



Legerdemain Digest

IBM Ring 313

The John Fedko Ring

Volume XVIII, Issue 9 September 2012



Message from the So Called President



It's amazing how people with widely divergent views solve problems in similar ways. Some believe that card workers have more skill than illusionists, or that mentalists beat escape artists when it comes to ability. What is ability anyway?

In magic rings, there are two different types of ability. The first is technical skill and the second is ability to entertain. The best performers have both abilities. They succeed as professionals because of their public image or niche industry connections.

Developing original material or routines- in today's market - does not seem to be the most important criteria for booking shows. Many library performers do the same routines as the other twelve hundred magicians in the same market. However, there is a catch. The library that is in New York has no idea that their magician is performing the exact show as the magician in Atlanta.

This gives rise to a very interesting problem. How is it possible that the majority of professionals preach about the importance of inventing original material but they perform standard effects as a generally accepted practice? The answer lies on how well they entertain the audience. Therefore, the age-old question of which is most important, Technique or Performance, has just been answered.

Of course, there is another catch . . . if you invent and perform original routines and are entertaining then, you rise to another level altogether. You are no longer a magician; you become a Master Magician.

Then again, a Master Magician is anyone that claims they are a master magician. Correct?

Post Script: I hope each member is asking himself/herself, "What can I do to volunteer some time to keep the club thriving. To paraphrase a famous American, "Ask not what Ring 313 can do for you; ask what can you do for Ring 313?" Who wants to be the next President?

Jay (Show us what you got) Leslie, President, The John Fedko Ring

N.B. Video taping of lecturers is only allowed with the direct permission of the lecture. Please observe this rule.

Coming Events at Ring 313

September 25, 2012 Angelo Stagnaro . . . Mentalist **Magic**

October 30, 2012 An Evening of **Bizarre MAGIC**

November 27, 2012 To be determined

Welcome NEW Members

Austin Bennett a second-generation prestidigitator, enjoys magic using ropes, silks, coins and the cups and balls. **Robert Propper** is a skilled amateur. Remember amateur means it comes from the heart, he loves magic. **Justin Simonds** has been a Magic Castle member for 20 years. **Michael Simonds**, son of Justin, enjoys magic with the pasteboards and coins. Welcome to you all!

New Members to the Ring will have a **red arrow** on their name badges. When you see that red arrow, please introduce yourself; that applies if you have a red arrow too! The name badges help to break the ice, please get to know the Ring members by name.

IBM Ring 313 Officers and Directors for 2012

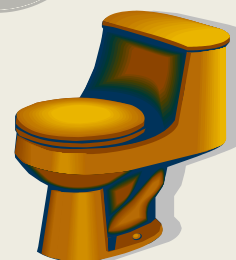
President, **Jay Leslie** (714) 847-5311
Vice-President **Roy Ball** (310) 356-0018
Secretary, **Philip Henderson** . . . (949) 322-4329
Treasurer, **Chris Wynkoop** (949) 929-0829
Newsletter Editor, **Jim "Cardman" Greene** (714) 318-2309
Asst. Newsletter, **Philip Henderson** (949) 322-4329
Past President, **Kevin Brown** . . . (949) 347-0305
Raffles Chair, **Michael Van Horn** (714) 965-0101
Member at Large, **John Fedko** . . (714) 538-6044
Member at Large, **Todd Reis** . . . (714) 673-7320
Webmaster **Don Hill** (714) 345-1114
Junior's Program, **Kent Kwan** and **Annie Young** (714) 966-1652

How do you like our new meeting room?

To open the restroom, follow the directions below:

Press 2 and 4 simultaneously, release

Press 3, release, then Open. Or say, "Open Sesame"





Meet member Ron Porter

Part 2 of 2 parts by Philip Henderson

Ron Porter formed a performing arts company in 1989 called Magical Events. This company provides musicians, dancers, songwriters, variety artists, and magicians for public events and

private parties throughout southern California. Magical Events will provide all the creative, logistical, technical, and artistic talent to realize the vision of its clients. Porter is the sole owner of this company that has entertained at both indoor and outdoor events with audiences of more than 5,000 people. All events are custom designed to meet the needs and budgets of his clients. Visit to his website for more information. <http://www.amagicalevent.com/>. Magical Events' client list is a who's who in business and government in southern California and the western United States.

