



The Silent Messenger

Silent Mora-Ray Goulet

www.Ring122.com

November, 2018

Halloween Tricks and Crybabies

Our Halloween meeting featured performances by members. Debbie O'Carroll showed us her Crybaby trick for when a child comes up at the end of her show and whimpers, "You didn't you pick me." She does a quick simple trick and sends the crybaby away appeased. This is a good trick to know.

Mike Lee did a Devin Knight trick based on the wolves and sheep trick with quarters, but using candy bags instead; very appropriate for a Halloween trick.

Other performers were: Bob Filene, David Penn, Jared McNabb, and Dan Bybell, who performed Glorpy the Spirit.

—Kevin Butler

Photos from top, left to right: Debbie O'Carroll, Bob Filene, Ryan Lally, and Jared McNabb; Felice Ling performing with Davey Penn; Bob Filene; Mike Lee and a volunteer; Kevin Butler volunteering for Debbie O'Carroll.



Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 27

The meeting will be at the First Parish of Watertown, 35 Church St., starting at 7:30. Andrew Inglis is donating the proceeds of all sales from his magic collection to Ring 122, so bring cash!

The President's Letter

Learning by Doing

Last month I performed a show. I showed up, did my act, and went home, just like I had done a thousand other times. But this time was different, and I had a lot more jobs than just to perform. This was a show that I produced, performed, and promoted nearly 100% alone.

It was at the Chelmsford Center for the Arts (CCA), a beautifully renovated town hall in Chelmsford Center. Ever since its renovation 10 years ago, it has become a thriving center for arts of all different types. I have performed magic there three times before: Two shows with friends and one with Ring 122. For each show, I felt that I was pushing myself out of my comfort zone, and afterwards I knew that I had grown as a magician.

This year, I took a big leap out of my comfort zone.

The CCA promoted the event in the local area, and I decided to run a series of promotions too. Tying it in with a class I am currently taking, I focused on social media to drum up noise for the show. I experimented with both the traditional Facebook advertising feature and organic word-of-mouth using targeted Facebook groups. For example, Facebook groups like "Chelmsford Events" and "Lowell Events" were very open to me posting about the show.

The advertising was one thing; the show itself was another. The average show I perform is 40 minutes, and the longest I have ever performed solo was a 60-minute show at Diamond's Magic Shop a few years ago. I was planning on performing this show solo, for 90 minutes. Wow, I was nervous!

I spent the last few months dusting off old routines that I had already learned and practicing them. I took them to open mics around Boston and worked them back into my standard show. By the time October rolled around, I had a 90-minute show scripted out and, in theory, ready to perform. But if you've ever performed before, you know it's a lot different on stage than in your practice sessions.

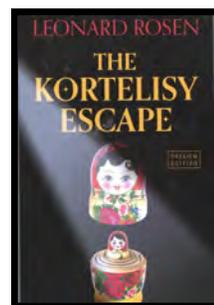
Offstage, there is a lot that goes into producing a show that I had to consider: Sound, lights, ticket sales, back of the room sales, someone to introduce me, etc. The CCA took care of all the ticket sales, but I had to plan for the rest. My brother Patrick agreed to run the sound and lights and my friend and fellow magician Constantine King would introduce me and sell my magic kits after the show.

October 20, the day of the show, finally came. I didn't have time to stress out that morning; I spent it at the Magic Art Studio cleaning out what was left of the shop and museum. I arrived at the CCA, unpacked my show, set up my side tables, organized my props, got dressed, did a sound check, played with the lighting, and opened the doors. Constantine introduced me, and I was off. Casually glancing at my watch throughout the show, I wasn't sure if it would even be 60

minutes long, since I tend to speak fast when I'm nervous. But when I finished my last routine, took my bow, and walked off stage, I check the time: 90 minutes exactly!

There's so much that goes into producing a stage show that the audience doesn't even think about. There are a lot of moving parts that aren't noticed until they're not there. I couldn't have done this show without Pat or Constantine working behind the scenes, and there wouldn't have been much of an audience without the CCA promoting it months in advance. I was 17 when I co-produced my first stage show and I was blown away with how much I didn't know. Fast-forward four years and several other public shows, and I am still learning so much with each one. Producing and performing public shows is, without out a doubt, the most educational experience in magic I do.

—Ryan Lally



Book Review: *The Kortelisy Escape*

The Kortelisy Escape by Leonard Rosen (www.thepermanentpress.com) has all the elements I enjoy in a book. A good plot, likeable heroes, action, suspense, and human drama. Oh, also magic and a magician play a central part.

Grace's mother died when she was four and she has been in the foster-care system since. It has not gone well for her. Nate, her grandfather who is in prison for life, perhaps unjustly, is offered his freedom by the FBI in return for testifying against his brother, a suspected tax evader and human trafficker. He agrees, but only if he can have custody of his granddaughter Grace. Nate knows if he testifies not only will he be betraying his brother but also signing his death warrant with the Russian mafia. Nate has a plan. He has taught himself magic tricks in prison and will use his knowledge to evade testifying and to escape to freedom. It involves using his granddaughter whom he has never met. As Nate and Grace get to know each other, each have to make choices about trust, loyalty, and love while evading the countering forces between law enforcement and the crime boss who just wants Nate to disappear immediately, one way or another.

Nate plans to get a job as a touring magician for the summer and at his last stop abandon Grace and escape to Canada and disappear. Grace plans to abandon Nate and escape to her own freedom from the foster-care system. The author cleverly introduces his characters and moves his plot line by giving Grace and Nate their own voice through alternating chapters. By this device we see their respect, understanding, and love for each other grow. Will it be enough? The other joy of the book was the author's portrayal of how magic can enrich people's lives. including the magician's. For a heartwarming entertaining and exciting story I highly recommend *The Kortelisy Escape*. —Reviewed by Kevin Butler

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, 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.

Northeast New England Magic Contest Winners

Ring 122 sponsored a very successful and well attended magic competition at the Wellesley Community Center on October 28. The winners are: 1st place, Adam Parisi; 2nd Place, John Sanbonmatsu; 3rd Place, Philip Volonino; Brad Bready won People's Choice.



Competition photos, from top, left to right: Winners Adam Parisi, Brad Bready, John Sanbonmatsu, and Philip Volonino. Ryan Lally, Master of Ceremonies. Adam Parisi performing. Competitors from left to right: Top row: Pat Farenga, James McDonald, John Sanbonmatsu, Brad Bready, Adam Parisi, Jim Leach, Joe Caulfield, Bob Filene, Mike Lee, Phil Volonino, Joe Perna, Zach Evans.

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.

President: Ryan Lally, lallymagic@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Kevin Butler, kevibutler@comcast.net; 2nd Vice President: Dan Bybell, dan@bybell.com

Treasurer: Daryl Vanderburgh, dvanderburgh8@gmail.com Secretary: Debbie O'Carroll, 978-462-9954; debbie@debbieocarroll.com

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

Board of Governors: Mike Lee, Pat Farenga, and Elliott Palmer.

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@magicianpatfarenga.com