



Volume 4, Issue 12

11 January 2016

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Secretary's Message
- 1 Ring of Smoke
- 2 Presidents Message
- 3-5 Teams Needed
- 6 Cook's Challenge
- 7 Portland Magic Jam
- 8 PCAM/3of Clubs
- 9 December Meeting
- 10 Meeting agenda/Calendar
- 11 Jeff McBride
- 11 Illusion Factory
- 12 Magic shops and Happenings
- 13-14 Thoughts from Ralph
- 15-16 **Jamy Ian Swiss Lecture**

## Words from the Secretary

### Craig Colombel

January 2016 – [accolombel@zipcon.com](mailto:accolombel@zipcon.com)

Happy New Year. Make a resolution to come to the club meetings this year. If you are performing or have performed let me know and I will put it into the newsletter. Also if you have some thoughts you will like to see in print send it to me. Send the articles to [accolombel@zipcon.com](mailto:accolombel@zipcon.com).

Also it is that time of year again Time to pay your dues. The cost is \$25 (for a single membership) or \$35 (for a family membership). Help support your club. You can send your membership dues to:

Craig Colombel

509 So 165<sup>th</sup> St

Burien, Wa 98148

Make the check out to NWRF

### Ring of Smoke Report

On January 3rd, the Ring of Smoke meeting was held at Shawn O'Donnell's and hosted by JR and Ralph. John started out working on copper and silver routines with several different gaffes, while others worked on cups and balls routines. Then JR brought out a toy Tetris from Dr. Who and challenged the youth to come up with good ideas and creative brainstorming for tricks that could be done with it. Ben had the idea to use Otto's mixed up Rubik's cube to go back in time to when it was solved. Theo had the idea of a Triumph routine. Another idea was a cups and balls routine by hollowing out the Tetris. Ben performed and brainstormed tricks with a code ring and a lock, while Kai went through his magic briefcase. Otto and JR discussed false shuffles and different methods to solve a Rubik's cube in a magical way. The kids had a great time on a snowy, blustery day!

Ben and Marty

## President's Message

### Ralph Huntzinger

#### **“All who wander are not lost”**

You'll see in this newsletter a list of teams and an imaginary meeting outline. I (and I believe lots of people) work with dreams and visions of where and what I/we would like to be. These are usually fuzzy, vague, unsubstantial – “massaging smoke”. Some of these get described. Describing a dream or vision makes it more reachable, the act of corraling the dream's aspects so they can be described clarifies and begins to limit its scope. In a management sense (personal, business, organizational, etc.) this is where “Vision Statements” come from – somewhat concrete statements of where and what. On the other end of the process or measuring scale from dreams are tasks and activities. Vague to concrete, desires to actions, long range to very short term, future to now. Goals fit between those extremes. An important force driving all that are values, beliefs, soul, or whatever -- the “Mission Statement”.

I'm a firm believer in setting goals – those dreams that are reachable if we direct our thoughts and actions toward achieving them. In my work with physical, athletic, movement, and flexibility I've also become quite aware of working with achievable goals – those goals we can reach with only minor changes in our actions and lifestyles. These are the goals that have a higher short-term success than the more encompassing goals.

How does this philosophical wandering fit into our magic club?

NWRF should not become any one person or a small clique's club; however, it will take on the character of those who are involved. That means we all need to get involved. I've set three over-riding visions to direct the next two years: 1) involvement, 2) sharing & discovery, and 3) performance. That's where looking at the “teams” and “meeting outline” spotlights how I hope the club evolves and where we go. Remember, I generally define “teams” as three people with short term (3 month) responsibilities involved in directing where we go. We'll start as big as we can and with six meeting teams, nine newsletter teams, and six planning teams that means doubling up responsibilities. OK, we won't be able to do everything to start! However, we can do what members are willing to do. Achievable goals.

You will see a couple of months that might be overloaded by a small group of people, that is because other members have not yet geared up to be in the mini-spotlights. Personal examples: the hoped for “Opening Performance” slithered away so the President steps in and performs, same with the “Closing Performance”; it takes a while to knock out thoughts on a favorite book, so until Craig has members writing why they recommend books or DVDs you'll get pieces from the usual crowd; “Learn a Trick” and “Teach a Trick”, I'm looking forward to not sweating those, etc. Thank goodness for those who have stepped into the light and are sharing.

