



THE PERFORMER



IBM Little Rock Ring 29

June 2018



The Performers

Close-up Competition

The 2018 Ring 29 Close-Up Competition was held on June 7. There were 5 competitors this year, they were: (in order of performance) Carlos Yang, Paul Prater, Marty Haughn, Cedric Morely and Dane Dover. According to the judges, the competition was tight but a winner was decided. See the Ring Report on page 3 for details.

A Little Magic History

by Marty Haughn



T. Nelson Downs

Thomas Nelson Downs (1867-1928) Born in Marshalltown, Iowa, he was the youngest of six children in the family of Thomas and Cordelia Downs. His family moved to Iowa from the New York state. Downs' father, the Marshall county superintendent, died when his son was not even a year old.

Downs never took any training in magic; all his tricks were self-taught. By the age of 12, he became an expert in card and coin manipulation. He further mastered his skills by the age of 17, when he took a job as a railway telegrapher and had plenty of time to practice with coins.

In September 1895, Downs decided to quit his telegraphy job and launch a career in magic. At the peak of his career, Downs travelled frequently, and performed at royal courts. While performing his tricks, he could palm up to 60 coins at a time. One of his most famous tricks was "The Miser's Dream", in which he seemed to pull countless coins out of the thin air.

"My chief task has been to conquer fear. The public sees only the thrill of the accomplished trick; they have no conception of the tortuous preliminary self-training that was necessary to conquer fear."

- Harry Houdini



In This Issue

- 2 - President's Corner
- 3 - Meeting Minutes
- 4 - In the Spotlight
- 11 - Book Review
- 13 - Events Calendar/
Club Contacts



18th Century Magic

President's Corner

by Jo Jones, Ring 29 President

Magic Friends,

Our close-up competition went very well thanks to Aaron Acosta. We had some great talent in the close-up competition. I am proud of each one who participated. Congratulations to our winners!!!

The members present at the Ring 29 auction voted to have our Installation of Officers at the regular July meeting. The location has been moved to Larry's Pizza on Bowman in Little Rock.

The following officers were elected and will be installed:

President: *Jo Jones*
 Vice-President: *Cedric Morley*
 Secretary: *Gary Fambrough*
 Treasurer: *James Kinsey*
 Sergeant at Arms: *Dan Hecke*
 Historian: *Mike Curtis*

I hope to see you at the installation!

Magically yours,
 Jo

Yang BBQ

On Saturday June 2, Ring 29 members were invited to attend a BBQ hosted by Michael, Lisette and Carlos Yang.

Everyone who attended were treated to some excellent food and fellowship...and of course, some magic.

There were plenty of interesting stories told by all while relaxing in the comfort of the Yang den.

Magic was performed by Mike Jones, Adrien Steelman and Carlos Yang.

Afterwards, Mr. Magic himself brought gifts for everyone but not to just hand out. There was a drawing for unusual decks of cards and if you know Jim, he brought enough for every family to have one. The drawing allowed those chosen to select the deck of cards they wanted. Thanks Jim!

Thank you to Michael, Lisette and Carlos for opening their home to us all. Lisette is already planning another gathering at their home. Be on the lookout for details through the newsletter and email.





A little busking time in Denver's 16th Street Mall

"Busking"

"Circle shows" are shows that tend to gather a crowd around them. They usually have a distinct beginning and end. Usually these are done in conjunction with street theatre, puppeteering, **magicians**, comedians, acrobats, jugglers and sometimes musicians. Circle shows can be the most lucrative. Sometimes the crowds attracted can be huge. A good busker will control the crowd so the patrons do not obstruct foot traffic.

Ring 29 Report

by Gary Fambrough, Ring 29 Secretary

Don't tell anyone...but...shhhh...Gary didn't make it to the close-up competition on Thursday. He had a previous engagement and was unable to attend. So what did he do? He enlisted the assistance of two capable replacements...here is what they had to say...shhhhh...we cannot tell you who he hired on.

What a night of fun and craziness! We started out the night with President Jo Jones providing up-to-date information on several topics, one of which was about to happen, more later.

