



THE SILENT MESSENGER

Silent Mora—Ray Goulet
www.Ring 122.com
February 2016

February Meeting

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, February 24th, 7:30pm**, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown, 35 Church Street.

The theme for member performances is “Magic Based on February Holidays.” Some holidays and special days are: Superbowl Sunday, Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras, George Washington’s Birthday, and Oscar Night.

March 11th-12th: NEMCON “35”, honoring Kenrick “ICE” McDonald. Cromwell CT.
<http://www.ctnemcon.com/>

June 3rd: Ring 122 Show at the Regent Theater, Arlington, MA. We still need performers and support staff.

Please contact Ryan Lally:

lallymagic@gmail.com

(See page 4 for performance tips from Debbie O’Carroll.)



✓Ray is back at the shop, and is doing well.

✓Jim Rainho is on the mend after a hip replacement.

A Great Night of Member Performances

Our January 2016 meeting got off to an active start as many members rose to the occasion and shared magic that they learned from their favorite magic resource, be it a book, the Linking Ring, or other media.



Bob Filene was our first performer. He showed us a series of rope knots, such as the not knot, the single knot, the messy knot, and a string with a knot in it hanging from a wooden stand. Bob explained that this was called, “A one-knot stand.” Bob then attempted to perform a double-ring ceremony, where two gold rings are placed in knots on rope and they join together in one knot. Bob got the routines from Karl Fulves’ book about self-working rope tricks.



Pat Farenga performed a card prediction. He had a volunteer shuffle a borrowed deck of cards, then Pat showed the back of a single card he removed from his wallet and placed in plain sight as his prediction. The volunteer removed as many cards as he pleased from the deck, then divided them into two piles. He then took the top cards from each pile and Pat asked him to hand him one of the cards. When he turned over the card left in his hand, it matched Pat’s prediction. Pat learned this

from the Penguin Magic website; it is called The Known. Crazy Davy, did a dice trick from the Linking Ring Dec. 2015, The Dating Game. Five famous couples’ names are each on a card and separated into male and

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**“A Great Night of Member Performances”
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then mixed and cut. “The odds are 4 to 1 that I can come up with a match if I simply deal the cards,” noted Davy. But the odds increase by using a chart of dice combinations to determine what cards to removed and place in one of two piles. Nonetheless, after all the cards are placed, they match the couples up perfectly.

Ryan Lally did a little-known card trick from *Modern Magic*—



it doesn’t even have a formal title in the book! Ryan had Debbie O’Carroll pick a card and shuffle it into the deck. Ryan cuts the cards into two piles. Then Ryan asks the audience to make all the choices. Pile A is chosen and this gets cut into two more piles. Another spectator chooses one of those piles, which also gets cut into two.

Another spectator chooses a pile and it gets cut, and then the process is done one more time, leaving three piles chosen by random spectators. Ryan announces, “The trick leaves my hands and goes into yours.” Then he asks Debbie to choose from one of the three piles and she finds her card on top of that one.



John Sanbonmatsu did a great demonstration of how ESP and super sensory perception are different. SSP is heightened senses, such as the hearing of dogs or the sensitivity of cats. John had three volunteers cut a deck of cards and place their stack into aluminum foil. John defined the bottom card on all three encased decks. He used

his SSP talent with touch to “feel” the card through the foil packet. The last packet was held by a spectator and John never touched it, using ESP to correctly name the card held in the foil packet. John learned this from lecture notes of Ned Rutledge that he got a Ring 122 auction. He also used a clever deck switch that he learned from Roberto Giobbi’s book on deck switches.



Debbie O’Carroll did a quick card trick from the January 2016 *Linking Ring, Choices to Infinity*. Deb handed Ryan Lally 10 double-faced cards and told him to mix them up. She then asks Ryan to hold a side to face audience and asks how many red cards are facing Ryan. She immediately announced that the cards facing the audience added up to 25.



Kevin Butler requested two volunteers, divided a deck of cards into equal piles for them, then asked each volunteer to remove a card from a pile. The volunteers then count down to a number of cards based on the bottom card in their pile. They switch piles and place their chosen cards into the pile. Kevin unites the halves, turns the cards face up, and one by one, he finds their cards. This trick is from *The Creative Magician’s Handbook* by Marvin Kaye, “Olympian Vision.”



Mike Lee performed a great version of the Magic Square. Mike handed his watch to Pat and asked him to time him once he starts creating the magic square. He asked Deb for a number and she said 76. Mike then made a 4x4 magic square using the number 76 in under 25 seconds! Mike learned “Mathemagic.” from *The Joshua Jay book of Magic*.



Felice Ling performed the classic con game Three-card Monte with blue cards. But then she kicked it up a notch by using three red cards that changed in some amazing ways. Felice notes this an effect by David Stone.

We may not be having lots of lecturers right now, but we sure have lots of participation and magic from our members!

—Patrick Farenga
Photos by Bruce Fenton

From the President That "Special Something"



In recalling my mis-spent youth, I'm sure that many of you have shared my anticipation, patiently checking the mailbox, day after day. Why was it taking so long? Did the mailman get lost? Just as all hope was about to fade, the key to fame and fortune, the answer to all the mysteries of the universe, the book of dreams, THE MAGIC CATALOG has finally arrived!!

This was a pivotal moment in my young life. This book contained virtually everything required for mastering the forces of nature,

astounding classmates and teachers alike and most importantly, getting my own TV show.

Many hours were devoted to the study of every item, carefully listing the most important items along with their prices in a neat column. Every page was memorized. This is where I actually learned to read. Why would I ever need math or science? This was Magic! The serious work of putting an act together was at hand.

