BJ Hickman Entertains and Enlightens

BJ Hickman, our guest lecturer, gave us many insights and tips on comedy magic for children and family audiences at our March Ring meeting. He gave examples for each of his four main points on presentation: React, Reiterate, Reminisce, and Planned Spontaneity.

He started with the Yes Game, credited to Al Lampkin and Arnold Furst. BJ tells the audience it's a chance to get some money—$500 or less. He then selects a volunteer. The volunteer is told to answer yes to each question asked. This is an opportunity to have a lot of interactive fun with the volunteer and audience and for the magician to react.

BJ used a coin tray for the trick, counting out five coins into the tray and then transferring the coins that look like five but are actually seven into the person's cupped hands. He then proceeds to pick three coins out of the air (not really) and makes them go into the cupped hands. All the time asking now we have six coins, (volunteer answers yes), then seven (yes), and then eight, (yes). Then he takes the coin tray and has the volunteer open his hands and put a coin into the tray. There are seven coins. The magician is
surprised (reacts) and then searches for the missing coin. As he looks first behind the volunteer’s ears, then asks the volunteer to search his pockets. Finally the coin is found. More byplay and humor and then the volunteer walks away with a quarter. He uses this as his opener. Lots of opportunities for comedy and establishing the idea that everybody is going to have fun.

BJ gave lots of examples on react and also the other three points. In particular, I found his use of reminiscing by sharing with his audience something a child said at one of his past magic shows or something that happened to him at a magic show that was funny or unusual could be very effective in establishing a fun positive and unthreatening mood. As he concluded his lecture he gave us this quote, “People won’t remember what you did but they will remember how you made them feel.”

Even if you are not a children's entertainer, the principles highlighted by BJ Hickman made this a useful and productive and entertaining evening for all of us.

—Kevin Butler
The President’s Letter

Happy Spring!

Rejoice, we have finally broken the bonds of winter and a new season is upon us. Finally we can reach the mailbox. Most of the fallen auto parts have been gathered from the driveway. Rows of soggy sponge rabbits who dutifully held back torrents of water in the cellar are now drying in the warm April sunshine.

There are so many things to enjoy this time of year. We always look forward to the Easter Bunny’s annual appearance, but nothing compares to the pure joy and excitement of a visit by the legendary Harry Lorayne!

Here’s a secret …

The way we are able to get great lecturers like Harry to come to our meetings is by raising the funds through our annual Magic Show. This year, we are assisting the Cure Alzheimer's Fund with our performance at the Wellesley Community Center on May 20th (4 P.M.).

So put down the chocolate eggs on April 26th and join your compeers for a great lecture. And please consider lending a hand with our show. We need all the help we can get. The Cure Alzheimer's Fund, Gil Stubbs and the Easter Bunny will thank you. Please volunteer at the meeting or contact Gil or me via email.

—Bruce Fenton

The Secretary’s Report

The March meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our president Bruce Fenton. There were no secretary’s or treasurer’s reports. Jim Rainho suggested that we hold an initiation ceremony for our new members. He also suggested that we reestablish The Irving Award, an award that we gave to outstanding members in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.
Don’t Miss

AN EVENING WITH

Harry Lorayne

WEDNESDAY
April 26th  8:00 P.M.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
35 CHURCH STREET WATERTOWN, MA
SILENT MORA - RAY GOULET I.B.M. RING #122 BOSTON
NEMCA SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday June 11th ~11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Francis Farm, 27 Francis Farm Rd. Rehoboth, MA, 02769

Easy to get to. Francis Farm is located in Rehoboth, MA, about one mile from the intersection of Routes 44 and 118. You can also check them out on the web at: www.francisfarm.net

Join us in the air-conditioned indoor pavilion, with a delightful complete dinner:

Deluxe Hot and Cold Buffet
Garden Salad, Roasted Potatoes, Chicken Marsala, Italian Meatballs
Platter of American Cheese, Deli Turkey and Roast Beef
Lemonade, Coffee with Dinner

$37.50 PER PERSON, TAX AND TIP INCLUDED

A full afternoon of fun and magic, with:

A MAGIC FLEA MARKET
Bring your magic items to sell, with a flea market starting at noon.

A MAGIC AUCTION
After the Flea Market, an Auction where your magic items will be sold auction style, with no fee charged. You set the minimum price so it will sell for what you want, the final winning bid is all yours, and you collect from the buyers.

A MAGIC SHOW
After Dinner Magic Show, with notable talent, that will amaze and amuse, with mysteries and laughter.
Featuring the magic of: John Bach and Alan the Uncanny plus other Surprise Acts with Master of Ceremonies, Bob Olson

Call your friends and join us in Rehoboth. Don't miss the fun!
One Free Picnic to the lucky winner: All attendees will have their names put into a drawing. If your name is drawn, your picnic cost will be refunded, so you will win one free picnic!

Please fill out the form and mail back NO LATER THAN May 15 with check payable to NEMCA, to: Steve Rogers, 86 Lafayette Park, Lynn MA 01902 (978) 482-5204

Name(s):

No. of people attending x $37.50/ea. = $
2017 Ring 122 Meeting Schedule

April 26: Harry Lorayne.

May 31: Lecture (TBA).

June 28: Teach-in (TBA).

The April 26 meeting starts at 7:30 for members to share performances and ideas, then the lecture starts at 8 PM. Admission:

- $5.00 for IBM Ring 122 members
- $20.00 for non-Ring 122 members
- $5 for Society of Young Magicians members

We need performers for our May 20th Benefit Show in Wellesley

This is an important event that will benefit Alzheimer's research and Ring 122 together. Shows such as this are an important source of funds for our lectures.

Please contact Gil Stubbs (gilstubbs@gmail.com) to join the show.

IBM RING 122, Silent Mora–Ray Goulet

Website: http://www.ring122.com

Meetings take place the last Wednesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown, 35 Church Street.

Ring 122 Officers for 2016

President: Bruce Fenton, galahad37@hotmail.com
1st Vice President: Kevin Butler, kevibutler@comcast.net
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Sergeant-at-arms: Bob Filene, bobfilene@alum.mit.edu

Board of Governors: Alan Wassilak, Pat Farenga, and Jerry Schiowitz.

The Silent Messenger is published every month except for July and August.

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

- Pat: pfarenga@comcast.net