

Legerdemain Digest

IBM Ring 313

The John Fedko Ring

Volume XVIII, Issue 3 March 2012



Message from the President – *(sounds official, doesn't it?)*

The 3:00 am factor.



Perception is everything. Some performers only show effects that do not look like magic. Some will only perform big colorful illusions. Here are two perspectives about the above.

First, does the trick or effect fit the venue? If you show-up at a home to perform for a birthday party, parents always offer to help bring your equipment in but, you have a 52 cards and they have an expectation of bubbles, boxes and bunnies. On the other hand, if you're at an upscale corporate luncheon and try to perform an illusion by pushing tables to the side, that's also non-fit. RenFair performers use a lot of wood but shun shiny aluminum props. Eventually we see vaudeville acts brought back to life with the acts dressed differently, new music and the props made in that decade's style.

Back to my 3:00 am theory. No matter what style or what venue the show is in, my first job is to entertain but, I engineer the routines so my audience cannot reconstruct my methods. The strategy is to be at least three steps ahead of the audience. It's not enough to "pull one over" just for the quick "I got ya!". That only makes people say, "The hand is quicker than the ear." The 3:00 am theory also relates how flashy your sleights are in the context of the venue. When performing flashy sleights in a close-up show, you forfeit the title of magician and instead become a finger-flicker. When you perform close-up, some people wake up at 3:00 am thinking, "I don't know exactly what he did, but he was fast with his hands so, I must have blinked . . . and that's how he got my card in his wallet." When that happens, the spectator assumes your only talent is being slick.

A long-lasting impression is lost for this spectator. He dismisses you. He believes he figured out what you did. Wouldn't it be better to avoid flashy flourishes and instead slowly and deliberately, place the chosen card in the deck? Then, when they wake up at 3:00 am they can't dismiss what they saw, "I saw him place my card in the deck. I watched it go all the way in. How did it get in his wallet?" Then you'll receive credit for talent. The impression the audience makes is that you are a magician who entertained, and left no secrets behind.

Magic that still works at 3:00 am! That's how **Phil Van Tee** and **ALFONSO** perform. It's also the kind of magic we will see when **Jon Armstrong** visits the ring on April 24, 2012.

Jay Leslie, President, The John Fedko Ring

Coming Events at Ring 313

March 27, 2012 Playing card workshop practicing the sleights of forcing, peeking, and revelations.
April 24, 2012 **Jon Armstrong** to lecture
May, 29, 2012 Dealers demos and sales plus a Swap Meet

Editors Note: Jim Greene and Philip Henderson are the new editors for *Legerdemain Digest*. Send your ideas, story contributions, and advertising to Philip Henderson.

Welcome NEW Members

We acquired **one** new member at our meeting on February 28, 2012.

Barryn Vaughn a friend of Ron Porter and Jeff Abbit among others and a longtime practitioner of the magical arts has joined our Ring.

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.

Please send a get-well card to John Fedko and Cathy Fedko.

Their mailing address is

13111 Flint Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92705!

The IBM Ring 313 Officers and Directors for 2012

Officers and Directors for 2012

President, **Jay Leslie** (714) 847-5311
Vice-President **Roy Ball** (310) 356-0018
Secretary, **Philip Henderson** . . . (949) 322-4329
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Webmaster **Don Hill** (714) 345-1114
Junior's Program, **Kent Kwan** and **Annie Young** (714) 966-1652



ALFONSO SPEAKS at IBM

RING 313!



More than fifty members and guests jammed in the meeting room for an outstanding lecture/performance by the magician known by one name ALFONSO! A local performer who has lectured in Spain and Japan, this was his first lecture in Southern California. We are grateful to be his first choice in his hometown. Thank you **ALFONSO** for an insightful lecture covering close-up magic. Alfonso presented a diverse range of magical illusions suitable for walk around and close up performers. Alfonso showed us why he is often called to fill in at the Magic Castle when they need a professional to cover for an emergency opening. He is good!

