

VOLUME 104 • NUMBER 5

The Linking Ring

MAY 2024



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The Linking Ring

FEATURED ARTICLES

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In performance, and in life, the most important thing to learn, says Bobby Torkova, is *improv*. Beth Hammock profiles his successes and struggles, which show how to keep going “when the ceiling falls down.”

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A wildly popular comedian adds his dad’s magic to arena tours for huge audiences. Simone Marron describes the unique relationship between Past International President Stephen Bargatze and his son, Nate Bargatze.

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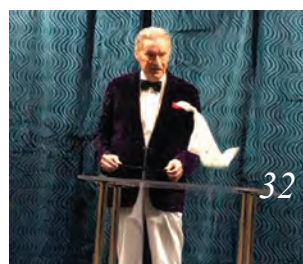
The fourth magic history conference held in Orlando, Florida, featured a recreation of John Calvert’s classic routines by Martin Preston, assisted by Tammy Calvert. Ben Mason reports.

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



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

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

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

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

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



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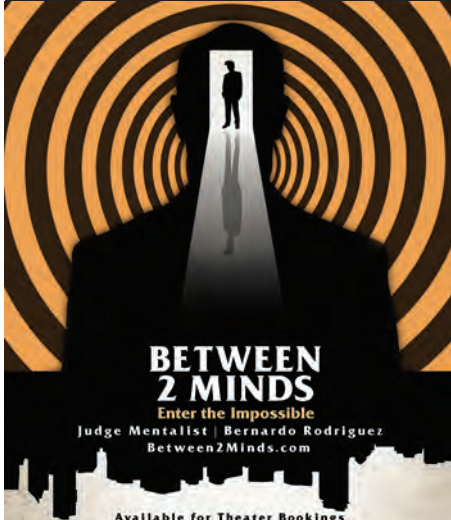
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From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

In 1906 a struggling young writer, eighteen years of age, composed a letter to Richard Harding Davis, the prominent author who had influenced the political fortunes of Theodore Roosevelt during the Spanish-American War. Davis also was a novelist, and wrote flamboyant and controversial articles for leading magazines of the day.

The young man, anxious to impress Davis, made a fatal mistake, closing his letter with this notation at the bottom: "Dictated but not read." It was a phrase he had seen on correspondence from another prominent individual. "I was quite impressed," the young man later recalled. "I felt the writer must be very big and busy and important. I wasn't the slightest bit busy; but I was eager to make an impression on Richard Harding Davis."

Davis didn't bother replying to the letter. Instead, he returned it with these words scribbled across the bottom: "Your bad manners are exceeded only by your bad manners." Perhaps Davis, then forty-two years old and at the peak of his career, was justified in lashing out at his teenage correspondent, but the sting of his reply lasted for the rest of that young man's life. "When I read of the death of Richard Harding Davis ten years later," he wrote, "the one thought that still persisted in my mind – I am ashamed to admit – was the hurt he had given me."

Thirty years after the incident, the writer of that letter – Dale Carnegie – published a best-selling book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, which is still in print with sales of thirty million copies – far exceeding the reach of any works by Richard Harding Davis. From his negative experience with Davis, Dale Carnegie learned a valuable

lesson and became an expert on what to do – and what not to do – to develop lasting friendships and exert positive influence in the lives of other people.

Although I'm tempted to think that Richard Harding Davis was an arrogant rascal – a rude, self-important jerk – honesty compels me to ask if I've made similar mistakes. The answer, of course, is yes – we all fall far short of our ideals, especially during times of stress or moments of exasperation. Today, particularly, with know-it-all attitudes and uncontrolled anger continuously displayed on social media, it's easy to lose our cool and respond with a Richard Harding Davis-esque approach. When tempted, however, perhaps a brief period of restraint – even ten minutes – would change our response and produce better results.

Rather than striking out, the simple effort to have a cordial conversation may create better outcomes than anger, which often yields a bitter fruit whose taste won't be easily forgotten. We've all seen examples of those who try to discredit others, deny that they're doing it, and then respond with snarky comments that others resent.

Instead of trying to dig up dirt – or make up dirt – it seems more likely that we will strike gold if we work together. At the very least, we will end up with more friends, and have greater influence among our peers; and, unlike Richard Harding Davis, we may also



be protected from having our foibles and failures included in a bestselling book that survives long after we're gone.

Dale Carnegie in a 1910 graduation photograph.

(Courtesy Dale Carnegie & Associates)

President's Page

CHARLES ARKIN



Behind the Scenes

This month's column is dedicated to the many people who work "behind the scenes" to help promote and operate our International Brotherhood of Magicians.

The following are just a few of the many examples of the work done in March and April 2024 by your officers, committee members, Board of Trustees, other volunteers, and staff members to provide efficient operations and great programming events for the magic community.

- Convention Chair **Oscar Munoz** and Co-Chair **Stephen Levine** worked with the Tacoma, Washington hotel team to update the logistics for meeting rooms and the Convention schedule.

- Various members of our Convention committees worked on their assigned Convention events, which are now available on the **I.B.M. Convention Schedule Events** page at magician.org, ibmconvention.com, and other social media sites.

- Your International Secretary **Simone Marron** and I worked with Executive Secretary **Sindie Richison** for three days to help upgrade our office systems and equipment.

- A committee update call was completed over Zoom, with each officer and chairperson sharing updates and next steps for their

respective areas. This included brainstorming sessions and sharing ideas to help enhance our marketing and promotion efforts.

- Many thanks to **Sunny Johnson** for providing information about nearby museums that will be open for spouse activities. Details will be available at our Convention registration desk.

- Our Marketing Committee, led by **Jason Michaels**, uses several social media sites to promote the I.B.M. These include **Instagram** ([@ibmmagic](https://www.instagram.com/ibmmagic)) and **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/ibmmagic). Visit them for more details on LBTS, Teen Tuesday, Tacoma Convention, and more!

Other behind-the-scenes work and presentations include the excellent work being done by **Alan Fisher** and **Ryan Pilling**, who host the Ring 2100 monthly virtual gathering, and the work of **Michael Dardant**, who provides his monthly "Up My Sleeve" behind-the-scenes interviews. I especially enjoyed the April 16 discussion with **Lance Burton** that covered the origination and development of Lance's acts, as well as promotion of the Lance Burton Teen Seminar that will take place within our July Convention.

Many thanks to all of our dedicated workers and volunteers. Wishing safe travels and good health to everyone!



Left to right: International Executive Secretary Sindie Richison (left) with International President Charles Arkin, signing Order of Merlin certificates; International Secretary Simone Marron and Sindie Richison working on the computer.



Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING



GENERAL GRANT

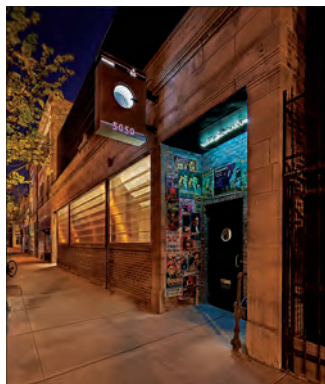
Sophisticated Sorcery

When Gen Grant appeared on stage dressed to the nines he performed his act with far more skill and professionalism than similar acts of his time. His good graces, openness, and compassion for the art of magic showed every time he stepped on stage. His manipulative and dove work were excellent. Still, it took more than forty years to be honored on the front cover of *The Linking Ring*. To learn more, turn to page 144.

Ambassadors of Magic Spotlight

By David Garrard

Chicago Magic Lounge



Chicago Magic Lounge exterior.



Chicago Magic Lounge Harry Blackstone Cabaret.

From Cynthia Ferkol, Marketing Director of the Chicago Magic Lounge, comes this month's Ambassador of Magic Spotlight.

Chicago Magic Lounge was conceived in 2015 in the back of a magic shop as an homage to the historic Chicago Magic Bar scene. Upon reading Bill Weimer's book *Now You See Them, Now You Don't: My Life in the Magic Bars of Chicago*, the idea was born to recreate the experience of a classic magic bar. The old magic bars and venues like Schulien's, New York Lounge, Little Bit O Magic, and many more inspired us to reintroduce close-up and parlor magic to an adult nightlife audience by creating an immersive, theatrical experience.

We initially produced Chicago Magic Lounge as a one-night-a-week show in a rental theater space. The combination of bar, table, and parlor magic, framed by the oral history of magic in Chicago, captured audiences' imaginations, and the show grew in popularity throughout its two-and-a-half-year run. By mid-2017, plans to open a permanent home for Chicago-style magic were in the works.

On February 19, 2018, we opened the secret doors to our state-of-the-art magic theater and lounge. This deco-style venue features a vintage 1920s speakeasy performance bar, an intimate cabaret theater, and a forty-seat close-up gallery called the "654 Club." Since then, we have hosted over one hundred and fifty magicians from around the world each year and expanded our programming to seven nights a week, producing five unique shows and ten performances a week.

The Chicago Magic Lounge is also the home of the reimagined Chicago Magic Round Table, a group of like-minded magicians who meet many times a month for guest lectures, themed workshops, and group sessions. Membership allows for exclusive, members-only discounts and perks at the venue. The Chicago Magic Round Table is now the newest member organization of FISM North America.

Chicago Magic Lounge creates an unforgettable experience for magicians and muggles alike. Enter through the "laundromat" and enter a world where genuine astonishment awaits.

BOBBY TORKOVA

If the Ceiling Falls Down

By Beth Hammock

After forty years as a full-time magician, Bobby Torkova has two words for every magician who aspires to a career in magic: *learn improv*.

Back in 1995, Bobby entered the Society of American Magicians' National Stage Competition. After practicing incessantly, he had his music and effects timed precisely and was confident he would finish right at the ten-minute mark. Fortunately, he was taking improvisational acting lessons while preparing for the competition.

"If the ceiling falls down, keep going!" his improv teacher said. While the ceiling stayed intact, Bobby faced a big blow to his show: the music stopped midway. Bobby, who performs magic in mime, relied on upbeat music to keep his show moving. He had chosen three Scott Joplin tunes for his act. In the middle of the second song, the music stopped.

"This went on for thirty seconds. Seeing I was in trouble, my friends in the back of the audience started humming 'The Entertainer.' Recalling my improv training, rather than panicking, I began conducting them. To my surprise, the whole audience started singing! They continued singing while I went on with my act. The music came back on after a minute. (Turns out the speaker had come unplugged.) To catch up on the time I lost,

I cut my act and finished right on the beat. Everyone rose to their feet and gave me a standing ovation."

The judges awarded Bobby first place, a prize that included a trip to perform in Japan. Bobby's career also took him to China, Europe, Mexico, and the Magic Castle. He has also performed on cruise ships and at countless corporate events, fundraisers, and private parties, and rubbed elbows with celebrities.



At a private party in New York City in 2011.
PHOTO BY GOMEZ PHOTOGRAPHY



*Bobby's closer for thirty years, *The Linked Rings*, as performed here in his autobiographical one-man show, *A Hanky and a Top Hat!* PHOTO BY HARRY MANDEL*

Life has changed for Bobby, who is now sixty-seven years old. He suffers from a severe case of spinal stenosis that makes walking painful. Last spring, Bobby had back surgery. Still recovering, he uses a wheelchair to get around and because his building does not have an elevator, he is homebound.

He has never given up when facing adversity, and he does not plan to throw in the towel on his career. "I hope to walk and perform magic again," Bobby says with optimism.



Bobby has performed at many comedy clubs, including the Comix Roadhouse at The Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut in June 2018. PHOTO BY JIM SPINNATO

OVERCOMES STUTTERING TO BECOME A MENTALIST

Bobby Torkova has overcome many obstacles. First, his speech impediment – stuttering. Bobby had speech therapy in third grade and did not get help for stuttering again until he was an adult. Determined to be a magician, Bobby performed sleight of hand as a mime to avoid stuttering on stage. Then, after years of performing silently, Bobby wanted to expand his repertoire.

"I wanted to do mentalism so badly I would have to overcome my stuttering," Bobby says. Thus, he invested in speech therapy by one of the top therapists in the world, Phil Schneider.

While working with Schneider, Bobby took up writing plays and performing one-man shows. His first play, *Thought Prints*, was about a mentalist who stutters. The show depicts a postal worker with the psychic ability to read letters while still in their envelopes. Bobby was delighted to perform his play at the New York City Fringe Festival in 2006.

"As part of my therapy, my speech therapist taught me how to stutter inten-



Above: Bobby at the Shanghai Magic Competition in 1997. Right: Bobby's first cruise ship performance on the Regent Sun in Victoria, BC, in 1989.



tionally while performing,” Bobby recalls. “In addition to the challenge of playing a character who stutters, it was the first time I had spoken on stage for a whole hour.”

Slowly, Bobby incorporated mentalism into his act, learning the art by reading

books and associating with other mentalists.

“For a long time, I couldn’t do mentalism particularly well, but I persisted because my audience loved it. They really believed I could read minds! Now I try to balance mentalism and magic,” Bobby says.



The New Yorker featured Bobby on its cover when he performed with the Ying Quartet, a classical string quartet. The caricature pictures Bobby gleefully sawing the musicians in half. ARTIST: EDWIN FOTHERINGHAM

CHOOSING MAGIC AS A CAREER

Bobby knew he wanted to be a professional magician when he was fourteen years old. He had just attended the annual show of the Independent Magical Performers Society, a club for young magicians, where the legendary Al Flosso was the featured performer.

When Flosso asked for a volunteer for his featured trick, *The Miser’s Dream*, hands shot up. But not Bobby. In his second play, the autobiographical *A Hanky and a Top Hat*, Bobby describes his life-changing experience.

“I remembered that he prefers a kid to come up who is wearing a jacket. Terrified of being picked, I slumped down in my seat. As it turns out, I was the only kid in the whole audience wearing a jacket. Flosso spots me in my new green striped sport coat and yells, ‘Come on up, my boy – you’re it!’ Flosso astounded me that day,



Bobby performed his one-man show, A Hanky and a Top Hat! in New York City in 2019. PHOTO BY SHEILA PAIGE

and I realized that magic was what I really want to do with my life. I wanted to give people that same sense of wonder I felt on stage with Floss.

Bobby got the magic bug when he was seven years old, and did everything he could to learn tricks and the art of performing. The son of a police officer and a stay-at-home mother, he grew up in the



Bobby working on his card fans in 1970. PHOTO BY KATHIE ROGERS

small town of Brentwood, New York, on Long Island. He discovered magic in comic book ads on the way home from a family trip into the city. In *A Hanky and a Top Hat!* he describes his reaction to seeing the advertisements.

“These magic companies have wonderful, exotic names such as The House of 1,000 Mysteries. They sell little tricks usually costing about a dollar and they all promise that there is No Skill Required! But the best part is that the ads have these great illustrations that really captured my imagination. If only I had them, I could have superpowers, too!”

One trick appealed to him the most – The Floating Dancing Handkerchief sold by Vick Lawston’s House of 1,000 Mysteries. Bobby reflects: “We’re driving back home on the Long Island Expressway, and all I can think about is The Floating Dancing Handkerchief!”

Bobby begged his parents to buy the trick for him, but his mother said they did not order anything through the mail. With help from his father, the unflappable



L to R: Bobby performing the rarely seen Two-Handed Coin Star. Performing at the Smoke and Mirrors Theater in Pennsylvania in 2018. PHOTO BY COSTELLO PHOTOGRAPHY

Bobby created a magic act without any of the tricks sold by mail. Once he started performing shows for the neighborhood kids, his magic career had begun!

When he was in third grade, he caught a break after performing a coin trick for his speech therapist, Miss Solomon. She knew enough about magic to realize he needed a top hat, and presented him with one at their next meeting! Bobby used the hat in

every show he performed until he was a teenager.

By age eleven, Bobby knew he needed to visit a magic shop to find fresh material. While Long Island lacked a magic shop, Bobby could visit shops in New York City when his family visited his grandparents. Easier said than done. He had to convince his parents of the need for him to visit the Flosso-Hornmann Magic Company – the Palace of Magic. Once there, he bought his first professional magic trick – the EZ Hat Trick.

Bobby’s father and uncle both knew magic tricks and helped him get started. “But when I got older and started talking about making magic my career, my father would say, ‘Magic is fine as a hobby but, you really need to have something else to fall back on.’ Hearing that had always made me feel as if he didn’t have any confidence in me – that I would never make it as a magician. Well, not true. He just couldn’t see how anyone could make a living performing magic.”

After a year of college, Bobby followed a friend’s advice and moved to New York City to pursue his dream of becoming a professional magician.

“I decided I liked magic more than physics,” he says. “I didn’t want to speak on stage because of my stuttering, so I went to mime school. It seemed like a perfect fit for me, and it worked.”



Bobby performing The Linking Rings for a street festival in New York City in 1989.



Performing corporate close-up magic for Macy's executives in New York City.

By twenty-six, Bobby was a full-time magician. He joined the I.B.M. and attended Ring 26 meetings in New York City.

Bobby credits his father's skepticism with "spurring me on to work all the harder to become a successful magician. And in the end, my father would be very proud of the many awards I would receive."

In addition to winning first place in the 1995 S.A.M. National Stage Competition and appearing on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* in 2021, Bobby's honors include:

- Milbourne Christopher Award for Notable Contributions to the Art of Magic
- Excellence in Manipulation, Abbott's Get-together
- Bistro Award for Excellence in Cabaret, Backstage
- Hofzinsner Award for Classical Magic, Vienna Magic Theater, Austria

He also has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Daily News*, and *New York Post*. *The New Yorker* magazine published a caricature of him sawing a string quartet in half! Bobby was set to perform with the renowned Ying Quartet at Symphony Space in New York City thanks to an invitation from Academy Award-winning producer Alan Miller.

"The performance was one of the biggest challenges of my life because they wanted to integrate the two arts; music and magic. I came up with some tricks that used music as their theme and finished with my award-winning coin act. The musicians got in the magical spirit



Bobby's appearance on Penn & Teller: Fool Us on December 3, 2021.



L to R: Bobby was a regular at many clubs including Mostly Magic, Monday Night Magic, and LoL Times Square Comedy Club. PHOTO BY ERIC WALTON. Bobby producing two bowls of oranges as done by The Great Raymond. PHOTO BY MARK READ

and wore derbies to match my costume!” Bobby recounts.

HOW BOBBY GOT ON ‘PENN & TELLER: FOOL US’

Bobby landed on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* by following the formula that has worked for him throughout his life. He got an idea, researched it, then found a first-class coach to help him make it happen. The sequence went like this before the Penn & Teller show: (1) He had wanted to do a routine with scarves and a magical flag his whole life. He knew kids show magicians use it but wanted to develop his own take on the magic classic as a sophisticated routine for adults. (2) In 2019, he read everything he could find about the trick, then got the supplies together, and began practicing. He practiced non-stop while quarantined at home during 2020. (3) In December 2020, he sent Penn & Teller an audition video for the 2021 season. (4) When the show did not choose him in 2021, he did not give up. He hired a magic coach.

“I resolved to push forward,” Bobby says. “I would work harder, refine the act, and submit it for the next year. But in order to get accepted on the show, I knew I had to take my magic to the next level and hired a magic coach.

The producers of *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* connected Bobby with another coach who had worked with many of the show’s performers. After meeting with the coach a half a dozen times over Zoom, he sent in his new-and-improved version of the Mis-Made Flag trick. A Penn & Teller producer called him the next day! Soon he was booked on the show which aired during season eight in 2022.

Bobby describes his preparation for the show on his YouTube channel, <https://tinyurl.com/BobbyTorkova>.

“Now one of the biggest hurdles I faced was I was performing a classic magic trick. That would make fooling Penn & Teller even more difficult. But since I didn’t have any original material my plan was to make the method as unique and clever as possible,” he says on his YouTube channel.

“For most of my life I have worked alone. Hiring a magic coach made all the difference in the world.”



To learn more about Bobby Torkova’s inspiring career visit www.torkova.com.

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Did You Know?

By Joe Hernandez



Cardini appeared in 1957 in the first NBC television magic special titled *Festival of Magic on Producer's Showcase*, which was a ninety-minute primetime program. Milbourne Christopher was the fellow that put the show together.

Long Tack Sam (1884–1961) was a Chinese-born performer famous in the vaudeville circuit for over three decades. He was a magician, acrobat, juggler, comedian, restaurateur, theater owner, and impresario. He dominated the American vaudeville scene from 1911 to the 1930s and was considered “the greatest act in all of vaudeville” by comedian George Burns. Long Tack Sam inspired many American performers, such as Chung Ling Soo, Li Ho Chang, and Okito. Harry Houdini and Charlie Chaplin greatly admired his Needle Swallowing Trick. Long Tack Sam was the opening act for the Marx Brothers at the Palace Theatre in New York City and taught magic tricks to Orson Welles, who considered him one of his mentors. In 1922, he joined Houdini's Magicians Club. Long Tack Sam passed away at 76 in Linz, Australia.

In the early 1890s, a magician named **William Carl** gained fame as the King of Magicians. He performed with a minstrel troupe called Boston's Merry Musicians and used different stage names like “Black Carl, the Magician,” “Black Carl, Hoodoo Magician,” and “Black Carl, the Creole Mahatma.” In Western Australia, he started performing as “Black Dante,” which caused confusion with the already-popular Dante and forced him to pay Carl to change his name. Upon his return to San Francisco, Carl began touring through the vaudeville circuit as “Black Carl.” In 1909, he and another performer named George Archer opened the first black vaudeville theater on 51st Street and Seventh Avenue in New York City, which was considered the center of the black community then.

Fanning powder was introduced to the magic community in the early or mid-1930s by American ex-cop and gambling dealer-magician **Audley Walsh** using a secret formula made of zinc stearate and marketed by him as “Fan Ez.”

Supposedly, **Harry Houdini** christened the Dortmund handcuffs after discovering them in Dortmund, Germany.

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.

Comedian Nate Bargatze Adds Dad's Magic Act to Arena Tours

By Simone Marron

PHOTOS BY MIKE LAVIN

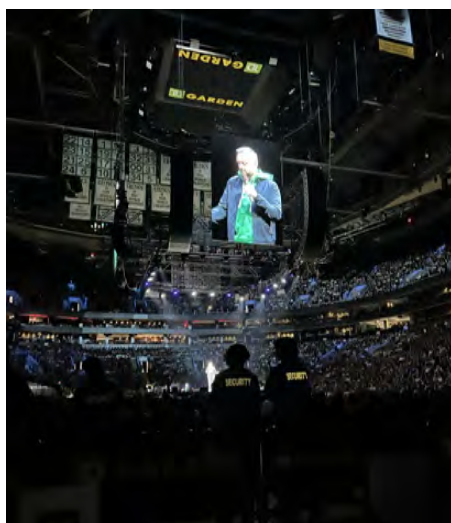
Magicians play in a variety of locations, but Past International President Stephen Bargatze has recently had the unique opportunity to open one hundred fourteen shows for one of the top comedians in the country, in some of the largest arenas. What makes this especially unique is that the comedian is Stephen's son Nate Bargatze. The website Ranker polled thirteen thousand comedy fans about the best comics of 2024, and Nate ranked third.

Without a doubt, forty-five-year-old Nate, who lives in Nashville, got his "funny" from his father. Stephen, who has been performing comedy magic for decades, is the source of much of Nate's material. Stephen tells us, "One thing I need to point out is that the fans are buying tickets for Nate Bargatze, and I'm just along for the ride." Nate's comedy repertoire has always included stories about growing up with his magician father, so his fans have always been able to identify with Stephen. However, when they first went out on the road, the audience did not know his father was going to be there, so it was a cool surprise. Stephen continues, "I constantly remind myself, that as Mac King told me, I'm doing magic for people who didn't come to see magic."

King is a huge fan of Stephen's and was happy to give his opinion. He says, "In

my mind, Stephen has always been under appreciated, not only by the public, but also by his magic peers. For years he has been a powerhouse performer with amazing magic and a low-key brand of comedy that makes him unique. I'm so happy that his son Nate's celebrity has put Stephen's artistry on display for a wider audience.

"I love watching him work those crowds who've come to see Nate. It always goes the same way. The audience starts out thinking that they will indulge their



Crowded arena theaters full of Bargatze fans.



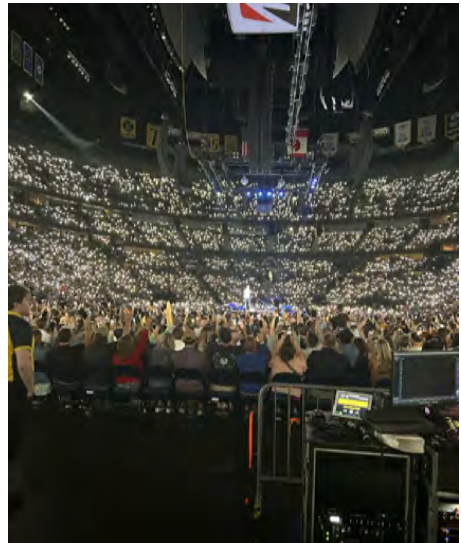
Stephen Bargatze performs his Rubik's Cube routine on stage in Miami on New Year's Eve.

beloved Nate by tolerating his old man for a few minutes. But as Stephen's performance proceeds they slowly realize that they are in the hands of a truly masterful entertainer, and their admiration intensifies to the point, that for a few minutes, they forget that they came to see Nate. They are

swept up into Stephen's world. Then, at the end of Stephen's set, when he speaks from his heart about his son Nate, the audience's affection for Stephen escalates from admiration to love. Every time I've seen Stephen open for Nate he ends up crying at the end, and so do I."



Crowded arena theaters full of Bargatze fans.



Bridgestone Arena in Nashville.



Stephen Bargatzke performs in Georgia.

Stephen backstage at Red Rock Amphitheatre in Colorado.

Stephen has loved the experience of touring with his son, but feels it is now time for him to stop. He explains, “The hard thing for me is being the old man on the bus. They like to get on the bus after the show, stay up late, go to bed, and wake up at the next place. I like to be asleep before the bus leaves.” He continues, “One of the coolest things is that when they announce, ‘Nate’s Dad’ as the special guest, the audience loses their mind.” His fans know him from Nate’s material, and after they see him perform, they realize how good he is.

Stephen reminisces, “When the tour first started, Nate decided that the shows should

be limited to one show a night, but who knew that demand would need him to do two shows a day in the arenas. It is a good problem to have.”

During the tour, they played numerous hockey arenas. There would often be hockey games before their show, and there would still be ice under the floor. Stephen exclaimed, “It would be freezing, and I’m an old man and I would have to get back on the bus to try and get warm.” Stephen was hoping that they would be able to get golf rounds in during tour dates, but for Nate it tired him out too much before a show, so instead he would go for a four-mile run each day. Stephen tells us, “I’m not running. I might walk for a mile or two, but it has just come time for me to be done.”

Comedian Nic Novicki also opens for Nate. Novicki, a long-time friend of Nate, has traveled with him throughout his tours. He loves the Bargatzke family, and tells us, “I am a comedian and actor that has been lucky enough to tour all over the country



Nate Bargatze and Jimmy Fallon on the Be Funny Tour in New Jersey. .

with Stephen on Nate Bargatze's Be Funny tour. It has been one of the highlights of my life to get to perform on the same lineup with Stephen and watch him kill it night after night in front of thousands of fans, who are laughing hysterically at his material and being amazed by his tricks. Beyond watching and being amazed by

Stephen I've also been honored to get to do tricks with Stephen on stage, which has been so much fun."

Novicki continues, "Stephen is always working on a new bit and a new idea, and he's truly a master at finding the right people in the audience and working organically with random people in the



Crowded arena theaters full of Bargatze fans. .



Backstage view of Stephen and Nate Bargatze.

moment. It's also so cool to know what a great guy Stephen is as well as being a great family man. He not only makes everyone in the audience laugh, but also gets emotional when he talks about how much he loves Nate and his other kids. I feel honored to be an honorary Bargatze."

Nate already has had four comedy specials - *The Tennessee Kid*, *Greatest Average American*, *The Stand-ups*, and *Hello World*. In April, he filmed his fifth special in Phoenix, which will air soon. He will finish the tour by the fall of 2024.

Now it is time for Nate to go back to real life, spend time with his family, and let life happen around him so he can write more material. Stephen laughingly shares with us, "I burned my kitchen down which gave Nate a whole bunch of new material. He came home from filming *Saturday Night Live* to find Carol and me living in his house for almost six months while the repairs were being made. As we were finally going home, Carol suggested that we should leave him some money for



Stephen Bargatze performs in an arena in Georgia in December 2023.

living there. I told her that we built this house, as if we hadn't done so much dumb stuff over the years, Nate wouldn't have had half of the material for his act, so I didn't feel guilty at all."

Nate loved having his dad on tour with him. He tells us, "The greatest joy I get out of performing with my dad is showing all the people how great he is. It's very special to get to share the stage with your dad. It is not lost on me at all. I will still drag him to Vegas with me. But we are retiring the tour bus with the CPAP machine he used."

Stephen recently added Taylor Hughes's Rubik's Cube – with a twist – to his routine. He chooses a kid from the audience to mix up the cube, and the cube falls apart. He tells us, "I did have an eleven or twelve-year-old kid that put it back together in one show. He barely put the screws back in, but enough that it stayed together. The funny thing is that nobody knew where the kid came from. It was a fundraiser, and he wasn't supposed to be there." While the routine is entertaining and comedic, it is also a sincerely heartfelt piece. Stephen says it shows that they are a normal messed up family. He emphasizes, "That is why people come to see us!"

Not long after Stephen started performing the Rubik's Cube on the road, he mistakenly handed out the wrong cube at a show in Boston. The trick went wrong, and he still got a standing ovation. The audience didn't even see the real trick, but they didn't know that. The fans have so much



Stephen Bargatze performs to a packed crowd at Radio City Music Hall.

love for the Bargatze family and they still recognize the talent, and just know that they love the entertainment they are seeing.

For Stephen, working arenas was a whole new ballgame, but Outback Productions, that does the production for the tour, made everything so much easier by using the same setup and cues for every show. The show required little tech time beforehand - often no more than five or six minutes.

On tour, there are multiple performers. The three comedians do about ten minutes each, Stephen does twenty-five minutes and Nate will usually do an hour. Timing is perfect, and the audience leaves happy at the end of the night and feels that they have received good value for the price of their tickets.

Working arenas has a different vibe to it. Stephen explains, "The first time I did the Red Rock Amphitheatre in Colorado, I could feel the audience. It felt that way at the Ryman Theater and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, too. When they cheer, it hits you like a wave!" He continues, "Spectrum Center Charlotte in North Carolina, which had eighteen thousand seats, was the first big arena that we did. When the laughs come, the balcony hits you first, and then you must wait a little bit longer for things to translate. I don't mind slowing down, but it's different. You can't see everybody, but with these big cameras, it allows you to see more of the audience than in a theater where you might normally only be able to see the front row."



Stephen Bargatze in his dressing room at Radio City Music Hall.



Stephen Bargatze watches his son Nate close the show. .

Stephen used to do his gumball trick where he would climb over the first few rows to get to the spectator that he picked to be his helper. He had to stop doing that as often there was no follow spotlight, and it was hard for the audience to see him. The Rubik's cube bit was easier for these larger audiences, and it is a favorite of Jimmy Fallon.

In most performance venues on the tour Stephen was supposed to stay in a four-by-four feet square lit by a spotlight, but he has several pieces like the knife gag and finding someone to mix the cube that required him to leave that space and walk into the shadows. The crew would accommodate that where possible with a follow spotlight.

Past I.B.M. President Ken Scott, a close friend of Stephen's, tells us, "I saw Stephen simply slay an audience of nineteen thousand people in Atlanta! The magic played great for a crowd of that size, and with the use of the cameras, everyone could see perfectly. Getting to hang out with everyone for the day and getting to see how the show operated was really amazing. I was

incredibly happy and so proud of Stephen and Nate."

Charlie Frye, also a huge fan of the-Bargatzes, relates, "I recently got to see Stephen regaling a handful of happy spectators in his dressing room just after destroying a packed crowd in the house. And the feeling was the same - pure joy. Character, material likeability . . . he has it all. There's a handful of artists around these days whom I believe to be the best that's ever been. Stephen is one of them!"

Meir Yedid tells us, "Over the past thirty plus years I have seen Stephen entertain a single kid with card magic and destroy a crowd of over twenty thousand people with intimate magic. He is one of the exceptional magicians loved and respected by all. Not just by me, not just by magicians, kids, or adults, but by everyone!"

Meir continues, "Watching Stephen perform surrounded by twenty thousand people reminded me of the legendary Nate Leipzig performing coin tricks at Radio City Music Hall." Meir says Stephen and Leipzig share skills and traits. "As soon as Stephen enters the stage, he takes command of the audience and is immediately likeable. His choice of magic is also very direct, simple to follow, clearly explained, fooling, and of course entertaining. He also has the skill of taking an audience on a very satisfying ride."

Comedy magician Nick Diffatte says of Stephen, "It's incredible watching Stephen crush with an audience of thousands, doing material that I've loved seeing him do my whole life. He's getting to play venues that are out of the realm of what we ever think is possible as comedy magicians. He is heartfelt, hilarious, and powerful. This is truly something both he and Nate deserve."

The Bargatze outfit travels with a semi-truck that brings the whole stage, and the crew assembles it in each venue. The crew travels with them. They also have buses, and the comedians travel on one of them. Jimmy Fallon traveled with them on one of the buses for two days. Nate says that traveling with Fallon is like traveling with

Mickey Mouse. Stephen tells us, "If he sees a group of people, he tells the driver to stop the bus and he gets off to talk with them. Once he got off to talk to a group of twenty people. The word got out, and before he left, there was over a thousand. One time he knocked on the door of a house he used to live in and surprised the occupants. Everybody knows him, and he's just the nicest guy!"

They have meals supplied while on the road. Stephen shares, "It's all healthy food, and that's why I've lost weight, and I'm not the happiest person in the world as I'd rather have a Big Mac, or Burger King. They've got me eating right!"

Stephen has done one hundred fourteen shows on the road with Nate, while Nate has done one hundred eighty to one hundred ninety. They perform on the weekends. Stephen tells us, "I can't do more than two or three weekends in a row. It's exhausting." Stephen tries to keep up with them and not to be the 'old man' on tour. He continues, "They'll set up a game of putt-putt in the back and play poker at night. Sometimes they'll play basketball and can get pretty rough. In one of the arenas, they got on the ice and played hockey and just about killed each other!"

The arenas set up some fun things for the group. Stephen explains, "There are always games, and Nate has a scooter and they'll set up an obstacle course. There's always competition, and it's really good to get to know the other comics and their families."

Before every show, Stephen walks out and meets the audience and performs magic for them. He approaches the kids with a deck of cards, and jokingly tells them, "Blink if you didn't want to come. I can find somebody to take you out of here." They usually tell him that they wanted to be there. Then Stephen asks them to tell one of Nate's jokes. Ninety-nine percent can. He will do a quick trick for them, often the Chicago Opener, and sometimes he will gift them the deck. About eighty percent of the families, he

talks to have no idea that he is Nate's dad. Stephen looks for multi-generational families and tries to speak with about fifty people before the show.

One touching experience that Stephen had from walking around before the show was meeting a family of eighteen people. The father, who had been a huge fan of Nate's, died of a heart attack at forty-three years of age. Instead of having a memorial, the surviving wife flew the whole family in from all parts of the country to have the memorial in Vegas and see Nate's show. They all came backstage to meet Nate after the show and Stephen did magic for them. The wife sent a lovely note later saying that her daughter had not laughed one time since her dad died, but that Stephen had her laughing so hard, and that really touched her.

Meeting the fans is important to Stephen and often he walks around the gift shop before the show, where many times he is recognized by the diehard fans from appearing in Nate's podcasts.

At the beginning of May, Nate will be performing for Netflix at the Hollywood Bowl with Jerry Seinfeld, Jim Gaffigan, and Sebastian Maniscalco, and they have just added a second show due to high demand.

As much as Stephen has loved his time on the road, he is now ready to stay home, play pickleball, take aerobics classes, and enjoy his time with his wife, Carol. He has about five more shows booked through the rest of the year. He looks forward to no longer worrying about doing shows, but he is not sure if he is ready to retire and walk away.

Keep up with Stephen Bargatze at magicofstephen.com and Nate Bargatze at natebargatze.com.

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



Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

Ring 17 (Toronto, Canada) Honors Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, Ring 17 invited Dr. Kenrick “Ice” McDonald to join us for our February meeting. For a few hours it was looking like our evening might become a casualty of a stormy Canadian winter afternoon and evening. Blizzard-like conditions made for a difficult and dangerous drive on Toronto streets, but we still had a strong turnout for a showing of *The Quiet Masters – The History and Relevance of The Black Magical Artist*. Ian Crawford opened the evening with a short, but comprehensive introduction of Ice’s accomplishments and accolades in the field of magic and a quick hello from our guest. Following the showing of the film, Ice took the stage and answered questions about the making of the film and its history. Ice is a consummate pro. He was warm, welcoming, and a great host.

Presenting invaluable historical insights, an incredible cast, and compelling interviews

with black magicians across the globe, *The Quiet Masters* is a documentary that delves into the narratives of remarkable figures. Henry “Box” Brown’s ingenious escape from slavery by mailing himself to freedom, the thriving magician Fetaque Sanders during America’s darkest periods, Ellen E. Armstrong from a pioneering family of black magicians, and Richard Potter, the first American-born professional magician with a unique background, are highlighted in the film. Ring 17 was introduced to the powerful and personal stories of these magicians, recounting their trials and triumphs. We learned a great deal about a relatively unknown part of our own magical history.

Taking on the roles of producer and director, Ice made history in 2014 as the first African American National President of the Society of American Magicians. This has been a labor of love for McDonald as he has



Ice McDonald's Q&A with Ring 17 and guests.



Ice shares his insights.

uncovered the rich history of great Black magicians from our past. The documentary captures the importance and essence of these magical legacies, offering a profound and relevant exploration into the diverse experiences of black magicians.

Al Warren, a board member, asked Ice if he could do something for the group as we had quite a few non-magicians in the crowd. Ice didn't disappoint by pulling a fortune cookie from his pocket and finding a torn corner of a selected card buried inside.

The club ended up at a local Toronto pub to hang out, share a late-night meal together, and continue conversations and sharing late into the night.

It was a great night of learning and community building. Thanks to Lee Asher, we learned that Henry Brown is buried in the Necropolis Cemetery in Toronto and that his last performance was in Brantford, Ontario on February 26, 1889. Lee and Ice were able to visit the memorial site on the Friday after the screening. Look up Box Brown's story. Fascinating on so many levels and heart breaking on others.



Ice McDonald with the Ring 17 board.

The following night, Ice held a Master Class at The Browsers Den, our local magic store in the city for a group of Toronto-based pros. He tipped those in attendance on how to take your magic to the next level, and shared some of his pet effects with the group.

If you haven't seen the film, it's worth a screening for your club and can also be seen on Amazon. It's full of rich history and facts that will both entertain and surprise. Many of Ring 17's members were glad to hear that a coffee table book might be published in the not-so-distant future.

Ring 17 was visited by two "Ice" storms this February, and if you haven't met Dr. McDonald, it's about time you do. *David Peck*

2024 Florida Magic History & Collectors Conference

By Benjamin Mason

The fourth Florida Magic History & Collectors Conference of Orlando, Florida, is now, well, history. Ben Mason and Dan Stapleton produced a wondrous whirlwind weekend that brought together a cornucopia of conjurers, each of whom spoke about and demonstrated some of the highlights from the golden years of magic past.

Upon entering the registration area, conference attendees found a festive gallery of original vintage lithographs featuring some of magic history's superstars, including Newmann, Kar-Mi, Beneval, Chang, and more. There was a very rare, one-of-a-kind John Calvert three sheet as well as various movie posters for films starring magicians.

The first evening, after a soiree at the hotel poolside tiki bar in which we mingled and collected signatures on souvenir posters, we proceeded inside for our first official magic presentation. The presentation was from none other than Tim Wright, the funnyman and skilled performer of Abbott's Magic Co. Tim entertained us with stories of past performances and a brief history of Abbott's. He also displayed his skill with various demonstrations using apparatus. The audience loved him.

The next day, a brisk one-hour auction put one hundred vintage items on the block. There was also a twenty-table flea market in the hotel's Magic Room (yes, that is the actual name of the room). The items for sale were not necessarily vintage, but rather a free-for-all of anything related to magic. This room and the conference dealers' (vintage) room were open to all magicians that

day, not just those who registered for the conference. And the dealers? They are the epicenter of what a magic history conference should be. The vintage dealers' spaces had already sold out during the early planning stages of this year's conference. Some dealers remained on the waiting list and will have to wait until our next conference.

One of the celebrated speakers at the conference was Dean Carnegie, curator and host of *The Magic Detective Podcast*. Dean spoke about the short but successful career of Edward Maro, Prince of Magic. His PowerPoint presentation demonstrated how Maro made vast sums of money, despite not being well known during his time. Bob Swadling gave a wonderful talk about his Magic Tea Kettle and showed, in detail, the inner workings of this marvelous prop. He then showed a film clip of Paul Daniels (for whom he constructed the prop) performing Swadling's kettle effect on television.

Rick Heath, an artist and painter for nearly all of Le Grand David's show scenery, props, and posters, gave a talk about Robert Orben. Orben was a professional comedy writer who wrote jokes for everyone from television personalities to United States presidents. He passed away in February 2023. This wonderful talk garnered a well-deserved standing ovation.

Todd Harris, who always has the most colorful apparatus display in the dealers' room, gave a talk about the Master Builders of Great Britain. Most of us have owned some of these beautiful items. Todd explained their history and how they were constructed.



(left to right): Dean Carnegie presents his lecture, "Maro: Prince of Magic." • Tim Wright talks about his years at Abbott's. • Rick Heath receives a "standing O" for his Robert Orben presentation. • Bob Swadling presents his Magic Tea Kettle routine. • Bob Swadling holds court in the dealers' room. • Todd Harris in his talk on "Master Builders of Great Britain." • Jim Green behind his dealer's booth. • The poster gallery.

Another conference highlight was Martin Preston's interview with Tammy Calvert, who was John Calvert's spouse and assistant. Tammy regaled stories of touring the world with John by land and sea, and their tours included performances for royalty. Sailing by yacht also allowed the couple to perform in countries the rest of us could only dream about. What a coup to have Martin as the host, since he had traveled with the Calverts for many years as an assistant and friend. Tammy, overwhelmed with emotion, stated that this was her first appearance since John's passing in 2013. Afterward, they showed the 1948 film *Devil's Cargo*, in which John played the role of The Falcon. John performed many feats of magic in several Hollywood films.

During one afternoon at the conference, hundreds of old magazines were spread across four large tables so that everyone could pick and choose items to add to their personal collections, free of charge. A commemorative John Calvert souvenir token, designed by Roger Dreyer, was given to the first thirty people who registered for the conference. Magicpalooza posters from various past conventions and conferences were free for anyone who wanted them.

Two shows were held on the hotel stage in the ballroom. The first show was an open mic session that invited attendees to perform a single vintage trick. Although the open mic was not a "contest," each member of the audience was given a slip of paper and a pen to write down who they thought gave the best presentation. Bob and Val Swadling won the beautiful large trophy for their fun Coins in Glass. Cato Holler, a magician from Asheville, North Carolina, came in second place by just one point!

The final event of the conference was a stage show that Dan Stapleton opened with a performance of the seldom-seen Sands of Egypt, including a surprise ending. Next was Todd Harris, who baffled the audience with a die-box routine. Dennis Phillips performed something we have all read about but seldom seen – an escape with one hundred feet of rope. The drama of that routine was unsurpassed.

Closing the show was Martin Preston as the Ghost of John Calvert, who joined Tammy to recreate some of John's wonderful routines: the Linking Rings, the Spirit Cabinet, and Casper the Dancing Handkerchief. Martin walked on stage to the sound of audible gasps. He was in full makeup and



(left to right): Martin Preston interviews Tammy Calvert. • Tammy Calvert receives a standing ovation after her talk. • The Calvert film, *Devil's Cargo*, was shown. • Dan Stapleton performs the *Sands of Time*. • Todd Harris performs an unusual *Die Box* routine. • Dennis Phillips on stage with the one-hundred-foot-rope challenge. • Martin Preston, as John Calvert, performs "Casper."



(l to r): Performers of the Open Mic show. • Bob and Val Swadling win the People's Choice award.

white hair and wore John's actual, sparkling purple jacket. What a great end to a wonderful conference. Many said that this was the best of the four conferences held so far.

The producers for next year's Magicpalooza, Dan Stapleton and Ray Eden, are

also working on the 2025 Florida Magic History & Collectors Conference. Five presenters have already expressed their desire to be a part of it. We can't wait for more magic history to come to light.



Youth Trivia Contest



May's question: This long-active conjuror, once known as The Human Spark, eventually traveled and performed through northern Africa, eastern Europe, and the western edge of Asia, as well as his or her homeland. *Who was this performer?*

Answers must be postmarked by June 20, 2024.

February's question was: This well-known magician from more than a century ago is reputed to have once used his skills as a gastriloquist to carry out a successful hoax on a circus promoter. *Who was this prankster magician?*

February's winner of the I.B.M. Youth Trivia Contest is thirteen-year-old Kahlan Scherg, from Appleton, Wisconsin.

A handful of our youth members did submit answers to this month's question. Kahlan's name was selected by a random drawing from the pool of those who answered correctly. All of those correct responders recognized the magician as Signor Blitz. Although it wasn't technically part of the answer, every single member who sent in a response correctly named Phineas Taylor "P.T." Barnum as the circus promoter. Here's the rest of what we were hoping that you'd find.

We've mentioned many times over the years that magic history is often vague or uncertain, and frequently a messy source of frustration. The beginning part of this story may be among those situations.

Many pieces written about the magician we know as Signor Blitz report that he was born with the name Antonio van Zandt, in the seaside town of Deal, in the southeast corner of England just north of the dramatic White Cliffs of Dover. But there are records located in the town of Deal and the adjacent town of Walmer that indicate he was born as Samuel Zanvil ben Abraham. The "ben Abraham" part means "son of Abraham."

His father's name was recorded as Abraham Blitz, and so the birth-name "son of Abraham," along with his later use of the surname "Blitz," makes sense. (The name "van Zandt" doesn't seem to appear until it was used by his daughter, many years later.)

Abraham Blitz's business as a jeweler and watchmaker struggled. He began performing as a magical entertainer and "metamorphosis" to help with his financial problems. There are records and newspaper advertisements from the 1820s for Abraham Blitz, performing as "Signor Blitz, from Moravia." This is most likely the period when his son learned and developed his performing skills, while assisting his father.

In any case, he is known to have performed under the name Signor Antonio Blitz, or more simply, Signor Blitz, like his father. In addition to the confusion about his birth name, there is evidence that he deliberately misled people about his place of birth; he stated he was born in various countries, including Germany, Prussia, and Poland, all of which shared overlapping real estate at one time or another. Like his father, he also occasionally claimed to have been born in Moravia, possibly to enhance the exotic aspect of his character.

His stage personality seemed to have been more effective than his father's was, when it came to connecting with the audience. The popularity and success of Signor Blitz grew, especially in his mid-twenties after he moved to the United States and began performing



An engraving of Signor Antonio Blitz, during his successful American career.



P.T. Barnum, the "Prince of Humbugs."



Sheet music was sold for the original composition, "The Plate Waltz," written specifically for his plate-twirling feat.

there. The act consisted not only of conjuring, but also trained canaries, ventriloquism, juggling, and something that Signor Blitz advertised as the "Dance of the Dinner Plates," a type of plate-spinning act that he likely invented. (It was originally five dinner plates, but in later years, a sixth plate was added to the act.) He also presented a version of the "Bullet-Catching Trick," during which he caught a bullet in his hand. He eventually stopped performing that effect, due to its dangerous nature.

In February's question, we mentioned a skilled *gastriloquist*. *Gastriloquist* is an archaic term for ventriloquist, and one of Signor Blitz's most well-developed talents was, in fact, ventriloquism. In those earlier years, the technique of ventriloquism was most frequently used to give the illusion of voices coming from objects or animals that couldn't normally speak, for surprisingly realistic sound effects, or even to create the illusion of voices emanating from the performer's lower belly (thus the "gastri-" in "gastriloquist"). Signor Blitz is also credited with being one of the earliest ventriloquists to use a "ventriloquist figure," commonly called a "dummy."

On Thursday, December 18, 1851, P.T. Barnum produced a well-advertised exhibition of what was intended to be a successful demonstration of his latest investment, the "Phillips' Fire Annihilator." This new type of fire extinguishing device was billed as the greatest innovation in firefighting and fire protection the world had ever seen. A wooden structure the size of a small building

was coated with a thick, tarry, flammable goo. It was to be ignited, so that the Fire Annihilator could be demonstrated to extinguish any structural fire. But, just as the assistant prepared to set the whole thing ablaze, a terrified voice seemed to cry out from inside of the construction: "Don't burn me! Let me out!" The demonstration was stopped, the structure was re-inspected but found to be empty, and the assistant again approached the wooden framework to ignite it. Again, the voice cried out: "Let me out! Let me out!" The proceedings were paused, the framework was searched, but the source of the voice could not be located.