Porter told me that his role as a Founding Director in the development of Project Magic is the activity he is most proud of in his magic career. Project Magic is a program conceived by David Copperfield that utilizes magic as a therapeutic tool for patients in hospitals, group homes and rehabilitation centers around the world. Porter worked with Copperfield and a team of therapists and magicians bringing his experience as a psychologist and as a professional magician to develop the guidelines for the operation of this international program.

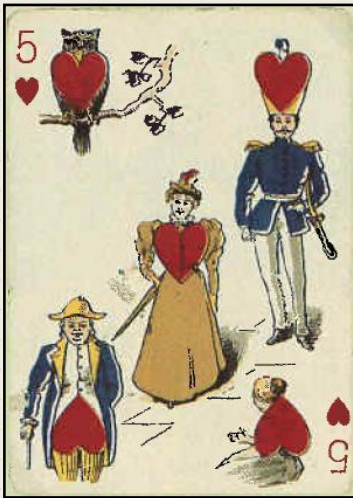


Since its beginnings in 1982, more than 1,000 hospitals worldwide now use magic as therapy, particularly helping to build patients' self-esteem, dexterity and cognitive skills. Project Magic magicians work alongside the medical staff to teach children (and adults) how to perform simple magic tricks to entertain themselves, their family, and friends. When individuals enduring traumatic injuries or chronic illness are able to show magic tricks to their nurses, doctors, and friends, it gives these patients a sense of accomplishment, just what they need to help them overcome their medical challenges. Patients are shown magic tricks that are specifically chosen based on the therapeutic goals for the patient, not just as a means to entertain.

Porter enjoys performing close up magic. His original "Locked Ring Routine," is Porter's signature effect. Porter had several opportunities to become a full-time performer, once at the formation of the Magic Island when Larry Jennings invited him to become one of the original house magicians. However, he opted to complete his education first. After earning his doctorate degree in psychology, Porter began the practical work to earn his license, working at a state hospital. Shortly after he earned his license, he was married and planning to start a family. Focusing on his family was more important than magic; and travelling to perform was kept to a minimum.

Ron Porter has many ideas of where magic may lead him, including the possibility of opening a "magic themed" Bed and Breakfast some day. I asked him how he wants to be viewed by audiences as he performs his favorite close up effects. His answer simply was "*I want them to see me as a nice guy they want to have fun with.*" He went on to say, "*and, I love the **SCREAM.***" When an audience member is so astonished by what he or she has just experienced that all he or she can do is scream; that is evidence that Porter's magic has hit his high standard. This shy psychologist has many connections with some of the royalty of American magic. His children, Courtney, Jason and Ryan may follow him in his love for entertaining those in need of a lift in spirits and doing so in a respectful and caring fashion.

Do you perform magic using Pastboards?



You are familiar with Kings, Queens, and Knaves! If fact, most of you play with them every day. Do you know the stories behind your favorite royalty?

Let us begin with the knaves. The Jack of Spades is a representation of **Ogier the Dane**. The Jack of Hearts is **La Hire a French warrior**. The Jack of Diamonds has a military heritage, he represents **Hector from Homer's Iliad**. While the famous Jack of Clubs represents **Lancelot** from the English fairy tale.

Onto the queens, those powerful women of mystery. The Queen of Spades is a lover, she is related to **Athena of Greek mythology**. The famous and popular Queen of Hearts represents **Judith from Biblical times**. Joining her is the lovely Queen of Diamonds, **Rachel of Biblical times**. The Queen of Clubs is **Argine, an anagram for Regina, Spanish for queen**.

Finally, this story is not complete until we learn the heritage of the Kings. The King of Clubs follows the story of **Alexander of Macedon**. The King of Diamonds heralds from **Caesar of classic Rome**. The King of Hearts hails from France, he represents **Charlemagne**. The classy King of Spades, the most powerful of the royals, represents **King David of Biblical heritage**.

Know your royalty. Do you have a favorite among these famous Court figures? I am a fan of the King of Spades. Many women favor the beautiful Queen of Hearts, she is often chosen by female audience members. *Information from Wikipedia, see link below.*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Playing_card



Raffle News

Raffle Director, **Michael van Horn**, dug deep into his box of tricks and produced twenty-one raffle prizes for August. *Ruben Garza* chose T &R dollar; *Victor Cohn* took home Son of Pom-Pom; *Jim “Cardman” Greene* won Gospel Magic; *Bill Pearce* chose The Happy Birthday business; and last month’s multiple winner *James Hjorth* was a multiple winner again, bringing home Stacked Deck and Workers by Michael Close.

