



Silent Mora
Ring 122
Feb. 2013

THE SILENT MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

Feb 26: Debbie O'Carroll Lecture at IBM Ring 122 Meeting. Debbie is a full-time magician, and will share her experience with all. Lecture time is 8pm. *See page 3 for more information.* Kevin Butler will present a routine for assessment at 7pm.

March 8 - 9: New England Magicians Conference (NEMCON 32). Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT. Information at <http://www.ctnemcon.com/>

March 14: Karl Hein Lecture. 7pm at Diamonds Magic, Peabody, MA. Admission fee is \$20. Sandwich effects, color changing deck, international three fly, deck switch, hat productions, bill changes, false shuffles, triumph, full deck story routine, signed bill to impossible location, professor's nightmare and more.

April 6: Real Magic Roadshow. 10am - 6pm, Holiday Inn, Peabody, MA. Elmwood Magic, Magicsmith, Losander, Mark Mason, Tony Karpinski and Diamond's Magic. Details at: www.realmagicroadshow.com

Ongoing Magic

The Mystery Lounge, Tuesdays at 8pm, At the Comedy Studio in Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA (1236 Mass Ave). 617-661-6507
www.mysterylounge.com

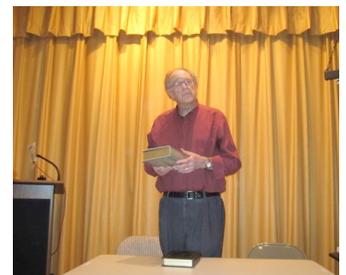
Members Share Tips

Our January, 2013 meeting featured a pre-meeting performance by **David Phillips** of Axel Hecklau's paper tear, Newsflash. David asked for and received some good comments about his handling and **Ray Goulet** compared various versions to what David did; Ray still feels Gene Anderson's newspaper tear is the best.



David Phillips

We soon moved into the theme for the night: TIPS (Things I personally suggest). **Jared McNabb** acted as MC and kept things moving nicely. **Jerry Schiowitz** got the ball rolling with his discovery that he could create prop production boxes, which often retail for \$125 to \$200, for about \$10!



Jerry Schiowitz

He found hollow book storage boxes at TJ Maxx and Marshall's; these are often used to hold knitting and other supplies. Jerry showed us how to use an Xacto knife, duck tape, and neodymium magnets to create a great looking prop that can be used in many genres of magic. **Jim Rainho** mentioned that he had a similar idea years ago and gaffed a Whitman's chocolate box.

John Sanbonmatsu performed a version of Bill in Lemon that used patter about possibilities and voting to choose one of five lemons where a torn bill, its serial number previously noted, was embedded after being vanished.



John Sanbonmatsu

(Continued on page 2)

(Members Share Tips, continued from page 1)

Scott Martell tipped us about how a common sports overcoat can be quickly converted into a Topit. Many of these coats have a long, narrow pocket sewn into its left side. Scott realized that a bulldog clip can hold the pocket to his shirt, resulting in a ready-made Topit! Scott then showed us Sean Farquhar's Card to Mouth trick and a bit of clever motivation he uses to cover how Scott gets the card into his mouth.



Scott Martell

Pat Farenga displayed his copy of *Magic Page By Page* by Patrick Page (say that three times fast!). Farenga noted how many great, practical tips are in every section of this book, from great ways to add or ditch a thumb tip to the best motions for vanishing things with a Topit. Plus lots of great tricks, patter, and stories about performing magic to inspire your thoughts. Farenga then performed Boris Wild's Perfect Open Prediction effect.



Pat Farenga

Matias Letelier showed us how to be creative with things we already know. Matias used a spelling card trick using a borrowed deck to make his point. He also discussed how to make tricks that use repetition more interesting by breaking up their monotony with intentional mistakes.



Matias Letelier

Doug Rickenback offered a quick tip first: always be sure to make eye contact with your audience. Too many performers focus on their hands or on the volunteer and forget the audience. Doug's other tip comes from David Williamson, who advised magicians to use stuffed animals, not just mirrors and videos, to practice with. This forces you to look at and engage with various audience members as you practice your routines.



Doug Rickenback

—Patrick Farenga
Photos by Jerry Schiowitz

From Bob Filene ... here are a few tips:

Don't iron silks. Get them wet, squeeze out some and hang on a mirror. They will fall off dry looking great.

Wash your sponge balls. They will expand.

When showing water on stage, put a tiny amount of blue food coloring in the water. This makes it look like water at a distance.

