



Silent Mora–Ray Goulet
www.Ring122.com
Dec. 2016

THE SILENT MESSENGER



Auctioneer David Oliver gets ready to start the bidding.

The auction planned for Nov. 30 was full of drama for the organizers. First, there was confusion and doubt if the event would happen because we couldn't reach one of the major donors, and when we did, just days before the event, we thought all was well. Then, on the day of the auction, auctioneer Ray Goulet was taken to the hospital for feeling weak and we thought we'd have to cancel the auction. However, Ray wanted the auction to go on despite his absence and we were lucky to find a more-than-capable auctioneer at the last minute: *Genii* magic product reviewer, SYM leader, and one of Boston's favorite magicians, David Oliver.

The auction featured some high-quality props and books from four lots, including a large, electric sawing-off-the-head effect, a breakaway box vanish, a duck bucket, and a beautifully made Mental Epic. David Oliver had some new items he was auctioning too, so the mix of

classic and current magic available that night was better than usual. The auction was well attended and those present got some amazing deals, though we were worried about Ray.

Compeer Alan Wasilak writes, “I heard from Ann Goulet tonight (December 9) who tells me that Ray is now in a rehab facility in West Newton. (Not the facility in Waltham where he has been several times in the past. Sorry; I do not have an address for this facility.) He was admitted this past Wednesday, the 7th.

Though tired, Ray remains alert, talkative, and on-the-ball. His spirits are as good as can be expected, given the circumstances.”

—Patrick Farena

The audience enjoyed David’s descriptions and banter as he tried to get the best price for each item.



Dan Bybell (standing) gets a good look at a prop, while Bob Filene (smiling), and Brue Fenton (writing), kept the auction organized and honest with their record keeping.

All the photos in this issue were taken by Gil Stubbs.

The President's Letter

The Spirit of Magic

Did you know that there are several Native American magicians performing around the country? An interesting conversation came up recently, about how they needed to be very careful to separate their performance from the spiritual aspects of Indian culture and their sacred rituals. To blur the line between religion and entertainment would have serious consequences for both.

Magician Autumn Morning Star shared this from *The Intuitive Times*:

The following is in magician Doug Henning's own words. It is taken from an interview for *Magic Magazine*.

MAGIC: What caused you to become "Dr. Henning?"

HENNING: I was getting a little bit of a reputation, and I was invited by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to perform on Christmas shows for the troops. At one point on the tour, they asked if I would like to do a show for a group of Inuits [Eskimos]. We were on the edge of this little town in the wilderness, 400 miles from the North Pole, and about 60 below zero. I set up my show in a little building, and the Inuits came in to watch. They sat on the floor in their parkas, and I did what I thought was some pretty good stuff. They just sat there, didn't smile, didn't say a word and, at the end, nobody applauded. But they were completely focused on me, like I was some sort of phenomenon. Only one of them spoke English, so I asked him, "Did you like the show?"

"Yes, we like show," he said.

Then I asked, "Did everybody like the magic?"

He said, "The magic?"

I explained that I was trying to entertain people.

He said, "Entertainment is good, but why are you doing magic? The whole world is magical." We sat down on the floor and he told me, "It's magic that snow falls, all those little crystals are completely different—that's magic."

I said, “But what about when I made the rabbit and doves appear?”

“Why do you do those things?” he said. “It's magic when the walrus appears each spring, he comes from nowhere—that's magic.”

Now I was grasping, trying to explain magic to him. I thought of my Zombie, which I thought was my best thing. I said, “I made that beautiful silver ball float in the air that's magic.”

“But there's a ball of fire floating through the sky every day. It keeps us warm, gives us light; that's magic.”

Then the Inuits started talking among themselves. The man came to me with a big smile on his face, and said, “Now, we know why you are doing that. It's because your people have forgotten the magic. You're doing it to remind them of the magic. Well done!”

I cried right then. I've never told anyone this story. I said, “Thank you for teaching me about the magic. I didn't know.” That was really the first time I knew what wonder was. It was the most memorable thing that has ever happened to me. I never forgot that, inside. That's why I became a magician.”

I want to wish to everyone a wonderful Christmas and a magical New Year!

—Bruce Fenton

Yankee Gift Swap

At our next meeting, Dec. 28, 2016, we have our annual Yankee Gift Swap. Each member who wants to participate in the swap should bring a wrapped, anonymous gift that costs no more than \$15 to the swap.

As usual, all members are welcome to share stories, performances, and anything else related to magic at the start of meeting before the Yankee Gift Swap. Snacks and drinks will be served.



2016–2017 Ring 122 Meeting Schedule

Dec. 28: Yankee Gift Swap.

Jan. 25: Members share their favorite children's show magic.

Feb. 22: Members perform an effect from Tarbel or The Linking Ring.

March 29: Walk-around magic teach-in by our members.

April 26: Lecture (TBA).

May 31: Lecture (TBA).

June 28: Teach-in (TBA).

IBM RING 122, Silent Mora–Ray Goulet

Website: <http://www.ring122.com>

Meetings take place the last Wednesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown, 35 Church Street.

Ring 122 Officers for 2016

President: Bruce Fenton, galahad37@hotmail.com

1st Vice President: Kevin Butler, kevibutler@comcast.net

2nd Vice President: John Sanbonmatsu, js@wpi.edu

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The Silent Messenger is published every month except for July and August.

The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month. Articles, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to the editor:

• Pat: pfarenga@comcast.net