



# THE SILENT MESSENGER

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

## Coming Events ...

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 25th,**  
7:30pm, at the Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Watertown, 35 Church Street.

**At 8pm, a Broken Wand ceremony will be  
held for recently departed member Dick  
Newcomb (see page 2).**

A Magic Auction follows, conducted by our  
own legendary auctioneer, Ray Goulet,  
who will have all things magic up for  
auction. You can also bring items from  
your own collection for Ray to include.



**And ... the March 25<sup>th</sup>  
meeting will *really* get the  
ball rolling on our May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Spring Magic Show!  
It's your chance to let us  
know how you would  
like to participate in this  
exciting event.**

**(More Coming Events on page 3)**

## John Henry: The Man of Myth and Magic



Ring 122 was treated to a lecture by one of its former presidents, John Henry. John, a former school teacher, became a fulltime magician when he turned 45. Bizarre Magic performers Tony Andruzzi and Joe Cabral became friends of John as he studied their theatrical techniques and storytelling skills; John is a longstanding member of the Inner Circle of Bizarre Magic.

John keeps his storytelling on the bright side of life, which is not surprising since he's a children's show performer, teacher, and enjoys being around kids. But he takes storytelling and magic very seriously—his notes included a two-page bibliography! John made some important points during his lecture, including what many magicians should learn when a trick or patter falls flat—think about misdirection.

Not your magical misdirection of the audience, but your personal misdirection as you prepare to perform. Having the best card technique doesn't make you the best entertainer and that's why you need to pay attention to your entire craft. Set goals and tools to achieve them to keep from misdirecting yourself from learning everything it takes to be the best performer you can be. John suggests acting lessons as a general boost to any magician's skill set.

John outlined the basic elements of story structure, how to find material for a story, and how to tell a good story. Interestingly, John often noted, "I've never written down any of my stories," though we hope he will some day.

Storytelling requires you to make contact with audience, and to conduct an emotional give and take with them. That's the key to connecting with an audience, and John then followed this advice with a demonstration. John performed three classic magic tricks—a paddle trick, purse frame and bill

(Continued on page 2)

**(John Henry: *The Man of Myth and Magic*,  
continued from page 1)**

switch, and a torn and restored paper effect—that were all enhanced by John’s stories.

Each one of these effects amply demonstrates the power of words and magic at our disposal. The last effect involved a story about friends fighting over a ticket to heaven; during the argument the ticket is ripped apart. However, the torn pieces turn into both a cross and the word Hell, signifying the moral of the story for each character. John said it is an old effect but it was new to me and several others. John’s presentation had us all smiling and appreciating his clever ways to use storytelling in magic.

—Patrick Farenga  
Photo by Bruce Fenton



It was with great sadness that we learned of Dick Newcomb’s passing on February 27, 2015 at home, surrounded by his family, after a long illness. He was a member of the Billerica Elks Club #2071, Club Passe Temps of Lowell, the Woburn Wizard Magic Workshop, SAM 104, and I.B.M. Ring 122.

In his retirement, he enjoyed performing magic, especially for his grandchildren. He was a valued and respected member of Ring 122, and will be missed.

Services will be at Aldersgate Church, 242 Boston St, Chelmsford, MA on Saturday March 21st at 11:00 am. A Broken Wand ceremony, conducted by Debbie O’Carroll, will be held at the Ring 122 meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

His complete obituary can be found at:  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/lowellsun/obituary.aspx?pid=174300023>

In honor of Dick’s memory, Ring 122 has made a donation to the Wounded Warrior Project.

## From the President The Giant Cookie

So, two of our most distinguished performers, Jon Stetson and Bob Riordan, stopped by Ray’s shop the other day.

In accordance with the Saturday custom, a lively and humorous discussion of all things magic ensued. As highly trained mentalists, Bob and John each know what the other is going to say, and they often speak in unison. This is good because Ray could hear them better.

Bob produced a large container of the biggest chocolate chip cookies I ever saw. These things were the size of hubcaps! Mrs. Fields would need a front-end loader to make these. Pepperidge would have to sell the farm. The Keebler Elves would need a bigger tree. It took both hands to lift one and I heard a rib crack as it plopped in my lap.

The problem was, it was YUMMY and I could not stop munching on it. About half way through it, I began to feel my internal organs shut down and I quickly became totally immobilized. Feeling about six pounds heavier than when I sat down, it was now nearly impossible to lift myself off the chair.

