

VOLUME 104 • NUMBER 10

The Linking Ring

OCTOBER 2024



COLIN CLOUD

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

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

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

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

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From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

Magicians, I've noticed, tend to be collectors. Even those who don't have a passion for acquiring historical artifacts still accumulate routines, lines, methods, techniques. Others who maintain that they are totally committed to the digital age and are baffled by primitive people who allow paper to enter their homes, still try to collect "likes" and "friends" on social media. They also collect the latest products from Apple or Samsung and keep stuffing their digital closets with the most recent apps, installing security updates so no digital thief can access their intangible collection. So whether it's posters, props, books, sleights, jokes, or digital approval from others, magicians seem to be among the most dedicated collectors on earth. And to me, this doesn't seem inherently bad.

There must be a mechanism in the human mind, perhaps more strongly evidenced in those with a creative bent, that makes us want to collect, and in the process, categorize and organize our belongings. This manifests at a young age. A child discovers small rocks in the backyard. Does he think, "These are rocks. They belong in dirt." No. He pockets the treasures and later stores them in a cardboard box, along with a mummified beetle and a small toy from last week's Happy Meal. The invisible but powerful collector instinct has begun to course through his veins.

Managed properly, collecting can be a rewarding and helpful aspect of life. It allows us a connection with the past, whether our own or that of some great, historical figure. Even the simplest of objects may serve to establish contact with an earlier time. A ticket stub brings back happy

memories of an evening spent with a loved one twenty years ago. A bag of marbles reminds us of the carefree times of childhood, as a therapeutic wave of nostalgia washes over us, dissolving the petty problems we experienced at the office today.

Collecting also helps us establish a relationship with the past masters of magic. Gazing at a framed Thurston window card on the wall of our den, our imagination transports us to the Golden Age of Magic. We try to imagine the sway Thurston held over his audiences. For a moment, we are there. "She floats all over the stage and into the audience, then vanishes like a fading cloud."

Collectibles that can be held, such as autographed books, also connect us with the past. We remember that we are touching the same object that was in the hands of the author. A friend gave me a copy of a book that belonged to T. Nelson Downs who wrote notes on the flyleaf. It's a curious feeling to realize that the legendary sleight-of-hand artist handled the same book. I am always hopeful that my Downs Palm will improve.

It is possible, of course, for the collector instinct to go awry. Stories abound of people who will literally do anything to acquire a certain piece of art or possess a particular magic rarity. Like anything else – money, influence, talent – the desire to collect can be beneficial or misdirected. Kept in proper perspective, the collector instinct enhances one's fascination with life. Maybe this is why old magicians often seem so young. Their minds, intrigued by the art of magic, have collected a lifetime of interesting thoughts.

President's Page

MIKE DUNAGAN



Boo. Sorry, Max. I couldn't resist.

Not only is that the best opening line ever spoken, it's a good way to start my October article. For me, and I suspect for many of us, October is my favorite month of the year, giving us my favorite holiday of the year, Halloween.

Start to finish, the entire month is magical, and of course it ends with Magic Day on October 31. What started as Houdini Day a year or so after his death, has been repurposed as the day we celebrate the art of magic. Which is perfect for a day when children yell "Trick or Treat!" far and wide.

Our world needs more magic. We hear so much about what is wrong with our world, and most are important issues that need to be discussed. But how wonderful that we have a day in October when magic is the order of the day.

Let's all pull together to make Magic Day truly magical. Whether you are a performing pro, a weekend warrior, an avid amateur, or a newbie to the fold, put some magic into October 31, 2024. Pull out your thumb tips, your sponge balls, your gaff coins ... whatever it may be, and add some magic to the moment.

If you see that special spark ignite in someone's eyes, feel free to mention that the I.B.M. is a great place to start a magical journey.

Hopefully, you're aware of our new Ring Support Program, the Ring Leaders' monthly Zoom call. The August and September calls were terrific. August kicked off by sharing new programs that were introduced by local rings over the last year. September focused on building a positive ring culture. Transcripts and audio

recordings of both calls are on the I.B.M. website under "Ring Resources."

Our October call will discuss new member recruiting at the ring level – obviously, a topic important to us all. The transcript of that call will be available on the website, too.

November's topic is Retaining Members, and is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 8:00 p.m. EST. Check our website and social media pages for updates.

FISM NA 2027! We recently announced that the I.B.M. will host the FISM North America Championship Competition as part of our annual Convention in 2027. Even more exciting, the event will be held at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. Put it on your calendar.



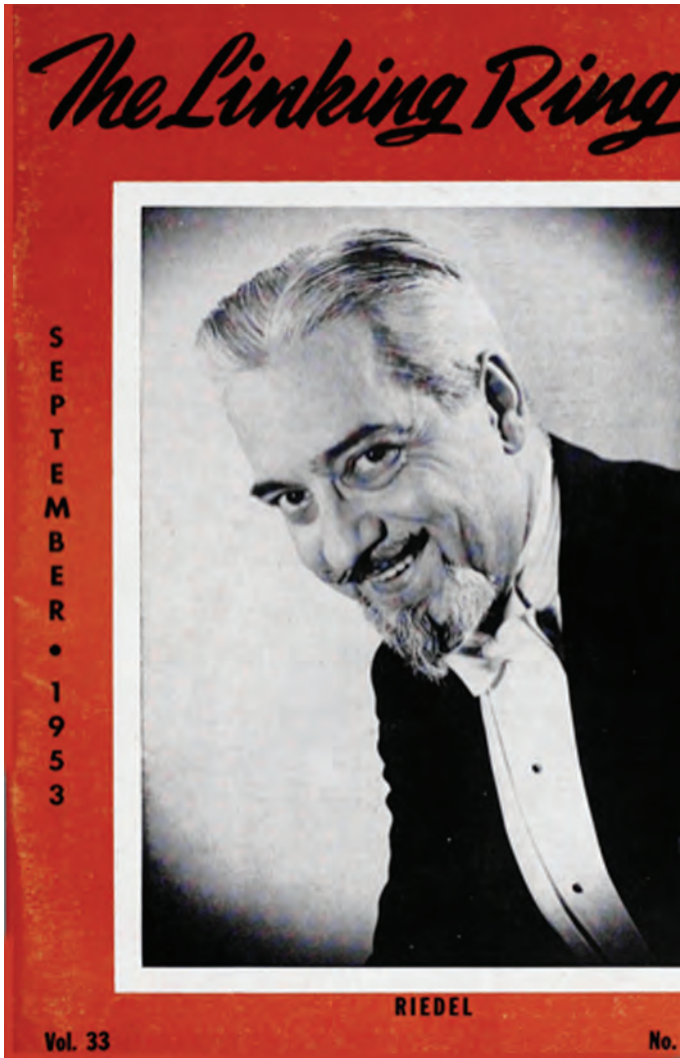
Much closer is our 2025 Houston Convention, scheduled for July 9 – 12 at the Royal Sonesta Galleria. Oscar Munoz and Stephen Levine are putting together an incredible Convention. As we move into the holiday season, it might be a great time to put this on your wish list!

(continued on page 13)



Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING



During Clint Riedel's lifetime, entertainment evolved from tent shows to television. Born in 1908 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Clint adapted his work with advancing technology. When television took the world by storm, Clint was right there. In 1951, television personality Arthur Godfrey hired Clint to develop an illusion show and teach him to perform it. Clint went from painting signs in his hometown to coaching a leading celebrity within two decades. How did he do it? Turn to page 144 to find out.

President's Page – from page 11

Finally, some kudos and thanks. I attended the annual KIDabra Convention in August. Wow, it was fun. High energy, friendly attendees, plenty of great magic, and a terrific dealer room. Thanks to Mark and Tami Daniel for letting me take part. I also got to spend some time with Jim Driscoll and members of Ring 112 in Chattanooga. I look forward to great things from this group.



Members of Ring 112 (Chattanooga, Tennessee).

Also, I've just returned from Dallas, where I attended the SAM/TAOM/DMC joint convention. This event also included the 2024 FISM NA Championship. Not only was the convention itself a lot of fun, but the evening shows were fantastic. Congratulations to co-chairs Dal Sanders and Mark Weidhaas for a fantastic weekend of magic. And good luck to Alex Ramone, Blaise Serra, and Michael Bloemeke, who were selected as our North American contestants for FISM Italy 2025.

Next month, a full review of the 2024 I.B.M. British Ring Convention!

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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!

COLIN CLOUD

The Mastermind Mentalist

By Simone Marron

If you haven't heard of Colin Cloud – you should have! Next to Derren Brown, in this author's opinion, and believed by most who see him, Colin is *the* best, and most entertaining mentalist in the business.

Colin was born at 6:31 a.m. on January 9, 1987, in St. John's Hospital in Livingston, Scotland, between Glasgow and Edinburgh. This type of precise answer is indicative of the attention to detail that Colin gives to everything in his life.

On leaving school, Colin's parents both served apprenticeships – his mother in childcare, and his father in plumbing. He tells us, "Growing up, I watched how hard my parents worked to become successful, building their own businesses, and creating and selling companies with passion, effort, hard work, and determination. Although they were not performers, that mindset of being able to do anything you put your mind to was instilled in me very early on."

Colin loved school and learning, but tells us, "Even though I attended college really young, the reality is that I have led a passion-driven life, much more than an education-driven one, and I think that really comes from them." Colin has one sister, Kirsty, who is two years younger

than him, and she works in one of the family businesses.

Colin attended Whitburn Academy – a middle/high school in West Lothian. Colin reflects, "It wasn't seen as being cool to be into learning, and a lot of students were disengaged from education. But I really loved it. As a kid, I especially loved chemistry and physics and understanding how the world worked."

Some years later, after university, Colin went to work at a company called



TITOU PHOTOGRAPHY



Colin blindfolded on stage before Mastermind begins.

Tree of Knowledge which was a motivational and training organization. He eventually became a part owner of the company. Colin explains, “Within Tree of Knowledge, I worked in about half of the high schools in Scotland and found out how challenging some high schools were compared to others. I discovered that Whitburn Academy was one of the more challenging schools.”

As a kid, Colin received a Paul Daniels magic kit for Christmas. He reminisces, “My cousin Karen learned all the tricks, and performed them for the family before I could, so I then hated magic, and hated Karen more. Classic Karen move!”

Colin’s perpetual fascination and number one inspiration has always been with Sherlock Holmes. He tells us, “I would flick through the book studying what I classed as the ‘cool’ stuff, where he would look a person up and down, and tell you what he knew. I would take notes and find ways to implement this in the real world. Sherlock really paved the way for my life of loving science and studying forensic investigation.”

At the age of fifteen, Colin was accepted into Glasgow Caledonian University, where he studied forensic investigation.

Colin was shy as a kid but realized that in college, nobody knew him, so he was able to reinvent himself a little. He explains, “I decided I was going to be a little more outgoing, and thankfully got in with a good group of people who were into the comedy scene.” He continues, “I became fascinated with comedy. I loved watching it live and on television. I loved the feeling of stuff making you laugh. As someone who loves understanding how things work, I wanted to know why things were funny, and learn how I could accomplish that skill.”

After college, in 2007, because of his performing, Colin was head-hunted by the science and psychology-based Tree of Knowledge, and he tells us, “They knew and liked what I was doing and asked me to come in and perform in high schools with teenagers that were about to sit exams and had become disengaged. This involved chatting with audiences of one hundred teenagers for four to six hours at a time and getting them to pay attention. By getting them to laugh, it made them focus, and you could slip the messages in between the laughs. I really learned a lot about how to engage an audience with nothing other than words.”



Above: Colin is awarded the Broadway Baby Critic's Choice 'Bobby' Award, August 2024. Ryan, Dad, Mom, Jenna, Colin, Ollie Downton (tech), and Lee Martin (UK promoter and owner of Gag Reflex). Right: A young Colin with his father.



After an appearance on *Dragon's Den*, the United Kingdom's equivalent of *Shark Tank*, the Tree of Knowledge concept blew up, and Colin was engaged to travel around the UK and Europe speaking to large companies. Colin tells us, "One of the messages to surface at the end of that time was 'If you are the sort of person that dreads waking up in the morning, you don't like going to work, the people you work with, or the job that you're doing, I've got a piece of groundbreaking advice for you – leave! Leave everybody else alone and go find the thing that does make you happy.'"

One of Colin's inspirations and mentors was Drew McAdam, one of the most successful Scottish mentalists. McAdam took Colin under his wing while Colin was still at university and taught him so much. Most of all, he helped Colin realize that this could be his working profession, and that he could make a living doing what he really loved. McAdam's phone was constantly ringing with potential bookings, and Colin strived to emulate that.

Gavin Oattes was the head motivational speaker of Tree of Knowledge, and he and Colin ended up buying the company. Colin tells us, "He is hands down the most naturally funny person you will ever meet in your life. What I learned from him and Drew about comedy and connecting with

people was pivotal in me becoming the person that I am right now."

Other inspirational performers in Colin's early career were mentalists from the UK. He elaborates, "What Derren Brown, Andy Nyman, Andrew O'Connor, and Anthony Owen were creating in the early 2000s was groundbreaking. On one hand I'm holding *13 Steps to Mentalism* by Corinda, and on the other I'm watching a video of what they were creating, and I'm thinking 'This does not compute.' How have you taken this and turned it into that?"

In 2008 one of the original owners of Tree of Knowledge left to open a tea company franchise. One of their tearooms in the center of Edinburgh would close at 7 p.m., and Colin took on the room for a 7:30 p.m. show, giving them thirty minutes to set up for a Fringe Festival offering. Forty people a night would come and watch him performing mentalism. That was a far cry from the fifteen-hundred-seat room that Colin plays at the Festival nowadays.

Colin had been with Tree of Knowledge for four or five years. He was now twenty-five, and on one occasion when Colin delivered his "Leave and go find that thing that makes you happy" sentence, the hairs stood up on the back of his neck as he experienced a moment of realization. He explains, "I realized that I was not doing



Shin Lim, Dynamo, and Colin at the Mirage, April 2023.

what I wanted to do, and I basically had to have a real conversation with myself and make some changes.”

Colin had been doing four nights of performing every year at the Edinburgh Festival, and doing open-mic spots when he could. He tells us, “I had started getting better at performing, and thought if I don’t



Colin’s Edinburgh venue, McEwan Hall, where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle studied.

go and do this now, then I am a hypocrite, and I’ll regret it for the rest of my life.”

Colin reminisces, “In 2001 I went to see Derren Brown perform the show *Derren Brown Live* (which eventually morphed into the one-off special called *The Gathering*), in a two-hundred seat theater in Scotland, and it was him working before he had his big team. I still think that show is my favorite that I ever saw. Most of the methods he used were just his, and it was amazing to just see Derren Brown live.” Later on, Colin discovered Maurice Fogel, Chan Canasta, and David Berglas, and deep dives into their material inspired him also.

The time had come for Colin to move on and follow his dream. He started performing twenty minutes on weekend nights at Wild Cabaret in Glasgow, but knew he had to try something more ambitious. Hearing that the touring show *The Illusionists* might be looking for a faster-paced mentalism act, Colin sent video of his twenty-minute act to Simon Painter, and tells us, “I think he thought that maybe I got lucky with that particular audience, and he asked me if I had any more footage that I could send him. I sent him ten links of the same act with different audiences, and he saw the same reactions in each one.”

Colin met with *The Illusionists*’ producers, and they asked him to host one of their West End London shows. Never having hosted before, Colin jumped at the opportunity. He told them, “Yes, easy, who else is in the show? They said Andrew Basso, Kevin James, and David Williamson. I was telling myself, ‘Just stay calm, and we’ll work it out.’” He more than worked it out, and soon he was traveling to North America to tour with *The Illusionists*.

While touring in 2017, producers from *America’s Got Talent* came to see one of the acts that was performing, and spotted Colin and asked him to compete. Colin relates, “I told them no thank you, as in my mind, the best that could happen from AGT would be that you might get a tour with *The Illusionists*, and I was already



Ryan Davidson, Derren Brown, Jenna Jones, Colin, and Colin's dad at the Voodoo Rooms in Edinburgh, May 2022.

doing that. But then Simon Painter called and told me that I was going to work AGT. I didn't want to, but when your boss tells you that you have to, you just do it."

It was a great experience for Colin, and he made quite an impact. He didn't make it to the finals, but he and the violinist Lindsey Stirling are the only two non-finalist competitors that have been invited back numerous times as guests on the show. Although not a huge fan of the show, Colin realizes the value it gives to performers, and he has now made about ten AGT appearances. He tells us, "It's like the modern-day Johnny Carson show. It's the most viewed show in the world."

Colin has made countless television appearances over the years, but his favorite was a royal variety performance at the London Palladium. He describes it, "Prince William and Kate Middleton were in attendance, and so were my parents. It was the perfect moment in time. Back then my goals were to tour with *The Illusionists* and do the royal variety performance, and I had done both. What would I do next? I didn't realize it at the time, but a Vegas show was also on my bucket list."

Colin toured with Shin Lim both in *The Illusionist* show, and in a more indie version of the show called *The Magicians*, which was in New Zealand. The rest of the stellar cast were Hector Mancha, Charlie Frye & Company, and Rob Zabrecky. During this time, Lim and Colin became

fast friends, and when Shin opened his show at The Mirage on the Las Vegas Strip, he asked Colin to be part of it.

Colin is thankful for the five years that he worked with Shin Lim at the Mirage. He tells us, "Being at the Mirage helped me get noticed by so many people that are high up in the entertainment world in Vegas. Many approached me asking if I would be interested in my own show, and in 2024, the time was just right to do it." He is excited that he now has the freedom to put on his own eighty-minute show that is just him, but recognizes that working with Shin was his second-favorite thing he has ever done.

Shin Lim says of Colin, "Colin is a great mentalist, putting his charismatic and entertaining style into classic methods, making his overall act appear fresh and new to the general public."

During his career, Colin's performing travels have taken him from London's West End to New York's Broadway, to Australia and New Zealand, all across North America (including Hollywood's Magic Castle), and to almost every English-speaking country in the world. He had the opportunity to tour in Europe, but was concerned that his timing and personality would not translate well with a translator.

After moving to Vegas, Colin worked for a few months with Theory 11 as their mentalist consultant. He tells us, "When you've just moved to Vegas and you're not making a living anymore, you panic and take all the magic-related work you can get. But it was really good fun working with JB and Ran Pink. That led to us writing the plot and the method for the *Now You See Me 3* movie together."

Early in his career, Colin published several books. He exclaims, "On reflection, I was probably too young to have done that. However, thanks to those books and Andrew Basso and Jeff Hobson reading them at the same time, when I sent my promo to Simon Painter, and Simon asked these two if they had heard of me, they both held up my book at the same time,



Colin with his dad, mom, and sister (and cats Hector and Ava) in Harthill, December 2018, right before Cloud left for Broadway.

and that was probably why I got booked on *The Illusionist* tour.”

Colin’s first book release in 2006 was *Force Be With You*, which covered his take on PK Touches. Many mentalists read and praised this work, and Colin was surprised to find that he started to become known by other respected performers. Next he released *Gregorian Minds*, a collaboration with the UK mentalist Kennedy, and a book with Paul Brooks titled *This Way Up*, about Svengali Pads. His next release was *Divine*, and Colin still uses slightly altered thinking from this publication to this day. Unfortunately, all of these writings are now out of print.

Colin also put out the *Opening Minds* DVD set with Alakazam Magic, and he shares a little secret about the birth of this project. “In February of 2010, I emailed Alakazam and told them I was lecturing at Mindvention later in the year. I asked them if they would be interested in filming a set of DVDs for release there. They loved the idea. Then I emailed Danny Archer at Mindvention and told him that I was taping a DVD set with Alakazam and asked them if they would like me to lecture at Mindvention, and release them there, and Danny thought that was a great idea.” He laughed and said, “That was genuinely a Drew McAdam way of thinking.”

Although Colin has not competed with his act other than in AGT, in 2014 he won the Dave Lederman Award for Creativity in Mentalism, and in 2017 he received the Dunninger Award, both from the Psychic

Entertainers Association. He explains, “Winning the Dunninger Award was the other thing on my bucket list that I wanted to achieve. I consider it the highest honor in mentalism.” He also won the Scottish Comedy Award for Variety Performers, and the Broadway Baby Critics Choice Award for his compelling *After Dark* show. He continues, “I haven’t won an insane number of awards, but the ones I have are really important to me, and I’m very honored to even have been considered for them.”

Colin’s fast-paced unique mentalism, along with his comedic talent, was the perfect yin to Shin’s yang. For five years, their acts complimented each other, and the duo dazzled audiences from all over the world. However, Colin was always cognizant of the fact that this was Shin’s show, and when the Mirage announced the closure of their property, it was the perfect time for him to look to the future and his own Vegas show.

In June of 2024, Colin entered into a three-year contract with the possibility of extending at Harrah’s Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, owned by Caesar’s, in the three-hundred-and-sixty-seat-capacity Cabaret room. The soft opening of the show lasted four weeks before Colin had to close for a month due to his Edinburgh Festival appearances, which he had already contracted for the previous year, but his Vegas show *Mastermind* was at capacity on opening night, and consistently filled two hundred seats daily during that month. He looks back on that first month as being previews, and an opportunity for him to *sharpen the blade* that is the show.

Colin tells us, “It’s been great learning what works for me in that room and working out how I want to build on that moving forward.” Colin has always felt that it is important to start a show from the moment people walk into a room. His solution for that is to sit on a chair blindfolded, with his hands on his knees for thirty to forty minutes, from before the doors open until the show begins.



Colin performs with The Illusionists in December 2015.

It's a very impactful beginning to the *Mastermind* experience to see Colin spotlighted on center stage, where the only movement is the slow rhythmic expansion of his chest during the inhalation and exhalation of breaths. Screens on the stage invite audience members to take selfies with Colin from the floor, and to post these on their social media pages, asking people to comment with a random number that

may be used in the show, and of course tagging Colin.

Colin explains, "I'm just sitting on a stool not moving when the audience comes in, and it's meant to feel weird and different. I want my show to be very different from any other show. That was an opening that I used in my 2013 show called *Colin Cloud Kills*. I've always loved that moment, and knew it was what I wanted for my Vegas show."

Colin's show changes daily, as the nightly notes he makes are often implemented in the show the next day. While sitting blindfolded on his stool as the audience enters, in his mind he is often visually going through the notes from the previous day, getting ready to include them in his next performance.

All the music tracks that play while Colin is seated on the stool are from different moments in his life, and each holds a different memory. He relates, "I really get to pause, reflect and be internally grateful for all the people that helped me get to this moment."

Colin explains the concept of the show. "I try to take the audience on a journey. It starts with high energy, that gets more intense, and then gets meaningful, and then we focus, and ramp the energy back up. It's meant to be a journey of content, material, and the energy levels of the show."



DRAGON DREAMS PHOTOGRAPHY.



DRAGON DREAMS PHOTOGRAPHY.

I want the audience to leave feeling that it wasn't monotone, but not too much energy that would burn them out. I want them leaving feeling uplifted, and like they were the stars of the show."

Colin's work ethic is rigid. "My number-one priority is if you buy a ticket to spend your time in a room with me," he says, "I have a responsibility to deliver the best show I possibly can. I never want to make anyone think on any level that I don't want to be there, or that it might only be the second-best thing I have done today, or that I am just pressing 'play.' I want people to know that when I step off that stool and rip off my blindfold, that I'm as happy to be there as they are. That always needs to be my priority regarding work, outside of friends, relationships, and cats." His routine after every show is to stay up late re-writing notes and jokes so that he can always be the best he can be.

Explaining further how *Mastermind* was conceived, Colin tells us, "Going through the backbone of all my material, I was able to pick my favorite moments that didn't step on the toes of other routines, to find

the best structure for that venue. It was also important to make my show different from any other magic or mentalism show already playing in Vegas."

In each show, after Colin has proven his skills, he likes to turn the focus of the magic being about some of the audience members. He has no ego when on stage, and clearly cares about his fans. He tells us, "I like to step back and make the audience into the characters of the show. I am working on adding a recap at the end of the show, where all my helpers are thanked and mentioned by name."

Colin is really grateful to the entire *Mastermind* team and feels that he owes so much of the success of the show to them. He tells us, "Hollie England was so helpful during the first few weeks with the lighting and getting the blocking right. Carl Koterwski is the A/V expert for this room, and just understands everything. My manager Bill Herz is the man. He put me in touch with Bill Voelkner, who is my producer that helped me get into this room that I love so much."



Colin meets Kreskin in New York in April 2014. David Gerard, Kreskin, Colin, Eric Dittelman.



Final Limitless performance at the Mirage on July 1, 2024.

Colin flew the rest of his team in for the debut of *Mastermind*, which consisted of co-directors David Gerard and Ryan Davidson, who have been on his core team for years. Eric Dittelman and Brandon Queen also came in to watch and give notes. Colin adds, “Jenna and my dad were at every show for the first week giving notes too. I’m very grateful for all these people. Without them none of this would be happening right now.”

Colin continues, “On a funny note, my dad John was having a problem with the severe heat and wanted a slushy drink to cool himself down. He went to Fat Tuesdays, not realizing that their drinks contained alcohol, and arrived drunk out of his mind at one of our morning notes sessions.”

In the first month of the show, *Mastermind* improved in leaps and bounds with the help of his team. Colin jokes, “Let’s talk about the car crash of the dress run the day before opening night. Monday, July 1, 2024, will go down in history as being the hardest-working day of my career. At 11 a.m. we did a quick run-through of the show. At 1:30 p.m. I sat on a stool, and at 2 p.m. the room filled with people like Armando Lucero, Kevin James, Mat Franco, Mac King, and Bill Herz. I had also brought twenty people

to watch the show. The order and energy levels were not like they are now, material was misjudged, and there was one routine that should not have been in there.”

After the show, Colin sat with people taking notes and then ran over to The Mirage for a 4 p.m. *Limitless* show with Shin Lim. In between his spots, he ran to his dressing room where his team was consolidating notes from the earlier *Mastermind* show and discussing necessary changes. This continued through the 7:00 p.m. *Limitless* show, and Colin and his team remained in his dressing room brainstorming until 1:00 a.m.

Colin continues, “David Gerard told me that even if I made two changes to the show by tomorrow, it would be better. I shook my head, and said, ‘No, I’m making all of these changes tomorrow!’” Colin stayed up all night remaking and tweaking his show props. After two hours of sleep, he started memorizing the new version of the script, then returned to the theater to relight the show.

While rehearsing that afternoon, Colin learned that both the Caesar’s Presidents from the North and South of the Strip would be attending his show, along with John Katsilometes, the entertainment critic for the *Las Vegas Review Journal*. Colin shares, “I am used to improving my shows over time, but I have never turned around a show overnight as quickly as I did that day. Without the dress run we would have missed so many major things. I am so grateful to my entire team and those that gave me notes.”

After the show, the team spent an additional four hours going over notes and improvements. Colin tells us, “I’ll constantly be making notes on the show until the day I am done performing it.”

John Katsilometes’s review of the show appeared the next day in the *Review Journal*, saying, “I have finally seen why Colin Cloud had success in his one-man-shows. This guy is an expert showman, a spot-on delivery, great interaction with the crowd, and also, hair.”



Colin and Jenna, May 2024.

Colin went into that show mentally exhausted but pumped with adrenaline, and the improvement to the show was miraculous. Colin shares, “I felt as if the show went from a four out of ten the day before, to an eleven out of ten on opening night. I literally felt like the Jack Bauer of magic. The pressure of that twenty-four-hour period was insanity. We are still making minor tweaks, and I feel like the show is 85 percent there. However, I would recommend to anyone opening a new show to take off at least a week between closing one show and opening the next. Also, I can’t stress enough how important it is to have a team around you for guidance to see the things that you can’t see on your own.”

Every night after his show at Harrah’s, Colin and his girlfriend Jenna Jones dissect the show, and discuss potential improvements to implement. Jenna watches the show every night, watching from different angles, and together they come up with new ideas and lines for future shows. Colin elaborates, “Sometimes it takes a month of trying out a new joke in the mirror watching facial expressions and timing to get it

right. Magic is hard. You’re not only learning the methods, but you also need to learn to connect with people, and if you’re doing comedy – how to be funny.”

Colin and Jenna have been together for about two years. She is a psychologist and TMS therapist, and Colin tells us, “It’s great having someone who is not a performer who can watch stuff like a real person and give their honest input to help find improvements.”

Colin is not a party animal, and when not working on his show, he loves being at home with his cats. Colin talks lovingly about his cats, “I have three. Ava is the oldest, Milo is a rescue from during lockdown, and Henry is my youngest, and I just love them. When people ask what my hobbies are, I tell them I love my daily workouts and hanging with my cats.”

There are three routines that Colin has always wanted to put into his show, but his life has been so hectic, that he has not had the opportunity to work on these as he would like. Now he has the time to work on these and looks forward to being able to include them in future *Mastermind* shows. He explains, “These are routines that have always excited me, and I think they will be ideal for this audience.”

Last year Colin performed a very different show at the Edinburgh Festival. It was called *After Dark*. He explains, “People thought it was called *After Dark* because it was late at night, but it was because it referenced a dark period in my life. It was a mental health related show and led up to me talking about the night that I tried to commit suicide. As I performed the razor blade swallowing, the audio of a therapy session between me and my therapist played in the background. This reframed the show and really made people understand the message. When they played it back in their mind, they had a different comprehension of the opening line which was ‘It’s really great to still be here.’”

The performance was only for five nights and was emotionally draining. Colin elaborates, “Usually after a show people tell me it was hilarious and amazing. With



Opening night with Shin Lim at the Mirage, June 2019.

this show, I still got that, but people would go on to share their stories and thank me. Mental health is dealt with better in the United States than it is in the UK. People in the UK still struggle to talk about mental health, and I had many message me to tell me that they didn't realize you could talk about mental health in this way."

One night, late after his third show, a couple contacted Colin to share with him that on their way home, while crossing the Forth Road Bridge, they had spotted someone standing on the bridge. Normally they would have just ignored it and driven home, but because of how his show's message had impacted them, they pulled over and approached the man who was contemplating jumping and talked him down.

Usually, to win an award at the Fringe Festival, you have to perform the entire month, but after only five nights, Broadway Baby awarded Colin with the Critics Choice Award. Colin elaborates, "To have had that kind of effect in just five days was mind-blowing." The director of the venue immediately invited Colin back for a month in 2024. Colin accepted enthusiastically, not realizing that a year

later he would be headlining in his own Vegas show with Caesars Entertainment. He tells us, "I'm glad I'm doing it, but part of me was feeling that I would rather be in Vegas building on my new show. The other part of me realized that Edinburgh is the reason I am here, and it is nice to go back and pay homage to the Fringe Festival." Colin's 2024 Fringe show was titled *Consequences*. Colin did twenty-six shows there plus about twenty to thirty additional ten-minute spots around smaller venues to try out additional material for his Vegas show *Mastermind*.

After Dark is not a show that Colin plans on ever performing again, but he did film his performances, and is trying to work out some of the details to eventually be able to release it on some kind of Pay Per View platform, with the proceeds going to a mental health charity.

One highlight of returning to Edinburgh in 2024 where Colin performed sold-out shows for the entire fringe, was that he got to propose to his girlfriend Jenna on stage during one of his shows. She flew out to spend time with him, and Colin secretly flew her mother in so she could witness the



Colin with Prince William in November 2017 after the Royal Variety Performance at the London Palladium.

event. Dealing with flight cancelations and barely managing to pull it all together, it went off successfully. He tells us, “It was easily one of the most nerve-wracking shows that I’ve ever done. I saw them enter the theater during my show, and realized that this was real and actually happening.”

It was the perfect time. Both of their families were there. They both love Edinburgh and the Fringe, and it was the ideal place and time for both of them. The

nerves turned into excitement, and Colin recognizes that this may have been the best show that he did at the Fringe. The audience were definitely on their side.

Advice that Colin has for magicians is to learn to always be able to dig yourself out of a hole when performing. He explains, “Magicians need to be able to remedy anything on stage that could be a potential failure. For me, comedy has always helped. Whenever anything would go dreadfully wrong, I realized early on that if I couldn’t save it, I needed to make it as funny as possible, by using my personality and humor to rescue the situation. I know that’s never the goal. As a magician, you’re meant to make it amazing, but making it hilarious is a great backup.”

Recognizing that in the beginning performers often dare to be bad, Colin reminisces on a memory from early in his career. He was about eighteen at the time and was performing Richard Osterlind’s Q&A *The Final Question*. He laughs as he tells us, “I was performing at an event and reaching in for questions. At the end of the show, there were two slips of paper that I hadn’t used. I opened them to see



Colin, Kodi Lee, and Shin Lim.



Colin as he prepares to go live on The Today Show in New York, December 2018

what they wrote, and both people had written, ‘How much longer do we need to watch this?’” He continues, “In retrospect, I realized that it was a bit monotonous. It’s okay to make mistakes, but you must go and think about how that could have been avoided, and how to make sure you don’t repeat it.”

Colin also shares that you should picture magic like it was a line of ladders that you need to climb. One ladder represents skill, one is connection, another is storytelling, and then there is humor. He explains, “What tends to happen is that people try to climb all the ladders at the same time. They need to climb the ladder of skill and master that first, so that they can then turn their focus to climbing the ladder of connection, and then comedy. When that is mastered, then they can try the harder methods. Trying to master everything too quickly can give us mediocre performances. Do something easier and get used to practicing a different script that is you. If you want to be a serious performer, break it down into these quadrants and tackle them step by step. If you want to stand out as a performer, doing what has already been done will not get you there.”

Colin can’t stress strongly enough the importance of surrounding yourself with “no” people. He explains, “I surround myself with people who will be brutally

honest with me, but I know it comes from a place of love. Early on I saw performers surrounding themselves with ‘yes’ people – who would tell them everything they did was good, and I think they sometimes got a bit delusional about what was working for their audiences. I would often watch the audiences, and notice that the audience disagreed. As I get older, I realize the importance of ridding myself of ego and surrounding myself with people I trust and can take advice from.”

David and Ryan are Colin’s “no” people. They will tell him when something is good, but more importantly, they will tell him when they see something that doesn’t work or can be improved – offering solutions that will remedy it quickly. Colin emphasizes, “If people think I am good and like what I do, it is only because I surround myself with people like David and Ryan. Find your core team and really push what you are doing as far as you can. That is the *unlock* to improve very quickly.”

Colin is in such a great place right now that he says his current bucket list is learning to be more present and grateful for what he has rather than thinking about what would be next. He explains, “The next thing might just be to someday vanish and take time away from all of this. It’s still surreal to me to say I’m a headliner on the Las Vegas Strip. It’s mad! I really want to be good at minimizing my ego because I always want to treat everyone the same way. I’m so thankful.”

Next time you are in Vegas, be sure to go and see this charismatic, entertaining, loveable performer. He is unique with his approach to mentalism in a powerful way. Colin is the most entertaining mentalist in the United States today, and you will be doing yourself a favor seeing this “Mastermind” at work.

Simone Marron serves as International Secretary for the I.B.M., as well as webmaster at www.magician.org. You may reach her by email at internationalsecretary@magician.org.

I.B.M. Member Crowned 'King of Magical Arts' in Southern Nigeria

In July, I.B.M. member Kenneth Akintunde was crowned a King of Magical Arts in his native homeland in Southern Nigeria. The purpose and mission of his traditional chieftaincy title is to use the platform of magic for the growth and development of various community projects and charitable initiatives. This includes empowering youth magicians and supporting David Copperfield's Project Magic program. The symbolic occasion was a privilege and a proud moment for Kenneth and his family.

London-born Kenneth is a long-time member of The Magic Circle, I.B.M., and the Order of Merlin. He has a medical practice within England's National Health Service. Kenneth is an all-round magician, but twenty-five years ago he specialised in psychic and bizarre magic.

After the coronation, he treated the packed arena of chiefs, chieftesses, and locals to traditional magic themes. These included "Water from India" and Africa's favorite "money" production, in which everyone went wild scrambling for the native money.



(left): The High Chief, His Royal Majesty Oba Olusegun Ayinde Feyijimi Iroko Oniroko of Irokoland, crowns Kenneth Akintunde the King of Magical Arts. (right): Kenneth Akintunde receives a certificate to commemorate his coronation as King of Magical Arts, a traditional chieftaincy title in his homeland of Southern Nigeria.



(left): Kenneth Akintunde poses with his wife Roseline after being crowned King of Magical Arts. (right): Magician Kenneth Akintunde treats the audience to a magic performance following the ceremony to name him King of Magical Arts.

What an Adventure! Winning the Fantasma Prize Package

By Olivier Henning



Olivier arrived in the United States with three suitcases and returned home to the Netherlands with a total of seven, packed with new magical keepsakes and memories.

What an adventure ... where to begin? Let us start with a flashback to the I.B.M. Convention in Pittsburgh on July 14, 2023.

On the day the Gold Medal Finals were held, after I had qualified two days earlier, I participated in my first act ever: a card manipulation act.

I was a bit unsure about it because I had to change the opening of the act due to the ban on the use of fire on stage. It was therefore a great surprise that not only the jury, but also the audience, rewarded me with the first prize. In addition to a trophy and a medal for the People's Choice, the first prize also included the Fantasma Award. From the hands of Fantasma's CEO Chief Wizard Officer Roger Dreyer, I received a beautiful frame filled with original Harry Houdini memorabilia. It would later become clear that it would be a challenge to get this beautiful frame to the Netherlands via two stopovers, but that is another story. Good to mention that thanks to the great packing skills of Roger and Ava Dreyer, the list arrived safely. In addition to this list, I also received an invitation to visit Roger at Fantasma Magic for more magic adventures.

Throughout the year, Roger and his wonderful wife Ava

kept in touch with me and my parents. There were regular Zoom sessions, surprise packages, and text messages. A flight to America from the Netherlands is a costly affair, so a visit had to be carefully planned that would fit in Roger and Ava's schedule as well as my school schedule. (Because, well ... at ages fourteen and fifteen you still have compulsory schooling in the Netherlands.) We found the perfect moment right after the 2024 I.B.M. Convention in Tacoma.

After having an exciting time in Tacoma, we flew from Seattle to Newark. Roger and Ava were waiting for me with open arms. Their warm welcome made it feel like I was "coming home." At that moment, I said

goodbye to my parents who had made plans for the next twelve days. Roger and Ava took me to their house in New Jersey on a beautiful lake and introduced me to Grizzly, a big, sweet, furry four-legged friend who Ava affectionately called "my brother," or "I am his brother." It all depends on whose perspective you look at it from.

That first day consisted mainly of exploring the house. In the evening, I was treated to a boat trip on the lake that borders their backyard, the first of many that would follow.



Ava and Roger Dreyer's gentle and woolly four-legged friend Grizzly, who Ava affectionately called Olivier's "brother."

Back to exploring the house. Ava and Roger's house is one big museum, a big walk through a magical world. Apart from the Houdini Museum, which is more than worth a visit itself, every room really breathes a love and passion for magic. It is therefore anything but a punishment to wander through the house and discover what is there. Even if you enter a room for the fifth time, you still see things that you did not notice the first four. I was amazed and am convinced that I still have not seen everything.

My bedroom for the days to come was also full of magic stuff. When I woke up at night, I thought Piff the Magic Dragon or Harry Blackstone were standing next to me, as the costumes of these magicians were set up in this room, together with many costumes and props of other magicians. It is like being in an Alice in Wonderland magic-themed world. I loved it!

Of course, this was a paid internship, so work had to be done. In the weeks leading up to my trip to America, I had translated a number of manuals into Dutch for Fantasma Magic, which still needed the finishing touches. I also checked online video instructions to see if they were easy to follow and started assessing magic sets, and gave points for improvement where necessary. I also took inventory of their collection and recorded it on film, brainstorming sessions about new Fantasma items and new acts.

On the first Monday there was something special on the calendar. Roger had arranged, through his extensive network, that I could perform in the off-Broadway show *Monday Night Magic* at The Cutting Room in New

York. How cool to be there as a fifteen-year-old teenager from the Netherlands. I showed my second card manipulation act there, which I've been performing since September 2023 and has helped me win many competitions. I enjoyed every second. We did not have time to talk for long afterward, because the next morning there was something special on the program.

I had to get out of bed early to fly to Atlanta with Roger. Although the flight was delayed on the way there and a suitcase was missing on the way back, this trip was also very cool. During our three-day stay in Atlanta, I was with Roger at the Fantasma stand at the Atlanta Market Toy Fair called "Enchanted Moments." I gave a sales pitch during a sales representatives meeting. I had never done anything like that before and that made me a bit nervous, but I really enjoyed it all.

Because my mother had her birthday during my stay with Ava and Roger, they had organized a surprise dinner at their home so that I could still celebrate her birthday. We also ended the day with a boat trip on the breathtaking lake. I was even allowed to take on the role of captain for a while.



Olivier captains the boat during one of his daily rides around the lake behind Roger and Ava Dreyer's home.



(left): An action photo of Olivier's card manipulation act, performed during Monday Night Magic at the Cutting Room in New York City. • (center and right): Olivier assists Roger Dreyer behind the Fantasma Magic stand at the Atlanta Market Toy Fair.



(top l to r): Several magician friends arrived to meet Olivier, bringing gifts and sharing stories, on a warm and sunny afternoon at Roger and Ava Dreyer's house by the lake. • With Joe Rindfleisch. • With Rocco Silano. (bottom): Footage of video promos recorded for Fantasma Magic.

On Saturday, I started organizing Roger's garage during the day. It will come as no surprise that it is filled with magic from floor to ceiling. There is still some work to be done in terms of sorting it out. In the evening, Ava and Roger took me to New York to see a show. We went to the Fotografiska New York where we visited Dan White's show *The Magician*. It was amazing, what an incredibly cool show – I enjoyed every minute! Very special, because when I looked up this show on the internet afterwards, I saw that you actually had to be eighteen or older to attend.



Olivier and Roger meet with Dan White while attending his NYC show *The Magician*.

On Sunday, the house suddenly filled up with magicians. It was like Christmas, Sinterklaas (a Dutch holiday for children), and my birthday all at once. Literally everyone had brought me a present. I was bashful. How special to be able to meet all these people who had cleared their schedules to meet me. To prevent me from forgetting anyone, I will not mention any names. Of course, I was asked if I could show them some of my manipulation skills, which I was of course very happy to do. I also showed them a little bit of my juggling skills.

On the second Monday of my stay, I continued to check magic sets and prepared myself for Tuesday, when we filmed professional video recordings for a new Fantasma Marvel project. When the time is right, it will all become clear. This was also an unforgettable experience for me.

Completely unexpectedly, Roger and I also visited The Amazing Kreskin, now eighty-nine years old, on Wednesday. It was an honor to shake his hand and believe me, it was firm – I now understand what is meant by "The Infamous Kreskin Handshake." In the evening, we went back to New York and I met Roger's parents. It was an honor to have dinner with them.



During a surprise visit, Olivier plays piano and shakes hand with The Amazing Kreskin.

All good things come to an end. On Thursday I had to say goodbye to Ava, Roger, and of course my half-brother Grizzly. But not before Roger had arranged a meeting with Marc DeSouza, who we had also met in Pittsburgh. Marc's house is actually comparable to Roger's. Here, too, the love for magic breathes. A beautiful tour followed with an enormous collection. I cannot wait until Marc's new project is finished in 2025 and everything can be admired in one place, because I understood that this was only half of his collection. Together with Marc we ended the day with a delicious dinner.

Before heading over to Marc's, I had another special meeting that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Together with my parents I visited Adele Friel Rhindress. I had been in regular contact with her via text message ever since Pittsburgh. I was so happy to be able to spend some time with her again and

talk about our mutual passions. Not self-evident since she is in her mid-nineties. What a pleasure to see her zest for life. I was allowed to go to her magic office, where my eyes widened. The fact that she personally presented me with the "Adele Friel Rhindress Young Magician Award for Advancing the Art & History of Magic" was a great surprise and a true honor. Those moments spent with her are very precious to me.

Long story short, this trip could have lasted much, much longer as far as I am concerned. I have enjoyed it all. I realize that I have been able to experience incredibly special encounters and that with people who all share the same passion as I do. Magic ... magic connects ... But Roger Dreyer also connects. Thanks to him, I have been able to gain a different insight into magic than I normally would from the stage. I want to thank him and his wife Ava for all the chances and opportunities I got from them, and for their hospitality. I enjoyed it from A to Z.

I can't wait to plan my next American adventure! I'll be back, that's a promise.

A special note for my fellow teenage magicians: I encourage every teen to enter the I.B.M. Youth Stage Contest. It's an honor to win, but the bonus Fantasma Magic prize package is an experience to never forget.



Olivier meets Adele Friel Rhindress, who presented him with her namesake Young Magician Award for Advancing the Art & History of Magic.

