



## 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](mailto: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 an online meeting using Zoom***

***[Click here](#) to go to more info***

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### Ring of Smoke Report

No meetings at this time.

## Broken Wand David Callahan



At the Ring of Fire's Zoom meeting this Thursday Aug 13<sup>th</sup> we will hold a Broken Wand ceremony for David Callahan (the Great Poo-Bah). Dave died on July 20<sup>th</sup>. He was a long-time member and instrumental in the formation of the NW Ring of Fire Magic club. Below is the obit that he wrote for himself for placement in the IBM's Linking Ring magazine "Broken Wand" section. It will be printed in the September issue (as I was told).

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David Callahan, age 88 of Seattle, WA, made his disappearance on July 20, 2020. He held I.B.M. number 53509. David became fascinated with magic at his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday party, where a pretty-good magical friend of his father performed. When David went off to college all his magic props and effects went into suitcases, where they remained until his children came along to claim magic shows as part of their inheritance. Remembering how much fun magic had been, David became "The Great Poo-Bah." He put together creative shows for thousands of birthday parties. He also created a special show built around dental health. The Poo-Bah helped rebuild a failing magic club which saved Ring 339 of the I.B.M. David is very likely busy right now trying to work the kinks out of his lighted birthday cake for the Dove Pan.

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Hope to see everyone at the Aug 13<sup>th</sup> meeting

## RING OF FIRE LIVE

Once again, we will hold the Ring of Fire Meeting on Zoom. We had a great time last time

Info to sign in

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/736296076?pwd=Sm4ybzA4SENCZnNZMk9odVN0QnF5Zz09>

**Meeting ID: 736 296 076**

**Passcode: ringoffire**

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,736296076#,,,,,0#,,8042240358# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,736296076#,,,,,0#,,8042240358# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 736 296 076

Passcode: 8042240358

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdxekbqBLi>

## Magic Article BY PAYNE

It seems these days that magic magazines are rife with articles, editorials and columns all dedicated to the belief that the world of magic is in steep decline. You can't flip more than a few pages through a industry rag without coming across a rant on how the Internet will be our downfall due to its widespread dissemination of exposure videos, that DVD's are creating armies of zombie clones who wander the streets in their hoodies and low riding pants inflicting their ill practiced guerrilla magic on the unsuspecting or any other number of curmudgeonly complaints about this new generation of delinquent deceptionists.

However, those that have even a modest knowledge of the history of conjuring will know that this type of thinking is nothing new. Magic magazines from over a century ago are filled with lamentations of a similar caliber. These expositors of the practice of prestidigitation have been prognosticating its decline and eventual death for centuries.

Magicians suffer from a curious form of Schadenfreude. Not only do some of us boost our egos by reveling in the failure of fellow performers or trivializing the well-earned successes of our peers we also seem to applaud the probable extinction of the practice of magic itself. Of course, these prophets of doom always have a plan to save magic from itself. Oddly enough these plans always seem to mesh perfectly with their current performance philosophy and presentational style. Curious thing that.

Not that I haven't fallen prey to this kind of thinking myself. I can be as petty and catty as the next guy and I freely admit that, in the past, I have reveled in the perceived shortcomings of others and scoffed at the accomplishments of fellow performers. But this is a new year and I've turned over a new leaf and have vowed to be more accepting of those who fail to meet my unreasonably high standards.

This change of heart was in part brought about when I read a column (in another publication) by a friend of mine (at least on Facebook) who was describing his early years in magic. He had been bitten by the magic bug in the early seventies and proceeded to tell us that this was an exciting and vibrant time for magic that was. I too got involved in magic in the early Seventies. But, looking back, I felt it was a horrible time for magicians in general and that magic was at its very nadir. However all the reasons that were listed in the aforesaid mentioned column as to why the author felt that it was a veritable renaissance in the magical arts were the exact same reasons I always gave as to why I thought it was in irreversible decline. But then this s to be expected. In the Glass Half Full\Glass Half Empty World I'm the guy that sees it lying on the ground in broken shards and about to step on the shattered pieces with my bare foot.

These opposing viewpoints opened my eyes and I decided that perhaps I was on the wrong path. Having passed the halfway mark of my life a few years ago and coming to the realization that I was definitely on the downward slide to that final destination that awaits us all that it would probably be in my best interests (if I wished to be remembered fondly by those I left behind) that I should change my curmudgeonly ways and become and learn, as Eric Idle recommends, to always look at the bright side of life.

