

# Legerdemain Digest

RING 313 - THE JOHN FEDKO RING

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

May 26

Our next lecture is none other than **Erik Tait!**

Known for his biting wit and aggressive style, Erik has performed all over North America. As a comedian he has been featured in The California Comedy Festival, The New Faces! show at Second City, The Magic Castle, and on XM Radio. A graduate of the Humber College Comedy Writing and Performance Program with honors, he was awarded the Comedy Green Room Director's Award for Excellence in 2007, due to his nearly constant performing and his contributions to furthering



the art of funny. A member of The Magic Castle, he currently resides in Los Angeles as a featured performer at Magicopolis in Santa Monica. When not entertaining, Erik is a writer and armchair philosopher who is attempting to teach himself Japanese using only Wikipedia.

-Excerpt from  
DelusionMasters.com

**Welcome New Members!!**

**Mori Fatehi  
Joe Rubin  
Robert Moss**

## PAST EVENTS:

Article by Philip Henderson  
Photos by Jay Leslie

More than sixty-five members and guests attended this meeting. This year's magic club picnic will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at the home of Ring 313 Treasurer, Gary Meier. President Brown introduced Fielding West, who promised members that everyone will be able to perform several of his illusions before the night concludes. His specialty is practical magic.

First he showed us a dove harness designed to protect the health of the doves. Nothing can put your program into a down-spin faster than producing dead doves who suffocated in the harness. Fielding introduced us to Larry, the stunt double (his fake dove), and Bob, the living dove. Fielding urged everyone who uses live animals to treat every animal respectfully.

Fielding demonstrated his preference for using *Dye Tubes* for switching silks and then showed how to use a *Vernet* for the same result. Fielding has made a reputation using balloons in his act. Fielding showed us the secrets to his balloon swallow and restoration act. To enhance the impact, he swallows the balloon early in the act and then restores it at least ten minutes later when the audience has lost track of the miracle. Even after you know how it is done, when you see the balloon emerging from his mouth, you are sure that it is a miracle.





## Ring 313 Meet Mr. Todd Reis part II

By Phil Henderson

(continued from April's newsletter...)

After completing his education at DeVry, Todd landed a job in Denver, Colorado working for Mountain Bell as a mainframe computer programmer. Todd's boss discovered he had a background in magic and asked him to perform for the upcoming Halloween party which reawakened Todd's interest in studying magic. Soon Todd was invited to join the Mile High Magician's Society. At Mile High Magician's Society, a combination SAM and IBM (SAM Assembly 37 and IBM Ring 131), Todd was reintroduced to magic in a big way. There he started friendships with a virtual who's who in magic including: David Neighbors, Joe and Carol Givan (DreaMasterz), Eric

Mead, Lamont Ream, Steve Aldridge, Gene Gordon, Orville Meyer, and Ken Simmons. David Neighbors took particular interest in Todd and taught him a wide range of magical skills.

Before getting too far ahead in the chronology let's take a detour to examine Todd's lifelong passion with comic books. Some of Todd's favorite comic book artists became his clients! Todd is particularly well known for his depiction of Batman in 3-D Shadow boxes.

After graduating from Cal State Northridge, Todd turned his hand at constructing 3-D Shadow boxes featuring comic books. This became a huge project for Todd and an avocation for more than twenty-five years. For more than twenty-five years, Todd was a regular convention member and vendor at **Comic-Con**. Comic-Con is an annual international gathering of comic book fans held in San Diego, California.

Many visitors to the convention came specifically to obtain 3-D shadow boxes designed and built by Todd Reis. One client, a physician in Long Beach, has purchased more than ninety boxes designed and hand made by Todd. Some of the 3-D shadow boxes were commissioned by the artists who drew the frames for popular comic books, including Batman. Maybe one day Todd will bring some of the boxes to the club for you to see the detail and passion built into each box.