MAESTRO CLIFF GERSTMAN

ESCAPE ARTIST AND I.B.M. TVP WILL UNLOCK YOUR MIND

By Philip Henderson

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, I present to you maestro Cliff Gerstman. A *gerstman* is a farmer who grows barley, but this Gerstman is the Territorial Vice President (TVP) of I.B.M. for Southern California. He knows little about cultivating fields of barley, but he enjoys a hearty mushroom barley soup as a nourishing winter main course for a gourmet vegetarian. Though he spent his formative years in New York City, Cliff comes to us from his personal palace of mystery located in Long Beach, California. I know you were expecting him to reside on a remote island or in an eastern European nation occupying a stronghold protected by a moat, splendidly adorned with turrets, secret passages, and a dungeon to store immense volumes of majestic treasure. Long Beach, California, who knew?

Cliff possesses an alter ego known only to a select audience, *Magnus Freed*. This is a combination of the names of two family members. To his magician friends, *Magnus Freed* is a perfect name for an escape artist attired in a smart-looking business suit. Despite this pedigree, Cliff is unlikely to embark on a career as a full-time performer. He has the chops to entertain at almost any venue, but his true love is teaching physics, particularly to high school stu-

dents. He introduces young minds to the magical world of science. His reward for twenty-seven years as a full-time high school physics teacher is that he has inspired many of his students, boys and girls alike, to enjoy a lifelong love of science.

Cliff began service as TVP in 2022 taking over from the late Jeff Marcus of





I.B.M. Ring 76, the Honest Sid Gerhart Ring. In addition to TVP he fulfills the duties of secretary of I.B.M. Ring 96, the Merlin Eifert Ring, in Long Beach, California. He is a leader of the Worldwide Escape Artist Relay (W.E.A.R.) team and a member of the International Escapologist Society. Cliff possesses a world record as

an escape artist. I am proud to say, full disclosure, that Cliff Gerstman is my friend.

In January 2024, while wishing him a hearty and happy New Year's greeting, I asked Cliff about the origin of the word "straitjacket." How is it that this favorite prop of escapologists got its name? Cliff demurred, which led me to discover the origin of the word straitjacket by prowling the world wide web. The first part of the word, "strait," has the same meaning as it does when used to describe a geographical feature such as the Strait of Gibraltar. In this use, strait means that the water is "confined" between two land masses. Straitjacket (alternatively called a *camisole*) suggests being confined by the garment.

This lovely jacket was developed as a restraint for people suffering from mental illness and to protect prison guards from physical attacks by dangerous criminals. Today, straitjackets are seldom used as a restraint but on rare occasion, police and prison guards use the device inside jails and prisons to restrain violent criminals. It might be the case that magicians are now the ones who use this special jacket most often, to entertain audiences eager to see the impossible done right before their eyes. The standard-issue straitjacket or camisole is called a Regulated Posey. Yes, you can purchase your own jacket on eBay for a



modest sum. They're available in one size fits all!

Cliff was bitten by the "magic bug" at eight years old. His uncle, an amateur magician, taught him "The Professor's Nightmare." Cliff enjoyed doing something that other boys could not do. I can't tell you how many magicians I know who say that performing magic gave them self-confidence that transferred to everything they pursued in life. One might say that learning to perform magic builds character and leadership skills. I am convinced that this fine art form creates outstanding human beings.

Cliff misspent his youth in Tannen's Magic Shop in New York City. The shop was a short walk from his home, and he became a frequent visitor to this notorious establishment. One day he kept returning to examine a pair of handcuffs displayed on the counter. An older gentleman working at the shop noticed his fixation on the cuffs and inquired in a conspiratorial manner, "Would you like to learn how to open the handcuffs without a key?" Cliff's

broad smile indicated that was precisely what he wanted to do. The salesman showed Cliff how to open the cuffs but sold the prop to him without the device required to open the cuffs. Obtaining a lockpick in 1970s New York City was not a simple task unless you were a locksmith or connected to the mob. Typical for a magician, Cliff devised his own tool that allowed him to remove the cuffs.

At age seventeen, Cliff attended a magic show featuring Penn & Teller. He recalls an act with Teller suspended upside down, swathed in a straitjacket with a bed of spikes tantalizingly close to his head. Penn was seated on a throne that was connected to a rope that controlled the height of Teller's precarious dangle. If Penn were to rise from the throne, Teller would tumble headfirst onto the spikes. They call this escape "Casey at the Bat" because Penn Jillette recites this poem while Teller struggles to free himself from danger. The performance was fascinating to the young magician, especially the jacket. Cliff





marks this moment as the inspiration to include straitjackets in his escape artistry.

Though he teaches physics, Cliff's first foray into science was biology. He and his family imagined that one day Cliff would serve as a chiropractor, giving people relief from sore backs and other bodily pain. Alas, Cliff felt out of place studying chiropractic medicine. He discovered that studying physics to understand the mysteries of the universe brought immense joy to his heart. Great googly moogly! What did scientist, philosopher, and author Sir Arthur C. Clarke say about the connection between science and magic? I quote the late polymath, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic!"

As a high school physics teacher, Cliff melds his love of performing magic with his desire to inspire high school students to find great joy in studying physics. Cliff is not merely a mysterious man who possesses magical knowledge of how the universe

is put together, he is also the person who finds a way for students to love this arcane field of science.

Let's face it, physics does not call on most of us to uncover its mysteries. Many will answer the invitation to study physics, but few are called to love it. Cliff will not put aside the opportunity to awaken this love of science in his students. Other good teachers may present physics to students, but will they possess the passion and ability to magically inspire the students to create a career in this field? That is the real magic Cliff possesses: he is a modern-day alchemist, transmuting ordinary high school students into young men and women pursuing careers in science. An academic who teaches science to teenagers is a real magician!

Cliff is an active member of the International Escapologist Society and a four-time participant of the Worldwide Escape Artist Relay. This cadre of magicians works to perfect their performance

and test new escape acts. Cliff holds a world record as an escape artist. On October 8, 2007, he discarded the garment in forty seconds flat while experiencing zero-gravity in a special aircraft at 15,000 feet. This feat was acknowledged by Online World Record. Zero-G corporation operated the aircraft; Northrup Grumman sponsored the event.

When invited on stage he is introduced as Cliff Gerstman, Escape Artist. He approaches the stage dressed in a snappy business suit to emphasize to the audience that this is serious business they're about to experience.

Cliff has created a signature proprietary effect, which he calls an "escape from heavy chains and a padlock using only my teeth and a Roosevelt dime." During his patter, he explains that his dentist shouldn't be told he is still doing this act. Once, in order to perfect his escape, he chipped a tooth while loosening the shackles. He promised his dentist that "he would stop performing *his* favorite trick that *he* invented, that no one else knows how to do." I suppose that the secret to the act may be revealed in Cliff's Final Will and Testament. However, as of this writing, Cliff alone possesses the secret of this effect.

Cliff has taught high school physics since 1997. On occasion, he appears in school as a character that he calls The Wizard From Time and Space. His costume is a laboratory coat over a business suit. Cliff shows his student audience a startling effect then asks them to guess was it done by using scientific methods or applying the dark arts of magic. Students are generally stumped, but all the effects are the result of science. That is the point: science and magic have similar effects on those without a knowledge of science.

Cliff markets his magic performances to only local public audiences, so as not to interfere with his day job. When he performs magic, he's on stage as an escape artist. Confidentially, he told me, "I like



danger magic but I keep it lighthearted." He created a website www.themagicexp.com that generates a fair amount of shows each year. Cliff enjoys working with a crew of magicians of whom each one possesses different specialties, so that the magic shows are not all about escapes. This group of magic performers inspires each other to produce a full evening's worth of entertainment for schools, parties, and fundraising events for nonprofit organizations.

Cliff and friends provide the entertainment, including the package of tools required to help their client sell tickets, promote, and guarantee the success of the show. The client provides the venue and necessary elbow grease to get a full house. The organization pays for the entertainment and keeps the profits for their fundraising purposes. Cliff and crew were successful with this arrangement for six years until Covid-19 turned the world upside down. He suspects the time is ripe to resume marketing the crew to attract new clients.

Cliff's favorite magician is the late Ricky Jay, whose performances he describes as brilliant and captivating. *Ricky Jay and His 52 Assistants*, which he saw at the Irvine Barclay Theater, was his favorite



performance.¹ It included great magic effects and a brief history of the performance of magic over the last four hundred years. Jay's patter included poetry to advance the story as he demonstrated excellent sleight of hand and creative misdirection. The performance was impeccable and irresistible. "I want to entertain an audience that attends to my work with equal enthusiasm," Cliff thought. He said that during the show, you could often hear a pin drop, while at other times there was a unanimous expression of awe or an instantaneous roar of laughter. Ricky Jay owned his audi-

1 Cliff and I succeeded in attending this limited engagement on the campus of UC Irvine. The staging for the set and the audience were all on the stage. The set was an elaborate replica of an English parlor with several locations for Ricky to choose for his work. Bleachers were set up allowing plenty of seating for 240 people. Tickets were hard to obtain. Cliff and I attended on different evenings.

ence. Like Ricky Jay, Cliff is likely to write a poem that serves as his patter during his escape performances. His poetry uses words that are familiar to the audience, and they quickly realize that he wrote those lines just for them.

Magicians consult with Cliff and use his scientific knowledge of physics to work out the physical relationships and mathematics in the design of stage effects. Stage effects typically require complex actions that must be secure temporarily and loose a split second later. Using classical physics to design and then construct sets is common in stage performances. The science is hidden in the manner of "smoke and mirrors." His consultations produce effects that to audiences appear as magic. In addition, the effects are designed to protect the performers from harm in what appears to the audience to be a dangerous situation. Cliff believes that science is his superpower.

Upon the passing of Jeff Marcus, Southern California lost its TVP. Cliff noticed a year later that the position was still vacant. Not shy, he approached the International Office of I.B.M. and applied for the position. Cliff was interested because it would give him opportunities to meet new magicians, travel to new locations, and provide support for local Rings. In the last two years he has visited all of the Rings in the territory, administered the Oath of Office to incoming Ring officers and directors, and performed Broken Wand Ceremonies honoring members' love of magic. Magnus Freed, aka Cliff Gerstman, is the TVP of southern California. He serves the position with grace, goodness, and mystery. We in Southern California are grateful for his good services.



Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

Ring 50 (Washington, DC) Hosts the Fellowship of the Rings and Magic Show

Ring 50, the National Capital Ring, hosted magicians from Baltimore, Maryland and Northern Virginia for a Fellowship of the Rings and Assemblies Magic Show. About two dozen magicians, including members of Ring 179 in Baltimore, SAM Assembly 6 in Baltimore, and Assembly 252 in Fairfax, Virginia, attended the special Saturday afternoon show held at The Lyceum

in downtown Alexandria, Virginia.

Six magicians from Ring 50 performed during the show. Several youth members of Ring 50's Capital Conjurers also performed walk-around magic before the show. The performing magicians included Drew Owen, Arnold Fuoco, Alec Negri, JT Mielnicki, Dwight Redman, and Eric Henning. Larry Lipman served as emcee. *Larry Lipman*



(l to r): Alec Negri helps a volunteer open a locked box containing his signed card. • Arnold Fuoco goes mouse-trap fishing for a card. • Drew Owen uses a fraidy cat rabbit-type prop to welcome magicians. • Dwight Redman asks, "Was that your card?" • Eric Henning performs a comic book test with Capital Conjurer Ekasha Shah. • JT Mielnicki finds multiple cards selected by audience members. • Larry Lipman emcees the show (PHOTO BY DAVE THOMEN). • Capital Conjurer Stella Gilbert shows Ring 50 (Washington, DC) member Mitch Praver a trick.

ALL PHOTOS BY LARRY LIPMAN (EXCEPT WHERE NOTED)



(l to r): Performing magicians, from left: Larry Lipman, Alec Negri, JT Mielnicki, Eric Henning, Dwight Redman, Drew Owen, and Arnold Fuoco.



(l to r): Members of Ring 50 (Washington, DC) and Ring 179 (Baltimore, Maryland) as well as Assembly 6 and Assembly 252 at the Fellowship of the Rings and Assemblies Magic Show.

Curtis Kam's Hawaii I.B.M. Ring 185

I.B.M. Ring 185 (Honolulu, Hawaii) recently convened at the Kalihi-Palama Library for an incredibly special meeting. Earlier this year, the members voted to name Ring 185 after Curtis Kam. Curtis is a world

class teacher, inventor, competitor, author, performer, creator, lecturer, and adventurer. He has taken his knowledge and world-class technical skills in magic all over the globe and is one of the few full-time professional



Curtis Kam Ring 185 banner.



A cake honoring Curtis Kam.

magicians in Hawaii. Curtis is a master of coins plus an expert in card magic, as indicated by his many performances, publications, videos, downloads, and lectures. He currently is a regular performer at the marvelous Magical Mystery Show in Waikiki. Some of his publications include co-authoring *Professional Close-up of Curtis Kam - Deception in Paradise* with Jerry Mentzer, plus numerous DVD series including *Palms of Steel*, *Pirates of the Rising Tide*, *Cashablanca*, *Fists of Fury*, and *Silverado*. He has a degree in biopsychology from Yale and attended law school at the University of Hawaii. Curtis, while a practicing attorney in Hawaii, also had a weekly full evening show for ten years at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki starting in 1990. After making his living as a lawyer for a number of years, he went into magic full time. Later he returned to law and became an attorney working for Lynnae Lee & Associates while continuing a magic career.

At the special I.B.M. event, many well-known Hawaii magicians were present to honor Curtis, including John Hirokawa and

Alan Okawa. Willy Chen, current President of I.B.M. Ring 185, presented Curtis with the official name certificate from the I.B.M. Ron Ishimaru, Past National President of the Society of American Magicians (SAM), also presented Curtis with a beautifully framed certificate and letter from I.B.M. Past International President Charles Arkin. A special award from Ring 185 was given to Curtis by James Lee.

There were many advocates who led the name change for Ring 185. Kekoa Ericson, Past President of SAM's Jimmy Yoshida Aloha Assembly 89, and Harvey "Mr. O" Ouchi, Ring 185 Secretary, initiated the Ring 185 name conversation in late 2023 and continued communicating with the I.B.M. leadership in 2024. "Mr. O" continued to pursue the name change and it finally gained momentum after a few months. Ron Ishimaru also assisted in the process by communicating with his SAM and I.B.M. network contacts. Once the vote was taken with a quorum of Ring 185 members, the name change became official and the special celebration meeting was arranged.



(l to r): Curtis Kam with Past SAM President Ron Ishimaru and the I.B.M. Citation. • I.B.M. Certificate of Name Change, presented by Willy Chen. • Curtis Kam with James Lee and the I.B.M. Presidential Citation.



(l to r): Glen Bailey, Curtis Kam, James Lee, and Willy Chen. • Curtis Kam and family. • Alan Arita and Kainoa Harbottle. • Kent Lee and Curtis Kam. • Jared Lum, Bryan Yoshimoto, Reuben Lauronal, and Mark Allen.

Kent Lee organized the overall event and created the certificate and lifetime achievement award plaque. Glen Bailey designed and obtained a new banner for Ring 185, with its new official name, just in time for the special gathering. Jared Lum developed a name change certificate for Ring 185. Jared also posted a video of the historical event, which can be viewed on “Hawaii Magic News” on Facebook. James Lee arranged a delicious buffet catered by a Korean restaurant for the scores of people in attendance. Richard Hucko ordered a magic-themed cake and helped decorate the event. Lauren Tanaka and Jonathan Twidwell were instrumental in planning the event’s layout and preparing and decorating the room at the library. The VIP table, set for Curtis’ entire family, was very impressive with magic-themed items. A unique “Private Message” box was also created to allow everyone to write a personal note to Curtis, which he could enjoy reading later at his leisure.

As a special treat, Curtis also performed several of his signature routines. He opened with “Hang Loose Coins” and added a variety of coin sleights (a mix of Chinese coins and United States silver dollars), the coins appearing and disappearing from either and both hands as an astonished audience looked on. And of course, Curtis had to do “Kamnibal Cards” (his unique version of Cannibal Cards), which entertained and amazed all present.

Curtis has mentored many well-known magicians throughout his career, including Kainoa Harbottle, an expert in coin magic who was present for the evening, and David Kuraya, who was a regular performer at Warren and Annabelle’s on Maui. Several other professionals, including John Hirokawa and Mark Mauricio, closed out the special event as they spoke to the group and attested to the contributions and mentorship that Curtis had provided them and so many others. It was an unforgettable event for Curtis and all who were fortunate to attend.

Harvey “Mr. O” Ouchi

Hosting a Magic Convention

Taking the Plunge

By Johnny New York

Ring 22 (The Detroit Magic Club) describes their journey as they prepare to host Michigan Magic Day 2025, an annual major magic convention to be held on May 17, 2025.



Then-International President Billy Hsueh (left) and Ring 22 President Johnny New York.

Ring 22 is indeed a very fortunate magic organization – we’re a healthy club that’s one hundred members strong, and have forty-five to sixty members and guests (top-flight full- and part-time professionals, avid hobbyists, weekend warriors, and general curiosity seekers) who attend virtually every monthly meeting. A strong and consistent commitment from everyone involved has made our club motto most fitting and appropriate: “We’re more than a monthly meeting, we’re a monthly convention!” While maintaining a functional annual budget, part of our success has to be the result of a rather generous philosophy, which is that we like to give back to our members as much as possible. In other words, we’re certainly not breaking the bank when it comes to fiscal resources!

As a club that has done just about everything (we’ve been in existence in some form

or another for over one hundred years!), one empty spot in our rather long history has been hosting a major magic convention. As you might expect, some of our membership, including fellow officers, often ask one very tough question: “Why should we?” With such successful monthly meetings, a common sentiment expressed was a reluctance to take on another, most assuredly difficult challenge – in other words, don’t rock the boat.

As a continually evolving organization, however, we’ve always tried our best to step back and look at the bigger picture. Our goal was never to merely promote the club, it has always been to promote and build our entire magic community to make it stronger, more interesting, and more appealing to as much diversity as possible, including magicians young or old and regardless of their abilities and backgrounds. Moreover, as the old

adage goes, “a rising tide raises all boats” – as our club gains, other clubs will also.

Hosting a significant historical event such as the Michigan Magic Day deserves attention from everyone who enjoys and participates in the world of magic. Even with so much to consider, such as other great conventions and the always looming financial risks involved, there comes a point at which any healthy club must answer the calling, and there’s no time like the present to do so!

Approaching the convention as a responsibility, as well as a necessary hurdle for our club to cross (after much painful consideration!), we finally decided to officially take the plunge – risks, potential embarrassment, and all – to host this prestigious and unique event. Although we’ve never done this before, at least since I can remember, we’ve enjoyed attending wonderful Michigan Magic Day conventions in the past and we certainly want this midwestern tradition to continue!

What has “taking the plunge” done for us so early in the game? Quite honestly, our Ring immediately benefited from making this decision. As you read this, energy and excitement is growing exponentially throughout our magic community, and that can only be a good thing. Everyone associated with our club seems to be stepping up to help meet future challenges head on, and the magic fraternity in general has expressed enormous support for our venture. Things will go wrong, but the flip side of the double-sided coin is the potential for many things to go right, especially with the help of our fellow magi!

In the spirit of sharing our efforts as a learning experience for other organizations, we’ll keep you posted regarding our daily trials, tribulations, and (hopefully) rewarding moments. In the meantime, don’t forget that Michigan Magic Day 2025 is well on its way. Hope to see you all on Saturday, May 17, 2025! Please stay tuned.

Submitting Ring Events

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

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

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

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



A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

Offending the Audience

"... it is time to be in earnest." – Samuel Johnson

At the risk of sounding high-minded (not my intention), I feel compelled to open with a question that shouts to be asked: Whatever became of the theatrical rule, "If you offend one, then you offend too many"?

A helpful answer comes from Yale's Stephen L. Carter, who defines civility as "the sum of the many sacrifices that we are called to make for the sake of living together." Unfortunately, he says, some people have forgotten the obligations they owe to one another and are awash instead in an arrogant sea of self-indulgence. Standards loosen; they say what they can get away with, sometimes out of willful self-deception or malice.

This drift is deeply significant. In some places what Alexis de Tocqueville called "the etiquette of democracy" seems to be unraveling. As both an effect and a cause of cultural coarsening, suddenly foul language has sneaked into our field of attention.

I heard reports from one magic convention, for example, that instances of several performers' profane language left many attendees bewildered and crestfallen, prompting one to write: "I do find the coarseness of one end of the magical spectrum pretty off-putting."

At another event more than half the audience sat in stunned silence as an eye-roller of a performer "joked" (an impossibility) during one of his routines about the identification numbers from the Holocaust.

One audience member, whose aunt had survived the brutal horrors of Bergen-Belsen, took it personally. He was so angered that it "soured" him on ever again attending. He said with a groan: "It was too much. I'm ashamed that I didn't simply walk out. It would have been the proper thing to do."

"As a lifelong magic aficionado," wrote yet another unprepared convention-goer (accompanied by his twelve-year-old daughter), "I was shocked by two feckless performers' religious slurs and other vulgarities. It has to be the most embarrassing time I've ever spent. Their performances were off the wall in my book. Someone should have caught this."

Who is that someone? Long my heroes in this regard are Milt Larsen ("It's Magic!"), Hank Morehouse (SAM), Ray Mangel and Pete Biro (I.B.M.), and Peter Scarlett (The Magic Circle's Christmas Show), all of whom produced during their lifetimes hundreds of magic shows.

If they thought it necessary, well before the curtain raised they would have a short, respectful chat with the talking acts, including the emcee, reminding them to keep their material family-friendly. If a performer slipped up, then the producer got letters; on two occasions that I know of, they lost future contracts.

(By contrast, since 1978 I have been attending magic conventions throughout Asia

Social Security or Federal ID Number: _____

Performing in the: _____

On these dates: _____ Number of working assistants: _____

Weekly Fee or Expenses: \$ _____ POSi: \$ _____

Check this box if this is the first time you have performed for pay at the Academy: ☐

Check this box if you do not have a U.S. bank account and therefore need to be paid via PayPal at the end of your contract: ☐

As a performer at the Magic Castle, Contractor may not consume alcohol to excess. Any instances of intoxication on Magic Castle property will result in the termination of the Contractor Performance Agreement and the Contractor's expulsion from the Magic Castle. Contractor is expected to entertain our audiences with the highest level of decorum and professionalism. Offensive language, insult humor, or derogatory attacks on groups related to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, mental faculties, political affiliation, familial status, pregnancy, etc. are not acceptable and potentially subject to termination of your contract. Think "corporate friendly" as a guideline. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of material, jokes, lines, etc., please ask Jack Goldfinger, Director of Entertainment for clarification before you perform.

1587664.1

Paragraph from the Magic Castle contract, now the gold standard in the industry.

— where shaming or humiliating someone in public is considered extremely rude. Not once have I witnessed anything but protection of another's dignity.)

What's the solution? (I love Michael Ammar's: At every show, imagine your mother is sitting in the audience.) In an effort to restore grace and civility to the often competitive world of entertainment, the following paragraph — now the gold standard of conduct in our industry — appears on the front page of the contractual agreement that every artist must sign prior to performing at Hollywood's Magic Castle:

"Contractor is expected to entertain our audiences with the highest level of decorum and professionalism. Offensive language, insult humor, or derogatory attacks on groups related to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, mental faculties, political affiliation, familial status, pregnancy, etc. are not acceptable and potentially subject to termination of your contract. Think 'corporate friendly' as a guideline."

Similarly, during the sixteen years that I served as Entertainment Director for the I.B.M., we included in the contract the following words written by our legal advisor, John R. Browne III:

"Performer understands that I.B.M. Convention shows are attended by children and families, and therefore agrees to refrain from the use of *BLUE* and/or otherwise objec-

tionable material. If in the sole discretion of the Convention Committee this covenant is breached, Performer waives and forfeits all rights to Compensation."

Even many comedy clubs, which I have continued to work as a silent, middle act since the early 1970s, have stepped up to promote good taste. Notably the country's oldest and most prestigious (and my favorite), Pasadena's The Ice House, has put the clamps on blue material.

"There comes a point," the owner told me, "where the atrophy of moral sense finally leads to dullness, fatuity, and unreality — a triumph of tediousness. The audience may laugh hard during the show, but they don't feel good as they leave the club."

Now there are clear exceptions. I have no argument if the audience knows what they are stepping into. For years Abbott's Get-together and later the Magic Castle featured Sen. Clarke Crandall's midnight, adults-only show.

He framed with deadpan sharpness each routine — that he understood nearly everyone would find offensive — inside a protective glove of artistic novelty. We knew the Senator's heart, which was gold, and we were entertained. When we bought a ticket, we were forewarned.

It is commonly obvious that for every performer who contradicts the aesthetics of good taste, we could easily point to a hundred fantastically gifted who do not. Most



(left): Don Knotts and Dale Salwak. • (right): With Karen Knotts: As a little girl she used to sit cross-legged outside her father's office, listening without interrupting as he worked on his lines as Barney Fife.

are thoughtful, caring, and respectful; they are gallantly discreet and, above all, humane with a kind of individual moral compass. They know their audience.

I think of the comic Gallagher, for example, for whom I opened for years. Most evenings before showtime I found him standing at the back of the theater, taking what he called the "temperature" of his audience to see how far he could "push the envelope" without offending.

Or I think of the comic genius, Don Knotts (TV's *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Three's Company*, and many feature films). In her book (*Tied Up In Knotts: My Dad and Me*) and staged tribute to her father, Karen Knotts spoke of his lightly self-deprecating manners, his humility and high standards, his justifiable pride in himself as a performer. If a scripted line offended his sensibilities (and therefore risked the audience's), he refused to use it. "He never missed an opportunity for grace."

All this may be summed up in one of the 110 Rules of Civility which originated in sixteenth-century France and which fourteen-year-old George Washington copied (as many did at the time) into his school book: "Every Action done in Company, ought to be with Some Sign of Respect, to those that are Present."

I understand that no earnest writer on the subject can nourish the hope of one column changing the culture. The most that can be offered is some guidance for those who may want it and the thought that, without these comments and those of our allies (see, for example, what Paul Green, Kirk Charles, Jim Kleefeld say about contracts), our art might be in an even worse state than it is.

"A lost cause may still deserve support," novelist Kingsley Amis wrote in a different context, "and that support is never wasted."

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 John R. Browne III, Glenn Salwak, Ryan Salwak, and Patti Steinbuch 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.

Readers Write

THE LINKING RING



I just received the September 2024 issue of *The Linking Ring*. I was delighted to read “Pictures from the Past” by Gary R. Frank featuring my mentor Harry Collins.

The article and the photo from *The Linking Ring* cover from October 1972 sure brought back memories. I remember that issue well! I wasn’t a member of the I.B.M. back then, as you had to be fourteen years old, and I was only twelve, but Harry gave me a copy of that issue. I read and re-read it daily.

Harry Collins was indeed my first great mentor. He was also the first magician I ever saw. I was the kid from the audience who got to go up on stage for the “Miser’s Dream.” That day changed the course of my life and sent me off on my lifelong study of magic.

For those who never got to see Harry work, he was an amazing magician and entertainer. He could perform on the biggest stage for thousands of people as well as entertaining a small group with close-up magic. He could work a hospitality suite and also amaze the shop clerk with impromptu magic.

If you look closely at the cover photo, you will see his dinner jacket has the Frito-Lay logo. The Pepsi can he is holding was his “Chop Cup.” That is because Pepsi had just bought out Frito-Lay. Harry was no dummy! He not only kept his boss happy, he kept his boss’s boss happy!

We lost Harry at age sixty-five – far too young. I will be sixty-five next year. My second great mentor was, of course, Johnny Thompson. Although Harry and Johnny never met, they certainly knew of each other. Johnny always told me his mentor, Charlie Miller, spoke very highly of Harry Collins. Apparently Charlie spent some time in Louisville visiting his friend, Bill Dobson. On those occasions he had the opportunity to see Harry work and meet him.

We lost Johnny a few years ago. I sure miss Harry and Johnny.

Anyway, thanks for a great walk down memory lane.

Lance Burton
Master Magician
Order of Merlin Excalibur



From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD

I've just had a message from David Wood, dubbed in the UK as the Children's Drama laureate, who is currently preparing another production of his award-winning magical play *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* prior to a tour of Thailand and China. Former Magic Circle President Scott Penrose is working on the magic elements again. As a children's author himself, David wanted to alert me to *The Houdini Inheritance*; a new book for children by Emma Carroll. It is obviously aimed at the international market, moving between a fictional seaside town in England and the decidedly un-fictional Coney Island in America. Here is the blurb:

It's the English seaside in the 1920s.

A world famous escape artist...

A suitcase full of secrets...

And a death-defying stunt...

When Harry Houdini comes to visit the seaside town of Sidford-on-Sea, Glory and her friend Dennis are first in line to see him. He is there to perform a daring trick. He will jump off the town pier in chains, pitching himself into the water below. But when Glory outsmarts the infamous Houdini, she is suddenly sucked into his world, and finds herself tasked with looking after his precious trunk - the one that contains all his secrets.

With Houdini in danger, Glory and Dennis are thrown deep into an adventure that takes them all the way to Coney Island in America, and the dark underbelly of its amusement parks...

From what I've read so far, the tale seems reasonably authentic, apart from minor blemishes such as referring to Bess Houdini as 'Bessie'.

Following on from that, here's a question for you: How many mistakes can you make in just three sentences?

Quite a few, if you are the compiler of *My Book of Questions and Answers* – subtitled *Difficult Questions, Simply Answered*. I was thumbing through it recently when I came across an entry asking 'Who was Houdini?' How about this for an answer:

Born in America in 1874, Elrich Weiss became one of the most famous magicians who ever lived. He took the stage name Harry Houdini in honour of Robert Houdini, a French magician. Houdini was renowned for his escapes from bonds of every kind – locks, handcuffs and straight jackets.

Well, his name was Ehrich, not Elrich, he was born in Hungary, not America, he named himself after Robert-Houdin, not Robert Houdini and he escaped from straitjackets, not straight jackets.

After that, I decided not to bother with the other 99 questions and answers.

I wrote a while ago about the pseudo-Chinese handwriting used by William Robinson



in his oriental alter-ego of Chung Ling Soo. Peter Brunning, whose wife is Japanese, got in touch to say: 'I share the scepticism about the signature, but some of the characters seem to make sense in Japanese, rather than Chinese. One of the characters, for example, can mean 'horse'. There is also the character 'ren', which has a meaning of 'combination' or 'alliance', as in United Nations.' This gives rise to the intriguing speculation that Soo may have had the assistance of his long-term stage manager, the Japanese Frank Kametaro.

Staying with the Soo/Kametaro theme, combined with that of erroneous information in print, I don't often hurl a book across the room in exasperation, but I made an exception recently. It included this well-known photograph of Soo with his assumed family, which was given the caption: *A group photo of Chung Ling Soo, Suee Seen and Bamboo Leaf. Their daughter obviously wasn't Chinese, but this wasn't questioned.*



Soo family.

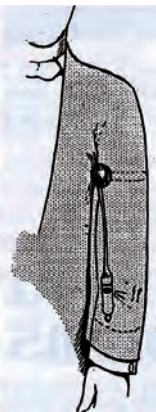
This is absurd on several levels. For a start, William and Dot had no children of their own, but 'borrowed' Bamboo Flower (misnamed here as Bamboo Leaf) to lend authenticity to the family unit. She was, in fact, Nina – the daughter of Frank and Mabel Kametaro; and as she was half Japanese (her

mother was a Yorkshire lass) she appeared oriental. It was precisely this feature which caused her to be included in the 'Soo family' photographs.

To make matters worse, the author of the book had shamelessly re-purposed the title of Eddie Dawes's seminal work on *The Great Illusionists*; but he is certainly no Eddie Dawes!

Staying with books, last month I mentioned the *Magic Funbook*, aimed at children and full of unlikely tricks. Another one which took my fancy was *The Magic Whistle*, an illustration for which you will see here. Basically described: *This trick is really good fun, and causes great amusement among your mystified audience. You have an ordinary whistle tied onto your magic wand. You point to the whistle and it goes "Pheep-pheep." as often as commanded. The clever explanation of this baffling trick is that another whistle, attached to a rubber bulb and tube (like those on scent sprays) is hidden under your shirt sleeve. Just a slight pressure on this bulb will produce a piercing whistle, and everyone will imagine that it comes from the whistle hanging from your wand!*

Now, what makes this interesting from a magic historian's perspective is that it finds its origin in *The Magician Monthly* of 20 July, 1909, edited by Will Goldston and submitted by Adrian Plate, who named it *The Spirit Whistle*. The wording of the instructions is suspiciously similar in both cases, and both the explanatory illustrations are included here for comparison.





Blackpool Showtown.

I thought it was about time that I visited the new Showtown Museum in Blackpool, having heard some very positive reports about it from non-magical friends. Although this may appear a rather parochial topic for an international magazine such as this, I know that many readers will be familiar with Blackpool as the host town for a large annual convention, held each February.

The exhibition is aimed at family holiday-makers and is very well-judged, offering a couple of hours of nostalgic escapism. The visitor is greeted by a flesh-and-blood British landlady, who leads you to a constantly-changing tableau along one wall, tracing the history of the resort from 1760, employing

4,000 images over about fifteen minutes.

A talking donkey and a pair of seagulls cover the topics of sea bathing, the creation of Blackpool Tower (the UK's answer to the Eiffel Tower), the development of the illuminations (tableaux of lights along the Golden Mile, referred to as 'the greatest free show on earth') the tradition of 'wakes week', (when all the towns in Lancashire shut down in order to visit the resort en masse) and the now anachronistic Miss Blackpool bathing-beauty competition. It is a wonderful introduction to what lies beyond – namely five more discrete rooms presenting the themes of Variety Shows, Magic, Circus, Dancing and Illuminations.



Get Thee Published in The Linking Ring!

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



Youth Trivia Contest

October's question: In the last decade of the last century, an acoustical engineer and member of the I.B.M. made significant, original improvements to a fascinating and baffling type of puzzle and illusion that had previously been the focus of some other well-known magical thinkers and creators. *Who was this magician, and what was this type of puzzle and illusion?*

Answers must be postmarked by November 20, 2024.

July's question was: This candy-maker became a magician later in life, and was one of the last conjurors to perform in wizard's robes and a conical hat. *Who was this?*

While a small number of our Youth Members did send us answers to this question, sadly, none of those Youth Members sent us the correct answer. Here's what we were hoping that you'd tell us.

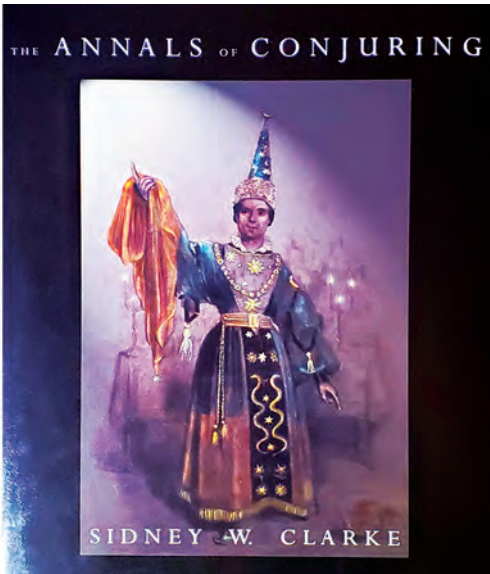
Born in the south of France in the hills of Alais (now called Alès), close to the plains of Nîmes, near the end of 1802, the young Jacques André Noël Talon completed his apprenticeship in the crafting of candies and other sweet treats. He attempted to market his confections, first in Paris, then around the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, his products didn't sell very well.

After a chance meeting with a disheartened acting troupe in northern Scotland, he suggested that they combine their efforts and their products. The patrons of the actors' shows were charged slightly higher entry fees, but received a chance to win a large box of candy in addition to their admission to the show. Talon also performed a short segment of magical entertainment at the end of the program. His partnership with the troupe of actors was mutually beneficial, and his conjuring skits and sketches became quite popular.

Talon abandoned his career in confections and decided to pursue conjuring – the part of his performances that seemed to bring about the best reactions from the audiences. He began presenting his magic using the name Phillipe, and soon moved south to Glasgow. He built his own theatre there, and hired a clever Scottish mechanic named Andrew Macallister. Macallister also served onstage as Phillipe's assistant. (It's believed that, over time, Macallister devised some of Phillipe's best illusions, and significantly improved some of the illusions that Phillipe was already performing.)

Phillipe travelled his show around England, Scotland, and Ireland extensively. It's believed that while in Ireland, he made the acquaintance of a troupe of Chinese magicians and jugglers who taught him some of their repertoire. The most notable of these were the production of large bowls of water containing live goldfish, and what we know today as "The Chinese Linking Rings."

Phillipe eventually added these effects as features into the second segment of his growing, elaborate production. Although he began his show dressed in a traditional men's evening jacket and trousers, he changed into a fancy and colorful flowing wizard's robe with a tall, conical hat, part way through the show. This latter segment,



(left): Not many images of Jacques André Noël Talon performing as Phillipe exist. This engraving from a French newspaper in 1840 is one of the most frequently seen. (right): Phillipe made a significant impression on the art of conjuring. The above engraving was recreated as a full-color image in 2001 by artist Katlyn Breene, and used for the cover of the book *The Annals of Conjuring*, by Sidney W. Clarke.

which he called “A Night in the Palace of Peking,” was filled with many of the routines that he had learned from his Chinese acquaintances, including “The Chinese Linking Rings,” and the “Goldfish Bowl Productions.”

The show also included automata, candy productions, and multiplying flags. He also made a great production of “borrowed-object-to-impossible-location,” borrowing several handkerchiefs from audience members, loading them into the barrel of a gun, and firing them into paper-wrapped confections and baked goods that had been in view since the beginning of the routine. When the goods were broken open, the handkerchiefs were discovered to be inside, undamaged.

Phillipe has often been credited with quite a few “firsts” and “lasts.” He was the last significant conjuror to perform in the garb of a Wizard’s gown and pointy hat. He was the performer who gave the name to “The Morrison’s Pill Box,” an effect that’s still performed today. And he is frequently cited as the first magician to

have performed “The Chinese Linking Rings” in Europe. This last claim to fame is one that often draws arguments and criticism. There’s some significant evidence to suggest that another performer, Joseph Jacobs, who performed as Wizard Jacobs, actually presented versions of this effect in England two full years before Phillipe debuted it in his own shows.

One feature of Phillipe’s advertisements may have added a bit of confusion to a few of these historical issues. For some reason, he spelled his stage name differently in England than in other places. His Broadside advertisements and press releases spelled his name “Philipe” in his English tours, but used “Phillipe” in the rest of the world. There doesn’t seem to be a good reason for the difference, and it certainly goes against the concepts of “branding” used in today’s business environment.

Sweet-treat specialist Jacques André Noël Talon certainly had a significant influence on the art of magic, in spite of what may be considered by many to be an outdated stage wardrobe. He and Ludwig

Döbler seemed to perform extremely similar pieces of material, although some historians bicker about who “borrowed” from whom. And Robert-Houdin referred to him as one of the very best conjurors of the day, and even devoted large sections of texts in his writings, focused on Phillipe.

You can find information about Phillipe in books, including The Annals of Conjur-ing by Sidney W. Clarke, and Panorama of Magic by Milbourne Christopher. There’s also quite a bit of material in back issues of periodical publications like The Sphinx, The Magic Circular, World’s Fair, and The Linking Ring.

Jacques André Noël Talon died in 1878.

If you submitted an answer for this month’s question, but you didn’t send us the *correct* answer, please ... keep trying! Some of these questions can be very difficult, and are not meant to be easily answered, especially by using internet search engines. Try taking your issue of *The Linking Ring* to your local Ring meeting and ask some of the more experienced members to help you find the answer. Show the whole world how much you know, get your name published in *The Linking Ring*, and win some really cool prizes from one of our best brick-and-mortar magic shops!

Calling all Youth Members!

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

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

Be sure that you include a few references. If we *do* use your question, we’ll send you either a partially used bag of Purina Pony Chow or a *really* cool magic book – our choice.

See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 143 and mail your responses to the address above.

Answers must be postmarked by November 20, 2024.

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!

Magic and

Memories

David Ginn



Magic Roadtrip January 1970 Part One Meeting Warren Hamilton

When Lynne and I married in March 1969, we both knew what was coming in my future – two years as an officer in the United States Army. We just didn't know *when*.

After our month-long April honeymoon in Europe, we stayed temporarily with my parents in my old upstairs room. Six weeks later, we located a two-bedroom apartment a mile away from them and set up a move-in date for the middle of June.

The day we moved in – I kid you not – my army orders arrived in the mail *while* we were loading into the upstairs apartment. Right after lunch my dad handed me an envelope marked:

United States Army: IMPORTANT!



Lynne and David before joining the army.

The orders said I must report to Fort Gordon, Augusta, Georgia, a three-hour drive, on February 4, 1970, eight months away. And we had just signed a one-year lease on the apartment!

Lynne said, "We'd better keep quiet about this today," and Dad and David agreed. Of course, military service was a valid reason to break a contract with no financial penalty, but we didn't want to tell the apartment manager the day we moved into her complex!

It was a nice way to start a marriage, living in our own place, even though I left all my magic props and office stuff at my parents place a mile away.

That fall of 1969, Lynne worked a secretarial job in Atlanta, and I played full-time professional magician, working schools and lots of school carnivals, aka fall festivals. On two Saturdays that autumn, helped by an assistant, I worked five school carnivals a day with as many as seven shows at the five locations.

Indeed, magic truly was paying the bills!

Then came the Christmas shows, about two dozen of them, followed by a blank January 1970.

Since I had no magic work that month before our ETA at Fort Gordon, Lynne and I decided to take a Florida road trip for three weeks. Her parents lived three hours south, so we started by visiting them for a few days.

Due to my uncertainty regarding my army training, we had no way of knowing when we'd see them again that year.

Once I entered army SOBC (Signal Officer Basic Course) in February, within weeks they made it clear to all of us that following nine weeks at Fort Gordon, we would all be sent to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, for additional training. Then, as a sergeant said to 120 of us: "One year from today, gentlemen, your feet will be standing on the soil of Vietnam, where you will be a forward observer Signal Lieutenant." That meant a very hazardous duty station. Thank God, it never happened to David Ginn. But that is another story.

After the visit with Lynne's parents, we headed to Mayo, Florida, spent a night with her Aunt Verna (where we slept on a big soft feather bed), then south to Tampa to visit Uncle Tom and Aunt Katherine Smith, who treated the newlyweds to several fabulous meals at the Kapok Tree and the Columbia Restaurants.

While in Tampa, I contacted John Lasiter, former associate pastor of our church, who had dabbled in magic. He suggested I get together with him for lunch one day, and Lynne told me to go.

"I have a magic friend I met here in Tampa," said John, "and if you like, I'll take you over to his house and let you see his workshop. He actually *builds* magic props and sells them all over the world. His name is Warren Hamilton."

"*Joanne-the-Duck Warren Hamilton?*" I asked, and John answered, "He's the one."

"You're kidding me!"

"No, I am most certainly not kidding you," he replied.

Fifty-four years later I have no idea where we ate lunch. We were going to see *the* Warren Hamilton and his wooden duck factory!

Who was Warren Hamilton?

Warren Robert Hamilton, born in Indianapolis, Indiana on February 7, 1906, enjoyed a normal midwestern childhood until bitten by the magic bug as a boy.



Warren Hamilton's Workshop.

A wonderful artist and craftsman, Warren had the talent to construct and decorate his own apparatus. Using those props, he entertained his family, friends, schoolmates, and others around town as a teenager.

Upon graduation from high school in 1924, Warren joined a traveling show where he lived in a trailer that he designed and built himself. Tent shows were popular at that time, and Warren was a jack of all trades. He used his skills to keep the show equipment in working order while acting in the shows and performing magic during intermissions.

He became an accomplished performer while on tour. After a full day of work and travel, he would practice sleights by performing each one 500 times – that's 500 times *perfectly*. If he messed up a sleight on the 498th attempt, he started over and continued until he could do it flawlessly 500 times. And by performing to a different audience every day, he honed his showmanship.

After traveling around the country, Warren entered the U.S. Army Air Force prior to World War II and ended up at Drew Field, an Air Force Base in Tampa. Shortly after arriving in Florida, Warren exited active duty with a service-connected disability, and for that reason settled in Tampa. Moving in with his cousin in Hyde Park, Warren lived upstairs in a garage apartment with his workshop below. Attached to the workshop were a small showroom and office, where Warren set up his magic business.

As an admirer of Floyd Thayer, the best magic builder of his day, Warren designed, decorated, and put his unbelievable paint job/finish on the finest wooden magic in the

world. He was an artist. Not only did he carefully design and cut multi-layered stencils, but he also spent hours making each item an individual piece of art.

During this post-war period, a neighbor girl named JoAnne Young helped Warren design his signature piece, *JoAnne the Card Duck*, which he named after her. Miss Young had no real interest in magic, but like many of the neighborhood kids she enjoyed hanging around Warren's workshop. She later became a professor at University of South Florida.

Warren was such a perfectionist that even after completing two dozen of the ducks, if he noticed a flaw not visible to anyone else, he would throw the whole batch in a pot-bellied stove he used to burn scraps. *Yes, he burned those imperfect ducks which we would have used in thousands of shows!*

In addition to JoAnne the Card Duck, Warren also built a "forgetful" Yogi Bear, the Westgate Bowl Production, a Silk Cabby, Square Circles in three different sizes, the Country Cousin Duck (a plaid version of JoAnne), a Dancing Cane, a Night Club Table, the Vanishing Boy, the Doll House and many more magical items.

