



The Silent Messenger

Silent Mora-Ray Goulet

www.Ring122.com

October, 2018

Our First Meeting is a Blast

After our summer break, our September meeting got our new year off to a great start. We had some new folks show up and lots of old timers, and the energy and conviviality of the evening turned into a cascade of performances.

First up was Mike Lee who puzzled us with a very clean card stab. He places the deck in a brown paper lunch bag, shakes the bag, and stabs the card, dramatically using the knife to rip the bag in half and reveal the card impaled on the knife.

Derek Knox, a first-time visitor, courageously and competently showed us a clever card trick he was working on.

Kevin Butler performed Aldo Colombini's Jumbo Coincidence, and he made it his own with a funny routine and patter that made the trick a jumbo hit for us.

Ryan Laly performed a very clean "Think of any card" trick that he learned at Magic Live this summer. It was a true baffler.

Bob Filene told us a funny story from his days as a computer programmer with Wang Computers. Inspired by Rober Houdin's Mechanical Turk, Bob created a computer program that spoofed his colleagues into thinking the computer was responding to their voices.

Felice Ling did a fine version of the Travelers that displayed great technical skill.

Pat Farenga performed a card trick where two people are shown to be truly in sync with each other. One person chooses a card and then returns it to the deck. The deck is shuffled and another person is asked to choose two cards, look at them, then give Pat one. The card the second person has in their hand is the same card chosen by the first person.

Daryl Vanderburgh performed a trick from his youth. In fact, he said the trick was so successful for him as a child that he offered to teach it to anyone who would pay him a fee! Daryl showed us a cardboard tube and dropped a pencil through it. Then he placed a paper plate under the tube and dropped a penny through it. You hear the penny strike the plate, but when Daryl lifts the tube, the coin is not there.

Inspired by the goings on, another first-time visitor, Ellis James, showed a "Think of any card trick that topped off the proceedings for the evening. It was a great way to start the new year and we look forward to members' performances of Halloween magic at our next meeting on the last Tuesday of October, the 30th.

NOTES: The Magic Competition is on October 28 at the Wellesley Community center. There are still slots available for competitors. See the full-page ad for details.

There are no photos available from September's meeting as our staff photographer, Bruce Fenton, was sick.

—Patrick Farenga

The President's Letter

Fall is here, and so is National Magic Month! In celebration of Harry Houdini's death on Halloween, 1926, the month of October is dedicated to celebrating the art of magic. There are plenty of ways magicians celebrate: performing public shows, volunteering shows at senior centers and hospitals, creating special Halloween-themed giveaways for clients, etc. But what can be a better way to celebrate than with your local Ring! We will be holding a Halloween-themed meeting on October 30th. There will be the usual refreshments...with a twist! Please bring a Halloween-themed trick to show. Let's make this the best Halloween meeting we've ever had!

I want to talk about magic as a hobby. Most people who identify as a magician don't perform magic full-time and will never make a living from performing. Magic is a hobby to them, to be performed for friends and family. Some magicians will perform public shows and private events, but on nights and weekends after their 9 to 5 job. We are such a lucky Ring to have magicians at all varying levels; some of us are just hobbyists, some are part-time pros, and a handful are full-time.

There is an unspoken belief that if you're a professional, you're good; if you're a hobbyist or part-time professional, you aren't as good as the full-time professionals. I've seen this between the lines of conversations with others at magic conventions. The full-time pros proudly state how they make 100% of their livings from magic. I think it's fantastic that people can make a full-time living from performing magic! Many of these magicians are great performers, but I don't think being full-time automatically makes them better magicians than part-time.

My theory is that there is a correlation between full-time pros and skill level because they are the ones who are performing the most, and anyone in the performing arts will tell you that one sure-fire way to improve is to perform more. Agents constantly book full-time professionals, and each booking is a chance for word-of-mouth, which leads to more. But there are plenty of ways for magicians who are not full-time to get stage time! Open mics are a prime example, and so are club shows.

Although magic may just be a hobby, you can still make a beautiful work of art out of it. It doesn't have to be a full 75-minute show complete with illusions and dancers. Maybe it's a card trick that you spend 10+ years perfecting; maybe it's a coin trick that you bring to every meeting with a different variation until you find the right one; maybe it's a 15 minute routine from your kids show that you desperately want to be 100% perfect. These are all opportunities to make incredible art, and all of them can be done after you get home from work.

Full-time, I am a graduate student. As much as I love magic and performing, my schoolwork comes first. After homework and classes are done each day, that doesn't leave me with as much practice time as I would like. But the time I have, I use. I am currently working on a Sketch Pad Card Rise routine and revisiting my Linking Rings routine that I haven't touched for a couple of years.

