Legerdemain Digest

Upcoming meetings & events

MARCH 30, 2010
IS MONEY MAGIC NIGHT!!!

The regular meeting on March 30, 2010 at 7pm will be a devoted to practicing **MONEY MAGIC** using bills or coins. Members will be asked to perform their favorite trick using money. Who doesn't love money! See you there!

PAST EVENTS

By: Philip Henderson
Abridged version. Full article in the Linking Ring

On Tuesday, February 23, 2009, 50 members and guests gathered for our regular monthly meeting. Ring member **Jim Hill** passed away on January 3, 2010. **Bob Alston's** widow has donated many books, video recordings, and magical apparatus for use by the Ring members. We are grateful for the generous donation from the Alston family.

Our lecturer for the evening was none other than English magician Lee Alex, master of costume quick change and color changing waistcoats. **Lee Alex** opened his lecture by performing four rapid changes, followed by his magical color changing demonstration. Alex walked on stage wearing pajamas, a heavy velour robe and rather "stylish" bunny slippers. He dashed behind the curtain to return a few seconds later wearing a top hat, tuxedo, and dress shoes. He strutted around the stage, so we could all get a good look, then, apparently feeling overdressed for the audience, again he retired behind the curtain. This time, when he emerged a few seconds later, he was dressed more casually, in short pants and a Hawaiian Aloha shirt. Alex, dashed behind the curtain to emerge this time in dress slacks, white long-sleeved shirt, and a fancy vest.

However, Alex was not finished with his demonstration.   He changed the color of his vest four times, concluding with a patriotic red, white, and blue theme taken after the American flag. Each change was performed while Alex was facing us merely waving his jacket across his body, revealing a different colored vest with each passing.   This demonstration was greeted with an enthusiastic response from our members

After the show, Lee Alex led us to a detailed understanding of how he came to perform this magic. The ancient masters of the craft come from Asia, especially Japan. Some Japanese actors use assistants directly on stage. These assistants are completely covered in black non-reflective costumes. They help remove one costume to reveal another layer beneath. Some performers may wear many layers of costume to show the actor in different situations. Using this technology, the performers actually were sewn into their costumes, layer after layer. The assistants dressed in black would pull a "thread" which would loosen the seams and allow the costumes to be rapidly removed. Preparation of each costume could take more than one hour.   If a Japanese performer says he wants to "*pull your threads*" it is a positive sign.

Instead of "*pulling threads*" Lee Alex uses modern methods that were not available to the earlier quickchange artists. Many of the methods Alex uses are his own ideas, however, his act is created to produce impossible illusions. The techniques Alex employs are accessible and useful to magicians who perform for children, corporate events, or for more common parlor performances. Instead of a one-hour plus reset time, Alex is ready to go in only a few minutes. Magician Lee Alex sells equipment and encourages performers to design and build their own costumes to suit their personal styles.

Mathemagic!

by Richard Zucker

Like many of us in Ring 313, I got hooked on magic as a pre-teen. That was just about the same time as I got hooked on math. Math became my career – I'm a professor at Irvine Valley College – but magic is always close by. I believe that teaching and entertaining are two sides of the same coin.

I'd like to share with you a trick I learned from Prof. Arthur Benjamin, mathemagician extraordinaire at Harvey Mudd College. (Check out http://www.ted.com/talks/arthur_benjamin_does_mathemagic.html for a great video of Prof. Benjamin.) This trick is perfect for teaching the divisibility rule for nine, but it's great for any audience and the only math skill you need is the ability to mentally add seven one-digit numbers together.

The Effect: A spectator with a calculator multiplies two "random" numbers together. The spectator reads out loud all but one of the digits of the answer. The magician announces the one digit that the spectator never said.

The Performance: At the magician's request, the spectator creates a five-digit number by shuffling the digits 3-4-5-6-9 and then entering the five digits into the calculator. For example, the spectator might punch in 56394. (When I perform this trick, I take five playing cards with the required numbers and let the spectator arrange them in any order.) Next, the magician instructs the spectator to multiply the five-digit number by any whole number from 100 to 999. The magician then asks the spectator to read the digits of the answer out loud, holding one digit back as a secret number. The magician admits that there is no possible way that he could produce the spectator's secret number, and yet he does just that!

The Explanation: The number in the spectator's calculator is divisible by nine (I'll tell you why in a moment), and according to a rule of arithmetic the sum of its digits must also be divisible by nine. The magician mentally adds up the digits as the spectator is saying them. The secret number is simply the amount that would make the sum divisible by nine. For example, if the spectator says "3, 5, 2, 0, 2, 6 and 3," the magician would add up the numbers to get 21. The secret number is 6, because adding 6 to 21 gives 27 which is divisible by nine.

