

Legerdemain Digest

IBM Ring 313

The John Fedko Ring

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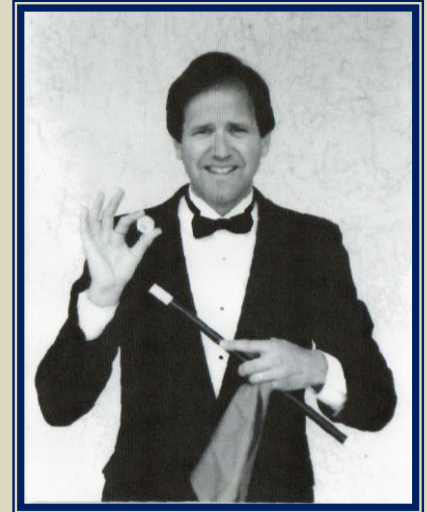


Message from the President

It was sad saying goodbye to our club founder, John Fedko. However, to honor his memory, the magic goes on, both with his name on our magic club and his can do spirit in the hearts of his students and friends who carry on the love of the art of magic!

We will be bolting forward with the smooth and fabulous Dale Salwak at our **May 27** meeting. Dale is a great stage magician and heads the Chavez School of Magic. Dale will bring two students along to perform as well as performing himself. Are you interested in finessing your act? You have to see Dale.

June 24, 2014 we will host John Guastafarro. John has great card, close up, and parlor magic to share with us. Don't miss it. Ring 96, the Orange County Magic Club and The John Fedko Ring 313 will join forces for a summer magician's picnic. Keep **Saturday, July 12, 2014** open for this time to share food and good times for the annual Picnic. We want you to perform for this event. Please contact me, or Secretary Philip Henderson, to reserve your spot on the performance stage. In addition, on **Saturday, July 26, 2014** we are co-hosting A Day of Magic at the Orange County Fair. When you sign up for this event, you receive complimentary admission to the Fair and parking. We are hosting the Magician's of the Future contest held at the FUN ZONE at 10:00 July 26th.



What a great summer line up. Look forward to seeing you,

Magically yours,

Chris Wynkoop,

Proud to be the RING 313 President

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



The Five Lives of John Fedko

By Philip Henderson, IBM Ring 313 Secretary

This is an update on a story I wrote in November 2002 about the founder of IBM Ring 313, John Fedko. This was rewritten so that new members to our ring will learn more about the man whose name is part of our official name, The John Fedko Ring. To get the facts for this story I interviewed John Fedko in his home in the fall of 2002. We spoke for several hours. I condensed our conversation to these summary statements. I call this story The Five Lives of John Fedko (musician, engineer, magician, leader, and family man).

John Theodore Fedko is the namesake of our ring. Ring 313 is also known formally as **The John Fedko Ring**. He is our mentor, friend, teacher, Master Magician and an active member of the Board of Directors. John is a native of Northampton, Pennsylvania from Ukrainian extraction. He uses Ukrainian fluently and speaks German and Italian. John earned his Bachelor's degree in Physics from Muhlenberg College, a Master of Science in Aeronautical and Propulsion Engineering from the University of Texas, and a Master of Science in Systems Engineering from USC.

The purpose of the member spotlight is to introduce a prominent member of the Ring so you know the "*back story*" behind your fellow Ring members. One of my stock questions during the interview is "What can you tell me that our members might be surprised to know?" Well for Mr. John Fedko I could write a book about his answer. I don't have that much room here so you get his life in summary form—**The Five Lives of Mr. John T. Fedko**.

John Fedko, Family Man

I think John will want to be known first as a dedicated family man. He has been married to his devoted wife Catherine since 1953. They have four children, thirteen grandchildren. It is apparent when you visit his Santa Ana home that his life is full of good times with all his family members. His home is very comfortable and very lived in. You see magical references almost everywhere you look, awards, books, posters, and etc. but mostly you see evidence of family. Portraits, snapshots, children's playthings, and other mementos of wonderful times past with his family along with Daisy, the dog, and two cats make this a comfortable family home for the Fedko's.

