

The Silent Messenger

December 2022

Ring 122 November Ring Report

Crazy Davy Penn opened up this month's meeting discussing a gift of magic he had recently received! Among the effects were a wooden die box, a U.F. Grant Topsy Turvy Bottles, and the card selecting duck! Classics he will love and use for years to come.

Bob Filene added a recent story about performing an impromptu sponge ball routine with a six year old watching. When Bob asked the child how the sponge ball appeared in his "empty" hand, the child replied with certainty, "The ball went under the table, under the carpet up your arm and into your other hand." Magic explained by a six year old!

Our December meeting will be in person! We will meet on Tuesday, 12/20/22 (NOT the last Tuesday of the month) at City-Works Eatery and Pour House, 91 Arsenal Yards Blvd, Watertown, MA 02472. The plan is to meet at 6:30pm to eat and socialize, and we can try to run a Zoom from our table starting at 7:30pm. An evite will be emailed out to the membership to get a head count so look for the email and check your junk fold if you didn't receive it by the time you get this newsletter.

We are looking to add a position of Social Media coordinator. This person would assist with our online presence including our website and adding an Instagram account. A committee is in the process of being formed, so if you would like to participate, please join us!

Bob Filene has been in touch with the family of Bruce Fenton, our former Ring 122 president who recently passed away regarding a Broken Wand Ceremony. Hopefully, this will be at our January meeting but this has to be confirmed.

This month, we had magician and inventor Scott Alexander as our guest lecturer. He likes to look at old effects and think how he can rework it with a new story. Scott used a mixture of video clips of himself doing the effects in front of people followed by his live explanations and demonstrations of the effect. One effect was a very clever Card to Altoid box reveal which was based on Bruno Henning's Card in Can. Scott's reinvented this effect as Tinascious which he sells on his website. When he presents the effect, he tops it off with a surprise appearing watch which was a very clever bit of business.



Scott then transitioned into a short presentation on stand-up comedy magic. He showed himself doing a version of the classic card effect the Chicago Opener done standing up. Scott uses double stick tape to assist this effect which generally is only performed at a table.

Next Scott presented a Card Fan Force from the Fine Art of Magic book. This effect is found on Scott's 7th DVD and it also resets immediately making it a good choice for walk around performances.

All of us have used or at least know about the versatile thumb tip, but how many of us have used a 6th finger? Scott wrote a whole book on this useful device! Scott credited Buatier De Kolta, A French magician from the late 1800's as being well known for his use of this device. Using it, Scott made a silk appear from midair, vanished a silk, with the silk appearing under plate. My favorite was his use of Lycopodium powder to produce a flame from his finger called Satan's Finger! Very cool!

Magician's have to be aware of what pocket holds what, so Scott has a workshop on pocket management that is worth taking.

Scott then presented a mentalism effect similar to a Max Maven and Tim Conover effect called Disinformation. Maurice Fogel also had a similar effect called Headline Hunter, but Scott adds a twist to his presentation using a Himber wallet plus a sonata gimmick to predict a chosen card.

Scott's last effect with another mentalism effect he calls Further Silent Control. Rick Lax had a version of this. Scott uses something called Write in the Rain paper and his patter includes a phony hypnosis routine incorporating aspects of John Fishers Body Magic.



President's Report



You Know You're Magical When...

You know you're magical; after all, you're a magician! But what does it mean to be magical? And why is it important to share your magic with others? I'll tackle the second question first.

I've always thought of Ring 122 as my magical support group. You know, "Hi my name is Dave...and I'm a magician." It wasn't weird to talk about magic with Ring 122 members, but for some reason talking about every magic trick I learned with my wife, kids, or non-magician friends was not welcomed! ! Maybe you've had this same response! I would have kept my magical ideas to myself a long time ago if not for the support and encouragement of the folks at Ring 122.

I also like to perform for students at the school where I teach when I have to cover a class for another teacher and the students are restless, and I love performing for children. I always feel like they have never seen a magician in person. Their responses to my effects are so genuine and expressive...sometimes explosive with laughter or screams. (That got me a stern talking to from a principal at a charter school where I once worked!) Sharing magic creates the kind of wonderment we so often need in this world. And only someone who is magical can spread this kind of feeling. Of course, that someone is you!

So what does being magical mean? It means that it's our role in life to convince others that magic has real power, the power to open minds, create smiles, and lift spirits! And it makes the performer feel magical inside. I have paid more attention to synchronicities since becoming a magician. I love looking at my clock at a random moment and noticing it reads 3:33 or 11:11, my favorite numbers. Or when I guessed the floor of the building my wife now works at out of the blue ("You had a fire drill today, honey? Wow, you had to walk down 17 flights?" "Yes...wait how did you know that my new office is on the 17th floor?") Or when I pull into the driveway after work just in time to catch my wife pulling out of the driveway to take my son to the airport (happened this week). Or the time I randomly pulled 5 cards from a face-down spread deck and it was a straight flush in diamonds, 6-10! Maybe magicians just look for the magic around them like a photographer recognizes distinct colors or patterns in the sky others would miss. Maybe it's a magical energy we possess similar to a jazz musician who can elevate a piece to a new level with input from fellow magicians.

All this leads me to believe that we need to welcome more magician-minded people into our Ring because getting together with magicians has a power of its own. And it makes us feel supported as magi! I hope to see several of my fellow Ring 122 members in person at our Holiday Dinner and Magic night on 12/20. Bring a magic trick to swap if you can (near new or new), a deck of cards, something to perform, and let's make some magical moments together!



