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February 2023

— RING 92 —

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

The Magical Minutes

the Charles Howard Ring



The Presidents Report



Hello VMC Members.

It's my pleasure to welcome you all as the new President of the VMC for the 2023 term. I'm very honoured and I hope to do my best to serve you this year.

We are looking forward to the February Installation Banquet and Show which will feature **Robert Ramirez**. I'm sure this will be an amazing time. Please get your tickets and invite your friends asap as this is sure to sell out and is already selling quickly.

I want to give mention to the executive team who all worked hard to get this event prepared, particularly **Roy Hopwood** who got the event published online at Eventbrite and **Shawn Farquhar** for reserving our fantastic venue for the event, **Stefano's** at New Westminster.

At our last January meeting, we recently initiated several new members into the Circle and it's great to see the club growing. Welcome to all of you! As president, it is my goal that those of you who recently joined or renewed membership will feel you got something out of being part of the club.

At each meeting this year, I hope that each of you will take something away, whether it's learning a new skill, gaining new friends or having great experiences. This will begin with a great lecture by **Robert Ramirez** on the day following the Installation Banquet.

I'm looking forward to our time together in the new year.

Yoosik Ethan Oum,

Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92 - Interim President

The Dennis Chan Report

The Vancouver Magic Circle's first meeting of 2023 took place on Thursday, January 26. Before the meeting officially opened, there was a chat session amongst the members.

Rod Boss then opened the meeting, as interim president **Yoosik Oum** had an engagement. He did show up later. **Rod** wished everyone a Happy New Year as he greeted the members and guests.

This was one trick night where members are asked to perform a magical effect. Performing their one trick were **Rod Boss, Cameron Minty, John Stenning, Michael Nemeth, Roy Hopwood, Gabe Gabini, Anthony Young, Lon Mandrake, Bob Wilson, Daniel Schwartz, and James Nguyen.**

This was also past president's night whereby past presidents are invited to perform a magical effect.

Past presidents performing their one magical effect were **Rod Boss, Bill Lee, Graham Kita, Ray Wong, and Greg Dietlein.** Well done everyone!

Other members doing magical effects were **Jackie Schwartz, Daniel Schwartz, Blake Aleong and Mike Vetterli.**

It was now time to vote for the new executive for the 2023 magic year. **Graham Kita** presided over the election process. Positions to be filled were president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary/ treasurer and sergeant-at-arms. The board approved slate for 2023 is president, **Yoosik Oum**, first vice president, **Simon Cassegrain**, second vice president, **Henry Tom**, secretary/ treasurer, **Roy Hopwood**, and sergeant-at-arms, **Dennis Chan.** **Graham Kita** invited additional names from the membership for the above positions. There were no other names. Therefore, by acclamation, the above nominees have accepted their new positions.

Congratulations to the new executive for the 2023 magic year. They will be sworn in at the installation ceremony in February.

This was also initiation night where new members who have not gone through this ceremony, in order to become a full fledged member of the Vancouver Magic Circle must perform three magical effects to the satisfaction of the members in order to take part in the ceremony. **Greg Lee** and **Vincent Lee** performed their three magical effects.

The **Dennis Chan** Report is continued on page 2

Yoosik Oum reminded the members about the installation banquet, show and awards night in February and with a lecture by **Robert Ramirez** the following day at the meeting hall.

Graham Kita handed out ballots for the **Murray Award** for the most creative magical performance during the course of the year. The nominees are **Glen LaBarre, Rod Chow, John Stenning** and **Mike Vetterli**.

Graham also handed out ballots for the **Stan Kramien Award** for showmanship during the course of the year. The nominees are **Rod Chow, Mike Vetterli**, and **Henry Tom**.

The winners will be announced at the installation banquet in February.

Nominations for the **Dave Culos Memorial Trophy** for the Golden Rabbit trophy were **Yoosik Oum, Dennis Chan** and **Clinton W. Gray**. The winner will be announced at the installation banquet in February.