So with that I begin this new journey by pointing out that what many see as negative aspects in the current m world of magic are in fact attributes of one kind or another. For example, let us look at one of the favorite diatribes currently making the rounds -- The commoditization of magic. Back in the day, the argument goes, the market wasn't glutted with a seemingly endless array of crappy magic. In the past, they continue as their eye glass over as they fondly recall those halcyon days of yore, people took pride in what they produced. They would only ever market those tricks that they themselves had honed to perfection after performing them in front of real-world audiences for half their life.

Now I will admit that these folks do have somewhat of a point. In this modern age in which we live there does seem to be a preponderance of marginal, questionable, or just plain bad magic being foisted on the magic community these days. Effects, that in the past wouldn't have even made it into the trick section of a magic magazine are now being marketed by all manner of entrepreneurial magi -- Many of them seemingly under the age of twelve. This is mainly due to the recent shift in technology. In the past the most magicians had to sit down and write up the instructions. These were then mimeographed or photocopied and stapled together. A tiny ad was then taken out in the magazines or boxes of the folios were taken to swap meets or magic shops or conventions and sold one by one. It took time, a modicum of money and the ability to write to market effects back then. Today however, as we all know, anyone with a webcam and internet access is their own magic factory. All you need is the ability to stumble through your supposedly original (but never researched) routine. Put a tantalizing clip of it up on YouTube and wait for the money to start pouring into your

PayPal account. Especially if you've pitched it on the many magic message boards as being a onetime only limited release of something that is quite impossible to do.

Now many of you no doubt are wondering as to how I can see a bright side to all of this. But I promise you there is one. It's called Sturgeons Law. Theodore Sturgeon was a science fiction author who once said, "Sure 90% of science fiction is crud, but then 90% of everything is crud".

Those that think that the percentage of quality magic to bad magic in the past was any higher in the past than it is today obviously didn't have the childhood I did. It's one thing to admire the stunningly beautiful props in Ken Klosterman's or David Copperfield's exquisite collections of magic is one thing. But to believe that these are in anyway representative of the overall quality of magic in the past is questionable. I once acquired a collection of magic that had been assembled and lovingly preserved over the lifetime of a serious hobbyist. While there were a few nice pieces to be found the vast majority of the inventory was crap. Not surprisingly about 90%.

So before you start pining for those good old days ask yourself, "What is the percentage of drek in the bottom of your magic drawer and what do you think the dustbins behind Klosterman's house must look like".

So here's the silver lining you've all been waiting for. Yes, these days we are being buried under an avalanche of idiotic tricks foisted upon the unsuspecting by the unscrupulous. Yes, Sturgeons Law still applies and 90% of it is crap. But that means 10% isn't and in fact might be highly usable. And that 10% is considerably larger than the 10% we (at least those of us over 40) grew up with.

## July's Meeting Report

Once again, we had our meeting via Zoom, "Ring of Fire LIVE"

The process was set up and hosted by our VP Santiago Naranjo. Much Thanks for his hard work.

Jim Lange started the evening with a routine using poker chips. With the chips appearing and disappearing and changing colors. The routine was inspired by Eric Jones "Sucker Punch" Jim felt that having the chips increase in number and value was where he wanted the routine to go.

After there was a discussion on split coins.

Payne showed the club his collection of Die Boxes. Each had been redesigned to meet his requirements for his performances, mainly for Ren-Fairs

There was another discussion about Virtual Magic Shows, what kind of magic works best. Opinions were voiced on whether or not people are charging the right prices for their shows. Some of the magic that might work are adaptations of phone magic and radio magic. (from the old days)

Rich Waters showed us his Neil Patrick cards that he got from Theory 11 as part of a puzzle contest

Payne told us about a book he was reading, it was about topological magic titled "Machinations" by Ben Harris. It can be found at Vanishing Inc. He also showed us some triangular cards.

Everyone had a good time.

Hope to see you soon.

See you next Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm on Zoom See [page 2](#) for info

**MANY THANKS TO SANTIAGO, FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!!**

Remember, to visit the club's website, <http://www.nwringoffire.com> and visit the club's Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/Northwest-Ring-of-Fire-429616737105973/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](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](http://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](http://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**

### **Because of the restrictions for Covid-19 the below are both closed temporarily**

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!

## **Random Walk**

by Tom Stone

2007 - 20 pages

<https://wargmagic.com/shop/ebook/random-walk/>

Reviewed by Evan Shuster

Tom Stone has graced his fans with an exceptionally prolific year, offering eight beautifully designed e-books filled with some of the most creative and varied material to be released to the magic community in quite some time. These works offer us access to the notebooks of a creative genius who, I believe, will one day command a legacy and legend equal to that of the incomparable Tommy Wonder.

