

# Legerdemain Digest

RING 313 - THE JOHN FEDKO RING

UPCOMING MEETINGS &amp; EVENTS



## April 28

Our lecturer this month is none other than the versatile Fielding West!! This guy is everywhere and does everything. He is an award-winning comedy magician who is also an actor, game show host, TV personality, motion picture technical director, and writer. This seasoned pro has performed in many venues large

and small. Mr. West has appeared on TV (NBC's World's Greatest magic, Comedy Central, Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, Entertainment Tonight, and the World's Wildest magicians with Penn & Teller. On Stage he has appeared at the Lady Luck Casino, Harvey's and Monte Carlo for numerous stage performances. This is just the tip of the iceberg as the list goes on and on. You will laugh, I guarantee it!



## PAST EVENTS:

*Photos by Jay Leslie*

Our March Meeting brought us back to the basics and reminded each of us the reason why we joined this magic club. For the LOVE of magic, of course!! It was refreshing to end a busy day chatting amongst friends and bewildering our friends with our talents. Eyes twinkled with delight as members shared their magic in their small groups. The best part of the night? For our more reserved members, the evening of performances were pressure free as we exchanged ideas without the stress of a large group showing.

From card tricks to iphone tricks to coin tricks; this night was a blast!!





## Ring 313 Meet Mr. Todd Reis: part I

By Phillip Henderson

Todd Reis (pronounced *Rice*) was born in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. He moved to Southern California in his senior year of high school, and then moved to Arizona and Colorado, before returning to California in 1988. Todd immediately became involved in southern California magic clubs, first joining the Orange County Magic Club. Todd served as President of OCMC in 1992, 1993, and 1998. Todd and Tom Clifford were friends when Tom began to form The John Fedko Ring, IBM Ring 313. Todd was not on the original roster of members

however, he officially joined Ring 313 in the second year. Todd served as President of Ring 313 in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Five years ago, Todd accepted an invitation to join *Los Magicos*. *Los Magicos* is a small band of magicians who meet in Pasadena, California. They invite new members only when there is a vacancy and someone special is available. Todd has attended the Gathering for Gardner<sup>1</sup> (G4G) on two occasions. G4G is an invitation only event bringing together scientists, mathematicians, puzzle designers, magicians, and other special guests. This event honors the work of Martin Gardner. Todd performs mentalism, close up, and stage magic. In 2004, he won first prize in the Ring 313 Stage Magic performance. Todd was selected IBM Ring 313 Magician of the Year in 2006. Todd is also a past winner of the Mentalist contest for SAM Assembly 22.

Todd began learning magic using a children's set (**Sneaky Pete's Magic Show** by Remco) that his parents purchased for him when he was only seven or eight years old. Todd's first magic book was **Magic Tricks** by Guy Fredrick © 1958. In addition to magic, it is not surprising to learn that Todd is a musician. Todd's father was a salesman in a music store in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the 1950-60s. In high school, Todd played trumpet in the marching band, the concert band, and the pep band. Todd also plays guitar and piano. Many excellent musicians also enjoy the practice of magic. How many of you have a musical background?



Todd was the youngest of three siblings. His two older sisters played flute, French horn, piano, and accordion. Todd's childhood was filled with music. Growing up, Todd and his sisters watched the *Liberace* television program not realizing that Liberace was a schoolmate of Todd's mother. As a child, Liberace practiced piano on Todd's grandmothers basement piano. Music and magic were an important part of Todd's upbringing in Wauwatosa. Wauwatosa is located immediately west of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and is a part of the Milwaukee metropolitan area. It is named after the Pottawatomie word for *firefly*.

In 1967, Todd's family moved to the San Fernando Valley. Todd arrived just in time to complete his senior year of high school. Todd graduated from Grant High School and matriculated to Cal State University Northridge. He earned his bachelor's degree in Business from CSUN in 1972. After working in retail sales for several years, Todd returned to school. This time he earned a degree in accounting and computer Information Systems from DeVry University in Arizona in 1985.

<sup>1</sup>Martin Gardner's influence has been so broad that a large percentage of his fans have only infrequent contact with each other. Tom Rodgers conceived the idea of hosting a weekend gathering in honor of Gardner to bring some of these people together. The first "Gathering for Gardner" (G4G1) was held in January 1993. Elwyn Berlekamp helped publicize the idea to mathematicians. Mark Setteducati took the lead in reaching the magicians. Tom Rodgers contacted the puzzle community. Since that time, six more biannual conferences have been held: the most recent was G4G7, in 2006. There has been significant media attention given to the conferences, including several articles in The New York Times, Science News, Seed Magazine, and other publications.



TO BE CONTINUED....

