



Words from the Secretary

Craig Colombel accolombel@zipcon.com

We will be meeting again in person/live on April 14th at 7pm. We will be meeting at InSpark CoWorking Space in Lynnwood. [Click here for more information](#). We will still have Zoom for those who don't want to meet in person yet.

IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES \$25 FOR THE YEAR

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In Person meeting June 9th 2022

We are having our Live MAGIC CLUB Meeting of the NW Ring of Fire in Lynnwood on June 10th at 7pm.

InSpark CoWorking Space
16824 44th Ave W Suite 130,
Lynnwood, WA 98037

The Zoom meeting will also happen for the safety and convenience of members who do not want to meet live yet.

Google map link: <https://g.page/insparkcowork?share>

Zoom meeting info below

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 736 296 076

Passcode: ringoffire

One tap mobile

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 736 296 076

Passcode: 8042240358

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

Words from the President

Message from the President June 2022 IBM Ring 339 Ring of Fire

Message from the President: Monty K Reed www.MagicMontyReed.com 206 250 5639 MagicMontyReed@gmail.com

History Note: Eugene Burger June 1, 1939-August 8, 2017

Stagebill magazine proclaimed Eugene was "universally recognized as perhaps the finest close-up magician in the world." Named one of the 100 most influential magicians of the 20th century by Magic Magazine, Eugene was a mesmerizing performer, insightful philosopher, provocative writer and inspiring teacher.

Eugene was Chicago's best magician and served as Dean of Jeff McBride's Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas. During his life, Eugene wrote 15 best-selling books on magic, which have been translated into several languages. He starred in the biographical documentary "A Magical Vision," produced and directed by Michael Caplan. His exceptional presence led to numerous television appearances in Great Britain, Canada, Belgium, Finland and Japan. In the United States, he was profiled twice on CNN and appeared in such highly acclaimed shows as "The Art of Magic" on PBS and "Mysteries of Magic" on The Learning Channel. The master teacher also appeared in eight instructional videos and lectured extensively to magicians' groups in over a dozen countries.

Eugene's talk, "How Magicians Think," applied his special understanding of deception and perception to the corporate world. He was a featured speaker for top executives of such major companies as Coca-Cola, Williams-Sonoma, Unisys and Pottery Barn, as well as for the graduate schools of business at the Universities of Chicago and Maryland.

A graduate of Yale University's Divinity School, Eugene's deep understanding of the psychology and philosophy behind magic won him international accolades, cover stories in conjuring magazines, and multiple awards from the famed Magic Castle in Hollywood, the International Magicians Society, and FISM (International Federation of Magical Societies).

Eugene's true passion was bringing mystery and enchantment to the public, and at that, he was unparalleled. Eugene enjoyed a long, healthy life, but in 2017 was diagnosed with terminal cancer. As he said at the time, "Now I am on the way to the ultimate capital-M Mystery of life." Eugene embraced his final days with great clarity, humor, and peace of mind.

"You are the magician in your own life.

You are the agent of transformation, your own transformation."

– Eugene Burger

June 1, 1939-August 8, 2017

History Note: Harry Blackstone, Jr. June 30, 1934 – May 14, 1997

I met Harry Blackstone Jr when he came to Seattle and I attended all three nights shows. I really love the stage and parlor magic so for me this was one of my all time high experiences. After the show every night I was first in line to get autographs and ask questions. Then I stood off to the side and watched how he talked to his fans so I could learn how to act as a professional once I made it.

Rather than utilize the routines his father developed, Blackstone developed his own and modernized his performance, though onstage he would, on occasion, perform a sequence of his father's illusions in a period setting.

Blackstone created four levels (beginner to advanced) of magic kits that were the best selling in the field. In the early 1970s, he promoted a "PF Magic Wedge Kit" on a television commercial for [PF Flyers](#) sneakers, and he appeared on several commercials for [Jiffy Pop](#) popcorn.



