



Silent Mora
Ring 122
January, 2011

THE SILENT MESSENGER

Holiday Magic!



Dick and Dawn Miller perform some holiday magic at our December meeting.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday,
January 25, 2011**

Our first meeting for 2011 will feature performances of tricks or routines that you developed on your own. This can be a combination of dealer tricks or sleights that you've developed into an effect or act, or an original creation of yours that you want to show us. Whether you perform or watch, please don't miss our first meeting of the year!

On the last Tuesday of 2010, Ring 122 gathered for its Holiday meeting. After the business meeting, we started our holiday festivities, beginning with our Yankee Gift Swap.

A magic gift (\$15 limit) was wrapped and placed in a pile at the start of the meeting. Each person who contributed a gift chose a gift from the pile and then

(Story continued on page 2)

Breaking News!

Ring 122 member Alexandria the Great performed a live escape act for a television audience on New England Cable News on Monday, January 17, 2011. To watch Alex perform, visit her Youtube channel:

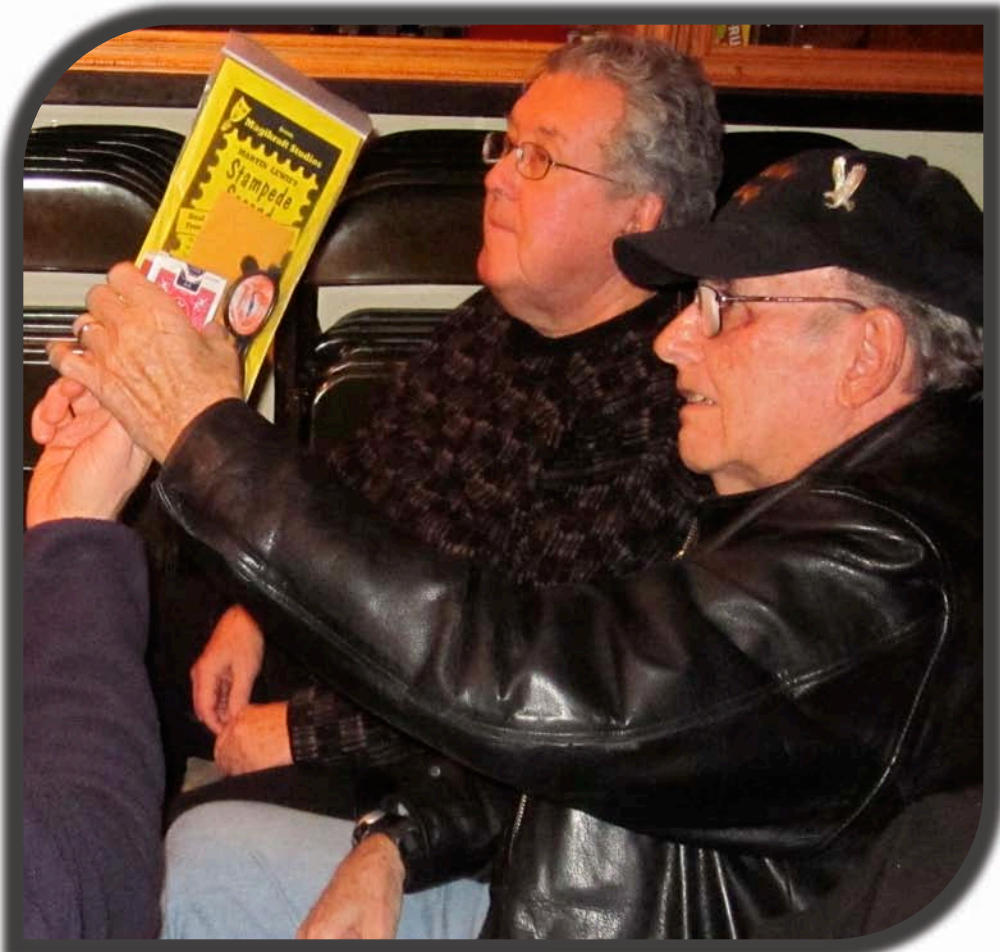
<http://www.youtube.com/user/Alexanderia-thegreat>

(Story continued from page 1)

announced whether they wanted to keep that gift and then open it in front of everyone, or swap it, unopened, for a gift that had been unwrapped earlier by someone else. There was a lot of fun and some rather interesting gifts as the swap unfolded. Most interesting was how the first person to take a gift gets to choose to keep or swap his gift as the final deal of the night, which added a dramatic close to the swap.

