



MAGI-GRAM



Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 -- The National Capital Ring -- Volume 76 No. 1 January 2022

February Meeting: The Life and Magic of Henry 'Box' Brown

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In honor of Black History Month, Ohio magician Rory Rennick will tell the story of

Henry "Box" Brown at our Feb. 2 meeting and he will demonstrate some magic of the period.

Henry "Box" Brown was a Virginia slave who earned his nickname after he literally mailed himself to freedom inside a wooden box addressed to a Philadelphia abolitionist.

He later became a public speaker, and in 1850 fled to England where he became an illusionist and conjuror. He returned in 1875 with a family and a magic act, which he continued performing in the United States until the late 1880s.



Rory will appear via Zoom to our members gathered at The Lyceum. Here is what Rory says about his Zoom appearance:

My Henry "Box" Brown Zoom presentation has been universally enjoyed, as it gives the viewers a chance to see a portion of a pre-recorded segment with me as Henry interacting with a live lay audience.

My Zoom presentation with your Ring will continue with a provocative Q & A, followed by a video magic tribute. With our lecture we will discuss some of the magic in the presentation. I will conclude with the giving away of valuable gifts—in Henry "Box" Brown fashion. I believe that this will be the most inspiring lecture your Ring will experience for a while. I want them to realize that wherever

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No Regular March 2 Meeting

Day-Long I.B.M. Jam March 19

I.B.M. International President Ken Scott will headline an all-day Magic Jam sponsored by Ring 50 and the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

The Jam will feature lectures, dealers and a

show from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., March 19 at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA.

Because space is limited, prior registration is mandatory, so don't delay. Register at www.ibmring50.org.

Admission is \$10 for all participants, but that \$10 can be used as a voucher for purchases



I.B.M. International President Ken Scott

from the dealers.

In addition to Ken Scott, the featured magicians will be former I.B.M. international president Oscar Munoz, Chad Long, Brent Braun and the husband and wife team of Keith Fields and Lady Sarah.

This is a great opportunity to let your friends know about Ring 50, so members are encouraged to invite attendees who might be interested in becoming Ring 50 members.

Masks and proof of covid-19 vaccinations will be required.



Joshua Jay Lecture Feb. 12 at The Lyceum

Joshua Jay, who did a virtual lecture for Ring 50 in July, will discuss his book "How Magicians Think" at a special Ring 50 lecture on **Saturday, Feb. 12 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.** at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The lecture will be free for Ring 50 members; \$20 for guests. Proof of vaccination and masks will be required.

Are You About to Lose Your Ring 50 Membership?



Will this be your next-to-last Magi-Gram?

Only Ring 50 members in good standing—meaning their 2022 dues are paid—will continue to receive the monthly Magi-Gram starting in March.

Only Ring 50 members in good standing will be allowed to continue to post or make comments on the Ring 50 Facebook page.

Only Ring 50 members in good standing will be included in the Area Magicians for Hire section of

the Ring 50 website.

Only Ring 50 members in good standing will receive free admission when lectures are given at the regular monthly meetings.

Don't miss out on all the benefits of continuing to be a Ring 50 member in good standing.

Persons who have not paid their \$20 dues by Feb. 28 will be cut off from the benefits of Ring 50 membership until their dues are current.

To pay your 2022 Ring 50 dues, send a check for \$20 to:

Bob Patterson
IBM Ring 50 Treasurer
3450 Wainscott Place
Lake Ridge, VA 22192-5263

You may also pay your dues through PayPal "**as a friend**" by going to paypal.me/IBMRing50. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and I.B.M. number in the notes.

Remember, you must also keep your I.B.M. membership current to be a Ring 50 member.

Dan Lacey Memorial Contest Set For April Meeting

Dan Lacey was the Ring 50 president in 1999 and 2000. His second year as president was cut short by his tragic death from cancer.

Dan was a wonderful magician, but was also a mentor to many people just starting in magic.

