

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 7

# The Linking Ring

JULY 2026



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MICHAELS

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
2026-2027

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# What's Ahead?

## With Jason Michaels



**Thursday July 16th, 2026 / 8 - 9:30pm EST**

One week ahead of being sworn in as our next I.B.M. International President, Jason joins the Ring Leaders call to talk about the upcoming year and what the organization can expect from his time in office.

If you've ever listened to Jason on the I.B.M. Podcast, you know it will be informational and entertaining! Don't miss it.



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# Feel the Power

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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Steve's **MATRIX** with a **BACKFIRE** sneaks up on the audience, and burns rubber. No extra coins or crazy gimmicks.

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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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## From the Editor

SAMUEL PATRICK SMITH

**When July rolls around, I think of the I.B.M. Convention – but also of a special summer years ago which was also filled with magic.**

It was the summer of 1969, shortly before my eighth birthday. Our family had made the five-hour drive from Florida to my grandparents' farm in South Georgia.

Everyone was talking about the upcoming *Apollo 11* moon landing. My Great-great Uncle English, who lived near my grandparents, was skeptical. Anyone could see how bright the moon was and how hot it must be. "They'll burn up!" he declared. No one believed him, not even me, and on July 20, 1969, *Apollo 11* made a successful lunar landing. The next day, Neil Armstrong walked on the surface of the moon. "One small step for man," he said, "one giant step for mankind." The crackly words seemed to float through space as we watched the television broadcast in the den.



Our visit to the farm seemed far too brief, and when it was time to return home, my brother Lee and I begged our parents to let us stay another week. Our lobbying paid off. Our parents went home and back to work, and we had another week of fun on the farm. A few days later when we talked with them on the phone, they gave me the good news that some mail had arrived for

me. Yes, they would bring it with them when they came to pick us up.

I had recently discovered the pleasure of ordering things by mail and sent off for an introductory set of Happy Hollister books with a special pen and secret decoder. The more highly anticipated treasure was a box of magic tricks my brother and I had ordered from Douglas Magicland in Dallas, Texas.

When my parents arrived back at my grandparents' house on July 29, they brought two packages with them. The Happy Hollister books looked interesting, and I later read the four I had ordered – and every other title in the series that I could get my hands on at our local library. But the real moment of excitement was opening the box from Douglas Magicland. It was square and small, and it held a three-inch set of Chinese Linking Rings, 10 Tricks with Stage Money, and several other magical treasures. I could read well enough to "see Spot and see Spot run," and a little beyond that, but I couldn't understand the instructions that came with the tricks. My brother Lee deciphered the instructions and, like true pros, we practiced for twenty minutes and put on a magic show for the whole family the very next day.

I've never forgotten that night when the magic box arrived. I can still see it. Really.

I can see it anytime I like – I still have the box! More importantly, I still have the memories and the joy of discovering magic. Watching the moonwalk and receiving the Happy Hollister books were memorable events, but the little box from Texas – that was magic.



# President's Page

JASON MICHAELS



While I often credit my love of magic to the Abracadabra Magic Shop in Nashville – and to Garry Hayes blowing my mind when I was sixteen – I believe the seed may have been planted earlier.

My mother tells me that as a child I would occasionally receive gifts from family members when they returned from various trips. While none of those magic kits survived past my childhood, I have no doubt that the seeds of magic were planted early on.

As a high school junior, my friends and I would get together at one of our houses to play poker for nickels, dimes, and quarters. While taking a break to eat pizza one day, I glanced up and saw a deck of cards sitting on the table. I immediately thought it would be fun if someone did a card trick.

That thought was the impetus that sent me searching for books on card tricks at the local bookstore. What did I find? None other than John Scarne's *Scarne on Card Tricks*, an excellent book that did, in fact, teach me the first and most important card trick to learn: the Betting Card.

I approached our next poker game ready to impress my friends. I waited until everyone had eaten their pizza, then gathered their attention and attempted my first card trick.

If I'm honest, I was a little worried that the method, although clever, wouldn't "fool" anyone. Imagine my surprise when I turned over my participant's card and the room erupted! The response was far bigger than I could have imagined.

That experience inspired me to visit the Abracadabra Magic Shop and experience actual magic for the first time. I had no idea what I was looking at when I walked inside. There were glass cases filled with interesting items, and shelves with even more curious boxes and magical-looking items. I imagine Garry had seen it hundreds of times before – a stranger walked in with a blank look and

no idea what was before them.

If my memory is correct, Garry performed a Svengali deck effect and a color-changing handkerchief effect for me that day, and my brain exploded. I very clearly remember two things going through my mind as I tried to understand what was happening right before me.

My first thought was: "How is it possible that I've never seen anything like this before?"

My second thought was: "I have to share this experience with as many people as possible." That's what inspired me to follow the path of magic, first as a hobby and then many years later as a profession.

I wanted to share a little of my magical "origin story" with you in my first column because that second thought is the more interesting one.

Because of technology, we live in a world that feels as though it is constantly "on fire." We are bombarded with information that is designed to keep us "engaged," and is therefore inflammatory and oftentimes divisive. It is causing more and more people to struggle with challenges like social anxiety and feelings of loneliness.

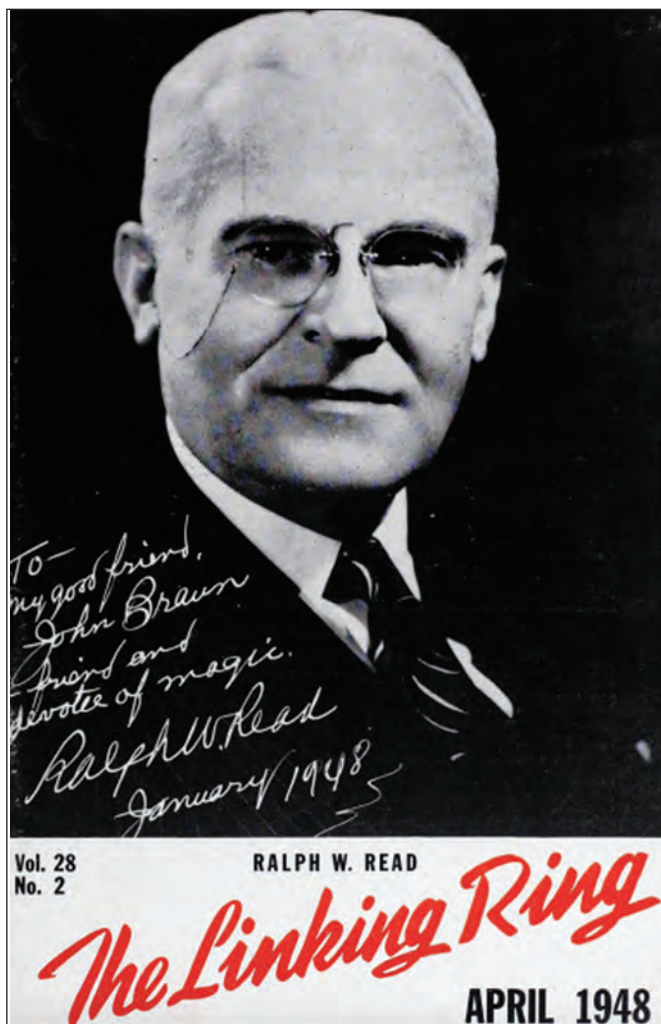
I truly believe that the antidote is to share more magic with the world. When we share magic and make someone feel "seen," we have done something profound. When we brighten someone's day by making them laugh or smile with a magic trick, we lessen the heaviness that many of our neighbors feel. When we remind others that the world is a magical place, we give them a gift they may desperately be yearning for.

Over the course of the next year, I'd like to invite you to join me and share magic with "as many people as possible." Let's make the I.B.M. an organization of magicians and magic enthusiasts who bring more and more light, positivity, and joy into the world through the art of magic.



# Pictures from the Past

THE LINKING RING



Ralph W. Read was known in the magic community for his publication that took him twenty-five years to put into print. *The Calostro Mind Reading Act* gave the reader a system that offered “no mechanical devices, no writing or switching, no signs or motions, and nothing to install.” Read also assisted Dr. Harlan Tarbell on a project that many magicians use to this day. To learn more about the life of Ralph W. Read, turn to page 152.

## Magic Down Under Profiles of Prominent Australian Magicians

By Kevin Casaretto

# Ray Crowe



Ray Crowe is an Australian magician and a former member of Ring 148 (Adelaide, Australia) who describes himself as “Australia’s Only Unusualist.” His magic shows contain a playful mix of mime, ventriloquism, stage magic, and shadow play using his arms and hands.

Crowe was a cast member of the “The Illusionists 2.0” show that toured Australia. He has performed his shadow play, to the tune of Louis Armstrong’s “What a Wonderful World, on the *Late Show with David*

*Letterman* and *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*. He has also performed at Caesars Palace and was a finalist on *Australia’s Got Talent*. In 2007, he performed in the “Royal Variety Performance” show before an audience that included Queen Elizabeth II.

Crowe appeared on *World’s Greatest Magic* for the first time in the late 1990s. He was the cover story for the June 2008 issue of *MAGIC Magazine* and has been honored by the Academy of Magical Arts.

Our Cover

# JASON MICHAELS

International President, 2026–2027

By Tom Vorjohan

Some might say it is a gift, or a peculiarity bordering on a miracle, but it is not an exaggeration to state that the I.B.M.'s incoming International President, Jason Michaels, has done what some have called the impossible. Filled with award-winning talents, presentational abilities, and focused tenacity, this writer believes he will prove an excellent leader for our organization.

Jason's life has taken a surprising direction. After he was diagnosed with Tourette syndrome at the age of thirteen, he overcame "the impossible" to become an exceptional sleight-of-hand artist, entertainer, and professional motivational speaker. His achievements during his three-decade involvement with the I.B.M. include the creation of the Marketing Committee and the spearheading of the organization's newly overhauled website.

## A Diverse Performer

As an entertainer, Jason has shared his interactive sleight of hand, theater-style illusions, and humor all over the world with corporate audiences, theaters, universities, and the United States Armed Forces.

As a speaker, he motivates audiences to see beyond their limitations by sharing his own inspiring story, encouraging them to envision bigger, bolder lives and address their adversities head on.

As an author, Jason has written two best-selling books on Amazon. *You Can Do the Impossible, Too!* details his personal journey of overcoming the debilitating neurological disorder Tourette syndrome (TS) to become a success in business and in life. In his 2026 release *Tourette Warriors*, Jason shares the stories of eight real-life individuals who triumphed over the often-misunderstood disability.

As a creator and leader, Jason has spent thousands of hours practicing magic, writing his own scripts, creating his own effects, and giving his time and talents to



*A costumed Jason performs his theatrical Cups and Balls routine, skull in hand.*

both the Armed Forces Entertainment and the I.B.M. He was also instrumental in launching the high-end magic destination House of Cards in downtown Nashville.

### **Jason's Vision for the I.B.M.**

Please welcome Jason Michaels as the new International President of the I.B.M. As the cliché implies, you may want to hold on to your top hats, because these twelve months will be fun and exciting – as well as laser focused on bringing attention back to this organization in new and different ways.

“I’ve had three primary goals since I started with the board: first, increase membership with some out-of-the-box initiatives. Second, ‘reboot’ the annual Convention in Las Vegas next summer. I want people to say, ‘Wow, have you seen what the I.B.M. is doing at their Convention!’ And third, find new ways to increase revenue and value for this organization by offering I.B.M. products, services, books, classes, and more,” Jason said.

He is excited that the I.B.M. will host the FISM North American Championships at the Convention in Las Vegas. “There will be some top-notch entertainment in Vegas as both competitors as well as headliners – any of whom should garner massive media attention leading up to the convention,” Jason said. “This is a huge win for the I.B.M.”

Even before taking his seat as International President, Jason set up a system of monthly face-to-face meetings among the top three officers: himself, International President-Elect Keith Fields, and International Vice President Jeff Sobel.

“Too many things cannot be completed by any one officer in just one year, so we are hoping to permanently establish using the rolling set of leaders as they climb the chairs to work together and accomplish long range plans that can keep the organization viable for many years to come,” Jason said. “Put it this way: I am very excited to be working with Keith and Jeff this year.”



*Wearing bomb disposal gear while on tour entertaining troops overseas.*

He looks forward to visiting Rings and conventions around the country, and world, as much as possible. He already has plans to attend the British Ring Convention in September, and Jason and Jeff Sobel are hopeful to plan an exploratory ambassador trip to grow the presence of the I.B.M. in India.

### **Tourette Syndrome: The Glass is Half Full**

Jason recalls early childhood memories of having uncontrollable urges to continually grind his chin into his collarbone or make clicks with his mouth. These first tics and twitches became noticeable at the age of seven. Test after test followed by a variety of failed medications did not help. He was misdiagnosed with other conditions for years before he saw a pediatric neurologist, who confidently proclaimed he knew what Jason was suffering with since birth: Tourette syndrome.

“You can relax, I don’t have that version of TS that makes you curse without warning ... unless I’m playing golf!” Jason said with a smile.

Now, at the age of fifty-two, medication controls the severity of his physical jerks and body tics. But his elementary and secondary years of school were filled with confidence-destroying twitches. “I wasn’t teased and ridiculed at my school in the ways I hear others with TS have been, but it is crushing on the self-esteem.”

At the age of sixteen, he realized that while reading, focusing, and concentrating on a script for a school play, the characteristic Tourette annoyances went away. When he auditioned, he realized he was able to do so free of the normal TS interruptions.

Jason’s drama teacher saw what he could do and gave him the part in the play – a true life-changing moment that kickstarted his love of the theater. “When I walked out on that stage, those tics, movements, and vocalizations vanished like a magic trick!” he said.

Around the same time, Jason wandered into his first magic store, the Abracadabra Magic Shop located near the Nashville airport.

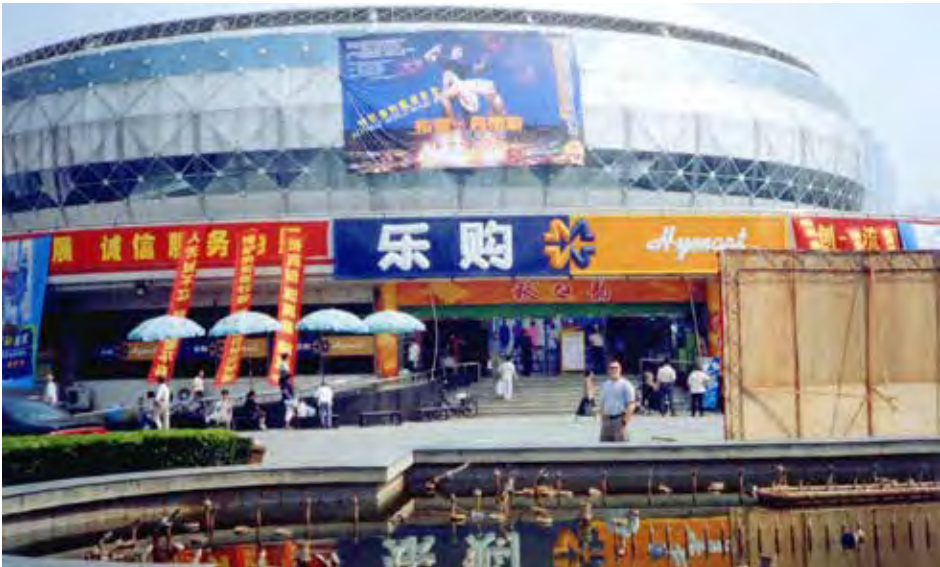


*Performing a card trick on tour with illusionist Brett Daniels in China.*

“These glass cases were filled with tricks that I had no idea existed, and I wanted to learn about all of them!” Jason said.

Abracadabra’s owner, Garry Hayes, effectively blew Jason’s mind during that first visit. He knew magic was something he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

“The impossible is, in fact, possible,” Jason is known to say, with a proud swagger in his voice, during his motivational speeches. Fueled by a newfound self-assurance, Jason went to Middle Tennessee State University to study theater. He took comfort in playing different characters and



*An ad for Brett Daniels’s magic show in China during one of the international tours Jason joined as crew.*



*Above: Jason with Stephen Bargatze (left) and Tom Vorjohan during a game of golf.  
Right: Performing a card trick atop the Great Wall of China during a tour stop.*



using different voices, embracing the spotlight with confidence.

### **Doors Open Just Like Magic**

Jason graduated with a bachelor's degree in theater in 1997. At the time, there were few theater or acting jobs in his hometown of Gallatin, Tennessee, so he did brief stints at a mortgage company and a cell phone company before noticing an ad in MAGIC magazine one day.

"They were looking for stage technicians for Brett Daniels' show at the Goldstrike Casino in Tunica, Mississippi," Jason said. "I sent in a resume, and they invited me to come see the show. While there, they offered me the job as the advertised stage tech, as well as being Brett's body double."

He worked for Brett full time for the next two-and-a-half years, from 1999 to 2001, then continued in an off-and-on capacity until sometime around 2013.

"I worked backstage and did everything you can imagine, including being directly involved in the execution of seven major illusions per show ... and that show changed every year," Jason said. "After the initial casino contract, Brett would call to offer me a position anytime he signed a new contract. I was involved in his shows

in Branson, Myrtle Beach, and several tours to China."

Jason learned a lot about magic during that time, and even more about running a touring theater show.

### **Developing an Act in Nashville**

Meanwhile, Jason was working on his own act back in Nashville, while getting more involved with the city's Ring 37.

"I remember seeing Stephen Bargatze around when I was first getting started [with magic] in the early 1990s. He took me under his wing and started taking me to his shows after I got back from Tunica," he said. "He was pivotal in taking me with him and submerging me in all aspects of putting on my own shows. I'd help him set



*Seated in the cockpit of a military helicopter in Djibouti, one stop among the more than one hundred bases Jason has visited to entertain troops.*



Jason's TEDx UTChattanooga talk, "You Can Do the Impossible, Too," uses the straitjacket escape to explore his journey with Tourette syndrome.



Jason and his wife, Jackie, at an event for the American Academy of Dance.

up and break down his shows. He would go so far as to hire me for the day and pay me to help him just so I would watch him do what he does at schools and other shows."

"There are a few people who have given me opportunity after opportunity. Stephen Bargatze and Brett Daniels were the two biggest." – Jason Michaels

Jason competed at a variety of conventions in the Midwest region, including SEAM, Winter Carnival of Magic, and MagiFest, with wins at the latter two. By the summer of 2005, he had developed an amazing confidence in his old English street performance of the Cups and Balls, and he was ready to take it to bigger conventions: the I.B.M. Convention in Reno and SAM's convention in Boston. He placed second, both times, to Ivan Amodei at these conventions. Jason was combining magic and theater to create a very memorable act, and he performed it again



*Above: Jason (center) shares a moment at the airport with Mark Brown (left) and Ben Young (right) while touring with Armed Forces Entertainment. Right, top to bottom: Jason Michaels takes the stage at an I.B.M. Ring 37 Nashville Magic Club event in 2001. Jason during a 2004 performance.*



in 2025 at the annual SAM convention in Nashville.

Jason served as Ring 37's president for several years. During that time, great things were happening: changes were made and meeting attendance increased, breathing new life into the club. Jason was keeping things fresh and interesting, including starting a Ring newsletter, and the club was appealing to more local magic enthusiasts. He says that some of his greatest friends are in Ring 37.

"Jason is my longest friend in magic probably. In fact, he's more like family than just a friend." – Stephen Bargatze

### **Magic for Our Troops**

Eleven years ago, Jason's agent called him about performing magic for the United States military. He jumped at the chance.

Both of Jason's grandfathers were in the military. "I had always planned to follow in their footsteps, but Tourette syndrome and the military obviously don't mix," he shared.

He has fervently pursued his passion of entertaining the troops, visiting more than one hundred military bases across sixty

countries in just a decade. "And I have the passport stamps to prove it!" Jason said.

He has enlisted many friends to join him on these trips, including Stephen Bargatze, Ben Young, Christian & Katalina, Scott Cantrell, Bob Sheets, Jessica Jane, Nathan Coe Marsh, Mark Brown, Cameron Zvara, and Michael Finney.

"Some of the most meaningful shows I've done haven't taken place in theaters, hotels, or banquet halls. They've happened in hangars and tents on some makeshift stages at military bases," Jason said. "I perform for the military because I believe in giving something back to the men and women who serve. They sign up to put themselves in harm's way to protect freedom and stability. What I do might not save lives, but for a moment, I can offer something else that's powerful: wonder, laughter, connection, and a break from the stress that comes with the uniform."



Top to bottom: Jason Michaels. Jason Michaels on stage.

### Motivating with Magic

“Bargatze was the one who influenced me to start talking about my TS. That was around 2014, but I didn’t get serious about it until 2017,” Jason said, adding that Stephen’s influence was more like a push or a shove given to him on a regular basis.

“Yes, he pushed me to start speaking. I probably wouldn’t have if I hadn’t watched

[Stephen] make a major impact on audiences with his message,” he said. “In fact, I am positive that I never would have started speaking about Tourette’s without Steve.”

The final shove arrived in the form of a major gig.

“Stephen called me up and had a paying gig for me, but it required that I talk about growing up with Tourette’s at the end of the talk,” Jason said. “He had been trying to get me to do that for several years, but I had zero interest. However, I needed the gig because it paid really well.”

So Jason went through his magic and wrote a script about his experience with TS over the years.

“I agreed to talk about myself because of Stephen,” he said. “It was that experience that opened my eyes to sharing my story and my vulnerability with an audience that made all the difference.”

Jason’s next step was to take his strait-jacket escape and put it to the story of his life. He filmed a TEDx presentation in 2016 at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, where he featured the strait-jacket along with a Floating Table illusion and other magic – all tied into the release of his book *You Can Do the Impossible, Too!*

Two years later, at the age of forty-three, Jason was invited to perform on the nationally televised program Huckabee, sharing his signature sleight-of-hand magic with a live studio audience and viewers across the country. He opened with the straitjacket escape, demonstrating its symbolic connection to the struggles Jason has faced with TS and the powerful way performing helped him overcome it. Then he blew away show host Mike Huckabee with some jaw-dropping sleight of hand! Jason was able to share his inspiring message, capturing the spirit of amazement and resilience that defines Jason’s performing style.

Eventually, these motivational presentations led him to an epiphany.

“The audience wanted to talk to me after the shows,” he said. “Not just because of the magic – they wanted to talk to me because I got real.”



Performing his “old English street-style” *Cups and Balls* routine in full costume, the act that earned him second place at I.B.M. and SAM conventions.

### A Script Penn & Teller Admired

In October 2022, Jason took his powerful message to the CW Network, where he appeared on season nine, episode three of **Penn & Teller: Fool Us**. In the episode, he got personal about his journey living with TS while attempting to fool the legendary duo with a comedic effect involving a deck of alphabet cards that “caught” his Tourette’s syndrome symptoms.

Jason set up the premise with a powerful opening featuring b-roll footage, asking viewers to contemplate his lifelong struggles with TS. While his effect was impressive and hysterically funny, it did not fool the masters.

### A Look at the Upcoming Year

As this issue of *The Linking Ring* went to press, Jason was at the Tampa International Fringe Festival. His show *Tricks and Tics: A Magician’s Journey of Laughter, Struggle, and Triumph* was well received.



Sharing a close-up card trick with family on Thanksgiving Day.

Jason still jumps at the chance to perform close-up magic at the House of Cards when he’s in Nashville. He hopes the I.B.M.’s Rings will reach out to him during his presidency, as he would love to be a part of their conventions and events. You can get in touch with him, as well as view his television appearances and promotional videos, at [www.jasonmichaelsmagic.com](http://www.jasonmichaelsmagic.com).

Jason Michaels shares his personal story in his honest, engaging, and deeply human memoir *You Can Do the Impossible, Too!*, released in May 2017. After he was diagnosed with Tourette syndrome at the age of thirteen, Jason was told he needed to temper his expectations for what he could, and could not, do. From hiding his condition to embracing the spotlight, *You Can Do the Impossible, Too!* offers a new spin on the power of perseverance and the magic of believing in yourself.

Jason released his second book, *Tourette Warriors*, in May 2026. Of it he said: “I wrote the first book for myself. I wanted to share my story, and I did. It was the most vulnerable I had ever made myself. But this second book was written for everyone else – there are some incredible life stories that I was told by other individuals with Tourette syndrome; instead of focusing on embarrassment and alienation, I changed the narrative so these warriors could celebrate the resilience for the path they chose to live.”

*You Can Do the Impossible, Too!* and *Tourette Warriors* are available for purchase through Amazon.

# Ton Onosaka

**A Personal Remembrance  
1933–2026**

By Dale Salwak



*What though the radiance which was once so bright  
Be now forever taken from my sight,  
Though nothing can bring back the hour . . .  
We will grieve not, rather find  
Strength in what remains behind . . .* – William Wordsworth

I will always remember May 29th as the day when I heard of the passing at ninety-two of a great man, a great magician, a great friend – Japan’s Ton Onosaka.

Along with the messages that are being posted from every continent, I, too, would like to express my deepest condolences to his wife Setsuko (“Mama-san”), daughter Kaori-san, and son Satoshi-san, to whom he was so devoted, as well as to all others who knew him and loved his nurturing and calming spirit.

Ton-san took the principles of the Samurai seriously. Photographs reveal in the eyes and smile his strength and penetrating wisdom, his kindness, gentleness, humility, and boundless generosity. He cherished heart-deep our art and its practitioners. Everyday his signed portrait hanging in my studio encourages and enriches me Phoenix-like with my own work.

His importance to our art internationally cannot be overstated. He was inventor, consummate illustrator, producer, director, performer, teacher, mentor, and owner of the fabled Magic Land in Chūo-ko, Tokyo – the “nerve center” of magic in Japan, recently moved and now celebrating fifty years. As an ambassador between the East and West, he fostered reciprocal friendship and trust among magicians around the world. He was that important.

I remember well our first meeting. In 1973, four years after I had moved from Indiana to California and settled into my 900-square-foot apartment one mile north of the University of Southern California campus, I joined at their invitation Max Maven and Ton-san (the closest of friends: for this reason Max learned to speak Japanese) for noodles and beer in Little Tokyo.

That evening led to the first of many invitations to Japan as lecturer and performer

and, along with Ton-san, Yuji Yamamoto, Yuji Yasuda, and Hiromasa Fukai, among others, as judge of competitions both stage and close-up.

“You will be treated like a king,” said a friend at the time. As if by osmosis, the more time spent with Ton-san, the more was learned about how to live life in a generous manner. “He wanted nothing for himself,” said another, “only to give to others.”

In 2008 he sponsored a young Japanese magician, Horyu Nishimura, to study from September through October at the West Coast division of the Chavez Studio of Magic. Ton-san accompanied him, sat in class for two days, then left with a firm handshake, a satisfied smile, and after a three-night stay in Hollywood returned to Japan.

My last visits with the Onosaka family – during a tour of gratitude as I think of 2023 – occurred on three occasions: in Nagoya at the memorial for Yuji Yamamoto; in Taipei at the Taiwan Magic Association’s (TMA) bi-ennial convention; and in Tokyo at Magic Land, where we sat for three hours sipping coffee, munching cookies, and talking. Personal contact matters; it always has and always will.

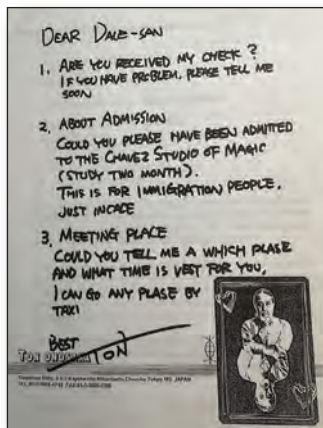


*Dale visits with Mama-san and Ton-san  
at Magic Land, 2023.*

One of my lasting memories occurred during the final night at TMA when, with glow stick in hand, every guest and staff member danced and sang together onstage to “TMA Family” – the theme of the convention composed by Yoyo Lin, translated into English by Tim Ellis, and played by Dr. JAM.

There, in the center of it all, without hesitation, moved a ninety-year-old man with all the energy and joy of a child. “Magic,” he always said, “is meant to be fun.”

I say all this certainly not to call attention to myself – I am only one among countless devotees, a few of whom are quoted below – but to convey my thankfulness for the life of one of the true altruists in magic: the principled, the stoic, the unshakeable – Ton Onosaka. Our world is better for having known him.



*Every FAX from the familiar Tokyo address brought that tiny tingle of excitement not unlike, as Wordsworth wrote in a different context, an optimistic reminder of youth.*

Ton-san (along with Mama-san) brought joy to every room they inhabited. The feeling of warmth when you were with them is unparalleled. Ton’s magic creations set a new level for quality and detail. So proud to know them both.

– **David Copperfield**



*David Copperfield visits with Ton-san, Keikan Miyanaka, Satoshi-san, and Chris Kenner (Executive Producer, David Copperfield,) in Las Vegas, 2015.*

My dear friend of forty-four years, he was one of the first people I met in Japan, and he was always very kind to me. I can honestly say that my life would not have been the

same without him. I will miss his big smile, big laugh, and big heart. – **Lance Burton**



*Lance Burton enjoys time with Ton-san and Mama-san in Las Vegas, 2015.*

He gave us countless presents. He was like a magic god. Thank you so much.

– **Hiromasa Fukai**



*Hiromasa Fukai with Ton Onosaka.*

His legacy lives on in the connections he created, the artists he inspired, and the magic he shared with the world.

– **Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques (FISM)**

He was just like my godfather who kept guiding me on the right track in my magic life.

– **Albert Tam**



*Albert Tam visits with Mama-san and Ton-san.*

Running the TMA Convention has always been hard, exhausting work. But every time I was about to reach my limit, Ton-san would smile and say, like a grandfather, "Hang in there – you can do this. I can't wait for the TMA Convention. As long as I'm alive, I'll keep coming." And he truly did. Those words were one of the biggest reasons I kept going.

Long before I ever joined TMA, he had already been bringing magicians from Japan and from all over the world, introducing them one by one to our small island of Taiwan. He taught me that what matters most for someone organizing an event, and what must never be lost sight of, is how to hold on to that bond between people.

For TMA, Ton-san was a strong and steady pillar holding us up. For me, he was the grandfather who, after I finished something hard, would smile and tell me, "You did a wonderful job – and it was so much fun." The things he taught me, I will always carry with me.

– **Yoyo Lin, President, Taiwan Magic development Association (TMA)**

Today I bow my head in respect and affection for the memory of my friend, Ton Onosaka. The world was fortunate to have him. I was more than fortunate to know and call him a friend.

– **Jamy Ian Swiss**

[I]n the end, what he valued most was people. Throughout his life, he connected people with one another and helped magic reach beyond its traditional boundaries into the wider world.

– **Hyung Jun Kim**

Magic would not be what it is today, without Ton-san. He raised the bar for all of us, inspired generations, and helped to share the beauty of Japanese magic with the world. Thank you for your friendship, support, and immeasurable contributions to our art. You will be loved, remembered, and missed always.

– **Cyril Takayama**



*With Cyril Takayama.*

Magic has lost part of its soul. – **Bill Wells**



*Ton Onosaka.*

# HOUDINI

## Keeping Magic History Alive

By Dennis Burks

The Golden Age of Magic, which roughly spanned the 1880s to the 1930s, was a remarkable era when stage magic flourished across the United States. Theaters in major cities and small towns alike were filled with audiences eager to witness the artistry of performers such as Howard Thurston, Harry Kellar, Adelaide and Alexander Herrmann, Carter the Great, Chung Ling Soo, Harry Blackstone Sr, Max Malini, The Great Leon, McDonald Birch, and Willard the Wizard. Their illusions shaped the art form and left a legacy that magicians still study today.

In recent years, I've immersed myself in books about these performers, many of whom I knew embarrassingly little about. The more I read, the more admiration I gained for their creativity, courage, and showmanship. The authors who preserve these stories deserve equal recognition; their research and dedication ensure that magic's history does not fade away.

Yet outside the magic community, most of these names have been forgotten. If the general public recognizes anyone from that era, it is usually one man: Harry Houdini. Even then, many younger people today do not know his name or the adventures he had. During the Golden Age, however, Houdini and his contemporaries were widely known, even to children. Their performances were cultural events. Sadly, much of that history has slipped from public memory. And that is precisely why magicians in Kansas City have taken action.

On September 8, 1915, Harry Houdini performed something extraordinary in

Kansas City, Missouri. This was the date of his first public presentation of his suspended straitjacket escape. Thousands gathered at 10th and Main to witness the spectacle, yet today very few Kansas Citians and even fewer Americans are aware that this historic moment happened here. Determined to preserve this piece of magic history, the I.B.M. Heart of America Ring 129 and the SAM Bob Klamm Assembly 38 joined forces to ensure the event is not lost to time. Their mission:

- Install a permanent historical marker at the site of Houdini's escape
- Bring noted Houdini historian John Cox to Kansas City for a public lecture

Both organizations applied for grants from the Endowment and Development Fund of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians Magic Endowment Fund. The grants were approved, fully funding both projects. The 165 pound historic marker featuring the emblems of both I.B.M. and SAM and a metal photograph of Houdini's 1915 escape was designed and cast by Sewah Studios. It arrived in Kansas City during March of this year and was unveiled for the very first time to members at the Ring 129 April meeting. Reactions were immediate and enthusiastic: "What a great tribute to Houdini and magic history in Kansas City!"

The marker will be installed at the location of the escape, which is now a beautiful courtyard with a stunning fountain. Kansas City has been called the city of fountains. The property is owned by the Kansas City



*Ring 129 members viewing the marker during April's meeting.*

Area Transportation Authority (ATA). The ATA graciously granted permission for the installation. The public unveiling ceremony is scheduled for September 11 of this year.

To further celebrate Houdini's Kansas City relationship, the second grant-funded event will take place just two days earlier. On September 9, Houdini expert John Cox will travel from California to present his lecture, "Houdini and the Kansas City Connection." This event is co-sponsored by the Kansas City Public Library. The lecture, which will help bring history to life, will be at their Central Library location up the street from the site of the 1915 escape.

Cox has contributed to numerous Houdini projects and recently annotated the book, *Escaping Obscurity: The Travel Diary of Harry Houdini, 1897-1899*. The book is the diary chronicles of Houdini's early travels including performances in Kansas City. How exciting would it be if the diary would have extended to September 8, 1915!

Although this diary ended in 1899, a local newspaper did record this exciting date in time. The Kansas City Post reported in vivid detail the event that occurred in front of their building at 10th and Main. The newspaper's September 8, 1915, headline reads: "HOUDINI FREES SELF OF STRAIT-JACKET SUSPENDED HEAD DOWNWARD AT THE POST."

The sub-headline reads: "5,000 See Fa-

mous Liberator Slip from Torture Garment in Free Exhibition; Experts from Police Tie Straps on Man and Watch Him Release Them."

Although the grants funded the marker and lecture, Ring 129 and Assembly 38 are planning additional projects to honor Kansas City's magical heritage. One of the most notable is a commemorative brass coin designed by I.B.M./SAM member Jason Moore, depicting Houdini suspended above the crowd during his 1915 escape.



*Jason Moore (IBM/SAM member) with memorable coin that he designed and is producing.*

The City of Kansas City, Missouri, has also joined in the celebration. Mayor Quinton D. Lucas has officially proclaimed September 2026 as Harry Houdini Month, recognizing Houdini's contributions to magic and his historic Kansas City performance. The proclamation states:

## PROCLAMATION

Recognizing September 2026 as Harry Houdini Month

**WHEREAS**, Harry Houdini is memorable because he revolutionized the art of escape and illusion, becoming one of the most famous magicians in history; and

**WHEREAS**, his daring feats, such as escaping from handcuffs, straitjackets, and even locked containers submerged underwater, captivated audiences worldwide; and

**WHEREAS** he dedicated himself to exposing fraudulent spiritualists, debunking claims of supernatural abilities.; and

**WHEREAS**, his relentless pursuit of truth and his commitment to the integrity of magic further cemented his legacy; and

**WHEREAS**, Harry Houdini first publicly performed the suspended straitjacket escape at 10th and Main, Kansas City, Missouri, September 8, 1915 above of an audience of 5,000.; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Mayor of the City of Kansas City, Missouri, I, Quinton D. Lucas, on behalf of the residents of this great city, do hereby proclaim September 2026; as Harry Houdini Month in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Quinton D. Lucas**  
Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri



*Kelly Rusk, President, Ring 129 and Dennis Burks, Lead Houdini Committee member viewing the Proclamation, September being Harry Houdini Month in Kansas City, Missouri.*

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Houdini's passing, a meaningful moment for magic organizations to elevate the cultural value of magic. Even the United States government has acknowledged magic's significance; House Resolution 642 (114th Congress, 2015–2016) recognized magic as a rare and valuable art form and national treasure. Although the resolution did not pass, it helped raise awareness

of magic's importance. Kelly Rusk, the president of Ring 129 President, shared, "Every magician today has been influenced in some way by Harry Houdini. He is still the most recognized magician in the world."



*View of 10th and Main from the 5th floor of the Kansas City public library (up the street from Houdini's September 8, 1915 performance).*

With the creativity and passion found in our magic organizations, there is no limit to how we can continue promoting magic as an art form and preserving its history. The collaboration between I.B.M. Ring 129 and SAM Assembly 38 is a powerful



*Matt Gurley, President, Assembly 38 (left); Kelly Rusk, President, Ring 129 (right) with the marker.*

example of what can be achieved when magicians unite behind a shared purpose. The word that comes to mind is synergy. Synergy is the idea that the combined efforts of multiple groups can produce results far greater

than what each could accomplish alone. In Kansas City, that synergy is helping ensure that magic history and Houdini's legacy remain alive for generations to come.

## Sign Up a New Member

Ask our Headquarters Office for some Membership Brochures and Application Forms (or visit [www.magician.org](http://www.magician.org)) and sign up someone interested in magic. Show them a *Linking Ring*, invite them to a meeting, and tell them about our magic-filled Convention!

# Academy of Magical Arts Awards Show 2026

By Simone Marron

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ACADEMY OF MAGICAL ARTS

The 57th Annual Academy of Magical Arts (AMA) Awards Show took place on May 31, 2026, at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. Produced by Michael Albright and Andrew P. Jones, and hosted by the incredibly entertaining Nick Diffatte, this year's event was heavy with awards and light on performance.

The Gary Stockdale Band was a great addition to the evening. They serenaded the arriving audience and latecomers until the beginning of the 7:00 p.m. show, which started at 7:16 p.m. Well-thought-out music accompanied the award presentations. A live band just makes all the difference!

The first presenter was Jennifer Grant, daughter of the actor Cary Grant. Cary Grant was a magic lover and a member of the Academy of Magical Arts Board of Directors for several years in the 1970s. Many are unaware, but the “no photo” policy at the Magic Castle came about due to Cary Grant's celebrity and need for privacy. The policy remains in place out of respect for the

many celebrities who frequent the Castle. Jennifer gave a brief presentation about her father before introducing a slideshow of Harry Houdini, honoring the one-hundred-year anniversary of Houdini's passing.

Diffatte, the very entertaining master of ceremonies, made an appropriate entrance: escaping upside down from a straitjacket, enhanced by two aerialists performing some acrobatic antics suspended by chains. Diffatte informed the audience that it was the second time he had performed that escape, and the first time he had done it without a nosebleed. He then brought up the changes that are currently happening at the Magic Castle, and how uncomfortable change can be for some people. He informed the audience that no matter what side of the debate they were on, he agreed – drawing immediate laughter while releasing any tension in the room.

Diffatte opened with a couple of his funny routines, and the audience quickly warmed up to him. He was a perfect choice to host



(l to r): Jennifer Grant, daughter of Cary Grant, pays homage to her father. • Aerialists perform as host Nick Diffatte enters upside down after escaping from a straitjacket.



(l to r): Nick Diffatte, master of ceremonies. • Justin Willman wins Magician of the Year. • Skyler Jade is awarded the Junior Achievement Award.

the show. He introduced the first award presenter, AMA director Ed Alonzo, who announced that the winner of the Magician of the Year was *Cupcake Wars* host and star of several successful Netflix shows, Justin Willman.

A Special Fellowship was awarded to Larry John Kahlow, the owner of Eagle Magic, America's oldest magic shop in Minnesota. Bill Nye the Science Guy presented a Creative Fellowship to science magician Matt Pritchard. All awards were brought on stage by Sean RaeVon Wilson.

David Doyle and Steve Barnes, chairmen of the AMA Junior Program founded by the amazing Diana Zimmerman more than fifty years ago, presented the Junior Achievement Award to Skyler Jade, who will be performing at the I.B.M. Convention in St. Louis this July.

There were five nominees for the Lecturer of the Year Award: Woody Aragon, Javi Benitez, Suzanne, Erik Tait, and Richard Turner. Simone Turkington, the president of the AMA's board of directors, presented the

award to winner Richard Turner.

Two-time FISM winner Mortenn Christiansen performed a zany act in which a potato chip can consistently become stuck to, then released itself from, his hand. A card chosen by an audience member repeatedly showed up in the oddest locations. Christiansen's confused, hilarious character, who appeared nervous and inept, was clearly in control of everything that was happening, and the audience loved him.

John Gaughan, one of the greatest living illusion builders, presented a Lifetime Achievement Fellowship to his close friend Gay Blackstone, who many years ago was the assistant of her husband Harry Blackstone Jr. She is now the executive producer of the television and touring show *Masters of Illusion*.

Co-vice chairman of the board of trustees, Mike Caveney, awarded a Literary Fellowship to Gabe Fajouri. Fajouri is the founder of Squash Publishing and the owner of Potter and Potter Auction House in Chicago.



(l to r): Richard Turner takes Lecturer of the Year. • Mortenn Christiansen, two-time FISM winner, performs. • Gay Blackstone receives a Lifetime Achievement Fellowship from John Gaughan.

Mike Elizalde, president of Spectral Motion, presented a Special Fellowship to James Olsen, who was the heartbeat of illusion building at Owen Magic for many years.

South Korea's Read Chang, who is a FISM prize winner, gave a delightful performance with a smoking pipe, multiple pocket watch appearances and vanishes, and fan manipulation that looked like real magic.

Entertainment director Jack Goldfinger presented a Special Fellowship to illusion builder Daniel Summers, and Larry Wilmore presented a Special Fellowship to Georges Proust, creator of the Museum of Magic and Automats in France. Proust was unable to be there but accepted the fellowship by video.

Alison Lewis sang a touching melody, with Gary Stockdale on the piano, to accompany an *In Memoriam* video presentation of the many magicians we sadly lost in the last year.

Mike Caveney presented a Special Fellowship to Greg and Debbie Bordner of the Abbott Magic Company. They will be hosting the 88th annual Abbott's Get-Together this summer. Debbie accepted the award.

Dave Egan, president of the Dai Vernon Foundation, whose mission is to help magicians in need, presented the Max Maven Memorial Medal for Innovation in the Mystery Arts to Gaetan Bloom. Gaetan accepted by video.

Diffatte announced that the Pitchfords, the owners of the Castle, were unable to attend due to a flight delay. He then performed a hysterical routine with a borrowed ring. Dif-

fatte's performances are always unique and entertaining, and he informed the audience that as he had never been a member of the Castle, he wanted his performance to count as his audition. He passed the audition with the help of an audience applause meter, but nobody knew whether this was a serious outcome or just part of his performance.

Christopher Hart, chairman of the board of trustees, presented the next award in the absence of the Pitchfords. He presented a Performing Fellowship for Close-up to Hide Yamamoto of the Half Moon Magic Bar in Tokyo. Yamamoto, despite not speaking English, performed at the Magic Castle for a few weeks this year. A bar was specially built for him and installed in the Peller Theatre for his shows. The author of this article had the pleasure of seeing Yamamoto's show and finds it hard to express the emotions it evoked. The show was a thing of beauty. This man's love of life, magic, and his audience brought tears of joy to the eyes of many of his spectators. His connection with people is so touching that it seems like he genuinely exists to make people happy with his magic. The calmness and peace of the Japanese sentiments, and the whole atmosphere of the show, are overwhelming. If you have the chance to see this, run, don't walk.

Christopher Hart presented a Performing Fellowship for Stage Magic to magician and mime Tina Lenert. Mac King presented a Masters Fellowship to Norwegian performer Finn Jon, who accepted by video.



(l to r): FISM-winner Read Chang performs. • Dave Egan, president of the Dai Vernon Foundation. • Halfmoon Hide receives a Performing Fellowship for Close-up from Christopher Hart.

The final performer of the evening was Japan's Ibuki, who is a FISM Close-up Grand Prix winner. He performed a stunning matrix-type effect with buttons that not only moved invisibly, but appeared to be sewn to the material to which they moved. The relocated buttons had to be removed with scissors to cut the thread that attached them.

Actor Jason Segel, perhaps best known for *How I Met Your Mother* and the Apple TV series *Shrinking*, presented the three showroom awards. The nominees for Close-Up Magician of the Year were Alfonso, Jonathan Levit, Armando Lucero, David Regal, and Zabrecky. The winner was Zabrecky. Zabrecky has now won all three showroom awards and the Lecturer of the Year award twice. Each award cannot be won more than twice by the same performer, and the only other performer to have accomplished this feat is Shoot Ogawa. As Zabrecky gratefully accepted his award, he joked that because he was not eligible to win any more of these awards, the next time his face appears at an AMA awards ceremony will likely be in the *In Memoriam* reel.

The nominees for Parlor Magician of the Year were Jon Armstrong, The Evasons, Christopher Hart, Derek Hughes, and Paul Vigil. The winner was Jon Armstrong.

The nominees for Stage Magician of the Year were Les Arnold and Dazzle, Jon Armstrong, Tina Lenert, Mind2Mind, and Artem Shchukin. The winners were Mind2Mind, who are opening a residency in Las Vegas at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

The show came in at two hours and a quarter, which was shorter than most previous years. Unlike other years, there was no afterparty at the Magic Castle, but many of the attendees returned to the beloved clubhouse where the kitchen was kept open until midnight to satiate the hunger of starving magicians.

The AMA Awards show is always a great opportunity to dress up in fineries and celebrate the most talented in the magic community.



- (top down): Ibuki performs his manipulation act.
- Jason Segel presents the showroom awards.
  - Zabrecky wins Close-up Magician of the Year.
  - Jon Armstrong wins Parlor Magician of the Year for the second time.
  - Mind2Mind accepts the Stage Magician of the Year award.



# Ring Events

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

## Ring 17 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) Hosts Jared Kopf Show, Lecture, and Workshop

Ian Crawford kicked off the evening's events with an excellent Bank Night routine involving a cell phone borrowed from Andrew Sutherland. Andrew's phone was sealed in an envelope and mixed with five identical envelopes that contained dummy phones. Andrew numbered each of the envelopes and then rolled a die and each time a number was rolled, Ian hit the corresponding envelope with a hammer! Luckily, the last envelope standing (and the only one that didn't get hit) was the one with Andrew's phone! Thank you Ian for presenting this entertaining and deceptive routine!



*Jared lectures.*

Jared Kopf had much wisdom to impart and he did so with style, calmness and narrative that was captivating. He began by quoting David Devant's *Secrets of My Magic*; specifically the passage beginning with, "The sooner conjurers realize that locked books or secret codes will never prevent the secrets of tricks being found out and

broadcast, the better." (Coincidentally, I happened to be reading it at the time – not during his lecture!)

Jared had high praise for Vernon and does quite an accurate impression of him! It was fun to watch him perform the Cups and Balls while channeling Vernon's voice. An intriguing original creation combined the plots of "Do As I Do" and "Any Card At Any Number." The participant and performer find each other's cards using numbers that they pick. For those interested in stack work, Jared suggests consulting *Ibidem 8* for Marlo's thoughts on the subject. A crystal ball suits Jared's persona and he used one to great effect in a trick where four people cut, looked at a card, and shuffled it back in the deck. Another clever combination was Jared's Egg Bag and Centre Tear routine. His inspiration for this was Bruce Bernstein's Ritual from *Unreal*. The presentational hook centred on the fears of the participants. Jared performed a Three Card Monte routine that included elements of Hofzinger's "Everywhere and Nowhere" and Carlyle's Homing Card from *Stars of Magic*.

He showed us a No Sleight Triumph using just a half pass (I believe a Triumph of the same name with a different handling appears in *The Vernon Chronicles*, Volume 1). The Edward G. Brown "Thought-of Card Across" was also well done. I believe this is in Dai Vernon's *Ultimate Secrets of Card Magic*. Visit [www.magicana.ca](http://www.magicana.ca) to check out Ricky Jay performing it at The Magic Palace.

I enjoyed learning the moves he shared for the linking rings, including a Larry Jen-



(l to r): Colin Geddes as emcee. • Jared as storyteller. • Jared on stage.  
• Jared on the egg bag. • Jared on the cups and balls.

nings move to freely show the key ring and a ring exchange with an audience member that gives the impression that all the rings have been examined. Jared studied under Johnny Thompson – in fact, he’s referred to as one of his sons. (Paul Vigil and Alpen Nacar are the others – thanks, James Alan!) And he also studied under Bob White. Jared suggested that we should get Bob’s book, *It’s a Matter of Style* (I took his advice).

The lecture ran long, as we all wanted to hear Jared’s stories about Vernon, Jennings, Thompson, and others. Many were lucky to see his show the following night and he blew us away with the very same items he cov-

ered in the lecture! (Devant knew what he was talking about.) Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to attend his workshop but I heard it was excellent.

If you’re lucky enough to see him perform, pay particular attention to his scripting. The magic is solid but the dialogue that runs in the background is equally entertaining. It comments on the action, raises points of interest, engages the imagination, and yet in no way detracts or overpowers the effects. We should all aspire to incorporate these same elements in our own scripts and eschew reciting mere patter. Can you dig it?

*David Sutherland*

## Ring 45 (Miami, Florida) Hosts Peter Turner Mentalism Workshop

Peter Turner, the renowned mentalist and consultant, gave a unique workshop to I.B.M. Ring 45 on May 10, 2026. Despite the event taking place on a Sunday that also happened to be Mother’s Day, and despite only three days’ notice through social media and the I.B.M. Ring 45 newsletter, the workshop had an impressive turnout of

fourteen attendees. Peter was incredibly generous with his time, with the event lasting nearly eight hours. Notably, he delivered the entire workshop without even stopping for a meal. Among the attendees were Florida’s own workers, Karl Hein and David Shimshi, as well as magic social media influencer PigCake.



*(l to r): Feras Alkharboush, Alexander Bresford, Alex Geiser, Daniel Weinger, Gaston De Cardenas, Henry Bustamante, Jordan Dresnick, Karl Hein, Michael Chavez, David Shimshi, Erickson Hernandez, Mark Metzger, Pigcake (Muhammed), Peter Turner.*

Peter opened the workshop by inviting attendees to ask him anything they wished to discuss, followed by a curated selection of routines that he felt would resonate with magicians of all skill levels. Through both Peter’s performances and the attendees’ questions, the workshop began with a discussion of magic and mentalism phone apps and how to approach them. Peter shared his work on existing apps, such as “Digital Force Bag.”

This was followed by a deep exploration of dual reality, featuring an ingenious routine that allowed the performer to seemingly read a participant’s mind in an exceptionally clean manner without any preshow work. Peter also shared his use of dual reality with playing cards, as well as his touches on classic effects such as “Out of This World.” He covered his work on billets, including his approaches to “Acidus Novus” and material by Richard Busch.



*(l to r): Mark Metzger, Peter Turner.  
• Erickson Hernandez, Peter Turner.*

Peter also explored propless routines, such as the Name Guess, at length and explained several applications of Equivoque. Indeed, it was the consensus of the attendees that experiencing these effects firsthand was one of the best ways to fully conceptualize routines that Peter had previously published in written form.

Peter then shared a series of routines that were extraordinarily simple yet highly effective: his handling of the Which Hand plot, an impossible card location, and his work on both Marc Paul's "AAA Book Test" and the "Hoy Book Test."