John Fedko, Engineer

John told me he would best be remembered for the engineering work he has done. John has had a long and distinguished career in the US Army Air Defense and in private industry as a scientist and inventor. He has held top-level assignments at the Pentagon and has served in important roles in the US Army developing, designing, building, testing, and deploying offensive and defensive ballistic missiles for the US government. Colonel Fedko (retired after 20-years service) held significant posts

during the Cold War era and helped bring peace to the world from his efforts. Much of what Colonel Fedko did is still classified as Top Secret.

When John left the military, he continued defense work as a private citizen working for Hughes Aircraft Company in missile development and deployment. John is an expert on design and deployment of ballistic missiles. He received the Meritorious Service Medal by the President of the United States for his work.

From 1972 until 1977, while operating the John Fedko Magic Company, John also served as Director of the Bureau of Systems Management for Environmental Sciences for the State of Pennsylvania. He directed and coordinated the technical efforts of the bureaus of Water, Air, Land, Mines, Forestry, State Parks, and Radiological Health. Fedko reported directly to Pennsylvania Governor Shapp.

John Fedko, Musician

John began trumpet lessons at age eight and by age 16 was first trumpet player for the Northampton Band and a soloist for the Allentown Symphony. He studied with Albertus Meyers and Harry Newhart who themselves were respectively first and second chair trumpet players for John Phillip Sousa. Graduating from high school at age 16, John formed his own band, the John Fedko Band. This eight-piece dance band worked seven nights a week from early evening until midnight or 2 am.

During the day, John worked alongside his father and saved enough money the first two years that he could afford to attend college to study Physics. In his four years of college he continued to play six or 7 nights a week with his band. John ended his career as a professional musician when he married Cathe in 1953.

John Fedko, Magician

In 1972, John established the John Fedko Magic Company in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. The Magic Company had a wholesale and retail operation, a performing stage, and a lecture series. All of the most outstanding performers touring America came to the John Fedko Magic Company to teach magic, learn about magic, and enjoy magic.

The wholesale operation manufactured and sold magic effects invented by John Fedko that were designed for commercial use by professional magicians. Nearly every day dozens of adult students were taught the basics of magic by Fedko and several instructors he hired. Every weekend, Fedko booked lectures, films, and magic performances. Fedko operated this company for five years until he sold it to move to California in 1977.

John Fedko, Author and Teacher

John is well known as an inventor of magical effects and methods. He prepared ten instructional videos; has written four books; and prepared sixteen original and different manuscripts of lecture notes for magicians. The John Fedko Magic School

teaches adults to become performers and he has taught magic to children (aged 8-16) for the last eight years at Saddleback College.

John still lectures at conventions and on request for magic clubs, but has spent more time with his family during the last few years. He counts among his friends some of the most successful magicians performing today. They are always happy to help him out when he needs their support for a project he is working on. In 1999, John was president of PCAM and chaired their annual convention. He is a friend to all of us at Ring 313.

Concluding Thoughts

At the end of my interview with John Fedko, I asked him to comment on the State of Magic as he sees it now. John sees a great and prosperous future for magic in this country and the world. The recent television exposures (which he deplores) have only ended up generating more interest in magic. Those whose misguided efforts caused temporary setbacks to some have ruined their own careers.

Magic will continue to flourish because there is honor among professional magicians. Those who have been privileged to make magic their career have always acted with respect and honor to those who paved the way for them. Secrets are inevitably a part of magic. That's part of what makes magic work. John has a couple of secrets that he only wants to pass on to his son or grandchild. The best magicians share their knowledge for future generations. They take on students or publish their work so that others will be amazed and entertained by the creative work they have wrought.

John sees a great future for someone who is willing to work hard to make magic a career. John didn't have a teacher. He used the **Tarbell Course in Magic, Book One** to get started. Most of what he does, he developed himself. He developed his own sleights, his own effects, and his own methods. There is plenty of room for young magicians to succeed in magic.

Thank you John Fedko for bringing magic into the lives of countless people: magicians, audiences, and students. You are a five-star leader in our community. I am personally grateful for your wisdom and commitment to serve humankind. I speak for many of the members of Ring 313 many of whom began their career as magicians with your instruction and guidance.

