



Words from the Secretary

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The newsletter needs you. I need articles and news events written by you. You do not have to be a member of the club to send articles to be published. Send me emails(accolombel@zipcon.com) on what you would like to see in the newsletter and what you like or don't about the newsletter. Come to meetings and support your club.

No Meeting this month because of Covid-19, We will hold a online meeting using Zoom

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Ring of Smoke Report

The Ring of Smoke typically meets on the first Sunday of the Month at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett at 2pm. Recently, attendance has been dropping, so we encourage everyone to get the word out about the Ring of Smoke so that the ROS can remain viable and vibrant for young magicians."

THOUGHTS BY PAYNE

The creative process is an elusive thing. So, when my fellow magi ask me where I come up with the ideas for the routines, they have seen me perform. I find it a difficult question to answer. For me coming up with stuff like that is just part of who I am. It's second nature. It would be as hard for me to describe how I go about getting my ideas as it would be for you to tell someone exactly why blue is your favorite color.

While I do have a process of sorts for developing routines, it defies explanation. Well at least any sort of explanation my meager writing skills could provide. For me, it's far too ingrained and organic to be easily related in either an oral or written form. Even if my literary skills were advanced enough to render a comprehensible description of my creative process the seven or eight hundred words, I am allotted here in this magazine are far too few to do it any justice.

So, if you're looking here for in depth view into my psyche in hopes of discovering the secret steps to becoming a more creative you. I'm afraid you're going to be disappointed. You'll just have to wait until my new book "An in depth look into my psyche: The secret steps for becoming a more creative you" is released. Fortunately for the magic community and humanity at large there are no plans whatsoever to ever release a book of that nature on the unsuspecting public.

But it really doesn't matter as I simply don't believe creativity can be taught -- Especially here in this article as I've already used up a good third of the words that I've been allotted. Fortunately for those few of you who are still reading this meandering editorial in hopes of gleaning a few sage words of advice while I maintain one cannot teach someone to be more creative one can learn how to do so. But it has to be done through experience. You need to find your own process, that series of steps that works for you. And the best advice I can give you on how one might go about developing these processes is to build things.

Recent studies have discovered a possible correlation between construction and creativity. The act of using ones hands to build things actually stimulates portions of the brain in ways that no other activity seems to do. One study revealed that engineers who built things in their formative years had a better understanding of their discipline. Another completely unrelated study showed that engineers made better CEO's than those with MBA's. Mostly because the engineers were more flexible in their outlook and had far better problem-solving skills.

In the end that's really all that creativity is. A problem-solving skill. And little else will help to teach you how to solve a problem than trying to build a magic prop. Especially if you try to build them the way I do. Without completely drawn out and drafted plans.

I'm constantly amazed by how many magicians these days can't even nail two boards together. It wasn't all that long ago that your average guy had a shop in his basement or garage and would spend the weekends happily building or repairing things. Magic books used to be filled with descriptions of props and utility devices that could be cobbled together by your average magus. Heck, long before the Masked Magician appeared on TV "Popular Mechanics" came out with two volumes of their magazine devoted to magic. Each one filled with plans for various props to build.

But it seems today we have become a society of consumers, not creators. It's easier for us to simply go out and buy what we need than it is for us to try and build it. By doing this though we ultimately suppress our creativity and innovation. We needlessly limit ourselves by relying on what is available instead of what we really need.

A few weeks ago, I read on one of the popular magic message boards about someone who needed a prop in a certain color combination for a routine he was working on. Not only was the prop in question no longer available it was never constructed in the color combination he desired. So, in the end he had to abandon what might have been a unique and innovative routine because he couldn't locate the right prop. I was somewhat dismayed as the prop in question could have easily been made up out of cardboard and contact paper. But the magician in question couldn't be bothered to sit down and learn how to make the thing. Even though by doing so would have provided him with the proper prop in the right color combination.

When I query other magicians as to why they don't learn to construct some of their own props I get very curious answers like "I don't know how". This is a strange response since, when they first started out in magic, they didn't know how to do that either. But they managed to learn.

"It's too hard" is another favorite of mine. Especially when the guy telling me it's beyond his capabilities can do card manipulations that would make the Buck Twins look like piker's.

"The tools are too expensive" says the guy who thinks nothing of dropping \$400.00 on a custom gaffed coin set.

So really, none of you have any excuse. You want to be more creative? Learn to think on your feet and solve all sorts of problems? Go out and buy a saw, a drill and if you're feeling especially adventurous a router. Pull that copy of Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic off your bookshelf and go into your garage and build yourself a Alakazam Hat. The plans are in the book and you'll be a better person for building one of your very own.

