



The Silent Messenger

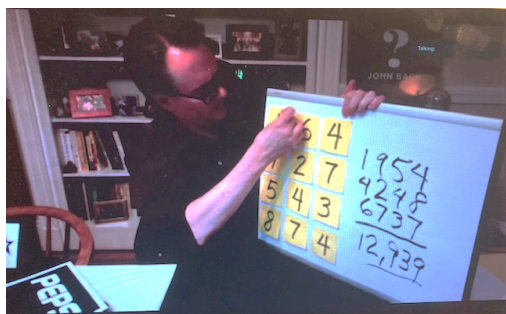
Silent Mora–Ray Goulet Ring 122

www.Ring122.com

March 2022

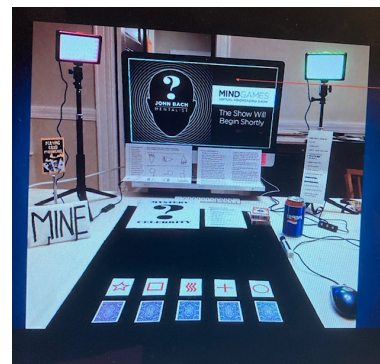


Ring 122 February Meeting Report



President Ryan Lally was not able to join us as he now has an ongoing walk-around gig at Pizzeria Unos in Nashua on Tuesday nights. Come by for dinner if you can and say Hi! In Good and Welfare, **Dave Penn** mentioned that **Debbie O'Connor** has been slowed by her illness, and **Pat Farenga** had surgery recently and is recovering. We hope to see both back on Zoom soon! Since we had a guest lecturer, we dispensed with the rest of the business meeting in short order.

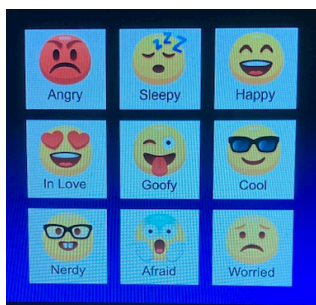
Bob Filene, our lecture coordinator, then introduced mentalist and magician **John Bach**. Originally from Chicago, John has been performing for over 35 years. Influenced by magician **Don Alan** as a child, John credits Ring 122 founder **Ray Goulet** as the person who influenced him to try being a mentalist and it has really worked for John to set him apart! John added that his mentalism act worked especially well on Zoom, which was helpful during Covid. John thinks that virtual shows are here to stay, and they certainly are part of his ongoing business model. And you can't beat the commute to a Zoom show!



John offered some advice on how he plans out his shows. He recommends beginning with an effect that involves the entire audience. For John, this was a simple trick with our hands that had us all immediately engaged. He makes sure that his volunteers do something physical which helps the rest of the audience be engaged as well.

John's first card effect was called Odd Man Out that used large playing cards and tested our memory of what we thought we saw as 4 blue backed number cards but was later revealed as three blue backed number cards and a red backed court card. John credited **Tony Corinda** as the creator of the Odd Man Out Jumbo Memory Card Effect. John then presented a **Max Maven** inspired Virtual Coin Prediction with three invisible coins. After two of the invisible coins were removed, John was able to determine which coin remained. Next, John used the Icon ESP Kit to test volunteer **Noah Bittner** on his (previously unknown to Noah) parapsychology skills. Amazingly, Noah matched all five ESP symbols matched correctly! **John Morton and Luca Volpe** are the creators of this kit. Members especially enjoyed an Interactive Number Prediction effect which used four volunteers generating a seemingly random number which was then revealed using a Pepsi logo shown backwards. **Michael Murray** was the creator of this effect that utilized the typeface Cryptix, a font that creates names that look like numbers. John

gave us all several ideas of how this effect could be customized to fit our own presentations since there are many numbers that can be produced. Summing Up, an app by **Marc Paul**, creates numbers you can use for this effect. We also liked how John reimagined a classic 3 x 3 matrix effect for Zoom by using nine unique emojis instead of nine numbers. In this case, he presented the effect using a slide presentation with each slide subtracting emojis until we all ended up on the same emoji (we were all "feeling cool!") **Martin Gardner** wrote about the odd/even parity principle used in this effect, and **Max Maven** and **David Copperfield** both used a version of this effect.



After one more effect which used **Bill Abbot's Celebrity Deck**, John turned his presentation into a mini lesson on how to perform mentalism on Zoom including lighting tips, miking, and blocking beyond his Zoom presentation area with his cues, props, and crib sheets. He feels that there are lots of advantages to performing on Zoom. Following his lecture, there was a short Q&A session. John was kind enough to include a PDF of his notes after the lecture so members could enjoy learning some of the effects he presented.

Editor's Note: Members may be interested in a 4-session class John Bach is offering Thursdays this May at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. The cost is \$150 for the four sessions.