That is my excuse for not taking any photos of the fabulous items up for auction at the next meeting. This will be the best and biggest auction yet. It includes the contents of three private collections. Apparatus, books, manuscripts and all sorts of magical items will go home with the lucky bidders. You will definitely want to cash in your IRA and pawn the wife’s jewelry for this one.

***This auction is going to be BIG, big as a Bob Riordan Cookie!***

—Bruce Fenton



### For Your Reading Pleasure

From The Opinion Pages of *The New York Times* comes this article by David Copperfield:

#### **The Power of Magical Thinking**

David Copperfield on the Enemies of Art

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/03/opinion/david-copperfield-on-the-enemies-of-art.html>

## Ryan Lally Brings Magic Seminar “Over the Top”

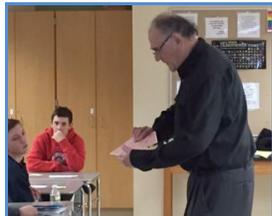
On Wednesday, March 4th, Gil Stubbs, Jerry Schiowitz, and Ryan Lally taught a Magic Seminar at Wellesley High School, the seventh such seminar organized by Gil over the years. These seminars are designed to acquaint high school students with the art of magic and possibly interest some of them in pursuing magic as a hobby.



Since one of the objectives of this seminar was to interest students in joining the SYM, Gil invited Ring 122 member Ryan Lally, who is also the president of SYM # 29, to participate in teaching the seminar. This turned

out to be a great decision, because Ryan had the students smiling and laughing throughout his performance with silk, card, and rope tricks!!

Gil performed his signature “Torn and Restored Newspaper” routine, which, as always, fascinated the audience. Jerry performed his popular “Color-Changing DVD” routine, and his original “Popcorn-from-iPad” effect. He also taught the “Traveling Ace” card trick.



The bell rang, and the students hurried out to the next event that they had selected. Aaah ... memories of our high school days.

—Jerry Schiowitz

## Coming Events (Continued from page 1)

**MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>: S.A.M. Assembly #9 Hocus Pocus Annual Party.** 6:30pm, Prince Pizzeria, 515 Broadway (Rt. 1), Saugus, MA, Adults \$35, Children \$20. Questions? Steve Klein @ 617-875-7640.

**MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>: Tri-State Magic Auction.** Viewing time 9-10am, Auction 10am-TBD. Holiday Inn Portsmouth, 300 Woodbury Avenue, Portsmouth, NH. Attendance Fee: \$7. Contact Ken Maynard, [maddjic195@msn.com](mailto:maddjic195@msn.com).

## 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](mailto:galahad37@hotmail.com)

**1st Vice President:** Kevin Butler, [kevibutler@comcast.net](mailto:kevibutler@comcast.net)

**2nd Vice President:** John Sanbonmatsu, [js@wpi.edu](mailto:js@wpi.edu)

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**Board of Governors:** Doug Rickenback, [rickenback@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:pfarenga@comcast.net)
- Jerry: [annjer@rcn.com](mailto:annjer@rcn.com)

## 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
- Postcards advertising the Oceanside Magic Invitational in April were passed out to members.
- We discussed our fundraising show for the First Parish Church in Watertown. The date has been set for the afternoon of May 16. Those interested in performing or helping should contact Debbie O'Carroll.
- Alan Wassilak reminded us that The Society of American Magicians Assembly 9 Hocus Pocus banquet will be held on March 22nd. Visit The Society of American Magicians of Boston on Facebook for more information.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

*Those who wish to conduct or perform at our pre-meeting workshops should contact The Silent Messenger, either Jerry Schiowitz or Pat Farenga, by the 8th of the month.*

—Debbie O'Carroll



## **The Ring 122 Springtime Magic Show, May 16th**

**The Only Things Missing  
Are Performers and Staff.**

**And that's where we need your support.**

Performers ... and more ... are needed for our Springtime Magic Show, which will raise funds for First Parish Church (our host for Ring 122 meetings).

If you want to be part of the show, please come to this month's Ring meeting on March 25th to help plan a date for the show, what type of show we will put on (family, kids, adult, etc.), and what else is needed for the show ... performers, stage assistant/manager, publicity monger, poster maker, refreshment and ticket sellers, and more.

**Learning magic is great ... but only if you get a chance to *use* what you learn.  
This is your opportunity to be part of what promises to be a great show!**



**We're all looking  
forward to seeing you  
on  
March 25<sup>th</sup>!**