



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. Which will be Wednesday November 9th instead of Thursday the 10th.

1. **Table of Contents**
1. **Words from the Secretary**
2. **Presidents Message**
3. **October's Meeting Notes/ Ring of Smoke**
4. **Reviews by Payne**
5. **Notes to Self by Phil Reda**
6. **Mystic Pasta**
7. **Club Calendar**
8. **Magic Happenings and Magic shops**
9. **Handsome Jack Lecture in November 12th**

President's Message
Ralph Huntzinger

No Message this month

October 2016 MEETING

Our President Ralph Huntzinger was not able to make the meeting. Our vice president, Jim Rodgers ran the meeting.

Jeff Dial started the night out with a card routine by Michael Weber. He gave out three packets of cards. Each person mixed up their packet. The packets were combined, mixed and divided up again. He then told each person what was the division of cards by suite in each packet.

Craig Colombel performed a routine by Kimmo. This was a spelling effect. With pictures of animals printed on cards and a list of the same animals to spell. It was a competition between two volunteers with one always getting the spider card, which was an animal not on the list. Ends with one card left and instead of being the spider card was a card with only the web on it. The spider was found on the magicians back. After there were suggestions on improving the routine. The props were handmade and there were suggestions on the construction of the props. Payne performed his piece for Magic and Meaning. He had a book titled "100 Disturbing Poems for Sensitive Children". He then showed a poster of himself and his ventriloquist dummy when he was a young performer. Payne had a plastic bag which he said was where his dummy was stored for all of these years. When he removed the dummy it was now a skeleton. He recited the Poem "Little Orphan Anne" and performed a 3 coin vanish, with the coins vanishing at the appropriate parts of the poem. At the end of the poem the skeleton vent move its mouth and flash its eyes.

Members then spent time sharing magic

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>

November meeting will be this Weds instead of Thurs. Same time and Place

Ring of Smoke Report

The November 6 Ring of Smoke was a fun event hosted at Shawn O'Donnell's. JR and Ralph worked on oil and water and card magic with the youth. Otto, Theo, Kai, Mateo, Ben as well as newer members all participated in working on various magic effects. The youth worked on developing and practicing their routines along with overall coordination of Mystic Pasta, the annual Ring of Smoke banquet. It will be held in two weeks, on Sunday, November 20 at Shawn O'Donnell's starting at 4:30. This year's focus will be on close up magic, as well as table hopping, with some classic stage magic as well. Mark your calendar for a great event!

Ben and Marty

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

Review by Payne

Why Magic, Transforming Tricks into Magic

By Warren J Welsh PhD.

One might ask after reading *Why Magic* why *Why Magic* was written? Especially if the reader has previously worked their way through the works of Sharpe, Fitzkee and Nelms. Those who have yet to read the seminal texts of *Neo Magic*, *The Fitzkee Trilogy* or *Magic and Showmanship* might find the issues raised by the author of *Why Magic* to be ground breaking and thought provoking. But those familiar with the aforesaid mentioned texts will find little new between *Why Magic's* spiral bound covers. At one hundred and twenty 5X8" pages Warren J Welsh's *Why Magic* reads more like a Cliff Notes version of *Magic and Showmanship* than a definitive text on the subject of transforming one's tricks into magic.

Not that this is necessarily a bad thing. Those who have yet to discover Henning Nelms work on the performance and presentation of magic might find Mr. Welsh's book a good introduction to this oft neglected aspect of our art.

Like Nelms, Mr. Welsh – who has a PhD in clinical psychology – contends that the performance of magic is best served if it is presented as "real". That the magician should assume the role of someone who is either in possession of supernatural abilities, arcane knowledge, or a mystical object from which they derive magical powers. He feels that this can best be accomplished by interspersing your typical magic performance with story based presentations.

However, unlike Nelms who presented us with many tricks and routines to illustrate this line of thought Mr. Welsh does not. He instead gives us a handful of story based scripts for standard effects. These range from a very odd retelling of the Gypsy Curse involving an elf to a rather nice O'Henry-esque presentation for the color changing knives. While these presentations do promote another a line of thinking that is presented in *Why Magic*, that magic is best served if one's performances are relevant and have meaning, I find it unlikely that presenting the Gypsy Curse with a storyline about one of Santa's elves on vacation in Italy during the Fifteenth century is going to leave anyone in your audience believing that you are indeed in possession of supernatural abilities.