There was a reminder of the upcoming lecture by Trevor Duffy. This gentleman is from South Africa and promises to be very good. I hope no one missed it as by the time you see this he will have already left the building...sorta like Elvis...well, you know what I mean.

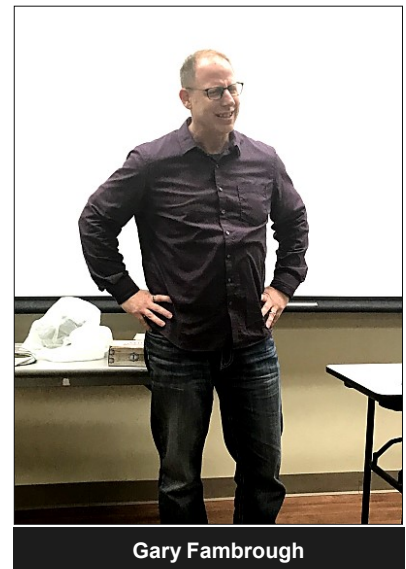
Next up Jo spoke of the Installation of Officers in July. July 5th to be exact, you can see that on the back page of this here newsletter. Anyway, the Installation will be at 7 p.m. at Larry's Pizza (Bowman) in Little Rock. Keep an eye out for an email blast about this meeting, oh, and by the way, be prepared to entertain with some magic. It would be good if everyone brought something to show off.

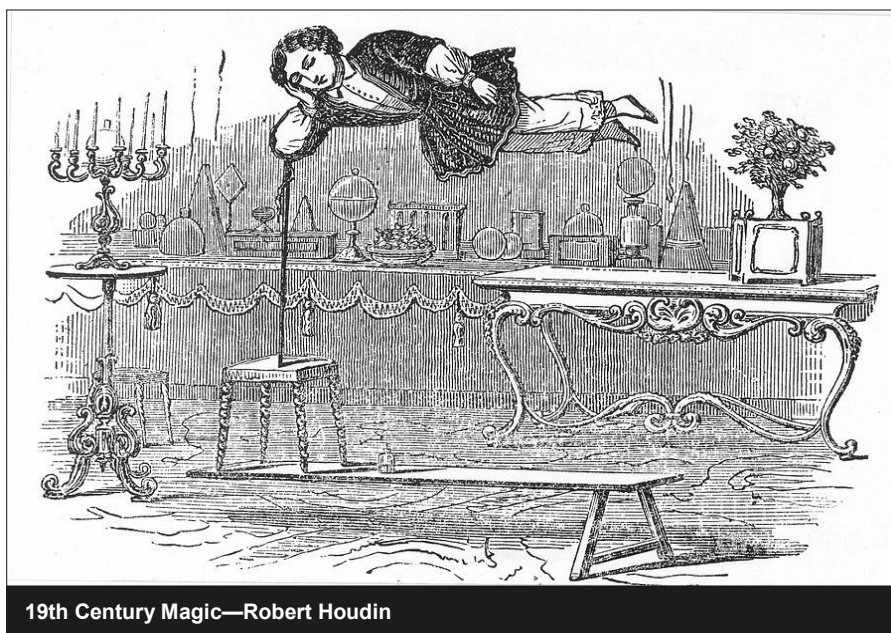
And finally, Miss Jo began turning things over to our Competition Coordinator (quite the title) for this year, Mr. Aaron Acosta. Aaron was last years recipient of the first place plaque for his magical talents.

Judges in attendance were as follows: Jo Jones, Blayk Puckett, Maci Blanton and Brett Brice.

Your competitors for the evening were: Carlos Yang, Paul Prater, Marty Haughn, Cedric Morely and Dane Dover. Now...on with the competition.

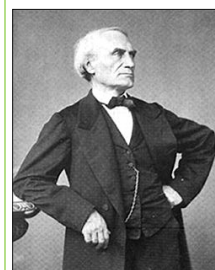
- Secret Writer Magic Dude and Magic Dudette





19th Century Magic—Robert Houdin

Robert Houdin 1805—1871



Robert-Houdin was born Jean-Eugène Robert in Blois, France, on 6 December 1805—a day after his autobiography said he was. His father, Prosper Robert, was a watchmaker in Blois.

