



The Silent Messenger

Silent Mora–Ray Goulet Ring 122

www.Ring122.com

Happy Holidays!

January 2022

Ring 122 December Meeting Report

Just a few days before the New Year, a good crowd of 18 gathered to hear a lecture by mentalist and author Richard Osterlind. This lecture was free for IBM Ring 122 members and guests as well as members of SAM 9 in a cooperative agreement.

The business meeting was primarily concerned with whether we should have January's meeting in person and on Zoom or just on Zoom. After it was decided by vote to try to start meeting at the Watertown library and on Zoom, Omicron hit and just recently we pivoted back to Zoom only for January and, most likely, February.

And then after that brief business was attended, to Bob Filene introduced our guest lecturer, mentalist **Richard Osterlind!** OsterlindMystery.com. Richard named dropped that he had collaborated with **David Copperfield** in the past. Richard said that he is the hardest worker he's ever met.

Richard loves to take classic material and update it. An example was Sid Bergson's "El Numero." This is a pick a number effect that's easy to do. You pretend to mark a circle on the back of an envelope containing a packet of cards that are numbered 1-5, then have someone choose a number in their head, and pretend to write your guess, then the gimmick does all the work! Richard also sells a version of this effect using ESP cards called "Foresight."

Richard presented a deep discussion on the uses of nail writers, and he referenced his his "13 Steps to Mentalism" video. His belief is that Mentalism is the *anti technology* of magic. Richard prefers to use an under nail writer for his Swami effect. He markets the "Scribe System" which is a nail writer that is a marker so it is nice and dark on the pad and that offers a more natural writing angle. Richard uses his nail writer to great effect and once shocked then President Ford by predicting his childhood pet's name. Ring 122 past president, **Jim Rainho**, mentioned this was used at carnival Guess Your Age or Weight predictions. Richard likes classic gimmicks like nail writers which are versatile, rather than a gimmick that can only be used for one effect.

Richard had some suggestions on Book tests. He taught a page number force for a book by gluing about 10 pages together about an inch from the edge. He also showed a **Sid Lorraine** book effect called "40,000 Words" using two dictionaries and his business card.

Next Richard presented what he called a radar effect deck from his "Mind Mysteries" DVD in which the magician can predict the cards thought of by 4 volunteers.

Richard finished with a metal spoon bending effect that was amazing and so believable!

Interspersed with his mentalism effects, Richard offered bits of wisdom from his years of experience performing, such as: "Don't use your volunteers as props or foils." A magician should actually show interest in the volunteers. Richard is always courteous and kind to his volunteers and never makes fun of anyone as some magicians are wont to do. He treats his volunteers with respect. Richard ended by saying the Mentalism offers the idea of a true power we could all use if we just knew how.



This month's membership meeting is January 25th, 2021, at 7:30pm, on Zoom!

A Crazy Thought by Crazy Davy



Are you being inspirational to others? I find that that is actually my goal as a magician. As most of you know, I am a teacher in the Massachusetts Public School System. I've always liked that magic encourages fascination and creativity, trial and error, and public speaking, many of the same practices we encourage our students to use in learning their subjects in school.

Over the years, I've taught simple effects to a great many children, mostly ages eight and up. Once when I was teaching at a middle school in Fitchburg, I taught magic as an elective course! I found lots of inexpensive effects we could make. But the magic wasn't the important part; it was about giving students a chance to express themselves and do something unique, something inspirational.

I've been known to buy case boxes of magic effects from the Dollar Tree when they used to sell them there and hand them out to students just to see if anyone would take the time to learn them, to be inspired. And if I ever have to cover a class for another teacher, the first thing I ask the group of students—who I usually don't know—is: Would anyone like to see a magic trick? It always takes them by surprise, and I usually end up showing three or four effects, and then offering to teach one effect to a small group of two or three interested students. I remind them that they can't give away the secret, and they have to practice the effect before they try it out on anyone. It's all part of my master plan to inspire children to become more magical!

I know that I've helped create at least two magicians of note, one who has appeared at the Magic Castle and one who was on Penn and Teller's Fool Us in January of 2021. But I hope there are others I inspired, and I will continue to try to "create a magician" whenever I see an interested child. I encourage you to be an inspiration and applaud those of you who are! These days, this seems to be more important than ever.

Our 2021-2022 Monthly Meeting Themes!

January: New Year, New Magic!

February: Lecture

March: Magic with a Green Theme!

April: Lecture

May: Teach In

June: Panel of Experts/Best Magic Tales

July/August: Summer BBQ, Date TBD.

IBM RING 122, Silent Mora–Ray Goulet Ring

Website: <http://www.ring122.com> *Meetings take place the last Tuesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown, 35 Church Street, Watertown, MA.* Currently though just on Zoom.

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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, David Penn at penn.d@comcast.net