Ring 17, The Sid Lorraine Hat & Rabbit Club (Toronto, Ontario, Canada), Hosts Steve Beam Lecture

On April 20, 2026, Ring 17 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) hosted a lecture by Steve Beam. David Peck informed me that prior to the lecture, James Alan performed a wonderful Magic Square routine that culminated in all of the numbers adding up to Gary Wiseman's age in honor of his birthday. Sadly, I missed it, since I was dealing with a car issue. (Note to self: open the sunroof a few times during the year to ensure it works, so it doesn't get stuck when it's open.) All I had to do was not open it, and I would have arrived at the lecture half an hour early instead of twenty minutes late. I had to find a creative place to park where I could leave the roof open overnight. Rob Fishbaum, thank you for the ride home.

Apparently, Steve opened by showing everyone he had a tiny human in his bare hands, or was that two tiny humans? Whatever it was, it wasn't a card trick.

"Stebbin' Out" was the first trick I saw. It was inspired by Allan Slaight's "Sly Stebbins" and can be found in *Semi-Automatic Card Tricks*, Volume 2. In this, two cards were selected and tabled face down. After asking the deck four questions and dealing four piles, the cards provided clues as to the identity of the first card. Upon turning the piles over, four more clues were revealed, giving the identity of the second card. I now do this trick for myself over and over (and I laugh and laugh …).

"Progressive Mating Season" was one of my favorites. Someone cuts the deck in half and names a number from one to twenty-six. Holding half the deck in each hand, cards are dealt simultaneously from each pile, and the cards landing on the named number are mates. The piles are picked up, and the first and last cards of each pile visibly change so that they are now mates. Finally, the packets are tapped together, and when dealt, it is seen that all the cards are now paired with their mates.

"Final Score" was next. Someone cuts to two cards from a shuffled deck. The value of one of the cards is used to do some quick math, which produces another number that the volunteer keeps in mind. When the two piles of cards are flipped over, the face cards reveal the number they are thinking of. Amazing.

Next, Steve showed us a pocket watch, adjusted the time, and set it down so no one could see the face. The cards were cut into three piles, and the cards cut matched the time on the watch. This is called, appropriately, "Cutting Time."

"A Shovel Full of Spades" involved a prediction and a volunteer cutting the deck into three piles, then summing the value of the top card of each pile. The value, however, was much higher than thirteen, and when Steve turned the prediction around, it showed 22 spades. The Fifteen of Hearts gag card by Clayton Rawson was Steve's inspiration for this trick.

In "Four-Gone Conclusion," a card is selected and the magician states they are going to make it disappear from the deck, but first they have to remove the Joker. The deck is



(l to r): A Packed Lecture. • Steve Beam - Card Guy. • Steve Beam presents a card revelation to an amazed volunteer. • Steve Beam performs his routine "Stebbin' Out," inspired by Allan Slaight's "Sly Stebbins." • Ari Soroka and Steve Beam share a moment, with a special grind card technique on display. • James Alan entertains the audience, likely with his celebrated Magic Square routine performed before the lecture. • Steve Beam performs "Five Spot," his impromptu version of Multiple Impact, finding five chosen cards. • A packed room gathers for the Steve Beam lecture at Ring 17 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada), The Sid Lorraine Hat & Rabbit Club. (Photos by Nicole Lee)

spread and the selection is gone. People are now suspicious of the "Joker" that was removed earlier. However, upon turning over the Joker, there is a cartoon speech bubble coming from his mouth saying "look in card case." Upon checking inside the case, the selected card is found.

"The Stalker" is something that Steve created with Ron Wohl after seeing a trick performed for them by Dave Solomon. It starts with the same premise as Three-Card Monte, following the queen. The volunteer cuts the pack into four piles, and the queen is moved from one to the other while face down. She is then easily found, but the kicker is that a king is now atop each of the piles.

Next was "More Than Just a Snappy Dresser," which Steve describes as a palate cleanser, something to use in between heavier mysteries. A card is selected and vanishes from the deck. A face-up Joker is seen holding one card, back outward. When the Joker is turned over, not only do we now view the Joker from behind, but we see that he is in fact holding the selected card.

In "One-Handed Gloviczki," Steve uses a flourish explained in Lewis Ganson's *Routined Manipulation Finale*. Mary Kinson's "Fan See Card" is a startling way to reveal four selected cards. Apparently this move was described incorrectly in the book, the directions making it almost impossible to perform. Steve's tip: remove the cards from right to left instead of left to right. To give you an idea of what happens, the cards are woven into each other and a two-tiered fan is made. One hand removes the top layer of cards in one swift motion, and the selected cards are the only ones that remain. For more details, consult *Semi-Automatic Card Tricks*, Volume 9, or Steve's notes entitled "52."

Last but not least was "Five Spot," Steve's impromptu version of Multiple Impact. Five people each choose a card, and the magician finds them all.

I had the pleasure of attending Steve's

workshop the previous Saturday. It was three hours that felt like five minutes. I was also lucky to catch a dueling pasteboards session with Steve and Mike Close at Browser's Den the day after. Again, I was there a few hours, and it felt like mere minutes. Man, these guys are good. (Next time you see Mike, ask him to show you the Marlo switch.)



Participants gather around the table for Steve Beam's three-hour workshop at Ring 17. (Photo by David Peck)

Steve is a funny guy with a passion for card tricks. I've worked my way through one of his sets of notes (*Card Tricks that Kilt*) and am about to launch into the next set (*Card Tricks After Hours*). For those of you who have learned everything in the first twelve volumes, I believe volume 13 of *Semi-Automatic Card Tricks* is in the works. Enjoy.

To learn more from Steve, and I highly recommend that you do, please visit *www.stevebeam.com*. *David Sutherland*



Steve Beam at Browser's Den during the informal card session the day after the lecture . (Photo by David Peck)



Steve & Mike Close at the Browser's Den: Steve Beam and Mike Close engage in a dueling pasteboards session at Browser's Den (Photo by David Peck)

Ring 44 (Boston, Massachusetts) Hosts Tony Cabral Lecture

Boston magician Tony Cabral was the featured lecturer for Ring 44 (Boston, Massachusetts) in April. A student of the late Darwin Ortiz, Tony has spent the past twenty-five years specializing in sleight-of-hand card cheating. He has entertained audiences in and around Boston and has also been a featured performer at the Chicago Magic Lounge.

Tony opened his lecture with "Four the Hard Way," a fun, character-driven opening routine used to produce four Aces. It utilizes complex gambling sleights to make the same card (the spectator's selection) appear repeatedly before finally transforming into the four Aces. Tony followed this with "Daley's Last Fandango," a multi-phase version of the classic "Dr. Daley's Last Trick." While the original is a quick transposition, Tony's version includes a Gemini Count, second and center deals (to lead the spectators down the "garden path"), and a diminishing-lift sequence.