



THE SILENT MESSENGER

Silent Mora
www.Ring 122.com
November 2012

Keith Fields Conducts Business



Keith Fields is from England and when he lectured Ring 122 in Watertown, MA in October 2012 he did, indeed, prove to be an alien of extraordinary abilities. Keith Fields is full of British wit—though never British reserve!—and brings distinctive touches and insights into many

(Continued on page 3.)

Fundraisers for David Oliver:

1. Nov. 14 Auction at Magic Art Studio. Details on page 2.
2. <http://domagic4davidoliver.blogspot.com/>

Ring 122 Meets on Tuesday,
November 27, 2012 at the Magic Art

New Series Volume 2, Number 3

November 2012



Our Next Exciting Meeting: Presenting a
MAGIC AUCTION *To Support Compeer DAVID OLIVER.*



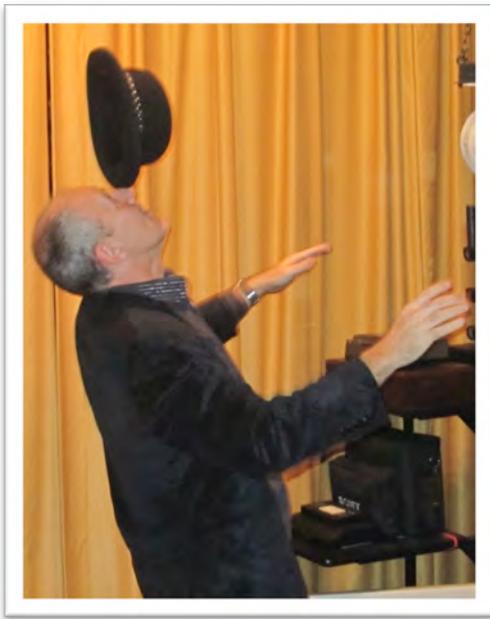
Please Bring ***Magic Items*** to donate for auction, \$\$ to spend
And an **Eagerness to Participate!**

100% OF THE PROCEEDS Will Benefit David
To Help Cover His Living and Medical Expenses.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT THE MAGIC ART STUDIO
137 SPRING STREET, WATERTOWN, MA 02472

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP: 7:00 BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30 CHARITY AUCTION: 8:00

THIS EVENT AND PARTICIPATION THEREIN IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MAGIC COMMUNITY.



of the classics of magic. He opened with a clever trick that he used to start his street performances: first he did some cool moves to get his bowler on top of his head, then he asked a spectator to catch his hat, except he used an elastic pull to have his hat fly back to him. It was this sort of surprising twist to common effects that Fields excelled at, including verbal twists that made old schtick fresh. For instance, after he was introduced by President Inglis to the audience he remarked, “That’s the finest introduction I’ve ever written.”

Fields is a world champion street entertainer and he tipped some very practical advice to us about making our shows more entertaining. His performance and explanation for his Chop Cup routine, including the important and well-hidden role his table plays in the effect, is memorable. Keith spent a lot of time not only discussing the mechanics of his loads and moves, but also the psychological subtext—the triple climax—that he manipulates to achieve maximum effect for his Chop Cup. Getting two lemons, a coconut, and a pineapple from a single cup is impressive—not to mention that weird ball that won’t stay in your pocket . . .



Keith Fields mines the classics of magic, making them his own and showing you how you can do



it, too. His magic is practical, funny, and moves at a very brisk pace. Fields’ version of the bill in the saltcellar or salt pot (we call it a salt shaker in the United States)





demonstrated nice handlings for the Devil's Hank. An interesting aside: Keith mentioned how when he does balloon animals he'll have the bill be found in the belly of a balloon dog.

Keith performed and explained most of his cabaret act, and it was winning material. His Chicken Chow Mein production is a trick with 50 outs, so you seem like a true mind reader, and his book test was direct and strong, letting you use books in your host's library. A gag with a balloon on a pull and a song created by the Human

Xylophone were unexpected, fun moments. Keith performed an ambitious card routine using a blank deck of cards that was very interesting; it ended with the deck getting fully printed right before the volunteer's eyes.

The old paddle trick, or Spot Paddles as Keith called them, was given some new energy with good patter and new moves, putting a fitting end to an evening where everything we've all worked on in some way seemed new! Keith Fields ended by telling us that magicians have to get out and perform in order to learn and we're all very lucky that he follows his own advice and shares it with us.

—Patrick Farenga



Check Out Our New Website!

www.ring122.com

You can link to your personal magic site for business purposes, download back issues of the Silent Messenger, read and view magic documents and videos, and become part of the online Ring 122 community.

If you have any content you would like us to add to the site, please contact Pat Farenga, Matias Letelier, or David Phillips (their email addresses are on the site and in this issue).

