



THE SILENT MESSENGER

Silent Mora—Ray Goulet
www.Ring 122.com
June 2015

Coming Events ...

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 24th,
7:30pm, at the Unitarian Universalist
Church of Watertown, 35 Church Street.

**Our June meeting includes
another great Teach-In!**

**Learn new sponge and thread
wizardry from Bruce Fenton, card
tricks from Bob Filene, mentalism
from John Sanbonmatsu, and coin
magic tips from Jerry Schiowitz.**



**It's a great way to pick up
some new magic skills for
your summer events.**

We will also hold elections
for the 2015-2016 season.

Wizard Wars was a Huge Success!



New member Tony's daughter, Cory,
seems to be enjoying Wizard Wars

At our May meeting, Debbie O'Carroll conducted a fun activity that was loosely based on the popular television show "Wizard Wars". Debbie admitted that she had never seen the program, so she made up a version based on an improvisation created by Jim Lusticoff.

This is how it worked. Ray Goulet, Jim Rainho and Bob Filene were named as judges. Two troupes, the Red Troupe and the Black Troupe, were chosen by drawing cards.

Each group was told to appoint an MC and to make up a song about their troupe. They were also asked to decide upon an imaginary venue for their performances. Debbie then exhibited a number of magic effects that she brought from home: the Linking Rings, the Professor's Nightmare, a Bengal Net, Twentieth-Century Silks, Cups and Balls, a Chick Pan, and more. One magic trick was chosen by each member, before the troupes retired to their respective corners to rehearse.

When show time arrived, the Red Troupe went first with a performance and introductory song designed for a Las Vegas extravaganza. Kevin Butler treated us to a nifty Professor's Nightmare routine, Bruce Fenton aced the Linking Rings, Asher astounded all with a card trick, and Alan Wassilak delighted us with an uncanny tale and the Chinese Sticks.

The Black Troupe followed in the guise of presenting a school assembly program about biology. They promptly forgot their song "Wonderful World" proving they didn't know much about history or geography, either. Their affable MC, Tony, presented his daughter, darling baby Corey, as the best biology magic trick ever and we all agreed! Ryan Lally captivated us with a

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**(Wizard Wars was a Huge Success!
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clever drawer box rabbit routine, Debbie O'Carroll used a chicken puppet to find a chosen insect card, and Won-Jun baffled us with an amazing card routine with biology-themed patter. MC Tony followed up with the classic Grandmother's Necklace, deftly adapted to the school show theme.

Then it was time for the judges to choose the winner. After much deliberation, the Red Troupe won. Their prize was front row seats at the next lecture!

We all had such a good time collaborating with each other to create our impromptu shows! Laughs and camaraderie abounded as we proved what a talented group we are!



Debbie provided the huge array of props for the game.



Ryan Lally found a new mascot in an empty box.



Debbie demonstrated each prop including the card duck marionette.



New member Asher demonstrated his skill with cards, assisted by Alan Wassilak.



A duck actually found Bob Filene's card.



Tony performs the "Grandmother's Necklace" routine to his impromptu DNA theme, assisted by Ryan.

—Debbie O'Carroll
Photos by Bruce Fenton

Birthdays of Famous Magicians in June

- 01 Eugene Burger
- 02 Erik Hanussen
- 03 Harry Rouclere
- 03 Prof. Seeman
- 08 Fred Kaps
- 09 John Mulholland
- 11 Dai Vernon
- 13 Siegfried
- 13 Charles Morritt
- 14 Charles Carter
- 15 E.G. Robertson
- 15 Ormond McGill
- 17 John Henry Pepper
- 21 Arnold Furst
- 22 Comte
- 25 Michael Ammar
- 28 Colonel Stodare
- 30 Harry Blackstone Jr.
- 30 Alexander

From the President

Happy Summer Vacation! Here's your homework assignment.

It's that time of year when everyone scatters to the beaches, the mountains or the backyard hammock to relax and enjoy those long summer days. Before you do, please take a few moments to ponder what you would like to do at Ring 122 next year.

