



# V — RING 92 — VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

the Charles Howard Ring

January 2014

[www.ibmring92.com](http://www.ibmring92.com)

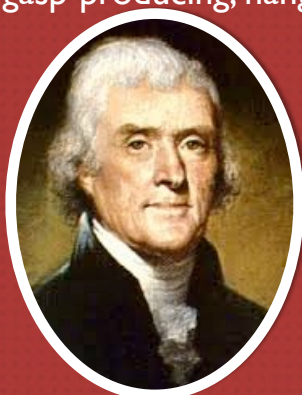
THE MAGICAL MINUTES NEWSLETTER

Since 1942

**Happy 2014 Vancouver Magic Circle!**  
**Looking forward to another**  
**MAGICAL year...**

## **Past Presidents & One Trick Night!**

Start the year off right on Thursday, January 23rd with our monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30 PM at the Sunrise Community Hall for a Jam Session followed by the ever-popular Past-Presidents & One Trick Night. Bring out your latest and greatest, knuckle-busting, gasp-producing, hangover-healing feat of prestidigitation!



Followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Magic Circle

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

Just a reminder, that if you would like to nominate a VMC member for this year's Murray Award for "The Most Creative Magical Performance" (say maybe a Rabbi you might know), or for the Stan Kramien Showmanship Award (perhaps you are thinking of a certain Newsletter editor), please contact the competition chair.

THE VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

PRESENTS

# 2014 Installation

## BANQUET AND SHOW



**SUNRISE HALL**

1950 WINDERMERE ST. VANCOUVER B.C.

FOR TICKETS

EMAIL: [PRESIDENT@IBMRING92.COM](mailto:PRESIDENT@IBMRING92.COM)

OR CALL 604.464.5323

**DOORS OPEN - 6:00P.M.**

ADULTS - 30.00 AT THE DOOR - 35.00 YOUTH / SENIORS- 20.00

**PayPal**

# Thursday, February 27<sup>TH</sup>. 2014





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Vancouver Magic Circle is ringing in the 2014 year with months of awesome magic planned for this year's kickoff. With the January 24th annual general meeting The circle is starting the new year off right with elections for the 2014 executive board and the past presidents and one trick night. One Trick Night is the perfect opportunity for members to present a quick minute of magic to easily fulfill their single annual performance requirement without the need of a long competition routine! We can't forget the all important though highly secret initiation ceremony following the magic portion of the evening. Just as many had done for you upon entering the circle, I encourage members to stay and participate in this year's initiation ceremony as we welcome the transition from associates to active membership of some of our brothers in magic.



The fun hardly ends in January. The first week of February brings us the incredible Woody Aragon Lecture on Friday, February 7th. But wait, there's more! We are flying in Alan Sands for the February 27th Installation Banquet and Show! If you missed last year's banquet...I suppose you have no idea what you'd be missing out on. For everyone else, this will be one of the best events of the year with a full gourmet dinner, Installation of New Officers, awards presentations and a chance to witness a true professional like Alan Sands in a full evening show, all for only \$30 in advance! But wait, there's more! The advance ticket also includes 1 FREE admission to the Alan Sands lecture the following night on February 28th. That's right folks! Double feature!

With the 2014 year starting off with a bang, I find myself so wrapped up in the excitement that I'm amazed how quickly the year has gone by. With the completion of my second year holding the office of President of the Vancouver Magic Circle, it has been my sincere honour and privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group of individuals who have guided the circle both out of trying times and into some of the most prosperous yet. With an increasingly tuned constitution, a new membership committee and the Munro Mackenzie Legacy Fund the VMC membership is stronger than ever. Community involvement through sponsorships and the first annual MAGIC Festival brought us new faces and performance opportunities as we continue to learn and grow as Canada's largest I.B.M. Ring. The 2013 Three of Clubs convention was an outstanding weekend rivalling top conventions across the continent and our annual Christmas Dinners and Installation Banquets have seen record attendance as we embrace the brotherhood of magic. The introductions of the limited edition Official VMC Jacket, the redesigned prestigious circle logo, and what will soon be a completed line of VMC Regalia are just some examples of the lasting work that the group of board members have generated this year, and all signs point to GO for yet another year of excellence and prestige.