**IBM Ring 122
President
David Penn**

History of Magic in New England

Learning the Ropes: Part 1

Author: Pat Farenga

As magic performers, the three men got started when young: Dave got hooked when his mom got him a Mysto Magic Set from Jordan's Department Store, Alan from early variety and children's television shows, and Jim from watching local magicians. Ann and Ray Goulet met in high school and caught their lifelong enthusiasm for magic as teenagers. Ann remembers how Ray helped create their traveling magic company: "Ray met a young magician at Holden's Magic Shop, and sure enough it was Mal Robbins who lived right down the street. He was our paper-boy. So, they founded the M and R Parade. And they got a group of us together to perform. We used to go to our shows on the streetcars and carry all our stuff. Everybody had to carry bags because nobody drove. I mean, we weren't carrying illusions on a streetcar, but we had a lot of performers. Jerry Aylward from Arlington and his wife, my sisters, Mal Robbins' cousin and her girlfriend. You know we just went around, doing hospital shows and stuff like that, getting practice in magic. So that's where we started."

Jim Rainho tells his story: "I had seen local magicians perform. One I saw a lot because he performed for a club my father used to belong to. One day I'm watching him and every time he did this particular trick he walked behind a chair, and he'd get something. I wondered, "What is he doing behind the chair?" So, at one of his shows, he asked for a volunteer, and I ran up on the stage. He set me on the chair, and he did the trick, and I'm trying to peek behind the chair. But, when I got up, instead of walking out from the seat, I went around the back of the chair and on the back of the chair was a big, old servante. That's where he was making his changes. I thought, "So this is what magic is? That phony!"

"I didn't know there was such a thing as a magic club at that time; I was 10 or 11 years old. So, I started figuring out certain tricks and making my own. I got involved with a magician named Edgar Arsenault, he worked under the name Eddie Arnold, who performed at Revere Beach. One day I was at Little Jack Horner's Joke Shop, and he came in and asked the owner if he knew anybody who was into magic and knew enough about magic to be his assistant. So, at that time Eddie took me on and that's when I started doing magic in a meaningful way—actual performances for lay people. I was with Eddie every summer from 1947 until 1950, doing 12 to 15 shows a day, almost every hour. As soon as he got a crowd with enough people to do a show, he started. I was helping him up front and one day he said, "You're in the show." That's how I learned a lot about showmanship. He'd be performing in front of the platform, and I'd be behind it with my arms full. Whenever he needed a prop, I would give it to him or take it from him.

One of the guys who worked one of the contraptions there said to me, "Why do you just stand there like that? You look like a dummy! Be animated. React to what he's doing on stage, like you're interested in what he's doing." I said, "Okay," so I tried it. And Eddie liked what I was doing because I was reacting to him. So, he finally gave me a spot in his show. That's how I started."

Alan had a multifaceted way of getting into magic. As a young boy he was interested in comedy, magic, and cartooning, but it took years before he could figure out how to combine them. Alan said, "I was asked to help on a review show by a friend who taught in a prep school. He asked me if I would perform some magic. But he said, 'We have some students that want to be involved in the show and we have nothing else for them to do so they'll be your assistants.' There were, like five of them! Well, I always did a single act. I had no clue how one was going to utilize assistants. Never mind that by then I had developed my Alan the Uncanny persona—I finally found a way of combining the comedy with the magic.

"I read a book written by Chuck Jones's¹ wife, Jan Jones, called *The Magician's Assistant* because that's what she was. I figured reading this book would give me some clues as to exactly how I could incorporate the assistants. Turned out it didn't help me out with that at all. I figured out how to do that on my own—and it was basically using comedy rather than magic. But while in the middle of reading this book, all of a sudden what popped into my head was the concept of a cartoon involving a magician and his assistant. And what amazed me at the time, and still amazes me, is that I just quit looking at the book, stared straight into space, and within the course of about maybe fifteen minutes came up with twelve cartoon ideas. I have never, before or since been that prolific I immediately started writing them down. I realized that I finally found a way of combining the two."

Alan sent the first 12 Basil the Baffling and Chloe cartoons to M.U.M., the monthly magazine for the Society of American Magicians, and the editor was impressed. "He wrote back and said he would definitely publish what I had and if I came up with any ideas beyond the 12, feel free to contribute them. And the rest is history; my 35th anniversary is coming up in November. And my third editor," Alan noted proudly.

To be continued in next edition...

Sources

1. Chuck Jones is a creator of illusions and a well-known stage performer. <http://www.chuckjonesmagic.com/Biography.htm>

Meeting Information

Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 20th from 6:30—8:30 PM in person at the City Works Eatery and Pour House (and on Zoom).

Come out and dine with your fellow Ring 122 magi! We will meet for dinner and socializing at 6:30pm, and then have a Zoom meeting from the restaurant at 7:30pm.

Bring a new or gently used magic effect for the Yankee Swap! Guests are welcome!

Upcoming Meeting Themes

January:	New Year, New Magic! (Zoom)
February:	Lecture, To Be Announced (Zoom)
March:	Mentalism (In Person)
April:	Book Magic and Favorite Gimmicks (Zoom)
May:	Lecture, To be Announced (Zoom)
June:	Elections, Group Trick Creation (In Person)
August:	Summer BBQ (In Person)



City Works Eatery and Pour
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S i l e n t M o r a - R a y G o u l e t



www.ring122.com

Meetings take place the last Tuesday of every month. Meetings are on Zoom and at currently at the Watertown Public Library, 123 Main Street, Watertown, MA

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The Silent Messenger is published every month. The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month.

Articles, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to the editor, Daniel Barbas at ibm.ring122@gmail.com