On the next page you can see color photos of some of the famous Hamilton creations.

Because of its outstanding quality, Warren's magic was in great demand by dealers. He sold to Tannen's, Abbott's, Jack Chanin, Anverdi, Ronald Haines from the House of Cards, and many others. Since he was a one-man operation, he wasn't able to supply every dealer who wanted his apparatus.

Warren was not only a mechanic (as magic builders are often known) but also an excellent magician. As Warren the Wizard, he entertained at parties and events all around Tampa and annually presented his big stage show at Gorrie Elementary School only a few blocks from his home.

Several weeks before a performance at Gorrie, he would drop by and present a few items from the show. Then the children would draw pictures of their favorite trick and at the actual performance would be

given prizes for the best drawings. It usually resulted in a full house.

Warren was an avid collector of magic, books, posters, and memorabilia. Magicians from all over the world would drop by when they were in town to visit and look through his huge collections. Visitors included Blackstone Sr., MacDonald Birch, Harry Lorayne, Jay Marshall, Eddie Fields, Rajah Raboid, Mars the Magician, The Great Lester, Carl Rosini, Ken Klosterman, and every other magician who came anywhere near Tampa.



Warren with Harry Blackstone, Sr.

Eventually, Warren moved to Drew Field, which by now was a light commercial area only a few miles away from his previous location. There he had a separate, enlarged workshop, a bigger office and show room, as well as living quarters. That is the location I visited in January 1970.

Warren's Working Methods

Warren used marine plywood for building his apparatus because of its strength and ability to withstand muggy Florida summers without warping. He constructed the dancing cane only of Alaskan Cedar for the same reason. He would never compromise and, in fact, would not make apparatus if the cedar or plywood were not available.

He did his own metal work, devised jigs to make the various parts of the JoAnne duck, and developed a method of spray painting that, by mixing extra air with the lacquer, put the paint on practically dry. He used tiny piano hinges where needed and when they weren't available, he made his



own! He wound these springs of piano wire by hand for the internal mechanism of the duck. He accomplished hand-sanding with emery paper so fine that it felt like fine stationery.

John Lassiter told me, “Warren *never* throws away a piece of sandpaper. He uses that sandpaper forever to get that smooth finish on the ducks and other props.”

My distinct memory of the visit was this: *When we walked in the workshop door, there were JoAnne ducks everywhere! Finished and unfinished in a dozen stages of construction.* Either John or Warren told me that each JoAnne duck received *ten* coats of paint. That meant he painted the duck, sanded the duck, painted it again, sanded it again – then repeated that eight more times!

If you have ever held a Hamilton prop in your hands, you now understand why the finish was so smooth. Doing it that way was a labor of love, thanks to Warren Hamilton.

Furthermore, the application of numerous layers of stencils, each used to provide a different color (up to six), gave the finished product the Hamilton look that has never been duplicated.

Warren worked night and day to make the

best possible magic props. But even when his hands were covered with lacquer and sawdust, you could ask him to show you something, and he would execute a perfect sleight every time. That was positive evidence that Warren’s early hard work paid off.

To say Warren Hamilton was a perfectionist would be an understatement. The magic he constructed was of exquisite, one-of-a-kind quality. If he actually charged what it cost him in time, effort, and materials to make a duck, it would have cost \$250 instead of the \$12.50 it sold for originally. Fortunately he had a small income coming in from some real estate he owned as well as a government disability pension. For these reasons, Warren could afford to make things right and at his own pace.

Warren never met a magician he didn’t like, I am told, and I recall him being very friendly with me during my visit. Warren made me feel welcomed, just like the celebrities and the local guys, too.

By the mid-1950s, so many people were dropping by that it was decided that a group would meet at his place on a semi-regular basis. Eventually, the group outgrew his showroom and started meeting at various lo-

cations around town. By 1964 the group had become the Gaspirilla I.B.M. Ring 175, because Warren refused to have the ring named after him.

Twenty months after my January 1970 visit, on September 23, 1971, Warren passed away. It happened only a week before I exited my army service on October 1. He was sixty-five years old, and during his life he made a profound impact on the world of magic props.

Due to his mentorship, the Tampa I.B.M. Ring continued strong. The club was renamed the Warren Hamilton Ring in 2002. Many club members thought Warren was smiling down on them, admonishing them to practice every move 500 times!

Looking back, I'd have to say that during my one-time visit to the Hamilton workshop, *I did not fully appreciate what I saw*. I did not yet have the life experience to recognize the beautiful quality of Warren's props the way I do now. I was only twenty-three years old, a junior officer in the army, and married for one year – so I simply did not absorb everything I saw that day. I wasn't even smart enough to bring a camera and take a photo!

Yes, since the time I was fifteen years old I had watched several magicians at conventions perform the card duck, *the Hamilton card duck*, and all they did was reveal a selected chosen card. They presented it as a mechanical duck with little or no personality, so I really didn't care for it. To me, it was just another card trick. And I was excelling as a kidshow magician, not a card magician.

Thirty years later in early 2000, I acquired a slightly used JoAnne the Duck, and instead of selling it, I decided to try using it. My preschool show that year was the Magic TOY Show, and the duck looked like a toy. So I found some children's flash cards made of heavy cardboard, and I had a local printer trim them to playing-size cards to fit the duck tray.

Then I developed a personality-based routine in which I called JoAnne "Quack-Quack, the Mindreading Duck," and little

kids loved it. I used three children to help, and I added one very funny joke for the teachers to enjoy. I ended up with a winner that would make Warren Hamilton proud of me. You can read the whole thing on pages 296-299 in *Kidshow Magic Kompendium*, or even watch me do it on the DVD titled *Hats, Rabbits, and Swords*.



Many thanks to Tom Vojahan, Tim Arango, and Ken Spanola for letting me use the historical material about Warren and Ring 175 from their website.

All my interest came to light this past summer when I acquired a Hamilton Yogi Bear – fewer than twenty were made – and discovered that it had been hand stamped #3 by Warren himself. A magician friend in Arizona owns it now.

If you decide to use a Warren Hamilton prop – they are still around and not hard to get – remember what Warren did to make you look great with his prop. The only way you can repay him is to use it well to entertain children and family audiences.

Next month, my November column will continue the story of our January 1970 Florida trip, when we met a wonderful lady army sergeant, Granny Harris, who performed for soldiers, and another magician who appeared repeatedly on *The Ed Sullivan Show* – Fantasio!



Magic Club Marketing

“Magic clubs can be surprisingly effective tools for marketing, offering unique and gaging ways to promote a brand or product.” – ChatGPT

Last month, I talked about the many benefits of magic clubs. But while talking to Chris Walden, aka Saul Ravenscraft, he said that he did not think that magic clubs would help him in his branding and marketing. I said that I thought that was true. He then said, “Wait a minute! Do you mean that it is true that magic clubs won’t really help me, or only the fact that I *think* that is true?”

“The latter,” I replied. I agreed to send him a copy of last month’s column about magic clubs, which had not yet been published.

But when I read it over, looking for key points about how magic clubs might help him in marketing, I found – to my surprise – very little. I made a great case for the importance of magic clubs overall, but did not specifically explain very well how they would most effectively help with marketing.

So, I’m writing another column about magic clubs. ChatGPT had some useful information last month, and I decided to see what a more focused query would produce, using the prompt: “How can magic clubs help with marketing?”

But the response I got was all about how *magic* could help with marketing (which has been the subject of this column for nine years), not really how magic *clubs* can help.

When using AI, the most important thing is an effective prompt. So, I tried again.

Second ChatGPT Prompt:

“I am a magician. Can being active in magic clubs help me with marketing?”

ChatGPT said:

Yes, being active in magic clubs can significantly help you with marketing your skills and services. Here’s how:

1. Networking and Collaboration

- **Connections:** Magic clubs are a great place to network with other magicians, event organizers, and industry professionals. These connections can lead to referrals, collaborations, and new opportunities.

- **Collaborative Projects:** You can team up with other magicians for joint performances, workshops, or special events, increasing your exposure to new audiences.

2. Building Your Reputation

- **Showcasing Your Skills:** Performing at club meetings or events allows you to demonstrate your talents to a supportive audience, helping you refine your act and build a strong reputation within the magic community.

- **Word of Mouth:** Positive feedback from peers in the magic community can boost your credibility and lead to recommendations, which is a powerful form of marketing.



Houdini is Chair of the inaugural meeting of the Magicians Club.

COURTESY OF MARCO PUSTERLA, THE EPHEMERAL COLLECTOR



Artist's conception of the inaugural meeting of the Magicians Club, 1911.

COURTESY OF MARCO PUSTERLA, THE EPHEMERAL COLLECTOR

3. Learning and Development

- **Staying Current:** Magic clubs often offer workshops, lectures, and training sessions where you can learn new tricks, techniques, and business strategies. Staying updated helps you offer fresh and exciting performances, which can be a key selling point.

- **Gaining Insights:** You can gain insights into what works well in different types of performances, helping you tailor your act to specific markets or audiences.

4. Opportunities for Performance

- **Club Events:** Many magic clubs host

public shows, competitions, or charity events. These are great opportunities to perform in front of a live audience and gain exposure.

- **Visibility:** Participating in these events helps you get noticed by potential clients, event planners, and even media outlets.

5. Marketing Collaborations

- **Joint Marketing Efforts:** Magic clubs often have their own marketing channels, such as websites, newsletters, and social media. Being featured or collaborating on content can expand your reach.

- **Cross-Promotion:** You can collaborate with other magicians in the club for cross-promotion, where you promote each other's services, reaching a wider audience.

6. Branding and Positioning

- **Establishing Expertise:** Active participation in magic clubs positions you as a dedicated professional, enhancing your personal brand. This can make you more attractive to clients who are looking for someone reputable and well-connected.

- **Unique Selling Points:** You can leverage your membership in reputable magic clubs as a credential, highlighting your commitment to the craft and your involvement in the broader magic community.

7. Access to Resources

- **Marketing Tips:** Magic clubs often

provide resources and discussions on marketing strategies specific to magicians, such as how to market to corporate clients or how to optimize your website for bookings.

- **Shared Experiences:** Learning from the experiences of other magicians can help you avoid common pitfalls and adopt successful marketing tactics more quickly.

Being active in magic clubs not only helps you grow as a magician but also enhances your marketing efforts by expanding your network, improving your skills, and increasing your visibility.

Disclaimer: Top of Form

Bottom of Form

ChatGPT can make mistakes.

Check important info.

Chat Kent Cummins

Once again, the AI has provided a framework for discussion. Let me share my ideas and experiences, using the outline suggested by ChatGPT.

1. Networking and Collaboration

Virtually all of the many magicians with whom I have worked I initially met at a magic club meeting! Were it not for my connections with Chris Walden, Peter the Adequate, Steve Farmer, The Great Scott and Judy, and so many others, I don't think I could have made a career as a full-time professional magician.

Chris Walden has provided extensive tech support, creative show direction, and continuing personal support, which allows me to continue my weekly podcast, "Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center," available at www.fantasticmagiccenter.com.

Peter and I have shared some of our best (and most lucrative) projects for several decades. His creativity has enhanced most of my major magic projects, and it was Peter

who helped me open Fantastic Magic Camp (www.magiccamp.com) thirty-two years ago.

Steve Farmer nominated me for an important award that resulted in my receiving extensive free computer training (not to mention a cool trophy!). Steve also gave me a silk scarf with my logo, which I use in nearly every show.

"The Great Scott and Judy" referred many of my biggest opportunities. They included me in some of their paid performances, and have enhanced some of my own magic events.

Several magic club members have hired me for their companies, confident because they had seen me perform at magic club events. And I have been able to hire many club members for my own events.

2. Building your Reputation

By regularly performing at magic club meetings and other club-sponsored events, members have seen what I am capable of doing. This has led to specific referrals that have helped me maintain a full-time income.

Club members definitely contributed to word-of-mouth publicity, and media coverage of the magic community and magic club events nearly always included positive promotion about my role in the magic community.

When prospective clients would call the names in the Yellow Pages (remember those?), other performers would often tell people positive things about "The Fantastic Kent Cummins" when they thought that I would be the best choice for a project.

3. Learning and Development

I have enjoyed the lectures sponsored by the magic clubs, and always learn new things that help me compete in the marketplace.

Because I am active in the magic clubs, I know who to refer when a prospective client wants something that would be better served



(l to r): SAM 206 marketing workbook. • The Linking Ring magazine promoting members. • Westgate Wizardry with magic club members.

by a different magician. This has led not just to referral fees, but to enhanced credibility with clients.

4. Opportunities for Performance

Our magic club meetings almost always have an Open Mic period. I have used these opportunities to demonstrate tricks that promote my own shows. At my very first meeting at Austin Ring 60, I showed up in my “Wizard of Westgate” costume, which perplexed some of the old-timers. But this led to twenty years of promotional work at Westgate Mall, and I was able to include many magic club members in these promotions.

I have won (and not won) various magic club competitions, and definitely improved my act, by preparing for these events.

Both of the local magic clubs frequently sponsor shows for the public. My credibility as a performer has been enhanced by the publicity for these events.

5. Marketing Collaborations

When I think back upon my long career (full time since 1986), I realize that it has been collaborations that have allowed me to make a comfortable living as a magician. I worked with each of the two main magic clubs here in Austin, Texas, to help create public shows, contests, and fundraising events.



(top): Newspaper article about magic clubs. (bottom): Ring 60 Newsletter promoting members.

And as I have previously mentioned, my collaboration with other magicians whom I met at magic club meetings allowed me to build larger and more successful events. When I was contacted to be a performer at a local event, I would often convince the organizers to let me provide all of the children’s entertainment, adding commissions to my own fee.

For example, I can hire face painters, bal-

loon twisters, hula hoop artists, clowns, stilt walkers, and other variety performers to create much larger events.

6. Branding and Positioning

When prospective clients ask me about my connection to the world of magic, I have excellent answers:

“I am a member of the Magic Circle in London, and a Life member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians.”

“Of course, I have lectured and performed at the Magic Castle in Hollywood.”

7. Access to Resources

I have learned from other club members and purchased props and supplies from lectures sponsored by the magic clubs. And I have gained tremendous benefits from attending the conventions of these clubs.

More Marketing at Magic Clubs

Who goes to magic club meetings? I have probably been to more than a thousand magic club meetings in my life so far, and it seems to me that the majority of people who attend are typically amateurs and enthusiasts – people who do not make their living as entertainers. I recently noticed that this appeared to be the case even at the prestigious Magic Circle in London.

Most of the people who come to magic club meetings either have their own entrepreneurial ventures or work for other organizations. And many of these organizations will have a holiday party, a trade show, a family picnic, an awards banquet, a business luncheon, sales training seminars, customer appreciation events ... the list seems endless.

Organizations can use magic to enhance all of these events. If these people see your talents at magic club meetings, you might be

the person hired. (I know because it has happened to me many times.)

But not everyone who goes to a magic club meeting is an amateur or a hobbyist. Often, professional magicians attend. And they may need assistance with projects or someone to refer work to when they are not available. (I once referred a potential client to Bobby Cordell because the client had a pirate theme for their party, and I knew that Bobby already had developed a pirate character. The next year, the client called me again because they liked Bobby, and said, “If that’s the kind of talent you refer, we can’t wait to see what *you* do!”)

Sometimes family members attend magic club meetings. Do any of them have children who might want a magician at their next birthday party? For that matter, many grown-ups like having a magician at a special birthday or anniversary party. (I remember a club member hiring me to saw his wife in half on her fortieth birthday.)

Sometimes, there is an agent, or a speakers bureau representative, or a show producer. They are more likely to hire you if they have seen your style at a meeting. Often, there are members of the media. (I have had my picture and story in many newspaper and magazine articles because the media was doing a story on magic in the area.)

The more people who know what you do, the more business you will get.

The Bottom Line

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

I always enjoy hearing *your* ideas and experiences, but I can’t read your minds: kent@magichotline.com.

MY INTERVIEW WITH A VAMPIRE:

VLAD

IN HIS OWN WORDS

By Joseph Daniels

Introduction by Rolando Santos

Introduction

“In the unique realm of bizarre and storytelling magick, only a select few are known by a single pseudonym: The Traveller (aka Lary Kuehn), DeNomolos (aka Ed Solomon), and Vlad. Each has pioneered a new branch of magic – Vlad’s being Gothic Magic.”

Before he became Vlad, Don Deich was a precocious, smart-mouthed youngster with a fascination for horror movies who started working at haunted house attractions in his late teens. By the early eighties, he had stumbled into a gathering of magicians – with last names like Burger, Maven, McBride, Solomon, and Andruzzi – that would eventually become The McBride Magic & Mystery School.

The young Don was handsome and had a natural flair for the theatrical, while his urbane sense for comedy was as engaging and sharp-witted as that of Vincent Price and Christopher Lee. He possessed a wry and commanding natural presence that caught everyone’s attention and ultimately gave birth to his “Vlad” persona: a six-hundred-year-old vampire who enjoyed psychologically “playing with his food.”

For the next forty years, Vlad never publicly stepped out of character. He refined the character to the point that luminaries in the art looked to him as an example of

character development. Vlad was known for chillingly edgy dialogue with a touch of sarcasm, as well as intellectually stimulating magic presentations featuring unique props and set designs.



Vlad, before he turned. PHOTO BY JOE SILKIE



Vlad, the ancient statesman of Mystery Entertainment.

These days, Vlad has mellowed, just as you might expect of someone who's spent six centuries with humanity and grown a bit bored. Behind the character is one of the most approachable, kind, and caring people in the Mystery Entertainment field. He has become the elder – well, “ancient” – statesman of Bizarre Magick, mentoring

a new generation of séance workers and storytelling magicians.

Since it's the haunting season, we felt it was the right time to introduce you to Vlad. *Linking Ring* columnist and Mystery Entertainment performer Joseph Daniels spoke with Vlad to share his story.

– Rolando Santos, Assistant Editor



For almost forty years, Vlad has been shocking audiences around the world with what he calls “Gothic Magic.” I set up a meeting with the man Vlad calls “the keeper of my day side,” Don Deich (pronounced like “peach”), and he agreed to dish a bit of grave dirt on my favorite vampire.

Don was born in White Plains, New York, forty minutes north of New York City, where he often hopped a train to roam its most strange and unusual corners. Now, he's sharing his story in his own words.

– Joseph Daniels

In 1989, I was giving a lecture to a gathering of Bizarre Magick performers during a workshop. "I used to do this thing with a rabbit – I'd vanish it in a paper bag – until one time I did it at a children's party. I put the rabbit in the bag and then crushed it to show it had disappeared. One child pointed a finger and said, 'You killed the rabbit.' Ten or fifteen more kids stood up, all saying, 'You killed the rabbit.' It was like Village of the Damned!"

Bob Fitch, a Broadway actor and the workshop's host, turned to the assembly. "In that situation, what would you do?" he asked them.

You might as well have pulled the emergency brake at sixty miles an hour. Nobody had a clue.

Then Bob looked at me and asked, "What would you do, Vlad?"

"I just would look at the child and say, 'Yes, I did.'"

Bob smiled. "You are probably the only person that could get away with that," he told me.



Vlad, the early vampire years.

Early on, I wanted to be in horror movies. For an elementary school essay, the teacher asked me, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

I said, "I want to do horror films."

"No, I'm sorry. You'll have to choose something more realistic."

"Oh, you mean like being the president or an astronaut?" I replied.

Not catching my sarcasm, she said, "Yes."

I was a bright kid but not a team player. I was sent to the school psychologist because I refused to do homework. They made my parents bring me in.

"We need to get to the bottom of this," they told my parents.

"You require me to be at school for seven hours a day," I said. "If you have work you need me to do, you should get it done while I'm here instead of wasting my time at home."

They were horrified. "That's not normal child thinking. Who told you that?"

"I don't know why you're not grasping it," I said. "I do your stuff on your time, not mine."

"Why, when we ask you to draw things, do you constantly draw coffins, skeletons, and vampires?" they asked. "Is your home life okay?"

"Monsters are my friends," I told them.

Those were the glory days of the "monster kid" generation. We could run home and watch *Dark Shadows*. We could get Famous Monsters of Filmland, Creepy, Eerie, and Vampirella at the stationery store. There were Monster Marvel Comics and model kits – the good stuff. Now, these things are worth thousands of dollars. But back then, if you could scrape together a dollar, you had a model kit. Sadly, we didn't realize that stuff would not always be there because it surrounded us.

After high school in 1979, we moved to Dutchess County, and I half-heartedly attended Dutch Community College. I bumped into a gentleman named Kevin McCurdy, who ran a haunted house. I

got involved with creature-making, set-building, faux finishes, and mold-making. Faced with either sitting in math class or making monsters, I dropped out of school.

I worked a regular job, but after an accident, my employers told me, “You can’t go back to your old job. We can find something for you to do or send you to college.” I went back to college in 1985 and got into magic in 1987. They wouldn’t pay me to become a magician, so I did the next best thing. I took communication in media arts, which meant having access to the TV studio, radio studio, and sound room. I learned stagecraft, directing, speech, and improv while pursuing a communications major with a theater minor.

I was working on 50/50 illusions for the haunted house when Kevin came to me one day. “I know this guy named Jeff McBride,” he told me. “You might want to check into being a magician. I’ll let you talk to Jeff.”

“How do you just be a magician?” I asked. “Don’t you have to be the seventh son of a seventh son or be brought out to the sacred grove by candlelight?”

Jeff started laughing. “I wish it was like that. You go to meetings.”

“So, kind of like AA?”

“Yeah, but the doughnuts aren’t as good. I’m trying to do this experimental thing, and I think you need to be part of it from the ground up.”

That “experimental thing” happened in 1989. Initially, I had Vlad’s name, but he was more like a Doctor Spektor, or a Night Gallery host. It morphed as I rewrote Vlad’s character as a vampire. With that, you’ve got centuries of experience and knowledge. You possess mystical talents and control the elements. You have powers of the mind and get paid to do it. It’s amusing to have magicians think you’re doing tricks when you’re using your vampire abilities.

Vlad is the embodiment of Dracula’s spirit. Not Stoker’s Dracula, but a morphing of Bela Lugosi’s interpretation: a

vampire that has lost love and become a dark force unto himself. Your regret is twofold. You can live forever, but everything you know and love is going to die. You watch civilizations end – from the Industrial Revolution to space travel – in the blink of an eye, and everything crumbles around you.

“You’ll want to go for over-the-top, extreme evil, but there’s no pathos to it,” Eugene said to me when I was building the character. “Everybody will dismiss it. It’s Lovecraftian, an evil too incomprehensible to imagine, driving you insane. Have a reason why you’re doing these things. If you were driven to it or made to do it, that’s more interesting than ‘I’m just plain evil.’”

I drew from historical and fictional sources, as well as actual situations people deal with. I asked questions. What if you lived in the Ripper’s Whitechapel, knew someone on the Titanic, or were committed to Waverly Hills? Looking back, we often glamorize Victorian times. Some would say it’s much like today because there were the very poor and rich and not much in between. If you were very poor, life really sucked in Victorian England.

During that period, things weren’t much better in the United States. When I do my haunted key, I explain it this way:

“Many people believe that only property or houses can be haunted, but objects can too. This key came from Gettysburg. Are you familiar with Gettysburg?”

Most people reply, “Yeah, sort of.”

“Do you know why it’s important? During three days of fighting, the entire town of Gettysburg became a battlefield. Can you imagine in three days, fifty thousand people dying in one location? If a house can be haunted because there’s one death, what happens to the land that’s seen fifty thousand people die in three days?”

People shudder and reply, “That’s kind of creepy.”

That’s my point.

1990 marked the first McBride Magic & Mystery School session, and I was just ... thrown in. I'd been performing magic for about a year, and I'm in a room with Jeff McBride, Max Maven, Eugene Burger, and Ormond McGill. I later found out that Jade, Peter Samuelson, and Vito Lupo were the trailblazers of magic, even Mundaka, who later vanished.

At the time, I already had my own philosophy. In the rabbit story, Bob used me as an example to try to shock people into really thinking about their magic. Mystery School took place at the Ananda Ashram in Monroe, New York. The ashram was a sacred place for transcendental meditation. I was the local who snuck in cheeseburgers for Eugene and Max. I'm probably going to burn in Hindu hell because I would hide beef jerky in my pocket and roam around this vegan establishment. I maintained my body rather than expanding my consciousness.

There's humor in my stuff, but people assume, "If he's a vampire, it'll be gory." I assure them there are nods to Vincent Price and The Addams Family, but it's more comic than victimizing. I never make fun of my participants. What would a vampire do? If you're a human, you're a cheeseburger to me. I'm gonna push in toward you, invade your personal space. I'll make you uncomfortable, but I'm not making fun of you. People go back to their seats, enjoying themselves but feeling uneasy. What can I say? I like playing with my food.

"I need you to do something," Bob Fitch once said to me. "This is a stage exercise. Walk on stage for me."

I followed his instructions. "Walk on again," he told me. "And again."

"How many times am I walking on stage?"

Later, he explained himself. "I made you do it several times because I wanted to see if you would alter what you were doing, if you were inherently doing it, or if it just happened. Every time you entered, you did it the same way. You walked out from stage left, which is traditionally the

villain's side. 'Magicians' walk out arms open, warm and welcoming. You militarily cut across the stage diagonally and turned. You didn't look at the audience until the turn, which stagewise says *I will address you when I'm ready*. I don't know if you planned that, or if it's so ingrained that it just felt like the right thing to do."

At the 1995 MGM Studios VIP party for Clive Barker's *Lord of Illusions*, at New York City's Webster Hall, I provided the "magick." Clive Barker painted backdrops for the stage. I was the stage magician, and I hired Scott Hitchcock to warm up the audience and then join me on stage. I also had Jen Adams and Steve Vincent. We created a piece for Jen with a rose. She plucked the petals off and ate them. She started choking, and blood would trickle out of her mouth. When she coughed, the rose transformed into rows of razor blades. For Steve, we came up with cut and restored intestines. The humor of it was, "I'm gonna do something and you might not have a rope, but all of you have these with you. If you want to try it when you get home, we're going to do the cut and restored intestines!" Steve would cut his stomach open, pull out the intestines, and perform the restoration!

We performed a cremation, which was the first time that I'd ever done a full-scale stage illusion ... and the last! When I got the plans from Paul Osborne, I didn't realize that illusions are designed for fourteen-year-old cheerleaders. It only makes sense if I'm the one being cremated. Theatrically, why set a human on fire so spectacularly? I would kill them outright! But it makes sense if someone's trying to do away with me. That meant upscaling the illusion to my size. I had to make the coffin six feet long and four feet wide. This meant the hardware was reinforced. Instead of frame hinges, we used steel door hinges and three-quarter-inch plywood. For the base, we used flexible metal instead of cloth so that when I slid in, it would catch me. This monstrosity weighed about 350 pounds, and Webster Hall has no elevator. When we got there, they told



Vlad, the Séance project. PHOTO BY JIM CALLAHAN

us we were on the second floor. We had to lift that cremation and carry it upstairs.

It later ended up in my basement until Michael Carbonaro borrowed it. He kept it for a while after. Michael told me he still has it in Long Island. I told him I'm not paying for shipping and to send me the corpse. Michael put the corpse in a box and said, "I'll donate it to a college theater."

"Good, let them pay!" I said.

An artist once sculpted a model kit of Vlad and called it *Embrace the Light*. Years later, she told me that she'd sculpt a resin plaque of me "by moonlight, with a castle."

Jeff McBride used to say, "I wouldn't even put magician on your business card, just put Vampire Model!" I think I have five model kits stashed away. They were mostly made to order. It wasn't cheap, but that's not why it didn't sell. It was like ninety bucks for "somebody" that's a vampire, but not a "character" that people would say, "Oh, that's so and so from The Lost Boys." I got started by building model kits and later became one! Until I get my own action figure, this is as close to fame as it gets.

Mystery Entertainment, as it is now called, was an underground movement at

the time. Tony Raven, Charles Cameron, and Doc Shields were bringing about the dawn of Bizarre Magick, thumbing their noses at generic magic. "We don't want to be jesters or con men," they said. "We're bringing back the druids of old." They wanted ceremony – theatrical and story driven.

I came up with the term "Gothic" because, when you tried to pitch "Bizarre magick," no one knew what that meant. "You mean like a sideshow?" they'd ask.

Gothic was a frame of reference. Others would ask me "You mean like Marilyn Manson?" "No, it's an eerie, fog-shrouded castle, invoking Frankenstein, Dracula, and Jekyll and Hyde, to bring them into the correct mindset."

The Invocation was so laden with storytelling that Eugene said, "They need a good editor." There were nearly twenty-five pages of text, and "The sacred light came down from the moon." And then, the page of the book turned ... end scene! As a performer, you're saying, "I just read twenty pages of text for the page in a book to turn!" It was just a literary exercise.

I'm known for two effects. My Elizabeth Báthory effect was Vlad's take on "card to impossible location." I took it as a compliment that E. Raymond Carlyle used

to say it was one of the only card effects he enjoyed. My second effect, The Death Card, came from Mystery School.

The first time I was at Mystery School, I didn't know that you're expected to have an everyday carry and perform at a moment's notice. So, when Jeff asked me what I'd brought to perform, I said, "Well, I could do this Cthulhu book test I've been working on."

"Um, it's an ashram," he said. "They won't really understand."

Max Maven had made a comment, and it's funny knowing Max his alter ego because he once said, "I really wish somebody could come up with a card trick that I gave a damn about."

When I came up with The Death Card concept, I thought to myself, "Here we go."

As I was preparing to perform it at Mystery School, they asked me what the premise was. "I don't ask for a volunteer. I select someone because they've died in their sleep. I give them a chance to either be judged for their sins or to play a game with me to win a chance to come back to life."

"People at the ashram are going to believe that's real," said Jeff.

"And your problem is ... ?"

Once I'd performed it, Jeff said, "Well, aside from breaking every rule of magical theatre, you didn't do the normal 'I need someone to help me.' You went out there and got them."

"That's what death does," I explained. "People don't volunteer if they've died in their sleep. You know who they are."

That's why I'm looking back and forth when I start: I need one specific person, and I walk out and get them. Then I gently walk back with them on stage. My opening line is, "Do you remember when you went to sleep last night? No? It's because you died. It was painless, wasn't it? So, I've obviously done a good job. But due to a clerical error, I don't have your death certificate with me. If you look behind you, what would you say is the predominant color of clothing in this room?"

Almost every time, 99 percent of the clothing will be black. "Black," they reply.

"These are your friends. They've come to see you off," I tell them, but I also give them a chance. "It doesn't matter to me. We can either go beyond the veil, and everything you've done will be judged, even the things you don't think anyone knew about in college."

"I'll play the game!" they reply.

I had one person hold the line, saying, "I want to go with you." So, I took him backstage and got really close to him, then said, "Scream." And he screamed!

I left him back there, went back on stage, and said, "And the next person is ..." I wanted to give them a roller coaster.

So, I went up to Max and said, "Did I accomplish what you were looking for? Because it's your life we're gambling with. Do you care?"

"Oh, yeah!" he said.

I upscaled it from close-up to the stage, and the first time I did it, Eugene and Max were in the audience at the Inner Circle of Bizarre Magic. I handmade the cards. I don't anymore because it's insanity. I had even laminated them, but humidity caused them to become moist while transporting them from Massachusetts to Connecticut.

When I did the count, I was off by one, which would have worked for Kenton Knepper. Unfortunately, Max being Max and having seen it before, he knew that I had falsely counted. When he went up to introduce the next act he said, "Well, we have people doing many different things and some vampires that know how to count."

"You had to call me out on that, didn't you?" I told him.

But when we were done, he grabbed me by the shoulder and said, "Come with me."

"What do you need?"

"Eugene, come along." Then he grabbed Bob Neale, and we went off into a side room. "Your routine is too good to ever have that problem again, and we're going to fix that."

If he didn't care, I thought he could have just said, "Figure it out," rather than, "I'm

going to spend some time and fix this for you.”

I felt it needed to be like the original. The original version was on a tabletop, which would be fine if there were ten people. But in a room with seventy-five people, I had to upsize it. I created an upright clock board to make it more visual. I wanted it to be a nod to my rather Victorian character. I also wanted it to have an Old West “undertaker” feel with burned wood and small-toe pincher coffins.

And that’s the thing: if you’re the incarnation of death and you’re going to play a game with them, the game is going to have game pieces, like coffin-shaped cards. The subtext is that there might be a slight chance you redeem yourself and get out of it. Hopefully, it’s hilarious ... if you’re not the victim.

So, where do I see Vlad today?

I’ve carried this character a long way, and there’s been talk of passing the baton. As it was, I’ve got a new approach with a few gray hairs and a smoking jacket. Thankfully, in the scheme of bizarre, I’ve had the privilege of working with Max Maven, Eugene Burger, Ormond McGill, Ed Solomon, Brother Shadow, and Joe Lantieri, as well as chatting with Gene Ponc. I spent time with all of them.

Looking back, we can all justify our scripts and acting. As a performer or actor, the problem comes when you must fight against audience perceptions. The performance starts to waiver, you’re skewing their vision, and they’ve already decided.

For audiences, vampires are timeless. Most people who watch Hollywood horror feel that vampires shouldn’t be enjoying life. Vampires are supposed to weigh a hundred pounds, have really long hair, and be perpetually twenty years old. As far as performers who could pick up the Gothic mantle, I could see Christopher Bogucki and, as he kindly asked my permission, Dee Christopher, because he wants to go from being Gothic to doing a vampire persona. “Do I have your blessing if I do it?” he asked me.

“Brother, go with it,” I told him.

I’ve decided that instead of the vampire thing, to use Professor BC’s term, I’ll become a phasmologist: someone who works with phantoms and spirits, like a ghost host. So now I’m sort of the eternal occult master of Downton Abbey.

I’ll still be Vlad, instead of “vampiric,” which has its own framework (i.e., you can’t do A, B, C, or D because it’s not part of the vampire mythos). I’ve opened it up to spectral phenomena, so I can deal with anything that’s otherworldly, you know?

Thinking back to when I was spending time with him, I didn’t know then where Jeff was in the hierarchy. I mean, I knew him as a friend before I knew him as a full-scale mentor. I forget sometimes that when I’m in full “Vlad,” some people will say, “I don’t know if I have permission to go over and talk to Vlad.” I don’t do it on purpose. It’s just sort of who and what I am.

I’ve always been open to brainstorming, sharing my knowledge, and talking concepts because I was blessed to spend time with Max and Eugene, Brother Shadow, and Ed Solomon. All of them were grand gentlemen who would answer whatever questions or thoughts you brought to them. (With Max, you had to make sure you phrased it correctly!)

I try to pass it on. If I can help someone else and save them time, so they’re not climbing the ladder by themselves without knowing what bookshelf to reach for, I’ll do as much as I can.

It’s always given me something to look forward to, and the experience is like the Uta Hagan thing. There’s no greater exhilaration than the roars from the crowd and their applause. I’ve always wanted to help people be better performers. It elevates the rest of us because there’s no worrying about someone taking your spot. There’s room for everyone inside – as Eugene called it – the mansion of magic.

Vincent Price was one of my first inspirations. I want to think that maybe he’s looking down from somewhere and thinks I’m doing a good job.



Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

No Go Status Quo

The prime barrier to any organization's growth is the formidable and ever-present status quo. Imagine, if you will, a ship securely anchored in a safe, quiet harbor drifting placidly around her seated anchors. The merchant sailors who care for it happily spend their evenings in the quaint harbor village. The ship's embedded anchor protects the ship and its crew from the risks and dangers of the open sea. This anchor also keeps the ship and its crew from the profits and opportunities waiting beyond the protective walls of the harbor. Our clubs face the same situation when we limit our growth with the anchor called status quo.

Stubbornly sticking to the way we've always done things sets us on the path to failure. Change bridges the gap between what is and what could be. Without change, this gap simply widens. It is basic human nature to grudgingly accept it only when the pain associated with maintaining the status quo exceeds the inconvenience of change. Most of us are content to push the natural shelf life of a system, method, or approach well past its common-sense expiration date. There's a reason that we seldom see an AMC Pacer, Blackberry phone, or Macintosh computer today.

Strong leaders understand that change is inevitable. We also know that the best and most difficult time to implement a beneficial change is before current conditions begin to deteriorate. How do we encourage our members to consider and accept change when everything is purring along smoothly?

Create a culture of change. Maintain an environment that promotes change. Nominate officers and appoint committee chairs who display a level of enthusiasm for change and flexibility. Remain open to new ideas. Encourage member suggestions, complaints, and supportive comments.

Create a plan. Promoting change when things are good takes careful planning. Identify the necessary changes that they support the club's goals. Prepare for the impact the change may have on club members and operations. Present the plan in a way that minimizes irritation among the members.

Define a series of small incremental objectives. Implementing small changes over time is preferable to introducing major changes all at once. A timeline detailing the order of these smaller changes such as addressing member feedback, officer training, and committee assignments provides a roadmap for other officers, change leaders, and members to follow. Clear objectives provide a means of tracking and measuring progress.

Communicate! We court failure by planning changes behind closed doors. Keep the lines of member communication open. Encourage members to view the future path of the status quo through your eyes. Explain how current conditions may slowly begin to erode or how the club's current path blocks certain types of growth and rewards.

Prepare for member resistance. Anticipate potential arguments against the proposed change with prepared responses.

Encourage members' feedback and input on the proposed change. Most members will join you in looking for ways to move forward once they understand the potential benefits.

Show your passion! You're a leader! Members look up to you. If you believe that this change will benefit the club and its members, then start slowly pushing the idea into their consciousness. Gradually point out your concerns with the status quo. Identify the club's growth needs that are going unmet by current conditions, policies, and procedures. If you lack a genuine passion for the benefits waiting beyond the change, then perhaps the situation isn't as dire as you first thought.

Focus on the cause. Guiding our members to focus on the inadequacies of the status quo rather than its benefits solidifies the need for change. Don't lose focus with attempts to tweak and repair the status quo. This may keep the peace, but it delays our quest for innovation and prolongs the inevitable. Relentlessly focusing on the cause maintains our drive to bridge the gap between what is and what needs to be.

Talk about why. Discussing "What" and "How" is important, but these concerns are unimportant at this point. Sure, we have a carefully thought-out plan to implement this change, but this isn't the time to bring it out. Our prime goal at this point is helping our members understand why we see a need to upset the comfort and security of their status quo. At this point, all our members care about is the why.

Appoint change leaders. Recruit passionate members to lead the changes. Bring them into the project at the very beginning. Explain the reasons behind the changes along with a very general outline of how you would like implementation to

proceed. Then step back and allow them to take charge. Guide their progress, but don't micromanage. Allowing members to lead the way makes it easier for other members to accept.

Launch. Once your members are on board and your plans are set, implement the changes in small increments over time. Invite and respond to member feedback.

Evaluate. Periodically evaluate the progress of the changes. Are they achieving their intended goals? How well are members and officers adapting to them? Keeping a close watch on the club's progress helps us to identify and fix any mistakes we hadn't anticipated.

Celebrate success! Celebrate key milestones and goal achievements. This echoes back to creating a positive culture around change. Members are more likely to accept future changes when they see and celebrate the success of their current efforts. Each celebrated experience builds members' trust in our leadership. They make the next change easier to accept. This forward momentum makes members less likely to settle back into the false comfort of the status quo.

There are other ways to break our love affair with the status quo, but these steps offer the greatest success with the least resistance in navigating change. Avoid the stagnation of the status quo. Lift that anchor! Sail on!

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.

Sign up 1!

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



Teaching Magic

ROBERT DURANTE

Future Six

EFFECT: Tell your audience you had a strange feeling about a “number.” You were so disturbed by it that you wrote a thought down and placed it in this envelope. “Who knows, maybe in our dreams we can go into the future.” Bring up a helper and ask them to make three piles of cards. As they follow your story, they will be surprised you had the number before they did. Maybe you did go into the future, since your prediction was 100 percent accurate.

PREPARATION: A deck of cards and a piece of paper that says “You Will Have SIX Cards.” You can have an envelope all sealed up, or even mailed ahead of time to your host. Inside the envelope is the prediction.

PRESENTATION: Ask your helper to shuffle the deck. Then, ask them to think of a number between 5 and 15. Once they have a number in mind, ask them to deal three piles of cards, each having the same number they thought of. Turn your back while they do this. At the end, turn around and tell your helper to take two cards from the left pile and two cards from the right pile. They place them on top of the middle pile. Now ask them to take the pile on the left and put it back on the remainder of the deck. Next, ask your helper to count how

many cards are in their right pile. Once they know the number of cards, have them remove that many cards from the middle pile. Then they take the cards still remaining from the right pile and put them with the cards you just had them remove from the middle pile.

Place this entire packet onto the deck. **Situation Check:** Only the middle pile is left on the table. Ask them to count how many cards are in the pile. It will always contain six cards. If you are working with advanced students, you can have the four twos in the bottom portion of the deck. Now, after the three piles of cards have been dealt, talk about using a random number. As you speak, you are looking for a two and getting ready to use your favorite force for them to pick it. The cross-cut force is perfect for this. The number two seems random when you ask them to remove the two cards from the left and right piles. This gets your students to learn how to display cards neatly, and also gets them thinking about the best way to send or write their prediction. It allows people to see math in action and that math can be fun.

Until next time, practice your magic.

Bob Durante

bobdurante55@gmail.com



Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



The “Sympathetic Coin” effect, more commonly known as the “Coin Matrix,” was a significant invention in the history of magic. It was first performed by the Italian magician Yank Hoe in the United States in 1891. This effect, a variation of an old parlor trick with corks and hats, was later exposed by John Northern Hilliard in the September 1904 issue of *Magic* as “The Mysterious Coins.”

The connection between the calendar and a deck of playing cards is truly remarkable. The two colors of red and black correspond to the days and nights, with four suits representing the four seasons. Thirteen values in each suit correspond to the thirteen weeks in each quarter plus the thirteen lunar cycles. Twelve court cards reflect the twelve months in a year, and the fifty-two cards in a deck correspond to the fifty-two weeks in a year.

In addition, if you add up all the values in a deck of playing cards, considering that 11 represents jack, 12 the queen, and 13 for the king, and add one joker, you end up with a total of 365, the same number of days in a year. Of course, most packs come with one or two jokers, and this added joker reflects the leap year.

Paul Fleming, in addition to being a magician and running a magic book business with his brother Walker Fleming, held a fascinating role as an economics professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

John Nevil Maskelyne played in the provinces of England for over eight years before opening at St. James Hall on April 1, 1873.

Conjuring was taught in special schools among the Greeks. Among the Greek conjurers were Xenophon from Athens, Cratisthenes of Philias, and Diopieithes of Locris.

Joseph Balsamo, also known as Count Cagliostro, was a controversial figure in the history of magic. He claimed to make older women young again and founded a mysterious lodge where members would allegedly learn the secrets of living for five thousand years. This lodge, shrouded in mystery and intrigue, added to the enigma surrounding Cagliostro and his magical claims.

Will Goldston used the pseudonym Van Dyke Brown and made his professional debut as a magician using the stage name Carl Devo.

Joe Hernandez is the author of *Magic Babylon: 1,001 Strange Conjuring Facts, Fallacies, and Tales*, available from your favorite magic dealer, Amazon, or Barnes & Noble.

International Brotherhood of Magicians
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
July 11, 2024
Tacoma, Washington – 11:15 a.m.



Call to Order:

The Annual Business Meeting of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (I.B.M.) was held on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Marriott Downtown Tacoma. The meeting was called to order by International President Mr. Charles Arkin at 11:18 am (PDT). International Secretary, Ms. Simone Marron was present to record the Minutes, and declared a quorum.

Approval of Minutes from 2023 Annual Business Meeting

The Minutes from the 2023 Annual Business Meeting were approved by unanimous consent, and the Minutes Approval Committee was discharged from its duties.

Roll Call:

The following members were in attendance:

Board Members – Mr. Charles Arkin, Mr. Mike Dunagan, Mr. Stephen Levine, Ms. Simone Marron, Mr. Mike Woodward, Mr. Dwight E. Redman, Mr. Jason Michaels, Mr. Keith Fields, Mr. David Garrard, Mr. Jeff Sobel, Mr. Scott Cantrell, Mr. Rolando Santos, Mr. William Evans, Mr. Shawn Farquhar, Mr. Oscar Munoz, Mr. Joe M. Turner, and Mr. Alex Zander.

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

Appointment of a Minutes Approval Committee:

International President Mr. Charles Arkin appointed Mr. Scott Cantrell, Mr. Jason Michaels, and Mr. Keith Fields to the Minutes Approval Committee.

Adoption of Agenda:

The following items were added to the agenda which was then adopted by unanimous consent.

- Recognition Award
- Honorary Membership Nomination (old business) – Scott Cantrell

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. Charles Arkin. Mr. Arkin has traveled extensively over the past year and has attended fourteen conventions and been part of frequent meetings on Zoom. Mr. Arkin thanked his wife Lori for her patience and support, and also thanked his officers, Board Members and advisors.