Rupayan Neogy is Our First Pre-Meeting Performer



Rupayan showed us a Miser's Dream routine he is creating, including the treasure chest prop and patter. After his performance he asked and received feedback from his compeers, including some very detailed suggestions from our newest member, Matias Letelier.

Doc Rogers is up next to show us some new stuff he's working on. Check him out at 7PM on Nov. 27 at our next meeting.

Halloween Magic Spooktacular 2012



Despite Hurricane Sandy, and our "dear leader," Andrew, suffering illness that prevented him performing with us, as well as several other obstacles that seemed determined to stop the show before it started, Ring 122 proved the adage: The show must go on!

Six performers entertained an enthusiastic audience at Grace Episcopal Church in Medford on Oct 27, raising nearly

\$300 for the church youth fund. The photo on the top left shows all the performers during curtain call, from left to right: Pat Farenga, Bob Filene, Alan Wassilak, Davy Penn, Eli Cushner, and Alexi Constantine.



On the left is Alan the Uncanny doing the linking rings; on the right is Crazy Davy, channeling the ghost of Elvis as the King of Cards (you had to be there to understand this one). Our president has some more to say about this event in this month's missive from Andrew.



From Our President

Well, now that THAT is finally over, and I think you know what I mean . . . [For those who don't, read the report on the Halloween Show in this issue, page 5.]

There are all kinds of magicians. There are collectors, fans, hobbyists, amateurs, professionals (semi, fulltime and wannabe), and we have a wonderful collection of all of those in Ring 122.

There is a special feeling that comes from the shared knowledge, enthusiasm and experience that we bring to Ray's Place every month, and that feeling is made even more special when some of us are able to get together and give a group show somewhere out in the world.

Without further comment, let me share with you portions of an email that our own **Alan Wassilak** sent out to those who had participated in Ring 122's October 27th Halloween Show in Medford. Alan (the Uncanny) is an experienced performer, an accomplished illustrator and one of the cognoscenti (look it up) of the Boston Magic scene.

Alan's words, with his permission:

"The greatest enjoyment for me doing this type of show, in addition to the enjoyment of an appreciative audience, of course -- is the fun of working with my brother magicians for a common cause. The cooperation, collaboration, camaraderie, and good will are intoxicating.

This show was particularly a kick because we managed to tie a few of our individual contributions together with a little planned and improvised patter, most of us making reference to another performer or performance in the show during our own turns and unifying the experience for the crowd; we were a theater company, not just a separate set of acts strung together. Everyone helped everyone else. I love show business!"

Need I say more?

Best Regards,
Andrew Inglis

Secretary's Report

The meeting was called to order by our president Andrew Inglis at 7:30. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were accepted by the members.

Pat Farenga announced that we have a new website address at ring122.com

Debbie O'Carroll suggested that we have a Ring 122 Facebook page.

Commissioner of Cookies, Kevin Butler thanked Rupayan Neogy for bringing the refreshments.

Many thanks to Jim Canaday for donating several raffle items for our meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

—Debbie O'Carroll, Secretary

A Note From Your Treasurer: Time To Give Back

There was a time a few years ago when dark clouds loomed over our club's fiscal health. Membership was in decline and dues were barely keeping up with expenses. Some years saw a negative cash flow that was eating into the meager reserves that we had managed to scrape together in the years immediately preceding.

But the membership pulled together and launched some collective initiatives that turned the ship around and put us back on the path to solvency. Some of these were no-brainers, like transitioning to the email newsletter (for those who can take it) that cut mailing expenses and maximized dues revenue.

But, in my opinion, the most important development was the emergence of a new vibrancy and camaraderie that lifted the club up in ways that have organically contributed to our financial stability: the membership Halloween and spring charity shows, greater attendance at lectures, the eagerness of benefactors to donate their unused paraphernalia to auction to benefit the club, etc.

As a result, our club has never been in greater fiscal shape in the 12 (yikes) years that I have been Treasurer.

And with that, it is time to give back!

Knowing that our cash reserves are strong, this summer the Executive unanimously approved a program whereby we will give away a \$35 Magic Art Studio gift certificate to one lucky member at each meeting that does NOT include a lecturer. The winner will effectively win their annual dues back. (Note: recipients of the postal Silent Messenger who win will receive a \$10 cash supplement to make sure their

higher dues are still covered)

The idea is to incent attendance at those events where member performance and sharing among compeers is the focus. This will help to keep the momentum strong and further foster the aforementioned infectious spirit that is so beneficial to our club's long-term well-being.

The program begins this month. But here's the catch . . . in order to win you must have already paid your dues this year. It's only fair! For those who still owe, see the dues reminder in this issue.

Magically yours,
Daryl Vanderburgh

Dues Notice

Dues are \$35 to receive the electronic copy of the Silent Messenger. \$45 to receive a hard copy by US Postal Service. Checks should be made out to IBM Ring 122.

