



Volume 5, Issue 9

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## Words from the Secretary

**Craig Colombel**

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To everyone reading this. The newsletter needs you. I need articles and news events written by you. See your name in print and make this newsletter better. Also send me emails on what you would like to see in the newsletter and how you like it or not. Let the magic community find out where you are performing. Tell us about other magicians shows. Visit our Facebook page and post. Come to the meetings and lectures.

See you at the next meeting.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holidays

DUES ARE DUE FOR 2017. PAYING YOUR DUES KEEPS THE CLUB ABLE TO BRING IN LECTURES.

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**President's Message**  
**Ralph Huntzinger**

Time for Dues for 2017.

## November 2016 MEETING

In the business section of the meeting, it was decided to have a club Holiday Party in January, location and date to be determine. Elections for officers will be held at the December meeting, if you wish to determine the direction of the club apply to be an officer.

The magic part of the meeting was led off with Craig Colombel, with a magic tea kettle. He describe how his father would come to family get togethers bring anything someone may forget and when ask why said he was inspired by an ancestor who had a magic kettle that pour any drink thought of. Craig then demonstrated and show how after pouring different color drinks showed the kettle had flowers in side and after removing the flowers pour one more drink.

Payne showed up with a prediction envelope and some cards with pictures on them. He told the story of the Covington Murders. The cards had pictures of the suspects. The deck was divided in half, each half was given to a volunteer and each half was placed behind the back and mixed and one card was reversed in the packet. The halves were combined and mixed together face up and face down. One card ended up face up and that card matched the prediction of the murderer. The other cards that represented the victims all had printed on them the word deceased.

Evan Shuster had a volunteer shuffle a deck of cards, he then had a second volunteer, while looking the magician in the eye go through the deck and mentally pick one card. The volunteer then dealt down the card (facedown) and determine when to stop. The dealt down packet then had the cards discarded by the volunteer until two cards were left. The volunteer pointed to one of the cards and it match the prediction. This was a routine by John Bannon.

Payne returned with a card routine. The volunteer chose a card and it was lost in the deck. Payne then removed two cards as predictor cards. The deck was shown to the volunteer in packets and ask if saw his card. The deck was then reassembled and then look at the prediction cards one card was the suite but the other number was not correct. The values of the two cards were added together and that number was used to count down the deck and the card arrived at was the chosen card.

Remember it is time for Dues. Support your club.

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Remember, to visit the club's website, <http://www.nwringoffire.com> and also visit the clubs Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northwest-Ring-of-Fire/4296167377105973>

### Ring of Smoke Report

No Ring of Smoke meeting in December

Ben and Marty

The Ring of Smoke meets the first Sunday of the Month at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett.

## Review by Payne

### Word Sight

A book test with an off the shelf dictionary

Devin Knight

\$39.95

<http://www.murphysmagic.com>

Reviewed by Payne

So when is a book test not a book test? When it's Devin Knight's *Word Sight*.

Two audience members are invited to help the magician display his amazing telepathic abilities. They are given a dictionary to use in the experiment. Or if you desire they can freely choose any one from a stack of dictionaries you have brought with you for the experiment.

Once the dictionary has been selected they are asked to select one of four "Enrich your Vocabulary" word lists they will find adhered to the inside front and back covers of the Dictionary. When a word list is decided upon each spectator is now asked to select a word from the list and then look up that word's definition in the Dictionary. They are now told to concentrate on that definition and try to relay it via telepathy to the magician. The magician concentrates for a moment and then writes something down on the notebook he is holding. He tears the sheet of paper off and gives it to a third audience member to hold. The spectators are then asked to reveal the words they were thinking of. The paper is then opened and it of course contains the two previously chosen words.

So the plusses are. Any standard full size dictionary can be used. It can even be borrowed (as long as you can place the four word lists into the inside covers). It plays exactly as written. There's no fishing for letters or words. Once the words are looked up in the dictionary you know exactly what they are. It's a clever method that reminds me a bit of the Paul Fox Miracle Gimmick.

The stuff you need to know. It's not a book test. The words have to be chosen, not from the dictionary, but from the four word lists you've stuck on the inside covers of the book.

While it is true that there are no questions asked or fishing expeditions launched you will have to know which word list was chosen and have to see them as they look their chosen words up in the dictionary. You don't have to see the pages they are looking at so you can be across the room from where they are standing. But you do have to be able to see them as they look the words up. Each word list contains 25 lines each containing two words. So in effect there are two hundred words to choose from.