President's Message

Greetings ...

As I write this, a blizzard warning is in effect for the Boston area. I hope that everyone makes it through without too much trouble.

Instead of droning on and on about my solutions to the troubles of the world, I am simply going to refer you to an fascinating article about Apollo Robbins in the *New Yorker* magazine of January 7, 2013.

You can find it at:

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2013/01/07/130107fa_fact_green?currentPage=all

Or, just Google "Apollo Robbins" and click on one of the links to the *New Yorker*.

I look forward to seeing you at Ray's place on February 26th.

Best Regards,

Andrew

IBM Ring 122, Silent Mora

Website: <http://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, 2012 – 2013

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Secretary's Report

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our first vice-president, Jared McNabb
- Our treasurer, Daryl Vanderburgh, reported that we have 47 paid members
- Bill LeBlanc was reinstated as a member of Ring 122
- Ray Goulet reported that the David Oliver benefit show in Worcester was a huge success
- Pat Farenga informed members that our Facebook page is up. Members should login to Facebook and join the IBM Ring 122 Facebook page.
- Jim Rainho told the members that he has a 35th anniversary VHS of our ring
- Debbie O'Carroll and John Sanbonmatsu offered to bring refreshments to the February meeting
- Kevin Butler will present a routine for assessment before the February meeting
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00

—Debbie O'Carroll

Debbie O'Carroll to Lecture on Stage Techniques and Performance Skills

I am continually amazed at the excellent quality of the performances by the members of Ring 122 at our meetings and charity shows. Because we offer our talents to several very worthy fundraisers each year, I am so grateful to have this opportunity to lecture this month and to be part the club's on-going charitable performances.

My lecture will have a workshop format, and we will have lots of fun practicing stage techniques and performance skills. We are so often told that it is the performance, not the trick, that makes the magician. However, in my opinion, that's not true. The performance *and* the trick are of equal importance. Without the magic prop, the magician is not a magician. So my lecture/workshop will focus on our presentations with those all-important magic props.

I guarantee playfulness, mirth and magic! If you wish, please bring a favorite simple magic effect. I will bring a change bag, professor's nightmare, cards, silk to egg, 20th century silks, a hot rod, rings and rope, and a couple of self-working props. A question and answer period will follow. Check out my biography at:

www.debbieocarroll.com/about.html

—Debbie O'Carroll

The Silent Messenger is published every month, except for July and August. Editorial duties rotate each month between Jerry Schiowitz (editor of this issue), and Pat Farenga (editor of next month's issue).

Jerry Schiowitz and Gil Stubbs will be conducting a magic lecture at Wellesley High School on March 6th. At that lecture, Jerry (as Magician Wunda-How) will teach The Floating Fork effect, an impressive trick, yet very simple to do.

The Effect

The magician slowly brings a cloth dinner napkin from his/her lap, so that the napkin is vertical. From behind the napkin, a fork handle slowly appears. The napkin is moved from left to right, and the fork moves with it. Finally, the fork slowly disappears behind the napkin, and the napkin is returned to the magician's lap.

How it's Done

1. On the lap of the magician, out of the view of spectators, a knife is placed in the tines of a fork (Figure 1, below). It should be placed securely, so that the knife/fork combination can be moved slowly, without separating.
2. The knife is held as shown in Figure 2, a few inches down from the top of the napkin. The thumb and index finger are on the magician's side of the napkin; the other fingers are on the spectator's side of the napkin. The napkin should be thick, like those used in restaurants.
3. The knife handle is *slowly* rolled between the tips of the thumb and index finger, until the fork handle is above the top of the napkin, and is completely vertical (Figure 3). The napkin/knife/fork combination is then moved slowly from left to right, then back to the original position.
4. The knife handle is once again rolled *slowly* between the tips of the thumb and index finger, so that the fork handle moves *toward* the magician, finally disappearing behind the napkin. Steps 3 and 4 may be repeated one more time, for greater impact. Then, everything is *slowly* placed on the lap, secretly disassembled, and the napkin is placed back on the table.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Performance Tips

1. Make sure that no one is standing or sitting on your right or left side. Also make sure that nothing can be seen through the napkin, and that there's no bright light (or window) behind you.
2. Do all moves *slowly*, creating a lot of mystery (and making sure that the knife and fork don't separate!). Try not to move the fingers that are in front of the napkin.
3. Practice in front a mirror, and try it on some people before performing it in public.