The evening ended with **Rod Boss** leading the members to the ceremonial stage who have, in the past, have also done their three magical effects to be initiated. **Graham Kita** presided over the initiation ceremony. The members being initiated were **Gabe Gabini, Simon Cassegrain, Greg Lee, Daniel Schwartz, Kim Fabbro**, and **James Nguyen**. Congratulations everyone and welcome to the Vancouver Magic Circle.

Photography during the evening was courtesy of: **Simon Cassegrain, Henry Tom** and **Graham Kita**. **Graham Kita** provided refreshments for the evening. Thanks **Graham**.

Thanks to **Rod Boss** for giving me a ride to the meeting, and thanks to **Greg Dietlein** for giving me a ride home.

There were 29 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Dennis Chan

The Editors Desk

Welcome to 2023, we have started the year off in a big way. It is the intention of the VMC Executive Committee to provide members with continued high quality events throughout the year.

We also want to continue to provide photos of members and events; fun; informative information; listings of upcoming events; reviews and many other bits and pieces in our newsletter 'The Magical Minutes'.

Congratulations to **Yoosik Oum** who has been elected President of the VMC and will be writing a monthly 'The Presidents Report'. We also say welcome to **Henry Tom** who has joined the executive team.

The elected VMC Executive Committee for 2023 is: President, **Yoosik Oum**; first vice president, **Simon Cassegrain**; second vice president, **Henry Tom**; secretary/ treasurer, **Roy Hopwood**; and sergeant-at-arms, **Dennis Chan**.

This is not possible without the continuing contributions from our valued contributors, **Dennis Chan; John Stenning; Yoosik Oum; Henry Tom; Shawn Farquhar; Rob Teszka; Simon Cassegrain; Graham Kita**. Thank you everyone of you. If you would like to join the ranks of contributors, it is easy, just send me (hopwood.vmc@gmail.com) photos, reviews, opinions, articles, links etc.

A **HUGE** TMM shout out to **Shawn Farquhar** for securing the services of **Robert Ramirez**, (see promos in this issue), as our performer at the Installation Dinner and for presenting a lecture for members on Thursday February 23, 2023 at the hall. Thanks also to **Shawn** for finding such a great venue as **Stefanos** for the Dinner.

If you haven't by now bought your tickets it is too late as we are completely SOLD OUT, however, tickets for Robert's lecture on Thursday night, at the meeting hall, are still available. And can be purchased via the [website](#) or at the door.

Lets make 2023 the very best year for both the VMC and TMM

I am looking forward to meeting YOU at a VMC meeting / event.

Roy J Hopwood

VMC Library

The Vancouver Magic Circle Library Catalogue is online!

Remember: if you want a new trick, look in an old book! Our hope is that whenever our members see a trick they really want, or are trying to learn a difficult piece of theory, or are interested in buying a book— they will first check the library. This is one way we can improve our magic, and this [searchable online catalogue](#) is the first step towards taking full advantage of this incredible resource.

NOW AVAILABLE - LIMITED EDITION

Only two thousand decks of these professional playing cards were produced for the 100th Anniversary of the I.B.M. Just a little more than half the decks remain following the convention and we are now releasing that remaining stock to you, our members around the world!

These cards are printed on the finest card stock by the 808 Magic Card Company with a special finish and traditional cut that makes fanning so easy. The design of the cards was created by Shawn Farquhar and contain a few hidden wonders.

- Blank face card • Double back card • Two identical Jokers
- Queen of Clubs winking • Queen of Spades holding a Three of Spades
- One way design on the face • Prediction on the bottom of the card case

The decks court cards are uniquely coloured with shades of blue and gold while the Aces all have the I.B.M. Logo in the background. These exquisite cards are perfect for use in performance and will also be a collector's item due the limited printing and significance to our 100th Anniversary celebrations.

www.Magician.org/about/ibm-regalia



I Recall...

By Roy Hopwood

Less is more

Originally published in the October 2021 issue of ASM Magic Makers

I can recall a time when I was just starting out performing at Birthday Parties, I had 3 tables and 2 bags full of props / tricks. It took me 30 minutes on site just to set up. Then after the show I would just throw everything into the bags. Problem is I started getting several gigs on the same day, and would spend even longer setting up prior to the show.

Over time I realised that I was not taking as many things to the shows and 3 tables became 1 table and 2 bags became 1 bag.