After his death, the Ring 50 Board unanimously decided to establish a contest in 2003 for the Dan Lacey Memorial Trophy in his honor. A few years later, a Ring 50 president, in a burst of enthusiasm, dubbed the winner the “D.C. Magician of the Year.” But since the contest is not open to all magicians in the Washington area, the winner might be more accurately dubbed “The Ring 50 Magician of the Year.”

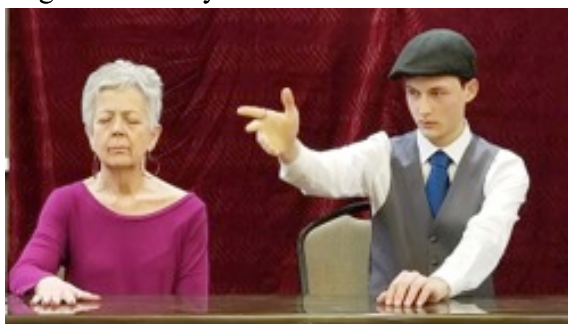
The contest was suspended last year because of covid, but is scheduled to resume this year at the April meeting.

Although the specific rules and judging criteria have not yet been set for the 2022 contest, winning routines have historically been those that were original performances with a high level of technical ability.

It's not too soon to start thinking of what you might do to win the coveted Dan Lacey Memorial Trophy next April and earn the prestigious title “Ring 50 Magician of the year.”



Dan Lacey



Christophe Jelinski, seen here with Dan Lacey's sister Cecelia Ritchie in 2018, won the Dan Lacey Memorial Trophy in 2018 and again in 2019, the most recent year the contest was held.

Ran'D to Lecture at May Meeting on Becoming a Better Entertainer

Randy Shine, who goes by the stage name Ran'D and is one of the hottest magicians today on the college performance scene, will be our lecturer for the May 4 meeting.

Ran'D's lecture will focus on **Practical Theory / Practical Magic: Steps to becoming a Better Entertainer**. According to Ran'D, “there is a difference between being a magician and being a magic entertainer. Becoming a magic entertainer is not solely about how skillful you are or the difficulty of tricks.”



In thi methods and techniques he has

used to entertain thousands of audiences across the country, get on national television and win College Magician of the Year twice.

“Here's the best part,” Ran'D said in an email, “it doesn't make a difference if you are full time, part time, or a hobbyist, you will get some valuable information from this lecture that you can immediately apply.”

Among the topics Ran'D will cover are: how to engage from the stage; the value of being authentic, Digital Divide (his newest and effective marketing secret); 4 Finger Opener: A quick and easy opening effect; and AKAN Divination. A simple card divination using, the double-blind principle.

Ran'D performed at President Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration banquet and did 20 performances at The South African National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa.

Ran'D prides himself on being an historian and “educator of magic.” He has lectured on campuses throughout the Unites States as well as military bases in Japan, Guam, and Korea.

He has also performed at Hollywood's Magic Castle as well as Monday Night Magic, New York's longest running Off-Broadway magic show. He was also a contestant on Penn and Teller's “Fool Us.”

Teach-in Rings In New Year for Ring 50

By Jason Goldberg

If omicron wasn't enough, it was the foot of snow that encouraged Ring 50 to host a virtual session for our first meeting of 2022. At least we didn't have to wait with the rest of traffic on I-95 to join our friends.

President **Danny Selnick** kicked off the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year, and a friendly reminder to pay 2022 membership dues. We recognized new member **Drew Kennerley** (who performs as Drew Blue Shoes)



Drew Kennerley

from the Northern Virginia area. He's a full-time performer with a focus on kid performances.

We also welcomed **John Swomley**, who joined as a guest. John has been performing since 1982 and is the current president of the King Magic Ring in Hagerstown.

Tonight was a teach-in by four of our members.

Mike Hummer

Mike is a long-time magic dealer who learned the business working for 11 years at Al's Magic Shop. He shared a few routines using a Switch Wallet, starting with Hummer's Monte, a version of 3-Card Monte. The black six inexplicably disappeared and changed places with another card



Mike Hummer demonstrates switch wallet in composite photo.

in the wallet despite the spectator's best attempts to follow along.

