

Legerdemain Digest

RING 313 - THE JOHN FEDKO RING

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

September 28 @7pm

Do not miss the lecture of

Jay Scott Berry!

The Art and Science of Wonder: What sets Jay apart is that his magic "looks like real magic". His years of experience in theatrical production allow him to custom tailor his presentations to suit the client or venue, as required.

Strolling Magic: As a roving entertainer, Jay creates close-up wonders in the hands, right under the watchful eyes of the audience. He entertains with a grace and style rarely seen, using simple props such as ribbons, rings, cards, coins and colorful silks.



Close-up and Parlour show: Reminiscent of an earlier age, these shows offer an intimate experience of magic and wonder. Enhanced by original music, Jay's elegant and sophisticated style emphasizes visual magic that happens at the fingertips. From empty hands, object mysteriously appear and disappear, transform and multiply. IN Jay's hands, even card effects become great mysteries.

Stage Shows: Jay's mastery of the stage will captivate and entertain even the largest audience. His shows range from stand-up platform to theatrical stage presentations for the larger venue. What makes Jay unique is an absence of 'boxes'. He weaves his powerful, visual illusions using relatively simple objects. Some of Jay's signature routines uses ropes, calls, coins, silks and even lights that appear and disappear at the fingertips. Jay is also an expert in theatrical special effects. He has developed many larger illusions that apply both dry ice fog and pyrotechnics.

Excerpt from website:

www.jayscottberry.com



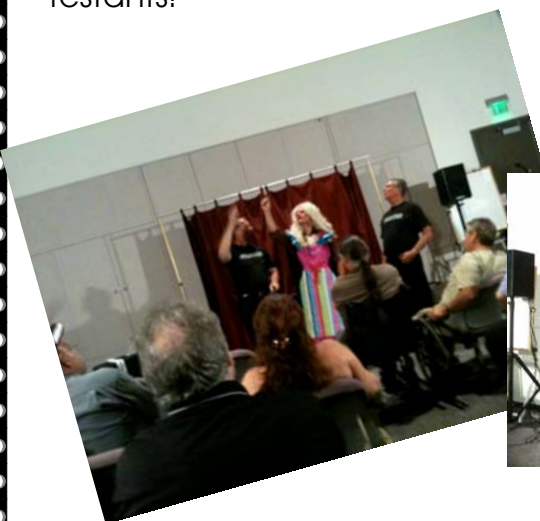
Professional Magic for Adults: John Fedko will be teaching professional magic which is original, entertaining & mystifying. You will learn: **Ancient Tibet Mystery, Chinese Pandora Box, Astro Coin Illusions, Houdini Rope Escapes, ESP Mental Magic, Aerial Rising Cards, X-Ray Eyes, Rings of Saturn, Dynamic Card Tricks, The Pagoda Illusion & much more.** Professional magic will be available for purchase after class. Bring a deck of playing cards to the first meeting. The class consists of 3 sessions which will be held on Saturdays, 2, 9 & 16 Oct. from 10 to 11:30 A.M. at Santiago Canyon College on 8045 East Chapman Ave. in Orange. Call (714) 628-4960 to register. The total fee for all 3 sessions is \$39.00.

PAST EVENTS

Photos by: Jay Leslie



If you attended the Member's Contest meeting night in August, you surely left with a smile. Not only did our members fill the room, we had the honor of voting for our most talented magician. Although we anticipated a larger contestant pool, the members that stuck it out did not disappoint. Michael "the Hat" van Horn, Deafinitely Magic (Steven Longacre and Greg Koppel, and Dan McKerren lit up the night with their witty, comedic, and of course, magical performances. Members voted on a thoroughly researched method of voting designed by our resident mathematician. And the winner is.....muhahaha. You thought I was going to spill the beans weren't you? Well, I can't, I don't even know the results. The votes are being kept in a locked box guarded by 2 Dobermans. Okay, not really. But we will find out the winners during the next meeting in September. You are going to have to sit at the edge of your seats a little bit longer, my friend. Good luck to all the contestants!



ATTENTION MEMBERS: We call upon your honor. If you attended Nathan Kranzo's lecture awhile back and made a purchase which came to about \$60.00, please check your credit card statement. Mr. Kranzo misplaced the receipt and was not able to make the

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JAY LESLIE PART II

Is Jay Leslie a Magician? This writer says NO!

By Philip Henderson



(continued from August Newsletter...)