Peter Turner is especially known for his work on PK Touches, and he explained several variations of the effect, including one in which a whispered word is seemingly transferred from one participant to another. To close the evening, Peter discussed his approach to building a theatrical mentalism show.

The attendees left with practical routines

that would allow them to perform strong mentalism using ordinary, found objects. The true highlight, however, was the intimate nature of the workshop itself. Fourteen performers spent eight hours with Peter, asking questions and receiving thoughtful, personalized insights. Peter was exceptionally generous and forthcoming with his knowledge, tailoring much of the discussion directly to the attendees. It was truly a unique experience, and I.B.M. Ring 45 hopes to host him again when his journey brings him back to Miami. According to Peter, that is very likely to happen. *Feras Alkharboush*

## Ring 70 (Tacoma, Washington) Hosts Louie Foxx Lecture

Our March meeting was a very special one, featuring a lecture by Louie Foxx, the same talk he gave at PCAM last year! Louie has worked just about every kind of venue with his personality-based show. To quote Jeff Evans, "Louie is the most prolific creator and performer of magic currently working in the Pacific Northwest."

Louie opened with the appropriately named "Opening Card Trick," which he demonstrated with guest Max Picozo, noting that you can have fun with such techniques as telling the audience member to count, then adding "too slow" by flipping through the deck before they can say anything. The trick is not technically part of the main show, but is done working the audience beforehand, which lets people see that they're going to get some good entertainment that night. He then demonstrated the Martin Lewis "Spinner Move."

Louie begins his show with "Fiat Currency" – "an opening effect that explains what you do" – in which a piece of paper with \$1 written on it is folded several times and turned into a \$1 bill. When unfolded, a dollar coin also drops out, for which the performer can use a Bite and Restored Coin. He frames the trick with a lesson about the economics of paper and metal currency.

Louie's "Take-Out Box" uses a Chinese

take-out container for a production box. The empty box is unfolded, refolded back into its original shape, and opened to show noodles! It can also be used for a vanish or transformation.

"The Fortune Teller" involves a large, folded-up paper with several options on the outside and under each flap (similar to the MASH playground game). The audience can guess colors, cards, fruit, and other food items, and their guess will appear.

"The Body Language Book Test" is the most audience-intensive (and somewhat dangerous) trick, in which someone picks a word from a book, then Louie guesses it. The audience member holds a rolled-up paper to their head as an "antenna" to amplify their thoughts to Louie. That being unsuccessful, they then take the paper and hit him in the stomach with it (which he notes can sometimes sting quite a bit). He's one letter off, then has the audience member unroll the paper to reveal a statement about mixing up the correct word.

Louie went over some tips for performing, such as limiting the number of steps in the process of a trick, with a graph of how the trick is diminished for each extra step. He writes down a set list of every trick done in a show, and whether they're unique to him, common to other magicians, or fluid



*Louie Foxx on stage.*

*Grayson Davis (left), Tony Smith (right), Val Revell (below).*

and in between. A trick is defined as “unique” if two of the three of prop, presentation, and method are different from how anyone else does it. His goal is to move everything common out of the show, and he’s been very successful in that. Once, he was booked for a cruise with four other magicians, but didn’t have to cut a single trick because his whole show was original!

After the presentation, Louie had several original tricks that he’d designed and produced, as well as his lecture notes, for sale.

Finally, Tony Smith and Val Revell performed the Jig Sawing illusion. In a bit of

serendipity, Val happened upon the Friday night bullpen session at the Portland Magic Jam the weekend before. She said that she was from Tacoma and had always wanted to be a magician’s assistant and get sawed in half, so Tony invited her to the next meeting!

After many great years of service, our Ring President Rick Anderson is stepping down. At our next meeting, we will vote on his successor; Tim Flynn, who has offered to run. The theme for our April meeting is coins and coin tricks. The next meeting will be on April 26 at 2 p.m. at the LeMay Car Museum.

*Tony Smith*

## **Ring 115 (Singapore) Hosts Lecture by Rick Holcombe**

I.B.M. Ring 115’s May meeting fell on the same evening as Rick Holcombe’s lecture. The venue was Function Room 1 of the Drama Centre, at level 3 of the National Library building at 100 Victoria Street. It attracted a total of fifty people, comprising forty-two members, two patrons, and six guests.

Hosted by Ng Kah King, the evening started off with performances by five of our Ring 115 members. An induction test was taken by newcomer Teo Yu Xiang, and an induction ceremony was conducted for Rob Newberry, who took his induction test in April.

After a fifteen-minute break, it was time for the lecture by Rick Holcombe. Rick started by showing his “Snack Break” effect, in which sponge nuggets keep disappearing and reappearing before finally producing a



*A close-up projection of one of Rick’s coin moves.*

bone. The rest of the lecture was truly magical, with small coin purses, coins (silver, copper, Chinese, and a silver/copper coin), a Sharpie pen, small silver balls, a slinky

coil, and his mobile phone. His “Fusion” routine is a complete coin act with three different colored coins. It is an extension of the ideas he expounded in his book *Calico*. Rick demonstrated the manipulation of the coins very openly with interactive questions from the audience.

After his lecture, brisk sales were observed at his table. They included his books *Calico* and *Recoil*, video packages, Snack Break, and others. The formal lecture ended at 10:00 p.m. but discussions and exchange of ideas carried on till 11:00 p.m. *Kogi Oberoi*



*Rick demonstrates a move to Ring 115.*

## **Ring 398 (Appleton/Green Bay, Wisconsin) Presents the Science of Magic**

On Saturday, May 9, 2026, the International Brotherhood of Magicians Dr. Lynn Miner Ring 398 participated in Science of Magic at the Building for Kids Children’s Museum in Appleton, Wisconsin. Building for Kids is a nonprofit, play-based children’s museum known for its hands-on, interactive exhibits designed for young learners.

Six members of Ring 398 were stationed around the museum, demonstrating and

teaching magic to guests. President Daryl Rogers taught “Spooky Straw” and “X-Ray Crayons.” Vice President Rick Morein shared the “Paper Bag Mystery.” Secretary Kevin Koehne demonstrated the “Amazing Pencil,” while Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Schroeder presented “Linking Clips.” Member Scott Hanneman rounded out the lineup with the “Floating Cup.”

As a special treat, Treasurer Tal Kuhnz



*(l to r): Tal Kuhnz, Michael Schroeder, Daryl Rogers, Kevin Koehne, Scott Hanneman, Rick Morein.*



*Ring 398 President Daryl Rogers shares the secrets to performing “X-ray Crayons.”*



*Scott Hanneman demonstrates the amazing “Floating Cup” to a group of potential future magicians.*

and his wife Peggy hosted a magical photo booth. Children and parents both participated by donning their favorite hats, costumes, and props and getting a photo memory of the special day.

Between teaching sessions, the six magicians performed two thirty-minute shows, both included with general admission. Attendance was excellent, and the museum was filled with laughter, amazement, and the joy of discovering magic together.

This community outreach event gave our Ring the opportunity to share our love of magic through teaching, performing, and connecting with families. The day also al-



*Ring Treasurer Tal Kuhn performs “The Cocktail” in the first of two shows presented during the event.*

lowed us to highlight the many upcoming Year of Houdini events happening throughout the Fox Valley. *Kevin Koehne*

## **SUBMITTING RING EVENTS**

All articles about special activities in your Ring – shows, banquets, public service projects, etc. – should be submitted to Lauren Jurgensen at [ringreports@magician.org](mailto:ringreports@magician.org).

Articles should be submitted as soon as possible following the event and must include the name of the author. We prefer articles to be submitted as Microsoft Word documents, attached to your e-mail. Captions for photos should be included in the document at the end of the article and coded to match any accompanying photos.

For those without e-mail access, cleanly typed events and traditional photographs may be mailed to Lauren Jurgensen at the address on page four of each issue of *The Linking Ring*.

# From Our UK Correspondent

BRIAN LEAD



As I've mentioned before in this column, it is sometimes difficult to balance items of national British interest with those of a more international nature which befit such a wide-ranging magazine. I try to construct articles which reflect activities over here in the United Kingdom, but can still be of general interest.

Lewis Davenport (a name to conjure with around the world if ever there was one) founded the Davenports magic business in 1898. Ever since, the family has been accumulating magic tricks, novelties, jokes, posters, programmes, photographs and other ephemera. Several thousand items may be found on the Davenport Collection website, as well as talks and articles by leading collectors and historians, plus clips of rare film.



Lewis Davenport.

A short time ago, before adding it to the archives, John Davenport circulated thirty-five seconds of some rather jerky black-and-white footage, apparently taken by an

amateur cameraman with a cine camera at the 1939 British Ring convention in Southport. It shows President Oswald Rae doing a blindfold walk as an outdoor publicity stunt. John added the observation:

*"It's sadly out of focus, but nevertheless interesting. There is no detail about this walk in the relevant [British Ring] Budget magazine. I am wondering what Oswald Rae was trying to achieve. He was not holding on to anyone, and held some paper up in one of his hands. At the end of the film, he seems to have ended up at someone's front door. Was he trying to find his way to an unknown address? What was the reason for holding the paper up?"*

You can now view this film clip online and see for yourself if you go to the Davenport website mentioned above.

It was subsequently realised that Rae was, in fact, repeating a feat which he had attempted five years earlier, at the 1934 convention held in Leamington Spa. It took place in the Pump Room Gardens, and this time there was a *Budget* commentary by the performer himself:

*"A week prior to the convention, the Mayor of Leamington, Dr. W. E. Jones, had written a name and address on a small piece of paper, folded it in four, and sealed it in an envelope. This envelope was sealed in five others, making six in all. This was done in the Council Chamber at Leamington in the presence of the Town Clerk, representatives of the press etc. The Mayor personally handed the sealed envelope to the Town Clerk, who locked it at once in the Corporation strong room. The Town Clerk returned the envelope to the Mayor on Friday afternoon, and he brought it with him to the gardens. Various members of the crowd tried the 'bandage' and the Mayor then blindfolded yours truly to the satisfaction of all*

present, and then handed me the sealed envelope. You bet I managed to deliver same to the correct address, escorted by half the police in Leamington. Made good publicity, anyway.”

Rae added:

“George Blake was trussed up in a strait-jacket; and by Jove they made a good job of it. Then he was suspended upside down from a small crane. Walter Kemp, microphone in hand, announced just what was going on by means of a loudspeaker in a car. George escaped from the jacket in record time, and caused considerable excitement. Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Maskelyne and family had run down for the afternoon, and when Harry Kaye produced his guillotine illusion, Mrs. Maskelyne charmingly consented to be the victim. Harry demonstrated the possibilities of the gruesome machinery by letting the blade drop and slice a huge potato in twain. Then, Mrs. Maskelyne inserted her head into the hole of the machine, and down came the blade. Jasper looked on with his hat at a rakish angle, quite unperturbed. On Harry withdrawing the blade, Mrs. Maskelyne was still intact, head still in place. In fact, she appeared as if she liked it!”

The ever-vigilant Ian Keable eventually came across two press cuttings from 1939, dealing with the later version.

The Liverpool Express of June 7 previewed the event, mentioning the conference of magicians being held in Southport. In ad-

dition to Oswald Rae, a twenty-seven-year-old Indian Fakir called Lenz was to be buried alive in the Floral Hall gardens and Esme Levante, daughter of The Great Levante, would be thrown, handcuffed and manacled, into the open-air bathing pool. As Roy Field mentions in his splendid book *Linking Britain*, Rae was a friend and collaborator of P. T. Selbit, the inventor of “Sawing Through a Lady.” Selbit gave him the rights to perform this illusion, and he did so later in the convention, again for the general public.

NINTH  
**ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
 SOUTHPORT  
**JULY 7, 8, 9, 1939**  
 HEADQUARTERS - - - QUEEN'S HOTEL

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

**FRIDAY, JULY 7th.**  
 4-0 p.m. CIVIC WELCOME & Afternoon Tea in the **FLORAL HALL ANNEXE.**  
 5-15 p.m. **FLORAL HALL GARDENS: BURIED ALIVE,** by LENZ.  
 5-45 p.m. **OSWALD RAE** will attempt a **BLINDFOLD WALK**  
 6-15 p.m. **SEA-BATHING LAKE: UNDERWATER ESCAPE** by **MISS ESME LEVANTE.**  
 8-0 p.m. **RECEPTION at HEADQUARTERS** by the **PRESIDENT and MRS. RAE**

*Convention Programme detail.*

As Ian observed, they certainly knew how to do outdoor stunts in those days. Sadly, stringent Health and Safety rules have seriously curtailed things now. The last attempt, by Danny and Steph of Amethyst,

*(continued on page 59)*



*Amethyst.*

# Conjurer's Foolosophy

JOE HERNANDEZ



I've learned that in magic, the word "no" does not exist. Magic is about possibility, formed by the idea of saying "yes." Though others see limits, the magician sees chances. Magic welcomes the unknown and promotes curiosity, wonder, and imagination. It is about opening doors that most people think are shut.

I've learned that even when everything seems still, a magician's hands are always moving.

I've learned that what matters most is not just turning magic into art but developing the art of performance itself. This is where magic ideas become real. Performance brings together philosophy and technique, letting the magician's thoughts, feelings, and intentions show. Performing well is not only about impressing people but about forming a connection, igniting ideas, and sharing a meaningful experience with the audience. In performance, magic becomes a conversation between people, formed by thoughtful purpose.

I've learned that magic is more than merely skill; it can refresh you. Practicing magic is not only about performing, but also about achieving calm. When you feel stressed or overwhelmed, repeating sleights and routines can help you relax. At its core, magic is a type of self-care. It helps you focus on the present, steady your mind, and find peace even in difficult times.

I've learned that magic is a skill, but at its best, it is a way to express yourself and explore ideas. When we go beyond the basic moves and add emotion and mystery, magic becomes art. A thoughtful magician knows that real skill is not only about technique but also about making people feel, wonder, and ask questions. Magic lets us see the world in new ways, bringing together ideas, creativity, and performance.

I've learned that magic is an art that combines skill and purpose, creating wonder for both the audience and the magician. If you rush through a performance, the true spirit of magic gets lost. The audience will notice if your actions lack real intention. Moving too quickly means you fail to seize the opportunity to add detail, refine small gestures, and be mindful in each moment. By moving with care, you can find the subtle touches that make a simple trick into something amazing.

I've learned that one important idea in magic is understanding movement. Even a short pause counts as movement. When used well, it improves the routine's flow and shows that all gestures are important.

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Joe Hernandez is the author of *Conjurer's Wisdom Volumes 1 and 2*, *Phonetastic*, *Magic Babylon*, *Houdini: The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*, *Houdini: Reflections*, and the just-released *The Foolosophy of Conjuring*, from which excerpts are taken for this column. Books can be purchased from Amazon.com, magic dealers, or [www.booksbyjoe.com](http://www.booksbyjoe.com).



# A Portrait of the Professional

DALE SALWAK

## The Artist's Hands

*Whatever our endeavor, we have an ethical responsibility to develop and serve others with the gift of our hands.* – Anonymous

*The final forming of the person's character lies in their own hands.* – Anne Frank

To state the obvious: Healthy hands are important in the entertainment industry, indeed essential for all working artists, including magicians. Barring the unforeseen, with care they can serve us throughout a career; and yet, other than Burling Hull's few pages on the subject in his *Expert Billiard Ball Manipulation* (1910, written when he was twenty-one), how rarely is this principal concern addressed in lectures or periodicals or books.

My own interest goes back many years to when my mother, a trained concert pianist who had been playing since she was five, suffered at the threshold of her art the loss of all feeling in both hands. Visits to specialists offered no remedy – “Only time,” they said – and so we concluded that overuse (two to four hours of practice daily, including all of Hanon's exercises in *The Virtuoso Pianist*) had led to this. She had pushed too hard.

Nevertheless, to our amazement, over the next decade she continued to play without complaint or self-pity, relying just on her eyesight and thoughts. As she explained, “I have a *memory* of feeling.” Only the most discerning of listeners could have sensed any difference. Then gradually, miraculously, one hundred percent of feeling was restored and she continued to play with such speed and depth as if she had never lost it, until her passing just shy of one hundred years.



**Burling Hull began his 1910 book, *Expert Billiard Ball Manipulation*, with a chapter on “Care of the Hands.” These photos illustrated the author’s flexibility.**

Neil Foster also learned firsthand (no pun intended) what can occur from repetitive strain injuries. After years editing *The New Tops*, with his forearms pressed against the light board, scar tissue developed and his right hand weakened seventy percent. Following



*Marian demonstrates some exercises for relaxing and strengthening the hands.*

surgery, with much of the strength returned, he still had to modify his work with cards and the Zombie (Floating Sphere).

Both Benny and Marian Chavez understood how overuse of the hands can put someone at risk for injuries. When prospective students crossed the Rubicon, if I may use that metaphor, and enrolled at the California-based Chavez Studio of Magic, the teachers emphasized the necessity for daily exercises to stretch and relax and strengthen. In fact, during the mid-1940s many returning servicemen and women enrolled at Chavez under the GI Bill for the physical (and psychological) therapy resulting from sleight of hand.



*Using this exerciser strengthens the hand.*

Later, students were encouraged to purchase an exerciser such as the one musicians use. Pressing the individual levers like a trumpeter just five minutes a day strengthens over time the fingers, especially the weaker pinky. Compressing the entire unit with each hand develops the muscles in the palm. Benny also recommended as a form of exercise repeatedly back palming and producing twenty or more cards using a stiff deck (Bee or similar).

There was more: Fingernails should be properly cleaned and clipped; cream used daily to leave the hands soft and supple; and

before a practice session exercise and the warming of hands under hot water for two minutes. (Nowadays some performers, including jugglers, rely on a Thermal Hand Warmer Pouch.)

Most important, they urged their students to take regular breaks during these sessions. If pain or discomfort should occur repeatedly, they were advised to stop the work, but if there was no improvement within a week or two, then to consult an orthopedic therapist (a list of the best was kept in the office). “Always wear thick gloves whenever carrying heavy props or luggage,” Marian added, “and above all, avoid risky activities.”

To one student who on off hours from class loved to skydive, she said, “Is it worth risking your future if not your life for five minutes of pleasure?”

To another who liked to box, she said, “How you treat your hands is an investment in your career as a magician. Never forget that.”

To yet another who labored on the lathe, she urged him to wear heavy-duty gloves. “I have heard about too many occasions,” she said, “of someone losing a digit, or worse, on such machinery” – including one worker whose long hair, untied, was caught by the whirring wheel which then pulled it out from the scalp.

Aversion to tough handshakes remains another concern more widespread than we might suspect, extending from magicians to other artists of the first rank (if pressed I can easily identify a dozen instances).

For this reason, backstage after a program both my mother and I always greeted with a *gentle* handshake such keyboard luminaries (I’m not name-dropping here) as Van Cliburn or Roger Williams or Peter Nero.

In her book *A Romance of Three Legs: Glenn Gould's Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Piano* (2008), Katie Hafner writes of such a case. Anxious not to offend anyone, but worried about the health of his hands, the renowned pianist printed a message and either posted it to his dressing-room door or handed it to anyone who offered to shake:

**YOUR COOPERATION WILL BE APPRECIATED.**

A pianist's hands are sometimes injured in ways which cannot be predicted. Needless to say, this could be quite serious.

Therefore – I will very much appreciate it if handshaking can be avoided.

This will eliminate embarrassments all around. Rest assured that there is no intent to be discourteous – the aim is simply to prevent any possibility of injury.

Only once in my life did a family friend in his enthusiasm and energy greet me with a vice-like handshake from which it took me a half hour to recover. After that experience, whenever he showed up I was able to avoid his offered hand by walking into the room preoccupied with massaging cream or carrying a box or other activity. Since Covid-19 how useful has become the fist bump!

On occasion the hands are star of the show. Casting agents understand this. Sometimes they will ask to see someone's hands because they are looking for specific qualities that fit the project, whether for a close-up, hand modeling, or a role requiring detailed physical work.

Before I was hired to perform magic with cards and balls and coins under the opening credits of a *Matlock* program (1988); or to become the hands of Stephanie Powers dealing cards in a scene with Rock Hudson in an episode of *McMillan & Wife* (1977); or before Benny Chavez was considered for a cameo on *The Red Skelton Show* (1954), the respective casting director asked to see first not the magic but the hands.



*Dale becomes Stefanie Powers' hands in a scene from McMillan & Wife with Rock Hudson, NBC-TV, 1977.*

Sometimes no matter how careful the artist, however, disabilities take unequivocal priority. Pierre-Auguste Renoir, for example,



*Benny Chavez performs card fans for Red Skelton on an episode of The Red Skelton Show, CBS-TV, 1954.*



developed rheumatoid arthritis when he was close to fifty. Although unable to pick up a brush or to hold a palette, in the following years he painted more than four hundred pictures until he died at seventy-eight. How did he do it?

As difficulties increased, he adapted a technique. Family members wedged the brushes between his fingers and attached the palette to his wheelchair. “I can still see!” he said at the time. Painting was always his joy; now it was also the best therapy for the pain and the weakness of old age.



*With Renoir's onset of rheumatoid arthritis, family members wedged the brushes between his fingers.*

A testimony to the humanity of Renoir's hands and a hundred others may be found in the renowned surgeon Adrian E. Flatt's incredible “Hands Through History” collection of bronzed casts displayed in the lobby of the George W. Truett Memorial Hospital at the

Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas.

Here visitors may gaze on the hands, like fingerprints all different, of some of the world's most renowned names in art, politics, sports, and exploration – from George Schulz to Walt Disney to Neil Armstrong, even President Abraham Lincoln, whose hands from 1860 look massive and formidable. A quick online search reveals other such collections worldwide, including that of magicians.

As I cast my eye over the history of print literature on any art and think of the hundreds of lectures I have enjoyed, I am struck once again by how little attention has been paid to the health of the hands. Why?

I have no response but to turn to what Josanna Stalmaker wrote, from a different context, in her highly recommended book, *The Rest Is Silence: Enlightenment Philosophers Facing Death* (2026): “It is difficult, and perhaps fruitless, to speculate about the significance of [and reasons for] an absence.”

Rather, I return to memories of my mother and other artists like her. After she passed in 2020, my brother Glenn and I spent considerable time alongside her open coffin, gazing on her face, and her hands, the hands that truly lived.

I thought about the challenges she faced, always with grace, as well as the compositions she played, always with courage: Chopin (her specialty) and Beethoven and Liszt and Mozart and much more, all of which, like a painter's oils and watercolors or a magician's props, came to life because they were at the time in the right hands.

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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 for valued input.

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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](mailto:dsalwak@citruscollege.edu).



## Inside the Wizard's Workshop

BILL WINTERS

More than four decades ago, a young man with an interest in building magic built a two-story workshop with the help of his father. What began in 1975 as Windy's House of Mystery, located in his parents' basement, is now Louis Paul Productions. It still operates out of the workshop Louis Paul and his father built in the backyard of Louis's childhood home. Despite the name change, Louis' mission remains the same: "to build the finest handcrafted magic equipment at a fair price."

Louis Paul Windemuth grew up in Cumberland, Maryland, nestled along the Appalachian Mountains. At the age of eight, his parents gave him a woodworking tool set and a safety speech to ensure he kept his fingers intact. The Christmas gift set him on a course to become one of today's premier builders of handcrafted magic, but Louis was almost taken *off* course when he tried to enlist in the United States Air Force as an electrician in the 1970s. Unable to pass the eye exam, he became a civilian electrician instead. Uncle Sam's loss was the magic community's gain. Today, Louis is a master of both wood and metalworking, known to fabricate his own screws and hinges when commercially available items are not up to par.

To discover where his passion for magic and magic building began, we must go back to the 1960s, when Louis attended a Christmas party at the Strand Theater in Cumberland and witnessed his first professional magic show. Mr. Carroll Taylor, aka KARTAY, was the evening's entertainment, presenting a magic and illusion show. As luck would have it, Mr. Taylor had gone to school with Louis's parents. This coincidence led to Louis's parents taking him and his brother Chuck to visit a magic shop owned by Mr. Taylor, who encouraged the boys' pursuit of magic. That en-

couragement was enough for the brothers to put together a magic act they performed together until Chuck headed off to college, leaving Louis to go it alone.

With cash in short supply, Louis began to fabricate magic props he read about in magic books from the local library. This came about in 1966 after watching a popular afternoon TV show called *Countdown Carnival* on WTTG in Washington, D.C. The host encouraged viewers to put on a backyard "Carnival for Muscular Dystrophy" to help raise money for muscular dystrophy research. Louis sent away for the carnival kit, which came with a suggestion to put on a magic show. The local library provided magic books describing how to make the props for the backyard show.

Louis would later use the money earned from a paper route to purchase hand and power tools to equip the workshop in his parents' basement. In 1985, on a trip to Europe with this brother, he went into a German hardware store and walked out with an arm full of tools. Most of us would have come home with a beer stein, but not Louis.

Looking to build on his woodworking and metalworking skills, Louis became a protégé to James Swoger, a magician, magic craftsman, and owner of Regow's House of Enchantment ("Regow's" is "Swoger" spelled backwards). Under Mr. Swoger's guidance, Louis learned the ins and outs of the magic manufacturing business from top to bottom. Before long, he was selling his magic props to none other than his friend and magic dealer Mr. Taylor. His first sale was in August 1975, an effect called Cage-O-Flowers. I suspect that piece is in someone's collection today, adorning a shelf in a magic room, the owner unaware of the significance of that piece of prestidigitation.



*Louis Paul.*

Many mentors and friends have shared magic building techniques with Louis, including Les Smith of Owens Magic. During a lunch date, Les and Louis talked about tools, machinery, and Les's huge collection of exotic woods when the conversation switched to applying the finish to magic props. Louis picked up an Owens prop that was ready to ship to a customer. After looking over the prop, Louis said to Les, "Why do you finish the inside as nice as the outside ... no one would ever know." Without missing a beat, Les looked at Louis and said, "I would know!" Les's words left a permanent impression on Louis about how quality magic should be built.

Louis's other mentors include Nick Ruggiero and John Good of Collector's Workshop. He has also been inspired by high-quality builders such as Lynn Johnson, Tim Starr, Jim Riser, Lupe Nielsen, Ray Lum, Chance Wolf, Daniel Summer, Michael Baker, John Gaughan, Dave Powell, Willie Willi Wessel, Mel Babcock, Alan Warner, Eddy Taytelbaum, Tony Lackner, Thomas Pohle, Francois Danis, Bob Klein, John Kennedy, George Robinson – just to name a few!

The influence of these craftspeople can be seen in a one-of-a-kind Climbing Florin that Louis built for magician Mike Rose. This item looks more like a piece of fine European furniture than a prop. Louis is also known for putting his skills to good use restoring magic props that have seen better days.

As demand grew, Louis realized he needed a bigger workspace. So, in 1980, he and his father built the 30x30-foot, two-story workshop, allowing for increased production and bigger effects. Over the years, Louis's client base has grown from Mr. Taylor's magic shop to performers around the world. At the same time, his skill as a magician has placed him in high demand. Louis has performed up and down the East Coast and all the way to the West Coast, even appearing under the Seattle Space Needle. His clients have included prestigious universities like Columbia, and he has twice appeared at the White House during the annual Easter Egg Roll.

One can find close-up magic, stage effects, and utility devices among Louis's creations, including a wonderful folding nightclub table of the highest quality. Some of his restored ef-



fects include the Ray Lum Gumball Machine and a Lester Lake Head Chopper, built by William Kennedy and originally owned by Denny Haney. His shortest run was the production of four Deluxe Folding Nightclub tables. The four lucky people who own them have a real treasure on their hands, as more will never be built due to the required materials no longer being available.

As is often the case, Louis looks to vendors outside the United States to meet his exacting standards. His most recent build, SPEAR-IT, consists of colored ropes sourced from the United Kingdom. Those lucky enough to own this effect have a museum quality piece. While not cheap, the cost reflects the fifty-plus hours spent hand sanding and rubbing a triple finish into the beautiful woodwork, along with the meticulous crafting of the brass work and a gleaming dagger with a hand-wound grip. Of course, this effect is meant to be performed, not just put on a shelf to be admired by magic collectors. Like all of Louis's props, they are

made with the working magician in mind.

In addition to being a top-notch magician and member of the I.B.M., Louis is a fabulous balloon sculptor and musician who plays the rarely seen water goblets. He read about a magician who included the musical glasses in his show and this piqued his interest, but where does one learn to play the water goblets? As luck would have it, a group of missionaries passed through Louis's neck of the woods in 1997. After presenting the musical glasses, they shared with Louis where he could acquire the appropriate glassware and how to tune them with the correct amount of water. Having witnessed a performance of musical glasses myself, I can tell you it's truly magical.

If you own one of Louis's creations, such as his Card Riser, Cocoa Card Box, or Mini-Card Extender, built with the permission and assistance of James Riser, you are indeed fortunate. If you're not familiar with Louis's work, check out his website and see what quality looks like.



After running many magic workshops, I know kids love doing arts and crafts. This month I want to share my take on a very old mentalism effect by diving into the arts and crafts world of mental magic and ice cream.

Most of you know a trick that uses multiple outs. Even though the effect's method is simple, its results blow minds.

**EFFECT:** You remove four items from an envelope. They are pictures of ice cream treats, and you place them face up on the table. "In the summer, sooner or later we get around to buying some ice cream. Today I am going to ask you to use this round tuit and place it on your favorite frozen dessert." Allow them to do this and then reveal that you knew exactly which dessert they would choose.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Three different pictures of frozen treats: an ice cream sundae, an ice cream cone, and a popsicle.

One round tuit with the words "You Chose the Sundae" written on the back side.

One envelope with the words "You Chose the Ice Cream Cone" written on the address side.

**SET-UP:** On the back side of the popsicle, draw a large X. Prepare by printing the desserts on heavy card stock so the X on the popsicle does not bleed through. Prepare the round tuit and the envelope as detailed above.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** Begin by saying, "With summer raging and temperatures high, we're in the mood for frozen desserts. Inside this envelope, I have printed three different treats."

Show the back side of the envelope to your audience (you don't want them to know that you wrote "You Chose the Ice Cream Cone" on the other side). Take out your three pictures and lay them face up on the table. Do not let them see the backs of the pictures.

Now, reach into the envelope and take out the round tuit. Say, "If you're anything like me, every week you get around to it – and by that, I mean you get around to having some ice cream. Today I made a guess about which one of these frozen treats is your favorite, and I want you to drop this round tuit on whatever item you like the most."

After they have placed the tuit on their dessert of choice, you can use your outs to reveal that you know exactly which one they would pick.

If they choose the sundae, turn over the tuit and have them read the words on the back: "You Chose the Sundae."

If they choose the cone, put the other two pictures and the tuit back inside the envelope, and turn the envelope around to reveal the words "You Chose the Ice Cream Cone."

If they pick the popsicle, turn over the picture of the cone, then turn over the picture of the sundae. Now turn over the popsicle and show the X on the back of the picture. You are always right, no matter which item is picked. Kids love to cut and color, so this is a nice project for them. Plus, the magic is pretty good as well.

Until next month...

**Bob Durante**

*bobdurante55@gmail.com*



# Youth Trivia Contest



**July's question:** This well-known performer was nagged by his spouse – let's say he was *requested* by his spouse – to quit, or at least reduce, his inveterate and prodigious cigar-smoking habit, to no avail. *Who was this performer?*

**Answers must be postmarked by August 20, 2026.**

**April's question was:** In the late 1800s, an established musical figure became so captivated by an act that he quickly booked them to perform in a variety show over a theater. *Who was the musician, and what was the name of the act?*

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

*When the events described in our question occurred, electrically powered air conditioning hadn't yet been invented by Willis Carrier; he built his first unit in 1901, and he didn't patent it until 1906. As a result, theaters and other indoor entertainment venues in the late 1800s were still uncooled. It made sense to use the rooftops of buildings for some types of entertainment performances – the cooler, open air above the heat of the city streets was far more comfortable than a poorly ventilated, indoor auditorium. And so, the tops of more than two dozen theater buildings, in New York City alone, were eventually adorned with fully functional rooftop theaters. These were used primarily in the summer months, and helped to keep the money flowing for the theaters.*

*Following an ugly family disagreement, a twenty-something musician emigrated in the mid-1800s from his home in Prussia – now Poland – to New York City. He became a prolific inventor; but he loved and wrote music, and fell in love with opera. He be-*

*came very successful, built at least six opera houses in New York City, Philadelphia, and London, and produced an opera that he himself composed. He's credited with reinvigorating opera's popularity in the United States. And, his ability to influence musical culture extended to his descendants. His name? Oscar Hammerstein. (He was the grandfather of Oscar Hammerstein II, of "Rodgers and Hammerstein" musical fame.)*

*A Danish couple named Julius Jørgensen and Agnes Claussen had dated each other in Copenhagen in their youth, and reunited years later after moving separately to the United States. They eventually married in 1886.*

*Julius became fascinated with performances of mentalism and occult-based entertainment. He developed a system of secretly communicating information to Agnes. They worked together to improve their methods, and soon, what started as a party demonstration became a marketable two-person telepathy act, or a "second-sight" act.*

*The pair felt that the Scandinavian surname "Jørgensen" didn't evoke an aura of the supernatural, so they adopted a unique and more mysterious-sounding name; they became Julius and Agnes Zancig. Billed as "The Zancigs," the couples polished performances brought them recognition and success.*

*There's some disagreement regarding how their act was brought to the attention of*



*An early shot of Agnes and Julius.* (COURTESY OF KEN TROMBLY)



*The exterior of Hammerstein's Victoria Theater in New York City, during the period when the Paradise Roof Garden was featured.*

Oscar Hammerstein; did he see their act, or did someone recommend them to him. In any case, once he became aware of them, he booked *The Zancigs* to perform at the Paradise Roof Garden over his Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre in New York City. The venue regularly featured top vaudeville acts, and the *Zancigs* became a phenomenon.

Their astounding grip on the audiences led them to extended tours all over the world. The *Zancigs* posters, letterhead, and other promotional materials plugged them as "Two Minds with But a Single Thought."

Soon, they were earning over \$1,000 USD each booked week ... sometimes \$1,500. That's the equivalent of between \$40,000 and \$60,000 in 2026. The successful career of the *Zancigs*, which began in the late 1880s, continued for two decades. But by the mid-1910s, Agnes's poor health made it difficult to continue.

The *Zancigs* both realized that Agnes would need to stop performing, and they began discussing a replacement for her role.



*A beautiful stone lithograph poster for The Zancigs, and their "Two Minds with But a Single Thought" tagline.* (FROM THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY)

Unfortunately, Agnes passed away before a new partner could be found.

After Agnes's death, Julius married Ada May Fawcett, a schoolteacher from Brooklyn. He brought his new bride into the act, but Ada found performing extremely unpleasant. Once more, Julius needed to find someone to play the other role in the two-person telepathy act.

After more than a year away from the stage, he hired a teenage magician named Paul Vučić, who performed in the Zancig act as Julius's son, "Henry." Vučić's participation ended quickly however, when he joined the U.S. military at the beginning of World War I. Again, there was a vacancy in the act.

Years earlier, Julius and Agnes Zancig had met Theo Bamberg and his young son David Bamberg. The Bamberg dynasty of magicians was large and legendary, and they all had knowledge and experience in the performance of magic. Julius brought David into the act, and the young teenager performed admirably in the role as "Syko the Psychic" for several years.

By the time David Bamberg left the Zancigs' show, Ada had a change of heart and rejoined her husband in the act. She was the last performer to rotate through the revolving door of Julius's on-stage partners. The Zancigs eventually retired from the theater, but remained active through private performances and lessons.

Performances of telepathy are not new. There are descriptions of "publike confederacies" concepts in Reginald Scot's *Discoverie of Witchcraft*, published in 1584, in which confederates feed secret information to the performer using predetermined verbal cues. There have been a number of successful "second-sight" two-person telepathy acts since then. Among the earliest were Chevalier Pinetti and his wife in the 1780s. Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin and his son, Emile, performed in the famous *Soirées Fantastiques* from 1846 through the 1850s. Robert Heller and his assistant, Miss Haidee Heller, were renowned in the late 1860s through the 1870s.

More recently, Sydney and Leslie Pid-



Ada and Julius. (COURTESY OF DAVID HAVERSAT)



The Zancigs' letterhead, also with "Two Minds with But a Single Thought." (FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION)



We couldn't find an image from Paul Vučić's time performing as Julius Zancig's son, "Henry." This illustration seems to indicate that Theo Bamberg performed on the same bill with his son, David, in the Zancig act. (COURTESY OF DAVID HAVERSAT)

dington caused a sensation in the United Kingdom and Australia from 1949 through 1952. Simon and Ginny Aronson debuted their version in the 1960s, and performed it for nearly half of a century. Jeff and Tessa Evason have been amazing audiences since the 1980s. Thommy Ten and Amélie van Tass as “The Clairvoyants” became the runners-up on America’s Got Talent in 2011. And James Harrington and Marina Liani, who perform as “MIND2MIND,” are one of the most recent marvels in the world of mentalism magic.

You can find more about the life and magic of the Zancigs in books, including *MAGIC, A Pictorial History of Conjurers in the Theater* by David Price, *Two Minds with But a Single Thought by the Zancigs*, *Sensational Tales of Mystery Men* by Will Goldston, and *Second Sight by Washington Irving Bishop*. You can also find quite a bit of information in back issues of periodical publications like *Genii*, *The Magic Circular*, *M-U-M*, and *The Linking Ring*.

*Agnes Zancig died in 1916. Oscar Ham-*

*merstein died in 1919. Julius Zancig died in 1929. Ada Zancig died around 1929. Paul Vučić became well-known as magician Paul Rosini, and died in 1948. Theo Bamberg performed mostly as Okito, and died in 1963. David Bamberg became famous as magician Fu Manchu, and died in 1974.*

*We’d like to telepathically transmit a tremendous thank you to Jim Hagy, Ken Trombly, and David Haversat for their generous help with this month’s subject.*

If you mentally projected, or mailed us an answer to this month’s question, but you didn’t send the *correct* answer, please ... *keep trying!* These questions can be challenging, and they aren’t expected to be easily answered using Internet search engines like Google, or DuckDuckGo. Bring your copy of *The Linking Ring* to your local Ring meeting and ask the more senior members to help you find the answer. Show the whole world how much you know, get your name published in *The Linking Ring*, and win some wonderful stuff from one of our finest brick-and-mortar magic shops!

## Hey there, Youth Members!

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

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

Make sure that you include some good references. If we *do* use your question, we’ll send you either a coupon for a liter of gasoline or a *really* cool magic book – our choice.

See if you can win! Follow the Contest Rules on page 151 and mail your responses to the address above.  
Answers must be postmarked by August 20, 2026.

# Did You Know?

JOE HERNANDEZ



*Justo Botánica: Founded in 1920, East Harlem.*

## Houdini's Blind Spot: Spiritualism Hidden in New York's Latino Communities

As the one hundredth anniversary of Houdini's death approaches this Halloween, with séances planned worldwide in his honor, it is notable that no one has examined the regular séances near his home, which Houdini never knew about.

In 1920s New York City, Harry Houdini worked tirelessly to expose fraudulent spiritualist mediums. He attended public séances, showed tricks on stage, and used his celebrity to warn audiences about charlatans who exploited grief and hope. His public rallies made headlines, cementing him as the era's leading skeptic. However, while Houdini focused on English-speaking mediums in public venues, he stayed unaware of a parallel spiritual world nearby. In the crowded tenements of East Harlem and Brooklyn, Latino communities – mainly Puerto Ricans and Cubans – quietly practiced *Espiritismo* (Spiritism), blending spiritual traditions with daily life, away from public attention.

Hispanic communities in New York were small and concentrated in close-knit neighborhoods. Their spiritual practices took place privately in living rooms or *botánicas* (shops that deal in herbs and charms, used especially by adherents of Santería), receiving little coverage in the English-language press. Houdini, who relied on newspapers and public events to uncover fraud, found no evidence of such meetings. Language barriers and the absence of public controversy kept *Espiritismo* out of his investigations.

While Houdini dominated headlines with his exposés and public debates, *Espiritismo* quietly offered Latino migrants a feeling of identity and support. His efforts remained

within the Anglo-American sphere, leaving the spiritual life of Latino New Yorkers largely unnoticed by outsiders. For these migrants, séances and consultations occurred in packed living rooms, hidden in plain sight even from the city's most famous magician.

This proximity creates a historical irony. While Houdini traveled the United States, lecturing in grand theaters and hiring investigators to track down fraudulent mediums, a separate spiritualist movement was taking shape in his own backyard.

If you walked out of Houdini's front door at 278 West 113th Street and headed east, the distance to the emerging Hispanic spiritualist networks was remarkably short.

Because the *Espiritismo* movement was shielded by a language barrier, lacked stage props, and ran quietly within private tenement homes, the world's most famous ghost hunter remained unaware of the spiritual activity just blocks from his front steps.

For newly arrived migrants facing the difficult realities of 1920s New York, *Espiritismo* served a dual purpose: as a religion and an informal mental health and social support system. When migrants felt overwhelmed, lacked resources, or were ill, an *Espiritista* provided culturally familiar counseling and herbal remedies without the institutional barriers of American hospitals or churches.

Ultimately, while mainstream New York was fascinated by theatrical, high-society séances, the city's early Hispanic enclaves relied on *Espiritismo* as a quiet anchor to preserve their identity and manage the challenges of an unfamiliar environment, completing the contrast that began with Houdini.

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Joe Hernandez is the author of *Conjurer's Wisdom Volumes I & II*, *Magic Babylon: 1,001 Strange Conjuring Facts, Fallacies, and Tales*, *Phonetastic*, *The Foolosophy of Conjuring*, *Houdini: Reflections*, and *Houdini: The Ultimate Trivia Compendium*. The above is an excerpt from his soon-to-be-released book, *Frank Garcia: The Man with the Million Dollar Hands*. All books are available at [www.booksbyjoe.com](http://www.booksbyjoe.com), magic dealers, and Amazon.

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### **From Our UK Correspondent** – from page 44

also coincidentally in Southport, had to be called off because it was raining. They had, however, successfully performed what turned out to be the final outdoor stunt; a water tank escape at Greenock in 2017.

The other article, from The Daily Herald of June 8, carried the headline “Blindfolded Man Leads Town a Dance,” and began with an amusing line addressed to Mr J. Garland, the manager of a local hotel: “There’s a blindfolded man to see you, sir!”



*Oswald Rae.*

It mentioned that Rae had been bruised and bumped, having collided with lampposts and parked cars on his journey. Whether this was showmanship or incompetence we can only guess. At the outset, Mr H. W. Bamber had provided him with a large, sealed envelope containing five more smaller nesting ones. The innermost had his destination written on it, the idea being that the magician could use his mysterious X-ray vision to read the address and then locate it.

As Roy remarks, Oswald (Ossie) Rae (1892-1967) was the British Ring's first president, holding the office for a period of twenty years, from 1928 to 1948. Known as “The Bewildering Humourist,” he was a professional performer and theatrical journalist. He was also a prolific inventor, creating effects such as Bending (or Flexible) Glass. His books of commercial material included *Original Magic*, *Wizardry*, and *Watches and Mind Waves*. Ossie was largely responsible for the foundation of the British Ring in August 1928, at the age of thirty-six.



## *and Variations*

PART TWO  
By Jim Magus

Jim Magus traces the history of Horace Goldin's 1902 Film-to-Life illusion and the many future applications by magicians and other performers in the conclusion to this two-part series.

### **Y'sani the Priestess**

*The Sphinx* of February 15, 1909, reported, "Raven Wood, assisted by Miss Vivian Bell, gives a delightful exhibition, comprising thought transmission and clever card manipulating at the Hippodrome, Brighton, and on the same bill is Charles T. Aldrich, who wins enthusiastic applause with his marvelous quick changes and clever impersonations. The clever illusions worked at lightning speed by Horace Goldin, assisted by his charming wife, Jeanne Transiolla and Company, form the principal attraction at the Grand Theater." Goldin's feature was his Film to Life, and the mentalist Raven Wood probably would have heard about and may have been inspired by Goldin's performance of the illusion.

Y'sani the Priestess is listed in both *The British Film Catalogue* and *The Encyclopedia of Fantastic Film* as a May 3, 1934, International Productions novelty film directed by Gordon Sherry. It was advertised as "invented by Raven Wood, featuring the mentalist Professor Raven Wood as himself, with

Vivienne Bell as Y'sani, and Charles Hayes as the man," all of whom appeared both in the film and live on stage. The film was listed as a "fantasy with a mummified priestess telling members of the audience's fortunes with the aid of a live actor on stage." *The East London Observer* of April 6, 1935, advertised, "Your thoughts revealed from the Screen." Other newspapers wrote, "The magic casket of Y'sani the Priestess may tell your fortune – past, present, and future. If you have any guilty secrets, if you have a fair lady somewhere that you wish to keep in the dark, beware! Nothing is hidden from Y'sani the Priestess." In Arabic, "Sani" means "brilliant" or "splendid."

British newspapers wrote, "Since its debut in the trades in May 1934, this act has been serving weekly success across the country." The act was reported in a 1935 *Magic Wand* magazine. "During the past twenty years I have had the privilege of describing many magical acts, but this is the first time that a cinema film has formed an integral part of such a performance. The act opens as an ordinary talkie. The action of the film takes place in the rooms of a professor of the occult," played by mentalist and magician Raven Wood wearing a fez, "and the story opens with the arrival of the husband of one of the lady clients, who, accompanied

by a male friend, calls to denounce ‘all this fortune-telling bunk and baloney.’”

All this action is shown on the projected film. The professor accepts the skeptic’s challenge. He hands a small box to one of the men and requests that he make a wish and his wish will be granted.

*The Magic Wand* article continued: “The choice falls on a dancing girl, who suddenly appears, dances, and eventually disappears. The disappearance, I might add, did not form a part of the original wish. Standing in a prominent position in the room is a sarcophagus containing a mummy. At the command of the professor the mummy returns to life – it is Y’sani the Priestess.” The Priestess was played by performer Vivienne (spelled Vivian in some newspapers) Bell. “The professor, meanwhile, has invited the two men to select two playing cards from a pack, whereupon Y’sani, gazing into a crystal, announces the names of the cards. Still speaking from the film, the professor states that he will leave the film and pass into the auditorium.” All of the action so far has occurred on the screen, until this moment when the professor walks out of the door of the room shown on the screen, then walks from the back of the theater to the stage. He asks a member of the audience to select two playing cards, then calls to the Priestess in the film to discern the selected cards. She correctly names the chosen cards from the screen. With a request that her remarks be treated not too seriously, as they were intended only for entertainment purposes, she proceeds to give the significance of the chosen cards in the form of a prophecy. They were offering fortune-telling along with mentalism, but with a disclaimer to protect the act from legal problems. “Moving rapidly amongst the audience, cards are selected and each time the names are announced correctly by Y’sani from the film showing on the screen. Eventually the professor leaves the auditorium and reappears once more in the film. Y’sani returns to mummy form and the amateur investigators leave apparently convinced of the wonderful powers of Y’sani the Priestess.”

A writer for *Kinemograph Weekly* of May 3, 1934, wrote, “The picture ends with an invitation to see Y’sani again in the future.”

By November 27, 1935, newspapers were reporting that Raven Wood and Vivienne Bell were performing the Y’sani the Priestess act with “Babette,” in Angus, Scotland.

In the *Magic Circular* of November 1985, Peter Warlock reported that one of the programs of magicians in the Magic Circle collection was one of “Y’sani the Priestess.”

### Himber’s Magic Trick

In 1953, Orson Welles directed the short film *Magic Trick* for the magician and musician Richard Himber’s to project for audiences during his 1950s touring stage show. The black-and-white short shows Welles interacting, on screen, with an off-screen Himber as the two perform a card trick. It was the first time Welles had filmed a magic tricks since his segment in the 1944 film *Follow the Boys*, which uses tricks Welles originally staged in his 1943 *The Mercury Wonder Show*.



*Richard Himber.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL CLAXTON

Patrick Page wrote an article for the April 2016 issue of *Magic* magazine about Orson Welles and Dick Himber’s version of the Film to Life. “There were some quite good

moves in it. I can't remember in detail what they all were, but it was that style of thing. He did tricks with the audience, and objects dematerialized from the screen and appeared on the stage, and went from the stage back onto the screen – you handed things in and out. There were a number of tricks done in that manner." Apparently Hember's Film-to-Life project was planned to be more elaborate than it is, familiarly seen as a "pick-a-card" type of trick. "There was a dialogue between the screen Welles and the stage Hember. At that time, Welles was making a picture called *The Lady from Shanghai*. He had just married Rita Hayworth. One night, Dick Hember said to me, 'This little picture is finished' – the one that he did with Welles – and we all went down to see it. We went into a projection room on the old Columbia lot. Dick and I showed up first and we waited quite a long time. Dick began to get very nervous and very impatient. Orson finally blew in, and with him was the most beautiful woman in the world at the time. The ultimate sex symbol, and I must say that I was in awe – Rita Hayworth walking by! I had never seen her in the flesh, but she was on all the covers, like *Life* magazine. In she walked with Orson Welles. There were greetings all around. Dick said, 'You know Cy,' to Orson. He said, 'Of course, hello Cy, how are you?'" This probably refers to director Cy Enfield (although Welles himself directed the *Magic Trick* film), who was a magician and friend to both Hember and Welles.

The July 11, 1953 issue of *Abracadabra* reported: "Dick Hember was tired but happy as he left the Nola Studios following his two hour show this Saturday night [June 6th]. In what was almost a one-man show, he offered a variety of magic, music, and comedy that held his audience to the very end, despite the near 90-degree temperature of the hall." The reviewer added, "The climax of this segment was a special film of Orson Welles who did a card trick for the audience, assisted by the in-person Richard Hember. A beautifully timed stunt, Hember exchanged lines and re-creations with the figure of Welles on the

screen as naturally as if the latter were actually there. When Welles finally named the selected card in a sucker finish, the audience gave Hember a well-deserved one-minute ovation."

Patrick Page concluded his comments on the filming by adding, "I hadn't seen the shooting of it, so I didn't know what it was, but it all worked. I was absolutely sure that with this little added bit with Welles' name, all the rest of the show with Hember's money and energy, that the show was absolutely bound to get on. But three years later he was still struggling. That idea of mixing magic and a musical didn't really happen until the Doug Henning show of four years ago." Patrick Page must have never seen *The Alice Cooper Show* performance in Las Vegas in the 1970s.

David Copperfield resurrected the footage Dick Hember and Orson Welles created for Hember's use and used it in his 1992 CBS special *The Magic of David Copperfield XIV: Flying – Live the Dream*. In it, he interacted with the footage to repeat the same card trick, claiming he was communicating with Orson Welles from beyond the grave. To further this, all the instances in which Welles referred to Richard Hember off screen as "Dick" were dubbed into "Dave."

### P. C. Sorcar's From Film to Life, 1953



By the early 1950s, more than two decades after Goldin introduced the Film-to-Life illusion, some motion pictures were being made to create an illusion of three-dimensional solidity, usually with the help of special glasses worn by viewers. Indian

magician P. C. Sorcar incorporated 3D technology to perform his version of *From Screen to Life*. The May 30, 1953 issue of *Abracadabra* reported that *Screen*, a Bombay weekly, stated Sorcar's new trick was "designed to meet the challenge of Hollywood's latest cinema technique – three-dimensional films."

In his version of *Film to Life*, characters walk off the screen and onto the stage. A cigarette on the lips of a stage actor is lit by a character on screen, and a handkerchief thrown by a stage player is caught by a screen actor, among other interactions between stage and screen actors. "This great illusory trick," the report continued, "is no invention of the famed magician. Years ago it was performed by Sorcar's close friend, the late Horace Goldin. The secret died with him. A true showman, Sorcar did his own research and re-discovered the formula."

