

# Legerdemain Digest

## IBM Ring 313

### The John Fedko Ring

Volume X, Issue 1 February 2014



#### Message from the *Fire-Eating* President

It is with great sadness that I learned that our magical friend Aldo Colombini died from a massive stroke on February 12, 2014. Aldo was a good friend to many members of Ring 313. We were fortunate to enjoy him five times as a lecturer and friend. Aldo and his wife Rachel, also a fine magician, invented, performed, and lectured all over the world. Aldo's love for humor, magic, and life shown brightly when he and Rachel lectured to Ring 313 a few years ago. It is sad when the Broken Wand sees another fabulous magician pass.

Thanks to Professor Arthur Benjamin, our January meeting was the largest attendance in years. Benjamin demonstrated his mastery of squares and square roots. Even after he explained his methods, he has no worry of anyone stealing his routine. He has millions of hits on YouTube for his lectures with TED Talks. What an honor it was to have him at our Ring.

We will host a special guest at our March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Johnny Gaughan will take the stage. You might remember when David Copperfield used a curtain to make the Statue of Liberty disappear . . . the fellow behind the scenes who made that happen was John Gaughan. He will not reveal his secrets but he will entertain and educate us about his role in creating some of the most spectacular magic of the last fifty years. Come to meet this master creator. He has an enormous collection of magic props and apparatus. We may be able to talk him into visiting his studio one day.

Most of you have already paid your dues for 2014. Thank you for your prompt payment. Your dues make it possible to invite outstanding lecturers. Visit our updated web site ([www.ring313.org](http://www.ring313.org)) . We are not finished with the changes and welcome your suggestions. We can place a link to your personal website if you want to be listed please notify Ring Secretary Philip Henderson.

Thanks for making our club one of the best in the world.

*Chris Wynkoop,*

Proud to be the RING 313 President



Aldo and Rachel Colombini

#### MAGIC CASTLE ANYONE?

If you require a guest pass to visit the Magic Castle, please remember that I am a member of the Magic Castle. Any member desiring a guest pass, need only to give me a call or drop me an e-mail request and I will help you get your reservation to the Magic Castle.

Contact me at (949) 929-0829 or email at [Chris@WynkoopCPA.com](mailto:Chris@WynkoopCPA.com)

## RING 313 OFFICERS for 2014

President . . . . . Chris Wynkoop  
Vice-President . . . . . Victor Cohn  
Secretary . . . . . Philip Henderson  
Treasurer . . . . . Chris Wynkoop  
Sergeant At Arms . . . . . **Jim "Cardman" Greene**  
Raffle Chair . . . . . James Hjorth  
Junior's Program . . . . . Annie Young/Kent Kwan  
Webmaster . . . . . Cornelius Wilson  
Past President . . . . . Jay Leslie  
Director's At Large . . . . . Todd Reis, **Kevin Brown**, and John Fedko

## Welcome NEW Members

New Members to the Ring have a **red arrow** on their name badges. When you see that red arrow, please introduce yourself. The name badges help to break the ice, please get to know the Ring members by name. **Kenny Gerenraich**, and **Sam Konugres** are new members. These two friends were guests at our January meeting featuring the lecture from Professor Arthur Benjamin. Both **men** are experienced magicians who have returned to their magical roots recently. Please **take** a few moments to introduce yourself.

## Dues Increase for 2014

For the first time since 1999, Ring 313 is increasing member dues to accommodate rising costs of operation of the Ring. Please note the following dues schedule.

You may pay your dues for 2014 anytime this year.

