

Legerdemain Digest

RING 313 - THE JOHN FEDKO RING

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

**December 29**

The December
29, 2009
meeting of

Ring 313 will present an opportunity for every member to demonstrate at least one magical trick or illusion he or she learned because of attending Ring 313 during 2009. We enjoyed many great lecturers this year and learned a lot from each other. The strength of our art is that we do learn from each other. December's meeting is designed to highlight that value we bring to each other. Instead of having a holiday party this year, the Board of Director's is planning a banquet for February or March 2010 to take advantage of the lower prices after the Christmas holidays.

Members should pay their dues for 2010 forthwith. Dues prices are unchanged since 1999. Regular members are \$30, junior members are \$15, Regular members and spouse is \$50, and junior member and parent \$35. Dues notices will be mailed in December 2009 and will be late if paid after January 31, 2010.

RING 313 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2010

The following nominees will be installed at the December meeting: **Kevin Brown-President, Kent Kwan-Vice President, Philip Henderson-Secretary, Gary Meier-Treasurer, Todd Reis & John Fedko-Members-at-Large, Annie Young-Juniors Coordinator & Newsletter Editor, Don Hill-Webmaster, David Peltier-Raffle Coordinator, Catherine Fedko-Librarian, Kevin Brown- Ring Lite Meetings Coordinator, Annie Young-Sgt-at-Arms**

PAST EVENTS

By: Phillip Henderson

More than fifty members and guests of Ring 313 arrived early to get good seats for the evenings guest lecturers, Aldo and Rachel Colombini. The first order of business was the election of officers for 2010. Board member John Fedko had prepared a slate of candidates to be augmented by nominations from the floor. The slate of candidates included: Kevin Brown, president; Kent Kwan, vice-president; Philip Henderson, secretary; Gary Meier, treasurer; Todd Reis and John Fedko, members-at-large; Annie Young, Newsletter Editor/Junior's Program Director/Sergeant-at-Arms; David Peltier, Raffle director; Don Hill, webmaster; and Kevin Brown, Lite-Ring Director. A motion was made to accept the nominations by acclamation. The members voiced a unanimous AYE and the slate of candidates were elected for 2010.

Annie Young announced the results of the Junior's Magician's Contest from the October 2009 meeting. Second place in the contest was won by Ryan Porter and the first place award to Zack White. Congratulations to all the Juniors'.

Kevin Brown introduced the evening's lecturers, the husband and wife team of Aldo and Rachel Colombini. This was the fourth visit as a lecturer at our ring. They showed us tricks with cards, ropes, paper bags, books, and with cups and balls. Each illusion was a little magical miracle and could be learned and mastered by nearly everyone in the room.

Aldo and Rachel's humor permeated their performance. After a while it was clear that you enjoyed the magicians even more than their tricks. He told us that our magic should have passion and joy--- we should show our audience that we love what we are doing as magicians. Our purpose is to entertain the audience. Aldo told us "No one needs magic. Everyone can live without magic. However, if you are a magician, you cannot live without people---so be nice to the people." Colombini's methods may be simple, but that does not mean it is easy to perform---simple can be hard to do.

Aldo and Rachel travel the world performing and teaching magic---the Colombini's are international ambassadors of this wonderful art. If they are coming by your neck of the woods, you will be grateful if the Colombini's can stop to share magic talk with you and your Ring.



Abridged version. Full version in the Linking Ring.

Ring Newsletter Spotlight:

The Deaf Magician

Our spotlight this month is on our deaf magician members, namely Gregory Koppel, Steven Longacre, and Sammy Ruiz, Jr. Greg, Steve and Sammy have been integral members of our Ring for many many years. Their skills as magicians are extraordinary as they bring another perspective to the craft as they concentrate on the visual and building rapport with their audience. My article is a celebration of our deaf members and most of the information I gathered is from a

collection of biographies called, "Silent Magic" by Dr. Simon J. Carmel.

Steve and Greg: These two have been friends for over 30 years, so I cannot talk about one without talking about the other. Their lives crossed many times over the years. Steve pursued the field of deaf education while Greg pursued theater arts and graphic arts. Together they performed in a deaf production of *Godspell*. They went their separate ways but reunited to create a blend of magic, comedy and mime. Together, they created "DEAFinitely Magic!" which is a show we are DEAFinitely familiar with. Steve was born in Alhambra, CA with severe hearing loss and took up magic as a hobby. As an elementary school principal, Steve continues to use his magic as a reward for his students. He is also an instructor at Irvine Valley College. Born deaf in Long Beach, CA, Greg started out as a mime street performer and became a professional actor. When Greg settled down as a graphic artist, his old friend Steve re-introduced him to magic. Thank you, Steve! Steve, "the Magician" and Greg, "the Magician wannabe" are quite the team having won numerous awards over the years at the World Deaf Magicians Festival as well as our very own Ring 313 competitions.

Sammy: Born deaf in El Paso, TX, Sammy studied accounting, but eventually became a teacher and a professional magician. He began his interest in magic at the age of nine watching card magicians perform. Sammy went to the College of Magic and studied under Mark Wilson and became a member of the Magic Castle. He had to hide his magical ways for a few years as some of his relatives feared that he would lure evil spirits. However, Sammy pursued in his studies. Sammy's favorite routines are card routines but his repertoire of talent extend far beyond card tricks. His performances take him all over the states. Believe me when I say that each time I see Sammy, I expect him to tell me that he's jet lag and just returned from a huge performance in an exotic location. The magician that inspired Sammy the most was Larry Jennings. He taught Sammy many card tricks that helped him to feel like a human being. Sammy developed a club for deaf youths called the "Extreme Magician's Club" whose purpose is to foster self-esteem, develop interpersonal and oratory skills, to utilize strong coordination of hands and eyes, to inspire and to encourage a career in magic. Sammy chaired the Festival Organization Committee for the 12th World Deaf Magicians Festival in Riverside in 2008. You are a busy guy, Sammy!!

Junior's Corner

Our very own Junior, Zack White is not only an ambitious magician, he is talented in many other areas. He is performing in several venues in the month of January. Please come out and support him.

Zack is a lead (Mr. Mayor) on Saturday 1-16-09, at 2pm. He also has a co-lead role on 1-9-09, at 7:30pm and 1-14-09, at 7:30pm. The rest of the shows he is in the ensemble (playing a Magician, at one point). Come see Zack sing, dance, and have a good time.

Seussical the Musical is based on the tongue twisting works of Dr. Seuss. The story is mostly a combination of Horton Hears a Who and Horton Hatches the Egg. However there are influences from many other Seuss works including: The Cat in the Hat, McElligot's Pool, I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew, Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?, The Butter Battle Book, Oh, the Places You'll Go!, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

Millikan High School
2800 Snowden Avenue
Long Beach, California 90815



Congratulations to our
Junior Contest Winners for
2009!!

Zack White 1st Place
Ryan Porter 2nd Place

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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, December 29	7 PM	Ring 313 Gen Mtg —Member Participation, Irvine Water District
Saturday, January 9	2 PM	Ring 313 Junior's Mtg —Annie & Kent's in Santa Ana
Tuesday, January 12	7 PM	Ring 313 Lite Gathering at Knowlwood's, Irvine
Tuesday, January 26	7 PM	Ring 313 Gen Mtg —TBD Irvine Water District

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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