THOMSON
“Memories of Len Vintus”
and
“Celebrating the Centennial”
June and July 2022

DAVID HAVERSAT
“The Ellison Collection Unearthed”
August 2022

DR. REZA SABERI
“The Hydrostatic Glass in History”
November 2022
and
“The Fate of Saadi Shirazi”
March 2023

ARIEL FRAILICH
“The Legacy:
An Eighty-Year Overview of I.B.M. Ring 17”
December 2022

RABBIT AND HAT CLUB
“Rabbit and Hat Club Parade”
December 2022

GARNET GARVEN
“One-Man Parade”
February 2023

ANDREW WOO
“Simple Diversions”
2013 – 2023

MICHAEL BREGGAR
“Auto-Magic”
2015 – 2023

THOMAS HENRY
“Rediscovering the Buddha Papers”
February 2023

BAMMAN-WILLMARTH TROPHY

SIMONE MARRON
For Contributions to *The Linking Ring*
2006 – 2023

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Order of Merlin Presentations – Mr. Shawn Farquhar. Order of Merlin presentations were made to all new Order of Merlin members, as well as those achieving a new tier.

Installation of Officers. The installation of officers was conducted by International President Mr. Billy Hsueh.

International President:	Mr. Charles Arkin
International President Elect:	Mr. Mike Dunagan
International Vice President:	Mr. Stephen Levine
International Treasurer:	Mr. Mike Woodward
International Secretary:	Ms. Simone Marron
Executive Committee:	Mr. Jeffrey Sobel 2023 – 2026
Executive Committee:	Mr. Scott Cantrell 2023 – 2026

There being no further business to come before the members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the International President Mr. Billy Hsueh adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m. (EDT) by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Simone Marron
I.B.M. International Secretary

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

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

U.S.A.

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

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

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

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

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

UTAH • Salt Lake City (193)

VERMONT • Manchester Center (245)
Montpelier (126)

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

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

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

WORLDWIDE

ARGENTINA • Buenos Aires (182)

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

AUSTRIA • Vienna (240)

BANGLADESH • Dhaka (279/295)

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

BULGARIA • Sofia (391)

CANADA

ALBERTA • Calgary (66) • Edmonton (28)

BRITISH COLUMBIA • Vancouver (92)

Victoria (183) • Abbotsford (387)

MANITOBA • Winnipeg (40)

NOVA SCOTIA • Halifax (316)

ONTARIO • Hamilton (49) • Kitchener (235)

London (265) • Fonthill (294)

North Bay (365) • Ottawa (151)

Peterborough (302) • Thunder Bay (304)

Toronto (17) (99) • Windsor (116)

QUEBEC • Montreal (62)

SASKATCHEWAN • Regina (309)

CHINA • China (311) • Macao (357)

Hong Kong (277) • Shanghai (400)

CUBA • Havana (399)

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

GERMANY • Kornwestheim (285) • Nuremberg (348)

GREECE • Athens (338)

GUATEMALA • Guatemala City (107)

HUNGARY • Budapest (281)

ICELAND • Reykjavik (371)

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

INDONESIA • Surabaya City (321)

IRELAND • Cork (363) • Dublin (85)

ISRAEL • Pardess-Hana (264)

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

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

Rome (204) • Trieste (353)

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

LATVIA • Riga (376)

MALAYSIA • Malaysia (373)

MALTA • Valletta (202)

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

NETHERLANDS • Utrecht (78)

NEW ZEALAND • Auckland (160)

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

PORTUGAL • Portugal (312)

SERBIA • Belgrade (396)

SINGAPORE • Singapore (115)

SPAIN • Barcelona (401)

SOUTH KOREA • Seoul (366) (372)

SWITZERLAND • Romandie Suisse (207)

TAIWAN • Taipei (360)

THAILAND • Ramkhanheng (369)

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

U.A.E. • Dubai (345)

UNITED KINGDOM • British (25)

THE UNIVERSE • Global Electronic Ring (2100)

VIETNAM • Ho Chi Minh City (378)

ZIMBABWE • (203)

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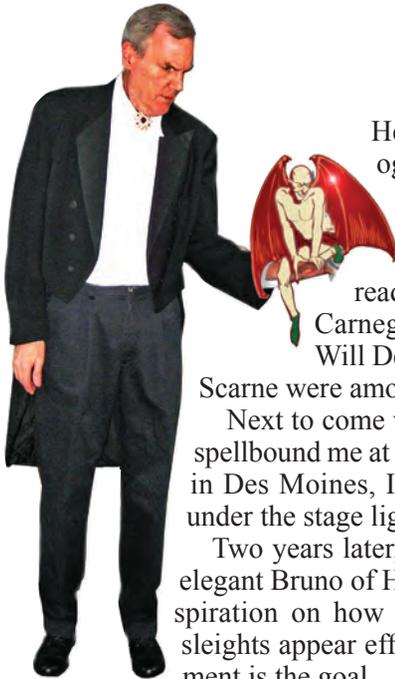


Thomas Henry One-Man Parade

Written by Thomas Henry

Edited by Lauren Jurgensen

Illustrated by Tony Dunn



Hello, I.B.M. colleagues! In lieu of the usual biographical sketch, may I instead just list a few key influences in my magical life? First, are the authors of note, for magic hooked me in 1959 when just beginning to learn how to read. Thanks to my hometown's magnificent old Carnegie library, writers such as Joseph Leeming, Will Dexter, Blackstone, Walter B. Gibson, and John Scarne were among my earliest heroes.

Next to come was Dunninger. In 1965 that titan of our craft spellbound me at the gala public show of the I.B.M. Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Indeed, I even stood right next to him under the stage lights as a member of his audience committee!

Two years later, I was taking private magic lessons from the elegant Bruno of Holland (Gerard Bruning). He was ever my inspiration on how to act naturally and how to make difficult sleights appear effortless, whilst never forgetting that entertainment is the goal.

Also in 1967, at the Abbott's Get-Together, I was fortunate to meet Duke Stern. His impish and outlandish persona greatly influenced the path my own stage character was just beginning to take.

In a very humble way, I hope you'll notice just a tiny smidgen of those encounters in the following routines. Each offering is introduced with a line or two from my actual performance scripts, to give you a feel for the setting. But as in my previous three One-Man Parades, even if the presentations don't grab you, I'll be delighted if you find a useful method for your own creations.

The Case for Radiesthesia

The following may be one of the most straightforward demonstrations of sightless divination you'll ever find. The required actions are exceedingly carefree and hands-off. Thanks to that simplicity, you can focus almost exclusively upon the presentation.

PERFORMANCE: "Divination of an unseen object by means of a mystic pendulum dates back to at least the 1500s when that practice was first publicly noticed, then banned by both the Catholic Church and Martin Luther. Nonetheless, though perhaps driven underground, its popularity has never waned, right on up to modern times. Indeed, one can still hear reports of the pendulum being used to locate hidden sources of water, and even to uncover clues in unsolved criminal cases."

So saying, the performer proposes to demonstrate such and brings forth a flat black box and a deck of playing cards. The cards are handed to the participant who shuffles them as desired. In fact, the performer never touches the cards throughout.

The box is opened out flat upon the table like a book and is seen to contain a necklace. Turning his back, the performer instructs the participant to remove any card from the deck without looking at it and place it in the empty side of the box. She is also to remove the necklace and set it aside, then close up the box. The performer now turns back.

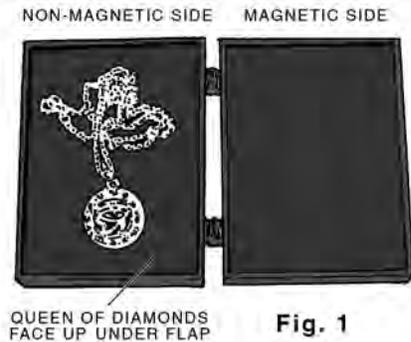
At this point, then, the closed box contains a playing card neither the performer nor the participant knows. And yet, as the performer dangles the necklace over the box, using it as a pendulum, he proceeds to divine the hidden card's value and suit.

PROPS: You'll need one of those hinged gaffed card cases featuring a flap which conceals or reveals a card, depending how the box is held and opened. Here it's employed to switch out the chosen card for a force card. This is an old well-known prop, but you'll want to use a more modern style featuring a magnetic flap. In that way, after the exchange is made, the flap is

locked in place, letting you rest easy. I like the T-40 card case made by Tenyo.

As for the necklace, you'll require something with a pendant which is thin enough to rest within the card case when the latter is closed. I use a silver amulet with the Eye of Horus engraved upon it, about an inch in diameter and one-eighth inch thick. The chain is a dainty one intended as a lady's necklace. Remarkably, though gorgeous and intriguing, I got it, including the chain, for a couple dollars off of eBay.

Finally, a regular deck of cards is also needed. To prepare for the performance, remove the Queen of Diamonds from the deck and set it face up within the non-magnetic side of the card case; this is the card to be forced. Cover it with the loose black flap, then lay the necklace on top (**Fig. 1**).



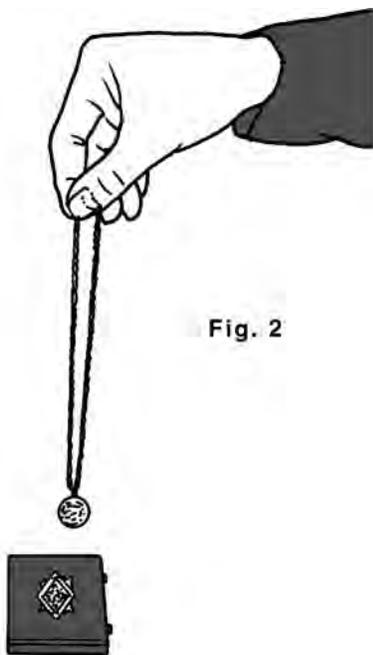
Close it all up. Incidentally, subtly mark the top of the case in some way so you can confirm its orientation when commencing the routine.

METHOD: This is so easy to prosecute that you can devote yourself entirely to embellishing the theme and patter. As for the handling, just follow the actions described above in the performance; everything's pretty automatic. But here are a few comments to further guide you along.

As a reminder, at the outset, the deck only contains fifty-one cards, with the Queen of Diamonds already loaded in the prop card case. Observe that it's the participant herself who swaps the force card for

her random card. This happens as soon as she closes the case. Moreover, thanks to the magnetic flap, from then on there are no worries about the secret being revealed; the dud card is locked in place.

Letting the necklace dangle from your fingertips like a pendulum, you'll divine what the card in the box must be by asking some yes/no questions of the spirits (**Fig. 2**).



In particular, if it swings in a circle, then the answer is “yes,” but if it swings left and right, the answer is “no.” The questions I use, sequentially, are:

1. Is it a black card? (No, so it must be red.)
2. Is it a heart? (No, so it must be a diamond.)
3. Is it a spot card? (No, so it must be a court card.)
4. Is the court card masculine? (No, so it must be a queen.)
5. And for confirmation, is it the Queen of Diamonds? (Yes.)

To conclude, open up the card case and spill out the Queen of Diamonds, confirming what the pendulum indicated. Thanks to the magnetic locking nature of the case,

you can be completely nonchalant how you do this.

FINAL THOUGHTS: Though simple, I'll ask you to note several subtleties which make this routine so sensible. First, a prop card case in most situations seems weird or suspicious. But here it's neatly justified, without uttering a single word: it's merely a jewelry box holding the necklace.

Also note how the necklace remains in the left side when the latter lies open upon the table. It will be patently obvious to the participant she is to place her card in the free right side. Because of that, you can indeed remain turned away while she acts; there's no confusion where the card should go.

Moreover, when the participant next extracts the necklace, the left side will now be empty, making it plain that's the portion she'll lever up and over to close the box. As mentioned, this is when the switch occurs, and it's the participant who does it!

When employing the pendulum, do it “for real.” If you've never wielded one before, then look up the term “ideomotor response” on the Internet, and get ready to surprise yourself.

Animalia

The following routine skirts around the Chinese zodiac and is actually a prediction deep down inside. However, it's presented as a test of the performer's ability to sense hidden vibrations, something audiences are far more likely to buy into than astrology or precognition.

PERFORMANCE: “Over the centuries, many mystics have claimed all tangible objects resonate and vibrate on a subliminal level. At an early age I discovered I could pick up on these sensations no one else seemed to notice. Let me show you. To give this more of a personal touch, let's try something with these charms from the Chinese zodiac.”

With this introduction, the performer removes twelve aged brass charms from a velvet pouch. These bear the animals of Chinese astrology. The claim is made that each of us has an animal associated with

our past, another with our present, and another with our future.

While the performer is turned away, the participant cups the charms in her hands, shakes them around, then spreads them out face down upon the table. The performer turns back and claims to be sensing some sort of psychic emanation from one of them. He picks it up, sight unseen, and encloses it within the pouch for later.

“Based upon the vibrations, I feel certain **this** is your future, and we’ll see what it is in just a bit. But first I want you to reach out and select the charm you think might represent your past.”

After turning it over, a few comments concerning that animal’s significance ensue. The performer then brings forth an attractive placard sporting a wheel with the Chinese zodiac animals arranged around it. He also has a small figurine which will be used like a token in a board game, and sets it down upon the wheel.

The participant now spells out the name of the past animal she just selected, moving the figurine around the wheel clockwise, one letter at a time. In this way, she arrives at her present animal, which is again interpreted.

But for the big conclusion, the participant continues around the wheel while spelling out the name of that present animal, and arrives at the Dragon.

When the hidden charm is removed from the pouch, it’s seen that the performer had accurately predicted that very beast, way back at the start of the test.

PROPS: This routine really has an exotic and mysterious feel to it thanks to the gorgeous (yet inexpensive) props. First, you’ll need the twelve Chinese zodiac charms. The set I got from Amazon is some sort of brass colored metal which has aged and tarnished perfectly. The price was around ten bucks for the set.

The force animal for this routine is the Dragon. The back of its charm needs to have some subtle identifying mark so that you’ll recognize it when face down. I was able to memorize a slight natural blemish on mine. Even with lousy vision, I’m able to recognize it easily.

You’ll also require a miniature figurine to serve as the token with which the participant spells around the wheel. I use an attractive small brass Buddha purchased from Amazon. This ties in nicely, since by a rather sweet Buddhist parable, the twelve animals involved here were the ones which had been so loyal to him.

You’ll also want a small velvet pouch not only to house the charms and figurine when in transit, but also to serve as the prediction container. These too can be found at Amazon.

Finally, you’ll need a placard bearing the wheel of animals. I designed mine with a vector art program, printed it in color on marbled card stock, and laminated it for durability. The forcing wheel appears on the front, along with some attractive ancient Chinese emblems, motifs, and words (Fig. 3).

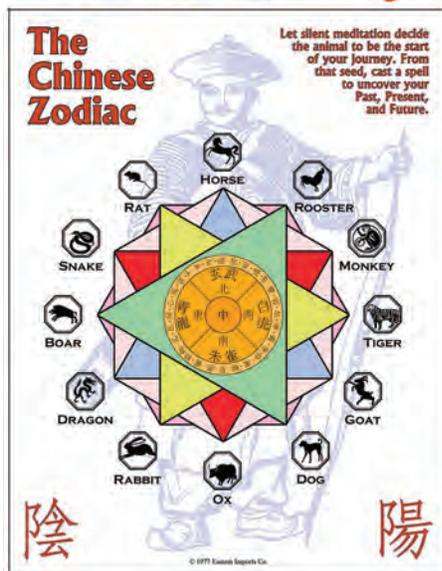


Fig. 3

On the back are the psychological meanings of the twelve animals, and a little bit of mystical history. However, the reverse side is just for theatrics and otherwise plays no part in the handling.

METHOD: This is so cool! After much experimentation, I was able to discover a way in which any animal representing the past will spell to a present animal, which itself will then spell to the forced future animal, the Dragon. Here are the details.

The animals are arranged clockwise around the wheel in the following order starting at twelve o'clock: Horse, Rooster, Monkey, Tiger, Goat, Dog, Ox, Rabbit, Dragon, Boar, Snake, and Rat.

Let's see an example of the action. Suppose the participant has selected the Tiger as her past animal. Beginning with the figurine above the twelve o'clock position, she'll spell out: T-I-G-E- R. Thus, the participant winds up on the Goat which becomes her present animal. Continuing from there, she spells out G-O-A-T clockwise and lands on the Dragon, as predicted.

This will always be the case for the animals corresponding to twelve o'clock through seven o'clock, i.e., Horse through Rabbit.

For the Boar, Snake, and Rat (nine o'clock through eleven o'clock) however, the figurine instead commences from that animal itself. For example, if the participant reckons her past animal to be the Boar, she begins with the figurine sitting upon it and spells out its name. So, B-O-A-R lands her on the Rooster, her present animal. Then spelling R-O-O-S-T-E-R directs her to the Dragon as before.

Note that the Dragon can never be her past animal since you removed that charm as your prediction at the outset. That's the extremely subtle reason for using charms in this routine (apart from their inherent theatrical interest), and is the real secret to making it all work out so neatly. As a brief recap then,

- If the participant's past animal is one of the selections of Horse through Rabbit, she begins with the charm above the Horse. Thus, her first letter spelled commences on the Horse.

- If her past animal is Boar, Snake, or Rat, then she begins moving from that animal itself. Her first letter commences on the following animal.

- It's impossible for the participant to choose the Dragon for her past animal, since you removed it as your prediction at the outset.

So, it's simple as can be to know which of the two spots to set the figurine to start the ball rolling. Once you've done that, you can then sit back and watch it inexorably lead to the Dragon.

FINAL THOUGHTS: To add some meaning, it's worth mentioning to your audience that in the evolution of the English language, it's no accident the two uses "spell the word" and "casting a spell" grew up side by side.

Ever the Twain Shall Meet

Here's a truly amusing telepathic routine with a surprising overkill type of climax. Whenever I perform it, subtle smiles spontaneously arise in the audience as the members begin to recognize the characters. It's easily performed with the deck from the classic game *Authors*. Each card in this lovely deck bears the title of some famous novel and a portrait of its author.

PERFORMANCE: "Just for fun, let's try a little exercise in creative visualization. I want you to imagine you and I are stepping into a massive old public library, filled top to bottom with all manner of books, books, and even more books. Take a moment to mentally picture that."

Saying this, the performer brings forth a cased pack of cards. Continuing, "We can let this fun card game represent what's available in the library."

Extracting the pack and setting the case aside, the performer show that it consists of fifty-two cards bearing the titles of various books. He gives it a quick shuffle, then slides it to the participant.

"With so many books to choose from, we need to whittle things down a bit. So, take the cards in your hands and start dealing some into a single face-down pile."

The participant has complete freedom in how this is done. She can deal cards from

the top, the bottom, and the middle, and even deal them out in clumps of two, three, or more. The performer indicates she's to stop when she has ten or twenty cards or so.

"Set the remainder aside. Those books have already been checked out and aren't available. However, the ones you've decided upon represent the books sitting upon a single shelf in that old library."

"Since we're each going to check out a book, take your cards and deal out two piles, back and forth, one for me and one for you." The participant does so.

She's invited to take the top card of her pile, look at and psychically transmit the title of that book to the performer. After suitable histrionics, the performer announces it to be *Huckleberry Finn*. The participant finally reveals her card, proving the performer correct.

"I have to tell you, though, that's the very book I wanted to check out. But since you got there first, I'll have to go with another one, all about Huckleberry's best friend. I'm sure you know who that is!"

The performer turns over the top card of his pile, and of course, it's *Tom Sawyer*.

"But you know, we were probably destined to choose those two books, for upon stepping into the library together, did you happen to notice that magnificent old portrait hanging over the bookshelf? No? Why it's the author of both, Mark Twain!"

So saying, the performer turns the card case face up, which has been off to the side thus far. Appearing on the back is a beautiful rendition of the author himself. And so there are three rapid-fire surprises, with Huckleberry Finn, Tom Sawyer, and Mark Twain beaming away on the close-up pad for the final display (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

PROPS: All you need for this is the *Au-*

thors card game, manufactured by U. S. Game Systems. I got my set from Amazon for seven dollars, but it's probably available from a number of game stores or online sources.

The only preparation is to subtly mark the back of the Tom Sawyer card. I made a tiny brown ink blob imperfection. Then stack Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn atop the deck in either order, and slip the deck within its case.

METHOD: You may have recognized the easy method employed here as the venerable Re-Deal Force. Although older than the hills, with well-timed misdirection it's still deceptive as all get-out.

Follow along in the Performance, above, and I'm sure you'll know what to do at once. But here's a skeleton outline for quick reference.

1. Remove the deck from its case. Set it down so the portrait of Mark Twain on the back remains concealed until the climax.

2. Optionally, riffle shuffle the deck, maintaining the top two cards.

3. Hand the deck to the participant.

4. She starts dealing a single face-down pile.

5. After she's dealt the first two cards sequentially, you can then tell her, as if an afterthought, that she's free to deal them any way desired. Make the most of this.

6. The participant sets the remainder aside.

7. To make the Re-Deal Force truly deceptive, stop for some sensible time misdirection at this point. Embellish the theme of visualizing a library for example, or even better is to ask a question. The main thing is to break the flow between what the participant's just done and what's to come.

8. After the pause, the participant deals two piles, one for you and one for herself.

9. Huckleberry Finn will be atop one pile, with Tom Sawyer atop the other. The marked back tells you which is which, and it's easy to adjust your patter accordingly.

10. The participant mentally transmits her book's title to you, and you successfully receive it for the first surprise.

11. You turn your card over revealing that protagonist’s best friend, for the second surprise. Again, the mark or absence thereof tells you if it will be Huckleberry or Tom.

12. Finally, turn the case over revealing the portrait of Mark Twain for the third surprise.

FINAL THOUGHTS: According to the online resource, *Conjuring Credits*, elements of the Re-Deal force date back to at least 1669! And the *Authors* game, still in print, first appeared in 1861.

In step 5 of the handling, above, after the first two cards are dealt, the participant is free to rattle things however she wants. This nuance, common in many routines now, is perhaps due to the late Ray Goulet. As an early source, see it described in Phil Goldstein’s, *The Green Book of Mentalism*, (no place: self-published, 1977), p. 18. You’ll also find it in the late Max Maven’s *Prism*, (Seattle: Hermetic Press, Inc., 2005), p. 128.

Symbol-Eyes

Not long ago, Bob Malinchock gave us his excellent “Test of Clairvoyance,” *The Linking Ring*, Volume 102, Number 10, October 2022, pp. 89, 90. The method requires virtually no mental effort at all on the part of the performer. While his handling falls under the category of divination, it struck me that a ranging force also comes along for free. I’m quite partial to ranging forces due to their inherent freedom.

Number effects don’t grab me, but I do love mathematical methods. So, I took Malinchock’s working, reinterpreted it as a ranging force in tandem with the divination, and morphed it all into a word test.

PERFORMANCE: “I don’t know about you, but I could spend hours in art galleries. My favorite works are from the Renaissance, for they always seemed to combine great beauty with all sorts of hidden secrets. In other words, such masterpieces appeal to the intellect as well as the emotions. The symbols were often quite involved so I picked up this card summa-

rizing some of the common ones to watch out for.”

With this introduction, the performer brings forth a placard entitled “Common Symbols Appearing in Renaissance Artwork” (Fig. 5). To ensure the participant is not influenced by conscious predilection, the performer has her select one of these fifty symbols by chance alone.



Fig. 5

In particular, he gives her five double-sided tokens bearing the numbers 1 through 10 (Fig. 6). She shakes them in her hands then lays them down upon the table in any fashion desired.



Fig. 6

The performer turns away now. To make things even fairer, he instructs the participant to flip all five tokens over, thus revealing their hidden faces for the first time.

She adds them up to arrive at a grand total.

Finally, the participant refers to the placard and looks up the artistic symbol corresponding to that result, then covers the tokens with the placard.

Turning around, the performer requests the participant to psychically transmit a mental image of her symbol. The vibrations are received accurately, and the performer is able to accurately state three such impressions which came to him: (1) it's a member of the vegetable kingdom, (2) it's an ornamental plant, and finally, (3) the exact symbol.

PROPS: First, you'll require a placard bearing the symbols and their meanings. This is straightforward to create on card stock with a personal computer and printer. The front bears the fifty numbered symbols. The reverse side can be decorated however you want since it plays no part in the method. The back of mine features a painting by Botticelli, meanings of the symbols and a quotation concerning artistic symbolism.

Then you'll need the number tokens which are labeled the same as those employed in Malinchock's routine cited above. I wanted mine to have some heft, so I fabricated them from shiny stainless steel stamping disks, available inexpensively at craft stores and from Amazon. I used water-slide decals for the numbers, and protected them with a light coat of acrylic spray.

METHOD: To fully appreciate what's new here, first consider the ranging force aspect of the method. With the tokens, there are only six possible numeric outcomes: 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40. To make everything seem more difficult to the audience, note that the placard sports fifty symbols, but in truth only the six at the numbers just mentioned can be chosen.

Now the symbols can be divided into three categories, and you'll want to mention this in your patter. In particular, they can come from the mineral kingdom, animal kingdom, or vegetable kingdom. Moreover, the vegetable kingdom is di-

vided in two: edible plants (like the apple or potato) and ornamental plants (like the daisy or rose). The six ranging force outcomes mentioned above are all members of the vegetable kingdom, and moreover are all ornamental plants. In other words, these are two things you can be assured of before the participant makes any decisions at all.

To get the specific symbol, we now call upon the divinatory method Malinchock described. To wit, when the participant sets the tokens down, right before you turn away, simply note how many faces show a value of five or below. It's that simple!

So, you have that number in mind. Now what? Well, observe the following. If you spotted no tokens being five or below, then the participant's symbol will end up being the daisy. If you spotted one token only in that range, then the symbol will be the rose, and similarly for the remaining possibilities. Examine this list which shows the number of the tokens along with the associated symbol.

0	daisy
1	rose
2	marigold
3	sunflower
4	fern
5	aster

These have been arranged to make them a breeze to remember; just think of the colors of the rainbow. Let white be zero, and the daisy has a white bloom. But when white light splits into the spectrum, the lowest color is red, the color of a rose. The second color is orange, corresponding to the marigold. The third is the yellow sunflower, the fourth a green fern and the fifth a blue aster. If desired, you could even make the revelation of the color part of what you psychically receive.

To recap, it's as simple as this: after the participant has set the tokens down, merely notice how many show a value of five or below. Mentally translate that to a color, and then to a flower. As a reminder, after you turn away, the participant will be totaling the hidden sides, which makes this

even more deceptive. The tokens and the placard take care of all the dirty work for you.

FINAL THOUGHTS: While certainly not required, to make this even more fair appearing you could employ the well-known Theodore Annemann “over the shoulder” glimpse to spot the tokens at the outset. It’s described in his “The Mystery of the Blackboard,” *The Jinx*, Number 1, October 1934, p. 4.

Malinchock credits Harry Reeve’s “Choices to Infinity Prediction,” *The Linking Ring*, Volume 96, Number 1, January 2016, pp. 77, 78, as his source of inspiration.

The Oracle of Cumae

I concocted this word test after coming across some unusual dice bearing Roman numerals instead of spots. As for the method, the hidden use of synonyms might surprise you.

PERFORMANCE: “I’ve always been interested in historical and mythical accounts of soothsaying. These quite literally span the globe, from the Oracle of Delphi in ancient Greece, to the *I Ching* of China, to the Mayan *chilanes* who foretold the coming of the Spaniards. But the one that really captivates me is the Oracle of Cumae which was consulted by the ancient Romans in times of strife. The Sibyl of this oracle, as recounted in that famous epic poem, *The Aeneid*, made her prophesies by means of symbols. Let’s try a bit of thought transference using those very same mental images.”

Handed a pair of dice, the participant is surprised to find them labeled with Roman numerals (Fig. 7). She rolls them out.



Fig. 7

The performer then displays an attractive sheet bearing a table of thirty-six Latin words (Fig. 8). These are archetypes or

symbols the original Sibyl might have employed when peering into the future. The performer now turns away to give the participant some privacy.



Fig. 8

The participant turns the two dice over completely, exposing the unknown hidden faces for the very first time. Guided by one die, she locates the associated row on the sheet. Then the other identifies the associated column. Thus, a unique Latin word is determined lying at the intersection.

Resting upon the table from the outset has been a Latin dictionary. Referring to it now, the participant looks up the English meaning of her word. She then closes it up, flips the Sibyl’s sheet face down and covers the dice so all clues are obscured.

The performer turns back, and proceeds to read the participant’s mind, telepathically receiving the English meaning of her selected Latin word.

PROPS:

First, lay your hands on a pair of dice bearing Roman numerals. You’ll find some beauties made of fine wood on Amazon, costing about a dollar each. Just search there for “Roman dice.”

I was surprised upon receiving them to discover they don’t obey the usual 7’s-complement property of gaming dice. In fact, the pairs of numbers differ, employing 6’s-, 7’s- and 8’s-complements. In particular, the opposing faces are arranged as: 2 + 4 = 6, 1 + 6 = 7 and 3 + 5 = 8. This actually lends a neat bit of obfuscation to throw off know-it-alls in the audience.

Next, print off a sheet bearing a table of the thirty-six symbols. I printed mine in color on rip-proof vinyl “paper,” also found at Amazon. Thus, it can be folded and stored within the pages of the dictionary, and yet will last a long time.

As for the latter, I specifically designed this routine around the *Pocket Oxford Latin Dictionary* (Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 2005) due to its larger, easy-to-read type style, and also because it’s free of grammatical jargon which would get in the way. So, the participant will have no trouble locating her Latin word, then reading its English meaning. Incidentally, I picked up a second-hand copy on Amazon for five dollars. It’s a very popular school book and commonly available.

METHOD: Before we get into the handling, let’s examine what’s going on with the words on the sheet. As mentioned, there are thirty-six words but thanks to some cleverness, you need only know twenty-one English translations. These have been carefully chosen to work smoothly with the standard phonetic alphabet employed within mnemonic systems for memory training. This is something every mental magician really ought to be familiar with. If you’re not currently using mnemonics in your work, you’re missing out on a great tool.

Here’s the complete list of what you need to learn:

- 11 Toad
- 12 Singing (tune)
- 13 Lifetime (time)
- 14 Door
- 15 Riches (till)
- 16 Dish
- 22 Onion
- 23 Name
- 24 Fire (Nero)
- 25 River (Nile)
- 26 Food (nosh)
- 33 Mother (mom)
- 34 Marriage (marry)
- 35 Letter (mail)
- 36 Lamp (match)
- 44 Rower
- 45 Paper (roll)

- 46 Rage
- 55 Lily
- 56 Blood (leech)
- 66 Judge

Half of these entries associate directly with their number, while the other half pass through by way of synonyms or associations, shown in parentheses. All, however, make sense and are easy to visualize. For example, 23 is NAME, since 2 corresponds to N in the standard phonetic scheme, while 3 corresponds to M. Vowels, of course, are inconsequential in mnemonic systems.

As another example, 56 corresponds to LEECH (5 = L and 6 = CH), but then this is associated with BLOOD (which leeches feed on). Think in terms of pictures and the connections are a snap.

So, assuming you know the standard phonetic alphabet, you should be able to master these in the time it takes to make a soft-boiled egg and consume it. It took me around ten minutes to nail them.

Here’s where it really gets cool! The numbers you just learned for these words are not the ones appearing in the table on the sheet. They are in fact those hidden from view on the **bottoms** of the dice after the participant has cast them. In one fell swoop, tedious mental computation is jettisoned!

Let me make this clear with an example. Suppose the participant has rolled a 1 and a 4 (I and IV in Roman numerals). You spot this right before turning away, and by the phonetic alphabet know the eventual word will be DOOR (1 = D and 4 = R). However, while you’re not watching, the participant turns the two dice over, bringing the bottom-most or hidden faces upward. These will be a 6 and 2, respectively. She refers to the Latin word in row 6 and column 2, which is *IANUA*. Upon looking it up in the dictionary, she’ll find the meaning to be “door.”

But wait, it gets even better. It makes no difference in which order the participant carries out her actions. Continuing this example, suppose she instead refers to row 2 and column 6. The word there is *VALVAE*, which also means “door.” In short, I’ve worked things out so that Latin synonyms

ensure the participant can only arrive at twenty-one English words. This really lets you breathe easy while cutting down on procedural chatter as well.

We can now wiz through the handling and see the layering in action.

1. The participant freely rolls the dice.
2. You spot the exposed faces and will instantly know the eventual English word.

3. The hidden faces, not those exposed, are used by the participant. Scripting can add wonderful meaning to this.

4. The participant refers to the Latin word in the table based upon the row and column designated by the new faces of the dice once turned over. And the order makes no difference.

5. But then she finds the English meaning of that Latin word in the dictionary, and this is what's mentally transmitted.

In the final analysis, the method is simply this: a peek plus mnemonics plus synonyms. I hesitate to even call this a peek, since thanks to the layering, there's really no need to be overly furtive. But if you want, you could wheel out Annemann's "over-the-shoulder" gambit mentioned previously.

Final Thoughts:

I embellished my sheet with an image of the Sibyl of Cumae, painted by the fifteenth century Italian artist Andrea del Castagno. As for the text, I deliberately kept it all in Latin. That at the bottom is straight from Virgil's *Aeneid* which describes the Sibyl making a prophecy. I also embedded images of the Roman dice, along with the slogan: *Alea iacta est*. These words, once uttered by Julius Caesar, mean "the die is cast," which seems fitting here.

By the way, the Sibyl of Cumae's cave still exists and is open to the public in Italy.

And He Dealt a Crooked Deck

Here's an absolutely zany routine with a startling climax. The theme is a fascinating one, concerning the fourth dimension, ripe for all manner of theatrical embellishment.

PERFORMANCE: "With all our usual daily concerns, most people are firmly convinced we seem to live in a three-dimensional world of length, width, and height, and never give it another thought. So, if we wish to move an object from one place to another, that movement will always be visible and obvious. On the other hand, Victorian mathematicians were the first to suggest there may actually be a physical fourth dimension not apparent to our three-dimensional eyes, and through which anything can be transported invisibly."

The performer proposes a demonstration. A packet of four nested papers is unwrapped revealing a mysterious Egyptian talisman. He claims that the ancients from those days actually had discovered the secret of teleportation, that is, moving solid objects invisibly through the fourth dimension. In fact, initiates may have employed such to move the huge blocks of stone from which the pyramids were built. The talisman is set aside for a moment, and a deck of playing cards brought forth.