After several of these interruptions, the crowd became impatient and hostile. As P.T. Barnum looked around the crowd gathered to witness his now failing spectacle, he recognized Signor Antonio Blitz, situated among the audience members and looking very amused. Barnum realized quickly what was actually happening, and he didn't share in the opportunistic ventriloquist's delight. The demonstration was a complete flop, as was the associated "Fire Annihilator" business venture. There isn't much evidence that P.T. Barnum ever forgave Signor Blitz.

There's information regarding the life and magic of Signor Blitz in books, including his autobiography, *Fifty Years in the Magic Circle* by Signor Antonio Blitz. There's also quite a bit in back issues of periodical publications including *Mahatma*, *The Sphinx*, *MAGIC*, *Genii*, and *The Linking Ring*.

Senior Blitz died of tuberculosis in 1877. P.T. Barnum died in 1891.

Kahlan, just a bit south and east of Knoxville, Tennessee, is the town of Gatlinburg. And out in a mall in the suburbs, there's a wonderful magic shop called Doc's Magic Shop. Owner Doc Waddell is really awed by your knowledge regarding magic and its history, so he's going to contact you to build a prize package, customized just for you.

LEAPIN' LOTA BOWLS! What a deal!

Doc Waddell first opened his shop in 1971, and he has been in business ever since – *sort of*. Back in the early 2000s, Doc decided to retire, and he closed the shop. It wasn't long before it hit him that he really, *really* missed running a brick-and-mortar magic shop. So, he did what any sane person would do – *he re-opened* Doc's Magic Shop a few years after closing it! When he came out of retirement, it became a family-run business with his son, Tim, on the team.

Fortunately, when the decision was made to restart the business, the original location of Doc's Magic Shop was available. They moved back in, and everything started again like they'd never left.

Doc's Magic Shop is a youth-and-beginners-focused facility, with large quantities of select items that are centered around stage magic, pocket magic, cards, jokes and gags, gospel magic, and an eclectic grouping of

books and magic kits. And they'll happily offer to give you instructions for anything that you purchase.

If you're passing near Gatlinburg, Tennessee, you can stop by and visit Doc's Magic Shop at 631 Parkway, Suite A-11, Baskin Square Mall, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. They're open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in the winter and seven days a week in the Summer. The shop's hours of operation run from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and sometimes longer if they're having fun! Call them at 1-865-771-9647, or visit them online at www.docsmagicshop.com.

Let's give a titanic "thank you" to Doc and Tim Waddell, and everyone at Doc's Magic Shop.

If you sent us an answer to this month's question, but you didn't send us the *correct* answer, please try, try again! These questions aren't written to be easily answered using internet-based search engines like Google, Yahoo, or Bing. Bring your copy of *The Linking Ring* to your local Ring meeting and ask one of the more senior magicians to help you find the answer. Show the whole world how smart you are, get your name printed in *The Linking Ring*, and win some great magic stuff from one of our best brick-and-mortar magic shops. You'll *love* the prizes!

Attention, Youth Members!

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

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

Make certain that you include some references. If we use your question, we'll send you either a crate of raw eggs 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 June 20, 2024.**



A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

The Rule of Three

Omne trium perfectum:

“Everything that comes in three is perfect.”

From fairytales (“The Three Little Pigs”) to novels (*The Three Musketeers*), from Greek mythology (the Three Fates) to Freud (id, ego, superego), from our journey (birth, life, death) to time itself (past, present, future) – isn’t it curious how frequently we discover the recurrence of threes?

Great orators work from good to better to best as they save the last point, their strongest argument, for the end, knowing that this is what audiences will remember. Poets rely on voice, rhythm, and rhyme to please their readers and convey, said William Wordsworth, “emotion recollected in tranquillity.” Storytellers (including comics) develop their tales with the threefold structure of set-up, anticipation, and finish.

No matter where we look – whether to music, the visual arts, advertising, literature, architecture, psychology, politics, photography, physics, theology, or the performing arts – we find this pattern. Why? And what does this have to do with our own work?

Called the Rule of Three (or trebling), it appears in the earliest of oral storytelling – the Hebrew Scriptures (wherein the number symbolizes harmony, new life, and completeness) and New Testament (perfection of the Trinity), and even before those, in the three-part structure of *The Epic of Gilgamesh*.

Conventional thinking traces an explanation of this archetype back to Aristotle, who suggests in his discourse *The Rhetoric* that people find it easier to understand and remember concepts, situations, and ideas when grouped into the smallest number needed for a pattern: three.

A single instance could be chance. A second could be coincidence or good fortune. But a third suggests a pattern. That’s how our brains are wired.

This rule is one of the fundamental secrets of the performing arts, and with good reason. If used, it will enhance the power of our work and help to cast the spell that keeps our audiences in thrall. If ignored, we risk delivering an unfocused, complicated performance that leaves our audiences confused, irritated, unsatisfied. Thus we are advised:

For our intentions to be perfectly clear, wrote Peter Brook in *The Open Door*, the three elements of performance – thought, emotion, and body – must be in “perfect harmony.”

To make our routines as well as the entire act engaging, emotionally resonant, and



Aristotle.

Austrian National Library,
Wikipedia Commons.

memorable, wrote Dariel Fitzkee in *Showmanship for Magicians*, we must develop a clear beginning, middle, and ending.

To preserve the mystery of our art, wrote Howard Thurston in *My Life of Magic*, we must practice to perfection, not repeat an effect in front of the same audience, and never reveal the secret.

Although I think I have known intuitively the Rule of Three since my early years of piano studies – one of my musical heroes, Glenn Gould, once called his relationship to the piano “a romance on *three legs*” (my emphasis) – it began to resonate with me in junior high school, when my teacher assigned us to write an essay and incorporate in its development the three modes of argument: ethos (trustworthiness), pathos (emotion), and logos (reason).

At the time it occurred to me with a wonderful little jolt that I can use the principle of three in my magic, which up to then had been rather unstructured with little coherence; and so I began to look for ways to deliver in each routine a clear opening (to establish trust), an understandable middle (to appeal to emotion), and a strong finish (that makes sense).

On occasion, however, once we have assimilated and understood, it lends itself well to being broken as a way of surprising our audience. “Learn the rules like a pro,” said Picasso, “so you can break them like an artist.”



Pablo Picasso.

Argentina. Revista Vea y Lea, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

We know how important it is to begin a routine with what will catch interest, and sometimes that means plunging at once into the middle (*in medias res*) or end (*in finem*), and then bringing in preliminaries as we go along.

A performer begins his Cut and Restored Rope routine with it already cut and knotted, then works backwards to show how he got there and concludes with a surprising finish. A comic illusionist begins the Sawing routine with the lady already cut in half. The Linking Rings begin with all eight linked. The possible twists are limitless, and although this pleasure of the unexpected doesn't always work, it's worth trying.

To the skeptics, Benny Chavez (whose magical opinions were often pungent, incisive, always interesting) used to point to an aphorism hanging from his studio's wall attributed to St. Augustine: *In necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas*: “In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, in all things charity.”

“The Rule of Three is an essential,” he would say to his students. “About this, there is no debate.”

Dale Salwak continues to perform internationally while directing (since 1978) the Chavez Studio of Magic in southern California. Currently he is serving as an International Relations Officer for the I.B.M. Special thanks to Ryan Salwak and John E. McLaughlin 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.



From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD

As mentioned last month, at the recent Blackpool convention Magical Bones presented a cardboard box penetration built around the story of Henry Brown (1815–1897), a Virginia slave who literally posted himself to freedom in a box in 1849, the cramped journey taking twenty-seven hours. He became known as Henry “Box” Brown, and spent the rest of his life touring music halls, largely in Britain, as a magician. Bones emerged from his box dressed as Brown, to a great reaction.

Henry “Box” Brown had himself packed into a box of startlingly small dimensions: 3 x 2.5 x 2 feet. It was lined with baize and posted to a group of abolitionists in Philadelphia using the Adams Express Company. Nailed and strapped, it had just one breathing hole, with a small supply of biscuits and water. Maybe an idea for a David Blaine special? It was labelled “dry goods,” but despite requests to “handle with care” and keep “this side up,” it was roughly handled and tipped upside down during the long trip.

The parcel arrived on March 30, 1849, and Henry emerged safely but shaken. In his autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Henry Box Brown by Himself*, he claims that

he had burned his hand to the bone with sulphuric acid on the day of the posting, to enable him to have the day off work, and that the whole cost of the venture was eighty-six dollars – estimated at around £3,000 in current money.

Brown was first nicknamed “Box” at the Boston anti-slavery convention that year, but was admonished for giving away his secret method by abolitionist Frederick Douglass, as it could not then be used by anyone else without fear of detection.

Brown’s book was first published in Boston in 1849, immediately after the event, and then in revised form in Manchester, England, in 1851. Brown moved to the United Kingdom and remained here for twenty-five years before going to spend the last ten years of his life in Toronto, Canada, dying in 1897.

Moving panoramas were very popular in those days, and Brown toured with one which dealt with slavery and depicted events in his life. He was also described in the music halls as a “magician and showman.” He was a celebrated public speaker and practised mesmerism (another popular craze) until at least 1889.



Magical Bones.



Henry “Box” Brown.





(l to r): President Philip. • Martin Scott Price. • Punch and Judy in action. • Paul Roberts. • Sweep and Richard. • Close-up magician Rick Tynan. • YMCA sing-along. • Philip and Steve.

Possibly the most poignant aspect of the story is that, as a slave, Brown was married to a girl named Nancy. The couple had three children, and Nancy was pregnant again when the slave owner decided to sell her and the children, thereby breaking up the family. It is probably this factor which reinforced Brown's desire to escape to freedom. As the original marriage was not recognised in Britain, Brown was able to marry an English woman named Jane Floyd and raise a second family here in the UK.

Returning to the present day, one recent UK event certainly worthy of reporting was the British Ring President's dinner, hosted by Philip Partridge and his partner Steve Jan in Manchester. It was a glamorous night in opulent surroundings, with over eighty guests. Philip himself was here, there and everywhere, linking and commenting upon the various items.

These included a quiz, partly based upon the recollection of details from brief comedy effects presented by Stephen Ablett, and a raffle drawn by the popular puppet figure Sooty, helped by his right-hand man, Richard Cadell; himself a former British Ring President. Sooty's pal Sweep turned up to add to the mayhem by singing *Nessun*

Dorma and helping to squirt the audience with water. It's a tradition here in the UK!

The puppet quota was further enhanced by Punch and Judy man Martin Scott Price, who runs a puppet museum as part of his Pelham Lodge hotel in Blackpool. Punch is another national hero (or anti-hero), and soon had the adults returning to childhood to boo and cheer the antics of Punch, Judy, the policeman, and the crocodile.

Throughout the splendid meal, a top-rate team of close-up performers circulated to keep the magic alive.

The cabaret headliner was magician Paul Roberts, who presented everything from a classic salt pour to a hilarious final routine employing four costumed audience "volunteers" in a "YMCA" sing-along, which sent all the revellers to bed with the music ringing in their ears. It was still there the following morning.

Until they have done it themselves, people often underestimate the amount of hard work and planning which goes into such apparently random and spontaneous events. All concerned are to be warmly congratulated.

The wonderful pictures, which capture the mood of the evening exactly, are by Carol Tynan.



Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

Social Media Mistakes

Few can argue with the fact that social media plays a vital role in decision making and brand awareness. This is especially true of social media's impact on new member recruiting, retention, and community relationships. Many clubs view social media as more of an obligation than an opportunity. Clubs struggle over the frequency of posts, the type of content to share, and what platforms to use.

Properly managed social media is a gift to our club members and our community. Successful clubs plan for, capture, and communicate a range of social media experiences. It builds engagement with members and the lay community.

Here are the most common social media mistakes to avoid.

Operating Without a Plan. Innovation has a process and many of us tend to skip the steps within the process. Like many, we often jump straight from idea to execution without validating or testing. We need to employ a process that keeps us focused rather than running wide open with every potential idea. Chick-fil-A's Vice President of Restaurant Experience, David Farmer, uses this formula for his company's innovation process.

Understand: Perform the necessary research to understand your target audience.

Imagine: Brainstorm diverse ideas that target a specific problem or concern. Ask yourself, "What problem am I trying to solve?"

Prototype: Take the best ideas and develop test versions. Not every prototype will be a winner, but this gives you a safe way to test out your ideas.

Validate: Do your members love it? Is it attracting interest from your lay community? Are inactive members returning to your club? Are you seeing an increase in two-way communication?

Launch: This is when you go all out! Align your team behind it and move forward with the best and most proven ideas.

Focusing on One or Two Platforms. Many clubs have members who span a wide range of ages and other demographics. Each age group tends to gravitate toward one or two preferred platforms. Our younger members lean toward Snapchat, TikTok, and Instagram. Middle-aged members prefer LinkedIn, X/Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram. Our older members tend to rely on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Pinterest. It isn't necessary to target all platforms, but it is a good idea to be present and active on at least one from each preferred age group to reach the widest possible audience.

Boring and Meaningless Content. Contrary to what many believe, we can find inviting content everywhere! Think about the extended concerns and needs of our members and lay community. Routine meeting and activity posts are fine, but toss in frequent offerings that will get people talking, sharing, and learning about you

and your club! Users will quickly ditch our pages if we relentlessly post pushy sales or business items without including regular bits of inviting and entertaining content. A picture is worth a thousand words. Who could produce better viral videos than a creative group of magicians, comedians, and skilled entertainers?

Not Responding to Comments and Threads. People want to be heard. Social media invites members to speak out and leaders to listen. Social media is our best tool for opening a dialogue and gaining valued feedback from questions, requests, complaints, and reviews. It allows us to reach more people – and for them to reach out to us – than ever before. Leverage this two-way communication with more than a digital newsletter or routine posts. Encourage conversation. When they respond, acknowledge them! Chat! Ask questions! Be genuinely interested in your audience. Appoint a member to review and reply to each comment in a timely manner.

Not Using Technology and Data to Measure Online Interactions. We hear treasurer and attendance reports at our club executive meetings. Has anyone ever presented a social media engagement report? Current technology offers a wealth of data pertaining to our online community. Our leaders often overlook this feedback preventing them from recognizing areas desperately in need of their focus and attention. Evaluate the overall feedback and apply it toward the next productive step.

Confusion Between Our Interests and Those of Others. The most common mistake made with online engagement stems from confusion over what is interesting, relevant, and helpful for our audience. Our personal image of what will appeal to others is not always consistent with reality. Focusing our social media efforts on our personal preferences fails to consider the

preferences and interests of others. A successful campaign reaches beyond our preferences and offers a connection with real people in multiple ways. It provides a powerful bridge for the professional, amateur, enthusiast, and lay audiences with an authentic and enticing experience within the art of magic.

Shying Away from Native Content. It's natural to want to link content back to your website. However, social media algorithms favor native content, which are posts that don't take users away from that channel. Native content may include videos, photos, and prompts for engagement. Advertising revenue drives this preference for native content. The longer a user stays on Facebook, the more likely they are to click a Facebook ad. The same purpose holds true for our clubs. Native content engages the visitor without pushing them from our social page. The longer users remain on our page, the more likely they are to like, share, and invite friends.

There are no shortcuts for social media success. It hinges on our ability to connect our social media presence to our core mission and values. Notifications ripple through the social network each time a club or community member interacts with our club's social media presence. This tells everyone they know that they spent their precious time talking to us. That vote of interest and confidence can be all it takes to bring in new members, retain your current members, and draw vital community interest to our clubs.

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.

Magic and

Memories

David Ginn



The Magic of Typing

Part Two

The best advice I learned in either my journalism or English classes at the University of Georgia was this – *write the way you talk*.

Mark Twain wrote the way he talked, and people understood him. My journalism classmate Lewis Grizzard wrote exactly the way he talked, and we laughed constantly because we understood him. And I do the same thing.

If you can explain something in spoken words, such as, “push the red silk handkerchief into your fist,” and listeners understand you, all you have to do is write down what you just said aloud. For me, it’s just that simple.

When I started writing about magic, I did not consciously think about writing the way I talked. It came naturally and I just did it. That, indeed, is what I was doing part of the summer of 1968 in graduate school in journalism. I was starting to write up tricks and experiences that led to my first published book.

So when I saw Walter Graham’s little ad in the September 1968 issue of *Genii, the Conjurers’ Magazine*, I immediately wrote him a letter about “my book in progress.” He agreed to a phone call with me and said he wanted to publish my book. I assured him I could deliver it by the end of December. I felt blessed to have spotted the ad.

My writing timeline was tight. For one thing, the September issue of *Genii*, known as always late, and always great, did not ar-

rive in my hands until mid-October. I already had committed to work with three magicians at the Southeastern Fair in Atlanta for ten days. Nani Darnelle, Mark Wilson, and Bev Bergeron performed three shows daily. This means that I wrote Walter in October, made an official agreement, then worked the fair, and delivered the final manuscript by the end of December in about ten weeks. Thanks to my high school typing class, my heredity (my dad was a fast typist), journalism school, and my own Royal Standard typewriter – I miraculously pulled off the feat.

Fifty-five years later, I sit here amazed that I wrote that first book, *Colorful Magic*, in such a short period of time. *Kidshow Magic Compendium*, my 2017 “magnum opus,” took three solid years to write, and *Children Love Animals* took two.

The central point of *Colorful Magic* was that all magic should be colorful like life is, not black and white like our old television sets. Compared to colorful things, black and white is boring, especially to children, who made up my primary audience base. Not only do kids love animals, but they also love color. And virtually every trick in my first book, all based on my live shows and television appearances, bore out my constant use of color in all my shows.

I added color to my tricks and routines with beautiful rice silks, feather flowers, colored ropes, colorful apparatus to produce

doves and live rabbits, and even a colorful illusion to end the book. Fifty-five years later, I still believe a colorful show is happier and better than one void of color.

So, back to my first book. I delivered the manuscript the last week of December 1968, and five months later I received the first copy in the mail. My roommate Leon Collins was home with me at the ninety-dollar a month house we lived in the day the mail arrived. We opened the envelope and saw the first copy of *Colorful Magic* (Fig. 1 and 2).

Fig. 1 – *Colorful Magic*, first and second editions.



Fig. 2 – *Colorful Magic*.

Our first thought was *the cover is black and yellow*, the colors of the University of Georgia's rival, Georgia Tech. Georgia's colors are red and black, but Walter Graham did not know that. And even though I sent him a dozen black and white photos, he used only two, one inside and one on the back cover. But I put that disappointment aside *because now I was a published author*.

One month later I was booked to lecture and perform at the Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.) national convention in Kansas City. My lecture came straight out of the new book: silks, flowers, doves, and

some kidshow magic. Then, immediately after the lecture, I sold a whopping *four books*.

However, Jay Marshall was there at my lecture and thought I had potential (Fig. 3). In fact, he took a little time with me the next day to offer me constructive criticism. Let me tell you about one thing he said.



Fig. 3 – Jay Marshall.

During my Twentieth Century Silks and Water routine, I used a four-color rainbow silk to vanish. They looked like **Figures 4 and 5**. As you can see, the colors from top to bottom were red, yellow, green, and blue. So, I made up a comedy bit to make kids laugh.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

I pointed at the silk as I held it in my left hand and said as I moved my right finger down the silk, “Blue, green, yellow, red,” to which the children shouted, “No!”

Again, I pointed and called the colors, “Blue, green, yellow, red,” and once more the children told me, “No!”

“You have them upside down!” they shouted.

“Upside down? ‘Well, okay,” I replied, then turned the silk upside down so I held blue at the top, followed by green, yellow, and red.

Next, I pointed at the top color (now blue) and said, “Red, yellow, green, blue.”

Of course, the kids told me NO again. “Upside down!” they shouted. I continued, never quite getting it right.

Jay Marshall said, “You are doing the silk gag slightly wrong. It will be much stronger if you use **the same wording each time**. You should say, ‘Blue, green, yellow, red’ every time instead of changing the wording. Then, when you turn it upside down with blue at the top, change where you point with your finger, starting at the bottom and working your way up.”

Understanding why it is important to say the EXACT same words each time, I took Jay’s advice. Kids would hear and enjoy the repetition.

From then on, I kept my words the same. Then I pointed at the red on the bottom and worked my way up, saying, “Blue, green, yellow, red,” and the kids laughed even more.

To finish the gag, I said to the children, “When I point, you tell me what color it is.” So, I pointed to the actual blue, and they shouted BLUE, followed by GREEN, YELLOW, and RED. Finally, I said:

“That’s what I’ve been saying the whole time: blue, green, yellow, red!” Which made them shout some more. I had to exit the comedy quickly to move on with the trick.

That summer and fall I put little ads in magic magazines offering *Colorful Magic* for sale. Fifty-five years ago, you could mail an eighty-page book for under fifty cents. But my magician/author career was cut short – for on February fourth, 1970, I reported for active duty in the United States Army at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Since I had spent four years in the ROTC program at the University of Georgia, upon graduation in June 1968 I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. The Vietnam

War was still going at the time, but thankfully, the Army allowed me to stay off active duty to finish graduate school, which I did in August 1969, four months after Lynne and I married.

So along with my new wife, I entered the service as a published author and an officer, taking my Royal Standard typewriter along with us. Since there was no married housing for us at Fort Gordon, we found a two-bedroom apartment in a new complex about five miles from the fort. The rubber stamp I made and used during my entire time in the Army is in **Figure 6**.

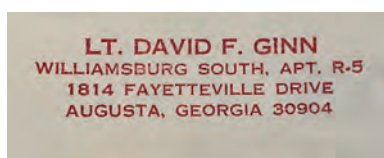


Fig. 6 – Lt. David F. Ginn rubber stamp.

In June 1970, having been a Second Lieutenant *on paper* for two years and active four months, I automatically became a First Lieutenant. The promotion was helpful, because my young friend ventriloquist Mark Merchant often joked, “Lynne married a Second Lieutenant because the first one got away!”

After two months of basic officer training, I was taken out of Signal Corps and placed in Special Services at Fort Gordon. The Colonel in charge had seen my magic press book and somehow pulled some strings to have me work for him. As months went on, I became Theater Officer (overseeing two movie theaters) and Entertainment Officer (keeping track of a music group and a drama group that put on plays on post). And for fifteen months I was assigned to the General’s boat, which I never saw. I also entertained for the Colonel and General whenever they called upon me.

Between the time I finished *Colorful Magic* and my first spring in the Army, I had continued developing new tricks with doves, silks, flowers, plus kidshow and stage magic routines. I had written them all up for a second book, *Magic That Moves Me*, which was turned down by Tannens, Abbotts, and

Frances Marshall (I have their rejection letters still) but picked up by Canadian publisher Micky Hades. Due to other projects, Micky Hades did not publish *Magic That Moves Me* until after my Army stint sometime at the end of 1971. Thus, the book I wrote second ended up being published sixth.

Here is what happened:

Once I started working for Special Services, I often spent time at one of our old movie theatres called the Playhouse, now home to the band in the daytime and drama group at night.

I had studied ads placed in *Writer's Digest* and decided not to wait on a publisher to bring out another Ginn book. I decided to publish it myself with a self-publishing company called Adams Press.

Day by day in April 1970, I finished writing *Strictly Visuals*, a book full of non-talking tricks. Then, at the old Playhouse while the band rehearsed songs, I meticulously typeset the thirty-two pages myself.

My wife, Lynne, had a Royal Safari portable typewriter (**Fig. 7**) with a neat little type. Furthermore, that typewriter had a half-space button which assisted me in *justifying* the margins of the book, that is, making the right and left margins even. Professionally published books have justified margins, and I was pleased my book would have a professional look.



Fig. 7 – Royal Safari Portable Typewriter, 1965.

I had determined that each line could be fifty-two spaces wide, then counted and marked how many characters each line needed. I adjusted each line with one-half spaces, full spaces, or even one-and-a-half spaces to make each line end at fifty-two spaces so the right side was a straight line all the way down the page (**Fig. 8 and 9**).

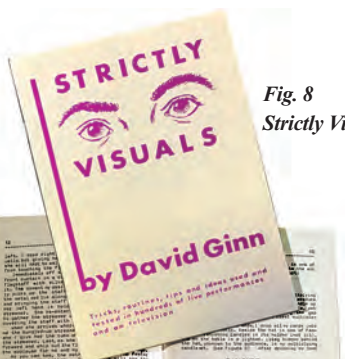


Fig. 8
Strictly Visuals.



Fig. 9 – Strictly Visuals (inside pages).

In the book I wrote up more tricks with silks, canes, billiard balls, and my friend Doug Henning's Cane-to-Snake, with his permission. Doing my own C+ artwork, my version of Doug Henning ended up looking like **Figure 10**. Sorry, Doug!



Fig. 10
Doug Henning drawing from Strictly Visuals.

In July 1970, six months into active duty, I took a week's leave to attend the Milwaukee S.A.M. convention, where I was set to lecture and perform a dove act on a nighttime show.

While at the hotel one day, I got into an elevator with a man dressed in a suit and tie. I recognized him immediately, having seen his face associated with Louis Tannen for a decade. (Fig. 11)

"David," said Ed Mishell, sticking out his hand to shake mine. "I am Ed Mishell. I see you are starting to write magic books and illustrating them yourself."

"Yes," I said, "I have just written two so far. The truth is I made a C+ on the Famous Artists test, plus I am presently on active duty in the U. S. Army, so when I am not at this magic convention, I am Lieutenant David F. Ginn, stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia."



Fig. 11
Ed Mishell.

"Well," he said, "after your Army stint, if you continue with more books, I would be happy to do some illustrations for you."

"Unbelievable!" I thought. Ed Mishell would draw illustrations for me, a total unknown? Fifty-five years later, his offer still stuns me! Later that summer I met Bill Blackard, a civilian artist for the Army at Fort Gordon, who went on to illustrate about thirty of my books and pamphlets.

Having performed my now classic Snake Can routine hundreds of times since I invented it in 1968, I decided to put it into print. I wrote the book as usual on the Royal Standard, but decided it was too much trouble to justify the margins as I did with *Strictly Visuals*.

A contributing factor was that I was now seeing magic books appear in publication *without* justified right margins, particular those from Frances Marshall and Micky Hades. For pamphlets I thought that was fine, but not hardbound books. Yet in the years to come, many hardback magic volumes appeared with unjustified right margins.

In the Special Services office, the secretaries used I.B.M. Selectric typewriters with correcting elements. You could make a typing error, then backspace over it with the correct button and type white over it, effectively erasing it, then type the correct letter over it. Being electric, it worked typing wonders. So I gave it a try when the secretaries were not using it, and I asked them to teach me a few things about it. Then, since I held down the office on Saturday mornings, and nothing ever happened then, I used that time to start typesetting *The Snake Can* book. Sometimes, since I was signed with the typewriters, I took one home to work on the little sixteen-page booklet.

In 1970, an I.B.M. Selectric cost more than fifteen-hundred dollars. Buying myself one was out of the question since my lieutenant salary was only four-hundred-thirty-five dollars per month and two-hundred-thirty-five dollars of that went to our apartment.

My friendship with Bill Blackard led to him drawing the cover for *The Snake Can*. You can see the original orange cover in **Figure 12**. On a shoestring budget, I had a local printer make me three hundred copies of *The Snake Can* in time for mail-order Christmas sales, and I started selling it with little ads in *The Linking Ring*.



Fig. 12
Snake Can
book cover.

After that, Bill started doing both covers and interior drawings for most of my booklets – because something else dramatic happened backstage at the 1970 convention.

I met the legendary magician Fantasio in 1968 when he won the top four prizes at both the I.B.M. and S.A.M. conventions, then saw him again in Kansas City in 1969 (**Fig. 13**). We crossed paths again in Milwaukee where he surprised me by saying he filmed my act in Kansas City.

“Would you like a copy?” he asked.



Fig. 13 – Fantasio.

Of course I did! As it turned out, the film was in black and white, and about five min-

utes long. It showed the dove, silks, and flowers part of my act. There was no sound, just the motion picture. Over forty years later my friend Andy Sixsmith added a music track to it, and we used Fantasio’s footage in both my *Colorful Magic on Stage* and *Magic on TV* DVDs.

Fantasio said something else important to me that day in 1970 in Milwaukee:

“Now that you are writing magic books, maybe you could write a book about my canes and candles,” he said out of the clear blue.

Not knowing what else to say, I replied: “I believe I could do that!”

He smiled at me, and we shook hands, and that was it.

Back in the Army a week later, I finished my work on *The Snake Can* for fall publication and started collecting cane and candle tricks from other magicians, as well as Fantasio’s and my own. Eight months later, in March 1971, the first book of *Fantasio’s Cane & Candle Magic* appeared in print, and I went on to write six of them, which you can see in **Figure 14**.

I typed twenty-five books and pamphlets on that Royal Standard typewriter, as well as countless stories, poems, and other writings. There was no real magic in the typewriter itself, of course. The blessing was that the typewriter allowed the *magic in me* to get out of my head and onto paper to share with thousands of magicians, clowns, and family entertainers all over the world.

And for that I will always be thankful.



Fig. 14



Marketing Magic

KENT CUMMINS

Marketing Strategies

"Marketing is everything we do to promote ourselves and our business."

– Lieutenant Colonel Kent C.R. Cummins, CMCE

Marketing TMI?

Too Much Information (TMI)?

Do you sometimes feel like there are too many things to worry about in order to create effective marketing? This is my 104th monthly "Marketing Magic" column, approximately 2,000 words each month, so I have provided you with close to 208,000 words about marketing so far.

I have previously mentioned that Sammy Smith, our illustrious editor, thought I was only going to submit three articles. At the Jacksonville I.B.M. Convention in 2015, he told me that he "needed some information about marketing." Be careful what you ask for, Sammy!

In 1970, I was managing the Fort Dix Officers Club in New Jersey and created a "Magic of Merchandising" checklist, in an effort to help other military club managers. The checklist was published in both military and civilian food service publications.

While I was working as senior instructor at the Army Club Management Course at the Quartermaster School at Fort Lee, Virginia from 1974 to 1976, I had the school's graphic arts team create cartoon graphics with a magic theme to support teaching these principles.

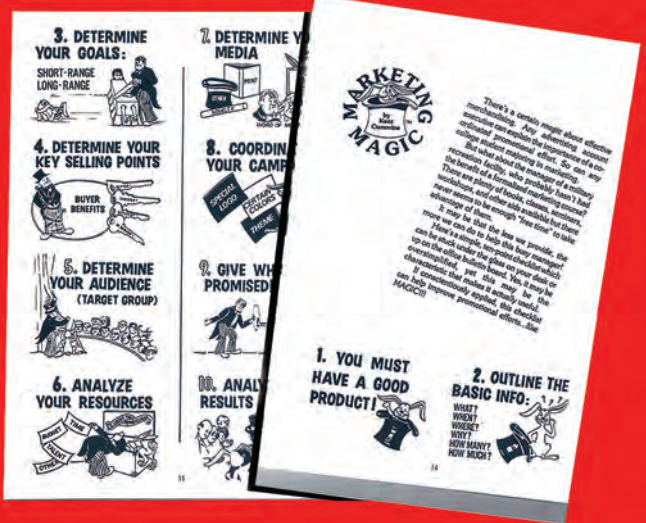
I revised this checklist for magicians and other entrepreneurial entertainers and published it in 1993. That one-page checklist turned into four books about marketing for

magicians. I have since made minor adjustments to account for new marketing trends.



You can look up the checklist in my earliest columns, or purchase a copy of my Marketing Magic book at www.magicwordspress.com. I am running a special that makes the \$35 retail book available for just \$25, postage paid. (It even comes with a bookmark that has the checklist on it.)





Multiple Marketing Strategies

At a recent meeting of the Austin Chapter of the National Speakers Association, I listened to speaker Joe Mull (www.joemull.com) talk about eight “integrated and intertwined” marketing strategies. He was talking to speakers, but the strategies apply equally well to entrepreneurial entertainers. Here they are, with my comments:

1. Digital Marketing

This is not my area of specialty, since my career was mostly before we had a ubiquitous internet. However, my daughter, Carolyn Cummins, does specialize in this area of marketing to help her clients (www.santoshasolutions.com/coaching). I am smart enough to realize that this is a vital part of today’s marketing. But I also defer to Harlan Tarbell who, nearly a century ago, advised us that basic marketing principles remain the same despite new trends and strategies.

2. Content Marketing

Content marketing is a form of marketing focused on creating, publishing, and distributing information for a targeted audience online. It wasn’t a buzzword when I was creating my business, but it has become trendy.

And it does actually describe one of the ways that I put myself out there for clients to find. That’s why I write every month for *The Linking Ring*, every week for the *Magic New Zealand ezine*, and every two years for *The Yankee Magic Collector*.

It is also why I post a new episode of my podcast “Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center” every Monday morning. You can find it at www.fantasticmagiccenter.com.

You may not love writing and storytelling as much as I do, but I am sure that you have stories to tell. This is your intellectual property. Put it out there for people to appreciate.

3. Public Relations

Public Relations, often called simply “PR,” is the practice of managing and disseminating information from an individual or an organization to the public in order to influence their perception. Public relations and publicity differ in that PR is controlled internally, whereas publicity is controlled by external parties.

There are PR firms who promise to get their clients into various publications, and you might find that their cost is worth the results.

Or maybe not.

I have found it fairly easy to get stories

into most of the publications that I am interested in, from *The Reader's Digest* to *Clowning Around*.

4. Prospecting

Prospecting means making a concerted effort to find what you are looking for, whether gold, silver, or more clients. Many professional entertainers have a business manager or sales director who takes care of this, since most magicians would rather spend their time learning card tricks than trying to find customers.

But nobody will ever know you as well as you know yourself. I have found that I am ultimately my best salesperson. I make lists of potential customers, and then use Content Marketing to put myself in front of them.

I was once asked to speak to a group of entrepreneurs about how I was able to attract Fortune 500 companies and international associations as clients. Did I “cold call” them? Did I send them proposals in the mail?

The surprising answer was that almost all of my big-name clients called me without my reaching out to them. They called because they had seen my name and information somewhere.

“Marketing Magic!”

5. Speaking

Naturally, our speaker at NSA Austin listed speaking as the number one strategy for effective marketing. His audience consisted of speakers! But many magicians have also found speaking to be a particularly effective form of marketing. If you are primarily a birthday party magician, you might offer to speak at PTA/PTO meetings about how to run a popular party. WARNING: Do not make this a commercial for your services! The fact that you are seen as a party-planning expert should be enough.

If you perform at schools, consider developing a talk for in-service workshops. I found this particularly effective, because I often got paid as much or more for an in-service workshop as for a school show.

6. Referrals

I have written an entire column about referrals (April 2017). When someone else recommends you, it provides a level of credibility that you cannot create by blowing your own horn.

How do you get referrals?

Ask for them! Just as audiences like to applaud a performance, people who hire you want to demonstrate their appreciation.

7. Speakers Bureau

If you are not a speaker, you might substitute “Entertainment Agents” for speakers bureaus. The idea is to have someone who specializes in selling what you do to established clients. When I first became a full-time professional magician in 1986, I got some of my best business from Nancy Fly & Associates, an agent who specialized in booking music groups, but who nevertheless found me some of my best-paying magic gigs.

Your agent will take a percentage of the business, but I would rather have 80% of a performing fee than 100% of staying at home.

8. Repeat Business

Repeat business is wonderful! You already have a relationship with the client, so unexpected problems are less likely to occur.

How do you get repeat business? Do an awesome show, and be a joy to work with – every time. And then stay in touch with your clients, so they don’t forget about you.

What About Tactics?

While an undergraduate student at Louisiana State University in the early 1960s, all male students were required to serve the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) for two years, in either the Army or Air Force. I wound up in Army ROTC for the full four years at LSU, was designated a distinguished military graduate, and served for eleven years of active duty and nearly thirty years in the Army



Reserve. I retired as a lieutenant colonel. (The CMCE after my name is for “Certified Military Community Executive.” Yes, it is a recognized certification, created by the International Military Community Executives Association.)

I am telling you all this because in my Army training, we learned a lot about strategy and tactics. They are not the same thing. Strategy, by definition, is a plan for the “big picture.” Tactics, on the other hand, are the things you do to implement the overall strategy.

So, what tactics might we use to implement Mull’s Marketing Strategies?

Let’s take a quick look:

1. Digital Marketing. You need a great website, effective email, and a consistent presence on social media.

2. Content Marketing. Put your intellectual property and your stories where prospective clients can find them.

3. Public Relations. Send out press releases. Get interviewed on podcasts. Create your own podcast.

4. Prospecting. Figure out who your best target clients are, and where they get their information. Then find a way to get them interested in your services.

5. Speaking. If you don’t like speaking, substitute performing. The more you do it, the better you will become.

6. Referrals. Ask your family, friends, and current clients to refer you to others.

7. Speakers Bureau. Find an agent or agency or bureau that can help get you the gigs you are looking for.

8. Repeat Business. Stay in touch with your past and current clients. Let them know how you might help them in the future.

Lots More Marketing Strategies

Would you like even more marketing strategies? Just for the heck of it, I googled “What is the best marketing strategy?” and got site after site with the “18 Marketing Strategies,” “11 Best Marketing Strategies to Accelerate Your Business,” The 16 Best Marketing Strategies to Try This Year,” and “12 Latest Marketing Strategies: Increase Sales.”

There were hundreds more. TMI?

Strategic Planning

Speaking of strategies, do you need a strategic plan for your magic business?

I am fond of quoting General Dwight David Eisenhower, who said, “I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.”

This seems paradoxical, but actually is brilliant. Plans may seem worthless because things change so often and so quickly. (Did you predict and plan for the Covid-19 pandemic?)

The act of planning causes you to consider the things that might happen, and the way you will deal with them. So, as situations change, you are in a much better position to effectively deal with the “new normal.” You can adjust your strategy and tactics more effectively and more quickly if you have been through the planning process.

SWOT Analysis

“SWOT” stands for Sorcery, Wizardry, Occultism, and Trickery! No, it doesn’t.

In my days on Army active duty, we were taught to use the SWOT analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

This worked for military strategic planning, and it works equally well for entrepreneurs planning their businesses. So here is a SWOT Plan for entrepreneurial entertainers such as magicians:

Strengths. What are you good at? Does your show have high production values? Are you amazing with sleight of hand? Do you have a wonderful assistant? Do you have a lot of showy props? Are you a great storyteller? Do you effectively use comedy? Do you understand children’s special needs? Do you comfortably fit into a corporate environment? Do you have money in the bank?

Weaknesses. What might limit your ability to book more shows at higher prices? Do you have an empty bank account, but lots of payments due? Does your partner hate the time (and money) you spend on magic? Do you have arthritis or another disease that makes sleight of hand difficult? Do you hate marketing?

(continued on page 62)

CRAFTING MAGIC WITH AI: PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH IN YOUR CLOSE-UP ACT

By Greg Adams, with insights from ChatGPT, OpenAI

Greetings for the final time in this series, revered readers of *The Linking Ring*! What a journey it has been! We've explored using ChatGPT to design the perfect close-up card act, elevate audience engagement, and master the narrative. In this issue, we culminate this exploration with what makes magic genuinely mesmerizing - psychological depth. As the final touch to our perfect close-up card act, we'll explore how an understanding of psychology, aided by ChatGPT, can make magic acts astonishing and unforgettable.

A QUICK RECAP OF THE PERFECT CLOSE-UP CARD ACT

Let's briefly revisit the perfect close-up card act we established in part one of this series. We entered the following prompt in the ChatGPT app. "Drawing from expert knowledge in close-up card magic, provide a detailed list and progression of tricks for a ten-minute routine that ensures high audience engagement. Prioritize reputable sources." ChatGPT recommended this sequence of tricks:

Engaging Opener: Chicago Opener
(Red Hot Mama)

Building Suspense: Ambitious
Card routine

Interactive Magic: Two-Card Monte
Touch of Mystique: Mentalism Card
Prediction

Grand Finale: Card to Impossible
Location

In addition to the list of tricks and a description of each one, ChatGPT detailed the timing of the act and where to get more information.

HOW TO ACHIEVE PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH IN MAGIC

While dazzling tricks in a close-up card act impress audiences, *unforgettable acts* have psychological depth. Novelists excel at creating psychological depth, describing characters' feelings so well they seem to jump off the page. With the help of ChatGPT, you can include psychological depth, too. You will tell stories filled with tension, emotions, and thought-provoking questions. These elements will leave your audience amazed and emotionally invested in your performance.

Here are ways to gain psychological insights with ChatGPT:

Analyze what clicks with your audience. ChatGPT can help brainstorm questions or conduct surveys that provide insights into what keeps an audience glued to their seats.

Map the emotional arc of your act. Use ChatGPT to chart the emotional highs and lows your act should follow to keep the audience emotionally engaged from start to finish.

Uncover subconscious symbols. Symbols are potent tools for delivering subliminal messaging. ChatGPT will suggest symbols or gestures to incorporate into

your act based on what resonates with most audiences.

Review your performance. After each show, you can consult ChatGPT to analyze audience reactions and understand which psychological elements worked and which didn't.

Refine your show based on insights you get from ChatGPT, continually improving its psychological depth for maximum impact.

APPLYING PSYCHOLOGICAL ELEMENTS TO THE PERFECT CLOSE-UP CARD ACT

So how do we add psychological depth to the perfect close-up card act we're fine-tuning in this series? ChatGPT is a reliable source of information about human emotions. Use it to enhance the tricks in the perfect close-up card act.

Chicago Opener: Ask ChatGPT how to set the emotional tone for your act. Do you want awe, laughter, or curiosity? Make that clear from the first trick.

Ambitious Card Routine: Leverage psychology to enhance anticipation and suspense. ChatGPT helps devise dialogues or moves that psychologically prepare the audience for something grand.

Two-Card Monte: It's not just a trick but a psychological game. Use ChatGPT to figure out how to make this a mini drama that engages the audience mentally.

Mentalism Card Prediction: With the help of ChatGPT, make this the psychological climax where you leave the audience questioning their understanding of reality.

Card to Impossible Location: Craft a finale that astonishes and offers psychological closure, ensuring that your act lingers in the minds of your audience.

CONCLUSION

In this series, we have journeyed from the mechanics of designing an act to the artistry of psychological engagement. With ChatGPT at your side, you can craft tricks and narratives and explore the depths of the human mind to make your magic more memorable. In the digital age, magicians can use tools like ChatGPT to create acts that people will see, applaud, feel, and remember. Go forth and conjure magic that resonates not just in the eyes but in the soul. Thank you for joining me on this fascinating journey.

I look forward to the day when our magical paths cross again!

CHATGPT PROMPTS FOR FINE-TUNING PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH

"What psychological tricks can help enhance audience engagement?"

"How can I create a sense of wonder or disbelief?"

"What are some symbols that universally resonate with audiences?"

"How can I measure the emotional impact of my act?"

"What psychological principles can make my finale more impactful?"

May your magic continue to evolve, influenced by both the art and science of today's world. Happy conjuring!

Moving?

Please notify the I.B.M. Headquarters Office at least four to six weeks before you move. By notifying the office ahead of time you will receive *The Linking Ring* at your new address and avoid paying a five-dollar per issue charge to resend the missed issue to your new address. Please see page four of every issue of *The Linking Ring* for the contact information for the Headquarters Office.

Anagram Methods for Mental Routines

By Thomas Henry

We all know that language is of paramount importance in mental magic. At the very least, this begins with an engaging script to impart meaning, crucial for getting audiences to buy into our stories. But it's also often the case that words and how they're wielded can furnish the very *modus operandi* of a mystifying routine.

Along these lines, there's a powerful language method often overlooked by many. First encountered in the word play of our childhood days, and perhaps discounted for that reason, it's actually quite deep. I'm referring to anagrams. Trivial as they may seem at first blush, anagrams can in fact supply extremely deceptive methods for a variety of presentations.

This article explores the four major categories of anagrams most useful in mystery entertainment. I'll point out some of the highlights in the literature, while recognizing various notable contributors. A bit of new research also sets the record straight concerning the date anagrams debuted in magic. Finally, a useful bibliography spotlighting a number of little known resources rounds things out; turn to the latter when starting to create your own custom routines utilizing this curious quirk of language.

Magic's First Anagrams

The basic idea is, we're interested in words whose letters can be rearranged, deleted or augmented in some fashion to create new words. These variations become multiple outs in precognition routines, and with slight readjustment also find use in telepathy and clairvoyance demonstrations.

The earliest appearance of anagrams in magic is probably due to the prolific writer, inventor and performer, Stanley Collins (1881-1966). This was in his book test entitled the *Nonpareil Book Mystery*. (Henceforth, refer to the bibliography for full publishing details of any source cited.) In that routine, a stacked deck of cards is used to force a word within a small booklet gaffed with anagrams at various force locations. A bit of showmanship lends the impression you sensed a specific word directly.

Collins put out the gaffed book and instructions for the routine as a commercial product, but with no date indicated. Commentators have since repeatedly assigned circa 1920 to its publication. However, just recently I ran across an unexpected clue demonstrating the impossibility of that.

In particular, while the date is absent, the publisher's name does appear in Collins' gaffed book: Mandrake Press. As an aficionado of little-known, fringe and even controversial literature, mention of this obscure firm caught my eye at once. For among its clientele were some of my favorites destined to attain a fair amount of notoriety, such as D. H. Lawrence, Aleister Crowley and Peter Warlock (not the magician). I have to wonder if Collins knew what colorful company he kept!

Well, in fact the Mandrake Press existed only for a very brief spell, opening its doors for business in 1929 and closing them promptly the following year. Thus, circa 1930 would be a more accurate date of publication, though Collins mentions in the instruction sheet he'd been secretly tinkering with the method since 1920.

Incidentally, Stanley Collins was not only an esteemed member of our organization, but also penned the column, “Inconsequentialities,” in *The Linking Ring* from 1945 through 1956.

Pure Anagrams

Let’s now see what lies behind anagrams. There are at least four flavors of these useful in mystery entertainment. They are:

- pure anagrams
- extensible anagrams
- branching anagrams
- interlocking anagrams

We’ll commence with the first category, and take up the remaining three in subsequent sections. A pure anagram is the simplest and the type you’re most likely familiar with already: one word becomes a different word, simply by rearranging its letters. Nothing is added, nothing removed; the letters are merely shifted about. Incidentally, classicists credit the Greek poet Lycophron (~300 BCE) as the inventor of anagrams should you be wondering who’s responsible for this tomfoolery.

For example, the letters A, C, E, R, S and T can be rearranged to spell out five different words (**Fig. 1**). How might these be used?

Fig. 1

CASTER
CRATES
REACTS
RECAST
TRACES

The usual approach is to offer the participant many choices of assorted words, say on printed lists or in a gaffed book. By some sort of ranging force, the participant is constrained to these five only, and then concentrates upon a freely selected choice among them. With your telepathy kicking into high gear now, you announce the letters making up the word, one by one. This could be done by removing and showing alphabet cards from your pocket, or just orally.

But why are the letters you’re receiving all jumbled? Stewart James suggested the following rationale: the performer confesses that telepathy is a dicey business and that the letters come to him as though seen upon a road sign, illuminated individually by a flashlight beam dancing about. This performance fillip appeared in the instructions to his 1937 commercial effect *Fantastic Facsimile* marketed by Abbotts, but is more easily found nowadays in *Stewart James in Print: The First Fifty Years*, pp. 132-135.

Let me point you toward a few articles treating pure anagrams that are particularly noteworthy. From the early days, but still eminently serviceable is “Anagramentalix,” from *The Conjurer’s Magazine* of 1945. Anonymously penned, but probably from editor Walter B. Gibson, it features five different groups of five anagrams each (twenty-five choices, total).

The Linking Ring has also run many fine pure anagram mental routines over the years. There’s a half dozen alone from Phil Goldstein (Max Maven), with later contributions due to Trevor Lewis, Peter Marucci and Chris Wardle. See the bibliography.

Extensible Anagrams

The second category, extensible anagrams, is the one I’ve found particularly useful when designing new routines. Here a word becomes another with the addition of a single letter, followed by the usual rearrangements (**Fig. 2**).

Fig. 2

AT
EAT
SEAT
TEARS
CASTER
SCARLET
ARTICLES
VERTICALS

If the participant is thinking of one of these words, you can divine it by feeding

back the augmented letters one at a time. She'll stop you when all have been accounted for, either overtly or by unconscious body language cues. In this example, the letters you spout are: **a, t, e, s, r, c, l, i, v.**

The list of words can be greatly extended by pure and extensible anagrams working in tandem. That's exactly what Stanley Collins did in his *Nonpareil Book Mystery*. In the present example, observe how the original list of eight extensible anagrams blossoms into an impressive twenty choices (**Fig. 3**).

Again, you'll spout letters one-by-one and always be correct; you just need to know when to halt. It's up to your theatrical skills and good scripting to give the impression genuine telepathy is taking place.