Jean-Eugène's mother, the former Marie-Catherine Guillon, died when he was just a young child. At the age of eleven, Prosper sent his son Jean to school thirty-five miles up the Loire to the University of Orléans. At 18, he graduated and returned to Blois. His father wanted him to be a lawyer, but Robert-Houdin wanted to follow into his father's footsteps as a watchmaker.

In the mid-1820s, he saved up to buy a copy of a two-volume set of books on clock making called *Traité de l'horlogerie*, or *Treatise on Clock making*, written by Ferdinand Berthoud.

When he got home and opened the wrapping, instead of the Berthoud books, what appeared before his eyes was a two-volume set on magic called *Scientific Amusements*. Instead of returning the books, his curiosity got the best of him. From those crude volumes, he learned the rudiments of magic. He practiced at all hours of the day.

From that point when he accidentally received those books on conjuring, he became very interested in the art. He was upset that the books he got only revealed how the secrets were done but did not show how to do them. He found that learning from the books available in those days was very difficult due to the lack of detailed explanations provided, but the books piqued his interest in the art. So Jean began taking lessons from a local amateur magician. He paid ten francs for a series of lessons from a man named Maous from Blois who was a podiatrist but also entertained at fairs and parties doing magic. He was proficient in sleight of hand, and he taught Jean how to juggle to coordinate his eye and hand. He also taught him rudiments of the cups and balls. He told young Jean that digital dexterity came with repetition, and as a direct result, Jean practiced incessantly.

Magic was his pastime, but meanwhile, his studies in horology continued. When he felt he was ready, he moved to Tours and set up a watchmaking business, doing conjuring on the side.

(source: Wikipedia)

In the Spotlight

by Marty Haughn, Ring 29 Newsletter Editor

This month I decided not to interview anyone but instead highlight the close-up competition. Ok, maybe not. How about an interview with none other than TELLER!

Marty: Who is your favorite magician?

Teller:



Seriously?

Marty: What is your favorite magic style:

Teller:



Hmmm...

Marty: Do you have anything else to add for the interview?

Teller:



Let me see...Nope.

Ok, so I didn't interview Teller...let's look at the close-up competition instead.

Close-Up Competition

CARLOS YANG

And so it begins...Our first performer has become a regular at our meetings astonishing us with his wit and talent. Carlos Yang had a routine so filled with magic and masterfully created a nice storyline along with a flowing routine of no less than TEN individual tricks! He combined the following: Loaded, NFW, Hover Card, Vortex, Cold Case, Clearly Impossible, a Coin Production from a card box and Snow Blind. Quite a powerful line up if you ask me! As usual, Carlos handled himself in a very professional manner, especially when he told his story of visiting the Las Vegas Strip, quickly identified by his mother (Lisette) as a "Learning Opportunity"!

Carlos took home Second Place with a \$20 Gift Certificate provided by Mr. Magic, Jim Henson. Congratulations Carlos, well done!



PAUL PRATER

Our next performer was Paul Prater. Paul began his presentation with a unique comparison story of games such as the *Ouija Board*, the game of *Life* and *Tarot Cards*. Paul carried to the table a stained and tattered cloth with a few images on one side. He asked for a "volunteer" and selected Christy Kinsey as his ~~victim~~, err...uh...volunteer. A skeptical Christy sat down at the table and was explained the history of the cloth and, according to Paul, cards made of skin! Quite the creepy story with his "Cuss Cards"! The end result was that Christy would survive!

Paul took home third place with a \$15 Gift Certificate provided by Mr. Magic, Jim Henson. Congratulations Paul, well done!



MARTY HAUGHN

Number three on the hit list was Marty Haughn. He got a "*standing ovation*" before even getting to the trick...funny how that is...

Marty took a page from Eugene Burger's book *Teaching Magic* and turned a one participant card trick into using the entire audience! The theme for the night seemed to be about cards, gambling and prediction and Marty's story was no different. After giving everyone seven cards, he followed with a story of poker champions, Old Maid and Go Fish body language "tells" all the while the audience was doing the magic and identifying their card. There was a bit of misunderstanding in the instructions, but the majority of the audience did locate their card. Not too bad for never having seen this trick done with the entire audience!