The cards are shown to be all different, and then the participant selects one, keeping it secret. Let's say it's the Seven of Diamonds. After memorizing it, she places it face down upon the smallest paper, which is then wrapped up. This is set upon the next paper and again folded shut. And likewise for the remaining leaves. Thus, the participant's chosen card is embedded within a nest of folded papers four levels deep. The performer mentions that these represent the four dimensions alluded to previously.

The talisman is placed atop the packet. The performer, holding his hands over the bundle concentrates and claims he can feel the participant's card rising up out of our ordinary three dimensions, turning over 180 degrees, then lying down again, completely reversed. Of course, since this all took place in the fourth dimension, no one in the audience perceived that movement.

The talisman is set aside and the papers unwrapped, and in a big disappointment, the card is seen to be still lying face down.

"Oh, something went wrong. But I could

have sworn I felt it moving through the fourth dimension,” says the dejected performer. “Wait a minute. By any chance was your card a red one?” The participant acknowledges it.

“Well, that explains it,” he states, trying to save face. “Red cards have more friction than black ones and are harder to turn over. Still, I could have sworn I felt **something** moving just now. Maybe I got at least half of it right. Let’s see what happened.”

The participant picks up her card again and lo, the face shows a mirror image of the freely selected Seven of Diamonds. The ink on the card has turned over, but not the pasteboard itself!

PROPS: The instant you saw “four papers” mentioned, I bet you surmised this must be a take on that old chestnut, the Buddha Money Mystery. This is a centuries-old switching device which is still entirely serviceable for modern routines in the right setting. In the unlikely event the prop is new to you, be sure to see my article, “Rediscovering the Buddha Papers,” *The Linking Ring*, Volume 103, Number 2, February 2023, pp. 38-41, 146.

You can buy them commercially from most magic shops, but I made up my own set. To enhance the theme, the words “Length,” “Width” and “Height” appear on the three larger papers, respectively. And on the innermost, I printed a traditional image of Ouroboros (the snake devouring its own tail) to represent the fourth dimension (**Fig. 9**).

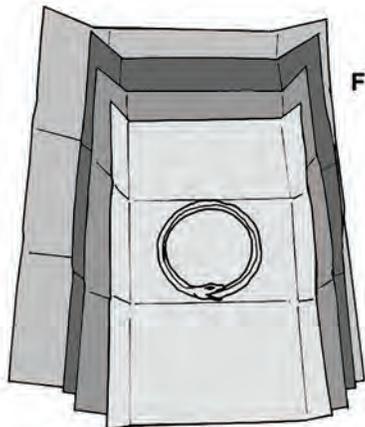


Fig. 9

You’ll also require a reversed- or mirror-image playing card matching the one you intend to force. There are indeed specialty shops online who can print these for you, but it’s simple enough to make your own. Here’s how I did it at home in under twenty minutes with a personal computer, scanner, and color printer.

Scan your force card and bring that file into an art program of some sort. Even the simplest graphics software will have the ability to flip the image left-to-right. Then print that out on a page of full-sheet mailing label material. You can find these white sticky-back sheets at stationers and Amazon, for instance.

Cut out the reversed image, peel off the backing, then affix it to a blank-face card whose back matches your full deck. Trim everything up, then round the corners as needed. The one I came up with looks absolutely splendid (**Fig. 10**). But note that the fake and the deck are never seen together, so it doesn’t really matter if the two fail to match perfectly.



Fig. 10

You’ll also require a deck of playing cards. Obviously the Seven of Diamonds (in this example) will be forced. If you have good card technique, you can do this with an ordinary deck. For the sake of being direct, I opted simply to go with a Mirage Deck to carry out the force. Other possibilities would include the Svengali or Pop-Eyed Popper Decks.

Last of all, you’ll want some sort of interesting talisman which is claimed to possess the power. I found an intriguing one on eBay for a dollar.

METHOD: If you know a card force and you know how the Buddha Papers work, you won’t need me to say much

more. Just look back to the description of the performance. Schematically, all that's happening is that a card is forced and then switched for its mirror-image twin. It's that simple.

Well not quite. Two things come to mind. First, there's actually a fair amount of subtlety involved in the unfolding and folding of the Buddha Papers, just to lull the audience into believing in their fairness. You'll want to rehearse exactly how you'll open and close them to conceal the fact one is a double.

Just as important, be sure to make good use of time misdirection. The selected card is wrapped up, the talisman set atop the packet, and finally the papers are unwrapped. Make that middle step meaningful and interesting. The reason, of course, is so the audience won't connect how you folded and unfolded things, for obviously a switch must occur somewhere along the line.

FINAL THOUGHTS: A great part of making the papers seem innocuous is by giving them meaning. In this routine, when the bundle is first brought forward it's seen to house something important and precious: the talisman. So, it comes across as a sort of wallet.

But more, that there are four papers ties in perfectly with the theme of the fourth dimension. When flashing them singly, I mention that one paper represents length, the next width, the next height, and the last that mysterious fourth dimension which has no common name in our everyday world. It's all nonsense, right? No, for this actually imparts an internal logic to why you're using **four** papers.

You can really go to town with a script for this fun routine. May I recommend you take a peep at that excellent short story from the 1940s, "And He Built a Crooked House," penned by famed science-fiction writer Robert Heinlein? It's a hilarious, yet scientifically accurate tale of the fourth dimension which will give you lots of intriguing hooks upon which to hang a presentation.

The Four Humors

Here's a neat prop for carrying out a very direct and swift star sign (zodiac sign) divination. While it could stand on its own, I designed it more for use within a multi-phase or layered routine, say with a nail writer, book of celebrity birthdates, one-ahead business, etc.

PERFORMANCE: The performer initiates a brief discussion on "The Four Humors." This curious notion, dating back to the ancient Greeks and persisting on up into the seventeenth century, holds that a person's character is determined by four mysterious fluids coursing throughout the body. These account for four basic personality types: choleric, melancholic, phlegmatic, and sanguine. And mixtures of these in various proportions give rise to the twelve star sign traits from astrology.

The participant is asked to focus upon a secret star sign. The performer hands four intriguing cards to her. These bear various occult interpretations of the Four Humors, and are sprinkled with symbols of the zodiac in assorted combinations. The participant looks them over and keeps any cards bearing the symbol of the star sign she's thinking of, setting the others aside. Instantly the performer divines that star sign.

PROPS: You'll need to make six cards for this. Four of them relate to the humors and the zodiac symbols (**Fig. 11**). The remaining two are informational cards and play no part in the method (**Fig. 12**). They simply explain the symbols and also display the dates associated with the star signs for participants not knowing them.

I designed my set with computer artwork software and printed everything off in color on standard playing card full-sheet stock. This was then protected with a light coat of spray acrylic. Finally, the individual poker-sized cards were cut out from the sheet, and a corner rounder applied to all. The result looks commercially produced.

Let's now consider the methodology at work. As you may have guessed, the hoary Magic Age Cards principle is behind it all. In particular, the binary system is em-

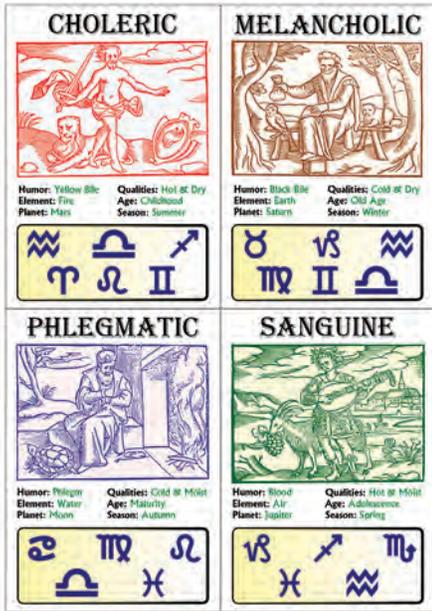


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

ployed, but rather than coming across as a number divination, the focus is on a star sign. To disguise the operation, instead of the usual 1, 2, 4, 8 numbers, the Four Humors categorize the cards.

There's a bunch of mumbo-jumbo on each, things like a medieval woodcut, and classification by element, planet, quality, age, season, and so forth. But the real action lies in that each card bears a collection of astrological symbols representing the star signs. These are allocated according to the binary system just mentioned. We'll see how it works in a moment.

The reverse sides of these four cards are subtly marked. I used very slight ink blob imperfections on the deliberately garish backs (Fig. 13). Specifically, a blob near the top-left curlicue of the Choleric card means 1, near the middle-left of the Melancholic card means 2, near the bottom-left of the Phlegmatic card means 4, and no blob at all on the Sanguine card means 8. See if you can spot them in the figure.



Fig. 13

METHOD: Performing with these is a snap; just learn the following associated numbers for the star signs:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1. Aries | 7. Libra |
| 2. Taurus | 8. Scorpio |
| 3. Gemini | 9. Sagittarius |
| 4. Cancer | 10. Capricorn |
| 5. Leo | 11. Aquarius |
| 6. Virgo | 12. Pisces |

If you've ever read any astrology books or followed your newspaper horoscope, you'll note these are listed in the standard accepted order (1 through 12) which you may already be familiar with. If not, several minutes spent with some mnemonics should easily cement them in memory.

We're all set. Imagine the participant

has thought of a star sign and has removed any cards bearing its symbol. Simply note the marked backs of the cards **not** taken, add their associated numbers (1, 2, 4, or 8), and subtract that from 15 to get the index of the star sign, which will be 1 through 12 as expected.

For instance, suppose the participant has kept back one card, setting three down. A quick glance shows the discards to be 1, 4, and 8. Then, $1 + 4 + 8 = 13$, and $15 - 13 = 2$, so her star sign is Taurus. What's nice here is that the audience's eyes will be on the chosen cards, not the discards which give you the information.

FINAL THOUGHTS: The great seventeenth century polymath Gottfried Leibniz may have been the first to call attention to the utility of the binary number system. As for its earliest application to magic, that honor probably goes to Charles Hutton, *Recreations in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, Volume I*, (London: Longman, Hurst, Reese, Orme, and Brown, 1814), pp. 124-126.

I went with the Four Humors as stage dressing for two very important reasons. First, four categories are necessary to cover the 1, 2, 4, 8 business. But I wanted a scheme that was not so well known, just to throw off anyone in the audience familiar with traditional astrological affairs.

Moreover, the four humors are just plain fascinating for an exotic theme, offering lots of opportunities for light-hearted giggles even. A rich source of patter ideas can be found in Nog Arikha, *Passions and Tempers: A History of the Humors* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2007).

The da Vinci Load

This is little more than a double prediction of a color and a word, but due to the intriguing theme and especially the glamorous props, it plays as a showpiece. In particular, the routine is built around ideas appearing in the immensely popular novel, *The da Vinci Code*. It ought to resonate with audiences who enjoy a fanciful mystery whether they've read the book or not.

PERFORMANCE: “You might remember what a stir Dan Brown created with his best-selling novel, *The da Vinci Code*. He spun a tale concerning the Priory of Sion, a secret society whose grand masters included the likes of Leonardo da Vinci, Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, and other fascinating figures from history. In that occult order, a probationer was required to pass two tests to become a full member. Just for fun, let's see if you have what it takes to join.”

Sitting on the table throughout the routine lies a Cryptex (Fig. 14). This mysterious brass cylinder, allegedly invented by da Vinci himself, bears six rings which act as cogs of a combination lock. The rings are engraved with letters of the alphabet. If they are turned to spell out the correct secret word, the Cryptex unlocks itself to reveal its contents. For the time being, it lies sealed off to the side, no doubt leading the audience to wonder at its meaning.



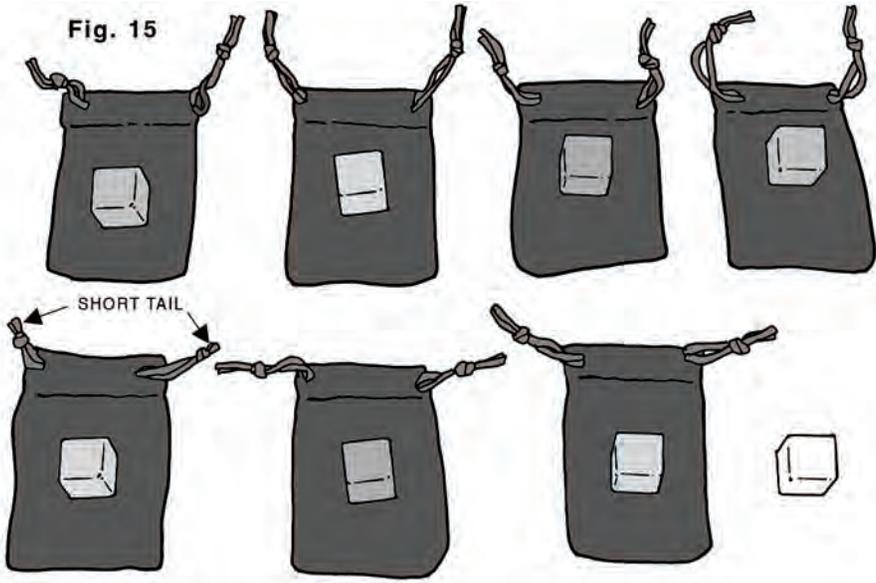
Fig. 14

The performer explains that a mystic color is attributed to each of us, representing our inner soul, whether we know it consciously or not. So, the first test is to determine whether the participant is able to divine her own personal color.

The performer brings out eight colored cubes. Seven are of the colors of the spectrum: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. The remaining one is white, representing the mixture of all colors. He sets that one aside for a moment.

Seven small black velvet pouches with drawstrings are next displayed (Fig. 15). (The meaning of the short tails will be explained when we consider the method, below.) The performer and participant share duties placing each cube within a

Fig. 15



pouch, and these are mixed then lined up in a row. They next engage in a game dating back to the ancient Greeks in which the pouches are eliminated one by one. The six rejects are out of play now, leaving behind a single pouch containing its obscured cube. This too is set aside momentarily, but in a prominent position.

The performer now proposes the second test the probationer is to undergo. Explaining that the Priory of Sion was greatly influenced by Pythagoras, the great Greek mathematician and mystic who believed every person resonated to a personal sacred number, he brings out a set of disks, bearing the digits one through nine.

The participant mixes these however desired, then lays them out in three rows of three disks each (Fig. 16).

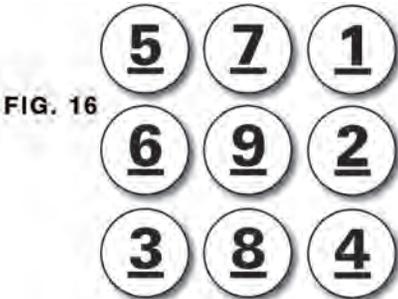


FIG. 16

She sums the three 3-digit numbers. This is her personal value, which the performer explains represents her grade of initiation within the Priory of Sion.

An ornate placard from that society is shown bearing the names of the nine possible grades arranged around a wheel (Fig. 17). The participant picks up the white cube seen earlier and using it as a token moves around the wheel according to the digits of the value she just totaled. Doing so, she'll arrive at her personal grade. Let's say it's the Artist.



Fig. 17

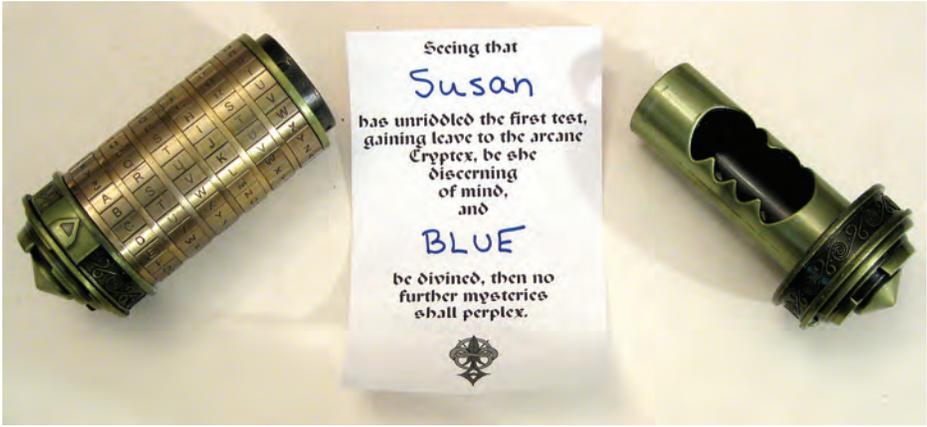


Fig. 18

The performer at last draws attention to the sealed Cryptex which has been tantalizing throughout. The participant sets the movable rings to spell out Artist, and behold—the Cryptex opens! Inside is a parchment bearing an archaic rhyme indicating that her mystic color is blue (Fig. 18). When she opens the small pouch set aside way back at the start of the routine, it's found to contain the blue cube.

And so, the participant has passed the two tests and is admitted to the Priory of Sion with the grade of Artist, and personal color of blue.

PROPS: As mentioned, this routine really plays big thanks to the props, so let's get down to the business of accumulating them. I found everything I needed on Amazon, but eBay would be another possibility. Just use the search functions in either case to see what's available.

First, you'll need a Cryptex. This is amazing! It's extremely ornate and weighty, with the six rotating rings neatly engraved with letters of the alphabet. It looks quite like what Dan Brown described in the book, or for that matter as it appeared in the movie of the same name. The price is around twenty-five dollars and its intrigue factor makes it worth every penny. Incidentally, the word combination can be easily customized. For this routine, you'll need to set it to Artist.

As for the colored cubes, these are actually blank dice. Just search online for com-

plete sets containing a variety of colors. Note that you can alter the force color for each performance if desired, since a marked pouch takes care of the dirty work as we'll soon see.

Small black velvet pouches with drawstrings are common on Amazon, and quite inexpensive. To prepare for this routine, mark one of the pouches in the following way. Trim the ends of the drawstrings (just beyond their respective knots) to be shorter than the tails on the other six pouches. Refer back to **Figure 15** to see this now. Thus, you'll be able to spot the marked pouch simply by noting which one sports shorter tails on the drawstrings.

I made my own nine number disks using blank stainless steel stamping disks and water-slide decals. They look and feel quite elegant. But you could also craft suitable ones with poker chips and press-on numbers.

Then you'll need a scroll bearing the prediction which lies locked within the Cryptex. I made up and printed off a bunch of these using a word processor, leaving blanks to handwrite the participant's name (should you happen to know it, or have found it via some pre-show work), and also the force color. Roll up the prediction and insert it within the Cryptex, then lock the two halves together.

Finally, you'll need a placard showing a wheel bearing the nine grades of the order

around it. These are, clockwise starting at twelve o'clock: Hunter, Knight, Author, Hermit, Wizard, Master, Sentry, Lawyer, and Artist. Observe that each is six letters long, corresponding to the rings of the Cryptex, and that the force item is Artist.

I embellished my placard with all sorts of mystical symbols, front and back. (Note that the back plays no part in the method, though). These include representations of da Vinci's "Vetruvian Man," which figures prominently in Dan Brown's novel, the seal of the Priory, lots of frills and flowery borders, etc. You can find all sorts of great free open-source artwork online nowadays, so the sky's the limit.

METHOD: There are two main methods at work here: the PATEO force and a numeric one which I've dubbed the TriTriplet force.

The PATEO force (Point-At-Two-Eliminate-One) is well known, so we can dispense with this quickly. What's new here is that you'll be apparently working blind, thanks to the marked pouches. Here are the details.

After showing the seven colored cubes, secure each within a pouch, seeing to it that the force cube goes into the marked pouch. (In the description above, I used blue). You and the participant can share the duties of placing the cubes within the pouches, as long as you contrive to corral the force cube within the marked pouch.

You're all set for PATEO. The participant can mix the pouches as desired at any time, for you'll always know where the marked one is. Since we have an odd number of pouches here (seven), in this version of PATEO you'll go first. It's as simple as that!

As for the word, the participant is guaranteed to arrive at Artist thanks to the TriTriplet force and the placard bearing the wheel of grades. This is a force I came up with some years back and is ideal here.

Recall that the participant is presented the disks bearing the digits one through nine. She splits these into three groups, forming a three-digit number, then another

below that, and finally one more below that. She now sums those three numbers. The result will be either three or four digits long. It can be demonstrated that there are just 199 different outcomes, though no one would ever think it, believing "anything" to be possible.

What's remarkable is that result is guaranteed to be multiple of nine, and hence has a digital root of nine. (The digital root of a number is just the iterated sum of its digits). Normally that would take us into the realm of number tricks for kids. But then it hit me, let the placard handle all the tedious finagling! In a sense, the wheel of the grades is acting as though it's adding up the digits, but with no visible addition.

Let's try an example to see this. Suppose the participant creates the three numbers 571, 692, and 384. Refer back to **Figure 16**. She adds these to arrive at 1647. Now using the white cube like a game token and beginning just above the twelve o'clock spot on the wheel, she progresses clockwise around the wheel. The first digit is a one, so she counts "one" moving onto the Hunter. The next digit is a six, so she continues moving that many places around the wheel, landing on the Sentry. The next digit is a four, so she proceeds four more spaces, winding up on the Knight. And the last digit is a seven, so continuing, that takes her to the Artist, as predicted.

To recap, no matter what three numbers the participant makes, once summed the result will always contain the correct digits to sequentially take her around the wheel to the Artist.

By the way, on my placard, I put an image of the Owl of Minerva (sacred to secret societies) just above the twelve o'clock location. That makes it easy to direct the participant from where to begin. Just say, "All right, start with the white cube on the owl and continue clockwise."

With that, we have everything needed to work the routine. Simply compare the following summary with the description of the performance given above, and it should all make sense.

1. Bring out the props and set the scene.
2. Place each of the seven rainbow-colored cubes in separate pouches, making sure the force color goes into the marked one.
3. Execute the PATEO force on the marked pouch, which is set aside until the climax.
4. The participant forms three numbers from the number disks and adds them.
5. Using the white cube as a token and beginning on the owl, she moves clockwise around the wheel for each digit in her result, arriving at the Artist.
6. She spells Artist on the Cryptex, which unlocks it.
7. Inside is found a prediction of the force color.

8. The participant opens the pouch to find the cube of that very hue.

9. Voilà! Having successfully divined the password of the Cryptex as well as her mystic color, she is now a member of the Priory of Sion.

FINAL THOUGHTS: While this routine is intrinsically a double prediction, it's not presented that way. Instead, it's all about the participant's innate ability to break the code by intuition, rather than your ability to see into the future.

Send comments and appreciations to:

Thomas Henry

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Teaching Magic – from page 63

Regardless of the number they choose, if your math is correct then you will always arrive at 37. How you reveal the card is up to you, but the ninth card would be Nine of Clubs and the thirty-seventh card would be the Jack of Hearts. You can have a matching card clipped to your 52 on 1 card. You can also have a written prediction with the card. I laminated my 52 on 1 card and then placed a sticker on the Nine of clubs. I did the same with another card and covered the Jack. As magicians, we are used to seeing these Novelty cards, but muggles find them interesting, and most have never seen one before. So, they really are a “novelty” to your audience.

Until next time, practice your magic and have fun.

Bob Durante

(bobdurate55@gmail.com)

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The Card Corner

MIKE POWERS

This month's contribution comes from frequent contributor Paul Lelekis. Paul is a prolific creator and has many eBooks on Lybrary.com. This item is from a collection on Lybrary.com called "Assemblies and Four Ace Tricks." The effect is titled "Jazz Jacks." It's based on the classic "Jazz Aces" from Peter Kane, with ideas from Michael Skinner.

Jazz Jacks

By Paul Lelekis

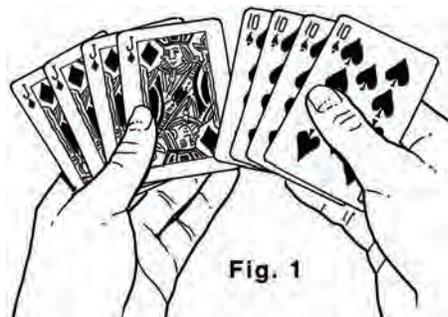
Paul likes to lead into the effect by saying, "This is really easy to follow since I'm using four duplicates of one card and four duplicates of another card." Paul uses four Jacks of Diamonds and four Tens of Spades. It's a good idea to use duplicate picture cards in one group and spot cards of the opposite color in the other group.

You will find a video demonstration of this routine at www.mallofmagic.com/card-corner. Scroll down to the proper month. Note that the site also has video instructions for moves tagged with an asterisk (*). View them at www.mallofmagic.com/themoves.

SET-UP: Paul likes to keep the eight cards in a card wallet. Clearly they can't be taken from a normal deck. Let's say you're using four Jacks of Diamonds and four Tens of Spades.

PROCEDURE: Remove the eight-card packet and turn it face up. Take the four jacks in your left hand and the four tens in your right hand (**Fig. 1**). Reassemble, placing the tens face up onto the face-up jacks and flip the packet face down. Turn the top four cards (jacks) face up on top of the face-down tens. Spread the cards and square up, obtaining a break under the fifth card (a ten). Lift the five cards (as four) in right-hand Biddle Grip*. Peel the top jack face up and

sidejogged to the right onto the left hand's packet, using the left thumb (standard Biddle procedure). Now use the right hand's packet to flip the jack face down onto the other cards in the left hand. Repeat this with the next two jacks. You now have a double (as a single) in the right hand. Place the two cards as one onto the left-hand packet and finally turn the top card (face-up jack) face down onto the packet.



STATUS CHECK: From the top, the packet is jack, 10, jack, jack, jack, ten, ten, ten.

Deal the top jack face down in front of you as you say, "This is the leader jack." Turn the jack face up in position. Now deal the next three cards face down in a row from left to right, creating the "mystical T-Formation" (**Fig. 2**). The left-most card of the three

is a ten. The top card of the packet you're holding is a jack. The next three are tens.

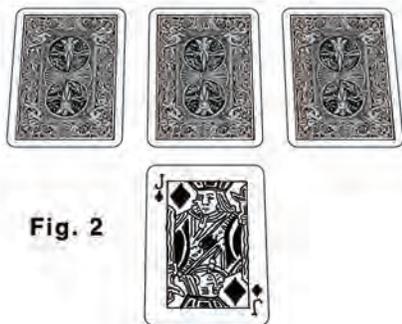


Fig. 2

You need to transfer a ten to the top of the packet so that in a face-up Elmsley Count, you'd see four tens. You can do this openly by just removing the bottommost ten and flashing its face as you say, "Four jacks on the table and four tens in my hand." Just replace the ten on top and you're set. Flip the packet face up and perform an Elmsley Count* showing four tens.

Flip the packet face down and spread to the right as you reiterate, "Four tens." Square up, obtaining a break under the top two cards. Perform a double turnover showing a ten. Flip the double face down and take the top card (a jack) in your right hand. Place it face down onto the leader (face up) jack jogged a bit to the right.

Pick up the card at outer right in the row of three and flash its face "accidentally" to the audience as you insert it face down, second from top, in the three-card packet that's in the left hand. Here, "accidentally" means that the flash should appear incidental and inadvertent. You apparently don't care whether the spectators see the face. Make your magical gesture, e.g., snap your fingers over the packet. Now perform Vernon's "Through the Fist Flourish"* so that the packet is face up when it comes out of your left hand. Take the packet with your right hand and turn it face down onto your left hand. Perform the OLRAM Subtlety* as follows: Hold the face-down packet in left hand dealer's grip. Push off the top card into your right hand (thumb on top and fingers beneath). Turn both hands palm down briefly showing two

Tens of Spades. Turn both hands palm upward again and drop the right hand's card face down on the table as you then push off the top card of the left hand's packet onto that card. Now the right hand takes the new top card and both hands turn palm downward again, showing two more Tens of Spades. The left hand's card goes on top of the two tabled cards as the right hand's card then scoops up the three tabled cards. The four cards are placed face down onto the left hand. The Jack of Diamonds is now third from the face, in position for an Elmsley Count*. Flip the packet face up and Elmsley Count*, showing four tens. The jack ends up on the bottom of the face-up packet. Finally, turn the packet face down onto the left hand, spread a bit to the right.

Second Revelation: Square up the four cards as you again obtain a left fourth finger break under the second card. Perform a double turnover showing a ten. Turn the double face down and place the top card (jack) face down onto the leader pile. There are now two cards face down on the leader. Pick up the rightmost card in the horizontal row, again flashing its face. Once again, place it second from top in the packet you're holding. Perform the Through the Fist flourish*, again having the packet emerge face up from the left hand. Take the cards with the right hand and flip the packet face down onto the left hand. Turn the top card face up and take that card into the right hand, thumb on top with fingers below. Use the left first finger to buckle the bottom card of the three. This allows the right fingers to enter the gap created by the buckle. You can now use the right fingers to flip over the double (as a single). See **FIGURE 3**. A face-up ten shows. Place the right hand's card face down to the side.

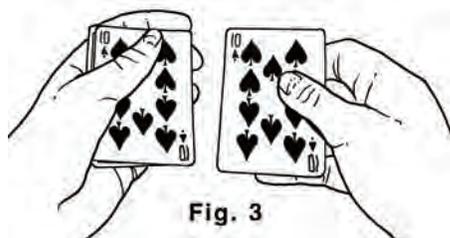


Fig. 3

Buckle the bottom card of the packet, making it easy to flip the face-up double face down. Deal the top card (jack) face down onto the just-tabled card. Take the top card from the left hand into the right hand and turn both hands palm down to show two more tens. Place the left hand's card face down on the first two tabled cards and finally use the right hand's card (face down) to scoop up the other three. Flip the packet face up on the left hand and perform another Elmsley Count showing four tens. Apparently another jack has vanished.

Hold the packet face down in your left hand. Perform a double turnover showing a ten. Flip the double face down and place the top card (a jack) face down onto the leader packet. There are now three face down cards on the leader jack. Take the final "follower card" and place it face down anywhere among the three cards in the left hand. This card is supposedly a jack but in reality is a ten, so you can't flash its face this time. Perform the Through the Fist Flourish* once again. Take the face-up packet and flip it face down. Go through the same sequence used previously to hide the jack, i.e., an

OLRAM Subtlety* as you show four tens. This is just for consistency. Then finally turn all four cards face up on the table. Pause for a beat and finally show that the three cards on the leader jack are the missing jacks for the big ending.

FINAL THOUGHTS: The "one ahead" principle is the modus operandi of nearly all Jazz Aces type routines. Here, it's the subtleties that differentiate this handling from others. I like the use of the OLRAM Subtlety followed by the reinforcement due to the Elmsley Count. Also of note is the very convincing showing of four tens in the second revelation. This is a Darwin Ortiz concept. Jazz Aces, or here Jazz Jacks, is a classic. It kills. Give this handling a try using the duplicate jacks and tens (or equivalent). Of course, the effect can be achieved using four normal jacks and four different black spot cards. But the use of duplicates removes all the discrepancies. And, at the end, the cards are examinable which is always an asset in any packet trick.

Mike Powers

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SUBMITTING RING EVENTS

All articles about special activities in your Ring – shows, banquets, public service projects, etc. – should be submitted to Dr. Steven Schlanger at *ringreports @magician.org*.

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

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



Playing in the Sand

On my recent vacation to the Dominican Republic, I came up with this gem of an effect that's easy to do. With the right patter, it simply kills. Plus, it rewards the spectator.

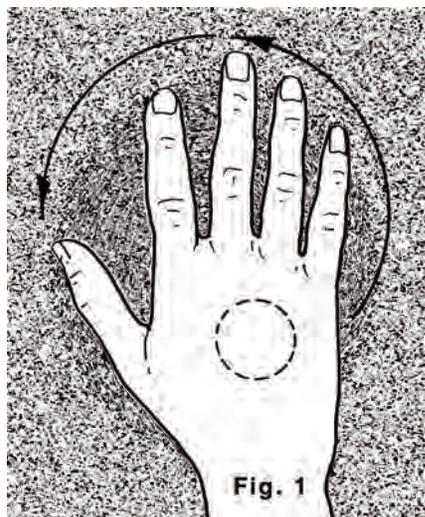
EFFECT: A spectator assists the magician as they try to locate three random areas on the beach's sands. Magically, through a series of questions, the spectator determines one specific area. It uncovers a buried treasure at this precise point.

REQUIREMENTS: A coin (quarter or half dollar), and a sandy area of a beach or strip. Classic Palm a coin in the right hand.

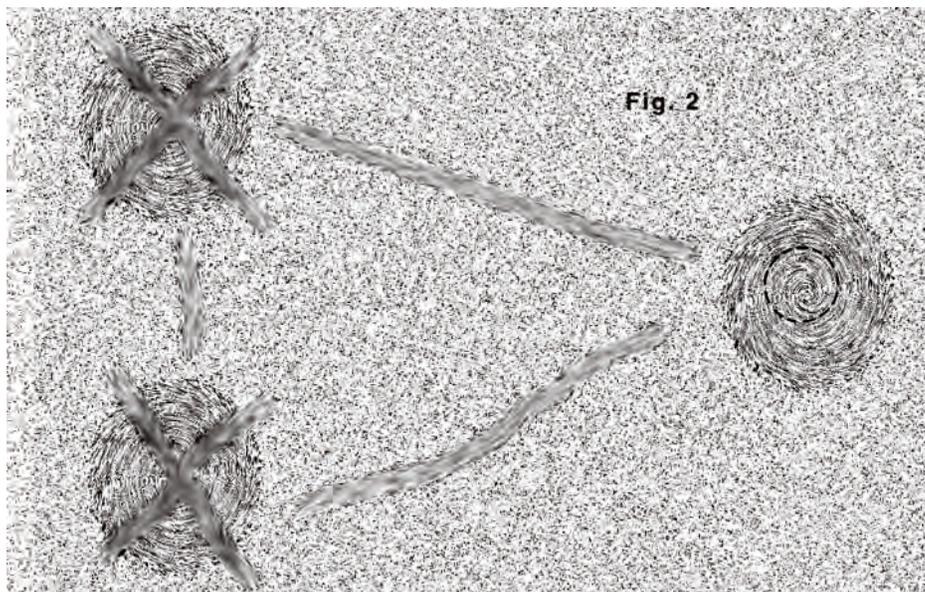
PERFORMANCE: Approach your spectator of choice and ask them to walk to a random area of the beach where the sand is dry and loose. As you are walking, ask the question, "Have you ever searched for treasure either on a grand scale with specialized underwater sonar detecting equipment, or maybe with the use of a hand-held metal detector?" If the spectator replies, "Yes," then ask, "Did you find anything of value or of historical meaning?" If the spectator replies, "No," then respond, "Well, today we are going to attempt to find lost treasure without the aid of any specialized equipment. Just the power of magic." Follow up with, "Do you believe in magic?" If the spectator replies, "Yes," then respond with a reaffirming comment, "Good. This will heighten your conviction." If the spectator replies, "No," confidently state, "You will after this!"

