

The Silent Messenger

March 2023



Ring 122 February Ring Report

Ring 122 is hosting a Spring Magic Performance nearby in Belmont, MA on May 20th at 2pm. Nine magicians will be performing including Ring 122's past president Ryan Lally, and mentalist John Bach! A show flier, Facebook event, and other social media postings will follow. We hope to have a Halloween magic show in October, as well. At our March meeting, we will hold a Broken Wand ceremony for former Ring 122 president Bruce Fenton. A moment of silence was also held for Gil Stubbs, former Ring 122 member and NASA mathematician. Both men will be greatly missed.

Our original lecture from DJ Edwards of Ickle Pickle fame has been rescheduled due to a conflict; his lecture will now be at our May meeting. Instead, members were wowed by a lecture from rising magician, Penn and Teller's "Fool Us" contestant, and Chicago Magic Lounge performer Abby Segal! Ms. Segal was first drawn into magic by yours truly, David "Crazy Davy" Penn, who was actually teaching some sponge ball effects to Abby's older sister at the time. Fast forward 18 months, and Abby became Crazy Davy's magical assistant, a position she did part-time for the next 7 years. During that time, Abby began performing children's magic on her own, then magic for adults, and then some Cabaret Magic.

Abby made her first Penn and Teller "Fool Us" submission video at the former Diamonds Magic in Peabody, MA. Abby was so into trying to get on Penn and Teller's TV show that it was pretty much all she could think about her last two years of high school. Currently a senior at Bates College in New Hampshire majoring in Psychology, Abby wasn't thinking much about Penn and Teller at that point because the Covid pandemic and quarantines began her freshman year. There was a run on toilet paper at school and that gave her a great idea for a Covid-themed cups and ball routine using toilet paper tubes. A video of the routine ended up getting a lot of views. Chris Ramsey, a magic YouTube personality, had a contest for best quarantine magic effect and Abby won an award and was featured on [his YouTube channel](#).

That's when her Facebook site really blew up! This led to a piece in a magazine, and then magician Tom Stone reached out to her and asked if he could share the quarantine toilet paper magic effect on his social media. That also generated a lot of interest, and before she knew it, Ben Barnes of the Chicago Magic Lab was interested in Abby's magical future. She also started a mentorship with magicians Elba and Evan Northrup. This all happened during year one of the pandemic!

About that time, Abby sent another video to "Fool Us" for an effect she was thinking about presenting on the show for season eight. Amazingly, she was selected, however, the producers felt that her original submission from her high school years, which incorporated an Etch A Sketch, would play better on TV. So, in the fall of her sophomore year, Abby was really busy getting ready to present on "Fool Us."

At that point, several Ring 122 members had questions about the process to appear on TV. Magi Felice Ling asked Abby how her creative process has changed in the last six years. Abby replied that "First it was just working on that one goal of getting on "Fool Us," with my original Etch a Sketch effect." However, Abby feels that the Cups and Balls/Toilet Tube routine had a real reason behind it and was something everyone could relate to. "I find that when I'm thinking of magic effects now, Abby stated, I'm thinking more about what patter I could use that would be relatable to most people and seems to fit my personality.

Former Ring 122 president Rob Kinslow asked if Abby got to work with Michael Close, the magic consultant for "Fool Us." Abby replied, "Oh, yes, he's great to work with." In fact one of the effects that she had thought of presenting on "Fool Us" was a variation of an effect by Close called "El Cheapo." Rob then asked if anything about Penn and Teller experience was a surprise to her. Abby related that the moment she was on stage she went "Whoa!" "It seemed like a dream happening for real." Honestly, Abby didn't think she would fool them, but hoped one part of her act would.

The original taping was done on October 17th 2020 and the show was broadcast on February 26th 2021 and is available to see on [Abby's channel on YouTube](#).

The summer of her sophomore year, still in quarantine because of Covid, Abby started doing online magic lessons, and then in the summer of 2022, she was hired to work at the Chicago Magic Lounge doing table Magic seven nights a week. Doing table magic was super fun Abby stated, and repeating the same effects over and over at different tables got her very proficient with the effects, as well as helping her come up with new patter that seemed to match the people at the table. Abby added, "I also loved interacting with the people there so much!" The other cool thing was she got to meet and hang out with a lot of magicians and this helped expand her network of magicians that can be helpful to me now and in the future.

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At the Chicago Magic Lounge, Abby was also able to open for other magicians in the larger rooms. The 654 Club there is open Thursday through Sunday and it's similar to the close-up Gallery at the Magic Castle in that it holds just 60 people in a parlor-like setting. There's always a sold out crowd with newcomers. "I was so lucky to be able to open for other magicians there twice!"

Magician Michael Charles asked Abby how a person creates an act for "Fool Us?" Abby answered, "You must be prepared to tear apart your act based on what the producers want to show on screen. You need to be open to change and to let other people help you out because the producers can see through the effect, especially since they've had so much experience with magic on TV. In addition, your effect needs to be short and direct." Also new was learning to work with sound and light cues while on stage. She sometimes comes up with a song to use while running or using a song that made her feel good, or just had good visuals with the song. Abby has an effect that uses a ticking watch, and there's a Madonna song that talked about time and they seem to work really well together. In fact, at the end of the effect, the sound engineer made the music louder which seemed to make the final reveal even more impressive. "You could see the audience reacting to the sound and the lighting as well as to the effect." Abby added, "On TV you need to be much more intentional and work on transitions between what you say and do including handling your props. Everything needs to be smooth and flow. You also have to focus on your character since this is how the world will know you from here on after."