Mike offered some tips on how to handle the wallet to make it appear less suspicious or noticeable, except for the brief moments when he wants to call attention to what is (or isn't) in it. The sleight of hand is not complicated and uses nothing more than a double lift and glide, and the switch wallet allows for a great kicker ending.

Mike then shared a routine he developed and sold while he was working for Al, the Hummer Stunner. A spectator selected a card from a deck as Mike shuffled it. The deck was spread and the selected card (Queen of Hearts)...was not the one that had turned faceup. Searching through the deck, the Queen was found to be missing.

Checking the wallet, the Queen turned up! Again, it's an easy routine to do. The Z wallets

are available on Mike's website (MikeHummerMagic.com) for \$35 for participants at tonight's lecture or you can contact Mike at MikeHummerMagic@gmail.com.

Mike noted that the Himber Wallet is different in that it has some straps that can help keep the wallet from opening the wrong way, but Mike noted that the Z-Wallet looks a little more normal.

Dwight Redman

Dwight, a master of card magic and long-time leader of Ring 50, shared several impromptu card tricks. In the first trick, credited to Jim Steinmeyer (and possibly also Martin Gardner), the deck was spread. Bob Greenwald selected a



Dwight Redman teaches a pair of self-working card tricks.

card and it was replaced in the deck. Dwight shuffled the deck. Dwight then invoked the character Betelgeuse and noted that Bob's name should be spelled three times. Doing so, Dwight arrived at the selected card! The effect is virtually self-working, as long as the name is between nine and 18 letters long: Simply put the card on the bottom of an 18-card pile. Count three times, put the remaining cards on top each time, and the selected card will

Continued next page

Ring 50 Pros Share

automatically rise to the top by the third count!

Dwight then taught another routine. The spectator was asked to remember the location (number) of where their selected card appeared in the deck. Dealing the cards out again, Dwight flipped one card out without looking at it as the spectator looked through the deck. That card was the selection! Again, it isn't a difficult trick to do.

Brian Curry

Brian, the star of *The Good Liar* currently running at the Capital Hilton, taught a mentalism routine using business cards, The Boudoir Card Mystery. He shared a hilarious video performing it for his two kids. (I'm leaving out his 2-year-old's son's hilarious unintentional heckling.) Brian



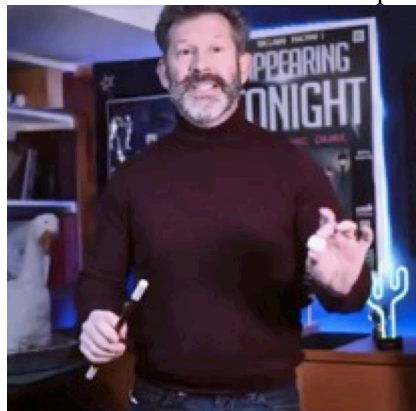
Brian gets help demonstrating the peek from Meadow, 6, and Liam, 2.

noted that as a close-up performer doing walk-around, you should always be doing something with your audience rather than be seen shuffling cards in a corner. Therefore, it's good to have some things to schmooze about, such as travel. Talking about something can lead to the performance and allows you to turn conversational threads into real moments your

audience will remember. The trick itself is also exceptionally easy and doesn't involve any complicated sleight of hand, plus the peek is less of a peek and more of a glaring in-your-face stare.

Mark Phillips

Mark, half of the long-running show *The Magic Duel*, shared a vanish and Vernon Wand Spin.



Mark demonstrates the phrase "now you see it; now you don't."

Starting with the simple version, a ball in his hand simply vanished when Mark poked his wand through his hand. The effect is one that could be used in conjunction with Cups and Balls. He then showed the Wand Spin invented by Silent Mora, which Vernon enhanced by adding a wand flourish. The technique makes it appear as if the hand that takes the ball is too far away to do so. Mark highlighted how even small changes in how the hand originally holding the ball turns toward the audience can make a big difference in how the audience perceives the trick. The method looks amazing, but it will take some significant practice to get a feel for the method, to the point that you can literally do it with your eyes closed.

**Be Sure to
Keep Your
I.B.M. Member-
ship Current**



Bob Patterson of the I.B.M. Membership Committee reminds us that you must be an active member of I.B.M. to belong to Ring 50.