The tale begins with, "Pirates of old maintained a lore that employed a non-scientific method to locate buried treasure. Let me

demonstrate. First, I would like you to pick any random spot on the beach." Ask the spectator to point to any area within the vicinity. Stoop or kneel on the sand and encourage the spectator to follow your lead. The magician comments, "There was a peculiar practice that took place. I know it makes no sense to you now, but it will in a moment." With the fingers of the right hand, create slow, concentric circles in that area while simultaneously releasing the palmed coin. Using the heel of the hand, gently depress the coin into the sand. Cover the coin as the circles are being formed (**Fig. 1**).



Now that the coin is buried, turn both palms to the open position and gesture as you ask the spectator to point to another area nearby. If the second point is relatively close to where you have buried the coin, then the



small voice in your head can rejoice. Let us presume that the second point is chosen a short distance away from the buried coin. Finish by transitioning with the concentric circles using only your fingers. Finally, suggest that you will create a last concentric circles patter which happens to be closer to where the coin is buried.

Once completed, connect the areas using your fingertip to draw a straight line between points, thus creating a triangular-ish pattern (**Fig. 2**). The tale continues, “Once these circles have been established, the magician on board is summoned from his quarters, by the captain, to recite and cast his spell, which throughout history has been generally interpreted and translated to read:

Across wide oceans,
 Bountiful treasures we motion,
 Beyond the depths of the blue,
 I can surely see there is much we do,
 Let the riches raise their hands,
 So, we can rejoice and make us grand!”

Now, utilize the Magician’s Equivocation by asking the spectator to point to one of the corners of the triangle. If the spectator points to the targeted area where you buried the coin, ask the spectator to erase the other two points. If the spectator points to the nontar-

geted area, ask the spectator to use their fingers to put a large “X” through that point. Give the spectator a heads up that you will be trying something different. Ask the spectator to pass their hand over the points along the drawn line, back and forth, and to stop over one point. If the spectator stops at the other nontargeted area, then direct the spectator to place an “X” on that point. If the spectator stops at the targeted area, then the magician places an “X” on the nontargeted point.

For the revelation, ask the spectator to use only their fingertips to search for the treasure. Once the coin is retrieved, the spectator is given the found treasure as a keepsake.

HOT TIP: Do not use collectors or valuable coins unless you can afford to part with it.

NOTES: Fake, old, or vintage coins such as pirate coins or doubloons can be implemented to support related patter. The greater the interest in the coin, the more potential to tell a better story.

Give this straightforward effect a go the next time you are visiting the beach. Until next month, take care ...

Andrew Woo

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www.magicalwoo.com



A couple of months ago, I had mentioned how I wanted to explore several *Auto-Magical* Ring-on/off-Rope concepts. We discussed a two ring/one rope “release.” This month, we will move in the opposite direction and present an amazing and quick ring *on* rope effect. You tie a handkerchief onto a length of rope and then tie a knot above the handkerchief. The rope ends are held by a willing participant. You now show a metal ring which promptly vanishes. And when the handkerchief is removed, the ring is unbelievably seen hanging in the middle of the rope! All is handed-out for examination.

Oh, did I mention how easy it is?

The Rope, Handkerchief and Ring of KDC

In Ken de Courcy’s *The Art of Magic* (1967) and sixteen years later in the October 1983 issue of *Magigram*, Ken wrote up a terrific little effect that has always packed more punch than might be expected just via a read-through. I have found it to be an effective starting component of a longer rope routine, but it could also be used independently as an *intermezzo* from several card effects or even a “little something” to show guests after dinner or in any casual situation. Presented properly, people will puzzle over this one for a long time!

You show a three-foot length of rope, a shiny two-inch metal ring, and a colorful handkerchief or cloth dinner napkin. You take the handkerchief and tie it loosely around the middle of the rope. Then you take the ends of the rope and tie a loose knot above the handkerchief. You give the rope ends to an audience member to hold about chin high. You now take the shiny ring, show it to the audience again, tap it against the table to show its solidity and pass it from your right hand to your left hand where it is held tight in a closed fist. The left hand fist bobs slightly as you countdown “Three, two, one!” On

“one” you lightly punch the tied handkerchief then pull your hand away. You slowly unwind the fingers of your fist and your hand is empty! The ring has vanished! While your helper still holds the ends of the rope, you untie the handkerchief ... and there’s the shiny ring, smack in the middle of the loose rope knot!

Staying on de Courcy.

The method behind this is almost ridiculously simple. But with the proper presentation, as my late friend Harry Lorayne would say, jaws will drop. It seems so inexplicable. I use shiny two-inch “harness rings” purchased from my local hardware store. You’ll need two of these and they need to be identical. You can use any kind of ring, hoop, bangle, even multicolored hair ties. In addition to being identical, they need to be able to be concealed in your hand when the fingers are loosely closed. The two-inch rings work for me! You also need a piece of soft rope about two to three feet in length. A cord or shoelace would work, too. Have a large handkerchief or cloth dinner napkin nearby. Opaqueness is the key specification here.

Loop one of the rings onto the rope and

place it in a pocket. Place the other ring and the handkerchief in the opposite side pocket. If you work in a jacket or hoodie with easy-to-access pockets, that is perfect! I keep the rope/ring in my left jacket pocket. Now, reach into the pocket with the rope/ring combo and *place your hand around the ring as you casually pull the rope out*. Your audience will not see the ring since it is hidden by your left hand. As you are removing the rope/ring from your left, your right hand extracts the handkerchief from the right pocket, tossing it onto the table, then the duplicate ring. I toss the ring onto the handkerchief. It lands noisily, thus indicating its solidness. Attention should be on the ring and handkerchief. The rope in the left hand should appear to be insignificant.

With the ring and handkerchief on the table, audience members may reach out to examine them; no need to encourage this, however. Meanwhile, start your line of patter. Whatever scripting you use, direct it toward the “mysterious ring” whose magical properties emerge when covered! As you speak, *casually* slide the rope back and forth a bit keeping the roped ring hidden in your left hand. Do not call attention to the rope; you shouldn’t anyway since this is all about the handkerchief and the ring on the table.

Now pick up the handkerchief with your right hand and at the same time center the rope in your left. The rope should really be in the correct position anyway since moments ago you were moving it back and forth. Without hesitation, wrap the handkerchief around the center of the rope and then tie its ends into a knot. In doing so, the handkerchief wraps around and covers the ring, thus letting you move both hands about easily and freely. Finally, take the ends of the rope and tie a loose overhand knot above the knotted handkerchief. I have found audiences believe at this point the eventual effect will have something to do with the handkerchief penetrating the rope, or something like that. Regardless, ask an audience member to hold the ends of the rope upright around eye level. The wrapped “package” is aligned with your helper’s chin. You are now ready for the reap-

pearance of the ring finale, but first, you need to vanish the ring still on the table!

There are many, many ways to vanish the ring. Here’s how I do it ... it’s easy and sleight-lite. Pick up the ring with your right hand and hold it with two fingers in front and thumb in the back. Twist your wrist a little showing the various sides of the ring and let its shininess sparkle. Tap it on the table again emphasizing its solidness. Now, open your left hand, but keep it slightly cupped, fingers shading the palm. After tapping the ring on the table, the right hand apparently places it into the left hand. In reality, push the ring against the left palm and let it slide backward toward the right palm. Still being held by two fingers in front, thumb in back, the fingers are now on the topmost edge of the ring; the rest of the ring is hidden behind your right fingers and palm. Immediately, the left-hand clenches into a loose fist as you pretend to hold the ring. Now, misdirection rules! I pretend the handkerchief package is a mini punching bag and I move my left fist around as if I will be punching the handkerchief. In doing so, I rotate my body slightly to the right; this puts the spotlight on my left hand. Through all of this, it is a cinch to let the right hand-held ring drop into my right jacket pocket. Another idea is to put a strong magnet in your back hip pocket. The harness rings are magnetic and will easily clip to the magnet. Regardless, keep the movements smooth and seamless. Focus your eyes and your attention on your left fist (with the supposed ring). No one will pay attention to what you are doing with your right hand ditching the dupe!

After the duplicate is safely put away, your left hand reaches towards the handkerchief package, gives a little wiggle, and lets the fingers uncurl. As the vanish of the ring sinks in, slowly untie the handkerchief, eventually letting it fall to the floor. The appearance of the ring now looped onto the rope is astonishing. Take the rope ends from your helper and slowly pull the ends tightening the knot around the ring. After a few moments, place this on the table again, suggesting that the audience may examine it.

Ring me at mbreggmagic@gmail.com.

Broken Wand

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



WILLIAM ARTHURS, JR.

William "Mr. Bill" Robert Arthurs, Jr., 80, of Metairie, Louisiana, died March 29, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 22260 and had been a member since 1969. A lifelong resident of the New Orleans metropolitan area, Bill played on four state championship teams at DeLaSalle High School and went on to play baseball and basketball at Tulane University. He coached both of those sports at Archbishop Rummel High School after graduating, and then served as head of the business department. During his fifty-eight years of service to Archbishop Rummel High School, he documented the history of the school, the community of Jefferson Parish, and the Greater New Orleans Area. Bill also taught business courses, computer literacy, and photography for the night schools of Tulane University, Dominican College, Loyola University, LSU, St. Francis, and UNO. He was Rummel yearbook advisor and photographed every graduation ceremony since the school's inception. He was also a Duncan yo-yo champion and an accomplished magician who was known as the only teacher to carry a deck of cards, a yo-yo, and a "magic rope" in his briefcase. Bill was a Denny's enthusiast, visiting a hundred and seventy-nine locations before the pandemic. His last trip took him above the Arctic Circle to photograph the aurora borealis in 2020. He is survived by his three daughters, Kate Arthurs-Goldberg (Ron), Alison Arthurs, and Carolyn Arthurs (Robbie Martinez), a grandson, two younger siblings, and extended family.



MARTY GUTTER

Martin "Marty" Gutter, 79, of Boca Raton, Florida, died July 11, 2022. He held I.B.M. number 28563 and had been a member since 1975. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Rings 26 and 117. Marty founded Gramercy Leasing Services, a property management group, in 1979 while selling copy machines. He grew the business and eventually sold it to Atlantic Bank of New York in 1997. Marty became interested in magic in the 1970s after having lunch at Rosoff's Restaurant in Times Square in New York City. There, he saw George Schindler and other magicians perform the saltshaker effect in unison. He went on to study under Señor Mardo, Tony Slydini, Frank Garcia, and others. Marty utilized his magic and entertainment skills to help grow his successful leasing business, which included parlor magic shows in a sixty-five-seat theater he had built in his loft on Park Avenue South and 18th Street in Manhattan. He always credited magic and his magician peers for giving him confidence and opening doors to his success. After selling his business, Marty retired, moved to Florida, and joined the Boca Raton Assembly 274 of the Society of American Magicians, but he also remained a member of Parent Assembly No. 1. Magic was an integral part of his life. Whenever he attended Wednesday breakfasts with fellow magicians in Florida, he would say "watch this," stand up, and share his new trick. Marty is survived by his wife Joan (whom



he met decades earlier, while vanishing a lit cigarette), sons Stuart and Michael, and four granddaughters.

PAUL KILSHAW

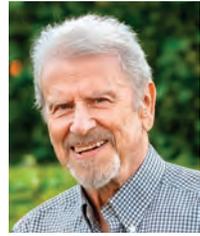
Paul Alexander Kilshaw, 60, of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, died April 19, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 62092 and had been a member since 2001. He belonged to Rings 92 and 183. Paul was a member of the Victoria Magic Circle. Born in Grostenquin, France, Paul moved with his family to Victoria, BC, at the age of six. It was on the beaches of Victoria where he first discovered his passion for magic. There, he met a magician who would become his mentor and teach him sleight of hand. Paul spent decades performing magic and creating balloon animals on the streets of Greater Victoria, becoming a familiar and beloved figure in the community. He performed at public events, festivals, and was the resident magician and balloon sculptor at the Oak Bay Village Night Market. The Royal Family invited him to entertain Prince William, Princess Kate, and their children when they visited Victoria in 2016. Paul was always willing to mentor and help other up-and-coming magicians. He had a special gift for making children feel comfortable and happy with his magic. Paul is survived by his son Christopher, his mother Peggy Little, a sister, and two brothers.



MORTON RUMBERG

Morton Myron Rumberg, 86, of Roseville, California, died May 24, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 23353 and had been a member since 1970. He belonged to the

Order of Merlin Excalibur (fifty years of continuous membership) and Ring 50. He was also a member of the Society of American Magicians. A native of Brooklyn, New York,



Mort served twenty years in the US Air Force in Vietnam and the Pentagon on the National Military Command Center team, supporting the Joint Chiefs of Staff. For eight years he taught aircrews rescue and survival skills. He also served as a swimming coach and Boy Scout leader. After retiring from the Air Force, Mort worked for a management consulting firm and then joined the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association in Washington, DC, where he was a manager in its information technology department. He earned a doctorate in education from The Catholic University of America. Mort taught IT systems development as an adjunct professor at George Washington University, University of Maryland, and Marymount University. He was also a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an educational honor society. As an amateur genealogist, he discovered twenty-two first cousins; he also served as president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento for eight years. He was an active member of the Sacramento Suburban Writer's Club and published nine novels and four short story collections. He loved traveling and visited more than sixty countries. Mort enjoyed showing off his magic talents and performing for family gatherings. He is survived by his wife Susan Higashi Rumberg; sons Stephen (Naomi) and Michael (Marisela); grandsons Nicholas, Louis, and Mark; brother Alan; and cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

When a Magic Friend Dies

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

Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



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

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

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

On June 7th the Ring held a Zoom lecture featuring Magical Katrina. Katrina Kroetch (a.k.a. Magical Katrina) has performed her unique blend of playful and whimsical magic all over the world, in Africa, India, Mexico, Europe, and America. She is a volunteer and advocate with Magicians Without Borders and the non-profit Emergency Circus. She has been a cast member of the international touring show *Champions of Magic* and has been on numerous network television shows including *Masters of Illusion* and *Penn and Teller: Fool Us*. She has also performed her magic show at the Magic Castle and at the Academy of Magical Arts. She was featured for her magic in the *Washington Post* and in an article about "Virtual Magic Shows" in *The Wall Street Journal*. Katrina is the winner of many magic awards including winning first place at AbraCORNdabra's virtual magic contest in May 2020 and was awarded the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians Children's Entertainer of the year for 2020.

Before the lecture she gave this synopsis of her lecture: "The lecture will focus on many of my 'absolute best' advice/most helpful tips and tricks to share. Topics I'll discuss being a professional magician, how to book high-paying shows, how I've helped multiple magicians get on *Fool Us* and what they are looking for as well as day to day best things to do and practices, (things beyond the basic stuff like 'practice' or 'have good photos'). I give real advice and share my systems for how I do many things. I talk about creativity and creating new tricks and scripts, and I will teach a few tricks as well. I know everyone is into learning new tricks so I'll definitely include some, but this will center

mostly on creative theory, performance, random tricks and tips, and business development. I've really crafted this lecture based on what I wish someone had told me years ago – the 'hacks' that would have blown my mind when I was at an earlier phase in my career." Katrina divided her lecture into the following three parts, creativity, learning three tricks, and forty-four hacks and tips. The Ring 1 members thoroughly enjoyed her lecture.

After the lecture the members viewed *Magic Moments Our Favorites – Volume 2*. Due to time restraints, the Ring was not able to view the entire video. However, both Volume 1 and 2 can be viewed on Ring 1's website www.ibmring.com. Both of these were filmed and edited by Michael W. McClure. Various Ring 1 members performed and he videotaped them. He compiled all the performances and added special effects. Paul Gregor added his own music to these acts. Both of these volumes were shared with the various St. Louis area children's hospitals. Both Michael and Paul did an outstanding job! The Ring is very fortunate to have these two talented individuals as members.

Steve Zuehlke and Steve Buesking announced plans for another close-up convention next year. Formerly known as the Senior Tour, the new name will be The Gateway Close-Up Convention. The dates are April 11th-13th, 2024 and will be held in Collinsville, IL. The guest of honor will be the incomparable John Bannon. John will open Thursday night with a two and a half hour lecture. Something not to be missed! Seating is limited so be sure to make your reservations early. Nick Lewin from Las Vegas, Robert Moreland from Savannah, GA, Steve Ehlers from Arizona, and Dan Fleshman from Colorado are scheduled to appear. Both Steve and Dan are outstanding close-up performers who do more than just cards. Dan is a St. Louis native with over forty-five years of

performing experience. Anthony Gerard will also be performing. He is the inventor and master of the Idiosyncratic Force, thing of beauty to witness. Tony will be doing a mega lecture on Friday evening. Tony mentioned he once lectured for ten hours straight, and no one left! David Parr, an award-winning mentalist/storyteller, will be making a rare convention appearance. He performs all over the country and has appeared on *Penn and Teller: Fool Us*. Michael Rubinstein will also be appearing. First there was Bobo, then David Roth and then along came Michael. Michael's latest book, *Rubinstein's Coin Magic* is a must have for any library. He was also featured on *Penn and Teller: Fool Us*. As an added bonus, Michael has agreed to do a special one-hour workshop for an added fee, limited to only ten people. The dealers' room for the convention has been expanded. Featured will be Don's Magic and Books, Gerard Magic, and our own Old Time Magic Shop. This will be Eric Bausworth's first convention so show your support.

Dan Todd has been busy volunteering at the local St. Louis Hospitals. He shared the following: "On June 2nd I performed magic on St. Louis Children's Hospital CCTV. On June 6, I performed close-up at Shriners Hospital for Children for patients and families waiting for a clinic appointment." The Ring appreciates the time he spends performing for children and their families at the various St. Louis hospitals. Thank you, Dan!

Gary S. Chan attended Laurence's show and shared the following: "Laurence 'Nothing Up My Sleeve' Levy performed a laugh-out-loud comedy magic routine on stage at the packed Blue Strawberry Showroom & Lounge in St. Louis, MO, on June 5, 2023. His quick wit is second-to-none as demonstrated when he responded to volunteers' reactions with quips, jokes, and puns that were spot-on and relevant. His show included a variety of illusions and magic tricks and involved many audience members, some of whom experienced the magic from their seats and others on stage. Everyone who attended enjoyed a laughter-filled show in a perfect atmosphere."

Trudi Monti-Monteith posted on Facebook: "Hi everyone! I am pleased to announce that I have finished a publishing project that has been a wonderful learning experience for me. Many of you may know that I have been actively conducting research on the history of magic in St. Louis. While conducting this research during the period of 1904, I came across a murder mystery in St. Louis featuring the "world's greatest detective" (Sherlock Holmes?) that was pub-

lished in the newspaper but had never been published as a book. As I got further into the project, I found that the murder in St. Louis storyline had also been duplicated by that author in another story by the same title, regarding a murder in New York. It was then that I decided to publish both novels as the editor of same. It has been a huge learning experience for me, and I am very pleased with the current outcome. I have just submitted the first novel to Amazon for publication and it has been accepted successfully and is now available. You may order the book, *The Fatal Chord: The Baffling Mystery of the Carnegie Hall Murder*, directly from Amazon or from me if you would like an autographed copy. Please send me a FB Personal Message or an email to TTMstlBOOKS@gmail.com and please feel free to share this with others. *Sandy Weis*

RING 2, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO – Filips-Tutter-Doeright Ring

Meets 7:30 pm 2nd Fri., Valley Christian Church, 7155 Glenwood Ave.,
Youngstown, OH

PETER LUCKE, Secretary

E-mail: IBMring2Youngstown@me.com

Vice President James Killmeyer opened our June meeting. The following Ring 2 members and friends were present: Susan Campbell, Fritz Coombs, Jim Hathy, James and Eric Killmeyer, and Peter Lucke. The theme of the evening was an effect from *The Linking Ring*.

Peter Lucke opened the evening with a card effect. He opened a blue box of cards and placed two face down cards on the table. Peter then asked an audience member to say "Stop" while he dealt cards face up on the table. Peter placed one of the two cards face down to mark the spot and placed the pack of cards in his hand on top. He continued by dealing the face up cards to the table until "Stop" was said. The spot was marked with the second face down card, and the remainder of the card pack was placed on top. Peter spread the cards face up and looked for the two face down cards, one was adjacent to the KS and the other next to the KC. He revealed that the marker cards were the AS and the AC, and all four cards had blue backs. Peter then showed that all the other cards in the deck had red backs.

James Killmeyer entertained us with a "Comedy Shuffling Routine" from Diamond Jim Tyler. He demonstrated several standard shuffles such as the overhand shuffle and the riffle shuffle, as well as some others with comedic names such as the cow patty shuffle. All the while, he narrated with a comedic patter. James concluded with a shuffle that mixed face up cards with face down cards. After giving the resulting pack of cards a magic tap, he showed us that all the cards were now facing the same direction.

Susan Campbell invited Eric to assist her. She showed him a piece of paper on which she had written a four-by-four matrix of the numbers one through sixteen. Susan asked Eric to choose a number, circle it, and cross out all the other numbers in the same row and column. This process was repeated three more times, the four numbers circled were two, eight, eleven and thirteen. Eric was asked to add these numbers, the sum was thirty-four. Susan called on Fritz to show us a prediction paper she had made, the prediction was thirty-four.

Fritz Coombs continued with Mis-Made Flag. He showed us a red bag. Out of the bag he took three colored silks, one red, one white, and one blue. He showed us that the bag was now empty. Fritz's patter retold Betsy Ross's making of the first U.S. flag. He replaced the red, white, and blue silks into Betsy's sewing bag. However, the blue silk fell aside on the table. So, Betsy only had a red and a white silk to make the flag. Fritz next pulled out a flag, it had red and white stripes, but no blue. He put the flag back, found the blue silk, and added it to the bag. Next, he pulled out a red, white, and blue flag. It had blue stripes, and a red field for the stars. It was not the desired flag. Fritz replaced it, and finally pulled out a correctly made U. S. flag. He again showed the bag was now empty.

Jim Hathy concluded members' magic with the Red Box trick. In his hand he held a small red box, saying "It's red, red, red, red..." Jim then took the lid off the red box to reveal a black box inside. Upon opening the black box, he found a yellow ball inside, and placed it on the table. He closed the red box and magically placed it inside the black box. Jim continued by opening the black box, removing and opening the red box. Inside was a blue ball which he placed on the table. Next, he put the black box inside the red box. Upon reopening the boxes, he discovered a red ball inside. Jim gathered the three balls in one hand, squeezed them together, and produced one large red ball. James was asked to come up and carefully examine the inside of the black box, he found nothing. Jim picked up the black box in his hands and out dropped a black number eight billiard ball into James's hands.

Peter Lucke

RING 9, ATLANTA, GEORGIA – Georgia Magic Club

Meets 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00pm, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church,

471 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

Ring 9 Website: www.gamagicclub.com

BILL PACKARD, Secretary / Email: billpackardmagic@gmail.com

T.I.P. Lecture: Murl Harmon decided at last minute to substitute his "String You Along" lecture with "Bus Driver Tricks." Murl is a fulltime school bus driver and every Friday the children can look forward to a trick on the bus. He likes

simple and quick pack-small tricks like packet tricks to entertain the eighty K-4th grade students he transports. Murl performed for us "Turning the Queen" (a spiral effect), "Color Monte," and "Cereal Cards" (spectator chooses the one odd back). There was a great Q&A about the logistics of working in that environment. He even streams his tricks on Twitch TV as "Magic Murl."

Business Meeting: President Steve Langston greeted thirty attendees, including two members online and two guests. Several upcoming conventions were mentioned, including Past International President Ken Scott's Atlanta Harvest of Magic (September 28-30). A.S.M. (Atlanta Society of Magicians) President Steve Goldstein announced that S.A.M. Assembly 30's monthly meetings are now scheduled for second Saturdays at 1:00 at American Legion Post #1. Secretary/Treasurer Bill Packard awarded new membership certificates to Ross DeMocko and Zackary MacKay. The Georgia Magic Book Club has started reading Tommy Wonder's *Books of Wonder, Volume 1*. The first Zoom meeting is scheduled for June 14. Join the Facebook group discussions! There is a new trick series coming soon to the GMC Video Library. Eric Schuster has created a new Facebook group "Ring 9 Magic Exchange," exclusively for GMC members to buy and sell used and unused magic products. Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer announced a new upcoming lecture by Bill Wisch, a student of Slydini, scheduled for June 15. *Equinox* editor Anthony Vinson announced there will be both live and virtual Magic Meetups in July. The Spring issue of the *Equinox* is late but should be ready in June.

Theme Magic ("It's the Kentucky Derby"): Vice President Clark Kjolraug was the emcee. (1) Jamey Evans performed several effects with an Animated/Dancing Tissue that transformed itself into an Origami swan, then into a roll of toilet paper (with legs) to continue its dance. (2) Jim Driscoll performed his original "Magicians' Trading Cards" trick where a card named by a spectator indicates that the World's Greatest Magician is Jim Driscoll. (3) Past International President Joe M. Turner, with a patter about tax shelters, transformed a bill multiple times into currency from different countries. (4) Anthony Vinson performed a three-coin routine with productions and "Coins Through Silk," and then vanished them. (5) International Vice President Mike Dunagan had four envelopes selected in an order determined by a spectator, and each revealed a colored card to match a prediction, and the last also contained a bonus prediction.

(6) Steve Goldstein created several transpositions with a washer, button, and an item he referred to as a “marker.” (7) Eric Schuster showed that a spectator-mixed Rubik’s Cube matched all sides compared to Eric’s cube, then solved the cube with a toss. (8) Martin Baratz performed a Mathematical Card Trick, using a lengthy formula that even he didn’t understand. (9) Steve Langston performed a version of “Out of This World” from a shuffled deck.

General Magic: (1) Returning member David Oglesby held a card in the palm of his hand, had a spectator choose one of four items, and revealed that item under the card. (2) Ross “The Hat” DeMocko magically attached a borrowed ring to the bottom rung of his shoe’s shoelace, then he moved the bow from the top to the lower part and untied it to release the ring, retied it, and finally moved the bow back to the top. (3) Jim Mangham performed a trick from John Bannon’s *Destination Zero*, where the high cards were shuffled face up and face down, dealt in a five-by-five grid, folded into a single packet as instructed by the spectator, and there were five face down cards in the packet, which were shown to make up a Royal Flush. (4) Jamey Evans gave an intentionally bad pickpocket demonstration, but after returning the spectator’s wallet and watch and doing some gags with him, revealed he clandestinely stole his wallet and watch again during the process.

In the President’s Spot, Steve Langston used the magic spinner to give away a magic combo package and a Wiregram. Eric Schuster took advantage of the opportunity to give away some personal items as well!

The winner of the Coveted Royal Blue Pin for May was Eric Schuster. *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

Our June meeting began with a teaching table. We didn’t just have some clown; we had our very own clown, Dennis Gesel. He focused on magic and had some impressive effects. The first effect involved a “Triumph” like shuffle and then a prediction of how many reds, then Clubs and finally a single Spade. It was very well done and well taught. He used Rocky and Bullwinkle to show the predictions. Fun. He also had an effect with a five-dollar bill and a one-dollar bill where they switched places in the volunteer’s hands.

Now for our lecture, we had Wij Siwa, from Toronto. He had some excellent workable walk-

around magic. He began with cards. First, he had an excellent ace production, which included an ace appearing on the table out of nowhere. Next, the deck changed colors, and then became blank on the front and back, except the aces. Finally, for the card section he performed an effect with finding out a birthday with cards that had the months and number one through thirty-one.

Then we moved on to rope. He had a well done and well thought out rope routine with the best parts of the best rope magicians, such as Sands and Daryl and more. Next, coins, he performed the “Matrix” with no extra coins and the coins returned. He concluded with some very nice Rubik’s Cube magic.

All in all, Wij Siwa impressed us all and I can’t wait to adapt some of his workings into my own repertoire. *Shlomo Birkan*

RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm Eat ‘N Park, 1250 Banksville Rd., Pittsburgh, PA
MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@ssi.cmu.edu
Web site: www.ibmring13.org

In June, we continued to distribute to our members a number of magic books from the library of the late Dick Recktenwald. Our suggested performance theme was “sleight of hand” magic, and Lucy Hall again introduced our performers.

Past International President Jack Greenberg produced a half-dollar coin from his empty hands, and then he repeated and explained how he did it.

Cece Wagner displayed a black can with white spots, and she placed a black silk and a white silk inside the can. Cece made the spots on the can disappear, and then she removed the silks from the can to show that the black silk was now covered with white spots, and the white silk was covered with black spots (“Metamorpho Spots”).

Michael Strough told a story using cards, two kings and two queens, representing two black-haired brothers and two black-haired sisters. During the story, the suits of the cards changed as other red-haired guys and girls entered and left the scene. At the end, all that remained were one of each: one red king, one black king, one red queen, and one black queen.

Ted Knoblach placed three, half-dollar coins into a metal funnel, and Ted caused the coins to pass one by one through the small opening of the funnel and fall into a glass below. Ted then made all three coins vanish from under the inverted glass and reappear under the inverted funnel. Ted later performed an encore card effect in which he found a signed card in a deck allegedly by detecting the signer’s DNA on the card.

Levi split a deck of cards into four files, two face up, and two face down, and he shuffled the packets into each other. Levi spread the deck across the table, and he showed that all the cards except for one suit were now facing in the same direction, and all the cards were also now in perfect order, ace to king.

Eric Meredith asked Cece to select a card and return it into the middle of the deck. Eric gave the deck a perfect (Faro) shuffle, and he showed that one side edge of the deck had the word "IMPERFECT" written on it four times. Eric repeated his perfect shuffle again and again, each time showing the word IMPERFECT appearing on the side two times, and then one time. After one more shuffle, Eric showed that the word "PERFECT" now appeared, and a dot on the side indicated the exact position of Cece's chosen card that was now upside down in the deck with all the other cards in perfect order.

Todd Hertzberg asked Jeff to pick a card and to sandwich that card between two jokers. Todd caused Jeff's card to vanish from the jokers, and Todd showed that Jeff's card had reappeared inside the middle of the deck. Todd later performed a "Four Card Monte" routine using one king and three jokers, during which the king repeatedly disappeared from his hand and changed places with a joker on the table. The final round, Todd showed that all three cards in his hand were now kings, and the sole card on the table was a joker.

Jeff Vanderhoff asked Ralph to take a card and replace it into the middle of the deck. Jeff then asked Ralph to think of a number, and Jeff dealt that number of cards onto the table. But the card located at that number was not Ralph's card, nor were any of the previously dealt cards, which Jeff gathered up and handed to Ralph to hold. Jeff caused Ralph's selected to reappear inside the pack of cards in Ralph's hand. Next Jeff made a pen disappear and then reappear (hidden behind his ear), and he made the pen cap vanish and reappear, too (Gregory Wilson's "Recapped"). Jeff later performed an improvised, comedy prediction effect in which he wrote on a pad of paper any number that someone thought of (Jeff wrote "NO"), a famous person (Jeff drew a stick figure), and any thought of card ("YOUR CARD") (inspired by Dave Devin's "Comedy Card Babies" and Alan Wong's "Tyvek Jumbo Comedy Card").

Dan Kamin made cards repeatedly vanish from the face of a deck and change into different colored cards.

Ralph Kelly showed a deck of cards that were hand-drawn by his young nephew, and Ralph

placed a prediction card face down on the table. Ralph asked Dan to name any card, which Ralph found and removed from the drawn deck. Ralph turned over his prediction card showing that it matched the card named by Dan (Roddy McGhie's "Predicshuns").

On June 15, members of our Ring presented a magic show for the Scott Township Public Library's Summer Reading Kickoff Party at Scott Park. The library specifically requested this show from our Ring following the very well-received show that our Ring presented at that library last October. A big thank you to our members, Levi (performing preshow close-up card magic), emcee Lucy Hall, Ted Knoblach, Ralph Kelly (producer), and Michael Strough for sharing their time and talents for this special event.

By the time this report is published, the July I.B.M. Convention in Pittsburgh will have ended. We hope that everyone who attended the Convention had a very enjoyable experience, and we thank everyone who planned, performed, and participated in this historic event. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Pittsburgh again at some time in the not-too-distant future.

Mark Zajicek

RING 19, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – Carl Jones Ring

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

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

June, in Minnesota, is a lovely time to be out and about – whether it be enjoying picnics in parks, fishing in one of our 10,000 plus lakes or just relishing the fabulous weather. That is unless, there is a magic meeting going on, then, there is no better place to be than indoors, deck of cards in hand, huddled around a table meeting with fellow magicians and tricksters bent on sharing their passion for all things magic!

Our Saturday meeting hosted a small gathering. The meeting started off with Eddy Olson reviewing his recent trip to AbraCORNdabra. It was fun and one of the performances was very moving and made him cry. Eddy also shared that he has been doing performances for a group of senior citizens – he performed tricks that involved sponge bunnies, and he also shared his "Quarter in Spaceship," while wearing his mad scientist garb. Besides receiving his fee, he was rewarded with a box of chocolates. Sweet!

Eddy had brought a bunch of pennies to the meeting. This evolved into a discussion regarding switching regular coins for larger sized coins. Tyler Erickson demonstrated several options and then offered a tutorial on the Click Pass.

Ropes were brought out and Miriam Olson performed a rope trick that displayed tying a knot in the rope without removing your hands from the end of the rope. Offsides, we discussed using Woolite and Soak cleaners for cleaning your old ropes.

Dan Norat explained Harry Lorayne's "Aces Wild" trick, that he demonstrated at the prior meeting. Our practice is to show a trick and offer the solution the following month. This trick can be found in Lorayne's *Close Up Card Magic*.