Always the performer, his sleights are subtle and well crafted to produce miracles for his audience. Alfonso was trained to perform by the likes of Larry Jennings and The Professor, you can be certain that Alfonso is an entertainer first, who uses magical effects to please his audience. Alfonso revealed secrets to perform commercial magic, practicing doable sleights where all the effects fit in his coat pockets without bulging and spoiling the look of his suit. Alfonso was elegantly dressed yet was comfortable in suit and tie. His easy and friendly manner made you forget that he was a magician; instead, he was more like a good friend who was showing you illusions as part of his natural way of being. Alfonso's moves were full of grace, every movement choreographed to make the sleights easy and effective. His shuttle move with a coin was diabolical. Even when you knew what was coming you could not see it, timing and practice makes it work.

SPECIAL NOTICE ABOUT PLAYING CARD WORKSHOP on March 27, 2012

In the spring of 2011, our Ring presented a playing card workshop that gave every member something special. Some members learned new methods for card sleights; others learned how to use playing cards to perform good magic without sleights. Playing cards are a versatile tool for a magician. Your friends and neighbors expect magicians to be able to present card tricks. You can easily carry several decks of cards set up for a favorite trick no matter where you go. Great magical effects often do not require "finger flicking" and still produce magical responses to lay audiences. In short, there is every reason for each member of Ring 313 to be able to perform great magic just using the pasteboards.

If you have a favorite sleight, effect, method, or handling that gets great response from audiences, please bring them to our meeting to share. If you have an improvement to a commonly used move, bring that to our meeting to see if it works in front of magicians. If you are afraid to use cards because your hands are all thumbs or your fingers have lost their ability to handle cards, we will have something just for you. Imagine a trick when the magician never touches the deck. Henderson will be demonstrating **Harry Lorayne's** "Lazy Man's Card Trick." No sleights required.



If you are a great “fan” of card tricks and are skillful performing flourishes, trick dealing, trick cuts, color changes, back palms, spinning cards, second-dealing, double-lifts, or effects using “prepared decks,” then show us your favorite methods. If you can perform **Lennart Green’s Snap Deal** or want to demonstrate a culling technique like the “**Hofzinser Spread Cull**,” members will be inspired by your skills. One handed shuffles, false shuffles, false cuts, key cards, and forces will be shown. We will ask those who use the **Classic Force** to demonstrate their skill and to teach some of the secrets behind their success using this powerful method. In addition, several easy forces will be shown that do not require deft fingers.



We will discuss the history of the playing cards we use. The Court Cards possess an interesting background. Do you know which King is called the “**Suicide King**?” Do you know how he got that nickname? Which King shows only one eye? Traditionally, the Court Cards are related to former royalty of old. Do you know their lineage? The playing cards we are used to using derived from a deck from which country (England, France, or China)? This is a trick question, answer it carefully.

If you have a favorite deck of cards that you enjoy because of the

look of the faces or the backs, please bring them. If you have special prepared decks that help you produce miracles, please bring them even if you are not clear how to use them. You may discover that another member is familiar with the special deck and can demonstrate how to make miracles. You might have a special deck of cards that commemorates a special event or location. I have a set of **Shakespeare** cards that have characters from his plays as Court faces. Many playing card decks from Spain, France, Italy, Germany, and Japan have special looks to them. Please bring any cards in your collection that might be magical just to look at them.

What playing card is your favorite choice for magic? Many performers choose Bicycle Playing cards because they are widely used by the public. The late **Jerry Andrus** used Bridge Sized cards, they are slightly smaller than the standard Poker sized deck. I was surprised that Andrus used the smaller deck because he had huge hands. I asked him why he used the smaller deck, he simply told me that he liked them. Many professionals order custom playing cards. The performer chooses what he/she wants on the deck. I will bring a deck that “**The Duchess of Deception . . . Joyce Beck**” uses in her act. The backs of her decks features her photographic image. What characteristics caused you to choose your favorite deck? Some decks have a slightly wider edge on the left or right side, a magician can use this to his/her advantage. For performers, all they require is a “slight edge” on the audience.