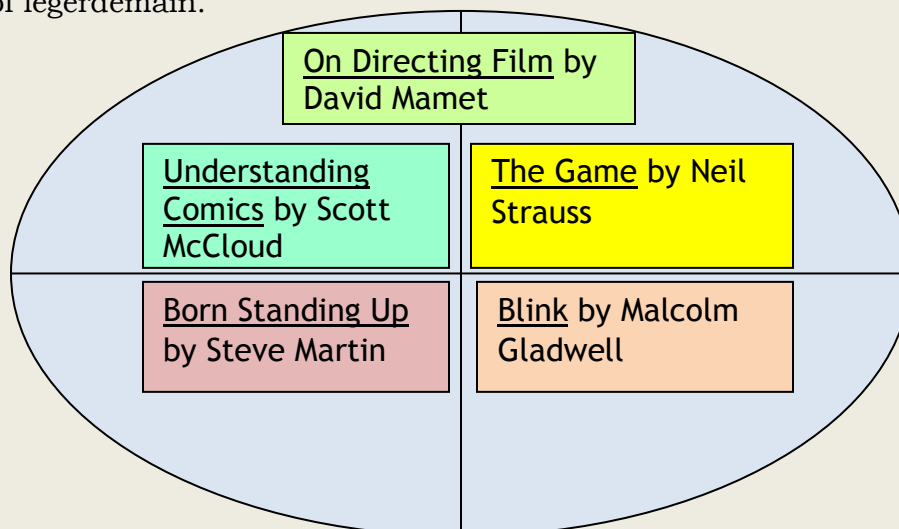
Other winners included *Jay Leslie* with Burn Thru; *Chris Wynkoop* selecting The Great Houdini; *Joshua Serrano* winning Blind told; and one member (*whose name I could not decipher*) brought home four raffle prizes including, The Royal Scam (DVD), David Roth (video), Jim Steinmeyer’s Knot Unexpected, and the Magic Handbook.

Thanks for all of you for your support of Ring 313. Your participation in our raffles allow us to invite and pay the lecture fees for the magicians who visit our Ring. Thanks also to Michael van Horn for his creative strategies to encourage you to purchase winning tickets.

Jon Armstrong

made a triumphal return to IBM Ring 313 with an evening full of new magical effects. Of course, he brought is TINY PLUNGER! What is magic without a tiny plunger? Forty-five members and guests crowded close to examine the technique and skills of master performer Jon Armstrong. Key to his success is audience management. Armstrong uses language (stage patter) to direct his audience to help him create multiple magical moments. For example, he reminded us to “*never make statements the audience can easily refute*” and to “*never ask a question that you don’t know the answer.*” Using powerful patter will get the audience on your side. Asking questions whose only logical answer promotes your “theory” creates magic in the minds of your audience.

Jon recommended practicing new routines in front of a video camera (shot repeatedly from different angles) instead of using a mirror. The video playback will reveal how your work looks from the audience perspective. Invest several hours of practice in front of the camera then study the images captured in video. When you see how others view you working, you can make the changes necessary to keep your audiences laughing, and loving you. Armstrong gave us homework. He suggested studying five books written by folks not known as magicians. He has discovered ideas that helps him entertain so audiences see him as a real master of legerdemain.



Every Friday afternoon the **LUNCH BUNCH** meets at Carrows Restaurant in Huntington Beach. Usually more than twenty local magicians break bread and share new ideas about magic. If you haven't been to the lunch bunch recently, put it on your calendar. You can practice a new effect or teach something to an eager audience. Come join us and have some fun with magic!

**Carrows Restaurant, 16931 Magnolia St, Huntington Beach, CA 92647
(714) 848-1995**

Everyone loves a Parade!

The IBM International Newsletter, The Linking Ring, is seeking Parades of magical effects from individuals or from Rings. Many of our members have created their own magical effects, enough to produce a Parade. Would you like to participate? **Please contact me by September 30, 2012 and we will get to work.** I like the idea of a Ring 313 Parade in the Linking Ring. Let's get ourselves in the middle of the Linking Ring. From the top of my head, I can think of a half dozen members ready to contribute.

Secretary's Notes . . . What's happening at the Ring?

On September 25, 2012 the Ring welcomes Mr. Angelo Stagnaro, author of the Smoke and Mirrors blog. This is his first West Coast lecture. Are you ready for some mental magic? We are eager to meet this Italian performer who has made mentalism his specialty.