Thank you to all for the memories (both fun and head spinning) and support. I look forward to the work of the incoming Executive as I transition to Past President and pass on the gavel at the Installation Banquet to a deserving magician of character, responsibility and ingenuity.

*Alex*

Alex Seaman, President Vancouver Magic Circle

*The Christmas Dinner was  
cookin' ....*



*...and the  
Stage  
Show was  
Sensational!!!*

THANK YOU TO JOHN SMITHMAN, OFFICIAL VMC PHOTOGRAPHER, AS WELL AS THE MANY 'FACEBOOK PHOTOGRAPHERS' FOR POSTING YOUR PICS ON THE VMC PAGE!





# *“How I Got Started in Magic”*

*Meet Mike Norden  
(or Norden the Magician)*

**Rabbi Don Pacht:** So, Mike-do you mind if I call you Mike?- How did you first become interested in magic?

**Mike Norden:** Sure, Mike is fine-I was at Disneyland bored out of my mind on day 4. My wife and I went shopping on our own and I found the magic shop on Main Street. The magician at the counter was doing the hummer card I asked ‘How does that work?’ He told me I had to buy it to find out. I bought it. He then shows me the Svengali deck. I asked how it worked. He told me I had to buy it. I gave me my credit card and told him that if I asked how it worked he was to show me and charge me. I left with \$300 in magic – mainly trick decks.

**RDP:** Wow-that’s a lot of decks! How old were you at the time?

**Mike:** 25 years old

**RDP:** When / how did you decide that 'magic was for you'?

**Mike:** After a few months my nieces told their teacher I did magic. So I was asked to come and perform. Since the kids would not be wowed by those trick decks I went and bought some kids magic tricks and I was hooked ever since.

**RDP:** What is your favorite type of audience and why?

**Mike:** Kids. Because I am just a big kid myself.

**RDP:** What do you love / appreciate most about having Magic in your life?

**Mike:** Well – I would say that it is a wonderful way to share a laugh, some joy, and amazement- with friends and complete strangers alike. It’s a great ice breaker, it’s not overly common for people to see or know a magician, so I think it makes you stand out in a crowd. It’s a fantastic job – making people smile and getting paid for it. I wouldn’t trade it for all the tea in China. (I don’t like tea...)



## *In Loving Memory*



**Edolf William "Bill" Eliason**

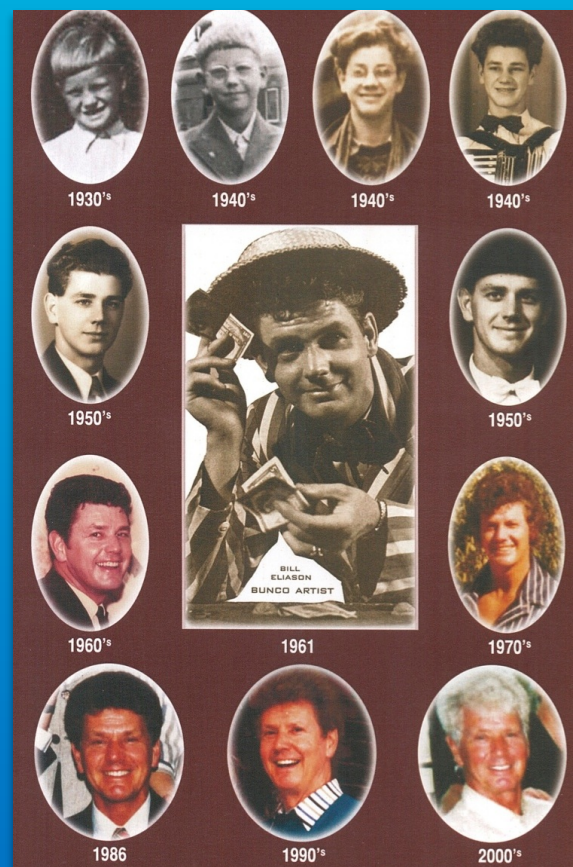
February 19th, 1931 - October 10th, 2013