Right now we need members for these meeting teams: “Theme”, “Challenge”, “Teach”, “Featured & Closing perform”, and “Repurposed”. Commit to being involved, step up, talk to an officer. Also write down your thoughts and share them in the newsletter, or commit to a newsletter team (talk to Craig and me).

It goes without saying that we all should share our performing work. Meetings are the perfect time to get “flight time” -- that important step in front of real live people (well, magicians instead of actual people). Works-in-progress are where we all are. Personally, I've committed to showing where I am with a new effect (from Steinmeyer's “The Conjuring Anthology”) every month; that's completely out of my comfort zone since I only like to present very well developed pieces. I'm looking forward to having to cut my performance because we need to fit in so many other member's performances. January's theme of “All I got for Xmas was ...” suggested “The Tassel of Abundant Enterprise” (pgs. 50 - 56); February's liquid theme suggested “Dowsing & Divining” (pgs. 172 - 175); I've got a list of 14 effects that I've been dreaming about from that book.

Dues are due, might I suggest you pay the \$35 family rate just because.

That's enough – you'll get more from me (until others overwhelm Craig with submissions) in other thoughts.

## **Teams Needed**

**Meeting teams** --Involved with developing, arranging, and conducting parts of the meeting along with informing and reporting activities in newsletter.

- **Featured Performance** [meeting]
  - Arranges and coordinates an opening (3 – 7 minute) performance for each meeting. Conducts (introduce and MC) that portion of the meeting.
  - Reports on the performance in the newsletter and writes teasers for upcoming meetings.
- **Cook's Challenge** [meeting]
  - Decides on Challenges, develop and assemble (package) them, generates interest in newsletter.
  - Introduce and MC meeting portion, including passing out next month's Challenges.
  - Write something on each performance for newsletter.
- **Themes** [meeting]
  - Develop three months of themes (two months in advance).
  - Write about resources or ideas related to themes prior to meeting.
  - Conducts that portion of meeting including pre-arranging performances (if so inclined).
  - Reports on performances.
- **Teach A Trick** [meeting]
  - Arranges for monthly instruction and conducts meeting segment concentrated on teaching a specific topic.
  - Publicizes upcoming instruction in newsletter.
  - Reports on meeting's instruction in newsletter.
- **Repurposed from Past** [meeting]
  - Getting items from members that they don't use anymore. Recycling. Items will be given away as prizes, used in the challenges, or added to auction.
  - Team conducts the prizes portion of the meeting.
  - Reports in newsletter.
- **Closing Performance** [meeting]
  - Coordinates "polished or thought out" performance to end meeting.
  - Writes something for newsletter.

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From Previous page:

**Newsletter teams--Involved with writing articles and reporting activities in newsletter.** *Intent is to involve members outside of monthly meeting – encourage absent members to attend meeting because they read (see) what they missed or will miss, generate interest from non-members, let all members know what club is doing and becoming.*

- **Newsletter production** [newsletter]
  - *Assists Secretary/editor as needed in the planning and preparation of the newsletter.*
- **Member Profile** [newsletter]
  - *Team writes about a member in each month's newsletter. Includes magic interests and other interests.*
- **Books & Resources** – [newsletter & general]
  - *Team writes about books, DVDs, people, websites, YouTube, props, effects, etc.*
  - *Publicizes item in the Club Library.*
  - *Assists the Librarian as needed in growth of Library.*
- **Learn A Trick** [newsletter]
  - *Writes in newsletter concentrated on learning new routines.*
  - *Highlights resources available in targeted area.*
  - *Arranges "focus sessions" concentrated on specific topic.*
- **Magic inside region** [newsletter]
  - *Team researches and writes about magic, shops, events, clubs, performances, individuals, etc. within 3 hour drive of Seattle.*
- **Magic outside region** [newsletter]
  - *Team writes of magic outside of region.*
- **Lectures** [newsletter & lectures]
  - *Team writes about upcoming lectures and reports on recent lectures available within region. Coordinates with Lecture coordinator on publicity for NWRF Sponsored Lectures.*
  - *Investigates members' interests in topics for lectures (paid and free).*
  - *Assists with lecturers and at lectures.*

#### **Conventions** [newsletter]

- **History** [newsletter]

*Writes about club, area, region, or other past involvement in magic.*

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From Previous page:

