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May 2023

— RING 92 —

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

The Magical Minutes

the Charles Howard Ring



The Dennis Chan Report

The Vancouver Magic Circle's monthly meeting took place on Thursday, April 27 2023. Some members arrived at the hall early for a chat session. President Yoosik Oum greeted the attendees. To start the evening's magic activities, Joji Yamashita did a workshop on the elevator card routine. He showed different moves and techniques. John Stenning did a workshop on up the ladder false cuts and shuffles, and other variants of this card technique. Well done guys. These mini workshops is just what the club needs. They are not lengthy, five to seven minutes at most. This will give the members a chance to absorb the information. Rod Boss did a workshop called the Eliminator. He first performed the routine for everyone, then he taught them how to do it. Other performers were Charles Gauthier, Jens Henriksen, Yoosik Oum and Genpei Cai. Before the start of the competition, Dennis Chan reminded the members to put away their cards and coins and also not to "play around" with their cell phones during a lecture or a performance as this distracts the performer and the person sitting next to you. The moment you take your eyes away from a performance, for sure you will miss something. The competition for April was for the Charles Howard trophy. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in magic using gimmicks in a card effect or routine. During the course of the routine, a gimmick must be used (i.e.) gimmicked cards, gimmicked wallet, gimmicked device. Last year's winner, Graham Kita was the MC and host for this competition and he also read the rules. The competitors (in order of appearance) were Scott Barker, Gary Robins, Roy Hopwood, John Stenning, Cameron Minty, Mike Vetterli, Vincent Lee, and Jack Schwartz. The timekeeper was Simon Cassegrain. Roy Hopwood was the winner. Congratulations to Roy and to the rest of the competitors. In between the acts, Graham Kita told jokes, reminded the members about the Bernardo Sedlacek lecture happening at Hidden Wonders Wednesday, May 10 and the next competition which is for the H.B. MacLean close up contest. There wasn't much happening during the business portion of the meeting. President Yoosik Oum has been mass e-mailing the members in advance reminding them about the next meeting and its activities. For the record: At the February installation, time was running short and some awards were not handed out. They were handed out at the March meeting. The awards were for the membership loyalty pins and the Helping Hands certificates. Receiving their five years loyalty pins were Stephen Braybrooke, Ed Goldberg, Gabriella Lester, Michael Nemeth, and Gary Robins. The ten years pins went to Dennis Bauyon and Margaret Motin Li. The fifteen years pin went to Bryn Williams. The thirty years pin went to Roger Sylvestre.

The Helping Hands certificates were awarded to Terri Kita, Lori

Farquhar, Suzanne Gustafson, Tyler Mayfield and Chelsea

Kita. The Helping Hands are non members who help behind the scenes in order to make our meetings a success. Thank you everyone. For the refreshments, Graham Kita provided the cookies, coffee and bottled water. Cameron Minty brought Turkish Delight. Steve Braybrooke brought Tim bits. Thanks guys. Photography was done by Graham Kita, Vincent Lee and Scott Barker. Thanks to Kim Fabbro for giving me a ride to and from the meeting. There were 29 members and 1 guest in attendance.

The Presidents Report

Hello VMC.

Congrats to **Roy Hopwood** for winning the Charles Howard trophy this year and congrats to all the competitors for great performances. We had 8 people competing this time. It's great to see members being proactive and getting out there and performing and competing. That's what it's all about. Sharing the magic!

Also thanks to **John Stenning** and **Joji Yamashita** for sharing some routines and tips with our members. We will have more lessons from members in the future so each meeting will be a fun learning experience among other things.

The 4th Thursday of May will be our next monthly meeting and among other things we will have our Close up Magic competition which has both an adult category and a junior category. You will get an email later this month with a link to register for the competition.

If you have not yet, be sure to get a ticket for the **Bernardo Sedlacek** lecture May 10 at Hidden Wonders. A discount exclusively for VMC members at the link is **VMCMEMBER**.

See you at the next meeting!

Yoosik Ethan Oum

Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92 - President <https://www.koreancanuckmentalist.com>

Roger Sylvestre

Condolences to the family; friends and colleagues of long time VMC Member Roger Sylvestre who died on January 27, 2023.