Editor's note: Part II will appear in next month's newsletter.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I heard a quote a while back that for me summed up much of magic. It's not as if I didn't understand magic, I have been doing magic for most of my life. But I never really stopped to dissect why.

Sure, there are the obvious reasons that most of us have; the love of performing and being in the spotlight; the instant camaraderie that we find with our fellow magicians; and the sheer pleasure in exploring the many facets of the art of magic. All of these are great reasons to do what we do.

But this simple quote seemed to me to condense magic into a neat little packet.

*ILLUSION IS WHAT WE DO, MAGIC IS HOW WE FEEL.*

That was it! Magic is what I feel each and every time I perform an illusion. Magic is a feeling. It is not something that I can buy at the magic store or that I can hold in my hands. Magic is a feeling. It's something that each of us has felt and is a gift that each of us as magicians has given. It is a feeling that can and should be shared. There is not enough magic in the world today so take a moment as magicians to spread this "feeling" wherever and whenever you can.

-Kevin

### Answers for last month's crosswords:

#### ACROSS

1. BUCHINGER
3. TUESDAY
4. HOUDINI
5. CLIFFORD
6. MAGICCASTLE
7. MEIER
8. HERMANN
9. MAGUS
10. BLACKSTONE
13. PATTEN
16. SIMSALABIM

#### DOWN

2. CHUNGLINGSOO
3. TWELVEHAVEDIED
11. SIMMONS
12. ZIGZAG
14. CARDINI
15. BROWN
17. FEDKO

## The Magic Castle Junior Audition Experience

### A Conversation with Mike and Zack White

Twice a year, in March and September, the Magic Castle Junior Society (ages 13-20) holds open auditions. Ring 313 Junior Member Zack White, 13, tried out on March 28th, 2009. Zack was number 9 out of a total of 43 applicants. They have two separate auditions, stage magic and close-up magic. Only 3 auditioned for stage magic. One of the stage magicians was quite good doing doves, and a unique twist on the Chinese linking rings.

I have always loved magic and I have gotten many magic tricks before, but what made me really interested in magic was the Juniors Magician's Contest at the OC fair last year, there I was told about IBM and ring 313, and my dad and I became members within a month of the contest.

I wanted to audition for the Magic Castle Junior Program for a few reasons: 1. I wanted to see if I was good enough to get in. 2. I love to watch Magicians perform and if I get in I will be able to go on Sunday Brunch and see performances. But the reason my dad wants me to get in is because he says it will look good on my resume.

I was very nervous, I kept running my act and what I was going to say through my mind. I was surprised to see 43 people there. I did talk to people and meet people there, we showed each other tricks before and after the audition. Before I went on I was shaking, but when I went on I had stopped, I started to talk but afterward my dad said at the beginning I was quiet but as I went on I got louder, loud enough for everyone to hear. As I kept going I got less and less nervous, what's weird was that I was more nervous before my performance than during my performance. I felt relieved that I had not messed up, and I felt confident that I had done a good job.

Zack was very nervous. 95 percent of the tricks were card tricks. Zack was going to do a few card tricks, but went with his ring on a rope trick. It made him stand out above the sea of card tricks. A lot of the card tricks were repeated by different people. You are limited to 5 minutes. If you go over the time limit, you are automatically disqualified. Quite a few seemed to go over the 5 minute mark. They don't stop you, they just scratch you off the list.

I am excited and can't wait for the letter, saying if I got in or not.

They said that most Juniors have to audition 2-3 times before they make it.

Even if you don't make it, it is a great experience. The next time they have an audition, you will be that much closer to getting into the Magic Castle.

If you are interested in magic and want to become a member, don't hesitate you should audition. Do an act you feel comfortable doing, and try to do a trick that is more skill than gimmick, and one more thing, practice practice practice oh and practice, it's the most important thing to do.



# Legerdemain Digest



Questions? Comments? Corrections? Ideas? Magical articles? E-mail the editor at [Ring313.editor@gmail.com](mailto:Ring313.editor@gmail.com)

RAFFLE PRIZE THIS MONTH:  
**INSIGHT WALLET**  
"Just like an Invisible Eye!!"

## 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](http://www.Ring313.org).

Tuesday, April 28	7 PM	Ring 313 <u>Regular Meeting</u> :
Saturday, May 9	2 PM	Ring 313 <b>Juniors Meeting</b> at Annie & Kent's, Santa Ana
Tuesday, May 12	7 PM	Ring 313 <b>Lite Gathering</b> at Knowlwood's, Irvine
Tuesday, May 26	7 PM	Ring 313 <u>Regular Meeting</u>
Saturday, June 13	2 PM	Ring 313 <b>Juniors Meeting</b> at Annie & Kent's, Santa Ana
A warm Saturday in June	TBA	Ring 313 Picnic at Gary's house.

### 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