Keeping with the theme of card magic, Tyler approached the subject of working tableside and how to work with angles with card tricks. He has given a lot of thought to this subject including how to pick up the cards off of the table to reduce flashing. There was also a discussion of options for replacing the Half Pass in tricks. Tyler often uses a Bottom Palm, instead.

Sleven Olson performed the coin trick, "Metal One," by Eric Jones, using four quarters. Parker William suggested an enhancement for retaining a coin in the hand. Tyler went on to give a mini lecture about classic palming smaller coins and how to retain the palm whilst retrieving other small objects off of tables or other flat surfaces.

We then broke off into small group discussions.

Our Monday Zoom meeting was rather unique in that we didn't perform tricks as a whole but centered our discussion around an upcoming online seminar/lecture that Tyler Erickson will be presenting around "Fear in Magic" relative to performance anxiety. Tyler wanted feedback and ideas from the group regarding what they have discovered about what gets in the way of performing magic and how does one get past the nervousness prior to performing. What types of processes does the performer use get people to engage and mentally commit to the magic? What can you do to enhance your performances to make your magic more memorable? Tyler offered a suggestion for those performers who have difficulty with patter; record the performance on video and then record an audio track later. This can help to tighten up a performance, by allowing you to focus on one task at a time. Amateurs have the luxury of deciding when/where/what/for whom they will their magic versus the professional magician. Al Schneider often talks about the process of magic and making it seem casual, interested versus interesting and the perception of the audience. Tyler often approaches magic on his terms. When someone asks to see something, he will ask a few questions that will/can determine what he performs. "Have you ever

seen a magician before? If yes, what do you remember about what you saw?" If they describe a trick that you perform, you can do that, if that props are available. Don't assume everyone wants to see a card trick or sponge balls. If they mention something that you are already doing, this will lead you into a more comfortable interaction. Magic is a wonderful thing; many people want it, but most people will reject it. Asking a few questions before you perform will make the experience more enjoyable, for not only your audience, but for you.

Magic time! We ended the meeting with a discussion of our favorite rough and smooth techniques and nuances for the Top Palm and Convincing Control. Tyler shared his take on the Tommy Tucker Pass and the Leipzig Transformation.

Rick Hinrichs performed "Rope Through Neck" and Jennifer Graham showed some storage solutions for those of us with too many (not enough) decks of cards. *Jennifer Graham*

RING 21, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA – Caryl Fleming

Meets 1st Thu. at 10425 Magnolia Blvd., North Hollywood, CA

Web site: www.IBMRing21.org

GERRY SCHILLER, Secretary

P.O. Box 246, Newbury Park, CA 91319 / (805) 499-8921

E-mail: geraldschiller@gmail.com

Ring 21 still searching for a more permanent meeting location, once again convened in the "back room" of Burbank's Pinocchio restaurant. Board member Bob Weiss called the meeting to order.

The sad news for all in the room was the announcement of the death of the Magic Castle's venerable Milt Larsen. The Castle has announced that there will be an opportunity later in the year for a commemoration of the life and massive achievements of Milt who was the co-founder of the Magic Castle and who over the years was responsible for recognizing and promoting magic internationally.

Bob then made some announcements about upcoming events including quite a few magic conventions that will coming up in 2023. Also, a special event for our Ring will be a lecture in June at the Castle to present and discuss Mike Caveny's new book called *Sawing*. Mike has spent some years and done a massive amount of research on the creation and evolution of the "sawing a woman" illusion over the decades and his lecture (and book) promise to be most fascinating.

Next was our raffle prize drawing and this month there were some exciting choices and some very pleased recipients. The prizes were donated by collector and performer Bob Carroll.

Trick performances then followed and with a

theme like “Magic for the Summer” it definitely proved to allow some very wide-open responses. Bob Weiss revealed the name of a chosen card on what appeared to be a fiery fan (a very unusual approach), Nicholas Garcia (welcome back) did a “Knot or No Knot” rope effect and kept us all guessing, Brad Erickson was able to find which item on the table had been selected, and Roy Ball was able to deal a poker hand that always seemed to be a winner, and Greg Krikor found a chosen card at a chosen number (though it took two tries!). Bob Carroll knew what the total of a chosen restaurant receipt would come out to be, Gerry Schiller knew which of several thousand words in a magazine had been selected, and Wendy Sobel told a charming love story while producing three lovely flower boxes from an “empty” paper bag.

So, it seems that eating pizza while doing magic does have some positive effects on us all.

Gerry Schiller

RING 22, METRO DETROIT, MICHIGAN – The Warren Stephens Ring

Meets 3rd Tue., 7:15 pm – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 749 W.

14 Mile Rd., Clawson, MI 48017

JOHN “JOHNNY NEW YORK” SMITH, President

Email: jonsmi7646@gmail.com

Our Ring 22 May 16th meeting was a very special meeting! There were forty-nine magicians in attendance, including I.B.M. International President Billy Hsueh! None of those in attendance knew what an amazing and special magic meeting tonight was going to be. As I promised in my first Ring 22 report, I will always be completely honest with you and so I want to admit up front that I was not in attendance due to a recent surgery, so I could not do the ninety-minute trip to the meeting. I therefore had to do a little time travelling and I watched the meeting a few days later by going to the members section of our website where all the recordings of each meeting are kept (as well as lecture info, all kinds of magic effects created by members, and loads of all things magic in our area). It really does pay to be a member of Ring 22 the Detroit Magic Club. And I must admit that this meeting was so amazing that I watched the video more than once!

Our President, Johnny New York, started the meeting off with several announcements about magic events happening in our area. Magic has really returned to in-person in the Detroit area. Johnny announced four up-coming in person magic lectures in the next five months. Bill Wisch will be in Toledo June 24, Chris Carter is in Detroit June 25, Fenik is in Detroit September 10, and George Tait is in Detroit October 22. Johnny also mentioned there will

also be several other events and club meetings throughout the summer.

Up next was our Spotlight Magician for the night, Fred Lenter. Fred is the Ring 22 Vice President and is an exceptional and entertaining magician. Fred started off with explaining a game his grandfather played with him when he very young. He placed four cards face down on the table and then took a half dollar out of his pocket and moved it over the cards explaining how his grandfather would make the coin vanish from his hand and Fred would have to guess which card it would appear under. Fred vanished the coin and then explained how his grandfather, in his infinite wisdom, always made sure Fred picked the correct card. Fred then showed there was actually a half dollar under each card! Fred then performed his own matrix coins in which the coins were jumping all over the place under the cards, then totally vanishing, then turning up in their original positions before the cards covered them, jumping all over the place again and ending up again with all four coins completely vanishing! Fred then did his “Lucky Cards” effect. Next, Fred performed his version of the “Cup and Ball” routine and ended by producing a lemon and a baseball under the cup. Fred then moved on to his signed card routine which is part ambitious card, part torn and restored card, and ends with the card found folded in a tiny box that was on the table since the trick started! It was an amazing twenty-two-minute magic show. When Fred performs it is always guaranteed that it will be humorous, entertaining, will contain a ton of surprises, and he will keep you guessing on what will happen next. While Fred’s performances never disappoint, Fred was on fire tonight! Really well done, Fred!

Our local brick and mortar magic shop, Wunderground Magic Shop, was up next and gave a brief talk on how this was their nineteenth year in the same location. The store has gotten in a lot of new magic effects and books and has recently purchased several magic collections. We are so lucky to still have a brick-and-mortar magic store only a few blocks from where we meet.

International President Billy Hsueh was then introduced and Billy performed a very entertaining effect using eleven one dollar bills in which every time he or a spectator counted them there were only actually ten one dollar bills even though each time there was a shortage of bills a one dollar bill was added to bring the count back to eleven. It was a really nice magical effect with several twists and surprises. President Hsueh then showed us the ceremonial necklace

the President of the I.B.M. uses during the year they are in office and put it on. He then explained that it was only used for special occasions and events and that he put it on for a very special event this evening. President Billy Hsueh then presented our own Ring 22 President Johnny New York with a Presidential Citation for all Johnny has done for Ring 22. I have wondered what is involved with a person getting a Presidential Citation and now I know. I have known Johnny New York for about three and a half years, and I first met him when I attended one the Ring 22/Detroit Magic Club Zoom magic meetings in December of 2019. I know Johnny volunteered to be Ring president when there were only a handful of magicians attending the meetings. Under Johnny's leadership, and with his executive board, Ring 22 has grown from a handful of attendees to about fifty magicians attending the monthly meetings. His Zoom meetings included people attending from across the United States and even Canada. All because Johnny has created memorable meetings with top level magicians both performing and giving mini lectures, and each meeting is really like a mini magic convention with wonderful magic, lectures, book and DVD reviews, workshops, and time for members to perform if they would like to. Johnny is also a very accomplished magician and fantastic card guy. Johnny's magic presentations are always extremely well done, very entertaining, humorous, and full of surprises. Johnny will also share anything he knows with you and is always willing to help other magicians. The Johnny New York that I know is an exceptional magician, amazing leader, and a great magic ambassador to anyone interested in magic! It has been a real treat to not only know Johnny but to now understand what goes into a person who definitely deserves the Presidential Citation.

The meeting then moved to our Four Corner Workshop where four magicians each take about fifteen minutes to perform a magic effect and then teach it. The four magicians rotate among the four audiences so everyone gets to see all four effects. Our four magicians tonight were Joe Chasney who performed a card effect with a random packet of cards, Dennis Leung who performed a few rubber band routines, David Wirth who performed a card effect variation from the third chapter of *The Royal Road to Card Magic*, and Eric Beddard who performed some coin routines and showed an easy way to learn how to palm a coin. Each of them gave an excellent performance and then spent over ten minutes explaining and demonstrating how to do their routine. It was a wonderful learning experience.

It was now time for our performing stage for those in attendance. Andy Makar started off with a black hanky and a white hanky produced from a black can with polka dots on it. He then put them back and when he produced them again the hankies had polka dots and the can had turned all black! We were all startled by it! Bob Whitford then did his version of a card trick with a Queen of Clubs that kept on moving and four randomly cut to cards that became the four aces. Rick then did an effect in which a six-sided wheel with all one color on one side and another color on the other side kept on changing colors as he folded and unfolded it. Bill Brang followed with a library effect in which a couple of large letter cards turn into a vertical banner then asks if you are ready to READ. And to finish off the evening, Ferran Poage (who is a fantastic coin magician) showed us a hand exercise.

Well, I obviously missed a heck of a meeting! Luckily, I could watch it in the member's section of our website. I am hoping not to miss any more meetings, but this is why I always so look forward to a Ring 22 monthly meeting. Every meeting is like a mini convention and our attendance keeps on growing. And after the meeting a bunch of magicians head over the Hideout Pub for what we call "The Afterglow," where there is more magic and conversations about just about anything. I understand Billy Hsueh and about thirty other magicians went to the Afterglow! You are more than welcome to join us as we meet the third Tuesday of every month. Visitors are always welcome, just contact John Smith (Johnny New York) at the email above.

Norm Cattell

RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:30pm at Musician Union Bldg. 322

West 48th St., NYC / Web site: www.80-20.org/meeting

JAMES R. STRANGES, President

E-mail: magicjim@optonline.net

Our May 19th meeting was another well attended meeting. The theme was Comedy/Kids' magic and members stepped up with their contributions.

But before the after-meeting show started, we were treated to a close-up performance by Jim Vines. Jim is a North American Champion of Close-up Magic, FISM North American 2017 People's Choice Award winner, First Place –Gold Cup Champion -2016 International Brotherhood of Magicians, amongst other awards. Jim not only performed a musical close-up "Miser's Dream" type of act involving different currencies, but at the end he entertained questions about his act, performance, and competition experiences. Those of you who did not attend really missed out on a great session. Thank you, Jim.

First up to start the after-meeting show was “The Man Who Knows Too Much,” Tommy Burnett. Tommy welcomed up a spectator and had him choose a book. Tommy and spectator stood back-to-back. Tommy instructed the spectator to turn to any random page. Tommy asked for the page number. With that bit of information, Tommy was able to tell not only how many paragraphs were on the page, not only what words were on the page but also recited whole sentences. He not only did this once but three times. Each time asking the spectator to turn to a different page. The audience was laughing the whole time. Why? Unbeknownst to the spectator, Tommy had a duplicate book he was referencing. The spectator realized he was hoodwinked. But so was the audience when Tommy revealed that his book contained blank pages. Very nice.

Next up was Doc Sasko who asked our own Wendy Pincus to assist him. Doc gave Wendy a Clapperboard. Doc asked her to shut it and she was unable to do so. Doc showed her how. Still, she could not. He then gave it to her closed and asked her to open it. She was unable to do so. This was a routine a la cut no cut scissors. Very funny. Doc followed up with a nice coin routine. Four coins into Wendy’s closed hand and one vanishes and is found in Doc’s hand. This is done several times. Finally, a borrowed quarter is made to float and spin in the air.

A visitor and hopeful future member known as Mysterious Maks followed. Maks did a beautiful and entertaining fork bending routine. Audience members examine several forks and select one for Maks to use. To ensure that it does not get switched, it is marked for identification. Maks now goes into a series of bends and twists. Yes, the handle of the fork gets twisted while being held in the audience member’s hand. At one point he shakes the fork, and the tines slowly bend. Talk about visual magic.

Wendy Pincus now goes from volunteer to performer. Wendy comes out with the old standby, the change bag, and goes into an entertaining “Mis-made Flag” routine. From missing colors to mismatch colors and ending with a completely correct American flag, Wendy totally nailed it. Next Wendy shuffles a deck and has an audience member select a card. It is looked at and shuffled back into the deck. Now for the location of the card, Wendy brings out her assistant, The Card Duck. Donning a blindfold, so as not to see the card, the duck was able to locate the card and extract it from the deck with its bill. Thanks Wendy.

Our local actor, Guy Crowl followed the duck with a series of gambling/mind reading

effects. His was a lesson for the “kids,” the house always wins. First, he presents some Las Vegas cards with a story involving gambling and his mother-in-law. Incidentally, his mother-in-law hates him. Well after a series of instructions and shuffles, Guy was able to reveal the spectator’s selected card. Continuing with the gambling theme, Guy displayed a cupful of colored beads and a stick with different colored beads on it. After the volunteer selected a colored bead, a wave of the stick caused the selected color to occupy the stick. Finally, Guy took a colored chip, turned it into a nickel. He then took the nickel and attached a small wand to it and turned it into a sucker (lollipop). He then gave the sucker to a sucker with the admonishment that the house always wins

Closing the evening was Eric Qiu. Eric started by producing a deck of cards which displayed different places of interest on the front of the cards. Eric gives three spectators cards and asks them to look at the cards and silently select a place which they would like to visit. With two of the spectators, he was able to reveal the value of the chosen cards. But he has yet to reveal the chosen locations. He now goes to the third spectator and decides that he will draw the results. Having drawn the photo, he reveals a drawing of the Statue of Liberty, a bridge, and a baseball. The locations were Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, and Cooperstown, Base Ball Hall of Fame. While on the subject of sports, he next displayed cards with different basketball team names on them. They were divided into two piles. Eric challenged a spectator to a basketball game. A makeshift basket was made, and paper balls were tossed into the basket. Whoever made the basket would have a choice of which team to eliminate. The back and forth continued until one team was left. That team was the one that Eric had predicted. A very original idea.

Thanks to all who performed and attended. For information and more photos visit us on Facebook, IBM Ring 26. *Frank Reyes*

RING 29, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – Little Rock Magic Ring

Meets 1st Thur. each month, 6:45 pm., Conference Center at Baptist Hospital, Little Rock, AR. / Web site: www.LittleRockMagic.org
MARTY HAUGHN, Secretary

Ring 29 met Thursday, June 1, 2023, at Larry’s Pizza in Little Rock. We arrived early before starting time for the meeting at 6:30, ate and had terrific fellowship along excellent pizza and service. Twenty-one of us then moved to Larry’s Meeting Room, scheduled for our meeting, and our president, Dane Dover opened the meeting business session. Dane asked members

to continue the search for a few places to contact and research for a “permanent regular meeting place” and begin performers search for a public magic show in October. He then introduced I.B.M. Ring 29 Territorial Vice President Larry Bean to lead the two Broken Wand Ceremonies tonight.

The first Broken Wand Ceremony performed by Larry Bean was for Don Terry with his spouse and family present. This was followed by a Broken Wand Ceremony for Ricky David Tripp with his wife Barbara present. These tributes were for very accomplished magicians who made an impact on a great deal of people for enjoyment, messages of hope, and fun entertainment. We will miss them greatly and long remember their accomplishments.

Gerry Bailey made a motion to keep the recommended slate of officers presently active and Jim Henson seconded the motion, and Larry Bean began the induction of the newly elected officers. It was a bit unusual induction since two officers, Marty Haughn and Mike Curtis, were unable to attend and respective “stand ins” for them were Jon Bucher and Blayk Puckett as selected by Larry Bean. After the lighting of candles in a formal ceremony and pledges of commitment to each officer’s responsibilities, a comical Larry Bean original skit aimed at each officer individually, was enjoyed by all. Larry presented each officer with a gag message and a gag gift based upon fishing tackle. Things lightened up and Larry presented each officer with a new name badge custom made with the I.B.M. logo, officer title, and year 2023-2024.

Joel Nicholson, Ring 29 Vice President, related his unique experiences and memories of both Broken Wand honorees Don Terry and Ricky David Tripp before he began his required performance for newly elected officers. Joel started with a small wooden box and asked the audience what they thought it contained. Three-and-a-half-year-old Phoebe May Vodehnal correctly guessed and won the package of lighted balloons inside. But there was another prize inside and she also guessed that it was a three inch by five-inch American flag which she also won. Wells Autry (the infamous Dr. Woo) placed three twelve-inch silks in the colors red, white, and blue into a dove pan and Joel covered it with a shiny lid and with the words “I hope it works,” removed the lid to reveal a black bag. Joel handed Larry Bean and Wells Autry the bag and they produced an American flag with one pull of the upper corners of the bag. The additional helper Jim Henson joined Wells and Larry and Joel produced a large, shiny, chain that he locked around the trio. It was explained how it

took everyone, not just one, to accomplish the work of the Ring 29 club no matter what the person’s position was in the club. They were released and Joel gave a few facts about Memorial Day’s true origin and history.

James Kinsey, treasurer of Ring 29, selected Christy Vodehnal to help with a card trick. James had made a prediction of the card Christy would choose. She freely selected a random number and wrote it on back of a card. Then James had her count down to the number she had written down on the card and then turn it over to see the card. It was exactly the same card that James revealed to be his predicted card.

Gerry Bailey asked Susan Bucher to come on stage with him and he showed her two keys that were made with matching cuts but different colors: one was red, and one was silver. Carefully Gerry placed one key in Susan’s hand and showed her the one left in his hand. They were different colors just as before. Gerry then asked Susan to close her hand around the key tightly and he did the same thing with the key in his hand. Gerry then opened his hand and revealed his key had changed color to the one placed in Susan’s hand and Susan opened her hand and it had changed to the color of the key Gerry had placed in his hand!

Dane Dover, our Ring 29 president, had Blayk Puckett to assist him in fully obscuring Dane’s view by placing opaque round soft flesh-colored rubber balls over his eyes and then tying a non-gimmicked blindfold over his already obscured eyes. Blake found his desired card and shuffled the card back into the deck thoroughly and placed the deck face down on the table. Now blindfolded Dane had to find Blayk’s one randomly chosen card as Dane held the deck with the backs of the cards facing himself. After a tiny stumble Dane found the card that Blayk had chosen!

Jon Bucher (for Marty Haughn Ring 29 Secretary) performed the trick “How to get to Heaven” in a polished and effective style of presentation with paper folds and tears that resulted in a cross when unfolded. Very effective impromptu.

Blayk Puckett (for Mike Curtis, Ring 29 Historian) asked Larry Bean to think of a card and Blayk would do a unique trick. He said, “I’ll place one card in a specific place and never touch the deck again.” Blayk asked Jim Henson to call out any small number and Jim called out the number three. Blayk told Larry to take the deck and count down three cards and turn the third card over and it was the card that Larry had been thinking of! Powerful magic!

Jim Henson then presented Larry Bean with a

custom hand engraved beautiful natural finished lightly stained Master's Wand, in appreciation for all the service and time, talent, and resources he had contributed to Ring 29.

What a meeting! We had food, fellowship, a business meeting, two Broken Wand Ceremonies, an election, an induction, badges, humorous gags and serious moments, magical presentations, and renewed commitments to the responsibilities that lie ahead.

Thanks everyone for coming and to our other members and friends we missed you. Bless you all.
Joel Nicholson

RING 32, ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA – Allentown Society of Magicians, Inc.

Meets 2nd Mon. of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at Hops Restaurant, 1945 W. Columbia Ave., Allentown, PA.
Web site: www.ring32.rhomepage.com.
AL GROUT, President

It was auction time for Ring 32 on Monday, June 12th. Actually, we also just plain sell stuff and that is what most of the items were this year. President Al Grout had the only auction item which was a double change bag. Yeah, three compartments allow for a lot of foolishness and Al managed to get a bidding war on this bag. After that items were all priced pieces. Yours truly liked a giggly wand which has a hideous noise. At two bucks a pop I was out of stock immediately! This is kind of a wuffle dust noise wand and should get laughs. Madhatter Magic has Circus Match Boxes at a very low price and the four I had disappeared quickly. It is an oldie but goodie and was good enough for Al Goshman to fool Steve Allen many years back. Search YouTube for various handlings. Also, two no tear paper packs went fast.

I took a little break and when I got back resident magic maker, Tom Yurasits, was demoing his singing birds who divine cards. Amazing, cute, etc. Tom will sell a ton of these at the various conventions he works. These birds chirp without you touching them. Various ways of using the birds are still in the works and by the end of the summer these little guys will be doing all kinds of magic. I love an effect with multiple uses. You can contact Tom at his website for further info.

No meeting next month, so lots of time to practice amazing feats for August. Have fun.

Bob Good

RING 44, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND – William E. Baker Ring

Meets 1st Wed. each month from Sept. to June, 7:00 p.m., at the VFW Hall, 354 Fruit Hill Avenue, North Providence, RI 02911
JEFF SMITH, President / 79 Weeden Rd., Fairhaven, MA 02719
Contact: JeffSmith-RISM@comcast.net

Money, Money, Money! That was the theme for February's meeting at Ring 44. Regardless of one's proficiency, be it changing a one-dollar

bill into a hundred or plucking a quarter out of a child's ear, all were welcome to participate.

President Larry Stangel started things off with Paul Curry's "Penny For Your Thoughts." He followed that with John Cornelius's "Vanishing Nickel". Next up was Jeff Smith who visually turned a dollar bill into a credit card. Then he "printed" a dollar bill using the Delben Blotter. Corkey LaVallee's "Gnome's Hat" was the hit of the night (in this author's humble opinion). Corkey was followed by Dennis Pimenta who performed "Casino Coins" and his famous "Five Bill Repeat" trick. Closing out the pre-break set was Stan Skrabut who demonstrated his handling of the Okito Coin Box.

After a refreshment break Rob Martin and Dave Hill each performed and discussed their handling of Nick Diffatte's "Play Money." Dave also performed "Slow Burn/Extreme Burn" by Richard Sanders. Jeff Smith baffled everyone, including himself, with the mysterious Bermuda Triangle coin trick. Mark Thomas' "Two Coin Illusion," a stage size Hopping Half routine, was the finale of the evening.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Larry Stangel presented a certificate and pin from S.A.M. National President Rod Chow to Bob LeBlanc for reaching twenty-five years of membership in the national society. A fine evening of magic and sharing was enjoyed by all.
Jeff Smith

RING 46, OKLAHOMA CITY – Seymour Davis Ring

Meets 1st Mon. of month, New Beginning Fellowship Church, 15601 S. Pennsylvania, OKC
LEE WOODSIDE, Secretary
E-mail: WoodsideLee@hotmail.com
Ring Web site: www.okcmagic.org

June is the month for our annual Close-up Contest. President Cassidy Smith placed numbers in a hat and invited each contestant to draw the number for his order in the performances.

David Teeman invited Brian Tabor to join him. David showed a box with different colored blocks, which were held in place by a rod that ran from one end of the box to other and through holes in the blocks. David removed the rod, dumped out the blocks, and invited Brian to choose two blocks. Brian chose yellow and blue. David returned the blocks to the box and re-inserted the rod. After a magical incantation, he dumped out the blocks, but the yellow and blue block remained in the box, impaled by the rod.

David opened a small envelope and removed five cards. Each card had a picture on it. There was a caduceus, a horseshoe, a knife, and elephant and a pepper. He asked Brian to choose one card. When Brian chose the elephant, David turned over the card and on the back was the message, "You will choose this Charm." No

applause. However, David then turned over the remaining four cards and placed them in a square to show the picture of an elephant. Now there was applause.

Jay Relkin asked Jerry Bowzer and Michelle Tabor to join him. He showed a small cube with a different color spot on each side. He then asked Jerry to select any color, place the cube in a small box with that color on top and place the lid on the box. Jay and Michelle looked away while Jerry did this. Jay then had Michelle look at Jerry, read his mind, and name the color. Michelle said, "Green" and Jerry confirmed that green was his choice. Jay concluded his performance with a very professional "Coins Across" routine, with the last coin traveling from Jerry's hand to Jay's.

Brian Tabor brought out a deck of playing cards and placed one card into his pocket. He invited Jerry Bowzer to choose one card from the deck. Brian placed a round sticker on the back of the card and then lost it in the deck. Brian removed the card from his pocket. As he shook the card, a sticker suddenly appeared on its back. He turned the card around to reveal that it was the selected Jack of Hearts.

Brian took out a two-dollar bill, showed it front and back, and then folded it in half lengthwise. He showed that there were two small holes in the bill that lined up. He then folded a playing card in half and placed the folded bill inside. He placed a toothpick through the card and the bill. With a magical pass, he was able to move the bill back and forth. He removed the toothpick and unfolded the bill to show that it was intact except for the two small holes.

Bob Caldwell showed a deck of Zener ESP cards and told the history of their development for psychic testing by Dr. J.B. Rhine at Duke University. Abigail volunteered to help him. As he dealt cards to the table, he asked her to tell him whether to switch cards or not. He then showed his prediction of the number three, seven, thirteen, and nineteen. When he counted down to those locations in the deck, each card proved to be a star.

Kevin Brasier invited three people to each write a three-digit number on the page in a small notebook. He handed Abigail a book and asked her to announce the number of pages, which was just over five hundred. The three numbers were added to produce a total of 932. Since this was larger than the number of pages, Kevin divided it in half, yielding 466. He summed these digits to get sixteen. Abigail found the sixteenth word on page 466 to be "company," which matched the prediction Kevin had placed in an envelope earlier.

While the scores from the judges (everyone who did not perform) were tallied by our Treasurer Michael King, David Teeman gave a glowing review of the "non-convention" called "Pebblepalooza." He and his son, Justin Teeman had attended it in Dallas over the Memorial Day weekend.

Cassidy Smith announced the winners of the close-up contest as follows: First Place – Jay Relkin; 2nd Place – Brian Tabor; and Third Place – Bob Caldwell. Jay received a fifty-dollar magic gift certificate and a brand-new balloon-to-bunny box. Brian Tabor received a twenty-five-dollar certificate and Bob Caldwell received a fifteen-dollar certificate. Each will also receive a trophy at a later meeting.

Shaun Clark led off the member performances. He dealt cards until Jay Relkin called "stop." Shaun tore the corner off the card and placed the card and torn corner onto Jay's palm and asked Jay to cover it with his other hand. When Jay lifted his hand, the torn corner had melted onto the back of the card.

Lee Woodside showed a small box with six dice in it. Each die had a different number showing on its face. Lee placed the lid on the box and handed Michelle Tabor another die and a small dice cup. Lee asked Michelle to shake the cup and place it mouth down on top of the box containing the dice. Lee lifted the dice cup to reveal that Michelle had rolled a six. When he lifted the top from the box, he showed that each of the six dice now showed the number six on top.

Lee Woodside

RING 47, WICHITA, KANSAS – Wizards of Wichita

Meets 1st Tues. of the month, 6:30-8:30pm, Spear's Restaurant 4323W. Maple St., Wichita, KS
NELSON SCHMITT, Secretary / E-mail: nscmitt1@cox.net
Web site: www.ibmring47.com

June marks the 76th annual banquet for the Wizards of Wichita, where club President Nelson Schmitt inducted two new members, Ron Sylvester and Bill Fry. In addition, new club officers were sworn in for the 77th year of I.B.M. Ring 47. Territorial Vice President, Anthony (Tobias) Cortest read the induction oath to Sergeant-at-Arms Ron Sylvester, Treasurer Deana Murray, Secretary Nelson Schmitt, Vice President Ron Marolis, and the new president is Brett Vague. The Wizards held a raffle giving away a lot of great prizes and then enjoyed a great evening of magical entertainment.

Brett Vague educated us on how the Earth magically brings forth riches via its natural resources such as turning coal to diamond, or water erosion produces silt and sand which offers forth free gold from the earth. To demonstrate, he borrowed a white handkerchief, and

had a volunteer tie it in a knot. To substitute for river silt, he sprinkled some ground pepper on it and then had the volunteer pull the knot tight, simulating the millennia of pressure the earth can put on dirt in the ground. When the handkerchief was opened, everyone expected to see a nugget of gold appear, but Brett tricked everyone: the gold did appear, but as a gold coin stuck to his forehead. Great misdirection, sir!

Nelson Schmitt came prepared to educate us on the story of Kate (Ma) Barker, who led a gang of kinfolk in a standoff with the F.B.I. in the 1930s. To show how the authorities ended the standoff, Nelson had a piece of (Plexi)glass with a row of (bullet)holes in it and placed it in a wooden frame that had a matching set of holes drilled in it. He threaded a rope back and forth through the holes, demonstrating how the F.B.I.'s bullets riddled the wooden house and glass windows that Ma Barker and her gang were holed up in. However, the agents were able to slip inside and take out the perpetrators, as Nelson demonstrated by easily grabbing and removing the glass from the frame, leaving the rope still threaded through all of the holes in the wooden window frame.

Christian Manahl did a fantastic single rope routine which involved him first demonstrating then explaining how he could tie a knot in a rope and then make the knot disappear. He demonstrated the method so we would know that what he was about to do next, was not using that very method but actually real magic instead. He then proceeded to cut the rope into three different length pieces. He then made all three pieces into the same length. Then he made one of the two knots disappear, causing two of the ropes to fuse back into one, then he moved the remaining knot up and off of the rope. Then he plucked the final knot off of the rope leaving him with the original long rope he started with. Great job!

Ron Sylvester showed us his wife's favorite trick, the trusty Die Box, but with his own unique sense of humor and gags, great fun for any audience. I can see why this tried and tested routine is a classic.

Rondini (Ron Margolis) borrowed a quarter and had a lady in the audience sign the coin with her initials. Then he placed it inside a small, wooden box and locked it with small padlock. He then vanished the coin and had someone else unlock the box only to find that the coin had, in fact, vanished. Ron then brought out a small, brass coin box, and had the lady unscrew the lid only to find a smaller box inside. She repeated this four or five times until finally she found her signed coin in the smallest box.

Bill Fry and his lovely wife and assistant,

Rainbow Star, did a silent comedy act involving two tubes on the table, one with a wine bottle and one with a wine glass inside. She would distract him and steal the bottle from the tube, but each time he lifted the tube, a new bottle appeared in its place. After multiplying three times, Bill lifted the tubes and the glass and bottle switched places and the bottle multiplied a few more times. The comedy style reminded me of The Great Tomsoni & Co. Great job!

Tony Cortest

RING 48, PEORIA, ILLINOIS – Harold Martin Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. 7:00 pm, Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights, IL. Website: peoriamagicians.com
MICHAEL BAKER, Secretary / E-mail: themagiccompany@aol.com

The May meeting of the Peoria Magicians began with President Rodney Nordstrom, a.k.a. D'Nordo, directing us through the usual business dealings. Among the items on our agenda are upcoming conventions: AbraCORNdabra in Des Moines, IA, and the CIMGT in Springfield. Other topics included the Riverfront Market, the HOI Fair, Ignite Peoria, our public show event in October, and finally, our hosting of CIMGT in 2024.

The magic portion of the evening was dedicated to book magic. Rather than performing tricks with, from, or about books, those who participated chose to discuss a variety of books in a Show and Tell format. It's always good to learn new information, both historical and new arrivals.

The aforementioned convention in Iowa had two PMA members in attendance. Rodney Nordstrom competed in the Senior Tournament. He was narrowly edged out by PMA friend, Jesus Rios. Michael Baker, as Dr. Zirkus, served as host for a sideshow event, and also operated a dealer booth. Several close neighbors of the PMA from Champaign, Springfield, and Quad Cities clubs were also in attendance. Overall, the convention was a blast and expertly run by Steve Heinrichs and Mikayla Oz. *Michael Baker*

RING 56, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA – The Mystic IKI Ring

Meets 2nd. Mon. of month at home of Norris Priest, Henderson, KY
FRANK FINDLEY, Secretary
E-mail: secretary@ring56.com
Website: www.ring56.com

Eight members and two guests attended our April 10 meeting at the home of member Norris Priest. President Joseph Franklin opened the meeting asking for member feedback on hosting a lecture by Bill Wisch on June 21. Bill was one of Slydini's long-time students and friends and was personally authorized to present "the Slydini Lecture." Bill has now completed his lifelong project of producing DVDs about

Slydini's work including his Scarves and Helicopter Card. He had recently decided to make one last lecture tour. The Ring overwhelmingly approved of this special lecture which will replace our normally scheduled June meeting.

Final preparations were discussed for the Ring 56 magic show at the Henderson, Kentucky Tri Fest street fair. Joe, Norris and Bruce Mabis were scheduled to perform on the main stage at noon on Saturday April 15.

Several members reported attending the Real Magic Road Show in Indianapolis on March 25. This was a unique demo event where many dealers presented their items to the approximately seventy-five magicians present. The members really liked the format which allowed for questions to be answered. Dealers included Dirk Losander, Mark Mason, Christian Schenk, Paul Richards, and Daisuke Seo.