In the July 11, 1953 issue of *Abracadabra*, the magazine reported: "Last week Sorcar left for the Continent, and thence will travel back to India or on to New York. His trip here, he tells us, was not purely for either business or pleasure." It stated that on his last visit to the United States in 1950, he took the opportunity to see some 3D films, supposing he might incorporate the principle in his *Film-to-Life* act. "No wide-awake publicity-minded illusionist," he said, "can sit idle when such chances are available."

An article in the September 15, 1953 issue of *Variety* stated: "Magician P. C. Sorcar completed a magic film in London, titled *From Film to Life* trick, in which characters in flesh and blood will step on to the stage from film during run, while supporting artists remain on the silver screen."

In the August 1962 issue of *The Linking Ring*, the Calcutta Ring reported: "P. C. Sorcar showed four of his latest illusions. Two were his creations. He is busy in building *From Film to Life*, and will do it in talkie, technicolor, and 35-mm film. He hopes to produce it in New Empire Theatre, Calcutta before the next meeting. Members saw part of his show after the meeting and saw his *Walking Away from His Shadow* in action.

With the special projection lamp, luminous sheeting, and ultraviolet-ray filters [also known as black lights,] his original twists have made the show more interesting than what was presented in India by the Great Nicola several years ago."

The reviewer seems to imply that magician Louis Nicola performed *Film to Life*, however this author could not locate information about him performing that particular illusion.

### Laterna Magika, 1961



A writer in the June 27, 1961 issue of *Abracadabra* reported that: "Joe Scott, the [St. Louis, Missouri] mystifier, recalls seeing both Thurston and Goldin do the *Film to Life*, but compared with present day cinematography, Joe adds, those efforts were a bit crude, although interesting nonetheless. Joe also sends along a page from a recent issue of *Time* containing a review of a Czechoslovakian version of the trick, *Laterna Magika*. The show will tour the US this summer, so perhaps we can give you a first-hand report of it in the coming months."

The motion picture project was said to include every innovation in the film industry to date. Almost seven years later on January 6, 1968, *Abracadabra* magazine published that "Laterna Magika, the *Film-to-Life* show from Czechoslovakia, is at HemisFair '68, [San Antonio, Texas,] for a long run. Spectacular show that it is, I wish film buffs and theatrical reviewers would quit referring to it as a revolutionary technique.

Goldin, Blackstone, et al., were doing a crude version of the same thing forty years ago.” *Walking Away from Your Shadow* was created by Alexander Stobl in 1926 for the master magician Harry Blackstone. In it, a shadow of the magician projected on a screen moves separately from the magician and has a devilish appearance. At the time of writing, this author could not find any reference to Blackstone performing what we consider the Film-to-Life illusion.

The Laterna Magika act was featured at Expo 67, the 1967 World’s Fair in Montreal, and almost a decade later again at the World Magic Convention in Vienna, Austria. In 1976, William Larsen wrote in *Genii* magazine: “July 1, a morning flight takes us to Prague, the Czech capital. In the afternoon we hope to attend a performance of Laterna Magika at the Divaldo Za Branou Theater and after dinner, the famous Black Theater, if it is in the city.”

The tour did not do so well in the United States. Critics complained that ticket prices were too high for the elaborate show to succeed in America outside of New York City.

### **Mark Wilson’s Screen to Life**

Shortly after attending the TAOM Convention in 1963, Leslie Smith, who had acquired Owen Magic Supreme, was asked by Mark Wilson to help create a major illusion for The General Cigar Corporation, which Mark would perform at the 1964 New York World’s Fair. The patented illusion was called Screen to Life. Owen Magic built it to consist of five movie screens on a giant metal framework, with a large screen in the center and two smaller screens at each end.

Everything was operated by a master control panel, but Wilson ran into the same problem Howard Thurston did when performing the illusion. New York union regulations required a minimum of thirty union operators a day, seven days a week, sixteen hours a day, to perform the illusion at the fair, making it impractical to perform. Owen Magic ended up constructing a scaled-down version for Mark to perform for General Cigar.

### **Mark Wilson’s Cinillusion**

A writer for the July 9, 1968 issue of *Abra-cadabra* announced, “One of my scouts reports that Mark Wilson and staff have developed a spectacular version of the Film-to-Life illusion. Mark calls it ‘Cinillusion,’ and he has a waiting list of business firms who want to use the idea for product pitches.”

The October 1968 issue of *Genii* revealed, “Mark Wilson had a few of us out to his semi-secret building complex to see his Cinillusion show that has just returned from Texas. It is truly fantastic. The best screen-to-life magic yet and a sequence wherein Bev Bergeron floats in a flying saucer to a special piece of film that completely fooled me. Mark has put together a first-class show for Pepsi Cola and you must see it if it should come your way. Mark also showed us some new promotion illusions that are still on the top-secret list so I can’t discuss them yet.”

In the September 2010 issue of *The Linking Ring*, Bev Bergeron revealed their new version of Film to Life, dubbed Cinillusion. “Mark, Nani, and I were working a fair when Mark called me to his room one day. It seems he had an idea for a Film-to-Life illusion that he wanted developed, and he asked me to work on it. I was sharing a room with Bobby Fenton, our stage manager and stage assistant, and I mentioned Mark’s request to him. Bobby told me that it was his idea to float an object in front of a movie screen, and soon Mark wanted me to figure out how to make it work. I went to work with pencil and paper, and came out with three solutions. These I presented to Johnny Gaughan once we returned to Los Angeles. I told Johnny that all of them should work, so he should just pick one and build it.”

In a 2014 issue of *The Linking Ring*, Bev related another story with Mark Wilson about their Cinillusion. “My early involvement in industrials was with Mark Wilson, who wanted to do a Film-to-Life show for the Pepsi Frito Lay people at the state fair of Texas, a show I mentioned in my September 2010 ‘Jackpot on Sideshow Magic.’ Earlier, we had produced a show at the New York World’s Fair in 1964-65 for the General

Cigar Company.” That was the show mentioned earlier. “Mark asked me to write a magic show similar to that one and design it in Film-to-Life style, as presented in the early movie and vaudeville days, where there was interaction with a live actor on stage, talking and working with the action taking place in a film being shown behind him. After a few years passed while I was working for Walt Disney World, I was asked to work in a show for a bowling ball company. I was to be the magician who would appear throughout the drama and correct the inept salesman who was making calls on his clients. Up to this time, I had been dealing with professional people who knew the language and procedure of producing a stage play. Earlier, I did have a problem with one of Mark Wilson’s clients who bought our Film-to-Life show that I had written and in which I worked out a way to float a person in front of a movie screen. But the VP of sales of the company took it upon himself to reedit the film and remove the entertaining magic to put in more commercials for his company’s product. The show was a bore, and I was asked to rush across the country to Detroit to try to save it. I ended up performing a magic act before the film.”

### Alice Cooper’s Film to Life



Alice Cooper featured the Film-to-Life illusion on his Billion Dollar Babies tour from 1973 to 1975, with the Amazing Randi handling the magic. A projector showed a film of Alice Cooper running outside, then bursting through the screen and onto the stage to begin the show. Ghostly skeleton dancers danced on screen, then danced off the screen and back

again. At one point, Alice Cooper took a cartoonish bomb (one of those black balls with a sparkling wick) and threw it at one of the dancers in the film. The dancer catches the bomb and throws it back to Alice on the stage. Cooper said of the show, “I am so proud to say that for one brief time the greatest of them all, the Amazing Randi, was a part of our traveling troupe. He was our illusion guru, and taught me everything I know about how magic could meet rock and roll. His genius helped the Billion Dollar Babies tour become the spectacle no one had ever seen. He was rock and roll’s Gandalf.”

The *Welcome to My Nightmare* concert movie, directed by David Winters and hosted by Vincent Price, was released on November 28, 1975, featuring Cooper’s stage horror act with magic coordinated by the Amazing Randi. Randi started the show by plugging in the Magic TV, which was a huge AC plug that he inserted into a giant socket next to the screen. Randi also played an evil dentist with a giant drill, as well as the executioner for the guillotine decapitation in the show. Cooper continued to use the Film-to-Life illusion on his *Welcome to My Nightmare* tour through 1976, which this author saw at the show’s stop in Detroit, the *King of the Silver Screen* tour in 1977, and the *Madhouse Rock* tour in 1979.

### Copperfield’s Video to Life

The seventh David Copperfield special, officially titled *The Magic of David Copperfield VII*, included his version of the Film-to-Life illusion: Video to Life. It was performed in two parts. In each, a video is projected onto the front of an empty box that has been raised from the ground. Through an opening in the right side of the box, Copperfield reaches into the projected video, taking objects from the screen and placing real objects in their place. People visible in the video also step out through this opening into the real world, then return back into the projection – yet whenever Copperfield pauses the video and opens the front of the box, the interior is revealed to be completely empty.

*Video to Life Part One* ends with an elephant appearing in the box. *Video to Life Part Two*, hosted by Angie Dickinson, has

Dickinson appear on a motorcycle inside the box, ready to take Copperfield offstage – an action that becomes visible through the video projected on the screen as soon as the box is closed.

Pete Biro, in the June 1985 issue of *Genii*, wrote, “On the night of March 8th, I was sitting at the TV with David Copperfield’s latest effort beaming its way into my living room. I was sitting back, relaxed, really enjoying the show. The TV version of the old Film to Life was sensational video, and brought to a magic show, one of David’s best all-time efforts.”

### Film to Life on the Small Screen

There appear to be many contemporary variations on the Film to Life. By the late 1970s, home VHS players allowed people to record television and films, and VHS camcorders followed in 1984. Screen to Life moved from the big screen to the boob tube.

One of its early pioneers was the magician and comedienne Judy Carter, who had already achieved a reputation by the mid-1970s. The February 1975 issue of *Genii* reported, “Judy Carter is one of the younger West Coast magicians to watch. She has just done *The Mike Douglas Show* and will be at the Playboy Club in Baltimore [on] April 11 and 12. [On] April 14 she will open at the Canadian Pacific Hotel in Montreal for six weeks with a twenty-week option.”

A January 27, 1984 newspaper article reviewed her show, *Goddess of Mystery*: “Carter breezes through all this wacky comedy in a manner that would put Superman to shame: Her mouth moves faster than a speeding bullet and she leaps credibility in a single bound. When she does a trick, it may be an old trick but she gives it a fresh comic twist. Among other things, she levitates a stalk of celery, brooms, and an old shoe. She changes sex when she feels like it and sometimes when she doesn’t feel like it. She tears a copy of the *LA Times* into shreds and – presto! – it reappears as the *Herald Examiner*. She also does some magic in tandem with her image on a TV set.”



Judy Carter.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL CLAXTON

### Tony Chapek’s Video Magic

Another pioneer was Atlanta magician Tony Chapek, who around 1985 began performing illusions in which he interacted with a pre-recorded video of himself on a television screen. In 1991, he won an International Brotherhood of Magicians prize for his performance.

Chapek’s routine reportedly featured a television on stage playing a video of himself sleeping in bed. The live Chapek then woke up his video self, and the two performed magic together. “This is the same principal used by Judy Carter in the seventies, with some added twists such as items that would fly out of the back of the TV or vice versa, and items such as cards that Tony would hand through the TV to Tony via various methods of palming,” a reviewer wrote in the May 1992 issue of *Genii*. The reviewer further described how an audience member would select a card for the TV version of Chapek to find. However, the reviewer found the on-screen Chapek excessively “obnoxious,” stating he would “belch, fart, and pick his nose” in close proximity to the

audience while working toward revealing the chosen card. While praising the premise, the reviewer argued it would be more effective if performed with more sophistication or artistry.

Chapek's act evolved. The January 1991 issue of *The Linking Ring* documented that "Tony Chapek was seen in his home video on the ABC TV network show, *America's Funniest Home Videos*, on September 30. The two-minute tape was adapted from his original ten-minute comedy magic act created six years ago. Tony interacts with his own video image on the TV screen. He apparently passes objects through the screen and appears to pass his arm into the television set. His Video Magic act has been performed at various magic conventions around the country, and it's won him four first-place trophies. While he's appeared before audiences of some five hundred people, he's amazed to think his two-minute spot was viewed by about sixty million. Chapek received an all-expense trip to Hollywood, California for the show and was also asked to perform live. He did a Jumbo Three-Card Monte for host Bob Saget. Unfortunately, the show ran long, and his live performance was not seen by the home-viewing audience. Tony performs professionally and is owner of Advanced Videography, a video production company based in Atlanta. He's a member of Ring 9." Magicians in the Atlanta area were able to witness the creation of Tony's award-winning act, the writer noted.

In the June 2006 issue of *Genii*, a reviewer wrote, "Tony Chapek amazed the audience next with his interactive magic where he performs a very modern version of Mark Wilson's Cinillusion, only now using some real-time digital photography and a widescreen plasma television, he created many wonderful effects and the audience showed its approval accordingly."

The premise continued to evolve and become more spectacular. Marco Tempest's television series *The Virtual Magician* first aired in Belgium on January 5, 2004. Meir Yedid appeared in the show's New York episode, with Amanda Byron as host. In

2006, the German magic duo Junge Junge (Gernot and Wolfram Bohnenberger) did an act at Magi-Fest utilizing multiple projectors and screens. They went from screen to screen in a synchronized performance that was both humorous and beautiful. The May 2007 issue of *The Linking Ring* reported that Justin Flom opened his show with Video to Life, in which it Justin appeared to fall out of the screen.

Around 2009, Greek magician Jorgos offered a very intricate and funny version of the Film-to-Life illusion. He's had his own TV show, *Magical Moments with Jorgos*, on Hamburg television, since 2019.

Canadian magician Paul Romhani wrote in a 2009 online forum post: "I've been doing this for years in my full evening show on ships as Chaplin. I start my show with a montage of Chaplin (actually me but I edited it to look old and black and white) then I walk towards the camera and end up walking through the screen. I use the screen throughout the act for various things, then at the end I walk back into the screen as the 'iris' gets smaller – makes a great effect. Another funny idea I've been thinking about is falling from the screen – so it would appear as though I fall through the floor on the screen and end up falling on the floor of the stage."

A writer for *Coffee Break* magazine wrote, "No other magician has given so much prominence to digitization in his stage act as Simon Pierro. With a mind-boggling blend of magic and technology, innovation and illusion, the likeable German has fascinated millions with his particular brand of wizardry."

In the June 2014 issue of *Genii*, Luis De Matos described the show *The Illusionists*, stating that one of the performers, magician and mime Raymond Crow, performs Video to Life purposely to make use of giant LED panels.

As the Film-to-Life premise is adapted to other devices, mobile phone apps have been developed for iOS, allowing a magician to pull his business card or a coin out of the

*(continued on page 106)*

# Magic and

# Memories

David Ginn



## Mars and Maya Part One

In June 1978, after we had a wonderful lunch with Rene and Sid Lorraine at their home, Mars Barrack drove me to the Toronto airport. While I checked my baggage, Mars parked her car, then joined me inside until I went through security for my flight to Buffalo, New York. I still had several more lectures to do on that first tour.

We talked more about what Mars had been doing since she was Doug Henning's girlfriend and assisted him in countless magic shows across Canada. Then she said:

"Do you know the life expectancy of a dancer?"

I told her no.

She said, "Thirty years old. After that, you're considered 'over the hill.' And I'm almost there."

I asked, "What happens then?"

"You teach or get married and have kids, or work a 'real job,' or do magic."

And thus Mars joined another Doug Henning assistant, Lesley Walker, to become the magic duo known as Mars and Maya: two women and a sub trunk. What else could you want?

When Doug and Mars ended their personal and professional relationship at the end of 1972, Doug needed a new assistant. He tried two different assistants before he met Lesley Walker through the International Top Models agency in Toronto. I first met Maya at the 1980 Passport to Magic convention in Toronto, when Doug was filming *The Magic Show* movie.



*Lesley as Maya (left), one part of the performance duo Mars and Maya.*



*A news clipping featuring Doug Henning and Mars at The Magic Castle.*

“The agency got a call from a ‘magician’ needing an assistant,” explained Lesley, “and they gave him my name. A magician who turned out to be the most important magician of the twentieth century! I was supposed to meet Doug for the first time on a Friday at the end of February 1973. But due to a family emergency, I had to leave town to help my mother in St. Catharines [Ontario]. I called Doug to tell him I could not make the appointment. Somehow, we both felt a chemistry in that telephone call, so Doug postponed our meeting until the next week.”

A week later Lesley rode the subway to Doug’s apartment, a ride that would change her life.

“His living room was almost empty,” said Lesley. “There were chains and handcuffs hanging from the ceiling and a copy of Peter S. Beagle’s book *The Last Unicorn* lying on a shelf. When I sat down, Doug stepped around the corner and came back with a flaming torch that suddenly changed to a silk scarf. That was my first view of Doug performing magic.”



Then they went outside where Doug introduced Lesley to his pea green 1959 Volkswagen bus – “Beauty,” he called it – and took her with him to help interview several girls at other modeling agencies.



*Lesley as Maya.*

“Somehow I knew the job was mine, but I had to decide if I really wanted to be a magician’s assistant,” Lesley explained. “At the end of that afternoon with Doug, I asked

him, ‘Don’t you want to audition me?’ He said ‘Sure.’ So I did some slow motion dance for him, and he hired me on the spot.

“Early on Doug wanted my stage name to be Miranda. But I told him that I would like my magic name to be Maya. I had been studying East Indian dance, and Maya (or Maja) means ‘illusion, the veil that covers our eyes so we can’t see true reality.’ Doug liked that. So from that time forward I was always Maya, for mystery’s sake in the spirit of true magic. No one ever called me Lesley, and most didn’t even know my real name.”

When Doug started training Lesley, he would not take her to any magic stores or conventions. Besides techniques, her training heavily emphasized “true magic,” going beyond the trick mechanics to make the illusions seem real.

Doug said secrecy was not simply to protect the how-to, but to foster performance magic as art. He wanted magic to seem as real as the magic that happens in our daily lives and the world around us. And he wanted to encourage a sense of wonder.

“Even today,” Lesley said, “I don’t see magic as tricks, but as a representative of real magic.”

Lesley’s first Doug Henning show took place in a small nightclub north of Toronto, during which she got stuck in the Metamorphosis Trunk.

“It was trial by fire,” Lesley said. “I thought in the dark: Do I give up or free myself? No one was more surprised that I was free when I stood tall and strong on top of the box!”

A month later in Toronto, Lesley and Doug were hired to introduce and promote McCain’s new Chocolate Cherry Cheesecake. While there, Doug’s beloved dog Kishou caused a problem. Prior to making his magical appearance, Kishou nosed his way into the real cheesecake Doug was going to produce and accidentally knocked the cake onto the floor behind the magic table. Lesley saw it happen, quickly picked up the damaged cake, and returned it just in time. When the cake appeared, Doug was surprised that it didn’t look exactly as

planned. Lesley had gotten her first taste of on-the-spot showbiz education.

By spring 1973, Lesley and Doug regularly performed the Zig Zag and the Metamorphosis Trunk, and occasionally Abbott's Chair Suspension. Doug obtained his first Thin Model Sawing in Half by early summer, which meant the act now featured four illusions. They spent the summer playing lots of club dates and in August they played a larger show at Ontario Place, followed by a "backer's show" in September to raise money to produce Doug's musical *Spellbound* in Toronto. It seemed that Lesley, or Maya, had been at the right place at the right time.

Doug's college friend Ivan Reitman was on board to direct his first major magic show. Reitman went on to direct major Hollywood movies like *Animal House*, *Ghostbusters*, *Twins*, and *Kindergarten Cop*. Howie Deveritt, who ran the exotic dance club Le Strip, became an early investor.

Rehearsals for *Spellbound* started in October 1973 on the third floor of Le Strip. That's when Lesley experienced a dramatic incident she has never forgotten. "It changed my understanding of Mother Nature," she said. "I realized that in a clean kill, Nature spares her prey from suffering."

## Jake the Lion

Doug intended to use an actual lion – Jake the Lion – for the Lady to Lion illusion. A trainer brought Jake the Lion to the rehearsal hall using several flights of fire escape stairs. It was the first time the animal had been in Toronto, and everything was new to him.

The first rehearsal went okay. When it was over, the trainer took Jake into a restroom to get a drink of water. At the same time Lesley entered the same room to get changed so she could visit her brother in the hospital.

"It was as if invisible hands had guided me to turn around and face the lion," she said. "Then his eyes locked on mine for a moment that seemed an eternity."

Before Lesley could open the stall door to

step inside and escape, Jake the Lion leapt onto her.

"His great paws hit my chest, dragged down the front of my body, and knocked me over. Then he locked his jaws on my right thigh, and in one smooth move, he whipped me to the other side of the room, where I hit the wall under the sinks."

They told Lesley later that she let out a terrifying, blood-chilling scream, a scream which she did not hear because she was out of her body and through a time tunnel. And Jake still had his jaws locked on her leg.

"I tried to pry open his locked jaw, my nails tearing his gums. His tooth cut my finger. Our blood mingled in his mouth. I was now a blood sister to a lion."

Meanwhile, the trainer tried to break the lion's hold by pulling on the chain attached to his collar. That did not work.

"Suddenly help arrived," said Lesley. "Doug, wearing his silver boots, burst into the room with Glenn Priest, one of the stage crew. Doug delivered a hail of kicks aimed at the lion's mouth. This diverted Jake's attention, and he loosened his grip on me.

"Then Glenn grabbed my feet and dragged me across the floor and out of the room. Doug followed and slammed the door, leaving the trainer alone with the lion. I had stopped breathing, so Glenn knelt beside me and reminded me how to breathe again. Inspiration, expiration, over and over. I was still alive."

Later on, as hospital staff worked on Lesley's leg, she realized how close to dying she had come. Her leg had swelled to twice its normal size, and red tooth marks ran across her thigh with bruises appearing from hip to mid-calf. Had the lion clamped down on her head or neck, major arteries or vertebrae could have been affected. Had he torn open her belly, internal organs would have been destroyed.

"Another thing that saved me were my strong leg muscles from years of dancing and lifting my disabled brother. When I closed my eyes those first nights after the attack, I kept seeing the lion leaping at my head over and over again."

Over the next month Lesley recovered, and she chose not to sue the *Spellbound* company. “That would have closed down the production,” she said, “and I wanted the magic to live and grow.”

Rest assured Jake the Lion did not get the job. Instead, Doug hired a trained cougar called Rebel for the lion part.

## The *Spellbound* Show

Despite the accident and bruises, Lesley felt strong enough to continue rehearsals and perform the opening night of *Spellbound*, December 26, 1973. She became Doug’s muse: part dream, part goddess.

“Doug’s heart, his philosophy, his dream, and his desire to present Magic as Art were all in *Spellbound*,” Lesley explained. “And even though the book changed drastically from Toronto to Broadway, Doug still managed to change the face of magic for all of us.”

Here’s the plot of *Spellbound* in a nutshell: a young magician, played by Doug, wants to learn and share real magic and a sense of wonder with the world. The show was heavily influenced by Peter S. Beagle’s book *The Last Unicorn*, in which a magician must endure a trial to become a master of magic. Doug used the Bed of Horrors, invented by Andre Kole, for that purpose. Lesley would sit atop the frame of the spike bed (“Bed of Horrors”), which dropped onto Doug and created a jolt as the spikes struck the bottom.

During the show, Lesley – as Maya – performs the Thin Model Sawing dressed as a show girl representing the “old style of magic,” followed by a performance of the Crystal Casket, with Maya no longer a showgirl but now a goddess. She also performed Fire to Silk, the Zig Zag illusion, and Light Bulbs through Body (Neon Tubes), an effect that once belonged to Orson Welles. But not the trunk.

The young girl in the plot, Jenny, performed the sub trunk with Doug. He locked her inside, and she emerged as a cat. He then used the Lady to Lion Cage to transform



*Lesley on Sword Suspension that she and Mars used.*



*Doug and Lesley perform the Zig Zag Illusion.*



*Doug saws Lesley in half.*

Jenny the cat into Rebel the cougar.

Lesley’s favorite routine in the show was the Floating Candle, a solo spot she performed while Doug watched Maya nearby.

“Doug had found the Floating Candle in an old magic book, and the two of us worked it out,” Lesley said. “I performed a mystical dance while the lighted candle floated. I

alone controlled the candle. I could dance with it forward and back, side to side, and up and down. It looked so magical! That was my special magic in the show.”



*Maya and the Floating Candle,*

Glenn Priest and Brian Lumley were the stagehands. Glenn worked as a lighting tech at Le Strip. Brian, who Doug met through me, also handled Rebel the cougar. Although often referred to as “the shadows” for their stealthy onstage presence, Glenn and Brian were crucial to the backstage workings of both *Spellbound* and the early days of *The Magic Show*.

“At one point in the show,” said Lesley, “Brian would lift me up onto his shoulder. And would you believe the only time we ever stumbled was the night Rudolf Nureyev sat in the audience.”

The Magic of the Mirrors ended the show. Doug climbed a set of steps and entered a round cabinet, while Lesley – in a dark hooded robe, her face concealed by a mirror mask – watched nearby. As she turned toward the audience, Doug closed himself inside the cabinet.

Suddenly the cabinet exploded “into a thousand pieces which dangled and twisted in the air,” according to the show’s program book. When Lesley removed the mirror mask from her face, she was no longer Maya – she was Doug Henning, who had achieved his magical dream.

“The line Doug delivered when he reappeared was this – ‘We are all mirrors for each other!’ And that line has echoed inside me throughout my whole life,” Lesley said.

*Spellbound* ran from December 26, 1973 through January 5, 1974 at the Royal Alex theatre in Toronto before moving to the Bayview Playhouse, where it played until January 28 and ended the entire run.



*(l to r): Glenn Priest, Brian Lumley, Doug Henning.*

According to Brian Lumley: “*Spellbound* was standing room only from the first day of pre-production at the Royal Alexandra to its closing three weeks later. Due to high demand, three matinees had to be added when we moved to Bayview. And Rudolf Nureyev, the world-famous ballet dancer, came to one of our finals shows at the Bayview.”

Doug Henning’s dream was only beginning.



*Promotional flyer for Spellbound.*

## On to Broadway

Thanks to *Spellbound*, Doug was offered both a cross-Canada tour and a Broadway show. The producers of the Broadway show – Lansbury, Duncan, and Beruh – came to Toronto to see *Spellbound*. They even proposed that Stephen Schwartz write new music for the New York show, which would be a “rock magic show” like *Spellbound*.

Doug asked Lesley to dinner one night. Over the past year, the two had developed a working friendship and rapport. They spent the dinner discussing whether he should accept the Canadian tour offer or the Broadway show offer. Doug asked Lesley’s advice on making this important decision.

“He had already been on a Canada tour opening for the rock group Lighthouse last summer,” she said. “My advice was to accept the Broadway offer, even though I knew I would not be in the cast. I would not stand in the way of Doug’s dreams.”

That is exactly what Doug did months later, and he asked Lesley to accompany him as a personal assistant to help with the show. She understood from the start that, regrettably, she would not perform in the show. Instead, she would teach Dale Soules and Anita Morris – the new leading ladies, chosen by the producers – how to perform the illusions.

Working with a completely new script, the Broadway version of the show had Doug’s magician character bringing Dale’s character Cal into magic, but without paying any attention to her romantically. Doug’s character was too wrapped up in his own magic for that, it seemed.

In New York, Lesley shared an apartment on West 57<sup>th</sup> Street with Brian Lumley and Glenn Priest. Behind the scenes she ran errands, sewed costumes, painted, and worked on the Zig Zag and stack of boxes with Glenn.

“I trained Anita Morris on the Crystal Casket and Dale Soules on the Metamorphosis (sub trunk) and Zig Zag,” Lesley said. “I also set up the Dancing Handkerchiefs with the big jar that Doug and Dale performed

while sitting down on a big colorful box. That one involved delicate threads, which had to be set up carefully by me. The union stagehands kept walking through and breaking the threads, usually just before the illusion was needed for rehearsal. I tried a number of locations away from everyone to no avail. It was a union thing versus me, and I got the blame for not being ready. Personally, I think those guys may have done it on purpose.”

Maya worked for months behind the scenes on the Broadway version of *Spellbound*, now known as *The Magic Show*, with little to no credit.

“On April 7 they booked Doug to promote the forthcoming Broadway show in Central Park. He and Dale performed Metamorphosis. This was an unusual situation of Doug doing the trunk illusion twice in a row,” Lesley said. “A reporter stood too close to the back of the trunk, and I was standing behind there too. Because Doug did not start that second Metamorphosis performance by completely removing the banner curtain, he left it around the box before he started the second time.

“As Doug lifted the curtain and shouted, ‘Don’t blink your eyes,’ I instantly saw the back left corner of the banner curtain was trapped under the trunk. In a split second, just before disaster struck and the exchange was exposed to the reporter and everyone else who had gathered in the park to watch, I ran forward and pulled the banner cloth free from under the trunk. That prevented an embarrassing reveal, which could have spoiled the entire promo event and damaged Doug’s credibility before *The Magic Show* ever opened.”

May 14 and 15 were the first two run-throughs, and both were rough. But things got better, and Maya continued working daily and nightly behind the scenes.

“A friend brought me a dorje back from Tibet, a sort of talisman or good luck charm representing the energy of the universe and enlightenment,” Lesley said. “During the *Spellbound* days, I wore it constantly, and I felt it had protected me from serious injury

in the lion attack. At dinner the night before *The Magic Show* opened, I felt compelled to give Doug that dorje as a gift. I hope it gave him some power and protection in all his challenges over the years.”



A poster promoting *The Magic Show*, the Broadway version of Doug Henning’s *Spellbound*.

*The Magic Show* opened on May 28 to a tremendous reaction from audiences and critics. In all, it ran four-and-a-half years, with Doug himself performing in it for the first eighteen months. Later, other magicians took his place. Doug, of course, went on to tour the world and present yearly television specials.

“It was around the end of the Vietnam War and hippie era,” Brian Lumley later theorized to Lesley, “and I think Doug Henning’s innocence and sense of wonder was an antidote and a healing for the times. People just naturally loved him.”

On June 23, a month after the May opening, the producers held a cast party at Marvin Kraus’ house around his backyard pool. Lesley had already given her notice to quit the

show, but she attended the party to say goodbye to everyone. She also remembers sitting with Ivan Reitman and some film producers at lunch one day before she left as Ivan told them his dreams and plans to produce movies.

The next day, June 24, 1974, Lesley took a twelve-hour bus ride alone from New York City to Toronto, filled with bittersweet memories of her involvement with the world of magic. On that sad journey, Lesley knew she now had the serious and poignant responsibility to help her mother care for her mute, physically disabled brother. A brother who would, with Lesley’s help, become an award-winning poet.

To all appearances, Maya’s magic life was over.



Lesley as *Maya Goddess of Magic*.

**Next Month:** How Maya met Mars and started the second phase of her magical life as an equal-partnership duo.

David Ginn continues to marvel at all the wonderful and interesting people he has met in magic, with Maya, Mars, and Doug Henning being three of them. To contact David, see [www.ginnmagicshop.com](http://www.ginnmagicshop.com) or email him at [ginnbooks@gmail.com](mailto:ginnbooks@gmail.com).



## Technology

*“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”*

– Arthur C. Clarke

Known as Clarke’s Third Law, the above quotation from British science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke appeared in his 1962 book *Profiles of the Future*, and it highlights how highly advanced tech appears magical to those who do not understand its scientific inner workings.

### What Is Technology?

Dictionaries generally define **technology** as “the practical application of scientific or organized knowledge to solve problems, achieve tasks, or create tools and methods.” It refers to both the scientific devices, and the knowledge needed to use them.

Magicians have always embraced technology. Those priests in ancient Egypt rigged up their temples so that the doors opened magically. Jean-Eugene Robert Houdin, known as the “Father of Modern Magic”, was a watchmaker who used technology to create amazing automatons. He pretended to use ether to explain his levitation, and he secretly used electromagnets for his Light and Heavy Chest Illusion.

When I was still young, the most influential magician using technology seemed to be Tony Anverdi, the Dutch magician who gained prominence in the magic community for creating innovative, high-tech props, including mental dice and the spirit bell. I remember seeing him last century at a magic convention.

Marco Tempest seems to be the most

prominent magician featuring technology during the past fifty years or so. He has been called a “cyber illusionist.”

Trigg Watson is now showing up with magic using technology, and I had the pleasure of actually helping him develop one trick in which the technology was flaunted – and yet the trick was still amazing.



*Trigg Watson appears on an episode of Penn & Teller: Fool Us.*

Walt Disney loved magic, and he embraced technology. Disney used the “Pepper’s Ghost” illusion to create a unique experience at the Haunted Mansion in the Disney theme parks. Everything about Disney seemed to be magic!

Disney’s Magic Kingdom extensively embraces technology to enhance guest experiences, using it for everything from advanced animatronics and high-speed rides to personalized, wearable tech and data-driven crowd management. Technology is utilized to create “frictionless” moments, aiming to turn park operations into seamless magic.

Let's face it: We all love magic, and we are all surrounded by technology. The hand may not be quicker than the eye, but it sometimes seems like the pace of technology is quicker than our brains.

### Living in the Future

When my Magic Camp opened in 1993, one of the first campers was a twelve-year-old boy named Gus Davis. He loved magic and grew up performing as "Gusto the Great" with his mother, who performed as "Jere the Jester." Gus became one of the first counselors-in-training, one of the first teen counselors, one of the first junior staff members, and one of the first camp directors outside of the founder.



*Gusto the Great with Jere the Jester.*

One of my favorite quotations from Gus is, "I love living in the future!" He now makes his living using technology in entertainment, and the technology keeps changing and becoming even more amazing. It really does seem sometimes that we are living like the Jetsons, a Hanna-Barbera futuristic cartoon from the 1960s.

I know, you are asking, "Oh yeah? Where's my flying car?" But to be honest, flying cars have already been invented, are already in production, and will be available sooner than you realize. And completely self-driving cars and trucks are already all over our streets and highways.

Living in the future, indeed!

### *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

I read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams shortly after it

came out in 1979. In *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series, the primary "satellite" device is the Guide itself, which is a hand-held, electronic, book-like device containing an immense amount of data. This was obviously science fiction in 1979, since such a device would have to be enormous.

And yet, in today's amazing era of technology where we hold almost all of the information in the world inside a small device in our pocket or purse, is there any need for magic?

### ABSOLUTELY!

In his 1982 book *Megatrends*, John Naisbit explains how the world will need more "high touch" in this era of "high tech."

High tech and high touch are concepts arguing that as technology (high tech) advances, the need for human interaction (high touch) increases to provide balance, trust, and emotional connection. I don't know about you, but I feel this every day. Surrounded by computers, smart phones, television, hearing aids, electronic magnifiers (my wife and I are both legally blind) ... the list goes on and on.

Magic, at its best, can provide that high touch so needed today.



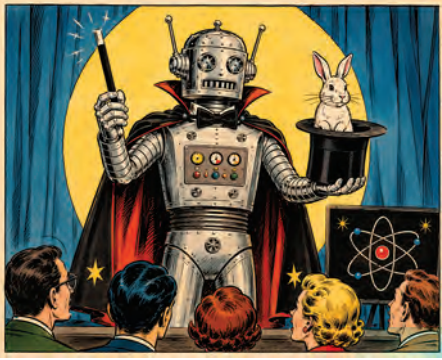
*Kent uses an IrisVision device to read a book.*

### Technology Tricks

If I were to write a list of the best, most current tricks using technology, the list would be out of date before this issue makes it to the printers – and even further out of date by the time you read it.

Less than ten years ago, my friend Joe Vitale decided to dispose of his enormous collection of magic. As a multi-millionaire, he





*Technology for magicians.*

## Marketing Magic

It is intriguing to talk about the latest tricks using technology, but this column is supposed to be about marketing! How can the advancing technology help you book more shows at higher prices?

**Harlan Tarbell's** Lesson 71 in the *Tarbell Course in Magic, Volume 5*, originally published in 1927, still resonates today. He doesn't mention Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, or TikTok of course, but he does say, "There is no cut and dried method for selling magic. There are basic principles that all have used successfully, but who knows when the morrow will bring in a new angle of publicity and interest that will appeal to the public?"

Use the latest technology if it can help you make your marketing more effective, but don't get so caught up with it that you ignore the fundamental principles of marketing.

## Are You Smarter Than a Smart Phone?

Almost everyone now has a smart phone in their pocket or purse (or, too often, in their hand, while staring at the tiny screen!). This is where most people read their emails, correspond with text messages, and interact with social media. Sometimes they even use the device to make and receive phone calls! Your marketing needs to be adapted to this fact.

I have been writing about the basic marketing principles in this column for more

than ten years. No matter what happens in technology, these principles will still apply.

## Oh What a Tangled Web We Weave!

Do you have to have a website? No, of course not! You only need a website if you want to grow your business.

I am not being facetious. Some of you love magic as a hobby, but are not interested in growing your magic business. (Some of you don't even have a magic business.) I am constantly annoyed when I go to meetings of the National Speakers Association, and the speaker looks right at me and says: "I know that you want to grow your business!"

No, I don't. In fact, now that I am retired, I am not even *willing* to grow my business. I do not want more gigs. I do not want to become a "Million-Dollar Speaker!" I want to spend more time with my family. That's one reason I enjoy writing. I can do it whenever I want, in my home office.

I have turned over my Magic Hotline business to my long-time friend, Peter Hinrichs ("Peter the Adequate"). But I remember when I was desperately trying to get more gigs, when I had a home mortgage, two car payments, and two college funds that all needed money. Back then, I needed an effective ad in the Yellow Pages. And as my business grew and technology changed, I also needed email and an effective website.

If you are currently trying to grow your business, I think you need an effective website. That's where people find you these days. (You probably don't need an ad in the Yellow Pages.)

## Is Email Marketing Better Than Direct (Snail) Mail?

I prefer email to texting, social media, or phone calls. Email allows me to have a written record of all communication, and I also find email easier to search for needed messages. But I am very aware that many people (especially younger people) prefer other forms of communication.

When I started performing magic shows for money, there was no such thing as email. Or text messaging. Or social media. Much of the marketing I received was delivered by



the United States Post Office. Marketers called it “direct mail.”

Today, we are more likely to concentrate on digital forms of marketing. But that means that direct mail can be an unexpected bonus. Since people get far less “snail mail” these days, a well-conceived piece of advertising may actually cut through the clutter and be more effective than email.

### **Are You Antisocial?**

What about social media? Don’t you have to be on YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, BeReal, Threads, Substack, and whatever else has trended since I wrote this?

Maybe. It depends on your goals. (Okay, I believe that almost everything depends on your goals. If you have been reading my column for more than a year or two, you already know this about me.) And which, if any, of the various social media platforms should you use?

It all depends on where your prospective clients and customers are using social media. If you are seeking corporate bookings, LinkedIn may work better for you than TikTok. If you are in the birthday party market, Facebook and Instagram may still have most of your prospects.

My daughter, Carolyn Cummins, is a small business coach who specializes in social media marketing. She will tell you that these are the top things people should focus on when they think about social media:

- Define your audience.  
*Who do you want to reach that can hire you for the events you most want?*
- Clarify your key value proposition statement.

*What problems do you solve? What benefits do you provide?*

- Be consistent in your post cadence and message.

*When you decide on one or more platforms, also decide how you want to appear in your posts.*

- Engage with your audience and nurture lead opportunities.

*Don’t forget to have a call to action!*

Yes, the tools have evolved, but the core principles of maintaining marketing professionalism still hold true. Harlan Tarbell had it right.

### **How Smart Is Artificial Intelligence?**

Everybody is talking about AI these days. Some people see it as the solution to all our problems; other people are absolutely terrified of what it can do.

I have had many examples of AI getting it wrong. It is called “hallucinating.” But that doesn’t mean that AI cannot be useful. You just have to ensure that your own intelligence remains engaged.

### **The Bottom Line**

Doug Henning was known for his insistence that he create a sense of wonder for his audiences. And we should all do the same. That sense of wonder is badly needed in today’s world. You might say that the Universe is asking for *magic!*

Share your stories and ideas: [kent@kentcummins.com](mailto:kent@kentcummins.com).

Listen to “Tales from the Fantastic Magic Center” at [www.fantasticmagiccenter.com](http://www.fantasticmagiccenter.com). There is a new episode every Monday morning, 8:00 a.m. CST. And check out my latest book, *I Want To Be Like HOUDINI!* at [www.likehoudini.com](http://www.likehoudini.com).

## *Sign up 1!*

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



# Polishing the Rings

SKIP WAY

## Convenience

We live in the most convenient culture in history. Purchases arrive at our door. Movies stream instantly. Meetings happen without leaving home. Nearly everything can be accessed with a click.

Our Rings' internet presence is a massive front door. Everyone we want to reach is online. Everyone who may one day join has checked us out online first. Livestreams, meeting archives, online workshops, digital lectures. We readily employ technology that welcomes new prospects, serves active colleagues, and recovers lost members. It's hard to argue with success!

Online attendance is a vital accessibility tool for our homebound, ill, traveling, and serving military members. Before streaming, if we missed a meeting it was over and done. Engaging in a Ring session required physical attendance. Online streaming and archiving changed that.

Our Rings' digital presence makes it possible for members to engage anytime and from anywhere. However, the convenience of online viewing may harm as much as it helps. How much is too much?

Streamed sessions include these five hidden costs.

**Convenience reduces commitment.** Online access makes Ring meetings and sessions easier to attend. Great! However, easy is not the same as formative. A significant psychological shift occurs as we consume our magical fellowship anytime and from anywhere. Attending in person becomes optional. Participation becomes selective. Commitment be-

comes negotiable.

Don't misunderstand and peg online access as wrong. For our homebound, traveling, and busy members, online access is a true gift. But when this occasional convenience becomes the norm rather than the helpful supplement, the pleasures and benefits of in-person participation quietly fall away. When pleasure drops, depth often follows.

**Convenience reduces the energy of presence.** Peer-reviewed research shows that online attendance generates a lower emotional and motivational response. Our Rings exist for the collective enjoyment of magic. Magic is art. Magic is passion. Meaningful and entertaining magic thrives on direct interaction with a living, reactive presence.

We experience an emotional spark when viewing the Sistine Chapel or DaVinci's *David* in person that online images just can't match. When magicians physically gather, something happens that cannot be digitized. Sharing our art in person immerses us in a supportive energy that is noticeably absent behind solitary screens. This is the power in presence.

We shift into small personal groups to ask and answer questions, examine unique props, solve sticky problems, review new products and skills, and share laughter and awe. The solitary home viewer misses these behind-the-scenes opportunities. Cameras, no matter how well placed, cannot capture the hands-on nature of these unique experiences.

**Convenience transforms participants into spectators.** Convenience culture trains us to watch. We watch TV shows. We view

sports highlights. We browse goods from our sofas. We observe lectures and performances. Productive magic sessions require much more than passive viewing. Magic is a participatory art. Exclusive online attendance reduces the club experience to the mere consuming of content rather than active contribution.

We grow comfortable with this passive observer role as magic becomes a routinely solitary endeavor experienced in the seclusion of our homes. The passive observer's focus drifts toward evaluation rather than engagement. We critique. We compare. We miss significant tips and ideas as we scroll past that which we consider inferior or of little interest. Spectatorship rarely produces artistic growth.

**Convenience weakens accountability.** Effective mentoring for artistic growth requires proximity. Ring leaders and mentors are more likely to notice certain traits, errors, and quirks when they consistently see us in person. Presence makes it easier to notice when a regular participant is missing or in need of support. Presence makes it easier for mentors to recognize and remedy mistakes and weaknesses as they occur. It makes it easier for those who truly care to reach out.

It's difficult to tell who is struggling or losing interest when attendance is invisible or relegated to a tiny inset box on a screen. We cannot mentor effectively when we don't know who needs our support. Unbalanced digital convenience may unintentionally accelerate the quiet departure of troubled and inactive members.

**Convenience replaces fellowship with ease.** This is our deeper issue. Our modern culture is saturated with convenience. It makes life easier, but not necessarily more meaningful. The convenience of online attendance may not satisfy the human desire for purpose and belonging. We are driven by a need to matter. We crave the opportunity to be part of something special, something bigger than themselves.

Our international Rings provide something

greater than mere convenience. We offer a shared sense of community, growth, and interactive fellowship. Overcoming the perceived hardships of traveling to meetings, sitting through session elements with little personal appeal, and overcoming the anxiety of performing before skilled peers does more to shape our magic identities than watching passively from our recliners in faded sweatpants.

### **So, is technology our enemy or friend?**

Technology is a wonderful tool! Used wisely, it extends our reach and expands member access. But we cannot build the future success of our local Rings and the I.B.M. itself on convenience alone. I.B.M. Rings are built upon the foundation of commitment, fellowship, and participation. Future growth relies on people who show up and share.

Rings that fail to maintain a functional balance between active participation and digital convenience run the risk of turning energetic members into passive observers. Our Rings must provide members with reasons to brave inclement weather, push convenience aside, and contribute to our imperfect, messy, and beautifully interactive magic communities.

The greatest magic skills are far from the easiest things to master. Active Ring participation should never be the easiest thing on a member's calendar. Planning and preparing for Ring camaraderie is a welcome and boundary expanding challenge. It is an opportunity to shake a few hands, pat a few backs, share a few awful dad jokes, and leap courageously into the trenches with those most like us. Participation, not passive observation, makes it meaningful. This is worth protecting.

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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](mailto:IBMYouth@magician.org)

*Share the Magic! Invite a friend to a Ring meeting.*



# Sick and Convalescent

I.B.M. MEMBERS

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## Dan Alessini and Tom Conley

### *Two-Man Parade*

Written by Tom Conley • Edited by Lauren Jurgensen  
• Illustrated by Tony Dunn

Dan Alessini's creativity and love of magic has been an inspiration to me. He is also probably the last living connection to those magicians who were so kind to me when I was a child. At 106 years old, he still has a burning desire to create, perform, and give a little back to the magic community. He wanted my help and demanded that I include some of my own ideas to this Parade.

If this Parade has a theme, it is simplification. Our desire for simplicity is mostly a result of the fleeting nature of the manual dexterity necessary for sleight-heavy effects. The days of Dan's ability to second deal, for example, are now gone, but his ability to entertain remains strong. The effects in this Parade focus on presentation and can be accomplished with a modicum of sleights. Magic is about entertainment, after all.

At the age of 106, the desire to perform and the desire to create is still strong, but sometimes the flesh is weak. The hands do not respond quite as well as they once did. The nimbleness of the fingers fades somewhat, but these impediments do not stop Dan. He is still comfortable with a deck of cards even though his second deal, his top change, and his double turnover are not quite as smooth as they once were. In spite of suffering senectuous digital deficiencies, Dan's mind and spirit and his love of magic are inspirational. He still finds ways to perform his magic. Here is one that he recently performed.



## Dan's "Ecumenical Card Trick"

The deck is shuffled and spread across the table face up. One can plainly see that the cards are thoroughly mixed. The spread is closed. The deck is handed out for examination so that all can see that there are no magicians' devices, gimmicks, etc. Just an ordinary deck of cards you might buy at the drugstore. The deck is returned to Dan. He fans the deck and has a card selected and returned to the deck. The deck is shuffled and cut several times. The lady who chose the card is asked to think of a number between 10 and 30. Dan dealt down to that number and lo and behold the chosen card is revealed at that number. The card is returned to the deck and the deck shuffled once again, losing the selection somewhere in the deck. The participant is asked how many packets she wishes Dan to deal to the table. She says six. Dan deals six packets to the table, some in an orderly manner and some just clumps of cards removed to form a packet, until the deck is exhausted and there are six packets lined up on the table. She is then asked to choose one packet to be eliminated. She does this and that chosen packet is set aside. This process continues until there is only one remaining packet. The last packet is divided into smaller packets and all but one of these is eliminated until finally getting down to just one card, the selected card.

Again, the deck is reassembled and the selection is again lost in the deck. An empty paper bag is shown to be ordinary and without guile. The deck is thrown into the bag. The bag is shaken, mixing the cards. Dan rolls up his sleeves, shows his hands empty, and reaches into the bag and removes the selection.

At this point, of course, if you have any familiarity with the arcana, the readers of this magazine should all know the secret to Dan's performance. However, if you are a lay person, you will be completely baffled and in awe of Dan's ability with a deck of cards.

I'll explain it anyway. As magicians we often fall in love with the method. I am certainly guilty of this myself. Remember, it is not the method that is important. It is the effect. The effect it has on your audience. Dan is a seasoned magical entertainer. He has always practiced the foundational rule in magic that Robert-Houdin wrote about in his 1868 book *Secrets of Conjuring and Magic*: "The conjurer ... is an actor playing the part of a magician." Dan is a superb actor and always has confidently put across to his audience his skills as a great magician.

Okay, here it is. Dan uses two decks of cards: a regular deck and a forcing deck whose backs match those of the regular deck. A deck switch happens after the shuffled and examined regular deck has been examined by the audience. There are a myriad number of deck switches out there. The switch can be made by a confederate as the cards are returned to the magician. The regular deck can be lapped and switched for the forcing deck. A topit can be used to make the switch. I have seen some very famous magicians use deck switches in their programs. There are many devices on the market to facilitate deck switches. My favorite one at the moment is Christian Engblom's "Cooler." The most deliberate and simple ones that happen in an offbeat moment are the best. Non-magician audiences don't expect it, and forcing decks are unfamiliar to non-magicians. I have seen rooms full of magicians fooled with forcing decks. Remember, it is about presentation and acting, not method.

## Dan's "Card Counter"

The idea of someone having a super memory has always been fascinating in the field of entertainment. Some people demonstrate their facility with numbers by doing complex calculations in seconds, or by constructing magic squares. Remember how awed we were when a person could give the square root of any number called out. This effect is in this genre.

**EFFECT:** The performer apparently memorizes a long list of random numbers.

**REQUIREMENTS:** A deck of cards. A large pad of paper and a pen.

**SET-UP:** The performer must be familiar with the mnemonic sentence, “Eight kings threatened to save nine fair ladies for one sick knave,” for remembering the value sequence of thirteen playing cards. The sequence is 8-K-3-10-2-7-9-5-Q-4-A-6-J. You need not be concerned with the suits.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** “Most psychic entertainers, at one time or another, have been asked how they would do at the gaming tables of Las Vegas. Actually, the ability to perceive thoughts is not nearly as important in card games as the ability to remember which cards have been played.”

“There is a small handful of individuals who are barred from the tables in all the casinos. They are called card counters and they have trained themselves to count and memorize all the cards that have been played in a game. It’s a matter of focus. With focus, the mind can do amazing things.”

As you speak, casually shuffle the deck of cards, or have a spectator shuffle the cards thoroughly. Take the deck and hand the spectator the pad of paper and a pen. Instruct him to make a list of the cards as you call them out.

Rapidly thumbing the cards from one hand to the other, call out the values of twenty or more cards, allowing the spectator only enough time to write the sequence on the pad. In calling the values out, disregard the actual cards and instead call out the “Eight kings threaten to save nine fair ladies for one sick knave” sequence. When you reach the end of the sequence, start all over again to call out up to twenty-six values.

Shuffle the pack again, saying, “Now, you have the only record of the order of the cards, except for the record now existing in my mind. I have memorized them.” Haltingly, but accurately, call out the card sequence. You can call them in reverse order, or even start from any point in the

middle and read them in either direction.

Don’t try to memorize the complete deck. After about twenty cards the audience will undoubtedly give you credit for having a super memory.

## Dan’s “Super Memory”

“I don’t know if you are aware of a Las Vegas unwritten law of card counting, but if you are not aware, let me explain the concept.”

“A card counter knows the complete deck by looking at the deck once and then is able to tell if the cards have been dealt before, especially in poker. Let me show you what I mean.”

“Spread the deck. I will try to memorize it. I think that I have done that. I have the deck in my hand and I want you to cut a part of the deck, turn the packet face up, and replace it on the deck. I will spread the cards and the first face-down card will be the chosen card. Take it and don’t let me see it. Place it aside.”

“Again, the deck is spread out. I see that there are twenty-six black cards and twenty-five red cards, so one red card is missing. From what I can deduce, the missing card is the Seven of Diamonds.”