Bring your dues to the November meeting, or mail them to:

Daryl Vanderburgh
31 Stonebridge Rd
Wayland, MA 01778

Remember, you can't enter the drawing for the Magic Art Gift Certificate unless you have paid your dues. Don't be left out of the fun!

PHOTO CREDITS: All photos of the meeting are by Jerry Schiowitz. All photos of the Grace Church Halloween Show are by Day Farenga.

The Mindful Magician

By Debbie O'Carroll © 2012

Stage Hogs

Fantastic! You've been hired to perform a magic show at a big festival. You've agreed to do a 45-minute show at 2:00 and you have 15 minutes to break down your props and clear the stage for the next act, a puppet show scheduled at 3:00. A musician is on before you at 1:00, so you plan your show accordingly. You envision his instruments and sound equipment and calculate how long it will take him to clear the stage. You estimate how quickly you can strike your props to give the puppeteer ample time to set up.

In preparation, you pack and pre-set your props and iron your costume. The parking situation is unknown, so you bring a portable "wheelie" in case you have to walk to your stage. You check your sound system's batteries and pack a sandwich, water, and business cards. All is well when you arrive at the festival grounds with more than enough time to spare. You locate your stage and unload your props, carefully staying out of sight of the large audience watching the musician who started at 1:00.

Great! You have a few minutes to find a quiet spot to center yourself and breathe. At 1:45 when you are relaxed and ready to go, Mr. Music launches into another song. You wait.

It is now 1:50. Your mind starts racing! "How long will it take me to plug in my sound system and load the silks into the ghost tube? Do I have time to check my sight lines?" You hear some familiar guitar chords. Oh no! Mr. Music is now singing "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald", a six and a half minute song.

At 1:59, you rush towards the stage, your finger frantically slashing your throat in the universal "cut" sign. After what seems like an eternity, Mr. Music notices you. Bemused, he ends his song and says, "I guess this person wants me to finish up. So I'm going to do one last song." At 2:10, Mr. Music takes his final bow. "Before you leave, folks," he says, dismissing the sizable audience, "stop by the stage. I have a

few CDs for sale.” With a sinking feeling, you realize that after he sells his CDs and packs up his gear, you will not be able to start your show until 2:30. You will have to cut your performance dramatically to give the puppeteer enough time to set her stage and props. “What does it matter,” you say to yourself, looking at the empty seats “That fathead sent my audience away.” Congratulations, You have just met The Stage Hog.

Most performers are sharing and caring folk who don't hesitate to help a colleague, especially if they are working on a stage with no sound system, stage manager or emcee, however, you will inevitably encounter The Stage Hog in one guise or another during your career. How do you prepare for this certainty so you won't find yourself seething offstage before an important show? Prior to the event, check the list of the other entertainers on the bill and visit their websites. You can learn a lot from a person's website and even more from a Facebook page. Self-centered show people tend to make grandiose statements about their abilities. If you have a suspected Stage Hog, practice an encounter by role-playing. Be prepared to approach the stage and tell him politely but firmly that it is your turn. Have your contract or performance agreement with you to make your point and don't be shy about asking him to clear the stage before he starts selling his merchandise. If he doesn't introduce you before he finishes, ask him if you can use his microphone to introduce yourself. Don't let anyone send your audience away and remember to visit the website of the performer who is on after you so you can say a few nice words of introduction. After your show, quietly pack your props out of the audience's sight so you don't upstage the next person. In short, be your own stage manager and emcee.

I appreciate your ideas and comments. Contact me debbie@debbieocarroll.com

Super SAMCON!

Doc Rogers reports on this year's magic conference in Peabody, MA.

November 3rd's SAMCON XI, a one-day convention, held at the Peabody Marriott, was possibly the best yet. If you were unable to attend, here is what you missed. The day opened with the always popular dealer's show. Dave Cressey—the original!—was even here delivering his lines and goods.

This year's lectures started with Norm Barnhart, a balloon artist and children's entertainer with a giant energy and personality. Norm taught some great tricks and gave multiple magic hints and tips on acting and entertaining. Isn't this what it is all about?

Scott Alexander, known to be an excellent performer, showed he is a great teacher as well. His lecture on creating a stand-up show was full of practical and well-developed ideas that Scott illustrated not only in his lecture but in his evening show performance as well. Scott taught several fast visual effects with great humor.

The last lecture was by far the most educational. Levent is not only a top performer but he is the most knowledgeable magic theorist and historian working today. He taught the history and methods of the Miser's Dream, Linking Rings, billiard ball manipulation, salt pour, and half-dyed hank among other things. Excellent manipulation, excellent magic, and excellent thinking—if only it could have been longer. Fortunately you can get more from his monthly column in MUM magazine.

The hilarity-filled Gala show started at 8 PM and was MC'd by our own Danny Hustle who strangely spent his show sitting in the first row rather than backstage as would be expected from a more professional compere.

