

# THE SILENT

# MESSENGER

## **Our Favorite Tricks for Children**



Our January meeting was a great showcase for our club's talent and ideas on the topic of their favorite children's tricks. We got off to a great start with Debbie O'Carroll showing us her St. Patrick's Day show trick. Deb came out in a new costume—a green tutu on he waist and a shamrock vest and bow tie. She talked about Fear Dearg, the Irish joker fairy, and asked two volunteers to come up and take a bag. Deb separated the matching socks, and placed a sock in each bag. Deb takes the first volunteer's socks, mixes them up, and asks the second volunteer to pull out a sock. Then the first volunteer pulls a sock from the second volunteers bag and it looks like the trick failed

because they don't match. But Deb removes her boots and the mismatched socks of the volunteers match the socks on her feet. What a great reveal!

Deb then discussed a magical creature: the leprechaun. Deb's brother leaves milk out for the leprechauns on his farm in Ireland. As she says this, she pours the milk in a glass and it disappears. Deb reveals that the glass has a hole in its bottom and the platform has a hole, and a bucket underneath is what catches the milk when she pours it in the glass. "I wouldn't pour this bucket on my head if it had milk in it?" she asks. This gets the audience to want her to pour the

### **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 7:30 PM, 35 Church St., Watertown, MA.

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

water on her head, and eventually she does. But when she pours the bucket onto her head, a cat falls on her head. Deb ends by saying, "I didn't drink the milk. The kitty kat did." Debbie is such a great children's show entertainer and all her colorful costumes and most of her props are made by her.

Bob Filene showed us a card trick for all ages. "A very difficult card trick." Three cards are chosen and placed back in the deck. Bob needs his assistant, Melinda the mind-reading duck, who is blindfolded yet will pick out the chosen cards from the deck. Bob announced Melinda as, "A Peking duck!" The cards are placed before Melinda. She draws a blank and other humorous card picks (spots, a totally black card, etc.) then reveals all three selections.





Dan Bybell discussed his children's show. He opens with What's

Next, the Prof. Nightmare, and sleight of hand tricks. He gave a nice touch on the needle through balloon routine by drawing a face on the balloon first.

Dan then performed the Mismade Flag using a funny prop: a wand that moans when it is raised and lowered by a volunteer.

Kevin Butler showed us his new puppet: "Let me introduce you to my friend from England, a sheep dog named Sherman." Kevin announced that Sherman the dog will blow up a balloon and make it disappear. The dog then blows in Kevin's ear and the balloon expands in Kev's mouth! Then Sherman says he





displayed and shuffled, and the dog looks for his favorite food, a bone. Sherman is blindfolded and after some byplay he finds his bone.

Felice Ling showed us the Tenkai Rope through Neck and her version of Richard Sanders' Fiber Optics. She's been

working on this routine for a couple of months and it was a tour de force and great fun to watch.



Gil Stubbs performed a rope and handkerchief trick. Gil tied a rope around a silk then had a volunteer hold both ends of the silk. Gil nonetheless easily removed the rope!

Elliot Palmer performed
Dan Harlan's Starcle. Elliot's
patter was a tightly scripted
description about him and his

mother visiting Canada and looking at the night sky.

Pat Farenga then talked about some of his favorite tricks to get children excited and involved in the show. Pat showed how he uses David Regal's Clink in a Miser's Dream routine that lets the



children find and throw coins that Pat catches in a glass. Then Pat demonstrated a novelty toy, called an Energy Stick. It's a visual demonstration of how our bodies have electrical current in them. Pat has several children hold hands and create a circuit that makes the Energy Stick light up and make noise, then he touches the stick and the climax to a magic trick occurs, such as a block penetration, or a light bulb lighting and exploding.

—Patrick Farenga



#### The President's Letter

#### Holy Mackerel, It's Our Sapphire Jubilee!

While perusing our Ring122.com website the other day, the date September 15, 1952, jumped off the page. It was on that date sixty-five years ago that Ray Goulet, Mal Robbins, and Irving Weiner created the esteemed institution that we all know and love today.

So according to the internet, a 65th anniversary would be designated as our "Sapphire Jubilee". Granted, many of the tricks we perform are considerably older, but 65 years together as an organization is quite an accomplishment, especially since none of us look a day over 50.

Perhaps a birthday celebration would be in order this coming fall. In any event, it's a nice reminder that we stand on the shoulders of giants.

Thanks Ray, Mal, and Irv. You did a good thing!

—Bruce Fenton

## The Secretary's Report

#### **January Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our president Bruce Fenton. There were no reports from our secretary or treasurer.

Kevin Butler distributed flyers for SAM Assembly 9's Hocus Pocus Banquet on March 12th at The Wellesley Community Center.

It was suggested that we advertise on the websites of the other magic clubs in our area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

## 2017 Ring 122 Meeting Schedule

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).

#### We need performers for our May 20th Benefit Show in Wellesley

This is an important event that will benefit Alzheimer's research and Ring 122 together. Shows such as this are an important source of funds for our lectures.

Please contact Gil Stubbs (gilstubbs@gmail.com) to join the show.

## 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

Treasurer: Daryl Vanderburgh, 508-655-8553 dvanderburgh8@gmail.com

Secretary: Debbie O'Carroll, 978-462-9954 debbie@debbieocarroll.com

Sergeant-at-arms: Bob Filene, bobfilene@alum.mit.edu

Board of Governors: Alan Wassilak, Pat Farenga, and Jerry Schiowitz.

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