“Now you know why I can’t go to Las Vegas.”

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** You will use the Lynn Searles force to accomplish this. Hold the deck in your left-hand dealing position. Have the spectator cut the deck, turn it face up, and replace it on the remaining packet of cards.

Turn the left hand face down and spread the cards from left to right. The first face-down card at the junction of face up and face down is the forced card, the original top card of the deck. Remove the card from the spread and place it aside.

When you pick up the spread, place the face-up cards below the face-down cards and hold them in the left hand. Re-spread the cards and do your thing. The cards will be in the same position as originally; the only absent card was the original top card.

## ADDENDUM

If we combine aspects of Dan's "Super Memory" and aspects of his trick "Card Counter," we can come up with another trick.

**EFFECT:** The performer apparently memorizes a shuffled deck.

**REQUIREMENTS:** A deck of cards and the knowledge of the "Eight Kings" mnemonic.

**SET-UP:** Place thirteen cards in the Eight Kings set-up on top of the deck. Start with the Eight of Clubs. The order of the cards from the top of the deck is: 8C-KH-3S-10D-2C-7H-9S-5D-QC-4H-AS-6D-JC. That is the whole set-up.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** Turn the deck face up and, holding a break above the top thirteen cards (now at the bottom of the face-up deck), Hindu shuffle the top stock openly onto the bottom stock (the thirteen-card set-up). (To obtain the break easily, you can make the fourteenth card from the top a breather card.)

Hold the shuffled pack up facing you and slide cards one at a time from your left hand into your right hand as you supposedly memorize the deck. After this bit of acting, hold the deck face down in your left-hand dealing position.

Have a spectator cut the deck about halfway and turn the cut-off portion face up and place it face up on top of the rest of the deck in your hand. Turn the left hand face down and spread the cards from left to right. (This is the Lynn Searles force.) The first face-down card in the spread will be the original top card, in this case the Eight of Clubs. Note the bottom card of the face-up cards and remove it by sliding it face up to the front of the table. Remark that this card was somewhere in the middle of the deck as you close the spread of face-up cards, turn them all face down, and put them aside. Struggle a little to name the next card following that one in the deck and say, "The next card is the Eight of Clubs." Turn the face-down Eight of Clubs face up and show it to the audience. Throw it face down onto the table and continue

calling out the rest of the thirteen-card stack, showing the face of each to the audience right after you call it out. Throw each card in a pile face down onto the table.

Casually but rapidly continue with the fourteenth card, calling out the Eight of Hearts. Look at the face of the card and throw it face down into the pile without showing the face to the audience. Continue this ruse rapidly for a few more cards, throwing each face down in a pile after checking to see if you were correct. By this time everyone will conclude that you indeed memorized the whole deck. Gather up all the cards and absentmindedly shuffle and cut the deck for the next trick.

Caution: When calling out the cards after the first thirteen, be careful not to call out the face-up card that you slid to the front of the table, the one that was supposedly at the junction of the cut.

## Dan's "Image"

Two-person mental tests that seem impromptu always make for provocative entertainment. This effect seems like an example of real thought projection, yet it can be taught quickly to your spouse or a close friend. It is particularly suited to an informal gathering or a private party, but it can be used as a publicity stunt too.

**EFFECT:** The performer is able to determine a card selected by a spectator even though the performer is out of the room during the selection.

**REQUIREMENTS:** A pad of paper and a pen. Ten cards from a Mental Pictoria deck or ten symbols hand-drawn on blank cards. Whichever is used, the simple pictures must be easy to remember in sequence. For example, an alphabetical sequence of an arrow, a bug, a car, a dog, an egg, and so on, would be easy to memorize. You also need a spouse or a partner to code the selection to you.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** "Symbols are more easily transmitted than words," you explain, pointing out that you

and your partner have a success ratio of better than 75% in telepathic communication of symbols. So saying, you are escorted from the room by several spectators who stay with you in another room to assure that no contact is made with you during someone else's selection of a symbol card.

In your absence, your spouse or partner has one of the ten symbols selected by one of the remaining spectators. The spectator announces to you that the procedure has been completed and brings you a piece of paper on which to record your image as your partner concentrates in the other room. Under guard, you draw your impression on the paper before returning to the other room. Your sketch proves to be a duplicate of the selected symbol.

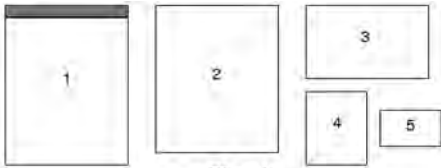


Fig. 1

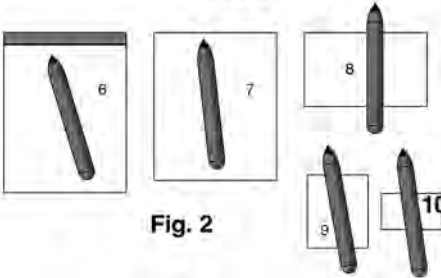


Fig. 2

Your partner sees the selected symbol and communicates the information to you in the following way. To code one of the first five symbols, your partner sends you either the whole pad of paper, a single sheet of paper unfolded, a sheet of paper folded once, a piece of paper folded twice, or a piece of paper folded three times (Fig. 1). These represent symbols one through five respectively. Thus, if you receive the pad, the symbol is the arrow. A single unfolded sheet denotes the bug. A sheet folded once codes the car. A sheet folded twice denotes the dog, and a paper folded three times, an egg.

The second group of five symbols (numbers six through ten) are coded in the same way except that, along with the paper, your partner also sends you a pen with which to write (Fig. 2). Therefore, for example, the pad of paper accompanied by the pen would signify an object beginning with the letter "F."

## Dan's "Psych It"

Here is a clever idea that will allow you to quickly and easily transform your spouse or best friend into a psychic medium. Or, with a little more than moderate skill, they can master the handling that will make you the medium.

You begin, "Husbands and wives, over the years, develop a special rapport that can allow one to sense the secret mood of the other, or even tune into the other's thoughts." To demonstrate, you seat your wife at a remote part of the room, with her back turned to the spectators and you. Then, picking up a deck of cards and removing it from its case, you place the deck on your flattened hand and have someone cut the cards and complete the cut. "Now, remove the top card and look at it," you tell the volunteer. "But don't allow anyone else to see it or even to know what card it is." While the spectator looks at his selected card, you square up the remainder of the deck. The spectator returns his card to the middle of the deck, and the cards are put back in their case. Another spectator hands the cased deck to your spouse. She touches the cards, still in their case, to her forehead, waiting. You turn your back to the spectator who selected the card. "Only you know the identity of the card you selected," you point out. "Write its identity on a slip of paper, fold the slip, and put it under my hand, which I'll flatten on the table with my eyes closed." When the spectator does so, you and your wife concentrate for a moment. Then she correctly announces the identity of the card the spectator has written on the folded slip.

The cards may be borrowed, but you

need to prearrange the deck into matching pairs, such as the Two of Spades and the Two of Clubs, or the Ten of Diamonds and the Ten of Hearts. When the spectator cuts the deck and removes a card, you simply position the matching card from the pair on the bottom of the deck. The spectator returns his card to the center, and you put the cards immediately into the case, with the bottom card closest to the front of the case. When you push the flap down into the case, you push it between the bottom card and the rest of the deck. The medium holds the case to her forehead with both hands and uses her thumb to drag enough of the bottom card down to see its identity. She simply names its mate.

## Dan's "The Dower"

Card effects in which a spectator selects a card can be concluded in a myriad of ways. This one ends with the aid of a traditional forked hazel stick or a metal rod with a right-angle bend in one end. The performer claims to be a dowser, able to discern hidden objects with the use of this implement. My good friend Arnold Furst, renowned performer, does an effect similar to this. My handling, however, is a little different.

**EFFECT:** The performer locates a selected card by means of a divining rod.

**REQUIREMENTS:** A deck of cards. A divining rod made of a "Y"-shaped branch of a tree, or made from a metal coat hanger.

**SET-UP:** None.

**SLEIGHTS:** Any false shuffle or cut that will retain the top ten cards in position.

**WORKING AND PRESENTATION:** "There are many different types of psychics who claim different abilities. Card readers, for example, who claim to be able to read people's fortunes, usually use tarot cards, which are the forerunners of these modern-day playing cards." As you speak, spread the pack of cards, faces up, and memorize the name of the tenth card from the top.

Turn the deck face down and casually

shuffle the cards once, keeping the top ten cards in position. "Numerologists, on the other hand, use numbers to discern information. For example, a numerologist might ask you to think of a number between 10 and 20. Are you thinking of a number? What is it?" Single out a spectator to direct your question to. When the spectator names a number, deal that many cards into a face-down pile on the table. Put down the main stock of the deck and pick up the pile just dealt.

Tell the spectator to add the two digits of the number he selected and name the total. Deal that many cards into a face-down pile on the table.

Tell the spectator to look at and memorize the last card dealt and replace it on the pile, saying, "To the numerologist this card would have special significance." You will know the name of this card because it was the one you memorized as the tenth from the top.

Drop the cards in your hand on top of the chosen card. Pick up this pile and drop it on top of the main stock of the deck, then pick up the entire deck. The chosen card will automatically be the tenth card from the top of the deck at this point. Give the deck a false shuffle or cut, retaining the position of the top ten cards.

Place the deck on the table and tell the spectator to cut about half the cards off. Place this top half of the deck aside for the time being. Pick up the bottom half of the deck, turn it face up, and spread the cards on the table.

"I am going to demonstrate to you how a dowser might locate hidden objects or secret information with the aid of this divining rod."

Show the instrument and explain how it twitches and dips when something is located. Then move it over the face-up cards on the table. Make it dip when you come to a card that has the same value as the selected card. Ask the spectator to confirm this fact. If you can't find a card of the right value, then have the divining rod dip on two cards in succession that add up to the correct value.

Next, move the rod above the cards again, making it dip on a card of the same suit as the spectator's card. Ask the spectator to confirm the correctness. Finally, the rod is made to bob around once more and dip onto any ten spot. Look perplexed when it does this.

"I don't know what this means. We have discovered the name of your card. What else could this be telling us? Do you think that the number 10 may have something to do with your card's location? Let's count to the tenth card in this stack." Pick up the face-down pile that you moved aside earlier and deal down to the tenth card. Show that it is indeed the selected card. There just may be something to the practice of dowsing!

## Dan's "Wolfman"

This is a mental effect based on the lore of superstition, such as the Wolfman or Count Dracula. You can use the story for either character.

"Deep somewhere in a London gravesite are five coffins, one of which contains the remains of Dracula. Why five? Because if the gravesite is discovered and they find the true coffin, Dracula might come alive to terrorize the community of London."

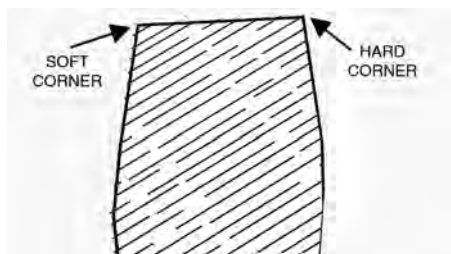
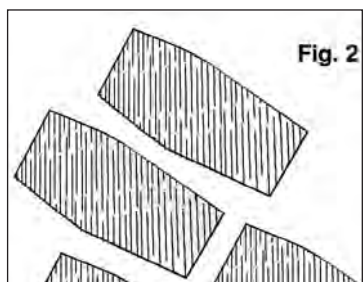
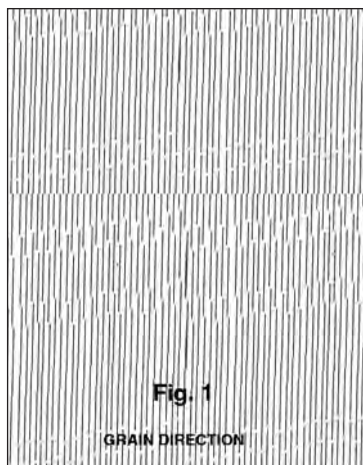
"There are certain individuals who would like to see London terrorized. Maybe one of you could play the part of Renfield, or the Wolfman."

"As you can see, we have replicas of coffins used in those times. As in those times, the coffins are in a row. I need someone to put their name on one of those coffins, then turn it over and place it with the others. Cut and mix them."

"I will play the part of Von Helsing. I want to identify the correct coffin so that I can open it and drive a stake through Count Dracula's heart. I do believe that this is Dracula's coffin."

The basis of this trick is the Fillman Principle. The coffins are made on the bias from cardboard so that one part is hard and

the other is soft to the touch, that is, at the corners. When the coffins are placed upon the table, the top corners are all either soft or all hard, your choice. When the signed Dracula coffin is turned over, you will then have one corner that is different from all the rest: there will be four with hard corners and one with a soft corner, or one with a hard corner and the rest with soft corners, depending on how you set them up at the beginning (Figs. 1-3).



You might purchase a wooden stake as a prop at a Halloween store. Make up a good story – a good story is the key to entertainment.

Try it, you might like it.

*The following are Tom Conley's contributions.*

## Tom Conley's "Piffle"

My father was a close friend of Dante the Magician. Consequently, I spent a lot of time with him when I was quite young. He was a great man and a great illusionist, but he did not cotton to the company of card men. He referred to them as "piffle merchants." I am pretty sure that this is how he would categorize this trick. I don't care. I enjoy performing it and it reminds me a bit of the times I spent with Grandpa Dante.\* This is just another of my contributions to my piffle portfolio.

This is a variation of Jim Steinmeyer's trick "The Nine Card Problem," first published in his book *IMPUZZIBILITIES*. Steinmeyer developed the principle from an effect called "Remote Control" written up by Tony Andruzzi in *New Invocation*. I have altered it by changing the series of requests in part to eliminate the use of numbers in the script.

This trick is mathematical and, as Steinmeyer points out, is automatic so that it could "easily hold its own on a video or audio tape, or as written words on a page. At a party, it can be performed for a large group, each making individual selections ..." or "over the phone, it works effectively for one person."

The easiest way to learn it is to follow along with a deck of cards as you read the script. Remove jokers and advertising cards. This is self-working. (All actions are performed by the spectator/assistant.)

1. Shuffle deck.
2. Spell down to the table one card at a time for each letter of C-A-R-D.
3. Spell down one card at a time: T-R-I-C-K, and throw on top of cards just dealt. Put aside the rest of the deck. We won't need them.

Dante's friends and family did not refer to him as Dante, or even Harry. He was just "Pop."

4. Turn that packet of cards face up and

spell down one card at a time: P-O-P. Remember that third face-up card. Throw the remainder of the face-up cards in your hand onto the three face-up cards on the table. Turn this packet face down.

5. From the face-down packet, spell down the name of your chosen card. First spell the value, one card at a time. Throw remaining cards on top.

6. Spell O-F, the middle name of all cards. Throw remainder on top.

7. Spell the suit. Throw remainder on top.

8. Spell Dante's favorite magic words. Spell S-I-M and throw remainder on top.

9. Spell S-A-L-A and throw remainder on top.

10. Spell B-I-M. Throw remainder on top.

11. Spell the great magician's name, the man who made the magic happen: D-A-N-T-E. Turn over the "E" card face up. It will be the chosen card.

I have used this as a template for other versions by substituting names of people in attendance, or names connected to the people in the audience. I have done variations for a history group, a group of friends, and even have a variation for a conservation organization using words that they all relate to. I hope you will have fun with this.

\*FYI: Dan Alessini's actual first name is Dante.

## Tom's "Simplicity"

Charlie Miller stayed with us for a couple of weeks when I was maybe ten years old. Charlie had known my father, Jim Conley, since he was a boy. My father was making a custom prop for Charlie. While my father worked in the shop, I often sat at the card table with Charlie in our adjoining theater. Charlie, who practiced constantly, would let me watch. Sometimes he would pause and show me things. At one point he asked me if I did any card tricks. He knew that I sometimes performed at school and did shows in the backyard for

the neighborhood kids. “No,” I answered. Playing cards were not allowed at school. Besides, my mother discouraged gambling. When I was six, my relatives had taught me to add and subtract by teaching me Blackjack. They were all terrible cheats. She was a regular churchgoer and did not allow “gambling cards” in the house. The only card trick I can remember my father doing was forcing three cards when he performed the Conley card sword in his show. Charlie scolded my father and said, “Get your kid a bridge-size deck, Jimmy.” My father went to the white chest of drawers in the shop that held drawers full of folded magic posters and miscellaneous small magic. Out came my first deck of bridge-size cards. Charlie taught me my first real card trick that day. This is not a magician-fooler, but is quite simple and, of course, the principle is classic. This is the way I performed it when I was ten:

The deck is shuffled and your victim cuts the pack into three packets and places them on the table left to right. The top card of the center packet is looked at by your victim, noted, and returned to the top of that center packet. The packet on your right (the bottom packet) is placed on top of the center packet with your right hand. This combined packet is placed on the final packet on your left. There are a couple more ways of reassembling the deck, but the original bottom card of the deck must, of course, end up on top of the chosen card in the center packet. The chosen card is thus buried in the deck. The deck is now ribbon-spread face up across the table. Ask your chosen assistant to hold his or her head still while scanning the cards with their eyes only. Explain that most everyone has a tell and that their pupils will bounce involuntarily as their gaze slightly hesitates as it crosses over their chosen card. Crouch down, if necessary, to better look directly into your assistant’s eyes. Have them repeat the scan once or twice as you struggle a bit to discern the identity of their card. Name their card and say, “Your subconscious mind gave you away!”

You all now know from the description how the trick works, but non-magicians are fooled by the use of a key card. The chosen card will, of course, end up on top of the key card when the deck is spread face up. It couldn’t be much simpler. It is all about acting. Have fun with it.

## **Tom’s “Mindreading Versus Clairvoyance”**

Arnold Furst was a boyhood friend of my father’s. He was probably the first magician to teach me some magic besides my father. At one time in his long career, he marketed a trick that he named the “Perfect Deck for Mindreading and Clairvoyance.” The plot was that the magician was going to demonstrate the difference between mindreading and clairvoyance. His special deck enabled him to deduce one spectator’s freely chosen card and to force a known card onto the second spectator. I liked the plot, but sought a simpler way to accomplish the same effect impromptu with a regular deck.

Arnold had the first spectator cut the deck to a random card. This card was held by the spectator so that only he could see and know the identity of the card. The second spectator would cut the deck again; the card that was cut to was put face down on the table without anyone – including the spectator and the magician – seeing the identity of the card. The magician, by way of mindreading, would read the mind of the first spectator and ascertain the card. The second card’s identity, face down on the table and unknown to anyone, was ascertained by clairvoyance using a crystal ball. The revelation of the first card required the magician to thumb through the deck to find the card that matched in color and value the spectator’s chosen card. The second card chosen and put face down on the table was a force card facilitated by this clever deck.

My method requires only a regular deck of cards and a little subterfuge. It is simple and requires very little sleight of hand. You

must know the top two cards of the deck and be able to maintain them there after shuffling and cutting. If I am using my own deck, this is accomplished by the use of a face-down breather card that cuts to the bottom of the deck. The breather starts off on the top of the deck above the two known cards. These three cards must be kept there while shuffling the deck. The deck can then be cut several times in the hands until the breather card arrives on the bottom of the deck, leaving the two force cards on top. If you are using a borrowed deck, you can use a corner crimp to accomplish the same thing. If your sleight-of-hand skills are sufficient, you may wish to dispense with the use of either a breather or a crimped card.

The first spectator cuts the deck and turns his cut over and places it back on top of the deck face up. Use the Lynn Searles force explained elsewhere in Dan's "Super Memory" trick in this parade. The magician spreads the deck to the first face-down card and thumbs it off to the first spectator. This is the first spectator's chosen card. The first spectator looks at the card and holds it against her chest so that only she knows its identity. The magician is now holding the face-down part of the deck in his left hand and the face-up portion in his right hand. The right hand turns its cards face down and puts them back under the other half of the deck. Now the second force card is at the top of the deck. The deck is again placed on the table. Spectator #2 cuts the deck and turns over the cut portion face up on top of the remaining cards on the table. The magician asks Spectator #2 to be a little more thorough and to cut a little deeper this time. This is done, and the cards are turned over and placed on top of the remaining cards. This is Fred Braue's cut-deeper force. The cards are spread and the first face-down card is Spectator #2's selection. It is thumbed down to the table face down so that no one can see its identity. The magician now reveals the identity of the card with all the accompanying mumbo-jumbo, using clairvoyance and the

crystal ball. The emphasis of the presentation is more on acting than sleight-of-hand skill.

## Tom's "Colourophobia"

This is my variation of Jim Steinmeyer's The Three Ball Test, which first appeared in *Nothing but Mystery* and then in his book *Devilish Impuzzibilities*.\* I only made some minor changes to Jim's trick. I changed the color of the white ball to yellow, and I changed "right" for "left" and "left" for "right."

What follows is the Redondo Beach Rhine School of Mentalism entrance exam, to be performed for a room full of magicians.

"Imagine a small table in front of you. On the table are three colored balls: a yellow, a blue, and a red ball. These are small balls you could perhaps juggle with if you were a juggler. Now watch me and follow along and do what I do. Pick up one of the balls in your right hand. It doesn't matter which one. I want you to throw the ball from hand to hand as you spell a word, one move for each letter. We'll spell B-A-L-L. Start with the ball in your right hand and pass it back and forth like this."

Throw the ball back and forth for each letter.

"Put the ball back on the table."

"Hands empty. Close your eyes tightly and concentrate on the imaginary."

"Reach down and pick up one of the balls – the red, blue, or yellow – and hold it in your right hand. Got it?"

"Juggle the ball from hand to hand as you spell its color, one letter for each exchange."

"You now have a fist where you are holding the ball and an open hand."

"If you end up holding the ball in your right hand, just hold on to it. Don't put it down."

"If you are holding the ball in your left hand, put it back on the table and switch it for another ball. See the color in your

imagination.”

“You are now holding one ball and you can see its color perfectly.”

“Bring both your hands together and throw the ball away. Far away.”

“There are now two remaining colored balls on the table in front of you. Pick up either one of them in either hand. Remember its color and make a fist around the ball when you are holding it.”

“To completely randomize the procedure, spell your first name, moving the ball from one hand to the other for each letter. Do that now.”

“Notice which hand the ball is now in, your left or your right. Spell that word, moving the ball from one hand to the other for each letter, spelling either L-E-F-T or R-I-G-H-T, depending on which hand now holds the ball. Do that now.”

“Hold the ball in your fist where it ended up. Now spell the color of the ball in your fist and pass it back and forth for each letter. Do it now.”

“Stop. You now have a ball in one of your fists and an empty hand. Pick up the remaining ball on the table with your empty hand. Notice its color.”

“Take the ball that is in your right hand. Notice the color. Lift it up and stick it to the end of your nose. It is a magic ball and will cling to your nose.”

“Open your eyes. If you passed the test, you should all have a red ball on the end of your nose. I guess I got the applications mixed up.” Welcome to Clown College!

“Well, you have to be a little mental to qualify for clown college anyway.”

I usually end by placing a red sponge ball with a slit on the end of my nose.

*\*P.S.: If you are not already a fan of Jim Steinmeyer's, get with it. He is one of the great magical thinkers of our era.*

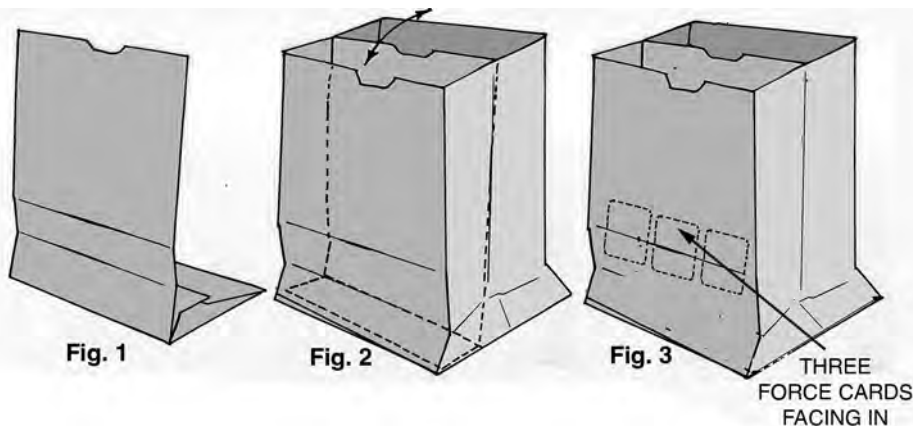
## Tom's “Unknown Psychic”

The problem put to me was: what could one do if you arrived at your destination and had lost your luggage and your show? What could you come up with at the local stores to cobble together some kind of a show? Obviously, the first thing most of us would look for was playing cards, but what else? This is a routine I came up with that could be assembled without access to a magic shop and would give you seven to ten minutes of show.

**EFFECT:** An audience member becomes the Unknown Psychic and reads the thoughts of three members of the audience, identifying three thought-of cards psychically.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Two decks of cards, Scotch tape, two large paper grocery bags (they are called “Barrel Bags” at the grocery store), a large black Sharpie or Marks-A-Lot marker, scissors, and the ability to force three cards.

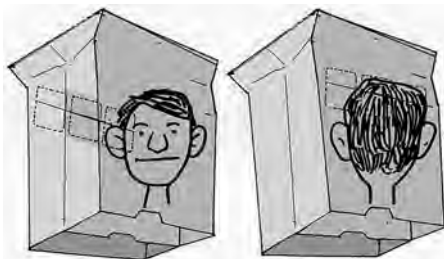
**SET-UP:** Cut the face of the first bag from the sides and include the bottom of the bag so that what is left is the front of the bag still attached to the bottom of the



bag (**Fig. 1**). Fit it tightly inside the second bag. You may have to do a little trimming, but it needs to fit snugly inside the second bag. Reverse the fold the opposite way so that it fits against the opposite side of the first bag. Remove it from the bag and carefully cut the bottom in half so that it only covers half of the bottom of the second bag. Place what's left snugly into the second bag and tape the half-bottom to the bottom of the second bag so that it hinges in the center (**Fig. 2**). You are making a flap that will fit tightly on either side of the second bag when folded over either way. With the flap against one side, tape the three cards from the first deck that you are going to force. Tape them in a row left to right, faces facing inside the bag, at what would be eye level for your volunteer (**Fig. 3**).

Draw a man's comic face on the front of the bag ( **Fig. 4**).

Draw a comic back of a man's head on the outside of the second bag (**Fig. 5**). If you are a little artistic you might want to draw this on the back of the bag during the performance, but you can get a better drawing if you do this before the performance and not under fire.



**Fig. 4**

**Fig. 5**

Fold the flap snugly over the taped-up cards, hiding them.

**FINAL NOTES:** If you are not performing for a bunch of magicians, you might just skip the flap part of the preparation and simply tape the three selected cards to the inside of the bag, not bothering to show the bag empty to the audience. Why run if you are not being chased? When you place the bag over the head of your volunteer/assistant, just be sure that

the card side is behind his head at the start.

I have also performed this without the drawing of the face on the front of the bag. Instead, I cut two eye holes in the bag on the front side for the assistant. I get a lot of humor out of this and the Unknown Psychic idea. Instead of blindfolding the eye holes, I just turn the bag around, commenting that I'll just turn his head around. This reveals for the first time the comic drawing of the back of his head, now facing front toward the audience. Comments about no eyes in the back of his head and such.

#### **WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**

(Note: this should not be performed using a lady as the Unknown Psychic. Issues with make-up and messing with a lady's hair are to be avoided, along with other uncomplimentary comments that could be made by crass audience members.)

Talk about how you believe that many people have psychic abilities and are not aware of their own powers. There are unknown psychics that wander among us. "I sense that there is one in this room right now." (Choose someone willing to be part of the fun.) Have him sit in a chair facing the audience. Take your deck of cards and force your first card on someone sitting on the left side of the room. Force the second force card on someone sitting near the middle of the room. The third is forced on someone sitting on the right side of the room. Tell each of them not to reveal their card to anyone.

Seat your volunteer in a chair facing the audience. The bag should be in its collapsed condition lying flat on your table. (If you are performing for magicians, you will be using the flap bag, so open the flattened bag and show the bag empty to the audience.) If you are not using the flap bag, just place the bag over the volunteer's head with the face side facing the audience. The back side of the bag with the three cards taped on the inside will not be seen as you place the bag face forward on the volunteer. If you have drawn the comic face on the face of the bag, there are a lot of possibilities for comedy. For example, make

sure that the Unknown Psychic can't look down the sides of his nose. You can also take the marker and fill in the eyes, thus blinding the psychic. If you are using the bag with just two eyeholes cut out, comment that there is no need for a blindfold because you can just turn your assistant's head around to the back, since he has no eyes in the back of his head. At this point, whether using the flap bag or not, the volunteer will now see the three cards taped on the inside of the bag. Comment to him that things must be becoming clear to him now. Tell him to concentrate on the card on his left to see if he can see it clearly. He can then reveal to the audience the card on the left side of the audience. Then, of course, direct him to concentrate on the card in the center. After he reveals that card, he then reveals the card on the right.

A lot of fun can be had with this trick.

## Tom's "Wind-Up Toy Card" Trick Simplified

Dan's Ecumenical Card Trick and a visit to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Mystery & Wonder exhibit of "Golden Age Magicians in New York City" reminded me of a trick I first began doing many years ago. One of the items the library had framed was a giveaway from Dell O'Dell. When I was young, my father gave me on my birthday a trick from Joe Berg's magic shop. It was a no-skill-required kind of thing. It came with a forcing deck and a little tin wind-up toy of a Buckingham Palace sentry. A card was chosen, lost in the deck, the deck was spread face down on the table, and the wind-up toy marched along the spread and stopped at the selection. Years later I saw Ricky Jay perform his version. I started to perform this effect with a regular deck. My routine used several wind-up toys from my junk drawer that were now nonfunctional. I got some comedy out of the trick by playing the frustrated magician with a series of nonfunctioning toys. After failing several times with different toys, I asked for the as-

sistance of someone from the audience. I had my gentleman assistant place a small dress around his walking fingers and had a doll's head on elastic attached to his hand. I got some comedy out of the thing. Later I got rid of all the broken wind-up toys and instead used Dell O'Dell's paper doll and paper boots (that she had given me when I was a small boy). It was the same Dell O'Dell giveaway as the one currently on display in the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts exhibit "Mystery & Wonder (Fig. 1)."



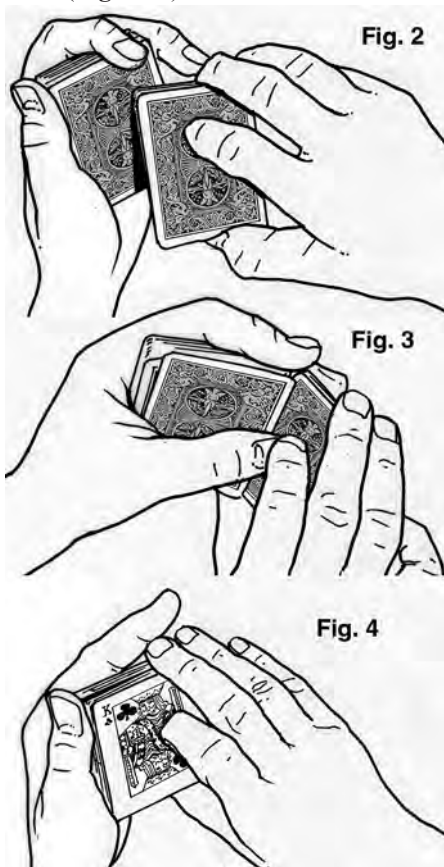
I carried the envelope containing the doll in my coat pocket. Much easier than carrying around a cigar box of broken toys. I now used a lady volunteer because ladies' fingers were usually slimmer and fit the prop better. The first and second fingers of the lady's hand were fitted through the holes in the paper doll and into the paper boots. Sometimes I had some fun commenting on the sexy legs of the paper doll. I had her walk the doll across the face-down spread of cards and stop on the card she felt was her selection. I used to use Paul Curry's "Turnover Change" to accomplish this. Hugard's description of the move is the first item in Paul Curry's book *Worlds Beyond*, published by Hermetic Press in 2009. The Curry change worked great, but I wanted to simplify it even more

to make it easier on myself. I now use a move inspired by David Britland. This is what I do now:

First, you should choose a volunteer who is sitting or standing to your right. This is important later. You must get the selection to the top of the deck. I think the double undercut can sometimes look kind of suspicious, so the pass is probably the simplest way to accomplish this. If you are not tuned up on your pass, you can keep a breather card at the bottom of your deck. The chosen card is returned to the top of the deck and the bottom half is thrown on top. Now the deck can be cut several times until you see the breather arrive at the bottom of the deck. The selection is now on top of the deck. The deck is now turned face up and the cards above the top couple of cards are Hindu-shuffled on top of the couple of cards retained in the left hand. This displays so many cards face up that there is no doubt in anyone's mind that you are using a regular deck. The deck can then be in-faro shuffled, still leaving the chosen card at the top of the deck. The deck is then table-spread face down in a row. I now carry a small Johnson Smith joke peanut/snake can with me. The snake has been removed and replaced by a toy pair of rubber monster walking feet that fit two fingers. The can I have makes a sound when you shake it that is supposed to sound like peanuts rattling inside. Every magician, and even most adults, have at some time been victimized by this joke, so everyone always seems wary of a magician with a joke peanut can. I explain that the can contains something necessary for the trick and practically thrust it into the face of my victim as I remove the lid. They attempt to dodge, and the laughs happen when no snake emerges. I have the lady put her first two fingers into the can and into the monster feet and remove the little monster from the can. Relieved, my victims are happy to cooperate. (You can do the same and find your own little monster, or still use the paper doll idea like I did with the Dell O'Dell paper doll.) Have her

walk her fingers in the monster feet across the ribbon of face-down cards and instruct her to stop whenever she feels the monster has arrived at her card. The deck is broken here and the top talon is placed aside. The bottom talon is gathered and put face down in left-hand dealing position. Pick up the top talon in Biddle grip and hold it perpendicular in preparation for the move inspired by David Britland.

Say, "You stopped at this card," as you gesture and tap the perpendicular top talon in the right hand against the top card of the packet in your left hand. As you do this, turn slightly to the right and, as you turn, slip the top card of the right-hand talon onto the top of the bottom talon with the fingers of the left hand still holding the bottom talon. At the same time, revolve the right-hand talon face up onto the bottom talon (Figs. 2-4).



Spread these cards face up and point out that, “You could have stopped at any of these cards, but you didn’t. You stopped at this card.” Slide the top card (the chosen card) onto the table from the top of the bottom talon. Now turn the left-hand talon face up and spread it, saying, “You could have stopped on any of these cards also, but you didn’t. You stopped on this card.” Point to the only face-down card on the table. “What was your card?” She answers as you turn over the card, revealing her chosen card.

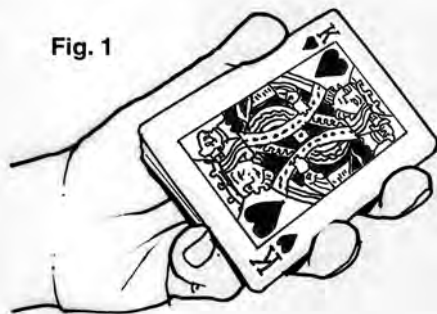
## Tom’s “Conley Color Change”

About thirty years ago a bunch of us wizards were sessioning at Sid Fleischman’s house and the subject of color-changing the face card of the deck came up. Everyone seemed to have their own favorite color change and proceeded to demonstrate it. Not being as adept in card manipulation as my compatriots, I had nothing to offer. I went home and worked on this problem and eventually came up with my own method and have been using it ever since. I have never tipped it to anyone. I haven’t been able to find my method in the literature anywhere, but I’m not a cardician/scholar by any means. The description of a method that I have been able to find that kind of knocks on the door of my method is described in Jean Hugard’s and Fred Braue’s *Expert Card Technique* on pages 162–163, “The Color Change,” but it is completely different from what I am about to describe, so I think my color change is original to me. I have only shown it one time to a member of the magical fraternity, so it has not yet been ripped off. What better place to have it buried in print than in the pages of *The Linking Ring*. I share it with you now. If you decide to use this, please practice it in front of a mirror. I perform most often standing and not sitting at a table, so it is not completely angle-proof in this situation. There must

not be eyes behind you in performance. It is actually quite easy to do, but difficult to explain in print. Here goes:

What is seen: Holding the deck face up in the left hand, the right hand is shown empty palm up, and the back of the right hand strokes the deck. Turn the right hand palm down and slowly stroke the deck again, this time with the fingers spread apart as the hand is removed from the deck. The face-up deck is again seen and the face card has not changed. Pass the right hand over the deck, pause over the deck. Spread the fingers apart in a burst and slide the right hand off of the deck. The face card has changed.

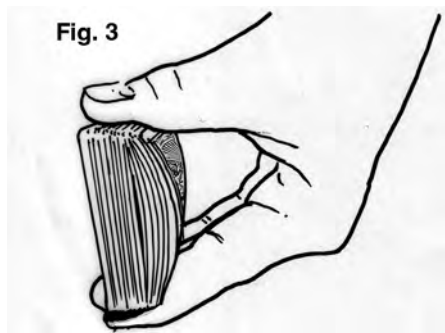
The deck is held face up in the left hand. The thumb is on one side of the deck, second and third fingers on the opposite side, little finger at the bottom of the deck, first finger at the back of the deck (Figs. 1-2).



The right hand strokes the deck palm down, then palm up, showing that there is nothing hidden in the right hand.

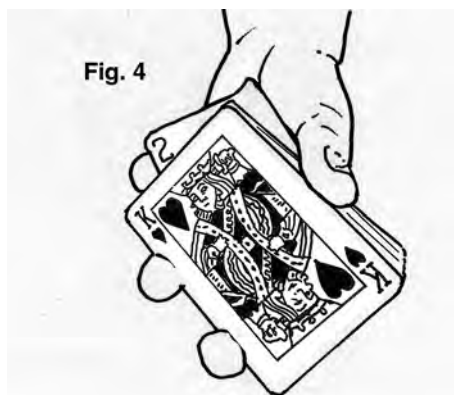
As the right hand, palm down, covers

the face of the deck again, the left hand squeezes the deck between the second and third fingers and the thumb, causing the cards at the bottom of the deck to bow (Fig. 3).



Under the momentary cover of the right hand, the left index finger catches the first bowed card at the bottom of the face-up deck, sliding it down as the left little finger slides out of the way.

When a little less than 1 inch of the card begins to protrude from the bottom of the deck, the little finger returns to its original location, squeezing the card and causing it to angle to the left (Fig. 4).



At this point the fingers of the right hand can separate, revealing that the top card is still in view (Fig. 5). The first finger of the right hand should be aligned with the side of the deck and the left thumb.

The bottom card is pushed into the crotch of the right hand's thumb and thumb-clipped as the right-hand fingers close and the right hand moves away from the deck (Fig. 6).



Fig. 5

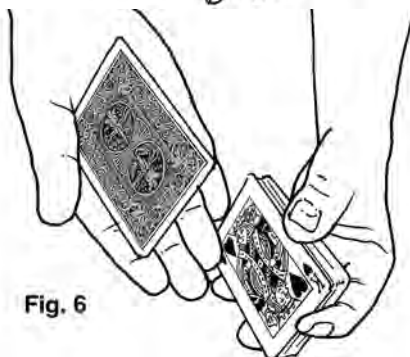


Fig. 6

The right hand returns to the face of the deck and deposits the clipped card on top of the deck. It holds there for a beat and then the fingers are suddenly snapped apart, revealing the card change right before the right hand is removed (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

Practice this until it flows. It is much easier than it sounds.

**Send comments and appreciations to:**

Dan Alessini and Tom Conley  
*tregetour1@gmail.com*



My first introduction to the work of J.K. Hartman was through two publications put out by Tannen's: *Loose Ends* and *3 Collected Works*. I think I purchased these around the same time that I purchased Lorayne's *Close Up Card Magic*, probably around 1980. About ten years later Jerry's tome, *Card Craft* (1991), came out. I have been a fan of Jerry's work ever since.

The May 2026 Card Corner column was titled "An Unexpected Lie." The effect, which purported to be "based" on an effect from Mr. Hartman, turns out to be pretty much a rehashing of ideas already in print by Mr. Hartman. In "An Unexpected Lie" I used a key card placement idea which had appeared in an old Card Corner column. Unfortunately, I had overlooked the fact that Hartman had used that exact idea in his latest version of the trick that "An Unexpected Lie" was based on.

I offered two methods that accomplish the needed switch in "An Unexpected Lie." But in Jerry's latest version, no switch is needed. And furthermore, his move lets you end clean. So, I am suggesting that Jerry's latest version is the best way to achieve the effect. Luckily for us, Jerry agreed to let me put this wonderful trick into the column this month. So, in Jerry's words and with more crediting information, here's "One of a Mind II" from Jerry's book, *Card Dodgery* (2012).

## One of a Mind II

By J.K. Hartman

The following is a reprise of a very effective and entertaining routine that appeared originally in *Apocalypse* January 1981, p. 433, then in *Card Craft*, 1991, p. 455. A new final switch is substituted, the offbeat application of the Card from Card Box move noted previously in "Pig Out" (Chapter Two). The starting point of the original was Ralph W. Hull's "Three of Clubs," (*Greater Magic*, 1938, Hilliard, p. 327) and the objective was to provide a presentational motive for the otherwise gratuitous act of searching through the deck for the named card.

**EFFECT:** The deck is shuffled and given to Eric. The performer turns his back to the other spectators and nominates Pat to join him. Eric is asked to cut to a card, look at it and remember it, and then reassemble the

deck. At that point, both the performer and Pat face front.

The performer states that both he and Pat will try to read Eric's mind. Pat's task is to think for a moment and then name any card that she believes Eric is *not* thinking of. He, the performer, will try to find the card Eric *does* have in mind, and outjogs one from the deck. Eric identifies his card, and both the performer and Pat have been successful: the card she named is *not* Eric's, and the card the performer outjogged *is*.

The performer then tells Pat that however simple and unimpressive her accomplishment might appear, it really was quite amazing. He explains that when the deck was extracted from the card box at the outset of the performance, one card was left behind.

It was thus the one card that Eric couldn't *possibly* have decided on. When the card is taken out of the box, it is indeed Pat's choice.

#### **WORKING AND PRESENTATION:**

Enlist two spectators, Pat and Eric. The card box lies off to the right, the flap closed, flap-end outward, cut-out upward. The deck has been well-handled and spectator-shuffled. At some point, glimpse the top card, remembering it as a key. Set the deck on the table in front of Eric, and turn your back, asking Pat to join you. (Alternatively, ask her to close her eyes tightly.)

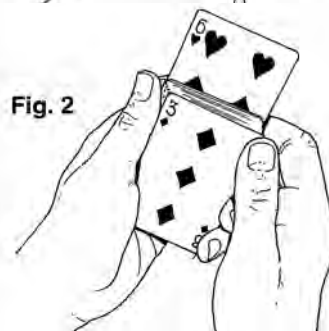
Say to Eric, "Cut off a small portion of the deck, cutting anywhere within the upper half ... Now turn the portion you just cut off completely over so that it's face up, and replace it squarely on top of the rest of the deck. OK? Now do *almost* the same thing again, but *this* time cut *deeper* into the deck and lift off a *larger* portion. Turn it completely over, and replace it squarely on top of the rest of the deck, and tell me when you've reached this point."

Continue, "Eric, you've cut the deck randomly a couple of times, out of our view and out of our hands, so whatever card is now face up on top is one that neither Pat nor I could know and one that none of us could have known ahead of time. Agreed?" Ask Eric to remember that card and say its name to himself several times to etch it firmly in mind. Finally, he is to pick up the deck, spread through all the face-up cards, and turn the whole block face down "so everything is as it was when we began" (a premise the spectators will readily accept). He is then to replace the deck on the table and tell you when he's done.

Face front and have Pat do so as well. Announce that both you and Pat will try to read Eric's mind. Then go on slowly and deliberately, "Pat, would you please concentrate for a moment or two, and then name a card that you think Eric is *not* thinking of, and Eric, when Pat does this, don't tell us yet whether she is right or wrong, because *I* will then try to find the card you *do* have in mind. OK, Pat, what card have you decided Eric is *not* thinking of?"

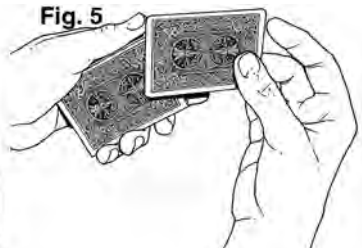
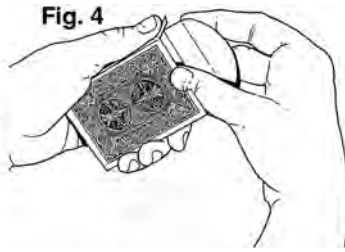
Assume that Pat names the Two of Hearts.

Pick up the deck, hold it face inward, and start feeding through it as you ostensibly embark on the task of finding the card Eric *is* thinking of. When you come to the Two of Hearts, feed it as well, feed one more card ("x"), and separate the deck. Transfer the "x" card to the rear of the deck, upjogged for half its length (Fig. 1), and then slide the balance of the right-hand section behind it, leaving the "x" card protruding from the middle of the deck (Fig. 2). Pat's named card, the Two of Hearts, has been shifted to the rear of the deck.



Stare at the jogged card for a moment doubtfully, then shake your head with a "that's not it" expression, and tap the card into the deck. The spectators see that your initial but incorrect guess is being lost somewhere in the middle. Begin again to feed through the deck. When you reach your original key, upjog the next card in place in standard fashion for half its length, and close up the deck, a sequence that outwardly looks little different than the prior upjogging procedure.

Look at the card, smile, and nod with certainty. Then grasp the deck at its lower end and revolve it face down without exposing the face of the now outjogged card. As the deck settles, obtain a break under the top card.



“OK,” you go on. “Let’s see how we both did. Eric, was Pat successful? Did she name a card you do *not* have in mind? Excellent. Will you tell all of us now the card you *do* have in mind? The Queen of Clubs? Just as I thought,” carefully drawing out the protruding card and revolving it face up on top.

Pause for a moment or two – the trick is apparently over. Then turn to Pat and say, “Now I know you don’t think you did anything very amazing, Pat. After all, you’re saying to yourself, you had fifty-one chances of naming a card other than the Queen of Clubs.”

As you conclude this last line, take the deck with the right hand from above, the thumb maintaining the break, and lower it to the table. Release it there, retaining the double card, then return with your right hand to set the double card in your left hand. Time the return trip so that it takes place as you say, “... other than the Queen of Clubs,” and extend your left hand toward Pat. The idea is that your reference to the card and your gesture with it rationalize the fact that you retain it in hand.

Continue, “But actually you did something really amazing – in fact, mind-blowing. Way back when, when I took the deck out of its case, I secretly left one card in it.” At this point, pick up the card box by the long sides, your forefinger curled on the upper surface (Fig. 3). Tilt it upright and, with a relaxed grip, shake it rapidly forward and backward, at the same time letting the nail of the forefinger jiggle against the inner surface four or five times. The rattling sound suggests that a card is within the box.

“So it was *out* of the deck when Eric made his decision,” you go on as you set the card box flush on top of the double card in hand. (To do this comfortably, momentarily orient

the double toward 11 o’clock.) “In other words, it was the *one* card, the *only* card that Eric couldn’t *possibly* have had in mind,” you continue as you perform the Card from Card Box move, as follows.

Open the flap, and insert the right thumb, the second finger slipping beneath the card case (Fig. 4). Tug sharply with the right hand, rapidly drawing the lowermost concealed card into view and almost immediately moving it slightly upward (Fig. 5). The illusion that you have extracted it from the box is reinforced by the fact that it emerges face down, contrasting with the face-up card in view a second earlier.

Hold the card face down for a moment, then say, “*It ... was the card you named,*” tossing the card face up on the table. Pause again while attention focuses on the tabled card, then casually lift off the card box and toss it to the table as well as if it might be deserving of inspection or interest.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** If you have reason or opportunity to have a double-backed card in the deck, you can use Paul Curry’s “The Perfect Miracle,” *Phoenix* No. 130, p. 524 for a truly perfect selection procedure. Have it on top of the deck at the outset. Now Eric need only cut once, turning the cut-off portion face up on top and noting the card in view. The double-back then becomes your key.

One thing that I like to do that’s slightly different from Jerry’s handling is to have the face-up cards removed from the deck and shuffled rather than have the spectator remember whatever card is at the face. After the cards are shuffled, the spectator remembers the card at the face and then places the cards face down on top. I think it makes the selection feel more random.

I think that the way Jerry “finds” a card in

the card box which then leads to a clean ending is real genius. This idea has other applications yet to be discovered.

Jerry wrote in *Card Dodgery* (2012) that it would be his last book. But then, in 2017, *Card Devilry* came out. That was nine years

ago. I know that Jerry has continued to create. I don't have any inside information regarding another book. I just have my fingers crossed.

**Mike Powers**

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# BAMBOOZLERS

Diamond Jim Tyler

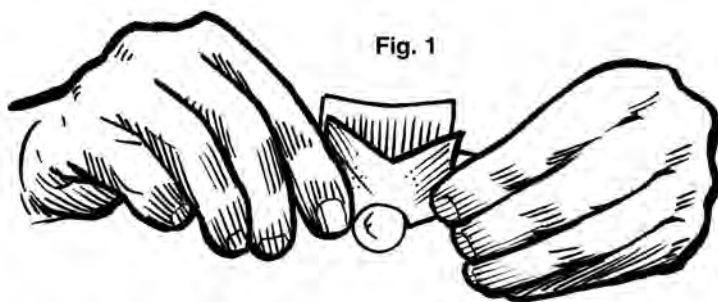
## HOLY MOLY

**BET:** To push a quarter through a dime-sized hole in a business card without tearing the paper.

**PREPARATION:** Trace a dime onto the center of a business card. Tear or cut out the outline creating a dime-sized hole.

Bet that you can push a quarter through the hole without tearing the paper. After they take the bet, place the quarter on the table and hold the card above it. Push the tip of your finger through the hole and begin pushing the quarter across the surface of the table. This will typically receive boo's and hisses from the spectators.

Then say, "Would you really like me to push this quarter through the hole?" Most will be eager to see you accomplish this feat, which seems impossible. Fold the card in half. Place the quarter into the fold of the paper so that it can be seen protruding through the hole. Pull the ends of the paper upward and the coin will fall through the hole as the paper is slowly stretched (Fig. 1). You may have to push the coin from above to make it go through the hole.



Any type of paper can be used, but the thickness of a business card works best for this trick. Here's a good riddle to follow up with:

*What is something that the more you take away from it, the bigger it gets? Do you know the answer? What did you cut in the paper?... Aha!*



Excerpted from *Bamboozlers: The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters, and Bewitchery* by Diamond Jim Tyler. [www.djtyler.com](http://www.djtyler.com).



When I was a young teenager (about a thousand years ago), I performed tons of magic shows at kids' birthday parties. My "business card" was actually a piece of cardstock slightly smaller than an index card. There was also a sweet little hole punched through the center of the card. All my contact info was printed on one side. On the opposite side, a challenge was printed (with a bunch of question marks!): "Can you push a quarter through this hole without tearing, bending or damaging this card?"

The solution was simple and rather silly. With a twenty-five-cent piece on the table, hold the card vertically several inches from the quarter. Then take a pencil, insert it through the hole, and push it until it contacts and moves the quarter! There ya go! In the tradition of Diamond Jim's fantastic "Bamboozlers" column for *The Linking Ring*, you have indeed pushed the quarter through the hole.

Ha! Semantics matter, right?!

Which brings us to this month's trick. You won't win FISM with it, but it is pretty baffling and audiences seem to love it.