	<u>2014 Schedule</u>	<u>2013 Schedule</u>
Regular members	\$40.00	\$30
Members and spouse	\$60.00	\$50
Junior members	\$25.00	\$15
Junior and Parent	\$45.00	\$35

# IBM RING 313

## Profit and Loss Statement

(January-December comparisons for calendar years 2012 and 2013)

Prepared by Chris Wynkoop, Treasurer

<b>Income</b>	<b>December 31, 2013</b>	<b>December 31, 2012</b>
Dues, Members and Guest	2,882.50	1,975.00
Raffle Income	641.00	737.05
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,523.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,712.05</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Picnic	309.15	158.71
Awards and Engraving	0.00	195.03
Bank Charge	32.00	74.00
Christmas Party	0.00	25.90
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	-30.00
Juniors	27.38	28.75
Insurance	742.00	0.00
Lecture Fees	2,213.40	1,750.00
Newsletter	0.00	26.00
Office	146.04	233.71
Postage and delivery	92.00	21.30
Repairs	247.93	0.00
Supplies, Secretary	433.93	72.37
Supplies, Bus	27.60	186.21
Lodging	0.00	93.50
WEBSITE	62.00	0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 4,334.03</b>	<b>\$ 2,648.48</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$ 810.53</b>	<b>\$ 63.57</b>

## Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison

As of December 31, 2013

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Dec. 31, 2013</b>	<b>Dec. 31, 2012</b>	<b>Change</b>
Current Assets (checking)	1,015.99	1,826.52	-810.53
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,015.99</b>	<b>\$ 1,826.52</b>	<b>\$ -810.53</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings	1,862.52	1,762.95	62.57
Net Income	-810.53	63.57	-874.10
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>1,015.99</b>	<b>1,826.52</b>	<b>-810.53</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 1,015.99</b>	<b>\$ 1,826.52</b>	<b>\$ -810.53</b>



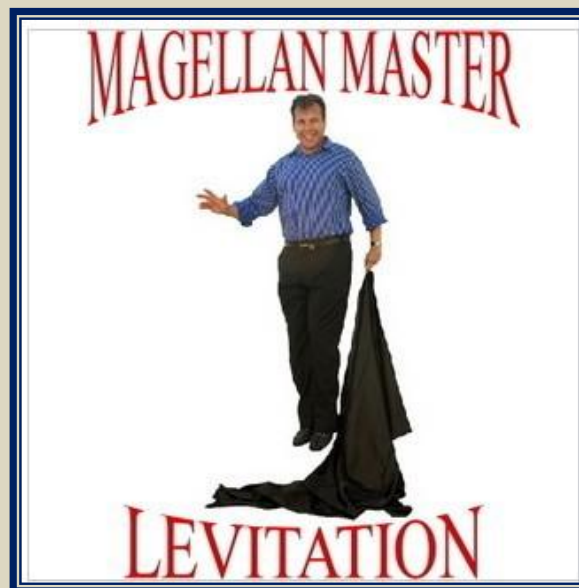
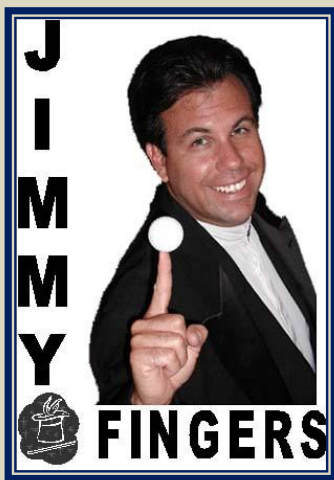
**Tuesday, February 25, 2014**

**IBM Ring 313**

**The John Fedko Ring**

*presents*

# *Jimmy Fingers*



Jimmy's special ability to do improvisational comedy material on stage, coupled with his talent for designing magic and illusions, makes him a **formidable force** in front of an audience. He began work on his own levitation ideas, and in the early 2000's, he created what would become the Magellan Master Levitation, now regarded as the **greatest self-levitation** in magic. In 2010, Jimmy was invited by internationally acclaimed star of magic Jeff McBride to present the Magellan Master Levitation at the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas. Jimmy also brought his entire act, a collection of unknown, **original magic** pieces that nobody had ever heard of, and proceeded to shock Jeff, one original illusion after another.

