



# The Silent Messenger

Silent Mora-Ray Goulet

[www.Ring122.com](http://www.Ring122.com)

December 2018

## Ingo's Magic Trove and Advice from Santa



Our November meeting got started with us welcoming a new member, Fred Sears. Dan Bybell then recounted his time at the New England Magic Collectors Association conference in mid-November. Dan gave an entertaining account of the wonderful stage shows and lectures put on by Mike Caveney, Martin Lewis, and others, whetting our appetites for the next conference in 2020.

The rest of the meeting was full of gifting, due to compeer Andrew Inglis' (who performs as Ingo, the World's Greatest Magician) desire to cull his magic collection in advance of a move to a new home. Andrew neatly packaged and labeled three boxes of his books, tricks, DVDs, and props and displayed them on a few tables. We all walked around and picked up what we wanted, swapped/traded with others, and then decided how much we would pay for the items we chose. Andrew directed that all the money would go to Ring 122.

One of the older tricks for the taking, a nicely painted Atta Boy, didn't have instructions so Andrew demonstrated it for us. His funny patter for the effect was perfect. He starts by saying, "This is Sam the Bellhop. What's a bellhop? You can look it up on Google if you don't know, and if you do know, then you probably don't know how to use Google . . ." After riffing on the hypnotic eyes and gender-fluid appearance of the prop, Andrew noted that he really didn't know if Sam was a man or a woman, so he would move on and do the trick.

To end the evening, Jim Loscuttoff performed his new Santa's magic routine. Jim worked patter themed around Christmas and Santa while he performed the Pom Pom trick with toy Santa bears on the stick instead of pom poms. Then he did a Color Monte effect using mice and the night before Christmas as his setting, which led to his closing effect that



## *The Silent Messenger*

demonstrates how Santa magically gets into and out of people's homes: using a framed piece of glass, Jim magically passed a Santa doll through the glass.

As a working Santa, this is Jim's big season and he provided a couple of interesting insights into being a magic Santa. One is to do cold readings for the kids to show them that Santa knows everything. Jim provided several good examples of how that's done. He also said that he starts growing his hair and beard in August (he cuts it right after Christmas!) so it's great for pulling by the kids; Jim called his beard his job security because many kids tug on Santa's beard only to find it is a fake, so the kids are surprised his beard is real, which adds to his character's aura. Another neat thing Jim leverages is his deep laugh. Whenever there's a glitch, or a need to stall, Jim does Santa's belly laugh and gets the audience laughing with him as a result, giving him cover to do what needs to be done.

—Patrick Farenga



## **Next Meeting: Yankee Gift Swap!**

**Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018**

The meeting will be at the First Parish of Watertown, 35 Church St., starting at 7:30. Bring a gift-wrapped magic item (spend no more than \$20 if you purchase one) to be used in the gift swap. Please bring a gift to receive a gift.

## **The President's Letter**

Steve Jobs didn't just produce another cellphone; he made the iPhone. And before that, he didn't just give consumers another product to load their CDs onto; he gave us the iPod and iTunes. This was all after he gave us a personal computer that we could actually use, not some complicated device. Steve Jobs had to think of these ideas before he could manufacture them. He was a creative.

Creativity allows you to brainstorm ideas—ideas that could become a new product at your company, or a new way of selling your product. It's what gives many entrepreneurs the vision that most of us don't have to find a gap in the market and fill it. Anyone can be an effective employee, but it takes a creative to truly benefit a company in the long run.

A manager who cultivates her own creativity can use that to lead her employees through rough waters. A creative employee can come up with new ways of performing task *X* that saves time and money yet increases productivity. Creativity in the marketing department will spawn new, different ways of selling the product or service and cultivating a completely unique brand image.

But wait, don't they teach creativity in college? Any business undergraduate will have at least one term project that involves starting a hypothetical company and developing a business plan around it. And an MBA student will have more of those types of project than he cares to remember. Aren't those more than enough creative exercises?