### "Quarter Hole – Plus"

In your hand, you hold the two advertising cards from a standard deck of playing cards. You also hold a long, sharpened pencil (or a ten-inch nail, or a chopstick with a sharpened end), a rubber band, and a quarter or half-dollar-size coin. "Years ago, my grandfather showed me this trick," you begin. You take the pencil and use it to bore a hole right in the middle of one of the advertising cards. "Grandpop then tossed a quarter on the table and placed the holey card next to it. He said, 'Hey whippersnapper, I'll betcha you can't push this quarter through this hole widdout damaging this here card.' Gotta love old Grandpop, Philly accent and all, getting his grandson interested in proposition bets at such an early

age! Well, let me throw that challenge to you. Can *you* push that quarter through this hole *widdout* further damaging this advertising card?"

Let your spectators brew on this for a few moments before you show them exactly what Grandpop did: he picked up the pencil and pushed it halfway through the hole in the card. Then pushed some more to allow the sharpened end to physically move the twenty-five-cent piece a few inches on the table. "Yeah ... I know. Silly, isn't it? Grandpop was a sneaky guy that way! But he let me keep the quarter anyway." You toss the quarter to someone in the crowd and extract the pencil from the card, placing it back on the table for a moment.

"When I was getting things ready to show you Grandpop's scam, I noticed something very interesting happening." You take the other ad card and place it underneath the hole-punched card. You then wrap the rubber band around the two cards, holding them snugly together. "If I take the *other* ad card and put it together with the hole card, and hold things tightly together with a rubber band, I can pretty accurately punch an identical hole in the second card." With that, you push the pointy end of the pencil through the hole in the top card, making a hole in the bottom card in the exact same spot. "The rubber band keeps the cards from moving so we can be precise." You wind up as shown in **Figure 1**. Ask your assistant to now grab a hold of both ends of the pencil. "This keeps the cards aligned and, most importantly, *locks* the rubber band to the cards *and* the pencil. *All* rubber bands are stretchy, right? But *some* rubber bands have a 'super-elastic soft spot' that allows the band to magically *penetrate* both the cards and the pencil. Look, the cards are held by the rubber band, and you are holding the pencil, so with an *ordinary* rubber band, there is no way to



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

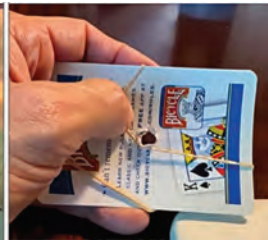


Fig. 3

remove it without you letting go of one of the pencil ends. *Right?*"

Before your helper can even answer, you are holding the escaped rubber band around the fingertips of one hand.

**THE HOLE EXPLANATION:** In the March 1950 issue of *Hugard's Magic Monthly*, Milbourne Christopher wrote up a little gem from Ken Beale called "Beale's Baffler." The idea showed up again in one of Karl Fulves's self-working magic books (*Self-Working Table Magic*, 1981, called here "A Quick Getaway"). In the original description, two thick index cards were utilized. In the Fulves version, business cards were used. I believe many readers may have glossed over these two versions as all appeared to be so mundane and unrelatable. In our version here, two advertising cards are used – even non-magicians know of them and have quickly disposed of them when opening just about any new deck of playing cards. Also, the rubber band itself now has a *raison d'être*: a bit of "structural framework" that binds the two ad cards together while you seem ready to repeat the push-the-quarter-through-the-hole trick.

So, rationale and approach aside, how does this thing work? Simplicity itself! (Don'tcha just *love* Auto-Magical tricks?!) After you bore the hole through card number two, you place a rubber band on the pair. The ends of the rubber band loop over diagonal corners of the cards.

While your fingers "align" and "neaten" the little packet, your right thumb drags a corner of the band down and past the hole, as shown in **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**. Your left thumb holds the band in its new position. The view in the photos is your view. Your audience should not notice any discrepancies when viewing things from the other side of the packet! With your left thumb keeping the band pulled down, you can casually turn that side

down and onto your left palm (use your other left fingers to keep the band in place). Your right hand now grabs the pencil and pushes it through the card holes. For all intents and purposes, it will appear that the rubber band has encircled both cards and pencil!

For the "great escape," merely remove the loop of band from one of the corners and pull straight up and forward. It will look as if the band somehow penetrated the pencil!

To the spectators, this is quite surprising. At first, they figured you were going to do a repeat of the silly *betcha* with the quarter and that the rubber band was merely a device to make things more difficult – but then tables flipped and bands popped! The reaction will take a second or two to peak as they realize what just happened. That's okay. It's all about mystery building!

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** The Ken Beale original used a long piece of string instead of a pencil and a single cardstock-thick index card. A pencil was used to pierce the initial hole and then used to push the string through the tiny hole. There was no rhyme or reason given to the rubber band! If you want a penetration effect, why not just have the string penetrate the card?

When first giving the routine a try, I used a shoelace. The nibbed ends of the laces made it easier to thread them through the card; no pencil push-through was necessary. But I still couldn't find the right justification. Again, why not just make the shoelace penetrate the card (or vice versa)? I think the justification and structure used here works well and makes sense.

One final idea: If you have the pen-through-card, you may wish to use that instead of a pencil, and add a third part where you show the pen penetrating the card without any damage to the card itself.

*Auto-Noted at mbreggarmagic@gmail.com.*

# Broken Wand

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



## DANIEL "DINO" PEDONE

Daniel "Dino" Pedone, 72, of Valparaiso, Indiana, died May 12, 2026. He held I.B.M. number 47223 and had been a member since 1991. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Shield (thirty-five years of continuous membership) and Ring 43 (Chicago, Illinois). Dino spent much of his working life as a steel maker for Bethlehem Steel, now known as Cleveland Cliffs, and a member of the Steel Worker Union. He performed magic and made balloon animals since he was a youngster. He was an avid gardener. He is survived by his wife of more than forty years, Sandy Moore Pedone, sons Jeremy (Amie) Pedone and Daniel (Kayla) Pedone, five grandsons, siblings Joe (Patty) Pedone, Vic (Deb) Pedone, Mary (Rick) Garner, Tony (Laura) Pedone, and Lisa (John) Edmonds along with step siblings, nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.



## FRED DREHOBL

Fred Drehobl, 88, of Lake in the Hills, Illinois, died June 12, 2026. He held I.B.M. number 23448 and had been a member since 1970. He belonged to the Order of Merlin Excalibur (fifty years of continuous membership). He worked for Western Electric as an engineer until his retirement. He began a second career as a comedy magician. He was a member of the



"Keeper" of the Knights of Sleights Magic Fraternity and later became Dean Emeritus. Fred had a lifelong hobby of model building and was an award-winning member of the International Plastic Modelers Society. He is survived by his wife of thirty-three years, Linda Drehobl, daughter Debi (Keith) Bowers, son Freddie (Dawn) Drehobl, four grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and a brother Tom (Mary) Drehobl. Fred was preceded in death by his first wife, Patricia (Schultz), in 1991.

## RICHARD "RICK" MOREIN

Richard "Rick" Morein, 77, of Green Bay, Wisconsin died June 14, 2026. He held I.B.M. number 74879 and had been a member since 2021. He belonged to Ring 398 (Appleton/Green Bay, Wisconsin). Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Rick graduated from Clayton High School in 1966 before entering the United States Navy, where he served for four years as an E-5 Petty Officer aboard the USS Aylwin during the Vietnam War. He was part of the ship's first crew, helping bring the newly commissioned vessel into service. Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Rick attended Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where he studied photography and met Nan Huber. The two were married in 1981. They eventually settled in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where Rick built a career in broadcasting, media, advertising, and internet services at positions at WBAW, WLUK, and Infinity Technology.



In addition to magic, Rick found passion projects in photography, music, cats, technology, and storytelling. He was a member of the Academy of Magical Arts and the Society of American Magicians, as well as serving as secretary, vice president, and president of Ring 398. He helped plan and produce events for the 2026 “Year of Houdini,” commemorating the 100th anniversary of Houdini’s passing. Rick is survived by his wife Nan and children Lane (Tricia) and Maxwell (Jessica).

### ROGER JOHNSON

Roger Norman Johnson 70, of Houston, Texas, died June 10, 2026. He held I.B.M. number 51021 and had been a member since 1994. He was a member of the Order of Merlin (twenty-five years of continuous membership) and Rings 39 (Houston, Texas) and 66 (Calgary, Alberta, Canada). Roger faithfully served in the U.S. Air Force from 1973 to 1977 as a E-4 Sergeant and awarded the National Defense Service Ribbon and Marksman Ribbon. He trained as an electronic computer systems repairman and spent his military career at Keesler Air Force Base in



Biloxi, Mississippi. While stationed in Biloxi, Roger became actively involved at Tri-City Baptist Church. Following his military service, Roger attended Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee and worked in the field of information technology, serving as coordinator and master of ceremonies for a technology fair within Exxon’s Human Resources Department and developing scheduling applications for Chevron. He loved learning, technology, genealogy, movies, strategy games, and especially the art of magic, which became a lifelong pursuit. One of his favorite memories was performing magic at Boy Scout banquets and at his sons’ fifteenth birthday celebration. He is survived by his wife, Leslie Davis Johnson; his children, Anthony (Anna) Johnson, Andrew (Rachel) Johnson, Angela (Luke) Pennington, eleven grandchildren, and brothers Ross Heaton, Randy Johnson, and William “Wedge” Johnson.

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### 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

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### *Film to Life* – from page 67

iPhone screen – a hand-held performance of Film to Life. Trig Watson offers a more recent innovation using the iPad. In the September 2015 issue of *MUM*, Christian Painter discussed Trig Watson’s version and quoted Trig, who said: “Back in January of 2013, inspiration struck. After a realization about the qualities of an iPad’s outward-facing camera, and a little bit of assistance from a tech-savvy friend, it occurred to me that I might be able to make an object seemingly materialize into real life using an iPad’s internal camera and screen. Weeks passed, and I was able to develop a working prototype of the illusion. I’m certainly not the first magician to create effects that involve bringing an object on a screen to life (Tony Chapek, Marco Tempest, and Simon Pierro are also known for these kinds of effects). But this illusion was unique in that I was not using pre-recorded video. Instead, in this effect, the iPad screen displays a live camera feed, making the effect much stronger.”

Film to Life will continue to be adapted by creative magicians looking to seamlessly blend magic and technology. This author would appreciate hearing from anyone who has additional information about how the Film-to-Life illusion has been performed, from the Golden Age of Magic through modern times.

# Ring Reports

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



Ring Reports **must** be received by the 15th of each month to appear in the second following issue (for example, your January report will be published in March or April). Please e-mail reports to [ringreports@magician.org](mailto:ringreports@magician.org) with "Ring Reports" in the subject heading. You will receive confirmation of receipt. Please limit the length of your report to 650 words or less. Reports of excessive length may be edited to meet space requirements. Please notify the Reports Editor, Lauren Jurgensen, at [ringreports@magician.org](mailto:ringreports@magician.org), if changes need to be made to your report's headings (e.g., changes to addresses, meeting times, or officers' names). We regret that we are unable to publish photographs in the Ring Reports section of the magazine.

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

Meets 1st Wed. of month, Parkway United Church of Christ 2841 N. Ballas Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 / Web Site: [www.IBMRingOne.com](http://www.IBMRingOne.com)  
SANDY WEIS., Treasurer and Scribe / E-mail: [ibmringone@gmail.com](mailto:ibmringone@gmail.com)  
1755 Elkins Drive, St. Louis, MO 63136

On May 6th, Ring 1 gathered for one of its most anticipated traditions of the year: the Up Close and Magical Competition. The room was filled with energy as over 60 members and friends came together to celebrate artistry and the joy of close-up magic. The evening had the warm, communal feel that defines Ring 1, with laughter, applause, and the unmistakable buzz of magicians supporting magicians.

We extend heartfelt appreciation to our distinguished judges, Steve Buesking, Shep Hyken, Chad Jacobs, and Jeff Leffon. Their combined experience, thoughtful scoring, and constructive comments added tremendous value to the event. Each performer benefited from their insights and enjoyed hearing perspectives from seasoned professionals. Bob Danner, last year's winner, was the MC.

This year featured ten talented contestants, each bringing a distinct voice and style to the close-up arena.

Zi Teng Wang opened with a polished series of card effects involving three volunteers. His calm confidence and technical precision allowed him to locate each chosen card under increasingly impossible conditions.

Reggie Dunn followed with a playful rope routine, where his "snake" slithered through knots, loops, and transformations. He then shifted gears into coin magic, producing vanishes and flourishes that showcased his dexterity.

Larry Minth charmed the audience with a blend of dollar bill magic and comedy. His humor and timing kept the room laughing throughout the routine.

Steve Queen delivered a memorable set, producing coins in a glass before moving into a

remarkable demonstration of sensory deprivation magic. Blindfolded and wearing earmuffs, he still managed to identify selected cards.

Steve Finkelstein presented a thoughtful dice routine symbolizing the magic purchases magicians gather over time. Even as dice vanished, more appeared, an elegant metaphor wrapped in a clever effect.

Tim Shegitz performed a strong, clean card revelation. After a volunteer freely selected a card, Tim later revealed it beneath an inverted glass that had been in full view.

James Higrund wove storytelling and magic together, using two volunteers and a narrative he crafted himself. Each beat of the story aligned with the cards he displayed, creating a charming theatrical performance.

Matthew Horowitz energized the room with his upbeat style and crisp card work. His rapport with the audience elevated every phase of his routine.

Jeff Holcomb combined card magic and coin work, using two volunteers to create moments of surprise and delight.

Columbus Smith closed the lineup with a story-driven card routine, blending character, pacing, and narrative structure into a cohesive performance.

After the judges' tally revealed three with tied scores, a second round determined the winners:

1st Place - Tim Shegitz 2nd Place - Zi Teng Wang 3rd Place - Steve Finkelstein

Congratulations to all performers for contributing to a truly memorable evening.

Dan Todd has been quite busy this year. He has performed at St. Louis Children's Hospital 6 times and Shriners Children's St. Louis Hospital 13 times. Children's Hospital has recently remodeled their playroom, which gives him the ability to perform in front of a live audience as well as on their CCTV. He shared that the hospitals still want entertainment volunteers to be

full-fledged hospital volunteers, completing vaccinations, immunizations, background checks, and training. He teaches and plays chess twice a week at Children's and twice a month at Cardinal Glennon Hospital. Dan does perform close-up magic after chess at both. He enjoys using the Eli's Box and chess dice. He performs card effects with Paws and/or chess decks. Paws decks are playing cards using pictures of the therapy dogs that visit the hospital. If he sees a "dog" card in a patient's room, then this is the card they "freely" choose. The Sharpie Marker bubble catch also is well received. He enjoys telling jokes, as the laughter magically relieves the stress that children endure. Thanks, Dan, for sharing magic with the children.

Gary S. Chan recently shared a useful insight from a conference performance. Despite confirming microphone needs in advance, he arrived to find only a handheld wireless mic instead of the requested lapel/lavalier. For magicians, holding a mic while managing props can be a real challenge. Gary discovered a helpful workaround by using a neck-mounted holder designed for handheld microphones. While not perfect, it frees both hands and serves as a reliable backup when a proper lapel mic isn't available. For performers who rely on venue-provided equipment, this small accessory may be worth adding to your kit.

*Sandy Weis*

## **RING 2, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO – Flips-Tutter-Doeright Ring**

Meets 7:30 pm 2nd Fri., Valley Christian Church, 7155 Glenwood Ave.,  
Youngstown, OH

PETER LUCKE, Secretary

E-mail: IBMRing2Youngstown@me.com

Our May meeting was opened by treasurer Gary Morton. The following members and friends were present at our meeting: Susan and Donna Campbell, James and Eric Killmeyer, Jim Klayder, Peter Lucke, Gary Morton, and Joe Sullivan. The theme of the evening was "Rope Magic."

James Killmeyer opened the evening's magic with Coins and Silk. He showed us a large blue silk saying he had to make money somehow. James flipped over the silk and produced a one-dollar coin. He repeated this several times. James pointed out that this really didn't produce any big money. He needed big money, so he again flipped over the silk to reveal a large-sized coin. The coin, James showed, was made out of rubber. He commented that it could not be put in a coin machine. James finally handed it to Peter, who verified that the coin was now solid.

Gary Morton followed with Pavel's Krazy Knots. He began by wrapping a rope around his

neck. Gary pulled on the ends, and the rope came off his neck. Next, he tied a knot in the middle of the rope and then asked when a knot is not a knot. Pulling on the ends of the rope, the knot came undone. Finally, he began tying a knot in the center of the rope. As he recited various events that might occur in a person's life, he kept tying more and more rope onto the knot. Toward the end of one's life, there was a big knot representing the accumulation of life's events. To conclude, Gary slipped the gigantic knot off, leaving just a short rope.

Peter Lucke entertained us with Ace Flipper. He began by showing the four aces spread between his hands. Then he closed the spread, gave a magic tap on the packet, and when he again spread it, one of the aces had flipped over, revealing a red back. Peter repeated the process, flipping over each ace one at a time. Each ace showed a red back. Next, he held the packet in one hand and showed that each ace had, in fact, a blue back. To conclude, he flipped the packet over and spread the cards to reveal that they all had green backs.

Susan Campbell amazed us with an effect that she made at home with her three-dimensional printer. She showed us a black box with two doors in it. Between the doors was a small opening. In the right side of the box, Susan placed a yellow disk with a smiley face on it. With both doors closed, Susan tilted the box, and the disk could be seen to roll across to the left side of the box. She opened the doors on the box to reveal that the disk was indeed there. Susan again placed the disk in the right side of the box. This time, when she tilted the box and opened the doors, the disk had vanished.

Jim Klayder concluded members' magic with Professor's Nightmare Plus. He began by showing us three red ropes of equal length. Then, with a little manipulation, he showed us that in fact they were not all of equal length. There was one short, one medium, and one long-length rope. Jim held the ends of the three ropes in his left and right hands, saying that if the ends were all together, the ropes must be equal. On moving his hands apart, the ropes stretched out to equal length. Jim set one rope on his shoulder and showed the remaining two to be one very long piece of rope. He then picked up the middle, removed it, and then replaced it. Finally, he inserted one end of the rope through the middle loop and restored it to one long rope.

Our guest Joe Sullivan spoke about featuring juggling as part of his magic shows and did a little juggling for us in a variety of ways. He also spoke a bit about how to learn juggling.

*Peter Lücke*

## **RING 6, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA – Delaware Valley Conjurers Club**

Meets 2nd Monday, each month, 7:30 p.m., Wallingford Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford, PA 19086  
DAVE KELLY, Acting Recording Secretary  
Web site: [www.ibmring6.com](http://www.ibmring6.com)

Thanks to David Hale's efforts, our annual Close-Up Magic contest ran like magic! All contestants were pre-registered, and each act limited to 8 minutes for the judges. We had two magicians and one magic fan as judges: John Costello, Rich Greenberg, and Ginny Mirra.

Mark Walsh started with his version of Cups and Balls. Just 3 cups and 3 balls. Then Mark proceeded to make the balls appear and vanish on their own! He finished by pulling up the cups and revealing that each had a lemon under it! Mitch Kaplan reminisced about his early years in magic when he had a choice of 4 magic shops in nearby Philadelphia. He counted off several one dollar bills, which then transformed into a two dollar bill, a five dollar bill, a ten dollar bill, and several ones!

David Hale did a tipsy version of a magic classic that used a bartender's jigger and pony cup. An olive appeared and vanished from the jigger. To finish, David produced a cork for a champagne bottle and a cork from a whiskey bottle. President Jim Capobianco ("Laz") told of how he bought a "marked deck" while on a trip, and when he opened the deck at home, saw that the markings on the back were quite large and all wrong! He made two predictions on separate note papers and then dealt the cards face down until a spectator told him to stop for two different cards. Jim then showed the predictions, but they were wrong! Before anyone could feel sorry for Jim, he had the spectator turn over the selected cards, and the writing on each card matched the face of the other card!

Mimi (Szalabofka) the Magnificent showed her finger puppet doggie, which she had trained to do magic. The doggie, "Buster," was able to sniff a selected card from a spectator.

Reba Strong showed several antique Chinese-style coins, and they transformed into large American coins after she closed and opened her hand. Her main effect was when she shuffled a deck of cards and had a spectator select one card. Reba then opened a new pack of cards to try and reveal the selected card. However, as she went through this deck, there was one Joker after another. The whole deck was Jokers! Except for the last card in the deck, which matched the card selected earlier.

During a short break the judges met in another room and returned with the contest results: Third Place Mimi the Magnificent, Second Place Mark Walsh, and the Champion David

Hale. These three took home some nice prizes from Vanishing, Inc. Third Place was a \$25 gift card and a \$25 download, Second Place a \$50 gift card and a \$50 download, and First Place a \$100 gift card and a \$100 download. Special thanks to Vanishing for enabling our club to bump up the awards!  
*Dave Kelly*

## **RING 9, ATLANTA, GEORGIA – Georgia Magic Club**

Meets 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00pm, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 471 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA  
Ring 9 Website: [www.gamagicclub.com](http://www.gamagicclub.com)  
BILL PACKARD, Secretary / Email: [billpackardmagic@gmail.com](mailto:billpackardmagic@gmail.com)

TIP (To Improve Performance) Lecture: "Generally Automatic - A Discussion on Some Useful Card Magic Principles" by Clark Kjorlaug. Clark performed a modified version of Mike Power's "Invisible Card," from his book Tesseract, with two selected cards instead of one.

For the selection, Clark used the Rashomon Concept to force both spectators to choose the same card, unbeknownst to them, even after the reveal. For the control of the chosen card(s), Clark used a mathematical principle known as Automatic Placement, which places the card(s) in a known position relative to the number of cards in play. For the reveal, Clark displayed 10 cards at a time (showing indifferent cards), secretly reversing two cards along the way (one of which is the shared selection), thus a count of 50, and then spread the deck to show two cards had magically returned and reversed. Turning the cards over allowed each spectator to confirm that he could see his selection. Clark provided notes.

Business Meeting: President Clark Kjorlaug welcomed 23 attendees, including one on Zoom and two guests. The Atlanta Society of Magicians performed at an Easter event hosted by their meeting facility, the American Legion Post 1, featuring Stan Konter, Ravi Navare, Murl Harmon, and Wayne Carter. Clark listed some upcoming conventions: SAM in Appleton, WI (7/1-4), I.B.M. in St. Louis, MO (7/22-25), MAGIC Live in Las Vegas, NV (8/2-5), KIDabra in Atlanta (8/12-15), and TRICS in Charlotte, NC (11/19-21). Zach Ivins will participate in the Atlanta Fringe (May 29-31 & June 5-7). Patrick Buchen will be performing at Gainesville Botanical Gardens on June 6. Ken Scott's Atlanta Harvest of Magic is scheduled for March 18-20 next year.

Steve Langston reported that the Georgia Magic Book Club had another Zoom meeting to discuss David Regal's Approaching Magic on April 8. The next session is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13. Darryl Berman and Walter Fields, on behalf of Project Magic, would like

more volunteers to participate at the Shepherd Center. See [Shepherd.org](http://Shepherd.org) to get certified. The first Monday of the month is for cancer patients at the Hope Center. Steve Goldstein announced that with several activities already scheduled in May, the next Magic Meetup is likely to be on Sunday, June 7. Lecture Chair Debbie Leifer invited comments regarding Nate Kranzo's lecture from April 9, with some of the attendees sharing their highlights. There was no mention of any confirmed upcoming visiting lectures. Darryl Berman and Kathy Hoffman were recognized for their April birthdays. Regarding Health & Welfare, we learned that Fred Kirkland's wife has passed away, as well as Tim Wolf's wife. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Packard presented the Theme Magic Winner certificate for March to Walter Fields.

Performer for Membership: Kevin Cooke performed an ACAAN effect with the number determined by the roll of five dice and an Equivoque-selected card from a deck, with the same card discovered at the rolled number in a second deck.

Theme Performers: "April Foolery" - present some magic with your best jokes, gags, or general antics. MC'd by Vice President Zach Ivins.

Wayne Carter did a couple of gags with a Squirting Coin and a Cut Deck, then took away a spectator's ability to read with a "100 Monkeys" variation. Patrick Buchen juggled some sharp objects, "accidentally" cutting off a finger, then ate a unicorn (kernel of corn on a stick) which he regurgitated as a colorful mouth coil. Steve Goldstein performed an amusing "Cups & Smoke" routine on a special close-up pad. Walter Fields performed a "Big Money Trick" with repeated failures to locate a selected card but finally succeeded with the Magicians Insurance Policy and a Big Money giveaway. Stan Konter showed a gag with "Tibetan cloth" (toilet paper) and performed a Comedy Handcuff Escape with two costumed helpers holding the foulard for cover. Steve Langston performed a series of Ring & String effects with a borrowed ring ending up in a Nested Wallet. David Fluker performed a Cut & Restored String effect with a ring on it, followed by a bigger version with a Hula Hoop! Eric Schuster told some Dad jokes and performed a Book Test with the reveal of the selected word by turning the prediction of a calculated number (702) upside down to read "eat." Lynn Fox made a joke about a Pink Flamingo drink and explained that the most popular word in the 70s was "ear." Ravi Navare caused a ring to vanish from a ring box and reappear in a spectator's pocket. Darryl Berman had letter cards eliminated by a specta-

tor until the remaining nine cards spelled "APRIL FOOL."

General Magic Performer: Aryeh Rabin "mailed" two selected cards from a packet to a boxed packet, appearing at first as extra credit cards, but after removing the credit cards the selected cards finally appeared in the boxed packet.

Winners of the giveaways from the Wheel of Names were Walter Fields (Severn's Magic Comedy), Darryl Berman (Knot a Card Trick), Steve Goldstein (Witch Finder), and Bill Packard (Invisible Elastic System's Ties).

Congratulations to Kevin Cooke on passing his Membership audition, and to Stan Konter and Ravi Navare (a tie) for their Theme Magic wins of the Coveted Royal Pins. Next month's theme (May) is "May I Read Your Mind" - Perform a piece of mindreading. *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](http://Ring12.org)

TODD NELSON, Secretary,

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

This April we had both our April and May meetings. The April was later than usual and the May was in late April, as per usual. We cash in on FFFF and MAWNY talent. It's great to be in Buffalo.

Our first lecture was a double shot of Henry Evans and Daniel Mormina. We began, as usual, with our teaching table; this month it was Tony Weiland, and why not. He has some unique effects to show. Some invisible cards turned visible, some one dollar bills turned into fives. Useful stuff.

Now it was time for the first set of Henry Evans. So many cool effects were shown, such as matching red and blue cards, triumph into new deck order, and more.

Next we turned over to Daniel Mormina. He had coin effects with a unique Okito box, and some card effects with a stripper deck that you would never imagine was a stripper deck. He did an oil and water routine, a matrix, and an effect where four tens became four aces. Now, back to Henry Evans to conclude our lecture. He had a coin effect where he stretched a coin so that he could fit another coin through the hole, and he also did a tarot effect with a magnifying glass. A lot of purchases at this meeting and I can't wait to play with my new toys.

Now for our May John Bannon meeting. Again, a teaching table, this time by Brian Finley. He had effects that were very impressive, but what was more impressive was how he made them his own. For example, he had an

effect with a 10-20 force, but he added so much to it and had unique patter and moves that you miss the force and it is just a thing of beauty. He had stories for every effect. It was great.

Now for John Bannon. So many unique card effects. Just to name a few, he had a follow the leader effect, a sandwich effect, and poker effects. I know these are categories, but he made them look different and Bannon. I'm using Bannon as a verb because it's the only way to describe how cool it was. I have ordered from Penguin Magic, Move Zero and the Bullet trilogy. I just can't get enough Bannon. They should arrive soon; I'll be eagerly checking my mail daily. In Looney Tunes, when you mail for a package from Acme, it comes immediately. Anyways, back to waiting. *Shlomo Birkan*

### **RING 13, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Tampa-Greenberg Ring**

Meets 1st Thu., 7:30pm, Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs and Grille, 1155 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA

MARK ZAJICEK, Secretary / E-mail: [ibmring13@gmail.com](mailto:ibmring13@gmail.com)

Web site: [www.ibmring13.org](http://www.ibmring13.org)

In May, we introduced and welcomed Bill Cooper as a new applicant. We also talked about our recent, successful, annual banquet and magic show (April 12) and our upcoming magic show (June 11) and children's magic class (June 16) that we will present at the Scott Township Public Library. Mark gave an update on our recent submission of an application for the I.B.M. Effective Ring Achievement program. Congratulations to Ring president Joshua Messado for receiving his Bachelor of Magic diploma at the recent 4F Convention. Lucy Hall emceed tonight's performances with a suggested theme of comedy magic.

Bill Cooper presented his first performance for Ring membership, asking Jennifer to cut to any card. Bill read Jennifer's mind and correctly named the value, color, and suit of her card.

Sam Shea shared several jokes before setting aside a prediction envelope that his numerologist had given to him. Sam asked Lashaya to say either "deal" or "switch" as he counted through a packet of ten cards. Sam then dealt those cards on the table as he spelled out the name of a month, a day of the week, and a present that Lashaya named. The card on the top of the packet matched the prediction card that was inside the envelope. Sam then dealt the remaining nine cards face up in a grid on the table, and he showed that every row and column of three cards added up to the number 15 that was written on the back of the prediction card.

Tony Brahler had Bill pick a card, and then Tony spread the deck across the table. He asked James to name any number, and Tony counted

down to that number to reveal the position of Bill's selected card.

Tracey Hinsch told us about her five new puppies, and she introduced a deck of cards that imitates those young puppies, including her training that deck to ring a desk call bell whenever it has to go to the potty. Tracey put a dog leash around that deck of cards and set it on the table next to the bell. Tracey then asked Kathy to select a card from a second deck. During that card selection process, the desk bell rang twice. The "puppy" deck on the table started to move side to side on its own, and a single card emerged from its end. Kathy pulled that card out and showed that it matched her selected card.

Dan Kamin shared his recollections of tricks from his childhood that had instructions and patter that were intended to be funny. Dan demonstrated a few of those stunts and funny gags while seated at a table, including his appearing to get overly emotional with the aid of a glass of water.

James Cooper showed a set of cards with instructions for performing amazing magic, and he asked Jeff to read aloud those instructions as James attempted to follow. James tore a corner from a playing card and ate that corner, before learning that he was only supposed to pretend to eat it. Some of the later instruction cards were found to be missing. James offered Jeff a wrapped piece of candy as a thank-you reward for helping. When Jeff opened the candy, the missing corner of the torn playing card was found inside (Steve Rowe's "#46").

Cece Wagner showed a bouquet of feather flowers, and she pulled off the blooms. Cece waved her hand over the stems and made the blooms instantly reappear.

Gary Filson combined a game of Three Card Monte with a game of duck, duck, goose. Gary set cut-outs of two white ducks and one yellow "rubber" duck on the table, and he covered the ducks with sleeves and rearranged their positions on the table. Gary challenged us to follow the rubber duck, which completely disappeared and turned into a white duck. Gary turned all the ducks around to show only their backs. Gary later showed the yellow duck had reappeared inside his jacket.

Jeff Vanderhoff closed the evening by asking Lashaya to think of any number, Tim to think of any famous person, and Jennifer to pick a card. Jeff removed a folded prediction from an envelope, and he showed the word "NO" on one side of a card after he (incorrectly) announced Lashaya's number. On the other side was a baby photo that matched Tim's celebrity, and inside the prediction were images of all 52 cards,

including Jennifer's chosen card. Jeff opened the folded prediction again to show a large image of Jennifer's actual card. Jeff then told a joke before performing an encore of a rhyming Three Card Monte routine that he had performed the previous month at our banquet magic show.

Several of our members plan to attend the I.B.M. Convention in St. Louis in July, which promises to be another amazing event this year. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Mark Zajicek*

## **RING 16, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – Society of Memphis Magicians**

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00pm, Germantown Presbyterian Church

DR. JON STANFORD, Secretary

Web sites: [www.ring16.org](http://www.ring16.org)

Our meeting began with our Front Table presented by Grayson Smith, aka "The Amazin' Grayson." Grayson began by reviewing the "Ring on a Chain Loop" that he taught at his last Front Table. He followed this by teaching a Tongue Depressor Routine. This is similar to a paddle move except the fingers and hands move but not the tongue depressor, thus making it appear to show different sides. Grayson passed out the depressors to everyone and then taught the moves. Another great Front Table teaching session.

We had a quick but informative business portion moderated by our President, Joe M. Turner, covering many issues. We have many performers entertaining throughout the Mid-South including Joe M. Turner, Jeffrey Day, Michael Clayton, Grayson Smith and Doug Green. Doug will be performing an after dinner show for approximately 400 guests at the St. Jude Theatre. He invited any members to come as his guest for the show.

The next matter of business was the continued discussion of our incorporation reactivation. We are still seeking legal advice on how to renew our status. This was followed by the announcement that our Zoom is up and running, being aided by Jarod Harris as its technician. Stuart Dunkin will be assisting anyone that desires to create their own website. We will be having our card throwing competition on May 23rd.

Now for our big news. We will be having a brand new small magic convention in the Memphis area on April 16-17, 2027, specializing in Stand-up, Platform, and Close-up Magic. It will be called the "Bluff City Conclave" and the website [bluffcityconclave.com](http://bluffcityconclave.com) is up and running and taking early bird discounted registrations. Magic is booming in the Memphis area.

Now on to the magical performances of the

evening. Our theme for tonight was "Linking Ring" magic or whatever you wish to perform.

Our 1st performer was Jeffrey Day. He began by reading the Ring Report from 36 years ago when Dr. Jon Stanford was president, and many of the performers on that night are now having their Ring meetings in heaven. Jeffrey performed his version of Tom Craven's "Kno Trio" from the Linking Ring. Jeffrey has become a Master of Ropes, adding to his other magical gifts.

Our 2nd performer was Dr. Jon Stanford, who performed Clippo Rabbit and Clippo Ronald Reagan. These had been featured in old Linking Rings and enlarged to be visible in a large setting.

Our 3rd performer was Doug Green. He performed "Living and Loved," a great mentalism effect that he will feature in his upcoming St. Jude Show.

*Dr. Jon Stanford*

## **RING 19, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – Carl Jones Ring**

Meets 2nd Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom and in person 2nd

Sat. (location GameZenter, Roseville, MN)

ANDREW SELBITSCHKA, President / Web site: [www.IBMRing19.com](http://www.IBMRing19.com)

**APRIL:** April showers and all that...but (nerd alert) nothing tops watching magic! Our in-person meetings draw magicians from all over the state - from as far north as Walker and Duluth to the Twin Cities metro area, and our April meeting was no exception.

As with all of our recent meetings, we started with performances. This format has served us well to "get the party started" — the boring business section can wait! Starting with magic performances has improved the meetings, not only in attendance but in encouraging the feeling of wanting to share magic, without judgement. The relaxed feel of the group encourages performances and feedback (if wanted).

Rick Hinrichs started the meeting off with a Ring and String routine. With the assistance of Jody LeBlanc, he offered up a very enjoyable, multi-phase routine that was enhanced by previously provided feedback. "Fast" Eddie Olson has been honing a stage presentation using the principles of Calendar Cards and the Magic Square. It incorporates Eddie's love of cars with a hilarious Bingo routine, with fabulous prizes going to the winners.

Michael Barnard, with Andrew Selbitschka, wowed us with Ryan Pilling's "Shuffle Prophecy," Ryan's version of Simon Aronson's "Shuffle-Bored." We discussed various ways to provide the reveal at the end without needing props. We also discussed other items that may be used — photos or postcards. Dan Koopmans performed a trick using ESP cards, based on

Max Maven's "Shape Up." Dan asked for feedback and we discussed how to enhance the trick. Andrew Selbitschka killed with a book test inspired by the Pulse Trick. Assisted by Parker William, he correctly revealed a thought of phrase in a randomly selected book, using unique rocks that he found in his travels to Michigan. Clever, diabolical and highly entertaining.

We took a brief break from magic to discuss a few key points in performing. We discussed making sure that as magicians, we don't talk through the magic moment. Silence can be a friend when you just let the participant absorb the magic of what they just witnessed and experienced. We also discussed "tells" — what are you doing or saying during a performance that gives away when the magic moment happens? Most magicians have a "tell" technique during presentations that draws away from the magic moment, and that may give away something that does not allow the participant to fully enjoy the magic. What is your "tell?"

John Harrell has been perusing the works of Al Schneider. He highly recommends anything (books, lecture notes, videos) by Al if you want to get into the meat of the intention of magic and the magic moment. Any of Al's books, especially those specific to the discussion of theory, are well worth adding to your magic library. "Fast" Eddie Olson shared his meeting with Kenton Knepper and Kenton's influence for what inspires Eddie to do magic. Harry Entwistle shared that he is reading "Mr. Finger - The Magic of Irv Weiner" by Scott Martell. Parker William read all of Austin Kleon's books, specifically those dealing with creativity, and highly recommended them to anyone needing inspiration.

Several members shared some personal insights into what they believe makes magic better. Paul Laidig discussed audience interaction and how this makes magic more rewarding. Harry Entwistle offered that we need to work on ourselves and how we connect with our audience. We need to not only learn moves and patter but equate them to how they fit our personalities and make them our own.

Several members discussed thoughts and impressions on magic events and any conventions and seminars that were attended in the last month. Nordic skier and card magician David Ronnevik shared his version of Aronson's "Shuffle-Bored." The meeting ended with breaking up into small groups for sessioning. Our Zoom meeting had much smaller attendance but was packed with magic! Rick Hinrichs, assisted by Will Earley, performed

Gordon Bean's "Entourage" card trick. We discussed the trick and made comparisons to Max Maven's "B-Wave" and John Bannon's "Twisted Sisters." Will Earley is working on a spooky magic routine using tiny skulls. He also showed some billiard ball manipulations that were inspired by Roy Benson. Will is reading "By Starlight" and is working up a routine for this year's Renaissance Festival.

Daniel Norat shared some of his card flourishes with the group. He has also been working on routines with the Executive Rising Deck. Rick Hinrichs was back with his rubber band magic, impressing us with his Rubber Band through Thumb. We shared some ideas to make the "bite" better when performing the get-ready, and discussed the various types of bands that may be used for the trick. Tyler Erickson shared his handling of Rubber Band and Finger Ring. He discussed the two major display angles — open display for distances and "book" display for close-up work. Tyler Erickson shared a two-handed ace production from empty hands a la Ross Bertram. Tyler then shared Harry Lorayne's "Magician vs. Gambler." We ended the meeting with a discussion of short cards and the various ways to make them. Rick then showed his Ames Window illusion to close out the night.

**MAY:** Our May in-person meeting began as a small gathering of five members, but as the meeting progressed, we grew to almost 20, with two guests. I love it when that happens!

Rick Hinrichs started us off with a multi-phase "Professor's Nightmare." The routine contained several enhancements and Rick asked for feedback. We discussed and offered some advice on the methods used and some that would improve the routine. Rick had incorporated John Cornelius' sliding knot and Richard Sanders' routine "Fiber Optics."

Monty Cook shared a move that he is working on that will enhance his Ambitious Card routine. Drew Selbitschka talked about how he challenges himself to "do magic in the real world." He has started carrying a Thumb Tip (TT) 24/7 and uses it to perform a bill change when he goes to a coffee shop or fast food restaurant. He refers to this as "ambush magic," a way in which an amateur or hobbyist magician can get magic in front of people. Drew said that this method has given him more confidence in his magic performances. Speaking of TTs, President Tyler Erickson provided a tutorial on the secret device. We discussed types of TTs as well as hold-out positions. Parker William shared a Coins Across routine. He also discussed his opinion on Tim Ferriss' book "The 4-

Hour Workweek” and highly recommended putting this on everyone’s reading list. Speaking of books, Jennifer Graham spoke about the Eli Marks series by John Gaspard and discussed that she is doing a deep dive into the Tarbell series.

Tyler Erickson offered a mini-lecture on analysis paralysis and the “Hedgehog Concept.” We often have too many options, ideas that we may be passionate about, things that we do well, and how we sometimes do too much. How many phases are too many in an Ambitious Card routine? We don’t have to fit everything we know into our routines. Tyler’s advice is to choose the best moves/options and stick with them. Once those skills are honed, then think about adding something new or switching up routines. There seems to be a modern push to consolidate magic routines and to merge several tricks together to form one trick. But does it make sense? Tyler recommends looking for ideas to shorten routines that will make them more cohesive.

“Fast Eddie” Olson is working on a Psychic Bingo routine. He shared what he has developed to date and it is impressive! Paul Laidig, the Vintage Magician, is not a big fan of card tricks but performed Bill Goldman’s “Monkey in the Middle.” Andrew Miller has been working on his rope magic. He is focusing on reverse-engineering moves. He is particularly fascinated by Tenyo’s “Four Nightmares.” Guest Patrick Sheppard discussed sources for children’s magic. “Fast Eddie” Olson shared a fast, down and dirty way to do the Magic Square. Dan Norat performed a card manipulation routine on which he is working.

We closed the meeting by discussing new magic venues that are available locally and near the Cities. Raj Madhok has penned “Aftermath: Impromptu. Close-up. Mentalism.” To quote Raj, these effects are suitable for casual, impromptu, and informal social situations. I can’t wait to read this book!

Our Zoom meetings are generally small but faithfully attended. We posited the idea of having our Zoom meetings be subject-specific, more workshops and lectures. This will be something that we will pose to the Ring for approval, but it was enthusiastically received by our small group of attendees. That being said, we started off the meeting with a discussion of card forces. Harry Entwistle is particularly fond of the Classic Force and its various subtleties and options. His advice: “practice, practice, practice.” That advice will help those intimidated by this move. We also discussed false cuts and favorite card tricks from books that we are reading. Harry offered up the Ninety Nine

Percent card trick from “Magic with Cards” by Schindler and Garcia.

Jennifer Graham shared craft ideas using playing cards and card boxes and performed some money magic tricks. “Fast Eddie” Olson shared his “Psychic Bingo Board” and we discussed some finesses that may work on the playing cards used in the effect. Rick Hinrichs rounded out the meeting by performing a trick by Pete Firman. *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

**February:** Meeting Location: This month’s meeting was held at Hoss’ Steakhouse and Grill in Mechanicsburg, PA. In Attendance: Stephen Smith and his wife Rebecca, Michael Reist, Jack Ritter, Maria Tellez, Mark Zagursky, Michael Gelehrter, Dave McDade, Victor Orriola, John Fortino, and Dan Scully. President Smith opened the meeting at 6:30 and welcomed members and guests. Secretary’s Report: The Secretary’s report for January was accepted. Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s report was accepted. Old Business: None.

New Business: The club will entertain veterans on March 9th from 5:00 to 8:00 at 4907 Carlisle Pike in Mechanicsburg, PA. President Smith noted he read a book about conducting magic meetings, but for now will continue to conduct them as he always has. We talked about having a “Bring a Guest Night.” There was discussion about doing a show for the library in October. We will probably have a self-working card workshop at one of our meetings. The President announced that the Eddie Clever competition would be held in March.

Good of the Order: R. Matthew’s wife threw out her back, or he would have been at the meeting. Izzy Schwab died. Hocus-Pocus is now out of business. At some point our club will hold a lecture. It was mentioned that Kyle Purnell was lecturing in NYC. Also mentioned was TRICS, the Carolina Close-Up Convention, November 19-21. It appears Father Goodman’s show is now rescheduled for May 2, 2026. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

On to the Magic: Michael Reist performed an original effect called the 7 Deadly Sins. Vic presented a stunning effect he called Lottery Match; later he performed Prior Commitment. Al presented an effect he called “This is my Card Plus.” President Smith performed what he called the “3 Feats of Mentalism.” John F. performed what he called Unknown Destination. And Mike

G. performed “Jazzing up the ACAAN.”

**March:** Meeting Location: This month’s meeting was held at the Skyline Family Restaurant, 7510 Allentown Blvd, Harrisburg, PA. In attendance: Al Bienstock, Jack Ritter, John Fortino, Mark Zagursky, and Dan Scully. Officers absent: President Steve Smith, Vice-President Victor Orriola, Secretary Michael Reist. It was announced via email that President Smith would not be present due to a family issue. Dan Scully noted that Secretary Reist had recently returned from a trip to Israel and believes this may be why he is absent. Treasurer Al Bienstock called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM, noting there were no guests in attendance and a quorum was not present. The CAPM By-Laws, approved 9/18/2026, do not provide a minimum member present for a quorum. Following Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, if a quorum is not defined in the By-Laws, a quorum is a majority of all members. The members present did not meet this requirement; therefore, an Inquorate Meeting was held. Secretary’s Report: Not present. Unable to motion for approval, tabled to April’s meeting. Treasurer’s Report: Al Bienstock presented the Treasurer’s Report. It was not accepted due to lack of quorum. Old Business: Due to lack of quorum, no old business was discussed. New Business: Due to lack of quorum, no new business was discussed.

Good of the Order: On Monday, March 9, 2026, the Mechanicsburg VFW hosted a dinner, including magic, for the Lebanon VA Veterans. Members present representing CAPM were Victor Orriola, Jack Ritter, Al Bienstock, John Fortino, Maria Tellez, and Frank Bianco. The evening involved club members rotating through tables providing table magic to the veterans. The event was reported to have gone very well and enjoyed by all members present.

It was suggested by Dan Scully that the Skyline Family Restaurant appears to be a good venue to call home for future CAPM meetings, noting more than ample space in an area that can be closed off from the main restaurant during business meetings, and also a great location for the annual holiday meeting. Mark Zagursky advised he did mention to President Smith that this location could be a good replacement for the Beacon Diner that had closed for business at the start of the year. This will be brought up at the next business meeting as a recommendation to the Executive Committee. No further Good of the Order was discussed.

2026 Eddie Clever Competition: Due to lack of members present, the Eddie Clever Competition was not held during this meeting. The competition

will be tabled for the next regular CAPM meeting. The March 12, 2026 CAPM meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

On to the Magic: John Fortino solicited the assistance of Jack Ritter to perform a card trick where Jack selected a random card and John was able to produce the selected card by dealing down a number of cards that equaled the number of letters matching the selected card. The caveat: John was never told what the selected card was, spelling everything out in his head so the audience would not know what John thought the card was. In conclusion, John had spelled out Seven of Hearts, ending on the selected card, the 7 of Hearts! John did not have a name for this routine.

Al Bienstock performed “Invisible Dice” with Dan Scully. This involved Dan throwing invisible dice on the table and “thinking” of the numbers that would appear had the dice been visible. Al instructed Dan to take the number of the die “closest” to him on the table, double that number, add five, then multiply the sum by 5. Dan was then to add the number of the die “furthest” from him to the product from the first die. Dan provided the sum of this equation and Al was able to determine the numbers Dan had “rolled,” 6 being closest to Dan and 1 being furthest. Dan confirmed that Al was correct!

*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 April 2026 meeting of Ring 22 (The Detroit Magic Club) was primarily a “Flea Market” meeting, where a few members set up a table of their magic items and we all could buy, sell, and trade. We had eight tables full of goodies.

But before that, Phil Mann gave us a 15 minute show full of rose productions and vanishes. He included a never-before-seen illusion he had created for a stage production of Beauty and the Beast (which ultimately was not included in the show) in which a rose disappears from beneath a glass container.

The meeting ended a little earlier than usual, but continued at the local bar and grill for more magic and socializing.

*Robert Purcell*

### **RING 23, CLEVELAND, OHIO – Blackstone Ring/ Cleveland Magician’s Club**

Meets 1st Wed., (occasional changes); 7:00 p.m. at Pleasant Hills United Methodist Church 13200 Bagley Rd., Cleveland, OH 44130 / [www.ring23.org](http://www.ring23.org)

DAVID NEUMAN, President / E-mail: [neumand77@gmail.com](mailto:neumand77@gmail.com)

What happened to Spring? It was a cool evening in Cleveland, but even cooler magic

was going down at the May 6, 2026, I.B.M. Ring #23 meeting with 33 attendees. Dave Neuman thanked everyone who performed and helped with the April 25th Annual Awards Banquet. He plans a detailed, forthcoming write-up for the Linking Ring. Bryan Gerber announced Whiz-Bang is seeking magic performers. Dr. Averbook, Recording Secretary, reminded everyone that the February Ring Report in the April issue of the Linking Ring on page 109 was designed by him as a book test. Instructions for this can be found on page 15 of the issue. This may be the first time this has ever been done in the Linking Ring.

Several upcoming conventions and other activities this year were announced including "Be Magic" in New Albany, IA, Abbott's Get-Together in Colon, MI, the I.B.M. Convention in St. Louis, MO, the SAM Convention in Appleton, WI (honoring Houdini 100 years after passing), 52 Plus Joker, Poe's Magic Convention in Baltimore, MD, Magic at The Beach, The Magic Collectors Expo in NJ, and NEMCA in Nashua, NH. In addition, the Official Houdini Seance will be at the Hollywood Magic Castle on Halloween this year! Dr. Averbook noted he's loaning 47 items from his museum to the Jewish Museum in Amsterdam for an exhibit called "Jewish Magicians of the Golden Age" beginning this September.

Some notable recent deaths included anti-quarian magic dealer Ron Allesi, who used to come and conduct auctions for our Ring. Also passing was Steve Faris, who was the first performer at Kings Island and a close confidant of Ken Klosterman. Marv Leventhal noted that he and Neil Rozum attended one of the last David Copperfield shows at the MGM Grand. David retired the show on April 30, 2026. Dave Boyce gave the Treasurer's report.

Jim Hathy began the Member Spotlights segment. First, Neil Rozum gave an elucidating and erudite summary of scripting and storytelling in magic, citing several sources and demonstrating magical examples. He prepared a useful one-page summary for the group as a handout. Dr. Angela Funovits engaged the Ring with her personal story of how she became interested in magic, later joining Ring 23 after meeting Dr. Averbook, and a fantastic journey performing internationally. She later completed her medical degree and residency in dermatology. She gave everyone insight into what it was like to be a contestant on the TV show "Phenomenon" and having to create weekly a new, powerful effect to stay competitive. She was the runner-up on this show. It was an amazing experience and propelled her to international fame.

The President's Podium focused on Dave Neuman discussing Wayne Dobson's "The Spectralist" and "Snooker Sorcery," which he used for his banquet act last month along with the use of a stooge. This fooled a lot of magicians!

Sergio Castro, Program Chairman, then began the evening's theme of Sharpie magic. Mike Draganic showed various uses for Sharpies and markers in magic and mentalism, such as a voodoo doll effect and coloring book for kids using erasable markers. Some markers are very large and a reference "cheat sheet" can be concealed on the side. Sergio demonstrated his break-apart Sharpie he created. Bryan Gerber showed a flip stick use of the Sharpie for vanish and reappearance. Steve Gallant showed us a "rotating Sharpie" effect called "The Hands Only" from Self-Working Table Magic by Karl Fulves. Lastly, Tim Hill performed a superb Sharpie and coin routine with the production of a coin and a large ball bearing.

The critique segment focused on David Garza looking to improve his cards across. He engaged a discussion on seeking to combine the standard cards across of more than one card with Morgan & West's thought of card across. Lastly, Don Stongoli performed his coffee mug "trust" effect that depends on physics, seeking some feedback on the routine and timing. He had a mishap recently and lost a cup but could not figure out the issue. Some good feedback was provided. On discussion, we think we may have arrived at why the trick physically failed once and recommended a method to counter this problem.