If you haven't already, don't forget to keep your membership active in the International Brotherhood of Magicians to enjoy the benefits of membership. Send dues to: International Brotherhood of Magicians, 13 Point West Blvd, St. Charles, Missouri, USA 63301.



Mark Your Calendar!

February 2

Henry 'Box' Brown

March 2

NO MEETING

March 19

I.B.M. Magic Jam

April 6

Dan Lacey Contest

May 4

Randy Shine Lecture

June 1

Member Favorites

President's Message

President Danny Selnick



State of Ring is Strong, But Dues Reflect Commitment

Happy New Year everyone!

As a magician who loves mentalism, I'd like to make a prediction -- that 2022 will be a year full of great magic and friendship. The years 2020 and 2021 were full of challenge in so many ways because of the pandemic, but thanks to Ring 50 past president Craig Fifer, we were able to put on so many amazing meetings and lectures, albeit, most of them virtually. And now, we've begun (up until this past meeting) to meet at our new home at the spacious and very comfortable Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria.

None of this could have taken place without the good fortune of having a strong magic club. As you may know, Ring 50 is one of the largest magic clubs anywhere -- in terms of membership and finances. In fact, we're the world's largest local

chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians! We continue to attract new members because of the kinds of high-quality programs we put on every month, and because we're a special group of kindred spirits who dearly love the magical arts. That being said, I want to give everyone an update on the State of Ring 50.

Ring 50 has now grown to some 125 members and our treasury has nearly \$35,000, but remember it costs a good amount of money to run a club as large as ours. Our monthly meeting space costs \$4,200 annually, and lecture fees cost at least another \$2,000. Other costs are minimal, but add up fast (PayPal fees, postage, website, advertising, etc.) -- but get this, membership dues only account for some \$2,400. We also need to fund our youth magic group, The Capital Conjurers -- because we want our next generation of magicians to grow in numbers as well.

If it weren't for the good fortune and hard work and participation of Ring 50 members, and careful fiscal management of the club's finances by the Ring's volunteer board of directors, we'd have run out of money a long time ago.

So how did our treasury grow to be as large as it is? Most Magi-Whirl conventions were profitable and last year we were blessed with a very generous (and anonymous) donation of \$5,000. The largest contribution to our treasury came from the sale of magic items given to the Ring from members (and even one non-member) -- to the tune of some \$15,000 over the past few years.

I believe strongly that the \$20 annual cost of belonging to Ring 50 is important to maintain because the cost of membership has value and symbolizes commitment.

We can certainly do a lot with our treasury and Ring 50's board of directors will be looking at ways to use our money wisely, but always carefully. If you have suggestions for meaningful ways to use a portion of our treasury -- either one time or on an ongoing basis -- please share your ideas with me or any other board member. The end goal is to remain financially strong, while continuing to put on the very best magic lectures, meetings and special events.

Danny



Alec Negri—*Sly's Magic*

Jan. 14 and Feb. 11 at the StageCoach Theater,
20937 Ashburn Road, Suites 115 and 120, Ashburn, VA
<https://stagecoachtc.com/slys-magic/>

Mark Phillips – *The Magic Duel*

Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. at Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St.,
Arlington, VA.
Jan. 22 and Feb. 19, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The
Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Conn. Ave., Washington, D.C.
<https://www.themagicduel.com>

Brian Curry – *The Good Liar*

Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 19, 26
All shows at 8 p.m. at The Capital Hilton, 1001 16th
St. N.W. Washington, D.C.
<https://www.agoodliar.com/>

Adam Stone – *Transform Reality*

Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. 105 W. Fayette St. Baltimore, MD.
<https://adamstonemagic.com/live/>

February: The Life and Magic of Henry 'Box' Brown

Continued from page 1

*they are in their magic interest-
they can overcome more than
they could imagine!*

Rory, a.k.a. "The Magistic" is a popular comedy and motivational magician who performs for corporate clients, school shows and magic groups.

His style of performing has been described as "Eddie Murphy meets David Blaine, with a little Mind Freak to boot. From the silly to the sophisticated, Rory weaves sleight-of-hand with sleight-of-mind magic laced with interactive comedy."