**This month's membership meeting is March 29th, 2022, at 7:30pm, on Zoom!
The Theme is "Green Magic Effects!"**



President's Message by Ryan Lally

THE 7 DEADLY SINS OF PRESENTING

Public speaking is often cited as the thing people fear the most, even more than death. Now, most of us will never be on stage at TED, but getting up in front of your colleagues or classmates to present is still a daunting task. It's easy to let fear overwhelm us.

I'm sure you've seen nervous presenters before, whether it be from your college days or in your line of work. They get up in front of the crowd and either read straight from a script or from the slides. They rock back and forth and fill their sentences with "ums" and "uhs."

You've no doubt seen these kinds of presenters before. In fact, I'd bet that you've been in the same position yourself. I know I've been! Even as a magician who loves being in front of a crowd, I have struggled with maintaining a cool composure while all eyes are on me. In college, I certainly fell into the trap of filling my PowerPoint slides with paragraphs of text and reading straight from the slides word-for-word. It's a terrible way to present, and we're all guilty of it! To help you prepare for your next presentation, here is a list of the seven things you definitely want to avoid.

Gossip

In general, gossiping won't lead to anything good. There are several different types of gossip, but the ones that most often creep into presentations are "Tale-bearing" and "Derision."

Tale-bearing involves spreading rumors. We all know the stereotype of bratty high schoolers telling high tales behind their classmate's back, but rumors can be spread on an open stage, too. This manifests in the form of stating a fact about someone without doing your due diligence and seeing if it is true or not.

Your audience is here to learn from you. They trust you with their attention and expect that you will give them well-researched information. Most likely, they will not leave your presentation and check every fact you have given under the assumption that you have already done your research. If you want to include something in your presentation that could put someone in an unfavorable light, do a little research just to check that you aren't spreading a false rumor.

The second king of gossip, derision, contains more malice than the first. With this, you are deliberately making fun of someone, not in a light-hearted way, but in a way that is meant to do them harm. Even if you feel as if this person deserves a laugh at their expense, try to hold your tongue. You will only be damaging your own reputation.

Judging

In your presentation, try to refrain from judging and criticizing others. This could be other people in your organization, people in outside organizations, or other organizations as a whole. Maybe they deserve your criticisms. But before you stand up in front of your crowd to bad-mouth someone else, consider how you've fallen short in your own life and career.

Negativity

As a presenter, the audience is looking to you to give them new ideas and make them leave your presentation feeling uplifted. Even if your subject is negative, such as global warming or human trafficking, you should still leave them with a positive, optimistic outlook for the future. Avoid crafting an entire presentation around negativity. There is too much to be thankful for in the world.

Complaining

No one likes a complainer. This is all the more true when the complainer has been given the spotlight and a live microphone. If your presentation is made up of complaints and grievances, like Frank Costanza, your overall message will be lost in the negative noise. Additionally, complaining doesn't provide people with any real value. Instead of giving useful pieces of information, a complainer takes the audience's time and uses it to vent for his or her own personal sake. Presentations are all about giving value to your audience.

Excuses

In the spirit of complainers, no one likes to hear excuses. When we make excuses, we lose out on the chance to learn from our own actions and experiences, and instead project our problems onto others. When this is done in a presentation, we not only cheat ourselves out of valuable lessons, but the audience as well. Don't deny yourself and your audience the chance to learn something important.

Lying

Whether it's in-person or online, we like to watch presentations because we expect to learn something. When the presenter manipulates the facts and presents half-truths and false facts, the audience is poisoned with these lies. Additionally, if the lies are ever figured out, the speaker has lost all credibility. Sticking with the truth, even if it's a hard truth, is always the best policy.

Dogmatism

The presentation sin of dogmatism is a bit trickier to identify than the previous six. In this, the speaker presents information to the audience as being dogmatic, truth unable to change. Typically, the speaker will begin a presentation with this piece of dogmatism as the grounds for which the rest of the presentation is built upon. However, this "dogmatism" may only be seen as such because the speaker has narrowed his or her way of looking at this subject. Instead, by changing their view of the subject and questioning their dogmatic assumptions, they may come to an entirely different conclusion than the one they are presenting about. When crafting your presentation, consider what pieces of information you view as dogmatic, and take a few moments to question your assumptions. You may be surprised at what you come up with.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of what not to do during your presentation. The structure of "seven deadly sins" is borrowed from Christian tradition, so to conclude this article, I'd like to borrow something else from the Bible: Treat your audience the way you would want to be treated.

Your job as presenter is to help out every member of your audience, whether they are in the same room as you or watching on YouTube. Keeping this in mind will allow you to stay on course and create an experience that your audience will truly be thankful for.

SAVE THE DATE!

SAM 9 cordially invites IBM Ring 122 to

A Zoom Lecture by IBM National Past President Shawn Farquhar Lecture

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 7:30

The link will be sent in a future email.

Our 2022 Monthly Meeting Themes!

March: Magic with a Green Theme!

May: Teach In

April: Matias Letelier Lecture

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

What do you see?