**Planning teams--Involved with planning and reporting activities in newsletter.**

- **Recruitment, new members, and outreach** [planning] Develop materials.
- **Magicians of tomorrow** [planning]
  - *Team investigates what NWRF can do to assist club organized for those younger than 12 who have interest in magic.*
  - *If needed, helps report on Ring of Smoke's activities and plans in newsletter*
- **Walk Around planning** [planning & activity]
  - *Researches, contacts, arranges, and coordinates NWRF's performances at outside events which provide "flight time" for members.*
  - *Suggests and encourages members to prepare for performances.*
  - *Writes for monthly newsletter.*
- **Social Activities** [planning & activity]
  - *Publicize after meeting get together*
  - *Annual dinner & awards*
  - *picnic*
- **Long Range planning** [planning]
  - *2018 "3 of clubs"*
- **2017 "Day of Magic"** [planning]

## COOK'S CHALLENGE DECEMBER 2015

Last month's informal challenge was to take a utility device ("Change Can" from India) and do something with it. Craig Colombel transformed it for the December meeting into a wrapped Xmas present and performed a story about his childhood experience opening presents. Sneaking down he checked the presents (opened them) and discovered this one had nothing in it so when everyone came down to open presents he avoided that one. Forced to open it he discovered it was filled with candy that he shared with all. Many of the members did not believe the "cheap prop" from the previous meeting was the same one he used – creative refashioning and story make better magic presentations. Pictures below:



## **The Return of the Portland Magic Jam!**

### **February 19 – 21, 2016**

Started in 2009 by cruise ship magician Greg Moreland, the PMJ is a semi-annual 3-day convention that brings together magicians from Oregon and Washington (and beyond) for a great weekend of learning and camaraderie. It's open to all levels of magic enthusiasts, from complete beginners to seasoned pros.

In past years it has been host to a terrific line-up of talent, including David Regal, Aaron Fisher, Steve Dobson, Daryl, Whit Hayden, Wayne Houchin, Doc Eason, Gregory Wilson, John Armstrong, Daniel Garcia, and Simon Lovell.

This year's line-up features Michael Ammar, Chad Long, and Nate Kranzo.

The schedule offers lectures by each of the headliners, Friday and Saturday evening shows, a close-up show, a panel discussion featuring all of the headliners, and a dealer room. There is also a session room which is open all night long (for the hardcore among you), and a Parlor contest on Sunday that is open to the first 12 contest registrants.

One of the best things about the location (The Portlander Inn) is that you never have to leave the hotel (unless you really want to). They have a full-service restaurant, a quick-service deli, a convenience store, a full bar (often with live music), an arcade, a laundromat, and even a movie theatre... all on site!

The Portland Magic Jam attracts a smaller, more intimate crowd of attendees than many of the larger, national conventions (usually around 75 – 100 people) so you really do have a chance to mingle with the stars, session with friends, breathe, and not feel like you're packed in a sardine can. I've attended every Jam, and enjoyed every one of them.

For more information, and to register, you can visit the website at: <http://www.portlandmagicjam.com/home.html>

### **The PCAM/3 of Clubs 2015 convention was held from November 19-22 in Chilliwack, B.C.**

It was a Gordon and Norden production and featured a number of outstanding lectures as well as magic competition. The outstanding lecturers included Shawn Farquhar, the Great Zuchini, Karl Hein, Bill Abbott, Chad Long, Joe Turner, Cody Fisher, Murray Hatfield and our very own Master Payne. In addition to the great lectures, there were several shows for participants, as well as the public. The first of the shows, was the Shawn Farquhar Magic Cabaret show, which was held at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre, featuring Master Payne, Michael Dardant, as well as Shawn, of course. The following night, the Stars of Magic show was held, and featured Michael Dardant, Bill Abbott, Cody Fisher, Wes Barker and Trevor and Lorena, and was a well-attended, open bar event. In addition to the lectures, and great shows, fun events, such as the one hand cut-a-thon, as well as the "Bag of Tricks" contest was held.