For nearly 20 years Rory has performed professionally as a magician following a 15-year career in the mental health field. The first 10 years of his

magic career were spent honing his craft as a comedy magician in almost every imaginable venue and



audience. He was the first magician to regularly host his own family shows at the national Funnybone Comedy Club and Restaurant chain.

For the next decade Rory combined his acting, motivational speaking, and prestidigitation skills to bring the incredible story of the slave-turned-magic entertainer Henry "Box" Brown to life for tens of thousands. In 2013 Rory wrote and was featured in the full-length stage play "Delivery, The Henry Box Brown Show." Rory is author of the highly acclaimed book Henry "Box" Brown's Legacy and My Life With Him." The commemorative book has received glowing reviews in Genii and MUM magazines.

Rory was a consultant and

voiceover artist featured on the award-winning documentary: *Quiet Masters – The History and Relevance of the Black Magical Artist*, where Henry's story was

prominently featured. He is a founding member and the historian of the International Association of Black Magical Artists and is considered one of the foremost

authorities on the history of African American magicians.

Rory has also performed and lectured as an arts educator with the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education and We've Known Rivers. He is also a member of the Ohio Storytellers Network and the Ohio Local History Alliance.

Among Rory's other varied interests are collecting, as well as speaking and writing about the world's largest niche assemblage of African diaspora/ black imaged playing cards, which he owns. Some of his articles about his card research can be found in Card Culture and Vanish Magazine.

Be sure not to miss this unusual and informative Zoom meeting.



Joe Mielnicki	Jan. 11
Tom Bohacek	Jan. 18
Jim Flanigan	Jan. 20
Augie Arnstein	Jan. 30
Tommy Halladay	Feb. 7
John Cloninger	Feb. 9



Capital Conjurors Conquer Levitation

Sure, Dirk Losander can make a table float, and Harry Blackstone Jr. can make a light bulb float. But can you make a playing card float or rise from a deck? Members of the Capital Conjurors learned how to do that three different ways at the January Capital Conjurors meeting on Zoom.

Youth Activities Director Drew Owen taught the Conjurors how to make a selected card rise from a deck, hover over their palm and seemingly float between the fingertips of both hands. He also taught the Conjurors how to balance a dollar bill on one finger and how to make a plastic cup float between two hands.

Drew began the meeting by noting that making objects float is one of the strongest effects a magician can do, and said the January meeting would be devoted to different levitation effects.

First was a series of floating card tricks.

Using an unprepared deck, Drew had a Conjuror select a card as he dribbled the cards from one hand to another. He showed

the selected card and then did a series of cuts to seemingly lose the card in the deck.



Then, holding the deck in one hand, he pointed to a spot just above the deck and the selected card rose from the deck.

Before showing how to make the card rise, Drew showed how the magician could control the placement of the selected card. He explained the concept

of the "key card" and showed how he was able to move it to the top of the deck.

Then he demonstrated the "move" in which the selected card seemingly rises by itself out of the deck toward the finger pointing above the deck.

After Drew demonstrated the technique, the Conjurors practiced it and showed how they were able to make a card rise. Drew also offered a tip as to how to make the card appear to rise from the middle of the deck, when it was actually rising from the back of the deck when held vertically.

Continued next page

Conjurors Conquer Levitation Techniques

Next, Drew took the selected card and placed it in his cupped hands. Slowly, the card began to hover about an inch off of his hands. Again, Drew revealed the workings of this seeming miracle of levitation and the Conjurors practiced it and showed how they were able to master the technique.

Then Drew took the card and held it at the fingertips of his hands. Slowly, he let go and the card seemed to float between his hands.

After the Conjurors tried their hands at the effect, Drew showed a video of Losander (who has performed at Magi-Whirl and gave a Zoom lecture for Ring 50 in April 2020) performing his classic floating table effect.



Moving from Losander floating a table to a more achievable effect for the Conjurors, Drew floated a \$10 bill on one finger, balancing it at the end of the bill.



