

S i l e n t M o r a — R a y G o u l e t R i n g 1 2 2

The Silent Messenger

October 2022

Ring 122 September Ring Report

Due to Hurricane Ian, and the fact that he lives in Florida and was evacuating, our Michael Ammar lecture had to be postponed. Instead, we went to our plan B theme of "favorite magic show openers," which was a fun topic to explore!

During the meeting portion of our Zoom, Kevin Butler agreed to take on the role of Sgt. at Arms for the club! Members discussed having ring member Daniel Barbas take on the position of Newsletter Editor and he has since agreed to that, so congratulations Daniel! Members also discussed the need to update the contacts of our Facebook and email to Debbie O'Carroll as she is secretary and also to Daryl Vanderburgh. Davy discussed starting a Ring 122 Instagram account, however since there was not a majority of members present on the Zoom that idea was put aside for now. Davy does have his own Instagram account that is underused so possible he could start cross promoting the Ring there?

Thinking ahead, for December we are proposing having an in-person dinner meeting perhaps at the 99 in Stoneham or a Chinese Restaurant that wouldn't mind if we hung around the table and did magic after we ate.

And with that, the business meeting was over and we had an entertaining time talking about Show Openers. David Penn led off with Silly Billy's 4-sided, 2-sided sign prop which is a running gag with a 2-sided sign that somehow had 4 sides, no, yes, never, and always. Davy likes it because it's a silly way to get the audience involved right away.

Dan Bybell likes opening with the Multiplying Dots effect where he talks about the phenomenon of optical illusions before getting into the multiply dots effect. Dan likes that because it establishes expectations for the rest of the show, and that the show will be fun and full of jokes. Dan also has started with a Needle in a Balloon effect in which he draws a face on the balloon and then points out every balloons worst enemy is a needle! Then he turns the face on the balloon upside down which turns it into a frown followed by pretending to hypnotize the balloon! This makes for a Sudden Impact opening. Kevin Butler added that he's done the similar idea but said the needle is a flu shot for the balloon.

Mikey Lee's favorite opening is the Bowling Ball from a Briefcase. He loves that it gives a great big thud which you can't miss. He's also done Wine Bottle from Silks as his opener. Mikey in general likes doing production numbers as openers. He has also opened with Richard Osterland's Forsyth for a lounge show and done Deck to Wand (which in a funny way is similar to the bowling ball) as an opener.

Kevin Butler likes doing appearing cane for an opener as it's quick and it gets people to pay attention. He likes starting with something that will grab the audience's attention fast. Kevin also mentioned David Oliver's Zigzag sequencing concept of how two plan routines, and he tries to plan his shows with an opener, a middle effect and then a finishing effect and keep rotating that sequence. For example, Kevin opens his card trick portion of his shows by producing a deck from a folder piece of paper which is Sudden Deck by David Regal. Kevin muses about going to the Bicycle Card Factory as part of his patter.



Kevin Butler, David Penn, Dan Bybell, Mike Lee, and Jim Rainho at our last Zoom meeting

Lastly, Jim Rainho said during his nightclub heyday, "We always started with music. His act began with a cane appearance to Cane to Silk, to a dove production. Jim also liked to do a production as a start for any show, and then trying to do something to get audience involvement. However, he liked to do production at the start to get the crowd astonished early. And with that said, we adjourned to next month where the theme will be Halloween magic effects!

Meeting
Information

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 25th at 7:30 PM on Zoom.

**Our theme for this month's meeting is Halloween Magic.
Be sure to bring your favorite Halloween themed effects to share!**

Upcoming Meeting Themes

November:	Scott Alexander Lecture (Zoom)
December:	Holiday Magic Dinner (In Person)
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)

SCOTT ALEXANDER
THE FANCY CHAIR LECTURE

Scott will be coming to you live online for an evening of magic and fun as he discusses FIVE different magic effects from his new book

SCOTT ALEXANDER 52

He will explain and illuminate his choice of material, thoughts on character, presentation and his tricks and tips to creating an entertaining and cohesive stand up show.

There will be special discounts available only to folks who attend live online so don't miss this opportunity!

**IBM RING 122
WATERTOWN MA.
ONLINE LECTURE
TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 29TH
7:30 PM EASTERN TIME**



President's Report



Ring 122 Magical Smart Goals!

As a teacher each year, I need to come up My SMART goals for the year. If you are not familiar with the acronym SMART, It stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. As your new incoming president, I thought this would be a good way to set some goals for the year.

I have been talking recently about starting up an Instagram account or some other social media account to extend our reach out into the metaverse in the hopes of attracting new members, so that's goal number one. Goal number two is about putting on one to two Ring 122 Magic Shows this spring. Goal number three is that I would like to have a Ring 122 Holiday Dinner this December. Lastly, goal number four is to have an in-person event in March, as well. I welcome suggestions on the theme for the spring in-person meeting.

I think each of these goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant to what our mission as a Ring is all about, and their time-bound to this year. Taking these ideas one at a time, I would like to continue the discussion of a Ring 122 Instagram account, but for the present, I will use my own personal Instagram account and pollinate it magical bits, news about Ring 122, magic quotes, links to other magi and magical events, and the like. I hope to start it this month. Mikey Lee has said that he would help with a Ring 122 magic show in the spring, perhaps in Wellesley again, which would be fun and give members a chance to perform or assist! Also, I recently found out that I have a connection to a performance space opening up in Winchester, MA sometime this spring that is interested in having Ring 122 put on some family oriented magic shows as part of their planned rotating music and entertain-

ment line up! This could lead to Ring 122 organizing a series of children's shows, all ages shows, and perhaps a Close-Up contest open to magicians in New England.