The performance theme for the meeting was a night of string theory. Bruce began with a smooth rope routine combining vanishing knots and elements of the "Professor's Nightmare" and "Tabary's Rope Routine." Joe performed a variation of Paul Richard's "Truth Divination" trick using poker chips in a bag. He followed this with a fascinating "Finger Ring on String" routine using a ring made from a coin. Joe Divietro then presented a "Cut and Restored Rope" trick with a surprise ending of the rope turning into a rubber snake, much to the shock of the assisting spectator! Frank Findley performed his showpiece large ring on steel chain penetration. Norris restored both a broken string and a cut rope in a fun and comedic manner. Lewis Chaney brought chills with his Jack the Ripper themed effect similar to Tom Stone's "Of Dice and Men."

After the performances, Joe Franklin reminded the members that we are again having monthly social meetings at Barnes and Noble bookstore in Evansville. With that, the meeting adjourned into informal discussions with snacks provided by Joe and Cheryl Divietro.

On May 8, seven members gathered at the home of member Norris Priest for our monthly Ring 56 meeting. President Joseph Franklin began by reminding members that our June meeting was moving to Wednesday the 21st to accommodate a special lecture by Bill Wisch. He also announced that at the normal Monday date and time, there will be a social meeting at Barnes and Noble bookstore in Evansville.

Discussion then turned to upcoming conventions with member sharing which they are planning to attend. Frank Findley then shared that longtime member Phil Hoy reached out via

email about staying a member of Ring 56 despite not having been able to attend meetings for a while. Everyone was very happy to hear from Phil and expressed best wishes.

The performance theme was "May the Force be with you!" Since the general modus operandi was known, each member named the methodology employed to create the desired effect. Frank Findley kicked things off with card divinations using Alvo Stockman's "Next Round" phone app and Juan Tamariz's Mnemonica Stack. Joe then made great use of David Regal's "Prophecy Pack" to not only identify a chosen card, but to have it found in an impossible location – a Lance Burton poster hanging on the wall! Gary Burgdorf employed Jim Steinmeyer's "Nine-Card Principle" in a delightful routine. Bruce Mabis drew upon Eugene Burger's equivoque teaching in a devious manner to have a spectator's thought of card appear reversed and with a different colored back in a sealed pack. Mike Eakins did one of the funniest presentations of Bill Abbott's "Celebrity Smart Ass" that we had ever seen. His use of an expanding fish net was genius. Norris performed the "Jumping Cards" trick from Professor Hoffmann's *Modern Magic*. It was a delightful treat to experience this rarely seen classic! Norris also demonstrated Mikame Craft's Fantasy Ring where a ring continuously penetrated on and off a chain placed in a tube.

Frank Findley

RING 58, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thu. 6:45 pm each month, Messiah Lutheran Church, 6900

Kingston Pke, Knoxville, TN 37919

Web site: ibmring58.com

VICTOR AGREDA, Jr., President

(865) 223-1401 / e-mail: vagredajr@gmail.com

It was a great night for "dropping" in on Ring 58, and eighteen members were there to have some fun. Our business portion included moving the September, October, and November meetings up to the third Thursday of the month, then we added a "Magic Trunk Show" (like a giant flea market event) for Saturday, September 9 at our regular meeting location. We thanked our members who performed for the church's Mother/Daughter Luncheon earlier in May: Tim Pressley, Michael Priestap, Bill Sturgis, Ed Ripley, and I.B.M. Official Photographer Michael Messing. The church wrote us a beautiful thank you note and included an honorarium for us to use to benefit magic in the area.

After our own Mike Stratman, Past International President 2002-2003, installed our new officers for the year, we got down to some magic. Our President and Program Chairman, Victor Agreda, kicked things off for the evening

– that was themed around “droppings” – with a comedy invisible dove that left a “dropping” on the top of his case! Sherman Wires had just gotten back from a road trip with Michael Priestap to the one-day Tampa Bay Festival of Magic and had a blast “dropping” a line or two on travelling with Mr. Priestap – “like watching grandpa at a filibuster meeting.” After Sherman “dropped” a silver dollar, Tom Raidy talked about the difficulty he’s having learning the trick “Catch,” and said, “I’m doing more ‘dropping’ than catching!” Then he did his time-tested routine with the “Strat-O-Spheres” “dropping” the balls in the tube and box.

Michael Priestap pulled a golf ball from a mini briefcase that he “dropped” on the table, found a spectator’s card in miniature in the deck, and then showed a deck of cards from WWII. Bill Osburn used a copper and silver coin in each hand, and one vanished only to be discovered that it “dropped” into his pocket. He did a great bar bet with a rather full bottle and a straw – challenging us to pick up the bottle and water with a straw. Bill did it – no “drop” here! By the way, Mike Stratman “dropped” the news that Darlene and he are moving from the home they built in Tellico Village to another home in Knoxville next week; rather than performing this month, he was trying to find takers for a lot of his magic.

Bill Sturgis did a presentation of “Grandma’s Necklace” by TCC with emerald-cut jewels that “dropped” off the velvet cords. The Hyders performed in tandem a piece of MAK Magic from the early 70s: the “Orange, Checkers and Rice.” Andrew was the front man, and Jessica provided the comedy relief (and beauty!) behind him for this great triple transposition (“dropping” some rice on the floor!) that most of us had never seen.

Jim Stott had a beautiful, polished wood “Chop-A-Lot” food processor and took the wrist of a tentatively eager Tim Pressley for a fun demonstration where Tim’s hand did *not* “drop” off! Roy Schubert had three miniature cards chosen from a deck, they vanished, and appeared inside a box of Cracker Jacks inside the sealed “Toy Prize” package! That was a jaw “dropper!” Tim Pressley used both hands to do a trick called “Long, Long Rope” where a long hank of rope mysteriously turned into five loops of rope that he “dropped” onto his arms with no ends anywhere!

Our photojournalist and newsletter editor, Michael Messing, put down his camera long enough to “drop” some knots off a piece of rope. In from Florida for the day, Tom Vorjohan did a few tricks including a feat of instant memorization from *Tarbell 3* (page 134...he remembered

that, too!) and a Barry Mitchell version of Pom-Pom stick which he customized just for his last line which used a real “dropping.” John Gyllenhaal “dropped” in to show us his custom “The Hare Shorter” trick – like the boomerang trick except so much better and more baffling.

To end the official performances, our treasurer, Jack Wilson, attempted a test of a woman’s intuitiveness by a series of free choices that he “dropped” on a card of each suit (from his recently acquired complete set of Nick Trost books!). We hung around and talked until after 10:00 p.m. – a wonderful meeting!

Tom Vorjohan

RING 60, AUSTIN, TEXAS – Carl Moore Ring

Meets 1st Mon., 7:00, at the IHOP, 11654 Research Blvd., Austin, Texas.

TRIXIE BOND, President / E-mail: trixie@trixiebond.com

Web site: www.ibmring60.org

Food, Fun, Music & Magic... what could be better? The annual I.B.M., Ring 60 picnic was held on Saturday, May 27th at the LBJ lake home of Trixie Bond and Mark Axford. Fortunately, it was a beautiful and moderately cool afternoon for Central Texas. Member Mark Wilson, a.k.a., “Merlin,” and Dee Prince entertained us with wonderful live music on the patio. Mark was on the keyboard and guitar and Dee joined Mark on the vocals.

Fresh off the grill hamburgers and hot dogs were served with plenty of traditional sides and ice-cold drinks. There were over fifteen desserts to choose from, all contenders for our “Dessert Contest.” The array of desserts had something for everyone: apple pie, brownies, cookies, homemade ice cream, Tres Leches cake, and Zoe’s dark chocolate cake. The winner was made by first time attendee, Cindy Bighorse-Chadwick from the Fort Worth area. She made blackberry chocolate chunk and peach rum ice creams, definitely worth the prize.

After a couple hours of fellowship and eating, Ring President Ken Dickensheets, emceed our “One Trick Contest.” First up was Will Mannis who entertained with two tricks, “Disappearing Ink off a Wand,” and a sponge star routine called “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

Jesse Smith did an outstanding money changing routine he has crafted and performed for many years. Two volunteers were amazed as a five-dollar bill and two-dollar bill magically switched places between their hands, and then back again.

Ring Treasurer Glen Watkins was the winner with a customized version of Bill Abbott’s “Smart Ass” effect. This card prediction ends with a reveal that’s the picture of a popular Hollywood movie star. In Glen’s Ring 60 version, the predicted picture was of our own magician and Board member Trixie Bond.

Eleven-year-old 2022 TAOM Junior winner, Zoe Kiser from Saginaw, Texas was our finale. Zoe performed her entire candy themed act for us. She will be presenting this act in July at the Society of American Magicians convention "Stars of Tomorrow" program in New Orleans. The Ring thanks Trixie and Mark for once again hosting the annual food, music and magic festivities!

Tricia Heil Davis

RING 70, TACOMA, WASHINGTON – Great Virgil and Julie Ring

Meets 4th Sun., at LeMay Car Museum, 2702 E. D St., Tacoma, Fife, WA. RICK ANDERSON, Ring Contact, 501 S. 43rd St., Tacoma, WA 98408 / (253) 473-5456 E-mail: rickandersonmagic@gmail.com

There were four members in attendance this month including Mike Losk, Rick Anderson, Dave Pelto, and Mike Hoyles.

Mike Losk started off the magic portion of the meeting with several fine effects. He showed us two Chinese coins, one yellow and the other red and asked a spectator to selected one (he took the red one) and hold on to it. Mike then put the yellow one in a card box. After the hocus pocus, the spectator opened his hand, and the coin was now yellow. And the one in the box was red!

Mike then showed us a combination padlock and a spectator confirmed it was locked. Four dice were thrown by the spectator, and they were arranged in any order the spectator chose. That series of numbers became a combination and when the spectator dialed them in the lock it opened.

Dave Pelto had a card selected by a spectator which was placed face down on the table. He then selected one himself (a prediction) and laid it beside the spectator's card, also face down. The deck was then cut into two piles and the spectator pointed to one of them. The top card from that pile was moved to the table next to the other two. The top card of the other pile was turned over and its value told us how many cards down was the fourth card to be added to the other three. All four cards matched!

Mike Hoyles asked a spectator to remove any six black cards and one red one from a deck of cards. Mike took the cards and held them up as a packet and asked the spectator if what he was looking at was the red card. It wasn't so it was discarded. Holding the cards horizontally, the bottom card was moved to the top of the packet and the spectator was then asked if the new bottom card was the red one. It wasn't so it was discarded. This was repeated leaving three cards in the discard pile. Mike then turned over the four remaining cards and all were black. "You probably weren't paying attention," Mike said, as he

picked up the discard pile and repeated the process. A second time the non-discarded cards were all black. A third time all were, again, black leaving the red card the only card not discarded.

Michael Hoyles

RING 71, CINCINNATI, OHIO – W.W. Durbin Ring-J. Ronald Haines

Meeting dates vary per month, 7:00 p.m. at Springdale Nazarene Church, 11177 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45246.

Please check website, www.Ring71.com for upcoming events.

CHARLIE MEYER, President / Email: charlie.cadabra@yahoo.com

Facebook: International Brotherhood of Magicians - J. Ronald Haines - W.W. Durbin Ring 71

We had eighteen members attend the April Ring 71 meeting. Larry Payne started the meeting with comments on silk magic. He gave a short dissertation on how to care for your silks. He pointed out that most flourishes that you can do with ropes you can also do with silks. He concluded his presentation by showing us how to produce a fake knot in a silk.

Gerald Ralston showed us his opening stage routine where he changed a rope to a silk and then produced a bouquet of flowers from under the silk. He followed that with a series of selected numbered cards that ended up matching the winning numbers on a lottery ticket.

Ron Lawson demonstrated A routine involving the contents of a lunch box that vanished after being placed in a paper bag and reappeared in the lunch box. His patter was a discussion on bullying. Ron also did a book routine where a randomly selected word appeared on a predicted page and line number of a thesaurus.

Greg Hamilton performed a trick that he made called "Grandma's Button Jar" and then showed us how he made the apparatus.

Our May meeting was attended by twenty members. The lecture was given by Bradley Morgan from Print Magic. Brad presented a very detailed slide presentation on "Three-Dimensional Printing." He showed us how 3D printing could be used to fabricate special types of magical apparatus. He demonstrated tricks such as a Chop Cup routine, "Chink A Chink," "The Broken Teapot," and a four-ace routine that used items that he fabricated with his 3D printer. Not only is Brad an expert on 3D printing, he is also a very excellent magician. He had several of his creations for sale at the end of the meeting.

Al Scheide

RING 75, FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS – Bill Pitts Ring

Meets 2nd Sun. each month, 1:30 p.m., Fort Smith Library, 3201 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith, AR

KEN ZELNICK, Secretary / E-mail: kzelnick@suddenlink.net

The June meeting of I.B.M. Ring 75, Fort Smith, AR was held Sunday, June 11 at the Fort Smith Library. Five members were in attendance.

The meeting began with the nomination of club officers for the upcoming year. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to retain the slate of officers from the previous year. They are as follows: Larry Bean – President; Jody Birchfield – Vice President; Ken Zelnick – Secretary; Clyde Hayre – Treasurer; and Ron Ingram – Sergeant-at-Arms. Installation will be held at the July meeting.

Following the election, we discussed the annual magic auction that will be held at the July meeting. Because of the limited time available, a decision will be made at the July meeting to possibly auction only a portion of the offered items, with the remainder to be sold flea market style.

Following this, several members offered a variety of tricks. However, ye scribe was unable to follow this, as he was attending via telephone.

With no other items of business and closing time for the library rapidly approaching, several members recessed to reconvene at a local coffee shop.

Ken Zelnick

RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – Honest Sid Gerhart Ring

Meets 7:00 pm 2nd Mon. of the month at Immaculate Conception Church located at 2540 San Diego Ave., San Diego, CA 92110
MATTHEW KING, Secretary / Web site: www.ring76.com

As the current Ring year winds down, the May meeting of Ring 76 proved to be an enthusiastic event. From the auditions of new members to the annual Stand-up Contest, the members and guests had an evening to be remembered.

The meeting got started with the usual Ring business. “Magic Mike” announced we had fifty people in attendance. Several other announcements included James Thayer’s reminder that dues are due in June, and Mark Booth’s reminder that the Installation Banquet is twenty-four dollars per person, and you need to pay him by the end of June. There will be no late payments this year.

Our performer is Jeff Hobson. Chris Lorenson visited Ton Onasaka’s magic shop, Magic Land, in Tokyo, Japan, and bought “Card Mirage” which was autographed by Ton Onasaka himself. Chris donated this to the Ring, and it was auctioned off. Callahan won the bid, and the money was donated to the Ring 76 library. Richard Ustick (part of the election committee) announced that the club is still looking for a secretary. This is an important position on the Board and a Ring member needs to step up and support the Ring. We then had the opportunity drawing and with that the “business” was done. On to the Stand-up Contest.

First off, Max Long auditioned for Ring membership. All new members are required to audition to show a genuine interest in conjuring. Max performed an entertaining “Professor’s Nightmare”

while describing it in Spanish and taught us this classic effect. The Ring unanimously voted for his membership. Welcome aboard Max. With that done V.P. of Entertainment, Greg Wauson, reviewed the rules of the yearly Stand-up Contest. The winners will be announced at our Installation Banquet, Monday July 10.

First up is Callahan who described a story about victory. He used guardian posts and a samurai sword set on a wooden base. A ring disappeared off the rope, ending up with the ring on the sword on the platform and the sword was between the posts under a silver cloth.

“Godfrey the Magician” was the second performer. His act was themed as “I love the outdoors” including balancing a marshmallow on a long skewer on his mouth, “Torn and Restored Cigarette Papers” from a tobacco purse, and his finale was a misbehaving antenna from a walkie talkie.

Next up was “Mago Ruly” who used upbeat music entertained us with “Refilled” by Harius. He had an empty bottle of Corona beer and a paper bag next to each other on his table. Mago Ruly placed the bottle in the bag and magically it became refilled and sealed. Then, he tap danced to “Hit the Road Jack” with a white to black cane routine and resulted in “Silk to Cane” with throw streamers at the end.

Paul Dwork was the fourth entertainer. He talked about “micro world” and performed “Gypsy Thread” with the strings cut by candlelight. Paul showed the “macro world” and entertained us with putting knots into a tube, then the knots were undone, and his routine ended with appearing knots on the rope.

The fifth performer, Mark Booth, did a comic “Educated Duck” act with Mademoiselle Claire Voyant. She’s a psychic duck and matched jumbo cards of several spectators to her cards from her card holder.

The last contestant, “Miss Charley” Miller, invited the spectator to be the magician. “Miss Charley” didn’t touch the cards at all. “Miss Charley’s” prediction matched the spectator’s card.

The members then voted on who was the best performer of the evening and that person will be announced at the July Installation Banquet.

Sherry Luft

RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. “Social Gathering,” 7:00 p.m. start time. First Methodist Church, 104 S. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL
GARY ROBERTS, President

E-MAIL: gary@robertsgary.com / Web site: www.ibmring81.com

We were eagerly anticipating the gentlemanly stylings of Tony Slydini’s magic through the life-long dedication, study, and talent of the

master Slydini student, Bill Wisch. To accommodate Wisch's touring schedule for his "Slydini Admiration" lecture tour, we were meeting a week later than normal. Imagine our shock and surprise to learn at 3:30 p.m. on the meeting day that Bill had a horrible fall when he and his son, Kevin, arrived in Sarasota. He fell on his hands, face, and head and went to the closest emergency room; Kevin called from the hospital to tell our president, Gary Roberts, that they did not know if they could make it.

As two visiting guests and twelve members began arriving at 6:00, we knew that Bill had been discharged from the hospital and that "we would do everything in our power to be at the Ring meeting" according to Kevin Wisch. Sure enough, with just a few minutes prior to our 7:00 p.m. start-time, in walked a battered and bruised Bill Wisch and his son! Bill had a bandage wrapped around his skull, his left eye was completely swollen shut in a ghastly array of black and blue, as well as several band-aids and bandages on his hands and arms. He looked like he'd been in a fight... and lost. We weren't sure what was about to happen, but we were overjoyed that Bill was able to make it to our meeting, and we hope his healing continues quickly.

Like a true dedicated professional, Bill sat in front of the room to explain what had happened over the past four hours, and that he doubted he would be able to perform much, but that he wanted to share his knowledge and admiration for Tony Slydini with those of us who made the journey to see him. Bill said, "I don't think anyone on the planet has spent more time with Tony Slydini." Bill had taken over one hundred twenty lessons from Slydini starting in 1973. When Tannens' Slydini books were about to be released, Tony asked Bill to go around and introduce the books and the material they covered to magicians all over the country – Wisch went to seventy-four cities!

The enthralling stories and sharing went on for just shy of two hours (and could have gone much longer!). While recollecting his experiences learning from Slydini, Bill did just a little magic including his one-coin manipulation and Slydini's graceful handling of "Wild Card." However, he was physically not able to do killer effects like the "Helicopter Card" or "Slydini Silks" (Knots) because of his fall. Bill's version of the Knots is incredible; at one point, he said, Slydini himself said no one did the Knots better than me," and Bill humbly announced that he finished the double-DVD set covering all aspects of the Slydini knots in 2022. He has also

released the Helicopter Card on its own DVD in the past year or so.

"(For) every lesson I ever took with that man, he wore a white dress shirt and black tie." There are very few videos of Slydini – "he just didn't like videos" we were told, and Bill is very proud of his personal "Slydini Tapes" – he has thirty-eight hours of audio – but only seven-and-a-half minutes have been released at this time. In addition, Wisch has a blog post "Slydini the Legacy" which has twenty-five articles up and another twenty-five slated to be released at one per month. "What I admire most about Slydini is his honesty – Slydini is majestic," said Bill. Although Tony passed away in 1990, the world of magic is lucky to have a disciple like Bill Wisch who has managed to keep Slydini's magic alive and taught properly. At the age of seventy-six, Mr. Wisch believes this will be his last lecture tour, and we are delighted he could make it to Sarasota even through his pain. Thank you!

Tom Vorjohan

RING 84, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA – Charles Waller Ring

Meets 1st Mon. 7:30 p.m. (except January), at the Welsh Church, 320 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

AIDAN THOMPSON, President/Secretary

E-mail: aidan.thompson@fultonhogan.com.au

A few absentees for our May 2023 meeting saw a reduced but enthusiastic group perform some very worthwhile magic.

Gary Cohen talked about our theme for the evening, vanishes and appearances, and how he had struggled to come up with anything to perform – "Zippo" in fact. He then proceeded to rub his hands and a Zippo lighter appeared!

Graham Etherington showed a number of cards, each with attractive young models on them. After shuffling the cards, spectator selects one and no surprise, it is the one card picturing the least attractive – in fact she looked downright ugly!

Ian Baxter demonstrated a coin vanish through the solid wooden table in use. Not only did it pass through, but you could hear a resounding click at the very moment it penetrated.

Aidan Thompson performed a marketed effect from Jay Sankey called "Going, Going, Gone." Spectator selects a card from half of a deck, the other half being held under a hanky, out of sight. Climax reveals selection vanishing from first half, reappearing in the covered second half with all turning blank on both sides, except the chosen card.

Plenty of keen discussion throughout a most enjoyable meeting.

Aidan Thompson

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

RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.
BILL FIENNING, Secretary
(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: wefienn@att.net

President David Dunlap opened the June Ring meeting. We are trying to build interest in the New Mexico Magic Festival coming up in September. Our topic for June was Packet Tricks.

Treasurer Tom Plunkett started with "Cards of Influence." Tom placed the Influence Card, the Jack of Hearts, face up on the top of the face down packet of cards. The spectator cut the packet a few times and then dealt it into two piles. The pile without the face up Influencer Card was discarded, and the remaining cards were dealt again into two piles. The spectator repeated this until only two cards remained. These were the Jack of Hearts and its companion, the Jack of Diamonds.

Tom also performed his updated version of Larry Becker's "Serial Killer" which Tom calls Ultimate Killer. He handed stacks of (all different, ordinary) dollar bills to three spectators. The serial number information on the bills would be used to construct a new random serial number from permutations of the serial numbers on their bills. After each participant selected a bill, they were allowed to exchange and swap their selected bills at many different times during the digit and letter selection process thus creating a wide variety of options in picking the numbers and letters. After this was completed, he proceeded to read their minds and tell them random serial number and letters that they had created after multiple switches. Tom also presented and discussed "The Trick that Fooled Einstein."

President Dave Dunlap showed two jokers. He sandwiched them together causing a dollar bill to appear between them. He also did "Bizarre Twist," a sort-of color changing knives routine but with colored credit cards. He did a routine of the "Twisting the Aces: genre with four jokers as well as an "Out to Lunch" but with a business card with a closed padlock that changed to an opened padlock.

Tall Paul Cochran did "Color Monte" with two queens and an ace. Brenda Lamon did an entertaining story about her "friend" Jake who was a sneaky con man to whom she had loaned eight dollars. She changed the four dollars bills he paid her back into a stack of two-dollar, five-dollar, and twenty-dollar bills. Bill Martin loaned Tall Paul a special X-ray viewer to identify the jumbo cards enclosed in a box.

Secretary Bill Fienning presented his "Fatal Poker Hand" story. A dishonest poker player in

northern New Mexico, Jeb Biddle (an inside joke for magicians), cheated at poker one night around 1890. He used sleight of hand to switch a Three of Clubs he was dealt for an Ace of Diamonds to complete his Royal Flush in Diamonds. But the other poker player had a joker and four aces. It was obvious that Biddle had cheated, and his opponent shot him, shattering one lens of his glasses as he fell dead. The image of the last card he saw, the Ace of Diamonds, appeared in the one remaining lens of his glasses when Biddle's IOU was burned resting on the glasses' lens. Bill explained that this was actually a packet trick, expanded into a full story line. He discussed the workings, including the special mis-pipped card and unique antique glasses he modified for the routine.

Bill Fienning

RING 92, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA – The Vancouver Magic Circle (Charles Howard Ring)

Meets 4th Thurs. except July, Aug. and Dec., 7:00 pm, Sunrise Community Hall, 1950 Windermere St., Vancouver, B.C.
YOOSIK OUM, President
E-mail: yoosikoum@gmail.com / Web site: www.ibmring92.com

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting took place on Thursday, May 25, 2023. Several members arrived early at the hall for a chat session. President Yoosik Oum welcomed the members and guests.

To start the magic activities for the evening, Genpei Cai did a workshop on close-up magic with cards and coins. He showed different moves, sleights, and techniques. He had the attention of the members for an hour. The members enjoyed the workshop. Well done, Genpei.

Competition time. There were two contests. The first contest was for the H.B. MacLean Trophy. This is an adult competition. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence on close-up magic. In this contest, no playing cards or stage effects will be permitted. The second contest was for the Dick Gardner Trophy. This is a junior competition. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in close-up magic by a junior member. Playing cards may be used, but no stage effects will be permitted. Last year's winner, Robert Teszka, was the host and master of ceremonies for the two contests. He read the rules for the H.B. MacLean contest. The competitors for the H.B. MacLean Trophy were S.A.M. National President Rod Boss, Bill Lee, John Stenning, Scott Barker, and I.B.M. International President Billy Hsueh. Billy Hsueh was the winner of the H.B. MacLean Trophy for 2023. For the Dick Gardner Trophy, the competitors were Jack Schwartz and Blake Aleong. Robert Teszka also read the rules for this contest. The winner of the

Dick Gardner Trophy for 2023 was Blake Aleong. Congratulations to the winners and to the rest of the competitors. Simon Cassegrain was the timekeeper. In between the acts Robert Teszka talked about the namesake of the close-up competition trophy. H.B. MacLean developed a system teaching cursive writing to school children all over British Columbia. Robert also discussed how a fringe festival works and showed some of his beginner stand-up comedy. Finally, he told one of the historical stories from a walking tour that he led teasing the audience with cliff hangers.

It was nice to see Billy Hsueh at one of our meetings. Billy has been busy on the road fulfilling his duties as the I.B.M. International President. It was also nice to see Past International President Shawn Farquhar at the meeting. Shawn has been busy on the road doing shows.

Photography was done by Henry Tom. For the refreshments, Rod Boss supplied the cookies, bottled water, and coffee. Claire-ly Lee brought cookies. Cameron Minty made some Masala Chai, which is an Asian tea. Thanks to Kim Fabbro for giving me a ride to and from the meeting.

Thanks everyone. There were thirty-four members and two guests in attendance.

Dennis Chan

RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club

3rd Sun., 7:00pm, Hy-Vee meeting room, 400 Locust St., Dubuque, Iowa
BOB BEARDSLEY, President / E-mail: johnyo@trickyperson.com
E-mail: rbeardsly@Q.com

Club emcee, Rob Gomoll, opened the meeting with the club song and a poem titled “Advice for a Beginning Magician.”

A beginner-magician came up to me: “Aren’t you a member of Ring 93?” / I proudly nodded my head. / Then he said: / “Some basics I gotta see, / “So I can fool my friends and family.” / “I’ll show you what I learned as a tyro. / “That’ll make you into a magic-hero!” / First, I told him about the Change Bag as a prop, / And that he could learn the French Drop. / “That Change Bag can make things disappear, / And with the French Drop you can pull a coin out of someone’s ear.” / Next, I told him the Double Lift is a quick fix / And a component of many other magic tricks. / “Practice and you’ll have fun / Picking up two cards that seem as one. / No ifs, ands, or buts, you need to learn some False Cuts. / You need to learn the knock / Of getting a card on the bottom to the top of the stack.” / Last, I told him about the Slip Force which isn’t too hard / To make spectators think you buried their chosen card. / “Oh, and for your own sake / Learn the Pinky Break. / “Here,” I said, “is my

old magic book. / It’s yours... have a look! / Oh, and there are many ways a magician can distract us / But the biggest thing is practice, practice, practice!”

Next, Rob did a “Walking Through a Sheet of Paper” trick to an inspirational poem about getting through problems in life. He also did a trick with three wooden disks called “Free Will.” He intuited which disk a spectator chose, which disk was in a bag, and which was left on the table. Last, he used a device to cut and restore a rope.

Club President Chris Westemeier did a trick called “Devil’s Cups” which used four similar cups and a die or other small token. With his back to the spectator, and despite the spectator’s mixing up the order of the cups, Chris could tell which cup the die was under. Logic was a big factor in this great trick.

Adam Kieffer demonstrated his usual amazing cardistry. He also did his take on a trick called “The Soul of the Deck.” Adam predicted which card the spectator chose from an imaginary deck using an actual deck in his hands.

The rest of the meeting was like Rob’s poem. Our expert magicians gave advice and technical tips and answered questions from other members and visitors.

Rob Gomoll

RING 94, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND – The King Ring

Meets 4th Weds. each month, 7:30 p.m., Hagerstown American Legion, Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD / Web site: www.kingmagicring.com
JOHN SWOMLEY, President / E-mail: johnyo@trickyperson.com

King Magic Ring’s May meeting theme was Liquid Magic. But first things first. We just had to celebrate Dean Burkett’s birthday. He is ageless. After cake and a card trick, we were off to the races.

Khan-Du and Co. (Charlie and Karen James) combined the classics of “Milk to Lightbulb” and “Do Not Remove Milk Vanish.” This was a perfect match and highly entertaining. A lamp was introduced. The milk was poured, and the card removed. The look on Chuck’s face was priceless. The lamp starts to blink. It’s now filled with milk and the cup has a light in it.

Next up was Johnny-O! (John Swomley). He took the opportunity to demonstrate and explain the principle of a Cartesian Diver. It’s science that looks like magic. Look it up and make one yourself. John explained how to use it to find a selected card.

Afterwards the meeting closed out with the time-honored “Magic Sessioning.” Chuck Thomas (Chuck Jones) shared a musical version of Harry Loryane’s “Lazy Man’s Card Trick.”

John opened a discussion about Snowstorms and Breakaway Fans. We all discussed what it is like to, as magicians, be selected and try to act

accordingly on stage. Then John brought out a children's version of "Sands of the Desert." It was a toy-like item using 'hydrophobic' (magic) sand. Again, it's science that looks like magic.

Finally, there was a discussion about double lifts and the Bluff Pass. We sure do love magic.

John Swomley

RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – Merlin Eifert Ring

Meets 3rd Sat., 7:00 pm at the Seal Beach North Community Center,

3333 Saint Cloud Dr., Seal Beach, CA

Web site: www.Ring96.com

CLIFF GERSTMAN, Secretary / E-mail: Cliffg37@verizon.net

On Saturday, May 20th, Ring 96 met to hold its most recent monthly meeting. Lately, we have been hosting pre-meeting half hour workshops to go over various moves and effects. This month we left that alone as the event was our Close-up Competition and we did not want to risk exposing secrets to a lay audience.

The policy for our competitions is that last year's winner is the next year's host. So, our treasurer Jon Strum hosted our exciting event.

John put the eight performers in order and then randomized them to make sure the event was fair to everyone. He also told the performers and audience from the beginning that he would flash a two-finger warning at the eight-minute mark, hold up one finger at the nine-minute mark and then verbally call "stop" at exactly ten minutes. This again, was done to keep the playing field level; each performer had up to ten minutes to present their set.

The first performer was Marty Gorman. Marty opened strongly by melting a King of Hearts through a Ten of Spades. Next, four normal playing cards turned blank one at a time. After that, the entire deck became blank. Marty showed us a deck with all the backs different and no two the same. After a little magic was added, this deck too became all blank. This time both the front and the backs were shown as being blank.

The second performer was Alan Hanson. He opened his set with a recording of the song "Tequila," but at the key moment produced a banana which he had everyone call out instead of the name of the alcoholic beverage. He continued to make bananas appear as he made puns about them. He brought out a deck of cards that had bold and obvious numbers on the back one through fifty-two. Volunteers chose both numbers and playing cards and found that their chosen number matched the chosen card. Alan ended his set by opening a banana and pulling out one-dollar bills. Slowly the bills increased in value until they were million-dollar bills. He ended by producing more bananas.

Jim Greene was the third performer. Jim performed his "Ring on Rope" routine, in which he magically puts a borrowed ring onto a rope and takes it off again. He repeated this with two rings. A clever move was to have a volunteer hold the ends in front of her chest while the ring tied in was hanging down her back. Jim removed the ring from behind her. He closed with a three-ring effect creating an interesting sculpture of rings and rope.

Cliff Gerstman was number four. This made some people wonder what a stage-based escape artist was doing in the close-up competition, but Cliff held his own. Cliff opened with an inspirational sight gag on how to deal with things that block your goals in life and followed that with a large square yellow card that showed an arrow. The card was flipped over and over while Cliff told a story to go with it. There were two short card tricks, one presented mixing up the kings, queens, and jacks, only to find them in proper order after all. The other was a predictive trick as Cliff always knew what card was coming up next. He closed by teleporting a signed quarter across a close-up pad.

Club President John Piercy was the next performer. John brought out a deck of cards that were boldly lettered on the backs A-Z. He brought out dice and poker chips. After various gambling adventures and clever patter, John finally turned over several cards that had been sitting at the front the whole time and they spelled "lucky!"

Roy Ball took ten cards off of the deck and proceeded to count-spell "Will the Cards Match?" and showed that cards had indeed found their mate. He began to deal poker hands to himself and a volunteer. Twice she beat his pair with two pairs. This showed how exciting the game of poker can be.

Kevin Papke was next. Kevin started with two coins on the table and had a volunteer pick one. He took the chosen coin and vanished and had it reappeared multiple times in multiple places. Kevin borrowed the volunteer's ring and did a "Ring on String" effect. He managed to take the ring off the string by catching the string on her finger. Finally, he asked her three questions to see what card she would choose. She chose the Three of Hearts. He shoved it into the deck in a random location, but when the cards were spread her Three of Hearts was right next to the Three of Diamonds.

In the last position was Brett Bollich. A volunteer selected a card and it proved to be a double backer. This brought a huge laugh. He had it replaced in the deck, shuffled the deck and found the selected card. Brett pulled a sponge

ball smile from behind the volunteer's ear and went into a "Cups and Balls" routine using a Sharpie pen for a magic wand. His kicker load was a pair of donuts. This ending surprised nearly everyone.

Jon's rules kept the evening moving at a comfortable pace, and the audience which was full of guests and some kids all seemed to have fun. Jon did a few effects himself as the votes and ballots were counted.

Brett Bollich won the coveted people's choice award, which is voted on by the guests and lay audience in the room. The magicians in the room voted for the other winners. When all was said and done Cliff Gerstman came in third place. Brett Bollich came in second, and Kevin Papke was this year's first-place winner.