Several members then performed holiday tricks for us, starting with a ring on rope routine by Jerry Schiowitz. Dick and Dawn Miller followed with a colorful, holiday-themed production that incorporated crazy jokes and an old crow on Dick's shoulder. Kevin Butler then showed us a new trick he received that was humorous and baffling, though weirdly ungrammatical, "Magic Time Now is Happening." The effect involved two sets of cards with words on them; no matter how many times the spectator moved his cards around, when he turned his top card over it matched the magician's top card.

Doc Rogers did his variation of the "Thought Projector" trick, using an eggbeater as Don Alan did, to help project the thought of volunteer Rupayan Neogy's chosen card to the mind of spectator Jared McNabb. Jared didn't catch the projected thought, much to Doc's surprise and dismay, but Jim Canaday, our ever-alert president, caught it and announced the thought-of card, thoroughly amazing Rupayan,



Out newest member, Gene Bowers, watches as Dick Newcomb receives a gift during the Yankee gift swap.

totally befuddling Jared, and causing much laughter for the audience. Doc rolled with the punch and wound up with a pretty funny ending. Doc then performed his version of the bill in lemon trick. He incorporated elements of Terry Seabrooke's "Burnt banknote routine" to create a very entertaining bit built around Doc's con man character.

Jim Canaday used a deck of cards to amaze us with an unusual prediction effect called "Annihilation." Bob Filene, fresh from his successful magic shows at the Somerville theater, did a flawless newspaper tear and Rupayan Neogy closed the show with a nice display of Christmas lights, or more specifically, Christmas D'Lites.

—Pat Farenga

Meeting Report

December Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our president, Jim Canaday. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were accepted by the members. We welcomed our newest member, Gene Bowers.

Member Rupayan Neogy announced his Youtube channel featuring his magic performances,
www.Youtube.com/user/Rneogy.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

—Debbie O'Carroll



Rupayan receives some advice from Doc.

From Our President

Wow, 2011. I know I am going to keep writing 2010 until at least June. After a sensational meeting in December (we had 19 people right in the heart of holiday season!) we have an outstanding spring to look forward to. We get so much magic literature to pour through, there must be something that you have seen and made for your own use. We want to see it! Or maybe you have actually created an effect from scratch. Even better: We want to see it! This should be a fun night and it allows us to show off just how creative and handy we are. In February, we are having Bill Wisch give his lecture on Slydini. As Bill was a student of the great one, this should be a fantastic night. I did want to mention the March meeting as you will want plenty of time to get ready for this one. Debbie O'Carroll suggested we have a night we have dubbed "Tarbell with a Twist". You pick any trick from Tarbell then either do the same effect with a different method or use the method to create a new effect. I know we have a lot of creative people in the ring and it is time for them to come out of the woodwork. I wanted to give you a two month head start so you can pick just the right trick or if you don't have access to a set of Tarbell, let us know what you are interested in and someone will get you a few pages on that. On compeer performance nights, we are regularly getting eight to ten performers. I hope we can keep up the level for both the January and March meetings. So kick those little brains into high gear, dream up something wonderful and come share it with us.

—Jim Canaday

January – February 2011 Events

- **Jan. 19.** The SAM auction at the Magic Art Studio in Watertown has been rescheduled for the Wednesday, January 19, 2011 due to the impending storm.
- **Feb. 22:** Bill Wisch delivers his Slydini lecture to Ring 122.

ONGOING MAGIC EVENTS:

- The Mystery Lounge. Magic every Tuesday night in Harvard Square, Cambridge.
www.mysterylounge.com
- Le Grand David and His Own Spectacular Magic Company. Beverly Massachusetts. Call 978-927-3677 for show dates, times and location.