Raffle Nooze

We had four winners in the February Raffle: **Annie Young** won a video tape provided by **Aldo Colombini**; **Jeremy Diaz** won a *Martin Lewis* Egg Bag with Egg; **Dan McKerren** won a video of *David Roth’s* “linking coins; and **Paul Miles** was the winner of *Alexander De Cova’s* video “Enigmatic.” Congratulations to the winners and thank you to Martin Lewis and Aldo Colombini for your contributions to our raffle program.

A magician goes into a bar and asks the bartender for his usual fare. What does the purveyor of spirits serve him?

A Hypnotic Suggestion.

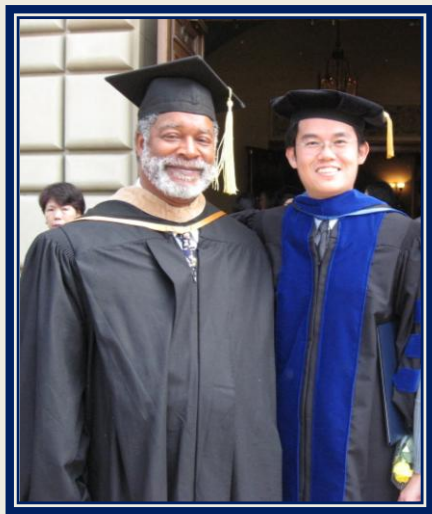
This drink is made from

1 shot Hpnotiq

1 shot Rum

Splash of Sour Apple Pucker

4 ounces Dr. Pepper



Secretary Henderson is an Adjunct Faculty at Phillips Graduate Institute in Woodland Hills, CA. This is a graduation photograph with one of my students. He was just hooded after having earned his doctorate degree in Organization Management.

Secretary's Notes . . .

What's happening at the Ring?

want to use magical effects in their motion pictures. Jon will demonstrate tricks, sleights, and methods to handle hecklers while entertaining your grateful audiences.

You will see how to build your routine and use misdirection to get your audience on your side. Armstrong uses humor and carefully designed routines to make his magic special for each audience member. If you missed his lecture in 2005, make certain you get a front row seat this time.



The March 27, 2012 meeting is Pasteboard workshop evening. Come to show your favorite methods to force cards, peek, glimpse, or steal cards to produce miraculous revelations. This is a



hands-on workshop, bring your own playing cards and get ready for some fun. Double lifts, false cuts, flourishes, the *Hindu* and *Faro* shuffle, spreads, one-hand shuffles, color changes, the *Mercury* card fold versus other methods, and many other card sleights are on the agenda.

The April 24, 2012 meeting is a lecture by Jon Armstrong. He last lectured for us in 2005, we are happy that he is returning. Jon specializes in close up performances. He is a regular performer at the Magic Castle and gives advice to filmmakers who

May 29, 2012 will feature a **Dealer's Demo and Swap Meet**. We will begin having dealers show us their newest items on sale for members and will conclude with an opportunity for you to unload magical apparatuses that have grown old in your magic trunk.

Junior's Corner

Introducing Christopher Tarr

Written by Philip Henderson



The future of magic resides in the hands and hearts of young magicians such as those who are participating in the Ring 313 Junior's Program. This story is about one of our young magicians, who represents the future of magic.

Christopher Tarr began to study magic at age 8 after he visited the *Houdini Magic Shop* in Disneyland. Now aged fourteen, Christopher has discovered a talent and interest in magic that he expects will last his entire life. Christopher became a friend of Houdini's Ian Galloway who encouraged him to learn and perform magic tricks for family and friends. Christopher enjoys close up magic using playing cards, coins, ropes, and paddle magic. He learns mostly from watching tricks on YouTube, or DVD's. One of Christopher's favorite DVD's is the Secret Seminar of Patrick Page. He has yet to find a mentor who will guide him to performance expertise. Among his favorite performers are Nathan Kranzo, Phil van Tee, and Lance Burton. He is eagerly waiting for an opportunity to see Burton on stage in a live performance.

