



The Silent Messenger

Silent Mora-Ray Goulet

www.Ring122.com

January 2019



Yankee Gift Swap Death Match!

Our December 2018 meeting ended the year on a high note. We began by discussing President Ryan Lally's article in the *Linking Ring* about magic shops and how they should embrace social media to flourish. Many ideas were put forth as to why magic stores are failing despite the popularity of magic in our culture today, including blaming the internet, but Ryan's point is proven by those brick and mortar stores that successfully use social media to bring people into their stores and conferences for a unique magical experience.

Compeer Dan Bybell continued his esteemed role as

Master of Ceremonies for our annual holiday gift swap. This year, Dan came up

with another entertaining twist on our usual gift swap. We all chose a playing card to determine the order of choosing gifts from



Photos: Ryan Lally tosses the death match die. Felice Ling, Pat Farenga, and Jim Rainho enjoy the proceedings. Jared McNabb, Alan Wassilak, and Debbie O'Carroll are happy with their gifts.

the pile. After a gift is chosen, the chooser can decide to swap their gift for someone else's. However, in this version, you can swap again. If you do, you and the person whose gift you want each choose two playing cards. Add your two cards together and the highest total wins. In case of a tie, there is a death match. This involves throwing a large, foam die and

getting the high number to win. Surprisingly, there were two ties that night. Felice Ling beat Mike Lee, and Santa Jim Loscutoff beat John Sanbonmatsu.—Patrick Farenga



Photos: *Left:* When Santa Jim doesn't know what it is, you know it's not good. *Right:* Dan Bybell helps Mike Lee inspect the gifts before Mike makes a choice.

Next Meeting: Teach In! Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Members share some tricks and techniques with each other in round-robin sessions; every 15 min. you move to another Teach-In presentation in the room. Please contact pat@magicianpatfarenga.com to lead a teach-in session. If you've never taught at a teach-in, Pat can explain it to you. The meeting will be at the First Parish of Watertown, 35 Church St., starting at 7:30.

The President's Letter

It's amazing how our minds think of the craziest ideas at the most unexpected times.

I had an idea for a trick. I didn't know exactly what I wanted it to look like, and I was far from knowing what method to use. The effect: An audience member finds something from a seemingly free selection. That's about all I had in my mind. So that's all I went with, and I left it in the back of my mind to stew.

I didn't know exactly what I wanted the effect to look like, but I knew what I wanted the message to be: I wanted the effect to show how we as consumers think we make purchasing decisions out of our own free will, but in reality we are being forced into purchases by advertisers. I essentially wanted to explain what a force was, but the method I would use couldn't be a force. This was the problem that I left in the back of my mind. And then one day it came to me: an Invisible Deck! Without getting too much into the effect (because I'm still working on it), my elusive method was a simple Invisible Deck.

The more you know, the better you can work out a problem in the back of your mind. Information is an incredible thing. Our next meeting will be a teach-in. We've done this plenty of times before and it's always a hit. So bring cards, coins, etc. and a thirst for knowledge, because this meeting will be taught by fellow members!

Share your favorite trick, moves, or learning materials with your fellow magicians. Email Pat@magicianpatfarenga to reserve your teaching spot. Be sure to mention what you will teach so we can avoid duplication.

—Ryan Lally, RyanLallyMagic.com

Dues Are Due!

So far, only a handful of members have paid. Dues are \$35 for the email version of *Silent Messenger*; \$45 for postal version. Bring your dues to our next meeting or go online. Venmo: Daryl-Vanderburgh, dvanderburgh8@gmail.com, or (508) 314-5271. Zelle: (508) 314-5271. Or send your check, made out to IBM Ring 122 to: Daryl Vanderburgh, 31 Stonebridge Rd, Wayland, MA 01778.

BARNSTORMER January 2019

BASIL AND CHLOE IN M-U-M

Congratulations are in order to **Basil the Baffling** and his partner **Chloe**, who celebrated their nuptials last November and have been honored with a cover feature in this month's issue of **M-U-M** magazine. It's a shame that they had to share space with their biographer, some guy with a trick-or-treat mustache and an unpronounceable last name, but it's still gratifying to see them being given some respect under any circumstances. For over 35 years (a record for any single-authored feature in M-U-M) and four editors, they have entertained their friends -- both their real-life friends, and their cartoon character friends. (Admittedly, in some cases it's difficult to tell the real-life type from the cartoon type.)



1983 MODEL SHEET DETAIL FOR OUR NEWLYWEDS.

Congratulations to Alan Wassilak, Magic Cartoonist

Alan edits *The Barnstormer*, the newsletter for SAM 109, and he published the article on the left celebrating his 35 years as a cartoon artist in M-U-M, the national publication for the Society of American Magicians. Alan is also a fountain of knowledge about magic, nightclub and stage performers, puppetry, the Three Stooges, and more!

IBM RING 122, Silent Mora— Ray Goulet

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

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

President: Ryan Lally, lallymagic@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Kevin Butler, kevitbutler@comcast.net; 2nd

Vice President: Dan Bybell, dan@bybell.com

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debbie@debbieocarroll.com Sergeant-at-arms: Bob Filene, bobfilene@alum.mit.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@magicianpatfarenga.com