Is there a meeting theme that we haven't explored yet? Do you have a favorite magician that you would like to have lecture here? If so, we would like to hear from you. The Board meets in early August to outline the meeting events for the coming year and your input would be very helpful. There seems to be an interest in producing more shows for the public, so we would be most interested in everyone's thoughts as to locations, dates, and formats. It could be a charity event, hospital visit or fundraiser for the Ring ... where costs and proceeds are controlled by us. There are many things to consider. With everyone's help, we will dramatically increase our success rate.

Along these lines, we need your help in building our media database. This should include media such as regional news outlets, community papers, magazines, radio and TV stations, etc., along with the people to contact and their e-mail addresses. Press releases accompanied with photos are the key to free publicity, and we can promote our events more effectively with a little effort.

For those who like detective work, we could use some help in updating and organizing the Ring 122 Archive. In addition to seeking out any old documents and photos, we should also maintain files of what is going on today. It's entirely possible that someone in our midst could go on to fame and fortune. Perhaps one of our lecturers performs something new for the first time. A comprehensive record of our activities is important to the history of magic.

There, isn't that easy? These tasks shouldn't take long at all, and they will help make your Ring even better next year. *Just kick back, have some mint juleps and watermelon, and thanks in advance for your input.*

—Bruce Fenton

Secretary's Report

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by our president Bruce Fenton. There were no Secretary's or Treasurer's reports.
- Debbie O'Carroll conducted The Broken Wand Ceremony for our compeer Dick Newcomb.
- We welcomed our two guests, Asher and beautiful baby Corey, who is Tony's daughter.
- We all agreed that the show at The First Parish Church on May 16th was a success, and we discussed a variety of venues for future productions.
- Ray Goulet announced that the New England Magic Collectors Association June 14th picnic.
- We will hold our elections for officers for 2015-2016 in June. Debbie O'Carroll nominated three members to serve on our Board of Governors. They are Alan Wassilak to serve for three years, Pat Farenga to serve for two years and Jerry Schiowitz to serve for one year.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

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 2014-2015

President: Bruce Fenton, galahad37@hotmail.com

1st Vice President: Kevin Butler, kevibutler@comcast.net

2nd Vice President: John Sanbonmatsu, js@wpi.edu

Treasurer: Daryl Vanderburgh, 508-655-8553

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Secretary: Debbie O'Carroll, 978-462-9954

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

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

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



Pat Farenga sets the tone of the Show with his mouth coil.



Bob Filene performs a daring escape.



Kevin Butler mystifies the children with the Professor's Nightmare and Sympathetic Silks.



Doc Rogers matches wits with a spectator performing the Linking Rings.

Our Spring Magic Show Dazzled all Ages!

It was a beautiful warm spring afternoon on May 16th, and that was probably the main reason the church hall was only half full for our Spring Magic Show.

While the audience was lacking in numbers, they certainly made up for it in excitement. As soon as **Pat Farenga** started pulling on the mouth coil, the crowd went wild. The laughs, gasps and applause were in all the right places for the full 75 minutes as each performer controlled the house, each with his or her unique style.

There were plenty of youngsters, but not too many. The acts moved smoothly and seamlessly beginning with **Pat**, to **Bob Filene**, **Won-Jun**, **Kevin Butler**, **Felice Ling**, **Doc Rogers**, **John Sanbonmatsu** and **Alan the Uncanny Wassilak**.

Everyone delivered an outstanding performance, and the mix of music, mirth and magic was perfect for the occasion.

The magicians circulated for a half-hour before the show, and primed the spectators with close-up magic.

The pre-show rehearsal with **Debbie O'Carroll** was critical to the show's success. Everyone was very comfortable and "owned" the stage at showtime. The performers seemed to agree that this is something we want to do more frequently in the future.

Text and photos by Pat Farenga and Bruce Fenton.



"Magician Mellies" (John Sanbonmatsu) charms a volunteer before producing a bottle of wine.



Felice had the crowd in hysterics with The Vanishing Bandanna (Banana).



Alan the Uncanny makes knots appear, and then fall off his rope.



Will Won-Jun let the spectator's cell phone survive?

The new cards promoting membership in Ring 122 have arrived! Be sure to get some to display in conspicuous places and hand out to prospective members. This is a tool to increase our membership. *They don't work if they are sitting in a box, so please help us to get them into the right hands. Thanks.*