



Society of Memphis Magicians



International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16
August 2017 www.ring16.org

A Few Words from the President

Jeff Day - President

I don't personally consider myself a "card guy", although I do love cards. However, a deck of cards holds an almost infinite number of options when it comes to performing magic.



The nameplate on the inside of the book, by the way, indicates that it was once owned by magician, Eugene L. Bulson. He was a doctor, but was also a long time member of SAM & IBM and president of the Ft. Wayne magic club for 25 years. He was a collector of conjuring literature during his early years, and specialized in feats of coin magic and his effects appeared in *The Sphinx*. His routine "May I Borrow Your Light, Sir?" won the 1951 *Sphinx* Award in the close-up category.

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IBM Ring 16

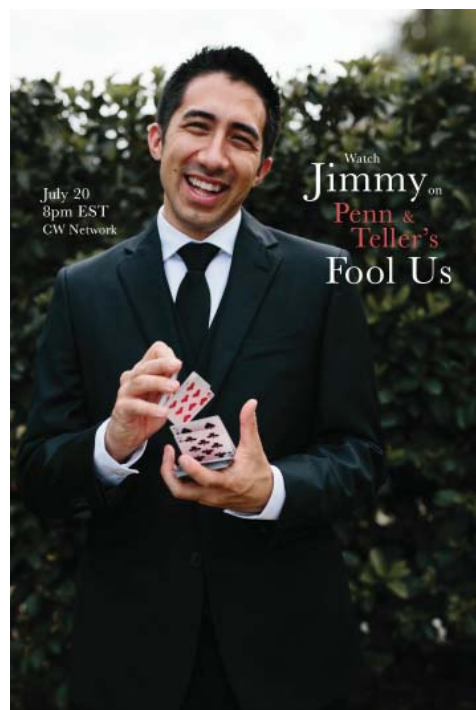
August Meeting
Tuesday August 1st - 7pm
Memphis Botanic Garden
Theme: Mentalism & Summertime Magic
or
Magic To Keep Cool By

Notes from the VP

Bill Canaday - Vice-President

First, thanks so much for your help and participation at our Auction. Not as much auctioned off this time, however, everything we had in magic and mentalism was great! Thanks to Mike Speros as auctioneer again; great job as always, Mike! Now, congratulations to our own Jimmy Inchihana! He was on *Fool Us* with Penn and Teller, and did an excellent job. He worked with the actress Alyson Hannigan, and of course, the legendary Penn and Teller. Jimmy represented magic well, and us well too, as we can call him one of our own. Congratulations again, Jimmy; we are proud of you, and hope to see you back home sometime soon! All for now everyone. Looking forward to seeing you next week.

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President (continued)

Below is an excerpt from “CARD TRICKS You Will Do”, by W.F. (Rufus) Steele (August 1, 1928)

“Tricks with a pack of cards afford one of the easiest and most interesting forms of entertainment in existence. They are amazing and mysterious to those who witness them, yet they are within the ability of everyone.

The idea that long practice and exceptional skill are necessary in the performance of card tricks is erroneous. Some of the cleverest and most bewildering tricks are made possible by the use of subtle principles and unique methods that are easily learned, yet which are capable of deceiving the keenest and most intelligent specators.

In my travels around the country I have met hundreds of amateurs and I find that they have one great fault, against which I want to especially caution my readers. This failing is the constant repetition of their one and possible two tricks which usually constitute their entire repertoire. Remember that a good trick is a jewel and should be guarded as such against the depredation of the members of your audience who are ever ready to steal its lustre. The value of your trick lies in the degree of mystification, which is lessened, not augmented, by repetition. “Do that again!”, cries your audience as a result of that mystification, and this is just what you should not do, at least during that performance. By doing that trick only once an evening, your audience gives you credit for skill which you do not possess and your glory is the greater.”

Mr. Steele goes on to talk about what a “pack of cards” really is. It’s not just a group of pasteboards with which you can do tricks, but rather, it holds a story to introduce the pack of cards to your audience. I typically use a similar story before I present my card flourish routine.

“It has been known by most, that cards were created, as we know them, in the 14th century. They were used for popular games using cards, but shortly thereafter were also used for the business of magic. Within these thin pieces of paper, there is a story. The two colors of the deck, red and black,

symbolize the division of light and dark, or day and night, good and evil, etc. If you take the deck, all fifty-two cards represent the fifty-two weeks of the year. The four suits represent the four seasons of the year. If you were to count all of the pips of all the cards, they will add up to 365, representing all the days of the year. Now, if you were to SPELL each “value” of the deck, that is to say, A-C-E, then T-W-O, then T-H-R-E-E .. and so on to the KING, dealing down one card per letter, the very last card of the deck will fall on the “G” of the KING card. If that just didn’t blow your mind, it also works if you spell it in French or in German ! (Try it)”

You might not be a “card guy”, but with cards being probably the most recognizable item that magicians use, how can you not include them in your performance?

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June & July Business Meeting

John Sorrell

June 6, 2017

- * Lectures - Devin Knight, Rick Maue - Bill Canaday checking
- Diego Minevitz - July 18 ? / TC Tahoe - Jeff will poll
- Morgan Strebler - Now in Sikeston - Jeff spoke with him about possible fall lecture
- * Martin Seiler - Treasurer’s Report
- * Jeff Day - Baron Hirsch synagogue mar mitzvah gig report
- * Michael Clayton & Nick Toombs - Multiple summer library shows booked
- * Discussion of possible future weekend auction maybe combined with a lecture

July 11, 2017

- * No minutes in newsletter - will publish June/ July in August newsletter
- * Lectures - TC Tahoe possible September date - Rick Maue checking schedule

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