It was an interesting and productive evening.  
*Dr. Bruce J. Averbook*

### **RING 26, NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Harry Roz-On Ring**

Meets Last Fri. each month at 7:00pm at The Mountain House Gallery,  
702 9th Avenue (corner of West 48 Street) New York, NY 10019  
CARRINGTON "ACE" GREENFADER, President  
E-mail: carrington.greenfader@gmail.com / Website: www.80-20.org/meeting

Everyone came away learning some valuable techniques at our April Bornstein/Clement Lab hosted by Robert Wallner. Peeks and Threads was on the menu at our Gemini Diner meeting place. As customary, Robert handed out a lecture note with the names and sources of some of the techniques that he was presenting. He even donated a peek wallet to be auctioned off. Just about everyone present had something to contribute and the pace was rapid, so rapid that taking notes and trying to keep track of who did what was difficult. Robert demonstrated a newspaper peek, peek wallet, window envelope, peek deck and Wesley's nylon thread effect. He also showed us the Paper Bag Peek that past president James

Stranges loved to do. Past president Frank Reyes demonstrated the Joseph Ovette/Kelly Bottom Placement and the Gambler's Peek. Jack Diamond showed us the Bottom Card Peek. James O'Brien illustrated the Thumb Peek. Adrien Pierard came prepared with Mirror Peek, Distance Dribble Peek, Flick Peek, Flex Peek, and Card Bubble Bottom Peek. Guy Crowl wowed with Stack Deck Peek. Many of these can be found in books by Tarbell, Hofzinsler, Ganson, J.G. Thompson, Brother Hammond, Hugard and others.

April's theme had to be changed almost at the last minute, but we had some great performances. The evening's theme was Classics of Magic. After a few bits of housekeeping, President "Ace" Greenfader introduced the first performer of the evening, Jack Diamond. Jack performed a wonderful four Ace routine of Marlo, then followed it up with a nice version of Cards Across. Zachary Adelman followed with a version of the Chop Cup routine where the final load was an egg. Zachary ended his set presenting his version of the swallowing of the needles, such a great effect and one certainly not performed at many meetings across the country. Past president Frank Reyes, with the assistance of Barbara Greenfader, Deborah Holt and President Ace, dug into the past finding Ottokar Fischer's "Cords of Fantasia" but performed it as the "Lazy Magician" made famous by Dante and John Calvert amongst others. Frank ended with Ted Collins' "Panama Rope" trick.

Next, Tommy "The Man Who Knows Too Much" Burnett performed a mental effect attributed to the late Max Maven. Tommy made a wager with a spectator using not money but matchsticks. Who won? Tommy, of course. Tommy wrapped it up with a Zen Poker effect.

Guy Crowl continued with several classics. At a quick pace, Guy performed U.F. Grant's "Topsy Turvy Bottles," a paddle effect producing a sponge ball and then going into a multiplying sponge routine. Guy circled back with a game of chance routine using six miniature cups. Five volunteers each selected a cup and left Guy with one. After turning each over, none of the cups contained anything. But the cup left to Guy rewarded him with a twenty dollar bill.

Our last performer was Adrien Pierard, performing "Selected Card Thru Handkerchief." A version of Dai Vernon's "Triumph" from Stars of Magic was next, ending with an "Ambitious Card" routine. Pretty darn good program for a last minute save. Thanks to all who performed, participated and attended. Please follow us on Facebook, I.B.M. Ring 26. *Frank Reyes*

## **RING 27, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA – Earle J. Christenberry, Jr. Ring**

Meets 1st Thu. each month, 7:00pm, Knuckleheads Sports Bar & Grill, 3535 Severn Ave. Ste. 10, Metairie, LA 70002. Optional meal anytime after 6:00pm – brief business meeting around 7:00 - 7:15 – followed by magic. KEVIN CARNEY, Vice Presiden / E-mail: kmcарney@charter.net  
101 Rue De LaPaix, Slidell, LA 70458 / (985) 643-3611  
Web site: [www.ibmring27.com](http://www.ibmring27.com)

Our pre-meeting discussions included acknowledging the continuing regular magic performance work of our fellow Greater New Orleans Area magic troupers including Joe Harrison, Dr. Joe Dalgo, and others. We also noted the May 11-17 week-long return to The Magic Castle for "Not That Magic Mike" Michael Dardant. We also proudly announced the June 17th annual St. Stanislaus summer magic show in Bay St. Louis, MS, presented (for at least 30 years) by Joe Harrison, in which some of our cadre will perform.

Kevin Carney also reminded us that he would later be distributing more items from the personal magic library of our late, beloved colleague Milton Scheuermann. Jim Hussey was first to the platform but had to leave early, just as he was prepping for what would have been an amazing coin routine.

Kevin Carney perpetrated clever deception in a trio of Trickstarters tricks from Zach King and Theory 11. After he trapped a solid plastic man inside a very tight box, we each participated by sticking swords through the box, thus rendering the plastic man into a pincushion. "Dr." Kevin, MD waved a stethoscope and syringe like a magic wand over the box and removed the unscathed man, yet we all clearly saw holes everywhere in the box. Next, as part of his continuing lock and key series, Carney had us examine and sign a U.S. quarter before squeezing it into and locking a small tray. He used a magical key that penetrated through the quarter to unlock the tray and removed the intact signed quarter! Continuing, he placed an olive green crayon into a box that cut the crayon into three pieces that we examined. After returning the pieces into the box and uttering something, Carney removed the now undamaged crayon ("Holey Grail," "The Key Coin Mystery," and "The Conjuring Crayon").

Staying on the subject of colors, Herb Miller orated an occurrence when he and wife Heidi attended the Kentucky Derby. A dashing man commented on the alluring coordination of their purple hats, neckwear (tie/scarf), legwear (socks/stockings), and shoes. Heidi courteously thanked the gentleman then corrected him that the shade was moonbeam kissed lavender, not common purple. Herb used this experience as an example of differences

between men and women; most men only know the eight colors in a standard box of crayons but most women know all the colors in the 128 box.

Miller shuffled some pasteboards and had Barbara select a card. After pondering a moment, Herb suggested that he would text message Penn Jillette (of Penn & Teller) for help identifying her card. Momentarily, Jillette replied that he was currently in a poker game and would get back to Miller in a short bit. Herb's phone dinged and we saw Penn's response: "the Eight of Hearts"! Our eyes popped out (Penn & Teller PT Chat iPhone app).

Darlene Bertrand was requested to repeat a feat she performed last month. From a shuffled deck in use, we were each to select random cards for a secure password procedure. She then went on to simultaneously hack these secure passwords from all five spectators (Jim Steinmeyer's "The Password Fallacy" from Subsequent Impuzzibilities, vol. 3 of the Impuzzibilities Series).

"Tricky Trainwreck" Bertrand removed the Ace, Deuce, Three and Four of Hearts from a purple deck, claiming that they were the leading Olympic card from any deck. He let the purple-clad team cycle through their synchronized routine as each card, first the Ace, the Deuce, then Three, had turns flipping over and returning. The Four, having only been on the elite squad for a month, barely stuck his landing as the purple deck crowd momentarily grimaced before thunderously applauding. It was time to award the medals but our purple team seemed to still have more. They took a face-forward bow before quickly turning around, displaying a costume color change to gold. I think they were signaling that they want the gold medal. Suddenly the purple deck fans all became gold-clad too in this "TrainWrecked" version of "Revolver" by Vic Trabucco & Oz Pearlman. Trainwreck then shuffled that gold deck and had two spectators cut the deck into two piles. From one of the piles each selected a card from different card fans. Their selections were lost into the other, put-aside pile. The original pile was then shuffled and a card was selected to be a magnet to pull the original two lost cards from the second pile. The magnet card protruded from its pile barely touching the other pile. Blink. Both lost selections now appeared adjacent to the magnet card ("Attraction" by Dan Harlan from Harlan's video Premium Blend, vol. 2).

*Leonard Bertrand*

### **RING 29, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – Little Rock Magic Ring**

Meets 1st Thur., 6:45 pm., First Community Bank, 17820 Central Parkway, Little Rock, AR. / Web site: [www.LittleRockMagic.org](http://www.LittleRockMagic.org)  
MARK MULKERIN, Secretary

On May 2, 2026, Little Rock Magic Ring 29 held their annual public show. This year it was held at the Veterans Event Community Center in

Cabot, Arkansas. We had a great crowd who enjoyed the fun and laughter our three performers provided.

On stage first for some housekeeping was Ring 29 President Marty Haughn, who provided facility information and one unusual greeting. Marty called to the stage Territorial Vice President Larry Bean, who is also the President of Ring 75 of Ft. Smith, AR; Joey Williams, President of Ring 403 of Springdale, AR; and Blayk Puckett, President of Ring 308 of Searcy, AR.

What was unusual about it was that it is rare to have all four Ring presidents in one place. They shared their very odd way of meeting by shaking hands while at one time saying "Mr. President." The audience loved it. For a warm-up, magician Cedric Morley came on stage and demonstrated his skills with a magic wand and made it dance.

Larry Bean started next and had the audience laughing and amazed at the same time. He pulled money mouth coils, cut rope that never seemed to be able to align the ends, and a wild coloring prediction that ended with an initial failure until he pointed to a box which held a head that matched all his predictions.

Mark Mulkerin wowed the audience with a unique multiplying bottles routine. Each bottle was labeled with some sort of juice that went well with his story. He also had fun with a young volunteer working the Topsy Turvy.

Closing the show was Cedric Morley, showing polished coin manipulation, a mind-blowing mentalism routine, and a wonderful cups and balls routine which baffled everyone in the audience. You could hear the "What the..." and "How did he do that" comments run through the audience.

All in all, we appreciate the work each magician did to make this show a success. I would be remiss in my duties not to mention our gracious emcee Joey Williams, who kept the audience entertained between magicians. Joey is an accomplished magician and it shows. Finally, none of this would have been possible without the hard work of our sound manager of the night, Dan Hecke. He brought in a fantastic sound system and kept things hopping with music. Thanks, Dan.

*Marty Haughn*

### **RING 31, MADISON, WISCONSIN – Ben Bergor Ring**

Meets 1st Wed. each month, 6:30pm. at the Sequoia Public Library,  
4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison, WI.  
MARK PEPELEA, Ring Contact  
(608) 425-8839 / [mpepelea@gmail.com](mailto:mpepelea@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.ibmring31.com](http://www.ibmring31.com)  
<http://www.facebook.com/BenBergor.IBMRing31>

The May meeting was the Madison Ring 31 Annual Mini Convention. The "Mini

Convention” is a format in which a collection of our members agrees to present 10 minutes on a given subject, with the intention to host an in-house “magic convention” in only 2 hours. The following is an account of the festivities.

Lynn Miner: Mini Lecture – Breather Cards. Lynn presented an extensive dive into the many forms and uses of the breather card: its creation, care, feeding and use. Lynn, who was the instigator of the “Mini Convention” idea, truly “created space” for the evening to proceed at a high level of expertise and sharing. Lynn offered a printed outline of his talk, complete with recommended effects to utilize the breather card gaff, which would make a fine overview for a good magic text. Yet, in only 10 minutes, without rush, he managed to give us an in-depth look into this powerful card control technique. Finally, Lynn left us with this closing thought: “In a deck of 52 cards pressed tightly together, the magician’s power comes from the smallest gap.”

Wayne Peterson – Rope Magic I Have Known and Loved. Wayne’s presentation was an overview of various rope effects he knows and loves, including a spectacular take on Professor’s Nightmare with the 3 ropes melding into one long piece. Wayne’s humor and light approach drew us all into a tight knot of fun.

Mark Pepelea – Mini Lecture: Easy False Cuts. Mark gave a very full overview of the many false cuts he is adept at, including some with cardistry moves thrown in for style and pizzazz. As Mark pointed out, there are many and various false cuts to use, but it is wise to find 1 or 2 we like and stick with those. Luckily for us, Mark’s studies of this sleight of hand move went a touch deeper in the deck of magic than that, and his display and explanation were delightfully exhaustive. Again, a good magic text could be written from his well-demonstrated repertoire.

Dan Feaster – Member Spotlight: A Life in Magic. Dan shared an overview of his journey into and through the world of magic, beginning as a mime in college where he helped form a mime troupe. He then transitioned into clowning and “joy making” as he put it. The clowning evolved into performing stage magic, then magical ministry, and even further into using magic as a therapeutic tool in his counseling profession. He now specializes in mentalism and occasional seance type performances. Along the way, Dan passed around numerous newspaper clippings and promo photos which truly spanned a wide range of incredible moments from his time in the performing arts. It was very evident that Dan certainly never stopped evolving and learning in his love of magic.

Jim Sandstrom – Teach a Trick. Jim’s effect was a wonder to behold. He divined a thought of card with only 2 simple questions and capped it off with a prediction revelation previously printed on the back of the thought of card. After fooling all of us, Jim smartly said it would be too complicated to teach us, so we should think of it as a “share a trick” presentation. Perhaps we’ll have to bug him at a future meeting about the method behind this stunner of a card trick.

Tal Kuhn – Teach a Trick. This section was a review of Benjamin Barnes’ winning card effect from his appearance on Penn & Teller’s Fool Us. Tal’s expose may or may not have been accurate, but his detective work was truly thought provoking and insightful. He presented the trick and then taught us his considered method. Very clever, very ingenious, perhaps even the method Mr. Barnes used for the effect.

James the Magician – Mini Lecture: Evolving Your Magic. James’ mini lecture utilized one trick to teach the means of evolving an effect from a standard presentation into a unique and original magical demonstration. Utilizing the classic Brainwave effect, James transformed this classic card trick into an original and far more interesting piece of theater. Playing upon the idea of influencing someone’s choice as the basic setup, jettisoning the playing cards in favor of photos, while adding audience participation, humorous puns and connection, he concocted a piece incorporating the basic effect yet completely evolving it in a new direction. James calls his remix “Pick the Bird.” A wonderful capper to a wonderment-filled evening.

All our members benefited and were inspired by each presenter’s deep level of energy, thought and effort. We truly appreciated the vast amount of wisdom and expertise shared in so brief a time. And so, between the beer, pretzel dippers and other delicious fare, a lot of magic and good times were made at the shortest (yet perhaps most fun) convention around.

*Benjamin Talbot*

### **RING 39, HOUSTON, TX – Scott Hollingsworth Ring**

[www.houstonmagic.com](http://www.houstonmagic.com)

GENE PROTAS/President

JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH, Secretary / Treasurer

E-mail: [judy4birds@yahoo.com](mailto:judy4birds@yahoo.com)

The “Fourth” was definitely with Houston magicians at the May 4th meeting. Eric Falconer presented the mini-lecture on Cups and Balls. He gave a well-prepared demonstration and good explanation of the moves.

Next came a book auction by Jamie Salinas, who offered (for the club’s benefit) several more books from the Ron Jernigan collection that Ron’s widow donated.

The theme for open mic was Sci-Fi Magic. Johan McElroy started things off; he was followed by Tom Bradley, David Corn, Jamie Salinas, Winton Biggins, Gene Protas, Marti Stein, and Daniel Chan. Blue ribbon winners were David Corn, Tom Bradley, and Daniel Chan. Thanks to all who participated.

*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 featured performer for May was Derrick Beeson. Derrick began by producing three coins from the air one at a time. He then performed a coins across routine using four silver dollars. His final routine used two copper coins and a silver coin. The silver coin repeatedly changed places with the two copper coins, and finally the coins travelled to a coin purse and a brass Okito box.

President Cassidy Smith led a discussion on the pros and cons of coin magic. He then talked about various coin routines, gimmicked coins and jumbo coins.

A lecture by George Sands, son of well-known magician Alan Sands, was proposed for September. Lee Woodside moved that the lecture be free to paid-up members and the vote to approve this was unanimous.

Lee Woodside announced that he was going to perform mental telepathy. He showed that he had placed a slip of paper with a two-digit number written on it in his wallet. He said that he would attempt to transmit this number to volunteer Cassandra Crowe. Cassandra said that she was receiving the number "31." Lee removed the slip of paper from his wallet and it proved to have the number 31 written on it.

David Teeman asked that Tom Todd assist him. David showed five cards, each of which had a picture of a lucky item. The items were a caduceus, a horseshoe, a Tumi (Peruvian ceremonial knife), an elephant, and an Italian pepper. David asked that Tom select one of the lucky objects. Tom chose the elephant. David asked that Tom read the back of that card, which stated, "You will choose the elephant." The audience was not impressed. However, David turned over the other four cards and when he placed them together, they formed a picture of an elephant.

Cassandra Crowe handed Bob Caldwell a deck of playing cards and asked that he remove one card from the deck while her back was turned. She then asked that he write a number from 20-50 on a sticker and stick it onto the face of the card. She then asked that he return the

card to the deck and shuffle. (Bob chose the Eight of Diamonds and wrote the number "23.") After shuffling the cards, Cassandra wrote a matrix of numbers on a pad and asked if any of the numbers happened to be the one Bob wrote. He said "no." However, when she added any row, column or diagonal of the numbers she had written, the total was 23. She counted down to the 23rd card and it was, indeed, the one Bob had chosen.

Junior magician Jude Brooke laid four coins on the table and asked Derrick Beeson to eliminate any two of them. Jude then showed that the remaining two coins merged into one coin.

John Shack asked Lee Woodside to place a coin in either hand while John's back was turned. He then told Lee to switch the coin to the other hand if he wanted to. John then turned around and asked two questions, which he said that Lee could either lie about or answer truthfully. John correctly divined which hand contained the coin.

Lance Yeager started with a folded piece of paper that he said was his prediction. As he asked Shaun Clark questions, he would unfold the paper to show the correct prediction of what Shaun would say.

Bob Caldwell placed a blue playing card face down on a chair and asked Grant Vinson to sit on it. He then asked Grant to cut the deck in half and throw either half into the trash bin that Bob had placed in front of him. After repeating this until only seven cards remained, Bob asked Grant to point to one of the remaining cards. Grant chose the Four of Diamonds. Bob showed the other six cards to be all different. When Grant stood up and looked at the blue card on the chair, it was the Four of Diamonds.

Kevin Brasier showed a large book that was a history of the world. He handed a booklet with blank pages to David Teeman and asked that he write a three-digit number and pass the booklet to Lee Woodside. He asked Lee to write a three-digit number below David's and pass the booklet to Aaron Brooke, who also wrote a three-digit number. Kevin then handed the booklet to Jim Green and asked that he sum the three numbers. The total was 602 and that page told the story of Yuri Gagarin as the first human in space. Kevin opened his prediction and it read, "First human in space."

Aaron Brooke offered several quarters to David Teeman and asked that he choose one. David chose a quarter with "Oklahoma" on the back, which matched Aaron's prediction.

Michael King showed off a set of custom Walking Liberty half dollars that he had purchased from Jamie Schoolcraft.

*Lee Woodside*

## **RING 48, PEORIA, ILLINOIS – Harold Martin Ring**

Meets 2nd Wed. 7:00 pm, Peoria Pizza Works. 3921 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights, IL. Website: peoriamagicians.com  
MICHAEL BAKER, Secretary / E-mail: themagiccompany@aol.com

The April meeting was held at our newest location, Bob Evans restaurant in East Peoria. There were eight members present. Avalon (Loren Williams, a.k.a. CJ Diamond) was present for his last meeting before moving back to Boston. We want to thank him for hosting our meetings at his magic shop, Avalon's Magic Emporium, since we lost our previous location, Peoria Pizza Works, to a fire last summer.

There was no real business to discuss, so the early part of the meeting was having dinner and socializing. When the magic began, Josh Phillips showed a deck of cards that was penetrated and then became a solid wooden block. He also showed a trick he calls Tequila Surprise. Avalon showed us a version of U.F. Grant's Temple Screen in the form of a restaurant menu. After displaying the various menu offerings, a basket with cheeseburger and fries suddenly appeared, only to have that listing vanish from the menu. Jay Zentko showed us Tarot-Tarot and a 3 Test Predictor. Michael Baker showed us how a vampire can find and drain the blood from a selected card. Troy showed Color Monte and we discussed some variations and subtleties for the trick.

The May meeting had seven in attendance. Jerry Tupper announced he will miss the next two meetings. He will be visiting Britain and then he will be busy moving into his new home in Metamora. Jerry also made the wonderful announcement that he is now cancer-free! Troy Keefer (Yort) said he messaged the Peoria Riverfront Market. He hasn't yet heard back from them but we are planning to start on May 23rd. Troy performed magic for the head of security for AEW Wrestling and scored free tickets. He and Rodney Nordstrom (D'Nordo) attended the matches and afterwards performed for the wrestlers at Hoops.

The Central Illinois Magic Get Together will be Saturday, June 6. This year it is in honor of Eldon Roark. Abracorndabra moved the date to September 11-13. This will be at Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines, Iowa. Local events include World Day of Play at Glen Oak Park and Fine Arts Fair in Peoria Heights, both this weekend. Our magicians use these opportunities to perform. Stephan Evans' Boy Scouts assisted the FAA by posing as air disaster victims. Terry Grawey performed his hypnosis show at the Fieldcrest High School in Mionok and met a magician from Chicago. Terry also attended the annual hypnosis convention. Troy and Grant

Golden will attend the Nights of Sleights auction.

Troy performed Lethal Tender and Jerry offered some suggestions. Troy produced a rainbow silk from a menu, and then his killer Vegas Souvenir trick. Jay Zentko exhibited his new dry erase retractable banner and we pondered uses for it. Troy discussed the merits of wearing his "Tips Appreciated" lapel badge. Bottom line is you get more tips if you ask for them. He then performed NFW. Josh Phillips performed a version of Three Card Monte using three normal cards. Troy showed his new "Edge Reveal" stickers for a card box. Josh performed his world famous three-coin trick with a Kennedy half, Mexican centavo, and Chinese coin. Troy showed a way to control a selected card returned to a fanned deck (spread control). Stephan showed his Temu color-changing canes.

*Jay Zentko and Michael Baker*

## **RING 49, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA – The Doug Henning Magic Wand Club**

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00p.m. (except July and August), Ryerson United Church, 265 Wilson St. E. Lancaster, ON  
DOUG HUNT, President, / E-mail: stiltrecord@yahoo.ca (519) 750-4703  
Web site: ring49magic.com

**APRIL:** Hey, want to hear a joke? I don't actually have a joke to tell you, but did I get your attention? If I did, then that was an effective icebreaker, just something to start an interaction.

This is what our April 2026 meeting was all about: breaking the ice in order to initiate an interaction with your client's guests to begin performing for them.

For stage performers this is not required. The MC introduces you, everyone there is expecting your performance and has come intentionally to see it, and all you need to worry about is not tripping and falling on your face walking out. But several venues are much more challenging. Table hopping at a restaurant, working a fair or event opening, or working a lounge at an executive event are all scenarios where approaching people "cold" and initiating an interaction is required.

This is such an intriguing topic that we had a significant turnout for a brainstorming session with members to exchange ideas and techniques. Many ideas and experiences were shared and discussed. We talked about dressing professionally to telegraph that you are there to entertain. Props should be bright and colorful as many environments, often restaurants, have low lighting. Approaching with a gift can open doors; a popular "bit of business" is to create a little dog similar to twisting balloons but with dollar-store beads (or use balloons, I suppose).

Ken talked about doing an effect with money (always an eye catcher) or relating to something very current (without getting political) to get people's attention. Rick noted that leading with a question can break people's defensiveness and open them to interact. And Derrek (at my prompting) demonstrated the effectiveness of having a good "opening line." Barry suggests starting with something very familiar to people (like a slinky) that you can then incorporate, and something very colorful and attention getting; he used a "rocket balloon" to illustrate.

The importance of picking a good first table or group to approach was brought up. Once people see you performing in the room and the reactions of your first customers, you're set for the night. Vito also stressed the importance of good body language and eye contact. Rick spoke about what we are really selling: not our magic trick, but our personalities and abilities to entertain. It's not about being able to fool people, it's about entertaining them and making them happy your client employed you. On that topic, we also spent a bit of time discussing what to charge for various types of events. Don't underprice yourself; it gives the impression that you are not very valuable and cheapens the whole industry. Another great night, thanks everyone for participating!

**MAY:** Ring exchanges are great events for a club, well actually two clubs, I guess. Basically, your members go do a free show for their club, and then they come and do one for you. What are the benefits? First, an opportunity to practice (and show off) for your club members, which is especially helpful for your amateur members who do not have as many performance opportunities. They are a great opportunity to network with performers who aren't too far away but whom you might not run into very often and exchange ideas. It certainly helps fill out the meeting list for a club with a very enjoyable night, and it exposes members to material that might be new to them.

In April, our club visited Ring 265 (the London Magicians Guild of London, Ontario) so our May meeting was their turn to entertain us. Their MC was Peter Mennie, who performed short bits between acts including a paper tear and restore, a prediction of selected performance order, and a color prediction of some colored word cards. Andrew Olmstead did a great job with an older effect of cutting a piece of paper and having it heal itself, a card prediction effect, and rope cut and restore followed by a variation of Professor's Nightmare. Great stuff. Sam General found a selected card reversed in the deck, one found by two jokers (joker cards,

not our members), an effect where two circles drawn on a card magically linked, and a bit on shrinkflation (very topical).

Mark "the Remarkable" Hogan predicted the winning numbers on a lottery ticket and then gave me the ticket! How could it lose, he already predicted the number (it didn't, BTW, but thanks anyway). Mark then performed a great effect with four aces themed around wine. Peter Skells, as a short notice fill-in, performed some more card effects with a prediction of a named card at a specific location in the deck, another "found card" effect, and a fun reversing card while being held by an assistant. Fantastic, Peter.

We finished the night with a previous lecturer and friend of the Ring, Christopher Campbell (aka FenyxFyre). Chris is an escape artist who got out of handcuffs faster without a key than a volunteer could with the key. He opened a lock with a random key, the last of six after the helper failed five times, performed a very nice "flipper" effect, and ended with what can only be described as a "shocking" effect. I'll just say it included a Blockhead effect with a large hook and an electric cattle prod. I helped him with this; I still feel woozy. Great night, great fun, and a great bunch of guys visiting from Ring 265.

*Rene Chouinard*

## **RING 50, WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Capital Ring**

Meets 1st Wed. 7:30 pm, Lyceum Museum, 201 S. Washington St.

Alexandria, VA 22314 Web site: [www.IBMRing50.org](http://www.IBMRing50.org)

MITCH PRAVER, President / E-mail: [president@ibmring50.org](mailto:president@ibmring50.org)

GERALD CURREN, Secretary

Rich Bloch said he saw a magician "doing miracles" in East Orange, New Jersey when he was seven years old, he told about forty members of Ring 50 at his May 6 lecture at the Lyceum. Bloch told the magic store demonstrator, "I want to work here," and the demonstrator asked him if he had any experience. Bloch recalled that he was able to think of the name of a magician, Ted Collins, whose act he had recently seen. And so, the seven-year-old Bloch responded with a bit of a fib, he told the crowd: "I don't have any experience, but my Dad is Ted Collins (a magician well known in 1950s New Jersey)."

The magic demonstrator appeared impressed, Bloch said. "Well," responded the store magician, "if your Dad is really Ted Collins, then you can work here after school." A thrilled Rich Bloch started to leave the store so he could share this good news. Turning back to ask the store magician for his name, the magic demonstrator said, "Why, it's Ted Collins." Apparently, the bravado worked, as Bloch spent several years working at Mecca Magic, starting a passion for the art that still filled him decades later.

Bloch worked for Ted Collins for nine years

and said the biggest lesson from his initial plunge into his lifelong passion (along with others, such as his family, and career as a lawyer and arbitrator) was to appreciate that it may be fun as a magician to fool people, but that people do not want to be fooled, they want to be entertained. Bloch taught the Ring 50 faithful several tricks, which were usually straightforward as Bloch used them to show how he prioritized stagecraft, comedic byplay and interaction with the audience as more important than technical prowess. To illustrate his point, Bloch revered the performance style of Doug Henning, who knew how all the tricks worked but never forgot the wonderment that a well-executed trick, affirming the audience rather than undermining them, can bring spectators upon beholding it for the first time.

To Bloch, it is easy to do magic but hard to do it well. "In magic," he said, "you can buy a trick in the morning and perform it in the afternoon. You cannot do this with a violin." But to him, performing magic well meant embracing the innocence of spectators and being open to the entire audience, rather than trying to "pull one over." He cited one of his mentors, longtime DC-area television personality Davey Marlin Jones, as helping him learn to be open to the audience, and that performance means graciously sharing. Bloch said of magicians who only offer puzzles that audiences cannot solve: "If that is all we are doing, let's take up chess."

After talking extensively about the importance of performance and of treating spectators graciously and laughing with the audience (not at them), Bloch offered up some of the routines that have taken him around the world as a cruise ship performer, magic inventor, magical theater owner and operator, and as a demonstrator at Mecca Magic. He demonstrated several card tricks based on simple forces that required misdirection and well-placed laughs as much as technical precision. He also taught a book test which, while sneaky, was less complex than some commercial book tests, arguing repeatedly that, as Tarbell wrote, "Magicians need to be actors playing the part of a magician..."

Also at the May 6 meeting, incoming Ring 50 President Mitch Praver and the rest of the 2026-27 officers and executive board were elected.

*Todd A. Eisenstadt*

## **RING 55, PHOENIX, ARIZONA – Bert Easley / Danny Dew Ring**

Meets 1st Tue., 7:00 pm, at Denny's, 3315 Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ / Web site: [www.ring55.org](http://www.ring55.org)  
BILL HALMI, President (602) 363-9166  
E-mail: [president@PhoenixMagicClub.com](mailto:president@PhoenixMagicClub.com)

In honor of Nancy Keener who passed away recently, club member Brad Zinn gave us a his-

tory of her career with her husband, and then links were given to all members so they could watch a video of the routine that took the Keeners around the world.

President Tank Hanna then gave us a recap of our first public show in decades. It took place in Old Town Scottsdale, and we ended up with more than 100 tickets sold! Even after splitting the sales with the venue (there was no money out-of-pocket for that!) the club will realize a good profit, which we can use for more lecturers, etc. Club member Ravi Gahunia took many great pictures.

We then discussed the upcoming election, which will take place on April 15th. We're looking for a new President and new Secretary.

Then we started the magic portion of the meeting with a performance by Secretary Jay Jennings, who performed Ted Annemann's Extra-Sensory Perception and then explained his process for creating the props needed for the effect. The trick itself comes from Issue #10 of *The Jinx*.

Club VP David Boehm brought a knife to a card trick, since Danger Magic was the theme. He blew our minds with Position Impossible, a CAAN by Brent Braun. Frank Pastula performed A Very Dangerous Card Trick. Gary Lazok performed an egg bag, but differently than most people do it. Brett Colbach performed a neat routine with a coffee mug and two sponge balls. He was looking for feedback and got some good ideas to ponder afterward.

Club Treasurer Doug Northway showed off some danger cards (if your spouse catches you with them!) and then performed Petshop Terror. New member Jose Uribe wanted to perform his fire wallet routine, but we said "no fire!" since Denny's doesn't like that. So he performed it and basically mimed the fire part! The show must go on! Ravi Gahunia combined the Hook effect with a locked money routine that was really different than the "don't make me call an ambulance" way that Hook is usually performed. James Knight closed the meeting with a 50/50 roulette routine with an audience member choosing which bag (containing a knife!) he had to smash with his hand.

I'm pleased to say that no mystery performers were harmed in the making of Danger Magic theme night.

Our mid-April meeting was our annual election and Bill Halmi became our new President. Congratulations, Bill! During voting and the counting of ballots, the members performed dozens of card tricks.

*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](http://ibmring58.com)  
SHERMAN WIRES, President  
(865) 679-3704 / e-mail: [shermerlin24@gmail.com](mailto:shermerlin24@gmail.com)

This month's Ring 58 meeting centered around a simple but revealing theme: "My Favorite Magic Trick." What followed was an evening packed with personality, nostalgia, and some seriously strong magic.

Bill Osburn kicked things off with The Amazing Jumping Arrow by Mark Young, a fitting nod to a past Ring 58 member.

Bill Sturgis followed with a clean performance of B'Wave, then pushed things further by having a spectator correctly identify a matching card from a lineup, tight, direct, and effective.

Mike Stratman shared both his favorite and first trick, Crazy Spots, reminding everyone how powerful simple magic can be in the right hands.

Michael Priestap delivered two strong pieces: Old Faithful by Paul Cummins and Cereal Killer, a themed prediction effect that blended presentation with method. Kyle Copeland impressed the room with his handling of Out of This World, allowing a spectator to successfully separate a fully shuffled deck into red and black without ever seeing the faces.

New member Dan Eppert made a memorable impression with a fun chop cup routine using an innocent-looking coffee cup, ending with the unexpected production of not one, but two tennis balls.

Jack Wilson demonstrated classic rope magic, tying knots without releasing the ends, then escalating the impossibility by securing the rope to his thumbs before producing yet another knot. It was a moment that genuinely fooled many in the room.

Jim Stott presented a rare and baffling effect said to have fooled even Harry Blackstone Jr. With six volunteers, a series of four-digit numbers, and an impossible final total, the result was a collective head-scratcher that had everyone leaning in.

Adding a touch of storytelling, Jeff King shared a humorous encounter with Gay Blackstone at the Magic Castle before wowing with a card effect.

Nick Roberts performed Professor's Nightmare, highlighting the subtle convincers that truly sell the illusion. John Gyllenhaal delivered a smooth handling of Garrett Thomas' Three Card Monte, keeping everyone on their toes.

Finally, Roy Schubert closed the evening with a layered mentalism routine that built

phase by phase into a strong, memorable conclusion.

From classic plots to personal favorites, the night was a reminder that great magic isn't just about tricks, it's about the performer behind them.  
*Timothy Pressley*

## **RING 59, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT – Frederick Eugene Powell Ring**

Meets 1st Mon. each month, 7:00 p.m. at River Valley Retirement Community, 101 Oakview Drive, Trumbull, CT  
CJ MAY, Secretary / E-mail: [cyril.may@aya.yale.edu](mailto:cyril.may@aya.yale.edu)  
Web site: [www.ibmring59.org](http://www.ibmring59.org)

The May 4th meeting of the Greater New Haven Magic Society featured presentations and demonstrations of an enormous number of wacky wands by The Amazing Andy and by Jay Reidy. Join in the fun on the first Monday of each month!  
*CJ May*

## **RING 64, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY – Okito/Lance Burton Ring**

Meets 7:00pm various dates at Kosair Charities, 982 Eastern Blvd., Louisville, KY 40217  
MICHAEL A. RAYMER, President  
Web site: [www.louisvillemagicclub.com](http://www.louisvillemagicclub.com)

The Louisville Magic Club, Ring #64 Lance Burton/Okito Ring held its most recent monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 12th at its usual meeting place, the Kosair Charities Center, 982 Eastern Parkway in Louisville, Kentucky. There were twenty-five members and invited guests in attendance. There wasn't a featured lecturer scheduled, but with the recent running of the 152nd Kentucky Derby the previous weekend, members were invited to perform their best horse, horse racing, jockey related, or silk producing magic tricks or effects. The meeting was called to order promptly at 7PM by Club President Bret Sohl and after several announcements of upcoming club events and activities, it was post time.

First out of the starting gate was Cody Clark. Cody produced several colorful silks, wrapping around the story that derby horses and their jockeys are known for wearing colorful silks in the quest for the garland of roses presented to the winner of the race. Cody also performed a very unique cups and balls routine using a much smaller version of the giant Louisville Slugger baseball bat as his magic wand, which is a huge destination for tourists visiting Louisville and the Louisville Slugger Museum.

David Garrard quickly took the lead along with the help of a young volunteer from the audience. David played a recording of an actual Kentucky Derby race featuring many past winners of the race. The winner of the race being

played was the predicted winning horse as selected by the volunteer, who was appropriately dressed as the winning jockey.

Terry Kaegin, aka “The Great Flydini, Jr.,” produced a long banner bearing the winning sporting event as selected from a random group of famous sporting events such as the Indy 500, World Series, etc. The banner was pulled seductively and slowly from a very unusual and intimate place from within the clothing of the Great Flydini, specifically his trousers fly, all this being done while Terry hummed the tune of “The Stripper.” Quite comical, to say the least.

Sidney Lee, coming on strong from the outside, along with the help of a windup chicken, pecked his way to correctly identify a chosen card by a volunteer.

Henry Black recalled his time as a methane gas traveling salesman. As he told his story, Henry produced several pairs of various sizes of “jockey” shorts from a “brief” case, obviously a play on words of the jockeys in the race. He also had a volunteer use a very unusual prop, a silver cylinder with a name too complicated to remember, to produce a long string of silk flags from countries around the world that he visited during his time traveling.

Jim “Uncle Red” Harris illustrated the incredible odds of predicting the number a volunteer would choose and show on a large die. The spectator was given the die, told to put any side of the die up, and cover it with a silk while Jim looked away. Jim then correctly voiced the exact number selected, uncovering the silk as he did.

Magic Jo Logsdon performed a Three Card Monte type card trick turning three cards, the Aces, into four, all while blending a horse racing story using pseudo-names for the horses. Very clever, Magic Jo.

This then brought the “race” meeting to a close. All of the participants crossed the finish line successfully and received a generous round of applause from the gathering. See you next month and have a magical day!  
*Carl Loud*

### **RING 68, TOLEDO, OHIO – Toledo Society of Magicians**

Meets 2nd Tues.. each month, 6:30 p.m. Location varies.

PATRICK PRZYSIECKI, President

E-mail: patrick@patrickmagic.com

Ring 68 (Toledo, Ohio) met on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at Poco Loco, located downtown at 1809 Adams Street. Six magicians (Patrick Przysiecki, George Magill, Martin Jarrett, Johnny New York, Boomer Reynolds, and Doug Ferguson) were in attendance. After a short report on upcoming and recent lectures, the election of officers began. George, Patrick, Martin, and Doug were re-elected President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively.

In the magic portion, George demonstrated a few “tiny plunger” card tricks and showed a series of Oil and Water effects in a progressive routine that added more cards. Boomer mystified us with a clever “monte” trick where no one could locate the red King among seven black cards. Patrick showed his miniature “card table” and tiny cooler, followed by his combination card safe, revealing a selected card. Martin presented a surprising card effect using a “lightning bolt” card that located two selections. Doug shared Craig Petty’s “Instant Teleport” card trick, which uses two ten-card packets. Next, Johnny demonstrated an effective card-palming method and offered his own version of a poker chip prediction, based on one published in Jernx.

More magic followed: Doug offered an additional ten-card mystery based on Bannon’s “Spellbreaker,” and Martin showed an appearance of a selected card from a card case. Johnny showed and explained a multiple-selection card routine. Finally, George shared a recent purchase, “Pen Through Quarter” from Michael Ammar (with a confounding new method).

*Doug Ferguson*

### **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

Our February 22nd, 2026 meeting was called to order by Ring President Rick Anderson. In attendance were John Villareal, Tony Smith, Jon Bowne, Grayson Lockeby, Grayson Davis, Michael Ehart, Fred Turner, Lenora Anderson, Karl Hilsenberg, David Pelto, Steve Wakefield, Gloria Anderson, Tim Flynn, Adria Ehart, Charlie Rousseau, Michael Fraidenburg, and Jeff Evans.

Announcements: Adria Ehart has two gigs planned, one in Olympia and the other all the way in Miami! She has written a book based on her act, “Anansi and Me.” The Club elected John Villareal as our new Vice-President. He ran unopposed. We’re eagerly awaiting Portland Magic Jam the weekend of March 13th; several of us are attending. Guests include John Turner (blind card magician) and David Kaye, who will be giving a “Silly Billy” kids’ show and also a seminar. PCAM is also coming up, March 26th-29th, in British Columbia. Performers include Erik Tait, Rachel Wax, and Benjamin Barnes.

Penn & Teller’s Fool Us is requesting videos for contestants. People who’ve previously been on the show have spoken highly of it and said they were treated very well. Jeff Evans has props, books, and DVDs to sell from a magician’s collection. Rick

Anderson has the book "Absolute Magic" by Derren Brown for sale. Copies have sold for \$600!

Next month's meeting will have a special guest, Louie Foxx! He will be presenting the lecture that he gave at last year's PCAM. The Louie Foxx magic lecture has something for everyone! You'll learn close-up magic, parlor magic, and stage magic, and only one card trick!! This is all material that Louie performs at state/county fairs, comedy clubs, schools, theaters, libraries and cruise ships. Not only will you learn how the tricks work, but you'll also learn his creative process for creating tricks and why he creates them. The Opener Card Routine: the five-minute card routine that Louie does as his warm-up for family audiences. Louie Foxx's Take Out Box: turn a Chinese food take-out box into a production box. The Fortune Teller: a folded paper fortune teller becomes a self-contained prediction system. The Body Language Book Test: a book test plays BIG. Fiat Currency: an opening effect that explains what you do. The Stand Up Chop Cup: a chop cup routine that uses no table and no one from the audience. Louie has over 150 published original magic tricks and routines in books and magazines and has been seen on TV shows like The CW's Masters of Illusion and America's Got Talent.

This meeting was packed and lively! We had more people turn out than we have in a long time! For years, we have been collecting Club dues, amassing a decent fund, and the question was raised: what should we use them for? More frequent guest speakers and a larger holiday party were two ideas.

Tim Flynn posed a question for each of us to ponder: "Why are you here? What reason?" He suggested having a theme to each meeting, such as presentation or clothing, or doing a "works in progress" once a quarter (Fred Turner suggested written feedback to go along). Tim noted that there are many reasons that we come to meetings; to quote Eugene Berger: "The Magic mansion has many rooms." Rick made an executive order to put Tim in charge of themes and coordinating talent for each meeting, perhaps with an agenda a couple weeks in advance. In response to the above question, John Villareal said that he has been a member since 1992, and that the Club has meant a lot to him, and he always had someone to talk to, especially during tougher times in his life.

Grayson Lockeby did a card trick in which Lenora Anderson picked a card, then he cut to a random spot in the deck and put her card back in, incorporating Grayson Davis to snap the Ace

of Spades before finding the chosen card. Tim showed a way of saving the trick if it initially goes wrong.

Grayson Davis followed with "Tetanus," in which he "swallowed" three nails, had Grayson Lockeby pick a Joker from a deck of cards, then turned the deck face-down. He snapped three times, then every card was face-up except the Joker! He did it again and spit out the nails.

John Villareal presented two tricks. The first, which he has done for us a couple of times, involved a deck of cards and a very large hex nut. He pulled a rope out of the card box, "threw" a knot into the rope, tied a knot around the nut, then had someone pull the knot off. He repeated this, after someone had tied a double knot over his hand, only to have the nut disappear from his hand and reappear under the card box!

The second trick was by far the more scary of the two, as he tied a string on a fish hook, then put it in his mouth with three other decoy strings. He had various audience members pick a string to pull, with cardboard speech bubbles (like you'd see in a comic strip) that said "Yank hard" and "Whew!" The three decoy strings were pulled first, leaving John's mouth intact, a fact for which we are all grateful, since his signature humor is one of the highlights of our meetings. Tony suggested he should call the trick "The One That Got Away."

Karl Hilsenberg also showed two tricks. The first was "Professor's Cheers," in which two people tied a rope around him, then pulled it off, and the end was tied to a fake pair of boxer shorts he pulled out of his pants. In the second, he punched through a paper drum and pulled through a bouquet of flowers.

Adria Ehart demonstrated Ambitious Card; Grayson Lockeby picked a card, and his card had turned to a different color when put back in the deck. John Villareal gave tips on a "tell the spectator to pick a spot to stop, then flip through the deck too fast for them to say it" gimmick. Then a conversation followed on how to deal with hecklers, with such tips as "wait for the audience to turn on them" and "build a rapport with the audience before poking fun at them." Michael Ehart suggested the line: "My contract said I'd have better hecklers than this!"

Tony Smith brought the Floating Table prop that he got at the recent holiday party's gift exchange. Other Club members who'd worked with that particular trick gave him information on how to set it up and recommended watching Dirk Losander's performance of it.

Steve Wakefield performed two tricks. The first was a Disappearing Coke Bottle, in which

the bottle was placed in a tube with a scarf over it. He seemingly failed to make the bottle disappear on the first couple of tries, but then pushed the bottle and tube to his face, and the bottle disappeared! The second was Hippy-Hop Rabbits, similar to the Fraidy-Cat Rabbit, in which he flipped two rabbit “houses” around and the rabbits switched color between black and white. Finally, he flipped the rabbits around and their colors were yellow and red!

Finally, Rick Anderson showed us an appearing dice effect he made, in which he threaded a string through a piece of wood with a hole in it and taped balls to both ends of the string, before making a pair of dice appear from the setup.

The next Club meeting will be on March 22nd at 2 PM at the LeMay Car Museum, featuring the aforementioned lecture by Louie Foxx!  
*Tony Smith*

### **RING 71, CINCINNATI, OHIO – W.W. Durbin Ring-J. Ronald Haines**

Meeting dates vary per month, 7:00 p.m. at Springdale Nazarene Church, 11177 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45246.  
Please check website, [www.Ring71.com](http://www.Ring71.com) for upcoming events.  
CHARLES ARKIN, President / Email: [carkinlaw1@aol.com](mailto:carkinlaw1@aol.com) Facebook:  
International Brotherhood of Magicians - J. Ronald Haines - W.W. Durbin Ring 71

Ring 71 members attended several magic events in Cincinnati during April 2026. From April 2nd through 4th, many Ring members attended the 2nd annual ADMC Magic Convention, produced and directed by Donavan (Ed Kudderer). Every lecture and show was excellent. In addition to various headliners, we enjoyed local performers and dealers including Greg Hamilton, Cindini Wolf, Brad Morgan (Morgan Magic Lab), Sal Piacente, Presto Paul Dalhot, Jason The Great, and Chris Yantek. Cincinnati magicians Rick Rave, Ron Lawson and Mark Weichman provided the sound, lighting and stage support. Member Mark Weichman was presented with a lifetime achievement award for his stellar support and contributions to the magical arts. The ADMC included some moments of solemn reflection in memory of magician Artie Kidwell, who passed away on April 2nd.

The second week featured a Nate Kranzo lecture on April 8th for Ring 71 members and guest magicians. Nate performed and taught several close-up card, coin, and mentalism routines and was very well received.

Ring 71 held its monthly Ring meeting on April 16th and enjoyed performances by Chuck Arkin, Mike Kuhn, Gerald Ralston, and Lee Earle. Mike presented several card routines, including a numbered marked card effect and an “Out of This Universe” variation of “Out of This

World.” Gerald and Chuck presented prediction effects. Lee Earle performed and generously gave each attendee his original “Star Trick,” which is a photo mosaic of celebrity pictures upon which the magician predicts which random picture the volunteer would select.

On April 18th, members Frank Johnston and Ron Lawson performed close-up magic on behalf of Ring 71 at a Cincy Magic fundraiser. Frank presented dice transformations, coin vanishes and reappearances, and David Parr’s “Copycat” card routine. Ron performed Rattle Dice, Dice & Cards, Twisting the Aces, and concluded with a synchronicity effect.

Our May 21st meeting is “Tribute Night,” which provides magicians with an opportunity to share stories or magic routines from some of their favorite magicians, including any Cincinnati-area based magicians who are no longer with us. On June 18th, join us for the Michael Breggar lecture; he is a frequent writer for the Linking Ring with his “Auto-Magic” column. Save the date for our annual magic picnic on Saturday, July 11th. *Al Scheide*

### **RING 74, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK – Harris A. Solomon Ring**

Zoom meetings on the 2nd Tue at 7:00 p.m. In-person meetings on 3rd Tue at The Spaghetti Warehouse in Syracuse, please contact:  
KEN FREHM, President / E-mail: [kfrehm@gmail.com](mailto:kfrehm@gmail.com)  
JOEY HOFFMAN, Secretary / E-mail: [joeydemonmagic@gmail.com](mailto:joeydemonmagic@gmail.com)

We had eight members for our monthly in-person meeting, including a new prospective member, Travis Knight. Welcome, Travis, we look forward to getting to know you better. We also have our “Spring Into Magic” show Saturday, May 30th at the American Legion in East Syracuse at 2 P.M. Tell your friends, and spread the word!

Bruce Purdy started off the evening performing a very unique and humorous take on the “Reappearing Bottle” routine. Bruce used AI to tell him how to do the effect. He would place a bottle on the table, cover it with a tube and would be instructed by the AI to pick up the tube and grab the bottle and place it in a box. Only after it was gone, the AI reminded him he had to do it without the audience seeing it. So, it told him to start again. He picked the tube up, and the bottle was back in its starting position. Great stuff Bruce!

Our new prospect, Travis Knight went next. He took a few different coasters with different beverages on them and asked Tom to choose any one of them. Tom chose, and Travis turned them all over. They were all blank, except for one, matching Tom’s choice. Travis also did a miniature “saw a card in half” effect, which looked really good.

David Hanselman had a beautifully constructed box with a lit candle inside of it. He told a story of how they used to keep track of time with a candle, and a man wanted to steal some of that time. He closed the door to the box, and stuck a blade horizontally through the box and candle towards the top half, and again towards the bottom half. When he opened the doors, the middle of the candle was missing, but the base and lit top still remained. He closed the door and removed the blades. When he opened it again, the candle was fully intact, still lit.

David Sorensen took out four ice cubes, and performed a matrix effect with them! He placed one on each corner of the table, waved a hand over one, and it disappeared, reappearing across the table. He did this one by one until all four cubes ended up on one corner of the table. He then grabbed the cubes, placed them in the middle of the table and waved his hand over them once again. The cubes were gone, and all that was left was a little pool of water on the table.

David Kilpatrick had a rectangular box with four different colored balloons stuffed inside each little circle. He asked Tom to choose any color balloon, and he would pop that choice. Dave stayed true to his word and popped all three colors Tom called out. When we left with just the yellow balloon, he turned the box around showing one balloon on that side, too. It was yellow!

I performed an effect called "Cut and Run". I placed a deck of cards on the table and asked Tom to pick up a chunk and look at the card he grabbed. I instructed Travis to do the same. Both packets were placed back onto the deck, and the cards were spread, revealing two face up Jokers. I explained that the Jokers would tell me where their cards were. They said 18 and 42. We counted down to those cards, and sure enough, they were the cards selected.

Thomas Yeldon shuffled a deck of cards and had Travis select one and keep it face down. Tom then had a bunch of little pieces of paper with different cards on them, and had Travis shake them up and dump them on the table. Tom then removed all the papers that landed face down. He scooped them back up, and Travis once again shook them and dumped them out. This repeated until there was one piece of paper left, with the Seven of Hearts. Travis flipped his card over and it was the Seven of Hearts!

Ken Frehm had a deck of cards and had David and Travis name any card. Ken went through and took out the two selected cards, as well as a joker. Ken explained the Joker was a wild card and we needed a value. He had Tom name any number, and four was chosen. Ken

then took the chosen ten, eight, and Joker (four), and placed them in different spots in the deck face up. When the cards were spread out, he took out the face up cards, as well as the card next to them. He squared up the deck, turned the cards over and they were three Aces! He told us to find the last Ace, we had to add up the value of the chosen cards, which was 22. Ken counted to the 22nd card, and it was the last Ace.

As it stands, the date for our Zoom meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month, and our in-person meetings will be the third Tuesday of the month. The address for the Eastwood American Legion is 3701 James Street, Syracuse, 13206. Both meetings start at 7, so try to sign on or get there a little before. Interested? Email [kfrehm@gmail.com](mailto:kfrehm@gmail.com) and a link will be sent. *Joey Hoffman*

### **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  
MAGIC MIKE STILWELL, President / Web site: [www.ring76.com](http://www.ring76.com)

For our April 13th meeting, Librarian Gary Salisbury was the greeter at the reception table where we sign in. Gary encouraged us to buy more raffle tickets, magic props from the club's inventory, as well as bottles of drinking water. Not only do these purchases help the club pay for its usual expenses, they will also fund our plan to clean the chairs in the hall of the Immaculate Catholic Church where we are allowed to meet each month.

Sergeant at Arms Mark Booth stated that of the 45 in attendance, 29 were active members and 16 were guests. Among his other duties, Mark tonight displayed an array of The Linking Ring magazine issues as giveaways. Also on display, by Librarian Gary Salisbury, were mentalism props and literature from the Kaleo Whiting estate sale. These proceeds will fund our ever-expanding library.