There is also some memorization required. Or if you wish to take the easy way out, a set of cheat sheets you'll need access to. These however are easily worked into the notebook you use to write your predictions down on. While not a proper book test one could easily, through the proper use of dual reality make it look like the spectators had a free choice of any word in the dictionary, or even any word they merely thought of.

While not the best book test in the world. It is an interesting idea and I think it could be greatly expanded upon by the clever performer. It's definitely worth a look.

**Evan Reynolds again graces our newsletter with another in his series of producing and putting on a show. Great information and interesting to read.**

**TRACKING**

I wanted to write a little bit about tracking today. There is a lot of tracking going on with a show, more than I realized when I first got started.

The obvious tracking is ticket sales. You can use several services to sell tickets. I started with Brown Paper Tickets and they are pretty good. The main problem I had was with how they presented repeating shows - if a show sold out, they'd just hide it and present the next date. As a result, I had a regular issue every show with people coming with tickets for the wrong date.

That made me look around and I tried ShowClix. They were pretty good and had a nicer presentation of the show, which made it easier to avoid the problems I had before. But when the show went back to free admission, I had to leave ShowClix - they charge a fee for everything, even free shows. I ended up with TicketLeap and have been very happy with them - they work well for paid shows, and they don't charge for free shows. They also have a great presentation for the ticket sale site, it really looks good.

In Seattle, though, ticket sales are a problem. Everyone buys tickets at the last minute. So it was very common for me to go into the last week with five to ten tickets sold and thinking I was in serious trouble - and then we'd sell out in that last week. Most of it would be in the last three days! This makes things stressful - how can you tell if your sales will be acceptable or not? When should you advertise? What is effective?

In general, I find that you need to advertise in advance to get on people's radar so that they have the show in mind. But I would do a final email blast about three to four days before the show. That is what always would result in actual sales. Prior emails would generally not result in any noticeable bump in ticket sales.

I've noticed though that this changes based on the show. My show was monthly - so maybe people felt like if something else came up they could always see my show the next month. For special events, like Jeff McBride, this was still fairly true - but early sales were better. It still didn't really jump up until the last few days though! (Also, that was the first time a Facebook event made a difference, I'd tried them for earlier shows and it was a lot of effort for absolutely no return for me. But it WAS helpful for Jeff McBride!)

Once you track sales though - keep them. There's another factor here - seasonality. January shows will have trouble, for example. Ticket sales are always down. So I know to either not have a show in January, or else to make sure the budget is tightly controlled. I know this because I tracked ticket sales for the last three years and I see the patterns. I am setting up a new show as the variety show is going to quarterly - and the initial date fell on January. Because I know that this will give me trouble with attendance, I moved it to February.

And there's one more thing to track - the show itself. At first I didn't really track much. I had the venue, I had performers, the rest is easy. Show up, sketch out a set list, and let's go! And that works well, and you will see that a LOT for shows. But as I got a crew to help with the shows, that started to fall apart. And as I had more to track it started to fall apart.

I needed a way to track what was happening that I could share, that my stage manager and sound man could see and possibly edit, and that would let me remember what we did last year.

Most people use google for this - google docs, google forms, etc. There's shared editing, and everyone can see and edit everything. You can even send a google doc to performers with contracts and expectations. I chose to use a wiki - I created a private wiki and added users to it. That gave me more control over what I did as I could type in anything (images, storing posters, etc.) and I liked it more than anything I saw done with google docs - but you have to be comfortable setting up a wiki.

Either way think ahead to how you can share information with people, how your crew can see and help with what you're doing short of constantly having to all you and ask. Anything you can do to delegate and to let other people help will end the end make your life easier!

And the next Variety Show is Feb 28th ...

# Club Calendar

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## NWRF - 2016 Meeting Themes

Jan -- "All I got for Xmax was ..." Related to holidays, actual magic gift from holiday, "wished I'd received", previous year's magic gift, etc.

Feb -- "Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink" Coleridge's poem directs us to liquid including dreary outdoor weather. Containers (bottles, glasses, bowls), liquid color changing, vanish & appear, etc.

Mar -- "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt in our philosophy" Act I, scene 5 from Shakespeare's Hamlet suggest anything and everything except what is expected.