Although Marty did not place in the competition, he took home a good experience and an "Evidence" bag full of fun while looking forward to the next performance opportunity.



Close-Up Competition

DANE DOVER

Performing last in our list was Dane Dover. Another regular performer with Ring 29 Dane had us all on pins and needles waiting to see if he could REALLY tell a volunteer what her card was without actually handling the deck. Christy was handed a recently shuffled deck of cards but told not to look at the faces and to place it face down onto a table then cut it into two piles. Christy was then asked to think of a card, any card and not to tell anyone of her choice.

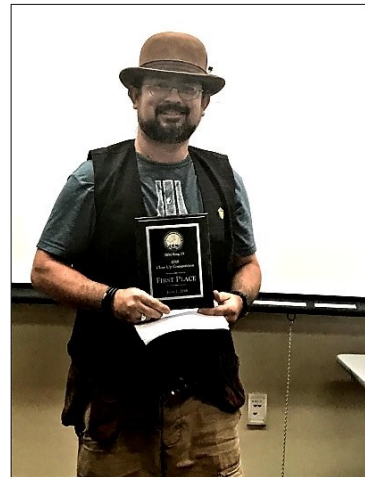
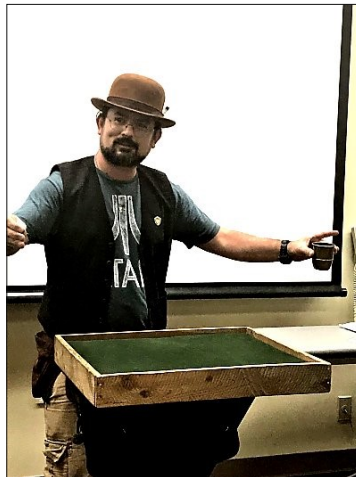
Then once again the deck is cut and completed. Christy was asked to deal the cards face down and to stop at anytime, free choice, ...at anytime. When the top card is turned over it is the selected card and when the deck is turned over the entire deck is blank!! Now, how does that work!? Nicely done Dane.



CEDRIC MORELY

Finally, our first place winner, Cedric Morely. Cedric opened up with an accent that sounded like a mixture of Scottish and British...all the same to me and funny nonetheless! He began his routine with an Okito box making coins go through his hand and on the table. The coins were then used to work out a coin matrix routine that made your eyes water at the transportation from one location to another. The finale was his Coins to Cup routine. A baffling combination of coin sleights and trickery. Demonstrating a high degree of skill and flair Cedric did not fail to entertain and mesmerize.

Cedric took home the First Place plaque and a \$30 Gift Certificate provided by Mr. Magic, Jim Henson. Congratulations Cedric, well done!



Close-Up Competition

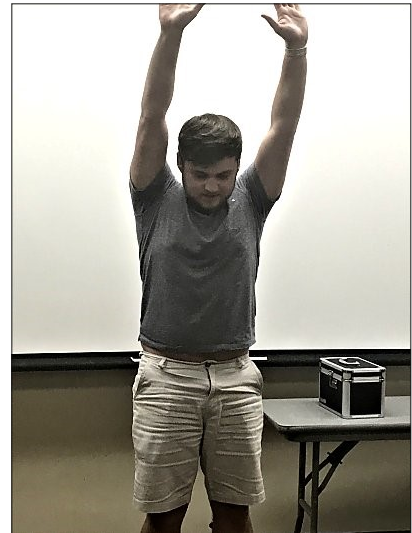
As many of you know who have attended these competitions there is a bit of "lag" time in between performances. Well, we could have just sat there and counted off the minutes while the judges tallied the results for each performer. No, we had Aaron Acosta interview each performer after their run at the prize. There were some surprising responses given. For example, when asked who their favorite magician was, Carlos and Marty agreed that Shin Lim was their favorite. Not so with Dane Dover, he favors Eugene Burger. Answers to how the performers got into magic brought a surprising answer, at least to me, from Cedric who had only started about 9 years ago. Everyone else started at an early age...and Carlos...well, I am just glad he started.