Christopher is working on a cut and restore rope illusion he was inspired to learn after watching Phil van Tee perform the effect at our Ring. If you ask him to perform a magic trick, he is likely to perform "Hot Rod," his favorite illusion to entertain friends and family. Magic is a hobby for Christopher. Nonetheless, he is looking forward to being competent enough to be hired to perform for children's birthday parties and other events. If he can earn money to help pay for college, then he will be following in the footsteps of other Ring 313 magicians who were able to earn significantly large amounts to help pay for college expenses.

Christopher enjoys entertaining his friends and family. When he performs, their awestruck faces encourages him to learn more tricks. In addition to magic, and school, Christopher is a point guard on his basketball team. He loves to score the winning shot for his team. Christopher's dream job is to be a commercial airline pilot. He is equally interested in cargo or passenger aircraft. You see, he loves to fly! When I asked Christopher what his greatest challenge is in magic, he told me that he would like to have a mentor to teach him how to perform. Going to Houdini's Magic Shop is not enough. If you see Christopher at the Ring or visiting with Ken Sands at *Magic Galore and More*, congratulate him on being a well-rounded young man, with magic in his future!

Magically Fun Facts Which Magic Shop for Matas?

Many magicians get their start by working behind a counter in a Magic Shop. Our Ring member Barry Matas got his start at a local amusement park that also was home to Steve Shreiner, Dana Daniels, and Steve Martin. Matas worked at both of the magic shops for 5 years. At which southern California location did Matas work, was it:



1. Knott's Berry Farm
2. Disneyland
3. Barrywood
4. Buena Park Alligator Farm
5. Houdini's Magic Shop

Legerdemain Digest

Jim **Greene** / Philip Henderson
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Wizard's Calendar

Regular meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District Building, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine. Directions and map at www.Ring313.org.

Tuesday, March 13, 2012	7 pm	Ring LITE at Knowlwood Restaurant, Irvine an opportunity to try out new tricks and sleights
Saturday, March 17, 2012	2-4 pm	Junior Magicians Club meeting. At the home of Leader of the Pack. Practice and rehearsal for play.
Tuesday, March 27, 2012	7 pm	Regular meeting with a Playing Card workshop.
Tuesday, April 10, 2012	7 pm	Ring LITE at Knowlwood Restaurant, Irvine an opportunity to try out new tricks and sleights
Saturday, April 21, 2012	2-4 pm	Junior Magicians Club meeting. At the home of Leader of the Pack. Practice and rehearsal for play.
Tuesday, April 24, 2012	7pm	Regular meeting of RING 313 with special guest lecturer Jon Armstrong

"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



Tuesday, March 27, 2012

**7:00 PM at the Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618**

card
workshop

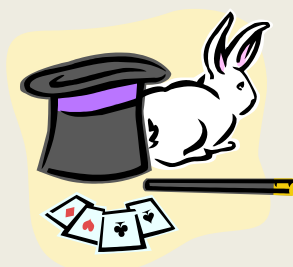
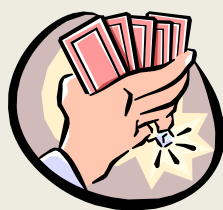


MAGICIANS PLAYING CARD WORKSHOP

Palming, crimping, fans and flourishes, false cuts, sleights, false deals, handling unmarked cards.

Learn how to dazzle your friends, coworkers, and family with easy handling of playing cards. You can become a “card mechanic” who no one invites to a friendly game of poker.

Last year’s playing card workshop was a terrific success. Members traded methods to make the cards work miracles. Bring two decks of cards, one that you can destroy and one that you will leave intact. If you want to learn the *Mercury Card Fold*, you have to sacrifice old playing cards.



Admission free for IBM members and guests.

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