



Silent Mora–Ray Goulet  
www.Ring 122.com  
October 2015

# THE SILENT MESSENGER

## Thomas Blacke Lecture, Oct. 28, 8PM

### Thomas Blacke

CARDS  
&  
CUFFS  
LECTURE

WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00 P.M. FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
35 CHURCH STREET WATERTOWN, MA



Silent Mora - Ray Goulet Ring #122 Boston



Guinness World Record Holder as World's Fastest Magician and Escape Artist, **Thomas Blacke** is a successful magic dealer, inventor, author, and lecturer. He currently serves as International President of Escape Masters, The International Association of Escape Artists, and Editor/Publisher of Escape Masters Magazine. Thomas is also a member of the prestigious Magic Circle of London, England, as well as, the Magic Castle in Hollywood, California. For info: <http://mysteriarch.com>

## Magic Turns Science on Its Head

Magic and science was the theme for our September 2015 meeting, and our members came up with some very creative demonstrations. Bob Filene got us started with three tricks that played with perception. Using spots on a card (What's Next?), Bob showed we can't trust our eyes. Then, with two volunteers, Bob used the Afghan Bands to show how two people cutting a loop of paper the same way can nonetheless wind up with different results. Then Bob tested the peripheral vision of Dan Bybell by showing a ring near the side of Dan's head. Dan got a big surprise when the ring vanished from his side view and fell into his hands. The audience had a good laugh as the ring vanished by being placed on top of Bob's head, then appeared by falling off his head into Dan's hands.





Jerry Schiowitz did a classic science experiment dressed up well as a magic trick. After passing out cups filled with water and a cocktail napkin to volunteers, Jerry added pepper to each cup. Then he had each person note how the pepper collects together in the center of the water. However, when magician

Jerry dipped his finger in each cup the pepper flew to the sides of the glass.

Andrew Inglis, back in character as the World's Greatest Magician, Ingo, demonstrated the "science" of recycling and plasticity. Ingo produced silks and other objects from a Whole Foods Market bag and then showed two nesting

plastic boxes. He magically changed their plasticity so the smaller box could now hold the larger box.



Pat Farenga demonstrated the value of letting go of one's assumptions by using a coffee mug suspended on a string over a wooden spoon, with a washer on its other end, and a borrowed watch threaded through it all. This effect by Stewart James looks like magic as the coffee mug seems destined to



crash on the floor and break with the watch, but physics saves the day by winding the string around the spoon before the breakable objects can hit the floor.

Alan the Uncanny entertained us with some funny Fez business, then showed the similarities and differences between science and magic. Using Hippiity Hop Rabbits, Alan pattered about matter and antimatter and how they shouldn't meet or else they can cause an explosion. To protect himself, he places the rabbits in magic containment shields where they change places and then change color.

Science and magic are indistinguishable as this proves.





Felice did a remarkable memory demonstration. First she drew the alphabet on a sheet of paper and showed us how she can recite backwards. Then she taught us how to memorize the alphabet backwards with mnemonic devices; she was able to get Davy Penn to use the memory hooks and recite the alphabet



backwards just after 3 minutes of practice. Then Felice upped the ante. She memorized a shuffled deck of cards, had someone cut a stack of cards into her hand, and she told us how many cards she held by their weight. She also revealed individual cards chosen by audience members no matter where they cut the cards. Then she had Dan Bybell take a bunch of cards from the deck and she named them all.

Our night ended with a short auction by Ray Goulet of some items he received recently, which also served to whet our appetites for his upcoming, major auction on Nov. 18.

—Patrick Farenga



## From the President

### A Captive Audience

Years ago, in Key West, FL, there was an escape artist who always drew a huge crowd at sunset.

He would enlist two volunteers to bind him a straight jacket, 75 feet of heavy chain, and countless padlocks. The spectators stood in silence as he twisted and gyrated in all directions until everything was on the ground and he was taking a big circus bow in exactly twenty minutes—every night, except for one.

Two, big college-age guys were chosen to apply the restraints. Who knows what they did with those padlocks but his usual twenty-minute act would not suffice. As he passed the half hour mark, the locals looked up from whatever they were doing. One hour, unheard of! Two hours then three. The last of the buskers had joined the crowd as he strained on, sweat glistening under the street lamps. All those people just watched, in total silence for four hours and twenty minutes until everything was strewn around his feet. The crowd burst into cheers and applause as the escapologist mustered the strength for a tepid wave as his hat filled with bills.

Speaking of escapes, you'll be fit to be tied at our next meeting. Master escape artist Thomas Black will unlock the secrets of his craft. Tom holds 10 Guinness Records in this area so he really knows the ropes. No doubt his lecture will include many off-the-cuff remarks. It will not be constrained to only escapologist. He will present many innovative card tricks as well.

So if you're not otherwise tied up on Wednesday the 28th, be sure to see Cards & Cuffs, a lecture by Thomas Blacke. You are bound to enjoy it.

—Bruce Fenton

### Secretary's Report

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our president, Bruce Fenton. We started the meeting with a fantastic card performance by Dan Bybell. The treasurer's and secretary's report were accepted by the members.

Felice Ling offered to hook us up with meetup.org in our ongoing quest for new members.

Ray Goulet discussed the big auction for our November 18th meeting.

Ryan Lally offered to chair the committee for researching venues for our public shows.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00

—Debbie O'Carroll

## IBM RING 122, Silent Mora

**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 2015–2016

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Editorial duties rotate each month between Pat Farenga (editor of this issue) and Jerry Schiowitz (editor of next month's issue). The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month.

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

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