When all of the performers had completed their magic and answered the questions from Aaron the final total had to be accomplished to determine just who would go home with the prize. Did we just sit there? No!

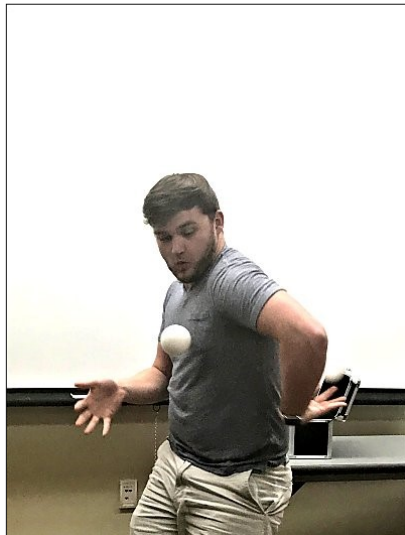
Our very own Blayk Puckett filled the time with his rendition of "Juggling to Dueling Banjos". This routine is quite the crowd pleaser and I was happy to witness it once again! Thanks Blayk for bringing along your juggling act, music and humorous style of entertainment.



FIRST THE WARM-UP



THEN THE SHOW





Trevor Duffy Lecture

Trevor Duffy Lecture

by Marty Haughn, Newsletter Editor
with contributions by Joel Nicholson



On June 11 Ring 29 hosted an opportunity to listen to and watch Trevor Duffy. Trevor flew in from Johannesburg, South Africa and after some "flight difficulties" managed to arrive in Little Rock just in time for the lecture.

Trevor made quick work of an introduction and got things rolling with something called "*Double Your Money*". Of course, like every magician, he needed to "borrow" some money...Dane Dover reluctantly gave up a five-dollar bill in which Trevor quickly tore in half!

After a bit of flashy movement and story, the torn fiver was not only repaired but had transformed into a ten-dollar bill! Now, most seasoned magicians know the secret but what followed astonished not only the audience but Dane especially! Trevor spoke of "*The Law of Reciprocity*", in other words, winning the audience over and capturing them for the duration of a show. To accomplish this Trevor handed Dane the ten-dollar bill for him to keep! Nice touch Trevor! What some may not know is at the conclusion of the lecture, Dane demonstrated a very high level of class and gave Trevor back five dollars. Very classy Dane.

Trevor then demonstrated his version of a classic *Bill Switch* which included the method used for folding "switching" and "stashing". It seems simple enough but to try this means patience and practice.

Next on the list was a cute routine using Eisenhower one-dollar silver coins which involved...uh...slapping yourself!? No kidding, the man stood there and popped himself right in the cheek making the coins transport from one hand to the other. To top things off, he did it over and over and believe me there was no light touch to the slap.

The Beginning of Magic?

2700 B.C. - The reputed first known performance of a conjuring effect (balls) by the magician Dedi in ancient Egypt. Dedi had done other effects, such as decapitating a bird, then reattaching the head to resurrect it.

This is disputed as there is nothing in reference to Dedi, specifically in the Westcar Papyrus, to indicate that he performed the cups and balls for anyone. The famous drawing of two men seemingly performing the cups and balls, from the tomb of Baqet III at Beni Hasan is believed by most experts to show a game using pots[1] or cups[2] but details of the game are unknown.

(Note: Since there is no indication that Dedi performed the Cups and Balls, and the Beni Hasan tomb painting is considered unlikely to represent the effect, there is no certain evidence for the existence of the cups and balls during this period.)

Dedi appears only in the fourth story of the Westcar Papyrus - there is no archeological or historical evidence that he existed. Nevertheless he is an object of great interest for historians and Egyptologists, since his magic tricks are connected to later cultural perceptions of the personality of king Khufu. Dedi is described as a commoner of extraordinary age, endowed with magical powers and talented in making prophecies.