# BILL ELIASON

**February 19, 1931 - October 10, 2013**

Born in Saskatoon, Sask. the youngest of 5 children, Bill grew up in Vancouver and graduated from King Edward High School. In his early teen years, Bill took up the art of magic, performing as "Eli the magician". This led to other areas and friendships in show business. A natural entertainer and storyteller, Bill went on to excel at producing and promoting a wide variety of shows. He was a member of the Backstage Club, the Vancouver Magic Circle and was inducted into the I.B.M.'s Order of Merlin. In 2005, Ring 92 honoured Bill by naming a new trophy after him. The Tip Top & Tootsie Trophy was named after Bill's magic character 'Tip Top the Tramp' and is awarded annually to encourage the growth in the field of themed magic. Bill was an energetic entrepreneur who built and ran a number of successful businesses over the years, including Attractions

Unlimited, The Gastown Banjo Palace, Canex Products Corporation and Xpressions International Marketing. Known for his dynamic positive manner, Bill was personable and made friends easily. He was a world traveller making regular trips to the Orient and abroad, but his favourite and most frequent destination was always Hawaii. In Bill's final years, all of us who knew and loved him were robbed of his light hearted sense of humour, infectious laugh and his natural born 'gift for the gab', due to the ravages of Alzheimer's disease. Predeceased by his parents John and Margreta, brother Wilfred, sister Ellen, brother-in-law Ralph, and partner George Patey. Bill is loved and missed by his remaining family; sister Margaret, brother Bob, brother-in-law Gordy, six nieces and nephews and their children. A Celebration of Life was held at 2:00pm on Friday, November 1, 2013 at the Sylvia Hotel, 1154 Gilford Street at Beach Avenue in downtown Vancouver. Bill's nephew David Wilson officiated at the ceremony and delivered the eulogy. Guy Whitford oversaw playing of the Desiderata and Dave and Trevor Watters presented a Broken Wand Service, the traditional magician's send off. An open mic followed with the telling of some very humorous stories by people who stepped up to 'regale a tale' of their favourite memories of Bill. The afternoon concluded with Family, Friends, and acquaintances raising a glass to the incredible life of Bill Eliason.





THE VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

PRESENTS

# Woody Aragon

## LECTURE



Starring: Woody Aragon

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

FOR TICKETS  
[WWW.IBMRING92.COM](http://WWW.IBMRING92.COM)  
OR CALL 604.464.5323

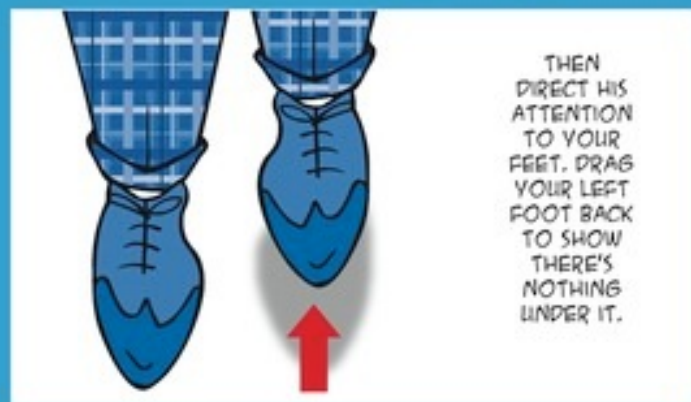
DOORS OPEN - 6:30P.M.



**PayPal**

Friday, February 7<sup>TH</sup>. 2014

# CUFF BLUFF



## HOWDYDOIT?



FOR THIS TRICK, YOU NEED THREE THINGS - TWO IDENTICAL COINS AND LONG PANTS WITH THE LEGS ROLLED INTO CUFFS. START WITH ONE COIN UNDER THE HEEL OF YOUR LEFT FOOT. WHEN YOU DRAG THAT FOOT BACK, ONLY BRING IT ABOUT HALFWAY, SO THE COIN REMAINS HIDDEN FROM VIEW. THEN AS YOU CROUCH DOWN TO PUT THE OTHER COIN UNDER YOUR RIGHT FOOT, SECRETLY DROP IT INTO THE CUFF OF YOUR PANTS.