Cliff Gerstman

RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - The Maurice Rooklyn Ring

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood
Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street
Chatswood.

DALE TRUEMAN, President / email: daletrueman@me.com

With our president Dale Trueman unable to attend tonight's meeting our hardworking treasurer and long-standing member Peter Wood took over to chair the meeting and to introduce tonight's performers.

To start the ball rolling Peter began by performing his routine for the Pom Pom Stick by pulling any one of the four different coloured Pom Poms he showed that they were all attached to each other even though he broke the stick in halves proving there was no connection.

Peter then introduced John Kanawati who showed us his version of the "Eleven Note" (Bill) routine using our five-dollar notes. Instead of trying to get to eleven notes, John had changed it to ten notes. He kept asking a spectator to count ten notes into his hand, but when checked there was always just nine even after an extra note was continually added. He then had the spectator add three and take away two notes, but he was still left with nine. When the balance of five notes were added instead of fourteen only five remained. It was Edward Victor that invented the Eleven Card Trick and published it in *Willane's Method for Miracles No. 6* in the early 1950s. Gene Gordon with his "Dizzy Dollar" routine and Fred Kaps with his Eleven Bill effect were among the most famous performers to realise that the effect would be much better using dollar notes instead of playing cards.

Dennis Norman, a long-term member presented one of his favourite routines. With two small black plastic rods he caught a diamanté on

the end of one of them, it kept moving from one rod to the other, then it multiplied to two, one at each end of a rod, then together at one end, on opposite sides and one on each rod. Before we knew it, the diamantés started to vanish just as quickly as they appeared. Dennis then asked for some advice on practicing magic. He produced a jumbo set of Martin Lewis's "Sidewalk Shuffle" and asked questions such as, "How much time would everyone spend learning this routine?" A vigorous discussion took place.

John Green spoke about performing at his daughter's wedding. He had spent some time thinking, "What would the ideal trick to perform?" He considered "Anniversary Waltz," but decided to use the Jon Allen wedding trick based on Karl Fulves' "Gemini Twins." Using two spectators to pretend they were the wedding couple he asked them to write on a heart shaped Post-it Note the first reasons they were attracted to each other. Using a pack of "Name" cards the notes were inserted into the cards at freely stopped positions. The cards were all shown to have different first names on them, however the stickers proved to be stuck on the back of the married couples names. John explained that for the wedding he had a special pack of cards with the names of those invited to the ceremony engraved in copperplate handwriting. The cards would become permanent souvenirs for all attendees and would be a permanent reminder of John's great effect.

Peter Rodgers showed a quick poker stacking technique by performing Nick Trost's "A Double-Duke Stack" from volume eight of Trost's magnificent *Subtle Card Creations*. He followed that up with John Bannon's "Timely Departure" from another great book, *Smoke and Mirrors* which Bannon had published in the early 1990s. Peter defies anyone without prior knowledge of the principles used to fathom out the methods of either effect, because of the multiple methods used.

Phuoc Can Hua amplified some Chinese music from his smart phone and performed a "Linking Rings" routine using six thirty centimetre (twelve inch rings) forming the rings into various patterns such as a wheel, a chair, a chain and the globe of the world. These patterns reminded me of The Great Wong's Linking Rings routine and ring routines from old classic magic books. Phuoc explained to me that he had developed his routine from a buskers performance that he had studied on video.

Steve Miller in performing a recently new released effect had a card selected and then produced a card claiming the chosen card was on the other side. After the comedy of using a 52 on

1 card he asked the spectator to look closer at the 52 to 1 card. The image of his chosen card was Out Jugged, proving that he did know it all along. Steve then discovered another mentally chosen card.

One of our visitors tonight, Cam Lio from Newcastle, said that he liked to combine magic with technology. He had the Jack of Hearts chosen, he then showed his smart phone and caught the image of a folded card in the phone. It moved around the screen and then Cam actually pulled the image out of the phone, and it proved to be the real Jack of Hearts.

Another visitor, Joel Spence, previously from the Blue Mountains said that he was inspired by the great English comedy magician, Tommy Cooper. Joel showed us a bottle and a glass. He covered them both with cylinders and they started to change places. We soon realised that he was using extra bottles as they started to multiply at an alarming rate.

Jack Sharp, our Vice President always starts his act with a joke. Tonight because of Joel's impression he told the classic Tommy Copper racehorse joke. He then blindfolded a spectator whilst he showed everyone else a bottle of Fanta which he placed on the table in a paper bag. With much comedy and hints, but very little subtlety, Jack asked the spectator to name a drink. The spectator said Coke and Jack produced a very large bottle of Coke from the bag. Jack then performed an original routine based on the popular game of Celebrity Head. Three spectators freely took their favourite cards out of the pack, they then placed them, back outwards, onto their foreheads in a head band that Jack provided. Jack then used his amazing powers of mind reading, or else he cheated, and he divined the cards.

Jamie Cartmer, another visitor from the Central Coast, but now a member, had a novel routine using alphabet cards based around the very popular game of Wordle. Jamie managed to find multiple packets of cards that spelt the spectators freely chosen word. We welcome Jamie to Ring 102 and hope that he stays with us for many years to come.

The meeting adjourned to our normal supper provided by our hardworking treasurer, Peter Wood. *Peter Rodgers*

RING 106, PARSIPPANY, NEW JERSEY – Pyramid Garden State Ring

Meets 8:00pm, 4th Tue. United Methodist Church, 903 S. Beverwyck Ave., Parsippany, NJ Contact # (973) 422-0019
BENNET CARLIN, Secretary

Our May meeting got off to a great start as Joe Garsetti tried out his opening act for the upcoming *24 Karat Close-up Magic Show* fea-

turing Sean Doolan. Utilizing Pabst Blue Ribbon beer, bottle caps, and a deck of cards, his “Dipsy Doodle” performance went over well. He received many comments, suggestions, and critiques from the experienced members of the club.

Phil Schwartz followed with his Dean's Box routine utilizing an original Dean's Box. Eddie Conrad demonstrated a nicely crafted Heart/Cross and penetrating rope effect. The prop and trick are as of yet un-named. He continued with a nice “Thunderbolt” routine utilizing individual brass loops that flew through the air to magically link into a fully connected chain.

John Henderson performed a colorful Ring/Rope/Safety pin trick from Mark Wilson's *Course of Magic*. He then doubled the effect a la Glenn Gravatt in his *Gold Mine of Magic*. Tim Fortune took the table to do a duel card prediction effect which utilized a thirteen-card stack in the center of the deck. Stan Bladek told a story of a trip to the U.S. Mint in Washington, DC, utilizing a Jim Steinmeyer effect. He was able to turn a bag of shredded money back to a real one, five, and ten dollar bill.

Dan Sylvestri demonstrated classic ring and ribbon effects with beautiful sleight of hand moves. He described Gregory Wilson as an influence along with Richard Banks. Joe Garsetti then closed our meeting with two encore performances. The first was his four-coin penetration effect through a spectator's hand from Paul Green's *In The Trenches*. He then closed our evening with the all-time classic “Slydini's Paper Balls” in a box. His performance is choreographed to music and is truly a spell binding performance.

The theme for our June meeting was Silks! But like most clubs, a true variety of tricks, demonstrations, effects, and magical discussions took place. We initially delved into the Zarrow Shuffle. John Henderson gave a good demonstration of his variation, and a discussion about Zarrow's technique and Bill Malone's technique took place.

President Phil Schwartz brought out a display of three large six-foot silk backdrops displayed on the Abbott Jet set frame. Strikingly colorful butterfly, dragons, and a rabbit in the hat were displayed. Phil then presented “20th Century Silks” with the utilization of a change bag.

In keeping with the theme, John Henderson used a clever multi playing card covered silk bag that revealed a chosen card from the deck. The bag was whipped in the air to turn itself inside out revealing the printed card value on the outside of the bag. He followed this up with

a nice knotted “Silk Off Rope” routine that was a variation of “Cords of Phantasia.”

Stan Bladek performed Doc Eason’s “All Screwed Up” centered on “three nut Norm” who worked in a tool factory. He gave it a twist at the end when he produced a wrench to go along with the nut and bolt routine.

Dan Silvestri did some card magic. He utilized a double slip force and had the two chosen cards appear on a set of slates. The slates are ingeniously constructed with a sliding reveal.

Joe Kemmerer did a clever coin vanish with silk routine, only to have it reappear in his breast pocket. He then demonstrated a dollar bill trick and was kind enough to make up gimmicked dollar bills for the club members to take home and use for themselves. He closed his time with a desk fan floating a balloon utilizing Bernoulli’s principle.

Joe Garsetti closed our session with three coins penetrating through a sheer silk in various fashions. This was based on Michael Ammar’s teachings. Club members contributed their handling of vanishing a coin with a silk as well. Please stop by for a meeting in our beautiful meeting venue if you are ever in New Jersey.

Stan Bladek

RING 113, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY – Audley Walsh/Conrad C. Bush

Meets 1st Thurs. 8:00 pm, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 300 Forest Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ.

ANTHONY FERRER, Secretary
web site: ibmring113@yahoo.com

The June meeting was dedicated to a club swap meet where members brought in some of their used or unwanted magic apparatus to sell and/or trade. One mail order company, Vernon Magic, was represented by owner Jim Fau who sold mostly new tricks, books, and props. Vernon Magic also held a raffle contest to win a “Mister Danger,” one of the recent bestselling Tenyo products.

The vibe was festive and fun, with members haggling with each other over asking prices and demonstrating tricks for each other. Among the wares on display were stands, stage props, books, VHS tapes (remember those?), lots of close-up magic, packet card tricks, coins, top hats, linking rings, tubes, t-shirts and deluxe magic kits.

After the swapping subsided, Rich Micucci gave a slick presentation of TCC’s new “Grandma’s Miracle,” a beads off rope illusion. There was a full array of snacks and refreshments to fuel the manic marketplace atmosphere and most everyone walked away with something unique and special to add to their routines or personal collection.

Carl Morano

RING 115, SINGAPORE – The Great Wong Ring

Meets 15th of each month, 7:00 pm, Level 2, Hotel Grand Central, 22 Cavenagh Rd, Singapore 229617. Website: ibmring115.org
JOHN TEO, President / Tel: +62504422, 97509017
10M Braddell Hill #01-49, Singapore 57931

The theme was “Magic With Gaff Cards.” It was held in the evening of 15 May 2023 at Function Room 1 of the Drama Centre. The attendance included thirty members and four guests. Three of the four guests signed up as Associate Members.

The evening was hosted by Satish Kumar and assisted by Enrico Varella. Using well-prepared PowerPoint slides, Satish shared on gaff cards and their history, while Enrico demonstrated the popular playing card gaffs and explained their uses. This took place in-between their introductions of each of the various performers.

Satish Kumar kicked off the performance by causing a freely selected card of a spectator to be the only card with a different back colour to the rest of the cards in the deck.

Carson Goh introduced the four guests so that we could get to know them better.

Using a packet of kids’ picture flash cards, both Ng Kah King and a spectator took turns to eliminate cards until the last card left which turned out to be the spectator’s chosen flash card. In the next effect, the spectator randomly cut at one of two decks of cards offered to him. The cards have random numbers printed on each of them. The two cards cut at gave two possibilities of use: the number on one card and the identity of the other card, or vice versa. The spectator decided on one of the possibilities and the second deck was used to count to the selected number, only to find the identity of the other card at that number.

Thomas Yeo showed four large court cards which magically turned out to be number cards. He then played a game with a spectator. Each took six cards which had different denominations of money printed on each set of cards. Each one spelled to a different word of a five-word phrase by dealing their cards. Magically, the cards from each set arrived at after each spelling, matched exactly. This happened for each of the five words spelled. This saved the magician from losing any of his money.

John Teo showed four jumbo playing cards. Each card magically turned over by itself. Eventually, the “invisible” markings on the backs of each card became visible, and together they spelled F-A-K-E. He then showed four large blank cards: two with holes cut in them and two without holes. Magically, one of them became a whole card with a red spot, another one has numerous spots, one turned into a red colour card, and another one had H-O-L-E-S printed on it.

It was “Fireside Chat” time with Carson Goh. Newcomer John Shutler was interviewed by Carson. We got to know how John got started with magic and his favourite magic effects. John then performed a picture colouring prediction effect using the mobile phone of a spectator.

James Pang took his induction test. His repertoire included Max Maven’s “Psion” where he successfully predicted which one of eight different symbols was chosen by a spectator, a “four-card-match” trick where a spectator freely selected each of three cards from three jumbo decks and the fourth card from a poker-sized deck of cards and they all matched exactly, and a “Card to Impossible Location” effect where a signed card vanished from a deck to reappear inside an empty transparent box.

Jeremy Pei predicted the outcomes of two cards cut at by a spectator: one by dividing its value by two, and the other by multiplying its value by two. They turned out to be the Three and a Half of Clubs and the Fourteen of Diamonds, which matched his two prediction cards! He gave out these two “gaff” cards to everyone present. In his next effect, Jeremy cleverly combined the “Colour Monte” effect with Richard Sanders’ “Any Card” trick. A spectator freely named any card for the mystery card of the “Colour Monte” and this was revealed by the prediction written on the backs of four face up aces in a deck of cards. His final trick was Lubor Fielder’s “Flying Colour Cards” with a three card monte effect done with the backs of the cards instead of the faces of the cards. The audience always failed to find which card had an orange colour border. Finally, all the white borders of the cards became orange coloured. Jeremy then demonstrated his internationally acclaimed “Eternal Ropes” trick where different rope effects can be performed with this special set of gimmicked ropes.

The last item was a lucky draw where three lucky members won a magic item each. Just before the doors were closed at eleven p.m., members had their own magic jam sessions.

John Teo

RING 122, WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS – Silent Mora – Ray Goulet Ring

Meets in person and ZOOM the last Tue. 7:30 p.m., at Temple Beth Shalom, 21 E. Foster St., Melrose, MA 02176
DEBBIE O’CARROLL, Secretary
51 Olive St., Newburyport, MA 01950
(978) 462-9954

We are back at our new location, and we have increased Zoom video capabilities due to Davy’s perseverance in keeping a spare TV in his car so that we can better see and interact with our Zoom participants. Reminder that all

our future meetings will be hybrid (Zoom or in person).

Those of us that were able to make it to Debbie’s Broken Wand Ceremony said that it was well attended and was a wonderful ceremony. We were told that Debbie only wanted the Broken Wand Ceremony in place of another memorial. We are glad to have known her, and Tom O’Carroll expressed his gratitude to those who attended and were there in spirit to share in her memory.

Our next order of business was to finalize our plan for the upcoming I.B.M. Spring Family Friendly Magic Show in Belmont. We have completed our promotion of the event, between Mikey Lee’s posts on WhoFish; Davy’s local outreach, poster creation, printing, and distribution, and Daniel Barbas with the Eventbrite page for ticket sale estimates. Additionally, we plan on making paper wands to give away to kids during our show. Daniel and Davy will coordinate on updating the information on the wand template that Davy has. Rogue mentioned that we should have some applications handy for when guests are interested in joining our club.

Daniel Barbas proposed the idea of reaching out to local magicians and other magic groups to compile a repository of performing magicians (and their promotional materials) to attract more interest among the existing magicians. Bob Filene agreed and suggested we consider looking for more ideas to generate interest in club membership and make it worthwhile. If you have any comments, feel free to email us at ibm.ring122@gmail.com with suggestions.

A club member mentioned that Harry Lorayne had passed, and it had slipped through the cracks as a number of us were surprised to hear. Dust off your books and take a trip down memory lane in his honor. He will be missed.

As an add-on to the above, we will need to schedule a Broken Wand Ceremony for Anne Goulet and Gil Stubbs. Bob and Mikey offered to reach out to the families again to plan something.

We discussed our August BBQ which we plan on hosting in August (date to be determined) and it will be the same venue and format as last year. Gather the tricks that have been gathering dust and bring them to the BBQ for our flea market to get a new life! We will also be having a magic show to conclude the evening, so let us know if you would like to perform or volunteer in any capacity.

A big congratulation to Rob Kinslow on his Order of Merlin award for twenty-five years of continuous membership in the I.B.M. With his

new title, he has been approached to do some magic mentoring and opened a discussion up regarding pricing for lessons. If you have any input for Rob or to share in our next newsletter, send us an email.

Our speaker next month is DJ Edwards from Ickle Pickle as we needed to reschedule his previous appearance. The old switcheroo! This led to a sidebar about how Davy loves the clearance section of Ickle Pickle, and also purchased some Dragon's Breath to test. He is still looking for an atomizer that will deploy it well.

Onto our Theme, Favorite Gimmick or Book (Test).

Kevin Butler performed the "Between the Lines" book test from Ted Annemann's *Practical Mental Magic*. It is a great trick utilizing the Si Stebbins stack and can be done with any book (with a bit of mental work)!

Daniel Barbas showed off "Lim-Tricks" by Jeff Sheridan (and with help from Richard Kaufman and Alan Greenberg). This silly book of bar bets, tricks, and riddles is all in the form of limericks!

The Rogue brought his Big Friendly Book puppet which he has gotten lots of fun and use out of, plus librarians love it for teaching kids about the library! It is still in production from Axtell Expressions.

Bob Filene demonstrated his favorite Book Test from Aldo Colombini involving some clever limited permutations using any book selected beforehand. If you know the name of the trick, please pass it along!

Rob Kinslow demonstrated his favorite dollar bill tricks since they carry easily, "Two Dollar Window" by Jay Noblezada and a cocktail napkin/dollar bill penetration by Ken Kuroki. Some impressive and clever work!

Thus concluded our magical evening. Until next month!

Daniel Barbas

RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at First Christian Church of Blue Springs, 701 NW 15 St., Blue Springs, MO.
JASON MOORE, President,
E-mail: iccemann101@gmail.com

With Memorial Day just behind us and Flag Day and Independence Day coming up before our next meeting, Ring president Jason Moore chose "patriotic magic" as a theme for our June 1 meeting. Keith Leff led off the performances with part of a full patriotic show that is in his repertoire, including red, white, and blue silks and ropes. Gene Turner showed us some rope made of all three colors that he uses in his act, and Dennis Burks put some colored silks into a bag and changed the bag into an American flag.

Several members then discussed magic events

they had attended. Lance Rich reported on the Magic Collectors' Expo in Cleveland, where he had the opportunity to tour the impressive collections of Tim Laganke and Bruce Averbook. Jerry Jackson gave a favorable report on AbraCORNdabra (in Des Moines), where our Ring's Matthew Bartlett gave an impressive performance. Stu Lewis followed with a report on the Lawrence (KS) Buskerfest, at which he, along with Alan Goodheart and Danny Tangelo, worked the streets.

One feature which Jason Moore has introduced is a discussion of magic featured in films. This month we discussed "Desperate Acts of Magic," which unfortunately was not received favorably. Lance Rich used up a few seconds of his fifteen minutes of fame with a brief appearance in that film.

We then moved on to our quarterly contest. To lead off the stage competition, Matthew Bartlett had a torn card restored inside a glass frame. Jerry Jackson discerned the serial number of a dollar bill which had been rolled into a ball. Stu Lewis performed the Other Brothers' book test, revealing a chosen word one letter at a time.

Jerry Jackson returned to open the close-up contest with a finger "Ring on String" routine, concluding with the ring appearing on his own finger. Phil Franklin, a mentalism specialist, correctly predicted the order in which an audience volunteer would lay down a set of ESP cards. Since up to three contestants in each category could qualify for spots in the annual contests, the members present were simply asked to vote "yes" or "no" on each act, and all five qualified.

We concluded the meeting with the "Share the Magic" segment, during which members could perform outside of the competition mode. John Hicks, one of our top card performers, cut to the four kings from a shuffled deck and then transformed them into aces. Brad Lynn performed a "Torn and Restored Bill," ending with a mis-made bill, and finished with some gags with balloons. David Heeter worked with a color-changing knife, and Shaun Rivera demonstrated a number force.

Our delayed annual stage contest will take place later this month. Watch this space. *Stu Lewis*

RING 131, DENVER, COLORADO – Mile High Magicians Society – The Earl Reum Ring

2nd Thu., 7:00pm Knight of Columbus Hall.
4935 w. 1st Ave., Denver, CO 80219
GLENN PROULX Secretary / glennproulx@gmail.com
Web site: www.milehighmagicians.com

Thursday May 11, 2023, Magic Teach-in Night. Twenty-one attendees including the teachers. Rainy Night. Four tables, four teachers: Matthew Brant, James Lopez, Gene

Gordon, and Nate Reeves. Students rotated to the teachers' tables.

Matthew Brant did the basic two in the hand, one in the pocket sponge ball trick. He likes to say, you would think there are two balls in my hand, but these are magic/special balls etc. and then shows the three in the hand. Then he did the matchbook trick, it looks more impressive if you burn the whole book and only one match is left un-burnt. Great stuff!

James Lopez taught coins. He had us shake our hands, then stopping them to look at your hands in a relaxed position. Then he taught a retention pass that you could use in a coins-across routine. Your hands need to look relaxed and as natural as possible while palming a coin.

Nate Reeves did that fun rubber band magic! We learned the jumping rubber band, the "Torn and Restored Rubber Band" and "Crazy Sam's Handcuffs." We used a number sixteen band. Two different colors of rubber bands can make the visual much better for the Crazy Sam's Handcuffs.

Gene Gordon taught card tricks complete with lecture notes! He showed "Prediction Caught" where the prediction card gets the mate sandwiched between two cards that end up being the mates to the prediction card also. The effect called "Numbers" does the same thing of bringing the four matching cards together, but in a totally different way which is just as amazing. Then he started out with what looked like "Triumph" but ended with a straight flush at the end. He calls this "Straight Flush Slop," and it is his own personal handling.

Chad Long performed "Al Dente" his chewed and restored spaghetti, "Priority Mail" and "Spineless" book test. We were in awe! He knitted a silk in seconds and showed us a cool new handling of "Bounce No Bounce." Chad's "Now Look Here" card trick and "Scratch" was also a fun trick.

David Parr performed the "Twenty-one Trick," showed us a cool way to use a Svengali Deck for ACAAN. He taught us his "Fast and Loose" string trick and ended up performing his "Hand of Fate" poker hand trick.

Glenn Proulx

RING 153, BILLINGS, MONTANA – Billings Magic Society

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Reflections, 1140 Sixteenth Street West, Suite 13, Billings, MT.

KENT MESSEMER, President / E-mail: kmezmriz@qwestoffice.net
122 S. 36th St., Billings, MT 59101

We had a good turnout for our May meeting, with six of us gathered to share some great magic and conversation about magic. Kent Messmer, who has performed professionally for many years in the Northwest, has decided to develop a hypno-

tism program, and we all shared our experiences with watching and experimenting with that art. Kent's first formal hypnotism performance is scheduled in Culbertson, a small northern Montana town, in August.

In the magic portion of the meeting, Tony Shandy started us off with a delightful rendition of an oldie-but-goodie, in adapting his military experience in Asia to a "Chinese Torn and Restored Laundry Ticket" effect, but relating how the ticket was necessary to retrieve his suit from the tailor. Tony puts a lot of preparation into his routines, even adding a touch of music to his dramatic closings.

Brent Cromley was next in the lineup and presented John Guastaferrero's clever adaptation of "Gemini Twins" that John had included in his Penguin Live lecture and called "Route 66." Brent used five of his business cards, and made use of volunteers Christine Forti and Debbie Sherman, before revealing that all his cards, except the predicted four, were blank. He followed that with a demonstration and explanation of the basic "Gemini Twins" trick, such as shown by Alan Ackerman in some of his video materials.

Kent Messmer, who at one time operated a bricks-and-mortar magic shop in our Magic City, brought a couple of his favorite pocket tricks with him. He first showed us some color changing poker-type chips, a trick called "Color Deception." And it was certainly deceiving. Kent next showed us "Hot Rod," two jeweled color changing rods that Penguin Magic calls, "the world's greatest pocket trick."

Last, but not never least, was Joe Gastineau's performance. Joe brought his money with him, and performed "Transporting Dollar Bills," and an effect involving quarters that traveled mysteriously.

We were all then rewarded for our services as performers and spectators by receiving huge, delicious cookies provided, as usual, by Debbie. It's always a great way to wrap up our meetings.

Montana is entering its busiest tourist season, enhanced in part the last few years by the popularity of the video series, *Yellowstone*. If your vacation plans bring you near the Big Sky State, give us a holler and we'll arrange a meetup.

Brent Cromley

RING 160, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND – Kiwi Magic, the Tony Wilson Ring

Meets 3rd Wed. 8:00 pm at Surrey Hotel, Grey Lynn, Central Auckland, New Zealand / Web page www.ibmring160.com

ANDREW WALKER, President

Eleven members attended our May meeting. Most arrived an hour early to enjoy dinner and fellowship together. President Stefan Sageman opened the business part of the evening by congratulating Graham Bennett on receiving the

Order of Merlin Excalibur for fifty years of consecutive membership of Ring 160. He also announced that our experiment with monthly meetings is over, and we'll be meeting every second month from now on.

Bill Boyle started the magic by performing "Magic Dice." With a wave of his hand, a dozen dice that had a variety of different numbers of spots on top instantly changed to show six spots on top.

Chris McConaughy performed a three-phase, original version of "Knot off Rope." He asked the audience for ideas on how he could improve the routine and received many suggestions. We're looking forward to seeing him perform this again once he's happy with it.

Colin Pritchard performed "Mr. Danger," an entertaining multiple sword penetration effect from Tenyo Magic, in which a small plastic man was stabbed in several places, yet somehow remained intact.

Terry von Pein performed three effects, which he is working into a routine. The first was "Copper, Silver, Brass" which demonstrated magic. This was followed by an "ESP Psychology Test" to illustrate psychology. He finished with John Bannon's "Dead Reckoning" to illustrate the power of the mind.

Richard Webster performed "As Fair as Possible," a card effect from his book, *The Walkabout Mentalist's Toolbox*.

President Stefan Sageman performed "Invisible Touches," a routine I can't describe, as I was the audience volunteer and had my eyes closed throughout the performance. He then showed us his sponge balls routine to show the difference between a magic trick and a routine. This proved that repetition can fool even knowledgeable magicians.

We enjoy having visitors. If you're ever in the area and would like to attend a meeting, please email Stefan Sageman at info@magicians.org.nz.

Richard Webster

RING 167, DES MOINES, IOWA – Justo Hijo of Magic, Inc.

3rd Mon., 7:00pm Felix & Oscars 4050 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA
BRUCE ANDERSON, Secretary
E-mail: bga0128@gmail.com

Our May meeting was well attended with magicians eager to share their talents. President Steve Hinrichs announced another special lecture in July for our club. We are fortunate to have Steve's leadership in bringing talent to Iowa.

New member Walter Yu brought new member Tiger Wang to assist in a card trick that involved a search for a joker in a mix of seven cards lined up two by two by two. The joker was left as the only survivor. Fun routine.

Next Alan Koslow brought up Tiger to find the 7D in a deck cut again and again. Then Tiger counted fifteen cards off the top that revealed card number sixteen the 7D. Our new members are delighted to witness and learn new tricks.

John Davis shared the "Invisible Deck" routine with Aaron Yang as Aaron shuffled the cards and chose the invisible KH. Aaron was amazed to find the KH as the only card upside down in John's real deck. Then John went in search of the four aces in piles of four cards to reveal all four aces. John then asked Alan to guess which of three colored cups hid a wadded napkin. John turned his back and asked Alan to switch two cups at a time. John turned and lifted the cup that held the napkin. He repeated it three times to the amazement of the group.

Mikayla Oz shared a trick involving right to left and top to bottom folds that revealed cards that Tiger and John chose. Cool finish.

Larry Reed showed his neighbor a ticket to heaven that St. Peter used to determine if he'd go to heaven or to hell. As Larry continued to tear pieces, he was left with a cross that opened heaven. Nice Gospel routine.

Sydney Storm helped his four-year-old daughter Gail tie off a balloon that became a mouse.

Sydney was hooked on magic after watching Copperfield make helicopters and the Statue of Liberty disappear. Sydney, Gail, and his wife Jesse entertain at Central Iowa events creating balloon sculptures.

Russ Samson showed Lissy Anderson seven objects on a table and asked her to choose one item when he turned his back. The items were a fork, sugar, glass, napkin, cheese, keys, and a card. He eliminated the glass and card, and correctly chose the cheese. Fun routine. Great participation by our members!

One week later Steve opened The Midwest's Premier Magic Convention AbraCORNdabra. It was an extravaganza of talent and magic for two hundred magicians from around the country. We enjoyed the comedy of Bizzaro, mentalism from Christopher Carter, Kenton Knepper, Rafael, and Christian and Katalina, Past International President Oscar Munoz, Rob Zabrecky's strange comedy, and Mystery Guest Christopher Hart who played the hand Thing in the *Adam's Family*. There were three days of magic and entertainment and contests, a flea market, auction, and an awards party and costume contest. Our I.B.M. International President Billy Hsueh came to witness this great convention. *Bruce Anderson*

Sign up 1!

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@cfi.rr.com

Web site: www.Ring170.com

President Ryan Stiner brought the meeting to order and provided this report. He announced the current and upcoming magic events in the Central Florida area. Benny Kirshner was welcomed as a first-time visitor.

Ryan presented six mystery boxes, each containing a different beginner's magic trick, during the first half of the meeting. Club members were invited to select a box and share their unique handling or reimagining of the trick.

Jafo Fields presented the "Stoplight Cards," Jackie Manna blended ventriloquism with the Genii Bottle, Conner demonstrated a Svengali Deck, Benny combined a Chop Cup routine with the Ball and Vase, Greg performed the "Magic Mummy Mystery," and Ryan concluded with a story about the Coin Base. The audience voted for their favorite performance and Conner was named the winner.

During the second half of the meeting, four members shared some routines they have been working on. Jackie Manna performed a gospel routine about a turtle looking for salvation, Conner shared his Chop Cup show opener, Ken Schreiberman demonstrated "Mister Danger" and "Vox," Greg Solomon performed two original routines with a Hot Wheels car and a custom designed View Master, and Steve Nelson concluded the meeting with his original routine called "Sin City Synthesis." Members were able to purchase their own Sin City Synthesis deck as the end of the meeting.

Ryan Stiner

RING 172, TUCSON, ARIZONA – The Joe DuPerre Ring

Meets 2nd Tue. 6:30 p.m., Holy Way Presbyterian Church 4040 S.

Billbray Ave., Tucson, AZ 83746

STEPHEN LEVINE, President

E-mail: StephenLevine63@gmail.com

For our second meeting since reestablishing Ring 172, we had only eight members show up, but it was a great meeting. Past International President Shawn Farquhar welcomed us back as a reestablished Ring and taught a teach-a-trick of an unpublished effect using his Invisible Stack that had us all baffled. He taught us the method and true to his words is something we could learn in thirty seconds.

Stephen Levine taught two mentalism effects. The first was the venerable "Grey Elephant in Denmark" effect popularized by Max Maven on TV specials, and a puzzling matrix of numbers effects where a thought of number from one through fifteen is identified by the performer by knowing which column it's in on the matrix.

The theme of the night for performances was card magic. John Shryock started with a dual sandwich effect where jacks were used to pluck selected cards out of the deck and finishing with a baffling transposition. Dan MacInnis performed Doug Conn's "Plastic Surgery," a three-card monte effect where the lady turns into a miniature playtime card. He then performed John Bannon's "Spin Doctor." Alan "G-Man" Vanderplough performed a Mental Photography routine using a Delta Airlines deck premise. He then showed some cards (a deck where court cards had no heads, a deck where each face had a different Paris tourist attraction and prop (miniature Eiffel Tower) he picked up during a recent visit to Paris and ideas were brainstormed on how he could use them for magic tricks.

Stephen Levine showed David Regal's "Off With his Head" where a selected king ended up with no head. Chris Williams performed an "All Backs" routine where four randomly selected cards became aces, and then the whole deck became normal. David Fuller performed a baffling "Do as I Do" trick where cards picked from two halves of a deck and put in the other half matched and were the only Kings of Clubs in a deck that was all Jacks of Hearts. Stephen Levine then showed a packet version of same effect using a slightly different method. John Shryock then showed an impromptu version of a similar effect with a regular deck.

The members then split up for about an hour of sessioning including trading different versions of "Maxi Twist," sharing different versions of false shuffles, and other effects. It was a great evening despite the relatively low turnout.

Dan MacInnis

RING 175, TAMPA, FLORIDA – Warren Hamilton Ring

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 3714 W. Linebaugh

Ave., Tampa, FL 33618 / Website: <https://tampamagicclub.com>

TOM VORJOHAN, President

E-mail: ring175magic@gmail.com

Club President Tom Vorjohan opened the May meeting with brief updates regarding club business congratulating Charles (Rodriguez) DeAugustine on being awarded the Order of Merlin Excalibur for fifty continuous years in the I.B.M.! Congratulations, Charlie! Tom then introduced the entertaining Frank Velasco to host our twelfth annual "Bob and Doc Fool Us" Show where the goal is to stump our two esteemed judges, Dr. John Aime and Bob Klase. While over a dozen magicians did their best, only one prize was awarded again this year.

Leading off was Club Secretary John Holly, in order to free himself up to photograph performing club members for posting to our Face Book page. If you have not already, please feel

free to peruse and share the photos from: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1347147769374092>. John first performed "Under Your Spell" from Bob King's "Magician Foolers." It is a clever trick and may fool most magicians, but it did not fool Bob and Doc. John then performed a trick submitted by the talented close-up magician, Sylvain Juzan, a friend of our Ring, who wanted to fool Bob and Doc but could not be present himself. The effect was a version of the first effect in Sylvain's recent book *Every Card You Take*. Maybe if it was the last effect in the book, it would have fooled them, but it certainly appears they remembered the first one!

The always versatile Rudy Hernandez was up next with a great Alexander De Cova effect. Rudy mixed cards haphazardly with Frank and fooled almost the entire audience, but he did not fool Bob and Doc.

The cheerful Gary Jenkins brought a prediction board and had former Ring President Melissa Spanola provide musical accompaniment on the kazoo as Gary's pointer moved around the board stopping only when Melissa's song ended. Gary's final reveal proved what a great "shoe" he had put on! While Bob and Doc appreciated the entertainment and commented on Gary's clever use of a Mastermind Deck, they were not fooled. But it was a great effort, Gary!