“Random Walk” comes at the end of a relatively long line of concurrent releases, but the caliber of material that it contains shows that Mr. Stone is far from running out of fresh ideas. Even the smaller, single-paragraph bits and pieces offered in-between the more fully fleshed out items are of greater value than many of the one-item releases that are gradually taking a sickening foothold on the current magic market.

This book focuses on card magic, with multiple digressions into performance theory and thoughts regarding the processes of creativity. It is absolutely not for the beginner and, in addition to assuming an intermediate skill level, the reader should be well read, or at least have access to a fairly substantial library. In some cases the necessary sleights are briefly outlined, and in other cases they are merely referenced.

Here are a few notes on the contents:

- **Momentum Color Change:**

This is a beautiful and virtually effortless change. After describing Tim Star’s original method, Tom offers his preferred method; an adaptation which, though subtle, greatly enhances the visual impact of the change. This is the nature of Tom Stone’s magic. It is the subtleties and small details, the things that others might casually and carelessly overlook, that enhance the magic and elevate it to a level of performance beyond mere tricks.

- **Voice of the Public:**

This is a gag, not a trick, and it’s a great one (especially for the card worker, who will immediately relate to it). I actually found the necessary items (mini laser pointers) locally for just \$5.00 each. I’m not sure if I can actually construct the gaff but I laughed out loud at the idea, so it’s probably worth trying.

- **Maven – Daryl Combo:**

Okay... to begin with, if you are unfamiliar with Daryl’s Elevator Repair (from Paul Harris’s “Close-Up Fantasies II”) and Max Maven’s Brimstone Elevator (from “Prism”) then this item will be lost on you. I really like this one. Tom’s combination of the two routines requires only half of the Daryl set-up and, like the original Maven piece, makes this more of a packet trick. This would make a great finale phase for an ACR.

- **A Prediction Ajar:**

Certainly not a prediction, but an absolutely terrific use for Tommy Wonder’s Wondereverse (be aware, however, that the sleight is not explained here – so, one more reason to buy the Books of Wonder [as if you needed another reason]). This is a piece geared specifically toward an audience of 7+ people and touts the advantages of a group dynamic to further the impact of performance. This trick is a true “sleeper,” and should not be overlooked.



- White Lies (bits & pieces):

A very clever idea combining the one ahead principle with Ashes on Arm. This reads like the bizarrist's Invisible Deck. Although it is identified by the author as an unfinished piece there is enough direction provided to turn this into a standout performance piece.

- Nullified:

While any of the items offered throughout the book are, alone, invaluable, this is one of two items that are worth so much more than the price of the entire collection. The trick's handling was passed around between Tom, Erik Jansson and Peter Rosegren, resulting in a wonderfully well finished routine. There are so many exceptional details and subtleties (including a remarkably clever idea for constructing a home-made close-up table perfectly suited for "walk-around," and a wonderfully rich series of 35 accompanying illustrations. Tom's thoughts regarding Dramatic Structure are positively eye-opening. The reader would benefit greatly from having some knowledge of a variety of less than common sleights (i.e. Hollingsworth's GWR Alignment Move, The Downs Change, Germain's Flash Card Change, Dave Rumfeld's Fake Extraction, Germain's Flash Card Change, and Dave Rumfeld's Fake Extraction), but basic explanations of each are generously provided.

- Snap Snap:

An instant, visual, card vanish (or color change). Tom states that. "I see no applications for it myself and I don't consider it a useful move. Though it feels nice in the hands when watching TV." This item is followed by a very clever triumph idea ("Snappy Triumph"), dependent upon the Snap Snap move. Tom's humility throughout the book borders on self-deprecation. Is it actually possible that he does not recognize his own genius?

- Snappy Triumph (see Snap Snap, above...)

- The Forbidden Palm:

Here is the second piece that I think stands out and is worth far more than the price of the book. It is, in fact, my favorite item in the book. Tom states that the routine was developed in order to illustrate his points in a conversation regarding the Invisible Palm. Again, we benefit from reading Tom's thoughts on the essential aspects of performance as a means to enhance the magic. This is an exceptionally detailed routine which I won't even begin to explain, other than to say that it is an excellent example of the material that leads me to the conclusion that Tom Stone is a creative genius.

Each and every new Tom Stone e-book release leaves me wanting more. At the time of the original release of Random Walk I was waiting for the publication of the rumored, and much anticipated, book from Hermetic Press (which eventually turned out to be two books, *Vortex* and *Maelstrom*), but I remained happily content, with the parade of e-books at the time acting as appetizers while I patiently awaited the main course. And yes... it was worth the wait.