With a rap of his gavel, President Magic Mike Stilwell commenced the meeting by thanking everyone for such a strong turnout. He then welcomed the guests, in particular: first-time visitor Ziwa; Kai Boomer, a junior member of The Magic Castle, Hollywood; and youngsters (accompanied by a parent) Halsey and Donnie. Mike invited everyone to attend the traditional after-the-meeting gathering at Doc Holliday's Restaurant, which is only minutes away on foot.

The most notable announcements were:

Greg Wauson, Rich Robertson and Sherry Luft are the committee members who will administer the 2026 election of officers. On April 15th at The Magic Castle in Hollywood, six club members will attend the magic show of

Dana Daniels. On April 16th, at the Holiday Wine Cellar in Encinitas, Anjo Sanchez will host a show entitled "Hollywood Masters of Magic." On April 27th, at the New Village Arts Theater in Carlsbad, Tim Wise will produce the parlor show "The Magic of Bruce Gold." On June 14th, The Silvergate Yacht Club on Shelter Island is hosting its 64th "Wheelchair Regatta." Along with young volunteers of the United States Marine Corps, we local magicians are again invited to add a little bit of magic to this notable charitable event. The evening's magical entertainment began with 12-year-old Jacob Zuckerman auditioning to become a club member. David Henderson assisted while Jacob performed a card effect that he had invented. From his lively performance, Jacob received a unanimous vote of approval!

The magical entertainment continued with the "You Fooled Us" contest. Magical Ms. Charley and Joe Mystic were the judges. Magic Mike was the arbitrator. (Because VP-Entertainment Paul Dwork was suddenly unable to attend the meeting, Magic Mike also hosted the contest.) Congratulations to Jacob Zuckerman, Modie Modie Moore, and The Amazing Yeedini for winning trophies by fooling the judges. Below are the eight contestants who tried:

Jacob Zuckerman fooled them with another one of his clever card magic routines. Chris Connelly performed a mental-magic effect in order to divine the thought-of playing cards of his assistants Ziwa and Linda. Max Long explained basic magic terminology by performing "Ron Wilson's Double Restored Rope." Modie Moore fooled them by performing his hand-crafted version of "Mental Epic." On stage, with his assistants Gary, Bruce, Patrick, and Jonathan, Mark Booth performed a mysterious mentalism with a slate and chalk. Vic Terrific deftly revealed his lovely assistant Sherry's card, the Eight of Hearts. With the two judges as his assistants, The Amazing Yeedini (David Yee) fooled them with his magnificent "Audience Card Effect." Greg Wauson told us a story about students learning a lesson from crafty one-dollar bills.

After the contest, Librarian Gary Salisbury led the raffle and the 50/50 drawing. Thank you Alvin Revilas for serving the freshly-brewed hot coffee and your homemade apple fritters (a favorite of Joe Mystic).  
*Max Long*

**RING 79, BINGHAMTON, JOHNSON CITY and ENDICOTT,  
NEW YORK – Southern Tier Magic Circle Inc.**

Meets 1st Mon. 7:00 p.m., Binghamton General Hospital's Russell  
Room, 40 Arch St., Johnson City, NY 13790  
NATHAN HICKEY, President  
Web site: [www.stiermagic.com](http://www.stiermagic.com)

**March:** March meeting was attended by seven members. We reviewed David Black's

recent children's magic event where a few of us helped out. Members hosted tables teaching children magic tricks. We also got a chance to display our new Ring 79 banner, which is very nice. Then we discussed making a one page flyer to post on community bulletin boards to attract new members. Then we discussed final arrangements for a lecture by Henry Evans on April 15th.

Our theme was quick tricks, which was started off by Jon Harris doing his hot rod routine, followed by Gary Freed making a watch appear from a playing card. He then performed a quick Vortex by Dan Harlan and finished with "Paper Money," which is another quick effect. Dan Young performed the "Enigma Stick" and Greg Dean did "Quartet" by Mark Mason. David did a quick rope trick where he made a square knot appear in a rope.

April brought us together again. We discussed a recent show on WBNG TV called "Around the Tiers," which is a show about local events in our area. For April Fools they wanted a magician to fool the audience. Dan Young was interviewed and then he performed 3 effects. This went well and we were able to get our club name out there to try to attract new members.

Performances commenced with Dan doing Sakkaku Cats by Meir Yedid and Doug doing Super ACAAN by Restami. Doug also did a Craig Petty effect where he magically enlarges a hole in a key so that a half dollar will fit through, and then makes the hole return to its original size. Gary did a coins across with 2 quarters, Stamper by Alakazam Magic, and a nifty card trick called "Permanent Record" where the card on the box changes from an ace to the 10 of Hearts. Greg performed "Cards in a Bag" by Duvivier and Tim Cleary did an Okito Box routine, but the Okito Box was made out of clear plastic, very cool. John Maceli had us play tic-tac-toe on a large board and when numbers underneath were revealed it was a magic square. Chris finished the night by naming a selected card in which he used a gimmicked card box that was very deceptive. It was an enjoyable night and we are looking forward to May.

**May:** Ring members met on May the 4th — be with you. An attendance of 9 is about our average. We held our corporate meeting where we reviewed events that we held over the past year as well as our treasurer's report. All is well with the Ring.

5 members attended the MAWNY convention recently and the reviews were good. David Black sold some Ring items at the auction netting the Ring \$55. He plans to bring what is left to our next meeting for the officers to dispose of as they wish.

We discussed the recent lecture we hosted by Henry Evans. There were 12 people in attendance and reviews were good. Henry entertained and educated the members.

Performances began with Gary Freed doing a few card effects. First he did his variation of David Regal's "All Alone," in which the named card is shown to be face up in the deck but then the rest of the cards are shown to be blank. Then he performed "Misfit" by Matt Baker, which is similar but the deck is shown at the end to be a deck printed with all Jack of Hearts (not the chosen card). Finally he did his version of Monkey in the Middle, but he used a borrowed deck which made it more interesting.

Next up was John Maceli who taught us the Milk and Monge shuffles and a trick to go with them. I had never heard of these shuffles but will be ready to use them. If you alternate the two shuffles the packet is back in original order.

Then Chris Sablich showed us a rubber band trick similar to Dyno by Joe Rindfleisch, who he saw at MAWNY. For Tim Cleary it was one of his Okito Box routines, this one by David Roth with 4 coins. This was followed by Jon Harris doing "Brainiac" by John Bannon, which is a packet trick that is similar to B'Wave but better. Then Doug Welch gave out a sheet with a grid of numbers that you can use to force a number. He can produce these grids to predict any number. Then he did a nice coin effect with 4 different coins and in the end his prediction of which coin would be chosen was correct. To demonstrate the "force," Greg Dean put a straw on top of a bottle and made it spin around mysteriously. I did a couple of effects from an old Aldo Colombini lecture notes, "Just Do It" from 1997. I love Aldo's magic. Finally, David Black finished up with a sponge ball effect and a rope escape trick he is working on where his wrists are tied and he escapes. A great night of magic.

*Dan Young*

### **RING 81, SARASOTA, FLORIDA – Inez Kitchen Blackstone**

Meets 1st Thu., 6:00 p.m. "Social Gathering," 7:00 p.m. start time.  
Trinity United Methodist Church in Haley Hall, 4150 South Shade Ave.,  
Sarasota, FL

STAR NEWMAN, President / (651) 491-1050

E-MAIL: prettymagical@gmail.com / Web site: www.ibmring81.com

We had eleven magicians arrive for the May meeting, including one that we had not seen in over a year. Neither the President nor Vice-President was at the meeting, but we still had a lot of fun.

Sean Cullen hosted our Teach-a-Trick segment of the night and shared something called "Open Poker." With the deck face up, the magician and the spectator chose five cards each to form their respective hands, and each could

draw up to four cards of their choosing to improve their hand. This was featured on Harlan's Mindbogglers series over 20 years ago, and it is a great "gotcha" type of effect where the magician wins every time. Perfect for those times when someone says, "I'd hate to play poker with you."

Our theme for the evening was "book report," where members discussed a magic book that they have read and hopefully could perform something from it. Treasurer Dan Walsh discussed "Stage by Stage" by John Graham and gave it the highest praise, as it gives great explanation of how to craft a routine from beginning to end. It was hilarious to have Gary Roberts walk up with a tennis ball and a silk handkerchief, displaying the ball on the palm of his hand and covering it with the silk. He snapped the rag away and the ball was gone. No book, just a great vanish!

Frank Velasco used the assistance of Jose Reyes (who has not been able to make it to a meeting in way too long) to share Spellbreaker from John Bannon's book "Barrage." With a hidden 3x3 Magic Square tucked inside this card revelation, it is a multi-level card trick that is entertaining and surprising. Scott Correll didn't have any books to report on but he took a moment to share a little public service announcement about a couple of vendors/magicians who are making a bad name for themselves.

Besides providing the evening's snacks (fresh cookies from Detwiler's!), Joe Sagarese shared one of his favorites from his all-time favorite book, "Magic with Cards" by George Schindler. Joe still has his original copy that he bought and read when he was thirteen, and he performed Mathematical Monte (by Bob Hummer) using three cards. In a series of random mixing, Joe could identify which one the spectator chose. He also did this with items covered beneath cups (also from Detwiler's). Tom Vorjohan, our secretary and resident book collector, talked about "Restaurant Magic" (no tricks in this book) and how great it covers doing magic in eateries. He then did the first two effects together from "Card College Light" by Roberto Giobbi, using Nick Benevento and Mike Valenti as his spectators to separate the reds from the blacks.

Turning to the pages of the last installment of the Impuzzability series ("Treacherous Impuzzabilities"), Geoff Williams capped off our performances with his fully scripted and highly entertaining Treasure Map trick. Geoff did a great job in April keeping us entertained with his lecture, but he is always looking for gems in print, and this was one of his more

recent favorites, complete with a great scroll treasure map. A wonderful evening of magic to say the least!

*Tom Vorjohan*

### **RING 89, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN – Neil Foster Ring**

Meets the second Monday of every month, 7 p.m., at American Museum of Magic located at 107 E. Michigan Ave. Marshall, MI 49068.

ERIC SULLIVAN, President

140 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI 49068 / E-mail: trazdal@att.net

The April meeting was a great success. In attendance were John Sherwood, Kevin Rosewood, John Kik, Phil (Le Grand Wysard Phillip), Eric Sullivan (Trazdel), and Leia Spade joined over Zoom. Kevin kicked off the meeting. Phil drew attention to the paperwork the museum had, in the form of booklets, that needed a few corrections. John K. and Phil made fast work of that. Rachel asked for ideas around performing for elementary school kids. John S., John K., and Phil shared thoughts around the importance of movements and color. For most of the meeting, we talked through available performance dates and opportunities for the Ring to perform. Below is a list of events with whom to contact if you are interested in helping out at any of them.

Ring 89 Weekly Meetings 7:00 PM, the second Monday of every month. American Museum of Magic 2:00 PM, every Saturday Email [info@americanmuseum.com](mailto:info@americanmuseum.com) if you would like to perform. Marshall Area Farmers Market 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, every Saturday, starting May 2nd. 125 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068. Doug Collins Broken Wand Ceremony Saturday, June 6th, 12:00 PM Convis Township Hall 19500 15-Mile Road. Marshall Historic Home Tour Saturday & Sunday, September 12th & 13th Let Kevin know if you would like to help perform at this event. Marshall Area Farmers Market: Kids Day May 30th, August 29th, October 31st 125 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068. The Magic Cabin October 24th, Time TBD We will be returning once again to the Great Escape Stage Company to perform as a Ring!

The next meeting will take place on May 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Michigan. The theme is Escape. Until then, keep practicing, performing, and sharing amazement.

*Kevin Rosewood*

### **RING 90, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

Meets 1st Thu. of each month about 7:00 pm at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Academy & Moon NE.

CHRISSEY CADABRA, Secretary / (505) 507-5656

Website: [Albuqadabra.com](http://Albuqadabra.com) / E-mail: [info@ChrissyCadabra.com](mailto:info@ChrissyCadabra.com)

If you ever needed proof that magic thrives in New Mexico, look no further than the moment Gene Gutierrez marched in carrying a cake — yes, a cake — decorated with Ring 90's brand-

new logo. And who designed this clever emblem? None other than 11-year-old phenomenon Nation Green. The design is a visual wink to the Land of Enchantment itself: the outline of New Mexico rotated ninety degrees so it becomes a jaunty top hat, brim at the top, rabbit ears poking out, a magic wand tucked behind, four card suits dancing along the left, and linking rings on the right forming a perfect "90." It's playful, smart, and wonderfully Ring-90-ish.

As the frosting settled, members took a moment to honor the club's roots. Founded in May 1949, Ring 90 began with a roster of dedicated conjurers — Theodore P. Ahr, Marion E. Brown, Alan R. Bolles, Jack Cecil, James T. Daily, Charles Dodson, James Dossey, Jack A. Engles, Carl Esenwein, William M. Jones, P.F. McCaless, Aubrey H. Perr, Leand Sangster, Paul H. Stehwin, and David A. Vigil — whose passion still echoes through every meeting.

Today, that legacy lives on in a local club library boasting more than 600 books (with more arriving like doves from a top hat), and in young magicians like Nation, who is already preparing parade articles for The Linking Ring and gathering card trick submissions for an upcoming "Evri Magic" feature.

An Evening of Astonishing Feats

Gene Gutierrez kicked things off with a smooth, Vernon-style "Twisting the Aces," flipping each ace one by one as if the cards themselves were stretching awake. Then came a snappy version of Dr. Daley's Last Trick, where red aces magically swapped places with black ones right in a spectator's hands.

Jim Oliver followed with a deck that behaved like it had a mind of its own. After a spectator shuffled and cut the cards into a messy pile, four stubborn cards refused to separate, revealing themselves as the four aces. Bill Fienning brought the drama with a tarot deck "haunted" by Aleister Crowley. Cards slid out on their own — first Death, then the Devil — before Bill performed a tongue-in-cheek exorcism that ended with three "good" cards, but alas, even they were still haunted, each bearing a mischievous 6 on it. Nation Green dazzled with a series of queen-jumping escapades. Whether the queen was "magnetic" or a "leader," she leapt, teleported, and reunited her royal sisters with the confidence of a seasoned performer. The audience loved every moment.

Tom Plunkett delivered chaos-turned-miracle. After a deck was shuffled, boxed, dropped into a trash can, scattered, reclaimed, and redistributed around the room, the final surviving card matched a prediction set aside from the start.

Tom Karas then channeled Ricky Jay with a poker demonstration that ended in a string of randomly selected cards that turned into a full house in his own hand, and a spectator revealing a straight flush. Tall Paul kept things snappy with a behind-the-back “One-Handed Bandit” selection that left spectators grinning. The one-handed shuffle technique he displayed wowed the room. Dave Dunlap closed the night with an impromptu Wild Card routine — queens transforming and migrating with no gimmicks in sight — and a Paul Harris-style “Bizarre Twist” where aces flipped, turned, and even changed back designs.

Ring 90’s latest gathering was a reminder of why magic endures: creativity, community, and the thrill of the impossible happening right before your eyes. And with young talents like Nation stepping boldly into the spotlight, the next generation of wonder-workers is already here, ready to astonish.

*Chrissy B.*

### **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.

ROY HOPWOOD, President / Treasurer

Web site: [www.ibmring92.com](http://www.ibmring92.com)

The VMC held its monthly meeting back at our clubhouse on Thursday, April 23. Past VMC President Simon Cassegrain opened the door at 6:15pm to set up and make coffee for the evening’s events. Helping him were James Nguyen, Genpei Cai, Ken Cowie and Scott Barker. Graham Kita arrived a few minutes later to help finish the set up.

First order of business was to get everything ready for another Broken Wand Ceremony for longtime member and past VMC President Greg Dietlien. Graham brought a very nice picture of Greg, and he also picked up a delicious tray of sandwiches, veggie plate, flat of water and cheese and pepperoni tray. Thanks, Graham! Please make sure you submit all your receipts! Ken Cowie kindly brought cookies as well, thank you Ken. Marianna Dumay also brought a very nice plant for the ceremony, thanks Marianna.

VMC President Roy Hopwood started the meeting at 7pm with a few brief remarks, then turned it over to Graham for Greg’s Broken Wand Ceremony. Graham did a beautiful job performing the ceremony for Greg and spoke a little about his friendship with him. He then invited members and family up to speak. Past I.B.M. President Shawn Farquhar came up first, then Donovan Atreides, Roy Hopwood, Marianna Dumay, Greg’s sister Angela, and last was Donovan’s wife Summer. It was a genuinely

nice and respectful ceremony for Greg. Well done, Graham. The meeting then broke for a short refreshment break.

After the break, Charles Gauthier brought out a birthday cake for Roy for his 80th birthday. Charles also bought a card for all the members to sign as well. It was a very nice surprise for Roy. Thanks, Charles!

Roy resumed the meeting with several Presidential Recognition awards. Recipients were Scott Barker for producing the Children’s Magician of the Year Competition, Yoosik Oum for producing the VMC dinner and show for the Magic Festival, and Charles Gauthier for getting the club registered with the BC Registrar. Thanks, Charles, for getting this done! Thanks also to John Stenning for all his help putting the VMC Newsletter together with Roy, Simon Cassegrain for all his hard work and continuing work updating the VMC website, and last Graham Kita, whose list of things he does for the club is too long to list everything here. Just to mention a few: he opens and closes the community center for every meeting, goes to the store to buy all the snacks and water (hand in those receipts, Graham!), is the first here and last to leave, and helps set up and clean up after every meeting. Not to mention storing the equipment the club uses for meetings and ceremonies at his house. Thank you, Graham! It is appreciated!

Next up for the evening was the gaff card competition for the Charles Howard Trophy. There were seven competitors for the night’s contest. Since Roy Hopwood won last year’s competition, he was the MC for this year. Competitors in order of appearance were past VMC President Yoosik Oum, Scott Barker, Michael Levy, The Great Gabini (aka Gabe Gabini), 1st VP & Secretary Charles Gauthier, Rob Teszka, and Julius Palme. This year’s winner was one of our newest members and first-time competitor: Julius Palme! Congratulations, Julius! Great and fooling routine!

In between competitors, Roy and Michael Levy kept everyone in stitches with their terrible dad jokes. Excellent job, guys! To finish off the meeting was the workshop featuring the excellent card prestidigitation of James Nguyen. He demonstrated and taught some nice card flourishes and a false riffle shuffle. An interesting and fun workshop, fantastic job James!

Special thanks to Graham Kita for getting all the food and refreshments for the evening and giving Roy a ride to the meeting. Don’t forget those receipts, Graham! Also, a big thank you to past I.B.M. President Shawn Farquhar for making name tags for all the VMC members at no

cost to the club. Thanks to Roy Hopwood for all the photos taken during the meeting. Thanks to Ken Cowie for my ride as well! Always appreciated, Ken! There were 25 members and 6 guests in attendance. *Scott Barker*

### **RING 93, DUBUQUE, IOWA – Tri-State Magic Club**

3rd Sun., 2:00pm, Adam's Dance Connection, 900 Jackson, Dubuque, Iowa

JIM MCCREA, President, (309) 235-6215

E-mail: jrmfpc@gmail.com

The opening part of the meeting was spent discussing plans for several upcoming events and shows planned for the summer. A rehearsal was planned for May 16th in Galena. With just a few members in attendance, the following magicians performed some fantastic magic.

Jim McCrea performed his version of a trick he learned from an online lecture at the Magic Alon Society. Taught by Martin Peirce, it was called the Martin Peirce Trick. He must have spent days in the lab coming up with that name! In essence, the trick is this: a volunteer shuffles the deck and then lays out a grid of 16 cards. The volunteer then selects either a row or column on which to add four additional cards. This is repeated row by row and/or column by column until the entire deck has been dealt as directed by that volunteer. At that point, Jim asked the volunteer to look at and remember the top card of any of those piles and then return their card to the top of the pile it came from.

Then the deck is reassembled in the following manner: the volunteer points to any of the piles. All the other piles in that row and that column are placed on top of the selected pile. Then another tabled pile is chosen. The selected pile goes on top of one of its row or column mates. Then the rest of the piles in that row and column are added on top. That leaves just four tabled piles. One is selected and it is placed on top of two other ones with the final pile going on top of the reassembled deck.

At that point Jim spread the cards across the table and spelled out the words "Show me her card." The selected card appeared when he turned over the final card that was spelled. Mark Pepelea performed his new favorite Three Card Monte, Michael Skinner's Ultimate 3 Card Monte. It was presented as an education on why no one should ever play the game, with slow, deliberate movements. This version is a bit of eye candy with no funny moves and surprising transitions of the ace. Walking Magic Bob performed his version of The Last Trick of Dr. Daley, using cards with pictures of Harry and Bess Houdini. Handcuff cards were used to represent the guards who held Houdini in London jails and dared him to escape in time for his

scheduled shows. Bob also performed a version of Aldo Colombini's Birthday Card Trick, but he framed it as your favorite card. In the end the entire deck was blank and the favorite card turned out to be a Master Charge Card, which was the spectator's favorite card. Walking Magic Bob closed his performance with a demonstration of how even 12 inch Linking Rings could be used in close-up situations and still be very deceptive and entertaining.

*Bob Beardsley*

### **RING 94, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND – The King Ring**

Meets 4th Weds. each month, 7:30 p.m., Williamsport Redman Tribe

#84, 16129 Lappans Rd., Williamsport, MD

Web site: [www.kingmagicring.com](http://www.kingmagicring.com)

CHARLES JAMES, President / E-mail: [khandu1@aol.com](mailto:khandu1@aol.com)

Johnny-O was MC for the night and started off with a performance of an original piece, illustrating the Noah's Ark account from the Bible. He recited a number-based poem telling the story of Noah's Ark, while he disassembled a puzzle containing the numbers 1-2-3-4-5. After the poem, John asked two volunteers to help assemble the puzzle as a contest. He then, last minute, joined the contest and made a mess of the puzzle, but once turned around it spells the word J-E-S-U-S, the Ark of Salvation.

Jerry Mullenix was next with a story about receiving a package containing incorrect product. He pulled out an alarm clock, then another, then another. It wasn't long before we realized that all these clocks couldn't possibly have fit in that package. A bonus surprise was when Jerry showed us that the last alarm clock rang just like an alarm clock should.

John Swomley returned with a dice trick. He pointed out that when you stack three dice there are five sides where you cannot see the numbers. He then turned away as the dice were arranged by the spectator. John successfully mentally determined the total three times. The last time the stack was even covered by a Magic Castle coffee mug, making them completely out of view.

The evening's next performer was Charlie James of Khan-Du and Company. He began by allowing the examination of a 16-penny nail. It was returned to Charlie and inserted into a small tube. After a moment of magically applied heat, Charlie bent that nail 90 degrees and back. He immediately handed it back out for examination. An impossible feat. For his second offering, Mr. Khan-Du introduced some ESP plates upon which he drew multiple symbols. He turned away and asked a spectator to mix up the plates and make a selection. Charlie was able to immediately identify the selection.

John regaled the crowd with the story of how

he broke his finger. The lesson is to stay away from home-run softballs unless you're wearing a ball glove. They are faster and harder than you think.

Our evening's finale began when Joe Cole passed out clown noses, not to do magic, but because he had an overstock from an eBay purchase. Then he got to some great magic. Joe showed us a theft-proof purse that he "stole." It looked like just a purse frame. However, he began to show us the difference between invisibility and just-not-being-there, as coins magically appeared and disappeared. The only clue we had was the audible clink of the coins' arrivals.

*Johnny-O*

### **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](http://www.Ring96.com)

CLIFF GERSTMAN, Secretary / E-mail: [Cliff37@verizon.net](mailto:Cliff37@verizon.net)

The April meeting of Ring 96 began with our pre-meeting workshop run by Vice-President Kevin Papke. Kevin really outdid himself this time. It will be hard to top this workshop. There were easily 20 members gathered for this session.

Kevin and his guest assistant Jasmine demonstrated a straightforward presentation of "Gemini Twins," or at least so it seemed. He started with that effect, but then he repeated it with a twist. After showing the revelation that the pair of cards chosen matched the cards where they were randomly inserted, he showed us the faces of the cards were all Aces of Spades. This was an unexpected surprise, and the large crowd soon went to work to practice the effect.

President George Reis opened the official meeting, calling Paul Case to deliver the broken wand ceremony to honor the magical memory of longtime Ring member Bill Pearce. Paul read the traditional script for this somber occasion and was followed by Bill's good friend Frank Yee, who reminded us of all the work Bill did for the clubs and reminded us of other departed members and the contributions they had made as well. In attendance were Bill's widow Georgeann and his grandson Tyler.

After the broken wand, George introduced our speaker for the night, Pete McCabe. Pete is very well known for touting the value of scripting magic shows, believing that while some magicians can "wing it," the show is always better when there is a well thought out and refined script in play. Pete has two books written on the subject of scripting. He had books there to sell, but that was not the focus of his lecture. It was really more of a workshop.

Pete had us all write down either a setlist, or what we thought we wanted to have as a setlist. Questions to be pondered were such as why your list is in the order it is, and could there be a better order and why? How do you introduce yourself? Can you find a better way that is less cliché and more matches the character you are trying to create? It was amazing how easy it was to update and change the introduction with as little as one minute of effort. Imagine what you can do with several hours to improve your show. Pete led us through a conversation on how to respond to "How did you do that?" He pointed out that smart aleck answers may not be the way you want to go. Can we do better? Yes, we can.

We talked about introducing a prop. Is there a better way to do that than "I have here a..."? There are many ways, but they take work, reflection, and reconsideration to come up with one that will satisfy an audience without alienating them. Can you replace a tired and common prop with something more dynamic that will do the same job? Yes, you can. Pete ended his workshop with a card trick, demonstrating how his patter and handling took a very tired and simple card trick and brought it up to a serious crowd pleaser. Another exciting night at Ring 96.

*Cliff Gerstman*

### **RING 102, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - The Maurice Rooklyn Ring**

Meets 3rd Tues. of month at 7:30 p.m. at Northside Chatswood  
Salvation Army Church Hall Cnr. Bertram and Johnson Street  
Chatswood.

JACK SHARP, President / email: [jack@jacksharpmagic.com.au](mailto:jack@jacksharpmagic.com.au)

Our April meeting "Bar Bets, Cunning Stunts and Gotchas" proved to be a very popular topic. Jack Sharp, our president, opened the meeting by reminding everybody that our two main guests already announced for our November convention are Joshua Jay and Raymond Crowe.

Jack then introduced Barry Abkin to host tonight's meeting. Barry commenced by taking three drinking tumblers which he alternated across the table mouths up and down. He challenged us with just three moves, turning two glasses at a time, to end with all the glasses mouths up. A challenge that was much more difficult than it appeared. He then played the ancient mathematical game of "Nim" with a pile of matches. Matches from one to three were to be removed by two alternating players. The person who removed the last match was always the loser. It's a game that's impossible to win unless you know the diabolical secret. Eugene then showed a different version starting with piles of 3, 7 and 5 matches, and Jack a third version starting with piles of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 matches. Barry then showed a plain wine bottle cork. He

challenged everyone to drop it a few inches and to make it land on end. It is virtually impossible unless you know the secret.

Anthony Dillon demonstrated the chain and the figure eight scam. The chain was laid out on the table in a figure eight formation. The spectator was asked to place a finger in one of the loops and the chain was pulled away. If it caught on the spectator's finger he won; if it pulled free the spectator lost, which happened every time a wager was made. Anthony then showed the effect with just a rubber band looped around his fingers. This new version can be performed virtually impromptu with only an ordinary rubber band required.

Our next performer was Phuoc Can Hua. Phuoc opened a box of children's colored pencils and making patterns by laying them on the table, he challenged us to see the number represented. People in the know knew instantly, and some people started to catch on, but others wouldn't have known the method until the cows came home. Barry came back with ten small coins. He laid them out to form an equilateral triangle, a pyramid, and challenged everyone to invert the pyramid by only moving three coins. A simple problem, but much harder if you don't know. Anthony Dillon produced five drinking straws. He laid them out to illustrate a stylized horse. The challenge was to change the direction that the horse was facing by just moving two straws. Another apparently simple problem that was difficult to do unless you're in the know.

Wayne Black had six cards stuck together in a strip; the center one was a red queen, the others were all black. A spectator was handed a peg and asked to clip it onto the queen from the back. It should have been easy, however it proved almost impossible. He then brought out two red plastic "Prayer Vases" or "Genii Bottles." Lengths of rope poked into the bottles didn't fall out and the bottles could be swung around by holding the rope. Wayne's next miracle was a Tenyo Invisible Zone where the center of a pencil vanished as it passed through the apparatus. A borrowed ring was penetrated by a sword in another Tenyo effect.

Eugene Zanozin started by having an empty paper bag examined. He then showed two poker chips, one black and one white; they were both handed to Jack. Eugene turned to face away and asked Jack to target one of the chips, to drop that in the bag then to drop the other one in the bag as well. Eugene faced forward, removed the two chips from the bag, and asked Jack to say "this is my chip" to each one. Eugene mentally deduced the correct color. The effect was repeated with Jack pointing to the chips one at a time

and just thinking "this was my target chip" to each one. The effect was again repeated with three additional chips, a red, green and blue. Eugene continued to correctly divine the target chip.

Peter Rodgers referred back to Anthony's performance with the chain and figure eight. He showed an old but little known version using a common belt. This was how the convicts performed "On The Barrel Head" as they were bound for Botany Bay in the first fleet to our country in 1788 to start our great nation. He then showed some very old effects which are not known by many of our newer members. This included the Mystic Windmill, passing two corks initially held in the crooks of the thumb and first fingers through each other, and finishing with a pair of scissors. Starting with the scissors dangling from the little fingers, the challenge was for the scissors to finish with the blades pointing upwards. He also showed a Coke bottle with a wooden dowel in the bottle with two large nuts and bolts making an impossible object. He had two versions of the Raketti puzzle, which is a wooden puzzle with a torpedo-shaped insert that has to be removed. The second one had a magnetic locking mechanism that even catches those who think that they know it.

Our president Jack Sharp then showed five cards and said that he knew which card the spectator would leave behind, and the spectator could change his mind as often as he liked. It was an amazing demonstration. Our visitor, and hopefully soon-to-be member, Jacob Crisologo showed a short routine of amazing card magic.

The night ended with our usual supper and everyone agreeing that this was a great night and we plan to make this a regular topic.

*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 Metzke, 123 Holly Ridge Lane, West Columbia, SC  
TONY METZKE, Acting Secretary / Email: [tonymetzke@yahoo.com](mailto:tonymetzke@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: Columbia Magic Club IBM Ring 105  
Website: [www.IBMRing105.org](http://www.IBMRing105.org)

Our April Fool Us gathering at John Tudor's home featured a feast and two visitors we knew but have not seen in a long while. After making the food disappear and refreshed introductions, we all headed to the rabbit sanctuary and had a noteworthy briefing from our president, Jay Altemus.

We then started our magic session with Jay performing a Joker Thread Race, followed up by Gary Patterson showing his Jokers Wild prediction with a kicker ending. Tony Campbell shuffled up a

great card effect ambitiously rising to the top. Eric Johnson (Tony-Houdini) took center stage flashing his paper money he offered to store owners, telling them if they believe in magic they'll get their just rewards. Jay Altemus returned with a 6 key divination to unlock his padlock. Then Dr. No Fu Ling (Ricker M. Soos) gambled with our minds, choosing dice, then offered up a laundry ticket with a number that led to a 3-way chosen card with 4 blank cards that revealed writing on them, revealing the chosen number and card by name. He then stunned us with big cards created by his brother Fu Ling Yu. John Tudor came up with 3 ropes changing sizes with just a wave and spun his heart as if by magic under his hand. Mike Kimble advertised jobs he had, allowing us to select one that matched his favorite, sealed in an envelope. We all settled down to allow Rick to demonstrate his yo-yo, nunchucks and fanning skills. John's wife Suzann Tudor came in to watch before we all vanished for the evening.

*John Tudor*

### **RING 115, SINGAPORE – The Great Wong Ring**

Meets 15th of each month, 7:00 pm, Function Room 2, #03-01, National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street, Singapore 188064. Website: [ibm-ring115.org](http://ibm-ring115.org)

JOHN TEO, President / Tel: +62504422, 97509017

10M Braddell Hill #01-49, Singapore 57931

I.B.M. Singapore Ring 115's November meeting was held on Wednesday, April 15th, 2026, in Function Room 2, Level 3, of the National Library building. Vice-President Ng Kah King was the host. Total number of attendees was 52, of which 9 were guests and 1 was our patron. The theme for the evening was a special lecture by Jeremy Tan.

The meeting was opened by welcoming all. A large number of guests had joined to hear Jeremy Tan's lecture. The Ring prides itself on the active participation by its members and this evening was no exception, with performances preceding the lecture.

The first performance was an induction test by Rob Newberry. He kicked off with 3 coins and a finger ring, Rick Holcombe's "Concealed Carry." From a parcel that had just been delivered, he unpacked the trick, an emergency pack and a QR code that he used on his phone to switch on the music and audio instructions. He made his magic look easy, as just a matter of following the audio instructions to vanish, produce and jump the coins. The so-called ghost coin penetrated through any medium. Transformation from silver to copper and back again was amazing. His act had been enhanced by clever use of AI.

John Teo performed "Stegosaurus Pro" by Phil Smith. A spectator chose one out of 150

five-letter words. The spectator then used letter-cards with numerous letters on them and laid them out to spell his chosen word. By looking at these letter cards, John could tell the actual word selected by the spectator. He had the spectator change the positions of the letter-cards and turn some face downwards, yet he could tell the word chosen every time.

Kai Emmanuel Kuah performed a mentalism act. It was a version of "Find the Lady" in which the cards eliminated were notionally burnt and the chosen Queen of Hearts produced from his lighter inside a card case. James Pang used a marked diary, a deck of cards, a paper bag, an empty black envelope and gift vouchers to show off his version of "Happy Birthday." The volunteers were rewarded with gift vouchers when he magically matched the chosen card with their birthdays by a combination of picking a card from the paper bag, placing it in the envelope and counting off a number of cards from the deck. Xuande Tan warned about the risk of gambling with him since he could cut to a high card every time. In his "Fabulous Four Aces" he expertly produced the four aces whilst making it look impossible by shuffling and mixing the cards face up and face down, ending with the last ace being the only face up card in the deck.

Chad's performance also involved the four aces. He started by asking for a number between 10 to 20 and confidently producing the first ace after dealing the chosen number of cards from the deck. His act was fast and clean to produce the remaining aces, leaving the audience wondering how he did it. Pambudi was a surprise return of a past member of the Ring who now resides in Indonesia. He started by asking for a number between 1 and 4 and magically produced that number from the prediction envelope. He chose volunteers who caught a ball he threw, and went on to find the Queen cards they had chosen. He offered four magazines, one each in English, German, French and Indonesian. He predicted the top word on random pages torn and cut from the chosen magazine. His final act was Max Maven's "Kurotsuke," performed with 1 Chinese and 4 American coins in a bag.

There was a 10 minute break where members patronised the dealers' booths at the back of the room. After the break, Jeremy Tan took over the floor. He is our member and has been a professional magician for 26 years, performing magic on cruise ships for over 15 years. The first part of his lecture was on performing magic on cruise ships. He recounted how he got started on cruise ships and told many stories and testimonies of the benefits he enjoyed as well as the

challenges he encountered performing magic on cruise ships. The second part of his lecture was on social media. Jeremy's advice on this was to just start it. This gives the impetus to do better as you progress. Magic on social media gives him the opportunity to be creative. He said operating on social media is tougher than on stage because of the width of coverage and it stays on YouTube forever, potentially attracting feedback. Jeremy had questions for him prepared before his lecture. The last part of his lecture was spent answering these questions, such as how to get into cruise ship performance and his views on others copying his content on YouTube.

A lucky draw for five winners followed after the lecture. The remaining time before the room had to be vacated was spent on networking and checking out the sales at the dealers' booths. *Kogi*

### **RING 129, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI – Heart of America Ring**

Meets 1st. Thu. of every month at Westport Coffeehouse Theater, 4010 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite D, Kansas City, MO 64111  
KELLY RUSK, President,  
E-mail: knr6244@hotmail.com

J.D. Roberts opened our May meeting by performing and then teaching a mental routine based on the premise of women's intuition. Pete Walterscheid then performed and taught a card routine during which two spectators each cut to a random card and then replaced the cut, only to have the selected cards appear at predicted locations within the deck. Adam Brown followed with a force of three items. John Hicks showed a non-sleight card force. Danny Tangelo performed his Professor's Nightmare routine, which included some new moves. Samuel Bricker asked the members present to volunteer to entertain children confined to a local hospital.

Dennis Burks, the most avid reader in our Ring, reported on the latest book he had acquired, a biography of Ionia, a popular magician from the early 20th century. Alabama Jones gave a brief talk about Harry Potter and urged children's entertainers to add routines involving him to our repertoire. Ring President Kelly Rusk showed us a bit of Ring history, a spoofed book on how to perform funeral magic, which had been compiled by Ring member Duane Fields. Jason Moore then showed us some medallions he had designed in preparation for our forthcoming Houdini tribute, which will consist of a plaque to be affixed to the downtown Kansas City building where Houdini first performed his upside-down straight-jacket escape. The ceremony is scheduled for this coming September. Watch the Linking Ring for details to come.

Finally, mentalist Adam Brown passed on the good news that Penn & Teller's "Fool Us" will begin a new season soon. He then allowed us to be his audience for an audition recording that he will be submitting to the show. Let's hope that the "boys" are as impressed with his performance as we were. *Stu Lewis*

### **RING 130, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA – First Coast Magic – Bob Hutchings Ring**

Meets 3rd Tue at Hampton Inn, 4681 Lenoir Ave., S. Jacksonville, FL.  
Meetings/Lectures at 7:30 (subject to change).  
DR. DAVE COLL, Secretary, Secretary (904) 254-2460  
E-mail: info@IBMRing130.com / Web site: www.IBMRing130.com

The First Coast Magicians gathered on a rainy afternoon for one of the most anticipated annual events of the year: the inaugural Ring 130 Flea Market. While the weather outside may have discouraged some from venturing out, it definitely did not dampen the enthusiasm inside.

Members arrived carrying boxes, books, vintage props, DVDs, lecture notes, and enough magical curiosities to make any collector beam. The flea market was a success and proved to be much more than a buying and selling event. Members spent the afternoon trading effects, sharing ideas, and demonstrating forgotten gems from their collections. Several attendees uncovered hidden treasures while others happily passed along props and routines they no longer used, giving them new life in another magician's hands. Of course, the drastically reduced prices were enough to make anyone smile.

Amid the excitement of the day, the club also took time for reflection and remembrance. A Broken Wand Ceremony was held in honor of Dallas Smith, who recently passed away. Members gathered together in respect and appreciation for a fellow magician and friend. The ceremony served as a heartfelt reminder of the bonds shared through the art of magic and the lasting impact members leave on one another through friendship, mentorship, and performance, all magical attributes.

The afternoon continued with a lively Jeopardy-style trivia contest featuring categories focused on magic history, famous magicians, sleights, tricks, and magical knowledge. Everyone was a contestant, and all were tested on their expertise and occasionally debated answers. After an entertaining and competitive game, Ring President Todd Gwynn emerged victorious as the trivia champion.

To close the event, members participated in a performance contest in which everyone presented their short act. The performances ranged from polished routines to experimental ideas, all designed to entertain and inspire the group. The

evening showcased the creativity and talent within Ring 130, with each performer bringing something unique to the table. When the votes were counted, the audience selected Chris Sharp as the "Audience Favorite" performer of the night. Keith Gwaltney, Jim Green, and Monty Reed earned recognition as runners-up for their outstanding performances as well.

Despite the rainy weather, the event was filled with fellowship, laughter, learning, and magic, a perfect reminder of why Ring 130 continues to thrive as a vibrant magical community. If you're in the Jacksonville area, stop by and say hi. First Coast Magicians meet on the third Thursday of the month, with another non-I.B.M. dinner gathering on the first Thursday. Contact Chris at [info@ibmring130.com](mailto:info@ibmring130.com) for further details.

*Chris Sharp*

### **RING 131, DENVER, COLORADO – Mile High Magicians Society – The Earl Reum Ring**

Meets 2nd Thu., 7:00pm at 40 West Arts Magic Hub Stage, 6501 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood, CO 80214

A. J. PEREA, Secretary / E-mail: [Secretary@milehighmagicians.com](mailto:Secretary@milehighmagicians.com)  
Web site: [www.milehighmagicians.com](http://www.milehighmagicians.com)

Did you come and partake of the Fool Us Night? If you didn't, you missed a great time!

We had 10 performers vying for the coveted 2026 Fool Us trophy! Our "Penn and Teller" judges, Cosmo and Liam Abner, were fantastic! We had performers of all ages, skills and categories.

There were card tricks by Gerald Robinson, Chris York, Paul Carlson and Kier Royale. Amazing! Ari Zarret, who is a mere 12 years old, did a great card trick. He has been working with Shawn Preston. Shawn says he does moves that even he can't do!

We had mentalism tricks by Shane Coen and Dick Steiner, very mystifying! Jude Griffin did great with a changing golf ball trick and the signed ball ended up in his sock! Mysto the Magi did a water suspension where when the water started to fall, he said "stop" and it did! Jeff Wake did a coin trick, even blindfolded.

All left exhilarated with their trophies and the audience was truly fooled as well! So, you all have a year or two to come up with your own tricks to "Fool Penn and Teller" with! We are looking forward to it!

*Karen*

### **RING 150, FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA – Dr. Mark Horowitz Ring**

Meets 4th Thur. in Tamarac, FL 7:30pm

JOHN PETRUZZI, Secretary (954) 721-3054  
E-mail: [johnpetruzzii@hotmail.com](mailto:johnpetruzzii@hotmail.com)

On Wednesday, April 15th, 2026, I.B.M. Ring 150 held its monthly meeting. We had a lecture by multi-talented magician, author and creator of magic Nate Kranzo.

Nate has performed all over the United States, Europe and Asia for over 20 years and has written several books on magic. He was also a consultant for "Penn & Teller Fool Us."

He lectured on several of his effects including how to change a standard "Bounce Ball" into a quarter instantly.

All of his effects were outstanding, but one in particular got extra attention from us: his Vanishing Deck. The simplicity of it was awe inspiring.

Ring 150 meets once a month at 7pm at the Coconut Creek Community Center in Coconut Creek, Florida.

*Billy Byron*

### **RING 153, BILLINGS, MONTANA – Billings Magic Society**

Meets 2nd Tue., 7:00 pm, at Reflections, 1140 Sixteenth Street West, Suite 13, Billings, MT.

BRENT CROMLEY, President / E-mail: [brent@cromley.net](mailto:brent@cromley.net)  
(406) 208-4147

April turned out to be a good month for local magicians to bring out some of the new items and materials that they hope to use to entertain during the coming year. But we first had some great discussion, catching up on recent activity. Both Patrick Branger (and wife Casey Smith) and Kent Messmer are busy adding to, and improving, their supply of apparatus that they regularly bring to various locations in Montana and the Northwest area. These include such large items as Ferris wheels, miniature golf courses, and zip lines. This trio also provides outstanding magic performances at many of the same events.

Tony Shandy, who acts as our Ring historian, brought out an October 2017 edition of the Linking Ring to refer to an article by John Cox about his visit to the home of Harry Houdini during a time when the house was for sale. It was a reminder of the upcoming 100th anniversary of the death of Houdini.

Of course, most of our meetings are taken up by magic being performed, and this meeting was no exception. Kent wanted comments and suggestions regarding his presentation of "Fortune Popper," a roulette-style trick from Hypothesis Magic in which Tony was able to eliminate all the "safe" poppers that Kent was pulling the string on while holding each in his mouth. It's a showy trick that would work well close up, parlor, or even a small stage setting.

Tony was next, bringing out "Quartet," a nifty teleportation trick in which his folded red and blue cards seemed to change places magically and instantly. Tony explained that this was an invention of Mark Mason.

Brent Cromley then showed two card tricks from his growing database, one new and one

old. First, he presented Caleb Wiles' "Clue Cards," in which the cards marked C, A, S, and E help to provide a surprise finish. Brent followed that with his newest trick, "Off By 4!" This effect by Harapan Ong appeared in the April 2026 edition of Genii magazine.

Patrick closed out the evening of magic with several stage effects. He first used Dan Harlan's ice cream scoop and Louis Fox's ice cream cup to produce a milk shake that instantly turned into streamers. Next, Patrick fooled Tony when Tony tried to win a prize picking a lucky number but only won a hug instead of a chunk of money.

The final act was Patrick's showing his newly acquired cannon from Smokey Mountain Magic. Designed to shoot a rabbit from the cannon to a distant box, Patrick has adapted it to instead shoot a clown doll, appropriate for Patrick who often appears entertaining as Pattycakes the Clown.

As we usually do, we closed the meeting by enjoying delicious treats, cookies tonight, provided by Debbie Sherman. We're always looking for new members, so if you know of magicians who are moving to the area, let them know we are here and meeting regularly. Or, if you're visiting Big Sky Country sometime this summer, give us a shout. *Brent Cromley*

### **RING 158, GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA – Wizards of the North**

Meets 1st Sun 3:00, Sunset Cafe, 302 S. Urania Ave., Greensburg, PA  
MARK DURIGON, President / email: mdur@comcast.net  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443](https://www.facebook.com/groups/70055716443)

May 3rd brought eight magical minds together for our monthly gathering. The agenda for the evening was full, with several business items to address and a session of magic related to our theme, "May the Force Be With You." We want to thank the following members for attending and making our Ring meetings so interesting and worthwhile: Mark Zajicek, Greg Bracco, Maxwell Bracco, Michael "Zombo" Baker, Chuck "Something Amazing" Snyder, Richard Passaro, Mark Durigon, and Rick Bradley.

Our first order of business was a discussion on the details of the article that our local newspaper is planning to run about our Ring. Sometime in the next two weeks, we will meet with the reporter for several interviews. We also agreed to go ahead with plans to rent a pavilion at a local park for an August or September picnic. A reminder that Kyle Purnell will be lecturing at "Something Amazing" magic shop in Johnstown, PA. Rich Passaro will have a public show on June 20 with more details forthcoming. Our new monthly feature has Chuck S., owner of "Something Amazing," demo a specific prod-

uct. This month, he brought the Falcon Ring from Penguin Magic.

The magic part of our meeting was all about forces. Mark D. performed and explained the 10-20 force and the flip-over force. Greg B. offered tips and suggestions on how to make the slip force work properly. Mike B. talked about the various methods and applications of a three-item equivocation. He also showed us some ideas for using a clear four-way ziplock forcing bag. Rick B. offered two examples of the PATEO force. Chuck S. performed a baffling version of Trilogy Extreme and an effect called Fiedler's Flyer, in which a selected card vanishes from the deck. He also performed a routine with the psychic tiny plunger. Rich P. had a couple of random thoughts selected from notepads and proceeded to divine the selection, citing Colin Cloud's Forces-Sight as the inspiration. He then showed us some cocktail recipe cards. One is selected, vanishes from the stack, and appears elsewhere.

We had some informative discussions regarding these forces and shared insights that should prove helpful to all. The meeting concluded with a photo session to provide input for the newspaper article. *Rick Bradley*

### **RING 160, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND – Kiwi Magic, the Tony Wilson Ring**

Meets 3rd Wed. 8:00 pm at Surrey Hotel, Grey Lynn, Central Auckland, New Zealand / Web page [www.ibmring160.com](http://www.ibmring160.com)  
STEFAN SAGEMAN, President / Email: [stefan.sageman@yahoo.com](mailto:stefan.sageman@yahoo.com)

Our April meeting was held at the Surrey Hotel, Auckland at 7:30pm on Wednesday, April 22nd with nine members present. President Stefan Sageman started the evening by congratulating Jonathan Usher on being awarded the King's Service Medal (KSM) in the New Zealand New Year's Honours, in recognition of his services to the community and entertainment.

He also congratulated Alan Watson QSM, GMM, who was honoured with a Star on the New Zealand Walk of Fame for his lifelong dedication to magic and his influence on the global magic community. Alan also received a Presidential Citation from I.B.M. International President Stephen Levine, along with a Proclamation from the National President of the Society of American Magicians.

We then discussed the two public shows we're presenting on Saturday, July 4th. These will be the first public shows we've done since 2024 and are a good opportunity for our members to perform and to increase interest in magic in Auckland. We also talked about the 2026 New Zealand Magicians Convention, which is being held in Queenstown in October this year. Queenstown is a popular tourist destination with

an international airport and, partly because of this, we already have more overseas registrants than at any previous convention.

President Stefan Sageman started the magic with a cups and balls routine using a beautiful set of Brett Sherwood's handmade cups. He was followed by Alan Watson QSM, GMM, with a charming presentation of This Card, That Card, that he's working on as part of his new close-up act for a resort hotel in Fiji. Ari Phillips demonstrated prototypes of two new wallets he'll be marketing shortly. He performed an effect with each of them to show how versatile they are. The first is an add-a-number wallet called AddPad, and the second is a z-fold wallet with a difference called Zimber Wallet. Grum Magic is well known for the quality of their products, and these new offerings are well up to Ari's high standards. Colin Pritchard performed his version of Grandma's Miracle. Colin enjoys coming up with wonderful stories to enhance his magic and we were all captivated at seeing an old classic given new life.

Richard Webster GMM performed his Impossible Cards in which a freely chosen card was found, with the help of a pendulum, in a shuffled deck of cards. Our treasurer, Terry Von Pein, performed an effect that he'll be doing onstage at our public shows. It's his variation of Sean Taylor's Pineapple Surprise with a different ending. He followed that with an effect in which everyone present was given a chance to choose their own lucky number. Amazingly, everyone had the same lucky number. Chris McConaughy was our final performer and presented a fast-paced, humorous presentation of what used to be known as the Fred Trick. Chris' version used the Phill Plus deck, along with Larry Wright's kicker ending.

Our next meeting is at 7:30pm on Wednesday, June 17th at the Surrey Hotel, Auckland. All visitors are welcome. *Richard Webster*

### **RING 167, DES MOINES, IOWA – Justo Hijo Magic Club of Des Moines, Iowa**

3rd Mon., 7:00pm at F&O's Restaurant, 4050 Merle Hay Rd.,  
Des Moines, IA 50310

STEVE DALY (Hinrichs), President / E-mail: Tinyb1999@yahoo.com

We had a magical time this month at the April Justo Hijo I.B.M. Ring 167 magic club meeting with the inauguration of a new club feature: The Round Robin Teach-A-Trick. Dr. Zeon organized this first-time ever event for our club members to learn some cool magic tricks with hands-on demonstrations and instructions. Dr. Zeon asked club members Jack Akerman and Mikayla Oz to help him as the three of them divided themselves up between three tables. All magical props were supplied by each teacher.

Before the Teach-A-Trick sessions began, President Steve Hinrichs assigned club member duties for the upcoming Tri-State Magic Party being hosted by our club here in Des Moines this year! Magic club members from Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa come together once a year for a one day casual magical "party" which includes lectures, close-up shows, flea market, free pizza and pop lunch, and an evening public stage show. Steve came up with this idea two years ago and the first year was hosted by the Omaha, Nebraska magic club.

Once the duties to make the one-day event run smoothly were assigned to our club members, it was time to learn some awesome magic tricks from our three club members, each teaching in a 20-minute hands-on workshop.

Mikayla Oz took control of one group of 5 to 6 club members seated around a large table, teaching multiple card manipulation techniques including Howard Thurston's 5-Card Vanishing trick. One by one, five playing cards are cleanly shown. Each card vanishes at the tips of the fingers, only to reappear one by one! This is truly a classic card trick in magic and Mikayla is a master manipulator with cards, thimbles, billiard balls, silks, canes, umbrellas, and much more. Her stage acts are always a "poetry of perfection" which showcases her amazing manipulation abilities. Our club is very lucky to have a working professional magician as one of our members.

The next table of club members huddled around Dr. Zeon with his handy dandy rope work! Dr. Zeon taught us his take on the one-handed knot, followed by the radical ring to rope routine, and finally a perplexing shoelace knot that really had us tied up in knots! Dr. Zeon sure loves his rope magic!