The special words are usually sprinkled within a larger collection, with a ranging force of some kind surreptitiously steering the participant toward them. As mentioned earlier, Collins did this with a stacked deck. Another way would be via dice, like Bertram Adams called upon in his devious "The Krazy Kode" from *The Jinx*. Incidentally, he too employed both pure and extensible anagrams to expand the seeming possibilities. For a more modern take on Adams' routine, check out Dan Harlan's clever "37 Across."

Two well known magicians bearing the same forename shared their clever creations in *The Linking Ring* some years back. Don't miss Stewart James' "Webster Had a Word for It," and Stewart Judah's "The Alphabet Trick." Even if you never perform these, there's a lot to be learned in studying the thinking of these masters.

Before moving on, let's take a moment to ensure we're all speaking the same language. Extensible anagrams were originally known as progressive anagrams, perhaps due to Rick K. Harrison's 1978 book of that name. Unfortunately, a decade later, magicians carelessly co-opted it for the category to be described next, muddying the waters. To avoid any further confusion, I've kept with the more descriptive name extensible anagrams.

Branching Anagrams

Now we come to the category most magicians have heard of: branching anagrams. Remarkably, these are based upon an abstract structure originally investigated by Norwegian mathematician Axel Thue back in 1912. This eventually became known among academicians as a *prefix tree*, and later as a *trie*.

At its heart, a string of yes/no responses serves to differentiate a word from others it shares letters with. This is easy to visualize in terms of a tree diagram. For that reason, it's not unreasonable to describe them as branching anagrams.

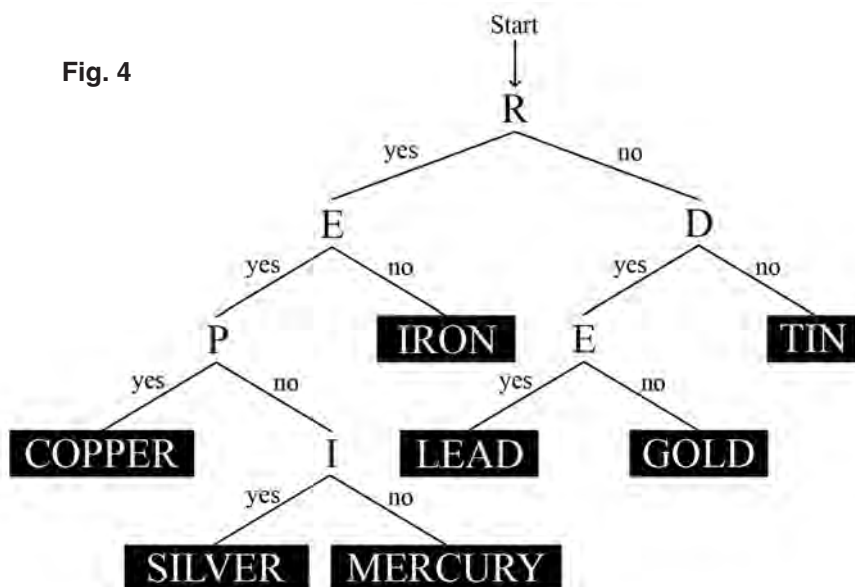
So, the participant is merely thinking of a word, and you start to hazard letters. You're generally correct, so obviously must be picking up on some sort of psychic signal. Once, or twice at worst, you might miscall a letter, but no one ever claimed mindreading was easy! Depending on your acting abilities, it should soon come across that you in fact knew the thought-of word from the outset.

Let's try an example. Suppose your subject is thinking of one of the seven traditional

AT
ATE, EAT, TEA
EAST, EATS, SEAT, TEAS
RATES, STARE, TEARS
CASTER, CRATES, REACTS, RECAST, TRACES
CARTELS, SCARLET
ARTICLES
VERTICALS

Fig. 3

Fig. 4



metals of the ancients (Fig. 4). You begin by stating you sense the letter R. If you receive a positive response, try out E next. But let's imagine instead you got the R wrong; then venture the letter D next. If incorrect again, you'll know the secret word has to be Tin. From a showmanship point of view, before revealing that, hasten to utter a few more correct letters in Tin, since they're all known to you now.

Trace through the branches in the figure, trying out the different metals, and you'll quickly grasp the scheme. Observe in one case, you'll never receive a negative response (Copper); otherwise you'll get a lone negative in three cases and a pair of negatives in the remaining three.

So, the mechanism is simple enough, but what's far from trivial is wielding it so not to come across as playing a guessing game. Explore the bibliography to learn how some of our best professionals have avoided this pitfall.

As for the provenance, Sam Schwartz seems to be the pioneer of prefix trees in magic. Check out his 1963 article "Anagramatic" in *The Linking Ring*. Thereafter, the method lay fallow for a quarter century,

then resurfaced with an astrological tint. That's when it became all the rage as a proless scheme to divine a person's Zodiac sign. Names associated with this particular avenue include Bob Farmer, Ray Grismer, T. A. Waters and Doug Dymant. If that sort of effect appeals to you, be sure to look up Richard Osterlind's "Zodiac Revolution," in which he divines the astrological signs of six participants simultaneously.

Max Maven turned from astrology to geography using branching anagrams to determine a locale, described in his book *Thavant*. See the two routines "Continental" and "Range Rider." The former also resurfaced in his popular *Max Maven's VideoMind, Phase 3*. And he came up with a highly visual flashcard divination with "KIDDIE-S-P," appearing in the October 1987 issue of *The Linking Ring*.

One of the most innovative uses of branching anagrams ever is certainly Father Mervyn Jennings' "The Menu." In this case, the performer is able to detect what a diner has chosen for an appetizer, main course and dessert from a restaurant menu. Find it, too, in *The Linking Ring*.

Interlocking Anagrams

And finally we reach one of the most elegant methods ever: interlocking anagrams. This is a special type of branching anagram, but so exceedingly efficient and powerful that it deserves a category all its own.

Once more we have a collection of words from which the participant chooses, with yes/no responses whittling things down. What's different now is that the list of words can be much larger than possible with the humble branching anagram. Yet despite that, it's far easier to remember the sequence of query-letters. In short, interlocking anagrams possess a powerful and economical internal symmetry making them the optimal choice for routines of this sort.

This is a big subject deserving its own article one day, but let's at least overview the method briefly. Suppose we have a list of forty words, partitioned into five subsets of eight words each.

You start the pumping process with the first key letter. If a positive response is noted, then the entire initial subset of eight words is eliminated from consideration in one fell swoop. Another letter is announced. If again a "yes" is elicited, that subset is axed too. But as soon as you receive a negative indication, you'll instantly know the chosen word lies in that batch. In short, the very first "no" you detect eliminates thirty-two of the forty words (80% of them)!

Once inside that particular subset it's simple enough to proceed pretty much like any garden variety branching anagram to arrive at the goal.

But it gets even better. It's quite possible to design an interlocking anagram set so the same sequence of letters eliminates both entire subsets and words within subsets with equal aplomb. Thus, but a single mnemonic need be remembered.

The originator of interlocking anagrams is assuredly Sam Schwartz. You'll find his

inaugural stab (just not quite so elegantly worked out) in the *The Linking Ring* article mentioned above. He later refined things considerably with his commercial book test *Astrology: The Hidden Force*. For a later recap of his work in this field, see Allen Zing's *Sam's: An Encyclopedia of the Magic of Sam Schwartz, Volume 1*, pp. 160-165.

Civilian Contributions

There are also some extremely useful resources, originally aimed at the general public, you should be aware of. The first is Ross Eckler's magnificent *Making the Alphabet Dance*. Though not a magic book, you wouldn't believe how many deceptive ideas I've culled from it.

Another good one along these lines is Howard W. Bergerson's *Palindromes and Anagrams*, which contains extensive catalogs of words ideal for novel routines. Martin Gardner and Ken Jennings's *Colossal Book of Word Play*, though intended for recreation, also spotlights quite a few curiosities ripe for magic.

Lastly, here are two online resources which shouldn't be missed. The first is the staggering anagram analyzer and generator www.dcode.fr/anagram-generator. Unlike the other anagram programs out there, this one does it all. And it works in eight different languages.

A little more specialized is www.behindthename.com/anagram. Remarkably, it'll call up pure anagrams for over 5000 proper names from around the world. Performers of Max Maven's "Moniker" will appreciate that.

There's so much possible with anagrams. But space has definitely run short and it's time to turn you loose on the bibliography as you start to brainstorm your own creations. Though not from Italy, you'll perhaps let me sign off now as THE SHY ROMAN...

*You may reach Thomas Henry by email at
everett.ritland@gmail.com.*

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Marketing Magic – from page 53

Opportunities. Who do you know? More importantly, who knows you? Can you use social media to quickly become better known? Are people looking for shows in your area? Are there local special events that would benefit from your programs?

Threats. Is your competition causing problems? What if there is another pandemic? What if there is a significant recession, or even a depression? What about weather emergencies? How is your health? Your bank account?

With a SWOT analysis, you are better prepared for things that change – even things that could not have been predicted.

The Bottom Line

How many marketing strategies do you need? It depends on your goals.

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

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



This month I want to return to some math magic. As an entertainer I do a lot of work at summer camps, libraries, and schools. Schools love STEAM programs. I know a lot of magicians who have written STEAM shows just for this niche. This year, I have booked my entire summer using STEAM shows. For those who do not know about STEAM, it stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Look at your magic and create a show that blends these paths together. Then market your own STEAM show. This month I am offering a Math Magic routine that you can add to your show.

Magic Time – A Bet You Can’t Lose.

Take some change out of your pocket, jingle it in your hand, but do not show it to anyone. Now ask if a spectator has some loose change. Bring that person up as a helper and ask if they would like to win the money in your hand. If you are betting your money, they need to bet some of their own, too. Ask them if they have a penny. Now here is the bet. Say, “If I add your penny to the coins in my hand will they add up to an even or an odd amount?” Let them realize they have a fifty/fifty chance to win. Let them choose odd or even. Now you can show them you won and take their penny. Believe it or not, with this ruse you will always win.

Modus Operandi: It all works because of the coins in your hand. You need to have

six coins - a dime, a nickel, and four pennies. There are two options you need to remember. If they say “even” tell them, “I have six coins in my hand and yours makes seven. I WIN.”

If they say odd tell them, “I have coins in my hand that add up to nineteen cents. Add up the values of your six coins. Adding your penny makes twenty cents so I WIN.” Even though this is a simple bit of magic it is something that people can’t really backtrack to figure out what happened. Sadly, you cannot repeat it, but you can go into another bit of magic with coins and continue your show.

I like this effect as you can do this with paper bills, as well. This way it plays better for a larger group. You need a ten, a five, and four one-dollar bills. These types of math magic effects play well when incorporated into a STEAM show:

- The 1089 trick
- The Seven-Pile Trick
- The Magic Triangle from the December 2021 issue.

Remember, you can access all the past issues of *The Linking Ring* at www.magician.org. I have written quite a lot of Math Magic along with many of our other contributors. So, do some research and write up a STEAM show of your own.

Until next time, practice your magic!
bobdurante55@gmail.com





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JOSEPH BRUNO

ONE-MAN PARADE

Written by Joe Bruno • Edited by Beth Hammock • Illustrated by Tony Dunn



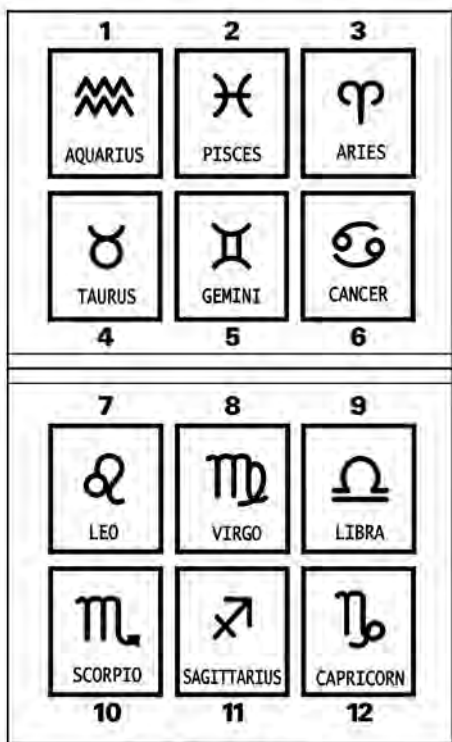
Joe Bruno is a retired electrical engineer who worked in the aerospace industry. His interest in magic began at an early age and he has pursued it as an avocation for nearly eighty years. Joe performs his magic act and mentalism show for children, adults, and corporate functions. He has belonged to the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians for six decades and is a member of Baltimore I.B.M. Ring 179, Order of Merlin Excalibur, and Baltimore Assembly 6 of S.A.M. Joe is the author of *Anatomy of Misdirection* and *Twelve Steps to Creative Magic*, both available from Murphy's Magic Mart and on Amazon. This is Joe's tenth Hocus Pocus Parade.

ZODIAC PREDICTION

EFFECT: The mentalist shows a sealed envelope marked with the word Prediction. He then shows a placard with the twelve signs of the Zodiac on it. He invites a spectator up on stage and hands him a pair of dice. The spectator is asked to toss the dice several times to demonstrate that the dice are not loaded and that different numbers come up with each toss. Then he is asked to toss the dice to arrive at a number that will be used. He is asked if he would like to stick with that number or toss the dice again, a totally free choice. Finally, the mentalist shows the placard again and names the Zodiac sign at the number the spectator finally settled on. He then opens the envelope and removes his prediction. It correctly names the chosen sign.

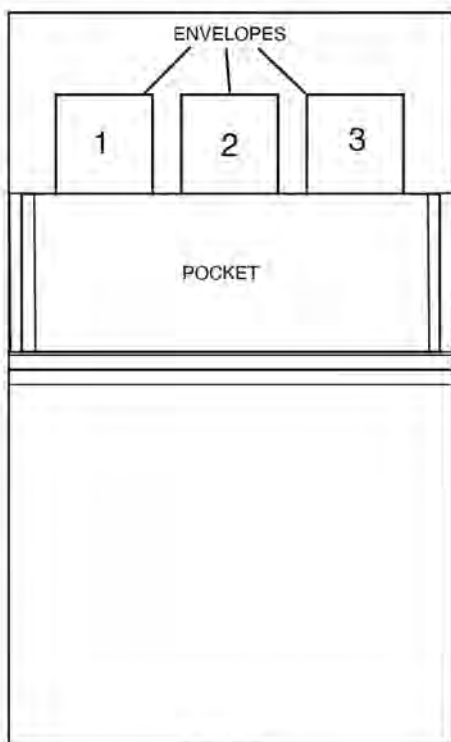
PREPARATION: First, create your props. *Figure 1* shows the placard with the twelve Zodiac signs. Print the images on two eight-and-a-half by eleven pieces of card stock in landscape mode, then tape them together in the back. Get another piece of card stock with the dimensions four and a half by ten inches. Tape that to the bottom rear of the top piece to form a pocket to hold three envelopes (*Fig. 2*). The placard can be folded in half, concealing the envelopes in-between. Print a second set of Zodiac signs and cut them apart into equal-sized pieces for your prediction.

You also need to make three four-way envelopes. Use number six envelopes (three and five eights by six and a half inches). Print the word PREDICTION on the address side of the three envelopes. Make an insert to partition each envelope into four compartments (*Fig. 3*). The prediction cards are placed into the appropriate compartments



FRONT VIEW

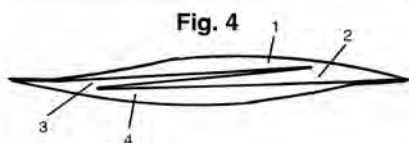
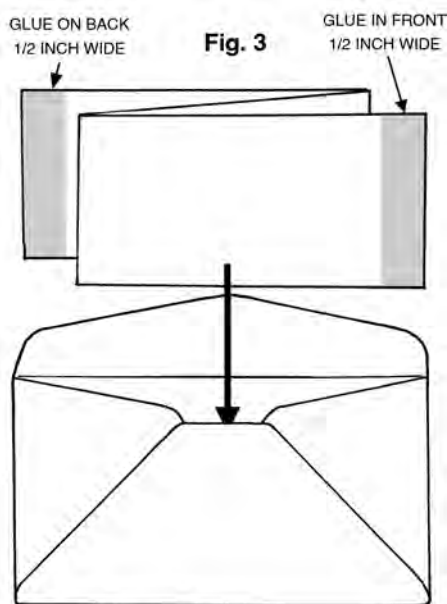
Fig. 1



REAR VIEW

Fig. 2

as shown in **Figure 4** and the envelope is sealed. To open the envelope to the proper compartment, hold the envelope with the flap side toward you and facing upward. Tear off the right side to access compartments one and two. Tear off the left side to access compartments three and four. Inside there will be a partition separating the two predictions. Predictions one and three will be toward the address side of the envelope and numbers two and four will be toward the flap side. Be sure to tear only through the glued area (the half-inch strip), not beyond, so the left and right compartments stay separate.



Place identifying marks on the three envelopes. Place the first four prediction cards in the appropriate sections of envelope one. The next four cards go into envelope two and the last four cards go into envelope three. Place envelopes two and three into the pocket on the back of the placard.

PERFORMANCE: Show the audience envelope number one, stating that you

have made a prediction, and place it on the table. Open the placard and display the twelve Zodiac signs. Have a spectator join you on stage. Hand the spectator the dice and, to make room for him to toss the dice, pick up envelope number one. As he is tossing the dice, quietly place the envelope into the pocket on the back of the placard toward the left. It will appear as if you are merely holding the envelope behind the placard. When the number is settled on, indicate the Zodiac sign at that number on the placard. Then remove the appropriate envelope from the pocket. Fold the placard in half and set it on the table. Open the appropriate section of the envelope. Remove the card and show that your prediction is correct.

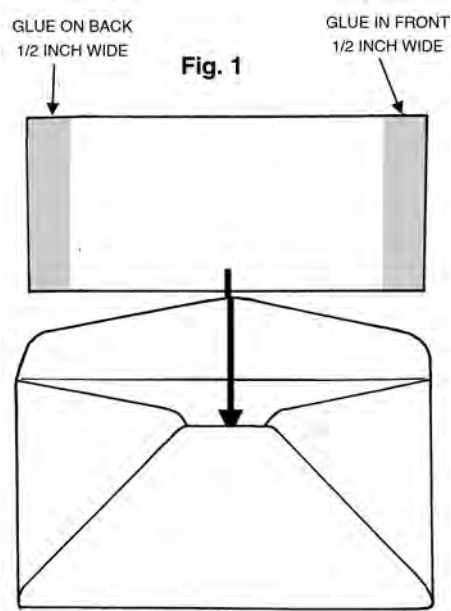
A GOURMET CHOICE

EFFECT: The mentalist gives a spectator a choice of four cuisines: Chinese, Italian, French, or American. The performer removes a menu of the selected cuisine from his pocket and gives it to the spectator along with a pen. The mentalist then asks the spectator to check off one of his choices in each of four categories: Appetizers and Soups, Entrees, Desserts, and Beverages. The performer then removes four envelopes from his pocket. Opening the envelope labeled Appetizers and Soups, the mentalist reveals that he correctly predicted the spectator's choice. He then opens, in turn, the envelopes labeled Entrees, Desserts, and Beverages. In every case, his predictions are correct.

PREPARATION: You will need sixteen envelopes – twelve four-way envelopes and four two-way envelopes to prepare four envelopes for each cuisine. Refer to the instructions on how to construct a four-way envelope in the Zodiac Prediction effect above. See **Figure 1** for how to construct a two-way envelope.

Place the first prediction in the address side of the partition of the two-way envelope. Place the second prediction in the flap side of the partition. With the flap side of the envelope toward you and facing up,

tear off the right side to expose the first prediction. Tearing off the left side will expose the second prediction.



After you have created all sixteen envelopes, label them with each menu cat-

egory for the four cuisines. Place your predictions in the appropriate compartments of each envelope. For example, for the Chinese menu, in the envelope marked Entrees, place Sweet and Sour Pork in compartment one, Shrimp Lo Mein in compartment two, Egg Foo Yung in compartment three, and Moo Goo Gai Pan in compartment four. Mark the appropriate letter (C, I, F or A) in a corner of each sealed envelope to identify the cuisine inside. *Figures 2 through 5* show the designs of the four menus. Print the menus on eight-and-a-half by eleven card stock, then cut them to a size of three-and-a-half by five inches so they will stack evenly with the envelopes. Place the appropriate menus on top of their associated envelopes and rubber band them together. Place the four envelopes for each cuisine in separate pockets. Also have a pen handy for the spectator to mark his choices.

PERFORMANCE: Ask if someone in the audience is a foodie or a gourmet cook. Pick one and have that spectator join you on stage. Say there are many great cuisines in the world. Four of the most popular in this country are Chinese, Italian, French

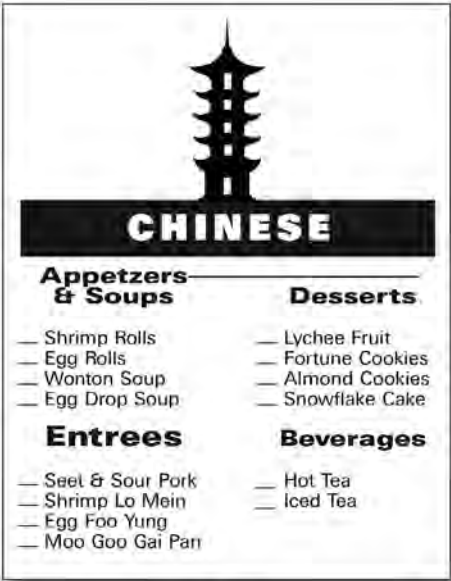




Fig. 4



Fig. 5

and, of course, American. Ask the spectator for his choice of cuisines. State that you had predicted he would select that cuisine and just happen to have that menu with you. Take out the appropriate menu and envelopes. Hand him the menu and a pen and have him select one item in each of the four categories. So you don't have to do any memory work, take the menu from him and read his selections out loud. Complement him on his fine choices. State that between the four cuisines, there are five hundred twelve items that are possible and that he selected just one of them. Then state that you have made several predictions and show the four envelopes related to that cuisine. With the menu in front of you, you can easily open the appropriate section of each envelope, showing that all your predictions are correct.

EUROPEAN TOUR

EFFECT: The performer gives a spectator four postcards, one each from London, Paris, Rome, and Amsterdam. Each postcard has a list of four tourist attractions on the

back. There is a check box in front of each attraction (**Fig. 1**). The performer gives the spectator a marker, asks them to choose one attraction in each city, then shows four envelopes, one for each city. Opening each envelope, he shows he correctly predicted which attractions the spectator would select.



Fig. 1

PREPARATION: Buy or make postcards picturing four European cities. Print the names of four attractions in each city on sixteen envelopes. These will be your predictions. For example:

- London - Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, Big Ben, and Westminster Abbey.
- Paris - the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre Dame, and the Arc D'Triomphe.

- Rome - the Colosseum, Parthenon, Vatican City, and the Spanish Steps.

- Amsterdam – the Royal Palace, Botanical Gardens, Maritime Museum, and the Van Gogh Museum.

The postcards will last longer if you laminate both sides with clear self-adhesive laminating sheets. Have spectators mark their choices with a dry erase marker for whiteboards then erase the writing with a paper towel.

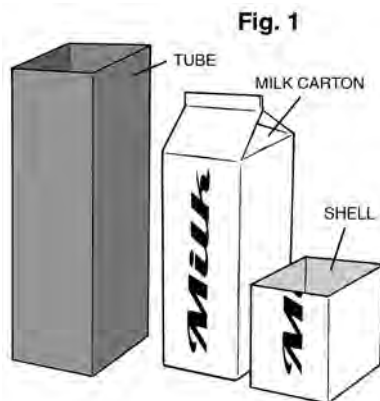
PERFORMANCE: Performing this effect is similar to The Gourmet Choice, another multiple-envelope trick. In the European Tour trick, just look at each postcard and note if the checked item is first, second, third, or fourth in the list. Then open the appropriate end of each envelope.

NOTE: Spectators may suspect that each envelope contains four slips of paper and you simply removed the appropriate one. So, after removing each slip, have the spectator verify that the envelope is empty. Do this by covering the dividing flap with the fingers of one hand as you pull open the envelope with the other hand to let the spectator see inside. Do this with all four envelopes.

TOPSY TURVY MILK CARTONS

EFFECT: This is a variation of the Topsy Turvy Bottles, a “You Do As I Do” effect. The performer brings a spectator on stage then hands them a paper milk carton and a rectangular cardboard tube. The magician, who also has a milk carton and tube, asks the spectator to mimic their actions. He begins by holding the carton on one hand and covering it with the tube. Then, he puts his other hand on top of the tube and turns the assembly upside down onto the other hand. The magician repeats this several times. When the magician removes the tube, their carton is right side up, but the spectator’s is upside down. The magician repeats the movement several times, to the dismay of the spectator. Finally, the spectator gets it right.

PREPARATION: Gather two tubes, two milk cartons, and a shell which is about a half-carton tall. See **Figure 1**. Use white poster board to make the shell in the shape of a box. It needs to be large enough to slip easily over the bottom of the milk carton. Cut the four sides off a third milk carton. Cut each side in half and glue the bottom halves to the sides of the shell. Make sure the respective order of the sides is correct. One tube is made to slip easily over a milk carton. The other tube must be large enough to easily slip over the shell.



PRESENTATION: Place one carton in the shell, making sure the sides match, and cover it with the larger tube. Cover the other carton with the smaller tube. Have a spectator come on stage. Remove the carton from the smaller tube and hand him both. Remove the carton from the top of the larger tube. Pick up the tube and shell by squeezing the sides of the tube and place it on your left palm. Tell the spectator to do everything just as you do.

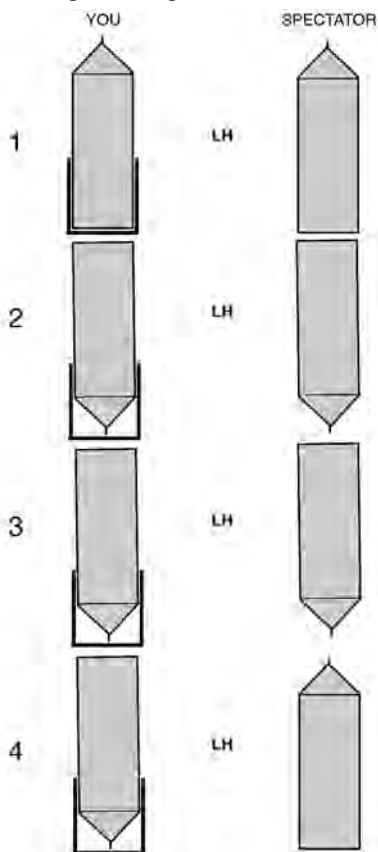
1. Drop the carton into the top of your tube, then have the spectator do the same.

2. Remove the carton from the top of your tube. Squeeze the tube so the shell does not come out. Turn it upside down and drop it into the tube. Have the spectator do the same.

3. Place your right hand over the top of the tube. Turn it upside down four times so it ends in your left hand. The spectator does the same. Lift your tube less than

halfway to show the bottom of the carton (the shell). The spectator's is upside down.

4. Have the spectator reverse the carton so it is right side up.

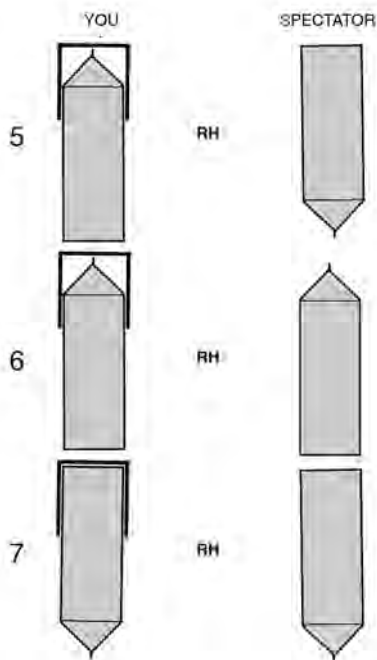


5. Cover the tubes and turn them upside down three times. This time end up on the right hand. Lift your tube less than halfway, showing the bottom of the carton. The spectator's carton will be upside down again.

6. Have the spectator reverse the carton. Turn the tubes over three times again and repeat steps four and five.

7. The tube is in your right hand. This time have the spectator leave the carton upside down. Turn your carton upside down to match the spectator's carton. Make sure to squeeze to hold the shell in place. Do the turnover move three times, ending with the tube in your left hand. You are back in the position of step one. Lift your tube halfway. The spectator's carton is finally

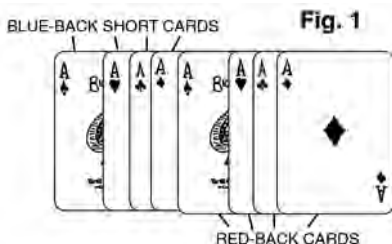
right side up. Congratulate the spectator!



COLOR CHANGING CARD BACKS

EFFECT: Four aces with blue backs are shown on both sides. One by one, the backs of the aces turn red using the Buckle Count and Gambler's Cop sleights.

PREPARATION: Gather four blue-backed aces and four red-backed aces with white borders. The blue-backed aces are short cards. Put four red-backed aces face up on top of four blue-backed aces. The aces of spades are first and fifth from the left of the face-up packet (**Fig. 1**). The other aces alternate in color.



PRESENTATION: Face up, show the four aces one at a time, buckle counting eight as four, placing the last ace (blue back) on top. Turn the packet face down. Show the blue backs one at a time, buckle counting eight as four, placing the last card on top. Snap the packet and repeat step three to show one red backed card. Repeat step four to show two red backed cards. Repeat step four to show three red backed cards. Repeat step four to show four red backed cards. Holding the packet in the Gambler's Cop Position, hold a break under the top four red-backed cards with the other hand. (Since the blue cards are shorted, the pickup of the top four cards is easy.) Then, turn the hand holding the copped cards face down just before the other hand removes the top four cards and spreads them in a face up fan. Quietly pocket the four blue-backed cards as you turn the four red-backed aces face down and spread them on the table.

ACE/KING TRANSFORMATION

EFFECT: Four blue-backed aces change, one by one, into four red-backed kings using the Buckle Count and Gambler's Cop.

PREPARATION: Place four red-backed aces face up under four face-down blue-backed kings. From the top down, the order of the cards should be face down KD, KC, KH, KS, face up AD, AC, AH, AS. Then take the top card (KD) and place it face down under the packet (**Figs. 1-2**).

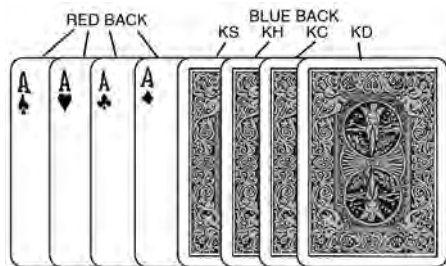


Fig. 1

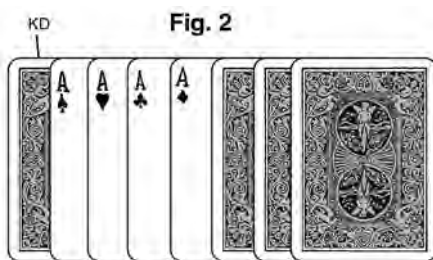


Fig. 2

PERFORMANCE: Face down, show four blue-backed cards, one at a time, Buckle Counting eight as four, placing the last card (blue back) on top. Give the packet a snap, then Buckle Count eight as four, placing the last card on top, showing one card has turned face-up, an ace. Repeat step two, showing a second ace has turned face up. Repeat step two, showing a third ace has turned face up. Repeat step two, showing a fourth ace has turned face up. Repeat step two, except this time one of the cards has turned face down again. Pause to let the blue back register. Then turn the card face up end-for-end, to show it has changed into a king and place it on top. Repeat step six, showing a second card has turned face down and turned into a blue-backed king. Repeat step six, showing a third card has turned face down and turned into a blue-backed king. Repeat step six, showing the fourth card has turned face down and turned into a blue-backed king. Snap the packet, then turn it face down and count the cards singly into the other hand, keeping the last block of five cards well-squared, to show the blue backs have turned to red.

To reset, take the top four red backed cards (aces) and place them face up on the bottom. Then reverse the order of the blue-backed cards and place them back on top. Then place the top card (KD) face down on the bottom.

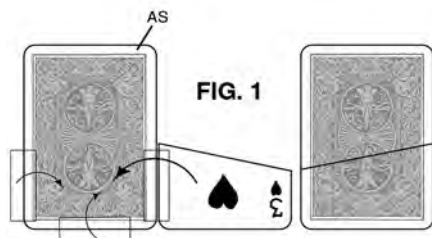
If you want to add a kicker finish, make the kings short cards. Then at the end, square up the packet holding it in the Gambler's Cop position. Give the packet a snap. Steal off the top four cards and spread them face down on the table. Then turn them face up to show they have

changed back into aces. Ditch the four kings.

ACE/KING/JOKER TRANSFORMATION

EFFECT: Add a stronger finish to the Ace/King Transformation described above by changing the kings to jokers.

PREPARATION: Seated at a table, add four jokers to the deck and make a pocket card out of the ace of spades as shown in *Figure 1*. Place the tapes halfway over the edges of the card. Then fold them inwards even with the edges, so when the top half-card is folded over, the tapes will be inside. The diagonal cut of the pocket has been placed so that when you turn the cards face down to show the red backs, the thumb will naturally cover the top of the pocket if you are right-handed. You will also have to trim the width of the jokers to fit the pocket card. Trim about one thirty-second of an inch off the corner with no index and go only about halfway up the side so the faces don't look chopped off.



PERFORMANCE: Place the four jokers in the pocket of the ace of spades, then set up the rest of the cards as directed in Ace/King Transformation trick. You won't be able to use the Buckle Count on the ace of spades because of its thickness. So, count two cards into the other hand keeping them slightly separated. Then take the entire remaining block of cards counting three. Then pull the bottom card out from below and place it on top of the packet counting four. Also, you want to keep the front of the packet tilted low to hide the thickness of the pocket card. For consistency, count all four aces this way. You can

then continue with the Buckle Count for the rest of the trick. You may find it easier to handle if you turn the ace of spades so the pocket is facing away from you. If you do, then at the end, when you turn the packet back up, turn it end-for-end instead of sideways so the pocket is facing toward you again. Or turn it sideways giving the packet a magic twist. Square up the packet and hold it in the Gambler's Palm so you are hiding the top edge of the packet below the forefinger, and the bottom edge is hidden below the edge of the table surface. Show the kings have changed into jokers by peeling them off one at a time and placing them face up on the table. Lap the ace/king packet.

JOKER CLOCK DIAL

EFFECT: This is a take-off on the old Clock Dial card trick.

PREPARATION: Place a joker thirteenth from the top of a packet of twenty-four blank-faced cards with matching backs.

PERFORMANCE: Ask a spectator for any number from one to twelve. Let him change his mind if he wishes to. With the deck back up, count that number of cards into a face-down pile. Set the pile aside saying this will remind him of his number.

Say the reason you wanted a number from one to twelve is that there are twelve numbers on a clock dial. Count the next twelve cards into a face-down pile on the table (reversing their order). Set the rest of the deck aside (not over the first pile – off to the side) and deal the twelve cards face down in a clockwise circle, starting with the number one.

Point to the pile you set aside first and repeat the number the spectator chose. Starting at one, count to his number and say, "You chose the number ____." Slide that card to the center of the circle. Then say, "You could have chosen this one, or this one, or this one," as you randomly turn all the other cards face up showing all blank cards. Then say, "But you chose this one, and that's exactly the card I wanted

you to pick. (Pause.) Do you know why? (Pause.) Because it's the only card here that's the joker."

MAGICIAN'S CHOICE

EFFECT: The magician shows a spectator a card listing the names of several famous magicians. He also shows him a packet of cards with the name of one of the magicians on each card. He shuffles the packet. Then he asks the spectator to name one of the magicians. He spells that magician's name, taking the top card of the packet and placing it on the bottom, one card for each letter spelled. Stopping on the last letter of the name, he turns that card over. It has the name of the selected magician on it. He then repeats the trick one or two more times, first shuffling the packet each time. He then asks, "Who was the greatest trickster of all?" He then spells, J-O-K-E-R, taking the top card for each letter and placing it on the bottom and turning over the last card to reveal the joker as he says, "The Joker."

PREPARATION: Print the names of ten magicians on ten blank-face playing cards. Twenty-four-point font works well. If you do not have the capability to print on blank cards, print the names on self-adhesive labels and stick them to the blank cards. If you are performing on stage or on a platform you may want to use five-by-seven jumbo cards. Blank-faced jumbo cards seem to be available only as single cards and they are expensive. So, use cards from a regular jumbo deck and cover the entire face of the cards with full sheet labels in forty-eight-point type. Cover the labels with clear self-adhesive laminating sheets to make shuffling easier. You will also need a joker with a matching back (use the colored joker).

Choose the names of the magicians that spell with a different number of letters from three to twelve. The names I used are SOO, BOBO, BAKER, KELLAR, HOUDINI, THURSTON, MASKELYNE,

BLACKSTONE, COPPERFIELD, and ROBERT-HOUDIN. With the back-side up, short the upper left and lower right corners of the COPPERFIELD card and place a pencil dot on the upper right and lower left corners of the Maskelyne card.

Hold the packet face up with the top of the names toward the thumb so the names can be easily read by the spectators. Arrange the cards in face-up order by their length, from bottom to top. Turn the packet face down end-for-end, not sideways. Then, place the joker face down on top of all the cards, with the top of the joker away from you. Then take the bottom card (Robert-Houdin) and place it on the top. Turn the packet face-up again, end-for-end. The Copperfield card will be on the face. Then place the card with all the magician's names at the face of the packet.

PERFORMANCE: Show the card with all the names on it and place it aside. Then spread the packet showing the names of the various magicians on them. Be careful not to spread as far as the joker. Turn the packet face down end-for-end. Mix the packet by cutting it several times. Then cut the short corner card to the bottom. Have a spectator name one of the magicians. Spell that name, taking cards from the top and placing them on the bottom, one for each letter of the name. Turn over the last card end-for-end to reveal that name. Turn the card back down. Mix the packet again, then riffle down to the short corner card and cut the packet to restore the order. Repeat the entire procedure one or two more times. For the finale, mix the cards by cutting, ending with the pencil dotted card on top. This positions the joker five cards down from the top. Finish by spelling J-O-K-E-R, turning up the last card end-for-end. The colorful joker adds a nice visual surprise to all the black and white cards.

NOTE: To disguise the method, do not list the magician's names by length on the card that shows all the names. On the stage version, five by seven inches, I printed them in order of popularity to a layperson i.e. Houdini, Blackstone, Copperfield,

Thurston, Kellar, Robert-Houdin, Maske-lyne, Soo, Baker, and Bobo. I print them horizontally on two cards, five names per card, then tape them together in the back so they fold flat but can be flipped open for display. On the close-up version (two-and-a-half by three-and-a-half inches) they are listed so they fit on five lines by length, for example: Houdini/Thurston, Blackstone/Baker, Copperfield/Bobo, Maskelyne/Kellar, and Robert-Houdin/Soo.

AFTERTHOUGHTS: You may apply this method to other categories of objects that may suit the special interests of various groups. you perform for. For example, here is a list of AUTOMOBILES: Kia, Ford, Honda, Toyota, Lincoln, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Volkswagen, Lamborghini, and Mercedes-Benz. Or a list of FRUIT: Fig, Plum, Peach, Orange, Avocado, Honey Dew, Pineapple, Watermelon, Cantaloupe, and Strawberries. For a kicker finish, you could use a child's tricycle as an "early" form of transportation or a Kumquat as an exotic fruit.

HEADLINE PREDICTION SWITCH PAD

EFFECT: When doing a Headline Prediction, there are numerous methods for switching the envelope mailed to the recipient for the prepared one. This is one that I have used with good success.

PREPARATION: Buy three six by nine and a half inch spiral notebooks. (The kind with the double-wire spiral binding that allows you to remove the covers and pages individually without tearing them out.) Remove the front covers from all three and laminate each cover on both sides with a clear self-adhesive letter-size laminating sheet. Remove the back cover from one pad and remove enough pages to make a pad about three-eighths of an inch thick. Place the three front covers back on with two covers on top and a single cover on the bottom. Open the top cover. Place a piece of double-sided scotch tape on the second cover, centered top to bottom, but

about an inch and a half from the spiral binding. Place the prediction envelope on top of the second cover (not over the tape) flap-side down. Close the top cover over the envelope. This is the travel position.

PERFORMANCE: Place the pad double cover up. Open the pad by folding the double cover under. Place the fingers of your right hand between the two covers, holding the envelope concealed under the pad. Then turn a single cover back up closing the pad.

1. Take the pad in the left hand holding the concealed envelope in place. Under the pretext of examining the spectator's envelope to make sure no one has tampered with it, place the envelope on top of the pad, flap side up, pressing it to the scotch tape.

2. Notice that you forgot to tell the spectator to sign the envelope. Take the pad with your right hand, fingers on top, thumb underneath. Drop the pad to your side as you reach for a pen in your right jacket pocket with your left hand.

3. Hand the spectator the pen as you bring the pad back up, thumbs up, fingers underneath. Hand him the switched envelope. Turn the top cover back down. His envelope is safely stuck to the tape sandwiched between the two covers on the bottom of the pad. Hand him the pad to write on. Have him sign his signature across the flap to verify that he did not open the envelope.

POKER CHIP TRANSPOSITION

EFFECT: The performer places a red poker chip on the table to his left and a green poker chip on the table to his right. He then covers the chips with two hands, lifts his hands, and the poker chips change places. The performer covers the chips again, and when he lifts his hands again, the poker chips have changed places back again. Covering them a third time, both poker chips have vanished.

PREPARATION: Murphy's Magic Mart sells a product called OCTOPALM, a

palming aid for applying to the palm or fingers. OCTOPALM makes small objects cling to the palm while allowing them to dislodge easily. For this trick, spread a dab of OCTOPALM on the skin at the base of your middle fingers of both hands, not the center of your palms. You want the poker chips to stick to your hand between the forefinger and middle finger and dislodge with your thumbs.

You also need two distinct colors of poker chips with matching expanded shells. I used red and green chips from Tango, available through magic dealers and online.

To set up, adhere the green shell to your left palm and hold the red poker chip. Adhere the red shell to your right palm and hold the green poker chip.

PERFORMANCE: Seated at a table, place the two poker chips on the table, red on your left and green on your right. Call attention to the placement of the colors. Cover the poker chips with your hands, centering the shells over the poker chips. Wiggle your hands a little in a magic gesture. This also helps align the shells over the poker chips. Dislodge the shells with your thumbs during this action. Remove your hands, drawing them backwards to the table's edge, to show the poker chips have changed places. Cover the poker chips again, pressing down to adhere the shells to the hands. Wiggle the hands, then remove them, drawing them back to the table's edge and dislodge the shells into your lap. Show the colors have changed places again. Cover the poker chips again. Press down to adhere them to the hands. Draw your hands back and lap the poker chips to show that they have vanished.

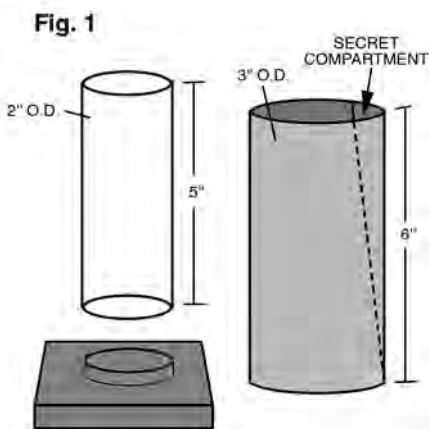
BALL AND SILK TRANSPOSITION

EFFECT: A ball placed in a clear box and a silk placed in a tube change places.

PREPARATION: Gather a Crystal Casket, a clear cylinder apparatus, two matching twelve-inch silks and two sponge

practice golf balls. Modify the Crystal Casket by cutting a two and one fourth inch by two and one fourth inch hole in the bottom at the rear edge, centered side-to-side. Run a three-quarter inch long pin through the mirror about seven-eighth of an inch up from the bottom. The pin should be pointed into the box when the flap is in the up position. Place one of the silks behind the mirror flap and lock it in place. Stick one of the balls to the pin and cover it with the other silk.

Make a cylinder apparatus as follows: Attach a five-inch length of a two-inch O.D. clear tube to a four-inch square wooden block, painted black. Place the clear tube onto the base. It should be a snug fit. Cut a three-inch I.D. diameter cardboard mailing tube to a length of six inches. Fake it like a Ghost Tube with a piece of cardboard. Paint the inside flat black and decorate the outside of the tube (**Fig. 1**). Place the second golf ball into the clear tube and cover the apparatus with the outer tube.



PERFORMANCE: Lift the outer tube off the clear cylinder. Show the ball and roll it out into your hand. Place it on the table then replace the outer tube over the cylinder. Remove the silk from the Crystal Casket, concealing the ball under it. Close the Casket. Place the silk over the top of the cylinder, letting the ball drop into the tube. Use a wand to stuff the silk into the hidden chamber of the Ghost Tube.

Pick up the Casket. Place the ball inside, sticking it to the pin, and close the casket. Operate the Casket, keeping the palm of the hand holding the Casket clear of the bottom so when the flap drops, the ball can protrude from the bottom. The silk appears in the Casket. Lift the outer tube and show the ball has returned to the cylinder. Palm off the ball from the bottom of the Casket and drop it into the cylinder as the props are put away.

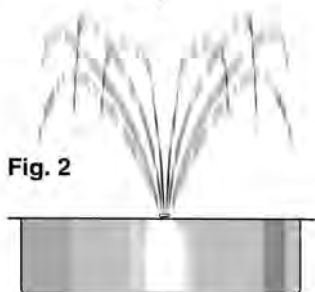
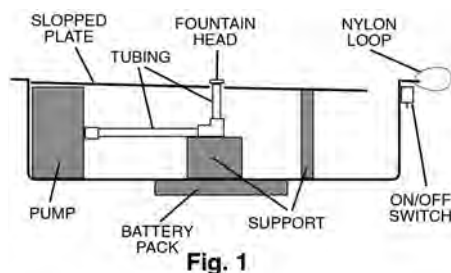
FOUNTAIN PRODUCTION

EFFECT: The magician shows an empty foulard on both sides. He drapes the foulard over his arm. When he removes the foulard, he holds a fountain with water jetting eight inches high.

PREPARATION: *Figure 1* shows a cross-section of the fountain that is made from an eight-inch diameter bowl with a flat bottom. Drill a small hole in the rim of the bowl. Attach a heavy nylon loop through the hole to suspend the fountain. The fountain is shallow so it can be hidden under your coat suspended by a harness or hidden behind a table.

In addition, you will need to purchase a bird bath. Remove the pump unit from the bird bath, cutting the wires so most of the length is attached to the pump. Cut off the two mounting brackets on the sides of the pump. Using epoxy, attach the pump to the bottom of the bowl opposite the nylon loop. Mount the pump on its side with the outlet facing toward the center of the bowl. The filter end of the pump should be toward the right, so the inlet hole is toward the bottom of the bowl. Epoxy two four-cell AAA battery holders to the outside bottom of the bowl in the center. Cut off the wires from one of the holders. You only need one battery holder. Use the other one to improve the stability of the fountain when you put it on a table. Attach the on/off switch with epoxy to the outside of the bowl near the hanging loop. Orient it so the toggle is facing downward and forward when in the off position. Drill a small hole in the bottom of the bowl

near the hanging loop side. Feed both wires from the battery pack through the hole in the bottom of the bowl. Solder one wire to the pump, then solder two wires to the on/off switch and feed them under the bowl and into the hole in the bottom. Solder one wire to the other wire from the battery pack. Solder the other wire to the pump. Apply the caulk over the solder connections of the wires and use it to seal the hole in the bottom of the bowl. Connect the outlet of the pump to the L-shaped connector with a length of tubing so the connector is centered in the bowl. Attach another length of tubing to the top of the connector. It should extend above the cover plate by a half inch. Glue a short length of tubing under the connector for support.



Cut a twelve-by-twelve inch aluminum plate into a seven and three-quarter inch diameter circle. Drill a half inch diameter hole in the center of the plate and make a wide notch at one edge of the plate. Cut a length of tubing to support the plate at the loop side of the bowl. Attach it to the bottom of the bowl with epoxy. Make sure the plate is sloping downward toward the nylon loop side of the bowl so the water from the fountain will flow back under the plate through the notch. Place the fountain

head onto the tubing sticking out of the center hole. After everything is in place, fill the bowl with water and test the fountain to be sure everything is working properly. Then, dry everything off, replace the plate and seal the entire perimeter of the plate to the bowl with the tub sealing caulk. Let the caulk dry for thirty-six hours before filling the fountain with water.