# Promoting Strong Practice Skills By: Skip Way

Motivating magic students to review and practice between lessons is the biggest problem cited by mentors of young magicians. Here are ten tips to resolve this issue.

## 1. Create curiosity and excitement.

When students are curious about a subject and then become excited about it, things become much easier. They become more interested in perfecting a move or technique. Promote a curious attitude, and create genuine challenges. Use your imagination, get inside the subject, understand what makes it tick, and explain how each student can apply the principle being taught using real life examples. There are many ways to challenge a student by dis- playing your own curious mindset.

**2. Have each student set a practice schedule.** Students with a set practice schedule tend to do better. Encourage them to set a specific time for homework, a time for chores, a time for practice, and a time for fun. The practice time slot may become their anticipated reward for completing

less interesting tasks. Setting a time for repetitive tasks builds good habits that will serve them well later in life.

Encourage your students to schedule the unpopular tasks before the fun ones. Relaxing in front of the TV or with a game system before jumping into an unpleasant task is a bad idea. Starting with the fun tasks only makes it harder to start the unpopular ones. Getting started is always the hardest.

Timing also plays a factor. Set study and practice slots at the time of the day when there will be the fewest distractions. Leave post meal times and late evenings, both periods when students will be most tired and least focused, for the fun tasks.

**3. Get Started – the Five-Minute Challenge.** The hardest part of doing any- thing is getting started. It's like pushing a car up a hill. The effort pulls a lot out of you, but once you top the crest, your down- hill momentum carries you home. So, simply starting each practice session is vital.

Challenge your students to commit to practicing for just five minutes during their daily practice slot. That's it. Commit to giving five serious minutes of practice each day, then stop. Most students will generally fall into the project and work straight through their allotted practice time.

**4. Stop and start at the fun part.** When a student needs to stop for breaks, meals or other activities, tell them to stop at a fun or easier part of the routine. When they return to their practice later, it'll be much easier to get started because they'll be starting at a fun point. It's like reading a fascinating book and breaking at a chapter cliffhanger. You can't wait to rush back and pick up where you left off.

**5. Remove distractions from your surroundings.** This is just as vital for practicing as it is for studying. When the TV, phone, computer, magazines, and such are competing for a student's attention, they'll be easily tempted to throw the routine aside. Advise your students to remove as many distractions from their practice space as possible. They don't need to strand themselves on a desert island, but ditching the distractions enhances focus and removes the temptation to do some- thing else.

**6. Designate a dedicated practice zone.** Once the distractions are stowed away, have your students create a sound practice environment. The ideal environment is a well-lit, quiet room set at a slightly cool temperature with good air ventilation. Have them prepare a clutter-free space for their books, mat, props, and instructions.

**7. Prepare the mind for absorbing the goal behind practice.** Teach your students how to take five minutes before practicing to refresh their minds and mentally prepare for practice. Turn off any music, sit down, close the eyes, clear the mind and take several deep breaths. Have your students visualize themselves performing the routine before them.

If they're a bit more energetic, try get- ting them to pump themselves up by saying encouraging words like, "I am going to master this move today!"

## 8. Set reasonable practice goals.

Setting short-range goals enhances motivation. When we have a target to aim at, we are more determined to achieve that step. The sense of satisfaction from these achievements is also a good confidence booster, and this further cultivates sound practice habits.

Help your students by breaking complicated routines, such as Cups and Balls, into multiple practice goals. Goal #1: Palming and passing the balls. Goal #2: Handling the cups. Goal #3: Surreptitiously placing balls beneath the cups, and so on. Create your lesson plans with short-range practice goals built into the routine.

**9. Reward a successful practice session.** Finally, remind your students to reward themselves for a job well done. If they stuck to their schedule, didn't get distracted and successfully achieved their daily practice goals, they deserve a reward.