The final table of wonders was spearheaded by none other than our club's top teacher of all things magical, Jack the Magic Man! With the aid of a simple napkin, Jack led us through his version of Dan Harlan's Starcle. A pinch off the napkin here, a pluck of paper napkin there, and the surprising finale is pleasing to all. Jack also taught a self-working card trick that we all mastered in minutes (even though it looked like it would take hours to learn!). Jack the Magic Man's teaching abilities are some of the best in the Midwest!

The entire Teach-A-Trick event was put together by Dr. Zeon and the club thanks him for his hard work organizing our first one! We look forward to our next Teach-A-Trick, which will be during the July meeting.

President Steve Hinrichs gave us a "teaser" of an event he is putting together for our October

meeting: the first ever “Justo Hijo Close-Up Magician of the Year Contest!” This gives us plenty of time to practice our newly learned tricks to perfection to see who can win the award!

If you’re ever in the Des Moines area the third Monday of the month, stop by and join us for a club meeting and pleasant conversation. We Iowa magicians have mastered the “Iowa Nice” motto our state is known for! Just come to Felix & Oscar’s Restaurant on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines, Iowa. We’ll be there! *Steve Daly*

### **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@cfi.rr.com](mailto:dphillips13@cfi.rr.com) / Web site: [www.Ring170.com](http://www.Ring170.com)

President David Freeman called the meeting to order with 23 in the seats. The big event this month was our Day of Magic, which is an all-day flea market with two lectures. It was a resounding success! Thanks go to Craig Fennessy and his team, which included Jacki Manna, Craig Osterling, Mike Flannigan, David Freeman, Terry Ward, Wallace Murphy, and others.

Kevin Bellucci announced that he is buying Daytona Magic from the Peterson family. Kevin has big plans for the historic business, now in Ormond Beach. They will be presenting a 4-day “Magic in Orlando” Convention, October 11 through the 14th, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel on Major Boulevard in Orlando. They have a great lineup of performers and lecturers.

For his 119th Magic History Moment, historian Phil Schwartz told the story of The Great Raymond (1877-1948). The illusionist and escape artist spoke seven languages, touring abroad for 32 of his 50 years performing. Phil showed Raymond ephemera and lithography from his collection. Phil also held up a photo that looked like Marilyn Monroe from a distance and Albert Einstein up close. It’s based on the “Hundredth Monkey Effect.”

The show after the meeting was short this month. Dan Stapleton did a humorous and surprising “Card on Top of the Floor.” A card was selected by a spectator and then the cards were dropped; the selected card was on top of the scattered deck on the floor. He followed with a Compressed Deck, where two spectator-selected cards were compressed next to each other.

Eric Geyer has a useful mathematical effect. By counting the number of letters in a person’s name, you can all arrive at a predicted animal. Are there gray elephants in Denmark? What color are emus in a zoo in Zambia? *Dennis Phillips*

### **RING 172, TUCSON, ARIZONA – The Joe DuPerre Ring**

Meets 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m., Barro’s Pizza, 410 N. Wilmont Rd. in Tucson

FRANK PROCHASKA, Ring Contact

[ibmring172@gmail.com](mailto:ibmring172@gmail.com)

Ten people attended our April 2026 meeting, including two new folks. Attendees included: Juan F., Lamont, Steve E., Mitch L., Keith W., Bill B., Levi B., Jesse B., Nathan B., and Frank P.

The group sessioned throughout the evening mostly on various card sleights and effects. Juan, Mitch, and Lamont discussed and worked on different color changes. Steve performed a cards through a newspaper effect as well as his multiple revelation card effect, among others. Levi performed the memory opener and other card effects. Jesse performed his ambitious card routine at the request of the group, and there was sessioning on the top palm, the Hofzinsler cull, as well as other techniques. Steve provided several key pointers and details for some of the sleights discussed. The group also discussed, demonstrated, and worked on several different effects with rubber bands.

The entire group discussed various recent performances and other magic happenings that occurred since the last meeting. Jesse recently had acts in a variety dinner theater performance that ran over a number of dates over a two week span. Steve recently returned from cruise performances around Australia and Malaysia. The group heard firsthand about Carisa Hendrix’s recent show in town. There was also a report on the show to benefit a local school theater program at which a number of our folks participated.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 18th, 2026, at our normal place and time.

*Frank Prochaska*

### **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>

KEN SPANOLA, President

(813) 249-7325 / E-mail: [KSpanola@gmail.com](mailto:KSpanola@gmail.com)

We had fifteen members and a couple of spouses for a night of Coin Magic, with eleven of the fifteen magicians ready to perform! We also learned a little trivia: J.B. Bobo was originally spelled “Beaubeau” but he changed it because no one pronounced it correctly in Texas.

There was lots of news in May. First, on the happy side: our VP, Geoff Williams, returned from the 4F Convention as the “MVP” as voted on by the attendees! As for some daunting news:

*Share the Magic! Invite a friend to a Ring meeting.*

we spoke with Scott Correll of SWC Magic just before the meeting to learn that he was admitted to the hospital for emergency heart surgery in two days. Best wishes to him!

Rudy Hernandez hosted our Teach-a-Trick segment where he shared the Kellar Rope Tie escape. He had nice rope for everyone to pair up with a friend and practice this great trick! After our President made some announcements (including that both Barbara Zurich and Ken's wife Melissa had birthdays the next day, May 13!), Ken Spanola did his "World Famous Two Coin Trick" and taught the three-phase routine that used no gimmicked coins. Our newly crowned MVP, Geoff Williams, opened with his own 3CP (three coin production) and followed with Daryl's Elbow, Knee and Neck routine using those three coins and three body parts inclusive.

Keeping with the money theme, Rudy Hernandez used a folded dollar bill to share Lonnie Chevie's penetration effect with his finger going through the bill. Tom Vorjohan did two audience pleasers from his restaurant repertoire: Rodger Lovins' fingerprint color-changing knife, and a Meir Yedid effect with three poker chips and a prediction. Good to see Matt Williamson return, this time fooling us using a couple of borrowed bills and a freely cut deck of cards to find four of a kind (a Ben Earl effect). Charles Garvey didn't need a Thumb Tip for his version of the Mismade Bill that he credits to John Lovick. He also credits this trick for helping him land his new weekly gig at the Liang Chinese Restaurant in New Tampa.

Leaving the coins alone, Joe Dobson did two effects with cards where he found the four aces with each. Joe also taught these to the group as almost self-working tricks with great impact. Back from his annual trek on the Appalachian Trail, Daniel P. (Fite) had everyone remove a dollar from their wallet and could tell where they were minted just from the smell, a fun presentation which he shared, but this is a trick for a thespian like Daniel P! Frank Velasco did Peter Duffie's Foursome to find the four queens in a seemingly free and fair way. We hadn't seen Peter Diamond and his wife Ruby at a meeting for a while, and he did a great sequence of coin magic with Johnny Wong's Single Triple Coin to produce, vanish, and change three coins effortlessly. Driving straight to the meeting from his past three-week journey, Bob Klase shared his approach for the Wong coin(s) and then showed three versions of the transposition effect using bills or coins. Lots of great magic was shared and taught at this meeting!

*Tom Vorjohan*

## **RING 194, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA – Space City Magic Club**

Meets 1st. Thu., 7:00pm Madison Christian Church, Hughes Rd.,

Madison, AL

BRETT BOYER, President

E-mail: [bboyermagic@gmail.com](mailto:bboyermagic@gmail.com) / Facebook: Huntsville Magic Club

President Brett Boyer designated May for the Ring 194 auction. After Dean's report and other funny remarks, Brett taught a trick called "My Favorite Magician." The props were top notch, including a large poster with pictures of 16 magicians, some with autographs. (Harry Houdini's Sharpie autograph may not have been real.) A prediction trick with a little sucker gag thrown in. Excellent.

Then the auction started: show or demonstrate 2 tricks, then the next magician presented his wares. Both Matt (Zaxby's) and Brett performed shows since the last meeting. Members bought and sold most items. Members included VP Matt Growden, Dean Carter, Jared Cassidy, Jack Baldwin, Bill "Illuminati" Mullins, Patrick Brunson, David Thompson, and Driver Michael Brunson.

*Patrick Brunson*

## **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](mailto:Ecrafft@woh.rr.com)

Web site: [www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205](http://www.angelfire.com/oh/ring205)

Ring 205 met on April 26, 2026, at Mike Grubbs' home in Findlay. Chris Topel opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and we discussed different magic lecturers or shows in our local area. Roberta Howard volunteered to reserve a place for our banquet in October.

Magic for the evening began with Gene Craft, who performed a unique routine in which he produced sponge balls of varying shapes and sizes. Doug Ferguson presented "Instant Transport," in which he was able to cause a selected card from the deck to instantly transport to a smaller packet on the table.

Chris Topel placed the deck on the table and asked Robetta to cut off one third of the deck. Chris proceeded to count off several packets that eventually revealed Roberta's card.

Mike Grubbs prepared for the evening show. He started with "King Production," in which all the cards change to Kings. Second, he did "Card Production" and found a selected card. Third, he found matching ESP symbols in a shuffled deck. Then he concluded with a well-rehearsed "Matrix" using solid lug nuts. Eddy Grubbs was also present. We all enjoyed an evening of perfect magic fellowship.

*Gene Craft*

## **RING 210, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN – Duke Stern Ring**

Meets 2nd Wed. each month 7:00pm at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170

RANDY A. SMITH, Secretary / Web site: [www.aamagic.org](http://www.aamagic.org)

**APRIL:** We had a great turnout for our annual Close-Up Competition. Six members performed at six different tables while spectators watched. After a 5 minute performance, Captain Sean rang the bell and the performers rotated to the next table while the audience stayed put. In this way each audience member was able to see each performer's act. Ryan Hoffman performed a card routine from Card College. Two cards selected from a shuffled deck were returned to the deck and completely mixed. Ryan was then able to find the selected cards.

Chuck Kilbrough kicked off by turning the back of a freely selected card green in the spectator's hands. The rest of the deck had red backs. Chuck finished by causing two quarters to appear, one at a time, under a glass sitting on top of a deck of cards in his hands. Ming Louie performed a classic of magic, Coins Through Table, taught to Ming by Slydini himself. Four silver dollars magically pass through the table one by one. Eric Bedard started with a fantastic multi-phase card warp routine with a bill and a card that ended with a flash card restoration. Next was an ambitious card routine with an Omni Deck (clear block of plastic) finale. Mike Thornton kicked off with a multi-phase sponge bunny routine intermixed with lots of little bits of business including squeakers, fake Viagra and other jokes and gags. Mike then closed with an entertaining Chop Cup routine using a lemon and lime for the final loads. Robert Langefeld, one of our newer members, kicked off with a three coin routine. The coins vanished from his hands one by one and then reappeared. For a finale, the last coin transformed into a packet of one dollar bills. After passing several out for examination, Robert changed the ones to twenties and then back again. Finally, using one of the bills, Robert seamlessly transitioned into a multi-phase bill penetration using a pencil.

After the performances were complete, members voted on their top three favorites. After all the ballots were counted, our president Sean Howell awarded the coveted Close-Up Trophy to Eric Bedard. Mike Thornton and Robert Langefeld were a close second and third respectively. Congratulations to all our contestants. It was great to see some newer performers bravely get out there and show their stuff. That is what our club is all about!

**MAY:** The club enjoyed a great turnout for Nate Kranzo's lecture! Many guests attended from around the area, including a special visitor from across the Detroit River, "Magic Mike" Segal. Nate remains a special friend of the Ann Arbor Magic Club, hailing from nearby Flint, Michigan.

Before the magic began, the club had a few bits of business to attend to. Club President Sean Howell shared several updates regarding Michigan Magic Day 2027, which our club will host in the spring of 2027. For those unfamiliar, Michigan Magic Day is a one-and-a-half-day magic convention hosted each year by a different Michigan magic club. The tradition was started an incredible 55 years ago by Stan White and Doug Dean in Lansing, Michigan. Sean announced that the planning committee has selected the weekend of Saturday, April 10, 2027, for the event, which will be held at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel. Anyone interested can learn more at [mmd27.com](http://mmd27.com). Sean also shared that club Treasurer Rob Krozal continues to recover well from his recent heart surgery, and we hope to see him back at a meeting soon. Then it was on to the magic!

Nate had a number of original creations to share, along with a few audience favorites. He opened by absolutely fooling the club with a flawless multi-phase Coins Across routine, which led into an amusing "flip a coin and call heads or tails" gag. Next came a preview of a new effect, the "Mood Deck." Harkening back to the classic Mood Ring, this clever routine connects a thought-of card to a mood and color, culminating with the selected card being discovered reversed in the deck, with the back color of that single card now matching the chosen color. Nate also treated the club to a delightful routine involving a coin and a babushka scarf featuring multiple penetrations, with the final penetration occurring in the spectator's own hand. A couple of Nate's classics made appearances as well, including "52 Gone," his vanishing deck routine, and "Tru Test," his magazine test. Along with performing each effect, Nate provided excellent instruction and generously gave attendees permission to construct their own versions if they were so inclined. As always, every routine included detailed credits and references to the creators whose ideas helped inspire and shape his magic.

Everyone had a terrific time. After the meeting, a dozen or so members gathered at Herman's Olde Town Tavern to continue the fellowship and magic. The group had no trouble making a few appetizers and libations disappear as well. Special thanks to Mike Bogdas for organizing the after-gathering. *Karl Rabe*

## **RING 219, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – Bob Hurt/Ron London Ring**

1st Thu., 7:00pm, Faith Community Center, Lafayette, IN

SCOTT STARKY, President

We started our night by discussing our next show which will be held in September. Scott

started the magic sharing part of the night by having a card selected and returned to the pack. Another individual threw an imaginary card into the pack which revealed itself face up in the deck. It was a 5, which told Scott to count down five cards to reveal the selected card. What were the four cards between the selected card and the five? Why, the four aces of course! Scott then borrowed a dollar bill and creased it down the middle. He was able to magically balance it on the tip of his finger. John asked Scott a few questions like the name of his pet and his favorite food. A card was dealt down for each letter in his answer. From this random process a card was selected. The selected card was revealed to match a prediction sitting on the table the whole time! John then had Scott select a card and return it to the pack. Another volunteer, Mark, then looked through the deck and had a helping hand guide him to find the originally selected card. Mark was able to find Scott's selected card several times over. Benji shared how a magician knows which card is selected. There is a telltale mark, and in Benji's case, the selected card changes color twice.

*Benji Milanowski*

### **RING 236, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS – Don & Dorothy Schultz Ring**

Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00pm, (except Nov. and Dec.) at The Salvation Army, 2212 N. Market St., Champaign, IL 61820 (and Zoom).

KEN BARHAM, Secretary

2318 Winchester Dr., Champaign, IL 61821 / (217) 841-5616

E-mail: [Kebtram@aol.com](mailto:Kebtram@aol.com)

The April meeting opened with discussion of the various online meetings and lectures available from the national organizations and some possible lectures coming up later this year. The Central IL Magic Get-Together will be on June 6th in Springfield and they have a great line-up. For information or to register, go here: <https://cimgt.org>. The club will have a table at the Urbana Farmers Market on October 31st. If you will be available to hang out at the table to answer questions and show some magic, let us know. No busking is allowed at the tables but you can sign up to do some if you want.

Ken opened the magic by controlling two selected cards to the bottom of the deck and then one of them to the top of the deck before revealing them. He also showed a new Rubber Band through Finger that he recently learned, a one handed false cut, and a false overhand shuffle. Chris Bontjes took the stage with his 4 King Trick and then demonstrated his take on the side steal and some variations. Hesham Hassan showed us a really clever and visual Crayon Vanish. Dave Wernick performed his Exact. Bill Pierce showed us a Double Card Prediction.

Essen Hu joined us on Zoom with his Top Palm and Variations. Chris Bontjes stepped up again with Twisting the Aces in order to show the Elmsley Count, which brought discussion of in hand and fingertip versions, which then led to Bill Pierce demonstrating his Jordan Count. All in all, there was a lot of magic and fun.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 20th at 7:00 PM at the Salvation Army at 2212 N. Market St. in Champaign, IL. The topic will be Outdoor Magic. Come early and meet us at Manzella's Italian Patio on First Street in Champaign. I usually try to get there around 5:00. You don't have to order, you can just hang out with us.

*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](mailto:randy.weidenhamer@sbcglobal.net)

The April meeting was held at Mama Guzzardi's Restaurant at 5:00 pm instead of 7:00 pm because the club treated everyone to a pizza party. 17 members and 2 guests were present. The 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.

The Eaton magic auction was discussed and information passed along. Plans started for the November banquet and show. Mike Bishop, entertainment chairman, started searching for magical talent. The possibility of two lectures was discussed: a lecture on using a 3D printer and a possible Nate Kranzo lecture in September. We also had a nice surprise as Mike Bayer, our territorial vice president, stopped by with a few announcements.

That ended the business portion of the meeting and everyone readied themselves for the magical part of the evening. Mike Bishop started off with a demo on ESP cards. Lou Heck brought his assistant Freddie the Clippo Rabbit, but he seemed to have a problem with his neck. Randy Weidenhamer made a card vanish from the spectator's hand. Don Moody had complete control of a pendant on a chain as it went up and down. Tim Angeloni put a full glass of liquid into a box and turned it all around without spilling a drop. Don Strongali put a cup on a string and then dropped one end of the string. And John Mayer wrapped things up with his own ESP demonstration. That ended the magic for the night, but don't worry, we'll do it again next month.

*Mike Salvino*

## **RING 258, LEESBURG, FLORIDA – The “Magic Ian” Ring**

4th Thu. at 7:00 pm, in the Ball Room of the Lake Square Mall,  
Leesburg, FL 34748

ROGER L. REID, Secretary / (321) 945-7500  
E-mail: rogerreid1114@gmail.com / Website: www.Ring 258.com

In the absence of President Andy Rohweder, Vice President David Ginsburg opened the meeting right at 7:00 pm. We had one guest, former member Stan Kotzker, who may be rejoining the group. Two members, Rick Stein and Jack Drawec, are under the weather.

Under Old Business: we need to find a new location for our Holiday Party, as Golden Corral is closing its doors. An alternate suggestion was to have a catered event in our regular meeting location, on our regular meeting date.

Under New Business: the idea of having a Summer Picnic was brought up. We would need a new location as we were treated poorly at our last event. Daytona Magic has been sold again to a new, younger owner who hopes to revitalize the store. The following names were brought up as potential lecturers: Michael Kaminskas, Terry Ward, Eric Olsen and Scott Humston.

The magic portion of the meeting, with the theme of “Anything Goes,” had 8 performers. David Lyons led off with a mini-balloon dog prediction and a burned and restored dollar bill. Allen Klein performed Stairs, a card effect with black and red cards. David Ginsburg showed the Black Hole Paddle effect. John Zenkewich turned a \$2 bill into two \$1’s and back. Sandy Schwartz did Randomly Marked Cards. George Drake performed Elon Musk’s Eye Test. Greg Solomon opened TrickStarters packages and vanished a small car, did Cut & Restored Crayon and King of Diamonds Cards. Roger Reid explained how he and Ali Bongo invented the same effect, many years and thousands of miles apart.

The theme for our May meeting will be Canes, Candles, Wands and Flowers. *Roger Reid*

## **RING 266, TYLER, TEXAS – East Texas Court of Magic**

1st Mon of the month, 7:00 pm, at Church of Living Hope on Hwy 69-North in Tyler, Tx.

JENE CARROLL, President

In April, Ring 266 held a Swap and Sell combined with a Silent Auction. Attendance was great! Many magical items were bought and sold. Eugene Wilkes visited us from Longview and brought a number of items. Books were plentiful at this month’s event. Fun things are happening at our club in Tyler, Texas. Visit us if you’re in town!

*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

We’ve had a run of sparse meetings recently,

and the run continued with just Richard Hunt joining me.

The theme was Self Working Miracles. I started with one I learned many decades ago. A spectator shuffled the deck and cut off about half for themselves. The spectator then dealt their cards face down one by one, stating whether they thought it was red or black. Then the magician said something like “Not bad, but I think you said ‘black’ too many times. In fact, I reckon I have four more red cards than you have black cards.” A quick count verified this.

Richard then did one where the spectator did all the work. The spectator selected a card, cut it into the deck and continued to cut multiple times, sometimes with the deck face up. Eventually the magician said that the selection was 8 cards down. The spectator counted down to the eighth card, and there was the selection, all without the magician touching the deck. This was Lazy Man’s Card Trick by Al Koran.

I followed with one that had the premise of people being predictable. There were two piles, each of seven cards. The spectator was told to make another pile of seven cards by taking cards from these two piles. The spectator had a free choice as to which pile to take the next card from. The natural way would be to alternate, but that would be too predictable. “Try to be a bit less predictable.” There was a written prediction, the spectator made their pile, and the red/black mixture of the spectator’s pile matched the prediction. This was repeated, this time with the piles face up. Then it was repeated a final time, with the spectator seeing the prediction first. The spectator, of course, apparently made the prediction fail, but then a surprising kicker showed the prediction was actually correct. A very nice effect. This was Predictor by Liam Montier.

Richard then did another card trick (yes, there were one or two of those this evening). He showed the 4 Jacks, Queens, Kings and Aces and put them into face down piles. The top card of each pile was turned up to identify which pile was which. The face up cards were swapped around according to the spectator’s instructions, and the other cards in the pile now matched the new top card. This was repeated for each pile, with a surprise for the final pile. This was Fours Majeure by John Bannon.

For a bit of variety I took out a coin for the next trick, and also six cards, so we weren’t done with the card tricks. The magician explained that we were going to play a game; the spectator would make all the decisions, but the spectator will still lose. The cards were laid out in a row, some face up, some face down. The

coin was special and had the instructions written on it. The first instruction was to roll an imaginary die to get a number, which was then used by the spectator to get a card. The selection was shown to be the only red card, and the back of the coin was then shown to say "the red card." A good effect. This was Challenge Coin by R. Paul Wilson.

I finished with something totally unexpected: a card trick. A spectator shuffled the deck and thought of a card, then removed some cards and put them in the card box. The magician took the cards and placed one of them face down on the table. This was the thought of card! (The ending can vary, but is always good.) This was AK47 by John Bannon.

We finished at that point. Next meeting is on 21 May. The theme will be Non Self Working Miracles, which is a fairly broad theme. *Peter Foster*

### **RING 287, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA – Gulf Coast Magicians Guild**

3rd Thu., each month 6:45 pm at the Bayview Senior Center  
Web site: [gulfcoastmagiciansguild.com](http://gulfcoastmagiciansguild.com)  
ZACHARY READY, Secretary / (865) 719-8357  
E-mail: [deusso88@gmail.com](mailto:deusso88@gmail.com)

During our business meeting, Ben gave us an update on creating a new club website. The fee for hosting our website was just far too expensive for our needs. So Ben has been researching different hosting services and found a good one that will cost our club far less. We will also have to change the name of our website address from "TheGulfCoastMagiciansGuild" to "GulfCoastMagiciansGuild." Ben will keep us updated and let us know when our new website is up and running. Thank you very much, Ben, for all the time and effort working on this major project!

Also, Zach Ready will be creating a complete list of all the books, lecture notes and DVDs in our library. He will then make printed copies of that list and give the same to all members when finished. Bruce then reviewed two books, Seabrook's Book and the Tarbell Companion. Both books are recommended. Zach (Ready) then did an interesting and fascinating teach-in on learning to do coin sleights with either hand. Very thought provoking, to say the least.

Because there were only 12 members at our meeting and we had a good number of raffle and door prizes, it seemed everybody won a prize or two. There were a lot of nice tricks, books and DVDs. Thanks to Phil for donating the DVDs and a great trick, and thanks to Perry for donating a Trick Starter, The Vanishing Car. And as usual, thanks to John (Sr.) for making and donating a pocket size set of "The Long and Short of It."

After a short break it was time for magic. The theme for the meeting was Time. A few members stretched the meaning of Time, but we did see some great magic, and lots of it. Those per-

forming were Geordan, Perry, Bruce, Beau, Greg and Zach (Dwyer). Those performing other magic were Beau, Phil, Bill (Monroe), Ben, Greg, Zach (Ready) and Bruce. Miss a Meeting, Miss a Lot!

*Zachary Ready*

### **RING 289, MACON, GEORGIA – Mike Fuller Ring**

Meets 1st Tue. at 6:00 p.m., Fresh Air BBQ on Riverside Dr., Macon  
DANNY WATSON, President / (478) 338-5572  
Web site: <https://i-b-m-ring-298-mike-fuller-ring.webflo.io/>

After dinner at some of the finest BBQ in middle Georgia, we started our May meeting with our members being a bit short tonight due to some illness. John Donahue had prepared an emergency riddle sheet for us to solve, 5 in all, that our ailing Danny Watson usually prepares for us.

On to the magic, where the theme was Wacky Magic. First up was Mike Fuller who started us off with the classic egg bag, where the egg tends to appear and vanish each time the audience says "Cluck Cluck." At the end, not only does he produce the egg but turns the bag inside out and behold, it's now a chicken. Looked great. He followed up with the Wacky Arrow, where the arrow on the sign he was instructed to paint pointed to the left, but he wanted to paint ones going to the right. Each time he twisted the sign the arrow would jump back and forth, and at the end the arrow started jumping up and down, left and right, back and forth. Nicely done.

Ron Livingston was up next with his ghostly routine, complete with a glowing human skull. With the help of Rhonda Donahue, he instructed her to hold out her hands then ball up one of her fists. Ron then took the ashes of one of his ghostly encounters and dumped them into a cloth. With a snap he whipped the cloth away and the ashes were gone, only to appear on the palm of Rhonda's hand. Looked good, Ron.

John Donahue was up next with his homage to the great Johnny Carson and the Great Carnac, as he appeared in a robe and a large jewel-encrusted turban complete with ostrich feathers. He sat down and read his predictions to the questions like Johnny Carson did on his show, in his character, to which he had a recording introducing him as "Thumbtack the Magnificent." Good stuff. Next month's theme: Food Magic. If in the area, stop in and see us, we'd love to see you. *John Donahue*

### **RING 313, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA – The John Fedko Ring**

Meets last Tues. of the month, Irvine Valley Water District,  
15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine, / Web site: [www.ring313.org](http://www.ring313.org)  
ALAN HANSON, Secretary / Email: [AlanHanson15@gmail.com](mailto:AlanHanson15@gmail.com)

Our John Fedko Ring 313 enjoyed a member performance night featuring walk-around magic made visible to the entire room on new multiple

remote cameras which could project both full body and close-up pad views.

Member Chris Wynkoop kicked off the night with his favorite set including multiple rubber band illusions, Professor's Nightmare, Hopping Halves, and a borrowed ring to keychain mystery. Later, Wynkoop transformed a stack of \$1s into \$100s. Alan W. Hanson opened with a western movie parody pantomime where a lit cigar magically appears in his mouth. Hanson then illustrated fork bending illusions, finishing with a whimsical CSB coin story of an eagle, horse, and dragon. Later, Alan shared some Star Sign/Horoscope card magic. Sam Konugress had two volunteers each write three different responses on separate pieces of paper (fruits, pets, etc.). After wadding up the papers, each spectator was asked to remove two of their three from the table top. Sam attempted to sketch an image of those two remaining selections, close on one and dead-on accurate on the other.

Kevin Brown brought out a doctor's bag filled with his walk-around magic. Brown shared many quick visual magic surprises including a card with a round hole when viewed from the back, changing to a square hole as he revealed the face. Kevin mesmerized a visiting young guest with a pen and cap comedy series with appearances, disappearances, and relocations into his ear or vanished completely. Brown finished with an ESP card prediction matching the free choice by the spectator. New member Gary Dominguez created a variation of the Three Card Monte without cards. Gary put a large rubber band into a "cat's cradle" shape while daring the participant to place his finger into the one hole in the matrix that would catch the loop of the rubber band. Dominguez finished with a card effect where the selected card was "wrongly" found by the magician, placed into the spectator's hand, and then revealed as the correct card in the end.

Neil Katz began by having 12 random cards selected, then reduced to 4 cards placed face up. The value of these cards were starting points for counting off cards up to 10 from the remaining large stack of cards. The 4 face up cards were summed and that total was counted off the remaining cards. The revealed last card in the count matched Katz's secret prediction. Can Tang used colorful cartoon images of a knight, princess, and thief along with a borrowed ring to share a wonderful story and the illusion of a tiny sword actually penetrating a solid crystal box and ending up pierced through the box and ring. Nick Baker opened with a card in wallet, continued with rope through neck, and finished by physically linking two randomly selected cards

whose centers were removed. Richard Zucker entertained with the multiple prediction card deck effect where cards are mixed both face up and down. The final two predictions at first look like a subtle miss, but are then revealed to be anticipated.

"Magic AI" Rich first demonstrated some cardistry. Next, two spectators helped "Magic AI." One made the selection, the other decided when to stop, and the chosen cards were instantly revealed. "Koshai," Josh Valoff, presented in character as a Russian mentalist replete with Soviet style humor. "Koshai" never touches the cards. The spectator made a selection, followed some instructions, and Valoff found the card. Steven Tran wowed us with multiple transpositions of 5 half dollar coins. Tran finished with a gambling presentation of the "Triumph" card effect.

The evening finished with a brief lecture by More Fathi on the human experience around mirrors. It is not the physics of light that create our impressions of side to side reversals but not top to bottom. It is within our own minds that we leap to this right/left reversal. *Alan Hanson*

### **RING 324, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO – Middletown Magic**

Meets 1st. Fri. 7:00 pm, Tytus Avenue First Church of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45042  
LARRY HOLLINGER, Secretary  
4515 Northglen Court, Englewood, OH 45322 / (937) 836-4359  
E-mail: IBMRing324@aol.com

President Larry Taylor officially welcomed us. First, in our business section, we reminded everyone about the Annual Magic Auction May 23rd and 24th in Eaton. Member Jake Lindsay was performing in two days in Hillsboro, Ohio. For some reason, we got on the subject of tricks gone wrong. Wow, the stories these guys can tell!

Time for magic! Our theme of the month was Coins. Dave Davis performed "Dropped Coin Rubbed Through Arm," the trick most of us began with. It still fools! Next, Dave gave us his "Copper, Silver Coin Trick." Larry Taylor performed a very smooth "Coin Manipulation to Jumbo Coin." Rick Gaffney brought out his new trick, "Numbered Cards," from a YouTube video he had seen. Charlie Cadabra hit us with two. First, "Test" from Dave Penn. Second, he laid out a map of a mall. He asked volunteer June Taylor to place a marker at any entrance of the mall. A couple of dice rolls later she had "entered" one of the stores. The store she ended up in just happened to be the one that Charlie produced a gift card for from the prediction envelope. This was "Mall Rat" from Caruso.

Larry Payne set a medium sized gift bag on the table then proceeded to pull out a 5-foot-tall

teddy bear! The effect is very eye-popping and the device is devious. This was "Appearing Teddy Bear" from MS Magic. Ron Frank showed us a black plastic box with square holes in the top and bottom. After borrowing a cell phone to be placed into the box, he still was able to pass a die through the box and phone. This was "Digital Penetration" from David Penn. Next was Jake Lindsay with the Trick of the Month, "Gloves to Streamer." Jake performed the trick then step by step showed us how it was done. Ron Frank finished our performances section with "Talking App," LOL. Bill West finished our meeting with some more free magic giveaways. So, if you are ever in Middletown, Ohio the first Friday of the month, please stop by and join us.

*Larry Hollinger*

### **RING 325, BRANSON, MISSOURI – The Tri-Lakes Tricksters**

Meets 3rd Sat. of the month atll's Magic & Joke Shop, 6:00pm, 124 South Business 65, Branson, MO  
DR. CHRISTOPHER BECK, President  
E-mail: beckibmring325@gmail.com

Anthony Mullins, Gary & Mary Geise, James Holmes, Yak Williams, Dan Doyle and eventually Thom Taylor attended.

Several members attended the Cavalcade of Magic in Eureka Springs. One of the featured presenters was a lady storyteller. Everyone agreed she did a magnificent job of presenting her magic. Next year's Cavalcade will be held on our meeting weekend. A decision needs to be made whether to have the meeting before or after or briefly during the Cavalcade. Chris Beck won the drawing for the free conference for 2027.

Jim Holmes indicated he has been working on several potential events. Progress is being made, but nothing is firm at this time. He will continue to research and hopefully have some news next month. He will provide a list of upcoming events to go out with the minutes.

Yak Williams had a flyer for a pending lecture featuring Randy Goodman, inventor of the Magic Square. The date available is September 19th, which is our normal meeting night. Gary motioned to have the lecture and Anthony seconded. Yak will contact the coordinator to set the date for us. Jim indicated he may be able to help defray the hotel costs and will keep Yak updated.

The recent fire at the Hollywood Magic Castle was discussed. Gary & Mary Geise had been keeping Jim up to date on the status and progress of renovations as they received them. The Castle was only closed for a short time. Jim indicated he had a need for someone who could make balloon animals. The date for the event is

May 10th. Contact him if you can help.

Jim demonstrated a new random shuffle effect called Finding the Aces. Using several false cuts the deck was shuffled in both directions, then spread out face down. The four Aces randomly showed face up. Anthony Mullins displayed his special "Texas Hold 'Em" metal case. He showed two stacks of poker chips, one red and one white. Slipping a sleeve over each stack, he indicated the red chip sleeve was on his right side and the white chip sleeve on his left. He then lifted the stacks; the red stack had moved to his left and the white stack was now on the right side.

Gary Geise set up his Magic Box and reprised his Easter Surprise effect. Three cups and red balls were placed across the top. He donned his rabbit ears to further expand the Easter theme. Removing the balls from the top, he produced magic eggs that were passed out to all attendees. When opened, each member found a sponge rabbit. For a finale he produced three large eggs, blue, yellow and green, that also had small bunnies inside.

Yak Williams began with a Match Box Penetration effect. He showed a matchbox and a toothpick. The toothpick was pressed into the center of the box and penetrated through to the other side. He pulled it out and reinserted it from the other side. To finish he slid the matchbox open and revealed a solid interior of a brass block. Next, he shared a miniature Square Circle effect. The box showed Chinese characters. For an alternate effect, a green silk could be used. For his final effect, Yak displayed an old 35mm film canister. Gary produced a \$1 bill that was folded lengthwise, then folded several more times and placed into the canister and shaken to indicate the bill was inside. Gary then opened the canister and found a small paper which, when unfolded, said "Thank you for the Money." Returning to the previously displayed Square Circle, he produced the \$1 bill.

Our resident Slovakian, Thom Taylor, aka Nicholas Nickleby Insktioff, and his Penetrating Oil next took the stage. Displaying a folder with two coins, one American and the other Oriental, he closed it placing the American coin side up. With a drop of Penetrating Oil and a wave of a card, the Oriental coin changed places with the American coin and was now on top.

Guest Dan Doyle was up next. He knotted Mary's wedding ring on a shoelace and had Gary and Mary Geise hold the ends, Mary with her left hand and Gary with his right hand. He then had them hold a stick, Mary with her right hand and Gary with his left hand. Covering the shoelace and stick, they then pulled the shoelace

tight. The ring was no longer there. Revealing the stick, the ring was there and returned safely to Mary.

Yak Williams returned to the stage, randomly pulling the 3 of Diamonds out of a deck of cards. He then asked Jim Holmes to open the prediction envelope he had been holding. A 3 of Diamonds was on one side of the prediction card and a rabbit on the reverse holding a 3 of Diamonds. Anthony Mullins returned to the stage with a coin effect using a coin that Gary had written his initials on. The coin magically ended up inside multiple boxes. Yak Williams presented a Double Prediction effect. The Jack of Spades was selected; Gary & Mary verified another card, the 8 of Diamonds. The Jack of Spades was presented with an 8 of Diamonds on the back.

Nicholas Nickleby Insktioff, aka Thom Taylor, returned with a new effect using a Chop Cup Bell. Displaying a star, triangle and eye on wooden coins and with Anthony Mullins' assistance, the bell was rung by Zolar. Anthony selected two of the wooden disks; one was placed in a box. Zolar predicted where each disk was located: Anthony was holding a star, Nicholas holding a triangle, and as predicted, the box held the eye. Anthony attempted to ring the bell, but the ringer did not sound. This ended the performance portion of the meeting. Thom asked for ideas regarding children's parties. A general discussion ensued with all participating.

*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/](http://www.sandyshoesentertainment.com/) (843) 650-0767

May 7, 7:00 PM. The Magic Loft. We started off with a small turnout but ended strong. The magic theme: Birthday Magic or Transpositions or Levitation. One guest: Angela Graham, Charles' wife. Next month's theme: Classics to Classical (classic tricks to classical music). After announcements and a brief meeting we had pizza, door prizes, and recognized past and present Ring Presidents.

Showtime! Ray Hardee started us off with a couple of good effects. To begin, he performed Tommy Wonder's Watch and Ring routine. He followed this with Trap: a mouse was in a bucket on a table. A card was selected and replaced in the box and put in a basket with the pesky mouse. A mouse trap on a string was lowered into the basket and caught the mouse, and not only the mouse but the selected card as well. I really liked this effect.

Eric Hall followed Ray. On a large pad on an easel, Eric had four rows of sticky notes with four digit numbers laid out and a total. Several people picked single digit numbers to make three numbers, four of them. He wrote a prediction on a pad and folded the paper. Once the numbers were totaled, his prediction matched. Nicely done. To close, he did a crazy routine with a rising wand. Eric has a knack of coming up with entertaining effects that are different.

Paul McTaggart performed the not often seen Acrobatic Matchbox. Next he placed an owl candle on the center of the table and placed two matching boxes on opposite sides of the room. A handkerchief was introduced and placed in one of the boxes and the drawer closed. It vanished and reappeared in the other box and flew back to the first box. I like it!

Ron Conley talked of working for Gene Gordon and how Gene would go to the Five and Dime store and look to see what he could perform magic with. Ron followed Gene's footsteps and looks in stores to see what he can make magic with. He had a recent trip to Hobby Lobby and showed us the large number of things he was able to find. Items he found were: clown noses for sponge balls, birthday banner with felt letters as a production, large cotton balls, 260 balloons (100 count), squeakers, magnets, toy paper money that looked good, and cloth. A remarkable find.

Dave Tanner gave away some nice wooden wands. He showed us a large picture of a line drawing of a birthday cake. When he pulled the picture out of the frame, it magically colored. Not only that, he opened the picture like a book and it was a pop-up birthday cake. He finished by producing a candle and stuck it in the middle of the cake. Amazing! Michael Barefoot did a nifty jumping fingers effect. Amy Clum was our final performer. She did a magic raffle with Houdini questions. We smart magicians were only able to answer one out of two questions. How would you do? What was the name of Houdini's 15-part serial? What was Houdini's original (first) stage name? To close, Amy floated a cotton ball over a playing card. A fun evening. Join us when you are at the beach.

*Dale Rabon*

### **RING 362, BANGOR, MAINE – The Bob Nixon Ring**

Meets 2nd. Sun at the Baker Community Center, 22 ArmoryVd., Augusta, ME  
SCOT GRASSETTE, Secretary / E-mail: [grassette@gwi.net](mailto:grassette@gwi.net)

Our April meeting opened with VP Dennis Labbe filling in for President Randy Begin. We voted on the officers nominated and all passed as follows: President Randy Begin, VP Dennis Labbe, Treasurer Karen Seymour, Secretary Scot Grassetto, and Sergeant at Arms Steve

Cornish. Wes Booth expressed interest in raising money for cancer with proceeds split with the club; more to follow.

The theme for April was Gaffed Coins and started with Dennis and his go-to EDC Hopping Halves, which he has been doing for many years and his presentation showed it. Brian Rogers took the front of the room with a very nice Coins Across, which he later revealed was Josh Jay's Triad Coins. Wes Booth presented a coin trapped in a plastic bag which he magically and mysteriously pulled from the zipped bag. Up next was Michael Smilek and his version of the 2-coin trick using the Hopping Halves. Scot demonstrated a trick called Coin-cedence with a prediction. Borrowed coins go into a jar and dumped on the table; all the tails up coins are removed until one coin is left which should match the prediction. All was going well until the double headed nickel broke apart. We all had a good laugh on that one. Scot also did Karate Coin and a gaffed coin trick called Golden Girls. Ken Shoemake performed the classic coin in a bottle. Alola Morrison did a show and tell of coins and gifted them to members. Thanks, Alola, for the nice gesture! Joel Riemersma displayed his collection of Coin and Shell sets and explained the manufacturing of expanded/non-expanded shells and the pros and cons of them. Joel then went into "A Familiar Ring" by Paul Gertner and "From My Hand to Yours" by Geoff Latta.

Wes Booth shared a Ted Talk style presentation on Show Structure featuring strategy from Shakespeare and the 5 Points of a show. Off topic magic featured Andrew Silver with a randomly selected card found at a number added from 3 selected cards. Michael displayed and demonstrated a Unique Production Box from the 50's and Obedient Cube. Wes wrapped up the meeting with Super Card Rise by Derrick Dingle. Fellowship and socializing continued at 2 Maine Guys BBQ where Ken S. may have lit up the stage with a Simon and Garfunkel song at Karaoke.

*Scot Grassette*

## **RING 398, APPLETON/GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN – Dr. Lynn Miner Ring**

Meets last Tue. except Dec., 6:30 p.m., email for location.

RICK MOREIN, Secretary

E-mail: rmorein497@gmail.com

The meeting started with our usual business and then we segued into the Front Table presentation by Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Schroeder. Michael shared a very clever method for animating a paper napkin and brought the supplies for all of us to construct our own.

Up next was the theme of our meeting: Fool Us. President Daryl Rogers and Scott Hanneman acted as the judges as eight of us tried our best to stump them. The first contestant, Bruce Hetzler, wowed us all with a clever Color Monte-based trick that used rabbit cards. Marv Roth performed an amazing Twisting the Aces, with an excellent kicker! Our next performer, Vice President Rick Morein, presented a clever signed card to silk illusion. Treasurer Tal Kuhn then proceeded to wow us with an extremely entertaining solid penetration trick. Following that, Otis Day blew us all away with a fantastic ACAAN he had learned at the Close-Up Magic Conference. Eric Lardinois performed an elegant Noble Virtues routine. Secretary Kevin Koehne then performed a surprising "prediction is wrong and makes it right" card trick. The final performance of the night was by the inimitable Monty Witt with 4 cards that kept changing values and then suddenly transformed into a royal straight flush!

The Foolers were: Bruce, Marv, Otis and Monty! They received some Matt Franco cards that Daryl got from one of Matt's performances. The evening wrapped up with a Back Table session led by Kevin, who demonstrated how AI can be used not just for creative work, but to make older magic texts easier to read. This sparked a lively discussion about the role of AI in the art of magic.

*Kevin Koehne*



### **Get Thee Published in The Linking Ring!**

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

# NEW APPLICATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

SEND DUES, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, AND APPLICATIONS TO:

## I.B.M. HEADQUARTERS

13 POINT WEST BLVD.,  
ST. CHARLES, MO 63301

### JULY 2026 23 NEW MEMBERS

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SWAN, SCOTTY, Mayo, Canada  
TOMITA, SHOKO, Tsubame City, Niigata, Japan  
PECK, MICK, Pukekohe, Auckland, New Zealand

### 3 REINSTATEMENTS

HILL, TIM, Strongsville, OH  
UMSTOT, MARK, Lubbock, TX  
HALL, RUSSELL, Chesterfield, United Kingdom

## I.B.M. YOUTH TRIVIA CONTEST RULES

*(Continued from page 57)*

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 57.**

Ralph Wesley Read, born October 8, 1882, grew up during a time when magicians like Alexander Herrmann, Harry Kellar, and Harry Houdini were featuring their wondrous magic shows to throngs of audiences throughout the United States. There were also lesser-known magicians making their mark at that time, and as luck would have it, a young Read attended one of their shows, awakening him to magic. Not long after, Read met another performer who agreed to teach him not only magic, but also mentalism. Read began performing magic shows when he was still a teenager.

In 1908, magic dealer and inventor Augustavus Roterberg – who had created one of the first successful mail-order businesses – found that his mail-order operation had become too difficult to handle on his own. He found two young men willing to take over the mail-order operations business. Those two men were Ralph W. Read and I. F. (Charles) Halton. Unfortunately, their partnership lasted little more than a year. Read stepped away to allow Halton to partner with a young magician, Harry Jansen, who had ideas about building magic props for other magicians. Halton became partners with Jansen in 1909, and they created the retail department of A. Roterberg under the name Halton & Jansen Company. (Jansen would later find his building skills a profitable asset – in the early 1920s, Harry became Howard Thurston’s builder of illusions and eventually took a second unit on tour under the name Dante the Magician.)

In 1910, while Halton and Jansen were building their business, Read found a partner to open a small magic shop on 43rd Street in Chicago where they could sell effects, including large illusions like “Substitution Trunks.” The shop and its advertising operated under the name “Read & Covert.” A few years later in 1912, they sought to improve their business and engaged a young artist who showed promise, asking him to create a cover and interior illustrations for their catalog. The results were excellent, and the artist even created advertisements for the magic magazines. The young twenty-year-old was passionate about magic, which made the arrangement doubly rewarding – he could use his talent to create artwork for the shop owners while remaining in the field that interested him most. His name was Harlan Tarbell.

This association worked well for the two owners because they needed someone who understood magic and knew what it took to make the catalog’s props look detailed and desirable. The two parted company in 1912, and their shop eventually became the Chicago Magic Company. By 1918, Read had registered for the draft while working as an advertising writer for McGraw-Hill Company, which was publishing textbooks and technical manuals for the military during World War I.

In 1926, Harlan Tarbell published his first course in magic, and in chapter forty-five, a few pages into his teachings, he included a brief section titled “Spiritualism and Magic.” There he mentioned that Read and fellow magician Phillip Meyers had combined their ideas to create a tea kettle that could “talk” and answer questions. They presented the tea kettle to David P. Abbott, who had written *Behind the Scenes with the Mediums*. Abbott improved upon their idea and became very successful with it. By the 1930s, Read was performing a mind reading act under the name Calostro. In 1934, Read published *The Calostro Mind Reading Act*, and in 1935, *One Man’s Mind Reading Secrets* became available. This newer publication offered practical, ingenious systems for performing single-performer mentalism and Q&A acts. Stepping away from mentalism, Read’s next booklet was *The Three Shell Game* in 1938. His ideas in this book are still a must-have if you decide to perform the three-shell game or even cups and balls.

The 1940s were an important period in his involvement in magic. Harlan Tarbell approached Read, his longtime friend, to edit three volumes of his updated course in



## BARGAINS



These two effects are practically new and we offer them at these prices for quick sale.

**Black Art Outfit:** Including 2 tables, 4 vases, fringe ring, coffee service, appearing cloth, large cave, fakes, etc., and acetylene lights.

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**Substitution Trunk:** Really a box, strongly and handsomely made in three-ply wood with outside veneer of birdseye maple, bound and braced with oak and the whole finished in the natural wood. Includes tape tie and sack.

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**READ & COVERT**  
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Chicago, Ill.



*A standard advertisement for Read & Covert.*



# XMAS



## GREETINGS

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*A Christmas advertisement for Read & Covert.*

magic. Read was well versed in a multitude of magic disciplines, and Tarbell knew he needed someone who could refine the completed work without challenging its substance. Read ended up editing volumes three, four, and five from 1943 through 1945. Read also combined ideas with magic dealer and shop owner Stuart Robson, and together they put together a booklet that Robson had wanted to publish for years. Unfortunately, Robson never saw the *Flash Paper Tips* booklet completed before his death in 1946. That same year, Read served as personal manager for mentalist DeMille (Chester Miller, 1914-1970), making a habit of keeping DeMille busy with high-paying engagements in the New York area. In 1949, 1950, and 1951, Read was Tony Slydini's manager. Tony's Lecture-Demonstration was presented to over thirty magical organizations, and on occasion Read would arrange private lessons for select magicians looking to learn from the master of card artistry. One New York appearance was held at Carnegie Hall. These early tours were the foundation for all of Slydini's future work in the magic world – through them, he gained the reputation that made him the performer magicians sought out at conventions.

Over the course of his career, Read had met a number of the great magicians of his era. Years later, he would retell one such conversation – a chance meeting some twenty-five years prior with none other than Harry Houdini, on the subject of *The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin*. According to Read, he asked Houdini, "Some of these comments and criticisms must have come to your attention, surely ... are you sure you didn't make some mistakes in *The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin*?" Houdini replied, "Yes, Read, I have found that there were mistakes in the book, but I can't admit it now, as it would ruin my reputation." Read passed away from a heart attack on March 26, 1952. He had accumulated a wealth of knowledge over his years of performing and traveling. He was a magic dealer, a manufacturer, an author, and a performer. His printed works are still sought after today, and his contributions to mentalism and the three-shell game remain important additions to the art of magic. Ralph W. Read's work may have been written decades ago, but his ideas are still valuable today.

*Gary R. Frank*

## *Had a Brief Lapse in Your Membership? Consider the Reinstatement Option.*

Since its inception in 1966, the Order of Merlin has served to recognize many of our most loyal and active members by providing a very few privileges or perquisites. Of course, the Order also serves as an incentive for members to recognize that maintaining one's continuous membership status is a worthwhile pursuit. More than one fourth of our current members have been inducted into the Order of Merlin by virtue of their maintaining an uninterrupted membership status within the I.B.M. for twenty-five years or more. Note, however, that only one such reinstatement may ever be considered for the purpose of adjusting a member's Order of Merlin eligibility.

Over the years, some I.B.M. members have allowed their active membership status to lapse because their dues were not paid. This, of course, is unfortunate, since some of those people have maintained or re-kindled their deep interest in magic, and many of them have also continued to adhere to the principles that led to the foundation and growth of the I.B.M.

What options do such magicians have if they wish to resume activity as I.B.M. members following such a lapse? Obviously, they may re-apply to become members again, just as they did when they originally joined. This would require their submission of a new application form, a new sponsorship by active members, a prescribed prepayment of dues and initiation fees for the new membership, and a period of time to allow for the orderly processing of the application.

A second option is available, provided that the lapse of membership is relatively short, not exceeding three years. In such a case, the person may have his or her membership status *reinstated*, provided that a full payment is first made for all back dues owed. A reinstatement restores the original membership, as though the lapse never occurred, and the member's "continuous membership" span is not interrupted. Therefore, a reinstated member does not lose his or her "credits" toward induction into the Order of Merlin, which requires twenty-five or more years of continuous membership. Note, however, that only one such reinstatement may ever be considered for the purpose of adjusting a person's Order of Merlin eligibility.

If you have had your membership status properly reinstated following a short period of inactivity as described above, then your "continuous membership" span is not considered to have been interrupted. And if you have had such a short lapse in your membership *at any time in the past*, you still may have those lost years (up to three) reinstated upon repayment of all back dues owed. You are encouraged to reinstate your lost years, especially if they may hasten your induction into the Order of Merlin. Do it now, even if your lapse occurred many years ago.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact our International Executive Secretary, Sindie Richison at [office@magician.org](mailto:office@magician.org) or at the physical mailing address for the Headquarters Office, on page four of each issue.

# Advertise in *The Linking Ring*

Our readers hail from 88 countries and cover a wide range of skill levels and magic preference, from the hobbyists, to professionals such as David Copperfield and Lance Burton, from the close-up magician, to the bizarre mentalist, and everything in between!

## Readership

**9,000**

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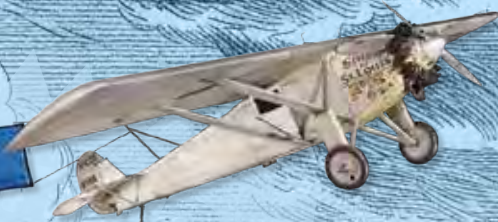
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**View specials and advertising requirements in pages below.**

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