Mark Leveridge Delivers Delightful Entertainment and Deceits

Our April guest magician and lecturer was Mark Leveridge from the United Kingdom. He gave an excellent lecture lasting three hours with a short intermission. His material was practical and his explanations precise. In addition, his storytelling of things that went well and things that unexpectedly went wrong (e.g. the child on stage and the mother who rescued him and the little girl also on stage who later told Mark how great a magician he was because he made a boy disappear and the only thing left was a yellow puddle.) was humorous as well as reassuring that for all magicians at some time the unexpected happens and to not let that throw you.

In his first trick, Imagination, he used an invisible deck (really invisible, our imaginations made it visible) where a card is chosen in a seemingly random process of using 3 or 4 people in the audience to determine the choice. In a very clever way he forces a red court card (it doesn't matter which one) and produces a prediction from his pocket that matches the chosen card. In Mark's Pure Cards Across trick instead of using the usual two volunteers on stage, he used two transparent glasses in which he put the same number of cards. Then he added 3 cards from one glass to the other demonstrating what would be happening. He then took the 3 cards back to the glass he had taken them from and did the magical gesture.
Voila! One glass now had 3 less and the other glass 3 more cards. This is a very visual trick and easy to do.

Mark talked about how some tricks are better suited for close up than for stage and why even in close up some tricks are more appropriate for a smaller table audience, e.g. a quiet couple, than for a larger more energetic table group. For example, for the quiet couple he used Beating the Odds trick which uses a slip force and the prime four force. Both forces were explained.

Mark explained that he did his Equal Not Unequal Ropes trick only for magicians but not for a lay audience because they wouldn't get it. He never does it as an opener in his lectures but in the middle where it is more appropriate. It was another fun routine with a twist. He makes it look like he is doing the Professor's Nightmare routine as he shows us three unequal ropes. Then he made them all equal. Finally at the end of the routine, he showed three equally long ropes and no short or middle size rope. He said it fooled magicians. And it did us until he gave his explanation.

Mark showed and explained 12 routines, including his move-less sleight on a Ring on a String trick; a trick involving DVD's, a handkerchief, and a prediction; and one where a silk appears on a rope mysteriously and after removing the silk
continues with a cut and restored rope routine. With the entertaining stories of his experiences over 25 years as a magician, his clever tricks, and his clear explanations, it was a delightful afternoon. Check out his website or Penguin Magic for his products.

—Kevin Butler

Next Meeting, May 29, 2018

It’s do a new trick night! We ask that you choose a trick to learn from a printed source, such as Tarbell, The Linking Ring, lecture notes, etc. But no one will check if you learned it from a video! Share your new effect at our meeting for fun and to gain new magical knowledge.
From the President

No Time For Chit Chat

Busy, busy, busy. Iron the curtains. Dust off the hat. Test the microphone cables. It's almost SHOWTIME.

MAY 19th at 4PM in case you forgot.

Once again our intrepid troupe hits the stage to render the citizens of Wellesley mind-boggled and flabbergasted.

Tell everybody you know. This will be the best ten bucks they ever spend, at least for us. All seriousness aside, if your friends love magic, the Wellesley Community Center is the place to be. If they hate magic, we can fix that too.

New performers, new acts, new sponge balls, this show has it all! If you can't be there yourself, then send three people in your place. You know that lectures are better than YouTube for learning magic. This is how we can afford it. Who knows, your donation might even cure Alzheimer's.

How cool is that?

This month's meeting will feature you and your compeers performing a routine of their choice as found in Tarbell, The Linking Ring, or other such publication.

Also, it's time to nominate our officers for the coming year. The election will be held at our June meeting. In case of a tie vote, whoever executes the sloppiest faro shuffle wins.

On with the show!

—Bruce Fenton

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.

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The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month. Articles, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to the editor:
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