The magic contests featured a great number of Northwest performers, including a number of gold and silver medalists:

•Category #1: Stage Magic – Juveniles (aged 13 and under)

GOLD - Hannah & Haley Biane

SILVER - Devin Graupmann

•Category #2: Close-Up Magic – Juveniles (aged 13 and under)

GOLD - Theo Chattra

SILVER - Devin Graupmann

•Category #3: Stage Magic – Juniors (aged 14 to 18)

GOLD - Elliott Hofferth

SILVER - Ben Eskenazi

•Category #4: Close-Up Magic – Juniors (aged 14 to 18)

GOLD - Ben Eskenazi

•Category #5: Mentalism

GOLD - Jeff Christensen

SILVER - Ron Saylor

•Category #6: Close-Up Magic

GOLD - Jim Vines

SILVER - Junichi Tamura

•Category #7: Most Novel or Innovative

GOLD - Not Awarded

•Category #8: Platform Magic

GOLD - Jeff Christensen

SILVER - Ron Saylor

•Category #9: Stage Magic

GOLD - Steve Hamilton

SILVER - Bruce Meyers

•Category #10: Comedy or Novelty Magic

GOLD - Steve Hamilton

SILVER - Chris Bange

•Category #11: Best Assistant

GOLD - Gwyn Auger

•Category #12: Children's Entertainment

GOLD - Christopher Lopez

SILVER - Mike Norden

And of course, we can't forget one of the crowd favorites, the annual "Bag O Tricks" competition.

- FIRST PLACE - Joe Turner and Glen Labarre (it was a tie)

- S.A.M. #95 One Hand Cut-A-Thon

- FIRST PLACE - Matthew Jones (again)

All in all, it was a great, very fun event with great shows, lectures, contests, but most of all, great people. Each year, PCAM does a particularly great job of creating an outstanding magical atmosphere. Next year's PCAM will be held in August in Los Angeles.

Ben and Marty



## December 2015 MEETING

### **December 10 – Finished Magic – Bring in Magic that you’ve been working on that’s finished. – maybe the “unfinished’ Magic from March’s meeting!**

This was the 2015 President’s Jim Franklin last meeting. Thanks for two great years as president Jim.

Jim lead the meeting off with handing out Folding coin sets to the members. These were vintage sets from the 1970s and the members will need to get new rubber bands for the sets to work as the rubber bands in the packages were too old and brittle.

During the business part of the meeting the club committed to put on the 2018 3 of Clubs convention and will ask the 2 other clubs in the Seattle-Tacoma area to help out.

We welcome back old time member Rich Waters. He had just moved back to the Pacific Northwest from the east coast.

Last month Craig Colombel was the first volunteer to receive a prop for the “Cooks Challenge”. He performed his take on the challenge. The prop was a small production utility prop in the shape of a round can. The outside of the can was wrap like a Christmas present with a bow on top. Craig talked about when he was a child and trying to find out what was in the presents under the tree. One this one gift he was able to remove the outer box and found it empty inside. When Christmas day arrived he removed the outer box(can) and now inside was candy. After this performance three new Cooks Challenges were distributed. We are looking forward to see what is done with them. Andrew Olmstead performed a card trick he had been working on that used a lot of different slights. He was doing this not as a performance piece but to see what he could do with the different slights. He removed the 4 kings from the deck and put aside. A spectator picked a card and returned to the deck (the King of Diamonds). The spectator then chose one of the kings and that king was reversed in the packet of kings and the packet was put aside. Andrew then manipulate the deck and ended with all the cards facing one way with one card reversed. When the reversed card was shown it was the King of Diamonds and in the packet of Kings the reversed card was now the chosen one. Evan Shuster had a large voodoo doll and the spectator could put one to five pins in the doll. The prediction match the number of pins and where they were put.

Rich Waters performed a card trick in which a deck was divided in half and one half given to a spectator. They each pick a card from their half, then traded cards. The cards were inserted into the halves and then recombined into a single deck. After some work the two cards chosen were the only two reversed in the deck.

Evan Shuster had a teach-in and taught the club a card force, that was quite a fooler.

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>

Richmond Beach Library  
19601 21st. Ave. NW.  
Shoreline, WA 98177

We have the room from 6:30 PM, and the meeting runs from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

# Imagined Meeting outline

- (Pre-meeting)
  - Hand out & update schedule
  - "order/schedule" performers
  - Triage business items
- Featured performance @ 7:00
- Introductions
  - (new or noteworthy people)
- Quick business items @ 7:10
  - Report summaries if needed
- Cook's Challenge (perform) @ 7:15
  - First
  - Second
  - third
- Theme –General (perform)
- Teach a trick
- Cook's challenge handout
  - Two or three of them
- Theme – Aspect (perform)
- Other performances
- (Other business) (@8:30)
- Repurposed effect drawing @8:40
- Closing performance @ 8:45
- Social – afterwards
  - Pizza & discussion @ Spiro's