Our favorite youngest old friend, Leah Mendelson, returned to Ring 175 after a three-year absence! It was wonderful to see her smiling face again. Although Leah charmed the judges, she did not fool them. What a breath of fresh air.

The magically knowledgeable Dean Edelman explained how he first became interested in magic and how he eventually ended up in our club. We are glad he did! Dean keeps up with the latest magic releases and new techniques available to magicians today and he proved it by using artificial intelligence and Siri to perform an "ACAAN" routine. For a man who claims he does not usually perform, Dean killed it! Unfortunately, Bob and Doc also keep up on the latest and greatest in magic, so they were not fooled.

One of our favorite story tellers, Daniel Fite, returned to the stage with tales of his adventures on the Appalachian Trail which are funny now but wow! We're glad Dan is back in one piece. Dan's entertaining performance tonight was an intricate story about a murder at a millionaire's dinner party. Frank Velasco helped Dan arrange the seating chart used to determine who killed the millionaire. The audience was hooked on

Daniel's marvelous tale, but Bob and Doc were not fooled by the outcome.

The marvelous Mark Meyers returned after missing the last couple of meetings with a deck memorization effect he told us he learned on his last cruise. While his partner in crime, Ivonne Ruiz, orchestrated some Jeopardy music, Mark memorized half a deck of cards and then had one of the cards selected. Mark was then able to go through the twenty-five remaining cards and he correctly identified the one card which was missing, the selected card! While Bob and Doc came up with some excellent methods and were very close to nailing it, Mark and Ivonne fooled them! Congratulations to both!

The very funny Mark McDermott apparently needed a drink before performing so he pulled out a bottle of brake fluid and did a quick shot. Mark says his drinking is not a problem because he can stop anytime. Rudy Hernandez assisted as Mark performed "I Hate Kids" by Past International President Stephen Bargatze using quiver wallets. Another fun routine Mark, but it did not fool Bob and Doc.

Razzmattaz Entertainment's own Lowell Tauszik impressed us all with his coin manipulation skills! When the coins weren't vanishing as Lowell hung them up, they were literally flying through the air in Lowell's version of "Three Fly 3." As you may have guessed, while Bob and Doc praised Lowell's skills they were not fooled.

Club President Tom Vorjohan had a card freely selected. Then Mark Myers called Tom's daughter using Mark's cell phone and Tom's daughter told Mark the card selected! Wow! The method did not fool Bob and Doc, but it was sure an impressive one! Apparently, all of Tom's kids are trained to be able to do this although Tom admits it was even more impressive when they were youngsters! To close, Tom showed us a great impromptu version of the magic square based on a birthdate. Good stuff, Tom!

The effervescent host of the Bob and Doc Fool Us show, Frank Velasco, was also a contestant as he broke out some ESP cards and a pendulum for a fun effect. While Frank is pretty convincing, he did not fool our judges tonight.

Club Vice President, John Keever, turned his back as Tom Vorjohan stuffed his pockets with cards. Once Toms pants were loaded (you know what I mean), John was able to tell Tom exactly how many cards of each color were in each pocket! And they proved it by counting the cards simultaneously. It was a great effect, John, but not a fooler.

Finally, wearing a bright red shirt and spangled red vest, Mark Byrne told us he "would

have dressed for the evening if I knew I'd be performing!" Mark has some serious card skills, so aces were being produced anywhere he wanted. While Bob and Doc gave Mark credit for an "Ambitious" routine, they were impressed but not fooled.

This was a fun night of magic for the club! Now keep your eyes open the rest of the year in search of potential foolers you can come and perform next year at our thirteenth annual show!

And as always, if you are ever in Tampa on the second Tuesday of the month, please stop by and say hello! We look forward to meeting you.

John Holly

RING 179, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – George Dency Ring

Meets 3rd Weds., 7:30pm at Woodholme Country Club, 300 Woodholme Ave., Pikesville, MD 21208 / Website: IBMRing179.com

ANDY LONDON, President

Email: alondon@concast.net

The May 2023 meeting was a joint meeting of I.B.M. Ring 179 and S.A.M. Assembly 6 at the Woodholme Country Club in Owings Mills, MD.

Announcements: (1) New officers were installed: President - Andy London, V.P. - Mike Rose, Secretary - Michael Worsham, Treasurer - Jay Silverman, Sergeant-at-Arms - Ken Caplan. (2) The Magic Warehouse is moving about a mile away, and will be located inside the comic bookstore Alternate Worlds in Cockeysville, MD.

Performances: Ken Caplan did a little-known trick he got from Denny Haney years ago called "The Magic Clock." After a volunteer set a time on the clock, he was able to correctly name that time without opening the clock box. Harry Damareck performed a clever card trick called "Baby Boa Predictor" by Tony Clark. A volunteer shuffles a deck and selects a card. The deck is then spread across the table, and Harry's presents his assistant, a "boa predictor," which is a snap bracelet. The "boa predictor" correctly finds the selected card by snapping when passed over the selected card. Joe Bruno did a packet trick with four blue backed cards. Joe snaps his fingers, and each card turns face up and into an ace. Then Joe snaps his fingers, and each card turns face down into a king. Next, Joe snaps his fingers, and the backs of each card turn into red. Finally, Joe snaps his fingers, and the kings turned into jokers.

James Mahoney performed an original trick that starts with the spectator secretly ordering four cards. After swapping some of the cards around based on the spectator's random choices, James correctly matched the initial order of the cards. Peter Wood performed an original "Confabulation" routine using a variation of the Framedown Force from T.A. Waters' *Mind*,

Myth, and Magick. Tim Carver performed a coin transposition. A coin is put into one hand, and then both wrists are held by two volunteers. The coin magically travels from one hand to the other hand. Tim Hall did the world's fastest card trick. Tim opened a brand-new deck, and a volunteer shuffled the deck, and then selected a card. Tim's pants pocket was inspected to be empty. The deck is put into a card box and wrapped in a rubber band. Tim then reaches into his pocket and finds the selected card in just a few seconds. Tom Steinhart did a John Bannon card trick. A volunteer thinks of a card, and counts out any number of cards, and puts them into the card box. Tom asks a question, such as was the card a black card, and then finds the card.

Avie Rock performed a rope escape based on the Grandmother's Necklace method. Two volunteers tie Avie up with ropes, which also go through a ten-inch tube. Locks are put on the rope, and Avie's wrists are placed behind his back, and placed into hand cuffs. The volunteers hold the rope ends, but Avie is able to escape. The secret is clear nylon thread hold the rope together at a key spot, which is broken during the escape. Michael Worsham performed "Cubebuster" by Henry Harrius. Michael brought out a real seven-by-seven-by-seven Rubik's Cube and allowed a volunteer to freely mix the cube. Michael then placed the cube into a small paper bag and asked the members how long it would take him to solve it with one hand and without looking. Michael placed the mixed-up cube into the bag, and then solved it in less than twenty seconds into a cube with all six sides restored to their solid colors. Joe Pachino did a card trick based on the one ahead principle. Cards are spread face down on a table, and a volunteer selects a card while Joe looks away. The volunteer then selects any card, three times in a row, and after that, Joe is able to correctly identify all three cards. Michael Tulkoff shared his ideas and questions on various magic props.

Michael Worsham

RING 192, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – Victor Saint Leon Ring

Meets 2nd Weds., 7:00 p.m., at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbon's Dr., Carmichael.

JEFFREY TINKER, Secretary / E-mail: jtinker53@yahoo.com

Web site: www.magic1.org/ibm192

The theme for our June meeting was rings, linking rings, finger rings, boxing rings (okay, maybe not that last one). Bob Devon led us off with his classic linking rings and a story about performing for Jayne Mansfield, Al Skinner brought a call bell for his "ring" and did a prediction using an imaginary ring of dictionaries.

John Iaconno demonstrated his ring and rope technique. Josh Ray showed us “Luck Be A Ladybug,” where the ladybug disappears from a card and appears on the spectator’s hand. David Wright caused a borrowed ring to jump on and off a string, and Dale Lorzo had a ring freed from a shoelace with a little “camouflage.”

Ric Ewing told a story about the Samurai sword and made a borrowed ring appear on the blade of a miniature. Amasingh cut a hole big enough to step through in a single sheet of paper, and Tom Mowder performed a nice turn with a ring and ribbon. Mary Mowder was next up with a Chinese coin made in Mexico and a leather thong from Thailand, making it an exotic trick. Pepe treated us to “Magic Device 2.0,” a tube he described as many rings stuck together and used it to make a knot disappear from a rope and drop into his hand. We had a lot of variety for a simple plot, and the presentations made for a fun night. *Jeff Tinker*

RING 193, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Len and Thalia Swinyer Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00 pm, at the Swinyer residence, 4970 Waimea Way, Holladay, UT.

JOHN GONZALEZ, Secretary / E-mail: johngonzalez@mac.com

Web site: www.utahmagic.org

Our June meeting was held on the 6th of the month, and we had a few items of business. First of all, our July meeting would normally be on the 4th of July. We decided not to have a July meeting. There will be no meeting in July for Ring 193. We also decided that for our meeting in August, we will have a swap and sell like we have done in the past. Anyone can bring items to swap and sell. We will do it in Swinyers’ front yard. You will need to bring your own tables for your display items.

We also held Ring elections: Mont Dutson is the president, Rudy Chacon being a CEE (Chief Entertainment Engineer) was voted in as vice president. John Gonzalez continues as our Ring secretary and Thalia Swinyer will remain as treasurer. John Gonzalez may not be around towards the end of the year, so Carl Byrd has accepted to fill in for him in his absence.

We also circulated a list of possible themes for each meeting over the next year, but we will always decide each month on what it might be for the next month. The selected topic doesn’t have to be on the list. We had about ten members in attendance.

Magic started off with Mont Dutson doing his “Out to Launch” routine by building a Three Stooges rocket out of three, six-inch long wooden sections that magically turned into an eight-foot-long rocket. It was a lot of fun on a space theme especially the astronaut treats such as Mars Bars,

Milky Way bars, Starburst candy, and of course Moon Pies (thanks to Barry Mitchell ideas).

KC talked about doing applications of corporate magic using gospel magic and talked about productivity books that might help furnish themes along these lines for corporations that may be looking for an inspirational speaker. There are many choices and many possibilities. KC said that many possibilities can tend to paralyze action with too many choices, so we need to eliminate some choices. He held up a large clear bag full of thousands of puzzle pieces. Several folks reached in and just removed large handfuls of the pieces. There was still a pretty good pile left and one piece was selected by another helper. KC showed a puzzle that was missing one piece and the piece that was selected by the final spectator was the one that actually fit that empty puzzle piece spot. It was a picture of a penguin, so KC gifted a penguin balloon animal to the lucky spectator who had selected the fitting piece.

Len Swinyer presented a pretty cool shadow box magical effect. He talked about his military experience, high school souvenirs, and marriage etc., and showed a large black Chinese coin which changed from black to red and then finally blue on all sides. He mentioned that the changes in the coin were like the many different changes in his life that he had told us about.

Javier Montelongo waltzed to the front with cards in hand and had a spectator select a card. He performed a “Kundalini Rising” effect much to the delight of everyone.

Of course, Dale Stewart had to stand up and tell a little joke. He talked about a guy he saw walking down the street dragging his left foot and then he saw another guy coming in the opposite direction dragging his right foot. He thought that’s peculiar, and as they met in the middle of the street one man said, as he was dragging his foot, “Vietnam ’74.” The other guy dragging his other foot said, “Dog poop two blocks back!”

We had lots of fun, really good refreshments, especially the fantastic mouth-watering macaroons! Thank you, Thalia for providing all that. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the “Swap and Sell” on August 1st. Remember no meeting in July. *Mont Dutson*

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

President Dale Wheeler opened a short business meeting with discussion about doing another public show. Also, a couple of possible road trips were discussed. Both to Berlin, Ohio to see a magic show at Madhrikan’s Theater of Magic,

and the other to the Amish Country Theater to see two of our friends, Ken Groves, ventriloquist and Gary Morton, magician. Those in attendance were Dale Wheeler, Chester Gault, Jay Foresta, Ken Brown, Dock Cutlip, Tim Angeloni, Tom Duplain, and John Mayer. Everyone was excited because the evening of magic was to be highlighted by initiation shows by Tom Duplain and John Mayer.

Tom led things off with a scrambled fish trick followed by “Mr. Danger” (Tom calls it Pin Cushion Pete). Pete is a small flat doll who survives being penetrated by a dozen or so long swords. “The Love Ritual” was a trick that involved the entire audience. Torn up cards, pieces scrambled and exchanged, mysteriously found their way back to their other half. Tom also presented a “Pegasus Book Test” that left us all fooled. All were expertly performed by Tom and were well received.

Next up was John who opened with an original “Cut and Restored Rope.” With assistance from one of our members, John cut the rope in so many places and then deftly restored it. I think everyone in the audience has performed the Cut and Restored Rope, but John’s take on it made everyone sit up and take notice. John then performed “Killer Elite” and “The Collector.” All were accompanied by clever and entertaining patter.

Tom and John were immediately inducted into the club. Ring 197 is honored that these two accomplished magicians have chosen to join our little group. Since the two new members were performing their initiation shows, only Dale performed Member Magic. Dale presented “Killer Knockout” and “Sobriety Test.” Dale always fools us with something we haven’t seen before.

We even had an opportunity to buy some really nice magic at bargain basement prices thanks to Tim Angeloni. It was a great evening of magic. Since we all went to dinner together before the meeting, we started an hour late, making the meeting last well into the evening. Even though some had a long drive home, nobody left early. The evening flew by. Why don’t you join us if you are in the area and see for yourself how much fun our meetings are.

Chester Gault

RING 199, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – Lee & Snavelly Ring

Meets 1st Sat. of month, United Church, 820 E. Williams St., Apex, NC
DAN HARLAN, Secretary
E-mail: contact@danharlanmagic.com
Website: www.raleighmagicclub.org

Our June meeting, ruled by Gemini, ushered in the heat of summer and guided our theme to “Magical Matching.” No stranger to the heat, Dan Harlan decided to play with matches... the

fire-making kind... kicking off our meeting by teaching us a trick or two. Actually, five.

Just like the playful and intellectually curious Gemini, our junior member Josh pitted Paul Syros against Harlan in a duality duel of questions. Syros successfully scored softballs, while Harlan surprisingly fielded one point five scorchers.

A fearless thinker, Gemini is always down to try something new, as Matthew Heady demonstrated with three different colored crystal rods (red, yellow, and green) hidden under a black handkerchief. Two were removed and the remaining one became blue... so sad. Hmmm... maybe Gemini is always down to try something blue?

Gemini moves too fast to care about missteps as Paul Syros exemplified when he kinda figured out Josh’s birthdate and star sign... and moved on.

Using sets of ten cards and two wine glasses (sadly, no wine), Tony Thomas tried to straighten out his ever-so-slightly evil twin (played by Wayne Haarhaus), but ultimately succumbed to the ever-so-slight chaos, as his cards rearranged to match Wayne’s mixed-up bunch. Not bad. Would have been better with wine.

Emulating this hyperactive air sign, Marcus Auclair moved fluidly from one innovative expression to another as three white dice (see how they run) traveled in increasingly challenging ways to join a red one twixt two tiny trays.

Excellent at guiding change and transformation (like Gemini) Harlan gifted Wayne Haarhaus with a somewhat pointless superpower to find matching cards and eventually instantly pair all the rest. With pointless power comes great lack of responsibility.

The act of expression (important to Gemini) inherent in random “Florida Man” stories led the loquacious Kevin Burke to lead Josh’s mom, Sara, to match a Florida license plate that subsequently matched the story in which it appeared... creating a paradox which destroyed the universe... according to my horoscope.

Actually, I don’t believe horoscopes, but that’s typical of my sign....

Dan Harlan

RING 202, MALTA – The Magicians’ Society

Meets on alternate Mondays at 19:00 Volunteer Centre, 181 Melitta Street, Valetta
GEOFFREY BUHAGIAR, General Secretary
E-mail: gfotoartist@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/groups/27850309211/

The first meeting this month was dedicated to routines with pieces of any variety of paper, except playing cards, although the latter were allowed as a peripheral part of the routine.

Our Ring President, Glen Mercieca, opened

with a prediction using posters of three known magicians and slips of paper corresponding to the pictures. With an apparently random choice, the picture selected by a third person matched the slip of paper.

Gwilym Bugeja exhibited a paper money switch. The original bill then disappeared and re-appeared in a sealed envelope.

Joseph Demanuele commenced with a topological effect where a frame made of paper was held behind the back of one other member and was turned inside out without the volunteer letting go. He then gave a very emotional presentation of a children's routine he had used for years. This involved the brother/sister of the birthday child and the making of magical birthday card. The effect was very strong and poignant while the props were simple, minimal, yet effective.

Past International President, Vanni Pulé, started small with a card being chosen, a piece of paper burned, finger singed and blisters with the number and suit of the playing card appearing on his fingertips. This evolved from an original idea by Martin Gardner into the effect known as "Branded" by Tim Trono. He then performed his version of the Annemann effect "Phantom Artist" with a piece of paper being snipped to form the face of a chosen deceased personality. He finished with Ton Onosaka's "Check it Out" where small pieces of paper of two different colours merge into one chequered sheet.

Michael Mock stunned us with a mental routine by Bedros Akkelian a.k.a. Spidey, where a spectator names a fruit, an animal, and an instrument, and all were written on three separate billets. A second spectator was asked to name three pets. Each of the billets were crumpled into a ball and mixed. The spectators picked one each and Michael divined the chosen ones. Another challenge was met with a variety of ideas and presentations.

For the successive meeting, we enjoyed the company and ideas of a luminary magician from the States. Jonathan Levit has contributed to movies, TV, and magic in more ways than one. We were lucky to have a presentation by someone from such a distance away and with such a star-studded CV. His lecture was an object lesson in psychology, timing, choreography, and subtle methodology. He commenced with a quadruple revelation of four freely chosen cards with a miraculous location of two of them. The impression one got was that the magician did not touch anything.

Then he stunned us with an "ACAAN" effect using the Instagram app. An interlude with a "Card on Seat" routine showed us how a simple

method could achieve great effect if handled well, although "well" does not do it justice. It could be qualified better as "superbly." Another very simple method was used to achieve a great effect in "Piles," where a pack was handled by a volunteer. The latter chose one card and, under the direction of Jonathan, located it himself at its exact position while stacking the rest of the cards. The card ended up in the location counted to earlier by the volunteer.

A true masterpiece of skill and psychology was "Un-Matrix" where the coins not only move from under one card to the other and back again but also disappear completely. Finally, Jonathan gave us a highly entertaining and stunning presentation of his "Stanger" app, which is really a wonderful and miraculous tool for mentalists. Two hours of sheer entertainment and intelligent analysis of magical effects passed far too quickly.

Geoffrey Buhagiar

RING 205, LIMA/FINDLAY, OHIO – Northwestern Ohio Magicians Association (NOMA)

Meets last Sun. of the month at Mike Grubbs's home in Findlay.

GENE CRAFT, Secretary, 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, OH 45807

E-mail: Ecrafft@woh.rr.com / Web site: www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205

Our May 21, 2023, meeting began with a lecture by Chris Philpott. He performed several routines that he has created and perfected on his own. He performed "End Of My Rope Trick," "Dousing Rod Card Find," and several other card routines. We finished the lecture, and all went to dinner at 5:30 p.m.

We then met back at Mike's home for our business and magic evening. Gene Craft distributed the treasurer's report. We noted that in the future all checks and bills should be okayed by two or three members of the club before any checks are written. We also discussed the Marshall Museum trip on June 25. Everyone is to meet at the museum at 12:00 noon for the guided tour. After the tour we are invited back to Chris and Rachel's cottage for a cookout.

Magic began with Gary Friedrich who demonstrated a beautiful card deck spinner. He then counted down to a selected number and produced the chosen card. Doug Ferguson counted exactly fourteen cards to the table. Half were black and half were red, all being Hearts except for the Queen of Diamonds.

Mike Grubbs counted cards to separate piles, placed a coin on each pile that matched the top card. Chris Topel used a deck of cards with dollars and cents written on the back of each. A random card selection matched the exact money in his wallet.

Gene Craft performed the evening show. He began with a chalk and slate mystery that revealed several different colors. He produced Spotty the dog and manipulated several picture

cards to find the magical bunny. He concluded with “Hippy Hop Rabbits” that revealed a Happy Memorial Day note. *Gene Craft*

RING 211, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN – June Horowitz/John DeVries Magic Club

Meets 4th Mon., 7:00 pm, Brann’s Steakhouse & SportsGrille at 4157 S. Division Ave. Aug. & Dec. meetings TBA.

Web site: www.ring211.org

CHARLES BENNETT, Secretary / 324 National Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 / E-mail: cbennett724@comcast.net

The monthly meeting of Ring 211 was called to order on May 22, 2023, at 7:30, at the usual place, Brann’s Steakhouse in Grand Rapids, MI. The short business meeting was devoted to a discussion of the format and rules of a magic contest, to be open to all, this coming September 16, 2023. The grand prize is one hundred dollars, the contest is open to anyone, but the number of entrants will be limited to eight. Ring 211 throws down the gauntlet to all and sundry.

Brad Lancaster continued his series of lectures/seminars with a presentation on basic card handling. Naturally, there was debate about Bicycles versus Bees, red or blue, and I came away believing that although the audience may not notice the details, the details play into the psychological setting for a trick and support a performer’s confidence. There was further discussion of hand lotions with mention of SortKwik, Chamberlain’s Golden Touch, glycerin, and my personal favorite, St. Ives Hydrating Body Lotion.

The evening’s performances began with Nick Watkins showing how to do a card trick without insulting the waitress (who is very tolerant of magicians in any case). “Magic Bob” Zoerman then frustrated the poor waitress with a do-as-I-do twisted hands routine. Pat Quillan threaded a large ball onto a doubled cord, tied a knot around the ball, and then surrounded the ball by threading two other balls onto the cords. In spite of all the restraints, he was able to free the first ball in an instant. Sergei Clason guided a volunteer to discover a chosen card by using a pendulum. *Phillip Gleason*

RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN

SCOTT STARKEY, President

Scott started the evening with a novel use of the applause sign. He used it to advertise dumb tricks for a one-dollar, good tricks for five dollars, and amazing ones for twenty dollars. Scott then showed us an amazing trick at a discount. He had lengths of rope tied into loops and had them link in an instant!

Bob had a card selected, signed, and returned to

the pack. The jokers were placed on top of the deck. Magically the signed card appeared between them! For his next effect, he had three different colored envelopes. A volunteer took one, another volunteer picked another, leaving Bob with one. The envelopes were opened by the spectators, each one reading the message inside, “You will pick this envelope.” Bob then opened his revealing that he knew who was going to pick which color and what color he would be left with.

Brian showed an empty glass and empty tube. He then poured cola into the tube, but it didn’t spill onto the floor. A silk was passed through the tube and remained completely dry. The empty glass was then passed through the tube and came out filled with the cola.

Jon Sexson had a matrix with numbers one through sixteen on it. He had a volunteer cross out rows with various colors and then cross through columns with various colors. Where the same colors met, that number was recorded. The numbers were summed and matched a prediction that Jon made!

John Whitlock had a copy of *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table*. One volunteer called out a page number and another looked at said page. The second volunteer read a word in their mind and John revealed the word!

Benji had things all screwed up. He had three nuts, two were placed in one hand, and one was placed in the pocket. The third nut kept rejoining the other two. Eventually the third nut turned into a bolt. The two nuts were put into the pocket until they reappeared thoroughly tightened onto the bolt.

Marc had a card selected, folded in half, and placed between a small print of MC Escher’s “Sky and Water 1.” The card was folded in half displaying the back, but when it was pushed through the tessellation, it turned inside out! Marcus pushed the card back and forth through the print with the card impossibly displaying a side that could not be seen. He tore the card in half mid transition to capture the magic. Next, Marc had three cards selected and returned to the deck. The deck was then placed in a box and a sword was drawn. That’s right, Marcus has taken up fencing and his magic has been foiled. The cards sprayed from the box like a fountain and Marc stabbed each selected card onto the sword! *Ben Milanowski*

RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS – Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) For location call Chris at (217) 431-479

KEN BARHAM, Secretary

2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616

E-mail: Kebram@aol.com

The 2023 Central Illinois Magic Get-Together is this Saturday, June 3! They have a great lineup of shows, lectures, and dealers. I

hope to see you all there. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. For information, go to: www.ring239.com.

The meeting opened with discussion of options for having a club booth or doing some busking at the Urbana Farmers' Market this summer. We will have a lecture by Markus Clegg about booking and performing at assisted living facilities and senior living centers. I work in three ALFs every day, and four others on occasion, and I can tell you they all are looking for entertainment. This is a market that is ripe for the picking and very appreciative.

Speaking of lectures, we will be hosting a lecture by Mathew Garrett, Wednesday September 27 at 7:00 p.m. The lecture will be at the home of Chris Bontjes, 2313 Atwood Court, Danville, IL. The price is twenty-dollars for members and twenty-five-dollars for non-members and twenty-dollars for non-members who come in a group of two or more. It's going to be a good one, don't miss it!

Rob "The Professor" Higgins gave us a good review of *The Business of Street Magic 1, 2, and 3*. Andy Dallas had us watch Dani DaOrtiz on *Fool Us* and we talked about his performance. Truly a masterpiece of audience control and personality.

I was contacted by Max K. Goodall II asking for my business card to add to his collection. If you would like me to send yours, you can get it to me, and I will include it. He asked for us to sign and date them so he can have a record of when he got them. If you want to send him one directly, his address is 1607 Bryans Pl. NW, Albany, OR 97321-1488. I thought it might be nice to help him build his collection.

Hesham Hassan opened the magic with his "Color Changing Cards" utilizing psychology to sell the illusion. Andy Dallas demonstrated his utilization of the Oram Subtlety with jumbo cards. Rob Higgins performed "Billfold 2.0." Chris Bontjes took the stage with his "Ring and Rope" routine, Randy Sheilds used spelling to find four matching cards and Andy Dallas showed us the Reverse Count. Essen closed out the magic with a signed card appearing inside a 3D printed hammer.

The June meeting will be on Wednesday June 21st, 7:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army in Champaign. As usual, we will meet early, five-ish, at Manzella's Italian Patio on First Street. The topic will be Comedy Magic. See ya at the meeting. *Ken Barham*

RING 243, CANTON, OHIO – Roth-Mills Ring

Meets the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at Mama Guzzardi's Italian Restaurant (temporary site) 1107 N. Main St. North Canton, Ohio 44720

RANDY WEIDENHAMER, Secretary / (330) 933-8787
E-Mail: randy.weidenhamer@sbcglobal.net

Meeting was held at Grace United Christ of

Christ in Uniontown, OH., our temporary new site, on the 26th of April 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Meeting was called to order by Brent Schneider, President. No minutes from the previous meeting were read by Randy Weidenhamer, Secretary, as they were published in the monthly newsletter for all members to view. Treasurer's report was read by Mike Salvino, Treasurer. All reports were approved as read.

All members' health concerns were expressed along with the members' celebrations to be honored. Current plans for the November banquet were discussed. Dues were discussed by the treasurer and a new start time for meetings was voted upon and passed. With no plans for the International Battle of Magicians magic convention in sight, there was a discussion on replacing it with a smaller version. This ended the business part of the meeting, and everyone prepared themselves for the magical portion of the evening.

Tonight, we voted upon a new member, Ryan Schneider, who did his initiation show. Ryan mixed up some different color beads in a can and magically separated the colors. Ryan also made use of a color changing wand and a hand-made school bus which doubled as a drawer box. For his finale he showed the bus empty and then full of silks. Congratulations Ryan as he became our newest member.

The member magic portion of the meeting was cut short as we had a lecture and magic demo show by Mark Miller. Mark owns and operates two magic stores in the NE Ohio area. It's always great when Mark stops by our meetings. Mark had many new and unusual items for sale and of course a few of his own which he demonstrated. It was a great night for magic, let's do it again next month. *Randy Weidenhamer*

RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The "Magic Ian" Ring

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, Community Room, Lake Square Mall, Hwy 441, Leesburg, FL

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: www.Ring258.com

This month we had two events, a Ring picnic and a Ring meeting. The picnic was held on Sunday, May 21 at Hickory Point Park. There was a foul up with the reservation system for the park pavilion. The Park Rangers asked us to move to an open-air kiosk, because they had no reservation for our group. We moved and still had a good time. The food was plentiful and the games after lunch were lots of fun.

Our Ring meeting began at 7:00 p.m. We are now back in the Community Room of the mall. We began with Good and Welfare. We have several members under the weather. Les Morgenstein,

both George and Kathy Drake, Andy Rohweder, and Rick Jaworski.

Under Old Business – Andy Rohweder performed while on vacation. Under New Business – Greg Solomon reported on the Tampa Magic Festival where he saw Eric Olson, Joffo, and Dan Sperry who performed and lectured.

The after-meeting theme was “Coins.” Dave Lyons gave a brief talk and recommended Wet Wipes to shine up your coins. He demonstrated Michael Kaminkas’ “Dollar to Dollar” which was very expensive. Roger Reid performed and tipped several effects with “gimmicks” and “gimmicked coins” including “Flash Coin Vanish,” “Matrix,” “Super Penetration,” “\$2.85 Trick,” “Angel Coins,” and “Hopping Half/Sun and Moon.”

Jim Moody performed “Two in the Pocket/One in the Hand” and “Inflation.” Dave Lyons showed pirate coins acquired in St. Augustine. Dave Ginsburg did “Lethal Tender” and “Digital Dissolve.” Greg Solomon surprised everyone with a spiked coin on his head. Then he went off theme with “Car Trick,” “Viewmaster Card Prediction,” and “Mini Polaroid Card Prediction.” And Andy Rohweder demonstrated “Silver Extraction.”

Next month – “Bring, Demo, and Sell Effects that you no longer use!” *Roger Reid*

RING 265, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA – London Magicians Guild

Meets 2nd Wed., Labatt’s Engineering Bldg. unless otherwise notified.
MARK HOGAN, Secretary

Our meeting in April was all about Cups and Balls. And lots of folks brought out their sets and routines to show off.

Andrew Olmstead led off the night by doing a terrific routine he calls “Three Cubes and a Cup,” using a coffee mug and counting cubes. Every time he removed a cube, there were still three cubes! It was a brilliant routine, including a nice “counting three cubes as four” sequence from David Roth.

Byron Berry showed off his collection of Morrissey Chop Cups and his own handmade ones, including an aluminum can, and a Tim Horton’s paper cup for use in Craig Petty’s “Chop.”

Mark Hogan performed a few routines: Bill Malone’s “Rub-a-Dub-Dub,” Michael Ammar’s “Four Minutes of Fame,” and his own modification to Past International President Stephen Bargatz’s “Cup and Ball” routine, where a cup and ball routine uncovered a pile of fake poop, which held a key to a locked box holding a spectator’s signed coin!

Keith O’Brien demonstrated his collection of

chop cups, including a very cool martini mixer and a liquid measure (using olives as balls!) and some chop baseballs. He also performed his new acquisition, Donovan Mount’s “Laced Up,” which blew us all away by linking a borrowed ring onto the toe of his shoe, then moved the knot in his shoe to the toe and the ring is seen on the knot – and then unties it! It was an amazing visual!

At that point we broke into smaller groups to practice some new moves we learned. Thanks to everyone for sharing their cups and ball sets and routines! *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.scorpious.spaceports.com/~conjuror

Attending the March 20 Ring 268 meeting was Aaron Baca, Robert Vallin, George Mullican, Bart Glatt, Tim Pardue, Jack Pardue, Devan Faul, and Kennadi Faul.

The March theme was Cups and Balls, and several stepped up to the Magic Table and showed us their “Cups and Balls” routines.

Attending the April 17 Ring 268 meeting was Aaron Baca, Robert Vallin, George Mullican, Tim Pardue, Jack Pardue, David Jones, Bart Glatt, and Perry Vincent. The April theme was Rope Magic.

Attending the May 15 Ring 268 meeting was Bart Glatt, Robert Vallin, Tim Pardue, Jack Pardue, Perry Vincent, and George Mullican. The May theme was Card Magic. Please check out the photos of our members performing their magic on our Cajun Conjuror Facebook page.

The Cajun Conjurors are alive and well and making 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: pfoster@pcug.au

Good meeting this month. There were five of us: Chris, Kieran, Phil, and me. We also had a new person, Yile. I started with the same trick I inflict on all newcomers, “Marked Cards.” This is a twisting the aces effect with blue backed cards, the story being that the subtle markings tell me what card will be turning up next. As a kicker, the backs are suddenly revealed to be red, with the name of the ace written in bold letters.

Yile now took four cards out of his wallet, saying that they were the four queens. He had me choose a queen in a very fair manner. He then showed that he had predicted my choice, as it was actually the only queen there, the others

being blank. This was “B’Wave.” Yile followed with an ace assembly. The four aces were shown, then dealt face down and covered with indifferent cards. One by one the aces disappeared from their piles, all coming together in the final pile.

I now did a packet trick based on the Stroop Test. This used a number of cards that had colour names printed on them, but the colour they were printed did not match the name. For example, the word “brown” might be printed in orange. Yile took the test, trying to name the colours. This was quite tricky, and fun for the other spectators to watch. Then Yile chose one of the colours. The magician showed that this colour was predicted. Very nice. This was “Stroop Test” by David Jonathan and Nikolas Mavresis. I did another one for the new person, this time using an alphabet deck. Yile and I shuffled them face up and face down in a very haphazard manner. All the face down cards were removed, and miraculously they spelled, “Welcome Yile.” This was “Letter Perfect” by David Regal, although I used the Shuffle Bored process. I followed with one where two spectators helped to select a card. They each thought of a number, dealt that many cards, then marked the place with a joker. The jokers and the cards next to them were removed. One joker had SUIT written on it, the other VALUE. So, the suit and value of the stopped at cards were combined to make a card. Then the spectator’s numbers were added together to make a number. This number was counted to, and there indeed was the card. A very clever use of the Gemini matching procedure. This was “Absolutely ACAANy” by Michael Breggar.

Phil now showed one of his recent acquisitions. This involved a spectator dealing the cards face up onto the magician’s hand, until the spectator wanted to stop (free choice). Phil then showed that he knew exactly what card would be stopped at. Very nice indeed. This was “Knock’em Dead” by Peter Nardi.