I look forward to accomplishing these goals for Ring 122, and if anyone has other goals they would like to suggest, please email me or bring them up at a future meeting. :-)

In other news: Holiday Dinner: I will email out a sign-up in early November to see how many people we can get together for a Ring 122 Holiday Dinner this December at either a 99 Restaurant or a Chinese Restaurant where we can hang out afterwards and have a share of magical ideas. I promise to work out a proposed date by the next meeting so you can save the date on your calendars.

New Newsletter Feature: This month begins a feature on the History of the Boston Magic Scene written by member Pat Farenga! I hope you all will enjoy this three part (maybe four part?) series on some of the greatest names in magic that performed locally.



**IBM Ring 122
President
David Penn**

Part 1 of 5

Next issue:

Learning the Ropes

Special Feature

Magic in Boston: 1940 to 1980

By Patrick Farenga



Most people connect magic in New England, and Massachusetts in particular, with the Salem Witch Trials. But to real-life, working magicians New England, and Boston in particular, has been a source of camaraderie, innovation, and livelihood for over 150 years.

As a new member to the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM), Ring 122, I was drawn to the old timers who welcomed me into the club. Their stories about their own and others' stage, closeup, and family shows provided me with much knowledge to learn from. Most of all, as one raised in the Bronx and spoiled by the abundance of magic shops and shows in Manhattan, I continue to be surprised about the rich history of magic in Boston.



I was able to get four elders from Ring 122 to share their stories with me at the late Ray Goulet's Magic Art Studio in Watertown, MA. The meeting occurred shortly before the Magic Art Studio was closed and its inventory sold in late 2018. Happily, Ann Goulet, Ray's wife and magic assistant, joined James Rainho (the winner of the 2018 Milbourne Christopher Lifetime Achievement award), David Cresey (creator of the Cresey Mouth Coils), and Alan Wassilak (creator of the magic comic strip, *Basil the Baffling and Chloe*) in a

discussion about what it was like to be a working magician in Boston from 1940 to 1980. -



As a baby boomer, it's hard for me to imagine what it was like to be living in a time before television, but what I learned from these folks is that Boston was a much more socially active place then. The number of nightclubs that regularly hired magicians was large and the membership of both SAM and IBM was enormous. In the 21st century, in pre-pandemic days, if there are more than 10 people at a magic club meeting it is considered a success. A Ring 122 report from 1961 notes, "Close to 100 members attended our September meeting." The same report describes a very successful, one-week run of four, daily public magic shows that members performed at the Shoppers World mall. Later in the same article it says, "President Lynskey's theory is to have all members who wish to perform appear at our *monthly* shows [emphasis added]."¹



Alan explained, "All the clubs were up in attendance then. No matter what the theme of the club was—social, political, sports—they were big."

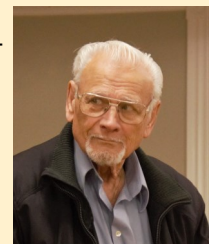


"It was huge," Dave interjected.

"All the clubs were bigger then because people were getting out," continued Alan. "It's a whole different lifestyle now. I mean, in those days only the man worked, and he was allowed one night out with the boys—so you had that going on. And the only other entertainment at the time was television and, before that, radio."

"Television did a job on the clubs," said Ann. Alan, Dave, and Jim all nodded in agreement.

In the winter, many magicians were hired for the Bean Supper circuit, when churches and organizations put on shows for their members. But the Boston nightclub scene provided year-round opportunities. Ann, Jim, Dave, and Alan remembered performing or watching magic at Steubens' Vienna Room or Cocomanut Grove in Boston, Blinstrub's Village in South Boston, The Hillbilly Ranch in Scolly Square (now Government Center), The Frolics in Revere, and The Beachcomber in Wollaston Beach. Framingham had The Meadows, owned and operated by Vaughn Munroe, a popular big band leader and vocalist with a national following, and Caesar's Monticello. All hired magicians regularly.



Jim Rainho remembered, "There were also two clubs in Charlest---own. One was the Shamrock Village. The other had a stage that went up and down."

"We used to call the clubs in Charlestown upholstered sewers," said Dave.

Sources

1. Linking Ring, Vol. 41 No. 9, ed, Nov 1961, p. 144.

Reminder

Your 2022-2023 Dues are Due!

It's that time of year again! Dues are due. Dues pay our Zoom bill, the magician who lecture, and other expenses to maintain our club.

It's still a bargain at only \$35 for electronic delivery of the Silent Messenger, \$45 if you desire snail mail delivery. For your convenience, there are multiple ways to pay:

By Check: made payable to IBM Ring 122, to Daryl Vanderburgh, 31 Stonebridge Rd, Wayland, MA 01778;
Electronically via Venmo or PayPal to dvanderburgh8@gmail.com.

Please include the description: **IBM Ring 122** dues in your payment memo. Thank you!
- Daryl



IBM Ring 122
Silent Mora-Ray Goulet



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