

their theater. We would partner with the theater to help raise funds for a new digital sign.

Maryland's Michael Kaminskas, "King of the Cups," was lecturing on Sunday, February 11th in Richardson. The Dallas Magic Club is bringing him through North Texas. Bill Irwin is following up with the Program Coordinator of Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth to see if club members might be able to perform room to room in the spring. The Medical Center has been our charitable focus for several years. Randi Rain will be performing at "Magic in the Living Room" at the Line Public House in February and will be presenting the conversation on "routining" at the February Mid-Cities Magic Circle in Arlington.

Gavin opened the evening program with a discussion on "Purism vs. Gimmicks in Magical Routining." The theme addresses the narrow niche subject of "method" which has surfaced as a debate on social memory. Gavin noted that "purists" he has approached are superb card technicians but aren't performers. They are interested only in developing their sleights. Tricia Heil reminded us that method is secondary to what you want to create for your audience. There is a group that hosts a convention for only "sleight purists." Gavin, who is new to magic, noted that for young people without financial resources, can wisely use cards and other basic props for developing initial sleights skills.

Open Mic featured Ron Wilson performing a transformational drink routine in which the empty bottle became full again.

All enjoyed the eclectic discussions and vowed to keep the dialogues flowing!

Dr. Geoffrey Grimes

RING 17, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA – The Sid Lorraine Hat and Rabbit Club

Meets 1st Mon. (except July and August) For current meeting details and venue, please visit website.

Web Site: www.ibmring17.org

DAVID PECK, President / E-mail: david@sochange.ca

Gerry and Leonora Frenette travelled the world as headline entertainers and performed their original illusions at magic conventions, on cruise ships, and at The Magic Castle. You will almost certainly recognize the name of Gerry's illusion-building company, Magic Makers Inc. which he started in 1985.

I first came across Gerry's name in Rand Woodbury's book *Illusionworks II*. As luck would have it, he is also a member (and former President) of the Ring to which I now belong. Last month, he presented his lecture "The Psychology of Magic" to our very appreciative group.

Gerry began by talking about assumptions, specifically those made by our audiences. Using this premise, he showed a short tube and proceeded to produce a solid, red billiard ball from it. A moment later another one was produced, followed by a cane.

His original trick called "Chicken A La Card" followed, where a signed, selected card appears folded up inside an egg which is retrieved from inside a rubber chicken. At the 2022 FISM, Jeff McBride told Gerry that he still had his. A sponge ball routine was next, and Gerry offered his own personal touches and handling on this routine along with a very amusing once-in-a-lifetime anecdote.

Club member Andrew Sutherland assisted Gerry with his next trick, which was a very clever, version of "Coins Across." Coins held in his left hand travelled into a glass held in his right hand. Using large pieces of foam board and aluminum he showed us a basic masking principle commonly used in illusion building. He then showed how the same principles can be applied to tricks with smaller props, in particular the Flexible Mirror effect. Gerry also talked about his time performing on cruise ships and all of the ups and downs that come with it (sometimes quite literally). He showed a routine that he would often perform on ships which was his wonderful stand-up version of the "Ten Card Poker Deal" involving jumbo cards, casino chips, and four audience members who, no matter how fair the conditions and how high the stakes, simply cannot beat the magician.

He closed with Glenn Ottaway's hilarious rendition of Slydini's "Flight of the Paper Balls."

Sprinkled throughout the lecture were amusing and insightful stories from his forty-year career as an illusion builder and performer. Check out www.magicmakersillusions.com to find out about his original effect (co-created with Bobby Motta) "Lethal: The Ultimate Card Stab;" "The Appearing Sailboat," and his book, which I just finished reading and enjoyed immensely, *My Life as a Magic Maker*. *David Peck*

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

February found us meeting twice – in-person and via Zoom. Our in-person meeting featured silks, cards, coins, ropes, linking rings, and homemade chocolate chip cookies courtesy of President Andy Selbitschka. The magic was fun, and the cookies were exceptional (so much butter)!

Rick Hinrichs started off the in-person with his