



# V — RING 92 — VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

September 2014

the Charles Howard Ring

# DON'T MISS...



...October's meeting of the Vancouver Magic Circle.

It is our annual "Halloween Themed Magic" Competition, where we will be competing for the much-coveted, yet silly-sounding **TipTop & Tootsie trophy!**

The fun begins at  
6:30 PM at the  
secret location  
(check the website for details).



# SAVE THE DATE!

The Vancouver Magic Circle's annual Christmas pot-luck dinner will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at the Sunrise Community Hall (meeting hall ) 1950 Windermere Street, Vancouver. There will also be a Secret Santa plus two competitions and much more. For more information, please contact Graham Kita at 604-880-2685 ([terrik@shaw.ca](mailto:terrik@shaw.ca)), or Dennis Chan at 604-942-6976 ([d.andsjw3rd@shaw.ca](mailto:d.andsjw3rd@shaw.ca)).



"Working hard overcomes a whole lot of other obstacles." - Marsha Evans

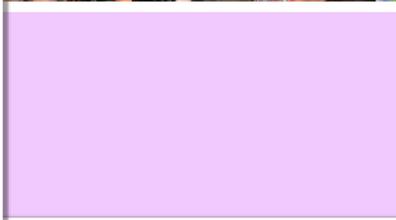


## LIBRARY NEWS

The Librarian (Dennis Chan), will be doing the annual DVD inventory in December. All those members who have DVDs in their possession please return them at the October meeting or at the November pot -luck.

There will be no library business in November because of the Christmas pot- luck dinner.

# Summer of Magic!



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

# PCAM Report

By: Dennis Chan



The kickoff to the 2014 PCAM convention started with a special lecture by Norm Barnhart on Wednesday, July 30 at Mike Norden's house. Norm showed some off his balloon techniques, sleeving and misdirection. On the opening day of the convention there was a special all day workshop with Bob Fitch. Arriving early at the hotel to set up the staging and lights were Mike Norden, Tony Chris, Dennis Hewson, Gord Boyes, Gordon McIntosh, and Trevor Watters. Working the registration table were Nicole Norden and Karen Eskilsen. Mike Norden, President, co-producer, talent scout, and reporter, along with Gord Boyes, vice-president, co-producer, website and finances welcomed everyone to the 2014 convention.

Lecturers included Norm Barnhart, Gwyn Auger, Bob Sheets, Bob Fitch, Gregory Wilson, Pop Haydn, Chef Anton, Michael Dardant and Bruce Kalver. Workshops were presented by Chef Anton, Pop Haydn, and Bob Sheets also known as the school of scoundrels group. Other workshops were presented by: Bruce Kalver, Bob Fitch, Gregory Wilson, Brian Anderson, Stirling Dietz, Norm Barnhart, Amanda O'Leary Michael Dardant and Dan Harlan. The workshops and lectures included cards, coins, a three shell game, acting, rubber band magic and the business side of magic. Everyone enjoyed the lectures and workshops.

The school for scoundrels show starred Chef Anton, Bob Sheets and Pop Haydn. The show was M C'd by Michael Dardant who was dressed up as Shawn Farquhar (Shawn "Fake"Quhar) in a blue suit instead of a purple one. He did an excellent impression of Shawn along with the mannerisms, speech and looks. He had the whole audience laughing throughout the show. Jamie D. Grant was the host of the late night panel discussion. Guests included Mike Norden, Gregory Wilson and Dan Harlan. The magic competitions included close-up, stage, comedy and mentalism. Mike Norden was the M C for this event. The following are the first place winners: Mentalism-Jeff Christensen, close-up-Billy

Bales Hsueh, platform-Henry Tom, stage-Tony Kazoleas, comedy-Bruce Hunt, Children's-Alex Seaman, Junior Stage-Brianna Carlson, junior close-up-Jason Verners, most novel-Henry Tom. Congratulations to all the winners and competitors of the contests.

The stars of magic show featured: Gregory Wilson, Bob Fitch, Dan Harlan, Stirling Dietz and Norm Barnhart doing a hobo act. Bruce Kalver was the M C for this event. The Bag O' Tricks contest was hosted by Alex Seaman. Hannah Farquhar was the official timekeeper. This is always a fun event. Michael Dardant was the winner. There are no awards for this event, just a whole lot of fun. Mike Norden and Gord Boyes hosted the awards luncheon handing out the medals to the winners of the various contests.

Normondo the Great was the featured entertainer. He used Nicole Norden as his assistant. Norm Barnhart is a very versatile entertainer.

The brother sister team of Matthew, Hannah and Hayley Biane were the winners of the Tony Eng's people's choice award.

There were many winners of the raffle draws. Mike and Gord thanks everyone for buying raffle tickets.