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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)

**As you may or may not heard our own Master Payne will be performing at the Magic Castle Jan 18-24. See the Magic Castle website for more info. <http://www.magiccastle.com>**

**As a special treat we have a special guest writer for Master Payne's performance at the Magic Castle, Jeff McBride. Thank you Jeff for the write up.**

Each time Mystery School appears at the Magic Castle, we like to surprise the members with new magic and also new magical friends that are associated with our Mystery School..This year Master Payne is our surprise! most magicians have not seen him work....get ready Hollywood!

Our Mystery School is all about helping people make better magic. One of the most challenging things in today's marketplace is standing out from the crowd. We feel that Payne is a standout...and other magicians can learn from his theatrical choices.

Simply put...Payne is outstanding. Everything he touches become unique!

Look at him! He is a magician of major stature..he sure stands out in a crowd!

His props and handmade, meticulous works of art.

He pays attention to every detail of his art and craft.

His costume creations are of the period of the magic he presents.

His scripts are amusing and masterfully written

His ability to memorize the scripts is impressive.

Payne really knows his magic history. He is very well read.

as a sleight of hand Performer-He performs the techniques he selects flawlessly

Oh and then there is the magic he performs; well researched, historically accurate and rarely seen. His offbeat comic delivery is filled with irony, drama and wit.

I've called Payne "Americas Foremost Magic Satirist" He is the heir to the sharp witted Senator Clark Crandall. I encourage our students to watch Payne's P.E.P. Talks. (1 )

All of us at the Mystery School feel that Payne is an excellent performer and we want to help him bring his magic to a broader audience. We look forward to the reaction Master Payne will get from the members of the magic Castle and their **muggle** guests.... they are in for a very entertaining, historic, comedic and magical experience... an experience that all students of magic can learn from.

**-----Jeff McBride**

McBride;'s Magic & Mystery School

**Las** Vegas, NV

(1) The P.E.P. Talks

are "The TEDtalks of Magic"

They can be seen at

<http://virtual.magicalwisdom.com/members/pep>

**Congrats to Payne!!!**

### **A Review on the Illusion Factory by Tom Paine**

Illusion Factory December 12, 2015

The December edition of the Illusion Factory drew a crowd of 50 to downtown Renton. Eric Runquist did magic at the front door while taking the \$15 cover charge. From 8 PM to 9 the attendees enjoyed food at drink while Leland Hirschman, Ed Mejia, Alastar Swift and Andrew Jensen performed table-side.

Andrew Jensen acted as MC for the evening show, which started at 9 PM. Alastar Swift opened the stage show performing with Cigarettes, Newspaper, Cards and rings. He had a few issues with some effects, but who among us has not had a routine misfire?

After intermission, Ed Mejia performed a Monte routine with giant cards and his pants. Professor's Nightmare, Houdini's Needle and Thread and then discerned the chosen cards of two audience members. His next trick involved moving cards from one audience member across the stage to another by the power of his mind. His closing effect involved three randomly chosen participants and psychically finding their chosen cards.

The next kid-friendly Illusion Factory will be held on January 9, 2016 at 810 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St in Renton which is Delancey's On Third. Doors open at 7:45, \$15 cover, food and drinks available. Featured stage performers are John the Magic Guy and Rick Anderson. More info on Facebook: Illusion Factory; Seattle's Best Magicians or you may call (206) 859-8363.

### 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.

#### January 11, 2015

Mark Paulson  
Jim Earnshaw  
Hugh Castell  
Master Payne

#### February 8, 2015

Mark Paulson  
Otto Miller  
Ruben Barron  
Michael Jacobs  
Master Payne

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>

#### Illusion Factory (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

See the write up on the Illusion Factory on the page above

## Just a Thought

By Ralph Huntzinger

Once again Ralph is sharing his writings from his blog. As I have before I will extract from his blog if you want to read the whole article goto <http://magickhappens.com/wp/?p=1066>

Learn a Trick -- How to decide what to learn – I'd love to outline an effect and describe how to do it; perhaps soon that will be here but there's a personal struggle with the concept of sharing and exposing. I'm leaning toward sharing but have to lose some more sleep over this "guarding an empty safe" philosophical question. So, I'll talk about how I view deciding what to commit time actually learning....