(source: www.nymagicacademy.com)

The coins made a lot of noise to the advantage of Trevor. He demonstrated how one could have coins transport to just about any location including pockets. The next thing you know the coins are gone and had been replaced by an over-sized Eisenhower Dollar coin...now where did that come from? Never a dull moment. Fast paced and entertaining.



After the slap session Trevor began telling us about being able to move three and a half to four minutes "forward in time". Uh oh folks, I feel a long in tooth coming our direction. This is a clever bending of the mind where a signed card is found before it is actually signed. Anyway, Trevor removes a deck of cards has one randomly selected and eventually signed. The card was placed into his left trouser pocket then secured with a large bulldog clip. The intent was to show that there was no way to gain access to the card from this point on. We were then instructed to hold our breath for a few seconds. The selected and signed card was the six of diamonds, signed by Christy.

The story had us going forward and back in time and to prove this had actually happened Trevor removes the signed card from his RIGHT trouser pocket! Hmmm...So, did we lose three minutes or did we gain three minutes? A real mind boggler!

Poor Cedric Morley...Trevor needed a big strong man for his next demonstration. This raised suspicion amongst everyone. Although Cedric did come up to help, man, was he ever unsure of things especially when a sharp knife was produced. Trevor demonstrated just how sharp it was by shaving the hair off his wrist. Oh boy, this is going to get a bit nerve racking. Just look at Cedric's expression of trepidation. Now that is not a look of real confidence, more like oh crap.

Cedric was offered a seat and asked to extend his arm out. When he eventually did, Trevor pulled out a small bottle he called "an anesthetic". This



was to help numb the area so Cedric would feel no pain. Next, Trevor then placed the knife on Cedric's arm and began to move in a cutting fashion and asked if he could feel the knife. There was a resounding yes from Cedric and Trevor stopped. He stated that sometimes it takes a little more "anesthetic" to numb things better. Another drop or two was placed on Cedric's arm and the knife was placed into position. When the cutting began the blood began to flow from Cedric's arm. It must have been numb enough as he did not scream. Cedric survived the ordeal and healed quite quickly thanks to Trevor's skill.



There was a short pause in the lecture for Trevor to tell a story regarding a boat trip in Zimbabwe for fishing and a pod of hippopotami. Trevor and a friend went fishing in a lake they frequent and ran up on the pod. They cut the engine off to watch and take photos. They noticed the boat drifting closer and closer to the hippo pod when one of them began to move quickly toward the boat then disappeared. It reappeared as a bit of a wake and tipped the boat to the side then righted itself. The camera was lost and fortunately the engine restarted. This lead to a mini presentation of a carved hippopotamus of special wood (type of not recalled). It was presented to James Kinsey for his efforts in arranging for the lecture and assisting Trevor and his wife. Thanks James.

There was more magic to be had but part of the lecture from Trevor spoke of us and how we as humans can become more positive with things in life. Positive affirmation was the topic. Meaning that our brains create a neuro-circuit of positive energy when we recite positive things before our performance or before any tough time. It will change our outlook on life. The human mind is much like a farmer's land. The land gives the farmer a choice. He may plant in that land whatever he chooses. The land doesn't care what is planted. It's up to the farmer to make the decision. The mind, like the land, will return what you plant, but it doesn't care what you plant. If the farmer plants two seeds — one a seed of corn, the other nightshade a deadly poison, waters and takes care of the land, what will happen?

Remember, the land doesn't care. It will return poison in just as wonderful abundance as it will corn. So up come the two plants — one corn, one poison.

The human mind is far more fertile, far more incredible and mysterious than the land, but it works the same way. It doesn't care what we plant ... success ... or failure. A concrete, worthwhile goal ... or confusion, misunderstanding, fear, anxiety, and so on. It is up to us to make the right choices. **-Until next time, have a great and safe Independence Day!-**

Magic Wands



Classic Magic: Magic Wands

Blast from the Past

by Mike Curtis, Ring 29 Historian

This month's report goes back 40 year to July, 1978 meeting of the Ring. It was a fun evening at Mary Ann and Guy Campbell's house. Mary Ann had graciously invited the Ring to meet there and conjure up some magic. The President at that time was Bob Spray and the Secretary was Jim Henson. The Ring met monthly at the Winfield United Methodist Church.