In use, be sure to fill the fountain with only enough water so it does not spill out of the center hole when the bowl is vertical. Before the performance, the pump must be primed to get the air out of it. To do this, hold the fountain vertically pump side down. Turn on the fountain until it starts to spray. Then turn it horizontally. Keep it on until it is spraying to full height. Then turn the pump off. To produce the fountain, grasp it at the loop side, turn it horizontally, and pull the switch toggle toward you.

PARTS LIST: All parts are available on Amazon. In some cases, parts are sold only in multiple units.

- Two Bite King stainless steel cat bowls: \$16.99 each
- One SZMP solar bird bath fountain: \$17.99
- Twelve by twelve by one-thirty-second aluminum plate: \$12.99
- Six four-cell AAA battery holders: \$8.46 each
- Eight miniature on/off toggle switches: \$6.99 each
- Five five-sixteenth inch elbow connectors: \$6.99 each
- Twenty-five feet of five-sixteenth inch I.D. tubing: \$4.99
- One tube of Gorilla epoxy: \$7.48
- One tube of DAP Clear Quick Seal Adhesive Caulk: \$5.48

Total \$88.36; Cost of parts used \$56.22.

E.S.P. SYMBOL MATCHING TRILOGY

EFFECT ONE: In this test of telepathy, a spectator places five E.S.P. cards in a stand in random order. The mentalist is positioned across the stage and upstage of

the spectator, so he cannot see the spectator's stand. The spectator concentrates, one-by-one, on the positions of his symbols. The mentalist places his cards back out in his stand. When the mentalist's cards are turned around, the positions of the symbols match.

EFFECT TWO: This test of clairvoyance starts with the spectator shuffling his cards face down and then placing them randomly back out in the stand without looking at them. The mentalist places his cards in his stand back out. When the spectator's and the mentalist's cards are turned around, the positions of the symbols match.

EFFECT THREE: The mentalist makes a prediction with his cards back out in his stand. Then the spectator places his cards randomly in his stand face out. When the mentalist's cards are turned around, the positions of the symbols match.

PREPARATION: Create two sets of five by seven cards (jumbo playing cards) one for the spectator and one for yourself. Print the five standard E.S.P. symbols and a black border on five by seven labels. (Fig. 1). Cover both sides of the cards with full page self-adhesive clear laminating sheets to prevent warping.

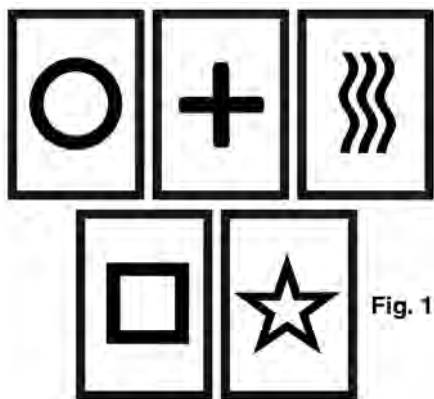
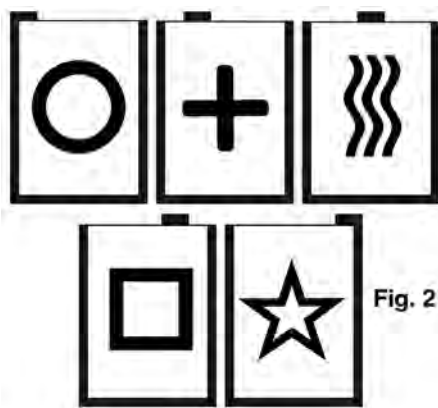


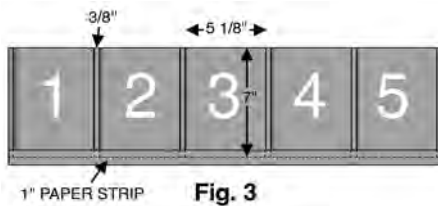
Fig. 1

You also will need five sets of five by seven sheets made from sixty-five pound card stock. Print a black border and a different E.S.P. symbol on each one, then cut away the top border of each sheet, leaving a half-inch black tab at the top in one of five positions (Fig. 2) showing one set of

sheets. Both sides of the sheets are covered with full page self-adhesive laminating sheets to prevent warping.

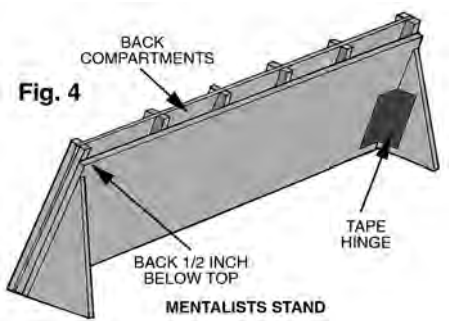


You will need two stands, one for the spectator and one for the mentalist. My stands were made from black foam board and held five cards. The foam board was too lightweight, so I taped two-inch by two-inch bearing plates to the back of each stand. They weigh three-and-a-half ounces each. You may choose to build your stands with a heavier material. To avoid confusion during the presentation, the compartments of both stands are numbered one to five (**Fig. 3**).



The backs of the stands have struts hinged with black duct tape to hold them upright. You can fold these stands flat for

traveling. The spectator's stand is straightforward. The mentalist's stand has compartments in the back (**Fig. 4**). Each compartment holds one each of the five different sheets with the tabs. You will place the sheets into the compartments facing backwards.



PERFORMANCE: During the performance, the mentalist positions himself behind his stand. He mixes his cards and then apparently places them back out in any random order in the front of his stand. But, in reality, he places them in right-to-left order, circle, cross, lines, square, and star. See the note below. When the spectator identifies the symbol for a particular position, the front card and the tab of the sheet with the correct symbol on it is pulled straight up, turned around, and replaced face out in that position, tab down. Note: the bottom front of the mentalist's stand has a black paper border one-inch wide to hide the tabs on the sheets (**Fig. 3**). The spectator's stand does not need that border. To avoid pulling more than one sheet out at a time from the back of the stand, push the tab forward of the card behind the card you want, then grasp the tab of the card you want along with the front card.

PARTS LIST

QTY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
1	20" x 30" x 1/4" black foam board	\$5.94 per 2 pack
10	5 x 7 Jumbo cards	\$3.44 per full deck
25	5 x 7 65 lb. card stock for tab sheets	\$4.79 per 80 pack
18	9" x 12" self-adhesive laminating sheets	\$19.17 per 50 pack
4	2" x 2" bearing plates	\$5.44
2	3-inch white number sets	\$10.11 per five-pack
		Total cost: \$49.50

NOTE: The reason for placing the cards back out in known order is so that if the named symbol matches the symbol in that position, you can dispense with removing the sheet behind the stand and turn around just the front card.

After the first effect is over, the mentalist removes the cards with the sheets and places them behind the stand face down, tab toward the rear, in line with their right-to-left positions. He can then gather up the cards, leaving the sheets face down on the table. The mentalist performs the second effect the same way except that one of the sheets may be on the table instead of in the compartment behind the stand. For the third effect, two sheets may be on the table.

ZODIAC DIVINATION

EFFECT: The mentalist asks a spectator to think of the Zodiac sign that corresponds with her date of birth, then hands her four cards and asks her to look them over. Each card has the names of several Zodiac signs printed on it along with a colored dot. The performer asks her to name the colors of the cards which contain the name of her sign. The performer then tells her the sign she is thinking of.

PREPARATION: The Zodiac signs on the four cards are arranged as shown in *Figure 1*. Each card has a color dot on it in order from left to right: red, yellow, green, and blue. Your key is red=one; yellow = two; green=four; blue=eight. These numbers are easy to remember since each is double the one before. Also, the first three colors are in the same order as a traffic light. As the spectator calls out the colors, you mentally add the associated numbers. The total will be the number of the sign given in *Figure 2*. For example, a yellow (two) and green (four)=six. The sixth sign is Cancer. You can memorize the list of Zodiac signs or carry a copy of *Figure 2* small enough to be palmed.

RED = 1	YELLOW = 2	GREEN = 4	BLUE = 8
AQUARIUS	PISCES	TAURUS	VIRGO
ARIES	ARIES	GEMINI	LIBRA
GEMINI	CANCER	CANCER	SCORPIO
LEO	LEO	LEO	SAGITTARIUS
LIBRA	SCORPIO	CAPRICORN	CAPRICORN
SAGITTARIUS	SAGITTARIUS		

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

1. AQUARIUS
2. PISCES
3. ARIES
4. TAURUS
5. GEMINI
6. CANCER
7. LEO
8. VIRGO
9. LIBRA
10. SCORPIO
11. SAGITTARIUS
12. CAPRICORN

TEMPLE SCREEN MODIFICATION

EFFECT: Grant's Temple Screen is a standard piece of production apparatus – a three-fold hinged screen which can be shown front and back. You form the screen into a triangle, stand it on the table, and produce solid objects. The apparatus holds a fairly large number of silks and other collapsible objects. It retails for about \$40.00. It is a very good trick, but I thought, for the size of the apparatus it needed a more impressive final load. So, I modified it.

PREPARATION: Each panel has a double layer of card stock taped together with black tape. Stiffen the load panel by slitting the tape at the top and inserting a one-sixteenth inch thick steel or aluminum plate. Then tape the top shut. For the final load, I've used various objects depending on the occasion – a ten-inch Christmas Tree, a nine-inch plastic Santa Claus, a nine-inch plastic bowling pin, a twelve-inch doll dressed as a witch, and a twelve-inch elf.

PERFORMANCE: Fill the standard bag load with silks, flowers, etc. Attach a short length of elastic terminated with a wire hook to both ends of the large final load. Hook the load to the load panel at the

top and the bottom. While forming the Temple Screen into a triangle, disengage the bottom hook of the large load. After the triangle is formed, disengage the top hook.

Before your performance, you may place the Temple Screen flat on the rear of your table with the load panel hanging down at the back. The load should be away from the table, so everything lies flat.

MESSAGE BETWEEN PLATES

EFFECT: The performer shows two glass or plastic plates, which are taped together on all sides. A blank index card is taped inside one of the plates with clear tape. The performer places the plates into an envelope. When he removes the plates, a message has appeared on the index card. As an alternative presentation, a blank playing card changes to a selected card.

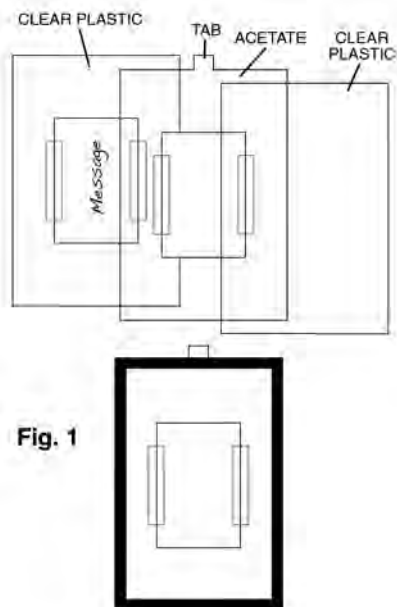


Fig. 1

PREPARATION: Tape an index card with a message on it writing side up to the center of a one-sixteenth of an inch plastic plate. Cut a sheet of clear acetate to be slightly narrower than a plate, then tape it to a plate with a blank index card taped to

the center of it. Place the acetate between the two plates to cover the message, leaving a tab of the acetate sheet sticking out at one end (**Fig. 1**). Tape together the two plates on three sides. The end with the tab has tape only on the sides of the plate, not across the top. The tape hides the edges of the acetate sheet. You will be using a six-by-nine-inch manila envelope which opens from the top.

PERFORMANCE: Place the two plates into the envelope tab side down. When removing them from the envelope hold onto the tab so the acetate sheet remains inside. A message will appear on the index card.

E.S.P. COINCIDENCE

EFFECT: Spectator finds five matching E.S.P. cards from a shuffled deck.

PREPARATION: Remove the five wavy line cards from an E.S.P. deck. Place one of the cards on top of the deck and the other four cards in your pocket, faces toward the outside.

PERFORMANCE: Shuffle the deck, retaining the top card in position. Force the top card on a spectator using your favorite force. Have the spectator place the card face up on the table. State that you had the spectator select one of the symbols to be used in an experiment. Hand the spectator the deck and have him overhand shuffle the deck slowly as you do when having your fortune told.

While the spectator is shuffling the deck, get the four pocketed cards into the gambler's palm position. When the spectator is done shuffling, take the deck from him and add the palmed cards to the bottom of the deck. Place the deck on the table. Have the spectator cut the deck and place the top half aside. Then have him deal the bottom half of the deck into four face-down piles. Stress the fact that the spectator shuffled the deck and cut it anywhere he chose. Then have him turn over the top card of each pile to reveal the four wavy line cards.

CALENDAR CAPERS

EFFECT: Not a traditional magical effect, this trick uses pseudo-memorization to dazzle an audience. The performer hands a spectator a calendar and asks her to pick any month and date. Then, tells her the total of that column and asks her to add up the numbers in that column to verify his total.

PERFORMANCE: This takes a combination of a simple calculation and a little memory work. First, reduce the given date by removing all multiples of seven. For example, if the given number is twenty-six, subtract twenty-one (a multiple of seven) leaving a remainder of five.

Second: reveal the total, using the following table. In our example, with a remainder of five, the total is sixty-two. You can memorize the table. Or just remember the keys: four=fifty-eight and advance by four; and one=seventy-five and advance by five. You can also palm a small crib sheet to avoid any memorization.

Remainder Total

4	58	
5	62	advance by 4, or (remainder - 4) $\times 4 + 58$
6	66	
7 = 0	70	
1	75	
2	80	advance by 5, or (remainder - 1) $\times 5 + 75$
3	85	

Third: These formulas work for all months which have thirty-one days. For April, June, September, and November, which have only thirty days, if the remainder is three, subtract thirty-one from the total (fifty-four). February is more complicated. With only twenty-eight days, if the remainder is one, subtract twenty-nine (forty-six). If the remainder is two, subtract thirty (fifty). If the remainder is three, subtract thirty-one (fifty-four).

BACKGROUND MUSIC FOR A MAGIC ACT

If you are doing a pantomime act or routine, you typically want to have music playing in the background. One can simply pick some music and play it. The trouble with doing that is the music may have little relationship to the magic being performed so it adds little to the presentation. A much better plan is to enhance your presentation with music:

- Set the mood of a routine or sequence.
- Pace your movements to the rhythm.
- Change pace as you move from one effect to another.
- Build excitement.
- Highlight a dramatic climax.

To use music to your advantage play several different tunes. In my twenty-minute pantomime act, I use nine different tunes to perform seven routines. Two of the longer routines have a change of pace and mood in the middle so I use two different songs to match those changes. There are three ways to add music to your act.

1. Live Music – you will need a score for the band and cues for the drummer and band. This is an excellent method to time the emphasis on climactic moments. The trouble is, getting a score prepared is expensive. And you must practice your cues with the band. And, you will not always have a live band. And not all bands can properly follow a score.

2. You can select tapes or records and have someone backstage playing the appropriate pieces from cue cards. This is a good approach, but there is a drawback. Although the music may be appropriate to the mood and pace of each routine, it's not timed. Therefore, the music will be cut in the middle as the routine ends. The stagehand can certainly fade out the music to minimize an abrupt cut off, but you won't get the benefit of a proper climax that the finale of a song provides.

Note: If you use recorded music, you may need to obtain a performance license to

avoid copyright infringement. As an alternative, Creative Commons has a wide selection of royalty free music to choose from.

3. Timed Music – This is the best, but it takes thought and work. Here are the steps that I used to time my magic with the music:

a. Put together your magic routine, as you would like it. Now practice it thoroughly. Then, time the routine.

b. Select your music based on the style, the mood you're trying to create, the tempo and the mood changes you want.

c. Time the music. Then edit the music by adding and/or cutting it to get it close to your routine time but be careful to cut your music at logical breaks. For example, one-quarter, half, or three-quarters of a chorus. You don't want the music to sound choppy.

d. Time the final music. Then add and/or subtract from your magic to fit the music.

e. Fine-tune your timing by repeating steps c and d until it is finalized.

Hint One: Leave a little extra time in your music with each routine (five to ten seconds) to account for foul-ups and so you can work at a relaxed pace. You don't want to have to rush to keep up with the music. Or worse yet, try to catch up if you fall behind. It's a lot easier to slow down to wait for a music cue than it is to try to catch up. And your act will go over better. If you are rushing, the audience will sense it because all your attention is on trying to catch up rather than on your presentation. On the other hand, if you are waiting for a cue, you will appear relaxed. But don't delay too

much. Ten seconds can be a lot of time to kill.

Hint Two: Remember when practicing, you will typically be ahead of the music because you don't have rapport with an audience or their reactions. So, when you are practicing, try to take this into account. Don't rush. Leave enough time for audience reactions even in a manipulative act.

Hint Three: Practice, making notes of your music cues and where you must be in each routine to hit the cues. This makes practicing a lot easier when you haven't performed the routine in a while. It also lets you practice in your mind. After you've done the routine several times, you will find that you can practice the timing of your magic to the music cues from your notes without actually holding the props.

Hint Four: Be flexible. For example, the chart below shows my pantomime act which I vary from five to twenty minutes in length. I do this by eliminating tricks in the middle of the full sequence. Each x indicates an eliminated trick. You can set this up on customized playlists on a laptop, a smart phone or tablet, an MP3 player, a CD player, or with two audio tapes. You can skip over the middle tracks with any of these recording methods.

Also, when I am performing a full evening program, I start off in pantomime with my Silk Routine. Then I do the rest of my show with talking, using volunteers, etc. Then I conclude the show in pantomime with items seven and eight.

Routine	Time						Music
1. Silk Routine	6					*	Songs 1&2
2. Paper Tear	2				*	*	Song 3
3. Billiard Balls	2 1/4		*	*	*	*	Song 4
4. Balloon Penetration	1 1/4	*	*	*	*	*	Song 5
5. CD Serenade	3 1/2				*	*	Song 6
6. Floating Ball	3 3/4					*	Songs 7&8
7. Blooming Bouquet	1	*		*	*	*	Song 9
8. Cane & Gloves	1/4					*	Song 9
Production							
	20	17 3/4	16 1/2	15 1/2	10	5	
* Eliminate the last trick.							

Send comments and appreciations to: JoeBrunojoebro67@hotmail.com

FULL OF BULL

EFFECT: A new full can of Red Bull energy drink is opened and the magician's hands are shown otherwise empty. The magician places his finger(s) over the opening and turns the can upside down. Amazingly, upon removing his finger(s), the liquid inside remains suspended. When the can is passed out for inspection the secret cannot be discerned.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION: This works because of the structure of the Red Bull can. When placing your thumb on top of the filled open can, slyly spin the pull-tab around to cover the opening. Lock one of the pull-tab's corners into the mouth of the can so that it doesn't move from that position (**Fig. 1**). Completely cover the hole with your fingers or thumb and turn the can upside down. When you remove your finger(s) that were covering the hole, the liquid should remain suspended.

A little bit of the liquid may trickle out, but the majority of it should remain inside the can. If the can is perpendicular to the floor, I've found that the liquid may continue to trickle out. However, if you tilt the end of the can that is opposite to the mouth, slightly towards the floor, then no liquid should pour from it. If you feel the need to prove that the can is full, or that nothing is covering the mouth, then you can insert a straw, matchsticks, or toothpicks into the opening while the can is upside down and a little bit of the liquid will spill out. Or you can even squeeze the can gently to make a little liquid drop out.

When you are ready to end your magical demonstration, place your thumb over the opening and invert the can right-side up. As you turn the can, secretly spin the pull tab back to the correct and normal position (**Fig. 2**). The previous action will take a little practice. Once the pull-tab is returned to the normal position you can hand out the can for inspection and encourage others to try this impossible feat.

Instead of wasting the precious Red Bull liquid, I recommend you drink it and then refill the can with water when executing this trick.

Speaking of bull: "I was born under Taurus the Bull – and, man, was he surprised!"

Excerpted from *Bamboozlers: The Books of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters, and Bewitchery* by Diamond Jim Tyler. www.djtyler.com



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



This month's column comes from frequent contributor Paul Lelekis. Paul tells me that the routine is based on a Brother Hamman routine called "Triple Prediction." It uses a stratagem by Chad Long and also differs in outcome. The original "Triple Prediction" can be found in Michael Ammar's *Easy to Master Card Miracles* Volume 9.

Spectator Reigns Supreme

By Paul Lelekis

EFFECT: A deck of cards is shuffled and then cut into two piles by a spectator. The spectator takes one pile while the magician takes the other. The two piles are cut twice, once by the spectator and once by the magician. The cards cut to are put aside. This is repeated and the new top cards are also put aside. For the big ending, the four cards are found to be the four aces.

Alternately, you could end with a double matching scenario in which the magician has (for example) the 2S and the JH, which match the spectator's 2C and JD (color mates).

The method is very easy, in fact almost self-working.

SET-UP: You'll need to maneuver two aces to the top of the deck and the other two aces to the bottom of the deck. I think, for a nice symmetry, you'd use AS, AH on top with AC, AD on bottom. The goal would be that the upper aces of the two pairs match in color as do the bottom two.

The method uses the very popular **Balducci Cut Deeper Force***. (Moves tagged with * have video instruction at www.mallofmagicn.com/themoves, use password "marol7d.") Because this move is so well known, I'm not going to redescribe it here. Visit "The Moves" section at the link above if you're

unfamiliar with this force. It is extremely easy to do and also very effective.

The nice feature of having both the magician and the spectator use the move simultaneously is that you don't have to take time to teach the spectator by telling her what to do. Instead, she can see you doing the procedure and simply do the same thing.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

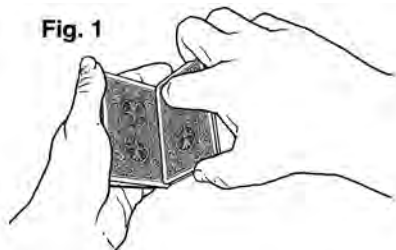
Let's say that you have positioned the AS and AH on top and the AC and AD on bottom, in that order. Give the deck a real shuffle that maintains the aces in position. Now have the spectator cut about half the cards and hold them in her left hand. Pick up the tabled portion with the aces on the bottom. Spread the cards a bit so you can obtain a left fourth-finger break over the two aces as you square the half-deck. Perform a **Double Undercut***, bringing the two aces to the top as you say, "In a minute, both of us are going to cut our packets. Watch me and do as I do."

Lift up about one-third of your cards and turn them face up on top of the remaining cards, as shown in **Figure 1**.

Make sure the spectator does the same thing. Say, "I cut to the 9D. You cut to the 8S." Here you are just naming the top face-up cards. If they match, you get a bonus which you can take credit for! But that's not

likely. Continue with, “We’re now going to cut again, only deeper. We’ll cut about two-thirds of the cards and again turn them over on top.” You demonstrate and then watch to be sure that the spectator cuts into the face-down group. A new card appears on top. If they match, you’re having a lucky day. If not, just point out that you each have a new random card.

Fig. 1



STATUS CHECK: If you spread the face-up cards until you reach the face-down group, you’ll find that in both your packet and the spectator’s packet, the top two cards of the face-down group are the aces.

Spread your cards and remove all the face-up cards that are on top. Turn them face down and place them on the table. Instruct the spectator to do as you did. Remove the top card of your half deck and place it face down on the table. Have the spectator do the same thing, placing her card next to yours. These two cards are aces of the same color! Now place your cards face down onto the face-down tabled portion and have the spectator do the same.

The new top cards of both yours and the spectator’s packets are the other two aces. You now repeat the entire Balducci Cut Deeper Force sequence with the spectator, ending with another group of two cards (the other two aces).

Recap, pointing out how random everything has been and then reveal that the first two tabled cards are matching aces. Pause for a beat or two for the feeling of impossibility to wash over the spectator. Then reveal

that the second pair consists of the other two aces for the final moment of magic.

FINAL THOUGHTS: Clearly, it’s possible to use any four cards for the matching. You can end with four kings or you could end with one matching pair of, say, nines and another matching pair of, say, queens. Lots of endings are possible.

I think that using the Balducci Cut Deeper Force in tandem is a fun process. The spectator is challenged to “do as you do.” You can have a lot of fun with the spectator, since she must do as you do. And the ending, where the cards are found to be the four aces or pairs of color mates, is very strong.

I should mention that Paul likes to perform the Balducci Cut Deeper Force with the packets on the table. He leaves the half decks on the table and picks up about one-third, setting it next to the larger packet. He then picks up those cards, turns them face up, and finally places them onto the face-down group. He handles the “cut deeper” part the same way.

Brother Hamman’s original uses the Balducci Cut Deeper Force three times to create three matching pairs. Shortening the procedure to two cycles of the force, eliminates one-third of the procedure. It also allows for the four aces or four of a kind ending, rather than the three matching pairs ending as in the original.

You could even go for a royal flush ending by having the spectator’s packet contain say the AS and KS while your packet has the QS, JS, and 10S. Then at the end, the four cards on the table could be the KS, QS, JS, and 10S. The AS would be the top card of your packet which you could reveal in a flashy way. Alternately, you could use the Criss Cross Force* and have the spectator find the fifth card to complete the royal flush.

Mike Powers

mpowers@mallofmagic.com

Sign up 1!



The Nails of Agony

A classic effect based on psychometry is this month's contribution. Although scientific studies cannot verify this form of extrasensory perception, from the spectator's perspective, the effect is disconcerting and quite convincing.

Some years ago, a friend was impaired and critically injured while performing this effect which in turn affected his earning potential for a period. Searches on YouTube will result in a few videos highlighting the dangers of this effect. However, I declare that while this presentation appears on the surface as extremely perilous, it is ninety-nine-point-nine safe.

Now, direct from my professional repertoire, a performer's dream!

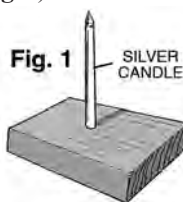
EFFECT: The mentalist has displayed five paper lunch bags. Each has a small block as a base but only one has a spike or nail protruding upward. The bags are closed, and a spectator mixes them up. The mentalist correctly identifies which of the bags does not contain a spike or nail saving him from indisputable agony.

PREPARATION: Gather five identical paper lunch bags, five blocks of wood, wood saw, scissors, drill gun, and five silver candles. The candles can be acquired at Michael's - *Metallic Candles by Celebrate It* - or on Amazon - *LUTER Metallic Birthday Candles*.

Remove the candleholder from the candle itself then cut the wick. The paper bag's dimensions are five and one eighth by three and one eighth so the wooden block would be a half inch shorter on each side. Drill a

hole in the center of the wooden block so the candle fits snugly.

Prep four paper bags with the candle and block in the paper bag (**Fig. 1**). Fold over the openings of the five paper bags twice and place them in a horizontal straight line facing the audience. The fifth candle and block remain unassembled.



PRESENTATION: The mentalist says, "Throughout history, people have used nails and spikes in significantly different ways than their intended designs. Most frequently, insidious intentions toward the human body were the foremost purpose. For specific historical references, one would only have to look at Jesus, who was nailed to a cross; throughout the Middle Ages, the metal nail was employed as a device of torture; and during the vaudeville circus era it was not unusual to witness freak shows where a metal nail was hammered into a man's nose. The performer was the one wielding the hammer! Who chooses to do this? However, in modern times mentalists have altered the level of jeopardy of injury to only themselves, thus keeping audiences safe and thoroughly entertained.

"Well tonight, I will showcase my psychometry abilities with a graphic test of danger combined with tremendous personal intestinal fortitude. Let the exhilaration commence! Before you are five paper bags."

Hold up the wooden block. "There are five wooden blocks. Each block has a hole

drilled into it whereby a single nail will stand snugly erected with the sharpest end pointing north.” Hold up the candle. “Only this single nail will become operative but before I continue there is an important procedure that needs to be done.”

Choose a spectator and request, “Please open your hand in this fashion.” Demonstrate by holding your hand open and palm down. Grasp the candle near the tip and place it below the spectator’s palm.

The mentalist continues, “Now, slowly and carefully move your hand down upon the very tip of the metal nail. Do you feel it’s cold, pointy tip? Now, if your hand descended with effort and vigor, do you suspect you would experience a level of uncomfortable agony? Thank you for your bravery but moreso for validating what I am about to demonstrate next.

“I will place the metal nail into this wooden block and then into the paper bag. The remaining bags are filled with just the block alone making them harmless.” Place the candle into the block and insert it into the paper bag. Fold closed the paper bag’s opening. Invite another spectator to mix up the bags, and arrange them in a straight line, while your back is turned. The spectator indicates that the requested actions are complete and returns to their seat.

OPTIONAL: Request the assistance of a different spectator to visually substantiate that the paper bags are without special markings or special folds. Then, direct the spectator to move the three paper bags. Of course, your back will be turned away. The spectator is thanked and returns to their seat.

The mentalist puts forth the most impor-

tant question of the night, “Is it the consensus of the spectators that you have witnessed and are convinced that we have operated in the fairest of manners? Does anyone know with absolute certainty where the metal nail is positioned?”

“Starting on my far right, let us designate this paper bag number one. Moving along to my left, the next paper bag is number two, then number three, followed by numbers four and five.”

ANOTHER OPTION: Ask a different spectator to call out a number of the paper bag that they feel *does not* have the metal nail and therefore is completely safe. The spectator calls out a random number. At this point, there is considerable opportunity for comedic byplay as the spectator seemingly has complete control over the upcoming destiny. Exploit this opportunity as the returns are significant.

After an apparent and dramatic concentration your conviction moves you to slap your hand palm down onto the paper bag. Pick up the bag and toss it aside, then repeat this three more times.

Open the last paper bag to reveal the block and the nail. Success minus the pain!

HOT TIP: The effect is sufficiently commanding to create longlasting memories. Do not attempt to increase the level of risk by any means! Please perform safely and thrill your audiences!

“The Nails of Agony” is a surefire crowd pleaser so bask in the pleasure of presenting this routine. Until next month . . .

Andrew Woo

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PLAY WELL.

Mentalism frequently has the reputation of being something staid and fusty. But because there is always the “possible” link that what the spectators are witnessing could be real, mentalism still provides audiences with enough nape-of-the-neck hair-raising to be solid entertainment. The mentalist with the most excellent talent set and verbal mélange, but staid and fusty performance skills is, well, boring, staid, and fusty (sounds like a low-key law firm!). A clever performance by a solid performer can utilize methods as old as Annemann’s socks, and be amazingly entertaining and seen as a miracle worker.

I bring all this up as a preface to the effect we’ll be presenting here. I remember reading a version of this effect in *Mark Wilson’s Magic Course* (1975). It was likely written by the venerable Walter Gibson. I had seen similar ideas in Don Tanner’s *U. F. Grant’s Fabulous Feats of Mental Magic* (1954) and other places. Frankly, I vividly recall thinking at the time that this could never be effectively pulled off. The idea was placed into the back of my mental magic drawer.

Fast forward a thousand years (or so it seems!), and the inestimable Bob Little performs the effect at a local magic club get-together. Every one of us was floored. We may not have been totally fooled – but, maybe, we were 97 percent fooled. Regardless, we were 110 percent entertained.

I was looking for a platform mentalism effect that used LEGO pieces. I had been performing “(L)Ego Trip” (from my book *Influence-Enza*) as a closer for many years. Audiences loved it. And folks don’t see a lot of magic using LEGOs! Especially mentalism! I wished to come up with another LEGO-based mental effect. And Bob Little’s

performance of Mark Wilson’s (Walter Gibson’s?) “Ping Pong Prestidigitation” primed the proverbial pump!

“LEGO Soup for the Sole”

You, the miraculous mentalist, take four LEGO bricks and toss them into a brown paper lunch bag. The bricks are all the same shape and size but four different colors. The bag has been sitting nearby, just where you tossed it earlier after dumping your lunch!

As you roll the top of the bag shut, you might mention that “*LEGOS have been around since 1949, the brainchild of Ole Kirk Christiansen, a carpenter from Billund, Denmark. The word LEGO is a contraction of two Danish words meaning ‘Play Well.’ Here’s an interesting bit of trivia.*” You continue now, shaking the bag. “*LEGOS are made to be so sturdy that a recent study showed you’d have to build a tower 375,000 bricks tall to cause the bottom brick to collapse.*”

You now have three audience members join you. “*I tossed four 8 x 2 LEGO bricks in the bag. One yellow, one red, one blue, and one black. Another study shows that four bricks of 2 x 8 ‘studs’ can be combined in 7.83 billion ways. I learned all this stuff in case I ever get on Jeopardy! And there’s a LEGO category. By the way, the chance of that happening is 492 billion to 1.*”

You now direct the three spectators to reach into the bag and grab one LEGO brick in their hand, but they must close their hand around the bricks so that they (and everyone else) cannot see which color brick is removed. One brick remains in the bag.

You sit on a nearby chair and casually put on a blindfold. “*You three closed your hands around the LEGO bricks while they were in*

the bag. There's one left. I don't want to see it. But I'll let everyone else have a look." You pull the remaining LEGO piece out of the bag. You show it to the audience (it's the red piece) and then sit on it.

Next, you calmly remove your shoes and socks and comment *"If any of you have kids and they have LEGOs, no doubt you've walked around barefoot and had the 'pleasure' of stepping on one of those darn things! I have stepped on so many of these things, it got to the point where I could identify not only the shapes but the colors!"*

You now ask the first helper to open her hand, look at the color of her brick and place it under your bare left foot. Assistant number two does the same, and places the brick under your right foot. You then "try" to stand but the LEGOs dig into your feet. *"This is a trick I'd like to see David Blaine attempt!"* You yelp in comic pain as you collapse back onto the chair, but then, you yelp even louder because you are sitting on one!

But after the slapstick, you announce that subject one had the *blue* brick, subject two placed a *black* brick under your right foot and your ultra-sensitive rear end tells you that you're sitting on a *red* brick. This, of course, means subject three is still holding a *yellow* LEGO brick. *"Am I painfully correct?!"*

Everyone acknowledges your correctness! You quiet the laughing, applauding audience. *"All right, enough with the love.*

Somebody get me some first aid ointment!"

WINDOWS 4.

The secret, of course, is in the paper bag. There is a small window cut in the lower fifth of the bag. Glue a piece of plastic wrap over the window from the inside of the bag. Folding the empty bag closed, the bottom "hinges" to cover the window. The bag needs to be inconspicuous. That's why I'll start my set with something in the bag. Sometimes, I'll put a sandwich or a snack in the bag. I will dump it on my table near the start of the show as a gag, and leave the bag in place. The point is, don't draw any attention to it – don't even mention it! This one's all about the LEGOs!

After the four bricks are tossed in, roll the top of the bag shut and shake the bag's contents. Hold the bag up around your eye level. The window is facing you, of course. The spectators reaching into the bag will not be able to see the window because of the height you are holding the bag. You, though, will easily see which spectator selects which color and what color remains. Follow the presentation mentioned here and I am certain you'll have an amazing, crazy effect. And a super fun time performing it.

Embrace the joy of bricks!

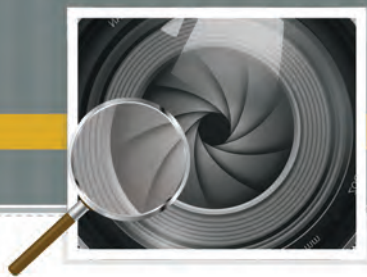
Leggo a few of your ideas to me at;
mbreggarmagic@gmail.com.

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Hocus in Focus

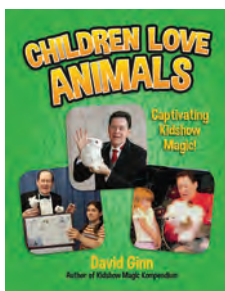
A CLOSER LOOK AT MAGIC ON THE MARKET



Books

Children Love Animals

David Ginn. Available at www.ginnmagicshop.com. Hardbound. 512 pages, 8-1/2 x 11. \$65 plus shipping.



David Ginn, the undisputed godfather of children's magic, has published more than one hundred magic books. Some are better classified as booklets, but *Children Love Animals* and his 2017 tome *Kidshow Magic Compendium* cover more than one thousand pages and contain literally hundreds of photographs. Taken together, the children's performer could find material for a lifetime career of magic shows in these pages.

Ginn has said he only plans to publish thirteen hundred copies of *Children Love Animals*. Each book is numbered and signed by him, so they are instant collectibles.

Whether the reader is a novice magician, someone interested in expanding their repertoire to include children's magic, or a seasoned children's performer, *Children Love Animals* has much to offer in terms of full routines, bits of business, and guidance for working with child audiences and animal themes.

Don't be put off if you don't work with

live animals such as doves, rabbits, or other critters. Ginn doesn't get around to discussing live animals until page 317. Then there are chapters about how to work with animals in general, as well as specific chapters about how to work with the two most common animals used in magic shows: doves and rabbits. There is also a chapter devoted to snakes, both real and canned spring varieties.

Most of the book is devoted to using the concept of animals to entertain children. Ginn presents the book in a logical progression starting with two-dimensional depictions of animals on silks, poster boards, cards, etc. Then he provides advice and routines on performing with the entire audience being involved, then with one helper, two helpers and multiple helpers.

There are more than fifty pages about how to use animal puppets in routines. Ginn covers how even magicians who are not ventriloquists can make their puppets seem alive to an audience of youngsters.

Are you looking for an animal-related joke to enliven a routine? Ginn offers some seven hundred jokes – grouped alphabetically from aardvarks to zebras – across thirty-nine pages. Who knew there were jokes about squid?

While most of the book contains routines developed and used by Ginn over more than fifty years of performing, mostly for children, he is confident enough of his place in magic to generously share the stage with other top children's magicians, some of whom are now deceased. In these pages you will find routines from magicians including Jeremy LePoidevin, Gene Gordon, Bev Bergeron, Ian Adair, Barry Mitchell, Samuel Patrick Smith, Mark Tripp, Joanne and Bert

Midyette, Margaret Clauder, and Mark Wade. The book also includes numerous photos of other children's magicians including Marty Hahne, James Arnott, Glen Bailey, Dave Risley, Dan Garrett, Bob Carroll, and Charles Syber, who invented the rabbit puppet "Out of My Hat" routine in the early 1940s. There are even photographs of one of Ginn's closest friends from his teenage years, Doug Henning.

Throughout the book, Ginn recounts the history of many of the classics of children's magic. He highlights the creators of tricks that are still used today, including Bill Paul, creator of Fraily Cat Rabbit, and Gene Gordon, who manufactured that and numerous other props.

Including the routines, photos, and histories of prominent children's magicians from today and long ago greatly enhances the value of *Children Love Animals*. Like a good stew, these routines add to the flavor of a book that would otherwise just be one ingredient – the routines of David Ginn.

With a career spanning six decades, Ginn spreads a lot of his own memories and stories throughout the pages of this book. And while they may not be entirely about doing magic with animals, they are entertaining and often enlightening. If you don't get teary-eyed reading pages 456 to 457 about Ginn's encounter with a blind student, you need to seriously reassess your emotions.

If you don't know much about David Ginn, the entire cover story profile of him published in *The Linking Ring* from June 2020, written by Executive Editor Samuel Patrick Smith, is included near the back.

Throughout the book, Ginn refers to other books he has published, most often the *Kidshow Magic Kompendium*. I doubt many readers are going to put down *Children Love Animals* to go leafing through *Kidshow Magic Kompendium* in the way they might follow a hotlink on a web article. But for someone who wants to dig deeper into a routine or a specific subject matter, the ability to reference both books will offer a greater understanding of the techniques and logic behind the magic.

Highly recommended. *Larry Lipman*

Total BS: Everything We Know About Entertaining Kids

Barry Mitchell and Steve Petra. Available from www.barrymitchellproducts.com, www.petrapuppets.com/store, and other online retailers. Softcover, 240 pages. \$49.



What's the difference between a silver platter and a dumpster? A silver platter beautifully presents items for you to easily consume – just reach out and take them. A dumpster requires you to wade through a lot of stuff you may not want in hopes of finding treasure, but you have to work for it. So it is with *Total BS: Everything We Know About Entertaining Kids* by Barry Mitchell and Steve Petra.

It was the authors who came up with the dumpster analogy, and they revel in it. The cover shows Mitchell's and Petra's faces peeking out of a dumpster illustration, complete with a skunk tail and the feet of a rubber chicken. Here's what they say about their choice of the dumpster analogy: "Our dumpster is a great big toolbox. It does have buzzing flies and a rat, but that's because we like that stuff. They sometimes help us find the tools we need."

There are plenty of magic books for children's entertainers that follow the silver platter format: technique or method followed by one or more routines as illustrations. *Total BS* also provides techniques and routines, but there is so much more, such as humorous asides, short vignettes, old photos, quips about rats and goats, and quotes that Benjamin Franklin never said. These really don't have much to do with performing for kids, but they keep the book entertaining for the reader, if you are willing to wade through such asides.

The reader will quickly discover that this

book is not laid out in the typical manner of most magic books. Chapter headings are often nonsensical. For example, an early chapter is labeled “Does This Feel Sticky to You?” Beneath that phrase is the real working title to the chapter: “Tools to Hold Our Routines & Shows Together.” The casual reader should pay attention to the subheads in parentheses to better understand what is going on in the book.

Throughout the book, there are tiny illustrations of a fly with either Mitchell’s or Petra’s face on it. The flies encourage the reader to “buzz over” to another section in the book. Some advice: Don’t follow that trail on your first read-through of the book. That would involve flipping back to the table of contents, finding the suggested section, leafing to that page, reading that section, and then returning to where you left off. That might work on a website with hotlinks, but it’s too cumbersome to do every few pages in a printed book. Instead, it would be better to read the book straight through and then return to specific sections and then follow the flies’ suggestions.

Some sections of the book are written by both authors, while others are clearly marked with illustrations showing that the comments are either those of Mitchell or Petra. Most magicians who entertain children are familiar with the authors. Barry Mitchell holds the record for lecturing at KIDabra and has published nine other books on magic and more than 120 videos. His entire collection of material is available through his Smile Maker Studio. Steve Petra is a professional musician and a professional ventriloquist and puppeteer who brings all three disciplines to performing magic for family audiences.

Mitchell and Petra offer some of their favorite routines in spotlighted features called Random Rodent Theater. These are often full routines and scripts. Some of these routines require easy do-it-yourself craftwork, but

nothing requires sophisticated tools.

Wading through the entertaining but irrelevant items in the dumpster, the reader will find a treasure trove of solid entertainment techniques that these two very experienced performers have used in hundreds of shows. Such features include those such as making it funny, unifying an audience of children and adults, the power of a preshow, using a show foe to provide conflict and humor, gluing the show together so it’s not a random bunch of tricks, using audience members individually and as a group, using puppets and bringing them to life, presentation techniques and developing your creativity.

The book is filled with photographs, all in black and white. While I understand that some of the old photos are probably only available in black and white, I think the book would be greatly improved by using color photos, particularly when spotlighting props and how to store them in magic cases or other devices. I realize that using color photos would increase the book’s cost, but I think it would be well worth the extra dollars.

I enjoyed this book very much, but it would not be the first one I would recommend to a novice children’s performer. For such a person, I’d recommend one of the many silver platter books. But for the experienced children’s performers who are willing to put in the work to make their shows better – and different from every other performer who is just doing silver platter routines – I would highly recommend this book.

As Barry Mitchell says near the end of the book, the creative process is “a lot of thought ... work ... more thought ... and more work.” To get the most out of *Total BS*, the reader will have to work for it and think about it. They will also have to re-read either the entire book or various sections. They are not handing this stuff to you on a silver platter.

Highly recommended as noted.

Larry Lipman

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Broken Wand

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

KENNETH J. COOK

Kenneth J. Cook, 82, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died March 21, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 28441 and had been a member since 1975. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 22 (Detroit, Michigan). He also was a member



of the Society of American Magicians. Ken was born on April 18, 1941, in Ubyly, Michigan and grew up in Bad Axe, Michigan. He was a professor of electrical engineering and former chair of the Department of Engineering Technology at Lawrence Technological University. In addition to teaching, Ken was an entrepreneur who ran several businesses and corporations. His work included developing equipment for use in cancer research at Wayne State University and working with his son to create a Head Injury Criterion (HIC) for measuring the effectiveness of sports helmets – technology that has helped increase athletes' safety since the 1970s. He developed equipment that aided in calibrating defibrillators, and designed a robotic blood reader that could count radioisotope tagged samples to protect human technicians from radiation. His work as an executive for GTE/Valeron and Vultron/Trans Industries included developing technology used on highway signs and by transportation companies across the United States. Ken learned magic at an early age and worked his way through high school and college as a performing magician. As an adult, Ken used magic in his classes to keep his students engaged. He would also put on a magic show

for his students near the end of each term. Ken performed magic tricks for his doctors, nurses, and medical technicians until very near the end of his life and gave away beaded dogs as gifts to close friends and people he admired. He continued to teach at LTU until four weeks before his death. Ken was an accomplished photographer and had a passion for travel, visiting all fifty US states, sixty-three countries, every continent except Antarctica.

JOHN HUMPHRIES

John Seager Humphries, 82, of Pukehangi, Rotorua, New Zealand, died October 28, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 37200 and had been a member since 1981. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 160 (Auckland, New Zealand). He is survived by his wife Gaylene, daughters Donna (Mark), Debbie (Ross), and Lani (David), along with grandchildren Georgia, Zach, and Caleb.



JOHN IAOCONO

John S. Iaocono, 74, of Rancho Cordova, California, died March 21, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 23967 and had been a member since 2018. He belonged to Rings 192 (Sacramento, California) and 2100 (Global Electronic Ring). He performed children's shows, corporate shows, and walk-around magic from 1969 to 1989 and worked in two magic shops around the San Francisco area. He continued to mentor younger magicians after his retirement.

WAYMON KRUGH

Waymon Krugh, 86, of Huntsville, Alabama, died March 7, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 28825 and had been a member since 1975. He was a member of the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 194 (Huntsville, Alabama). Waymon was born on January 16, 1938, in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he grew up. He attended the University of Arkansas for three years before enlisting in the United States Air Force, where he served four years as a hospital corpsman. He returned to Arkansas Polytechnic College and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology. He would work as a bench chemist, lab supervisor, and eventually a quality control supervisor at Reynolds Metals at their cable manufacturing facility in Malvern, Arkansas. He moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where Waymon spent his retirement performing children's magic, mostly for the Madison County Library System during the summers. He was a member of the Helion Masonic Number 1 and Faith Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Candace (Ogilvie) Krugh, daughter Rachel Strange (Doug), and two grandchildren Jacob and Amanda.



DAN MCLEAN

Dan McLean, 74, of Portland, Oregon, died March 1, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 70628 and had been a member since 2012. Dan was born on January 13, 1950, in Brooklyn, New York. He worked at Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon, following a career in journalism. He helped found Sanguinary Arts, a gaming guild established in 2009, which met on Friday nights and included turns at World of Warcraft and Dungeons & Dragons. He participated in swing



dancing for twenty years in addition to entertaining friends and family with cards and coins, winning the 1996 Portland Society of Magicians Close-Up Magic Competition.

GARY LEE OISTEN

Gary Oisten, 78, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died March 19, 2024. He held I.B.M. number 42900 and had been a member since 1988. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 211 (Grand Rapids, Michigan). He was a veteran of the US Army and toured as a trumpet player for the Army Band throughout Europe during the Vietnam War. He was known around the Grand Rapids area as a performing magician. He presented workshops for his ring and created his own version of the "Nut Off Bolt" trick, which he sold through ads in *The Linking Ring*. He was an avid bass angler, and a longtime member of the Blessed Sacrament and St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Churches. He is survived by his wife of forty-four years, Kathleen (Rafferty) Oisten; a daughter, Megan (Jeff) Holm; sister, Joan Hinesley; brother Ron (Judy) Oisten; uncle, Bob Oisten; aunt, Darlene Arnold; along with nieces, nephews, and other extended family.



MARK SHERBY

Mark Alan Sherby, 74, of Byesville, Ohio, died October 22, 2023. He held I.B.M. number 29290 and had been a member since 1975. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty years of continuous membership). Mark was born on April 20, 1949, in Cambridge, Ohio, where he also grew up. He was a 1967 graduate of Meadowbrook High School and went on to attend Summit County Technical College in Akron,



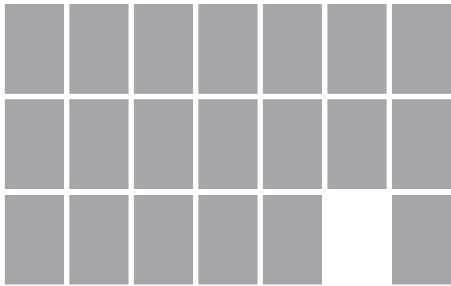
Ohio. NCR employed him for fifteen years. He then worked as an insurance agent for Hugh W. Roller and Associates and was most recently employed with AFLAC. He also served on Byesville Village Council. Mark was an active member of the Cambridge Elks Lodge 448. As a magician, Mark performed shows for many local groups and organizations throughout the years. He also worked for Deremer Productions, performing magic at county and state fairs in Ohio and neighboring states. Mark was also an avid golfer and enjoyed cooking, dining out, bargain shopping, and trips to the casino and greyhound racetrack. He is survived by a

brother, Daniel T. Sherby of Byesville; a son, Mark A. Sherby II of Millersport; a daughter, Pamela (Lloyd) Purvis of Millersport; five grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and his longtime companion Priwan Downing of New Concord.