One of the Conjurors correctly identified the technique for this illusion and all of

the Conjurors then tried it.

Giving the Conjurors another look at a classic levitation effect, Drew then showed a brief video of Harry Blackstone Jr., floating a lit light bulb. At one point, the bulb floated out into the audience.

Blackstone then used a linking ring to give the illusion that there were no strings or wires holding the bulb in the air.



Moving from a floating bulb

to a more achievable effect for the Conjurors, Drew then showed a plastic red cup and seemingly floated it between his hands. After demonstrating the technique, members of the Capital Conjurors showed their proficiency at the illusion.

The Capital Conjurors is the official youth group of I.B.M. Ring 50 and is open to youngsters—suggested ages 8 to 15—interested in magic. There is no cost to belong. The Capital Conjurors meet at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month. The location of their meetings follows the same location and guidelines as the Ring 50 meeting for that month. Most meetings will be held at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA. For more information about the Capital Conjurors, contact Drew at youth@ibmring50.org.

Who's Who in Ring 50

Meet Sunnier Sun and Vicky Chang Ring 50's Newest Magic Couple

Sunnier Sun and Vicky Chang are not the first husband and wife duo to join Ring 50, but they are the most recent.

Sunnier, 28, has been interested in magic since childhood. He started doing street magic in Taiwan in his late 20s. Street performers in Taiwan must show their proficiency in order to get a city license. Sunnier obtained eight different licenses allowing him to perform on the street and at various festivals.

He also taught magic for more than 12 years in Taiwan to school magic clubs and at summer camps. In addition, Sunnier performed at restaurants, weddings, banquets, birthday parties and other celebrations doing both close-up and large stage illusion magic.

Vicky worked for the semiconductor company Micron in Taiwan and has worked for the same company in the United States since 2019. When she was 10 years old, she used her savings to attend a magic show in Taiwan featuring David Copperfield.

"It gave me a big, big shock, so I became his fan," she recalled. "I enjoy magic tricks and expect miracle things to happen. The feeling of watching a magic show is surprise and amazement. It's awesome."

Sunnier graduated from Shih Chien University in Taiwan, with a major in interior design.

Sunnier and Vicky met in Shang-hai in 2016

when they attended a public speaking class. By 2018, they were in frequent communication about how to increase Sunnier's magic classes business.

After moving to Virginia in 2019, they got married and honeymooned at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles.

"It was a wonderful night with all the magicians together," Vicky recalled. "Food, drink and magic happened around us inside castle."

After moving to the U.S., Vicky earned a master's degree in information systems from Lawrence Technological University in Michigan.

While he was living in Taiwan 15 years ago, Sunnier began selling magic as well as performing and teaching magic at schools. In the United States, he is a full-time professional magician and operates an

internet-based magic dealership selling props and tricks.

His company is called Sun Magic Studio and is available through Facebook, only, at Sunnier also has a collection of large stage illusions which he sells and rents to magicians.

Vicky, who said she is "willing to be deceived by magicians without any complaint," began helping Sunnier perform as his assistant about three years ago. In addition to her semiconductor job, she also helps with Sunnier's business and as his assistant for large stage illusions.

Vicky is learning to do close-up magic, particularly cards. She enjoys watching different



Sunnier and Vicky: Ring 50's Newest Magic Couple

magicians. "Each magician is stylish. Very interesting."

Sunnier's primary interest in magic now is in "modifying classic magic routines to add some of my ideas and new elements to perform in different way." For example, he performs the traditional three linking rings with a



unique twist. Instead of the usual silver rings, each of his three rings is a different color and Sunnier performs with soft music and body movements similar to Tai-Chi, which he learned in Taiwan several years ago.



Vicky studied a form of martial arts for eight years called Wing Chun, and she has also learned Krav Maga, a self-defense system developed for the Israel

Defense Forces which uses a combination of techniques from boxing, wrestling, aikido, judo and karate.

Vicky also did extensive charity work in Taiwan and in Virginia she has been a volunteer with NVFS'

SERVE Campus, which stands for Northern Virginia Family Services.