Norm Barnhart opened with the Latin (?) artistry of Normondo, whose his magic has surprising outcomes even to Normondo. His bill/jumbo card (?) in orange is a classic of mis-magishing. His production of silks, flowers, and other items is a perfect burlesque of some members of our fraternity.

Next Scott Alexander showed why he deserved a place on *America's Got Talent*. His act is a mix of his slightly offbeat, humorous patter and likeable personality. He opened with a broomstick to two silks followed by a fake explanation. Next was his excellent standup chop cup routine. He then had a card chosen from a shuffled invisible deck but failed to find it. Then a borrowed ring found its way into a sealed envelope in a zippered wallet. The thought of card was also found in the same envelope! This transposition was repeated with a signed bill that vanished but missed its envelope target, ending up in an orange. Next Scott shows how he could swallow razor blades and retrieve them tied on a thread. He next reproduced the missing broomstick and a cane. Scott finished singing a duet with a drawing reminding us

it's a wonderful life.

The gala show was topped off by a comedic tour-de-force performance by Levent who crams so much magic and humor into 20 minutes that it is difficult to list it all and to breath. He does his work with the help of a rabbit that is not your father's magic bunny. His version of the sympathetic silks is great combination of skill and intelligent humor as are so many of his creative touches on tricks. If you missed this whirlwind, you should be full of regret.

Don't miss SAM Assembly 104's SAMCON next year. For more info check SAM104.com early next year.

2012 to 2013 Ring 122 Meetings

NOVEMBER 27, 2012 (*Performance*) **Take a Turkey and Make it Work(ey) Night.** You choose: show us a "terrible" trick that you are embarrassed to admit you purchased and/or learned, or take a "terrible" trick and make into a routine that is brilliant and useful.

NOTE EARLY DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2012 (*Performance plus*) **Holiday Swap (DVD's books, and tricks) and Holiday Magic Night.** A great way to prepare for the New Year!

JANUARY 29, 2013 (*Performance plus*) **TIPS Night (Things I Personally Suggest).** Thanks to an idea by Jerry Schiowitz _Here's a chance for you to share something you have picked up from rehearsing and performing and/or a homemade gimmick or device that others might be able to make and use. Incorporate your tips into a routine, if you wish.

FEBRUARY 26, 2013 **Debbie O'Carroll Lecture.** Debbie, or own Corresponding Secretary, will share with us some of what she has learned from her years as a full-time magician. Debbie is one of us and knows us, and she will be happy to tailor her presentation to our specific needs.

MARCH 26, 2013 (*Performance*) TBA

APRIL 30, 2013 (*Performance*) Daryl?

MAY 28, 2013 (*Performance*) **Magic from the IBM Linking Ring Magazine Night.** Even if you just recycled all your old magic magazines yesterday, you have many months to save your Linking Rings and find a good routine to perform for your fellow enthusiasts. Thanks to a Linking Ring Night several years ago, your president found an Aldo Colombini version of Bank Night that he used to develop his "bag trick", different versions of which have entertained thousands, if not hundreds.

JUNE 25, 2013 **T.H.E. GAME!** Dan Bybell has given it a tentative OK. Let's not let him forget.

IBM RING 122, Silent Mora

Website: www.ring122.com

Meetings take place the last Tuesday of every month at Ray Goulet's Magic Art Studio, 137 Spring Street, Watertown, MA, 617-926-3949.

Ring 122 Officers for 2012–2013

President: Andrew Inglis, 978-318-0522 scandri@aol.com

1st Vice President: Jared McNabb, 508-737-3757 mcnabbjared@aol.com

2nd Vice President: Joel Acevedo, (787) 376-0225 joel.acevedo@gmail.com

Treasurer: Daryl Vanderburgh, 508-655-8553 vburch4@verizon.net

Secretary: Debbie O'Carroll,, 978-462-9954 debbie@debbieocarroll.com

Sergeant-at-arms: Bob Filene, bobfilene@alum.mit.edu

Board of Governors: Doug Rickenback, rickenback@verizon.net

From the Commissioner of Cookies: The Future for the Snacks

At our Oct. meeting snacks were provided by Gary Chan and Rupayan Neogy. Thanks guys. We have 1 volunteer who will be bringing snacks to our November meeting. If you are willing to step up and volunteer to be the other snack giver for this meeting, please contact Kevin Butler:

kevinbutler@comcast.net. We need 2 volunteers per meeting if we are going to continue to provide this pleasant service. Let's make this system work.

—Kevin Butler

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

Editorial duties rotate each month between Pat Farenga (editor of this issue) and Jerry Schiowitz (editor of next month's issue).

Articles, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to the editors:

- Pat: pfarenga@comcast.net
- Jerry: annjer@rcn.com

The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month.