Harry Blackstone Jr., Pittsburgh, 1981

In 1985, on the 100th anniversary of his father's birth, Blackstone donated to the [Smithsonian Institution](#) in Washington, D.C. the original floating light bulb – designed and built by [Thomas Edison](#) – and the original Casadega Cabinet, used in the "Dancing Handkerchief" illusion. This was the first donation accepted by the Smithsonian in the field of magic.^[6] Blackstone appeared as a guest on [The Tonight Show](#), [Donahue](#), [The Today Show](#), [Reading Rainbow](#) and [The Super Mario Bros. Super Show](#). He also made occasional appearances as the mysterious Dr. Mephisto on the TV soap opera [Santa Barbara](#) and as himself on [Hart to Hart](#) in 1981. Of his several TV specials, the [PBS](#) two-hour special was unique due to the intros by some of [The Muppets](#). Blackstone's "Backstage with Blackstone" appearances on PBS's [Square One TV](#), where he used magic tricks to teach mathematics to young people, was a favorite of his. He was a regular host of [ABC Weekend Specials](#) in the 1980s.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Blackstone_Jr.

Join us for the live or online version of our monthly Ring of Fire meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 7 pm PST.

This month the meeting will be in the NORTH Conference Room because there is an event in the main room. Follow the signs.

Bring a trick to show and or teach. Bring your show and tell.

Bring a question about your act, you have for the other magicians in the room.

Warm regards, Monty K Reed

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206 250 5639

PO Box 65230, Seattle, WA 98155

PS Share a little magic with your world.

Gift Magic

Authored by Jeff McBride, George Parker, Lawrence Hass, Eugene Burger, Rich Bloch, and Robert E. Neale

Edited by Lawrence Hass

Theory and Art of Magic Press

<http://www.theoryandartofmagic.com/>

Softbound 184 pages 57 Illustrations

Reviewed by Payne

There is a very good chance that, for many of us, the very first magic trick we saw was a form of gift magic. More than likely it occurred at some family gathering when an uncle, elder cousin or grandfather pulled a quarter or, if one was really lucky, a fifty cent piece from behind our grimy little ear. It is doubtful that any of us still possess that magically produced coin. Most likely it was frittered away on sweets or small trifles of some sort. But the wonder and mystery of that intimate moment, where the magic was just for us, lives on in our memory.

This, more or less is the gist of Lawrence Hass' new collection of essays and tricks "Gift Magic: Performances that leave people with a souvenir"

Mr. Hass is a Professor of Humanities at Austin College as well as being an Associate Dean for Jeff McBride's Magic and Mystery School. So he tends to approach the performance of magic with a philosophical eye and an academic demeanor. So his books tend to be a tad bit meatier than your typical tome devoted to the thaumaturgical arts. So for those just looking for a book full of new tricks to inflict upon friends or family or think that from its title it's chuck full of poignant pieces of prestidigitation suitable for picking up chicks in a bar you'd be better off spending your money elsewhere.

Now I freely admit that I am not this book's target audience. I tend to be the type of performer that the faculty over at McBride's Mystery School (many of who are contributors to this volume) rail against. I am the glib, self centered performer more inclined to engage in what I believe to be clever repartee than attempt to connect to my audience on a higher emotional level. Nine times out of ten I will go for the cheap joke rather than the magical moment. Wait, that's a lie. I'll go for the cheap joke every time. But I will admit that even I, a guy who can sometimes make the Amazing Jonathan look like a nice guy, found things of value in this book.

As you can no doubt tell from its title the focus of this book is on magic that leaves the recipient of the performance with a small token to remember it by-- A gift. Thus most of the magic, apart from Eugene Burger's handling of the classic hat tear (yes, Mr. Burger does a hat tear) is designed to be performed one on one in an intimate setting. None of them, apart from Eugene Burger's Hat Tear (I just like saying that) is really suitable for a formal presentation of a magic show. Nor were they designed to be. These effects were created to evoke a strong emotional reaction -- To touch the spectator on a more visceral and meaningful level. So none of them (there are eleven of them) are of that hard, hit them between the eyes and leave them fried type of magic. To paraphrase Obi-Wan Kenobi "this is a more elegant magic for a more civilized age".

But the true value of "Gift Magic" is not to be found in the tricks it contains. They are after all simply illustrations for the various topics contained in the text. These thought provoking essays and interviews allow the reader to ponder the deeper meaning and structure of their presentations. To help them come to an understanding of how they see their audiences and more importantly, how our audiences see us.