Our meeting starts promptly at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:00 pm. We meet at the Community Meeting room at 15500 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine next door to the IRWD offices. We are near the highway 5 Sand Canyon off ramp. Guest memberships available.

"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."



# The John Fedko Ring gives a rousing welcome to Professor Arthur Benjamin

On Tuesday, January 28, 2014, more than 80 members and friends of IBM Ring 313 welcomed Professor Arthur Benjamin, the Mathemagician. This was the largest audience our Ring has enjoyed for many years. Fortunately, many members heeded the call to bring folding chairs. Everyone was able to get a good seat.



Professor Benjamin demonstrated his mastery of mathematics and showed us that with hard work and practice we could learn to make magical mathematical miracles using basic mathematical rules. Benjamin showed how it is possible to entertain a diverse audience using mathematical principles. Our audience included children as young as ten years old who were just as fascinated by the performance as seasoned magicians. Benjamin showed a method for instantly creating a six by six magic square using easy to remember mathematical principles. His *Pièce de résistance* was watching him square a five-digit number just using his mind. He rattled off mysterious words that he used to ‘store’ intermediate calculations that he later retrieved to complete the calculation. He squared the number exactly in breakneck speed, making all the calculations in his head.

John Fedko, who was unable to attend due to his illness, sent his special greetings to the members and Professor Benjamin. Fedko was a mathematician and engineer in an earlier career. He was eager to meet Professor Benjamin to learn more methods of using mathematics to entertain. Fedko has used mathematics to develop his magical effects and urged the members to learn as much as possible from Professor Benjamin. Benjamin presented his newest publication as a gift to John Fedko to acknowledge Fedko’s love of the art.

Benjamin received a rousing applause as he concluded his presentation. He sold all the products he brought with him and took mail orders so everyone was able to purchase at the sales price for Ring 313. The Professor remained to answer individual questions. Later, I observed him engaged in a spirited conversation with FISM winner Gregory Wilson. Wilson was demonstrating his “quick change” effect while Benjamin gave tips for making quick calculations. <http://www.math.hmc.edu/~benjamin/mathemagics>

## Raffle News

**James Hjorth, Ring 313’s 2014 Raffle Meister**, announced his upcoming silent auction. On Tuesday, February 25, 2014, Hjorth will bring several high-end magic effects that will be placed in a silent auction. Each magical apparatus will have a minimum

bid price and a minimum increase. For example, an item might have an opening bid of \$125.00 and a minimum increase of \$10.00. Members and guests who wish to bid will indicate their interest by signing up to purchase at the then current bid price. When Hjorth announces LAST CALL, members will have a couple of minutes to make their final bids. The person with the highest bid at closing takes the item home with the knowledge that his/her purchase helps to support Ring 313.



# What is Magic?

by Philip Henderson

I often hear magicians refer to the magical effects they perform as “tricks.” This word gets on my raw nerves. To call what you do a trick is demeaning to the time and effort a magician dedicated to perfect the performance of an effect. A magician who calls his work a **Trick** is telling the audience that he/she is going to fool the audience. On the other hand, a magician who calls his work an **Illusionary Effect** is telling the audience that he/she has practiced the art of magic and is prepared to entertain the audience by respecting the intelligence and dignity of the audience members. Tricksters want to fool their audience; magicians want to entertain the audience using practiced magical methods.

There are few truly original effects in magic; most new effects are merely new methods of creating classic magic effects. In a magic illusion one or more of these events occurs.

- (1) one object transforms into another;
- (2) an object is destroyed then restored;
- (3) an object moves from one place to another;
- (4) an object appears from an unexpected location;
- (5) an object is no longer where it appeared to be an instant before;
- (6) a performer reveals private information that the spectator suspects could not have been known;
- (7) an object moves without explanation;
- (8) an event occurs that defies the laws of physics as is commonly understood;
- (9) or an object (or body part) penetrates (or is penetrated) by a solid object without changing either object.