Personally I buy books instead of things/tricks; there is more information in the books and more effects. I buy some DVDs but usually only after I've decided to explore a specific effect. Therefore, the dreary Winter months are spent rereading material and getting re-excited about effects. Gathering information and feeding that inner need. There are a couple of Tommy Wonder's effects that keep creating excitement beyond enjoying seeing and understanding his performances. Eric Lewis and Jim Steinmeyer inspire me and make me feel like I'm sitting at the feet of friendly masters. When I return over and over to an effect and feel inspired that effect or something like it goes on my list of possibilities. "Tamed Card" has been there for years. I look at that list and start outlining what's involved with the effect. This is where the "how would I?" comes in, if I can outline the details of the inspired effect in my own words and see myself doing those actions I will continue toward learning. I have notebooks of Eric Lewis' effects outlined with questions and solutions of how I would do them; Steinmeyer's books are feathered with sticky notes along with entries in notebooks. Effects with a piece of rope don't seem to get into the notebooks; I love seeing and knowing them but there it stops, same with most card effects....

We're at the point of 1) love it, 2) could actually perform it, 3) have an actually way (routine) to perform it, 4) know why and where it would be performed, and 4) willing to face the major commitment of time. Here is where I'll make a couple of comments and let you chew on your opinion of my opinions.

Just do it! If you've gone this far, you are committed. You can always modify your decision and put it on the shelf for another time. I build a prototype at this point since most of my dreams revolve around apparatus effects; if I can mock it up I will be thinking all the time about script, moves, costumes, blocking, etc. If there are minimal props, gimmicks, or such then I storyboard it and learn the moves along with the script; in the process I will be thinking all the time about the above. And either way I decide if I'll progress further or put it on the shelf. "Copper to Silver", "Imaginary Coins", "Tamed Card", a couple of card effects, and 12 Steinmeyer effects are on my "Just Do It" list this year.

Keep collection but also spend some time deciding to commit a major chunk of time learning how to perform a "loved effect."

To read the whole blog goto <http://magickhappens.com/wp/?p=1102>

**This month we are graced with an article from our Librarian Jeff Dial. Thanks Jeff**  
**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FROM THE LIBRARIAN**

As Ralph cranks up the thumb screws on the officers to get out articles, here is one from your librarian.

There are three sets of books that have been the most influential in my growth as a magician. All three have something in common, but not for reasons one might first imagine.

In the late 1970's while I was still in college I purchased the then 7 volume set of The Tarbell Course of Magic. It covered 12 inches of bookshelf and covered the entire gambit of magic. It was for the most part the only really deep magic books I owned so I spent many hours searching and reading their pages.

The second set of books was the 2 volume set by Karl Fulves, The Best of Syldini...and More. That would have been in the mid-80's as I was starting to have children and money was tight. The two books (one text and the other the photographs) cost \$50; one of the priciest magic books on the market at the time and a princely sum for a young father. I saved for it and devoured it.

The last was The Workers 5 volume set by Michael Close purchased at the PCAM in Tacoma. It too was a princely sum and to get my money's worth I read every trick and every word.

Reading in detail these 3 sets gave me the depth in my understanding of the structure of how magic could be structured and performed. The common thread of these books was not that they gave me information, but that they were my main source and nearly only of information. As such I devoured the contents of these books and for better or worse they are part of me now.

I have, in the past 6 months, acquired over half a dozen new magic books. Some of them are classics, some of special interest to me, and some I bought for the tricks. It is doubtful that I will ever read all of them with the same fervor that I read the above sets.

So here is a challenge and I hope a New Year's resolution for us all. Set aside your DVDs. Turn off your podcasts and streaming videos. Pick one magic book you have browsed or read only partially. Read it this year cover to cover. Take out a deck of cards and try out the tricks you find there. Find the typos, misspellings, and incorrect illustrations Absorb the contents and learn. Happy reading.

**This Month we are welcoming a new writer Evan Shuster. He is in charge of producing the club lectures. Below is a review on the upcoming lecture on January 23.**

## Jamy Ian Swiss Lecture

### Exclusive Seattle Appearance

Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

2:00 PM

Shawn O'Donnell's (lower level)

122 128th St. SE

Everett, WA



**An acclaimed master of the challenging art of sleight of hand**, Jamy Ian Swiss has performed magic throughout the United States for presenters ranging from Fortune 500 companies to the Smithsonian Institution. He has lectured to magicians in 13 countries and made numerous television appearances in the United States, Europe and Japan, including U.S. appearances on CBS 48 Hours, PBS Nova and the PBS documentary *The Art of Magic*, and Comedy Central.