The Broken Wand Ceremony was conducted to honor John Theodore Fedko on May 14, 2014 in Cypress, California. The ceremony will be performed again on May 27, 2014 at the Regular Meeting of The John Fedko Ring. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7:00 pm.

RING 313 OFFICERS for 2014

Position	Name	Email address	Telephone
President	Chris Wynkoop	Chris@WynkoopCPA.com	(949) 929-0829
Vice-President	Victor Cohn	Victor@Cohnmail.net	(562) 252-2580
Treasurer	Chris Wynkoop	Chris@WynkoopCPA.com	(949) 929-0829
Secretary	Philip Henderson	PhilipHenderson@sbcglobal.net	949.322.4329
Sergeant at Arms	Jim "Cardman" Greene	OCMagic@live.com	(714) 318-2309
Raffle Chair	James Hjorth	JimH560@yahoo.com	
Junior's Program	Annie Young/Kent Kwan	aykwan@gmail.com ReallyHotPants@gmail.com	(714) 966-1652
Webmaster	Cornelius Wilson	kryptic001@gmail.com	949.606.6279
Past President	Jay Leslie	JLeslie@hbquik.com	(714) 847-5311
Director at Large	Todd Reis	Tr3d@hotmail.com	(714) 673-7320
Director at Large	Kevin Brown	Glyphman@cox.net	(949) 347-0305

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





Tuesday, May 27, 2014

IBM Ring 313

The John Fedko Ring

presents

Dale Salwak



Director of the Chavez Studio of Magic since 1978, Dale Salwak works hard to impart the highest standard of artistic values to his students. Since 1974, he has appeared in and produced for audiences across America, his annual "International Stars of Magic" for which he received an Award of Merit from the Academy of Magical Arts. He has served as Entertainment Director at the Hollywood Magic Castle (1996-98), Talent Chairman and Executive Producer of Shows for the I.B.M. Annual Convention (since 1995), and as a member of the jury for magic competitions in over thirty countries. He is also a member of London's Magic Circle (MIMC) for which he is currently serving as an American representative. His writings on the history, theory, and practice of magic appear regularly in all of the magical publications worldwide. Currently he is also serving as the I.B.M.'s International Relations Officer.

http://www.geniimagazine.com/magicpedia/Dale_Salwak

Our meeting starts promptly at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:00 pm.

"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."

My \$100 bill switch is not a TRICK

When you tell your audience you are performing a trick, you take away the wonder and mystery of your work.

You are no longer a magician who entertains; instead, you become merely an engineer or a scientist. Magicians entertain by giving the audience the hope that the work they do comes from the magician's power to suspend the natural laws of physics. If you announce that you are performing a trick, then you are informing your audience that what you are doing is not "magic" but instead a puzzle they cannot solve. They suspect the truth, that you are not a magician but merely a person who has trained himself to fool the normal senses.

The word "trick" implies that you are attempting to fool the senses of your audience. When I perform a magic effect, I do not think of it as a trick meant to fool my audience. Instead, I presume that I am showing an effect that will amaze the senses of my audience. I want my audience to feel amazement at the rather unexpected results of my work.

When I perform the One Hundred dollar bill switch, I want my audience to applaud my ability to transform a Washington into a Benjamin. I want them to ask me to do it again. As I place the newly minted \$100 in my wallet, I remove another single bill. I ask someone to trade his or her single with one of mine to prove that my bill is not gimmicked. As the transfer is made, I secretly palm the second Benjamin so that it is ready for its arrival. Now, when I produce the second \$100 bill I have shown my audience a rare ability, possessed only by real magicians.

I have seen the \$100 bill switch performed as a Trick. It is not very

interesting as a trick. In this version, the performer borrows a one-dollar bill from the audience. He then transforms the single into a Benjamin. About this time, the person he borrowed the one-dollar bill says that he wants his money back. The performer objects then, because the pressure is on, he transforms the Benjamin back to a single dollar bill that he returns to the spectator. Let's recap. The performer turns a one-dollar bill into a one-hundred dollar bill, then transforms the one-hundred dollar bill back to a single. It feels as though the spectators have been fooled. They suspect that the hundred dollar bill was hidden someone and now is hidden again. They seek the location of the hidden bill. They will not find the hiding place because you have already ditched the thumb tip, but that will not stop them from thinking that there is a secret location where you keep the Benjamin.