Eventually I came to the realisation that the tables or props or tricks were not as important as the character / person performing the show.

I eventually reached the stage where I would turn up at the party venue with **No** bags or tables, everything I needed for the show was 'body loaded'. If I couldn't conceal it with my body load, it didn't get into the act. This forced me to be critical as to what went into the act, and was varied depending on the client's needs.

People were surprised when I arrive empty handed and no bags or tables in sight, they would ask if I needed help to bring things in or the fact I didn't require the use of a table. I would tell the client that all I need is a place to stand and a room full of children.

After the show they say how amazing it was that I could keep 25 children entertained and under control for a full hour.

I applied the same kind of criteria for my Restaurant 'Table Hopping', I didn't want to carry around a bag or close up mat. Everything I may need had to be body loaded.

I recall setting myself these conditions:

1. I had to perform the effect in my hands, and not use the table*
2. The effect had to be easily reset in situ, without have to find a corner
3. It had to use no consumables**

These conditions made me have to consider any effect / trick and have them comply with the above conditions, to the extent that I had to ditch many tricks or adapt them and make them comply with my self-imposed conditions.

The two (2) exceptions to these 3 conditions are:

**If I was invited back to a particular table after 'working the room' I would ask permission to sit and use the table space to show the people a couple of special effects that use the table top as the performance area.*

***The only consumables I used were balloons. At around 14cents each I just absorbed the cost, as these were a highlight of my work.*

Following decades of performing, when a 5 year old boy, asked me if I was a clown, when I was in normal clothes at the time. I finally understood, that it is not the costume or the tricks that are important, it is my attitude and interaction with my audiences, be they, children; adults; seniors: deaf; drunk; people with mental health issues or whatever, it doesn't matter.

If you want people to like you, YOU HAVE TO LIKE PEOPLE. You can't fake it.

So what it all comes down to is the bags; tables; props; tricks are NOT IMPORTANT (Well maybe a little) it is the attitude of the performer.

What do YOU think?

To Do Voodoo by Rick Lax

A review
By

Yoosik Ethan Oum

This is an underrated amazing piece of impromptu mentalism that fits in your wallet and is with you 24/7, so you're always ready when someone asks to see a trick. I do this on the spot all the time and it gets great reactions.

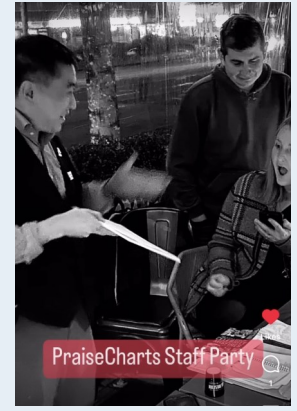
On the back of a business card is a hand written list, that you write up yourself, of chores or tasks to do numbered 1 to 10. In the download, Rick Lax teaches you how to make up the list. You tell your spectator to think of any number from 1 to 10 and he never tell you the number or writes it down. You hand him the list and he looks at the task that corresponds to his number. Tell him to just visualize doing this task. At this moment, you know which one he's thinking of. No cold reading, no writing anything down, no hints.

Given the method, I was worried at first that people would see or figure out the method, but it's fooled everyone I have performed it for so far, even magicians.

This is available as a download on Penguin Magic. Mentalism right  in your wallet always ready to go.

A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS

Some highlights from some of Yoosik Oum's holiday gigs In December.



VMC

VMC Meeting January 26, 2023



Photos courtesy of Simon Cassegrain

John's Reviews

Sweetch



Sweetch is a trick/prop that you can use to cause a signed card to appear inside of a pack of gum; there are other things you can do with this, including, basically, the opposite: showing a folded up card inside the pack and or putting it in there, then making it vanish.



The thing I like best about Sweetch, is that the gimmick is handmade using a real package of gum, so it's not some made up phoney brand that doesn't exist. If taken care of, it should last awhile and if you're a creative type, I'm sure you could always get a brand new pack of the same brand of gum and re-build it if you need to.

The download is approximately half an hour and covers at least two methods you can use. Sweetch sells for \$20.00 U.S. from Vanishing Ink.