Mr. Arkin announced the presentation of a recognition award to Dave Steiner on his retirement, after providing the I.B.M. with accounting services for many years.

International President-Elect – Mr. Mike Dunagan. Mr. Dunagan has been coordinating an enthusiastic group of VIPs for the current convention. As chair of the Life Member committee, he stated that this program was revamped in 2021, and since then has grown by an average of twenty-two members each year. In the first 6 months of 2024, there have been seventeen new members. Mr. Dunagan is excited about the year to come.

International Vice President/Legal Advisor – Mr. Stephen Levine. Mr. Levine has been working with Mr. Dunagan on their role transitions. He is excited about helping to grow membership and Rings. Mr. Levine has also been a large part of the restarting of the Ring in Tucson. He is also serving as co-chair for the convention.

As Legal Advisor, Mr. Levine stated that this is his seventh year as Legal Advisor, and he will be stepping down in 2025 for his presidential year. During the past year, Mr. Levine has been going through convention and hotel contracts, and providing letters of endorsement for international members to help them get visas. He provides about fifteen to twenty a year. He also works on trademark copyright and other legal issues.

International Treasurer – Mr. Mike Woodward. Mr. Woodward stated that there is sufficient money for the short term. Membership continues to decline along with membership revenue. The I.B.M. has a healthy investment portfolio which has been used to supplement the decrease in membership revenue. The organization is in a similar financial position to last year and is always looking at additional revenue streams.

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, including booking of convention dealers. She also writes up the Minutes for the four live annual meetings and prepares The Big Book of Reports.

Reports of Committees & Cost Centers

Convention – Mr. Oscar Munoz & Mr. Stephen Levine. The co-chairs thanked everyone for working together and putting the I.B.M. first. The convention is doing great. It is becoming harder to negotiate with hotels. The 2025 convention will be at the Royal Sonesta in Houston, Texas from July 9-12, 2025, and registration will open on Saturday at a special price of \$275 for that day only. The price will increase by \$50 the next day. A special registration price of \$200 for life members will be available through the end of August. The site inspection team is hoping to lock down the 2026 location within four to six weeks.

Membership Committee – Mr. Oscar Munoz. Membership numbers continue to decline but are showing an increase with the addition of the British Ring members.

Executive Editor of *The Linking Ring* – Mr. Sammy Smith. Mr. Smith reported that he is looking for articles, content, and product reviews. He encourages magic product producers to send in items for review.

Mr. Smith would like to recognize that Dr. Steven Schlanger has proofread over four million words and is much appreciated. Dr. Schlanger also uploads Ring Reports to the I.B.M. website.

Head Office International Executive Secretary – Mrs. Sindie Richison. Mrs. Richison reported that the office had a visit from International President Charles Arkin and International Secretary Simone Marron, which resulted in an upgrade to new computers.

Mrs. Richison is currently working on updating her procedure manual and is in the process of producing new life membership cards. The office has been experiencing some email issues that have mostly been resolved. Mrs. Richison requests that if you don't get a reply to your email, please call the office.

Membership price increases took place on May 1st. A St. Louis news station called for an interview which was passed to the Marketing Committee. Mrs. Richison stated that we are all part of a family that make the wheel run.

Endowment & Development Fund – Mr. Bill Evans, Mr. Rolando Santos & Mr. Shawn Farquhar. The Endowment and Development Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization for education and sponsorships. The EDF currently sponsors the Lance Burton Teen Seminar which had 18 kids this year. The EDF is currently sponsoring Kayla Drescher's podcast and working on Gabriella Lester's 12-21 Project. They also have an association with a production company on a movie on the Magical Armstrongs, and once completed, the movie will be uploaded to the I.B.M. website for Members. Other projects on the back burner will be reported on in the future. The EDF currently has \$1.2 million in their investment account.

Ring Coordinator – Mr. Shawn Farquhar – Mr. Farquhar is currently focusing efforts on international rings in India, South Africa, and Spain. We now have two Rings in Spain in Barcelona and Zaragoza. Mr. Farquhar is also looking into ways to make membership more affordable for third world countries.

Order of Merlin – Mr. Shawn Farquhar. Mr. Farquhar stated that 429 new Merlin members will be inducted this year, and that there will be many fun things coming out later in the year.

FISM Report – Mr. Erik Tait. Mr. Shawn Farquhar stated in Mr. Tait's absence that the I.B.M. will be submitting a letter of intent to FISM to host the North American FISM Championship contest in 2027.

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

TVP/Ring Counselor – Mr. Jeff Sobel. Mr. Sobel stated that he is honored to be the TVP Ring Counselor. He stated that the TVPs are an important pillar of the I.B.M. He thanked Mr. Alan Fisher for co-chairing. Mr. Sobel has been attempting to call and connect with existing TVPs. He is committed to quarterly meetings with TVP's on Zoom. Mr. Sobel stated that about 30% of TVP positions remain unfilled, and he is actively looking for candidates.

Awards Committee – Ms. Melody Munoz. Mrs. Munoz was not present at the meeting, but her report is in The Big Book of Reports.

Marketing Committee – Mr. Jason Michaels. Mr. Michaels stated that the Marketing Committee is on a roll. Communication is constant with the monthly newsletter that is being sent to members in the database. The Ambassadors in Magic program has a monthly story in *The Linking Ring* by David Garrard. The convention has been heavily marketed, and the email database has been increased with click funnels. Two of the funnels that have been implemented are the Luis Carreon free magic which resulted in 500 emails, and the Erik Tait funnel which brought in 300 emails. Eighty-two new email addresses have been acquired through the social media campaign this week. Email addresses mean new members and new convention attendees.

The marketing team is currently working on selecting a new platform for the I.B.M. website with much better technology. It will be much easier to renew memberships and register for conventions.

Grievance Committee – Mr. Bill Evans – An ethics complaint was reviewed and forwarded to the Grievance Committee. This matter is currently in the appeals process timeframe. At the hearing a sixty-day timeframe was given for an appeal to the Board of Directors on the Grievance Committee's decision, which will expire tomorrow. A further report will be made at tomorrow's Board Meeting.

Necrology Service

The necrology service and breaking of the wand ceremony was carried out by Mr. Rolando Santos, Mr. Bill Evans, and Mr. Alex Zander, 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:

Linking Ring Awards 2024

THE LINKING RING AWARD OF EXCELLENCE	CHRIS WARDLE “One-Man Parade” October 2023	MICHAEL TULKOFF “My Mentor Joe, the I.B.M., and Why You Need Your Joe Too” January 2024
JOHN COX “Saving Houdini’s Voice” May 2023	GARNETT GARVEN “A Mathemagic Parade” November 2023	THOMAS HENRY Outstanding Contributions to <i>The Linking Ring</i> 2023–2024
CYRIL “CJ” MAY “Green Magic” 2021–2023	PHILIP HENDERSON “Believe in Your Character” November 2023	
DAN KAMIN “Houdini’s Message from Beyond the Grave” June 2023	ADELE FRIEL RHINDRESS “Offstage with Harry Blackstone” December 2023	BAMMAN-WILLMARTH TROPHY SKIP WAY “Polishing the Rings” 2012–2024

Old Business:

Honorary Membership: A motion was made at the Board Meeting yesterday to confer an Honorary Membership for Past International President Mike Stratman. The following motion was voted on at today’s meeting by the membership.

MOTION: That Past International President Mr. Mike Stratman receive an honorary membership to the International Brotherhood of Magicians.
Motion carried unanimously.

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. Charles Arkin.

International President:	Mr. Mike Dunagan
International President Elect:	Mr. Stephen Levine
International Vice President:	Mr. Jason Michaels
International Treasurer:	Mr. Charles Arkin
International Secretary:	Ms. Simone Marron
Executive Committee:	Mr. Matt Stanley 2024-2027
Executive Committee:	Mr. Mike Woodward 2024-2027

There being no further business to come before the members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the International President, Mr. Charles Arkin adjourned the meeting at 12:51 PM. (PDT) by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Simone Marron
I.B.M. International Secretary



Sick and Convalescent

I.B.M. MEMBERS

SICK AND CONVALESCENT COMMITTEE JIM SHORT/CHAIRMAN

12616 Whispering Hollow Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73142 • jimshort@flash.net

KEVIN CARNEY 101 Rue De LaPaix, Slidell, LA 70458 • kmcarney@charter.net

JOE M. TURNER 2985 Feathers Chapel Dr., Somerville, TN 38068 • jmt@turnermagic.com

Send Mail To:

Paul Barton, 4706 Mount St Helens Way, San Diego, CA 92117-3029

Richard Bohlman, 201 Hickory Circle, Live Oaks Place, Pearl, MS 39208-8081

Philip Vanderbilt Brady, 215 Cannon St., Georgetown, SC 29440

Malcom Campbell, 2505 Old Quarry Road, #1518, San Diego, CA 92108

Kenneth John Capman, 2007 Brook Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

John William Cheek, Pomeroy Living, Bed D42, 3500 W. South Boulevard,
Rochester Hills, MI 48307.

Tom Gibson, 8161 Highway 100 #216, Nashville, TN 37221-4213

Sanford Gladden, P.O. Box 788, Riverview, FL 33569

Grant Golden, 315 Cypress St., Pekin, IL 61554-2509

Ulfat Kabir, Rupayan Nilufar, Flat C:7, House:14/15, Block: D, Road:1,
Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Elton Kelly, 712 Hewlett Street, Bakersfield, CA 93309

Manfred Losch, Daughters of Israel Nursing Home, 1155 Pleasant Valley Way,
West Orange, NJ 07052

Simon Lovell, c/o Tont Lovell, 10, Audley Rd., Great Leighs Chelmsford,
Essex, CM3, England

Marvin Mathena, 45900 Geddes Rd., Canton, MI 48188-2306

Harry Monti, 803 Sherwick Terrace, Manchester, MO 63021

David O'Connor, 16 Olympic Place, Sinnamon Park, Brisbane, Qld 4073, Australia

Phil Perkins, The Springs of Lady Lake, 620 Griffin Ave., Lady Lake, FL 32159

Chuck Welch, 4855 N. Loudon Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401

Emory Williams, Post Office Box 396, Vail, AZ 85641



Doug Edwards MINI-PARADE

Written by Doug Edwards • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen
• Illustrated by Tony Dunn

BIO: Doug Edwards has been in magic for sixty years. He is a recognized icon who has made vast contributions to our art. Doug has published effects in *The Linking Ring*, *Genii*, *Magic*, *MUM*, *Labyrinth*, *Mr. Gadfly*, etc. He was the most prolific contributor to Harry Lorayne's *Apocalypse* magazine, where he published more original concepts than any other individual since the magazine's inception in 1977. His "Really Haunted" effect is in the Tannen's *Stars of Magic* series and continues to be a top seller. Doug's first book *Cardmania* was published in 1978. His next book, *Doug Edwards Packs A Wallop*, was published by L&L in 1997. *Brass Knuckles* was published by Collector's Workshop in 2006 and his fourth book, *Nukes*, was published by Vanishing Inc. in 2013. Dan Garrett featured him in his "World Class Magic" column in the January and February issues of *MUM* magazine in 2003. The Tenyo Magic Co. put out their rendition of his famous effect "Wonder – Pen – etration" in their 2004 line. It was their number one seller of all the effects released that year! Doug was also one of the first to publish articles and original effects online long before the advent of YouTube.



Doug is not only an inventor, but also a performer and collector. He has performed on *The Regis Philbin Show*, *The Joe Franklin Show*, *Good Day New York*, the Matt Lauer show, and many others, as well as acted on the soap opera *Guiding Light*.

Doug currently boasts a magic collection worth three million dollars. In 1994, Doug sold the largest Cardini collection in the world to David Copperfield. In 1996, Doug sold Copperfield his Roy Benson and Arthur Lloyd collections. In October of 2001, Doug put up one of the largest Houdini collections for sale at Swann Galleries. When asked about his favorite items currently in his collection, he was quick to mention Kepplinger's original card holdout and fifty-five rare Prediction Chests. His favorite non-magic collectible is the

Pittsburgh Pirates cap worn by baseball legend Roberto Clemente from the time he played in the 1971 World Series until his untimely death in December 1972.

In the September/October 1983 issue of *Magic Manuscript*, Frank Garcia mentioned Doug in his "New York News" column: "Performing regularly at night clubs and private functions is magician/collector Doug Edwards. Clever chap Doug has been in the magic scene for twenty years and today is considered a walking compendium in the art of magic."

DOUG'S DOUBLE DECK DAZZLER

EFFECT: The performer introduces two decks of contrasting back design. Two spectators select a card, one from each deck, and lose their selections in their respective decks. The performer briefly weaves the two packs together, but separates them before finishing the shuffle. He spreads both packs simultaneously face down on the table and reveals that the selected cards have reversed themselves in each deck. When the selections are withdrawn and turned over, their back designs appear to have transposed as well.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: The selections are forced, and it's a pair of duplicates from each deck that are produced at the end. To prepare, remove two contrasting cards, one from each deck. Let us assume for teaching purposes you extract the 4C from a blue deck and the JD from a red deck. Load the blue-backed 4C five or six cards from the face of the red deck and the red backed JD five or six cards from the face of the blue deck. These stranger cards are placed face up in their face-down decks to prepare for the finish.

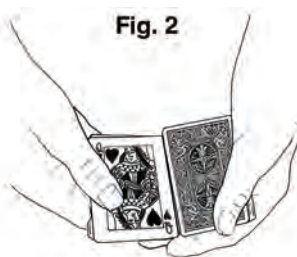
Next, find the red-backed 4C and place it face down on top of the red deck. Find the blue-backed JD and place it tenth from the top of the blue deck. You will force these du-

plicates of the stranger cards. Place the decks in their respective cases until you are ready to perform.

When it is time to present this effect, bring out the two cased packs and remove them from their cases. You can spread each deck face down to show all backs and briefly flash the faces if you take care to keep the bottom ten or so cards in a block as you spread. Table the packs.

Invite a spectator to choose one of the packs, and make it clear that he will choose a card from whichever pack he decides upon. Let us say he chooses the red pack. Thus you will now force the top card, the 4C.

The force I use for this effect is Tony Kardyro's. Here is a quick description: Hold the deck in dealing position in your left hand. Riffle down the outer left corner, with your left thumb, and invite the spectator to tell you when to stop. When they stop you, insert your right thumb into the pack at that point to mark the stoppage. Your right hand now grasps the left side of that upper packet, seizing the cards above with your right thumb and forefinger (**Fig. 1**). Turn those cards face up as if you are opening a book (**Fig. 2**). As the face-up cards become almost parallel with the face-down half, the left fingers push up on the leftmost side of the face-up cards, causing them to flip face down into your right hand. Roughly squeeze the right-hand cards square and offer the top card of



that half to your spectator as their “free” selection (**Fig. 3**). Despite the length of this description, the whole process takes no more than three seconds in action and looks quite fair to a layperson.

Ask the spectator to remember and place it in the center of the cards he holds and cut them if he likes. Retrieve his cards from him and drop the cards you hold on top of his, assembling the deck and at the same time centering the reversed stranger for the finale.

Invite another spectator to select a card from the blue deck. This time I use the ancient 10-20 force. Again, in brief: ask your selector to name a number from 10 to 20. Count that many cards from the top of the blue deck into a pile on the table, reversing their order. Pick up the counted cards, make some comment about adding the digits as in numerology, then count off into a pile an amount that equals the sum of the digits in the spectator's original number. (For instance, if he chose 13, $1+3=4$, so count off 4 cards.) The final card of this count is the force card and shown to your spectator.

When your second helper has memorized his selection, hand him all the cards you counted including the force card and invite him to mix these cards. When he is done, drop the rest of the blue deck onto the counted cards, which will again tend to centralize the stranger JD.

Stress the fact that the chosen cards have been lost in their packs by the spectators themselves, but that you will find the cards in a very unusual manner. Take one deck in each hand and start a table riffle shuffle, butting the ends of the decks together, then separate them. Snap your fingers or use some other magical gesture, then simultaneously spread each deck face down on the table revealing the face up stranger cards you planted secretly (**Fig.4**). After the two helpers confirm that these are their noted cards, point out that thanks to the brief mingling of the packs, something truly strange has happened. Turn the selections face down and show that their back designs have magically transposed. You can return the selections to their matching decks if you wish to

perform more tricks with these packs. Both decks may now be examined.

Credits: The Kardyro force appears in “*Kardyro’s Kard Konjuring*.” The 10-20 force can be found in *Scarne on Card Tricks*, *Encyclopedia of Card Tricks*, and other tomes too numerous to mention. Of course you can substitute other forces, but I have found these two fit this routine well.

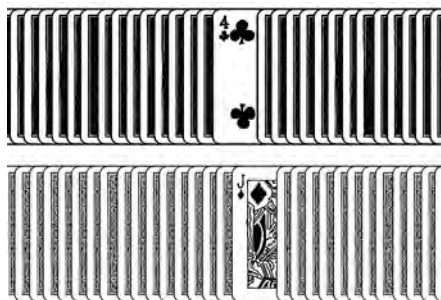


Fig. 4

AN OPENER TO REMEMBER

EFFECT: The performer places a cased deck on the table and asks a spectator to name a card. He removes the pack from its case and despite not looking at the faces of the cards produces the selection in a striking and often personalized manner.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: As you might have guessed, the deck is in a memorized order and the performer takes advantage of outs and circumstances to produce the selection. I’m including this because I want to share with you a few novel approaches to this problem.

First, let’s consider the stack. I use Juan Tamariz’s Mnemonica stack for a few reasons. It’s easy to make the set-up from new deck order and/or convert it to a Stay Stack. More important for me is the fact that a few commonly named cards happen to lie in certain fortuitous positions. I’ve based my presentations on this last fact.

Two of the most common choices among laypeople are the QH and the AS. These cards happen to lie in the eleventh and seventh positions, respectively.

So, if the QH is named, it's in position for a psychological stop effect. Take the pack from its case and start dealing cards into a face-down pile on the table. As you deal the eighth card, ask the selector to say "stop" at any time. Generally she will stop you in the next few cards. If you are stopped on the eleventh card, ask for the card to be named again and turn it over as dramatically as you can. If the stop comes at ten, turn the next card. If it comes at nine, double lift. If it comes at twelve, pick up the tabled pile and double lift. There is a cute approach for the thirteenth card. Place the talon down on the table alongside the dealt pile and turn over the top card of each pile, exposing the QC and 8H. Patter, "You did say the QH, didn't you?" After a pause, pick up the dealt pile less the QC and double lift to show the QH.

By now the approach should be clear. I want to get to the target card as directly as possible. I am willing to use sleights if need be and I don't care about blowing the stack. I generally use this as an opener or in certain casual surroundings as my only effect. In either case, I want this effect to be as powerful as can be.

Now let's consider the AS. At seventh from the top, you may use a similar approach to that of the QH. For details you can check Harry Lorayne's effect "Out of My Control" from *My Favorite Card Tricks* or *The Classic Collection Volume 1*.

Let's consider a few other common choices. The AC is 43rd from the top, which equals 10th from the bottom. You can turn the pack face up and spell to it. The AD is 39th, or 14th from the bottom. Again you can turn the deck face up and spell to it, as the AD will appear after the final "s." The AH is second from the bottom. You can show the card on the bottom of the deck, the 9D, and switch it for the AH via the Glide. Or, perform a second deal, with the AH instantly produced from the seemingly center of the deck.

The QS is 5th from the face; you can spell Q-U-E-E-N from the bottom. The QD is 7th from the face; the Lorayne psychological stop will work as well here as for the AS.

The QC at 13th from the top can be spelled if you turn the next card. The 8H at 14th can be treated the same way. The 4H is fifth from the top; you can use Eddie Fields' idea from "Cool Spell" in *The Artful Dodges of Eddie Fields* and ask for the selector's name if she is female or ask a man to give his wife's (mother's, girlfriend's) name and spell to that.

The KD is 26th, exact center. You can cut at center, relying on your "sensitive fingers."

So much for the easy ones. What about a random card near the center? Just recall its stack number and cut it by estimation to a spot near the top of the deck. Glimpse the bottom card, whose stack number and a bit of subtraction will tell you how far from the top the target card is. Once you know the target's new position you can use one of the strategies above to reveal it.

Let's backtrack for a second. Here are a couple of ideas to heighten the effect if one of the most common cards is named. I've inscribed the initials "QH" on the inside of my cardcase flap as in Paul Harris' effect "Overkill." If the QH is named I can show the initials on the flap even if I'm not using a stacked deck. I've also scratched "QH" on an old house key using a penknife and a stencil. And I just happen to have an old fashioned locker key with the number 11 embossed on it. If the QH is named I reveal the key and count to the QH. (If you think I use this item often, you are quite right!)

If you use the Aronson Stack, you can easily adapt these ideas to fit. The cards at stack numbers 10-15 are in position to be spelled to and turned on the final "s." The QH is at 26. Oddly enough, the QS and 9D are in the same positions in Aronson as in Mnemonica! The AS is 6th in Aronson, a convenient spot. With some thought and a bit of effort, you can get just as good a result as with Mnemonica.

If this effect interests you but you don't want to go to the trouble to memorize a stack, you can study the effect "Calculated Risk" in *Close-Up Card Magic* or *The Classic Collection Volume One*. Two other effects you should be familiar with are

Vernon's "The Trick That Cannot Be Explained" from the Inner Secrets series and the classic Bert Allerton stabbing of a named card, described under the title "Tricks with a Stacked Deck" in *The Close-Up Magician*.

Not many will go to the trouble to learn and perform this effect. Those who do will be rewarded with a killer opener or interlude in their act.

DIRECT JACK SANDWICH

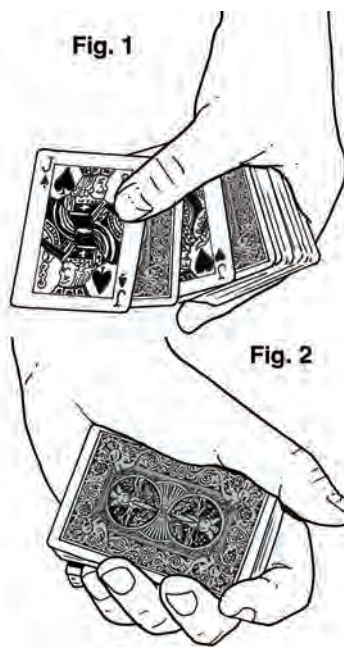
When I performed this for Harry Lorayne thirty years ago, he said this was the most direct version he had yet seen of his classic effect "One-Eyed Jack Sandwich." I've held off publishing my handling until now.

EFFECT: The performer removes the JH and JS, the so-called "one-eyed Jacks," from the pack. He places a card face down between the face-up jacks and loses the sandwich in the deck with a few cuts. A spectator notes a random card that is replaced in the pack. Nonetheless, when the sandwich is retrieved and the card between the jacks exposed, it proves to be the selected card!

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: The secret is delightfully simple. The card actually between the Jacks is controlled and forced while still sandwiched. Nothing could be more straightforward. (You will fool magicians who know the original effect because they will be expecting a move to switch the selection for the presumed dummy sandwich card.)

The presentation is virtually the same as in Harry's original. Start by openly removing the JH and JS and tabling them. Opening patter: "When you've done magic as long as I have, you learn a lot of strange things. This is one of them." Remove any face-down card and place it between the face-up jacks. Place the sandwich atop the deck and spread the first three cards, displaying the sandwich condition. In fact, refer to it as a sandwich (**Fig. 1**). As you square the cards, get a break under the uppermost jack and double cut to the break. Now undercut slightly more than half the cards to the top of the pack and hold a left little finger break (**Fig. 2**). You want

the card directly beneath the break, the force card, to be slightly below center.



You will now perform a standard Riffle Force of that sandwiched card. With the left thumb, start riffling down the outer left corner of the pack. As you get about a quarter of the way down the pack, ask the spectator to say stop anytime. Slow your riffle so you will not get past the break. (It's not a disaster if he stops you past the break, but it does increase the chance you will flash a reversed card.)

When he stops you, your right hand, from above, lifts off all the cards above the break exactly at the force card. Keep the upper half tilted front downward to conceal the reversed Jack at the bottom of the right hand's packet.

The timing of the next part is critical. Turn your head to the right while at the same time turning your left-hand palm down and pushing the left hand's lowermost card (the force card) toward the spectator, so she can note the index and remember the selection (**Fig. 3**). The turn of the head really sells the thing and makes what is seemingly a bit unnatural appear perfectly natural.

Fig. 3

The hard part is now over. When the spectator is finished noting the card, slide the card back square with the others and turn your left-hand palm up. Face forward again and drop the right hand's cards onto the left-hand packet and square the entire pack.

To end, recap the making of the sandwich and the selection of the card. Say, "Here's the part I don't understand." Spread the cards between your hands or on the table exposing the face-up sandwiched Jacks. Remove the face-down card from between those jacks (**Fig. 4**). Ask for the name of the selection. Say, "I'll never fathom how you knew the [repeat the name of the selection] was the sandwiched card!" Slowly turn over the selected card and bask in the reaction.

Fig. 4

CREDITS: The original effect appeared first in Harry Lorayne's book *My Favorite Card Tricks* and was redescribed in *The Classic Collection Volume One*. In the original write-up, Harry credits Al Leech with performing the effect for him. Lorayne streamlined the method and changed the presentation.

Knot Easy

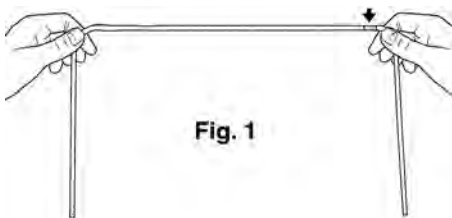
Auman created it! Hudson redesigned it! Tenkai sensationalized it!

The above refers to the vanishing of a loose overhand knot openly tied on a length of rope.

In the 1930s, Auman and Hudson had wire devices permanently built into the rope. Tenkai did it onstage, secretly employing a long length of thread running off stage. This thread kept the knot "in form" until it was released, thus causing the knot to collapse.

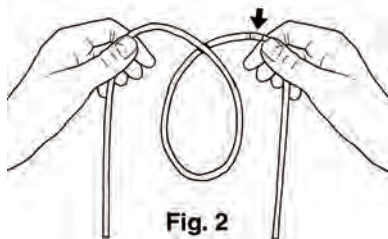
My method and handling uses a piece of rope that is 3 feet (91 cm) in length. The only preparation is to affix a small piece of magician's wax about two-thirds of the way down the rope. Because it only takes a second or two to position the wax, it can be done at a moment's notice with almost any type of rope.

To begin, hold the rope outstretched between both hands with the prepared/waxed part facing you (**Fig. 1**).

**Fig. 1**

Now, keeping the right hand stationary, move the left hand to the right (**Fig. 2**) and place the section it holds directly onto the wax.

Press hard with the right thumb to keep it in place (**Fig. 3**).

**Fig. 2**

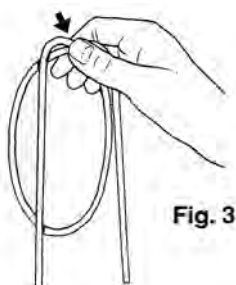


Fig. 3

With the middle finger of the left hand, pull the rope that hangs in the center (**Fig. 4**) completely through the loop (**Fig. 5**).

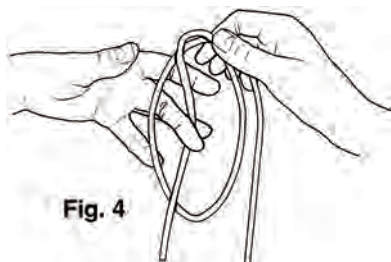


Fig. 4

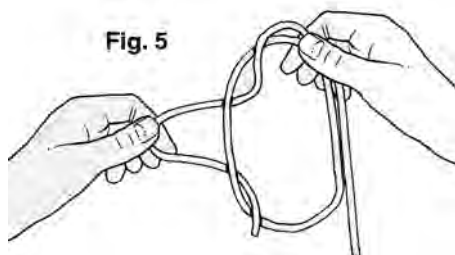


Fig. 5

You are now holding what appears to be a genuine knot (thanks to the wax!) tied openly in front of the audience (**Fig. 6**).

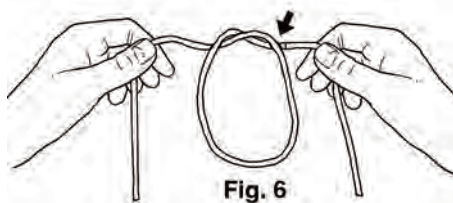


Fig. 6

To make the magic happen, simply flick both wrists outward and the rope will fly upwards in a startling way, seemingly of its own accord. The knot has vanished (**Fig. 7**)!

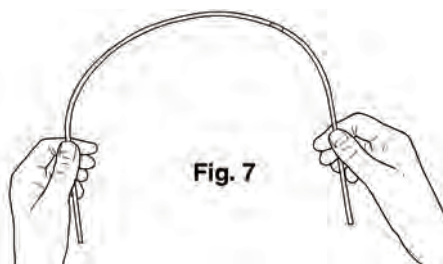


Fig. 7

Send comments and appreciations to:

Doug Edwards

houdiniking@mindspring.com

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Thomas Solomon Mini-Parade

Written by Thomas Solomon • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen
• Illustrated by Tony Dunn

BIO: Thomas Solomon is an award-winning magician and escape artist. He's performed throughout the world, on television with two network specials, on ships sailing with Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, and in theatres and nightclubs. His Off-Broadway show Theatre of the Macabre played Off-Broadway for three years in New York City, logging more than three thousand performances.

He's widely known for his spectacular escapes from handcuffs, jails, straitjackets, and other devices, as well as underwater handcuff escapes in the Hudson, Potomac, Delaware, Mississippi and several other rivers. He has performed numerous jailbreaks and his original handcuff escape act in police stations and on stage.

His network television special Thomas Solomon: The Escape Artist aired on Channel 4 in Great Britain and had Thomas travelling throughout London and its environs to escape from various restraints, including a locked safe underwater. Another network special, No Jail Can Hold Me, aired on The History Channel and featured Thomas' escapes from the historical leg irons of Billy the Kid in New Mexico, the handcuffs worn by Lewis Payne (one of the convicted co-conspirators in the Abraham Lincoln assassination plot), and the jail cell that held Al Capone at Eastern State Penitentiary in Pennsylvania.

Thomas' original magic and escape routines have been seen at several nightclubs, most notably The Limelight, MK, Mohegan Sun Casino, Mostly Magic, The Magic Castle, Coney Island Museum & Theatre, and Sparta Avenue Stage. He has also performed for TV on Channel 4, Channel 5, BBC, NHK, and The History Channel. He recently performed one of his original magic routines for Penn & Teller on their television show Penn & Teller: Fool Us.



All the President's Money

This effect is my routine for Pat Page's "Easy Money" in which four pieces of paper change into money. There are many later versions of Pat Page's original handling including Fred Kaps' "Flash Cash" and "Hundy 500." While the gimmick for Easy Money and Flash Cash is the same, Gregory Wilson, Richard Sanders and Karl Hein have also contributed changes to the gimmick. I construct my gimmick basing it off the Karl Hein version which is based on the Hundy 500.

I will not explain the construction of the gimmick as it is proprietary to the various individuals mentioned above. Suffice to say that you have many choices for the construction of the gimmick, and I would suggest you explore those options to learn the build. Though I have used Pat Page's construction technique I have moved toward Karl Hein's version of the gimmick. In this incarnation, five bills of a certain denomination change to five bills of a higher denomination, usually One-Dollar bills into One-Hundred Dollar bills. The very same construction that is used for the bills will be the same for my routine with Presidential portraits.

My presentation uses five pictures/portraits of United States Presidents that change into five currency bills that bear their image. The package you will create allows you to show the portraits before the change front and back and then the currency after the change, front and back.

The United States paper currency most in use has, as its central design, five United States Presidents: George Washington on the One-Dollar bill, Thomas Jefferson on the Two-Dollar bill, Abraham Lincoln on the Five-Dollar bill, Andrew Jackson on the Twenty-Dollar bill, and Ulysses Grant on the Fifty-Dollar bill. These are the bills that you will use to fit the theme of the routine. One thing to consider is the use of a Two-Dollar bill. While rarely seen, they do exist and are legal tender. If you have one or can get *one (from a bank or currency dealer)* you can use this. If not, you will need to use a second One, Five, Twenty or Fifty so that you have a total of five bills. All the bills should be new without wear and creases.

In my routine I do not use a Two-Dollar bill. Instead, I use two Twenty-Dollar bills. Others have used two Five-Dollar bills.

In case you are wondering, the Ten-Dollar and One-Hundred Dollar bills have portraits of Alexander Hamilton and Benjamin Franklin respectively and were not United States Presidents and would not fit the theme of the routine.

Once you locate the bills you can move on to sourcing the portraits. Ideally, you want an inexpensive hardcover book that has color portraits of the US Presidents on glossy paper with a little weight to it. A search on Amazon will find many inexpensive examples.

With the appropriate book in your possession, carefully remove the pages of your presidential portrait selections. You will select portraits of the five US Presidents that correspond to the bills. Books of this type will usually have multiple pictures of each president. You can use a second image if needed or in a pinch use another portrait of Adams, Jefferson, Madison, or Monroe. The discrepancy will not be noticed.

On a cutting board with a T-square, place one of the currency bills over the portrait. Because of the varying size and angle of the portraits, you may have to adjust the bill over the portrait. These portraits should be as large as the dimensions of the bill will allow, with no white space. You want the portraits to be easily seen and recognized by your audience. With a sharpie, and using the bill as your template, mark the corners with your pen and then using a ruler or T-square draw clean lines to each of the four points. Do this for all five portraits.

Then, using a sharp razor and your ruler again, cut cleanly along the lines being careful not to cut your fingers.

Once complete, you will have five portraits of Presidents, along with an additional portrait for the reverse. Total: Six. All will be the exact size of your bills.

In the beginning of the routine, you will show five portraits fanned in this order: Washington, (Adams, Jefferson, Madison, or Monroe) Lincoln, Jackson, and Grant. The sixth portrait is glued to the back in the final construction and that portrait is seen when pictures are folded and can be a duplicate of any one of the Presidents mentioned above.

Do not be concerned that the portraits you cut out of the book will have text or pictures on the reverse side. Your narrative will mention pictures taken from a book so the fact that there is information on the reverse of the portraits is to be expected.

Using the portraits and the bills, you now construct the set for your routine, using the basic set-up of Hundy 500 and Karl Hein's adaptation. This will also work with Pat Page's set-up if you choose to go that way.

When constructing the package use strong epoxy and make the creases sharp and the folds definite. Apply epoxy evenly and thinly getting as close to the edges as possible. Keep the glue thin, too thick and you will have wrinkling or bubbling of the paper. Once the epoxy is applied to the pictures and the bills, flatten the packet under a heavy book so it dries flat without seepage from the edges or glue marks. Store the

packet in the open position in your case. As Gene Anderson points out in his book, you want the ‘memory’ of the folded packet to be in the open position rather than folded.

You begin the routine with the packet in the left-hand fanning them to show the portraits of the five Presidents (**Fig. 1**). As you thumb off each one in the right hand you name the President showing it both sides and returning it to the fan. Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Jackson, and Grant. You close the fan and do the reverse turnover and a portrait (*your duplicate*) is still showing. You make the last fold which reveals the fan of currency (**Fig. 2**). Pause and then slowly fan them out showing the different denominations of bills. You may show each back and front or as a group turn the fan to show the backs.



Close the fan and place the currency into your pocket or wallet.

The crafting of this routine does require work, both in locating the right items and in the building, but it is worth it as you have a great presentational routine for what has already become a classic of magic.

Scotch & Soda with a

Good Book

Another favorite is my routine for the well-known “Scotch & Soda” coin trick long manufactured and marketed by Johnson Products and custom made by many coin craftsmen throughout the years.

My “Scotch & Soda” is a Morgan Silver Dollar shell with a Chinese coin that fits inside the shell, a copper Canadian coin on the heads side with its tails side the back of the Morgan Dollar along with an un-gimmicked copper Canadian matching coin and the necessary “bang ring.”

I will describe the following routine with the coins mentioned above.

Before introducing the effect or making any mention of the coins or a book, you must engage in some pre-show work. This work is as follows:

You ask the spectator to think of a three-digit number between One-Hundred and Five Hundred and handing them a pad and pen, you ask them to write down the number, tear out the paper, fold it and place it into their pocket. With an impression pad, you will gain knowledge of this number. You can also use a peek wallet or ask them for a selected number based on personal information that you already know (*e.g.: Multiply the day of your birth by twenty or fifty, etc., etc. Since you already know the day of their birth you can ascertain the sum*). Personally, I think the best method is to use an impression pad or a peek wallet to gain knowledge of the number.

Once you have the number, secretly load the un-gimmicked copper Canadian coin into your selected book at that page (*e.g.: selected number 525 would be page 525, etc.*)

Now, you are ready to introduce the effect.

Bring out the “Scotch and Soda” coins although you do not call them by that name. Simply introduce the Morgan Dollar and the Canadian coin. You place them on the table and then bring out a hardcover book. In the example pictures, I use a dictionary. You flip through the pages showing, by your actions, that it is a real book.

You close the book and place it on the table. Place both coins on top, the Morgan



Dollar, (shell—with or without the extra coin inside—in my case the Chinese coin) slightly overlapping the Canadian coin (**Fig. 1**) (with Morgan Dollar back on tails side).

You cover the Canadian coin with the Morgan and place your entire **left** hand over it, secretly applying pressure so that the coins lock (**Fig. 2**). You slowly lift your hand and only the Morgan Dollar sits on the cover (**Fig. 3**). You keep your hand slightly above the book with your palm down and then you turn the back of your hand to the audience, as your right hand lifts the Morgan Dollar off the book showing both sides that the Canadian coin has disappeared (**Fig. 4**). By the way you hold your left hand, the audience assumes the left hand is palming a coin. Slowly, you turn the left hand around showing the palm empty.

At this stage, you will get a gasp of surprise from the audience. One coin has disappeared.

You ask the spectator to remove the piece of paper from their pocket and open it, showing the number they selected. They name the number aloud, and you ask them to turn to that page in the book. The spectator turns openly to that page in the book, and there among the pages sits the Canadian coin (**Fig. 5**).

Routine Basics

You need the Scotch and Soda gimmicked coin set. These are ubiquitous in the world of magic and are easily attainable in a variety of versions. You do not need the insert coin that goes into the shell unless you want to make a change as well as a vanish.

You need either an impression pad in the vein of a Richard Osterland note-pad or a peek wallet or some other method of secretly gaining the identity of the three-digit number

the spectator has written down.

You need a hardcover book of comparable thickness, minimum five-hundred pages no more than six hundred. You can use a book of lesser pages, but you run the risk of the coin causing a break that can be seen on the edges. A hardcover book of a certain heaviness and page count will effectively hide the coin that is deposited within and the book sitting on the table with the coin loaded will give no indication of its location.

Also, it is important that you employ what Harry Lorayne used to call “time misdirection” between the act of a spectator thinking of a number and writing it down and your secretly getting that information **AND** the moment you do this effect. The goal here is not to hide its relation to the coin effect coming later but instead to “add some time” and with it some forgetfulness on the side of the spectator so that it cannot be easily reverse engineered.

When you ask for the number, you are at the end of the coin routine, about to open to that page in the book. You naturally want the spectator to forget some of the details of that selection—namely that you had them select a number between a range and also that you had them write their number on a pad before tearing out the piece of paper.

Instead, recount how “in the beginning” before any the show began, they selected a three-digit number and that they wrote this number on a piece of paper. They folded that paper and placed it into their pocket.

Send comments and appreciations to:

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MONT DUTSON MINI-PARADE

Written by Mont Dutson • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen • Illustrated by Tony Dunn

BIO: Salt Lake City, Utah, resident Mont Dutson (or, as his friends call him, “Mont Magic”) has been professionally performing magic for the past fifty years. As a young boy, early exposure to magicians created an ember of fascination that later fanned into the flame of magical creativity. While attending college at Brigham Young University, Dutson got a job as a waiter in the restaurant at film actor and director Robert Redford’s Sundance Ski Resort just outside of Provo, Utah. After Dutson performed for restaurant patrons, the chef hired him to do a magic show for his son’s birthday party. That was the beginning of a solid magical performance career. Mont performed part time during his twenty-nine-year career as an engineer for the E. I. DuPont Chemical Company. Upon retirement and moving back home to Salt Lake City, he took up performing full time. He has won several awards in local magic competitions and has been seen on TV. He has been a member of Rings 37 (Nashville, Tennessee), 8 (Columbia, Missouri), 165 (Collingswood, New Jersey), and is currently President of the Len and Thalia Swinyer Ring 193 in Salt Lake City.



Appearing Fast Food Straw

By Mont Dutson

Many years ago, when the appearing wooden pole made its debut, I never could think of a reason to pull a pole out of a bag. Yes, it was amazing, but I needed a reason.

One day, as I was passing through a small town in Iowa, I knew of a magic shop and decided to drop in. I noticed the wooden pole in the corner and asked the proprietor if that was the appearing pole (I had never seen one). He said yes and let me look at it. Then I noticed some other “poles” in the corner and asked what those are. He pointed to one with red and yellow stripes and said that it was a McDonald’s straw.

Instantly, an idea came into my mind. The idea finally made sense to have something giant appear out of a bag. What is more normal than pulling out hamburgers, fries, and a straw from a bag?

That’s how this routine of mine jumped into being and has served me well over these almost thirty years. I use it as an opener for the majority of my shows. Young and old alike are always amazed.

EFFECT: The magician explains he hasn’t had lunch yet and opens a fast-food bag. He removes a drink, hamburgers, and fries, but no straws or napkins. Upon closer inspection of the bag, he notices the straw he overlooked. He removes a fourteen-foot straw from the small bag.

REQUIREMENTS: Appearing McDonald’s straw. Large empty McDonald’s french fry box. Two Styrofoam (polystyrene) hamburgers wrapped in McDonald’s hamburger wrappers. A take-home McDonald’s paper bag, the medium-size one works well (**Fig. 1**). Two large steel bolt nuts. A large-size soft drink cup with lid. A string loop with a small paperclip hook secured to it.



Fig. 1

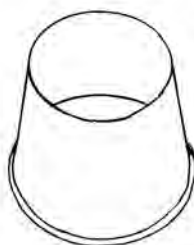


Fig. 2

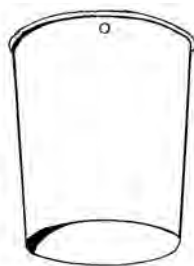


Fig. 3

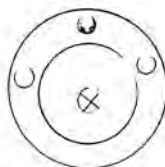


Fig. 4

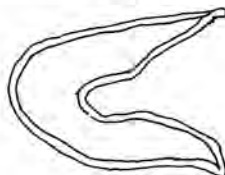


Fig. 5

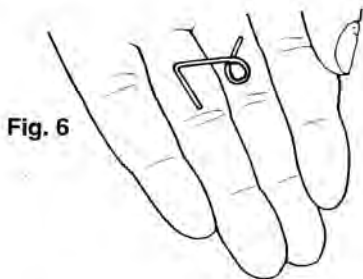


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

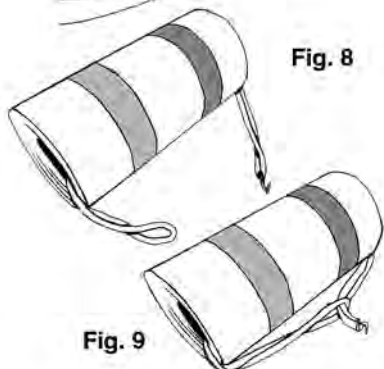


Fig. 8

Fig. 9

SET-UP:

The cup and straw: Take a large McDonald's drink cup and remove the flat bottom part of the cup (Fig. 2). Punch a hole in the upper side of the cup (Fig. 3). Take the lid and indent one of the blisters as a marker (Fig. 4). Take a length of string and tie it in a loop to make a release mechanism (Fig. 5). Take a paper clip and form a small hook (Fig. 6) and attach the hook permanently to the loop (Fig. 7). The length of this release mechanism should be long enough to go through the rolled-up straw and be able to go through the top of the loop with a short length of the loop showing the hook. So, insert the hook end of loop through the center of the rolled-up straw up through one end (Fig. 8) and bring the outside part of the loop up and put the hooked end through it (Figs. 9).

Take the straw and string loop inside the bottomless cup and position the hook through the punched hole near the top of the cup (Figs. 10, 11). This should leave you with a rolled-up straw hanging by the

loop inside the cup with a small end of the hook hanging through the hole. The length of the loop release mechanism should be short enough to prevent the rolled-up straw coil from hanging below the bottom of the cup. Replace the lid on the cup with the indented blister positioned above the hook location (Fig. 12). This marks the spot of the hook and makes it easy to release without looking (Figs. 13, 14).