Yes, we learn creativity in college that can be applied to organizations, but just as athletes continue to train every day, so do we need to continue to train our creative brains.

### **Having a Creative Outlet**

Everyone who has a creative outlet can rightly be called a creative. Whether it's thinking of jokes to tell your coworkers the next day or displaying your paintings at a local art gallery, playing guitar for your kids, or singing for your Instagram channel. Creative outlets are every deliberate task that inspires and encourages creativity.

These creative outlets are fun. They are a great way to decompress at the end of a long day of staring at spreadsheets. Switching your concentration from work to a creative task can be a very healthy ritual to add to the end of your day, as it helps you to leave your work at work and focus on your personal life. That's why so many will go do stand-up comedy or even sing at karaoke after hours.

Not only does it help your brain, having a creative outlet with a social element will introduce you to new people who share your interests. I was surprised when I first stepped into the comedy scene in Boston to find that everyone knows each other! These comedians frequent the same handful of open mics during the weekdays and vie for the same spots on comedy shows for the weekends. Over time I began to see familiar faces getting up at open mics, telling different jokes that may or may not bomb, and improving their set for next time. I became familiar with these faces and they became familiar to me.

But having a creative outlet goes beyond making friends and giving you an extracurricular activity! Creating something—whether it be physical or not—gives you a sense of pride that is hard to achieve elsewhere. Making time in your schedule to focus on your creative endeavor will allow you to have at least that little bit of time outside of an otherwise busy schedule to yourself. Not only that but building creativity into your schedule will ensure that you'll stick with it and follow through.

By engaging in creative activities, you will also develop a habit of mindfulness; being present in the moment and focused on the task at hand is a key element to creativity and can even help reduce stress. Just like how focusing on your breathing in meditation helps lowers stress and puts you into a state of relaxation, so too does focusing on a creative task. In addition to relieving stress, engaging in an activity you enjoy and seeing the fruits of your labor causes your brain to release the feel-good chemical dopamine, heightening the pleasure of creativity.

Most of all, creativity boosts your self-esteem. Completing a creative project that has tested your abilities as an artist rewards you with a very unique boost of self-esteem. It's an indescribable feeling to look back at a completed project and say, "I can't believe I did that." It's an affirmation that you are an artist and are capable of producing such great results. It becomes easier and easier to practice your art and push yourself past any self-doubt.

I was 17 when I co-produced my first public magic show. Finding a venue, booking the acts, promoting the show, performing in it myself; it was an enormous undertaking that had me filled with anxiety right up until the final curtain. But after the show was over, I was overcome with a wave of pride for accomplishing such a task that it gave me the boost of

confidence I didn't know I needed. Since then, I've produced many more shows, and each one gives me a sense of pride and confidence.

Confidence and self-esteem don't just stay within your creative sphere; it extends to every part of your life. Otherwise difficult tasks become a little bit easier; you walk with more confidence in your step; you have less anxiety and an outlet to get out whatever anxiety you do have. This causes you to become a better employee, spouse, child, sibling, and friend. You feel meaningful that you are giving back to the world a little bit of your own creativity, whether it's on a stage at the local open mic or on your Facebook or Instagram accounts.

There is absolutely no reason why each and every one of us shouldn't be a creative!

—Ryan Lally

## Dues Are Due!

So far, only a handful of members have paid. Dues are \$35 for the email version of *Silent Messenger*; \$45 for postal version. Bring your dues to our next meeting or go online. Venmo: Daryl-Vanderburgh, [dvanderburgh8@gmail.com](mailto:dvanderburgh8@gmail.com), or (508) 314-5271. Zelle: (508) 314-5271. Or send your check, made out to IBM Ring 122 to: Daryl Vanderburgh, 31 Stonebridge Rd, Wayland, MA 01778.

## IBM RING 122, Silent Mora–Ray Goulet

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*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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