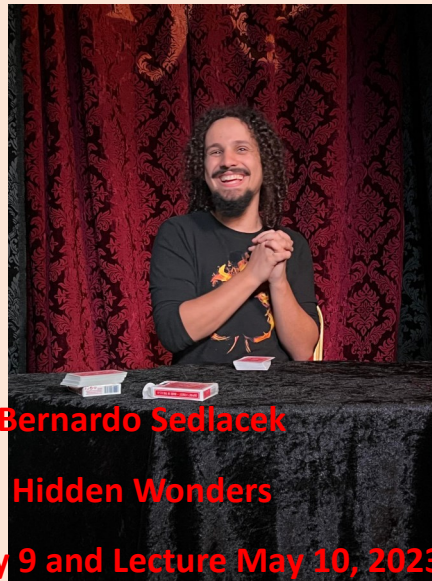


Due to ongoing health concerns and changes in medication this will be a shorter issue of 'The Magical Minutes' than usual, hopefully these health issues will be resolved soon and I am able to start producing full issues again. Your patience during this time is very much appreciated. I must give a huge shout out to **John Stenning** and also to members of the **VMC Executive Committee** for the ongoing support and encouragement offered to me during these difficult times.

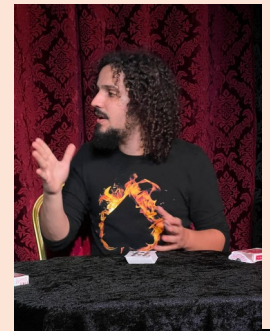
Congratulations to VMC Junior Member **Jack Schwartz** who recently raised \$1800 in a single night for the Kidney Foundation with a close-up magic show.

If you missed the recent **Bernardo Sedlacek** show and / or lecture you missed out on seeing a very entertaining; clever and 'sneaky' card magician.

Roy J Hopwood



Bernardo Sedlacek
Hidden Wonders
Show May 9 and Lecture May 10, 2023



Photos courtesy of John Stenning; Henry Tom and Roy Hopwood

I Recall...

By Roy Hopwood

Stooges or not

(First published in Magic Makers — November 2020)

Have you used stooges in your act or been a stooge for someone else?

My answer is yes to both situations.

I don't mean stooge in its derogatory sense, but as an unheralded helper who unbeknownst to the audience assists the performer by doing certain things or of feeding of information, sometime knowingly and occasionally unwittingly to the performer.

I can recall in the late 1960's having a secret stooge, **Bob Reay**, who secretly feed me information as to, for example, which of a selection of items have been chosen in my absence. **Bob** kept our alliance secret, and had to bask in the glory of 'my success'.

We used a variety of codes to throw those who thought they knew how I getting the information, and in cases were someone suspected, there may be someone 'feeding' me the information.

I can recall on time, I was at my workplace in the main store of **King Island Scheelite**, when **John Kolonowski** came bursting in shouting "WHICH ONE", before I had chance to say anything **Bob** came in and said **John** has chosen an object and says there is NO WAY you can know what it is. Oh! But of course, it was the middle one I said, John was completely dumfounded.

I can recall another time I would get someone to shake 3 dice and stack them on top of each other and then reveal the total of the under side of the upper die plus the tops and bottoms of the 2-lower dice. Not in itself an earthshattering trick, however the group made me turn my back as the group huddled over the dice so I could not see them, this makes it exceedingly difficult. Luckily **Bob** was in the room, but couldn't see the dice, and the suspicious group told him to turn away as well. That is when **Bob** earned his glory a thousand-fold, being over 6 feet tall, he was aware that there were windows on both sides of the room and by looking through the one he was facing he saw a reflection through the other window and was able to get a quick glimpse of the dice on the table. After this I was a god, I could not do a thing wrong. **Bob** NEVER told anyone how 'we' did it.

Eventually our paths parted, and even though I have tried to 'train' other people, I was unable to get anyone as good or as reliable as **Bob**.

Some years later at a convention in the **Old Melbourne Motor Inn** in **Melbourne**, at a night time party **Lyndsey Reichel** came into the room looked at and pointed to me and said tell me what card did 'Mike' choose, now the boot was on the other foot, as my brain went into over-drive, then I said 'Mike' chose the Four of Diamonds, well Mike was flabbergasted.

If you knew **Lyndsey**, you would know what a powerful presence he was, and he expected people to be totally professional and you had nowhere to hide if you did not meet his standards. I asked him why me, why did you challenge me? He said I know that you can think on your feet. I was honoured to be in his limelight.

Do the BIG names in magic use stooges? yes, they do.

I attended one of **David Copperfield**'s shows in **Adelaide**, and we were sat in the second to last row on the flat. Behind us were several empty seats. Partway through the show we noticed 3 people quietly enter the auditorium and sit in these seats, very shortly later they were 'volunteers' on stage, after volunteering they came back to there seats for a few minutes, before quietly leaving the auditorium again.

Guess who we saw the next day, outside of the **Adelaide Hilton Hotel** in **Victoria Square** who did we spy? Yes, the very same 3 volunteers.

