

## Ring 17 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) Hosts Rick Holcombe Lecture

Ring 17 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) recently hosted a lecture by Rick Holcombe. Before the lecture, April Carter showed us a trick that she uses to entertain kids at her school, asking us to adopt the mindset of ten-year-olds (which was not a stretch). A lovely red velvet bag was shown empty and then – using our collective magical efforts – a multitude of colourful handkerchiefs were produced. These were gathered with the help of Arey and returned to the bag. The handkerchiefs transformed into a long, rainbow-coloured streamer and the bag was empty. April was happy to show us this special bag, which she purchased in San Francisco at Joe Pon’s Misdirections Magic Shop. I had never seen one built like this and it was in fact a double change bag. Thank you, April, for an excellent, entertaining presentation!

Rick Holcombe started by taking a marker out of a purse that was too small to contain said marker. A coin was seemingly dropped out of the marker’s cap and then made to disappear. The marker turned into a coin and the coin back into the marker, which was then used to “draw” a coin on the palm of his hand for its reappearance.

Then with a wave, he transformed the coin into a steel ball. I was glad I sat right at the front to witness this! I could have watched this transformation on a loop for an hour. The ball changed into a coin, the coin rolled into

a ball, the ball flattened into a coin, and the coin expanded into a silver spring before turning back into a coin in a flash. This was Rick’s original routine “Recoil.”

During this fifteen-minute routine that Rick calls “Fusion,” there were many clever moments that garnered spontaneous applause from our group. It ended with all of our club members picking their jaws off the floor.

Next was a smooth Copper, Silver, Brass routine done while standing and without a table (as was the case for all of his offerings). Rick named this variation of Daryl’s “Elbow, Knee, and Neck” as “Triple Bypass.”

A phone was borrowed and the flashlight turned on. Rick then vanished three coins into the light, one at a time. He pointed the light at a person’s cupped hands and turned off the light, which triggered the coins to fall into their hands.

Arey then assisted Rick with his Copper Silver routine called “Captive Coins.” Based on David Roth’s “Fugitive Coins,” Rick’s version uses natural movements and logical handling (with no offense to Roth). In fact, Rick takes Roth’s advice to heart. Roth said it is beneficial to learn how to transition from one palm to another. Rick’s exercise follows this order: classic palm, finger palm, nowhere palm (ring finger), nowhere (middle finger), JW grip, edge grip, Downs palm, thumb palm, balance palm, back thumb clip.



(l to r): Member April Carter performs before the lecture. • Rick visits Ring 17. • Rob Fishbaum with Rick.



(l to r): James Alan performs on the show the night before the lecture at Canada's Magic Centre. • Rich Holcombe performs at Canada's Magic Centre. • Rick performs at Canada's Magic Centre. •

“Colour Blind” was next: a copper coin was sandwiched between two silver coins and, with a wave, a silver coin was suddenly between two copper coins. To end, all three coins changed into Chinese coins.

Dan Trommater helped Rick with “Cerebral Copper, Silver, Brass.” Dan named one of the coins and it transposed with the other coins in the purse.

“Gemini” was a clever routine wherein Rick demonstrated he could turn three silver coins into copper ones, then back into silver. The effect was ultra clean every step of the way.

Thank you, Rick, for coming to visit and presenting your lecture to our club. Also, thank you for the show you put on the night before the lecture, which was enjoyed by all!

If you want to be inspired by coin magic that can be done in close quarters with no



President David Peck and Rich Holcombe take a selfie.

table while standing, check out Rick’s book *Calico* and visit his website [www.rickholcombemagic.com](http://www.rickholcombemagic.com). You can subscribe to Rick Holcombe’s channel on YouTube. *David Sutherland*

## Peter Wood Brings “The Right Tools for the Job” for Washington, D.C. Ring 50’s “Lecture of the Impossible” in January

Peter Wood, the Collector of the Impossible, captivated a full house of Ring 50 (Washington, D.C.) members at the January 7, 2026 meeting with a collection of routines, anecdotes, technical notes, and professional advice, much of which came from his book *The Magical Yard Sale*. Following some of his own advice to stay in his character’s lane, Wood, who styles his character as a nineteenth-century explorer (in the style of Indi-

ana Jones) who unearths magical items, presented slides on a television screen housed inside a wooden case with a speaker inside of a Renaissance Faire apparel metal box with an ornate crown.

“My general philosophy is to work hard before the show, as that means I can be more present during the show,” Wood told the crowd. The crafty Wood showed off numerous props he gimmicked himself. These