Be careful if you perform this trick. There is one possible hitch. If the magician arrives at a total that is already a multiple of nine, the secret number could be either zero or nine. There's no way to know! Just take a guess and be prepared with a good comeback if you're wrong. When this happens in my performance, I tell the spectator to send the secret digit to me telepathically. I then announce that the secret digit is a zero. If I'm wrong I say, "Hmm, I was sure it was a zero because I wasn't getting any signal from you. Ah, but now I see it must be a nine."

I promised to explain why the number in the spectator's calculator is divisible by nine. Any five-digit number formed by shuffling the digits 3-4-5-6-9 is divisible by nine because 3+4+5+6+9 equals 27, and 27 is divisible by nine. Any multiple of a number that is divisible by nine is also divisible by nine, so when the spectator multiplies the five-digit number by any three-digit number, the answer is sure to have digits that add up to a multiple of nine.

I hope you have fun with this one!

Mathemagically yours,

Richard

Monthly Magic Mind Puzzle #2

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H  G  I  Y  D  A  Y  Q  K  J  R  F  M  W  H  M  V  R  Q  L  I  N  E
I  S  N  W  A  M  G  T  F  P  D  T  Q  L  P  O  Z  L  T  U  W  Y  D
G  L  I  T  D  E  N  F  L  N  Y  Y  M  W  S  N  K  K  O  R  E  V  S
C  W  L  N  F  A  Z  E  L  F  F  U  H  S  C  I  P  Q  Z  Z  N  E  H
G  E  O  U  A  M  A  G  I  C  U  Z  C  K  K  U  Z  F  D  R  O  C  N
S  K  I  I  S  V  U  C  P  J  G  E  F  K  Y  E  E  Y  M  I  Q  X  L
Z  K  J  C  V  I  S  O  A  D  D  L  C  B  L  N  T  K  L  R  J  Y  F
M  C  R  L  R  Y  O  P  X  T  C  S  R  O  D  S  J  T  D  N  W  R  N
Y  A  A  O  M  P  P  N  T  A  E  U  J  R  Z  B  Q  S  T  K  W  J  V
K  J  S  S  Z  Z  E  W  R  H  T  S  S  J  Y  I  V  N  H  E  X  T  P
K  V  H  E  A  F  H  D  L  M  M  B  R  Q  K  G  G  V  Y  W  F  X  Z
A  C  E  U  A  D  A  T  W  K  C  E  D  A  F  L  O  U  R  I  S  H  E
D  D  B  P  N  D  D  R  A  U  K  Y  J  W  U  T  Q  E  T  D  X  K  D
A  J  X  A  L  G  Q  L  R  O  B  A  F  B  C  P  P  Y  O  Z  N  E  K
E  Y  W  G  H  L  S  I  J  D  W  M  Y  P  V  B  J  E  S  U  B  Y  H
L  D  P  T  F  S  P  J  J  Z  T  L  L  T  W  G  M  I  B  S  K  E
D  F  L  Z  G  R  O  K  C  E  D  Q  V  K  B  E  E  X  J  H  T  Z  I
V  Z  A  Z  O  W  X  I  G  V  F  C  E  R  C  N  Q  C  J  G  A  L  E
L  B  R  D  S  S  T  Z  S  G  V  X  E  S  G  A  C  G  L  E  G  S  P
L  O  U  M  Z  H  S  R  N  J  P  T  Z  I  J  W  P  I  V  C  E  G  K
Z  C  O  Y  C  A  U  X  P  U  Z  X  A  X  X  S  Z  F  T  C  A  U  G
E  G  Z  F  U  T  M  I  Y  V  R  P  M  T  Y  D  H  R  J  K  B  W  Q
N  C  U  Y  M  T  O  Y  Y  I  B  S  A  D  N  P  C  C  K  T  F  D  L
M  C  O  B  H  Y  N  A  Z  D  I  U  L  X  W  Z  R  A  H  M  D  Y  Y
M  I  X  R  W  R  M  E  X  O  M  R  A  N  V  A  B  D  V  U  S  O  T
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ACE   AMAZE   CARD
CLOSEUP   DECK   FLOURISH
FOOL   ILLUSION   JACK
JOKER   MAGIC   PRODUCE
QUEEN   SHUFFLE   STAGE
VANISH   WAND

Puzzle Created by: Junior Member Ryan Porter, age 10

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THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS
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Questions? Comments? Corrections? Ideas? Magical articles? E-mail the editor at Ring313.editor@gmail.com

Magic Calendar

Regular meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District building, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine. Directions and a map are available at *www.Ring313.org*.

Tuesday, **March 30**	7 PM	Ring 313 **Gen Mtg** —Member Night Money Magic
Saturday, **April 10**	2 PM	Ring 313 **Junior's Mtg—**Annie & Kent's in Santa Ana
Tuesday, **April 13**	7 PM	Ring 313 **Lite Gathering** at Knowlwood's, Irvine
Tuesday**, April 27**	7 PM	Ring 313 **Gen Mtg** —TBD Irvine Water District

Coming in June: Ring 313 Picnic

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