When a Magic Friend Dies

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

Missing Linking Rings?



If you are an I.B.M. member in the United States and have not received your issue by the 21st of the month, please contact the office for a replacement. If you are a member outside of the U.S. and have not received your issue by the 30th of the month, please contact the office for a replacement.

To receive a replacement copy of *The Linking Ring*, please contact the Headquarters Office by the required time. It is the responsibility of members to notify the Headquarters Office within 90 days of a missed issue in order to receive a replacement. If we do not receive your notification within the 90 days we will be unable to resend the missing issue/issues. To help keep the cost of 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*.

Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



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

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

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

Steve Zuehlke shared the following: "We were treated to a lecture at our April meeting by our own Christian Misner. Christian is one of the most engaging, dynamic, and high-energy performers I have seen in a long time. Christian lectured on using music with your act in order to improve it. Things have come a long way since this reviewer started in magic over fifty years ago. Christian opened his lecture with his opening of his typical magic show, complete with music, a voice over introducing himself and applause. What a way to start a show! Christian basically uses four main components to accomplish this. A speaker and stand, an iPad, an Audio Ape, and his phone. Starting with the speaker, Christian uses a battery-operated speaker placed on a high-quality stand. Christian explained that good sound is not cheap and also stressed the importance of a high-quality stand that can be adjusted to project the sound at the audience's level. The next tool is an iPad. This allows Christian to make playlists/voice overs/sound bites, etc., coupled with an Audio Ape which sends the playlist from the iPad to the speaker. The Audio Ape also has a remote control so Christian always has complete control over his sound. These three will work alone but Christian also uses his phone via blue tooth to add a few more effects. Christian explained the importance of using a prerecorded introduction. Not too long ago, a professional voice over would cost several hundreds of dollars. Today with the internet and email, you can have a professional voice over for less than ten dollars. Christian also touched on using royalty free music and covered the different licensing fees when using music that is

not public domain. The best part is all this information is on the web and free for the taking if you know where to look. Christian provided QR codes for the products he uses for all who were interested."

Jill Schmidt shared the following: "A religious preschool booked Jill "Silly Jilly" Schmidt and asked her not to do any toilet humor. Jill said to herself, 'Oh no, that's a third of my act!' So Silly Jilly removed from that material from her preschool magic show and added her coloring book, which she hadn't done in years and also some other effects. After the show, the school directed texted her, 'They loved you!'"

Dan Todd shared the following: "I have not visited Rankin Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital this year. I should be hearing from them soon regarding resuming the Ring's monthly visits. Shriners Children's St. Louis Hospital has requested that I perform magic twice a month there. However, they have just added me for March 14, 26, and 28. On March first I performed a magic show at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital emailed me that they are scheduling me for magic shows in April, June, and August. They said they loved the responses they received from the lobby show last time. I am keeping quite busy visiting the hospitals since I retired. However, I really enjoy sharing my magic with the patients, their families, and the staff."

The Ring has several lectures planned for the coming year. One of our members, Mike McClure recently purchased tickets to a show titled *Fool you Twice*. It is coming to St. Louis on May 14 and features Naathan Phan, Hayden Allcorn, and Lucas Breneman. Mike contacted Naathan and asked if he would like to give a lecture to Ring 1 when he is in town. The Ring wants to thank Mike for reaching out to Naathan!

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

President James Killmeyer opened our March meeting. The following Ring 2 members and friends were present: Barbara Briggs, Susan and Donna Campbell, Paul Capito, Bob Gurdak, Jim Hathy, James and Eric Killmeyer, Jim Klayder, Peter Lucke, Mark Miller, and Gary Morton. The theme of the evening was Magic using Math.

Peter Lucke opened members' magic with "Mental Sticks" from Daytona Magic. He showed the audience four square sticks each having four random digits on each side. The sticks were placed randomly in a frame, and though he left the room, Peter revealed the sum without having ever seen the sticks. Jim Klayder performed an effect he called "1941," in which cards were located in the nineteenth and forty-first position. Paul Gurdak's effect was a Math Magic Prediction in which the audience arrived at the number 24,569, Paul's prediction. Jim Hathy entertained us with "Grandma's Miracle," a variation on Ring on String using shoelaces and marbles and Donna Campbell continued with "Domino," a fun Easter egg effect that concluded with foil wrapped candies distributed to the audience.

James Killmeyer presented Apple Pi as his effect for the evening. This was a menu effect that employed a matrix (one through sixteen) and multiple predictions. Gary Morton amused us with his "Six Card Repeat" effect using six Uno cards and Susan Campbell concluded members' magic with Dream Bag; multiple silks, ribbons and bows coming out of a shopping bag that should not have been able to hold all of the items.

Also, our guest Barb Briggs entertained us with a card effect as well.

Following the magic, Mark Miller presented and described a number of magic effects that are for sale in his magic shops. *Peter Lucke*

RING 9, ATLANTA, GEORGIA – Georgia Magic Club

Meets 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00pm, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church,
471 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

Ring 9 Website: www.gamagicclub.com

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

T.I.P. Lecture: Murl Harmon: "Don't Buy That." Murl shared some statistics regarding how much time and money part-time and amateur magicians spend on their passion and suggested that much of it is unnecessary. For instance, you can get 1000 ft. of invisible thread

for about ten dollars (Woolly Nylon), there are many hours of video on the gamagicclub.com website (including Coin Trick Conversations, Card Trick Conversations, and archived meetings and virtual lectures), and you can get coaching for free from your fellow GMC members. Murl even gave away a dozen or so tricks to attendees, most of which were donated by Carol Garrett from Dan's magic collection.

Business Meeting: President Steve Langston greeted over forty attendees, including a few online and six guests. Steve mentioned several upcoming conventions. Past International President Joe M. Turner said that Jamey Evans and Kyle Littleton "hit it out of the park" with their performances at the January 21 Atlanta Magic Night. The next Atlanta Magic Night, scheduled for March 17, will feature Zach Ivins and the Naughty Rigatonis. The Anchor Bar in Kennesaw is no longer presenting the every-other-week AnchorCadabra show after a two-year run. Longtime GMC member K.C. Roberts passed away on January 23, and some of us attended his funeral.

Secretary/Treasurer Bill Packard reminded everyone that annual club dues were due in January and to be sure that membership in the I.B.M. is up to date as well. The Georgia Magic Book Club is halfway through *Card College Light* and has scheduled a Zoom call for February 28. Anyone interested in the Project Magic efforts at the Shepherd Center should reach out to Darryl Berman or Walter Fields.

Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer announced or reminded us about three upcoming lectures: Allen Ackerman will present a virtual lecture on February 29 (free for members), Henry Evans (in person) lecture on April 18, and an in-person lecture by Alain Iannone on May 16.

Anthony Vinson gave a recap of the February 17 Magic Meetup. The next session is scheduled for March 17 at Hudson Grille. Steve Goldstein, President of the Atlanta Society of Magicians, presented their Top Dog contest award to Joe M. Turner.

Theme "Long Lost Love" Performers: (1) Murl Harmon revealed the identity of a selected card with a gag-filled fold-out prediction and changed the color of the card box as well. (2) Ross DeMocko, having lost his voice, gave cue cards for Murl to read for both of them to follow the instructions regarding a packet of destination cards, and Murl located the card that matched the prediction. (3) Steve Goldstein caused a selected card to vanish from the deck and appear inside a glassed picture frame. (4) Mark Hatfield, in a New York accent, performed a "Three Card Monte" effect with five

cards. (5) I.B.M. International President-elect, Mike Dunagan, magically helped a spectator to "Cut to the Aces," then after the deck was cut into eight packets, showed that the top cards of four chosen piles determined how many cards were in the remainder of the deck. (6) Howie Slomka joined us (before a trip to Israel) to cause two randomly cut-to cards to appear at two thought-of positions in the deck (from the top and from the bottom). (7) Eric Schuster performed Harry Lorayne's "The Sting," a presentation with the Oil and Water plot, ultimately transforming a mixed packet into a Royal Flush. (8) Anthony Vinson told a story about money, illustrated by an all in-the-hands coin routine with a jumbo coin finish. (9) Steve Langston performed a card trick ending with a previously named magic word spelled out on the backs of cards taken from his wallet. (10) Mal Simpson had a spectator spell-deal the name of his selected card three times and caused the magician's "mistake" card to turn into the selected card.

(11) Jim Driscoll performed "Further Than That," a multi-phase card trick, that went Further Than That many times. (12) David Fluker caused a signed coin to vanish and reappear inside a nested set of containers. (13) Jamey Evans performed pun-filled sleight of hand with Nuts and Bolts. (14) Aryeh Rabin performed a "Do As I Do" effect where the spectator and the magician chose the same card from two decks and it was found reversed in a third deck. (15) Brian Robert caused a signed bill to vanish and reappear inside a cigar. (16) Michael Frisbee performed a "Linking Rings" routine, coordinated and timed perfectly to his music. (17) Wayne Carter caused a signed coin to vanish and reappear inside a set of nested containers (variation of above). (18) Joe M. Turner drew a picture of what a spectator was thinking of (a radio) and turned it on to make it play!

General Magic Performers: (1) Jamey Evans introduced himself, pointing to his name badge, then had a card selected, but was unable to find it – however, the name of the card was now printed on the name badge in place of his name! (2) Mike Smith started an effect, but after a false start, decided to abort.

Performers for Membership: (1) Mike Varon chose to perform Juan Tamariz's "Total Coincidence" with two riffle-shuffled decks (a red and blue), and the black cards removed from each in the order they were found, a card was selected from one packet and relocated somewhere near the center. Dealing from both packets face up simultaneously, the card in the first packet was the only card that matched the card

in the same position in the second packet. The packets were then riffle-shuffled together and separated by their back colors. A card was selected from each packet, and they matched. Then suddenly all the pairs matched. (2) Youth Veronica Landers found two selected cards, one at a time, in a "Play-It Straight Triumph" manner, with one card easily identified in the spread, and the other identified when the spread was turned over.

Giveaways: IFrom the spinning Wheel o' Names, various packets of magic books, props, decks, and tricks, all donated by Joe M. Turner, were given away to lucky winners. Additional prizes were given away and guest Gabe Brandon gave away a Razor Blades from Mouth set to someone who appreciated it.

Mike Varon and Veronica Landers were officially invited to join the Georgia Magic Club and the winner of the Coveted Royal Blue Pin for February was Steve Langston. *Bill Packard*

RING 12, BUFFALO, NEW YORK – Gene Gordon – Karl Norman Ring

Meets 1st Mon. each month at the Screening Room Cinema & Café, 3131 Sheridan Dr., Amherst, NY. Web site/E-mail: Ring 12.org
TODD NELSON, Secretary,

(716) 480-4757 \ 24 Majestic Circle, Amherst, NY 14226

It's time once again for a meeting, Ring 12's March 2024 meeting. March 2024 only comes once when you deal with time as a straight line. Enough with the science that I don't understand, let's talk magic. After all, isn't time magic? I don't know how to answer that, so I'll skip that question and go to describe our meeting.

We began with a teaching table, it's been a while, but we had the pleasure of the great Tony Weiland. He discussed how we need to have confidence in ourselves and that whatever we are lacking we can find with the Ring. I know, myself, I have an amazing mentor within the Ring. Tony then went on to show and explain some packet tricks, these included "Twisting the Aces" and "Royal Marriage," among others. Tony always instills confidence in all and makes everyone in the Ring feel unique and appreciated.

Now it was time for our lecture, with Canada's James Alan, as written up by Canada's Shlomo Birkan. There were many amazing effects, original to James, that were taught. He started with a named card found in his pocket, a nice ESP starter. He did a routine with coins appearing and disappearing from a handkerchief and then said handkerchief produced a bottle of wine. He also performed an impressive rope routine, "Card to Wallet," and so much more.

As well he taught showmanship. He talked about keeping the audience's attention by speaking a lot. He talked about rewriting patter for

one's own character, and much more. I bought the notes and I look forward to studying them. James Alan is a great magician and I look forward to what the future holds for him.

Shlomo Birkan

RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring

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

In March, we received a new application from Mark Newara. We also continued our discussions of some upcoming lectures and a return of our annual banquet in June. Lucy Hall introduced our performers with a suggested theme of “scripting magic/patter.”

Steven Gailey presented his second performance for Ring membership, removing the aces and face cards from a deck and separating them into four piles. Steven asked the audience for suggestions for the names, location, and time of the story he told while dealing the cards into four other piles so that one card of each value was in each pile. Steven made the cards rejoin with their mates in each of the respective piles.

Mark Newara presented his first performance for Ring membership, separating a deck of cards into two halves and asking Levi to cut either half into two smaller piles. From the remaining larger half, Mark asked Levi to select and remember any card and return it to the deck. Mark shuffled that half with one of other packets that Levi had cut on the table. Mark counted the number of cards left in the remaining pile on the table, and Levi's selected card was found at that location in the shuffled deck.

Visitor Don Pepe joined us online via Zoom, and he asked Levi to remove eight random cards from a deck, shuffle them, and look at the top card. Don instructed Levi to think of a number between one and ten, move that number of cards from the top of that packet to the bottom, and then repeat it again. Don then directed Levi to deal the cards face up into two rows on the table. Without seeing the cards and relying only on the names of the cards that Levi told him, Don named Levi's chosen card (John Bannon's “Zoombaya”).

Ted Knoblach showed a small, clear box containing a toy mouse. Ted covered the box with a cloth, and he caused the mouse to escape, rise up, and float through the air under cover of the cloth.

Todd Hertzberg removed four red cards and four black cards from a shuffled deck, and he alternated the order of those eight cards. He then performed a perfect “Oil and Water.”

Michael Strough drew a smiley face on a

framed, white board, and he asked Lucy to draw some arms and legs under the face and sign it. Michael asked Lucy to name a number between one and sixteen, and he turned over the board to show a grid of different colored M&M's candies on the back side, with a red candy at Lucy's named location. Michael turned the board over again and removed the drawing to show that it was now colored red to match. Michael showed the back of the board again to reveal that all the candies were now red, and he magically produced a small bag of M&M's candies to give to Lucy (Gustavo Raley's “M&Magic”). Next Michael performed Erik Casey and John Michael Hinton's “POW: Perfect Oil and Water”).

Gary Filson handed out a deck of cards and asked four people to each remove a card and sign it. Gary asked each person to enclose their signed card in a folded note card and seal it in an envelope. After Dan collected and shuffled the envelopes, Gary correctly identified whose card was in each of the four sealed envelopes.

Roger Sacco showed a small wooden block with a hole running through the center, and he threaded a length of rope through the hole. Roger made the block penetrate and pass through the center of the rope.

Visitor David Harmon asked Mark to pick a card and return it to the deck. David fanned the blue backed deck and showed that one card had a red back, it was Mark's selected card. David handed that card to Mark to hold, and then David asked Ralph to select a second card to repeat the trick. Although David failed to find Ralph's card in the deck this time, when Mark turned over the card in his hands, it had turned into Ralph's selected card.

Ralph Kelly asked three people to each select a card and return it to the deck. Ralph cut the deck several times, and he was able to make each of their selected cards appear on the top of the deck (from John Graham's book *Encore*).

Levi made a card disappear from the top of the deck and then eventually reappear on top again as he told a story of a childhood camping incident in which his cousin became lost. Later Levi performed his version of “Water and Oil” in which three red cards alternating with three black cards separated themselves.

Dan Kamin recited a nineteenth century poem, and he performed a routine in which an image of a rabbit appeared inside the image of a top hat on both sides of a small paddle. Dan also gave away to Michael and to Mark Tierno two more briefcases containing various magic items from the estate of the late Dick Recktenwald.

David Matheus asked Levi to pick a card and remove it from the deck. David fanned the deck

to show that all the faces were blank, and Levi's card was the only card that had a printed face. David returned that card to the deck and then showed that it had a not-so-subliminal "PICK ME" written across its back. David made that card turn blank and the rest of deck become normal. Next David had Levi and Lucy stand back-to-back and each pick a card. David caused Lucy's card to turn into Levi's chosen card, and Lucy's originally chosen card reappeared in the middle of the deck.

The following week, members and guests joined I.B.M. Past International President Shawn Farquhar for a celebration dinner to welcome Shawn's two-week residency at Liberty Magic. We have been very fortunate to see many wonderful magicians perform at Liberty Magic during the past five years, and we look forward to seeing more to come. *Mark Zajicek*

RING 15, FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Ren Clark Ring

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:00pm at 4055 International Plaza, Ft. Worth, TX 76109

GEOFFREY GRIMES, Secretary / ggrimes@aol.com
Facebook: Fort Worth Magicians Club

With President Aaron Stone caught in bad traffic due to local storms, Gavin Griggs opened the meeting, welcoming guests. The program topic for the evening was "Scripting Magic" with "open mic" performances to follow.

Several members had announcements. Bill Irwin reported on the possibility of hospital performances. Megan, Program Coordinator with the Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, has indicated that we have options for performing this year for four different live dates. However, "room-to-room" is still under discussion. Bill also noted the testing being conducted in England by Gustav Kuhn, author of *Experiencing the Impossible: The Science of Magic*. Kuhn is distributing an international survey of magicians for new research he is conducting. Bill said that he can share the link.

Geoff Grimes announced Randi Rain's upcoming presentation, "Creating Original Magic," for the March meeting of Mid-Cities Magic Circle in Arlington. Mid-Cities Magic Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month in which North Texas magicians congregate for a free meal and discussions for improving magical performances.

Pix Smith mentioned that the Dallas Magic Club is performing at the Bob Duncan Center celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Arlington City Parks Department. More than a dozen club members will be entertaining on Wednesday, March 13th, including four close-up magic artists and eight stage performers.

Aaron announced an Executive Board Meeting for Thursday, April 5, at 5:00 p.m. before the regular meeting. We will convene at BJ's Restaurant in Fort Worth.

Mark Miertschin will present the Fort Worth Magicians Club program in April. He will discuss sound and lighting of shows.

Program: Discussion on "Scripting Magic." Gavin Griggs, our Program Chair, explained his approach to scripting his routines. He writes his scripts from the audience's perspective. He finds that a script helps him visualize elements of his routine. He also suggests "mapping" elements of a routine that helps him to organize his effects. Doing so provides a starting point for developing his routines. He also noted that performing from his scripts help him to "clean up" his routines. It helps him to identify low information that clutters a performance.

Drawing upon his theater background, Michael Stein responded, noting that he composes precise scripts for each of his routines. Steve Darilek noted that a script provides a performer a reason for "doing something" in any routine. He offered that a script allows you to take your audience on a journey that they follow with you all the way up to surprise, the point where you "pull the rug out from under them."

While Randi commented that although she doesn't formally script her routines, she notes she always has a sense of a "start" and a "finish" that frames her effects. Randi likes to "ad lib" inside a script to create variety and interest, slipping in asides to create texture. Michael Dimsdle responded to the need to Aaron's admonition of "slowing down." He noted the importance of pacing routines. He says that he scripts routines in a "talking mode" so that it reads like it sounds to an audience. He confesses that scripting is "work," but you have to do it.

George Ferrin uses "mind-mapping a script." This comes from his early career, he noted, as a "tradeshow magician" which required multiple corporate references at critical points in routines and throughout his show. Michael Stein noted that his scripts allow him to step out to address audience responses. Having an "established" script helps him to return to the routine. Equally important to scripting, President Aaron Stone introduced a favorite book, *Building Believable Characters*, by March McCutcheon. As an example of a magical script set to music, Geoff Grimes shared his formal script, "Joe Indian," a story, written to conform to a piece of orchestrated music composed for magical presentations. The performance piece, Diamond Jim Tyler's "Penny Paradox," he adapted to a story of an Indian performance ritual.

Club Raffle: Don Lampe conducted the monthly raffle. The club raised thirty-six dollars in ticket sales, rewarding five lucky investors with “prized magical items.”

Open Mic: George Ferrin performed the enhanced adaptation of Max Maven’s “B’Wave,” available through Alibaba. The props include both red and blue back cards.

Product Review: Geoff Grimes reviewed “Svenpads,” clever pads, adaptable to prediction tricks and a variety of mentalism effects. Geoff showed off a set of three of the mini Svenpads, featuring “Band-Aids” for a wedding band routine using a combination lock, “Fun Facts about Eggs,” and “Fun Facts About Animals.” The latter two figure in his and Doctor Mike’s summer library shows, “National Animal Week.”

The evening closed with informal discussions between a group of magicians inspired each month by our “get togethers.”

Dr. Geoffrey Grimes

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, began with performances by several club members. Dan Norat started off the card performances with Max Maven’s “Kirigami” followed by Rick Hinrichs version of “Four Card Fooler” by Paul Gordon. David Hansen offered up his “Open Prediction/Stop Trick” and John Harrell, with two volunteers, shared his work on routines using the Si Stebbins Stack.

A short business meeting was held, where there was some discussion surrounding setting up committees for internal and external events, that may be used for either fundraising or recruiting for the Ring. There was also conversation regarding the recent passing of former Ring President Tom Crone and performing a Broken Wand Ceremony. The meeting adjourned to break-out sessions.

Our Monday night Zoom meetings have small but faithful attendees, and the March meeting was no exception. David Hansen started off the meeting with a coin trick. This led to a discussion of vanishes and the various ROPS (Retention Open Palm Steal) techniques available for not only coins, but sponge balls and other small objects. Tyler Erickson elaborated on the best props to use with ROPS. Rick Hinrichs has been working on his rubber band magic and did a flurry of tricks including broken and restored bands and bands through solid

objects. Rick also shared his work on Garrett Thomas’ “Ring Thing.”

We spent a significant amount of time discussing coin magic and the common things that one should know: false transfers and knowing two different versions depending on angles and the items used; the Shuttle Pass and Bobo/Toggle Switch and how to use whether showing or hiding an object; Han Ping Chien (HPC) and lastly, a method for continuous productions when using multiple objects. We also discussed using multiple objects instead of coins for “Miser’s Dream.”

As always, we are open to any and all comers interested in magic. Join us! *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 January meeting were Stephen Smith, Jack Ritter, Al Bienstock, Richie Matthews, Dan Sculley, John Fortino, and Michael Reist. The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. and the Secretary’s Minutes were approved. In addition, several members paid their 2024 dues at the meeting.

Our treasurer reported no changes in balances prior to accepting dues at the meeting. Following the report there was a brief discussion on plans to replenish our checking balance with some fundraising. Under old business we briefly discussed the holiday party and some changes we will be making for this coming year in regard to the party.

Under new business President Smith handed out a tentative schedule for the upcoming year. This coming month (Feb.) the theme is General Magic. Under Good of the Order President Smith noted that he might be arranging a Zoom lecture with Silly Billy sometime this year. The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

The Magic: Al Bienstock did a trick he said was Dai Vernon’s “Miracle” and all greatly appreciated his routine. Michael Reist did a colored Rubik’s Cube effect that was marketed by Tora Magic many years ago. John Fortino performed a very nice routine he called “Christmas Carol Miracle.” Stephen Smith did an effect he credited to Frank Bianco. He also then did an effect he called “Ambitious Card and Strawberry Jelly.”

Our meetings currently are held the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at John’s Diner. Until next month. *Michael L. Reist*

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 February 20 meeting started at 7:30 with our President Johnny New York giving announcements about upcoming meeting workshops and lectures for Ring 22 including a Zoom lecture by Rick Holcombe, an in-person lecture by Nate Kranzo, and several extended workshops on coins, improving stage presence, and booking your gig! There were over forty people in attendance tonight (along with at least four first timers) so you need to come a little early to get a good seat and parking spot!

After the announcements Johnny introduced our Spotlight Magician Phil Mann! Phil started off by chasing a “Silk Sprite” onto the stage and then explained what they are and how magical a sprite could be. The silk sprite flew through hoops, disappeared, and reappeared in several magical ways. Phil then did a die color change by changing a clear large die into any color the volunteer named. Phil then used a silk cylinder to change the order of four silks to any order the audience picked, and finally into a long stem rose. We then witnessed a nice card on sword effect followed by Phil changing a silk to a single rose and then four roses. Phil ended his show by showing how he could mentally shatter a glass goblet that was completely enclosed by a clear square box! It was a very entertaining twenty-minute magic show! Well done Phil.

We then had some member announcements about who from our Ring was performing where. We moved on to part two of our inventors workshop from our January meeting and one of our members Tom McCormick gave a brief intro about his time performing in Las Vegas and some of the inventions he created. We saw a short video on two of Tom’s inventions he used in Las Vegas and Tom bought along a coin bucket he used for his “Miser’s Dream” routine that had a nice device for making the sound of a coin tossed into the bucket. Tom finished by displaying his “Back Stage” screen he used during his performances when he did parlor magic and needed a place to discard and/or pick-up things for his performance that were hidden from the audience, but he could use on stage. A lot of very clever ideas thanks Tom.

Our Vice President Fred Lenter then gave us a mini workshop on a card effect from *Tarbell Volume 3* that involved no sleights except turning over a deck of cards unseen. Fred not only demonstrated and explained how it worked but also gave out handouts on the card effect that was a really good one in which a volunteer and the magician

each pick a card and return it to a deck. The volunteer then shuffles the deck and when the two cards are announced, the cards end up turned upside down in the deck of cards!

Johnny then introduced ring member Chris Bogucki who presented a Houdini retrospective. Chris has collected a lot of Houdini paper memorabilia over the years by checking out antique stores, old bookstores, meeting with other magic collectors, and occasionally eBay. Chris had a lot of different types of Houdini paper items ranging from newspaper articles about the fiftieth anniversary of Houdini’s death in Detroit to copies of the memorial service, and even a brick from the hospital that Houdini died at which is no longer standing. Chris had carefully wrapped the paper items in protective sleeves so we could all actually hold and read them or look at the photos in the articles. There was so much history in Chris’ collection and several mentions and photos of long-time supporters of magic in the Detroit area.

It was now time for the Ring 22 Open Stage where anyone in attendance can perform a magic routine. One of our first-time attendees, Jimmy, started us off with a nice card routine that ended with a royal flush and all of the leftover cards being spades. Bob Whitford then shared some of his stories from his January trip to Las Vegas. Then another first timer, Hugh, demonstrated a detection box he had made on his laser printer that could read special chips that were added into the cards. Very ingenious! Dennis Leung then did an any card at any number card effect based on the card principle that Fred had taught us. Bill Brang then did a gospel magic effect using a change frame. Jim Tait (our resident Santa Claus) performed a math card effect. Rex Smith performed his version of the “Pick A Card 2000” magic glasses where anyone who wore the glasses could “see” the card the spectator had chosen. Steve Pearl finished up the open stage performances with a giant monte effect in which the only actually printed card was the Queen of Clubs and all of the other cards had blank faces. Well done everyone!

Wow, two hours just disappeared tonight in a most enlightening and entertaining way. We saw so much great magic tonight. This is why I always so look forward to a Ring 22 monthly meeting. Every meeting is like a mini magic convention.
Norm Cattell

RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:30pm at Musician Union Bldg. 322
West 48th St., NYC / Web site: www.80-20.org/meeting
JAMES R. STRANGES, President
E-mail: magicjim@optonline.net

The theme for our February Lab was “What’s in your Pocket?” Nicely attended, most everyone got up and demonstrated an effect or two.

The biggest effect was the production of long-time member, Joe Pescador, who was in from Virginia. Joe was not going to let the opportunity to attend the lab slip by. That was clear since he was ready to demonstrate what was in his wallet.

Long-time friends took the time to reminisce, and new ones were introduced. What were the effects and who performed them? Peaked at card was lost in the deck only to be found in a wallet by Robert Wallner; two five-dollar bills were rolled up and suddenly became two ten-dollar bills by Adrien Pierard; mental effect using a menu and a phone by Tommy Burnett; "Spellbound" using poker chips by Guy Crowl; "Three Frog Monte" by Joe Pescador; "Rainbow" by Frank Reyes; a fabulous second deal demonstration by Bjorn Hanson and more.

Our February After Meeting Show introduced everyone to a novel topic for a show. Reactions from those in attendance indicates that not only was it a great experience but one that everyone would like to see again. This was Walk Around Magic. Members and attendees were treated to soft drinks and an evening of strolling magic. Robert Wallner, Sheldon Lippman, Adrien Pierard, Guy Crowl, and Tommy Burnett all took turns walking around and demonstrating their skills at magic and entertainment. We even had another member of the Greenfader dynasty attend, Remington. What a great time. For photos and more, follow 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, 7:00pm, Happy Italian Pizzeria 7105 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123. Optional meal anytime after 6:00pm – brief business meeting around 7:00 - 7:15 - followed by magic.

KEVIN CARNEY, Vice President / Web site: www.ibmring27.com

March 7th: Gerry Thompson, Kevin Carney, Lenny "Tricky Trainwreck" and Darlene Bertrand, Allen Boudreaux, Dr. Joe Dalgo, and Chris Schwartz attended.

Our evening began with the popular "Gerry Thompson's Giveaway" of several various magic related items including books, periodicals and assorted goodies. Members discussed the upcoming *Champions of Magic* run at The Saenger Theatre and Dr. Joe Dalgo informed us that Joe Harrison is once again organizing for the popular annual summer magic show at St. Stanislaus in Bay St. Louis, MS. Interested parties should contact Mr. Harrison.

Kevin Carney opened our performances with a quarter penetrating into a sealed jar ("CoinUnique" by Eddie Gibson). Continuing on, now using an item from The Ellen Warner

Collection, he tells the account of some celebrated archeologists that found a previously undisturbed tomb with a mummy sarcophagus and a gold tablet above it ("The Mummy" by Eddy Tatelbaum). Of course, there was a curse involved as well as a floating mummy. There was a lesson to be learned here. Don't disturb the mummies. Yikes.

Dr. Joe Dalgo earned applause using a poker chip, six cards (ace through six) and a die ("Mental Die" by Dai Vernon/Karl Fulves' "The Red Prediction"). After the applause Dr. Dalgo continued by placing some playing cards mixed face up and down onto the table next to a poker chip. The chip had instructions on each side. He asked Chris Schwartz to roll the die, place the poker chip by the card positioned at the numbered result then read the instructions on the chip. Who/what did the magic; the chip, Dr. Dalgo, or Chris? This was R. Paul Wilson's "Influence." Niiiccee. Then with a deck of cards and four poker chips he performed R. Paul Wilson's "SMF" (Shuffle-bored Multiple Force) and concluded with a piece from his *Apothecary Show of Haunted New Orleans* currently successfully running at the 714 Chartres St. Haunted Pharmacy Museum where Dr. J. Dupas ran his establishment. Strange and amazing things happened (?) and I dare not write them down (Eugene Burger's "Séance Revisited").

Darlene Bertrand spread the four aces before us. After placing some random face down cards upon each ace, Kevin and Allen were to each combine two piles and shuffle them. Each alternately dealt a card into a single pile. This single combined stack was then dealt into four separate piles. This clearly resulted into a mess of face up and down cards. Darlene performed some magic-y moves above the cards while the volunteers folded the piles book like into one jumbled stack. Yep, when the cards were spread only the aces were face up ("Automatic Ace Triumph" by Kuniyasu Fujiwara). Darlene was inspired to learn this trick after viewing a video by Liam Montier and Cameron Francis.

Allen Boudreaux shows Darlene a healthy handful of cards. She was asked to think of any one of these. Allen divined her in short order (a John Bannon trick from *Mentalismo*). Next, Allen shook an empty beer bottle and fidgeted to enter a penny inside it. Clink! Both the penny and the bottle were examined and found to be un-gimmicked. Hmmmmmn. (No kidding. It was the empty that Dr. Joe just finished drinking.

Lenny Bertrand delivered "The Big Kick" (Liam Montier) to Kevin, Chris and Allen. Allen followed that with a Lloyd Barnes idea using

numbered cards and ESP cards. Even after Darlene mixed all the cards Allen was able to prove that the cards were still paired.

Leonard Bertrand

RING 31, MADISON, WISCONSIN – Ben Bergor Ring

Meets 1st Wed. each month, 6:30pm. at the Sequoia Public Library,

4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison, WI.

WAYNE PETERSON, Ring Contact

(608) 274-9411 / E-mail: magic@waynethewizard.com

Website: www.ibmring31.com

<http://www.facebook.com/BenBergor.IBMRing31>

The theme for February's Ring 31 meeting was Magical Heroes. The meeting opened up with a short business discussion including possible upcoming lectures.

Wayne Peterson shared a Houdini collectible, a pen he bought from Phantasm Magic that was made from wood from the secret back room at Houdini's house. He next performed "Vanishing the Elephant" but with cards in a small box. The elephant was behind Houdini on the card when the lid was closed, but when reopened the elephant was gone. Wayne's next performance was with small slates. Ed Litt put his initials on slates with some chalk. The chalk was placed between the slates and the slates secured with a rubber band. Wayne peeled cards off a deck until someone said stop. The card stopped on was the Two of Hearts. When the slats were separated, Two of Hearts was written on one of them. Wayne completed his performance with a silk version of Houdini walking through a wall. A silk with Houdini in shackles was wrapped inside another silk with a brick wall pattern. Both were put into a black bag. A silk with a freed Houdini was pulled out of the bag and the bag was turned inside out to show that it was empty.

Mark Pepelea was next with "Neither Blind nor Stupid" from Juan Tamariz where two spectators' cards are found after much cutting and shuffling by the spectators.

Cliff Wollin shared that his heroes were Eugene Burger and Al Schneider. He chose to perform items that he learned from the recent Magifest convention. He showed a small pack of casino cards, face and back. Viktor picked a card. All the cards were shown to have a red spot on the face except for the chosen card which was black. Next the cards were used for a game of poker. Mark was able to let the cards be dealt normally or choose to switch two. Cliff got a straight flush, but Mark got a royal flush. This is "Wild Wave" by John Bannon. Cliff completed his performance with something from the new John Guastaferro book, *The Nth Degree*. Four poker hands of five were dealt. Wayne picked one of the hands and removed the high-

est card from it. He then assembled the packets in any order that he liked. Cliff was able to divine that it was a court card and then knew it was the King of Hearts. He then spelled out the words "the," "other," and "mates," with each word being dealt into its own pile. The top card of each pile was turned over to reveal the other three kings.

Dr. Lynn Miner was the final performer of the evening. He shared that one of his heroes was Jay Bobo who showed him the color changing knives when he was in fifth grade. In high school he encountered Percy Abbott, Percy Foster, and Harry Blackstone, Sr., even assisting him during the summer of 1962. He mentioned two other heroes, Eugene Burger and Jeff McBride. He considers Jeff McBride to be the greatest contemporary teacher of magic today. He shared a trick for Valentine's Day. He told a story of love. Two spectators each selected a card. One was placed face up in the deck and the other put back face down in the deck. Each spectator got twenty-six cards, and each dealt one card at a time simultaneously. When the face up card was dealt the other card dealt was revealed to be the other chosen card. There were now four piles of cards, and the four aces were shown to be on top of the piles. Each pile was spread to show that the cards were in order by suit. This effect is available in *Seasonal Sorcery* from Jeff McBride's Magic and Mystery School.

As always, it was great to gather, perform, and talk shop with fellow magicians.

Mark Pepelea

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

Our regular business meeting was followed with some really good magic. Resident magic producer, Tom Yurasits, started the action with a couple of unique effects he is in the process of marketing. One was a clever "heads, tails, right or left-hand prediction. Also, a nut and bolt effect that he recently purchased was demoed. He followed up with another remote effect that had members guessing.

Al Grout had a deck which changed color in an instant. Bruce Ward had a variation on the invisible deck. Jeff Stortz had a neat counting effect. And Marques wowed all with solving a Rubik's Cube in no time flat after doing a Tannen card effect he got recently.

Tom had shown a Rubik's Cube version with a hat and box. Don Severen also had a cute four

card number. To finish off the card numbers, Joe Keppel continues to wow with a series of great card moves. George Reager had an "Arm through Mirror" number which was a reflection on all of us! Oh yes, "Old Mother Hubbard" and a jumping paper clip were done by yours truly, Bob Good.

Rumor has it a lecture is on tap for next month and you may want to hear all about it. We will keep it a secret as details are not all set in place.

Bob Good

RING 39, HOUSTON, TX – Scott Hollingsworth Ring

www.houstonmagic.com

JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH, Secretary / E-mail: judy4birds@yahoo.com

All three Houston magic clubs (I.B.M. Ring 39, S.A.M. 19, and HAOM) met concurrently on February 18 to install this year's officers, enjoy fine food and fellowship, and be royally entertained with a rollicking night of magic by the Tres Amigos.

The event started on time, and during the social hour, the strolling magicians warmly welcomed the guests and entertained them with their up-close and personal magic. The food was delicious. The installation of the new officers was conducted by Oscar Munoz, Past President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, who completed the ceremony in a refreshingly short period of time. I.B.M. Ring 39 officers for 2024 are President Dick Olson, Vice President Caesar Trujillo, Secretary/Treasurer Judy Hollingsworth, and Sergeant-at-Arms Gene Protas.

The evening's stage entertainment featured three outstanding performers who laughingly called themselves "The Tres Amigos." Master of Ceremonies Caesar Trujillo's droll self-deprecation and mind-boggling magic set the tone for a fun evening. Jamie Salinas and Oscar Munoz both gave memorable performances that had the hundred-plus members of the audience rocking and laughing. It was truly a great evening of fun, unity, and fellowship.

The twenty-five magicians who came to the Houston magicians' meeting place on March 4 were treated to Eric Falconer's ideas on cell phone magic and Jamie Salinas' reading of an AI-generated treatise on the beginnings of magic on television. His presentation was factual and very entertaining.

The business meeting of I.B.M. Ring 39 that followed was probably a record for brevity. President Dick Olson called the meeting to order, got the minutes from the February meeting approved, had Treasurer Judy Hollingsworth give the financial report, and adjourned the meeting in about three minutes.

The evening's open forum entertainment

included card routines by Bill Palmer, Tom Bradley, Ron Jernigan, Lee Wise, and Master of Ceremonies Matthew Crabtree. Drew Hayen did a rope trick and Marti Stein used money for her magic. Eric Falconer and Gene Protas employed their cell phones to make the magic. Jamie Salinas' predictions came from *The Book that Knows All*. He will offer this limited-edition tome in a few months. Our honored guest, Past International I.B.M. President Alex Zander, blew everyone away with his novel "Game of Cards" routine. Alex had traveled from his home in Canada for a repeat performance at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. We are pleased he always includes a visit to our magic club when he is in town. All visiting magicians are welcome.

Judy Hollingsworth

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 themes for March were Hi-Tech Magic and Steampunk Magic. Our featured performer covered both of these admirably. Professor Ludicrous (a.k.a. Rick Martin) of the Steampunk Skunkworks Laboratories demonstrated an artifact that had been discovered in the lab's archives. The switchboard had four switches and four light bulb sockets. Each socket contained a bulb of a different color. Each switch had a cover with a color associated with one of the bulbs. No matter how the bulbs or switch covers were moved around, the corresponding bulb lit up when a switch was thrown.

Jim Green demonstrated his remote-controlled "Tipper the Monkey." The monkey would bang his cymbals together in response to questions or math problems. He would also "chatter."

Michael King discussed *Hickman's Famous Psychedelic Card Engine*. This was a website that would appear to read peoples' minds. It would name the cards they were thinking of. Michael then very generously offered each of us the magic DVDs from a project he had worked on a few years ago.

Cassidy Smith talked about the "iDeck" by Noel Qualter. He said that it gave the appearance of a high-tech gadget.

Lee Woodside announced that the second-greatest card mechanic in the Northern Hemisphere was in our midst. (Richard Turner being the greatest, of course.) He invited "Deadwood" Derrick Beeson to join him at the table and demonstrate his ability to deal bottoms, seconds, and even from the center of the

deck. When he asked Derrick to turn over the top card of each stack on the table after the dealing, Derrick turned over the four aces. Lee then brought out two paper clips and told the story of how they fell in love. The paper clips ended up linked, and when he dropped them into Derrick's hand, there were "baby" paper clips. Lee said this was his "21st Century Paper Clips," and was inspired by a routine in *Ibidem*.

Cassidy Smith showed us his new Brett Sherwood wand and passed it around so we could marvel at the quality. He then passed out sponge balls and showed us several moves that could be performed with this underappreciated classic of magic.

David Teeman showed a wooden bar with three scarves hanging from it. Two of the scarves were black and one was yellow. After much comedy byplay, he caused the outside yellow scarf to change places with the black scarf in the middle.

Brian Tabor demonstrated his lie detector, which had a green light for "truth" and a red light for "lie." After having Derrick Beeson select a card and look at it, Brian asked Derrick several questions and each time the lie detector correctly deemed the answer true or false.

Mark Cristiano showed a list of one hundred Taylor Swift songs on his phone. He asked that a number from one to one hundred be chosen and fifty-five was named. The song at that number turned out to be "You Belong to Me." When a page of "hieroglyphics" was folded at the creases, the name of the chosen song appeared.

Cassidy Smith placed the names of all the performers into a hat. Mark Cristiano's name was drawn, and he became the proud owner of a book on rubber band magic. *Lee Woodside*

RING 47, WICHITA, KANSAS – Wizards of Wichita

Meets 1st Tues. of the month, 6:30-8:30pm, Spear's Restaurant 4323W. Maple St., Wichita, KS
NELSON SCHMITT, Secretary / E-mail: nscmitt1@cox.net
Web site: www.ibring47.com

Nelson Schmitt emceed the March '24 meeting for The Wizards of Wichita which was a no-themed free-for-all, with tricks varying wildly. Ron Margolis introduced a miracle liquid which he sprayed on a dollar bill. The magical concoction allows him to teleport any object but since it's so rare and hard to produce he was only able to teleport something small like a dollar bill. He had someone record the serial number, then he placed the bill in the teleporter, and then closed the door on the receiver, and when both were opened, the teleporter was empty, and the bill was now inside the receiver. Serial number matching and all.

Brad Nuest treated us to an original story poem as he told about the town of Wasteville and nearby

lake, Ineedafill. The story told of three Wasteville residents who all wasted water in different ways. As he told the story, he poured water from a pitcher of water from Lake Ineedafill into a box representing the town of Wasteville. The moral of the story was not to waste all of your precious, clean water, or it will all vanish, and with that, he opened the front and back of the box and all of the water was nowhere to be found.

Tobias (Tony Cortest) performed several close-up tricks. First, he wrapped a red string around a finger selected by an audience member. He then tugged on the string, and it jumped instantly to a different finger. Then, he showed a mis-printed photo that his niece printed on the computer and demonstrated how he has been fixing all of them for her. He tore the photo into quarters, and then magically restored it, now with the four pieces making a complete, corrected photo. He also demonstrated what to do if you self-checkout at a store and didn't realize that the machine you chose was Credit or Debit Only. He removed a bill from his wallet, folded it once, then twice and then with a magic wave, turned the bill into a credit card. Tobias ended by performing Timothy Wenk's "Misled," two-phase pencil through dollar bill routine. Harder than it looks. Copperfield sure made it look effortless!

Deana Murray ended with a story of her own. She brought a bunch of the (mostly) food items from her recent shopping trip. One of the items she bought was something called Magic Spoon cereal: she chose Fruity flavor. She showed two empty cereal bowls, then opened the cereal and poured one bowl about half full. Then, just as most cereals come with a trick or prize in the box, she cut a small hole in the back of the box and pulled out a rainbow streamer. She then placed the empty bowl upside down on top of the one with the cereal in it, and when she removed the top bowl, the bowl overflowed with cereal, practically doubling the amount she originally poured in. I guess the cereal really is Magic!

Congratulations go out to club member, Shawn Reid for his trick "Block Off Cord Redux" that Penn and Teller performed as their closer on the March first episode of *Fool Us*. What a treat to watch! *Tony Cortest*

RING 48, PEORIA, ILLINOIS – Harold Martin Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. 7:00 pm, Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights, IL. Website: peoriamagicians.com
MICHAEL BAKER, Secretary / E-mail: themagiccompany@aol.com

There were seven attendees. Rodney Nordstrom is no longer liaison for the Farmer's Market. He will give contact information to Jay Zentko and Jay will make contact. We believe Phil Raso will be contact for the HOI Fair. Troy Keefer will contact the dealer for the CIMGT.

CJ and Grant Golden may set up tables. CJ Diamond will bring video projector and screens to the CIMGT. Stefan will help to compile content. *Gambit's Get Tricked* will be at BG Karaoke on February 17. CJ gave a report on Cornstock Theatre. He has nothing new to report. Sidney Friedman is doing a show at The Betty Jane in Peoria Heights the night before our CIMGT. We plan to support it and use it to promote our show.

The magic theme was Hearts and Flowers. Greg Joyce taught Penn and Teller's "Love's Me" trick. He brought cards and instructions for everyone.

Greg discussed his favorite Valentine's Day trick. He saw Mitch Williams perform a trick for a couple involving pink and white tissue paper.

Gambit performed Phil Smith's "Fusion Mosaic Phenomena." He then performed three effects by Wayne Dobson. He performed "Lucky Dip" with a bag he made, "Odd Ball" with another bag he made, and an "Anti-Bank Night" routine with some nice locking Himmer wallets.

Meeting report minutes were taken by Jay Zentko, Treasurer.

On February 19, Radek Hoffman gave his lecture at Peoria Pizza Works. Several members gave it high praise. The Peoria Magicians will be at the Riverfront Market again this year, beginning Saturday May 18. Magicians will perform on the first and third Saturdays through the summer from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Gambit reports that his *Get Tricked* show on February 23rd was a success.

Jay Zentko

RING 50, WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Capital Ring

Meets 1st Wed. 7:30 pm, Carlyle Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22303 Web site: www.IBMRing50.org
MARC CARRION, President / E-mail: president@ibmring50.org
TOM BEUTNER, Secretary / E-mail: secretary@ibmring50.org

Our March meeting featured performances by ten of our newer members.

Stephen DeSimon had six numbered cards arranged on the sides of a framed slate. The card chosen was moved to the top and the frame was rotated to reveal the choice predicted on the slate. He next had a spectator cut off some cards and deal those into two piles to arrive at a value and a suit, which also matched a prediction he had written down.

Russell Almond produced a black streamer from a cone, which changed to a colorful streamer of international flags with a wave. He made a happy birthday silk suddenly appear inside of a clear box. And finally, he had a volunteer spell their name and the name of someone they love to arrive back at a selected Disney card.

Mitch Praver talked about Jet Blue airlines and had a volunteer select a city from a poster with dozens of destinations. Then on the world map, he was able to divine what they were thinking, (after getting consent to read their mind).

Oliver Bauer, a member from the Capital Conjurers youth group stayed to show us a version of the "Color Monte," using jokers and aces, in which he recounted a story about trying unsuccessfully to finding the money card and every guess he made was wrong.

Ken Trombley talked about a physics demonstration by Albert Einstein, using a grid of puzzle blocks that always seem to maintain the same number of squares when reassembled, despite removing multiple blocks.

Gary Hernberg dubbed himself the "World's Okay-est Magician" and even had his own action figure bearing that name. He had a card selected, which he then tore in half, and restored with a stapler. It was initiated by the volunteer on both ends, as he was able to fuse the cards back together into one card, with the staples and initials still in place.

Todd Eisenstadt had the audience randomly select what trick he would do. They chose the option that said, "card trick." The other options were revealed to be dangerous tricks like walk on lava or juggle chainsaws. He had a color card that matched one in front of a Flash action figure. He next did a trick about superheroes doing their laundry. Dirty laundry was placed into a miniature washing machine and magically came out clean.

John Phillips began by having his service dog perform a trick of making its treats vanish. He talked about a patchwork quilt his grandma made, and put various colorful silks, which combined in his bag to form a big picture silk.

Brian Davey performed a card trick about choices and intuition. A volunteer picked a pile of cards and spelled out the name. They could lie or tell the truth, but their selection still ended up on top. Then they each picked a card from a shuffled half of the deck, and they both found each Other's cards.

Vee had cards selected by two audience members and put in their pockets. Then he brought out a Rubik's Cube which he could instantly solve. He had a spectator mix a second cube, and showed he was able to arrange his cube to perfectly match their mix. A third cube he had an audience member mix and revealed it not only matched a cube he'd been keeping in an enclosed box, but also the picture of a cube on his t-shirt. He then had the spectator try to solve the cube behind their back. When they brought it out, they had solved it, and he also made the picture on his

shirt transform to a solved cube. Finally, he took a more elaborate cube (7x7) that an audience member had mixed and had it solve inside of a bag, to reveal two sides also named the cards selected at the beginning.