A gifted sleight-of-hand artist who possesses, as the Washington Post once wrote, “a finely tuned sense of the absurd,” Swiss was born in Brooklyn, New York and today makes his home in nearby Manhattan, having appeared along the way in performances from Hollywood's Magic Castle to Caesar's Palace on the Las Vegas Strip to the Ginza District of downtown Tokyo. His wildly eclectic resume includes stints as a marketing consultant, telecommunications firm owner, and wild animal handler. His greatest passion, though, is sleight-of-hand magic, and there are few practitioners who can match his skill and enthusiasm. With a bravado that reflects his early days performing in biker bars, Swiss blends contemporary comedy with bravura technical mastery to create a truly unique show that appeals to almost any audience. He has been called magician, comedian, artist; Swiss himself prefers the phrase “Honest Liar.”

“One of my great satisfactions in being a magician is that it is the most honest living I have ever made,” says Swiss. “As Karl Germain, a world-famous conjurer at the turn of the century, said, “The magician is the most honest of all professionals. He first promises to deceive you, and then he does.”

Above all else, Swiss is an entertainer, as this glowing review from the kings of irreverent magic, **Penn & Teller**, makes quite clear: “Jamy Ian Swiss makes one understand what a terrifying art form pure sleight of hand can be. He is James Bond with a deck of cards for a pistol.”

Swiss was a featured performer on the 1998 PBS documentary, **The Art of Magic**, and he is co-author of the companion book of the same title. He served as a comedy writer and chief magic consultant for Penn & Teller's *Sin City Spectacular*, a weekly television variety show on the FX network, for which he also co-produced the Penn & Teller segments. He created, produced and performed in the documentary special, “Cracking the Con Games,” for the Discovery Channel. Currently engaged in developing, producing and writing additional projects for television, he is slated as Head Writer and Associate Producer of the new high-tech series, “**The Virtual Magician**” starring Marco Tempest.

As a partner in Magical Nights Inc, he is the co-producer of Monday Night Magic, New York City's longest running Off-Broadway magic show, named New York's Best Magic Venue by *TimeOut NY*, and Best Kept Secret by *New York Press*.

Continue on next Page



## Jamy Ian Swiss Lecture Continue from previous page:

A busy and highly regarded writer, Swiss contributes a monthly book review column to **Genii, the Conjuror's Magazine**; is the author of 11 books and monographs of magic for magicians (including a volume published in Japanese); a contributor and advisor to the book, **Magic for Dummies**; and recently co-authored a chapter entitled "Explaining Magic" in the book, **Visual Explanations**, by the renowned information design authority, Edward Tufte. He was a creative consultant on Penn & Teller's book, **How To Play With Your Food**, and has been magic consultant to *Rolling Stone* magazine and on feature films, including *The Fantasticks*.

A founder of the **National Capital Area Skeptics** and contributor to **Skeptic magazine**, Swiss lectures to scientific, academic and university audiences about deception and the paranormal on "The Illusion of Psychic Powers." Why, you might wonder, is a professional deceiver concerned about the misuses of deception? "I want to highlight the line between illusion and reality," Swiss explains. "The fantasy world I create as a magician is a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there."

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjIqubMe\\_2Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjIqubMe_2Y)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjxeqyuSe\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjxeqyuSe_Y)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwMqELYTROA>

"A dazzling sleight-of-hand man"

**The New York Times**

"Swiss is widely thought to have one of the most masterly sleight-of-hand techniques in the world today .... like seeing Yo-Yo Ma practicing scales at Carnegie Hall"

**Adam Gopnik,**

**The New Yorker**

"Don't miss astonishing magician Jamy Ian Swiss!"

**Vanity Fair**

"The Kid Creole of Card Tricks ... Swiss's humor is both visible and risible. He's suave, he's smooth ... a superlative magician!"

**The Washington Post Weekend**

"His card and coin magic were seamless ... dazzling!"

**TimeOut NY**

"The wonderful host of [Monday Night Magic, was] Jamy Ian Swiss ... to me, this self-described 'honest liar' was worth the ticket price alone!"

**Backstage**