J. Stenning A.K.A. Melrick the Magician.

jrsbbf@icloud.com

February 8, 2023

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

ON DECK!

Welcome to my first monthly card review, where I'll be reviewing....you guessed it, a different deck of cards each month! And since as of writing this, Valentine's day is right around the corner, I thought it appropriate to start with the Bicycle HEARTS deck from 2022 that I recently acquired.



Some of you may know of, or even play the game hearts, which is what this deck is more or less about, however, other than a few minor changes, it's not that different from a regular deck and can be used to do all your regular card tricks.

I don't very often play card games and it's been quite awhile since I played the game hearts, however, there is a reason it's called hearts and it has something to do with taking hands or tricks during play. The rules come with the deck, or you can look it up on line, I won't go into detail explaining how to play it here, however, what I do want to mention is the difference specific to this deck and that is that the hearts all have a gold trim around them so you don't forget/are careful during play. Also, there are point values on the cards (hearts) as well as the queen of spades which is an important card in play for this game.

So there you go, if you like the game hearts, then this deck is for you, if you like Valentines day, same thing and if you like both those things AND doing card tricks, well, I guess you'd better get a deck.

How much? Well, I don't usually like to pay much more than \$10 for a deck of cards unless it's special and or limited edition. You should be able to get one of these for about that, depending on where you get it from of course. The one thing I can tell you for sure, which you may already know, is that Ebay isn't the place to get them, not with the outrageous shipping some people are asking for, like this deck for around \$10 and then \$17 for shipping? No thanks.

Till next time.

J. Stenning A.K.A. Melrick the magician.

jrsbbf@icloud.com

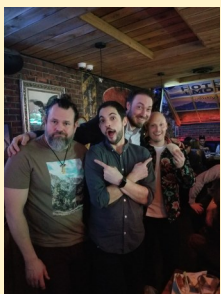
February 10, 2023

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

Pics from the Shows



Photos



Photos courtesy of The Parlour Magic Show



Roy's 5 question quiz

1. A very common magic word makes fun of Latin words used in the Catholic mass. It was used as the title of a movie starring Bette Midler. It is generally used to indicate that one thing is being transformed into something else, through either sleight-of-hand or alchemy. Which magic word am I referring to?
2. P.T. Selbit was an English magician who cut through the conventions of the time and invented one of the first "jaw-dropping" illusions. What trick is this?
3. Which much missed comedian, also a member of the Magic Circle was known for his red fez and magic that never worked? You'll get this "just like that".
4. A very old trick involves moves like galloping, transportations, vanishes and reappearances. Quite often a few transformations are also thrown in as a climax. What's the name of this trick?
5. You may have seen him on TV as a con-man, a Saturday Night Live guest or a late-night judge but he has always been a magician. Who is he?

Answers in next issue

Groaners

Son, remember these two magic words. They will open up the doors in your life."

Push and Pull.

~~~~~

A magic genie tells Tom, "I can make anything of yours disappear!"

Tom: [raises his mug]: Okay, get rid of my tea.

Genie: Poof!

Tom: It didn't work.

~~~~~

What do you call an owl that does magic?

Hoodini.

This is the sixth issue of the revived 'The Magical Minutes', I hope it has and continuous to meet with your approval. I would, however, welcome contributions from the membership. So if **you** have any articles; ideas; anecdotes; show / book / video reviews; photographs; cartoons; jokes; or anything else that you feel would be suitable for 'The Magical Minutes' please submit them to:

Roy Hopwood via hopwood.vmc@gmail.com or 1 604 219 0897.

Diary Dates*

Vancouver Magic Circle

lbmrng92.com

Generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the Month—January; February; March; April; May; June ; September; October: November; Plus August—Picnic on date tba.