It doesn't need to be anything major. Even something as simple as an ice cream sundae, watching a favorite TV show, or calling friends to chat will work. As their mentor, it's often up to you to prepare some form of larger reward for major achievements. Look for creative ways to reward such achievements as perfecting an entire routine, complete with personal flourishes, and presenting that routine before the entire youth or adult club.

**10. Final thoughts.** Your students have to know that you, their mentor, are genuinely interested in their progress and success. As mentors, we must show as much passion for the art and devotion for sound practice habits as we expect from them. As long as we set the example and show a genuine interest, most of our students will follow through.

*-Reprinted without permission from The Linking Ring*





# VMC MEMBERS BRING HOLIDAY CHEER...



Dennis Hewson performs a Christmas Magic Show for the residents of McKenzie House-Victoria, BC





**THE SALVATION ARMY  
NEW WESTMINSTER  
PRESENTS  
AN EVENING OF  
LAUGHTER AND MAGIC**



**FEATURING  
VENTRILOQUIST NEALE BACON  
AND HIS CRAZY CRITTERS**



**THE GREAT GORDINI**

**NORDEN THE MAGICIAN**



**Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 7:00 PM**

**Tickets: \$10.00 per person / \$25.00 per family of 4**

**To order your tickets call 604-521-0363**

*The evening will also feature a Silent Auction with a variety of quality products and services up for bidding!*  
**Come out and enjoy an evening of good, clean family fun!**

**All proceeds will help finance our ongoing community ministries which include a shelter, transitional house, multiple feeding programs, emergency assistance programs, and our Emergency Disaster Services.**



# December Report

By: Dennis Chan

The club's annual Christmas pot-luck dinner was held at the hall. It was a huge success! Arriving at the hall early to put up the decorations were Graham Kita, Tony Chris, Anthony Muscardin, John Smithman, Billy Hsueh and Alex Seaman. The buffet table was a gourmet's delight. There was the usual turkey, ham, roast beef, salads, vegetables and dessert. Everyone enjoyed the buffet. After the dinner, there was social time and a Secret Santa. Then it was time for the competitions. There were two competitions. The first competition was for the Percy Poole trophy. This is a junior competition. The only person taking part was Brianna Carlson. She scored enough points to win the trophy. The second competition was for the William Shelly trophy. This is an adult competition. The competitors were Bruce Meyers, Matthew Jones, Tony Chris, Amanda O'Leary, Steve Dickson and Jessica Chan. Steve Dickson was the winner. Congratulations to the winners and to all the competitors. After the competition, Dennis Chan did a ventriloquist act. Rod Chow was the MC for this event. It was nice to see Jack Lillico again. He has been a member of the Vancouver Magic Circle since 1944. Steve Dickson and Dennis Hewson did walk around magic. The helping hands were Melody Hewson, Brad Kita, Cindy Kita, Terri Kita, Suzanne Gustafson, Mike Akazuki, Satoye Kita, Anthony Muscardin and Jennifer Meyers. They are non members. Graham Kita provided the giant snow globe, wreaths, lights and wall decorations. Tony Chris provided the backdrops and lights. Anthony