After a couple of years in Denver, Todd returned to California to work for Northrop in Pico Rivera. Back in Southern California, Todd made his way to the Magic Castle on guest passes. However, after the intensive study with Dave Neighbors in Denver, he felt prepared to apply for membership as a magician member of the Castle. Todd performed Dave Neighbors *Easy over Aces* and the *Danny Korem Book Test*, in his audition. Todd was initiated into the Academy of Magical Arts as a magician member in January 1988. Todd says that the Danny Korem Book Test was the most important illusion that brought him back to magic. Todd was so pleased with the effect the illusion had on audiences that his passion for magic was permanently rekindled.

With his membership in the Academy of Magical Arts (Magic Castle), Todd became a frequent visitor. Todd designed and created a 3-D Shadow Box of a **GENII Magazine** cover that he gave to Milt Larsen which is prominently displayed in the hallway on the way to the Palace of Mystery.

At the Magic Castle, Todd made friends with dozens of magicians including Larry Jennings, Allan Hayden, Whit Haydn, Bruce Cervon, Albert Goshman, Daryl "Daryl" Martinez, Michael Ammar, and John Carney. Larry Jennings introduced Todd to *The Professor*, Dai Vernon. Todd's friends encouraged him to show the Professor Todd's version of Neighbor's *Easy Over Aces*. The Professor seemed to enjoy the performance, which was a huge relief to Todd. Even the most skilled performers were nervous performing for *The Professor*.

Todd has made good use of his membership in the Magic Castle. It was at a party at the Castle in 1998 when Todd met another guest name Marti who later became his wife. Todd's life has blossomed in a thousand ways since their enchanted meeting at the Magic Castle. Marti has influenced Todd in myriad ways such as Marti's passionate interest in puzzles. Nearly every corner and every wall of their home has a puzzle lying in wait for your inspection of which many are one of a kind. They are made of wood, metal, plastic, paper, and other exotic materials. Some of the puzzles are quickly resolved while others are meant for experts. It would be well to bring your Mensa Card before attempting some of these puzzles. Marti is a long time Mensa member, often hosting gatherings of these brainiacs at her home. Marti also introduced Todd to the private non-profit organization called the International Puzzle Party (IPP). Todd and Marti have met with the group at their annual gathering starting in 1999 in London; 2000 in Los Angeles; 2001 Tokyo; 2002 Antwerp (with side trips to Paris, Brussels, Brugge, and Amsterdam. In 2003, IPP met in Chicago; 2004 Tokyo (and side trips to Hong-Kong, Ulan Bator in Mongolia, the Gobi desert, and Beijing); 2005 Helsinki (including side trips to Copenhagen, Talen, and St. Petersburg). In 2006, the group gathered in Boston; 2007 Sydney (with side trips to Gold coast, Cairn); 2008 Prague (also side trips to Vienna and Budapest). This year the IPP meets in San Francisco, in 2010 in Osaka, and in 2011 in Berlin. Are you dizzy yet? What a wild ride this has been for the young man from Wisconsin. Todd considers the travel and the wonderful people he has met in the IPP to be some of the best times in his life. Marti has been traveling with this party since the group formed in the early 1990's.

Todd resides in Garden Grove with Marti, and two cats named *Snowball* and *Houdini*. As you read this article, their home is having a magical makeover. Goodbye avocado tree, goodbye tangerine tree that greeted you on the driveway. When I met with Todd at his home he showed me what his home would look like after the remodeling. It will be a wonderful home with lots of opportunities to play. The members of Ring 313 and OCMC will certainly be welcomed back when the home is ready to receive guests. Plans include a spacious new meeting room with a stage. In addition, Todd and Marti plan to have more picnics, workshops with outstanding magicians, an origami club, and puzzle parties. We cannot wait!