During the 2014 **Adelaide** convention I revealed to several people, including **Dave Lord** from **Queensland** the card I name when asked to name a card. **Dave** used that information to his advantage several time during the convention, by asking me what card this or that person had chosen.

A year or so later I was contacted by a lady on **Facebook**, who said she is a friend of **Dave**, and she said she had just selected a playing card, that only she had seen, she said **Dave** asked her to ask me what card she had chosen. Of course, I got it right. It was the **Seven of Clubs**.

As I see it, used in the right context, using a stooge or being a stooge for someone else can result in some extremely powerful magic, far outweighing the effort or mechanics put into the trick.

But remember not to overuse this legitimate artifice.

A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS



VMC Meeting April 2023

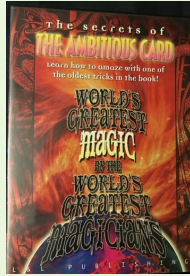


Photos courtesy of Henry Tom

Opinions expressed in this newsletter 'The Magical Minutes' are not necessarily those of the Editor or the VMC

The secrets of THE AMBITIOUS CARD

(World's greatest magic by the worlds greatest magicians, L&L Publishing.)



Don't underestimate the value of this series as there are often some real hidden gems, plenty to learn and as I believe I've said before, because you have a performance and explanation option for each performer, you can always sit back and just watch some great magic!

If you like cards and do the ambitious card, this would be well worth your time; many great routines (9 variations) by some great magicians, who (as I've sadly stated before) are no longer with us. Watch the routines and learn from:

DAVID REGAL; HARRY LORAYNE; FRANK GARCIA; MICHAEL AMMAR; PAUL WILSON; DOC EASON; AL SCHNEIDER; TOMMY WONDER and DAI VERNON.

What else do you need? (well, practice and some books would be good, but I digress). I believe we have this in our library, ask our book/DVD keeper for availability; me? I liked it so much I got a copy for my collection.

Highly recommended.

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

jrsbbf@icloud.com

Comments and questions to: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

ON DECK!

LOST IN THE SHUFFLE



If you haven't heard about the movie coming out later this year, then I urge you to go online and look at the website (that's also where you can get these cards) and find out about the movie project that our own Shawn Farquhar has been working on for the last two or three years; I don't know too many details about it, other than you are going to want to see it and that these cards are the official playing cards of the movie by Animal Mother films.

This deck is also designed by Mr Farquhar and are limited to 1500, so if you want a deck or two, I suggest you get them soon.

Is that all? Of course not, but I don't know much more and what I do know, I'll let you find out on your own.

Congratulations to Shawn for all his hard work on getting this project off the ground, getting some of the biggest names (if not THE biggest) in card magic involved and all the travelling that was involved. I can't wait to see it!

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

jrsbbf@icloud.com

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

Did you ever hear of Juan the Magnificent?

Juan was just a young man growing up in rural Mexico. He felt he had little chance to grow up and do anything of importance or recognition. He'd grow up and work the land. The same as his father and his grandfather before him.

Until the day he saw the great magician Harry Houdini. Then young Juan knew his destiny.

Time passed and Juan slowly learned the art of magic. First pleasing friends and family with simple sleight of hand, before going on to grow older and begin entertaining patrons of the local bars with illusions and escapology.

By the time he was 20 he had toured through all of Mexico. From Aguascalientes to Zacatecas and all places in between. His fame in the country of his home soon brought a talent scout from America seeking him out.

Before he knew it, Juan the magnificent was on a whirlwind tour of the US, Europe and beyond treading the very same boards that his inspiration Harry Houdini once stood upon.

This went on for some time, until Juan reached the mid point of his life, when he soon saw dwindling numbers in his audience. The cheers were not so loud and his fame had begun to fade.

Juan needed a new trick.

The next great trick.

It would be his greatest achievement. His crowning glory. His final act. The one they would speak about for generations to come.

As Juan passed his 63rd birthday, the stage was set. The final performance of the legendary Juan the Magnificent. One night only. The theatre was sold out. People in every seat. People stood in the aisles and sat upon the floors eager to see this last performance.

The lights dimmed and the orchestra began to play. The curtains opened slowly revealing Juan the Magnificent. He stood in the middle of the stage, dressed in the finest black silk three piece suit, his top hat upon his head.

The stage lights came up, and with a dramatic flourish Juan the Magnificent swept his hat off his head and stood, arms outstretched as the crowd roared with delight.

Juan the Magnificent stood and basked in the warmth their cheers gave him. As the cheers softened and eventually quietened, Juan the Magnificent took a grateful bow.

Juan the Magnificent, straightened. Placed his hat back upon his head and cried out

"UNO! DOS!"

And he vanished without a tres.