During her junior year, Abby had a chance to go abroad to Prague, and she was able to perform there even without being able to speak the language, as well as going to magic sessions there too. "It was really cool meeting magicians from another country," Abby thought.

Abby's plans after graduating this year are moving to Chicago and performing again at the Chicago Magic Lounge. She also had a part-time job working at the Potter and Potter

Magic Auction House so she might try to go back to that position as well. The coolest thing she saw there was the first documented photo of Harry Houdini and his brother!

Ring 122 editor, Daniel Barbas asked Abby if she had heard about the [Science of Magic Association](#) based in London, and Abby had heard of it but hadn't done any research into it yet, but she mentioned she wrote her thesis on how Psychology and Magic are related for her degree. She believes that magic is a great way to be yourself and to bring your own flair to concepts that make sense to you.

Rob Kinslow asked about social media and how important that was to getting recognition and how much time did she spend on that. The reason he asked that is because Abby seems to have a well made Instagram and YouTube accounts. Abby replied that she's not fixated on social media, but back in 8th grade she liked to perform for the camera and she wouldn't always show her face, just her hands. That helped her connect with other magicians on Instagram and YouTube. It's also how Tom Stone found her, and that set off the positive chain of events.

Our last question was who was the magician she would most like to meet? The answer is Joshua Jay, and members of Ring 122 recalled when Joshua Jay performed at the Magic Arts Studio several years ago before he became world famous. And with that our lecture was completed.



Abby Segal answering questions during her Zoom lecture.



Remembering Gilbert Stubbs

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Gilbert Stubbs.

Gilbert is being laid to rest next to his wife at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Wellesley. Memorial donations may be made to the USO at <https://www.uso.org> or to the MSPCA-Angell, Attn: Donations, 350 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130 or <https://www.mspca.org>

You can find [his full memorial at George F Doherty & Sons Funeral Homes webpage.](#)





President's Report



10 Ways To Nurture Our Magic Club!

As we actively try to grow our membership numbers in the club, I think it is a good time to remind ourselves how to become involved if you are already a member and what you can do to increase our membership! Personally, I would like to see us adopt a nurturing mentality. So first, here's the definition of the word "nurture."

To Nurture: The process of caring for and encouraging the growth or development of someone or something.

So here are ten thoughts about encouraging a nurturing environment in our Ring!

1. Communication: Read our newsletter every month as well as sending announcements and ideas so that your comperees know what you are doing magically and what interests you.

2. Be Intentional: Set yourself magic goals and use members to help you achieve them.

3. Show Appreciation: Value learning and experiences you can get from your fellow Ring 122 members.

4. Acts Of Service: Look for areas your Ring can give back to the Greater Boston Community.

5. Take Responsibility: You are an important part of Ring

122 so please make sure your yearly dues are paid, and that you share a sense of belonging with others in the Ring.

6. Provide Support: Give care and comfort to others in the rain who are not feeling well and support those members of the Ring who are trying to advance their magic goals.

7. Forgive: understand we all lead busy lives and can't make it to everything the ring does.

8. Share: share your skills and experiences with other members so we all can grow.

9. Perseverance: don't give up when things are down but work hard to bring others into our Ring!

10. Attend Magic Meetings: because we'd love to see you there!

Yours in magic,

Davy



IBM Ring 122 President



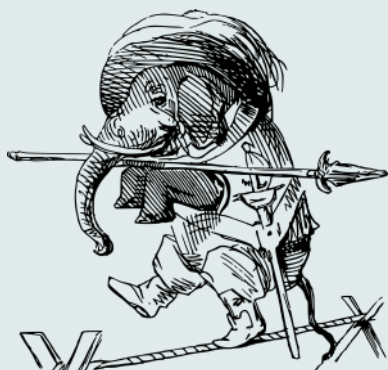
Magical Meetings in Melrose!

We have a new home for Ring 122!

It's been a long while since we've been able to meet in-person for a Ring 122 meeting. I am pleased to announce that we have a new home for our in-person/hybrid meetings!

Our new meeting place is a Temple Beth Shalom, a reform synagogue in Melrose, MA, about a mile and a half from the orange line Oak Grove MBTA stop. There is a parking lot right next door and bus service to the area as well. The address is 21 E Foster St, Melrose, MA 02176. The building is a yellow house two doors down from the Marathon Sports store. They have coffee pots and a fridge so we can have snacks and coffee at the meeting. We can use the Wi-Fi enabling Ring 122 to have a hybrid meeting—in person for those that wish to come and via Zoom for those not able to travel to the meeting.





**Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 28th
at 7:30 PM in person and on Zoom!**

This month's theme is **Mentalism**
We will be meeting at Temple Beth Shalom
21 E Foster St
Melrose, MA 02176

Upcoming Meeting Themes

- March:** Mentalism (In Person)
- April:** Book Magic and Favorite Gimmicks (Zoom)
- May:** Lecture, To be Announced (Zoom)
- June:** Elections, Group Trick Creation (In Person)
- August:** Summer BBQ (In Person)



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www.ring122.com

Meetings take place the last Tuesday of every month. Meetings are on Zoom and at currently at Temple Beth Shalom, 21 E Foster St, Melrose, MA 02176

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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, Daniel Barbas at ibm.ring122@gmail.com