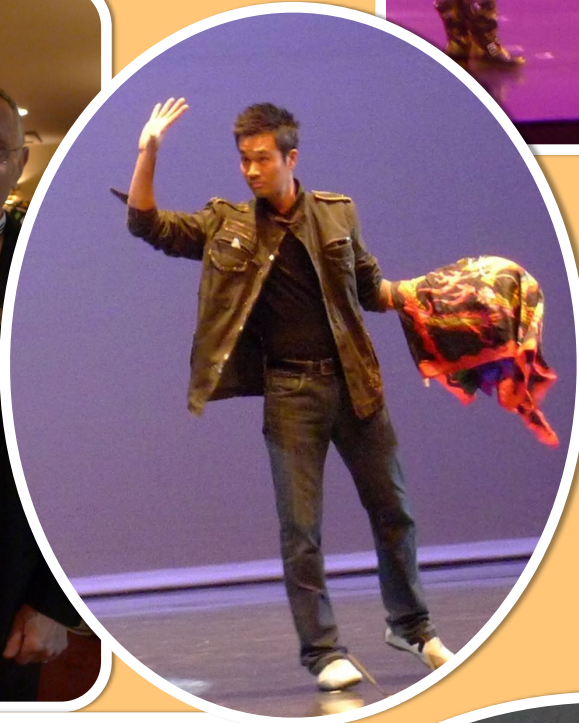
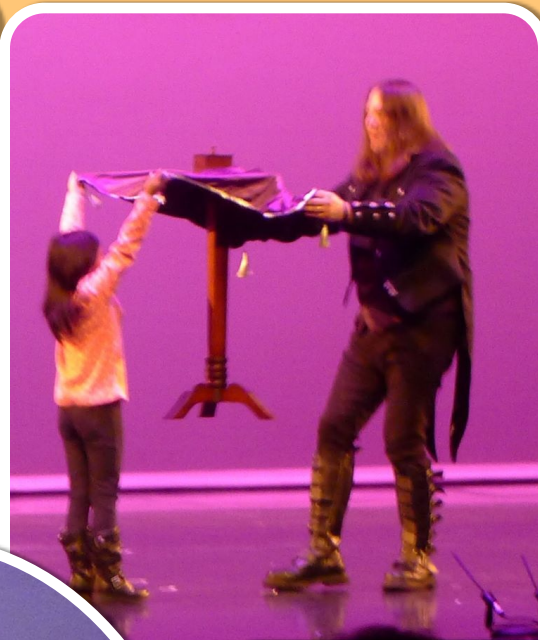


Muscardin helped with the decorating of the hall. Billy Hsueh was the sound technician and he also sold raffle tickets. Alex Seaman provided the sound system. Thanks everyone. John Smithman did a slide show presentation and took photos of the evening's events. Mike Akazuki made the reindeer balloon centrepieces. Many thanks to Terri and Graham Kita for picking up the supplies and coordinating the menu for the event. President Alex Seaman kept the evening flowing with his wit and humour. And many thanks to everyone for attending this festive event and making it a success. The Vancouver Magic Circle is hoping to see everyone again at the 2014 Christmas dinner. There were 35 members and 52 guests in attendance.

-I am Dennis Chan



**VMC MEMBERS HOST A BENEFIT FOR VICTIMS OF TYPHOON HAIYAN**





THE VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

PRESENTS

# Alan Sands

## LECTURE



Starring: Alan Sands

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

FOR TICKETS

[WWW.IBMRING92.COM](http://WWW.IBMRING92.COM)

OR CALL 604.464.5323

DOORS OPEN - 6:30P.M.

V.M.C. MEMBERS - 40.00 / GUESTS - 45.00 / YOUTH - 20.00

Friday, February 28<sup>TH</sup>. 2014



**PayPal**



## Inside the Briefcase

### Your Magical Minutes link to the monthly Business Meeting

**Hello Everyone!**

**Let us get down to some business. Something happened at the previous executive meeting where the motion to increase dues was made and it was passed. New information has been brought to light; as article 4.2 in our constitution outlines our club dues amounts. Therefore we are not able to raise the dues for 2014, so the dues structure will remain as before.**