Geoff Weber

RING 55, PHOENIX, ARIZONA – Bert Easley / Danny Dew Ring

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00 pm, at Denny's, 3315 Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ / Web site: www.ring55.org
ROBERT RAY, President
E-mail: president@ibm55.com

Our Valentine's Day meeting theme was Connections and while not everyone stuck to the theme, the magic was good anyway. Ring President Robert Ray showed how to breathe new life into the classic "Crazy Man's Handcuffs" by performing it with a couple and not just by yourself. He then performed an effect with four cards chosen, shuffled into the deck, and then they appeared upside down in the pack. That led into a discussion about the Multiple Shift (D'Amico) that was used, with past Ring and I.B.M. International President Michael Finney suggesting a tweak to make the move more convincing. And that led into a discussion of Aldo Colombini's B.S. Control demonstrated by visiting Salt Lake City magi, Jess Cone, who followed that up with a nice "Coins Across" routine.

Ring Secretary Jay Jennings made a mental connection with three helpers using their cell phones and the Volpe/Wong/McCaig Multisensory Bags. The reception for doing psychometry with cell phones was enthusiastic.

Past Ring President David Goldberg performed Jim Krenz's "Ring Off Rope," which brought Jess back into play with a "Ring and String" routine.

Unofficial (but much appreciated!) club photographer Stuart Friedman performed a routine with rubber bands, complete with a "green" storyline which made the moves more than just a series of tricks. As usual, the performance initiated a discussion on ways to make the bands show up better, etc. (We like performing magic best, but talking about magic seems to run a close second!)

Tank Hanna, the Ring Vice President, performed a very nice "Card At A Number" routine he found that day on YouTube. The Ring secretary would have admonished him for coming up with something at the last minute, but then he'd have had to admonish himself, too, so it was just swept under the rug where it shall remain.

We all made some good connections with each other and can't wait for the meeting next month!

Jay Jennings

RING 58, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thu. 6:45 pm each month, Messiah Lutheran Church, 6900 Kingston Pke, Knoxville, TN 37919

Web site: ibmring58.com

VICTOR AGREDA, Jr., President

(865) 223-1401 / e-mail: vagredajr@gmail.com

Our February meeting is always full of excitement as we have lots of energy with just fourteen days until the start of another Winter Carnival of Magic... this time it's our 49th with a dozen performers coming in from around the country and around the world. Twenty-one people attended (including four members via Zoom and three guests) and we had the briefest of business before we prepared to share our "signature effects" for the evening in which thirteen participated.

Bill Osburn attempted to pass a key through a coin and then showed his impressive progress in making the eyes of Alexander move in one of his posters. Ed Ripley performed a signature piece of his creation with seemingly magnetized money and cards defying gravity. Giving a little show and tell, Victor Agreda showed off his Scott Evest, talked about the book *Bend It Like Geller*, and then got the rattle in a metal cup to vanish thanks to "Rubicup" by Rubi Ferez.

Our sponge creator, Tim Pressley, produced a marshmallow from an invisible purse and proceeded to do several bits of manipulation like it was a sponge ball – the only thing missing at the end were some warm toasted S'mores! John Gyllenhaal showed his newest signature effect that he started performing back in November where a miniature laptop computer appears from a borrowed cell phone, and then the laptop morphs into a signed selected card moments later. We were glad to have Ray Adams back at the meeting as he showed three months of progress juggling metal cups (first one, and progressively building up to six). Ray then filled us in on the history of mimes in France and shared his thoughts on the importance of character to an act.

Without musical accompaniment (...Wait! What?), Michael Priestap had nine random cards given to him from a borrowed deck and did an impressive Lie Detector revelation. Jim Stott talked about his signature warm-up effects for children's shows including how he picks volunteers and uses a few different props like the visual coloring of a clown drawing. Our guest and former member (who needs to rejoin the Ring!), Caleb Bailey, did a "Karate Coin" with a Sharpie and then found two selected cards in a very clean manner from a deck split in two.

Having read the whole book, Jack Wilson highly recommended the *Neon Dreams* book by Lance Rich which gives an enthralling history of magic in the town of Las Vegas. Bill Sturgis had taken a table-top card effect and turned it into more of a stage piece as a queen is put in a card box and it switched places very visually with an ace that had been left out of the box. Our favorite mentalist of the group, Roy Schubert, was at it again with another original creation where his volunteer was guided by an amulet and the number three. Finally, Tom Vorjohan via Zoom talked about his signature close-up effect: “Ring and String,” and how he had learned it from Dan Flesman in the early ‘90s at one of Tom’s first Winter Carnivals. He also did his version of “Kate and Edith,” and reiterated the thoughts of Ray Adams about sticking to your character. This was a great evening of magic!

Tom Vorjohan

RING 60, AUSTIN, TEXAS – Carl Moore Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00, at Hero’s Night Out in Cedar Park.
TRIXIE BOND, President / E-mail: trixie@trixiebond.com
Web site: www.ibmring60.org

On Tuesday March 4, 2024, members of I.B.M. Ring 60 gathered at Heroes Night Out for our monthly meeting, with the lead topic of Street Magic. We began with our now traditional drawing for vintage effects from the magic legacy of magician Alvin Gentil.

Next, the history presentation this month was brought to the group by member Burt Rosenbluth. Burt did a tremendous amount of research and presented an intense and detailed history of magician William Ellsworth Robinson known also as Chung Ling Soo. After many iterations of his persona, Robinson / Soo found success in England performing as a Chinese illusionist which he impersonated both on and off the stage. This not surprisingly led to an ongoing rivalry with Chinese magician Ching Lung Foo. Chung Ling Soo’s storied career ended abruptly when he died after a failed on-stage bullet catch trick. The trick in question was named “Condemned to Death by the Boxers” in which two assistants fired a gun at the magician at point blank range, the bullet caught from mid-air, often with his teeth. Burt will be back with another captivating magic history episode at our May meeting.

For the main event, long time accomplished performer John Maverick took to the stage for a presentation on street magic. His set up for the street was compact and efficient. His performance was expansive and expert. Maverick took us through the tools of his trade, and the ways in which his productions and materials were flexible, depending on the situations and crowds. We

were treated to many of his favorites and standards, as well as a discussion of the history of street magic in Austin, and real-life tips for performing successfully and safely. We were graciously afforded the opportunity to ask a variety of questions, and we benefited greatly from the depth of his experience.

Each month we have open mic opportunities for performances of tricks related to or adapted for the month’s meeting topic. We ended the meeting with Scott Wells, JD Stewart, Bertil Fredstrom, and Kent Cummins stepping up and performing materials from their repertoires adapted for a street venue. *Tricia Heil Davis*

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 February 2024 meeting of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 63 was held at the Shepherd’s Care Assisted Living Center in Greenville, SC. The February meeting theme was Money Magic! We had nine performances after our February magic meeting.

Our first performer was Larry Colombo who performed an excellent card trick involving two decks of cards and a freely audience derived card (7C). That card was found to be missing in one deck and found in the other deck which included two 7Cs. Wow! Larry also performed an oldie but goodie, using the Baker Dunninger Slate (an old version of “Add-A-Number”). After the meeting, Larry showed us all an old chalk mentalism book test where the slate had a built-in crib sheet that was invisible to the audience. Thanks for sharing all this ‘gold’ with us Larry.

Don Carpenter was our next performer and took four coins out of his manly change purse and openly changed them to one coin! Then, a spectator opened his manly change purse only to find the coins that had mysteriously disappeared earlier. Nicely done Don.

Glenn Strange was next with a performance of Blake Vogt’s “Torn and Restored Scotch Tape” in his own inimitable style.

Rhett Bryson followed Glenn with a trick involving a signed dollar bill which was placed in a hanky and held by a spectator. With a magical whoosh the half dollar disappeared from the hanky. Three wooden boxes on display were examined by the spectator and a box was freely selected. After unlocking this box, the signed half dollar was found to be inside that box! Now that is real magic.

Past member Rick Fuller attended the February meeting with his wife Sophie and performed a trick with a signed half dollar that disappeared

from a leather holder only to reappear inside a nest of wallets. Rick also performed a card trick where a card was selected by a spectator only to appear on a fifty-two and one gag card inside his Himber Wallet. LOL. Then again correctly on the other side of the wallet. Then he revealed he had numerous other duplicate selected cards in his wallet, for a funny ending to this trick.

Jimmy Dellaccio demonstrated he can perform miracles too. Producing a coin piece by piece from his bare hands and then making a card go through a dollar bill without any holes in the dollar or the card. What? Wow!

John Dahlinger was next with yet another coin routine that had us all scratching our heads in amazement involving three coins and a washer. And a bill penetration trick too! John Dahlinger is I.B.M. Ring 63's unofficial coin man extraordinaire.

Paul DiLella entertained us all with Obie O'Brien's "Big Bucks" money trick where giant one-dollar bills changed to giant one-hundred-dollar bills. And followed this up with Rick Lax's "Money Comes and Goes."

And finally, Steve Taylor closed the show with two coin tricks he claimed helped him pick up girls in his 'yoot.' Paul Harris' "PDQ Coins Across" and David Roth's "Winged Silver." And you thought Steve was just a card man!

As usual, lots of magic, fellowship, and sharing on this magical night. If you are ever in the Greenville, SC area on the first Wednesday of the month, please contact our Secretary Paul DiLella for information and join us! *Paul DiLella*

RING 70, TACOMA, WASHINGTON – Great Virgil and Julie Ring

Meets 4th Sun., at LeMay Car Museum, 2702 E. D St., Tacoma, Fife, WA.
RICK ANDERSON, Ring Contact,
501 S. 43rd St., Tacoma, WA 98408 / (253) 473-5456
E-mail: rickandersonmagic@gmail.com

We are getting through the winter with the help of Magic Club meetings. Our attendees were Karl Hilsenberg, Dave Peltó, Frank Giaquinto, Carl Chalker, and Mike Hoyles. Discussions abounded about the upcoming I.B.M. Convention in our fair city, Tacoma, Washington. If you are attending know there is a wonderful car museum (the LeMay America's Car Museum) here that ought to be visited. This is where we hold our meetings. The building consists of several floors of cars of every age and description. For the old timers it is a stroll down memory lane. Don't miss it.

Karl Hilsenberg showed us his Funkin Ring. There were sparks everywhere. He also did some nifty steps in a card routine in which after every step he told us that "others would stop there," but he will "Go One Step Further." A

spectator selected a number between ten and twenty and that number was used to go down to a card which was a spade. Then mysteriously all the cards turned to spades. Then five cards were dealt and when turned over we saw a Royal Flush. Ten cards were dealt to the table two at a time. With each pair, the spectator could choose one to keep. The other was set aside. At the end, the spectator had the losing hand.

Dave Peltó laid out nine cards face down. The spectator was to point to two cards, and one was removed. This continued until the remaining card matched a prediction.

Mike Hoyles commented that when doing shows where there are children present, it is best to have as many of them "help" the magician as possible. He showed us a hula hoop with a fishing net threaded on it. The idea is that four spectators are to hold the hoop horizontal, and the magician would throw the deck of cards to the net and the spectator's card would magically jump from the deck and a fifth spectator would be positioned to catch it. This means five "helpers" plus the one who chose the "forced card." With the action, the spectator's card remained in the magician's hand!

Michael Hoyles

RING 71, CINCINNATI, OHIO – W.W. Durbin Ring-J. Ronald Haines

Meeting dates vary per month, 7:00 p.m. at Springfield Nazarene Church, 11177 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45246.

Please check website, www.Ring71.com for upcoming events.

CHARLIE MEYER, President / Email: charlie.cadabra@yahoo.com

Facebook: International Brotherhood of Magicians - J. Ronald Haines - W.W. Durbin Ring 71

Our January meeting was held a week early so as not to conflict with the Columbus, Ohio MagiFest. The theme of the meeting was "New Magic." The idea was to demonstrate any new magic that you received over the holidays or new routines that you are working on.

We held our holiday banquet in early February. There were forty-one members and guests in attendance. We had a chicken and roast beef buffet with potatoes, vegetables, salads, rolls, and cake for dessert.

After dinner the evening entertainment was provided by Mark Comley. Mark did an hour of comedy magic. After the magic show, we had a raffle and then I.B.M. International President Chuck Arkin and First Lady Laurie posed for pictures with our Ring members. Chuck wore his Presidential Regalia.

To end the evening, Charlie Meyer, our Ring 71 president made a white rabbit appear from an empty box. It was the largest rabbit that I have ever seen in a magic production. Cinde Wolf brought her white rabbit, Trixie, to let us hold and pet. It was about one tenth the size of the

rabbit that Charlie produced.

We had fourteen members in attendance at our February regular Ring meeting. The theme was "Money Magic." Larry Payne showed us how to make a coin pass through a silk. Then Gerald Ralston performed several card tricks. The highlight was a no sleight "Twisting the Aces." Rick Bross performed a one-to-ten-dollar effect followed by a Mark Mason effect called "Dollar Bill to Selected Card." Cinde Wolf demonstrated a Bill Pryor "Two Dollar Bill to Two Singles" and then to a larger bill. She then did a "One to Five Dollar Bill Switch." Charlie Meyer closed the evening with several money tricks and then did a demonstration of David Williamson's "Coin Strike Vanish." Coins and wands were provided so the members could practice the vanish. *Al Scheide*

RING 74, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK – Harris A. Solomon Ring

Meets 3rd Thu of every month 7:30pm. For current meeting details and venue, please contact:

KEN FREHM, President / E-mail: kfrehm@gmail.com

JOEY HOFFMAN, Secretary / E-mail: joeydemonmagic@gmail.com

February's in-person meeting was another great one! Eleven of us came out to talk and share magic, including one of our newest prospects, Casie Schoenfelder. He performed his ten-minute routine and was unanimously accepted into our Ring. Congratulations, we look forward to seeing more of you!

Casie started the night off with his routine. He did a version of the "Professor's Nightmare" and ended it with looping a rope around his neck, and with a pull, it went straight through his neck, keeping the loop intact. He also did a great sponge ball routine that we found very humorous, as well as making small objects disappear, and changed colors. We really appreciated your passion, welcome to our club!

Matt Timian handed out a coin and had it signed, then took another coin and signed it himself. He wrapped our coin in a napkin and then handed his coin to Dave to hold onto. With a magical gesture, Matt instructed us to open up the napkin, revealing the coins had switched! Matt's coin was now in the napkin, and Dave had our signed coin.

I performed an effect with two decks of cards. One deck is left in the box on the table, and the other is opened, and two cards are selected. After the cards are lost in the deck, the deck is spread fairly face up, with the two selected cards nowhere to be found. The other deck is then opened and spread out, revealing two face down cards. They're turned over and match the chosen cards.

Bruce Purdy had two packets of circus cards,

one blue and one red. We selected a packet for us and one for Bruce. We both mixed up our packets and placed them down. The cards were then turned over revealing a perfect match each time! He then grabbed a little black bag and began pulling massive wands out of it; so massive they were touching the ceiling!

Steve Tichy performed a visual effect where a large coin was wrapped in a piece of silk and handed out to be felt. With a wave of his magical items, the coin vanished right before our eyes.

Michael Melice, another new prospect, had a deck with fifty-two different backed cards. He had us select two cards, stopping wherever we wanted. The cards were turned over showing that both cards were Fives of Hearts. He turned the rest of the deck over, and every other card was a Nine of Clubs!

Thomas Yeldon took out a deck and had us name any card. The deck was spread out and our chosen card had an "X" on the front of it. He did this three times, each time only our selected card having an "X" on it. Afterwards, he shuffled the deck and had Ken name a card. The deck was spread revealing all the cards to be blank, except Ken's named card.

Ken Frehm showed us four kings and four queens, turned them over, and laid them into two piles. He turned one king face up and placed it in the queen pile. The same was done with a queen, placing it in the king pile. He then flipped the cards in the queen pile over and they all had switched to kings! Ken had us cut to the middle of the deck, and we cut to a joker. The remaining cards on the table were turned over and revealed to be jokers, and the rest of the queens were now in the center of the deck.

As it stands, the date for our Zoom meetings will be the second Thursday of the month, and our in-person meetings will be the third Thursday of the month. Both meetings start at 7, so try to sign on or get there a little before. Interested? Email kfrehm@gmail.com and a link will be sent to. We welcome all! *Joey Hoffman*

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 March meeting of I.B.M. Ring 75, Fort Smith, AR was held Sunday, March 10 at the Fort Smith Library. Seven members were present. As this was our last meeting before the upcoming Cavalcade of Magic in Eureka Springs, most of the discussion involved wrapping up final details for that event.

The Cavalcade of Magic will be Friday and Saturday, March 22 and 23, with a night-before

gathering and magic auction on Thursday, March 21. The location is the same as always, the convention center behind Best Western Inn of the Ozarks. This is a small convention and very friendly. Ask anyone who has been there!

After the business portion, most attendees demonstrated their skills. President Larry Bean presented a color prediction using a drawing and several colors of markers and a drawing of a face. After all the "predictions" in his envelope proved wrong, he provided the correct answer by producing a Styrofoam head with all the features presented in the correct color.

Ken Zelnick offered a "show and ask" about an effect he found in a box of odds and ends. It was identified as Adams' "Jiffy Coin." Patrick Kelly asked questions and received answers concerning a coin sleight he is working on. Vice President Jody Birchfield presented a version of "Cups and Balls." Clyde Hayre demonstrated "Coins through Table" and a card location. President Larry wrapped things up with an excellent mind reading effect, after which he was burned as a witch. (Just kidding, he's still alive and well.)

After the meeting, several members recessed to reconvene at a local coffee shop. *Ken Zelnick*

RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – Honest Sid Gerhart Ring

Meets 7:00 pm 2nd Mon. of the month at Immaculate Conception Church located at 2540 San Diego Ave., San Diego, CA 92110

MATTHEW KING, Secretary / Web site: www.ring76.com

Ring 76 holds two official "contests" every year and in February the close-up artists got the spotlight. In front of thirty-five members and twenty-two guests, eight contestants captivated the crowd with a dazzling display of legerdemain and personality. This year was also the first time that a camera and big screen system was utilized so that everyone in the audience got a good seat.

The meeting was opened by President Josh Sherwin who welcomed guests and announcements of magical interest to the members. Jeff Pearson announced that Gracie Morgan was going to once again conduct lessons in card magic and encouraged members who are interested to contact her in El Cajon. Max Long asked for help locating Diana, the daughter of late Ring member George Edwards. She had indicated some business with the Ring and Max wishes to deal with this. Paul Dwork reminded us of the charity event with performances from magicians on Saturday, March 16th at 7 p.m. at the Carlsbad Cultural Center.

With business concluded President Sherwin turned the meeting over to the Vice President of Entertainment Magic Mike Stilwell. He called

upon Ring Librarian Gary Salisbury to conduct the opportunity drawing and then auctioned off magic replicas of Walking Liberty half dollars with shells. The bid went to Misha Osinovsky. After that Magic Mike reminded the audience and contestants of the rules for the night's competition. The eight entertainers would each be doing no more than eight-minute routines and only members in good standing would vote on whom they thought was the best of the evening. Winners will be announced at the Installation Banquet in July. Magic Mike thanked Mark Booth for orchestration the camera and system and Michael Callahan, who would be the official timer for the event. With everyone and everything set, the entrants were ready to begin.

First up was Mark Booth whose act consisted of three effects. The first was Erik Casey's "Poker Test 2.0" where five blank cards became a royal flush and the color of the back of the cards changed. This was followed by having "helper" Miguel Garcia mix four red and four black cards which Mark magically separated. Finally, Miguel was amazed to find that a card he had selected earlier had vanished from the deck only to turn up in a pocket he was holding the whole time.

Ms. Charley was up next with Laurie Pearson and guest Eric to help her. The routine was called, "Fabulous Club Family." The cards would "hold their breath and turn blue." She started with "Chicago Opener" and then did "Ambitious Classic" with her final revelation being a signed card with the current time written on it.

Barry Wallis was the third performer, with the assistance of Josh Sherwin, who worked with cards to "keep track of details." He performed a signed card trick, a version of Omni Deck.

Next Ken Intriligator, with the help of a guest volunteer William, demonstrated "Quantum Entanglement" with the Schrodinger's Cat game (live or dead). This is a thought experiment where if you seal a cat in a box with something that can eventually kill it, you won't know if the cat is dead or alive until you open the box and observe the cat, the cat is simultaneously dead and alive. Ken, in deference to the audience, used pictures of felines and softened the wording, insuring those present that the cat is, "not dead, just sad." The effect was concluded to everyone's satisfaction, including the caricatured feline. Ken's finale was a sponge ball routine with expressions on them and many sponge balls appeared.

The fifth entertainer was Greg Wauson who used Laurie Pearson and Sal Barajas to aid him. First, he performed a classic "Gypsy Thread"

using Dental Floss. Next, Greg did a rendition of Paul Curry's "Out of this World," an ESP test with a deck of cards that gave Laurie and Sal many options to shuffle and deal.

Max Long was up next. His performing philosophy this evening was "always manage your pockets," knowing where your wand, silk, or rope is located. This endeavor was most entertaining. Then he demonstrated how he got a hundred-dollar tip (his biggest tip) by doing a "Ring on Rope" routine.

"Mr. Fantastic" was the seventh performer, who had two guests, Misha and Jordan, aid him with his, "What If?" questions. Using the famous *Pink Panther* theme and dressed in a floppy purple hat with the calico cat wrapped around his neck from *Alice in Wonderland*. Next, Mr. Fantastic asked his volunteers to "pick your nose," which was a lighthearted version of "Find the Pea" with three silicone noses on the table. Each spectator had a wand with a Mickey Mouse pointer, to pick the nose they thought the pea was under. A fanciful routine attributed to Whit Hayden.

The last magician of the competition was Alphonso Vazquez who deftly performed a classic "Cups and Balls Mystery" which started with the small plastic set many of us "cut our teeth" on and progressed to a full set of bronze cups with a final load of oranges.

With that, ballots were passed out, voting commenced, and the Ring was reminded that next month's theme was going to be *Strolling Magic*. See you then. *Sherry Luft*

RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. "Social Gathering," 7:00 p.m. start time. First Methodist Church, 104 S. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL
GARY ROBERTS, President
E-MAIL: gary@robertsgary.com / Web site: www.ibmring81.com

Our March meeting was full of people who loved magic – more than half of the twenty attending got up to perform. If you are in the area, or just visiting, and like to perform or watch magic – you need to consider stopping by on the first Thursday of the month!

President Gary Roberts opened the meeting and discussed club business and announced that our next regular meeting on April 4th will feature a lecture by the legendary Terry Ward. Gary also announced that our October meeting will feature a mentalism lecture by Laurance Hookway which was a huge success in Tampa a month ago.

Refreshments were provided by Brian Zimble's wife, Christine, with quite an array of cheese, crackers, and French macarons for dessert.

Frank Velasco presented this month's Teach-

a-Trick for the evening; it was a Eugene Burger effect called "Strange Coincidence" which was enjoyed by everyone.

The theme for the night was to perform an effect that you never performed in front of an audience before, and twelve members performed: Nick Benevento, Dan Walsh, Brian Zimble, Jack Walters, Star Newman, Bob Banta, Hal Ackerman, Frank Valesco, Lar Hookway, Bruce Young, Dick Stevens, and Gary Roberts. We had cards, nuts and bolts, some red rope, a prediction in a coffee cup, a book test, some funny jumbo cards, some really big money on "Bank Night," a Magic Square, and even a little poison!

We can't say that we haven't performed these pieces in front of an audience any longer. This was a fun night to say the least!

Tom Vorjohan and Gary Roberts

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 March meeting. We discussed our Albuquerque show in October and possible plans for a show next year. The Ring Board of Directors was elected for 2024: Dave Dunlap President; Charles Schroeder VP; Bill Fienning Secretary; Tom Plunkett Treasurer, and David Ryan Sergeant-at-Arms.

Our topic for the meeting was to perform a trick from a book in your library or the club library. Charles Schroeder's source was *Mini Magic Marvels*. The spectator freely chose a number on the face of a watch. Then by counting around the dial as the spectator spelled the name of the number, eventually a final number was selected which had been correctly predicted. Our resident Bizarrist, Bill Fienning, never does anything as it was written. Using Barrie Richardson's "Impromptu Card at Any Number" method, he told of Sobek, the crocodile god of ancient Egypt, whom people worshipped in hope that he would protect them from being eaten. Before Bill started dealing tarot cards, he loaned a crocodilian foot to a spectator. Sobek did protect the spectator by stopping the dealing of tarot cards, just before two very bad cards were dealt. Bill also did his version of "Sole Survivor" from *Magic and Meaning*, using a tarot deck (instead of a regular deck) while telling the story of a medieval English village whose inhabitants, except Death itself, were killed by diseases. Bill likes these cheerful stories.

From Tom Stone's *Deserting the Legion*,

Dave Dunlap performed a book test using two books. A word selected in the first book was predicted using the second book. Tom Plunkett cited *Scarne on Cards* for a card trick. The spectator shuffled the deck and divided it into two piles. A card was selected by the spectator and inserted into the other pile and mixed. A number determined by the one pile was used to count down in the pile holding the selected card, where it was found. Jim Oliver did "Triumph" from *Arch Triumphs* using a different method with a breather card. Tom Karas presented a trick from *Tricks of the Imagination*. He had a misprinted OHIO sign that was finally corrected by having the word OHIO displayed correctly on both sides of the sign.

Brenda Lamon presented a nice coin production and "Coins through Handkerchief" from *Ammar's Encore 3*. Ken Flack did a self-working card trick from the Fulves book, *Self-Working Card Tricks*. Bill Fienning

RING 92, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA – The Vancouver Magic Circle (Charles Howard Ring)

Meets 4th Thurs. except July, Aug. and Dec., 7:00 pm, Sunrise Community Hall, 1950 Windermere St., Vancouver, B.C.
YOOSIK OUM, President

E-mail: yoosikoum@gmail.com / Web site: www.ibmring92.com

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting took place on Thursday, February 22, 2024. February is the night where the awards, banquet, and show take place. Because of the magic festival that is taking place in March, some of the March events have been moved up to the February meeting. This is to coincide with the magic festival that is being put together by Past International President Shawn Farquhar and also the Children's Magician of the Year competition.

Greg Dietlein introduced Donovan Atreides who was the workshop presenter for the evening. Donovan opened his workshop with a salt pour routine, production of giant coins, and a transfer of four coins to an Okito box. He also talked about street magic. Well done Donovan. Everyone enjoyed his workshop.

The swearing in of the new executive for the 2024 magic year took place. Presiding over the swearing in ceremony was Past International President Alex Zander as he read out the duties and responsibilities of the new executive for the 2024 magic year. The executive being sworn in were President Yoosik Oum, first vice president Simon Cassegrain, second vice president Henry Tom (not present), secretary/treasurer Roy Hopwood, and sergeant-at-arms Dennis Chan. They all said, "I do." Congratulations to the new executive for the 2024 magic year.

The competitions for the evening were for the

Cecil Ackery Comedy Trophy for adults and the Rick Honey Comedy Trophy for juniors. There were no entrants for the Cecil Ackery Trophy. Roy Hopwood did a Fred Kaps presentation of Ken Brooke's "Sidewalk Shuffle." Blake Aleong was the only entrant for the Rick Honey Trophy. Past S.A.M. National President Rod Boss read the rules for this competition. The timekeeper was Simon Cassegrain. Blake scored enough points to win the Rick Honey Trophy. Congratulations to Blake. Blake's grandmother was on hand to see him win this trophy. Blake is a very serious junior magician. Traditionally in the past, the winners of the contests received their contest certificates at the awards, banquet, and show evening in February. But because of time limitations, it was decided to hand out the certificates at the February meeting instead. This was done to ensure that the guests and members would enjoy a full evening of magic. Yoosik Oum handed out the certificates. The recipients were Rod Boss for the Cecil Ackery Trophy, Roy Hopwood for the Charles Howard Trophy, Past International President Billy Hsueh for the H.B. MacLean Trophy, Blake Aleong for the Dick Gardner Trophy, Simon Cassegrain for the Ray Gamble Trophy, Vincent Lee and Blake Aleong for their wand holder's degree, Daniel Schwartz for the Tip Top and Tootsie Trophy, Billy Hsueh for the William Shelly Trophy, and Jack Schwartz for the Percy Poole Trophy. Yoosik Oum also handed out the loyalty pins. Congratulations everyone. Yoosik handed out the Kramien Trophy to Blake Aleong for showmanship. Billy Hsueh was awarded the Murray Award for the most creative magical performance during the course of the year. Simon Cassegrain was awarded the Dave Culos Memorial Trophy for the Golden Rabbit Award. Shawn Farquhar received the President's Award. Congratulations everyone and also to all the performers and members who took their time to support the club's activities.

During the business portion of the meeting, Yoosik reminded the members about the banquet on Wednesday, March 27 at Stefano's Restaurant. Shawn Farquhar gave a presentation about the Magic Festival in New Westminster which starts on Monday, March 25 through to Saturday, March 30. The festival will end with the Children's Magician of the Year competition at Rick Bronson's house of comedy. Other magical performers for the evening were Michael Glenister, John Stenning, Rod Boss, and Vitaily. It was nice to see two long time members, David Hamil and Denzil John Asche, show up at a meeting. We haven't seen them for quite a while. Rod Boss and Graham Kita supplied the

refreshments. Thanks to Kim Fabbro for giving me a ride to and from the meeting. There were thirty-four members and six guests in attendance.

Dennis Chan

RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club

3rd Sun., 7:00pm, Hy-Vee meeting room, 400 Locust St., Dubuque, Iowa
BOB BEARDSLEY, President, (563) 556-8584
E-mail: rbeardsly@Q.com

Emcee Rob Gomoll started the meeting with the club song, a poem, “A Prayer for Magicians,” and a math-trick incorporated in his poem.

I knew this guy who sold shoes. / He was single and always had the blues. / Beautiful, rich women would try on pair after pair. / But treat him as if he weren't even there. / When he used the Brannock Device and found their shoe size. / They'd never even look in his eyes. / Then one gal came into the store. / She was new: he had never seen her before. / Dozens of shoes this new gal tried on... / From Gucci to Louis Vuitton. / “I'd like something to match my handbag.” / She addressed him by name, looking at his tag. / Could it be this was Fate's plan, / That she'd be interested in a shoe salesman? / She took her time, tried on every shoe they stocked. / Then their eyes locked. / This is something he never dared think of / Could this be true love? / To lose her now would be tragic! / “I know,” he thought, “I'll use magic!” / “If I guessed your age, what would you think?” / “I'd think you were a wizard,” she said with a wink. / “I know your shoe size. You'll see. / “If I find your age, will you go out with me?” / She acted coy, / And said, “Okay, you magic boy.” / He looked deep into her eyes. / “First add two zeroes to your shoe size.” / Then he said, as he waved his shoehorn, “Subtract it from the year you were born.” /

He could smell her Chanel as he hovered near. / “Now subtract that difference from the current year.” / “The first number is your shoe size, the second is your age.” / She said, “Well, aren't you some math sage!” / “We can't go on our date. I have a few hours more.” / “No, you don't,” she said, “My Daddy owns the entire store!” / Now they're happily married, living in the Hollywood Hills. / He never has to worry about paying his bills. / He never again has to work in shoe sales. / Now with magic tricks, his beautiful bride he regales. / And he has a standing-room-only show / At the local casino. / Learn a magic trick or two. / You never know where it will lead you!

Our Matron of Magic, Phyllis Fishnick led the pack showing a red and white silk sheet in a change-bag. “What do you expect these to change into? A candy cane? No, that was the last

holiday. I know: a valentine!” Out came a white silk with a big red heart on it. “Well, considering there is so much love in this room, let's try it again.” This time out came a six-foot streamer lined with red hearts! Her next effect used different colored rings.

Member Andrew Thill reprised his routine of “The Card Trick that Fooled Shin Lim” and his bill-switch. Kaden Juers, our youngest member, performed three tricks. One, in a see-through container, he made several small dice disappear and turn into one large die. Two, he changed a black magic wand into a red one. Last, he made a ball appear and disappear out of a box.

Walking Magic Bob Beardsley stated that since he was such a nice guy, he would teach the club members a card trick. His effect utilized jumbo playing cards. Next Bob brought out a bank money bag and dumped many different coins on the table. He also gave a sealed prediction to member Phyllis to hold for safe keeping. A spectator shook up and dumped the coins repeatedly until only one coin was left. To the amazement of all the coin was a 1977 Nickel, which matched the prediction that was in plain view the whole time! Bob ended by re-visiting and teaching his version of “Two-in-the-Hand, One-in-the Pocket” using Australian pennies. Bob also gave one of our youngest members, Kaden some tips on how to perform the ball and vase effect.

Member Reverend Jim McCrea, a Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church in Galena, Illinois, for thirty years, performed his favorite close-up trick again, “Clones” by Patrick Martin.

To end the meeting, club President Chris Westemeier performed a couple of classic packet tricks using over-sized cards. First, was “Twins” by Brother John Hamman. Chris followed with an over-sized “Twisting the Aces” by Dai Vernon. Last, he performed Sam Huang's “Crazy Sam's Handcuffs” causing to rubber bands at his fingertips to pass through one another. He and Rob traded different ways to do the rubber band handcuff illusion at the end of the meeting.

Rob Gomoll

RING 94, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND – The King Ring

Meets 4th Weds. each month, 7:30 p.m., Hagerstown American Legion,
Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD / Web site: www.kingmagicring.com
JOHN SWOMLEY, President / E-mail: johnnyo@trickyperson.com

This month, King Magic Ring had a surprising number of guests. That made us so happy. And there was no food involved. Our master of ceremonies for this *Linking Ring* Night was the very clever Max Mixell. *Linking Ring* Night is an interesting night where members are encouraged to select something interesting from an issue of *The Linking Ring* (TLR) to present.

Charlie James (Khan-Du & Co.) started the evening with some mentalism. Five matchboxes, containing different colored blocks hidden inside, were distributed. One was selected as the target color, out of view of Charlie. The matchboxes were placed into a paper bag and mixed. After some concentration, Mr. James announced the selected color. Then he shared an uncanny card force from an issue of *TLR* with a Joe Bruno Parade.

David Wayne (Bowers) came well-prepared to tell us a story. It was the story of Percy, the persistent grandson of a candy store owner. Young Percy had difficulty finding just the right job but using "Strat-O-Sphere" David showed us that Percy had a propensity toward sorting gumdrops. Then Mr. Bowers shared the story of Noah's Ark with the gag bag/story bag. This, of course, ended with a lovely production of a rainbow.

Jerry Mullenix revisited the "Animental" cards from the previous meeting and showed us a curious twist. He asked everyone to think of an image that they see. With a shake he declared that the thought of images were now at the bottom. And they were.

Chuck Thomas (Jones) performed his very personal version of Puck's "Unbalanced." He made a balance stack of everyday objects impossibly balanced atop of one another. Chuck spoke about keeping balance in show business all the while.

Johnny-O! (John Swomley) took the *TLR* challenge to heart. He dug up a mystery from over forty years ago. He found that a close friend who passed away in 2013 was actually a new member of this very club in 1983. Don Weltmer was a new member then, in 1984, he moved to Harrisburg, PA to pastor a church. No one currently a member had a clue, even John. Then Mr. Swomley chose a dice trick from the most recent issue of *TLR* using two different colored dice. Out of view spectator, Jason Wratchford, rolled the dice and did some random calculations. The magician was then able to announce the number on each of the die by color.

Louis Paul led us all down the garden path when he had a card selected and had us all perform various counts and procedures only to arrive at the wrong card. Louis pulled out an abacus and... zip! The beads arranged themselves in the pattern of the selected card. Yes, Louis Paul Productions makes these.

Our final act of the night was guest, Kyle Bass. Kyle presented the ever-filling flask with glasses, where each glass received liquid from the one flask in a different color. It was a faith-filled object lesson about life's purpose.

John Swomley

RING 96, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA— Merlin Eifert Ring

Meets 3rd Sat., 7:00 pm at the Seal Beach North Community Center,
3333 Saint Cloud Dr., Seal Beach, CA
Web site: www.Ring96.com

CLIFF GERSTMAN, Secretary / E-mail: Cliffg37@verizonz.net

The February meeting of Ring 96 began with a pre-meeting workshop. Member Jon Strum taught us a four-ace production card trick close to self-working and was amazingly strong at fooling a lay audience. The trick relied on one very easy and simple sleight which Jon showed us, and we learned easily and quickly. Those who practice it will soon master this wonderful effect.

The meeting started off on a sad note. We performed a Broken Wand Ceremony for our magical friend Pierre Hathaway.

For tonight's meeting, we had an unusual lecture dealing with staging, the ins and outs of how to be on stage. The lecture featured Ring 96's John Engman, Kim Hallanger, and professional magic performer Michael Mezmer.

John Engman opened the lecture by defining the stage and giving some history of how the parts of a stage came to be named. He talked about different types of stages and different ways that curtains can be set up to create different areas of a stage. There is a correct way to walk on stage and an incorrect way as well. John believes you should use all the lighting you can as people on stage should be seen. He suggested that adding a little bit of "pink" lighting will mitigate the "washout" effect that most bright stage lights produce. If you are doing magic on stage, always work at your chest level to make sure the entire audience can see you. Always have blocking done before your show. Know where your props will be at all times. Use one three-by-five file card for each effect. The card lists everything you need for that part of the show. Be careful with volunteers, don't let them block you, other people, or the action on stage. Make sure you are speaking to and playing to the entire audience. Don't get stuck in one section. Your set should open with your strongest effect and close with the second strongest. If you are an emcee, your job is to keep the show moving, not do effects that take a long time. If the show runs too long, people will start to leave. This is not fair to your last performer. Always dress professionally for the show you are doing.

Kim came to the stage and taught us how to maintain proper posture on stage. She demonstrated different characters using different accents and voice inflections. Using a Russian character voice, Kim performed the "Needle through Balloon" trick. Dress appropriately for

your character, and always have an out if something goes wrong. Keep your energy very high, the audience will feel it.

Michael Mezmer came to the stage. His first suggestion was not to be normal. Being unusual and unique is how you get bookings. Dress comfortably, and wear make-up, for it will make you look better, and the audience will like you more. Always use music in your act, even if you have to pay for it. Michael performed a black ops web strap escape using two volunteers. This was his demonstration of how to handle volunteers on stage. Always tell them where to stand and what to do.

Kim ended the lecture by showing her stage "emergency kit" and all the things she carries "just in case" something goes wrong. Another exciting evening at Ring 96. *Cliff Gertsman*

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 topic for tonight was close-up magic, but before that we are now commencing our meetings with a member giving a talk on his chosen subject for a few minutes. Tonight, it was our hardest working member and treasurer Peter Wood who spoke on some of his philosophy of magic. He commenced by using the phrase, generally credited to Al Baker "Don't run when you aren't being chased." Peter explained that you shouldn't put suspicion on your props. "Why have rope examined? No trapdoors or magnets." Why would a spectator think that you would use magnets with rope? Don't give them any ideas. When you take your car to be serviced you don't ask to examine the wrench, so why would a spectator need to examine your props. Don't say "This is a normal pack of cards." What other kind are there? You don't have to get your pack of cards shuffled. Don't even suggest that they could be stacked. Are we magicians doing magic, or people doing tricks? Don't act superior, we are not showing puzzles, we are sharing a magical, a theatrical, experience.

Our host of the night John Kanawati had mentioned that the first time he had met Peter was eighteen years ago. At the time John was just a dabbler in magic and he had performed some magic to some preschoolers who received his performance with polite applause. Peter, a professional entertainer, was invited to perform to the same audience at a later date. The young audience on this occasion, although under control of the performer were loud, they yelled and shouted when required. They were fooled and entertained, and John realised that Peter Wood was a skilled children's entertainer. John then

showed the four jacks that mysteriously turned over one at a time. Instead of the traditional Vernon method of "Twisting the Aces" though,

John held the cards up high at chest level so that we were always seeing his face as we watched the effect. He was doing a great rendition of Guy Hollingsworth's "Waving the Aces."

John then introduced Phuoc Can Hua who performs at all our meetings. Tonight, he started with a jumbo card which had a large "U" shaped cut forming a window, or trapdoor with a flap. He invited a spectator to hold the flap and Phuoc explained that the spectator was on the top level of a building, that is the back of the card. The spectator was asked to close his eyes while Phuoc manipulated the card. When the spectator opened his eyes, he discovered he was now downstairs, that is at the face of the card, even though he had not released his hold of the flap. Phuoc had been performing Robert Neale's now classic "Trapdoor Card." Phuoc then showed three cards with lengths of rope illustrated on one side. There was a short length, a medium length and a long length. By turning the cards face down and rearranging them Phuoc showed that the rope lengths were now equal, then the three ropes finally became one.

John then re-introduced Peter Wood. Peter had a spectator grab a handful of cards out of the pack and count them. Another spectator cut to a card to select a suit and a third spectator took some cards and counted them to get a value. The number was thirty-five, the suit cut to was spades and the value was a queen. The deck of cards was counted, and the thirty fifth card was shown to be the Queen of Spades. This was a version of "ACAN" from Dani DaOrtiz.

John then introduced Conway Restom by telling us that his first exposure to Mentalism was from Conway. Conway using a "Y" shaped divining rod managed to locate a chosen card. He then divined the spots of a thrown die by circling the numbers from one to six on a pad. As he circled the chosen number a hat pin stuck in the pad moved mysteriously in a circle.

Anthony Dillon was next. He started with a white dice which didn't have any spots. Taking a white plastic rod, with many spots on it, he caused the spots to move from the rod to the dice whilst the dice was concealed in a spectators hand. He then showed a small bolt. He screwed the nut on securely and dropped it into a cylindrical container. When removed the nut had mysteriously come off the bolt.

John then introduced Peter Rodgers who performed John Bannon's "Chop Shop" and Brent Braun's "Position Impossible."

Clement Kwok followed with his rendition of

“Three Fly” using three Morgan dollars with the final transfer to a spectators hand. He then had a spectator time him on their phone whilst he solved a Rubik’s Cube. He then said that he would beat his record whilst blindfolded, but not with one, but four cubes. He finished in forty-three seconds, but when he removed his blindfold he discovered that none of the cubes had been solved. Not deterred, he put the four cubes together, turned them over and showed that the pattern of colours showed the number forty-three. He then restored each cube, some behind his back, almost instantly.

John Kanawati came back on with four dominoes which kept changing places in a bewildering way. He then introduced Michael Giblin who dealt six ESP cards face down on the table. A spectator rolled an invisible die which he said landed on a six. Michael gave the option, what end do we count from? The ESP symbol landed on agreed with a prediction in an envelope that had been on display. This was Michaels rendition of Steve Cook’s “Symbol Pro.”

Tony Finch doesn’t come to many meetings but tonight he showed a clear plastic bag containing two coins. One coin was named by a spectator and Tony removed the coin mysteriously from the bag which remained sealed and proved not to have any holes.

Barry Abkin had a spectator write any word on a card which was folded into quarters. Barry then divined the mystery word. He then performed the next effect with his right hand in his pocket. Holding the pack of cards in his left hand a spectator glimpsed a card. That card vanished from the pack and was now brought out of his pocket in his right hand. This was “Get Sharky.”

With the night coming to an end Conway asked John if he could come on with one more effect. He had a card chosen, it was signed and lost in the pack. The cards then suddenly appeared inside a clear balloon and the signed card was pulled out through the blood up balloons. Conway was demonstrating Jay Sankey’s famous “Card in Balloon” routine.

John came back and thanked all the performers. Tonight, he had done a great job of introducing all the performers with interesting anecdotes about each one. The night concluded with great discussions over our tea and biscuits. *Peter Rodgers*

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 / Website: www.IBMRing105.org.
TONY METZE, Acting Secretary / Email: tonymetze@yahoo.com
Facebook: Columbia Magic Club IBM Ring 105

Members of Ring 105 once again gathered at the home of Dr. Tony Metze for special Leap

Year meeting, February 29, 2024. In attendance were Tony, I.B.M. Territorial V.P. Ricker (Rich) Soos, Mike Kimble, and Greg Edmonds. A guest, Adam Stahl, who is preparing to enter dental school, was also present. This was Adam’s first foray into the secrets of magic; he proved to be an enthusiastic student and is interested in ways to use magic as a means of helping him connect with dental school entrance officers, and in interacting with his future patients.

The four members present, whose collective magic experience, combined, represents well over 150 years, shared some basic sleight of hand techniques with him, as well as a few psychological applications that help to make magic presentations more memorable. Rich explained some basic sleights with small white sponges (which could be fashioned into the shape of teeth), as well as several other techniques. Mike Kimble shared some basic card presentations, as well as a very clever gospel routine involving a torn and restored sheet of paper.

Greg suggested the paddle move using a swizzle stick (from a program he’d developed for healthcare professionals back in the 1990s) which features a drawing of “germ” on one side, while being blank on the other side of the placard at the terminal end of the stick. Tony explained the subtleties of employing the arm and wrist to help conceal the paddle move, with the larger “move” helping to conceal the smaller. Tony also shared the venerable jumping rubber band effect, which has been a favorite fooler of children (and many adults) for generations.

Several simple (and a few not-so-simple) ideas followed, with all Ring 105 members sharing rope magic effects including self-tying knots, vanishing knots, ring on and off, and the vanishing a short length of rope or a shoestring. Some basic sleight of hand with cards came next, demonstrated not so much as devices Adam might use in his future dental practice, but as a means to further explain basic principles of magic entertainment. Rich showed some basic matrix coin moves, and gifted Adam with a terrific small wooden box filled with silks, a thumb tip, rubber bands, and various other easily carried pieces of apparatus. Tony gave Adam a copy of the newly published book *The Ultimate Guide to Magic*, by Joshua Jay and Andy Gladwin, as well.

A bit of more complicated magic (including the demonstration of Dean Dill’s Box, by Tony) followed, as did more complicated card sleights, and the discussion of other effects. Tony also demonstrated and explained the classic PATEO force, cleverly suggesting that the phrase “magicians are odd” (who didn’t know that?) will help

one to remember who should go first in the selection process, when an odd number of items are employed. Rich demonstrated a very impressive non-gimmicked “Invisible Deck” card reversal effect, and Mike displayed the routine he used to pitch Svengali Decks when operating his magic shop in years past.

Adam said he intends to join Ring 105 members again when his schedule permits and will be welcomed when he does. While plans to continue meeting on Thursday evenings remain, members’ schedules may require Ring 105 to alter the weeks in which they occur over the next month or two. All I.B.M. members are welcome when in the area and encouraged to contact Tony through the email address provided above.

Greg Edmonds

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

Tonight’s meeting was special as the Lunar New Year celebration was still ongoing. Some members came dressed in their traditional Chinese costumes, and Kenneth Chia brought a case of oranges to give away during the break-time. Hosted by President John Teo and Umer Shahid, the theme was Semi-Automatic Magic Tricks and attendance was a full house with forty-three members and ten guests.

John Teo presented a “Colour-changing Chinese Fan” where the final design on the fan featured a pair of dragons, setting the festive mood for the Year of the Dragon! He then introduced the special guests. Overseas guests included Glen Bailey from Hawaii, Matt Canvas from Germany, and Barry Khoo from Penang, Malaysia. Local guests consisted of Loh Kok Hong, a researcher and reporter of CNA, who is doing a documentary on Karikal Mahal, a building in Singapore used as a venue for magic meetings in the World War II period, while the rest consisted mainly of newcomers, several of whom signed up to become our members.

Carson Goh began the fireside chat segment with special guest Glen Bailey. Through this interview, we got to know how Glen became interested in magic, and how he used magic in medical mission works to the Philippines. Glen was also featured as a magician in an episode of the popular TV series *Lost*.

The first of the overseas guests to perform was Glen Bailey. He did the “Insurance Policy” routine, and used a light bulb to energeise a volunteer so that he could cause his selected card to rise from the pack. Next was Matt Canvas. He was a professional dancer as well as a magi-

cian. A volunteer randomly arranged the order of a small packet of playing cards. The number thus generated matched exactly the number tattooed in the performer’s arm! Barry Khoo performed a “Torn and Restored Poster” of Spiderman. Derek Ho, a.k.a. Mr. Egg, shared his experience at a recent ventriloquism competition where he won three awards, including the Grand Prix prize.

John Teo proceeded to deliver an interesting and insightful lecture on Semi-Automatic Card Tricks. He defined and explained the difference between Fully Automatic and Semi-Automatic magic. John demonstrated and taught an effect of Fully Automatic magic where a volunteer moved around in a matrix of three-by-three squares depicting nine various behavioural styles of people and finally landed on “Courteous,” a behaviour style predicted by John in advance. He then went on to show an application of this principle in a psychological story of the two guns involving the help of two volunteers. John then moved on to show a Semi-Automatic card trick. It was an elevator plot using the Ace, Two, Three, and Four of Hearts. He then explained how, with a simple hidden move of the cards, this interesting effect can be accomplished.

Playful Kenneth Chia, complete with a dragon head costume, presented a banner with two hearts and the Mandarin word “Family” printed across them. In line with Valentine’s Day, he transformed the word Family to Friends on the banner. In his next effect, a volunteer randomly placed the four aces above four small boxes. When the boxes were uncovered, the prediction on each box matched exactly the ace placed above it.

