



The Silent Messenger

Silent Mora–Ray Goulet Ring 122

www.Ring122.com

February 2021

Ring 122 January Meeting Report

Our January meeting was held on the last Thursday of the month instead of our typical last Tuesday so that we could be amazed and educated by magician **Paul Draper**. Prior to Paul's presentation, we held our monthly meeting with **Ryan Lally**, our president, presiding. **Daryl Vanderburgh**, our treasure, made a note to send a \$100 donation to Make-A-Wish from our December Zoom fundraiser. **David Penn**, our editor, had received an email regarding the recent passing of **Lou Taris**, a member of our Ring. His family reached out regarding a future auction of some of his magic items by Ring 122, and **Debbie O'Carroll**, our secretary, volunteered to follow-up regarding a broken wand ceremony. An update: **The broken wand ceremony for Lou Taris will be performed at this coming Ring 122 monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:30pm.**



And with that commenced some insightful, amazing, and non-stop magical knowledge by magician Paul Draper. Paul has performed on cruise ships, the Magic Castle, and was the last magician left standing at the gates when Disney closed due to the pandemic. He began his professional life as an anthropologist and you can see that he takes a discovery mentality when he presents an effect. Paul has constructed a specially-designed set in his home in which were cleverly concealed items that brought out the theme of Alice in Wonderland. He was actually surrounded by seven tables of magic outside of camera view. This way he said he could switch gears at any time and perform an effect that would cater to a particular audience (**Chevy Chase** being a name he dropped). Paul's lecture was more of a Socratic seminar format as he invited questions from the zoom audience that he could then follow up on, and even demonstrate pieces of magic that would address the question.

Among the many topics he discussed, Paul offered several Zoom technique tips . Music is obviously an issue as Zoom will try to choose sounds like you are in a meeting, so Zoom blocks out background noise (music). However there are things that you can do on Zoom that would be impossible to do in a parlor or stage setting. You can manipulate angles and make things come in and out of camera range, or move objects closer or further away so as to make them seem smaller or larger. Paul showed how to make a classic Chinese egg bag effect really work on Zoom. Using movement towards the camera to make things larger and making objects that seem impossibly large come out of the egg bag really plays

This Month's Theme: Linking Ring Night! Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:30pm on Zoom!

This month's theme is a Member Performance Night featuring effects from a past issue of the Linking Ring!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88526707453?pwd=SktHbHlpL3RHZ29iQ1lhcHI5YTUVIUT09> Meeting ID: 885 2670 7453 Passcode: 265160

(*Draper continued.*) big on Zoom! Effects or gimmicks with angle problems become amazing when you can control the field of vision, stated Paul. He demonstrated this with multiplying billiard balls and how amazing that effect looks on Zoom as he seemed to pop the balls out of thin air that appeared to get larger and larger as he got closer and closer to the camera!

Paul also emphasized treating Zoom as an intimate environment and using that to your advantage. Performing on Zoom can feel lonely to the performer, but to the audience it feels intimate since you as a magician are only three feet away from their eyes that are focused on their screens. He suggests trying to get interactions with your audience, and let them believe you are really looking at just them.

Since the magician is at home while using Zoom, Paul also suggested performing tricks you don't usually do because of their value, fragility, or they cannot be examined. Paul demonstrated this by seeming to melt a \$5 effect, a hinged spoon, that was a "Wow" effect on Zoom. He added that dye boxes and other jigsaw effects work really well too. Paul demonstrated that even a classic finger Chopper looks scary amazing up close. And effects you might consider fragile or valuable are also ones that you might want to demonstrate.

Finally, what was also interesting is that this year's talk was very different from Paul's last visit to the Ring. Paul is a true professional, and everyone came away a better magician after participating in his presentation.



President's Message by Ryan Lally

Dear Compeers,

As we conclude this month, we are reminded that it was only last March that the Covid-19 pandemic began. Although it feels like only yesterday we were staying inside all day watching TikTok (or was that just me?), many people all over the world have faced their toughest year yet. For us in the entertainment industry, the year has been particularly empty of shows.

I was reminded of how difficult many people still have it today as I'm writing this article, Ash Wednesday, after coming home from mass. As millions of Christians around the globe observe the start of the season of Lent, we are called to do certain acts of kindness during these 40 days. Some may choose to volunteer in a homeless shelter or soup kitchen, while others may pass out Dunkins to those less fortunate on city corners. In any event, we are called to give and help others.

As magicians, we have a special gift to give the world. There are so many folks of all ages who could really use a magic show now more than ever. They may be a child who has gone through a particularly tough year; or a grandparent stuck in a nursing home with little contact with their loved ones on the outside; or a local nonprofit struggling to raise enough cash to keep their doors open for one more year.

If you are in the position to perform during the pandemic, I encourage you to consider donating some of your services to those in need. For those of you who are performing virtual shows, a free show is an easy thing since there are no travel hassles. It doesn't even have to be a show for an official organization. Consider reaching out to loved ones who you believe could especially benefit from a half hour of fun magic.

Have you had the opportunity to donate your talents during the past 11 months? Do you have any ideas as to how we can share our talents with those around us? I would love to hear them at our next meeting.

See you then! Cheers, Ryan

Our Monthly Meeting Themes!

Special thanks to Bob Filene for volunteering to be our Lecture Chairperson. Here's the schedule!

Feb: Linking Ring Night
March: Lecture
April: Tarbell Night
May: Lecture
June: Elections
July: Lecture
August: Summer Social



Check out member Felice Ling's new venture!



Broken Wand Ceremony at this Month's Meeting

All Ring 122 members are invited to attend a Broken Wand Ceremony at this month's meeting to celebrate the magic and life of Ring 122 member **Louis Taris**. Debbie O'Carroll will be performing the Broken Wand Ceremony.

IBM RING 122, Silent Mora-Ray Goulet Ring

Website: <http://www.ring122.com> *Meetings take place the last Tuesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown, 35 Church Street, Watertown, MA.* Currently though just on Zoom

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The Silent Messenger is published every month. The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month.

Articles, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to the editor, David Penn at penn.d@comcast.net