Vicky views magic as an art form with special props, procedures, routines, clothes, and scripts. "All the magic is a like a small Broadway show. All the actors, magicians, and assistants are great artists who can make miracles happen. That is what I am interested in watching and what has touched me the most."

In addition to performing magic, Sunnier is also a hypnotist and enjoys puzzles and exploring gambling probabilities. He also likes to draw comics, which he learned to do in Taiwan, where he won numerous drawing certificates.

Among Sunnier's favorite magic tricks is Currency, by Fred Kaps, "because he improved Edward Victor's 11 Card Trick" with dollar bills. He lists Derren Brown as his favorite mentalist and Jeff McBride as his favorite stage illusionist.

Vicky's favorite tricks involve mentalism and her favorite magician is still David Copperfield.

Ring 50 Year-End Financial Report for 2021

Income

Members Dues	2,355.00
Magic Sales	3,505.05
50/50 Drawing/Raffles	49.00
Returns	257.00
Donations	5,027.00
Ring 50 Pins	10.00
Venue Refunds / EventBrite	340.00
TOTALS	11,543.05

Expenses

Postage, Printing, Stamps	122.65
Shipping Fees	72.48
Gift Certificates	100.00
Educational Classes	196.75
Lecturer Fee/Dinner/Hotel	2,150.00
PayPal Fees	37.78
Venue Rental	1,200.00
TOTALS	3,879.66

Total Financial Position

\$34,835.59

Ad for Mr. Young's Performance, March 26, 1841 at the Washington Museum

From the Washington *Daily Globe*, March 25,
1841

WASHINGTON MUSEUM, corner of 4th
and D street.—“An evening's brush to
sweep away care.”

Friday evening, March 26, Mr. YOUNG, the
great Eastern MAGICIAN, and CHINESE BAL-
ANCER. Feats of dexterity, magic tricks, &c.

PART FIRST.

CHINESE AND INDIAN BALANCING,
After the manner of the Chinese and other Malabar
Indians, with Swords, Pipes, Plates, Feathers,
Serpents, Wine Glasses, Decanters, &c.

PART SECOND.

Mr. YOUNG will open his TEMPLE OF ILLU-
SIONS, with Cards, Money, Eggs, Balls, Birds,
Rabbits, Watches, Hats, Boxes, Canes, &c. with
Magical Illusions, Mechanical Feats, Metamor-
phoses and Deceptive tricks. Among which,
particularly wonderful and amusing, are the fol-
lowing, viz:

Invisible Glove, or Enchanted Fruit, Enchanted
Cups and Seeds, The Potato Sub-Treasury, Spa-
nish Pin, or Passing Ball, Bottle and Handkerchief,
Cookery for the Ladies, Magic Egg and Cards,
Sacred Fire, Egyptian Pyramid, Magic Bells, Coff-
in of Mahomet and Mysterious Rabbit, Miracu-
lous Globe or Flying Handkerchief, Obedient
Cards or Card Rack, Enchanted Timepiece, or
Wizard in his gown, Mysterious Bottle, or Ribbon
Factory, Destructive Handkerchief, Flying Watch,
Secreted Wizard, Magic Bottles, Hidden Treasures,
The Mysterious Apple Box, the Magic Stew
Pans, and the Productive Hat, or, cheap way of
Furnishing a Boarding House, by Mr. YOUNG;
who performs many new and surprising feats, pec-
uliar to himself, in so adroit a manner that it ap-
pears almost incredible that they could be accom-
plished without the agency of the Arch One—in-
deed, many superstitious persons, who have wit-
nessed his performances, do in reality believe that
he has entered into a league with the unmentiona-
ble gentleman of the clump foot.

Admittance to the Museum and Hall only
25 cents.

Doors open at half-past 7, performance to com-
mence at 8 o'clock. **March 25**

Magic at the Lyceum—1841

New Ring 50 member
Jim Holloway, director
of the Alexandria
History Museum at The
Lyceum, provided us
with this list of magic
tricks performed at The
Lyceum in 1841 by Mr.
Young, billed as “the



great Eastern MAGICIAN, and CHINESE
BALANCER” according to the ad published in the
Washington Daily Globe on March 25, 1841.