MAJOR UPCOMING MAGIC EVENTS:

- NEMCON – Saturday, March 12, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT
- HANK LEE'S MAGIC CONCLAVE – April 8-10, 201, Hyannis, MA
- IBM CONVENTION – June 28-July 2, 2011 – Dallas, TX

IBM RING 122, Silent Mora

Meetings take place the last Tuesday of every month at Ray Goulet's Magic Art Studio, 137 Spring Street, Watertown, MA, 617-926-3949.

Ring 122 Officers, 2010–2011

President: Jim Canaday, P. O. Box 544, Bryantville, MA 02327, 781-293-2183

Vice President: Jared McNabb, 130 Lake St., Boston, MA 02135, 508-737-3757

2nd Vice President: Joel Acevedo, (787) 376-0225

Treasurer: Daryl Vanderburgh, 31 Stonebridge Road, Wayland, MA 01778, 508-655-8553

Secretary: Debbie O'Carroll, 51 Olive Street, Newburyport, MA 01950, 978-462-9954

Sergeant-at-arms: David Tolstrup, 44 Noble Street, Malden, MA 02148, 781-322-7789

Board of Governors: Doug Rickenback, 43 Anderson Drive, Methuen, MA 01844

More photos from our last meeting.

Photo credits: All photos in this issue are by Jerry Schiowitz.

If you have an event related to magic that you would like to have listed in the Silent Messenger please contact Pat (pfarenga@comcast.net) or Jerry (annjer@rcn.com).



Doc Rogers prepares to reveal where the vanished bill went.



Fred Forreth marvels at his gift.



Pat Farenga (left), Doug Rickenback and Jim Canaday (right) show their delight with their Yankee Swap Gifts.



Acting for Magicians / What's in a Name?

by Debbie O'Carroll

Apart from Ray Goulet's masterful presentation of the egg bag, the best surprise of 2010 was Mickey Silver's performance and lecture. His sleight-of-hand was only eclipsed by his clever acting and animated stage movement. There is no better stage name for this spirited magician than Mickey Silver, because his name sounds like the word quicksilver. His performance reminds us of quicksilver, sparkling and unexpected.

A stage name can form a magician's stage personality. Nell Newton changed her name to Dell O'Dell and delighted her audience with her Irish humor. William Robinson changed his name to Ching Ling Soo and mystified his audience with wonders from China. Ricky Jay's card magic wouldn't seem as snappy if he performed as Ricky Potash and Criss Angel couldn't convince his viewers of his supernatural powers as Christopher Nicholas Sarantokas. Who would have learned the Si Stebbins system if it was called the William H. Coffrin method? Many performers find names that are easier to spell or pronounce. Fred Kaps is a brisk moniker for a cardician. His real name, Abraham Bongers, brings to mind a zany character in a fright wig and hypno glasses. David Kotkin adopted the already-famous and easy to remember name "David Copperfield," but he stopped short of putting on the costume, speech and mannerisms of his Dickensian namesake. Erich Weiss added an "i" to the name of the French magician Houdin, and in becoming Houdini, spawned thousands of "inis" from Baldini to Sardini. An "ini" is often preceded or followed by "the great." Audiences expect to see professional, well-presented performances from magicians who advertise themselves as "the great." Even though "The Great Ingo" is a tongue-in-cheek stage name, Andrew Inglis has studied acting and his hilarious, self-effacing character is thoroughly entertaining. Performers who add descriptive adjectives or exotic suffixes to their names should present characters that are congruent with their names. Audiences won't be disappointed if a magician publicized as "Dotty Debbie" is silly and absentminded or a conjurer named "Deborianna" acts like a sorceress. We always expect the wonderfully weird from Alan Wassilak's "Alan the Uncanny" and we are never disappointed. A stage name is an ideal starting point for creative ideas. Imagine costumes, props and patter for someone called "Debbie, the Diva of Magic." If you've envisaged sequined gowns, appearing tiaras and a self-absorbed patter, then you are on the right track. Play around with your stage name, create an alter ego, and think about what magic effects you'd perform. You may come up with a winner!

Do you have ideas for future columns? Send your suggestions to debbie@debbieocarroll.com.

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

Editorial duties rotate each month between Jerry Schiowitz (February editor) and Pat Farenga (March editor).

Articles, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to the editors:

- Pat: pfarenga@comcast.net
- Jerry: annjer@rcn.com

The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month.