In the version I perform, the spectators feel as though they were in the presence of a real magician. I produced a one-hundred dollar bill twice from two spectator's one-dollar bills and placed the newly minted \$100 bills in my wallet. In each demonstration the spectator could not ask for his dollar back, because I did not borrow his bill, I exchanged a single from my wallet to prove that the bill I used for the transformation was not gimmicked. I finish my effect clean. This is not viewed as a trick because they know where the hundred dollar bill is after the effect is over.

As long as magician's think of what they are performing as doing tricks for their audience, the audience will believe you are attempting to trick them. Audiences do not enjoy being fooled. To relieve themselves they attempt to discover the essence of your trick, the secret that allowed you to fool their senses.

What does it take to become a Magician?

How well do you know the Ring members sitting next to you? Modern day magicians have a varied background. They have not learned their craft from their father. In older times, the business of magic was purely hereditary. A magician was careful only to teach his methods to a trusted family member. If you allowed a stranger to know the business, you were never certain he would keep your secrets hidden. Because we entertain all kinds of people, it is good to have magical performers come from every walk of life. We have to know people in order to know what makes them laugh, smile, and wonder . . . “how did he do it?”

Can you match the name of the Ring member with a current or previous occupation? Please notice that a small sample of our membership represents a wide range of occupations, from Army Colonel to Sculptor, and from Pediatrician to computer programmer. How many of these career occupations can you match with the Ring Member? Some of the occupations fit more than one ring member. You will notice that music and magic seem connected.

Next month, I will place the Ring Member with his/her occupation. How are you doing on your own?

OCCUPATION

1	School counselor, jewelry designer
2	Motorcycle patrol Cop
3	Art teacher
4	Band leader, Army Colonel
5	Rocket engineer
6	Musician
7	Marketing suit
8	Bar owner, bookkeeper, beer truck driver
9	Trader Joe dude
10	Glazer
11	Mattel toys, law office manager
12	Toy store proprietor
13	Tax preparer for H&R Block, electronics technician
14	School Principal, driver's Ed teacher
15	Mathematics Professor
16	Printer
17	Pediatrician
18	Sculptor, CPA
19	Musician, computer programmer
20	Nurse, professional magician's assistant
21	Bookkeeper at Knudson
22	Police officer, musician, Busch Gardens Aviary department
23	Electrical engineer, software CAD test engineer
24	Woodworker
25	Navy commander

RING MEMBER

John Fedko	A
Todd Reis	B
Kevin Brown	C
Jay Leslie	D
SUDS	E
Victor Cohn	F
Richard Zucker	G
Jeff Abbit	H
James Hjorth	I
Philip Henderson	J
Dick Barry	K
Steven Fibel	L
Bill Pearce	M
Forrest Miller	N
Scott Boeger	O
Sherry Newberg	P
Chris Wynkoop	Q
Kyle Merck	R
Potsy	S
Steven Longacre	T
Sammy Ruiz	U
David Peltier	V
Cathy Fedko	W

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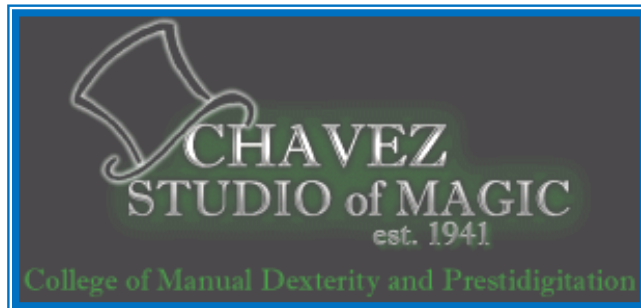
Philip Henderson

IBM Ring 313 Newsletter Editor

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Irvine, California 92602

www.Ring313.org



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.

Tuesday, May 27, 2014	7pm	Dale Salwak
Tuesday, June 24, 2014	7pm	John Guastafarro
Saturday, July 12, 2014	11 am	Annual Magician's Picnic with Ring 96 and OCMC
Saturday, July 26, 2014	10 am	Day of Magic at the Orange County Fair—Junior Contest

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.