When you are practicing a new sleight, or a new apparatus, you are doing the same as a violinist who is practicing his skills with his musical instrument. A novice violinist does not require a Stradivarius. In his hands, such an instrument would sound dull and lifeless. On the other hand, the Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra can produce magical sounds with the inimitable Stradivarius instrument. Becoming an outstanding musician or magician requires dedicated practice with live audiences. A musician who merely practices in a soundproof room has no idea what the music sounds like in a symphonic auditorium. A magician who practices only in front of a mirror will not be ready for a live audience.

Practice your magical art in the worst situations you can imagine. Street performers, bar magicians, and children’s magicians perform in the most challenging environments for the art of magic. However, it is in these difficult venues that one becomes an outstanding magician. You want to make as many mistakes as possible in these public venues. This is where you will develop into a professional performer.

The audience members will teach you those aspects of your performance that works for them. You will see them respond just as you expected when you do it correctly. They will also show you where you have angle problems or confused them instead of entertained them. These rowdy audiences will interrupt you when they are bored. They will walk away if you are not entertaining. Becoming a magician is hard work. When you are able to cause the most unlikely audience member to laugh or scream with astonishment, then you are beginning to master the art of magic. In the words of our member Ron Porter . . . **Work for the scream!**



## Magician members of Ring 313 want your help.

Several members of the Ring are looking for audience members to help them develop their proficiency with a routine new to them. They are looking for magicians, or laymen, to serve as an audience. If you, or someone you know, is eager to help us out, please contact **Jim "Cardman" Greene** at (714) 318-2309. Jim will set up the practice time.

Some of the performers will be practicing effects familiar to you. Other performers are working on original effects inspired by classic magic performances.

Practicing for live audiences is the best way to discover how to make your magic ready for prime time. Practicing in front of a mirror will not help you with a live audience. When I started taking tennis lessons, I asked my coach if it was okay to practice with dead balls. He told me that it was okay to practice with dead balls if I planned to play tennis with dead balls. Likewise, if you practice in front of a mirror, that is great if your audience is a mirror.

If you plan to show your magic to live audiences, then that is where you must practice. Live audiences may heckle, may look away, they may have an angle that reveals a method, or may be confused with your presentation. Until you perform in front of a live audience, these problems will nag your presentation. These eager magicians want to accelerate their learning curve. They want to make many mistakes so they will learn which aspects of their effects are working for them. Please arrange several hours to help your fellow magicians, please contact **Cardman** at once; contact him at (714) 318-2309.



**March 25, 2014**

## Maestro John Gaughan

Our March meeting features an evening with John Gaughan, re-creator of the legendary magical apparatus known as "The Turk." The Turk was undefeated as a mechanical chess player. The Turk succumbed to a fiery death until Maestro John Gaughan discovered plans that helped him bring the Turk out of the ashes and back into existence. Gaughan has assisted many of the top performers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This will be a memorable evening of magic lore at RING 313!





# Legerdemain Digest

**Philip Henderson**

IBM Ring 313 Newsletter Editor

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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 building in the Community Room. Directions and map at [www.Ring313.org](http://www.Ring313.org).

<b>Tuesday, February 25, 2014</b>	7pm	<b>Jimmy Fingers</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 25, 2014</b>	7 pm	<b>John Gaughan</b>
<b>Tuesday, April 29, 2014</b>	7 pm	<b>Nathan Kranzo</b>

## Are you Hungry for Some Magic?

**Join us at The Lunch Bunch.** We meet every Friday whether rain, snow, sleet, or sunshine. We are at Carrows Restaurant. Come have some fun with your favorite Orange County Magicians. You can practice a new effect or teach something to an eager audience. You love magic. Make this a regular Friday activity. This is a great opportunity to get to know some of the top magical performers residing in Orange County. The fun begins at 11:45 am and continues until at least 2:00 pm. Stay as long as you like.

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



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 make a U-turn at Waterworks Way and turn into the parking lot serving both locations. New meeting room is about 50 yards from former meeting room. Cartoon is not to scale.