## Hey, ladybug . . . get ready for the RING 313 Picnic

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 20, 2009  
Festivities begin at 1:00 pm    Clean up begins at 6:00 pm

RSVP: Secretary, [PhilipHenderson@LeadersWithIntegrity.com](mailto:PhilipHenderson@LeadersWithIntegrity.com) or call (949) 322-4329  
At the home of Gary and Robbie Meier  
17432 East Santa Clara Avenue,  
Santa Ana, California 92705



Strolling magic by Ring 313 Junior Magicians

Performance by Dana Daniels

Potluck food (see schedule below)

Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, and all the fixings'

Door prizes

Joe and Yami, the origami guys

Magical friendships

Potluck schedule. Please bring food for ten people according to your last name as noted below. If you have a favorite dessert, bring that too, but still stick to your schedule.

If your last name falls	Bring Pot luck dish
A-H	Fruit dish
F-N	Salads
L-S	Chips
R-Z	Vegetable dish
Bonus	Desserts

RSVP: Secretary, [PhilipHenderson@LeadersWithIntegrity.com](mailto:PhilipHenderson@LeadersWithIntegrity.com) or call (949) 322-4329  
Come early and help set up; stay later and help cleanup; come anytime and enjoy the food, the company of your fellow magicians, and lots of good-natured fun!  
Bring the whole family.

## SIR COMEDY KNIGHTS THE QUEEN MARY DOME

A Memorial Day Weekend  
Event at the Queen Mary.  
Friday May 22-Sunday  
May 24. Stand-Up Com-  
edy and Magic each night.  
General Admission \$25  
and VIP Admission \$150.

Visit  
[www.SIRCOMEDY.com](http://www.SIRCOMEDY.com)  
for details.



"Nothing I do can't be done by a 10-  
year-old... with 15 years of practice."

- Harry Blackstone Jr.



## PROFESSIONAL MAGIC MADE EASY

### FOR JUNIORS ( AGES 8 TO 15)

Learn to perform show-stopping professional magic tricks, including the **Secret Houdini Card Trick**, **Magic Flying Coins**, **Decoder Card Trick**, **Astro Magic**, **The Invisible Deck**, **Ropes Galore**, **Bud-dha Mystery**, **Mystic Arrows**, **Pendragon Kings** and more. Also, learn how to make and perform an illusion used by Lance Burton in Vegas.

And, you will see demonstrations of the most recent magic tricks which will be available for purchase after class. All magic apparatus and supplies will be provided in class for the student's retention. This is a 4 day course during 22-25 June ( Mon thru Thurs) from 1 to 3 P.M. each day at Santiago Canyon College on Chapmen in Orange. Call the College at (714) 628-4960 to register with a credit card.

# Legerdemain Digest

Newsletter Editor



Questions? Comments? Corrections? Ideas? Magical articles? E-mail the editor at [Ring313.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.Ring313.org).

Tuesday, May 26	7 PM	Ring 313 <b><u>Regular Meeting</u></b> : Lecture: Erik Tait
Tuesday, June 9	7 PM	Ring 313 <b>Lite Gathering</b> at Knowlwood's, Irvine
Saturday, June 13	2 PM	Ring 313 <b>Juniors Meeting</b> at Annie & Kent's, Santa Ana
<b>REMINDER</b>	—	<b>No Regular Meeting</b> for June
Saturday, June 20	1 PM	Ring 313 <b>Magic Picnic</b> @ Gary's Home (see flyer for info)

### Your Ring 313 Officers and Board Members

**Kevin Brown** -President- (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **Kent Kwan** - Vice President (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **Philip Henderson**-Secretary (xxx)xxx-xxxx; **Gary Meier**- Treasurer (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **Todd Reis** - Member at Large (xxx) xxx-xxxx;and **John Fedko** (xxx) xxx-xxxx, **Annie Young**- Juniors and Newsletter Editor (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **Don Hill**-Webmaster (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **David Peltier**—Raffle Coordinator (xxx) xxx-xxxx, **Catherine Fedko** - Librarian (xxx) xxx-xxxx