The dealers were: Chef Anton, Pop Haydn, Ray Roch, Tony Chris, Lorena Watters, Michael Dardant, Tim Flynn, Bob Fitch, Norm Barnhart and Bruce Kalver. Everyone had a wonderful time at the convention. Mike Norden and Gord Boyes thanked everyone for attending the 2014 PCAM Convention to help make it a success.

-I am Dennis Chan



# NAME THE DATES

Mac & Bill King

TODAY I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO LOOK LIKE A SUPER-GENIUS USING AN ORDINARY CALENDAR AND A LITTLE BIT OF MATH.



HAND A FRIEND A CALENDAR AND A MAGIC MARKER.

TELL HIM TO HOLD THE CALENDAR SO YOU CAN'T SEE IT. THEN TELL HIM TO CHOOSE ANY MONTH AND DRAW A SQUARE AROUND ANY FOUR DAYS OF THAT MONTH. THE SQUARE HE DRAWS SHOULD INCLUDE FOUR NUMBERS.



ASK YOUR FRIEND TO ADD UP THE DATES IN THE SQUARE.



UM, OK. THE TOTAL OF THESE DATES IS 72.



NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENGAGED IN SOME MAJOR MENTAL GYMNASTICS.



IF THE TOTAL OF THE DATES IS 72...



... THEN THE DATES YOU'VE CHOSEN MUST BE 14, 15, 21 AND 22!

BWAH?



## HOWDY DO IT?

TO FIGURE OUT THE DATES, ALL YOU NEED IS A SIMPLE SET OF MATH EQUATIONS. FIRST, DIVIDE THE TOTAL BY 4. THEN SUBTRACT 4 FROM THAT NUMBER. THAT WILL GIVE YOU THE FIRST DATE. THEN ADD 1 TO THAT NUMBER FOR THE SECOND DATE. ADD 6 TO THAT NUMBER FOR THE THIRD DATE. ADD 1 TO THAT NUMBER FOR THE FOURTH DATE. IT SOUNDS COMPLICATED AT FIRST, BUT TRY IT A FEW TIMES ON YOURSELF AND YOU'LL GET THE HANG OF IT.

9/14

# September's Magic Auction A HUGE Success!



As the old adage goes ... " One Magician's trash (that his wife is forcing him to sell at

Auction this year), is another Magician's treasure (that HIS wife will force him to sell at Auction NEXT year)."

As usual, the VMC Annual Magic-Stuff Auction was a huge success. Be sure to come next September to buy back all of the stuff you sold this year!

Thank you John Smithman for the photos!

# How I got started in Magic....



Magical Minutes Ace reporter Rabbi Don Pacht, sat down\* this month with VMC member Rabbi Don Pacht to chat about Rabbi Don's foray in to Magic and what it has meant in his life. That only took about 5 minutes so they started chatting about the weather, hockey and religion (of course, there was a lot of overlap between hockey and religion).

\*Editor's Note: In all honesty, they never really sat down together. After a horrendous game of phone tag, they communicated almost exclusively via email. I'm not even sure they like each other very much!

## MM: How did you first become interested in magic?

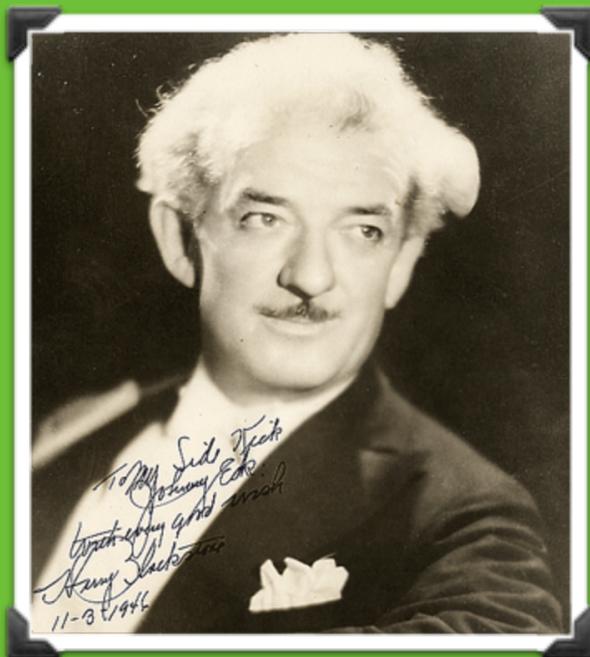
RDP: I have a pretty interesting story. In the 80's and early 90's my father had an Optical store in midtown Manhattan, just across the street from the Empire State Building. The summer that I was 13 years old, I helped my father out in his store. As you can imagine, as the summer wore on, my breaks became longer as my stretches of work became shorter. A friend of mine told me that just 2 blocks away, on W. 32<sup>nd</sup> street, was a shop called Tannen's Magic (you may have heard of it). I had no particular interest in magic, but I was pretty bored in the Optical shop, so I walked over one afternoon to buy some Flash Paper (I had seen it used as a gag at a party).