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

The hamburgers: I found two round Styrofoam disks about the width and thickness of a hamburger in the florist supplies section of a craft store. I trimmed the square disk edges off around the top and bottom of each disk. This gives them a rounded hamburger appearance when wrapped. The disks, when wrapped, feel very light. I wanted the hamburgers to feel like the weight of a real burger to help my handling look natural and convincing. I experimented with some hexagonal steel bolt nuts (about an inch across) and scooped out a round hole in the center of each Styrofoam disk just large enough to fit the nuts (Fig. 15). Place the nuts in the disks and wrap each one with the hamburger wrappers (Fig. 16) you obtained after a lunch at McDonald's, mmmmm!

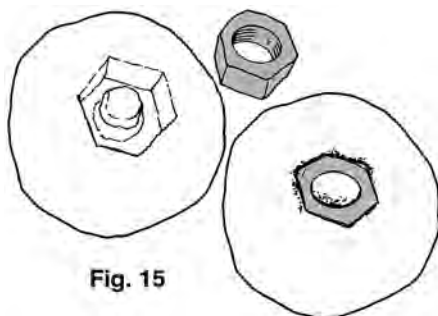


Fig. 15



Fig. 16

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Place the loaded cup into the paper bag. Place the two burgers alongside it, and the empty french fry box on top of them.

"Welcome everyone to my show today. I wanted to be here early to get ready for you, but I had to skip lunch to be here on time. Many years ago, I promised Harry Potter that I would never do a show without eating my lunch first. I have to keep my promise. Is it okay with you if I eat it

now before we start? It won't take long, it's *fast food!*" (Describe what's in the bag as you remove each item. Remove the cup first, being sure to handle it as if it contains a beverage.) Say, "Ooh, careful, don't want to spill it." (Set it aside. I usually set it behind a box on the table in case someone thinks they can't see the dark liquid in it. Then the french fry box and hamburgers.)

"I ordered a large drink, two hamburgers, and large fries ... what? The fry box is empty? I promise I only ate one french fry on the way here ... at a time! Now I'm ready to eat." (Look inside of the bag.) "Oh no! No napkins, no straws!" (Shake bag, look in, show bag around to show totally empty.) "They forgot the napkins, they forgot the straws ... has that ever happened to you? Look, this bag is empty, there's nothing in it, there is nothing inside this bag." (Place the empty bag on your head.) "It's absolutely empty, there's not a thing inside this bag! Who said my head was empty? It's the bag that's empty." (Remove bag.) "Well, I guess I'll have to take the whole order back and complain. Otherwise, they won't know they messed up and they won't get any better. I'll take back the drink – ooh, don't want to spill it." (Pick up the cup and put it in the bag while pushing the hook up and back inside the cup, allowing the straw to drop out of the bottom as you set it down, then hamburgers.) Say, "I'll just go back and politely say 'Hey! You forgot the napkins and straws.'" (Pick up the french fry box, look inside of it.) "I guess I can't take the fries back, I ate them. Well, I guess I could cough them up – anybody want some hot mashed french fries? I'll just put this bag away and get on with the show."

(Look inside of the bag.) "Wait a minute! We overlooked something." (Take out the empty cup and set it aside. Take out the french fry box and take out the hamburgers – this leaves the straw at the bottom.) "We overlooked the straw. Well, it's a super small size, and I ordered a super-sized drink. We overlooked it because it was hiding underneath the little paper flap at the bottom of the bag. It's only two inches long. Would you like to see it? Really, it's only two inches long, you folks up front will be able to see it, but you in the back won't be able to see it, it's so small. Just ask one of the upfront folks after the show and they will tell you they saw it. Okay, here it is, look closely." (Gripping the bottom of the bag to hold the straw inside, pull out the straw about two feet—then pause, double take.) It's not two inches, it's two feet!" (Pull out some more.) "No, it's three feet. No, four. Count with me: five, six, seven. And I'm wearing short sleeves!" (As each foot is counted, I take out smaller lengths so that I get to about fourteen by the end of the whole straw!) "Wow, it's a miracle, a fourteen-foot straw under an eight-foot ceiling." (Hold the straw vertical and give it a good tap on the floor, and pretend you hit your toe.) "Ow! I hurt my toe! Could someone please call a toe truck? Let me just say one thing to the adults here. Don't go down to McDonald's and ask for one of these straws. There aren't any left, they ran out after I came in. There are no more. So, take a good look at this ... that's the last straw!"

Send comments and appreciation to:

Mont Dutson

montd84@comcast.net.

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The Card Corner

MIKE POWERS

Jokers Wild

By Rudy Tinoco

This month's item is from my good friend Rudy Tinoco. Rudy runs a magic site called www.themagiciansforum.com. It's a great place for all things magic. Check it out. You might already know Rudy from his "Apocalypse Now" column at www.reelmagic-magazine.com. Rudy was given permission by Harry Lorayne to showcase and explain any trick from the twenty years of accumulated material in Lorayne's *Apocalypse* magazine. He's into his seventh season at *Reel Magic Magazine* with seventy episodes under his belt. Rudy also has a "Prime" membership to The Magician's Forum.

A recent entry to TMF Prime came from Ron Frost. TMF Prime is a paid section of The Magician's Forum where Rudy posts teaching videos. The Frost original was in *Apocalypse* vol. 2, no. 2, page 176. Frost's effect is called "Follow Along." A while back, Rudy contacted me about "Follow Along." He felt that Lorayne's write-up might contain some mistakes. I couldn't find any, but meanwhile Rudy had gone on to create his own variation of the Frost effect. When I saw his demonstration video, I asked Rudy if I could include his handling of the Frost routine in my Card Corner column. Luckily, Rudy has given me permission to write up his routine "Jokers Wild." There is a video of Rudy performing Jokers Wild at www.mallofmagic.com/cardcorner. Scroll down to October 2024. I apologize for not getting last month's video up as advertised. I'll be more vigilant in the future.

As I began to study Rudy's routine, I had some thoughts on other ways to use the underlying ideas. Ultimately, I came up with a very different handling using a set of double blank cards. Rudy really liked my routine and included a video of me performing the routine on his TMF Prime page. How the routine evolved from Frost to Rudy to me is an interesting and instructive ride. I'm going to feature my routine using double blank cards next month. Meanwhile, let's dig into Rudy's handling of the Frost routine. Get ready to perform a lot of Elmsley Counts*!

EFFECT: A card is selected from the working deck. Let's say it's the Three of Diamonds (3D). Next, a group of four jokers is introduced. The magician offers to demonstrate why jokers are used as "wild cards." The selected card is tapped on the jokers as it is then seen that one of the jokers has become a "clone" of the 3D. The selection is tapped three more times and each time another joker changes into the selection, until all four jokers

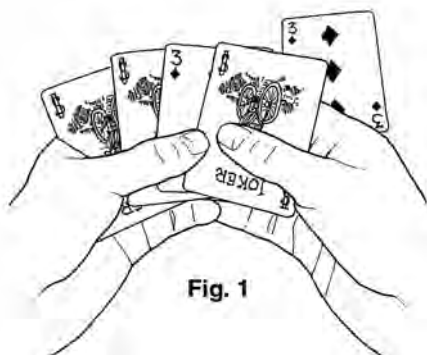
have become clones of the selection.

It is then noted that the jokers have blue backs while the selection has a red back. To finalize the cloning process, each blue-backed joker's back changes to red.

SET-UP: Let's say that the selection is a red-backed 3D. You'd then need three more red-backed 3Ds and three blue-backed jokers. Set these up as follows, from the face: joker, joker, 3D, 3D, 3D, joker.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Phase 1: Force the 3D from your working red-backed deck and leave it face up on the table. Introduce the six-card packet as four jokers by Elmsley Counting the packet face up. Four jokers show, “proving” your claim. It’s a good idea to keep the front edge of the packet down a little bit so the extra thickness isn’t noticed. The six cards must be believed to be a four-card packet. After the Elmsley Count, the top three cards will be face up jokers. Say, “Jokers are used as wild cards. This is because they can take on the identity of any card, like in this case the 3D.” Pick up the tabled 3D and tap it face up onto the joker packet. Drop the three face up on the table and immediately Elmsley Count the packet again. A 3D shows and ends up second from the face. You can spread the six cards as four by holding the bottommost three cards as one (Fig. 1).



Square up the packet and tap again with the tabled 3D as you say, “Let’s go for a second 3D.” Drop the 3D face up on the table and Elmsley Count again. Another 3D shows. Spread the six cards as four, again holding the bottom three as a single card. The packet appears to be, from the face, joker, 3D, 3D, joker.

STATUS CHECK: The six cards are, from the face: joker, 3D, 3D, joker, joker, 3D.

At this point in the video of Rudy’s performance, he performs an Elmsley Count, which actually shows only two 3Ds. But he spreads the packet quickly to show three 3Ds. I thought this looked a bit discrepant.

We asked for opinions on The Magician’s Forum site. There was general agreement that the technique did look discrepant. Here’s what I recommended:

You’re at the point where you have completed the second Elmsley Count, showing two 3Ds. Say, “Let’s go for number three.” Tap the squared packet with the tabled 3D and again drop it on the table. The spectators expect to see three 3Ds. Elmsley Count again. Only two 3Ds show. Square up and act a bit perplexed. Then say, “Oh. We didn’t wait long enough.” Now spread the six cards as four, holding the last three cards as one. There are now three 3Ds with the joker still at the face.

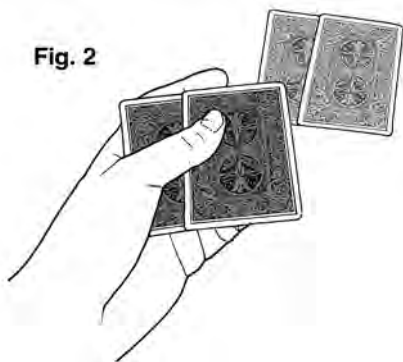
To finish Phase 1, move the top two cards to the bottom. The packet is now 3D, 3D, joker, joker, joker, 3D. Tap again with the tabled 3D and immediately Elmsley Count, showing four 3Ds. This is the end of Phase 1.

Phase 2: The bottommost three cards are blue-backed jokers. Flip the packet face down in the left hand as you say, “But the jokers have blue backs while the 3D you chose was from a red-backed deck.” Flip the tabled 3D to face down. Now remove the top blue-backed joker and tap the tabled 3D. Replace the blue card on the bottom of the packet. Don’t show its face. It’s supposed to be a 3D. Elmsley Count again. This time, four blue backs show. You are now in the exact position you were in during the face-up phase. You can change the color of the backs, one by one using the exact sequence of moves used face up to change the faces of the jokers to 3D. Here’s a brief reminder of the sequence of moves.

Each time you’ll tap with the red-backed 3D. Only this time, turn the card face down so the red back shows. After the first tap, Elmsley Count. A single red back shows. Tap again and Elmsley Count again. Two red backs show. Rudy changes these one by one as he did with the 3D. It occurred to me that it might be best to change the last two blue cards at once. You’ve proven over and over that you can make the cards change. It’s time to wrap it up. After the second Elmsley Count showing two red backs, remove the

top three cards with the right hand. Lower the cards to the table and leave the bottom-most two cards, i.e., the ones with red backs on the table. Place the blue-backed card stepped to the right onto the left hand's packet (**Fig. 2**). Tap the "two" blue cards with the red selection. Now replace the two tabled red-backed cards on top and immediately Elmsley Count. All four cards are now seen to have red backs. It's a good idea to flash the faces of the last two cards during the Elmsley Count, showing a fully formed red-backed 3D.

Fig. 2



I'd recommend placing the last two red-

backed cards at the bottom of the packet. You can now flip the packet face up and Elmsley Count one final time (whew!) showing four 3Ds. This way they would have just seen four red backs and immediately see the four faces as 3Ds. It really accentuates the notion that all "four" cards have been fully changed from blue-backed jokers into red-backed 3D.

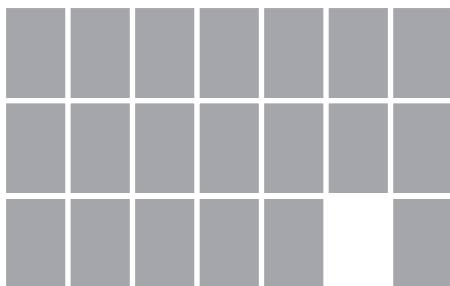
FINAL THOUGHTS: If you went through this routine with cards in hand, your Elmsley Count should be solid as a rock! More to the point, a lot of magic happens here. The danger is that the repetitious nature of the changes becomes boring. You must keep interest high using presentation and attitude. You need to seem as amazed and entertained as you hope the spectators are.

Stay tuned for next month's column in which I'll describe my version of this concept using double blank cards. This will help to make the changes more dramatic. Also, I introduce the double blanks using a full deck of double blanks, which creates opportunities for subsequent effects. Stay tuned!

Mike Powers

mpowers@mallofmagic.com

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



Feline Whisperer

This month's article has gone to the animals. Really, there will not be any mention of cards, coins, envelopes, cups, or the sort of items that may be considered commonplace in my creative efforts. Suffice it to say that this month's submission is a slight departure from the norm. However, continue reading for a remarkably interesting exploitation that will surely add a surprising measure of credibility to your already touted magical skills.

EFFECT: The magician exhibits control over the most skittish of cats. It is like a visual reformation.

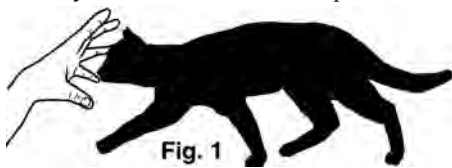
PREPARATION: A dry cat treat morsel and *not* the typical daily foods, such as *Temptations* by Whiskas. Place the cat treat in an easily accessible location such as a front pants pocket or suit vest pocket.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: The magician strolls into a situation whereby the family's feline member is slightly curious to the stranger that stands before it. The cat, being a cat, strolls cautiously toward the magician's leg and slightly brushes the tips of its extended fur across it. With its nose upturned, it promenades in a different direction. The decision has been made. The magician's presence is unfavored.

The magician asserts to have the ability to perform magic not only with humans and inanimate objects, but with animals of all kinds, and on this particular day he will demonstrate this aptitude with the family pet.

Unbeknownst to the spectators, the magician secretly rubs a dry cat treat morsel all over the palm of his hand. He makes a cone-shape type gesture with his hand and moves it closer to the face of the majestic cat. De-

liberately, the cat moves in for a concentrated observation. The cat begins to sniff and lap the palm of the magician's hand (**Fig. 1**). Now, slowly step back to display your said powers as the cat will be drawn towards your hand. New friendships are born!



If your previous attempt is ineffective, then basically palm the dry cat treat morsel and repeat the effect. Make sure not to release or allow the cat to chew on the morsel itself. The gig will be up.

The I.B.M., *The Linking Ring* magazine, and yours truly will not be held liable for any and all bites causing lacerations to the skin leading to bleeding, swelling, infection, hospitalization, diminished magical powers, etc. However, endless snuggling is most acceptable and encouraged.

TIP: Current scientific studies have published empirical data that positively suggests that if a human can mimic the act of the "smiling" cat by slowly blinking one's eyes, there is an immediate bonding opportunity. Try it. If I may suggest, try it with other humans and see if this is a connection point. If so, then the magi can determine if the spectator is a cat lover/owner.

Until next time ... have a purrrfect month of magic!

Andrew Woo

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www.magicalwoo.com



Auto-magic

MICHAEL BREGGAR

In an effort to Geller-ize some of your mentalism, we continued our series last month with a very strong routine demonstrating both “remote viewing” and “telepathy.” While the “Instant Itinerary” routine was not complex, I wanted you to be sure to understand the presentation and general scripting. There is so much attitude and boldness necessary to elevate these effects to miracle level. Uri Geller’s charisma is so positive and strong, this attitude and boldness is built into most of what he does! As such, I ran out of *Linking Ring* leg room for the explanation.

Well, “To Be Continued ...” worked for years in Hollywood! Here, then, is the explanatory detail for “**Imaginary Itinerary**”
Part 2: The Explanation.

The routine involved two phases. Both navigated you receiving mental impulses related to several world cities, thought of by your subject, before finally discerning the location of a card with a certain city’s name merely thought of. I used a deck of blank cards upon which I wrote the names of twelve popular United States cities and twelve popular European locations. The US cities were written in red ink, while the Euro cities were written in blue ink and underlined to further distinguish the two. Additionally, twenty more cards bore the names of popular “Rest-of-the-World” locations. These were printed in black ink. (Adventure-some DIYers may wish to put together forty-four *postcards* from the various cities. That’s a *lot* of effort and I am not certain it is worth it!) The cities I use are:

ISTANBUL – ROME – GLASGOW –
VIENNA – BERLIN – PARIS – PRAGUE
– MADRID – LONDON – GENEVA –
AMSTERDAM – BARCELONA

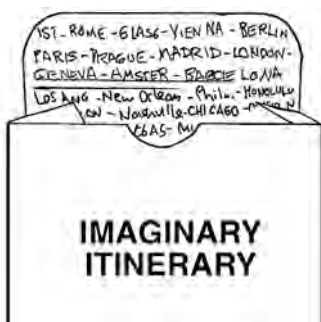
LOS ANGELES – NEW ORLEANS –
PHILADELPHIA – HONOLULU –
SAN FRANCISCO – NASHVILLE –
CHICAGO – BOSTON – SEATTLE –
LAS VEGAS – MIAMI – NEW YORK

The first group is printed in blue, the second group in red. The reason for the colors is so the groupings can readily be identified from one another. The “null” cities could be any cities. They are printed in black:

TOKYO – SEOUL – MEXICO CITY –
GOA – DUBAI – BUENOS AIRES –
TORONTO – MONTREAL –
SÃO PAULO – MELBOURNE –
SINGAPORE – NEW DELHI – LAGOS –
CAPE TOWN – RIO DE JANEIRO –
SYDNEY – BEIJING – HONG KONG –
TAHITI – BANGKOK

Los Angeles		Istanbul
New Orleans	Dubai	Rome
Philadelphia	Melbourne	Glasgow
Honolulu	New Delhi	Vienna
San Francisco	Goa	Berlin
Nashville	Sao Paulo	Paris
Chicago	Mexico City	Prague
Boston	Montreal	Madrid
Seattle	Seoul	London
Las Vegas	Toronto	Geneva
Miami	Singapore	Amsterdam
New York	Buenos Aires	Barcelona
	Tokyo	

Now, arrange your “World Cities Deck” with the red cards on top, followed by the bank of black cards, then the blues. Note that the order of the cards in three banks can be in any order. But, once you decide the order of the red and blue cards, they must remain that way. The black cards can be any order at any time. Next, create a crib-sheet on the inner flap of the card box. Place the stacked cards into the marked card box. You may wish to write something like “imaginary itinerary” on the front of the box. Many packages of blank cards come packed in a similarly blank box.



At the beginning of the routine, you open the box and remove the cards *writing side down*. Casually toss the empty box aside leaving the flap where you can see the crib. The nature of folds in the flap keeps the crib hidden from your audience.

Hold the deck face down in your left hand as you begin to talk about the cards. Casually lift a few from the top (they will be red cards) and show the name of the US city. Comment that US cities are in red ink. Put these back on top, then lift cards somewhere in the middle, showing a black ink city. Put these back and cut off again – any number of cards to show any color. Finally, cut deep to show a blue city card.

Next, if you know how to do a Charlier Shuffle, do so. It is not necessary, but even though the Charlier really looks like a good mixing procedure, it only cuts the deck. Ask your assistant to give the deck a cut or two. Now, you’ll leverage the brilliant century-old thinking of Charles Jordan. Ask the subject to cut the deck into two halves and then

riffle shuffle them together. Mimic the action to be sure they *riffle shuffle*. If they cannot do this, riffle shuffle for them. Then, stating how you really want the cities in a random order, ask them to riffle shuffle *again*! This is so beautiful! And it really cancels any thinking that there might be a stack. Amazingly, the cards *do* get mixed, but the reds and blues stay in order! (The black cards do not.) I always like to end this mixing sequence with one final cut and complete.

Now, ask your helper if they wish to build their itinerary on *US* or *European cities*. If the former, tell her to be on the lookout for the red cards only. For Europe, she will concentrate on the blue underlined cards. Ignore the R.O.W. cities in black.

In our presentation, Marilyn wanted the US cities. You tell her that after you turn away, she will deal the cards face up on the table, one at a time. When she comes to a red card, she will pause and mention she is now thinking of a city. You demonstrate dealing the first few cards until you come to the first red card. Let’s say it is San Francisco. Make sure she understands what she is to do, then turn your head away.

Because of the stack and my touches on the Jordan Shuffle, you merely glance at your crib and you *know* the next US city is (for example) Nashville! Obviously, if your helper wanted to visit the European cities, use the Euro-chart crib! These stacks are circular, so after Barcelona, the next city to show up would be Istanbul.

Do the remote reading bit for about six cities. Reread the column from last month to understand the scripting and presentation.

For the second phase, you will hop into telepathy mode. As noted in the presentation, you now ask the subject to shuffle the remaining cards and extract nine. Frequently, I will fan the balance of the deck and ask her to pull out a “bunch of cards” from the center – it is amazing how many times nine are removed! If you get more or fewer than nine, adjust accordingly.

She now mixes the nine cards and deals them into three three-card piles. Following the presentation, she looks through the pack-

ets and finds a city she likes, then removes that card to memorize it and show it around. Then she places it on *top of either remaining three-card pile*. She gathers the remaining five cards, mixes them together and drops this packet on top of the four-card pile on the table. This, of course, places the selection fourth from the bottom of the nine-card packet.

You now pick up the packet and proceed to apparently casually mix the cards as you try to receive the telepathic impulses from your helper. With the cards held face down, spread the first (top) card to the right. Then outjog the second card as you spread it under the first. The third card is spread normally under the second, the fourth is outjogged. You proceed to outjog every other card of the nine. Keep the cards in the same order.

You are just spreading them raggedly. Now, pull out the outjogged cards and place them *on top* of the packet. Repeat this spread/outjogging action, but this time, you put the outjogged cards *on the bottom* of the packet.

Congrats! You just did two “reverse Faros” which puts *the thought-of city second from the top of the packet*. When you patter that you think you know the city and are “ready to commit,” the card you remove is that second from the top (or from the left) card. Proceed as in the presentation and you will explode brains!

I know this has been a long explanation, but, man, is this an effective mentalism routine! You’ve gotta try it!

Telepathy doesn’t work over the internet, so reach me via:

mbreggarmagic@gmail.com.

BAMBOOZLERS

Diamond Jim Tyler

IF I’M WRONG

BET: Openly place three coins (a penny, nickel, and dime) into your hand, and then close your fist around them. Ask, “Would you believe I have four coins in my hand?” Then add, “If I’m wrong will you give me a (whatever)?” Whatever could be a dollar, a drink, etc.

SECRET: Should they accept your challenge, open your hand to reveal three coins as you say, “Yep! I was wrong! I’ll take that (whatever) now.” When all of this is done and said casually, your victim typically will not anticipate the punchline to your profitable joke.

Before making the bet push up your sleeves, take off your watch, spread your fingers and allow them to look underneath the coins. You do not want them to have any doubt that there are only three coins in your hand.



Here’s something bizarre to think about: *If your left arm was gone then your right would be left – right?*



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

Broken Wand

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



ROBERT BOULTON

Robert Boulton, 77, of Bristol, England, died May 21, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 39484 and had been a member since 1984. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years continuous membership) and Ring 25 (British Ring). He performed children's magic for many years and was elected President of the Bristol Society of Magic in 1991. Robert is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Jenn, daughter Nicola, son Jon, and three grandsons.



JAMES CAMERON

James Cameron, 89, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, died June 8, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 45127 and had been a member since 1989. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years continuous membership). He is survived by his wife Barbara, daughters Judith (Conrad), Wendy (Karl), and Nancy (Gerry), and brother Ian (Lorraine).



ROBERT EPSTEIN

Robert Epstein, 75, of Boynton Beach, Florida, died August 8, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 30356 and had been a member since 1976. He was a member of the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years continuous membership). Robert is survived by his wife Rose Epstein, as well as extended family and friends.

DAVID HEETER

David J. Heeter, 79, of Shawnee, Kansas, died August 15, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 28722 and had been a member since 1975. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years continuous membership) and Ring 129 (Kansas City, Missouri). He also was a member of the Society of American Magicians Assembly 38. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. He served as an alter boy at Blessed Sacrament church and Boy Scouts, where he became an Eagle Scout in 1959. He graduated from Wyandotte High School in 1963 and spent a year at the University of Kansas before joining the Navy. After discharge, he earned a business degree from Rockhurst University in 1973. David began working for CB&Q Railroad, where he advanced from yard clerk to manager for the divisional Chief Mechanical Officer. He then co-founded General Bedding, where he was instrumental in importing, selling, and repairing air bedding products. After the business closed, he joined Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance in 1979, helping hundreds of families with financial planning until his retirement in 2022. His interest in magic began in the 1970s. David was a regular attendee of Ring meetings, and often contributed to the evening's fun by performing in the "Share the Magic" segments. David is survived by his wife, Maggie Heeter; his daughter, Abby (Eli) Gaghen, and their children, Ella and Will, of Olathe, Kansas; his son, Nick Heeter, and his children, Aidan, Jackson, and Caroline, of Charleston, South Carolina; his sister,



Diane (Keith) Montague of Excelsior Springs, Missouri; his brother, Denis Heeter of St. Petersburg, Florida; and in-laws and extended family.

MARY JO “JODIE” KROMROY

Mary Jo “Jodie” Kromroy, 77, of Las Vegas, Nevada, died August 14, 2024. She held I.B.M. number 31056 and had been a member since 1976. She belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years continuous membership). Jodie graduated in 1965 from Tallmadge High School in Akron, Ohio, before earning her education degree from Kent State University in 1974. She taught for thirty-seven years in St. George, Utah. She spent five years at Dixie Junior High as a special education teacher, working with severely handicapped children. She taught first grade for twenty years at Bloomington Elementary, where she was named Teacher of the Year. She retired in 2015 to Las Vegas. Jodie is survived by her husband Jon Kromroy, sons Seth Kromroy and Ches Kromroy, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two brothers.



J. GARNETT MILLARD

J. Garnett Millard, 93, of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, died August 14, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 45701 and had been a member since 1990. He belonged to the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years continuous membership) and Ring 291 (Palm Desert, California). He earned his chartered accountant degree in 1956 and practiced with L. McMahon, R. Graham, and K. Ketner in St. Thomas, Ontario, until 1970 when he joined KPMG as a partner. He retired in Edmonton, Alberta, where he was involved in the Edmonton Police Commis-



sion, downtown Edmonton Rotary Club, Alberta Treasury Board, and Edmonton Opera. He is survived by his wife, Denise Millard, their children, Karen, Lisa, and Michael, and six stepchildren, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

RICK NANCE

Richard “Rick” Leroy Nance Jr., 71, of Rome, Georgia, died January 15, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 38830 and had been a member since 1983. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years continuous membership) and Ring 5 (Dayton, Ohio). He was born in Dayton, Ohio, and graduated from the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. Rick spent his career in hospital pharmacy management in Ohio, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Georgia. He combined that work with magic, presenting drug abuse prevention programs to schools and civic groups. He enjoyed performing close-up, walk-around, and small stage magic, and often joked that he never exceeded three sucker tricks per Boy Scouts banquet. He concluded job interviews with a card trick and served on church councils, children’s ministries, and as Senior Warden at St. Peters. Rick is survived by his wife of fifty-one years Diane Marie Nance, son Michael William Nance (Kelly), daughter Elena Michelle Kammann, (Daniel), two grandchildren, and two sisters.



JEREMY PEI

Jeremy Pei, 39, of Singapore, died August 28, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 58647 and had been a member since 1998. He belonged to the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years continuous membership) and Ring 115 (Singapore). He was the first



magician from Singapore to compete in the World Championships of Magic (FISM) and had performed at The Magic Castle in Hollywood. Pei also served as the managing director of the production company Redefine Magic. Jeremy learned magic from his father, who was a serious amateur magician. At only fourteen years of age, Jeremy became the youngest Singaporean magician to win an International Magic Competition in Perth, Western Australia. As the only three-time winner of the Magician of the Year title by The Singapore Association of Magicians, he won the IF Magic International Close-Up Magic Competition in 2005, as well as the prestigious JCMA Award by the Japanese Close Up Magicians Association. In 2009, Jeremy competed at FISM in Beijing, China. In July 2010, Jeremy won Finalist Awards in the Close-Up and Stage Magic Competition at the I.B.M. Annual Convention in San Diego. Jeremy then went on to win the Second Prize in the International Stage Magic Competition in a field of thirty-three competitors. Jeremy's signature effects were the Chinese Linking Rings, rope magic, and the Rubik's Cube. "Eternal Ropes" and "Ultimate Backflip" were some of his popular marketed effects. His ideas were published in two Ring Parades, one in 2002 and another in 2022. He is survived by his wife Celia Lee, son Jac, and daughter Joy.

JEFFREY PEARSON

Dr. Jeffrey Pearson, 67, of Carlsbad, California, died August 4, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 65944 and had been a member since 2005. He belonged to Ring 76 (San Diego, California). He was board certified in sports medicine and ran the Medicine in Motion clinic with his wife, Laurie. He worked with athletes of all levels including serving as a volunteer physician with the United States Olympic Organization, helping to prepare



the Paralympians for the 2004 Games in Athens. He added magic and humor to his practice, pulling coins out of their ears and wearing what would become a signature clown nose. He was never caught without a deck of cards and even performed magic for the nursing and medical staff who administered his cancer treatments over the past two years. He also played multiple instruments, was a prolific songwriter, and hosted weekly karaoke and movie parties in his home. Besides Laurie, he is survived by a daughter, two sons, two sisters, and six nieces and nephews.

ALAN (AMRY) REES JONES

Alan Rees Jones, 88, of Colyton, Devon, England, died February 11, 2024. He was known professionally as Alan Amry. He held I.B.M. number 47013 and had been a member since 1991. He belonged to the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years continuous membership) and Ring 25 (British Ring). Alan was born in Tonypandy, Wales. He developed his passion for magic when one of his grammar school teachers introduced him to magic magazines and effects. He frequently performed for his fellow soldiers during his service with the Royal Army Medical Corps. After his service ended, Alan continued working as a magician under the professional name Alan Amry, performing at working men's clubs, holiday camps, cabarets, and charity events such as BBC Children in Need. He was best known for his illusions and escapology acts involving straitjackets, citing Juan Tamariz and Ali Bongo as influences on his performance style. Alan also served as the head of biology at Colyton Grammar School in South East Devon where his wife, Ann Jones, was head of the art department. He mentored aspiring magicians and was a proud member of not only the I.B.M., but also the Exonian Magical Society and The Magic Circle. He is survived by his wife Ann, godson Simon K. Bradley, extended family, and friends.



LOLITA (MORGAN) SLAGLE

Lolita Juarez (Morgan) Slagle, 77, of Pflugerville, TX, died June 10, 2024. She held I.B.M. number 39008 and had been an associate member since 1983. She belonged to Ring 60 (Austin, Texas). Lolita was born in Talladega, Alabama, graduated from Del Valle High School, before attending Brigham Young University and The University of Texas at Austin. She spent years for the City of Austin as Assis-



tant Director of Administrative Services for the police department. Her role included community outreach, establishing community policing, and overseeing the Blue Santa toy drive. She retired in 2008. Lolita is survived by her husband of fifty-three years, Richard, daughters Lisa Rivers and Vanessa Slagle, three grandsons, and seven siblings.

Correction: *The Broken Wand* entry for David Dowds in the August issue should have read that he provided instrumental information for the Robert Nelson Enterprises Facebook page. The word “information” was inadvertently omitted.

When a Magic Friend Dies

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WANT TO ADVERTISE YOUR PRODUCT OR SERVICE IN THE LINKING RING?

Contact our Advertising Manager at advertising@magician.org. You may also place ads at www.magician.org. Click on Advertising to upload your file and pay with a credit card. All ads subject to approval.

WANT TO SUBMIT A RING EVENT?

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

WANT TO SUBMIT A RING REPORT?

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

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

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)

CONNECTICUT • 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)

NOVASCOTIA • 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)

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NEW ZEALAND • Auckland (160)

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

PORTUGAL • Portugal (312)

SERBIA • Belgrade (396)

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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)

For corrections and updates, e-mail
Dr. Steven Schlanger,
Ring Reports Editor
(ringreports@magician.org).



Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



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

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

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

The August meeting was held on the fourteenth since so many members attended Magic Live on the regularly scheduled meeting night. Michael W. McClure and his wife, Susan, organized a flea market/auction evening. It was a huge success! The flea market began at 6:30 and the auction started at 7:30. There were approximately thirty auction items which were on the website before the event. The members were able to research information regarding the items they were interested in. Steve Corbitt was the auctioneer and did a tremendous job. Susan and Sandy Weis kept track of the winning bidders and the amount they paid for each item. The sellers were required to donate ten percent of the winning bid to the Ring. The auction raised over \$1,000 in member sales.

Chad Jacobs attended and shared that he is resuming his performances soon. One former member shared that he has been absent from the Ring for ten years. Now that he is retired, he intends to come back. Two attendees came from out of town, D. J. Edwards from Park Hills, Mo. and Kathleen Neason from Columbia, MO. Thanks to Michael W. McClure for everything he did to make the event such a huge success. Michael and Susan took a trip from their home in Chester, Illinois to the Recreation Center last week just to take measurements of the room so they knew how the tables should be organized. Susan went to the bank to get change, Michael built a podium for the auctioneer to stand behind, Michael made booklets with all the auction items listed, Michael and Susan developed and printed all of the forms needed for the auction, etc.

Dan Todd shared that he will be performing

five charity magic shows in August of 2024. Children's Hospital (CCTV) on the 1st, Cardinal Glennon Hospital (Parlor) on the 13th, and Shriners Hospital (close-up in lobby) on the 7th, 13th, and 22nd. He often includes chess themed magic when he teaches/plays chess twice a week at Children's Hospital and twice a month at Cardinal Glennon Hospital and every Saturday at Francis Park (Rockwell Beer Garden from 1:30-4:30), where all ages are represented.

Trudy Monti-Monteith shared on Facebook that her husband, Harry Monti, recently moved to a memory care facility. He would love to hear from fellow magicians. His address and phone are: Barathaven Memory Care, 1030 Barathaven Blvd., Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368. Phone: 636-399-539. She held a celebration for his eighty-ninth birthday on August 17 and sent an invitation to all of his friends.

Paul Gregor has been teaching adult magic classes through St. Louis Community College Continuing Education program. Ring 1 is always looking for "new" members; therefore, the Ring thanks Paul for sharing his magical talent with the community.

Steve Zuehlke shared the following: "August 4th-7th were the dates of this year's Magic Live Convention and I am happy to report that St. Louis was well represented with seventeen members who made the trip from Ring One. Magic Live is the largest convention in the United States with 1,600 registrants. Aside from the awesome talent that came from all over the world, the dealers room was the place to be. By far, it was the largest dealer room I have ever seen with dealers from all over the world. And since the event takes place in Vegas, you never know who might show up. I spotted Penn and Teller, David Copperfield, Matt Franco, David Blaine, Chris Kenner, Monde, and a host of other celebrities. Every show was better than the

one before. That goes for the lectures too. If you ever get the chance to attend, you won't be sorry."

Sandy Weis

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

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

PETER LUCKE, Secretary / E-mail: IBMRing2Youngstown@me.com

Our President James Killmeyer opened the meeting. The following Ring 2 members and friends were present: Fritz Coombs, Bob Gurdak, James and Eric Killmeyer, Jim Klayder, and Peter Lucke. The theme of the evening was an Everyday Carry Effect.

Peter Lucke opened the evening's magic with "Icon" by Paul Richards. Peter showed the audience a small box labeled Picto Play. Inside the box were some small cards. Each card had a picture of something and its name. For example, a picture of a flower with the word FLOWER underneath. Peter showed several example cards to the audience. He then asked four audience members to select a small packet from the cards. He concluded by correctly identifying the bottom card of each packet.

James Killmeyer presented A Brief History of Playing Cards. James began with the early origins of cards in China. He described how they evolved as they were taken up in various countries, until they became the modern fifty-two-card deck. While speaking, James manipulated a deck of cards with a variety of cuts and shuffles. He concluded by showing the deck had been restored to its original order.

The magic continued with Bob Gurdak performing "Cool Ten Gang," his own handling of a wild card effect. Bob introduced the nine members of the gang. They were represented by eight Tens of Spades cards and one Jack of Hearts. When the gang went to town four went unmasked, and four were masked. He set down four cards in a row face up, and a second row below with four face down cards. The Jack of Hearts was different, he wanted to change the members of the gang one by one. Bob placed the jack on top of the face up Ten of Spades, picked them up and placed them on the face down card in the row below. Turning them over revealed three jacks. Two jacks replaced the cards that were on the table and the third was used to repeat the conversion of the next cards over. After all the cards had been converted to jacks, Bob gathered them up and showed they all had red backs.

Next up was Jim Klayder with his "Slow 3 Way" which was inspired by Derek Dingle's "Quick 3 Way." Jim asked an audience member to select three cards from a deck. He then took the deck in his right hand and performed a one-

handed cut saying it would locate the three selected cards. Jim then revealed the three cards were in his left hand: the 3H, 3S, and the JD. He spread the deck and asked Peter to point to one card; it was the KH. Jim closed the spread and announced he would use the three cards to identify the color, suit and value of Peter's selected card. Looking at the three cards Jim announced the color was red, the value was King, and the suit was Hearts. He then showed us all three cards one at a time; they were all KHs. Then with a little magic he turned all three cards back to the originals: 3H, 3S, and JD. With a little more magic Jim concluded by showing us that the KH was now face up in the deck. But, before he returned the deck to its box, he removed one card from the box; it was the KH.

Concluding members' magic Fritz Coombs performed "B'Wave" by Phil Goldstein. He showed us a packet of four cards saying they were the four queens. Fritz asked Jim to select a color, he chose red. Then he asked Jim to pretend to remove the two black queens from the packet, leaving the two red queens. Fritz asked Eric to choose a suit; he chose Diamonds. Fritz spread the packet revealing a face up QD. Turning the card over revealed it had a red back; the three other cards were blue backed. Fritz concluded by revealing the three blue backed cards were all blank faced.

Following the evening's magic the group discussed the various effects that were performed.

Peter Lucke

RING 5, DAYTON, OHIO – Dayton Magic Club

Meets 2nd Fri. each month at 7:30pm, Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church,
Kettering, OH.

DAVE DAVIS, Ring Reporter / E-mail: daytonmagicring5@yahoo.com

Web site: www.sites.google.com/site/daytonmagicring5

The Dayton Magic Club, I.B.M. Ring 5, gathered on the 9th of August 2024, for an enchanting evening that combined the art of illusion with community spirit. The meeting commenced with a lively discussion about the club's upcoming participation in September's Beavercreek Popcorn Festival, an event that promises to sprinkle a little magic into the lives of the festivalgoers. In October, the Fairborn Phoenix Theater is set to be transformed into a realm of wonder, where the public will witness the mesmerizing talents of the club's magicians.

As the meeting progressed, the stage became a showcase of mystery and mastery. Members took turns at the podium, each performance outdoing the last, leaving the member spellbound. The air buzzed with applause and the shared camaraderie of those dedicated to the magical arts. The session round, a tradition of peer critique and learning, further solidified the bonds

between the magicians, as they honed their craft in a supportive environment.

The magic did not end there; the night transitioned into Ring 5 Afterhours at Archer's Tavern. Here, amidst the clinking of glasses and the savory aroma of food, the magicians continued to dazzle with impromptu performances, turning casual dining into an extraordinary experience. It was an evening where magic was not just performed but lived, leaving all who attended eagerly anticipating the wonders the Dayton Magic Club would bring in the upcoming months.

Mike Bayer

RING 6, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA – Delaware Valley Conjurers Club

Meets 2nd Monday, each month, 7:30 p.m., Wallingford Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford, PA 19086

DAVE KELLY, Acting Recording Secretary / Web site: www.ibmring6.com

Jim Capobianco (Laz) reported on the recently held summer magic classes held at our host site, The Wallingford Community Arts Center. Over a two-week period, seven volunteer magicians from the club taught a total of one hundred twenty-three elementary and middle school student the basics of magic. Classes were geared to the abilities of these young students, and the club volunteers earned \$500 from the Center. This fall, the Center will offer Saturday morning magic sessions geared towards high school age and adults who want to learn magic.

After closing nominations for next month's officer nominations, the fun began. Marc DeSouza, a master of magic knowledge conducted our magic auction. He gave the background of every trick, book, and pamphlet offered by club members. Among the treasures available were silk fountains by Dwayne Laflin, several signed Harry Lorayne books, a beautiful dancing cane, Mike Breggar's PSI- Magic effect, many instructional DVDs, the Hummingbird trick, and more. We had a great time for an hour and a half.

In September Tom Ewing will interview Adele Friel Rhindress the last surviving assistant to magician Harry Blackstone, Sr. Her book, *Memoirs of an Elusive Moth* gives her memories of her years in show business, and of touring with a huge magic show. The same night, Francis Menotti will again lecture. He brings a great variety of original magic and magic thinking to his demos.

David Kelly

RING 9, ATLANTA, GEORGIA – Georgia Magic Club

Meets 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00pm, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 471 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

Ring 9 Website: www.gamagicclub.com

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

T.I.P. Lecture by Stan Konter: "Finding

Fedko" (The Magic of John Fedko). John Fedko was born in 1929, learned magic at age six from his Ukrainian grandfather, earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics and two Masters of Science in Engineering, and served a twenty-year career in the Army building ballistic missiles. In 1972 he founded the Fedko Magic Company in Canfield, Pennsylvania, which he sold in 1977. John passed away in 2014, having contributed extensively to the magic community. Stan was a frequent customer when he owned the Mystic Haven magic shop, working out of his garage in Savannah. Stan presented a couple of John Fedko routines: "Which Way Is Up?" and "Elusive Pimpernel." Two important takeaways that Stan intended to reveal from his lecture were that there are great magicians from the past that most people don't know, and adding a story to a magic effect makes it entertainment.

Business Meeting: President Steve Langston greeted twenty-six members and six guests. For upcoming conventions and events, Steve mentioned MAGIC Live (8/4 in Las Vegas), KIDabra (8/14 in Chattanooga), Magic Valley Ranch (10/3 in AL), TRICS (11/7 in NC), and upcoming Atlanta Magic Nights (7/21 featuring Chris Moorman, Eddie Gamill, and Mark Johnson and Matt Baker and Sir Pat-Trick in August). Someone also brought up Magic at the Beach (11/23 in Myrtle Beach). Secretary-Treasurer Bill Packard presented a New Member Certificate to Angus McLean. The Georgia Book Club will have the final Zoom call discussing *Very Hush Hush* by John Bannon on July 31. Walter Fields reported that Project Magic had a good crowd last week, with the volunteers performing for a full hour. There is an opportunity to sign up to participate at the Shepherd Center's webpage. Four members attended the Magic Meetup on July 7, and the next one is scheduled for August 17 at Fellini's Pizza. Also, an "unofficial" gathering is planned for July 21 at Hudson Grill.

Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer reminded us about the upcoming lecture by John Shryock on July 22. Lynn Fox reminded us that former Georgia Magic Club President Mike Dunagan (not present at our meeting) was inaugurated just the previous week as the new International President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. This month's issue of *The Linking Ring* features him on the cover and includes his biography, as well as Hocus Pocus Parade contributions by members of Ring 9.

Someone brought several items donated by Carol Garrett from Dan's estate to be picked up by anyone who would like them.

Theme Magic Performers: Wayne Carter

invited a spectator to call "Wade" on the phone who related in his answering message which ESP symbol had been selected. (2) Mike Varon presented a trick from Bannon's *Very Hush Hush*. (3) Jamey Evans presented a Snake-in-the-Box to fulfill a phobia selection. (4) Stan Konter performed "Thought Transmitter." (5) Ravi Navare attempted a card divination trick. (6) Mal Simpson had a card selected and returned to the deck, and the spectator made all the decisions (along with Mal's funny instructions) to eliminate all the cards but one, which proved to be the selection. (7) While Steve Goldstein dealt cards onto the table, he had a spectator mentally spell his selected card and mentally say stop when finished, and Steve not only stopped at the right position, but also revealed the selected card in that position. (8) Walter Fields performed a few mentalism gags with a folded banner (revealing "No," "Me," and "BS"), but when unfolded it revealed the correct prediction of "Mel Gibson." (9) Howie Slomka performed a Book Test. (10) Lynn Fox, using paper bags each holding a red or yellow ball, proved that the lady's intuition was more powerful than the man's. (11) Eric Schuster had three spectators choose three different colored markers (disguised with black caps) and secretly write their names on pieces of paper, and then after inviting them to switch locations, showed that he had predicted the location of each color. (12) Steve Langston had three spectators each choose a different colored die, and determined which color the first spectator held, the color and which hand the second spectator held it in, and what number the third spectator had rolled. (13) Martin Baratz gave another presentation of "Thought Transmitter." (14) Darryl Berman performed a multi-phase "Further Than That" routine.