(SORRY)



Please Do Not Forward The Magical Minutes to Non-Members*

This is just a friendly reminder to all our members to please not to forward our newsletter, 'The Magical Minutes' or any private newsletter links, to people who are not financial members of the VMC. The online VMC Library, and The Magical Minutes newsletter is a membership privilege. It takes a lot of time and effort to write our newsletter, and we do it exclusively for the benefit of our members.

If a non-financial member asks you to forward The Magical Minutes to them, please refrain from doing so.

Lastly, the Executive Committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to and / or sent positive messages about The Magical Minutes newsletter. It is truly appreciated and makes all the hard work worth it.

Thank you
The VMC Executive Committee

***Roy's 5 question quiz is being held over this issue,
hopefully it will be back in the June issue of
'The Magical Minutes'***

Answers to Roy's 5 question quiz from the April Issue of TMM

- Q1 ***The most famous magic word of all. J.K. Rowling used a variant of it in creating Harry Potter's "killing curse." The Steve Miller Band had a hit in the 1980s using the word as a title. Originally, it may have invoked the power of a supreme being. Which magic incantation am I referring to?***

Answer: Abracadabra

Like many magic words, the true origins of the word "abracadabra" are shrouded in mystery. It may have invoked the god Abraxas for protection. It might be a synthesis of the Hebrew words for "father," "son," and "holy spirit." It could also be from the Aramaic phrase "avra keh-dabra," meaning, "I will create as I speak."

In ancient times the word was inscribed on pendants worn around the neck as protection from evil and illness. It was considered a far more powerful word in the classical age than it is now!

- Q2 ***Where was Houdini born on March 24, 1874?***

Answer: Budapest, Hungary

Erik Weisz was born on March 24, 1874, in Budapest, Hungary. He was four years old when he travelled with his mother, Cecilia, and three older brothers, Herman, Nathan, and William, to join his father, Rabbi Mayer Samuel Weiss, in Appleton, Wisconsin. (Their surname was altered from Weisz to Weiss, and Erik's name was changed to Ehrich, by Customs when they entered the United States.) Houdini's younger brothers, Theodore and Leopold, were born in Wisconsin. His only sister, Gladys, was born in New York City. The Houdini Historical Center, home of many of Houdini's papers and exhibits, is located in Appleton, Wisconsin, and is open to the public.

- Q3 ***Up until October 3, 2003, Siegfried and Roy were the headliners of what Las Vegas hotel?***

Answer: The Mirage

Siegfried and Roy were the headliners of the Mirage for 13 1/2 years, up until the unfortunate night of October 3. Before The Mirage, Siegfried and Roy performed at The Tropicana, The Frontier, The Stardust, and at the Lido in Paris, France.

- Q4 ***Harry Lorayne was born Harry Ratzer. When did he change his name to Lorayne and why did he chose Lorayne?***

Answer:

He embarked on his magic career in the 1940s, adapting his stage name from the middle name of his wife, Renée Lorraine Lefkowitz, whom he married in 1948

- Q5 ***Possibly the most accomplished female magician of the 20th century, in 1988 who was the first woman to successfully perform the "bullet catch in the mouth" trick?***

Answer: Dorothy Dietrich

Dorothy Dietrich is considered one of the most accomplished female magicians of the 20th century. In 1988, she became the first woman to successfully perform the "bullet catch in the mouth" trick.

Diary Dates*

Vancouver Magic Circle

lbmring92.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: May 23, 2023 via Zoom

May 2023:

May 25, 2023—Venue—Hall
Close Up Competition
Workshop by Genpai Cai

June 2023:

June 22, 2023—Venue—Hall
Unopened Deck Competition
Workshop by Jonathon Santiago

Shows (as a courtesy)

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

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

Richard J. Kaufman (born May 16, 1958) is an author, publisher, illustrator, and editor of books and magazines in the field of magic and amateur magicians of noted skill.

Richard Kaufman was born in 1958 at French Hospital in New York City. He became interested in magic at age 5 after his uncle, **Allan Soffin**, sent him some novelties from the **S.S. Adams Company**. His father, **Lewis C. Kaufman**, encouraged his interest by purchasing tricks at a magic shop, learning them, and teaching them to his son.

By the age of 14, **Kaufman** was inventing magic effects. He marketed his first two tricks through **Lou Tannen's Magic Shop** at age 15 and he illustrated his first book for **Harry Lorayne**, *Afterthoughts* (1975) at age 16. He attended Queens College, and then New York University, graduating in 1981 with a double major in English and acting, having studied at the **Stella Adler Studio** in New York City with **Pearl Pearson** and **Mario Siletti**.

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.

This is the ninth issue of the revived 'The Magical Minutes', I hope it has and continues 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.

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