2016's "Aspect Themes":

Jan --- **Production and Multiplication** (quantity production)

Feb --- **Vanish** (most common in magic)

Mar --- **Color Change** (suitable for any object)

April --- **Transposition or Substitution** (object travels or changes places)

May --- **Transformation** (object changes to another object)

June --- **Penetration** (solid through solid, including Ties, Releases, and Escapes)

July --- **Restoration** (mending a mutilated object)

Aug --- **Diminishing** (object diminishes in size or shape)

Sept --- **Growing** (object becomes bigger, longer or larger)

Oct --- **Deterioration** (often in comedy and pseudo-psychic effects)

Nov --- **Mental Magic** (Divination, ESP, Mind reading, Telepathy, etc.)

Dec --- **Levitation** (rising, floating, flying or suspended objects)

**Make sure to check the website for upcoming events and lectures.**

**HTTP:** [//WWW.NWRINGOFFIRE.COM/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.NWRINGOFFIRE.COM/INDEX.HTML)

**FACEBOOK:** [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/NORTHWEST-RING-OF-FIRE/429616737105973](https://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/NORTHWEST-RING-OF-FIRE/429616737105973)

## 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)

### Terjung's Studio of Gifts

4547 Calif. Ave SW  
Seattle, WA 98116

(This is a gift store with a counter in the back where they sell magic)

### 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)

### Dave's Killer Magic Shop

1707 Main Street  
Vancouver, WA 98665  
360-448-9022

### Brian Cook's

[WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM](http://WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM)

### South Seattle Magic and Novelty

9460 Rainier Ave S  
Seattle, WA 98118  
206-321-1291

### FunkyFun Magic Shop

Capital Mall  
625 Black Lake Blvd  
Olympia, WA, 98502  
<http://Funkyfunmagic.com>  
[Funkyfunmagic@gmail.com](mailto:Funkyfunmagic@gmail.com)

## 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 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 want to hone your magic skills, get in touch with Mark Paulson, the producer of this venue ([mark2061@yahoo.com](mailto:mark2061@yahoo.com)). It is a wonderful chance to perform for an appreciative audience. It's been standing room only all year.

If you wish to perform contact Mark at:

[mark2061@yahoo.com](mailto:mark2061@yahoo.com) or on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/thirdplacebooksmagicmonday?fref=ts>

### "That's Impossible Presents" (Seattle's Best Magicians)

Delancey's on 3<sup>rd</sup> 810 S 3rd St Renton, WA

1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays of the month. Doors open at 7:45pm

Food, Drinks Close-up Magic 8-9 pm, Emcee Tim Flynn

Stage Show 9pm. \$10/\$15

Call Seattle Juggling and Magic shop

206-859-8363

### Evan Reynolds Family Variety Show

The next Family Variety Show is scheduled for Sunday, Feb 26th and will be FREE again! It's also going to be at the Queen Anne library - it's a smaller venue, but as I can get it for free that makes it perfect!

## Lecture Notes By Evan Shuster

First off, I want to give a shout out to the terrific team of magicians who took part in the 2016 season of The Can-Am Conjuring Lecture Series. Our incredible line-up included Kainoa Harbottle, Christian Engblom, Daryl, Michael Weber, Diamond Jim Tyler (who mysteriously vanished from Seattle), and John "Handsome Jack" Lovick.

Next up, I want to give my sincere thanks to each and every one of you who came out to support live magic in the Seattle area. Not just for your enthusiastic support of the lecture series, but also for your support of Magic Monday, That's Impossible Presents, and a host of other magical events that took place in and around Seattle. Without each of you, these events wouldn't be possible. So... I hope that I can count on you to continue the trend, and continue to enable us to provide more of these events and lectures in the years to come.

Speaking of support... ☞ It's just about time to renew your membership in the Northwest Ring of Fire. Your dues help to subsidize the lectures in Seattle, and often enable me to add an exclusive, "Seattle only" extra lecture (such as Michael Weber, Eugene Burger, Max Maven, and others over the past few years).

With that said, let's get on to the 2017 lecture season. I'm proud to announce the first four confirmed lectures of the series: February: Ice McDonald April/May: Jon Allen June: David "Silly Billy" Kaye August/September: Jörg Alexander November: Exciting announcement to follow...

Please keep an eye on the website for more information.  
<http://nwringoffire.com/lecturers.html>

One last note... Please take a look at the Library page on our website:  
<http://nwringoffire.com/lecturers.html> If you are a member, feel free to let me know if you want me to bring anything to the next meeting for you. If you're not a member and you'd like to join you'll find the details on the library page. We are always happy to accept donations and add your name to our list of contributors.

Thanks again for your continued support!