General Magic Performers: (1) Catweazle Jim Mangham displayed a 1954 Cubio (block on string that stops falling on command) but didn't know how to use it; Debbie Leifer was familiar enough to demonstrate it! (2) Guest Dominic Prestera decided to Perform For Membership with a one-coin routine. (3) Angus McLean attempted to perform an aces turnover trick. (4) Guest Justin performed a classic "Cups and Balls" routine. (5) Martin Baratz performed a self-working card trick.

Giveaway winners of books/tricks/cards, including Dan Garrett's Magic Circle book, were Darryl Berman, Bill Packard, and Stan Konter. The membership invited Dominic Prestera to join the club and Bill Packard presented the Coveted Royal Blue Pin for favorite theme magic presentation for July to Martin Baratz.

Bill Packard

RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm The Linden Grove, 1100 Grove St., Pittsburgh, PA
MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: mtz@sei.cmu.edu
Web site: www.ibmring13.org

At our August meeting, we welcomed Gary Filson's wife, Ella, as a new affiliate member of our Ring. Our Ring secretary was unable to attend our August meeting, but we sincerely thank Ring board member Ralph Kelly for recording notes for this Ring Report.

Lucy Hall introduced our performers with the suggested theme of cardboard box illusions. Bill Stokes started off the magic with a very nice and colorful Square Circle routine. Bill's Square Circle was made out of cardboard, which he made when he was working with children, and the children made their own.

Todd Hertzberg gave with a quick talk on the I.B.M. Convention that he attended in July. Todd had high praise for David Ginn's book, *Gene Gordon's Magical Legacy*. Todd continued with a performance of "Forced 3dom" by Paul Richards.

Ted Knoblach performed a lively version of John Archer's "Blank Night."

Eric Meredith performed three very nice tricks. Eric first found a card in an impossible location, which he learned from Paul Gertner. Next Eric did a nice rendition of Ben Seidman's "Insane." Eric ended with his own "Amazon Code" where volunteers chose cards that matched the code number on an Amazon gift card.

Levi performed Tom Ferrell's "Slicer" in which he placed a queen inside a card box. Levi then pushed a king through a slit in the face of the box to penetrate both the box and the queen and come out of the bottom of the box.

Joe Hindman performed a "Linking Rings" routine that was simply amazing. Joe linked and unlinked the rings and formed them into several shapes.

Jeff Vanderhoff did his rendition of Jeff Hobson's "Balloon Doggie Bag." Jeff made a balloon dog, he broke it, and then he resuscitated it.

Gary Filson made a clever version of "Popcorn Box" by using an empty cereal box, and he talked about life choices to be made full.

Finally, newcomer Aaron Shimp performed a "Scotch and Soda" routine. Aaron is new to magic, and he still did a very nice job. Have a magical autumn! *Ralph Kely and Mark Zajicek*

Sign up 1!

RING 19, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – Carl Jones Ring

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

ANDREW SELBITSCHKA, President / Web site: www.IBMRing19.com

Our in-person meeting at GameZenter typically attracts magicians, from far and wide, to come to the Twin Cities to view and share magic, and our August meeting was no different.

Blake and Bennett Scholl, two of our youngest members (under twelve years of age!) shared a vanishing ace/transposition routine and a nice rendition of the “Linking Rings.”

Daniel Norat, with spectator Slevan Olson, performed a “Card to Mouth” trick that used a copious amount of hand sanitizer!

Sleven Olson returned the favor by sharing a “Coin Flurry/Coins Across” routine and asked for feedback before presenting it to a lay audience.

Tyler Erickson shared two card tricks - the “Jack Detectives” and the “Mind-Reading Poker Chip” trick with Miriam Olson. Tyler is a master at engaging the audience and making miracles happen with a deck of cards. He never disappoints!

Roger Wells followed Tyler with his version of a Michael Close card trick, “Moving Hole.”

The Ring is putting on several magical events in the Twin Cities. Information on upcoming events may be found on the I.B.M. Ring 19 Facebook page - www.ibmring19.com.

Our Zoom meeting attracted viewers from all over the U.S., as well as England and Australia. Rick Hinrichs started us off with a card trick, his version of Paul Gordon’s “Spectral.”

Tyler Erickson performed an original card effect that he calls “The Big Red Card.” Tyler provided a tutorial on the Bottom Deal, and we also discussed evaluating tricks. Every trick may be performed using many methods, but one of the most important things to do is to not to fall into the trap of “analysis paralysis.” Find the one most effective method and stick to it. We also talked quite a bit about Tommy Wonder and his philosophical ideas around magic. Deciding what the primary focus of a trick is; eliminating everything that draws attention away from that focus and shifting attention to what is most important. Tyler also embellished on the School of Fish theory, directing attention where you want it to be, using eye contact to get people to look at what draws your attention to objects, focus on the person for whom you are doing the magic. Eye contact, eye contact, eye contact!

Rich Hinrichs shared some pen magic that he has been working on and Dan Norat offered up “Petit” by Rian Lehman.

David Hansen rounded out the meeting with a demonstration of how you can make an impromptu floating card box.

Please join us if you are in the Twin Cities for our in-person meetings or contact us for a Zoom link to our second Monday evening meeting.

Jennifer Graham

RING 20, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Eddie Clever Keystone Ring

Meets 2nd Thur., at 6:00pm (order off the menu), meeting 7:00pm at

John’s Diner 146 Sheraton Dr., New Cumberland, PA 17070

MARK KROTULSKI, Secretary

E-mail: eddieclever20@gmail.com

In attendance at the meeting Stephen Smith, Rodney Ries, Maureen Ries, Al Bienstock, Dan Sculley, Michael Reist, Mike Thomas, Jack Ritter, John Fortino and guest David French. Our meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. The president greeted everybody and then the secretary’s minutes and the treasurer’s reports were approved.

Old Business: Our exhibit at Jubilee Days was postponed until next year. It was reported that due to the low balance in the checking account and bills to be paid, the CD may be cashed in early, the bills paid, and the balance reinvested.

Good of the Order: Michael Reist reported on the John Bannon lecture held at Mingus Magic. He reported it was well attended and in his opinion was an excellent lecture.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. and instead the club enjoyed a lecture by magician David French. The lecture began with a ten-minute set by David as he entertained two lay restaurant volunteers we asked to join us for this part of the lecture. This lecture was not about tricks. In fact, David did not teach any tricks, and he did not have any magic for sale. The lecture instead was about being a working magician in a restaurant. David shared his forty-year history of performing with tips, stories, and more and in particular, why he enjoys being a restaurant magician.

In this writer’s opinion, it was striking that we were having a lecture on restaurant magic, while sitting in the restaurant where we hold our meetings.

Michael L. Reist

RING 21, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA – Caryl Fleming

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

Web site: www.IBMRing21.org

GERRY SCHILLER, Secretary / E-mail: geraldschiller@gmail.com

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

For its August meeting, Ring 21 had a very busy schedule, and it was in a new location, hopefully one that will be a permanent one. President Wendy Sobel provided some information about upcoming events including October’s traditional banquet and initiation of new officers, and we will be back at Taix French Restaurant once again with entertainment by the always humorous Robert Baxt.

The themes of the evening provided a very busy schedule and started with our new members showing off their skills in performance. Cara Mandel did a clever card trick and found the chosen card with a bit of help from her assistant, a tiny bunny she called "George." Reid Eckman made a ring on a chain do a jump on his command, Ian Wilson performed a version of Brother John Hammon's "Kings and Queens." Dan Titmus provided a slightly different approach to Dai Vernon's classic "Twisting the Aces" since he did it with queens. Ellen Stein did "Printed" an effect originated by Dominique Duvivier. And Manny D'Magio did a card effect that surprised us when he spread the deck out and the cards said "applause."

The balance of the evening was in the capable hands of longtime Ring 21 member Bob Weiss who decided to provide his own "Dealer Demo" by bringing a large and varied array of many tricks he had found or developed over many years of performance, and he was making them available for sale to the members. He had his version of "Ropeless Rope" a Professor's Nightmare where the ropes were replaced by jumbo cards each with a piece of rope on it and they merged into one long rope. His "Chromatic Cards" amazingly morphed into a variety of colors. "Presto Art" involved many colors on a silk that vanished and appeared on a picture.

And there was a jigsaw puzzle that proved very difficult for a spectator to re-assemble. In his "ESP" dice a roll of the dice predicted which ESP card was chosen. There were many other items including Gold Foil Playing Cards, Flash Paper and Flash String and a Bic Pen that went through a dollar bill.

It was quite an array of magic effects, some of which were new to many of us and quite a few were acquired by members and will soon (I'm sure) be added to their routines. Next month is "Magic to Music." *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

The Ring 22 July meeting started at 7:15 with our Vice President Fred Lenter filling for Johnny New York who was out of town. Fred gave announcements about upcoming meeting workshops and lectures for Ring 22 including our August meeting will be on a Thursday and feature our club flea market, our Labor Day Temple Israel event, news that the 2025 Michigan Magic Day will be on May 17, and unfortunately one of our members, Jim Tait, had

passed away a few days ago. As usual there was standing room only with over forty magicians attending tonight!

Our Spotlight Magician this month is Stephen George. Stephen performed twenty minutes of amazing card effects with two volunteers. His performance was very entertaining and amusing. He did several four ace reveal effects as well as finding selected cards and "Card at Any Number." Stephen's card manipulation is amazing, and he kept both volunteers at ease with his performance style. He ended up with a very different "Out of This World" effect that received a loud round of applause.

Peter X, who is one of the members who had moved to Texas, was in town to provide us with a mini lecture on his new creation that he had been working on for the past few years, the Bicycle Invoked card deck. It is an extremely clever deck that is marked in three different ways yet is very hard to detect. Peter demonstrated several card effects that could be done with the deck and then explained how the deck was marked and how to do the effects. There is both a regular deck and a stripper deck that he has available, although you can only buy them through brick-and-mortar magic shops. It is a wonderful deck that would be a great addition to your card repertoire. Peter was also gracious enough to give each member of Ring 22 attending tonight a free deck of his Invoked Bicycle Deck!

Fred then introduced our Rope, Ring, and String workshop with a couple of ways to do the cut and restored rope including using a thumb tip! Mike Thornton then took some time to explain both the best scissors to use and ways to cut and restore rope. The type of scissor you use does matter and Mike has helped several magicians with finding a really good scissor to use. Jessie showed us several knots to do with a rope that all involved some type of magical property, and Dave Wirth then performed an old goody, "Rainbow Ropes," and also demonstrated one handed knots with a flick of your wrist. Andy Makar performed several ring and rope effects to finish the demonstrations. Dennis Leung then gave us a tip about holding the ribbon for the catch part of the "Charming Chinese Challenge" magic effect. And finally, Keith Fields gave us a great tip on using the cut and restored rope to gather an audience for street performing! What a great lecture this turned out to be!

It was now time for the open stage part of our meeting. Alex Oeming started us off with an amazing "Cups and Balls" routine performed to a poem by Bill Malone. Bill Brang then presented finding a selected card using a dove pan and

a black and white drawing of a magician that turned into a colorized drawing of the magician with the rabbit from his hat holding a drawing of the selected card. Jimmy Pugsley then presented the nail under cups routine “successfully” followed by Eric Bedard performing a stacked deck magic effect. Farren Poage was next and gave us a preview of his multiplying magic Sharpies routine that he has been working on. Dennis Leung then performed his own routine using Peter X’s Invoked Deck in which he found not only the selected card but also the other three suits of the number of the selected card. Dave Powers presented his “Celebrity Card Game Prediction” and Andy Makar finished the evening with an entertaining “Ring and Rope” routine.

Norm Cattell

RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:00pm at The Mountain House Gallery,
702 9th Avenue (corner of West 48 Street) New York, NY 10019

JAMES R. STRANGES, President

E-mail: magicjim1@optonline.net / Website: www.80-20.org/meeting

It is always exciting to see a lot of members at our labs and this June Lab was no exception. Not only is it great to see so many members but also to experience the enthusiasm. Great to have member Sterling Lee at the Lab. Although Sterling lives out of state, he always manages to attend our meetings whenever he is in town.

Past President, Frank Reyes opened by showing everyone a couple of moves for the color changing knives. Sheldon Lippman entertained with “Quantum Coins,” “Card to Box,” and Giancarlo’s “Four Jacks.” Adrien Pierard demonstrated his card expertise by performing a wonderful “Card to Pocket.” Attorney at Law Robert Wallner did a number of effects but ended with a very nice mental effect by Knepper. The “Man Who Knows Too Much,” Tommy Burnett followed with his own take on a Knepper effect. Eric Qiu, always ready with something, demonstrated some multiple card solutions and effects utilizing the Four of Spades and Eight of Diamonds. Thanks to our own James O’Brien for taking down the notes.

Our annual June Social was a little different this year. As a result of Covid and renovations we have lost the access to the Musicians Union Building. Rather than having a stage performance we settled for an informal performance by our members, and we were treated to pizza and soft drinks.

We opened the evening by greeting Past President Rene Clement by phone. He was able to say hello to everyone and to wish everyone a great time. We all took the opportunity to send him our well wishes. Next, we had a mini raffle. Items being raffled came from the estate of

deceased member Ken Krebs and two members who wished to remain nameless. Thank you, nameless members, for the kind contributions. How I love Ring 26. We always have eager members and even non-members who are willing to entertain.

First up was new member, John Schrier. John performed a beautiful mental effect conveying a story of relationship dealing utilizing four colored bags and four colored miniature chests. At the end there was a successful prediction. Very nicely choreographed.

Next up was future member Zachary Adelman who mixed a bit of “Macarena” along with a clever silk effect going from one pocket to another. Robert “I have a newspaper effect” Wallner was next. Yes, he had a newspaper effect. But he performed the key penetration of the newspaper. But wait, there’s more. At the end the newspaper had no hole in it. Non-member, but hopefully future member, Doc Sasco, was next. Doc entertained with money magic. Folded pieces of newspaper changed to real bills. Very nice. “The Man Who Knows Too Much,” Tommy Burnett, followed. Tommy had a member of the audience select a group of cards from a face down deck and was then able to tell her what cards she had selected. Tommy did a number of other effects and ended with a fabulous book test.

Adrien Pierard stunned everyone next. With a deck in full view a member of the audience was asked to select a color, another to select a suit, yet another a value to arrive at a card. When Adrien opened the deck and spread the cards, the selected one was face down in the face up deck. Fabulous. Thank you everyone for a great evening.

July was the first meeting of the newly named lab. Our dear friend and Past President, Rene Clement, sadly passed away on July 6th, 2024. He was a strong supporter of Ring 26 and he would not have wanted us to cancel our Lab because of his passing. In honor of his love and spirit of magic, it was decided that the meeting would go on. Part of the lab was spent reminiscing and sharing stories of and about Rene. Although it brought tears to some members eyes, it also served to bring the group together and to appreciate each day.

Although we lost a member, it was fitting that two new members joined Ring 26. We welcomed Zachary Adelman and Sara Garner to Ring 26. We also had with us John Schrier who became a member just a couple of weeks prior. It is already clear that they are enthusiastic members, and we look forward to many magical years together.

Zachary started the evening off performing “Rock, Paper, Rabbit” and followed with instructions on how to make the origami rabbit. Note to self, he has full instructions on our Facebook page, ibm ring 26. Robert Wallner followed with an effect where he read from his phone a list and Zachary picked the number twenty-seven. Robert then produced a sugar packet with the number twenty-seven written on it. Next, he caused the sugar to vanish and then produced it in his other hand. Eric Qiu did a number of effects but the one that stuck out was a sock prediction. Why is this one so memorable? He stood on the chair in the diner displaying his ankle and the predicted matching sock. John Schrier with a beautiful mental prediction using three different colored markers where all the markers have a black cap making it impossible to tell the color without removing the caps. John was able to tell one from the other. John had Deborah Holt color pictures using the markers without him looking. John made the prediction as to which color was used for which picture. Frank Reyes performed a version of “Screen Test Heroes.” I apologize for missing some of the gang. I happen to have lost some of my notes. Thanks to everyone and visit us on our Facebook page, Ibm ring 26. *Frank Reyes*

RING 27, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA – Earle J. Christenberry, Jr. Ring

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:0pm, Happy Italian Pizzeria 7105 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123. Optional meal anytime after 6:00pm – brief business meeting around 7:00 - 7:15 – followed by magic.

KEVIN CARNEY, Vice President / Web site: www.ibmring27.com

August 1st: Neil “The Whiz” Baum, Darlene Bertrand, Allen Boudreaux, Dr. Joe Dalgo, Michael Dardant, Jim Hussey, and Kella Kruebbe attended. Magic was performed and discussed by all. *Leonard Bertrand*

RING 29, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – Little Rock Magic Ring

Meets 1st Thur., 6:45 pm., First Community Bank, 17820 Central Parkway, Little Rock, AR. / Web site: www.LittleRockMagic.org
JOEL NICHOLSON, Secretary

Little Rock Ring 29 had fun Thursday, August 1, 2024, when we met for the card magic theme meeting at our special meeting location of First Community Bank at 17820 Chenal Pkwy in Little Rock, AR. Once more we thank Mary Ann Campbell for securing this special meeting location.

Our newly elected President Marty Haughn opened the business meeting with info of upcoming events. Upcoming this month will be a Quad Ring meeting on Saturday, August 24, from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., in Morrilton, AR, at a fine place to dine; Yesterday’s Restaurant,

1502 N. Oak St., where all four of Arkansas’ Magic Rings will meet. For preparation of the reserved room please notify Marty with the headcount that you’ll be bringing. The Quad Meeting agenda so far includes introductions, a magic-themed game, volunteer performers, a possible micro-lecture. There will also be a flea market so bring cash and items you want to sell and be in charge of maintaining the table where your items are displayed. If you’d like to arrive early at 2:00 you can help Territorial Vice President Larry Bean prep the meeting room.

Marty handed out tickets for a drawing for prizes that he brought, and the card close-up mat prizes were very appropriate for the meeting “card magic” theme. After the thunderous applause for Blayk Puckett died down, he unrolled his prize, a beautiful new card mat and amazed us. He had Bob Bullock join him at the table, and Bob shuffled a pack of Blayk’s cards, and per Blayk’s instructions selected random ones, discard, conceal selections, and pick a “favorite” secretly. With amazing ability Blayk named the cards in Bob’s hand accurately until the last card was the only remaining card in Bob’s hand and then Blayk also named it correctly as the “secret card.”

Next to perform was Bob Bullock. First was an impressive series of card flourishes. Sid Salmans selected a face down card and viewed it privately and returned it to the spread deck in Bob’s hand. Bob then manipulated the deck multiple times and produced the “selected card” every time. He ended with a crisscrossed rubber band wrapped deck that he laid on the table. Bob tapped on top and only the selected card popped across the table out of the banded deck.

Sid Salmans expertly presented “Crazy Dazzle” by Adrian Vega. Dan Hecke performed two tricks. With mercy applause from Jim Henson, Joel Nicholson brought out a twelve-inch diameter disc printed with numbers on one side and colors on the other. Blayk Puckett selected a number and Joel counted the number of spaces out and moved to the selected spot. Joel then asked Blayk to find and open an envelope nearby. Inside the envelope was Joel’s prediction color which matched the color on back Blayk’s number selection landed on. To further confuse the audience Joel brought out a long square tube which contained a square die held in place by a magic wand that went through the tube and die. There was no apparent way that the die could slide out of the tube. But with a little tap the die fell out and the wand remained through the tube.

Paul Carlson sat at the table and asked for someone to call out any card. He then picked up

cards from the deck approximating the location of the card. He showed the card he selected, and it did not match. The audience groaned. He then stated a number and said he'd dig down into the deck counting to that number and the called-out card was in fact the card at his predicted location.

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.rhhomepage.com.

JOE KEPPEL, President

Not much post meeting magic, but rather post meeting stories about our trials and tribulations in magic. Lots of stories about things going bad and luckily, they should be learning experiences for the next time. Dumb luck we always have with a spectator providing a laugh that can be used later or buying a pig in a poke and it turns out to be a winner. Ever buy a piece of magic and not sure of what use it will be and don't you get lucky? I think many of us could write a book on what has happened along the path of magic.

Next month hopefully we will get back to some real magic, but it never hurts to look back and ahead. As I always say, "Have fun!"

Bob Good

RING 39, HOUSTON, TX – Scott Hollingsworth Ring

www.houstonmagic.com

JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH, Secretary / E-mail: judy4birds@yahoo.com

Magic and the weather are both hot in Houston in August. Despite many members being in Vegas for Magic Live, Ring 39 and the other two magic clubs garnered a large turnout for the August meeting. Mike Graham donated a collection of about thirty old magic books and magazines. Thanks, Mike.

Ron Jernigan's teach-in covered a must-have tool for all card magicians. He called it "Turn and Take Bottom Deal" and expertly demonstrated the move.

Bill Palmer's impromptu history lesson was a brief dissertation about the oldest recorded magic trick. Contrary to popular belief, it is not an Egyptian hieroglyph showing cups and balls – that is probably a depiction of baking bread. There is an ancient Hindu text that refers to a Lota Bowl credited with the first mention of magic in print.

With the other officers of Ring 39 off having fun in Vegas, Judy Hollingsworth filled in for a very short business meeting. Minutes from last month were approved and the treasurer's report was read. No other business led to a quick adjournment.

The evening's magic theme of comedy magic was amply demonstrated by Ricardo Teixeira, Ron Jernigan, Rick Hebert, Michael Thomas, Lloyd Bridges, Matthew Crabtree, Bill Palmer, Panda, and Lee Wise. Rick, Matthew and Michael took home the blue ribbons. Performers in the non-comedy session were Tom Bradley, Harry Maurer, and Greg Conner. Thanks to all who performed and to all those who watched and clapped. Both are necessary for the magic to happen!

Judy Hollingsworth

RING 43, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – Harlan Tarbell Ring

3rd Fri. except July and August, 7:00 p.m., at Magic, Inc. 1838 W.

Lawrence, Ave., Chicago, IL

MIKE KAMLET, President / E-mail: kamlet@ameritech.net

175 E. Delaware #8502, Chicago, IL 60611 / (312) 266-2129

Web site: www.ring43.org

The theme for July was a Pizza Party combined with a Do-It-Yourself workshop. Kevin Owens opened the meeting by introducing the officers and board members who work so hard to make the club a success. Next, we handed out the awards for last month's Close-up Contest: Third Place Dennis O'Neil; Second Place Alan Koslow; and First Place Mike Kamlet.

Brielle Kawalek announced we would have a special bonus lecture August 2nd at Magic Inc. Kyle Purnell has been creating practical magic for the close-up worker and will be teaching effects that he performs without the use of special gimmicks. These effects have not only entertained corporate audiences but have fooled magicians around the world.

Tyler Reid and Aaron Moring-D'angier were the featured lecturers for the evening. They held a workshop for club members and showed how to build three gimmicks which allow you to perform a whole series of magical effects. He picked Nico Lopez as a volunteer and dropped a quarter, challenging him to catch it. The quarter vanished and was found on the back of Nico's outstretched hand. He then vanished the coin twice more and each time produced it from Nico's back.

For the first workshop we all learned how to make a hooked coin, which was the prop used in the routine. Next, they showed several Rising Card effects done with the aid of an invisible gaff placed in an ordinary deck of playing cards. They showed all the sleights necessary to make the gimmick, and then we all got the opportunity to construct the gaff with materials and instructions provided.

Finally, they first demonstrated and then taught a device to make a small stick of lip balm appear and vanish.

After the meeting a number of members adjourned to a local Mexican restaurant for additional fun and fellowship. *John Hutsebaut*

RING 46, OKLAHOMA CITY – Seymour Davis Ring

Meets 1st Mon. of month, New Beginning Fellowship Church, 15601 S. Pennsylvania, OKC
LEE WOODSIDE, Secretary
E-mail: WoodsideLee@hotmail.com
Ring Web site: www.okcmagic.org

Our August theme was Liquid Magic and Lee Woodside kicked off the meeting with his Captain Lee's Magic Medicine Show. Lee left out the gags and bits of business he usual employs and focused on liquid magic effects. He began by telling how he collects the magical waters used in making the miracle fluid from a small mountain spring on land held sacred by the Shoshone (small lota pitcher). Next, he demonstrated how he tests the waters for the special magnetic properties necessary (hydrostatic glass). He stacked three small tumblers and showed how the magic elixir goes straight to where it's needed. For a belly ache, the liquid accumulated in the middle tumbler, for a headache, it went to the top tumbler, and for a big toe sore from gout, it went straight to the bottom tumbler. Lee ended by showing why one may need to buy only one bottle of the medicine. He poured a dose of the medicine into a small glass and then proceeded to pour from that glass into progressively bigger ones ("Multum in Parvo"). Throughout the presentation, he used a large lota bowl as a running gag. Lee fielded questions about the various effects.

President Cassidy Smith demonstrated how to produce a liquid load in a cups and balls routine. He then performed Will Golden's "Super Aerial Glass," where he poured wine from a bottle into a goblet and, when he released his hold on the goblet, it floated.

David Teeman showed off a gospel magic routine where red liquid turns other liquids clear when they are mixed together.

Cassidy Smith stressed the importance of one's entrance to the performing area. He invited each member to demonstrate his or her entrance. David Hira and Howard Hale were mentioned as magician who know how to make an entrance.

David Teeman demonstrated his quick coffee brewing machine. He showed the ground coffee in the top of the apparatus and when he placed the cover on and removed it, he had delicious, brewed coffee.

Professor Ludicrous (a.k.a. Rick Martin) made a cone from a sheet of newspaper and poured milk from a pitcher into the cone. When he unfurled the newspaper at the audience, the milk had vanished.

Brian Tabor rolled a dollar bill into a cylinder and placed it on a credit card. He visibly poured liquid into the small cylinder, but when he unrolled the bill, the liquid had vanished.

The names of all the performers were placed into a hat and one name was drawn. Lee Woodside became the proud new owner of John Bannon's "Call of the Wild." *Lee Woodside*

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 July meeting began with nine in attendance, including one guest, and then the usual business updates on the HOI Fair, Ignite Peoria, the Riverfront Market, the PMA Annual Picnic, and the October Magic Show and free mini convention.

The magic portion began with Rodney Nordstrom (D'Nordo) attempting his famous trick of having two called cards come together in a shuffled deck. Typically, only values are to be named, no suits, and typically it never works. It has become a kind of running gag with our club. But, lo and behold... this time it worked! Then in a display of tempting fate, he tried to repeat the trick. This time, our guest named two cards, except he named specific cards, value, and suit. Upon spreading the deck, those very two cards were sitting side by side. Now of course, if you do something enough times, you gain odds for a success, but this killed the room.

Our guest Charles performed "Ambitious Card." Nicely done! Jay Zentko followed with a couple of tricks, Glenn Gravatt's "Color Control" and an effect called "Zennerism." Michael Baker performed "Color Sync." Troy Keefer (Yort) did "Card to Wallet" and "Stranger." Jerry Tupper performed a rainbow trick using a Crystal Silk Cylinder.

A week later in July, several PMA members performed at the Heart of Illinois Fair. In spite of a sparsely decked out fair (no Midway rides this year), all performers reported good shows and large crowds. Performers included D'Nordo, Avalon, Jerry Tupper, and Jay Zentko.

The August meeting was lightly attended, only six people, plus Avalon and Jay's better halves. A couple of our members were attending Magic Live that week. In spite of low attendance, a lot was accomplished, and a lot of magic performances and participation happened.

The business portion was a postmortem report on the fair, and updates on how the Riverfront Market is going. A date of September 22 has been confirmed for the annual picnic. It will be held in Marquette Heights once again, thanks to Josh Phillips for setting that up.

Performers and schedule times were confirmed for Ignite Peoria. Our club has participated in this art showcase event for several years.

There was discussion of some details for the October event. Special note: Originally scheduled for October 26, it had to be moved to October 12. This has caused some issues with performer schedules, but we plan to adjust and move forward. One concern for the event was that the evening show has always run longer than desired. This year, we are going to be adamant that performers stick to their allotted time. We are also ordering a large display countdown clock which will be on stage and visible only to the performer.

The magic portion began with Greg Joyce sharing a number of ideas for a variety of tricks, "Out To Lunch," "Mental Epic," "Magician's Choice," paddle tricks, sponge balls, D'Lites, ITP, and close-up pads. Greg teaches magic to children and has many ideas on how to put ideas together economically.

Jerry Tupper discussed some books, *Our Magic* by Maskelyne and Devant and the three books of the *Fitzkee Trilogy*. He then performed a trick with animal cards and demonstrated Mini Pearl, the poodle dog made from beads. Michael Baker showed an idea he was working on with a card selected, a corner torn from the card, and then that corner piece vanishing and going to an impossible location. Jay Zentko brought up an issue that he encountered at a recent show with very unruly kids. This led to a bit of wound-licking as others shared similar experiences, but also some valid ideas were shared on how to counteract such things, both as preventative measures and correcting them should they happen during a show.

Michael Baker

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: ibmrings58.com

VICTOR AGREDA, Jr., President

(865) 223-1401 / e-mail: vagredajr@gmail.com

The July meeting was excellent with nineteen members present including Tim Waddell who did his initiation performance at the start of the meeting that featured a coin vanish and his variation on the Hot Rod. No need for Zoom set up this evening as Tom Vorjohan was in town and could enjoy the meeting in person. The theme was "Packet Tricks" – or as our Program Chairman, Andrew Hyder, likes to say: playing with less than a full deck.

Fifteen members performed this evening with thirteen doing packet tricks, so let's start there. Ed Ripley opened with some good news: he has been writing songs for years, and the day before the meeting he was at Hilltop Recording in Nashville having a demo put together with two

of his songs! He then showed a series of cards with cereal box fronts and the chosen cereal was the only blue backed card. Tim Pressley worked with Sherman Wires pertaining to coincidence with Aldo Colombini's matching trick. Using Mr. Ripley as his assistant, Bill Osburn used a ten-card packet and then shared his latest large Kickstarter purchase that he called an "engineering marvel" – and we agreed – but now what to do with it?

Beginning with thoughts about charisma, Roy Schubert did two mind-blowing creations: first, a thumb-tacked word matched a prediction with Roy across the room; second, three chosen cards matched three cards that were selected an hour ahead of time. Steve Jerden used four cards and the one odd one among them could not be found as it was in his wallet. Jim Stott took another shot at David Garrard's "Cards Across" as three selected cards went from Tim's envelope to Andrew's envelope. Proving that there are some great effects that we have forgotten about, I.B.M. Official Photographer Michael Messing did Ron Frost's "Wild Card Outdone" from Frank Garcia's 1977 *Wild Card Miracles* – this is worth looking up and it was well done by Mr. Messing.

Somehow, our President Michael Priestap, found packet-trick music ("The Empty Packet") and did his "Famous Four Tens Trick" where they changed back color, turned blank faced, and all marked with an "X" on the back (Nick Trost's "Marked Cards"). He also did Paul Cummings' effect with a cavorting Ace of Spades. Tom Vorjohan was delighted to not try to perform on the computer screen, and he showed gimmicks that came with some Fast-Food Playing Cards and performed his handling for a Clue version of a "Ten Card Poker Deal" originally shown to him by Past International President Stephen Bargatze. Having spent two dollars back in 1986 at his first Ring 58 meeting he attended, Jack Wilson did "Cyclotron" as he pattered about smashing and "un-smashing" atoms that were spots on cards... and this was the first time Jack learned the trick in over thirty years!

Our illustrious Past International President Mike Stratman announced that he was honored at the July convention to be made one of only five living Honorary Lifetime Members of the I.B.M., then he performed a twist on the clock trick that was published in the latest *Linking Ring*. We were glad to have John Gyllenhaal arrive just a bit late so he could do his ultimate favorite packet effect by Gordon Bean called "Entourage" with just four cards and any queen called for will be among three jokers... and it can be repeated!

Other than packet tricks, Bill Sturgis shared a piece of mental magic with the Anverdi dice and three prediction boards. Bill is working on this routine for the Unconventional Convention in November. Ray Adams also combined Diffatte's handcuff trick with the Ten Dollar Bills trick for a unique bit of funny business. This was the first time Ray got to try out this routine in front of real people. To end the evening after a quick break, Andrew Hyder did a walk-through of Vernon's "Twisting the Aces," and many members tried to do it with him and ask questions. A fantastic evening of magic in Knoxville! *Tom Vorjohan*

RING 60, AUSTIN, TEXAS – Carl Moore Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00, at Hero's Night Out in Cedar Park.

TRICIA HEIL DAVIS, President

Web site: www.ibtoring60.org

Tuesday August 6, 2024, was the "National Lecture Night of Texas," an annual tradition of I.B.M. Ring 60 for four decades. First, Past President Kent Cummins gave a half hour lecture on "The Magic of Austin," explaining fifty-two reasons why Austin, Texas, is one of the six most important magic cities in the world. Members received a twenty-page booklet with additional information.

There were six lecturers as part of the official program theme, each teaching a trick in just ten minutes and then providing lecture notes and props for just one dollar each. The program was originally the brainchild of Bill Amstead in the early '80s, who was then the new Vice President of the Ring and program chairman. It was run for many years by Past President Lou Hornung, and then by Carlos Santillan.

Past President Carlos Santillan was first with a clever card penetration trick. Glen Watkins, Past Ring 60 Treasurer, then taught a prediction trick with eight pairs of socks! "The Amazing Robert" Castillo, Past President and current Ring Treasurer, performed and taught "Easy Card to Pocket." Albert Lucio, who previously produced a souvenir book for the National Lecture Night of Texas, performed "Flashback Queens," an original adaptation of a trick normally performed with trick cards. His lecture notes were a QR Code that sent members to a video explaining the effect. Past President CJ Johnson provided extensive guidance on how (and why) to practice a Classic Force with playing cards. Finally, "The Fantastic Kent Cummins" performed and taught a coin penetration effect that had previously been produced by the late Ramon Galindo, a Past President of I.B.M. Ring 60.

Open Mic followed the break, with card tricks performed by Robert Castillo, Brooks Griffith, and CJ Johnson. Glen Watkins demon-

strated an origami trick with a dollar bill (he said it would work with a hundred-dollar bill too!). *Kent Cummins*

RING 63, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Meets 1st Wed. monthly, 7:30pm, at the Shepherd's Care Assisted

Living Center 2100 N. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC 29609

PAUL DILELLA, Secretary / E-mail: magicmanpaul@yahoo.com

Web site: www.ring63.com

The July gathering of magic enthusiasts at I.B.M. Ring 63 welcomed sixteen attendees. July's magic theme was On The Go Magic, what's your go-to-trick when you're out and about. We had eleven magical performances at our July meeting.

Dick Stevens was our first performer with a trick he custom made recently after viewing a similar YouTube video. Applause sign lights up seemingly with a foot switch but mysteriously lights up without it during audience byplay. Then liquid disappears from a newspaper and reappears inside the lightbulb used in the Applause sign. Another great Dick Stevens creation.

Paul DiLella performed a TV trick performed by Chris Capehart on Penn and Teller and also performed by Ice McDonald at his Greenville, SC show involving kings and queens which magically paired themselves and found the four aces too. Yet, when the remainder of the deck was spread, the remainder of the deck was shown to be all blank.

El Presidente Mike Noonan demonstrated two outstanding packet tricks, one ending with blank cards and a "Three Card Monte" with four cards that had all kinds of twists and turns. Packs flat, played big. Danny Williams once again proved his prowess with the paddle move by combining coin flourishes with the production of a knife. And then amazing us all with his Ring 63 famous paddle moves.

Jim Alexander showed us all an unusual and rarely seen packet trick with two cards and at the end of the routine, one card changed to a blank card, and the other card combined both previously shown cards. What? Amazing. Professor Rhett Bryson took a large wooden bathroom key and moved the key from the end of the stick to the middle of the stick and back to the end of the stick in an extremely visual illusion. Rhett followed this up with a great two phased variation of the Invisible Deck. And his finale was a Queen of Hearts literally rose out of the deck of cards face down and then visually rotated face up! Now that was magic!

Visiting Past Presidente Jeff "The Psychic CPA" Kowalk performed a mathematical mentalism routine involving three spectators and the last four digits of their credit cards and attempted to predict the total from these numbers using

an old mathematical principle. But the most memorable contribution of the evening was Jeff Kowalk explaining the Green Neck Principle to two of our astonished members of I.B.M. Ring 63. Thank you for visiting Jeff. You are always welcome.

Jimmy Dellaccio amazed and amused us all with a lengthy card trick routine with multiple visual changes and transpositions and crazy cards with two images at the end. Whew! John Dahlinger, I.B.M. Ring 63's Coin Man befuddled us yet again with his coin manipulation mastery involving different kinds of funky coins and ended with a classic and elegant version of "Coins Through Silk." Beautiful magic. And then there was Larry "July Fourth Birthday Boy" Colombo who performed a cute purple and white rope transposition with member Danny Williams holding the ropes. You had to see it to believe it.

And finally, Mentalist Adam Putnam performed a prediction using the power of his mind and a prediction written on his hand. He used his iPhone and a spectator's freely chosen number from a list of one hundred names, and the spectator's number corresponded with the name of comedian Jimmy Fallon. Which was the exact prediction written on his hand! One of the many beautiful magical effects you can do with the Digital Force Bag app. Extremely well done and an entertaining routine too. *Paul DiLella*

RING 68, TOLEDO, OHIO – Toledo Society of Magicians

Meets 2nd Tues., each month, 6:30 p.m. Location varies.

PATRICK PRZYSIECKI, President / E-mail: patrick@patrickmagic.com

Ring 68 (Toledo, Ohio) met Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at the Perrysburg, OH, library. Ring President George Magill led a brief discussion on attracting more members, followed by announcements of upcoming events led by Vice President Patrick Przysiecki. John Bannon and Tom Dobrowolski were slated to lecture on September 27th in Toledo and a Ring 68 flea market was scheduled for October 5th. Johnny New York offered information on Michigan Magic Day on May 17, 2025.

The magic portion of the meeting included Martin Jarret who performed magic from the Nuova Magia video and introduced his own use of a glass chess figure to reveal a chosen king. Martin invited a lively discussion of refinements for his idea.

George Magill performed a Juan Capilla effect called "Blow" and invited another lively discussion on a sleight of hand class he plans to offer at the library, for which he asked for ideas.

Johnny New York performed his original effect called "Luck" and amazed us with a poker demonstration that he created.

Patrick Przysiecki offered a version of "Color Monte" using three queens.

Doug Ferguson dredged up an old classic ("Ultra Coincidence") from Karl Fulves' first book on self-working card tricks.

Byron Minturn also participated. As is the custom after adjournment, we walked to a nearby restaurant to discuss and perform more magic. *Doug Ferguson*

RING 75, FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS – Bill Pitts Ring

Meets 2nd Sun. each month, 1:30 p.m., Fort Smith Library, 3201 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith, AR

KEN ZELNICK, Secretary / E-mail: kzelnick@suddenlink.net

The July meeting of I.B.M. Ring 75, Fort Smith, AR was held Sunday, July 14 at the Fort Smith Public Library with eight people in attendance.

This month featured our annual magic auction. Business items were few and quickly covered so we could get to the good stuff. Most of the auction offerings were the last remnants from the estate of our late friend and club member Chuck Larson, and with so few in attendance, many items were sold in lots combining good tricks with some not-so-good tricks. Still, a good time was had by all, and a lot of magic changed hands.

After the meeting, several members reconvened at a local coffee shop for continued camaraderie. *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

For Ring 76, July is the start of our calendar year. It is the time to celebrate a new beginning and reward the efforts of our talented members.

The meeting was held on the usual second Monday of the month. Along with the Board, various volunteers arrived in the afternoon to set up the tables and Brenda Wauson, wife of member Greg Wauson, provided colorful table decorations. Gary Salisbury was set up to monitor arrivals and provided tickets for the Opportunity Drawing to be held later. Richard Ustick was in charge of the meal portion of the event but in reality, an enthusiastic crew of members and their guests made the minutiae of the evening proceed like a well-planned magic show, only everything actually worked. We were also fortunate to have the Territorial Vice President Cliff Gerstman accept our invitation to do the honors of swearing in the new Board of Directors.

Once the meal tables were set up the meeting started with a call to the food. Besides the traditional rolls, salads, and desserts, Terry Lunceford provided a delicious roast, Mark

Booth brought his award-winning chili, and Alvin Reviles brought his delicious lumpia. With deviled eggs, chicken, and a host of chips and dips, nobody was going to go away hungry that night.

After a reasonable amount of time enjoying the culinary fair, the evening business started. First on the agenda was the recognition of the outgoing Board. Each was presented with a plaque in recognition of their service this year, and those who had served in that capacity before received a date plate for the plaque they had back home. Next, the Territorial Vice President introduced the newly elected Board of Directors for the next year and swore them in officially. Josh Sherwin is the President, "Magic Mike" Silwell is the Vice President of Entertainment, James Thayer is the Vice President of Membership, Miguel Garcia is elected Treasurer, Richard Ustick is now the Secretary, Mark Booth is Sergeant-at-Arms, and Gary Salisbury and Misha Osinovskiy are Members-at-Large.

The next order of business was the presentation of awards. Throughout the year Ring 76 has theme nights and other performance events, but we also have close-up and stand-up contests where members must adhere to higher standards in order to be recognized. This year's winners of the close-up contest were for third place, Ms. Charley, for second place, Mr. Funtastic (Dale Law), and for first place, Alfonso Vasquez. Next were the winners of the stand-up contest, third place was Joe Mystic, second place was Alfonso Vasquez, and the first place winner was Mark Booth. Congratulations to all the participants.

The last two awards of recognition were the Entertainer of the Year and the Member of the Year. The Entertainer of the Year is chosen by the cumulative votes of the members for all the performing nights throughout the year. That award went to Alfonso Vasquez. The Member of the Year is voted on by the membership and reflects who they think has done the most in the past year to promote not only the Ring but magic in the community as a whole. This year the award went to "Magic Mike" Stilwell.

With all of the business done, it was time for the Ring members and their guests to sit back and be entertained by excellent presentations of Robert Baxt. Not only were his magical skills as impressive as we had hoped, but his comedic delivery had everyone laughing in their seats. It was the perfect ending to a perfect night. *Richard Ustick*

RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. "Social Gathering," 7:00 p.m. start time.

Trinity United Methodist Church in Haley Hall, 4150 South Shade Ave., Sarasota, FL

GARY ROBERTS, President

E-MAIL: gary@robertsgary.com / Web site: www.ibmring81.com

Again, we had a small but mighty group for the August meeting on the first. Several members were either at the Abbott's Convention or traveling to Magic LIVE, but those at the meeting had a blast. There was discussion about a future club fundraiser for the club's benefit, and we plan to do a separate one for the church in Sarasota that we will start meeting at in September – thank you Woody Woodward for helping us secure this new location.

Our performances included Lar Hookway doing a surprise version of the game of Clue. Frank Velasco demonstrated and taught a "mind reading" card trick using poker chips. Our Vice President, Star Newman, who was in charge of the evening's activities, did a Michael Weber effect called "Pictionary."

Bob Banta, our reliable Treasurer, did a nice color changing CD act to music; he introduced us to the tiniest and most powerful speaker in the process. Our resident card guru, David Pitchford, once again performed and taught another card effect that was well within our grasp. We concluded the fun with Nick Benevento using a cool large ring for an enjoyable "Ring and Rope" routine.

After a couple sparsely attended July and August meetings, we will be at our new home in Haley Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church at the address above. If you are vacationing near Sarasota on the first Thursday of the month, we hope you will arrange your schedule to make an appearance – we'd love to have you join in the magic! *Tom Vorjohan (via Star Newman)*

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

Our well attended July meeting saw Brian Thompson kicking off the evening with novel coloured paper folding that slowly formed a circle, following this with a printing routine from Daryl, eight cards changing one at a time.

Kym Brockhoff impressed with Aldo Colombini's "Contact Colours," four aces of the

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

deck appearing on top of four piles, climaxing with a spectator's selected card appearing, lost aces returning.

Wal Parker presented a puzzling coincidence involving two court cards of the deck coming together.

Peter Rowe, always very comfortable with ring and rope routines, stepped forward with variations on his excellent "Down Under Rope and Ring Release" from the June 1996 issue of *The Linking Ring*. He followed this with Jack McGlone's very popular "Idle Idol" effect from the pages of *The Blueprint*.

Graham Etherington showed a brief but effective card mind reading effect.

Chris Haller showed us his handling of the Pom-Pom trick.

Brian Thompson stepping forward again, this time with a very effective "Rising Cards" routine from Murphy's Magic.

Aidan Thompson demonstrated a silk appearance then vanish, reappearing inside an inflated balloon, continuing with the Goofus Plant favourite, then finishing with a giant ace routine.

Chris Haller closed the evening with a clever box of dice effect where random numbers suddenly change to match a six rolled by a spectator. Well done. *Ian Baxter*

RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland

Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.

BILL FIENNING, Secretary

(505) 298-0743 / E-mail: wcfienn@att.net

President Dave Dunlap opened our August meeting. Treasurer Tom Plunkett encouraged purchase of tickets for our Albuquerque public show which will be in October. The topics for the meeting were Business Card Magic and the Out to Lunch principle.