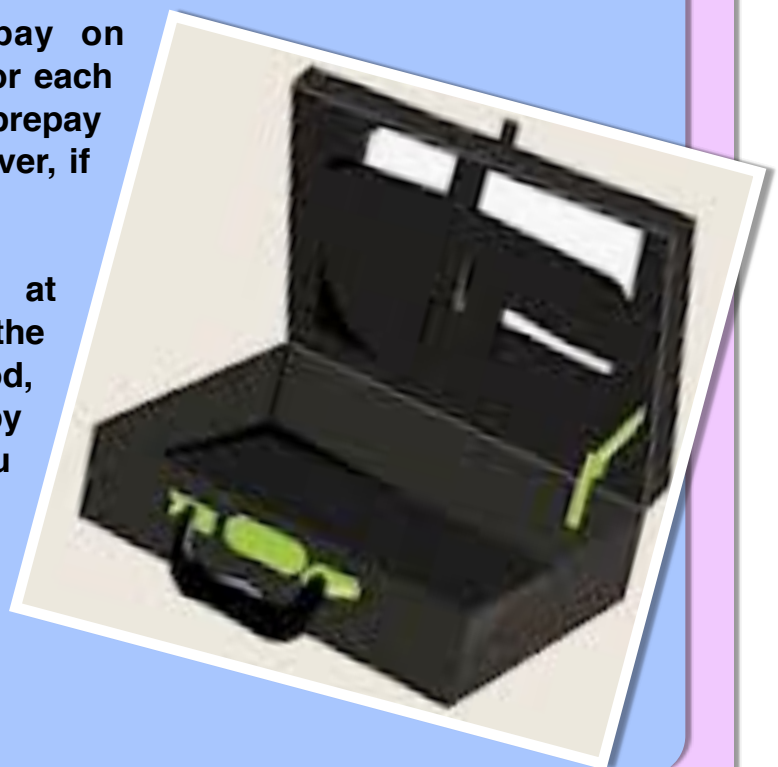
**Now that that is out of the way, we have some exciting stuff happening to wrap up the membership year and to start things off we have our January AGM happening on January 23rd! The night will include some Magic, the election of 2014/2015 VMC Officers, Past President and One Trick Night as well as our TOP SECRET UBER FANTASTIC HUSH HUSH Initiation... if you are being initiated this year you will be contacted by one of the membership committee. One trick night is here, that means it's time to do that one trick per year requirement to be a member in good standing! If you haven't done so already, this is your last chance for the 2013/2014 year!**

**We have 2 Lectures coming up in February, which you will hear more about at our AGM, so here is a quick, very brief overview of the lectures. February 7th Woody Aragon will be here! and then on February 28th Alan Sands will be here!**

**End of very brief overview of the lectures.**

**It will be \$20 for Members who prepay on [www.ibmring92.com](http://www.ibmring92.com) and \$25 at the door for each lecture. Junior and Senior Prices are \$10 prepay and \$15 at the door. This is different however, if you attend the Banquet on February 27th...**

**Our Installation Banquet is to be held at Sunrise Community Hall on the evening of the 27th of February, there will be good food, good people and most of all, good magic by Alan Sands. So here is the deal for \$30 you get an evening out, dinner, show AND a Lecture! Talk about a good package! However the Free Lecture Ticket is limited to only 1 per member, membership has its privileges :)**



*-Billy*

# Your Dues Are Due!

Dear VMC Members,

Each winter as the DEW settles on the ground, we DO our DUE diligence and ask members to pay their DUES as they are now DUE. Please don't wait until they are overDUE and we are forced to DO something about it.

Here is the fee structure for 2014:

## Adult

one year

\$35.00

three

years

\$90.00

## Junior

one

year

\$25.00

three

years

\$60.00

## Senior (65 or older)

one year

\$25.00

three years

\$60.00

## Associate Member

one year

\$35.00

## Out of Town Member

1 year \$20.00

Thank you,  
The Executive DUDES

If you have paid for multiple years in the past, your membership card will indicate when future DUES are DUE!

"Consider the possibilities, not the limitations." -Bernie Legge

## Angels Events



Clowns & Magic Acts  
Bouncy Castles  
Mini Golf  
Carnival Games  
Dunk Tanks  
Popcorn  
Candy Floss

**604-542-6435**

[www.angelsevents.ca](http://www.angelsevents.ca)

## "How I Got Started in Magic"

*New to the Magical Minutes Newsletter!*

Do you have a great story about how you first got started in magic? Is it funny...heart-warming...boring, but still interesting to you and your family (although, I suspect your family is past it-at this point they are just humouring you).

Well...you are invited to share it with the Vancouver Magic Circle.

Please email the Editor at  
[newsletter@ibmring92.com](mailto:newsletter@ibmring92.com).

Check out the feature on page 5!