March's Meeting Report

No meeting in March because of the Covid-19 closings. The meeting in April 9th will be online using Zoom.

Even though we will not be meeting in person this month (probably for the next several months), Santiago, our vice president, has made it possible for us to try to hold a virtual meeting on Zoom in April. Details below...

You do not have to be a member to join the meeting. Open to all (just understand that this is our first attempt, with the expectation that we will get better at this over the time).

I hope that you will be able to join us.

If you have a web cam you may actually be able to perform! 😊

See you (maybe) on Thursday at 7:00 PM.

MANY THANKS TO SANTIAGO, FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!!

Best regards (and wash your hands!!),

Evan

Instructions

Here is the meeting info:

NW Ring Fire LIVE

<https://zoom.us/j/4256282844?pwd=bnpOQWtsZXZFWmJBZE1Uc2NTR29mUT09>

Meeting ID: 425 628 2844

Password: 4256282844

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,4256282844# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,4256282844# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 425 628 2844

Password: 4256282844

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adpPHIREFW>

Remember, to visit the club's website, <http://www.nwringoffire.com> and visit the clubs Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Northwest-Ring-of-Fire-429616737105973/posts/?ref=page_internal

Magic Shops in the Area

Below is a list of the Magic shops in the Area. None have paid for this listing and if anybody knows of others let me know and I will list them.

Seattle's Market Magic Shop

Pikes Place Market
1501 Pike Place #427
Seattle, WA 98101

www.marketmagicshop.com

(A store that many know about. In existence for 30 years)

Lakewood Costumes

5932 Lake Grove ST SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

<http://www.clownshop.com>

(Mainly Costumes and Clown items, they have a counter where they sell magic)

Brian Cook's

WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM

FunkyFun Magic Shop- Is Now

Twisted Monkey-Magic Shop

1101 Outlet collection Way

#1261

Auburn WA 98001

206-859-8363

Magical happenings

Magic Monday! Magic Monday is an hour of magic, conjuring, & prestidigitation which stars magicians from the Northwest region on the second Monday of each month. Location: Ravenna Third Place Books in the Ravenna neighborhood of Seattle. 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. Time: 7-8pm Magic Monday is not only a great place to see local magicians doing what they do best; it is also a great place for YOU to perform. It happens the second Monday of each month. If you are a local magician in the Puget Sound area and would like to perform at the venue, please contact Jim Earnshaw at jim@earnshawmagic.com. You can reserve a spot to perform months in advance and he would be happy to hear from you.

“That's Impossible Presents” (Seattle's Best Magicians)

That's Impossible Presents a Night of Magic, Mystery, and Comedy, with your host: Tim Flynn Magic.

2nd Saturday of Every Month. Hosted at Delancey's on 3rd in Renton. Doors open at 7:45, Stage Show begins at 9pm. Food & Drinks are available. Table-side magic before the show from real magicians!

To: *Ring of Fire* members and friends
From: Ron Thompson, off and on *Ring of Fire* member

Most of us are spending more time at home these days, complying with National and State recommendations in order to decrease the chance that we contract the corona virus. Reading a good book is one way to spend that extra time. And what could be better than to read a true story about a young man who struggled to become a professional magician right here in Seattle? He was mentored by Jean Foley in the 1950s in downtown Seattle. See photos of Jean performing in his shop and on stage. (courtesy of Genii Magazine)



Figure 1 Jean Foley, proprietor of *Foley's Magic Shop* in 1952 on 3rd and University, Seattle



Figure 2: Jean performing in Vaudeville in about 1916

Many of you over 50 may remember Jean and may have even bought a trick or two from him in his shop. I am that young man Jean mentored. I performed as a professional magician in and around Seattle from 1955 to 1965. I was able to completely pay for tuition and books earned performing, while I attended the University of Washington for seven of those years.

Here's my shameless plug for the book I recently wrote about twelve teenagers who grew up in the Yesler Terrace Housing Project in the 1950s. You can find the book on Amazon by searching for ***The Boys from the Projects***, Thompson. Or simply copy and paste the following URL into your search engine: www.theboysfromtheprojects.com You will find a complete description of the book and be directed to Amazon.

Here is a recommendation from Ring of Fire member, Jim Bender:

"The book is inspirational and motivational for readers of all ages and circumstances. These guys show persistence, guts, determination, and the power of the group. I laughed out loud as I was drawn into their hilarious antics."

5/3/1019 ***** Jim Bender, Professional Comedian

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