In an ironic twist of fate, they would not sell me the Flash Paper as I was too young. But while I was there I caught a glimpse of the staff demo-ing tricks for customers. That first day I purchased 'Cheek to Cheek'.

I spent an hour polishing my performance (in retrospect it was probably still a bit tarnished), and forced every member of my family to sit through several encore performances! By the end of the evening we were ALL tired of that trick.

The next day I went back and came home with an Invisible Deck. To this day, that is still my favorite trick! This went on day after day and by the end of the summer I had a pretty nice collection of magic. I even got my cousin into it. We would practice sleights for hours! To this day, I will be walking along with a coin, bottle cap or balled-up napkin in classic palm. You never know...

While it took about two more years before I started performing (my break-out performance was for my sister's Bat Mitzvah party), I continued taking the Subway into Manhattan almost weekly. Over the years I have met some big names in Magic who just happened to 'pop-in' to say hello. Among them were David Roth and Frank Garcia. Of course Tony Spina was a regular as he worked there!



-Continued on Page 8

NOT an actual likeness of Rabbi Don Pacht

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

**RDP:** I LOVE close-up magic for two reasons: Firstly, I find it to be the purest form of sleight-of-hand. Even if you have a gimmick, you have to be good enough to conceal it from your spectator just inches under his nose. More importantly though, I love connecting with the audience in a small intimate circle. I know I have had a successful performance if I feel that my spectators and I are now friends.

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

**RDP:** I love the camaraderie of the Magic fraternity. I will often see VMC members performing at 'gigs' in the community. When they see me, I always get the 'half-head-nod-while-raising-one-eyebrow' look. You know the look, it's the look that says, "Sure, I know YOU know how I did that, but THEY don't and we can both enjoy THEIR amazement." At least I think that's what the look means. Maybe I just had a spot on my tie...

I also love how children react to magic. I run an elementary school, so I will use Magic to build a relationship with some of my more difficult students. I love the look of wonder in a child's eyes. They think it really IS magic.

**MM: What are some of your most memorable MAGIC experiences?**

**RDP:** A few come to mind: For my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, my parents took me to see Siegfried & Roy at Radio City Music Hall. While I still find it more impressive to perform a perfect invisible pass, the show was amazing!

Quite possibly my most memorable experience was meeting David Williamson. It may not sound like a big deal (Sorry Dave), but I his video "Sleight of Dave" was the first magic video I had ever owned. I must have spent thousands of hours working on his coin production (working on-never mastered). And his Cups and Balls was my go-to routine for years.

Over 20 years later, he was coming to lecture right here in BC! Unfortunately, his lecture in Vancouver was scheduled for Friday night. As a Sabbath observer, I would not be able to attend. BUT, I was able to catch his mid-week lecture in Victoria! My wife and I travelled to the Island for his show.

Checking-in to our hotel, none other than Dave himself walked through the lobby! I ran over to introduce myself, explain how excited I was to meet him (how much taller he was in real-life), and that I had purchased his video 20 years prior.

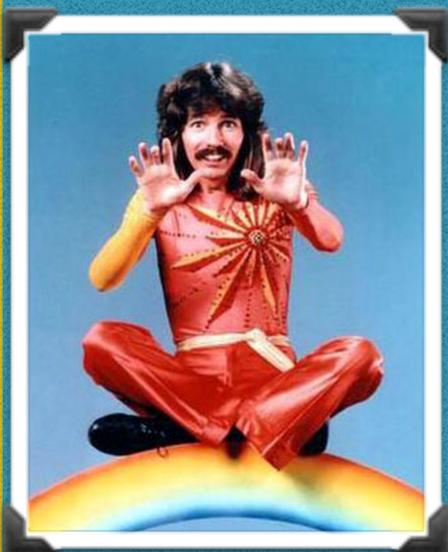
He looked at me, dead-pan, and said, "and you came all the way here to get your money back"?

**MM: Your family must love that they have a built-in birthday party entertainer:**

**RDP:** Funny story there. When my wife and I were first dating I 'casually' asked her "So, do you like magic"? (I might even have had a 'Match-to-Rose' at the ready). She matter-of-factly replied, "NO". And that was that. I don't think I picked up a deck of cards for about another 5 years!



Also not an actual likeness of Rabbi Don Pacht



DEFINITELY not an actual likeness of Rabbi Don Pacht