VMC Executive Meeting: TBA

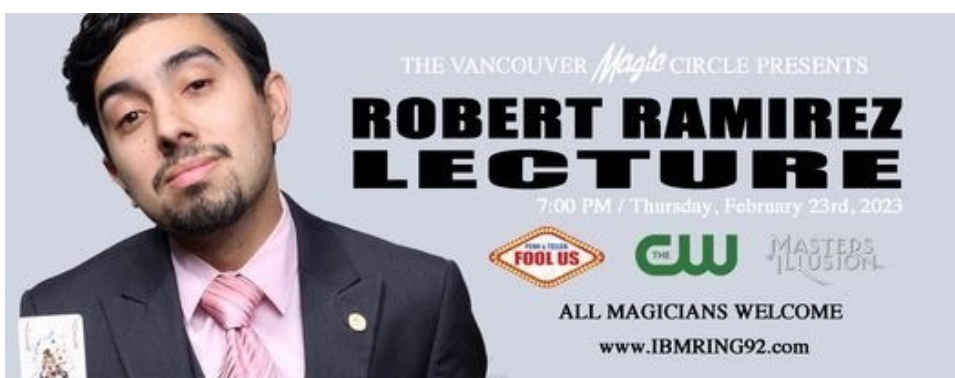
February 2023:

February 22, 2023

*Installation Banquet - venue TBA

February 23, 2023

*Lecture - Venue - Hall



Shows

Hidden Wonders

<https://hiddenwonders.ca>

Shows are generally on Thursday/7 PM, Fri & Sat 7 & 9:30 and

Sunday 3 & 7

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Hidden Wonders

<https://hiddenwonders.ca>

February 14, 2023 — Valentines Show

Cabaret of wonders

[Cabaret of Wonders | Facebook](#)

February 27, 2023

The Parlour Magic Show

[The Parlour Magic Show](#)

Monthly on the third Wednesday (See advert below)

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Other Clubs (as a Courtesy)

Society of American Magicians #95

[SAM#95](#)

Meetings of the SAM #95 are held the **first Tuesday of the month** at members homes.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Fraser Valley Magic Circle

[FVMC](#)

Regular monthly meetings take place on the second Friday of most months, at a private home in Mission, BC.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

* Do NOT rely upon this newsletter for critical dates and times of meetings; events or shows. Always check the official source of the information.

A Blast from the Past

Below is part of page 3 from the April 2014, Vol 12 No. 4 issue of The Magical Minutes

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Vancouver Magic Circle,

I am very honoured to be elected as your President for the 2014 term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members and executive of the Vancouver Magic Circle for electing me to this prestigious position. I have been a proud member of this circle for over 20 years. I am happy to work with your newly elected officers and my new board of directors. I am confident we will serve you well over the next year.

Our roster books and membership cards have arrived! If you have not received them, please see me at our next meeting. Also I have received the lecture notes from Michael Dardant. If you attended the lecture and paid for his notes, please pick them up from me.

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 24th and is "Gimmick Card Night" for the Charles Howard Trophy. The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

6:30 PM	Doors open
7:00 PM	Jam session
8:00 PM	Refreshments - looked after by Dennis Bauyon.
8:30 PM	Gimmick card competition and following that, a brief business meeting.

Anyone wishing to compete, please e-mail Henry Tom at henrytom@shaw.ca. Anyone wishing to add anything as new business, please send me an email at grahamthemagicguy@gmail.com.

Steve Brooks, of the Magic Cafe, just lectured here and what a great lecture it was! He told stories about his many exploits with many of the great minds of magic. He showed us some eye-popping tricks. He sold his 10 DVD Magic Bakery Deluxe Set (worth \$350) for only \$100 (along with the many other but great deals). Most importantly, Steve shared a bit of himself with us and showed us a firsthand example of what a commitment to magic means.

Looking forward, we have lots of magic coming at you. The Chris Randall lecture is May 9th. I met Chris when he was here performing in Murray Sawchuck's magic show. I have several of his DVD's (Live At The Castle, Sugar High, Magic At The Bar, Heavens Aces, and The Inception) and this is a lecture you will NOT want to miss!

The reason I joined the executive board of this circle is because I care about it. I care about your interests and your voice. Please feel free to contact me any time and share any suggestions or concerns you may have. If history is any indication, I have proven my ability to achieve results and not just make empty promises. I want to make our own meetings a fun, enjoyable, and of course magical event. I look forward to working together to make this an even stronger and more prestigious Vancouver Magic Circle.

See you all April 24th!

Graham

Graham Kita,
President-Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92



KEEP CALM and Perform Magic