Perhaps the most interesting discussions contained in these pages are the ones pertaining to what exactly a gift is. Its importance and meaning, the different types of giving and the expectations and responsibilities of both recipient and giver. All of these discussions lead to the idea that the only true gift is the one given without any expectations for reciprocation. That any gift given with a desire for something to be given in return is a transaction and not a gift. I am not sure I agree with this assumption and I'm sure Mr. Hass and I will discuss this at great length next time our paths cross.

Chapter 12 "On Giving, Magic & Giving Magic" is his Keynote presentation he gave at the 2008 Magic and Meaning Conference in which not only does he delve into this idea of the gift as transaction at great length. He also presents us with a great gift himself. Quickly summing up the salient points of Lewis Hyde's "The Gift" (the book from which Mr. Hass

drew much of his inspiration on the topic of gift magic) and thereby saves us from the hefty task of trying to read the book ourselves.

So in closing this book isn't for everyone. If you are just wanting to add new tricks to your war chest you will be disappointed. But if you like pondering the philosophical aspects of our craft and are up for a journey of introspection you might just enjoy reading this book. My only complaint is the title. "Gift Magic: Performances that leave people with a souvenir" I think would have read better as "Gift Magic: Performances that leave people with a memento".

Souvenir has a tawdry and slightly tacky meaning. Memento is a more meaningful and elegant word more in keeping with the overall message of the book.

Mementos are simple objects acquired by happenstance. A book of matches or a imprinted cocktail napkin from that romantic restaurant you stumbled across completely by accident in a back street in Venice. A souvenir is the T-Shirt with the funny and slightly rude picture of the Mona Lisa you bought at that stand at the base of the Rialto Bridge.

The napkin is lovingly enshrined in a scrap book next to the picture you took of the Nero di Seppie you dined on that day. The T-shirt is worn a few times and eventually becomes a rag that is used to wax the car.

May's Meeting Report of the Northwest Ring of Fire Magic Club #339

Monty reported that he is performing at the Everett Improv a 50/50 show (50 percent comedy and 50 percent magic) on May 14th.

Brian Melicear announce that he received the Merlin award from the IBM for 25 years of membership. He brought out a tall wooded cube hollow on the inside and no ends, He had a block of wood that could be dropped through the larger tube. After dropping the block through the tube, he then took a metal rod and peirce the tube. When he released the block again the rod stopped the block and didn't fall through. He removed the rod and the block fell through. He replace the rod and this time when the block was dropped it continue through the tube penetrating through the rod.

James Donahue brought out a Sharpie and told us it doubled as an magic wand and he performed a vanish and production of the wand. He then went into a comedy Cup and Ball routine with a finally of two tennis balls. He then had a card chosen and the volunteers name written on the card, returned and lost in the deck. The deck is tossed in the air and the card appears under a hat. Problem it is the 10 of diamonds, but in his wallet is the signed card. He then went over the cups and balls showing some moves he liked and a brief discussion about the history of the cups and balls and some of the moves used.

Payne told us about a review he did for a reissue of A1's media magic videos. The video he reviewed he said had issues with the patter, if one did the tricks one who definitely have to produce their own patter. Also, the tricks taught did not have any attributions to them. He then showed us "Thin Air" where there is a prediction, and the deck of cards are shuffled and dealt face down until the spectator says stop. The stopped upon card matches the prediction.

Rich Waters showed us another deck from his collection. It had pictures from "The Mandalorian"

Mike Losk came out with a bowl. Handed a deck to someone and left area. The person was instructed to cut the deck into two piles. The spectator cuts one of the piles again and looks at the cut to card. The packet with the card is tossed in the bowl and the magician comes back and can tell the cut to card and how many cards where in the bowl.

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Colombel - Secretary NWRF

See you next Thursday June 9th at 7pm at the
InSpark CoWorking Space
16824 44th Ave W Suite 130,
Lynnwood, WA 98037

MANY THANKS TO Monty Reed for finding a place for us to meet.

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) I have just heard that the shop is for sale.

Brian Cook's

WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.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 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. Time: 7-8pm Magic Monday is not only a wonderful place to see local magicians doing what they do best; it is also a suitable 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.