"Our July meeting was at Mary Ann Campbell's house. After the business portion, we moved on to the entertainment.

Jeron, acting as M.C., introduced Al Houpt who started with two \$2 bills that when folded into his palm and reopened, had changed into a one dollar bill. Jeron introduced Mary Ann who proceeded to explain the root of all evil (money). Mary Ann used Tom Leggett to assist her, and using an eggbag to predict what was really on his mind, Tom found that Mary Ann knew more about him than he thought. This program was one Mary Ann is developing for a consumer product course she is going to use on State Educational Television, doing magic to teach certain points of the class. Mary Ann did Professors Nightmare, and it turned out great. Not only did she perform some marvelous magic but everyone at the meeting received an education in money and consumer responsibility.

Jim Schmidt did the paper hat tear without explaining what he was doing and the effect was great. He quickly moved to the Professors Nightmare. The act that Jim was presenting was similar to his act at the restaurant where he works evenings. Jim demonstrated a card fanning deck and manipulated it with ease, and finished with a breakaway die box, was a terrific finish for the evening. Thanks to Mary Ann for the invitation to her home."

It was a full evening of magic as members showed there best in a comfortable home atmosphere. Mary Ann was the perfect hostess who wowed all with her unique approach of using magic to teach principles of finance and money

Magic Wand

A wand is a hand-held stick or rod made of a variety of materials from wood, stone, ivory, plastic or even precious metals like gold or silver. Generally, in modern language, wands are ceremonial and/or have associations with magic but there have been other uses, all stemming from the original meaning as a synonym of rod and virge, both of which had a similar development. A stick giving length and leverage is perhaps the earliest and simplest of tools. Long versions of the magic wand are usually styled in forms of staves or scepters, often with designs or an orb of a gemstone forged on the top. For example, six to eight-foot-long staves with metal tips adorning them are carried traditionally in Freemasonry during rituals of the Craft.

In ecclesiastical and other formal ceremonial settings, special officials may carry a wand of office representing their power. Compare in this context the function of the ceremonial mace, the scepter, and the staff of office. Its age may be even greater, as Stone Age cave paintings show figures holding sticks, which may be symbolic representations of their power.

Though traditionally made of wood, wands can also consist of metal or crystal. Practitioners usually prune a branch from an Oak, Hazel, or other tree, or may even buy wood from a hardware store, and then carve it and add decorations to personalize it; one can also purchase ready-made wands.

For magicians, their wand is not so much a physical tool like a hammer or screwdriver with practical physical functions, but instead, it can aid the user to change or manipulate the world around them. It essence, the wand is used to aid in the illusion change in the material reality that is around us and to manipulate the subjective conscious experiences of the audience watching their magical performance. That we can affect material reality for the pleasure of others is "real magic" of the wand and indeed of the magician. Perhaps this is why, magicians ritually break a wand when a fellow magician dies.

(source: www.nymagicacademy.com)



management. She always looked to the Ring for inspiration and applications of magic she could use on her popular and successful television show, "Money Magic".

Until next time, remember, the past can deliver what we need if we use our memory in the right way to seek it .

Your humble historian, Mike Curtis.



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Membership

All members of Ring 29 must first be a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. I.B.M. Applications can be obtained from http://www.magician.org/membership_application.pdf.

Contact Mr. Magic or any Ring 29 Officer for information on joining the IBM or Ring 29.

Mailing Lists

In addition to this newsletter Members can receive last minute email information on meetings, events, and lectures. If you wish to be added to our email list, please contact *Treasurer Col. James Kinsey*.

LittleRockMagic.net

Our website has been filled with a wealth of information to assist our members and potential members. New features are being added daily. Check out the Ring 29 Highlights video, the Magicians for Hire page, or the Ring 29 Event Calendar.



JULY

July 5
Installation of Officers

AUGUST

August 2
Ring Meeting

September

September 6
Ring Meeting

Using Ring 29 Email Group

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Mr. Magic is owned and operated by retired Fire Chief Jim Henson and is a primary contact for Ring 29.

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