Yet there are some interesting topics raised in this book that might appeal to those just starting down the path of more meaningful magic presentations as well as those well into the journey. The Why Factor, is discussed several times. The reader is encouraged to question the motivation in their magic presentation and ask themselves what they are doing and why.

I also was particularly intrigued by the idea that we should stop thinking of our performances as a magic show but rather as a magic act. This subtle difference in one's perception on how magic might be best presented I think warrants far more attention than it was given here and possibly would have made for a more interesting read.

Notes To Self : Tarbell 52 parts 1&2

By Phil Reda

Dan Harlan is one of my favorite teachers and performers. His thinking on staging and presentation is some of the best. I was intrigued when Penguin Magic and Dan teamed up to tackle the Tarbell course, what a monumental task. I finally purchased volume 52 "Mental and Psychic Mysteries parts1&2". I also own a set of Tarbell's so I first read chapter 52 then hit play to watch Dan's interpretation of these fine effect and how he would present them to today's audiences. Here are my Pros and Cons:

Pros:

1. Overall great content. In Part One and Two there were several pieces that were worth the price of the download. My favorites were the Number prediction and Q&A ideas.
2. As usual Dan updated some very classical effects and are viable to today's audience.

Cons:

1. On the drawing Duplication he shows an exact drawing of the one being thought of. This turns it more into a magic trick then a Mentalism effect and is not the way to present something like this.
2. The marked envelope idea was great idea from the 30's but today there are easier ways to mark the envelope - this is not a criticism; Dan is staying true to the course and showing how you would have to make the same envelope. The bank knight effect he did with the envelope was probably the weakest of the effects. There are better methods.

Overall I enjoyed the downloads and would recommend them if you are interested in Mentalism. The one caution I would make is Dan presentations seem to make these more into Mental Magic and is a little to giddy in his performance style. Ignore his presentation style and focus on his methods and staging. I think the world of Dan and again he is one of the best out there. There is allot to be gleaned from these two volumes - and they are long almost 3 hours each.

Until next time

Mystic Pasta the Annual Ring of Smoke dinner and Magic show. Sunday, November 20 at Shawn O'Donnell's starting at 4:30.

The youth from the Ring of Smoke club holds this banquet every year pasta and magic. Get a ticket and see the future of magic.



Club Calendar

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

(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

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

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 want to hone your magic skills, get in touch with Mark Paulson, the producer of this venue (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 or on Facebook at

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

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

Delancey's on 3rd 810 S 3rd St Renton, WA

1st 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 That's Impossible Presents elsewhere in the newsletter.

The End of The Can-Am Conjuring Lecture Series

by Evan Shuster

Ok, I admit to purposely selecting a titillating headline to get your attention.

No... The Can-Am Conjuring Lecture Series is not necessarily coming to an end, but we have come to the end of the 2016 season.

And what a season it has been!

In 2016 we hosted a terrific line-up of magicians, from Kainoa Harbottle, to Christian Engblom, to Daryl, to (absent from Seattle) Diamond Jim Tyler. Creating a follow-up to cast was a daunting task, especially when you consider the likes of Murray Hatfield, Shoot Ogawa, Mike Powers, Dani DaOrtiz, and Gregory Wilson, but I think we did pretty well this year.

To top it all off, we close the 2016 season with the incomparable John Lovick (aka Handsome Jack). If you haven't already watched his performance on Penn & Teller's "Fool Us!," or you haven't yet purchased and read his critically acclaimed book "Handsome Jack, etc.," then I can only hope it's because you have mysteriously lost the ability to spell the universally acknowledged magical words, "Google," and "YouTube."

Of course, you could have also deleted the latest batch of my emails, added me to your list of Junk spammers, or neglected to open the October club newsletter.

That would be a shame.

With that said, you still have an opportunity to redeem yourself by showing up at John's (Jack's?) lecture on Saturday, November 12th, at 2:00PM, at the Best Western Alderwood, 19331 36th Ave W., Lynnwood, WA 98036. I have even arranged to buy you a cup of coffee (or water, if you prefer), as my thanks for your support of live magic in Seattle, and The Can-Am Conjuring Lecture Series.

And who knows... I may even be persuaded to reveal the line-up of the 2017 season.

Handsome is as handsome does.

November 12th, 2016

2:00 PM

The Best Western – Alderwood

19331 36th Ave W.

Lynnwood, WA 98036

NW Ring of Fire Members: \$25

General Admission: \$30.00

The Can-Am Conjuring Lecture Series presents...

Handsome Jack

with special guest John Lovick