Ng Kah King performed “Cube-Libre” with a volunteer. He covered a stack of small mixed-up blocks numbered one to six with a long opaque cover and caused the blocks to arrange in ascending order when the cover is removed, and then in descending order the second time. In the final phase, the volunteer arranged his blocks in a random stack and Kah King was able to duplicate this order with his own set of number blocks.

Before the break, Jeremy Pei and Goh Yin Xian presented their dealer shows. Jeremy offered two bundle deals at very attractive prices. He also demonstrated the Ice Spoon which can cover the magician’s eyes yet allow him to see as if his eyes were uncovered and performed his three golden shell trick. Yin Xian highlighted some products featured in Blackpool. He shared about “Six Pack,” Rainbow Cards and Plug-It where a charger

cable was used to pick up a volunteer's selected social media card from a bunch of cards placed inside a bag.

After the break, Enrico Varella performed Lennart Green's "Stolen Cards." Using a pack of cards from the various casinos in Las Vegas, a volunteer was able to pair two cards with two other cards randomly selected from the pack. Enrico then showed that somehow, the volunteer had chosen these two special cards out of a pack where all the other cards were the Six of Diamonds.

Thomas Yeo presented two plaques depicting Chinese dragon kids which could communicate via blinking red/green eyes to express their joy or displeasure.

James Pang challenged four volunteers to select each of five ang-pows, using the roll of a dice, and leaving the last and fifth one to him. All of the four volunteers received eight dollars in each ang-pow they picked, and the last ang-pow that went to the performer was shown to contain eighty-eight dollars.

Jeremy Pei returned to transform a normal playing card into a dragon card in a packet of four cards. He also changed three large CDs from all black to multi-colours and then to all red ones, before turning them all into confetti.

Glen Bailey came back and presented Daryl Martinez's "Audio Transposition" effect using a Mickey Mouse toy rattler and a Donald Duck toy squeaker. Sprinkling some magic powder over them, he made both toys switch their special features.

A lucky draw was held towards the end of the meeting with five lucky winners, happily walking away with their special prizes.

The meeting ended officially but the night was early for several members who stayed around to mingle and shop at the dealer booths.

Low Hwee Lang (Ms)

RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at First Christian Church of Blue Springs, 701 NW 15 St., Blue Springs, MO.

JASON MOORE, President, / E-mail: iccemann101@gmail.com

On February 16 we gathered at a local buffet restaurant for the installation of our Board for the current year, including the re-installation of Ring President Jason Moore. Entertainment was provided by three close-up magicians who went from table to table to entertain the attendees: Past International President David Sandy, Shaun Rivera, and Tom Burgoon. We also inducted four members into our Ring's honor society, the Sorcerer's Circle: David Heeter, Brad Lynn, Shaun Rivera, and Jerry Jackson.

Later in the month, we hosted a lecture by

European mentalist Radek Hoffman. He taught a number of routines which he has invented since the publication of his book, including an innovative drawing duplication. His material was practical, and those present enjoyed his presentation.

Our regular monthly Ring meeting was held on March 7 and featured "green" magic, which mostly included money tricks. Steve Steiner began the magic by performing a version of Meir Yedid's "Progressive Bills." His patter included a story of walking through a Dollar Store and purchasing a multitude of items. Brad Lynn performed an older Jeff McBride routine he had used in his earlier magic days. Keith Leff next showed the group a visual bill change that happened in the spectator's hand. John Hicks finished up the first round of "green" magic with a card routine that took us back to 1970s Ireland looking for a black clover.

With a bit of distraction, Shaun Rivera was introduced as the "King of Scaling." Since no one really knew what the term of scaling meant, Shaun demonstrated the art of tossing cards. Several members joined in and only quit after several decks of cards were all over the floor!

Following the break, David Sandy showed us an unusual item from Andrae Kole's collection. It was called "Egg Through Toast" illusion. With no written instructions and David having no clue how it was supposed to work, it provided several entertaining minutes for our group.

The following members next participated in our quarterly close-up contest. Brad Lynn pulled up his slacks and showed that the card choices had appeared on his socks, newcomer Harry Schumann used a car lug nut for a "Ring on String" effect, and Keith Leff completed the competitions by using a variety of rubber-band tricks. All three competitors qualified for the year-end competition.

The meeting ended with the "show us the magic" section of the night. Five members performed. David Heeter began by showing us a John Bannon's "Spin Doctor" four aces routine. Dennis Burks presented a "take me out to the ballgame" routine. Shaun Rivera showed us a new i-Phone prediction using a very sophisticated Wikipedia app. John Hicks demonstrated a sandwiched card trick which, as always, fooled all of us. Harry Schumann ended the night with a neat "Key through Bill" trick.

Steve Steiner and Stu Lewis

Sign up 1!

RING 151, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA – Ottawa Society of Magicians - The Roy Cottee Ring

Meets 2nd Tue., at one of three locations. Contact us for details.

JOHN PERT, President

5556 Van Vliet Rd., Manotick ON, K4M 1J4

With most official revelatory rodents foreseeing that we would have an early spring this year, the Roy Cottee Ring (Ring 151, Ottawa) met on the second Monday of February in the back room of Ottawa's Barley Mow.

In attendance were President John Pert, Luc Leduc, Ernest Thomas, Chris Pilsworth, Kyle Leon, Pierre Bourgeau, Mark Montreuil, Aurèle Constantineau, Dave Oxley, and Clark Payne.

The first performer, Ernest Thomas, started off by taking a deck of cards out of its box and placing the box on a spectator's hand. He then spread the cards face down and had a card selected. It was the Ten of Hearts, and when Ernest asked the spectator to look at the back of the card box, it was revealed that an image of the Ten of Hearts was permanently printed on the box.

Luc Leduc started by recounting some stories about working with his uncle, magician Joe Legary, selling magic at conventions. Then he demonstrated one of the tricks he picked up during that time. Luc riffled through a deck of cards, having the Queen of Hearts selected. He then brought out a small silver pan and a small piece of photo paper, saying that it was used for x-rays. He placed the paper in the pan and then covered it with a silver lid. When he removed the lid, the image of the Queen of Hearts had printed itself on the paper, much to our amazement.

Mark Montreuil brought out a trick that had come from the collection of Jack Marshall, an Ottawa based clown, magician and Ring 151 member who had passed away years ago. Mark showed a two-sided chalk slate that was divided into three sections on each side. Mark started by writing a prediction on the back, and then asking for the audience to name a drink. After writing the drink on the front, Mark covered the front and back of the first prediction, then wrote a second prediction on the back. Mark then asked for a main course. After covering the second selection and prediction, Mark made a third prediction and had a spectator choose a random page in a book to determine a price. In the end, on revealing the three predictions, Mark demonstrated that he had successfully determined the drink, food, and price. This was likely an old UF Grant precursor to the classic Mental Epic known as Citation.

Chris Pilsworth talked about soap bubbles popping in slow motion, and how he had col-

lected many small drops of broken soap bubbles in an envelope. He showed us a small, flat envelope and then managed to remove a solid glass bubble from it, much to our delight. He then made the bubble vanish by placing it into the envelope, only to once again remove the solid bubble from the very flat envelope. It was a very pretty, and unique, routine.

Dave Oxley was next, talking about advances in technology and Elon Musk's brain implants. Dave started by showing a piece of paper that was folded into eighths. Much to our amazement, the unfolded paper started to fold itself on Dave's hand with no visible means of propulsion. Dave then brought out two boxes, one red and one blue, and a bowl of lemons and limes. He dropped pairs of lemons and limes into the boxes, so that they had equal numbers, and then asked which box should get the last extra lemon. After he placed the lemon into the selected box, Dave said that he would cause the extra lemon to change boxes, and when the lemons and limes were counted, he had indeed caused the lemon to move invisibly.

John Pert brought out a silk handkerchief and folded it into a bag. John then dropped a two-dollar coin into the bag, and clinked the bag on the table to prove that the coin was inside. Even so, he made the coin mysteriously vanish, showing the handkerchief to be totally empty, and then reappear in a very pretty display.

Kyle Leon showed us the ace of spades on top of his deck and then placed it sticking out of his breast pocket. He then had a card selected, the Eight of Spades, and then, before we could blink, he showed that the 8 had jumped to his breast pocket faster than the assembled magicians could see.

Aurèle Constantineau brought out a deck of cards and placed a prediction on the table. He then dealt cards face up until the spectator called out "stop." The card was a seven, so Aurèle dealt seven cards face up, and when he revealed the prediction, it matched the selected seventh card.

And so, another night of magic and merriment came to a close. Until next time, dear reader, I remain,

Mark Montreuil

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

We had a great turnout for our club meeting, full of friendly and familiar faces all glad to be back after winter storms prevented us from meeting in January. President Steve started us with some exciting plans for the year including

a goal to coordinate a Weekend of Magic with both the Omaha Magical Society and the Kansas City Ring 129. Though the idea is still in the works, the trip would likely include lectures, a magic flea market, and attending a traveling magic show like *The Illusionists*. The plan includes putting on several fundraiser magic shows this year as a club to foot the bill for a charter bus and hotel for this weekend field trip. We are excited to transform this idea into a reality!

AbraCORNdabra is also just around the corner, and this year's convention promises to be no exception to the tradition of excellence that Steve and his team have established over the years. The world-class talent you can expect this spring includes none other than Jim Steinmeyer, David Charvet, Ray Peirce, and Dana Daniels. Don't forget to register before March first to save some cash before the price goes up!

After business, Steve performed a trick using a borrowed deck of cards and an empty picture frame. Steve dissembled the frame piece by piece, proving its legitimacy. Then Walter secretly selected a card, memorized it, and shuffled it into the deck. When the face of the frame was shown again, Walter's chosen card had magically appeared behind the glass! Steve's wonderful trick was only made better by Walter's genuine reaction of surprise!

Next, Marcus performed a collaborative card trick. Members of the audience randomly selected both a number and a playing card. Marcus then proceeded to count cards off the top of the deck until he reached the chosen number. To everyone's disbelief, the chosen card was found at that position in the deck! A great stand-up version of this classic plot.

George was next, following audio instructions to a mail-order magic trick from "ACME Magic." However, something appeared amiss when George found an overripe banana in the package of props rather than a yellow bandana. Comedy ensued as George was instructed to "fold" the banana multiple times, palm the banana in a "natural position," and make "magical gestures." Ultimately, the magician came out on top when he successfully vanished the mutilated fruit in a handkerchief! Some tricks never get old.

Alan followed with an effect that blended his experience in the medical profession with the art of astonishment. With the help of two other club members, Alan convinced us all that he can tell a person's pulse simply by looking into their eyes!

Following Alan, Tom had two cards selected, memorized, and lost in the deck. He then removed the two jokers from the deck and asked

them to tell him where the two chosen cards were. Although playing cards cannot talk, the jokers had a surprising way to communicate where the chosen cards were located. Despite the technical difficulties with the trick, we all enjoyed the presentation and appreciated the trick's potential.

Mikayla was next, taking advantage of the opportunity to break in an expository speech that she is rehearsing for a high school competition. Most magicians would not be able to memorize half the script Mikayla shared with us, let alone perform a difficult card trick simultaneously. Even though we did not get to hear the entire speech, I learned things about playing cards I never knew! For example, did you know playing cards have been used as a means for secretly sharing maps in times of war? What an incredible history! Break a leg at your competition, Mikayla! We are all rooting for you!

Lucas came next with an engaging presentation of another classic card trick. Lucas has an endearing stage presence which was highlighted as he interacted with two young assistants from the audience, Ella and Addie. Lucas put the two girls through several exercises to "train" them to become magicians. Then Lucas instructed the girls to sort the cards from a borrowed deck blindly, putting what they sensed to be black cards in one pile and reds in another pile. The girls apparently caught on to Lucas's training quickly: when the piles were turned over, the cards were shown to be perfectly sorted by color!

Next, Sydney brought new meaning to the term "invisible deck" when he showed us a nearly entirely transparent deck of plastic cards, though the cards were there if you looked closely. A card was selected, memorized, and returned to the deck. Sydney then produced a small flipbook held together by a binder clip. As the pages were flipped, the image showed a pair of hands that fanned a deck of cards, selected one of the cards, and then turned it over. The card that was revealed was the same card that was previously selected from the invisible deck! Sydney gave the final page of the flipbook away as a memento (and tipped a business trick to us when he revealed that his business card was printed on the other side of the page).

Theron was next, with a quick trick involving three colored napkins (red, yellow, and blue) and a top hat. One by one, the napkins were rolled into a ball and vanished. Apparently, the napkins had magically traveled to the hat. But when the hat was dumped out, only one red paper ball rolled onto the table. The surprise came when the red paper ball was unfolded,

revealing the blue napkin, and the blue napkin was unfolded revealing the yellow napkin.

The Wizard of Waukee then took the stage with some tips about teaching both magic and juggling. First, he shared the three simple rules of juggling and guaranteed that he could have any one of us juggling within half an hour. Then he showed us two simple methods for vanishing a coin that are both easy to teach and easy to learn. Experiences like this are certainly part of what makes magic clubs so valuable.

Last but not least, John showed us how he makes a peanut butter and jelly sandwich by magic. Plain slices of bread were placed in a brown paper bag, a jar of jelly magically changed places with a jar of peanut butter on opposite sides of the table, and when the bread was opened again, it was filled with gooey, sticky deliciousness! Proof that magic can be both entertaining and useful.

We are all looking forward to next month's club meeting, which will consist of a lecture by master magician, Keith Leff; free for all club members with dues paid. You are welcome to pay your dues at the lecture: \$25 cash.

Theron Christensen

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 opened the meeting by listing members who are working local Orlando shows: Keith Kong, Greg Solomon, Matt Marberry, Jackie Manna, Wallace Murphy, Dan Stapleton, Ravelli, Mark Fitzgerald, and Craig Fennessey.

We now have a new red fringe tablecloth made by Corrine Fennessey. Mike Berland did a mini lecture showing how to use balloon animals with a pennant and a stick for promotional handouts.

Phil Schwartz presented Magic History Moment #101. It was about Silk King Studios - created and operated by the King of Silks, Harold Rice and his wife Thelma. She became the Queen of Silks. Harold was born on May 22, 1912, in Salineville, Ohio, his interest in magic was ignited by the performance of S. S. Henry when Henry played the Chautauqua circuit. In 1934 he proposed the forming of a magic dealers' association to help with problems such as protecting the rights of those who invented or marketed new effects, the possible ways of dealing with pirates, the prevention of unethical practices, and similar concerns. The Magic Dealers Association, Inc., finally came into being in 1946. He served as president, 1951-52,

and secretary from 1952-67. In 1929, Rice started his magic company that endured, Silk King Studios, for more than fifty years. It is the historic standard for silk props. Finally based in Cincinnati, Ohio, all magicians are familiar with the SKS designs and crisp artwork. His silks became known for their brilliant colors, durability, and workmanship. Rice also authored a multi volume book series on silk magic. Besides his family life, he lived two other lives and careers, simultaneously as an academic and a magic maker/dealer. In 1946 he became the Dean and later president of the Moore Institute of Art in Philadelphia. In 1963 he returned to University of Cincinnati - Dean of the College of Design, Architecture, and Art. He retired in 1978 from academia. Rice died on July 10, 1987.

The monthly show was emceed by Phil Schwartz, who used a novel way to introduce each act. A spectator selected a random lottery paper from a bin that contained a superlative description. Kenn Gunn was first on with his version of Don Alan's Ranch Bird. "Chumpy the chattering teeth" was able to locate a selected card from a matrix on the table. Dennis Phillips presented the rarely seen "Count Artell's Ribbon Cutting." Ari Novik had a rapid production of a small and large bottle of "Fireball" followed by an ESP card prediction. Keith Kong presented a baffling prediction of two words written on a billet by two spectators. Paul Thomey found and scorched a card selected by a spectator.

Carlos Veliz showed a two-rope effect that joined and split and became one long one and back to two ropes. He explained it to our puzzled minds. Bob Swaddling had a stack of coins, covered by a paper cone penetrating his hand. He continued with an incredible feat of being about cut to any card and any number. Greg Gibson, who says, "I am just a truck driver," had an incredible "Three Card Monte" and a card-in-the-box fooler. Greg Solomon finished the show with a hilarious folded card gag and a delightful Pop Pom Stick that he called a cat toy.

Dennis Phillips

RING 172, TUCSON, ARIZONA – The Joe DuPerre Ring

Meets 2nd Tue. 6:30 p.m., Holy Way Presbyterian Church 4040 S.

Bilbray Ave., Tucson, AZ 83746

STEPHEN LEVINE, President

E-mail: StephenLevine63@gmail.com

For our February meeting, we had Paul Draper present a customized lecture. Paul asked for what topics the attendees wanted to learn about, and then gave a great lecture focusing on those topics. Paul opened with a very convincing spoon bending demonstration that he says he

opens all his shows with. Paul discussed his views on mixing magic and mentalism. He then demonstrated and explained an ESP card effect. To address the question of what mentalism effects can be done without written procedures (e.g., billets), Paul explained various pre-show methods of social engineering on how to get information about show attendees; and his method of doing cold reading with playing cards.

Paul then explained his views on the best opening effects for mentalism and how he structures his shows. He then demonstrated and explained a colored stone selection routine that was a great use of Max Maven's Equivoque technique. Paul explained a false riffle shuffle, and then an ice breaker effect with business cards he uses effectively to routinely get upgrades when checking into hotels.

To address the topic of dice effects, he explained his version of "Two in the Hand, One in the Pocket" using dice that he ends with little dice and a big die. Paul then discussed his approach to the business side of magic including marketing and the sales cycle. Finally, Paul finished the lecture with a two-ring linking ring routine performed to the song "Pure Imagination" from *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*.

I.B.M. International Vice President Stephen Levine then invited the attendees to a post-lecture social at his home where his wife Tina prepared charcuterie boards and drinks. It was a great night!

Later in February, a free magic show was given for the community at the Holy Way Presbyterian church. Dan MacInnis and Steve Ehlers performed close-up magic before the main show. Dan MacInnis opened the show followed by Stephen Levine as the main act. All that attended were entertained and were very appreciative of the show. *Dan MacInnis*

RING 174, DALLAS, TEXAS – Willard the Wizard Ring

3rd Tues., 7:00pm, Addison Treehouse, 14681 Midway Rd., Addison, TX 75001 / Web site: www.dallasmagic.org
BRAD KOZAK, Secretary / E-mail: bkozak@novelidea.com

Vice President for Programs Libby Sharpe and President Geoff Grimes began the meeting, passing around a sign-in sheet for members and guests. Geoff noted the delight in reviewing membership lists in our scrapbooks dating to the founding of the Dallas Magic Club in 1924.

Treasurer Derrel Allen explained to members how to use the website to pay their dues.

Just back from Blackpool, "Dean" Dal Sanders reminded everyone enthusiastically of the next meeting of "Magic in the Living Room" and of the Magic Gala celebrating the 100th anniversary of the City of Arlington's Park and Recreation Department and the 50th

anniversary of the Bob Duncan Center. Four members will perform close-up magic as guests arrive and five will be featured in the stage lineup. Geoff announced Randi Rain's next presentation at the Mid-Cities Magic Circle. One of the most innovative designers of custom-made magic, Randi will discuss her approach to "Creating Original Magic."

Libby introduced the program for the evening, featuring two highly anticipated presenters.

First, Tricia Heil-Davis, president of I.B.M. Ring 60 in Austin, delivered a fascinating talk on the Texas Association of Magicians in 1946 and its founder Herman Yerger, the "wheelchair magician." Yerger was a fixture in the TAOM from its inception, and a colorful, if not legendary character in the Texas magic community. From its first convention in Austin in 1946, the Texas Association of Magicians continues as one of the major gatherings of magical entertainers from throughout North America.

Second, master magician Bill Bentz shared his family's storied background as founding members of Hollywood's Magic Castle. He was born a very few miles from the Castle to parents who were actually married there. Today, a marathon runner, an accomplished classical pianist, a world traveler, Bill still performs regularly at the Castle. Bill absolutely mesmerized everyone with selected pieces from his "Castle Act." His "Three Fly Coins" routine was titillating in its sheer playfulness, but his coin assemblies were simply bewildering. Bill wraps his routines in the persona of a bubbly, effervescent youngster who is enthralled every moment to discover himself in a universe just percolating with magic at his fingertips and in easy reach all around him. He closed his close-up act with his own version of "Out of This World."

The evening ended with many retiring to the local "watering hole," celebrating another evening well-spent! Jeff McBride will speak to the club in March. *Dr. Geoff Grimes*

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>
JOHN KEEVER, President
E-mail: ring175magic@gmail.com

Ring President John opened the meeting at 7:14 p.m. He reminded those present to pay their dues (we currently have forty-six paid members). The 2024 Tampa Bay Festival of Magic will be held on the 4th of May. So far, thirty-three people have paid to attend, and seven have paid for a flea market table there. The theme for our April meeting will be "Comedy Magic: Make Me Laugh."

The theme for this evening's meeting was "Money Magic Madness!" Performances of money magic were seen from fourteen magi. The greatest number of routines came from the "Mark Brothers" – there were four of them. Resisting the temptation to refer to them as the Marx Brothers and dub them Groucho, Harpo, Chico, and Zeppo, they are identified below arithmetically.

President John opened the show with one of the most entertaining presentations I have seen in a long time. Using Florida and Georgia dollars, and two bottles of vodka, he introduced us to the concept of Universal Wellcare, where everyone gets rich, and the booze is free. A brilliant routine.

Next up was Lar, demonstrating his Rainman-esque abilities. A tray containing oodles of nickels was offered to two spectators, who removed handfuls containing unknown quantities of the coins. A quick glance at the tray by Lar allowed him to ascertain exactly how many nickels each spectator had. Then one of the spectators again took a handful of coins, jingled them in his hands, and by the sound alone Lar identified the number. (I think for the right price, Lar might accompany you to the Blackjack table in Tampa).

Charles was next, demonstrating his ability to restore a hole torn in a dollar bill, then performing a bill switch from a regular one-dollar bill to a mis-made bill.

Mark 1 followed, opening with a heads or tails gag that revealed a doll's head. Then onto his serious magic, correctly guessing every time which hand the spectator had placed a marked coin. Finally, he was able to bend the coin while it was in the spectator's hand.

Mark 2 was next, showing how he can take two one-dollar bills and transmogrify them into a single two-dollar bill. Then he changed them back to singles.

Daniel P. had several members of the audience fold up dollar bills to concentrate the smell/aroma/scent of the bills to one corner. Daniel then demonstrated his keen olfactory sense by identifying the mint location of each of the five bills.

Rudy came next, showing he could "sniff" information from a dollar bill by using the power of his mind. A spectator's bill was crumpled and placed under a cloth. Rudy psychically identified the serial number of the unseen bill, which was then verified by the spectator. (Btw, that number began with 51001857)

Mark 3 brought up his better half, Yvonne, and together they put on a puppet show to illustrate a short-change scam. In addition to the puppets and cash, they also utilized a Kit Kat bar, because who doesn't like a Kit Kat?

Then came Mark IV. First, he showed off his new magic wand: It's a tie-in to money madness

because it set him back \$189 (probably the best line of the evening). Then he introduced Hugo the Mechanical/Magic Dragon. With a little help, Hugo was able to locate a chosen card. Then in an attempt to repeat the effect, he failed. The act seemed to lay an egg. But in reality, Hugo laid an egg. And in that egg was the chosen card. Ta-da!

Tim followed the final Mark with his presentation of "Coin Squeeze," which he called his favorite coin effect. It is not seen very often and is quite the impossible mystery for spectators.

Eric brought the audience into his trade show world by having us stand around him. He used a flash paper ATM to produce two half dollars. Then the audience flipped when Eric was able to pass a coin through a cloth held by spectators. It was doubly deceptive.

Frank brought out his coin collection, coins from around the world. He set those aside and had two spectators arbitrarily choose orders of pairs of cards, to see if they could get any matching pairs. There were none. But then Frank revealed that those pairs yielded a set of numbers, which totaled 185. And lo and behold, those coins which he had set aside totaled to the equivalent of \$1.85. Game, set, and match Frank!

Marv (not Mark, and certainly not Mary) was our penultimate performer, showing us how he impresses servers in restaurants, a great idea, by the way, with the wonder bill. The spectator/server holds tightly onto a flap torn into a dollar bill and closes his/her eyes. After eyes are opened, the bill is now turned inside out.

Finally, Scott came up to show us two things. First was a set of ridiculous looking eyeballs that will blink or wink at the magician's discretion. A great way to introduce yourself to your ophthalmologist, or to instantly become the center of attention anywhere. Second, Scott performed an updated "Copper, Silver, Brass" using a button, a washer, and a casino coin/token. A very nice idea, and extremely affordable. See Scott for acquiring these items.

After fourteen performance sets, it was time for the festivities to officially end. A good number of the group stayed on to share and discuss the latest magic gossip.

Joe Dobson

RING 179, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND – George Dency Ring

Meets 3rd Tue., 7:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church at 109 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136

ANDY LONDON, President / Email: alondon@concast.net

The February 22, 2024 meeting was a joint meeting of Ring 179 and S.A.M. Assembly 6 at the comfortable and interesting home of I.B.M. member Joe Pachino, because our normal meeting place (the Woodholme Country Club in Owings Mills, MD) was closed.

Announcements: The Magic Warehouse, which had relocated to Alternate Worlds in Cockeysville, MD, is open but currently without a store, because Alternate Worlds has closed.

Harry Damareck performed, and afterwards explained, two routines from *Tarbell 7*: a cut and restored silk routine, where the silk is clearly and visibly cut, and a rope trick where a knot is tied, slid down the rope, and then slid off/disappeared from the rope. (2) Jay Silverman for teach-a-trick from a DVD, Jay taught “Impossible” by Mike Austin, from the *Ultimate Self Working Card Tricks, Vol 1* DVD. A volunteer picks a small packet of cards off the top of a deck. (3) Dave Thomen performed three routines: a colorful streamer from a Rocco flip tip, which he showed and discussed, a rubber spoon followed by a metal spoon that breaks, and a mentalism routine written up in *MUM* magazine. (4) Joshua Young performed a trick with his iPhone utilizing the TOXIC force. (5) Ken Caplan started as usual with his funny comedy bits of business. Ken then performed “Torn and Restored Dental Floss.” (6) Mark Wolfire did a Tim Ellis card trick using a Pop Eyed Popper Deck. The volunteer picks a free chosen card. The chosen card is lost, and then found, and on the back, it says, “I knew you would pick the (Name of the chosen card).” (7) Mary Pomykala performed a card trick while blindfolded. Two volunteers pick a card from eight cards placed face up on a table. Mary was able to identify the selected card. (8) Howard Katz performed a mentalism trick involving chosen colors and a pendulum. (9) Michael Worsham performed “Solo Cube” by Taiwan Ben. A small Rubik’s Cube is produced from a playing card that is shown freely on both sides before the production. (10) Tim Hall performed a card trick by Ed Marlo called “Her” which can be personalized for your shows. (11) Andy London did a trick in which a card is chosen by a volunteer counting cards into Andy’s hands. (12) Joe Pachino, our generous host for the evening, did a card prediction trick using a regular deck. Afterwards, Joe explained the method, and the one condition you must avoid, to make the trick successful.

Michael Worsham

RING 192, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – Victor Saint Leon Ring

Meets 2nd Weds., 7:00 p.m., at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbon’s Dr., Carmichael.

JEFFREY TINKER, Secretary / E-mail: jtinker53@yahoo.com
Web site: www.magic1.org/ibm192

Our March meeting started off with a performance by new member Scott Cameron as his audition to the club. He showed us his “Grandpa’s Eggs Production” using a tricky tea

towel. Rick Hill then used his phone as a white board to predict what type of food a spectator would choose. New member Bill McKechnie did a mental marble selection (black and white) and correctly identified which color several spectators were holding.

Dale Lorzo used his popcorn box to produce a Rubik’s Cube and had our young visitor William assist him with a silk production involving hamburgers and French fries and large multiplying straws (a la multiplying wands). Al Levasseur changed a nickel and a sucker stick to a real lollipop which he gave to his volunteer. Pepe Puglisi did “Multiplying Bottles” and had one bottle change places with a glass and silk. He then furnished us with an explanation of the whole act.

David Wright brought us his “Hot Dog Card” routine, finding a selected card and when he said he wanted catsup on his hot dog, the card’s blue back changed to red. Al Skinner presented his Transportation Machine and tore the corner off to match up later. Then, using his machine he sent the bill to a lemon selected by his volunteer. He then had the soggy bill signed, and transported it inside an egg. He cleaned off the bill and returned it to the spectator.

Andy Swan did a bit of egg juggling, showing us they were real and then gave us a fright by tossing a whole carton of eggs into the front row, but luckily, they were all plastic. Finally, Rick Ewing introduced us to his “World Famous-about to be Famous Popcorn Recipe” with the help of William in an apron and chef’s hat. He then produced his popcorn in a small dove pan set on William’s head.

Friday the 13th may have come on a Wednesday this month, but we had good luck with all our performers.

Jeff Tinker

RING 193, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Len and Thalia Swinyer Ring

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00 pm, at the Swinyer residence, 4970 Waimea Way, Holladay, UT.

MONT DUTSON, President / E-mail: montd84@comcast.net

Web site: www.utahmagic.org

Ring 193 met at the Swinyers’ home on March 5, 2024, for our monthly meeting. It was graciously hosted by Thalia and Len Swinyer. Thirteen people attended. Mont was with us and led the meeting. This month’s theme was “Green Magic” in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. The date for David Goldrake’s lecture has been cancelled due to non-response from David. Eric said the Ogden S.A.M. Assembly 300 is working on having Christopher T Magician come to do a lecture. S.A.M. 300 is currently meeting at the Ogden Business Center. They are also planning an initiation ceremony at the

Prestige in Salt Lake City for S.A.M. members.

Dale Stewart performed and recorded (thanks Rudy!) a trick he will submit for consideration at the Tacoma Convention. Answers were written on a white paper on an easel. A dollar was offered by Kerry but not taken. An envelope was given to Owen who secured the dollar bill inside and gave to Eric to hold. Kerry inspected a deck of cards and said stop at the Jack of Clubs. Book 1776 was shown and held by Kerry. Envelope was opened and bill taken out. The serial number was read from right to left; the number was 504268. Kerry opened the book to page 86, line 24, 5 words from left word. Another deck of cards with ESP symbols was shown, with sixteen symbols in squares on a board. Thalia chose the number twelve (from one to sixteen) which was a circle. Everyone thought of a three-digit number. Four numbers were entered into a calculator and added up to 1910.

Eric and others did some magic for the opening of the Sunflower Shop. Eric did a card trick with the help of Thalia (due to her psychic ability). Cards were spread face down and Thalia tried to select the 3C, 6C. Eric pulled the 5H. The selected cards were turned over and were correct. The deck used is a locator deck from P3.

Kerry performed a rope trick called the "Three Bears with Three Different Length Ropes." The ropes were inspected by the audience. The ropes changed to the same length then back to different lengths. He then did a trick with newspaper pieces that had funny things due to grammar mistakes. Then the pieces became one newspaper page.

Javier did a bill trick, then a card trick with a borrowed deck. Brian (Owen's brother) assisted. Each took half of the deck and Brian chose a card 2D. It was put in the deck, which was put in the case. The 2D then rose out of the deck.

Mont used a green tabletop. On a trip to Ireland, he was shown this trick (using a white cloth). Green and orange cards were arranged in matching pairs when turned over. The green cards were mixed and dealt as directed by Thalia. The orange cards were dealt similarly as directed by Len. When the cards were turned over, they were back in the same order!

Rudy told a story of an I.B.M. meeting. Drinks served were read out and we remembered our favorite. We then went on a road trip. Road signs that contained the first letter of our drink chose our destination. We all chose Washington.

KC did an X trick with two rubber bands, red and blue. The X changed colors with a magic word. He also showed a card that stretched.

Bryan did a trick (he brought in Owen's

props). Owen had a Losander table covered with a cloth and a box. He levitated the table and moved it around the stage and up and down. Owen then showed it levitating and trying to get away from him. The meeting adjourned and we had snacks.

Carl Byrd

RING 194, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA – Space City Magic Club

Meets 1st. Thu., 7:00pm Madison Christian Church, Hughes Rd.,

Madison, AL

MATT GROWDEN, President

E-mail: Growdne@yahoo.com

President Matt Growden, using his veto power, delayed the March meeting by one week due to The Winter Carnival of Magic. Reports from the WCM came from David Thompson, Brett Boyer, Dean Carter, Hudson Young, Amanda Young, and Patrick Brunson because they attended. They agreed the lectures, evening shows, dealers' room, hot dogs from the concession stand, and contests were great. All agreed that the Friday night comedy show was the highlight.

Patrick entered the stand-up WCM magic contest with a comedy routine. Members agreed Patrick received the loudest laughs of any contestant (written in the third person). Term limits for officers were discussed from the article in *TLR* January 2024 and the one-page article on using the Faro or Pharaoh Shuffle called "Walk Like an Egyptian." Jared Cassidy, coming in late, was elected Ring Bearer and duties included bringing a *TLR* to each meeting.

Sad note: member Waymon Krugh died, and a Broken Wand Ceremony is to be performed. He will be missed. Members performing magic since last meeting were President Matt Growden and Patrick Brunson. Jack Leprechaun Baldwin noted that December's Ring report ended up under the Ring 198 heading in *TLR* causing Ring 198 members to apply for Ring 194 party membership.

President Irish Man Matt Growden presented the magic theme for the evening: Luck of the Irish, Leprechauns, green, Ides of March, Green Eyes of March, Julius Caesar, Orange Julius, Pi Day, and St. Patrick. Surprisingly, no one performed a trick from the WCM either from a lecture or buying out right. Matt performed a famous Simon Aronson effect or affect using a Luck of the Irish theme. Dean Carter performed a leprechaun card trick with green back cards turning into pots of gold and green backs into rainbow backs using the magic words, "Cook Books." Patrick performed a Leper Khan trick using giant Mongolian cards. Bill Mullins gave an intermission lecture on the oncoming solar eclipse using the Ides of March theme. Payton

Ward laid out thirteen decks of cards on the table; members sighed. Then Payton showed his routine of a four ace trick using green backed cards. Payton's Irish father, Russ Ward performed a Joe Harrison effect called "1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10" with an Ides of March flavor. Payton and Russ did a few more tricks with each other.

Patrick Brunson

RING 197, MARIETTA, OHIO – The Tommy Windsor Ring

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 200 Franklin St., Marietta, OH
DALE WHEELER, President / E-mail: dalew3314@gmail.com

President Dale Wheeler opened the March meeting of Ring 197 at a new location for March. William and Charleen Stokes hosted our meeting in their beautiful building which includes a theatre and a magic shop. Their facility is at 253 Main Street in New Martinsville, WV. The club members enjoyed an evening meal at the famed Quinet's Restaurant which is located just a few steps from the Doolin Center Theatre. Great food and great conversation were enjoyed before our meeting at the Doolin Center Theatre. Those in attendance were Dock Cutlip, Dale Wheeler, Jay Foresta, Kerry Blair, Chad Davis, William Stokes, and Charleen Stokes, along with guest magician David Charvat.

Kerry Blair gave a report about the Ring members attendance at the Canton Magic Auction which is held by our northern magic brothers in Canton, OH Ring 243. Ring 197 was well represented with seven members attending. All bought some used but well-designed magic miracles! It was a cold winter's day with a lot of great magic sold. The auction was an opportunity to see and talk with our northern magic friends. The folks in Ring 243 know how to host a fun event.

William Stokes gave a report on the Fellowship of Christian Magicians Convention. Good weather for travel was noted. Ring 197 was represented by Dale Wheeler, William and Charlene Stokes, Tom Duplain, Tim Angeloni, and John Mayer. Several of the magic lectures gave our members nuggets of wisdom to add to their quivers of magic.

The club continued their discussion of having three public performances to be held at Point Pleasant Elementary School and two performances in New Martinsville. Our April meeting will be held at our usual location at Ken Brown's Church. We are looking forward to hearing about our newly elected president's trip overseas to Indonesia.

Member magic began with President Wheeler performing a card miracle by first having the deck of cards examined by David Charvat. Six members then separately made their card selection from a spread of the fifty-two cards. Dale

reassembled the deck back into one stack, and immediately made six cuts of the deck to reveal all six selections with one hundred percent accuracy!

Charlene Stokes did her club initiation magic by having two members reveal their selections by spelling out their card selections! She also teaches the same effect to her magic students.

David Charvat shared with us a large magician's top hat which his wife had purchased for him ("The Rabbit in a Hat" by Tom Yurasits). David produced two silks from the inside of the hat, and started to tie the silks together when suddenly a white rabbit sprang up from the hat and waved at the audience! David proceeded to challenge the rabbit to find a card that Charleen Stokes had selected. Charlene replaced her card back into the deck, which was then placed in the hat. The rabbit dove into the hat, and immediately began tossing out playing cards into the air in his diligent search for Charleen's card. As a reward for finding the chosen card, David rewarded the rabbit with a carrot, which he promptly ate! There was much laughter from the audience with the antics of David's rabbit!

Jay Foresta put two coins into David Charvat's hands but when David opened his hand, he found a completely different coin than from what he originally grasped!

Bill and Charleen performed the Abbott illusion "Slick Post."

Chad Davis performed "Professor's Nightmare" and the card effect "Vanishing Card to Spectator's hand."

The evening ended with downpours of rain outside, but nothing could dampen the fun had by all in the Doolin Theatre by the beautiful Ohio river!

Dale Wheeler

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

Lexington's February meeting was our second hybrid experiment; this time. It was possible for online attendees to participate, though we are still working on that.

International Treasurer Mike Woodward addressed a problem that hounds all magicians: mistakes! He reported, "In a magic show, if something can go wrong, it eventually will. To minimize the chance of this occurring, we must evaluate all aspects of a routine in advance, determine how we can continue the routine without the audience knowing something did not go as planned.

Woodward proposed five areas to evaluate for

each routine prior to the performance: (1) Mechanics, such as moves, sleights, angles. (2) Equipment such as props, table, mic. (3) Presentation such as structure, script, timing. (4) Audience setting, responses, behaviors. (5) Environment noise, temperature, wind (if outside) Mike demonstrated such problems by performing, and reflecting from, his act for children.

Four members performed effects. George Hunter performed an effect with a deck of five-color ESP cards and ratified Woodward's point that sometimes an effect can go south! John Shore showed a close-up effect that he may perform for early arrivers at his shows. Tom O'Neill managed to cut a deck of cards four times, to the four tens. Graham Ricks performed an unusual effect with a zipper. September Cardiff returned with her "Cat in a Hat" routine, showing the changes inspired by the feedback at last month's meeting. *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.raleghmagicclub.org

This month introduced our first installment of "Perfectly Polished Presentations" in which performers present the SAME routine at THREE consecutive meetings. So... it looks like this reporter can take a couple months off and nobody will notice. Just keep this report handy and read it next month, and again the month after that!

The first brave performer opening himself up to the good advice and encouragement of our membership, Michael Bloemeke, premiered a mechanical marvel disguised as a table as he presented his latest iteration of "Cups and Claws." Or is it "Claws and Balls?" Or maybe "Cups and Balls with Claws?" Nope, probably not.

Next, Tucker Goodman deftly demonstrated how three quarters can travel one-at-a-time under a card. Well, actually, (pushing up nerd glasses) two-thirds of three quarters, since the last one never moved, but the other two jumped back to join it.

Then, junior member, Josh, jumped in to join some solid silver rings together and swiftly separate them. He continued multiple times, linking and unlinking them, ultimately leaving them in a quantum superposition state. BTW, on a related note, never ask Schrödinger to watch your cat.

Wayne Haarhaus was next with a speech that stumped us (get it? Stump Speech? Eh? C'mon,

it's a real thing...). He clearly laid out his bipartisan plan for across-the-aisle communication to get something done for all Americans. Huh, what? Oh, yeah, it was also a great card trick.

Following him, Sean Macbain ably presented "Skinner's Monte" as his first performance for membership in RMC. One might say that's an ambitious choice, but then one would be mixing plots, wouldn't one? Well, in one's defense, only one would know what one's intention is toward one, one way or another.

Next up, Marcus Auclair put his bachelor's in chemistry degree to good use demonstrating (with playing cards, of course) various ways in which oil and water separate. Ultimately, everyone learned a valuable lesson whether they wanted to or not.

To further confuzzle us, Paul Syros used a couple of specially printed "prompt" cards to get ol' Mr. Harlan to use his brain to think of a card, which (to no-one's surprise) Paul had predicted. But how?

Bringing coins back into the matrix, Michael Douglas scared us with his bear hands (not a spelling error) and invited us to a party that backfired (not as bad as Fyre festival) before producing big money... and bigger money!

To finish up the festivities, Dan Harlan roped in an unsuspecting volunteer who stuck out their neck to help. With that set-up, Harlan naturally pulled a jump rope through the unsuspecting helper's neck. See? It all makes sense.

Bravely submitted by a proud user of the ellipses/parentheses/period combination...

Dan Harlan

RING 202, MALTA – The Magicians' Society

Meets on alternate Mondays at 19:00 Volunteer Centre, 181 Melita Street, Valetta
GEOFFREY BUHAGIAR, Secretary
secretary@magicianmalta.com
www.facebook.com/groups/27850309211/

Our first meeting this month focussed on Bar Bets or, what some people call, "Gotchas." The President of our Ring, Gwilym Bugeja, launched the session with his presentation of "Scotch & Whiskey" by Tom Elderfield, a cross between "Scotch and Soda" and "Hopping Half," but done with precision-made brass and silver house keys. He followed this with a very confident staging of "The Stand-Up Monte" by Garrett Thomas.

Then, Past President Glen Mercieca performed a very clean and entertaining version of the "Just Chance" effect. Hon. President and P.I.P. Vanni Pulé, commenced with Peter Kane's "Variant" where the punter loses the bet three times, following this with a "Three Coin Monte" and then challenging those present to

roll a paper napkin into the smallest ball possible, winning the bet once again by making the smallest ball and, obviously, cheating in the process.

The meeting after this was a very emotional one. A few weeks before we had suddenly lost one of our active committee members at the young age of fifty-eight. Michael Mock passed away after a massive heart attack while alone at home. Our Ring invited members of his family to a Broken Wand Ceremony. During the ceremony, Gwilym Bugeja, the president, broke the wand according to the I.B.M.'s directions. The honorary President, Vanni Pulé, read the ceremonial speech and spoke about how he had met Michael while the latter was an eleven-year-old student at his school and how he introduced him to TV, because he was impressed by his presentation of the Zombie Ball. Michael became a very popular children's entertainer and then the official Ronald MacDonald in Malta. He took part with various animation groups and had some secondary roles in TV dramas. Eventually he turned to pure mentalism and created a massive impression with his appearance in *Malta's Got Talent*. Michael was the Ring's treasurer and librarian, and we shall definitely miss his work, his magic, and his presence sorely.

The magic performed during this session was all dedicated to Michael and his memory.

The TVP Alfred Mifsud adapted the classic Hen Fetch "Mental Epic" to this occasion. Joseph Demanuele had two packs shuffled. A number was chosen and the card at that number in both packs, matched. Yours truly (Geoffrey Buhagiar) performed a clean colour prediction. Vanni Pulé combined a freely chosen colour from a cube and "The Popsy Pegs." He followed this with a rarely seen version of ESP symbol match with cards and wallets, originally released by Supreme Magic Company and he finished with the most recent, more compact, version of Chris Congreave's "The Omen," called "Inevitable." The last performer was Lorenzo Brincat with a larger-than-life interpretation of the classic "Spirit Slates."

One more meeting this month was supposed to have a thin connection with Scientific Principles. Obviously, every magic trick has to use some form of science, otherwise it would not work. Nevertheless, the members who took part, managed to stretch and adapt the patter accordingly.

Joseph Demanuele successfully lanced a number of coloured pencils through a plastic bag filled with water, without allowing a trickle. John McKellar adapted the patter of an "Ambitious Card" routine to a scientific ration-

ale. Lorenzo seemingly defied the scientific principle of solidity by staging a musical version of the "Linking Rings" with six rings. Vanni Pulé entertained us with his oil and water effect with kings and queens called "Uncanny Kings," ending with a surprise climax. He then combined the "Hung Drawn and Quartered" coin effect with a glass and coaster and the sudden appearance of a coin. He followed this with his version of "The Anniversary Waltz" and concluded with the classic "Bending Mirror."

A new member from Bulgaria, Itso Bratovanov, joined us for the first time in person. He had taken part in a previous Zoom meeting during the Covid years. Itso opted for a very clean "ACAAN" routine.

We also had a guest from England. Phil Peters is the co-owner of "Merlins of Wakefield" a well-established magic company. He took part by first ably performing "Double Cross" by Mark Southwork and Magic Smith and followed it with his presentation of the "The Hopping Half." He then shared with us his 'no-mouth' version of Wayne Houchin's "French Kiss," as a finale. It was refreshing to see some different faces that also included Ivan Formosa, one of our members who currently resides in Scotland.

Geoffrey Buhagiar

RING 205, LIMA/FINDLAY, OHIO – Northwestern Ohio Magicians Association (NOMA)

Meets last Sun. of the month at Mike Grubbs's home in Findlay.

GENE CRAFT, Secretary, 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, OH 45807

E-mail: Ecrafft@woh.rr.com

Web site: www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205

Ring 205 met on February 25, 2024, at Mike's home. President Gary Friedrich opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Several lectures and magic functions were discussed. Fr. Steve Blum gave the treasurer's report. Since Easter falls on the last Sunday of March Chris Topel made a motion we move our March meeting one week earlier, March 24. This was seconded by Gene Craft and the motion passed.

Fr. Steve Blum brought his favorite guest, Doctor Moody, his ventriloquist puppet. Dr. Moody caused a dollar bill to change into a million-dollar bill. Roger Brown performed "Coins In Glass." He caused the coins to vanish and reappear in a drinking glass. Gene Craft performed "Knots Off Silk." Gary Friedrich performed a card manipulation in which jokers and queens magically traded places.

Mike Grubbs caused all the backs of a packet of cards to change designs. Doug Ferguson presented the evening lecture. He performed "Smash Aces" in which the deck is cut into four piles, revealing all four aces on the top of each packet.

Chris Topel presented the evening show. He began with a card count that produced all four aces. Chris had an audience member select a card. When Chris dealt down in the deck he stopped on the selected card. He concluded with two more card effects that revealed the selected card. Also present was Eddy Grubbs.

Gene Craft

RING 210, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – Duke Stern Ring

Meets 2nd Wed. each month 7:00pm (come at 6:00 if you want to eat),
Senate Coney Island, 34359 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI 48150

RANDY A. SMITH, Secretary
Web site: www.aamagic.org

Our meeting was called to order by President Dan Jones. We Kicked off with a new feature – Rob’s Corner. Our club treasurer Rob Krozal will periodically share apparatus from his collection. This month Rob showed us his Sword Thru Dove (from Essel Magic) and an Asian Production Box built in the Okito-Berg Style.

After some bits of business, it was on to our education session for the month, Balloon Artistry. Dan Jones, April Barrett, Kay Janiczek, Brian Campbell, and Jim Molnar are all club members with expertise in balloons. First Dan kicked us off with some basics and showed how to make a dog. Then April shared several resources for balloons and lights and showed us how to take a simple dog and jazz it up with glitz and glamor. Kay shared some line work tips, walked us through a variety of pump styles then walked us through a tutorial on making an improved sword. Brian jumped in with advice throughout sharing tips and tricks from his experience.

Then there was just a bit of time for member performances. Bou-Yu Chen did an impromptu “Deck of Cards in Balloon.” Michael Doyle did a mysterious Bosun Whistle routine and then a Mental Die routine also using the Bosun Whistle. Tara McAllister performed a “Charming Chinese Challenge” ribbon and coin routine. The coins penetrated the ribbon multiple times, several times in the spectator’s hands. She then did a comedy ribbon escape routine using Dan Jones and Kay Janiczek as assistants. Alex Heath did a four-queen assembly, an impromptu ring on finger routine and finally a card discovery routine based on an ambitious card move. Charlie Palko then did a nice deck of cards/box penetration, and then a selected card was returned to the deck which then transformed into an envelope containing the selected card. Finally, he wrapped up with a selected card turning out to be the only non-blank card in the deck. Phil Mann wrapped up the evening with an Abbott’s effect with a martini glass being shattered by spirits while under a crystal cube.

Our next meeting was called to order by President Dan Jones. Dan gave us a couple of quick reminders. Our Parlor Show is scheduled for May 25 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Community Arts Council located at 774 Sheldon Rd in Plymouth, MI 48170. Volunteers are needed for both front and back of the house. Contact our Vice President Sean Howell if you are able to help out.