October 30, 2012 is an evening when members demonstrate Bizarre Magical Illusions, magic that makes you say, "OooooH." Contact member **Kevin Brown** and sign up to get your place on the stage for this special evening. Kevin can be reached at GLYPHMAN@COX.NET, or at (949) 347-0305.

We want to see bizarre magic that will make your toes curl. Bring us Spooky magic that confounds the mind and awakens deep-seated feelings of ghostly spirits traveling in the darkness of the night. If you have a mentalism effect, that would be perfect for this evening. Perhaps you will pick up an effect from Angelo Stagnaro to get you in the "Spirit" of the night.



Joint I.B.M. and S.A.M. Ethics Statement

**The International Brotherhood of Magicians
and the Society of American Magicians
join in recommending that all magicians
adhere to the following code of ethical conduct.**

- Oppose the willful exposure to the public of any principles of the Art of Magic or the method employed in any magic effect or illusion.
- Display ethical behavior in the presentation of magic to the public and in our conduct as magicians, including not interfering with or jeopardizing the performance of another magician, either through personal intervention or the unauthorized use of another's creation.
- Recognize and respect the rights of the creators, inventors, authors, and owners of magic concepts, presentations, effects and literature, and their rights to have exclusive use of, or to grant permission for the use of by others of such creations.
- Discourage false and misleading statements in the advertising of effects and literature, merchandise, or actions pertaining to the magical arts.
- Discourage advertisement in magical publications for any magical apparatus, effect, literature or other materials for which the advertiser does not have commercial rights.
- Promote the humane treatment and care of livestock used in magical performances.

IBM Ring 313 expects members to adhere to the foregoing ethical principles and to educate non-members of the need to adhere to these ethical precepts.

Legerdemain Digest

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Wizard's Calendar

Regular meetings are held at the **Irvine Ranch Water District Building, 15500 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine**. Coastal Fertility, Community Room.
Directions and map at www.Ring313.org.

Tuesday, September 25, 2012	7 pm	Regular meeting of RING 313 with Angelo Stagnaro lecture
Tuesday, October 30, 2012	7 pm	A night of Bizarre Magic , you know like what you might do for Halloween!
Tuesday, November 27, 2012	7 pm	<i>To be announced</i>
Tuesday, December 18, 2012	7 pm	NOTE the special date for this Holiday Special Meeting.

"THE IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT NEITHER SUPPORTS OR ENDORSES THE CAUSE NOR ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS WHICH USE THE DISTRICT'S MEETING ROOMS THAT ARE MADE AVAILABLE AS A PUBLIC SERVICE."

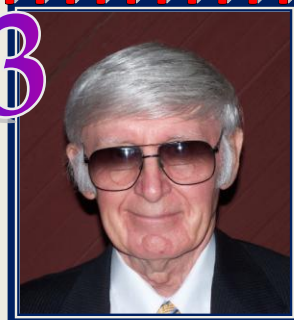


IBM RING 313

The JOHN FEDKO RING

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

7:00 PM at the Irvine Ranch Water District



Angelo Stagnaro



Angelo Stagnaro uses **"SMOKE and MIRRORS"** to entertain audiences all over the world. Angelo Stagnaro (aka "Erasmus") performs as a stage magician and mentalist and divides his time between Europe and North America. He is the editor of "Smoke & Mirrors," the Net's largest e-zine for professional magicians. Angelo has authored several books on mentalism/cold reading including "Conspiracy," "Something from Nothing," "The Other Side" and "Shibboleth." This series has been translated into four languages and is considered seminal in the art.

On his Facebook page, Erasmus says of himself, *"I'm a stage mentalist, magician, psychic-and-occult debunker, author, lecturer, zetetic, logician, and a part-time journalist. I also make a very good paella."* How can you resist a man who makes good Paella?

Admission free for **RING 313** members; guests will pay a \$10.00 fee.

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Cartoon of location of new meeting room for **IBM Ring 313**. We meet in the Community Room of the Coastal Fertility building at **15500 Sand Canyon Avenue**. Entrance is from the northbound side of Sand Canyon Avenue only. If you arrive from highway 5 and are headed south on Sand Canyon, then make a U-turn at Waterworks Way and turn into the parking lot serving both locations. Our new meeting room is about 50 yards from the former meeting room. *Cartoon is not to scale.*

