

The Silent Messenger

December 2024



Ring 122 November Ring Report

Our meeting began with a speedy business meeting where we recapped our upcoming plans for the year—the holiday dinner, our upcoming lecture, and ongoing preparations for the Spring show. We segued expeditiously to our lecture with Adam Parisi.

Adam explained his system for remembering, organizing, and creating tricks and routines, down to the spectator placement at a table. He spoke more on his inspiration for his system of creating “mini showcases” before launching into the routines outlined in his lecture notes. We were thoroughly fooled and entertained.

Adam also spoke on his experience being in Penn and Teller’s Fool Us, bloody nose and all, and encouraged us to submit a routine and see what happens. He was also dinner guest on Hell’s Kitchen wherein his table of magicians were a favorite of the camera and asked to perform some tricks, to which he obliged. After several tricks, they asked for a shot of him moving to another location, not knowing that his lap was full of the items he vanished moments before!

Thus the curtain closed on the lecture and our meeting.



President's Report



Can A.I. Help Me Learn Magic?

OK, I did the obvious. I was inspired to see if AI could help me learn magic, so I asked AI. Guess what, AI said “Yes, David, AI can help you become a better magician.

But first, let me tell you what inspired this month’s President’s Message idea. When I was setting up the Zoom link for last month’s meeting and workshop by Adam Parisi (which was very good!), Zoom asked if I wanted to Beta test their AI automated summary feature. I figured this would save Daniel some time each month writing up the meeting notes, so I clicked on the button. Today, while setting up our next Zoom link for the Holiday Party, (no guarantees but we will try to Zoom from the Holiday Party on Monday, 12/16), Zoom informed me that I had an AI generated summary from our last meeting to peruse. The first bullet points were accurate, but I just had to push the “Show More” button and those longer results were sort of accurate but maybe not. I await Daniel’s verdict on the helpfulness of the AI generated notes.

But, alas, my interest was piqued! I don’t have any local magic friends, yet, here on the Cape. Learning across a Zoom is possible but a bit remote for me. Maybe I could learn from an AI magic tutor? My AI chess tutor hasn’t helped my chess game too much, but it hasn’t hurt it much either, so why not think magically?

So, as I said at the start of my column, after asking the obvious question, the answer from AI was “Yes!” But what else did I expect, these thinking machines are probably just trying to promote themselves! It’s like asking a Cape Cod ice cream parlor if they have good ice cream!

OK, ok, here’s the full answer: “Yes, AI can help you become a better magician by assisting with the creation of new magic tricks, optimizing existing ones, and analyzing audience psychology to make your performances more impactful, although it cannot replace the essential elements of showmanship and presentation that are key to a successful magician; the real magic comes from the performance itself, not just the trick mechanics.” See I told you that AI couldn’t be trusted! Look back at the earlier sentence. Everything after the “although” I put in italics is AI trying to back pedal so as not to seem to be obviously trying to take over the Magical World! Or AI is just trying to be nice and say that there’s still a place for a human in the world of magic.

Here’s a short list of what you can ask AI to do to help you become a better magician. Feel free to share the results to me via email if any of these ideas work for you!

How AI can help magicians:

Generating new trick ideas: Ask AI to generate a variation on an existing magic effect. You can add the psychological or mathematical principles that the effect is based on and see what new twist AI can suggest!

Optimizing existing tricks: For effects with several known variations, ask AI which variation or presentation would work best based on your character, age of audience, size of audience, etc.

Mind-reading effects: Given a set of what appear to be random parameters, see if AI can make an “educated guess” and pick a correct card or detail about a person. AI is great at analyzing patterns so it should be able to reason its way through any sort of matrix of answers that you set up. Kind of a Magic Square with many more permutations!

Real-time interaction: In theory, AI can listen to your performance and how the audience reacts and critique your show. It’s like having your mother in the back of the room taking notes! Assuming your mother likes magic and wants to help!

Visual illusions: “Help me Obi-Wan Kenobi, you’re my only hope!” If it was good enough to be believable in Star Wars, it should work in your show! So, if you have enough money and understand the technology, you can generate an AI simulated digital image/creature/assistant/spirit guide to be incorporated into your act! So much cheaper than having a human assistant!

I hope you enjoyed my attempt at humor this month! And if you are inspired to use AI in your act, please share your thoughts at an upcoming meeting! It looks like we have the usual 6-8 folks joining us at our annual Holiday Dinner on Monday, 12/16, 6pm-8pm at The Great American Beer Hall, 142 Mystic Ave., Medford. Please RSVP if you plan to attend to penn.d@comcast.net. Bring a gift for the Yankee Swap if desired.

Lastly, in January, our meeting will be on Monday, January 6th at 7pm. The theme will be, “New Year, New Magic!” So, bring something new to your magic life and share it with others.

Google AI disclaimer: “AI cannot replace the practice, skill, and showmanship needed to perform magic effectively. AI can help analyze audience psychology, but magicians still need a deep understanding of how people perceive magic to create truly impactful illusions.”



**IBM Ring 122 President
David Penn**



"A Must See. Incredibly Talented Magician!" Steve Harvey

A LECTURE BY JEKI YOO

MAGICIAN

QUICK CHANGE ARTIST

**Sponsored by
SAM 9 & 104,
& IBM Ring 122**

**Contact your magic club
above for a ticket!***

***Due to the room capacity
of 30, clubs have 10 tickets each
to distribute. Rates may vary.**



International Award Winner!

Saturday, January 18th, 7:30-9:30pm
Grace Episcopal Church
76 Eldredge St, Newton, MA

***Limited tickets are available for this magicians only lecture.**

SAM Assemblies 9 and 104, along with IBM Ring 122 are taking advantage of Jeki's presence in our area to schedule a joint lecture on Saturday, January 18th from 7-PM

Seating is limited (only 30 seats total) so each of the three clubs is allocating 10 seats to our members. To reserve a seat, send me an email at davidpenn99@icloud.com. Any seats not reserved by the end of the first week in January will be released to the other clubs. We will collect \$10 at the door from everyone who has made reservations.

Jeki has appeared on Penn & Teller (twice), America's Got Talent, Britain's Got Talent, and the Steve Harvey show, and has won multiple international awards. He's been called "the cutest magician ever."

Upcoming Meeting Themes

January - New Year New Magic

February - TBD

March - Teach in ([Volunteer Here!](#))

April - Modern Day Kids Magic

May - Lecture TBD

June - Favorite Unusual Props

July - No Meeting

August - BBQ

Our next meeting is **Tuesday,**
January 27th at
7 PM [on Zoom](#) and at the [library!](#)



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www.ring122.com



Meetings take place the last Monday of every month. Meetings are in Person and on Zoom.

President: David Penn, penn.d@comcast.net

1st Vice President: Pat Farenga pfarenga@comcast.net

2nd Vice President: Open, inquire

Treasurer: Daryl Vanderburgh, dvanderburgh8@gmail.com

Secretary: Open (Daniel Barbas interim)

Sergeant-at-arms: Kevin Butler kevibutler1@gmail.com

Board of Governors: Bob Filene, Michael Charles, Mikey Lee

Editor: Daniel Barbas ibm.ring122@gmail.com

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Articles, corrections, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to the editor, Daniel Barbas at ibm.ring122@gmail.com