Dave Dunlap asked a spectator to initial a business card with a drawing of a closed padlock on it. He displayed a typical mortice key with the strange property that it would turn in his hand (like the Haunted Key). Its bit could be twisted in any direction relative to the handle. Then he slid the bit back toward the bow (handle). After the key turned magically, he revealed that the padlock drawn on the business card was now open.

Secretary Bill Fienning demonstrated his application of the Out to Lunch principle. A spectator initialed a card to "disavow and forswear allegiance to Satan." Later, it is revealed that the card stated, "avow and swear allegiance to Satan." He explained his method to attach the top half of the gimmick with tape to hold it in place. This precipitated a discussion

of the Out to Lunch principle. Tom Karas explained a turnover move to show both sides of a business card as blank, while concealing the printing on the front of the card. *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

It was a busy time for magicians during the second week of July 2024 as magicians from all over the world attended the I.B.M. Convention in Tacoma, Washington. Magicians from the Vancouver Magic Circle attending this convention were Past International President Shawn Farquhar, Gabriella Lester, Graham Kita, Ken Cowie, Simon Cassegrain, Past International President Billy Hsueh, Blake Aleong, S.A.M. Past National President Rod Chow, Michael Glenister, Past International President Alex Zander, Scott Barker, David Parker, Robert Teszka, Greg Ladret, Mike Vetterli, Wiley Allen, Ed Goldberg, Errol Lipschitz, Glen LaBarre, Bill Lee, Claire-ly Lee and Greg Lee. Featured performers from the Vancouver Magic Circle were Shawn Farquhar and Gabriella Lester. Everyone had a good time and learned a lot from the lectures and workshops and the performances of other magicians. Billy Hsueh, Rod Chow, and Blake Aleong entered the close-up contest. After the convention, Shawn Farquhar made plans for Ring 92 to host I.B.M. International President Mike Dunagan and his wife Laura to come to Vancouver, British Columbia, to visit our beautiful city. While they were here, Henry Tom drove Mike and Laura around to do some sight-seeing including visiting the world's skinniest building which is Rod Chow's insurance office and new Animatronic Giant Panda Habitat located at the entrance to Chinatown. They also visited Dr. Sun -Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden and other parts of Chinatown. They also visited Granville Island. They were also treated to a delicious dim sum lunch.

After the sight-seeing, Shawn Farquhar arranged a presidential dinner at Stefano's restaurant with several Vancouver Magic Circle members joining in attendance. After the dinner, there was a special presidential show at Shawn Farquhar's Hidden Wonders. The show was emceed by Yoosik Oum. Performing in the show were Simon Cassegrain, Ken Cowie, Dylan Hemptenstall, Henry Tom, Bill Lee, Rod Chow, and Alex Zander. Mike and Laura were the guests of honour and favoured and frequent volunteers sitting in the VIP seats in the front row.

A very special part of the evening was the honour of a presentation of Mike's first Presidential Citation to an extremely deserving Shawn Farquhar. Mike and Laura were impressed by the amount of magical talents by the members of the Vancouver Magic Circle and thanked everyone for their hospitality. Shawn thanked everyone for attending the dinner and show to help make Mike and Laura's visit an enjoyable one with plenty of memories. Everyone enjoyed the visit with Mike and Laura. Everyone had a good time. There was a chat session after the show. Assisting me, Dennis Chan, your Ring reporter with the report were Henry Tom, Rod Chow, Simon Cassegrain, Graham Kita, Yoosik Oum, and Shawn Farquhar. *Dennis Chan*

RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club

3rd Sun., 7:00pm, Hy-Vee meeting room, 400 Locust St., Dubuque, Iowa
BOB BEARDSLEY, President, (563) 556-8584
E-mail: rbeardsly@Q.com

The July meeting of Ring 93 began with emcee Rob Gomoll singing the club song and reading his "Magician's Prayer." He also had a poem in honor of freedom for July... freedom from the addiction to our smart phones.

In honor of July's Independence Day, / Learn some tricks and put that phone away! / If jobseekers only knew... / HR people focus less on their resume than on their interview! / Magic has many thrills, / But it so teaches "soft skills." / Performance and prestidigitation / Enhance skills of communication. / Eye-hand coordination, eye-contact, following directions, and confidence are on the soft-skills' menu, / And show what learning magic can do. / Magic can make your wits keen; it's both fun and educational; / But staring into that little screen can make you dull. / To our dismay, statisticians say / Teens use their phones for nine hours a day! / It's mind-boggling: I saw a young man looking at his phone while jogging! / That's not just an addiction: it's an affliction! / You don't need to do penance; / Fight your dependence! / Forty-eight per cent of Americans say they're addicted. How tragic! / Free yourself and learn some MAGIC!

We greeted four new members: grandson Tristan and Grandma Marilyn Shea and dad Kyle and daughter Ruby Fitz. Preteen Tristan led the way with six quarters between two paper plates. When he shook the plates and turned them upside down, there were only three coins. Then he shook the plates and turned them upside down again, and six coins were back! Rob gave small boxes of magic tricks to each new young member, and eight-year-old Ruby Fitz performed a disappearing/appearing coin trick. She is very mature verbally and has a lot of self-confidence.

Her father, Kyle managed to astound Rob by producing a tube with colored pellets in it. On the first pass, Kyle showed two red pellets among the others. On the second pass, there was only one red pellet. He asked, "Where is that other red pellet?" It turned out to be in Rob's shirt pocket!

Great trick, Kyle!

The rest of the meeting was dedicated to teaching our young members and their parents some tricks. Rob did a card-prediction trick that used adding up the pips on two dice. Walking Magic Bob Beardsley, Ring Treasurer, instructed us on the classic "Spelling Trick." Bob also demonstrated his three-rope trick. Chris Westemeier, Ring President, showed his variation on attaching and detaching three different colored beaded necklaces.

On August 1st the following club members traveled to Peosta and Farley to put on workshops: Bob Beardsley, Shelley Beardsley, Phyllis Fishnick, Ryan Cavanaugh, and Chris Westemeier. This was a fundraiser for the club as they worked with thirty-seven kids and adults at Peosta Library and thirty-seven kids and adults at the Farley Library. Ryan Cavanaugh, our newest club member, performed the "21 Card Trick," "Cutting the Aces," and, to some advanced students, we taught a version of "Jacob Daly's Last Trick." Shelley taught a thirteen-card spelling trick, Bob taught a magic washer and rubber band effect, Chris taught his version of Dan Harlan's "Linking Rubber Bands" using beads. Phyllis taught a paper clip and bill trick. She also taught her world-famous plate spinning which is always a hit for any age. A good time was had by all, and it was great PR for Ring #93. We might even have picked up a few new members.

On August 3rd, Walking Magic Bob performed a family show at the Asbury Library with such effects as "PNM," "Cut and Restored Rope," "Linking Rings," "Lady Bugs," "Color-Changing Silk," "B'Wave," "Kids' Cards," "Linking Rubber Bands," "Doves from Boxes" and "Dream Bags." Phew! That's quite a show, Walking Magic Bob! *Rob Gomoll*

RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA – Merlin Eiert 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, July 20th, Ring 96 held its most recent meeting. What a night that was. The meeting started with a pre-meeting workshop hosted by Maestro Kevin Papke. Kevin opened by showing his take on Michael Ammar's "Card

Warp.” After showing the technique and giving our members time to practice, Kevin switched over to Doc Eason’s “Screwed Up.” This effect uses nuts and bolts, and the members quickly picked up on it. Kevin has done very well for Ring 96 since starting the Pre-Meeting Workshop over a year ago.

President John Piercy called the meeting to order and introduced the night’s topic. It was the David Gray Mini-Lectures. David Gray had been a long-time member, and club officer and often contributed to mini lectures. After he passed away, it was decided to name this event after him. The first lecture was from Bill Pearce. Bill talked about a specific effect called “Free Will.” This effect is about twenty years old and was very popular when it first came out. A set of ESP cards was used. This deck features five different faces. A volunteer shuffled and chose a card. He was offered an opportunity to change his mind, and he did, switching to a different card choice. The volunteer was told to look at the back, and there were predictions made about his card choice. Bill repeated the trick using his business card and drawn symbols or marks. Then the method was taught.

Paul Case talked about scripting. He used a simple wand and sponge ball vanish to show how much more effective the simple vanish was with proper scripting. Paul showed us the presentation, false explanations, and sucker gags for laughs. The audience will know if you are not true to your character. Know your motivation and be true to it.

Jon Strum presented a series of statistics on the topic of what a lay audience likes and believes. His report came from work done by Joshua Jay some years ago. Some of the results were quite surprising. The biggest point Jon made, was that magic does not score highly overall on the scale of entertainment that people enjoy. Jon continued reading statistics that explained audience likes and dislikes. He made suggestions as to what a magician can do to take advantage of these ideas. The book was called *Magic by The Numbers*. Check it out if you want to see the specifics.

Our final lecturer was Phil Ureno. Phil is known for inserting his strong characterization into his performances. His first character was a time traveler. He did magic using his self-designed magical props to fit that character. Later Phil created a mad scientist character that again uses props that are appropriate to what he is doing on stage. Phil’s advice is that you make everything you do relevant to the character you have created. Another exciting night at Ring 96.

Cliff Gerstman

RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - The Maurice Rooklyn Ring

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood
Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street
Chatswood.

JACK SHARP, President / email: jack@sharpmagic.com.au

Our last meeting was a bit unusual. We took the night off from performing and we had three of our local magical identities each give a mini lecture on a relevant topic of our industry.

The first speaker was Kent Blackmore. Kent is Australia’s foremost and only magic historian. Kent is also an author and is known for his book *Levante: His Life, No Illusion*. Kent regaled us with numerous stories of early Australian magicians, or magicians who visited our shores on magical tours. There was Charles Rignold who was performing a shooting effect where an object was to be shot to a location across the room. The gunpowder was stamped down, and the object loaded, but the gun would not fire, so it was pressed with more gunpowder and again would not fire. A third time more gunpowder was added. This time when the trigger was pulled, the barrel of the gun exploded causing serious injury to Charles’ face. Then there was Oscar Eliason whose professional name was Dante the Great. He met his untimely death when rabbit shooting with his Musical Director. The Amazing Maurice Rooklyn (whose name Ring 102 bears) did a bullet catch in his act. He was actually shot a couple of times, but was only grazed and managed to continue his show. What is it with magicians and guns? Kent had anecdotes of many other magicians including the mind reading act of Robert and Haidee Heller, Tomahawk Joe who was a snake handler and tomahawk thrower and Thomas Arnott who was the earliest performing magician in Australia. Kent also mentioned Melbourne based magician and clown Charlie Sloggatt and the scrapbooks of Harry Ensore. Then Kent showed us some of his posters of Les Levante, Maurice Rooklyn, Herr Tolmaque, and Tom Selwyn.

Our next speaker was mentalist and corporate lawyer Conway Restom. Conway enlightened us with the subject of Intellectual Property and the Magic Industry. The law protects our tangible property e.g., if someone steals your car. Intellectual Property is a creation of the mind, and you can actually own your ideas and creations, however there are conditions. It has to be useful, commercial, and be different to anything that already exists. Magical effects, like any other invention, can be patented. The problem is that in order to obtain a patent you must expose the complete method and working. A patent doesn’t protect secrets, it puts them out

into the public domain. A patent could stop someone from performing or selling your effect, but it can't stop them from exposing it.

Sean Taylor is well known in the magic community all over the world. Sean educated us on how to put together a show. People don't go to a magic show to see tricks; they want to be entertained. When planning a show, there are a number of steps Sean recommends going through before choosing your material. (1) Who is your audience? Are they kids, adults, or mixed? Are they a sophisticated corporate group or a knock-about sports club? (2) The size of your audience. Are you playing in a living room, a school hall, or a full stage? (3) Who are you? What is your appearance, character, personality, and style? (4) What kind of show are you doing? Close-up, stand-up, stage? Consider all the above situations and then decide what material will suit all the conditions. Your opening effect should warm up your audience, engage them and get them to like you and trust you. During your show, vary the pace, volume and tone so that it does not run through all at the same level. Your closer must be the highlight, something memorable so that you end on a high.

Well, that is an outline of the meeting. All three speakers were engaging and presented useful information in an interesting manner. All attendees said it was an enjoyable and informative meeting.

Peter Wood

RING 103, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA – Earl Edwards Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:30 p.m., Virginia Wesleyan University
JAMES JOHNSKE, President / email: geomagic10@gmail.com
Website: <https://ibm-ring-103.jimdosite.com>

Meeting was called to order by President Jim Johnke, with nine members in attendance and one guest.

Old Business: The lecture by Trevor Duffy in June was a success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

New Business: Christian Compton will investigate the next potential lecturer for the fall and coordinate with other local Rings to set a date. Sean McKenzie proposed setting up a tent for the Virginia Wesleyan University Freshman Orientation and a two-week Introduction to Magic event for new students. Jim Johnke will coordinate with the university to determine what steps need to be taken.

Good of the Order: Sean McKenzie thanked the Ring for their continued support and mentorship as he started his own LLC for mentalism and magic performances.

Performance Theme Card Forces: Sonny Narvaez performed an ambigram effect with a word written on a glass pane. When the spectator chose a card, their card was revealed in writ-

ing with the glass pane turned around. RG performed a prediction effect resulting in the Eight of Spades becoming the Three of Spades. Sean McKenzie performed a five-card ESP routine, ending with Dee Christopher's "Gambit" using the Eclipse Deck.

The meeting was adjourned, and a JAM session occurred.

Sean McKenzie

RING 105, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA – The Coe Norton Ring

Meets 2nd Thur. of the month 7:00 P.M. at Home of Tony Metze, 123 Holly Ridge Lane, West Columbia, SC
TONY METZE, Acting Secretary / Email: tonymetze@yahoo.com
Facebook: Columbia Magic Club IBM Ring 105
Website: www.IBMRing105.org

The August 15 meeting of Ring 105 gathered at the home of Dr. Tony Metze. Attending were Tony, John Tudor, Greg Edmonds, Mike Kimble, Jay Altimus, and new member Tony Campbell.

The evening began with a display and presentation of two suspension illusions youngest member Tony Campbell received from the estate of the late Clive Lugmayer, a former Ring 105 member and performer who resided in West Columbia, South Carolina. While Tony was grateful to receive the two well-built sets of apparatus, he wasn't familiar with their working. One set, a classic suspension platform incorporating the gooseneck (or S-bar) suspension device is large and quite heavy; the other, a chair/ladder suspension, is much more portable.

Members John Tudor and Greg Edmonds, both of whom have fairly extensive experience with stage illusions, demonstrated how to employ an assistant with Tony's newly acquired apparatus, and discussed how to present them both safely and effectively. Greg pointed out the necessity of subtly pausing the large loop halfway through passing it over the supine body (and through the gooseneck device) of the person being levitated, to make the illusion more convincing.

Tony Metze displayed his smaller Super-X "levitation" apparatus and showed us all a terrific improvement that makes the suspension itself more convincing from various angles, including from the perspective of being viewed from below. The latter is accomplished by a secret device that literally makes the load bearing suspension bar invisible because of an extra bit of fringe which serves to conceal it.

A discussion of members' experiences with other regional magic organizations and current shows ensued, with Greg recalling that a larger magic club (formerly meeting in Charlotte, NC) used to hold an annual auction during the month of September. Greg suggested it would be fun to

do so locally, inviting other performers in surrounding states to join in. This prompted Tony Metze to show a larger black box (Joker Magic's Giant Cube Illusion), suggesting that he had no presentation for it, and saying he thought it might be something he would be interested in selling if such an auction becomes reality. He asked for suggestions, after demonstrating what the very nicely made apparatus does.

Greg suggested employing a theme of how the illusion of perspective might be employed, explaining how we each see different aspects of the same thing. In effect, the box is opened and a large cube withdrawn and displayed. The cube is black in color, with large orange circles centered on each side. The cube is placed back inside its container, then immediately inverted. To the surprise of spectators, a solid (and rather large) orange ball then falls from inside the box. Finally, the lid of the box is replaced, then, when opened, reveals a large black die with white spots which tumbles onto the performance surface. Greg suggested that we all "gamble" with trusting our vision, and that doing so may lead to falsely believing in our initial perspective(s). Jay suggested perhaps adding additional colors to the orange circle and taking the presentation in another direction. After the ensuing discussion, Tony said he wouldn't consider selling the effect after all!

Tony (Metze) then showed an old metal Rush Walsh vanishing cane. This inspired John Tudor and Jay Altimus to discuss the origin of the famous Fantasio plastic cane and candle sets, which began from the observation of plastic strips used in soft drink storage containers.

Tony Campbell then performed a very polished prediction effect employing a gimmicked Bluther wristwatch. The apparatus is far superior to earlier versions of the trick both in handling and in the fact that the watch can (and does) accurately display the hours of the day when worn. Tony has a bright future in magic and being literally one-third the age of each of the groups other individual members, gives Ring 105 a hopeful outlook for the art magic in years to come.

John Tudor then shared a very well-preserved old program from the 23rd Annual Southeastern Convention of Magicians (precursor to the current Southeastern Association of Magicians) which took place in Columbia, South Carolina (home of Ring 105) exactly seventy years ago during the month of August.

Mike Kimble performed Tenyo's Koornwilder Kar card-locating presentation, with Tony Campbell assisting. The performance segment of the meeting closed with John Tudor dis-

playing several sets of linking rings, including a smaller chrome-plated set, a larger set with a very nice bayonet-style locking key ring, and a set of Matthew Garrett's black close-up rings. He closed by demonstrating work he's been doing with his set of Paul Romhany's "Linking Hearts." John's presentation of the latter is well thought out, and unique. *Greg Edmonds*

RING 112, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE – M.H. Ortwien Ring

Meets 3rd Tue. of each month, 6:00 pm at Miller's Ale House, 2119 Gunbarrel Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421

www.ring112.org

JIM DRISCOLL, Acting President / E-mail: jim.dricoll@gmail.com

The Chattanooga Magic Club is definitely back! July's theme was "My Favorite Magic Book," and the discussion was punctuated with some great tricks and routines from those pages.

As an added treat, our newest member, Nathan Dyar, demonstrated some offbeat magic and sideshow stunts with his "Human Blockhead" routine when he pounded a four-inch nail into his nose for our waitress.

Here's a look at the books that Ring 112 members brought and/or discussed: Mike Edwards - Ken Weber's *Maximum Entertainment*; Michael Frisbee - Henry Hay's *The Amateur Magician's Handbook*; Jim Driscoll - Simon Aronson's *Try the Impossible*; David Ginn's *Kidbiz* and Jamie D. Grant's *The Approach*; Adam Ryan - Woody Aragon's *A Book in English*; Barry Savage - Paul Harris *Las Vegas Close-up*; Nathan Dyar - *Expert Card Technique* and Mark Wilson's *Complete Course in Magic*; Robert Jones - Siegfried & Roy *Mastering the Impossible*, John Calvert *Magic and Adventures Around the World*, Duane Laflin's *On Stage with Illusions*, Dick Ryan's *Confidential Booking Report*, and Robert's own coloring book.

We invite all former Ring 112 members, and all magicians in the Chattanooga, south Tennessee, and north Georgia areas who are interested in becoming a part of the club, to join us at one of our future meetings. Our meeting location is at Miller's Ale House, near the Hamilton Place Mall in Chattanooga. *Jim Driscoll*

RING 113, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY – Audley Walsh/Conrad C. Bush

Meets 1st Thurs. 8:00 pm, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 300 Forest Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ.

ANTHONY FERRER, Secretary / web site: ibmring113@yahoo.com

The evening's theme was card tricks with four aces. The performances began with Dan Silvestri's handling of the card classic, "Triumph." Dan slop-shuffled the cards, dealt four piles and produced the four aces on top of each stack using a sly key card principle. Next,

Jimmy Challes dealt out four poker hands, produced the four aces and then revealed the rest of the deck to be all blank cards! Richard Micucci performed Frank Garcia's "Four Card Prediction" involving two spectators and a routine where the chosen card appeared mercury-folded inside a balloon!

Eddie Conrad performed "Rising Aces" where the four aces are each inserted into the deck and miraculously rise to the top! Jay Paul demonstrated "Destination Aces." He shuffled the deck and with a series of quick cuts, he revealed and kicked out each of four aces. Alen Thompson brought a little bit of side-show daring with his demonstration of masterful card flipping feats. He started flipping and catching cards and progressed to flipping a mouse trap, a larger rat trap and finally, a gnarly chrome bear trap! Luckily, Alen survived the ordeal with all his precious digits intact!

Carl Morano followed up with "Sneaky Snake" from Ronjo Magic. The spectator chose a card, mixed it back into the deck while Carl reached into a red velvet bag and produced a highly venomous toy serpent! Carl hovered the snake over the spread deck where it chomped onto a card that was revealed to be the selected card with two fang puncture marks! Mark Cahill performed a "Six Card Repeat" routine with color changing backs that he based on a Liam Montier handling and continued with Steve Cook's "The Gamble," a poker chip prediction. Mark concluded with Liam Montier's version of "Triumph" where the cards were mixed face up and face down. When the deck is turned over and spread, only the four aces were face up!

John Henderson continued the marathon card party with a performance of "Vivace" by Carlos Vaquera and Aldo Colombini and followed up with Nick Trost's "Double Discovery." The cards were mixed and cut into three piles, one pile is turned face up, piles are stacked and spread until all the face cards are eliminated leaving only a small pile that is dealt into four piles. The top cards were turned over to reveal four kings, and the four bottom cards revealed the aces! Tim Fortune performed and explained Daniel Madison's "Angle Zero," a powerful torn and restored card illusion that is pure simplicity but packs small and plays big! Jay concluded with a combination of two cards tricks, Rick Lax's "Binary Code" and David Williamson's "Smith Myth." Two spectators tore some cards in half, shuffled them under the table and miraculously took out matching halves!

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

I.B.M. Singapore Ring 115's July meeting was held on Monday 15th July in Function Room 1, Level 3, of the National Library building. Carson Goh and Victor Heng were the hosts. The theme was The Magic of Storytelling, and the attendance was thirty-two.

Carson opened the meeting highlighting the special talks by Joe Augustine, who was an invited guest, and Andrew Kong. Victor thanked all for contributing to help Jeremy Pei and his family. All wished him a speedy recovery. Kenneth Chia advised that twenty-two had registered for the FISM convention in China to be held on 25 to 28 September.

John Teo narrated the story of his great, great grandfather who had visions of owning a mansion but could only afford a toilet. Next, he showed a U.S. dollar and a Chinese coin but no matter how many he put in his pocket he always had two coins left in his hand till the last iteration when all coins vanished.

Victor Heng told an AI (Artificial Intelligence) story. He used four flat wooden pieces and two sets of coloured plastic discs (like coins). The wooden pieces were inscribed with grids of numbers, symbols, and some playing cards, and the plastic discs had numbers and symbols. Three spectators randomly chose two discs each. The combined revelation of the discs matched the chosen card.

Ng Kah King's story of the Spooky Villa had the sound effects of clock ticking, knock on the door and scary voices. Of the three boys and girls depicted by picture cards, it proved that the boys were not brave as they boasted about visiting the haunted house.

Joe Augustin is a coach and a teacher of storytelling associated with magic. He said the story must be engaging. The aim of magic must be to entertain rather than fool the audience. It should create a sense beyond normal reality and becomes more powerful if there is a penalty for non-delivery. This leaves the audience talking about it. It is not the trick but the effect that is more important. Story telling is effectively used for misdirection also.

Kai Emmanuel Kuah performs at the Theater of Wonders and our members can attend. His routine was with "Cups and Balls." A volunteer from the floor did what Kai did and managed to make the balls appear and disappear from her cup with the finale of a production of a large ball.

Mr. Bottle a.k.a. Wee Kien Meng, had a bottle

of poisonous pills and a pack of cards. Penalty for failure would require him to take a pill. He failed in finding the chosen card. A pill was taken from the bottle that had the prediction of the chosen card in it and magically the card appeared in the pill bottle. Mr. Bottle lives to carry on.

James Pang's trick was "At Sixes and Seven." He cut a deck of cards and put them face down against two markers A and B. He proceeded to turn some cards face up in each half, mix them and intermix them. He then counted the cards against several predictions of how many face down cards, what colours, what suites, and even or odd indices. All miraculously matched.

Caron Goh's story was about not being smart at school. He had three ropes that are used in "The Professor's Nightmare." He tied knots and made them disappear and finally was left with one very long rope. Really smart now.

Andrew Kong related his magic journey that's amazing, starting with his wide array of magic acts and ending with being Ronnie Macdonald. It was an eye opener of dedication and preparation required to be Ronnie, so each live mascot looked the same no matter where in the world. The status, the protection, and the routine of a Ronnie, whilst being hard work, would be an envy of many.

Magic dealer Goh Yin Xiang promoted several tricks under the banner of T3 items pointing that they are improvements on existing tricks in the market. "Show-Case" produced a real card from a handphone, "Glance" had two magazines for word matching. "Jupiter," and "Flick Duck" were amongst the other offers.

The night ended with five lucky draws and thanks to hosts, performers and the attendees.

Kogi

RING 131, DENVER, COLORADO – Mile High Magicians Society – The Earl Reum Ring

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 40 West Arts Magic Hub Stage, 6501 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood, CO 80214

A. J. PEREA, Secretary / E-mail: Secretary@milehighmagicians.com

Web site: www.milehighmagicians.com

The Mile High Magicians Society hosted a special off-site open house at Reinke Brothers in Downtown Littleton. The store is locally owned and a beloved magic store in Colorado. Its magic counter evokes nostalgia for old Main Street magic storefronts with beginner magic kits, a collection of magic videos, and many unique magic props. However, the store is much more well-known for its Halloween collection, which takes up the lion's share of the store. You can find countless wigs, various masks, an endless selection of make-up, and all types of cloth-

ing. When visiting during October, there is a full-sized haunted house located inside the store. Our members had the unique opportunity to browse their collection after hours and learn about the store's history.

Reinke Brothers, as the name implies, was started by two brothers: Greg and Chris Reinke. They have always been interested in haunted attractions. In fact, they built their own haunted house in their parent's home when they were younger. Eventually, they opened a store in Cinderella City Mall, a defunct indoor shopping mall in Englewood, CO. Their current location opened over twenty-five years ago in a former grocery store.

Greg and Chis were awarded Lifetime Memberships for their work operating this magic store in our community. Dan Rodriguez, President of MHMS, presented these awards. Steve Spangler, who previously made media appearances with the brothers, couldn't attend due to other commitments. However, he sent a video to everyone congratulating Greg and Chris. This was a memorable field trip for our members, and we appreciate Greg, Chris, and the rest of the Reinke Brothers staff for inviting us and for their excellent magic counter. *A.J. Perea*

RING 153, BILLINGS, MONTANA – Billings Magic Society

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Reflections, 1140 Sixteenth Street West, Suite 13, Billings, MT.

BRENT CROMLEY, President / E-mail: brent@cromley.net
(406) 208-4147

Only three hardy souls showed up for our July meeting but, as usual, we had a good time sharing stories of magic history, both our own and of other more famous magicians. Summer is a busy season for a couple of our members who regularly appear at local and regional fairs in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming. Tony Shandy described some of the effects that he has used recently in doing some children shows involving his extended family.

One advantage of these smaller turnouts is that there are more of Debbie Sherman's treats for each of us. Tonight, we enjoyed her delicious brownies to start the meeting.

Tony Shandy started the magic portion of the meeting by telling an interesting tale as a background for an effect created by U.K. member Liam Montier and his team at Kaymar Magic. Tony reminded us of the "Golden Age" of magic that featured such magicians as Alexander, Kellar, Houdini, and Thurston. Tony had miniature posters of these magicians, and somehow the one of Alexander, "The Man Who Knows," knew which card had been selected by Debbie.

Brent Cromley went next, starting with a card

trick that Paul Gordon called “Old Wine – New Bottle” in his one-man Hocus Pocus Parade in the April 2024, issue of *The Linking Ring*. It’s a simple spelling effect of the four aces that can be accomplished with a borrowed deck. Brent followed that with a variation on a mentalism effect that Chris Carter performed on *Penguin Magic’s Christmas* video. It’s a three-billet effect in which Carter discovered who was lying about the name of the person on whom three spectators had their “first crush.” Brent modified it to have three spectators think of a card to be written on their billet. The third card thought of turned out to have been predicted by Brent, or at least it was found reversed in the middle of his Invisible Deck.

Brent Cromley

RING 158, GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Wizards of the North

Meets 1st Sun 3:00 pm at Dino’s Sports Lounge at 1020 Towne Sq. Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601

MARK DURIGON, President / email: mdur@comcast.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443

Ring 158 met at Dino’s Sports Lounge on Sunday, July 14, 2024. Members present were Rob Shook, Chuck Snyder, and Mike Baker. The meeting was called to order by Secretary Rob Shook during lunch. Chuck announced that he will be conducting a magic show for a birthday party in the coming week. While interest had been expressed earlier about a picnic, no further effort has been made in that direction, and attention will be focused on a proposed Christmas party, the dates for which we should hear from Clint.

Theme for this month is Red, White, and Blue. Chuck showed us some laminated cards he had made featuring Nicholas Cage movies, similar to the verité series of Jim Kleefeld. He then performed the Ishihara color blind test. Mike put red, white, and blue silks separately into a tube, and when they were removed, they were all linked together.

This abbreviated meeting was then adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is planned for Sunday, August 4, 2024.

Willis D. Shook, III, M.D.

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

STEFAN SAGEMAN, President / Email: stefan.sageman@yahoo.com.

I.B.M. Ring 160 had its usual bimonthly meeting on Wednesday, July 17th at 7.30 p.m. at the Surrey Hotel in central Auckland. Nine members braved the winter weather and were rewarded with a fun evening of camaraderie and magic. Most came early to enjoy a drink and dinner before the meeting.

Stefan Sageman, our president, started the performances with his own “scientific control” card routine using Richard Osterlind’s stainless-steel blindfold.

Our treasurer, Terry von Pein, followed with two effects. The first one was a delightful chop cup routine. He then mystified us with Chris Congreave’s effect, “Safe.”

Alan Watson GMM performed “Blind Date,” a well-polished effect he’s been doing for more than forty years.

Richard Webster GMM performed two mental card effects. He’s written them up somewhere but can’t remember what they’re called.

Colin Pritchard performed Zig Zag bolt with his usual entertaining patter.

President Stefan then reminded us that it was “Pirate Night” and handed out shopping bags to everyone, each containing the necessary props for a trick. We were given ten minutes to work out what the trick was, and then had to perform it. We haven’t done this for several years and everyone agreed we should do it more often.

President Stefan finished the evening with the welcome news that he’s contacted three magic lecturers and hopes they’ll all be visiting New Zealand shortly. I can’t mention names as nothing has been confirmed yet, but it’s wonderful to learn that after a long absence due to Covid, we’ll soon be able to attend live magic lectures again. Stefan Sageman, our president, would enjoy hearing from any professional magicians who’d like to lecture while they’re in our part of the world.

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

President Steve Hinrichs welcomed members with announcements of future plans for the club. He’s been in contact with Omaha and Kansas clubs to have public shows in our home cities and share the stages and magicians. We would share profits and work out a schedule for the shows.

We welcomed Larry and Mindy Dunbar to our meeting. Larry’s been traveling with Lance Burton gigs. He was with our club years ago. Steve announced November 9th for our annual magic show. Our November meeting is also our auction for tricks for earned meeting points. Mikayla Carpenter shared a card trick she’ll try out for the Bill Riley Talent Show at the Ft. Dodge County Fair.

George Noble placed five Styrofoam cups over a table with one cup over a spike. He turned his back and Mikayla picked a number

for George to smash a cup with his bare hand. She picked another numbered cup and George repeated the smash. Mikayla chose a third cup and George smashed it as before. Two cups left with one having the spike under. She chose the fourth cup and George hesitated to repeat the smash, but quickly brought his hand down and was relieved to find it empty and pulled the fifth cup up to reveal the spike. Rex Thompson shared his "Do Nothing Pom Poms" routine by pulling the string of the colored pom poms. The patter was fun to follow as he pulled on the strings and finally pulled the device apart over his head to share there's nothing in between. Larry Reed shared two targets on hangers that he used pens to hit the bullseyes. He likes to entertain young children with his gimmicks. Lucas McCannon showed a hand full of cards with different pictures on them to Mikayla. There was a card with the word "Stop," and one with a picture of a slide, and a saxophone, and tennis, and flying. When he put them all together in a square the letters "STOP" appeared. Steve had Marcus Stevens take a card, the 5S and Larry Dunbar the QD. Then Steve unfolded a paper that correctly named both cards. Marcus had Mikayla take a card and put it in an envelope. He correctly predicted the AS. Bruce Anderson shared how to fold the large faces on money to reveal a happy smile on Lincoln's face, then rotate it down to reveal a sad face. It is a great routine to share a tip for your waiter and watch them be amazed.

Our plan for August is to have a round robin with four groups switching from table to table with magicians teaching routines to our newer members. If you're in Central Iowa the third Monday of the month, join us for some food, fun, and fellowship.

Bruce Anderson

RING 170, ORLANDO, FLORIDA – Bev Bergeron Ring

3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m., at IHOP on Kirkman Road, Orlando, FL.

DENNIS PHILLIPS, Secretary

E-mail: dphillips13@cfl.rr.com

Web site: www.Ring170.com

President David Freeman called the meeting to order with twenty-eight people present. We had one guest, nationally known magician John Shryrock from Arizona. Craig Fennessy gave an update on the upcoming Day of Magic with a Flea market and lectures.

Phil Schwartz, club historian, presented his Magic History Moment #104. Showing the program from the 1927 I.B.M. Convention, he first recounted the history of magic conventions from 1926 (I.B.M.) and 1928 (S.A.M.) through to the magic collector conferences of the last fifty years. The Magic Collectors Association began its three-day weekends in 1970 in

Chicago. The New England Magic Collectors Association started their biannual Yankee Gatherings in 1988. The ten European Magic History Conferences. And the Los Angeles Conference on Magic History which began its fourteen extraordinary weekends in 1989.

Phil attended and showed the programs from all the L.A. conferences plus examples of an invitation and a poster from them. He focused on the most memorable moments for him including the Hooker Impossibilities, the Maskelyne/Kellar levitation, theories on the identity of S.W. Erdnase, Diego Domingo's search for George White, Thurston's assistant, as well as Phil's own conference talks: three Thayer presentations and his panel on Brookledge with Irene Larsen, Milt Larsen, and Marvyn Roy. He finished by encouraging members to learn about and maybe choose to attend one of the specialized magic conventions offered each year.

Dr. Ken Schreiber, PhD/MD, FACR is an Emeritus Professor of Radiology, formerly at the University of Wisconsin and now lives and practices in Orlando, Florida and he is active in our club. He gave a full and informative lecture on the late Lubor Fiedler, a creative giant in magic. He discussed twenty-two of Fiedler's magical creations and demonstrated thirteen of them from his own personal collection. Fiedler was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, trained as a chemical engineer and escaped to Austria from behind the Iron Curtain in 1967 leaving his family behind. Over his career he created many mysteries. Some of his creations are the classic dental dam coin penetration, the In and Out Gozinta Boxes and for Tenyo, The Invisible Zone and The 4-D Surprise, using his famous lenticular lens as a cloak of invisibility.

"Knotty Professor" Gerry Frye finished off the evening with a delightful and classy version of the sliding die box where the front and back doors opened.

Dennis Phillips

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>

RUDY HERNANDEZ, President

E-mail: ring175magic@gmail.com

The date of our July meeting was pushed back to accommodate a lecture by the sensational John Shryock, and it was worth the wait! John's charisma won us over even before he taught us some fabulous effects including his "Ambitious Triumphant Color Changing Deck!" Wow! But wait, there's more! John's impressive Copper/Silver/Brass "Trio" had three coins assembling under two cards and his "Cards-R-Us" involved ten selections by ten audience

members followed by ten entertaining reveals! John's mastery of the Cups and Balls was evident, and he freely shared his extensive thinking on the subject. John closed the lecture by teaching us his classic "Ring in Walnut (in egg in lemon)," and how can you not love that?

Ring President Rudy Hernandez opened our August meeting with brief announcements before introducing our host for the evening, the always entertaining Daniel P. Fite. Members were asked to present and teach a trick from one of their favorite books, and many did! Daniel kept the evening moving at a nice clip and had flattering introductions for all!

Lowell Tauszik was up first, and he presented a fun rendition of "Nailed" from *Wayne Dobson: The Definitive Collection*. Lowell had the requisite envelope and six-inch nail which he used to test whether his volunteer had a magnetic personality. A card was selected, signed and returned. The deck was cased and dropped into an envelope before the nail was thrust through the envelope. When Lowell ripped the nail away, the nail had impaled the signed selection!

One of the actual gamblers in our club, Joe Dobson, demonstrated the "Dai Vernon Poker Deal" from the *Dai Vernon Book of Magic*, sharing his "algorithm" for stacking the deck while shuffling the cards. Joe also shared how to increase the impact of the effect by having a volunteer cover your eyes the entire time you are shuffling and dealing the poker hands, as well as producing the Ace of Spades (in an upright position!) as the final card. And thanks for the written instructions, Joe!

Marv Long then gave a brilliant performance of a brilliant trick from his own brilliant book, "Riffle Deeper," to produce the four aces as well as a royal flush. There is a lot of talent in this magic club!

John Bannon's newest book *Barrage* seems like a must-read as Bruce Young and Frank Velasco each performed a different effect from the book. Bruce used a regular deck of cards and a wine glass to perform "Heart of Glass," a nice transposition effect with no duplicates while Frank presented "Fours Majeure," a self-working card trick with several increasing moments of impossibility.

We were thrilled to have two very talented and charming entertainers, Erick Olson and Nathan Coe Marsh, attend our meeting tonight! Thanks for braving I-4 to join us, guys! Erick did a fantastic impromptu linking cards effect, "The Immaculate Connection" by Paul Harris, leaving the previously linked but now un-torn cards for audience examination at the end. It's killer when Erick presents it! The celebrated Nathan Coe Marsh has had a very busy year performing on cruise ships, at the Magic Castle,

and most recently at the Chicago Magic Lounge, so we were quite pleased he took the time to visit us during his brief stint at home. This evening, for the very first time, Nathan was trying out a new routine with funny patter called "Win Nathan's Things!" based on "The Ring, the Watch and the Wallet" in *The Books of Wonder – Volume 1* by Tommy Wonder and Stephen Minch. Nathan's sense of humor added to and refreshed this classic effect and Nathan shared the various methods available to make the objects vanish. The club was flattered to be asked for feedback on the routine and after the meeting several members provided Nathan with exactly what he asked for! I expect we will be seeing "Win Nathan's Things!" as a fun opener in his act fairly soon.

One of several other visitors to tonight's meeting, Ben Gregory, formerly known as "Superkid," joined the fun by performing "Pokers Picnic" from Robert Giobbi's *Card College*. We hope to see more of Ben at future meetings!

Rather than doing a trick from a favorite book, Club Secretary John Holly did his favorite trick from a book. The book *Quidnunc* by Paul Gordon contains "The Ultimate Transposition," an amazing transposition of two sets of four signed cards which starts and ends clean! John likes two other Paul Gordon books more than *Quidnunc* but believes this is one of the best card to pocket effects of all time.

Ring President Rudy Hernandez recently purchased John Graham's *Stage by Stage* and enjoyed the suggestions on how to transition from close-up to stage, converting close-up magic to parlor situations and making the same trick play for much larger audiences. Rudy wasted no time in making us laugh with a comedy "Shrinking Deck" effect followed by a toilet paper version of "The Trick That Fooled Albert Einstein." Rudy is ready for the stage for sure!

Our closer for the night was the great Geoff Williams who performed "Timely Departure" from John Bannon's *Smoke and Mirrors*. Nobody does a "magician in trouble" effect better than Geoff! He had us feeling bad for him before he dazzled us with the surprise finish. This was another fun night of laughs and sharing with a talented group of magical friends! *John Holly*

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 August was Classic Magic, reinterpreted, and David Wright did a version of "Card to Wallet" that also used a cell phone to reveal the card. Dale Lorzo showed us a

“What’s Next” routine as flash cards to help with math. He also performed “Find the Lady” and “Vanishing Birds” (a cat was involved).

Al Levasseur did a popped and restored balloon a la “Needle through Balloon.” Scot Smith took four volunteers to Crazy Town for a series of card reveals. Mary Mowder showed off her rope skills in a series of moves including appearing and vanishing knots and fancy flourishes. Bill Devon told us of the Magic Wands of Morocco with tassels rising falling, and finally all together with a comic finish. Jeff Tinker was next with his version of the “Cords of Phantasia,” with two silks escaping their ties, followed by Scott Cameron with Little Tommy’s Box of Tricks, doing a solid-thru-solid effect.

Kirby Romine introduced us to Sparky the ghost and his haunted Die Box. Vikram Singh performed a word prediction with concealed letters hanging in plain sight, they were then turned around to reveal the predicted word. Then taking three six-figure numbers from volunteers and adding them up, the resulting number was revealed by turning three of the hanging letters to resemble numbers. Ric Ewing brought us home with a rendition of “Color Changing Records,” using silks to cause the changes. After the magic, Dale Lorzo and Kirby Romine showed us some magic memorabilia, such as posters and promo material from Dale and an authentic signed photo of Harry Blackstone Sr. from Kirby.

Jeff Tinker

RING 198, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY – Thoroughbred Magic Guild

Meets 2nd Sun. afternoon of most months at Hope Springs Community Church, 1109 Versailles Rd., first building.

MIKE WOODWARD, Secretary / E-mail: mikewmp@aol.com
Web site: www.ring198.com

This summer, the region around Lexington, KY was spared the extreme weather that assaulted much of the nation, but our Ring’s attendance was affected by schedule conflicts, vacations, and illnesses, including Covid. But we soldiered on.

The June meeting featured Graham Ricks, one of our newest members, who demonstrated ways to gaff one’s own playing cards. Considerable knowledge informed his presentation. The practice goes way back. Magicians have made, and performed with gaffed cards and decks, since the least the 1400s. They have been marketed to magicians since the 1840s. The range of gaffs is now remarkable-including Stripper Decks, Svengali Decks, Brainwave Decks, double-backers and countless more. In more recent history, marked cards have proliferated. Graham demonstrated how to use a crafts-

man’s corner-shorter and how to punch a card to produce a dimple on a card’s back. He recommended Super Magnet Man for the magnets to perform with a key card.

In July, we spent an evening in Mike Woodward’s large, finished basement that now serves de facto as a magic museum, posters, props, books, and memorabilia galore. There was no apparent agenda. Some guys performed something, but most of the time was spent in conversation that ranged from magic theories to storytelling to reports and rumors.

In August, September Cardiff presented a lecture for feedback that she was scheduled to present at the Kidraba Convention. Since she would model some effects she performs for children, she was dressed to the hilt, read and white top hat, blouse, and shoes! She spent time showing how she works to make good effects better, then better still.

September presented a fifteen-minute show as she might do it for kids and families. Then she focused on four things to do in performances: 1. Have a visible theme; 2. Feature props that kids will like; 3. Include the audience; 4. Bring participants to the stage. Then, quite effectively, she invited club attendees to point out things in her act that expressed the four points.

Our feedback to her trial run was positive and enthusiastic. We did suggest that she “slow down!”

George Hunter

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

Yo, check it out! Tony Thomas kicked off our performance section by straight-up demolishing a ring he borrowed. But no sweat, fam, ‘cause that ring was stashed in a capsule, in a sock, in a box, in another box, in another box. Slayed.

Then, Marcus Auclair flexed his bachelor’s in chemistry degree, showing us mad skills with playing cards, breaking down how oil and water don’t mix. Dude, we all walked away with some serious knowledge, no cap.

Next, Sean MacBain rocked his inner superhero for his second performance to hook up with the RMC crew. His Ace of Spades (a.k.a. Batman) hunted and took down his op, the Queen of Spades (a.k.a. Thor). Bro understood the assignment.

After that, our boy Josh jumped in, linking and unlinking solid silver rings like it was NBD. He had those rings in a total quantum superposition state, which, BTW, reminds us never to ask Schrödinger to pet-sit, IYKWIM.

Then, Paul Syros pulled off some mind-bending magic with “prompt” cards, getting old Mr. Harlan to pick a card that Paul predicted. Mind = blown.

Smashing it, Dan Harlan snagged an unsuspecting volunteer and pulled off a wild trick with a jump rope, making it seem like it went through their neck. Crazy, right? But it all adds up.

Last but not least, Wayne Haarhaus ate and left no crumbs as he dropped some knowledge with a speech that left us scratching our heads... stumped. (Get it? Stump Speech? Classic.) He laid out a bipartisan plan for better communication across the aisle to actually get stuff done for all Americans. Oh, and BTW, it was also a sick card trick. Throwback over. I’m out. Yer boy...Harlan

RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN
SCOTT STARKEY, President

Our night began with recaps and reports about the various summer adventures we have had: Street festivals, Abbott’s Magic Get Together, and Fellowship of Christian Magicians Convention all sounded amazing and educational!