Anyone interested in recreating any of these
tricks for a future Ring 50 meeting?

List of Mr. Young's Tricks:

- 1) Invisible Glove, or Enchanted Fruit
- 2) Enchanted Cups and Seeds
- 3) The Potato Sub-Treasury
- 4) Spanish Pin, or Passing Ball
- 5) Bottle and Handkerchief
- 6) Cookery for the Ladies
- 7) Magic Egg and Cards
- 8) Sacred Fire
- 9) Egyptian Pyramid
- 10) Magic Bells
- 11) Coffin of Mahomet and Mysterious Rabbit
- 12) Miraculous Globe or Flying Handkerchief
- 13) Obedient Cards or Card Rack
- 14) Enchanted Timepiece or Wizard in his Gown
- 15) Mysterious Bottle or Ribbon Factory
- 16) Destructive Handkerchief
- 17) Flying Watch
- 18) Secreted Wizard
- 19) Magic Bottles
- 20) Hidden Treasures
- 21) The Mysterious Apple Box
- 22) The Magic Stew Pans
- 23) The Productive Hat, or, Cheap Way of Furnishing
a Boarding House

Social Magic: It's About Them

METAMAGIC
Looking Behind Concepts
By Chris McCauley Bowers



I don't want to speak in a derogatory way about anyone, least of all magicians. However, it is true that magic often attracts people seeking to use magic to elevate their social status. And it's also true that magic attracts people who may have had lower social skills than the average person.

I include myself in that, and I include myself with full knowledge of what that means. I have had bad social skills, and yes, dreamt of magic elevating me to a higher social level. I was bullied in gym class, as many of us were.

My wife is a social worker. And boy have I learned a lot from her. Before we got together, I wasn't mean or rude with my magic, but I just didn't *get it* about how to use magic properly in a social



situation. I would run up to people fanning cards and command that they watch me. Grab their hands unbidden and force sponge balls into them. Yes, that can be fun, *but it's poor social skills*. A magician can be a real boorish jerk, *without even meaning to be*. Think about it. Why do you have the right to command all the attention and have the spotlight on you? Because you can do a riffle force?

I was recently hired to do a corporate event for a stock firm. These engagements are, unfortunately, not well attended sometimes. There were only 20 people and I had to do two hours of walk around. Did I do two hours of magic? Of course not! I asked them about *them*. I participated in the raffle, the dance party, and voted in the costume contest. I asked a financial planner in earnest, about how to plan my finances. One guy had a kid who worked at one of the schools where I do programs. I talked to the manager about how to manage staffing. I told tasteful jokes and stories. I played some shuffleboard with them.

I also did magic of course. But the point is that

this was a *social* engagement. Not an opportunity for me to do a six phase Ace Assembly routine, and not an opportunity to simply put the spotlight on myself. This was *their* party.

At a certain point I did an equivoque trick via zoom for remote groups. They loved it. At the end of the party I did a final trick for the whole group: Deck in Balloon. I did my strongest, absolute strongest magic. I likely did six tricks (which I repeated for groups of two and three) the entire party. The whole party I likely did 35 minutes of magic.

I didn't interrupt very active conversations. I didn't try to shoehorn myself in anywhere. I became a participant in the party, rather than some rose seller or clown trying to get attention with an annoying horn.

I remember doing walk around gigs in my 20s and I was an absolute madman. I tried to fill every single moment with magic doing four and five tricks for each group until I finally let them go. I made it all about me. And that's poor social skills. It's not about YOU it's about THEM. It's about their experience and you are a *part* of that. The tricks happen in their hands. It's their ideas. It's their job, their party, and you make it about them.

I once was at a lecture with the great Doc Eason. Talk about a charismatic individual with great social skills. I wrote this down when he said it: "If you're looking for that new trick, that new thing that's going to make you a great magician, you're never going to find it. The real magic is in your heart and it's between two people having an experience. It's *you* and it's *them*."

We all want to be David Copperfield or David Blaine. We think we know enough magic to be just like them. Well, we do know *enough magic*. What we often lack, however, is the magic of excellent social skills.



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