Dan also reminded us that next month will be our Close-up Showcase. All six performance slots have been filled. The six performers will be April Barrett, Phil Mann, Charlie Palko, Alex Heath, Kevin Peshick, and our newest member Michael Thornton. Members are encouraged to invite guest to help fill out the audience. There will be six performance stations and the audience will be divided into six groups. They will rotate from performer to performer every five minutes. At the end audience members will vote for their favorite and the winner will be awarded the coveted AAMC Close-up Showcase Award.

Then it was on to the main event which was a lecture by Michigan’s own Nathan Kranzo. Nathan last lectured for the club six years ago and the turnout this time was even better, bringing in a number of guests from the Detroit Magic Club. Nathan came with a load of new material and one old favorite.

The crowd loved “Moneyball” where a quarter turns into a bouncy ball, Nathan performed and taught “Schrödinger’s Card” (is the card in the pocket or in the deck?). Everyone loved “Repetition” which is a really creative, unrecognizable and fresh take on the old Six Card Repeat. Nathan taught “Dark Triumph” which as you may have guessed is a take on Dai Vernon’s Triumph. Nathan did several coin effects with the Organic Copper, Silver, and Brass set using a washer, a quarter, and a centavo. Nathan brought back the favorite “Tru Test/Magazine Test,” a baffling effect in which the mentalist divines a thought of word randomly torn from a page in a magazine.

Throughout the lecture Nathan interjected bits of comedy, magic and gags that the audience loved. The official lecture was over and then it was on to socializing and magic jamming.

Karl Rabe

RING 211, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN – June Horowitz/John DeVries Magic Club

Meets 4th Mon., 7:00 pm, Brann’s Steakhouse & SportsGrille at 4157 S.
Division Ave. Aug. & Dec. meetings TBA.

Web site: www.ring211.org

CHARLES BENNETT, Secretary / 324 National Ave. NW, Grand Rapids,
MI 49504 / E-mail: cbennett724@comcast.net

Ring 211 President Michelle Parkes opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome to two

new visitors. The meeting was with twenty-one people strong.

Gary Oisten did a workshop on card handling starting with some false shuffles and fake cuts. He concluded the workshop with his twist on "Signed, Sealed, & Delivered."

President Michelle, shared announcements including the date of our annual Hocus Pocus Party (November 2nd), our Standup Competition (September 14th), and a decision was made to have Alain Innannone lecture on May 23rd.

After a ten-minute break the night moved on to open performances. Randy Vander Wal started the night with a couple of silk changes with a change bag, with the final large silk saying "Happy Birthday" to one of our members.

Magic Bob brought out a forgotten box of magic that had a fake skeleton bunny (oops I forgot he was in there!) and then went on to perform the newer automated version of "Color Vision."

Pat Quillan performed a floating card effect. Phil Gleason performed a knot through tube effect. Gil Scott dazzled us with some mentalism.

Dave Barritt

RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN
SCOTT STARKEY, President

Jon started the night by placing an envelope on the table and by having a volunteer name a number. Jon dealt down that many cards and displayed the card at that number. He then opened the envelope and revealed his prediction matched the card at that number!

Jordyn has been experimenting with billets and shared a number prediction she is working on. She then introduced the group to the multiverse. If a coin is flipped and reveals heads in one universe, then in another universe it will reveal tails. In one universe Jordyn had a volunteer write a number on the back of the Ace of Spades, tore the corner off the Ace of Spades, and had a coin flipped showing heads. In another universe Jordyn revealed the Ace of Spades with the torn corner and number was actually a thought of card, and the coin was flipped to show tails.

Benji shared the latest piece of smart technology he purchased, a smart plunger. The plunger picked up one card at a time, but once powered on it could pick up multiple cards at once. A volunteer named a number and the plunger picked up exactly that many cards from the deck! A card was selected and cut into the pack. Benji stuck the plunger down and cut to the card. Another card was selected and lost in the pack. The volunteer then used the plunger and cut exactly to their card!

Jon Whitlock had one volunteer draw a card,

peek at it, and return it to the deck. The cards were shuffled, and he had another volunteer do the same thing. Jon then read their minds and found it interesting when he revealed they had selected the same card!

Joe used three ropes of varying lengths to show us why lying is bad. He displayed a small piece of rope representing a small lie, a medium piece of rope representing a medium sized lie, and a long piece of rope representing a big lie. Even though they appeared different lengths, with just a wave the three lies became equal in length.

Benji Milanowski

RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS – Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) For location call Chris at (217) 431-479

KEN BARHAM, Secretary

2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616

E-mail: Kebram@aol.com

Dues were due at the February meeting. If you don't pay by the end of February it goes up to \$25. Elections were held, your new, never before seen, slate of officers are President Chris Bontjes, Vice President Mark Carlson Treasurer Dennis Reed, and Secretary Ken Barham.

Dennis Reed shared a video demonstrating the ten types of magic tricks. Rob "The Professor" Higgins reviewed Patrick Page's *Book of Visual Comedy*. Chris Bontjes showed some coins he had cleaned with the Ultrasonic Jewelry Cleaner he purchased off of Amazon. Andy Dallas gave some examples of using magic to brighten people's days.

Essen Hu joined us on Zoom where he mixed the cards on the table and was able to reach in and pull out the four kings and four aces. He then shuffled the cards and cut to the four aces and then showed us a self-constructed Zig Zag Card with a 3D printed card frame. Chris Bontjes performed double dealing to produce four kings and four aces and then showed us his version of "Gemini Twins." Andy Dallas showed us the old ten card trick a.k.a. "No Way Jose" which is, according to Erdnase, the oldest known card trick. Randy Shields showed us "Roller Coaster." Bill Pierce demonstrated "The World's Greatest Card Trick" (ACAAN). 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 Mama Guzzardi's Italian Restaurant in N. Canton, OH on the 28th of February 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Sixteen members

and one guest 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. Thanks were given out to all members who helped out at the magic auction earlier in the month. With all the fundraisers out of the way for a while, we concentrated on our next party. And it was decided upon to have a pizza party for our next meeting at Donato's Pizza in North Canton. Possible headliners were discussed for our November banquet. Also, possible upcoming lectures were discussed for 2024. This ended the business portion of the meeting, and everyone readied themselves for the magical part of the evening.

Ron Barnett started things off with a card trick in which the chosen card was found after dealing the cards into four piles. Tom Duplain performed a card trick in which a fair choice was given on every card dealt and the spectator ended up with a royal flush and the magician ended up with a clue game? Randy Weidenhamer performed a personality test with a deck of cards by spelling down words that the spectator was given a fair choice of, landing at the prediction and showing it was the only odd color backed card in the deck. And our President, Brent Schneider, showed his home-made color changing boxes. Very nicely made by the way. Well, this ended another night of magic. Let's plan on doing 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

President Kirk Kaplan called the March 6, meeting to order. He welcomed guests and then was anxious to call on John Lewit. John shared with us his exciting experience of appearing on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*. He began by telling us dreaming about the possibility of being on the show. He knew from his rich magical background that certain elements were needed to be chosen to perform. The act needed originality; and to his knowledge, this trick had never been done before. Other attributes sought by professional magicians as well as spectators would include, mystery, humor, and certainly, a sur-

prise ending. All of which the producers noted in John's act. This led to the phone call he wished for with the invitation to audition for the show.

When John had questioned and considered "should I attempt to be chosen to perform?" then a stroke of wisdom entered his thinking: "You miss one hundred percent of the shots you don't take," and he concluded... go for it, and thank goodness he did. Then came many hoops to jump through. This included hours of practice, preparation, and intricate patter. Then came full dressed rehearsals and DVDs to the producers. Again, waiting for the producers' invitation to now perform the entire act in a tuxedo at the theater. Approval came and he now went through dress rehearsals and full act performances both for Penn and Teller separately and finally in front of a full audience and taping. The trick and its effect consist of a bowl of quarters, permanent marking pen, and a rectangular glass dish of pistachio pudding.

The Presentation: Magician mixes bowl of quarters. Then hands spectator quarter to mark front and back with indelible pen with identifying initials and mark. Then spectator is instructed to drop marked quarter into the pudding. The remaining bowl of quarters are also dropped into pudding. The spectator is asked to mix all of the pudding with a spatula. The magician then plunges his face into the pudding and comes out with the marked quarter in his teeth. The magician hands the marked quarter to the spectator to verify as the personally marked quarter. This is met with audience amazement, thunderous applause, and laughter. The laughter is for the remaining pistachio pudding on the magician's face. John has named this masterpiece "Pudding Paradox."

Our congratulations to John for his perseverance and his wonderful unique magical act that now is preserved in television history. One of the ring members remarked to John, "Now you are famous and your career in magic is taking off." John remarked, "Sure, now that I am 67!" John and his great act now join TV magic entertainment history.

Kirk next introduced that section of our meeting to Ring member magic performances. Chet Cieliesz used a novel trick using Rorschach test to accomplish the magic effect of forcing spectator choice. Gary Perlanti, a new transplant from Chicago, performed "Color Premonition." Next Robert Apodaca his rendition, of magic and A I. Todd (Joker) Herbst using a spectator, his very entertaining and humorous version of "Crazy Crayons." Then, Eben Rockmaker did his visual of "The

Shrinking Deck.” Then following Eben Elliot “Hitch” Hitchcock performed his trick titled “Guess!” Kirk Kaplan did a great job with the classic “Egg Bag.” Rabbi Zack Ruben closed the member presentations with “Follow The Leader” using Ring members Allan Ackerman, Bobby Berosini Jr., Chet Cieliesz, and John Lewit. This was an intricate and entertaining magical effect using four decks of cards for the helpers and with Zack using the leader deck.

Kirk announced that next month’s April meeting will have a guest lecturer; following the plan to have one magic lecturer every quarter. Meeting then adjourned.

Prolog: Additional Ring 257 happenings – many members were treated to a preview of the new magic act in town. The act features mind reading interspersed with comedy. The performers are two brilliant Brits, Mathew, and Natasha and they call themselves The Conjurors.

Allan Ackerman has now returned from his very successful and lecture tour from England. Allan’s new two volume monumental work on card magic: *All in One*. A masterful contribution to magic literature. Hitch at his monthly Get Together for magicians (second Tuesday of the month at Blue Berry Hill on Decatur) had The Conjurors as guests for audience interview. A real treat for 257 Ring member participants. This was a wonderful month of magic, camaraderie, learning and fun. *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

The business portion of this month’s meeting was conducted by Vice President Andy Rohweder, as President David Lyons is away performing. We had one guest in attendance, Dave Edwards, who on his second visit to the club made application for membership. Later in the evening Dave was voted in as our newest member.

Following up on the discussion in January that we might look for another venue for our holiday party, Andy Rohweder checked with nearby Ichiban Buffet about availability of a private room, which they have. Andy will return for more information, price, group rate, date availability, menu, etc., before we consider booking. Andy also brought up the need for new, younger Ring membership, which is a topic of discussion every few years. What about the possibility of approaching some of the local high schools’ theatre groups for interested young magicians. We might do a show to attract new members. (Any recruitment ideas from

other Rings would be appreciated). It took some mathematics to figure out that today was George Drake’s 75th birthday. With that Andy closed the official part of the meeting and welcomed Jeff Arnold for a lecture.

Jeff led off with a series of silk effects done to music, ending with a feather flower production, after which he explained how everything was done! Jeff then performed and explained a “Torn and Restored Paper Heart.” He provided samples of everything he showed for everyone to take home. He used a mini wand to do a “dumb” coin vanish with no gimmicks. He also did a coin vanish in “The Bermuda Triangle” (you had to be there). He produced and vanished silks with “Jeff’s Cup.” He performed and explained how to do “Gypsy Thread.” And he closed with a heavy hex nut off a rope. Jeff had much more to show but we ran out of time. The entire lecture was a hands-on workshop with everyone learning a lot. Jeff will be invited back in the near future to show the rest of the magic he had prepared.

Next month’s theme is Magic Flea Market. Bring the magic props you no longer use and buy, sell, or trade, so other members may get use out of them!

Roger Reid

RING 265, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA – London Magicians Guild

Meets 2nd Wed., Labatt’s Engineering Bldg. unless otherwise notified.

MARK HOGAN, Secretary

The January meeting was all about the Classics of Magic! We showed off some of our favourite versions of classic magic effects.

Mark Hogan started off with his take on a Dani DaOrtiz version of “Any Card At Any Number (ACAAN),” where he failed to divine a thought-of card and number, but the card was found at that number in the deck. Al Coombs followed up with a classic “Pick A Card, Any Card” effect where he didn’t find the selected card, but the card he found (a jack) was holding an image of the selection!

Steve Seguin joined in with a “Coins Across” effect where one coin jumped from his closed fist to his other hand. And Andrew Olmstead did a terrific “Magic Square” that wowed the members who had never seen one! Then Kohl Strange did a couple routines from a recent close-up gig he had, a “Card Under Finger” and a card prediction. Peter Mennie then showed his variation using Larry Becker’s “Not So Magic Square.”

Byron Berry performed a great version of “Coins Through Table,” which he ended with the classic “Bottle Thru Table.” Mike Fisher then gave us his take on Richard Sanders’ “Fiber

Optics” using only one rope, and a wonderful “Cups and Balls” routine using only two cups!

Kohl Strange gave us the classic “Chicago Opener” (which Al immediately said he had to learn!). And finally, Peter Mennie showed us a new “Three Card Monte” variation from John Bannon called “Chop Shop,” where the queen and the jokers seen throughout the trick all turn into the four aces!

Thanks to everyone for showing us some great classics of magic! *Mark Hogan*

RING 266, TYLER, TEXAS – East Texas Court of Magic

1st Mon of the month, 7:00 pm, at Discover Science Place in downtown Tyler, TX

PAUL BUDD, President

E-mail: chipper35_1999@yahoo.com

Ring 266 met at a local restaurant in Tyler in February. We had nine people in attendance. The capable David Gish performed some silk effects for us, and Pete Mills performed a jumbo card effect. Before the meeting, Pete Mills and Andy Hickman were remembering some of the old days in the Dallas magic scene!

Our President, Paul Budd, reminded members of the combined TAOM, S.A.M. national, and FISM North America event coming up in the DFW area later this year. We also discussed plans to distribute some of the later Dr. Keven King’s estate, per the generosity of his daughter, Erin King.

Our club intends to hold a Broken Wand Ceremony as a tribute to the life of Mark Kilsby very soon. If you’re in Tyler this year, give us a shout! *Paul M. Budd*

RING 273, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA – Oliver Ring

Meets 3rd Thur., 7:30pm at the Burns Club

PETER FOSTER, Secretary

Email: pfooster@pcug.au

Fun meeting this month. There were five of us: Richard, Chris, Phil, Kristian, and me. The theme was Video Sharing. These were things that we would just like to share with others, whether just for entertainment or for some help with something. So, we watched a bunch of fun things. But we did eventually get around to doing some magic.

Phil showed us one of his recent acquisitions. He showed pieces of a cut up playing card. These pieces visually restored. Very nice. This was “Together 2.0” by Snake.

Kristian followed with one requiring two decks. The magician and a spectator each shuffled a deck. They each took out a card and handed it to the other, to place on top of their decks. Then the cards were shown. They matched. This was “Blind” by Daniel Madison.

Phil then showed another new one. He put a

glass face down on a card box. Without being near it, a coin suddenly appeared in the glass. Very striking. The prop can also be used to switch small objects, such as a folded playing card. This was “Anything” by Bond Lee.

Kristian now did a card trick where the four kings helped find a selected card. A card was selected, signed, and lost in the deck. The red kings were placed on the table, the black kings were placed on the top and bottom of the deck. The black kings vanished, to reappear in the middle of the deck with a card between them. This card was the red kings! The signed selection was on the table, where the red kings had been! This was “Casino Royale With Cheese” by Chris Mayhew.

Kristian showed us another video, this one a variation on the “Chicago Opener.” A card was selected and lost in the deck. The deck was spread, showing a card with an odd back – the selection. This was put aside, and the trick repeated, with another card selected and lost. But this time, when the deck was spread, there was no odd backed card. But then the tabled odd backed card was shown – it had changed to the second selection. This version allowed the spectator to do virtually all of the handling. This was “Manhattan Opener” by Michael Feldman.

Next meeting is on 21 March. The theme is the magic of Michael Close. *Peter Foster*

RING 280, VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA – Mark Wilson Ring

Meets 2nd thu. of the month at 7:00 pm at the Newhall Boys & Girls Club 24909 Newhall Ave., Newhall, CA 91321

DAVE NORMAN, Secretary

E-mail: Davemagic@lagnor.com

Web site: www.ibmring280.com

Greetings! Here is Ring 280’s report for February 2024. President Chris Canfield opened our meeting with a discussion about nominations for Ring officers and supporting our host, the Boys and Girls Club through performances, as well as ideas for lectures.

The theme for this evening’s performances was “Silent Routines.” The members attending this evening’s gathering included: Chris Canfield, Dr. Christopher Cory, Glenn Crites, Evelyn Ehlers, Everett Gomez, Bob Love, David Norman, Clem Patafio, and Mark Wray. The evening consisted of members performing their mostly quiet routines.

First up was Mark Wray. He choreographed a routine that was reminiscent of a 1920s Charlie Chaplin silent movie. Mark moved into frame and sat at a table draped with a tablecloth and set with a wine goblet and a candle. A silk cloth tucked into his collar gave the impression of one preparing to have a meal. He pantomimed rolling a cigarette and lit it using the candle that

suddenly became lit. The glowing tip of the cigarette could be seen, and smoke wafted upward. Mark covered the wine goblet with the silk. When the silk was removed, smoke floated from the glass as he raised it to drink from. Mark created this scene using magic props and a great deal of creativity.

Chris Cory performed poetry with four cards, a king and three jokers. The routine reminded me of "Three Card Monte" or the pea and shell games. Chris would show us one of the jokers and place it face down on the table. A few shuffles later all the cards in his hand were the jokers and the king was revealed to be the face down card. Chris was not satisfied misdirecting us once, he did it a total of three times. Each handling was elegantly executed, and it was truly a beautiful routine.

David Norman, our Ring's secretary for many years, who is also known as "Namron the Great," (because he can't spell magnificent!) presented an exquisite rope routine. He displayed a coiled length of rope. Dave then tied the ends together and as he uncoiled the rope they linked together. The routine ended with a series of individual loops of rope. Dave's routine was Poetry of the Baffling.

Bob Love presented an effect he learned from our Ring's namesake's book, *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic*. He rolled and tied a handkerchief to create a ballerina, which silently danced for us. It was a simple, yet elegant effect. Bob shared that he recently began working his way through the *Complete Course in Magic*. It is a seminal work in the magic arts since it was first published in 1975.

Everett Gomez concluded the presentations by combining this evening's theme of silent magic with February's Valentine sentiment. Everett started his routine with one sponge (ball) heart. It multiplied into three hearts and then morphed into large heart. Masterfully, if quietly done Everett, we loved it.

Our formal meeting concluded, and the members broke into smaller groups to learn, teach and hone various moves and handlings. Wishing everyone good health and Happy Conjuring!

Glenn Crites

RING 291, PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA – Palm Springs Magic Club

Meets first and third Tuesday at the Portola Community Center in Palm Desert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

HENRY JUAREZ, Secretary / E-mail: henryjuarez1@hotmail.com

Web site: www.palmspringsmagicclub.com

It was "Anything Goes!" this past Tuesday evening as PSMC members got February started with a free-wheeling magic jam.

Warren Morse kicked things off with a packet

trick similar to the Rainbow Deck, where cards selected by two spectators from a mis-matched packet turned out to match on both the face and the back. And to keep the similarities going, Don Campbell followed by doing almost exactly the same trick, but with a full deck. Then Don had a spectator shuffle and deal some cards that had been cut in quarters, randomly selecting four pieces that turned out to match a prediction card.

Next, Garnet Garven performed a group trick where each spectator had a packet of cards, selected one, turned cards over and moved them around in the pile, ending up with everyone's selected card as the only face up one in the pile. He later performed a trick using combination padlocks in which random card selections produced the combinations to open each lock. This was a trick he created called, "Channeling Houdini."

Rob Watkins was next, performing a routine using his watch. He changed the time on the watch and sandwiched it between a spectator's hands for safe keeping. Then he brought out four different colored keys and explained only one of them would open a lock. After spectator choices, the time on the watch and the selected key matched Rob's prediction.

Norm Lewis brought out a giant card and held it with its back to the audience. He asked two spectators if they knew which card was on the reverse side. They both gave their guesses, and they were both right; turning the card over revealed all fifty-two cards were printed on that side. He then brought out six large Bingo cards with twenty-five different numbers on each card. This was the classic Age Cards, but with a Bingo theme. Comically using special high-tech glasses, he was able to "see" which was the thought-of number.

George Haas ended the evening by performing his "Palindrome Cards" effect, using cards numbering from one (ace) to five. Each time he dealt them onto the table in reverse order (five to ace), they magically reversed themselves back to ace to five.

February 20 Recap - "Garnet Garven's Mathemagic Workshop." PSMC members were treated to a math magic masterclass this past Tuesday as Garnet Garven took us to his "Mathemagic Workshop," explaining the workings of various effects in his "One-Man Parade" features in *The Linking Ring* magazine. Providing everyone with complete instructions for performing tricks from both recently published and upcoming *Linking Ring* editions, Garnet taught the group effects using dice, calculators and even Dr. Seuss flash cards.

Among the effects he covered were: "Missing

Digit” – A spectator, using a calculator, creates a twelve-to-sixteen-digit number and secretly selects one digit within that large number. The spectator then reads out the remaining numerals, and the magician quickly discerns the number that was omitted. Dicey Cards – A spectator rolls three multicolored dice and totals their value. Some additional dice rolling and counting results in the selection of a card, which matches the magician’s prediction. “Escape Room Adventure” – Four coins are placed on a tabletop in a square pattern to simulate the four corners of an escape room. A team of spectators answer riddles and puzzles to aid in their final and magical escape. “Junk Collection” – The magician shows a clear plastic bag containing a hundred different everyday objects, and a numbered list of those objects. The magician reaches into the bag, secretly removes one of the objects and holds it in a closed fist. A spectator then chooses a number between one and one hundred and announces the name of the corresponding object on the list. The magician opens their hand to reveal that very item! “Calculus Eliminator” – A deck of Dr. Seuss flash cards with numbers on both sides is presented. The magician places a written prediction inside the card box. A spectator selects several cards from the deck and through some calculations arrives at a single digit. The magician’s prediction is revealed to match the spectator’s number.

Henry Juarez

RING 308, SEARCY, ARKANSAS – Searcy Magic Society

Meets 2nd Mon., 7:00 pm, 1718 Miranda St., Searcy, AR, 72143.

JON BUCHER, Secretary

E-mail: buchersh2@att.net

A new year and a new start! The new president is the young, clever, and loveable Blayk Puckett; and the new secretary is the older, cute, and likeable Jon Bucher. A Ring run by beauty and the beast. Remarkable.

After a blessedly brief business meeting, members got to the magic stuff. Arkansas TVP, with the assistance of Jimmie the sly one Rhodes and Joel the wise Nicholson performed a clever head drawing prediction while blindfolded with a large, heavy iron blindfold. It was successful. Then Joel the wise Nicholson had Blayk the quick Puckett pick a card from an unusual deck with images of automobiles on them and selection matched Joel’s prediction. Yes, it was also successful.

Blayk the quick stayed on stage to flirt with our resident single lady Lauren the lovely and the infamous alphabet card trick. Words cannot describe the beauty of this clever and scary use of the English alphabet. And yes, it was successful.

Magic historian Michael the memorable Claxton educated the members about his latest acquisition. Volume six of the beautiful book series *The Rich Cabinet Collection* by Richard Dawes. Michael is well remembered for his *Linking Ring* magazine series “Women in Magic.” The presentation was successful.

Jon Bucher did something next. It almost was successful.

Jimmie the sly one Rhodes, with the assistance of Susan the Babe Bucher, drew her picture in red and she drew his picture in blue. They both signed their artwork. After inserting the pictures in separate large envelopes, Susan the Babe made the magic gesture and the pictures traded places. The final success of the night!

Next Meeting: A great turnout last night for Blayk’s first meeting as president. A short business meeting changed April’s meeting to April 15th instead of April 8th because of the eclipse. Searcy, Arkansas, is a prime eclipse-watching location and we are expecting a large number of guests that will inundate our town. And April’s meeting will, hopefully, be hosted in the home of Dr. Michael Claxton. After a short report from our treasurer/ secretary we leaped into an evening of every magician performing at the table.

Our first performer was Mr. Joel Nickleson, from Brinkly. With the aid of young Trey Morley assisting, Joel presented the club with several matchstick equation puzzles. Luckily, Joel also offered the solutions. This writer was puzzled.

The next performer was Mr. Aaron Acosta who had Mrs. Armelda Morley use her intuition to shuffle, select, and then spread the cards. Aaron then did the same and, using his intuition, both cards were found.

Mr. Acosta then introduced the third performer, Mr. Paul Carlon. Paul presented the world’s largest coloring book as part of his master’s degree dissertation on the use of incantations in coloring. After showing the book in black and white mode, he had everyone incant “Everyone Loves Jon.” The pictures turned out scribbled, so Paul changed it to “Everyone Loves Susan.” The pictures became properly colored.

Performer number four was Mr. Blayk Puckett, world famous juggler/magician. Blayk shared his 2020 Covid ideas about new juggling bits that probably will not be part of his act. With the aid of Mr. Jimmie Rhodes, Blayk had the alphabet cards shuffled by Jimmie while Blayk clasped his hands together to not touch the cards. After Jimmie laid out several piles of

cards, he turned over the top card of each pile. The letters turned over spelled the word "DIME." Blayk then produced a dime from his clasped hands.

Number Five turned out to be Dr. Michael Claxton our resident historian in all things magic. He reviewed the book by Lance Rich titled *Neon Dreams*, a history of magic and magicians in Las Vegas. He told the story of the first magic performer to appear in Las Vegas, a young woman named Gloria Dea. Michael has a way of bringing books to life.

The young master Trey Morley took the number six spot on our lineup. Trey introduced his assistant named Dave. Dave is a soft, cuddly green alien about twelve inches tall with really big, beautiful eyes. Dave, with the help of Trey, stuffed two silken bands into an ancient church collection bag; whereupon the two bands magically turned into several silken bands tied in a multi-colored circle.

Mr. Cedric Morley assumed the number seven position in the evening's entertainment with the assistance first of Mrs. Janie Nickleson. Cedric set a sealed jar on the table to begin. Cedric then had Janie select a card and he handily found it. Yes, it was the Seven of Hearts. Then Ms. Lauren Lawson was called forth to stand on a card. It was under her right foot. Lauren then selected a card. It was the Three of Hearts. Cedric then began showing Lauren various cards and counting her blinks. He found her card. To climax his endeavors, he opened the sealed jar and inside was another Three of Hearts.

Mr. Jimmy Rhodes called Mr. Jon Bucher to assist him. Jimmy spread a magical cloth on the table and placed a small voodoo bottle on the cloth. He had Jon push the bottle over into a prone position, Jimmy produced a whip and *Indiana Jones* style hat, and cracked the whip over the prone bottle. Jon uttered a voodoo incantation. The bottle righted itself.

Number nine was next. Mr. Jon Bucher took the stage and with the aid of Mr. Paul Carlon, proceeded to link two oval halves of a playing card. The sitting ovation was hair-raising.

The final performer of the evening was Mister Magic himself, Mr. Jim Henson. Jim set three covered glasses on the table and instructed Mrs. Janis Nicholson to select one of the glasses. She picked the green glass. It was the only glass to contain a message; "You will pick Jesus." Jim then proceeded to perform the "Locking Dollar Thirty-Five" trick with help from Mrs. Susan Bucher. Jim gave everyone present a Locking Dollar Thirty-Five trick to take home! A marvelous evening was had by all. *Jon Bucher*

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 Northglan Court, Englewood, OH 45322 / (937) 836-4359

E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

Ring 324 met on March 1. Fourteen of us met to have a good time. In the business portion of the meeting, we announced the West Milton High School Magic show by Ring 5 on April 19. Praise to all of our volunteers in the Homeless Program the last months, especially James Butler and Corey White for performing at Shalom Ministry for the Homeless and hospital volunteers. We discussed the reasons we do magic. Approximate quote of conductor Robert Shaw shared by Patrick Dugan on the subject: "Some people are seeing your magic for the first time, but there's also people who are seeing it for the last time." We broke for refreshments provided by Patrick Dugan. Thanks, Patrick.

Then it was time for magic. Ron Frank started us out with two effects: (1) "Mystery Stick" from JL Magic and (2) his version of "Psychometry Bags." Tom Casper performed "Sword Through Coin in Box." James Butler showed us two: (1) Ed Marlo's "One Handed Control" card trick and (2) "Lessinout Stack" from Ed Marlo. Charlie Cadabra hit us with four in a row: (1) "Transporter Card;" (2) "Chop Shop" by John Bannon; (3) the "Limited Edition Princess" card trick; and (4) the "Alexander the Great" card trick. Corey White performed a very nice coins across effect titled "Shamrock Cup." John Blaylock gave us a trick using the ESP deck titled "Four Words" from Aldo Colombini. Bill West wrapped up the official meeting with two effects: (1) "1089 Book Test" and (2) a prediction card trick.

Many thanks to Bill West for taking the minutes this month. Lots of great magic... as usual. 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: beckimbrring325@gmail.com

I.B.M. Ring 325 enjoyed a post-Valentine meeting on Saturday evening, February 17, 2024, as members met in downtown Branson. The meeting was held, as usual, at Yak Williams' "It's Magic, Jokes & Novelties" brick-and-mortar magic shop in downtown

Branson. Club President, Dr. Christopher Beck, called the meeting to order.

Beck reminded members to pay their dues and discussed various items from the club's newsletter. The Cavalcade of Magic was also mentioned. This wonderful convention will be held in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, the weekend of March 22-23. Members of I.B.M. Ring 75 works hard to make this event a great get-together each year! Ring 325 will be well-represented. Our club's vice president and his wife, Gary and Mary Geise, won a drawing for free tickets to the event, so they will be there. Our own Robert Morris is scheduled to perform in the Saturday matinee. Duane Laflin will be lecturing over "Handling Classic Props." In addition, our Club President, Christopher Beck, will be lecturing on the topic of "Gospel Magic." Beck was also honored to be asked to serve as the emcee for the Saturday matinee show.

Given Abraham Lincoln's February birthday, Beck discussed the month's DYK (Did You Know) question from the newsletter, sharing some amazing details about Abraham Lincoln's interest in magic, as well as about the man who became known as "Abraham Lincoln's magician," Captain Horatio "Harry" Cooke. Other discussions involved the upcoming March mini lecture over the Elmsley and Jordan Counts and Yak Williams recent cruise, including stories of the magician he saw perform.

Following the discussions, Thom Taylor was introduced. He shared a mini lecture over the paddle move. He demonstrated a variety of moves, insights, and advice for performers, including insights and tips about the Hot Rod effect, as well as color changing knives, and even innovative paddle moves with coins and cards. Taylor also shared a bit about his personally-custom-designed Hot Rod. Jim Holmes was invited to share some additional insights and moves. He also gave those in attendance a DVD on which the paddle move was taught. Robert Morris and Yak Williams added to the conversation, as well, with Morris sharing a paddle move with a lollipop and Williams sharing his special color-changing knife routine. Taylor would also return later to demonstrate an intriguing "linking rings" move on which he had been working, the "cross rings" move. It is "doubly deceptive."

When it came time for performances, Geise performed first. Carl Wilson selected a card and placed it back in the deck. Then, Geise revealed the card using "his trusty prediction envelope" and a special "Valentine-themed" card reveal, replete with Cupid, and a banner which accurately depicted the chosen Ace of Hearts. Geise also performed a second effect, accompanied by

"Oscar, the Octopus." The effect involved black cards with different colored dots being displayed. Cards were placed on the table with volunteers determining the order. When the cards were turned over numbers were displayed, and the total of the numbers was 1665. Oscar's prediction was found to match the total exactly!

Morris was next up to perform. He first introduced his guests (Jasmine and Lily), and they were warmly welcomed! Then, Morris reminded us of the traditional "Fuzzy Wuzzy" poem most of us remembered from our childhood. However, the plain picture of the "Valentine's Day" teddy bear on the silk he had was anything but fuzzy! However, with a bit of "magic," in Robert's hands, the bear became fuzzy and colorful!

Jordan Stickley performed next, with what he referred to as "an experiment." Stickley shared some ideas and moves he was working on with his "Hopping Half" routine. His routine involved a Chinese coin, a pouch, as well as some silver and copper coins that were in play, as well. It's evident Stickley has a passion for magic, especially coin magic!

Williams took his performance turn to share a new take on the "Obedient Block." He had a "block" on a cord that would rise and fall, to respond to questions with a "Yes" or "No." The block would move down to answer "Yes!" and up to answer "No!" However, a surprise came when the box opened on its own and a dollar bill was revealed to have been inside the whole time. Williams asked, "Is that money for me?" The block, surprisingly and magically, moved up the chord (on its own) to answer "No!" Everyone seemed to appreciate this new "lie detector" style effect.

Carl Wilson took his turn to share about a video and a floating credit card effect. He also shared a story about a couple of unique business cards he had been given some years ago. He had framed them and recently had come across them again. One was of particular interest as it was an actual "Get Out of Jail" card from a California police official. Wilson was given the card after performing magic for the officer. Following the story, Wilson also performed a "Rope Trick with Cards," having Williams pick a card and return it to the deck, Wilson then had his hands tied behind his back (in honor of Lincoln's magician Harry Cooke). In spite of the odds against it, Wilson was able to find the selected card, even with his hands still tied behind his back! Carl would later also demonstrate some tips on the Downs' Coin Palm.

Beck shared one of his original effects with the group. He had "alphabet" cards which

spelled Hate! The letters on the cards turned to Love! Then, Beck mentioned the greatest example of love is Jesus! And, with that, the cards were turned around to reveal the name Jesus on the back. *Christopher Beck, Ph.D. (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/

Greetings all! There were only a few people in the Magic Loft when I walked in, but we grew in number by the start of the meeting. Some of our members have been to Blackpool and were at the Winter Carnival of Magic and we look forward to hearing about those conventions at the next meeting. Tickets for the door prizes were sold and we had our pizza break early.

We are having a public show at the Ocean Lakes Campground March 30. Guess what? We are going to elect new officers for the Ring. President Ron Conley has done a great job and it's time to let someone else head the meetings. Thank you, Ron, for your tireless service. In April we will have Henry Evens lecture. Charles Graham spoke of the magician (Chris Dugdale) he saw on his cruise. Nothing but good things to say about him. Door prize winners were Bryan, Ed, Dan, and Bryan.

Now it was showtime! Eric Hall presented his Commando Act. He presented the cane to silk, "Indian Rope Trick," "Cut and Restored Rope," "Ring on Rope," and "Linking Rings." Loved it! Magic Ian (Liam) practiced his act for his talent show. He's got a good personality, and I liked his selection of tricks. Coil from microphone, fishing for a card, tissue to multicolored throw streamer. Ron Conley was next and did a little money magic ("Six Bill Repeat") he did for a bankers' show. He followed up with some bits he does with a ball, coin, and toothpaste cap. Ron is a wealth of knowledge and an excellent performer.

Bryan Wilson (no, not that one) had me come up and performed "DeAngelo's Touch." I had my eyes closed and had to watch a video of what the audience saw. Cool stuff! Dan Welch showed some really nice TCC magic he recently purchased: a terrific close-up pad, mini cups and balls, and the card effect "Final Ending." To end his portion, he did "Ghost Cash," a drawn twenty-dollar bill goes from a drawing to a real bill. Charles Graham performed "Color Match" with Liam. Dale Rabon performed Tenyo's "Final Piece," a missing puzzle piece finds its place. Paul McTaggart performed "Colorific" which

was terrific. Three glasses, three balls, three silks. The ball's color and silks match but are not placed matching. A ball vanishes and reappears in a silk. Finally, the ball is placed in the silk and silk placed in a glass, he does the same with the other balls and silks. When the silks are pulled from the glass the color of the balls and silks match. Pretty magic. Next, two cards are removed from a deck of cards and placed in a hat. One is taken out in a box and vanishes from the dark interior of the box and reappears in the hat. The second card reappears face down in the deck of cards.

Ray Hardee performed "Ring on Rope" and "ESP Coin." First, key wallet is shown empty, then a cord with keys on it are given to Dan to hold. Ray then places four coins are placed on the table and Paul is asked to choose one of them. It's then placed in a small coin wallet. Paul checks the dates on the remaining coins on the table, each with a different date on it. The coin is removed from the wallet and the date matches a prediction. To finish, one of the keys vanishes from the cord and reappears on the clip in the key wallet. He had a good story to go with the "Ring on Rope." He may have to teach me this one. Dan ended the magic portion by showing us "Predict Card," a free phone app.

If you are in Myrtle Beach the first Thursday night of the month, please join us. *Dale Rabon*

RING 362, BANGOR, MAINE – The Bob Nixon Ring

Meets 2nd. Sun at the Boker Community Center, 22 ArmoryvRd.,
Augusta, ME
SCOT GRASSETTE, Secretary / E-mail: grassette@gwi.net

Maine magicians from S.A.M assembly 174 and I.B.M. Ring 362 were treated to a very special lecture and workshop by Chicago's Glenn Morphew. The lecture was a big hit with all who were able to brave the questionable weather, Sunday March 10th in Augusta.

Glenn kicked off the lecture with the trick he perhaps does the most. It's his EDC, it's always there and always ready, his six-phase finger ring routine. He followed with his PRO Card Set, repeat "Card to Pocket," "Impossible Transposition," "Houdini Card Escape" (very visual eye candy, card from plastic bag) and the super commercial "Mr. Stickman" where the stickman card went into the deck to find Wes Booth's signed card, the Mr. Stickman card changes several times until Mr. Stickman ends up on the back of the signed card!

Morphew then moved into his "Personal Security System," a version of Sanders' "Extreme Burn" based on Pat Page's "Easy Money." We then saw his improvements of "It's the Rules," Bob Sheets' dice effect which he fooled Copperfield with. Glenn then shared with

us the card effect he did on *Penn and Teller: Fool Us*, a spectacular multiple six signed “Cards to Pocket.” He gave us all the recipe, and a shot of what he treats his hands with to keep them at the perfect moisture for working with cards. Wes Booth said, “I liked his style, very smooth, conversational with some great patter hooks. Absolute mastery of the moves and a wonderful flow to the material.”

More than half the group stayed for his Master Class including the Three Shell Boot Camp, and I believe we were all getting the three major moves by the end. A very visual and simplified “Matrix” that was really doable, even if you were caught with nothing on you, you could do this at a house party or camp if there were four cards and four quarters. He workshopped the “Houdini Card Escape” from plastic bag. Before long we were all slowly popping the signed selected card from the middle of the deck while the deck was trapped in the bag. Glenn also shared some of his refinements on the one-handed Top Palm, his Rub-a-Dub Vanish, and thoughts on learning and performing new effects.

He taught us his well-crafted multi-phase “Ring and Rope” with lots of magical moments, which received lots of oos and aahs at all the best times. President Randy Begin mentioned that he’s been looking for a good ring and rope routine and this was the best he’s seen in his research.

After observing the day’s events I realized Glenn Morphew is a trouble shooter. He takes an effect, finds out its weak points, refines it, makes it look natural, not funny or odd, and ends up with something that looks significantly more magical than it was before. It doesn’t look like he’s doing magic, but magic happens at his fingertips. Morphew is not a showboat, or flamboyant, he knows his skills yet remains humble and likable. As an instructor, he’s clear, concise, patient, and understanding. Glenn’s material is attainable and uses ordinary items, but even if you do none of his pieces this lecture and workshop can improve what you currently do. In all ways and aspects, we highly recommend catching this lecture and workshop, it’s magic time well spent.

Scot Grassette

RING 392, BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA – William E. Spooner Ring

Meetings monthly at 2:00pm in various locations
DR. JOE MAZZOLA, President
E-mail: jcmazzolado@gmail.com

Following a brief business meeting, President Joe Mazzola introduced our lecturer for the meeting, Ryan Pilling who hails from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Ring 392 members and guests

thoroughly enjoyed the magic. Ryan’s lecture was a little over two hours in length, but his presentation style comfortably guided the group through many magic effects with ease. There were few limitations impacting his Zoom presentation as cameras allowed the effects to be shown from front, back, and overhead angles. Everyone was encouraged to visit Ryan’s website (magictipsandtricks.com) and subscribe. Many free helpful hints and tricks are shared here, so I expect there will be new subscribers immediately. The effects shown at the lecture were primarily taken from Ryan’s lecture pamphlet titled *Turn It Up to Eleven*. This booklet is available for ten dollars for the online version, and a little more for an actual paper copy.

Magic Presentation: “Vortex” (Thought Jot) demonstrated how one’s mind can be influenced by images. A spiral was shown, and Nelson was asked to select any card from a deck. Unbelievably, the only card in the deck with a spiral image on it was Nelson’s. A Karroll Fox routine inspired this effect. The explanation covered the process to use and the type of tape that works best for success.

“The Shuffle Prophecy,” developed by Simon and Westchester, demonstrated that predictions can be made to happen in spite of a complex mixing of a deck. Several predictions were correct and concluded with a surprise ending. This is a nice effect that uses a spectator’s assistance in shuffling for best results.

This effect was followed by a “touch” routine. Several die faces were shown in a pattern and each person was asked to place a finger any one of them. They were then directed to move left or right (reversing if appropriate) and ultimately to yell out the number they were on when prompted. All ended up on the number four which was the number of the next trick to be performed from a list of effects.

The next effect involved a ring and rope. Participants were asked to use their own if they had one so we could follow along. Several standard tricks were presented, but a few new bits shared had not been seen by this writer. All in all, a nice instructional session.

Several tips on how to present “The Professor’s Nightmare” followed. The primary focus was on how to “stretch” the ropes. Ryan suggested that the moment of magic should be presented slowly so everyone in the audience can understand what has or is happening. This adds “clarity” to a presentation and makes the trick most effective for audience members.

Ryan’s “Pancake Box” was a fun and interesting way to introduce a sponge ball routine. He had constructed a small flatly folded paper box.

The box's construction was such that a sponge ball could appear from an apparently empty box. This was a very interesting and different way to get into a sponge ball routine using a surprise appearance of the ball.

Six beer coasters were presented. Cato was asked to share three things that represent bad luck. (1) Walking under a ladder, (2) Stepping on a sidewalk crack, and (3) spilling salt. Ryan drew three rough representations of each of Cato's selections so that three pair of symbols existed. Nelson then had a curse placed on him by Ryan. The coasters were shuffled and dealt into two-face down piles. To have the "curse" removed, two symbols in a pile had to match. Alternating who chose which coaster went into which pile, it was shown that Nelson could not get any matching symbols in either pile. After some fun byplay, Nelson did finally succeed, and the curse was removed. Lots of magician-spectator interaction helped make this an interesting effect.

"Card Lasso" demonstrated Ryan's skills as a cowboy. The signed card was "lost in the deck" and all fifty-two were freely placed in a clear

plastic bag. Ryan then proceeded to use a small rope to "lasso" the card from among all the other cards from the deck. Devious processes were at work here. Ryan developed this method using a clear plastic bag rather than using a hat, change bag or some other type of opaque container. It is true that you can use duct tape to accomplish almost anything!

Ryan concluded with a word of advice: Pause at the correct moments and you will improve your magic greatly without having to do anything else! Timing helps you separate yourself from just being a run of the mill magician.

Everyone provided Ryan with a nice round of applause for his wonderful presentation and ideas. We hope to see him again soon.

We will not have a March Ring meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Winter Carnival of Magic in Pigeon Forge which is always a fun time to share and enjoy magic with some of the best magicians around the world. Our next meeting will be in April at a location to be determined. More information will be coming your way soon, so be on the lookout!

Nelson Brookshire

I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

(Continued from page 37)

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 37.**

Answer to Pictures from the Past – from page 12

General Grant Murphy Jr. was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, on August 19, 1931. Gen (the name he preferred) worked as a pipefitter – a profession that kept his mind and hands busy. The day-to-day jobs seemed to satisfy him up until the day he fell and ended up in the hospital. He had broken his leg attempting to move a refrigerator from one level of stairs to another. While convalescing, Gen lay in bed eating “wonderful” hospital food and watching movies. He remembered seeing *Houdini*, the 1953 film starring Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, and finding an interest in magic he could not ignore. Not long after that, a pal of his who was a member of a magic club invited him to a meeting and introduced him to the other members. His visit gave Gen the opportunity to see several types of magic and to discuss his interests in magic.

Gen started his magic education with card tricks and other close-up effects. He perfected as many close-up ideas as possible then moved on to larger effects. As luck would have it, his magic buddy gave him a few doves he had intended to add to his act. Gen started working with the doves day in and day out until he had developed a few promising ideas that he could incorporate into what would become an act he could present. He continued to perfect his close-up effects during this time. In 1954, Gen submitted his application to become a member of I.B.M. Ring 122. At the New England Magicians convention co-sponsored by Park City Ring 100 and S.A.M. Royal L. Vilas Assembly 20, held in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Gen performed at the public show with a presentation of dove work. Dressed in tails, Gen performed the Multiplying Billiard Balls using multi-colored balls. His finale was a live dove production from a single silk. His act received first place for Best Original Presentation!

In the 1960s, Gen highlighted his act *Sophisticated Sorcery* with ease and skill at numerous magic gatherings and conventions. He delighted audiences with the classic Billiard Balls and various silk effects and dove productions featuring a beautiful white cockatoo. As time passed into the 70s and 80s, Gen continued to perform a splendid Zombie with a flash vanish and his version of Sympathetic Silks with a production of a white owl.

Gen performed his dove act like clockwork with moves that made them look effortless. His doves were very colorful and that added to Gen’s presentation. The audience never knew which dove would appear. Whether performing at a local venue or at an international magic convention, Gen’s style and grace throughout his performance made the perfect grand opening act. In 1982, he took his popular lecture, *How To Make A Living By Stealing* and began offering it to magic organizations and clubs. He also had another lecture entitled *Smooth as Silk*. Along with performing, Gen produced a few magic effects like Rising Pen, End-to-End Pen, Bunny Hop on a Pencil Top, and Shake Up. He also created a costume for the performer’s assistant. He published notes and ideas from his years of performing in a booklet called *The General Grant Lecture Notes*. The booklet includes drawings to go along with his standard effects as well as a Zombie gimmick and flash disappearance.

Over the decades Gen Grant performed, he always demonstrated complete professionalism on stage and off. His combination of close-up magic, well-choreographed movements, and detailed lectures on dove work earned him the title The Crown Prince of Pantomime. He was a friend to all and someone who readily gave his time to his fellow magician. After a long bout with illness, Gen passed away on July 20, 2019. One of Gen’s many friends in magic, the late Dick Gustafson, said, “Gen has always been one of the nicest guys in magic, never too busy to give a fellow magician, amateur or pro, valuable tips on technique and presentation.”

Gary R. Frank



Upgrade Your Experience of This Year's I.B.M. Convention

There is no better way to experience an I.B.M. Convention than the VIP Program. Need proof? After seeing the VIP Program firsthand during the 2023 I.B.M. Convention in Pittsburgh, Joshua Jay and Andi Gladwin borrowed the idea for their most recent convention. The founders of the VIP Program are flattered, but not surprised. After all, the VIP Program has been going strong for three years now.

The VIP program provides an intimate, up-close experience for a handful of attendees. Participants receive perks such as front-row seats for all shows and theater events, a private lunch with the I.B.M. stars, first-in-line privileges for the autograph party, an invitation to the president's welcome party, reserved seats for the grand banquet and show, a magical welcome gift, and more.

The money raised from the program goes directly back into the convention itself, making the Convention a better experience for everyone. It's a win-win scenario for all convention attendees!

The VIP Program at the I.B.M. Convention in Tacoma promises to be the best yet because the Convention is an amazing destination and there is a phenomenal lineup of performers and lecturers. The VIP Program will ensure every day is unforgettable for those who choose to participate.

This year's VIP program is limited to twelve I.B.M. members. There are still open slots, but if you are interested, don't wait too long. It is expected to be a complete sell-out. Already registered for the Convention? No problem, if you decide to join the VIP Experience, your registration can be credited to the cost of the program.

Experience an I.B.M. Convention like you never have before. You deserve it. For more information, contact Mike Dunagan at *mdunagan123@gmail.com*.

See you in Tacoma!

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WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR NEWS ITEM?

Email editor@magician.org.

WANT TO SUBMIT A TRICK OR A PARADE?

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

WANT TO SUBMIT A RING EVENT?

E-mail a Microsoft Word document and high-resolution jpegs (not embedded in the Word document) to Dr. Steven Schlanger at ringreports@magician.org. 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*.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

The Linking Ring

Dawn Hofmeister
Advertising Manager
advertising@magician.org



ADVERTISING RATES AND SPECS

Deadlines are the 5th of the month, the month prior to publication date. (Example: an ad appearing in the December issue must be submitted by November 5.)

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