We started the evening’s performances by trying to remember how to perform some classics like “Professor’s Nightmare” and “MacDonald’s Aces.” Joe showed us his handling for Professor’s Nightmare which has a clean display of the equal ropes.

John Whitlock performed some of the amazing effects he acquired and learned at Abbott’s Magic Get Together. The white tip of his magic wand kept jumping and joining the tip at the other end while trying to cast magic on a salt-shaker. The tip jumping surprised us every time. Once he finally got the wand under control, the salt in the shaker turned into a white handkerchief. Needing a red handkerchief, he summoned one from across the room and it came flying into his hand! John then shared some of the birthday cards he received. He did not like having fifty individual cards, so with a wave he turned them into one giant birthday card banner. Next, John wanted to show us a trick with a drinking straw, but accidentally dumped them out of a bag. Thankfully one straw remained in the bag, but it was eight feet long!

Benji shared his experience with the little hand gimmick made famous by Michael Ammar on *The Late Show*. He shared the variations on the gimmick which include a cat’s paw and a Play-Doh hand. He also shared an idea from Curtis Kam, vanish a coin with a tap of a card and then “reveal” how to do it by having the little hand reach out from the card and grab the coin.

Benji Milanowski

RING 234, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA – The Low Country Conjurers

Meets 1st Thu. of each month, 7:00 pm, Holy City Magic, 49 1/2 John St, Charleston, SC 29403

GEORGE YOUNTS, Secretary / Email: george_younts@charleston.k12.sc.us

I.B.M. Rings in the summer might take a vacation but not the Lowcountry Conjurers Ring 234! For the July meeting we welcomed visitor Ed Blich, great guy, then upcoming John Shryock performances were announced for a Holy City Magic end of the month weekend. The annual Blackpool trip was touched on and discussions on upcoming public club September show too. Good wishes for Magic Live attendees which means that August’s meeting gets pushed back a week later.

Then there was a mention of opening spots in the Howard/Gogo Show which led into the tricks Central- “Knots Off Silk,” Gary- “Twisting the Aces,” Zach doing Dai Vernon’s famous ten step sponge ball followed by Gogo with a deconstructed “Hot Mama.” Wes was up next with “Rain Man” and then Austin with “He Who Spelt It, Dealt It.” Finally, Bob had a major wow factor with Joao Miranda’s “Leviosa.” Card sessions, as usual, bookended the evening with next club gathering for Thursday August 15th! Sim Sala Bim Everyone! *George Younts*

RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS – Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) For location call Chris at (217) 431-479

KEN BARHAM, Secretary / E-mail: Kebram@aol.com
2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616

The meeting opened with discussion of the online meetings and lectures available. There are some great resources out there and I recommend taking advantage of them. Next up, ideas for possible shows and lectures for the 2025 Central IL Magic Get-Together. If you have any suggestions, please let Chris know.

Chris Bontjes gave a good review of *Lost in the Shuffle* by I.B.M. Past International President Shawn Farquhar and passed around some nice leather wallets he found for packet tricks.

Damon Kim opened the magic with a demonstration of his Combination Shuffle. The theme of the night was Ring and Rope. Ken Barham started us off with his “Ring on Rope” routine. Chris Bontjes followed with his “Ring on Rope” routine (adapted from Alien Ring by Glen Morphew). Rob “The Professor” Higgins showed us his “Card in Bottle.” Bill Pierce showed us his version of “Awakening” and Essen Hu joined us on Zoom. I didn’t write down what he did for some reason, but I am sure it was really good because everything he does is.

The next meeting is Wed., August 21st, at

7:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army in Champaign, IL and the topic will be Egg Bags. See ya at the meeting.

Ken Barham

RING 243, CANTON, OHIO – Roth-Mills Ring

Meets the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at Mama Guzzardi's Italian Restaurant (temporary site) 1107 N. Main St. North Canton, Ohio 44720

RANDY WEIDENHAMER, Secretary / (330) 933-8787

E-Mail: randy.weidenhamer@sbcglobal.net

Meeting was held at the United Church of Christ in N. Canton, OH., on the 31st of July 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Twelve members and three 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. The 2024 banquet was discussed along with new ticket prices, possible entertainment choices, location status, and catering. Setup and tear down were also mentioned along with The Abbotts' Get-together and a future pizza party. This ended the business part of the evening and everyone readied themselves for the magical part of the evening.

Brent Schneider started things off by showing the props of a cage, bag and ball as the ball vanished from one to end up in the other. Brent also showed some of his magical souvenirs he got on vacation to Tennessee. Jim Klayder performed a beautiful coin routine and Randy Weidenhamer demonstrated the only card trick he ever messed up. And he messed up again. Mike Salvino, a.k.a. the "great supddini," did his kids' routine as Mr. Potato Head did the magic. Don Strongoli guessed the chosen card and Lou Heck performed "Professor's Nightmare" treating the rope like snakes. Mike Bishop performed a card trick with the theme of the Salem witch trials and a witch named Bishop. Don Moody built and demonstrated a box that transformed silks into candles, and Ron Barnett performed a card trick in which the spectator not only cut to the four aces but also the four kings. This ended the magic for now, but we are planning to do it again next month.

Randy Weidenhamer

RING 257, LAS VEGAS, NV – Roger Dreyer, Fantasma Ring

Meets 1st Wed. of the month, 7:00 pm at Super Summer Theatre, 4340 Valley View Blvd., Suite 204, Las Vegas, NV 89102

DICK DISKIN, Secretary / Email: Kirk@crestkey.com

Web site: www.ibm257.com

Wow! Excited to share the wonder and jewels of our October 8 meeting. Magic Live concluded last night after a four-day run. Many of our

members attended and said the *afterglow* at the bar was sensational nightly with prominent magicians presenting and sharing their wonders well into the night.

President Kirk indicated that everyone present had paid up dues and he and our Treasurer John Lewit are diligently working to bring all, to paid up status.

Our magic auction is scheduled for August 28. Kirk is working to finalize our Ring members seeing Jen Kramer's show that she has graciously offered.

Now, on to our members performances for the evening. Kirk Kaplan performed his rendition of the Edison Board Light using patter, "The Board works mystically due to the principal of matching constancy. Chet Cieliec entertained by punching holes in a playing card and then threading a single hole with colored yarn. By shaking the suspended card, the knotted yarn loop magically jumped to another hole. Each shake of the card moved the yarn to another hole. He named his trick "The Luggage Tag Illusion" because it reminded him of same.

Chet also gave us lottery factoids. He indicated that the number which comes up most in a drawing is thirty-eight and the least drawn is the number thirteen. Info for those who play the lottery.

Garry Norsigian executed his spinning deck: a visual masterpiece. He additionally presented a chosen card from a blank deck. Then, showing the card pips appearing slowly with the assistance of masterful manipulation.

Bobby Berosini, Jr. performed his newly acquired Dean Box. He beautifully performed and magically linked the colored white and red ropes as well as displayed the tying of a wand and releasing it with the help of the box.

Following Bobby, Elliot Hitch Hitchcock proceeded with his task of teaching the membership how to make a Dean Box. At our last meeting Elliot requested the membership bring a shoe box. And tonight, he proceeded to show the audience how to simply construct a Dean Box. He also suggested another idea is to purchase a treasure box from Hobby Lobby or Michaels in place of the shoe box. Hitch interjected his humor and quips along the way. This was truly a fun and educational performance by Hitch.

Don Wand's "Shorty" (a.k.a. Hornswoggle) was his offering and excellently performed. Don then showed us how he constructed the trick bill. He explained for construction he used only two-sided clear tape for the trick bill, and it alone has lasted for years without fault.

John Lewit's contribution for this evening contained both educational and performance "Gems." He started by telling us that wonderful,

easy to perform magic was contained in books written by Karl Fulves. He informed us that Fulves had written over one hundred forty of these invaluable short books. From five of the afore-mentioned books he chose three tricks to perform. The first being "Handkerchief and Coins", the second, the "Spiritual Toothpick," the third "Crazy Calendar." The last of which predicted (The Age of Retirement). As a personal note, I own ten of these short books and they are a wonderful source for easy to perform everyday magic. Our thanks to John for this marvelous information.

The final performer was Ehrlich Ocampo who performed his "Dancing Cane and Giant Hoop." He not only performed this in room light but with the room darkened and then the cane and giant hoop illuminated. Ehrlich is an actor, acrobat, and his choreography and manipulation of the lighted props was breathtaking! At the conclusion of his three-minute performance, he earned a standing ovation. Ehrlich is currently one of the performers in *Awakening*, the strip show at the Wynn Hotel and Casino. What a way to conclude this amazing night of magic!

Dick Diskin

RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The "Magic Ian" Ring

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, Community Room, Lake Square Mall, Hwy 441, Leesburg, FL

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500

E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: www.Ring 258.com

We opened the evening by noting our new (tentative) meeting place at Ichiban Chinese and Japanese Buffet. Still looking for a permanent home after being unceremoniously "evicted" by "New Management" at the Lake Square Mall.

Under Good & Welfare – Past President George Drake is laid up with a series of blood clots. His wife Kathy is recovering from a broken ankle. And Coni Solomon has had foot surgery.

Under New Business – David Ginsburg made a connection with Howard Katz of The Magic Warehouse. 410-599-6165 or www.magicwarehouse.com. Prices are lower than some other sites. Greg and Coni Solomon had a great trip to Scotland. Ring 170 in Orlando Will hold its "Day of Magic" on Sept. 21, at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Lectures and Flea Market. Seventeen dollars if ticket purchased in advance.

The evening's theme was Perform your Favorite Trick, Effect and/or Illusion. Almost everyone performed! Some with more than one effect. David Lyons led off by vanishing a bottle of Coca Cola, turning it into a glass full of Coke! He also showed "Hot Rod." Sandy Schwartz performed "The Card Trick that

Fooled Shin Lim." V. P. Andy Rohweder did Joshua Jay's "Phantom Deck" and "Acrobatic Silks." Kim Young stabbed a chosen card very dramatically! Regina Schiraldi did her "Tea Party" with multicolored waters. David Ginsburg did "Ignition," a key penetrating a dollar bill and a match book penetration. Greg Solomon magicked "Shocker," "I Have No Idea" and "Size Surprise." Roger Reid closed the after-meeting show with "Hopping Half/Sun & Moon," "Flash Coin Vanish," and "Hippity Hop Rabbits." Next month's theme is Silk Magic!

Roger Reid

RING 268, LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA – Cajun Conjurors

Meets 3rd Mon. each month, 7:00pm. at Mr. Gatti's in Lake Charles

AARON BACA, President

Web site: www.scorpius.spaceports.com/~conjuror

Attending the July 15 Ring meeting were Robert Vallin, George Mullican, David LeBoeuf, Bart Glatt, Perry Vincent, Lee Stevison, Liam Stevison, and Owen Stevison. The business meeting was chaired by Perry Vincent and the agenda included introducing David Mann's new line of Custom Hot Rods, upcoming lectures (Ari Phillips and Losander) and highlights of the recent Lance Burton, Master Magician and Friends show in Lake Charles.

Here's who stepped up to be Magic Table and what they did: Perry performed "Appearing Car" (Matchbox car appears from a previously shown empty box), David showed a unique "walk through" at any point rope effect, Bart did a *Fahrenheit 451* book test, George presented TCC's "Grandma's Miracle" (along with "Zone Infinity," "Quarter Squeeze," "New Age Brainwave," "Haunted Key," a variety of David Mann's new Custom Hot Rods).

Miscellaneous photos from the meeting can be seen at the Cajun Conjuror's 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

Slightly sparse meeting this month, with just the three of us. Joining me was Richard Hunt and someone we hadn't seen for a while, Simon Stacker.

Richard started things off with a card trick. A spectator simply thought of a card, then the magician said he could name the card. "Your card is Lucy." This didn't make much sense until the cards were shown to have names written on the backs. The spectator's card was the only one with the name Lucy. But then, as a

kicker, the roles were reversed: the magician wrote down a prediction, then had the spectator give a name. The card with that name was shown, and it matched the prediction. This was "Phil Plus" by Trevor Duffy.

I followed with another card trick. Some poker hands were dealt, a spectator chose one of the hands and selected a card. The cards were gathered, and riffle shuffled and shown to be well mixed. Then the cards were separated into red and black. Some cards were taken from one pile and added to get a random number. This number was counted to in the other pile, and there was the selection. This was "Color ACAAN" by Joseph B.

Simon then did, not a card trick, but a trick with cards. He put two cards on their edges, supporting each other, the beginnings of a card house. But then he removed one of the cards, the other card stayed there, impossibly balanced on its edge! He did some further impossible balances, such as one card on edge, the other balanced on top of it. Very visual and magical. This was "Amazing Standing Card" by Gaetan Bloom.

I then pulled out something a bit different, a maze effect. A pathway sheet was shown, that had five starting positions and five ending positions. The spectators chose the target end position and then chose starting positions for themselves, leaving the last starting position for the magician. Then four cards that show random paths were taken by the spectators, who arranged them any way they wished. When the pathways were followed, the only one that led to the target was the magician's. A fun and interesting effect. This was "Magic Maze" by Tenyo.

Simon followed with something completely different, a which hand effect. A spectator held a coin in one fist and the magician was always able to determine which hand. This used an amazing gimmick. This was "Espionage" by Marvel Magic.

I then pulled out a packet trick that Simon had not yet seen, a version of Color Monte with a cricket theme. A fun trick with a surprising final revelation. This was "Cricket Pitch" by Trevor Duffy.

Richard then showed his most recent acquisition, one themed on the Titanic disaster. He gave one spectator an old handkerchief, that had belonged to a passenger that had died, and another spectator a coin, that had belonged to a passenger that had survived. He had some old black and white photos of people that had been passengers on the Titanic. These photos were shown, and the spectators selected some (free choice), the others going to a discard pile. At the

end those not selected were shown. On the backs it had the person's name and whether they died or survived. They were a random mixture of died and survived. Then the spectator's selections were shown. Those chosen by the spectator with the handkerchief had all died, the other had chosen only those who had survived! An interesting effect that works best for a storytelling magician. This was "Whitestar" by Jim Critchlow.

I finished with a packet trick. This used two sets of ESP cards, one set for the spectator, the other for the magician. We each selected a symbol, and they matched. But then the kicker, all of the cards changed to the selected symbol. This was "ESpecially Wild" by Paul Hallas.

We finished at that point. Next meeting is on 15 August. The theme is Theodore Annemann, which covers an awful lot of stuff, so we should be able to find something. Cheers. *Peter Foster*

RING 289, MACON, GEORGIA – Mike Fuller Ring

Meets 1st Tue. each month at 6:00 p.m., Fresh Air BBQ on Riverside Dr., Macon

DANNY WATSON, President / (478) 338-5572

Web site: www.angelfire.com/magic2/maconmagic

In Attendance: Danny Watson, Mike and Linda Fuller, Tony Zelonis, John and Rhonda Donahue, Glen Heald, Jimmy Roach, Bill Sirmon, and Ron and Angie Livingston. We had a special guest tonight, Bill Sirmon's granddaughter, eighteen-month-old, Freya.

After dinner at some of the finest B-B-Q in Macon, Georgia, our meeting began with some discussion on this world's events and personal stuff, and then we began with our monthly riddle sheet created and presented by our President Danny Watson to which we all take turns trying to solve them, usually five or six each month, challenging to say the least.

Now on to some magic with this month's theme being a trick you've never done before. First to perform was John Donahue with his presentation of Losander's "Exquisite" (Floating Glass) to music, nicely done, then he followed up with a card trick called "The Die Of Destiny," where he had Danny Watson pick out a card from a face down deck then Jimmy Roach was asked to find his card not knowing what it was by rolling a pipless die and choosing the number that came up with his choosing off the top of his head. Six piles were made, the die was rolled, a number was named, all the other piles were removed, and, in the end, the one card left on the table was the card that Danny Watson chose.

Next up was Jimmy Roach with his coffee container, shown empty as he placed the lid back on and with the wave of the hand the lid

was removed and inside were several silks. Looked good Jimmy. Tony Zelonis was up next with an effect he called “Menu of The Day” where he had ten cards, each with several meals you could order on dinner menus. He had Jimmy Roach in his mind pick one of about sixty meals he could choose from. He pointed to which card his meal was on, the cards were gathered up and shuffled, placed back face down with meals on the other side of each card and was asked if he saw his meal on the reverse side of each card. He said yes and pointed to which card had his meal on it. Tony again looked at the list of meals on this side of the card and was able to predict which meal Jimmy had picked at the very beginning. Looked good.

Mike Fuller was up next with his giant die box, one of which pretty sure none of us have seen before and its workings. Good stuff. Danny Watson introduced an effect he called “The Trick That Fooled Einstein” where he had a can of quarters and had Rhonda Donahue grab out a hand full, then he grabbed out a hand full and made a triple prediction that he would have just as much as her, three extra coins and the end value of \$12.50. The counting begins and lo and behold it matched the prediction. Freya was getting a kick out of all the coins rattling around in the can. Looked good.

We finished out the night with a magic teaching of some of tonight’s effects. Until next month.

John Donahue

RING 308, SEARCY, ARKANSAS – Searcy Magic Society

Meets 2nd Mon., 7:00 pm, 1718 Miranda St., Searcy, AR, 72143.

JON BUCHER, Secretary

E-mail: buchers2@att.net

This August meeting of Ring 308 was one of the best. After a short business meeting pertaining to the upcoming three-county fair show and discussion of the first ever quad Ring meeting next week (yes indeed, Arkansas now has four I.B.M. Rings) we got on with the first magic of the night.

Our mini lecture this month was by former Ring President Cedric Morley and was about Ring and Rope Magic. We learned several items which should give us the impetus to create our own routine. Cedric did a good job with his lecture.

The first performer of the night was the nimble Joel Nicholson with a rod penetration from a square wooden tube. A very solid block of wood with a hole through the middle was placed into the tube and locked into place with the rod. A tap of the tube onto the tabletop caused the block to penetrate the rod, it fooled me.

Next up was the memorable Michael Claxton. Michael always presents a book review on the

latest magic related book release and this month the review was on the book titled *The Great Boomsby* by Margret Steele. The book is about the black magic assistants in the Hermann magic shows. It was very eye-opening for this writer since I’ve been involved with the magic world for almost seventy years. I will buy this book.

Number three in our lineup this evening was the old man of the club, Jon Bucher. Jon went back in time several years and performed “Card Warp” with a casino theme routine. This was in honor of our new casino in Arkansas.

And then to the stage stepped the newest member of the Ring, Richard Knoll. He’s new to the club but not new to magic. Using a clever story about elves, fairies, and wizards and the inherent magic in all of us, Richard unfolded a large grocery sack, proving the sack empty. We in the audience then created magic in our hands and threw said magic into the sack. Richard reached into the sack and pulled out, not one, not two, but three crystal boxes each containing multi-colored flowers. It was well done.

We sat around for another half hour discussing magic and sleights and ideas and just enjoying each other’s company. It was a good meeting.

Jon Bucher

RING 313, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA – The John Fedko Ring

Meets last Tues. of the month, Irvine Valley Water District,

15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine.,

ALAN HANSON, Secretary

Email: AlanHanson15@gmail.com

Web site: www.ring313.org

Maestro Gerry Schiller engaged in a nearly three-hour exposition of magic with the members and guests of Ring 313 on July 30, 2024. Maestro Schiller comes to us straight from Thousand Oaks, California accompanied by his daughter Lily. He taught us “Blizzard” by Dean Dill and “Anniversary Waltz” by Doc Eason, both available at Penguin Magic. Schiller taught us “Mix and Match,” a doppelganger matching trick with playing cards. He also showed us “Good Vibes” with jumbo cards featuring heroes from the DC world of superheroes. Reaching deep into his resource bag of tricks he pulled from *The Phoenix Magazine* a Triple Prediction trick.

Gerry Schiller was polished and broke down each trick into its elements with tips to perform each effect flawlessly. He answered everyone’s questions and showed us how to make many of the gimmicks he used. We were delighted to meet this seasoned professional who has entertained and amazed audiences for more than four decades. Thank you, maestro Gerry Schiller.

Alan Hanson

RING 317, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK – Ring of Illusions

Meets 3rd Tue. at 7:30pm at Parker Ctr., LIJ Hospital, Lakeview Rd.,
New Hyde Park, NY
ANTHONY DIFILIPPI, President / Email: adifilip@mindspring.com
Web site: www.5fingermagic.com/ibm

On June 18th Ring 317 met and shared magic for Trick Deck and Gaffed Cards Night.

Bob Schwaber started things off by presenting “Amnesia,” employing a novel method of forcing two cards with one gaff. Later he performed “Five tens” which employs a clever gaff that gives the effect its name. We can always count on Bob for some nice close-up effects.

Gary Levenson performed “The Prediction” by Rob Stiff, a prediction type of effect with two medallions with predictions matching spectators freely chosen cards. He also presented “Trilogy Extreme” by Brian Caswell. Both were well done by Gary.

Harry Gross did a full deck story routine about little Joe and the 648 club. You probably know it. Nice routine if you can remember the story sequence. It was well done!

Ivan Debel nicely performed “Get Sharky” by Card Shark. It’s nice to see Ivan back and presenting magic.

Up next was Wendy Pincus who presented Truth or Lie card trick. Well done, Wendy!

Following Wendy, Robert McEntee presented “Mental Photography” demoing the Bill Malone routine for it he learned years ago from an L and L video. A discussion ensued about different gaff deck systems and how powerful combining two principles such as rough and smooth with long and short is. This is the methodology for Mental Photography, and Mirage Deck etc. which is similar except now all the cards change to a court card typically, as opposed to blank cards. He finished with “The Deck that Shuffles itself” by Dominique Duvivier.

This led to a discussion of performing the Invisible Deck without the normal math required, by handling the deck vertically rather than horizontally, and just taking out the odd or even side the spectator names and separating the cards at the point.

Phil Gjenashi talked about marked cards and some card shark stories. Very entertaining Phil!

Last but certainly not least, our long-term President, Anthony DiFilippi, presented one of five “F.A.S.T. tricks” which stands for Five Amazing Stebbins Tricks and explained the working. He explained an easy card finder gimmick by Dick Kornwinder which is an alternate to a thick or long/short card. It uses a few drops of clear glue on the pips of a card which is very easy to cut to. We always appreciate Anthony’s valuable contributions of magic... besides running the club!

Robert McEntee

RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:00 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042
LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary
4515 Northglen Court, Englewood, OH 45322 / (937) 836-4359
E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

President James Butler officially welcomed all fourteen of us. In the business section of the meeting, we chose themes for the rest of the year (September – Tricks with Food; October – Music and Magic; November – No Food Tricks; and December – Christmas Party.) We heard a motion and voted to accept nominations for new Board and Officers in October and vote in November. The motion passed. We examined a suggested Ring business card presented by Shawn Gray (Buck the Cowboy Magician) and made suggestions for improvement. We welcomed back founding members Larry and June Taylor. It was fantastic seeing them again. Neighboring Ring 5 will have a booth at the Beavercreek, Ohio’s Popcorn Festival on September 7th and 8th. We closed the business meeting and enjoyed snacks brought by Ron Frank. Thank you, Ron.

Time for magic! Ron Frank brought out two boxes. The first one was for “Final Penetration” from Mikami. The second was for a game where the magician (of course) wins - “The Choice Box” from TCC Magic. Next, tRick Gaffney predicted which of nine disks marked with three letter words volunteer James Butler would choose - “Art Prediction” from Max Maven. Charlie Cadabra astounded us with four in a row. First, which of the “Cottingley Fairy” photographs had been declared “real”? Second, the card sequence “Fynder” (from Professor DC) with volunteer Tom Casper. Third, a storytelling effect about murderous dentist - “The Tooth Fairy” from Doug Gorman. To end the sequence, his flipbook routine with the “Comic Sven Pad.”

Bill West predicted which number of a three-by-three grid of nine numbers volunteer Brad Morgan would end upon in an effect he calls the “Nine Card Elimination.” Next Larry Taylor performed a flawless jumbo coin trick from Fred Capp. tRick Gaffney performed “Lightning Addition” instantly adding the numbers on four sticks of five numbers each. He did it a second time after we rearranged the sticks. Larry Taylor returned center stage with his very smooth “Cup and Balls” routine. Bill West returned to perform and teach us both the “Four Coin Prediction” and “1 in 362,889.” To finish Buck the Magic Cowboy performed two tricks from his stage show - “Bird from Balloon” with volunteer Dax Morgan and “Buck-A-Roo Trick” with volunteer Loa Morgan. Buck asked

us to fill out an evaluation form about the tricks. That's what we are here for – to make each other better.

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: beckibmring325@gmail.com

President Christopher Beck called the meeting to order. There was a brief discussion about the renowned Christian illusionist Andre Kole, who was the subject of the Did You Know (DYK) in last month's *Magic Moments* newsletter. The discussion included a reference to the stage version of his famous "Shackled Sphere" routine.

The focus of the DYK questions for this month was Ian Stewart from Halifax, Canada. He is known for performing fifty-two tricks in one minute. He set that record on May 4, 2024.

Treasurer Yak Williams indicated magic creator Losander will be available for a lecture on Saturday, October 12. It is one week before the regular October meeting, which traditionally is held at Hamner's Theater. If possible, we will plan to book Losander. Williams will confirm that with Scott Wells. Various conventions/get-togethers were discussed, including the Abbot's Get Together, which Beck plans to attend.

Gary Weise kicked off our presentations. Weise's presentation was all "July" history and trivia.

Jordan Stickley shared a new "Static Electricity Coin Refraction" routine in which the coin disappears and then returns to view. Stickley also "used pressure and heat" to make coins transform from silver to copper and back to silver once again. He then showed two silver coins in one hand, and, with a magic wave, the two coins appeared in the other hand and had changed to copper.

Williams performed next. Taking a cue from Weise, Williams had a "prediction card" in an "envelope of mystery." Then, Williams had Weise select a card from a movie card deck. From the envelope, Williams revealed one card as his "prediction," but he got it wrong. He pulled another "prediction" from the envelope, and he was wrong again. He did the same thing a third, then a fourth time. It seemed none of the prediction cards were correct; however, when the cards were turned over and placed together,

they formed a "poster" of the movie *JAWS*, an exact match of the original card selected.

Williams also shared a demo of a new product to his shop, the Choice Box, which is used to force one of four items. The box is versatile and may be used to perform a variety of prediction-style effects.

Ricky Wayne, a guest from Iowa, performed next. Ricky spread a (red) deck across the table. Stickley selected the Four of Spades from the spread. Sorting through the deck on the table, one blue card was revealed, and it was the Four of Spades. Repeating the effect with blue cards spread out, the Two of Spades was selected. This time, when the deck was spread out, there was one card face up. Miraculously, it was the Two of Spades.

Anthony Mullins was in the proverbial spotlight next. Mullins explained he arrived late due to a combination of issues. Then, after gathering himself a bit, presented a rendition of a "Cup and Balls" routine. Initially, there was a cup. Then, one ball appeared. Then, two balls appeared. Mullins went on to perform the wand through the balloon effect, magically pulling a needle through a balloon.

When Weise was up again, he displayed a small brass box with two quarters and a penny. He said this was a beta version of his effect and that the inside the brass container was "Professor Plum's perfectly proportioned piquant potion for phantastic performances of prestidigitation." When sprinkled the magic dust showed two quarters in the box and the penny off to the side.

Thom Taylor took on his persona as Nicholas Nickleby and shared another effect with his and famous "oil" with special properties. "Nickleby" showed a scarf and some coins. Then, after covering the coins with the scarf, and sprinkling the oil on the scarf, the coins magically penetrated through the scarf. After his successful "coin and scarf" routine, "Nickleby" wrapped a glass in newspaper. Pouring his special oil on the table, he covered a glass with newspaper and covered the coins with the glass. The coins mysteriously penetrated through the table. Then, amazingly, the glass itself penetrated right through the table-top ending up below the table.

Williams shared a couple of funny sight gags. Finally, Beck was up next with an experiment. He had a coin and a vintage squeeze-style coin purse. He had a volunteer, Mullins, identify some imaginary coins, and then choose some of them. Anthony chose the quarter, dime, and nickel. These imaginary coins were mixed in Anthony's hands and then placed on the table. Anthony chose to remove the quarter and the

nickel, leaving the invisible dime on the table tails up. Anthony put an X on the coin and turned it over. Though Anthony made all the choices, when the coin purse, which had been in plain sight through the entire process, was opened, it was revealed that inside was a dime with an X on the back of the dime. A “spot on” prediction!

After the initial round of performances, a number of magicians (Williams, Mullins, Taylor, and Weise) came back to “the stage” to share even more! All in all, it was a magical July evening!

Christopher Beck, Ph.D. and Mary Geise

RING 334, MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA – Grand Strand Magicians Society

Meets 1st Thu., 7:00 pm at the Southatlantic Bldg., Unit C, 908
Seaboard St., Myrtle Beach, SC
GERRY THOMPSON, Secretary
www.sandyshoesentertainment.com/

Hello one and all! The August meeting started right on time at the Magic Loft. We had a magic outing on the 11th at the Jerusalem Restaurant in conjunction with the Arabian Nights theme, which was the magic theme for this month’s meeting. Next month, September, the theme will be magic you got from Trickmaster Magic Shop or the Broadway Magic. September will be Wonders Month because the Magic at the Beach Convention is held at Charles Bach’s Wonders Theater and is in September. Magic at the Beach is Sept. 12-14. The Tuesday before the convention we will have Taco Tuesday at Magoo’s. The Tuesday after the convention we will have Losander at the Magic Loft. And the Thursday after the convention we will meet with Charles Bach at the Wonders Theater to hear how things went at the convention. Next was door prizes and then a snack.

Now it was showtime! Remember, the theme was Arabian Nights. Paul McTaggart started things off. Paul made a ball out of a sheet of aluminum foil and made it float. He even made it float through a hoop and behind a hank. Very cool! Will showed a cool Tenyo effect. A small

base with a box on top held a tiny deck of cards. Liam came up and looked at a card, cards went back in the tuck case which went back in the box and the box on the stand/base. A little sword was presented and stuck through the box and withdrawn. The card box was removed from the box and the cards from the tuck case. Only Liam’s card had a hole in it.

I, Dale, was next and did a stiff rope to an Aladdin theme. Thaddeus brought Toby the Mind Reader with him. Liam helped and Thaddeus had Liam put a banana in his pocket. Toby shuffled some cards and Liam picked one, an alphabet card. After the card was returned to

deck and shuffled, Toby tied to find Liam’s card. Toby chose wrong. Thaddeus had Liam take the banana out of his pocket, it was unzipped and inside was a hank with Liam’s selected letter on it. A funny routine.

Charles followed. Two long ropes went through a red, a white, and a blue tube. Liam, Will, and Thaddeus went on stage and held the tubes. One rope went around Will, Thaddeus, and Liam. Eric and Jesse came up and took the ends of the ropes and pulled. The ropes went through Thaddeus, Liam, and Will!

Ray’s turn was next. Five cards were shown and held in a column. Four people looked at and thought of a card and then Ray took one. Now Eric comes up and shuffles a deck of cards, takes one and signs it. It goes back in the deck. The five cards from the beginning goes into a bag. Eric shakes the bag; Ray shakes the bag. Ray takes a knife and stabs the bag, and rips open the paper bag with Eric’s card on the blade. Inside the bag are the four cards thought of at the beginning, all thought of the same card, plus the card Ray took. To finish, Ray produces a glass of liquid from the bag. Good stuff.

Ron presented some nifty ideas. A creepy magic set from a bookstore. Some ideas to do with the book, *Milo’s Hat Trick*. Showed a skeleton apron. To finish, he brought out a zippered garment bag with pockets on the back and said you could put tricks in the pockets. Great ideas.

Eric walked in with a cane, produces a silk, vanishes the cane and a silk appears. A “Cut and Restored Rope” with some false knots thrown in. Next a “Ring on Rope” with “Linking Rings” to end the set. Eric shows a blank book. Paul, Ray, Thaddeus, and Stephen shuffle packets of cards. The cards are shuffled face up into face down cards. Eric writes some things in the book. It turns out to be predictions. The prediction matches the number of face up cards, red ones, and Spades. Very nice. Gene performs a very nice snake basket with funny bits of business. I love the magic Gene brings.

Well, that was our meeting. If you are in Myrtle Beach the first Thursday of the month, please join us, we’d love to see you.

Dale Rabon

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

Nelson Brookshire led the Ring 392’s meeting since Dr. Joe Mazzola had a conflict and could not attend. He reviewed the upcoming schedule of meetings. Each meeting brings fun, fellowship, information and, of course, excellent magic, and this was no different.

Gerry and Cara stated that MINDvention will

be held in Philadelphia on November 17. Hosts are Danny Archer and Marty Martin and the MINDvention team. Also, the Yankee Gathering will be held in Nashua, NY from November 7-9. America's Got Talent has some magicians performing once again. It was recommended by Doug and Joanna Roberts that we check it out. Nelson asked members to be sure to see the Le Grand David article in the latest *Linking Ring* as our own T. J. Shimeld worked in the show for several years. Doug and Joanna Roberts are excited about some upcoming opportunities for their son, Fletcher. They could not disclose details, but it seems like an exciting time is ahead for Fletcher. We anxiously await more information when possible. Gerry Hayes shared information about Daryl Easton (Daryl) 1955-2017. He was a fabulous magician, author and developer of magic effects. Learn more about this gold medal FISM award in 1982 and other contributions he gave the magic world. He was recently voted as one of the most influential magicians of the 20th Century. Check out his "Hot Shot Cut" on YouTube.

The magic action began with Doug Roberts performing a gag mentalism trick. Joanna then stepped up by performing a mentalism effect as well! Gerry Hayes then shared This "Audio Transposition" by the late Daryl who was a true magician's magician. Next Gerry presented a variation on Annemann's "Seven Keys to Baldpate" and John Snyder, Jr.'s 1936 "Psy-Key-Lock." Next Gerry produced an ash tray and a bowl of sugar. He recalled in high school going to a restaurant where these were standard on most tables. He then proceeded to pour some sugar into his hand. He asked Joanna to light a match and carefully supply heat some distance under Gerry's hand. Once the heat had worked, Gerry produced a sugar tube from his hand. Sweet magic! Last, Gerry presented *The Legend of Excalibur*. After a few comments about the book, the sword, and King Arthur, a full-length sword was suddenly pulled from the book! This was a startling and effective finish to Gerry's magic.

Nelson shared a couple of his favorite tricks he has done and will be presenting at an upcoming program. First, Jay Scott Berry's beautiful "Ring and Ribbon" routine. He then shared information about an effect he developed called "Laura Foster's Pearls." It involved a story about the infamous Tom Dula who was hanged for the murder of Laura Foster. The effect, which won't be described in detail, involves the use of the ITR and a small strand of pearls. A high quality ITR is required.

Following the meeting, everyone enjoyed delicious food and drink provided by Gerry and Cara. Our Ring is decidedly fortunate to have a group of magicians who truly love magic and each other. *Nelson Brookshire*

RING 398, APPLETON/GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN – Dr. Lynn Miner Ring

Meets last Tue. except Dec., 6:30 p.m., email for location.

RICK MOREIN, Secretary

E-mail: rmorein497@gmail.com

Members of I.B.M. Ring 398, the Dr. Lynn Miner Ring, had outstanding and record attendance during our July 2024 meeting held both in-person at Monty's Secret Theatre in Kimberly and on Zoom. The theme for our meeting was Fool Us.

After Ring President Michael Schroeder called the meeting to order we began with Ring Secretary Rick Morein announcing the winner of our July Fab Magic Monthly Trivia contest, Mike Desotell, who was the first to provide the correct answer. Even though Mike couldn't attend, we gave him a big round of applause and presented him with a \$25 gift certificate to Fab Magic.

Next, our Ring proudly recognized our 2024 Junior Magician of The Year, Chicago's very own Nico Lopez, who shared his story about winning this year's Tannen's Magic Camp junior competition and then Ring 398's Board of Directors posed for photos with him while Ring President Michael Schroeder presented him with his 2024 Junior Magician of the Year certificate.

Asking our 2023 Junior Magician of the Year winner Kahlan Scherg to join us for photos, Rick Morein announced that Magic, Inc. in Chicago was presenting both Kahlan and Nico a \$25 gift certificate each in recognition of their outstanding achievements. Rick added that there was nothing more important that our Ring could do than to recognize and honor the next generation of our young rising stars of magic and commended everyone in the Ring for doing that. Happily, both Nico's father Orlando and Kahlan's mother Kendra were both in attendance to see their children receiving these honors. We thanked them for supporting their young stars of magic!

Next, we moved on to our theme for the night. While we kept tabs and voted on each performer's "bamboozability," we witnessed great performances by Bruce Hetzler, Dr. Lynn Miner, Daryl Rogers, Michael Schroeder, Lou Lepore, Kahlan Sherg, Kevin Koehne, Nico Lopez, Marv Roth, Tal Kuhn, Monty Witt, and Rick Morein. This was a "tough" competition, with most magicians performing excellent effects that were real foolers!

Then after we tallied the votes, Nico Lopez was announced as the winner of our Fool Us competition. He won the most votes by performing an absolutely outstanding color-changing cards routine and was then recognized as our winner by being presented with our Ultra-Prestigious Ring 398 Fool Us certificate. What a fun night we had!

Rick Morein

NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

OCTOBER 2024 30 NEW MEMBERS

FLORES CAJIGAS, TATIANA, San Diego, CA
FRITZ, WILLIAM, Glendale, CA
JORGE, LARRY, Kingsburg, CA
MCCLEAN, JACKSON, Los Angeles, CA
HEIKKA, SCOTT, Valrico, FL
MARBERRY, MATTHEW, Champions Gate, FL
GWYNN, TODD, Brunswick, GA
PETRAVICIUS, ADAM, Clarendon Hills, IL
KENNEDY, ERIC, Hyde Park, MA
THOMAS, AARON, Gaithersburg, MD
THOMPSON, ROBERT, Houghton Lake, MI
COOK, MONTE, Spring Lake Park, MN
WYMORE, STEVEN, Nisswa, MN
RAPOSO, DEREK, Wendell, NC
BIGGINS, BRUCE, Staten Island, NY
CHRISTIAN, DEAN, Delmar, NY
KLINE, OWEN, Jackson Heights, NY
GERBER, BRYAN, Twinsburg, OH
RESNICK, BRIAN, West Chester, OH
MESSADO, JOSHUA, Pittsburgh, PA

EUBANKS, JAMES, Germantown, TN
HAGGARD, KEVIN, Houston, TX
WEMPLE, CHARLES, Houston, TX
MILLER, OLIVER, Alexandria, VA
BOURASSA, ALEXANDRE, Sherbrooke, Canada
BARBARIC, NIKOLA, 21312 Podstrana, Croatia
BHATTAR, SRIKALYAN, Hyderabad, Telangana, India
VINOGRADOV, MAXIM, Canggu, Bali, Indonesia
KEAN, ANDY, Clarks Beach, NI, New Zealand
FRANCE, JOHN, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

7 REINSTATEMENTS

REAMER, ERIC S., Larkspur, CO
TAYLOR, JANIA, Harbor Springs, MI
OURADNIK, RYAN, Minneapolis, MN
GRIFFIN, TIM, Beaumont, TX
MAZZA, RAYMOND, Buda, TX
BROW, CAMERON, Spokane, WA
SPANSAIL, JON, Antigo, WI

I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

(Continued from page 53)

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 53.**

Clint Riedel's drive and creativity took him from small-town America to a role in bringing magic to television. Born Clinton Charles Riedel on March 30, 1908, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he grew up in a typical way: going to school and doing chores at home, as the small city of Lancaster continued to grow. By the 1930s, Clint was working after school as an apprentice sign painter. For the next ten years, he sold, rolled, and occasionally applied wallpaper. Clint took all that experience to become a professional magician, designer, and builder of stage and illusion effects for himself as well as for other magicians. Clint created everything from simple advertisements to small murals for storefronts.

According to Clint, he saw a performance of magician Howard Thurston in the 1920s and after that, his life was changed. In 1928, he became a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. His member number was number 1864. Clint became the dean of Ring 30 Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, and a well-respected member of the I.B.M. Clint also was a member, and later the secretary, of the Red Rose Ring Number 51 in Lancaster (now dissolved), and a member of the Professional Magicians Club of Lancaster.

Clint and his wife of three years, Mildred (she never liked the name, so she went by Millie) created a tent show with a lot of props that Clint created and built. The idea of continuing the traveling tent show was not as practical as they thought it would be since their family was growing and times were lean after the stock market crash in 1929. The Riedels adapted by performing at local venues, clubs, and smaller gatherings. Staying around the Lancaster area gave Clint the opportunity to build an array of small magic props. He went to the magic club meetings and sold props to club members, and he also sold them to magic shops. Throughout the 1930s and 40s Clint continued to perform his magic show, touring up and down the Eastern seaboard. His shows were seen at fraternal clubs, hospitals, and schools. Millie would accompany him. She designed costumes, stage managed the show, and found him audience members to be his assistants.

Clint's magic effects were getting rave reviews from both magicians and dealers alike. Clint was selling his own built effects like the Oriental Tea Chest, his own design of a vanishing cabinet where when something is placed into the cabinet it vanishes, and so many more creations. As the years progressed, magicians were able to purchase original Riedel products like Riedel Card Rise Chest, Phantom Ribbon, Dagger Livestock Vanish, Mandarin Box, Ring on Wand, and Cabinet DeLuxe. While all these products were being made, Clint and Millie were performing their show in and out of neighboring towns around Lancaster.

Clint was honored to receive the first-place award - Caryl Fleming Gold Medal - for his magic creation of Riedel's Rice Box to Lantern. The effect is as follows: A small square box of Chinese design is on a knife-thin tray. The box is filled with rice, and then covered with a silk. The performer lifts the silk-covered box with the rice off the tray and in a flash it vanishes. In its place is a beautiful Chinese lantern of a different color than the box.

Clint would occasionally lend ideas for commercial effects like his idea for the Color-Changing Bouquet made by Mingus Magic. In 1949, Mingus Magic created feather flower effects and Clint presented them with an idea to make an improvement on one of the popular feather effects. It was a popular effect and well-advertised at the magic conventions and in the magic magazines.

In 1951, Clint received a contract to design and build an illusion show for the popular radio and television personality Arthur Godfrey. Clint was on hand to walk the celebrity through each of the effects by demonstrating them and performing each effect. Godfrey's idea was to include the magic effects on his television show. Television was in its initial stages of popularity. Approximately nine percent of the homes in the United States had a

television and Godfrey wanted to show his audiences something new and exciting.

At the end of the 1950s, Clint and Millie were looking forward to staying at home. So, after touring their show at all sorts of engagements and coming home with trophies from magic conventions, they returned home to enjoy some time for themselves. The show Clint advertised as the *Largest Magic Show in the Country* ended in 1960. Clint would still attend club meetings, perform smaller shows in town, and be included at a magic convention on occasion. Later in life, he was a member of I.B.M. Ring 20, the Eddie Clever Keystone Ring, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He held various ‘hats’ during his time as a member of the Ring. As a longtime member of the Magicians Alliance of Eastern States, Clint helped organize picnics and assemblies and sponsor conventions. Such an event took place on September 16, 1971, at the Abraham Hotel in Reading, Pennsylvania. Clint emceed the ‘Night Before’ show. Dealers included Bob Little, Emerson & West, Jerry Mentzer, and Jack Chanin. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Clint was at conventions to have an enjoyable time, help his fellow members with performance questions, or perform an effect from his years of experience.

In the 1990s, Clint still had ideas for magic effects. One of them was the Dracula Castle sold by his pal and fellow club member, Jim Klein. Clint only made a limited number of these effects. The prop could be performed as a parlor or small-stage effect. In 1988, Jim and Clint put together a limited-edition book, *Magic of Riedel*. Within the over two hundred pages, the reader would read about Clint’s original ideas, as well as details of his life as a magician. Included in the book are ideas for advertising, raising livestock, costuming, assistants, show-programming, music, building magic tricks, and more. The book had numerous black and white photographs and illustrations.

Clint’s wife, Millie, passed away in 1992. They had been married for sixty-six years. Within that time, Millie was his wife, mother to his son, bookkeeper, costume designer, an occasional assistant (only if she had to!), and lifelong friend. After her passing, Clint kept busy by going to club meetings, submitting ideas for books and magazines including *Mortimer’s Magic Magazine*. This limited edition was a compilation of ideas from magicians including the likes of Steve Bender, Bob Solari, Steve Dusheck, and Paul Diamond. The thirteen spiral-bound volumes are packed with excellent ideas for magicians from the amateur to the professional. Recently, there was one set for sale for more than two hundred dollars. The contents include everything from presentations, patter, card effects, balloon blowing shapes, coin effects, and so much more.

Clint Riedel was always active in the magic community and there whenever he was needed to help a friend, a neighbor, or his community. In the first few days of March in 1995, Clint became ill. He was admitted to Lancaster General Hospital where on March 11 he passed away. From his early days just beginning in magic and throughout his career, Clint made his success as a magician and man of integrity. Scores of fellow performers will always remember Clint’s dedication to the arts as an excellent example of being the best they can be on stage or off.

Gary R. Frank

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

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