

HOCUS FOCUS



September 2017

[The Official Newsletter of Ring 12]

Meeting Dates:

Monday September 11, 2017

6:30 PM – Doors

7:00 PM – Teaching Table and Meeting

Screening Room Cinema and Café

880 Alberta Dr.

Amherst, New York 14226

Teaching Table: Mike Ihrig Part 1

Chris Mayhew

September Babies

September 2	Mike Ihrig
September 13	Jim Ray
September 24	Gary Rog
September 25	Dennis Gesel

Happy Birthday



The Prez says,

It is an honor for me to be President of Ring 12 for the upcoming year, I hope I can keep the good times rolling. There are many people I have to thank. First and foremost a big thank you to Brian Blake for leading and organizing the Ring for the past 2 years. Most of us can only last one year as president but Brian did a second year to continue and finish the work he stated in the first year. Say Thank You to Brian when you see him during the meeting. Secondly, Thank You to the Board of Directors for their nomination as President for the program year of 2017-2018. It is a great honor. Thank You to all the members of GENE GORDON-KARL NORMAN IBM RING 12. We have been told time and time again from lecturers, guests and other magicians that this is one of the finest magic organizations and it is because of all our members. Mike Ihrig, who has visited every ring in New York State as Territorial Vice-President told us at the June meeting that this ring is the most active and the finest ring in the territory. Again, it is because of you, the members.

The Operating Handbook has been updated and is posted on line at the Web site. This document includes a list the various committees and their responsibilities. If you would like to get involved in one (or more) committees, please contact myself or one of the other Board of Directors.

Congratulations to the board of directors elected at the June meeting, Jake Weiland, Scott Hood, Todd Nelson and myself. As the President of Ring 12, I have vacated my seat on the Board and have appointed Rosemary Maloney-Hoffman to carry out the remainder of my term on the Board of Directors. Thank you Rosemary for all of your work in the past, and for accepting the appointment to the Board. Our Board of Directors have elected Todd Nelson as your new Vice-President of Ring 12. Todd has been a past president of the ring and I am very happy to have him at my side.

New Board lineup is

President Ed Barszcz

Vice President Todd Nelson

Secretary Doc Geckler

Treasurer Bill Darnell

Directors.:

Brian Blake

Mike Harmon

Tim Harrington

Scott Hood
Larry Kohorst
Jim Maloney
Rosemary Maloney-Hoffman
Jim O'Neill
Ake Weiland
Tony Weiland

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact any of the board members.

I am really looking forward to the upcoming year with Ring 12. I know we will all work together to move our Ring forward this year, and if you have any thoughts, comments or criticism, please let me know.

Magically yours
Ed Barszcz

Editor's Letter

Welcome back everyone. The rig and the Hocus Pocus are back for another season. Yay! A new year with a new board. In my opinion, anyone who feels strongly enough to run for board should be on the board. The problem is the board may get too big. But a big board might be less of a problem than bruised self-esteem from losing. That is just my thinking. If I didn't have to risk losing an election, I'd love to be on the board. But, I also work evenings a lot so it would be hard to get two Mondays in a row off. Just know, anyone who runs for a position is extremely brave and deserves acclaim.

On another note, having a Hocus Pocus of your own lets you vent about non-magical things. I want to talk about concerts. I went to a concert. I haven't been to a concert in about 10 years. Before the age of smartphones. They're annoying. I was sitting in a row behind a teen who was filming most of the concert. It was blocking my view, I'm sure it was blocking others too, he was holding his phone over his head. I'm jealous of his magical battery (there, I tied it to magic). Some things don't change. People buying a lot of beer (at \$10 a pop I don't know how they do it), the herbal aroma, the expensive merchandise, the bootleg t-shirts after the show. But the main reason for this paragraph is the smartphone thing.

Shlomo Birkan

June 2017 Meeting

It was our final meeting for the 2016/2017 season and we began with a teaching table by Mike Harmon. He taught us about escaping from handcuffs and thumb cuffs and just how doable it is. He used his years as a locksmith to use in his magic. Next, we had our candidates discuss why we should elect them. June is election month.

Now, it was time for our meeting. We had our own local talent teach tricks. We had, what we call, the lunch bunch. A group of magicians who meet Wednesdays for lunch to discuss magic. First up was Gary Para, he had volunteers randomly punch holes into cards and two similar cards had the holes match up perfectly. Then, we had Skip Cooper. He taught us Colombini's Lie Detector card illusion. A volunteer chooses a card and answers questions about his card. He can lie or tell the truth and the cards can tell if he's lying. Finally, the chosen card was named and was found by skip. Now, it was time for Bill Butski. He performed a you do as I do effect as well as an effect with wild cards. Bob Geckler had a coin signed and found in a locked box, in a long ball of yarn, and in a bag within a bag. Todd Nelson did a torn and restored newspaper effect that he tried to teach some volunteers. I was one of the volunteers but I was lost in explanation. Our final magician of the evening was Ed Barszcz. He performed a card illusion with 3 cards and he was able to identify it. What a way to end the season. Yet, another example of the strength of the magicians in ring 12.

August's Bonus Meeting

Summer is a time to take a break, which sadly includes no ring meetings. But, this year was different. We had an August meeting. We had not only a lecturer but also teaching table. Yay us! Our teaching table was by Larry Martinez. He showed us card stunts we can do on our own, some moves for amateurs. Some illusions were cutting to four aces. Finding four aces using a number between 10 and 20.

Now it was time for our lecture, we had quite a turnout for Martin Mercy. He began by giving a woman a kiss. This was paper with a kiss on it which then burnt and became a Hershey Kiss. Before he got into the illusions he talked about walkaround magic. How it's better to not get paid by a restaurant but be your own boss and choose your own tables. Now illusions. There's an illusion where five one-dollar bills all turn to hundreds. He showed this illusion with ones turning to twos, with twos being a rarity in this here country. He had many more illusions, he had many versions of monte. Some smiley faces, some colours, all impressive. He also had another card illusion. He had a tiny plunger that cut to the four aces. There was so much to see, do and buy. All impressive (except for the lower bank balance).