I put the cards away for a moment and pulled out a handful of pocket change. One spectator had heads, the other tails. The coins were tossed and divided into heads and tails. Each spectator repeatedly tossed their coins, eliminating any that did not show the right side (that is, the “tails” spectator would eliminate any coins that landed heads etc.). Eventually each spectator was down to one coin: heads had twenty cents; tails had one dollar. Then a prediction was shown, it said, “tails wins, \$1 to 20c.” A surprising finish.

Phil now brought us back to card tricks. Two spectators each selected cards. The magician

held up the card box and one of the selected cards rose up. A wave of the hand and it changed to the other selection! Phil showed us how it was done, as he was very impressed by the method. The card box was ingeniously gimmicked to allow the magician to select which card to make rise. Very clever indeed. This was “The Last Rise” by Andrew. Phil followed with a packet trick. He had the four aces and they turned face down one by one. “Some people think that I’ve got more than four cards. But there are only four as he dealt them face up, showing an ace, two, three and four! This was “1234” by Howard Hamburg. One point of interest was that it used the Veese Count rather than the Elmsley Count. Phil now showed us some pretty amazing stuff. He had a small whiteboard and a clock that was covered by a cloth. A spectator wrote the name of a playing card on the whiteboard, then rubbed it off. Another spectator wrote a time on the whiteboard, then rubbed it off. The magician revealed the card, then uncovered the clock, which did indeed show the spectator’s time. This used some heavily gimmicked props. He showed us the clock again, this time uncovered. One of us wrote a time on the whiteboard, then we watched in amazement as the clock adjusted itself to this time! Yes, one of the benefits of being a professional is that your expensive props are tax deductible. Anyway, this was “Smart Whiteboard” and “Time Hacker” by PITATA Magic. Phil continued with something a bit more ordinary, his key ring. He showed three keys spread wide apart. He put them together and one disappeared, to reappear hanging around his neck. This used a shell key, which is a very unusual item. This was “Hide a Key” by Chris Rawlins. Phil now did a card trick, with the help of his iPhone. A spectator cut the deck and named any card. Then the magician asked Siri for a random number from one to fifty-two. Siri gave a number and the spectator counted down to that number. There indeed was the named card. Very clever. Surprisingly it doesn’t use an app, just Siri (with some setup). This was “VOX” by David Jonathan.

Chris showed us something a bit different. Three spectators freely chose which of three professions they wanted to be (lawyer, magician, or real estate agent). They then chose a computer brand that they use. These selections were all made while the performer’s back was turned. Now the performer faced the spectators again and took out a small “laptop” (actually one of those small vinyl card wallets that has some cards printed to look like a keyboard and screen). After pretending to key something in,

the performer identified who had what profession and what computer brand they used. Interesting and fun. The laptop, as well as being cute, serves duty as a crib. This was *ment@net* by Sean Taylor.

Phil continued with another of his recent purchases (it seems he has been on a bit of a spending spree lately). He showed an empty Corona bottle in a paper bag. He dropped in a bottle cap, closed the bag, and gently struck the bottle with a bottle opener. Then he opened the bag and took out a full, sealed bottle of Corona, that could be handed out and drunk. He then screwed up the bag and threw it away. Very nice. This was “Refilled” by Henry Harrius.

The theme for the evening was “stuff that needs a better presentation.” As it happened, we were more interested in showing off our latest toys. But I did have one thing I wanted people to look at. It was inspired by “Dead Reckoning” by John Bannon, where a card is selected very fairly and found in an impossible way. It is an excellent trick but requires a stack and a mechanical locator. I was looking for a way to do a similar effect, but FASDIU. I came up with a method that used two selections, with a presentation of a boring card trick versus an interesting card trick. It went well, with no negative comments, so I’m chalking it up as a win. I’ve called it “Not So Boring” by Dumledini. I followed with another card trick. A spectator took the deck, cut it as they wished, then selected a card and replaced it in the middle of the deck, all while the magician was not watching. The magician then took the deck and cut it, claiming to have now put the selection in the right place. The spectator now spelled their card, dealing one card for each letter. And there was the selection. Very nice. This was “Auto Spell Deck” by Devin Knight.

We now had a bit of a blast from the past, with Phil doing a quick “Do As I Do,” and Kieran a quick multiple selection that used the one ahead principle. Yile now did an interesting card trick. A card was selected and lost in the deck, then the deck was held face up and dealt into four piles of thirteen cards each. The piles were turned over and the spectator indicated which pile contained their card. The top card of this pile was turned up. It was not the selection, but a six. So, six cards were counted down, and there was the selection. But then a kicker, the top cards of the other piles were shown and counted down to that value to find the other three cards of the same rank as the selection. Very surprising. This was “A Mathematical Card Trick” by Gary Plants. It is a technically demanding trick using a bottom deal. And bot-

tom dealing with the deck face up requires a lot of courage.

Phil now did “Estimation Aces” (not sure which version, maybe John Mendoza or Ed Marlo). Anyway, the aces were lost in the deck, then the spectator cuts the deck to successfully find some aces. Yile also did his version of “Cutting the Aces.” We finished at that point. Next meeting is on 15 June. The theme is “sound.” Make of that what you will.

Peter Foster

RING 279, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Meets last Sunday, 4:30 pm, B-8/11. Tara Mia Road, Ganda, Savar, Dhaka-1340, Bangladesh
ROBIN KHAN, President
E-mail: robin.khan77@gmail.com

At the beginning of the meeting, the president thanked all the members that were present. Ring 279 President Robin Khan was invited as a Chief Guest for the 26th anniversary of Hemi Magic Academy at Zela Shilpokola Academy in Narayangonj. The Ring 279 president delivered a speech and invited all of the magicians present to participate in the Magic Federation Convention 2023 at Bangladesh Shilpokola Academy in Dhaka.

Robin Khan

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@agnor.com
Web site: www.ibring280.com

Ring 280’s June 2023 meeting was an intimate gathering and jam session. The summer month saw many of our regular members absent as they attended family functions and took vacations.

Members attending this evening’s gathering were Joe Berman, Luke Boehret, Chris Canfield, Chris Cory, Glenn Crites, Lonnie Dilan, Clem Patafio, and Tim Silver.

Chris Cory, former house magician at Six Flags Magic Mountain, treated us to an effect where the chosen card was found between two queens. This “sandwich reveal” involved numerous choices for the volunteer. Chris cut and shuffled the deck several times and yet the chosen card produced between two face up queens. Well done, Chris. You left us mystified and thoroughly entertained.

Glenn Crites performed a packet trick of “This, That and Other” themed along the lines of a cautionary tale against betting with street hustlers.

Joe Berman, crafter of fine gaffed coins, showed us a version of “McDonald’s Aces” using court cards with a few uniquely gaffed cards that Joe built. In McDonald’s Ace’s, piles of four cards which included an ace became four

cards without the ace. Very dramatic! Joe's version of the four cards become three, stunning! Joe followed this card effect with a Kainoa Harbottle coin routine using copper and silver coins.

Lonnie Dillan, master cardician, presented a John Guastaferro effect. Lonnie discussed back palming techniques with reference to Jeff McBride's teachings.

Luke Boehret, creator of our Ring's own deck of cards and newly initiated member of the Magic Castle, presented an amped up version of the "Charming Chinese Challenge." Luke then joined Lonnie in demonstrating card manipulation techniques. Lonnie, Luke, and Chris discussed the "Truffle Shuffle 2.0" by Karl Hein's development of Derek Delgaudio's Truffle Shuffle. It is a false in the hands riffle shuffle.

Chris Canfield, our Ring president, a performing member of the Magic Castle and a contestant on *Penn and Teller: Fool Us*, demonstrated a bit of mentalism. He chose three topics: Persons, Food, and Locations. Chris then called out six items for each topic. After each list, his volunteer tossed a die and the word corresponding to the number on the die was noted. Chris revealed a list which matched the three chosen items. It was spooky and baffling.

Wishing everyone good health and Happy Conjuring!
Glenn Crites

RING 284, FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA - Conrad C. Bush Ring

Meets 4th Tue, 6:00 pm for socializing at Fresh Greece Pizza & Grill, 339 N John Sims Pkwy. W. Niceville, FL 32578. 7:00 pm meeting Valparaiso Library (459 Valparaiso Pkwy)

RONALD HUDSPETH, Secretary / E-mail: RMHudspeth@spamcop.net

Business: (May 25th) We had a pretty light attendance this month as well and decided to stay at Fresh Greece for the meeting. Secretary Ron Hudspeth reported about the AbraCORNdabra convention in Des Moines, IA that he and V.P. Brian Ward attended last week. The general event theme was mental, spooky and/or bizarre magic, and when one saw the staff was dressed at the final party as characters from the *Addams Family*, one had to believe the mystery magician (an annual event for this convention) had to be Christopher Hart! Sure enough, the Hand known as Thing (and the rest of Christopher) appeared and culminated the event! It also looks like we should have at least four club members attending Pittsburgh convention. Several members have also confirmed intent to join us for the "September meeting" at Atlanta for the International Past President Ken Scott's Harvest of Magic.

Magic: Robert Vinson started off the magic showing the assembled membership Eric Ross'

"Hook." It seems to be pretty appropriate presentation for a Gulf town known as the "Luckiest Fishing Village," but he will probably get some cringes from the audience whenever he performs it. Ron then put on his physicist cap and taught us about the Lenz Effect or Lenz's Law where a magnet falling through a non-magnetic, metal tube will resist the force of gravity and fall at a much slower speed than outside, without regard to friction. The motion of the magnet creates an electromagnetic (EM) field itself which opposes that motion. As the motion slows, the EM opposition gets weaker and the motion increases again causing an endless cycle that slows but does not stop the magnet from falling. Why the science lesson? The new trick from TCC called "The Tunnel" uses rosewood over brass tubes to cause coins to penetrate a solid object. He performed it for us using a demonstration of the Lenz effect as a scripting device for the overall effect.

We closed out the magic with various members discussing of the principle, history and variations of the effect such as Al Cohen's "Coin FUN-nel," Chuck Leach's "Shamrock Cup" of the leprechaun cup series and even the Okito slot Box.

Remember that we usually meet for early dinner time on the fourth Thursday; 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 for information. *Ron Hudspeth*

RING 291, PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA - Palm Springs Magic Club

Meets first and third Tuesday via Zoom

HENRY JUAREZ, Secretary / E-mail: henryjuarez1@hotmail.com

Web site: www.palmspringsmagicclub.com

PSMC members were out in "force" this past Tuesday night for "May the Force Be With You," an evening dedicated to demonstrating, teaching, and discussing the endless ways of using a force.

Warren Morse led off with an effect called "Coercion" by Paul Richards. A spectator glanced at a fan of cards and remembered one. With a few questions, Warren basically asked the spectator which card it was, which seemed

very unmagical, until he turned that card over and revealed that it had “This Is Your Card” written on the back.

Next, Steve Temkin began with a trick about choices called the “Impossible Force. He then demonstrated several familiar forces, including the Criss Cross Force and the Ripple Force.

Gary Beutler took over with a discussion and demonstration centering on the Classic Force, among others. Then George Haas shared more clever card forces, along with how to stack a deck and the Uh-Oh Cut.

Jerred Lockard was next with his Dribble Force, which replaces the stopped at card with the forced top card. He forced the Three of Hearts, which happened to be tattooed on his leg.

Changing gears, Don Campbell presented ways to force a sign/symbol, using a version of Max Maven’s “Psign” that he made himself. He then shared a force very similar to the Cut Deeper Force, except it only requires cutting the deck once.

Suddenly, Ben Acker surprised everyone by doing an Observational Force on Don Campbell. He secretly saw the top card as Don was putting his deck back in the case. Then through a series of Magician’s Choices, he got Don to name a single card: the Ten of Hearts. Ben told him to take the deck out of the case and show that the Ten of Hearts was on top.

Henry Juarez started by having a card forced from a red deck, and then tried to cut to that same card in a blue deck. After three unsuccessful tries, he simply turned the entire deck into that selected card, followed by turning the entire blue deck into a red deck. After that, he wrapped things up by taking the “Tossed-Out Deck” to a whole new level, performing Bill Abbott’s Octopus Deck.

May 16 - The PSMC year-round magicians met this past Tuesday to share their favorite tricks with the theme of “Anything Goes.”

George Haas began with a routine called the “Upside Down Deck.” Giving half the deck to Gary Beutler, each selected a card from their pack and placed it in the middle of the other pack. Turning his pack face up, George placed Gary’s face down pack in the middle of his. Spreading the cards revealed all cards face down except the two previously selected cards.

He then shared several more effects where the aces traveled, where he correctly divined how many cards were moved, and predicting each card that was selected from a messy stack on the table.

Jerred Lockard shared “Pub Crawl,” by Wayne Goodman, where each of us went to a different pub and selected our drinks. Adding

the total of each drink, it totaled the exact amount that he had predicted in a Facebook post earlier that day. He then performed a clever “Card to Wallet” effect.

Gary Beutler shared his Royal Flush effect, which prompted George and Jerred to bring out their poker-style routines.

Then Don Campbell shared a mathematical trick. First, a card was selected and then a number was thought of, the digits added together, and that number subtracted from the original number. After dealing down that number of cards, the selected card was found at that number. Don then displayed two rubber bands and performed a classic effect.

Henry Juarez blew up a balloon and caused it to stay inflated, even after letting go of the end. He showed the inside of the balloon to show there was nothing to be seen, yet, at his command, the balloon instantly deflated.

Jerred then blew up a balloon and caused his deck of cards to be sucked into it. *Henry Juarez*

RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:30 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042
LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary
4515 Northglen Court, Englewood, OH 45322
E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

President James Butler officially welcomed us to our June meeting. We discussed and voted on not going dark for July and August. We will meet those months. We also voted on changing the meeting time to 7:00 instead of 7:30. This also passed. The Annual Magic Auction in Eaton was May 27 – 28 and we shared items purchased and evaluated this year’s auction. We are still working on our “War of The Wizards” show with Rings 5 and 71. We shared information about “Magic at The Beach” Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC, on October 5 – 7, 2023. We discussed the possibilities of having a Magic Camp and what that would entail. More later on that.

Time for magic! Larry Payne whipped out “Jumbo Dream Queen” and asked for its routine. We were happy to oblige. tRick Gaffney presented “Decision Point” by David Regal for us. Larry Hollinger showed his “Floating Ring” routine by Yigal Mesika. He used Silicon Rings to prevent the invisible thread breaking. Larry also asked for help with “World’s Toughest Card Trick” by Will Fern. (Duh! It is the World’s Toughest Card Trick after all!) Larry was having trouble cutting to (spoiler alert) the short card. Several members offered suggestions: Use a Breather card, a quarter coin impression, Super Glue Gel dots, or pinpoint. A double card wouldn’t work for this trick.

Rick Ross passed around his new NOC playing cards, very nice quality, and a Wonder Wand he purchased at the auction. Larry Payne showed us his "Floating Vase" routine. Larry Hollinger performed "PredicShuns" by Roddy McGhie with volunteer Rick Ross. Charlie Cadabra hit us with four routines in a row. First, "I Don't Know" using volunteer James Butler and the thirteenth card down force. Second, "The Moment" from Andy Nyman with volunteer Rick Ross. Third, a trick using children's Circus Cards. Fourth, "Brain Child." Next, Prez James Butler performed his "Mental Photography" routine. Tom Casper gave us his version of "That Will Be Done" by THY. Brad Morgan ended the festivities with a flawless Del Ray's "Final Aces."

We adjourned but stayed around and talked more magic. So, if you are ever in Middletown, Ohio the first Friday of the month, please stop by and join us. From Ring 324 – The Friendliest Ring Around. *Larry Hollinger*

RING 325, BRANSON, MISSOURI – The Tri-Lakes Tricksters

Meets 3rd Sat. of the month atl's Magic & Joke Shop, 6:00pm, 124 South Business 65, Branson, MO
DR. CHRISTOPHER BECK, President
E-mail: beckibring325@gmail.com

Members gathered, on May 20th, at Yak's "It's Magic" magic shop in downtown Branson for the club's monthly meeting. Club President, Christopher Beck, and his wife, Dana, Club Secretary, were in Israel. So, as "magical conversations" took place, at 6:30, Vice President Gary Geise called the meeting to order.

Among the discussions, related to "old business," members were reminded of the upcoming lectures (with Marcos Waldemar in June and Matthew Garrett in September). Rates for admission and expenses related to lectures were discussed.

The DYK (Do You Know) Question from the *Magic Moments* newsletter was discussed, as well. No one in attendance knew the answer, so the "discussion" was tabled until the newsletter writer/editor (Christopher Beck) returns from the Holy Land. Duane and Mary Laflin's upcoming "Electrified" conference (June 8-10, 2023) was mentioned, as well. It is a blessing for the Laflins to be part of our I.B.M. Ring 325 family! There was also mention made of the purchase of the former Mel Tillis theater by Spanish magician Antonio Diaz Cascajosa, known by the stage name El Mago Pop.

The theme for the June meeting theme was announced as, simply, "Music." The idea is that either the magician's performance will be set to music, their illusion will include music, or they

will discuss what music or how music has enhanced their performances.

After other various "items of interest" were discussed, the performances began with the use of a classic effect by Thom Taylor. Taylor spent his time demonstrating his twist on the "Invisible Deck," using odd/even rather than the traditional Spades and Hearts or Clubs and Diamonds pairings. Taylor's performance included an effect with a "real" Invisible Deck involving the Three of Diamonds and the Jack of Clubs.

Williams introduced his performance piece with a movie poster featuring Jimmy Stewart in the 1958 film, *Bell, Book and Candle*. Williams produced three boxes, each with a label (either "Bell," "Book," and "Candle"). Williams also displayed a small book, a candlestick, and a bell. Gary Geise mixed the three boxes, but when the boxes were opened the items still matched the rearranged boxes. Williams noted Max Maven had written an article about the effect in *The Linking Ring* many years ago, and Williams decided to see if he could recreate it. He mentioned some ideas to update the effect.

Gary Geise took the stage, opened with a "high tension" Dad joke, and then talked about a "Flower with an Attitude." One of the spectator's selected a playing card and the card matched the "Flower with Attitude" prediction Gary removed from an envelope.

Williams returned to the stage and performed a vanishing quarter routine. And, using a quarter and four cards he made the quarter disappear. Taylor returned and performed a "Color Changing Pocketknife" routine, while Geise shared some ideas using a magnetic coin borrowed from Jim Holmes.

Performances ended with Williams demonstrating the updated "washer" version of Steve Dusheck's "Koing Kong Koin Klip Klimax" in which a half dollar magically changes into a metal washer. The effect so impressed one of the club members that he bought it from Williams on the spot!

When the meeting came to a close, club members migrated to a local restaurant to continue their magical conversations! *Christopher Beck, Mary Geise, and Yak Williams*

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/

The June meeting of the Myrtle Beach Ring was a success. Paul McTaggart made some opening comments and then introduced

President Ron Conley. We will be having Bill Wisch lecture for us June 13th. Ron did the nickel on forehead and gave the nickel to Jonathan to try, and the nickel had a spike on it. All in attendance received a spiked nickel. Cool!

Dave Tanner talked about Magic at the Beach and took questions. It will be Oct. 5-7 and has a very nice line-up of talent. Paul McTaggart talked of other conventions. Mrs. Ford was with us and brought some of her delicious cookies and talked about her favorite convention. And just like that, it was pizza time.

Now it was time for door prizes! New member, Stephen McNutty, formally of New York, won most of the prizes. It pays to buy a string of tickets. Ray Hardee performed a "Coins to Glass." Coins in a coin box vanished from the box into a glass. At the end, a coin vanished from the box into a glass that was turned mouth down. Very nice!

Dave Tanner changed a penny on his outstretched fingers into a dime, into a quarter, over and over. Quite a feat to see. He performed "Nickels to Dimes" as he does it at his magic shop, Broadway Magic. Experience shows. He next performed "Dime to Penny" and told a wild story of how he got a set in change at the store. Lastly, he showed "Chop Suey," a coin on top of the hand and one in his fist changed places. If he had had some for sale, he would have sold them.

Dale, your scribe, was next. I performed "Scotch and Soda" as I do it at Trickmaster Magic Shop, under a glass. I also showed Bob Solari's "Pirates' Booty." Fun magic.

Ron showed some coin moves. He produced coins from palm, a multiple coin vanish, the thumb palm, and coin through hand. He is so good.

Liam performed "Coin from Ear." Jonathan Cox borrowed a quarter, and it bent in a spectator's hand. Will Jung one upped me with "Copper/Silver/Brass." Loved it! Charles showed us "Multiplying Coins." Paul McTaggart did pretty "Miser's Dream." Coins appeared from a silk handkerchief and out of thin air.

It was a fun night of magic and fellowship. If you are in Myrtle Beach the first Thursday of the month, why don't you join us, we'd love to see you.

Dale Rabon

RING 362, BANGOR, MAINE – The Bob Nixon Ring

Meets 2nd. Sun at the Buker Community Center, 22 ArmoryRd., Augusta, ME

SCOT GRASSETTE, Secretary / E-mail: grassette@gwi.net

We kicked off our meeting time with a visit from Markus Steelgrave. He popped in for a quick visit and we all caught up for a bit. Our business meeting was quick and easy, but the discussion and ideas for a club fundraiser in the fall flowed for a good amount of time. We then

dove headfirst into our topic for the June, ropes.

Up first was Wes Booth performing "The Bachelor's Needle" with a religious themed patter, a nice effect that can be found in *Tarbell*, and *Abbott's Encyclopedia of Rope Magic*. Next was yours truly, performing the Hindu Rope out of *Mark Wilson's Course*. A length of rope is suspended towards the ceiling and slowly slinks back down, an eerie effect that can be repeated.

The next item I displayed was "Davenport's Mental Ropes," where the power of influence works one hundred percent of the time. The Great Stephan performed "Four Nightmares," an entertaining routine that Stephan mentioned it's a nightmare to learn because the instructions were written in Chinese. Although this was tough to learn he proclaimed that it was bar none "the best rope effect on the market." The next item he showed us was a bit of works in progress. I recognized it as an item I saw at the dealer's room at FISM Quebec last year. He hasn't had time to mess with it, and the meeting was a good place to work out the bugs. The effect was a length of rope is shown and looped together, then miraculously the length of rope becomes individual loops that can be passed for examination leaving you completely "clean."

We then workshopped false knots including the G.W. Hunter Bowtie knot otherwise known as the Magic Shoelaces in Abbott's book. Another one by G.W. Hunter we worked on was the puzzle knot. We also worked on Daryl's "Acrobatic Knot" moves, and "Rainbow Ropes," along with playing with a set of Klammer's Linking Ropes. Wes had a works in progress he wanted opinions on, involving cane to three silk hankies.

Fellowship was carried on to Margarita's where we entertained our waiter who is interested in magic himself. (Maybe we can get him to a meeting, we'll see!) Bob Nixon Ring 362 meets on the second Sunday of each month at the Buker Community Center in Augusta Maine.

Scot Grassette

RING 392, BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA – William E. Spooner Ring

Meetings monthly at 2:00pm in various locations

DR. JOE MAZZOLA, President

E-mail: jcmazzolado@gmail.com

The meeting was held at PT Marvels Magic Theater located in Statesville, NC. Prior to the official meeting our host Debbie Mazzola had a fantastic taco lunch buffet available for those who attended. Fellowship and some magic sharing took place before the meeting started.

President Joseph Mazzola opened the meeting and welcomed our members and guests. Dispensing with the usual business meeting, Joe

asked that everyone keep our members who were under the weather and unable to attend in their thoughts. We look forward to seeing them back next month.

Next, Joe welcomed our guest lecturer, Steven Perry. Steven began his lecture with a brief history of card gaffing and how he became interested in the craft. Like many things, he had a need for some gaffs and found a mentor and started on the journey of becoming a skilled card gaffer. He showed many different tools of the trade and during the lecture demonstrated how each is used.

He began with demonstrating how many different stripped decks there are available and how they are made. He used several jigs to create end strippers and belly strippers and discussed how these are used to create many magical effects. He also showed how to create a Breather Crimp card with a special jig and a common item we all have. You will have to book him to get in on that little secret.

Next Steven moved on to card splitting. Many of us have heard about how to do this and maybe even tried it. Steven made it look quite easy, although he has several tools to help him strip the cards into single and double layers. Then he used different alignment jigs to create

double back, double face, and shim cards. He discussed different types of glue and mounting tissue needed to create these gaffs.

Steven moved on to discuss how he created Invisible Decks, Pop Eyed Popper Decks and other “rough and smooth” type of decks. His cards are fantastic creations, and you can speed them hand to hand or even on the table and they will not separate easily until the right magical moment for your effect.

Steven took questions from the group, allowed members to use some of the jigs to get a feel for them and had many of his creations available for sale. Prior to the lecture, Steven had offered to create special gaffs for any member, and he takes custom orders from anyone who would like their own specific gaff. Reach out to him to discuss your need.

Overall, those in attendance really enjoyed this different type of lecture. If you are looking for something a little different for your Ring meeting lecture series or if you host a conference or convention, I highly recommend you reach out to Steven and book him for the event.

Our next meeting is June 25th at the home of Gerry and Cara Hayes in Blowing Rock, NC. This will allow our members to spend Father’s Day with their families. *Joe Mazzola*

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.

NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

AUGUST 2023 33 NEW MEMBERS

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FANSHIER, ADAM, Burbank, CA
FITZGERALD, DANA, Los Angeles, CA
REBHUN, LAROLD, Canyon Country, CA
TYSON, TERRY, Rancho Mission Viejo, CA
WREN, CARL, Bakersfield, CA
YEH, JENNIFER, Los Angeles, CA
PETERSON, DANIEL, Ormond Beach, FL
SMITH, MIKE, Gainesville, GA
BARNES, BENJAMN, Elmhurst, IL
GROBAREK, EMIL, Fort Wayne, IN
CLARK, GIDEON, Louisville, KY
KILHEFFER, LOGAN, Woodbine, MD
KILHEFFER, LACEY, Woodbine, MD
POMYKALA, MARY, Pikesville, MD
REDMAN, ERIC, Parkville, MD
SOVANN, VOUTHYNAR, Upper Marlboro, MD
POAGE, FERRAN, Royal Oak, MI
YOUNGBAUER, MATTHEW, Blaine, MN
JOHNSTON, SCOTT, North Las Vegas, NV
PIROLA, ERIC, East Northport, NY
MARTIN, RICHARD, Solon, OH
COLE, RONALD, Eagle Point, OR

LEVIN, LEWIS, Ardmore, PA
WEST, BRO. PAUL, Myrtle Beach, SC
REYNOLDS, JEFF, Murfreesboro, TN
GARLAND, ANDREW, Montpelier, VT
ROBJOHNS, JACK, Adelaide Sa, Australia
IVANOV, OLEG, Sofia-Grad, Bulgaria
PSENICKA, ONDREJ, Prague, Czech-Republic
FALONE, MARCO, Cantello, Va, Italy
LEONARD, CRAIG, Barnsley, South Yorkshire,
United Kingdom
MILTON, IAN, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

12 REINSTATEMENTS

PORTER, TRAVIS, Kansas City, KS
WOLF, ROBERT, Shawnee Mission, KS
BOGDAS, MICHAEL, South Lyon, MI
CRUTCHER, ROBERT, Oakwood, OH
WELTY, MATTHEW, Cincinnati, OH
WILLIAMS, AENGY, Middletown, OH
SCHOONOVER, JAMES, Ardmore, OK
TEDESKI, WILLIAM, Coraopolis, PA
FLOYD, DOUG, Louisville, TN
SECRIST, LUKE, Fairfax Station, VA
WARD, CONSTANTINE, Vienna, VA
SELLADO, JOUELLA, Quezon City, Ncr, Philippines

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!

Answer to Pictures from the Past – from page 12

Elizabeth Bell was born into a grand family. As the daughter of Peter Warlock, Elizabeth witnessed magic and magicians almost from birth. Her earliest memories were of magic, music, and performers surrounding her. In September 1949, the Midland Bank Magical Society presented a grand show titled *All Done with Mirrors* to a packed house at King George's Hall in London. Elizabeth was in good company that evening – her fellow performers included Geoffrey Buckingham, David Nixon, James Edwards, and other magical luminaries. Elizabeth performed her version of the Blooming Bush, as well as other effects, and two months later she performed again, surrounded by magicians including Will Ayling, Arthur Ivey, and Max Templeton. Each performer was welcomed with applause and enjoyment, and Elizabeth was introduced as “Elizabeth Warlock presenting Junior Mysteries.” Her performance included anti-gravity glasses, Chinese sticks, card manipulations, a cut and restored rope trick, and a fine effect using birthday cards with the birthdates of members in the audience reproduced by the number of pips on chosen playing cards.

In spite of her young age, Elizabeth created a fine show, pleased her audiences, and surprised the more experienced performers with her abilities. On occasion, she would feature favorite effects of her father's creation, such as the Peter Warlock version of “Evaporated Milk.” She may have started her career under her father's wing, but with everything Elizabeth was demonstrating, she was standing in her own spotlight. Elizabeth was truly a performer of style and grace, and quickly became recognized as someone with great talent and skill. At the British Ring Jubilee Convention in 1953, a fifteen-year-old Elizabeth became the first (and youngest) magicienne to win the prestigious British Shield Award. Her father, Peter, had won the award in 1952, and now he and his family could enjoy displaying the trophy in their home for another year!

When the opportunity arose, Elizabeth would send in ideas to magic publications. *The Pentagram*, *Phoenix*, and other magazines would publish her effects, such as “Linked Ropes.” In 1955, Elizabeth stepped away from the spotlight long enough to develop and sell a popular effect called “Fantastic Joker.” The effect was well received in England as well as the United States, and Elizabeth won the Magic Circle Grand Prix that same year.

Elizabeth gave a performance for club members at the Magic Circle Club Room in 1962, where she was joined by a few of her colleagues. Anne Shaxon, Marjorie Fletcher, and Cecilia Gabriel were included in the show. Each performance easily demonstrated to the membership they should consider allowing women to join the club (although it wasn't until 1991 that 75% of the members voted to admit women into the club). The performances were a success and the show was well received. Soon, Elizabeth had joined her father, fellow magicienne June McComb, and a number of other fine acts to participate in the Italian Congress of Magic in Northern Italy.

In 1965, Elizabeth moved to Toronto, Canada. There were plenty of family friends, including Sid Lorraine and others, to help ease the transition from England to Canada. When she was not performing on stage, Elizabeth was working at a downtown bank in Toronto, and on the second of September she gave her first Canadian magic performance at the Toronto Hat and Rabbit Club. She received quite an ovation, and went on to tape a nine-minute interview for the CBC television network the following day. It wasn't long before Elizabeth was seen in the local newspapers, which created quite a surprise for her bank co-workers, who were now reading about their fellow employee on the front page. Later that year, Elizabeth appeared on the banquet show of the New York State and Canada Conclave of Magicians. She began submitting more articles to magic magazines – everything from magic effects and ideas for presentations, to stories about other performers.

During the 1960s, while still working at a bank in Toronto, Elizabeth Bell would step on stage and transform into Toronto's best-known female magician, Elizabeth Warlock. She would produce silks from nowhere, as well as some of her favorite effects from her earlier days. As a highlight, she would sit down at the piano and play her favorite work by Chopin while the rose bush near the piano would bloom beautiful roses. Unlike her father, her performances did not include productions of doves or rabbits (she was allergic to them). Once, when asked if she ever considered sawing an assistant in half, she replied that if she did, the assistant would be a man ... and she might not choose to put him back together again.



International President Vanni Pulé presents a Presidential Citation to Elizabeth Warlock, 2012.

Frances Marshall of Magic Inc. was duly impressed with Elizabeth's skills, and she let readers know about Elizabeth's upcoming engagements. Frances recognized Elizabeth's skill, poise, and attention to detail, writing that "She's new, fresh and different – commodities sadly lacking on too many of our various shows around the country." In 1967, Elizabeth wrote and submitted a poem to one of the magic magazines, naming the poem after the Toronto restaurant where a small gathering of local magicians would often meet. The purpose of the poem was to encourage other magic enthusiasts to visit and join in.

"The Honeydew"

It's in the Honeydew that it meets,
 A group of magicians to do their feats
 Of magic with cards and coins and balls,
 And discuss the memories each recalls.
 Every Saturday afternoon at three, down in the heart of Toronto city,
 They'd gather there from far and wide,
 With hearts just full of magical pride,
 Not all men make up this flock,
 For among them is a female Warlock.
 And over innumerable cups of coffee, the latest miracles are there to see.
 New secrets are shared by one and all,
 Exchanged are books that never pall,
 And there it sits from three to six, a group to talk and do their tricks.

In 1971, Elizabeth started writing articles for *The Linking Ring* in a column called "Toronto Tricks." Within each article, Elizabeth would comment on the happenings at conventions and small events where her fellow magicians were performing. She also wrote about the Magic Circle Jubilee grand prize in England, and the lectures at the Collectors Gatherings in Chicago, Illinois. Throughout the 1970s and into the eighties, Elizabeth continued to perform and write articles for a number of magic magazines. She often introduced readers to performers from around the world, who were traveling to various conventions and hot spots. After returning to live in England, Elizabeth happily took the reins of her father's column by continuing to create "Our Side of the Pond" in *The Linking Ring*. Her articles always gave the readers an opportunity to see how magic was perceived in other parts of the world. In 2002, she won the David Berglas Award from the British Magical Society, the first woman to receive the award. In 2005, the book *One*

Hundred by Warlock was published with the assistance of Elizabeth and illustrator Dennis Patten. That book includes one hundred of Peter Warlock’s favorite effects and routines, some of them gathered from his articles printed in magic magazines over the years. In the August 2011 issue of *The Linking Ring* – after a combined forty-five years of publication, Elizabeth stepped away from her column with these words: “I will miss you, dear readers.”

Elizabeth has always kept us informed. It’s a pleasure to see “by Elizabeth Warlock” on the byline of an article, because you know you’re in for an informative, well-rounded piece. She can fully relate to the various fields of magic, as well as honestly review a performance with an educational eye for the art of magic.

Gary R. Frank

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I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

(Continued from page 49)

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 49.**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

The Linking Ring



Dawn Hofmeister
Advertising Manager
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ADVERTISING RATES AND SPECS

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

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