My hope for our club is to focus on our public performances. Public IBM shows give members the opportunity to perform both stage and close-up magic. If you just have one routine you feel comfortable performing, that's plenty! Having one well polished, well-rehearsed routine is better than having 10 unrehearsed, out-of-the-bag routines. I encourage you all to spend a little bit of time each day practicing and improving ONE routine, a routine that will be your baby and will be a staple of your repertoire for years to come.

See you on October 30th!—Ryan Lally

Treasurer's Notes

Dues are due! So far, only a handful of members have paid. Dues are \$35 for the email version of *Silent Messenger*; \$45 for postal version. Bring your dues to our next meeting or go online. Happily, we have recently embraced 21st century technology and are now able to accept dues electronically via Venmo or Zelle, if it's easier for you to pay this way! Venmo: Daryl-Vanderburgh, dvanderburgh8@gmail.com, or (508) 314-5271. Zelle: (508) 314-5271. Of course, the old-fashioned way still works too! Send your check, made out to IBM Ring 122 to: Daryl Vanderburgh, 31 Stonebridge Rd, Wayland, MA 01778.

2) Contest update

At this writing we have six confirmed entrants in the Magic Contest. But there's still plenty of room for more! Please consider entering yourself and/or spread the word to other magicians you know. Remember, it's not just chump change or bragging rights that's at stake here. There's some real dough and hardware up for grabs! First prize is \$200 and a trophy! Entry fee is only \$10 (payable by the same mechanisms above). Where else can you find an investment that has that kind of potential return these days??!

Spread the Word!

Copy the poster on the last page of this issue to spread the word about the competition to your community.

IBM RING 122, Silent Mora-Ray Goulet

Website: <http://www.ring122.com>

Meetings take place the last Tuesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown, 35 Church Street.

President: Ryan Lally, lallymagic@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Kevin Butler, kevinbutler@comcast.net; 2nd Vice President: Dan Bybell, dan@bybell.com

Treasurer: Daryl Vanderburgh, dvanderburgh8@gmail.com Secretary: Debbie O'Carroll, 978-462-9954; debbie@debbieocarroll.com

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

Board of Governors: Mike Lee, Pat Farenga, and Elliott Palmer.

The Silent Messenger is published every month except for July and August.

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

pat@magicianpatfarenga.com

Northeast New England Magic Contest

\$200 Cash Prize for First Place

Calling all magicians and other performers who incorporate magic into their acts! Perform your best material in a magic competition sponsored by Ring 122 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

All ages and styles of magic performers are welcome. There are 12 performance slots available, each with an 8-minute time limit. These slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The entrance fee for each competitor is \$10. To compete, mail your contact information and a check made out to I.B.M. Ring 122 for \$10 to: NE New England Magic Contest, Daryl Vanderburgh, 31 Stonebridge Rd, Wayland, MA 01778.

We can also accept entry and payment online: Send your contact info and intent to compete to Daryl Vanderburgh at dvanderburgh8@gmail.com with the subject line: New England Magic Contest. Electronic payment can be accepted via Zelle by referencing phone number (508) 314-5271 or via Venmo by referencing either the aforementioned email address or phone.

Three professional magicians seated in the audience will anonymously judge the competitors. The judges have four criteria:

- Originality. It does not have to be an original effect; a unique spin on a classic is fine.
- Smoothness of execution/presentation. How polished the performer is for their level of technical difficulty.
- Impact. This is measured by audience reaction.
- Time. We penalize if someone goes over eight minutes or does less than six minutes.

NOTE: If your performance requires a musical accompaniment, you must bring your own playing device that will plug into our soundboard. Check the Ring 122 Facebook page and website (www.ring122.com) for updates and news about the Northeast New England Magic Contest.

Deadline for entering the competition: Midnight, Oct. 24, 2018, or when all 12 slots are filled.

Location: Wellesley Community Center, 219 Washington St, Wellesley, MA 02481.

Date: October 28, 2018. **Time:** 3PM.

Prizes: \$200 and a trophy for first place; a framed certificate for second and third place, and the People's Choice (based on the popular vote of audience).

Ring 122 has Two Milbourne Christopher Winners for 2018!

The 2018 Milbourne Christopher Awards Presentation at the Garde Arts Center, New London, Connecticut included Ring 122 members Ryan Lally (Youth Award) and Jim Rainho (Lifetime Achievement Award). Congratulations to both on your well-deserved awards



NORTHEAST NEW ENGLAND

MAGIC CONTEST

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 28 3 PM

WELLESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

219 WASHINGTON STREET, WELLESLEY, MA 02481

\$200

CASH PRIZE for FIRST PLACE

**SPONSORED BY
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS
SILENT MORA - RAY GOULET RING 122, BOSTON**