Eventually the list of only the most dazzling effects was ready and the total amount was only... wait, what? \$1,400! The task of elimination would prove to be highly time consuming and stressful. My friend's little sister was saved from dismemberment ... at least for now. This delay was unacceptable to me. I needed to start amazing people immediately. A decision had to be made.

There it was on page 243. The magician (that's me) produces a pair of scissors and proceeds to cut a long strip of newspaper into little pieces, then, just as quickly, the paper is magically restored to its' original condition. Boy, these had to be some very special scissors! The trick came with complete instructions and everything I needed to perform it, including that "special something". They cleverly used code words like that to maintain secrecy among us magicians, but we knew what they meant.

The order was placed and the waiting began, day after day, patiently by the mailbox. Did the mailman die? Just when all hope was about to fade, Mom handed me a letter that totally got past my scrutiny. I was waiting for a box containing the special space age Magic Scissors. As storm clouds gathered I opened the letter to find a typewritten page. Neatly enclosed were several strips of newspaper, coated on one side with rubber cement and talcum powder. That was all. Each reading of the page brought new thoughts of revenge, even litigation perhaps. I would expose these criminals to the world, once I got my TV show.

It took a long time to recover from that. It took several library books and a trip to the magic shop in town before the world was right again. Lessons in magic, and life, often come unexpectedly. Eventually I would come to appreciate my first magic lesson. Never again would I fall under the spell of a crafty sales pitch. Well, almost never.

—Bruce Fenton

Secretary's Report

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

We held a First Reading for Elliot Palmer and welcomed him as a provisional member of Ring 122. We held a Second Reading for Felice Ling and welcomed her as a member in good standing of Ring 122.

Our Sargent-at-arms Bob Filene announced that he will be away for two months, and needs someone to fill in for him. Interested members should contact

bob@bobfilene.com.

Daryl Vanderburgh read a letter from the First Parish Church. They are looking for donations for their capital campaign. We agreed to donate \$50 or \$100 and to give them some tickets for our show at The Regent Theatre in June to sell.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

—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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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). The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month. Articles, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to the editors:

• Pat: pfarenga@comcast.net

• Jerry: annjer@rcn.com

Acting for Magicians Taking a Bow

By Debbie O'Carroll

I was in an audience of several thousand at a performance by the legendary singer/songwriter Tommy Makem. When Tommy finished his set, the applause was loud and appreciative. His eyes swept the audience. He raised his arms and then bowed magnificently.

It seemed as if his nose touched his knee. "That is the way to take a bow," I thought to myself. Later, I mentioned my admiration of Tommy's bow to his son. "My father couldn't have done that," he said. "He had a bad back." Did I imagine that graceful curtain call? Or did Tommy, a superb actor as well as musician, make the audience believe that he was taking a grand bow?

Your final bow is the last thing the audience sees of your performance. If you want to leave a lasting impression, take a impressive bow. I've seen many performers forgo the curtain call, thinking it is a show-off's way to say, "Look at me, I'm fabulous." In reality, it is a humble way to say "Thank you for applauding my performance."

The structure of a magic performance calls for applause at the end of each routine, so bow early and bow often and don't forget to end the show with a heartfelt curtain call. Here is a variety of bows to practice for different performing situations:

The Standard Bow - Bend at your waist with your arms at your sides. Hold the posture for a respectful moment, before you straighten. Repeat until the applause dies down.

The Close Up Bow - Thank your spectators as you bow your head.

The Standing Ovation Bow - This gutsy curtain call was a favorite of Marcel Marceau. Take a Standard Bow and straighten up. Slowly raise your hands, palms up, as if you are asking the audience to rise to their feet. Hope it works.

The "Alas Poor Yorick" Bow - This is a great way to highlight a prop that has suddenly appeared out of thin air. Lift the prop above your head as you fix your gaze upon the prop. Look at the audience then bow your head. This also works for card changes, transpositions and vanishes.

The Yogini Houdini Bow - Clasp your hands in prayer position at your chest. Bow your head as you point your fingers toward the audience. Repeat to the right and left.

The Louis Armstrong Bow - This is a fun bow to do after you perform an effect that the audience thinks is difficult and requires concentration. Use a black to rainbow-striped color-changing streamer. Bow as you pretend to dab the sweat from your forehead with the black streamer. Flick the silk and change it to the rainbow.

The Verklempt Bow - Bow as you hold your hand to your heart. Say "thank you, thank you, thank you" as your chin quivers with emotion and your eyes fill with tears of gratitude. Wipe your eyes with a bandana and pretend to blow your nose. When you remove the bandana from your face, you are wearing a red clown nose.

The Cresey Bow - Take a Standard Bow. Hold up one finger and step forward, as if to speak. Clear your throat a couple of times and pull a paper coil from your mouth.

The Junior High Dance Class Bow - Place your right palm on your waist. The back of your left hand rests on your lower back. Bow. Now reverse your hands and bow again. Do this several times quickly.

The Silly Ballerina Bow - Hold your coattails as you curtsy to the right and left. Children love this bow.

Young audiences usually have to be told when to applaud. If you finish your routine with an effect, say something like "Let's have a big round of applause for the appearing scarf." If you finish your routine with a volunteer on stage, ask for a round of applause for your volunteer. If your effect concludes with neither of the above, bow and clap your hands at the same time. Your actions will remind the youngsters to applaud.

Magic is a performing art and deserves a sincere expression of your gratitude to your audience's applause. Regardless of the audience location or size, take your bows.

Would you like to explore other acting techniques? Send your ideas to me at debbie@debbieocarroll.com. I'd love to write more columns about acting for magicians.