I made an appointment to interview Leslie for this story at his place of work. I have visited this workshop many times before. I knew that being in this magical place would inspire Jay to speak freely about his life in magic. Sitting with Jay in his sorcessor's workshop, *The House of Enchantment* in Huntington Beach, we are surrounded with gadgets, gimmicks, and magical props designed and manufactured by the late James Swoger (and some by Jay Leslie). Jay Leslie not only inherited the magical legacy of James Swoger, he now owns the shop established by Swoger more than seventy years ago. Jim, always ready to tell a funny story, named his magic emporium, "*Regows Magic Studio*". Regows is his surname (Swoger) spelled in reverse.

Regows has become *Jay Leslie's House of Enchantment*, known worldwide as a source for magicians when they want quality handcrafted magic equipment. Jay makes props for several famous magicians. Jay Leslie was chosen to make Mark Wilson's 50th anniversary Square Circle Hat, which is sold as a collectable. One of Jay's own inventions, Coin-Through-Coin, has sold more than 8,000 units. Jay Leslie manufactures props out of wood, metal, and plastics. Often he takes an old prop and remanufactures the mechanism to take advantage of modern tool making to improve the magical device for contemporary performers.

Yet, with all this history, this writer insists that Jay Leslie is no magician!

As we delve deeper, we will learn more about the mystery surrounding Jay. Jay Leslie attended the University of Pittsburgh, earning his Bachelor's and Master's in Fine Arts (MFA) degrees in the theater department. He learned how to act, direct, block, stage, and produce live theater. Leslie moved to Virginia, where he worked three years at Busch Gardens. He was the headline magician performing six days a week, six shows daily—that's called earning your chops! Do the math, just at Busch Gardens Jay has more than 5,000 stage performances. Jay also dabbled at several other careers before moving to Southern California in the 1980's, rejoining Jim Swoger who had moved west from Pittsburg, PA. The next twelve years Leslie focused on fund-raising events for schools and performing at trade shows. Leslie produced and toured with three different illusion shows, each show appropriate for different venues. Jay's equipment included a large truck, a large van, and a trailer that held costumes, magical apparatus, public address systems, lighting, curtains, and other equipment required for a touring road show.

Many magicians think of Jay Leslie as an escape artist. Jay has escaped from jail cells, straitjackets, handcuffs, chains, and even from the famous "Houdini Milk Can." Jay began his mastery of escapes with the help of James Swoger. Fewer than twenty men have successfully met the Challenge Jail Escape, made famous by Erich Weiss (aka Houdini). Jay Leslie is only one of about five men still living who succeeded. Swoger pointed the way for Jay to make escapology one of Jay's specialties. In addition to IBM Ring 313, Jay was a member of IBM Ring 13, the TAMPA Ring, in Pittsburgh, PA. At age 14, Jay was the youngest person to join that ring and probably started the admission of younger members worldwide. Jay is a member of the IBM Order of Merlin. Jay is also a member of the Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.), and while not affiliated with a specific SAM Assembly, his membership in SAM has been in effect more than 20-years.

I asked Jay Leslie to name a few of his favorite performers. Jay has many performers he admires, all seemingly for the same reason—they are hard workers who leave nothing to chance in their work. These performers do "theater," they rehearse, they work hard at their art, they keep their props in great condition, they perform with first rate magical assistants, and they honor the craft of magic by thoroughly entertaining their audiences whether small groups or large. Among the names Jay rattled off, I remember these familiar names, not in any order, Harry Blackstone, Jr., Daryl, Jim Swoger, Michael Ammar, David Copperfield, and Martin Nash. Leslie mentioned many other performers; these were among those he praised most highly.

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Newsletter Editor



Questions? Comments? Corrections? Ideas? Magical articles? E-mail the editor at 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.

Tuesday, Sept 28, 2010	7PM	Ring 313 Gen Mtg —LECTURE—Jay Scott Berry, Irvine
Saturday, Oct 9, 2010	2-4pm	Ring 313 Junior's Meeting @ Annie&Kent's house
Tuesday, Oct 12, 2010	7PM	Ring 313 LITE Mtg —Knowlwood's, Irvine
Tuesday, Oct 26, 2010	7PM	Ring 313 Gen Mtg —Bizarre Magic & Jrs Contest, Irvine
Tuesday, Nov 9, 2010	7PM	Ring 313 LITE Mtg —Knowlwood's, Irvine

Prepare for some spooky magic in October! (along with a contest for the Juniors)

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; **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